

lg. <sup>u</sup> Til egen korr. i person-arkivet.

3 aug 1968

No.	1360
Mottatt	5. aug. 68.
Besv.	
Arkiv	i egen korr.

Norsk Polarinstitutt

i personarkivet,  
på Storkerson

Jeg ber om at vedlagte brev av 10 juki 1946 fra Vilhjalmur Stefansson blir opbevart i Polarinstituttets arkiv sammen med andre dokumenter vedr Stefansson.

Brevet handler særlig om Storkerson. Jeg sørget for at det kom et stykke om Storkerson i Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift 1946.

To særtrykk av dette stykket vedlegges.

Arbødigst

  
Fridtjov Isachsen

*fit back to  
Fr. Isachsen  
sweet melody*

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON  
67 MORTON STREET  
NEW YORK 14

SUMMER ADDRESS: Dearing Farm  
Bethel, Vermont

July 10, 1946

*16/9/47  
press.*

S T O R K E R   S T O R K E R S O N

Dear Mr. Isachsen:

There is satisfaction in each bit of evidence that war conditions are receding and it was a particular pleasure to receive yesterday your letter of 14 June.

It will be as much of a pleasure to Wilkins as to me to learn that you intend publishing the memorandum about Storkerson which we sent to DET NORSKE GEOGRAFISKE SELSKAB in 1928. Here in the country, where my wife and I are till early November, I do not have the carbon copy of the 1928 document but since you think of publishing it you must consider if suitably worded for publication, so I rely on that.

But I hasten to reply by air mail because I hope you will do more than to write the brief introductory note of which you speak. I hope that at a minimum you will go through the books I shall now mention and from that material, and such other as you have, compose a sketch of Storkerson's Arctic career.

First you would take Ejnar Mikkelsen's CONQUERING THE ARCTIC ICE, the account of the expedition where Storkerson was first mate and I anthropologist. Remember, he was the third man with Leffingwell and Mikkelsen on their ice journey. Then you would ~~glance~~ glance through my HUNTERS OF THE GREAT NORTH, which is the story of the same expedition from my angle.

Next you would turn to MY LIFE WITH THE ESKIMO, the book that tells of my expedition of 1908-12, where you will find numerous references to Storkerson in the index. But your chief source, so far as my expeditions are concerned, is THE FIRENDLY ARCTIC. In it I hope you will look up all the index references to Storkerson and that you will read both his own account of the ice journey he commanded in 1918 and what I have to say about it.

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Taking the subjects of your letter in their order I come next to what you say about J. Kr. Tornøe having used in a book, LYSSTREIF OVER NORGESVELDETS HISTORIE, which is No. 56 in MEDDELELSER FRA NORGES SVALBARD- OG ISHAVSUNDERSØKELSER, the notes which I snet on May 18, 1939, to your father and you. Since the book had use for these notes I infer that it deals with subjects in which I am interested. Could you possibly arrange with a good deal in second hand books to send me this volume, with bill, and to keep me supplied with lists of new and second hand books that deal with my main interests which are Far North and Far South, Iceland, the pre-Columbian Relations ~~wi~~ between Europe and America, the History of Ancient Navigation, etc.

OVER

From John Giaever and others I had heard during the war about Hoel turning pro-Nazi and was, of course, troubled by that. But now you tell me the good news that the Svalbard Institute is active again, now under the direction of Dr. A. K. Orvin. I hope their records show what publications of theirs I had received before the war brought an interruption and that they will begin sending me their new publications, with bill both for them and for any arrears.

Please try to arrange this for me with the Institute. And kindly ask them to send me two copies of each publication, one of which I need in my New York library and the other here at the farm where we do our work through about five summer months. Both copies should be sent to the New York address, where we do the cataloging. Similarly please ask them to send me one copy of all their publications now available of which their records show I have a copy. It will be a much appreciated further kindness if you arrange with a second hand dealer to try to get for me one copy of each of the Svalbard publications that cannot be supplied direct by the institute.

Incidentally, John Giaever made a very fine impression here during the war, both in the U. S. and (so far as I have heard) in Canada.

I received, probably in 1940, the sad news of your father's death. As you know, we had a good deal to do with Cape Isachsen and with Isachsen land, which latter our observations tentatively indicate is separated from Ellef Ringnes by a strait. And then your father called on me in New York. I admired and liked him.

As to yourself, I am delighted to know that you are working with the Geographical Institute of the University. I hope you follow up, both in study and writing, your old interest in how far afield our Icelandic-Norwegian ancestors penetrated in the region of the North American mainland, the Canadian Arctic islands and Greenland. It seems to me that especially interesting are the archaeological finds of the Danes in Inglefield Land. Please do something to keep me abreast of the work of yourself and others in the field of these ancient journeys, colonizations and race mixtures.

You noticed, I suppose, what I quoted from and said about Eilert Sundt and Eigil Thorhallason in my GREENLAND. In nothing of Nansen's which I have in my library ~~does he mention~~ do I find mention of either of these writers. Did Nansen mention them anywhere? I would be most grateful for the reference.

And I am most grateful for whatever you do about Storkerson. He is potentially a figure of significance in Norway's part of the history of exploration -- by no means of Nansen caliber, but not to be forgotten without injustice and without Norway's known contribution being appreciably lessened.



Docent Fridtjov Isachsen  
The Geographical Institute of the University  
Blindern, Vestre Aker  
(Pr. Oslo) NORWAY

Could I perhaps secure by exchange the publications of the Geographical Society, the Svalbard Institute, or the Geographical Institute of the University? By now I have published 17 books and I have separates of a good many articles.