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## Some news about the SEI

Ulf Beijbom

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Konst- brev- betyg	År	År	Anteckningar om frejd; naltvardshinder; äktenskapshinder; utfridd tyning; hindern- löshetsbetyg; skjutet; barns legalisering; uttråde ur svenska kyrkan; främmande trosbekännelse; främmande nationalitet; den församling i Sverige, som melder vid ankomst utom riket tillhörde; m. m.	Väroplögs- förhållanden.	Uttyttad eller övertörd.		Död år, dag och månad.
					Till förs. i läu eller i stad, eller såda i församlingbok eller boken öfver öbefintl.	År, dag och månad.	
	96-7						
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6	96-7-8						
6	96	Småskoll. ex.		Frikallad	N. Amerika 10/4/97		
6	96-7	Betyg att konfirmeras i Hofmantorp. Admitt. i Hofmt. 1899			Chr. Lyr 26 N. Amerika 1/98		
	96-7-8						
	96-7-8				N. Amerika 10/4/99		
8	98	Wistats i N. Amerika 31/1-94 - 13/10-98. D. 7/4-99 erhållit Kongl. Maj:ts tillstånd att emigrera			N. Amerika 10/4/99		

Right side. Note on line 3: Frikallad = exempted from military service. Note on line 4: Småskoll.ex. = examined teacher for small children. Note on line 5: Betyg att konfirmeras i Hofmantorp. Admitt i Hofmt. 1899 = Got testimony to be taught for confirmation in Hofmantorp. Admitted (to communion) in Hofmantorp 1899. Note on line 8: Wistats i N. Amerika 31/1-94 - 13/10-98. D. 7/4-99 erhållit Kongl. Maj:ts tillstånd att emigrera = Has been in America from 13 Jan.-94 to 13 Oct.-99. On Apr. 7 -99 received Royal consent to emigrate.

## Some news about the Swedish Emigrant Institute

On September 15, 2010, the former director of the Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) in Växjö, Professor *Ulf Beijbom* contacted SAG and told us the following news:

The House itself was sold in the spring of 2010 to the *Växjö Fastighets AB [Vöfab]* (a real estate company owned by Växjö city) for a sum of 9 million SEK (half the cost of building the house). The *Kulturparken Småland* (a company that is to run the Växjö Museum and the Kronoberg Archives) is renting the building. Vöfab will take over the building on Nov. 1st. The SEI is to pay a minimal rent of 6000 SEK/month for the next 5 years.

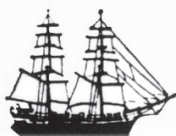
The SEI has been closed to the public since the spring and will not open until 2011 (maybe).

The SEI has dismissed the majority of the staff, and is reorganizing the library for the much smaller area that the SEI will have to rent from the new owners.

It is said that SEI in the future will concentrate on its core work, which is supposed to be research. The reading room and the archives will supposedly continue to function as usual.

An agreement has been signed by the SEI and *Kulturparken Småland* that the latter will continue to work with the exhibitions in the house and keep them open. It does seem a bit doubtful if they have the competence and finances to do this.

This dismantling of the SEI has unfortunately been mostly regarded as a local matter, and has not generated much interest in countrywide media or at the Department of Culture. The loss of one of the foremost places for visits by American tourists seems to be of no concern to anyone except the SEI itself.



Professor Ulf Beijbom in 2006.

**SAG editor's comment:** This is so sad, and really a shame for Växjö city and the Kronoberg county government.

It is amazing that they do not understand the value of keeping the contacts between Sweden and all the Swedish descendants in other countries open and growing; instead they close the doors in the face of our visitors, who then go elsewhere and spend their money. They do get a bad impression of the area, and leave. I experienced that myself this summer.