

men ved at anskue dem som en art forsikrings- eller finansieringspolitik, forsøger Eddie at geninstallere dem som centrale for forståelsen af godets opretholdelse og drift. Bønderne kan ligeledes ikke reduceres til blot at være undertrykte og ufrie, idet de faktisk formåede at drage store fordele ud af deres situation.

Videre behandler Eddie i den anden del de preussiske landbrugsreformer i begyndelsen af det 19. århundrede. Efter en større agrarøkonomisk krise som følge af nederlaget til Napoleon ved Jena i 1806 var behovet for nye reformer tvingende. Med oktober-dekretet af 1807 faldt de gamle feudale restriktioner, og bønderne blev givet fri bevægelighed. Med et nyt dekret i 1811 og en revision i 1816 blev disse reformer radikaliseret. I håbet om bedre økonomisk cirkulation fik bønderne endnu større frihed og selvejerskab. Det er Eddies argument, at disse reformer i langt højere grad var økonomisk fremfor moralsk motiverede, blandt andet idet de kan ses som et forsøg på at ophæve princippet om Konversation så omkostningsfrit som muligt. Personlig frihed for bønderne kom først, da ufrihed ikke længere var økonomisk fordelagtig. I den tredje og konkluderende del forsøger Eddie at sætte reformerne ind i en bredere europæisk kontekst med sammenligninger til Skotland, Østrig og Frankrig. Eddies overordnede vurdering af de preussiske reformer er positiv; de beskyttede bønderne på en måde, som de skotske reformer ikke formåede, de var ligeså retfærdige og effektive som de østrigske og ikke desto mindre ligeså radikale som de franske. I det lange løb formåede den preussiske stat generelt at beskytte sin bondestand gennem kriser og krige.

*Freedom's Price* er en både kompetent og overbevisende bog. Eddie leverer adskillige grundige, kildenære analyser og interessante forskningsdiskussioner. Nogle gange kan det dog virke uklart, hvad forfatteren egentlig forstår ved frihed som handelsvare og dette overordnede ærinde tabes ofte af syne i de mange kildenære diskussioner. Der er langt

fra tale om en introducerende bog og for at få det fulde udbytte, kræver det nok et vidst forhåndskendskab til perioden og dens tilhørende forskning. Eddies fremstilling er stærkt præget af hans anliggende med den eksisterende forskning. Bogen henvender derfor til et relativt snævert publikum, der til gengæld vil kunne få stort udbytte ud af bogens diskussioner. På et overordnet plan giver bogen dog også stof til eftertanke udover dens specifikke emne for eksempel til forskere, der beskæftiger sig med de skandinaviske landes økonomiske og agrare historie.

Eva Krause Jørgensen

Cecilia af Forselles & Tuija Laine (eds.), *The Emergence of Finnish Book and Reading Culture in the 1700s* (Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 2011). 151 pp.

*The Emergence of Finnish Book and Reading Culture in the 1700s* is a compilation of six articles mainly dealing with eighteenth-century Helsinki, book owners and mobility of books. Each article has a different approach to the theme concentrating on a certain literary genre or social group. The book has been previously published in Finnish in 2008. According to the introduction the aim of the book is to answer such questions as what kind of literature did people read in different estates, who bought and used books and what for?

In addition to the actual introduction the six authors have together written a short overview of available sources on history of the book in Finland. This joint text also works as a short introduction to book historical research and its methods. The authors claim that it is possible to find out what kind of ideas, values and knowledge were available for readers in the eighteenth century by looking at the mobility and ownership of books. The short

overview also gives the impression that in the eighteenth century for the first time ever readers had the possibility to channel their reading habits according to personal interests. Maybe it would have been better to express this thought in some other way, since different kinds of genres and texts have existed since the Antiquity. But it is true that during the eighteenth century reading was not anymore a privilege of the elite but also a possibility for the lower classes. The key source for all six articles is the database HENRIK, which is a digital collection housed by the Finnish literature society (<http://dbgw.finlit.fi/henrik/index.php>). The database contains information in Finnish, Swedish and English about book auction catalogues and estate inventory deeds from Finnish towns until the beginning of the twentieth century.

The first article of the compilation is written by Jessica Parland-von Essen. Her article "Book Ownerships Subject of Cultural-historical Research" is a kind of an introduction to eighteenth-century Helsinki and to its dwellers and social structure. The article examines dissemination and mobility of books between different owners and different social estates. An interesting example is the officers of the fortification Viapori (Sveaborg) whose books that were sold in the book auctions in Helsinki, where usually bought by other officers. Of course the officers' knowledge of French could explain this. Appreciation of books seemed to go hand in hand with the appreciation of education, as is often the case today. The cultural historical approach of the article would have become more visible if there had been a discussion from a wider perspective about the development of eighteenth-century book culture and how things changed at the turn of the nineteenth century.

The next article is written by Tuija Laine and as the title "The Clergyman as a Book Owner and Distributor in the Provinces of Uusimaa and Häme During the 1700s"

demonstrates, the article examines literature owned by the clergy. Most of the books were religious. In addition to Bibles and sermon collections clergymen also owned different kinds of theological commentaries and dictionaries. Laine presents many individual titles and compares the content of small book collections to one big private collection. Through a narrow source material the author is asking questions that the sources cannot thoroughly answer. It is clear that the information given by the HENRIK database is not sufficient to make deeper interpretations of the books because estate inventory deeds or the auction catalogues do not tell anything about the actual reasons or usage of the books.

Jyrki Hakapää's excellent article "From Popular Law Books to Rarities of Economics" is dealing with the professional literature of merchants in eighteenth century Helsinki. As one can learn from the title, law books and law commentaries were the most common examples of secular literature in the merchants' book collections. Also maps and travel accounts were very popular and useful to people working with foreign trade. Hakapää succeeds very well in combining the source material with historical context and that is why the article creates genuine interaction between the sources and the author's own interpretations.

The fourth article "Works of Enlightenment Philosophy in Finnish Cities during the 1700s" by Minna Ahokas deals with some very interesting questions. The author ponders upon how the literature of the Enlightenment was disseminated to Finland and which books were read and in which social groups. Ahokas also shows that the language of the works greatly affected the book markets. For example Swedish translations helped spreading English literature to Finland and Sweden.

In the fifth article of the book, "Individualistic Reading Culture: Fiction, Historical Works and Travel Accounts as Literary Genres Enhancing The Development of the Inner

Self”, Cecilia af Forselles tries to define the character of the new reading culture and how reading became a tool for self development. Forselles goes through different literary genres and examines to what extent they were read also in Finland. She writes about the general features of the eighteenth-century book culture and worldview, which of course are connected together. One of the most important questions in this article is how people in the eighteenth century experienced things that they read and what would be the best source to study this.

The final text in the collection is the article “The Breakthrough of Novels and Plays in Helsinki and Finland during the Gustavian Era” by Ilkka Mäkinen. It opens up the reading habits of the middle class and the dissemination of foreign fiction in Finland. Mäkinen raises interesting points about lending libraries, reading societies and how these approaches are fruitful when doing research about the eighteenth-century book culture. Mäkinen also says that it would be more meaningful to study more than one or two towns in order to make reliable comparison between different genres and estates. By using a noble girl’s diary as his source material, Mäkinen has a great concrete example in his interpretation of eighteenth-century reading habits.

Though the book proceeds logically and the articles have some kind of chronological and thematic order, I still missed some kind of synthesis at the end of the book, which would have drawn together all the key arguments. Because all the articles are presenting sources from the HENRIK database from their own point of view, the compilation works as a good starting point for research in Finnish eighteenth-century book history. The reader gets a good impression of what kind of topics or questions are possible to study with the digital collection. Many of the articles also show the limitations of the database. The book’s best contribution is most definitely those articles

that combine information collected from the auction catalogues and estate inventory deeds to other kind of sources like letters, diaries and newspapers. These articles are mirroring the cultural phenomenon connected to the eighteenth century book culture to broader European context and changes. The new reading culture of the eighteenth century is brought out in the very beginning of the book and in many of the articles, which is why it would have been interesting to compare the development of Finnish towns to other areas in Europe. The birth or dissemination of new literary genres is a signal of other kinds of changes in society. To conclude, it can be said the objective of the authors to find out what kind of literature was owned and read is achieved in many ways.

Maria Kallio

Ramus Glenthøj & Morten Nordhagen Ottesen, *Experiences of War and Nationality in Denmark and Norway, 1807–1815* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). xv + 327 pp.

Centenary commemorations can be both a curse and a blessing for historians seeking to engage with a wider public. On the one hand, the books, exhibitions and television programmes generate attention and even some pecuniary reward. On the other hand, the decision as to what and how to celebrate is determined more by politicians and media moguls than by scholars. This is particularly the case when several centenaries coincide.

So it is today, as the events marking the collapse of the Napoleonic Empire clash with those relating to the outbreak of the First World War. In this competition for attention and funds, the latter has won a decisive victory, at least among the main belligerents. Of course this is understandable, given the catastrophic consequences of the ‘Great War’ (as it