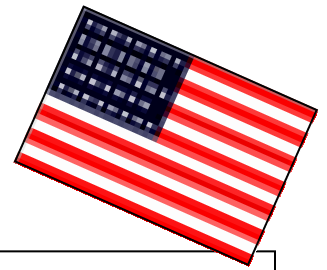


JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library June to September 2015

WHAT MAKES JOHN RUN?

A remarkable force has been at work in the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL) for more than a quarter of a century.

Teacher, college professor, pastor, editor and scholar Dr. John W. Nielsen established the DAAL in its current form in 1990 and infused it with his energy and a passion for Danish American history that carries through to today. Because of his foresight and leadership, the DAAL has survived almost insurmountable challenges and come through stronger than ever. And at age 90, John continues to contribute his talent and knowledge to the DAAL.

“With John’s broad experience and acquaintance within the Danish American, educational and Lutheran communities, he is the go-to person for filling in gaps of information we have in our collections,” says former archive president and current board member Dr. Timothy A. Jensen. “He has a phenomenal memory for names and family connections, and can tell you much of the history of almost anyone you ask him about.”

John’s involvement with what was then the Danish Immigrant Archive began before he retired as a professor of religion and director of humanities at Dana College. Through a conversation he had in 1983 with Sarah Hansen, a descendant of a prominent Danish American family, John acquired for the college a collection of letters, documents and photos spanning more than 100 years. This exceptional collection from the Hansen-Mengers family sparked his interest in taking the Danish Immigrant Archive beyond a basically church- and college-centered institution to one reflecting the lives of all Danish Americans, no

matter what their backgrounds or beliefs.

Upon his retirement from Dana College in 1990, John became the first director of the Danish Immigrant Archive, and thus began an era of change and progress for the archive.

Among the changes and improvements John made during his term as director were: **Developing a core of volunteers.** With the help of Dody

Johnson, a childhood friend and Dana College classmate, John recruited a core of volunteers, most with roots within Danish Lutheran congregations or Dana College or both. These volunteers came twice a year from all over the country at their own expense to help out with the day-to-day sorting, coding, cataloging and translating of the archive materials. In addition to these twice-yearly sessions, John found local volunteers who came in from one to five days a week, thus dramatically increasing the usability of the archive.

Creating the *Jottings* newsletter

In order to bring together Danish Americans everywhere, Dr. Nielsen created the *Jottings* newsletter, which became a forum for news and events of interest to Danish Americans. *Jottings* also served to publicize the archive and bring in more materials.

Fundraising

Early on, John recognized the necessity of raising funds for the acid-free boxes and envelopes and other



Dr. John W. Nielsen established the DAAL in its current form in 1990, and continues to work there.

equipment needed to properly house the delicate materials that were being donated at an increasing rate. As a result of the increased donations, he was able to put together an annual operating budget as well as start a planned giving fund.

Creating Lur Publications

John realized there was a wealth of information in the DAAL collections that could be shared through the publication of books. That led to his and his wife Elizabeth’s formation of Lur Publications and the printing of the first book, *Tante Johanne*, in 1996. To date, Lur Publications has published sixteen books, the majority of which John edited.

With the start of the new millennium, John focused on how to make sure the archive stays current with the times. To that end, he suggested a name change from

John W. Nielsen (Cont.)

Danish Immigrant Archive, which was limiting in nature, to the more inclusive Danish American Archive and Library. He encouraged the formation of a planning committee to investigate the possibility of the archive's becoming a corporation independent from Dana College. However, the college went bankrupt and closed in July of 2010, before that could be accomplished. In the three days before the college closed, he witnessed the packing up and moving to temporary storage his beloved archive materials.

Always a person to face up to challenges, however, John led the volunteers through an interim period from July to October of meeting weekly at First Lutheran Church in Blair and locating a new home for the DAAL at 1738 Washington Street. Since moving out of Dana College, the DAAL has become an independent tax-exempt organization with a board of directors. At age 85, John decided it was time to slow down a little and resigned as Executive Director of the DAAL in 2011 at which time he was named Executive Director Emeritus by the board. At age 90, he continues to work at the DAAL and to lead by example.

The vision and practices that John established are still in place today and dictate the methods used to preserve the DAAL's precious holdings.

So what makes John run? No one knows, but whatever it is, those who work at the DAAL are grateful for it. ■



One of the traditions John established is the 10 a.m. break for strong Danish coffee and delicious Danish treats. Seated third from right is John's former classmate, Dody Johnson.

A LASTING HOME FOR THE DAAL

July 30, 2015, was a banner day in the history of the DAAL! That was the day Executive Director Jill Hennick and Archive President Gary Madsen signed the paperwork for the DAAL to become the owner of the building where we have been located since October 2010.

This development was made possible by a wonderful offer from previous building owner and former landlord, John Eriksen, to sell us the building at an extremely reasonable price. Owning our own building has several advantages for us:

- ◆ It eliminates the need for us to pack up and move. (Those of us who experienced the evacuation from Dana College really appreciate this!)

- ◆ It allows us to rearrange our space for maximum efficiency so we can accommodate all the materials that continue to be donated to us.
- ◆ It allows us to dictate our own destiny without the need to answer to any other organization.

Going forward our goal is to build on the reputation of the DAAL as the foremost repository for Danish American materials in North America.

Our dedicated donors have made it possible for us to operate independently for the last five years, which is almost unheard of in the world of archives. With the continued support of these donors and the reduced costs of owning this building, we will thrive here for many years to come. However, we plan to keep searching for an institution of higher learning that will act as a sponsor for us, thus ensuring an unlimited future for our precious materials and books.

For now the staff and volunteers of the DAAL are happy to be at home in our own building! ■



1738 Washington Street, Blair, Nebraska.



Jill Hennick, Executive Director
John W. Nielsen, Executive Director Emeritus
1738 Washington Street, Blair, Nebraska 68008
Telephone: (402) 426-7910
E-mail: info@danishamericanarchive.com
Hours: 8 am-3 pm, Monday-Friday

Queen Margrethe II Visits Dana College

In 1939, 1976, and 2009, successive generations of Denmark's royal family visited Dana College. This is the second of three articles about those visits.

In 1976 Denmark's Queen Margrethe II and Prince Consort Henrik toured the U.S. as a salute to this country's Bicentennial, and on May 20 they visited Dana College.¹

An article announcing their visit in the *Dana Review*, Dana's alumni magazine, reported that Queen Margrethe's Lord Chamberlain had told Dana President Earl Mezoff, during a trip the Mezoffs made to Denmark, that she regarded the pending Dana visit as the highlight of their tour. One reason, the Lord Chamberlain said, was that she'd heard her parents talk about how much they'd enjoyed their visit in 1939.²

Another reason for her anticipation, the Lord Chamberlain said, was that she remembered hearing heroic tenor Lauritz Melchior, a Dane, sing for her parents when she was a child, and she was looking forward to seeing Dana's Lauritz Melchoir Memorial Room.

Meanwhile, Phil Pagel, Dana's director of public relations, was busy planning the day's events, which included a Commencement address by Queen Margrethe.

Accompanied by Ambassador and Mrs. Otto Borch of the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C., and approximately 25 Danish and American journalists, as well as Secret Service agents, the royal couple arrived in Omaha from Chicago. Their Nebraska itinerary started with a tour of the Strategic Air Command (now StratCom) at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, a community that's part of metropolitan Omaha.

Arriving in Blair, the entourage stopped briefly at the intersection of 17th and Washington, where the visitors were greeted by a large number of residents and where Blair resident Becky Hanson, Nebraska's Junior Miss, welcomed Queen Margrethe with a bouquet of roses.

Pagel and his planning committee had decided that Commencement should be held at Viking Field in order to accommodate an anticipated large crowd -- and fortunately, the day was sunny and calm.

Queen Margrethe opened her address by recalling her parents' visit, saying that they had "always preserved warm memories of that occasion."

Then, speaking directly to members of the Class of 1976, she said, "You are the young people of a very large country and of a very great nation in which you take great pride, I know. But each of you, although not all of Danish extraction, has also had the benefit here at Dana College to come into contact with some of the qualities which distinguish a smaller country." These qualities, she said, include "The intimacy, the awareness of being dependent on one another and of caring for one another. Qualities which in a small country are perhaps more apparent and more readily realized and which we in Denmark believe to be ever more needed."

After her address President Mezoff conferred an honorary degree on Queen Margrethe as a doctor of letters. He spoke of her many activities and accomplishments as "a wife, mother, scholar, artist, linguist, archaeologist. . . ."³

And because she had anticipated seeing the Lauritz Melchior



During a tour of the U.S., Queen Margrethe gave her only public address at Dana's Commencement.

Memorial Room, after a reception in the E.C. Hunt Campus Center and before their departure to Omaha, she and Prince Henrik visited it and the Danish Heritage Room in the C.A. Dana-LIFE Library.

In Omaha that evening they attended a banquet at the Hilton hosted by the Danish Brotherhood, and the next morning, left for Seattle.

¹Their visit is well-documented in the Archive's Dana Room by two scrapbooks with photographs and clippings from Danish and American newspapers.

²In 1939 they were Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid. Frederik became King Frederik IX in 1947. Queen Margrethe succeeded him on his death, on January 14, 1972. Queen Ingrid died in 2000.

³The ceremony was filmed and included in a documentary shown Danish television.

VOLUNTEERS: 1,646 hours by 45 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas.

VISITORS: 63 visitors from California, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin and Denmark.

USERS: 22 users from California, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Denmark.

ACQUISITIONS

The following are the donations of materials we have received from May through August. The Archive could not continue to document the history of Danish Americans without these wonderful materials including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and obituaries.

Materials

Lois & Larry Bornemeier (Danbury, CT)
 Glen Buchanan (Willmar, MN)
 Paul D. Christiansen (Mesa, AZ)
 Vaughn Christensen (Blair, NE)
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84 (Lincoln, NE)
 Danish Federation (Gloucester, ON)
 Arvid D. Dixon (Circle Pines, MN)
 Christina D. Ferguson (Brighton, CO)
 Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)
 Joyce M. Gauch (Medina, MN)
 Heather Hall (Blair, NE)
 Frederick (Fritz) Hansen (Wichita, KS)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Susan Hettinger (Westminster, CO)
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)
 Marge & Jim Iversen (Decorah, IA)
 Ricardo Jara (Stanford, CA)
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 Marjorie Johnson (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 Lee Anne Hansen Lack (Minneapolis, MN)
 Ezra Larsen (Boulder, CO)
 Nancy B. Larsen (Ashland, OH)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Susan & Larry Legore (Algona, IA)
 Ed & Melva Madsen (Princeton, NJ)
 George Madsen (Omaha, NE)
 Aveline C. Marks (Omaha, NE)
 Nancy Martin (Mounds View, NE)
 Museum of Danish America (Elk Horn, IA)
 Nebraska District Brotherhood (Lincoln, NE)
 Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)
 Carolyn Nielsen (St. Clair Shores, MI)
 John & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Ruth & Allen Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Robert Ostergaard (Minneapolis, MN)
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 Hans & Jeanette Pedersen (Haines City, FL)
 Carol Petersen (Mesa, AZ)
 Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Carol J. Schetter (Highlands Ranch, CO)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 Martha E. Stone (Boston, MA)
 Patricia Swanson (Omaha, NE)
 Naomi Theye (Winona, MN)
 Marion Vierow (Saco, ME)
 Sandra & LeRoy Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 Cathy Williamsen (Blair, NE)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Capital Campaign:

Funds in the Capital Campaign are used to fund the permanent home for DAAL.

Harold Andersen (Omaha, NE)
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Ingrid Christiansen (Brookline, MA)
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) in memory of Oscar Johnson
 Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)
 Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)
 Carole Liljedahl (Missouri Valley, IA)
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)
 Larry & Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Sandra & LeRoy Wigdahl (Blair, NE)

Memorials:

Memorials are part of the General Fund

John Beck
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Meta Brandes (Blair, NE)
 Myrvin & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Darrell Dibben (Blair, NE)
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*
 Roger & JoAnn Hohensee (Blair, NE)
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Jack & Opal Jensen (Arlington, NE)
 Lorraine Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Patricia Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Amy Barlow & Nathan Kramer (Omaha, NE)
 Joan & Bob Krogh (Blair, NE)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Allan & Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
 Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)
 Michael & Susan Pinquoch (Blair, NE)
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Bob & Judy Schmoll (Greenville, PA)
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 Marilyn Svendgard (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Myrna Vercurysse (Blair, NE)
 Lydia Beckman
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Earl & Deloris Bengtson
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Paul B. Bondo
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 Clarice Christensen
 Virginia Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)
 Susan & Michael Marsh (Blair, NE)

John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Donna Oberg (Hastings, NE)
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 Siggie Christensen
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Ethan Hansen
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Roy Hanson
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)
 David Hernes
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)
 Dorthea Jensen
 Christie & Frank Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Earl S. Jensen
 Christie & Frank Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Rev. Richard Jensen
 Lee Anne & Eugene Lack (Montrose, MN)
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*
 Marie Johnson
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Charles Jorgensen - Dana class of '57
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Homer Larsen
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*
 Rev. C.I. "Jerry" Lund
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*
 Lloyd Neve
 Virginia Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Meta Brandes (Blair, NE)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Joan & Bob Krogh (Lincoln, NE)
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*
 Luella Nielsen
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Tom Nielsen
 Patricia Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Dr. Jack & Ruth Petajan
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Vera Petersen
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Junior Marion Rasmussen
 Robert & Martha Christiansen (Scottsdale, AZ)
 Myrna Tostenson
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Financial Report (Cont.)

*The Green Kitty Cat Fund of InFaith Community Foundation was established in memory of Rev. C. I. "Jerry" Lund by Maryann Lund and family.

Honoraria:

Honoraria are part of the General Fund.

John W. Nielsen's 90th Birthday
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
Anne Nielsen & John Hibbing (Lincoln, NE)
Robert & Joan Krogh's 60th Anniversary
Bernard & Mary Ann Matthies (Omaha, NE)
Paul Johnson
John & Deborah Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)

General Fund:

All donations are placed in the General Fund unless otherwise specified. Those who give through the 50/100 Club are listed in each issue of Jottings.

Anonymous

Cargill Community Enrichment Campaign via Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)

Borge Christensen (Rochester, MN)

Robert & Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)

Danish Sisterhood PNW District (Shoreline, WA)

James & Sharon Eastwood (Fridley, MN)

Don & Bev Freberg (Prairie Village, KS)

Milbern & Kathryn Goetz (Greeley, CO)

Charles & Emma Hansen (Mt. Prospect, IL)

Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)
Jean Clark Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)
Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)
Edgar Madsen (Princeton, NJ)
Nancy Martin (Mounds View, MN)
NE/CO District Danish Sisterhood (Lincoln, NE)

David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)

Jan Otter (Omaha, NE)

Agnes Paulsen (Tucson, AZ)

Elmer Petersen (Galesville, WI)

Jay Planalp (Frederik, MD)

Sandra Rasmussen (Des Moines, IA)

Margaret Sorensen (Grand Island, NE)

Digitizing:

Used for hardware and software support of digitizing collections.

Daphne Davidson (New York, NY)

2015 Thrivent Choice Gifts:

Thrivent Choice gifts are part of the General Fund.

Harlen Barney (Oregon City, OR)

Ruth Benson (Burnsville, MN)

Myrvin Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)

John Colwell (Ludlow, IL)
James Falksen (Ava, MO)
Judith Frantz (Los Angeles, CA)
Shirley Hansen (Edina, MN)
Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)
Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
Allan Johnson (Mount Pleasant, WI)
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
Kevin Knitt (Stevens Point, WI)
Jerry & Shirley Lincoln (Lincoln, CA)
Sandra Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Paul Sorensen (Dekalb, IL)
Elsa Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)
Linda Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)

Endowment:

The goal of the endowment fund is to reach such a level as to sustain DAAL operations on the interest. Currently, all earnings are being rolled over. The endowment includes named funds and a general fund.

DELORIS HANSEN BENGTONSON FUND

REV. C.I. "JERRY" LUND FUND

REV. ASTER & RUTH NEVE FAMILY FUND

DAGMAR VASBY FUND

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

In memory of Paul "Parson" Larsen

In memory of Lloyd Neve

Julie Johnson (Columbus, OH)

In honor of Dody Johnson's 89th Birthday

50/100 Club:

The name of the 50/100 Club was inspired by the idea that if 100 members gave \$50 per month, most of our operating expenses would be met. Members sustain the DAAL by giving a minimum of \$600 per year (given monthly, quarterly or annually according to the donor's preference). Those at the Founders Level give at least \$2,000 per year. An added benefit of being part of the 50/100 Club is receiving one donation acknowledgement for tax purposes in January, reflecting a yearly total of all donations, rather than getting a separate acknowledgement for each financial contribution. These donations are part of the General Fund.

50/100 FOUNDER LEVEL

Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)

Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

John W & Elizabeth Nielsen

50/100 GENERAL

John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)

Ruth Randall Benson (Apple Valley, MN)

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)

Mark & Erika Bondo (Freehold, NJ)

Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)

Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)

Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)

Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)

Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)

Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)

Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)

Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)

Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)

Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)

Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)

Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen (Blair, NE)

CHILDREN AND CHARITY: IS THERE ROOM FOR BOTH?

As I call supporters to inquire about a possible estate gift for DAAL, many have said "no" because they have children. If you can relate, I'd like to share a couple thoughts with you.

The first thought is to do some math for two sets of parents who have three children. Family A has a net worth of \$100,000 and Family B has net worth of \$1,000,000.

Scenario #1— "Tithing" your estate with 10% going to charity

Family A: Instead of inheriting \$33,333, each child receives \$30,000 with \$10,000 to charity

Family B: Instead of inheriting \$333,333, each child receives \$300,000 with \$100,000 to charity

Scenario #2 – "Adopting" charity as an additional "child"

Family A: Instead of inheriting \$33,333, each child receives \$25,000 with \$25,000 to charity

Family B: Instead of inheriting \$333,333 each child receives \$250,000 with \$250,000 to charity

Obviously, the math works no matter how many children you have or what your net worth is. But before deciding that 100% of your estate should go to children, I invite you to do some calculations to see if there's room for DAAL and other charities in your estate plans.

My second thought is to ask you this question: **Who depends on you most financially... your children or your charities?** In many families where at least one parent lives to normal life expectancy, the children may be at, or approaching, retirement. Hopefully by that age, they're financially independent!

Charities such as DAAL, however, will always be financially dependent on their donors. I've always found it somewhat ironic that in most estate plans, most, if not all, goes to those who usually need it the least! Food for thought?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 402/201-7024. Tusind tak! ■

Paul Johnson is a CFP® professional under contract with DAAL to assist its donors with planned giving.



Paul Johnson

50/100 Club (Cont.)

Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
Earl Nelson (Mt Pleasant, WI)
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)
Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)
Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson (Bainbridge Island, WA)
Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)
James Peterson (Richfield, MN)
Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)
Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)
Doug & Jane Wilson (Farragut, IA)
John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
Sandra Wunder (Omaha, NE)

Legacy Builders:

These donors have named DAAL in their estates (* indicates deceased). If you are not on this list but should be, please contact Jill Hennick at 402-426-7910 or Paul Johnson at 402-201-7024.

Erna Berthelsen
Judy Brehm
Myrv & Anne Christopherson
Michael and Jill Hennick
Russell P.* and Esther A. Jensen
Tim & Sharon Jensen
Julianne Johnson and Judy Pollack
Ronald D. Johnson* and Bodil Strom Muller
Oscar* & Dody Johnson
Paul & Liz Johnson
Lorene Larsen
Phil & Florence Larsen
Gene & Nancy Lindblad
Gary & Diane Madsen
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen
LeVern* & Marilyn* Nielsen
W. Clayton Nielsen
Larry & Palma Plume
Joan Sorensen ■

WAR GAMES

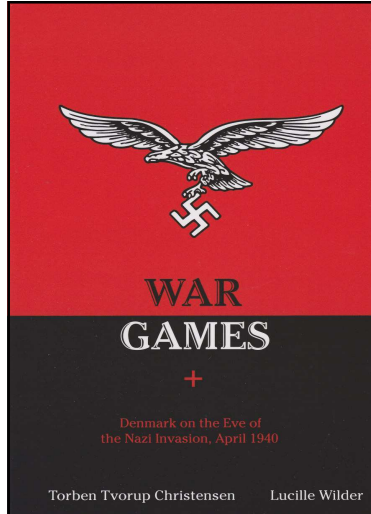
Denmark on the Eve of the Nazi Invasion, April 1940

Reviewed by Hans Kring
lector emeritus, cand. mag.

Not much has been written in English about the German occupation of Denmark during WWII, but this fine book certainly contributes to filling in the gap. It deals with the invasion in 1940, not only the events occurring on the crucial April 9, but also and not least, the previous warnings of an imminent German aggression and the deliberations among Danish policymakers in this connection.

The main author, the late Lucille Wilder, has gone through a wide range of Danish published sources, permitting her

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At just \$10 plus \$4 shipping and handling, this wonderful book is available at a bargain over the \$19.95 cover price.
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to picture the course of events in almost every detail. Her style of writing is effortless, making the reading quite easy.

Why was Denmark totally unprepared for a German attack in the spring of 1940? Why did the Danes surrender within hours (an American sports reporter wrote shortly afterwards about a prizefighter that "he lay down like a Dane")? The short answer to these and similar questions is that the Danish policymakers *did* nothing because they *dared* do nothing because they *could* do very little.

If you want a more elaborate answer, you should definitely read the book. As a bonus you get—in the Epilogue—a brief survey of the years of occupation until 1945. The resistance movement during the last two years proves that Danes, after all, were capable of fighting an intruder. ■

AROUND THE ARCHIVE

- ◆ Long-time friend to the DAAL and retired Lutheran minister, Norman Freund of Fremont, Nebraska, recently donated more than 1,000 sermons that he presented during his career. This is an unusually rich collection spanning approximately 57 years from 1958 to 2015 and containing the full text and the location where each sermon was given. Many sermons deal with the current events of the time and represent a wonderful resource for historians.
- ◆ The *Danish Children Growing Up American* exhibit goes on display at the Denver, Colorado, public library October 1. This coincides with the Danish Sisterhood's national convention that takes place in Denver from October 15—18. Palma and Larry Plume will be manning a DAAL table at the convention, and we are encouraging all attendees to visit the exhibit.
- ◆ The DAAL was the recipient of a large collection of documents, music and photographs of the great Danish heldentenor, Lauritz Melchior. Turn to Page 8 to read more about this collection.
- ◆ If you haven't visited the DAAL website recently, take a look at the Collections page where newly expanded listings appear. They include the collection of A.M. Andersen, one of the founders of the UELC, the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood collections, and the Walker-Johnson collection, a wonderful collection from a multigenerational Danish American family.
- ◆ As usual the first week of October will be filled with activity at the DAAL:
 - October 3**—The popular Kringle Mingle for Dana College alumni, 9—11 a.m.
 - October 4**—DAAL Board of Directors meet.
 - October 5-9**—Fall volunteer week
 - October 6**—Flu shot clinic,
 - October 7**—Annual members meeting.Voting members are those who have donated time, money or materials to the DAAL during the last two years. ■

Would you like to help?

Please cut out this card and send it in with your tax-deductible contribution.

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed. (Please make payable to the Danish American Archive and Library.)
Or to pay by credit card:

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Thank you for your ongoing support of the Danish American Archive and Library

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 'S REPORT A Time to Focus

With the purchase of our building on July 30th, a load of uncertainty that had hovered over us for five years was lifted. Now we can focus on how this building can serve us for the foreseeable future and how we, in turn, can serve our constituency.

The Board's decision to buy 1738 Washington Street in Blair showed their commitment to good stewardship of our resources. We have a very reasonable five-year mortgage with no prepayment penalty and our monthly mortgage payments are less than our former lease payments.

We now have the opportunity to reorganize the interior of the building to maximize work and storage space. We have already started investigating the cost and feasibility of installing compact shelving units which would house our current materials, allow for growth and provide more work area.

On July 24th, History Professor Teresa Houser from Midland University visited the Archive. She expects to send student interns to us. She also teaches a course on historical research and writing and would like to schedule one-day visits at which students would do some "hands-on" exercises as we explain archival work. We are looking forward to crafting such a program and to adding Midland University to the list of institutions that we partner with.

During our summer volunteer week, Omaha volunteer Nancy Anderson started scanning Dana yearbooks. Digitizing our collection, finding ways to expand the "digital archive" section of the website and exploring ways to let people volunteer from home are all part of our vision for the future.

The biggest change for us as the summer comes to a close is saying good-bye to Assistant to the Executive Director Kate Garrett as she heads back to college. In this, her fifth summer with us, the most valuable addition to her regular accounting duties was the volunteer instruction sheets and forms she created. We are now well on our way towards having a volunteer manual with consistent procedures that we all can follow.

The need to digitize materials and summarize our collection so that researchers can find the valuable and interesting items in our collection continues. If you like to organize, to oversee projects, to touch history, or even just to push buttons on a scanner, please consider joining us as a volunteer. ■



*Executive Director
Jill Hennick*

1738 Washington Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DAAL RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT LAURITZ MELCHIOR COLLECTION

Recordings, books, documents, photos, scrapbooks and diaries comprise part, but not all of a remarkable Lauritz Melchior collection that came to the DAAL in August.

Lauritz Melchior was born in Denmark in 1890, and is generally referred to as opera's greatest heldentenor (heroic tenor). Starting as a baritone, Melchior's career really took off after he trained and began performing as a tenor. He performed at opera houses throughout Europe, but is probably best remembered for his more than 500 performances in Wagnerian roles with the Metropolitan Opera Company from 1926 to 1950.

When Melchior died in March of 1973, his son, Ib, donated the entire collection, including artifacts, to Dana College. It was on display in the library there until a few days before the college closed in July of 2010. At that time, representatives of the Museum of Danish America (MoDA) brought the collection to the museum in order to rescue it and ensure that it would be preserved. Subsequently Melchior's son granted permission for the MoDA to retain possession of the collection, and because the DAAL has been designated as the repository for all Danish-related music materials by the other Danish American organizations, the MoDA brought the archival portion of the collection to the DAAL. ■



Library Assistant Michael Hennick begins processing several hundred phonograph records in the Melchior collection.