

Association  
for the advancement  
of Scandinavian Studies  
in Canada



L'Association  
pour l'avancement  
des études Scandinaves  
au Canada

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings from the president.....	1
Note from Program Chair.....	2
From Marna Feldt.....	2
Report from the AASSC Nominating Committee.....	3
New Publication.....	3
Conference Program.....	4
Paper abstracts.....	6
SNCA.....	9
Brucebo Fine Art Scholarship....	9
Call for Papers.....	7
Conference Announcement.....	10
The Canadian Scandinavian Foundation.....	11
AASSC Executive.....	12
Addresses of Embassies.....	12

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings AASSC Members!

Looking forward to our meetings in Saskatoon in May! This year we are including programming to mark centennial celebrations in Norway (Grieg Centenary) and in Sweden (Linnaeus 300), as well as, the CFHSS Congress theme, "Bridging Communities". Our Vice President Ingrid Urberg will highlight the very interesting 2007 programme in her report.

From the President's perspective, I am very pleased that our goals as an association are on track. We are attracting and able to fund the participation of more young scholars. Our thanks and appreciation to CINS, the Norwegian Embassy, Marna Feldt and other members who continue to contribute to our main goals and activities with funding. Our E-News bulletin is working very well, thanks to web-magician Kristín Jóhannsdóttir.

As an association we were asked to assist with the Canadian Scandinavian Foundation Grants this year. We put together an excellent review committee, all agreeing that this was an important service that AASSC could provide. I was very impressed with the number and level of the proposals to CFS and excellence of the applicants. If even a few of those applicants become AASSC members and presenters, Scandinavian studies will have a bright future in Canada.

This is my last note to you as President. It has been a pleasure to serve the AASSC in this role and to work closely with Ingrid Urberg and our always responsive Executive. We will see whose names the Nominating Committee will bring forward at the AGM.

I hope to see you in Saskatoon!

Susan Gold/Smith

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## **NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR**

The program for the AASSC annual meeting in Saskatoon (May 26-29, 2007) has been set, and once again the program will feature a variety of papers and several special events. The conference program and paper abstracts are printed in this newsletter, and it is encouraging that we have a number of graduate student presenters.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Rauna Kuokkanen (Sami University College in Kautokeino, Norway) as our CINS (Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies) Keynote Speaker this year. Rauna Kuokkanen has worked in the area of Sami and indigenous rights at local, national and international levels, and she was the founding chair of the Sami Youth Organization in Finland. She has also served as Vice-President of the Sami Council. Her keynote address—“Still Making Coffee/Sami Women and the Politics of Participation”—is highly appropriate in light of this year’s Congress theme—Bridging Communities: Making public knowledge - Making knowledge public. Within this theme, special emphasis will be placed on women, equity issues, and partnerships with Aboriginal Peoples, and Rauna Kuokkanen’s presentation will touch on all of these areas. The keynote will be held as a joint session with the Canadian Indigenous/Native Studies Association, and we have received some support from the Federation’s Aid for Interdisciplinary Session Fund. AASSC has also extended a special invitation to the members of the Canadian Women’s Studies Association to attend.

As you are probably aware, 2007 has been designated as the Grieg Year by the Norwegian Government. To mark Grieg Year 2007, Montreal based Pianist Derek Yapple-Schobert, an AASSC member, will perform a piano recital featuring Grieg’s music on Saturday, May 27th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for AASSC members. The concert will be held in Convocation Hall, and those of us who have heard Derek perform know that a high quality concert is in store. The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa is providing generous support for this event.

This year’s banquet will be hosted by AASSC member Richard Harris who has kindly offered to open up his home near Saskatoon for the evening of May 28th. This is a ticketed event, and bus transportation will be included in the price. Tickets can be purchased from me at the conference.

Dwayne Brenna is serving as our on-site representative, and he deserves a special thanks. If you have any questions or comments about the program, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone in Saskatoon!

Ingrid Urberg

### **From Marna Feldt, April 2007**

Olle Wästberg, director general of the Swedish Institute, set off a wave of reaction from around the world with his April 2007 announcement that SI would no longer accept applications for translation/publication support of Swedish literature into other languages.

Within the week, responses from Swedish cultural institutions and translation organizations, eg Författarförbundet, Författarcentrum, Svensk Bokhandel, SELTA (Swedish-English Literary Translators’ Association), STINA (Swedish Translators in North America), as well as individual authors, translators and publishers appeared in the Swedish media: Dagens Nyheter, Göteborgsposten, Svenska Dagbladet, and Aftonbladet to name just the ones I have read. And as if by design, the April 15th NY TIMES Sunday Book Section had a series of articles on American translations of foreign fiction.

If you are interested in getting copies of any of the above call me at 732-741-1819. You can also access them on the cultural pages of the newspapers named above. The first one by Tobias Brandel appeared in Svenska Dagbladet April 13, 2007: [http://www.svd.se/dynamiskt/kultur/did\\_15086224.asp](http://www.svd.se/dynamiskt/kultur/did_15086224.asp).

# Report from the AASSC Nominating Committee

The Association's 2006 Annual Meeting elected Gurli Woods and Harry Lane as members of the Nominating Committee, chaired by John Tucker (as Past President), with Ingrid Urb-erg as Alternate Member.

John Tucker, the current Editor of Scandinavian Canadian Studies, is eligible for re-election to that position and has agreed to stand for re-election. The Nominating Committee therefore consists of Gurli Woods, Ingrid Urberg, and Harry Lane.

All Executive Committee positions are up for election for a two-year term (2007-09), with the exception of the position of Editor of Scandinavian Canadian Studies, for which the term is four years (2007-11), and that of Past President, to which Susan Gold/Smith succeeds automatically at the end of her current term on 1 July.

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to propose the following slate of candidates, on the understanding that (under the Association's By-Laws) further nominations are invited prior to the election at the 2007 Annual Meeting:

As President:

**Birgitta Wallace** (Parks Canada, Halifax)

As Vice-President:

**Errol Durbach** (University of British Columbia)

As Treasurer:

**Per Anders Rudling** (University of Alberta)

As Secretary:

**Richard Harris** (University of Saskatchewan)

As Editor of Scandinavian Canadian Studies:

**John Tucker** (University of Victoria)

As Editor of the AASSC Newsbulletin:

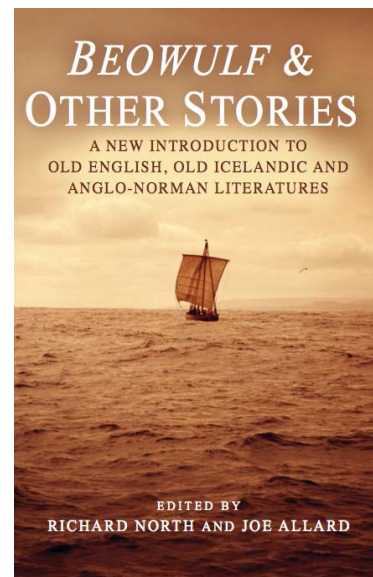
**Kristín M. Jóhannsdóttir** (University of British Columbia)

As Members-at-Large:

**Börje Vähämäki** (University of Toronto)

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## New Publication



## BEOWULF & OTHER STORIES A NEW INTRODUCTION TO OLD ENGLISH, OLD ICELANDIC & ANGLO-NORMAN LITERATURES

Richard North & Joe Allard

Until now, Old English has been a phrase to strike fear into the hearts of students of English. A combination of remoteness, both of time and language, and a general sense of disconnectedness has meant that Old English has sometimes been remembered as a chore, a slog through the foothills of literature. *Beowulf & Other Stories* has been conceived in the firm belief that Old English - and its close cousins, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman - should be seen as a genuine delight, a period as replete with wonder and creativity and magic as any other in literature.

The book forages with abandon through the literature of the period, turning up en route the fire and bloodlust of the great epic, *Beowulf*, and the sophistication and eroticism of the Exeter Riddles. Fresh interpretations give new life to the spiritual ecstasy of *The Seafarer* and to the imaginative dexterity of *The Dream of the Rood*. *Beowulf & Other Stories* provides the student and general reader with all they might need to explore and enjoy this complex but rewarding field.

The book sheds light, too, on the shadowy contexts of the period, with suggestive and highly readable essays on matters ranging from the dynamism of the Viking Age to Anglo-Saxon input

into *Lord of the Rings*, from the great religious prose works to the transition from Old to Middle English. *Beowulf & Other Stories* also branches out into related traditions, with expert introductions to the Icelandic Sagas, Viking Religion and Norse Mythology. Peter S. Baker provides an outstanding guide to taking your first steps in the Old English language, while David Crystal provides a crisp linguistic overview of the entire period. Written throughout with verve, panache and a deep understanding of its subject, *Beowulf & Other Stories* is set to be the standard introduction to the field for many years to come.

**AASSC Annual Meeting May/mai 26 - 29, 2007**  
**University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon**  
**Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Congrès des sciences humaines**

**Saturday/Samedi 26 May/mai**

1500-1700 Executive Meeting - ENG 1C102

1730-1900 Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies Welcome Reception – ENG 3B60

**Sunday/Dimanche 27 May/mai** - All Sunday sessions will be held in ENG 2B53

0915 - “Welcome” - AASSC President, Susan Gold/Smith (University of Windsor)

0930-1030 Session 1/1re Séance: Finnish Studies (Chair: TBA)

**Mia Spangenberg** (University of Washington), *And Never the Twain Shall Meet: Aino Kallas' Depiction of Masculine Crisis in “Sudenmorsian” and “Reigin Pappi”*

**Börje Vähämäki** (University of Toronto), *The Press in the North American Finnish Diaspora Since 1970*

1030-1100 Mid-Morning Break / Pause Café

1100-1230 Session 2/2e Séance: The Drama of Henrik Ibsen (Chair: John Tucker, University of Victoria)

**John Lingard** (Cape Breton University), *Raised Forefinger and Helping Hand: The Language of Gesture in Ibsen's Ghosts*

**Harry Lane** (University of Guelph), *“Verking” Ibsen: The Complex Case of the “Mabou Mines DollHouse”*

**Gurli Woods** (Carleton University), *Ibsen's “When We Dead Awaken” and Merete Morken Andersen's “Book of Poems”*

1230-1430 Lunch Break / Pause Déjeuner

1430-1600 Session 3/3e Séance: Viking-Age Literature and History (Chair: Chris Hale, Univ. of Alberta)

**Richard L. Harris** (University of Saskatchewan), *“(opt) eru köld kvenna rád” - A Critically Popular Icelandic Proverb and Its Uses in the Islendingasögur and Elsewhere*

**Robin Waugh** (Wilfrid Laurier University), *Economics, Knowledge, and Missing Women in “Svarfdæla Saga”*

**Birgitta Wallace** (Parks Canada), *“Where is Vinland?”, a new web site in the educational series “Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History”*

President's Reception

Special Event: **Derek Yaple-Schobert - Edvard Grieg Piano Recital – 7:30 pm**

**Convocation Hall (\$15 general admission, \$10 for AASSC members)**

Support for this event has been provided by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa

**Monday/Lundi 28 May/mai** - Morning sessions will be held in ENG 2C88. The afternoon session will be held in ENG 2B53.

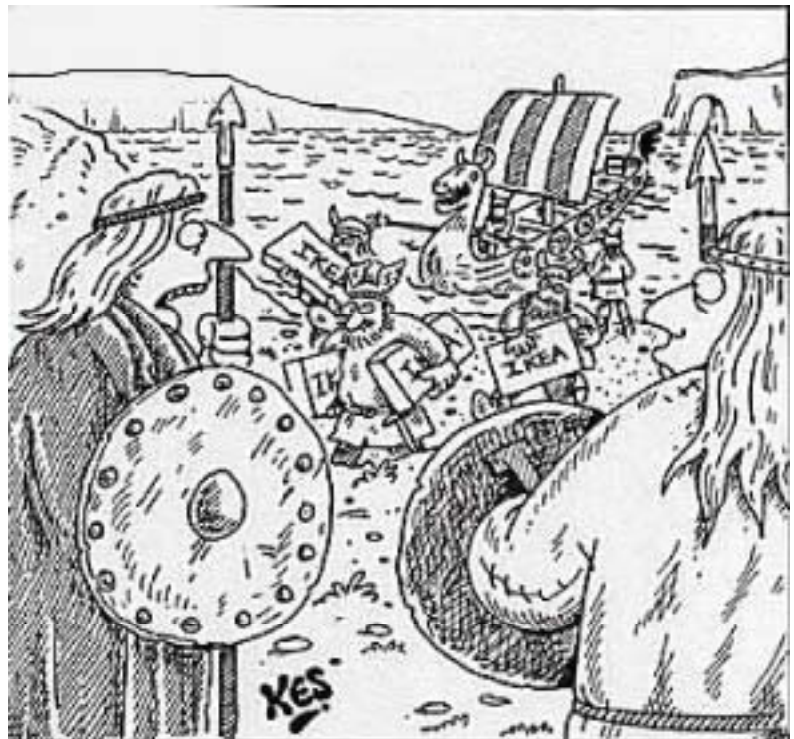
- 0900-1000 Session 4/4e Séance: Visual Arts and Material Culture (Chair: Dwayne Brenna, University of Saskatchewan) (ENG 2C88)  
*Susan Gold/Smith* (University of Windsor), *Lost in Coincidence : Recent Work*  
*Laurie Bertram* (University of Toronto), *Lifting the Lid: Icelandic-Canadian Material Culture, Canadian Multicultural Media Campaigns and the Rise of the “Koffert”*
- 1000-1030 Mid-Morning Break/Pause café
- 1030-1200 Session 5/5e Séance: CINS/Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies Keynote Speaker, *Rauna Kuokkanen* (Sami University College) - Joint Session with the Canadian Indigenous/Native Studies Association. (ENG 2C88)  
**Still Making Coffee? Sami Women and the Politics of Participation.** Supported by CINS and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Introduction: Susan Gold/Smith (University of Windsor)
- 1230-1430 Working Lunch with Representatives from the Nordic Embassies (ENG 2C88)  
Lunch compliments of the AASSC
- 1500-1630 Session 6/6e Séance: Linguistics and Language History (Chair: Ingrid Urberg, University of Alberta) (ENG 2B53)  
*Per Anders Rudling* (University of Alberta), *Yiddish in Sweden*  
*Rickard Enström* (University of Alberta), *Selling Canada: A Content Analysis of Svenska Canada Tidningen*  
*Evgeni Efremkin* (York University), *2000: From the “Land of Opportunity” to “Workers’ Paradise” – The Karelian Exodus: A New Perspective*

**Dinner at the home of Richard and Michelle Harris**

(Transportation will be arranged for this ticketed event.)

**Tuesday/Mardi 30 May/mai**

0900-1130 Annual General Meeting (ENG 2B52)



Oh no, it's the Vikings! And they have brought their bloody self-assembly furniture with them!

# Paper Abstracts

*CINS (Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies) Keynote – Monday, May 28, 10:30 am*

**Rauna Kuokkanen, Sami University College**  
**Still Making Coffee? Sami Women and the Politics of Participation**

In Sami society, there is a common and persistent image of strong Sami women. Like many other indigenous societies in the world, women in Sami society have historically had a form of equality with men, characterized by a symmetrical complementarity of domains, roles and tasks. Sami women also have a long history of activism and promoting the rights of the Sami who are the indigenous people of Northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula, Russia. Today, there are several Sami women in prominent political positions, which makes many people conclude that Sami women cannot be considered marginalized. Sami women's participation in politics and society, however, is often circumscribed by subtle mechanisms of control. This paper examines the roles and realities of Sami women in the contexts of Sami movement for self-determination and continued colonial relations.

**Mia Spangenberg, University of Washington**  
**And Never the Twain Shall Meet: Aino Kallas' Depiction of Masculine Crisis in *Sudenmorsian* and *Reigin Pappi***

Feminist scholars have recently begun to redefine Aino Kallas' so-called London trilogy (*Barbara von Tisenhusen* 1923, *Reigin Pappi* 1926, *Sudenmorsian* 1928) as a modern project asserting the possibility of a new and independent female subjectivity. Yet little attention has been given to her portrayal of the attendant crisis in masculinity as male authority was challenged by the emergence of feminism and women's entry into the public sphere. Thomas A. DuBois has taken an important first step in this direction, arguing that Kallas' novellas were engaged in an explicitly feminist agenda critiquing masculinity as a ruthless act of domination. However, I would like to suggest that Kallas' understanding of masculine crisis is far more subtly articulated in the trilogy. I find that for Kallas, the masculine crisis of the times was not so much about the fear of the loss of control over women as it was about the male failure or impossibility to engage with a fully emancipated female subjectivity. In the paper, I will focus on *Sudenmorsian* and *Reigin Pappi*. *Sudenmorsian* is the most well-known of the trilogy, and both deal with the transformation of male characters after the death of their wives, *Reigin Pappi* in particular. My aim is to show that Kallas not only had the ability to portray the limits and possibilities of women of her time, but also had the keen ability to delve into the psychology of men. Michel Foucault and Judith Butler's theories on the discursive production of gender and sexuality will serve as the theoretical framework for my paper.

**Börje Vähämäki, University of Toronto**  
**The Press in the North American Finnish Diaspora since 1970**

It is well documented that the Finnish ethnic press has played a central role in the lives of the Finnish immigrants and their descendants during the 125-year history of Finnishness in North America. The role of the press and the media has necessarily and significantly changed as only few Finns have immigrated to Canada in the last 30-35 years, and only low numbers ever since the mid-1920s to the USA. It can be argued that the press and other media still serve a vital function. This paper will examine the developments how the Finnish American and Finnish Canadian press and media has met the challenge of the changes that have occurred as English has (largely) become the first language of the ethnic Finns in the USA and as the Finns in Canada are currently experiencing that very transition as well. In addition to statistical information, the paper will offer an analysis of the consequences of the demographic changes for the ethnic press, what new factors, such as technological advances, have contributed to the new reality, and how the press itself has changed and how sees its role in the future.

**John Lingard, Cape Breton University**  
**Raised Forefinger and Helping Hand: The Language of Gesture in Ibsen's *Ghosts***

Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts* calls, through explicit and implicit stage directions, for an unusual frequency of gestures related to accusation and what the characters from Engstrand, through Pastor Manders, to Oswald Alving, call "the helping hand." Basing my reading of the play primarily on watching rehearsals and performances in a production I directed this winter at Cape Breton University, I hope to demonstrate how these gestures contribute, by sheer accumulation, to our understanding of character motivation and change, especially those of Mrs. Alving whom such critics as Francis Fergusson and John Northam regard as the tragic protagonist. I will also use Joseph Brodsky's short essay on accusation and "the finger of blame" to support my observations on Ibsen's complex but theatrically powerful "family play."

**Harry Lane, University of Guelph**  
**"Verking" Ibsen: The Complex Case of the Mabou Mines DollHouse**

Mabou Mines is a New York City experimental theatre company, founded in 1970 and named after the Nova Scotia community Mabou Mines, near which the company created its first production. Its 2003 version of Ibsen's *A Doll House* has been acclaimed, not only in various cities in the United States, but also in Stuttgart, Oslo, Paris, and most recently Toronto, where there were two weeks of performances to launch the 2007 New World Stage festival at the Harbourfront Centre.

The production is marked by several bold or provocative features. Most noticeably, the male characters are played by "actors

whose heights range from 3'4" to 4'4", while the female characters are played by extremely tall women. The inspiration for this literalized metaphor may well have been a combination of Torvald's recurrent use of the term "lille"\* in reference to Nora, and to their act-two confrontation over Krogstad's dismissal, in which Torvald challenges Nora's description of his motivation as "bare smalige hensyn." In the text employed by Mabou Mines, the translation of "smalig" as "small" inevitably referred most literally to the stature of the actor playing Torvald.

The characters meet in a doll-sized set that is unpacked in the opening scene, as one of Nora's Christmas gifts; thereafter the women spend most of their time on their knees, negotiating with the little men who command them. The characters speak English with strong pseudo-Norwegian accents, some Norwegian words (chiefly "Ja" and "Nei"), and some recurrent mispronunciations of English that became running gags: Torvald's first words (from off-stage) are "I'm verking," Christine seeks "a job at the bank," and Nora declares that "my secret is my pride and joy." The production is accompanied live on the piano by an arrangement of much of Grieg's piano music (chiefly from the various collections of Lyric Pieces), before it develops into an operatic (and sung) final scene.

My argument is a minority one (though not unique), within the context of wide critical acclaim: namely that (despite some wonderfully perceptive images) in literalizing some of the play's metaphors and in further distancing its action through language and music, the production finally diminishes Ibsen's play more than it illuminates it. Instead of making its audience leave the theatre challenged and puzzled, the production invites a sense of knowing recognition and "control" of the play's issues. If you "get" the production's gags, you may apparently (and perhaps misleadingly) be relieved of dealing with the play's challenges.

In writing the paper, I would be drawing on critical/theoretical discussion by Errol Durbach (*A Doll's House: Ibsen's Myth of Transformation*, Twayne, 1991); Toril Moi (*Henrik Ibsen and the Birth of Modernism*, Oxford UP, 2006); and Linda Hutcheon (*Theory of Adaptation*, Routledge, 2006).

\*For convenience at this point, my references are to the modern-Norwegian edition, Henrik Ibsen: *Samlede Verker* (Volume 4), ed. Didrik Arup Seip (Oslo 1952), rather than to the *Hundrearsutgave* (Oslo, 1928-57), the text of which is available online and will be consulted and cited at the conference.

**Gurli Woods, Carleton University**  
**Ibsen's When We Dead Awaken and Merete Morken**  
**Andersen's Book of Poems**

Norwegian author Merete Morken Andersen is also an Ibsen scholar. In fact, she published the useful "handbook" *Ibsen håndboken* in 1995 in which she also discusses Ibsen's play *Når vi døde våkner* [When We Dead Awaken], in particular one specific scene from the first act of the play. I will focus on Morken Andersen's discussion of this scene and examine how and, especially, why she might have incorporated snippets from this scene as headings for each cycle of poems in her major poetic work *Fiendens musikk* [The Music of the Enemy] from 1997. To this end, I intend to discuss how I interpret the interplay between these "Ibsen headings" and major themes, such as gender roles

in historically and culturally specific contexts, in Morken Andersen's book of poems.

**Richard L. Harris, University of Saskatchewan**  
**"(opt) eru köld kvenna ráð" – a Critically Popular Old Icelandic**  
**Proverb and Its Uses in the Íslendingasögur and Elsewhere**

The Old Icelandic proverb, "(opt) eru köld kvenna ráð" ['the counsel of women is (often) cold'] occurs twice in the *Íslendingasögur* and once in the *Riddarasögur*, and there are references to it in several other works. [Völundarkviða, str. 31, *Laxdælasaga*, ch. 65. See further *Thesaurus Proverborum Medii Aevii*, 9. 198.] Its inclusion in *Låle* and also in later Icelandic proverb collections would seem to suggest its continued currency in later stages of Nordic culture. [*Låle*, Peder, *Östnordiska och Latinska Medeltidsordspråk*, Copenhagen, 1889-1894, 153] Its use at two rather dramatic moments in the Family Sagas, *Njáls saga* and *Gísla saga*, and the uncomplimentary view of women's plans or advice it apparently recommends in these passages have rendered it popular among saga critics, particularly in more recent times those of feminist bent, a notable example being a reference to it in the title of an anthology of essays edited by Sarah M. Anderson and Karen Swenson, *Cold Counsel Women in Old Norse Literature and Mythology* [New York, 2002].

Defense of Icelandic women's right to give "cold counsel" tends to rest in saga criticism on the assumption that women, who are responsible for egging men on to vengeance in the interests of maintaining family honour, "are engaging in one of the few speech acts represented by the literature as open to them, and they are speaking on behalf of the customs of their society—not in monstrous aberration from them." [S.M. Anderson, "Introduction: 'og eru köld kvenna ráð'", pp. xii-xiii.] The proverb thus applied by male speakers to *Hildigunnr* in *Njála* and to *Pórdís* in *Gísla* seems to have negative implications—on the one hand emphasizing the harshness of the former woman's character and on the other, attempting to discredit the information provided by *Pórdís Súrsdóttir* about her brother's culpability for the killing of *Þorgrímur goði*.

This paper will consider the situation of the proverb in the two *Íslendingasögur* passages cited above but will also examine the details of its occurrence elsewhere in Old Icelandic literature. Then, in order to provide greater objectivity about these Icelandic paroemial texts, it will extend its interest beyond medieval Iceland to uses of similarly worded or perhaps intended sayings about the advice of women in Continental medieval literature.

**Robin Waugh, Wilfrid Laurier University**  
**Economics, Knowledge, and Missing Women in Svarfdæla Saga**

When I first read *Svarfdæla saga*, the lengthy, sensational, and revolting torture of *Yngvildr fagrinn* in the last chapters of this largely neglected saga led me to think that this text may well be the most misogynist work that I had ever read (*Svarfdæla saga* 1956: 165-206; Waugh 1998: 151-52). Not only does the saga-writer seem to record a particularly negative attitude toward women (Jochens 1996: 198-99), he also seems to record a particularly negative attitude toward sexual love (Waugh 185-90; Bergljót S. Kristjánsdóttir 1992: 146). However, when one approaches the female characters in the saga from the point of view

of their economic success, the saga's misogyny becomes slightly mitigated: Þorarni and her daughter Sigríður, related to Yngvildr by marriage, are major players in an allegory that suggests that the economic success of women and men has parallel yet opposite aspects, symbolized in particular by Sigríður and her troll-like brother, Klaufi. In fact, the mysterious reappearance of two women in the saga, Þorarni and Sigríður, suggest that Svarfdæla saga does not fit with typical anthropological views of women as mere exchange-pieces in a fight between men for economic success: even events concerning Yngvildr show that the disappearance and reappearance of women in this saga have more to do with ideas of knowledge than of economics, with some women demonstrating an ability to keep certain kinds of knowledge to within the community of their own sex.

**Birgitta Wallace, Parks Canada**

**Where is Vinland?™, a new web site in the educational series Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History.**

The "Where is Vinland?" web site uses the mystery of the location of the Viking 'land of the grapes' to give students an insight into the Viking Age in Scandinavia and its spread to North America as well as the overall context of the Vinland voyages. Archaeological techniques are introduced to give students an understanding of how historical data can be obtained when no written documents are available. The students will discover topics such as 'Who were the Vikings?' and 'Viking Expansion', 'Role of Viking Women', 'Language and Script', 'Society and Economy' through a multi-pronged approach using archaeological excavation results, artifacts and records, as well as medieval documents and literature. All the existing textual sources for the Vinland voyages will be provided as will various archaeological findings at L'Anse aux Meadows, the Norse site in Newfoundland, will provide the special focus.

**Susan Gold/Smith, University of Windsor**  
**Caught in Coincidence – Recent Work**

My recent paintings make use of digital images taken from natural history collections in Finland. In 2005 I returned to the collection of the Biology Department of the University of Turku. I had photographed in the collection in 1993. The collection had been modernized and reorganized, but I happened upon familiar taxidermy, creatures that have appeared repeatedly in my work for more than ten years. I collected an abundance of new material in digital format. On the same trip I photographed in the public natural history museum in Helsinki, Finland. The images that I collected in these places have been seminal to my recent studio production: large oils on linen, works on paper and mixed media works on Mylar.

The floral patterns that continue as layers in the work originated in the botanical prints hung as wall cover in 17th century botanist, Carl von Linné's preserved home at Hammerby, Sweden. I came upon this display while on a research trip in Uppsala in on 1992.

My work does not address questions of geography or nation. The coincidences that bring me to this point may have more to do with post modern culture and contemporary artist's practice.

I would like to show and discuss the new work, entitled, "No Place".

**Laurie Kristene Bertram, University of Toronto**  
**Lifting the Lid: Icelandic-Canadian Material Culture, Canadian Multicultural Media Campaigns and the Rise of the Koffort**

Traditional Icelandic-Canadian material culture once centered on cherished copies of the sagas brought by Icelandic migrants as well as traditional Icelandic cultural artefacts such as the skothúfa (women's headdress), askur (carved wooden dishes), and the spinning wheel. At first glance the gradual disintegration, loss, and institutionalization of these material traditions suggest a corresponding corrosion of popular Icelandic identity and culture in Canada in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. Yet an analysis of mid to late twentieth-century Icelandic-Canadian material culture reveals a complex and vibrant popular material tradition which has developed alongside the community's enduring oral traditions and their encounters with Canadian multicultural campaigns.

This presentation will explore the relatively recent transformation of nineteenth-century Icelandic kofforts (trunks) used during migration by Icelandic migrants into twentieth-century symbols of Icelandic identity and shrines to family memory in Canada. Their emergence as a cultural symbol roughly coincided with the development of a series of federally-funded multicultural museum displays, films, and ad campaigns which centred on the trunk as a metaphor for Canadian ethnic identity and immigrant experience. Did Icelandic-Canadians receive and readily adopt these images of the past set forth by the Canadian government? Or, given its often central role in the transmission of intergenerational memory, is the koffort representative of distinct, evolving popular narratives and cultural traditions? Using oral testimony, museum displays, pertinent literature in the field, monuments, film, advertisements, photographs of kofforts in Icelandic-Canadian homes and even two episodes of Antiques Roadshow, my paper traces the origins and explores the ramifications of the lowly immigrant trunk's rise as a new popular cultural symbol for Icelandic-Canadians.

**Per Anders Rudling, University of Alberta**  
**Yiddish in Sweden**

My paper is a study of the unlikely surge of interest in Yiddish in Sweden, and the active role of the Swedish government to save a language from extinction. It traces the history of Yiddish in Sweden over the past two hundred years since the first Jew was allowed into Sweden in 1784, through the emancipation in the 19th century, until the substantial Jewish immigration at the end of World War II. Swedish policies to Jewish immigration was inconsistent. Until the battle of Stalingrad, Sweden's restrictive immigration policies resulted in that many refugees were turned down. After Stalingrad, active humanitarian efforts by the Swedish government saved tens of thousands of Danish, Hungarian and Polish Jews from extermination at the hands of the Nazis. During the past 80 years, there has been a complete reversal of official and popular attitudes to the Yiddish language. During this time, Yiddish has gone from being the butt of anti-Semitic jokes to its current status of being a language of high prestige and per-



ceived as a bond that links Sweden to the continent. In the year 2000, legislation came into force which elevated Yiddish to an official minority language in Sweden. This legislation was controversial, not the least because the very small number of Yiddish-speakers in the country. Estimates vary, but probably 1,000-2,000 people out of a total population of nine million people speak the language. Nevertheless, this tiny minority has now the right to bilingual education, information from the government and other forms of government support for the maintenance and development of their language. A thick Yiddish-Swedish-Yiddish dictionary, the first of its kind, was published in 2005 and Yiddish is now taught for the first time at university level.

**Rickard Enström, University of Alberta**  
**Selling Canada: A Content Analysis of Svenska Canada Tidningen**

From the 1840's to the 1920's, more than one fourth of the total population in Sweden left their home country and immigrated to North America in hope for a better life. The settlement of immigrated Swedes in the United States and Canada resulted in a large number of periodicals being established, which were directly targeted at Swedes. In Canada, the largest Swedish newspaper was Svenska Canada Tidningen. My paper gives the history and scope of Svenska Canada Tidningen as well as presenting a content analysis of some of the advertising that occurred in the newspaper in the 1920s and the 1930s. These time periods are chosen since they capture the time periods before and during the depression.



The Scandinavian and Nordic Cultural Association of UBC (SNCA) was started in 2003 and is constituted through the Student Administration Council (SAC) of the Alma Mater Society (AMS).

Our members are students, alumni, teachers, staff and others who come from a variety of backgrounds who have one thing in common: A love of Scandinavia. We saw a need for a club where people could connect through the Scandinavian languages, culture and events, get to know what else is happening around town and share with a broader community 'Things-Scandinavian'.

Some of us have Nordic heritages, while others got hooked on Scandinavia by visiting or studying the languages

and culture. We encourage anyone to join us, provided they are enthusiastic about Scandinavia, and that they want to share, learn about and participate in things with a Scandinavian verve.

We regularly have casual get-togethers, and past events include Scandinavian folk dancing at International Days, a talk on Scandinavian-Canadian identity with guest speakers Irene Howard and Anders Neumueller, and our annual Lucia celebration which is regularly hosted at the Meekinson Arts Student Space at UBC.

For more information on our club and other activities, please visit our Web site at [www.snea.wordpress.com](http://www.snea.wordpress.com).

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## BRUCEBO FINE ART SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

The Brucebo Fine Art Foundation of Gotland, Sweden scholarships for 2007-2008 have recently been awarded to Allison Freeman of Montreal and Francois Saint-Pierre of Carleton Place, On.

The scholarships have been offered annually since 1971 to younger, talented Canadian fine artists - preferably painters - in an early fine art career-stage. During the course of approx. 35 years a steady stream of residency artists have been heading for the Brucebo Studio cottage at Skälsö fishing village a few kilometers north of Hanseatic and Medieval Visby or for exotic European "fine-art touring".

The scholarships are offered annually and commemorate the Canadian - Swedish artist couple of painter William Blair Bruce of Hamilton, On. (1859 - 1906) and his Swedish sculpturer wife Caroline Benedicks (1856 - 1935) of Stockholm. The couple met in "gaie Paris" in the 1880's as young, budding artists, married in 1888 and in the early 1890's established themselves on Gotland.

Two scholarships are offered annually, the Brucebo Summer Residency scholarship for Gotland (June 1 - August 31) and the W.B.Bruce European Fine Art Travel Scholarship for a fine art European travel sojourn, both exciting opportunities to experience! - If you are interested, remember the next application deadline date: January 31 2008!

Jan Lundgren, Geography Department, McGill University  
email: [jan.lundgren@mcgill.ca](mailto:jan.lundgren@mcgill.ca)

# Call for Papers

## Special Themed Issue of the Journal of Finnish Studies Critical Perspectives on Finnish North American Literature

With the development of diaspora studies and interest in the various ethnic literatures across North America, it is especially timely to devote an issue of the Journal of Finnish Studies to the critical examination of Finnish North American Literature. The themed issue will be edited by Beth L. Virtanen.

Critical approach and specific topic are open so long as the essay addresses some aspect of Finnish North American Literature from its inception to the present. Articles should be about 18 to 20 pages in English; Finnish passages need to be accompanied by an English translation.

Send complete manuscripts in Word as attachments to blvirtanen@excite.com. Queries may be sent to the same email address. Deadline for queries is September 15, 2007, and final manuscripts should be submitted by October 31, 2007.

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## Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

Descriptions of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic provide a rich material produced both in the Arctic and in other parts of the world. The extent of this material has increased considerably since the Romantic period, hand in hand with the systematic scientific investigation of these regions. These descriptions will often correspond more or less to Arctic realities, but also constitute their own reality: the way in which the Arctic has been understood and imagined throughout history. Taken together, they make up a discourse on the Arctic, formed both by actual Arctic experiences and its own intertextual continuities—in addition to many other earlier and contemporaneous discourses, including the discourse of literature. This conference will concentrate on Arctic discourses after Romanticism and up to the present day, using approaches to such discourses developed within literary studies. It will focus both on Arctic discourse in literary texts and literary discourse in non-literary descriptions of the Arctic. It will examine the development of Arctic discourses; the use of narrative, figurative and generic strategies in Arctic discourses; and the effect of changing communication technologies on Arctic discourses. It will also focus on contact zones between the European/American and the Arctic, and cultures which identify themselves as both Arctic and European/American.

Suggested themes for panels:

- Romantic and post-romantic sublimines in Arctic discourses
- Arcticism, Arctic counter-discourses and Arctic indigenous literatures
- Gendering the Arctic
- Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine discourses
- From exploration to sport: the history of Arctic discourse
- Arctic travel writing
- Borders and limits in Arctic discourses
- Living between the Arctic and the European/American
- Subject positions and identities in Arctic discourse
- The Arctic in art and film
- Changing conceptions of Northernness and Arcticity
- Nature's discourses in the Arctic
- Arctic metaphors in fiction and poetry
- Approaching the Arctic with literary, cultural, and discourse analysis
- Changing technologies, changing media, changing Arctic discourses
- Genre and the circulation of signs in Arctic discourse
- Embodying/textualizing the Arctic in postmodern novels and popular fictions
- Narrative in Arctic expedition reports, travel writing and reportage

Please send abstracts for papers by 15 September 2007 to Silje Gaupseth (silje.gaupseth@hum.uit.no). The participation registration deadline will be 1 November 2007. "Arctic Discourses 2008", Tromsø 21-23 February 2008, is part of the research programme of the Arktiske diskurser project, based at the University of Tromsø and funded by the University and The Research Council of Norway. For more information and updates on the conference, see <http://uit.no/humfak/arkdisk/>.



### Mission

The Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation (CSF), established in 1950, serves as a national, non-profit organization with the express purpose of providing Travel Grants to qualified and talented Canadian university students planning study or research in the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. We have had an extraordinary 57 years of success and have funded over 300 students.

### Change of Coordinates

Please note that all correspondence as of April 2nd, 2007 should be sent to our new postal address:

Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation  
P.O. Box 135  
Succursale B  
Montreal, QC H3B 3J5

### Coming events

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2007, 6PM**  
McGill University Faculty Club, Main Dining Room  
3450 McTavish Street  
Admission: \$35.00

#### **SMØRREBRØDSFEST!**

Our classic Danish deluxe Open-faced Sandwich festivity will take place at the McGill Faculty Club as is traditional. Danish caterers Lone Christensen and Birgit Nielsen will be providing traditional Smørrebrød sandwiches, æppelkage and kranssekage. A Cash bar will offer Danish beer, wine and cocktails, including Akvavit and the legendary Ole Dahl's McGill Whiskey Sour.

Our past president Dr. Hans Møller, through his contacts at the National Film Board of Canada, has organized a very special viewing of this year's Academy Award Winning animation short "The Danish Poet" to be presented by the Canadian filmmaker (of Norwegian origin) herself, Torill Kove.

To complete the evening, we will enjoy entertainment by singer Cicela Månsson who, accompanied by guitarist Jeffrey May, will perform the Swedish folk music of Evert Taube and Bellman as well as jazz standards.

Do not miss this! This event has historically been sold out so please RESERVE ASAP! As the George Jacobsen Foundation generously absorbs the cost of this event, 100% of your ticket price will be put into the Foundation.

Deadline to receive cheque and reservation form (attached) is Friday, April 13th.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2007, Time TBA**  
Norwegian Church and Cultural Centre  
5065 Sherbrooke Street West Lachine  
Admission: \$25.00, includes refreshments

### **The Edvard Grieg Centennial CSF benefit Piano recital Performed by DEREK YAPLE-SCHOBERT**

The Norwegian Church Association and the Norwegian Club of Montreal wish to support CSF's Travel Grant programme by hosting a fundraiser event.

2007 marks the 100th anniversary of Norway's most prominent and globally revered composer, Edvard Grieg, and the chosen date of our event, June 15th, is his actual birthday!

We will join in the celebrations throughout Norway and much of Scandinavia by presenting a repertoire of his work performed by celebrated pianist and CSF board member, Derek Yapple-Schobert:

- \*Holberg Suite: well-known Neo-Baroque style originally written for solo piano before the string orchestra version
- \*Sonata: large scale work for piano
- \*Lyrical Pieces, Opus 54: contain 2 of his most popular works
- \*March of the Trolls and the famous Nocturne. Ringing Bells with its Debussy-like sound effects foreshadow the Impressionist Movement.
- \*Ballade: Grieg himself felt this is the best composition of his entire opus

Many of us know of Derek Yapple-Schobert's extraordinary talents and his dedication to our CSF cause. His debut CD, Nordic Passion, released in 2006, featured works by Scandinavian composers plus Haydn and Schubert and he will be recording an all Edvard Grieg CD this summer for XXI Records in honour of the centennial. With a Doctorate in Piano Performance from Université de Montreal, he has performed in 7 countries and has been featured on BRAVO! Television and on CBC radio. More info: [www.yapple-schobert.com](http://www.yapple-schobert.com)

**June 15th promises to be a wonderful celebration of Scandinavian Culture. Please join us! Refreshments will be served.**

**Deadline to receive cheque and reservation form (attached) is Friday, June 9th, 2007.**

### New Corporate Initiative

The CSF Board of Directors has decided to launch a new initiative with the objective of raising funds for the Travel Grants from corporations, more specifically and primarily Canadian based Scandinavian Corporations. A mission such as ours should be of prime concern and pride to them in our entire country.

We have a strategic motion in action, but certainly any advisement will be welcomed. If anyone amongst our readership has a special idea or contact we could approach, we would very much appreciate it.

Thank you again for your generosity and support of the past, very much looking forward to enjoying the upcoming events with you in the near future and hoping that you will renew your CSF membership for 2007.

With kind regards,  
Karin Van de Water  
Publicity Chair, CSF  
Info: 514 284-1219

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- **AASSC WEBSITE:** <http://www.ualberta.ca/~cins/aassc.htm>. Web Master: Kristín M. Jóhannsdóttir <stina@mail2skier.com>

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- Royal Danish Embassy, 47 Clarence Street, Suite 450, Ottawa, ON, K1N 9K1; Tel. (613) 562 -1811; Fax: (613) 562-1812; <wensh@um.dk> (Wenche Ainer Sharp, Press & Cultural Affairs); <www.danish-embassy-canada.com>
- Embassy of Finland, 55 Metcalfe St., Suite 850, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6L5; Tel. (613) 288-2233; Fax: (613) 288-2244; <www.finland.ca/en/> <embassy@finland.ca>
- Embassy of Iceland, Suite 710, 360 Albert St. Ottawa, ON, K1R 7X7; Tel. (613) 482-1944; Fax: (613) 482-1945; <www.iceland.org/ca>
- Royal Norwegian Embassy, 90 Sparks Street, Suite 532, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5B4, Tel: (613) 238-6571; Fax: (613) 238-2765; <emb.ottawa@mfa.no>; <www.emb-norway.ca>
- Embassy of Sweden, 377 Dalhousie St., Ottawa, ON, K1N 9N8; Tel. (613) 241-8553; Fax: (613) 241-2277; <www.swedishembassy.ca> (Magnus Schönning, First Secretary, Press & Cultural Affairs)

The News Bulletin is produced by the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC) for the benefit of its members and other interested parties. Please send all submissions to Kristín M. Jóhannsdóttir at [stina@mail2skier.com](mailto:stina@mail2skier.com) or to [aasscnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:aasscnewsletter@hotmail.com). Electronic submissions through e-mail are preferred.