Chapter 6

The EAC Foundation primarily supports projects and activities that strengthen and expand relations and business interests between Denmark and the countries in which the East Asiatic Company (EAC) has done and continues to do business, especially the Asian countries. The foundation was established in June 1988 by A/S Det Østasiatiske Kompagni (EAC) and the EAC board of management at that time: Henning H. Sparsø, John Arthur Hansen and Flemming Hasle. In accordance with its statutes, the objects of the Foundation involve research, humanitarian tasks, environmental protection and education, as well as artistic and national objectives.

In 2006, the Foundation took over the Asia House building near Copenhagen Freeport. This building served as EAC’s first head office and has played an important role in the history of EAC. With this takeover, the objectives of the Foundation were expanded to support activities emphasising EAC’s heritage and promoting knowledge of the company’s historical business operations.

Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond was initially known as Aage Louis-Hansens Mindefond when established in 1967 in memory of the civil engineer and businessman Aage Louis-Hansen. He was a mechanical engineering graduate of the Polyteknisk Læreanstalt (Technical University of Denmark) whose study focused on shipbuilding, but who instead made his reputation in other areas. In the early 1950s, he established a plastic packaging company, Dansk Plastic Emballage, and thereafter in 1957 he founded the medical technical company nowadays known as Coloplast A/S. It too uses plastic as the basis for its products. Coloplast A/S is a global company headquartered in Northern Sjælland and Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond is one of its major shareholders.

A dance performance choreographed by Ingrid Kristensen takes place in the dry dock for the entertainment of invited guests. As well as attending the opening ceremony, representatives of the eleven foundations attended a special private function in the museum. The auditorium, café, galleries and circulation spaces have great potential for special events use of this kind.