

THE NEWS LETTER

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Secretary and
"Newsletter" Editor,
LLOYD HUSTVEDT

St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota

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Kenneth O. Bjork Heads Editorial Board

When Theodore C. Blegen retired as managing editor last spring, it was no surprise that Professor Bjork was appointed his successor. His membership on the editorial board dates back to 1939—twenty-one years. Ten of the articles appearing in our *Studies and Records* series, and two monumental works, *Saga in Steel and Concrete* and *West of the Great Divide*, have come from his pen.

Northfield's Busiest Man

Besides being managing editor for the Norwegian-American Historical Association (which could well be a full time job), Professor Bjork is chairman of the department of history at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. He serves on a number of major college committees, is active in the Rice County Historical Association as one of its directors, is chairman of the Governor's Committee for Refugee Relief, and until recently served as secretary for the Upper Midwest History Conference.

Of Norwegian Ancestry

Professor Bjork's paternal grandparents left their home in Sogn, Norway, for America in 1861 and settled in Mona, Iowa, not far from the well known St. Ansgar settlement. His mother's parents (Arneson), who settled in North Dakota, emigrated from Solør, Norway, in 1880. Kenneth Bjork's father, Theodore S., left Iowa to engage in business at Enderlin, North Dakota, where Kenneth was born in 1909.

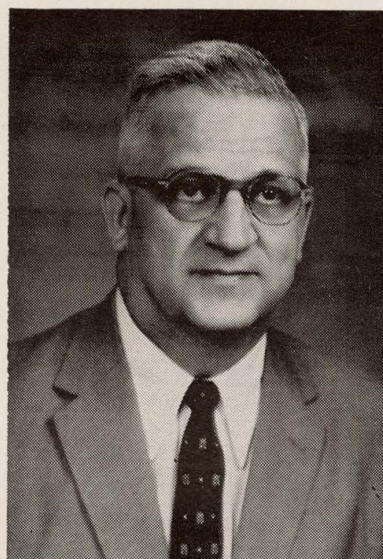
Influenced by Rolvaag

When Kenneth Bjork attended St. Olaf College (1926-1930), one of his teachers was the renowned author, Ole E. Rølvaag. He, says Bjork, influenced in no small measure his profound interest in Norwegian emigrant history.

After graduating from St. Olaf in 1930, he took his graduate work in history at the University of Wisconsin, receiving his Ph.D. in 1935. During his years of graduate work, he spent one year of study abroad. After teaching history for two years at the University of Montana, he came to St. Olaf College in 1937. With the exception of teaching under the Army Specialized Training Program at the University of Wisconsin during World War II, and one semester as a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan, he has remained at St. Olaf ever since. He spent last year in Norway as a Fulbright scholar, doing research on Norwegian emigration.

"A Review and a Challenge"

Professor Bjork's debut in the NAHA took place a year after he came to St. Olaf. Together with Dean



Theodore C. Blegen, he wrote *A Review and a Challenge*, a work which articulated the objectives and aspirations of the Historical Association with such force and clarity that we find ourselves returning constantly to it for guidance and inspiration. At this time he also became a member of the editorial board and down through the years he has been one of its great work horses. In a recent letter to the executive board, Dean Blegen wrote: "I am pleased that Dr. Bjork has taken over the editorship, and I know that he will bring new ideas and new force into our program of publication."

More Than Scholarship and High Standards

Professor Bjork, however, brings to the Association more than just scholarship and high editorial standards. His congenial and democratic manner makes him ever the diplomat. As trite and even abused as the expression might often be, one instinctively thinks of him when the remark, "a gentleman and a scholar," is mentioned. Because of our good fortune to have a man like Kenneth O. Bjork as our managing editor, our only tangible expression of gratitude can be to match, in part at least, his dedication to the cause which motivates all of us.

WELCOME

A warmest welcome to all 41 of you who have become members of the N.A.H.A. in 1960.

Life

- Dr. C. A. Clausen, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.
New College Library, New College, Oxford, England
(gift from David T. Nelson, Decorah).
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Mr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 2109-F Hoyt Ave. W., St.
Paul, Minn.

Beulah Folkedahl To Work On Archives

Miss Beulah Folkedahl of Madison, Wisconsin, will assist the cataloguer, Mrs. Leonora Hallan, in organizing the NAHA collection. Miss Folkedahl will take over the preliminary sorting and classifying of letters, documents, newspapers, photographs, etc., which is necessary before final cataloguing can take place. She expects to begin work on December 1.

5000 Books Catalogued

Approximately 5000 books are now catalogued, with at least 1000 still to be processed. More complex and more time consuming, however, will be the cataloguing of our vast collection of unpublished materials. Getting Miss Folkedahl to assist in this work marks a significant step ahead in our effort to organize our archives in terms of professional standards.

Teacher and Writer

Miss Folkedahl has been a teacher in the academies and junior colleges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and has done considerable historical research for its department of charities. She has written articles for the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* and for our *Studies and Records*. Her biography of Even Homme, the Wittenberg, Wisconsin, humanitarian, was published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. She has also been employed by the research division of that Society.

More Support from St. Olaf College

Her salary will be paid by St. Olaf College, another magnificent contribution from the school that has already done so much for us. We are indebted to St. Olaf for providing facilities for archives and offices, for the services of a professional cataloguer, for light, heat and office equipment, and in addition is a sustaining member in the Association. For all this we gratefully acknowledge the interest of President Clemens M. Granskou and the college he commands.

Association Loses Two Good Friends



Carl Ludvig Lokke, 1897-1960

Carl Ludvig Lokke, historian, archivist, productive scholar and member of our editorial board, died April 3, 1960.

Product of the Great Northwest

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1897, he was the son of Norwegian-American parents, Oscar and Carrie Gunderson Lokke. Much of his youth, however, was passed in the rugged Seward peninsula in Alaska. He received his elementary training in a Territorial school for Eskimos. After one year of high school in Nome, Alaska, he completed his secondary education in the state of Washington. He received his A.B. degree at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1922, with majors in German and history, and his A.M. from the same school the following year. While holding a teaching fellowship at the University of California, he attracted the attention of the eminent Professor Carlton J. H. Hayes from Columbia University, who influenced Lokke to go to New York for higher graduate studies. Columbia University awarded him a fellowship for 1924-25 and a lectureship in history, 1925-29. In 1932 Columbia University conferred upon him its Ph.D. degree. His thesis, *France and the Colonial Question*, was published.

He began his Federal career in 1935 as an archivist in the new National Archives in Washington, D. C. He possessed the qualities so vital in such work, perseverance, accuracy, vision and careful attention to detail. He was not only invaluable for the organization of the National Archives, but did much to advance the archival profession itself. Among the many duties he performed, he was supervisor of the Executive and Courts sections, and from 1949 to 1960 was chief of the Foreign Affairs Branch.

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Mrs. Inga Norstog, 1885-1960

Mrs. Inga Norstog, director emeritus of the Norwegian-American Historical Museum in Decorah, died in a Madison, Connecticut, hospital on July 13. Funeral services were held at First Lutheran Church, Watford City, North Dakota, July 18.

Director for Twelve Years

Director of the Luther College-owned Museum for twelve years (1947-1959), Mrs. Norstog resigned last fall because of failing health. She went to New Haven, Connecticut, to live with her son Dr. Knut Norstog, who has been doing post-doctoral study at Yale University.

A daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. Adolph Bredesen, Mrs. Norstog was born in Stoughton, Wisconsin, December 11, 1885. After receiving her B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin, she taught in the Stoughton high school and Central high school in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She did graduate work in the Norwegian language and literature at the University of Minnesota.

In 1919, she married Jon Norstog, from North Dakota, a significant poet, novelist and personality in Norwegian-American literature. That same year she was awarded an American Scandinavian Foundation scholarship and spent a year at the University of Oslo. Upon her return, she moved with her husband to North Dakota, where she later served as County Superintendent of Schools in McKenzie County for ten years (1927-1937).

In 1953 Mrs. Norstog was named the "Woman of the Year" by the Decorah branch of the American Association of University Women.

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Carl Ludvig Lokke

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Completed Manuscript

Of the 121 articles written by Lokke in the historical journals of our country, two appeared in our *Studies and Records*: "From the Klondike to Kougarok" (16:161-189), and Knut L. Gravem's "Pioneering in Alaska" (21:111-142). Before he died, Lokke had completed a manuscript treating Norwegian gold seekers in the Yukon entitled *The Klondikers*. At its last meeting the executive board of the NAHA authorized the publication of this manuscript; it may follow the "Texas Book."

Harold T. Pinkett of the National Archives wrote this impression: "Great affability, modesty, and intellectual interest were readily recognizable qualities of Lokke. He had the unusual, happy gift of constant agreeability, evenness of temper, and other traits that combined to give him the power of pleasing without any visible effort. He made no ostentation of his very considerable scholarly talents and attainments."*

*Cited by H. B. Font in "Carl Ludvig Lokke," *The American Archivist*, vol. 23 (July, 1960), pp. 285-295. The writer of this article is also indebted to H. B. Font for data concerning Carl L. Lokke.

"Texas Book" Out In The Spring

According to Dr. Kenneth Bjork, managing editor, the book of Texas letters written by Elise Wærenskjold will appear early in 1961.

Also marked for early publication is volume 21 of *Studies and Records*. Likely future volumes are Carl L. Lokke's *The Klondikers* and Professor Clarence Glasrud's biography of H. H. Boyesen. Under consideration is J. C. M. Hanson's autobiography—the log book of one of America's greatest librarians.

The executive board approved a plan providing for the publication of two books a year in 1961 and 1962.

Acknowledged By Sons of Norway

Gilman P. Gandrud, Secretary for the Supreme Lodge of the Sons of Norway, sent us recently the following words:

"On behalf of the Supreme Lodge of the Sons of Norway, it is a pleasure to forward the following resolution adopted at the International Convention held August 11-13, 1960.

BE IT RESOLVED that this convention conveys its appreciation to the Norwegian American Historical Association for its efforts in making a permanent record of the Norwegian Immigrants' part in the settling and upbuilding of this continent.

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

- N. H. F. Olsen of Dearborn, Michigan, was recently honored by the Society of Automotive Engineers of Detroit. Mr. Olsen has been an active member of that Society for 35 years.
- Malcolm Rosholt of Rosholt, Wisconsin, has written an impressive work of 600 pages entitled *Our County Our Story*. It is a history of Portage County and 21 pages are devoted to the Scandinavians in his chapter entitled "Ethnic Groups of Portage County."
- A bouquet to Miss Olga C. Eggen. She has maintained three gift memberships for five years.
- Marcus O. Swenson of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, died recently. Mr. Swenson, who held many patents on inventions in the field of heating and plumbing, founded the nationally known M. O. Swenson Company in 1921.
- Dr. Rolf C. Syvertsen, a member of the NAHA since 1939, died last January. He was a member of the faculty of Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, New Hampshire.
- The Reverend Ingvald Lavik of Clear Lake, Iowa, and a member since 1947, died August 2.
- Our total membership is now 856, 636 Associate, 127 Sustaining, 90 Life, and 3 Patron. Our goal is 1500.

Mrs. Inga Norstog

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Helped Foster Interest

Dr. J. W. Ylvisaker, president of Luther College, said of Mrs. Norstog: "As director of the Norwegian American Historical Museum Mrs. Norstog has been indefatigable in its interests. In the tradition of her predecessors she has maintained the same high standards, has acquired for the institution valuable additions to the exhibits, and has succeeded in marked degree in bringing the Museum to the attention of the public. She has been an able representative of both Luther College and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Under their sponsorship she has had a large part in helping to preserve the cultural contributions of the Norwegian people in America for present and succeeding generations and to foster interest in the Museum as a unique institution among the museums of the country."

Note to Members—If you have not paid your dues for 1960, please do so before December 31, the close of our fiscal year.

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