

SWEDEN

National Report 2006–2009

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There are many different actors in the field of industrial heritage in Sweden. They operate in different contexts and with different objectives on its preservation, conservation, research, interpretation and use, from the National Heritage Board on the national level to the numerous workings life museums, care-taking the heritage on the very local level. The individual actors range from expert volunteers at local sites to professional scholars and salaried employees in corporations and administrative bodies.

In the following, we shall report on important efforts made in 2006-2009. Many of the projects referred to in this report have been joint ventures involving different actors.

Names and titles are given in their original form, in *italics* and mostly in Swedish with a translation within brackets – in order to ease searches on the Internet.

THE NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

On the national level, *Riksantikvarieämbetet* (The National Heritage Board) is responsible for conservation and protection



Part of the cable-way at the cement factory Stora Vika, south of Stockholm. Photo: Helena Lundgren, Länsstyrelsen i Stockholms län

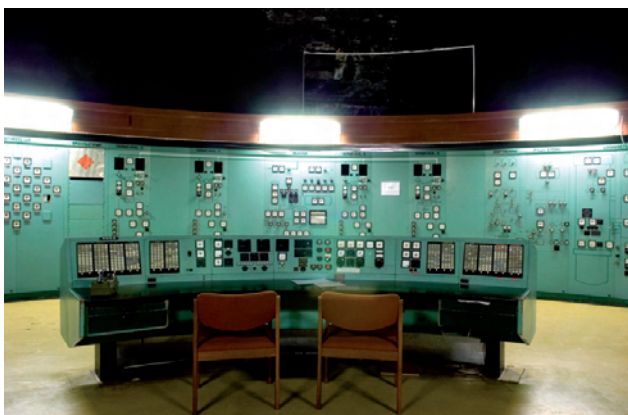
of cultural heritage. It is the agency of the Swedish government and it is responsible for enforcing The Heritage Conservation Act. One of its fields of activity is Industrial heritage. On the regional level, Sweden's county administrative boards are responsible for the day-to-day enforcement of the Act and for the implementation of programs.

Industrial heritage has been one of the priorities of the National Heritage Board for over a decade and in 2006–2009, the board has led and/or financed two major projects concerning industrial heritage. Both have involved regional heritage authorities and regional museums as well as numerous local actors.

The overall purpose of *Svenska industriminnen – berättelser om vårt samhälles historia* (Narratives on the history of our society – Swedish Industrial Heritage, 2003–2006) was to develop a new platform for work on industrial heritage, and in the process strengthen the work in this field. The project incorporated twelve industrial heritage sites in different parts of Sweden, working with twelve different projects for methodological development. The twelve sites were supposedly representative for the general industrial history of Sweden – economically, technologically and socially, as well as concerning heritage practices of relevance for the sector of industrial heritage protection and interpretation. In 2006 major accomplishments and experiences of the project were summarised (Pettersson 2006).

Det moderna samhällets kulturarv (The Heritage of Modern Society) may be regarded as a continuation of the project described above and of another major project of the National Heritage board, *Storstadens arkitektur och kulturmiljö* (The Architecture and cultural environment of big cities). *Det moderna samhällets kulturarv* consisted of a number of subprojects, some on industrial heritage. In the region of Skåne in South Sweden, the Regional Museum in Kristianstad documented *Barsebäcks kärnkraftverk*, a closed nuclear power station. Another nuclear power station, *Ågestaverket* (the Ågesta nuclear heat and power plant), south of Stockholm – has been studied in a field research project by Tekniska museet (National Museum of Science and Technology), Länsstyrelsen i Stockholms län (The Stockholm County Administrative Board) and Stockholms läns museum (the Stockholm County Museum). This museum has also been involved in another sub project, *Från buller till bullar: Omvandlingen av fyra industriområden i Nacka* (From Noise to buns: reuse of four industrial areas in Nacka).

An important sub-project took place in northern Sweden focused the mining community of Boliden, studying the impact on the local society due to the changes in the mining opera-



The control room at Ågestaverket, the Ågesta nuclear heat and power plant in Stockholm. Its overall design is a clear example of the ideals of the 1960s. The plant has been closely documented by Tekniska museet. Photo: Nisse Cronestränd, Tekniska museet.

tions. The project was led by the Skellefteå museum (Museum of Skellefteå), which also documented a factory manufacturing fans (Futurumfabriken) in the community of Byske. In central Sweden Länsstyrelsen i Örebro län (the County Administrative Board of Örebro) led the documentation project Y som i Yxhult (Y as in Yxhult), focused on stone quarries and related factories at the community of Yxhult – an important site in the history of the Swedish construction industry, producing building stone and light weight concrete. Another production facility for concrete was documented by Kalmar läns museum (the Kalmar County Museum) – Skånska cementgjuteriets betongelementfabrik. Still another documentation of Stora Vika, a cement factory has been carried out by Stockholms läns museum (the Stockholm County Museum). The study focuses on the working and living conditions at the large-scale plant and the community that the company built and developed nearby the factory.

MUSEUMS WITH A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The museums with a national responsibility for industrial heritage are: Tekniska museet (National Museum of Science and Technology), Arbetets museum (Museum of Work), Nordiska Museet (Nordic Museum), Statens Maritima Museer (Swedish National Maritime Museums) and Sveriges järnvägsmuseum (Swedish Railway Museum)

Tekniska museet has been involved in a number of activities relating to the field of industrial heritage 2006–2009. A high-profile project has been *Från matematikmaskin till IT* (From Computing Machines to IT: Collecting, Documenting and Preserving Source Material on Swedish IT-History), which docu-

ment the history of information- and communication technology in Sweden, mainly through interviews, witness seminars and autobiographies and object biographies. The project that terminated in 2008, resulted in 154 recorded interviews, 47 witness seminars, 7227 pages of transcribed interviews and witness seminars, 210 autobiographies and 44 publications as well as web productions. The project is probably the largest documentation project of its kind in Sweden, ever. The project was a collaboration between *Dataföreningen i Sverige* (the Swedish Computer Society) and *Tekniska museet* and the Dept. of History of Science and Technology at KTH in Stockholm.

Tekniska museet has also continued its work on the cultural heritage of the nuclear power industry, particularly the before-mentioned field research project on *Ågestaverket*. This project has resulted in national and international publications and about 300 pictures from the plant, accessible at *Tekniska museet*. The theme of the museum's yearbook *Daedalus* (2008) was *Kärnkraft retro* (Nuclear power retro) – nuclear history in Sweden.

Furthermore, *Tekniska museet* has documented production processes and machines in a modern large-scale steel industry as a field research project at Ovako Steel in the community of Hofors. The production covers low alloy steels and carbon steels in the form of bars, wire rod, tubes and rings. This is an ongoing joint project between *Tekniska museet*, Ovako Steel, *Jernkontoret* (Swedish Steel Producers' Association) and *Länsmuseet Gävleborg* (the County Museum of Gävleborg). The project will, among other things, result in a handbook for the documentation of process industries. The museum has also been involved in several other projects, including Ångström Solar Center at the University of Uppsala and the sun cell manufacturer Solibro. Finally, *Tekniska museet* has worked intensively on making its collection of artifacts, important aspects of history of technology, accessible for study on the Internet.

The mission of *Arbetets museum* (The museum of Work), in Norrköping, is to document working life and bring its' history to life through providing a forum for debate and interpretation the working lives and conditions of women and men. The museum shall also initiate, pursue and support research. The museum has a special responsibility for the working life museums (see below). The museum does not have any collections of its own, but approximately twenty different exhibits are presented every year, many of them carried out as projects in cooperation with other museums, institutions and organisations. Through its scientific council *Arbetets museum* devotes an extra interest on the research and documentation of professions. A major

exhibition, inaugurated in 2007, is *Industriland – när Sverige blev modernt* (The industrialised country – when Sweden became modern). It focuses the period 1930–80 when Sweden was industrialised and the welfare system was developed. *Industriland* will be on exhibit till 2012.

Dream Factories, a traveling exhibition, involved both *Tekniska museet* and *Arbetets museum*. The project originated from a research project “Industrial Heritage Platform 2000–2003” has led to a traveling exhibition that is on tour in the Nordic and Baltic Countries 2007–2010. The exhibition focus industry and modernism in the Baltic Sea Region 1945–1990. The project was at the top of selected EU Cultural Program 2007. A new Industry and Modernism Museum Network (IMMN) has developed from the exhibition project, and consists of nine partners: The Workers’ Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark; The Museum of Science and Technology, Oslo, Norway; The Museum of Work, Norrköping, Sweden; The Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm, Sweden; The Museum Centre Vapriikki in Tampere, Finland; Helsinki City Museum, Finland; The Estonian National Museum in Tartu; The Latvian Museum of Architecture in Riga; and, The Lithuanian Energy Museum in Vilnius.

Statens Maritima Museer have in 2009 together with University of Stockholm, launched a Centre for research and studies in Maritime history with three primary subject areas: archaeology, ethnology and history. The resources at the centre will be made available for research from all universities in Sweden.

NGOS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Two major non-governmental organisations promote research and conservation of industrial heritage in Sweden.

ArbetSam (The working life museums co-operation council) was formed in 1998 for the purpose of supporting those museums, to promote and develop preservation practices and interpretation of industrial heritage, with a “perspective from below”. The organisation is based at Arbetets museum.

The term “working life museum” stands for an activity aimed at preserving and interpreting the material and immaterial memories of past workplaces. There are well over 1300 working life museums in Sweden and most of them are industrial heritage sites, generally small scale and maintained through voluntary work by local organisations with limited economic resources. In 2008, 376 of the 1385 working life museums in Sweden were members in ArbetSam.

ArbetSam organises courses, particularly concerning the preservation, maintenance and use of company archive’s. It has also built a database including all the working life museums

in Sweden, available online. Finally, it has been involved in the production of software for databases over the artifacts at working life museums.

The organisation has continued its efforts to make *Vägverket* (the Swedish National Road Administration) to put up road signs guiding visitors to industrial heritage sites. It produces an extensive, yearly brochure presenting the working life museums, printed in 30 000 copies. ArbetSam has also produced an English language brochure presenting the organisation. The organisation produces a newsletter (8 issues per year).

The other major NGO within the field is Svenska industriminnesföreningen (SIM, The Swedish Industrial Heritage Association) – the Swedish TICCIH section (see below).

Industrihistoriskt forum (The Forum for the history of industry) is also working on the national level. This loosely knitted network was formed in 1992 as a national platform and meeting place for representatives of major organisations working on industrial heritage – including archives, trade and industry and trade unions. In September 2008 Industrihistoriskt forum and other organisations arranged a national conference in Trollhättan focusing on current efforts to discuss and preserve industrial heritage in Sweden. A second co-arranged conference will take place in October 2009, at the world heritage town of Falun.

SVENSKA INDUSTRIMINNESFÖRENINGEN (TICCIH SWEDEN)

Svenska Industriminnesföreningen (SIM, The Swedish Industrial Heritage Association), the Swedish TICCIH section, was formed in 1989 to promote the interest in the industrial heritage and its care. The association is open to anyone who wishes to become a member. The organisation functions as a link between governmental organisations, NGO’s, university based academic research and individual actors within the field.

In 2009 SIM has approximately 160 members, of which 50 % are organisations like museums and heritage management bodies at the national, regional and municipal level, and 50 % are individuals. The organisation aims to inform about, and act on, current issues and problems within industrial heritage conservation, interpretation and research, in Sweden and internationally. It produces a newsletter and maintains a web site. The organisation also acts pro-actively in order to promote good examples and innovative perspectives, primarily by awarding the annual price *Årets industriminne* (The Industrial Heritage site of the year) since 1995.



New uses of derelict industrial sites. The electronic music festival in the pithead frame of the Mimer iron ore mine in Norberg, operational 1957–1981. Photo: Jan af Geijerstam.

In 2006, we awarded the price to *CTHs hattfabrik* (the CTH hat factory) in Borlänge, a steel town located in central Sweden. The motivation was its efforts to keep the production line of going and thereby not only preserving the machines, but also the skills connected with production. Another motive was their conscious focus on the situation of female workers in a male dominated industrial community. In 2007 SIM awarded the price to *Drängsmarks ångsåg* (the steam-engine sawmill of Drängsmark) – a small-scale sawmill in northern Sweden. SIM motivated the award by the well-preserved character of the sawmill, the devoted efforts of local volunteers and the efforts to use the sawmill as a tool for regional development. In 2008 SIM awarded the price to *Forsviks industriminnen* (the Forsvik Works), for its relentless efforts to preserve the tacit knowledge of past industrial society, not least through education programs.

SIM has continued its production of a newsletter, informing on current developments in the field of industrial heritage in Sweden and internationally. The printed newsletter has, however, been changed in to a digital one. SIM has also continued its cooperation with ICOMOS in Sweden. Finally it is important to note that the members of the board of SIM continue to be centrally placed actors within the field of Industrial Heritage in Sweden. To strengthen this role, SIM has deepened its cooperation with Industrihistoriskt forum as co-organiser of the above-mentioned conferences.

The most important achievement of TICCIH Sweden has, no doubt, been its efforts to organise an intermediary TICCIH con-

ference, *TICCIH seminar on training and education within the field of industrial heritage* in Norberg, Sweden in June 2008. The purpose of the conference was to seek avenues for developing an international masters program in Industrial heritage, involving universities primarily in Europe and the US, but possibly also in other continents. A majority of the 25 participants from 15 countries and three continents – Europe, Asia and America – represented university departments giving courses/programs in industrial heritage. The conference was followed by a smaller workshop at the Industrial archaeology department at Michigan tech in September 2008 and the discussions will continue at the TICCIH congress in Freiberg in 2009.

During the period August 2008–September 2009 the vice-chairman of SIM, Carl-Magnus Gagge, has with great success led the organisation in the absence of ordinary chairman and national representative Dag Avango (who has been residing in the Netherlands). At the TICCIH congress at Freiberg in 2009, Jan af Geijerstam, board member of SIM, will take on the role of national representative.

REGIONAL NETWORKS AND CO-OPERATION

Sweden is divided into 290 municipalities, 18 county councils and two regions (Västra Götaland and Skåne). The county administrative boards are the central government's representatives at the regional level.

Numerous important initiatives are continuously taken and continued on the regional and local levels. These concern inventories, documentation, research, conservation and interpretation. The focus is here set on examples from two regions.

Bergslagssatsningen (2006–2016) (Bergslagen in Focus) is a cultural tourism venture in the mining and metal making districts of Central Sweden, *Bergslagen*. A number of historic industrial sites, from early 11th century to the present, have been designated as historical nodes. They reflect the natural and cultural history of Bergslagen and are to be safeguarded and interpreted. A special association, *Intresseföreningen Bergslaget*, representing municipalities, regions and counties, coordinates the effort on behalf of the National Heritage Board, the county administrative boards and the Royal Institute of Technology. An important aim is to increase the number of visits to the region and to foster tourism-led growth.

In Southwestern Sweden, Region Västra Götaland in 2008 decided on a plan for the industrial and maritime heritage, as an asset for growth and development. The regional museum organisation *Västarvet* (West Heritage) has been instrumen-

tal in this work, through its ten different institutions. *Forsviks industriminnen* (the Forsvik Works) has been the coordinator and has performed studies of the industrial heritage in several communities in West Sweden, as well as documentation of individual industries and a thematic survey of agriculturally based small-scale industries. Bohusläns museum (the regional museum in Uddevalla) has produced a substantial documentation of *Uddevallavarvet* (the Uddevalla wharf), closed down in 1986. Skaraborgs museum (the regional museum in Skara) has recorded and analysed silo structures in an agricultural-industrial context. On a joint level in the region a long term project on the industrial heritage of modern society has been initiated, bringing together professionals from the regional museum organisation, the county administrative board and local museums.

There are also a number of important eco-museums in the field of industrial heritage. *Ekomuseum Bergslagen, Järnriket Gästrikland* (The country of Iron) and *Husbyringen* (The ring of Husby) all cover parts of the mining and metal making region Bergslagen in Central Sweden. *Guldriket* (Gold of Lappland) covers the community of Boiliden and other important sites in the mining district in the county of Västerbotten. *Norrbottens megasystem* (the megasystem of the county of Norrbotten) is an effort to combine forces within research, education and tourism to encompass the big technological system of the far north, with the iron mines in Kiruna and Gällivare/Malmberget as the nucleus.

There are a number of regional networks dealing with industrial heritage – *Industrihistoria i Skåne* (Industrial history in Scania) and *Nätverket för industrisamhällets arv i Stockholms län* (the network for industrial heritage in Stockholm).



Miners' housing in Grängesberg, Central Sweden.
Photo: Jan af Geijerstam

TRADE, INDUSTRY AND THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

There are a number of organisations within trade and industry involved in the industrial heritage field – the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA), *Jernkontorets Bergshistoriska utskott* (the historical committee of the Swedish Steel Producers' Association) formed in 1966 to foster historical research on mining and metal making, *Skogsindustriernas historiska utskott*, supporting research on issues related to forest industry, and *Vattenfalls kulturvårdskommitté*, working with the heritage of hydro power in Sweden.

Jernkontoret has initiated the publication of a new volume of *Sveriges Nationalatlas* (the National Atlas of Sweden) on *Bergsbruket – gruvor och metallproduktion* (Mines and metal making). The volume will provide a geographical description of the history and present situation of the industry. The Atlas will be published in 2010 in both a Swedish and an English edition.

Archives on the national level perform important tasks in collecting, preserving and conducting research archival records and book of industrial society: *Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek* (ARAB, Labour movement Archives and Library), *Tjänstemanna- & akademikerorganisationernas centrum för dokumenthantering och forskning* (TAM-arkiv, Centre for document handling and research of white-collar and professional workers' organisations) and *Centrum för näringslivshistoria* (CfN, The Centre for Business History) assigned to preserve and present corporate history.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN CO-ACTION WITH SOCIETY

Important work on industrial heritage is made within academic research, and is of vital importance to the practice of industrial heritage preservation, conservation and interpretation. Most universities have institutions that to a lesser extent deal with the topic as a part of their curriculum and research in different disciplines. In regionally based colleges and universities such research and education is often devoted to subject matters founded in local/regional conditions: *Högskolan Dalarna*, *Mitthögskolan*, *Högskolan på Gotland* – *Gotland University*, *Södertörns högskola*, *Mälardalens högskola*, *Mittuniversitetet*, *Luleå University of Technology*, *Umeå Universitet* etc.

The Department of History of Science & Technology at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, has a leading position with a chair in *Industriminnesforskning* (Industrial Heritage Research, established in 1992 with Marie Nisser as professor) and PhD students in the field. In April 2005, after Prof Marie Nisser's retirement, Maths Isacson was appointed

as professor. The department gives courses in industrial heritage on a regular basis. At Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg a chair in History of Technology and Science was established at the Department of Technology Management and Economics in the beginning of this millennium with Bengt Berglund as professor. At the Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg, courses in industrial and maritime history has been given for a number of years. Starting from 2010, the course in industrial heritage will be presented as a shorter (7,5 ECTS) course on Master's level (in English) focusing on heritage practices, historically and today.

The Department of Conservation co-ordinates a project in North Sweden on two mining sites are heavily affecting the towns that are situated close-by: Malmberget and Kiruna. Through a research grant from the National Heritage Board a research project on *Structural changes and cultural heritage processes*, has been set up with the objective to find appropriate analysis methods for major social change. In 2009 the project will continue with studies of the transformation of the area surrounding the former ball bearing plant of SKF in Gamlestaden, Göteborg.

Industriminnesforskning, (Industrial Heritage research) at KTH uses the term industry in a wide sense and in a long-term historical perspective. The term heritage is interpreted in a concrete way – tools, machines, industries and industrial areas, and also includes residential areas, institutional buildings, transport systems, communities and landscapes (preserved or possible to visualise through sources such as interviews, documents, photographs etc). Field studies are a central method – archaeological or standing remains of industries and related material objects and environments are documented and used as a source. The focus is to understand the social, economic, ideological and cultural driving forces behind industrial growth and change, and to explain the consequences for people, buildings and landscapes. Industrial Heritage Research has a close relationship to heritage management. It is also strongly connected to the history of science and technology and often uses theoretical approaches common to that field of research. Theoretically, the discipline also has common traits with economic history, archaeology and the history of ideas.

The department has continued to organise courses, for engineering students at KTH, as well as for students from other universities and professionals in heritage management and museums. It also gives PhD courses.

The activities have first and foremost been focused on research. Since 1992 six doctoral theses and three licentiate

theses have been successfully defended. The research can be divided in to two main fields – “studies on historical practices” and historical archaeological research. Studies on historical practices concern how various actors interpret heritage and history of industry today. Historical archaeology uses standing or archaeological remains of industry as a source, in combination with written and oral sources. Since the Swedish national report of 2006, Anna Storm has finished a dissertation on the re-interpretation of derelict industrial sites.

An important research project that is still under way is *Industrisamhällets omvandling: industriell växt och förändring i företagsbyggande och kommunal planering* (The transformation of industrial society: Industrial growth and change in company development and municipal planning). The project's point of departure is the great changes in industrial society during the past thirty years. The project has dealt with four different themes: the role of industrial companies 1935–1985; the relations between large industrial corporations, society and the state during the same fifty-year period; closed industrial areas – the buildings and the technology – in current redevelopment processes; and, how companies build their identity and the role of history and national symbols in their narratives.

A second project still under way is the *Lashipa* project (Large Scale Historical Industrial exploitation of Polar Areas) – a historical-archaeological research project within the framework of the International Polar Year. The project takes its point of departure in the current quest to claim and control natural resources, shipping routes and territories in the Arctic Ocean, triggered by the expectation of a melting ice sheet in the coming decade. The project works from an international comparative perspective, breaking away from national frameworks common in polar history. The material remains of industrial sites in the polar areas are a central source material. The *Lashipa* project is a joint project of the Arctic Centre/Groningen Institute of Archaeology in the Netherlands, the Dept. for History of Science & Technology at KTH, Industrial Archaeology at Michigan Technological University (MTU) in USA, The Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway, the Institute of Archaeology at the Russian Academy of Sciences and the European University in St. Petersburg. The project involves faculty member, one post-doc researcher and five PhD students. It has organised four major archaeological expeditions to the polar areas since 2006. A forth expedition is planned for March 2010.

BOOKS AND REPORTS

A great number of important books, reports and articles on industrial heritage and industrial history have been published

2006–2009, of which a very small selection are listed below. With few exceptions the publications are written and published in Swedish. Many of them concern local or regional contexts and industries. Yearbooks from regional and county museums are important forum for articles on industrial heritage. Three of them have extensive attention in media:

The economic-historian Jan Jörnmark has published two richly illustrated books, *Övergivna plaster* (Abandoned places) describing sites that are reminders of a recent past, from the rise of high industrialised society till the demise of industries. Jörnmark combines a special strand of urban exploration with scholarly observations on economic and societal shifts.

Anders Johnson, journalist and writer, has published a guidebook to the entrepreneurial history of Sweden. *Fånga platsen* (Catch the place) guides the reader to more than 1 000 sites that tell about the past of Sweden, from early historical times till today. The author has organised the book according to the hydrology of Sweden, water being of great importance to industry and other activities, as water-ways and as sources of power.

FINAL REMARKS

Over the years that have passed since the last national report, industrial heritage is still high on the agenda of heritage management in Sweden. However, it is worth noting that the large projects that have been under way over the last decade are coming to an end, without new ones taking their place. Within the cultural heritage sector, industrial heritage is integrated under terms like “the heritage of modern society” and might seem to fade out of focus. The development may be interpreted in a more positive manner however – that industrial heritage is an established and non-controversial part of cultural heritage and therefore does not need to be pointed out specifically.

Other developments are more worrying. The chair in Industrial heritage research at KTH is severely threatened. Therefore, the only chair of its kind in Scandinavia may be lost in the near future. This would be a serious setback for the field of industrial heritage in Sweden and internationally.

Cover photo: The cement factory Stora Vika, south of Stockholm, before close down.

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