

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

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The Scandinavian Section of the Department of German and Scandinavian Studies has at present 135 students preparing for degree examinations in a modern Scandinavian language (Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish). Of these 2 are postgraduates (one working for an M.A. in Norwegian and one for an M.Litt in Swedish), 59 are Honours Scandinavian students (8 in Danish, 23 in Norwegian, 2 in German and Norwegian, and 26 in Swedish) and 74 are students reading a Scandinavian language as a subject for the General Degree of B.A. with Honours or as a subject subsidiary to Honours German or Honours French (16 Danish, 23 Norwegian and 35 Swedish). Of the Honours Scandinavian students the 11 in their third year are attending Scandinavian Universities or Folk High Schools.

In addition to this, 12 students are studying a Scandinavian language or a Scandinavian literature as an integral part of an Honours Course in German.

The numbers of students applying to the Department to read for Honours has again risen this year; the recently introduced Joint Honours Courses in

German and Danish, German and Norwegian, and German and Swedish are proving almost as popular to applicants as the older Single Honours Courses in Scandinavian Studies. Swedish remains the favourite language of study. The appeal of Danish is surprisingly restricted, but the fact that Denmark like Britain has joined EEC will possibly increase the popularity of the language.

Our undergraduate courses lay great stress on language-learning; they must, as all but a handful of students come up with no knowledge of 'their' language. Geography, History and Institutions - especially History - play a considerable part in all Honours Courses - Single and Joint - alongside Literature written in the chosen language. Single Honours Scandinavian students read in addition to this basic work Old Icelandic and the history of their chosen language with the medieval literature written in it and often study aspects of the modern literature of a second or third Scandinavian country.

There are two 'projects' going on in the Department. Mrs. Lillemor O'Callaghan, Lecturer in Swedish, heads the British Committee which is collaborating with colleagues in Sweden in the production of the DES-sponsored 'Intermediate Course in Swedish'. Miss Gladys Hird, Lecturer in Swedish,

has over the last four years worked out with her elementary classes a Swedish Grammar-Reader for University Beginners which is now in its definitive (stencilled) form and which is proving more suitable for our purposes than the published textbooks.

The University of Newcastle is engaged at present in choosing a Professor of Scandinavian Studies who will take over the Scandinavian responsibilities that have been mine since the Department came into being under its present name in 1946.

In addition to the new Professor the Scandinavian Section looks like having as teaching staff from October 1973: a lecturer in Danish, a lecturer in Norwegian, two lecturers in Swedish, a lecturer in German and Swedish whose main work is in the German Section, a Norwegian lector and three language-assistants distributed in accordance with the varying demand for the three languages.