THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Preface

The Association's publication program has a two-sided goal: to probe more deeply into the beginnings and consequences of events already well studied, and to enrich the story of Norwegian-American experience by investigating areas long neglected or only superficially explored. The articles in this, the twenty-eighth, volume of Studies contribute significantly to attaining our objective and, in doing so, "illuminate the general contours of American life."

Professor Munch's essay on authority and freedom explains in large part the deeply rooted causes of religious conflict in the New World; Ms. Hansen takes us behind the scenes of the remarkable career of Skandinaven and the John Anderson Publishing Company in Chicago; and Ms. Catuna makes available in English the Civil War letters of the Dokken brothers. The Reverend Mr. Kilde sympathetically discusses the element of tragedy in Waldemar Ager's career as writer, prophet, and reformer, and Dr. Ruud interprets in detail the relationship of Beret and the prairie in Rølvaag's Giants in the Earth. The late Lars Fletre offers in translation the letters of the Chicago Vossing Correspondence Society of 1848; the Reverend Mr. Lindberg describes the role of pastors in immigrant fiction; Professor Clausen con-
continues his listing of significant recent publications; and
Ms. Jacobson resumes her writing "From the Archives."

Exploring less familiar fields, Dr. Buckley presents
Martha Ostenso as an immigrant novelist; Dr. Hale
examines the Scandinavian antecedents of the Evangelical
Free Church; Dr. Hassing describes how Methodism
was carried from America to Norway; and Professor
Petersen tells the story of the beginnings of Oslo in the
Texas Panhandle. Dr. Marzolf reviews the experience of
the Danish-language press in the New World, emphasizing
the role of Den Danske Pioneer, and Ms. Anderson
introduces her grandfather, Carl L. Boeckmann, as an
immigrant artist educated in the homeland but a painter
of Americans and American scenes.

With volume 28 I complete my work as editor of
Studies. It is therefore appropriate at this time to express
gratitude to the many scholars who have contributed ar-
ticles and translations to the series during the past
twenty years, and to the members of the board of publi-
cations, who have given advice, encouragement, and as-
sistance without stint. I wish, too, to thank Charlotte
Jacobson, our archivist, for her unfailing help with
documentation, Clarence Clausen for his numerous and
excellent translations, and Elaine Kringen, our assistant
secretary, for her work with manuscripts. My indebted-
ness to Professor Ralph L. Henry, assistant — more
properly, associate — editor for some fifteen years, is at
least as great as my thankful appreciation of his profes-
sional skills and kindly service to the Association.

It remains to wish all success to Dr. Odd S. Lovoll, my
successor as editor of Norwegian-American Studies. He
will, I know, extend the horizons of the series, draw
heavily on the researches of young scholars attracted in-
creasingly to the study of immigration and ethnicity, and
generally give free rein to his energy and great ability.

KENNETH O. BJORK

Northfield, Minnesota
Contents

AUTHORITY AND FREEDOM: CONTROVERSY IN NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CONGREGATIONS 3
   by PETER A. MUNCH

SKANDINAVEN AND THE JOHN ANDERSON PUBLISHING COMPANY 35
   by JEAN SKOGERBOE HANSEN

MARThA OSTENSO: A NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN IMMIGRANT NOVELIST 69
   by JOAN N. BUCKLEY

NORWEGIANS, DANES, AND THE ORIGINS OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE TRADITION 82
   by FREDERICK HALE

TWO IMMIGRANTS FOR THE UNION: THEIR CIVIL WAR LETTERS 109
   by LARS AND KNUD OLSen DOKKEN
   translated by DELLA KITTLESON CATUNA
   edited by CAROL LYNN H. KNIGHT AND GERALD S. COWDEN
OSLO ON THE TEXAS HIGH PLAINS
by PETER L. PETERSEN
138

DARK DECADE: THE DECLINING YEARS OF WALDEMAR AGER
by CLARENCE KILDE
157

METHODISM FROM AMERICA TO NORWAY
by ARNE HASSING
192

BERET AND THE PRAIRIE IN GIANTS IN THE EARTH
by CURTIS D. RUUD
217

THE VOSSING CORRESPONDENCE SOCIETY AND THE REPORT OF ADAM LØVENSKJOLD
translated and edited by LARS FLETRE
245

THE DANISH-LANGUAGE PRESS IN AMERICA
by MARION MARZOLF
274

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN PASTORS IN IMMIGRANT FICTION, 1870–1920
by DUANE R. LINDBERG
290

CARL L. BOECKMANN: NORWEGIAN ARTIST IN THE NEW WORLD
by MARILYN BOECKMANN ANDERSON
309

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS
compiled by C. A. CLAUSEN
324

FROM THE ARCHIVES
by CHARLOTTE JACOBSON
342

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION