

SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

Issue #3, 2020

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at Pacific Lutheran University



SCC ONLINE COLLECTION
INGE MILLER SERIES
SCC BANNER
AND MORE...





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Please direct questions to schroejm@plu.edu
or call 253-535-7349

FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a ride 2020 is giving us!!! As unprepared as we all were for this pandemic, I am grateful to just be here to write to you—because when this all started, I had doubts that I would be. No, I haven't had Covid-19, but it remains a risk since I continue to work fulltime as a Registered Nurse, PLU Classes of 1978 and 1997. I had hoped to be retired by now, but that will come eventually.

When Dr. Schroeder and I connected over the summer, we found we both were thinking of the same goal: staying in touch with our Council and our members. There was just no other greater concern than those who have dedicated their life's time in making the Scandinavian Cultural Center what it has become. Each of you are integral to its success and future.

I know that my being employed presently will hobble what I would like to be doing, which is to contact you and have a friendly chat about what has been going on in your life. At our online Zoom Council meeting September 9th, we asked Council members to reach out to those they know. I also invite you to contact me for any concerns or ideas you may have at 253-219-7980 or my email at Flygerjudy@icloud.com. I am at work Monday through Friday, but you can leave a message on my cell phone that I can respond to as soon as I am available.

This unusual time is a good one to think outside the box, because we have to. There will be online offerings to take part in or watch. Keep looking at our Facebook page for upcoming 'events' that will be online. Most of all, call each other and let us hear from you!

—Judy Scott

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Members,

Jag orkar inte. This is the phrase that keeps running through my mind this year: thinking about switching from in person teaching to online, developing online material, auditing the SCC collections, the idea of classes restarting, doing the work of the Center without

people or events that we normally do, editing the Scene, and even writing this short bit.

My “I am almost your mother” friend on Åland introduced me to the phrase when I lived there 2012-2013 as a guest researcher. I was struggling to express how tired and unwilling I was to do something (I cannot for the life of me remember what – chopping wood, doing dishes, mucking the stables?) and she told “you can say ‘jag orkar inte’” explaining in a combination of Swedish and English that “orkar” meant something like having the power to do something, physically, emotionally, mentally, etc.; perhaps I might say in English: “I don't have the bandwidth” – “jag orkar inte”. I am tired and stretched thin. I often times find I just don't have the capacity to do more than the bare necessities, what I need to do to keep the SCC running, to eat and sleep. I don't have the capacity to push myself beyond that right now. Jag orkar inte.

If you are feeling that right now, it is okay – someday you will “orka.” I will too. I attended a seminar about burn out during this pandemic and the psychologist leading the seminar reminded us of all the things going on and that of course we were at our limit and that we just can't do as much as we feel we should. Sometimes we need to take care of just breathing. I try to keep that in mind when I see that there is so much I have not done, not been able to do, and will have to do. Sometimes it is best to say jag orkar inte and come back to it another day.

What do I orkar right now? I and your Council will be doing is giving you, our members, phone calls every so often to check in and let you know what we are doing.

Speaking of the Council: I want to celebrate the new Council President, Judy Scott, along with the new Vice President, Kate Emanuel French, and our continuing Secretary Lynn Gleason. I also want to honor Gerda Hunter, who has served faithfully as our president for the past two years, and is now happy to set into the role of Immediate Past President. These all make up the SCC Council's Executive Committee.

Blessing, love, hugs, and smiles. Stay healthy, stay well! Wash your hands and wear a mask! We miss you at the Center very much.

—Jason


SCC ONLINE COLLECTION

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2009.001.049



1985.006.007




1984.002.003



2002.009.002A



1985.006.005




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1999.001.053




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1987.006.090




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Object Record



1984.001.011







Catalog Number

1984.001.011

Object Name

Bowl, Drinking

Other Name

Dragonhead Ale Bowl

Description

Wood ale bowl, with dragon's head and tail for handles. A modern tourist piece from Steinsland, Norway. The bowl is painted dark blue with rosemaile style designs. Including a centralized flower in the bowl. Printed on the rim of bowl is "Øl i kannen / Op til randen" (Beer in the tankard / Up to the rim). The dragon head teeth are individually carved. The bowl was most likely machine turned and then finished by hand. The bowl is an oval shape, widest between the handles.

Date

1953

Artisan

Unknown

Culture

Norwegian

Dimensions

H-9 W-10 L-21 cm

Inscription Text

Øl i kannen
Op til randen

Collection

Scandinavian Cultural Center

Email to a Friend

Send Us Feedback

I am excited to announce that the SCC's artifact collection is now online – or at least a portion of it. At the time this issue goes to print, there will be about 300 artifacts online for you to look at. That means about 2700 more artifacts to go – I hope that we will be able to pick up the pace over the academic year. Please take a look! The SCC's online collection can be reached from www.plu.edu/scancenter/2559-2. Click the *SCC Collection Online* image and you will be taken to the collection.

SCC Collection Online



Click the image above to be taken to the SCC Artifact Collection Online

SCC member and donor Thomas O. Carlson gave generously for this project, funding not only the software and subscription fees but also a student worker to help enter the data. Thank you so much Tom!



THE INGE MILLER SERIES

(Adventures in Denmark and Danish history and culture)

Again, our dear correspondent, Inge Miller, has bits of history and culture to share with you all. Please enjoy!

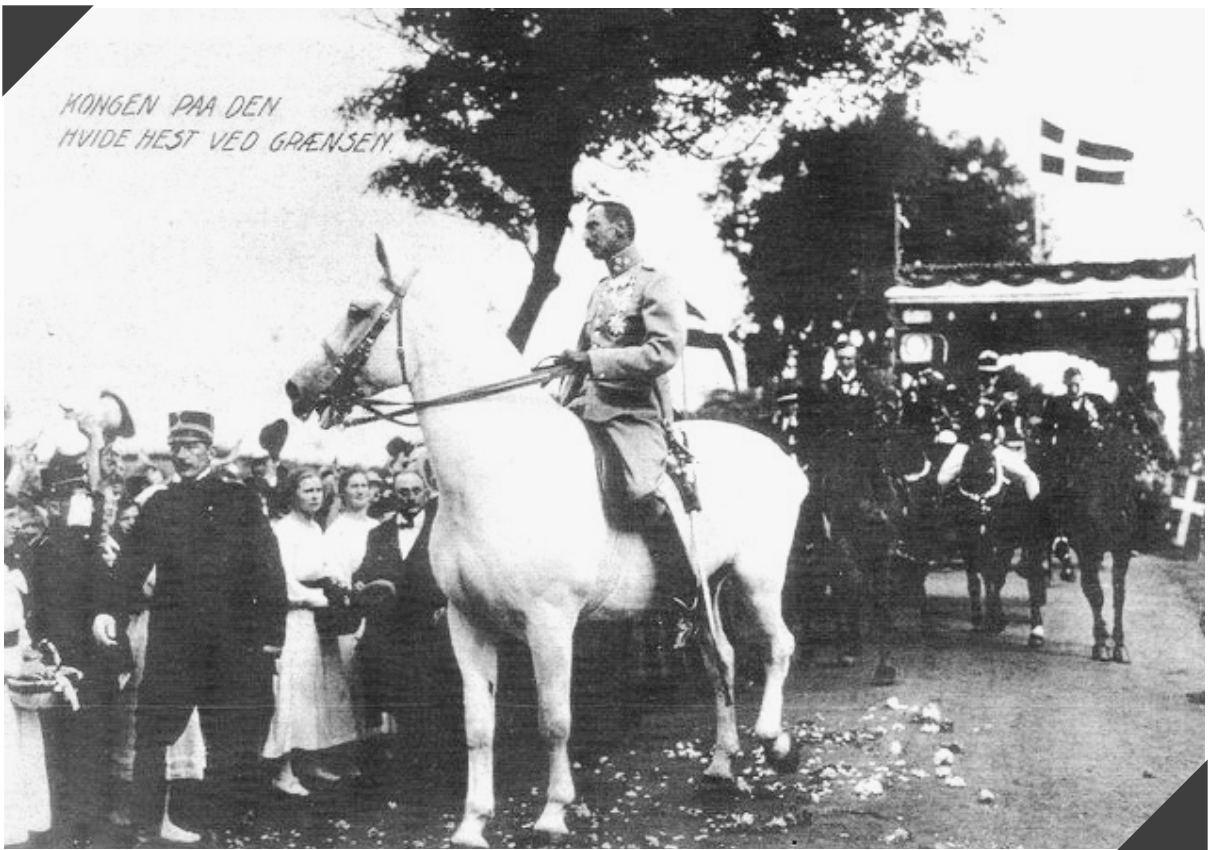
Keep a Song in your Heart

Denmark doesn't have much in the way of natural resources, such as our neighbors the Norwegians, Swedes, and Finns, but we do have one treasure, that is unsurpassed in any country in the world, which I want to bring to your attention. It is always with us, available when we need it the most, just free for the taking and

enjoyment. Yes, I am speaking of our beloved treasure of songs, hundreds of them, being it hymns , patriotic songs, songs for all seasons, folksongs, children's songs, songs from movies and plays, morning-songs as well as evening-songs, I could go on!

Our Danish singing group at the Scandinavian Cultural Center here at PLU has used for the past 30 years alone contains well over 500 songs for every occasion! We also use another songbook, a binder with about 100 songs submitted by all the different singers up through the years.





Denmark has always been a peace loving country. Perhaps you heard about that one time there WAS to be a revolution in Denmark, but then it rained, so everyone went home. If we feel threatened, we do not resort to conventional weapons, not until it is absolutely necessary and unavoidable. This year Denmark celebrates the “homecoming” of a third of the Kingdom of Denmark, that the Prussians had taken in the war of 1865. That took place on July 10th 1920, the day King Christian the 10th crossed the border on a White horse.

During those dark years thousands of Danes were forced to live like Germans in their own homes: their children forced to go to German schools, the Danish language was forbidden, church services were in German, the Danish flag was banned. One “weapon” the Danes took up against the Germans, when they

gathered around their famous Southern Jutland Coffee tables laden with up to 14 different kinds of pastries, was that they SANG, in between enjoying the Danish layer cakes decorated with white whipping cream and red raspberry preserves, the Danish colors, of course! The worst part probably was that the Danish men were forced to fight in WW1 on the German side, even though Denmark was neutral. Thousands lost their lives for a country that was suppressing them.

WW2 hit us like a thief in the night! The German airplanes flew in over Copenhagen about 5 am on April 9th 1940. The same time German troops marched across the border in Southern Jutland.

Much to the Danish soldiers’ great astonishment, they received orders not to put up any resistance, so hard to believe, only relatively few lost their lives that terrible,

dark morning in Denmark's history. Why, you might ask? Well, simultaneously the German command was meeting with King Christian the 10th and several of his cabinet members at Amalienborg Castle in the heart of Copenhagen at 5:30 am and gave him an ultimatum. Either Denmark surrendered by 8:00 am or Copenhagen would be bombed to smithereens and to underline his words, German bombers were circling the City during these nerve wracking discussions. The King hardly had a choice, so by 8:00 am the message reached the border to Germany, by then 26 Danes had lost their lives and 16 were wounded. Defeat tasted bitter!

In Germany's words we were "protected" by the Germans, or occupied, "not at war." All that changed by October 1943, when our government went into exile in London, a curfew was enforced at 8:00 pm, the Germans sent our entire police force to concentration camps, and the Resistance Movement decided that enough was enough, but that's a whole other story!

The weapon the ordinary Danes took up (when they weren't busy blowing up railroads or printing illegal newspapers!) was once again their songs! They would meet in the open, usually in City parks, stadiums, especially during the long, light summer evenings, when the sun barely sets, and sing. This was called ALSANG, loosely translated, All Sings, or Everyone Sings, especially songs about Denmark. These were meant as demonstrations, but really not understood as

such by the Germans, so no one could get in trouble for meeting and singing late into the night. The first Alsang took place in the summer of 1940 in Aalborg, where 1500 Danes gathered to sing the Danish songs. Just imagine, at the next gathering 10,000 showed up, and Alsang spread all over Denmark in no time! The

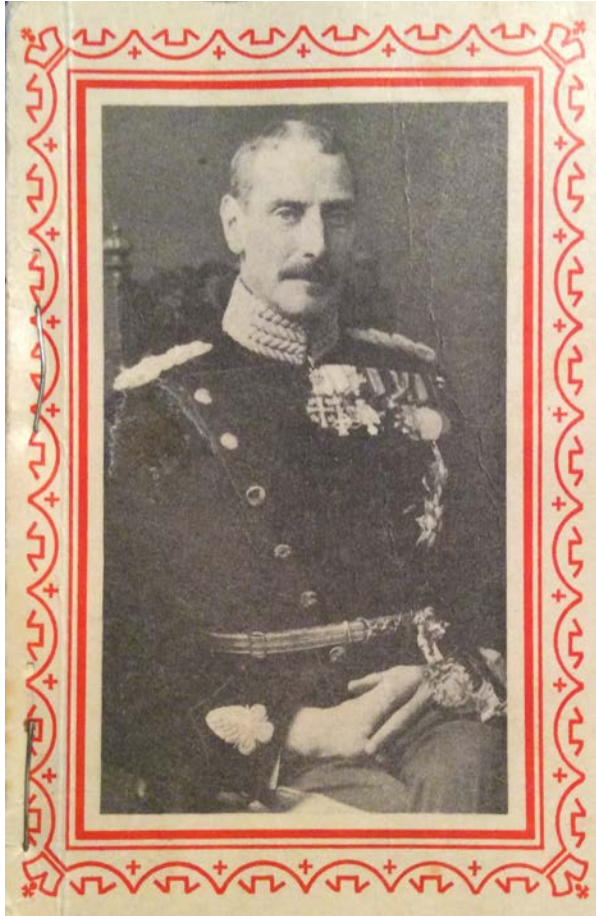
Danes didn't take up guns, but used a much stronger weapon, and the Germans didn't know what hit them!

And now we jump some 77 years ahead, and lo and behold, we were met with another enemy, snuck up on us it did, took lives it did, I have even heard many in this country compare it to WW2, but don't even go there! If you were not alive 1939 -45, you have NO IDEA. I know, one should never compare apples and oranges, so that is not my purpose with this article, just an observation.

When the Corona virus hit Denmark mid- March, the government immediately closed down the country, but interestingly enough, no masks were ever worn, they just were the first to close down, AND the first

to open up, even schools, so as I write this, the country is up and running.

But guess what I believe got the Danes through the days? Every day for one hundred days in a row, Saturdays and Sundays included, many thousands Danes turned on their televisions and sang (together but separate) two songs, led by a young, very talented, choir director and pianist, Philip Faber. People could





send in song requests and mini videos of themselves or their kids singing along, which of course he would show on the air. Every Tuesday he had songs from movies from the 40s and 50s, Danish films of course, which were very popular with the older generation.

Every Friday evening there was a 2 hr song program, again with Philip Faber and Mads Steffensen, another TV host, showing people singing along from all over Denmark, from Coast to Coast. Luckily the weather was unusually warm and sunny during those spring evenings, Danes were sitting (together, but apart) outside, around bonfires, grills etc., singing along. Because we all have grown up with such a wonderful treasure of hundreds of songs, we know where to

turn, when times are tough, and we need to gather around something. No one can take that away from us, because: "We keep a song in our heart."

You might think, my middle name is Polly Anna, but I firmly believe that people who sing together, feel better, get a positive outlook on life, it simply is medicine for the soul! And speaking of medicine, just a little advice, should you ever need it, I have had to endure several MRI scannings and am scheduled for one in a couple of weeks. To pass the time during that hour or so, when you can't move an eyelid, you guessed it! I sing, not out loud, but in my heart, since that's where we keep that treasure, that can get us through just about anything! Even the Covid 19.

Take Care and Stay Well!

SCC BANNER: SHOWING OUR COLORS!

By Judy Scott

A banner for the Scandinavian Cultural Center has finally come to fruition. How did this come about and who made it? Like so many things, many contributed to the final project.

Kate Emmanuel-French and I were hosting a booth about the SCC during the Astoria, Oregon Mid-Sommer Fest in June 2017. We saw how well

decorated the other booths were. It occurred to us that we would attract even more interest if we had a banner that showed who we were representing. The idea was born.

This past year as Vice-President, I discussed the design with Council President, Gerda Hunter, and sketched out what I thought might work. She

contributed on next page



approved and so did the others on the council. With the sketch approved, I obtained the supplies at JoAnn Fabrics.

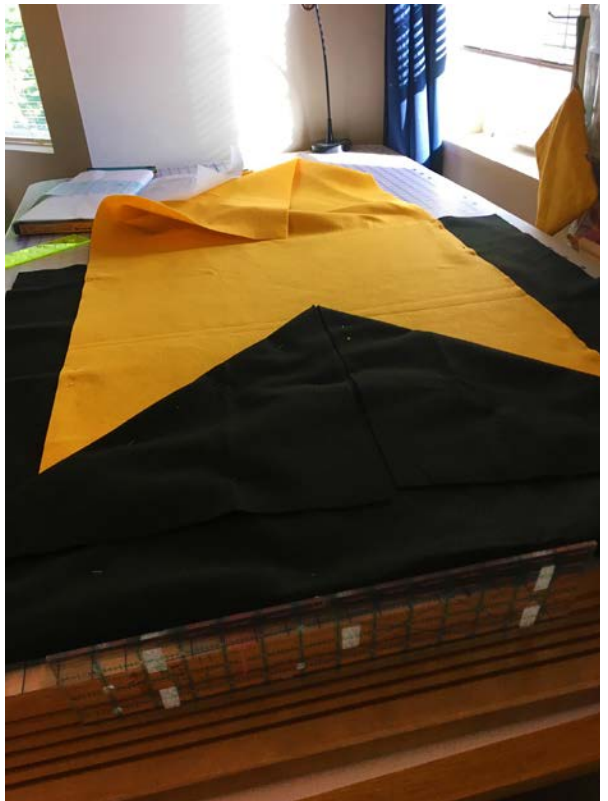
As a nurse in the Pediatric Specialty Clinic at Madigan Army Medical Center, my mentor in Developmental Pediatrics is a highly accomplished seamstress. Dr. Karen Fitzgerald invited me to her home last summer. She took a look at my design, my supplies, and being satisfied I had all that we needed, we cut out the basic yellow and black background pieces.

Next, we cut out the felt pieces for the 6 flags of the Nordic countries. Accuracy and consistency were the rule, so it took some time. Alas, I was missing the correct color for the Icelandic flag. I picked that up on another day and made the pieces, but with the holiday season upon us, it wasn't until later in winter that we got together again.

I had made the cut out of the Viking ship prow with the help of my sister, Marianne Lincoln. I also sketched the pieces of the prow's wood on the felt. Dr. Fitzgerald took it from there, adding the stitching to keep the prow in place on the banner.

Dr. Jason Schroeder, SCC Director, assisted us in obtaining the correct font for the SCC name on the banner. Dr. Fitzgerald had to load that onto her sewing computer in order to digitalize the name. We also wanted to use the correct font for 'PLU' at the top of the banner, but had to settle for a close one. Last of all, the assimilated 'Rose Window' fabric border on the outside of the banner was added, along with the loops to hang from a rod when in use. The call came that it was ready for pick up at the beginning of July.

That's how our banner came to be. You can see the finished product for yourselves.



2020 AUTUMN/WINTER CALENDAR

Our normal schedule has been interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic to keep our members, staff, students, are more safe. Sadly that mean we will not do our normal holiday events.

On Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 2 PM join us for a free and open **virtual public presentation about witches and magic in Nordic Folklore** by Dr. Amber Cederström from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Here is the registration link:

https://plu-edu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_l44jRIriSyf3na_iQXusA

or find from our Facebook page or from our website www.plu.edu/scancenter/.

We are in the midst of planning a virtual **Lucia Celebration** to be shown on YouTube – I don't have the details yet. I will send out another newsletter in November to get the details out to you all.

Lucia stands for Light, Service, and Food and so of all the holiday events we do, it feels the most relevant and needed. we need to stay physically separated but we need to have Light and Love. **Keep the date Sunday, December 13.**





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