Sweden in the Eighteenth-Century World: Provincial Cosmopolitans


Book Description

Eighteenth-century Sweden was deeply involved in the process of globalisation: ships leaving Sweden's central ports exported bar iron that would drive the Industrial Revolution, whilst arriving ships would bring not only exotic goods and commodities to Swedish consumers, but also new ideas and cultural practices with them. At the same time, Sweden was an agricultural country to a large extent governed by self-subsistence, and - for most - wealth was created within this structure. This volume brings together a group of scholars from a range of disciplinary backgrounds who seek to present a more nuanced and elaborated picture of the Swedish cosmopolitan eighteenth century. Together they paint a picture of Sweden that is more like the one eighteenth-century intellectuals imagined, and help to situate Sweden in histories of cosmopolitanism of the wider world.
Contents:

Provincial cosmopolitanism: an introduction, Göran Rydén;

Where in the world was Sweden? A brief guide for foreigners, Chris Evans.


Cultivation: Swedish agriculture in the cosmopolitan 18th century, Mats Morell.

Taste: Travelling and the formation of taste: the European journey of Bengt Ferrner and Jean Lefebure, 1758-1763, Lars Berglund.

Liberty: Eskiltuna Fristad: the beginnings of an urban experiment, Göran Rydén.


Faith: In defence of freedom: Christianity and the pursuit of human happiness in Anders Chydenius’ world, Carola Nordbäck.

Peace: Sweden’s neutrality and the 18th-century inter-state system, Leos Müller.


Slavery: A divided space: subjects and others in the Swedish West Indies during the late 18th century, Holger Weiss.

Compassion: A world of fiction: Bengt Lidner and global compassion in 18th-century Sweden, Anna Cullhed;

Sveaborg and the end of the Swedish cosmopolitan 18th century: an epilogue, Göran Rydén and Holger Weiss;

Select bibliography;

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