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Genealogical Societies in Sweden Today

Erik Thorell*

During the last ten years a large number of genealogical societies have been organized in Sweden. A few of these are national in scope, in that they contain members from the entire country. The majority are regional or local and have their activities mostly confined to a certain area or even a certain community. Occasionally, however, when someone moves to Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, or to another corner of the country, he or she may continue the membership in the society of the home locality.

Totally Sweden today has approximately 75 genealogical societies with an aggregate membership of more than 12,000 members, of which ca. 5,000 belong to the largest, The Genealogical Society of Sweden (*Genealogiska Föreningen*).

For individuals searching for ancestors and kinfolk in Sweden, it has often proved valuable to have contacts with the society in the area where the family has resided or still resides. Below I have listed the addresses of the majority of these societies in Sweden. I must, however, point out that there are constant changes in the structure of these societies and some addresses may not be current when this article is printed. Letters are usually forwarded, even though a particular society has replaced its secretary with a new incumbent and a different address.

Earlier Articles in *SAG*

In an article in *SAG*, Vol. III, No. 3 (Sept. 1983) Håkan Skogsjö has related how Swedish genealogical societies have developed during the last one hundred years. He has also alluded to the situation as it pertains to the current situation. His article constitutes a good introduction to what I am about to say.

The person researching his family in Sweden must be conversant with the source materials, where they may be found and the methodology to be pursued. There are several good books available in Swedish on this subject and a couple of titles in English. An excellent guide in the English language, which also surveys the situation, is Nils Hård af Segerstad's article, which appeared in *SAG*, Vol. IV, No. 2 (June 1984). The latest guide is John R. Anderson's article on the

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household examination rolls, which appeared in *SAG*, Vol. V, No. 2 (June 1985). Both of these contributions should be consulted before proceeding with this article.

The Role of the Genealogical Society

Before determining whether the regional and local genealogical societies can be of help in the study of one's Swedish family, it is important to be aware of certain conditions. These societies vary in size, from a membership of several hundred, down to those containing a dozen or two members.

Some societies have been active for years and are made up of many experienced researchers. Others are recently organized and their memberships may consist mostly of beginners. Many Swedish genealogists are also students of local history. In some areas there is only one society serving the needs of both types of students. Usually this can be determined from the name and the objectives of the society.

The demographic changes within Sweden during the last one hundred years have been monumental. Many individuals have moved. There are Swedish communities where only a few of the residents have their roots in the locality. Usually, though, there are always a few members in a local society, who are conversant with local conditions and who have engaged in family research in these areas.

As can be seen in Nils Hård af Segerstad's article, the source materials are to be found in the central or regional archives. The parish records of the last 100 years, however, may be found in the local parish. It is also quite usual, that the local public library has a collection of microfilms or microfiche of the older material, particularly that which has a relationship to the local scene.

Quite often local researchers have made copies of parts of the parish's older material, sometimes even containing indexes, lists of farm owners, etc. These individuals can therefore swiftly and without too much effort pinpoint pertinent material dealing with inhabitants of a certain parish and their family connections.

As Nils Hård af Segerstad has mentioned, there are a number of printed family histories, genealogical collections, lists of professional groups, etc. available in the various libraries, sometimes fully indexed. But there is also a vast amount of literature dealing with local history, published in limited editions, which usually does not appear in the bibliographical lists of national character. Even if included in these bibliographies, they may not, by the title alone, indicate that they contain genealogical material. On the local level, however, these facts are well known, and individuals in the local societies can usually furnish this information.

Genealogical societies are now to be found in every section of Sweden. The national societies (see Håkan Skogsjö's article, pp. 99-102) may have members, residing in these areas.

Many genealogical societies have their own quarters, containing genealogical collections and may even publish newsletters, research directories, etc. This adds, of course, to the possibility of being able to help researchers by answering their questions. The larger and older societies often have extensive collections of literature, genealogical charts, ancestral tables, family histories, maps, microfilms, etc.

The society which contains the largest amount of these aids is The Genealogical Society (*Genealogiska Föreningen*), headquartered in Stockholm. This society contains the largest collection of genealogical items in Sweden: an index of vital record notices from Sweden's largest Swedish daily newspapers, going back fifty years, a prodigious quantity of pedigree charts and a number of finding aids, including a surname index containing more than 20,000 names, with references to literature and manuscript collections. This material is available to the researcher on a daily basis, and is used on the average by ten visitors per day. During the summer months a large number of Americans of Swedish descent visit the headquarters. The society also answers mail queries, averaging one per day, of which half are of foreign origin, mostly from the U.S.

Contacts with a Genealogical Society

One can correspond with all of these Swedish societies in the English language. One ought, however, to enclose an international postage coupon to pay for the return postage. These international coupons can be purchased in any U.S. post office. Swedish genealogists are usually quite helpful in sharing their information with others without compensation. One must assume that the same liberal policy pertains to Americans of Swedish descent. One may, however, have to reimburse the society for xeroxing genealogical materials.

If the query is directed to the society and it becomes necessary for a member of that society to do research in a library or an archives, or perhaps be obliged to borrow a roll of microfilm, the inquirer should be prepared to pay for such assistance. There is no fixed rate of reimbursement, but the charge is usually reasonable. It should be stated that the number of professional genealogists in Sweden is quite limited. Via the larger societies it is, however, possible to engage the services of such individuals.

A Little Genealogical Geography

When doing genealogical research in Sweden it is important to know in which *län* (county) and parish the person sought was or is domiciled. In the list below the genealogical societies of Sweden are therefore arranged according to the county (*län*) in which they are located. The counties (*län*) are then arranged in groups, coinciding with the districts covered by the various regional archives (*landsarkiv*), where all the older materials are housed (see Nils Hård af Segerstad's article).

The *län* is roughly equivalent to the county and is the administrative arm of the government. The boundaries between the *län* have been changed over a period of years, but the organization is in principle the same as it was when it was created 350 years ago. Before that the country was divided into *landskap* (provinces), which in many cases coincided (seldom exactly) with the *län* of today. The idea of the *landskap* is still used today, and it might be beneficial to know how Sweden is divided into *landskap*, even though today these units have no official function. By looking at the list of *län* one will note, for instance, that the *landskap* Småland is not included, although this geographical concept is well known to many Americans with Swedish roots. Småland as a *landskap* is today divided into three *län*. Sweden has adopted an official key to its *län* based upon the alphabet. In this list the letter of the alphabet denotes the *län*, but in parentheses the *landskap* or part of a *landskap* has been indicated.

into three basic units—Svealand, Götaland and Norrland. This division has no administrative significance, but is used mostly in the daily speech of the Swedes. Norrland (where a resident is called *norrlänning*) consists of the northern part of Sweden and includes Gävleborg *län* (X). Svealand is the central part of Sweden which includes the following *län*, Stockholm (AB), Uppsala (C), Södermanland (D), Värmland (S), Örebro (T), Västmanland (U) and Kopparberg (W). Götaland is the southern region of Sweden and contains such *län* as Älvsborg (P), Skaraborg (R) and Östergötland (E).

It might be appropriate at this time to mention two additional geographical names, often to be found in the genealogical literature, and which also have been incorporated into the names of some of the genealogical societies. Roslagen (where the inhabitant is called *rospigg*) is the coastal area of Stockholm *län* (AB) and part of Uppsala *län* (C), with the city of Norrtälje as the center. Another area is Bergslagen (where the farmer is called *bergsmän*), which consists of the old mining and metal-working areas of the interior of Svealand, i.e., the north-western part of Västmanland *län* (U), the northern part of Örebro *län* (T), the eastern part of Värmland *län* (S) and the southern part of Kopparberg *län* (W). Such cities as Nora, Ludvika and Filipstad are located in Bergslagen.

The *län* of Sweden and the (*landskap*)

Here is the list of Sweden's geographical divisions into *län* and roughly how they equate with the old concept of the *landskap*.

- AB Stockholm (including the city of Stockholm and Roslagen)
- C Uppsala (the main part of Uppland)
- D Södermanland (Södermanland)
- E Östergötland (Östergötland)
- F Jönköping (northwest Småland)
- G Kronoberg (southwest Småland)
- H Kalmar (east Småland and the island of Öland)

- I Gotland (Gotland)
- K Blekinge (Blekinge)
- L Kristianstad (northeast Skåne)
- M Malmöhus (southwest Skåne)
- N Halland (Halland)
- O Göteborg and Bohus (Bohuslän)
- P Älvsborg (Dalsland, also known as "Dal" and southwest Västergötland)
- R Skaraborg (northeast Västergötland)
- S Värmland (Värmland)
- T Örebro (Närke)
- U Västmanland (Västmanland)
- W Kopparberg (Dalarna)
- X Gävleborg (Gästrikland and Hälsingland)
- Y Västernorrland (Medelpad and Ångermanland)
- Z Jämtland (Härjedalen and Jämtland)
- AC Västerbotten (Västerbotten and south Lappland)
- BD Norrbotten (Norrbotten* and northern Lappland)

Swedish Genealogical Societies

Härnösand Regional Archives

Comprising the *län* of Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Västernorrland and Gävleborg, Landsarkivet, Box 161, S-871 01 Härnösand, SWEDEN.

BD Norrbotten *län*

Capital - Luleå

Societies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Kalixbygdens Forskarförening
c/o Högdahl, Börjelsbyn 3468
S-952 00 Kalix, SWEDEN</p> | <p>2. Pitebygdens Forskarförening
Box 721
S-941 28 Piteå, SWEDEN</p> |
|--|--|

AC Västerbotten *län*

Capital - Umeå

Societies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>3. Föreningen Skelleftebygdens
Släktforskare
Skellefteå Museum, Nordana
S-931 33 Skellefteå, SWEDEN</p> | <p>4. Södra Västerbottens Genealogiska
Förening (SVGF)
Storgatan 99
S-902 44 Umeå, SWEDEN</p> |
|--|---|

*Has really never been a *landskap*.

Y Västernorrland län

Capital - Härnösand

Societies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5. Sollefteå Släktforsknings-sällskap
c/o Strömberg
Sportgränd 7
S-881 00 Sollefteå, SWEDEN | 6. Midälva Genealogiska
Förening (MGF)
(Sundsvall), c/o Lindqvist
Lejdarevägen 13
S-865 00 Alnö, SWEDEN |
|--|---|

X Gävleborg län

Capital - Gävle

Societies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7. Forskarföreningen ALIR
(Söderhamn)
c/o Eriksson, Berga 6971
S-826 06 Söderala, SWEDEN | 8. Forskarföreningen Släkt och
Bygd
Box 277
S-821 02 Bollnäs, SWEDEN |
| 9. Gästriklands Genealogiska
Förening
c/o Näsström,
Karlsborgsgatan 28
S-803 57 Gävle, SWEDEN | |

Östersund Regional Archives

Comprising the *län* of Jämtland, Landsarkivet, Box 664, S-831 27 Östersund, SWEDEN.

Z Jämtland län

Capital - Östersund

Society:

10. Jämtlands läns Släktforskarförening (JLS)
Box 418
S-831 26 Östersund, SWEDEN

Uppsala Regional Archives

Comprising the *län* of Kopparberg, Örebro, Västmanland, Uppsala, Stockholm and Södermanland, Landsarkivet, Box 135, S-751 04 Uppsala, SWEDEN. The archival collections of the city of Stockholm are to be found in the Stadsarkivet, Box 22063, S-104 22 Stockholm, SWEDEN.

W Kopparberg län

Capital - Falun

Societies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. Åsens Hembygds-och
Släktforskningsförening
c/o Bergman, Åsen 4457
S-796 00 Älvdalen, SWEDEN | 12. Föreningen Ovansiljans Släktforskar
c/o Lindqvist, Ö. Storbyn 2527
S-790 56 Våmhus, SWEDEN |
|--|--|

13. Västerbergslagens Släktforscare (VBS)
c/o Jansson,
Rotorvägen 20
S-771 00 Ludvika, SWEDEN

T Örebro *län*

Capital - Örebro

Societies:

14. Hällefors Släktforskarclubb
c/o Ståhl, Hammarvägen 89 D
S-712 00 Hällefors, SWEDEN
15. Karlskoga-Degerfors Släktforskarclubb
c/o Rosenberg
Ängslyckevägen 7
S-691 41 Karlskoga, SWEDEN
16. Nora Släktforskarclubb
c/o Dalhammar
Rådstugatan 13
S-713 00 Nora, SWEDEN.
17. Örebro Släktforscare
Box 266
S-701 04 Örebro, SWEDEN
18. Hallsbergs Släktforskarclubb
Box 2010/Eriksson
S-694 02 Hallsberg, SWEDEN
19. Askersunds Släktforskarclubb
c/o Hammervik, Tikanäs
S-696 00 Askersund, SWEDEN

U Västmanland *län*

Capital - Västerås

Societies:

20. Sällskapet Släktforskarna
c/o Håkansson
Forsbackavägen 13
S-773 00 Fagersta, SWEDEN
21. Västerås Släktforskarclubb
c/o Ekström
Jaktplansgatan 3 A
S-723 48 Västerås, SWEDEN

C Uppsala *län*

Capital - Uppsala

Society:

22. Björklingebygdens Släktforskarförening
c/o Norman
Puckvägen 16
S-740 30 Björklinge, SWEDEN

AB Stockholm *län*

Capital - Stockholm

Societies:

23. Genealogiska Föreningen
(national in scope)
Box 2029
S-103 11 Stockholm, SWEDEN
24. Personhistoriska Samfundet
(national in scope)
SBL, Box 34106
S-100 26 Stockholm, SWEDEN
25. IBM-klubbens Släktforskar-sektion
Oddegatan 5, Kista
S-163 92 Stockholm, SWEDEN
26. Sällskapet Vallonättlingar
(national in scope)
Strandvägen 5 A
S-114 51 Stockholm, SWEDEN

27. Stockholms Finska Släktforskarförening
(in the Finnish language)
Svennebygränd 33
S-163 72 Spånga, SWEDEN
28. StorStockholms Genealogiska Förening (SSGF)
c/o Bergwall
Ringvägen 123 III
S-116 61 Stockholm, SWEDEN
29. Norrtälje Släktforskarförening (NSFF)
Box 280
S-761 00 Norrtälje, SWEDEN
30. Södertälje Släktforskarförening
c/o Hedlund
Tältvägen 15
S-151 31 Södertälje, SWEDEN

D Södermanland *län*

Capital - Nyköping

Societies:

31. Södermanlands Släktforskarförening
c/o Nilsson
Krattvägen 6
S-633 69 Eskilstuna, SWEDEN
32. Eskilstuna-Strängnäs Släktforskarclubb
c/o Nilsson
Krattvägen 6
S-633 69 Eskilstuna, SWEDEN
33. Katrineholm-Flen-Vingåkers Släktforskarclubb
Stensgatan 29 A
S-641 46 Katrineholm, SWEDEN
34. Nyköping-Oxelösunds Släktforskarclubb
c/o Nordström,
Skravvägen 2
S-613 00 Oxelösund, SWEDEN

Göteborg Regional Archives

Comprising the *län* of Värmland, Göteborg and Bohus, Älvsborg, Skaraborg, Landsarkivet, Box 3009, S-400 10 Göteborg, SWEDEN.

S Värmland *län*

Capital - Karlstad

Societies:

35. Värmlands släktforskarförening (Karlstad)
c/o Höglund
Lisas Höjd 5
S-681 00 Kristinehamn, SWEDEN
36. Släktforskarclubben
Probanden
c/o Gustavsson
Gamla vägen 154
S-664 00 Grums, SWEDEN

O Göteborg and Bohus *län*

Capital - Göteborg

Societies:

37. Uddevalla Släktforskarer
c/o Persson
Pianovägen 34
S-451 62 Uddevalla, SWEDEN
38. Genealogisk Ungdom (GU)
(national in scope)
Vasagatan 10
S-411 24 Göteborg, SWEDEN

39. Västra Sveriges Genealogiska
Förening (VSGF)
Postgatan 4
S-411 13 Göteborg, SWEDEN

P Ålvsborg län

Capital - Vänersborg

Societies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>40. Västgöta Genealogiska
Förening
c/o Andersson
Topasgatan 9
S-421 48 Västra Frölunda, SWEDEN</p> | <p>41. Vänersborgs Släktforskare
c/o Ericsson
Sandelhiemsgatan 3
S-462 00 Vänersborg, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>42. Ulricehamnsbygdens forskar-
klubb
c/o Svensson
Solsäter 20
S-520 15 Hökerum, SWEDEN</p> | <p>43. Marks Härads Släktforskar-
förening
c/o Nilsson
Rådmansgatan 18
S-511 02 Skene, SWEDEN</p> |

R Skaraborg län

Capital - Mariestad

Societies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>44. Skaraborgs Släktforskar-
förbund
c/o Borg
Storegården, PL 3004
S-533 00 Götene, SWEDEN</p> | <p>45. Finnerödja Släktforskar-
klubb
c/o Wahlbäck, PL 2226
Gårdsjö
S-540 70 Hova, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>46. Götene Släktforskar-
förening
c/o Hagman, Hemvägen 9
S-533 00 Götene, SWEDEN</p> | <p>47. Lidköpingbygdens Släkt-
forskare
c/o Svensson, Bergkullen
S-531 98 Lidköping, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>48. Skara Släktforskarförening
c/o Andersson
Härlundagatan 58
S-532 00 Skara, SWEDEN</p> | <p>49. Skövde Genealogiska Förening
Box 96068
S-541 06 Skövde, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>50. Hjo-Tibro Släktforskar-
förening
Box 93
S-544 00 Hjo, SWEDEN</p> | <p>51. Vara-Grästorps Släktforskar-
förening
Mellomgården, Längjum
S-534 00 Vara, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>52. Tidaholms Genealogiska
Förening
c/o Bergvall
Gärdesvägen 26
S-522 00 Tidaholm, SWEDEN</p> | <p>53. Mullsjö Genealogiska Förening
Västansgårdsvägen 10B
S-565 00 Mullsjö, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>54. Habobygdens Släktforskar-
förening
Box 106
S-556 00 Habo, SWEDEN</p> | <p>55. Mariestadsbygdens Släktforskar-
förening
c/o Thonander
Gärdesgatan 11
S-542 00 Mariestad, SWEDEN</p> |

Vadstena Regional Archives

Comprising the län of Östergötland, Jönköping, Kalmar and Kronoberg, Landsarkivet, Box 126, S-592 00 Vadstena, SWEDEN.

E Östergötland län

Capital - Linköping

Societies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>56. Föreningen för Datorhjälp i Släktforskningen
- DIS (Linköping)
(national in scope, specializing in computer use)
c/o Bergman
Hjortronvägen 89
S-590 54 Sturefors, SWEDEN</p> | <p>57. Östgöta Genealogiska Förening (ÖGF) (Linköping-Norrköping)
c/o Lindahl,
Ödegårdsgatan 10
S-582 57 Linköping, SWEDEN</p> |
|---|--|

F Jönköping län

Capital - Jönköping

Societies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>58. Mellersta Götalands Genealogiska Förening
Box 151
S-551 13 Jönköping, SWEDEN</p> <p>60. Njudungs Genealogiska Förening
Östersandsvägen 15
S-574 00 Vetlanda, SWEDEN</p> | <p>59. Nässjöortens Genealogiska Förening
Trädgårdsgatan 69
S-571 00 Nässjö, SWEDEN</p> <p>61. Sällskapet ANE, Finnveden
c/o Hultin, Blomstervägen 38
S-331 00 Värnamo, SWEDEN</p> |
|--|--|

G Kronoberg län

Capital - Växjö

Society:

62. Kronobergs Genealogiska Förening (Växjö)
c/o Hjertquist
Storgatan 1
S-342 00 Alvesta, SWEDEN

H Kalmar län

Capital - Kalmar

Societies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>63. Kalmar Läns Genealogiska Förening (KLGf, Kalmar)
c/o Jonmyren
3672 Tvärskog
S-380 20 Ljungbyholm, SWEDEN</p> | <p>64. Västerviks Släktforskarförening
c/o Holger Kanth
Esplanaden 19 A
S-593 00 Västervik, SWEDEN</p> |
|---|--|

Lund Regional Archives

Comprising the *län* of Halland, Blekinge, Kristianstad and Malmöhus, Landsarkivet, Fack 2016, S-220 02 Lund, SWEDEN. The archival collections of the city of Malmö are to be found in the Stadsarkivet, S:t Petrigången 7 A, S-211 22 Malmö, SWEDEN.

N Halland *län*

Capital - Halmstad

Society:

65. Hallands Genealogiska Förening (HGF)
c/o Thorén
Köpmanngatan 2 A
S-302 42 Halmstad, SWEDEN

K Blekinge *län*

Capital - Karlskrona

Society:

66. Blekinge Genealogiska Förening (BGF)
Box 2033, Jämshög
S-293 02 Olofström, SWEDEN

L Kristianstad *län*

Capital - Kristianstad

Society:

67. Bjäre Släktring
c/o Johansson
Vejby PL 697
S-262 00 Ängelholm, SWEDEN

M Malmöhus *län*

Capital - Malmö

Societies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>68. Helsingborgs Släktforskar- och bygdeförening
c/o Vuxenskolan
Drottninggatan 3
S-252 21 Helsingborg, SWEDEN</p> | <p>69. Kävlingebygdens Släkt- och Folklivsforskare
c/o Lundin
Klövervägen 15
S-240 21 Löddeköpinge, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>70. Lundabygdens Genealogiska Förening
c/o Levenstam
Thulehem 27
S-223 67 Lund, SWEDEN</p> | <p>71. Skånes Genealogiska Förening (SGF), c/o Rosencrantz
Midgårdsgatan 17
S-216 19 Malmö, SWEDEN</p> |
| <p>72. Staffanstorps Släktforskarförening
Box 7
S-245 00 Staffanstorps, SWEDEN</p> | <p>73. Södersläotts Släkt- och Hembygdslivsforskning
Algatan 51
S-231 00 Trelleborg, SWEDEN</p> |

Visby Regional Archives

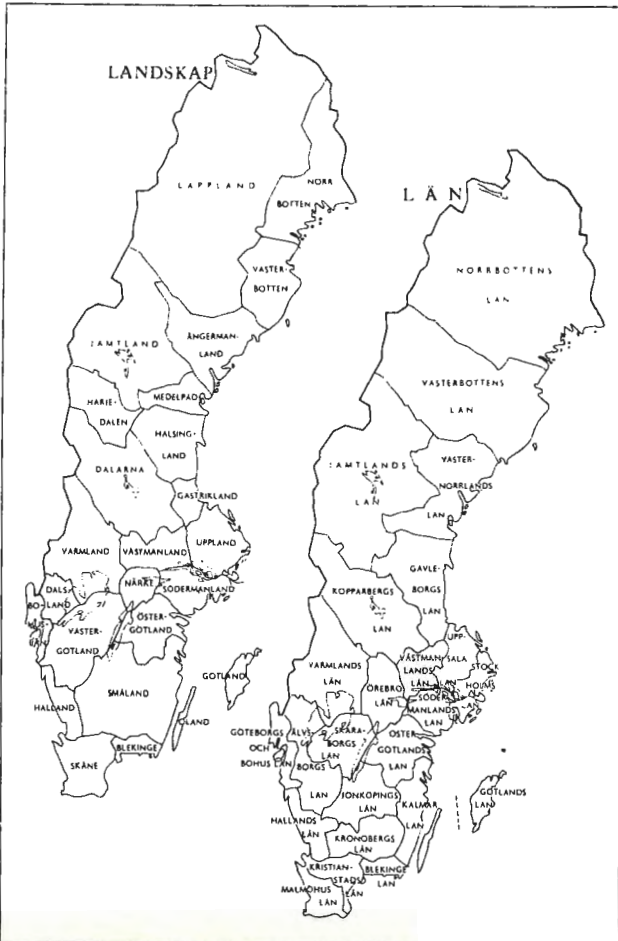
Comprising the län of Gotland, Landsarkivet, Box 2142, S-621 02 Visby, SWEDEN.

I Gotland län

Capital - Visby

Society:

74. (Being organized)
c/o Swen Erik Öhman
Jungmansgatan 58
S-621 51 Visby, SWEDEN



Maps showing division of Sweden into landskap (provinces), the geographical units and län (districts), the administrative units. (© Generalstabens Litografiska Anstalt, Stockholm 1974.)