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News from the Swenson Center

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News from the Swenson Center

Sculptures in the Plym Reading room



Photo by Jill Seaholm.

Why we have these fine sculptures

In 2005, Augustana College had a need to relocate two of its sculptures from the Wallenberg Concert Hall in Denkmann Building. The sculptures both had a Scandinavian theme: one was a horse head by well-known Swedish sculptor *Carl Milles* (<http://www.millesgarden.se/>), who gave it to the College as a gift in the 1920s.

The other was made by *Gene Horvath* in 1991, apparently as a complement to the Milles sculpture,

comprising serpents similar to those found in Viking-era art as well as rune-like symbols.

(<http://www.horvathworks.net/>)

We were given the opportunity to keep them in our reading room for three good reasons: the Swenson Center is in the same building as Wallenberg Hall and it would require much less effort to move them, we have strong Scandinavian ties, and people with Scandinavian background and interests would be pas-

sing through the Swenson Center on a regular basis. We decided to move some furniture around and keep them here, and we are very glad that we did. They reinforce the elegance of the Plym Research Room, and people who come through here are drawn to them, quite impressed to see an actual Carl Milles sculpture here in Rock Island.

Jill Seaholm