

The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

*From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members*

NUMBER 47

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

APRIL, 1973

## NAHA in 1972

### Books

A new record was set in book sales during 1972, \$3,626. The earlier sales record was in 1963—\$2,525. A total of 1,088 books were sold and 450 orders were filled. Leading the sales was *A Voice of Protest*—259 copies; *Studies*, volume 25, was second—179 copies. Helping to boost our annual sales was the purchase of our remaining stock of *The Immigrant Takes His Stand*, 142 copies by the Greenwood Press.

Of our 52 publications, 8 are now out of print, 10 having an inventory below 100. A grand total of 7,419 books remain unsold, representing a potential sales income of approximately \$40,000.

### Fund Raising

As was reported earlier, two men pledged matching gifts at the Triennial meeting last May. Gunnar Gundersen, M.D., former president of the NAHA, pledged to match all gifts to the Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund until the established goal of \$30,000 is reached. At the time the pledge was made, the Blegen Fund stood at approximately \$18,000. Approximately \$4,500 has been received to date. Another \$1,500 must still be raised to take full advantage of Dr. Gundersen's generous pledge.

The second matching gift of \$1,000 was pledged by Arthur Davidson, president of Wagner College, to help finance the writing of an anniversary history of the NAHA for 1975. We are pleased to announce that this fund has reached its goal. There is, of course, no rule against receiving contributions in excess of the amount pledged by President Davidson. A listing of the contributors is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Publications

Because of the time lag between completion of editing and the final printing of a book, it is difficult to report with precision editorial accomplishments within a given year. For example, work on volume 25 of *Studies*, which was distributed in March, 1972, was done in 1971. Editor Kenneth O. Bjork has been working on two manuscripts during the past year: *A Pioneer Churchman: J. W. C. Dietrichson in Wisconsin, 1844-1850* and volume 26 of *Studies*. Both could see publication in 1973, but the latter may be held over until early 1974. In addition, three other manuscripts are now in the hands of the Editor: A study of the *bygdelag* movement in America by Odd Løvøll, a biography of Kristofer Janson in America by Nina Draxten, and a translation of Marcus Thrane's plays dealing with the New World scene by Henriette C. K. Naeseth. This phase of NAHA activity is enjoying prosperous times.

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## NAHA IN 1972

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### Membership

A total of 51 members were added in 1972. Of these, 44 are associate, 5 sustaining, 1 patron, and 1 life. There were unfortunately 93 cancellations, 9 by request, 71 because of no response to statements for dues, and 13 by reason of death. Each year the membership picture also changes internally, without altering the total figures. Memberships are changed to higher or lower categories: 14 moved from associate to sustaining, 1 from associate to patron, 4 from sustaining to patron, and three from sustaining to life. These gains were, however, neutralized by the fact that 34 went from sustaining to associate. As of December 31, 1972, the membership figures were as follows: associate 671; sustaining 175; patron 19; life 134. Total 999.

### Archives

We are currently receiving a large number of congregational and family histories. Donations of books are also frequent. Our collection, however, has grown to such a dimension that most of the Norwegian-American imprints which we receive duplicate our holdings.

Space will not permit mention of each new acquisition. In order to give some indication of scope and variety, however, a representative selection is listed below:

"Norwegian-American Ethnicity and Ethnic Clothing, Textiles and Household Objects," a master's thesis by Mary Ann Jacobson; a "Biographical Sketch of Carlo A. Sperati" by Barbara Bauman; "An Investigation of Social Customs in Southwestern Minnesota and Their Impact on Present and Future Music and Education" by Carol L. Heen; "Bibliography of Books published by Norwegian Lutheran Church Publishing Houses in America, 1855-1916" by Paul C. Nelson; "Expedition from Christiania" by Karl Siewers (consisting of translations of Brandt-Siewers-Grønwald letters, family documents, and family history); "Three Families and a Farm" by Albert E. Hjelle (the record of a farm, first owned by the Trout Run Woolen Mills, then by Professor Lyder Siewers, and finally by John Hjelle in 1901); "Grandpa Went to War" by Ludwig E. Olson (a family history with emphasis on Samuel C. Onson, a Civil War veteran); "In Quest of Soria Moria: The Search for Happiness in O. E. Rølvaag's Characters" by Rachel Ann Haugrud (a Ph.D. dissertation); "The Cartford Family" by Richard C. Cartford; "The Halverson Genealogy" by A. B. Halvorson; family letters donated by David Shern; "The Graduates of the College Department of Red Wing Seminary, 1910-1917" by Edvin Brye; "The Evangelical Moravian Church Among the Scandinavians in Wisconsin" by A. M. Iverson (translated by J. Boler in 1929); Three Essays on Ole E. Rølvaag, by Owen Jordahl.

### Contributions

Our policy of mentioning all who contribute \$10 or more strains the available space in this newsletter. The problem, however, is a pleasant one. In the interest of efficiency, the contributors (since the October *Newsletter*) to the Blegen or the History funds are listed by category below.

Gunnar Gundersen, \$3000  
(matching gift).

Harry J. Williams, \$300.

### \$100 - \$125

Arlow W. Andersen, Elmer L. Andersen, Leonard W. Arentsen, Helmer M. Blegen, Mary Louis Branson, Rasmus J. Harr, Einar Haugen, Olaf A. Hougen, O. L. Hydle, Halfdan Lee, Ethel J. Odegard.

### \$50

Elmer E. Abrahamson, Dr. K. O. Almos, Dr. Alf H. Altern, N. T. Braatlien, C. A. Clausen, Mrs. Gerhard Hanson, Lloyd

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## Contributions

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Hustvedt, J. G. Kjos, Gerhard B. Naeseth, Gladys Weseth Nelson, Ragnvald M. Nicolaysen, E. J. Nordby, Enoch E. Peterson, Edward Seljeskog.

\$20 - \$25

Harold P. Bakke, John N. Blegen, Edvin Bbye, Martin Cornelius, Albert Finholt, Mrs. Henry J. Gould, Esther Gulbrandson, George T. Hagen, Norman E. Hagen, R. I. Jacobson, Myrlin O. Johnson, Laurits W. Krefting, Esther T. Nelson, Little Norway, Einar H. Odland, Marshall E. Pedersen, Mrs. Nils O. Seim, Ludwig Skog, Reidar H. Steen, Lloyd Svendsbye, Paul A. Thompson, Ella Valborg Tweet.

\$10 - \$15

Erling Andersen, Verlyn Anderson, Ivar Aus, Robert Bergeson, Harold A. Bjork, Arne M. Bjordal, Dr. and Mrs. Arne Brekke, B. R. Eggan, Nordis Felland, Myron Floren, Ronald Flugum, Norman Glendening, Haakon Greena, Leonora M. Hallan, Mrs. Ole J. Hoel, Sigvald Holden, Rolf K. Jensen, Clyde H. Johnson, Leonard G. Johnson, Joel W. Knudson, Florence Kahn, Harold Larson, Norman Midthun, Rebecca A. Morgenson, Peter A. Munch, Harald S. Naess, Thelmer J. Nelson, J. Irving Oberstad, Thor Ohme, Mrs. Roy R. Peterson, Carlton Qualey, Adam Ristad, Mrs. A. A. Rowberg, Leif Rowe, T. K. Sabo, Fredrik A. Schiotez, Franklin D. Scott, Selma E. Sechrist, Robert L. Sherman, Enoch W. Skartvedt, A. E. Thomassen, Harold A. Urling, Sr., John A. Vieg, Grace Weseth.

## DECORAH-POSTEN

"It was sad when that great ship went down," goes the words in a song about the *Titanic*. The same can be said for *Decorah-Posten*, which recently ceased publication. It was inevitable that even this proud newspaper would ultimately collide with the iceberg of time.

Once it was the largest Norwegian newspaper in the world, for its circulation exceeded that of its largest counterparts in Norway. Its impact on the Nor-

wegian-American scene can hardly be overstated. Published and edited since 1874 by gifted and concerned men, it served as a model for what good journalism should be. No matter how fierce the storms of conflict—religious, political or social — *Decorah - Posten* steered the steady course of sobriety, dignity, and integrity.

There is, of course, no proper way to say farewell to a newspaper other than to turn our thoughts for a moment to the thousands of homes wherein news-hungry families eagerly waited for their weekly issues of *Decorah-Posten* and its supplement, *Ved Arnen*. For them *Decorah-Posten* was more than a newspaper: reading it was a weekly ritual.

*Decorah-Posten* was absorbed by the *Western Viking* of Seattle, published and edited by the able Henning C. Boe.

L.H.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Since the founding of the NAHA, 205 persons or institutions have subscribed to a life membership (one payment of \$100 or more). Life membership dues are allocated to the O. E. Rølvaag Memorial Fund, the only endowment fund available to the Association. The annual income of more than \$1,000 from this fund, which now exceeds \$20,000, is used for current expenses.

The life membership is of immense value to the NAHA, the current inflation notwithstanding. It eliminates the annual exchange of statements and dues, costly affairs in terms of clerical and postal expenses. It also eliminates the painful cancellations the other membership categories make possible. In fact this membership continues to serve the Association beyond the life time of the member himself.

In light of these benefits and conveniences, associate members are urged to consider a life membership. From a long-range view, it may be the most economical of the membership categories. A number have chosen to make four annual installments of \$25 rather than a single payment.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- Julia Peterson Tufford, 601 7th Avenue North, Minneapolis, has compiled a book of Scandinavian recipes (96 pages. \$1.50).
- A forthcoming textbook, *The Ethnic Dimension in American Society*, published by Holbrook Press, Inc., will include excerpts from a number of NAHA publications.
- Thank you! *Vinland*, the Norwegian newspaper in Chicago, published and edited by Bertram Jensenius, reprinted the NAHA *Newsletter* which reported the Triennial meeting (November 23, 1972).
- Dr. Carlton C. Qualey has succeeded Roger Daniels as editor of the "Immigration History Newsletter." The annual subscription fee is \$3. Dr. Qualey's address is Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

## Welcome!

*New Members Since  
October, 1972*

### LIFE

W. Soren Egekvist, Edina, Minnesota  
Clyde H. Johnson, East Chicago, Ind.  
David A. Shern, North St. Paul, Minnesota

## PATRON

David E. Johnson, Northfield, Minnesota  
(transfer from sustaining)

## SUSTAINING

Oscar A. Anderson, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota  
Edward S. Canton, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota  
Ida and Sigurd Sivertsen, Madison,  
Wisconsin

## ASSOCIATE

Norbert Allen, Carbon Cliff, Ill.  
Arnold M. Anderson, Viroqua, Wis.  
Leonard W. Arentsen, Chicago  
Carl F. Arneson, Barneveld, Wis.  
Kjetil Flatin, Seattle, Wash.  
Mrs. Tim Fossum, Salt Lake City  
Mrs. James Gulbrandson, Granada Hills,  
Calif.  
Mrs. Lyle Hart, Elma, Iowa  
Mrs. Alice R. Johnson, Oxnard, Calif.  
Judge Myrlin O. Johnson, Harlingen,  
Texas  
Ronald J. Johnson, Madison, Wis.  
Owen W. Jordahl, Lake Mills, Iowa  
Craig S. Likness, Rockford, Ill.  
Paul C. Nelson, St. Paul  
Mrs. Theodore Nereim, Mt. Horeb, Wis.  
Mark Olson, Minneapolis  
Lawrence Onsager, Loma Linda, Calif.  
Arvid Sandaker, Slemmestad, Norway  
Mrs. Les Seele, Cresco, Iowa  
Mrs. Larry Seim, Decoah, Iowa  
Henry G. Thorsness, Redmond, Ore.  
Mrs. Raymond Tollefson, Decorah, Iowa  
Cris Ellen Wegner, Elmhurst, Ill.  
Mrs. Violet Winger, Decorah, Iowa  
Jan E. Woll, Minneapolis

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