

## Summaries

*J. B. D. L. Strömberg*

### **The Swedish kings in progress – and the centre of power**

THIS ARTICLE DEALS with the problem of what we can know about Swedish rulers' choices of residences during the centuries before Stockholm became the country's capital city – when kings, queens and regents still led a migrating life. Statistical evidence based on royal documents (the value of which remains very uncertain, especially concerning the Middle Ages, when source material is very scarce) gives the impression that Stockholm and the region around that city held a very prominent position as royal residence long before a state bureaucracy was permanently established there. The statistically founded preliminary conclusion about an early concentration of royal presence in this area is then tested against the evidence of several other types of sources: archaeological, narrative, geographical. The general impression (bound to be hypothetical) is that Stockholm grew into its role as capital city slowly and gradually. The choice of this place as the bureaucratic centre of the Swedish state administration in the 1600s was unproblematic, because royal presence had by then been especially closely connected with Stockholm for centuries.

*Ebbe Gert Rasmussen*

**We await you any hour**

**The Limhamn letters as sources for the Malmö conspiracy 1658–1659**

BY THE PEACE treaty of Roskilde in February 1658 Denmark surrendered the whole of Eastern Denmark to Sweden. Six months later a war broke out between the two kingdoms, during which patriotic circles in the surrendered regions of Scania and Bornholm began co-operating with the Danish government.

This article is an investigation of the secret correspondence between the Danish government and the conspiracy in Scania (Skåne). These letters are kept in the National Archives in Stockholm. The material constitutes a small part of the extensive collections of legal documents from the trial after the exposure of the conspiracy. During the working process this writer has succeeded in bringing to light additional letters on the subject as compared to the material up till now available to historical research. We can now establish that today 47 or 48 letters in varying states of preservation are known, constituting the written communication between Copenhagen and the conspiracy. This material has been identified according to author, time, and place and has furthermore been examined and interpreted thoroughly. This author's hypothesis on the composition of the sources appears from the appendix.

This investigation shows that the former picture of the history of the conspiracy can be elaborated as well as revised on important points. The secret correspondence across Öresund dates from September/October 1658 till March/April in the following year. This study demonstrates a development in three phases. In the first phase until the end of October, the conspiracy received only limited moral support from the Danish government in Copenhagen, which was under Swedish siege. But when this was broken by a Dutch relieving force on October 29, the second phase began, when the government actively joined the preparations for a recapture of Malmö. During this period we can almost follow the work day by day. The Danish plan of attack, which was sanctioned by the king on December 2, failed, however, when put into action. The first time in the night between December 18 and 19, when pack ice prevented the relieving ships from leaving Copenhagen, and later on December

26–27, when the ships grounded on the island of Saltholm. In spite of tireless efforts by the patriotic circle, the idea of active relief was now abandoned in Copenhagen. In this third phase the government imagined a recapture by the patriotic circle alone – the same model as the people of the island of Bornholm had realised earlier. Following the repulse of the Swedish attack on Copenhagen on February 10–11, Copenhagen had other military objectives.

The responsibility for the failure lies with the Danish government for its changing and often half-hearted support and its unfortunate choice of commander-in-chief for the action in Malmö. The decisive factor, however, was the weather conditions.

The work of the conspiracy originated in the demands of the moment. Besides the endeavours to reconquer Scania it included a steady and extensive intelligence service in favour of Copenhagen. This went on through the whole lifetime of the conspiracy. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the conspiracy was communicating the Swedish plan for the attack on Copenhagen as early as January. But by October the Swedish provisions along Öresund restricted the actions of the patriotic circle. By the following year these were further constricted by the enemy's constant patrolling in connection with his preparations for the attack on Copenhagen.

*Fredrik Persson*

### The dangerous peninsula

### The use of history in today's Scanian regionalism

IT IS WELL attested that the use of history has played a central role for national projects. Since 1999 Scania (Skåne), the southernmost province of Sweden, has been the setting for a trial form of regional self-government under the new political and administrative unit *Region Skåne*. The article underlines the role of history in connection with today's Scanian regionalism by analysing the information material published by *Region Skåne* and by the independent lobby body The Foundation for the Future of Scania (*Stiftelsen Skånsk Framtid*, SSF).

Although there are different nuances in the picture of the province's history as painted by the two collections of material, the shared features are such that one can speak of a Scanian historical drama. They paint a picture of a lost golden age, emphasizing elements of political autonomy, then a harsh period of decline with the transfer of the province from Denmark to Sweden in 1658, followed by cultural repression and heroic resistance, which is now developing into a Scanian renaissance in the guise of regionalism. Sweden and the Swedes are consistently described as a brutal enemy, and the cultural and historical community with Denmark is underlined. This, together with a primordial identification of a distinctive Scanian identity, makes history into an explicit argument in today's politics for continued or increased regional self-government. The form taken by the drama and the occurrence of classical national regalia such as the red-and-yellow flag and a coat of arms make Scanian nationalism seem like a blueprint of classical nationalism, as analysed so acutely by Eric Hobsbawm, Anthony D. Smith, and others. For continued work with such problems it may therefore be relevant to launch the concept of *regionationalism*, which in its tentative form should be understood as: the construction of an imagined unity and community through the political use of history, intended to find arguments for regional self-government within the framework of, and at the expense of, an existing nation state.

*Translation: Alan Crozier*