

JOTTINGS

April-June 2011

Long Time Director John W. Nielsen Resigns

See detailed article which follows and Director's Notes on page 8.

Change and Continuity: The History of the Danish American Archive and Library

Dr. John W. Nielsen's resignation as the Archive's Executive Director marks a turning point in the history of the Danish American Archive and Library. He will continue as Director Emeritus and will have the same desk in the same office as before, so despite his altered role, there will be continuity. However, there is no mistaking that John's resignation will mean new roles, new needs, and new opportunities for those connected with the Archive. This time of transition provides a fruitful occasion to reflect on the history of the Archive and the impact that John has had on the Archive. Knowing how the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL) came to be as it is today can help us move forward with added energy and insight.

The origins of the Archive lie with the Danish immigrants who founded Dana College and Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska, in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The initial purposes of both college and seminary were to educate men for the Lutheran ministry and to help Danes who had recently immigrated to the United States to adjust to the demands and opportunities of life in the New World. Both institutions were owned and operated by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC), a Danish Lutheran synod founded in 1896 to minister to the increasing numbers of Danes coming to the States.

Although there was no formal attempt to establish an archive in those early years, the college and seminary had on its staff professors who energetically collected detailed information about the lives of Danish immigrants. P.S. Vig, president of Trinity Seminary on four different occasions, was in his day America's foremost authority on Danish immigration. Despite the heavy demands placed upon him as seminary president and theology professor, he found time to write

extensively in Danish on the experiences of Danish immigrants and their contributions to American life. He deliberately included Danish Americans who were not Lutheran and not members of any church. This was a first step toward the inclusive vision characteristic of DAAL today. By the time of his death in 1929 Vig had accumulated an extensive library of unpublished materials. Some of these documents became part of the founding collection at the Danes Worldwide Archive (Det Danske Udvandrer Arkiv) in Ålborg, Denmark. Other materials in his library were donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln. Though his collection did not remain at Dana, the importance of documenting the history of Danish immigration had been recognized.

The second key figure in the pre-history of the Danish American Archive and Library was a scholar of Norwegian ancestry, Hans Frederik (H.F.) Swansen, history professor at Dana College for twenty-two years (1932-1956). He pioneered the use of oral history in his studies of European immigration to the States and led his students in exploring and recording stories about the lives of Danish immigrants. He encouraged his students to collect whatever information and documents they could find from their families. Like Vig, he gathered a library of unpublished materials on the lives of Danish immigrants. Also, as with the materials Vig collected, there was little interest in keeping his library at Dana College. After his death in 1956 H.F. Swansen's papers were given to the Nebraska State Historical Society. However, this invaluable collection now resides at the Danish American Archive and Library, after having been transferred to Dana College in 1996.

A third person whose work was decisive in developing an awareness of the need for an archive was another person of Norwegian descent, Aagot Hoidahl, Dana's head librarian from 1948 to 1966. She kept copies of all publications dealing with college life—catalogs, yearbooks, student newspapers, public relations brochures, honors papers. She was the first person to develop a systematic collection of institutional materials. At the same time, materials without a close link either to Dana or Trinity were simply stored in whatever space was available in cupboards and cabinets. The contributions of these Norwegian Americans prefigure

how the Archive has again and again received invaluable support from people who are not of Danish descent.

The UELC also assisted in the development of an archive, though its membership was generally more concerned with evangelism than with maintaining an archive. Nevertheless, the UELC's leaders did draw together a great deal of information about the people, activities, and institutions of this expanding synod. These materials came to form a second major strand in the collections of the Danish American Archive and Library. In the 1950's the president of the UELC, Hans Jersild, had his office at Dana College. When he left office in 1955 he left behind the papers of his predecessor, N.C. Carlsen, who was UELC president from 1925 to 1950. These papers were placed in cardboard boxes and moved to the fourth floor attic of Old Main, where they resided unknown and untouched until 1975, when they were discovered by Dana professors Norman Bansen and Richard Jorgensen. These boxes contained several thousand letters in both Danish and English and constitute an invaluable record both of the UELC and of Danish immigration. The papers have long since been moved to the Danish American Archive and Library.

The N.C. Carlsen papers found their way to the Danish American Archive and Library more by accident than design, but through P.C. Jensen, UELC "necrologist" and long-time editor of the *Ansgar Lutheran*, many special documents from the UELC came to DAAL. The UELC's written materials were kept in the Lutheran Publishing House in downtown Blair until a fire in 1951 destroyed most of the synod's historical records. P.C. took it upon himself to re-create the lost records and to reconstruct the church's history as fully as possible. In the 1970's all these materials were moved to Dana College, and eventually to DAAL, since that seemed the only sure way of preserving the UELC's history. At first these documents were given one by one, together with detailed explanations of their significance. Eventually they came by the truck load.

Until the 1960's efforts at preserving the stories of Danish immigrant experience and of Danish American life were individual, relatively unsystematic, and generally lacking in institutional support. All this would change radically during the tenure of Ron Johnson, Dana's library director from 1966 to 1983. By the mid-1960's Dana had moved far from the predominantly Danish milieu of its founders. Only half the students were Lutheran and a much smaller number claimed a Danish heritage. Earlier in that decade the UELC had merged with three other Lutheran synods to form a far larger church body, The American Lutheran Church. That the UELC constituted less than 4% of the new synod was a stark reminder of how quickly and easily the stories of Danish American experiences could

be lost.

Awareness of these changes sparked a wide-ranging, persistent, and at times urgent search for Danish American materials. The Dana library began to collect materials dealing with immigration. Professors Norman Bansen and John W. Nielsen required students to do research and write essays about their ancestors. Professor Neil Johnson required students to do oral history and he himself interviewed many people influential in the UELC, Dana College, and Trinity Seminary. Professor Richard Jorgensen organized the N.C. Carlsen papers.

Ron Johnson and Norman Bansen led forays to gather Danish immigrant materials both inside and outside the bounds of college and church. They gathered, paper by paper, over a number of years, a nearly complete collection of the Danish American newspaper, *Den Danske Pioneer*. Sophus Keith Winther, a Danish American novelist and scholar, donated his personal library, an unpublished novel, as well as his correspondence, and dime novel collection.

Under Ron Johnson's administration there were not only vastly more archival materials, there was for the first time an actual, systematically organized Archive. Initially there were three distinct sets of materials—college, church, and Danish immigration—but eventually these three streams became one. By 1980 Lela Neve, a member of the library staff with lifelong links to both Dana and the UELC, had established the principles of organizing, cataloging, and preserving all archive documents. It is these principles that the Danish American Archive and Library still follows.

All these developments were slowly changing the Archive from a series of individual efforts to document the history of college and church into an organization focused on the larger story of Danish immigration to North America. The Archive was now well begun, yet it was far from done. In the 1980's it may have seemed that the promising developments of the past several years might be for naught. In 1983 Ron Johnson left Dana for a position in Oregon. Only a year later Ruth Rasmussen, Ron's successor as Library Director and for several years Dana's Assistant Library Director, accepted a position at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Norman Bansen retired in 1985. In 1988 Lela Neve passed away. How could the Archive survive, let alone flourish, amidst these losses?

It was during this time that John W. Nielsen was looking forward to retirement. He had come to Dana in 1962 as its first campus pastor and had been an influential and creative professor of religion and the humanities for over a quarter century. His teaching and his thinking were and are challenging and innovative,

yet he is in many ways a traditionalist. In his love of the ceremonial life of the church, his delight in traditional (Danish) hymns, and his thorough knowledge of the people and events marking the history of Dana, Trinity, and the Danish Lutheran synods, he was grounded, more than most students realized, in both the past and future of Danish American life and experience.

It was through his efforts that one family's extraordinary collection of documents was brought to the Archive. For nearly one hundred years and over four generations the Hansen-Mengers family had saved nearly everything: report cards, receipts, photographs, sermons, but most especially letters—over 13,000 letters telling in intimate and animated detail the stories of their family, and through them the story of Danish immigration to America. There is nothing comparable in other archives dealing with Danish immigration, and even in the wider world of immigrant archives, there is little that matches it in size and scope. In bringing this collection to Dana John changed the shape of the Archive and in so doing changed the direction of his own life.

When Dr. Nielsen retired from teaching in 1990 he became the Archive's first full-time director. Through his leadership the Archive was gradually enriched through the donation of other collections, such as those of the Jorgensen-Sorensen and Walker-Johnson families. When the Danish Brotherhood Society ceased to exist as a separate entity, its records, too, were brought to the Archive. Along with collections dealing with individuals, families, and organizations such as churches, lodges, and businesses, the Archive now began to collect books and periodicals. This has helped to extend its holdings beyond records of church and college to documents dealing with the diverse experiences of Danes in North America. The Archive now contains over ten thousand books and hundreds of periodicals. This expansion led to the decision to change the name. To emphasize the wide-ranging nature of its collection and the intention to collect material relating to all facets of Danish American life, the archive is now officially known as the Danish American Archive and Library rather than the Danish Immigrant Archive at Dana College.

The steadiness of John's commitment to the Archive over the past two decades and more is remarkable. Just as exceptional has been his ability to share his enthusiasm and his vision. John recruited volunteers from wherever he could find them. Some, such as Bee Krantz and Dorothy Wright, were assistants from his days as director of Dana's humanities program. Others had connections to Dana, Trinity, or the UELC. Still others were people who shared his enthusiasm for the stories of immigrant Americans. Beyond finding

volunteers, John found a role in the life of the Archive for each volunteer. Locating the right sort of work for each person was often more challenging than recruiting the volunteer. Some were persuaded to come weekly, others once a year, but through John's direction volunteers came to play a crucial role in the life of the Archive.

As the Archive continued to grow, John realized that an all-volunteer Archive was not viable in the long run. In 2008 Jill Hennick was hired as the Archive's first paid staff member. Initially employed as "archive assistant," Jill soon became Associate Director and is now Interim Executive Director. Her leadership has become essential as the Archive enters a new era. In looking forward one of the key questions that must be addressed is what mix of paid and volunteer support will be necessary for the Archive to thrive.

John brought people to the Archive. His ability to write personal notes to everyone on the *Jottings* mailing list is legendary. John also brought an expectation of a high standard of care for the archival materials. Accessioning is meticulous. Every item is listed and coded. Every person in every photograph is, if possible, identified. This information is placed in the acid-free boxes as well as in a computerized database, making it possible to cross-reference the information in the various collections. Records are kept of all donors, all visitors, and all volunteers together with their hours of service.

The inside work of thorough record keeping has an external purpose—to make materials in the Archive readily available to both scholars and the general public. Toward this end of higher availability, in 1996 Dr. Nielsen launched *Lur* Publications. Its purpose is to publish materials that document and interpret the experiences of Danes and Danish Americans and their impact on American society. To date *Lur* has published fifteen books, or approximately one book each year since it was founded. DAAL also publishes *Jottings*, a quarterly newsletter.

As the Archive grew in size and scope, it continued to have a close relationship to Dana College. Dana provided space in the lower level of the college library and helped with some expenses, such as technical support for the Archive's computers. The Archive provided information for Dana's publications and for special events. This mutually supportive association came to an abrupt end in July 2010, when the college unexpectedly closed. The Archive then moved to a new location at 1738 Washington Street in Blair. This building formerly housed a pharmacy, but has been

extensively remodeled and now provides an efficient and convenient place for the Archive's work to continue. Rather than being centered at Dana, DAAL is now in downtown Blair, making it a distinctly more visible part of the local community.

Since moving its offices away from Dana College the Danish American Archive and Library has adopted a constitution and by-laws, become incorporated under the laws of Nebraska, and received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS. It is headed by a nine-member Board of Directors, each of whom serves three year terms. Jill Hennick, as Interim Executive Director, is an *ex officio* member of the Board.

The history of the Danish American Archive and Library reveals a repeated need to begin anew. There have been four decisive moments when a new direction was necessary. The first step occurred in the overwhelmingly Danish and immigrant milieu of the early twentieth century, when P.S. Vig documented the lives of recent Danish arrivals to these shores. The second moment came in the 1960's, when Norman Bansen and Ron Johnson recognized that the predominantly Danish environment of an earlier age was about to disappear. The third development was John W. Nielsen's realization that extending the Archive beyond the frame of church and college could not only help it to survive, but could transform it into an institution with national and international impact. The fourth beginning is before us now. As John W. Nielsen moves from a position of leadership to an advisory role, questions arise. We need to ask what mix of paid staff and volunteers, what combination of independent development and institutional cooperation, and what links with the past and adjustments to the future, will enable the Archive to continue to collect, to interpret, and to celebrate the experiences and accomplishments of Danes and Danish Americans.

Official Notice of DAAL Annual Meeting October 5, 2011

Hereby notice is officially given that the constituency of The Danish American Archive and Library will hold its annual business meeting at 1738 Washington Street, Blair, NE on Wednesday forenoon, October 5, 2011 at 10:00am after an early 9:30 coffee.

The agenda includes the elections of board members and other relevant DAAL business. There are four board positions to be filled: The 3-year terms of Pete Petersen, Canyon, TX; Palma Plume, Evergreen, CO;

and Joan Sorensen, Richardson, TX; and the remaining year of Fritz Hansen, Wichita, KS currently being held by Marty Koefoed, Missouri Valley, IA. Palma and Marty have indicated a willingness to continue to serve. Pete and Joan have expressed a desire to be relieved. The Board will present a slate of candidates but nominations may be made from the floor if the nominee has indicated a willingness to serve.

Because there is a quorum of 3% of the constituency required to conduct business, it is imperative that there be a good attendance or that recipients of the Jottings indicate proxies by sending a statement such as the following to be submitted at the meeting or to DAAL, 1738 Washington Street, Blair, NE 68008: "I/we designate (name) to be my/our official proxy at the DAAL Annual Meeting, October 5, 2011, signed (your name)".

Grand Opening Scheduled for October

After a full year of installing shelves, unpacking boxes and organizing our materials, we are now ready to show our supporters and the public what we are all about.

On October 1, 2010, we moved into our new location at 1738 Washington Street, Blair, Nebraska, after months of having evacuated from Dana College, warehousing our materials and meeting weekly at First Lutheran Church. None of this would have been possible without the physical, financial and moral support of hundreds of people throughout the country. Also during this time, our board of directors worked tirelessly to qualify the Archive as an independent, tax-exempt corporation.

We are so proud of our new location and our new status, and accordingly have planned four different events for the grand opening to be sure everyone with an interest in the Danish American Archive and Library has a chance to attend.

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.—Dana College alumni will attend as part of the Dana Homecoming. Several former Dana professors will be on hand to greet Dana alumni and friends. This group will be especially interested in seeing the Dana College Room where Dana's legacy lives on through our broad collection of records, Danians, Dana Reviews and more.

Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.—Blair Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors and ambassadors will visit the Archive for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Volunteers from throughout the country will also be here for the twice-yearly Volunteer Week.

Saturday, October 15, 2011, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.— An open house for the Blair area community. In the past, members of the Blair community have had little awareness of what the Archive is and what we do. This open house will provide people with the chance to tour the Archive and learn how we fit into the community.

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 2:00 p.m.—A songfest and worship service at First Lutheran Church, 2146 Wright Street in Blair will be followed by a reception at the Danish American Archive and Library. Conducting the traditional Danish liturgy will be Rev. W. Clayton Nielsen of Elk Horn, Iowa with the sermon by Rev. Ken Jensen of Albert Lea, Minnesota and music by Paul Johnson of Fremont, Nebraska.

Former Dana College Coordinator of Special Events, Anne Christopherson, is lending the Archive her expertise in planning the grand opening. Also on display at the Archive throughout the month of October is **Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish American Missions Here and Abroad**, The Danish Immigrant Museum's traveling exhibit about early church-based missions.

Coffee, kringle and Danish cookies will be served at each event.

DAAL Library Experiences Significant Expansion

Three large collections of books have been received by the DAAL library during the past months. They have been made by Egon Bodtker of Eugene, Oregon; Svend Koch of Cedar Falls, Iowa; and Jeanette Lillehoj of Kimballton, Iowa. The Bodtker gift is from the collection of Arnold and Edith Bodtker; Svend Koch's is from his personal collection; and that of Jeanette Lillehoj from her family's library.

Although there inevitably are some duplicates in such large gifts, the number of "new" books and the range of subjects is especially impressive.

Madsen, Rasmussen Represent DAAL at Scandinavian Festival

DAAL was represented at Omaha's Scandinavian Festival on June 12, 2011 by George Madsen and Ruth Rasmussen, both of Omaha, at a table of DAAL and LUR Publications materials. A number of sales and contacts were made. Helga Hanson of Blair had prepared the eye-catching sign.

"Planned Estate Giving Response, Disappointing." Says Nielsen

The initial response to the inquiry as to those who had put The Danish American Archive and Library in their estate plans resulted in only five responses: two each in the amount of \$50,000.00 and three on a percentage basis which could result in anywhere from \$100.00 to \$100,000.00.

Although Director Nielsen is disappointed in the number of responses, he is convinced that this is due to oversight or procrastination and that the total number who have remembered DAAL is many more. He and the Board are awaiting responses from these others so that they can launch a more extensive financial campaign reaching out to those individuals and institutions who stand ready to support non-profit organizations that demonstrate strong internal backing.

If you are among the many who have not reported, please send a short statement of the amount or percentage designated for DAAL in your estate to DAAL, 1738 Washington Street, Blair, NE 68008.

Clarks Grove Baptist Plans 150th Anniversary Celebration

The first Baptist Church of Clarks Grove, Minnesota, is planning a major celebration for its 150th Anniversary. DAAL stands ready to provide support for this event. Clarks Grove residents – past and present – have been good supporters of DAAL. Outstanding have been the descendants of Pastor Warren who served the congregation in the 1920s before his death at an early age. Copies of some of his early records as well as a facsimile copy of the Christian IV Bible that was presented to him when he visited Denmark are among the materials being considered for a loan.

Solvang Celebrates Centennial With Booklet and Calendar

The "planned" Danish community of Solvang in California founded in 1911 is celebrating its centennial with events and a special photographic history and memorial calendar. It may be possible to procure copies of these two items by writing to Elverhoj Museum.

VOLUNTEERS: 1,643 hours by 44 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas.
VISITORS: 73 visitors from California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Denmark and Germany.
USERS: 27 users from Arkansas, California, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Denmark.

ACQUISITIONS:

1. Soil & Water Conservation Plans for the Benson Family, Duane Benson & parents, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Donor: Ruth Benson, Council Bluffs, Iowa).
2. Five packets of material: pictures, email, correspondence, devotions, Madagascar information, personal and family items (obituary, letter, copy of certificate, etc.). Material of Nona Vammen. Two music notebooks, First Lutheran (Blair) Directory 2003, Ebenezer (McCabe, Montana) 100th anniversary booklet and worship bulletin, **The Sunday School Book-Senior Part II, Hymnal for Church and Home, Service Book and Hymnal, Junior Hymnal for Church and Home**. (Donor: Pat Bentsen, Blair, Nebraska).
3. **Set & Skat 78, The Moleians, Julens Sange, Lys paa Vejen**, "Har du set dig om I Danmark" sheet music. Clippings: "Golgatha Lutheran Church" (Chicago), DAHS Omaha Conference, Peter & Laura Berthelsen in Alaska, Soren & Martha Jensen. (Donor: Erna Berthelsen, Albert Lea, Minnesota).
4. Arnold & Edith Bodtker's book collection: 39 books including: Kaj Munk **Foraaret Saa Sagte Kommer**, Carl Hansen **Fra Prærien**, Fr. Paludan-Muller **Adam Homo, Se paa Jesus** Danish Lutheran Publishing House 1918, H.C. Andersen **Lykke Peer**, Zakarias Nielsen **Klokkespil**, Ludvig Holberg **Jeppe paa Bjerget**, N.F.S. Grundtvig **Den Signede Dag med Tegninger af Joakim Skovgaard**, Johannes V. Jensen **Den lange Rejse**. (Donor: Egon Bodtker, Salem, Oregon).
5. Molly Bogh **Disturbing the Peace of the Church**-Lutheran Youth Ministry in the 1960s. (Donor: Molly Bogh, Highland, California).
6. Peter Mannicke **Denmark: A Social Laboratory**, letter from Anne Dietlev Houman with *Ingenio et Arti* medal, information on Christian Tranberg and picture wearing medal, four generation picture, copy of handwritten Danish Biographical account of Trandberg, 4 pages of material on the Thorvaldsen sculpture "The Genius of Light". (Donor: Chris Bohs, Blair, Nebraska).
7. Copy of 1899 baptism certificate of Oscar Peter Jensen. (Donor: Jerry Campbell, Kansas).
8. 2010 and 2011 Heritage Books from Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. (Donor: Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Ontario, Canada).
9. **Stjernen** –June 2011. (Donor: Laurel Christiansen, Dannebrog, Nebraska).
10. "God Jul" tile, **Glimpses into the Past** – St. John's, Kronborg, NE, **Church and Life**. (Donor: Pam Cuilla, Blair, Nebraska).
11. **Stjernen** – June 2011. (Donor: Dannebrog Boosters, Dannebrog, Nebraska).
12. **Balletens Blomstring ude of Hjemme, Fire Veninder, Fra Prærien, Præriefolk, Greater Love Hath None**. (Donor: The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, Iowa).
13. **Spirit of Solvang**: Capturing the Past in Photographs, "2011 Centennial Calendar, Celebrating Solvang's Past". (Donor: Elverhoj Museum, Solvang, California).
14. Program for the 23rd UELC Annual Convention held in Cedar Falls, IA June 11-15, 1919. (Donor: Bernard Falksen, Ellendale, Minnesota).
15. Reminiscence books: "Things I Remember" by Esther (Olesen) Freund and "A Life Remembered" by Norman L. Freund. (Donor: Norman Freund, Fremont, Nebraska).
16. Two articles on Dana from Blair newspaper. (Donor: Ann George, Blair, Nebraska).
17. Obituary: Harold Le Roi Hansen, clipping, letter concerning Philip Grave. (Donor: Fritz Hansen, Wichita, Kansas).
18. First Lutheran Church, Blair, bulletins and "Ambassador". (Donor: Jill Hennick, Blair, Nebraska).
19. Article on Abkadian Dictionary being issued that John Preben Nielsen worked on at the University of Chicago. (Donors: Ann Nielsen & John Hibbing, Lincoln, Nebraska).
20. Obituaries: Janet Petersen Jaeger, Orville Peterson. Funeral folder for Orville Peterson. Thank you from Mrs. Milton Miller. Sunday bulletins, "Parish Visitor", Lenten schedule and annual report from St. Peter's, Northfield, MN. (Donor, Gerry Jasan, Northfield, Minnesota).
21. Clipping "The Danish connection, Solvang style", **Lærbog for den Confermerede Ur, Skalfieste, Psalmebog for Kirke og Hjem**. (Donor: Esther Jensen, Santa Maria, California).
22. "Combine" and Sunday bulletins for Immanuel Lutheran, Orum. Copies of Den Danske Pioneer. (Donor: Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, Nebraska).
23. **Sower** (1973), **The Bridge** (#2-2010), **Money Power and Women** by Niel Johnson, photo album of Dana events and people 1973-2006. (Donor: Niel Johnson, Independence, Missouri).
24. Obituaries: Christi Nielsen, Helen Hengeveld, Dale Matson, Charles Earleywine, Betty Spurgeon, Robert F. Hemphell Sr., Nataniel Hansen, Richard Zion. Funeral Folders: Tom Nielsen, Dale Matson, Karen Frederikke Hansen, Herta Engelman, Bud

- Robinson. Clippings: Bruce Ramage, Bud Robinson, Theodore "Ted" Jorgensen, Danish Windmill (Elk Horn, IA), 75 Years Ago: Dana College Farm, Carol Weckmuller, Neihardt-Black Elk Park Pavillion, Shiela Simon, Gene Thomas, Brenda Krueger. Folder-Sheffield, IL Historical Society. Ordination folder for Kathryn Sue Montira. Folder on Oaks Indian Mission. DAHS newsletter. (Donors: Richard & Pat Jorgensen, Blair, Nebraska).
25. 151 books including: Bo Bojesen **Daglight Liv in Danmark** (How to be a Dane) bilingual, Zakarias Nielsen **Et Møde**, Ejvind Larsen **Det Levende Ord** om Grundtvig, Christensen-Vahl **Denmarks Land og Folk**, **The Little Mermaid or the story of Kimballton in Iowa's "Danishland"**, N.F.S. Grundtvig **Paaske-Liljen**, Kaj Munk **Himmel og Jord**, Kaj Munk **Mindeudgavae**, Kaj Munk **Vedersø-Jerusalem Retur**, Kaj Munk **Med Ordets Sværd**, Kaj Munk **Ordet**, Kaj Munk **Liv og glade Dage**, Kaj Munk **Hans Sidder Ved Smeltediglen**, Hans Brix **Hurtig Svandt Den Lyse Sommer! Kaj Munk 1924-44 Bogen om Kaj Munk**, Anton Kvist **Sange fra Vejen Udvalgte Digte**, Sigurd Elkjær **En jysk Skolemester fortæller**, Jeppe Aakjær **Frederik Taphjerys Plovilde**, Solomon J. Frifelt **Dagen og det Grønne Land**. (Donor: Svend Koch, Cedar Falls, Iowa).
 26. VHS tapes "Herb Knudsen", and "Dana Fire (Old Main), Dana Christmas". (Donor: Nathan Kramer, Blair, Nebraska).
 27. CDs of Argo Church Meetings 1881-1887, 1887-1895, 1896-1906, 1884 Notification-Records and Treasury. (Donor: Charles Lang, Uehling, Nebraska).
 28. 15 books including: **Den Danske Skoles Sangbog** (1913), **New Testament** (1957), L.P. Rasmussen **Børnesangbog for Skolen og Hjemmet** (1903), **Sangeren** (1911). (Donor: Loeymae Lange, Sun City, Arizona).
 29. Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood material, Scandinavian Chorus of Milwaukee, American Legion Post #854, Corporate ad, Picture and information on Granny Larsen. (Donor: Nancy Larsen, Ashland, Ohio).
 30. 2 pictures of Dana Alumni float for Gateway to the West parade, 14 pictures of Dana "plot" at Blair Cemetery. (Donors: Phil and Florence Larsen, Blair, Nebraska).
 31. Obituary: Jorgen Faldt Larsen. 40 of Jorgen Faldt Larsen's books including: Peter Bamm **Rejse til Kristenhedens aeldste Byer**, Grundtvig's **Church Copenhagen** leaflet, Thorvald Aardahl **Efterklangen**, Tage Eskesten **Døden paa Raabjerg Mile**, Gunnar Gunnarssen **Salige er de Enfoldige**, Thomas Olesen Lokken **Klaus Bjerg og Bodil**, Jørn Riel **Mine Faedres Hus**, Edvard Brandes **Et Brud**, Finn Salomansen **Fugletraekket og dets Gaader**, **Den gule Dessertbog**, Norman Lindsay **Øesterspigen**. (Donor: James Miller, North Baltimore, Ohio).
 32. **Oaks Arrow** – Spring. Obituary: Lilyan H. Chapman. (Donors: John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska).
 33. Obituaries: Betty Kern, Sandra Bertelsen Hale, Betty Jane Hobart, Richard Mogensen, Marion Christensen Powell, Russell M. Levingard, Vivian Larson Heigl, Opal Krogh Vogelmann-Cota, Jean Petersen Munch, Alice Hansen, Wilbur Frederickson, Dorothy Peterson Lassin, Robert I. Jensen, Howard Jensen, Lois Leudtke Sorensen, Esther Bahr Jensen, Waldemar A. Madsen Sr., Marilyn Olson Braun, Robert C. Christensen, James W. Jensen, Duane Allan Rosier, Eleanor Hansen Nielsen, Bruce John Nielsen, Rose Olsen Gasser, Margaret Sutherland Nielsen, Sylvia "Patty" Hansen, Esther Nielsen Sorensen, Earle Deane Peterson, George Arthur Jorgensen, Sally Aiello Goldberg, Robert Garfield Anderson, Michael Jon Peterson, Lillian Mollerskov Hansen, Margaret A. Petersen Knutson, Einer Christensen, Richard E. Johnson, Jerome Akre Peterson, Russell T. Johnson, Jerome Langenfeld, Hennig M. Anderson, Catherine Ann Christensen, Mary Alyce Phillys Hansen, Clayton Nielsen, Gordon "Corky" Christensen, Edna Brusko, Hans Frederik Marko Hansen, Jane E. Knudsen, William Henry Andersen, Margaret Petersen Monroe, Elizabeth M. Hanson, Michael H. Andreasen. Clippings: Rebuilding of Viborg Church, "Danish Treat" (Danish girls basketball team), Gordon Christensen's 10th wedding anniversary, Broyce Beck's 90th birthday, Jim & Judy (Jensen) Hewitt's 50th, "Nielsen Remembered for Civic Activism". (Donors: LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, Racine, Wisconsin).
 34. Copy of 2011 Heritage Book: Federation of Danish Association in Canada with articles on Peter N. Pallesen. Pictures: Peter N. Pallesen in field, Pallesen barn. (Donor: Peter J.M. Pallesen, Alberta, Canada).
 35. St. Paul's (Boomer) Sunday bulletin May 29, 2011, Laurits Pedersen's funeral sermon notes for Lydia Bondo Petersen (1889-1966), Bondo Family Gathering story from Council Bluffs Daily Nopareil, Bondo remembrance service in cemetery, Bondo afternoon session. Don Pedersen's remarks at gathering, account of Willie Bondo by Carole Voillancourt, Family picture taken in Sioux City, possibly of Rev. Damskov's family. (Donor: Donald Pedersen, Pea Ridge, Arkansas).
 36. Obituary: Niels J. "Buck" Kjar. (Donors: Palma & Larry Plume, Evergreen, Colorado).
 37. Funeral folder – Harold Neist. Obituaries: Olaf Nelson, Aileen Skarie Christenson, Harold Neist, Carol Oleson Petersen, James Wayne, Lois Jensen, Mildred Andersen Bergdale, Bruce Christensen, Kenneth Colstrup, Milton Larson, Ruby Nelson Anderson, Canute Sorensen, Barbara Christensen, Roland Petersen, C. Joanne Petersen, Lila Christensen Clauson, Florence Tange Mumm, Howard Jensen, Arnold Petersen, Elmer Christensen, Douglas Andersen. Article on Hans C. "Gas" Hanson. (Donors: Eleanor & Don Schou, Albert Lea, Minnesota).
 38. 1892 Danish Bible brought to U.S.A. in 1910 by Kristen & Anna Katherine Jensen Bach, Sodater sangbogen belonging to Kristen Bach, Large packet of Dana material saved by Sandy's mother. (Donor: Sandy Sonderup, Blair, Nebraska).
 39. Picture: Silas Andersen, Martha Neve Carlsen (Mrs. N.C.). Packet of clippings on Ringsted, Iowa's 75th anniversary (1899-1974). Obituaries: Arne "Jake" Sorensen, Gertrude Jensen Christiansen, Johanne Irene Jensen, Josephine Yeager Holm, Solveig Petersen Gregory, Robert Lawrence Hansen, Herluf Christensen, Larry W. Thomsen, Glen E. Nielsen, Anita Jensen, Mary Elvin Wilbur, David P. Christensen, Velmo Andersen, Erna Hansen Benington, Herluf H. Strandekov. (Donor: Joan Sorensen, Richardson, Texas).
 40. Obituaries: Peter J. Hansen, John Christian Mortensen, Evelyn Mix Gjertsen, Richard Johansen, George Iversen, Theodore

Hansen, Catherine Drescoll Larsen, Harold G. Jensen, Richard M. Hansen, Earl Charles Borgeson, Mary Ann Corr Jensen. A review of Carsten Jensen's novel **We the Drowned**. Article: "Cities Gone Wild" Copenhagen and Stockholm. (Donor: Martha Stone, Boston, Massachusetts).

41. **Mission Afrika** – Feb, June, Aug 2006, March 2007. (Donors: Marge & Don Wahlgren, Gowrie, Iowa).

Director's Notes:

Dear Friends –

It is with both sadness and satisfaction that I write these final notes as Executive Director of The Archive: sadness because I had unrealistically hoped to continue to function for another several years as I have for the past 24 and satisfaction because The Archive has expanded wonderfully during those years and has generated a remarkable coterie of loyal supporters. I want to sincerely thank all of you who have made my Archive years memorable. I think back to those early years when there were fewer than thirty names on our donor list. Now our mailing list has expanded to over 900 households. You have provided constant encouragement by sending materials and money at various intervals. Or you have written notes keeping me abreast of your activities. As I recede into the background, I have to believe that your loyalty has not been to me but to the cause of The Archive. That cause still stands, and it needs your support and the support that you can generate more than ever as an earlier, founding generation becomes less active and dies off.

Family concerns and personal circumstances of health and aging necessitate my resignation as Director. As I think you all know, Elizabeth had a massive heart attack on June 4th which the doctors did not think she could survive. Thankfully she did and is now doing well and is going to cardiac rehab. Besides having hearing and vision problems, I am totally without energy. Is that aging? I know The Archive will continue to survive, but hope that under different leadership it will continue to radiate soul. Too many institutions become large and efficient but lose their soul and the personal dimension that is so vital to an operation such as ours. I firmly believe that this need not be, but I know that it takes the careful cultivation of a friendly spirit on the part of all of the personnel and that this spirit must be transmitted in all communications. A paid staff is undoubtedly inevitable but a paid staff without roots and spirit is disastrous. Work at it and help to maintain it. Fortunately in Jill Hennick we have someone who already possessed the spirit I am talking about when we hired her and then readily learned to transmit that personal spirit and interest to people to whom she was writing who were total strangers so that she, too, is now developing a network of friends for herself and for The Archive.

My thoughts and thanks embrace all who have walked with me in the course of the years. This certainly includes Sara Hansen-Walter who has been with me from the beginning and Ruth Rasmussen and Sharon Jensen who became vitally involved when they stopped working in the Dana Library. It includes Dody Johnson who launched and has maintained the important spring and autumn volunteer sessions. It includes Bee Krantz who just died on July 21, Dorothy Wright and Elizabeth Nielsen, members of my faithful Dana Humanities Staff who transferred over to The Archive with me and have provided such valuable help through the years. And then there is that impressive roster of volunteers who have died each of whom left a significant mark on our memory and a helpful record of service. Finally, there is the corps of volunteers that presently keep The Archive operating and who have served on its board. In minutes and *Jottings* they are all listed but cannot be mentioned here. I carry them with me even as I remain here with them performing whatever service I can. Blessings upon all of you and ever a greater vision with the strength and wisdom to bring it to fruition.

John

Memorials:

Mike Andreasen
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen (Racine, WI)
 Axel C. Bundgaard
 Ann Bundgaard (Burnsville, MN)
 John & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Betty Hernes
 Richard & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Janet Jaeger
 Virgil & Ordell Witte (Northfield, MN)
 Russell Jensen's ordination
 Esther Jensen (Santa Maria, CA)
 Oscar Johnson
 Mark & Caryl Grorud (Fremont, NE)
 Norm Jorgensen
 Paul & Bulah Larsen (Fremont, NE)
 Myrtle Nelson Lammers
 Roger & Donna Nelson (Blair, NE)
 Donald F. Nelson
 Roger & Donna Nelson (Blair, NE)
 Aster Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Dr. Paul & Lela Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Tom Nielsen
 Richard & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Marilyn Neve Nyegaard
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Norma Stone on date of 55th wedding anniversary
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 Henry & Augusta Wolter
 The descendants of Henry & Augusta Wolter

General Fund Donations:

R.L. Bartley (Springfield, MO)
 Ruth Benson (Council Bluffs, IA)
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Honoraria:

Tim & Sharon Jensen
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Ezra Larsen's 89th birthday and his family
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Elaine Nielsen's 90th birthday
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)
 April birthdays: Jami Nielsen, Stephanie Nielsen
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 May birthdays: Erik Nielsen, Eva Nielsen
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 June birthdays: Tom Nielsen, Doug Wilson, Emerson
 Adams, John Preben Nielsen
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen's 62nd Anniversary
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 John W. Nielsen – Happy Father's Day
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen
 Lisa Nielsen (St. Marys, GA)
 Marilyn Nielsen's 80th birthday
 Dale & Ruth Mortensen (New Olmsted, OH)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Agnes Paulsen
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Donald Pedersen
 Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 A. "Pete" Petersen's 93rd birthday
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen
 Julie & Charlie Rohlfing
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen

50/100:

John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)
 Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)
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 Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
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 Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)
 Ron Vig (Blair, NE)
 Doug & Jane Wilson (Farragut, IA)
 John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
 Sandra Wunder (Omaha, NE)

The donations listed are only those from April-June 2011.
 Those received since then will be listed in the next *Jottings*.

We have had a variety of gifts recently:

- IRA distributions
- Life insurance proceeds
- The Growth Ring Matching Gifts Program - available to individual members of Woodmen of the World/ Assured Life Association

Thank you for being creative!
 We appreciate donations of every kind.

Credit Cards

We will begin taking donations by credit card shortly after Labor Day. All major credit cards will be accepted: Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover. We hope this will be an added convenience for many of our patrons.

Beg Balance 12/31/11	\$51,761.98	Balance in bank accounts	\$54,803.70
Total Revenue Jan-Jun 2011	\$43,439.62	June 30, 2011	
Total Expenses Jan-Jun 2011	-40,212.26	Restricted funds:	
2010 taxes paid in 2011	-751.06	Lur Publications	2,293.64
Utility Deposit	-230.00	Endowment	100.00
Sales Tax Collected, not yet paid	16.76	Taxes Payable	795.42
Income Tax Withheld, not yet paid	778.66	Unrestricted funds	
Balance in bank accounts	\$54,803.70	June 30, 2011	\$51,614.64
June 30, 2011			