

**Collection Name:**

Nordmørslag papers, 1936, 1968-1969, 1994

Collection Number:

P0465 (Nordmørslag)

Extent:

1 folder

About Nordmørslag:

The National Nordmørslag of America, or Det Nationale Nordmørslag, was organized at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, June 6, 1925 during the Norse-American Centennial. In 1931 it formed a federation with Sunnmørslaget and Romsdalslaget known as Møre og Romsdal Fylkeslag. The president was Rev. Martinus Silseth (1921-31) and the secretaries were M.E. Maridal (1925-30) and J.O. Bergheim (1930-31).

The West Coast Nordmørslag was organized in Seattle Washington on June 12, 1936.

Past presidents of the West Coast Nordmørslag include:

Ole Fjarlie (1936-41)
Lars Storwick (1941-46)
Ole Lervick (1945-50)
Carl M. Moe (1950-52, 1967-)
John Mikkelsen (1952-53)
Thoralf Storwick (1953-58)
Alfred Rosvold (1958-60)
Hans Astad (1960-62)
Harold Fjarlie (1965-67)

Past secretaries of the West Coast Nordmørslag include:

Stina Ness (1936-41)
Marit Kopperstad (1941-49, 1952-56, 1965-67)
Sigrid Beck (1949-52, 1960-62)
Elise Andersen (1956-60)
Esther Champeness (1962-65)
Ragna Kaald (1967-)

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]. Nordmørslag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers).
Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
31	3	Nordmørslag of the West Coast, 1936; 1968-1969, 1994 Includes: correspondence, history (note: "History of Vestkystens Nordmørslag" was originally tied together with twine); officer lists; songbook; Leif Erikson Day Festival program, 8 October 1967; "Nordmanns-Forbundets Årfest" program (note: fell out of folder when taken out of box; this program is likely not in its original spot), 16 June 1938; "Hi-Lites" Sons of Norway newsletter (note: fell out of folder when taken out of box; this is likely not its original spot), August-September 2004; letter from James K. Nestingen (note: fell out of folder when taken out of box; this is likely not its original spot), 24 April 1992; donation records; photocopies of pages from "Chicagokomiteens Indsamling for Kristiansunds nye

Aldersomshjem,” by Karl Svensen, Hans E. Lee, Anton Bogen, M.E. Maridal, and Martha G. Olsen; “Transaction Protocol for Vestkysten’s Nordmørslag,” book of minutes/meeting notes translated into English by Henning C. Boe, February 1994.