

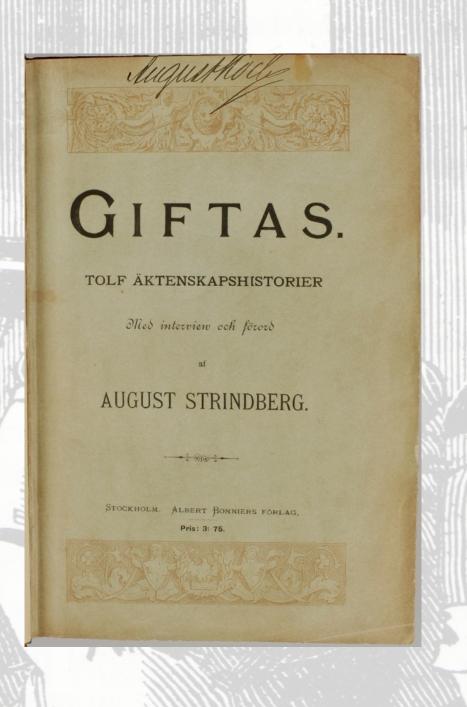
«...the most peculiar book ever written...» (Strindberg's sales pitch to Bonnier)

«...do you think the Piccadon [wine] will lead to any charges..?» (Strindberg to Bonnier 13 Sept. 1884)

«[My] whore book is finished! ... It is the worst, but yet most beautiful, cleverest and filthiest thing I've written.» (Strindberg to Pehr Staaf, July 1884)

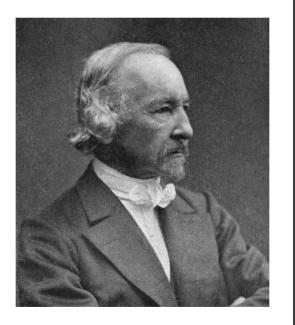
«The book is a book for the future and will probably serve as textbook in girls' schools at some point.»

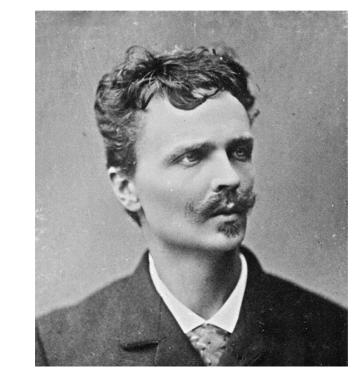
(Strindberg's sales pitch for the second edition)















Reception of Giftas

Prosecution

• Strain on relation to friends and colleagues. Wife not happy.

 $(\mathbf{\dot{e}})$

- 0 % chance of receiving Nobel Prize
- Infamous
- Strindberg wows never to set foot in Sweden again

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- First edition sold out/seized within days
- All publicity good publicity
- New friendships; Zola etc.
- Avantgardistic martyrdom
- Fame finally achieved

tidningen Gripen - att C. D. W. varit onåd. stitieministern är ändå ett strå hvassare. När underrättelsen kom till Södertelge att Aug. Strindbergs +Giftas, konfiskerats, blef det en ordentlig rusning till boklådan efter boken.

har jag här medelst skolat anmoda eder

att skyndsamligen föranstalta om verk-

G. R. Lilienber

ställighet af qvarstaden.

Stockholm den 3 okt. 1884.

NILS VON STEYERN.

rätta att han bjudits 100 kr. fo ementet en så lydande skrifvelse: men icke velat sälja för det p Sonniers tryckeri härstädes tryckt skri för 500 kr.!

- Justitiekanslersembetet stadsfiskalen A. M. Johanss det tryckfrihetsmål, som ko iggöras mot vederbörande vekaren) för tryckande

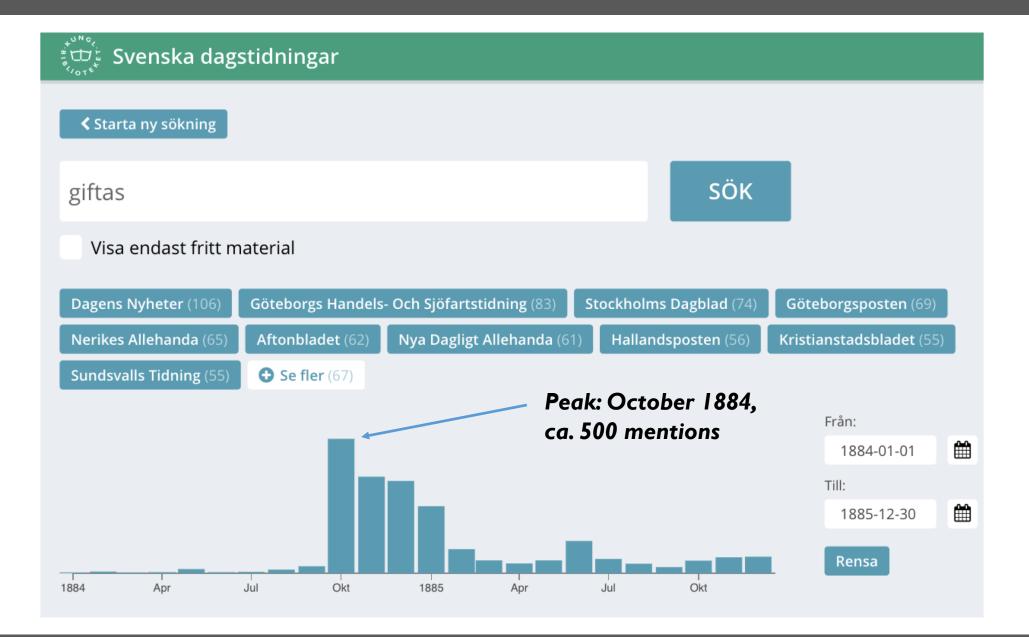
"Giftas", Stri beslaglagts i Falun, b ledning häraf tog stadsfogden i st stad för i onsdags, och boklådor i beslag alla slutsåld.

hålla har hittills ansetts vara den - anmärk etet är, som förf. med vanlig oförbe mot den i Posttidningens spalter. Men ju nhet erkänner i »förordet», hufvudsal igtadt mot Henrik Ibsens uppträdand kapsfrägan. Vi återkomma oförtöfvad

- Blekinge läns Tidning berättar: V: drindbergs sen. och med - att C. D. W. var. f de i måndags en person, som i tid bod qvarstad. Till öfvers. De Posttidningens spalter. Men lycklige egaren af ett exemplar af ett aflät i går chefen för jus De Statern for bods ett staf har de >Enär jag funnit en å boktryckaren telsen kom till Södertelge att Aug. gs »Giftas» konfiskerats, blef det en med titel: »Giftas. Tolf äktenskapshisto rusning till boklådan efter boken. rier med interview och förord af August ock redan utsåld. Strindberg» böra med qvarstad beläggas,

nge läns Tidning berättar: Vi hörde en person, som i tid blifvit den garen af ett exemplar af »Giftas», behan bjudits 100 kr. för det samma, e velat sälja för det priset; möjligen kr.!

Justitiekanslersembetet har förordnat adsfiskalen A. M. Johansson till äklagare i det tryckfrihetsmål, som kommer att anhäniggöras mot vederbörande (författaren eller ktryckaren) för tryckandet och spridandet



«The well-known author has written a new work, which promises to make more noise than most of his former writings» (Nerikes Allehanda 1884-09-26)

«It pains us to say that the latest work of the brilliant writer ... in reality is a part of the junk literature» (*Göteborgsposten* 1884-10-02)

«There is no doubt that Strindberg, once charges have been brought against him, will be convicted.» (Norrköpings tidningar 1884-10-07)

«... Strindberg is an angel in comparison with Boccacio.» (Glunten 1884-10-11)

«Strindberg's book 'Giftas' has in Finland been prohibited by the censorship» (Borås Tidning 1884-10-16)

«The public's interest is focused on a single person: August Strindberg.» (Norrlandsposten 1884-10-24)

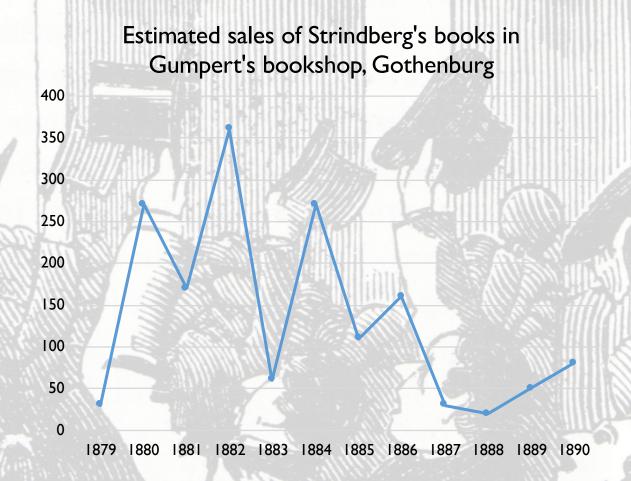
«The hero of the day, August Strindberg, [was greeted by] ... labourers, steady and broadshouldered men [who] wanted to greet the defender of the proletariat, [and] a significant number of women, young, old, married, unmarried, all with sympathies for *Giftas*.» (*Nya Wexjöbladet* 1884-10-24)

» The literary society 'Brage' at a grammar school in Malmo ... had acquired Strindberg's *Giftas*, which was passed between the members. When the headmaster heard that ... the book was also being read out aloud he ... disbanded the society and confiscated *Giftas* in order, as he stated, to burn it.» (*Härnösandsposten* 1884-11-01)

«STRINDBERG ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES»

A case of winning the battle but loosing the war?

- The modern literary writers the 'young Sweden' – alienated from the book buying clientele
- Declining sales' figures



The bookseller's diary

Bookseller Johan Lundgren, Norrköping

1884-10-04: «...Sold great quanitites of *Giftas* during the afternoon, which has been confiscated in Stockholm.»

1884-10-06: «Strindberg's Giftas confiscated here.»

OKTOBER 10:e mån. Adams & cals re alot rållade In B.n. alde ho em. mychet of thind up liftas non konfert rate: Allen? brach. Dat 1m Jummikainskapet Dunnes al mes al kindaled when al a brackfalart. Confeiberrad has nastizerrit

Giftas on the book market

Giftas I (September 1884): 4,000 copies Giftas I, 2nd ed. (June 1885): 5,000 copies Giftas II (October 1886): 5,000 copies

- 3,680 copies (92 %) of Giftas I sold within days, the remainder seized by authorities
- Moneymaker in commercial lending libraries
- Private loans á 25 öre
- Secondhand sales: examples of Giftas being sold for 10, 40 and even 100 kr (bookshop price 3,75 kr)
- Giftas I, 2nd ed.: 2,000 copies (40 %) sold after 9 months
- Giftas II: 1,100 copies (22 %) sold after two years (!)

Giftas customers

- Not only the bookshop regulars
- "ruffians and country bumpkins" suddenly showing up in bookshops, requesting *Giftas*
- Sales record from Gumpert's bookshop, Gothenburg:
 - wholesaler
 - shopkeeper
 - post clerk
 - bookkeeper
 - medical doctor
 - girl
 - principal
 - student
 - engineer

• NB! c. 25 % of the copies were returned

Parafin 60 Ag 10 Smor 53

i, ok setti fyrir höfðingja sina ronua mong

Reception among women

- Women supportive of Strindberg (newspaper reports)
- Modern female writers such as Victoria Benedictsson, Anne Charlotte Leffler, and Ellen Key less hostile towards *Giftas* than their male colleagues
- Daughters bought Giftas in Gumpert's bookshop
- Hardly any women buying Strindberg's books, preferred Tolstoy, Kielland & Ibsen
- Novel reading dangerous for women, Giftas in particular
- Danish women committed to asylum for reading Giftas

