NORWEGIAN STUDIES

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A. LANGUAGE

I. 1940–1948

I. INTRODUCTION

In spite of the political disturbance and uncertain working conditions with which scholars had to cope during the first five years of the period, some important work has been done, though mainly through periodicals.

In runology Magnus Olsen has presented fresh outstanding contributions. The first vol. of a great collective work, ed. by M. Olsen (see below) was published in 1941. When complete, it will contain all important research done in Norway in this field.

Place-name and dialect studies have been to the fore and covered considerable new ground. M. Olsen explores with remarkable scholarship and imagination the relationship between cult and place-names (Kultminne; Stedsnavn), while J. Petersen provides an interesting archaeological approach. From a third angle O. H. Andersen traces the course and development of habitation and ‘landnám’ through place-names.

A major work on Old Norse dialects is M. Høgstad's Vestnorske målfor 1350, the last part of which was published posthumously. Modern dialects have received a very copious and detailed treatment in H. Christiansen’s Norske dialekter, of which three vols. are printed.

Authoritative work on syntax has been done by Trygve Knudsen, Kasuslærer I–III. The author undertakes a reassessment of the governing principles in Falk and Torps’s Dansk-Norskens Syntax, and offers admirable new analysis and classification in accordance with modern views.

The comprehensive Riksmål dictionary (vol. i, publ. 1937) has been in progress and will probably be complete in late 1949.
English students of Norwegian will be grateful for *Teach Yourself Norwegian*, by I. Marm and A. Sommerfeldt, which is good in method and material alike. Useful vocabularies for reading Wergeland, Asbjørnsen's fairy tales, Ivar Aasen and Sigrid Undset have been compiled by E. Haugen and Henning Larsen.

One important new ed. of St Olav's Saga calls for special mention: *Den store Saga om Olav den Hellige*, ed. O. A. Johnsen and J. Helgason. It gives a more complete text than previous editions and contains an index for personal names and place-names which will be invaluable for future research.

The discussion on the new spelling reform has been lively, and some of the main arguments are included in the following section.

2. GENERAL


P. N. Grøtvedt, 'Hva blir resultatet av rettskrivningsreformen—et norsk kunstspråk eller et norsk kulturspråk?' Den Høgre Skolen, Oslo, 1940. Discussion of the new spelling reform.


E. Os, 'Norsk målstrev idag', *SS*, li, 1945.

