

Obituary for Tore Nyberg

Professor Tore Samuel Nyberg, a Grand Seigneur of the Societas Birgitta-Europa SBE, our dear friend, died on 14th of March 2018. Our sympathy goes to his dear wife Betty Pamuntjak.

Based on my memories of conversations with Tore and the rudimentary information of an urgent research, I would like to pay tribute to him and his work as well as I can.

Tore was born on the 4th of January 1931 in Uppsala / Sweden. His father, Henrik Samuel Nyberg (1889-1974), was a Swedish orientalist from Söderbärke in the northern Swedish province of Dalarna. His mother, Fanny Helena Maria Nyberg (née Hasselberg, 1894-1947) came from Myssjö in the province of Västernorrland, which is further north of the country. Tore had two sisters, Sigrid Kahle, a journalist and author, and Ingegerd Fries, a teacher, writer, and priestess.

Tore was Swede, although he spent a long time of his life in Germany, Thailand, Italy and Denmark during his scientific development phase. As a professor, he was invited as guest lecturer in Poland, Italy, Germany, England and, apart from Denmark, also in the other countries of Scandinavia. The longest time he lived in Odense on the Danish island of Funen, which is why many of his contemporaries thought he was Danish.

His friends knew him as a deeply religious person. He studied history and theology in Uppsala, Lund, Rome, Munich and Augsburg. In Munich he was from 1967 to 1969 as a scholarship holder of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Ludwig Maximilians University LMU. Here Tore met his wife Nurbaiti Pamuntjak, who is known to us all mostly as Betty, as he lovingly called his wife. They married on 16.09.1968.

As a university teacher, he worked at the South Danish University SDU in Odense. As we learn from the obituary of SDU¹, Tore developed largely autodidactically historian. In Lund he received his doctorate in 1965 with the dissertation "**Birgittinian monastic foundations of the Middle Ages**"² to a Dr. phil. in history. With this work he has created the base for the scientific research of the "family tree" of the Birgittine Order and its late medieval monastic foundations. Under his patriarchal work, the cooperation of his colleague Ulla Sander-Olsen, his friend Dr. Ulrich Montag, the initiator Per Sloth Carlsen, another 23 authors, the commercial processing by the Foundation "300 years of Birgitta in Uden" and the Societas Birgitta-Europe SBE as publisher, the whole work could be bibliographically completed as "Birgitta Atlas" in 2013.

With the theme "**The Church in Scandinavia - Central Europe and English. Influence. in the 11th and 12th centuries, beginnings of the cathedral chapter gates**"³ at the University of Augsburg in 1981 as professor of history.

The SDU in Odense was the center of his work. He became head of the Institute's History in 1970 and became a caring professor from medieval history lecturer.

¹ https://www.sdu.dk/da/om_sdu/fakulteterne/humaniora/nyt_hum/mindeord_tore_nyberg

² Tore Nyberg: Birgittinische Klostergründungen des Mittelalters, Lund, Gleerup, 1965, X, 265 S.

³ Die Kirche in Skandinavien: mitteleurop. u. engl. Einfluss im 11. u. 12. Jh.; Anfänge d. Domkapitel Borglum u. Odense in Dänemark. - Sigmaringen: Thorbecke, 1986. - 197 S. - Zugl.: Augsburg, Univ., Habil.-Schr., 1981. - (Beiträge zur Geschichte und Quellenkunde des Mittelalters; 10)

In 2003, the jubilee year "700 years of holy Birgitta of Sweden," his college career took him back to the University of Uppsala for a short time for in-depth research. Her theological faculty honored his lifelong commitment with the award of an honorary doctorate.

Tore was in 2000 in Vadstena founding member of our association, Societas Birgitta-Europa SBE. In the conceptual preparation of the club foundation, he played a major role. When I failed in 2005 in Naantali / Finland with my proposals to change the statutes of the SBE, I learned afterwards who had the reins of the SBE in their hands. At his points of view much was moored.

In the SBE Tore was represented as a delegate of the "Ordine Militare del Santissimo Salvatore e di Santa Brigida di Svezia", an elite Italian knightly order based in Naples, founded in 1366 by the saint himself⁴. For this medal, Tore published the official organ "BIRGITTANA", a booklet that has been published twice a year since 1996 and has a volume of about 100 to 150 pages.

Certainly Tore Nyberg was also a member of the Societas Sanctæ Birgittæ, an ecclesiastical society founded in 1920 in Uppsala for the in-depth worship of Saint Birgitta.

Tore was a member of the Royal Danish Society for the History of the Nation, a member and board member of the International Commission for Comparative Historical Research, and a member of the Danish City History Committee.

In 1997 he received the Birgitta Prize from the Birgitta Foundation in Vadstena.

The funeral service for gates took place on 23.03.2018 in the catholic St. Albani church in Odense. His final resting place will find gates in Uppsala.

Gates leaves us with a footprint that commands us to persevere - a pilgrimage from the depths of history through time to a better future. Let's keep our grateful grateful memories!

⁴ Look at the documents of the Page: <http://www.ordinemilitaresantabrigida.com/>