

"I skuggan af Din Graf, jag på min Lyra slår"
Carl Michael Bellmans dikter över döda i relation till dikttypens svenska
tradition och funktion i nyhetspressen under senare delen av 1700-talet.

"In the Shadow of Your Grave, I strike my Lyre". Carl Michael Bellman's poems over the deceased, related to the genre's Swedish tradition and its function in the newspapers in the late 18th century.

Akademisk avhandling som för avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen vid humanistiska fakulteten vid Göteborgs universitet offentlig kommer att försvaras i Lilla hörsalen, Humanisten, lördagen den 18 december 2004, kl. 10.15 av

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Abstract

This dissertation focuses on poems over the deceased written by Carl Michael Bellman (1740-1795). In the first chapter Bellman's separately printed poems and unprinted manuscripts from the 1760's and 1770's are compared to the Swedish tradition for this type of poem. This study shows how the content of the poems change when occasional poetry spread to wider social circles and when the focus shifts from the representative to the personal during the 18th century, and it shows how Bellman as a young and ambitious writer handled these changes. The second chapter studies Bellman's newspaper published poems over the deceased during the 1770's. In this decade there was a considerable increase in the number of newspapers being printed in Sweden, and subsequently these newspapers welcomed occasional poetry to fill the pages. Bellman's poems are compared to a selection of poems over the deceased from the Gothenburg and Stockholm press. It is also illustrates how Bellman used occasional poetry to promote himself as one of the nation's leading occasional poets. The third chapter focuses on critique of occasional poetry and poets as presented in *Stockholms Posten*, primarily by Johan Henric Kellgren. Attention is given to the ways in which this critique was new and to whom it was aimed. It is also argued that, together with political changes, this critique was one of the major reasons behind the rapid decline of occasional poetry, newspaper published as well as separately printed. The fourth chapter introduces a selection of poems over the deceased in the Gothenburg and Stockholm press from the 1780's and 1790's. These are compared to the selection from the 1770's, and the changes in the social status and gender of the persons celebrated, the content of the poems as well as how the poets tried to avoid criticism is discussed. The fifth chapter focuses on Bellman's poems over the deceased from the 1780's and 1790's. The composition of the poems, as well as the presentation and claim of the poetical I, shows that Bellman, as opposed to other poets, was aware of and asserted his position as a poet and the poetical status of his poems over the deceased.

Key words: Carl Michael Bellman, occasional poetry, Swedish literature in the 18th century, press history, classical rhetoric, literary critique

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Göteborgs Universitet
SE-405 30 Göteborg

Proprius förlag
Floragatan 20
114 30 Stockholm

Stockholm 2004
ISBN 91 7118 921-1
337 pp.

language: Swedish,
summary in English