

“Padre”

He's a 1956 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and an ordained Lutheran minister. He's a cowboy at home in the isolation of Wyoming and a world traveler who has felt at home in 139 countries. He's a man of few words who speaks profoundly and passionately through his art. He is Ray 'Padre' Johnson, a Swedish-American artist who has sketched and painted the faces of people from every country in the world.

Padre Johnson's canvases will soon be on display in one of the most prestigious galleries any artist could hope for: the United Nations. On December 10 an exhibition of 650 of Johnson's painted and sketched portraits on some twenty-six canvases will open at the New York headquarters of the international organization. The exhibition, entitled "Faces of the Global Human Family", is part of the United Nation's celebration of the "Year of the Family". For Johnson the exhibition – and the book that will be published in conjunction with the exhibition – is the culmination of 14 years of travel to 139 countries to observe, to photograph, to sketch, to paint, and to write about the magnificent diversity and similarity of all human beings.

The United Nations' exhibit is the beginning of a tour of a number of North American sites, a tour that eventually will be expanded to visit countries around the world. After its month-long showing in New York the exhibition will move to San Diego and Montana before opening at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, where it will be shown from April 18 to May 9, 1993.

Padre Johnson now lives and paints in Cody, Wyoming, a community he knew as a child. In 1956 he was graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, a school his grandfather, O.J. Johnson, served as president from 1913-1942. In 1960 Padre Johnson completed his theology studies at Chicago's Lutheran School of Theology and moved to Middlebury, Vermont, where he served as both a campus and a



Ray "Padre" Johnson and his art.

parish pastor. By 1966 he was in Vietnam as a Navy medical chaplain, serving with the Special Forces in the Mekong Delta where he was twice wounded. It was there that his Navy buddies dubbed him 'Padre', a nickname that has stuck.

Returning to civilian life, Johnson moved around the Midwest in a variety of governmental and organizational positions before moving for good to Wyoming in 1979. He became a cowboy and rediscovered his talent for drawing and portraiture. By 1983 he was successful enough as a Western artist to be represented by a major international art distributor. By that time he had begun what has now taken most of the last 14 years: the graphic documentation of the human family. As a sideline during this period he has worked (and sketched) as a cowboy in five "cowboy cultures": Hawaii, Australia, Mongolia, Botswana, and Argentina. [Padre Johnson is now represented by

WorldView Art & Publishing, P.O. Box 908, Cody, Wyoming 82414; telephone: (307)587-8070.]

His depictions of every form and type of human face are a visual expression of his ever-widening faith as a Lutheran pastor. Though some have called him a "maverick" clergyman, others see him as a talented genius, whose artist's palette is his pulpit and whose paintings are a sermon on the eternal truth that we all belong to the same family.

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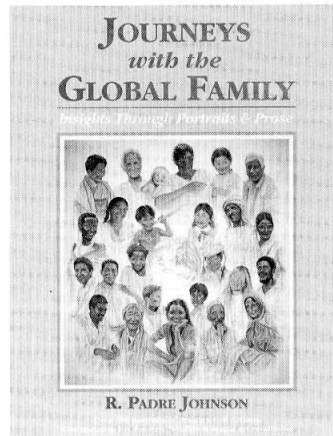
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■ In the Autumn '92 issue of **Sweden & America** an unusual artist, Ray "Padre" Johnson, was the subject of the "Profile" article. This Wyoming resident has been on a mission to document the faces of all of the world's people, a goal that was realized when his exhibit, "Faces of the Global Human Family", opened at the United Nations in December. The exhibit is now touring other sites, including a visit to Minneapolis's American Swedish Institute April 18-May 9, 1993.

Padre Johnson's appealing human portraits can also be seen in book form. His canvases of faces collected

It is our pleasure to inform our readers of the appearance of new publications dealing with Swedish America. Most of the items reviewed below may be obtained from the following bookstores: Bokhandel, the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407; The Swedish Book Nook, Caller Box 804, New York, NY 10028; The Swedish Museum Store, Swedish American Museum Center, 5211 No. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640; and Anderson Butik, P.O. Box 151, Lindsborg, KS 67456. Unless noted otherwise, please add \$2.00 per item ordered to defray cost of postage and handling.



on visits to some 139 countries are found in a volume entitled *Journeys with the Global Family*, published by WorldView Art & Publishing (P.O. Box 908, Cody, Wyoming 82414; \$40.00).

■ Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig is an attorney who retired after 36 years of legal prac-

tice in 1989 to devote his attention full-time to research on and writing about the early Swedes who settled in the Delaware Valley. A contributing editor to *Swedish American Genealogist*, Craig has now written *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*, the first accurate and complete transcription of the census done in that year of the two Swedish congregations of Wicaco (now in Philadelphia) and Crane Hook (between present-day New Castle and Wilmington, Delaware).

Craig has coupled this first accurate transcription of the original census with thorough research on each of the families listed in the two congregations, 195 in all. His discussion of the census covers some 972 colonists, most of whom were Swedes or descendants of Swedes.

This remarkable book opens a unique window into everyday life in late-17th century America. Anyone curious about the history of the small but influential New Sweden Colony should

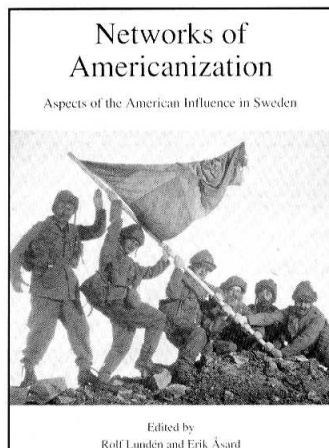
consider Craig's volume as an indispensable addition to that understanding.

The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware is published by SAG Publications, P.O. Box 2186, Winter Park, FL 32790. It sells for \$37.50 plus \$2.50 postage and handling (\$1.00 postage & handling for each additional copy).

■ The influence of America on the world, especially since the end of World War II, has fascinated scholars, sociologists, and critics who see the growing presence of the United States on the world's consciousness with a mixture of admiration and concern. One of the most "Americanized" countries in Europe is Sweden, but until recently, few scholars have given the Americanization effect in that country much study.

Now a group of Swedish scholars has tried to fill this vacuum with *Networks of Americanization*, a collection of ten essays on various aspects of American influence in Sweden, edited by Rolf Lundén and Erik Åsard. These scholars give anthropological, political, economic, linguistic, and even cinematic perspectives on the role America has played in Swedish life over the last 50 years. Two Swedish scholars known to many Swedish-Americans—Harald Runblom and Dag Blanck—are included; Runblom on American propaganda in Scandinavia during World War II and Blanck on the influence of the American academia on Sweden.

Nine of the essays in *Networks of Americanization* are in English while the tenth is followed by an English summary. The collection of articles is distributed by Almqvist & Wiksell International, Box 4627, 11691 Stockholm, Sweden.



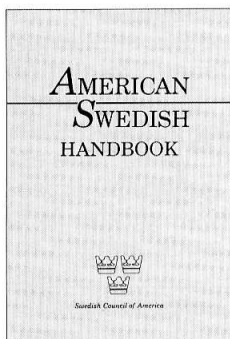
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