

## Foreword

The *Nordic Historical Review/Revue d'histoire nordique* is dedicated to supporting young researchers working in close and intersecting fields of study, especially when these young people take the initiative to organize high-quality scientific meetings that bring together experienced researchers and promising beginners.

This is the case with the current issue No. 28, in which we publish proceedings of a one-day workshop devoted to the circulation of knowledge around the Baltic from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century. The event was organized and articulated around the rich theme of the education, pedagogy and training. The eight contributions here provide much material for reflection on various aspects of this fascinating question. This collection shows that, while significant external cultural influences in art, education and science were present in the Baltic area from the medieval period onwards, these were not borrowed wholesale but rather were adapted in original ways by local populations, with internal factors playing a role in each case. It is thus demonstrated, once again, that cultural transfers are not merely transpositions, but necessarily involve a certain amount of hybridization. The cases evoked here offer a diverse enough range to present quite a wide range of interpretations around this theme. They include: educational models that were in vogue in Scandinavia in the 19th century, the training of future sovereigns such as Queen Christina and Oscar I Bernadotte, the influence of certain French artists in Saint Petersburg, the development of aviation in the Baltic area of the Russian Empire at the very beginning of the 20th century, and the comical repercussions of Maupertuis's journey to Lapland and the complex process of the Christianization of Denmark in the medieval period. Far from being an exhaustive inventory, these intelligently selected examples offer salient points of reference to delineate coherent and recurring strands that the conference organizers have grouped into four themes, which they also present in the introduction.

The *Varia* section in this issue deals with two rather different and relatively original subjects. First, Marianna Wahlstén traces the development of Helsinki Airport from its modest beginnings before becoming one of the most important

major airports in Europe in recent decades, due in large part to its role in trade between the Far East and Western countries.

Next, Mr. Erik R. Selmer presents one of the most notable episodes in the life of a well-regarded Norwegian musician who was sentenced to death in Paris for his links with the Paris Commune, but managed to escape from the firing squad and to return to his home country, following many adventures along the way.

The “Sources” section presents an article by Maurice Carrez devoted to the standard forms used by the Civil (White) Guard local divisions and the investigators mandated by the special courts in their investigations and interrogations of tens of thousands of Red Guard prisoners. He explains the primary motivating forces behind them and shows that these were essentially political pretexts that had little to do with the law, contrary to what they claimed.

Finally, the issue includes Lucie Malbos’s review of Cat Jarman’s book, *River Kings: A New History of Vikings from Scandinavia to the Silk Road*, and a presentation of Stephen Lewis’s PhD thesis on the great trade practiced by the Vikings in their most active period. Entitled *Vikings in Aquitaine and their connections, ninth to early eleventh centuries*, and based on a close analysis of the various Viking expeditions in southwestern France over two centuries, this work convincingly demonstrates that the recurrent documented appearances of Northmen in the region were all related to external events. In fact, according to this analysis, the raids and pillaging perpetrated by the invaders allowed the expedition leaders to reward their subordinates and to compete for the positions of their rivals in their home areas.

The editorial staff is pleased to have been able to complete the preparation of this new issue and we hope that it will be well received by our readers.

The Editors