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Danish Immigrant Archival Listing

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Book Note

Danish Immigrant Archival Listing,

compiled by Thorvald Hansen. 300 pages. \$49.50, including postage and handling. Extra charge for shipping to foreign countries. Order from Grand View College, 1200 Grandview Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316-1599.

by **ARNOLD BODTKER**

The **Danish Immigrant Archival Listing** (DIAL) is a reference book, and guide, which will enable scholars, researchers and others to know something of the existence and whereabouts of source material related to the Danish immigrant in America. This 300 page hard-cover book is a comprehensive listing of books, periodicals, manuscripts, pamphlets, letters, documents, scrapbooks, pictures, and similar items.

The guide consists of two parts. The first part contains the actual listing of material pertaining to the Danish immigrant. The second part contains information on how to make the best use of the guide, a subject index, a supplemental index, and a listing of the names and addresses of the repositories which have contributed information.

More than 200 repositories in the United States, Canada, and Denmark were contacted for a listing of their holdings, and more than 150 responded with lists ranging from one to several hundred items. Although the Listing is a continuing project, Thorvald Hansen believes it now includes the bulk of material related to the Danish immigrant, making the **Danish Immigrant Archival Listing** the only reference book of its kind. Even so this listing may be an alert, bringing to

light additional items that can be added in a later supplement.

It is appropriate that the book is dedicated to Enok Mortensen, who for years had devoted much effort and time to the location and preservation of materials relating to the Danish immigrant. With the formation of the Danish American Heritage Society, in which both Enok Mortensen and Thorvald Hansen were active, interest in these materials was stimulated. It soon became evident that it would not be feasible, or even possible, to establish a central repository for materials of this kind, and Mortensen proposed that the development of a master catalog should be undertaken, which would list these materials and indicate where they are located.

It also seemed logical that the person to initiate this project would be Thorvald Hansen, Grand View College historian and archivist, now retired. If possible it should be sponsored, jointly by Grand View College and the Danish American Heritage Society. Fortunately this is what took place. Although there was extensive consultation as to how the project should proceed, it is through the competence and diligence of Thorvald Hansen that we have a publication that will prove to be of value in exploring the Danish immigrant experience and evaluating the Danish heritage.

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The book consists of two parts. The first part contains the actual listing of materials in English and Danish. The second part contains information on how to use the listing, a subject index, a subject index to see and the index to describe and contain the listing and a list of repositories which have contributed information.

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