

**Collection Name:**

Helen Svensson Fletre papers, 1894-1987

Collection Number:

P1409

Extent:

1.6 cubic feet (4 archives boxes)

Abstract:

Papers of a prominent member of the Norwegian colony in Chicago. A native of Ødehog, Sweden, educated in Sweden and London, she served as a governess in England and later as a teacher in Norway. In 1934 she married Lars Fletre, a Norwegian sculptor who had earlier lived in Chicago. They moved to Chicago with their three children in 1954, where they became active in the many Norwegian groups which were flourishing at the time, notably DeLiSa (Det literaer Samfund), Nordmanns Forbundet, Norwegian National League, and others. She served on the Sesquicentennial Commission, was co-editor of *From Fjord to Prairie*, for which together with other services she was awarded the Medal of St. Olaf in 1976. As a staff writer for the newspaper *Vinland*, she contributed "hundreds" of articles to that paper. She was a familiar figure at symposiums and conferences where she presented papers dealing with Norwegian cultural life in Chicago. During her last years she was helpful in collecting information for *A Century of Urban Life*, by Odd S. Lovoll, published by NAHA in 1988.

Box	Folder	Description	Date	Range
2	20	Hammer, Borgny.	1981	1981
1	1	Memorial tributes.	1987	1987
2	13	Chicago Norske Teater	1950	1985
2	14	Chicago Norske Studenter Forbund (photocopy).	1930	1930
2	15	Chicago Norwegian People's Academy.	1929	1929
2	16	Christmas in Scandinavia.	1976	1976
2	17	Erickson, Rolf.	1981	1985
2	11	Bishop Hill Heritage Association.	1984	1985
2	19	Folk Costume Exhibit [Mundelein College, Chicago]	1983	1983
2	10	Bergethon, Bjornar	1980	1984
2	21	Hansteen, Aasta	1984	1984
2	22	Holberg, Ludvig	1984	1984
2	23	Ibsen performances.	1986	1986
2	24	Folkets Hus (Arbeiderklubben)	1986	1986

2	25	International Festival, Chicago Public Library	1979	1979
3	1	Larson Boe, Knut	1985	1985
3	2	Lund, Alfred (Norwegian space scientist at NASA)	1985	1985
2	18	Farmfest	1976	1976
2	2	Abrahamson, Elmer.	1985	1985
1	2	Personal data. Includes "memories" of childhood; "Why working mothers make me mad"	1980	1986
1	3	Personal correspondence.	1982	1987
1	4	"The Palette and Chisel Club" of Chicago. Norwegian members of this group: Fred. T. Larson, Anton Beutlich, Emil Biorn, Svend Svendson, John H. Carlsen, Ben Blessum, Karl Ouren, Oscar B. Erickson, Oscar M. Lumby, Sigurd Knudson, Sigrid Schou (Skou), Arild Weborg, Oscar J.W. Hansen, Trygve Rovelstad. Ca. 1982	1982	1982
1	5	Translations (oversized in Box 4).	1980	1986
1	6	DeLiSa (Det Litaerre Samfund), correspondence and notes. Includes clipping "Valiant Woman: Bergljot Raaen" (1958)	1958	1986
1	7	(Folders 7-8) Seminar at Hovikodden, correspondence, paper on DeLiSa (Det Litaerre Samfund).	1984	1984
2	12	Brundtland, Gro Harlem. Interview.	1985	1985
2	1	Arseth, Sigmund	1985	1985
3	5	Nelson, Lawrence (Pres., Nelson Printing Co.)	1984	1986
2	3	Altern, Alf.	1985	1985
2	4	American Scandinavian Association, Chicago.	1950	1979
2	5	American Scandinavian Association, Illinois.	1983	1986
2	6	Amundson, Adolph. Interview.	1986	1986
2	7	Amundson, Henry.	1986	1986
2	8	Andersen, Erling.	1985	1985
2	9	Andersen, Harry and Josefa	1985	1985
1	9	Lars Fletre miscellaneous (see his papers NAHA P1108). Newspaper clippings.	1951	1977
3	31	Voss emigrant anniversary	1986	1986
3	23	Solberg, Henry	1985	1985
3	24	Swensen, Arnold	1985	1985
3	25	"Terra Nova" (drama)	1984	1984
3	26	Thronsdon, Ludvig	1984	1984
3	27	Van Valkenburgh, Florence	1985	1985
3	28	Vennerod, Peter	1985	1985
3	3	"Malla Moe and Her Gospel Wagon" (author, Dorothy Martins)	1987	1987

3	30	Viking ship. Includes "'Viking' From Norway to America," by R. Rasmussen, crew member of the Viking." (1894)	1894	1985
3	20	Salvation Army.	1985	1985
4 (oversized)	1	Larson, Arthur (translations)	0	0
4 (oversized)	2	Chicago Women's Fiskelubben, handwritten notes	1981	1982
4 (oversized)	3	Fletre, Nils, trip to U.S. Handwritten notes.	1981	1981
4 (oversized)	4	Translations of documents, etc. Handwritten.	1981	1981
4 (oversized)		Items 5 - 6: Pictorial calendars of Norway, published by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1982	1987
4 (oversized)	7	The Women Writers Calendar, edited by Elaine Goldman Gill and Mary Gilliland, published by the Crossing Press (1986)	1986	1986
4 (oversized)		Items 8 - 9: Weekly planners/planners, one from 1979, one from 1983	1979	1983
3	29	Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum	1985	1985
3	14	Pihlfeldt, Thomas	1985	1985
4 (oversized)		Folders 10 - 11: Miscellaneous, includes article "Urban Immigrants" by Helen Fletre and Martin W. Reinhart (1982); handwritten notes	1982	1982
3	6	Nordmanns Forbundet	1985	1985
3	7	Norway in World War II	1985	1985
3	8	Norwegian American Immigration	1975	1975
3	9	Norwegian Lutheran Mission Home for Women	1985	1985
3	10	King Olav V, visit	1975	1975
3	11	Osa, Sigbjorn	1976	1980
3	22	Scandinavian design	1985	1985
3	13	Olof Palme memorial	1986	1986
3	21	Ole Sannem, Chicago artist	1985	1985
3	15	Poems copied by Helen Fletre	1985	1985
3	15	Rabe, Hjalmar	1985	1985

3	16	Reppen, Harold	1985	1985
3	17	Rolvaag, O.E. (reviews)	1985	1985
3	18	St. Olav Medal	1941	1980
3	19	Salvation Army.	1985	1985
3	4	Munch Exhibit, Chicago	1975	1975
3	12	Oslo Summer School	1983	1984