

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

is known in Britain) for the whole world in the century which followed. But it is regrettable that it has pushed to the margins the events of a century earlier. The Revolutionary-Napoleonic wars were immensely destructive across the world and had consequences just as far-reaching if less malign than the later conflict.

A particularly warm welcome should be given therefore to this original, scholarly and illuminating monograph, which deals with a neglected but important part of Europe. As the two authors point out, this is the first comparative study of war, society and politics in Denmark and Norway in the period. It also contributes to three topics currently at the centre of international historiography: nationalism, patriotism and the impact of war. The analytical sections are linked together by a clear narrative of the complicated history of the region, as Sweden attacked Norway, Russia attacked Sweden and Denmark was bottled up by the British blockade after 1807. At times difficult to follow, the account is assisted by the five excellent maps printed at the front of the volume.

As in the Thirty Years War, neutrality was not an option, as every part of the region was drawn inexorably into the titanic struggle between Great Britain and Napoleonic France, itself only the last phase of the 'Second Hundred Years War' that had begun back in 1688. It was that which brought the Royal Navy to Copenhagen in the summer of 1807 to unleash a bombardment which ended in the capture and removal of the entire Danish fleet. The 'palmy days', as the period 1775–1807 came to be known, during which Scandinavian ship-owners and merchants benefited mightily from their neutral status, were well and truly over. Death, destruction, civil strife and impoverishment followed.

In this chaotic maelstrom, traditional identities were reshaped and often exploded. This was particularly the case in the relationship between Denmark and Norway, already in

a state of flux in 1807. As we are told: 'the difference between Danish and Norwegian was fluid; a father might be Danish and his son Norwegian or vice versa' (p. 7). As is so often the case, the intense pressures exerted by war accelerated latent developments by the creation of hostile stereotypes – 'the Other', without which nationalism cannot flourish.

In particular, enemy occupation injected the necessary hatred. Even when the invaders did their best to spare civilians, the overriding need to feed an army eventually frustrated the best of intentions. A good illustration was provided by the Swedes when they moved into Norway in 1808. At first they paid cash for everything but were soon issuing promissory notes and resorting to coercion to extract what they needed. By the winter of 1808–1809 the starving local people were mixing bark and Iceland moss with their flour: 'disease, famine and death virtually turned some parts of the border regions in Norway into wastelands' (p. 87).

The same fate befell Finland at the hands of the Russians in 1808, resulting in violent guerrilla warfare. The British did not even try to behave properly when they looted Hammerfest near the North Cape in 1809. No wonder that one result of the war was intense Anglophobia. In mainly German-speaking Holstein, it was the French who aroused vigorous resistance by their various forms of exploitation, although significantly their Spanish mercenaries were much less unpopular. After the palmy days, the iron times came, with every inhabitant of the region affected adversely by a conflict from which they had nothing to gain but everything to lose.

Even peace in 1815 brought no respite. As the authors conclude 'the war was an economic catastrophe for Denmark-Norway, with repercussions that lasted well into the 1830s' (p. 133). On the more positive side, successful resistance to the Swedish invasion showed Norwegians they were able to fend for themselves without assistance from their Danish

rulers. In general, however, this is a bleak story but it is well told and opens up a whole new dimension of the Napoleonic wars.

Tim Blanning

Paul Hallberg & S. Bertil Olsson (red.), *En ostindiefarande fältskärs berättelse: Carl Fredrik Adlers journal från skeppet Prins Carl 1753–56*, Acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum et Litterarum Gothoburgensis, Humaniora 46 (Göteborg: Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället i Göteborg, 2013). 299 s.

*En ostindiefarande fältskärs berättelse* är en källutgåva av särskilt intresse. De män som för till Kina med det Svenska Ostindiska Kompaniet under 1700-talet har som bekant efterlämnat en mängd journaler, loggböcker och reseberättelser. Flera av dem finns redan nu i utmärkta källutgåvor. Men här föreligger den första journalen av en fältskär som bidrar med en ny och spännande bild av livet ombord. Här nämns matrosar, kvartermästare, timmermän och båtsmän. I journalen kläms tummar, falls nerför trappor; besättningsmännen blir förkyllda och har förstoppning. De sörjer sina fäder, lider av bakfylla och blir sjuka av att sitta i blöta kläder dag efter dag. Man ser vad de åt, och (framförallt) vad de drack. Journalen speglar vardagen för majoriteten ombord, vilket gör det till en särskilt betydelsefull källa.

Journalens författare är fältskären på skeppet *Prins Carl*, Carl Fredrik Adler (1720–1761). Han hade gjort sin första resa 1748–1749, i egenskap av andre fältskär på skeppet *Hoppet*. Denna Journal är från hans andra resa 1753–1756 då han var förste fältskär. Denna resa avvek från ordinarie ostindiska resor på flera sätt. Reserutten gick via Surat i Indien till Kanton i Kina. Skeppet stannade ett extra år i Kina och återkom först efter mer än tre år till Sverige, vilket gör det till den längsta av

alla kompaniets resor. Värt att nämna i detta sammanhang är att superkargören Christian Henrik Braads reseberättelse från samma resa finns tryckt som appendix i Rickard Melkerssons avhandling *Cb. H. Braad och 1700-talets reseskildringar: textutgivning och språkhistorisk analys* som försvarades vid Göteborgs universitet 2012. Braads och Adlers berättelser är skrivna ur olika perspektiv och möjliggör därmed intressanta jämförelser av denna ostindiska resa. Adlers sista resa företogs 1761 då han drabbades av feber och avled vid Javas kust.

Adler var inte bara läkare, utan som många andra kompanianställda även naturalhistoriskt intresserad. Före sin första resa hade han studerat medicin och botanik vid Uppsala universitet, bland annat för Carl von Linné. Adler samlade naturalier på sina resor och redan 1752, efter sin första resa, försvarade han en avhandling om mareld, *Noctiluca marina*. Det är emellertid i synnerhet som fältskär som Adler framträdde i journalen. Innehållet gör den snarare till en läkarjournal för en mottagning på denna speciella, rörliga plats än till en konventionell reseberättelse.

I Adlers journal beskrivs en många gånger plågsam verklighet där fältskären ofta spelade en nyckelroll. I ett brev som citeras i journalen skrev Adler att han var tvungen att "wara både Medicus, Fältskiär och apothekare". Ungefär en tiondel av de män som reste ut med det Svenska Ostindiska Kompaniets skepp kom aldrig hem. Under resan antecknas sjuutton dödsfall, fyra rymningar och en fripassagerare. Dessutom plockade skeppet upp tjugotre skeppsbrutna holländare som enligt Adler var så illa medfarna att han inte hade tid att skriva ned alla deras krämpor. Efter lite mer än en månad hade två av dem dött. Oftast nämns manskapet endast kort i Svenska Ostindiska Kompaniets källor; men i den här journalen kommer vi dem alldeles inpå livet.

Källutgåvor är värdefulla, i synnerhet sådana som bidrar med nya perspektiv på ett ämne som kan tyckas välutforskat. Det