

**Collection Name:**

Selbulag papers, 1907-1993

Collection Number:

P0465 (Selbulag)

Extent:

0.4 cubic feet (1 archives box)

About Selbulag:

Organized in Minneapolis, June 16-17, 1910. Editors of *Selbyggbogen* were Rev. J.A. Petersen and T.H. Enjen.

Past presidents include:

A.O. Serum (1910-21)
Peder P. Hovey (1921-28)
Rev. J.O. Rønsberg (1928-50)
Ole J. Olson (1950-)

Past secretaries include:

O.H. Uglem (1910-26)
B.P. Hovey (1926-40s)
Gertrude Aftreth (1936-50s)
Olga Swan (1946-50s)

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

Box	Folder	Description
34	8	Selbulag Clippings, circa 1907-1924
35	1	Selbulag Clippings, circa 1925-1952
35	3	Selbulag, 1909-1959 Includes: two copies of "Konstitution og Bilove for Selbu-Laget" ("Constitution and By-Laws for The Selbu Lag"), 1910; newspaper clippings and articles; two copies of "Segner og Historier fraa Selbu" (rough translation: "Reports and Histories* from Selbu" (*note: "historie" can also mean "story") by [J.P. or J.D.] Sand, 1928; "Kirkesangere og lærere i Selbu fra 1700 til 1922" ("Church Singers and Teachers in Selbu from 1700 to 1922") by I. Flønæs, 1930; 50th anniversary program, 1959; "Selbu Dameforenings" ("Selbu Women's Club"), includes three newspaper clippings (previously attached to it via metal clip); "Konstitution og Bilove for Selbulaget" ("Constitution and By-Laws for The Selbu Lag"), 1915; commemorative stevne ribbons, 1941 and 1939; "Selbulaget," history of Selbulaget; publishing information for "Selbygbogen" and "Navne og Adresser af Selbygger," 1914-1921; note to see A.O. Serum Papers (now P0589, boxes 1-3); "Navne og Adresser af Selbygger," contains names and addresses of members, 1914.
35	4	Selbygbogen Translation/Selbulag History, 1921-1931, 1993 Includes: "Bits and Pieces from the Past," a collection of translated pages from "Selbygbogen" (1921 and 1931), 1993.
35		Selbygbogen, 1921