

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

# NEWS



# LETTER

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

NUMBER 77

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

MARCH 1989

## 1988 — ANOTHER GOOD YEAR

### Publications

The completion of what became called the Chicago History Project must stand as the highlight of the year. In its final form it became a book titled *A Century of Urban Life: The Norwegians in Chicago before 1930*. Odd S. Lovoll, both author and editor of this work, gave more than two years of full-time work to this task. The project utilized hired assistants, was supported by the Chicago History Committee and by grants from several different sources. No earlier publication can match this work in terms of long-range planning and production costs.

The critics and reviewers must have the final word, but we like to believe that this study reaches beyond that of historical information; it might well be a model for similar studies in the future undertaken by other ethnic groups. It certainly has established a how-to-do-it pattern for our own future publications treating large urban centers.

It was another year wherein two publications were distributed to the members. Their combined retail value came to \$42. Nina Draxten's *The Testing of M. Falk Gjertsen* came out in the spring and the Chicago history came out a few months later.

### Gifts and Grants

It was among the best of years, a total of \$27,308 in contributions. Because the executive board has ruled that gifts that are not specified as to purpose should be allocated to the O. E. Rolvaag Memorial Fund, that endowment fund was increased by \$20,000. A grant of \$7,000 from the Chicago History Committee helped to defray printing costs of the Chicago history. About \$3,000 of the above amount came in the form of small denominations, 5 to 25 dollars. Without these gifts our dues structure would clearly have to be higher than they currently are.

### Thank You!

Those who made contributions of \$100 or more in 1988 are cited below. Some of our generous friends have made frequent if not annual contributions in the past. Where this is true we have entered their accumulated contribution in parentheses.

Lutheran Brotherhood	\$7,000 (\$25,000)	Ole V. Groos	\$365 (\$1,405)
Chicago History Committee	7,000	R. I. Jacobson	200 (2,125)
*MacPherson Foundation	5,000	Clarence A. Clausen	100 (7,500)
Mrs. Grethe (Nils O.) Seim	2,000 (10,220)	Freda S. Hovden	100 (1,600)
Einar & Eva Haugen	1,000 (7,800)	Gladys Weseth Nelson	100 (1,725)
Harriet Hustvedt	1,000 (11,000)	Nils W. Olsson	100 (650)
Alfred D. Olson	1,550 (2,550)	Anonymous (by request)	100 (18,100)

\*Received through the initiative of Russell Fridley.

### Books

Book sales amounted to \$12,036, but this figure includes a negotiated sale of 750 copies of *A Century of Urban Life* to the Illinois University Press for \$5,625. When this amount is subtracted, our book sales correspond with the sales figures in recent years.

The NAHA has published a total of 75 books; 47 are still in print for a total inventory of 8,147 copies; 21 of these titles have an inventory of less than 100 copies and give no cause for concern. Twelve titles have inventories of more than 200, with a few running above 500. We would like to find a market for these. We can use the income and the gained storage space.

## Membership

The year closed with a membership total of 1,458, another record high. A total of 103 members were added, matching the recruitment figures in recent years. The gain came mainly through a comparatively low cancellation figure of 52 for a net gain of 51. While it is never pleasant to lose 52 members, past statistics, however, reveal that 100 members needed to be added each year to retain a constant membership figure.

	Beginning and Closing Figures		
	January 1, 1988	December 31, 1988	Gain/Loss
Associate	553	567	+14
Sustaining	255	269	+14
Patron	85	81	-4
Life	<u>524</u>	<u>541</u>	+17
	1,417	1,458	
*Deceased Life	128	138	+10
			+51

The figures above do not only reflect new and cancelled members. Transferring of membership from one category to another takes place each year. In 1988, 103 members transferred into a higher membership category while 74 transferred into a lower one — an encouraging trend. Of the 103 new members 72 enrolled as associate (36 cancelled); 18 as sustaining (14 cancelled); patron 3 (2 cancelled) and life 10.

\*Because Life membership dues enter an endowment fund (perpetual support), deceased Life members remain on the roster.

## Staff

Our human resources must not be overlooked. The archives closed out the year in impeccable order, thanks to our archivist, Charlotte Jacobson. Her task becomes more demanding with each year due to a steady increase in visitors and in queries by mail that require written responses.

We need to give a nod of gratitude to our editor, Odd S. Lovoll and his editorial assistant, Mary Hove. Only if we have done such work ourselves, can we fully appreciate the toil that enters the editorial process. It is a slow, painstaking task that moves ahead in a sentence by sentence fashion. Countless concerns crowd each moment like syntax, punctuation, logic, clarity, style consistency, and spelling options. All of it must be done without violating the integrity of the manuscript or losing the friendship of the author.

Ruth Crane, ever efficient and accurate, has collected the dues, maintained the membership records, processed book orders, typed manuscripts, paid the bills and prepared the monthly report. The monthly report is a rather intricate affair that will catch possible discrepancies and imbalances, particularly in the area of income and expense. Our status as a tax exempt organization requires annual reports to the Internal Revenue Service and to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office (Charities Division). This reporting calls for information that only precise and professional standards of record keeping can provide. In the event of irregularities we would be subject to audit. With Ruth Crane in charge, we foresee no problems.

## Norway Seminar

Dorothy Burton Skårdal, our Norway member of the executive board, informs that the third seminar on Norwegian-American literature and history will take place at Hamar June 26-29. The seminar sessions will be conducted in one of the meeting rooms, at the Hamar Museum, with lodging a short distance away at the Seiersted Pensjonat. Approximately 26 papers will be presented. From six to possibly eight papers will be given by American scholars.

The "Returned-Emigrant Project" now underway in Norway grew out of the first two semin-

ars. This project, involving questionnaires, interviews and participation by schools, museums, and local historical societies, is an elaborate and time consuming plan that will take several years to complete. Why a person emigrated has been reasonably documented. Why a number of emigrants returned home has not.

Dorothy Burton Skårdal, who instructed a course at St. Olaf College during the Interim (January), reported on this project when the Executive Committee met on January 28. Copies of her report are available upon request.



## Sanger Hilsen

We received a fairly complete file of *Sanger Hilsen*, volumes 31-65, covering the years 1940-1975. These volumes, published by the Norwegian Singers' Association, duplicate our holdings and is available to anyone interested.

On the other hand, volumes 15-19 (1924-1928) of this journal is missing from our collection and we would welcome help in acquiring these volumes.

## Studies 32 in April

The printers have informed us that volume 32 of *Norwegian-American Studies* should arrive from the bindery around the middle of April. This means that the distribution of this book to members should be completed by May 1. When the book bags are labeled and stamped in advance, we can mail out approximately 200 books per day.

Volume 32, dedicated to the memory of Carlton C. Qualey, will be a book of three hundred pages containing 12 articles, not counting "Some Recent Publications" and "From the Archives" which are standard entries in *Studies*. Three of the articles are by Norwegian authors. The topics treated cover a broad range, from tobacco farming in southwestern Wisconsin to a cappella choirs in Lutheran Colleges; from the Jacobson farmstead (now a part of Vesterheim Museum) to marital patterns among Scandinavian immigrant women; and from population studies in Sogn, Norway, to letters from Telemark to immigrants in the Midwest (old patterns are here reversed).

In the event any member failed to receive *The Norwegians in Chicago before 1930*, please notify the secretary. Things can and at times do go wrong in the mailing process. Also, books are not forwardable in the event of address changes.

## Future Publications

The executive board has approved the publication of three books. A biography of Waldemar Ager, (author, journalist, and temperance leader) is in the advance stages of editing. The work, written by Dr. Einar Haugen, will make the seventh volume in our authors series.

A collection of America letters, compiled and translated by Dr. Solveig Zempel, is scheduled to follow the Ager biography. The University of Minnesota Press will be co-publishers of this collection. The letters, dated after 1880, have been

selected so as to provide documentation and insight from geographical settings and time periods not covered earlier. Dr. Zempel teaches in the Department of Norwegian at St. Olaf College.

The third publication, a biography of Knute Nelson, Minnesota governor and United States senator, is being prepared by Dr. Millard Gieske, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Morris. Dr. Gieske laid the groundwork for this study when he wrote his doctoral dissertation.

This study has received financial support from the Minnesota Historical Society and from the American Scandinavian Foundation. The latter provided Jostein Molde a graduate student of history at Trondheim, Norway, with a stipend (\$6,000) to assist Dr. Gieske with researching the Norwegian sources. This is the second assignment Molde has performed for the NAHA. He earlier worked with Dr. Lovoll on the Chicago history. Molde's talents came to light when he was a scholarship student from Norway at St. Olaf College.

Dr. Gieske has spent some time doing research in Norway, especially at Evanger (near Voss), the birthplace of Knute Nelson.

We are unable to predict with any precision the publication dates for these books. As is noted elsewhere, volume 32 of *Studies* will be out in April. Budgetary considerations alone make it nearly mandatory that our publication be spaced from six to eight months apart. Mailing costs continue to climb. Postage, materials, and labor average out to about \$2.50 per mailed copy, for a total of \$4,000.

## Radicalism in Minnesota

"20th Century Radicalism in Minnesota" is a two year project launched by the Minnesota Historical Society. It seeks to uncover the role of ethnic radicalism in shaping the state's political culture. The project gives special focus to Minnesotans of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, South Slav, Jewish and Italian descent. Under the direction of Carl Ross, Finnish-American historian and civic leader, the project will develop a cooperative effort by professional historians, librarians, and collection curators.

The NAHA is co-sponsoring a symposium in St. Paul on May 20, in the Landmark Center, titled "Voices of Dissent: The Minnesota Radical Press, 1910-20." The symposium will be a dialogue between a group of humanists scholars and an audience of Minnesota citizens. There will be six formal presentations. Our editor, Odd Lovoll, will present one of them.

## Random News

- Received from Elaine Peterson her *Poof: The Aerosol Game*, Carlton Press, New York, 1989. Hard cover, 80 pages, \$7.95. Elaine Peterson, a member of the NAHA, is the wife of Harry Peterson who developed the aerosol industry from humble beginnings to international dimensions. The author notes that a Norwegian, Eric Rothheim, invented a high-pressure container with a valve dispenser. He died in 1948, quite unaware of the full potential of his concept.
- Received from Øyvind T. Gulliksen *Ole Helgesens dagbok/Ole Helgesen's Diary, 1872-1878: Tinn, Telemark, Calmar, Iowa* (Bø i Telemark, 1988). This diary by a parochial school teacher in the Norwegian Synod reveals much about rural Norwegian settlements and also about contacts with the homeland. A brief introduction and a summary is in English. Available from Telemark distriktshøgskole, N-380 Bø i Telemark. Kroner 125 (\$18.00?)
- Received. *Carlo A. Sperati: The Grand Old Master* by Camilla Sperati Strom and edited by J. R. Christianson, Luther College Press, Decorah, Iowa 52101. Paper, 109 pages, index, illustrations. Available through Luther College Bookstore, \$14.95 plus \$2.50 postage.
- Received from Marcella Kulla Hagel her *The Hestenes Saga 1580-1988*. Typescript reproduction, hard bound, photos, maps, index, 337 pages. Privately printed by Marcella Hagel, 1960 Glenpaul Avenue, St Paul, MN 55112. \$26.50.
- Received. *The Gospel according to Beaver Creek* by Luther Bjerke. A humorous and at times wistful account of life in the Beaver Creek area, a North Dakota Norwegian settlement. Paper, 119 pages. Beaver Creek publishing, Route 2, Box 139A, Hatton, ND 58245. \$7.95 (includes postage).
- Received from Roberta Lien Fosdal and John A. Fosdal their *Norwegian Roots: American Branches; The Kjetil and Bergit Lien Family History*. Typescript reproduction, 252 pages.
- Received from Heather Diane Prince a copy of her dissertation (Master of Science, University of Alberta) titled "Norwegian Clothing and Textiles in Valhalla Center, Alberta: A Case Study and Inventory in an Ecomuseum Framework." 227 pages.
- Received from Harry J. Williams, *From Grimstad in Norway to Florida in the 1830s: Kund Sørersen Bie 1812-1884*, by Johan A. Wikander. Bie came to Jacksonville, Florida as a sailor during the late 1830s and decided to stay, with the result that he lived out his life there as a harbour pilot.
- Announcement. Thorvald Hansen's compilation, *Danish Immigrant Archival Listing* is available at Grandview College, Business Office, 1200 Grandview Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50316-1599. This 300-page guide lists the location (U.S., Canada and Denmark) of source material related to the Danish Immigrant in America. \$49.50.

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

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