

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS LETTER



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 38

NOVEMBER 1968

Editor L. HUSTVEDT

An Explanation

The Secretary took a sabbatical leave during the past academic year. No newsletter was published during that time. For this reason much of the following information is presented more as a report on past events than as current news.

A Royal Visit

The King of Norway, His Majesty Olav V, visited the Association's Archives on May 6, 1968. This visit and its attending ceremony is best explained through the statements cited below:

May 6, 1968

Your Majesty:

We are pleased at the interest you have shown in the work of the Norwegian-American Historical Association in the past, and now again by your visit to our headquarters. The Association's rich collection of documents, housed here or integrated into the Rølvaag Memorial Library, is being increasingly utilized by scholars in their researches in American social history. It contains, among other things, the private papers and printed writings of many persons reflecting on both the continuity of Norwegian culture on this side of the Atlantic and the transition of the immigrants to New-World patterns of life.

Miss Beulah Folkedahl, Curator of the Archives, and Dr. C. A. Clausen, Acting Secretary of the Association, are ready to answer questions related to the samplings they have prepared for our records, the papers of Norwegian Americans, or the many other materials—including books and newspapers — pre-



*His Majesty Olav V and
Editor Kenneth O. Bjork*

served elsewhere in this building.

Your Majesty, as Editor and on behalf of the officers and members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, I should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of your visit to the Archives by presenting you with a complete set of all forty-nine volumes of our publications. I should like also to deliver to you a statement prepared for this occasion by Mr. Lionel G. Thorsness of Chicago, the Association's President.

KENNETH O. BJORK, Editor
The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

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THANK YOU!

Beginning in January, 1968, an appeal went out to each member that he consider a gift donation over and above the established membership fee. This move was made as an alternative to raising dues. To date 165 members have responded and the total amounts to \$881.00. We wish that each donor could be mentioned, but space will not permit. Since it has, however, been Newsletter policy to call attention to all gifts of \$10.00 or more, we will continue to do so under this category as well, adding our sincere thanks.

Martin Cornelius \$30, Henry Halvorson \$10, Gabriel Hauge \$20, R. I. Jacobson \$10, Rolf K. Jensen \$15, Arthur O. Olson \$25, Peder A. Pederson \$10, Mrs. Raymond Peterson \$15, President (St. Olaf College) Sidney A. Rand \$20, Stephen Rockefeller \$75, Ambassador (Iceland) Karl F. Rolvaag \$25, Leif Skadberg \$25, Reidar H. Steen \$20, Prof. Rolf A. Syrdal \$10, Dr. Harry Tosdal \$15, Attorney Johannes A. Watness \$25, and Harry J. Williams \$10.

Deceased

Dr. Oystein Ore, life member, and an internationally known mathematician at Yale University.
Dr. Martin Hegland, Northfield, Minnesota, a charter member.
Dr. L. O. Grondahl, Pittsburgh, Pa., a charter member.
The Reverend Olaf Lysness, St. Paul, Minn., a charter member.
Ole Hegdahl, Minneapolis, 31 year member.
Ole Hanson, Ashland, Wis., 30 year member.
Katharina Blilie, Flandreau, South Dakota, 25 year member.
Dr. B. Olness, Big Timber, Montana, 27 year member.
George W. Mohn, Northfield, Minnesota, 27 year member.
Markus Karlstad, Madison, Calif., a member since 1950.
Olga C. Eggen, a member since 1955, gave generous support to the N.A.H.A. through the many life memberships she bought for friends and institutions.
Dr. O. J. Pederson, Everett, Washington.
Thorsten Thompson, Spring Grove, Minnesota.
T. G. Overson, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Carl W. Refsland, Baltimore, Maryland.
Dr. John K. Grotting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

John Crippen, Jr., San Diego, California.
Melvin C. Reppen, Madison, Wisconsin.
Rolf G. Westad, New York City.
Thideman Barduson, Danvers, Minnesota.
Carolyn Vogland, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a young member who died through an automobile accident.
Gerhard N. Sonnesyn, Minneapolis, a life member since 1955.
Fritjof Siqueland, Chicago, a life member since 1947.

A Tardy But Sincere Welcome

Of the 46 new members added in 1967, those cited below have not been introduced. The new members in 1968 will be listed in the next Newsletter.

Patron

Arthur L. Myrland, Chicago

Sustaining

Mrs. Melvin Sylliaasen, Rochester, New York
Pastor Søren Urberg, Waukegan, Illinois
Austin Doe, Chicago
Walter H. Meyer, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin
Johan Harr, Oslo, Norway
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Rolf Fjelde, Brooklyn, New York
Mrs. Dagny Skarnes, Minneapolis
Rudolph G. Eskeland, Chicago
Mrs. Osborne Knapp, Chicago
Simeon Carroll Simonson, Rapid City, South Dakota
James Arness, Los Angeles, California
Burton R. Hanson, Minneapolis
Birger Dahl, Moorhead, Minnesota
Harold P. Bakke, Minneapolis

NEWS -- OLD AND RECENT

Membership

The Association began 1967 with 1,114 members; 46 members were added while 45 were cancelled, leaving a net gain of one for that year. Despite the small increase, the total of 1,115 members at the close of the year marked a new record.

As of September 1, 1968, 77 new members had been added. The cancellation figure of 88 for the current year has been unusually high. We hope, however, that our present net loss of 11 members will not only be erased before the year is over, but that a new membership record can again be attained. All members are urged to help.

Book Sales in 1967

The total book sales for 1967 amounted to \$2,372.92. This figure ranks second to 1963 with its total sales of \$2,525.19. A total of 605 books were sold, with *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson* accounting for 21% of the sales. The total inventory of unsold books amounts to 8,597 copies. This represents a potential sales income of more than \$40,000.

Archives

The Archives now contain 707 separate collections, and seven recent donations remain to be processed. Thirteen collections were added during the past year. The three largest are the John A. Johnson Papers, 6,559 items, the Gertrude M. Hilleboe Papers, 3,841 items, and the Martin Hegland Papers, 787 items.

The major task of preparing descriptions of our holdings according to the specifications prescribed by the Library of Congress has been completed. These descriptions will appear in the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*.

A cross reference index file, started two years ago, has been completed and is kept up to date as each new collection is processed.

Mr. A. A. Rowberg continues to send mounted newspaper and periodical clippings to the Association's "Rowberg File." This file now consists of an esti-

mated 130,000 entries. Mr. Rowberg is not well at the moment. He now lives at the Friends House, 17401 Narwood Road, Sandy Springs, Maryland, 20850. A word of appreciation to him for his work from the members would be very much in order.

There were 214 visitors in the Archives during the past year. This figure does not include the many visitors who make a general tour of the college campus. Of this number, thirty have engaged in serious research.

Publications

A copy of *The Norwegians in America: A Student's Guide to Localized History* by Einar Haugen has been distributed to each member of the NAHA. The booklet, a part of the Localized History Series, edited by Clifford L. Lord, is not an NAHA publication. Its contents, however, should prove to be of special interest to all members. If anyone failed to receive a copy, please notify the Secretary. A limited supply of extra copies are available for \$.75 each.

Editor Kenneth O. Bjork reports that the biography, *John A. Johnson: Uncommon American*, by Dr. Agnes M. Larson, is now at the printers and that proof reading has begun. The book should be available for distribution in March, 1969. Dr. Larson died January 24, 1967.

The NAHA publication, *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson: Pioneer Scholar*, was awarded the McKnight Prize in Literature, an annual award given to a Minnesota author by the McKnight Foundation. William L. McKnight, who established the Foundation, was for many years the president and chairman of the board of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company. The award was presented to the author, Lloyd Hustvedt, at a dinner held at the St. Paul Hilton Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 21, 1967. Present at the dinner were representatives from the Foundation, staff members from the Minnesota Historical Society, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, and Professor Kenneth O. Bjork.

A ROYAL VISIT

Continued from page one

May 1, 1968

His Majesty Olav V
King of Norway

As President of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, I am happy, Your Majesty, to present to you on the occasion of your visit to the Association's Archives at St. Olaf College a complete set of the publications of our organization.

As Your Majesty is well aware, the forty-nine volumes included in this collection are the final product to date of an effort aimed at recording the story of Norwegian migration to the New World from the arrival of the sloop "Restaurationen" in 1825, and to interpret the experiences of Norwegian immigrants and their descendants as a vital part of American society. This has been a co-operative venture in which scholars have worked with business, professional and other men and women whose joint concern has been that this saga of migration be told both accurately and sympathetically, and that the undertaking in

itself be a worthy contribution to the evolving culture of the United States.

We are honored, Your Majesty, by your presence in this country and by your visit to our Archives. In presenting these books we recognize both your exalted position in the land of our ancestors — the "rock whence we were hewn"—and your personal interest in the destiny of the Norwegian emigrants who took up a new life in America.

LIONEL G. THORSNESS, President
The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Professor Clausen Assumed Secretary's Duties

Professor Clarence A. Clausen, Professor Emeritus of History at St. Olaf College, served as Secretary during Lloyd Hustvedt's absence. We are grateful to Professor Clausen for taking time off from other work to keep shop for the N.A.H.A. Professor Clausen is currently doing preliminary work on a history of the *bygdelags*.

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

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