

The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



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

NUMBER 66

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

SEPTEMBER, 1983

## THE BOOKS ARE COMING!

It is quite true, we have more books in the publication hopper than we can for economic reasons distribute to members within a short time span. A correlation between income from dues and output of books must be maintained. More to the point, we would not last long if we, within a year, produced books costing \$30 for a return of \$15 in dues. If a backlog of unpublished works is a problem, it is clearly a pleasant one, i.e. if the alternative is not knowing from where the next book is coming.

In all events, the publication picture is clear for some time ahead. The order in which our forthcoming books are discussed below, does not necessarily reflect the order in which they will be published.

1. The memoirs of Per Hagen, translated by Harald Naess and Kate Stafford. This manuscript, written in the form of a documentary or historical novel, was uncovered by the Wisconsin Historical Society among Danish material as the society searched for suitable items on the occasion of Queen Margrethe's visit to the United States. Per Hagen's account provides a new perspective. He came to eastern Wisconsin (Muskego, Pine Lake) in the late forties. This book, approximately 100 pages, should be ready for distribution in February, 1984.

2. *Studies* volume 30. Save for the completion of several articles by the authors and later editing, most of the preparatory work has been completed. As announced earlier, this volume will treat the West Coast only. The Editor plans to utilize, from time to time, a controlling theme for *Studies*. Terje Leiren, our West Coast member of the Board of Publications, has assisted Odd Lovoll in collecting articles for this publication.

3. *Han Ola og han Per*. Joan Buckley and Einar Haugen have jointly presented the delightful drawings of P. J. Rosendahl for the first time in translation (The original language has also been retained). In their introductions Haugen analyzes the linguistic aspect of the cartoons while Buckley deals with the humor of the artist. This book will be published jointly by the University of Oslo Press and the NAHA. If this book proves to be as popular as were the cartoons in their day, the demand for this publication should be high.

4. Religious pluralism in Norway and among Norwegian Americans (precise title undetermined), by Frederick Hale. This work treats the Americanization of religious life in Norway and the growth of religious pluralism among the Norwegian immigrants. In the main the study covers the second half of the nineteenth century. Editing of this manuscript has been completed.

5. A biography of the educator and theologian Georg Sverdrup at Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, by James Hamre will introduce a special Norwegian-American biographical series. We anticipate a number of contributions to the series in years to come. Editorial work on the Sverdrup manuscript will be completed this year.

6. *Det løfterike landet*, by Odd Lovoll, published by the University of Oslo Press, came out in Norway, August, 1983. An English version, retaining the same format and illustrations, will be published jointly by the NAHA and

the University of Minnesota Press.

The book has received enthusiastic reviews in Norway, and well it might. It is a veritable picture album of Norwegian America (rural and urban), combined with a scholarly, yet popularly written, treatment of Norwegian migration to America and of what came later: daily life, education, churches, literature, journalism, organizations, etc. The story is told with empathy and with a sharp eye for the individual experience.

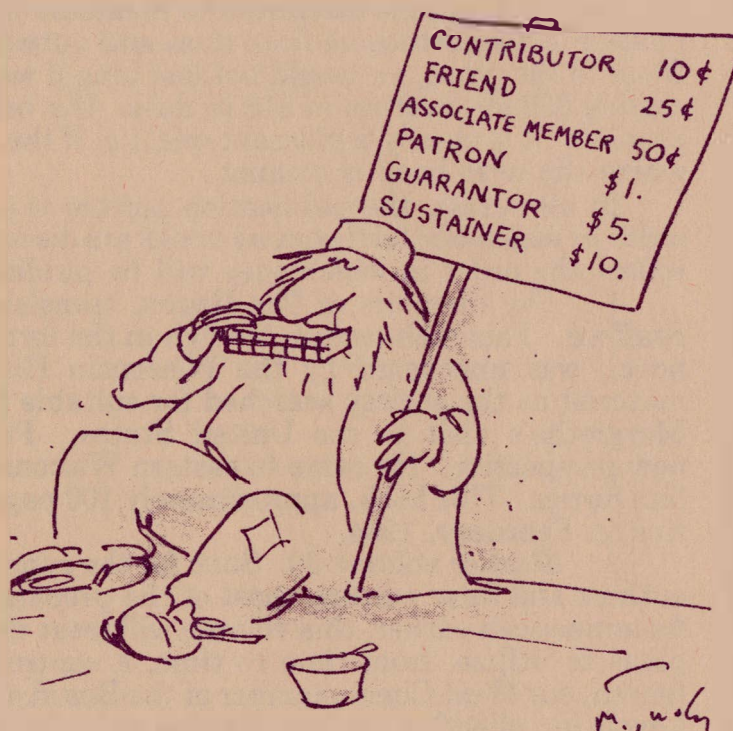
Anyone who wishes a copy of the Norwegian version may order through the NAHA. (The English version will be distributed to members later). The book (230 pages, 11" x 10", index and bibliography) costs \$29 plus \$2 for postage and handling. Minnesota residents add \$1.75 for sales tax).

## NO INCREASE IN DUES, BUT —

The Executive Committee of the NAHA decided not to increase membership dues at this time, but rather experiment with what came to be known as the "Voluntary Plan." The statement cited below, which will accompany future statements for dues (beginning January 1, 1984), explains the substitute action taken.

*Due to rising costs, income from dues no longer covers expenses related to our publication program and those related to the public service we provide through our archives. Thanks, however, to income we receive from our permanent funds and from our cash reserves (gradually being depleted) our program remains as strong or stronger than ever.*

*Rather than raise dues at this time, we are asking for a voluntary increase, particularly from Associate members, to offset this erosive trend. Any amount over and above the stated dues will in reality be a gift (tax deductible) and will be allocated to the O. E. Rolvaag permanent fund, which under steady growth will become a pillar of security for future operation. Moving to a higher membership category will be of even more help.*



### California Friends

Sons of Norway Norrona Lodge No. 50, Van Nuys, California, sponsored what is called the "Norwegian-American Historical Association Champagne Pancake Breakfast." Karen E. Hagen forwarded a check for \$109.32. This unsolicited gesture of support is appreciated as much as it is rare. Norrona Lodge has held a life membership since 1961. This is not the first time such a fundraising breakfast has been sponsored by Norrona.

### Looking Ahead

The Executive Committee of the NAHA, which met August 18 at St. Olaf College, discussed particularly plans for expansion. First, it hopes to build the membership from 1300 members to 1500. Increased membership not only lifts direct revenue, but indirect as well. The larger the edition we can publish of our books, the lower becomes the unit cost.

Second, it hopes to launch a campaign whereby Norwegian-American organizations will subscribe to an

institutional membership in the NAHA. Such an affiliation will provide more than financial support. It will tend to insure that the records of these organizations will find a permanent repository in the NAHA archives. The concept that the NAHA should be a league of organizations as well as a society for individual members is not new.

Third, the O. E. Rolvaag permanent fund, to date made up mostly by life membership dues, should be increased through contributions as well as dues. This is the only permanent fund that the NAHA has where the accrued interest is not designated for some specific use.

## News in Brief

- Elaine Kringen will be Acting Secretary from September 1, 1983, to February 1, 1984, during an off-campus assignment for Lloyd Hustvedt.
- Professor Orm Øverland, University of Bergen, Norway, was a daily researcher in the Archives from late June through July. He is researching Norwegian-American literature.
- A traveling exhibit entitled "Reisen til Amerika" (American Bound) will open in Norway in June, 1984. The plan is to show the exhibit in the United States as well.
- Received *Built on a Rock*, by Meredith Medler, a centennial history of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church at St. Cloud, Minnesota. Bound 204 pp., the appendices contain information on births, deaths, confirmation classes and arriving immigrants.
- Received "Returned Emmigrants: A Study of Repatriated Norwegians;" thesis, Department of English, University of Oslo, 1982. 115 pp.
- Received "The Sensitive Soul: In the Fiction of Ole E. Rolvaag and Waldemar Ager;" thesis, Department of English, University of Oslo, 143 pp.
- *Gamle brev til Peterson: Old Letters to Peterson*, compiled and edited by John Erickson, 1877 Peterson Station Museum, Peterson, Minnesota 55962. This book of 75 pages is built around the letters of two brothers, Knut P. Haslerud (Norway) and his brother in Minnesota, Peter Peterson Haslerud. \$5 plus \$1 for mailing. Order from the 1877 Peterson Station Museum.
- The Arthur Andersen Foundation (Chicago) presented the NAHA with a \$1,000 gift. Arthur Andersen, the founder of the noted accounting firm bearing that name was a former president of the NAHA. Arthur E. Andersen III is now the treasurer of the Association.
- *Sons of the Old Country*, Trygve M. Ager's translation of his father's (Waldemar Ager) novel, *Gamlelandets Sønner* (1926), has just been published by University of Nebraska Press. The introduction is by Odd S. Lovoll.
- Received from Myles and Eunice Stenshoel, *Ole and Kari (Peterson) fra Sognefjord: A Family History*, Bound, typescript reproduction, 71 pp. Also, *Amund and Serene (Amundson) from Nesvag, Norway, to Big Canoe, Iowa*. Bound, 20 pp.
- Carlienne Frisch, editor of *Land* (a farmers' newspaper serving southern Minnesota), wrote an article, "Norwegian-American History Preserved in Northfield," for the May 9, 1983, issue.
- Received *Remember the Days of Old: The Centennial Saga of Arendahl Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, 1856-1956* (Fillmore County, Minnesota) by Ernest M. Maland.

Note! Volume 29 of *Studies* has now been sent to all members in good standing. If for some reason you have not received your copy, please notify the Secretary's office.

Also includes an autobiography of A. E. Boyum, that congregation's first minister.

- In early June Mrs. Florence L. Van Valkenburgh, the great-granddaughter of Marcus Thrane, paid a visit to the Association's offices. She brought with her a wealth of family material, photographs, copies of documents, newspaper clippings and pamphlets, all of which was donated to the Archives for addition to the Marcus Thrane Papers. We appreciate very much Mrs. Van Valkenburgh's generosity in making these materials available to us.

- Volume 41 (1982) of *South Dakota Historical Collections* contains an illustrated article by Elwin E. Rogers: "Almost Scandinavia; Scandinavian Experience in Grant County, 1877-1920." Dr. Rogers, who was born in Grant County, is presently an associate professor in the German and Norwegian Department at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota.

## Immigration History Society Announces Memorial Award

Mrs. Florence Saloutos has established an annual prize in memory of her late husband, Professor Theodore Saloutos, distinguished historian and first president of the Immigration History Society. The prize will be awarded for the book judged best on any aspect of the immigration history of the United States. "Immigration history" is defined as the history of the movement of peoples from other countries to the United States, the history of the repatriation movements of immigrants, and the consequences of those migrations both for the United States and countries of origin.

The first award of \$500 will be presented at the annual meeting of the Immigration History Society in 1984. To be considered, volumes must be copyrighted in 1983; they must be based on substantial primary research; and they must present a major new scholarly interpretation. A book may be nominated by the author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Society. Nominations should be sent to Rudolph J. Vecoli, Department of History, University of Minnesota, MN 55455.

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