



Seminar

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*Can You Trust a Text You Read/Interpret?  
Case in Point: Strindberg's Inferno and  
Legender in Samlade Skrifter and  
Samlade Verk, a Text Critical Comparison*

Tuesday, 3 February, 11:15 a.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall  
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala  
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## ABOUT ANN-CHARLOTTE (LOTTA) GAVEL ADAMS

Ann-Charlotte Gavel Adams is Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, where she teaches graduate seminars on topics such as “Whiteness, Class and Privilege in Nordic Drama and Film,” and undergraduate courses on August Strindberg and European Cultural History, Scandinavian Women Writers, and Scandinavian Children’s Literature. She also holds the Barbro Osher Endowed Chair of Swedish Studies at the University of Washington.

After doctoral studies in Comparative Literature at Stockholm University, Gavel Adams moved to Seattle, where she received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1990 with a dissertation entitled “The Generic Ambiguity of August Strindberg’s *Inferno*: Occult Novel and Autobiography.” Among her major publications are the bilingual (French and Swedish) editions of *Inferno* (volume 37) and *Legender* (volume 38) in the National Edition of August Strindberg’s Collected Works. She has also compiled, edited, and introduced two major volumes on *Twentieth-Century Swedish Writers, Before World War II* (2002) and *After World War II* (2002) in the series *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. In addition, she has published more than twenty scholarly articles on works by August Strindberg, Verner von Heidenstam, Fredrika Bremer, and Astrid Lindgren.

Gavel Adams is the co-founder and past president of ASTRA, the Association of Swedish Teachers and Researchers in America, and she has served on the Executive Committees of SASS, the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and of ISA, the Ibsen Society of America.

During her year at SCAS, Gavel Adams will work on examining and evaluating the general principles for recent textual editions of literary works, and in particular focus on the lessons learned from the publication of the National Edition of August Strindberg’s Collected Works. In this endeavor, she will be joined by Gunnel Engwall and Elena Balzamo.

## ABSTRACT

The focus question for my seminar is “Can you trust a text you read? Case in point: Strindberg’s *Inferno* and *Legender* in *Samlade Skrifter* (Collected Writings) 1914 and *Samlade Verk* (Collected Works) 1994 and 2001.” John Landquist’s edition of *Inferno* and *Legender*, combined in one volume in *Samlade Skrifter* in 1914, was for eighty years considered the “definitive edition” of these works, “definitive” in the sense of the latest and most authoritative edition. It was translated, interpreted and read by scholars, translators, students and a general readership. Landquist did not have access to Strindberg’s original manuscripts to *Inferno* and *Legender* when he edited the two works in 1914. These manuscripts are now available to scholars, *Inferno* at Göteborgs universitetsbibliotek, and *Legender* at Kungl. Biblioteket. Additional research has discovered that Landquist texts in *Samlade Skrifter* contain numerous corruptions. It was clearly time for new authoritative editions. *Inferno* and *Legender* with the fragment *Jakob brottas* are published in two separate volumes in *Samlade Verk*, volume 37 and 38.

My project at SCAS and the focus for my seminar presentation is an examination and documentation of the text-critical apparatus to the new bi-lingual editions *Inferno* and *Legender* in the National Edition of Strindberg’s Collected Works, two works that are central to Strindberg’s authorship as they constitute an artistic and thematic reorientation in his literary production. The textual and critical documentation my work with *Inferno* and *Legender* will be published online at [www.litteraturbanken.se](http://www.litteraturbanken.se).

My project is part of a collaborative examination and evaluation of the general principles behind the National Edition of Strindberg’s Collected Works, with Gunnel Engwall, Stockholm University, and Elena Balzamo, Paris.