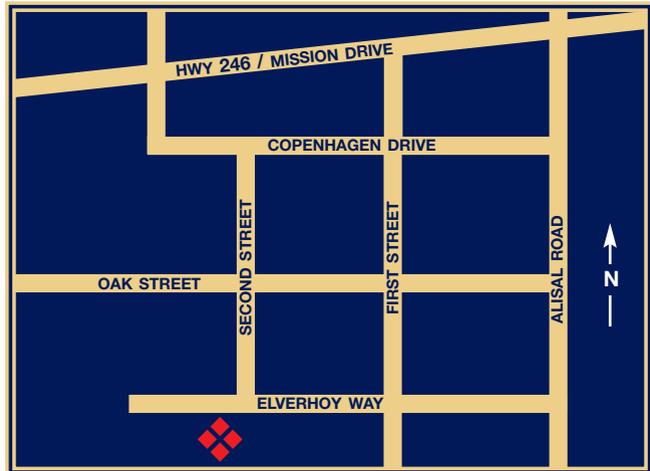




The Museum Store offers handmade Danish ornaments and specialty items, Scandinavian inspired silver and amber jewelry, Danish porcelain and collectables, and a special selection of Scandinavian related books. We are the exclusive area dealer for Ekelund Master Weavers' fine woven textiles from Sweden.

OUR MISSION

TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND EXHIBIT THE HISTORY AND DANISH CULTURE OF SOLVANG AND TO PROMOTE THE ARTS.



The Museum is two short blocks south of the village center. Membership & group tours available.

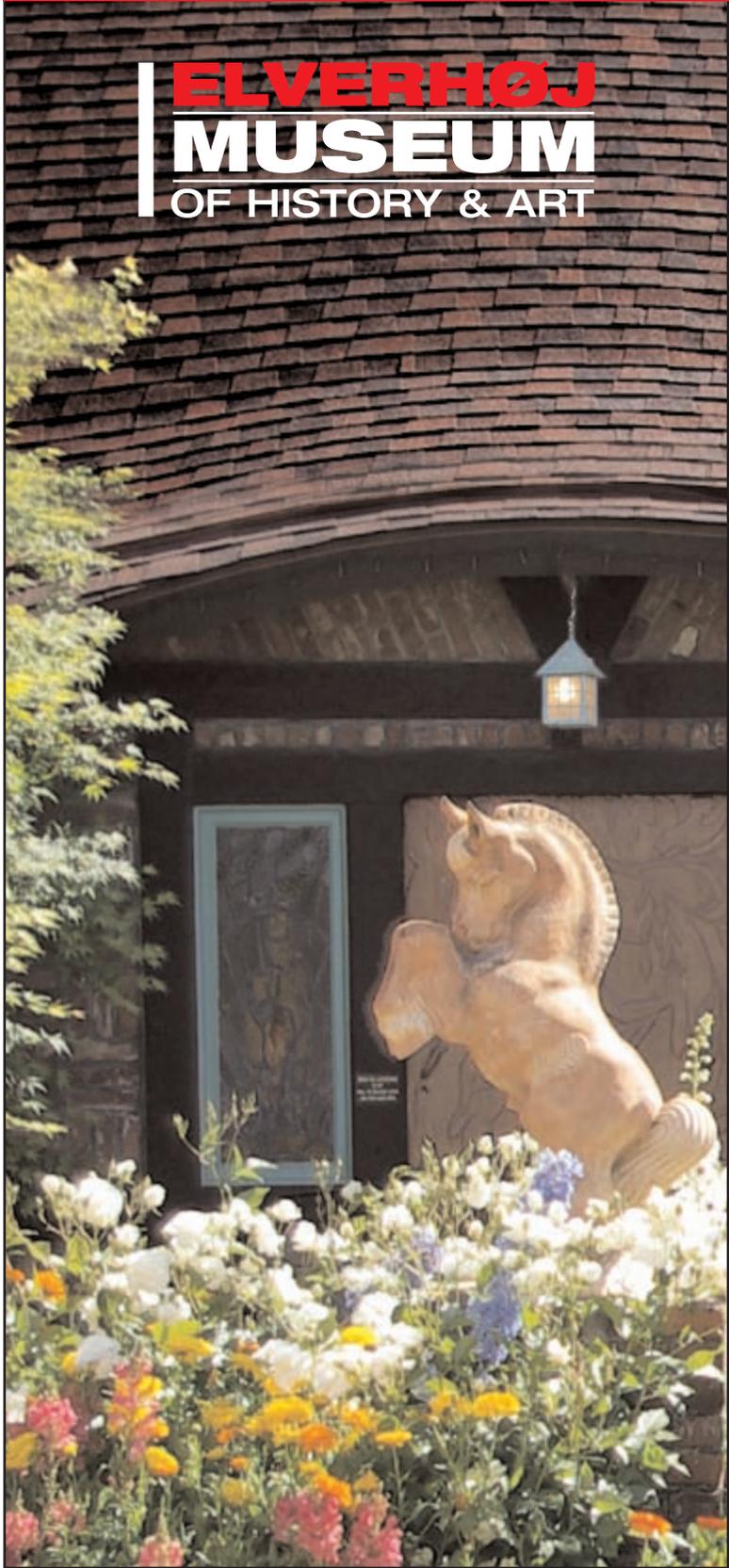
ELVERHØJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART

1624 ELVERHOY WAY
805.686.1211
www.elverhoj.org

OPEN WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 769, Solvang, CA 93464

SOLVANG CALIFORNIA

ELVERHØJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART



WELCOME TO ELVERHØJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART

The historic handcrafted structure was the dream home of Viggo Brandt-Erichsen and his wife, Martha Mott. He was an internationally recognized painter and sculptor and she was an accomplished painter and art teacher. ❖ In 1950 the Brandt-Erichsens began building their home in a style derived from the large farmhouses of 18th century Jutland in northern Denmark. They incorporated many elements of Scandinavian architecture. Ornamental wrought ironwork, a carved redwood main entry door and hand-painted panels are just some of the permanent imprints of this talented family. ❖ Elverhøj (pronounced El-ver-hoy) is the name of Denmark's most famous folk play. Translated as "elves' hill," the story tells of a king's visit to the night world of the dancing woodland spirits. ❖ After extensive renovation in 1987, the Elverhøj Museum of History and Art opened to the public in May of 1988 ❖ Today the Elverhøj is one of the few museums outside Denmark devoted to the Danish culture and the Danish-American experience.



HISTORY ❖ HERITAGE ❖ ART

The former residence of one of Solvang's most artistic families is now a community museum devoted to the history of Solvang, the Danish-American pioneer spirit and the colorful heritage of Denmark.



Solvang's early beginnings, circa 1919.

The Danish-American colony of Solvang, which means "sunny field," was founded in 1911 by a group of Danish educators. As followers of N.E.S. Grundtvig's folk school movement in Denmark, they strove to preserve their culture while assimilating into their new home in the West. After an extensive search

they purchased a 9,000 acre parcel of Rancho San Carlos de Jonata (part of an original Mexican land grant).

It was an ideal location, with fertile land, flowing river, oak covered hills, mild climate and ample room to expand.

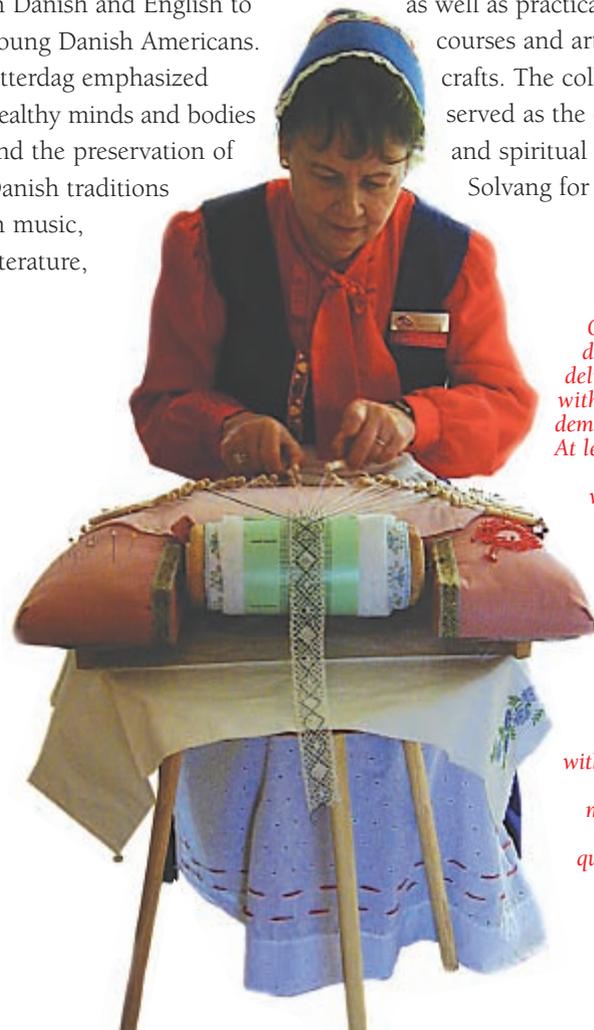
In order to attract Danish colonists to the area, a folk school and a Lutheran church were needed. A temporary folk school was quickly constructed and opened its doors in November 1911. A church

congregation was formed in January 1912. In 1913, settlers donated 6 acres of land for a permanent folk school and in 1914 Atterdag College was completed. Classes were taught in Danish and English to young Danish Americans. Atterdag emphasized healthy minds and bodies and the preservation of Danish traditions in music, literature,



Among the Elverhøj's popular exhibits is a display of artifacts from pre-industrial Denmark.

dancing and gymnastics. Students also learned English, American history and literature as well as practical business courses and arts & crafts. The college served as the cultural and spiritual center of Solvang for numerous



Our friendly docents often delight visitors with interesting demonstrations. At left, intricate lacework is woven in the traditional ways of the old country.

The docents are always eager and ready to provide you with a personal tour of the museum and answer any questions you may have.

years as the city developed and grew around it. In 1970, damaged beyond repair by termites, Atterdag College was torn down. Today the Solvang Lutheran Home occupies the former site.



A scale model of Atterdag College, Solvang's Danish folk school.

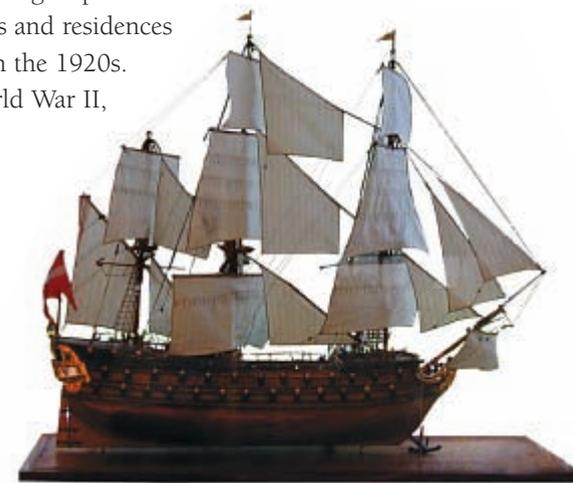
In a corner of the Museum garden is a quaint cottage housing a diorama of early Solvang. The small scale buildings represent businesses and residences existing in the 1920s. Until World War II,

Solvang looked like a typical rural town in California. The Scandinavian style for the commercial sections was not adopted until after the War.

The Elverhøj is also a showcase for many of Denmark's traditional folk arts including lace making and papercutting.



The diorama cottage, set amid lush foliage, has a colorful display depicting Solvang in the late 1920s. Storks nest on the cottage roof, a symbol of good luck.



A scale model of the warship Norske Løve (lion). Built in Copenhagen and launched in 1765, the ship was named after the Norwegian Lion on the Danish-Norwegian Imperial Coat of Arms.



The main room at Elverhøj includes a variety of exhibits ranging from Viking artifacts and prehistoric tools to historical photos and artifacts from Solvang's early years. Also on display is an antique Chickering piano, once drawn uphill by horse for use at Solvang's Easter sunrise services.



The former Brandt-Erichsen studio space serves as a spacious and attractive art gallery with changing displays of regional, national and international art.



The Immigrant Room reproduces a typical family home in 19th century rural Denmark. By 1930 380,000 Danes had immigrated to North America.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ESTHER JACOBSEN BATES, HOWARD BERRY, THERESA GANNON, W. DIBBLEE HOYT, ROBERT JENSEN, DAWN KING, BOB LEITE, RICHARD LINDEKINS, PAUL MATTHIES, SHAWN MINER, CHERYL ALTER MORRIS



The kitchen design is typical of many old Danish country homes. Handpainted wood panels, created by Mrs. Brandt-Erichsen, contribute to the traditional Danish country motif. Characteristic, too, are the pine countertops, table, floor, and the peat or coal burning stove.