

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 37

MARCH 1967

Editor L. HUSTVEDT

THE ASSOCIATION IN 1966

Membership

Of the 3,674 members who have been enrolled in the Association, 1,055 were still active as of December 31, 1966: associate 755, sustaining 172, patron 8, and life 120. We added 68 members during the past year, a decrease from the preceding two years. We added 85 members in 1964, and 100 in 1965. Our cancellation figures were, however, only 22 (12 deceased). Only once before has the cancellation total been so low. This was in 1936, with a total membership of 609. During the past 10 years 823 members have been added and 430 memberships have been cancelled.

If the present low cancellation rate can be maintained in the future, we have cause to rejoice. The retention of old members is as important a factor in the growth and stability of an organization, as is the recruitment of new ones. A recent study made by the secretary showed that most cancellations take place after the first year of membership. Out of a total of 2,522 cancellations, 787 (31%) terminated membership after one year.

Books

Rasmus Bjørn Anderson by Lloyd Hustvedt was the 1966 publication. It came off the press late in September and was distributed to all the members in early October. Any member who did not receive this book should notify the secretary.

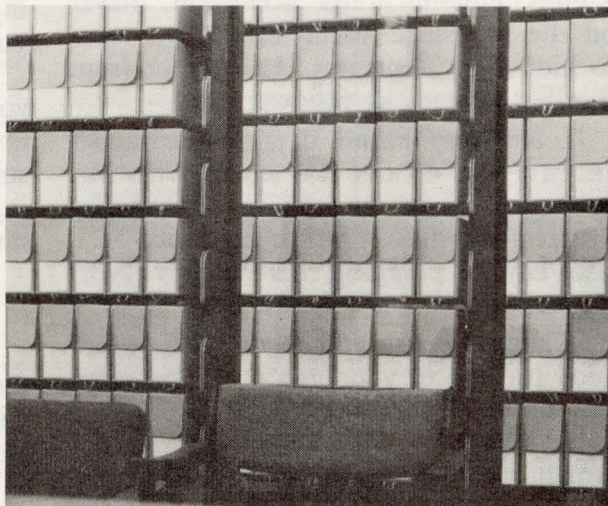
A total of 202 book orders was filled in 1966, and 673 volumes were sold. Sales amounted to \$1,803.66. The two most recent publications understandably led the sales: *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson* led with 90 copies and Volume 22 of *Studies* was second with 54 copies sold. A total of 410 copies of *Studies* was sold with many of the early volumes selling around 20 copies each. *The Lady with the Pen* saw a sale of 28 copies. All other books had a sale of 20 or less.

The book sales of the past nine years are as follows: 1958, \$877.09; 1959, \$1,422.49; 1960, \$1,887.64; 1961, \$2,296.61; 1962, \$1,869.75; 1963, \$2,525.90; 1964, \$1,780; 1965, \$1,696.36; 1966, \$1,803.66.

Archives

The processing of our forty-year backlog of collected documents and papers was completed early in 1966. A number of recent acquisitions had accumulated in the meantime and needed attention. Much time was also devoted toward preparation for moving into new quarters. This move

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The Archives seen from the secretary's office.



Gwen Green (Mrs. Richard R.), the secretary's clerical assistant and receptionist. She is always smiling and friendly—and even more so when the members pay their dues promptly.



Miss Beulah Folkedahl (sitting) and Professor Charlotte Jacobson look over a recent acquisition in the Archivist's new office.

Dr. Agnes M. Larson

Dr. Agnes Larson, professor of history at St. Olaf College, died January 24, 1967. She was a member of the NAHA Archives Committee, a contributor to *Studies and Records* and author of *History of the White Pine Industry in Minnesota*. Shortly before her death, she had completed a biography of John A. Johnson, a Wisconsin pioneer industrialist and prominent citizen, who had immigrated to this country from Norway. A twelve-story tower dormitory at St. Olaf College bears her name. Dr. Agnes Larson was a great person and a great teacher.

MYRON FLOREN

In response to a gift membership, Myron Floren, noted accordion player on the Lawrence Welk TV show, wrote to Lionel G. Thorsness. An excerpt from this letter reads as follows:

"I am very proud of my Norwegian ancestry and on our TV shows with Mr. Lawrence Welk take every opportunity to stress this fact. I think Lawrence . . . also enjoys plugging his 'Happy Norwegian' . . ."

"Thanks again and best wishes and good fortune to your group. Hope some day on one of my trips to Chicago I will be able to stop in and see you. I remain

Most sincerely yours,
MYRON FLOREN"

Consider a Life Membership

Associate members are urged to consider a life membership. From the long-range view it is more economical than the associate category, and at the same time is more beneficial to the Association.

Life membership dues go into a permanent fund and only the accrued interest is used for current expenses. Hence the term, life membership, has a double meaning. The individual enjoys the privileges of membership as long as he *lives*, but his support of the NAHA will continue as long as it *lives*. This will be a long time.

Under the life membership plan the annual exchange of statements, dues and receipts is eliminated. This provides not only convenience, but a significant saving in terms of time, clerical work, and postage.

Give serious thought to transferring your associate membership to life membership in 1967. Those who prefer may subscribe to a life membership by paying four annual installments of \$25.00, rather than one payment of \$100.00.

Gift of \$250

Magnus Bjørndal, Vice President of the NAHA, presented the Association with a check for \$250.00, to be used for current expenses. Mr. Bjørndal, president of Tech Laboratories, Inc., is also president and director of Norway Foundation, Palisades Park, New Jersey.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Of the 68 new members added in 1966, nineteen have not been introduced in the *Newsletter*. Sixteen more members have been enrolled in 1967.

Associate

Mr. and Mrs. Sig Hagen, Enderlin, North Dakota
Carl H. Chrislock, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Adolph J. Roiseland, South St. Paul, Minnesota
Curtis Johnson, St. Paul, Minnesota
Martin Quanbeck, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Magne B. Olson, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Nels J. Saltnes, Solway, Minnesota
Samuel Michaelson, Waverly, Iowa
Martin Hagfors, Seattle, Washington
Mrs. Charles N. Houck, Rochester, Minnesota
Gerald Giving, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Gordon M. A. Mork, Minnetonka, Minnesota
Mrs. William D. Chisholm, Seattle, Washington
Reuben Talle, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Anton Hillesland, McKenna, Washington
Mrs. Orville L. Varland, Rockford, Illinois
Mrs. Arthur K. Anderson, Louisville, Kentucky
Dr. Charles A. Nelson, Des Moines, Iowa

Life

Austin Hovland, Chicago, Illinois

New Members 1967

Associate

Eva Taxt, Brooklyn, New York
Lewis J. Carlson, Camas, Washington
Mrs. Florence N. Dahl, Washington, D. C.
Edith L. Anderson, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Benjamin A. Paust, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Norma C. Renning, Hammond, Indiana
S. R. Thompson, Chicago, Illinois
Gilbert Fidjeland, Kvinesdal, Vest-Agder, Norway
Mrs. Frederick K. Hilton, Louisville, Kentucky
W. R. Anderson, Evanston, Illinois
Clifford D. Strom, St. Olaf College
Robert Bjerke, St. Olaf College
Marietta S. Huggins, St. Paul, Minnesota

Sustaining

Charles K. Anderson, Seattle, Washington
Gerhard A. Astad, Berkeley, California
Mrs. Hazel Lee Norberg, Los Angeles, California



Charlotte Jacobson examining the new document cases. Her generous gift made possible the purchase of these boxes.

Transfers

Patron

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Rockefeller, New York, N. Y. (transferred from sustaining)

Life

Mrs. Agnes Kittelsland, Sacred Heart, Minnesota (sustaining to life)
R. W. Reiersen, Houston, Texas (sustaining to life)

Received in the Archives

The NAHA Archives have in the recent past received large amounts of valuable papers, documents and pictures. Some of the acquisitions are listed below:

Carl G. O. Hansen letters and papers. Mr. Hansen was for many years the publisher of *Minneapolis Tidende*. Donated by the Hansen family.

G. O. Felland Collection. G. O. Felland was a pioneer educator and librarian. Donated by the Felland family.

Waldemar T. Ager papers and letters. Donated by Trygve Ager.

Gertrude M. Hilleboe papers (personal and family). Donated by Gertrude Hilleboe, former Dean of Women at St. Olaf College.

Significant donations have also been made by R. W. Reiersen, Houston, Texas, and by Mrs. A. M. Holmquist, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mrs. Holmquist's donation consisted of Aaker family papers collected by her husband, the late Professor Albert M. Holmquist.

SURVEY OF EXPENSE AND INCOME

A rough compilation of the annual treasurer's reports since the founding of the Association may be of interest to the members. Most noteworthy, perhaps, is the fact that 72 per cent of our expended income has been directed toward publication.

Of interest, too, is the fact that the total income during the past 15 years exceeds that of the first 25 years. The category, "Contributions and Bequests," however, shows a much lower figure for the more recent years than during the early period of the Association.

INCOME AND EXPENSES, 1925-1966 (Unofficial)

<i>Income</i>		<i>Expense</i>	
Dues, Associate & Sustaining	\$111,227.52	Publication Expense	\$135,136.27
Dues, Life Membership	15,370.00	Secretary's office	38,602.49
Bequests	43,085.10	Archives	2,931.60
Book sales	33,988.66	Travel	4,478.84
Interest on Investments	18,321.60	General	6,107.03
Gains on Investments	2,910.55	Advertising	1,146.77
Unspecified Income	859.54	25th Anniversary	693.14
Ole Rynning Fund	185.51	Rynning Fund	56.04
	\$223,948.48		\$189,152.18

Andrew E. Wigeland has prepared a new and attractive promotion leaflet. It contains a membership application blank. One copy is enclosed with this *Newsletter*. Please forward it to a prospective member. Additional copies can be obtained from the secretary.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

<i>Income</i>	1925-1950	1950-1966
Dues, Associate & Sustaining	\$47,242.52	\$63,985.00
Dues, Life Membership	7,850.00	7,520.00
Book sales	10,268.44	21,720.22
Contributions & Bequests	34,131.18	8,953.92
Interest on Investments	6,664.98	11,656.62
Gains on Investments	2,910.55	not indicated
Unspecified Income	41.06	818.48
Ole Rynning Fund	185.51	
	\$109,294.24	\$114,654.24

The Good Old Days

The printing costs for Volume 1 of *Studies and Records*, 1,500 copies, came to \$694.50 in 1926. The printing costs for *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson*, 1,500 copies, in 1966 were: \$5,560.35.

THE ASSOCIATION IN 1966

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took place early in September.

Renovation of the old quarters began before the new ones were ready, and most of the NAHA collection was placed into temporary storage for a greater part of the summer. As a result all processing of documents was temporarily interrupted. This interlude, however, was put to good use. Miss Beulah Folkedahl began to prepare an index of the descriptions, thus providing a cross reference to the contents of the archives.

After settling in our new quarters, Miss Folkedahl began transferring our collection into new, smaller, and more accessible document cases. About eighty per cent of this task had been completed when Miss Folkedahl unfortunately became ill. She underwent major surgery early in February. We are happy to report that our archivist is recovering with remarkable speed, and is now convalescing in her home. The progress made in the organization of our collection during the past five years is her doing, and our debt to her is great.