

Register for the
CASPAR HASSELRIIS PAPERS

1906-1973
(Span dates 1934-1973)

MSS 173
(M74-98)

PG 12

2.6 linear feet

Larisa Repin
Processing Archivist for the Balch Institute

October 2001

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*This project was made possible with a generous grant from
John C. Haas*

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6 ½ Hollinger boxes of mss.
3 folders oversize materials
½ Hollinger box of unprocessed photographs

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PROVENANCE

This collection was donated to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies by Caspar Hasselriis' wife, Karen, in 1998. The papers came in as one accession, M74-98, and were processed in October 2001 by Larisa Repin, archival assistant for the Balch Institute.

Several photographs had previously been separated from the manuscripts into Photo Group (PG) 12. Others, unprocessed as of October 2001, were stored in one ½ Hollinger box and placed at the end of the manuscript collection.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Caspar Henrik Wolffsen Hasselriss was born September 15, 1881, in the Fjord-town of Skive, in Jutland, Denmark. He came to the United States from Copenhagen in 1906, settling first in Chicago, and then later Forest Hills, near New York City, where he had moved in 1917.

In 1912 Hasselriis helped organize the Rebild Society, which aimed at strengthening Danish-American ties. He later participated in the founding and operation of three other organizations, American Friends of Danish Freedom and Democracy, Friends of Denmark, and American Denmark Relief, all again, with the general mission of improved Danish –American relations.

During the 1940s Hasselriis was the director of Ratin Laboratory, Inc., which was a manufacturer of rat bait. Also during those war years, he volunteered his services as director of research and information for two of the above mentioned groups, the American Friends of Danish Freedom and Democracy, and Friends of Denmark to tell Americans about the real situation in Nazi-occupied Denmark. In addition he was chairman of the Danish Refugee Fund and in that capacity in close touch with the Danish underground resistance forces. And finally, cooperating with the U.S. Office of War Information, he was appointed chairman of the Danish American Committee of the U. S. War Savings Staff, and was also chairman of the American Denmark Committee to the New York World's Fair. After the liberation of Denmark, he was invited by the Danish Government to head the Danish Information Office in New York (1946-1961), and later founded the Danish Tourist Office there.

Hasselriis was the author of a number of published volumes of essays and reminiscences, including Helligdag-Erindringer.

He was decorated by the Danish kings Christian X with the “Knight of Order of Danneborg” cross, and Frederik IX with the “Fortiest Medalien I Gold” (the Medal of Merit in Gold) and “Kommandor Korset”, and by the Swedish king with the “Morning Star”.

Caspar Hasselriis and his wife, Karen, had three children, Caspar Hasselriis, Jr., Sven Hasselriis, and Mrs. John Rae.

Hasselriss died in 1973.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

Textual Records: This collection spans the years 1906-1973, but the bulk of the materials is concentrated between 1934-1973. They contain Caspar Hasselriis' personal, professional, and some family information, which reflect his political, civic, and community activities. Most noteworthy of the materials in Series I is his correspondence, but the series also includes such records as awards and citations, biographical information, directories, financial materials, newspaper clippings, several organizational minutes, and his speeches. Also of note are the drafts and notes about his book, Helligdag -- Erindringer. Series II contains mostly reference and research materials, including newspapers and other print materials. All materials are in Danish and English, equally.

The textual records, except for directories, financial materials, newspaper clippings, and reference materials, have been indexed.

Photographs: Many photographs had not been processed as of October 2001, and were placed at the end of the manuscript collection in one ½ Hollinger box. A few photos, however, had previously been put into Photo Group (PG) 12, where they remain.

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RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I: FAMILY & PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, 1906-1973 & n.d.
Boxes 1-5 & OS (Oversize) Folders 1-2

The earliest records in this collection are telegrams dating from 1906 from Copenhagen (2:1), while the bulk of the materials here is correspondence, starting in 1923 with letters from Hasselriis as director of the Ratin Laboratory, Inc. Other correspondence concerns the American- Scandinavian Foundation (boxes 1-3 and 5, passim), the Constantin Brun Award Committee (boxes 2 and 5, passim), and the Danish Information Office, when Hasselriis was its director (2:13). There are also organizational minutes from 1925-1973, of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, the Danish American Society, and the Constantin Brun Award Committee (5:4). In addition there are certificates from the king of Denmark for the Knighthood of Denmark, from the United States Treasury Department for distinguished services rendered on behalf of the war savings programs (1:1), and from the Danish king, Frederic IX, for meritorious service (1:2). Other records include: biographical information; birthday celebration materials; event programs and invitations; financial papers; Danish Luncheon Club historical information. Finally there are Hasselriis' writings, in particular drafts and notes for his book Helligdag -- Erindringer (5:7-11), and correspondence regarding a book of his essays, called Adventures in the Day of Love (2:4). All materials are in Danish and English, nearly equally. Arrangement is alphabetical.

SERIES II: REFERENCE & RESEARCH MATERIALS, 1915-1972 & n.d.,
Box 6 & OS (Oversize) Folder 3

This tiny section of the collection consists exclusively of print materials, both in Danish and English.

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BOX LIST

SERIES I: FAMILY & PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, 1906-1973 & n.d.
Boxes 1-5 & OS (Oversize) Folders 1-2

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | | |
|------------|---------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | 1-2 OS 1 | Awards & citations | 1934-70 |
| | | Biographies & interview | |
| | 3 | Hasselriis, Caspar H.W. (includes interview) | 1961 & n.d. |
| | 4-5 | Henius, Max | 1937 & n.d. |
| | 6-11 | Birthday celebrations | 1956-71 |
| | 12 | Certificates & membership cards | 1965-71 & n.d. |
| 2 | 1-15 | Correspondence | 1906-1949 |
| 3 | 1-15 | Correspondence | 1950-73 & n.d. |
| 4 | 1 | Directories | 1957-70 & n.d. |
| | 2 | Events | 1939-72 |
| | 3-6 | Financial materials | 1936-72 & n.d. |

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SERIES I: FAMILY & PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, 1906-1973 & n.d.

Box Folder

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--|----------------------|
| 4 | 7 | Historical information (Danish Luncheon Club) | 1943 |
| | 8 | Insurance documents | 1949-69 |
| | 9-13 OS 2 | Newspaper clippings | 1937-1957 |
| | | | |
| 5 | 1-3 OS 2 | Newspaper clippings | 1959-71 & n.d. |
| | 4-5 | Organizational minutes, seminars & other materials | 1925-73 & n.d. |
| | 6 | Speeches & testimonies | 1934-60 & n.d. |
| | | | |
| Writings | | | |
| 7 1959 | | <u>Helligdag -- Erindringer</u> | |
| | 8-11 | <u>Helligdag -- Erindringer</u> (drafts) | 1959 |
| | 12 | “Indtryk fra en Sommer I Danmark” | 1957 |
| | 13 | “Kender du Danmark?” | 1959 |
| | 14 | Correspondence & other materials | 1926, 1966 & n.d. |

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SERIES II: REFERENCE & RESEARCH MATERIALS, 1915-1972 & n.d.,
Box 6 & OS (Oversize) Folder 3

Box Folder

| | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 | 1-8 | Print & other materials | 1915, 1926-72 & n.d. |
| | 9 OS 3 | Newspapers & newspaper clippings | 1926-67 & n.d. |

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Caspar Hasselriis is not cited as a correspondent here; and newspapers, directories, financial and reference materials have not been indexed.

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