



UIT

THE ARCTIC
UNIVERSITY
OF NORWAY

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To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to provide a letter of support for Sigbjørn Rønbeck's project Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society.

As the author of the book "På ville veiger? Levende utstillinger av samer Europa og Amerika» (Living Exhibitions of the Sami in Europe and North America) and the former holder of a personal postdoctoral grant from the Norwegian Research Council to study the life and career of Johan Adrian Jacobsen, I have experienced first-hand how important the writings of Jacobsen are to shed new light on the early history of ethnographic collecting and live ethnographic display. Jacobsen's richly documented activity enable us to scrutinize not only his own role as collector of artifacts and recruiter of indigenous peoples for live ethnographic display, but also the issue of indigenous agency. Moreover, Jacobsen's fascinating career and biography constitutes a unique case for investigating the changing relationships between academic, disciplinary scholarship and amateur, autodidactic activities

As a scholar working in Tromsø, Jacobsen's hometown and the gateway to the Arctic, it will be my pleasure and responsibility to contribute to the Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society by sharing material and research about his life, career and collecting. More specifically, I can help bring to light information in Norwegian that has been hiding in archives. The projects the Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society will give rise to will not only increase our understanding of the complexity of the ethnographic encounter and contribute to reinstate individuality, plurality and humanity which ethnography has traditionally ignored, but also help indigenous communities puncture blind spots in their history.

Sincerely,



Cathrine Baglo
Investigator for the Norwegian Truth and
Reconciliation Commission

Cathrine.baglo@uit.no
+47 776 46241