



Drink Like a Viking

The new *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits* exhibition at the American Swedish Historical Museum inspires a look back at drinking traditions across Scandinavian cultures over time. Some have theorized that the term *skål* can be traced back to the Vikings, one of the earliest Scandinavian cultures. This theory comes from a supposed Viking tradition in which warriors would drink from the skulls of vanquished enemies. Though a fantastically gory theory, most agree that the term actually originates from the word “*skål*,” meaning bowl, which was a common vessel people would drink and share from at community gatherings.

Drinking horns were most commonly those of oxen, cattle, or goats, though some have been found of ivory and could be decorated with precious metal or stones. Evidence of drinking containers can be found in the famous Bayeux Tapestry, or embroidery, which depicts the story of William of Normandy (a direct descendant of Viking migration) conquering England in 1066. Revelers in this artwork are imbibing from both horns and communal bowls. Though few fully intact horns have been found on archeological digs, numerous metal horn stands have been uncovered suggesting the wide-spread use of these vessels.

Even if the word *skål* doesn't involve imbibing alcohol from human skulls, the Vikings still did their fair share of drinking. Cups came in the form of ceremonial drinking horns and communal bowls.

What was in the horn? Favored drinks of Vikings included mead, wine, and beer. Mead is an alcoholic drink made of fermented honey and can be mixed with spices. Mead is often referred to as the

continued on page 2



Picture stone from Tjängvide in the parish of Alskog, Gotland, Sweden.
Photo: Ola Myrin, The Swedish History Museum.

Note from the Director

I am hearing more and more buzz lately about DNA testing to learn about your ethnic background. If you are considering it yourself, prepare to be surprised. For many people, they find out that they had always thought they were Italian, but are really Polish, or they thought they were Scottish, but found out they were Irish. DNA testing has highlighted a trend whereby immigrants to the US went on record as being from a country that they actually weren't. This leads generations of families to identify with a group to which genetically they don't belong.

One professor at West Chester University is using DNA tests of her students to encourage honest and open conversations about race that start from a positive place. When students find out that they have ancestry from the Middle East or Africa that they never realized they had, this challenges their sense of who is like them and who is "the other".

New information from DNA tests often sets people on a path of self-discovery, wanting to find out who their ancestors really are. They trove through on-line services that help them find documentary evidence about previous generations. They visit ancestral homelands, giving new meaning to the term heritage tourism! They even seek out places like ASHM to learn about what it means to be Swedish when they find out one of their grandparents emigrated from Sweden.

I, too, was recently suprised by a DNA test. Previously, on St. Patrick's Day, my husband and children would celebrate their Irish heritage, and I always felt a little left out. But this year, it's my turn to explore my inner Irish woman, since my sister's DNA test turned up Irish background we never knew about!

Tracey Beck

Tracey Beck

Drink Like A Viking continued from front cover

drink of the gods and can be found throughout Norse, Roman, and Greek culture. Heiðrún, a famous goat in Norse mythology, is said to consume leaves from Læraðr, a tree in Valhalla, and fills a giant caldron with mead from her udders for fallen warriors who died valiantly in battle. The preferred drink of Odin, king of the Norse gods, however, is wine. He is said to have loved it so much that he would forego food and only consume the fermented juice of grapes. Since wine was not produced in Scandinavia, it was a much desired commodity and was acquired through raids or trades throughout eastern and western Europe. Because wine was so hard to procure it became a drink of the wealthy.

Beer was also central in Norse drinking culture. Knowledge of brewing was said to have been a gift from Odin to mankind. Beer played a major role in Viking celebrations, festivals, and holidays. It was considered a family duty to brew a strong beer for important events such as weddings, funerals, and religious ceremonies. Beer consumption was a way to mark the harvest, as well as the summer and winter solstices. If the harvest was small, however, beer production was

limited to special occasions in order to preserve grain for food.



Woman holding a drinking vessel. Silver. Öland, Sweden. Photo: Gabriel Hildebrand, The Swedish History Museum.

Much like today, drinking in Norse society was a way to strengthen social relationships. Toasts were made in celebration, remembrance, to mark the partnerships of clans, to honor the deities, and at the completion of a successful voyage or battle. Passing and drinking from a shared horn or bowl fostered comradery and trust. These themes payout through the centuries and raising a glass to toast or *skål* in celebration is just as important to modern people as it was to Vikings nearly a thousand years ago.

To learn more about cultural drinking traditions be sure to visit the exhibit *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*, on view through September. If you would like to explore Viking culture, come to Viking Day at the American Swedish Historical Museum on Saturday April 29th. Viking Day will feature a 40ft reproduction of the *Gokstad* Viking ship, Viking weapon demonstrations, lectures from Viking scholars, runic crafts, and traditional game competitions of *Hnefalafl* and *Kubb*. Visit the website www.americanswedish.org for more details.



Drinking horn with mouth mounting in silver. Grave find, Björkö, Adelsö, Uppland, Sweden. Photo: Christer Åhlin, The Swedish History Museum.

A Desire to Connect

Did you know that the ASHM was one of three Swedish-American organizations that founded a national organization called Swedish Council of America (SCA) in 1972? In fact, the first Chairman of the organization was Dr. Nils Y. Wessell, who was also the President of the ASHM Board of Governors. The original purpose of the SCA was to bring into a cooperative relationship all groups and individuals whose purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the Swedish heritage in American life and to strengthen the cultural ties between America and Sweden. Representatives of three visionary founding organizations--the ASHM, American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis and the Pioneer Historical Society in Chicago—met as the SCA executive committee in the International Terminal at O'Hare Airport. The organization grew over the years and at its peak in the 1980s, the council had about 300 Affiliate member groups in the USA, Canada and Sweden.

The role of the organization has shifted over the years. Early on, the emphasis was on publications (such as *The Swedish Heritage in America*, by Allan Kastrup published in 1975) and a quarterly magazine, *Sweden & America*. Later, facilitating communications between groups and supporting programming



Swedish Council Executive Director Gregg White visits Sjölundén— at Concordia Language Villages

became more important. The SCA began an endowment fund and grant program in the 1990s and continues to provide grants to Swedish organizations for their own programs and projects. As of 2017, SCA will have given grants of over 1 million dollars to a wide range of organizations and projects. The founding of two significant scholarships – also in the 1990s – one bringing Swedish students to America and another sending American students from Swedish heritage colleges to Sweden. Throughout its history, SCA has facilitated relationships among all of the organizations in Swedish America, creating a collaborative working environment.

After assessing the needs of constituent organizations and listening to the goals of supporters, SCA has taken on a new role, one where there is clearly a void in

the community SCA was created to serve. SCA has emerged as the community foundation for Swedish North America. With over \$1,000,000 of assets in its endowment, and a nearly 40 year history of supporting organizations and youth with grants and scholarships; of connecting affiliates and individuals with magazines, books, newsletters and conferences; and of awarding leaders within the Swedish American community with the recognition they deserve, we have adopted a new tagline that we think embodies what precisely what we do:

SCA: Supporting, Connecting, Awarding

Want to learn more about SCA? Connect on social media, subscribe to the Quarterly magazine *Sweden & America* (only \$12 for ASHM members), or join them at one of their Fall or Spring meetings held at locations across the U.S., Canada, and sometimes Sweden! The SCA board is meeting in Philadelphia May 4-7. Many of the events for the board are open to the community. Check out the full schedule at swedishcouncil.org/meetings.



Meet Our New Swedish Intern: Emma Rönn



Hej! My name is Emma Rönn and I am the (still relatively) new Marketing Assistant at the American Swedish Historical Museum. I packed one big suitcase and moved to Philadelphia from Sweden in the beginning

of January, and I am very happy to say that the city is already starting to feel like home away from home!

I grew up on a peninsula on Lake Mälaren called Skokloster, a small district on the countryside located between Stockholm and Uppsala mostly known for its 17th century Baroque palace and public museum Skokloster Castle. Looking back, I think that it is safe to say that my fascination and deep interest for the arts was influenced at least in part by all those school trips to Skokloster Castle as a child,

and eventually the same fascination would lead me to studies in Art History at Stockholm University and a Bachelor's degree in Criticism, Communication and Curation: Arts and Design from Central Saint Martins in London. Being passionate about both Scandinavian and American history and culture, the move to the American Swedish Historical Museum was a natural fit, and I am really looking forward to the year ahead!

Upcoming Events and Registration Info

There is always something going on at the American Swedish Historical Museum. See below for scheduled events. Please check with the Museum to confirm dates and other details. Refunds will not be granted for cancellations after the registration deadline. To register for events by phone call (215) 389-1776. Online registration is available through links in the museum's email announcements or on the Events Calendar page of our website, www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm.

Monthly Programs



Toddler Time

10:30 am - 11:30 am

The third Tuesday of each month ASHM offers specially designed programs to introduce Swedish culture through

art, science, and literature in fun and creative ways to children ages 18 months to 4 years old. The cost is \$5 per child or free for museum Household Members. There is no charge for accompanying caregivers. Register by phone or online.

Tuesday March 21

Using Your Senses in the Museum

Tuesday April 18

Pippi Goes to the Circus!

Tuesday May 16

Spring on a Swedish Farm

Tuesday June 20

Row Your Boat



Skål! Scandinavian Spirits Guided Exhibit Tours & Tastings

1:00-2:00pm

Have you ever sampled aquavit? Whether you are new to Scandinavian

spirits or an aficionado, join us for an exclusive guided tour of the *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits* exhibition at the American Swedish Historical Museum. Each tour will explore the history of Scandinavian spirits and the role those beverages play in the heritage of Scandinavian America. Learn how to properly *skål*, or cheers, at the end of the tour with an Aquavit tasting. Pre-registration required and tour spots are limited. \$8 members and \$18 non-members (must be 21 or over to attend tasting). To register please visit www.americanswedish.org.

Saturday March 11th

Sunday April 16th

Saturday May 20th

Sunday June 18th

Sunday July 9th

Saturday August 12th

September 9th



Waffle Day

Saturday, March 25

11 am - 2 pm

Each March in honor of Annunciation Day (Maria Bebådelsedagen), Swedes eat waffles. Intrigued by this tradition? Stop by the museum for Waffle Day to get the whole story, along with some tasty Swedish waffles, served with whipped cream and strawberry jam, and of course coffee. \$8 for members, \$12 non-members, admission included, register online, by phone, or pay at the door.



Easter Family Fun Day and Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9

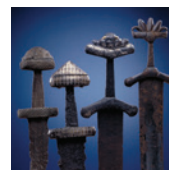
2 pm - 4 pm

Introduce your little ones to Swedish Easter traditions. Children can make Swedish Easter crafts, dress up as Swedish Easter witches, enjoy face painting, and an egg hunt. Free for members and children 2 years and under, \$10 for non-members. Pay at the door.

To Register For Events

call **215-389-1776**, or visit online at

www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm



Viking Day

Saturday, April 29

12 pm - 4 pm

Visitors can view a 40-foot, half-size working model of the Gokstad ship, learn the

runic alphabet, compete in a Hnefeltafle or Viking Chess competition, watch a Viking Age weapons demonstration, and attend expert lectures to learn more about this often misunderstood culture. Admission: \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members, \$6 for children (5 - 17), and children under 5 are free. Register online or pay at the door.

Spring Ting Fundraiser Dinner and Auction

Saturday, May 6

6 pm

Save the date for our annual fundraiser dinner and auction. A fun and exciting evening is guaranteed, with hors d'oeuvres and dinner provided by Jeffrey Miller Catering, and silent auction and remarks from a special guest. Tickets start at \$95, RSVP by April 24th. Call or check our website for more information.



National Day

Tuesday, June 6

12 pm - 4 pm

The 90th Anniversary celebration continues at the ASHM on Swedish

National Day! Visit on June 6th and enjoy free admission including guided tours highlighting the history of the museum, Swedish themed children's crafts, and a special Swedish summer dessert treat.



Midsommarfest

Saturday, June 24

4 pm - 7 pm

Celebrate summer at our annual Midsommarfest. Celebrate summer at our annual

Midsommarfest, complete with food, drinks, home-made Swedish pastries, music and maypole dancing, as well as crafts and games for the kids. Members \$8, Non-members \$12, Children 5 - 11 \$6. Pay at the door.

Images from Recent Events

Photos by ASHM Staff and Carly Abbot Photography



At Julbord, the members of Midsommarklubben did a fantastic job preparing all the yummy food, as always!

This year we had a full house of tomtar in our Lucia performances!

There is always a very special atmosphere at the Museum when the lights are dimmed and children sing during our traditional Lucia performances.



Folk Fashion Show: In November 2016, we got to learn about Scandinavian folk dresses as the Auxiliary hosted their annual meeting and folk fashion show.



Kathy Meade of ArkivDigital gave a really interesting presentation at the Genealogy Club meeting in January.



The 16th Annual New Sweden History Conference, titled "The Delaware River: A Colonial Highway", took place at the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation in Wilmington, DE, and examined the nature of the river and the central role it played in the lives of the Lenape, Dutch, Swedes, and English during the 17th century.

The gentlemen of the Pea Soup Committee also did a fantastic job preparing the food for the evening!



During Toddler Time in November 2016, children got to explore cooking and baking.

Do you want to make a contribution? There are several easy ways to support us. Visit our web page americanswedish.org/support or call **215-389-1776** for more information.

Contributions to the Collection

July-October 2016

The museum is grateful to the Oldenburg family for the donation of more of Sigelle's art, including 37 prints, 123 cards, 6 needlework pieces, and several mixed media pieces. Margaretha Talerman generously gave a vase from Gustavsberg Argenta, dated from the 1960s, as well as a bud vase designed Vicke Lindstrand for Kosta, from 1950-1960.

The library collection also received Lindstrom and books by Amandus Johnson from Julian Richter, *Official Catalogue of the New Sweden* historical exhibition in 1938 from Karen Coughlin, and *Sveriges forsta storhetstid* by Birger Nerman from Linda Dyke.

New Members

October 16, 2016-January 31, 2017

Life

Kristina & John Antoniadis

Organizational

Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library
Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers
Radnor Memorial Library

Household

Hans Peter Andersen
Helena Anzaldo
Christina Binder
Cory & Christopher Brader-Leuchten
Caroline Brady
The Brown-Soderberg Family
Michaela & Ben Byrnes-Miller
Nancy & Richard Cox
Steven & Andrea Davis
Sara & James Delisi-Close
Julia Dent & Matthew Bocchese
Alexandra & Joel Eisman
Sagheer & Andrew Faiz-Chalmers
Anne Flink
Loretta Gazzara
Amy & Ross Haavik-McKinnon
The Hummel Family
Cristianes & Joel Jorgenson
The Koerner Family
Carolyn LeComte & Jon Hopely
Gustav Lundquist
Peter McCauley
Sarah Naval

Renee & Paul Nusbaumer
Jessica Stanforth
The Sulaiman Family
Thulin-Guzejko Family
Linnea Tideman & Family
Clarissa & Seye Todd-Adekanye
Molly & Nathan Tower-Hicks
Amy & Harry Verngren
Johanna & Lawrence Wagner
Aubrey Wagner & Andrew Blackman

Individual

Cindy Erickson
Robin Holmer
David Stone
Ann-Charlotte Westerberg

Seniors/Students

Robert A Johnson
Cheryl Beadle Marple
Connor Duffy
Susan Conway
Alfred Meyer
Anna Lagercrantz
Tina LeCoff
Ann Marie Corradetti
Karen Hoepfinger

Annual Giving and Contributions

October 16, 2016-January 31, 2017

Vasa

Kristina & John Antoniadis
Ragnhild & Bo Bergqvist
Mr. Paul Muther and Dr. Ulla Dagert-Muther
John & Carin Foster
Dr. & Mrs. V. Eugene McCoy
The PEW Charitable Trusts Employee Matching Gifts
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Pfaff
Margaretha Talerman

Gold

Ken & Kerstin Cook
Margaret Copeland
Gordon & Jane Downing
Marna Feldt
Kristina & Charles Kalb
Kristina & John O'Doherty
Hope Rosenlund
James & Sophia Walker

Silver

Robert & Marilyn Asplundh
Elisabeth & Wayne Brown
Samuel & Janet Heed
Mrs. Marshall A. Mundheim
Ellen T. Rye
Abby Shaw
Inger & Andy Stone

Eddie Talerman & Dyan Simon
James & Cynthea Traverso
Fanny Warren

Bronze

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Anderson
Helene Y. Basile & Family
Alison Bennett
Margaret Churchville
Keith & Hilma Cooper
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Engstrom
Jan & Lillemor Essunger
Margaret M. Friel
Ulla M. Heinicke
Thomas F. & Mary Ann Hudson
Catherine & Fredrik Khayati
Karin Kornaga
Barbro & Ernst Larsson
Sandra Lazo
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Martz
Mrs. Lila McCleary
Jeffrey Miller
Katherine Monday-Schievenin
Bengt & Connie Nestell
Carl I. Oberg
Edith & Albert Rohrman
Kjerstin & Dominic Sama
Rudy & Jean Soderlund
Karin & David Svahn
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Swope
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Johnette Davies-Turner
Lorraine & Richard Waldron
The Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams

Friend

William Howard Anderson
Sven H. E. Borei
Walter Carlson
Susan Durand
Frank Embon
Chris & Karen Erikson
Mary & Owen Gilman
Barbara E. Good
Christina Hagman
Lisa & Bill Hoffman
Elisabeth Hohman
Sylvia Holteen
Margaretha Joelsson
Mr. & Mrs. Sigurd S. Johnson
C.R. Karlsson
Ms. Mary Kinsey
Maj-Britt & Robert Lautman
John Lundin
Ulla-Britta & Jerry McCarthy
Ms. Karen A. McKillip
Nancy & Eric Miller
Rosemary & Jeffrey Moller
Mary Anne Carlson Morgan
Dr. Jan Newstrom Thompson
Alfred J. Nicolosi
Maud Palmer

Membership

Please print all information as you wish it to appear on the membership roster.

Return this form to:

American Swedish Historical Museum
Attn: Membership
1900 Pattison Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901

Among the benefits of membership are:

- free admission to the Museum and library
- use of the ASHM Swedish Film Library borrowing system
- guest passes
- subscription to the newsletter
- discounted subscription rate to *Sweden & America* magazine
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- discounts on admission to most events, workshops and Swedish language classes

For more information, please call 215-389-1776

Application & Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- \$35:** Senior/Student **\$75:** Organizational (Non-profit only) **\$500:** Patron
 \$50: Individual **\$125:** Friend **\$1,000:** Key Contributor
 \$65: Household **\$250:** Sustaining **\$2,500:** Life

Make check payable to ASHM or Charge my: VISA | MasterCard | Discover

Account # _____

Exp Date _____

The official registration and financial information of ASHM may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Your membership contribution to the American Swedish Historical Museum is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

 Please detach here and return.

Mr. Herbert R. Rambo
Karen Reeds
Annika Saracini
David O. Segermark
John & Susan Soffronoff
Patricia Spampinato
Robert & Marlene Stocks
John Tepe
Margaret L. Young
Inger M. Zeller

In Memoriam

The ASHM lost a very special member in the last few months. We send our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

Ulf Hammarskjöld
Bill Wilson

Gifts in Memory of Ulf Hammarskjöld

Birgitta Ingvarson
Bengt & Connie Nestell
Maud Palmer
Birgitta Wilson

Gifts in Memory of Bill Wilson

Francis & Frances Abbott
Graham & Jean Andrews
Kristina & John Antoniadis
Weezie & Charlie Baker
Görel Bengtzon & Roman Hrycushko
Ragnhild & Bo Bergqvist
James & Karen Borzillo

Elisabeth & Wayne Brown
Morris & Birgitta Davis
Roberta Fischer
Lindsay & Michael Forgash
Elizabeth H. Forrest
John & Carin Foster
Stella S. Gabuzda
J. Robert & Sally Herd
Morton Howard
Delmar & Irene Karlen
John & Edwina Kerr
D.P. Kingsley III
Karin Kornaga
Nelly K Lincoln
John & Joy MacMurray
David Maroney
Robert McAlaine
Midsommarklubben
Virginia S Millar
Nancy & Eric Miller
James & Judith Mitchell
Kristina & John O'Doherty
Maud Palmer
Ann & Wayne Parker
Louise H. Shafer
Peter & Janet Silcox
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Swope
Margaretha Talerman
William Vogel
William & Kay Wood
Jane Young
Judy & Harvey Zalesne

Looking Forward to Spring Ting 2017

We are in the midst of planning this year's Spring Ting fundraiser dinner and auction, which is happening on May 6, 2017. We are currently seeking donations for both the online and silent auction. Popular items include gift certificates, memberships and tickets to local arts, culture and sports events, wine and spirits, home decor, hostess gifts, and jewelry. Items may be dropped off or mailed to the museum, to the attention of the Spring Ting Auction. Please try to get any donated items to us by April 1st.

Thinking of attending Spring Ting? Look for the invitation to arrive in late March, or feel free to sign up through our website. We hope you will join us!

Shining a New Light: John Ericsson Propeller Light Conservation Project

After several years of work, and some trial and error with various materials and techniques, the beautiful propeller lighting fixture in the center of the John Ericsson Gallery is finally complete. The room's designer, Martin Hedmark, created this one-of-a-kind, art deco fixture in 1931. It is in homage to John Ericsson's development of the marine screw propeller in the 1860s. After many decades, several pieces of the glass had broken, and the base of the fixture was missing after years of having to change out the bulbs. The original design did not make this an easy process, so the fixture had gotten quite a bit of wear and tear. As part this project, LED lights replaced the original incandescents for longer use.



The project began back in 2013, when our curator first contacted Conservator Linda Lennon to help us determine the scope of what needed to be done. More recently, we worked with an artist, James Harmon, to help us complete the glass replacement and the repositioning of the LED bulbs to better light the propeller blades.

After attempting to match the current glass in the light and not finding anything exact, we were able to purchase the last sheets of the same type of glass from the original manufacturer, Bendheim Glass in Passaic, New Jersey, and ended up replacing all of the glass in the fixture. The original pieces have been archived in the museum's collection. The museum's longtime electrician, William Hornung, also worked extensively to help us update the sockets and bulbs.

We are grateful to the various contractors who worked on this project over the course of almost four years, and to the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and the individuals whose gifts helped to support the completion of this much needed conservation. If you haven't been to the museum yet this year, please stop by and check out this amazing piece. It looks truly remarkable, with original details that had not been visible for years due to poor bulb placement and accumulated dust. John Ericsson would, no doubt, be proud!