

The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



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

NUMBER 79

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

JANUARY 1990

## The NAHA in 1989

### Secretary's Annual Report in Condensed Form

#### Membership

Significant progress was made in 1989 in the area of membership. A total of 146 members were added. At least 55 of these were recruited by the Minnesota Membership Committee. The balance came via traditional patterns of recruitment. Most encouraging was a record enrollment of 32 new life members. Of great help was also the fact that 140 existing members opted to move into a higher membership category, while only 32 lowered their membership status. Cancellations came to 88, leaving a net membership increase of 58. Past experience makes it clear that we must recruit approximately 100 new members per year in order to balance losses. See chart below for a more detailed statement.

	Associate	Sustaining	Patron	Life	Deceased Life	Total
January 1, 1989	567	269	81	541	138	1,596
New members added	72	31	11	32		146
Transfers in from other categories	24	84	36	27	5	176
<b>New members plus transfers (in)</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>322</b>
Cancellations	66	15	7			88
Transfers to other categories	107	51	13	5		176
<b>Cancellations plus transfers (out)</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>264</b>
Net gain or loss	-77	+49	+27	+54	+ 5	+ 58
<b>Membership total, December 31, 1989</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1,654</b>
<b>Membership Transfer Patterns In 1989</b>						
<b>Associate</b>		<b>Sustaining</b>		<b>Patron</b>		
To Sustaining	76	To Associate	23	To Associate		1
To Patron	13	To Patron	23	To Sustaining		8
To Life	18	To Life	5	To Life		5
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

## Gifts

A total of \$11,169 was received as gifts. Of this amount \$10,374 was allocated to the Rølvaag Memorial Fund (unspecified gifts are allocated to this fund); \$425 was directed to the Fosholt Archives Fund and \$350 to the Kenneth O. Bjork Chair Fund. Recent preceding years have shown higher figures, but they included sizable grants from public and private grant-giving institutions. The current figure reflects contributions made solely by members. The officers of the NAHA have cause to be grateful.

The practice of allocating unspecified gifts to the Rølvaag Memorial Fund is still in force. The accrued interest from this fund, like dues, is used for general operational expenses. For many years only life membership dues passed into this fund. In order to appreciate the impact of the \$10,374 allocation to the Rølvaag Fund in 1989, we might note it would take the dues of 70 new life members to match this amount. This year's contribution plus the dues from 32 new life members will boost the Rølvaag Fund to approximately \$182,000, an equivalent of more than 1200 life members. Contributors of \$100 or more are cited below:

Mobil Foundation (matching gift, Alfred D. Olson), \$2,000; two separate anonymous gifts of \$1,000 each; Clarence Clausen, 1,000; Harriet Hustvedt, 1,000; Nancy O. Wick (bequest), 1,000; Alfred D. Olson, 500; Ole V. Groos, 465; Thomas Branigar, 300; R.I. Jacobson, 300; Gladys Weseth Nelson, 200; Douglas A. Crane, 100; Freda N. Hovden, 100; Mrs. E.A. Nørem, 100; **Total: \$9,065.**

## Publications and Book Sales

Two publications were distributed to the members in 1989: volume 32 of *Studies* came out early in the year and *Immigrant Idealist: A Literary Biography of Waldemar Ager, Norwegian-American* by Einar Haugen came out in November.

Book sales amounted to \$5,513.04, not an impressive figure when our stock of unsold books is considered. The problem is rather complex. Our more popular books are out of print; library budgets throughout our country have not met the recent increase in book prices, with the result that some libraries have cancelled their standing orders; and, our editions are too small to warrant extensive advertising. In saying this, we must not lose sight of the fact that members of the NAHA by virtue of their dues are also book customers.

Out of a total of 77 publications 48 are still in print, with 22 titles having an inventory of less than 100 copies. This portion of our stock offers no cause for concern. Of the remaining 29 titles, 17 have inventories ranging from two to six hundred. There is an urgent need to increase the sales of these books.

As of December 31, 1989, our stock of books stood as follows: *Studies*, 23 of 32 volumes still in print, for a total of 2,462 copies; Travel and Description Series, 3 of 10 titles in print for a total of 518; Authors Series, 6 of 7 titles in print for a total of 1,412. Special publications and Biographical Series, 13 of 27 titles in print for a total of 2,910; Topical Studies, 3 or 4 titles in print for a total of 530. The combined total amounts to 7,832 copies.

## Archives

The filming (microfiche) of the Rowberg Biographical file must be seen as the project of the year. The original file continues to be used by researchers who visit our archives. Luther College, Vesterheim Genealogical Center, Nordmanns Forbundet in Oslo and the Genealogical Society of Utah now hold copies of this film.

Thanks to Luther College we have acquired microfilms of the following newspapers: *Skandinaven*, *Decorah Posten*, *Budstikken*, *Emigranten*, *Faedrelandet*, *Faedrelandet og Emigranten* and *Norden*. Our files of these newspapers have been discarded, providing much relief to our crowded storage space.

Our files of *Washington Posten* are currently being microfilmed, with copies going to Luther College and to the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. The latter will contribute \$1000 to the microfilming costs. The University of Washington has indicated an interest in acquiring copies. Much remains to be done by way of microfilming and the acquisition of microfilms available elsewhere. The Fosholt-Hyde Archives Fund has made this ongoing project possible.

Due to illness in her family, Charlotte Jacobson has found it necessary to reduce drastically the time she can give to the archives. The technical nature of her work rules out a temporary replacement. Charlotte's absence has made it more than clear how valuable she has been to the operation of the NAHA.

Lloyd Hustvedt  
January 4, 1990

## Lovoll to Lecture in Norway

Odd S. Lovoll, the 1990 recipient of the America-Norway Heritage Award, will give a lecture during January titled "The Emergence of a Norwegian identity in the 'Roaring Twenties'" at five different locations in Norway: the American Embassy, the Regional College at Bø, Telemark, the Universities of Bergen and Trondheim. The final lecture (University of Oslo), is for NAHA Norway, arranged by Kjetil Flatin and Dorothy Burton Skårdal.

The America-Norway Heritage Fund was established by Lutheran Brotherhood in 1985. This fund, a gift to Norway, is managed by Nordmanns Forbundet and Norge-Amerika Foreningen. A joint committee in Norway selects the awardees. They must be Norwegian-Americans, who by virtue of their profession or particular talent can inform Norwegians about their counterparts in the United States.

## Rølvaag Film Wins Award

The Rølvaag film, a 30-minute documentary sponsored by the NAHA, has been awarded the Gold Plaque at the Chicago International Film Festival, the oldest competitive international film festival in North America. The film was produced by Christine Craton and Tim Schwab who as a team make up Unity Productions based in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Aside from some administrative and fund-raising assistance, the NAHA had no hand in the filming process itself. All honors must go to the producers. Because of their remarkable talent, we ended up looking good as well.

## Hauge Hosts Book Party

Continuing a practice he began when he became president of the NAHA, Lawrence O. Hauge hosted an elegant luncheon on November 19 at the Interlachen Country Club at Edina, celebrating the publication of volume 32 of *Studies* and the Waldemar Ager biography by Einar Haugen.

Approximately 40 guests attended. Among them were Einar Haugen and his wife Eva; Eyvind Ager (Waldemar Ager's son), his wife Inga and their daughter Borgny. Of the authors that made up volume 32 of *Studies*, only Clarence Clausen was able to attend. Editor Odd S. Lovoll presided over the brief ceremony. Dr. Haugen shared some of his experiences in preparing the Ager biography and pointed out the highlights in Ager's remarkable career.

Thanks to our president, some fanfare attends the arrival of our publications.

## Editorial

"Reverend, I hear you have a brand new church," said a man who had little religious interest. "Yes," responded the minister, "all we need now is a 100 *good* new members." Sensing the implied innuendo, the man asked, "Why don't you get 100 bad ones and make good ones out of them?" An effort to relate this anecdote to the NAHA will come later.

How many members should the NAHA have? The answer is that we do not know. If some four million Norwegian-Americans are potential members we are painfully small. If the NAHA is viewed as a group with narrow scholarly interests, our 1500 members may spell out "remarkable success." In the final analysis, neither view may have much relevance.

The NAHA holds a "tax exempt" status because it is an educational institution. The research center (archives) we provide and the books we publish do their part to justify this exemption. Yet, there is a third educational function less apparent and less discussed; namely, to stimulate an interest in history (in Norwegian-American history in particular) in places where such interest is weak or even nonexistent. Success in this functional area means in essence making "good members" out of "bad ones," as our quoted philosopher above suggested. Success in this area means expanded membership.

Members of the executive board, singly and in teams, are currently doing what they can to build our membership. They can use all the help they can get from the membership at large.

L.H.

## Random News

- Received from Lloyd O. Johnson and Everett J. Warwick their *Records of Ancestry: Descendants of Andrew Ludwig Johnson and Josephine Gunderson Johnson*. Unbound typescript reproduction, maps and illustrations, 140 pages. The family originated in Gudbrandsdal and first settled near Leland, Illinois.
- Received from John Bye, *Our Prairie Home* by Nina Mathies. Paperbound typescript reproduction, photos, undated, 43 pages. A terse but clear and comprehensive description of growing up on a farm near Sharon, North Dakota in the early 1900s. The author's unfailing memory is matched by a keen eye for detail.
- Received from Carlyle E. Anderson *The Knoff Family in America 1870-1989*. Paperbound typescript reproduction, 59 pages, 1989.
- Received from Rasmus Sunde his *Ein stad skal ein Vera: Utvandringa frå Vik i Sogn*. Sogn og Fjordane Forlag, 1989. A comprehensive

statement about the emigration to America from Vik in Sogn. This can be ordered from Vik Kulturkontor, N-5850 Vik i Sogn. \$35 + postage.

- Received from Arlene J. Pettersen her *The Ancestors and Descendants of Hovald Thompson and Inger Halgrimsdatter Who Came from Christiania to Neenah*. Hard cover typescript reproduction, illustrations, maps, photos, 323 pages, Minneapolis, 1989.

- Received from Derwood Johnson *Norge i Texas: Et bidrag til norsk emigrasjonshistorie*, by Odd Magnar Syversen and Derwood Johnson. Stange Historielag, 1982. Includes a chronological listing of emigrants to Texas, 1835 to 1900, much biographical data and richly illustrated. 527 pages.

- Received from Judy Malecek and P.D. Gerde their *Gjerde, Gerde, Jerdee Genealogy 1852-1984*. Ole Pederson and Pernille Larsdatter Gjerde emigrated to Wisconsin in 1852, moved later to Waseca County, Minnesota, and still later to Sacred Heart, Minnesota. Paperbound typescript reproduction, photos, illustrations, 300 pages, 1985.

- Received from Svein Oldervoll his novel *Vinland Gode: Aegirfararane ei utvandrarsoge frå 1837*, Eide forlag, Bergen, 1989. The novel is based on the emigrant party that followed Ole Rynning to the ill-fated Beaver Creek settlement in Illinois. The novel ends with the death of Ole Rynning and the breakup of that settlement. The novel contains both historical and fictitious characters.

- Received from Ansgar Sovik his translation (abbreviated) of L. M. Bjorn's biography of Pastor P.A. Rasmussen. Spiral bound typescript reproduction, 125 pages, 1989.

- *Edvard Grieg: The Man and Artist* by Finn Benestad and Dag Skjelderup-Ebbe has been translated into English by William H. Halverson and Leland B. Sateren. University of Nebraska Press, 1988, 456 pages. \$50. Halverson and Sateren are also doing a translation of Dosent Nils

Grinde's comprehensive history of Norwegian music to be published by the same press in 1990.

- Received from Nordmanns Forbundet their "Author and Subject Index for the *Norseman* 1964-1986" by Astrid Rye Jonassen. A separate index for 1987 and 1988 by Dina Toflsby is included. 130 pages, \$25. Rådhusgaten 23 B, N-0158 Oslo 1.

- Received from Ted Hovey *Pederson - Haave - Hovey, 1882-1982, Selbu, Norway*, a hard-bound family history of 400 pages. This carefully prepared history doubles as an extended-family album. Hundreds of photos support the narrative.

## Special Offer

Over time we have accumulated a number of our publications once owned by former members. These publications, all in good condition, are available to members for \$3 for the first book or single orders and \$2.50 for each additional book. In that postage is included, the price is geared to cover expenses.

The titles are listed below. The number in parenthesis indicates available copies.

*Studies* vols. 8, 9, 10 (1 each), 11(3), 14(2), 16(3), 17(8), 18(8), 19(7), 20(5), 21(8), 22(8), 23(10), 24(16), 25(1), 26(4), 27(7), 28(7), 28(7), 31(5), 32(2).

The titles below are listed in order of publication, the oldest first and so on:

*The Changing West and Other Essays* (4), *The Log Book of a Young Immigrant* (4), *A Long Pull from Stavanger* (7), *Saga in Steel and Concrete* (7), *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* (7), *John A. Johnson* (5), *Kristoffer Janson* (4), *Theodore C. Blegen* (6), *Cultural Pluralism vs. Assimilation* (6), *Land of the Free: Bjørnson's America Letters* (5), *A Pioneer Churchman* (6), *Ethnicity Challenged* (6), *On Both Sides of the Ocean* (2), *George Sverdrup* (8), *Marcus Thrane* (1), *The Testing of M. Falk Gjertsen* (3).

Send requests to the secretary's office. This article may be used as an order form by drawing a circle around the desired title.

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NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
St. Olaf College  
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

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