

The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association

NEWS



LETTER

Northfield, Minnesota

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

NUMBER 56

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

NOVEMBER, 1978

## Triennial Meeting

Some fifty members were present at the business meeting held at the Minneapolis Athletic Club on September 30, and 114 members and guests attended the evening banquet. The honored guests at the banquet were Norwegian Consul and Mrs. Haakon Storhaug, Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Olaf College President Sidney A. Rand and his wife Lois, and the Reverend Carl W. Schevenius. The most moving moment of the occasion was when the 100-year-old Schevenius delivered the invocation. Sure of foot and voice, he shared with us briefly his faith, sincerity, and poetry.

John Christianson, chairman of the department of history at Luther College, gave the banquet address, "Women in Norwegian-American Cultural Life." He showed how traditions and movements in Norway were transported from that country and continued in the New World. He noted how early literary figures like Elisabeth Koren transmitted her values to a younger set of women writers and scholars. Norma Arnesen Knutson presided over the banquet. She and Howard B. Knudsen were on the planning committee.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The main function of the triennial meeting is to elect the governing body of the NAHA for the forthcoming triennium, and to inform the members of the activities that have transpired over the past three years.

### ELECTIONS

Executive Board: Arthur O. Davidson, President; Roy N. Thorshov, Vice President; Arthur Andersen III, Treasurer; Lloyd Hustvedt, Secretary; Oscar A. Anderson, Henning C. Boe, John Christianson, Reidar Dittmann, Rolf H. Erickson, Kjetil Flatin, Gunnar Gundersen, Derwood Johnson, Norma Arnesen Knutson, Ole G. Landsverk, Elsie M. Melby, Janet E. Rasmussen, Rolf A. Syrdal, G. Norman Wigeland, and Harry J. Williams. After the Board had been elected, it re-appointed Elaine Kringen as Assistant Secretary and Charlotte Jacobson as Archivist.

See elsewhere in this *Newsletter* for a statement on new Board members.

Board of Publications: No changes transpired here. Kenneth O. Bjork was re-elected Editor, and by virtue of this position he is also a member of the Executive Board. Serving with him are Arlow W. Andersen, Carl H. Christlock, C. A. Clausen, Erik J. Friis, Clarence A. Glasrud, Einar Haugen, Odd S. Lovoll, Peter A. Munch, and Carlton C. Qualey.

### MEMBERSHIP

<i>As of Jan. 1, 1975</i>		<i>As of Dec. 31, 1977</i>	<i>Gains/Losses</i>
Associate	657	752	+95
Sustaining	175	172	- 3
Patron	29	37	+ 8
Life	153	235	+82
	<u>1014</u>	<u>1196</u>	<u>+182</u>

<i>Members added 1975-1978</i>		<i>Cancellations</i>	<i>Gains/Losses</i>
Associate	327	203	+124
Sustaining	50	36	+14
Patron	19	13	+ 6
Life	38*	-----	+38
	<u>434</u>	<u>-252</u>	<u>+182</u>

\* Does not include members who have transferred to life.

Since 1925, 4647 persons have subscribed to a membership in the Association (as of December 31, 1977).

#### FINANCIAL PROFILE

January 1, 1975 - December 31, 1977

##### *Sources of Income*

		<i>% of total</i>
Dues .....	\$28,441.50	38%
Book sales & royalties .....	\$14,819.94	20%
Interest on investment .....	\$10,195.54	14%
Gifts .....	\$19,928.79	26%
Miscellaneous income .....	\$ 1,306.70	2%
Total .....	\$74,692.47	100%

##### *Expenditures*

Publications and related expenses .....	\$53,070.90	74%
Archives, clerical help postage, membership promotion, services, etc. ....	\$18,655.72	26%
	\$71,726.62	100%

*Income over Expense* ..... \$ 2,965.85

#### PERMANENT FUNDS

*Income over  
past 3 years*

*Fund total as of  
December 31, 1977*

Chair in Immigration Studies .....	\$ 973.44	\$ 7,073.44
Ole Edvart Rølvaag Permanent Fund	9,050.00	34,440.37
Blegen Memorial Fund	7,143.06	38,387.68
Sigvald Quale Memorial Fund .....	318.75	5,338.41

Increase in permanent funds over the past three years ..... \$23,485.25

Total of permanent funds as of December 31, 1977 ..... \$85,239.90

Operating fund balance as of December 31, 1977 ..... 31,926.24

Total Assets ..... \$117,166.14

#### EDITOR'S REPORT

Editor Kenneth O. Bjork surveyed the publications produced over the past three years: *A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America*, by Odd S. Lovoll; *The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1925-1975*, by Lovoll and Bjork; *Kristofer Janson in America*, by Nina Draxten; volume 27 of *Norwegian-American Studies*; *Cultural Pluralism versus Assimilation*; and *Theodore C. Blegen: A Memoir*, by John T. Flanagan. In addition, the members



received two books not published by the Association: *The Norwegian-Americans*, by Arlow W. Andersen and *Blow, Silver Wind*, by Erik Bye.

Looking ahead, the editor noted that the forthcoming book on Bjornson's visit and lecture tour to American in 1880-81 will be the 60th publication of the NAHA. This book is in its final stages of printing. Volume 28 of *Studies* is in preparation and will come out in 1979. A translation of Johan R. Reiersen's 1844 guide, *Veiviser for norske emigranter*, may also see publication in 1979.

Kenneth O. Bjork's closing paragraph merits quoting:

"It is my sincere hope that our loyal members will leave this triennial meeting with a renewed feeling of the challenges and opportunities of the future. To meet the challenges, we will need continued loyalty and greater financial support than we have received in the past. We need perhaps even more the energy and ideas of the young. Unlike General MacArthur's army officers, our older members and leaders don't just fade away, but each year they are a bit older and slightly less vigorous. I urge you to keep the young in mind as you recruit new members, and to give serious thought to how we can expand our activities in the years to come."

#### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new members were added to the Board at the triennial meeting. They filled vacancies left by the deaths of Andrew A. Kindem and Sverre E. Svendsen. Leonard Arentsen, a partner in the Arthur Andersen and Company, could not continue as Treasurer after he accepted a new assignment in Kentucky.

Replacing Arentsen as Treasurer is Arthur Andersen III, a grandson of the founder of the internationally known accounting firm which has its main offices in Chicago. He is an officer in the company which bears his name. His grandfather was president of the NAHA from 1936 to 1942.

Rolf H. Erickson worked in the NAHA Archives as a student at St. Olaf College. He holds an M.A. in library science and is currently the head of the circulation department at Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Illinois. Ever since coming to Evanston in 1966, he has scoured the Chicago area for material for the Archives. He is the co-editor of *From Fjord to Prairie* and *With Our Hands and Minds*.

Janet E. Rasmussen, clearly the youngest member of the Board, is an assistant professor in the department of modern languages at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard in 1975, concentrating on Scandinavian literature. She is a member of the Scandinavian Studies Committee at PLU, is a productive scholar, and has studied in both Norway and Denmark.

#### CHRISLOCK HONORED

Carl H. Chrislock, professor of history, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, has been named by the Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Missouri, to receive its annual "Certificate of Award." It is given in recognition of Chrislock's article, "Name Change and the Church," which was published in volume 27 (1977) of *Norwegian-American Studies*. The award will be presented at the Institute's annual Board of Governors banquet on November 16 at St. Louis.

The Concordia Historical Institute houses the largest collection of American Lutheran resources: documents, books, periodicals, photographs, etc. It publishes the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* and promotes interest and research in American Lutheran history.

#### GRANT FROM NORWAY

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo announced recently that, through its "Norwegian Emigration Fund of 1975," it had awarded the Norwegian-American Historical Association a grant amounting to 25,000 Norwegian crowns (approximately \$5,000.) Its letter stated that the award should support the general activities of the Association and specified that much of it should be used for strengthening the newspaper collection. We appreciate the significant financial support this grant provides, but of equal importance is the recognition the NAHA has received from Norway.

### DUES GO UP

The Executive Board found it necessary to increase dues. Beginning January 1, 1979, the schedule will be as follows: Associate \$15, but students and senior citizens (65 and over) may carry this membership at the old rate of \$10); Sustaining \$20; Patron \$30; and Life \$150 (one payment). A special feature, however, was added: anyone who has held a membership in the NAHA for ten or more years may transfer to a life membership at the old rate of \$100.

The Board debated whether it would be advisable not to raise dues, but instead to encourage voluntary donations. A decision to raise the dues was reached, however, largely because of financial figures over the past three years. They revealed that the total income from dues and book sales over this period came to \$43,261, but publication expenses amounted to \$53,071. For organizations such as ours the rule of thumb is that dues and book sales should match publication costs, leaving other income categories for the Archives and special projects. These figures do not mean that the Association suffered a net deficit; in fact, total income exceeded expenditures by \$3,000. They only mean that gifts and other income categories had to assist in our publication program.

### THANK YOU!

Henry Halvorson and his wife Janet presented the NAHA with a gift of \$1,000. Halvorson, now retired, was formerly a vice president of Ginn and Co., a publishing firm in Boston, Mass. He has also served on the St. Olaf College Board of Regents for the past fourteen years, and has been a member of the NAHA for twenty-two years.

### RØLVAAG IN FRANCE

J.M. Capello, a Rølvaag scholar from Rouen, France, recently spent some time in the Archives. Upon leaving he wrote:

"Just a few words to tell you how much I feel indebted to you for the days I have been able to spend at the NAHA Archives . . .

"I have really enjoyed reading the Rølvaag Papers. Unfortunately I have not been able to go through all of them but the letters I have read have been of value to me. I know Rølvaag more personally than before both as author and as man."

### SPECIAL OFFER

Members may buy any six of the following listed books for \$22. The price includes postage. The offer lasts until January 1, 1979.

1. *Norwegian Sailors in American Waters*, by Knut Gjerset, 271 pp.

2. *The Changing West and Other Essays*, by Laurence M. Larson, 180 pp.

3. *Saga in Steel and Concrete*, by Kenneth O. Bjork, 504 pp.

4. *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen*, by Clarence Glasrud, 245 pp.

5. *A Long Pull from Stavanger*, by Birger Osland, 263 pp.

6. *Peter Testman's Account of His Experiences in North America*, 60 pp.

7. *Noway's New Saga of the Sea*, by Lise Lindbaek, Tr. Nora Solum, 251 pp.

8. *Salt of the Earth*, by Arlow Andersen, 337 pp.

9. *From Fjord to Prairie*, 165 pp.

Only the numbers need to be cited when orders are made.

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