

Collection Name:

Ole Amundson Buslett papers, 1873-1925

Collection Number:

P0464

Extent:

2.8 cubic feet (8 archive boxes)

Biography/History:

Ole Amundsen Buslett (1855–1924) was a Norwegian-American author, editor, educator, and public servant whose work became influential within immigrant communities in the Upper Midwest. Born in Gausdal, Oppland, Norway, he emigrated to the United States with his family in 1868, settling first in Wisconsin. Buslett became a prominent voice among Norwegian Americans through his work as a newspaper editor, particularly with *Folkevennen* and *Republikaneren*, where he promoted civic engagement, education, and cultural preservation.

A gifted storyteller, Buslett wrote extensively, producing novels, poetry, historical sketches, and community histories. He authored a history of the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment, *Det Femtende Regiment Wisconsin Frivillige*, published in 1894. An English translation, titled *The Fifteenth Wisconsin*, was released in 1999. Beyond his literary achievements, Buslett served as a teacher, justice of the peace, and a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly (elected in 1898), where he represented his district as a Republican.

Scope and Content:

Letters, notes, poems, manuscripts, reports, speeches, reviews, clippings, and a biographical miscellany of a Norwegian-born author, poet, journalist, legislator, and merchant in Northland, Wisconsin. The letters received by Buslett deal with local church problems, bilingualism in the church, criticism of current Norwegian-American literature, materialism among Norwegian Americans, the Wisconsin exhibit at Norway's Eidsvoll Centennial in 1914, and a State Park in Door County, Wisconsin.

The letters by Buslett are to his wife and Waldemar Ager. Among the papers are a review of O. E. Rølvaag's "Paa Glemte Veie," a copy of Wergeland's "Talsmand" (Stevens Point, 1886), a roster of small towns in the United States with Scandinavian names arranged by states, articles on woman suffrage and socialism, reports from the Wisconsin Good Roads Committee of 1909, and a bibliography of Buslett's works. The collection contains letters from significant Norwegian-American authors and journalists of the day, among them R. B. Anderson, B. Anundsen, Julius Baumann, John Benson, Sigurd Folkestad, O. S. Hervin, H. R. Holand, P. P.

Iverslie, Simon Johnson, Jon Norstog, Torkel Oftelie, O. E. Rølvaag, Peer Strømme, and Johs. B. Wist. "Ole Amundsen Buslett: Norwegian-American Author" is a 1978 University of Oslo thesis (cand. filol.) by Liv Smith, 1978.

Access Rights:

This collection is open to research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. Ole A. Buslett Papers. Norwegian American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Biographical Miscellany, 1881-1925
1	2	General Correspondence, 1887-1912
1	3	General Correspondence, 1913-1924
1	4	Correspondence, Aulaug Buslett (wife), 1899-1909
1	5	Correspondence, Relatives and Friends, 1887-1916
1	6	Clippings, 1887-1920
1	7	Speeches, articles, reviews, undated
1	7	Speeches, articles, reviews, 1885-1920 Includes a music score, "The Air Castle," words by O.A. Buslett; music by Peder Halvorsen (1911)
2	1-3	Poems, 1889-1922, undated
2	4-5	"Torstein I Nybygden" manuscript (fragment), 1897
2	6-7	"Rødklubben" manuscript, undated
2	8	Manuscript Fragments, 1893-1913
3	1-2	"Femtende Wisconsin" manuscript, circa 1895
3	3-5	"Femtende Wisconsin" biographical sketches, circa 1895
3	6	Clippings of 15th Wisconsin, Civil War, 1893-1896
3	7	"Femtende Wisconsin" correspondence, 1891-1915
4	1	Political Speeches, reports, and petitions, 1894-1909
4	2	Notes, Pine Lands, Minnesota, 1894-1909
4	3	Notes, Pine Lands, Minnesota, circa 1894-1909 Includes "Timber on the Indian [Native American] Reservations. The Investigations of 1874 & 1894." Notes on the speech of Hon. H.H. Sibley in the House of Representatives, April 24, 1854, on the Homestead Bill (Homestead Act), in which he defends the timber thieves; "Methods of Lumbering."
4	4	Political Correspondence, 1909-1923
4	5	Political Correspondence, 1891-1909
4	6	Political Articles, speeches, resolutions, reports, 1909-1915
4	7	Account Book, 1909-1910
5	1	Waldemar Ager Letters, 1894-1914

5	2	Waldemar Ager Letters, 1915-1923
5	3	H.J. Allberg Letters, 1893-1894
5	4	Anderson Publishing Co., & N.A. Grevstad letters, 1881-1914
5	5	Rasmus B. Anderson Letters, 1873-1895
5	6	B. Anundsen Letters, 1892-1893
5	7	Julius B. Baumann Letters, 1916-1922
5	8	John Benson, "Scandinaven" Letters, 1885-1923
5	9	A.G.K. and O. Christofferson Letters, 1882-1913
5	10	Juul Dieserud Letters, 1911-1912
5	11	Sigurd Folkestad Letters, 1911-1923
5	12	H.A. Foss Letters, 1922-1923
5	13	Erik & Bertha Hago Letters, 1884-1890
5	14	Lars Heiberg Letters, 1893-1923
5	15	O.S. Hervin Letters, 1893-1913
5	16	H.R. Holand Letters, 1906-1923
5	17	P. Iverslie Letters, 1892-1918
5	18	Olav Kringen Letters, 1895
5	19	L. Lima Letters, 1902-1904
5	20	K.E. Noerestad Letters, 1918-1922
5	21	Jon Norstog Letters, 1912-1913
6	1	Torkell Oftelie Letters, 1893-1923
6	2	O.M. Oleson Letters, 1915-1920
6	3	Julius Olson Letters, 1889-1923
6	4	John Ovren Letters, 1918-1923
6	5	Palma Pederson Letters, 1919-1923
6	6	Franklin Petersen Letters, 1922-1924
6	7	Henry P. Peterson Letters, 1922-1923
6	8	D.G. Ristad Letters, 1915-1922
6	9	David Schøyen Letters, 1893
6	10	Johan Selnes Letters, 1909-1920
6	11	Edvard Skille Letters, 1921-1923
6	12	O.S. Sneve Letters, 1902-1913
6	13	A. Stenersen Letters, 1924
6	14	Peer Strømme Letters, 1893-1921
6	15	Peter Stylen Letters, 1894-1916
6	16	A.M. Sundheim Letters, 1913-1922
6	17	Bjarne Svanøe Letters, 1913-1914
6	18	I.H. Ulsaker Letters, 1896-1899
6	19	Martin Ulvestad Letters, 1909-1910
6	20	Johs. B. Wist and Kristian Prestgard Letters, 1888-1923
6	21	Waldemar Ager correspondence, 1915-1922
6	22	Poems and Stories, 1923

- 6 23 Article by James C. Stoltenberg, "Ole Amundsen Buslett (1855-1924): Father of Norwegian Literature in America" 22 p. Typescript, 1989
- 6 (loose) "Way to the Golden Gate," by Buslett, 1989
Translated by Myrtle Christenson Buslett & Magda Christenson Trinrud, edited by Neil T. Eckstein. 28 p. typescript.
- 6 24 Thesis by Liv Smith. "Ole Amundsen Buslett: Norwegian-American Author." University of Oslo. 108 p. Typescript, 1978
- 6 25 Lloyd Husvedt notes, 1977
He said, "I had in mind a book, but it became an article...the many bibliographical references may have the most value for future researchers. Much never made it into my article." Includes letter from Liv Smith, Oct. 28, 1977. Includes color photographs of Norwegian sites associated with Buslett.
- 6 26 Photographs, undated
- 7 Books, 1874-1920
Includes: R.B. Anderson, "Den norske maalsag." Chicago, Skandinavens Forlag, 1874. 99 p. Copy given to Buslett "til min kjære hustru, Anna Buslett, Madison, Jan. 18. De '83."; Buslett's "Veien til Golden Gate." 27 p. (no place, no publisher, no date); Buslett's "Benediktus og Jacobus." Eau Claire, Wis., Fremad Publ. Co., 1920. 202 p.; "Sagastolen; fortaelling fra det norske Nordamerika." Chicago, J. Anderson, 1908. 237 p.; "The Air Castle," song. Words by O. A. Buslett, music by Peder Halvorsen. N.Y., Haviland, ca. 1911; "Amerika-Paul," by Buslett. Kvartalskrift. Oct. 1913; "Rolf Hagen." 1893. 108 p.; "Glans-Om-Sol og hans Folks Historie," by Buslett. 1912. 250 p.;

Rokke Name Index

Buslett, Myrtle Christenson	Femtende Wisconsin	Melde, Rakel Hunokaar
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Johnson, A. E.
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Olson, Ole B.
Christianson, C.
Hosland, Julius
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Behs. , W
Egedal, Hans P.
Olsen, Andrew
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Skagen, Johan Angel M
Straadberg, Josef
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Berge, Rikard
Kleva, C
Bakken, O. L.
Rosler, R. (Mrs)
Narestad, Kittil
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Beselu, Joerde
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Torgerson, Andrew
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Norstad, Ole Johnsen
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Royur, Ole Thompson
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Lundy, S. O.
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Company
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Smith, Liv
Stenerson, A.
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Larson, Ever
Allberg, H. J.
Benson, John