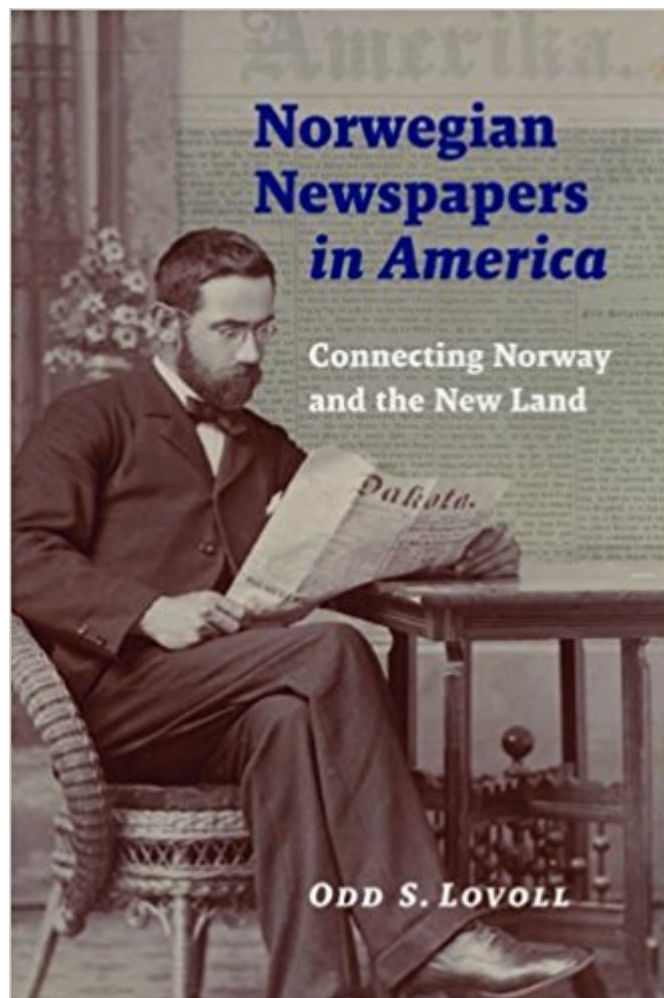




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Norwegian Newspapers In America: Connecting Norway And The New Land



Synopsis

In the nineteenth century, the United States, "the land of newspapers," was also fast becoming the land of immigrants, with increasing numbers of Norwegians arriving amid the European influx. Already Skandinaven, published out of Chicago, kept newcomers and their Old World friends and family informed of political, religious, and social matters discussed in burgeoning Norwegian American communities. From 1847 to today, more than 280 Norwegian-language papers were launched in cities ranging from Minneapolis to Fargo, Boston to Seattle. Some lasted just a few months; others continued for decades; all contributed to a developing Norwegian- American perspective. Odd Lovoll traces newspaper ventures both successful and short lived to offer a comprehensive look at America's Norwegian-language press. Highlighting diligent editors and analyzing topics of interest to readers through the years, Norwegian Newspapers in America demonstrates how newspapers pursued a twofold goal: forging a bridge to the homeland while nurturing cultural practices in the New World.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Professor Lovoll has presented an exhaustively researched and detailed examination of the impact and importance of Norwegian newspapers in 19th and 20th century America. Focusing on the rationale that each publisher felt to start a newspaper, Prof. Lovoll examines the similarities and dissimilarities of the multitude of startups. Many were the expression of a publisher's social and political feelings and would advocate for a particular cause or movement such as socialism or temperance. Others were transparently political party organs. Still, many were non-partisan papers who's impetus was to provide the new immigrant from Norway (and other Scandinavian lands)

with information that would simultaneously foster ethnic identification among countrymen and assimilation into the new lands and opportunities of the United States. The fears and other intimidating factors of the immigrant were tempered by having a common bond with others provided by a Norwegian/Danish language paper. Professor Lovoll details why so many newspapers failed within a few months or years of beginning, and why a few others survived and prospered well into the 1970's. This book will be of interest to those interested about immigrant life in the 19th century, those with an interest in the life cycle of pioneering newspaper publishing, and those wanting to learn more about how Norwegians were able to maintain their tightly bound ethnic identity and at the same time assimilate completely into their adopted home's culture.

Norwegian Newspapers in America by Odd Lovoll
Book review: Meticulously and extensively documented text supported by their historical, political, religious, and socially impacted events. The digital edition makes its vast content easily searchable. I wish I could have read it 60 years ago. Thanks to Odd Lovoll and the Minnesota Historical Society for this monumental documentary.
John M. Grimsrud, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

Too detailed and unfocused collection of well known history, had waited better from this researcher and writer

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