

**Collection Name:**

Birger Osland papers, circa 1910-circa 1950

Collection Number:

P0574

Extent:

9.6 cubic feet (24 archives boxes)

Biography/History:

Ole Birger Osland (1870-1963) was an official in various enterprises of Charles H. Wacker (1893-1911); founder and president of Birger Osland and Company, investment bankers (1911-1940); general western manager of the Norwegian America Steamship Line (1911-1923) and for many years a member of its board of representatives; secretary-treasurer of Lake Otis Groves, Inc.; director of the Scandinavian Trust Company of New York until its merger with New York Trust Company; and vice president of Chicago Security Dealers Association. From 1917 to 1919 Osland was an attaché with rank of major in the Military Intelligence Division of the U.S. Army, stationed in Christiania (now Oslo), and also a member of the U.S. Food Administration, Copenhagen.

Osland was a trustee of the Century of Progress Exposition; member of the Norwegian-American World's Fair Auxiliary Committee; treasurer of NAHA for 25 years; director and also president of the Norwegian-American Hospital; and national treasurer of Norwegian Relief, Inc., during World War II. The correspondence, about half of which is letters by Osland, deals with business enterprises, civic interests, philanthropy, and family. Topics discussed include city, state, and federal politics; banking and investments; Osland's work as organizer of American financial participation in the Norwegian America Line in 1911-1912; and the participation of Norway and Norwegian Americans in the Century of Progress Exposition.

Abstract:

Includes material on the various Chicago Norwegian organizations and institutions: Arne Garborg Klub, Den Norske Quartet Klub, Det Norske Nationalforbund, Den Norske Klub, Dovre Klub (politics), Sleipner Athletic Club, Norwegian Fish Club (businessmen's luncheon group), American Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, Norwegian Pioneers Club, Norwegian-American Athletic Association, Norwegian Literary Society, Norwegian People's Academy, Norwegian Players, Norwegian Singers' League, Norske Skiklub, Norwegian-American Hospital, Norwegian Old People's Home, and several non-church-affiliated institutions. Osland wrote frequently for the press about his civic interests, including articles on Chicago Norwegians. He promoted the compilation of his family genealogy, "Aasland-ætten," by Ola Aurenes (1947); and he wrote his own biography, "A Long Pull from Stavanger," published by NAHA in 1945.



Correspondents other than those recorded in the inventory include: C. Martin Alsage, Knud Henderson, Halfdan Lee, R. B. Anderson, Thor Heyerdahl, Sigurd Maseng, John Benson, Knute Hill, Wilhelm Morgenstjerne, E. Berentsen, John A. Hofstead, O. M. Norlie, C. F. Berg, Eivind Hognestad, H. P. G. Norstrand, B. E. Bergeson, Hjalmar Rued Holand, Oystein Øre, Olaf Bernts, Pres. Herbert Hoover, Jens A. Paasche, Einar Beyer, Andrew Hummeland, Thomas J. Pihfeldt, Juul Dieserud, Henry O. Jaastad, Frederick Ring, E. N. Figved, Kristofer Janson, John W. Binding, George Flom, Carl Johnson, T. A. Siqueland, Nicolai A. Grevstad, Joseph M. Johnson, Oscar N. Solbert, Ernest Grundlach, S. Munch Kielland, Jno. J. Sonstebly, C. G. O. Hansen, Arnold S. Kirkeby, Vilhjalmur Stefanson, Harry Sundby - Hansen, Paul Knaplund, Henry A. Stibolt, Ludvig Hektoen, Egil E. Krogh, Carl Søyland Andreas Helland, Henning Larsen, O.A. Tingelstad F. J. Henderson, Victor Lawson, B. Wick.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Clippings, invitations, and correspondence, 1930-1952 Correspondence
1	2	Family, 1917-1940
1	3	Family, 1941-1952
1	4	Herbert Osland, 1921-1926
1	5	Herbert Osland, 1927-1936
1	6	Herbert Osland, 1937-1951
2	5	Family, 1888-1952
3	1-7	1887-1924
4	1-7	1924-1928
5	1-8	1929-1935
6	1-7	1935-1945
7	1-6	1945-1955
		Manuscripts
2	1	"A Long Pull from Stavanger," 1941 Chapters 10-13 (published in 1945). Concerns military intelligence work at the American Legation in Norway during World War I.
2	2	"A Long Pull from Stavanger," 1937 Chapters 1-16 (published in 1945). Concerns military intelligence work at the American Legation in Norway during World War I.
2	3	Correspondence, picture, "A Long Pull from Stavanger," 1942-1952 Chapters 1-16 (published in 1945). Concerns military intelligence work at the American Legation in Norway during World War I.
2	4	"En Aaslands - Aett" by Ola Aurennes, 1934
2	6	Programs and invitations, 1893-1938



2		Citation given to Osland by the Board of Trustees of the Norwegian American Hospital (1948); "A Long Pull from Stavanger: The Reminiscences of a Norwegian Immigrant," by Osland (NAHA, 1945), 1945-1948
		Correspondence and reports
7	7	U.S. Military Training Camps, 1915-1926 Includes: Fort Sheridan.
7	8	World War I Service, 1917-1918
7	9	World War I Service, 1919-1929
8	1	American Legion, 1921-1948
8	2	Investments, 1920-1921
8	3	Chicago Security Dealers Association, 1934-1935
8	4	Inter-Racial Council, 1920-1921
8	5	Anti-American Propaganda, 1930 Includes: "Haiti under American Dictatorship," circa March 1930.
8	6	Chicago Exposition, 1928-1930
8	7	Chicago Exposition, 1931
8	8	Chicago Exposition, 1932
8	9	Chicago Exposition, 1933
8	10	Chicago Exposition, 1934-1941
8	11	Chicago Exposition, 1931-1932 Includes: "Official Book of the Fair. A Century of Progress International Exposition. Chicago (1932-33)"
9	1	Norse Centennial Committee, 1925
9	2-9	Chicago Exposition, Norwegian-American Committee, 1928-1934
9	10	Chicago Exposition, about Norwegian-American participation clippings, 1928-1933
10	1-4	Stavanger Cathedral Jubilee Fund, 1923-1926
11		Norwegian American Line, 1911-1912
12		Norwegian American Line, 1912-1915
13		Norwegian American Line, 1915-1928
14	1-7	Norwegian American Hospital, 1924-1950
14	8	Norwegian American Hospital: Drive, 1931-1932
14	9	Norwegian American Hospital: Complaints, 1936-1947
15	1-2	Norwegian American Hospital Bondholders Committee, 1926-1933 Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA)
15	3-5	1925-1954
15	6	1925-1933
15	7	1934-1951
15	8	News Releases, 1939-1947



15	9	Clippings, 1925-1948
16	1-2	Arthur Andersen, 1931-1946
16	3	S.J. Arnesen, 1930-1953
16	4-8	Theodore .C. Blegen, 1925-1952
17	1	Kenneth O. Bjork, 1939-1954
17	2	Pres. Lars W. Boe, 1930-1942
17	3-4	Knut Gjerset, 1922-1941
17	5	S. Hakstad, 1935-1935
17	6	O. Halvorson, 1934-1950
17	7	M.L. Hansen, 1933-1938
17	8	Erik Hetle, 1931-1938
17	9	J.A. Holmboe, 1930-1939
17	10	Sir Karl F. Knudsen, 1921-1933
17	11	Lawrence M. Larson, 1926-1938
17	12	E.J. Lee, 1936
17	13	T. Nelson, 1936-1948
17	14	O.M. Oleson, 1921-1945
17	15	Knute H.J. Orm, 1928-1929
18	1	Kristian Prestgard, 1922-1946
18	2-5	D.G. Ristad, 1925-1950
18	6	O.E. Rølvaag, 1925-1932
18	7	O.E. Rølvaag, 1925-1931
18	8	A.N. Rygg, 1914-1951
18	9	F. Schaefer, 1928-1952
19	1-7	J.J. Thompson, 1925-1950
20	1-2	M. Swenson Investments, NAL, 1912-1936
20	3	B.L. Wick, 1921-1948
21	3	R. Amundsen, Memorial Event, 1914-1928
21	4	Carl J. Hambro, 1916-1945
21	5	American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1917-1950
21	6	St. Olaf Choir Concert, 1921
21	7	Fox River (Illinois) Centennial, 1933-1934
21	8	Heg Monument, 1920-1921
21	9	Crown Prince Olav and Princess Martha, U.S. Tour, 1938-1939
21	10	L.G. Thorsness, Politics, 1939-1941
21	11	Chicago Norwegians, 1928-1938
22	12	Norwegian Old People's Home and Endowment Fund, 1907-1951
23	1-4	Norwegian Relief Inc., 1940-1952
23	5	Norwegian Banks, 1920-1933
23	6	Norwegian Government Loan, 1920-1921
23	7	Stavanger Loan, 1920
23	8	Denmark Bonds and Terra Nova Sulphite Co., 1920-1921



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23	9	Sørlandsbanen Government Loan, 1935-1936
23	10	Stavanger Arbeidsskolen, 1929
20	4	Arne Garborg Klub, 1893-1896
20	5	Dovre Klub, 1911-1930
20	6	Norwegian National League, Leif Ericson (Erikson) Celebration (1924) and Drive (1927), 1892-1952
20	7	Chicago Norske Klub, 1898-1950
20	8	Chicago Norwegian Societies, 1895-1947
21	1	Clippings, 1905-1960
21	2	Norwegian Pioneer Club, 1912-1944
24		Scrapbook, Chicago Fair, 1928 January 13-1934 March 9 Chicago Exposition, 1929 November-1932 November