
SASS NEWS & NOTES

DECEMBER 2007 • VOLUME 34 • NUMBER 3

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SASS NEWS & NOTES
**The Official News Bulletin of the Society for
the Advancement of Scandinavian Study**

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The deadline for submission of material for the next issue is 15 January 2008. Please address all submissions to:

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SASS News & Notes (0891-7477) is issued three times a year by the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study c/o Chr. D. Nøkkentved, I.M.S.A., 1500 W. Sullivan Rd., Aurora, IL 60506 USA, and is sent to all members of the Society. Annual dues for 2006 are (within North America) individual: \$55; student/retired (with proof of status): \$30 per year. Outside North America individual dues are \$70 and student/retired \$45. North American library memberships are \$65 and overseas ones are \$80. New memberships and renewals are entered on a calendar basis only. To become a member of SASS, send dues to the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Brigham Young University, HRCB, Provo, UT 84602-4538. Forms and information are available at the Society's website: <http://www.scandinavianstudy.org/>. The menu is at the bottom of the page.

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Announcements

SASS 98th Annual Meeting: 13–15 March 2008 in Fairbanks, Alaska

For information on hotel and conference registration check out the conference website at: www.scandinavianstudy.org/?q=node/67.

Latest news: we are negotiating with Alaska Airlines for a 10 percent discount on all fares from 9 March through 23 March 2008. We will keep you posted on the SASS website: www.scandinavianstudy.org. Feel free to bookmark the SASS website for ongoing conference information.

The Women's Caucus is sponsoring a presentation by Professor Theresa John at their luncheon. Professor John teaches in the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development at UAF and will speak on the significance of dance in Yup'ik culture. Her presentation will begin at 1:00 pm and is open to everyone. The Women's Caucus would like to invite all SASS participants to join them for lunch as well as for Prof. John's presentation.

Dictionary of Literary Biography: Norwegian Writers 1500 to 1900
Update for Contributors and Interested Scholars from the Editor

A few of you have written and inquired as to the progress on your contributions and the plans for publishing the Norwegian volume of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. I have answered most inquiries in a fairly brief fashion since I really don't know much more than any of you. However, I will share what I know of the progress to date and what steps I have taken—and have just finished taking!—to insure a successful conclusion to our efforts. The impending demise of my ancient computer necessitates that I resort to sending a hard copy to *News & Notes* in lieu of individual e-mails. I hope that all of you take this rather public communiqué in the congenial and collegial spirit intended.

I have just declared the major work on the volume concluded—for the third time! As some of you may know, finding ready and willing contributors for writers from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries proved a challenge. In order to provide a balanced overview of the earlier writers, I solicited contributions repeatedly; however, it proved easier to request contributions than to find them, so I ended up relying on a single contributor who got far more than she bargained for since she was also playing the

role of editor for the volume. This means that my role in the volume was a bit more extensive than I originally planned. I had hoped to give others an opportunity to participate, but I did not realize that there would be so few takers. I also had to deal with a couple of contributors who reneged and in doing so jeopardized the work and efforts of their colleagues. However, a few of you stepped up to the plate and consequently I believe that the volume will be balanced, carefully planned, and well-written. I only hope that the third time will be the charm. Responses from the publisher have been supportive and positive.

Some of you may realize that the series *Dictionary of Literary Biography* is the product of an older research strategy and reference tradition. The very technology that has facilitated the preparation of our volume (and your essays) threatens the production of just that volume: it has become increasingly expensive to produce such esoteric scholarly reference books with limited distribution to academic libraries and research institutes and very little potential for extensive sales outside a certain scholarly arena. It does appear that the entire *DLB* series may end. The publishers have been rather candid in alerting me to this fact. However, they have also made it clear that they feel obliged to follow through on their commitment to our volume. I have done everything in my power to ensure that your work will be published. After all, I gave my word to serve as editor and see the work through to publication and that is what I have done and will continue to do. I have succeeded in garnering a place in *DLB*'s publication schedule and, since I have honored my commitments to each and every one of you and to the editors and publishers, I think we can rest assured that our efforts will bear fruit.

However! My life—all our lives—should be more than hard work and trying to fill in for others, duty, obligations, tasks, and responsibilities—our lives should be fun and exciting. Because a few contributors to *DLB* shirked their responsibilities and dishonored their colleagues, my duties and obligations increased to a point where I found little joy in what I was doing; the logistics in following through were so very challenging. At the same time, a new passion and *Interesse dominanz* entered the scene, first as a relaxation from work on *DLB* (and other work), then as the joy in my life, my heart and soul, what I think of morning and evening. I have faced two choices because of this development: quitting or leaving.

Quitting and leaving are not the same thing at all. In quitting, one stomps into the office—or now takes to the email function of the computer—and announces unequivocally and petulantly: “I quit! You can take this job and stuff it!” Quitting means that one ignores the effects of one’s

actions on others; that one assumes that the plans, hopes, aspirations, of others count for naught; that it does not matter that one has given one's word and that "my word is my bond," as the saying goes. If I chose to quit, you and your efforts and industry would matter very little and I would just waltz off with not a care in the world.

Leaving is another possibility and it is the one I have chosen. In leaving, one slips gracefully, almost imperceptibly, from the stage like a dancer or actor or virtuoso musician who has completed the final turn, the final monologue, the final note of the concerto. No petulant announcement or sudden break ruins everything for everyone. Oh, no. One honors one's commitment to the end, one keeps the promise because the promise was not only made to others but also to oneself. When I signed on to be the editor of *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Norwegian Writers 1500 to 1900*, I also made a promise to myself. The promise was that I would honor the interests, concerns, and contributions of all contributors and that I would fulfill the role I accepted to the best of my ability, come what may. The promise was not just on behalf of my contributors but on my own behalf, as a way of defining myself to others—and, most importantly, to myself. I believe that I have kept the promise till now and I will see it through to the end. However, the end (and publication) of *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Norwegian Writers 1500 to 1900* will also signal the end of all my participation in Scandinavian Studies. I have found a new passion, a new life, and I intend to pursue that passion and life with the same enthusiasm and commitment I originally brought to Scandinavian Studies so long ago.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and I will keep you all informed as to any developments concerning the volume. I believe that I have insured a place for the volume on earlier Norwegian writers in the *DLB* schedule. (I guess one could say I rescued the work!) I will keep you in the loop concerning publication and I will try to respond to you individually when my own (computer) situation allows more liberal use of online and emails.

Good luck and Best Wishes to You All,
Lanae H. Isaacson

Modern Icelandic Summer Course, 27 May - 4 July 2008

The University of Minnesota and the Árni Magnússon Institute of Icelandic Studies offer a unique six-week beginning course in Icelandic for under-

graduate and graduate students. The program begins at the University of Minnesota for three weeks (27 May - 13 June) and then continues at the University of Iceland (16 June - 4 July). The course is taught by a qualified teacher of Icelandic from the University of Iceland.

In both Minneapolis and Iceland, classroom instruction in conversation, reading, and grammar will be combined with lectures on Icelandic culture and society from the Viking Age to the present as well as film showings. In Iceland, specialists will guide excursions to historical sites, museums, and natural wonders.

Students have the option of taking an intermediate course in Icelandic after the end of the six week program. This course is administered by the Sigurdur Nordal Office of the Árni Magnússon Institute (www.nordals.hi.is/page/summer_course) and has separate requirements and deadlines. Students applying to the intermediate course must apply to the Modern Icelandic Summer Course by the priority deadline.

- Priority Deadline: 15 February 2008. Space is limited to 15 students. Late applications may be considered, but none will be accepted after 7 March 2008.
- Eligibility: undergraduate and graduate students; non-students welcome.
- Credit: 6 credits (undergraduates and non-students) or 3 credits (graduate students).
- Cost: \$3625. Includes: tuition, some instructional materials, round-trip airfare from Minneapolis to Reykjavik, room in Iceland in private homes, and day trips. Students needing dorm room and board in Minneapolis will pay an additional \$600. The course qualifies for financial aid.
- Application fee: \$50 (non-refundable).

For more information or for application forms, check out the program's webpage at www.gsd.umn.edu/article.php?id=125 or contact the Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch (phone: 612-625-2080, email: gsu@umn.edu).

Umeå University Introduces International Journal of Northern Studies

The debut issue of *The Journal of Northern Studies* is now available for subscription. The international journal focuses on one of the Areas of Excellence in research at Umeå University, i.e. Northern Studies.

Northern Studies is one of the most prominent Areas of Excellence at Umeå University, and is thus one of the disciplines the university has decided to give a special commitment to during the next few years. With support from the Royal Skyttean Society, the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, and the J.C. Kempe and Seth M. Kempe Foundation, the University has started an international scholarly journal within the area: *The Journal of Northern Studies*.

“The journal will be an important meeting place for Swedish researchers, but also for others working within the internationally expanding field of Northern Studies,” said Professor Lars-Erik Edlund, Editor-in-chief of the journal. *The Journal of Northern Studies* will also be introduced at the Sorbonne in Paris.

The premier issue includes an article by a Canadian literary scholar who explores the timeless issues of justice, cultural encounter, and understanding by examining a sensational murder trial involving two Inuit during the late 1910s. There is an article by a forestry researcher and archaeologist on landscape acquisition during the time period of 7000 BC 1 AD, an article written in German on polar research, and an article about the consequences of nature exploitation in Northern British Columbia. In addition, the upcoming issue will contain articles concentrating on people as cultural beings, discussing, for instance, linguistic, historical, and anthropological questions, and will also focus on economic and social issues in society. The journal will include contributions about the opportunities that ecosystems provide for human activity. Apart from the scholarly articles, the journal will contain a review section, a section with reports from conferences, etc., and information about upcoming events relevant for Northern Studies.

The Editor-in-chief of the new journal is Professor Lars-Erik Edlund and the Assistant editor is Professor Heidi Hansson. *The Journal of Northern Studies* is a refereed, peer-reviewed academic publication. The scholarly articles will be reviewed and approved by a scientific council. In order to assure the highest level of quality, the journal has appointed a well-renowned international editorial board including: Philosopher and Sociologist Johann Arnason, *La Trobe University*; Literary Researcher Sherrill E. Grace, *University of British Columbia*; Scandinavian Folklore Researcher Thomas DuBois, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*; Philologist François-Xavier Dillmann, *Sorbonne*; Social Anthropologist Yvon Csonka, *University of Greenland*; Literary Researcher Annegret Heitmann, *Bonn*; Geographer Anssi Paasi, *University of Oulu, Finland*; Religious Scientists Håkan Rydving, *University of Bergen, Norway*; Björn Wittrock and

Barbro Klein, *Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) in Uppsala*; Archaeologist/Museum Director at the *Silver Museum in Arjeplog, Sweden*, Ingela Bergman; as well as many honorary doctors at Umeå University.

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Visit *The Journal of Northern Studies* online at: www.jns.org.umu.se/.

Read more about Northern Studies at: www.umu.se/umu.eng.research/research_areas/northern_studies/index.html.

Calls for Papers

Conflict and Community: Transatlantic Relations during the Cold War

The Academy of Finland Distinguished Professor Program based at the University of Tampere is planning to host, within the next five years, a series of conferences on the main theme of its project transatlantic relations during the twentieth century. We are currently planning the first of these conferences, which will focus on the Cold War and on the evolution of the Euro-Atlantic relationship during the era of bipolar confrontation.

The members of the project wish to inaugurate this cycle with a high profile, thought-provoking, and stimulating conference that will offer scholars the possibility to discuss, debate, and share views on transatlantic relations in a period when a reflection on the origins and development of the Euro-Atlantic community appears to be all the more important. Moreover, the possibility of hosting the conference in Tampere offers an added value, considering Finland's particular role and position as a bridge between East and West during the Cold War years.

Topics to be addressed during the conference include, but are not limited to, the following issues/questions:

1. A broad overview of the transatlantic relationship from the beginning of the Cold War to 1989—the moments of conflict/tension between the two sides of the Atlantic their significance, legacy, etc.—the moments of conversion/parallel interests their significance, legacy, etc.—these moments seen from the other side; how did the USSR assess the evolution of the transatlantic relation.

2. The essence of the transatlantic relationship—security issues—economic relations—the balance between the two aspects; was the transatlantic relation based on both? Was one aspect more important than the other? Did this vary depending on the moment/contingencies? If yes, when and why did one aspect become more important than the other?

3. The transatlantic relation and the small or medium powers of Western Europe views and role, for example, of Italy, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, etc.—the view from the East did the transatlantic relation attract or not members of the Warsaw Pact?—the view and role of neutrals Switzerland, Finland (the importance of their particular position in the context of the transatlantic relation).

4. The bridges between East and West—*détente*, CSCE, East-West trade, etc.—other moments when the two blocs cooperated despite the division and their repercussions on the cohesion and unity of the Euro-Atlantic partnership.

Through the conference the organizers seek to strengthen existing scholarly connections and build new ones. The development of the international interaction between scholars constitutes one of the primary objectives of our project. We therefore invite proposals from both experienced and young scholars eager to contribute to the creation of what we hope will constitute an important and stimulating forum for the discussion of transatlantic relations during the twentieth century.

The conference will take place in Tampere, Finland on 12–14 May 2008. It is organized by the project entitled Conflict and Community: Transatlantic Relations in the “Long” Twentieth Century financed by the Academy and led by Finland Distinguished Professor Jussi Hanhimäki. The proposals should include a schematic description of the paper and a brief CV of the author.

The deadline for the submission of the proposal is 15 December 2007. The selected participants will be notified by 31 January 2008. The final version of the paper should be submitted by 23 April 2008.

Please submit the proposals via e-mail to: Dr. Barbara Zanchetta at conflict.community@uta.fi.

Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC) will be held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, from 31 May to 3 June 2008, in conjunction with the meetings of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences / Fédération Canadienne des Sciences Humaines (CFHSS). The general Congress theme for 2008 is “Penser sans frontières: Thinking Beyond Borders—Global Ideas: Global Values” or what it means to be a global citizen.

The AASSC invites papers of 20 minutes duration, to be followed by an additional 10 minutes of discussion time. Papers may be given in English or French on a Scandinavian related topic in any discipline, including Finnish and Icelandic topics. One of the themes of the AASSC meeting will be the impact of Ingmar Bergman on the cinema and theatre of the twentieth century, and Bergman scholars are invited to participate in a joint panel with Film Studies on 3 June. The panel will precede the screening of a Bergman movie (TBA) in the late afternoon. Proposals for other panels on specific themes are invited, as are proposals for interdisciplinary colloquia or special sessions.

Please ensure that individual abstracts and brief cvs for each paper and presenter on a panel accompany such proposals, and that you contact the Program Committee directly. Proposals/abstracts of 150–250 words should be submitted by 15 January 2008 by email to the chair of the AASSC Program Committee:

Errol Durbach, Professor Emeritus, Theatre Studies
University of British Columbia
Email: edurbach@interchange.ubc.ca
Telephone: (604) 261-3631

All submissions must be sent electronically, and the subject section should read AASSC PAPER PROPOSAL. Submissions should include title of paper, abstract (150–250 words), and the author’s name, affiliation and contact information.

Note: There is the possibility that AASSC will be able to defray a small part of the travel costs of AASSC members giving papers. Students and unfunded faculty may apply for additional funding. Students from abroad are eligible to apply for this funding as well. Other conference participants should apply for funding to agencies in their home country. Papers given

at the conference may subsequently be considered for publication in the Association's journal *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies*.

The American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, 24–27 April
2008, Long Beach, CA

Re-Writing the Promised Land: Comparative Diasporas

In 2006, Iranian-born theater director Farnaz Arbabi rewrote Vilhelm Moberg's diasporic novel *The Emigrants* (1949) for the Swedish stage. Moberg's original depicts the Nilsson family and their neighbors emigrating from a town in rural Sweden in 1845, a time of famine and crop failures in their homeland, in search of a better life in the "Promised Land" of the United States. Arbabi's play rewrites Moberg's epic tale to feature Balkan emigrants who leave their homeland in search of a better life in twenty-first century Sweden, which is now one of the world's wealthiest nation-states. Arbabi's act of re-writing attends closely to the trauma modern-day emigrants' children experience over their irreparable separation from a "native" culture that informs their ethnic identities in the new land, connecting diasporas of past and present and forcing new conceptions of fluid and transcultural identities. This panel invites papers that investigate how writers, as well as artists from the non-literary arts, and from a wide variety of linguistic and cultural loci, re-write classical and/or "nation-building" tales of diaspora in a way that opens up spaces for new articulations of transnational culture in the global era. This panel also invites theoretical investigations of how to conceive of comparative diaspora(s) amid late twentieth and early twenty-first century challenges to postcolonial studies' critical formulation of the center-periphery model. A few examples of such challenges include José Jorge Klor de Alva's 1992 essay "Colonialism and Postcolonialism as (Latin) American Mirages," Arjun Appadurai's essay "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" (in *Theorizing Diasporas*, 2003), and Brent Hayes Edwards' reconceptualization of African Diaspora in *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism* (2003). Finally, this panel invites papers that investigate gendered re-writings of epic tales of diaspora to highlight female as well as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered perspectives.

Paper proposals can be submitted on the ACLA web site at www.acla.org/acla2008/?page_id=5.

Published Words, Public Pages: SHARP Copenhagen

A Nordic Conference on International Print Culture will be held 10–12 September 2008 at the Danish Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen, Denmark. Keynote speakers include William St Clair, Hans Walter Gabler, and Isabel Hofmeyr.

“Published Words, Public Pages” aims to gather together current research into print culture book history, textual studies, sociology of literature, library studies, literature, and media studies undertaken in the Nordic and Baltic Sea regions and elsewhere. What is shared among and across disciplines when the historical and contemporary transmission of knowledge is considered in material terms? How can we understand the inter- and intra-national circulation of knowledge, involving fiction, non-fiction and scientific writing, its material production, and distribution via libraries, commercial markets and non-commercial channels? How have the efforts of printers, editors, graphic designers, programmers, entrepreneurs, publishers, distributors, and, of course, writers affected production, reception, and significance? How are ideas of a public a literary or general public, an author’s, or the public sphere linked to the histories of people who write, make or read books, and how are they coupled to ideas of gender, to regional or metropolitan identities, or to colonial and post-colonial experience?

Emphasis is placed not only on inter and intra-national transmission but on self-reflection about methods and disciplinary boundaries. Is book history a discipline with methods of its own that can contribute to other disciplines? Or is it an inter or cross-disciplinary meeting point? Can rethinking these disciplinary questions lead us to an improved understanding of specific cultural, political, economic and geographic features that shape materials in print culture? Small languages, large markets: an apt description of the Nordic situation that addresses the export of small-language works to international markets. Conversely, small markets import large-language works (often outweighing domestic material).

To reiterate, the conference has an international and interdisciplinary aim. Strategies deployed by international readerships, booktrades, and scholars for responding to questions posed by the conference will help illuminate the situation of the Nordic and Baltic Sea regions through comparative example.

Topics that the conference might wish to explore include:

- Translation and culture. Small languages, large markets. The export and import of texts.

- Constructing publics, from the codex to the screen. Contributions might engage with relations between material transmission and publics, reader markets, law, censorship and copyright, and the construction of a public sphere, via public pages.
- Imagined communities émigré communities, regional groups, national readerships within and beyond the national border, their books, and the libraries and institutions that have and continue to cater for them.
- Economies of the scholarly edition the historical, material, institutional, publishing, and market conditions for today's critical editions.
- Histories of reading literacies, Leselust, religious reading, and the reading experience.
- The Nordic model the State and the book, in contemporary, historical, and international perspectives.
- Nordic antiquities runes, sagas, Nordic signs, northern romanticism, its application, reception, and transmission.
- Transmitting the Nordic canon—Ibsen, Hamsun, Blixen, Brandes, Strindberg, Andersen—in world markets. Anniversaries, reputations, and business.

Please send abstracts in English (500 words maximum) or proposals for sessions before 31 January 2008 to sharp copenhagen@sdu.dk.

Please send abstracts in English (500 words maximum) or proposals for sessions before 31 January 2008 to sharp copenhagen@sdu.dk. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept abstracts or proposals after that date. Papers should be of a length that can be read within twenty minutes. A guideline of 7 pages at 2,400 characters per page including spaces is suggested.

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars will hold its 2008 Biennial Conference from 24–26 October 2008, at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. We welcome participation by all scholars whose research is not supported by employment in an academic or research institution; this includes adjunct faculty and graduate students. Presenters need not be members of NCIS.

The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, formal sessions, and short panel discussions for either the practical track, on independent scholarship itself; or the scholarly track, focusing on presenters' individual research and findings.

Proposals should consist of an abstract of not more than 250 words; a brief scholarly biography (50–100 words) including degrees, scholarly fields, and no more than two publications; any audio-visual requirements; and full contact information. Proposals must be submitted as an email attachment (Word only) no later than 12:00 a.m., 1 April 2008, to Kendra Leonard, Program Chair, at caennen@gmail.com. Please use your last name as the document title, as in *Smith.doc*. As in the past, only one submission per author will be considered. If you are interested in serving as a session chair, please indicate this in your submission.

Individual paper presentations are limited to no more than twenty minutes to allow for ten minutes of discussion following the presentation. Formal sessions of three related papers may be submitted together for consideration as a whole; please submit the proposals for all three papers together in one email along with a rationale explaining the importance of the topic and the grouping of papers. Proposals for one-hour informal sessions, including discussions on work in progress; consideration of on a particular theme in independent scholarship; or interest group discussions within a particular area or discipline may also be submitted under the guidelines above.

Conferences

23rd International Conference on the History of Cartography

The twenty-third International Conference on the History of Cartography will be held at The Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark, from 12–17 July 2009. The conference website may be found at www.ichc2009.dk/. The theme for this conference will be “Maps, Myths and Narratives: Cartography of the Far North.”

The ICHC 2009 organizing team hereby has the pleasure of inviting you to the twenty-third International Conference on the History of Cartography in Copenhagen July 2009.

Traditionally considered a remote and inaccessible part of the world, the Far North has also spawned powerful myths and visions of scientific

honor and economic opportunity for those brave enough to overcome its challenges. Due to the difficulties of navigating the Far North, the early cartography of the region has been characterized by a blurring of the boundaries between fact and fiction, and a strong interplay between textual sources and cartography.

These traits, however, are far from being exclusive to the North. In fact, the intermingling of observation and imagination has been as crucial in the past to the creation of meaning in cartography as it has been in the arts and sciences in general. Therefore, the organizers and Imago Mundi Ltd have decided upon the following themes for the conference:

- Cartography of the Arctic, North Atlantic, and Scandinavian regions
- Mapping mythical and imaginary places
- Maps and the written word
- Any other aspect of the history of cartography

The venue of the conference is the Royal Library's Black Diamond building situated in the historical centre of Copenhagen. The official language of the conference will be English, and all abstracts and presentations must be in that language. There will be no simultaneous translation.

Conferences have been held in a wide variety of international locales, including Berne (2007), Budapest (2005), Cambridge, MA & Portland, ME, (2003), Madrid (2001), Athens (1999), Lisbon (1997), Vienna (1995), Chicago & Milwaukee (1993), Uppsala & Stockholm (1991), Amsterdam (1989), Paris (1987), Ottawa (1985), Dublin (1983), Pisa, Florence, & Rome (1981), Berlin (1979), Washington, D.C. (1977), Greenwich (1975), Warsaw & Jadwisin (1973), Edinburgh (1971), Brussels (1969), and London (1967 and 1964).

Myth: A Graduate Conference in German & Scandinavian Studies, 15–17
February 2008 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

In his opening sentence of *Transformations of Myth through Time*, anthropologist Joseph Campbell states that the material of myth is the material of our life, the material of our body, and the material of our environment, and a living, vital mythology deals with these terms that are appropriate to the nature of knowledge of the time. Though Campbell's commentary on the universality of myth has come into question in light of post-structuralist scholarship on the topic, his logic on the corporeality of myth and its continuous reconstruction within historical contexts rings true with

contemporary conceptions of ideology and narrative. Myths are both persistent fictions that provide explanations for religious or natural phenomena, as well as widely held misconceptions or misrepresentations that often reveal social truths of a given epoch. Daily human interaction in turn leads to mythopoeia, the eventual creation of a mythos or mythology which then fuels ideology for generations to come. The myth-destroying inquiry of science seems to do more to reconfigure a mythos within the collective unconscious than to obliterate it.

The third biennial graduate student conference in German and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst poses the question: what do myths tell us about human relationships to the world? How are certain myths interconnected with German and Scandinavian history and historiography, such as the infamous stab-in-the-back legend following World War I or the yellow star myth of Danish resistance during World War II? What myths permeate the field of linguistics of Northern Europeans? How do myths address elusive signifiers such as race or gender? Can folklore and legends be put to rest, or does a capitalist, media-driven Western European society prevent certain symbols and archetypes from remaining out of the public eye for too long? What discourse of power and resistance can be found in largely fictional narratives, from ancestral oral histories to glossy feature films? How far has the discourse on myth come in the last thirty years since the publication of Hans Blumenberg's seminal text, *Arbeit am Mythos*, and his concept of "Metaphorologie?" Since we are interpreting myth in a relatively broad sense, we welcome paper proposals addressing a variety of themes for an interdisciplinary discussion of the above questions and more.

The field of interest includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- traditional myths, ancient and modern
- archetypal/universal myths
- Holocaust revisionist history
- myth and cultural assimilation
- myths serving the creation of national identity
- myth and fairy tale as bountiful sources for films and literature
- visual/aural aesthetics of myth and fairy tales
- national myths in international political affairs
- myths of science and progress/science as myth
- gender and myth
- superstition and/or myths of the everyday
- conflicting myths of identity

- generational myths and the retelling of family history
- religion as myth/myth as religion
- myths of ethnic continuity/racial identity
- enshrined myths in academic disciplines (e.g. philology, German Studies, Scandinavian Studies, etc.)
- myths about language and dialect
- myths of violence and threat
- the resilience of myths

Any immediate inquiries about the conference may be directed to Evan Torner at etorner@german.umass.edu. More detailed information about the conference can be found at a later date on the website: www.umass.edu/germanic/myth/index.html.

Recent Publications

Archer, Clive, ed. *New Security Issues in Northern Europe: The Nordic and Baltic States and the ESDP*. Routledge/UACES Contemporary European Studies: The Nordic and Baltic. New York: Routledge, 2007. Hardcover: 256 pages. ISBN-10: 041539340X, or ISBN-13: 978-0415393409.

DuBois, Thomas, ed. *Sanctity in the North: Saints, Lives, and Cults in Medieval Scandinavia*. Toronto Old Norse and Icelandic Studies. Toronto: U Toronto P, 2007. Hardcover: 400 pages. ISBN-10: 080209130X or ISBN-13: 978-0802091307.

Ericsson, Kjersti and Eva Simonsen, eds. *Children of World War II: The Hidden Enemy Legacy*. Oxford: Berg, 2005. viii + 296 pp. Notes, references, index. \$28.95 (paper), ISBN 978-1-84520-207-1.

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