

## Recent Publications

Most of the items reviewed here may be obtained from the following bookstores: Bokhandel, the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407; The Swedish Book Nook, P. O. Box 1353, New York, NY 10028; the Swedish Museum Store, Swedish American Museum Center, 5211 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640; and Anderson Butik, P. O. Box 151, Lindsborg, KS 67456. Unless noted otherwise, please add \$4.95 per item ordered to defray cost of postage and handling.

*Greta Garbo: A Life Apart.* Karen Swenson. (New York: Scribner, 1997) 561 pages. \$27.00

*Notorious: The Life of Ingrid Bergman.* Donald Spoto. (New York: Harper/Collins, 1997) 436 pages. \$27.50

Karen Swenson and Donald Spoto have written exhaustively researched biographies about their respective Swedish-born actresses. Both Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman began their careers in Sweden, but were better-known for their work with Hollywood studios. Garbo withdrew from Hollywood and her film career to live a private life. Bergman left the United States and worked in Europe for almost a decade after she was denounced on the floor of the United States Senate and her private life was the subject of public outrage.



Both books draw on interviews with those who knew the subjects (particularly Hollywood colleagues), letters not available to previous biographers, and on extensive Hollywood bibliographies. Spoto also had access to decades of published interviews with Ingrid Bergman, as well as on her autobiography. Garbo gave very few interviews in her lifetime and did not write her memoirs, so the memories and memoirs of those who knew her played a larger role in Swenson's research.

Each biography discusses the films, and in Bergman's case, the theater work, as well as the life of the subject. Detailed footnotes and endnotes reflect the depth of research. The bibliographies will encourage further reading, and the index in each work enables the reader to refer to earlier statements. Swenson's book about Garbo also includes an appendix of her films, giving the credits for each picture.

Hollywood in the 1930s and '40s is well-chronicled by the two books. One learns more film and theater



history from the book about Ingrid Bergman, as her public life continued along with her private life. One may also feel that one knows and understands Bergman better than the more private Garbo.

*Minnesota Swedes: The Emigration from Trolle Ljungby to Goodhue County 1855-1912.* Lilly Setterdahl. (East Moline, Illinois: American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden, 1996) 295 pages. \$33.95



Lilly Setterdahl has explored the chain migration of Swedes from Trolle Ljungby parish in Skåne, Sweden, to Goodhue County, Minnesota. Some comparison has been made to Robert Ostergren's study of Swedes emigrating from Rättvik, Sweden, to Isanti County, Minnesota. Setterdahl gives the historical background to emigration from Sweden and provides a good deal of information about the settlers' lives in Goodhue County. She has studied census data and agricultural statistics for the area. Letters written by several of the immigrants to relatives in Sweden have been translated and included. Interviews with more than thirty descendants of the Trolle Ljungby immigrants are part of the book. There are many photographs and numerous footnotes. The extensive bibliography will lead many to further reading on related subjects. Readers will wonder, however, why such an extensive text lacks an index, which makes it difficult to refer back to previous points or to find references to specific topics.

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