

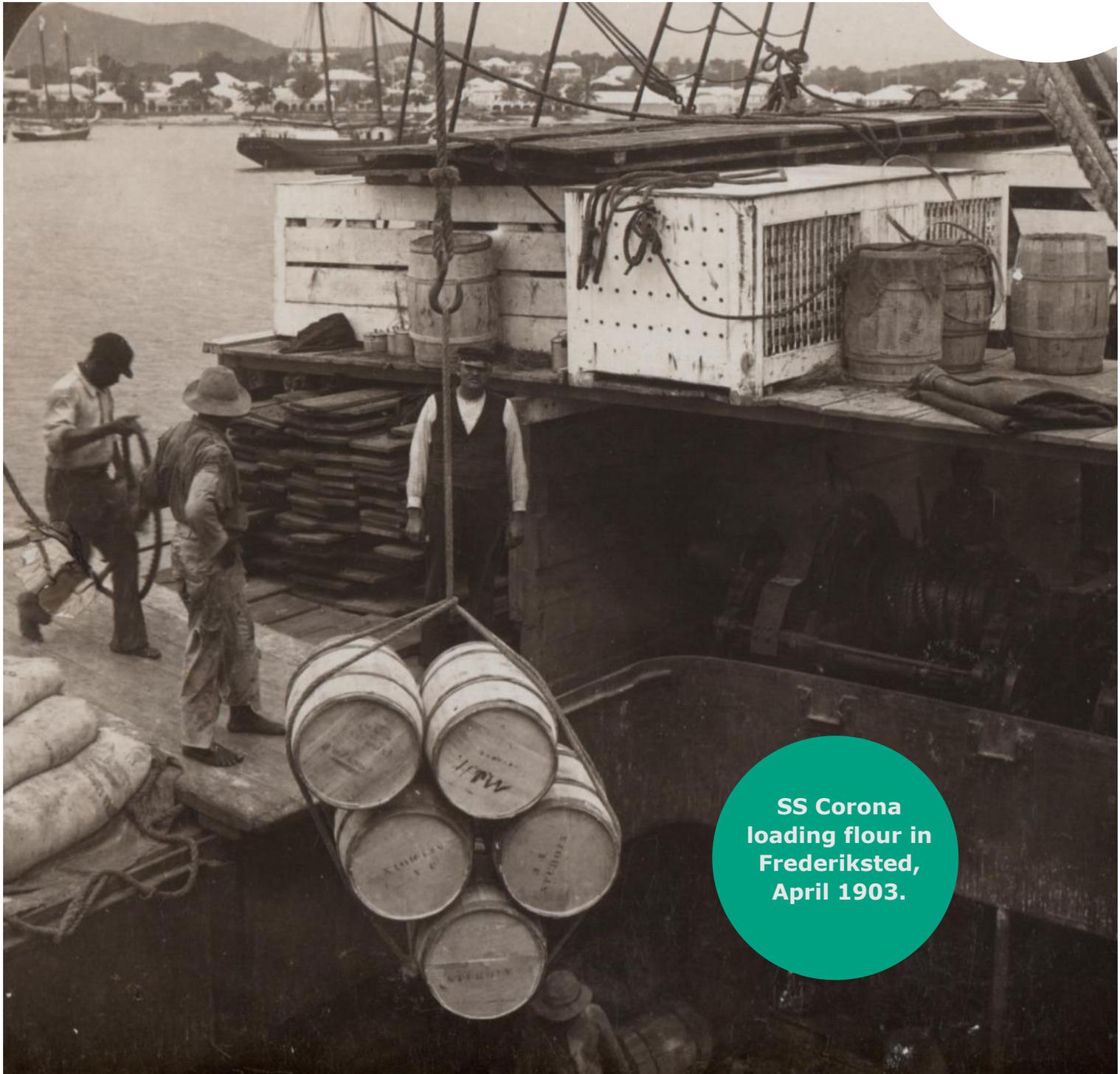


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SS Corona
loading flour in
Frederiksted,
April 1903.

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN USA

The American presidential- and congressional election 2020 has for all of us in Denmark exceeded what most of us have experienced. Even in a life as long as mine, I have never witnessed anything like it. Maybe, it has been a little too much of excitement, because we are talking about the world`s oldest democracy and Denmark`s ally, that – at least seen on the surface - has been through what could be looked upon as a collapse of civilization! That is what this editorial is about.

When Denmark transferred the Danish West Indies to USA on 31st of March 1917 it was not in Denmark regarded as an event with substantial impact on the future of the land – what was regarded as most important was the cashing in of the Sales Sum for 25 million Dollars in gold. World opinion didn't see this transaction as something, that called for a reaction either. The situation then can, nevertheless be considered as the beginning of a new world order, since an important reason for the US acquisition of the islands was the decision in Washington D.C., that the USA would join Britain and France in the 1st World War. On April 6, 1917 the US declared war on Germany and subsequently committed itself to American troop involvement on the French battlefields with hundreds of thousands of troops.

Since then the USA has played a decisive role in world politics and for Denmark's position as an independent nation. In consequence, an American presidential- and congressional election is very important for us, and we have to show interest in its outcome. There are not many Danes, who have not kept a high level of attention and engagement. Each of us has cheered on one of the two candidates; and never have the media had such an intensive coverage, more or less non-stop 24/7 on all aspects of the election and USA as well as focus on the potential consequences for Denmark, Europe and the world. So, most Danes have been well informed to make their own opinion on all aspects of the election. Danish opinion polls showed, that if we had participated in the election, 90 pct. would have cast their vote for

Joe Biden and 10 pct. for Donald Trump. These are certainly different figures than the closely 50/50 votes, which came out of the "real" election in USA.

And then, what, if anything, can we learn from that? That Denmark is a "socialist" country? And now a large part of US voters consider Joe Biden a socialist (or liberal), it must be interpreted to the effect, that we are socialists, who have not understood the ideology and drive behind the American Wonder. Or is the lack of sympathy in Denmark for President Trump more caused by his behavior towards our little country, where he has scolded us for lack of willingness to finance a larger part of defense of ourselves; as well as our turning down his offer to buy Greenland in what he called "just a simple real estate deal"; or are we offended over his calling our Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen "a nasty lady". Or have we only received a filtered picture of a man, who is the most powerful in the world, but who cannot speak decently to or about other people, who is a sociopathic narcissist, and whose behavior has mainly been manhandling the democratic institutions, which have been established in the world`s oldest democracy, and which are engineered to protect society and democracy against bullies, usurpers and dictatorial tendencies.



I frankly admit, that at no point of time have I liked Donald Trump. And I hope for the next 4 years a more sober manner of speaking and behavior will be rooted in The White House; and a larger commitment towards international institutions and treaties be exercised, and that the people in charge in the American institutions will prioritize cooperation over confrontation. But I am also un-derstanding, that Donald Trump has made us aware, that there is something in the American society and its international relations, which should be handled differently. And in this context it will be interesting to see, if the Democrats will be able to find a platform, which can deal with the problems and reach out over the "cliff", which – seen from the outside – is a irreconcilability, well, even hate between Democrats and Republicans.

Or will it be a continuation of the "war", which has existed for the last 4 years. Will the "weapons", which both parties pick up, be of a character that in the long run may facilitate a further threat to the American democracy? One such scenario could involve the Democrats attempting to accelerate a demographic development, which serves their own base, by making Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico to respectively the 51st and 52nd states in the Union⁽¹⁾. In another such scenario, a Democratic President could expand the number of judges in the Supreme Court in order to neutralize the overweight of National Conservative judges, who are the result of Donald J. Trumps appointments during his 4 years tenure.



Is the bust of King Christian in Emancipation Park facing an obscure future? Maybe we know next time MAGASINET goes on-air?

Hopefully the new President and Administration will soon be able to get the Covid-19 virus under control, so that we can once more come visit USA and the beautiful Caribbean islands – places that most Danes like.

But the full picture, that is visualized these days for us, who have been keen watchers of the US elections, invites to some pessimism. As members of DWIS we may ask: What does this mean to USVI and its 110.000 islanders? We need to keep following developments in the United States closely.

Will he concede, or not?



Michael Keldsen
Editor

**Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New
Year**

NEW VOICES

In the M/S Museum for Shipping in Elsinore, Denmark, exhibitions are under revision, i.e. the section that is called "The tea party – the first globalization". It is the impression that this section objectifies e.g. the slave trade.

Our board member Anna Monica Villa is involved in the revision of the section, and the following text is one of her contributions.

Denmark`s Maritime Museum has pieces of stories told with the aid of things. Even the people who were inhumanely packed into the hulls of slave ships are objectified as cargo. To be fair, it would be difficult to display artifacts that could tell the stories of the individual members of communities who were captured from their homes, forced to march to the west coast of the African continent, and brutally trafficked across the Atlantic in sailing vessels. To hear those stories you would also need imagination and empathy, and, "no piece a´ting goin´gi´you da.(No artifact is capable of telling those stories).

Perhaps the tea referred to in the title of this exhibit, "Tea Time- the first globalization", remained unchanged by being transported from China, but, the people who had their lives stolen were forever altered by the experience of profound loss, and prolonged mental and physical abuse.

The following questions and answers are an attempt to tell stories for which there are few, if any, displayable artifacts. The questions and answers will not be enough, but, they are definitely a meaningful attempt to give another level of depth to the narratives now being told. In addition to the Q&A that follows here, M/S also plans to introduce narratives of the enslaved.

In the absence of artifacts and written records, **oral history** traditions are the archives` of the former Danish West Indies.

DNA strands also tell stories sometimes confirmed by written records such as church records, police protocols, and runaway slave ads. are also part of the rich history of the islands which can be traced to the Danish Colonial era. What makes seeing the remnants of Danish colonialism difficult, is the fact that



Denmark sold its colony in the Caribbean to another colonial power in 1917. New narratives emerged from that pivotal point in history and the confusion started to get ridiculous. We would say, "What a rugudoo!"(What a pistarkle!)

Q.: How is the shared history of colonial times present in today's society?

USVI

Colonial history is present in almost every aspect of life in the Virgin Islands of the United States.

The very fact that we are one of the unincorporated territories of the United States is a result of Denmark's sale of the islands and the people in the 1917. The sale was a pivotal moment in the history of Danish colonialism, and, for the islands, it was the beginning of a relationship of dependency to a nation with a very different colonial history. Denmark divested itself of the people whom the King in his farewell letter referred to as loyal subjects.

In 1917 the connection between the Virgin Islands and Denmark *seemed* to disappear. There is no lasting memory of it woven into the tapestries in Christiansborg, and, the faces of the people in the Kingdom of Denmark seldom reflect our colonial past. It is, however, possible to be guided through Copenhagen, Aarhus or Flensburg by someone who can explain the connections that have been forgotten (see among others: www.historie-pn), or, to attend lectures, and participate in the Friendship Festivals arranged by the Danish West Indian Society (link: dwis.dk) and the Friends of Denmark.

Though our common history is not immediately apparent here in Denmark, the past is definitely present here as well. There are those who carry the stories within themselves, and, who are trying to establish places to teach lessons too valuable to be relearned by new experiences: (Helle Stenum, dwis.dk, link to colonial museum).

"OUR DANISH CONNECTION"

Book published by Nina York of St. Croix.

It includes 72 articles, which she has written and published over a period from 1990 to 2019 .

The articles invites to a walk through the Danish Era in St.Croix from 1733 to 1917.



Denmark

MILITARY MUSIC IN THE DANISH WEST INDIES

In the Danish West Indies there were Danish institutions, such as postal services, police, courts, schools, health authorities etc., Danish military, and therefore also Danish military music. The Danish Society for Military Music has studied the military music in the Danish West Indies, and the following is an edited article published by the Society.

The history of the Danish West Indies no doubt belongs to one of the most exotic and controversial epochs in Danish history. The Danish West Indies-Guinean Company annexed in 1672 the uninhabited island St. Thomas and in 1718 St. John. Later, in 1733, St. Croix was acquired from the French West Indian Company. In 1755 the King of Denmark-Norway took over the islands from the company, which was de facto bankrupt. And as such the islands became a Danish Crown Colony.

For more than 250 years Danish civil servants, officers and soldiers guarded Danish supremacy over the islands with all that comes with such a status.

The administration of the Danish West Indies was carried out by the Governor, who was appointed by the King, and vital services etc. were carried out in accordance with Danish Law by the Danish postal services, Danish customs authorities, Danish police and courts, Danish banks, Danish military and therefore also Danish military music. The West Indian Army was already around the year 1800 having a music corps with 16 musicians, who were recruited in Denmark and sent out to the islands.

This music corps was engaged in all ceremonies in the islands and served in exactly the same way as they did at the regiments in Denmark. At the end of the 19th century there were only 9 musicians in the corps – all brass players.

The Army was discharged in 1906 and replaced by a corps of gendarmes, which included a 9 man music corps. Also the Royal Navy Music Corps often visited the islands as part of the crew on the Danish naval vessels, that visited and/or were stationed in the colony.



Danish military parade during Transfer in 1917. Probably a united music corps formed by members from The West Indian Gendarme Music Corps and the music corps from the Danish cruiser "Valkyrien"



1914 – The Juvenile Band with the band leader Alton Augustus Adams to the far left

THE MUSIC AS IT MAY HAVE SOUNDED

For more than 200 years there were Danish music corps – and thereby musicians – in the Danish West Indies. No doubt, those corps were an important contribution to musical life in the islands – militarily as well as civilian. The Danish Society for Military Music is presently attempting to bring back to Denmark from United States National Archives a large archive with sources covering military music in the Danish West Indies. We are talking about unique material covering the time up to Transfer in 1917. Sources, which for unknown reasons were not brought to Denmark in 1917. There exists various contemporary accounts over military music in the Danish West Indies, as well as there exists a lot of concert programmes and other items in relation to this. So, we do have a fair impression of, what they played out there. We can also get an idea of how it sounded with the small 9 man music bands, through as well contemporary as present day recordings. This is explained by the assumption, that the contemporary King Christian IX Ensemble, which is manned with musicians from the Royal Danish Life Guards music corps, is modelled after the DWI Army, and later Gendarme music corps.

THE WEST INDIAN ARMY MUSIC CORPS (ca. 1800-1906).

The West Indian Army music corps was established in the beginning of the 1800s, and totalled then 16 musicians. Not a lot is known about their repertoire (although it can be assumed that it was similar to the repertoire of the army music corps in Denmark). In 1906 the music corps was disbanded as was the Army, and they were replaced with a Gendarme corps.

THE WEST INDIAN GENDARME CORPS MUSIC CORPS (1906-1917)

The West Indian Gendarme Corps replaced the Army Corps in 1906, and with this the Danish islands got a “new” music corps. This corps was in service until Transfer in 1917. At the Transfer ceremony in St. Thomas on 31st March 1917, it was the Music Corps of the Danish Navy that played. Our knowledge about activities and repertoire of this music corps is very limited, but we believe that we can assume that it was similar to music corps in Denmark. However, it cannot be ruled out, that there were local marches, which were played by those corps, but if any, none of them are known today.

THE DANISH NAVY MUSIC CORPS IN THE WEST INDIES

At several occasions some of the Navy music corps have visited the islands. Thus, there have at such occasions been two Danish military music corps in the islands, for entertaining of the islanders. Particularly the cruiser "Valkyrien" has at several occasions brought their 7-man music corps to the islands. Last time in connection with Transfer in 1917, where the cruiser was stationed uninterruptedly from 1915-1917. It was, however, not always that the "music" was "complete" at arrival in St. Thomas. Gunner S. Christian Jul. Nielsen thus confides in his diary on 21st November 1916:

"This morning we had once more music on the deck. Our horn blower had spent time, since our two brass trainees had escaped in San Juan, to train one of the conscripts, and by replacing one instrument, and throw out another instrument

he had managed to establish a music corps. They have practiced a lot and now we all look forward to our daily one hours deck music." The last conductor in the Navy was Knud V. Bentzen. He joined as 15-year old horn blower trainee in 1911 and took part in the great cruise of Valkyrien in 1915-1917. In an interview in 1950 he tells about his father, Victor Bentzen, who since 1915 had been staff horn blower:

"The small orchestra could also contribute to a more serious mood. So, the small 7-man orchestra of Valkyrien was ashore at the transfer ceremony to lower the Danish flag on St. Thomas. I don't think, that any Dane present shall forget the tones from "King Christian" – the Danish Royal anthem, which they played when Dannebrog, the Danish national flag that flew on the old fort, surrounded by palm trees, was lowered. Not even the soldiers in the Danish detachment, who drilled their guns, was able to hold back tears in their eyes."



*Photo of a Danish West Indian military band;
taken in 1905 by the well known photographer Emilie Langkjær*

ALTON AUGUSTUS ADAMS` JUVENILE BAND.

Alton Augustus Adams was born in Charlotte Amalie in 1889. He was an apprentice as joiner and shoemaker, but it was music, that defined his life. In 1906 he became a member of the local band in Charlotte Amalie, but he felt that the band was not disciplined and professional. Therefore in 1910 he founded "The Adams Juvenile Band".

The band was known all over the Danish West Indies and neighbouring islands for their music, orchestration and commitment, and not least for the musical knowledge and achievement of the band leader. A dedicated man, who valued his Danish inheritance in the form of discipline, edification and christian brotherly love.

During the time up to the Transfer the band was financed by the Governor`s budget; and the Government also used the band at several official events. You may speak about a "half official" music corps, which could be compared with present days National Guard (the Danish Administration maintained a large militia in support of the regular Danish forces in the islands).

Shortly after Transfer the band was employed by the United States Navy and thus became the first black navy band since 1812; and Alton Augustus Adams the first coloured band leader, and the first coloured subaltern.

ALTON A. ADAMS AND THE "Ingolf March"

The same year as Alton A. Adams founded "The Juvenile Band", the schooner "Ingolf" came to the Danish West Indies. On board was one of the small music corps of the Royal Danish Navy commandeered and directed by chief horn blower Koefoed, who later became director of the Royal Danish Navys music corps from 1923-27.

The chief horn blower was according to Adams very positive and helpful to the "Juvenile Band", not only with the music, but also teaching the band to march in line and in time with the music, to drill, stand guard etc. In return Adams

composed thankfully the "Ingolf March" and dedicated it to Kofoed.

The premiere of the march took place on the schooner. Present at this occasion was also Prince Axel of Denmark, who became acquainted with Adams and invited him to see him, if ever he came to Copenhagen.

Apparently, the whereabouts of the notes to the march are not known today; but there are three other marches by Adams, which have been composed shortly after Transfer. The most known of these is "The U.S. Virgin Island March", which is today the official hymn of the Territory.

Translation
Michael Keldsen

Provisional list over Danish West Indian Marches:

- Victor Bentzen: 'Guvernör Cold's Honnør march'
- Hans Hass: 'Valkyriens March'
- Alton Adams: 'Ingolf March' Tollesen:
- 'Rekrutternes Farvel Marsch'
- Lionel Roberts: 'St. Thomas Melitia March'
- Lionel Roberts: 'March, Gendarmernes April 1st 1907'
- Lionel Roberts: 'Farewell to Governor Cold'
- Sophus Koefoed: 'Marsch'
- Giglioli: 'March St. Thomas' (ded. to A.J.B.)
- Knud V. Bentzen: 'St. Croix Fanfaremarch'
- Knud V. Bentzen: 'St. Thomas Fanfaremarch'
- Henrik Clausen: 'Hilsen til de Vestindiske Soldater'
- Vilhelm Tuxens kompositioner og marcher
- Lars Sørensen: 'Salut til St. Thomas – Galop'