

SOME SOURCES FOR NORTHWEST HISTORY

SWEDISH IMMIGRATION MATERIAL

The vigilance of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society has recently brought rich rewards in the form of accessions to the collection pertaining to the history of immigration. The greatest number of additions fall within the field of emigration from Sweden and may be classified as follows: first, narratives written by immigrants themselves; second, books written by Swedish travelers in the United States and Canada; third, fiction and poetry about Swedish America and Swedish Americans; fourth, emigrant guides; fifth, anti-emigration propaganda; and sixth, works based on intensive research.

Among the narratives of immigrants is *Bland de våra därute: Några blad ur en f. d. immigrantprästs dagbok* ("Among Our People Out There: A Few Pages from the Diary of a Former Immigrant Pastor") by Carl Andeer (Stockholm, 1935. 181 p.), the work of a pastor in the church of Sweden, who in the early years of the present century was in charge of an immigrant home in Boston. He is the author of two volumes entitled *Augustana-folk* (Rock Island, 1911, 1914) in which he portrays the life and activity of Augustana Synod people in stories and sketches. *Hårda år: En emigrants öden och upplevelser i dollarlandet* ("Hard Years: The Lot and Experiences of an Emigrant in Dollar Land") by Axel Andersson (Second edition. Skellefteå, 1929. 198 p.) purports to be a true story told by an immigrant; it breathes hostility to the United States. *Amerikaminnen: Upplevelser och iakttagelser från en 6-årig vistelse i U. S. A.* ("Recollections of America: Experiences and Observations from a Residence of Six Years in the United States") by Evelina Mansson

(Hvetlanda, 1930. 109 p.) consists of the reminiscences of an immigrant who was employed in several capacities in Hector and Minneapolis. The author tells her story with good humor and without conscious effort to propagandize. There are many familiar pictures and incidents pertaining to Minneapolis, and the volume includes twenty illustrations. *Ur en emigrants antenckingsbok: Några sanningar om Amerika* ("From an Emigrant's Notebook: Some Truths about America") by Vilhålm Nordin (Stockholm, 1902. 56 p.) is hostile to the United States and is intended to show that immigrants did not profit by going to the "dollar land." *Det förlovade landet?* ("The Promised Land?") by Gustaf Strindberg (Stockholm, 1931. 199 p.) relates the experiences of an embittered immigrant, who, after working in Chicago, went "out west" and later served in the American army during the World War. *Ur frihetslandets järnkäftar: En svensk emigrants erfarenheter i U. S. A.* ("Out of the Iron Jaws of the Land of Freedom: Experiences of a Swedish Emigrant in the United States") by Henry von Kraemer (Stockholm, 1914. 207 p.) is an example of the anti-emigration books published in Sweden some twenty years ago. This returned emigrant discourses on the dullness of life for workers in the United States, on unattractive living conditions, and on savage labor conflicts, such as the Homestead strike.

The travel books include *Scener i Nord-Amerika ur en svensk resandes minnes-bok* ("Scenes in North America from the Diary of a Swedish Traveler") by C. D. Arfwedson, a well-known author (Stockholm, 1836. 256 p.). He wrote an earlier book on the United States and Canada (Stockholm, 1835). *Svenska nationaliteten i Förenta Staterna, deras sociala och kyrkliga förhållanden, hemlif och ekonomiska ställning: Reproduction af korrespondenser till Sydsvenska dagbl. snällposten* ("The Swedish Nationality in the United States with Reference to Social and Religious Conditions, Home Life, and Economic Situation") by Tan-

cred Boissy (Gothenburg, 1882. 56 p.) is a brief and on the whole accurate sketch of conditions in Swedish America, with a chapter on the Swedish-American press. *Bland Svenskar och Yankees* ("Among Swedes and Yankees") by Hj. Cassel (Stockholm, 1894. 196 p.) is an interesting account of a visit to St. Paul and of the political activity of the Swedes, including the history of the publication of *Amerikanska dagbladet* (St. Paul), the only Swedish daily ever published in the United States. *Canada: Skisser och glimtar från en resa* ("Canada: Sketches and Glimpses from a Journey") by Georg L. Dahlin, who is J. L. Kassel (Stockholm, 1929. 191 p.) contains references to the Swedes in Canada. *Från Stockholm till Stilla Oceanen: Intryck och iakttagelser under resor i Nordamerikas Förenade Stater från Newyorks frihets-staty till San Franciscos gyllene port* ("From Stockholm to the Pacific Ocean. Impressions and Observations during Travels in the United States from the Statue of Liberty in New York to San Francisco's Golden Gate") by Hj. Danielson (Stockholm, 1928. 172 p.) relates the impressions of a delegate to the Fourth Baptist World Conference in Toronto. He is especially interested in the Swedish Baptists in Minnesota. *Svensken, Svensk-amerikanaren och Amerikanen* ("The Swede, the Swedish American, and the American") by Agnes E. Hammarberg (Uppsala, 1928. 70 p.) makes comparisons and contrasts. *I fjärran nordväst: Jaktstråtar i Kanada* ("In the Remote Northwest: Hunting Trails in Canada") by A. Lilius (Helsingfors, 1912. 160 p.) is written by a member of the Canadian government survey party in British Columbia in the summer of 1911. *Det stora landet i väster: Glimtar från natur och folkliv i Amerikas Förenade Stater* ("The Great Land in the West: Glimpses of Nature and Customs in the United States") by Hj. Rangman with ninety-two illustrations (Uppsala, 1931. 227 p.) records observations on Americans and Swedish Americans and includes a chapter on the relations between Swedish Amer-

icans and Sweden. The author visited the Twin Cities. *Skandinaviska national föreningen i Winnipeg: Skandinaverna i Manitoba och nordvästern Canada* ("The Scandinavian National Society in Winnipeg: Scandinavians in Manitoba and Northwestern Canada") is valuable because it was published at an early date (Winnipeg, 1887. 20 p.).

Hilma Angered Strandberg's *På prärien* ("On the Prairie") (Stockholm, 1898. 224 p.) and *Den nya världen* ("The New World") (Stockholm, 1917. 302 p.) are novels portraying life in Swedish-American middle-western communities. The latter was first published in 1898 and sets forth the influence of the "America letters." The author is very caustic. *De unga utvandrarne, eller resa till och äfventyr i Nya Verlden* ("The Young Immigrants, or a Journey to, and Adventures in, the New World") is one of many "adventure stories" (Stockholm, 1866. 58 p.). *Stjärnbanerets land* ("The Land of the Star Spangled Banner") by Ernst Lindblom (Stockholm, 1910. 110 p.) and *Minnen från Nord-Amerika I. Dikt och prosa* ("Reminiscences of North America. Poetry and Prose") by O. Morris Molander (Gothenburg, 1905. 232 p.) are collections of poems and stories. *Utvandrare* ("Emigrants") by J. L. Stockenstrand (Stockholm, 1907. 175 p.) contains a story about the Eric-Jansonists. *Nya utvandrarehistorier* ("New Stories about Emigrants") by Konni Zilliacus (Helsingfors, 1897. 261 p.) is the author's second volume of stories about Finnish immigrants. In the late eighties the author was on the staff of *Svenska tribunen* of Chicago.

Among the emigrant guides may be classed *Nybyggerne i Nordamerika, deras öden och utsigter: En teckning efter naturen; af en Engelsman, jemte engelska omdömen och betraktelser, föranledda deraf* ("Pioneers in North America, Their Lot and Prospects: A Sketch from Nature, together with Conclusions and Reflections, by an English-

man") by M. Birbeck (Stockholm, 1818. 40 p.), a translation of an article in the *Edinburgh Review* for June, 1818. The translator states that the pamphlet was published apropos of conflicting reports that had come to Europe about immigrants in the United States. *Handbok för emigranter af alla klasser och stånd till Förenta Staterne i Nord-Amerika: Utarbetad hufvudsakligast efter andra upplagan af T. Brommes "Reise-Handbuch für Auswanderer nach Amerika"* ("Manual for Immigrants to the United States, of All Classes and Stations. Based Chiefly on the Second Edition of T. Bromme's 'Manual for Immigrants to the United States'") probably by P. G. Ågren (Jönköping, 1844. 84 p.) is one of the earliest emigrant guides. The contents are divided as follows: first, Who should emigrate? second, What arrangements ought to be made? and third, What should an emigrant beware of? *Beskrifning öfwer Amerika, med serskilt afseende på den skandinaviske emigrationen* ("An Account of North America, with Special Reference to Scandinavian Emigration") by Alex Nilsson (Gothenburg, 1872. 95 p.) is a typical emigrant guide, with a chapter on the causes of emigration. Despite his official position as district judge, the author is hard on the Swedish government—its class distinctions, snobbery, antiquated laws, and unequal taxes. He says that the United States has set an example for the world. *Emigrantens vän: Hjelpreda för den swenske utvandrararen af hwarje klass, efter fyra års resor och studier i Förenta Staterna* ("The Emigrant's Friend: A Guide for the Swedish Emigrant of Every Class, Based on Four Years of Travel and Study in the United States") by Hugo Nisbeth (Stockholm, 1881. 132, 89 p.) gives information about routes of travel, employment, available land, emigration regulations of the Swedish government, together with a historical sketch of the United States, a translation of the Constitution, lessons in English, pictures of presidents, and a map of the United States. *Bref om Amerika till hemmavarande*

landsmän ("Letters about America Addressed to Swedes at Home") by Carl G. Svalander (Gothenburg, 1854, 1855) consists of three letters bound in one volume. The author ran an emigration bureau in Gothenburg. The letters contain valuable material about the early history of the Swedes in America and a sketch of the famous quack, Doctor Roback. *Några korta underrättelser om Amerika, till upplysning och nytta för dem som ämna utflytta; samt Emigrant-föreningens stadgar och förslager för en tillämnad utflyttning år 1841* ("Some Brief Items about America, for the Information and Benefit of Prospective Emigrants; Together with By-laws of the Emigration Society and Proposals for a Contemplated Emigration in 1841") by Carl Axel A. Schéée (Stockholm, 1841. 56 p.) is a rare early emigrant guide. It includes a map. The first forty-one pages give a literal translation of Ole Rynning's *True Account of America*—headings and all. *Upplýsningar till utvandrare till Amerika* ("Information for Immigrants to America") by Henning A. Taube (Stockholm, 1869. 48 p.) is an advertisement published by the Great European-American Emigration Land Company, of which the author was general superintendent in Stockholm. It has a plat of a proposed colony at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. *Minnesotas landtbruk, manufaktur, handelstillgångar och öfriga resurser* ("Minnesota's Agriculture, Manufacturing, Transportation, and Other Resources") published by the Minnesota board of emigration, H. H. Young, secretary (St. Paul, 1881. 64 p.), is a translation of one of several pamphlets published in the interest of attracting immigrants to Minnesota.

Skall jag resa till Amerika? Kortfattad skildring af Förenta Staterna vid 20: de århundradets början ("Shall I Migrate to America? A Brief Description of the United States at the Opening of the Twentieth Century") by G. Thyreen (Stockholm, 1911. 240 p.) is written by a keen and fair-minded lawyer who sought means of checking emi-

gration. His idea was to bring about in Sweden certain more or less socialistic and educational reforms which would make for personal freedom.

The following volumes by Gunnar Westin, a docent at the University of Uppsala, make substantial contributions in the field of the history of immigration: *George Scott och hans verksamhet i Sverige* ("George Scott and His Work in Sweden") (Stockholm, 1929. 685 p.); *George Scott och hans verksamhet i Sverige: Handlingar, tal och brev* ("George Scott and His Work in Sweden: Documents, Addresses, and Letters") (Stockholm, 1928. 401 p.); *Emigranterna och kyrkan: Brev från och till svenskar i Amerika 1849-1892* ("The Emigrants and the Church: Letters from and to Swedes in America, 1849-1892") (Stockholm, 1932. 612 p.); and *Ur den svenska folkväckelsens historia och tänkevärld* ("Pertaining to the Religious Awakening and Intellectual Renaissance in Sweden"). This series of volumes published in Stockholm beginning in 1930 contains letters pertaining to the religious awakening and growth of dissent in Sweden. All these volumes have valuable historical introductions and citations.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS



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