

**Collection Name:**

Nordfjordlag papers, 1909-2007

Collection Number:

P0465 (Nordfjordlag)

Extent:

1.2 cubic feet (3 archives boxes)

About Nordfjordlag:

Organized at Como Park in St. Paul, September 8, 1909. The secretaries usually edited the annuals. Dr. Carl D. Kolset was responsible for most of them.

Past presidents include:

Rev. R.J. Meland (1909-15)
Elias Rachie (1915-30, 1943-50)
Rev. L.M. Gimmestad (1920-43)
A.A. Davidson (1950-53)
Oscar Gimmestad (1953-60, 1965-72)
Absalon Rye (1960-65)
Albert Svor (1972-73)
Gustav Haaland (1973-)

Past secretaries include:

Rev. Rasmus Anderson (1909-13)
Carl D. Kolset (1913-20, 1921-39)
J.A. Hovik (1920-21)
Rev. R.J. Meland (1939-50)
B.M. Hofrenning (1950-56)
J.R. Seime (1956-60)
Albert Svor (1960-65)
Rev. R.T. Wanberg (1965-66)
Mrs. Oren Christensen (1966-)

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

Box	Folder	Description
24		Nordfjordingernes Historie i Amerika, 1940
24	4	Newspaper clippings, circa 1909-1941 Includes: "Nordfjordlaget" by R.J. Meland; "Bokanmeldelse" by O.M. Norlie (from "N.T," a newspaper written in Norwegian).
24	5	Firda Youth Group Book and Nordfjordlag Yearbook, 1920, 1937-1938. Includes: Firda Ungdomslag i 25 Aar (1896-1921) ("The Firda Youth Group in 25 Years"), 1921; Nordfjordlaget Aarbok (Yearbook), 1920 and 1937-1938.
25	1	Arbok, 1943-1944 and 1935
25	2	Nordfjordlag and NHOH (Nord Hedmark og Hedemarkenlag) pamphlets and programs, 1985-2002
25	3	Correspondence, receipts, programs, and yearbook, 1924-2007 Also includes pamphlets; photocopy of "Early History of Miner Country" by Leif I. Fjellestad.
25	4	Correspondence, constitution, and member information, circa 1905-1913

25	5	Correspondence, Subscription, and Member Lists, 1911-1914
25	6	Correspondence, writings, clippings, and photos, circa 1909-1925, 1974
25	7	Programs, clippings, and newsletter/report, 1923-1973
26	1	Correspondence and Notes, circa 1925-1975 Also Includes: map, newsletter, songs/poems, programs, member lists, notes.
26	2	Correspondence and poems/songs, 1942
26	3	Correspondence and reports, 1942-1943 Also Includes: program for Sunnfjordlagets Tridive Aarfest 1912-1942, 1942; fragment from Nordfjordlagets Aarbok (a Treasurer's Report by Ole A. Svor, p.63), 1 August 1942; "Mrs. Caroline Hanson," an account of Mrs. Caroline Hanson's life and experiences as a Norwegian immigrant in Minnesota, 19 August 1942; account of the life of Hans M. Monson, a Norwegian-American immigrant; "En Nordfjord Kjempe! Rokkemester Anders Johnson Meland," an account of the life of Anders Johnson Meland, circa 1942; Nordfjord Committee Aid Report, 22 July 1943; financial report/letter written by Ole A. Svor to Reverend Meland, 26 July 1943.
26	4	Correspondence, life accounts/memorials, and reports, 1943-1944 Also Includes: "Memorial Services for Reverend Lars M. Gimmestad & Ole I. Steen," program for memorial service and Nordfjordlagets Stevne, circa September 1943 and/or 16 June 1946; "Til Norges Kirke" and "Muskego Kirken 1843-1943," songs/poems by Rev. B.M. Hofrenning, 1943; "Members of Nordfjordlaget nor paid dues for 1943," circa 1944; financial records; newsletters; memorials/obituaries and/or life accounts for/of Anders K. Rysdahl, Andres A. [Disjorn], Mrs. Andrew M. Monson, Hans Abrahamson, L.M. [Gimmestad or Gimmestad], Ole A. Wisness, and Ole I. Steen; meeting instructions.
26	5	Correspondence, memorial materials/writings, and reports, 1944-1947 Also Includes: poems and songs; memorials and/or life accounts of Dr. Lars M. Gimmestad and Peder A. Pederson; funeral program/service record for Claus L. Maurstad, 7 January 1947; "Nordfjordlagets 37 aars Jubileums Stevne" ("The Nordfjordlag's 37 Year Jubileum Meeting") program, 19-21 September 1947; financial records.
26	6	Correspondence, writings, and reports, 1948-1952 Also Includes: financial reports, "To the Officers, Directors, and Members of the Leif Erikson Monument Association," letter/newsletter written by E. Klaveness, President, 1 November 1948; financial reports; "Nordfjordlagets 40de Jubileums Stevne i Mindekirken 23-25 Juni," ("The Nordfjordlag's 40th Jubileum Meeting in Mindekirken 23-25 June"), plan for a program for

Nordfjordlaget's 40th stevne, 23-25 June 1950; "R.J. Meland's Nordfjordlagets Aarbok, 1948-1950" ("R.J. Meland's The Nordfjord Lag's Yearbook, 1948-1950"), notes or possibly a review written in Norwegian by O.M. Norlie, circa 1950.

- 78 Nordfjordlagets aarbok, 1924-1950
- 78 Nordfjordlagets 75th anniversary pamphlet
- 78 Annual convention Nordfjordlag pamphlet, 1927, 1957
- 78 Nordfjordlaget i Oslo, March 1925