



*Translations from Ukrainian into Swedish language between 1991 and 2012*

a study by the Next Page Foundation in the framework of the Book Platform project

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## Translations from Ukrainian into Swedish language

The research reviews the trends of translation of Ukrainian literature into Swedish language during the last 20 years as well as processes preceding the establishment of literary ties and implementation of joint literary and cultural projects positively influencing the promotion of Ukrainian literature translations in Sweden. A review of book publishing field in Sweden is offered as well as the analysis of fiction translators' status and the roles of key "actors" (translators, writers, publishers, literary agents); the final recommendations list proposals for improvement of the state of translations from Ukrainian language and promotion of Ukrainian literature in Sweden.

As far as we know, the analysis of literary ties between Ukraine and Sweden has not been conducted in Ukraine until this day. The research accentuates those aspects, which can be potentially used for regulating the cooperation between Ukraine and Sweden in the literary field as well as specific examples of joint projects, which encouraged translations of Ukrainian literature into Swedish language.

One of the main sources of bibliography data for the research was "Bibliography of Ukrainian Literature in Translations into Swedish" compiled by Hans Åkerström and provided by Gothenburg University library.<sup>3</sup>

### **I. Introduction**

The development of cultural and literary ties between Ukraine and Sweden has been most influenced by certain individuals, i.e. translators, literary scholars, and researchers spreading knowledge about Ukraine and Ukrainian culture. We cannot speak about any tradition of Ukrainian literature translations into Swedish or an established translation school, as the translations have been performed upon the initiative of certain translators who, as a rule, already knew Russian and were interested in Ukrainian literature.

One of the first translators of modern Ukrainian literature in Sweden was Alfred Anton Jensen, a Swedish historian, Slavic studies scholar, translator, bibliographer of Slavic literatures in Nobel

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<sup>3</sup> Hans Åkerström. Bibliografi över ukrainska skönlitteratur översatt till svenska. Institutionen för språk och litteraturer. Göteborgs universitet.



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Institute at the Swedish Academy of Sciences. Alfred Jensen was a supporter of Ukrainian national renaissance and a certified member of Taras Shevchenko Scientific Association in Lviv and Ukrainian Scientific Association in Kyiv.

Alfred Jensen translated poems by Taras Shevchenko, “Taras Bulba” and “May Night” by M. Gogol into Swedish.<sup>4</sup> In 1918, there was a separate publication (*Berättelser från Ukraina. Sthlm : Svithiod*) of novellas by M. Kotsyubynsky, which included in particular such stories as “High Price” (*Dyrköpt*) and “To Be Believed” (*Utan vigsel*). In 1921, Alfred Jensen together with Mykhaylo Hrushevsky was an editor of anthology “The Ukrainians” (*Ukrainarna*) in Swedish. This collection included translations of works by Ivan Kotlyarevsky (excerpts from “The Aeneid”), Panteleymon Kulish (“Mazepa”), Taras Shevchenko (“To Kvitka-Osnovyanenko”, “Water Flows to the Blue Sea”, “The Will”), Pavlo Chubynsky, Ivan Franko, Tymotey Bordulyak, Mykhaylo Kotsyubynsky, translations of Ukrainian folk songs and fairy tales.<sup>5</sup>

Alfred Jensen is an author of research papers “Ukrainian National Skald” (1909), “Ukraine” (1919), “Slavic Culture and Literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century” (1920). His studies “Orlyk in Sweden” and “The Voynarovsky Family in Sweden” were published in Ukrainian (in the “Notes of Taras Shevchenko Scientific Association”, 1909, book 92). In 1912, he published a monograph on Ivan Mazepa in Swedish, a research paper on Ivan Kotlyarevsky in German (Lviv, 1914), and a book about Taras Shevchenko “Taras Shevchenko. The Life of Ukrainian Poet” (Vienna, 1916).

In late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries certain translations of Ukrainian literature start appearing in Swedish newspapers. Valborg Hedberg translated works by Ivan Franko “Hryts’s Schooling” (*Hur Gritz lärde sig att läsa*) and “Images from Galician Life” (*Bild ur lifvet i Galizien*), which were published in *Stockholms Dagblad* newspaper in 1894.

Rafael Lindqvist translated “The Will” (*Testamentet*) and “The Days and Nights Go By” (*Och dagar gå*) by Taras Shevchenko as well as Ukrainian Christmas carols; these translations were published in 1934.<sup>6</sup> Ture Eriksson translated poems by Taras Shevchenko “To Lykera”( *Till Likera*), “The Will” (*Testamente*), “A Cherry Orchard Near the House” (*Körsbärsträdgård*

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.oversattarlexikon.se/listor/sprak/>

<sup>5</sup> [www.oversattarlexikon.se/artiklar/Alfred\\_Jensen](http://www.oversattarlexikon.se/artiklar/Alfred_Jensen)

<sup>6</sup> *Ukrainska julvisor*. Övers. Rafael Lindqvist. Hfors : Blinkfyren, 1934, s. 57-60.



*bredvid stugan*), which were published in *Ny Dag* newspaper in 1961. In 1980, Birgitta Hammar translated a fairy tale “Mykyta the Fox” (*Sagan om Mickel Räv*) from English.

Contemporary Ukrainian-Swedish relations started developing with the establishment of Ukraine as an independent state. On December 19, 1991 Swedish was the first among Northern European countries to recognize state independence of Ukraine; the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on January 13, 1992 during the visit of Swedish foreign minister M. af Ugglas to Kyiv. The importance of cultural and humanitarian plane of Ukrainian-Swedish relations was confirmed by signing a Memorandum on cooperation in cultural field between the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Ukraine and Swedish Institute in 2004; cooperation in education and science is being developed in the framework of Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and Swedish Institute for science and education.

Among modern translators of Ukrainian literature in Sweden we should single out Per-Arne Boodin, a Swedish scholar of Slavic languages, who has been the head of Slavic Languages Department in Stockholm University since 2000; he teaches Russian literature and history of Ukrainian culture there. In 1987, Per-Arne Boodin translated and published a collection “Ukrainian Horses Over Paris” (*Ukrainska hästar över Paris*) with translations of poems by Ivan Drach and Lina Kostenko, preceded by an in-depth foreword “Ukraine and Ukrainian culture”. He is also an author of works and reviews of Ukrainian literature, published his translations in periodicals, e.g. newspapers. His paper “Myth and Reality. On Russia, Ukraine and Belarus” (*Myt och verklighet. Om Ryssland, Ukraina och Vitryssland*), published in the journal “International Studies” (*Internationella studier*) in 1998, really deserves attention.<sup>7</sup>

The contacts among authors, translators and intermediaries of book publishing markets in Ukraine and Sweden are being developed; certain interest in joint projects and translations emerges. The popularization of literature in a foreign country is influenced by various factors, including formation of mutual cultural ties and translators’ knowledge about the given literature. We cannot characterize the movement of literary translations between Ukraine and Sweden as even, as the number of translations of Swedish literature into Ukrainian is far greater. Nowadays, several publishing houses and translators work with Swedish literature in Ukraine. The Ukrainian

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.svd.se/kultur/understrecket/i-huvudet-pa-en-ukrainsk-nomad\\_295016.svd](http://www.svd.se/kultur/understrecket/i-huvudet-pa-en-ukrainsk-nomad_295016.svd)



readership is familiar with Swedish literature thanks to well-known Ukrainian translations from Scandinavian languages performed by Olga Senyuk, Nataliya Ivanychuk and Halyna Kyrpa. They are joined by a younger generation of translators, i.e. Lev Hrytsyuk, Yuliya Musakovska, Sofiya Kosarchyn, and Hanna Mamchur. Starting from 1998, a Center for Northern European Countries (founded by Nataliya Ivanychuk) has been functioning in Lviv National University; in particular, this Center popularizes Swedish literature in Ukraine.

## II. Review of book publishing and translation market in Sweden<sup>8</sup>

Swedish is among the first in the world by the number of books read per capita. Swedish actively buy books; 50 per cent of the population own more than 100 books.<sup>9</sup> Besides, a significant portion of the population actively borrows books from libraries; library system in Sweden is among the most developed and extensive in Europe. Reading preferences of the Swedes are rather stable, and interest in reading is maintained on a high level. According to 2012 statistics, during the last 24 years the number of constant readers claiming that they read or listen to books at least once a week, has grown from 28 to 39 per cent during the last year. As for the statistics of book reading as such: in 2012, 35 per cent of Swedes read a book every day (36 per cent in 2011, and 37 per cent in 2010). Out of those reading books every day, 38 per cent prefer fiction and 22 per cent read nonfiction.<sup>10</sup>

The newest information (as of November 2012) and statistics of book publishing and translation market is available from the report of Swedish Association of Publishers (*Svenska Förläggareföreningen*); since 1973, it has regularly reviewed publishing field. The data of book sales provided in this research have been received from statistics given by publishers – members of the Association, and it is about 70 per cent of the book publishing market (61 publishing houses).<sup>11</sup> The seventh section of this research, on intermediaries, will provide more detailed information on publishing houses actively working with translations.

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<sup>8</sup> Based on the report on book market of 2012 from Swedish Association of Publishers and Swedish Association of Book Distributors (Rapport från Svenska Förläggareföreningen och Svenska Bokhandlareföreningen) – <http://forlaggare.se/media/48882/bokmarknaden%202012%20web.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.scb.se/Pages/PublishingCalendarViewInfo\\_\\_\\_\\_259924.aspx?PublObjId=17399](http://www.scb.se/Pages/PublishingCalendarViewInfo____259924.aspx?PublObjId=17399)

<sup>11</sup> <http://forlaggare.se/om-svf/vara-medlemmar>



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The period of 1997-2007 was rather successful for book publishing sector in Sweden, as book price was lowered by 15 per cent due to decrease of VAT (*moms, mervärdesomsättningskatt*) by 19 per cent. Besides, the books were actively promoted. Sales grew by 45 per cent, average annual number of new published titles also increased, which in its turn motivated publishers and authors to work more actively. However, these positive trends were followed by a drop, as publishing houses felt the consequences of global financial crisis. The field's success dropped by 15 per cent in 2007-2009, and only in 2010 Swedish book publishers finally started overcoming the crisis.

Book sales in 2011 grew by 5 per cent in comparison with the sales of 2010. Purchasing books via Internet continues to grow (online orders increased by 14 per cent); however, buying through book clubs and book shops, which used to be the main sales channels, becomes less frequent. Sales through book clubs have been steadily decreasing starting from late 1990s; thus this type of sales now amounts to about 10 per cent. Sales through book shops also dropped, but more books are now bought in supermarkets. Copyright sales to foreign publishing houses have grown; for some publishing houses they have represented a significant share of their profits.

Fiction sales have grown, but the number of new titles has somewhat decreased. New books by Swedish authors maintain the general high level of sales. Seven out of ten literature books sold (not taking into account paperbacks) are books by Swedish authors. The volume of published translated literature continues to decrease. For example, in 2000 the share of translated literature amounted to 58 per cent in comparison with original Swedish books. Starting from that time, publication and sales of translations have been sharply dropping – in 2011, the share of translated literature amounted to 25 per cent.

The sales of literature for children and teenagers decreased; it is especially true for translated children's literature. Documentary nonfiction is the biggest category and has maintained a stable sales level during the recent years. Just as for fiction and children's literature, the decrease of share for translated literature is observed. Publication of electronic books has grown, unexpectedly, very little: from 469 new titles to 499. However, here we should note that their sales doubled between 2010 and 2011.



**Correlation of printed and sold publications in 2002-2011**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>Total number of new titles*</b>	4,010 -16%	4,074 -5.3%	4,301 -3.5%	4,459 -	4,708 5.3%	4,178 -	4,347 3.9%	4,219 3.0%	4,030 4.7%	3,476 15.9%
<b>Printed copies</b>	29,76 4 3.5%	30,85 7 5.0%	29,39 1 14.2%	34,27 1 14.0%	39,83 8 16.5%	34,19 2 -1.0	34,54 1 1.2%	,117 - 2.0%	34,79 6 19.5%	29,12 2 5.3%
<b>Printed copies per title (thousand)</b>	8.8 - 3.0%	9.1 17.7%	7.7 - 6.1%	8.2 - 7.6%	8.9 8.3%	8.2 3.0%	7.9 - 1.7%	8.1 - 6.3%	8.6 3.1%	8.4 0.1%
<b>Number of sold copies</b>	21,24 0 0.5%	21,34 7 5.5%	20,23 8 11.5%	22,87 8 17.6%	27,75 2 22.1%	22,73 0 3.9%	21,88 6 0.1%	21,91 5 1.4%	22,23 2 15.9%	19,18 4 7.6%
<b>Number of sold copies per title (thousand)</b>	5.3 1.1%	5.2 11.4%	4.7 - 8.3%	5.1 13.0%	5.9 8.4%	5.4 8.1%	5.0 - 3.1%	5.2 - 5.9%	5.5 0.0%	5.5 2.2%

**Total amount of published translated titles by genres in 2002-2011**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>Fiction</b>	198	205	256	306	367	334	338	326	328	298
<b>Scientific literature, nonfiction</b>	298	283	332	452	461	445	601	436	398	367
<b>Children's</b>	271	382	436	455	490	506	561	520	566	260

\* Includes printed books, audiobooks and electronic books with the new ISBN



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<b>literature</b>										
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Translations from English come first in the rating; still, during the recent years its amount has not grown but instead started diminishing. Instead, during the last ten years the number of translations from German, Spanish, French, and Russian has doubled.

### Original languages of translated books and number of translated titles

	EN	DE	FR	ES	RU	IT	NO	DK	FI	IS
<b>2011</b>	738	45	59	25	21	15	64	22	10	8
<b>2010</b>	743	27	67	16	21	17	60	30	11	8
<b>2009</b>	735	36	51	16	12	7	47	29	5	5
<b>2008</b>	891	21	52	20	18	17	66	22	9	11
<b>2007</b>	918	33	29	9	12	16	58	35	14	16
<b>2006</b>	825	18	54	17	17	12	36	23	9	11
<b>2005</b>	886	52	42	16	9	15	55	16	12	7
<b>2004</b>	851	23	42	11	14	9	78	23	12	13
<b>2003</b>	845	17	36	9	13	6	55	14	16	6
<b>2002</b>	818	21	35	13	11	11	46	18	10	4

### III. Translations from Ukrainian into Swedish language

#### III.1. General data and division by genres

During the last twenty years Sweden had only seven titles of Ukrainian literature published. Much more translations were published in periodicals, journals, newspapers and in the framework of bilateral cultural projects.





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The first translated title of Ukrainian literature in Sweden during the last 20 years was a collection of selected poems “Det okända Ukraina: ukrainska dikter / översatta av Sigvard Lindqvist” (“The Unknown Ukraine: Ukrainian Poems Translated by Sigvard Lindqvist”) published by WETTERN in 1995. It is the first anthology of Ukrainian poetry in Sweden; it includes twelve Ukrainian poets, i.e. Lesya Ukrainka, Vasyl Stus, Yuriy Andrukhovych, Vasyl Herasymyuk, Vasyl Holoborodko, Ihor Kalynets, Oksana Zabuzhko, Ihor Rymaruk, Rayisa Lysha, Oksana Pakhlyovska, Sofiya Maydanska, and Vasyl Slapchuk.

The next title was published only in five years; in 2000, the translation of “The Hireling” by Taras Shevchenko was published. In 2006, a translation of “Field Studies of Ukrainian Sex” by Oksana Zabuzhko was published. Three books by Andriy Kurkov were published in three consecutive years: “The Death of the Stranger” (2007), “The Law of the Snail” (2008), “The President’s Last Love” (2009). The last translated title in the chronology is “Anarchy in the UKR” by Sergiy Zhadan published in 2011.

### III.2. Publications by genres

Modern poetry:

Det okända Ukraina: ukrainska dikter. – översatt av Sigvard Lindqvist. Jönköping: Wettern, 1995.

Classical poetry – one publication:

Taras Grygorovyč Ševčenko, Tjänsteflickan. – översatt av Ludmila Beskorovajna, Ulf Pauli. Malmö: Samizdat, 2000.

Modern prose – five publications:

1. Oksana Zabuzhko, Fältstudier i ukrainskt sex. – översatt av Irina Voltjanskaja (lyrik av Mikael Nydahl). Norstedt, 2006.
2. Andrej Kurkov, Döden och pingvinen. – översatt av Ylva Mörk. Natur & Kultur, 2007.
3. Andrej Kurkov, Pingvin försvunnen. – översatt av Ylva Mörk. Natur & Kultur, 2008.
4. Andrej Kurkov, Presidentens sista kärlek. – översatt av Ylva Mörk. Natur & Kultur, 2009.
5. Serhij Zjadan, Anarchy in the UKR. – översatt av Nils Håkanson. 2244, 2011.



### III.3. Other publications

More opportunities to read Swedish translations of Ukrainian literature are offered by periodicals and online publications.

Poetry translations were published in “Ariel” literature journal, with Mikael Nydahl as the editor.

- 1999 – poetry by Oksana Zabuzhko translated by Susanna Witt (*Klytimestra, En föraning om inbördeskrig ur resedagboken 1990, Vilnius. Vintern före, Postskriptum. På väg hem, Ironisk nocturne, Vov!, Askungen*). [Ariel. 81(1999):4]
- 2000 – poetry translations of the following authors, also performed by Susanna Witt: Yuriy Andrukhovych (*Nya byggnadsregler, Kasernen, Järnvägsstationen, Universitetet, Gravkapellet, Biblioteket, Sjukhuset, Planetariet, Doktor Dutka*), Natalka Bilotserkivetsd (*Fisken, Där musslan som ett öra i sanden*), Yaroslav Dovgan (*Papperet har brunnit – men jag är vid liv, Du skall minnas träden*), Oleksandr Irvanets (*Älska!*), [Ariel. 82(2000):3]
- 2005 – poems by Yuriy Andrukhovych translated by Lev Hrytsyuk and Anett Nordlund (*Calling Dem, Nothing but Budapest*). [Ariel. 87(2005):6]
- In 2012, the 38<sup>th</sup> issue of Swedish journal “GRÄS” presented seven poems by Yuriy Andrukhovych from his collection “Songs for the Dead Rooster” (2004) with graphic illustrations by Olga Ivanechko-Hrytsyuk. Translations of poems into Swedish were performed by Lev Hrytsyuk and Annet Nordlund.<sup>12</sup> The editor of “GRÄS” literary journal is Kennet Klemets, a Swedish poet and translator.

An important informational resource for translations of Ukrainian literature into Swedish is the literary blog of Bodil Zalesky, which features general reviews of Ukrainian literature and materials on certain authors as well as translations of their works. In cooperation with translator from Scandinavian languages Lev Hrytsyuk (living in Lviv), several translations of Ukrainian literature into Swedish were performed (with the help of German and English pownies). Bodil Zalesky is one of the founders of Salongen literary blog where about 30 publications about Ukrainian literature can be found.<sup>13</sup> For example, translation of a poem by Vasyl Makhno (test

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<sup>12</sup> <http://levhrytsyuk.blogspot.com/2010/12/gras-nr-38-7-dikter-av-jurij.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://salongen.de/taxonomy/term/242>



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translation with the help of German and English pownies, in cooperation with Lev Hrytsyuk)<sup>14</sup>;  
translation of a poem by Yuriy Andrykhovych<sup>15</sup>, excerpts from essays of the same author.<sup>16</sup>

#### **IV. Translations of Ukrainian authors through other languages**

There are no professional translators working only from Ukrainian language. As a rule, translations from Ukrainian into Swedish language are performed by professionals knowing Russian language and interested in Ukrainian literature.

During the period after 1991 translations of Ukrainian literature, especially prose, were performed using Russian powny. Some poetry translations were made directly from Ukrainian, but in cooperation with translators from Ukraine.

“Field Studies of Ukrainian Sex” by Oksana Zabuzhko and “Anarchy in the UKR” by Sergiy Zhadan were translated from Russian pownies.

Among Ukrainian authors we should single out Andriy Kurkov who writes in Russian, which greatly increases his chances for translation and publication.

#### **V. Translations from Ukrainian – conditions of work and professional development**

In Sweden, work conditions of writers and translators are more or less the same, and contract terms and conditions are regulated by provisions of the main professional organizations for writers and literary translators, Swedish Writers Association<sup>17</sup> (*Sveriges Författarförbund*) and Swedish Publishers Association<sup>18</sup> (*Svenska Förläggareföreningen*). These two associations jointly developed standard contracts between the publisher and the author for copyright protection. According to the established standards, the remuneration for this right’s primary use for the time of writing amounts to at least SEK 1,900 (EUR 225) for a standard section of printed text (32,000 characters). For secondary use (all repeated editions and other use of translation by other subjects except publisher), an additional remuneration is established as per provisions noted

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<sup>14</sup> <http://bodilzalesky.com/blog/2012/04/06/en-dikt-av-vasyl-makhno/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://bodilzalesky.com/blog/2009/10/21/en-dikt-av-jurij-andruchovytyj-ett-tolkningsforsok/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://bodilzalesky.com/blog/2006/04/09/367/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.forfattarforbundet.se/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://forlaggare.se/>



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in the main contract. This contract stipulates that the translator transfers to the publisher only the rights to replicate his/her translation in printed form. All other rights belong to the translator. Publisher's rights are limited for a term of ten years.

An adequate pay for translator's work is provided thanks to grants, scholarships of Culture Council (*Kulturrådet*)<sup>19</sup> and Swedish Writers Foundation (*Sveriges författarfond*)<sup>20</sup>. The translations performed under Ukrainian-Swedish projects have been supported by Swedish Institute (*Svenska Institutet*). Unlike translators from other languages who can count for help of literature promotion funds from the country of origin, translators from Ukrainian do not have such possibility, as Ukraine still has not created either a program to support translations of Ukrainian literature into other languages or an institution presenting Ukrainian culture in the world and at the same time supporting translators of Ukrainian literature.

The opportunities for professional development of translators from Ukrainian language in Sweden also cannot be rated as satisfactory; there is a distinct lack of communication with other translators, Ukrainian authors, publishers and literary scholars. Gradually such contacts are being established; a key role in initiating Ukrainian-Swedish literary projects is played by literature events, book fairs, and festivals (literature festival in Gothenburg, literature festival in Umeo in the north of Sweden), as well as international book fairs in Leipzig and Frankfurt and other literary events of international standing.

## **VI. Intermediaries**

### Translators

The bibliography of Ukrainian literature compiled by Hans Akerstrom lists the names of 26 translators among which those who worked in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and Ukrainian translators working with Swedish language and becoming co-authors of Ukrainian literature translations (mostly poetry) into Swedish.

Presently translations of Ukrainian literature are provided by Per-Arne Boodin, Nils Håkanson, Susanna Witt, Ylva Mörk, Irina Voltjanskaja, and Mikael Nydahl.

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<sup>19</sup> Litteraturstöd - <http://www.kulturradet.se/sv/bidrag/litteratur/Litteraturstod/>

<sup>20</sup> [www.svff.se](http://www.svff.se)

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Susanna Witt is a Slavic languages scholar from Sweden; she studied linguistics and Slavic languages (Russian, Polish, Ukrainian) and is now a researcher in Suderturn University (Sweden) as well as in the Institute of Modern Languages of Uppsala University. In 2013, she received a scholarship of Elsa Swenson Fund (*Elsa Swensons stiftelse*) functioning under the aegis of Umeo library. Susanna Witt translated poems by Halyna Kruk, Sergiy Zhadan, and Yuriy Andrukhovych; her work as a translator, researcher and teacher promoted the spread of knowledge about Ukrainian literature and culture in Sweden.<sup>21</sup>

Nils Håkanson translates from Russian, German and Belarusian languages. The translation of a book by Sergiy Zhadan was offered by “2244” publishing house. However, as the translator himself confesses, searching for publishers is mostly his responsibility.

It is necessary to separately note those joining the process of Ukrainian literature translations (mostly it concerns poetry) – they are Lev Hrytsyuk and Annett Nordlund, as well as Lina Ekdahl, a poet and a playwright who participated in “SWDKE” project (2007) and the Third International Literature Festival in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> Publishers Forum in Lviv (2008).

### Publishing houses

In her analytical review of translations of Georgian literature into Swedish language, Natia Lortkipanidz lists 15 Swedish publishing houses by their influence on the market and focus on publishing translated literature.<sup>22</sup> Out of those, we should mention the following:

- Salomonsson Agency – a publishing house and a literary agency presenting Scandinavian authors on the global market.
- Leopard Förlag, which publishes Swedish and translated literature with a separate focus on historical literature and nonfiction from the “third world” countries.
- Rabén & Sjögren – specializing in fiction and children’s literature by Swedish and foreign authors.
- Libris Förlag publishes books on theology and religion, fiction and scientific literature, as well as textbooks.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.mynewsdesk.com/se/pressroom/umea/pressrelease/view/susanna-witt-faar-2013-aars-elsa-swenson-stipendium-827331>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.bookplatform.org/en/activities/358-georgian-to-swedish-translations-study.html>



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- Albert Bonniers Förlag AB publishes modern fiction, classical works and poetry by Swedish and foreign authors, memoirs and biographies.
- Norstedts Agency publishes fiction and scientific literature, memoirs, biographies, books on political and social sciences, illustration books, fiction for children and teenagers.
- Tranan specializes in translations of fiction from the countries of Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.
- “2244” publishing house deserves special attention, as it declared its own interest in the literature of the Black Sea region countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey).<sup>23</sup> The publishing house was founded in autumn 2010 and declared its plans to publish eight to ten titles annually, including works of both young writers and poets and modern classic authors. “2244” is a part of Bonnierförlagen, a leading publishing house in Sweden, which publishes 200 titles annually – Swedish and translated fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and works of Nobel Prize winners of the recent years.<sup>24</sup>

## Libraries

Sweden has almost three hundred of main libraries. The Royal Library of Sweden (*Kungliga biblioteket*) is the biggest scientific library in the country. The library has collected all publications issued in Sweden as well as foreign publications on Sweden and Swedish authors published in translations. All data on publications starting from 1661 are systematically maintained in IBRIS (Library Information Systems) catalogue.<sup>25</sup>

Starting from 1997, the library has archived the most important Swedish Internet resources; starting from 2004, this electronic archive has been available for free online access. In 2009, the merging of national library with Swedish state archive of photo and video materials took place. The library is a member of CERL (*Consortium of European Research Libraries*) comprising sixty biggest European libraries.

The Royal Library fund contains over 20,000,000 units: books, manuscripts, newspapers, posters, etc. The audiovisual fund possesses seven million hours of recorded material. The Royal Library

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.2244.se/om.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.bonnierforlagen.se/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://libris.kb.se/>



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replenishes its funds with the literature on Sweden written in other languages as well as with foreign publications of Swedish publishers.

According to current Swedish legislation on sending obligatory copies of printed materials, those shall be sent to the Royal Library as well as to six more university libraries in Lund, Stockholm, Uppsala, Linsoping, Gothenburg, and Umeo. The law on obligatory copy of digital materials (music, films, radio and TV products) entered into force on July 1, 2012.

### Support programs

A major portion of cultural projects is implemented thanks to the support of Swedish Institute (*Svenska institutet, SI*), a state organization spreading information about Sweden, coordinating international cooperation in the field of culture, education, and science. The main direction of Swedish Institute activities is providing information about Sweden; to fulfill this objective, the Institute actively publishes and distributes informational materials in different languages. Many published materials are also accessible in the electronic form on the official web portal of Sweden, [www.sweden.se](http://www.sweden.se).

Swedish Institute reports to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, cooperates with Swedish embassies and consulates in different countries and has a special budget for maintaining permanent activities on international development, in particular in Central and Eastern European countries. Swedish Institute participates in organizing cultural exchanges between Sweden and other countries, invites foreign cultural professionals to the events held in Sweden and provides for participation of Swedish representatives in international cultural events. Swedish Institute also promotes teaching Swedish language and literature abroad providing support to colleges and universities in many countries of the world.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Культурна політика: міжнародний досвід, теорія і практика. Інформаційно-аналітичний вісник Діалог. Випуск 6. Шведська модель культурного добробуту. Київ, червень-серпень 2006

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Translations from Ukrainian into Swedish language

The Culture Council (*Kulturrådet*) provides support in the implementation of projects; as for translations, only translations of Swedish literature into other languages are included in the scope of its activities.<sup>27</sup>

### Book fairs, literature festivals, projects

To popularize Ukrainian literature in Sweden, it is important for Ukrainian writers to participate in various cultural events, festivals, and open readings. First of all we should mention annual international book fair in Gothenburg (*Bokmässan i Göteborg*) held since 1985, which is the biggest literary event in Scandinavian countries and the second biggest in Europe after Frankfurt book fair.<sup>28</sup> Ukraine participated in Gothenburg fair for the first time in 2005, when this city was visited by Yuriy Andrukhovych, Irena Karpa, Maryna Kursanova, translator Lev Hrytsyuk and publisher Oleksandr Krasovytsky (Folio publishing house in Kharkiv). Thanks to the support of Swedish Institute and a photojournalist Maria Sederberg, a Ukrainian-Belarusian-Romanian stand was organized at the fair.

Umeo literature festival is the biggest literature festival in northern Scandinavia, which hosts presentations, discussions, exhibitions, and workshops with the participation of authors, literary critics, publishers, researchers, and readers.<sup>29</sup> During the festival in 2012, there was a presentation of Ukrainian poetry translated into Swedish by Lev Hrytsyuk and edited by Swedish poets Lina Ekdahl and Linn Hansen.

In 2007, SWIKE project was successfully implemented; as a part of it, poems by Halyna Kruk and Sergiy Zhadan were translated by Susanna Witt. During SWIKE, Lina Ekdahl's poetry was presented by the author herself; she also visited the literature festival in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> Publishers Forum in Lviv in 2008 with a project "Ukrainian-Swedish Poetry Accompanied by Accordion".

## **VII. Reaction to translations**

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.kulturradet.se/sv/bidrag/litteratur/Litteraturstod/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.bokmassan.se/en/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://littfest.se/>





In his article “Ex oriente lux”, Bodil Zalesky notes that even in conditions when translation in Swedish book publishing is first of all focused on Anglo-Saxon literature, publishing houses are gradually becoming interested in Slavic authors.<sup>30</sup> When the translation of “Field Studies of Ukrainian Sex” by Oksana Zabuzhko was published, the media were most active about it. The publications featured reviews and interviews; various pieces of feedback were posted in literature blogs and published in periodicals, in particular in Dagens Bok<sup>31</sup> journal. There was also an article under the title “Hennes bok delade Ukraina” in Svenska Dagbladet newspaper in 2006.<sup>32</sup>

The reviews on the translation of Sergiy Zhadan’s “Anarchy In The UKR” were published in Tidningenkulturen – “En resa genom Ukraina på språkets rälsskarvar”<sup>33</sup>, Svenska Dagbladet – “Rebelljargong som håller”<sup>34</sup>, Expressen – “Serhij Zjadan: Anarchy in the UKR”<sup>35</sup>.

A general article on creative works of Yuriy Andrukhovych was published in Svenska Dagbladet under the title “I huvudet på en ukrainsk nomad”.<sup>36</sup>

Despite the warm welcome of translations of the several Ukrainian literature works mentioned, there are very few translations from Ukrainian, so it is hard to speak about trends in reception of Ukrainian literature in Sweden. For example, only three reviews of Ukrainian literature can be found in Svenska Dagbladet newspaper.<sup>37</sup>

## VIII. Final provisions and recommendations

Translations of Ukrainian literature in Sweden are lacking. The reason for that is first of all insufficient promotion of Ukrainian literature abroad and the absence of professional translators from Ukrainian language with due theoretical and practical training.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://bodilzalesky.com/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://dagensbok.com/2006/07/06/oksana-zabuzhko-faltstudier-i-ukrainskt-sex/>

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.svd.se/kultur/hennes-bok-delade-ukraina\\_319870.svd](http://www.svd.se/kultur/hennes-bok-delade-ukraina_319870.svd)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.tidningenkulturen.se/artiklar/litteratur/litteraturkritik/10377-litteratur-serhij-zjadan-anarchy-in-the-ukr;>

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.svd.se/kultur/litteratur/rebelljargong-som-haller\\_6619376.svd;](http://www.svd.se/kultur/litteratur/rebelljargong-som-haller_6619376.svd;)

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.expressen.se/kultur/serhij-zjadan-anarchy-in-the-ukr/;](http://www.expressen.se/kultur/serhij-zjadan-anarchy-in-the-ukr/)

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.svd.se/kultur/understrecket/i-huvudet-pa-en-ukrainsk-nomad\\_295016.svd;](http://www.svd.se/kultur/understrecket/i-huvudet-pa-en-ukrainsk-nomad_295016.svd;)

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.svd.se/search.do?q=ukrainsk%20litteratur>



## Translations from Ukrainian into Swedish language

Ukrainian literature is only being discovered in Sweden; information is spread through initiatives and contacts of certain persons or organizations. Another negative factor is the absence of presentation materials and catalogues of Ukrainian publishing houses. There are also few translations of Ukrainian literature into other foreign languages, as translations of Ukrainian literature have more opportunities for developing, if translations of Ukrainian authors into other widespread languages – i.e., English, German, and French – are available. It is also possible to use electronic publications and journals for distributing information about Ukrainian culture and literature; we should just be more active about it.

It would also be desirable to pursue and initiate new cultural, literary and joint publishing projects, to publish awareness-raising anthologies, which would favor contacts among authors, translators and publishers as well as interest of European book publishers in procuring translations from Ukrainian.

More opportunities for studying Ukrainian language should appear. They are, for example, resuming Ukrainian language program in Uppsala University, establishing a training and internship program for young translators from Ukrainian language, international translator exchanges supported by scholarships, international conferences dedicated to the issues of literary translation. Swedish translators would be interested in visiting Ukraine for participation in language courses and translation scholarship programs. There exists a practice of inviting foreign translators to important literary events; it encourages the formation of a group of interested professionals who would then promote Ukrainian literature.

The establishment of cooperation in culture and literature field with the help of Swedish Institute and Ukrainian institutions representatives can extend participation of various stakeholders (writers, translators and publishers) in literary events of Sweden and Ukraine. To publish translations of Ukrainian literature and fulfill translation projects, state support in the form of grants for translations from Ukrainian is needed (the mechanism would be similar to the one used by Swedish Culture Council). It would also be a good idea to create an institution such as Polish Institute, Swedish Institute or Goethe-Institut to promote and present Ukrainian culture in the world.

