

## Foreword

THIS collection of essays is published in honour of Peter Graves. It represents a celebration of his manifold contributions to the discipline of Scandinavian Studies in the United Kingdom and beyond over more than four decades. As a researcher with a particular interest in cultural cross-currents between Scandinavia and Britain, as a prolific and highly acclaimed translator, and as Head of Department, Division and School at the University of Edinburgh, Peter has been centrally involved in the advancement of his subject area and, more broadly, of European languages and cultures in the Scottish context since the 1960s.

He graduated in 1966 with an MA Honours degree in German and Swedish from the University of Aberdeen, where he went on to become Lecturer in Swedish in 1969. In 1987, he transferred to the University of Edinburgh, where he was instrumental in setting up the new Department of Scandinavian Studies. He was Head of Department from 1991 to 1998, Head of the Division of European Languages and Cultures from 2001 to 2005, and Head of the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures from 2005 to 2008.

In his numerous research publications, Peter has investigated topics such as the impact of Macpherson's *Ossian* in Sweden, the Swedish translations of Robert Burns, and the nineteenth- and twentieth-century perceptions of Scandinavian literature in Britain, including the reception of Selma Lagerlöf and Knut Hamsun. He is, moreover, a leading expert on the influential literary phenomenon of Swedish twentieth-century proletarian writing.

Peter continues to be highly active as a literary translator. Having recently published translations, with introductions, of August Strindberg's seminal naturalistic novel *The Red Room* (2009) and his Nietzschean novella *Tschandala* (2007), Peter is now a key contributor to a new series of Lagerlöf translations, with the author's primary work of world literature, *Nils Holgersson*, being one of his undertakings. He has also translated the two great eighteenth-century travel narratives: Carl Linnaeus' *The Lapland Journey* (1995); and Jacob Wallenberg's *My Son on the Galley* (1994).

In 2009 Peter was awarded the Swedish Academy's Translation Prize, and in the same year he received the Swedish Royal Order of the Polar Star in recognition of his dedication to Swedish language and culture.

The papers in this volume have been gathered together under the umbrella themes of 'travel, transfer and transformation'. Between them, they explore a range of textual, cultural, historical, political and linguistic connections which, we hope, will appeal to Peter's interests as well as to those of the journal's wider audience.

**Alan Macniven, Bjarne Thomsen & Arne Kruse**  
*(Edinburgh, March 2011).*