

Collection Name:

Bergenslag papers, 1917-1992

Collection Number:

P0465 (Bergenslaget)

Extent:

0.8 cubic feet (2 archives boxes)

About Bergenslag:

Organized in Minneapolis, May 17, 1907, as Ulriken. They continued activity after 1908, but in 1914 was revived as Bergenslaget. It's a national society, but mostly remained a largely local membership in Minneapolis.

Past presidents include:

Lars Trovik (1907)

Lawrence O. Hauge (1973-)

Past secretaries include:

John Michelson (1907)

Lois Hauge (1973-)

History of the Bygdelag:

Papers of "bygd" societies and their Common Council ("Bygdelagenes Fellesraad"), clippings, constitutions, correspondence, minutes and financial records, pamphlets, pictures, programs, and reports, dealing with conventions, officers, special projects, and the Norse-American Centennial of 1925. The bygdelag, organized around the turn of the century, are societies based on regional origins in Norway. They were active in the Eidsvoll Centennial in 1914 and the Norse-American Centennial in 1925. While activity dropped off after the beginning of World War II, a revival began in the 1980s as a result of renewal of ethnic interest, and with emphasis on family history. Odd S. Lovoll's "A Folk Epic; The Bygdelag in America" (NAHA, 1975), which includes a bibliography of lag publications.

Papers of the various "bygdelag," "social organizations of (Americans) from the same homeland district, usually rural" which began in 1899 with the organization of the Valdres Samband. About fifty other lag with national-wide appeal were formed, as well as many others which were more local. They held annual "stevner" (meetings) and many published periodicals, yearbooks, or monographs which often contained extensive genealogical materials. A decline came after

World War II, with a revival in the 1970s particularly through renewed emphasis on genealogical research.

A Council of Bygdelags (Bygdelagenes Faellesraad) coordinates activities of the groups. They were very active in the Eidsvoll centennial celebrations in 1914, and the Norse-American Centennial in 1925. Holdings for the various lag vary, but usually include clippings of newspaper articles about their meetings, correspondence, programs, and copies of their publications, duplicates of library holdings, in the periodical and book collections (monographs and annuals included in the latter). In some cases regional associations are included with the national groups, and in others separate groups which later merged are included under the merged name.

Access Rights:

This collection is open to research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. Bergenslag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers). Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
5	7	Notes, Attendee Records, 1960-1989
5	8	Journals, Dues, Clippings, Programs, 1953-1972 Includes: Bergens [Dameforening] (notebook), records of members, phone numbers, and accounts of meetings of the Bergens Ladies Club, including memorial card for Mrs. A.M. (Albira) Sivertsen, 12 February 1966-10 May 1972; record of dues, 14 April 1972-1985; Bergenslaget Record (includes accounts of meetings, financial records, and newspaper clippings), 1953-1961.
6	1	Finances, Tickets, Letters, 1957-1970 Includes: Bergenslaget Fiftieth Anniversary Banquet ticket, May 1957; Bergenslaget Good Standing certificates, 1969-1970; Henrik Ibsen's incomparable "Hedda Gabler" ticket, 1965; Bergenslagets Dameforening (account of a recent meeting of the Bergens Ladies Club), signed by S. [illegible] Ericksen, President, undated; thank-you letter for a donation from Marie Sandvik and Doris K. Nye, Superintendents, with handwritten note in Norwegian at the bottom, 6 December 1965; account of Bergenslagets Dameklubben (The Bergenslaget Women's Club) meeting (in Norwegian), 8 January 1966; Bergenslaget invitation/advertisement, attached to an invoice to Ringolf Tronstad from Bergenslaget of Minneapolis, July 1970; Bill from Sons of Norway to Einar Johnson for the Bergenslaget Christmas Party, 28 December 1970; list of attendees for the Bergenslaget Christmas Party, 19 December 1970; list of members, unlabeled,

- circa 1970; Bergenslaget Membership List, undated; membership list, unlabeled, circa 1969; Annual Dues (Received), 19 September 1976; Sons of Norway welcome letter to Bergenslaget to Mr. Einar Johnson, Financial Secretary from Magne Smedvig, General Manager, 29 January 1968; Financial Records (2-column book), 1968-1990
- 6 2 Clippings, Letters, and Extracts, 1917-1950, 1973, circa 1975
Includes: newspaper clipping, written by Sam Bergaas, Secretary, unknown source, undated; photocopy of pg. 112 from Odd Lovoll's A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America, which mentions Bergenslaget, undated; letter to Odd Lovoll regarding the leadership of Bergenslaget and its history from Lori Hauge, with "Ben Egan" written at the bottom, 28 December 1973; untitled newspaper clippings regarding Bergenslaget, circa 5 November 1926, 9 December 1917, 19 November 1922, 18 January 1931, 24 November 1932, 1 February 1934, 15 May 1942 (from "DP"), and 1950; Bergenslagets 35-[illegible], circa 15 May 1942; Blandt Foreningerne (roughly, "Among the Organizations"), circa 19 May 1932
- 6 3 Bergenslaget & Norwegian Veterans' Choir Scrapbook: Clippings, Meeting Accounts, Member Lists, and Correspondence, 1947-1992
- 6 4 Financial Record Book, 1954-1967
Includes: Bergenslag Financial Records, 1954-1967; member list, circa 1969
- 70 1 Financial Record Book, 1921-54