

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members



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Editor, KIM HOLLAND

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MEET THE AUTHOR OPPORTUNITY

You are invited to join NAHA, and the St. Olaf College Norwegian and Religion departments in an informal session with the author of *Bernt Julius Muus*, Joseph M. Shaw, Sunday, January 23, 2000, from 2-5 p.m. We are scheduled for the "Black and Gold" Ball Room in the new Buntrock Commons building.

From 2:00 until 3:00 Shaw will discuss the writing of this book and share his insights about the complex founder of St. Olaf College. His book will be available for purchase that day if you wish additional copies.

NAHA will provide light refreshments. All we ask is that you **RSVP**, if you are planning to attend, **no later than January 20th**. Please call 507-646-3221. You are welcome to leave a message any time of the day or night. We look forward to seeing you.

AWARD BESTOWED

The NAHA Editor and author, Odd S. Lovoll, has been informed that his book, *The Promise Fulfilled: A Portrait of Norwegian Americans Today* was selected as one of *Choice Magazine's Outstanding Academic Titles* for 1999. *Choice Magazine* is one of the premier review venues for the library market. According to the Editor of *Choice Magazine* the "selection criteria included excellence in scholarship and presentation; significance with regard to other literature in the field; and recognition as an important, often the first, treatment of a specific subject in print or electronic format." We already had that feeling about *The Promise Fulfilled*, but isn't it nice when scholarly reviews also recognize fine work? Congratulations Odd.

VANDRINGER: NORWEGIANS IN THE AMERICAN MOSAIC, 1825-2000

NAHA and the Minnesota Historical Society are co-sponsors of the upcoming conference, **April 6-8**, in St. Paul. The Conference will examine Norwegians in American society since the initial wave of emigrants left Norway in 1825. Historians from Norway and the U.S. will present papers

on a wide variety of topics.

As NAHA members you will receive a registration mailing about the conference as the date draws nearer. The arts will also be included in the Vandringer Conference. Dr. Marion Nelson is coordinating a tour of Norwegian American public sculpture in conjunction with a special exhibit of work by Norwegian American artists at St. Paul's Hill House and the Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis. Be watching for further details! You won't be disappointed.

TWENTY-FIFTH TRIENNIAL MEETING

NAHA held its most recent Triennial Meeting on October 30, 1999. Highlights included the nomination of new members to the NAHA Board, as well as the recognition of two long-time Board members, Lois Rand and Lloyd Hustvedt.

Newly elected to the Board are Layne Haugen, former Treasurer at Luther Seminary; Zay Rugland, a teacher from Minneapolis; Clarence Burton Sheffield, Jr., a professor at Macalester College; Paul Christianson; of Minneapolis, Janet Blohm Pultz, Director of the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa and Ruth Hanold Crane of Northfield. New officers are President Larry Hauge, Vice President John Tunheim, Secretary E.T. Fjelde, and Treasurer Luther Forde.

TRIENNIAL DINNER SPEAKER

Former U.S. Vice President and Ambassador Walter Mondale was NAHA's own version of Garrison Keillor as he shared the lessons he learned from his Norwegian-American parents in rural Minnesota. Mondale also reminded us that he served with other Norwegian Americans in public life both in Minnesota and while serving in the U.S. Senate. We are pleased to learn that Mr. Mondale is planning to share his Norwegian roots with the next two generations of his family. The extended Mondale family will be visiting Norway in the summer of 2000.

CHANGES AHEAD

Also discussed at the October meeting was the need to review the membership dues structure. The last increase in dues took place in 1994. Increased postage for mailings

and increased printing and other costs force us to this review. A committee will look at similar organizations and bring a recommendation to the NAHA Board in the near future.

Were you aware of the retail prices for the last several NAHA books you received? *The Western Home* has a retail price of \$44.95 (1996), *The Colony that Rose From the Sea*, sells for \$44.95 (1997), *The Promise Fulfilled*, sells for \$29.95 (1998), *Concerning our Heritage*, has a retail price of \$20.00 (1998) and *Bernt Julius Muus* sells for \$29.95. For the last 4 years the average value to members has been \$42.45 in books alone. In addition, NAHA absorbs the postage, which for the last publication was over \$2.00 each. Some years members have received two NAHA books – an amount far exceeding the \$25.00 or \$35.00 annual membership dues.

We are proud to present these important books, and we strive to be a value for our members. But the NAHA is not able to absorb the costs for the Associate and Sustaining (\$25 and \$35) levels of membership dues. The dues need to be closer to the actual costs of the publications. We hope you, who are so faithful in renewing your membership year after year, can appreciate this “business analysis” of the situation.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Have you considered the fact that a Life membership (\$250) pays for itself in 10 years or less? A Life membership means you aren't bothered with writing a check and sending it in. A Life membership means you save NAHA money by eliminating the need to send out annual renewal mailings. Life membership dues go into the Rolvaag Fund, which is the only endowed fund whose interest is available for general operating expenses. A Life membership continues to give and support NAHA year after year.

LLOYD HUSTVEDT LEGACY GIFT REPORT

Through your generous gifts to the Hustvedt Legacy Gift, we are pleased to announce the contribution of \$24,384 to the Rolvaag Fund. We thank you for making this a substantial gift. Please accept our hearty appreciation for remembering Lloyd's 40 years of dedication to the NAHA. You can be certain that Lloyd is proud of you all!

PRESIDENT OF NORWEGIAN STORTING VISITS NAHA

On November 5th we were fortunate to have Kirsti Kolle Grøndahl visit the NAHA office and Archives. Mrs. Grøndahl is the first female president of the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) and former Minister of Education, Research and Church Affairs, as well as Minister of International

Development. On campus to help St. Olaf celebrate its 125 Anniversary, Mrs. Grøndahl's tour guide for NAHA was Editor Odd S. Lovoll. Joe Shaw (author of *Bernt Julius Muus*) was called upon to give Mrs. Grøndahl a historical walking tour of the College.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME

Graduate students pursuing a doctoral degree in a Scandinavian or Scandinavian-American topics are encouraged to apply for “The Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Dissertation Scholarship.” The award is open to a wide range of academic disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Awards shall be based on an evaluation of the applicant's academic record, three references, the thesis proposal, the applicant's work plan, and future professional goals. Last year the Scholarship Committee awarded a grant of \$6,000.

Awards shall normally be made to applicants who have completed their pre-dissertation requirements within the preceding year. Dr. Odd S. Lovoll chairs the Haugen Scholarship Awards Committee. Applications (no forms needed) together with the above documents should be received **no later than March 1, 2000**. Please apply to: Chairman, Haugen Scholarship Committee, c/o NAHA, 1510 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057-1097.

MUUS BIOGRAPHY DISTRIBUTED

By now all members should have received their copy of Joseph M. Shaw's *Bernt Julius Muus: Founder of St. Olaf College*, sent to members in October. If you have not received your copy, please contact the Association.

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Norwegian American Studies, volume 35 is slated for publication in the Spring of 2000. Should all go smoothly, later in 2000 NAHA will release its next publication, the translation of Waldemar Ager's, *Colonel Heg and His Boys*.

ADDITIONS TO ARCHIVES

Received from Jane Kemp, Reference Librarian at Luther College, a copy of The Luther faculty Magazine, *Agora*, containing her article “The Era of Scandinavian Lutheran Academies.” This is a helpful overview of the early academies, exploring both their rise and demise. Kemp surveyed the materials the NAHA and two other archives held on these private high schools sponsored by the churches.

Received from Mrs. Ruth Olsen, a photo and letter from the Norwegian

American boxer, Pete Sanstøl. While living in Chicago in the late 1940's, Pete Sanstøl rented a room in Mrs. Olsen's mother's home prior to Sanstøl's marriage. Later Sanstøl relocated to Alaska and eventually California. Mrs. Olsen remembers him as a friendly and outgoing man. This will be added to our existing collection on Pete Sanstøl.

Received from Gordon Tunby, a copy of the *O'Fallon Flashbacks* published in 1975 by the O'Fallon Historical Society in Baker, Montana. This 550 page, hardbound book, contains the family histories of the settling families. Many of these families left Iowa, the Dakotas and Minnesota to try a new life in the West. The Tunby family was not alone in having Norwegian grandparents who got as far as the Dakotas before the next generation moved farther west. This contains pictures and copies of documents helpful to family historians with Montana connections.

Also received from Gordon Tunby, translations of a diary written by his grandmother, Erika Heyerdahl Tunby, who left Norway to settle in South Dakota. The 1886-1900 diary describes rural life, with its joys and hardships. One gains an appreciation for the importance of neighbors, the health of livestock, and pricing of the staples after reading the day to day life of this Norwegian family thriving in Houghton South Dakota.

Received from Elroy and Mary Aslakson, of Independence, Missouri, a copy of their family history and memories of the grandchildren of the families of Samuel Olhaus and Ellen Marie Aslakson. The Aslakson family roots go back to Sjøgn and Telemark in Norway. Goodhue County in Southeastern Minnesota became the home for this family of nine children. These memories were assembled for a family reunion held in Vasa, Minnesota in 1999.

Received from Malcolm Rosholt, an English translation of *The Fifteenth Wisconsin* by O.A. Buslett. This history of the regiment includes portions of letters and diaries borrowed from Civil War veterans. The 578 page, spiral bound book, contains a useful table of contents and lists the cemetery locations of those soldiers killed during battles. This translation, done by Rosholt's daughter, refers to the photos in the original Buslett publication. Dedicated to the Norwegian people in America, this was the first major treatment of the famous Scandinavian regiment, and was originally printed in Norwegian in 1894. This will be a valuable assistance to any one researching a soldier who served in this well-known Scandinavian Regiment.

Received from Olav Golf, his newest publication, *Religiøse Minoriteters Utvandring -Kvekere og haugianere fra Rogaland i pionertida*. 203 pages, soft cover.

Received from Beate Homlong, "...det fornidne Liffs Ophold..." *Karkontraktar frå Etne 1756-1917*. The

author has compiled all the retirement contracts from the Etne area of Norway. 472 pages, hard bound.

Received from Paul T. Vanguard, a 24 page copy of Gustave Nettum's autobiography. Originally compiled in 1984 for the Nettum family history, this is the story of a Norwegian immigrant and his life in his adopted country. At 15 Gustave and his 2 siblings left Norway in 1869 on a freighter loaded with lumber. The quest to find good land took Gustave to Red Wing, Minnesota and eventually to Fargo, Spokane, Seattle and back to Goodhue County.

Received from Dorothy Benson her book *Norse American Centennial Daughters and Its Founder Mrs. Josephine Brack*. This 102 page, soft cover book contains an oral history of Josephine Brack and her contributions to the Leif Erikson statue and the Norwegian American Centennial in 1925. Related stories are included, some that highlight other members of the Norse American Centennial Daughters. This will supplement the boxes of Josephine Brack's correspondence held in the Archives.

Received from OrLoue Gisselquist, *Called to Preach*, a 153 page, soft-cover biography of his father the Reverend J.O. Gisselquist. The author taught history at Augsburg College for many years and approaches his father's life with that scholarship. Described is a difficult childhood and an inspirational teacher leading to more education. Eventually came the days of 5-point parishes and various Hauge Synod meetings. J.O.Gisselquist became a well-known evangelist in the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement. Well-written and documented, this traces many developments in church history and the inner workings of this family.

Received from Gladys Boril, 3 family histories. The first one reviews the life and descendents of Ingeborg and Christian Bjerke who left the Romerike area, settling in Valley City, North Dakota. This 385 page, soft-bound book is indexed, contains pictures and copies of letters.

Vestromhagen, From the Mountains to the Prairies, a history of the descendents of Gjertrud Olsdatter, born in 1823, who married Erik Jorgensen, born in 1819. Four of their 12 children left Valdres to come to America, settling in North Dakota. The pictures, dates of marriages and remarriages as well as remembrances will be helpful to other family historians. 398 pages, soft bound.

Tåmas Anderssen Perlesteinbakken and Descendents: A book about our Hedalen, Valdres, Norway Roots. A 270 page spiral bound family history of the lives of those descendents who first called Dane County, WI, home and later Cottonwood MN. Many details of the life in Norway before leaving for the U.S. are included.

Received from Llewellyn Linde, a copy

of the *Linde Narratives*. Written by the family of Dr. Herman Linde, this hard-cover book includes pieces written from the 1960s on through the 1990s, as well as a tribute to his wife's parents. 429 pages of stories, remembrances, and a play that was written incorporating some very real issues of adoption, family relationships and expectations. The author's father left the Sjønefjord area in Norway to become a physician in Starbuck and Cyrus MN.

Received from Neil T. Eckstein, his latest book, *Norton's Folly*, a 255 page, soft cover book of the stories of Norwegian immigrants and their Yankee neighbors on the Wisconsin frontier, 1849-1857. This delightful book combines historical fact and fictional incidents surrounding the Neenah Settlement in Wisconsin. The characters are compelling as they overcome the onslaught of new customs, languages, people and landscapes.

Received from Dr. Rudolph Vecoli, *Defining Events, Twenty Three Years That Shaped My Life*, a hard cover book of 291 pages written by Harold M. Lian. The author's father was born in Hønefoss and arrived in the U.S. in 1906, eventually raising a family in North Dakota and then in Roseau, Minnesota. Rural existence during the Depression years in one of Minnesota's northern most areas is described vividly. Reliable sisters saved all the letters the author wrote home during WW II. Those formative years were the foundation for the author's success in life and business as his career flourished with various overseas oil concerns.

SPECIAL OFFER

We have accumulated a number of our publications once owned by former mem-

bers. These books are available to members for \$3 for the first book and \$2.50 for each additional book. Postage is included.

The titles are listed below:

Studies: vols. 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33.

Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen; Kristoffer Janson in America; Cultural Pluralism versus Assimilation: The Views of Waldemar Ager; A Chronicler of Immigrant Life: Svein Nilsson's Articles in Billed-magasinet, 1868-1870; On Both Sides of the Ocean: A Part of Per Hagen's Journey; Georg Sverdrup: Educator, Theologian, Churchman; Marcus Thrane: A Norwegian Radical in America; New Land, New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest; and The Testing of M. Falk Gjertsen are also available at the same price as Studies.

In addition to the above "in-print" volumes are a number of our "out-of-print" books. The cost for the following is \$28, including postage: *Klondike Saga: The Chronicle of a Minnesota Gold Mining Company; Pathfinder for Norwegian Emigrants, by Johan Reinert Reiersen; Grass of the Earth: Immigrant Life in the Dakota Country; The Immigrant Takes His Stand: The Norwegian-American Press and Public Affairs; West of the Great Divide: Norwegian Migration to the Pacific Coast, 1847-1893; A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America; Makers of an American Immigrant Legacy: Essays in Honor of Kenneth O. Bjork; Rasmus Bjørn Anderson: Pioneer Scholar; Immigrant Idealist: A Literary Biography of Waldemar Ager; Norwegian American; and A Voice of Protest: Norwegians in American Politics, 1890-1917.*

It would be gratifying to us if these books could find new homes and new readers.

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