



## Forsætisráðherra, erlend samskipti 1970

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnmal – Forsætisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Ása Guðmundsdóttir Wright –  
Asa Wright Nature Centre – Hannes Kjartanson – G.B. – John K. Newlove – Perter Scott – The  
Wildflower Trust – Peter Strong – The American-Scandinavian Foundation – The Thor Thors Icelandic  
Fund – Tryggve Bratteli – Tønnes Andenæs – Christian Mohr

## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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[bjarnibenediktsson.is](http://bjarnibenediktsson.is)

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360  
Stjórnmalamaðurinn  
Askja 2-37, Örk 6

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Þeg takker hjertelig for  
den hyggelige hilsen til  
minn árníálsdag.

Januar 1970.

Trygve Brattekj

Norges Ambassadør og fru Christian Mohr  
har den ære å innby  
i anledning av Norges Nasjonaldag

Statsminister Bjarni Benediktsson og frue

til mottagelse, tirsdag 19. mai 1970

kl. 17.30 - 19.00

*Med hilsen fra*  
*Kgl. Norske Ambassade*







Reykjavík, 6. mars 1970.

Guðave Tönnu,

Manag tubu þou manag

höfug, þreue og goðe þuðker.

Þin þannvat þvattali vor manne  
þvannuþat eud þe þa þu þestant

at netop þenne þannu vilde þu

:þe þve þa þor þe þe :

Reykjavík, : þet minðste :þe

þannu þve med alle þine þennu!

Þet er þvott : þe þeneste

þag þu þe þe þe þe þe

at þe er ved at þlive þvott

:þe, og þu þe at þe



benyttan förmste lejlighed til  
at skrive dig. Naturligvis gjør  
jeg det i egenmættigt hensigt.  
Endnu har du ikke sendt mig  
Brennethens Børgedømme -  
Norske historikere i udvalg - selv-  
om jeg har læst flere end en  
af de tre andre bind. En tredje  
bind i Børgedømmet endnu, alle-  
en det søger grund til at du  
vil holde det skilt i Solund?

Jeg spurgte min ven Borten,  
da han kom at besøge mig  
per søghuset, hvad hans  
synes om Solunds stortings-  
musem. Borten mente han var  
dygtig, havde ider og iver



tíð at íntervjallene reynir!   
 Ég beði at líka þessum   
 og heilum fjölskyldu. Síðan   
 sendu einnig bestu þessum.   
 Þín heilgættuð væn   
 Bjarni.





Ålesund  
30.5.70

Kjære Sigrider & Bjarni,

Jeg kommer til balle til  
Anna's bordsduk.

Kauskije var det en tanke at  
hinn arbeidet litt av tida  
i Norge? Vi har souvenir-  
butikker på Universitetet og andre  
butikker. I souvenirbutikken  
går det mye på engelsk. Det  
kan opå denles arbeid av andre  
slag. Da ville hinn få sjansen  
til å hjelpe andre menneskes en  
Henny, meg og barna. Ofte liker

representant

5,

15. juni '70.

Anna,  
t & er villige  
i  
et frem til

det. Forst var hinn i leke som  
begeistret over at få noget  
arbeide i blødt, og derfor skrev  
jeg i leke med det samme. Men  
nu har hinn kamlet over det  
og er vassa ivrig for at  
se mere for den måde og tjene





ungdommen i fjere litt  
penget også.

Dette er bare et løst forslag  
til overveieelse.

Henry og jeg er på en  
helgebefaring i anledning 50 års  
jubileet for Möre & Romsdal  
Fylkesbåtar.

Bestillingen

Henry & Torner

15. Juni '70.

an Anna,  
§ er villige  
og i  
t frem til

det. Først var hun ikke så  
begeistret over at få noe  
arbeide i bløtt, og derfor skrev  
jeg ikke med det samme. Men  
nu har hun tanket over det  
og er også ivrig for at  
se mer på den måte og tjene



Stortingsrepresentant  
Tønnes Andenæs,  
Stortinget,  
OSLO.

FORSÆTISRÁÐHERRA

Reykjavík 15. júní '70.

Gæde Tønnes,

Vi alle, men især Anna,  
er meget glæde over at I er villige  
til at have hende nogen uger i  
August. Hun ser meget frem til  
det. Først var hun ikke saa  
begeistret over at lade noget  
arbejde i blandt, og derfor skrev  
jeg ikke med det samme. Men  
nu har hun tænkt over det  
og er ogsaa ivrig for at  
se mere paa den maade og tjene



litt penga. Glema og du arrangerer  
det hele paa den maade som I  
mener er den bedste! Vi er  
meget taknemmelige og verdsette  
højt for venskab nu som altid!

Vi var veldig glade at vinde  
valget her i Reykjavik og ha  
framgang paa mange andre steder.  
Vore medarbeidere tabte noget,  
men de havde lovet sig demt 'ad  
og efter alle disse aar, de sidste  
aars vanskelig beder og tidens uro  
maatte man vente paa at tabe noget  
= det hele!

Her er det endnu alvorlige stryker,  
men vi haaber at de løses snart. Anden  
sag er, at løsningen sandsynligvis med  
høve nye vanskelige betingelser eller nogen maade.  
Sagen er en politisk ting! Vi kan regne paa  
tiden! Bedste hilsener til alle, din ven  
Pjetur



Stortingsrepresentant  
Tønnes Andenæs,  
Stortinget,  
OSLO.

FORSÆTISRÁÐHERRA

26. mai 1970.

Gløve Tønnes,

Min datter Anna har nu færd  
ferie i skolen og er begyndt at  
arbejde i Reykjavíks - kirkegårde,  
som er det mest eftersøgte arbejde  
i sommerferien for unge piger her  
i landet. Men arbejdet er slut i  
slutningen af juli - måned. Nu  
er spørgsmålet: Glemme Glemmy og  
der indbyrdes vende til at bo hos  
far, eller: Oslo eller: Jeres forældre  
her i August - måned efter mormors  
aftale?



því : þú , sá ma þu síga  
det rent ud og være sikker på,  
at vi forstaa , at den kan være  
mange gyrene til , at dette  
: þú kan lade sig gøre . Men  
Anna er nu : den alder , at  
hun kan godt af at se sig  
lidt omkring , er dygtig og  
kan have meget af komme ud af  
landet . Hun var i vinter formand  
i elev-föreningen i sin skole  
og forstanderen har vist hende  
meget for den måde hun bløde  
sig .

Godt besked at du og hele din  
familie har det godt . Bedste hilsener  
deri hængende vær  
Bjarni

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Stortingsrepresentant,  
Hr. Tønnes Andenæs,  
Stortinget,  
OSLO.

Reykjavík 11. mai 1970.

Glære Tønnes,

Jeg takker høyt, blodbuddeleg  
m. m. Naasbe har jeg mis-  
forstået dig, men hvis du  
kan og vil sende mig nogen  
af de bøger, som dit  
forlag nu udgiver, så kan  
je mærket ved tre i  
følgende liste!

Bedste hilsener til hele  
din familie. Vi kan det  
godt.

Din venn  
Bjarni.



23. jan. 1970.

Gæve Tönnu!

Först maa jeg takke dig for den smukke skaal Henning og du sendte os som julegave. Da maa jeg som sædvanligt takke dig for gode böger, nu sidst oversættelsen af Göm Johannesson's bog og bogen om bispedømmet i Bergen. Til slut maa jeg sige, at det var venligt af dig at sende mig den bilben med den unge student og senere artiklen om fru Gevlerka. Jeg sendte med den störste glæde

Hr. stortingsmann

Tönnu Andena

Stortinget

Oslo



telegrammet til min ven Arrattelis  
og haaber han har faaet det. Ims  
for Gerhardsens død hørte jeg  
straks den samme dag <sup>kan det</sup> og vi  
sendte med stor sorg vort beklagende  
telegram til <sup>sin</sup> den dag da jeg

Jeg vedes for det hele som  
du kan se, at jeg baade værd  
sætter din stadige venlig heds og  
prøver at vise vore gensidige  
venner i Norge den følelse, som  
jeg har over for dem!

Glemmer du til Nordisk Raad?  
Glem ikke se jeg at du har  
tabt indflydelse og betydning  
i Norge siden du blev stor-  
tingsmand!

Med bedste hilsener fra os til  
Kerens og børnene. Din ven Bjørn





20. VI 70

Kjære Sigríður & Þjarni,

Takki þér þessu þú og að  
Anna kann kommu. Vi  
vil þróa á þa vana þú  
kemma þú bestu máti!

Þessu þú þú þú þú þú  
kemma, slíkt að vi kann  
þú þú þú þú þú.

Þessu þú þú þú þú þú  
þú þú þú þú þú. Þú þú  
þú þú þú þú þú  
þú þú þú þú þú  
þú þú þú þú þú





reise sammen til Norge  
med Anna?

Vi har vært så redde for  
quads, - som dere ved -, men  
nå er han blitt så  
karsk og spek, synes vi.  
Dette selvsagt bare hvis  
det passer.

Beste hilsen

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Hanne

og

Henny



Stortingsrepresentant  
Tønnes Andenæs,  
Stortinget,  
OSLO.

FORSÆTISRÁÐHERRA

25. juni 1970.

Kære Tønnes,

Vi blev meget glad, da vi fik dit brev d. 20. juni, hvor du nævner den mulighed, at Mads kommer til Island.

Du behøver ikke at spørge om han er velkommen.

Det har vi allerede sagt så mange gange! Han kan komme når han vil og være så længe som han vil.

Den senere del af juli vi håber at være mest ude



þá þingvellir. Mads kann  
vera der, men ogssá iude  
: byen, þar þú noðen blive  
: læst i det mindste stórste  
kíden. Þann sagt, þann er  
vel þannur og vi vil góre  
alt þá at þann læder sig  
: ble, men þann at se noðet  
af landet.

Vi læder at þik þe!

Þin ven  
Bjarni





4. 2. 70

Kjære Sigurður,

Jeg kommer desværre ikke til  
Reykjavík denne gang. Ryktet  
sier at Bjarni er på sykehus. Er  
det noe alvorlig?

Blant gjestene må du hils  
på Trygve Brettleis kone Randi.  
Hun er meget hyggelig og er en  
dyktig journalist. Du vil ha glede  
av å hils på henne.

Bestehilsen

1-AMES





28 mai 1970.

Kjau venur,

Her er det stórtingsmótið  
frá tíðlig um morgunin til  
sent þá kvöldin, þó nú skal  
plútelig alle lofsaker væri  
ferdige. Það er et mjúdelig  
vör og det er nestu forbedlig  
nú er en settes innu hele  
dagen. Men barna har  
gætt av litt sol.

Þessu Anna vili koma  
á bo hos oss i augúst vili  
dó væri megal hyggelig.



II

Vi kommer til dels å bo  
i Oslo og dels på landet.  
Jitt variasjon kan være  
bra for henne.

Vi gleder oss alle til å  
se henne, - om tinnu for  
komme! Skiv og se  
hvordan som passer.

Bestøtelsen fra  
Mads, Barbro og Høge  
samt Henny og



Kjæru Bjarni,

11 III 70.

Sender en litu hilsen for á sí  
gud bedring og for á minne deg  
nu at tú má ta det med  
no!

Jeg vedlægger en litu Curtis om  
hvordan man i Norge må  
har begynt á ta saule avlun  
alvorlig. Det pistis at virkningene  
er betydelige allerede.

Bestohilsen til dere alle fra

15m







1.  
John K. Newlove  
2117 Hilldale Street  
Oceanside, California 92054  
Jan. 27, 1970

The Hon. Herra Benediksson  
Prime Minister of Iceland  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
Dear Sir:

F -

I had a most enjoyable visit to Iceland last summer and thought the impressions of a sympathetic observer might be interesting to you. I have used extensive notes I made at that time. Unfortunately, nowhere in my notes do I find your name spelled out so my spelling was phonetic. I hope you will consider the reason and excuse me. I arrived on Loftleider July 5 and left August 22 on the Brnarfoss. I was healthy, energetic, curious and had connections, so I probably saw Iceland as no tourist sees it and probably more thoroughly than most Icelanders.

My wife was Maria Asgrimsdottir, but because her father came to America, I met her as Mary Thorgrimson (Thorgrimson) and she became Mary Newlove. Her father and mother were both Icelandic, but she was born in Canada and was taught to



• speak Icelandic from babyhood. She had visited Iceland about 4½ years ago when three uncles were still alive and got acquainted with her many <sup>existing</sup> friends and made many other friends among whom were your minister of education.

• On July 1st, 1969, I retired after 41 years of service in the schools of California. We had planned to come to Iceland in the summer and travel in Europe the rest of the year, but in November cancer struck her down and she died February 4, 1969 at the age of 57. That canceled those plans but I decided to go to Iceland alone.

• Uncle Pall Þorgrímsson died a couple of days before I arrived so I was invited to the funeral at Hólar. It was simple and beautiful — a simple pine coffin, no elaborate mortuary expenses, a men's chorus of farmers sang or 7 beautiful hymns at appropriate places, and the church was packed. I felt almost out of place taking pictures. (I would recommend better care of the church yard as it is a national responsibility — possibly with youth



labor which I observed in Reykjavik and other towns) I spent two nights at the farm Hvammur across the river.

The farms everywhere in Iceland looked prosperous, well painted with new barns and homes and land drained. I observed this all over Iceland — my two trips to Skagafjörður, around the island on the Esja, two trips to Þingvellir, to Vík following the Njal Saga trail, a short trip to Grindavík and the Strandarkirkja, and a trip to Hítará for salmon fishing.

I would like to observe that if the government wants to get foreign exchange by the tourist trade, it was a great mistake to sell the Esja without a big passenger ship replacement. That is by far the best trip for a tourist to take to get a good view of Iceland. I heard about it from an old "landi" who had been in Iceland in 1967, and all she said about it and more was good. The side trips to Longurinn and Myvatn added a lot to it. I commend particularly the efforts near Hallarmstadur at reforestation — the nursery



and bonus to the farmers. However this latter would not work on a large scale unless the sheep were somehow contained. The opportunity given to see two of the large falls of the country and the "Fountain of Youth" in one of the northeastern national parks could be given more publicity in foreign travel advertising.

I'm not at all satisfied the way fishing is handled. \$25 a day is a tremendous fee for salmon fishing. I know it is based upon the number of salmon in the stream and you have the river practically to yourself, but how does the ordinary traveler without connections find out about it! How about the many trout fishermen who would bring exchange to Iceland if that were made a little easier? Many streams are natural if they were stocked. Many more hatcheries for both salmon and trout are needed. Catchable sized trout could be put into the small streams <sup>and</sup> all year licenses could be sold to your own people. There is no finer recreation.

I was quite impressed with the work program you had for young people including



the custom of having city children on all the farms in the summer. I visited many farms both small and large and found the children all quite happy. I talked with some of their city parents about it, too, and they all thought themselves quite fortunate in being able to give their children this opportunity. The young people in the cities were not overworking themselves, but were not just fooling around either and were doing useful public work and making the cities beautiful.

I was disappointed in the amount of cigarette smoking that was common among the very young. Cigarettes were sold to children 12, 13 and 14 years old and seemingly <sup>there was</sup> no education or examples to protect them from it. It is much worse here than in similar communities in the U.S.A. — despite all you read about drug conditions there.

I am pleased that you hold tight to the "no beer" rule. Despite the pressure of alcoholic interests who are convincing some good citizens that beer would actually be a boon to young folks (save them from hard



liquor.), beer would cause a dramatic rise in alcohol consumption. I liked the Pilsner and let it go at that. I kept a clear head and eye, had judgment in my car driving, and had no head-ache the next morning.

Your youth and people generally, need some "litter bug" education. Litter is bad in the U.S.A. because of the sheer numbers of people, the waste of an affluent society, and the piggishness of beer drinkers and smokers generally, but if they behaved on the average the way the average Icelanders do, the streets and highways would be a true blight. While your wastes are light and you have a scattered population they could be made conscious of keeping Iceland clean and beautiful. Besides education in the schools and homes, people could be helped by marking waste receptacles clearly in public places and having enough of them, and by equipping all automobiles with litter bags. "Don't be a litter bug" signs could help.

I was impressed by your comparative lack of crime, the safety of your streets, at



night, the non-molestation of your women (no whistling), their freedom to come and go even at night. The type of population and cultural inheritance you have makes this possible. Keep it that way. Your greatest threat in this population exploded world is immigration. Watch it carefully for your own long term interest and care nothing for world opinion. Watch your own industrialists particularly who will want cheap labor in periods of high prosperity and demands for labor. Let Iceland develop only as fast as her native labor market grows. Keep your birth rate healthy - it isn't the Nordics who will inundate the earth, and all nations are happy to get Icelandic immigrants if your economy can't absorb them.

I particularly wish to commend you on the hospitality of the individual Icelander. From the little dairy farm in Hinanum where we were stranded for a couple of hours while getting repairs, and a comfortable middle class home in Kopavogur



where I stopped at the Þirkja to admire the sunset, to the country home of Halldor Laxness, all made the "coffee" a beautiful occasion. (I could say something about more sanitation in the dairies - they would never pass in the U.S.A.)

The organist at the Freikirja treated my friend and me to an hour of beautiful music when we had just stepped in to admire the church. This same thing happened late one afternoon at the Cathedral at Kaldarholt, and one Sunday afternoon at the little church at Andkula in the north. I met your noted Fiskeld Karl Runolfsson on the Esja but had no chance to hear him perform.

Your government is interesting. I was in the Parliament Building or Althing twice. By its make-up it is designed to develop all of Iceland and not just to emphasize the capital where the people will congregate unless much emphasis is given to the other sections. New industries should be built around the natural power sources. On the surface of it the representation doesn't seem fair to the



people of Reykjavik, but it is better for the country (nation) in the long run.

Your roads are deplorable, but still it is remarkable what Iceland can do with so little resources and so few people. I wonder why the high duty on cars unless it is a deliberate way to keep the people from spending their money on a very expensive import.

When my wife visited Iceland four years ago she felt that everything was expensive and not a place where the ordinary person could go unless he had relatives. Now <sup>to</sup> the foreigners, particularly the Americans, are cheaper and it offers a good vacation land. You have glaciers, falls, the Arctic Circle and all varieties of natural scenery. I am a collector of natural bridges, and there are some fine ones in Iceland, so I just must return to see and film them. I took over 200 slides last year and have been showing them to schools and church groups, lodges and family groups, and have made Iceland <sup>known</sup> to a lot of people who hadn't much of an idea of it.

I am debating whether to see Expo 70 there



year or Oberammergau, and if the latter wins I shall go by way of Iceland on one of the "Foss" ships and spend two or three more weeks there, hopefully with a few more words in my vocabulary and, as a sympathetic observer, perhaps more suggestions.

Sincerely,

John R. Newlove



# ASA WRIGHT NATURE CENTRE

SPRING HILL ESTATE

ARIMA, TRINIDAD, W.I.

CABLE  
"VIKING" ARIMA  
TRINIDAD, W.I.

6 - 3 - 70

Kaeri herra Forsaetisradherra, Dr Bjarni Benediktsson.

Jeg leifi mjer ad skrifa ydur med sama vinatheli og avalt var. adur fyrr a milli aettingja okkar, en jeg minnst thess hve fraendi minn Jon Magnusson taladi oft um fodur ydar og fjolskyldu. Thessvegna finnst mjer jeg geta skrifad ydur vinabrjef.

Ydur mun ef til vill thykja undarlegt ad fa brjef fra konu i Trinadad um nattuvernd, en nu er svo komid ad fjoldi nattuvinu vidsvegar um heiminn hefur miklar ahyggjur af vaentanlegum virkjanafrankvaendum a Islandi, thad er ad seigja aformum um virkjum efri - Thjorsa, sem mun hafa i for med sjer eidileggingu varpsvaedis heidargaesarinnar i thjorsarverum. Enski fuglafraedingurinn Peter Scott, sem jeg kynntist fyrst sem smadrengr i 25 wimpole Street stuttu eftir ad fadir hanns vard uti, og seinna hjer i Trinadad thegar hann teiknadi gaes fra thjorsa i bok hjerna ) beindi athygli minni ad thessu alvarlega mali, en ahyggjur hans yfir framtid Islenska heidargaesastofnsins koma vel fram i brjefi hans til min sem ~~jagxiagxhjaerxiannak~~ fylgir hjer i afriti.

Eidilegging thessa svaedis mun ekki einungis verda mikid afall fyrir fuglafraedi og visindamenn um heim allan, heldur einnig stor lit-hnekkur fyrir Island.

Jeg skora a ydur, herra forsaetisradherra ad horfast i augu vid tha stadreynd, ad hjer er i vedi heidur Islands og framtidarhorfur visindaikana, sem adeins verda frankvaemdar vid tha sjerstodu sem landid okkar hefur yfir ad rada a svidi fuglafraedinnar.

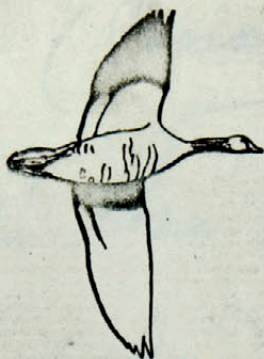
Thad vaeri oskandi ad abyrgir Islendingar taekju hondum saman til bjargar heidri lands okkar og stodve thessar frankvaemdir. Sjerstaeda Islands a svidi fuglafraedinnar verdur aldrei metin til fjars og vonandi aldrei seld fyrir peninga.

Med vinsemd

*Asa Gudmundsdottir Wright*  
Asa Gudmundsdottir Wright

*Suara vin samlega  
þakka bréfið og  
sagja að ég hef þessu veit  
situr margt gott heyrnt um  
fræna. Málit sé til rekilegrar ath  
Tetu.*





# THE WILDFOWL TRUST

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

President: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND KG TD

Hon. Director: PETER SCOTT CBE DSC LLD

SLIMBRIDGE

GLOUCESTER GL2 7BT

Telephone:  
Cambridge (Glos.) 333

Cables:  
Wildfowl Dursley

Railway Station:  
Stroud (W.R.)

27 October 1969.

Dear Asa.

Thanks for your friendly letter. I am so glad that all goes well with the Nature Centre and that the oil bird caves have not been spoiled. Our Icelandic problem is very serious and requires every possible support from world conservationists.

In order to provide electricity for a new aluminium factory they are proposing to dam the River Þjórsá at three points. The lowest dam is already built, and the second one is being built now. The third dam - up near the Hofsjökul will, in stage one, flood over a third of the world famous Þjórsárver where more than half the world population of Pink-footed Geese breed. These are the geese which all come to England and Scotland in winter. Stage two of the third dam will be to add to the dam height a further 10 metres which will totally flood and destroy this unique oasis of vegetation in the desert of central Iceland.

At present the third dam has not been started. World Bank money will be needed for it and it would be only marginally more expensive to put this dam on another river where it would not destroy this unique and world famous area and would provide all the electricity needed.

However I am concerned about Icelandic prestige overseas, her tourist industry, her long term prosperity, her image of biological integrity and cultural enlightenment. All these things point to a real national responsibility for safeguarding the Þjórsárver rather than destroying it for immediate commercial expediency.

So, my dear Asa, please do your best for us - for the Þjórsárver and for Iceland.

Yours ever

Peter.



(Forsætisráðh.) ~~Rekji til undirker.~~  
fars. ratherra)

Fru Isa Wright

(adr)

(Dvorp)

Sent 20/3/70  
er gleyndist at taka  
gjörsid. B.

vin samleg  
Eg þakka þér yður  
dags. 3. p.m. og af áhruga  
yður á þeim á yður yður á  
náttúruvernd, sem þar lýsi  
sei ljóslega.

Þótt ~~ekki~~ ~~við~~ ~~þeim~~ ég  
þakka yður ekki persónulega  
~~er mér ádagga~~  
er mér ádagga at tjá  
yður, at ég hef margt  
gott um yður heynt  
þyn og sítar og þér migst  
Málefni þat, sem þér heit

Forsætis-  
ráðuneytið





*Swarat Swarat 20/3 '70. Gleyndrist at taka liásvil.*

**THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION**

127 EAST 73rd STREET . NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021 . TRAFALGAR 9-9779

F -

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frábær, leitna upplýsing  
á munninu yfiri götuna  
á munninu. Þakkað*

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March 13, 1970

Hon. Bjarni Benediktsson  
Prime Minister of Iceland  
Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Mr. Benediktsson:

As the Prime Minister of Iceland and as an Honorary Trustee of The American-Scandinavian Foundation you will be interested in the attached report concerning the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund of The American-Scandinavian Foundation. I should like especially to call your attention to the fact that under the good Chairmanship of Sigurdur Helgason, we can expect to see further accumulation of fellowship potential through the Thor Thors Fund Committee. The potential would seem to be almost limitless for this program.

With best regards from The American-Scandinavian Foundation, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Peter Strong*  
Peter Strong  
President

PS:lc  
Enclosure

- Gene G. Gage, Secretary
- Herbert G. Otten, Ass't. Treasurer
- Erik J. Friis, Dir. of Publications
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## REPORT ON THE THOR THORS ICELANDIC FUND, A.S.F.

March 13, 1970

I have been requested to present the Thor Thors Fund Committee, an independent fund-raising group under the Chairmanship of Sigurdur Helgason, with a full report on the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund. The request is more than justified by that Committee's assumption of responsibility for the continuation of the Thor Thors fund-raising campaign. A report at this time is also appropriate because with the Fellowship Committee allocation of February 26, 1970, ASF will have terminated awards from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Grant to the Thor Thors Fund. A report to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund was therefore already being considered when Mr. Helgason's request was received.

Thor Thors Icelandic Fund was established by unanimous action of The American-Scandinavian Foundation Board on February 5, 1965. The fund-raising campaign began later that year, but was slow to develop momentum. By July of 1967, however, approximately \$50,000 had been raised in the capital fund from sources in the United States and Iceland and on the 21st of that month, His Excellency President Asgeir Asgeirsson of Iceland, who is also a Patron of ASF, presented Mr. Strong with a check in the amount of \$50,000, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of Marshall Plan aid to Iceland. The money had been raised from businesses and organizations in Iceland which had benefitted particularly from the Marshall Plan and also from the Icelandic Government. Thus the goal of \$100,000 in the capital fund of the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund was achieved.

At the end of 1968, a good year for investments, the Fund stood at \$104,766. But last year witnessed a decline to \$96,000 due to a severe drop in both stocks and bonds.

In addition to this capital fund, The Foundation received a generous grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in the amount of \$25,000 on February 15, 1965. This money was to be used at a rate of approximately \$5000 a year for five years in direct scholarship support for young Icelanders to study in the U.S. The grant gave The Foundation an ongoing program which not only helped Icelanders educationally but assisted The Foundation by illustrating to potential donors what, in fact, could be done in the field of educational exchange with Iceland. No doubt the success of the fund raising was in large measure due to this timely assist early in the campaign.

Now that the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Grant is being phased out, the Thor Thors Fund Committee (Annex D), on its own initiative, has moved to fill the vacuum by raising money for Icelandic scholarships. The Committee raised \$5654 in 1969 and has already received \$600 in 1970. Its plans further call for an ambitious fund-raising program on behalf of the capital fund as well as a continuation of the annual campaign for direct grant money.



The attached accountings of allocations are divided into three parts: awards which were financed by the income from the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund, those which are derived from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Grant, and those resulting from the Thor Thors Fund Committee's 1969 effort.

The accounting of the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund Fellowships begins in 1967, with two \$1000 Fellowship grants and a \$1500 grant to Luther College (Annex A). This is followed by three Fellowships in 1968 and five in 1969. The 1969 allocation proved to be overoptimistic in terms of projected income. For this reason, it was decided to issue no grants from the Fund's income for one year (1970) and thus allow time for income to accumulate. Because the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Grant favored Icelandic students, the income from the Thor Thors Fund tended to favor Americans wishing to study in Iceland when qualified applicants were available.

Twenty-four Thor Thors grants from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund contribution supported individual study programs in America (Annex B) and four awards to Luther College were instrumental in financing Icelandic teachers' participation in the Luther College Summer Institute in American Studies (Annex C). Without this scholarship support, it seems doubtful that Iceland could have benefitted from that excellent program during the years from 1965 to 1969. The grant total allocated represents the original grant plus interest - \$27,430.

Of the funds raised by the Thor Thors Fund Committee, the ASF awarded four \$1000 grants at its February 26th meeting (Annex D). The remainder, minus an administrative fee, will be carried forward and added to the amount offered for scholarships to Icelanders in 1971.

Perhaps the most satisfactory aspect of the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund story is the growing realization among Icelanders and Americans of the potential such a program holds and their willingness to do something about it. It is important that young Icelanders be given the opportunity to enjoy an American education since despite the generally high level of academic achievement in Iceland, there are understandably few facilities for advanced training. Further, from the American point of view, it is equally important that young students from a neighboring country learn first hand about America rather than second hand through the distorted lenses that they would probably encounter at some European university or an institute of higher learning located behind the Iron Curtain.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation is pleased and gratified by the progress of the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund to date and wishes to express, once again, its thanks and congratulations to all who made it possible.

Submitted by

Peter Strong  
President, A.S.F.







## Annex B

## Rockefeller Brothers Fund Contribution - Thor Thors Fund

2/15/65	Total Grant (invested a/c #560)		\$25,000.00
	<u>Grants Awarded:</u>		
6/2/65	Gudjon Gudjonsson	Salmon Culture, hatcheries, Craig Brook, Maine and Willard, Wash.	1,080.00
7/21/65	Luther College	(see Annex C)	500.00
10/21/65	Gudrun Stephensen	Psychology, N.Y.U. (\$300)	600.00
2/21/66	Gudrun Stephensen	Psychology, N.Y.U. (\$300)	
2/23/66	Luther College	(see Annex C)	2,400.00
4/29/66	Thorgedur Ingolfsdottir	Musicology, U.of Illinois, Urbana	1,700.00
1/10/67	Sverrir Thorhallsson	Chem. Eng., U. of Minn. (\$1000)	2,000.00
3/15/67	Sverrir Thorhallsson	Chem. Eng., U. of Minn. (\$1000)	
1/10/67	Steinunn Bjarnadottir	Private study of violin, NYC	500.00
1/10/67	Ingolfur Georgsson	Engineering, U.of Calif., Berkeley	1,000.00
2/15/67	Arni Isaksson	Freshwater Fisheries, U.of Wash.	1,000.00
2/15/67	Kristjan Fridjonsson	Elec. Eng., Northrup Inst. of Tech.	1,000.00
4/7/67	Thuridur Kristjansdottir	Education, U. of Illinois	1,000.00
1/14/68	Solveig Eggerz	International Relations, U.of Kansas	1,000.00
2/14/68	Luther College	(see Annex C)	1,400.00
5/29/68	Thorarinn Larusson	Animal nutrition, N.D. State Univ.	1,000.00
5/31/68	Ingri Jonsson	Bus.Adm./journalism, U.of Wisc.	1,000.00
5/31/68	Kristjan Fridjonsson	Elec. Eng., Northrop Inst. of Tech.	1,000.00
7/22/68	Sigurdur Gardarsson	Music Education, Wisc. State U.	1,000.00
7/23/68	Hafsteinn Gudmundsson	Music (woodwinds), Indiana Univ.	1,000.00
4/4/69	Karl Asmundson	Engineering, Cal.State Polytechnic	1,000.00
4/25/69	Luther College	(see Annex C)	1,750.00
5/23/69	Maggi Jonsson	Architecture, U. of Michigan	1,000.00
5/23/69	Regni Gudmundson	Music Ed., Atlantic Union College	1,000.00
5/26/69	Agnar Magnusson	Civil Engineering, School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City	1,000.00
2/26/70	Karl Asmundsson	Engineering, Cal.State Polytechnic	500.00
2/26/70	Hordur Bjarnason	Int. Relations, Macalester College	500.00
2/26/70	Sigrun Ragnarsdottir	Music, Lewis & Clark College	<u>500.00</u>
2/26/70	Total Allocation		\$27,430.00



Annex C

Luther College Summer Institute In American Studies  
For Scandinavian Teachers

- 1965 Bodil Sahn  
Solveig Jonsdottir
- 1966 Sverrir Holmarsson  
Asmundur Jonsson  
Jon Eysteinnsson  
Halldor Olafsson
- 1967 Gisli Ellerup  
Tomas Jonsson  
Gudridur Thorarensen  
Kristin Thordarson  
Peter Thordarson
- 1968 Orn Forberg  
Gudrun Gudmundottir  
Freyja Jonannsdottir  
Elsa Jonsdottir
- 1969 Helga Möller  
Olöf Rafnsdottir  
Sigriour Erlingsdottir  
Rosa Halldorsson  
Josefina Hansen

Total # of Participants = 20



Annex D

Thor Thors Fund Committee

Iceland: Mr. Thorhallur Asgeirsson  
Permanent Undersecretary of Commerce

Mr. Jonas H. Haralz  
President, Economic Institute of Iceland

U.S.A. Mr. Sigurdur Helgason  
President, Icelandic Airlines, Inc., New York

His Excellency, Mr. Hannes Kjartansson  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iceland  
to the United Nations

His Excellency, Mr. Petur Thorsteinsson  
Former Icelandic Ambassador to the United States

Mr. Stefan Wathne  
U.S. General Manager, Icelandic Prime Contractors,  
New York

Thor Thors Committee Fund Grants

2/26/70	Gudny Gudmundsdottir	Music: violin, Eastman School of Music	\$1000
2/26/70	Olafur Gudmundsson	Animal nutrition, North Dakota State University	\$1000
2/26/70	Svanur Krisjansson	Political science, Macalester College	\$1000
2/26/70	Thor Whitehead	Modern American history	\$1000



THE THOR THORS IKELANDIK FVND  
OF THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION



Einkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar © Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur



## HONORARY CHAIRMEN

---

H. E. ÁSGEIR ÁSGEIRSSON  
*President of Iceland*

Hon. BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON  
*Prime Minister of Iceland*

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All contributions to the Thor Thors Icelandic Fund are tax deductible and should be sent to:

## THE AMERICAN - SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

127 East 73rd Street, New York 21, N. Y.

### Thor Thors Committee Fund Grants

\$1000	Music; violin, Eastman School of Music	Gudny Gudmundsdottir	2/28/70
\$1000	Animal nutrition, North Dakota State University	Olafur Gudmundsson	2/28/70
\$1000	Political science, Macalester College	Svanur Kristjansson	2/28/70
\$1000	Modern American history	Thor Whitehead	2/28/70



16. apríl 1970

Utanríkisráðuneytið,  
Reykjavík.

Hér með er þess beiðst, að utanríkisráðuneytið feli aðalræðismannsskrifstofunni í New York að annast endurnýjun á áskrift forsætisráðherra á The New York Times Book Review og The Atlantic Community Quarterly samkvæmt meðfylgjandi endurnýjunarmiðum, og að leggja út nauðsynlegan kostnað til bráðabirgða.

F. B. P.

GB

Forsætis-  
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CONSULATE GENERAL OF ICELAND  
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

28. apríl 1970

Nr. 36  
Fyrirgreiðsla fyrir  
forsætisráðherra.  
Br. rn. nr. 51, dags. 17/4/70  
Db.rn. nr. 11.A.9.  
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Hér með staðfestist að aðalræðismannsskrifstofan hefur í dag endurnýjað til eins árs áskrift forsætisráðherra að The New York Times Book Review.

X) Varðandi áskrift að The Atlantic Community Quarterly, vísast í bréf aðalræðismannsskrifstofunnar nr. 8, dags. 6. febr. 1970.

Kostnaður \$9.60, verður færður til gjalda á reikningi ríkissjóðs í bókum aðalræðismannsskrifstofunnar.

Afrit að bréfi þessu er sent ríkisbóknaldinu.

Endurskipt  
til þriggja ára 6/2'70

Utanríkisráðuneytið,  
R e y k j a v í k

11.A.9 4/5.20

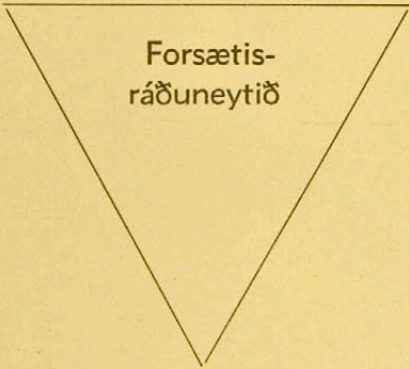


29. janúar 1970

Til utanríkisráðuneytisins,  
Reykjavík.

Hér með er þess óskað að utanríkisráðuneytið hlutist til um, að sendiráð Íslands í London kaupi fyrir forsætisráðherra The Elder Edda. A selection translated from the Icelandic by Paul B. Taylor and W. H. Auden. (Faber, 40s.) og sendi í stjórnarpósti.

F. h. r.



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ráðuneytið