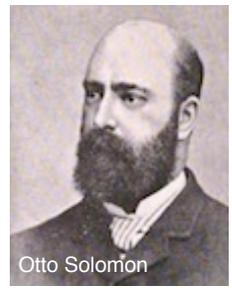




THE SCANDINAVIAN CLUB of TOLEDO

News and Culture of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden



Otto Solomon

OLAV GJESDAHL, founder

OCTOBER, 2017

ERIC SLAWSON, editor

Pea Soup On Thursdays

OCTOBER MEETING

**Way Library in Perrysburg
Sunday, October 22nd, at 2pm.**

Program :: “Pea Soup on Thursdays: How Tradition put Finland at the Forefront of Innovation.” Schmitt research fellow, **Ellen Bolman Pullins, PhD**, will talk of her time in Finland dealing with the finnish education system and finnish businesses. She has been to Finland eight or nine times, and has taken side trips to Sweden, Estonia, and Russia. In 2015, she spent three months in Helsinki with her husband and children.

Reservations :: Please contact our treasurer, Kris Johnson, at cjohnson143@woh.rr.com or at 419-836-7637. Let Kris know your name and how many of you will be attending, so that we know how many to expect.

Location :: Perrysburg’s Way Public Library is in downtown Perrysburg, on Louisiana Ave., three blocks from the river. We’ll be in the downstairs meeting room.

Menu :: Fika: Bring what you like to share. Coffee and tea provided.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

This President's Corner will be a brief one as Carol and I are preparing for our trip to London. We will be out of the country until October 16 and are hoping for good weather. While I realize that London is nowhere near any Scandinavian country, it is the first trip that we took overseas in 1990, and I thought it was a fitting place to return to for my birthday. Hope to see everyone at our next get together where we will be informed about current life in Finland.

Tack så mycket, John

Upcoming Meetings

We’re concentrating on Finland this and next month to honor that country’s 100 years of independence this December.

- November 19th at 2pm. Movie “*Mother of Mine*” about a boy sent from Finland to Sweden during WW2. Perrysburg’s Way Library.
- December 10th: Julfest (at Inverness?)

Dues are due

Our fiscal year began in July. If you haven’t sent in your annual membership dues, please do so now. Cost of membership to our Scandinavian Club of Toledo remains the same as last year, at \$15 per adult; children are free. With your membership comes this newsletter, chock full of news from and about our five Scandinavian countries, as well as social access to a network of scandinavian-minded people with whom you may share cultural distinction, regard, and friendship. We are a non-profit, all volunteer social club, and we concentrate all of our efforts on Scandinavian culture, news, and history. We meet each month, from September through June. If you are new to us, we’d love to meet you and hear your story! Please send your dues to our treasurer today. Details to the right, or come to a meeting to learn more!

Club Contacts

ScandClubToledo@gmail.com

President: John L. Jacobson
Vice President: Lois Staber
Treasurer: Kris Johnson
Secretary: Katherine Thompson
Members at Large:
Ruth Alteneider, Jan Wahl, and
Judy Jokinen Nickoloff

Books . . .

- Our next Scandinavian Book Club will meet in November to discuss “*Ragnarok: The End of the Gods*” by A. S. Byatt.
- In case you missed our book club on “*A Man Called Ove*” you can catch a discussion on November 1st at Way Library.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name(s): _____
Country: _____ @ \$15 per adult = \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO** and mail to: **KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355, WILLISTON, OH 43468**

Teacher's Handbook of Sloyd

Sloyd — veisto in Finnish, sloyd/sløyd in Norwegian, slöjd in Swedish, and sløjd in Danish.

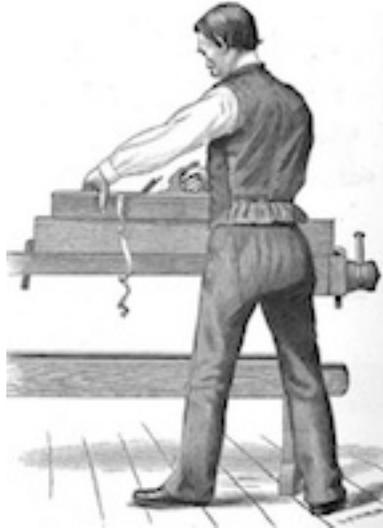
Sloyd was an incremental teaching system based on handicraft started in Finland by **Uno Cygnaeus** in 1865, after he had travelled via Sweden and Denmark to the German States and Switzerland to collect information about different educational systems. Cygnaeus was most influenced by the kindergartens in Hamburg and the Swiss school system. He incorporated things he saw on this trip with his own experiences as an assistant pastor, prison chaplain and teacher at a private school.

Cygnaeus advocated for separating schools from the supervision of the church, and for establishing a teacher training college. Cygnaeus's plan formed the basis for the folk school regulation, which was laid down the following year, in 1866. The Sloyd system became compulsory for boys in all rural schools and for all male teachers in teacher training institutions. Students learned about metals and fabrication techniques, how to select appropriate wood samples from the forests, about the care necessary for working with materials, and the need for collaborative efforts to accomplish tasks.

Sweden adopted these ideas a few years after **Finland**. A 'Sloyd Training School' was set up in **Nääs, Sweden**, in the 1870s by **Otto Salomon** (pictured top right), with help from his Uncle Abrahamson who was a friend of King Olav. Thousands of teachers from all over the world attended classes at Nääs. Salomon broke down teaching into exercises, starting with very simple techniques. He developed a system of wooden models to be made that added one new technique to each exercise in the course, so that the first object would be simple and learnable, while each successive object would get incrementally more difficult. This process allowed students to master each technique as it was presented without being overwhelmed: the first object taught technique A, for example whittling a stick into a pencil-shape. The second object used the previously learned technique A, and taught technique B. The third object used A and B techniques, and added technique C. This procession insured that students were always current in their knowledge of the methods being taught, and learned it correctly and completely before moving on to the next technique.

Students were to do their own work, strictly on their own. "The teacher who teaches best teaches least," Otto Salomon said. And he forbade his teachers to touch the work of the student — otherwise the temptation was too great to show them how to do it on their work, thereby doing some of the work for them and the student not learning correctly. Teachers could only check the student's work by measuring.

At the time, education was dictatorial, in that the instructor would stand in front of students and stuff information into them like stuffing a sausage; instruct and recite back. But the Sloyd method turned the education system upside-down. Sloyd was a radical teaching system of the time and was dismissed by the teaching establishment. But the methods had too positive an effect to be kept out of woodworking — and then the rest of education. Before Sloyd, the instructor would stand in front of the students and try to cram information into the kids by repetition. After Sloyd, students learned by doing things themselves with only guidance by the instructor. Still at the beginnings of the Industrial Age, much of rural life revolved around making things by hand. In Sweden, there was



the old tradition of the sitting around the evening fire, telling stories while hand-carving objects from wood with a knife. This was Slöjd (same as Sloyd).

Gustaf Larsson, subsequently, brought Sloyd to Boston with his book "*A Text Book: Working Drawings of Models of Sloyd*". He said that not everyone needed to learn to make all of the models in his book, but that everyone would benefit from the idea of starting simply and progressing to the more complex. And by doing it well, the principles would stay with the students for the rest of their lives, no matter the field they pursued.

Pedagogical Sloyd was intended to develop character. Children started at nine years old, and each student was given a small knife to work with. It was intended that each individual become his own authority of the work he was making, as opposed to repeating back to a central authority (the teacher), the principle being taught. Later on, the individual student was to be his own judge as to whether the work was finished and the measurements were correct, not the teacher. Even when the children grew up and had different occupations than working with their hands, it was found that they would still have empathy for those that had stayed with it because they had done it themselves when they were young.

Some of the countries in which Sloyd was successfully introduced were the UK, the US, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, and the Scandinavian Countries. Currently, Sloyd is still part of the compulsory school curriculum in **Finland, Sweden and Norway**.

Finnish Glass of Sini Majuri



Finnish artist **Sini Majuri** has a solo gallery exhibition at Glass Axis in Columbus, OH, running through Oct. 28. She captures surrealistic stories in traditional blown glass. Majuri has participated in about 30 exhibitions in Canada, China, Japan, Europe and the U.S., and in 2016, she represented Finland in the European Glass Festival held in Wroclaw, Poland. Last month while in Columbus, she taught a class where students learned the Graal technique to transfer dream or memory imagery onto glass. Graal is a Swedish glass technique in which colored hot glass is layered, then cooled and carved or etched to reveal the different color layers beneath to form an image; then the glass is reheated and incorporated into a hot blown-glass piece that can feature the image.



— <https://glassaxis.org/sini-majuri-visting-artist-finland-gallery-exhibition-workshop/>