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By Northern Lights

On the Making of Geography in Sweden

Anne Buttimer, University College Dublin, Ireland and Tom Mels, University of Kalmar, Sweden

Swedish society has recurrently shown a keen geographical sense, meticulously documenting all matters relating to environments, resources and human activities through space and time from the sixteenth century on. Throughout the 20th century in particular, Sweden won international acclaim for its groundbreaking geographic work on spatial planning, climate change, time-space modelling and landscape history by the likes of Ahlmann, De Geer, Enequist, Hägerstrand, Kant, Olsson and William-Olsson. More recently, with the rising tide of post modernity and multiple processes of globalization, there has been a good deal of debate about novel lines of enquiry into nature and culture, issues of gender, identity and diversity, justice and environmental concern; all of these have sparked a renewed interest in the history and philosophy of the field.

Following on from Anne Buttimer's renowned *Geography and the Human Spirit*, this book not only offers the first book length contextual account of the development of geographic thought in Sweden, but also provides a narrative thread which traces continuity and change in both cognitive styles and professional practices of geography in general.

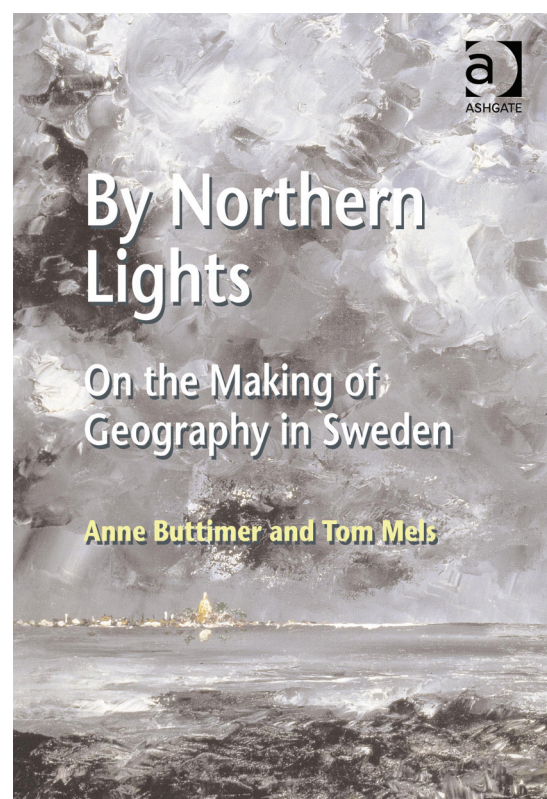
Contents: Science, Society and Geography in Sweden (16th to 20th Centuries): Introduction; From Vasa Empire to patriot nation; Modernity and model welfare state; *Saecuritas I*: welfare for all (1920s–World War II); *Saecuritas II*: toward a new Swedish geography (late 1940s to mid-1970s); *Chiasmus* (mid-1970s–2000). On the Disciplining of Geography in Sweden: Introduction; An interview with Torsten Hägerstrand; Meaning, metaphor, milieu and horizon: reflections on career experiences; Apprenticing for Geography in Twentieth Century Sweden: 1890–2000; Geography as social science: Concluding reflections; Bibliography; Appendix A: doctoral dissertations in Swedish geography 1880–2000; Index.

'For the last half century, Sweden has been a global epicentre for stirring up innovation waves in human geography. For any one who wants to understand the deep roots of the 'Swedish phenomenon', this thoughtful book by Buttimer and Mels – with unique contributions by the late Torsten Hägerstrand – is a must.'

Peter Haggett, University of Bristol, UK

'Rooted in the meeting and blending of two of the most brilliant and influential minds in geography of the last half century, this opus is nothing less than a path-breaking post-disciplinary history of a discipline – a masterpiece in the contextual analysis of the geohistory of thought. It links the making of geography as discipline to the making of geographies in the real world, packed with matter and meaning, the places in which we make our lives. Fascinating, refreshing, in places exciting, this book deserves a much wider audience than geographers and historians of science. The challenging vista it opens up to paths ahead should interest everyone concerned about the role of science in navigating our common future.'

Professor Eric Clark, Lund University, Sweden



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Anne Buttimer and Tom Mels

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