

OBITUARY NOTES

Sverker Arnoldsson (1908-1959)

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The sudden death of Prof. Sverker Arnoldsson in Gothenburg, Sweden, on the 10th of October 1959, deprived the small group of Scandinavian Latin Americanists of one of its most distinguished and most enthusiastic members. Apart from myself, he was the only scholar in Scandinavia specialized in Spanish and Latin American history.

Arnoldsson was born in Sundsvall in the North of Sweden but passed the greatest part of his life in Gothenburg, the busy sea port and cultural center on Sweden's South Western coast. He took his doctor's degree in 1937 and was appointed associate professor ("Docent") in history at the Gothenburg University the same year. Besides his university teaching he was also active as a high school teacher. As a historian Arnoldsson first interested himself in Swedish political history of the 17th century, then shifted his attention to historiography and the role of propaganda throughout history. Also after becoming more and more interested in the history of Latin America, Arnoldsson continued to cultivate the field of historiography. Thanks to a Rockefeller fellowship Arnoldsson was able to visit several Latin American countries and the United States in 1951-1952 pursuing his research in national archives and libraries. As a result of these and earlier investigations, an interesting study on periodization in colonial Spanish American historiography was published in Spanish in 1956 by the Ibero-American Institute in Gothenburg of which Arnoldsson was always a very active collaborator. Another study of his, *La conquista española de América según el juicio de la posteridad*, is to be published very soon, posthumously, in the same fine series of monographs. What undoubtedly will constitute Sverker Arnoldsson's main work, at least in the Hispanic field, his *Estudios sobre la Leyenda Negra*, will also appear posthumously. In this work the author deals with the origins and development of the Black Legend on both sides of the Atlantic. His vast reading and fine understanding of the problems involved guarantee a major contribution.

Arnoldsson was a humanist whose range of interest comprised both poetry and history of literature as well as his professional spe-

cialization. He undertook the difficult task of interpreting poets such as Darío, Neruda, Ibarbourou and Guillén into Swedish. Arnoldsson was much appreciated as a speaker on the National Broadcasting System and his journalistic activities were rather extensive. His role as an introducer in Sweden of Spanish and Latin American culture and history was therefore a considerable one.

Sverker Arnoldsson was a corresponding member of the Academia Nacional de la Historia (Buenos Aires) and of the Instituto Histórico y Geográfico del Uruguay (Montevideo). He was a member of the Kungl. Vetenskaps— och vitterhets-samhället i Göteborg, an academy of sciences in arts in Gothenburg.

The following list of works exclude most of Arnoldsson's articles on Swedish history being more detailed as to his writings on Latin America.

*A selected bibliography of the writings of
Sverker Arnoldsson*

1937

Svensk-fransk krigs—och fredspolitik i Tyskland 1634-1636 (Swedish and French policy as to war and peace in Germany, 1634-1636). Diss. French résumé. Bibliography. Göteborgs högskola, Göteborg. Pp. 344.

1941

Krigspropagandan i Sverige före trettioåriga kriget (War propaganda in Sweden before the Thirty years war). Göteborgs högskolas årsskrift, XLVII, 1941:7. German résumé. Pp. 36.

1951

“La historiografía moderna en Suecia.” *Boletín de la Academia Nacional de la Historia*, XXIV/XXV, 657-669.

“San Martín y sus contemporáneos suecos,” in *San Martín. Homenaje de la Academia Nacional de la Historia en el Centenario de su Muerte (1850-1950)*, I, 102-106, Buenos Aires.

1952

“Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia. . .” *Historisk tidskrift*, 2nd series, vol. 15, 374-377. Stockholm.

1953

“Några intryck från spanskamerikanska arkiv och bibliotek” (Some impressions from Spanish American archives and libraries). *Arkiv, samhälle och forskning. Svenska arkivsamfundets skriftserie*, I, 6-11. Stockholm.

“Den spanska erövringen av Amerika i eftervärldens dom” (The Spanish conquest of America as judged by posterity). *Svensk tidskrift*, XL, 304-319. Uppsala.

1956

Los momentos históricos de América según la historiografía hispano-americana del período colonial. Instituto Ibero-Americano, Gotemburgo, Suecia & Insula, Madrid. Pp. 103.

Hettan spränger natten. *Spanskamerikansk lyrik tolkad* (The heat scatters the night, the title of a poem by Nicolás Guillén. Spanish American poetry interpreted). Gebers, Uppsala. Pp. 77.

1957

“Ibero-amerikansk historia.” *Historisk tidskrift*, 2nd series, vol. 20, 393-403. Stockholm.—A review of some recent works.

1958

“Latin-amerikansk historia.” *Historisk tidskrift*, 2nd series, vol. 21, 239-248. Stockholm.—A review of some recent works.

Poeter och pirater. Historiska och litterära essäer (Poets and pirates. Historical and literary essays). Bibliography. Natur och Kultur, Stockholm. Pp. 236.—The following essays included are of Latin American interest: “A tropical gallery of pirates,” “Nicolás Guillén, a black poet from Cuba,” “The Spanish conquest of America as judged by posterity,” “The Black Legend.”