

**Collection Name:**

Romsdalslag papers, 1914-1978

Collection Number:

P0465 (Romsdalslag)

Extent:

0.4 cubic feet (1 archives box)

About Romsdalslag:

The National Romsdalslag (Det Nationale Romsdalslag) was organized in Minneapolis on June 14, 1913. Romsdalslaget formed Møre og Romsdal Fylkeslag together with Nordmørslaget and Sunnmørslaget in 1931.

Past presidents include:

Rev. Jacob Tanner (1911-15)

Rev. K.G. Hatlen (1925-27)

M.L. Stavig (1927-28)

Past secretaries include:

Ben Borson (1913-15)

Rev. K.G. Hatlen (1915-17)

P.O. Hall (1917-28)

Romsdalslag on the West Coast was formed in Standwood, Washington, July 1924. Early past presidents include: Knute Opdal (1924-36), Ingvald Lange (1936-37), and G.H. Sadnes (1937-38).

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

Box	Folder	Description
33	8	Romsdalslag, circa 1914-1932, 1977-1978 Includes: clippings; constitution; list of immigrants from Nessets prestegjeld (parish) (includes immigration years), 1867-1882; list of immigrants (includes immigration years and birth dates, and immigration dates span from the mid-1800s to 1915), circa 1915; programs; poems/songs written by Johan Rasmussen; "Jul i Romsdal" (includes biography of Ole Kringstad), 1977; correspondence: Lloyd Hustvedt, Jane [Belauski]; printing records for Romsdalslaget Aarbok, 1917 and 1920.
34	1	Romsdalslag Biography, L-Z
34	2	Romsdalslaget on the West Coast, circa 1968-1973 Includes: "The History of Romsdalslaget," 1968; "Romsdalingen," a biography of Ingvald Lindseth, with a scrap with "Lindseth Distributing Co." written on it attached; correspondence, 21 February 1968-4 April 1968: Mrs. Nils Julnes, Norris W. Stoa, Mr. Thor Ohme, Marie [Sauduss] (Mrs. Nils B.), HP Mittet (includes biography of Jørgen (Jorgen) Mittet, with a scrap with "Mittet Line & Net Co." written on it attached), "Sigurd," Professor Odd Løvoll, [Mattea] Holm (Mrs. Sigurd Holm) (includes list of officers (1924-1973) and a song, 1 November 1973); biography of Knut Opdal; "Love Song," written by John Rasmussen.

34	3	Romsdalslaget articles, circa 1915-1917 Includes: newspaper clippings, circa 1915-1917.
34	7	Romsdalslag biography, A-K, circa 1915-1975 Note: The date range is based off of the latest immigration date listed in the questionnaires and the year the archives received them.
72		Romsdalslaget 17 de Mai banner, circa 1914 Purple with orange piece with lyrics to "Gud Signe Noregs Land" ("God Bless Our Native Land") at the bottom, circa 1914.