



FÁLKINN

Official Newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

Stephan G in Wales

By John Sigurd Gudmundson

53rd Year No. 3

September 2013

Though still foams the sea between far-distant lands,
It frights not now those who go faring.
And Canada, Markland of old, holds out hands
To all who have mettle and daring.
To Hellenes of old it was myth for an ode,

To the Icelandic sea-king it pledged an abode.
Still, hopefully, men turn their weary eyes west,
Of our bounty and affluence dreaming,
For well have you served them that loved you the best,
Your promises to them redeeming.
And all that Man's spirit conceives as the best
May root in you firmly and there come to rest.

As many of you know, Stephan G. Stephansson (or Stephan G as he's fondly referred to in Iceland) was an Icelandic-Canadian poet who wrote from the prairie frontier of a young nation. But unlike the large number of 19th Century Icelandic immigrants who passed through Gimli, Manitoba (New Iceland as it was then called), Stephan G took a rather circuitous route through Wisconsin, North Dakota, and eventually Markerville, Alberta, where he eventually settled with his family and wrote the majority of his poems.

Although several articles and papers have been written about Stephan G's poetry and working class life, relatively few have focused on the early modernist elements of his writing. This may be a result of his distance from the historical centres of modernism in Europe. In May 2013, I rectified that at the Alternative Modernisms Conference at Cardiff University in Wales with my paper "Margin Man: Conflicts of Ethnicity & Existence in Stephan G. Stephansson's Later Poems".

If you follow this link (cardiff.ac.uk/encap/

modernisms/) you will notice one of the keynote speakers at the conference was Professor Ástráður Eysteinnsson from the University of Iceland. Not only is Ástráður one of the world experts in Modernist Studies, he is also a big fan of Stephan G. And, as expected, he showed up for my presentation. A lively debate ensued among myself, Professor Eysteinnsson, and the other Scandinavian modernists in attendance on just how far Stephan G passed through the coveted gates of modernism. We agreed that, like the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, Stephan G. managed to jam his foot firmly in the door, which I am sure suited both 'somewhat detached' writers just fine.

I highly recommend Stephan G to new readers. And for those already familiar with the farmer poet's writing, a re-reading with a keen eye to his modernist leanings (or footing!) is definitely worth pursuing. Here is a small taste from Stephan G's early modernist poem 'Canada' (translated by Thorvaldur Johnson).

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iccttweets](http://www.twitter.com/iccttweets)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- AGM Sept 19 @7:30pm
- Nordic Nights
Sept 17 @ 6:30pm
- Toronto Airwaves
Show-case! TBA

Reykjavík Pride by Karen Helena

ICCT Executive

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Gay pride in Iceland is the second most popular celebration next to the Independence day (June 17). It's an estimated eighty to one hundred thousand people attend the parade (about 1/4 of Iceland's population). Needless to say Icelanders love a good party.

My husband and I walked together in the Toronto Gay pride this year for an organization called Heterosexuals for Same Sex Equality (<http://www.straightnotnarrow.ca>). Their theme was: nations who have passed equal marriage into law. So far there are only 16 countries in the whole world that recognize same-sex marriage, two of course being Canada and Iceland.

When I realized I would be in Iceland during gay pride I contacted Derek Forgie, the founder of the HSSE and asked his permission to walk in the Reykjavík Pride Pa-

rade on behalf of the organization. Derek was ecstatic. This was the first time that the HSSE would be walking in a pride parade outside of Canada. What an honour!

The Pride opening ceremonies was held at Harpa concert hall (<http://en.harpa.is/>). Music poetry, video and congratulatory awards were all part of the program that circled the theme of love. Of course the infamous Reykjavík mayor, Jón Gnarr was mingling amongst the crowd. I introduced myself to him and said that I live in Toronto. He told me he had just come back from a vacation in Toronto with his family (he kept a low profile) and that they really enjoyed themselves. I also met some lovely people from England in a LGBT choir called the Pink Singers (<http://www.pinksingers.co.uk/>).

The parade on Satur-

day had a very distinct energy. Not because Icelanders show less enthusiasm than Canadians, but likely because of all the gay/anti-gay political activism happening around the world that shaped the parade into a human rights protest. The HSSE (<http://www.hsse.ca/history.html>) fit right in.

I was so proud to walk with family and friends alike. I was joined by my husband, his friends, my mother-in-law, her step-children and their children. The crowd was curious and intrigued because no one had ever heard about the HSSE but when they read our message we were applauded for our participation: marriage equality around the world. straightnotnarrow.ca.

Hopefully we will walk in the RVK pride parade again and again and each time many more will join us.



NORDIC NIGHTS MOVIE SERIES PRESENTS: Living with Lava

Ryerson RCC
[Wheelchair-accessible external entrance]
[Elevator] Rogers Communications Centre, 80 Gould Street (corner of Gould and Church).

This event is FREE!

Using volcanos as a thread, this film examines lives that have been somehow shaped by living close to the lava. With a past, present and future approach this documentary focusses on three Ice-



landic volcanos; Eldfell, Eyjafjalljokull and Katla. Although little can match up to the force of a vol-

canic eruption, in this film, the real power is in the spoken word.



Nordic Nights returns this fall with the Icelandic documentary Living with Lava.

<http://vimeo.com/39972866>

Date: Tues Sept 17th

Doors open @ 6:30

Movie @ 7 pm.

Arden's Flatbrauð by Arden Jackson - <http://www.vinarterta.ca>

Served at the Westward Viking Festival, July 27, 2013

This flatbraud recipe is adapted from Katrin Brynjolfsson's Recipe in 'Cook Book' First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg 1951.

It was served at the festival cut into wedges and topped with fresh cured thinly sliced Graflax on a mustard seed, dill, chive, lemon and lime aioli and garnished with lemon lime zest and dill.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 Tsp Soda
- 1 1/2 Tsp Salt
- 3 Cups Rye Flour
- 3 Cups White Flour
- 1 1/2 Cups Whole Wheat Flour

Instructions

Mix ingredients together in a bowl. Make a well, pour in boiling water for fairly stiff dough, stirring rapidly.

Cut the dough into 36-42 equal portions. Roll flat 1/8"-3/16" thickness on a floured board, 5" diameter. Fry on very hot cast iron pan on a stove, or over a fire, wiped with a small amount of oil.



ICCT Annual General Meeting

Thursday, Sept 19th

DATE: Thursday, Sept 19th
TIME: 7:30pm -9:30pm

LOCATION: 135 Bathurst Street (Between Queen St W & Adelaide St W.)

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. If you are interested in joining the executive and being part of the behind the scenes of our very busy club, please email: president@icct.info. Open positions: Secretary, Vice President. We are also looking for more help with social media and events planning.

The Árni Magnússon Institute
for Icelandic Studies

The Snorri Sturluson Icelandic

The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies invites applications for the Snorri Sturluson Icelandic Fellowships for 2014. The Fellowships are granted to writers, translators and scholars (not to university students) in the field of humanities from outside Iceland, to enable them to stay in Iceland for a period of at least three months, in order to improve their knowledge of the Icelandic language, culture and society.

The amount of the Fellowships is based in principle on travel expenses to and from Iceland, plus living expenses while in the country.

Should two equally-qualified candidates be under consideration, preference will, as a rule, be given to a candidate from Eastern or Southern Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America or Oceania.

The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies assists Fellows during their stay in Iceland, at the conclusion of which Fellows are expected to submit a report to the Institute on how the grant was spent.

There is no special application form for the Fellowships. Applicants should submit a brief but thorough account of the purpose of their stay in Iceland, spec-

ifying period of stay, as well as details of education and publications. Further information at: www.arnastofnun.is/english

Applications should be sent by ordinary mail (no e-mail application) no later than 31 October 2013 to:

The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies
The Sigurður Nordal Office
P.O.Box 1220
121 Reykjavík
Iceland

**Arden has Vinarterta and Hardfisk
at <http://www.vinarterta.ca>**

Linda's Lore

by Linda Lundstrom

We each have our own personal relationship with our Icelandic culture. Each of us can tell stories of life experiences which connect us to the spirit, the language and the food of 'Western Icelanders'.

Here is one of my stories, along with an invitation for you to share yours.

It was usually April or October when the pickerel and jackfish filets were hung on our clothesline. Up in Cochenour, Ontario. It was important that the timing coincided with cool weather, no flies and I suppose...no laundry.

Wooden clothespins attached each filet at the tail, with the thick fleshy part hanging down. There they would hang...for several weeks...gradually drying into the strange and delicious snack that my Icelandic mother delighted in sharing.

Olavia Adelsteinsdottir was my Mom's Icelandic name, but it became Olive Lundstrom when she married my

Dad Rickard. She was known in the small town of Cochenour for her love of fashion, fabrics...and for hanging raw fish on her clothesline.

Olive knew just when to hang the fish and also when the drying process was complete. That was the day she would pile it up on the table, bring out a pound of rich yellow butter...and the hammer. The hardened fish was like wood, but would break off into bite-sized pieces after a few hits of the hammer. We would dip it in the butter...maybe with a sprinkle of salt.

It was a ritual in our family...eating the hardfisk and knowing that it represented our Icelandic heritage. It became an important part of our identity. So when the Italian families gave us their home-made wine and the Anglo Saxons brought out their cakes and candies...we offered our hardfish, complete with butter and the hammer.

Olive passed away in 2008 and she stopped making hardfisk many years

before that, but when my husband and I attended the Toronto Icelandic Club's Thorra- blot this spring, the hardfiskur served brought back all the memories of my mother's hardfisk.

So that's why we will be at Thorra- blot again in 2014...for the hardfisk along with all the other Icelandic foods that connect us as Icelandic Canadians.

Wait till you taste Arden Jackson's Vinarterta!

Please send your Hardfisk memories to: lindalundstromworks@gmail.com

Bless, Takk,
Linda



Language Classes

NOW ACCEPTING
REGISTRATION FOR
OUR FALL 2013 SESSION

Winter & Spring sessions offered in 2014.
Adult Icelandic Level 1: Beginner & Level 2: Intermediate Classes
Monday eve 7:30-9:30pm
October 21 – December 9 at Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church, 4 Morningside Ave. near Bloor and Runnymede.
Cost is \$75 for each 8 Week

Session for ICCT (Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto) members, \$85 non ICCT members.

Each class is 2 hours long starting promptly at 7:30pm and includes a 20 min coffee/tea break. Light refreshments such as cookies or fruit are kindly asked to be brought by a different student each week.

To register, email: classes@icct.info. To pay online, click the 'Donate' button and enter the amount

for the class. Be sure to add a note: 'Language class fee'. (\$75 for ICCT members, \$85 for non-members)

If you would prefer to send us your registration by mail, please include a cheque made payable to the "Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto"

Lynne Thorkelsson, ICCT
Treasurer
1680 Scugog St.
Port Perry ON L9L 1E2



NEW MEMBERS

Tosca Teran, Toronto
Sheryl Hoshizaki, Toronto
Rod and Cathy Jackson,
Burlington
Nancy Hummel-Clapp,
Eagle Lake
Laila Kokins, Toronto
Douglas Vidalin, Mississauga
Stephen & Lynne Moore,
Etobicoke

RENEWALS

Helgi Austman, Guelph
Mel Boyce, Toronto
Sjana Brendstrup,
Scarborough
Doug Brown, Burlington
Donna Henrikson, Toronto
Nancy Johnson, London
Douglas Macaulay, Toronto
Anna Lindal-Castaban,
Brooklin
Rick Lindal, Grafton
Joe Martin, Toronto
Ken & Ety Green, Scarborough
Andrea Mowry, Peterborough
Jona Steen, Markham
Eyglo Thorlaksdottir & Michael
Mather, Toronto

DONATION

Donna Laevans Van West,
Brampton
Norma & Don Young, Sudbury

Become a member of the ICCT and save on language classes!
<http://www.icct.info/membership/becomeamember.html>
Annual Adult \$25. PayPal or Credit Card payments accepted.

Portrait Study of Toronto

Letter from Colin Boyd Shafer

Dear Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto.

I am writing to find people to participate in my upcoming portrait project. It would be great if you can help in sharing it with people in your network born outside of Canada who now call Toronto (including GTA) 'home,' as well as spreading the word among those you think would be interested in such a cultural art project.

This project is crowd-funded and the basic premise is to take a portrait of one person from every country, who now

calls Toronto home – since Toronto may be the most cosmopolitan city in the entire world. The project will be online, and culminate in the form of a book, as well as a gallery tour.

This project will not happen unless people/organizations like you join me. So please check out the campaign page on indiegogo: <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/cosmopolis-toronto-a-portrait-project/x/3995770>

I am currently looking for participants, so if you know of any person who was born outside of Canada and now considers Toronto home, please let

them know they can find the application here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dlyatijvv8b0nm0/fq6EpOPFuY>

Also interested people can join the Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CosmopolisToronto>

Your support means the world to me, and I really think this project is going to be impactful. Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Also, if you have any relevant contacts, they would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you!

Sincerely,
Colin Boyd Shafer
www.colinshafer.com

A Real Taste of Vinland by Arden Jackson - <http://www.vinarterta.ca>



I stand in the yard of the turf house reconstruction at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland and search the horizon of the North Atlantic Ocean. In the cold sea I imagine a ninth century wind in a wool and linen hand woven sail and myself moving in the Norse sailing ship under my feet and the dark rolling deep salt water around me. I gaze at the overlapping thin hardwood planks fastened together with iron boat nails and sealed in wool soaked in tar. It is as comfortable a place as I could ever be and more so when my friends and I cheer and sing in gratitude to the gods at the sight of seabirds on rocks, and waving grass.

Together in this quest are my friends; all tanned, strong and capable in amazing ways, filled with uncommon purpose, navigational brilliance, highly tuned awareness and tenacity. Transformed in time, I walk newly energized with Lindy Vopnfjörð; composer, musician and recording artist, Karen Wallington; President of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and Halfred Fred Sheppard; Parks Canada Outreach Officer, towards the twenty first century Visitor Centre high upon the hill overlooking the ocean, the meadow and the mounds of sod covering thousand year old foundations.

And I prepare to forage for materials for a centre piece worthy of featuring a baked sheep's head and Traditional Icelandic Food that I am here to share at the 2nd Annual Westward Viking Festival: A Real Taste of Vinland Gala Showcase July 26-29 at L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site. Together in this adventure, we were invited

as Western Icelandic envoys, to contribute our connections through food, music and friendship.

And so, at the Taste of Vinland Gala Showcase event I surround Sheep Head Svið with handmade Traditional Icelandic Food served as appetizers with Karen Wallington, my amazing wing woman in food preparation. The Hangikjöt and Rúllupylsa are thinly sliced and placed with mint butter on Icelandic Brown Bread. The fresh cured Atlantic salmon Graflax' is nestled in mustard seed, dill, chive, and lemon lime aioli on Rye Flatbrauð. Fresh lamb liver Lifrarpylsa made with oats and rye share space with Icelandic Harðfiskur and a side of butter for dipping. Vínarterta, of course, and its story are shared and held in wonderment by the guests. As a tasty twist, I fill Phyllis' Pönnukökur with her smooth sweet Mysuostur and whipped cream to excited delight.

And Lindy inspires everyone when he plays his heart and soul filled new song, 'L'Anse aux Meadows' for the event. Emotion and connection are heightened when the Visitor Centre resonates with the sound of his voice and guitar. In the turf longhouse the next day the guests and sightseers are enthralled again with his music, while Karen captures beautiful photographs and Halfred films video.

And there are others who are forged as part of our team. Chef Steve Watson from St. John's carving dragon ice sculptures, BBQ marinated fresh lamb, and steamed mussels. Then more Chefs from local restaurants; Northern Delight, the Norseman and the Daily Catch serving typical northern peninsula and Norse fusion food like cod wraps and roasted root vegetables with apple.

The event is also well honoured by the singing of the Norwegian Choir from Seattle and by Benedicte Ingstad from Norway who came to launch a book of her mother's personal diaries 'The New

Land with the Green Meadows'. She is the daughter of Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad, who were archaeologists in charge of excavating the site in the 1960's.

We augment the already full range of local Newfoundland and Norwegian attendees along with gathered aficionados and dignitaries called to celebrate Icelandic exploration, and present day discovery. The small town with a usual population of twenty-one at L'Anse aux Meadows is expanded to a few hundred. The local businesses and community partners, Norstead, and Parks Canada together spearheaded the festival organization and are to be congratulated along with the Leif Eriksson Society of Seattle who coordinated the installation of the Leif statue.

I feel the enjoyment of adventure and a sense of community connection worthy of great celebration. And while we must travel by car and air to our separate destinations, we remain like the friends on that ship over a thousand years ago. We are filled with the wonder of exploration, the gift of expansive memories, the taste of fish, and the smell of the ocean in a place as comfortable as we ever could be.

"Few have tried, dared to dream, till the day we sailed the sea, some of us never to return, some secrets left untold, and I still dream of her, at the Meadows of Vinland.".....

From 'L'Anse aux Meadows',
Lindy Vopnfjörð

