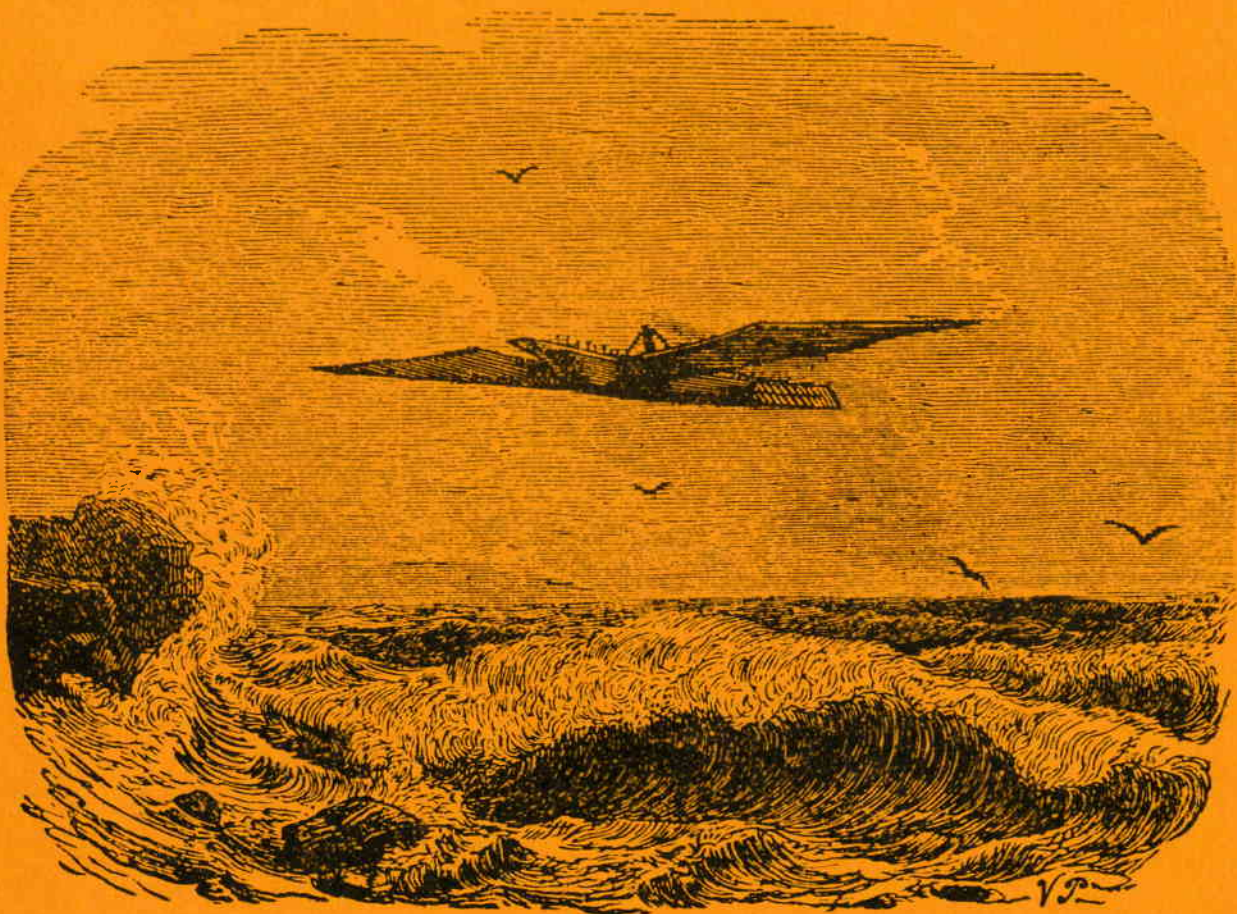


Danish Journal



“Yes, thousands of years hence they will come flying on wings of steam through the air and over the ocean. The ‘electro-magnetic wire’ will have ‘telegraphed the size of the aerial caravan’ as young Americans travel to see Europe”

Hans Christian Andersen, Danish Poet (1805-1875).

DENMARK-USA
200 years of close relations

Special issue of the DANISH JOURNAL
commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

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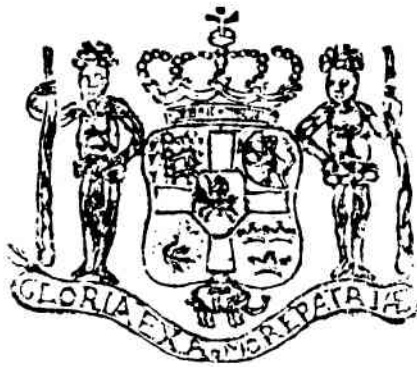
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Front Cover: Illustration by the Danish artist Vilhelm Pedersen of Hans Christian Andersen's
fairy tale, "Thousands of Years Hence". (1852).

Back Cover: The emigrant ship *Ottawa* leaves Copenhagen port in 1866
(contemporary drawing from *Illustreret Tidende*).

The illustration on the title page shows the appearance
of the National Coat of Arms in 1776.



DENMARK-USA

200 years of close relations

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Copenhagen A.D. 1776

By Steffen Linvald

In the Year of Our Lord 1776, everything that was great and beautiful and important was gathered in Copenhagen which with its 85,000 inhabitants was the all-dominating capital of the realm. Much has disappeared, and much has changed since then, but a lot remains, and with just a bit of imagination it is possible today – 200 years later – to recapture the flavor of the city which received the news of the American Declaration of Independence.

“Copenhagen, Denmark’s capital, is worth seeing for many reasons. Nearly everything that makes a place notable is assembled there: A royal court, a fleet, fortifications, an academy of sciences and the arts”.

Thus was the city described in 1783, and what progress had been made then since 1776 could hardly have changed its principal features. As the king’s residence, the city with its 85,000 inhabitants, its 12 towers, its old churches, monumental castles and palaces and its numerous noble residences exceeded anything offered in size or prestige by other population centers of the realm.

Moat and walls encircled Copenhagen in a ring broken only by the harbor which divided the old city with the royal castle of Christiansborg from the borough of Christianshavn on the island of Amager. The fortifications were in bad shape, damaged considerably by roaming cattle, but with their rich vegetation and picturesque windmills, they were idyllic, and beyond the moats lay open fields and gardens, crossed by tree-lined avenues leading to the city gates.

The walls were favorite goals for citizens’ excursions, though most of them preferred to promenade in the King’s Gardens, then the only park inside the walls. Rosenborg Castle, now a royal museum, is located here, and we are told that there “paraded groups of top-hatted cavaliers with their decked-out ladies and mingled with the crowds.”

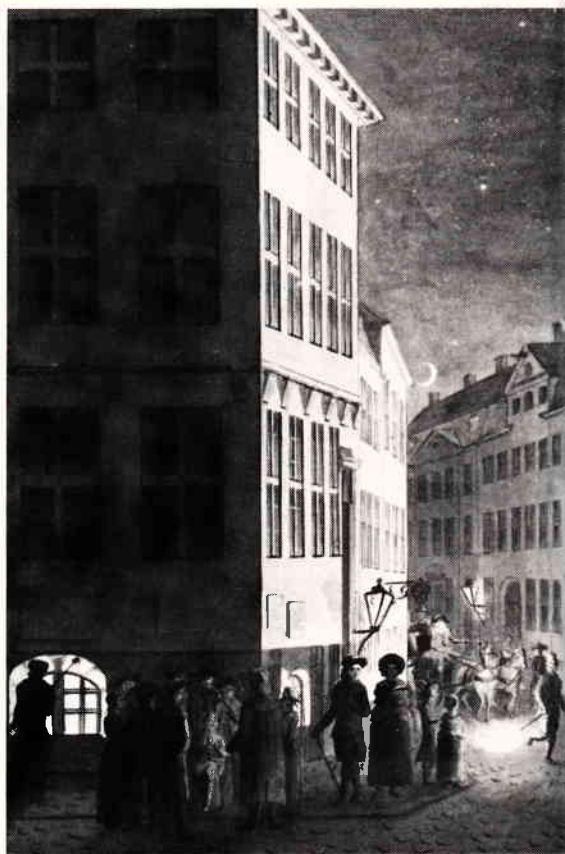
Close to two-thirds of the old town had gone up in flames in 1728, and during reconstruction, a re-alignment of the mediaeval street net was carried out. At the same time, the old Copenhagen Castle (1733–40) was replaced by the first Christiansborg Castle, designed by Chief Architect Elias David Haeusser. Its baroque riding school with the royal stables, the riding hall and royal theater outside Marble Bridge, and the two adjacent pavillions which belong to the noblest rococo buildings in Copenhagen, remain to this day. They stem from the royal architect Niels Eigtved who planned the area called Frederiksstad, centered on the four Amalienborg palaces which became the royal family’s residence after the Christiansborg fire of 1794. In 1768, the famous equestrian statue of the borough’s founder, King Frederik V, by the French sculptor J. Fr. Sally, was erected in the center of Amalienborg square.

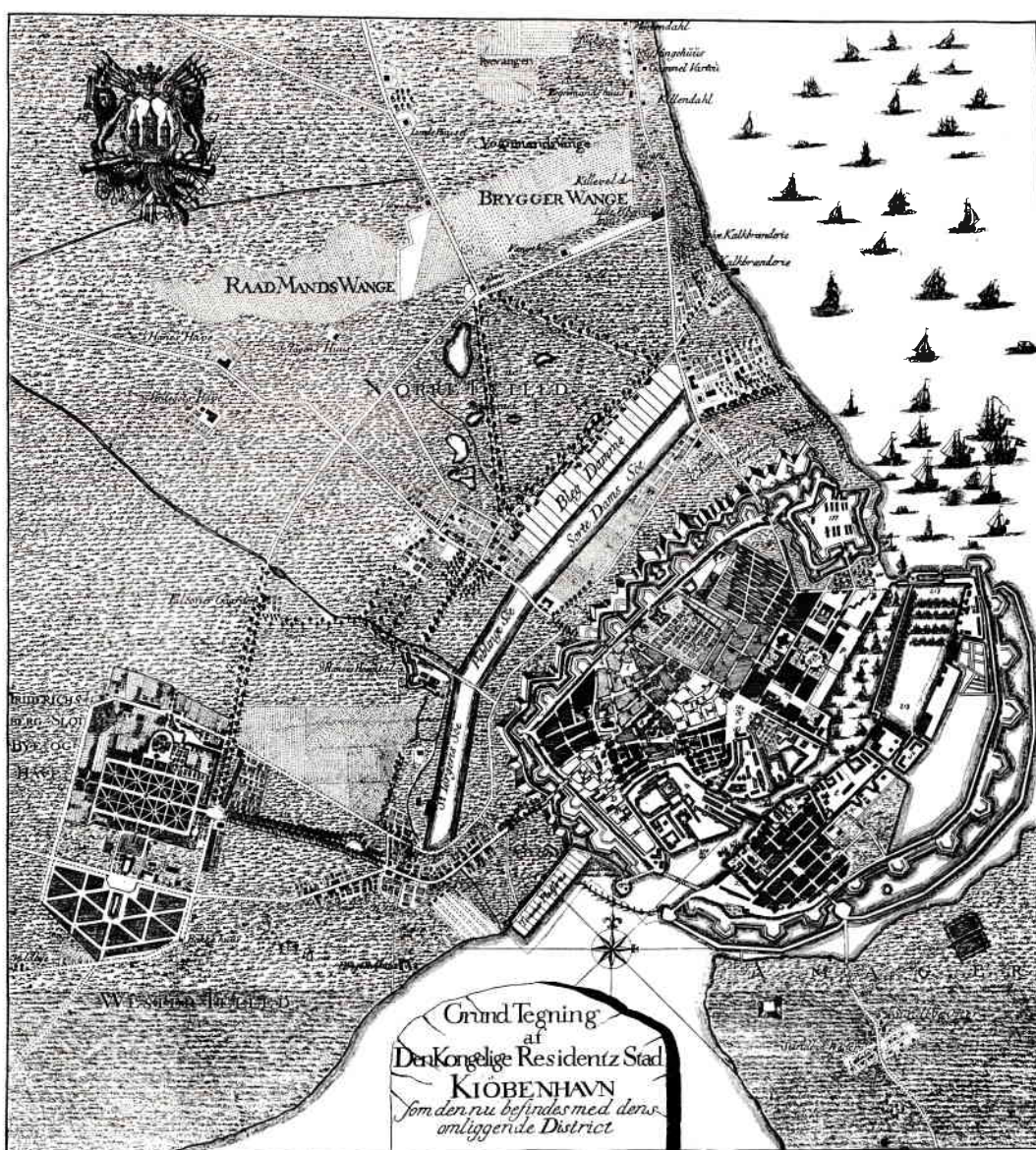
NOT ALL PEACHES AND CREAM

It was no exaggeration, therefore, to describe

the city’s buildings in 1783 as “mostly new and attractive”, and to speak of the streets as “sufficiently wide, well-paved, and lined on the sides with broad stones for pedestrians.” Chronicles state that in the absence of moonlight, the streets were „nightly illuminated with lights, except in May, June, and July”, and we are informed that since 1771, „street names were painted on all corners, and for still greater convenience, the houses were numbered.”

If one relies on that description alone, Copenhagen toward the end of the 1700’s sounds like an ideal place to live. In reality, behind the glittering front, many buildings were overcrowded, with lean-to’s and back houses, cellars and attics used for dwellings. Streets, too, were not all the above quote leads us to believe. Another description, apparently somewhat more realistic, states that sidewalks were „cluttered with shacks, steps, chairs, tables, benches, pots, pans, and uncounted other junk so one could hardly believe they were built for people to walk on, and flagstones sloped to steeply toward the gutters that one was lucky





Left: Map of Copenhagen. Print by O. N. Klint 1784. (Municipal Museum, Copenhagen).

Bottom left: People promenade in Østergade. Water color by Jes Bundzen 1788. (Municipal Museum of Copenhagen).

Bottom right: Corner Krystalgade and Nørregade. Drawing by Mads Stage 1975.





*Fishermen in Nordhavnen.
Print by Bartholomaeus
Rocque 1750.*

*Citizens in their
Sunday best at the entrance
to Kongens Have. Painting
about 1780.*



*The riding grounds at
Christiansborg Palace.
Painting by Jacopo Fabris
about 1750.*



not to fall in." Since the cobble stones even in the principal thoroughfares were irregularly placed, these streets were often little more than mud holes. Conditions were not helped either by the fact that maintenance of cleanliness in the streets left much to be desired, in spite of repeated appeals by the authorities. The stink from open sewers and from dead dogs, cats and rats filled the air, particularly in summer which, it was said, greatly benefited the local doctors.

The police chief was responsible for the city's upkeep. However, though a royal decree had spelled out regulations for the collection and removal of garbage, there were frequent complaints that people simply dumped their garbage cans into the streets, and the piles which had been swept together were not picked

up but spread again by passers-by. That didn't stop a lively traffic. Carriages, hired cabs, work carts and farm vehicles rattled the whole day long over the cobble stones between horsemen, sedan chairs, and pedestrians in colorful confusion.

Conditions were even worse in winter, since snow was allowed to stay on the ground along the main streets "out of regard to the sleigh rides of royal personages" which often took place in the evening in the glow of flaming torches, amusing them greatly.

LUXURY AND RAGGED BEGGARS

For pedestrians, there was above all "Stroget" (The Strip), which attracted with its haberdasheries and fashion stores. The cultural historian, Hugo Matthiessen, said that the street was filled with "a festive and colorful crowd of ladies and gentlemen in bright costumes, with wigs and make-up, swords and wide-brimmed hats."

But the medal had its reverse side. Despite all donations, welfare funds and support of the poor, begging on the city's streets and squares was a sore in the eyes of the respectable citizenry. The beggars sought to attract attention and arouse pity by every device.

At that time, the government did all it could to promote domestic industry. For that reason, the attempt was made to limit the purchase of luxury goods from abroad "whereby the country's fortune is taken out to foreigners." On the other hand, the consumption of domestic luxury items also was judged too large since it reduced exports. One even went so far as to set down regulations on how many courses could be served during dinners given by the citizenry, and what kind of wines were permissible. These were proclaimed in 1783, but contained a proviso that, "since the King has confidence in his subjects and these, in furtherance of their own advantage, should be glad about this Austerity Ordinance and comply with it, He won't enforce compliance with police and other means of compulsion for the time being . . ."

The ordinance, of course, met strong opposition and was not observed, particularly since in effect, it caused more harm than benefit to Danish industry.

COPENHAGEN HAS FUN

Leading among the city's amusements was the theater in Kongens Nytorv, officially called "The Royal Danish Showplace", though many

Corner Amagertorv and Højbro Plads with steeple of St. Nicolaj Church. Drawing by Mads Stage 1975.



Amagertorv/Højbro Plads med St. Nicolaj Kirke
Sep 1975

Nybrogade at Knabrostraede. In the background the spires of St. Petri and Our Lady's churches. Drawing by Mads Stage 1975.

citizens preferred performances of magicians and variety artists.

However, tough competition was provided by the Court Theater of Christiansborg which was inaugurated in 1767. This was particularly true until 1773 since performances were free of charge for "persons of rank and honest citizens which contact the box office for tickets." Comedies, operettas and operas were performed in turn by Danish and Italian actors. The theater also was used by the court for amateur shows, masquerade balls and dances.

In the late 1700's, the capital also had a rich musical life. Interest in music was not only fostered privately, but also by the so-called musical associations, some of whom gave public concerts greatly liked by the citizenry. All in all, club life flourished.

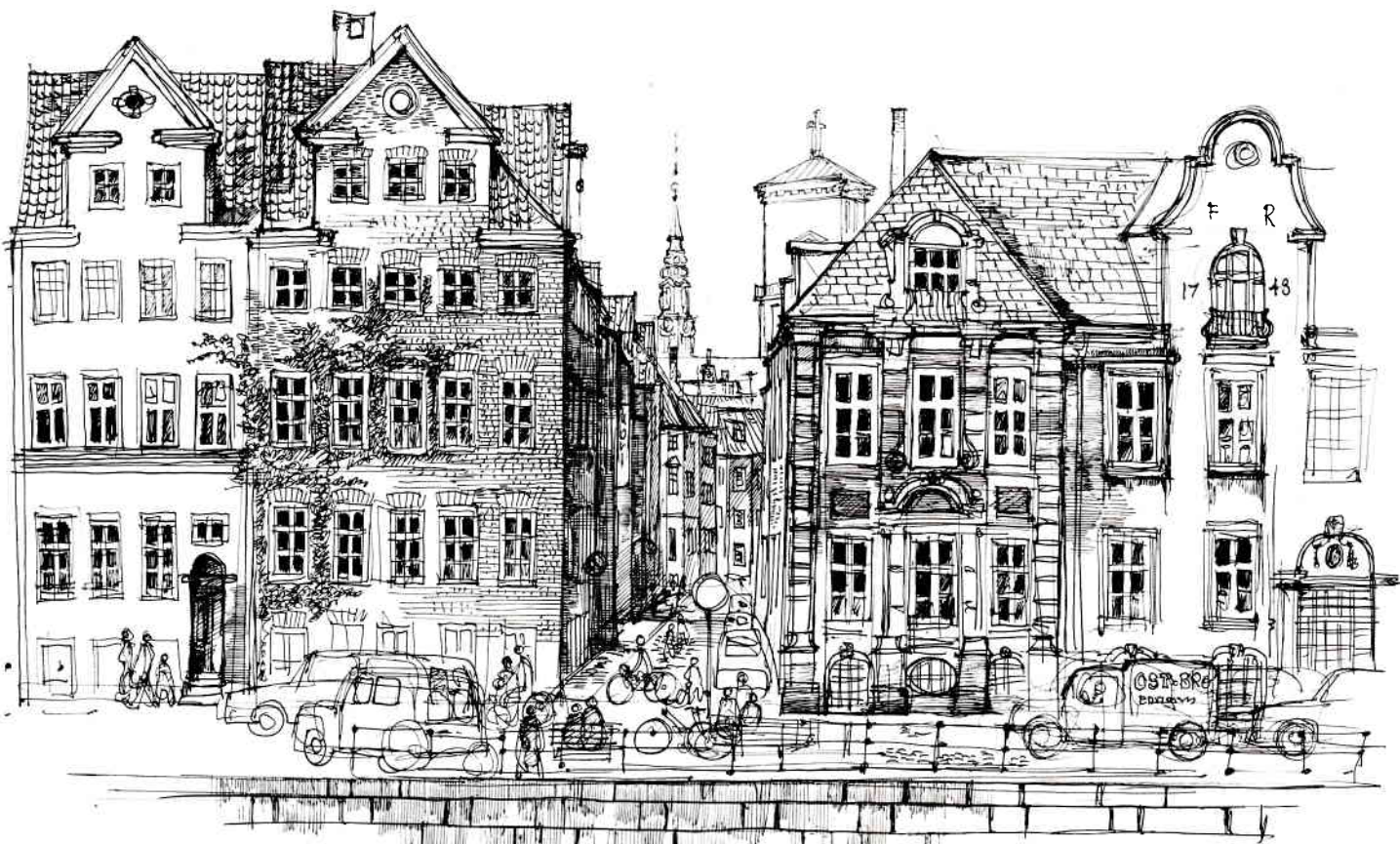
The clubs served as centers of discussion of the day's events, and members often gathered in festive company around the table to drink punch and sing lively drinking songs. Previously, only men had been eligible for mem-

bership and attendance at the gatherings, but little by little, festivities, balls, concerts and masquerades were arranged in which female relatives were allowed to take part.

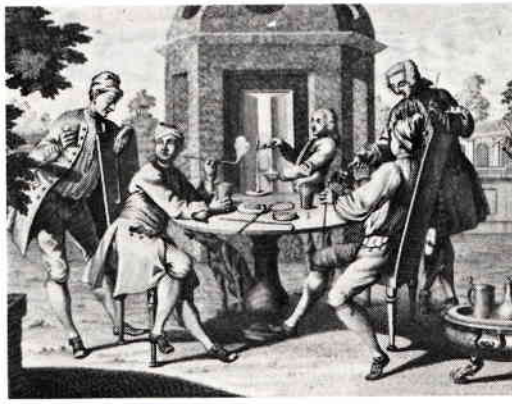
Though as a rule, the amusements were quite innocent, the government kept a weather eye on many of the clubs because of the members' critical attitude toward the administration and because of their political activities.

Up to this point the court had set the tone of society, but now the clubs gained increasing influence. Social attitudes became freer and livelier. Success of a social event no longer depended on the presence of "some excellencies or stars or at least some well-born persons." Their role was now assumed by well-to-do and influential merchants.

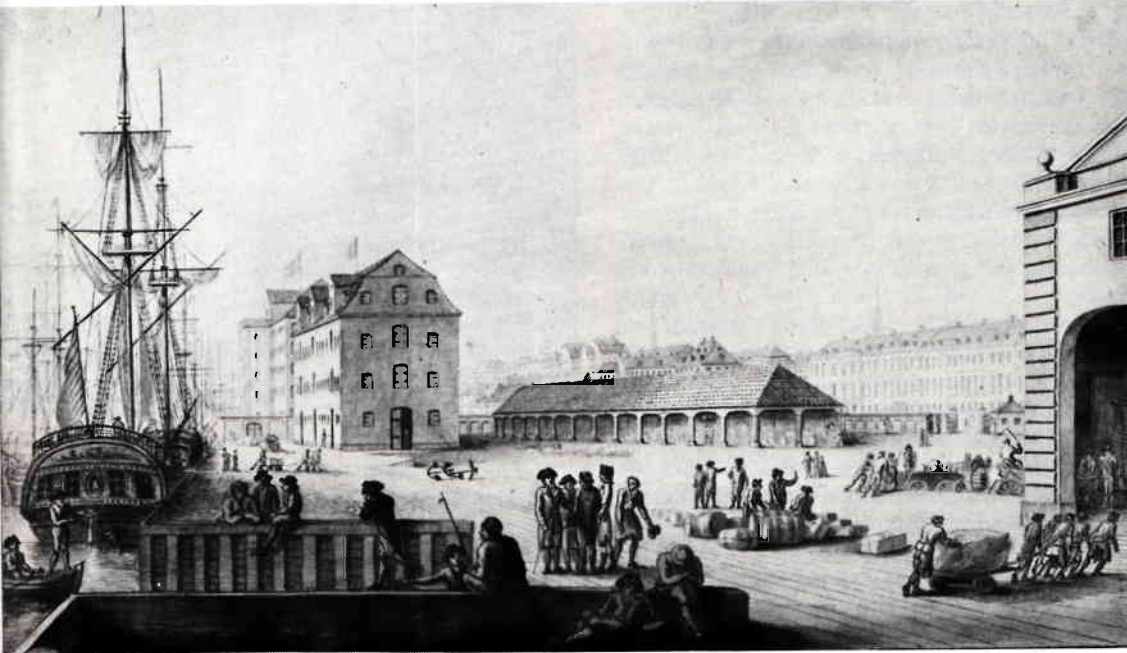
Clubs who lacked their own quarters met in the city's hostelries and restaurants of which there were many and of widely different character. The authorities, of course, were somewhat suspicious of those where night life flourished and where there was gambling. In 1772,



same: Nybrogade, 18 houses, side of Knabrostraede. Pencil drawing by Mads Stage, Copenhagen - March 1975.



Upper: Copenhagen garden party about 1775. Print by M. Rössler.

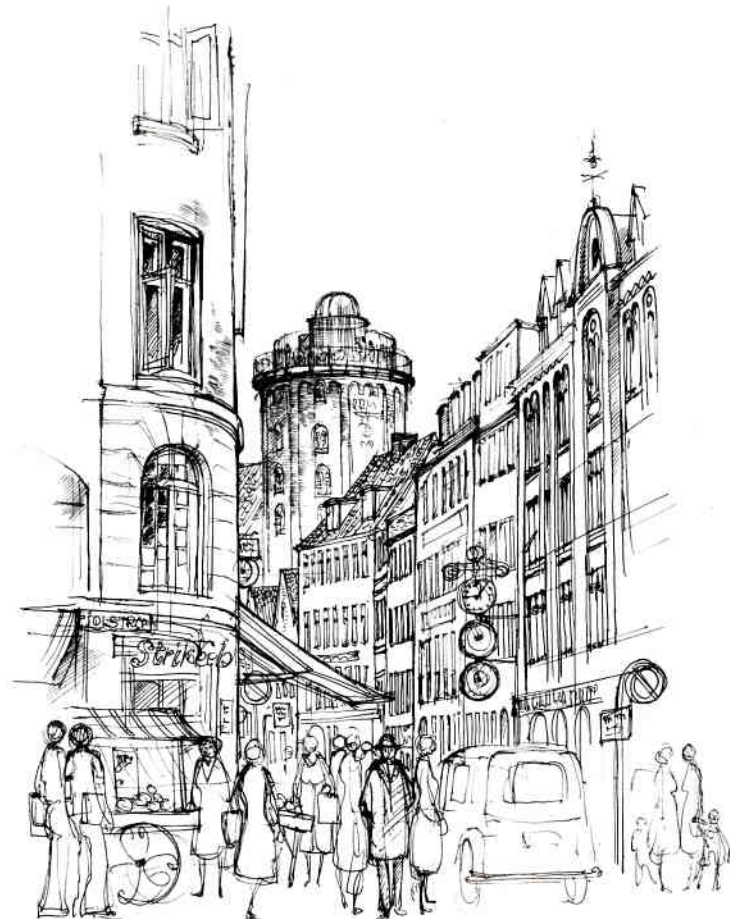


Middle: Part of Ny Toldbod. Drawing by Georg Haas about 1790. (Copenhagen Municipal Museum).

Lower: Round Tower seen from the intersection of Nørregade-Fiolstræde. Drawing by Mads Stage 1975.

the lord mayor of Copenhagen stated that “it is not good policy to permit young people to be led to debauches of nightly excursions, drink, habitual gambling and the vices deriving therefrom . . .” There is no doubt that he also had the city’s many bordellos in mind. “At the same time”, he concluded, „the number of patients with the worst diseases of depravity increases in our hospitals.”

Even if many of the buildings which around the middle 1700’s marked the capital have long gone up in flames or have been torn down, the accompanying pictures prove that with a bit of imagination it is possible to get an impression of the city which in 1776 – in spite of some negative aspects – encompassed all that was great, beautiful, and of importance in Denmark.



The author: Steffen Linvald is curator of the Municipal Museum in Copenhagen.

Realism at the top of Nørregade-Fiolstræde
Jan's Oct 75.

The Founder

By Holger J. Bladt



Peter Lassen.

Above right: Interior of house at Gammel Mont 150, Copenhagen, where Peter Lassen lived on the second floor. Photo from 1898.

Many call him the founder of the State of California. That is not a tenable claim, but he left such a mark on that state and its development that America's only active volcano was named for him, as were Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen County, and many others.

His father's name was Lars Nielsen. His own changed over the years from Larsen to Larssen to Lassen, but it is Lassen who went down in history.

At the age of 17, Peter Lassen became an apprentice blacksmith with his uncle in Kalundborg in Denmark.

In 1823 he traveled to Copenhagen, which later earned him the nickname of *Smithy from Copenhagen*. In 1828, he was admitted as master in the Blacksmith's Guild, but things didn't go well. His income was small, so when in 1830 he became an artilleryman in the militia, he petitioned the King for permission to emigrate to "the new Danish colony in America." On October 12, 1830, Master Blacksmith Larsen sailed from Elsinore for Boston.

He headed West, and for a time he lived in Keytesville, Missouri, where he acquired quite a bit of land and was known as a merchant and a Free Mason. The latter had considerable influence on his later life.

Missouri was no permanent place for Peter Lassen. In 1840, Peter Lassen reached California where he was to leave such durable traces. At that point, California was still Mexican territory, but Lassen got in anyway. Thanks to the Russians who had established a trading post at Fort Ross, Lassen and his companions got an escort and were equipped with arms and ammunition. The Mexicans did not oppose them and the journey could continue. For the time being, Lassen settled on a tributary to the San Joaquin river, the Cosumnes.

One day, while chasing horse thieves in the north, Lassen found an area which greatly appealed to him near Deer Creek, and in 1844 he staked a claim for 22,000 acres. He had long played with the idea of founding a colony, and this looked like the perfect spot with many possibilities. He worked hard, his land holdings grew, and he even became a ship owner. He got embroiled in the political situation which led to the separation of Texas and later California from Mexico. When the war between Mexico and the U.S. ended in 1847, with California becoming a state of the union three years later, Peter Lassen's dream of founding a brand-new city, Benton City, on his land could now finally be realized.



On May 10, 1848, Peter Lassen also became one of the founders of the first Masonic lodge in California. An obelisk on his grave, erected by American Free Masons, commemorates this fact.

In 1854, Lassen went to Honey Lake Valley, the site of today's Susanville. Benton City had been a dream bubble that burst. The Masonic lodge Lassen had founded there was transferred to Shasta City which saved it from ruin. Actually, nobody had the faintest idea in which state Honey Lake Valley was, whether in California or Nevada. It turned out to be Nevada. In April, 1856, the Republic of Nataqua (the name means woman) was founded there, and Peter Lassen became its president.

When it was established that the new state really lay inside California after all, there was much confusion. After many complications, the district which extended over half of Plumas County was given independent administration in 1864, five years after Lassen's death, and called Lassen County.

Peter Lassen had supported the Indians in their grievances wherever he could. It was one of the ironies of fate that he, who was a successful peacemaker on so many occasions, should himself fall victim to an Indian massacre while searching for silver at Black Rock Canyon, some 140 miles East of Honey Lake Valley. This ended a life of adventure. Peter Lassen was only 59 years old at the time of his death.

On September 27, 1859, he was buried on his own soil under one of the tallest trees known, a Sequoia Gigantea, with the highest honors Free Masonry can bestow.

The author: Holger J. Bladt directs the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg.

New York's Most Useful Citizen

Anyone who has seen the slums of a metropolis and witnessed the human debasement inherent in poverty, hunger and want, will easily understand what moved that Danish immigrant, Jacob A. Riis, and caused him to rebel. He wouldn't accept what he witnessed. With stubborn energy and indomitable go-at-it courage he plunged into the fight to obtain decent housing for these people in the adversity of their existence. They had no hope, no chance to work themselves out of that human morass which was so graphically described as "Hell's Kitchen."

Mulberry Bend on New York's East Side became a by-word through the newspaperman whose camera produced the evidence that here was a task crying to be solved.

Jacob A. Riis experienced personal debasement as much as anyone, enabling him to speak with greater authority on a subject which for him became a life time project.

Yet, Riis was not all alone in the fight which for 10 years raged in the metropolis and in which he took part with never failing energy. The man who wholeheartedly supported Riis in the battle against the rot in New York's slum areas was none other than the mayor, later police commissioner, and finally President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt.

Substandard housing wasn't the only thing Riis fought against. He battled just as hard against the deplorable abuse of child labor, particularly immigrant children.

Jacob A. Riis was born in 1849 in Ribe, Denmark, the third of 14 children of a school teacher. The father wished Jacob would go in for a similar vocation, but the son decided differently. In love with the daughter of a rich manufacturer, he chose carpentry to be near his heartthrob. But even his journeyman's certificate wasn't enough to win her hand, and in despair, the 21-year old Jacob emigrated to America.

No sooner did he have a few dollars in his pockets when he was dead broke again, without even the few cents needed for a miserable place to sleep. He gained first-hand experience with police brutality which he didn't forget.

Luck smiled at him at last. A chance meeting with the teacher of a course he had once attended led to a job with the New York News Association, and thus began his career as a police reporter.

He soon did well, and his thought naturally turned toward Elisabeth whom he still wanted to marry. He eventually returned to Denmark, proposed, and finally got his yes.

Riis fought against the overstepping of authority by police, against corruption in the city council and in other political bodies.

In addition to all that, and perhaps because of it, Jacob Riis wrote a great deal. His first book, "How the Other Half Lives", roused a great deal of attention and was reprinted time and again. Then came "The Children of the Poor", "The Making of an American", "Theodore Roosevelt The Citizen", "The Battle Against the Slum", and many others.

It was as a patriotic American that he fought for higher morality and for better conditions for children and adolescents in his adopted land. A settlement house in Henry Street is typical for this. With its open doors, it invites children and young people to its bright and friendly premises, one of the memorials to his work. It is called, Jacob A. Riis House.

Not without reason did President Theodore Roosevelt call him New York's most useful citizen, a proud title for a poor immigrant.

H. J. B.



Jacob A. Riis.

Bottom: The main street, Overdammen, in Ribe, the native city of Jacob A. Riis. Photo from the last century.



Kingdom and Republic: Two Systems with Much in Common

By Klaus Kjølseth

1976 is a "round" year. It is 185 years since Denmark recognized the United States of America (1791), 175 years since the establishment of a permanent Danish diplomatic mission in the U.S. (1801), and finally the 150th anniversary of the first Danish-American Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation (1826) which one year later led to the establishment of a permanent American diplomatic mission in Denmark.

Only a few years ago, an American officer, bent over a map of Denmark with a Danish colleague, could wonder aloud whether these islands really were inhabited, thus revealing how small Denmark seemed to him in contrast to his own country. At the turn of the century in the year 1800, the two nations were a lot closer in size. In 1790, the U.S. population of four million, including Negro slaves, was spread over a territory not much larger than France. The Danish king's subjects, all of them equal to the laws numbered almost 2½ million Danes, Norwegians and Germans inhabiting an area from Norway in the North through the present Denmark to the Germanic duchies of Schleswig and Holstein in the South. Both states were spread along coasts and had extensive trade and maritime commerce in common.

The Declaration of Independence with its eloquent attack on the monarchy specifically directed against the British king as a tyrant, could hardly be expected to find anything but a rather cool reception from the Danish royal house and its loyal government.

But the declaration also expresses elements of a common ideology some of which was manifested in a series of fundamental reforms in the Danish monarchy around the year 1800, and particularly in the years just prior to it. The monarchic form of Danish absolutism was completely authoritarian in form, but it had broad popular support and in substance it was of considerably liberal character in many ways.

The economic and social reforms carried out from above were of such extent and effect that the Danish kingdom actually has been called "revolutionary" during that period.

The American Declaration of 1776 still has a visible counterpart in a monument right in Copenhagen, the Freedom Column of 1792. It was erected in honor of Crown Prince Frederik (VI) in gratitude for economic-social legislation effecting the freeing of peasants. It bears the inscription: "... that the free peasant shall be brave and informed, diligent and honorable and a happy citizen".

That was the "pursuit of happiness" through social equality and economic independence. The law of 1792 which stopped the slave trade and was gradually put into effect, and a reform of 1814 which assured the civil rights of the Jews, were only a few other examples of human, tolerant and enlightened legislation.

The strong tradition of social and other rights to freedom which were able to develop in Denmark even before political government by the people was instituted in the mid-1800's

partly explains similar attitudes toward states and peoples in other parts of the world prevalent in today's Denmark.

CONSULAR RELATIONS AND RECOGNITION

During the American Revolutionary War and the war between the sea powers, Denmark remained neutral to protect its commerce and shipping. There were informal contacts, particularly with Benjamin Franklin in Paris. The official Danish attitude was polite, noncommittal, and made it pointedly clear that without wishing to be hostile it still could not recognize the new state. When independence was a fact in 1783, official relations with the new republic were taken up in renewed discussions in Copenhagen. The Foreign Office believed that the United States could not be a matter of indifference to Denmark, neither with respect to the Danish West Indian islands, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, nor to the motherland.

It was desirable that the new state should understand "how well-disposed Your Majesty is toward the same, and how ready not only to recognize it as a state but also to engage in trade connections therewith to our mutual benefit". Trade with the United States was desired, and the sooner the better.

On the other hand, the king's high station did not allow the first step toward official relations to be taken by the Danes. As a convenient compromise it was, therefore, decided to send a former colonial official to Paris as a private citizen to contact Benjamin Franklin. Should this be successful the plan was to send the official as envoy to the United States while conducting negotiations in Copenhagen with an official American representative on a trade treaty. Though Sweden signed a commercial treaty with Franklin in Paris 1783 the Danish plans came to naught.

Focus of the first official relation were the West Indian islands. Some years prior to the turn of century, the U.S. had appointed two consuls in the Danish domain with the king's approval "since a good understanding with the United States was of importance", as the phrase went.

James Yard was established as North American consul in the West Indies (St. Croix) in 1791, and Hans Rudolph Saabye became North American consul in Copenhagen in 1792. Both were merchants.

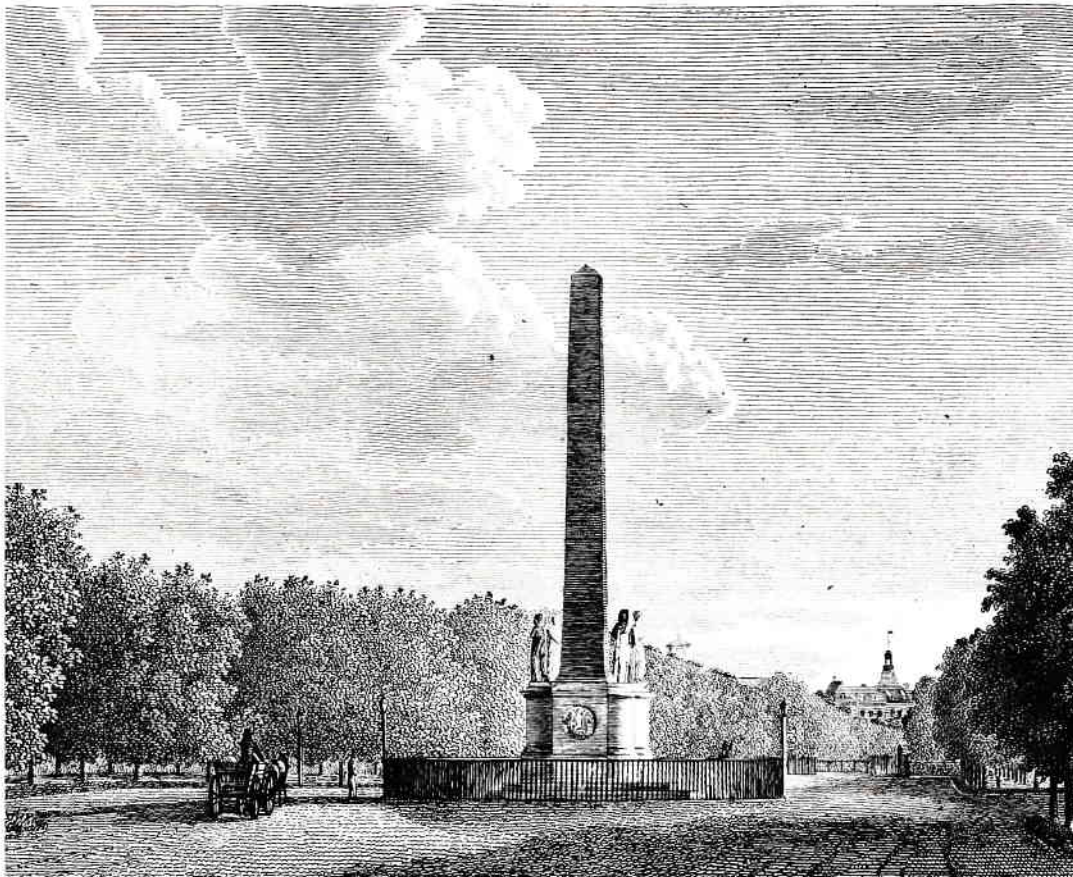
On May 4, James Yard of Pennsylvania and Danish citizen of St. Croix called on the local

Danish authorities and presented a patent dated February 24, 1791 signed by President George Washington and constituting his appointment as consul on St. Croix.

Both the authorities in the West Indies and in Copenhagen realized that it was questionable practice to deviate from the normal rule that a state should not name consuls to another state with all the rights that entailed, in the absence of a pertinent agreement. No such treaty or convention existed between the two states, however.

On September 2, 1791, Foreign Minister of Denmark A. P. Bernstorff obtained his king's undated approval to award Yard the title of consul and the right to deal with the government. His privileges as a consul were to remain undefined pending enactment of a treaty then under negotiation and expected to be concluded soon.

Bernstorff, one of Denmark's most notable foreign ministers in modern times, explained his attitude by stating that the usual practice had to be waived because of the importance of reaching an understanding with the United



Denmark's first diplomatic representative in the U. S. was Peder Blicher Olsen (later "Blicherolsen"), appointed in 1800 and for three years minister resident and consul general. For him it was a hardship post because of illness, but he managed to lay the groundwork for the later establishment of the many Danish consulates in North America.

The Freedom Column. Erected in Copenhagen 1792. Contemporary print.

Peder Pedersen created stability in the Danish mission during his long service from 1803–1830. Like several of his successors he acquired closer ties with the U. S. through marriage to an American which netted him both fortune and position. He took the initiative toward a trade treaty of 1826 and ably conducted the negotiations.



nize the United States. Those preceding it were France, Morocco, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Sweden, Spain and Prussia.

DENMARK NUMBER ONE IN UNSUSPENDED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Since 1801, Denmark has maintained uninterrupted diplomatic relations with the U.S., longer than any other country. It is true that six other European nations, viz. France, The Netherlands, Britain, Spain, Portugal and Prussia established diplomatic relations with the U.S. even before 1801, but all of these were interrupted by war or various other reasons at one time or another.

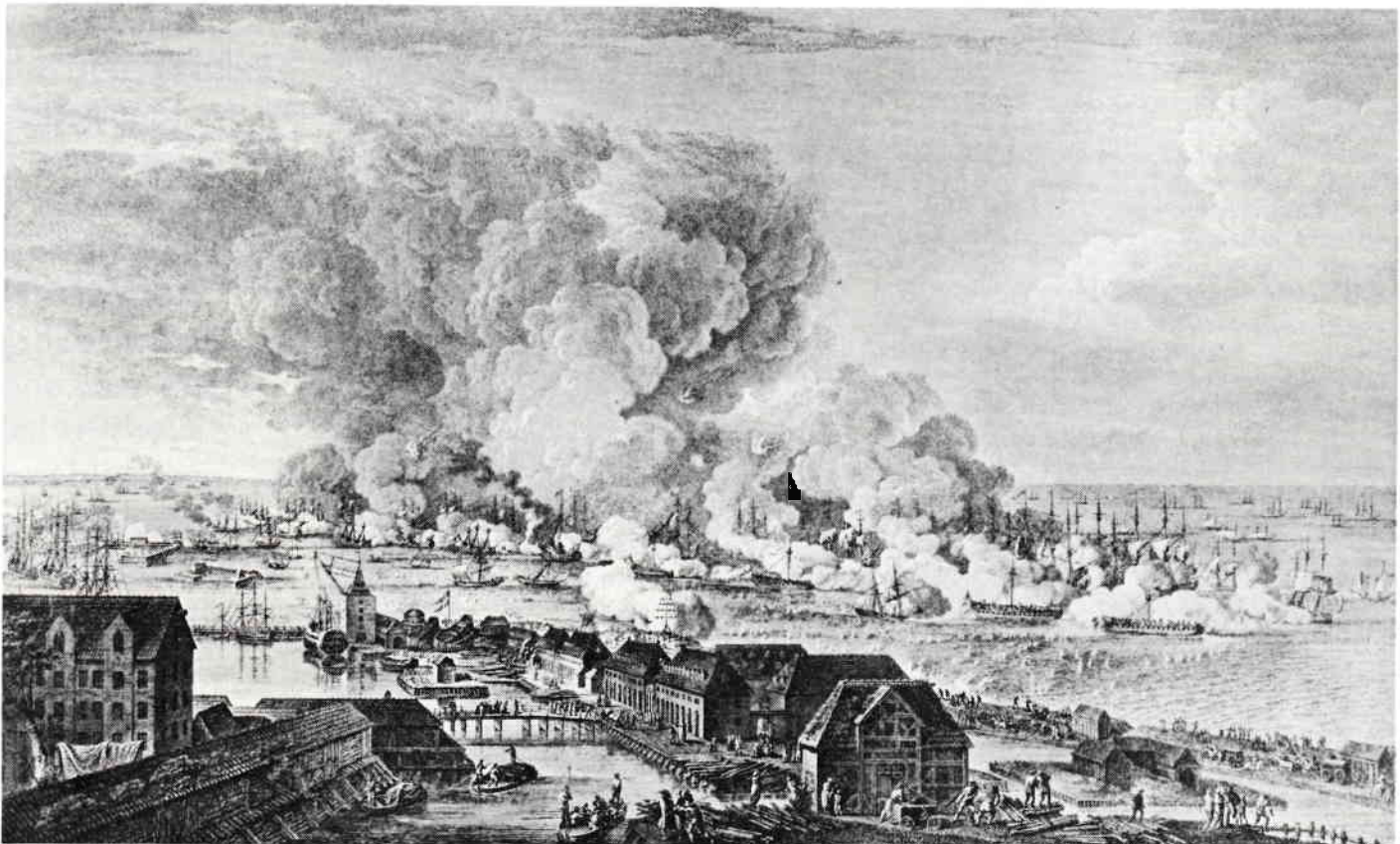
A European war and a Danish-English conflict were the immediate causes for establishment of a Danish mission in the United States in 1801. From sheer economic and commercial motives, the Office of Foreign Commerce recommended to the Foreign Office in 1798 to employ a consul in North America to foster commerce and navigation.

States. He advocated flexibility since, "as is typical for new states, the U.S. stood upon its dignity".

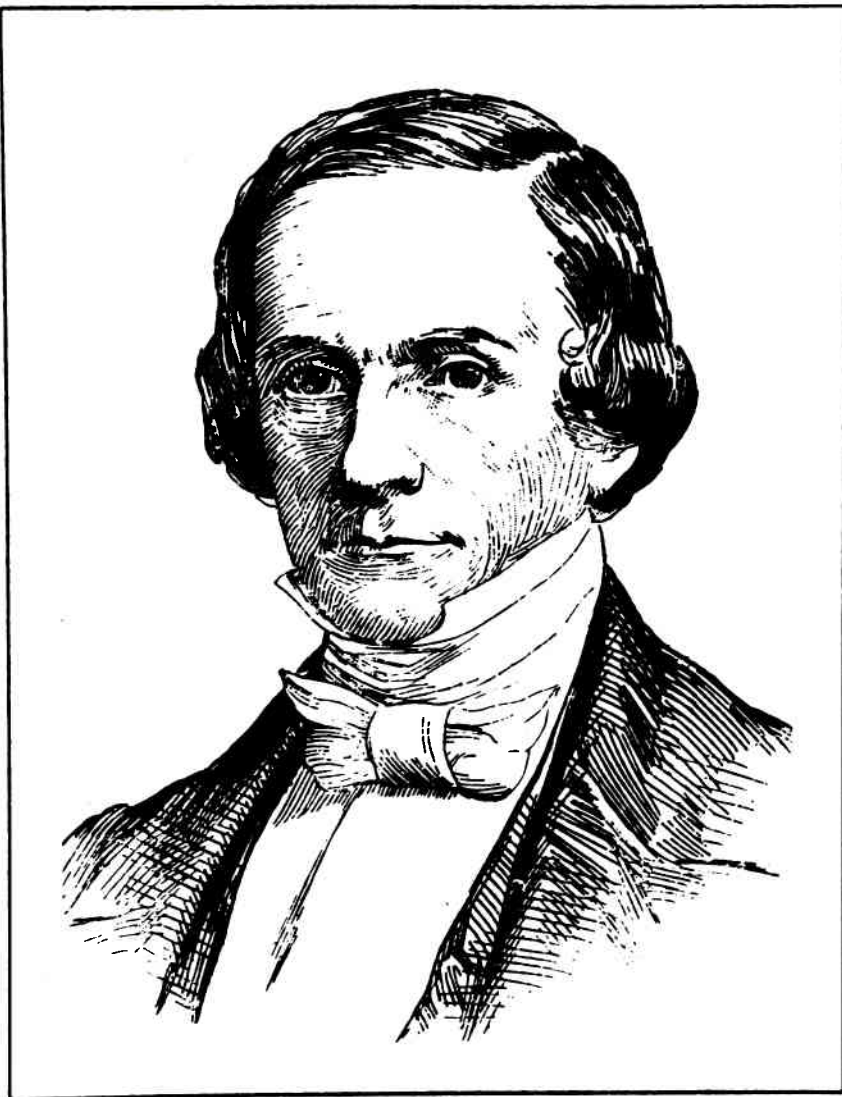
It has since become accepted that approval of this appointment and awarding exequatur to Yard constituted Danish recognition of the United States. The date has been established as September 2, 1791, or a few days later.

Denmark was the eighth country to recog-

The Battle off Copenhagen between the Danish and British Fleets on April 2, 1801. The British ships in action were commanded by Admiral Nelson. Contemporary print.



This eagle decorated the stationary of one of the first American diplomats in Copenhagen.



During the two preceding years, 55 ships under the Danish flag had carried on the neutral Danish trade between American and European ports. To this came the trade via the West Indies. Appointment of a consul was decided in principle during the summer of 1799, and the American government readily gave its approval.

During the year 1800, there was a change in the international political situation with the result that security considerations, often more difficult to weigh and measure than economic ones, became decisive for the form of the representation issue. When in December 1800, Denmark joined an armed neutrality league with other northern states, the Anglo-Danish conflict, provoked by obstacles England placed in the way of neutral maritime commerce, led to a crisis.

Great Britain answered with confiscation of Danish ships and occupation of the Danish West Indian islands in March, 1801. In the naval battle of April 2, 1801 off Copenhagen between Admiral Nelson and the Danish fleet, Denmark was forced to forsake its alliance.

It was against this background that on November 7, 1800, the Foreign Office proposed and obtained the king's approval to upgrade the Danish representation in the U.S. from consul to a combined diplomatic and consular job with the title of minister resident and consul general. It was pointed out that the U.S. had become steadily more important in international

affairs, and it thus was essential to receive regular and correct reports about what went on in that country.

The security angle emerges still more clearly in an instruction of January 1801 to the Danish envoy. It was desired to obtain American support for the principles underlying the neutrality league and that in the event of a war with Great Britain, neutral America would maintain maritime communications with the various parts of the Danish kingdom, particularly with the colonies in the West Indies. The situation bears certain similarities to that which arose during World War II after 1940 between German-occupied Denmark, Greenland, and the U.S.

Appointed to the new post was Peder Blicher Olsen whose bourgeois antecedents and previous job as Danish consul in Tangier (Morocco) placed him outside the circle of aristocratic chiefs of mission in Danish diplomacy.

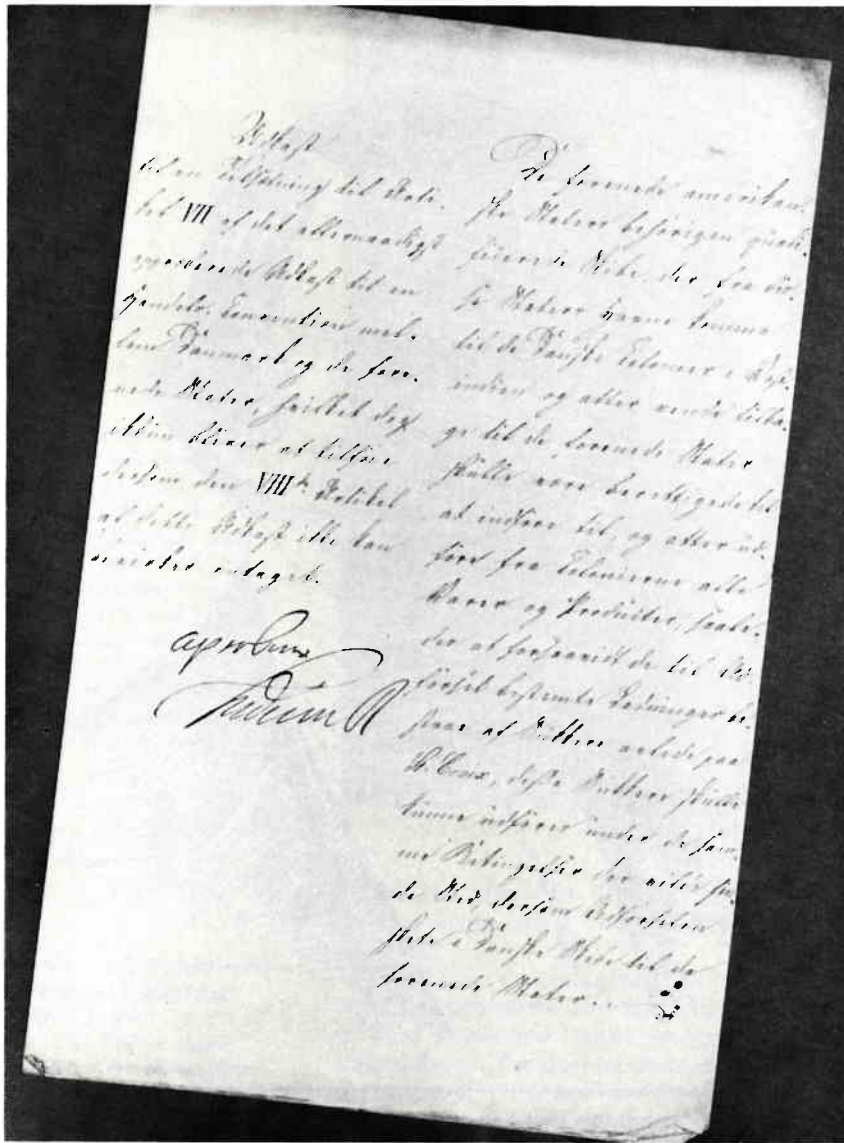
As matters developed, it would have been better to have accepted another applicant. He was Conrad Friedrich von Schmidt-Phiseldeck who later was to become a top official in the economic administration and a participant in the Danish-American trade negotiations. He is specifically known from a book he wrote in 1820 about Europe and America, the first important Danish contribution to the literature about America.

Blicher Olsen departed from Denmark in January 1801, and on July 16 he arrived in Phi-

The procession of American chiefs of mission in Copenhagen could not have been started better than with Henry Wheaton who served from 1827-1835. He was highly respected on both sides of the Atlantic as a diplomat and author of books on international law.



Uniform of a Danish envoy in 1802.



The signature of King Frederik VI under the draft of the Danish-American treaty.



The hat shows Waldemar Raasløff's attachment to the U. S. where he stayed for many years, first privately, later as representative of the Danish state from 1857 to 1867. He actively pushed the sale of the Danish West Indian islands which foundered on congressional opposition.

Philadelphia where he established his residence. From there he continued on to Washington which had become the U. S. capital the year before in order to present his credentials. However, President Thomas Jefferson was out of town, and it took almost till mid-October 1801 before the ceremony could take place. October 12 has since been recognized by both sides as the day on which diplomatic relations were established between the two countries.

En route to America, Olsen learned of the Danish defeat in the sea battle off Copenhagen on April 2, and thus had to realize that his mission's principal aim no longer existed. Officials in Copenhagen came to the same conclusion a while later but figured that there was no cause for abolishing the job. The American government thought it useful that the Danish mission combined diplomatic and commercial tasks.

DANISH BACKGROUND PROVES USEFUL

In 1802, Olsen reported that the very word "Danish" was a useful label in the U.S. which, he reports further, is a good land for the plain industrious man who goes to work while his wife tends the kitchen.

But for a foreigner – and for him as a diplomat – working conditions were difficult. The mail took a minimum of three months to bring him a reply from Copenhagen to one of his reports.

Economically, his salary of \$ 3500 per year did not cover his own expenses for wife, children and five servants in a modest house and with representational duties and he was without private means.

The climate was hard to take, and he often had to stay in Washington while Congress was in session. In 1802 he fell seriously ill with Yellow Fever, and in the summer of 1803 he was compelled to return home and quit the service. He succeeded in laying the foundation for organization of consulates in the most important cities, among them the vice consulate in New York (1803) which later developed into a corner stone of the Danish consular service in the U.S.

His successor, Peder Pedersen, was also picked from the consular service in the Mediterranean area. In 1803, he succeeded Blicher Olsen with title of chargé d'affaires, became consul general in 1805, and minister resident in 1815. During his long service to 1830 and by an American marriage, he acquired

“ . . . It is their [the United States] sincere disposition to promote all the relations with the Danish Nation, which may foster such [friendly] sentiments, and which are prescribed by a mutual interest . . . ”

Reply of June 6, 1803 from President Thomas Jefferson to the King of Denmark.

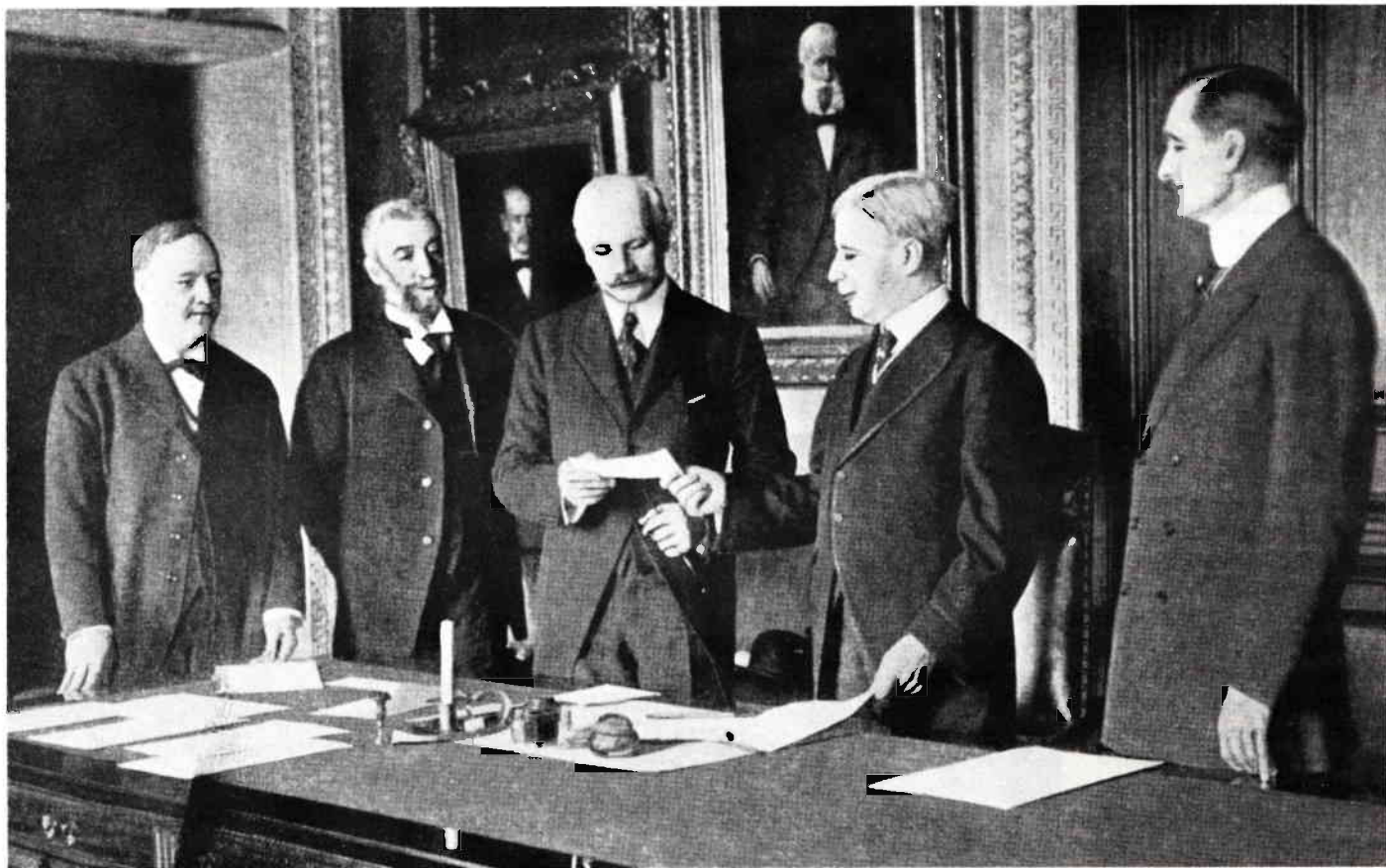
a considerable fortune as well as excellent and close contacts with the American leadership, particularly with Secretary of State Henry Clay which came in handy during the negotiations for a trade treaty. But he had to be recalled when Andrew Jackson became president.

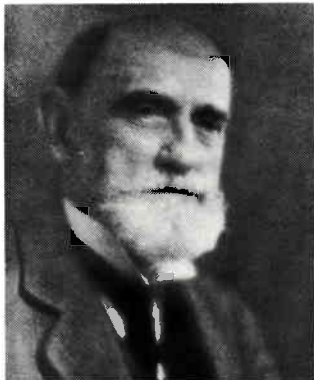
For a long time, the Americans were satisfied with maintaining a consular service in Denmark and the Duchies plus Norway which was subject to the Danish king until 1814. Nevertheless, a “special minister” was sent out in 1811, but a permanent American diplomatic mission in Copenhagen was first established with the accreditation of Henry Wheaton (1827–1835). He bore the title of chargé d’affaires, as did his immediate successors. The line of American chiefs of mission to Denmark got off to a flying start with Wheaton. His career gave him the reputation of being one of the most outstanding men in the American foreign service of that day. He is known as an authority and writer on international law. He also wrote on Scandinavian history. He was greatly respected in Denmark where his knowledge of the Danish language aided him in con-



Rasmus B. Anderson was successful as chief of mission in Copenhagen from 1885–1889, as well as in his activities in the U. S. as an academician and author interpreting Scandinavian literature.

Constantin Brun served longer than anyone else as Danish chief of mission in Washington, viz. from 1895 to 1930, give or take a few years. He participated in negotiations about the sale of the Danish West Indian islands from 1902 on until he (center) received the transfer check from Secretary of State Robert Lansing on March 31, 1917.





During his long service (1907–1917), Maurice F. Egan came to regard Copenhagen as diplomacy's "whispering gallery of Europe". He became known above all as a "man of letters" with a wide literary output. He wrote sonnets and negotiated with the Danish foreign minister with equal ease.

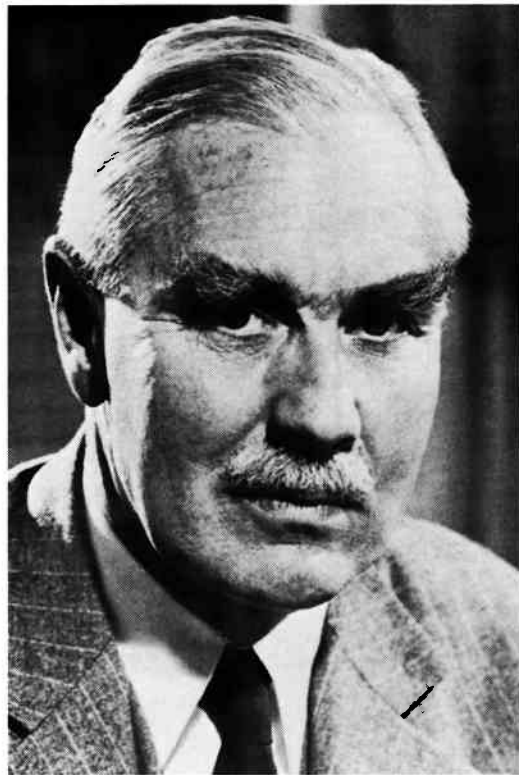
During his long and outstanding service as American career diplomat, Joseph C. Grew was chief of mission in Copenhagen from 1920 to 1921. On July 4, 1921, Grew made a speech in the Danish-American national park at Rebild Hills, Jutland, which earned much praise at the time.

tributing to a solution of the old dispute about compensation for American ships confiscated during the Anglo-Danish war of 1807–1814.

A TREATY IN FORCE MORE THAN 125 YEARS

Preparation of a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the two countries for signature on April 26, 1826 was a long drawn-out affair that dragged on for more than 40 years. On the other hand, the treaty remained in force for more than 125 years, being replaced only on October 1, 1951 by a new one which went into force on July 30, 1961. Certain points of the old agreement continued valid even after that date.

As early as 1783 and the years immediately following, there were considerations and negotiations about a trade treaty, but without results. A basic draft was ready in 1791–92, but the Danish side stalled conclusion indefinitely. Foreign Minister A. P. Bernstorff simply didn't think such a treaty would be advantageous for Denmark since even without a treaty, the American shipping interests in Northern Europe and in the Danish West Indies were suffi-



ciently strong to show Denmark "excellent respect and amicable treatment".

To this came the long-standing fear that the treaty would lead to a reduction of customs revenues in the Sound between Denmark and Sweden. It was thought that by means of these, a certain control could be exerted on American trade with Baltic ports where American ships traded East Indian and Chinese goods.

In 1816, Peder Pedersen took the initiative toward agreement since he saw new possibilities for Danish interests in the American desire for liberalization of commerce with Europe. His initiative was favorably received in Copenhagen, but delayed for fear that the Americans would raise their old compensation claims for confiscated ships in the negotiations.

When it became evident that the two questions could be solved each on its own merits, a new wind blew into the negotiations from 1824 on. There were considerable technical difficulties which demanded a lot of Pedersen's ability of maneuvering between American demands and his own instructions. The personal relationship between Henry Clay and Peder Pedersen was excellent, but political conditions in the U.S., and above all the months it took to get mail across the Atlantic and back for instructions and proposals, all created problems. The economic questions themselves were difficult for the Danish authorities in Copenhagen who had to overcome deeply ingrained prejudices.

An American proposal formed the basis for the final text negotiated in April 1826 after one last delay when Henry Clay had to fight a duel with a political opponent. After quick ratification in the summer of 1826, the agreement went into force.

The result was a basic treaty on mutual commerce and navigation, forming for both countries a part of a series of agreements then being concluded with many states. Its 12 articles were introduced by a preamble on peace and friendship, and a mutual undertaking not to grant specially favorable treatment to other states with regard to commerce or navigation without granting the same at once to the other treaty party, too.

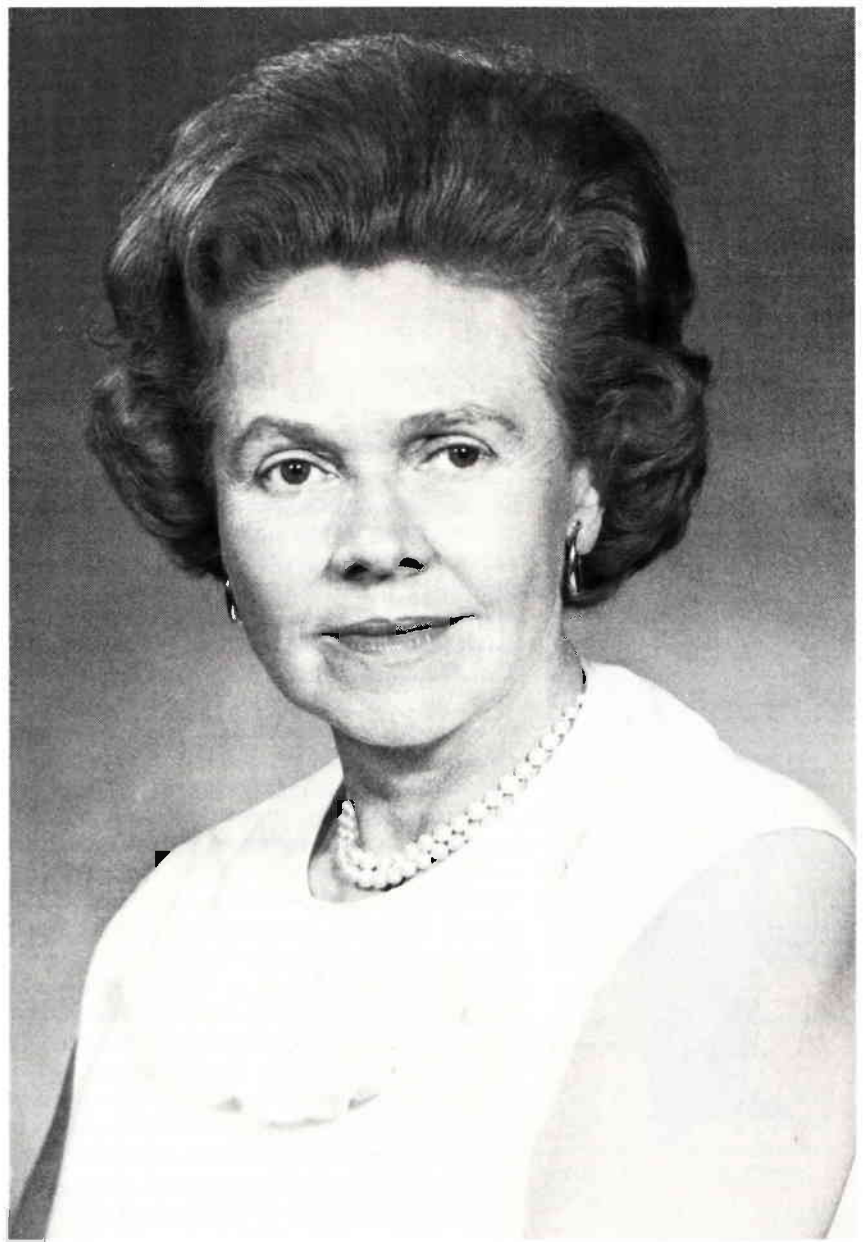
The treaty created liberalization of commerce and navigation with certain exceptions, such as the case of Greenland. This was a bit loosely called "commercial reciprocity" but for the Americans it nearly constituted one of the unalienable rights. The Danish interest lay in opening trade and shipping to free competition with that of other nations in creating the best

possibilities for economic interests to use the advantages opened up by the U.S. "daily growing greatness and power".

For the Danish side, the principal result was that Danish ships, not only from Danish ports but from all foreign countries, could land in all North American ports all kinds of products and merchandise unless their importation was subject to special prohibition, without payment of customs on ships and cargo at a higher rate than those charged American ships. The same regulation applied to exports, and that meant a very substantial reduction in the American fees for ships theretofore applicable, as well as the elimination of a custom. In addition, a formal recognition of the Sound customs duties was agreed upon. Danish concessions primarily concerned the colonial system in the West Indies.

Thus, a good and solid foundation was laid around 1830 for the subsequent relations between the two nations.

The author: Klaus Kjølser, M.A., is head of the archives department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Eugenie M. Anderson was chief of mission in Copenhagen from 1949–1953 and became the first American woman to receive the title of Ambassador.



Henrik Kauffmann (right) with George Marshall, was chief of mission from 1939–1958. His principal job during World War II was to safeguard the position of Greenland. From a secondary job in 1801, chief of mission in Washington had become the top job in Danish diplomacy 150 years later.

Spokesman of the Danish Immigrant



Sophus F. Neble in uniform of an American Colonel.

Above right: A section of Søndergade in Stubbekøbing, native city of Sophus Neble. Photo from the last century.

For 45 years, Sophus Neble was spokesman for the Danish immigrant. As editor of *The Danish Pioneer* he reported the conditions under which the immigrants lived and worked. He was born in Stubbekøbing, Denmark, on December 15, 1859, as the eldest of four children. His father was the respected master tailor Martin Neble who was killed in the Prusso-Danish war of 1864.

It was hard to make ends meet in his childhood home, so immediately after his confirmation, Sophus Neble became a printer's apprentice at the Stubbekøbing paper. In 1880, he entered the parliament's print shop in Copenhagen as a journeyman typographer, but returned to his native town to become foreman in a print shop. Strangely enough, he left that job to learn the dairy business and in April, 1882, he went to America to try his new line of business.

At first, Neble worked on various farms, but a year after his arrival he was hired by the newspaper, *The Danish Pioneer*, owned by the Danish-American Mark Hansen, a well-to-do businessman who had started the paper in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1872 as something of a hobby. Mark Hansen thought well of the young Danish typographer who already in 1885 became editor and in 1887 took over the paper while starting the Sophus Neble Publishing Company.

Neble wanted to make *The Danish Pioneer* a leader, a genuine child of its time, marked by vitality and spunk, a paper of opinions, a purveyor of news during the great immigration to the U.S.A. in the 1880's when the number of Danish-Americans increased by tens of thousands every year. Sophus Neble's strong belief in the necessity for reforms of Democratic society was the paper's traditional policy which he expanded and continued with energy and zeal.

The paper received significant input from Danish immigrant Socialists and from "free-thinking" publicists, such as Louis Pio, Paul Geleff and John Glambeck, all extreme Socialists. Danish politics were discussed and violently criticized, which reached its climax in the attack by "Plenipotentiary Petersen" on King Christian IX. This led to suppression of the *Pioneer* in Denmark. That was later rescinded.

Naturally, a man like Neble, with the political power of the *Pioneer*, couldn't avoid personal involvement in politics and so he joined the Democrats. William Jennings Bryan and Woodrow Wilson were grateful for this sup-



port – and Wilson showed his approval by paying a visit to the paper.

Neble's strength lay in writing commentaries. One of these dealt with the Round Table which today is housed in the Emigration Archives in Aalborg, Denmark. It is the table around which Henius, Geleff, Pio, A. William Hansen (Black Hansen) and Consul Dreyer held their lively debates in Wilken's Cellar in Chicago. The table was later sent to the University Café in Copenhagen until it finally came to rest in the Emigration Archives. The numerous rings on the table's surface testify to the many red wine toddies and other drinks served on it. There is a special reprint of the commentary, "The Round Table", at the archives.

On January 9, 1931, a rich life ended when Sophus Neble died of a heart attack at the age of 72.

H. J. B.

The Great Originator



Max Henius was deservedly called The Great Originator, the man who did not simply have ideas but also knew how to realize them. His name was respected on both sides of the Atlantic. In Denmark, his memory will live not only when Danish and American flags fly side-by-side in Rebild National Park on the Fourth of July, but also as long as the Blockhouse museum can show its collections and the Danish Emigration Archives continue their activities, that trio for whose creation Max Henius worked so hard. He was the son of Jewish parents who had come from Poland. They settled in Aalborg where his father became a distiller and the inventor of the »Red Aalborg«, an aquavit known today the world over, made at The Danish Distilleries whose founder he was.

Max Henius had restlessness in his blood. When after getting through school, he realized his father would not keep the distillery, he wandered south, first to Hannover, Germany, and then to Marburg university where he

earned a doctorate. From there he went to the U.S.A. and wound up in Chicago.

In Germany, Dr. Henius had become friends with an American, Robert Wahl. They soon got together again, the start of a long collaboration in what became the world-famous Wahl-Henius Institute which serves the American brewery industry. The great achievements of Pasteur and later Prof. Emil Christian Hansen of the Carlsberg Breweries with pure yeast were now transferred to America.

The American brewery industry had its seamy side. Time and again, Henius warned that the danger of total prohibition in America should not be underestimated. The saloons had become breeding grounds for the underworld, and unless the breweries were cleaned up, there would be urgent danger of a catastrophe for that industry. Nobody listened to him, and the result is well known.

Another problem of far-reaching importance had to be solved because the health of an entire metropolis was at stake. In 1892, a typhus epidemic broke out in Chicago. Henius set out at once to find the source. That the waters of Lake Michigan were being polluted by sewage effluent had long been known, but nobody did anything about it.

Soon, milk was isolated as one of the epidemic's sources when it was found that of 50 samples, 48 were diluted with from 15% to 45% polluted water from Lake Michigan. Two samples also showed germs from a tubercular cow. Samples taken from the sewage entering the lake showed up to 200,000 microorganisms per cubic centimeter. The danger limit lies at 600.

In 1908, Dr. Henius was in Aarhus, Denmark. A circle of Danish-Americans intended to stage a reunion in connection with an exhibition. It became a great success, and participants agreed to look for a place where future reunions could be held. Henius' knowledge of North Jutland and his love for heather-covered hills led to the purchase of an area at Rebild, the place now known as Rebild National Park, 12 miles south of Aalborg.

The first Rebild celebration was held in 1912. 10,000 people headed by King Christian X and Queen Alexandrine attended in spite of pouring rain. – Except for the years of the two world wars, when Denmark was isolated, the Rebild celebrations have been held every year since 1912 on the Fourth of July.

On November 15, 1935, Max Henius died at the age of 75, highly decorated and an honorary citizen of Aalborg.

H. J. B.



Max Henius pictured during Rebild celebration in Denmark.

Left: Max Henius was born 1860 on the second floor of this Aalborg property next to the Destilleries. Photo from 1928.

America Fever Strikes Denmark

By Kristian Hvidt

More than 300,000 Danes out of a population of barely two million journeyed to America's "lustfulness", and a few succeeded in getting in on "extravagance".

Whoever doubts Denmark's decisive influence on U. S. history should realize that no less than 22 cities in the U. S. are called Denmark. Add to this the many times greater number of good Danish names spread over all the 50 states – Viborg and Thisted in South Dakota, Kronborg and Rosenborg in Nebraska, Holberg in Alaska, not to mention the good town of Jensen in Utah.

Danish influence pervades the entire Anglo-Saxon world – as a matter of fact, the Danes founded it 1000 years ago in Viking clothes when they more or less violently left their mark on English culture. Almost 1000 years later they again journeyed across the oceans, but this time without horned helmets, and not in sleek longboats but jammed together in smoke-belching steamers.

More than 300,000 Danes landed on America's East coast and spread across the land, a large number, considering that the country they came from had less than two million inhabitants. The emigration wave bled the community. It drained a significant portion of the young and most vital labor force from the country. But the 19th century Danish politicians had no grasp of the loss represented by emigration. On the contrary, they thought that it would lessen the possibility of disturbances in the country which might threaten the well-established powers of the government.

The absolute kings of the 1700's, however, understood very well that emigration represented a loss. The country's population formed a part of the king's property, and therefore, in 1753, King Frederick V expressly prohibited American sea captains from traveling around to spread propaganda for their open land.

Nevertheless, a lot of Danes arrived in America long before that, for in the 1600's Denmark was a first-rate seafaring nation. The smart Dutch merchants who set up trade stations in many places outside Europe used Danish seamen as a part of their crews.

So when the Dutch founded New Amsterdam, the later New York, in 1623, a goodly number of Danish seamen were present. One of them, Jonas Bronck, struck out on his own. From the Indians he bought that piece of land along the Hudson river which later came to bear his name in the strangely changed form of »Bronx«, now one of the boroughs of the metropolis.

In the 1700's a string of missions was set up on the U. S. East coast by Moravian Brothers, a considerable number of whom were Danes. One of them was a bell founder, tra-

ditionally a solemn, nearly sacred occupation full of symbolism. Symbolic it seemed that Mathias Tommerup from Holstebro cast the finest bell of his life in the city of Bethlehem in the same days and in the same year that the wise men in nearby Philadelphia adopted the Declaration of Independence. The sonorous, Danish-made product of his craft still rings out over Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 200 years later.

Another connection between the U.S.A. and Denmark was created in the 1700's through St. Thomas and St. Croix our romantic but at times inconvenient tropical colonies in the Caribbean. Quite a few Danish planters and officials resided in the U.S. for shorter or lon-



ger periods, either to get cured of tropical diseases, or to recover from excessive use of the island's surplus of rum.

THE PREACHER WAS OPPOSED

The American Revolutionary War sparked enthusiasm among young Danes, and groups of eager Lafayette-like officers, many with noble aristocratic names, journeyed to America and took part in the war.

But not everyone in Denmark was enthusiastic. In 1785, Pastor Clausen of Brande, a tiny town in Jutland, issued a pamphlet which bore the very relevant question, "Has the Discovery of America Caused more Damage



The Hamburg–America Line was used by many Danish emigrants. The company had an agency in the picturesque Nyhavn Quarter of Copenhagen where this photograph was taken early in this century.

Emigrants at Larsens Plads in Copenhagen. Painting by Edvard Petersen 1890.



Chow time on the Danish emigrant ship Hekla. Sketch by Otto Bache from the last Century.

Dancing on deck on the emigrant ship Restauration. Contemporary drawing.



The emigrant ship Hekla in North Sea storm. Contemporary sketch by Vilh. Rosenstand.



than Benefit to Humanity?” Here is what the preacher thought: “Not only is the basest mob, enriched with America’s gold and silver, indulging in the worst dissipations and the wildest lustfulness, but lustfulness and extravagance has like a tidal wave flooded all the Christian world, yea, the entire globe.”

The preacher’s written annoyance didn’t stop Danes from heading for the “lustfulness” of America, and some even managed to get in on the “extravagance”. One of these was Christian Guldager who became famous in the U.S. through his paint brush. His portrait of George Washington is well known, but he is best remembered as “the father of the eagle”, the designer of that rather unfriendly eagle with arrows in its claws, to be found in the American Great Seal.

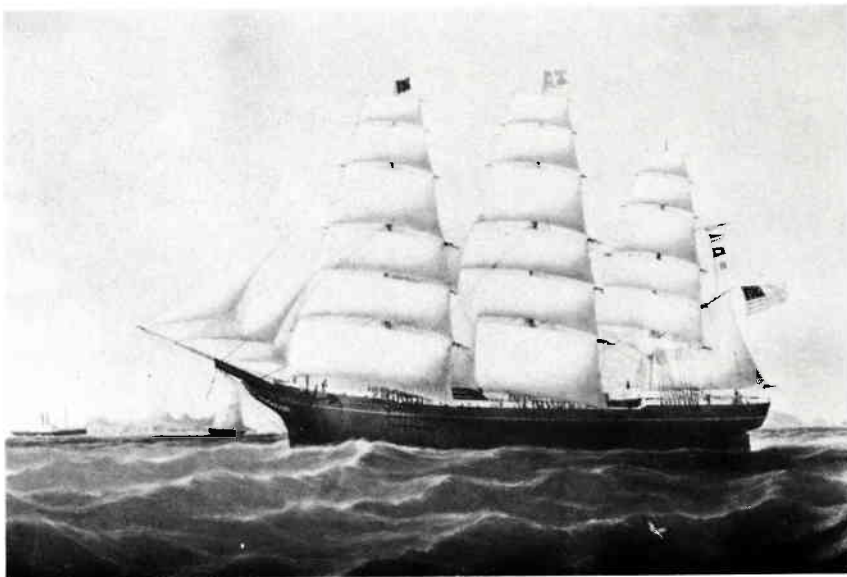
HOPE FOR TOP HONORS

The Napoleonic Wars had a twin effect on the poor of Europe. From a material point of view the war made them poorer than before, and the industrialization of the subsequent decades made poverty even harder. But spiritually, the war acted as an awakener, hand in hand with the romantic concepts of the day.

Everyone gained hope of being able to break through social barriers and to arrive at top honors. The French marshals were sons of poor people who had pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps. “If you are patient enough you can become King of Sweden”, said an adage in Denmark with reference to the career of Marshal Bernadotte.

This ambition to break away from poverty, to climb socially, furnishes important background for the large-scale emigration to overseas territories in the following decades. The young people felt they had to leave home and to try their luck in new surroundings. By far the most wound up in cities and thought they would become rich as industrial laborers. But many were too impatient to wait. They wanted the land about which the well-known Danish children’s poem “Flight to America” says, “There’s gold in the street right under your feet. Merely bend down and grab it.”

Between 1820 and 1864 when war, both in Denmark and the U.S.A., cramped migration, about 20,000 Danes emigrated to America. It wasn’t a lack of desire or adventurousness in young Danes which kept the figure from being even larger, but only the better-off could manage to travel or to send their more or less restless offspring to America. And it should



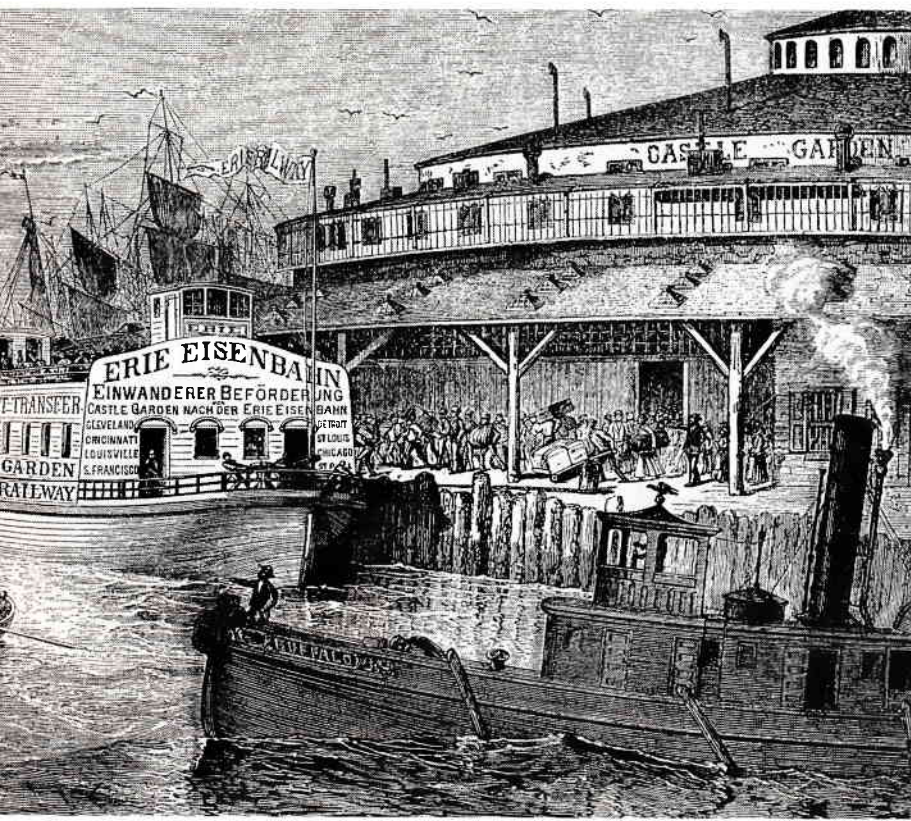
be remembered that the journey itself could easily dampen the enterprise of even the most courageous. Six to eight weeks of rocking in overcrowded ships on the Atlantic exposed the passengers to hardships barely imaginable in our coddled times.

The switch from sail to steam in transatlantic traffic did more than anything else to stimulate mass emigration. It was only after 1860 that steamers were technically advanced enough to be competitive in fares with sailing ships. At the same time, a slow though modest increase in working wages enabled a larger portion of the population to acquire tickets for America.

Two trends in the economy of emigration undoubtedly influenced the composition of the emigrating groups: On one side gradually declining ticket prices, on the other side slowly rising wages. During the 1870’s, ships to America were filled with people of more mature age groups over 30, many of them married. In contrast, the main mass of emigrants in the 1890’s consisted of very young people out for a “quickie” to America to try their luck. During the first year after 1865 the majority of emigrants were people in desperate search for a way out of their wretched situation in Europe, people who had bought the ticket for the last money they could scrape together and who did not expect to see their fatherland ever again.

In comparison with other nordic countries, Danish emigration to the U.S.A. was not overwhelmingly great – out of ca. 2.2 million Scan-

The full-rigged ship Monarch of the Sea was used in 1861 by 565 Scandinavian Mormon emigrants between Liverpool and New York.



Castle Garden in New York was the place where Danish immigrants first met the U.S.A. Drawing from the middle of the last century.

dinavian emigrants, some 300.000 were Danes. Two factors were primarily responsible that the America Fever didn't seize Denmark as strongly as, for instance, Norway. One was that Danish agriculture escaped the great crisis gripping Europe after 1870 in consequence of the huge amounts of cheap grain imported from America as the prairies gradually were cultivated. Danish farmers quickly shifted from grain growing to production of processed items such as butter, bacon etc. But the problem lay in fair land distribution and the creation of new rural small holdings for the landless proletariat. Rigid and antiquated land distribution was partly at fault that this did not succeed.

For that reason, many rural people packed their knapsacks and traveled to the cities to become industrial laborers. Here they had better chances than in Sweden or Norway. Denmark had been industrialized earlier, so relatively more could get jobs in the newly established factories.

But a great many couldn't adjust to the city. They missed rural life and work on the soil. To this came the disappointment that the higher wages in the city were accompanied by correspondingly higher costs of living. These disappointed people were the ones who called



Mormon immigrants crossing the desert. Probably the first Scandinavian book illustration of this event (1853).



Immigrant family with the goal of their dreams at journey's end: The new home on the prairies.

on the emigration agent to inquire about prices and about possibilities in the new world.

MOTHERLAND OF MORMONS

One thing special about Danish emigration to America was the relatively large number of Mormons who went from Denmark to Utah. As early as 1848, missionaries had been sent to Denmark from the Salt Lake beyond the Rocky Mountains. Their efforts were crowned with success. Before the Mormon Zion in Utah was closed in 1903, more than 16,000 Danes went there. Thus, Denmark was second only to England as the largest contributor in Europe to the Mormon state.

Numerous Danish-sounding names of persons and places attest to the many Danes in Utah. There was a great difference in the ratio between men and women among emigrating Mormons and other emigrants among whom men were in a large majority. Those who let themselves be baptized and persuaded to journey to Zion were in far the largest part women. This surplus of women among the Mormons may have been one of the explanations of the Mormons' polygamy. All these many women had to be "distributed" among the men and protected by them.

There were two areas in Denmark where the "America Fever" struck hardest. One of these was the southeastern part of the country, southern Zealand and the islands of Lolland-Falster, Langeland, and Bornholm. The other was the northwest, Jutland north of the Limfjord.

One should think that it was the population

of the poorest areas which first sought to emigrate. That was not true in Denmark. The southeastern part of the country includes the richest agricultural areas with the most fertile soil. That these areas were particularly hard hit by emigration was bound up with the fact that land was most expensive here. Young people wanting to settle and start a family couldn't afford to buy their own farms. Rather than serving as no-account day laborers the young went to the American prairies and settled there.

There also is a direct connection with the significantly larger migration which at the same time went on from rural districts into the cities. Research shows that emigration was particularly numerous in communities situated farthest from cities. Here one knew least of the urban temptations and preferred 160 acres of prairie land to a Danish mill town.

Danish immigrants didn't form isolated islands in American society. The Danes spread clear across all the states, liked to marry non-Danes, in other words, assimilated themselves in the local communities, and become yankees among other yankees.

Something over half of the Danish immigrants took homesteads on the prairies, most of them with other nationalities as neighbors. But some gathered in purely Danish settlements around a church or community hall. The first Danish settlement was founded in Wisconsin in the 1840's. It was here that we find the first of the 22 towns named Denmark and from here new "Denmarks" were established further West.

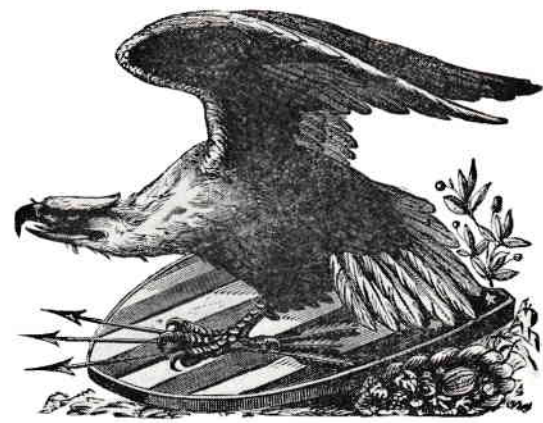
The first groups of Danes apparently came

»Father of the Eagle«
was the name given the Danish
painter Christian Guldager,
creator of the picture of
the young nation's national
symbol, the eagle.

Personnel of the Danish-
language newspaper, *The
Danish Pioneer*, assembled
outside the plant when
it was located in Washington
Hall, Omaha, Nebraska.



Interior of a Danish restaurant
in Chicago. Photo from 1898.



from South Sealand, Lolland-Falster, and Lang-
geland, and these became the Danish dialects
which sounded in the states then open for col-
onization, i. e. Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, and
eastern Minnesota. Jutlanders got the idea of
possibilities in America somewhat later, and
thus it was in Nebraska and western Iowa
that the Jutland tongue came to dominate
among Danes.

„ONE WORM KISS“

Emigration had a snowball effect. Between a
third and half of all emigrants in the 1880's
traveled on free tickets sent to them by rela-
tives in America.

Once an immigrant had worked in a factory
or on a farm in the U.S.A. for a year and had
saved his pennies, he had earned enough to
be able to buy a ticket from Copenhagen to
where he lived in America. Many of them
hired labor for their enterprises from among
friends and acquaintances back home in Den-
mark. They could pay them less than they
would American workmen – at least to begin
with. Many also brought over a wife from the
old country. After starting a homestead on the
prairies they yearned for at housewife and
companion.

A letter in which an immigrant wrote home
for at wife in 1907 may conclude this brief
survey. He had been in America for 14 years
when he wrote home to Katrine and courted
her with the following touching lines:

*“If you are unwed, you can find a good home
with me. I own my house in town and I earn
more than 10 Crowns per day. It's been about
20 years since we saw each other, and you
probably wonder who I am. My name is Ejner
who worked in Halsted for Adolf Jensen when
you were at the Andersens, and you were my
first love. If you cannot come, ask somebody
else who is willing to become a good house-
wife. My address is . . .*

*I shall write some words in English: J am
Loved uoy of all my Hart j hav bin driming af
bort uoy y hoppes dat uoy vill bi my vife
Respectifulli Good Bye
I am sand uoy one worm kiss”.*

*The author: Kristian Hvidt, Ph.D., is head of
the library and information service of the Da-
nish Parliament (Folketing).*

The Father of the Giants



Gutzon Borglum was the sculptor who created the world's largest monument, the four giant presidential heads at Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota. It is also the most prominent monument to an American of Danish descent.

For 20 years, Gutzon Borglum and a crew of 100 worked to create the monumental project which didn't always proceed smoothly. While it was under way, the State of South Dakota raised strong criticism, and in consequence, Borglum and his entire crew stopped work. After a change of mind in the capital, a delegation visited Borglum and asked him to continue. He obliged.

Borglum died in 1941. Some details of his gigantic work were still missing, but his son Lincoln who had helped his father for many years, carried on.

It was another of Gutzon Borglum's works which inspired him to create the great national memorial to four of America's most noted presidents. It was a bust of Abraham Lincoln in the Capitol in Washington which had aroused attention and wide recognition.

The name of Gutzon Borglum's father originally was Jens Møller. He came from Borglum in the North of Jutland. During the 1860's he emigrated to Omaha, Nebraska, where he became a physician but harbored artistic ambitions. He married, and the couple had two sons, Solon Hannibal and Gutzon who both became sculptors.

The home was Danish, and one spoke Danish with a Jutland accent.

Gutzon wanted to become an electrical engineer at first and hoped to study in Copenhagen, but his father didn't approve. Gutzon

studied sculpture, first in San Francisco and then in Paris with Stephan Sinding where he was joined by Anders Bundgaard, creator of among others the Gefion Fountain in Copenhagen.

Gutzon Borglum's works can be found all over America. His well-known Wilson statues stand in many a town. Before embarking on the Mt. Rushmore project, Borglum worked on a large relief of Robert E. Lee and his men which is hewn out of a cliff, Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, Georgia.

As a typical North Jutlander Borglum tolerated no criticism. At the slightest provocation he'd throw his hammer and chisel down and stalk off. The press reported a New York incident which was noted all over the country and dealt with Borglum's reaction when a priest criticized his work. Apparently, the faces of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, ordered for a chapel at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, were too feminine-looking. Borglum smashed the faces and remarked that he had read more about angels than anyone else, "but I have become convinced that the subject is one about which no one really knows anything at all." Then he made heads with more masculine faces.

There had been talk about burying Borglum at Mt. Rushmore, but this was given up and in 1944, his coffin was moved to Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, where he became the first "immortal" to be interred in the Court of Honor.

H. J. B.

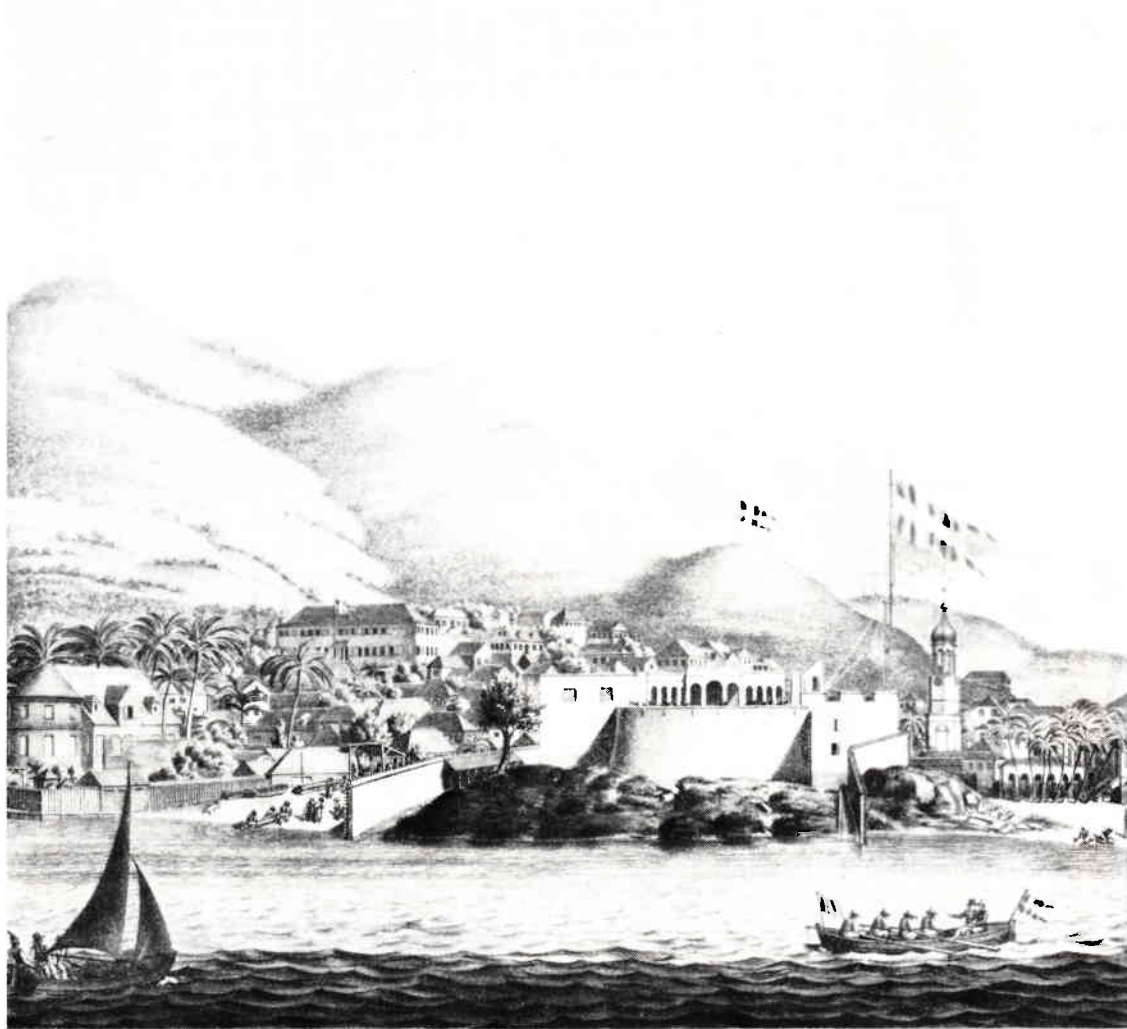
Gutzon Borglum.

Above left: The imposing Borglum monastery in Northern Jutland dominates the area from which Gutzon Borglum's father emigrated.

Jewel in Danish Crown Sold for 25 Million Dollars

By Tage Kaarsted

Sale of the three Danish West Indian islands, St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, to the U.S. in 1917 ended a quarter millenium of Danish colonial administration. Little Denmark's window to the wide world beyond was now shut.



“That fake . . .” wrote the commander of the Danish fleet, Admiral Kofoed-Hansen, in his diary in November 1915 about the cruiser *Valkyrien* which was then steaming across the Atlantic to the Danish West Indian islands. “An old ship with 16 to 17 knots top speed”, he continued, “a match box which will burn like a hay stack if hit by a single shell.” The ship had been dolled up with six extra cannons when in 1914 she was supposed to represent Denmark at the opening of the Panama canal. Firing them was out of question since no ammunition could be carried, and the admiral was convinced that in case of adverse weather, the low-slung vessel could never cope with the towering seas of the Atlantic. So why was this death trap of a ship sent on such a dangerous voyage while World War I was raging?

The answer was that the Danish public feared a workers' rebellion on the three sugar islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. The prominent Danish industrialist, G. A. Hagemann, had received a telegram from his plantation director in St. Croix which could be interpreted to that effect, and when it was made public in the press, the government thought it advisable to send a war ship to the islands to calm the scared population.

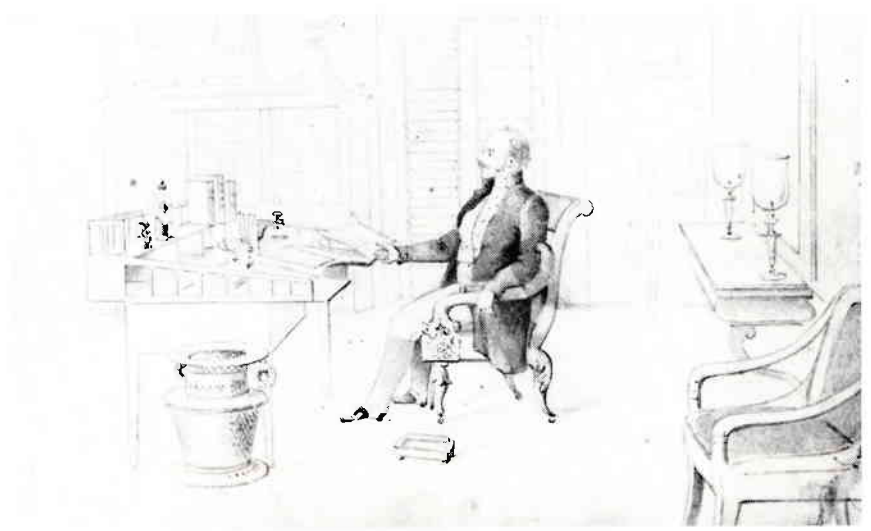
In any event, that's what was said. The truth was that at the time when news of the disturbances in the islands was received, something else had happened. On November 1, 1915, Foreign Minister Erik Scavenius disclosed very confidentially during a cabinet meeting that the American government had inquired whether Denmark would sell the West



Far left: Christianssted on St. Croix with the fort in the middle under the Danish flag. Drawing by Th. C. Sabroe 1837.

Left: A black woman photographed with her child on St. Thomas toward the end of the last century.

Governor General Peter von Scholten in his office in Government House, Christianssted, St. Croix. Pencil drawing 1843 or 1844 by Henry Morton. (Commerce and Navigation Museum at Kronborg, Helsingør).



Indian islands. The Copenhagen government believed that the presence of the Danish man-o'-war would prevent possible disturbances which might have an adverse effect on the sales negotiations.

DENMARK AS A COLONIAL POWER

The Danish West Indian islands had come under Danish sovereignty in the 17th and 18th centuries. We took possession of St. Thomas in 1666, St. John in 1717, and we bought St. Croix from France in 1733.

In addition, Denmark acquired small colonial possessions in India and on the Nicobar islands, as well as on the Gold Coast. Denmark wished to become a colonial power, but unfortunately, it joined the race too late. The

possessions were not lucrative, and eventually the Danish government started selling its colonies.

Possessions in India were sold in 1845, those in the Gold Coast area 1849, and the Nicobar islands colonies in 1868.

Only the Danish West Indies remained, but we wanted to dispose of them, too, namely to the U.S.A. A partial sale was just about to materialize in 1867 when the U.S.A. was willing to pay \$ 7 million for St. Thomas and St. John. However, the deal was never consummated, because Congress refused to ratify the sales treaty.

During the following years, the islands constituted a steadily diminishing asset for Denmark. Not only did a serious revolt break out in 1878, but to this came a drop of the



price of raw sugar by nearly one half after 1884. The primary reason for this was the increase of beet sugar in Europe. Since sugar production – partly in connection with the distillation of rum – was the prime source of income in the islands, the price decline was a serious blow to the islands' economy. One of its consequences was growing emigration from the islands.

The islands had a population of about 25,000, of which the main part was black, some were "colored" (i.e. of mixed race), while the whites belonged to two groups. One of these were the English-speaking planters of Irish or British descent, the others were Danish officials and soldiers. Malicious tongues claimed that besides the Danes, the only natives able to speak Danish were those who had served prolonged jail sentences in Denmark. The various races apparently lived peacefully side by side, and there was no such thing as racial discrimination. The colonial councils which gave the islands a certain amount of home rule included both black and mixed-race members. But the working class was black, and the ruling class was predominantly white.

THE OLD MAN SAID NO

After several years of back-stage negotiations, the sale was again about to be perfected in 1902. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, supported by President McKinley, tried hard to push the purchase by the U.S. through. After McKinley's assassination, the new president, Theodore Roosevelt, also approved the project. One of the motives was a desire to support Puerto Rico as a naval base with St. Thomas which has one of the best natural harbors in the West Indies. There also were fears in American government circles that Germany might usurp the islands.

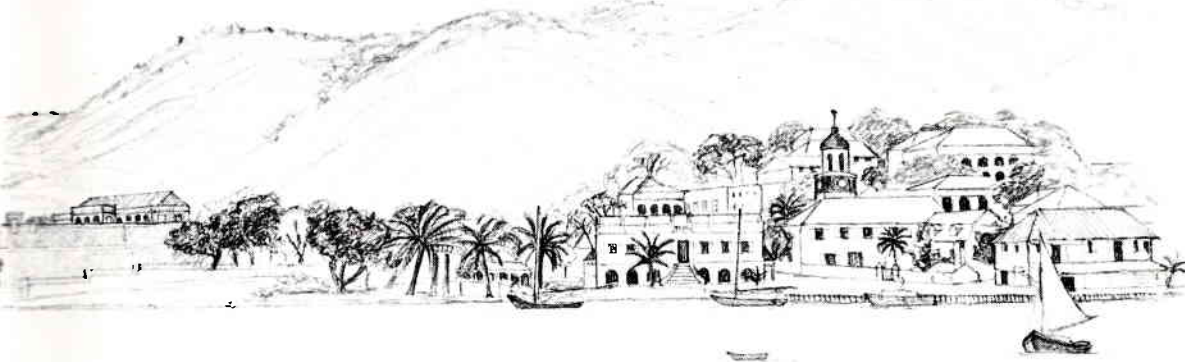
This time, a purchase price of \$ 5 million was approved in the U.S.A., but now it was the Danish parliament which backed off. Although the lower house ratified the treaty, the bill failed in the upper house by one vote, that of a 96-year old member who was carried into the chamber by his servants to cast his "Nay".

This prompted the composition of a popular little ditty which, translated into English, ran something like this:

*To buy the islands will probably fail
For the simple reason they're not for sale.*

During the ensuing years, many efforts were





made by the Danes to stimulate the islands' economy, but all attempts were in vain since they lacked a fundamental basis. Stagnation created unrest among the working population which now began to organize into labor unions – some of these against the whites – under David Hamilton Jackson who knew how to use strikes as a weapon. Such was the situation when World War I broke out.

THE MINISTER HAD LIED

The American government's interest in the West Indian islands continued to be considerable, and completion of the Panama Canal as well as the outbreak of the war only heightened it. The U.S. feared that Germany might seek a foothold in the Caribbean. Therefore, on October 28, 1915, Secretary of State Robert Lansing made an offer to the Danish government to buy the islands. He frankly admitted that U.S. defense interests were the determining motive. The Danish government gained the impression that the U.S. might feel obliged to occupy the islands if necessary, and this gave the government, which advocated the sale anyway, an effective trump card vis-à-vis opponents of the sale. An additional argument was that the U.S. had indicated that in connection with an eventual purchase of the islands it would recognize Denmark's sovereignty over all of Greenland. This last point was accepted by President Wilson, overriding Secretary Lansing, in order to remove all obstacles to a

sales treaty. The American minister in Copenhagen, Maurice Egan, asked the Danish foreign minister, Erik Scavenius, about the price, and Scavenius replied by pushing a piece of paper across to the minister. It bore the figure of \$ 30 million. Lansing answered from Washington with an offer of \$ 20 million, whereupon agreement came in the accepted style of meeting half way at \$ 25 million. The sales treaty was signed on August 4, 1916.

While all went well in the U.S.A., there was a mighty uproar in Denmark, popularly called the West Indian Hurricane. Rumors about the sale had circulated since July, and a newspaper had asked Finance Minister Edvard Brandes who was responsible for the islands, whether the rumors were true. In order to prevent diplomatic complications, strict secrecy had been one of the conditions for the sale and thus, the finance minister replied with a flat denial. It now developed that he had lied. This will occasionally happen to politicians. But it triggered a long-winded and partly hypocritical debate about the opportuneness of lying.

The West Indian Hurricane ended with the government being forced to include representatives of the opposition, so-called control ministers, and on December 14, 1916, a plebiscite about the sale was held in Denmark, but not in the islands. The result was not quite 300,000 for the sale, some 150,000 against. Election turnout was less than 40 per cent. More than anything else, the plebiscite proved that interest

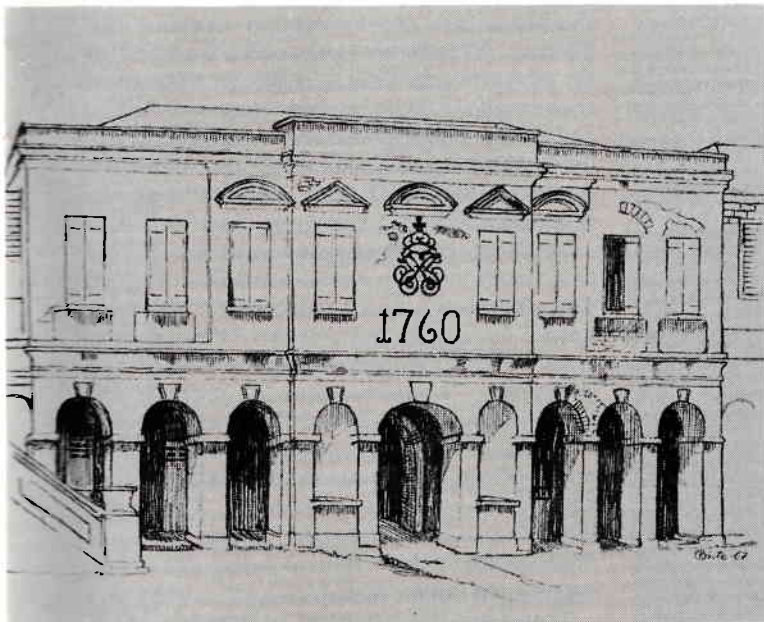
Above left: This woman carrying coal who is using the Danish flag as a personal decoration is called »A Happy Worker« on a postcard from 1916.

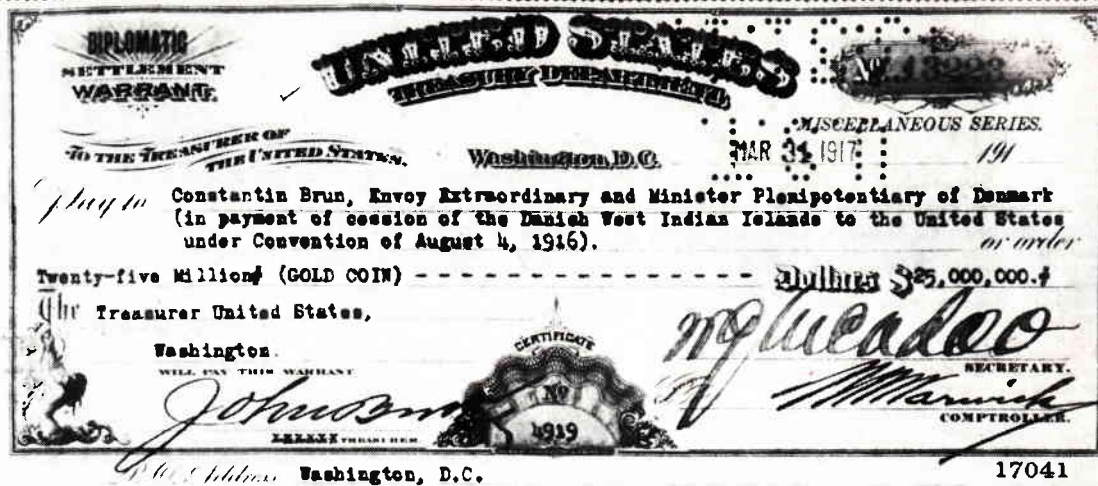
Below left: A Danish officer in front of hurricane damage in 1916.

Top: Christianssted on St. Croix seen from Protestant Quay. Drawing by Birte Lund 1967.

Bottom left: Main building of Frederiksted fort with the seal of King Frederik V. Drawing by Birte Lund 1967.

Bottom right: Natives celebrate New Year's at Christianssted with the performance of a Danish naval pantomime.





The check for \$ 25 Million (in gold) which gave the USA sovereignty over the Danish West Indian islands.

The indorsement of this Warrant must be technically and legally perfect and written in ink on indelible paper, or the Officer on whom it is drawn will refuse payment thereof. Indorsements by mark (X) must be certified to by two witnesses, giving their place of residence.

*Constantin Brun,
Envoy Extraordinary
and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Denmark.*

720
7100



The Danish envoy Constantin Brun (left) receiving the check.

in Denmark for the West Indian islands was really low. Only Danish nationalists and persons with connections to the islands could be induced to take a positive position.

The mood in the islands was overwhelmingly for affiliation with the U.S.A. That was true for whites, mixed-bloods and blacks. It was particularly true in St. Croix which was looking forward to exemption from the rather hefty import duties to the U.S.

Instruments of ratification were exchanged on January 17, 1917, but only after the House of Representatives had appropriated funds for the purchase could the islands be transferred to the U.S.

HE FELT AS IF CONDEMNED TO DEATH

While all this was going on, the islands had changed governors. It occurred in October 1916 when the commanding officer of the cruiser Valkyrien, Captain Henri Konow, was appointed governor ad interim. To this ultra-conservative man, fate must have seemed a paradox when he had to preside – against his innermost convictions – over the transfer of a piece of Denmark to a foreign power. But he loyally carried out his government’s orders.

Governor Konow’s opposite number was Commander Edwin T. Pollack who arrived from Haiti on March 30, 1917 as commodore

of a squadron consisting of the cruisers Hancock and Olympia. The transfer took place the following day. In his memoirs, Governor Konow reports that the tactful and intelligent conduct of Commander Pollack made the transfer ceremony considerably easier for him.

The ceremony was carried out with elaborate formality in the square near St. Thomas harbor between the fort and the salute battery. There is a lovely view from the square over the Caribbean sea out toward St. Croix in the distance. The transfer protocol was signed by the two officers in the commandant’s quarters at the port a few hours after Governor Konow had received a telegram from the Danish minister in Washington to the effect that the check for \$ 25 million had been deposited. Business is business.

In the square a detachment of the Danish navy faced another one of American sailors. The departing and the incoming governors saluted each other with drawn sabers, whereupon Governor Konow sounded in a loud voice in English: “Conforming to the order of His Majesty King Christian the Tenth of Denmark I have now with the representative of the President of the United States of America signed the Protocol for the transfer of the Danish West Indian islands to the United States of America, and I have now to fulfill this act by hauling down our old flag”.

Then came the command in Danish: “Atten-

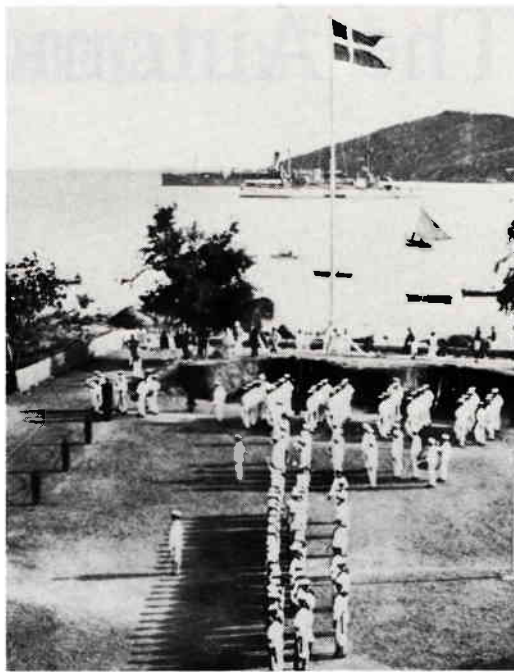
tion" and „Haul down the Dannebrog!" To the strains of "King Christian" the Danish national anthem, and while the guns of the war ships boomed their salute, the Danish flag was lowered. The two honor detachments switched places, and then Commander Pollack proclaimed his taking possession of the islands on behalf of the President of the United States of America. The Stars and Stripes were hoisted to the tune of "Hail Columbia".

A quarter millenium of Danish colonial administration had ended. A few days later, the U.S. entered the war. It was fortunate for Denmark that the transfer was completed while both states were neutrals. It is well possible that Germany might have felt offended if it had happened later – and it should be remembered that in those days, Denmark was considered to be within Germany's sphere of power.

THE EASY LIFE – LIVED DIFFERENTLY

The West Indian islands have been called a jewel in the Danish crown. For many there was something very special about the islands. These were the civil servants and officers who had been stationed there. They remembered the sun, the luxuriant plant growth, balls and parties with fireworks and firing of salutes from the old cannons. For them, the islands were an extra dimension of life, little Denmark's window toward the big world.

As conditions were, however, all recognized that the sale was irrevocable, and there was nobody one would rather sell them to than the U.S.A. Where sugar export once was the islands' principal income, tourist import soon took its place. And in that manner, Danes can meet Americans on old Danish soil where environment and the names of persons and streets remind of a not so distant past when Denmark owned colonies in the American hemisphere.



On March 31, 1917, the official transfer of the Danish West Indian islands to the USA took place in the square at St. Thomas harbor. On top, the Danish flag waves for the last time over the old colonies. In the middle, the flag staff is empty, and below, the Stars & Stripes fly for the first time over the new possession.



The author: Tage Kaarsted, Ph.D., is professor of modern history at Odense University.

The Automobile King



In this modest house (left) in Voldmester street in Copenhagen, the future captain of industry was born.

William S. Knudsen in the uniform of an American general.



Vilhelm Senius Knudsen was born in Copenhagen on March 25, 1879, as son of a customs official who had learned the cooper's trade. Although there were 10 children, four from a previous marriage, all received good schooling. Vilhelm was a good student and earned awards for his efforts.

Once school was over, Vilhelm became a commercial apprentice. Eventually, he wanted to see more of the world, and on a cold February day in 1900 he landed in New York with a good recommendation and \$30 cash in his pocket. He had no use for the recommendation, so he pitched it into the Hudson River.

William S. Knudsen, as he later called himself, was hired by a shipyard. After some months he went to work in a locomotive shop.

His life changed with the visit of his brother's former partner from Copenhagen who was headed for Buffalo on business and wanted a local guide. The call on Manufacturer William Smith caused Knudsen to change jobs though he had to take a cut in pay from \$100 to \$40 per month. He knew that there was no future in staying in the locomotive shop for 35 years as did his colleagues.

As Smith's right hand man he was sent to negotiate with Automobile King Henry Ford. A man in raincoat and soft hat received him and said quickly, "You are Knudsen, I am Ford". That's how simple it was, and the meeting resulted in a large order. When Ford took

over Keim Steel Mills, William S. Knudsen joined him.

During his 10 years with Henry Ford, William S. Knudsen advanced to production chief, itself a brilliant career. Ford's enterprises were developing rapidly. Big Bill, as he was called, soon became one of the leading men.

Why Knudsen left Ford has been the subject of much conjecture. Perhaps an incident at the Copenhagen assembly plant, where a question of authority had caused friction, gives us a clue. One day Knudsen received an indirect order from Ford. It was the first time Ford had not contacted him directly. Knudsen took it as a disavowal and resigned. Time and again Ford tried to get Knudsen back, but he didn't succeed.

William S. Knudsen wasn't out of work very long. Before the year was out he was organizing production of an other automobile, Chevrolet.

In January, 1924, Knudsen was appointed president of the Chevrolet Motor Company, and at the same time he was appointed a vice president of General Motors. He was 45 years old at that point.

The fight between the two giants in the American auto industry became tough. Knudsen was determined that the modest sales of the Chevrolet plant should overtake those of the Ford factories, and that they did. Knudsen's talents in production earned him the presidency of General Motors in 1938.

At the request of President Roosevelt, Knudsen took over management of U.S. war production during World War II. For this he earned the nominal salary of \$1 per year, an amount he himself stipulated. For five years, the most stringent demands that can be made on a single man were made on him. During that period, he managed to visit 1200 factories as top boss of 11 million workers in the war industry.

A visit to the Fisher body plant where the famous B-29 bombers were built, illustrated why he was so popular with the workers. A woman employee greeted him and Mr. Fisher with a loud, "Hello, boys!" This annoyed Fisher who gave orders to fire the worker. But Knudsen said, "No, on the contrary, promote her!"

In June 1945, Knudsen was able to retire from government after his mammoth effort and intended to resume his post with General Motors. But no, his former firm now considered him too old. This disappointment undermined his health, and on April 27, 1948, he died at the age of 69.

H. J. B.

Actor and Humanist

Jean Hersholt's name recalls a wealth of shifting images, not all connected with the world of film. He appeared in more than 200 movies, and his role as the old Dr. Christian was one which made him known and loved all over America. He built himself an unusual career in Hollywood, and he also became an institution for Danishness in America, for Danish-Americans and for film artists. The latter earned him one of his two Oscars which he received as president of the Motion Picture Relief Fund.

Together with William S. Knudsen he was one of two Danes whose names were household words from coast to coast.

Jean Hersholt was born in Copenhagen on July 12, 1886, and while attending drama school he worked for a while as a housepainter. In January, 1905, he made his debut in Copenhagen. He then played in Norway and Sweden, and in 1908, he emigrated to Canada. In 1914, he first came to Hollywood.

Hersholt never showed half-hearted interest in an issue; it was he who single-handedly saw to it that Denmark could fly its flag at the Los Angeles olympic games in 1932.

During the last three years of World War II, from 1943-1945, Hersholt served as president of the National America-Denmark Association, a committee which was started on May 4, 1940, by John Hansen, head of the Danish Brotherhood in America. It was an organization which covered the entire country and to which hundreds of well-known Danish-Americans belonged. After all, who could sit on his hands when the homeland was under the Nazi heel? Thus, the Danish flag could fly high with those of other nations.

The movies had captured Hersholt, but being an actor was not enough for this active man. His concern for his fellow men kept him active in many fields. He spearheaded establishment of the Danish home for the aged, *Aldersro*, and the California Denmark Home Foundation which enabled old immigrants to visit their native country.

Jean Hersholt received many honors. One of those which he appreciated greatly was his initiation into the Seneca Indian tribe. He received the name of Ha-ven-noat, which means, Famous Voice.

His favorite author was Hans Christian Andersen. He translated his fairy tales into English and he also published a Danish and an English edition of the correspondence between Andersen and his American publisher, Horace

E. Scudder, and the children's books, *The Evergreen Tales*.

At the main entrance to Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, stands the memorial friends have built for Jean Hersholt. It is the leading figure from one of the best-known fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen - Klods Hans. Edvard Eriksen who created Copenhagen's Little Mermaid made the symbolic sculpture for the actor, cultural pioneer and humanist, the Dane Jean Hersholt who became unique in Hollywood.

On June 2, 1956, Jean Hersholt died after a long illness, and Danes lost one of their most faithful advocates in their adopted land America.

H. J. B.



Jean Hersholt in one of his great character roles in the film, Sin of Man.

Peace and old-fashioned coziness prevailed in Copenhagen when Jean Hersholt was born here in 1886. A view of Kongens Nytorv with the well-known wine restaurant, Hviids Vinstue.



The American Dream or The Dream of America

By Henrik V. Ringsted

It was this dream which depopulated hundreds of communities in Scandinavia around the turn of the century and made Europe's children play Indians. The dream is still alive. Journalist, author and adventurer Henrik V. Ringsted sees it as a giant canvas on which one little area is painted each day. The picture grows bigger and bigger, but it is never complete.

As a solid part of the past two centuries of world history there exists a remarkably intangible but none the less concretely live concept called "*The American Dream*", or "*The Dream of America*".

In all history, no continent other than North America has inspired the cradle of civilization and culture, Europe, to any comparable concept and so durable a dream.

Through the centuries, thousands of explorers, scientists and researchers, missionaries and soldiers traveled to Asia, Africa, Australia and South America of their own free will, each with his own purpose: Exploration, enlightenment or profit, and connected with it, (why not?) conquest. Others came involuntarily: Conscripts on orders, or the outcasts of European society: Criminals and the "black sheep" of the rich families. The U.S.A., too, received its share of these.

But none of the other continents managed to create a dream of such vitality as did the U.S.A. Children simply don't play Kirgizians or Zulus – they play Indians.

It is true that some centuries ago, long before 1776, there existed in Europe a dream about the lovely and mysterious lands of the East, but on closer inspection, it couldn't hold up. The cultural gap was too wide. Little by little, that dream was reduced to trade connections and romantic notions. There never was such a thing as a mass migration eastward. But around the turn of the century, the Dream of America depopulated hundreds of communities in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway alone.

What's that dream all about?

I myself see it as a vast canvas an artist has set up with the task of painting it come what may. Each day he paints a small area, one day perhaps at one end of the canvas, the next day in a different one. In the end, the entire picture is to present a harmonious mosaic interpreting the "*Dream of America*". The picture isn't complete, and perhaps it never will be. The artist must hand his brushes to his successor, and that one on to those following him. So far we can only sketch the first areas of the giant painting. 200 years are but a drop in eternity, but something as ethereal as a dream which has endured so steadfastly is surely worth examining in passing.

THE KEY WORD IS FREEDOM

In its first phase there was no "*Dream of America*", but a strong and moving "*American*

Dream", dreamt by the first Americans themselves without any thought of exporting it.

In its revolutionary days, North America already was locked in the traditional European pattern. The strip along the Atlantic coast, dominated by white emigrants from Europe, was nothing but an object for exploitation, automatically run from London and Paris without the slightest regard for local conditions. Long before the revolution, and more than 100 years before Horace Greeley's dramatic counsel to the youth of the Eastern States, "Go West, young man!" the flight from European tyranny was in full swing. Frenchmen in Canada fled from serfdom in the French "Seigneuries" and became travelers or trappers just as Americans further south took to the large forests and became backwoodsmen or mountaineers. James Fennimore Cooper's old Leatherstocking, alias the young, idealistic freedom fighter, Natty Bumppo, also called „Pathfinder“, fled helter skelter from civilization all the way to the prairies. Farther out even than his prototype, Daniel Boone, to whose flight from the pest of tyranny to the great woods Lord Byron paid homage in his Don Juan. Somewhat incongruously, one should think, because neither Bumppo nor Boone seem to have been a great lover, but to Byron they were representatives of absolute freedom and of the right to self-determination, and therefore acceptable as characters in his enormous and today only partly readable poem.

The key word is freedom.

"All men are created equal", Thomas Jefferson wrote when he drafted the American Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Today, those five words do not seem as remarkable as they did two hundred years ago. In the 1700's, they were simply revolutionary, and the victorious freedom fight carried on by the new-born U.S.A. under that motto detonated the powder keg of the French revolution. And they remained the core of the American dream, dreamt by the Americans themselves, and later of the Dream of America for the Europeans.

It was Jefferson's first "self-evident truth", and Jefferson continued with the declaration that all men not only are created equal, but that their creator had given them certain inalienable rights: The rights to life, the right to liberty, and the right to pursue happiness where they wished. The declaration of liberty formed the basis of the constitution of the young nation and the famous first amendment thereto which deepened Jefferson's concept of freedom: "Con-



BUFFALO-BILL

Prærie Politi-Truppen.

Eneste Original-Udgave, autoriseret af Col. W. F. CODY, kaldet Buffalo-Bill.

Bind 10.

Pris 25 Ore.



Left: During the first part of the century Danish boyhood dreams of America were richly fed by the Buffalo Bill books which came out in virtually endless series and at a reasonable price. Here is a typical cover. Note that the title is in English.

Bottom: Alfred J. Millers painting, Fort Laramie, (ca. 1837) amply contains the naive ingredients of the dream of America: Indians, a primitive fort, and the prairies.

gress shall make no law abridging freedom of religion, the freedom of speech or of the press". Two hundred years later, it must be admitted that no political declaration has proved as durable as the American one. Nobody need be surprised that in such young and rough-and-tumble a society, internal fights and disputes, internal tensions and attempts to act against Jefferson's spirit would develop, but every time that the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution were contravened, the exposure of the conspiracies was carried out with particular thoroughness by the Americans themselves. Even today the worst enemy of America can't get around the fact that in his attacks he merely has to respect what courageous Americans themselves have said or written about their own country and its administration with greater effect and authority than any foreign propaganda mill could dream of grinding out.



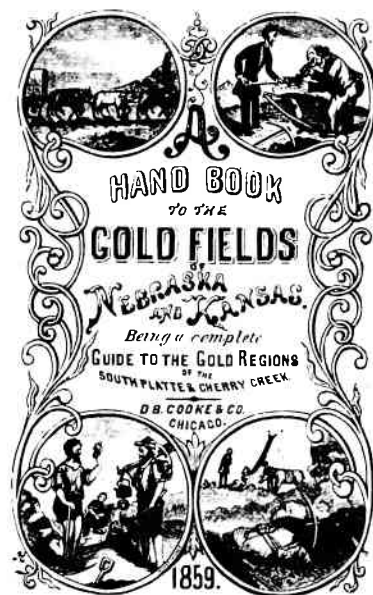
Top: Gold and gold diggers became a natural part of the Danish America dream.

Bottom: Cars and enormous harvests also were part of the dream, here illustrated by huge eggs and a giant potato being carted home. Postcard from ca. 1912.

TURN OF THE TIDE

At this point, let us start to fill out a new area of our big canvas and follow the development of self-criticism in the literature of the new state. It already was traceable in Cooper and Washington Irving, but both of these were still cloaked in British literary tradition. They stood out in selecting subjects from the new country, but they treated them in the English manner and followed in the footsteps of Sir Walter Scott. After a longish breathing spell when the new nation was trying to stand on its own legs and was busy with sorting things out, new genuine American tones were sounded by Hawthorne and Melville. Not long after the 100th anniversary of the nation, an impulse raced from France to the U.S.A. very much like 100 years earlier, Jefferson and his collaborators had lit a beacon. Zola and Balzac inspired the American authors to an analysis and a bitter correction of the course in which Jefferson's comet now floundered. What was left of his proud dream? Were people really equal, even on the premise that they were born equal? One thing was left in any case – freedom of speech, and that was what the new generation of authors made good use of.

It started comparatively tamely. Rex Beach still veiled his sharp attacks on the herring industry and the railroads with romantic love stories. Frank Norris and Theodore Dreiser showed themselves much more outspoken along the lines of Zola's format and example.



Jack London lent support in his bright moods, Upton Sinclair in his somber ones, and Sinclair Lewis topped them all by depicting poor trapped Mr. Babbitt and Main Street's dreary wretchedness.

Now the tide had turned. The incentive of the great Frenchmen had created an American literature which after barely one lifetime stood on its own feet and overwhelmed Europe with new inspirations for the old world's authors and poets. They were led by Anderson, Faulkner, Caldwell, Steinbeck, Dos Passos and Hemingway, while older ones such as Lee Masters and Walt Whitman were gradually rediscovered in their wake. It is a peculiar, almost grotesque example of Danish inertia in understanding America that American literature was recognized as a discipline of the philological faculty of Copenhagen University only in 1946, after World War II, and that only then the Royal Library in Copenhagen was launched on a great project of acquiring an adequate backup for this "brand-new" subject.

Dramatic literature, too, flourished amazingly with Eugene O'Neill, Elmer Rice, Maxwell Anderson and Tennessee Williams who conquered European stages. And David Wark Griffith and Thomas H. Ince created cinematographic art in the U.S.

That, too, is a part of our large dream picture, the rich first half of our century when the New World overwhelmed the artists of the old one with new inspirations and fresh impulses.

WEALTHY WONDERLAND

There are many explanations for this truly volcanic eruption. The most probable is that the young state had calmed down after the first hectic century, the violent, dramatic portion of our picture which tells of the opening of the West and the conquest and consolidation of the huge nation on most of the North American continent. It tells of its welding together in the bloody melting pot of the gruesome war between the states, the mass migrations from the old world to the new, the breathless industrialization, and stormy technical progress. America found time to pause and to under-



take an evaluation of all that had been accomplished in so incredibly short a time.

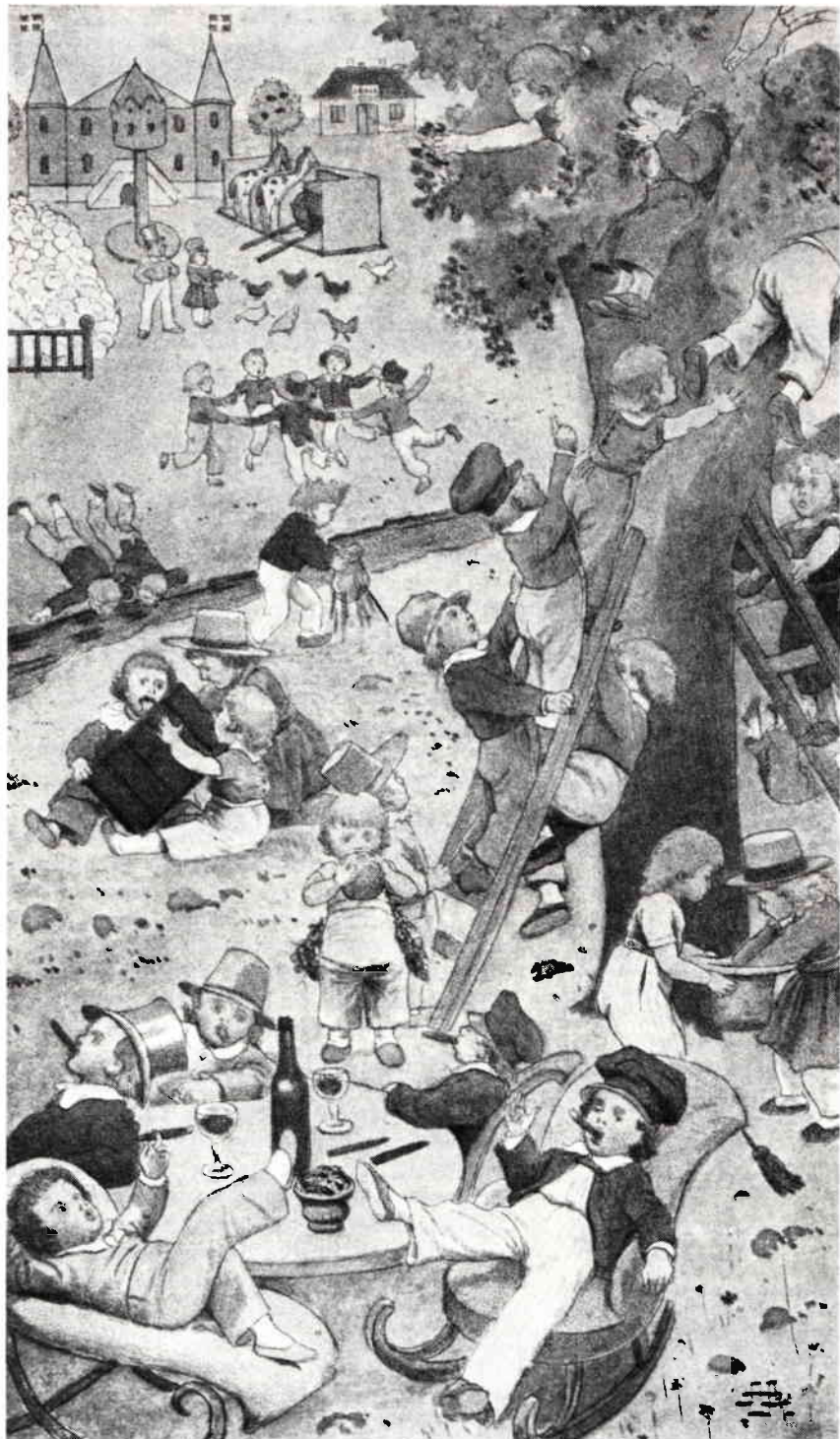
Time would tell, for our first key word, *freedom*, had now been joined by a new one, *wealth*. That America was in itself a rich land had already been known in colonial days, long before the discoveries of gold and silver around the middle of the last century. In the Danish poet Christian Winther's "*Flight to America*", the two little boys, who plan to run away to America interpret in their own way what they had heard the grown-ups say about America as a land of milk and honey:

» . . . Sugarplums and almonds which
from all the bushes drop.
And hail and snow with sweets aglow,
and rain is lemon pop! . . . »

The poem, here roughly translated, bears a striking resemblance to the old American folk-song about *The Big Rock-candy-mountain*. But Chr. Winther, writing about the middle of the last century, could hardly have known the American song. It is one of these strange cases, where the American dream and the dream of America blend into perfect identity.

The truth behind that childhood dream emerges from letters sent home by Danish emigrants collected by the Royal Library: "All the Danes who live here own homes, land, and animals", writes one of them. "Generally, a day laborer earns two dollars per day. During harvest time he gets four, or instead, four bushels of wheat. A poor man who comes here and works hard can soon become a man of means. A bricklayer tops all craftsmen, earning three dollars per day, both winter and summer, but the noblest work is animal husbandry. There is freedom in everything; there are no legal restrictions. Everybody can earn his living the way he wishes and in as many ways as he pleases. If God grants us a good harvest this year, my son Fritz can become proprietor or earn \$ 500 to \$ 600 in wages. What could a poor hired man or day laborer become in our own fatherland?"

No, there really was no question. And when such a letter was read out aloud and discussed in the family circle it was no wonder that the children adorned their dream about the wonderland with words and images drawn from their own world of phantasy. The naive dream which was fed by the pioneer wagon trains' phantastic treks across the prairies, sky high mountains, rushing rivers, fighting against the fury of uncontrollable elements and against wild Indians, the adventure of the railroads,



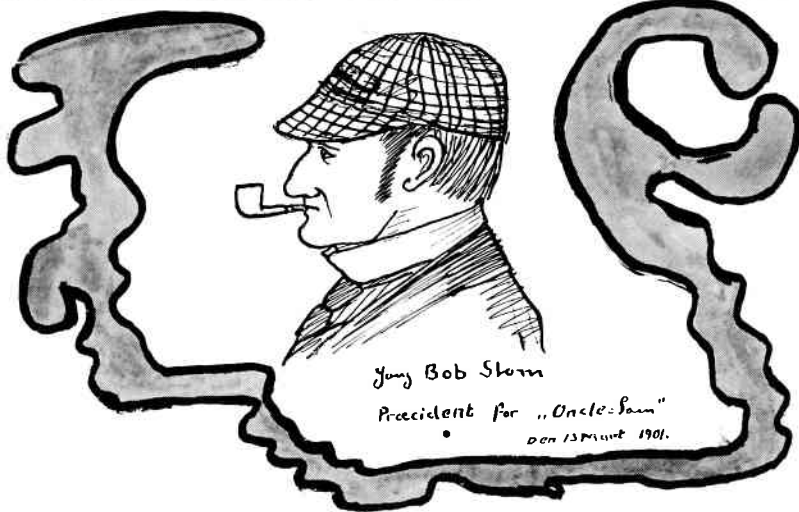
the chase after gold and silver – all these colorful events were kept alive by a popular literature flourishing wild and woolly in form of illustrated dime novels until in the beginning of our own century, motion pictures took their place, at first slavishly prolonging in other countries an epoch which the Americans themselves already had put behind them.

America was paradise also for the children, as shown by Alfred Schmidt's charming illustration of the poem, »The Flight to America«, 1909.

NO CITY IS MORE BEAUTIFUL

Around the turn of the century, the young butcher's apprentice who was to become Denmark's most popular humorist, Robert Storm Petersen, founded a boy's club, a sort of early scout movement with high ideals, which was copied from the Anglo-Saxon world. He called it "Uncle Sam". In a fine report to the club,

MIN REJSE



The gifted Danish artist, R. Storm Petersen, also flirted strongly with the American dream in his youth. Here he has pictured himself in Nick Carter uniform in his capacity of president of an Uncle Sam club in 1901.

Storm Petersen described his first journey to Norway and England and pictured himself on the title page similar to the front page vignette of Master Detective Nick Carter on the illustrated dime novels of the same name then known by all boys – but with Sherlock Holmes cap and pipe. In those days, Uncle Sam was not understood here at home as a satirical caricature, but as a kind of comfortable and benevolent father image, much used in the growing advertising business for, among others, tobacco and men's clothing. Later, Storm Petersen grew up to become one of our leading Mark Twain interpreters.

Danish author Johannes V. Jensen had another dream on a more philosophical plane, when he saw New York again in the thirties – “You won't find a more beautiful city.”

“... After Europe had spent centuries splitting itself into small compartments, different languages, different nationalities, a new leap forward in history shook all inequalities together. It was a new start, the possibility of creating one nation, one single body politic out of the incompatible parts of the old world. That is the formula for the new society beyond the Atlantic, the commonwealth of people tried again from the beginning, but including all elements. The process is still going on, but nowhere so far-reaching and so intense as in New York. The city captivates like an anthropological laboratory, a birthplace for a new humanity, more than any other in the world. The first thing one encounters in America is the impression of a civil spirit, the basic character trait, the nerve fibre of the American people from the first moment the North American free states established themselves as an independent nation.”

DESIGN OF THE FUTURE

Our picture of the American Dream won't be finished today, and it wasn't intended to be. Many fields on the giant canvas are still waiting to be filled out. In 200 years, the U.S.A. has gone through all the phases of development which the old world required four or five times longer to digest: The way from virgin wilderness to fully industrialized world power – three quarters of the time still with its back deliberately turned to the old world in virtually bullet-proof isolationism. Much was done wrong, many mistakes and sins were committed during that phantastic race, and these now wait for correction or for possible atonement. Johannes V. Jensen's anthropological laboratory still works full steam and still has not been able to deliver any final report. Who could expect it, anyway? Why this impatience toward the U.S.?

For instance, the area on the dream canvas where the problem of the Blacks should be depicted is still far from finished. Integration is in full and creditable swing, but the problem is much more recent than most realize. Both fathers of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson and Washington, were slave holders, and Abraham Lincoln who 100 years later saved the Union, expressly stated that the war between the states was first and foremost fought to maintain the union of the United States, not to abolish slavery. We Europeans would sometimes do well to climb into our fine, white ivory towers to remember that negro slavery was America's heavy heritage from our own forefathers. We should ask ourselves, for instance, just how good our conscience really is, and examine our own attitude toward today's problem of foreign workers in our country.

So we must leave an incomplete picture behind. For better and for worse, the future itself will keep filling it out, but there is no reason why we cannot hope and pray that it will be for the better. The American Dream is still alive, even if on our journey onward into the future we must be prepared to shed a bit of its old, fanciful romanticism.

The author: Henrik V. Ringsted, M.A., is an author, journalist and former foreign correspondent of the daily newspaper, Politiken.

The Big Voice

Peter L. Jensen, inventor of the loudspeaker, was born 1886 in a small thatch roof house on the Danish island of Falster. It was a poor home. His father was a harbor pilot and owned a small property of a few acres. There were six children of whom Peter L. was the fourth.

It was natural that the boy should be sent to sea at the age of 14. Peter's mother had ambitions that her fourth son should become a sea captain.

As it turned out, he made his way in entirely different fields. An interested teacher called attention to the boy's considerable gifts and recommended sending him to study at the university. He already had been to sea but was seasick the whole time which prompted his tough father to call him depreciatingly, "tailor."

An emigrated Dane, Lemvig Fog, had returned from Brazil as a man of means. He was the financial backer of Valdemar Poulsen who had invented the internationally known steel recorder, called "Telegrafon" in Danish, only a few years before.

Knowing the harbor pilot's family, Fog heard that the father had died in a ship's accident. Recognizing Peter's talents, he urged the young man to take up a technical occupation. Peter was hired as an apprentice mechanic by Valdemar Poulsen and thus started the career which 15 years later made him known from coast to coast in the United States.

Years passed, and one day two complete radio stations were to be shipped to America. Peter L. Jensen was offered a trip to California to supervise installation, which he accepted enthusiastically. That was in 1909. A company named Poulsen Wireless Telephone and Telegraph Company was founded, and Peter L. Jensen was hired.

The stations, one in Stockton and the other in Sacramento, were equipped with wireless telegraph communications and as something new in America, an automatic transmitter and receiver was installed which was capable of sending 300 words per minute in Morse code.

At the Sacramento station, Peter L. Jensen met a young American, Edwin S. Pridham, with whom he later was to develop the loudspeaker which became known under the name of Magnavox.

After countless experiments and problems which had to be solved, the *San Francisco Bulletin* finally wrote on December 25, 1915, "Crowd Jams Civic Center - Hundred Thousand Hail Christmas Festivities".

Days in advance, the press had stated that

it would be possible to send the sound of speech so far that even people more than 3000 feet away would be able to hear it. Many were understandably sceptical, but all were curious and came. Between 75,000 and 100,000 people gathered to hear "the great voice."

And so it rang across the square in front of city hall: "Citizens of San Francisco! This is a unique occasion because we are witnessing the first public demonstration of a marvellous invention called Magnavox, created by two young men, Peter L. Jensen and Edwin S. Pridham. I venture to predict that although these young people will become world-famous with their invention, they never will be prouder than they are tonight when they have the privilege of demonstrating the result of their inventive genius to their fellow Californians."

H. J. B.



Peter L. Jensen.

Peter L. Jensen lived in this house on the northern tip of the island of Falster in his childhood.



Denmark Joins the Atlantic Community

By Erling Bjøl

Denmark was led into Atlantic cooperation by its envoy to Washington, Henrik Kauffmann, in 1941. This was expanded by Denmark's adherence to the Atlantic Treaty eight years later. — Despite geographic distance, Danish-American cooperation rests on extensive common ground in culture, attitudes, and style of life.



Geographically speaking, Denmark including the Faroe Islands and Greenland is an Atlantic nation. From a political point of view, it is fair to say that it acquired an Atlantic orientation only during World War II. Similar to the U.S.A., it had until then conducted an isolationist policy of neutrality although the background for this was a great deal different for Denmark than for America.

For Denmark there was no other choice. After Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933, Danish Prime Minister Thorvald Stauning carefully explored possibilities for defense cooperation with Sweden and Norway, but ran into a clear no, particularly from the Norwegian government.

During the multilateral negotiations between the Nordic countries, Danish Foreign Minister Dr. P. Munch also expressed the opinion that a Nordic defense arrangement would have little meaning without participation of a major power. What he had in mind was Great Britain. But when Prime Minister Stauning visited London in 1937, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden made it clear that Denmark could not count on any guarantee from the British.

The only available foreign policy option was

that of accommodation toward Hitler. Even Winston Churchill conceded this. On February 3, 1940, he told Danish newsmen in London: "I cannot blame Denmark. Others have a ditch across which they can feed the tiger, but Denmark is so frightfully near Germany it would be impossible to bring help. In any case, I cannot undertake to guarantee Denmark."

Still, the Nazi invasion of Denmark on April 9, 1940, came as a shock for the Danish population, and the subsequent five years of occupation were a traumatic experience which provided the incentive for the Danes to relinquish their traditional policy of neutrality.

The first practical step in that direction was taken exactly one year after the German attack. On April 9, 1941, the Danish minister in Washington, Henrik Kauffmann, signed an agreement with the U. S. government which placed bases in Greenland at the disposal of the U.S.A.

To be sure, America was not yet at war with Germany, but the Greenland accord was so clearly against German interests that the government in occupied Copenhagen sharply disavowed its own envoy in Washington.

As early as on the day after the German invasion, i.e. on April 10, 1940, Kauffmann

had declared that he would henceforth refuse to accept orders from the Danish government which from now on had to be regarded as being under a German protectorate.

The German attack on Copenhagen had been so completely unexpected that the Danish government, in contrast to the Norwegian one, had no chance of escaping from the capital to go abroad. It had to stay and try to make the best of a hopeless situation.

Kauffmann was the first Dane to stand up against the Nazi occupation power. With the Greenland agreement he also became the one who first led Denmark into Atlantic cooperation. All in all, he did more than any other Dane to develop ties between Denmark and the U.S.A.

AMERICANS ON GREENLAND

Contrary to Canada, the U. S. had not shown any particular interest in Greenland immediately after the occupation of Denmark. But when the Nazis overran France, things changed. A declaration was issued at a Pan-American meeting in Havana on July 30, 1940, stating that non-American territories in the Western hemisphere threatened with becoming objects of "territorial barter or changes of sovereignty" could be placed under temporary U.S. administration. This was construed as a U. S. guarantee against German military use of Greenland.

That's as far as it went to start with. But the Canadians and the British urged construction of an intermediate landing strip in Greenland which would make it possible to ferry airplanes with a normal radius of less than 1000 miles from Gander, Newfoundland, to Great Britain by air. The State Department realized that installation of an Allied base could trigger counter moves from the German side. In February, 1941, the American government decided, therefore to start negotiations with Mr. Kauffmann about the establishment of American bases.

After the Lend-Lease law was enacted in the U. S. on March 11, 1941, the Germans extended their war zone to include the Denmark Straights between Iceland and Greenland. This spurred the negotiations to their successful conclusion.

The U. S. explicitly recognized Denmark's sovereignty over Greenland in the Greenland treaty. This was a reiteration of an American point of view already established in 1917 when the U. S., in acquiring the Virgin Islands, explicitly recognized Danish sovereignty over all



of Greenland, the first country to do so. The treaty authorized the U. S. to build two air bases on the island, one in Narssarsuaq and one in Søndre Strømfjord, labeled respectively Blue West I and Blue West VIII. They proved to be of great help in ferrying planes to Europe by air, out of the reach of German U-Boats which threatened sea transports.

During its first session after Denmark's liberation on May 16, 1945, the Danish parliament unanimously ratified the Greenland Treaty.

One of the passages of the treaty states that it "shall remain in force until it is agreed that the present danger to peace and security of the American continent has passed."

A NEW THREAT

Germany's defeat took care of that, and Danish personnel now assumed operation of the meteorological stations in Greenland which were of such vital importance to the safety of transatlantic air traffic.

But a new threat against the American continent resulted from the growing tension in relations between the U. S. and the Soviet

Left: American soldiers enjoy a meal in Northeast Greenland during World War II. Although it is mid-night the sun is shining.

Top: Prime Minister Hans Hedtoft (right) in animated conversation with King Frederik IX.

Danish Defense Minister Gustav Rasmussen signs Denmark's accession to the Atlantic Pact. Behind him the Danish ambassador to the U.S., Henrik Kauffmann.

Union. At the same time, the technological developments since 1941 lent the Arctic regions a brand-new strategic importance. The shortest air route between the Soviet Union's „industrial heart” and the U. S. “industrial heart” crossed right over Greenland.

The radius of action of SAC bombers at that time made Greenland a logical launch area for raids on the USSR. It will be remembered that in the first post-war years, SAC was the cornerstone of U. S. defense strategy. When the Danes raised the question of winding up the Greenland agreement, the American government replied on May 2, 1947, that it was will-

ing to discuss the entire Greenland issue to find a solution which “takes into consideration Danish sovereignty over Greenland as well as the defense interests of the United States and the Western hemisphere.”

The new negotiations were still carried on by Ambassador Kauffmann. But before they were concluded by the new Greenland agreement of April 27, 1951, a decisive change had taken place in the relations between Denmark and the U.S.A., inasmuch as they had become allies when both joined the Atlantic Pact.

NATO SIMPLIFIED THE PROBLEM

There was no intrinsic connection between Denmark's adherence to the North Atlantic Treaty and prolongation of the Greenland agreement. Remember that the U. S. was able to maintain a base on Cuba even after relations between the two countries had ceased to be friendly! But in the case of Denmark, its NATO membership simplified the problem, to say the least.

On February 22, 1949, Ambassador Kauffmann touched upon this in a report to Copenhagen in which he wrote: “If Denmark becomes a member of the Atlantic Pact, the Greenland issue will more or less take care of itself. If Denmark rejects membership, we must expect that not only the U.S.A. but also other NATO members will demand from Denmark one or the other long-range treaty arrangement incorporating Greenland as a link in the North Atlantic security system.

Should Denmark reject these demands for a treaty arrangement in addition to refusing membership in NATO, it could seriously strain our relations with the American government and the American public which feel that the U. S. has a legitimate interest in adequate military protection for Greenland as a part of the Western hemisphere. If on the other hand, Denmark concludes a new Greenland agreement, we will arouse Russia's displeasure without being protected by the North Atlantic Pact at the same time. Unfortunately, it would be unrealistic to believe that the American people would be so grateful for a new Greenland agreement that this would prompt the U.S.A. to go to war if Russia demanded bases in Denmark as a consequence of the new agreement on Greenland.”

This particular argument stemmed from the fact that three years previously, in the spring of 1946, the Soviet Union had withdrawn from the Danish Baltic island of Bornholm, the only





part of Danish territory which had been liberated by the Red Army.

NO AMERICAN PRESSURE

It must be added that according to available Danish records there is nothing to indicate that fear of Soviet compensation claims regarding Bornholm influenced those in responsible position who in February/March 1949 decided to seek Danish membership in the North Atlantic Treaty.

As Ambassador in Washington, Henrik Kauffmann was still an important figure during the negotiations, but the key person in the historic decision to break with the old Danish tradition of neutrality doubtlessly was the Social Democratic Prime Minister, Hans Hedtoft, whose premature death at the age of 51 in 1955 deprived Denmark of a statesman of unusual caliber.

From Kauffmann's report quoted above one could gain the impression that Denmark was subject to American pressure to join the Atlantic pact. Historic facts do not bear this out. America had a clear strategic interest in Norway. According to Kauffmann's report, "the predominant U.S. strategic interest in Scandinavia [lies] in South or Southwest Norway." Kauffmann continued: "In agreement with Scandinavian experts, American military planners obviously figure that it eventually will not be feasible to hold Denmark. They believe, however, that with modern means it will be possible to close the Baltic reasonably effectively, provided Southwest Norway is under con-



trol. Some of them stated frankly that Denmark itself would almost be a military burden."

As Churchill had put it in 1940, Denmark was still located „frightfully near the tiger”.

This vulnerable strategic position changed when the Federal Republic of Germany was admitted to NATO in 1955. But in 1949, the vulnerability was strongly felt, especially after Norway had decided to join the Atlantic Pact.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NORWAY

As early as 1947-48, Denmark was drawn into a different form of collaboration with the

Top: On May 15, 1953, the Danish fleet takes over LSM 500 in Charleston, S.C. She becomes H.D.M.S. Hjaelperen.

Bottom: After World War II, Greenland became an important link in the warning and surveillance system of the Western world. Here is one of the large radar installations at Thule.



American eating habits and fashions have made their mark in every-day Denmark, as can be clearly seen in these pictures of Copenhagen.

U.S.A. under the Marshall plan. Denmark received \$ 271 million in Marshall aid, a valuable handshake after the systematic looting to which the country had been subjected under the Nazi occupation.

But for several reasons it was natural that it should fall to Norway to set the tone of Atlantic orientation in the security area.

To start with, the Norwegians had already developed close political and personal contacts with the Western powers during the war through their government-in-exile in London. Secondly, in the fall of 1940, the Foreign Minister of the Norwegian London-government, Trygve Lie, had pondered plans to solve Norway's security problems after the war through a North Atlantic Compact. Thirdly, during the last year of the war and the first post-war year, the Soviet Union showed a more active interest in Norwegian than in Danish territory.

Finally and decisively, it was not the Danish foreign minister but the Norwegian Halvard Lange who, in March 1948, after Stalin's proposal of a Soviet-Finnish mutual assistance pact, received warnings from a prominent Soviet diplomat that his country could expect an initiative similar to that received by Finland.

That was the reason why Lange contacted Ernest Bevin. The Swedes countered with another proposal of a Scandinavian defense union, a solution initially more appealing to the Danes than plans for a Western defense compact.

During the course of the Nordic defense negotiations, which ran into the beginning of 1949, it became evident that Sweden neither could assume a guarantee of the integrity of Northern Norway nor could it deliver the arms necessary to bring Norwegian and Danish defenses up to Swedish levels. Only the U.S.A. was capable of doing that. But Dean Acheson let it be known that the allies of the U. S. had priority for such supplies. Other countries



would have to wait. This was the determining factor for Norway which had leaned toward an alliance with the Western powers all along. Thus, the Nordic option was out.

DANISH-AMERICAN BASES

After conclusion of the Atlantic Treaty, the U. S. and Denmark arrived at a new Greenland agreement in 1951. Contrary to the 1941 agreement, the new one did not give the U. S. special bases in Greenland. Instead, joint Dan-



ish-American defense areas were established. The navy base of Grønødal, until then operated by the Americans, became a purely Danish operation, and three joint Danish-American bases were set up: Thule, Sønder Strømfjord, and Narssarssuaq.

As technological development progressed, it was the new Thule base in Northwest Greenland which became particularly important from a military point of view.

A large part of the construction work was carried out by Danish firms, and so were many service and maintenance jobs.

When the ICBM threat to the American continent became an increasing reality from the late fifties on, Greenland played a new important role in the defense of the Western hemisphere by becoming a part of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line and the BMEWS (Ballistic Missile Early Warning) system.

As Murmansk-based atomic submarines assumed an ever greater role in the Soviet second strike force, the sea lanes between Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe islands and the Shetlands gained importance as a corridor through which Russian vessels move in and out of the Atlantic.

Denmark maintains that the Greenland agreement of 1951 will remain in effect as long as Denmark is a member of NATO. This membership has had solid popular support, though in varying degrees over the years, from 58 per cent for and 17 against in 1949, to a low of 39 for and 20 against in 1968, and today's 51 for and 20 against, according to the Danish Gallup institute and the newspaper, *Berlingske Tidende*.

When Denmark joined the European Economic Community in January 1973, all parties supporting that membership emphasized that Danish security policy should continue to be based on NATO and not upon any special European defense collaboration. In conformance with that policy, Denmark never joined the Western European Union which was formed by the Brussels Treaty of 1955. In June, 1975, the Danish E. C. commissioner, Finn Gundelach, was the only one to turn thumbs down on a commission proposal for cooperation in European defense.

POSITIVE TOWARD THE U. S.

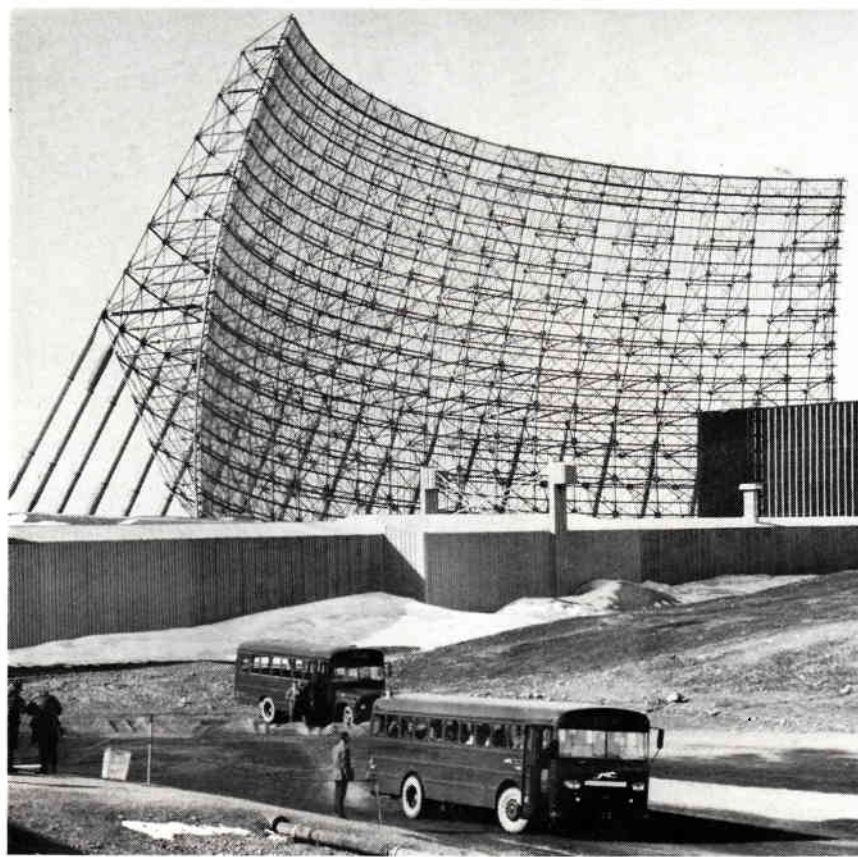
Human and cultural contacts across the Atlantic developed also outside the NATO framework. The considerable role played in this by scientific exchanges should be especially stressed. It constitutes a true revolution since World War II.

The new cultural influx across the Atlantic which began immediately after the war manifested itself in an invasion of American phrases, concepts, habits, and fads.

We began to say *o.k.* and *hot dogs*, *baby-sitter* and *know-how*, to *brief* and to *check*, *image* and *happenings*, *pin-ups* and *strip tease*, *jeep* and *juke box*. We began to drink *juice* and *cocktails*, to establish *cafeterias* and *supermarkets*, to build *motels* and *drive-ins*, to put on *blue jeans* and to drink *Coca Cola*, to sponsor *teach-ins*, and we sang *We shall overcome*, even though it wasn't clear what it was that Danes should overcome.

But the generation which grew up in a new world of universal communications made America's problems our own, a form of Americanization process in a style which paradoxically enough would often manifest itself as anti-American in content. A number of opinion polls carried out in Denmark in 1972 did, however, show an overwhelmingly positive attitude of the population toward the U.S.A., no matter what impression might be raised by a vociferous minority.

Loved or hated? Never mind. The U.S. has left a strong imprint on Denmark. Here Virginia Pinkerton studies signs in her mother tongue in Wonderful Copenhagen.



This gigantic radar aerial near Thule on Greenland stands as a symbol of Danish-American cooperation.

These opinion polls, conducted by the Institute of Political Science of Aarhus University, show that among the Danish population, there is a clear majority reflecting a positive attitude toward the U. S.

Despite the geographic distance, American-Danish cooperation rests on impressive common ground in the field of culture, opinions, and ways of life. This has brought about a relative absence of tensions, though there were, of course, the inevitable economic conflicts of interest and disagreements on global policies. But these never differed greatly from those which considerable groupings in the U. S. have expressed themselves.

Gross distribution of general positive and negative attitudes toward U.S.A. and selected other countries (%).

	USA	USSR	Federal Germany
positive	35	13	44
very positive	11	2	16
negative	14	30	7
very negative	5	19	3
neither-nor	35	36	30

Source: Peter Hansen: *Danish Attitudes toward America*. Aarhus 1974.

There are more detailed polls concerning the U.S.A. which shed a better light on Danish opinions about their transatlantic allies:

The author: Erling Bjøl, Pol.Sci.D., is professor of political science at Aarhus University.

Acceptance and rejection of beliefs about the USA (%)

	Totally Agree	Partly Agree	Partly Disagree	Totally Disagree	In Doubt
It is the US we can thank for peace and security	36,6	21,4	12,2	10,7	19,1
The US interferes too much in the affairs of other countries	(22,9)	33,6	19,8	8,4	15,3
The Vietnam-war has shown that the foreign policy of the US constitutes a greater danger to World Peace than that of the USSR	(10,7)	10,7	29,0	23,7	26,0
The US takes too much advantage of its power and money in order to dominate the cooperation with other countries	(23,7)	28,2	19,1	8,4	20,6
The US, more than any other country, is a guardian of freedom and democracy	30,5	22,9	15,3	9,2	22,1
American Capital has too much influence in Western Europe	28,2	19,8	16,0	9,2	26,7
The Americans are domineering and ostentatious	19,8	16,0	22,9	19,1	22,1
The growing Americanization is a threat to Danish Culture	10,7	13,0	17,6	31,3	26,7



The Atlantic Ocean

A thousand-year-old connecting link

In commemoration of the bicentenary of the American Declaration of Independence, the Royal Danish Post and Telegraph Service has issued a series of four stamps illustrating maritime links between Denmark and the United States of America from the Viking Age to our days.

The stamps, designed by the Danish artist Claus Achton Friis, are sold at a surcharge of 20 øre each in aid of a further expansion of Danish-American relations in humanitarian, cultural and educational fields.

The *Skuldelev 1* dates from about 950 A.D. It is assumed that ships of this type were used in the first expeditions to Wineland.

The *Thingvalla* was built in 1874-75 and put into regular service between Copenhagen and New York, mainly carrying emigrants.

The *Frederik VIII*, built in 1912-13, plied between Copenhagen and New York from 1914 to 1935. She accommodated about 1250 passengers.

The Government training ship *Danmark*, built in 1932-33, provides basic maritime training. During World War II she was used by the U.S. Coast Guard.

