

Dear

2006 was highlighted by family, Japan, work, travels, daily life and a new future.

Family is Charlotte (38), Wei Wei, Camilla (10) and Caroline (6) in Trørød; Nikolaj (36), Bodil, Marianne (9), Katrine (6) and Jakob (5) in Woodinville, WA, USA. Kari visited those in the USA twice, both two weeks: in March and in Nov./Dec, and those in Denmark in June and August/Sept. (4 weeks). Dines those in Denmark in April, Juni, Sept. and Nov., all times only a few days – on trips further afield in Europe. All are well. Charlotte and Wei Wei bought a very cosy rowhouse in April and moved in in August. Address is Ellesvinget 147, DK-2950 Vedbæk. Just 6–7 kms. from us. This will undoubtedly be the home where the children will grow up and from where they will leave in 10–15 years' time. Charlotte is "running" *Asia House*, a foundation and "a building", the original (1884) home of the Danish East Asiatic Company of past fame — incl. the *Asia Business Forum* of which she is a manager. It is heart-warming, for us "oldies", to see Camilla og Caroline grow up. They now attend the Trørød school, 3–4 minutes walk from home, along safe and green ("cul-de-sac") roads. In (i.e., near) Seattle, Nikolaj completed a major Microsoft product development early 2006 and decided then to move to MS Research. Bodil's company, a pharmaceutical, was bought up by someone and the staff was put on notice by year-end. Bodil was asked to stay on for 6 more months starting next year at a substantially increased salary and with a nice lay-off compensation for a further 6 months. They must have liked her (and no wonder; we do too). The kids are scrambling every morning: "I want the Weather" (section of the *Seattle Times* newspaper) — and otherwise create the usual noises. They are all enjoying a happy family life; are excellent swimmers. All grandchildren are the subject, as are the grandchildren in Trørød, of almost daily remarks, musings, by Kari and Dines.

Japan Japan has serious problems: it is exceeding ugly. The "cultural landscape" is marred by an uncontrolled hap hazard collection of odd shaped misfitting "vernacular architecture". In effect no building code, no land zoning. OK, when zooming one's camera lens diligently, from shot to shot, one might be able to capture beautiful spots. They are always a surprise when printed: more beautiful than when actually seen ! The Japanese youth is "ugly", terribly sploppily dressed (also shoes !), sleeps on trains and busses, in the university classes and laboratories. The Japanese banking system is unbelievably archaic. The university administration — where I am — borders to ethnic arrogance, racist impudence, chauvinistic also. My univ. professes, in Japanese, to be international, and, yes, all lectures are in English, but that's where it stops: all communication from the admin., concerning employment, salary, travel expenses, etc., is in Japanese !

Work Dines' dear host prof. here asked Dines to supervise three "students": one MSc, one PhD, and one postdoctoral over a bound topic selected by him — and that has turned out to be a serious mistake on his part: the "student" quality is well below the North American, European and Australian/New Zealand level. So it has been one long sad "walk in the desert". A waste of Dines' time, well, OK, of the general topic Dines learned some interesting things from studying and will eventually publish a report on this, but to get the "students" to follow a method and to write a reasonably decent report is, in this case, well nigh impossible. Also: the topic must conform in the sense that our professorial colleagues here accept that topic — so there you are: no ground-breaking research can ever take place in such an environment. Dines has thus not had the time he had hoped for for "his own" work. Kari has fared better: practiced a lot of P&Q, bought around 1,000 pieces of textiles measuring 110 cm (44") by 110 cm (44"), some twice the length. Approx. 340 of these fabrics Kari bought in Seattle in March. Half are still there to be brought home to Holte. Kari has also given courses, here, and at the annual P&Q event in Denmark — and visited the huge Quilt Week show in Yukohama 8–11 Nov. ! Besides Kari has taken several courses in Japanese crafts at the nearby Intl. Lounge (4 mins. by foot): Japanese embroidery, ikebana, use and care of kimono, origami, oshie (relief silk-pictures), washi (silk paper cutting), etc.

Travels Too much to mention. In Japan: together on trips to Tokyo (Dines always "on business") six times; Kyoto three times (for pure enjoyment and Kari's textile hunting, April, July and Oct.); three day trip to Wajima, a fishing town north of here, two hours by bus, on the Noto Peninsula; two day trip to Takayama, three hours by bus from here, in the mountains; Hokkaido island, in the North, with Sapporo, Utaro, Hakodate, Kushiro and Akan Lake with the Ainu aboriginal people; Kyushu island, in the South, Dines lecturing, but also time to sightsee: Fukuoka, Aso crater, Nagasaki and Beppu. Abroad: Kari twice in Seattle/Woodinville with Nikolaj's family, and twice in Denmark with Charlotte's family. Dines "on business": in Bügge, Belgium (March); Vienna and Budapest (April); Holte, Århus (for 50th high school graduation anniversary) and Bad Honnef, Germany (June); Holte, Vienna, Budapest and Hagenberg im Mühlkreis, Austria (with Kari, Sept.); and Holte, Frankfurt am Main, Hagenberg im Mühlkreis and Prague (Czech Republic, Nov./Dec.). On Dec. 27 we fly to Singapore, to return on Jan. 23rd. Will then visit Luang Prabang (Laos, 5 days) and Saigon (Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam, 4 days), and Dines will give 6 long seminars at Natl. Univ. of Sing., NUS.

Daily life We enjoy our life here, otherwise, very much: our small, cosy apt. is right smack in the center of this "little Kyoto" city of a bit over 400,000 inhabitants. Two to five minutes to everything: shopping, department stores, restaurants, castle, parks, rivers, museums, etc. We eat out often: 2–3 times a week: okonomiyaki (something "between" pizza and omelet), sashimi, shabu-shabu, soba (buckwheat noodles), sukiyaki, sushi, tempura, teppanyaki and yakitori. Saturdays and Sundays we walk for a couple of hours and take lunch en route, seeing temples, gardens, the castle, vernacular, old wooden architecture ("samurai" houses), etc.

A new future Dines is retiring by the end of March 2007, 6 months early, to take up an up to 8 month consultancy: to investigate how and prepare for the start of ISI: an Intl. School for Informatics, a US \$ 12,000 yearly tuition fee (min. 30 stud./year) BSc and (min. 30 stud./year) MSc "school" affiliated with the Johannes Kepler Univ. in Linz but to be located 20 kms from Linz, in Hagenberg im Mühlkreis, Upper Austria, amidst some 40 software houses, the Upper Austria Univ. of Applied Science, and some world-leading research institutes, RISC amongst them. If it works out, and we should know by mid summer '07, then Dines will start, on his 70th birthday, as dean at JKU, director of ISI ! If it does not work out, then real retirement awaits in Holte.

Closing So therefore the two addresses below.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year: