

Spring 2013

Interview of Finn Hornum

Finn Hornum

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Field Notes

Interviewee: Dr. Finn Hornum

Interviewer: Michael Laskowski

Interview Date: March 14, 2013 (Morning)

Interview Location: Dr. Hornum's House at 4713 Cedar Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Writing of the Field Notes began on the evening of April 2, 2013 and continued on April 13, 14 2013.

The Interviewee:

Doctor Finn Hornum was born September 15, 1932 in Copenhagen, Denmark. His father, Sven Frederick Johansson Hornum who was from Denmark was a businessman, who ran a textile shop named Warehouse Hornum. His mother was Thora Holston Hornum who was a homemaker until the father died when she began working for the Danish government. Finn had one sibling a younger brother named IB Hornum. Finn grew up in Denmark during the Germany occupation and World War II in which he mentioned were tough times for all. After the war, he went to University to study law as well as do other activities that gave him the chance to travel abroad to America. Finn then decided after graduating to move to America in 1955 and continue his studies there. Once in America, Finn attended Haverford College and changed his

major to Sociology. Within, this time Finn was also married and had two children. Then, he attended University of Penn's doctoral program in Sociology and Criminology, but concluded with an ABD when he began teaching at LaSalle University. Finn was an Associate Professor at LaSalle from 1967 to 2005, where he worked in the Sociology Department. During his tenure, he helped with the advancement of the new Criminal Justice program and eventually became its Director. Dr. Hornum also became the Department Chair twice during his time with the University. Dr. Hornum retired in 2005 and spends his time working on other interests and traveling the world with his wife.

The Interviewer:

I, Michael Laskowski (born: 10/12/1976, Philadelphia, PA) grew up and lived in Philadelphia for most of my life. I received my Undergraduate Degree in History from Holy Family University in Philadelphia, PA. I am currently working on my Graduate Degree in the History for Educators track at LaSalle University. I am also working full-time in the Billing Department at Personal Support Medical Suppliers. The person I had the honor of interviewing for this project was former LaSalle Professor Finn Hornum. The interview was structured as a life interview with the main focus on his time at LaSalle University. This is my final professional interview for this Oral History course that I am currently attending.

Background:

After I had chosen the person that I would interview from the list of interviewees given by Dr. Allen; I wrote to Br. Grabenstein to find out information on former Sociology Professor Finn Hornum. At first, the information was limited on Dr. Hornum, but eventually enough background information was found with the assistance of Br. Joe, Dr. Allen as well as the internet. Brother Joe also found a contact number for Dr. Hornum which I called that next day and left a message on the machine. To my surprise that very next morning I received a call from Dr. Hornum, who was curious about this idea of the interview. So, we spoke for about twenty minutes about the class project I was involved in and why I had chosen him as the person to interview. Dr. Hornum agreed to the interview as well as it being saved within the LaSalle Digital Commons. Unfortunately, since I was in work I did have to cut the conversation short and asked him if I could call him the next day to speak further on the interview process in which he did agree. When we spoke that next day, I asked some follow-up questions and he did the same and we agreed on a date and time for the interview which would take place at his home on March 14th. After the second conversation Dr. Hornum sent me his Curriculum Vitae in the mail which gave me insight into his academic life and career in which I began creating the questions I would ask during the interview. It took me a few days to come up with enough questions for this life interview; the finished product was about eighty-two questions which I submitted to Dr. Allen for approval. Once I received the approval on my questions and completed the minors recommended changes I was ready for the interview which was by then a few days away. I called Dr. Hornum once again to verify what time was best for the interview in which he suggested in the morning than I told him that I had the questions ready and if would like to see them before the interview which he did not and told me that whatever

questions I ask will be fine and told me again that he was looking forward to the interview. Then, the day of the interview arrived and I took my voice recorder, print out a copy of the questions along with the legal release forms and drove to Dr. Hornum's house which was around the corner from University of Penn for this formal interview.

Description of the Interview:

Upon arriving at Dr. Hornum's home, I introduced myself and we walked up to the third floor of the home to his office to conduct the interview. When we entered his office we both sat down and I put the recorder on the table between us facing Dr. Hornum and told him what I was going to do once the recording started and once he was ready the recording started. The interview began with the introductions of the interviewer and interviewee and then moved on to the subject matter of the interview which was the life of Finn Hornum. The first questions asked were about where and when he was born and about his family. I also asked about his childhood and he talked about living in Denmark under Nazi occupation during the war which was very interesting. Then, he spoke about his schooling years and going to University in Denmark until graduation when he took the opportunity to move to America. While he was talking about his education his cat came into the room and began purring loudly and you can hear it in the background during this part of the interview. As we were getting into the story of his move to the States the phone rang and while he was on the phone with his wife, I stopped the recording until his was finished and then continued the interview. Then he continued to speak about the process of his move to America and his additional education in the American

Universities. Dr. Hornum was willing to talk about his experiences and had excellent additional information that added to the answers he gave to the questions asked and that was another reason that the interview was so intriguing. He had added that he met his wife while in Haverford College and the interview continued on until we came to his employment at LaSalle University. Dr. Hornum spoke in length about his experiences at the University as an Associate Professor. An interesting part of his time at the University was the fact that with his assistance the chair of the Sociology Department was able to expand the Department by adding Criminal Justice as major parts of the curriculum. Dr. Hornum also witnessed during his time at LaSalle many changes that took place from the expansion of the University, to the expectance of women and new technologies that would benefit the education process. We also spoke about his time as Chair of the Sociology Department in which he had two separate terms. He told me about the relationships he had with the Brothers, other Professors and Departments. When retirement was brought up he mentioned how he knew when it was time to step down as Chair and retire for good in 2005. The only regret he had about leaving was teaching, but he knew he would get more time to travel with the family and continue his research and activities with the various organizations he was a part. As we were getting more into those organizations the phone rang again, but this time I did not stop the recording since I knew the interview was almost complete. After the pause was over we continued with the interview. We spoke more about the organizations he is still active in and the traveling he still does with his wife. Then we talked about his memoirs and he told me that when they were completed that he would send a copy of his years at LaSalle to the University for the Archives. Then I thanked him for his time

and doing the interview I then stopped the recorder and it was over. He walked me out of his house after which I told him I would send him a copy of the finished interview and left.

Notes on Recording:

For the recording of this interview I used my Olympus: Digital Voice Recorder WS-801. I did not use any secondary devices during the interview. After the interview I connected the recorder to my DELL Inspiron computer from the USB port connected to the recorder and uploaded the recording using the Express Scribe program I downloaded at the beginning of the semester. The voice recordings were downloaded on to a Flash Drive after being converted from its original format to an MP3 file. The abstract and transcript were created using the Express Scribe software to listen to the recording and writing down the important information from the interview in block increments. The voice recordings on the Flash Drive will be accompanied by the field notes and abstract transcript.

Editing the Interview:

1. Listened to the Interview to distinguish the important topics to breakdown the log.
2. Left out any pauses or repeating words to allow the interview to flow.
3. Added all the great quotes and interesting stories Dr. Hornum spoke about in the interview.
4. Wrote the interview out as it was told, so there would be no confusion between the log and voice recording.

