

Lisichnikova Maria

Report on

Sverker Åström Foundation Scholarship

First of all I would like to mention the inimitable handwriting of Sverker Åström Foundation as well as to express my deep appreciation for its unique approach to each Fellow and its ability to provide excellent internship opportunity in Sweden. Special thanks I would like to express to Disa, who made my stay a really memorable one. I admire her ability to find solutions to any problems and a genuine interest to researchers. Due to Disa and Foundation board members inspiration I were able to get acquainted with the country traditions as well as to plunge into the atmosphere of Swedish cultural life. !

My sincere thanks to Olga Kuvaldina who accompanied me to the Stockholm Opera for “Un ballo in maschera” and a number of Stockholm music events. Together with Disa we visited also numerous exhibitions at Liljevalchs, Bonnier Konsthall, Fotografiska, The Modern Art museum, Millesgården. Very important were my visits to Haga, Ulriksdal, Tyresö residencies, which beautiful surroundings inspired Swedish painters so much.



Haga Park

My research purpose was to outline tendencies of Swedish art development and Russian-Swedish artistic links in 19th-early 20th centuries. During my stay, I studied invaluable materials of the Royal Library, The Swedish National Heritage Board and Library of the Academy of Fine Art.

I was lucky enough to study the collections of The Academy of Fine Art, Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde, The Thiel Gallery, Millesgården, Anders Zorn Museum in Mora, Carl Larsson Museum, The Rackstad Museum, The Västerås museum. I should admit that everywhere I met a very warm welcome of the people who were glad to share unique information and provided me any assistance in my researches.

Thanks to the kind invitation of well-known critic and translator Johan Öberg and Göteborg museum Director Isabella Nilson, I had a wonderful opportunity to explore the storage of Göteborgs museum as well as to visit Nordiska akvarellmuseet Skärhamn, The Varberg colony museum and Tjörn. Contacts with Hans Henrik Brummer, Tomas Björk, Torsten Gunnarsson, Olle Granath - leading art historians of Sweden allowed me to appeal to little known sources and facilitated my work in museums, archives and libraries.

My visit to the Rackstad Colony Museum, organized with the incredible help of Barbro Järliden - culture supervisor from Värmlands museum, was particularly important and interesting. The study of the museum's collection has allowed to expand my view of Swedish painters' associations at the turn of 19th -20th centuries as well as of their creative methods and principles. It was one of the reasons for the growing interest in Scandinavian countries art in Russia in the late 19th century.



Rackstad Museum
Oppstuhage

Although contacts between Russia and Sweden had been developing rapidly since the middle of the 18th century. It was influence by the invitation of A. Roslin and V. Eriksen to St. Petersburg to create portraits of nobility. Further on this contacts is extended within the Dusseldorf school, bringing together artists from all over the world. Scandinavian painters exhibitions acquired special significance in the late 19th century.

Russian painting development of the second half of the 19th century was closely connected with the processes common to European countries. Their contacts often became the impulse for new plastic ideas. V. Serov who visited the World Exhibition in Antwerp of 1885 particularly pointed out the work of Swedish artists.

M.V. Yakunchikova underlines «franchise d'exécution» of Anders Zorn. The enthusiastic review of I. Grabar of 1896, published in the "Niva" journal after visiting Berlin exhibition, tells us eloquently on the assessment of Northern Europe artists' creativity. A natural extension of overall passion about Northern art was a so called "Nordic Exhibition" in Saint-Petersburg Imperial Society for the Encouragement of Arts. Famous Swedish, Norwegian and Danish painters took part in the exhibition, namely: A.Zorn, B. Liljefors, E. Jansson, K. Nordström, K. Larsson, E. Josephsson, Prins Eugen and others.



Mora.
Anders Zorn Museum



Mora. Anders Zorn Museum

Anders Zorn was undoubtedly a remarkable master with great influence on Russian artists as echoes of his work can be seen in the paintings of V. Serov, K. Korovin, B. Kustodiev, A. Arkhipov and F. Malyavin.

At the beginning of the 20th century this tradition of cultural cooperation between two countries had been broken and in Russia the work of many Swedes still remains in the shadows. However, the growing interest in the Scandinavian culture allows us to consider our research as both timely and necessary. Publications and lectures on the artistic heritage of Sweden allow to complement and enrich the understanding of the Scandinavian culture and artists who have had such a marked influence on the development of Russian art.



Karl Nordström.
Kyrkesund, 1911