

Nordic Research under American Influence

One of the purposes of American Studies in Scandinavia is to try to register the new trends in the academic development at American universities and schools on different levels. The word American Studies as such implies restrictions and does not include science, technology, medicine, theology and other branches of professional training. What our journal with its limited resources tries to cover must be relevant to the Nordic societies. We must also be able to notice the impact that these developments in America have had on Nordic universities and schools.

The leading article in this issue "Quantitative Methods in Modern American History" fulfills this demand to a very high degree. It is written by Allan G. Bogue from University of Wisconsin. Professor Bogue belongs to the group of leading American scholars who carry on propaganda for technically more developed historical research. In 1968 he worked as visiting professor at the department of history in Uppsala. Then he lectured at all Swedish universities. The "Quantitative Movement" which is already under development in Sweden has no doubt got new impulses through Allan G. Bogue. A very interesting fact is that American scholars of history have for a long time been recipients in relation to Europe. To some extent this situation has changed.

Quite naturally it is very difficult for a visiting professor to speak about the ever stronger influence that the US seems to have on our universities and our research during a short stay in a Nordic country. Nor does professor Bogue make such an attempt. In a series

of essays in following issues of our journal this aspect will be treated. The common theme will be to try to estimate the extension of influence from the US in subjects such as linguistics, political science, economics, geography, sociology etc. If the authors can establish that scholarly and other evaluations prevalent in society have been influenced, this will be of special interest.

Two surveys in this issue bring up research and teaching on the US in Norway and Sweden. The Norwegian article accounts for Master theses in American literature at the university of Oslo. A great deal of valuable research is revealed in these theses which seldom are printed or published. We hope to be able to publish similar surveys from the other Nordic countries, too.

The other article presents a report from a survey which was distributed to fifty Swedish university departments to investigate the extension of American Studies. A preliminary observation based on the questionnaire tells us that a great part of the literature within many subjects is American. It also tells us that there is quite a lot of teaching and that the contacts among teachers and scholars with the US are wideranging. But research closely connected with American society is carried on at fairly few departments. However, it is possible that the body of research accounted for would have increased if the questionnaire had also been sent to professional colleges.

An important part of NAAS' activities has been to arrange Nordic conferences every third year with American and Nordic participants from schools and universities. These conferences have been held in Sigtuna, Sweden, 1961, Oslo, Norway, 1964, and Helsinki, Finland, 1967. The fourth conference is planned to take place in Copenhagen, 1970. The preliminary theme which has been chosen is *Communication — Problems and Possibilities*. A detailed program and further particulars will be presented in the next issue of American Studies in Scandinavia.

In no. 2 of American Studies we could inform you about a new chair in American Literature in Uppsala, Sweden. We can now register another example of improvement of American studies at Scandinavian Universities, i. e. an assistant professorship in American Literature in Trondheim, Norway.