

**Collection Name:**

Møre og Romsdal Fylkeslag papers, 1914-2003

Collection Number:

P0465 (Møre and Romsdal Fylkeslag)

Extent:

5 folders

About Møre og Romsdal Fylkeslag:

At Minot, North Dakota, June 20, 1928. Sunnmørslaget and Romsdalslaget combined as Møre Fylkeslag. On June 25, 1931, at Grand Forks, North Dakota, Nordmørslaget joined the two societies and the name was changed to Møre og Romsdal Fylkeslag. Until 1947 the three societies elected separate boards and conducted their own business meetings.

Past presidents include:

Rev. Jacob Tanner (1928-31)
Rev. S. J. Lindseth (1931-37)
P.A. Hustad (1937-47)
Peter N. Knutsen (1947-52)
Peter Setnes (1952-55, 1956-57, 1958-59, 1965-66)
John Kummervold (1955-56)
Gust Kragseth (1957-58)
Ole Kringstad (1959-60, 1963-64)
Hans Kragseth (1961-62)
Oswald Bartsen (1962-63)
Martin Evenson (1964-65)
Bertha Bartsen (1966-67)
Rev. R. Dahle-Melsæther (1967-68)
Andrew Berg (1968-69)
Sigurd Lovold (1969-70)
Martin Berg (1971-)

Past secretaries include:

John Walseth (1928-31)
J.O. Bergheim (1931-50)
John Kummervold (1950-53)
Gust Kragseth (1953-54)
Hans Kragseth (1954-57)
Clara Boe (1957-62, 1963-65)
Hilda Kringstad (1962-63, 1966-69, 1970-)

Bertha Barsten (1965-66, 1969-70)

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]. Møre og Romsdal Fylkeslag Papers (Bygdelagenes Papers). Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
23	6	Aarbok, 1953
23	7	Newspaper clippings, programs, and pictures, circa 1914-1971 Includes: Program for Møre-Romsdal Fylkeslag 1935, certificate of Møre and Romsdal Fylkeslag for Odd Lovoll, pictures, correspondence, programs
23	8	Scrapbook, constitution, and history, circa 1947-1973

Also includes newspaper clippings.

24	1	History, clippings, and newsletter, 1971-2000 history, clippings, The President's Column/Posten (Newsletter), immigrant inventory
24	2	Newsletter, 2000-2003