



## 2022 Annual Report



The Re-Discovery of Viking's Dragon Head and Tail  
at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry  
January 2022

In the picture from left:

Bjorn Rektorli, FOVS President, Dave Nordin, FOVS Vice President,  
Ryan Campagna, Project Manager at Methods and Material, Fine Art Rigging and Installation  
Anna Weiss-Pfau, Principal Conservator, L.Liparini Studio & Third Coast Conservation, LLC



The Fully Restored Dragon Head and Tail  
Placed at the Geneva History Museum, Geneva, Illinois  
Ready for the Viking Voyage Exhibition at the Museum  
January 2023

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Viking on Arrival in New York in 1893

## **FRIENDS OF THE VIKING SHIP, NFP**

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### **Mission Statement**

The purpose of Friends of the Viking Ship, NFP, Established 2008 (FOVS) is:  
To facilitate the preservation of the 1893 Viking Ship as an important artifact from the 1893 Columbian Exposition, and to advocate its public display in a permanent museum setting with adequate security and climate control. To accomplish this goal, FOVS will raise funds for its protection and preservation, and for interpretation of its history. FOVS will also seek appropriate partners who share our mission of securing an optimal long-term home.

### **Officers and Members of the Board of Directors:**

Bjorn Rektorli, President and Interim Treasurer  
Dave Nordin, Vice President, Chair - Museum Affairs Committee  
Bruce Andresen, Co-Chair - Conservation and Maintenance Committee  
Andrew Woods, Chair - Collections Committee  
Jamie Larson, Chair - Governance Committee  
Michael Olesen, Chair - Audit Committee  
Craig Hanson, Director  
Dave Barrows, Director  
David Heidtke, Director  
Linnea Scherer, Director  
Mette Bowen, Director  
Samira Bamberger, Director

### **Honorary Board Members**

Paul S. Anderson, The Anderson Law Firm, Honorary Consul General of Norway to Illinois (Ret.)  
Honorable Judge Perry J. Gulbrandsen (Ret.)  
Gunny Harboe, President Harboe Architects  
Donald Hoganson, Officer of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit  
William Nissen, Attorney at Law  
Peter Orum, Owner Midwest Groundcovers, LLC  
Elizabeth Safanda, FOVS Director 2009-2015  
Perry C. Straw Jr., Co-Chair Conservation and Maintenance Committee

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Members and Friends of the Viking Ship!

With the Board's decision in 2021 to abandon its search for a permanent "Viking" location in Chicago, the Board has focused on three properties in Downtown Geneva, Illinois as described in last year's report. The property on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, immediately north of the Geneva History Museum, was the primary focus throughout the year with a continuous dialogue with the property owner for a three-year lease contract with an option to buy within the lease period. While FOVS created and presented a full contract proposal to the owner's board committee in October, the owner was still evaluating FOVS' offer at the end of the year, however, with a hesitation to agree to the proposed purchase option. The board expects the dialogue to be resolved by early next year and sees property ownership vital to the success of the future museum.

In parallel to the ongoing property search and with a future permanent museum in mind, the Board launched a new important and time sensitive project; titled "The Hunt for Original Viking Artifacts". The scope of the project is to locate properties of the ship that were on board at the time of its arrival to the World's Fair in 1893. Where did all the belongings disappear to? Were they auctioned off, given away, taken, or placed in private care with the good intention of safekeeping? What we know for a fact is that during the first 100 years of the ship's display, most of all belongings vanished!

In 1894, and after the World's Fair, Viking was gifted to the Field Columbian Museum, today's Chicago Museum of Science and Industry (MSI), where it was sitting for 25 years in a relatively controlled environment. Later it was moved to Lincoln Park where it was displayed under a canopy for 75 years in an uncontrolled environment. We do not know the timing of when objects were removed from the ship, but as an example, the following picture from November 6th, 1920, when "Viking" was officially welcomed to its new location in Lincoln Park, most of its shields were intact.





The project was kicked off in January 2022 with the current board's re-discovery of the ship's dragon head and tail at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. The head and tail had been stored at the Museum for the past fifty years after a restoration in the early 1970s and subsequent display at the museum. The FOVS organization is filled with enormous gratitude and appreciation for MSI's generous storage and safekeeping of the head and tail for the past half a century, and the Museum is a true Friend of the Viking Ship.

From re-discovery of the head and tail in January through professional restoration in the fall, the Dragon was ready for display at the collaborative Viking Voyage Exhibit at the Geneva History Museum, Geneva, Illinois planned for a February 2023 grand opening.

The head and tail restoration report, issued by L. Liparini Studio & Third Coast Conservation; LLC, is enclosed with this report for a detailed review of the restoration process. We thank Ann Weiss-Pfau, Principal Conservator, for the spectacular work and results.

The restoration project was a costly affair, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and donors for making this project financially feasible.

Bjorn Rektorli  
President



Principal Curator Ann Weiss-Pfau at work

## VICE PRESIDENT AND MUSEUM AFFAIRS REPORT

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The year 2022 was a time of continued expansion of activities to secure the future of the 1893 Viking Ship, especially activities to:

- Broaden community awareness and appreciation of the ship
- Identify and locate additional artifacts and fixtures belonging and relating to the ship
- Perform needed conservation and restoration
- Begin to develop concepts and features to be used in permanent museum display
- Investigate, identify, and conduct negotiations for acquisition of a permanent museum site

Friends of the Viking Ship made important progress in all these objectives.

In 2022, we continued our previous year's practice of being generally open from 1:00 PM to 4 PM on the 3rd Saturday of the month from April through October, with extended hours from 10 AM to 4:30 PM on open days in June and October to coincide with local festivals. But we experienced substantial success in expanding our welcome to three groups of visitors who had varying objectives for their visit. The first was to home school and private school groups, both newly referred ones and those who had enjoyed previous visits to the ship. The second was active senior groups from area senior living facilities, for whom an hour long visit to the Viking ship was an ideal outing, combining both intellectual stimulation and reasonable physical exertion, as they enjoyed a guided, walk-around tour of the ship. And, especially rewarding, was tour programming we developed in cooperation with the Belvidere, Downers Grove, Darien, and Lemont Park districts for groups of adult special needs visitors. In addition to experiencing basic hands-on learning about Vikings and Viking ships, these groups also had a chance to try out the ancient Scandinavian game of kubb, where contestants enthusiastically hurled thick wooden sticks at "enemy" blocks of wood, on the way to vanquishing the wooden "king" in the center of the playing field.

To broaden public familiarity and friendship with VIKING, we participated in, or organized, numerous local community activities. We attended Geneva Chamber of Commerce functions as members; presented downtown table displays about VIKING during Geneva's Swedish Day celebrations; and created an enthusiastically received, authentically garbed and equipped "Viking Horde" Viking reenactor marching unit in the Swedish Days parade. This colorful and energetic group promoted the ship to the cheers of the huge crowds lining the parade route and helped to bolster the distinctive Scandinavian flavor of the Swedish Days celebrations. We also hosted a private tour of the ship for the Norwegian Ambassador to the United States Anniken Krutness, the Chicago Honorary Norwegian Consul Susan Meyer, Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns, and other distinguished guests.

We had two significant achievements in our restoration and conservation tasks in 2022 as well. The first, the professional restoration of the magnificent head and tail carvings of the ship to their original 1893 appearance, has been discussed in the reports of President Rektorli and the conservator herself, Anna Weiss-Pfau.

The second was our successful search for one of the faerings, or small boats, which were part of VIKING's original 1893 equipment. The quest began with a tip that one of the faerings had been seen, many years ago, at the shop of a former and now deceased officer of the Chicago Maritime Museum. In the fall of 2022, in company with officers of the CMM, we undertook a personal inspection of the Maritime Museum's large collection of small boats currently in storage. Although the faering was not there, CMM's archive curator discovered that one of the faerings, although then still the property of the Chicago Park District, had been sent to the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa. We learned that it was still there, stored in deteriorated but restorable condition. FOVS deeply appreciates the cooperation and collaboration of the Chicago Maritime Museum in this successful search. We look forward to the day when both the head and tail carvings and the faering, can again be displayed together with the ship.

The year 2022 also saw the launch of a very successful collaboration with the Geneva History Museum, in creating a yearlong gallery exhibit about the ship to open in 2023. Planning began in early 2022 by meeting with GHM's executive director Terry Emma and head curator Markie Striegel, to discuss the idea and flesh out basic topics to be covered. FOVS board member volunteers then, in addition to their normal tasks, each put in months of follow up work. We identified and acquired objects and images for display, suggested and composed interpretive text, and recorded video segments, all in continuous consultation with, and editing and supervision by, the GHM's professional staff. The planned exhibits included display topics and techniques to appeal to every age and interest level. These included a Viking historical travels map and basic objects like weapons, trade goods and navigation tools; an interactive "test your Viking knowledge" game; comfortable seated viewing of short videos on our ship and Viking ship construction and sailing; an illustrated walk-along timeline of the VIKING's trans-Atlantic voyage; text and rare antique artifacts about the ship from the 1893 Columbian Exposition; displays on the ship conservation and restoration work by Bruce Andresen, Perry Straw and others on their maintenance team; and a section on the century long, undiminished and recurring appeal of Vikings in popular sports and media entertainment.

One of the stated purposes of Friends of the Viking Ship is to secure a permanent museum location for the ship. And 2022 marked the very first effort, in the ship's entire 130 history, to purchase land exclusively for the construction of a permanent museum for the ship. While mutually satisfactory terms for both buyer and seller could not be reached in this first effort, an exciting new chapter in the ship's progress toward a secure future has clearly begun.

Since the ship was first built in 1893 entirely with donated funds, donations in money and labor from individuals have always been essential to sustain the ship's voyage through time. And although most of that support has, not surprisingly, been from adults, youth have also had important roles. In 1892 and 1893, Norwegian school students by the hundreds raised and mailed in donations to help build the ship. Many thousands of dollars in the ship's essential revenues have come from youthful visitors. And in 2022 came the delightful announcement of another youth-led initiative of a different, but equally inspiring sort, by Erik Longo, an area Boy Scout. During his visit to the ship, Erik heard of the unfortunate theft during the 20th century of nearly all VIKING's 32 shields while it was on display in Chicago.



Like the carved head and tail carvings and the faering, Erik understood that these shields were important and distinctive elements of our Viking ship. So, for his public service project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Erik determined to recreate eight hand-built, museum quality shields right down to the hand laced leather edging; and correct, custom made, hand-protecting iron “bosses” on each of them, for permanent display on the ship! While Vikings believed in a kind of exclusive immortality for warriors who fell in battle while armed, they also believed in another kind of immortality- the immortality of a good reputation. Leif Ericsson would be proud of Erik Longo.

David Nordin,  
Vice President



Erik Longo’s Shield  
Production Studio



One of the many Private School Groups at the Ship  
What a Happy Crowd!!



Officials at the Ship, from left:  
Kevin Burns, Mayor, City of Geneva  
Anikken Krutnes, Norwegian Ambassador to the US  
Susan Meyer, Norwegian Honorary Consul to Illinois  
Dave Nordin, Vice President, FOVS



Friends of the Viking Ship walking in  
the Swedish Days Parade in  
the City of Geneva, Illinois

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

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### Profit and Loss January - December 2022

	\$
<b>INCOME:</b>	
43320 Membership Dues	3,825.00
43340 Individ, Business Contributions	11,431.90
<b>Total 43300 Direct Public Support Revenue</b>	<b>15,256.90</b>
46400 Giftshop Sales	7,962.99
49110 Adult Entrance	6,761.52
49200 Tours	3,387.50
<b>Total Museum Revenue</b>	<b>18,112.01</b>
<b>Total Gross Revenue</b>	<b>33,368.91</b>
50000 Cost of Goods Sold	3,874.89
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>29,494.02</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
61005 Liability Insurance	1,098.00
61010 Postage, Mailing Service	652.25
61030 Office Supplies	1,771.06
61040 Accounting & Filing Fees	1,217.00
61050 Legal Fees	3,920.57
61080 Membership Expenses	100.00
61085 Communications & Internet	1,264.92
61090 Misc Administration Exp	549.27
61095 PayPal Fee	72.67
61099 Square Fees	191.30
<b>Total 61000 Administration &amp; Operations</b>	<b>10,837.04</b>
61110 Enclosure Maintenance	166.10
61120 Storage Facility	1,092.00
61125 Equipment and Maintenance	426.63
61130 Preservation Work	36,536.00
<b>Total 61100 Program-Ship Preservation/Locat</b>	<b>38,220.73</b>
61210 Outreach Expenses	635.54
61275 Good Templar Fee	661.00
<b>Total 61200 Program-Presentation/Education</b>	<b>1,296.54</b>
61300 Fund Raising	120.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>50,474.31</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(20,980.29)</b>
42000 Interest on Money Market	32.44
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(20,947.85)</b>

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

### Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2022

	\$
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts:</b>	
10003 Fifth Third Checking	10,193.00
10008 Fifth Third Money Market	345,511.75
10030 PayPal Bank	397.11
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>356,101.86</b>
12100 Inventory for resale	6,699.47
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>362,801.33</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
210001 Chase Ink Credit Card	4,479.59
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,479.59</b>
30000 Opening Balance Equity	379,269.59
Current Year Net Income	(20,947.85)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>358,321.74</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>362,801.33</b>

#### Governance:

- Accounting is outsourced to Dollar and Sense Accounting, Batavia, Illinois, and maintained in FOVS' QuickBooks
- Accounting activities are supervised, and financial results certified by the Treasurer
- 2022 Financial results have been audited by the Audit Committee. Please refer to the audit report
- The Board's conflict of interest policy is compliant with all members having completed the required forms. No conflict of interest reported.
- FOVS accreditation with the Best Business Bureau continued in 2022, being compliant to the Bureau's 20 standards for charity accountability

Bjorn Rektorli  
Interim Treasurer

# AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

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February 28, 2023

To: The Board of the Friends of the Viking Ship

RE: Audit Committee Report for 2022

On Tuesday, February 28, 2023, the Audit Committee met to review the financial transactions for the Friends of the Viking Ship (FOVS) for the calendar year ending 12/31/2022. We reviewed all deposits & expenses and compared these with the three (3) Bank Account Statements and FOVS's Excel Ledgers. We paid close attention to the itemized details in the credit card transactions. During the course of our audit, we discovered one (1) entry which was incorrectly recorded. Specifically, within the Excel Ledger, \$37.16 was indicated as a "Transfer from Checking to Savings" on 09/02/22. This in fact should have been entered as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item's Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
09/01/22	Donation: Amazon Smile	\$34.59
09/30/22	Interest	\$2.57

Additionally, only four (4) documents were unavailable for review. This included three (3) credit card receipts (all disclosed) and one (1) monthly Bank Statement. Though the Statement was unavailable, there was only one (1) entry (specifically, interest) for the month. That amount was included in the account's Excel Ledger.

There were two (2) other changes to financial accounts which should be disclosed. That FOVS had a small account at Fifth Third Bank (Acct# Ending 3875) which was closed. The total balance of \$226.32 was transferred on 07/18/22 to the Acct# Ending 9860. Secondly, the FOVS Visa Credit Card was transferred to a new account in September of 2022. This is the FOVS Visa Credit Card used by several members for FOVS expenses. The address of the record for this account is that of Bjorn Rektorli.

As of 12/31/2022, we confirm the total cash on deposit at Fifth Third Bank amounts to \$355,704.75. Specifically, the account balances are:

Fifth Third Bank (Acct# Ending 9860)	\$10,193.00
Fifth Third Bank (Acct# Ending 9878)	\$345,511.75

Additionally, FOVS had a small balance of \$397.11 in our Pay Pal Account. Thus, our total Cash on Deposit amounted to \$356,101.86.

We do wish to extend our Thanks to Bjorn Rektorli, President & Treasurer, for his pulling together the detailed information we needed for our review. We further would like to commend the Board members for their detailed submission of FOVS expenses. This made for an accurate accounting of expenses.

As a final note, the Audit Committee looked solely at the financial statements of FOVS during the calendar year of 2022. We did not consider any non-financial assets of FOVS, such as our Historical Artifacts nor inventory of items for Retail Sales.

Michael Olesen and Bruce Andresen  
Audit Committee

## CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

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Members of the maintenance committee had three working meetings in preparation for the first Open Day of the season, April 16. The following tasks were completed:

- Leaves blown out of the ship's shelter and gravel around the ship raked
- Three new deck boards were created for the starboard side of the ship
- All flags have been deployed both over the ship and at the rear of the shelter
- All permanent posters and pictures have been washed
- All visitor chairs have been scrubbed and power washed
- The gunnel has been washed around the ship
- Excess deck boards have been removed and arranged as requested by our docents
- Excess deck boards have been stored and arranged for air movement and secured
- All new deck boards have received a soaking in boat soup
- All wood signs identifying ship items have been refreshed and deployed
- All fans have been power washed as well as the entire south side of the shelter.
- All the storage box lids have been power washed
- The requested privacy fence for the porta-potty has been erected
- The new latches for the drop panels have been tested and appear to be working



During the open days season the following tasks were performed:

- Necessary repairs to the shelter fabric to prevent water from penetration and damage to the ship
- A very nice sounding "ship's bell", provided by Dave Barrows, was mounted at the opening of the shelter to help docents keep track of tour intervals
- The shelter's gift shop area was improved by optimizing storage shelving, its overall appearance and appeal to enhance visitors gift shop experiences and sales

On October 17, the day following the last open day for the season, the Maintenance committee removed all the flags, covered the chairs and unplugged the refrigerator. On November 12<sup>th</sup> new







## COLLECTION REPORT

This subcommittee cares for, catalogues, arranges access to, and annually reports on FOVS artifacts and other property. It also is responsible for managing the ways FOVS collections complement or amplify collections held by other organizations that may relate to our own collections.

With the prospect of a future permanent museum in Geneva, IL the committee is evaluating various web-based Museum Catalogue Software solutions for more robust curation, with the possibility of expanding outreach and virtual visitors. A software solution will also enable more in-depth documentation about each artifact to preserve historical facts.

Unquestionably, the most important and massive artifacts collected since FOVS foundation in 2008 are the Viking's Dragon Head and Tail, and their restoration work has involved many organizations and individuals as shown below.

No other artifacts were collected during the year.

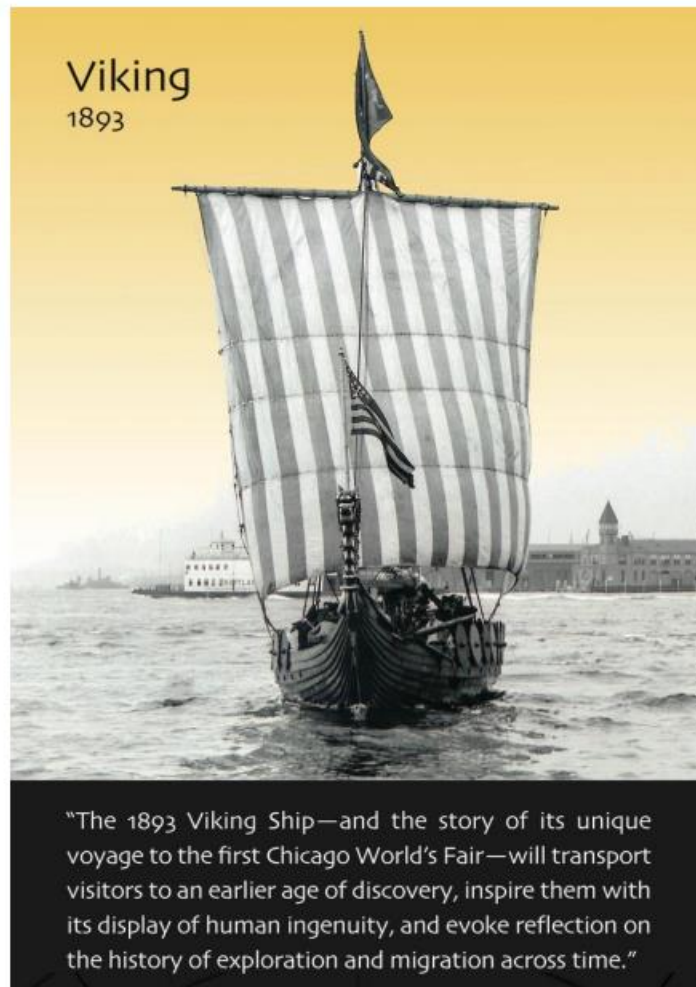
Andrew Woods  
Chair of Collections



◆  
Thank you  
Friends of the Viking Ship  
Vesterheim-Archives  
Methods & Materials  
Museum of Science and Industry  
The McCrone Group  
Alden Identification

Third Coast Team:  
Maria Paras  
Dorota Bobek  
Inez Litas  
Katarina Kaspari  
Ana Liu

Anna Weiss-Pfau  
Principal Conservator  
3rdcoastconservation@gmail.com  
◆



### **Friends of the Viking Ship, NFP**

P.O. Box 3571

St. Charles IL 60174

331-248-1903

[viking1893@gmail.com](mailto:viking1893@gmail.com)

[www.vikingship.us](http://www.vikingship.us)