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## Editorial Statement

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## Editorial Statement

Why The Bridge? Several suggestions for naming the journal were received, but none seemed to inspire. Finally Ed and Gerda Sundberg suggested The Bridge, a name that can symbolize many things, e.g., a bridge between Danish Americans and Danes in Denmark, a bridge between present day Danish Americans and their forbears who migrated to this land, a link between the different ways that many of us view our Danish heritage, and as Gerda writes, "the bridge over which we may walk to find out and experience our past and bring it into the future." Andrew Christensen, Santa Maria, California, earlier had written that D.A.H.S. should be thought of as a bridge where the free flow of ideas could be enhanced.

This first issue of The Bridge is another step in the emergence of the Danish American Heritage Society. It demonstrates that not only is there enough interest among Danish Americans to support such ventures financially, but there are also people who are willing to devote time and effort in writing for such a publication.

It is our plan to continue publication of the Danish American Heritage Society Newsletter as well as The Bridge because they can serve two functions. The Newsletter is well suited for brief communications among members, e.g., who and where we are, short articles, reviews and letters from members that will constitute a dialogue as to what the Society should do to further its goals and to provide satisfaction to those who belong. The Bridge will develop into a publication for longer articles (both original and reprints of earlier significant articles), longer reviews of books and other publications, news and notes about recent developments of interest. Looking ahead it is our plan to publish The Bridge twice a year, in the spring and in the fall; and to issue the Newsletter in mid-summer and in mid-winter.

Through these two publications we hope to meet the needs which are not currently being met. First, we will provide an avenue for people to participate in an organization which communicates about things Danish American. Second, we will be an organization which contributes directly to the advancement of knowledge in the area of Danish American affairs.

Our initial venture in The Bridge contains a statement by Enok Mortensen about earlier attempts to accomplish what the Danish American Heritage Society now is attempting to do. Articles by Johannes Knudsen and Irving Howe caution us about ethnicity in general and our particular claim to heritage. Otto Hoiberg, among other things, has us think about what it is that makes us want to preserve our Danish traditions. Following these articles Thorvald Hansen offers some aids and suggestions to those who have an urge to explore the whereabouts of their ancestors to find out how they lived, etc.; Ed and Gerda Sundberg introduce us to their experiences in recording oral history; Clinton Hyde tells us about a remarkable lady and a drama society in Seattle that has maintained its Danish flavor throughout the years; and Harald H. Lund's "Memoir" of his father who "was a prototype surely of thousands of Danish-born Americans who have contributed by their industry, standards and beliefs to the strengthening of the social fabric in communities where they lived". The last group of articles are representative of what is being done: John Davis in history, Norman Bansen in literature and Erik Hansen in creative writing.

We hope that this issue, in addition to providing enjoyment, will reflect our expectations and serve as a foundation for future issues.

Our guidelines will come from experience, observing what others are doing, and most importantly, responses from the membership. Emphasizing that we do not have a formal policy to be adhered to by all contributors, the following general statement is meant as a suggestion and will be adjusted as the circumstances indicate that these guidelines need to be modified.

The editor relies heavily on the judgments and recommendations of the reviewers and referees although he is not bound by them.

Articles for The Bridge should be 3,000-6,000 words in length, however, shorter articles will not be excluded, per se. They should be typed on one side of the paper, double-spaced and have footnotes, if any, at the end of the article.

Both scholarly and popular articles, as well as memoirs and reminiscences, are encouraged.

Reviews of articles and books should contain pertinent bibliographic information which would allow readers to find the material being reviewed.

Contributors should submit a biographical statement of 100-200 words from which a brief identifying paragraph could be written.

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