



# Midnight Sun

ISSUE

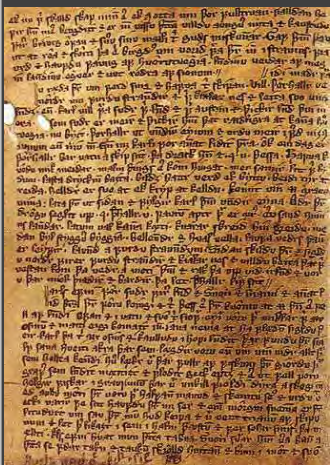
4

VOLUME 27  
October 2014

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

## The Written Sources

According to the Icelandic sagas ("Eirik the Red's Saga" and the "Saga of the Greenlanders") [—] the Norse started to explore lands to the west of Greenland only a few years after the Greenland settlements were established. In 985 while sailing from Iceland to Greenland with a



migration fleet consisting of 400-700 settlers and 25 other ships [—], a merchant named Bjarni Herjólfsson was blown off course, and after three days sailing he sighted land west of the fleet. Bjarni was only interested in finding his father's farm, but he described his discovery to Leif Erikson who explored the area in more detail and planted a small settlement fifteen years later.

(Continued in margin of page 3)



## Theme: Norse Settlement 1000 Years Ago



Members' Matters	2
President's Corner	3
Editorial	3
Theme articles	1, 5, 6, 7
Scandinavian News	4, 6
Upcoming Events	8

## Seeking Out The Past

By Kari Mitchell

Back in 1960, Norwegian explorer Helge Ingstad discovered what looked like Norse settlement traces in L'anse aux Meadows at the northernmost tip of Newfoundland - Canada's youngest province. Over a period of seven years his wife Anne Stine Ingstad led the meticulous excavations of what turned out to be eight turf-walled structures, dating from the early 11th century.



Site of a "workshop and atelier" at L'anse aux Meadows.  
The view of the bay will not have changed much in a thousand years



I remember the thrill of the news when they found the soapstone spindle whorl - proof that there had been women among the settlers from Greenland! Such a small thing! But easy to bring across the ocean, and necessary to spin wool for the weaving of the giant woolen sails for the

(Continued on page 7)

Online: <http://scandinavianclubregina.com/Newletter.htm>



## Exit Game Night

Unfortunately, we had to give up the Club's Game Nights, due to low attendance. It is always a challenge to come up with ideas for activities that will appeal to enough people, and this one missed. But we will keep trying!



## Norsk Høstfest

Norsk Høstfest, held in Minot, North Dakota, annually celebrates the culture and heritage of the five Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. This year the event took place 30 Sep. To 4 Oct. Each nation is represented in one of the halls in which the festival takes place, and each named after their country's capital city. The individual styles of each country's entertainment, food, clothes, art, and jewelry can be found throughout Norsk Høstfest and also in the Scandinavian Heritage Park, the only park in the world representing all five Nordic countries.

Never been there? Why not go next year!

## Members' Matters

### Fishy Fridays at the Freehouse



**August event:** Club members enjoying the outdoors quiet before the storm.



A turnout of 17 made the **September** Fishy Friday event one of the best attended ever. Some members have suggested we change the venue, but the Cathedral Village Freehouse is well suited for our type of arrangement, and the staff has been flexible when it

comes to providing more seating for a growing crowd. Attempts have been made to find a different place, with no luck so far, but we keep looking. Stay tuned on our Facebook and web sites for news!

### Picnic Sunday in Candy Cane Park



The youngest SCoR member: 3 weeks old.

44 (including Trygve the Troll) were present at the SCoR picnic on September 14th. A good crowd on a not exactly warm afternoon!

Chefs Larry and Greg in action at the barbeques, preparing corn, burgers and hot dogs.





## President's Corner

This summer both our July MidSummer Fest and August Corn Roast were cancelled due to rain. We thus made one last attempt for a picnic in September. Those who attended the cool outdoors received an unexpected treat of roasted corn. Thank you to those who helped put it all together!

Last spring, we started a monthly card/game night. After giving it a valiant effort, it has "folded". A big thank you to Mavis Debruin for graciously hosting this monthly event. Please let us know if there is a particular activity you would like us to try. We think Nordic knitting might be fun. Do we have a member willing to teach us this skill? If so, please call me! As well, Kelly Nelson is in the process of organizing a genealogy event. Keep posted for more information on this. We are also reviewing our scholarship policy and expect to table an amendment to our bylaws on this, at our next AGM. A scholarship will be offered next fall, from our 2013 and 2014 steak night profits. Given the success of the fundraiser we started 2 years ago, we intend to continue this annually, with proceeds going toward a scholarship fund.

We moved our October supper to the Caledonian Club this year, hoping to reduce our expenses. However, there was no way to break even without increasing ticket price to \$28. The price per plate was almost \$25, excluding entertainment and an additional flat fee for coffee/tea. Nevertheless, the board voted to leave the ticket price at \$25 and



recoup the shortfall from membership fees. A big thank you to club member, Eldon Jensen, and all of the Prairie Rambler musicians, for providing us entertainment at a bargain basement price!

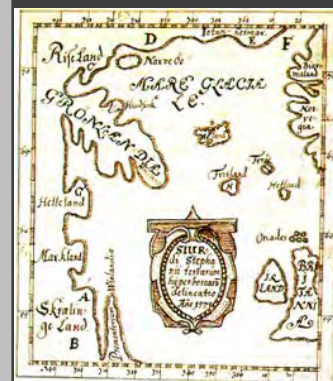
Please join us for our Christmas party on Sunday, December 7th. I anticipate our potluck dinner will feature a delightful variety of hot food once again. I hope to see many of you there, along with children and grandchildren!

We would really love to have some help with organizing events. Please let our social coordinator, Larry Bristol, or any of our board members know, if you would like to give us a hand.

*Pearl Baumgartner*

*(Continued from page 1)*

The sagas describe three separate areas discovered during this exploration: Helluland, which means "land of the flat stones"; Markland, "the land of forests", definitely of interest to settlers in Greenland where there were few trees; and Vinland, "the land of wine" (or as suggested by modern linguists "the land of meadows"), found somewhere south of Markland. It was in Vinland that the settlement described in the sagas was founded.



Three of Erik the Red's children visited the North American continent: his sons Leif and Thorvald, and their sister Freydis [main character of Joan Clark's novel *Eiriksdottir* - editor's comm]. Thorvald died there.

*Wikipedia*



## Editorial



### Midnight Sun

Scandinavian Club  
of Regina



Readers of the printed issue of Midnight Sun may have noticed that certain words or phrases in the text are underscored and have a different colour. This is due to the fact that you are holding a print version of the online magazine. The content is exactly the same in both versions, but

online readers can click on the linked words and get lots of background information about a person, a place, a theme, or anything. There are also links to email addresses, so you can reach SCoR contacts with email messages by simply clicking. This is an added value to the content of the magazine which we are sure our members appreciate. It will also mean a good deal less work in the production of this publication - and we hope there will be an increase in the number of members who will prefer to read the Midnight Sun online.



## Agreement on Dual Citizenship



Danes living abroad and foreigners

living in Denmark will soon be able to apply for dual citizenship. On June 4, 2014, the Danish government signed a broad political agreement on dual citizenship with the Liberal Party, the Socialist People's Party, the Unity List (the Red-Green Alliance) and the Liberal Alliance. The Minister of Justice will introduce a bill in the fall of 2014 which is expected to pass and enter into effect in mid-2015.

Danes living abroad will thereby be able to retain their Danish citizenship when obtaining citizenship in the country they immigrated into. Also, foreigners living in Denmark will no longer have to renounce their original nationality to become Danish citizens. (—)

*Danish Embassy*

## Record Number Living in Regional Iceland



Never before have as many Icelanders lived outside the capital area, new numbers from Statistics Iceland indicate. It has often been said that an exodus of people from more rural areas has been transpiring in recent years and the assertion that population growth is down everywhere but in the capital region has been a popular one. This is far from the case, although certain regions are in a poorer state than others, visir.is reports.

(A) professor at the [University of Akureyri](#) (—), said in an interview with visir.is that about 92 percent of the nation lives in three growing areas of the country (—) “Diverse metropolitan communities in [Reykjavík](#) and [Akureyri](#) support surrounding communities up to an hour away, and in the east the counties of Fljótshálsa and Fjarðabyggð form a relatively diverse business and service region ... The continued growth of these areas must be insured, but they are not under any immediate threat,” he added.



“Those communities which consist of small towns and villages, far from each other, and far from service centers, (—) are those facing the greatest population reductions (—) A serious population problem is affecting a small part of the nation. Therefore it would be relatively easy to respond to that in a focused and systematic way, if the will of the people is there, but for such actions popular support would be necessary,” (the professor) said. *Iceland Online Review*

## Carbon Capture Usage



Engineers in Norway are experimenting with a use for carbon dioxide captured from the chimneys of power plants -- feeding it to fish.

[Carbon capture](#) technology has advanced rapidly in recent years, but normally the resulting emissions are pumped into vast underground chambers. Instead, a Norwegian consortium thinks it can use the carbon dioxide to grow omega-3 fatty acids from algae.

After oil and gas, seafood is Norway's largest export. The country produces 60



percent of the world's farmed Atlantic salmon. But farmed fish can't gain Omega-3 fatty acids the normal way - by eating algae and phytoplankton as they grow - so it has to be added to their feed. (—) By streaming CO2 through a tank containing seawater and 'algal mass', the Norwegians think it should be possible to generate 300-400kg of oil per tonne of CO2. As the algae grows, it's harvested, dried and then processed to get at the oil it contains.

The country's government has invested nearly £600,000 in the idea, which will be trialled at the Mongstad centre - the world's largest test facility for carbon capture and storage technology.

The experiment will run for five years, after which time a decision will be made on whether the process is commercially viable.

*wired.co.uk*

*(More in margin of page 6)*

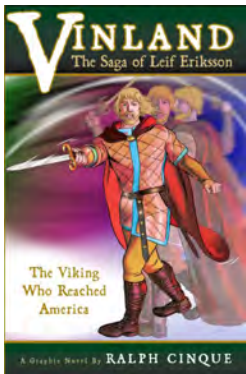




## Vinland in Popular Fiction

**Not surprisingly, Vinland has provided inspiration to fiction authors as well as writers of scientific reports. The Vinland Sagas (see p. 1 "The Written Sources") have been subject to analyses and commentaries in many written works. The popularity of everything "viking" has resulted in e.g. the Canadian-Irish historical drama television series Vikings. We will take a look at a few fictional books dealing with the Norse discovery of North America and the people involved in the drama around that event.**

Many of the works of fiction fall into the category "popular literature" which finds a big audience and are normally easy to access. Within this category we find graphic novels - comic book style publications. Ralph



Cinque is an author working in this format, assisted by ten artists, one of them Matt McKay of Ontario. The book Vinland: The Saga of Leif Eriksson chronicles the life of the Norseman from his boyhood on

Greenland to the aftermath of his discovery of America. With a mix of historic facts and vivid fiction, such an illustrated story will bring entertainment (and enlightenment) to an audience enjoying the graphic novel format.



Although it does not really deal with the Norse discovery of North America, it is natural in this category also to mention the manga (Japanese for comic art) publication Vinland Saga, created by celebrated manga author Makoto Yukimura. This story is, however, set in England at the start of the 11th century, and deals with the Danish invaders of England.

Material like the story of the discovery of North America and the settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows will typically feed book series writing. In this category we find The Axe of Iron three book series, written by fairly obscure author Jerry Hunsinger. He develops the story through the volumes The Settlers, Confrontation and Assimilation, based on his theory that the Norse settlers did not disappear, rather they assimilated with the natives of North America.



Doorway of reconstructed settlement house, L'Anse aux Meadows

(Continued next page)

## Picture credits

P.1: (Sod house, building site) K.Mitchell; (Manuscript) Wikimedia; (Spindle whorl) Univ.of Pittsburg;

P.2: (Guests) unidentified server at the Freehouse; (Picnic) K.Mitchell

P.3: (P.Baumgartner) T.Baumgartner; (Skálholt Map) The Royal Library, Copenhagen.

P.4: (Village) Iceland Online Review; (Fish farm) Eksportutvalget for fisk

P.5: (Doorway) K.Mitchell

P.6: (Airplane) Scanpix

P.7: (Pin) Univ of Pittsburg; (Monument, rock face) M.Mitchell

Other: Public domain

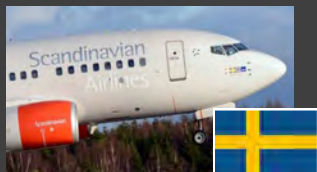
## Raise a little shell!

Clams, mussels and oysters always in season.



**Pacific Fresh Fish**  
Corner of Robinson & 13th  
306-525-9147

## Swedish airfares to get cheaper in 2015



Sweden is set to buck the European trend of rising air prices with fares expected to drop next year according to a new report.

The Global Travel Price Outlook report carried out by travel management company Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT) has revealed that flights originating in Sweden will decrease by 0.4 percent.

Scandinavian neighbours Norway will also experience a saving [—]. The two countries are the only ones in the study where cheaper tickets were forecast for 2015.

By contrast, fares will rise in Germany and the UK. Global air fares are anticipated to rise says the report.

"In our region we have players like Norwegian who are very active and that has driven prices down. That's been met by our traditional airlines, especially SAS, with some competition for prices," Johan Wilson, managing director of CWT in Sweden. [—]

The report also stated that hotel prices will increase in Sweden by 0.5 percent and globally by 3.6 percent.

TT/The Local/pr

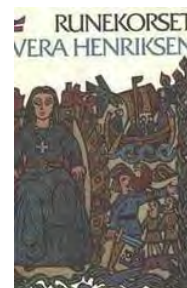
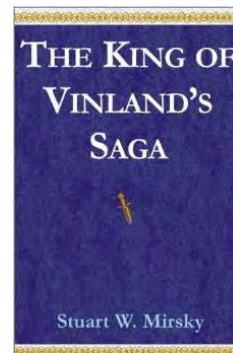
(Continued from previous page)

R.G. Johnston, resident of Groom Lake, Ontario, has written two books developed around his knowledge of historical sources. The first book, *Vinland the Beginning*, centres around the fictional characters Thorfinn and his wife Gudrid, with close references to facts described in old sagas. The second book, however, *Vinland Ragnarok: Twi'light of the Gods*, brings a confusing mythological mishmash into the story of the characters.

Stuart W. Mirsky's depiction of Vikings in his book *The King of Vinland's Saga* is a tale of first contact between two very different cultures as a small group of Norsemen take their first steps across the Atlantic - and into history. Mirsky's style is straightforward and to the point. Despite possible lacks of conventional literary qualities, the

reader will still be entertained by the plot and the lives of his characters.

Vera Henriksen does not fit the typical category of a writer of popular literature. She is an award-winning Norwegian author of historical novels. In 1986 she wrote the book *Runekorset: en saga om Vinland* (*Runekorset: a Saga of Vinland*). Her writings have not been extensively translated into English, but those who are able to read the Norwegian language will enjoy her novelization of the various sagas that describe the viking discovery and attempted colonization of Vinland.



## Other Suggested Readings



In Midnight Sun no. 4 of last year we brought the news of the launch of Anne Stine Ingstad's book *The New Land with the Green Meadows* in English.

Other books on this subject:

Helge Ingstad: *Westward To Vinland*.

Helge Ingstad and Anne Stine Ingstad: *The Viking Discovery of America; the Excavation of a Norse Settlement in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland*.

Joan Clark: *Eiriksdottir ; a Tale of Dreams and Luck* (novel)

These four books are all available at Regina Public Library.



Then there is Birgitta Linderöth Wallace. She has written *Westward Vikings; The Saga of L'Anse aux Meadows* which tells about Park Canada's excavations on the site in the 1970s and has lots of interesting illustrations.

And don't miss club member Brenda Niskala's next book which will take us into this fascinating era!



## .. Seeking Out ..

(Continued from page 1)

ships used for their voyages.

The final proof that these were really Norse



settlements

came with the unearthing of a bronze ring-headed fastening pin, well known from earlier archaeological findings, e.g. in Greenland, and known to have been used by men for fastening their cloaks at the shoulder. It was a triumph for the archaeological expedition!

The name L'Anse aux Meadows looks a bit confusing - a mix of French and English. I had read that it derives from the French L'Anse aux Méduses or "Jellyfish Cove", but the visitors' brochure gives this explanation:

*The earliest recorded name for L'Anse aux Meadows appears on an 1862 French chart as Anse à la Médée or "Medee's Cove." The name is probably from "Medea," the heroine of Greek tragedy, after whom many 17th and 18th century ships were named. Settlements and shore stations were often named after ships. After the English settled in the area the name was anglicized to its present form. The bay in front of the village is still called Medee Bay.*



More name confusion(?): It was assumed that the "vin" part of the word referred to "wine", and that

grapes were growing where the Norse explorers landed. The immigrants may well have made wine, but probably from berries. Squashberries grow in Newfoundland woods, and to an untrained eye they might be taken for wild grapes.

Another interpretation of the name Vinland, is that the pronunciation of the first syllable is not vín (with a long

vowel sound) but vin (with a short sound), an Old Norse word with the meaning "meadow, pasture". Vin is found in old farm names in Norway. Helge Ingstad in his writings prefers this interpretation.



The monument outside the interpretive centre was unveiled by Norway's Royal couple in 2002. The centre provides lots of information through exhibitions and guided tours. There is a film theatre and a gift shop - and then of course the opportunity to go outside and look for ourselves.

Seeing the now covered up excavation sites gave me an intense feeling of the double history of the place: the settlement back in the 11th century - and the achievement of the Ingstads, their co-workers and the villagers back in the 1960s to uncover what had so long been hidden. The building sites themselves were like an adventure.

Knowing that this was the place where Leif Erikson and other Norse immigrants had arrived - most probably with the intention of making this their new home - made me feel a breath from a thousand years back. Why did they leave after just a few years? Nobody knows for sure, but they did, and they seem to have taken all their equipment away with them. The artifacts that were excavated were small things that could have been lost in the grass or trampled into the dirt floor of the house, never to be found by the owners who would no doubt have been looking for them. These were not days of plenty.



The recreated houses sitting a little distance away from the original sites are interesting in that they give an idea of what it could have looked like when the Norse men and women lived there. They are not claimed to be accurate - but certain modifications have to be allowed in a modern-day facility like this. We met knowledgeable people in period dress - one of them had been a young lad in the village during the excavations and knew the Ingstads well. He was the son of Maud of whom Anne Stine writes and who was the archaeologists' much loved and respected bread-maker!

What more to say? Go there and see for yourself. It's well worth the trip!



*The Norse settlers will have seen this exact rock face!*



**Please  
observe:**

We would like to remind our members that guest numbers for catered events are submitted one week in advance. The caterer will order the food and SCoR will be charged accordingly. If you are unable to attend an event after you have been included in the final numbers, the club will have to bill you for your meal.

Thank you for your understanding

## Upcoming Events

### Roast Turkey dinner



**Sunday, October 19th**

at the Caledonian Curling

Club, 2225 Sandra Schmirler Way  
Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner at 6pm  
Music by the Prairie Ramblers for one hour, starting at 7pm

Tickets: \$25 per person (members & non-members); children 10 & under: 1/2 price; children 5 & under: free

### SCoR Christmas Party



**Sunday, Dec 7th**

at Whitmore Park United  
Church, 336 Durham Drive

3:00 - 6:00pm

Back by popular demand: Potluck  
supper!

Children's activities

Presentation by **Greg Swanson** about  
his Nordic bike trip.

### Fishy Friday at the Freehouse



First Friday of every month  
at 5pm at Cathedral  
Village Freehouse,

2062 Albert Street.

No need to sign up - just turn up!

Upcoming dates: Nov. 7th, Dec. 5th.



**Share SCoR events  
with your family  
and friends!**

Follow us on  for monthly details!

**Midnight Sun Issue 4, Vol. 27; October 2014**

**Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina**

### 2014-2015 Board of Directors

President	Pearl Baumgartner	306-761-0678
Vice President	Greg Swanson	306-586-9737
Past President	Kim Rathwell	306-531-9794
Treasurer	Susan Bjorndalen	306-540-4637
Secretary	Connie Grasdal	306-359-1031
Directors	Blair Hudyma	306-543-6084
	Kelly Nelson	306-584-2562
	Jamie Struthers	306-949-5608
	Ingrid VanDusen	306-949-6064



SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF REGINA  
P.O.Box 37182, Regina, SK S4S 7K4

### Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30

Single membership \$ 20

**Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.**

### Contact us:

SCoR contact email

[scormembership@gmail.com](mailto:scormembership@gmail.com)

Membership contact

Kelly Nelson , Phone 306-584-2562

Email [kndn83@gmail.com](mailto:kndn83@gmail.com)

Social Coordinator

Larry Bristol, Phone 306-586-1799

Email [l.bristol@sasktel.net](mailto:l.bristol@sasktel.net)

Midnight Sun editor

Kari Mitchell Phone 306-565-2450

Email [kar-mit@hotmail.com](mailto:kar-mit@hotmail.com)



**Any views expressed in individual articles do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Scandinavian Club of Regina.**