

**Collection Name:**

Stavangerlag papers, circa 1915-1973

Collection Number:

P0465 (Stavangerlag)

Extent:

0.4 cubic feet (1 archives box)

About Stavangerlag:

Also known as the Stavanger Amt Laget in America. Organized in Story City, Iowa, September 8, 1911.

Past presidents include:

Rev. C.J. Eastvold (1911-29)
Rev. J.E.H. Akre (1929-51)
Rev. Nils Klungtvedt (1951-69)
Rev. H.A. Peterson (1969-73)
Iver Olson (1973-)

Past secretaries include:

Berthel Bellesen (1911-27)
Ordin Mjolsness (1926)
John Maland (1927)
Rev. J.E.H. Akre (1927-29)
Rev. Nils Klungtvedt (1929-51)
Rev. A.M. Hegre (1951-59)
Iver Olson (1959-70)
Paul B. Nornes (1970-)

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

Box	Folder	Description
43	7	Stavangerlaget, circa 1915-1973 Includes: "Officers of The Stavanger Lag From 1911 to 1973"; stevne (meeting) programs; "Sange for Stavanger-Lagets Stevne Samt Lagets Konstitution" ("Song[s] for The Stavanger Lag's Meeting Plus The Lag's Constitution"), 23-24 June, 1915; song booklets; correspondence: Norlie, C.J. Eastvold, Mr. Thor Ohme, Erik [Vassbotn], Dr. Odd Løvold (misspelling of "Odd Løvoll"), Iver Olson; untitled writings in Norwegian regarding S.S. Tweit, Ola Neristovo, and Per Oppistovo; pictures: "Sandslaget" (a local lag that was a part of Stavanger Amt Lag), 27 August 1926; "A Child's Trust" church program, Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church; Bygdelag Questionnaire filled out by Dr. Iver Olson, sent by Odd Løvoll; "Karmøy-Posten" newspaper clipping, 7 November 1928; Karmøylaget articles (including an account of a stevne in Madison, Minnesota), undated.
44	1	Stavangerlaget, circa 1910-1924 Includes: newspaper clippings, including some which mention Ruger and Hørder, Suldalslaget, and Dalenelaget; "Sange for Stavanger-Lagets Stevne samt Lagets Konstitution" ("Song[s] for

The Stavanger Lag's Meeting Plus The Lag's Constitution"), 23-24
June 1915.

44	2	Stavangerlaget, 1926-1932 Also includes "The Sloopers."
44	3	Stavangerlaget, 1933-1939
44	4	Stavangerlaget, 1940-1955