

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES AT ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY

Irene Scobbie

The Department of Swedish (which from October 1973 will be styled The Department of Scandinavian Studies) at Aberdeen University began modestly shortly after World War II and by 1950 was offering Ordinary M.A. degree courses in Swedish language and literature. It is now possible to take Swedish as part of an Ordinary degree course at both Ordinary and Advanced level. These courses aim at giving students a sound knowledge of modern spoken and written Swedish and of Swedish literature and culture of the 19th and 20th centuries. There are also Honours courses in "Swedish Studies" comprising the history and structure of the Scandinavian languages; Old Icelandic; Swedish literature from runic stones to the present day and Norwegian and Danish literature from 1800. In addition there are joint Honours courses in English-Swedish; German-Swedish; French-Swedish and - as from 1973 - Swedish-Politics and Swedish-International Relations. There are also non-graduating elementary courses in Norwegian and Swedish for beginners.

There are four members of staff: Miss I. Scobbie, M.A., Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, who specialises in modern Swedish literature; Mr. P. A.

Graves, M.A., currently working on a Ph.D. thesis entitled "Jan Fridegard and the Swedish Autobiographical writers of the 30s"; Mrs. H. Forsas-Scott (fil. mag. Gothenburg) working on an M.Litt. thesis on modern drama; and Mr. Odd Standal (Cand. Mag., Bergen) currently studying Norwegian dialects of the 13th century.

Dr. E. Alistair Smith, a member of the Geography Department specialises in Scandinavian geography and kindly gives a course of lectures to students in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. Similarly, Mr. Clive Archer in the Politics Department, specialises in Scandinavian politics and assists the Department of Scandinavian Studies when called upon.

Student numbers are small, on average about 30 students, in all, from beginners up to Honours students. There is also one full-time postgraduate student, Miss Janet M. Scott, whose Ph.D. thesis has the provisional title The Scandinavian "Collective" novel.

Throughout Aberdeen University there are members of staff with specialised knowledge of some aspect of Scandinavian culture, certain members, for instance, of the Departments of Geography, Politics, Forestry, English, German and of the Faculty of Medicine. We hope to be able to bring these members together shortly to form a Scandinavian Studies group which would arrange seminars on various Scandinavian topics. It is hoped

that such a group would attract members not just from Aberdeen University but from other Scottish universities and from Schools and Institutes of Higher Education.

THE DANISH INSTITUTE

Arne Hyldkrog

The Danish Institute in Great Britain is situated in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. At its premises in 3 Doune Terrace it houses a library of Danish handbooks, literature and periodicals and a collection of films, slides and exhibitions, open to use by the public free of charge. Courses in the Danish language and literature are organized, assistance is given to teachers of Danish all over Britain, and an extensive lecture service is offered to societies and institutions.

In co-operation with Edinburgh University series of lectures are frequently organized at the Institute in Edinburgh or in provincial towns, and in addition a number of Danish Evenings with lectures and films, concerts and exhibitions are arranged throughout the year. Travelling exhibitions are occasionally available.

Through the main office in Copenhagen special