

**SWEDEN'S LAUREATE:
SELECTED POEMS
OF VERNER VON
HEIDENSTAM, PP.1-157**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649760916

Sweden's Laureate: Selected Poems of Verner Von Heidenstam, pp.1-157 by Verner von Heidenstam & Charles Wharton Stork

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Cover @ 2017

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SWEDEN'S LAUREATE:

Selected Poems of Verner von Heidenstam.

*Translated from the Swedish with an
Introduction by Charles Wharton Stork.*



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LONDON · HUMPHREY MILFORD
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To My Friend

RICHARD MOTT GUMMERE

*as the twenty-one year mile-stone of
an unbroken friendship and fellowship
this volume is affectionately dedicated.*

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Preface and Acknowledgements.

This volume contains about one-fourth of the material in Heidenstam's three volumes: *Vallfart och Vandringsår*, 1888; *Dikter*, 1895; and *Nya Dikter*, 1915—all published by Albert Bonnier, Stockholm. The translations are published with the personal approval and consent of Herr von Heidenstam.

The translator hereby extends his thanks to the proprietors of the following publications for their courteous permission to reproduce such poems or critical material as first appeared in their pages: *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, *The Independent*, *New York Nation*, *Bookman*, *Stratford Journal*, *Poetry Journal*, *Pagan*, *Contemporary Verse*, and *Youth*.

More particular thanks is due to the American-Scandinavian Foundation for the use of poems which appeared in my *Anthology of Swedish Lyrics* and in the *American-Scandinavian Review*. To the Foundation I am also indebted for a plebiscite conducted through the Stockholm *Dagblad*, to which several hundred readers sent the titles of their favorite poems. From this contest Heidenstam emerged in a tie for second place with Axel Erik Karlfeldt, another living poet. First place fell to Gustaf Fröding, of whose selected poems I have already brought out a volume. As, however, Fröding's charm lies so peculiarly in the verbal magic of the Swedish, I

believe that it is possible to give readers of English a somewhat better account of Heidenstam, who depends more equally on form and substance. The favorite single poem in the plebiscite was the *Pilgrim's Yule Song* here published for the first time in translation. The *Dagblad's* list was of great assistance in making the selections for this volume. In details of the work I have been ably assisted by the revision of the reader of the Yale University Press. Mrs. A. B. Fries and Mr. Edwin Björkman have also helped with knotty passages. In the Introduction I have made use of material in an article by Miss Hanna A. Larson in the *New York Evening Mail* for Feb. 16, 1918.

No liberties have been taken with the original text except that I have furnished separate titles to the "Thoughts in Loneliness" so as to assist the reader in reference. The order of the poems is the same as in the Swedish, except that the "Thoughts in Loneliness" have been shifted from before "The Happy Artists" to the end of the selections from *Pilgrimages*. The metres and rhyme-schemes are followed carefully, except in a few minor instances. Although I have endeavored primarily to make my translations good English poetry, with no suggestion that they are other than first-hand, I believe that I have been able to follow the Swedish more closely than in my previous volumes. In the few prose sketches I have tried to suggest the cadence as well as to give the meaning of the Swedish prose.