

NAHA Norwegian American Historical Association

Collection Name:

Hardangerlag papers, 1911-2018

Collection Number:

P0465 (Hardangerlag)

Extent:

1.2 cubic feet (3 archives boxes)

About Hardangerlag:

Organized at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, August 15, 1911. At the 1925 Norse-American Centennial, the lag had an attendance of about 500.

Past presidents include:

Wollert Hildahl (1911)
Samson S. Tveit (1911-35)
Samson J. Jordal (1935-47)
John L. Moe (1947-48)
John Sad (1948-49)
Ingvald Lillevik (1949-50)
Martin Kallestad (1950-51, 1952-53)
Tom Sexe (1951-52)
John Klyvee (1953-54)
Olaf Welken (1954-55)
Einar Vallevik (1955-60)
Thor Ohme (1960-63)
Stella Peterson (1963-)

Past secretaries include:

Sivert A. Jordahl (1911-24)
Nels Fresvik (1924-)
S.C. Hjeltness
William Botnen (1847-51)
Anna Alvig (1951-53, 1957-)
Erling Brekke (1953-57)

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

Box	Folder	Description
20	3	Publication, 1911-1925 Includes: two copies of Hardangerlaget publication, 1911-1925, with "Hardangerlaget" song tucked into the cover of one copy.
20	4	Notes about the tapes, circa 1957-1967
71	1	Reel-to-reel tape, Halvor's Recording - Vrådal, Norway and Houston (in Norwegian) Description/Notes: "About first Vrådalers who came to Koshkonong and Houston."
71	2	Reel-to-reel tape at Nesseths (only intro), 1966 August 16
71	3	Reel-to-reel tape Oslo Radio Program, 1957 December 24 Description/Notes: "Halvor," "send it to his relatives in Minnesota,"

- “This is duplicate + not as good as original,” etc.
- 71 4 Reel-to-reel tape, Oslo Radio Christmas Eve. 1958
Description/Notes: Kristen Flagstad [sings heid milde ljøs].
- 71 5 Reel-to-reel tape Houston, Minnesota recording, 1957
Description/Notes: “Anna’s and Axel’s 59th Anniversary at Mpls. 1957” “Axel’s 80th by” “(in Norwegian)”
- 20 5 Wedding costumes information and pictures, 1935-1986
Includes: “Hardangerlaget’s Wedding Costumes” information sheet, 24 June 1986; picture from the wedding of Gabriel and Margaret Bjornes, September 1935; newspaper clipping with a picture from a mock wedding done as a part of Vestlandslag, 1986.
- 20 6 Badges/ribbons, song, and photos of banner, circa 1916-1985
Includes: Hardangerlaget badges/commemorative stevne ribbons, 19-20 June 1959, 23-24 June 1976, 19-20 June 1964, 75th anniversary 30-31 May 1986; “Hardangerlaget Banner” photographs, November 1985; “Bygdelags Sangen (Tilegnet det norske Udflytterfolk i Amerika)” (“The Bygdelags’ Song (Dedicated [to] the Norwegian Emigrant People in America)”) by C.K. Solberg, written 6 April 1916 (unclear if original copy); “Hardangerlaget” stationary.
- 20 7 Hardangerlaget of 1913 by Gary Krahenbuhl, 2018
- 20 8 Translated meeting minutes, 1931-1977,
Translated from Norwegian into English by Gerdes S. Hitman (Monson), translated November-December 1984.
- 20 9 75th Anniversary Book, 1986
- 20 10 75th Anniversary Book, 1986
- 21 1 Udvandringen fra Hardanger til Amerika by O. Olafsen, 1909
Includes: three copies of “Udvandringen fra Hardanger til Amerika” (“Utvandringen fra Hardanger til Amerika”) (“The Emigration from Hardanger to America”), a newspaper story written in Norwegian by O. Olafsen, 19-26 March 1909.
- 21 2 History, circa 1924-1968
- 21 3 Jol i Hardanger by Bjørn Skaar, 1934
Includes: “Jol i Hardanger” (“Jul i Hardanger”) (“Christmas in Hardanger”) book, written and published by Bjørn Skaar
- 21 4 List of items donated, 1987
- 21 5 Clippings, 1902-1990
- 21 6 Sivert Anton Jordahl Lag notes and correspondence, 1911-1921, 1986
- 21 7 Program, constitution and charter members, 1912, 1916
Includes: “Hardangerlaget. Dets Grundlov og Charter Members” (“The Hardanger Lag. Its’ Constitution and Charter Members”), 1912; “Hardangerlagets 6te Aarlige Banquet” (“The Hardanger Lag’s 6th Annual Banquet”), program and menu, 1916.

21	8	Minutes notes, 1931-1975
21	9	Minutes notes (translated), 1934-1941
21	10	Membership lists, circa 1925-1938, 1959, 1985
21	11	Maps and statistics, Bruce A. Hitman, circa 1911-1985
21	12	Affiliation with Vestlandslag Also includes: "Proposed Constitution - Vestlandslaget"
21	13	Anna Alvig - Immigration Story and Bygdelag Questionnaire Includes: "Bygdelag Questionnaire" created by Odd S. Lovoll and filled out by Anna Alvig; account of her childhood and immigration to America from Norway by Anna Alvig; "English Translations of Popular Norwegian Songs and Ballads," 1964; "Programme," handwritten, possibly a plan for a future program; "Membership Pledge Card, Hardangerlaget."
21	14	Notes on Norway Includes: notes on Sørfjorden, Ulvik, Ullensvang, and Haringer i Amerika, all written in English (notebook paper) and Norwegian (typewritten on notecards).
21	15	Programs and correspondence, 1939-1976
21	16	Peterson correspondence and newsletters, 1937-1984 Includes: primarily newsletters, along with correspondence mostly relating to the Peterson family (including Stella and R.G. Peterson); "Why I Value My Norwegian Heritage" by Mrs. R.G. Peterson ("talk given at Hardanger Laget at St. Olaf"), 1963; "Hardangerlaget's History" by Mrs. Anna Alvig, Secretary, 30 April 1968. Also includes financial info 1975 and 1979.
73	1	Hardangerlaget Stevne panorama, 1920
73	2	Hardangerlaget Stevne, panorama 1913
73	3	Hardangerlaget Stevne, Lee, Illinois Flash drive and letter. Includes scans of the Hardangerlaget Stevne 1920.
Oversized		S.A. Jordahl's secretary journal

Audio Recordings

Audio 1A	Halvor's recording regarding Vraadalers who came to Koshkonong, Wisconsin, and Houston, Minnesota
Audio 2A	Interview with Orabel Thortvedt, July 18, 1964) Interview with Alice Studlien Interview with John and Mrs. Chas. Dowling Intervie with John Selvig
Audio 3A	At Gerhard Nesseth's (Includes only introduction), August 16, 1966