

CHICAGO NORSKE KLUB

#396



Chicago
Norske Klub

1890 - 1930

396.

B. Norum

Chicago Norske Klub



*Fortieth Anniversary
January, 1930*

396.

CLUB EMBLEMS

⑥



1890



1905



1911

Chicago Norske Klub

Fortieth Anniversary Greetings

GREETINGS to members, ladies and friends on this day, the celebration of our Club's Fortieth Anniversary.

There are many pleasant reflections that we can picture of these forty years—happy memories of festivals, associations among old friends, and unselfish labors for the cause of our Club. Through four decades of loyal and devoted effort on the part of its membership, the Chicago Norske Klub enjoys a position which possibly is unequaled by any Norwegian social club outside of Norway. The wide scope of interests which the Club embraces, includ-



The Clubroom

ing theatrical plays, lectures, art exhibits, receptions for distinguished visitors, as well as the Club's own social functions, membership meetings and everyday associations, are the elements which have contributed to the Club's progress during the years. We look forward with great hopes for the future, to further progress in our endeavors, and continued fraternal spirit among the members.

The Chicago Norske Klub was founded through the consolidation of Den Norske Kvartetklub and Den Norske Klub i Chicago. Den Norske Kvartetklub was founded January 10, 1890, under the name,

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"Den Skandinaviske Kvartetklub i Chicago." This name was changed in 1897. The Fortieth Anniversary, which we celebrate this year, is based on the date from 1890. "Den Norske Klub i Chicago" was organized March 1, 1905, and the consolidation of the two clubs took place June 21, 1911. On the occasion of the dedication of our present clubhouse, in July, 1917, a very interesting book was published, giving a historical sketch of the two former clubs and of the consolidated club up to that time. A short review from this book on this day may be of interest.



The first Sangerfest participated in by Kvartetklubben was in Minneapolis in the year 1891 in conjunction with the United Scandinavian Singers of America, followed by a memorable dinner given by the Club. In 1892 and 1893 two carnivals were given, which had all the splendor of the "gay nineties."



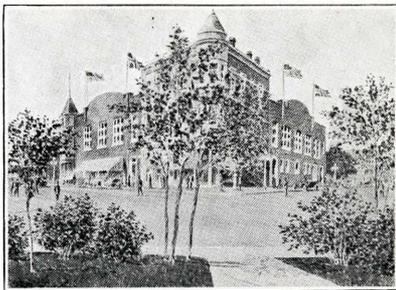
The club was invited by Norway's Commissioner General of the World's Fair in 1893 to be the chorus on the official ship receiving the Viking Ship as it sailed into Chicago on its voyage from Norway.

At the banquet given at the Auditorium Hotel in honor of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in 1897, the official musical program was rendered by the Club, and in receiving the visiting student choirs from Sweden (1904), Norway (1905), and Denmark (1911), the Club also took active parts. Likewise in the memorial concert for Grieg in 1907. Kvartetklubben also gave four theatrical performances; among these was "Fjeldeventyret," in 1897, with forty players in the cast. Anniversaries were celebrated every year with a banquet and ball in some downtown leading hotel, and on these occasions the annual paper, called "Putriare," was issued.

Den Norske Klub i Chicago, founded in 1905, had for its field the study of literature, poetry, prose, and drama, promotion of amateur theatricals and similar activities, as well as social functions. Our present library is an inheritance from this Club, likewise our club song, "Leiret i et enigt fylke . . .". The official paper, "Bladlusen," was a masterpiece of humor and satire, and was read at the weekly meetings. Of special interest was a course of lectures on "Norwegian Literature Before 1914" and "Norwegian Literature

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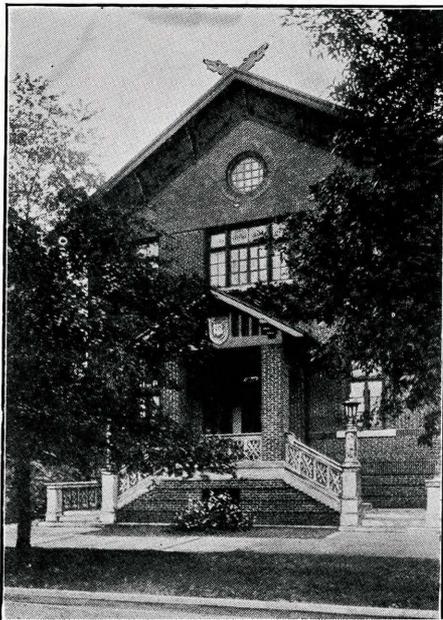
After 1914"; lectures on "Henrik Ibsen," "Edgar Allen Poe," "Marie Stuart," and two illustrated lectures given by Colonel H. Angell in 1909 on "Norsk Bondekultur" and "Det Nye Norge." The Seventeenth of May and Fourth of July were the grand social functions in the old Norske Klub.



The Old Club

Chicago Norske Klub's first quarters, built especially for the Club, were on the second floor of the building located on the northwest corner of Kedzie and Milwaukee Avenues. These quarters served the Club until 1917.

Of the many varied and interesting subjects from this five year period were a number of lectures, including one on "The Industrial Development of the New Norway," by C. J. Hambro, editor of *Morgenbladet*, Christiania, one on "Abraham Lincoln," by Judge Kickham Scanlon, and many other lectures of equal interest. A series of musical evenings and entertainments; one play, "Ingvald Enersen," a Norwegian student farce, was played in 1912. The



Our Present Clubhouse

Norwegian delegation to the International Convention of World's Chambers of Commerce at Boston was entertained at the Club in 1912, among the delegates being C. Lemkuhl and Johan Ludv. Mowinkel. The time of the Club during its last year at this location was much taken up with planning and financing a new clubhouse.

Since the acquisition of its own building in 1917 the Club has greatly enlarged its activities both in social as well as cultural directions, and various auxiliary societies have been formed within the Club.

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The Dramatic Society of the Club was formed in 1919 and one of the first productions was a "shock" and one a "monster": "Kavallerischok" and "Et Uhyre," played in May, 1919. We may say the Dramatic Society was a resurrection of l'esprit de théâtre of Den Norske Klub i Chicago, dramatics being one of the interests embraced by that Club. Among the plays given by this former Club was the student farce, "Paa Hybelen," in 1907, played three times before crowded houses, and, later, the comic opera, "Blodbadet i Granada," also known as the "Bloody Bath of Wicker Park Hall," where it was played.



Scene from "De Unges Forbund"

The Dramatic Society has produced about thirty plays since it was founded, among which may be mentioned, "De Unges Forbund," "Baldevins Bryllup," and "Charley's Tante." In "Jeppe paa Bjerget," played in 1922, William Iverson of Bergen's Nationale Scene was Jeppe. We recall with great pleasure and admiration our actresses and actors in the various rôles, and appreciate the generous work which they have performed. "Charley's Tante," which was played four times with great success in Chicago, gave the performers such courage that they decided upon a national tour. The first and last place outside of Chicago, however, was Racine, Wisconsin, where the troupe "stranded." This was on April 17, 1921. In addition to these plays the Society has arranged a number of lectures. The Club's Orchestra, also formed in 1919, has functioned in coöperation with the Dramatic Society and has rendered the musical program at the

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plays as well as on other occasions, including receptions at the Art Exhibits. The "Tivoli Aften," given annually by the Orchestra, has given us much delight.

A Singing Society, formed in 1924, has enlivened many of our occasions, and the singers' stags have been enjoyable occasions of vocal as well as "local" productions. At the present stage the society is in a state of modest silence, undoubtedly in order to give the members time to take deep breaths and expand their chests, later to blaze forth with new impetus.

A Debating Society was formed in 1922 for the benefit of those members who like to argue in the open. The debaters, however, must have said a "mouthful" and must have been "outspoken" right at the very beginning, as the Society succumbed in its infancy. The moral to be drawn is, speak easy.

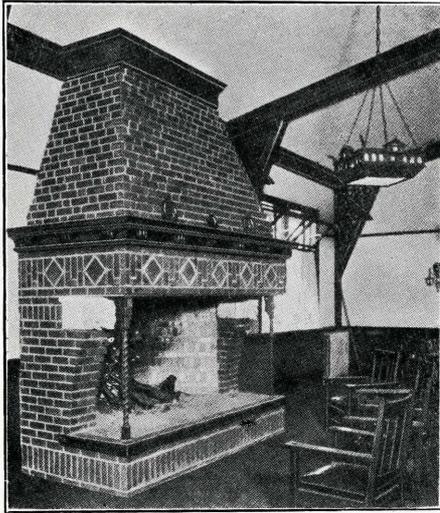
The idea of holding art exhibits in the Club dates back seventeen years, and a committee for this purpose was appointed at a membership meeting held May 9, 1913. Preliminary work was done by this committee. The first exhibit was held in 1920 and one has been held each year since, except in 1928. The



Art Exhibit, 1929

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exhibits have been uniformly successful and have been the scene for the display of valuable paintings and works of sculpture of our Norwegian American artists from various parts of the 'States and



The Fireplace

Canada. We may say these exhibits, which have been open to the public, have been one of the outstanding features of the Club's endeavors along cultural lines, and have been the means of acquainting the public with many of our prominent artists and their works. In 1926 we had the honor and pleasure of a royal visit to the art exhibit when Her Majesty Queen Marie of Roumania, Prince Nicolas and Princess Ileana visited the Club. An exhibit of "Applied Arts of Norway" was also held in 1926

and contained a wonderful collection of antique as well as modern Norwegian handicraft.

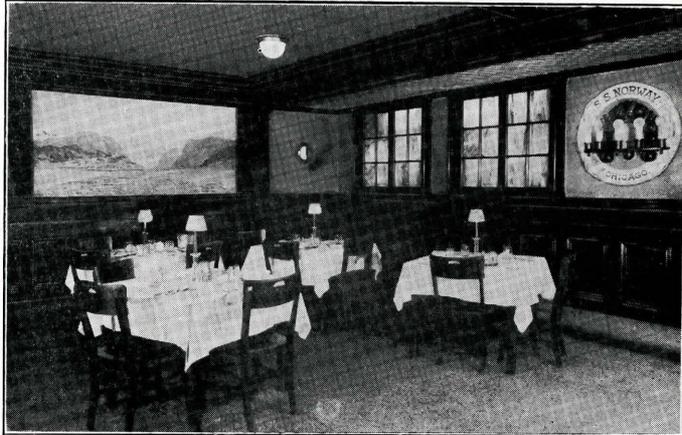
The twentieth century has witnessed a great accession to power of the fair sex, and our Club has been compelled to meet this situation.



Children's Play at Christmas Party

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To illustrate how useless it is for mere man to try to stem this tide of progress, we may cite a resolution passed at a membership meeting held May 9, 1913, to the effect that ladies be excluded on Fridays and



Dining Room

that they only be permitted in the Club on Sundays. However, this declaration of independence, so courageously introduced, was not of great duration, and Friday evenings are now, and for a long time have been the only sacred hours for the old male warriors. The Ladies' Auxiliary was formed in 1918, and we cannot sufficiently praise the wonderful coöperation and assistance which the ladies through this organization have rendered the Club in arranging the Wednesday card nights, children's Christmas parties, receptions at the art exhibits, junior plays, and in presenting the Club with various furnishings, including a grand piano. —“Dette skal være damernes skaal . . .”

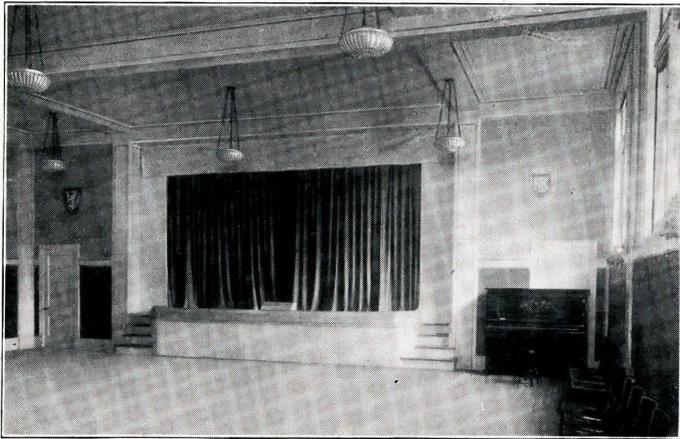


The High Seat

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As members of Normandsforbundet and the Chicago Norwegian National League, the Club with due and devoted interest also partakes of these societies' works.

In the foregoing, mention has been made of some of the distinguished guests who have visited our Club. Thereto must be added Dr. Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen, whom we on several occasions had the honor to entertain; likewise, Johan Bojer in 1922, and many others prominent in Norwegian as well as American literature, art and politics.



Dance Hall with Stage

The Club was the headquarters for the Norwegian Student Chorus on the visit to Chicago in 1925, and the reception-soirée given on this occasion was attended by over 200 persons. The Club also was headquarters for the two conventions of Norwegian-American Engineers and Architects in 1917 and 1927. In 1927 a banquet was given for the Norwegian-American Historical Society, among the guests of honor being the professor and author, O. E. Rølvaag.

On this Fortieth Anniversary let us be resolved to carry on the traditions of our Club and let the history of the past forty years be our inspiration for continued efforts to further the objects of the Club.

EMIL BIORN
H. WINTHER BUSCH
JOHN G. LANGFELDT
Editing Committee.

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C. A. Bergstrom	Dankert Richter
William Gerner	Sverre H. Nannestad
Haldor O. Oppedal	Carl Gulbrandsen
C. F. Arnet	Thomas Warloe
Thomas S. H. Kolderup	

DEN NORSKE KLUB I CHICAGO—PRESIDENTS

Guttorm Viker	Oscar Amundsen
Otto Skarre	Gabriel Greiff
Leif Jensen	John Borge
Tolle Aspestrand	

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Joachim G. Giaver	Thos. G. Pihlfeldt
A. Hummeland	J. W. Sinding
M. Kirkeby	H. Winther Busch
B. Osland	Andrew Nesheim
Joachim G. Giaver	I. H. Faleide
C. F. Arnet	

KLUBSANGEN

Leiret i et enigt fylke
Staar vor Klub for Norges Sag
Og vi løfter høit vort mærke
Her i norskheds vennelag.
Vi vil mindes hav og fjorde,
Mindes skogen, dal og fjeld,
Og hvis du os kræver, Norge,
Slaar vi skjoldborg for dit vel.

Kom da hid, I Norges sønner
Her skal holdes hjemlands fest.
Her skal i vort höisæd straale
Norges aand som hædersgjæst,
Den skal samle vore hjærter,
Knytte nye venskabsbaand,
Töm dit bæger da, min broder,
Ræk mig ærlig venskabshaand.

Lad saa glæden fylde laget
Jubel bruse i vort sind,
Ungdomsliv og ungdomstanker
Drage rigt og kraftigt ind.
Lad os her i venneskaren
Kaste dagens tyngsel af,
Og lad hjertevarme tanker
Sprede lyst sit straalehav.