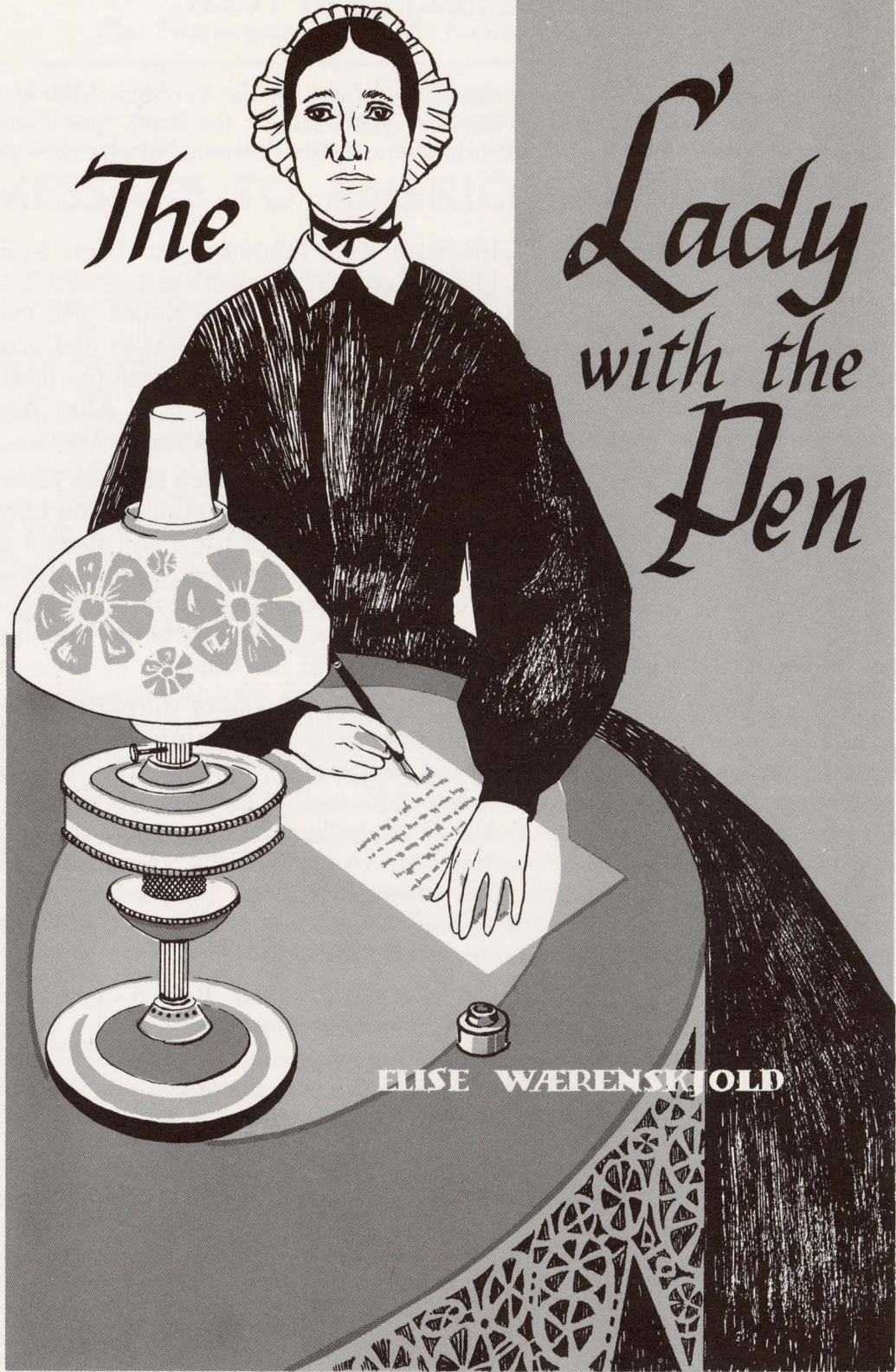


The

*Lady
with the
Pen*



EISE WARENSTADT

The Lady with the Pen

Elise Wærenskjold in Texas

Letters and articles by Elise Wærenskjold; translated by the Verdandi Club of Minneapolis; edited by Clarence A. Clausen; published by the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota, 1961. Illustrated. Index. 183 pages. Price \$3.50.

That significant Norwegian settlements were established in Texas is, if not an unknown story, at least a neglected one. These settlements had a stout defender and forthright spokesman in the person of Elise Amalie (b. Tvede) Wærenskjold ("the lady with the pen"), 1815–1895. Her letters and articles, made available in translation in *The Lady with the Pen*, perform the dual rôle of bringing into sharp focus both the remarkable personality of Elise Wærenskjold and much of the story of the Norwegian communities in Texas.

As the cultural leader of the pioneer colonies with which she had identified herself, this talented woman of many interests encouraged immigration from the Old World, defended Texas as a desirable place to settle – and indeed all of America against antiemigration sentiments – held firm convictions regarding slavery, and was a life-long devotee of the pen. Although something of a rationalist, she was profoundly religious; although sympathetic with history and tradition, she was in many respects ahead of her times.

Before leaving Norway for Texas in 1847, at the age of thirty-two, she had already become well known in her community as a journalist (then still man's domain), as an outspoken champion of temperance, as a founder of a handicraft school for girls, and as one of Norway's earliest feminist leaders. But it is America, emigration, and especially Texas, rather than her early life in Norway, that become the area of central concern in this book. Her letters, as Dr. Theodore C. Blegen writes in the foreword, "mirror people and everyday events as well as her own reflections, and they have historical interest as homely and simple chronicles of grass-roots immigrant experience."

The Lady with the Pen contains, in addition to Mr. Blegen's foreword, an introduction by Professor Clarence A. Clausen, illustrations, and a complete index. Its four major divisions are "In the Beginning, 1851–1860"; "Trials of Reconstruction, 1865–1875"; "Lights and Shadows on the Prairie, 1876–1889"; "Growing Old in Texas, 1890–1895."

* * *

Send all orders to Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota. Postage paid on prepaid orders.

Special Library Issue

THE NEWS LETTER

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Editor
LLOYD HUSTVEDT

St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota

Release no. 17
October, 1961

A MESSAGE TO AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

Books Going out of Print

The growing awareness among our country's scholars that the publications of the Norwegian-American Historical Association have made a significant contribution to the study of American history has brought about a corresponding increase in the demand for our books. As a consequence, many of them will soon be out of print.

It is the wish of the executive and editorial boards of the Association that American libraries be advised of this fact, and that they have first opportunity to order from the remaining stock of books. The reasoning is that if scholarly books are available in the major libraries of the country, they continue to make their intended contribution even after they are out of print.

The large number of requests that we continue to receive from teachers and from students for information for their "Scandinavian Day," "People from Europe Day," and the like, and for studies in American history reflects a need for our books in high school and college libraries as well.

38 Still Available

Since its founding in 1925, the Association has published 42 books (see catalogue or brochure), somewhat more than one publication a year. Thirty-eight are still in print, but 10 of them have an inventory of less than 100.

The *Studies and Records* series includes 20 of the 42 volumes. These books contain more than 175 articles ranging from biographical sketches to studies of problems relating to assimilation in a new culture. A complete set of *Studies and Records* will be sold to libraries for \$40. Individual copies are available at a 25% discount. Because of low stock, volume VII will be sold only with complete sets.

The remaining publications consist of a "Travel and Description" series (5), and "Special Publications" (13). If a catalogue of our publications does not accompany this *News Letter*, one will be sent to you upon request.

Inventory Aid on Next Page

For your convenience, an inventory blank listing each of our available publications is found on the next page. It is our hope that you will check this list against your own shelves and place your order for any missing volumes.

Standing Order Plan

Many libraries are members of the Association and thus are guaranteed receipt of all our publications (1-2 books a year) as they come off the press for no other cost than annual payment of dues (\$5 per year). Equally as many have a standing-order arrangement with us. You are cordially invited to become a member or to file a standing order if you have not already done so. Over a period of years the cost is approximately the same.

Inventory Aid*

Check missing volumes
*Norwegian-American Studies
 and Records*

Vol. 1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

Volumes 1-10 \$2.50 each

11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20

Volumes 11-20 \$3.00 each

*Ole Rynning's True Account of
 America*\$1.50

*Peter Testman's Account of His Ex-
 periences in North America*...\$1.50

*America in the Forties: The Letters
 of Ole Munch Raeder*.....\$2.50

*Frontier Parsonage: The Letters of
 Olaus Fredrik Duus, Norwegian Pas-
 tor in Wisconsin, 1855-1858*..\$3.00

*The Lady with the Pen: Elise
 Wærenskjold in Texas*.....\$3.50

*Norwegian Sailors in American Wa-
 ters: A Study in the History of Mari-
 time Activity on the Eastern Sea-
 board*\$4.00

*Norwegian Migration to America,
 1825-1860*\$5.00

*The Civil War Letters of Colonel
 Hans Christian Heg*.....\$4.00

*The Changing West and other
 Essays*\$4.00

*Norwegian Settlement in the United
 States*\$4.25

*The Log Book of a Young
 Immigrant*\$4.00

*Norwegian Migration to America:
 The American Transition*....\$6.00

*A Long Pull from Stavanger: The
 Reminiscences of a Norwegian Immi-
 grant*\$3.50

*Saga in Steel and Concrete: Norwe-
 gian Engineers in America*....\$5.00

*A Chronicle of Old Muskego: The
 Diary of Søren Bache, 1839-1847*
\$4.00

*The Immigrant Takes His Stand: The
 Norwegian-American Press and Pub-
 lic Affairs, 1847-1872*.....\$4.00

*The Diary of Elisabeth Koren, 1853-
 1855*\$5.00

*West of the Great Divide: Norwegian
 Migration to the Pacific Coast, 1847-
 1893*\$7.50

*For details concerning author, transla-
 tor, date of publication and number of
 pages for each book, see catalogue or
 enclosed brochure.

* * *

Complete set of **Studies and Records** \$40

* * *

Complete set of all available publications \$85
 (If less than 38 volumes become available, corresponding adjust-
 ments will be made.)

* * *

For smaller orders, deduct 25% of list price. We pay postage for all prepaid orders.