

A SCANDINAVIAN ENTERPRISE

"Den nordiske folkehøjskole i Kungälv" was founded in the 1940ies as a symbol and a concrete result of Scandinavian co-operation. This institution, situated a few miles north of Gothenburg, Sweden, was properly chosen as the stage for the first Scandinavian conference on historydidactics, which was held in december 1982, the 6th to the 10th.

Economic resources - supplied by research foundations of each nation and an inter-scandinavian one - allowed a 5-days-meeting with 27 participants, five from each of the countries Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden plus the arranging group, reinforced by a secretary.

Formally, this enterprise had nothing to do with the "International Society for History Didactics", but the organizing persons were all members of this Society. In fact, the idea of a Scandinavian conference first came up, when Magne Angvik, Bergen, Matti Castrén, Helsinki, Christer Karlegård, Malmö, and Sv. Sødning Jensen, Finn Lökkegaard and Henrik Skovgaard Nielsen, Copenhagen, were challenged by their European colleagues at the conference of 1981 in Kerkrade, the Netherlands. Here the wish for an international conference in Scandinavia was formulated. We found it necessary, however, to make a review of resources of research in Scandinavia before trying to cope with the task of an international meeting. Apart from this, Scandinavian co-operation in the field of didactics was - of course - assumed to possess promising values in itself.

Through generations, a widespread and intensive work of co-operation has been accomplished between the Nordic countries in various fields, not least concerning culture and education. Also, Scandinavian historians meet regularly and common projects of research are carried out. Several seminars on the teaching of history have been arranged - but never a conference, which exclusively aimed at projects of research in the field of history didactics.

In this sense - and only in this - the Kungälv-conference deserves

the name of the first.

This circumstance naturally led to the idea of making the conference an occasion for exchange of experience and for a general review of didactical research carried out in Scandinavia.

No specified theme of contents was formulated for the conference. The organizing idea was an exploration of activities of innovation and research. Accordingly participants - personally invited by the arranging group - were called on to deliver a paper on their special project of research. No less than 22 manuscripts turned up in due time for printing and distribution before the actual meeting. Also, written surveys of conditions and institutions of research in each country were made up by members of the arranging group. Before arriving at Kungälv each member of the conference was thus highly informed on the activities of her colleagues.

The spirit of collective work, which had characterized the months of preparation, was carried on to the actual course of the conference, which was chiefly organized as group sessions, in which individual projects were examined and discussed. Headlines, under which the reports were arranged - apart from the national surveys - were:

Historical research and didactics of history

History curriculum

Agencies of historical learning

Children, adolescents and history

Along with the intensive and laborious sessions, singing played an important role, and a Scandinavian didactical songbook was prepared and exercised. Also, a well prepared excursion was carried out.

One guest appeared on the conference: the outstanding historian professor Birgitta Odén, University of Lund. She delivered a lecture on the didactics of education for research at university-level and was very successful in throwing new light upon important aspects of the process of education from this angle.

The outcome of the conference can be summarized as follows:

The overall amount of research work carried out in Scandinavia - in the field of didactics of history - is much greater than was expected. The quality of the work, although varying, is generally high - in spite of the fact that economic and institutional resources are generally far below international standards. Only the Royal High School of Educational Studies in Copenhagen is in possession of - moderate - resources for a continuous work of research, while activities elsewhere are carried out in university projects of limited time or - most commonly - in connection with the education of history-teachers.

The shortage of institutions and other resources is counteracting not only to the performing of work of research, but also to the publishing and spreading of knowledge of what is actually produced, thus tending to make research in this field less visible. One possible measure, obvious to the members of the conference, of meeting this difficulty would be the publishing of the contents and results from the Kungälv-meeting, and steps of preparation for this task were decided upon.

Though national differences exist, common problems, interests and language predominated the conference. One feature, which may be peculiar to Scandinavia, is a rather close connection between the activities of development of theories and the various attempts of innovation in the actual teaching and learning of history.

Sustaining this fruitful connection will be a major task for Scandinavian didacticians. Endeavours for higher and more professional standards of economic and institutional facilities are as important, and making both efforts go together will be a momentous purpose of future work.

Perspectives of international co-operation were discussed, in special the activities of the International Society for History Didactics. Quite naturally, however, deliberations concentrated on the perspectives of the continuance of common Scandinavian activity. An inter-scandinavian group with Frank Rossvoll, Bergen, as the organizing force took on the task of producing a newsletter. And the arranging group was called on to prepare a full report of the conference and to investigate the possibilities of making another conference within

two years, again with Copenhagen as the center of administration, but with the perspective of having this task made by turns in future.

A tradition - in its first attempt an unconditional success - is perhaps being established ...

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F I L M U N D G E S C H I C H T E

10. IAMHIST - Konferenz 1983

Die 'International Association for Audio-Visual Media in Historical Research and Education' (IAMHIST) wird ihr 10. Kolloquium vom 12. - 16. September 1983 in Imola, nahe bei Bologna, abhalten. Neben der wichtigen italienischen Film-Tradition und der Frage nach audiovisuellen Medien in der Lokalgeschichte wird vor allem der geschichtsdidaktische Aspekt im Vordergrund stehen. Dabei geht es um den Einsatz von Filmen, Fernsehsendungen, Rundfunk und anderen Medien dieser Art im Unterricht, in der allgemeinen historischen Bildung und in den verschiedenen Phasen der Geschichtslehrerbildung.

Das endgültige Programm ist erst in Vorbereitung. Doch steht schon fest, daß von deutscher Seite die Kollegen Bodo von Borries und Wilhelm van Kampen teilnehmen werden. Sie werden eine Plenarsitzung mit Berichten über den deutschen Aspekt des Tagungsthemas bestreiten. Auskunft an Interessenten werden die beiden genannten Kollegen gern erteilen. Insbesondere sollten wir jüngere Kollegen, die in diesem Bereich wissenschaftlich arbeiten, auf die IAMHIST aufmerksam machen. Für unsere "Mitteilungen" erbitten wir von den beiden Beteiligten eine umfassendere Berichterstattung über die geschichtsdidaktische Forschung im Bereich der audiovisuellen Medien.