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## Editorial Statement

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## Editorial Statement

For 21 years *The Bridge* has published articles that illuminate the lives of Danish American individuals, groups, organizations, and communities as well as material dealing with themes in history and culture. This issue continues that tradition.

Our first article is a reprint of two chapters from *Oregon Danish Colony, 1902-1952* by Gerald Rasmussen and Otto Larsen. It is a fine study of the contributions of Danish Americans to the life of a small community in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. These chapters, and the book as a whole, make a significant contribution to understanding the role of Danes and Danish Americans to the fabric of American culture.

Karen Lassen's article on the Danish psyche as she interprets it through Hans Christian Andersen's tale "The Little Mermaid" will probably be controversial. Her observations are worth considering because of the feelings they arouse and the introspection they will require. Her article is based upon her own translation of the tale and that translation is not included in the article.

Birgit Flemming Larsen's article about the Hans Christian Andersen statue in Chicago is an interesting story of the desire of Danish Americans to acknowledge and celebrate their heritage. Readers may want to refer to an earlier article in *The Bridge*, Erickson, Rolf, "J. Christina Bay and His Account of Hans Christian Andersen's Visit to Chicago," 12:2 (1989), 64-85.

Ann Svendsen's article about the Danish community in Tyler, Minnesota is an interesting summary of Danish activity there from its beginning to the present day. She deftly presents the continuing, and changing, impact of Danish Americans in one mid-western community.

We bid farewell to you with this issue of *The Bridge* as the leadership of the Danish American Heritage Society and editorial responsibility for our publications pass to other people concerned about recording the contributions of Danes and Danish Americans to our history and culture. It has been a pleasure to be a member of the group that originally devoted their time and efforts to organizing this task. We know that this effort will be perpetuated and the products of their work will continue to be noteworthy.

Bogt Hennings Carlsen is Assistant Archivist at the Danes Worldwide Archives in Aalborg, Denmark. She is co-editor of *Danish Emigration to the U.S.A.* (1992), *Danish Emigration to Canada* (1991), and *Danish Emigration to New Zealand* (1990).

Karen Lassen is a second generation Danish American. She earned a BA in Scandinavian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and has an MA in Psychology. She has a private counseling practice in Oakland, California and is particularly interested in cross-cultural issues and conflict resolution.

Gerald Rasmussen is President of the Danish American Heritage Society and former Vice President of Instruction at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon. He grew up in Junction City, Oregon where he graduated from high school in 1944. He returned to Junction City in 1966 and has lived there ever since.

Aan Svendsen is a life long resident of Tyler, Minnesota. She has been co-editor of a local newspaper and has written news reports, feature stories and an editorial column. She is the mother of six, grandmother of fifteen, and great-grandmother of two.

We did (and will) continue to work with the Danish as the leadership of the Danish American Heritage Society and editorial responsibility for our publications pass to other people concerned about recording the contributions of Danes and Danish Americans to our history and culture. It has been a pleasure to be a member of the group that originally devoted their time and efforts to organizing this task. We know that the effort will be well rewarded and the products of their work will continue to be an inspiration.

Contributions to the journal of the Danish American Heritage Society are invited. Contributions should be sent to the editor, c/o the Danish American Heritage Society, 1501-15th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605. Contributions should be sent to the editor, c/o the Danish American Heritage Society, 1501-15th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

Karin Lasser's article on the Danish psyche as she interprets it through Hans Christian Andersen's tale "The Little Mermaid" will probably be controversial. Her observations are worth considering because of the feelings they arouse and the introspection they will require. Her article is based upon her own translation of the tale and that translation is included in the article.

Betsy Farnsworth Larsen's article about the Hans Christian Andersen statue in Chicago is an interesting story of the desire of Danish Americans to acknowledge and celebrate their heritage. Readers may want to refer to an earlier article by The Editor, Eriksson, Rolf, "J. Christina Boy and Her Account of Hans Christian Andersen's Visit to Chicago," in *Journal of the Danish American Heritage Society*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1971.

Ann Swanson's article about the Danish community in Chicago is an interesting summary of Danish activity from the beginning to the present day. She defines the past, the present, and the changing impact of Danes on the Chicago community.