



MARCH 2013

E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

What's Up at the Museum?

Executive Director Awarded Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog



Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director of The Danish Immigrant Museum, was awarded Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog by Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen, representing Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. The ceremony took place at the Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C. on February 27, 2013, while Nielsen was there representing the Iowa Museum Association at Museum Advocacy Day 2013, held annually in the nation's capital. The Queen bestowed the award on Nielsen on December 19, 2012, however he wasn't notified of the honor until his trip to Washington had been confirmed.

The Order of the Knight of the Dannebrog was instituted in 1671 by King Christian V. The Order is used to decorate a select group of people who, through selfless deeds, have helped advance the interests of Denmark.

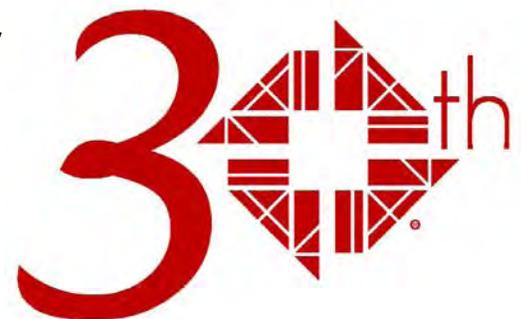
Nielsen's award is based on almost 90 letters of support from both Danish and American citizens who felt that Nielsen merited official recognition for his work on behalf of Denmark. The process was initiated by his colleagues at The Danish Immigrant Museum and coordinated by the Danish Consul for Iowa and former member of the museum's board of directors, Lynette Rasmussen of Johnston.

The letters all describe his professional success as well as his volunteer work for a number of Danish and Danish-American organizations. Many of the letters echoed similar statements that Nielsen is "always willing and enthusiastic about sharing his great knowledge of all things Danish" and "impresses all with his warm and friendly personality."

A celebration in honor of the award will be held on June 22 in Elk Horn, concurrent with the museum's 30th anniversary and Sankt Hans Aften festivities.

Anniversary Planning Underway

Plans are underway for celebrating the museum's 30th anniversary this year! Our big celebration will be the weekend of June 20 – 22nd when the museum's board of directors holds its 93rd regular meeting in Elk Horn. A "tent banquet" will be held on the museum grounds the evening of Saturday, June 22nd followed by cake and ice cream AND the annual Sankt Hans Aften celebration! So save the date and watch for more information as we make our plans!



Brown Bag Lunch Series

Join us for another season of Brown Bag Lunch programs – monthly public programs exploring topics related to Danish history and culture, museum activities, and the Elk Horn community. All programs begin at 12 noon and are FREE to the public, so grab your lunch and enjoy learning something new!

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE: Next program, **March 14: “Prairie Reconstruction: From Seed to Prairie”** Jon Judson of Diversity Farms is a specialist in restoring and reconstructing native Iowa prairies and serves on the board of the Iowa Prairie Network. With 20 years of experience, he is involved in every stage of supporting prairie environments, from starting native species from seed, all the way to managing prairie areas through prescribed burns and controlling invasive non-native plants. As we all look towards Spring and the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Parks wakes up to a new season, learn more about what to expect from a growing, maturing prairie.

On **April 11: “Have Statues, Will Travel”** Angela Stanford, curator of collections, will share the story – with pictures! – of over 50 statues by Carl Rohe Smith that came from Denmark to Elk Horn and are now on their way back to Denmark. Why were these statues here? Why did museum staff need mittens and scarves to work on this project? And how do such large pieces travel by boat across the Atlantic Ocean? Join us for a look behind the scenes at what the museum has been working on this winter.

“Jens Jensen” exhibition opens at the Goldstein Museum of Design in Minneapolis



The Danish Immigrant Museum’s exhibition “Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie” will be on view in the Goldstein Museum’s Rapson Hall Gallery from March 23 through May 12. Visit the gallery at 89 Church Street SE, Minneapolis. For more information visit goldstein.design.umn.edu.

“Grundtvig on the Prairie” to Include Several Museum Artifacts

The Museum is participating in an exhibition that will travel to six venues in Denmark over the next two and a half years. Beginning in May, “Grundtvig on the Prairie” will open at Skanderborg Museum. Several artifacts from the Museum’s collections will be on loan for this traveling exhibition, along with pieces from Askov and Tyler, Minnesota and Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. Discussions are underway to bring a version of this exhibition to Elk Horn.

Special crates were designed and built to safely transport these artifacts throughout the duration of the exhibition. Cotton covers, foam padding and supports will protect all 41 artifacts until they return to the United States in the fall of 2015.



Artifacts packed and ready to travel for “Grundtvig on the Prairie”

Coming Soon

Danish Modern: Design for Living

Open April 6 through January 5, 2014

Special celebration on Saturday, April 20 – Free admission all day!

The major exhibition for 2013 is a celebration of Danish design from the mid-twentieth century – furniture and housewares that remain popular today. In the years following World War II, a new generation of designers collaborated with furniture makers steeped in a tradition of fine craftsmanship; together they created works of enduring quality and beauty. Many designers became household names in Denmark – Arne Jacobsen, Hans Wegner, Poul Henningsen and others – and many of their pieces are still known by descriptive names that suggest their inspiration – the Artichoke Lamp, the Egg Chair, the Peacock Chair, to name a few. Stay tuned for more details!



Poul Henningsen
Electric lamp, Model PH 5 Plus
1958



Borge Mogensen
"Skalborg" side chair
1949



Arne Jacobsen
Swan Chair
1957

Family History and Genealogy Center Notes

Please note: The Museum and the Family History & Genealogy Center have *different* mailing addresses. Sending your mail to the correct address will ensure that it gets to the right person or department in a timely manner: Museum: 2212 Washington Street, Elk Horn IA 51531
FHGC: (USPS) PO Box 249 or (UPS, FedEx) 4210 Main Street, Elk Horn IA 51531

Cross-stitch, Anyone?

Anyone interested in Danish cross-stitch embroidery will be interested to learn of a new addition to the Family History and Genealogy Center's Special Collections. The Lois Wrede Cross-stitch Collection contains over 40 years of Danish- and English-language materials from one of the leading teachers and practitioners of this quintessential Danish needlework form. Patrons will be able to access this wonderful collection of materials later this spring.



Confirmation Photographs and Stories Still Needed

The FHGC is looking for individual or interesting group confirmation photographs of Danish immigrants and the first generation born in this country as well as materials and narratives relating to their confirmation experiences in both Denmark and the US for this year's TivoliFest photo exhibit, "Coming of Age in Denmark and the US." A submission form may be found [here](#). The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2013.

Danish Cemetery Trustees Needed



Omaha's Danish Springwell Cemetery is looking for new trustees for its nine-member volunteer Board. A number of current trustees are well past retirement age and would like to pass the baton to younger folks. Trustees are asked to attend six meetings a year; their main responsibility is to help the cemetery association reach decisions involving the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery. Requirements for trustees include being the owners by purchase or descent of burial lots in the cemetery and current or future members in good standing of any Danish organization or Danish church in Omaha. If you might be interested in becoming a trustee, contact president Galen Lillethorup at 402.571.5322 or galenkl@aol.com. This year's election of trustees will take place on May 1, 2013.

Remember, through the end of April the Family History & Genealogy Center is on winter hours: Tuesdays-Fridays from 9am to 5pm. Contact us at (712) 764-7008 during those hours to make appointments, ask questions, or check on weather conditions.

Museum Shop

Kobenstyle by Jens H. Quistgaard

A unique blend of exquisite design and superior performance. Moving effortlessly from stove to table, the casserole lid becomes a trivet, making a dramatic presentation. Offered in white and red, the enamel on steel collection is available to complement any decor. Every Kobenstyle design is easy to clean, offers enhanced heat conduction, and the signature stay-cool handles are known and loved the world over. Originally designed in 1956 by Jens H. Quistgaard, one of the founding designers of Dansk, who helped define the Scandinavian Modern style.

Members, don't forget about your [Museum Shop](#) discount!



*Kobenstyle
Casserole with lid
\$63*



*Kobenstyle
Baker
\$90*



*Kobenstyle
Butter warmer
\$36*

Call the Museum Shop to inquire about these beautiful and timeless pieces. (800) 759-9198.

An Invitation For You

“The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.” Celebrate with us as we pursue our dreams by becoming a member of the museum. Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#).

Just for Fun

“Trees are much like human beings and enjoy each other's company. Only a few love to be alone.”
--Jens Jensen, Siftings, 1939

Museum Calendar, March – April

- March 3 Final day for exhibition – *Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie*
- March 10 Final day for exhibition – *Meeting My Makers: Portraits by Neoma Thomas*
- March 14 Brown Bag Lunch Program, “Prairie Reconstruction: From Seed to Priarie”
- March 31 Easter Sunday – Museum closed
- April 6 Exhibit opens – *Danish Modern: Design for Living*
- April 11 Brown Bag Lunch Program, “Have Statues, Will Travel”
- April 20 Spring Open House in the museum shop
Opening celebration for *Danish Modern: Design for Living*
Free Admission all day!
- April 21 Piano Recital by winners of the Victor Borge Legacy Award, 2pm

Other upcoming Danish-American and Danish events

- March 10 Danish Club of Phoenix potluck in Fountain Hills, AZ. More info: (480) 837-1350.
- Through March 17 “Nordic Cool” at the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. [More info.](#)
- April 20 Danish Capital of Texas inaugural 5k fun run in Danevang, TX. [Use SignMeUp.com.](#)
- April 23-28 2013 Rebild National Park Society’s US Annual Membership Meeting. [More info.](#)

