

The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

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

Number 20

AUGUST, 1962

Editor, L. HUSTVEDT

## Volume 21 Out Soon

### Shorter Title and New Look

With its title shortened to *Norwegian-American Studies* (it was *Studies and Records*), volume 21 of this familiar series will be off the press soon. It will also appear with a new cover. As the older members will recall, the first ten volumes were bound in paper, the next ten in blue paper over boards. Time and use have demonstrated that the paper fades and shreds; it now seemed practicable to bind in cloth. The cloth, maroon in color, has been chosen to harmonize with the backbone and cover bands of the preceding ten volumes. Overall dimensions and page size will remain unaltered. Miss Jane McCarthy, production manager of the University of Minnesota Press, who designed the cover and backbone and the preliminary, chapter, and text pages, has here demonstrated the same imagination and technique that have won prizes in national book competition. We hope that this new look will please our members, and that they will approve dropping the word "Records" from the title.

### A Salute to Blegen

The altered format of the *Studies* series is, in a real sense, a salute to Dean Theodore C. Blegen, who during his thirty-five years as editor evidenced a tireless interest in the appearance of the Association's publications. In addition, Professor Carlton C. Qualey's opening article ("Theodore C. Blegen") fittingly pays tribute to Dr. Blegen's scholarship, integrity, diplomacy, and literary skill.

### The Immigrant Writer

The remaining papers explore, as do those in earlier volumes, areas at once familiar and unfamiliar to the reader. Mrs. Dorothy Burton Skårdal in "The Scandinavian Immigrant Writer in America" reviews sympathetically the publishing markets and reading public of the immigrant Scandinavian author and interprets his fiction and poetry in light of their place in American literature.

Articles by Arestad,  
Folkedahl, De Pillis,  
And Levorsen

Professor Sverre Arestad offers some first-hand narratives by Norwegian Americans who doggedly searched for gold and furs in the Klondike and in Alaska in "Questing for Gold and Furs in Alaska."

As translator and editor of "Norwegians Become Americans," Beulah Folkedahl has presented a packet of absorbing letters that deal with Wisconsin farm life in the nineteenth century and touch on the processes by which Norwegians become Americans.

Dr. Mario S. De Pillis, a specialist in frontier communitarian ventures, makes a spirited case for Cleng Peerson ("Cleng Peerson and the Communitarian Background of Norwegian Immigration") as a champion of group living, but leaves the father of Norwegian immigration in the mist of legend that has shrouded him through the years.

In "Early Years in Dakota," Mrs. Barbara Levorsen has drawn on her



store of picturesque memories for a narrative of a childhood spent in a Norwegian settlement in the Dakotas, in which she still visualizes tree planting, well digging, domestic animals, and household furnishings, as well as Indians and "Syrian" peddlers.

### A Diary, The Mormons, J. R. Reiersen

In "A Pioneer Diary from Wisconsin," Mr. Malcolm Rosholt interprets the diary of a Wisconsin pioneer farmer who—like a character out of Kafka—was obsessed by thoughts of God and of the passing of the days and months as he cut trees, repaired machinery or shoes, and cared for his crops. In "A Covenant Folk, with Scandinavian Colorings," Professor Kenneth O. Bjork observes the Scandinavian interests of the Mormon Saints who migrated to Utah from northern Europe

—their newspapers, businesses, political activities, their attitude toward amusements, and their relations with non-Mormon countrymen.

Mr. Derwood Johnson has translated Johan Reinert Reiersen's early description of Texas ("Reiersen's Texas"), a surprisingly accurate one as it turns out. In "J. R. Reiersen's Indiscretions," Professor Einar Haugen gives a specific answer as to what Reiersen's youthful "indiscretions" in Norway were, and why he fled Copenhagen.

Finally, the volume contains the seventeenth installment of a bibliography of recent publications in Norwegian-American history and life. This has been prepared by Miss Beulah Folkedahl, who adds informal notes about source materials in the Association's Archives.

From the preface by  
Kenneth O. Bjork

## Treasurer's Report, 1961

Publication of the exceptionally interesting and readable new volume, *The Lady with the Pen*, was the outstanding addition to the net worth of the Norwegian-American Historical Association in the year 1961. This attractive and carefully edited book widened the circle of our horizon to reveal the conditions of life on the early frontier in Texas, and the tensions of the Civil War and reconstruction in that area. The sharp contrast with the more orderly and cultivated life Elise Wærenskjold had known in Norway enabled her to record in her letters a vivid story of the Southwestern frontier.

The finances of the Association provided for the increasing costs of publishing and distributing a book of this quality without any strain. In fact, the net worth in dollars of the Association increased \$1,055.50 in 1961.

This satisfactory financial condition was maintained only because of our con-

tinuous campaign for new members and because the editors and the officers and members of the executive board contribute their efforts in furthering the objectives of the Association, and a substantial part of their out-of-pocket expenses, without reimbursement.

It is obvious, however, that to support publication of *two* good books a year, which is our aim, we shall need the help of every member to

1. Obtain new members
2. Obtain tax-deductible contributions

The following financial statements have been prepared from the basic records and bank statements of the Treasurer's accounts, and from the detailed monthly statements furnished by the Secretary covering the operations of his office, by Bank Auditor Michael P. Rizdo.

ANDREW E. WIGELAND,  
Treasurer



## Statement of Receipts and Disbursements For the Year Ended December 31, 1961

<b>OPENING CASH BALANCE—January 1, 1961</b> .....	\$ 4,758.95
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Life Membership Fees .....	\$ 1,610.00
Dues, Associated and Sustaining Members .....	4,377.50
Book Sales .....	1,868.41
Unrestricted Gifts and Bequests for current use .....	297.00
Interest on Investment .....	881.59
Miscellaneous Income .....	12.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b> .....	<u>9,046.50</u>
<b>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</b> .....	<u>\$13,805.45</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Publication Expenses	
Printing .....	\$ 2,912.52
Editorial, Typing, etc. ....	1,688.88
Author, Research, etc. ....	398.66
News Letter Expenses .....	734.77
Archives .....	222.75
Operating Expenses (Secretary's Office)	
Publications (Packaging, Mailing, etc.) .....	410.68
General (Billing Dues, Mem. Records, New Member Campaign, Supplies, etc.) .....	988.39
General Expenses	
Publicity and Advertising .....	190.09
Miscellaneous .....	26.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	<u>\$ 7,991.00</u>
<b>CLOSING CASH BALANCE—December 31, 1961</b> .....	<u>\$ 5,814.45</u>
	<u>\$13,805.45</u>

### Comparative Figures: Income and Expense

	1961	1960	1959
Current income (excluding Life Membership Fees and Special Gifts credited to the Rølvaag Fund) .....	\$ 7,436.50	\$ 5,712.76	\$ 6,731.48
Publication Expense .....	5,734.83	657.00	3,957.94
Total Operating and Publication Expense .....	7,991.00	3,500.80	5,664.19

#### COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

<b>ASSETS:</b>	Dec. 31, '61	Dec. 31, '60	Dec. 31, '59
Cash .....	\$ 5,814.45	\$ 4,758.95	\$ 6,606.99
Investments .....	26,000.00	26,000.00	21,000.00
Secretary, Cash in Bank in Northfield .....	500.00	500.00	500.00
	<u>\$32,314.45</u>	<u>\$31,258.95</u>	<u>\$28,106.99</u>
<b>NET WORTH:</b>			
The Rølvaag Memorial Fund .....	\$14,857.37	\$13,247.37	\$12,307.37
Current Funds .....	17,457.08	18,011.58	15,799.62
	<u>\$32,314.45</u>	<u>\$31,258.95</u>	<u>\$28,106.99</u>

Cash deposited in, and investment securities in safekeeping at  
Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. of Chicago



**INVESTMENTS**

MARKET VALUE  
MAY 10, 1961

		Due	Price	Value
\$5,000.00	U.S. Treasury Bonds	2-1/2 12-15-72/67	90	\$4,500.00
5,000.00	U.S. Treasury Notes	3-3/4 5-15-1964	101	5,050.00
3,000.00	U.S. Treasury Notes	4-5/8 5-15-1965	103-1/2	3,105.00
5,000.00	U.S. Treasury Notes	3-3/4 8-15-1964	101	5,050.00
8,000.00	The Laclede Gas Light Co., First Mortgage Bonds Due	3-1/2 2- 1-1965	98-1/4	7,860.00
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\$26,000.00				

**Life Membership Fees 1961, added to Rølvaag Memorial Fund:**

Roy A. Boe .....	\$100.00
Morgan Halvorson .....	100.00
Mrs. Henry J. Gould .....	100.00
Nora L. Larson .....	100.00
Everett Lee (partial) .....	25.00
Harland S. Mickelson .....	100.00
Captain Adolph M. Ringen .....	100.00
Olaf Simonson, Memorial made by S. Carroll Simonson (final pay- ment) .....	20.00
Miss Ingrid Stampen (partial) ...	25.00
Mrs. Ella Valborg Tweet .....	100.00
By special request of Harry Williams .....	100.00
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	\$870.00

Sons of Norway, GjØa Lodge, Sioux Falls, S. D. ....	100.00
Sons of Norway, Peer Gynt Lodge No. 22, Los Angeles, Calif. ....	100.00
Sons of Norway, Lodge Norges Lys No. 188, Roselle, N. J. ....	100.00
Sons of Norway, Washington Lodge No. 428 .....	100.00
Western Washington College Library .....	100.00
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	\$800.00

Less: Sons of Norway commis- sion for life membership .....	60.00
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	\$740.00

Total Life Membership Fees ... \$1,610.00

**Institutional Life Membership Fees  
(25-year limit)**

Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, Minn. (purchased by Miss Olga C. Eggen) .....	\$100.00
Sons of Norway, Norrona Lodge No. 50, Van Nuys, Calif. ....	100.00
Sons of Norway, Bjørnson Lodge No. 14, Oakland, Calif. (purchas- ed by Mr. Soren C. Roinestad) .	100.00

**Gifts and Bequests for Current Use**

Hagbarth Bue .....	\$ 17.00
Harry Williams, in memory of J. A. O. Preus .....	25.00
Harold Larson .....	5.00
Norway Foundation, Inc., Magnus Bjørndal .....	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 297.00

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

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