

The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

Number 27

FEBRUARY, 1964

Editor, L. HUSTVEDT

SURVEY OF 1963

The past year has been one of continued growth for the NAHA. The new *Authors Series* was launched, and its first volume, *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen*, came off the press late in October. Also, before the close of the year, Volume 22 of *Studies* and the late Carl L. Lokke's *Klondike Saga* were in advanced stages of editing. Miss Beulah Folkedahl has worked steadily on the manuscripts. The NAHA periodical collection has been organized; all duplicates and periodicals falling outside of our scope of interest have been culled out, providing us with much-needed space. A new record was set for book sales, and there has been an apparent increase in memorial gifts and direct donations.

The membership picture is less encouraging, showing a net gain of only three members. Of the 38 new members added in 1963, 31 were Associate, 4 were Sustaining, and 3 were Life. The 35 cancellations break down as follows: 11 deceased, 17 by request, and 7 by reason of no response to statements for dues. At the close of the year membership stood at 957.

Archives

The organizing of our archives reminds one of a Chinese proverb: "Though the journey be 1000 miles long, the first step must nevertheless be taken." Our first step was taken three years ago, and now the journey's end is in sight. To date Miss Folkedahl has processed and written descriptions for 502 collections, ranging from a few pieces to 23,000 items.

The major project for 1963 was the processing of the O. E. Rølvaag Papers. The collection, filling seven filing cases and totaling 6,393 items, consists of notebooks, manuscripts, articles, book reviews, lectures, poems, clippings, scrapbooks, and articles by and about Rølvaag as author, teacher, and lecturer. More important is Rølvaag's extensive correspondence, which makes up three file cases. For example, the inventory shows 204 letters from Waldemar Ager, 239 from Birger Osland, 346 from D. G. Ristad, 324 from Lincoln Colcord, 226 from Kristian Prestgard, and 587 letters classified as "fan mail."

The processing of this collection was made possible when Mrs. O. E. Rølvaag, Northfield, Minnesota, agreed to release most of her late husband's papers. Because of the preliminary work done by Mrs. Rølvaag, the task involved in organizing this collection was less than was first anticipated.

Unless new collections come in, it should be possible to begin the editing of the descriptions this coming summer, hopefully leading to their publication early in 1966.

Books

A total of 222 book orders were filled in 1963, and a total of 1,018 books were sold; sales amounted to \$2,525.19. This exceeds the earlier record set in 1961 by \$228.58. More than one-half (570 copies) of the books sold were *Studies and Records*. Volume 21 led the *Studies* sales with 55 copies. *The Lady with the Pen* led the other publications with 79

copies: *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* was second with 54; *Norwegian Migration to America: The American Transition*, 30; *Norwegian Migration, 1825-1860*, 23; *West of the Great Divide*, 23. All others had a sale of 20 or less.

The book sales for the past six years are as follows: 1958, \$877.09; 1959, \$1,422.49; 1960, \$887.64; 1961, \$2,296.61; 1962, \$1,869.75; 1963, \$2,525.19.

The following books are out of print: *Frontier Mother, Norwegian Sailors on the Great Lakes, Laur. Larsen: Pioneer College President, Grass of the Earth*, and Volume 7 of *Studies and Records*. Should anyone have extra copies of these books, or copies they no longer wish to keep, please send them to the secretary.

THANK YOU

GIFTS IN 1963

Judge Derwood Johnson . . .	\$116.02
Member of the Executive Board (anonymous) . . .	100.00
Miss Grace Weseth . . .	5.00
Mrs. John Weseth Nelson . . .	5.00
Mr. John C. Howard . . .	4.00

MEMORIALS

J. Jørgen Thompson

Mr. Harry Williams . . .	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Hertsgaard . . .	10.00
Miss Beulah Folkedahl . . .	1.00

BIRGER OSLAND

Mr. Harry Williams . . .	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$301.02

NAHA Books in White House

Shortly before the death of President Kennedy, the NAHA received a letter from the White House requesting two of our publications: *Norwegian Migration to America, 1825-1860*, and *Norwegian Migration: The American Transition*, both by Theodore C. Blegen. Receipt of these books has been acknowledged by the curator: "I have received the following books, which you, on behalf of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, have so kindly donated to the new White House Library."

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

LIFE

Mrs. Stanley R. Anderson, Milan, Minnesota
Torske Klubben, 1009 Marquette, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mrs. Ingrid J. Smith (1964), 825 W. 167 St., Gardena, Cal.

SUSTAINING

Magnus Beck, Normanna, Texas
John C. Howard, 821 Huntington Road, Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Agnes Sand (1964), P.O. Box 675, Blain, Washington
Mrs. John D. Carr (1964), 841 Brookwood Drive, Dallas, Texas

ASSOCIATE — 1963

Oivind M. Hovde, 603 North Street, Decorah, Iowa
Sander N. Helgeland, 706 Washington St., Decorah, Iowa
Norman O. Olson, Arthur Andersen & Co., 120 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois
Preston Bradley, 941 West Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Illinois
Bertram Jensenius, Vinland, 2405 N. Central Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
Carl E. Nelson, 4111 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota
David L. Brye, Coon Valley, Wisconsin
Daniel Bergsagel, Rt. 1, Box 197, Poulsbo, Washington
Chaplain Mark S. Brown, The Hill School, Pottstown, Penn.
Neil T. Eckstein, 1002 Ridgewood Blvd., Waverly, Iowa
Walter A. Wright, 815 E. Main Street, Osage, Iowa
Mrs. Herbert Olson, Rt. 4, Beloit, Wisconsin
Mrs. K. J. Jacobson, 525 10th Avenue, Kirkland, Wash.
Herman Chilson, 325 West 8th Avenue, Webster, So. Dakota
Leif E. Hansen, 3072 N. Fairview Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.
Hans Grong, Minneota, Minnesota
Florence A. Stroebel, 2040 Yorkshire, St. Paul, Minn.
Eyvind Evans, Kasson, Minnesota

Per Hvamstad, Jaren, Hadeland, Norway
Randolph O. Huus, 314 Constitution
Ave. N.E., Washington, D. C.

ASSOCIATE — 1964

Arthur D. Larson, 1100 6th St. SW, No.
802-SW, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Margaret C. Aanestad, 7400 Persim-
mon Tree Rd., Bethesda, Md.

Gary L. Sokness, 1910 Chestnut St.,
Grand Forks, No. Dakota

Roy K. Haugseth, 3528 Belle Meade
Lane, Mountain Brook, Birmingham,
Alabama

David J. Ringstad, Oak Grove Lutheran
High School, Fargo, No. Dakota

Roald A. Kindem, First Lutheran Church,
Havre, Montana

N. Selstead, 3427 Bennett Dr., Belling-
ham, Washington

Mrs. J. D. Menchofer, 621 Kedzie Dr.,
East Lansing, Michigan

Norwegian-American Novel on TV

Professor Gerald Thorson, department of English, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, is currently preparing a series of TV programs on the Norwegian-American novel. He plans to discuss four Minneapolis novels: *En saloonkeepers datter*, by Drude Krog Janson; *Bag gardinet*, by Kristofer Janson; *Laengselens baat*, by O. E. Rølvaag; and *Nykommerbilleder: Jonas Olsens første aar i Amerika*, by Johannes B. Wist. The lectures will appear on Channel 2, Minneapolis. No dates have been established.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Professor Milo Sulentic, Moorhead State College, bought a complete set of our publications, which he donated to Stord Lærarskule, in Stord, Norway.

- Luther College is offering an institute in American Studies for Scandinavian Educators this coming summer, June 29-August 1. Dr. Knut T. Gunderson, professor of Norwegian on the Luther College faculty, is the director.

- Selected Norwegian artifacts from the Norwegian-American Museum will become a part of the collection in the American Museum of Immigration, which will open in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty next year.

- Our president, Lionel G. Thorsness, has recently undergone an operation. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

- Our vice-president, Professor David T. Nelson, who suffered a heart attack last year, is spending the winter in Tucson, Arizona.

- If you have not received *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen*, please notify the secretary.

- The Department of Norwegian at St. Olaf College needs the following books: *Three Plays by Holberg*, American Scandinavian Foundation, and *Voyages to Vinland*, by Einar Haugen. Regular retail price will be paid for good used copies.

- A number of members have responded to the membership directory by sending recommendations for new members to the secretary. Additional directories will be supplied upon request.

- Deceased. Pastor Norris Olson, member since 1945; Thorwald Thorson, 1940; Marjorie Kimmerle, 1941; Professor Karl T. Jacobsen, noted librarian and charter member, 1925; Professor Iver Iversen, 1948; Mrs. J. A. Fenstad, 1942; Miss Mary Benson, 1956; Dr. S. C. Eastvold, president, Pacific Lutheran University, 1941; Dr. A. Gullixson, 1940; George Olsen, 1941; Peter T. Benson, 1958; Dr. G. M. Bruce, charter member, 1925; C. B. Christophersen, 1927; Carl J. Foss, 1957; Dr. Jacob Tanner, charter member, 1925; E. B. Christophersen, 1958.

- The *Capital Times*, Madison, Wisconsin, February 6, 1964, ran the headline "Norse-American Historical Group's Work Recognized." The article, written by Staff Writer Frank Custer, surveyed the work of the Association, and went on to name all the Association members in Wisconsin.

- Eyvind J. Evans, Kasson, Minnesota, reviewed *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* in *Minnesota Posten*, February 7, 1964. The review, which appeared on the front page, also called upon the readers to rise in support of the Association. In light of the honor the NAHA had bestowed upon all Americans of Norwegian extraction, he felt that the organization had not received the support it deserved.

DECORAH MUSEUM

Executive Committee Named

The Norwegian-American Historical Museum in downtown Decorah will have a new name. The Luther College board of regents recently voted to change the name to Norwegian-American Museum, "to more correctly identify the purpose for its existence and for the continuing importance that it may have to the culture it represents."

The regents also named an executive committee and are appointing "distinguished and devoted men and women interested in the preservation and development of Norwegian-American artifacts" to an official museum board. The first executive committee has been given the responsibility of recommending to the Luther president a person to be appointed as director of the museum. The entire museum board will formulate policies and handle general management of the museum.

The regents at a meeting in August authorized the establishment of the museum board and voted to select a site on the Luther campus for the construction of a new museum.

Executive committee members of the new museum board are Prof. Kenneth O. Bjork, editor of the Norwegian-American Historical Association; Prof. Clarence A. Clausen, St. Olaf College, Northfield; Dr. E. D. Farwell, president of

Luther; Dr. Gunnar Gundersen, M.D., Gundersen Clinic in La Crosse, Wis., and past president of the American Medical Association; and Dr. V. T. Jordahl, director, service to Military Personnel of the American Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

Other executive committee members are Mrs. Hubert T. Leseth of Decorah; Ira J. Melaas, Jr., Decorah attorney; Gerhard B. Naeseth, assistant director, general library of the University of Wisconsin; Professor Marion Nelson, University of Minnesota; and Mrs. Karl F. Rølvaag, wife of the governor of Minnesota.

The nationally known museum is recognized as the American museum best depicting the history of one ethnic group. Since its founding 87 years ago, the museum has steadily grown in importance. It now has a collection that spans the history of the Norwegian people in America. It has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles, and is visited by hundreds of travelers during the summer months.

Because of the growing importance of the museum and the need to locate it closer to the college, the Luther regents on June 1, 1963, authorized and encouraged the college administration to seek funds to endow the museum and to erect a new building. The establishment of the board is the first step in that direction.

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

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