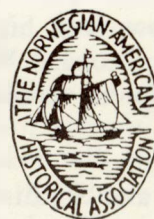


The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 49

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

APRIL, 1975

1974

Steady progress is the hallmark of 1974. Two publications were distributed to the members: *Pioneer Churchman* and volume 26 of *Studies*. The Theodore C. Blegen Memorial Fellowship Fund more than reached its goal of \$30,000. More members were added than lost, and book sales mounted to a new record. Significant material continues to find its way to our Archives. There was a marked increase in gifts from the membership at large. There was also sadness. Two valuable members of our Executive Board died: Dr. Richard W. Giere and Norman O. Olson.

Inflation, of course, is a problem. No program cutbacks are foreseen, but it is quite possible that earlier reserves created through frugal management will now be tapped. In face of increased costs, ranging from postage to printing, the Executive Board decided to increase associate dues to \$10, and sustaining dues to \$15. This increase will go into effect in 1976.

BOOKS

A total of 744 books were sold in 1974 for a gross income of \$3,936.56. The earlier record for sales was in 1972, with a total of \$3,618.42. *Pioneer Churchman* led the sales with 169 copies; *Studies*, volume 26, was second with 127. *Norwegian Migration: The American Transition* was third with 106. Out of 54 publications, 16 are out of print. Of the remaining 38 books still in print, 14 have inventories less than 100. Total copies in stock, as of December 31, stood at 6,417, representing a potential income of \$30,000.

ARCHIVES

Charlotte Jacobson, formerly a librarian at St. Olaf College, began in September to process the backlog of material accumulated since the death of Beulah Folkedahl in 1971. This marks the most significant development for the Archives in 1974. Miss Jacobson has been a long-time friend of the Association. Her gift of \$500 some years ago made possible the purchase of document cases for our manuscript collection. Family histories lead the categories of materials being donated to the Archives. The Rølvaag family turned over the balance of the O. E. Rølvaag papers in their possession.

MEMBERSHIP

Ninety-seven members were added in 1974. There were eighty-four cancellations.

	Membership Totals 1974		
	January 1, 1974	December 31, 1974	Gain or Loss
Associate	652	658	+6
Sustaining	175	170	-5
Patron	24	29	+5
Life	147	153	+6
Deceased Life	72	73	+1
	<u>1070</u>	<u>1083</u>	<u>+13</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report below is a highly condensed version of the seven-page treasurer's report prepared by Leonard W. Arentsen for the official records of the Association. Copies of the complete report are available by request.

	1974	1973
Income—		
Dues, associate and sustaining members	\$ 6,953.00	\$ 6,653.50
Book sales	3,883.46	2,055.73
Interest on investments	3,916.66	2,473.42
Miscellaneous income	44.90	14.00
Gifts—		
NAHA History	—	1,384.50
Bjork Immigration Study	—	5,000.00
Thorsness bequest	—	1,010.00
Total income	\$14,798.02	\$18,591.15
Expenditures—		
Publication expense—		
Printing and binding	\$ 5,974.50	\$ —
Editorial, typing, etc.	1,452.25	1,061.00
Packaging, mailing, etc.	393.32	306.74
Other	182.35	239.84
	\$ 8,002.42	\$ 1,607.58
General membership expenses, including stenographic, membership records, postage, office supplies and new members' campaign	4,988.66	4,674.45
Total expenditures	\$12,991.08	\$ 6,282.03
Current income over current expenditures	\$ 1,806.94	\$12,309.12
Fund balance, December 31	\$28,960.39	\$34,149.95
<i>Fund Balances, December 31, 1974</i>		
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship	\$31,244.62	
Ole Edvart Rølvaag Permanent Fund	25,390.37	
50th Anniversary History Fund	1,006.50	
Professor Bjork Immigration Study Fund	5,000.00	
Current Fund	28,960.39	
Endowed Chair	100.00	
Total	\$91,701.88	

NEW BOOK SALES ARRANGEMENT

The Heritage Resource Center in Minneapolis, owned and managed by Paul Rusten, will handle NAHA book sales. The Association will continue to process standing orders and direct sales from the shelf.

The Heritage Resource Center is well on its way to becoming the central outlet for Scandinavian books and other ethnic-related publications. For example, all the available publications of

The American-Scandinavian Foundation will be sold through the Center.

Paul Rusten has prepared attractive brochures which feature NAHA books. He hopes to create a new and broader market for our publications, and thereby also to awaken a new awareness and interest in the Association itself. Plans are in the making for merging advertising of books with membership solicitation. Members should direct their future book orders to Heritage Resource Center, Box 26305, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55426.

Editorial

THE ENDOWED CHAIR

A Chinese proverb comes to mind when we consider an endowed chair in immigration studies: "Even if the journey be 1000 miles, the first step must be taken." The Executive Board at its February meeting decided to allocate future undesignated gifts to this cause. St. Olaf College has included a plan for such a chair in its Centennial Fund Drive. It follows that the NAHA should match the efforts of the college so that the envisioned professorship can serve both the college and the Association.

Culture is a difficult thing to define, and no effort will be made to do so here, but certainly its inner essence must be made up of durable values. In a word, if our Sesquicentennial and our own Fiftieth anniversary are to have lasting cultural significance, celebration must be combined with a commitment to the future. The "durable value" which rose out of the Centennial in 1925 was clearly the NAHA itself. When that celebration was over, the hard and persistent work began which is still going on today. An endowed chair has similar qualities of durability, and, at the moment at least, it is the only aspiration for sustained follow-through after the festivities of 1975. The endowed chair may, in fact, approach something of a proving ground for how far the Norwegian Americans view themselves as a durable cultural entity in American society. This writer believes that Norwegian Americans like "1000 mile journeys," even though they may balk and grumble a bit on the way — but this is just to pass the time.

L.H.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary Saturday, September 27, at St. Olaf College. The organizing convention was held at this college on October 6, 1925. The anniversary committee felt that it was appropriate that the festivities should be held at the site of origin and as close to October 6 as possible.

The year also calls for a triennial meeting, which will take place at 2:00 in the

afternoon. The Executive Board will meet in the forenoon. The anniversary banquet is scheduled for 6:00 in the evening. Many of the details regarding the program remain to be settled. The main speaker will be Professor Rudolph Vecoli of the University of Minnesota, one of the leading immigration scholars of our time. Members are urged to note the date and make plans for attending both the afternoon business meeting and the evening banquet.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

A Folk Epic: The Bygdelaag in America, by Odd S. Lovoll, should be available for distribution to the members in late April or early May. This book is published under our agreement with Twayne Publishers.

The Norwegian-Americans, by Arlow W. Andersen, though not our publication, will be distributed to all members of the Association. A direct purchase of sufficient copies will be made by the NAHA from Twayne Publishers. No date has been established for distribution, but it will be some time in 1975.

The anniversary history of the NAHA, prepared by Odd Lovoll and Kenneth O. Bjork, will be printed by North Central Publishing Company in St. Paul. North Central has promised prompt service. This booklet should be available on August 1.

Last fall, as a part of its Centennial celebration, St. Olaf College sponsored a Rølvaag Symposium. The proceedings of this symposium, which includes lectures by Robert Scholes and Einar Haugen and shorter papers by other Rølvaag scholars, will be published by the College. Members of the Association may send their orders for this book to the Secretary's office. The exact publication date is unknown, but all orders will be held on file. Cost \$2.50.

NEWS IN BRIEF

• The *Western Viking* (November 26, 1974) combined a generous review of *Studies*, volume 26, with an enthusiastic appeal to Norwegian Americans that they support the Association through membership. Henning Boe owns and edits that newspaper.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from page three

• Ingrid Semmingsen, distinguished scholar of Norwegian migration, was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by St. Olaf College at a College Centennial banquet held in Oslo in the spring of 1974.

• Excerpts from the *Lady with the Pen* will appear in *Student Book of Activities and Readings: New History of the United States*, by Paula Jane Schwartz, published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York.

• *Uff Da*, by Emily Lunde, is a humorous cultural history (50 pages), plus a pioneer cook book. The illustrations and observations are based on recollections of the author's childhood experiences on her grandparents' farm in the early 1920's. Publishers' address is 708 North 4th Street, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201.

• Rolf Erickson, Evanston, Illinois, and John Thalloug, Chicago, are preparing a Sesquicentennial photograph exhibit. They have selected some over 100 photographs from the NAHA collection as possible entries in the exhibit.

GIFTS

The following have made contributions of ten or more dollars during 1974 and 1975:

Ethel J. Odegard, \$500; Freda S. Hovden, Gladys Weseth Nelson, Brynhild Rowberg, \$200; Gunnar Gundersen, \$100 (\$3000 in 1973); Harry J. Wil-

liams, \$75; E. A. Norem, \$35; Clarence Clausen, Lloyd Svendsbye, \$25; Erling Anderson, Harold P. Bakke, Ole Braaten, Ronald Flugum, Grace Weseth, \$20; Anne Blegen, Carl Bue, Nordis Felland, Myron Floren, Steve Holland, Nora Jorgenson, Harold Larson, S. M. Moe, Thelmer J. Nelson, Thor Ohme, Karl Rølvaag, Mrs. Andrew Rowberg, \$10 to \$15. Sixty-four persons made contributions of less than \$10.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Again we want to encourage associate members to consider a life membership. The advantages are mutual. From the long range view it is more economical and it assures the member against future increases in dues. On the other hand, it assures the Association against possible cancellation of membership, and reduces clerical and mailing costs because the annual collection of dues is eliminated. Moreover, life membership dues go into a permanent fund where only the accrued interest is used for current expenses. The benefits life members provide the Association are therefore perpetual — in fact, longer than life.

Conversion to a life membership may take place at any time, but it might be most convenient to do so when you receive your next statement for dues. Life memberships also make excellent gifts. A number have subscribed to life memberships for their children, thus assuring support into the next generation.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

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