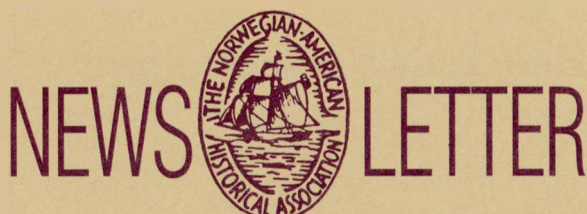


The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 97

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

JANUARY 1997

Officers and Board Members

The twenty-fourth triennial meeting of the NAHA was held at the Woman's Club of Minneapolis on October 26. Approximately 40 members attended the afternoon business meeting and 100 attended the evening banquet that followed.

The following were elected to the executive board for three year terms. The membership elects the board, the board in turn elects its officers:

Lawrence O. Hauge, President (re-elected)
John R. Christianson, First Vice President
Nancy Gossell, Second Vice President
Luther O. Forde, Treasurer (new)
Lloyd Hustvedt, Secretary (re-elected)
Odd S. Lovoll, Editor (automatic re-election)
Joan Naglestad Buckley, Moorhead, MN
Karen F. Davidson, New York
Robert Firing, Minneapolis
E. T. (Tom) Fjelde, Minneapolis
Arthur R. Huseboe, Sioux Falls, SD
Alf Lunder Knudsen, Seattle
Ingeborg Kongslien, President of Norway Chapter
Nils Lang-Ree, Los Altos, CA (new)
Marion J. Nelson, Minneapolis
Todd W. Nichol, St. Paul
Erlend D. Peterson, Provo, UT (new)
Lois M. Rand, Minneapolis
Martin W. Reinhart, Des Plaines, IL (new)
Brian D. Rude, Coon Valley, WI
O. J. Tomson, Charles City, IA
Judith Torvik, Norway
John R. Tunheim, Stillwater, MN
Solveig Zempel, Northfield, MN

The four new persons elected to the board will be introduced more fully in forthcoming newsletters.

The Board of Publications saw one change. Steven J. Keillor replaced Arlow W. Andersen who died recently:

Odd S. Lovoll, Editor
Carl H. Chrislock, Minneapolis
Jon Gjerde, Berkeley, CA
Steven J. Keillor, Askov, MN (new)
Terje I. Leiren, Seattle
Deborah L. Miller, St. Paul
Todd W. Nichol, St. Paul (serves on both boards)

Janet E. Rasmussen, Roanoke, VA

Note that the Archivist (Forrest Brown) and the Assistant Secretary (Ruth Crane) continue in their respective offices without formal election. George Aker, William J. Korsvik and Karin LaFollette Larson retired from the board. Because the president of the Norway chapter now automatically serves as an ex-officio member of the board, Øyvind Gulliksen retired in favor of Ingeborg Kongslien. Save for the Archivist and the Assistant Secretary all donate their services. The By-laws stipulate that board members are to be reimbursed for travel costs, yet none have to date requested such payments.

NAHA Publication Cited

Material Culture and People's Art among the Norwegians in America won the "Pioneer America Society's Fred Kniffen Book Award."

Dr. David T. Stephens, Youngstown State University (Ohio), the chairman of the Book Award Committee, stated in a letter dated December 3, 1996, that the award was bestowed at the Pioneer America Society's annual convention held November 8, 1996, at Austin, Texas. By the time of the convention the field had been reduced to three finalists.

We congratulate the authors and editors Marion Nelson and Odd Lovoll.

How Your Dues Are Spent

A portion of our contract with Stanton Publication Services for printing 2,500 copies of *The Western Home: A Literary History of Norwegian America* reads as follows: printing and binding, \$15,202; design, scanning and typesetting, \$3,470; freight estimate \$500. Some additional costs are routine. Production costs, roughly \$8 per copy.

Before the book reaches your door, the amount climbs to \$13. Preparing a book for mailing is labor-intensive: affix postage and address labels, stuff and staple bookbags, then prepare the packaged books for post office pickup. Book bags and postage for a three-pound book now comes to \$2.40 for a domestic mailing, \$3.50 for foreign. We distribute 100 or more copies for which there is no monetary return: review copies, exchanges, author and other courtesy issues.

The above estimates do not include the time the editor and his assistant give to editing a manuscript and their later reading of proof. The preparation of maps, charts, graphs, photos and index also fall under the editor's responsibility. Not included is Ruth Crane's clerical input, typing and record keeping. Each book mailed is recorded on the individual membership card — 1,800 of them — so as to minimize error. When strict forms of cost accounting are applied, one knows why the NAHA is classified as a "non-profit" institution.

Haugen Scholarship

A year ago an appeal went out to Norwegian Americans wherever they could be found to support the creation of an Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship. The committee used Norwegian-American organizations as a means of contact, among them the NAHA.

We can report that the response made by members of the NAHA exceeded by far the responses we received from any other organized group — not even close. Thank you!

The committee had planned to call it a day at the close of 1996. However, late in November the Ella and Kaare Nygaard Foundation awarded the scholarship project a matching grant (dollar for dollar) of \$10,000. The grant expires September 1, 1997. A successful match will mean lifting a fund of \$60,000 to \$80,000.

The scholarship will be activated on September 1, 1997. A booklet, explaining the terms of the scholarship will be published and a copy will be distributed to each donor and to our nation's educational institutions. The booklet will carry a roster of donors.

Anyone who intended to contribute, but didn't, should know that there is still time. In fact, your gift will now double. There is something, somewhere, about good things coming to those who wait! Assign checks to Haugen Scholarship c/o NAHA. For address, see page 4.

The Asian Connection

In 1978 a young Japanese man came to our archives to do research. A business firm he was destined to serve in Japan had sent him to the States for a year. He could study whatever he wished. The passing of eighteen years should assure no hurt feelings if we now share with NAHA members the charming independent study plan he gave to the secretary:

1. During my stay in Northfield I will do what nowhere else can be done; manuscripts and unpublished articles of O. E. Rølvaag sleeping in your library will be awakened.
2. Fairly local materials like Manitou Messenger and Northfield News are also my foods for future thoughts.
3. Therefore, reading of Rølvaag's main works is not my focus in this study. They will be studied after I finish perspiratory works in the library.
4. "Formation of thought of young Rølvaag" is my tentative subject.

When he left we asked that he send us a copy of his finished work. He promised to do so, but we have not heard from him since.

A Book to Look Forward to

The History Project's December newsletter carried a working outline of *The Promise Fulfilled: A Contemporary History of the Norwegian-American People*. The Project, headed by Odd S. Lovoll, is an independent undertaking. The NAHA will, however, buy enough copies for distribution to its members. Lovoll's manuscript, scheduled for completion by September 1, 1997, will have eight chapters:

Chapter 1: The Shifting Face of Norwegian America (An overview of Norwegian-American history from 1825 until the present)

Chapter 2: In the American Mosaic (Where Norwegian Americans reside and the evidence of their presence in the form of organizations and festivals)

Chapter 3: The Burden and the Glory (Religious and political affiliations and identities)

Chapter 4: Pilgrim's Progress (Social mobility and Norwegian Americans)

Chapter 5: Perspectives on the American Dream (Successful Norwegian Americans and industrial and commercial endeavors)

Chapter 6: A Legacy of National Mutuality (Organizations, such as Sons of Norway, Lutheran Brotherhood, and benevolent institutions)

Chapter 7: The Norwegian-American Matrix (Analysis of a Norwegian-American presence and the existing symbols and forces that inform it)

Chapter 8: Preserving a Heritage (The waxing and waning of ethnic consciousness. A generational perspective and a discussion of the future of Norwegian-American ethnicity)

The Project has involved broad participation by the Norwegian-American community. It has stirred interest, excitement and anticipation not seen earlier for an academic venture. A few cases of fear have popped up. Fear that negative conclusions may mar the picture. On the whole this will be a story that Norwegian Americans themselves have told, with Odd Lovoll and associates contributing analysis and interpretation.

Return of the Prodigal Records

The official records of the Snaasalag of America (1929-1937) somehow ended up in Snaasa, Norway. On Sunday, October 13, a delegation from Snaasa came to St. Olaf College in order to return these records to their rightful kin. That Bernt Julius Muus was born at Snaasa as was his uncle Ole Rynning, the author of *True Account of America*, published in 1838, added to the sentiments of the affair.

Toralf Gjerstad, a gentle and sincere spokesman for the group, called attention to the historical ties Snaasa has had with the college. Joseph Shaw, acting on behalf of the college, received the records, a flag, a banner, and other artifacts. The college transferred much of the collection to the NAHA where it will have a permanent home.

Essence of Norway

We received from Arnold and Mrs. Thompson, Somers, New York, 190 prints of an acrylic painting done by Ralph Bennet, a California artist. The piece, entitled "Norway — The Land of the Midnight Sun" seeks to capture the essence of Norway through integrated elements: mountains, glaciers, the midnight sun, a waterfront village, boats, a school of fish, reindeer, a stave church and a viking ship. Norway's past and present come into play.

The Thompsons commissioned this work in honor of Oscar and Emma Torkelsen Thompson, Arnold's parents. The print, artistic and decorative in design, has an overall poster measurement of 33 x 22 inches, with the print itself being 25 x 16 inches.

What to do with 190 of these? Members who support the NAHA with a \$50 gift or more in 1997 will receive a copy if they wish. This is over and above the standard book offer that goes with contributions of \$20 or more.

We received these prints by way of a generous act. It seems proper that they be shared with persons who are generous in return. The offer is not a fund-raising ploy.

Random News

- The Department of History at the University of Oslo will sponsor under the supervision of Odd S. Lovoll a two-day seminar (March 13-14, 1997) in memory of Ingrid Semmingsen. Norway's leading scholars in the field of emigration studies will present papers. The seminar is open to the public.

- Received from Richard Maltrud A Norwegian Family's History: *The Johannes J. Malterud Family, 125 Years in America* by Norman J. Malterud. Photos, charts, maps, 163 pages, 1993. Johannes Malterud left Toten in 1868, settling in Polk County, Minnesota.

- Received from Sheredith Yonash her *Haukom Family Story*. Ten pages of narrative, fifteen of photos and family charts. The Haukoms left Telemarken in the mid-1880s. Settled first in Wisconsin and moved later to Iowa.

- Received from Beverly Smith two interrelated family histories. *Njos Pedersdatter Family History*. Photos, maps, charts and tables, spiralbound, 89 pages; and, *The Families of Mari Johnsdatter Askalksen*. Photos, maps, family charts and trees, no narrative material, spiralbound, 38 pages. Mari's second husband was a Njos.

- Received from Mary M. Halbert *History of the Hadeland Lag in America 1910-1990*. Paperbound, 261 pages, 1989. Also, two congregational histories: *Our Savior's Lutheran Church at South Rush River, Beldenville, WI, 1989*; and *West Immanuel Lutheran Church, 125 Anniversary*, Polk County, WI, spiralbound, 86 pages.

- Received from Connie Behrents Ferris her *Looking Forward to the Past: The Nordbye Family's Selbu Connection*. Hardcover, photos, sketches, maps, and genealogical tables, 678 pages, Anundsen publishing, 1996. An impressive work in terms of format, design and management of data.

- Received from Avis H. Anderson *Torbjor Saeter, Jenta fra Telemark*. A narrative that centers on Torbjor Mjaugeto who married Halvar Kasin. They left Telemark for Audubon, Minnesota, in 1886. The story treats early settlement. Spiralbound, photos, 68 pages, 1996.

- Received from James E. Schlosser his *Lugland Family Tree June 1966*. The Luglands left Hjelmeland, Norway, in 1856, settling near Rowe,

Illinois. Photos, maps, charts and tables. 130 pages.

- The Swedish-American Historical Society reports in its July, 1996, newsletter a total of 814 members, a \$29,975, 1996 budget, that the Society depends on dues for 85% of its budget. Byron Nordstrom (Gustavus Adolphus College) will edit the Swedish-American Quarterly, replacing Raymond Jarvi (North Park College), who held that position for five years. The Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1998.

- The entire edition of *The Western Home: A Literary History of Norwegian America* had to be returned to the printers. Nine pictures were defective because of faulty inking. The printer ran a new edition. Save for a seven-week delay, no harm was done. Nothing like this has happened before.

- Rudolph Johnson sent us copies of the recently-founded *Arran*, a Sami-American newsletter (quarterly), edited by Mel Olson and Arden Johnson. *Arran* is the Sami word for the gathering place around the fire in a Sami tent.

- The Royal Norwegian Department of State has provided a grant of Kr.10,000 to the America-America Letters Project to be carried out by Bjørn Gunnar Østgaard. This comes to \$1,550 at current exchange rates. Ernest Sylte, Mesa, Arizona, has provided a grant of \$1,000. The executive board, at its October 26 meeting allocated a sum of \$3,000 from the Blegen Fund to this project, due to begin in September, 1997.

- Notodden and Telemark Historielag have published a collection of America Letters (1842-1852), commented on and edited by Orm Øverland. The letters tell the story of members of the Torgon family who settled first in Pine Lake and later Ashippan, both in Wisconsin. A translated title: *It Pains Me Much to Write These Lines to You: An Emigrant Story in Letters*. Kr.128, Notodden Historielag, Industrigate 6, N-3670 Notodden, Norway.

- Susan Hanson Budensiek is a genealogist with 12 years of experience. Anyone interested in her professional services should contact her directly: P.O. Box 70007, Knoxville TN 37918-7000. We mention this because we occasionally receive requests for research services more extensive than our limited staff can provide. Ms. Budensiek has no formal affiliation with the NAHA.

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