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## THE HISTORY OF SLAVISTICS IN SWEDEN

A considerable part of this article is almost a mere translation of an article written by my predecessor on the Commission of the History of Slavistics, the late Professor GUNNAR JACOBSSON, in 1983. I had hoped that we would sign this article together, and had planned to send it to him for approval. But fate would have it otherwise. G. Jacobsson died in April 2001 ago, and so I will be the only named author. Apart from G. Jacobsson's article, I have drawn on articles written in connection with anniversaries etc. (see the bibliography) and evidence from various colleagues at the Slavic departments in Sweden.

Before starting to write the history of what we call Slavistics, we need to clarify how we define this term in the Swedish context. There has been much discussion about what should be included in the term, and there are broad definitions and narrow ones. We will not go into that discussion here, but merely explain that in the Swedish tradition we prefer to use a broader definition, which means that we include not only the languages and literatures of the Slavic countries, but also folklore and culture in the broader sense of the word. History as such has traditionally not been included in the term Slavistics in Sweden, and contacts between historians and Slavists have often been infrequent, in fact all too infrequent. A crucial word when defining Slavistics in the Swedish understanding of the term is *scholarly*, i.e. it is a matter of a structured and systematic study of the languages, literatures, culture and societies of the Slavic world. But, it should be added, apart from contributing to the scholarly study of the Slavic world, Swedish Slavists have often seen it as an essential task to function as intermediaries between the Swedish public and the Slavic countries. Even if the need for this might be less today, when the Slavic countries have opened up to the outside world, it still remains a crucial task.

### THE FIRST PERIOD (TO 1850)

The mere fact of Sweden's close proximity to two of the major Slavic countries, Russia and Poland, naturally had a major impact on the history of Slavistics in Sweden. The obvious need to communicate with, first and foremost, the giant of these two neighbours, Russia, meant that it was absolutely essential to devote some attention to what was going on in that country and to being able to communicate directly with its representatives.

It could be discussed who should be honoured with the epithet "the first Swedish Slavist". The late Professor ANDERS SJÖBERG of Stockholm, in an article published in 1982, presented a candidate who fired the imagination: "Pop Upir' Lixoj and the Swedish Rune-carver Ofeigr Upir". In that article, he suggests that the *pop* with the strange name Upir' Lixoj (roughly *the evil vampire*), known to have lived in Novgorod in the 11th century, was in fact of Scandinavian origin and identical to the renowned rune-carver Ofeigr Öpir. According to Sjöberg's theory, the man left Novgorod in the 1060s and started a career as rune-carver and missionary for the Eastern Church. According to the chronicle, Upir' Lixoj transliterated a Glagolitic text into the Cyrillic alphabet, an activity that could be defined as Slavic philology. This is not the place to argue in favour of or against the theory that these two individuals were in fact one and the same, but it definitely has many attractive components and highlights in a beautiful way the Scandinavian thread in the Russian weave. Scandinavists, it is true, have shown little enthusiasm for this theory.

Before moving on, mention should be made of PETRUS PETREJUS and his accounts of his Russian travels. The most extensive of these, *Regni Muschovitici Sciographia* (1615), paints a rather negative picture of our eastern neighbour, evidently borrowing some of its themes and stereotypes from Siegmund von Herberstein, *the* traveller to Russia in the previous century. Petrejus's *Regni Muschovitici Sciographia* was also published in a German translation in 1620. It was read extensively in its day, and influenced both later travellers and European perceptions of Russia and the Russians. Petrejus also wrote a very interesting account of the Time of Troubles, published in 1608. MARGARETA ATTIUS SOHLMAN prepared a facsimile edition in 1997 (see the bibliography).

As early a monarch as King Gustav Vasa (1496-1560) was aware of the need for interpreters for Russian. In one of his letters it emerges that he sent one person to Russia to study the language. His scholarship bore fruit, and the student came back with a good command of Russian. In the same letter, the king asks Bishop Botvid of Strängnäs how the Russian students there are getting on. We know of the existence of some kind of organized preparation of interpreters to and from Russian as early as the end of the 16th century. These interpreters appear by name on pay-rolls and occasionally in the form of signatures on official documents. They received their training either in

Stockholm or in the Baltic provinces, the “Russian school” in Narva being particularly well-known. KARI TARKIAINEN (1972), who has worked extensively on this question, puts the number of interpreters known by name who were active during the period 1593-1661 at 83. The majority of them probably came from the border areas and were Russian speakers from childhood.

At this point we need to make a brief historical excursion: After the peace treaty of Stolbova in 1617, the whole of Ingria and parts of Karelia became Swedish territory and the people living in these areas became Swedish citizens. Many of them were of the Russian Orthodox faith. Of that group, many were ethnic Russians, while others were Ingrians and Votes, i.e. their native tongue was Finno-Ugrian. From the point of view of the Swedish authorities, these new citizens constituted a security risk: they were not regarded as trustworthy in times of war, and the aim was to convert them to Lutheranism. For the approximately one hundred years that Ingria and parts of Karelia belonged to Sweden, the authorities tried, with varying intensity depending on the reactions of the Russian side, to convert the population in the border areas to Lutheranism. It was in this context that the first printed manifestations of Swedish Slavistics emerged. To be able to print texts in Russian for Russian-speaking Swedish citizens, a printing press was established in Stockholm under the management of the Dutch printer PETER VAN SELOW. This press seems to have been in existence for about fifteen years, and produced two books of particular interest to us. In 1628 a Russian translation of Luther’s Catechism was printed there, a few copies of which still exist. This is probably the first book ever printed in Russian, rather than Russian-Church Slavonic. The translation was prepared by HANS FLÖRICH, Royal Translator and director of the chancellery for interpreters in Stockholm. Flörich was born in Russia to German parents and came to Sweden as a result of a number of complicated circumstances. This translation has attracted the interest of scholars, in recent decades that of A. Sjöberg (1975, 1984) and LUBOMÍR ĎUROVIČ (2000). At the same printing press, but possibly before 1628 (there is no date), was printed *Alfabetum Rutenorum*, a small primer containing explanations in Swedish of the Russian letters and their pronunciation, Luther’s Small Catechism, and prayers in Russian and Swedish (Sjöberg 1975).

This material was probably also used in the chancellery of Russian interpreters, which was set up in 1649-50. There, Russian interpreters were trained in a more systematic way than had previously been the case. This was probably the earliest organized teaching of Russian outside Russia. The trainee interpreters were given language lessons by experienced interpreters and translators and were also sent to Russia to practise the language and study Russian life and society. BIRGITTA JANSSON (1975) has found thematically organized and alphabetical glossaries, grammatical notes, an extensive phraseology etc., material which was surely used by students of Russian.

Sweden has, for a non-Slavic country, unusually rich collections of Slavic manuscripts, books and documents. It was above all in the 17th and 18th centuries that this material was brought here. The Thirty Year War, with Swedish troops roaming north-eastern and central Europe, brought very valuable books and manuscripts to Sweden, mainly from Poland and Bohemia. Most of the collections of the Jesuit library at Braniewo (Braunsberg), for instance, are now preserved at Uppsala University Library, and were studied by the late Professor JÓZEF TRYPUĆKO. The most valuable booty from Russian territory consists of the Occupation Archives from Novgorod, now preserved at the National Archives in Stockholm. These almost complete archives from Novgorod during the period of the Swedish occupation, 1611-17, were taken out of the city by Jacob de la Gardie when the Swedes withdrew. They consist of around 30,000 pages of administrative documents from the different chancelleries of Novgorod. Although some of the material from these archives has been the subject of dissertations and articles (see below), scholars have had difficulty finding their way about this immense body of documentation. A scholarly description of the Occupation Archives is now nearing completion (see below). This material is of interest not only to Slavists, but also to historians of different specialities.

We get to know one of the alumni of the above-mentioned chancellery of Russian interpreters through Grigorij Kotošixin's *О России в царствование Алексея Михайловича*, by far the most famous Slavic manuscript in Sweden. This extremely interesting account of the administration of the court of Tsar Aleksej Michajlovič was compiled in Sweden, after its author had turned to the Swedish authorities for protection. Kotošixin compiled his work in a surprisingly short time, about one and a half years (1666-67), before his life was sadly ended on the scaffold after he had killed his landlord. His work, which naturally was of the utmost interest to the Swedish authorities, was translated straight away, twice in fact, by OLOF BARCKHUSEN. He was trained at the chancellery of Russian interpreters and completed his first translation of Kotošixin's work in 1669, and his second one in 1682. His translation (the first) was printed in 1904, and offers fascinating material for research into the translation technique used and the meeting of Russian and Swedish culture (research in progress). In ANNE PENNINGTON's admirable edition of and commentary on Kotošixin's work from 1980, Slavists have the opportunity to acquaint themselves in depth with this material.

A few words should be said here about a very valuable picture book, produced in connection with a Swedish embassy to Moscow in 1674 by the military engineer ERICH PALMQUIST. This volume contains, among other things, maps of Novgorod, Pskov, Toržok, Tver' and Moscow, pictures of the crossing of the border, the Swedish ambassadors' audience with Tsar Aleksej Mixajlovič, soldiers, weapons, methods of punishment etc. The pictures are undoubtedly of considerable documentary and artistic value, even if they are sometimes tendentious and not free from the accepted stereotypes of the

period. The same is true of the accompanying texts. Palmquist's picture book was found in the 19th century and was published in 1898 in a black-and-white photolithographic edition.

The above-mentioned work of Kotošixin automatically takes us to the next person of interest to the history of Swedish Slavistics, namely JOHAN GABRIEL SPARWENFELD, who donated the valuable manuscript to Uppsala University Library in 1721-22. Sparwenfeld has a special place in the early history of Swedish Slavistics. This learned polyglot, traveller and book collector is by some (cf. above) called "the first Swedish Slavist". What has earned him this designation is, above all, his impressive *Lexicon Slavonicum*, a four-volume Slavic-Latin dictionary, which he donated to Uppsala University Library in 1721-22 after many years of fruitless efforts, in Sweden and abroad, to get it printed. This dictionary gave him the reputation in Europe of being a great specialist on the Slavic languages, above all Russian. In fact Sparwenfeld donated his whole workshop to the library: apart from the final version of the dictionary, there are also the sources and the draft. A copy of the main source, Epifanij Slavineckij's Latin-Slavic dictionary, was donated to the Pope during an audience in 1692. This donation caused quite a stir, especially in Lutheran quarters, as Sparwenfeld pointed out in his deed of gift that this dictionary could be very useful in the missionary work of the Vatican. His reasons for making the donation were probably pragmatic: in the missionary centre of the Vatican, printing types for use in many exotic languages, among them Cyrillic characters, were available. Preparations were in fact made for the printing of this dictionary in Rome, but nothing came out of it. Sparwenfeld's sources were the three most used dictionaries of the time in the Eastern Slavic territory, with additions and corrections by the main compiler, the Slovak MATTHIAS ZABANY, and three Russian prisoners of war. The fact that all the stages of the work have been preserved, i.e. the sources, the draft and the final version, provides an unusual opportunity to evaluate the linguistic information given in the dictionary. In the 1980s and 1990s, Sparwenfeld's *Lexicon Slavonicum* was finally printed. This edition, apart from the text of the final version, also documents the journey made by each word from the sources, through the draft to the final text, and details the changes made by different hands.

Sparwenfeld's interest in Russia awakened in 1684, when he took part in a Swedish embassy to Moscow. While in Russia, Sparwenfeld managed to procure a scholarship from the Swedish king to stay in Moscow and study the Russian language. He stayed for three years, and we are fortunate enough to have his diary of his visit to Russia to learn about his experiences there. Sparwenfeld's Russian travel diary, with an extensive commentary, will come off the presses during the autumn of 2002.

When Sparwenfeld returned to Sweden in 1687, he brought with him large numbers of manuscripts and printed books. Sparwenfeld's donations of Slavic manuscripts and books to Uppsala University Library form the basis

for the rich collection of Slavic material in that library. Later donations by his grandson to the City Library of Västerås make that library, too, an interesting place for Slavists. ULLA BIRGEGÅRD has spent the whole of her scholarly life studying the literary remains of Sparwenfeld and editing his texts (1985, see also the bibliography, under Sparwenfeld).

From Sparwenfeld we move on to Bergius. NICOLAUS BERGIUS, churchman and superintendent-general of Livonia at Narva, was very interested in Russia, and above all the Russian Orthodox Church. His contribution to Slavistics is of two kinds. He wrote a very impressive account of the Russian church, *Exercitatio Historico-Theologica de statu Ecclesiae et Religionis Moscoviticae*, printed in Narva in 1704. This account was, for its time and as the work of a non-Orthodox, very factual and objective, which has met with appreciation from Russian historians of religion. Bergius never visited Russia himself, but, as emerges in the book, obtained his information through extensive reading and from informants, mainly Sparwenfeld. Also worth mentioning in connection with Bergius is the highly abridged version of Luther's Catechism in Russian and Swedish, printed at Narva in 1701. It constitutes a word-by-word translation into Swedish of Flörich's Russian translation of 1628, with the word order of the Russian original retained in the Swedish translation. Bergius, too, had a very rich collection of Slavic, mainly Russian, literature (Davidsson 1956) which he donated to Uppsala University Library. Sparwenfeld and Bergius are the two main contributors to the collection of Slavic manuscripts and early prints at Uppsala.

The credit for having compiled the first Russian grammar in Swedish is due to yet another translator connected with the chancellery of Russian interpreters in Stockholm, MICHAEL GROENING. He was born in Finland and had lived and worked in St Petersburg for many years, eventually as translator at the Russian Academy of Science. He returned to Sweden in the 1740s. From different Russian grammars (mainly Adodurov) he compiled and translated into Swedish his *Российская грамматика, Thei är Grammatica Russica...*, printed in Stockholm in 1750. This work is mainly an edited compilation, with the exception of the phonetic part, which is original. For a discussion on possible sources, see Đurovič 1984.

The Russian language had thus received a good deal of attention early on, especially in the 17th and 18th centuries. The disastrous outcome of the Great Northern War, from the point of view of the Swedish superpower, probably had some bearing on the decreasing interest in the language. It was also during this war, with the looting by Russian soldiers along the east coast of Sweden towards its close, that the image of Russia as the main enemy appeared. This was in fact the first time that warfare had taken place in Sweden proper. Some of the many Swedish prisoners of war who spent considerable periods in Russia wrote diaries, which they brought home with them after the end of the war. These accounts, many of which have been printed, constitute a rich body of material for historians. No less interesting

are the activities of Russian prisoners of war in Sweden, the subject of research by HELGE ALMQUIST in particular (1942). Quite recently, Swedish and Russian historians have started discussing a joint research project focusing on the prisoners of war from both sides.

Peter's orientation towards Europe resulted in more widespread knowledge of other European languages in Russia, making it possible to communicate without Russian. After the loss of Finland in 1809, interest in the Russian language in Sweden proper decreased even further. But in Finland, now an archduchy within the Russian empire, the interest in Russian among the Swedish-speaking Finns was considerable, something that Sweden, too, could benefit from.

There are some signs of a burgeoning interest in Slavic literature in 1841 in Uppsala. That year, a dissertation was presented by KARL JULIUS LENSTRÖM: *Alexander Puschkin, Rysslands Byron: Ett skaldeporträtt*, the first ever academic dissertation about Puškin. Lenström's work, however, was not independent, but relied heavily on its foreign sources, with all their shortcomings. It could be added in this context that as early as 1797 a translation of Karamzin's *Julija* had been printed in Stockholm, but the translation had been made from the French.

## THE SECOND PERIOD (1850-1939)

### SLAVISTICS WITHIN ACADEMIA

#### Uppsala.

##### *The Beginnings.*

We will now turn to the Swedish Slavists connected with Academia, i.e. the history of the Slavic languages at Swedish universities.

At the end of the 19th century, interest in Sweden in Slavic languages and peoples began to grow again, at least as far as Russian and Polish were concerned. There were political and commercial reasons for this, as well as scholarly ones. The first university to manifest this interest was Uppsala. From 1883 on, courses in Russian were taught there by the docent in phonetics, JOHAN AUGUST LUNDELL (1851-1940). He later broadened the scope of his teaching to include Polish, Church Slavonic and Lithuanian (see below). In Sweden, the Baltic languages have, at least in earlier periods, been taught at Slavic departments.

History is not the history of kings, and the history of Slavistics is not the history of its professors, but a practical way of organizing an account of *slavica* at Swedish universities might be to base it on the periods when the chair was held by different professors.

*Johan August Lundell's Time (1890-1916).*

Although Lundell was an autodidact as a Slavist, and although in 1890, when — as the only candidate — he was installed as the first professor of Slavic languages in Sweden, his scholarly output in this area consisted of just one work (on Russian pronunciation), he contributed greatly to Swedish Slavistics. Rather than his academic skills, he made good use of his organizational talents, as well as his talent for building contacts with the Slavic world. He also took the valuable initiative of establishing a journal, *Archives d'études orientales*, for Swedish Slavists to publish in. His scholarly talent was instead channelled into the creation of the Swedish dialect alphabet, by which he contributed greatly to Swedish dialectology. Lundell was also a gifted teacher, and apart from the above-mentioned languages, he taught courses in Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Ukrainian and Latvian. He also gave lectures on Slavic phonetics and on the Slavic peoples and languages. During his tenure, the first generation of Swedish Slavists grew to maturity, among them TORE TORBJÖRNSSON, PER SIGURD AGRELL, ANTON KARLGREN and RICHARD EKBLOM. Three of these were to hold professorial chairs in Slavic languages.

T. Torbjörnsson, who had studied in Moscow in the 1880s under F. F. Fortunatov, among others, was perhaps the one in the group who aroused the most hope as a Slavist. But notwithstanding his excellent doctoral thesis *Die gemeinslavische Liquidametathese*, I-II, 1901-03, and many articles published in Sweden and abroad, he did not get the professorship after Lundell, who resigned in 1916. Torbjörnsson was the acting professor for five years, as the First World War complicated the appointment of a new professor. He taught several Slavic languages as well as Lithuanian. When in 1921 R. Ekblom was appointed as the new professor, Torbjörnsson left the university and started teaching mathematics and German at a gymnasium. In his free time, however, he continued his research in Slavistics and published a number of articles in foreign scholarly journals. Finally, in acknowledgement of his academic merit, he received the title of professor. Torbjörnsson's enormously rich personal library has been preserved as a separate collection at the Slavic Department in Lund.

Another of Lundell's students, Anton Karlgren (1882-1973), wrote a licentiate dissertation about the formation of genitive plurals in Serbian. He soon left linguistics, however, and devoted his time and knowledge to journalism. He worked for many years in different capacities at the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*. His great interest in the Slavic world, mainly Russia, was documented in numerous books and newspaper articles, where he drew on his extensive knowledge and many travels. In different books, which received much attention, he followed and documented the situation in Russia, from the first Russian revolution of 1905 until the 1940s. Apart from that, he devoted time and effort to the study of Russian literature and translations into

Swedish of Russian fiction. A. Karlgren had a great talent for popularizing, and he travelled all over Sweden lecturing on different Slavic themes. In 1923 he gave up his career as a journalist and moved to Denmark as professor of Slavic philology at the University of Copenhagen. He was thus taken over by Danish Slavistics.

#### OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

*Alfred Jensen (1859-1921).*

At Uppsala University, then, the discipline of Slavistics had its focus on linguistics. It was, however, a man outside Academia, who during the last two decades of the 19th and the first two decades of the 20th century informed a broader audience about Slavic culture, society and literature, namely ALFRED JENSEN. Jensen, it is true, had begun his Slavic studies at Uppsala University, but he never passed an exam. Instead, he learnt most of the Slavic languages himself, with the help of frequent travel to the Slavic countries. The closest he got to academic teaching was as a temporary lecturer in Slavic studies at the private college in Gothenburg. Instead he made an uncertain living as a freelance newspaper correspondent, eked out by sporadic scholarships and other temporary allowances, such as a modest yearly remuneration as an expert in Slavic literatures for the Nobel Institute in Stockholm. His pen provided much-needed additions to this unstable economic foundation, which explains his enormous productivity. During his relatively short life, he published around 60 books, half of which were translations. Travel accounts and histories of culture and literature, all from the Slavic world, constituted the other half.

Jensen saw his main role with regard to the Slavic countries as that of an introducer of their literatures and cultures. In his work as a translator, he saw himself as an educator of the Swedish public, who would fill gaps, correct what had been done badly, and pave the way for new and unknown writers.

In his works on literature, he presented writers such as Gundulić, Vrchlický, evčenko and Botev. The last-mentioned book acquainted the Swedish public, as one of the first in Europe, with the Bulgarian freedom fighter and poet. Several of Botev's poems are presented in Jensen's own translations. This book can be seen as a representative of Jensen's incredibly rich popular writings, with presentations of the authors constituting introductions to his many translations. A. Jensen translated from Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Slovenian, Serbian, Croatian and Bulgarian. Among the Slavic regions, the Balkans were closest to his heart. Through his translations, Slavic literary classics were introduced in Sweden, like the Igor Tale, Puškin (he even translated *Evgenij Onegin* twice), the Russian Dekabrist, Lermontov, Kochanowski, Mickiewicz (*Pan Tadeusz* and others), Słowacki, Krasiński and many others. Jensen, however, also kept up with the

contemporary literatures of the Slavic countries. This he was obliged to do in his capacity as expert at the Nobel Institute, where he assiduously launched Penčo Slavejkov and Jaroslav Vrchlický as Nobel Prize candidates, but to no avail. The only Slavic writer for whom he succeeded in procuring a Nobel Prize was Henryk Sienkiewicz in 1905.

Jensen also wrote about the early history of Swedish Slavistics in an article entitled “Die Anfänge der Schwedischen Slavistik” (1912).

Probably most appreciated by the public (and by himself) in his enormous output were the two volumes of *Slavia*, with the subheadings *Kulturbilder från Volga till Donau* and *Kulturbilder från Donau till Adria och Bosporen*. Another work that was loved and read extensively was *Rysk kulturhistoria*, in three volumes. His biography on Gundulić, *Gundulić und sein Osman* (1900), is regarded as a valuable piece of scholarship.

It goes without saying that not all of Jensen’s numerous works were of the same high quality. His travel accounts, for instance, are of interest in that they describe contemporary reality. However, they are chatty, rather than profound. His translations, especially of poems, often do not give a true picture of the originals, as Jensen himself became aware towards the end of his life. It could be added here that he himself was an eager poet.

Not surprisingly a lot of Jensen’s output was not original. The value of his work lies, rather, in his untiring efforts to introduce to the Swedish public the cultures and literatures of the Slavic peoples.

A. Jensen was possibly better known and appreciated in the Slavic world than in his own country. He had personal contacts with many leading cultural figures abroad; he was on the staff of journals and a member of academies and learned societies in many countries. He did, it is true, receive an honorary doctorate at Uppsala University in 1907. It is also a fact that he received encouragement in the form of rewards and scholarships. But all the same, one cannot help getting the impression that he was too far ahead of his time to be judged fairly. It is therefore important to now give him — the old Slavophile, as he called himself — the credit he deserves for his important contributions as an introducer of Slavic literatures and cultures to Sweden. Richard Ekblom’s *Time* (1921-39) .

RICHARD EKBLOM (1874-1959), the holder of the Uppsala chair after Lundell, was not primarily a Slavist, having presented his doctoral thesis in the Romance languages, an area in which he continued to publish articles throughout his academic life. In Slavic languages he had a licentiate degree, and in the Slavic field he made important contributions above all in phonetics, both synchronic (Russian, Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech) and diachronic (Middle Bulgarian, Common Slavic). His interest in phonetics, especially intonation, also extended to the Baltic and Scandinavian languages. In addition, Ekblom’s area of research included onomastics, especially Slavic place-names of Scandinavian origin. He was an excellent teacher and became famous as the author of *Rysk grammatik* in 1911, revised and modernized

versions of which appeared into the 1960s. Within international Slavistics, R. Ekblom was well-known and much appreciated.

During Ekblom's tenure, native Russians, Czechs and Poles were engaged as teachers, an indication of the growing contacts that were developing with the Slavic world. Among his students who defended a doctoral thesis, GUNNAR GUNNARSSON became professor first at Lund and then at Uppsala. ELLEN HERMELIN, who in 1935 presented her thesis on the use of present participles of perfective verbs in Old Church Slavonic (see the bibliography), became the first woman to take a doctorate in Slavic languages in Sweden. KARL AXNÄS became a docent in 1937, having defended his thesis, a work which, although it treated the interesting question of a possible Slavic origin to the often puzzling bynames of Scandinavian princes, did not meet with much appreciation, perhaps because of its position in between Slavistics, Scandinavian languages and history.

### **Lund.**

#### *The Beginnings.*

#### *Per Sigurd Agrell's Time (1921-37)*

Although Slavic languages had been taught at Lund University since 1908, a professorial chair was not established until 1921, when PER SIGURD AGRELL (1881-1937) became the first holder. He had studied at Uppsala, but it was in Lund that he presented his thesis *Aspektänderung und Aktionsartbildung beim polnischen Zeitworte*, which has become a standard work in Slavic verbal aspectology, partly because of his establishment of the difference between aspect and mode of action. This work is also of interest for its synchronic treatment of the problem at a time when diachronic studies were predominant in linguistics. An expanded version of Agrell's thesis was published in Polish in 1918. His subsequent research concentrated on Slavic and Slavo-Baltic historical phonetics and was completed before his appointment as professor. Agrell, who was a man of broad talents, was not only interested in linguistics, however. He was also a sensitive translator of Slavic literature, in both prose and verse. It should be added here that Agrell, within Swedish poetics, was known as a very productive writer of sonnets. Agrell gathered around him a whole group of translators, who made an important contribution in translating Slavic — above all Russian and Polish — literature into Swedish. Towards the end of his life, Agrell's scholarly interests moved into areas other than Slavistics, but it is nevertheless within that area that he made lasting contributions, notwithstanding his untimely death.

In Lund, too, a number of Slavistic works were published by scholars who were not strictly Slavists, but rather comparativists, like HERBERT PETERSSON and HANNES SKÖLD. A real Slavist, however, was KNUT

KNUTSSON (b. 1897), who employed a historical comparativist approach (see the bibliography).

After Agrell's death, the chair in Lund was held for only one year (1938-39) by GUNNAR GUNNARSSON, after which time he was called to Uppsala. His successor, KNUT KNUTSSON, stayed little longer. After three terms in Lund (1940-41) he moved to Stockholm to take up the post of city librarian.

### THE THIRD PERIOD: FROM 1940

#### SLAVISTICS WITHIN ACADEMIA

##### Uppsala.

*Gunnar Gunnarsson's Time (1940-66).*

GUNNAR GUNNARSSON (1899-1987), who became a docent in Slavic languages at Uppsala after presenting his thesis *Recherches syntactiques sur la décadance de l'adjectif nominal en slave et particulièrement en russe* in 1931, later published works on Russian syntax, Slavic etymology and Polish semantics, works which earned him the professorship at Lund in 1938. As mentioned above, he held the chair for only one year, as in 1940 he was appointed professor at Uppsala, a chair he held until 1966.

During G. Gunnarsson's time as professor at Uppsala, in 1940, the second female Doctor of Philosophy in Slavic languages, ASTRID BAECKLUND (1908-76), defended her thesis, entitled *Die unverbierenden Verkürzungen der heutigen russischen Sprache*. In this work, she not only proved to be a prominent expert on the contemporary Russian language, but also applied modern linguistic methods to her data. The examiner at her disputation was none less than ROMAN JAKOBSON, then living in Sweden as a refugee. She was also one of the first Slavists in Sweden to understand the necessity of describing the *slavica* preserved in our libraries and archives. After Uppsala, she continued her scholarly activities in Stockholm and Lund, where she published several articles on onomastics and one monograph, *Personal Names in Medieval Velikij Novgorod, I: Common Names* (1959). She was also interested in the study of literature and gained a reputation as a good translator of Russian drama.

G. Gunnarsson's main contributions to Swedish Slavistics are not in the scholarly field, but rather as an organizer of Slavic studies. Thanks to his skilful way of capitalizing on the interest in the Slavic world before and after the Second World War, the study of the Slavic languages and cultures was to expand immensely in Sweden during his tenure. He played a significant role in the establishment of the first Russian lectorate at the then College of Gothenburg in 1944, the establishment of the Russian Institute the same year, and the creation of a professorial chair at the then Stockholm College in

1945. In Uppsala he organized Slavic studies into an institute, of which he became the first head. In 1949 he set up the journal *Publications de l'Institut slave d'Uppsala*. Fourteen issues were published in the series during its ten years of existence. It was succeeded in 1960 by *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia*, which still exists today. Both the series illustrate the broad and rich profile of Uppsala Slavistics during G. Gunnarsson's time at that university. Mention should be made here of the conscious aim of describing and publishing old Slavic texts, mostly with a linguistic commentary, many of them found in Swedish archives and libraries. Examples of such works are the following doctoral theses: that of STAFFAN DAHL (1949), presenting a codex of varying content brought to Sweden by Sparwenfeld and preserved at Västerås; ALLAN RINGHEIM's (1951), concerning an Old Serbian text found in Sofia; CECILIA BORELIUS's (1952), on Safonovič's chronicle, which is included in the above-mentioned codex preserved at Västerås; EDVIN ÖHGREN's (1954), dealing with a Russian-Church Slavonic translation of the Udo Legend, preserved at the National Archives in Stockholm; and that of GUN BERGMAN (1964), on the Melusina Saga, in a copy given to Uppsala University Library by Sparwenfeld. There were also special studies of the language of different old Slavic texts, such as CARIN DAVIDSSON's thesis on the Old Czech Wittenberg psalter (1952). C. Davidsson has also devoted her attention to descriptions of *slavica* in Swedish collections (see the bibliography).

LENNART KJELLBERG, too, wrote a thesis which presented a linguistic study, namely of the language of the 18th century Russian preacher Gedeon Krinovskij (1957). He has also made himself known as a specialist on Russian and Polish belles-lettres, which he has introduced to the Swedish public (see the bibliography). Here, mention should be made of his annotated translations of a drama by J. Kochanowski and a comedy by J. U. Niemcewicz (1998), as well as his translations of early Polish poetry. His brilliant Swedish version of Adam Mickiewicz's *Pan Tadeusz* (1987, as well as *Metai* (The Seasons, 1991), by the Lithuanian poet Kristijonas Donelaitis also deserve attention. As a librarian at Uppsala University Library, Kjellberg compiled a much-needed catalogue (typed) of old Slavic printed publications preserved at the library.

Linguistic works with a Slavic comparative approach produced at Uppsala in the 1950s include those of BIRGER CALLEMAN (1950), on the development of sounds from Proto-Slavic to Old Russian; JÓZEF TRYPUĆKO (1952), about adverbial expressions of time and place in Slavic languages; and GUNNAR HERNE (1954), on Slavic names of colours. KARIN PONTOPPIDAN-SJÖVALL, as the only Swedish Slavist so far to do so, wrote a thesis based on the psychology of language, with reference to Russian material (1959).

Works within the literary field were also produced at Uppsala during Gunnarsson's time, for instance by ZBIGNIEW FOLEJEWSKI. Polish material

was used for a stylistic study in his thesis (1949), while Russian poets, too, were included in Folejewski 1955.

JURIJ SEMJONOW also published works in the literary field (1965), although his main area of interest was economic history. He was associated with the Slavic Department at Uppsala for several years, and should also be mentioned as a pioneer in the growing field of area studies. In Berlin, Semjonow published his book *Sibirien: Eroberung und Erschliessung der wirtschaftlichen Schatzkammer des Ostens* (a Swedish version appeared in 1955). Some of his students still remember with gratitude a series of lectures he held on Anton Čechov. Čechov, it is true, was never mentioned in the course of the series, but the discovery of Siberia was presented in a most fascinating way.

To the field of area studies, too, we can assign the thesis written by ANDREAS ÅDAHL (1966) on Russian civil law terminology in the Soviet Union.

G. Gunnarsson also made an important contribution by encouraging the compilation of textbooks and teaching aids, and in some cases he was actively involved himself. Over the years, many students have used the Russian-Swedish dictionary initiated by him, but with ALEXANDER DE ROUBETZ as the main author, as well as Gunnarsson's Russian grammar. It was also thanks to him that the study of some of the so-called "secondary" Slavic languages was more firmly organized than before.

Of those who presented their doctoral theses under G. Gunnarsson, as many as six became professors of Slavic languages: KNUT-OLOF FALK at Lund, Józef Trypućko in Uppsala, GUNNAR JACOBSSON in Gothenburg, NILS ÅKE NILSSON in Stockholm, Zbigniew Folejewski in Vancouver, Canada, and CARIN DAVIDSSON at Åbo (Turku), Finland. Józef Trypućko's *Time* (1966-77).

The Polish-born JÓZEF TRYPUĆKO (1910-83) was the student of Gunnarsson who became his successor in the Uppsala chair. Józef Trypućko was, no doubt, one of the most productive Slavists ever in Sweden. His doctoral thesis, in the field of comparative Slavistics (*Słowiańskie przysł wki liczebnikowe typu stcsł. dva di, tri ti*), was followed by other works in the same field. Most of his writings, however, relate to Polish, especially studies of the language of different writers and Polish interference problems (see the bibliography). J. Trypućko was also an indefatigable bibliographer of *polonica* (*Polonica Vetera Upsaliensia* and many others). Trypućko's bibliographical work also included his contributions to *Rocznik Slawistyczny* and *The Year's Work in Modern Languages*.

As a lexicographer, Trypućko became known through the publication in 1946 of the first Swedish-Polish/Polish-Swedish pocket dictionary (in collaboration with GUNNAR JACOBSSON) and the completion, just before his death, of a large Swedish-Polish dictionary to be printed in Poland (a plan

that was never realized). In collaboration with G. Jacobsson, too, J. Trypućko published textbooks of Polish for Swedes.

During J. Trypućko's time as professor, another thirteen issues of *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia* came out, above all treating themes within Slavic linguistics. Some of them were doctoral dissertations, as was the case with LENNART LÖNNGREN's work (1970) on short-form preterite participles in Russian, NILS BERTIL THELIN's thesis on stress assignment and vowel reduction in contemporary standard Russian (1971), and the work by LARS STEENSLAND (1973) on the distribution of the so-called gutturals in Proto-Indo-European. Other dissertations were also produced during Trypućko's tenure, such as ULLA BIRGEGÅRD's work on Sparwenfeld's *Lexicon Slavonicum* (1971) and ANNA-LENA SÅGVALL's thesis, presenting a system for automatic inflectional analysis of Russian (1973). Other issues in the series *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia* presented the work of more senior scholars like Karin Pontoppidan-Sjövall (1968), and new work by scholars who had recently gained their doctorates (Thelin 1975).

In the literary field, works by LENNART STENBORG (1972, 1975) on Garšin and by GUN BERGMAN (1969) were published. G. Bergman, who tragically died far too early, was known as a distinguished specialist on the works of the Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić, whom she also translated.

The lively activity in progress at the Department of Slavic Languages was also mirrored in *Slovo*, a new series of "workingpapers".

Of Trypućko's students, two were exported as professors to other countries: NILS BERTIL THELIN to Oldenburg, Federal Republic of Germany, and LENNART LÖNNGREN to Tromsø, Norway. Two others became professors in Sweden: LARS STEENSLAND at the Slavic Department in Lund (now the Department of Slavic Studies) and Anna SÅGVALL-HEIN at the Department of Linguistics in Uppsala.

CARIN DAVIDSSON (mentioned above), an outstanding teacher and good administrator, who devoted a huge amount of work to the Uppsala department, also made important contributions to Russian lexicography (as editor of the big *Rysk-svensk Ordbok*, the first edition of which was published in Moscow in 1976). This dictionary is still being printed in new editions. She is also the author of students' textbooks and teaching aids.

The new discipline of East European studies, created thanks to the initiative and energy of Andreas Âdahl, was placed at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Department for East European Research was specifically a research institute, whereas the Unit for East European Studies taught undergraduate students. Andreas Âdahl also became (on a half-time basis) professor of the department. In July 1983 the department and the unit were merged to form an independent Department of East European Studies with DANIEL TARSCHYS as its first professor.

### Lund.

Due to the frequent changes in the occupancy of the professorship, it took quite some time for Slavistics in Lund to find its own profile. Earlier, research had been concentrated on etymology, word studies and phonetics using traditional historical-comparative methods. That tradition was broken with in a rather drastic way by CARL-GÖRAN REGNÉLL, who had studied in Prague before the Second World War and become acquainted there with the new linguistics, until then more or less unknown in Sweden. In his doctoral thesis *Über den Ursprung des slavischen Verbalaspektes* (1944), he used the methodology of the Prague School with its correlation of oppositions and understood the origin of the Slavic aspects to be within the correlation “definiteness”: “indefiniteness”. His thesis was an independent and interesting contribution to Slavic aspectology by one of the pupils of Agrell, our first aspectologist. But as his work did not receive the recognition it deserved, Regnéll cut short a promising career as a Slavist, surely to the detriment of Swedish Slavistics.

*Knut Olof Falk's Time (1945-72).*

The chair in Lund was not filled until 1945, by KNUT OLOF FALK (1906-90), who held the position for 27 years. Falk, who defended his doctoral thesis in Uppsala in 1941 (*Wigierskie i Huciańskie: Studium toponomastyczne*, I-II), made himself a name, above all, as a toponymist. Both before and after the Second World War he carried out — *in situ* — investigations of names in territories where Polish, Byelorussian and Lithuanian influences met. Apart from that, he was for many years the head of the so-called Jatvingian expedition in Poland. Falk also investigated Scandinavian names on the East Slavic territory in his work *Dneprforsarnas namn i kejsar Konstantin VII Porfyrogenetos' 'De Administrando Imperio'* (1951). During Professor Falk's time, the following series were established in Lund: *Slaviska och baltiska studier* (from 1951), *Årsbok* (mimeo, from 1948/49), *Språkliga bidrag* (mimeo, from 1951) and *Text- och materialutgåvor* (from 1961).

Only one doctoral thesis was presented in Lund during K. O. Falk's term of office, namely that of the Polish-born JERZY NALEPA, who undertook a historical-comparative investigation of toponymic material. Nalepa has since continued his studies of West Slavic place-names (*Opuscula slavica* 1, 2). After his retirement he published a major monograph about the earliest boundaries old Poland (1996).

Baltic studies had a prominent place in Lund through the Latvian-born K. DRAVINS and his wife VELTA RUKKE DRAVINA.  
*Lubomir Đurović's Time (1972-91).*

After the retirement of K. O. Falk, the designation of the chair was changed to “the Professorship of Slavic Languages, especially Russian”, in accordance with the tendency to abandon the previous Pan-Slavic approach

— something which was in any case not always achieved — and place the emphasis on a particular language area. The new holder, Lubomir Ďurovič (b. 1925) is a specialist in Russian (for instance *Paradigmatika spisovnej ru tiny*, 1964) and Slovak, with modality as one of his major interests (1956). It is interesting to note that the attempts to use the ideas and methods of Prague phonology, found as early as in the time of C. G. Regnéll, developed fully at Lund through the work of L. Ďurovič. He trained as a Slavist in Bratislava and Prague with A. V. Isačenko among his teachers. However, L. Ďurovič, eventually also started writing articles in the field of Slavic philology.

Under his guidance, Serbo-Croatian studies also assumed a prominent place, especially as a result of research on the language of children of Yugoslav immigrants.

A valuable initiative was taken by the Lund Slavists in 1975, when a one-day symposium entitled “On the Early History of Swedish Slavistics” was organized. During the symposium, various problems concerning *slavica* in Swedish collections were discussed, with contributions from Swedish scholars working in this area. These contributions were published in the series *Slavica Lundensia* 3, in both Swedish and Russian.

During Ďurovič's time as professor, the sphere of activity of the department widened considerably. Traditionally, the study of language has dominated Swedish modern language departments, but L. Ďurovič, soon after taking over the chair, tried to put literature on an equal footing. In 1975 a postdoctoral fellowship was advertised, with the specific requirement that a literary scholar be employed. The department thus opened its doors to literary studies. FIONA BJÖRLING came to the department in the autumn of 1975, bringing with her the tradition of N. Å. Nilsson's school (see below). Since then, literary scholarship has given a new profile to the department and led to new Nordic and international contacts. The papers presented at a symposium on “The Twentieth Century Russian Novel”, held in December 1976, were published in *Slavica Lundensia* 5, *Litteraria*, 1977.

On the initiative of L. Ďurovič, too, in the 1980s area studies (East and Central European Studies) was developed as a new direction in the work of the Lund department.

In the 1980s, Ďurovič also entered into fruitful collaboration with A. SJÖBERG at the Stockholm department. Apart from sharing scholarly interests, they initiated an international symposium, in 1989, entitled *Доломоновский период русского литературного языка*, attended by leading specialists in this area from both the Soviet Union and the West. The papers from this symposium were published in *Slavica Suecana*, a new series set up within the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities for the purpose of presenting and publishing Slavic material in Swedish archives and libraries, with A. Sjöberg and L. Ďurovič as its editors. A. Sjöberg, alas, did

not live to see the first volume in the series, and his place was taken by U. Birgegård.

Of Ďurovič's pupils, MILAN BÍL, in 1981, defended a dissertation about intrasentential pronominalization in Czech, Russian and English, produced with the help of modern linguistic methods. In 1992 BARBARA TÖRNQUIST-PLEWA presented her thesis on myths in the Polish collective consciousness during the first years of Solidarity.

New series at Lund were *Slavica Lundensia* (which replaced *Språkliga bidrag* from 1973) and *Lunds slaviska monografier* (from 1981).

Since his retirement in 1991, L. Ďurovič has continued to be very productive as a scholar and has written, for instance, about the oldest grammatical descriptions of Russian, the codification of the Slovak and Czech written languages, and a number of subjects in Slavic cultural history.

Mention should also be made here of L. Ďurovič's many years of work as editor of *Russian Linguistics*.

## **Stockholm.**

### *The Beginnings.*

Although the teaching of Slavic languages at university level was introduced most recently in Stockholm, the biggest centre for Slavistics besides the Uppsala department grew up there in a relatively short time.

The first Slavic language to be taught at the then Stockholm University College (run by the municipality) was Polish. Sporadic courses in Polish had been taught since 1934, but from 1937 there was a permanent Polish lectorate, the first holder of which was Zbigniew Folejewski (mentioned above) from Vilnius. A few years later he was joined by a compatriot also originating from Vilnius, J. Trypućko, who worked for some time in Stockholm before moving on to Uppsala.

Towards the end of and immediately after the Second World War, there was very great interest in Russia, its culture and language in Sweden. The Cold War had not yet begun, and there were hopes that there would be future collaboration between Sweden and Russia in industry and trade. Teaching of Russian began in Stockholm in 1942, the teacher being the above-mentioned A. Baecklund. She gave lectures on selected syntactic problems and problems concerning the history of the Russian language, with a modern Russian text as her point of departure. Apart from that she taught a course for advanced students, for which a modest fee was charged. In 1944 the Russian Institute was founded, with Nils Åke Nilsson as its superintendent. He immediately began to build up an extensive library, founded the series *Études de philologie slave publiées par l'Institut russe de Stockholm* (which examined problems not only within Russian philology, but within Slavic philology as a whole), *Bibliografiska meddelanden*, *Ekonomiska medde-*

*landen* and *Litterära meddelanden*, all of which grew into valuable channels of information from the Russian-speaking world in particular, but also from the Slavic world in general.

Max Vasmer's Time (1948-49).

On the initiative of the municipality, a chair of Slavic languages was established in 1945, although it could not be filled right away, but was held *ad interim* first by Knut Knutsson (mentioned above), the then city librarian of Stockholm and former professor in this subject at Lund, and then by G. Gunnarsson, who simultaneously held his professorship at Uppsala.

Finally, MAX VASMER (1886-1962), professor at the University of Berlin, was appointed in 1948 as the first permanent holder of the chair in Stockholm. The new professor, renowned author of an etymological dictionary of the Russian language for instance, gave lectures on the history of Old Russian literature, Polish historical phonetics and morphology, and held seminars on Old Bulgarian and "Lektüre schwierigerer Texte". During the academic year Vasmer served in Stockholm, a doctoral thesis was presented, namely CLARA THÖRNQVIST's *Studien über die nordischen Lehnwörter im Russischen*, 1948, which was published as number 2 in the series *Études de philologie slave*. This work has become a standard work in its field. C. Thörnqvist, who worked at the research library of Gothenburg, also established an excellent reputation as a specialist on Swedish-Czech relations.

Peeter Arumaa's Time (1950-67).

Vasmer returned to Berlin just a year later, in 1949, to take up a post as professor at the newly founded Freie Universität. The chair in Stockholm was subsequently held for 17 years by the well-known Estonian Slavist PEETER ARUMAA (1900-82), formerly a professor at the University of Dorpat. With his appointment, the professorship in Stockholm was held by a person who was a prominent specialist in both Slavistics and Baltic philology, and with a genuine background in comparative Indo-European studies.

Arumaa had studied Indo-European, Slavic, Baltic and Finno-Ugrian philology both in his home country and in Berlin and Prague. He had carried out dialect investigations in eastern Lithuania, documented in his work *Litauische mundartliche Texte aus der Wilnaer Gegend* (1930). His doctoral dissertation, too, *Zur Geschichte der litauischen Personalpronomina* (1933), treated Baltic linguistic problems and was defended in 1934 in Dorpat. Besides these themes, he mainly worked on East-Slavic hydronymy, documented in numerous articles in journals. His competence in comparative Slavic linguistics, which was both deep and broad, resulted in the prominent work *Urslavische Grammatik*, whose thorough treatment of the Baltic influence took the reader back to the period before Proto-Slavic. The first and second volumes of this important work were published in 1964 and 1976 respectively, while the third volume came out after Arumaa's death (in 1985).

During Arumaa's time as professor, many of his students presented their doctoral theses, including HENRIK BIRNBAUM in 1958 (*Untersuchungen zu den Zukunftsumschreibungen mit dem Infinitiv im Altkirchenslawischen. Ein Beitrag zur historischen Verbalsyntax des Slavischen*) and A. Sjöberg in 1964 (*Synonymous Use of Synthetical and Analytical Rection in Old Church Slavonic Verbs*). Birnbaum later became the holder of a professorial chair in Los Angeles (UCLA). V. Ruke-Dravina, who also defended her thesis in Stockholm (*Diminutive im Lettischen*, 1959), was later appointed to a personal chair in Baltic languages in Stockholm, the first ever in Sweden.

Apart from the works mentioned above and literary monographs, to be reported on later, the series *Études de philologie slave* included during Arumaa's tenure one work on history of culture (WALLMÉN 1954) and one semantic investigation (ERIKSSON 1967).

*Anders Sjöberg's Time (1967-90).*

When P. Arumaa resigned from the professorship in 1967, ANDERS SJÖBERG (1926-90) became his successor in the chair of Slavic languages. Through his doctoral thesis, Sjöberg had shown himself to be not only Sweden's leading specialist in Old Church Slavonic, but also the one who, for the first time in Swedish Slavistics, applied statistical and information-theoretical methods to linguistic material. A. Sjöberg was well acquainted with the rich Slavic material, especially Russian, that was preserved at the National Archives in Stockholm. He was one of those who had taken it upon themselves to study and publish old Slavic material preserved in Swedish archives and libraries, above all the Occupation Archives of Novgorod 1611-17 (see the bibliography). He also put a lot of effort into identifying the roughly 160 Church Slavonic parchment fragments preserved in Swedish collections. They had probably been taken in different Swedish-Russian wars at the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th century and had been used as covers for various Swedish administrative documents. Within five years, four dissertations, constituting commented editions of documents from the Occupation Archives (HAGAR SUNDBERG 1982 and INGEGERD NORDLANDER 1987) and of the parchment fragments (ELISABETH LÖFSTRAND 1984 and SIW WESSLÉN 1985) were presented. Under A. Sjöberg's guidance, too, a number of doctoral dissertations in Slavic linguistics appeared. SVEN GUSTAVSSON, in 1969, defended his thesis *Accent Paradigms of the Present Tense in South Slavonic: East and Central South Slavonic* (1969). Through this work he proved himself to be an important specialist in the South Slavic languages. Important, too, were the syntactical investigation by BARBRO NILSSON, *Old Russian Derived Nominals in -nie, -tie. Syntactical Study* (1972), which made use of generative methods, and DAG SVEDSTEDT's dissertation from 1976 on word order in modern Russian.

A sign of the growing interest in the South Slavic languages within Swedish Slavistics is BIRGITTA ENGLUND's doctoral thesis from 1977 on Bulgarian yes-/no-questions. And in 1984 BORIS ARAPOVIČ defended his dissertation on the Croatian writer Miroslav Krleža. Nils Åke Nilsson's *Time* (1967-83).

In accordance with the development of other foreign language departments at the Swedish universities, a linguistic and a literary branch were established in Stockholm, and with them a new professorship of "Slavic languages, especially the Russian Language and Literature", the first holder of which was NILS ÅKE NILSSON (1917-95). Already in his doctoral thesis *Die Apollonius-Erzählung in den slavischen Literaturen* (1949), he stood out as a prominent scholar of Slavic literature, and he was to become the most important specialist in Slavic, and especially Russian, literature in Sweden. This he documented through his numerous monographs (*Studies in Čechov's Narrative Technique*, 1968, and others) and as the editor of several collective works. Apart from this, N. Å. Nilsson published articles in many foreign journals and anthologies, which established his broad international reputation. He was one of the creators and editors of the series *Russian Literature*. To his important contributions to making Slavic literatures known in Sweden should be added his pioneer work *Sovjetisk litteratur* (1948), and the book *Rysk litteratur från Tjechov till Solsjenitsyn* (1973), together with his surveys of the Slavic literatures in *Litteraturens världshistoria*. His editing of the series of Russian classics for the Tiden publishing house, with short presentations of the authors, and his numerous anthologies of Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian and Yugoslav literature — in connection with which he also turned out to be a capable translator of Polish and Russian belles-lettres — played a major role in presenting the Slavic literatures to the Swedish public.

No less important a contribution by N. Å. Nilsson was the creation of a circle of enthusiastic young scholars who undertook the task of filling a hitherto more or less empty space on the map of Russian literary studies. Instead of continuing the tradition of dealing with the great realists of Russian literature, a tradition that was well tended, above all, in Germany, France and the Soviet Union, Nilsson decided to establish a research team working on Russian modernism and avant-garde literature. Their work focused not on biographical and historical aspects, but on the texts themselves, and on intratextual and intertextual relations. The methods applied were, above all, those of Russian formalism, structuralism in R. Jakobson's interpretation, the semiotic school with JURIJ LOTMAN as its figurehead and the "semantic poetics" launched by the Jerusalem school of Russian exiles. Of the 11 dissertations on Russian literature produced after the creation of the chair, all but one treated 20th century Russian literature, from Aleksander Blok at the turn of the century to Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*. In this

major achievement, Nilsson was aided by the spirit of the period and by a number of talented students. He was helped by the period in the sense that interest in the avant-garde became widespread in the 1960s. And his talented students wrote dissertations on texts by the following writers: Blok (IRENE MASING 1970), Zabolockij (FIONA BJÖRLING 1973), Sologub (CAROLA HANSSON 1975), Pasternak (PER ARNE BODIN 1976), Majakovskij (BENGT JANGFELDT 1976), Gor'kij, Blok and Majakovskij (CHARLES ROUGLE 1977), Soviet avant-garde-theatre (LARS KLEBERG 1977), Xlebnikov (BARBARA LÖNNQVIST 1979), Turgenev, the exception, see above (LJUDMILA HELLGREN 1980), Belyj (MAGNUS LJUNGGREN 1982), Gastev (KURT JOHANSSON 1983), Oleša (KAZIMIERA INGDAHL 1984) and Pasternak (ANNA LJUNGGREN 1984). Many of the above are well known in the world of Slavistics today, as scholars, writers or translators. F. Björling was Acting Professor at the Åbo Academy from 1977-78 and was appointed professor there in 1979, although she was unable to take up the position. In 2000 she was appointed Professor at Lund University. B. Lönnqvist is now a professor at the Åbo Academy and L. Kleberg is a professor at the University College of South Stockholm. N. Å. Nilsson has no doubt, through his own works on Slavic literature and the works of his many students, made the Stockholm department renowned within this area. What has been characteristic of the Stockholm tradition within Russian literature is a living and personal relationship to the text, as well as an effort to say something essential in a simple way.

SVEN LINNÉR, professor at Åbo, is, strictly speaking, not a Slavist but a specialist in study of literature specializing in Dostoevskij. He has published two monographs (1967 and 1975) in the series of the Stockholm department. The Department of Slavic and Baltic languages, which split in 1995, publishes its works in the series *Stockholm Slavic Studies* (from 1967), *Stockholm Studies in Russian Literature* (from 1974), and *Stockholm Slavic Papers* (from 1977). Since 1970, "workingpapers" have been published as *Meddelanden*.

### **Gothenburg.**

*Gunnar Jacobsson's Time (1964-84).*

Although Slavic languages as an independent subject at university level were introduced at the then Gothenburg University College as late as in 1951, the tradition of teaching these languages is older than that. During the years 1906-10 and 1911-12, the former officer and then translator E. G. NORDSTRÖM functioned as a teacher of the Russian language at the college. Polish, too, was taught by AD. STENDER-PETERSEN, one of the foremost representatives of Scandinavian Slavistics (later professor at the universities of Tartu and Aarhus), who worked in Gothenburg as a teacher of Russian and Polish from 1917 to 1926. The sporadic courses in Russian that

were given in the 1930s and early 1940s were followed by a more permanent offering, through the new lectorate established in 1944, primarily in Russian, but also in other Slavic languages. The lectorate was held by GUNNAR Jacobsson until 1948, when he took up the new senior lectureship in Slavic languages, established that year. He held that position until 1951, when he was appointed preceptor (corresponding to associate professor) of Slavic languages. This position was transformed into a professorship in 1964.

The scholarly activities of the Department of Slavic Languages are documented in three series: *Slavica Gothoburgensia* since 1958; *Commentationes Slavicae Gothoburgenses* (for doctoral dissertations) since 1975; *Gusli* (reports) since 1980. The series *Guslav*, since 1979, is intended for the publication of teaching materials.

The academic emphasis at the Gothenburg department was to start with purely linguistic using historical-comparative methods and covering the entire Slavic (and to a certain extent also Baltic) complex: for example, GÖRAN JACOBSSON's doctoral thesis *Le nom de temps leto dans les langues slaves: étude sémantique et étymologique* (1947) and later works, as well as articles on Slavic historical phonetics, morphology, etymology and semantics.

Diachronically oriented linguistics was in time succeeded by synchronic linguistics, with the focus on Russian in a number of doctoral dissertations: in 1969 G. Jacobsson presented his thesis on the use of gerunds and active participles in newspapers; the same year ÖSTEN DAHL, now professor of general linguistics in Stockholm, defended a thesis based on a study in Russian and general transformational grammar; in 1972, THORE PETERSSON published his dissertation on Russian predicates within the theory of case and aspect. The use of gerunds by Karamzin was the subject of research by ILONA POSPISCHIL in her dissertation (1983). ELENA FILATOVA HELLBERG devoted her work to aspects, from a confrontational perspective (1980). Polish, too, became the subject of research in Gothenburg with OLOF PAULSSON's dissertation on Polish verb morphology and phonology (1974).

Literary Slavistics has also asserted itself in the form of works on the rural writers in Russian literature after the Second World War (HANS ELVESON 1975) and on the sound pattern of Pasternak (Je. Dahl 1978), as well as in different articles by B. LUNDBERG and GUNNAR Jacobsson. Roman Laskowski's *Time* (1985-2000).

Gunnar Jacobsson was in 1985 succeeded as professor by BENGT LASKOWSKI, who came to Gothenburg directly from Kraków. In Gothenburg he continued his investigations in Polish and Slavic linguistics. He initiated and completed a couple of research projects, e.g. regarding the language of Polish immigrants' children in Sweden and on Swedish compounds compared to their equivalents in Polish.

During R. Laskowski's term of office, two linguistic dissertations were produced in Gothenburg, one by ARNE HULT on the development of the present active participle in Bulgarian (1991), and the other by NADEZJDA ZORIKHINA on position verbs in Russian (1998). There were also three literary dissertations: on Valentin Rasputin by MÄRTA-LISA MAGNUSSON (1986), on Nabokov by SVETLANA POLSKY (1996) and on Christian themes in Čechov by MARIANA RANEVA-IVANOVA (2000).

## THE FOURTH PERIOD THE PRESENT SITUATION

### Uppsala.

*Sven Gustavsson's Time (from 1977).*

In 1977, JÓZEF TRYPUČKO was succeeded by SVEN GUSTAVSSON (b. 1938), who in his doctoral thesis had dealt with the South Slavic languages. He broadened the scope of his scholarly interests to Russian syntax in a monograph on predicate adjectives in Russian (1976), in which computer technology was used. Computer methods were again used in the project entitled "Did Čechov write *The Silent Don*", a project that was completed in collaboration with Professor GEIR KJETSAA, Oslo, and others.

In recent decades S. Gustavsson has made important contributions to the study of Slavic minorities. He has worked with the minorities of former Yugoslavia — he was the first to introduce the Rusyns to the Swedish public — and in different fora, in print (1992) and in talks, he has disseminated knowledge about various Slavic languages. His interest has also turned to sociolinguistic and language-policy problems (1990). He has for many years collaborated closely with the Centre for Multiethnic Research at Uppsala University and has published many works in that context. Here mention should be made of the book *Gamla folk och nya stater: det upplösta sovjetimperiet*, 1992, for which he was the co-editor (together with INGVAR SVANBERG) and one of the authors. S. Gustavsson's interest in writers' language has been expressed, for instance, in a literary-linguistic analysis of the work of the Yugoslav poet Vaska Popa and in translations of Macedonian and Bulgarian poetry.

During his many years in the chair at Uppsala, Sven Gustavsson has tried to give substance to the name of his position as professor of Slavic languages. He himself has a command of several Slavic languages and has done research on and written about many of them. Both at Uppsala University and in Sweden as a whole, he has defended the place of the Slavic languages, notably the smaller ones, the existence of which at Swedish universities has been under threat for many years. At the department, he has worked

to give all the Slavic languages taught there equal opportunities. He has also initiated fora for Polish-Swedish and Scandinavian-Bulgarian cooperation (see below). In addition, S. Gustavsson has worked actively for many years within the Baltic University Programme run by Uppsala University.

In the series *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia*, 24 volumes have been published during S. Gustavsson's time as professor. Many of them are doctoral dissertations, covering a variety of subjects: MAŁGORZATA ANNA SZULC PACKALÉN, in 1987, wrote on the Generation 68 in Polish poetry; JERZY DE KAMIŃSKI, in the same year, on Križanić's *Discourses on Government*; IRINA ÅGREN, in 1989, on the Slavic translation of Ephraem the Syrian's *Paraenesis*; LUDMILA FERM, in 1990, on the expression of direction with prefixed verbs of motion in modern Russian; ERIK FÄLT, in 1990, on compound words in the Old Slavonic translation of Flavius Josephus; INGRID MAIER, in 1991, presented a study of the lexical-semantic group of verbs meaning 'use' in contemporary Russian; ROGER GYLLIN, in 1991, wrote about the genesis of the modern Bulgarian literary language; TAMARA LÖNNGREN, in 1994, about the lexicon of Russian Old Believers; MARIA ZADENCKA, in 1995, on the image of Lithuania and Byelorussia in works of Polish émigré writers; MADLENA NORBERG, in 1996, about German-Sorbian language change; THOMAS ROSÉN, in 1997, on the Slavic translation of the apocryphal Infancy Gospel of Thomas; and ELISABETH MARKLUND SHARAPOVA, in 2000, about implicit and explicit norm in contemporary Russian verbal stress. As can be seen, the spectrum of problems treated in these dissertations is very broad indeed, a fact that has made their production rather a solitary activity for those concerned. However, it has proved difficult to tempt doctoral students onto more common ground. The more senior scholars have continued to publish their monographs in *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia*, many of them in the field of contemporary Russian linguistics: on Slavic aspectology (Thelin 1978), on Russian morphology (L. Lönngren 1978), on Russian phonetics (Steenland 1981), on textological problems in the study of Old Slavonic translations (Ågren 1991), a Greek-Old Church Slavonic concordance to the oldest versions of the translation of the Gospels (Lysén 1995 = Ågren), on Russian newspaper language following perestroika (Ferm 1994) etc.

In 1981 S. Gustavsson and L. Lönngren launched the series *Uppsala Slavic Papers*. The first volume in the new series was OLLE HILDEBRAND's doctoral dissertation about the life and plays of Nikolaj Evreinov (1981), the second was STEFAN JERZY BUDMAR's thesis (1982) on the accent of Swedish-speaking Poles. ANDRZEJ UGGLA published his work on the perception of Poland and its literature in Sweden (1986) in the same series. Among a variety of studies, a number in the area of textual linguistics stand out (Kamiński & Lavén, (eds.) 2, 1981; L. Lönngren, (ed.) 4, 1981). Senior scholars also publish in the series, including Fält (1995) with a study of words for colours, especially in the Slavic languages. Some issues constitute

the proceedings of different symposia, among them the one on early Swedish Slavistics, held at Uppsala in February 1983 (1984), a continuation of the discussions started at Lund in 1975 (mentioned above). DOROTA TUBIELEWICZ MATTSSON, in 1997, defended her thesis on socialist realist literary criticism in Poland in Uppsala.

The series *Slovo* is still in existence. Here the emphasis is on articles, but proceedings from symposia and other materials are also published. During Sven Gustavsson's tenure, 35 issues have appeared. Notable among them are the proceedings of the symposium on Wisława Szymborska (30, 1986) and GÖSTA LAVÉN's licentiate dissertation on the poetical world of Boratynskij (38, 1989).

General.

Polish language and literature have held a prominent place in Uppsala from the outset to the present day. Of the 23 volumes of *Uppsala Slavic Papers*, ten have treated Polish themes. And of the 40 issues of *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia*, nine have examined Polish problems. For many years there has been a separate Polish seminar, apart from the common Slavic one. The first permanent Polish lectorate, instituted in 1993, is held by M. A. Packalén, who became a professor in 2000. Her new monograph on portrayals of peasants in Polish and Swedish 19th- and 20th-century literature is to appear in 2001. Two doctoral dissertations with Polish themes are in preparation. One of them, on problems of translation between Swedish and Polish, is to appear shortly. The other one deals with religious motifs in Polish poetry.

The Slavic Department at Uppsala has benefited significantly from the existence at Uppsala University of three other centres of learning that share the department's interest in Slavic subjects: the Department of East European Studies, the Centre for Multiethnic Research and the Department of Linguistics. There have been frequent contacts between the Slavic department and these three centres over the years.

One trend that has been noticeable among Slavists in Uppsala during the last decade is that scholars, having begun their research with studies of the contemporary languages (above all Russian), have with time shifted the focus of their interest to historical linguistics and Slavic philology. This trend was started by L. Ďurovič, then Czech lector at Uppsala, who, from studies of modern Russian and Slovak, moved towards an interest in old grammatical descriptions of Russian and Russian translations of Luther's Catechism. Other examples of scholars having moved from studies of the modern language into Russian historical linguistics are Ingrid Maier (1997) and L. Ferm, who are now studying Russian verbal rection in 17th and 18th century texts, studies which are intended to form part of a dictionary on the development of Russian verbal rection (a joint Swedish-Russian venture initiated by I. Maier, Uppsala, and VADIM KRYS'KO, Moscow). A doctoral dissertation on verbal rection in Russian 19th-century texts is being produced

at the Uppsala department. Other scholars started out as *drevniki* and stayed there: in the older generation, ULLA BIRGEGÅRD with her studies of materials connected with Sparwenfeld and his 17th century contemporaries; in the middle generation, I. Ågren (Lysén) (now at the University of Oslo, Norway), with her studies of translation techniques based on Church Slavonic translations from Greek (her new monograph on translations of the Book of Esther is to appear soon in the series *Studia Slavica Upsaliensia*); and, in the younger generation, Th. Rosén, working in partly the same field.

One group of people who have been important to the Department of Slavic Languages at Uppsala, as in other places, are the “foreign lecturers”. Uppsala has, over the years, benefited from the resources of Polish, Russian, Czech, Serbo-Croatian and Bulgarian lecturers (at certain times the Polish and Czech lecturers were shared with the Stockholm department). These lecturers sometimes shared responsibility for teaching with Swedish lecturers, sometimes not. Some of the lecturers, notwithstanding their heavy workload of teaching the Swedish students a practical command of their languages, as well as other courses, also had the energy to work on dissertations or monographs (JERZY BRALCZYK 1982, WITOLD MACIEJEWSKI 1982 and others). All in all, many of them have been very important, especially during the Cold War era, both as language bearers and representatives of their home cultures.

### **Lund.**

*Lars Steensland's Time (from 1993).*

In 1993 LARS STEENSLAND succeeded Lubomír Ďurovič as professor in Lund.

He has continued to publish works in the field of Russian historical accentology, particularly accentography (for instance, Стеенсланд 1997). He has also continued to work in the tradition of ANDERS SJÖBERG, producing commented editions of Russian manuscripts and fragments of manuscripts (Steensland & Löfstrand 1996 and articles).

In the 1990s the department's work in the new sphere of area studies, started by L. Ďurovič, was consolidated. In 1993, members of the department organized an international conference entitled “The New Role of the Intelligentsia in Central and Eastern Europe”, contributions to which were published in *Slavica Lundensia* 14 (= *Intelligentsia in the Interim*). This marked the first stage in raising the study of Central and Eastern European culture from a subject for undergraduate study to a field of research. Since 1998, “The cultural history of Eastern and Central Europe” has been a separate subject at the postgraduate level. Research in this area has primarily been undertaken by FIONA BJÖRLING and BARBARA TÖRNQUIST-PLEWA. In 1997, the latter published a study of the history of Byelorussian nationalism, and she has continued to explore the role of language in nation-

building processes. FIONA BJÖRLING developed a project which came to be called "The intelligentsia as creators of social values in Russia and Poland during the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries". Several international meetings have been held under the auspices of this project and the proceedings to date have been published in *Slavica Lundensia*, 19, 20 and 21. When the four-year project is completed in June 2002, the study of intellectual and cultural history, as part of a dialogue of thought between Eastern and Western Europe, not least concerning social values, will have been established as a long-term interest for the Slavic Department in Lund.

Doctoral dissertations are being produced in a variety of subjects, such as Russian literature (NINA SADUR), contemporary Russian linguistics (accentology), Russian historical linguistics (manuscript analysis), history of Russian culture (anti-Judaic literature during the Old Russian period), Czech literature (Kundera, Hrabal) and history of the culture of Eastern and Central Europe (the linguistic situation in the Ukraine).

### **Stockholm.**

*Barbro Nilsson's Time (from 1990).*

After Anders Sjöberg's unexpected death in 1990, BARBRO NILSSON took over as professor. Although she had written her doctoral thesis on Old Russian material, she did not choose to become a *drevnik*, like her predecessor, but rather a student of syntax and semantics, using modern Russian and Polish linguistic evidence. She has written a number of articles on verbal derivatives, as well as the manuscript of a monograph treating abstract verbal derivatives in contemporary Russian. She has also explored the field of text linguistics (the theme-rheme organization of texts), as manifested in her monograph *Personal Pronouns in Russian and Polish: A Study of Their Communicative Function and Placement in the Sentence* (1982). Another field of interest is semantics, especially the semantics of grammatical categories. Under her guidance, dissertations are being prepared concerning problems in modern Russian: a contrastive study on the structure of Swedish and Russian compound sentences, a study on the semantics and collocation of Russian relative adjectives, a study on translation problems (in cooperation with BIRGITTA ENGLUND DIMITROVA at the Institute for Interpretation and Translation Studies (TÖI) at Stockholm University), and an analysis of Soviet Russian political texts.

The *drevnik* tradition of the Stockholm Slavic department continues. Lars Steensland, who for many years had worked with A. Sjöberg at the Stockholm department, took up the theme of Slavic accentology, initiated by Sven Gustavsson about twenty years earlier, in his monograph devoted to an accentological analysis of a 15th-century missal (1990). In the same year NELLY LINDGREN defended a thesis on the accentological characteristics of a North Russian manuscript. A method of investigation close to that used by

Steensland was employed by his student PER AMBROSIANI in his dissertation on Church Slavonic accentuation, which also draws its data from the 15th century. Mention should also be made of a book which was intended to be a Festschrift for A. Sjöberg, but unfortunately became a memorial volume instead: *Подобаетъ память сътворити: Essays to the Memory of Anders Sjöberg* (1995), containing articles by colleagues and friends of the late professor. A project is in progress, in collaboration with Professor Ol'ga Knjazevskaja, Moscow, concerning an edition of Prologue-texts found among the above-mentioned parchment fragments in Swedish collections (some also from St Petersburg), a work which had been started by A. Sjöberg. E. Löfstrand published an edition with comments of the 15th century manuscript *Хождение игумена Даниила в святую землю*, preserved at the Royal Library in Stockholm (1993) and (together with L. Steensland in 1996) a description of a 15th-century manuscript (a calendar of saints, *Svjatcy*) preserved in the Stockholm University Library (mentioned above). A dissertation is being prepared which deals with the correspondence of the Russian prisoners of war in Sweden 1700-15 (the sources are held at the Swedish National Archives in Stockholm).

The Novgorod Occupation Archives in Stockholm have already been mentioned. In 1995 a project was started with the aim of producing and publishing a scholarly description of these archives. The main bulk of the work is being done by ELISABETH LÖFSTRAND, Stockholm, and LAILA NORDQUIST, Uppsala, with A. A. Turilov, Moscow, acting as a consultant. This project is now nearing completion and there will soon be a printed description of the archives. Thanks to this project, new research is now under way: Per Ambrosiani, having continued his work in the field of Slavic accentuation and graphemics, is now working on a project investigating toponyms in the registers of land and landowners, focusing on their geographical and etymological distribution. Some new dissertations on Novgorod materials are currently being prepared, by L. Nordquist and by Slavists in Norway and Germany.

The Polish division of the Stockholm department is strong and active. Here too, NILS ÅKE NILSSON was instrumental in building up an interest in Poland and its culture, through his translations and works on Polish literature. The award of the 1980 Nobel Prize to Czesław Miłosz was probably due to a large extent to Nilsson's launching of this author and the translations he produced. A Polish literary seminar was introduced in 1979 by LARS KLEBERG and has continued ever since. It has focused mainly on modern Polish literature. Problems of translation and reception have also been central to the discussions at the seminar. The Nobel Prize awarded to Wysława Szymborska in 1996 was seen as a reward to many in Sweden who had over the years helped to make her known through translations and articles.

EWA TEODOROWICZ-HELLMAN works very actively in the Polish division. In cooperation with TÖI she has organized and led two courses (one

academic year each) for professional interpreters and translators from Polish. Her fields of research are semantics (Polish and Swedish terms for colour and measurements, 1997) and literary reception (Swedish children's books in Poland, 1999). In addition, she has edited a volume to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Adam Mickiewicz, in which she is also one of the authors (1998).

In 1999 the University of Stockholm established a chair of Polish, the first ever in Sweden. The first holder is the Polish-born LEONARD NEUGER, who works in the field of literary theory. His main research interest is Witold Gombrowicz, whose works he has analysed thoroughly. He is also an outstanding translator of Swedish poetry into Polish. In particular, his translations of the 18th-century Swedish poet Carl Michael Bellman should be mentioned here. Leonard Neuger now heads a major Polish project with the aim of producing a 10-volume annotated edition of selected works by August Strindberg in Polish (1997).

KAZIMIERA INGDAHL, who has written two monographs on Oleśa, has also carried out extensive research on Stanisława Przybyszewska. The last three dissertations produced within the Polish division are KRZYSZTOF STALA's work on Bruno Schulz from 1993, MICHAŁ LEGIERSKI's work on Gombrowicz from 1996, and JANUSZ KOREK's work on the Polish political exile monthly *Kultura* from 1998.

Czech studies also hold a strong position in Stockholm. MILAN B L , who has been a lecturer at the department since 1996, has the main responsibility for working in this field. His research has centred mainly on three areas: the phonology of Russian and Czech, as well as general phonological theory; problems of morphological case in Slavic languages and in general linguistics; and the question of three distinct national varieties of Czech and the sociolinguistic ramifications of this trichotomy. A dissertation is being prepared on the basis of a sociolinguistic study of code switching between the above-mentioned varieties in Czech televised debates. Another dissertation will deal with the history of Czech theatre in the 20th century, as a reflection of artistic as well as societal development.

*Peter Alberg Jensen's time (from 1984).*

The professorship of "Slavic Languages, especially Russian Language and Literature" was taken over after Nils Åke Nilsson by the Danish Slavist PETER ALBERG JENSEN. He had written a thesis in 1979 (*Nature as Code: The Achievement of Boris Pil'njak 1915-1924*), and in the 1980s Alberg Jensen occasionally published articles on this writer. Since 1986 he has written a whole series of articles on Pasternak, in the main concentrating on his life-long prose project and its inner problematic.

Studies in Russian literature at the Stockholm department still maintain the emphasis on text analysis and close reading that was inspired by N. Å. Nilsson and which set its mark on the *Festschrift* in his honour (1987).

A major topic for a number of scholars has been the œuvre of Boris Pasternak. Nilsson paved the way in his well-known articles during the 1960s, Fiona Björling followed suit in a number of articles, and PER-ARNE BODIN wrote his dissertation on *Doktor ivago* (mentioned above). The same thread was pursued by ANNA LJUNGGREN in articles and her thesis (1984). During the 1990s, SUSANNA WITT made her contribution to work in this field, bringing it to a culmination in her recent thesis (2000). Her close reading brings out truly astonishing aspects of an otherwise much described work.

Apart from Pasternak, a number of topics have been addressed by the department's scholars, although 20th-century literature still predominates. In 1988, KERSTIN OLOFSSON defended a thesis on Rasputin and Ajtmatov. Work on Elena Guro has been published twice by Anna Ljunggren (1988 and 1994, with co-authors, see the bibliography). She has also written a monograph on Innokentij Annenskij's poetics (1997), after which she turned to Fedor Tjutčev. Together with R. Lejbov and L. Kiseleva from Tartu, she published the volume *Тютчевский сборник II* (1999).

Russian theatre and film were the topic of a volume edited by Lars Kleberg and N. Å. Nilsson in 1984, whereafter a second volume focused on Sergej jzenštejn (1987). One of the editors, HÅKANLÖVGREN, eventually reinforced his interdisciplinary interpretation of jzenštejn in his dissertation (1996).

Early Soviet prose was the main concern of K. Ingdahl, who published her studies on Jurij Oleša in two volumes (1984, her dissertation, mentioned above, and 1994). In the 1990s, both Per-Arne Bodin and, more recently, K. Ingdahl wrote on Platonov.

Russian medieval studies have been the focus of a project by Per-Arne Bodin concerning Hesychasm and hymnography in 15th-century Russia. He has written several books, on the Russian Orthodox spiritual tradition, history of ideas, etc. (1988, 2000).

#### *General.*

Since 1983, the Baltologists have published their works in the series *Stockholm Studies in Baltic Languages*.

Both Serbo-Croatian and Bulgarian were once taught in Stockholm, but this is no longer the case.

From 1950 there was a Czech lector in Stockholm, and in 1951 the first Russian-born teacher, SERGEJ ALEKSANDROVIČ RITTENBERG, a representative of the pre-revolutionary Petersburg intelligentsia, taught the students practical Russian. Many of the teachers working at the Slavic department in Stockholm over the years have had a Slavic language as their mother tongue, but they have mostly lived in Sweden. In 1964 the first "foreign lector" came directly from Moscow. The number of students has fluctuated, the ups and downs often influenced by external political factors.

The Russian thaw and the first sputnik in the 1960s made the study of Russian popular and the number of students rose. During the *perestroika* period in the 1990s, the department experienced what has been called a "Gorbachev boom". The same trends could be observed at other Slavic departments in the country. The fine Slavic library is now integrated with the university library.

### **Gothenburg.**

Professor LASKOWSKI retired from the Gothenburg department in 2001. It is still uncertain what will become of the chair at Gothenburg. Owing to lack of funds, it seems that the Faculty of Humanities does not intend to advertise a professorship, but plans rather to appoint a promoted senior lecturer with the title of professor to the position.

## **OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

To make the picture complete, some other academic institutions that teach Slavic languages should be mentioned here.

At the University of Stockholm, an Institute for Interpretation and Translation Studies (TÖI) was founded in 1986. From the start, this institute has organized and financed the training of interpreters and translators to help meet the needs of Swedish society. The actual courses have been taught at different language departments at Stockholm University and in other places. The Slavic languages represented at the institute are Russian, Polish and (earlier) Serbo-Croatian. B. Englund Dimitrova (mentioned above) is involved in initiating and planning courses. She also does research at the institute, with one postgraduate student writing a dissertation. The institute as such offers no postgraduate education, so the Stockholm Slavic department is responsible for this. The research under way at present concerns cognitive and psycholinguistic aspects of translating from Russian into Swedish.

Russian is also taught at the University of Umeå in the north of Sweden, but there are no postgraduate studies there as yet, even if there are plans to move in that direction. The very active cooperation taking place in the Arctic regions of the Nordic countries and the Kola peninsula calls for a university in the north of Sweden with a higher level of competence in Russian. VERA LIDÉN has from the outset put much effort and commitment into the activities of the department, assisted by Russian-born teachers who have spent longer or shorter periods of time at Umeå.

Russian is in addition taught at the young University College of Southern Stockholm, where there will be something of a research focus on the Baltic Sea region. There, Russian is taught in combination with other subjects, such as economics, cultural studies etc. The two lecturers working there, Kerstin Olofsson and Ludmila Ferm (both mentioned above) also do research. A

postgraduate school is just being established. Some research projects have addressed Slavic themes, like the project *Cultures in Dialogue*, led by Lars Kleberg. Apart from Kleberg himself, IRINA SANDOMIRSKAJA should be mentioned in this context. LARS ERIK BLOMQVIST and ANDERS BODEGÅRD (see below) run much appreciated courses in literary translation from Russian and Polish at the college.

The new universities Mälardalens högskola (Mälaren Valley University College) and Karlstad also offer courses in Russian.

Like Alfred Jensen, mentioned earlier, there are many people, with or without a formal background as Slavists, who have played very important roles as intermediaries and interpreters, introducing the Slavic cultures to the Swedish public. They can all be defined as cultural workers in the best sense of the word. Only a few can be mentioned here.

Among the translators, STAFFAN DAHL (mentioned above) deserves a place of honour due to his translations of Dostoevskij.

HANS BJÖRKEGREN has over the years presented many Russian writers to the Swedish public. It was he who introduced Solženicyn, through a biography (1972) and translations of many of his works. He has also introduced and translated Russian poetry (for instance, in *Rysk dikt från Derzjavin till Brodsky*, together with L. E. Blomqvist), and translated poets such as Axmatova, Mandelštam, Brodskij and Ajgi. Apart from fiction in the form of novels and poetry, Björkegren has also written non-fictional works, for example about the Russian revolutionaries in the Nordic countries 1906-17 (1985). He was awarded an honorary doctorate at Uppsala University in 1998.

L. E. Blomqvist, one of Nils Åke Nilsson's students, wrote a licentiate dissertation on primitivism within Russian modernism. He is a prominent translator from Russian and has made numerous translations, for instance of Bulgakov's *Macneþ u Mapzapuna*. He has also written books on Russian literature (*Rysk litteratur efter Stalin*, 1968, and others) and about literary policy. Like other Slavists before him, he has travelled extensively in Sweden, giving talks about Russian literature and Russian society. For many years he worked as a teacher at the Department of East European Studies at Uppsala. He has also taught in other places. He is now a doctor *honoris causa* at Stockholm University.

BENGT JANGFELT, another of Nils Åke Nilsson's students, wrote a dissertation on Majakovskij, as noted earlier, and has continued to work with this poet. Apart from translating Majakovskij, Brodskij and others, he has fairly recently published a book about Swedes in St Petersburg, which was very favourably received.

STAFFAN SKOTT, who also studied Russian at the Stockholm department, has worked as a translator from Russian for many years, producing new translations of classics like Gogol', Čexov and others. He has also worked for many years as a journalist, writing on Russian themes, and has

published many books, for instance about the genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated by communism (1999).

Lars Kleberg (mentioned above) has helped introduce Polish poets, for example Szymborska and Zagajewski, and has also translated plays by, for instance, Mrożek and Čechov.

A. Bodegård has gained a reputation as a translator of Polish literature, both prose and poetry. His translations of Szymborska, Zagajewski and Miłosz should be mentioned here.

ANNIKA BÄCKSTRÖM has been instrumental in introducing Marina Cvetaeva to the Swedish public. She presented a licentiate dissertation on Cvetaeva's *Крысолог* at Uppsala and has translated poems and prose by her, Brodskij and others. She has also written newspaper articles.

MARGARETA ATTIUS SOHLMAN, who wrote a licentiate dissertation at Uppsala on a Serbo-Croatian theme, has in the last few decades written books on the encounters between East and West, in terms of religion and culture (1994).

## GENERAL

In the 1960s, Swedish Slavists initiated very fruitful cooperation within the framework of the Association of Swedish Slavists. This organization, in turn, forms part of the Association of Nordic Slavists. The main role of the Nordic association is to organize, once every three years, a meeting of Nordic Slavists, which is held in each of the Nordic countries in rotation. The most recent of these meetings was held in August 2000 in Tromsø, Norway. These gatherings have proved to be very important and inspiring. Between 75 and 125 Slavists take part each time, and parallel working groups are organized, with papers and discussions. The meetings have a format which makes it possible to get a good overall picture of what is going on in the field of Slavistics in the Nordic countries, and they have also led to valuable scholarly and personal contacts. In addition, Nordic Slavists have the possibility of getting funding for joint seminars through the state-sponsored Nordic Council. Much appreciated research seminars for postgraduate students as well as experienced scholars have been organized, on both Slavic linguistics and literature. The journal of the Nordic Association is *Scando-Slavica*, of which 46 issues have been published to date. GUNNAR JACOBSSON served as editor-in-chief for decades. The national associations try to promote interest in the Slavic languages and cultures in their respective countries. Now and then they organize conferences at which various common problems are discussed.

Thus, for example, the Swedish association has helped to organize a number of Swedish-Polish and Nordic-Bulgarian conferences in either

Poland/Bulgaria or a Nordic country. One such Polish-Swedish research meeting took place in April 2001 in Kraków.

Swedish university departments of Slavic languages have seen a significant influx of scholars of Slavic origin. Some have come to Sweden as political refugees, others through marriage or in other ways. As the appended bibliography indicates, a considerable proportion of the research carried out within Swedish Slavistics is undertaken by people of Slavic origin. Sweden has also exported a number of Slavists to various countries. A growing number of the students applying to study at the Slavic departments were born in a Slavic country or are second-generation immigrants.

In the last few years, a growing interest in translation studies has been noticeable, not only within the Slavic languages but more generally. A major joint project involving the universities of Uppsala and Stockholm has produced a number of dissertations and monographs, and will continue to do so. In the Slavic field, three works are being done within the framework of this project. There are also translation courses: apart from the above-mentioned TÖI, courses on literary translation from Russian and Polish into Swedish are given at the University College of Southern Stockholm by two of our best translators (cf. above).

In the early days, the university subject was referred to as “Slavic languages”, and students normally studied more than one of these languages. Nowadays, the trend is towards increasing specialization. For the most part, doctoral students concentrate on one language or literature. With the Swedish state’s efforts to make Ph.D. programmes more efficient, this trend will probably continue. The four years that a doctoral student has at his or her disposal to write a dissertation and complete the courses do not allow for too many excursions away from pure necessity. In fact, there are very few real Slavists left. What we have instead is Russianists, Polonists, Bohemists etc. Something essential has, no doubt, thereby been lost. But the amount of knowledge to be conquered in today’s world is overwhelming, and to struggle against the trends of the epoch is not an easy thing to do.

On the whole, the study of foreign languages at Swedish universities is in rather a grim state. Government funding is meagre. Students choose to study other, more immediately useful subjects, all the more so because English increasingly seems to be developing into the *lingua franca* of today’s world. Developments in information technology seem to be accelerating this process.

## IN RETROSPECT AND LOOKING AHEAD

It goes without saying that Swedish Slavistics has a modest position in comparison with other countries, especially the Slavic nations. The first professorial chair was established relatively late (1890); Denmark, for

instance, had a senior lectureship as early as 1859 and a professorship in 1865. Apart from that, no specialization of the kind typical of large Slavistics centres has been possible. Instead, Swedish Slavists have chosen to cover huge areas in their scholarly work. Interest in the Slavic world has, however, always been there.

In the modern period, from the 1890s until today, certain general tendencies within Swedish Slavistics can be discerned, tendencies which follow — often with some delay — common trends in the international development of linguistic research. Thus, for instance, there has been a movement away from the originally dominant diachronic, historical-comparative study of the Slavic languages to the synchronic, i.e. a gradual transition from historical phonetics to phonology — although the phonetics of the living languages were the subject of research early on — from etymological investigations to semantics, from the word to the sentence and the text, from morphology to syntax. Research on language was challenged by research in literature and history of culture, a change that occurred earlier outside the university, for example Alfred Jensen's work. There has also been a tendency to abandon general, comparative themes in favour of more specialized ones. During the last few decades, however, there has been a movement back to the history of language and culture, often linked to studies of the rich body of manuscripts and documents, especially Russian, in Swedish collections. Not only Russian and Polish have attracted the interest of Swedish Slavists, but other Slavic regions as well, especially the South Slavic. In chronological terms, the middle of the 1940s was a turning point, at which Swedish Slavistics started to grow as new positions were established at the universities is symptomatic that German (and French) as the dominant languages of academic discourse are making way for English.

Today, departments of foreign languages at Swedish universities are having problems. In the past, the universities mainly educated language teachers and scholars. Today's students are often seeking a practical command of a foreign language, the ability to speak and write, and combine their practical language skills with other subjects. They are, as a rule, not interested in linguistics and the history of language. This trend and its challenges are being discussed by university teachers in Sweden. It seems that our language departments, which earlier focused on the study of languages and literatures, are more and more moving into the broader discipline of area studies, with the language as a means, not a goal.

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