



Migration News

No 2 2014

Swedish Migration Center's First Local Offices



The Swedish Migration Center's first local offices have been inaugurated in Forshaga and Karlskoga by the organization's president, Governor Kenneth Johansson. The goal is to establish 50 local offices throughout Sweden, each with twenty employers, creating 1,000 jobs for people excluded from the job market, perhaps because of a

disability. The local offices will work with preserving the cultural heritage, with special focus on migration and migration history, including a substantial

project in cooperation with the Swedish National Archives to digitalize and make accessible material for research.

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An exhibit on the immigrant and entrepreneur Fredrik Mühlenbock was inaugurated by the chairman of The House of Emigrants, Stefan Gelkner, on August 13th. The exhibit shows

Fredrik's progression from a poor mason's apprentice to a well-to-do wholesaler with an emphasis on the fruit business. Mühlenbock's history is intended to correlate with mod-

From Germany to Gothenburg

ern immigrants in Gothenburg who often establish themselves in business in similar ways. The exhibit was produced in cooperation with the Mühlenbock Society of Gothenburg.

Regional Office in Ljungby



The Swedish Migration Center's regional office in Ljungby was inaugurated on August 7th by City Board President Ann-Charlotte Wiesel. This first establishment in the southern region includes Småland, Skåne

and Blekinge. At the local office nineteen people will be working initially, and, besides digitalization and documentation, the operation will also include genealogical research service from Tuesday through Thurs-

day. Furthermore, exhibits will be shown in the municipality, the first one being "The Forgotten Emigration to Denmark and Germany 1850-1914".

International Attention on Anniversary at Jonas Bronck Center in Sävsjö

From August 22nd to 24th the 375th anniversary of the Swede Jonas Bronck's arrival in America was celebrated in Sävsjö. The celebration sheds light on the significance of his 1639 arrival in New Netherlands, where he settled in the area that came to be known as "Bronck's land" – now the section of New York known as The Bronx. That event can be said to illuminate migration's lasting historical meaning for Swedish and American history. Jonas Bronck Center in Sävsjö works with the ambition to found a research and visitor destination of the highest international class in Sävsjö. The public operations already encompass several exhibits featuring the migration between Sweden and Denmark/



Germany, Henry Ford and the assembly line, immigrants in the American Civil War and, naturally, an exhibit on Jonas Bronck's world. The celebration, which garnered interna-

tional attention, including that of The New York Times, was opened by Jönköping County Governor Mino Akhtarzand.



The Swedish Emigrant Institute

At its June 2 meeting, the Swedish Emigrant Institute's Board had to decide between two alternatives. The alternative suggested by the Emigrant Institute's president, Professor Harald Runblom and the vice president, Director National Archives Region State Archives Gothenburg Ulf Andersson, aimed at the restructuring of the organization. This was to happen in cooperation with the Jonas Bronck Center, which also offered 2 million SEK to make possible the reorganizing of the institution. The other alternative was a suggestion from Kulturparken Småland Board Chairman Peter Norrman and Executive Director Lennart Johansson to proceed with the liquidation of the Emigrant In-

stitute's operations under its own direction and move toward a closer cooperation with the Kulturparken Småland Company.

The Board voted with a slim majority in favour of the latter alternative, which means that its own operations will cease and cooperation with Kulturparken Småland will commence. Kulturparken Småland already runs public operations in The House of Emigrants in Växjö, including its old exhibit "The Dream of America".

The decision to turn down the former alternative has been appealed against by Emigrant Institute chairman Harald Runblom to the board's supervisory authority, the County Board in

Skåne, but no ruling has yet been handed down. If the vote to liquidate is followed, the last of the Emigrant Institute's staff members will stop working in mid-January 2015.



EU-Migrants' and Undocumented Migrants' Situation



On February 5th the Immigrant Institute in Gothenburg held an OpenSpace conference on the EU-migrants' and undocumented migrants' situation in Gothenburg with the aim of discussing their needs and initiatives to improve their pre-

carious situation. It is vital that efforts be made locally, nationally and on the international European level. Therefore, before the EU election, the Immigrant Institute held an election debate on May 15th at the "Göteborgs Föreningscenter", with Swed-

ish candidates to the EU Parliament from six different parties, along with researchers and trainees, to raise the issue of the EU-migrants' situation and their need of health care, work, housing, child care and education.



Book & Library Gothenburg Book Fair Immigrant Institution at the Book Fair September 25-28

Visit the Immigrant Institute's exhibit and seminars at the International Square during the Book Fair.
<http://www.internationellatorget.se/program/>

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