

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 36

NOVEMBER 1966

Editor L. HUSTVEDT

New Quarters for NAHA

The Association began moving its properties into its new location early in September. The task has now been completed, but a number of things remain to be done before each item can be permanently located. When we are fully settled, the *Newsletter* hopes to carry some pictures of the offices and stack area.

The NAHA is now located on the ground level of the new St. Olaf College library addition and has a private entrance. The floors are carpeted and fluorescent light fixtures run the full length of each stack aisle, giving our quarters a warm and cheerful atmosphere. All NAHA members passing through Northfield are urged to visit the archives.

Arne J. Opsahl Equips NAHA Offices

The new furniture in the NAHA came across the Atlantic as a gift from Arne J. Opsahl of Hamar, Norway. Mr. Opsahl deals in Norwegian furniture on an international scale. His daughter, Anne, graduated from St. Olaf College in 1965. A second daughter, Britt, is currently enrolled.

Mr. Opsahl's magnificent gift included three desks, three upholstered swivel chairs, one upholstered bench, and six chairs, three of them being arm chairs. All of the pieces represent modern Norwegian furniture design.

Executive Board Increased

The revised charter, drawn up by Judge Derwood Johnson and approved by the executive board, was adopted at the triennial meeting held in Minneapolis, May 14, 1966. Among other things the new charter calls for an executive board of eighteen members. Seven new members were added:

Mr. Henning C. Boe, publisher of the *Western Viking*, Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Gunnar Gundersen, physician and surgeon, Gundersen Clinic, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Dr. Gundersen is also president of the Board of Directors of the Norwegian-American Museum.

Mr. Sevrin A. Haram, prominent New York businessman and importer. Mr. Haram was born in Norway (Haramsøy, not far from Aalesund) and left his homeland for America in 1910.

Dr. Ole G. Landsverk, chairman of board, Landsverk Electrometer Company, Glendale, California.

Mr. Norman O. Olson succeeded Andrew E. Wigeland as treasurer of the NAHA. Mr. Olson holds a partnership in Arthur Anderson & Co. (Chicago accounting firm), and is the vice chairman of the firm's Committee on Accounting Principles and Auditing Procedures.

Dr. Rolf A. Syrdal, professor of religion at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. He was formerly executive secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Mr. Roy N. Thorshov, prominent Minneapolis architect. Mr. Thorshov has for

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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many years served as president of *Torske Klubben* in Minneapolis.

Professor Sverre Arestad, Mr. Magnus Bjorndal, Professor Reidar Dittmann, Mr. Gunnar Gunderson, Professor Lloyd Hustvedt, Judge Derwood Johnson, Dr. David T. Nelson, Attorney Lionel G. Thorsness, Mr. Andrew E. Wigeland, and Mr. Harry Williams were all re-elected to the board.

Lionel G. Thorsness

Re-elected President

The new board convened after the general meeting and elected Lionel G. Thorsness as president. Attorney Thorsness is now serving his fourth term in this office. David T. Nelson, Magnus Bjorndal, and Andrew E. Wigeland were chosen as vice presidents. Mr. Wigeland, treasurer since 1950, requested that he be relieved of this office. Norman O. Olson was then elected as treasurer. Lloyd Hustvedt was re-elected as secretary. Miss Beulah Folkedahl was appointed to serve as archivist.

Helmer Blegen, O. I. Hertsgaard, Carl Søyland, Arne Tvete, and Carl E. Moe, were reappointed as regional chairmen.

Historian Wanted

At its annual meeting held in May, the *Bygdelagenes Fellesråd* (common council for the *bygdelags*) allocated \$6000 for the publication of a history of the *bygdelag* movement in America. O. I. Hertsgaard, president of the *Fellesråd*, stated that his organization hoped that the NAHA would undertake to publish this book, with the *Fellesråd* paying the printing costs.

Editor Kenneth O. Bjork stated that the Association would be interested in publishing a history of the *bygdelags* provided the manuscript — whenever it becomes available — meets the established publication standards of the NAHA.

Scholars interested in writing such a history should communicate directly with Professor Kenneth O. Bjork, Department

of History, University College, P. O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya. This may also be an excellent opportunity for anyone seeking a Ph.D. dissertation topic which might later be published.

Charlotte Jacobson Spearheads Donations for Document Cases

Charlotte Jacobson, Professor of English and Assistant Librarian at St. Olaf College, felt that the Association should have its papers stored in factory prepared document cases. Miss Jacobson serves on the NAHA Archives Committee. Based on an estimated total cost of \$1,000, Miss Jacobson made a gift for one half of this amount.

When Miss Jacobson's gift was announced at the triennial meeting, additional funds were pledged by the following:

Magnus Bjorndal, board member from New Jersey . . .	\$100.00
Mrs. Lorena Gould, life member from Texas . . .	50.00
David T. Nelson, board member from Decorah, Iowa . . .	50.00
Lionel G. Thorsness, president of NAHA, Chicago . . .	100.00
Andrew E. Wigeland, board member from Chicago . . .	100.00

More Gifts

Additional gifts to the Association have also been received:

Norway Foundation . . .	\$250.00
Judge Derwood Johnson . . .	122.00
Attorney Lionel G. Thorsness . . .	90.00

● Deceased: K. R. Andresen, charter member since 1926; Magnus Beck, member since 1963; Dr. Ralph M. Dahlquist, member since 1958; Elling Ellingsen, member since 1947 (Mrs. Ellingsen continues the membership); Oscar Evenson, charter member; Andrew J. Haug, member since 1962; Henry O. Jaastad, member since 1927; H. M. Jacobson, member since 1956. Captain A. H. Nielsen, member since 1927; Professor Herman C. Nordlie, charter member; Ole M. Olson, member since 1965; Mrs. Bryn Ostby, Vice consul at Duluth, Minnesota, member since 1963.

Welcome to 42 New Members

Life

Oak Grove Lutheran High School, Fargo,
North Dakota — Purchased by Olga C.
Eggen, Monrovia, California
S. A. Haram, New York, New York
Prof. James T. Hillestad, New Paltz,
New York
Prof. Nils A. Dahl, Hamden,
Connecticut

Transferred to Life

Dr. Paul Arneson, Mankato, Minnesota
(from Associate)
Hedin Bronner, Chevy Chase, Maryland
(from Sustaining)
J. W. Siverson, Hendricks, Minnesota
(from Sustaining)

Transferred to Patron

Dr. Gunnar Gundersen, La Crosse,
Wisconsin (from Sustaining)
Norman O. Olson, Palatine, Illinois
(from Associate)

Sustaining

Roy E. Jorgensen, Brooklyn, New York
Chester A. Mathison, Evanston, Illinois
Einar N. Engebretson, Northbrook,
Illinois
Henning C. Boe, Seattle, Washington
Dr. Edward S. Carlson, Jr., La Crosse,
Wisconsin

Transferred to Sustaining

William J. Jacobson, Delavan, Wisconsin
Harold S. Langland, Minneapolis,
Minnesota
Stanley Nerdrum, Madison, Wisconsin
Gordon T. Sando, Los Angeles, California
Rev. Earl Soiland, Napa, California

Associate

Torkel Westly, Honolulu, Hawaii
Erling Dittmann, Tønsberg, Norway
Mrs. Aaslaug Bech Cutler, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania
Capt. Sigvard N. Sivertsen, Dover
A.F.B., Delaware
Rev. Marlin E. Ingebretson, Forest City,
Iowa
Myron Florin, Los Angeles, California
Rolf A. Syrdal, Decorah, Iowa
Lt. Raymond Jacobsen, Albert Lea,
Minnesota
Daniel Wrolstad, Two Rivers, Wisconsin
C. G. Skartvedt, Rapid City, South
Dakota
Wm. M. Williamson, Camden, Maine
Laurits W. Krefting, Minneapolis,
Minnesota
Kordillia Johnson, Sioux Falls, South
Dakota
Mrs. Elinor Janson Hudson, Felton,
California
Seraf B. Holter, Fullerton, California

John Fitch, Minneapolis, Minnesota
James M. Christianson, St. Paul,
Minnesota
Daniel Simundson, Alpine, Texas
Ernest W. Solum, Racine, Wisconsin
Concordia Seminary Library, St. Louis,
Missouri
Jeffrey Wrolstad, Cambridge, Wisconsin
Mrs. Mary Rustand, Wainwright,
Alberta, Canada
Mrs. Helen S. Johnson, Los Angeles,
California
Mrs. Ingeborg Thorsness, Slater, Iowa
Miss Carolyn Vogland, Minneapolis,
Minnesota
Olav S. Engen, Seattle, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Paulson,
Inglewood, California
Dr. Thorolf E. Gundersen, La Crosse,
Wisconsin
Mrs. Gertrude Boe Overby, Northfield,
Minnesota
Mrs. Harold Simerson, Belmond, Iowa
David F. Schmidt, St. Louis, Missouri
Eyvind Ager, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Ken Olson, Des Plaines, Illinois

Greetings from the Governor

I have held your letter inviting Mrs. Rolvaag and me to the Triennial Banquet of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. . . .

Unfortunately, it now appears certain that I cannot be with you. I am particularly sorry since the Society has been so much a part of my life. I clearly remember the many meetings held in my father's study when the spade work was done in the founding of the Society.

Please express to all those present my congratulations on the excellence achieved, my best wishes for further development and my regrets at not being present.

Sincerely yours,
KARL F. ROLVAAG
Governor
State of Minnesota

● Glen Tucker quotes from the *Civil War Letters of Colonel Hans Heg* and refers to the Historical Association in his book *Chickamauga*.

● Professor James T. Hillestad of New Paltz, New York, subscribed to a life membership and at the same time bought a complete set of available NAHA publications.

Books Make Good Christmas Gifts

If each member bought one available NAHA book as a Christmas gift, we would have a record sale for 1966. More-over more persons would become familiar with our work, a fact fully as important as the additional income.

Theodore C. Blegen's two volumes, *Norwegian Migration to America* and Kenneth O. Bjork's *West of the Great Divide* are still available. These books together with Carlton C. Qualey's *Norwegian Settlement in the United States* are appreciated by all for their basic quality.

For women we would quickly recommend *The Diary of Elisabeth Koren* or *The Lady with the Pen*.

Judging from the letters we have received, older persons have enjoyed *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson*. Many of them remember this colorful man and his work.

Business men and engineers would undoubtedly favor books like *Saga in Steel and Concrete* by Kenneth O. Bjork, and Birger Osland's *A Long Pull from Stavanger*.

For other selections you may refer to

your *Studies*, Volume 22. It contains a list of the NAHA books. Members are reminded that they receive a 25% discount on all book orders. The secretary's office will mail the books for you, with a suitable card enclosed. Unless instructed to the contrary, all gift orders will be mailed out December 15-18, but please place your orders now

News in Brief

● The latest NAHA publication, *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson: Pioneer Scholar* has now been distributed to all paid up members. Any eligible member, who has not received this book, should notify the secretary.

● Peder H. Nelson of Northwood, North Dakota, had an article on the NAHA, "Det Norske-Amerikanske Historielag gjennom 40 år," in *Nordmanns-Forbundet*, February, 1966.

● C. W. Schevenius of Minneapolis has reviewed *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson* in *Minnesota Posten*, Minneapolis, (October 27). Bertram Jensenius reviewed the book in his newspaper, *Vinland*, Chicago, (October 27). Both reviewers lauded the book and the work of the Association.

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