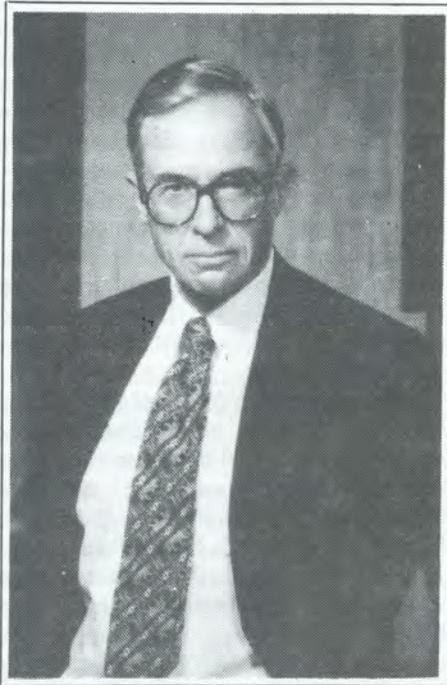


SCANDINAVIAN CONTACT

Newsletter of The American Scandinavian Society of New York, Inc.

Editor: Erik J. Friis

President: Charles F. Brush, Ph.D.



Charles F. Brush.

President's Letter

August 24, 1983

Last December 2, the day before our annual Christmas Ball, the Trustees of the American Scandinavian Foundation voted to sever formal connections with all their 29 chapters. Such action is virtually unprecedented by tax exempt organizations working in the public interest; volunteers are usually valued and nurtured. Over the following months representatives of the Chapter met on numerous occasions with trustee committees; we sought to work out some basis for volunteer cooperation with the Foundation. These discussions proved unproductive and on May 17th the New York Chapter incorporated under its original name, The American Scandinavian Society of New York, Inc. and I became President.

Numerous matters had to be attended to were our newly independent organization to survive.

Early in June I invited the five Nordic Consuls General to become Honorary

Members of our Society. All accepted and their letters of encouragement were heartwarming. There is support for our democratically organized all-volunteer Society.

Our first appeal for dues has been mailed. The response was very good, and I can state with happy assurance that we are now a fully viable membership organization.

Bob Pearlman designed a logo for us and has agreed to do all our design work. Stationery and membership forms have been printed, membership cards will be distributed shortly and membership pins before Thanksgiving.

This is our first Newsletter and I hope it becomes a real "Scandinavian Contact" for we plan to include brief notices of events being held by other Nordic organizations in the City. We have asked them to keep us posted on coming events and I expect this section will expand.

The actions of the Foundation with respect to their volunteers is unprecedented and of great sociological interest. I have asked Peter Dybing, our past President, to maintain contact with all former ASF chapters. We will note chapter responses again in the next Newsletter and provide a full report on all of them next February.

Erik Friis has volunteered to edit our Newsletter. Because of Erik's absences from the country and my semi-incapacity this past month (shingles in the eye), parts of this publication have been compiled by my assistant, Jean Taylor. I am truly grateful to both Erik and Jean. All material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the Society's office in New York (see masthead).

In conclusion, I emphatically state that, while I find the action of the Foundation Trustees in dissolving their chapters highly bizarre, neither I nor the Society feel any hostility. To be at loggerheads would be ludicrous, for we have identical goals. We want to cooperate, not compete. To this end I have had two socially pleasant but

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The Roald Amundsen

Photo Exhibit

The very first event — in time and also perhaps in importance — of the fall season is the Roald Amundsen Photo Exhibit, which is sponsored by our American Scandinavian Society and The Explorers Club with the cooperation of the Norwegian Information Service and Exxon Corporation. Exxon, with the backing of their affiliate, Esso Norway, has given \$5,000 for a catalog, installation and security for the exhibit.

The exhibit will include more than a hundred fascinating photographs delineating the career of the famed Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen (1872-1928), whose achievements included the first conquest of the South Pole, the first voyage through the Northwest Passage, and the first flight from Svalbard to Alaska via the North Pole. Amundsen was indeed one of the world's greatest explorers and the luster surrounding his name is perhaps unequalled in the long history of discovery and exploration.

On opening night we will have as guest of honor and speaker, Tim Greve, chief editor of Norway's biggest newspaper, *Verdens Gang* and the biographer of another great Norwegian explorer, Fridtjof Nansen. (Greve is married to Nansen's granddaughter.)

The exhibit will take place at headquarters of The Explorers Club, 46 East 70th Street, New York City. It will open with a festive reception on September 19, to which invitations are being mailed to all members. The charge of \$25 covers not only admission, but also refreshments including a splendid smorgasbord. Sponsors (\$100) will receive an autographed copy of Tim Greve's new biography of King Haakon VII, recently published. It will be shown until December 20.

The photographs, all of historical importance, have been exhibited previously in Oslo, Paris and Tokyo. They have not been shown before in the United States.



Gala 75th Anniversary Ball Set for December 2nd

The date for the annual Christmas ball has been set for Friday, December 2nd. Neel Halpern is Chairman. The ball will be particularly gala this year since it will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the original American Scandinavian Society in 1908. Save the date!

Extended Membership Available

We have been asked why our initial period of membership extends through December 1984, rather than being just one year. Renewals of American-Scandinavian Foundation memberships were staggered throughout the year. We decided that for record-keeping reasons it would be easier to have all memberships renewed at the same time of year.

If you have not sent in your check for membership, please do so *now!*

Thanks To Our Volunteers

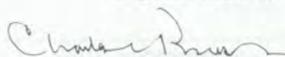
Our first mailing was sent this summer with the help of a number of devoted volunteers. Hedvig Sparry, while recovering in bed from a broken hip, patiently put the labels on 800-plus envelopes. Stuffing and stamping of the envelopes was done by Barbara Claffee, Aase Holby and Ellen Brush.

And Elvira Stoll travelled in from New Jersey to type and run the word processor in our President's office (where the American Scandinavian Society is headquartered) to produce letters to the Nordic Consuls General and the American-Scandinavian Foundation Trustees.

Thank you all!

The President's Letter...Cont. from page 1
substantively unproductive meetings with ASF chairman, Goran Holmquist. Just today he refused to provide me with a list of Trustee addresses (which is public information) to facilitate mailing them this Newsletter and to keep them posted on our activities. Without an open exchange of information cooperation is difficult and I hope this intransigent attitude will soften. In the meantime, I stand ready to meet with any ASF Trustee or group of Trustees at any time to discuss ways in which our two organizations can work together.

All good wishes,


Charles F. Brush

Our Group Resumes Original Name

With our group's separation from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, we have resumed the name of the old American Scandinavian Society, founded in 1908, the precursor of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. The Society was founded on November 21, 1908 by Niels Poulson and others. (Poulson, a Danish-American, was the founder of the Hecla Iron Works; his firm produced the iron subway entrances still standing in various locations in Manhattan.) Our first President was Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University.

Our New President

Since many of you may not know our new President, we thought you might like to learn something of his background from his *Who's Who* listing:

BRUSH, CHARLES FRANCIS, anthropologist; b. Cleve., Apr. 3, 1923; s. Charles Francis and Dorothy Adams (Hamilton) B.; B.A., Yale U., 1947, M.A., 1948; Ph.D., Columbia U., 1969; m. Ellen Sparry, July 25, 1958; children—Barbara Brush Wright, Karen Alexandra, Charles Francis. Ind. researcher in anthropology, N.Y.C., 1961—; dir. Brush Wellman Inc. Sec.-treas. Internat. Planned Parenthood Fedn. Western Hemisphere Region, 1968-74; bd. dirs. Brush Found., Cleve., 1969—; Peabody Museum of Yale U., 1977—; v.p. Am. Bur. for Med. Advancement in China, 1974—; Fellow AAAS, Am. Anthropol. Assn., Am. Geog. Soc. (dir. 1969—); Explorers Club (dir. 1971, pres. 1978—); mem. Soc. Am. Archeology. Clubs: Union, Yale, N.Y. Athletic. Excavated earliest ceramics known in Mexico, 1961, first evidence of deliberate alloying of bronze in Mexico, 1961. Home: 42 Ram Island Rd Shelter Island NY 11964

To update the above: he served three terms as Explorers Club president. Currently he is a Director of the Sierra Club Foundation, Chairman of the Sierra Club/Foundation Development Committee and Curatorial Associate of Yale University's Peabody Museum.



Inauguration of Nordic Book Series

On May 18 a reception was held at the Scandinavian Tourist Offices to mark the inauguration of a new book series, "The Library of Nordic Literature," the General Editor of which is our Newsletter Editor, Erik J. Friis. In cooperation with Hippocrene Books, he will issue books of Scandinavian relevance and no doubt of more than ordinary interest to our members. The initial volume is a biography of King Haakon VII of Norway by Tim Greve, who will speak at the opening of the Amundsen photo exhibit.

Next on the program will be the novel *Days of Roses and Fire* by Swedish Nobel-Prize winner Eyvind Johnson. Icelandic, Danish and Finnish novels will follow.

Dr. Charles Brush Elected President of The American Scandinavian Society of New York, Inc.

The 1983 Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter of The American Scandinavian Foundation (subsequently renamed The American Scandinavian Society of New York, Inc.) was held on May 11 at the N.Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society's headquarters.

It was announced that the incorporation papers for the American Scandinavian Society would soon be received and that the group would be ready to proceed under its new name and undertake such activities or functions as its members see fit.

Since the main purpose of the meeting was the election of officers for the ensuing year, the list of nominees had already been announced by the Nominations Committee, (Edda S. Magnusson, David Larsen and Inga Tanier). Since general satisfaction was voiced by the assemblage regarding the list of nominees, they were all unanimously elected, their election to become effective upon receipt of the incorporation papers.

The new officers are:

President	Charles F. Brush
Vice President —	
Denmark	Michael Halpern
Vice President —	
Finland	Anna Riitta Fuchs
Vice President —	
Iceland	Robert W. Warner, Jr.
Vice President —	
Norway	Trond Conradi
Vice President —	
Sweden	Mari-Louise Forsgren
Vice President —	
U.S.A.	Ellen S. Brush
Vice President —	
Programs	Erik Norup
Treasurer	Nancy Larsen
Recording	
Secretary	Else Levering
Corresponding	
Secretary	Joseph Krentzel



According to the Constitution the President is authorized to appoint three additional Board members; the following three selected by President Brush: Neel Halpern, Peter Dybing and Robert Pearlman.

Other appointments made by President

Brush include: Erik J. Friis, Newsletter Editor; Elfi von Kantzow Alvin, Director of Art Exhibitions; Erwin A. Jonas, Chairman, Audit Committee.

Peter Hessellund-Jensen has been appointed Counsel for the Society and has given many hours of his time to the legal work for our new organization.

Prior to the elections, special reports were submitted by Neel Halpern on the activities of the Social Committee; by Elfi Alvin on the exhibitions arranged by the Arts Committee, including the show then being seen at the Nippon Club; and David Larsen who reported that the finances were in very good order.

At the May 11th meeting, then President Peter Dybing presented three members, Neel Halpern, Elfi Alvin and Robert W. Warner, Jr., with special gifts from the organization in recognition of the splendid way in which they had discharged their responsibilities, after which President-elect Brush presented Peter Dybing with a token of the organization's appreciation of his leadership.

Following the well-attended meeting, the members enjoyed its more social aspects, including a light supper.

Publications to be Distributed to Membership

Bob Warner, Vice President, has secured a donation of copies of *News of Iceland* which we will distribute to our membership this fall. We are currently talking to other organizations and expect to receive additional Scandinavian publications for our members, as well as discounts on books of interest to all of us.

Society Wine-Tasting Excursion

Erik Norup, Vice President for Programs, has arranged a wine tasting at Benmarl Vineyard in Marlboro, New York, for Sunday, October 2. Meeting time is 11:00 A.M. at the vineyard, located 80 miles north of New York City on Route 9W on the west side of the Hudson River.

The group will tour the vineyard, cellars and the wine-making building.

Marlboro is in the heart of the Hudson Valley, and in early October the fall colors should be at their peak.

Please bring a lunch; they have a wonderful picnic area.

Wines are available for purchase and each participant will receive one bottle of their choice to take home.

News from the Chapters

Peter Dybing has been in touch with all the Chapters which could be contacted during the summer. Of course many people are away and he expects to receive word from more Chapters in the fall.

Augustana –

Now the American Scandinavian Association of Augustana College (incorporated)

Boston –

Has incorporated

Chicago –

Now the American Scandinavian Association of Illinois, hopes to have 100 members.

Dana –

Will probably have a Danish Heritage Society, meeting in the fall

Decorah –

Will have a meeting in the fall to decide what to do

Denver –

Has 33 members, will stay with ASF

Des Moines –

Still belongs to ASF

Detroit –

Detroit Associates of ASF, will have meeting in September to discuss dues

Duluth/Superior –

Will meet in fall

Great Plains/Lindsborg –

In process of reorganizing, will have new name and structure, hasn't decided whether to incorporate, approximately 100 members.

Jamestown –

Now American Scandinavian Heritage Association (incorporated)

Los Angeles –

Incorporating as the American Scandinavian Foundation of Los Angeles, will know more after annual joint meeting with the other three California Chapters on September 25 (each is incorporating separately)

Madison –

Creating a new organization with closer ties with University of Wisconsin-Madison Scandinavian Studies Department, interested in incorporating

Minneapolis –

Having a meeting in early October

with Patricia McFate as speaker, unsure what they are doing (they are incorporated)

Monterey –

New name – American Scandinavians of California Central Coast, \$15. per family, 100 families

Oregon/Scuthwest Washington –

American Scandinavian Foundation Associates of Oregon, local dues \$10. approximately 15 couples

San Francisco –

New name San Francisco Bay Area Associates of the American Scandinavian Foundation, will incorporate

Santa Barbara –

Incorporating as American-Scandinavian Foundation of Santa Barbara

Thousand Oaks –

Meeting with other California Chapters on September 25

Washington, D.C. –

See article

In our next issue of *Contact* we will bring a complete update of what all ASF Chapters are doing and what their relationship to ASF will be.

Washington Chapter Goes Independent

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of The American-Scandinavian Foundation has now followed the example of the New York Chapter in declaring its independence and has adopted the name "American-Scandinavian Association of the National Capital Area."

Following the decision of The American-Scandinavian Foundation to disband all its 27 Chapters, the members of the D.C. Chapter believed this was a serious mistake and consequently adopted a constitution and by-laws for a new organization to continue the work of the former Chapter. The president of the newly-established American-Scandinavian Association is Dr. Rose Marie Oster, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Maryland. The other officers are: Bernhard Larsen, vice president; Fred Olson, secretary; Ruth Masek, financial secretary and John Willoughby, treasurer. Herbert Madison, a retired diplomat, is the editor of the ASA's widely-distributed monthly newsletter and calendar of Nordic events in the greater Washington area.

If there is enough interest, bus transportation will be arranged from a central point in New York City.