

NEWS RELEASE



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

For Immediate Release

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Thea Sophia Thompson Awarded Sons of Norway Foundation's Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship

Minneapolis, June 26, 2007 – Thea Sophia Thompson, of Hollandale, WI, was awarded a Sons of Norway Foundation Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship, given to Sons of Norway members and their families.

Thompson, a member of Vennelag Lodge, completed her Masters Degree from the University of Cambridge, England in the fall of 2006 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in archaeology at the same institution. Her studies focus on the human imagery found in the art of Scandinavia from c. AD 500 – c. 1200 and how the display of these human images changed over time. Thompson believes “This research is valuable to the understanding of the people who lived in Scandinavia at this time. If we can understand the control and manipulation of human images and iconography, we can better understand the function of the artifacts on which the iconography appears. Therefore, we can gain a better understand the religion and society of the Scandinavian people of the period.”

Sons of Norway Foundation Director Cindy Olson said, “The Sons of Norway Foundation has proudly awarded educational scholarships since 1966. Astrid Cates and Myrtle Beinhauer, Sons of Norway members, left the Foundation bequests to be used to further improve our communities through education.

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SONS OF NORWAY...

- ★ Is the largest Norwegian-American organization in the world
- ★ Works to preserve and promote Norwegian heritage and culture
- ★ Provides financial protection through quality insurance products
- ★ Awards scholarships and grants to support individual lodges in their studies, projects, programs and humanitarian efforts

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The Foundation believes in providing these opportunities to strengthen our communities and help us protect Norwegian heritage and culture for future generations. The 2007 recipient Thea Sophia Thompson embodies these goals.”

Myrtle Beinhauer remembered Sons of Norway youth with a special bequest in her will to the Sons of Norway Foundation. The Sons of Norway Foundation established the Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship in 1998.

The Sons of Norway Foundation celebrates culture and expands the horizons of our members by awarding scholarships and grants to promote the heritage and culture of Norway, and provides assistance to our members, lodges and their communities. Since 1966 we have awarded over 2,000 scholarships and more than 400 grants totaling over \$1 million. For more information on this scholarship and the Sons of Norway Foundation, visit <http://www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation>.

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