



APRIL 2013

## E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

### Exhibition Opening:



*Danish Modern: Design for Living* is set to open April 6 and be on view until January 5, 2014. March was busy with painting walls and assembling displays, along with cataloging and photographing artifacts. The museum will be creating a print exhibition catalog that will be available for purchase this summer.

The exhibition is a celebration of the wonderful furniture designs that came out of Denmark in the 1950s and 1960s. Filling both of the museum’s temporary galleries, *Danish Modern* presents dozens of vintage pieces from the period, as well as examples of advertisements and marketing campaigns that helped introduce Danish design to American consumers. Danish furniture stores like Anton Dam published catalogs in English; aimed at American buyers, especially those at U.S. military bases in post-World War II Europe, the company promised to ship furniture anywhere in the world.

**“No doubt, just like everyone else you like Modern Danish Furniture. Your home needs Anton Dam’s Modern Danish Furniture. It will be admired by all your friends.”**

--Introduction to the Anton Dam catalog, 1964

The legacy of the mid-century Danish designers like Hans Wegner, Arne Jacobsen, Finn Juhl and others continues to influence the field today. At the conclusion of the exhibition, listen to six 21<sup>st</sup>-century Danish designers of different ages and specialties describe their work in relation to the question, “What makes design Danish?”



*Miniatures of classic Danish furniture by 1:6 Design now in our Permanent Collection.*

### Saturday, April 20

On April 20 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m, enjoy free admission to the museum for Spring Open House in the Museum Shop and a special celebration of *Danish Modern*. Refreshments will be available from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m, and our Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture will speak at 2 p.m.

**Tip:** wear cute shoes for Shop Manager Joni's Cute Shoe Discount! (Not to be combined with other discounts.)

### 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](#).

## 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!

On **April 11: “Have Statues, Will Travel”** Curator of Collections, Angela Stanford, and Intern Natalie Smith will share the story – with pictures! – of over 50 statues by Carl Rohl 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.

## Museum Hosts 100 Third-Graders



For the fifth year in a row, third-grade students from the Atlantic Community School District visited Elk Horn’s Danish attractions to learn about the migration of Danes to America and how they lived once settled. On Thursday, March 28, around 100 students visited the museum, Bedstemor’s House, and the Danish Windmill. At the museum Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture Tova Brandt gave a presentation about the travel from Denmark to Elk Horn, including an interactive activity that allowed students to pack a historic trunk with items that immigrants would have brought with them.

The recent receipt of a \$5,000 grant from Prairie Meadows will allow the museum to further cultivate educational programs for surrounding communities and various age groups. Planned programs include topics that cover wind energy, prairies, farming, immigration, and pioneer life.

## Tivoli Fest Prince and Princess Contest Winners Crowned

Each year the Danish Immigrant Museum hosts the Tivoli Fest Prince and Princess contest in the Bro Dining Room. The contest, for area kindergarten through third graders, decides the festival’s young royalty by way of random drawing. Entry forms were distributed through the Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton school system in the month of March. In coordination with the 2013 Tivoli Fest theme of “Honoring Our Heroes,” interested children were encouraged to draw their hero and submit it to the museum.

The “coronation” was held at the museum on the evening of March 25. This year, Justin Hansen of Kimballton will be the Tivoli Fest prince. He is six years old and in first grade. His parents are Dan and Brenda Hansen. Princess is Katie Andersen of Atlantic. She is eight years old and in second grade. Her parents are Shane and Cara Andersen. Hansen and Andersen were given sashes and royal headwear and will be official “greeters” at the Better Elk Horn Club’s annual spring banquet on April 8. The duo will also be featured in the Tivoli Fest parade on May 25.



## See you this fall! *Innovation: The Danish Way*

Join us in Des Moines this coming October for three days of thought provoking, challenging, and uplifting presentations from both Danish and American experts on innovation in a wide array of areas, from energy and sustainability to culture and the arts, as well as exhibits and tours. And join your friends for conversation and fellowship! Presented by the Danish-American Heritage Society, the *Innovation: The Danish Way* conference will be held October 10-12.

The keynote speaker, Søren Hermansen, is a recognized Danish expert in renewable energy. You won't want to miss this engaging and lively public speaker, who is traveling from Denmark just for the conference. You'll also enjoy ten concurrent sessions with a variety of presenters, from academics to artists and cultural visionaries.



### There will be plenty of time for socializing and touring:

- West End Architectural Salvage, star of the new HGTV makeover show!
- Iowa State Capitol, ·East Village, ·Iowa State Historical Building
- The Danish Immigrant Museum, ·Danish Windmill, and ·Danish Inn in Elk Horn, IA
- Grand View University campus and the Danish Immigrant Archives with Songfest

Visit the [conference website](#) and register this month for the early bird discount!

## 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.

*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.

### New Danish Intern

Jesper Jacobsen is the newest Danish intern! Jacobsen arrived Tuesday, March 26 and will be spending the majority of his time with the Family History and Genealogy Center. Jacobsen has a bachelors degree in law. He enjoys music and writing music, especially folk and folk rock. Jacobsen is looking forward to meeting his American relatives and catching a glimpse of the museum world. Jacobsen is also part Norwegian.



### Confirmation Photographs and Stories Still Needed—Last Call!

What did being confirmed mean to you? **April 30** is the deadline for receiving photographs and related materials pertaining to confirmation for this year's TivoliFest photo exhibit. 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 confirmation (or 'non-firmation') experiences in both Denmark and the US. A submission form may be found [here](#).

## Øst vs. Ost – Sød vs. Sod: There IS a difference!

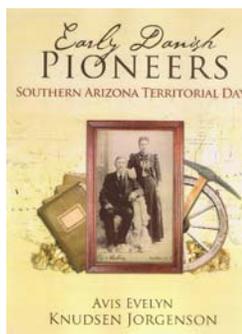
In the February 2013 issue of *Øst*, the e-newsletter of Danish Archives North East (DANE), Chris Svane has written a useful guide to how to create the three letters of the Danish alphabet not found in English on various types of computers. Genealogists often tend to overlook these Danish letters, sometimes not even seeing the difference, but often due to not knowing how to create them. But they *do* make a difference. Here are just a few word pairs that can be confused by not typing the correct letter:

Øst (east)	Ost (cheese)
Sød (sweet)	Sod (soot, carbon)
Sø (lake)	So (sow)
År (year)	Ar (scar)
Åben (open)	Aben (the monkey)

There are many others, some of which might just get you into a little more trouble than mistakenly describing a girl as having a 'sooty' face rather than a 'sweet' one. A copy of the newsletter containing Chris' article may be [viewed here under Publications](#).

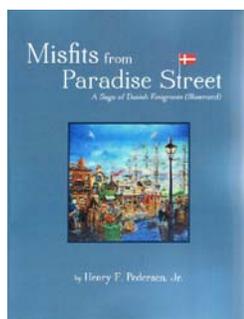
To complicate matters, up until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the modern letter 'Å', now the 29<sup>th</sup> letter of the Danish alphabet, was commonly written as 'Aa.' Words beginning with Aa- were placed at the beginning of the dictionary. The Å-form was officially adopted in 1948 although it can be found as early as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Place-names such as Aalborg, Aarhus, Faaborg and Aabenraa are also spelled as Ålborg, Århus, Fåborg and Åbenrå, but rest assured -- they are the same localities!

## New on the Genealogical Bookshelf



*Early Danish Pioneers: Southern Arizona Territorial Days*, by Avis E. K. Jorgensen (2009; available through Amazon.com, ISBN 978-1-300-05840-3) brings to life through stories and photographs some of the hardy Danish immigrants who settled in the Arizona Territory between 1840 and 1912. Drawing on many state and local archival sources, her compilation principally discusses individuals who settled for longer or shorter periods of time in six early Arizona counties, working as miners, railroad men, and soldiers, as well as farmers, ranchers and businessmen.

Additional chapters deal with artist Herman Wendelborg Hansen and Niels Petersen, whose Victorian home is now a Tempe museum. This is fascinating reading about Danes who trod less well-traveled paths after coming to this country.



Henry F. Pedersen, Jr.'s *Misfits from Paradise Street: a Saga of Danish Emigrants* (2012; available from the author) is a self-published family history written in the fictitious first-person voice of the author's great-grandfather. Born in 1832, Peder Pedersen grew up in modest circumstances in Veddem, in Skelund parish, Aalborg County. After leaving school he apprenticed as a blacksmith in nearby Komdrup parish, where his future wife, Mette Marie Andersen, was working as a maid at Refsnæs manor. They married in 1853, converted to Mormonism a few years later, and in the spring of 1860 emigrated as part of an LDS party. From New York City Peder, Marie and an extended family group first traveled by train to Quincy, Illinois, then by a variety of boats up the Missouri River to Florence, Nebraska, and finally made their way overland by ox-driven wagons to Salt Lake City. After a few years in Utah, they left the Mormon Church, eventually settling in Omaha after sojourns in Montana. This account is interesting because the family story is embedded in much historical detail, so one gets an idea of what life in Denmark and the immigration experience was like in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## What's Wrong with this Photo?

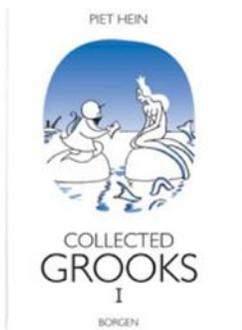
Every now and then, something unexpected is uncovered during our ongoing inventory and cataloging of the artifact collection. Recently, Collections Assistant Natalie Smith came upon this photo, a portrait of the Peter Niels Esbeck family of Kimballton. Peter, who emigrated from Denmark in 1868 at age 18, helped to establish Elk Horn and Kimballton and helped build the railroad from Kimballton to Atlantic.

Do you notice anything odd about this image? Several people appear to have been photographed separately and then those images edited together to create a family portrait. This photo was created well before the days of Photoshop—so how was this compilation possible? What techniques were used in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to accomplish this?



Share your technical photography know-how with [dkreg@metc.net](mailto:dkreg@metc.net) and help to document this part of our collection!

## New Items by Piet Hein in the Museum Shop



Piet Hein was a Danish scientist, mathematician, inventor, designer, author, and poet. His short poems known as *grooks* were published shortly after the Nazi invasion of Denmark, from 1940-1963. He is most widely known for the creation of the Super-Egg.

**“The special Piet Hein touch is the superiority of the form in relation to the objectives, the medium and - for that matter - the contents.”**  
--from *PietHein.com*

We are excited to feature Piet Hein designs in our Museum Shop; the perfect accompaniment to the *Danish Modern* exhibition.



Grooks #1 and Grooks #2 each \$34.00  
Super-Egg \$46.25  
Mars candle holder \$73.00\*  
Venus candle holder \$85.50\*  
Jupiter candle holder \$97.50\*  
Saturn candle holder \$110.00\*

\*Include a candle made of Stearin wax



Members, don't forget about your [Museum Shop](#) discount!  
Call the Museum Shop to inquire: (800) 759-9192.

## A Stealth Invasion of the US from Denmark

“Maybe the biggest threat to Wisconsin's way of life is a kind of stealth invasion from Denmark. I'm not interested in having pickled gherkins and herring foisted upon my palate. Or trying to speak a language that includes letters I've never seen in any English ABCs. (What is that thing that looks like an A surgically attached to an E, anyway?) On the other hand, I've heard the Danes brew some pretty good beer ....”

Read the [full article](#) by Chris Rickert in the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

### Museum Calendar, April-May

- April 6 Exhibit opens – *Danish Modern: Design for Living*
- April 11 Brown Bag Lunch Program, “Have Statues, Will Travel”
- April 17 Museum on Omaha's Morning Blend, KMTV3 News at 9 a.m.
- 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
- April 29 Volunteer Banquet, 5:30 p.m. at The Danish Inn
- May 1 Upcoming deadline for new orders for bricks on the [Jens Jensen Heritage Path](#)
- May 9 Brown Bag Lunch Program, “30 Years at The Danish Immigrant Museum”
- May 25-26 [Tivoli Fest](#)

### Other Upcoming Danish-American and Danish Events

- April 7 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15 Æbleskiver breakfast, Des Moines, IA. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Luther Memorial Fellowship Hall, 1201 Grandview Ave.
- April 13 Danish American Club Spring Luncheon, Huntington Beach, CA. [RSVP to Mark.](#)
- April 14 Birthday celebration in honor of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in  
Dallas, Texas. [RSVP.](#)
- 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.](#)
- June 2 Grundlovsfest (Danish Constitution Day) in La Habra Heights, CA by the Danish National  
Committee of Southern California . [More info e-mail Kent Hanson.](#)



DanishMuseum.org



Facebook.com/DanishMuseum



@DanishMuseum



DanishMuseum