



Chicago History Project Enters Second Year

Whether research for the history of the Norwegians in Chicago could be carried into its second year without interruption was for a time uncertain. The matter hinged on whether our editor, Odd S. Lovoll, could extend his leave from teaching an additional year. Dr. Lovoll had a standard leave (every seventh year) from St. Olaf College this past year. Extending his leave, however, required external funding.

The amount needed to cover Dr. Lovoll's salary has now been assured. The NAHA will use \$15,000 of its own resources, Lutheran Brotherhood has provided a grant of \$6,000. The balance will be drawn from the "Gandy Endowment," a fund established by E.S. and Edith Gandrud (Owatonna, Minnesota) to support projects related to Norwegian-American life. This fund is administered by St. Olaf College

A Review

Before looking ahead it might be well to review how the first year was funded. The Arthur Andersen Foundation made a grant of \$5,000 and Lutheran Brotherhood contributed \$7,000 to build a Chicago History Fund of \$12,000. This fund, now nearly exhausted, provided the salary for a research assistant and covered general expenses related to research. Miss Kay Carr, a graduate student of history at the University of Chicago, has carried out specific research assignments since September 1985.

The Year Ahead

A pledge of \$1,800 from Harry and Josefa Andersen of Chicago, will assure the continued assistance of Miss Carr for an additional three months. A grant of \$6,000 from the Minnesota Historical Society will be directed toward the salary of a second research assistant from September through December, 1986. This work will be carried out by Jostein Molde, a history scholar from Norway.

Rolf Erickson, president of the Chicago History Committee, showed in his latest financial report a bank balance of \$7,350. The Chicago Committee, under the leadership of Rolf Erickson and William Korsvik, has to date raised some over \$10,000. The Chicago Committee administers the funds it raises, and the expenses to be covered by that committee will be determined by the editor and the committee.

In terms of fund raising and research costs, this is clearly the most ambitious project the NAHA has assumed to date. Right now things look promising.

Our Editor Honored

His Majesty King Olav V of Norway awarded Dr. Odd S. Lovoll the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, Knight First Class Cross for his "outstanding contribution to spread knowledge of Norway and to strengthen the ties between Norway and the United States."

Sidney A. Rand, former president of St. Olaf College and former ambassador to Norway was awarded Commander and Knight First Class Cross at the same ceremony which took place at a Torske Klubben luncheon at the Interlachen Country Club, Edina, Minnesota, on April 5, 1986. Consul General Harald Lone presented the awards.

The Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was founded by King Olav V in 1985 as a recognition for outstanding work for the benefit of Norway.

Norway Chapter Sponsors Seminar II

The Norway Chapter of the NAHA held its second seminar on Norwegian-American Studies at Rogaland College, Stavanger, Norway, June 24-28. Dorothy Burton Skårdal, University of Oslo, served as conference chairperson.

The seminar presented 23 persons who gave half-hour papers followed by discussion. Seven of the participants were from the States and one from Canada.

The proceedings of the first seminar (a collection of 16 essays) held in Oslo in 1984 are now available to members for 65 kroner: American Institute, University of Oslo, Box 10002, Blindern, Oslo 3, Norway. The price includes postage.

Publications

Volume 31 of *Studies* (347 pages), our 72nd publication, will come off the press in new format in the middle of October. The book consists of articles treating urban immigrant settings. While hardly designed to be so, most of the articles have been written by members of the Board of Publications and the Executive Board. This volume honors C.A. Clausen, who turned 90 last May.

The next publication will be a biography of Marcus Thrane by Terje Leiren. Final editing is currently being done and this book should be out no later than May, 1987.

Should members in good standing not have received a copy of our latest publication, *Georg Sverdrup; Educator, Theologian, Churchman*, by James Hamre, please notify the secretary. Inevitably some books are returned because of obsolete addresses or because of damaged labels due to rough handling. When the latter happens we have no way of knowing who is short a book.

A Scandinavian Culture Symposium

In recognition of its 75th anniversary, Camrose Lutheran College, Alberta, sponsored a symposium, April 11-12, "The Scandinavian Presences in Canada: Past and Present." Participating in the conference from the States were John Z. Lofgren,

Director of the American Swedish Institute, Terje Leiren, University of Washington, Marion Nelson, Norwegian-American Museum, and Lloyd Hustvedt, NAHA.

Efforts are under way in Canada to found a Nordic-Canadian Historical Association, not unlike our own in purpose, but one that would cover migration from all the Scandinavian countries into Canada. Camrose College is destined to serve as the sheltering institution. James Nelson, Department of Norwegian at Camrose, planned and steered the symposium.

3 Books - \$10.

We have available for sale, three books that fall outside of our official publication program. The titles listed below can be bought for \$10.00 or as individually priced. No postage charges on prepaid orders (otherwise \$1.00). Minnesota residents, however, must add 6 percent sales tax.

1. *Norwegian-American Imprints in the St. Olaf College Library* (includes the NAHA collection), compiled by Chrisma S. Dittmann, 122 pages, paperback, reduced typescript reproduction, NAHA, \$5.00

2. *Scandinavians and other Immigrants in Urban America: The Proceedings of a Research Conference, October 26-27, 1984.* \$7.50.

3. *The True Saga of Cleng Pearson*, by Alfred Hauge, an attractive, hard-cover book of 131 pages. \$8.00.

Editorial

When one thinks of monuments, bronze statues or busts in parks, city squares, or wherever one puts such things, come to mind. At their best such monuments present an artist's striking — sometimes powerful interpretation of a personality or some happy, epic, or tragic event in history. Collectively, monuments will tell us something of a people's values, what they have regarded as significant enough to be remembered down through time.

Through the efforts of larger or smaller groups, Norwegian-Americans have erected monuments to Leif Erikson, Ole Bull, Snowshoe Thompson, Knute Nelson, Henrik

Wergeland, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, Ivar Aasen, Hans Nielsen Hauge, Martin Luther, even to Rollo of Normandy (Gange Rolf).

Rightly construed, our forthcoming book on the Norwegian element in Chicago can also be seen as something of a monument. Rather than an artist's interpretation we have a scholar's effort to arrive at the truth about things, where evidence and evidence alone determines the conclusions drawn. If a book can be a monument, it is certainly more mobile. Rather than be frozen forever on a concrete pedestal, it can enter homes and libraries, in a word, travel to the remotest corners of the world.

Whatever may be correct here, it occurs to this writer that the Norwegians who settled in Chicago are as worthy of a monument as was Rollo the Walker and the band of Norwegians he led into Normandy. If not, then at least, it is a bit closer to home.

Ruth Crane, Assistant Secretary

Ruth Honnold Crane, Northfield, Minnesota, replaced Randi Mitchell as assistant secretary on April 1, 1986. When Randi's husband, Mancel, was appointed Chief-of-Police in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, the Mitchells had to leave Northfield. Randi commuted for a time, but it became too cumbersome.

Ruth Crane, an efficient and experienced secretary, has over the past years taken Norwegian courses at St. Olaf College and will soon have the equivalent of a Norwegian major. She is currently attending The International Summer School at The University of Oslo and will return to her duties around mid-August. One side of her family stems from Voss, Norway.

Russel W. Fridley Retires

Russell W. Fridley will retire as director of the Minnesota Historical Society on December 31, 1986, after holding that position for 30 years. He became director in 1955 at the age of 27. At that time the MHS had a staff of 40 and operated on an annual budget of \$190,000. Today the staff exceed 300 and the operating budget is around \$12 million, making the MHS a recognized national leader in the field of state and local history.

The NAHA can hardly have had a better friend than Fridley. His vision was broad

and he looked upon our work as complementary to that of the MHS. Over the years he was responsible for providing the NAHA with Minnesota funded grants amounting to \$20,000, the latest being the \$6,000 mentioned on the first page.

News in Brief

● Received: *På andre sida av havet*, a collection of 34 poems by Arnfinn Bruflot, Cappelen's Forlag, Norway, 1986. The poems, Bruflot's fourth collection, treat immigrant experiences and American landscapes.

● Received: *Olaf Stageberg and Family*, by Rolf Stageberg, spiral bound, typescript reproduction, 56 pages. Olaf Stageberg (1868-1946) first taught at several Iowa colleges before coming to the Red Wind Seminary (1908-1932). The work includes a selection of his poems.

● William J. Korsvick. NAHA board member, is one of two editors of the *Loan Officers Handbook*, published recently by Dow Jones-Irwin. Korsvick was with the First National Bank of Chicago for 45 years.

● Received: *An Academic Autobiography* by Carlton C. Qualey, typescript, 64 pages. Treats his growing up in Spring Grove, Minnesota, his educational experiences, early teaching assignments, and his years as professor of history at Carleton College in Northfield. Dr. Qualey, a long time member of the NAHA Board of Publications, is author of *Norwegian Settlements in the United States* (NAHA 1938). Use of this autobiography requires the author's permission.

● Svein Gilje has launched a monthly Norwegian-American business newsletter under the title *Nor AM Report* (P.O. Box 9805, 1818 West Lake Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98109). The first issue came out in May.

● Received from Clarence Kilde, Waldemar Ager material (correspondence, scrapbooks, book reviews, clippings and articles) which added three document cases to our Ager Collection.

● *Triumph of the American Nation* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc.), an 11th grade text book, includes one of Gro Svendsen's letters from *Frontier Mother*. Of all our publications, this work has been cited more frequently than any other.

● Received from John V. Halvorson, his *Human Encounter With Ministry*, typescript

reproduction, bound, 84 pages, Decorah, Iowa, 1986. Foreword by E. Clifford Nelson. The book treats the author's life as student, seminary professor and parish minister.

- Excerpts from *The Lady With the Pen* (Elise Waerenskjold) enter into *Texas, Our Texas*, to be published by the Education Company, Austin, Texas, 1987.

- The Midwest Archives Conference will meet in Hudson, Wisconsin, October 9-11. For more information contact Cheryl Norenberg Thies, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.

- The chapter entitled "Destruction" in Aagot Raaen's *Grass of the Earth* will be required reading for all students taking freshman English at North Dakota State University (Fargo). This chapter deals with the raid on Hatton, N.D. saloons, January 10, 1890, by a group of local women.

- *From the Indian Land*, is a history of Scandinavia, Iola and neighboring townships in Waupaca County, Wisconsin, from 1859 to 1900, by Malcom Rosholt. The book, 352 pages, is heavily illustrated and is available from the Iola Historical Society, Box 111, Iola, Wisconsin 54945, for \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage.

- Received: *Viking Head: A Fact-Fiction Tale of Norsemen Exploring Minnesota in 1361-1362*, by Bernard Mehl. Among other things, the novel concerns the Kensington Runestone, mooring stones and Mandan Indians. Paperback, 225 pages, 1984, published by the author, 229 Pope Street, Breckenridge, MN 56420.

- Professor Jon Gjerde, Department of History, University of California-Berkeley, received the Theodore Saloutos Book Award, an annual award given by the Immigration History Society. Gjerde's *From Peasants to Farmers: The Migration From Balestrand, Norway, to the Upper Midwest* was selected by the society as the best original scholarly work in American immigration and ethnic history in 1985.

- Jon Wefald, Minnesota educator and author of *A Voice of Protest* (NAHA 1971), has been appointed president of Kansas State University. The University, located at Overland Park, Kansas, enrolls about 18,000 students. Wefald is a grandson of Knute Wefald, pioneer congressmen and journalist.

- Received from Rolf Erickson, *Viking: From Norway to America*, by Rasmus Elias Rasmussen, a crew member of the Atlantic crossing of a Viking style ship in 1893. Typescript reproduction, hard cover, 95 pages, translated by Helen Fletre, edited by Rolf Erickson *et. al.*, and published by Trep-tow and Johnson, Chicago, 1984.

- Elmer E. Abrahamson, now 83, has served on the Norwegian-American Hospital Board of Trustees (Chicago) for 54 years. An attorney by profession, he has been invaluable on giving advice on hospital legal matters. He was honored at a recognition dinner on June 17. He and his wife were given a two-week expense paid trip to Norway.

- Received from Eunice Hagen Bech the newspaper (bound), *Rodhuggeren* (The Radical) (Fergus Falls and Crookston, Minnesota), November 28, 1893-May 10, 1898, issues No. 1-223. *Rodhuggeren* was a liberal weekly, edited by Ole E. Hagen, prominent pioneer journalist, author and judge. The donation also included a novel and other pieces authored by Hagen, as well as books from his library. Eunice Bech is a granddaughter.

- Received from Alva Fedde Calvin the memoirs of Gabriel Fedde (1843-1914), a Norwegian seaman who settled in Brooklyn in the early 1880's. The handwritten manuscript, 153 pages, is the account of a determined and lively man who took an active, and sometimes aggressive role in the cultural and religious affairs within the Norwegian colony in Brooklyn.

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