

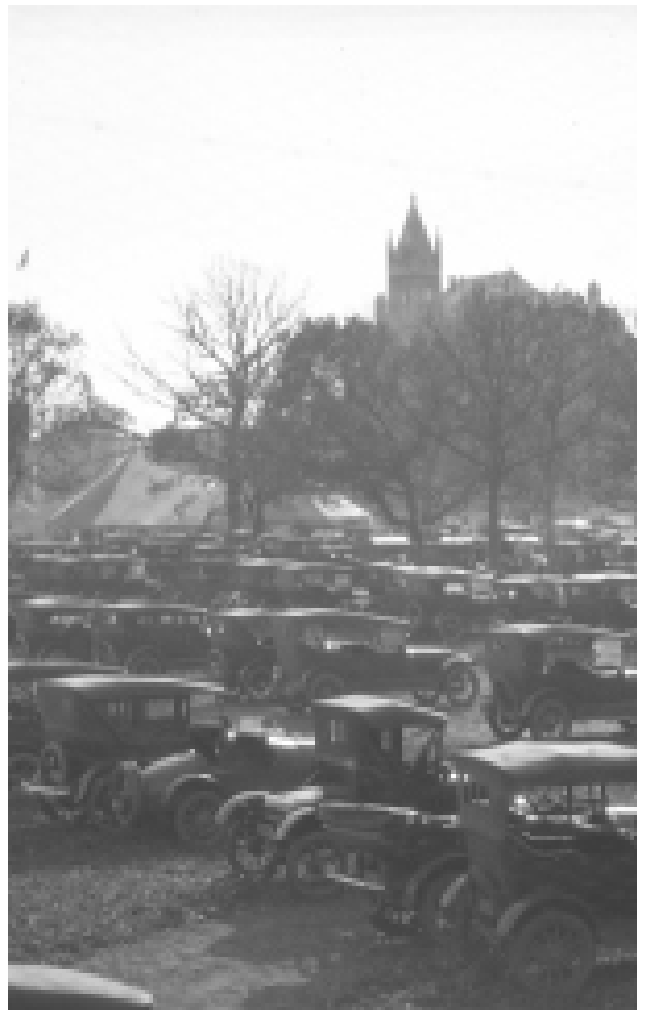
Koren 100

Koren Library, 1921-1949

Issue No. 2

Since our last issue, our friends at the Winneshiek County Historical Society located pictures taken at the Koren dedication ceremony on October 14, 1921. These photographs were taken by photographer Martin Haagensen Gjevre. Thanks for letting us share these, WCHS!





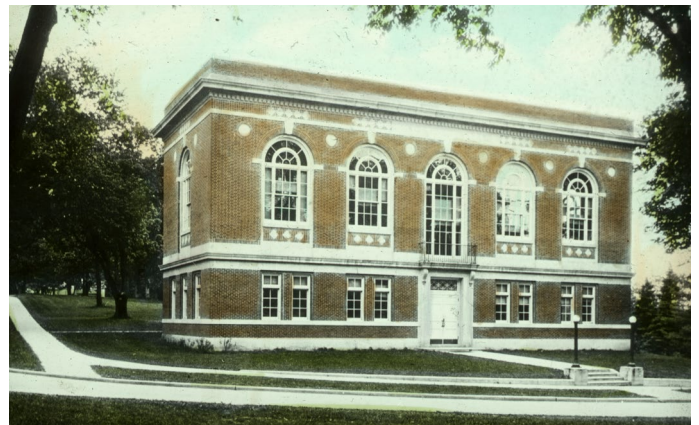


Koren Library circa 1920s

Introduction

Koren stood as a library for almost fifty years, witnessing half a century of change at Luther College and the wider world. When Koren opened in 1921, Luther enrolled approximately 307 students, all men. It had grown and Americanized since its beginnings, dropping the "Norwegian" from its name in 1918, but remained a fairly traditional, conservative school.¹ Comparatively, when Preus Library opened in 1969, Luther enrolled 2,115 students, men and women, and was embroiled in a wave of civil rights and antiwar activism, alongside other colleges and universities. In the time between Koren's dedication and the building of Preus Library, there was the Great Depression, the Second World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, a presidential assassination, and the beginnings of the Cold War. Luther itself had undergone

significant changes, from admitting women students to campus expansion. Since that is a lot of material to cover, we have decided to divide the history of Koren Library into two separate issues. In this issue, we will explore Koren Library during the years 1921-1949.



A colorized lantern slide of Koren, circa 1920s

New Librarian for a New Library

Prior to 1920, librarianship was seen as secondary work assigned to various faculty members over the years. Steven Jacobsen '69 described the library system as having to "go to a professor and beg for one of their books, because they were always the holders of the books."² This changed when C.K. Preus hired Steven's grandfather Karl T. Jacobsen in 1920 to serve as Luther's first full-time, professionally-trained librarian. Old habits die hard, however; Steven learned that Preus had to threaten to fire faculty to get them to turn their library books back in to his grandfather.³



Karl T. Jacobsen, 1902

After graduating from Luther in 1902, Jacobsen spent a year teaching Greek, Norwegian, History, Geography and Hebrew at the college before beginning his graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. He began his professional career as a cataloguer at the Library of Congress in 1907. In 1911, he became a classifier at the University of Chicago Libraries, eventually being promoted to Head Classifier in 1916.⁴ In Chicago, he worked with J.C.M. Hanson, a Luther graduate who had advised President C.K. Preus in designing the new library building. Preus was eager to have Jacobsen come to the library. "I would like very much to have you connected with our library," he wrote in March 1920 to pitch the idea, "and I know it will be looked upon with favor by all alumni and friends of Luther. It would in a way be a continuance of your father's work, which even today is spoken of as something never to be forgotten...I suppose though that traditions and sentiments like these count more when a person is over sixty than at thirty or forty."⁵ Karl's father, Jacob D. Jacobsen, had served as both a faculty member at Luther, and as a librarian at the college from 1874 until his untimely death from tuberculosis in 1881.⁶ "After talking to Mr. Hanson and Dr. Burton as well as Mrs. Jacobsen, I think I can give you fairly definite assurance now that a call to Luther as Librarian will be accepted by me if tendered," Jacobsen wrote to Preus in May 1920.⁷ Jacobsen served as a librarian at Luther until his retirement in 1949, after which he moved to Minneapolis



The Sanctum Sanctorum, Fridtjof Schroder. Caricature of Karl Jacobsen from the [Luther College Fine Arts Collection](#)



Photo of Karl T. Jacobsen, Head Librarian, sitting at his desk in Koren Library, 1948.

5712 Woodlawn Ave. Chicago, May 19/20

4, 200, 5

Dear President Preus:-

After talking the matter over again with Mr. Hanson and Mr. Buxton as well as with Mrs. Jackson I think I can give you fairly definite assurance now that ~~the~~ a call to Luther as Librarian will be accepted ^{by me} of ~~the~~ kind. Furthermore I think it can be arranged for me to take it this coming fall if you so desire. In that case it would be important that definite steps be taken pretty soon so that I can make the necessary arrangements with regard to the house I bought and also with regard to my position here before I leave for the farm, the middle of next month. I should therefore appreciate hearing from you in this matter as soon as possible, and in case we come to Decorah this fall can you give me any information as to the possibilities of renting or buying a house to live in? I should naturally come out there to see what arrangements could be made but any information as to possibilities would be of great help.

With best regards to you and Mrs Preus I am

Very sincerely yours,
Karl T. Jacobsen

Letter from Karl T. Jacobsen to C.K. Preus accepting the position of librarian at Luther College, 1920.

to work at Luther Seminary, reorganizing their library, a project he had assisted with beginning in 1943.⁸ His grandson, also named Karl Jacobsen, recalled sitting on his lap at his desk at Luther Seminary.⁹

Jacobsen was not the only trained librarian in his family. He met Florence Stoddard while they were working in the cataloging department at the University of Chicago.¹⁰ Unusually for the time, Stoddard held her own master's degree in library science, having studied at Wellesley College.¹¹ ¹² The two were married in 1913. Jacobsen's annual reports indicate that Florence frequently assisted him with work at Koren when he was short-staffed. She was active in Decorah life, serving on the Decorah Board of Education, including as its president, as a trustee of the Decorah Junior College for Girls, the Luther College Woman's Club, the Girl Scout Council, and the Women's Missionary Federation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America.¹³ ¹⁴



Karl T. Jacobsen with the librarians at Koren, 1949. L-R: Magdalene Almelie, Karl Jacobsen, Oivind Hovde, Marjorie Grimes, Inga Norstog.



Oscar L. Olson, undated.



Oscar Olson consulting a reference book in Koren Library, 1948.

Have you Met Oscar?

Luther College President C.K. Preus passed away a few weeks after the cornerstone was laid for the Koren Library. This left a vacancy at a critical point of the project. Before his death, President Preus had recommended that in the event of his death in office, Luther faculty member Dr. Oscar L. Olson succeed him as the next president. The Norwegian Lutheran Church in America's Board of Education followed this recommendation, naming Olson acting president. He was officially elected the third president by the Luther College Corporation in 1923.¹⁵

A 1893 graduate of Luther. Dr. Olson had joined the faculty in 1901 as a professor of

English. Olson first enrolled in the Preparatory Department at Luther in 1886 at the age of 14, then continued his collegiate studies, earning his Bachelor of Arts.¹⁶ Compared to his predecessors, Olson's tenure as president was short, lasting just 11 years, but he oversaw critical developments, including the completion of Koren Library and a new gymnasium, the acquisition of the Jewell farm, the establishment of the KWLC radio station, and paving the way for coeducation at Luther. After his presidency, Dr. Olson continued to teach at Luther until his retirement in 1952.

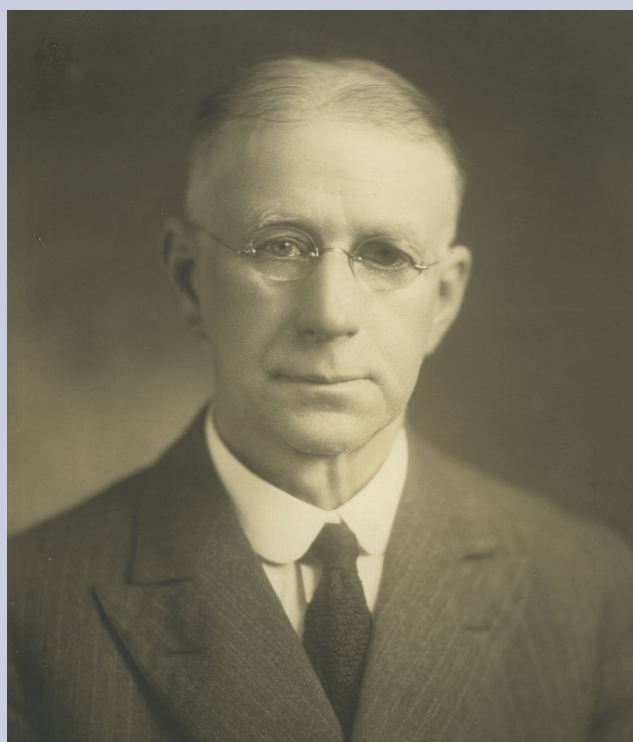
Librarian Opinions on Classification

Did you know that there was more than one way to organize a library? Librarians use different classification systems to arrange materials on the shelves. The two prominent classification systems in American libraries are the Dewey Decimal system and the Library of Congress system. The Dewey Decimal system, named for Melvil Dewey, the librarian who developed it, was first devised in 1876. The primary innovation of the system was that books would be assigned call numbers based not on what shelf they were located as with fixed-location systems, but based on their subject. The Dewey system has ten broad topic categories, which can be broken down further into more specific categories. This system meant that when librarians added new books to the collection, they could be shelved according to topic without needing to assign new call numbers to books as they were shuffled around.¹⁷

The Library of Congress system was developed by a committee led by Luther College graduate James Christian Meinich (J.C.M) Hanson '82, then Chief of the Catalog Department at the Library of Congress.¹⁸ Developed in 1897, it was designed to replace the fixed-location system used in the Library of Congress created by Thomas Jefferson. A new system was needed, as the library was moving into a new building in Washington D.C. The Library of Congress system has 21 broad topic categories, such as music, philosophy, and science. These can be further subdivided into more specific categories. As with Dewey, the Library of Congress system allows books to be moved on physical shelves without being reclassified.¹⁹



Circulation Librarian Gladys Johnston (standing) and Assistant Reference Librarian Leona Alsaker reshelve books in Koren Library, 1957.



James Christian Meinich Hanson, 1948

As many librarians do, Karl Jacobsen had a strong opinion about which system was better. Having begun his career as a cataloguer at the Library of Congress and then working with J.C.M. Hanson at the University of Chicago, his preference for the Library of Congress system is unsurprising. "He knew the system," his grandson Steven recalled.²⁰ Jacobsen made full use of his cataloging expertise as the librarian at Luther College; one of his first projects was recataloging the entire library collection using the Library of Congress system, which he believed would be more appropriate for the College library.²¹ The Luther College library was originally cataloged in 1899-1900 by graduate Torstein Jahr '96, then attending library school at the University of Illinois, according to the Dewey system.²² The Dewey system, Jacobsen wrote to another college librarian, was "not very satisfactory for college libraries in general".²³ In a letter to someone seeking advice on organizing a library, he wrote that he included Dewey "not because I believe it is the best system of classification, but because it probably is the

easiest to apply and also because it is the system most used by public libraries. The Library of Congress classification system is much more scientific."²⁴

Luther College librarians, along with several other academic and research libraries, still use the Library of Congress Classification System to organize collections today. The Dewey Decimal system is still used as well, more commonly in public libraries. Librarians continue to have strong classification system preferences. Connie Kronlokken '66 who worked in Koren Library as a student, much preferred the Library of Congress System. "I worked with the card catalog and I loved the Library of Congress system," she remembered. "I still hate the Dewey Decimal System, which I've worked with since."²⁵ Kronlokken disliked that books by the same author were split up due to genre, separating, for example, short stories, and novels. "With the Library of Congress system, you put all of one author's books together...that makes so much more sense than the Dewey Decimal system."²⁶

Moving to Koren

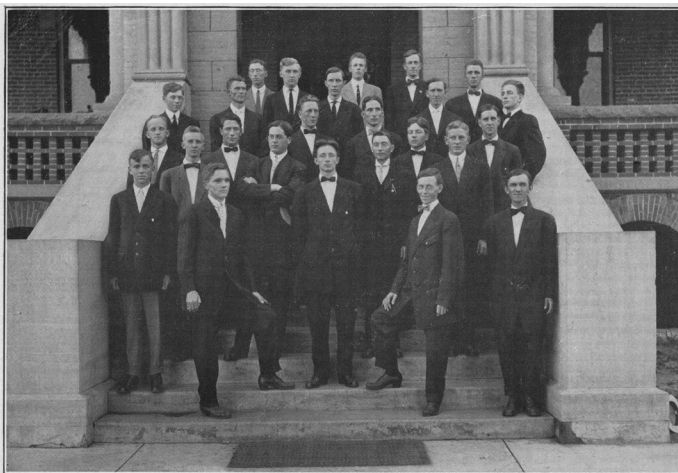


Young men studying in the Koren Reading Room, circa 1920s.

While the new library was dedicated on Founder's Day, it was not quite open for business. Librarian Karl Jacobsen wrote in his annual report that the library was not complete until November 1, 1921. Ongoing construction, as well as a "threatened fuel shortage," prevented him from moving the books into Koren until about the middle of November.²⁷ *College Chips* reported in December 1921 that Jacobsen "divided the students into squads of eight which worked two hours each," and "took the books in their regular order and placed them directly in the stacks."²⁸ "That this building was a necessity is evident," the article continued, "when we but visit the Library on any evening and find most of the chairs occupied."²⁹

In the same report, Jacobsen noted that during 1921, a number of book collections had been absorbed as part of the library collection. A few of these collections, like the Mimer Society Collection, had been assembled by student organizations, including those of Normannlaget and the P.A. Munch Historical Society.³⁰

Normannlaget was a student literary society at Luther College, focused specifically on Norwegian literature. It was formed in 1892. In addition to presenting essays and speeches in Norwegian during meetings, Normannlaget collected a library of Norwegian literature and history.^{31 32} They donated their collection of 150 volumes to Koren Library in 1921. Normannlaget disbanded for a while in 1918 due to World War I. With members joining the national service or enrolling in the Student Army Training Corps, Normannlaget and



Members of Normannlaget, circa 1911.

other societies ceased to meet for a time.³³ Another indirect pressure from the war was the issue of language. On May 23, 1918, Iowa Governor William Harding issued the Babel proclamation, which required that only English be spoken in public. This law, and similar ones passed in other states, were intended to thwart potential German spies (German was the second-most spoken language in the United States at the time), but it had a chilling effect on speakers of other languages, including Norwegian-Americans. The 1920 *Pioneer*



View of the Reading Room in Koren Library, undated.

Yearbook noted that "all foreign languages became less popular and were less used," which was troublesome for a society that conducted its meetings in Norwegian.³⁴ While there were multiple attempts to revive the society, including in 1925, the society officially disbanded by 1930.

The P.A. Munch collection also was donated by a student group. The P.A. Munch Historical Society formed in 1903, when talks of the construction of a new library had already begun to circulate around campus. Named for Norwegian historian Peter Andreas (P.A.) Munch, group members consisted of both students and faculty, including history professor Knut Gjerset, who served as its president.³⁵ The group focused on the study of Norwegian and Scandinavian history. Members would present papers on historical topics during meetings and the *College Chips* started a new section called "Historicals" to showcase the best of student writing on history. They collected books, primarily related to Scandinavian history, which was kept in a small reading room in Main, described as a "quiet, scholarly nook for the quiet study of history." When they dissolved in 1920, they donated 125 books about Norwegian history.³⁶ All of these collections can be found scattered throughout the rare and special collections book rooms in Preus Library today!

Bishop A.C. Bang Collection at Luther College

By Dr. Andrea Beckendorf, Library & Information Studies Department
[Revised from Spring 2017 article in Luther College Agora]

The acquisition of the library of Anton Christian Bang (1840-1914), Bishop of Oslo, was a significant milestone in the history of the library and library collections at Luther College. Despite a published account that the Bishop's library had been acquired by a state institution in the Midwest, somehow Luther College emerged successful on this front. The Hon. Laurits Swenson (class of 1886) and Herman Haugan, a Chicago banker, were the primary financial backers for this effort. The original contract for purchase of the collection can be found in the Luther College Archives. Dated 6 October 1913, the contract was undersigned on behalf of the Bishop by his daughters Gulla, Liv, and Maia (Maria), for a total of 4000 kroner. News of the acquisition reached the College on Founder's Day 1913, and was a first step in securing funding for a new library building that would eventually be Koren Library. Anton Christian Bang died in May 1914, and the contents of his library were shipped to Luther College.



Bang Autograph and Collection Slip

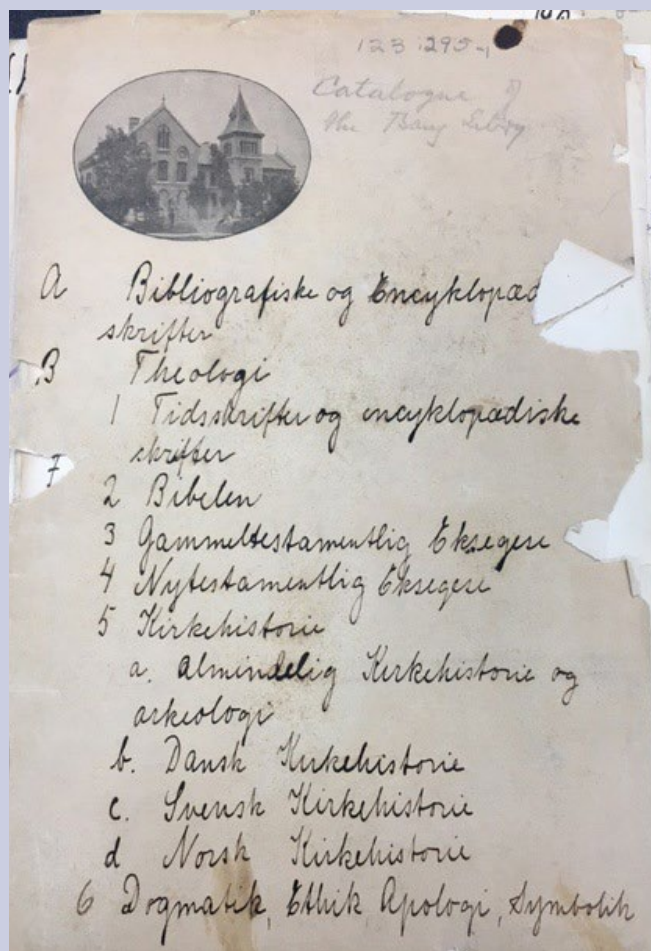
Reports of the size of the Bang library vary in accounts of college history, and range anywhere from 5,000 to 7,000 items. College records mention a telegram confirming the purchase of over 6,000 items, but we have been unable to locate the telegram in the Archives. Bang's own handwritten catalog of his library collection was re-discovered in the Archives collection in November 2016, and has not yet been examined in order to determine how many items he listed. The Archives also contain records that Bishop Bang corresponded with Laur. Larsen as early as 1879.

Maia Bang apparently visited the Luther College library in 1935, and wrote a letter to Karl T. Jacobsen expressing her surprise that the Bang Collection had been dispersed throughout the entire library (as opposed to being kept together as a separate special collection), and wondered why the Bang Library bookplates had not been used on the books. Jacobsen wrote back with an explanation of the collection arrangement and an apology about the book plates (he surmised they must have been lost in unpacking) and expressed regret that he had not been in town when she visited.

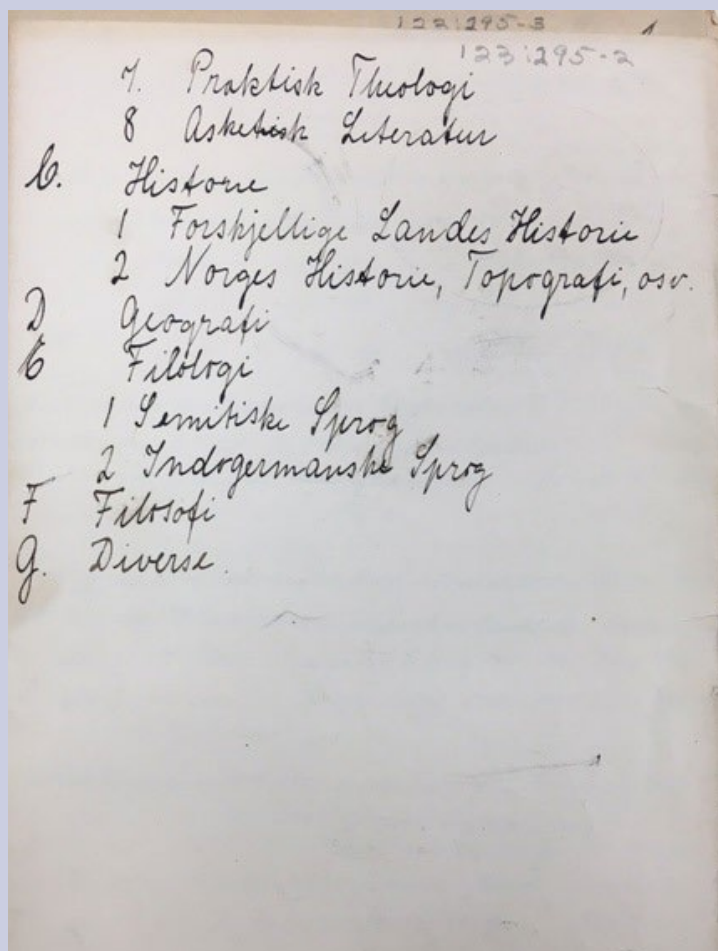
Anton Christian Bang's primary scholarly work related to Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Bible translation, and a study of magic and witchcraft. Bishop Bang had an extensive Bible collection, including Biblical texts in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Norwegian (both Bokmål and Landsmål), Portuguese, Russian, Sami, Spanish, Swedish, and Zulu. The accession log indicates that there were also Biblical texts in Turkish (possibly Armenian), Chinese, Czech, and Finnish, but these have not been located. Bang was responsible for creating a Norwegian edition of the Small Catechism, and his collection had many different editions of this work, including several of his own. Luther College is the only library on OCLC that holds many of these catechism editions, which makes our collection an important repository for study of the publication of this text.

A couple of items in the bishop's library belonged to Laura Bang, Bishop Bang's wife, including an early 19th century score by H.O.C. Zinck. The Bang Collection also included Luther-affiliated authors U.V. Koren and H.G. Stub. Women authors were represented, as well, including Dorothea Englebretsdatter, Louisa Isaksdatter, Henriette Gislesen, Ingeborg Andersdatter Grytter, Kristine Nordby, Anna Rogstad, Karen Stenersen, Wilhelmine Andresine Brandt, and Johanna Borchgrevink. Additional items of interest include *Fra hexernes tid* (1887) and *Trolldom* (1911) related to magic and witchcraft; two books about fishing (that are held only by Luther College; Bang's father was a fisherman on the west coast of Norway), an Icelandic version of *The Iliad* (1856); a 1699 gradual of Thomas Kingo; items related to Norwegian missions; travel guides for Norway and Europe; and books related to art ancient coins, architecture, library science, genealogy, and science. There are additional psalm books that were part of the collection, and Icelandic materials, including the *Flateyrbók* and sagas related to the bishops.

A majority of the items were published in major European cities, with Copenhagen and Christiania (Oslo) at the top of the list. It was surprising that many Norwegian cities were also represented, including: Ålesund, Bergen, Christiansand, Christiansund, Drammen, Elverum, Frederikshald, Homstrand, Larvik, Lillehammer, Lund, Molde, Nordfjordeid, Porsgrund, Skien, Stavanger, Tromsø, and Trondheim. The collection has not yet been compared to that of the National Library of Norway, as they do not participate in OCLC; separate searches would need to be done in their public catalog interface. The national libraries of Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland do participate in OCLC, as does the *Bibliothèque Nordique* in France.



Bang Catalog page 1



Bang Catalog page 2

Several U.S. publications were included on the accession list, and 17 were added to the collection, with Chicago (5) and New York (4) at the top of the list followed by Minneapolis (2), Decorah (2), Boston (1), Fargo (1), Philadelphia (1), and St. Louis (1). The New York titles were primarily Bibles in different languages. Six U.S. publications are on the "Missing" list: New York (3), Minneapolis (1), St. Louis (1), and Racine, Wisconsin (1).

Unfortunately, we are missing many of the works which Bang himself wrote or edited, most notably *Hexeformularer og Magiske Opskrifter* (1901-02), the book he wrote about magic and witchcraft in Norway. That book is still used as a seminal reference to this day, and others have been able to build on Bang's research as new sources have come to light over the last century. Other items of note that we no longer have are an Arabic version of *Locmani fabulae* (1823); many dictionaries and grammars for foreign languages (Latin, Greek, German, French, Syriac, etc.); and a 1787 book about the Norwegian mission to the Lapp (Sami) people.

As of 2015, only 729 items from the Bishop Bang Collection were known to be in the Luther College library collection. A 2015-2016 sabbatical project undertaken by Dr. Andi Beckendorf identified nearly 600 additional items that were still in the library collection, but were unaffiliated with the Bang Collection. Most notably, there is a collection of Norwegian political pamphlets, primarily related to the Sweden-Norway Union and its dissolution in 1905.

Weighing Legacies

There are many roads to Luther College. For some students, studying at Luther was a foregone conclusion. Legacy students, who have a parent who themselves graduated from Luther, are common in Luther's history. Richard Ylvisaker '50, when describing why he came to Luther, said, "Well, actually it was a family tradition. My father graduated in 1920, the same year that Koren was opened... It was just sort of automatically assumed that I would go to Luther as my older brother did. We have a third brother who went to St. Olaf and that broke the tradition!"³⁷

Walter Rugland '59, a descendant of one of the three founders of Luther, discussed some of the generational differences he saw between himself and the generations of his family who had attended Luther before him. "We were told how soft it was now, when we were students as opposed to what it was like when our fathers were students there and or our grandfathers."³⁸ If older generations insisted attending Luther had gotten easier with increasing transportation mobility and long distance communication access, younger generations contested that claim with suggestions that education had gotten more complicated with time. "Younger people would say 'we have more to learn because it's 30 years more.'"³⁹

Not every student comes from a long-term Luther family. In fact, Richard Staff '69 expected to go to St. Olaf because that is the school where his three older cousins attended. Richard was a registered nurse and planned to work while in school. After visiting Luther with a friend, he decided to attend Luther because they helped Richard craft a program where he could work as a nurse while also taking classes at Luther. Richard laughed when describing this choice, saying, "Well, this is, you know, I grew up in this Norwegian American community where there were two schools...you either went to St. Olaf or Luther. And actually, I came from a...St. Olaf family."⁴⁰

Occasionally, a student may stumble across Luther by accident, as was the case with Cathy Baldner '69. She originally applied to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. "And I never heard from them," she recalled. "Very weird. And so one of my best friends was going to Luther and she said, 'I think you should apply to Luther.' And I said, 'it's a little late.' She goes, 'No, I think you should apply.' And so I did."⁴¹ Cathy graduated four years later and eventually came back to teach at Luther until 2003.

Using Koren Library

Koren Library was designed very differently than most libraries people use today. The modern library is often conceptualized as a place to browse shelves, use a free computer, and hold group meetings. Meanwhile, the Koren Library centered on a quiet reading room, accompanied by closed stacks and a large wooden card catalog. While these physical differences mark Koren as a library of its time, they still served the same primary purpose of providing a space for students to access resources and work on projects.

In the pre-computer era, students used a *card catalog* to identify what material they needed. These catalogs were drawers that contained 3x5 index cards, on which was written all the information about the books. This information included the author, title, call number, and place of publication. The card catalogs were arranged so that students could search for material either by author, by title, or by subject. The card catalogs were housed on the first floor. "I don't know if it was more difficult than negotiating the computer," Carol Hasvold '60 shared. "It was just a different medium."⁴² Carol Birkland '67 acknowledged that online catalogs were easier. "You just go to the computer terminal and type in the book you're wanting to find out just like that," she said.⁴³ Despite their comparative slowness, though, the card catalog did what it was supposed to do. "All we had were the cards," she said, "but they worked."⁴⁴ Hasvold acknowledged that professional help was useful for navigating the card catalog. "It helped if you were friends with the librarian."⁴⁵

Once a student located the card, they would write down the information on a separate sheet of paper, called a *call slip*. "You didn't take the card out of the catalog," Birkland remembered. "You had to write it down. And then you brought it down to that checkout desk, which was on the main floor."⁴⁶ At the checkout desk, a librarian would take the call slip and retrieve the book from the stacks, where most books were shelved.



Librarian Angeline Jacobson and student stand at the card catalog in Koren Library, undated.

AUTHOR CARD
(To be used if you know the writers name)

Call number	H3796 .G3	Gallagher, James Roswell, 1903- ---Emotional problems of adolescents city	
Author (last name first)	J. Roswell Gallagher and Herbert I. Harris.	New York, Oxford University Press, 1958.	Publication date
Title			Publisher
Place of publication		---174p. 21 cm.	Notes
Pagination		Includes bibliography	

Diagram of an author card from the card catalog in the 1961 Koren Library Handbook.

CALL NUMBER	ON RESERVE	CHARGED OUT	IN USE IN BUILDING	BINDERY
CALL SLIP				
AUTHOR				
TITLE				
VOLUME	SIGNATURE			
	PHONE	DATE		
LUTHER COLLEGE LIBRARY				

Call slip used in Koren Library.

Unlike many libraries today, the stacks in Koren Library were only accessible to library staff. In later years, upperclassmen were permitted to apply for a stack permit, which allowed them to enter the stacks. Steven Jacobsen shared that his mother was the only freshman that Karl permitted to enter the stacks during his time at Luther. "She was a very good student," he recalled, "so he allowed her to go in the stacks."⁴⁷ Policies restricting access to library stacks, were common in order to ensure that materials were reshelfed correctly and to prevent theft.

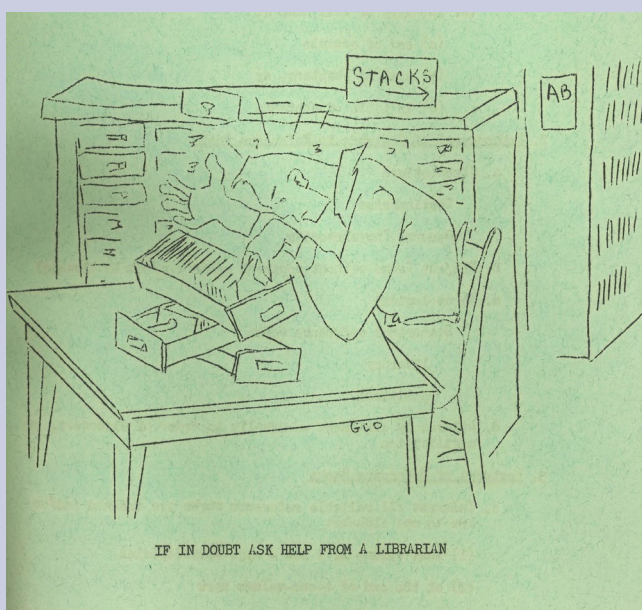


Lantern slide image of students studying in Koren Library, circa 1920s.

The expansive reading room was the focal point of the Koren Library. This room, with its high ceilings and abundant natural light brought in by the large arched windows, was the primary studying space for students, and left an indelible mark on their memories of the building. "I loved the reading room with those big windows." Connie Kronlokken shared.⁴⁸ Marty Hovde Bergsrud '64 fondly recalled that the reading room had "beautiful two story high ceilings and chandeliers and the big dark tables and chairs in rows."⁴⁹ Along the edge of the room, she remembered, were shelves of reference books. "We didn't have internet or computers or anything," she said, "so books was our way to see what the rest of the world was like."⁵⁰



Library staff stands behind the circulation desk at Koren Library, undated. (Karl Jacobsen is second from right)



IF IN DOUBT ASK HELP FROM A LIBRARIAN

Comic of student using card catalog drawn by Gary Oylo for the 1961 Koren Library Handbook.



WHERE'S THE CARD CATALOG, MA'AM?

Comic of student using card catalog drawn by Gary Oylo for the 1961 Koren Library Handbook.

Library Instruction

Libraries offer their users a wide variety of research tools, and librarians play an important role in training users on how to use those resources effectively. Karl Jacobsen introduced instruction as an important part of librarianship at Luther College. "Instruction of students in the use of the library forms an important part of the duties of the librarian and his assistants," he wrote in a report to President Oscar Olson.⁵¹ While most of this instruction could be given to individual students at any time during the year, he observed that "it has been found of value at most institutions for the librarian to supplement

this by some systematic instruction especially to the freshman class."⁵² Beginning in the fall of 1922, Jacobsen gave three lectures to students in the freshman English courses, along with practice work. "While the results were probably not all that might have been desired," he concluded, "it was thought that they were of sufficient value to continue this practice in the future."⁵³ Today, Luther College librarians continue to instruct incoming classes on the resources available at the library and the methods for most effectively using the library for research.

Library Science Minor

Did you know that Luther College once offered a minor in library science? These courses were originally offered to give education students a chance to learn skills needed to qualify as a teacher-librarian or a librarian in K-12 schools. Eventually, the program became its own minor. The first three courses offered in the 1938/1939 school year were reference, cata-

logging and classification, and school library administration. Karl Jacobsen and Valborg Bestul, who had been hired as an assistant librarian in 1937, taught the courses that first year. Over time, several Luther librarians would teach the courses, including Leona Alsaker, Angeline Jacobson, Donald Rod, and Oivind Hovde.⁵⁴

Archival Origins

Most of the photographs in this newsletter come from collections in the Luther College Archives. The Archives are where the historical records of the College, including papers, recordings, photographs, and artifacts, are managed and preserved. These collections have been part of the Luther College Library since at least the 1920s. "For two or three years past a [indecipherable] number of manuscripts have been turned over to the library," Karl Jacobsen wrote in his 1926 annual report, "and it was becoming increasingly evident that some special provision would have to be made for the preservation and care of this material."⁵⁵

Jacobsen was not a trained archivist himself, so he sent his assistant, Margrethe Brandt, to receive training in the care and preservation at the Minnesota Historical Society. Working with curator Dr. Grace L. Nute, Brandt learned a variety of skills, including "washing, pressing, arranging, and inventorying papers; the repairing of documents; the copying and collating of manuscripts, and the calendering of a collection."⁵⁶ "A beginning has been made in putting this material into shape," Jacobsen wrote, "and the plan is that she shall continue to spend some time each day on this work as far as her other library duties will make it possible."⁵⁷

After the 1920s, little progress was made in organizing the archives. Jacobsen observed in his 1948/1949 annual report that after Brandt left to attend library school, "neither budget conditions nor other circumstances have made it possible to obtain the proper technical assistance and the remaining documents and papers ---another 10,000 items or more—

have only been placed in boxes and roughly arranged by larger categories."⁵⁸ Nevertheless, the work Brandt did organizing an estimated 10,000 manuscripts helped lay the foundations for future librarians and archivists to preserve the history of Luther College. Today, the College Archives are managed by a full-time archivist in Preus Library.

Museum Beginnings

On February 23, 1877, President Laur. Larsen reported in the *Lutheresk Kirketidende* journal that Luther College had received 600 Norwegian bird eggs. This initial donation sparked interest in establishing a museum at the college and assorted donations were received for the next thirteen years. It was not until 1890, when faculty member William Sihler was appointed curator of the museum, that any effort was made towards putting collections on display. In his pamphlet on the museum, Dr. Knut Gjerset wrote that upon being made curator, Sihler "found a number of boxes of all sorts filled with objects which had been given by persons to whom a museum was a curiosity-shop...all these things were thrown together without order."⁵⁹ This "cabinet of curiosity" approach to museums, in which items are collected based on their rarity or personal interest of the collector rather than on a theme or defined strategy, was common in the late 19th century.⁶⁰ Unfortunately for Sihler, as for many museum professionals before him and since, most of the boxes were unlabeled. Sihler forged ahead and with \$50 was able to have cabinets and cases constructed to display the collections. These display cases were in the northwest corner room on the second floor of Main II. The collection outgrew this space and by 1895, relocated to a small brick building near Main, affectionately known as "The Chicken Coop."⁶¹

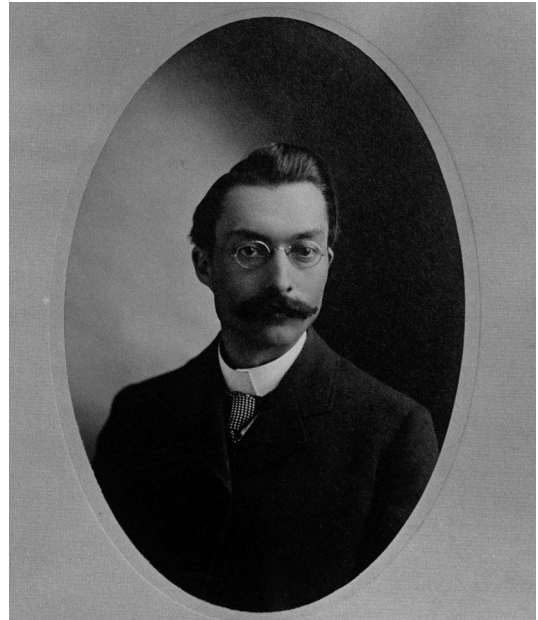
Haldor Hanson '83, a professor of music at Luther College, was appointed curator in 1895, and he worked with the alumni association and other community members to grow the collections. Hanson expanded the natural history collections, acquiring minerals and taxidermy specimens.



The Hoslett Natural History Museum and Collection, located in Valdres, retains many of the original Norwegian bird eggs donated in 1877 and became the start of the Luther College Museum.

⁶²He also began collecting ethnological materials from Native Americans, Africa, the South Sea Islands, and Asia, such as weaponry and jewelry.⁶³ Many of these artifacts were sent by Luther College graduates who were working as missionaries. Rev. Tollef Brevig '76, for example, donated several Inupiaq artifacts from his mission post in Teller, Alaska.⁶⁴

According to Dr. Gjerset, Hanson was the first curator to have a particular focus on securing items that stressed Norwegian and Norwegian-American life and culture. To that end, he began collecting Norwegian-American newspapers, photographs of Norwegians and



Knut Gjerset

Norwegian-Americans, and paintings from Norwegian-American painters, including those of Herbjørn Gausta. Additionally, he formed a museum library to house acquired publications by Norwegian-Americans.⁶⁵ One of the most important Norwegian-American acquisitions was that of the Egge-Koren cabin in 1913. This cabin, where Rev. U.V. and Elisabeth Koren first stayed when they came to Winneshiek County, was moved to the Luther College campus and used to display pioneer-era Norwegian-American furniture.⁶⁶

The museum collections quickly outgrew the Chicken Coop. "Even with the whole building devoted to its exclusive use, it became very much cramped for room," Karl Jacobsen wrote in *Luther College Through Sixty Years*, "and for a number of years past the articles received have had to be stored elsewhere."⁶⁷ To alleviate this, two rooms on the first level and the whole third level were set aside for use by the Museum in the new Koren Library. Dr. Gjerset, who was appointed curator of the museum in 1921, arranged these new exhibition spaces. Gjerset, like Hanson, wanted to focus the museum on Norwegian and Norwegian-American materials. "The collection must be brought into such form that it breathes Norwegian life," he was quoted as saying.⁶⁸ He described the Koren exhibits as such:



Wedding outfits from Hardanger, Norway, on display at the Luther College Museum in Koren Library, undated.



The Civil War battle flag of Wisconsin's 15th Regiment, commonly known as the "Norwegian Regiment" for the many Norwegian-Americans who served in it, on display in Koren Library, undated.

"In the rooms set aside for the museum in Koren Library, three exhibits of somewhat special character have been created. One contains reproductions of masterpieces of plastic art. Another consists of Norwegian articles of special interest, together with minor collections illustrating Norwegian arts and crafts of the present time. The third is an art gallery on the third floor of the building, containing portraits and other paintings by Norwegian-American painters."⁶⁹

Under Gjerset, the Chicken Coop (occasionally referred to as the "Old Museum Building") was renovated, and used to display artifacts related to Norwegian pioneers in America.⁷⁰

As the collection grew, it became increasingly focused on the Norwegian immigrant experience, an idea which Gjerset began developing after creating exhibits in St. Paul, Minnesota for the 1925 Norse-American Centennial. This event, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first

Norwegian immigrants in America, sparked renewed interest in Norwegian and Norwegian-American history.⁷¹ Initially, Gjerset wanted to turn the Luther College Museum into a national Norwegian-American cultural institution, complete with a historical association and archives. According to John R. Christianson, Gjerset began to rethink his plans for the museum in a 1925 meeting with like-minded scholars. The Luther College Museum would be rebranded, they agreed, as the Norwegian-American Historical Museum, reflecting its revised mission to collect and exhibit the heritage and history of Norwegian pioneers from all across America. The Norwegian American Historical Association and its archives, however, would be established at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.⁷² The Luther College Trustees agreed to the renaming of the museum.⁷³ The reorientation of the museum was solidified with a significant gift from Norway in 1926. This gift was arranged by Dr. Anders Sandvig, director of the Maihaugen Museum in Lillehammer, Norway, and contained several pieces from Norwegian museums to be sent to America. These pieces were to illustrate "conditions of life in Norway when the emigrants left for America."^{74 75 76}

By 1929, Gjerset began advocating for a new museum building for this now large and important collection, which continued to be stored in several places across campus, including Koren. Opportunity knocked in 1931 when the Lutheran Publishing House, located on Water Street in downtown Decorah, closed its doors. The building was given to the museum and after renovations in the summer of 1932, he moved several exhibits into the new space.⁷⁷ Over the next several decades, collections materials would move from campus to the Water Street location, which remains the primary exhibition space for what is now the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School. It would remain financed by Luther College until it incorporated its own Board of Directors in 1964.



Museum gallery space on the third floor of Koren, undated. A number of Gaustra portraits, including those of Rev. U.V. and Elisabeth Koren, can be seen hanging on the wall.

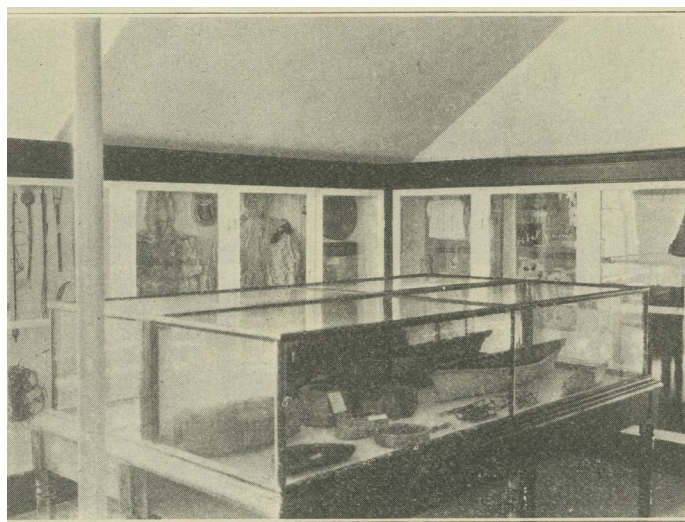


Photo of the Inuit exhibit in the Luther College Museum circa 1923, as seen in a pamphlet on the Museum published by Knut Gjerset.



A wax figure wearing a Norwegian wedding dress in a display case on the first floor of Koren as part of the Luther College Museum. The plaque above says "Bridal costume from Odda in Hardanger, Norway, from 1884, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Olson [indecipherable], Iowa, in 1933. The wax figure was given by Luther College students, 1903." undated.



Photograph of cabinet full of taxidermy, labeled "Corner of L.C. Museum, 1899."



A miniature of the Maihaugen, an open-air museum in Norway, on display in Koren as part of the Luther College Museum, undated.



Photo of the Stende tapestry the Norwegian-American Museum in exhibit space in Koren Library, undated.



Front-facing view of the Stende Tapestry, woven in 1025 and donated to the Luther College Museum in 1922.

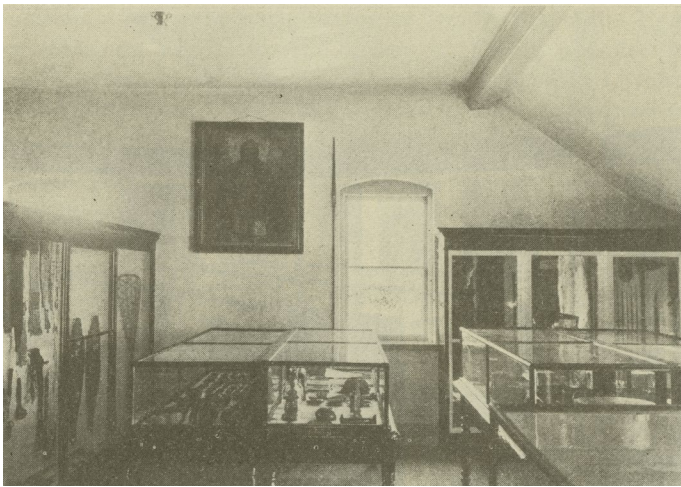
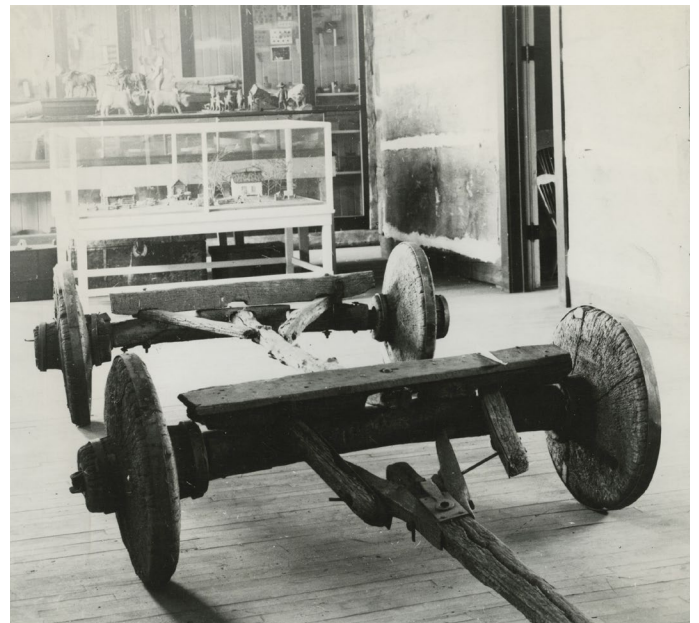


Photo of the Native American and South Sea Islands exhibits in the Luther College Museum circa 1923, as seen in a pamphlet on the Museum published by Knut Gjerset.



A kubberulle, or farm wagon used by Norwegian pioneers on display in the Norwegian-American Historical Museum, circa 1920s.

Building Preus Gymnasium

In addition to Koren, the other major building project of the 1920s was the construction of a new gymnasium. It would be the only building constructed during Olson's presidency.

C.K. Preus had begun fundraising for a new gymnasium during his tenure, collecting approximately \$24,000 while he simultaneously kept up his library campaign.⁷⁸ The project was taken up by President Olson, who took an active role in securing funds and in designing the new building. While the new building was called and designed to be a gymnasium, Olson had a grander vision for it as a performance and gathering space as well. His requirements for the new building included "an adequate, properly lighted, stage with separate entrances, and a space for installing a pipe organ."⁷⁹ The final design for the building included separate courts for basketball, baseball, and handball, a stage, a kitchen, a swimming pool, a running track, a gymnastics apparatus room, and a trophy room, along with classroom and office



A group of students walking down the steps of the C.K. Preus Gymnasium, undated.



Two students on the steps of C.K. Preus Gymnasium, undated.

space.⁸⁰ The building also housed a radio studio and was wired for broadcasting to support the new KWLC Radio station, whose license was granted in 1926.⁸¹

As with Koren, fundraising was a community effort, with the Luther College Alumni Association and individual alumni making contributions towards equipment, lockers, benches, and pianos, among other things. The Decorah Chamber of Commerce also contributed to fundraising.⁸² A group of faculty wives, headed by Dr. Olson's wife Clara, raised funds for furnishing the gymnasium's new kitchen. Faculty wives had long worked to support students, often led by the presidents' wives, including Louisa Hjort Preus, wife of C.K. Preus. This group became formalized under Clara's leadership, leading to the formation of

the Luther College Woman's Club in 1932-1933. The club, which continues to exist to this day, has raised funds for several Luther College building projects, provided scholarships, and baked tasty treats for students ever since.⁸³ Today, membership is open to any woman affiliated with Luther College, not just faculty spouses.

The College selected local Decorah architect Charles Altfillisch to design the new gymnasium; it would be the first of several campus buildings designed by his firm. Completed in 1926, it was a large brick building, trimmed with Bedford stone and a distinguished tower.⁸⁴ Over the entrance was carved the oft-quoted Roman motto *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano*, "A sound mind in a sound body." The Luther College Alumni Association was charged with choosing a name for the new building and after discussion, they chose to call it the C.K. Preus Gymnasium.⁸⁵ It was dedicated on Founder's Day, October 14, 1926, five years after Koren.

Preus Gymnasium would serve as a central hub of campus for 35 years, hosting athletic events, annual Messiah performances, religious services, and even visits from Norwegian



A young Charles Altfillisch, undated.



Crown Princess Märtha and Crown Prince Olav of Norway (left) at a banquet in their honor in C.K. Preus Gymnasium, 1939.



Lulla Hjort Preus, wife of C.K. Preus, sits with members of the Luther College Ladies Aid group, doing mending for students, undated.

Coeducation

The American stock market crash in the fall of 1929 rippled across the American economy, plunging the entire nation to an unprecedented depression. The administration had to work to find new strategies to keep the school open, even if they meant going against tradition.

Luther College was originally founded as a school to prepare young men for seminary and pastoral work. Because women were not allowed to be ordained, they also were barred from enrolling at Luther College. There were some early advocates for coeducation in the 1880s and 1890s, both among the faculty and student body, but no decisive steps towards it were taken until 1931, when President Oscar Olson advocated for coeducation as a response to a financial crisis caused by sharply declining enrollment during the Great Depression. His proposal was supported by both the faculty and the Board of Trustees; however, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America (NLCA) still played a role in governance at Luther. Their Board of Education would have to approve any amendments to the Luther College Articles of Incorporation before they could be enacted. That December, the Board of Education "refused to concur" with President Olson's proposal, and the following month, asked for Olson's resignation, due to the financial situation.⁸⁶

The lobby for coeducation at Luther continued, but at the same time, local Decorah townspeople took matters into their own hands. In August 1932, the Decorah Junior College for Girls was created, which would offer a two-year course. Luther's new president, Ove J.H. Preus '01, agreed that the students could have access to Koren Library and laboratories, and would have the same privileges as Luther students in attending lectures, concerts, and sporting events.⁸⁷ Luther faculty provided much of the instruction for the new school, and the



The Weiser Mansion on Broadway Street, where the Decorah College for Girls was located, undated.



Ruth Graeber '36 stands in front of a car parked outside Koren Library. Ray Lee and Helen Hoff '36 sit inside the car. 1936



The 1936 graduates of Decorah College for Women. L-R: Helen Hoff, Dorcas Jacobsen, Ruth Graeber, Laura Monson, Lily Nelson.

schools shared the same calendar, class schedule, and charges. The following year, these agreements were laid out in a contract, which essentially made the girls part of the Luther student body.⁸⁸ In 1935 the Decorah Junior College for Girls was renamed the Decorah College for Women and accredited as a four-year college. Two women, Doris A. Erickson and Esther M. Hanson, were the first to receive Bachelor of Arts degrees from the institution. The following year, degrees were awarded to Ruth A. Graeber, Helen M. Hoff, Dorcas V. Jacobson, Laura M. Monson, and Lily B. Nelson.⁸⁹

In 1936, with support from the NLCA, the Luther College Articles of Incorporation were officially rewritten to include coeducation. The seven graduates of the Decorah College for Women were retroactively awarded Luther College diplomas. Today, members of that first class of women to attend Luther are honored with a plaque on the first floor of Koren.

"On the whole," David T. Nelson wrote in his *Luther College: 1861-1961*, "the women who pioneered coeducation...took in stride the problems associated with elbowing their way into an old established college for men."⁹⁰



Decorah College for Women plaque in Koren today.

Ever-Growing Library

Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, coeducation and a rebounding enrollment meant that Luther College was already beginning to outgrow its library. Karl T. Jacobsen began campaigning for adding a fourth level of stacks as early as 1935, noting that "if stack space for the newspapers and other Norwegian-Americana...were provided on the first main floor, this would release some space in the basement stack, which would make possible delaying the installation of the fourth floor stack a few

years."⁹¹ The first rumblings of need for more seating came in 1936, and were reiterated in 1939. "Even last year there were times, particularly certain evenings, when the reading room was filled to capacity and even this fall, early in the year as it is, the chairs have at times all been filled," he wrote. "The possibility of providing for a periodical reading room on the first floor, as suggested in a previous report, therefore merits early consideration."⁹²



Women students, including a first year in a beanie, standing outside and opening the door to Koren Library, undated.



View of the Koren Withdrawal (Circulation) Desk, around 1940s or early 1950s.

President Ove J. H. Preus

When Oscar Olson stepped down from the presidency in 1932, Rev. Ove J. H. Preus was selected as his replacement. The oldest son of C.K. Preus, Ove had followed his father into the ministry, eventually becoming president of the Eastern District of the NLCA. Before he came to Luther, he served as president of Augustana College (now Augustana University) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for three years. Ove was no stranger to Luther College - as a student, he played baseball and performed in Handel's Messiah. During his father's presidency, he helped campaign to raise funds for building Koren library.⁹³

His sixteen-year tenure at Luther was an eventful one. He navigated the financial crisis of the Depression, as well as declining enrollments and loss of Old Main (Main II) during World War II. He also led them through triumphs, such as the formalization of coeducation, the Concert Band's 1936 band tour, the royal Norwegian visit to Decorah and Luther's Diamond Jubilee.



Ove Preus in his Luther College Concert Band uniform, 1948



Luther College president Ove J. H. Preus, undated.

War Comes to Luther

The successful adoption of coeducation was to prove fortuitous as war in Europe loomed in the 1940s. When America entered World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, enrollment once again began to decline. Men dropped out to enlist or were drafted into the armed forces, leaving mostly women to support efforts on campus. They sold war bonds and war stamps and organized a Red Cross Unit.⁹⁴ They also took over many student organizations, such as *College Chips*, to ensure the groups stayed active during the war. Women "manned the chief posts in student organizations; they carried on the old traditions - and made a few new ones of their own," David T. Nelson wrote. "The home front was theirs. They manned it gallantly. They needed to make no apologies

when the veterans streamed back from the war and a new crop of freshman men entered. Women had carried on. Their place was assured."⁹⁵

Even Koren Library was involved in supporting the war effort. The American Library Association sponsored a Victory Book Campaign in 1942 and 1943. This campaign intended to provide books and other reading material to members all branches of the military service, as well as people in towns that were rapidly growing due to industrial growth.⁹⁶ Karl Jacobsen served as chairman of Decorah's Victory Book Campaign both years. The committee sent 786 books in 1942 and 407 in 1943.^{97 98}



Luther students making surgical dressings to support the war effort, 1944.



Luther College student Kenneth S. Knutson receives an Air Wing from his commanding officer during WWII, 1943. He sent the photograph to Luther professor Chellis Evanson.

Main Burns

On May 31, 1942, just as wartime activities were getting underway, Main II, known as Old Main, burned to the ground after being struck by lightning. As they had when Main I burned, students and faculty, assisted by volunteers, were able to rescue a number of things from the building, including college records, furniture, and biological equipment from the laboratory. Rooms in Larsen Hall were set aside for use as administrative offices. Makeshift classrooms were set up in several campus buildings, including the first floor of Koren.⁹⁹ This arrangement put some strain on the library - Karl Jacobsen observed in his 1941/1942 annual report that the library had planned to use the room for overflow shelving, as the stacks were becoming full. "The imperative need of its use as a class room occasioned by the fire prevented us from making use of the provision for temporary relief by building wood shelves in the south room on the first floor which was authorized last spring," he wrote.¹⁰⁰ New Main would not be rebuilt until 1952.



Photo of the tower of Main II aflame. Taken by Esther Miller. 1942.



Photo of front tower of Main II collapsing due to the fire. 1942.



Main II after the fire. In front of the building is a sign saying "Resurgam" - I shall rise again.



Photo of people standing in front of Main II as it burns. (taken by Dave Nelson). 1942

Looking for Elbow Room

According to Professor Emeritus Harland Nelson, Koren was planned for an enrollment of about 300 students.¹⁰¹ The enrollment of Luther College in 1921/1922 was 272 students. By the end of World War II in 1945/1946, there were 539 students enrolled. Enrollments would continue to climb in the next several years.^{102 103} Even the reduced enrollment of the war years did little to ease the issue of overcrowding. "Lack of shelving is not our only problem," Jacobsen wrote in his 1944/1945 annual report. "For several years we have been seriously handicapped by the lack of sufficient and convenient work space for staff; space provided for catalog cases has been completely used up, and the last two years of the prewar period and even last year with our still reduced enrolment [sic] the seating space in our reading room was often at a premium. There is not, therefore, much doubt but that with the anticipated increase in enrolment [sic], the problem of provision of more reading room space is upon us right now to some extent and by next year will be very urgent."¹⁰⁴

The library staff created a number of strategies to maximize space. Both the third-floor lounge, where the Gausta art collection had been displayed, and one of the classrooms on the first floor, were taken over during the 1946/1947 year as additional study spaces.¹⁰⁵ The third floor space was eventually converted into a periodical reading room, where students could read magazines and newspapers. The classroom on the first floor became known as the "freshman reading room," a study space for use by underclassmen.¹⁰⁶ The long-awaited fourth tier of stacks was installed in October 1946, temporarily alleviating the issue of shelf space.¹⁰⁷ Despite these creative accommodations, overcrowding continued to threaten the academic potential of the library.



Four students studying on the third floor of Koren, which had been taken over for a study space.



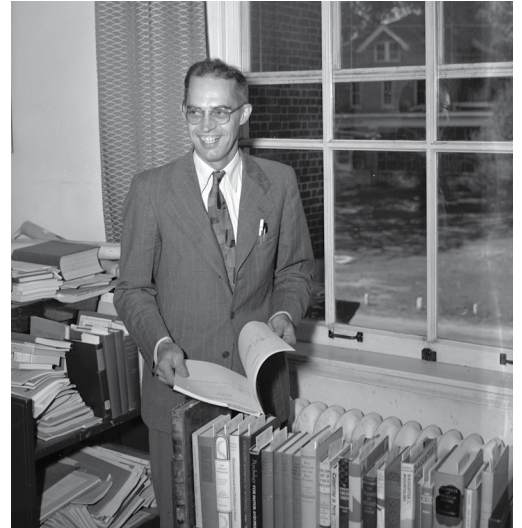
Students studying in the Curriculum Library of Koren, undated.



Young woman with a book near the window at the end of the Koren stacks, 1948.

Enter Hovde, Stage Left

The close of the 1940s was the end of an era, as Karl Jacobsen retired at the end of the 1948/1949 school year. His successor as Head Librarian was Oivind M. Hovde. Hovde graduated from Luther College in 1932 and worked as a library assistant in Koren from 1935-1938. After earning his master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan in 1941, he worked at the University of Michigan Law Library and the Concordia College Library before returning to Luther in 1944 as an associate librarian.¹⁰⁸ Hovde would prove an excellent choice, guiding Koren Library through crowding issues and playing a key role in advocating for library expansion.



Recently-hired Oivind M. Hovde in Koren Library, 1948.

The Unsinkable Chellis N. Evanson



Dr. Chellis N. Evanson, professor of history at Luther College, undated.

Luther College has a number of notable figures in its past, but few are as beloved as Chellis Evanson. A 1918 graduate of Luther, Evanson served in the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Pennsylvania for a year before returning to the college to teach history, among other subjects, in 1919. He would later be promoted to head of the history department in 1936.^{109 110 111} Evanson was known for an idiosyncratic teaching style, keeping a special shelf of primary and secondary sources in Koren Library that he expected students to seek out and read, but not in any particular sequence. He liked to open class by questioning students on what books they had been reading recently.¹¹² According to Russell Loven '58, if a student had nothing to share, Evanson would not refrain from embarrassing the student in front of the class. Loven and his fellow peers would flock to the library to find books they could mention in class to avoid being chided.¹¹³ Loven's experiences were echoed in a satirical letter to the editor in *College Chips*, where the beleaguered student "Peeved Schmeeved" accused Evanson of insisting they spend time "rotting in the library reading history."¹¹⁴

In addition to sending his pupils to Korea, Evanson organized the Luther News Service in 1928, aided by students Frisbie L. Young '28 and Wilbur Nielson '28. The News Service provided Luther-related publicity and news releases to newspapers and other media outlets, as well as alumni.¹¹⁵ His role with the News Service was a benefit when World War II broke out. In addition to ensuring students and alumni in the service received copies of *College Chips* and *Alumnus*, Evanson began writing a small newsletter with all the latest happenings on the Luther campus. He cheekily called it *Scuttlebutt*, after the Navy slang for gossip. *Scuttlebutt* was eventually sent, like the *College Chips*, to all Luther-affiliated servicemen and women. It was eagerly received by Lutherites, who wrote Chellis detailed letters thanking



Evanson in a Navy uniform, presumably offering a lecture or commentary. He was referred to by colleague David T. Nelson as "the old navy man on campus."



Chellis Evanson (standing) attending a faculty browser in Koren Library, 1950.

him for keeping them current and sending a little piece of home. "Like the rest, I surely do appreciate your interest in us boys & always did enjoy stopping to see & listen to you," Joe Homstad '38 wrote in 1944. "You can bet that I could go for a cup of the good old Norske coffee again instead of the Navy idea of that good old beverage."¹¹⁶ Their letters reveal the deep affection and regard his students had for him. He was a tireless correspondent. "When I get a letter from any of you, I'm tickled to death," Evanson wrote in March 1944, "because I know there is a list ahead of me...I'll gladly stand aside for parents, wives, and sweethearts, but when there is time, let's have a word and I'll make it my business to pass it on to the boys on my list." I've got a lot more time than any of you fellows, so make it tough for me."¹¹⁷

Through *Scuttlebutt*, Evanson also provided the valuable service of keeping Lutherites current on their friends, providing updates and known addresses so friends could reconnect. This got him in trouble with the Censorship Office who chastised him for revealing classified information by not censoring the exact ships and units Lutherites were on, which was prohibited in published material.¹¹⁸

The Luther College Archives holds all the issues of *Scuttlebutt*, as well as 707 letters, postcards, and photographs sent to Evanson from Luther men and women serving across the war. In 2008, Luther College professor Marv Slind published a two-part edited volume of these letters called [*Luther College Goes to War: "Scuttlebutt" and World War II Letters*](#).

From One Chapter to the Next

The late 1940s closed a chapter in the history of Luther College and Koren Library. Luther's academic resources grew significantly in the first half of the twentieth century, with Luther's campus expanding to handle the influx. By 1949, Karl Jacobsen was ready to retire, following President Ove J. H. Preus's retirement in 1947. During Jacobsen's tenure as the head librarian he oversaw a growing student population and an overflowing library collection. Luther College experienced some major setbacks during this time, related to economic insecurity, a world war, and the burning of one of the principle campus buildings. Still, Luther at the end of the 1940s was in a healthy position as a traditional and growing institution. In our next issue, we will examine Koren in the 1950s and 1960s, a period marked by new leadership, a shifting Luther identity, and the building of a new library.



Photo of Koren on the Luth College campus, undated.

Endnotes

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