

Vetenskaplig redovisning (eng)

Project Report: New Research Networks Concerning the Work of Selma Lagerlöf (Dnr F15-1123:1)

PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The first Tokyo Lagerlöf symposium was held in collaboration with Josai University (20 Nov. 2015). Simultaneous interpretation was provided. Mizuta Noriko, chancellor of Josai University, opened proceedings. The morning session was attended by 23 people, and an additional seven employees from a media company and 22 Josai students attended the afternoon session on Nils Holgersson. Four scholars and three filmmakers participated.

The Moscow Lagerlöf symposium was held at the Russian-Swedish Centre of the Russian State University for the Humanities (3–4 Mar. 2016). Proceedings were simultaneously interpreted. The symposium was opened by Tamara Torstendahl Salycheva, Centre director, and participants included representatives from the Swedish embassy, six translators, eleven scholars and around ten other audience members.

The third Lagerlöf symposium was hosted by the Humboldt University of Berlin (30 Sep.–1 Oct. 2016). The symposium was organised by Otto Fischer, Dag Hammarskjöld chair in the Department of Northern European Studies, and his assistant, Therese Korritter. A call for papers was distributed in December 2015. In addition to four invited speakers, another four scholars, an author and a translator presented papers in either German or English to an audience of around 20 people.

BACKGROUND

Lisbeth Stenberg, emerita reader at Gothenburg University, coordinated the symposia. Stenberg introduced each of the three events by presenting new perspectives on Lagerlöf's oeuvre arising from the international conference held in London in 2011 (funded by RJ), which resulted in the publication of *Re-Mapping Lagerlöf*. At each event Stenberg presented a slightly different angle on her own contribution in *Re-Mapping*, focusing on Lagerlöf's international impact in the context of the women's movement. Stenberg also presented the aim of the symposia, thanked RJ for its funding and invited participants to a further international Lagerlöf conference, to be held in Karlstad/Värmland on 18–20 June 2018.

Many of the other presentations provided perspectives on the reception and translation of Lagerlöf's work in the countries involved. Noriko Thunman, professor emerita at Gothenburg University, presented an overview of Japanese reception (1905–present). Thunman showed that although translations of Lagerlöf's work cover a wide spectrum, Lagerlöf is today primarily seen as a children's author in Japan. Future research may therefore highlight other aspects of her oeuvre and its complexity. In Russia, the complexity of Lagerlöf's body of work has, on the contrary, been in focus. Tamara Torstendahl Salycheva presented Lagerlöf's reception in Russia and this was followed by a discussion between the translators and the rest of the audience about the current situation.

Lagerlöf's works have been steadily in print in Germany. Instead of a retrospective overview, a discussion led by Therese Korritter focused on the conditions under which Lagerlöf's work circulates today. Three new biographies of Lagerlöf have been published in German during recent years, and Holger Wolandt, one of the biographers, participated in the symposium. Urachhaus, publishers of several of Lagerlöf's works, published Wolandt's book *Värmland und die Welt* (2015), as well as correspondence between Lagerlöf, Elkan and Olander (2016).

Several old translations of Lagerlöf's texts are still in print, thus limiting the commissioning and publication of new German translations. Paul Berf, one of the most renowned translators from Swedish, reflected on his new translation of Gösta Berling's Saga (2015).

THEMES AND CONTENT

TOKYO: "Selma Lagerlöf in Japan: Between Modernity and Tradition"

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Nordic authors were received with enthusiasm in a country that had long been isolated. Lagerlöf was seen to represent modernity, while her texts at the same time included values and motifs that could resonate with more traditional views.

Tomoko Murayama, professor at Ibaraki University, Tokyo, concentrated on representations of nature and animals in Nils Holgersson that offer children an image of a sustainable society, leading them to consider where and how they want to live. On the whole Nils Holgersson has received most attention in Japan. Three representatives from Studio Pierrot, including its founder, Yuji Nunkawa, participated in the symposium and described how the German-Japanese animated series came about. The series took two years to produce and was broadcast in 52 episodes (1980–81). It is regarded as a classic around the world and has in turn led to many new translations of the novel. Teiko Nakamura, Tokyo Rika University, presented a bold new interpretation in "Disability and Disease in Selma Lagerlöf's *Mårbacka* and *Jerusalem*".

MOSCOW: "Secrets of Artistry: Ethics, Religion and Aesthetics in Selma Lagerlöf's Oeuvre"

In Russian literary studies there is a strong focus on comparison and several new comparative readings of Lagerlöf were presented at the symposium. Diana Koblenkova, Nizhny Novgorod State University, discussed Lagerlöf in relation to Gogol, Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Gorky. Tatiana Kolcheva, Tula State Pedagogical University, compared representations of the antichrist in Lagerlöf with those in the work of author and philosopher Vladimir Solovyov.

A Russian critic used the phrase "the gospel according to Selma" in 1917. Three of the presentations made reference to this formulation and gave different perspectives on Lagerlöf's use of symbols that draw on traditional Christianity while not conforming to the Christian tradition. Polina Lisovskaya and Natalya Press from Saint Petersburg State University discussed gospel motifs and legends of Christ, respectively. Yuliya Korolinskaya, State University of Moscow, contextualised Lagerlöf in terms of Nordic revival movements. These are all important new contributions to Lagerlöf studies. In addition, two Swedish scholars presented papers: Anna Nordlund, Uppsala University, and Anna Bohlin, Stockholm University.

BERLIN: "Lagerlöf in Germany"

Jennifer Watson, University of Wisconsin, has pioneered the study of Lagerlöf's German reception. She traced Lagerlöf's influence in works by Gustav Fressen, Ina Seidel, and Nelly Sachs, and also discussed Brecht's and Hauptmann's adaptations. Ann-Sofi Ljung Svensson, Malmö University, gave a brief overview of her PhD thesis on the "absorption" of Lagerlöf's works by the backward-looking German Heimatkunstbewegung (1890–1905). In sharp contrast, Katarina Yngborn, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, showed how Lagerlöf also was championed and translated by the avant-garde Wiener Moderne movement.

Lena Carlsson discussed Selma Lagerlöf's and Sophie Elkan's photographic documentation of their 1911 trip to Germany. Katharina Müller, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, showed how media developments necessitated changes in Lagerlöf's public appearances. Gunilla Rising Hintz and Jennifer Watson concentrated on Lagerlöf's reception in Nazi Germany, while Ann-Sofi Ljung Svensson discussed Lagerlöf's importance for the women's movement. Joachim Schiedermaier, University of Greifswald, discussed proto-modernist features of *Jerusalem*, and Bjarne Thorup Thomsen, University of Edinburgh, focused on "Lappland-Schonen", a neglected text written for and in support of the wounded German soldiers who were transported by train from Russia via Haparanda to Scania at the end of the First World War.

The future of Lagerlöf studies

Information about available resources, including litteraturbanken.se, [Litteraturbanken skola](http://litteraturbanken.skola.se) and the Lagerlöf Network, was provided at all symposia. Ann-Charlotte Knochenhauer, curator of the Lagerlöf collection at the National Library of Sweden, also participated in Berlin. Each event concluded with a discussion inviting suggestions from all attendees about the further development of the Lagerlöf Network and the consolidation of Lagerlöf studies.

In Moscow, Anna Nordlund and the Swedish scholars in attendance presented an overview of

current Swedish research and some research trends. The Russian scholars presented an overview of the current state of research in Russia, which lacks interdisciplinary and gender perspectives. In Berlin the discussion was led by Anna Forssberg. One of the main points was the limited scholarly interest in Lagerlöf in Germany, despite the popularity of the works. Annegret Heitman thought that studies of Lagerlöf may well be hidden in larger works, and undertook to compile a list of recent academic works that include Lagerlöf.

RESULTS

JAPAN: In 2018 the 150-year anniversary of relations between Japan and Sweden will be celebrated. Contacts have been established to highlight Lagerlöf in connection with the anniversary. Applications for funding a translation of *Mårbacka* to Japanese have been made, but unfortunately not yet with positive results.

RUSSIA: The Swedish Royal Patriotic Society has granted funding for translating six of the Russian presentations to Swedish to make them accessible to a larger audience. Tamara Torstendahl Salycheva will be editing a Russian volume containing all papers presented at the symposium (to be published in 2018). Nils Holgersson and Gösta Berling's *Saga* have been translated by Sergey Stern (published by Ripol-Classic). Stefan Ingvarsson, cultural attaché at the Swedish Embassy, is promoting these new translations.

OVERALL RESULTS OF THE SYMPOSIA

All symposium participants have been invited to an international Lagerlöf conference, to be held in Karlstad/Värmland on 18–20 June 2018.

Since 1958 the Lagerlöf Society has been making current research available to a wider audience. The 2018 volume of *Lagerlöfstudier* will include an account of the symposia and translations of presentations, and will be edited by Anna Forssberg, Anna Nordlund and Lisbeth Stenberg.