

ARCHIVE JOTTINGS John W. Nielsen

HOW IS THE ARCHIVE FUNDED?

Dana College provides space and utilities for the Danish Immigrant Archive and assigns one-tenth of the assistant library director's time to the Archive. Normally there is also a student under the work-study program who spends four hours a week in the Archive under the direction of Sharon Jensen, Assistant Director. Other than this, the College budgets no funds for the Archive, and none of the other archive workers are paid.

Archive activities, therefore, are dependent upon bequests and special gifts. Because this is the case, these bi-monthly reports can only be sent to those contributing items to the Archive and to those individuals providing financial support. Such gifts should be sent to the Danish Immigrant Archive % The Library, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska 68008.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN ARCHIVE?

An archive is a vast repository of diverse items that collectively convey an insight into people and institutions. In our case, the Danish immigrants and their descendants are the people and Dana College, Trinity Seminary and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church founded by them, are the primary institutions. With them, as with all peoples and institutions, perceptions, preconceptions, judgments and stereotypes abound - some well-founded, others the result of cherished sentiments or deep-seated suspicion. Such is the inevitable course of history. But responsible history always seeks to be open to re-examination, and here archival materials play an invaluable role. Each item that you contribute or withhold substantiates an already current interpretation, expands upon it, or in some rare cases, radically changes it. That is why every item you now have but give to the Archive is important.

WHAT MATERIALS ARE COLLECTED?

There is virtually no limit to the written/printed matter that an archive collects. Among the more obvious items are books, periodicals, newspapers, letters, diaries, journals, certificates, documents and photographs (if possible, with identifications and date). Less obvious but extremely valuable are clippings, obituaries, personal and business financial records, church bulletins and letters, church and community programs, grocery lists, lists of gifts (given and received), contracts, wills, mortgages, passports, check stubs, genealogies, family histories, personal reminiscences, church, community and business anniversary booklets, and almost anything else.

THE NEXT REPORT WILL CARRY AN INTRODUCTION OF THE REGULAR ARCHIVE VOLUNTEERS.

To: Dorothy Willis, Library Director
 From: Sharon Jensen, Assistant Director
 Prepared: John W. Nielsen

VOLUNTEERS: 465 hours by 14 volunteers from Blair and Omaha, Nebraska.
 VISITORS: 7 visitors from Illinois, Nebraska, Denmark and Switzerland.
 USERS: 4 archive users from California, Minnesota and South Dakota.

ACQUISITIONS:

1. Niels Ebbesen by H.F. Ewald and a six volume set of Vaerker i Mindendgave by Herman Bang (Presented by Brandon Krogh, Duluth, Minnesota).
2. Information on the Ashland Folk High School, Ashland, Michigan (Presented by Joel E. Randolph, Victoria, Minnesota).
3. Dansherne paa Praerien by Karsten Kjer Michaelsen (Presented by Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska).
4. "The Gathering" - a reunion of friends and members of the former UELC (Presented by Dagmar Goll, Blair, Nebraska).
5. UELC Year Books (1948-1949, 1954-1955, 1957-1960), UELC Convention Reporters (June 23, 24, 1949 and June 20-22, 1956), convention ballot #4, other convention materials including badges, hymns, programs etc., "Smoke Upon Your Altar Dies" - a tract by Norman C. Bansen, Dansk Nytaar (1959), Dana College Bulletins (1946-47, 1947-48, 1949, 1950), Hermes (miscellaneous copies, 1946-1950, also November 11, 1940), Sower (1949, 1950) Lilac Time programs at Dana (1947, 1948, 1949), 9 Dana Choir concert programs, 4 Dana drama club playbills, Faculty Follies program (1947), Foolish Men's Shower invitation, 13 miscellaneous Dana College programs (1946-1948), other Dana items, "Hints to College Freshmen" by C.X. Hansen, "Stop! Have You Ever Heard the Blair Story?" American Church History class notes taught by Paul Nyholm, "Into College Windows" by Alvin Rogness, Pilot Tribune Extra: June 25, 1949 Danish Lutheran Church Convention edition, clipping: "Bethany Lutheran Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary this week" (Ord, Nebraska), Elk Horn Lutheran Church diamond jubilee program (1875-1950), Lake Okaboji Bible Camp anniversary bulletin, Nebraska District of the UELC annual report (1947-1948), letter (April 3, 1950 (Presented by Ada Jeppesen, Pomona, California).
6. 3 photographs of reception at the wedding of Paul Jeppesen and Ada Stokes, September 1, 1954 at Ord, Nebraska, clipping of Emilie Laursen, Ord, Nebraska, as Dana homecoming queen (1955), Tribute to Frederik Jensen of Ord who was killed in action in Normandy, July 11, 1944, written by Morris H. Laatsch, Commanding Officer (Presented for Ada Jeppesen by Joy Wert, North Loup, Nebraska).
7. 19 folders of C.B. Larsen's lecture notes, manuscript of C.B.'s book: Religion and Relations (Presented by Philip and Florence Larsen, Blair, Nebraska).
8. Dana College Board Minutes (1958, 1959, 1960, 1961) 2 notebooks from 1958 on the merger of ALC, ELC, and UELC in 1960 (Presented by the President's Office, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska).

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9. Danske Kirker, vol. 4 (Presented by Arlene Nielsen, Valley Springs, California).
10. From Danaview to Standard (Presented by Shirley Dahl Williams, Bend, Oregon).
11. Letter from Margaret and Evald Brønnum of Denmark with translation, obituary of Ruth Rasmussen Nelson, 2 folders: "Danes on the Prairie" and "Rundtur paa museumscenter Hollufgaard," copy of 1927 music edition of Hymnal for Church and Home, clippings: "Many Danes, Some Norwegians" (Albert Lea Tribune) and "Metal Tree Cheers Up the Season" (Danish immigrant blacksmith) (Presented by Ninna Engskow, Blair, Nebraska).
12. Stjernen (November 1997), clippings: "Thomas Sorensen's Death" and "Dana's Sights and Sounds," 4 obituaries: Marie Olsen Jorgensen, Dorothy Petersen Siert, Francis Hovendick and Thomas C. Sorensen (Presented by Sara Hansen-Walter, Blair, Nebraska).
13. Christmas card with picture of the interior of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Neola, Iowa (Presented by Herbert and Alvina Hjortsvang, Council Bluffs, Iowa).
14. Copies of programs for Northfield Area Danish Days (1990-1997), copy of "Singing the Faith," Luther Seminary program, October 30, 1994 in which St. Peter's choir and Jubilee Bells participated (Presented by Geraldine Jasan, Northfield, Minnesota).
15. Clipping on Brian Barratt's play (Presented by Bee Krantz, Blair, Nebraska).
16. Copy of a talk she gave on her childhood and spiritual growth, 2 letters from her brother, Raymond Andersen (May, August 1944), who was killed in action during autumn 1944 (Presented by Christine Larson, Northfield, Minnesota).
17. Copy of Karen Hansen's "Reminiscences" (March 11, 1959), photograph of seminarians sometime between 1910 and 1920 (Presented by Clifford and Clara Loft, Blair, Nebraska).
18. Article with pictures: "I Survived a Hurricane at Sea" by Ronald Jensen about the John M. Jensen family (Reminisce, October 1997), Christmas card with picture of Ingfrid and Paul Nyholm (1959) (Presented by Eunice and Ried Neve, Omaha, Nebraska).
19. Copy of Danish Emigration to the U.S.A. by Birgit Fleming Larsen and Henning Bender (Presented by Susan Neve Hettinger, Westminster, Colorado).
20. Letters from Deborah Nelson Biorn, Geraldine Jasan, Inga Larsen, Margaret Jacobsen, Herbert Jeppesen, Lil Sorensen, Eleanor Schou, Deb Schou, folder of Danish songs from the morgen kaffe at John Mark and Dawn Nielsen's 25th wedding celebration (Presented by John W. Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska).
21. Picture of Hans Christian Andersen High School, Askov, Minnesota, clipping on Ernie and Hazel Andersen's 60th wedding anniversary (Presented by Luella K. Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska).
22. Clipping: "Obituaries Are Used As Cultural History," 57 letters to Rev. P.P. Thisted (1890-1914) - copies of (Presented by Ruth Herman Nielsen, Omaha, Nebraska on behalf of Paul Thisted)
23. 56 notebooks of personal/family finances for the years 1935-1990, box of graduate papers, box of various materials including 133 letters from his parents (1930-1953), clippings on his father's death, 6 letters to his mother, 6 certificates of marriage, birth, death, 2 sermons, 11 tributes and letters to friends and family

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- members, clippings of Sigurd Petersen, Sigurd Petersen's "My Early Years," "Retarded Children: Part of Humanity" by Sigurd Petersen, 19 book reviews by Alvin Petersen, 10 folders of materials related to churches he supplied, "Family Tree and Inherited Characteristics" by Alvin Petersen, "My Personal Journal of the Eight Week Project with MSMers in Chicago" by Edel Petersen, "A Brief History of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Nebraska 1918-1975" by Alvin Petersen, Symbols (poems by Edel Petersen, Lincoln, Nebraska's YWCA recognition of Edel Petersen (Presented by Alvin and Edel Petersen, Lincoln, Nebraska)).
24. Copy of Torkel Peterson family picture, account of Christian Nels Peterson's life, Torkel Peterson family history with emphasis on Chris and Bertha Peterson's family, obituaries of Torkel Peterson (1937) and Abelone Jorgensen Peterson (1936), copy of Andreassen family's immigration information and an account of the voyage by Harold Sorensen (Presented by Burton and Helen Peterson, Northfield, Minnesota).
 25. Photographs of Erland Nelson, P.S. Vig, J.P. Jensen and C.X. Hansen (Presented by Dana College Public Relations Office, Blair, Nebraska).
 26. "The Call" - Our Savior's, Council Bluffs, 1949, 48 letters from 1928-1961 and fragments of other letters, envelope of clippings from Denmark, letters from Ninna Engskow and Marilyn Siersbeck Erling, "Una Sancta" - St. Mary's, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 80th birthday poems (Presented by Dorothy Siersbeck, Indianapolis, Indiana).
 27. Description and translation of Johan Andersen's work record and parish registration papers (1829 ff.) (Presented by Donald and Eleanor Schou, Albert Lea, Minnesota).
 28. Picture of C.M. Videbeck presenting portraits of Dana's patriarchs to C.C. Madsen, clipping of A.M. Andersen's 64th wedding anniversary, letter to Lloyd and Muriel Neve (Presented by Joan Andersen Sorensen, Ankeny, Iowa).
 29. A letter (1956) and a card (1953) from J.M.T. Winther to Mrs. Lyle Jensen, Hutchinson, Minnesota (Presented by Marion Svedsen, Cedar Falls, Iowa).
 30. Copy of Mid-West Contractor (1963) featuring Simon Korshoj, Packet of 13 letters to and from C.C. Madsen, packet of 67 letters to, about and from Carston Friis Jespersen, packet of 10 letters to, from and about Niels Erik Korshoj, packet of 48 letters about Jensine Korshoj's death (Presented by Harold and Dorothy Wright, Blair, Nebraska).
 31. Christmas letter with family information (Presented by Joan Allgor, Citrus Heights, California).
 32. Publicity is Broccoli by Constance Hope, containing chapter on Lauritz Melchoir (Presented by Johannes Laursen, Fort Myers, Florida).
 33. Copies of family pictures, 2 articles: "Det farlige barn" and "Anderledes instruktør" (Politiken, September 29, 1997) with translations of the above articles by Ninna Engskow (Presented by Norman Brondum, Pender, Nebraska).