

**NORGE. 4 vols.; maps, diags., ills., indexes.**

**J. W. Cappelen Forlag, Oslo, 1963. 780 Nkr. (about \$110). 12 x 9 inches.**

Seldom does one encounter a publication so bold in concept, so authoritative in content, or so exquisite in execution as this four-volume work. Its list of contributors reads like a who's who of Norwegian academic and public life; its magnificent color photographs (full-page, two-page, and three-page foldout) are the product of unsurpassed Swiss craftsmanship; and its superb atlas is the result of close cooperation between the Norwegian Geographical Institute, the Army Map Service in Washington, and the renowned cartographic firm of Esselte in Stockholm. The four volumes, printed on high-quality art paper, contain descriptions for more than 35,000 places, an entirely new atlas with some 45,000 place names, a cross-referenced gazetteer with more than 60,000 entries, and considerably more than 3000 up-to-date photographs. Surely, no other country in the world, large or small, can boast so factually comprehensive or artistically impressive a self-inventory.

The first volume, "Land og folk," consists of twenty chapters, covering all aspects of Norway's regional and systematic geography. After an introductory overview of the country as a whole, five chapters summarize the distinctive personality of each of the major regions, and a sixth describes Norwegian possessions in the Arctic and Antarctic. The remaining thirteen chapters deal with geology and landforms, climate, flora, fauna, population and settlement, the Lapps and their culture, the structure of Norwegian society, linguistic geography and dialects, place names, transport and communications, hydroelectric power resources and their development, economic life, and foreign trade. In all, the first volume contains 415 pages of text, 50 color plates, more than 100 line drawings and cartograms, and 287 black-and-white photographs.

The second and third volumes, "Geografisk leksikon," constitute a geographical encyclopedia of Norway, the second volume covering Østlandet (The East Country) and Sørlandet (The South Country) and the third Vestlandet (The West Country), Trøndelag, and North Norway. In words, pictures, statistics, maps, and diagrams these two volumes describe every minor civil division in Norway, in topographic sequence from the southeastern corner of the country adjacent to the Swedish frontier to the northeastern boundary with the Soviet Union. Each double page has a standard form, eight columns in width. The left-hand column is devoted to a small map that locates the individual commune or town by district, county, and region and, beneath this, a vignette describing some noteworthy feature, event, or personality associated with the place. The far right-hand column is devoted to line drawings, fact "capsules" of special interest or unusual nature, and/or three or four small photographs. The six intervening columns, numbered for easy reference, are devoted chiefly to descriptive text and larger photographs. Each district is introduced by a detailed description of its boundaries, drainage basins, and transport arteries, and by historical sketches of its principal settlements. A section titled "Administrative Divisions and Statistics" traces the evolution of the minor civil division to its present status and summarizes each of the communes as follows: distribution of

area between given elevations (0-60 meters, 60-150 meters, and so on); number and areas of water bodies; percentages of land in agricultural use, productive forest, and "other" categories; composition of productive forest (coniferous versus broadleaf); ownership of forest areas; percentage of population dissenting from state church; occupational structure of population in 1960; gross area of commune, its water surface, agricultural land, forest land, and swampland; population (usually for every second decade from the time the commune first appeared in the census reports, many going back to the original count in 1769); ballots cast for individual political parties in the parliamentary elections of 1961 and 1936; number of farms in different size categories; use of agricultural land (according to the 1959 agricultural census); census of livestock, fruit trees, and berry bushes; production of forest products; and, finally, the names of all major industrial establishments in the commune and the number of persons employed by each. At the end of each article is a pictorial graph summarizing the land use of the commune, so that the reader can assess the character of the area at a glance. Special mention should also be made of the effective and extensive use of aerial photographs. Virtually every town in the country is depicted by both vertical and oblique views, which are carefully oriented to one another and have principal points of interest keyed to a legend-in essence, constituting a primer in air-photo interpretation. Line drawings are also used to good advantage to depict such things as house types and various quantitative data that would otherwise be difficult to comprehend or visualize. Together the two volumes contain 928 pages, 2607 columns of text, and fully 3000 illustrations.

The fourth and final volume consists of a 15-page historical survey of "Norway in Maps," complete with reproductions of several ancient maps of the country; a 64-page atlas, of which 57 pages cover the country at the scale of 1: 400,000; a glossary of Lapp terms encountered on the maps; and the index, gazetteer, and list of sources for the entire work. The atlas maps are printed in eight colors on special heavy-weight paper and contain many interesting cartographic innovations. For example, the built-up areas of towns and the main roads are shown in tones of rust red, with the result that the eye is immediately attracted to the more urbanized areas and their supporting arterial transport patterns. Secondary roads are shown in yellow and require closer inspection to locate and identify them, and tertiary roads are white outlined in violet, thus completing a visual hierarchy of great effectiveness and clarity. Indeed, to preserve legibility without sacrifice of detail, violet has been employed for all hydrographic names and for most symbols. Examples of some of the special symbols encountered on the maps are those depicting aerial cableways and ski tows, power stations, winter snowmobile routes in Finnmark, hotels and pensions in areas outside the towns, tourist huts and hikers' trails in the mountains, and lighthouses along the coast. The lighthouses are identified by the colored sectors of their lights and, on the 1: 150,000 maps of the larger cities, by pictorial representations of their profiles. All agglomerated settlements over 200 population are shown by rust-red circles, predominantly forested areas are in green, and terrain is represented both by contours (100-meter interval) and by plastic shading, supplemented by more than 12,000 spot elevations.

Certainly, "Norge" measures up in every way to the ambitious goal the editors and publisher set for it: to be useful and yet readable; to give everyone, whether hiker or

tourist, business man, official, or scholar, what he seeks. Such faults as one might find with it must of necessity relate to minor points (why, for instance, consistent intervals were not employed in stating the areal distribution of the various communes, to make them more nearly comparable with one another). To the universal acclaim that this pioneering effort has been accorded throughout all of Norden, this reviewer can only add his own wholehearted accolade. This monumental work, prepared and published as an entirely private undertaking without any form of state subsidy, is more than an eloquent expression of love of country (though it is that in every sense as well); it is an accurate, dynamic, and thoroughly up-to-date statement of what Norway is and how her people live. The fact that it is intended for a broad spectrum of the Norwegian public does not mean that it is in any way "watered down" or "popularized"; rather, it presupposes a level of intellectual sophistication and geographic literacy that, by American standards, must be judged high. Though published only in Norwegian, the inclusion of a Norwegian-English glossary makes much of its wealth of detail easily accessible to the English-speaking scholar. Surely, for anyone who knows Norway, this is as complete and breathtaking a synthesis of that lovely land as could ever be captured between eight leather-bound covers; for anyone who would know Norway, there could be no finer introduction. - VINCENT H. MALMSTRÖM

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[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)