

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 74

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

SEPTEMBER 1987

Twenty-first Triennial Meeting

The NAHA has finally come of age. Twenty triennial meetings have come and gone and the 21st will take place on Friday, October 9, 1987, at the University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois. A committee in Chicago, led by Rolf Erickson, is responsible for arranging the facilities, dinner and program.

It is appropriate that the 1987 triennial meeting should take place in Chicago as opposed to the traditional site of Minneapolis. A history of Norwegian immigrants in Chicago by Odd S. Lovoll is in its final stages of production and should see publication in 1988. Our editor, Odd S. Lovoll, will give the main address at the dinner which will follow the general business meeting. Moreover, a change of meeting location marks an effort to reach members who for geographic reasons are otherwise denied participation in a NAHA business and social function that happens only once every three years. Along with this effort goes a hope that a high percentage of our Chicago area members will be present.

President Lawrence O. Hauge will preside over the general membership meeting scheduled to convene at 3:30 p.m. Reports will be given by the editor, secretary, treasurer, and by the Chicago History Committee. The terms for all the members of the executive board expire at this time and a new board must be elected.

Distance understandably makes it prohibitive for many members to attend. Those who cannot come are urged to forward their proxy (see page 4) to the secretary. We also invite written opinions, suggestions and criticism which will be made known at the meeting. In order to have a legal meeting we need the attendance or proxies of 100 members.

The dinner is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. A social hour, beginning at 6:30 p.m. will precede the dinner. All events take place at the University Club of Chicago. The banquet is not exclusively for members. In fact, members are encouraged to bring guests. See page 4 for a banquet reservation form.

Future Publications

Our next publication will be *The Testing of M. Falk Gjertsen* (Topical Studies, volume IV) by Nina Draxten. Gjertsen, a prominent Minneapolis Lutheran minister and civic leader suffered disgrace and loss of his pastorate in 1901 because of a suspected indiscretion with a married woman during a visit to Norway. But by the time of his death in 1913, he had reclaimed his former respect and prestige. On one level it is a story of triumph over adversity. On another level, the study has much to say about the interaction between the Norwegian urban community and the larger emerging metropolis of Minneapolis.

Nina Draxten, life-long resident of Minneapolis and former teacher of English in the General College of the University of Minnesota, is also the author of *Kristofer Janson in America*, published by the NAHA in 1976.

The Gjertsen book will be followed by the Chicago history, which in turn will be followed by *Studies*, volume 32.

Note!

According to our records a copy of *Marcus Thrane: A Norwegian Radical in America* has been mailed to all members in good standing. Anyone who failed to receive this book should notify the secretary's office.

\$10,000 Grant!

Lutheran Brotherhood recently boosted the O.E. Rølvaag Memorial Fund by \$10,000. The income from this unspecified endowment is used to meet general NAHA operational costs and supplements our income from dues. The Rølvaag Fund, which now exceeds \$100,000, helps to make possible our modest dues structure, at least when compared with other similar organizations. Associate members clearly receive some subsidy from this fund, as do those who purchase our publications.

Arley Bjella

Grants received from Lutheran Brotherhood now total \$18,500. They are in no small way due to Arley Bjella who served as chairman of this fraternal insurance organization for seventeen years. During his tenure in office he advanced a corporate policy of increasing contributions to church, educational and community projects. Contributions in 1986 approached \$28 million. The NAHA, together with many other institutions, have good reasons for thinking well of this man.

News in Brief

- "The association [NAHA] is arguably the most professional ethnic historical agency in the United States. This compilation [volume 31 of *Studies*] is another of its laudable efforts to document the history of an already superbly documented group." From a review in the *Journal of American History*, Vol. 74, No. 1, June 1987, by Karel D. Bicha, Marquette University.
- The Chicago history is the first of our publications to be processed on a computer. When the final editing is completed, the printer will receive the manuscript on computer discs. This procedure eliminates multiple stages of typing to provide finished copy. It also eliminates typesetting at the printer. Cost reduction is estimated at \$1,500.

- Received from Gustavus Adolphus College *Korsbaneret: Kristlig Kalender*, a complete set of 71 volumes (1880-1950). This was an annual put out by the Augustana Synod (Swedish), containing reports, stories, poetry, articles and biographical sketches.
- Received from Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud his *Scandinavian Moses: The Story of Knute Nelson*. Lantern Books, Farwell, Minnesota, 1986. Paperbound, 102 pages, \$4.95.
- Received. *Prairies Within: The Tragic Trilogy of Ole Rølvaag* by Harold P. Simonson, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1987, 103 pages. Simonson is a careful scholar who relates some of Rølvaag's literary themes to Søren Kierkegaard.
- Received from Arland O. Fiske his *Scandinavian Heritage*, a collection of 100 brief articles dealing with Scandinavian personalities, historical events and places. Foreword by Sydney A. Rand, paperbound, 246 pages, North American Heritage Press, P.O. Box 1, Minot, N.D. 58702, 1987, \$9.95.
- Received from Sanford K. Fosholt his *The Rustebakke and Nubson Families*. Typescript reproduction, illustrated, paperbound, 201 pages, 1987. Author's publication, 1208 Northwood Lane, Muscatine, Iowa, 52761.
- Received. *Seamen Missions: Their Origin and Early Growth* by Roald Kverndahl. William Carey Library, Pasadena, California, 1986. Appendices, notes, bibliography, index, 901 pages. Kverndahl was first a sailor and shipbroker, later earned degrees in Marine law and theology, and has devoted much of his later life to serving the Norwegian Seaman's Mission. This is a scholarly and well-written book.
- Received from Ruth Crane *The Aslesen-Zumhof Family Heritage Book*. Typescript reproduction, 373 pages, spiral bound, illustrations, charts and photos. Compiled by Robert B. Aslesen, Barstow, California, 1987.
- Received. *Sunnfjordlaget i Amerika: 75th Anniversary 1912-1987* by Rene Yndestad and Donna Anderson. Typescript reproduction, paperbound, photos, 133 pages, 1987.

- Received from William A. Solien his history of the Bredeson and Hageberg families which had their origin in Nes, Hedemark, and settled in Wisconsin in the 1880s. Typescript reproduction, spiral bound, 92 pages, photos, maps, illustrations, index, 1986.

- Received from Arlene J. Pettersen her *The Ancestors and Descendants of Trond Nilsen and Maren Jonsdatter who came from Bamble to Manitowoc*. Typescript reproduction, 441 pages, hard cover, illustrated, maps, photos, with commentary on traditions and folkways — a superb piece of work.

- Erik J. Friis provided a feature story on the NAHA in the January issue of *The Scandinavian-American Bulletin*.

- Received. The diaries of Ingeborg Øye Bergeim, written mainly in the Norwegian language from 1876 to 1922. Joseph Bergeim, a son, translated entries from 1883 to 1888 under the title *Ingeborg's Story*. The diaries were donated by three granddaughters. The diaries reveal a talented, sensitive, and kind woman who experienced both the joy and hardship of pioneer life in South Dakota.

- Received. *Overland Family History with Roots in Telemark*. Typescript reproduction, bound, three volumes, 446 pages, photographs and illustrations, by Audrey Overland and Lorna Anderson, 1986.

- Received. *Eit blidare tilvere?*, proceedings of a conference held at Voss, Norway, April 18-29, 1986. Consists of twelve articles, one of which is by Odd Lovoll, "Den tidlige Chicago-kolonien og dens innflytelse på den vestnorske utvandringen." Edited by Ståle Dyrvik and Nils Kolle, published by Voss Folkemuseum, 1986, paperback, 213 pages.

- Recently published. *Knud Wefald: Dikt i samling*, with an introduction by the compiler and editor, Øyvind Tveitereid Gulliksen. Wefald, better known as journalist and congressman, wrote many poems which until now were scattered in Norwegian-American newspapers. Order through Telemark Historielag, N-3800 Bø, Norway.

- Received. A gift of \$500 from Russell W. Fridley. This gift follows a long history of support and good will from the former director of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Use of Archives

The archives are open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For other hours make advance arrangements.

Our books, periodicals, and most microfilms are under the supervision of the St. Olaf College library where the hours are more generous: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday 12 noon - 10 p.m.

Summer hours: Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Three Books — \$12

(Includes postage and any combination)

The NAHA has a supply of three books whose publication it supported by direct subsidy or purchase. These titles are not NAHA publications and were not distributed to the members.

1. *The True Saga of Cleng Peerson* by Alfred Hauge. Translated by John Weinstock and Turid Sverre. Norwegian Society of Texas, Dallas, 1982. Hardcover, 132 pages. An attractive book.

2. *Essays on Norwegian-American Literature and History*, proceedings from a seminar held in Norway in June, 1984. Edited by Dorothy Burton Skårdal and Ingeborg Kongslien. Oslo, 1986. Paper bound, 375 pages.

3. *Scandinavians and other Immigrants in Urban America: The Proceedings of a Research Conference, October 26-27, 1984*. Edited by Odd S. Lovoll, St. Olaf College Press, 1985. Paper bound, 214 pages.

Send orders to the secretary's office.

**NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PROXY TO VOTE**

Members who cannot attend the Twenty-first Triennial Meeting are requested to send their proxies to the secretary. If you do not know of any member who will attend the convention, you may wish to appoint a member of the executive board as your proxy. Some of the officers who will attend are listed below:

John Christianson
Ruth Crane
Rolf Erickson
Lloyd Hustvedt
Lawrence O. Hauge

William Korsvik
Odd S. Lovoll
Elsie Melby
Lois Rand

I _____ of _____

in the state of _____ appoint _____
with full power of substitution, to be my substitute and proxy, to vote at the meeting of the members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, to be held at Chicago, October 9, 1987.

Date _____ Signature _____

Return to: Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota 55057. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Banquet Reservations

\$30.00 per plate

My payment for \$ _____ is enclosed for _____ reservations for the Twenty-first Triennial Banquet of members and friends of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 9, 1987, University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603.

Your banquet tickets will be issued upon arrival. Please return reservations to Rolf Erickson, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, IL 60201, or call (312) 491-7636 (office) and (312) 864-1028 (home). Also contact Rolf Erickson for hotel accommodations at the University Club of Chicago. Please mail all reservations before September 20.

Name _____