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## Bits & Pieces

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# Bits & Pieces



## The Carl Sandburg Medal to Ronald J. Johnson!

At the annual meeting of the Swedish-American Historical Society in November 2009 at the Chicago Swedish American Museum, the Society's *Carl Sandburg Medal* was presented to *Ronald J. Johnson* of Madison, Wisc. Ronald was awarded the medal for his longtime efforts in Swedish American genealogy, manifested in many ways, as in his book *Vista '76. 120 Years of a Scandinavian-American Community*, which was printed already in 1976. Since then he has spent much time and research on finding out more about the people in this community in Waseca County in southern Minnesota. Ronald has been a frequent member of the SAG Workshop, and all his friends from there send their congratulations!



## U.S. Census for 1940?

Now it is only a little more than 800 days until 2012 April 1. What happens then? That is the big day when the National Archives releases the 1940 U.S. Federal Census for 1940 for all researchers, and hopefully some old problems will be solved then.

## The world's 2nd largest coin



This piece of copper, which is actually a coin, weighs about 28 pounds. It was minted in Sweden from 1649 for a time, but became soon regarded as very impractical. Its value was 8 *daler koppermynt*, and it had a bigger brother, the 10 *daler* coin, which weighed around 40 pounds. There is now about 20 of these smaller ones still existing. The above one was sold at auction in Stockholm in November 2009 for 1.8 million SEK.

(*Svenska Dagbladet* 2009 Nov. 27)

## New name for the Swedish National Archives

The Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) has for some years had a web site together with the regional archives under the name *Statens arkiv* (State archives). From 2010 Jan. 1 the name will again be *Riksarkivet* for all of the state archives, due to a reorganization, and the name of the web site will also change. *Link on page 30!*

## Arkiv Digital keeps growing

The *Arkiv Digital* company are now more or less finished with Gävleborg county, and are now working on Stockholm county and city, and Västernorrland, and adding to Malmöhus and Kristianstad counties.

## Swedish genealogists working on a new Death Index

The latest Swedish Death Index (*Sveriges dödbok*) on CD covers the period of 1947–2006, and was released in 2007. Many researchers had wished for a similar index that would start earlier, as the 1900s are a difficult period to research, due to the privacy rules (70 years), and that the records were not digitized.

However, it was decided by the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*) in 2007 to start a new project, called *Namn åt de döda* (Names for the deceased) 1901–1946. This is a volunteer project, as people and genealogical societies accepted the challenge to copy the handwritten death records into a database.

For the years after 1938 the project has been having fine cooperation with the archives, who have permitted project managers to take digital photos of most parts of the death records. These photos have since been used by the transcribers.

Now the project is about to end, and some provinces have had 100% of their old death records transcribed into the common database, others less, but it is still thought that at least 75–80% of all the deaths during the period will be available on the new CD, when it will be ready in the late summer of 2010. It will also include the deaths from 2006–2009.

## More old documents at SVAR

The SVAR subscription site is now adding scans of very old records. They are now working on the *landskapshandlingarna* (provincial documents), that start around 1535, and go up to 1634.