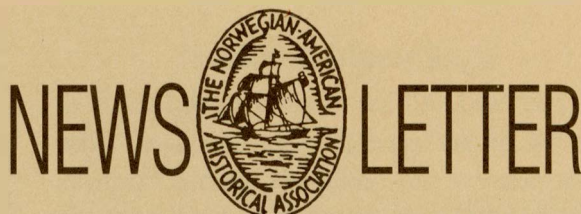


The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members



NUMBER 105

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

MAY 1999

1998 Secretary's Report

The below is an abridged version of a more detailed report the secretary presented to the Board of Directors on February 13, 1999. The complete report is available upon request.

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The NAHA made substantial, perhaps remarkable progress in all spheres of activity in 1998. The members received two publications, *Concerning Our Heritage* and *The Promise Fulfilled*, for a combined retail value of \$50.

Membership

We added 186 new members but we also lost a regrettable 82, not since some major membership drives in the 1960s have we done as well. Of the 186 new members, 107 entered as Associate; 37 as Sustaining; 7 as Patron; and 35 as Life.

As has been true for the past 30 years, we ended the year with a new high, this time with 1,963 members: Associate 774; Sustaining 258; Patron 141; and 770 Life. The last mentioned promises to become our largest membership category. Life membership dues are allocated to an endowment fund so the income these memberships produce is in essence perpetual. For this reason, life members are transferred upon death to a roster named "Deceased Life." When this category is included (277) our total membership is 2,240.

Of the 152 members who elected to change their membership status, 99 moved to a higher level while 52 lowered theirs. In terms of dues, a patron member does the

work of two associates. We hope to enter the year 2000 with that many active members.

Finances

As the financial report on the next page will reveal, a return of more than ten percent on our investment funds which now exceed a million has no equal in NAHA history. The Rølvaag endowment fund, which supports the general operation of the NAHA, and the reserves in the Current Fund provided our operational budget with \$50,000. The significance of this can be better appreciated when we note that our total income from dues amounted to \$32,000. Dues are no longer our major source of income. Book sales, which do not fluctuate much from year to year, amounted to \$7,600.

The expenses for 1998 reported on the next page followed anticipated patterns. There were no emergencies. We might note that a steady increase in postal rates has made postage a major item in our budget, about \$12,000 per year. This comes to \$6.31 per member.

Gifts

While investment income helps to sustain our operation, gifts build our endowment funds. Our gift income came to \$19,200. The largest gift was a grant of \$4,000 from the Minnesota Humanities Commission. These figures do not include \$36,570 that was given during the year to the "Twin Cities History Project," a special purpose fund with separate accounting.

Unsold Books

The NAHA has on hand a total stock of 6,569 books spread over 64 titles. The inventory is reasonably balanced. *Saga in Steel and Concrete* holds the highest count with 303 copies. Eight titles fall between 200 and 300; twenty-one between 100 and 200; twelve between 50 and 100 and twelve have a count of less than 50. Since some books are in greater demand than others, a high number title might be sold out before one with a lower inventory.

Acknowledgments

No year can go by without a grateful nod to our human assets, as difficult as they may be to measure in precise terms. We mention our president, Lawrence O. Hauge; our treasurer, Luther Forde who managed our funds that did so well; our editor Odd S. Lovoll has given us 29 publications since he took office in 1980; our archivist Forrest Brown oversees our collection and receives and helps those who use it; and Ruth Crane has for thirteen years now absorbed an ever-increasing work load with aplomb; and lastly we mention our dedicated members, without whom none of the accomplishments we cite in this report would have been possible.

CURRENT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1998

INCOME

Balance, January 1, 1998	\$61,077.10
MN Humanities Com. Grant	\$3,600.00
Dues	32,641.30
Book Sales	7,573.39
Interest, Current Fund	1,805.36
Capital Gains, Current Fund	3,256.07
Interest, Rølvaag Fund	15,365.22
Capital Gains, Rølvaag Fund	30,235.18
Fosholt-Hydle Fund	5,000.00
Accounting share endowment funds	975.00
Reimbursement by Haugen Fund	100.00
Miscellaneous Income	<u>2,426.27</u>
Total Income	\$102,977.79

EXPENSES

Salary, General	\$19,171.86
Printing, Publications-related	23,305.12
Printing, Operations	1,158.02
Printing, Haugen Fund	100.00
Postage, Publications-related	8,427.35
Postage, Operations	3,049.44
Supplies, Publications-related	1,096.07
Supplies, Operations	1,813.56
Telephone & Fax	1,013.11
Equipment	2,867.05
Accounting Fees	4,200.00
Archives	3,535.62
Book Returns	46.00
Miscellaneous Expense	<u>1,718.89</u>
Total Expense	<\$71,502.09>

Income over Expense \$31,475.70

BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 1998
\$92,552.80

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grants/Expenditures</u>	<u>End of Year Balance</u>
Kenneth O. Bjork Chair Fund	\$22,890	\$565,340
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund	5,150	135,911
Fosholt-Hydle Archives Fund	8,594	147,239
Einar & Evar Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship Fund	3,200	109,712
O. E. Rølvaag Memorial Fund	45,600	417,397
Sigvald Qvale Fund		<u>6,851</u>
Total	\$85,434	\$1,382,450

Ager Home Restored

The Waldemar Ager Association formed in 1992, has restored the Ager home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to its appearance in the early 1900s and has also brought it up to code as a public building. The first floor, including the family parlor and Waldemar's study, will appear as it was during Ager's life. The lower level will be a work and study area with a kitchenette.

To date a relatively small and largely local group has done the heavy lifting. It seems appropriate therefore that the Norwegian-American community at large should now lend a helping hand with the annual overhead expenses (insurance, utilities, telephone, etc.) that lie ahead and are estimated at \$4,000. For more information contact the Waldemar Ager Association, P.O. Box 1742, Eau Claire WI 54702.

Next – A Muus Saga

A biography of Bernt Julius Muus, pioneer minister and founder of St. Olaf College, by Joseph Shaw, will be our next publication. The manuscript, now at the printer, will be published in October.

St. Olaf College will celebrate its 125th anniversary on November 6th. While a Muus biography has been on the NAHA publication agenda for some time, its publication date was moved ahead so that a biography of the founder might become a part of the anniversary festivities. Distribution to members will take place in early November.

Joseph Shaw, now retired, was professor of religion at St. Olaf College. He is the author of *History of St. Olaf College*, 1974; *Dear Old Hill*, 1992, *The St. Olaf Choir*, 1997.

Random News

- Received from Lloyd B. Jorgenson a collection of letters written by his father, Olaf M. Jorgenson, to his brother at Vesterålen, Norway. Jorgenson emigrated in 1903, studied theology and became a Baptist minister. His letters span fifty years and they reveal a writer who was an astute observer of the American society, one who reflected on his American experience. These letters were added to an existing Jorgenson collection.

- Received from Bjarne J. M. Selnes his *En Amerikareise med nedtegnelser av Johan A. N. Selnes fra hans reise i 1906 og hjemturen i 1920*. Paper, 128 pages, 1998. Johan Selnes (1882-1949), lived most of his fourteen years in America on the West Coast, where he fished for salmon and worked in lumber mills, but is best known for his poetry.

- Received from Anna Igland Bendixen, Lillesand, Norway, *Et 150-årsminne: Utvandring fra Igland til Amerika i 1846*, and *Et 150-årsminne: Familieutvandring til Amerika 1846-1850*. The two volumes, 68 and 50 typewritten pages, concern a Norwegian settlement founded in Missouri, near St. Joseph, in 1847. The narrative material is supported by immigrant letters.

- The University of Missouri has recently published *Dreiser and Veblen, Saboteurs of the Status Quo* by Claire Virginia Eby, who argues that Theodore Dreiser and Thorstein Veblen form a neglected chapter in the history of the United States cultural criticism that is especially relevant today.

- Received from Lorrain Hetland *Brodshaug*, a 140-page loose-leaf family history, compiled by the late Melvin Brodshaug in

1980. Brodshaug is located in Feiring, Norway.

- Received from Luther College a copy of a *kaarbrev* that Senator Knute Nelson gave to that college in 1896. This legal instrument, dated July 4, 1757, concerned retirement terms for Nelson's great-grandparents who lived at Kvilekval, Voss, Norway.

- Received from Virginia R. Cole her "My Norwegian-American Heritage: The Stenehjems and Skoughs – from Norway to Wisconsin," 20 pages, 1998. Anna Stenehjem, born in Sigdal, came to Stoughton, Wisconsin, in 1885 and married Mattias Skough from Ringsaker in 1888.

- Received from Mark G. Harstad, his "Up and Down the Family Tree: Volume 1, Ancestry and Descendants," a 33-page stapled booklet, 1998. Aanund and Torbjør Harstad left Valle, Setesdal for Illinois in 1861. The key figure in the history, however, is Bjørg Aanundson Harstad (1848-1933), prominent pioneer clergyman and educator.

- Received from Eirik Helleve his "Med Lutefisk i flagstanga: Norsk Høstfest – Eitt Noreg i Amerika," a University of Bergen Thesis, Department of Cultural Studies, hard cover, 127 pages, 1998. Helleve, an ethnologist, examines the Minot Høstfest in seven topical chapters. The festival, notes Helleve, has little relation to modern Norway, and is based on highly selected elements from the past.

- Received *From Immigrant parish to Inner City Ministry: Trinity Lutheran Congregation 1868-1998*, by James S. Hamre, hard cover, 200 pages, 1998. Trinity was founded in 1868 and first located on the corner of 12th

Avenue and 3rd Street in Minneapolis, a small wooden structure, 20 x 24 feet. The second building stood on 10th Avenue and 4th Street, but was demolished in 1966 to make room for a freeway. Since then it has been a congregation without a building. At present it uses the chapel at Augsburg College.

- Received from Borgny and Lisbeth Ager, a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter of Waldemar Ager, some Ager manuscripts, scrapbooks and several books. These had been left in the care of Eyvind Ager. This material was added to an already existing Ager collection.

- Received from Donald C. Jordahl, *The Jordahl Story*, an unbound manuscript of 130 pages, prepared by four members of the Jordahl family. These emigrants from Jordal, near Balestrand in Sogn, settled first in Wisconsin, and some of them resettled in the early 1860s in Goodhue county, Minnesota.

- Received "The Norwegian Immigrant City Neighborhood: A Turn of the Century Look at the Fairview Park Neighborhood in North Minneapolis," by Ruth M. Fletcher, 18-page unbound manuscript, 1978.

- Received from Walter Varland a complete file of the *Varland Vanguard*, a well written and ably edited biannual family newsletter which began in 1991.

- Received from Johan Ronningen "The Marksman," a 51-page account of Otto Ronningen's early years in America. He left Oslo in 1905 at age 22, and within a short period he began to work at a bank in Madison, Minnesota, where he rose to local leadership in sports clubs and the National Guard. It is the latest installment in Ronningen's family history series.

- Received from Janice Wallaker "Descendants of Johan Johansen Korstad (1846-1918) and Beret Andersdatter Korstad (1849-1936)," genealogical tables, photos, 35 pages.

- Received from Jay and Dorothy Steinberg their "Sjulstad Family Genealogy: 1763 through 1998," name index, loose-leaf, 35 pages, 1998. Kristian Sjulstad left Østfold, Norway, in 1878 and bought land near Little Chicago, in Rice county, Minnesota.

- W. R. "Andy" Anderson of Chicago, America's most ardent defender of Leif Erickson, died January 11, 1999. With his death, his Leif Erickson Society will certainly vanish for lack of a leader. He was neither gentle nor reasonable with those who disagreed with his views, but they in return were no less unsparing. We shall miss his newsletters which are on file in our archives.

- Erik J. Friis died on his birthday, April 5, 85 years old. He was a former editor of *American Scandinavian Review*, a former member of the NAHA Board of Publications, and in recent years the editor of the *Scandinavian Bulletin*. He has for many years held a prominent leadership role in Scandinavian affairs in the New York city area. He is among the few to receive royal decorations from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

- The North Star Opera Company is presenting "The Song of Norway" at Pearson Auditorium on the campus of Concordia University in St. Paul, located at the intersection of I-94 and Hamline Avenue, on June 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27. For additional information and reservations call Ticket Works (612) 343-3390. Tickets are \$32; for groups of 10 or more, \$26.

The Haugen Scholarship

Stephanie Buus, a Scandinavian Studies doctoral candidate from the University of California, Berkeley, received the 1999 Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial award, a dissertation scholarship of \$6,000.

Ms. Buus plans a dissertation having the title "Travel, Translation and Self in Late 18th/Early 19th-Century Scandinavian Travel Literature." Her ambitious project will examine a threshold period, the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era on the one hand and the transition years between the Age of Enlightenment and the Age of Romanticism on the other. Ms. Buus presented outstanding credentials.

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