

The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 33

MARCH 1966

Editor L. HUSTVEDT

THE ASSOCIATION IN 1965

Membership

As of December 31, the NAHA membership stood at 1016: 728 associate, 169 sustaining, 6 patron, and 113 life. Exactly 100 members were added: 69 associate, 24 sustaining, and 7 life. That so many elected to become sustaining members is encouraging. Less heartening is the fact that 15 members were lost through death, and 48 members were dropped, either by request or because they did not respond to statements for dues, making a total cancellation figure of 63. The figures for 1964 were 85 added, and 40 cancelled.

Transfers

New members are vital to the growth of the Association, but equally important to its progress are those who transfer their membership to higher categories. We are happy to report that Mr. K. E. Brunsdale of Minneapolis and Harry J. Williams of Chicago have transferred from sustaining to patron. Professor Einar Haugen of Harvard University and Attorney Frank R. Miller of Decorah, Iowa, have lifted their memberships to life. The following have transferred from associate to sustaining: Dr. A. H. Altern, Chicago; Carl W. Blegen, Athens, Greece; Ole Hanson, Ashland, Wisconsin; Mrs. Dorothy Burton Skårdal, Oslo, Norway; Pastor Jersing Thompson, Rolfe, Iowa; Professor Arthur D. Larson, Washington, D. C.; Pastor G. B. Odegaard, Appleton, Minnesota.

Books

Two books were published by the NAHA in 1965: Carl L. Lokke's *Klondike Saga* and Volume 22 of *Studies*, edited by Kenneth O. Bjork.

The NAHA received a total of 270 book orders in 1965, and 624 volumes were sold. Sales amounted to \$1,696.36. Because *Klondike Saga* was published and distributed by the University of Minnesota Press, sales for 1965 are lower than they have been for the past five years. It should be remembered, however, that the Association saved at least \$1,000 in printing costs by publishing through the University Press. A fairer picture of our sales can be gained by adding \$1,000 to our total sales figures.

Volume 22 of *Studies* led the sales with 121 copies. *Norwegian Migration to America, 1825-1860*, by Theodore C. Blegen, was second with 41 copies. *The Lady with the Pen* edited by C. A. Clausen, and *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* by Clarence A. Glasrud tied for third with 30 copies. *Norwegian Migration to America: the American Transition* by Theodore C. Blegen sold 29; *Norwegian Settlements in the United States* by Carlton C. Qualey, 27; *West of the Great Divide* by Kenneth O. Bjork, 25. All others sold 20 or less copies. A total of 260 copies of *Studies* was sold.

The book sales for the past eight years are as follows: 1958, \$877.09; 1959, \$1,422.49; 1960, \$1,887.64; 1961, \$2,296.61; 1962, \$1,869.75; 1963, \$2,525.90; 1964, \$1,780.80; 1965, \$1,696.36.

Archives

The long-awaited goals of the NAHA Archives were clearly in sight at the close of 1965. The entire backlog of manuscript materials—letters, documents, photographs, and papers—have been processed and described. The O. M. Norlie Collection, which the Association undertook to process and which occupied one year of Miss Beulah Folkedahl's time, is also history.

Miss Folkedahl is currently working on manuscripts belonging to St. Olaf College. This material is being added to the NAHA collection with the understanding that both the manuscripts and the descriptions will be returned to the College when it locates an archives of its own.

Mr. David Grose, a classics student at St. Olaf College, continues his work on the periodicals. It is estimated that the periodical collection will reach final form of organization by June 1, 1966. Considerable work has been done on the newspaper collection, but also much remains to be done.

The donation of books to the archives this past year has been heavy. Approximately ninety per cent of the books received by the Association now duplicate our holdings. This has brought about an ever-increasing collection of duplicates which are too valuable to discard, but at the same time take up considerable space. A major undertaking has been the organizing and the listing of these duplicates in the hope that they can be forwarded to interested individuals or libraries.

As the five-year old objectives of the Archives are being realized, new ones must be formulated. A few come to mind. The manuscript descriptions, at least in abbreviated form, need to be published. We need to establish closer relations with other repositories, and send representatives to conferences, meetings, and institutes which have direct bearing on our work. As costly as it might be, a worthy project would be to make the NAHA Archives the microfilm center for Norwegian-American newspapers.



An attractive exhibit (see picture to left), prepared by David Grose, is currently on display in the St. Olaf College library showcase. Displayed are the publications of the NAHA and representative selections from the Archives. Among the items on display are C. L. Clausen's diary, J. R. Reiersen's **Veiviser**, a **Forklaring** published by Elling Eielsen in 1842, a volume of **Billed-Magazine**, and some America Letters.

Triennial Meeting

The fifteenth triennial meeting of the NAHA will be held May 14, 1966, at the Sons of Norway Center, 1455 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The executive board will meet at 9:30 in the morning and the general business meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m.

The revised and completely re-written NAHA Charter and By-Laws will be presented to the general assembly by the executive board for adoption. The revisions in no manner change the aims or objectives of the Association. They bring the charter up to date in accordance with Minnesota corporation laws, transfer to the By-Laws a number of stipulations formerly — and perhaps incorrectly—located in the charter. The revision also incorporates into the text the amendments adopted since 1925.

Judge Derwood Johnson, a member of the board, has done all of the work connected with this revision. Professor David Graven, University of Minnesota Law School, has examined the revised Charter and By-Laws and found them to be in accord with Minnesota laws.

The afternoon business meeting will be followed by a banquet, also at the Sons of Norway Center. The time for the banquet has been tentatively set for 7:00 p.m.

Gifts from Norway Foundation

NAHA board member Magnus Bjørndal presented to the general fund of the Association a gift of \$250 from the Norway Foundation, Inc. This Foundation was established seven years ago by Mr. Bjørndal for the purpose of giving tax-free money to worthy institutions in Norway. One of the conditions for this type of foundations is that funds must also be given to tax-free American institutions. A number of Mr. Bjørndal's friends have since joined in making contributions to Norway Foundation, Inc., with the same purpose in mind.

At the same time that Mr. Bjørndal designated his contribution to the NAHA, his friend and associate, Dr. Ole Singstad made a contribution of \$350 through the Foundation to St. Olaf College for the new addition to the library. The NAHA will have its new quarters in this addition. The members and officers of the Association are grateful to both Mr. Bjørndal and Mr. Singstad.

Duplicate Books

The NAHA has on hand approximately 1,000 duplicate books. These books have been organized and listed according to author. A limited supply of these lists are available to members upon request. So that the NAHA might be reimbursed for expenses involved, a small charge will be made for each book ordered. Prevailing prices will be charged for copies much in demand. A similar list will also be prepared for our duplicate periodicals.

President Thorsness Honored

Attorney Lionel G. Thorsness, president of the NAHA, was awarded a citation for "Distinguished Public Service" by the Illinois Civil Service Commission and the Personnel Advisory Board on January 17, 1966. The citation concerned especially the contribution Attorney Thorsness has made down through the years as a member of the Illinois State Civil Service Commission.

IN MEMORIAM

The death of Marthinus A. Strand, October 30, 1965, meant a great loss to our country, to the Norwegian-American Historical Association, and to the countless causes he supported. As a member of the executive board of the Norwegian-American Historical Association since 1951, he gave generously of his time, money, and talents. While our sense of loss is great, so is our gratitude for all that Marthinus Strand did and for the comrade he was.

NEW MEMBERS

Since our preceding **News Letter**, 20 new members have been added to the Association. We wish all of them a warm welcome.

Life

Henry Dahl, Dayton, Ohio
Leif A. Rowe, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Helen Nelson Englund, Chicago, Ill. (1966)

Sustaining

Donald O. Rod, Cedar Falls, Iowa
Sons of Norway, Poulsbo Lodge 44,
Poulsbo, Wash.
Vosselaget, Madison, Wisc.
Philip N. Bottman, Seattle, Wash.
(1966)
J. Douglas Lorentzen, Seattle, Wash.
(1966)

Associate

Prof. James L. Larson, Philadelphia, Pa.
Christian K. Skjervold, Fridley, Minn.
Miss Olivia T. Alstergren, Minneapalis,
Minn.
John Christianson, Vermillion, S. D.
Arne Eilertson, The Dalles, Ore.
Col. Franklin W. Patten, Rockville, Md.
Howard B. Christensen, Wausau, Wisc.
Mrs. L. J. Bradley, Omaha, Neb. (1966)
B. H. Overman, Kansas City, Mo. (1966)
Mrs. Bertil Montén, Edina, Minn. (1966)
Dr. V. B. Haarstad, New Orleans, La.
(1966)
Norge Amerika Foreningen, Oslo, Nor-
way (1966)

Page proof for our next publica-
tion, a biography of Rasmus Bjørn
Anderson (Authors Series) is now
in the hands of the editor and his
associate. No definite publication date
has been set.

NAHA OFFICERS

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Lionel G. Thorsness, President, Chicago,
Illinois
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Carl E. Moe (Honorary), Seattle, Wash-
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