



The Nordic Storyteller: Essays in Honour of Niels Ingwersen

Susan C. Brantly

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'The Nordic Storyteller: Essays in Honour of Niels Ingwersen' consists of a set of nineteen research essays plus an introduction, written by colleagues and admirers of Niels and Faith Ingwersen, leaders in the field of Scandinavian Studies in North America for some four decades. A first section of seven essays, entitled 'Songs and Tales in Oral Tradition', presents research in the area of folklore studies, including balladry, saints' lives, incantations, healing, legendry, and personal experience narrative. Articles take up such issues as classification, thematics, cultural and historical change, and the effects of technology on daily life. A closely related second section, 'From Oral Tradition to Literature' includes three essays which examine the adaptation of oral tradition to literary forms, focusing on the works of P. Chr. Asbjornsen, Esias Tegner, Elias Lonnrot, F. R. Kreutzwald, and the illustrations of Arthur Rackham - all figures important in the rise of folklore as a key interest of Romantic nationalism. A further set of nine essays grouped under the title 'Tales in Literary Form' examine aspects of the writings of some of the greatest storytellers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including H. C. Andersen, Herman Bang, Henrik Ibsen, Johann Magnus Bjarnason, Charles Dickens, Thomas Mann, Isak Dinesen, Martin Andersen Nexø, Billy August, Hans Scherfig, Peter Hoeg, Klaus Rifbjerg, Leif Panduro, and Kjartan Flogstad. Articles address topics including autobiography, source criticism, symbolism, personal and national identities, and the representation of political ideals. Together the essays of this volume demonstrate the unflagging salience of narrative - of storytelling - in the personal lives and social experiences of Scandinavians and their neighbors, past and present.

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