

**The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association**

Northfield, Minnesota



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

NUMBER 94

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

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## **In Memoriam**

### **Charlotte Jacobson 1909-1995**

Below is a selection of excerpts from a memorial statement made at Charlotte Jacobson's funeral, December 29, 1995. Lloyd Hustvedt spoke on behalf of St. Olaf College and the NAHA:

"When I came to St. Olaf College as a student in the fall of 1942, I noticed a person who came to chapel regularly on crutches. She wore a sturdy steel brace on one leg. There was something efficient and nonchalant about the way she handled her handicap — so much so that I ceased to think of her as handicapped. I learned later that this was the way Charlotte wanted it.

Earlier she had been President Lars Boe's secretary. Now she worked in the registrar's office. When I returned from military service in 1946, Charlotte was a librarian and taught part-time in the English department — courses in poetry. In spirit Charlotte belonged to the "Lars Boe Palace Guard." This meant loyalty that asked for no reward and a vision of what St. Olaf College could become without smugness for what it already was.

At a recognition dinner held in her honor in 1988, Leigh Jordahl and Forrest Brown, former librarians, spoke not only of her competence and commitment, but of a special trait that was hers, a quality of character that provided the cement needed for library staff cohesion. The sharper edges of individualism and undue pursuit of private ambitions seemed out of place when Charlotte was present.

When Charlotte retired in 1974, she took over the NAHA Archives, succeeding Beulah Folkedahl who had died a year earlier in 1973. For sixteen years she occupied an office next to mine. In an official sense I was her superior, but not once in the course of those years did I ever tell her what to do or how to do it.

From my point of view Charlotte was made for this task, but this might be true for anything else she undertook to do. She could convert chaos into order and that is what archivists are supposed to do. She had a historian's sense for what was relevant. She was therefore a stern keeper of the gate. Not everything that begged, received eternal life in our archives. She was no pedant. Charlotte recognized that collections could have a character and integrity of their own that required patterns of organization that could differ one from the other. Her fine command of the English language came into daily use, and her knowledge of Norwegian, especially the printed and handwritten forms, continued to surprise me. Everyone who wrote a book wanted Charlotte to prepare the index, because she was so good at it.

The better I learned to know Charlotte the greater a person she became. There was inexhaustible courage, unflinching integrity, depth of character, generosity in both a material and spiritual sense, gratitude for the smallest favors and forthrightness on matters of conviction but never in defense of self. Whenever I felt the need to whine and complain a bit about how shabbily life was treating me, I tried hard not to think of Charlotte. That would spoil everything.

I am consoled by the knowledge that Charlotte's years as an archivist were happy ones. She ruled over a kingdom that was entirely her own. The results of her work were there for herself and others to see. She left that kingdom in far better order than it was when she found it.

Today we bury not only Charlotte Jacobson, but a piece of St. Olaf College and the NAHA as well. That is the sad part. The good part is that what she gave us, no one can take away."

## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1995

(The below consists of selected portions from a longer report presented to the NAHA Board, February 17, 1996.) The NAHA made substantial gains on all fronts in 1995:

**Publications.** Our editor, Odd S. Lovoll, provided us and the world of books with two publications, *Norwegian Yankee: Knute Nelson and the Failure of American Politics, 1860-1923* by Millard L. Gieske and Steven J. Keillor, and *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 34, for a total of 786 pages and a combined retail value of \$48. Our associate members in particular have been well rewarded. The publication of *Norwegian Yankee* was celebrated in Knute Nelson's restored home in Alexandria, Minnesota, in June. The event was hosted by Lawrence Hauge. *Studies*, vol. 34, remains to be fêted.

**Membership.** By year's end we claimed 2,014 members. This figure includes the names of 214 life members who have died. Because their single payment dues continue to serve the NAHA, they are transferred upon death to a memorial roster. We have 1,800 active members who receive our publications.

We added 135 members in 1995, but we also lost 90 for a net gain of 45. A strong pattern of members moving into higher membership categories is most encouraging. Out of 176 transfers, 132 members moved to a higher level. For example, we began the year with 49 patron members and closed with 103. A few years ago we had only seven members in this category. Odd S. Lovoll has been diligent in distributing our membership brochure to prospective members on his travels to Norwegian strongholds across our country in connection with his Contemporary History Project research and interviews.

**Book Sales.** For many years our book sales have stood at a solid \$6,000. This year they rose to \$8,700, an all-time high. In addition to selling more books, our recent publications command a higher price than was formerly true.

**Book Inventory.** Out of 85 titles we have published, 52 are still in print. Our inventory of 7,304 copies is not balanced. For example, we have only two copies of *Studies* vol. 24 and 432 copies of *Material Culture*.

Our practice of awarding members who add a gift of \$20 or more to their dues with a book of their choice from our high inventory stock has helped to shave down our inventory peaks. It will do so as long as this practice prevails.

**Archives.** Old patterns prevail. Much of the incoming material — reported on in our *Newsletter* — is related to family history. This is also true for many who frequent our archives. Some of the histories we receive reflect diligent research which incorporate valuable letters, diaries and journals. They speak to more than the family itself. At the other end are bare bones family charts and trees that are of interest mainly to current and future members of a particular family.

Forrest Brown has begun to "fine-tune" our manuscript collection. Because archivists cannot foresee what future acquisitions will bring, later consolidation of materials can become necessary. For example, the *Minneapolis Tidende* clipping file is a vast hodge-podge of material, topically classified. The obituaries and biographical accounts found there should properly be added to our Rowberg File, similarly other material in this file might strengthen other collections. For example, Rølvaag material should move to our Rølvaag collection.

We also have the good fortune of having a volunteer worker. Lee Rokke comes in from Apple Valley each Thursday to work on our photograph collection. To date she is working on church-related photos, pastors, confirmation classes, church structures, etc. The task is to identify each photo and then place them in acid-free envelopes. Lee Rokke is the wife of a retired minister and is a competent genealogist.

Elsewhere we make known our financial resources. But, there are other forms of assets. We have a solid core of loyal and faithful members. Year after year they pay their dues, and many go the extra mile with a gift. Among them are persons like Harriet Hustvedt, Alfred Olson, John Erickson, and one who wishes to remain anonymous, who each year provide unsolicited gifts of \$1,000 or more. Ruth Crane, our assistant secretary, is in her tenth year with the NAHA. Since the day Ruth arrived she has done the work of two. According to our editor, equally valuable services have for even a longer period of time been provided by Mary Hove, our editorial assistant. They have all helped to make 1995 a successful year. See membership chart below.

### Membership Figures Showing Gains and Losses by Membership Category

Category	1-1-95	New	Trans. In	Cancelled	Trans. Out	12-31-95	Gain/Loss
Associate	738	90	39	77	96	694	- 44
Sustaining	269	23	70	12	69	281	+ 12
Patron	49	6	60	1	11	103	+ 54
Life	715	16	7		16	722	+ 7
	<b><u>1,771</u></b>	<b><u>135</u></b>	<b><u>176</u></b>	<b><u>90</u></b>	<b><u>192</u></b>	<b><u>1,800</u></b>	<b><u>+ 29</u></b>
*Deceased Life	<u>198</u>		<u>16</u>			<u>214</u>	<u>+ 16</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>+ 45</b>

\*Upon death, Life members are transferred to a Memorial Roster. Their dues, allocated to the Rølvaag permanent fund, continue to serve the NAHA.

### Financial Statement An Overview

Andrew Wigeland, for many years our much-loved treasurer, always began his annual report with the following and entirely predictable words: "We are solvent." Board members would then chuckle knowingly as Andy went on to show that what he had just said was true. There were years, however, when this was just barely so.

We have had a good year. Based on beginning of year balances, our interest returns came to 5.18%. A capital gains yield of 3.03% lifted the combined returns to 8.21%.

Our assets rose by \$47,581, crossing the million mark. We need to be mindful that 40% of our assets rests in the Bjork Chair Fund where the proceeds, save for \$3,000, goes automatically to St. Olaf College. This year our payment to the College will be \$18,300, an increase of \$2,600 over last year. When this payment has been made our Bjork Fund will approximate \$410,000. Outstanding pledges and capital gains in 1995 lifted this fund, for the first time, to a level above our established goal of \$400,000.

The 1995 statement shows that our Current Fund revenues exceeded expenses by more than \$5,000. Reality, however, presents another picture. The printing statement (\$16,000) for volume 34 of *Studies*, published in November, was received and paid for in 1996. In a word, a major 1995 cost item will be reflected in the 1996 report.

The ongoing drain on our reserves in our Current Fund bears out the value of the Rølvaag Fund. In 1995 it supported our operation with an income of \$13,200. Our earlier resolution to funnel annually \$3,000 from the Fosholt-Hyde Fund (archives) into our Current fund has helped a great deal. As has been true for reports of recent years, this one also supports the wisdom of steadily building the Rølvaag Fund to new and higher levels. The practice of allocating all unspecified gifts to the Rølvaag Fund will be continued. This fund grew by \$30,634 in 1995. A specially-planned campaign to raise funds for this particular fund might help to hasten the day for a more generous Current Fund budget.



While we need to focus our attention on how Current Fund income can better meet our basic operational needs, there is no need to push alarm buttons. Save for the Sigvald Qvale Fund (Norwegian Society), all endowment funds rose to new highs, with an overall growth rate of 4.54%. Our assets, as mentioned earlier, increased by \$44,455 in 1995. This figure, by the way, takes into account a yet-to-be paid payment of \$18,200 to St. Olaf College.

The grants made in 1995 appear only as dollar figures. Some clarification might be useful:

1. A grant of \$2,000 to the Norwegian-American Contemporary History Project. Because this grant is designed to defray project telephone costs, the grant was transferred into our Current Fund, the fund that pays these telephone bills on a monthly basis. The practice will continue until the grant has been exhausted.

2. A grant of \$3,000 from the Fosholt-Hyde (Archives) Fund to the Current Fund is now an automatic annual transfer.

3. A grant of \$1,000 from the Sigvald Qvale Fund (Norwegian Society) to the Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Scholarship is also an in-house transfer. The NAHA owns both funds. Rightly understood, the NAHA serves as permanent trustee of the Qvale Fund, pledged to use the income to advance the interest of Norwegian studies in America.

This report does not cover the Haugen Scholarship Fund, but the accountant's statement due to come out in April or May will do so.

## Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 1995

This report will be superseded by accountant's compilation

Revenues	Current Fund	Endowment Funds	1995 Total	1994 Total
Assoc., Sust., Patron Dues	29,335.16		29,335.16	26,182.00
Life Memberships		5,000.00	5,000.00	4,993.00
Book Sales	8,703.11		8,703.11	6,018.00
Gifts/Bequests	1,000.00	20,736.05	18,820.75	32,219.00
Interest on Investments	1,496.58	35,309.93	36,806.51	32,889.00
Endowment Income	13,213.73		13,213.73	11,112.00
Capital Gains	800.73	28,522.91	29,323.64	9,483.00
Miscellaneous Income	2,665.27		2,665.27	3,189.00
Blegen Grant	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Fosholt Transfer	<u>3,000.00</u>		<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>62,214.58</b>	<b>89,568.89</b>	<b>151,783.47</b>	<b>129,085.00</b>
Expenditures				
Salaries	17,419.17	3,040.50	20,459.67	17,373.00
Printing	19,747.97		19,747.97	25,324.00
Postage	11,215.55		11,215.55	7,912.00
Supplies	2,228.29		2,228.29	2,168.00
Telephone	1,722.62		1,722.62	898.00
Equipment	184.15		184.15	497.00
Travel		80.00	80.00	
Accounting Fees	3,900.00		3,900.00	3,900.00
Book Refunds	13.35		13.35	18.84
Grants		21,905.00	21,905.00	17,957.00
Deposit, Triennial Meeting	500.00		500.00	
Archives expenses		<u>1,245.47</u>	<u>1,245.47</u>	<u>636.00</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>56,931.10</b>	<b>26,270.97</b>	<b>83,202.07</b>	<b>76,981.00</b>
<b>Net Increase</b>	<b>5,283.48</b>	<b>63,297.92</b>	<b>65,666.10</b>	<b>491.04</b>
<b>Fund Balance Jan. 1, 1995</b>	<b>38,465.00</b>	<b>924,063.00</b>	<b>965,528.00</b>	<b>916,424.00</b>
<b>Fund Balance Dec. 31, 1995</b>	<b>43,748.48</b>	<b>987,360.92</b>	<b>1,031,109.40</b>	<b>965,528.00</b>

### Endowment Funds - Revenues and Expenditures for year ended December 31, 1995

Endowment Revenue	Bjork Chair Fund	Blegen Fund	Fosholt-Hylde Fund	Sigvald Qvale	Rølvaag Fund	Total
Life membership dues					5,000.00	5,000.00
Gifts & Bequests	3,050				17,686.05	17,820.75
Interest	21,349.15	4,763.01	8,890.97	306.80		35,309.93
Capital Gains	12,421.70	2,781.60	5,192.33	179.18	7,948.10	28,522.91
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>36,820.85</b>	<b>7,544.61</b>	<b>14,083.30</b>	<b>485.98</b>	<b>30,634.15</b>	<b>89,568.89</b>
<b>Endowment Expenditures</b>						
Grants	15,905.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00		21,905.00
Salary	3,040.50					3,040.50
Travel	80.00					80.00
Archives Expenses			<u>1,245.47</u>			<u>1,245.47</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>19,025.50</u></b>	<b><u>2,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>4,245.47</u></b>	<b><u>1,000.00</u></b>		<b><u>26,270.97</u></b>
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	17,795.35	5,544.61	9,837.83	<514.02>	30,634.15	60,382.62
<b>Fund Balance Jan 1, 1995</b>	<b><u>410,342.00</u></b>	<b><u>90,600.00</u></b>	<b><u>170,088.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,843.00</u></b>	<b><u>247,190.00</u></b>	<b><u>927,063.00</u></b>
<b>Fund Balance Dec 31, 1995</b>	<b>428,137.35</b>	<b>96,144.61</b>	<b>179,925.83</b>	<b>5,328.98</b>	<b>277,824.15</b>	<b>987,360.92</b>

### GIFTS 1995

(\* Current or former board member)

<b>Current Fund</b>		*Russell W. Fridley	200
*Lawrence O. Hauge	\$1,000	Louis Blumengarten	125
		Earnest O. Hansen	100
<b>Bjork Chair Fund</b>		Wayne A. Rohne	100
American Standard - John T. Erickson matching	\$1,000	*Karen Davidson	100
		G. T. Schjeldahl	100
Mobil Foundation - Alfred D. Olson matching	1,000	*Derwood Johnson	100
		Freda Hoven	100
Kenneth M. Newman	250	Norwegian-American Technical Society	100
Nils William Olsson	200	Lloyd W. Anderson Jr.	100
Jostein Molde (pledge payment)	100	Orlan Tollefson	100
Walter Barthold (pledge payment)	<u>100</u>	Fulton L. Liming	100
Total	\$2,650	*Brian D. Rude	100
Gifts less than \$100 (17)	<u>400</u>	*E. T. Fjelde	100
Total	\$3,050	Albert Quie	100
		Lee Rokke	100
<b>Rølvaag Memorial Fund</b>		Morgan Halvorson	100
Alfred D. Olson, 30 shares Mobil Oil stock, sold by First Asset, August 24, 1995	\$2,915.30	*Arley R. Bjella	100
Alfred Olson	1,000.00	Harlan Foss	100
Mobil Oil matching	<u>144.75</u>	Terrance Hanold	100
Alfred D. Olson total	\$4,060.05	Dean Maddon	100
Grethe Seim	\$2,000	E. J. Nordby	100
*Lloyd Hustvedt	750	Berit O. Wick	100
Corrine Davidson	300	Maxine Dacumos	100
William Haddeland	250	William Georgeson	100
Nell Marie Hoyem	250	Arnold W. Thompson	100
*Todd Nichol	250	Sons of Norway Norumbega lodge	100
John T. Erickson	250	Robert & Torunn Rhodes	<u>100</u>
David J. Hardy	250	Total	\$11,885.05
Robert Kittelson	200	There were a total of 234 gifts of less than \$100	<u>\$5,755.00</u>
Carl & Amy Narvestad	200	Total Rølvaag Memorial Fund Gifts	\$17,640.05
TRW Foundation - Chris Velline matching	200		

## Mark Your Calendar!

The NAHA Charter requires that a general membership meeting be held once every three years. Triennial meetings provide an opportunity for members to respond to the reports that will be given, render opinions on past action and future plans, and speak to what pleases or displeases them. The members must also elect a new Executive Board.

Our next triennial meeting will take place on October 26, 1996, at the Woman's Club of Minneapolis. A banquet will follow the 3:30 p.m. meeting. Later newsletters will provide further details.

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NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
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