



Preface

The English text in this book is based on the last edition of the Norwegian Encyclopaedia of Artists (*Norsk kunstnerleksikon*, 1986), as well as a variety of other sources including exhibition catalogues, newspaper articles and art books.

For many years I have collected paintings, since 1995 concentrating on artists who were born or who worked in Western Norway.

My first wife, Annie, was born in Colmar, France; we were married for 48 years until her death in 2001. I wish to honour her memory by including her name in the collection.

I have named this book "*From Dahl to DOLK*" – referring to the first 'real' Norwegian painter, Johan Christian Dahl, born in Bergen in 1788, and the anonymous street-artist, DOLK, born here nearly 200 years later.

Perhaps my collection is more comprehensive than exclusive; the variations and social aspects of the art of Western Norway fascinate me. My hope is to help lift out of obscurity as many as possible of our region's painters, including some of our younger contemporaries, and to document the historical development of painting in Western Norway.

I am extremely grateful that, in 2007, the Reksten Collections (*Rekstensamlingene*) at Fjøsanger in Bergen accepted a large number of my paintings for safekeeping for a 20-year period. By doing so, they have ensured that these artworks will be made accessible to the public. Some of the paintings have been shown in other museums at home and abroad.

The collection and the present catalogue, with its titles, descriptions and numbering, are solely my responsibility. I would like to express my special thanks to art-dealer Egill Wendelboe Aarøe, who has provided me with many of the works, and Arnliot Strømme-Svendsen, former chairman of the Reksten Collections, as well as several leaders of this institution. Thanks also to Truls Grung (layout and advice), to Gøran Ohldieck and numerous others in Kaunas, for their help with the exhibition there, and to Steinar Gil, the former Norwegian Ambassador to Lithuania.

Thanks also to the translators and photographers, as well as many others for their help and advice.

Above all, thanks to my present wife, Betty Eide Bull, for great support and help.



Variante av Schœleus 1580.