

From the Book Review Editor

Along with the new editors of *American Studies in Scandinavia*, David Nye and Carl Pedersen of Odense University, I would like to thank Niels Bjerre Poulsen of Copenhagen Business School for the work he has done in recent years editing the reviews section of the journal. I hope in forthcoming issues to maintain the standards Niels has set and to build on the existing strengths of the journal's reviews section.

In most regards, the emphasis will be on continuity. The journal will continue to include reviews of recent publications of interest to its readers, and will strive to ensure that diversity remains one of the review section's chief characteristics. From colonial history to contemporary politics, from cultural studies to social history, from literary theory to biography, from foreign policy to immigration history: *American Studies in Scandinavia* will endeavour in its reviews to match its readers wide-ranging interests. So too will the reviews section seek to encompass the full range of formats – From textbooks and essay collections to monographs – of interest to its varied audiences: high school teachers and college lecturers, students and university professors.

While a reviews section is a reviews section, in forthcoming issues I would like to promote two minor innovations. On the one hand, and as Helle Porsdam indicated in her introduction to the previous issue, the first involves the publication of occasional review essays on specific topics – exemplified by David Nye's piece in the current issue devoted to new books on landscapes of the United States. Given the seemingly-endless flood of publications on so many aspects of American life, review essays covering recent (and perhaps not-so-recent) works on specific topics seem a good way for readers of the journal to keep up-to-date on a variety of fields. On the other hand, in future the reviews section will also carry occasional notices on significant exhibitions of interest to Americanists, from the fine arts to photography.

It is my hope that the growing number of publishers establishing their own world wide web home pages will in some ways facilitate the task of identifying books for review in the journal. In spite of technological innovation, however, a flourishing reviews section will always depend on more than its editor alone. The response I have had to my requests for book reviewers has so far been splendid, and between us the editors of the journal have many contacts across the Nordic countries to help us maintain the work. Nevertheless, in future I am bound to find myself sometimes looking for willing hands in which to place gripping books. Readers of *American Studies in Scandinavia* interested in acting as reviewers in future are, therefore, encouraged to get in touch with me, with a note about their particular areas of expertise.

Finally, the journal will (as its name suggests) actively seek to review publications by Americanists in Scandinavia. I would therefore be particularly happy to hear from authors with new works in the press, and would ask them to remind their publishers to forward a review copy to *American Studies in Scandinavia*.

– Dale Carter, University of Aarhus