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A page from the Swedish vicar Jonas A. Nensén's (1791–1881)  
notations of Sami words in northern Sweden (Uppsala University  
Library, R 649, p. 34).

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## Contents / Sommaire / Inhalt

Editors & Editorial board ..... 7

### Articles / Aufsätze

*Henrik Lång, Erland Mårald & Christer Nordlund, Making Wilderness. An Inquiry into Stig Wesslén's Documentation and Representation of the Northern Swedish Landscape* ..... 9

*Torjer A. Olsen, "Masculinities" in Sami studies* ..... 37

*Niclas Kaiser, Sofia Näckter, Maria Karlsson & Ellinor Salander Renberg, Experiences of Being a Young Female Sami Reindeer Herder. A Qualitative Study from the Perspective of Mental Health and Intersectionality* ..... 55

*Anna Westman Kuhmunen, A Female Perspective on Sami Bear Ceremonies* ..... 73

### Miscellanea: Notes / Notizen

Conference Report: Indigenous Resources. Decolonization and Development. Nuuk, Greenland 2015 (*Daniel Andersson*) ..... 95

Making Cultural Heritage Online. Lars Levi Læstadius' Work and its Relevance in the Arctic Region (*Rolf Inge Larsen, Steinar Thorvaldsen & Philipp Conzett*) ..... 96

"The Inquisitive Vicar." Bringing Jonas A. Nensén's Nineteenth Century Records of Northern People's Life and Culture to a Wider Audience (*Stina Karlgren, Robert Eckeryd & Lars-Erik Edlund*) ..... 100

### Reviews / Comptes rendus / Besprechungen

Review Essay: Coming to Grips with the Greenland Ice. Historical Flashbacks. Cornelia Lüdecke (hsg.), *Verborgene Eiswelten. Erich von Drygalskis Bericht über seine Grönlandexpeditionen 1891, 1892–1893*, München: August Dreesback Verlag 2015; Janet Martin-Nielsen, *Eismitte in the Scientific Imagination. Knowledge and Politics at the Center of Greenland*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2013 (*Aant Elzinga*) ..... 109

Roger Andersson (ed.), *Tre politiska pamfletter från 1460-talets Sverige. Med ett bidrag om Danske kong Christierns handel av Carl Claeson, Ebba Edberg & Peter Isotalo*, Stockholm: Sällskapet Runica et Mediævalia; Centrum för medeltidsstudier, Stockholm universitet 2011 (Sällskapet Runica et Mediævalia. Editiones 3) (*Lars-Erik Edlund*) ..... 127

Ivar Berg, Arnold Dalen & Karin Fjellhammer Seim (eds.), *Runestudier. Festschrift til Jan Ragnar Hagland*, Trondheim: Akademika Forlag 2013 (*Lars-Erik Edlund*) ..... 128

Ríta Duppler & Astrid van Nahl, *Isländisch. Ein Lehrbuch für Anfänger und Fortgeschrittene*, Hamburg: Helmut Buske Verlag 2013 ..... 129

Sara E. Ellis Nilsson, *Creating Holy People and Places on the Periphery. A Study of the Emergence of Cults of Native Saints in the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Lund and Uppsala from the Eleventh to the Thirteenth Centuries*, Gothenburg: University of Gothenburg 2015 (*Kirsi Salonen*) ..... 130

Peter Fjågesund, <i>The Dream of the North. A Cultural History to 1920</i> (Studia Imago- logica 23), Amsterdam & New York: Rodopi 2014 (Daniel Andersson).....	132
Kristina Hagren, <i>Ordbok över folkmålen i övre Dalarna</i> , 40, SYTA-TILL [p. 2775– 2854], Uppsala: Dialekt och folkminnesarkivet i Uppsala 2013 (Skrifter utg. av Institutet för språk och folkminnen. Serie D:1) (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	134
Odd Einar Haugen, <i>Norröne Grammatik im Überblick. Altisländisch und Altnorwe- gisch. Aus dem Norwegischen von Astrid van Nahl</i> , Hamburg: Helmut Buske Verlag 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	135
Tina K. Jakobsen, Kristin Magnussen, Anfinnur Johansen & Eivind Weyhe (eds.), <i>Nøvn i strandamentanini. Navne i kystkulturen. Forelæsninger fra det 41. NORNA- symposium i Tórshavn 2.–4. juni 2011</i> , Uppsala: NORNA-forlaget 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	136
Carl-Erik Lundbladh & Ingrid Reiz, <i>Blekingiska dialektord</i> , Lund: Institutet for språk och folkminnen, Dialekt- och ortnamnsarkivet i Lund 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	138
Lasse Mårtensson, <i>Den fristående redaktionen av Karls Þáttur vesæla. Undersökning, utgåva och översättning</i> , Stockholm: Sällskapet Runica et Mediaevalia 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	140
Leila Mattfolk, Maria Vidberg & Pamela Gustavsson (eds.), <i>Namn i stadsmiljö. Handlingar från NORNA:s 42 symposium i Helsingfors den 10–12 november 2011</i> , Helsingfors & Uppsala: Institutet för de inhemska språken; NORNA-förlaget 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	141
Evert Melefors (ed.), <i>Senmedeltida kopparutvinning i Åtvidaberg speglad i räkenskaper från 1500-talets början</i> , Uppsala: Svenska fornskriftsällskapet 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	143
Robert Nedoma (ed.), <i>Erzählen im mittelalterlichen Skandinavien, II</i> , Wien: Praesens Verlag 2014 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	144
Andreas Nordberg, <i>Fornnordisk religionsforskning mellan teori och empiri. Kulten av anfäder, solen och vegetationsandar i idéhistorisk belysning</i> , Uppsala: Kungl. Gustav Adolfs Akademien för svensk folkkultur 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	146
Lena Peterson, <i>“En brisi vas lina sunn, en lini vas unAR sunn ... En Þa barlaf”.</i> <i>Etymologiska studier över fyra personnamn på Malsta och Sunnåstenarna i Hälsing- land</i> , Stockholm: Sällskapet Runica et Mediaevalia 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	148
Lars P. Poulsen-Hansen (ed.), <i>Den Ryssiske Lov 1649. Oversat og kommenteret af Ras- mus Æreboe 1721. Med forord af Peter Ulf Møller</i> , Aarhus: Aarhus Universitetsforlag 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	150
Catarina Röjder, <i>Ortnamnen i Göteborgs och Bohus län 19. Ortnamnen i Tanums härad. 1. Bebyggelsenamn</i> , Göteborg: Institutet för språk och folkminnen, Dialekt-, ortnamns- och folkminnesarkivet i Göteborg 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	151

Tom Schmidt (ed.), <i>Målblomar til Margit. Veneskrift til Margit Harsson på 70-årsdagen den 9. juni 2013</i> , Oslo: Novus forlag 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	153
Wim Vandenbussche, Ernst Håkon Jahr & Peter Trudgill (eds.), <i>Language Ecology for the 21st Century. Linguistic Conflicts and Social Environments</i> , Oslo: Novus forlag 2013 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	154
Diana Whaley (ed.), <i>Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages. Vol 1. Poetry from the Kings' Sagas 1, Part 1–2</i> , Turnhout: Brepols 2012 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	156
Per-Axel Wiktorsson (ed.), <i>Texter och tecken från svensk medeltid</i> , Uppsala: Svenska fornskriftsällskapet 2012 (Lars-Erik Edlund).....	158
Instructions to Authors.....	161

early 1970s which, by using Greenlandic lyrics with political messages, revitalized Greenlandic culture and identity. It is also a story of the Danish colonization of Greenland, and the long and complicated processes of decolonisation and increased independence.

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## Making Cultural Heritage Online

### Lars Levi Læstadius' Work and its Relevance in the Arctic Region

Making Cultural Heritage Online (MCHO) is a project digitalizing the work of Lars Levi Læstadius. The project is centred at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, with a network of researchers from the universities of Eastern Finland, Nordland (Norway) and Umeå (Sweden), as well as from the Botanical Garden in Kirovsk (Russia). The project is multidisciplinary.

This project covers both historical studies and a study of the relevance of Læstadius' ideas historically and to present-day thought. MCHO aims to develop two digital platforms, a researcher platform and an educational platform for use in schools. The basic hypothesis of this project is that Lars Levi Læstadius' ideas are still useful to modern researchers, not only in religious-historical and theological contexts, but also in fields as diverse as the botanical, linguistic and ethnographic sciences, as well as in understanding the cultural context in the European North. We also believe that the project contributes significantly to technological and conceptual advances in these fields, and to a broader understanding of the origin and history of some of the central ideas that have formed the contemporary North.

Each of the following research aspects will be pursued from both historical and contemporary perspectives with regard to Læstadius' *Nachlass* texts:

1. Annotated transcripts of original publications/letters in their original language.
2. Translations into Finnish, Swedish/Norwegian, Sami and English, as available.

3. Texts existing only in Finnish and/or Sami to be translated into English.
4. Oral presentation of some of the material in selected northern dialects.
5. Development of pedagogical resources.
6. Developing disciplinary and multidisciplinary research projects based on the material.

## Lars Levi Læstadius

Lars Levi Læstadius was born in 1800 in the municipality of Jäkkvik in Swedish Lapland and died in 1861 in Pajala on the Swedish side of the border with Finland, which was a Russian Grand Duchy during the nineteenth century. Læstadius was educated as a theologian and worked as a vicar in Swedish Lapland. He is best remembered as a revivalist preacher and the revivalist movement, “Læstadianism,” has become a central influence in the cultural heritage of Northern Norway, Northern Sweden and Finland.

Much of the expertise on Læstadius’ work is located in the Arctic region. This research has mostly been carried out in the national contexts of Finland, Norway and Sweden.

There have been many scientific studies of the Læstadian revival, but a broad scientific presentation of the whole range of Læstadius’ work has never before been undertaken. The aim of this project is to make available all the works of Læstadius and to raise their profile, thereby opening up a significant field of cultural heritage in the North Calotte.

## The Study of Læstadius’ Nachlass

Læstadius work makes a contribution to a wide range of scientific fields, not only theology. He mastered and used several languages in his writings: Latin, Swedish, Sami and Finnish. Most interesting are his contributions in the latter two languages. In 1839, he anonymously published the booklet *Hållaittem ristagasa ja satte almatja kaskan* [‘Conversation between a Christian and a non-believer’] which, with two other publications dating from the 1840s, were the first texts ever to be published in Lule Sami. Læstadius thus played a major role in establishing a written standard for Lule Sami. During the years 1839–1845, Læstadius worked on a monograph on Sami mythology. This was meant to form part of the publication series of the *La Recherche* expedition, but the manuscript disappeared. One part was traced in 1933 to Pontarlier in France, another was discovered in 1946 at the University of Yale in the USA, and in 2001 the final part of the manuscript was found in Pontarlier. In the text, Læstadius declares the mythology of the Sami people to be the equal of any other.

Læstadius was also an internationally recognized botanist, a member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. Whilst attending to his pastoral duties, Læstadius pursued his interest in botany, authoring a number of articles on plant life in Lapland. Because of the wide recognition of his knowledge of botany, Læstadius was invited to participate in the French *La Recherche* expedition of 1838–1840. As an expedition member, Læstadius served as a field guide for the interior of Northern Norway and Sweden, studying both plant life and the culture of the Sami inhabitants. Following his participation in the *La Recherche* expedition, Læstadius became a Chevalier of the French *Légion d'honneur*, the first Scandinavian to receive this honour. Læstadius' herbarium, his drawings and his observations are of great value within the fields of both natural history and botany, contributing floristic, taxonomic and ecological information regarding vascular plants in northern Scandinavia. For many years he made meteorological notes and recorded the time of arrival of various migrating birds in Karesuando.

At the age of 43 Læstadius wrote his pastoral thesis *Crapula mundi*, in which he argued against the theological rationalism of the Swedish Enlightenment, and the moral decay of modern culture. The theology of Læstadius has had a great impact on the people of the North Calotte. His sermons were circulated throughout the region. At least 466 of them have been preserved and some are still in use today. Læstadius also wrote a thesis in philosophy of religion entitled *Dårhushjonet. En blick i nådens ordning* ['The lunatic. An insight into the order of grace']. This text provides a critique of philosophical and religious changes in society.

Læstadius wrote extensively, and several of his letters and papers have still not been published. Most of his *Nachlass* (unpublished writings) are now spread over various archives and private collections. An overview of his main publications is listed in Håkan Rydving's "Bibliographia laestadiana selecta" (Rydving 2000). In both Sweden and Finland there are several documents in libraries and archives; some of them already digitized. The search for further documents relating to Læstadius is ongoing, as is the process of digitizing and publishing as much of his unpublished work as possible. Making these texts available (transcribed and annotated) will ensure a broader and more accurate picture of Læstadius' thoughts, which is essential if their contemporaneous and present-day relevance is to be properly assessed.

Focusing on Læstadius's *Nachlass* should make it possible to obtain a far more detailed understanding of the author's role in the development of the history of the high north, and to study the genesis and development of the many ideas on which Læstadius worked—as attested by the content of these unpublished texts.

Three private agencies in Sweden have published Læstadian texts: Bib-



lioteca Laestadiana, laestadiustexter.se, and the Læstadius Museum in Pajala (see [www.bibliotecalaestadiana.se](http://www.bibliotecalaestadiana.se); [www.laestadiusfriends.se](http://www.laestadiusfriends.se)). Co-operation with these agencies will be of the highest priority for our project.

## Project Organization

The project is organized in three national research groups: a Norwegian group located in Tromsø (Chair: Rolf Inge Larsen, Associate Professor), a Swedish group located in Umeå (Chair: Olle Sundström, Associate Professor), and a Finnish group located in Joensuu (Chair: Hannu Mustakallio, Professor). The three groups will work closely together. Rolf Inge Larsen co-operates closely with the other national Chairs to organize the work in such a manner as to ensure a high degree of synergy between the sub-projects. Hopefully, PhD candidates and masters students from all the participating universities will also be associated with the project. Regular joint seminars will be held and there will be an emphasis on joint publications. Researchers from all groups are already involved in preparations for the first workshop.

## Publication Plan

A crucial preliminary step will be to clarify the scope of the technical platform which will be used to host the collected works of Læstadius. One of the university libraries will be responsible for this task, in co-operation with the other libraries and archives involved, taking charge of building and maintaining the platform. The University Library in Tromsø has a strong commitment to digital publishing and editing services and can ensure that the technical solution chosen for the Læstadius project is sustainable and complies with international standards for digital editing, text annotation and search facilities. The technical platform has not yet been chosen, but we are aiming to have a specialized Open-Source text database engine for the storage and retrieval of analyzed or annotated text. Application domains include linguistics, publishing, text processing, and any other fields dealing with annotated text.

Work on the various sub-projects (including the publication of Læstadius' *Nachlass*) will take place throughout the duration of the project. Seven Nordic workshops and one international conference will be organized during this period. All the activities will be documented on the project website (<http://site.uit.no/lll>). The project was launched at a workshop in Tromsø, 29–30 October 2015, where the disciplinary research project was discussed and presented on our website. Forthcoming workshops within the project will mainly be held at host universities, or in the municipalities of

Karesuando and Pajala where Læstadius lived and worked; they will be organized as open, international events with internationally recognized keynote speakers.

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### *Online resources*

Biblioteca Laestadiana; [www.bibliotecalaestadiana.se](http://www.bibliotecalaestadiana.se)

Laestadiusarkivet; [www.laestadiusarkivet.se](http://www.laestadiusarkivet.se)

Læstadius Museum, Pajala; [www.laestadiusfriends.se](http://www.laestadiusfriends.se)

Laestadiustexter.se; [www.laestadiustexter.se](http://www.laestadiustexter.se)

Making Cultural History Online; <http://site.uit.no/III>

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## “The Inquisitive Vicar”

Bringing Jonas A. Nensén’s Nineteenth Century Records of Northern People’s Life and Culture to a Wider Audience

“The inquisitive vicar” is a two-year transdisciplinary infrastructure project financed by Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond that began on January 2015 at Umeå University (IN14-0194:1). The project’s aim is to make the nineteenth century records of the northern people’s life and culture, as they were noted by the vicar Jonas A. Nensén (1791–1881), more widely known and available for researchers and the public alike. These records offer unique insights into a wide diversity of topics with importance for several disciplines as well as for our general understanding of the area’s cultural history and development.