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## Editorial Statement

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## Editorial Statement

It is worth noting that this is the seventh issue of **The Bridge**. Though it appears that the Danish American Heritage Society has a promising future, its survival must not be taken for granted. It is not a gift, rather a prize for which we have to work. In recognition of this observation it seems appropriate to lead off this issue with an article by Professor Otto G. Hoiberg, **The Immigrants Challenge To DAHS**. Hoiberg states that "there are . . . . voices/challenges from our immigrant forbears which have survived and ring loud and clear for us to-day." Four of these voices are saying: Tell the story of the Danish immigrants, tell your own story (as an immigrant of a post-immigrant), tell the story of the Danish American communities, and lastly, add depth and breadth to your individual concept of the Danish heritage. These challenges we accept.

Frederick Hale in his article, **Rasmus Sørensen and Danish Emigration, 1847 - 1863**, contends that Rasmus Sørensen deserves to be called the **father of Danish emigration**; and as he details the life and thoughts of this tireless man it would be hard to disagree.

Marion Marzolf's **The Danish-Language Press in America** is a reprint of an article that appeared in *Norwegian-American Studies*, Volume 28, 1979. It deals largely with **Den Danske Pioneer** and its early editor, **Sophus Neble**. Many Danish immigrant homes found the Americanization process easier and life away from their homeland sustained by the weekly visit of **Pioneer**. Professor Marzolf has captured the spirit of **Dan Danske Pioneer** and its intrepid editor.

**Danes and Danish on the Great Plains: Some Sociolinguistic Aspects**, Donald K. Watkins tells us what happened to the Danish language among the immigrant population and why it took place. Though many have been, and some still are, disappointed that the Danish language is not being preserved into the third and further generations, Professor Watkins' article may make us feel better.

If we are to select the most widely known Dane, it would have to be **Hans Christian Andersen**. His tales have been translated and told around the world - but to capture their full flavor and meaning the translations have to be done with great skill. In **Hans Christian Andersen: A Danish-American Perspective**, Inga Kromann-Kelly tells us why.

**Art Among Danes In America** by Aase Bak may come as a surprise to some, but the record would seem to support her observations and conclusions. However, we suspect that there is still more to be said.

Among the Danish immigrants there were many (in fact most) whose lives have gone unnoticed in the record. They, too, lived interesting and useful lives, and made significant contributions to the new society on this side of the Atlantic. Once in awhile a fortuitous circumstance will provide a glimpse into the life of one of these. This was the case with **Chris Overgaard**. We are glad that Ole Overgaard looked at the map of Arizona as he and his family planned their trip to the U.S.A., otherwise it is hardly likely that there would have been anything in the record about **Chris Overgaard**.

We are pleased that Nadia Christensen has again favored us with translations of two poems - this time by the modern, Danish poet, **Marianne Larsen**. We conclude this issue with some **Book Reviews**. Several members have expressed interest in an expansion of this feature, which we hope to accommodate.

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We continue to seek material for publication. An overall guideline as to be the kind of material is indicated by what has been published in **The Bridge** to date. However, we hasten to add that the possibilities are by no means exhausted. Following are some minimal guidelines:

Material submitted should be in harmony with the goals and objectives of the Danish American Heritage Society, with special emphasis on material contributing to the exploration and understanding of the Danish immigrant experience.

Articles should be 3000-6000 words in length, however, shorter or longer articles will not be excluded per se. All material should be typed and double-spaced.

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 enable readers to find the material reviewed.

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

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