SVAR + Arkion = true
From 1 January 2005 the Swedish National Archives decided that their branches SVAR and Arkion should amalgamate, a fusion that took place on 1 April. SVAR is well known as producer of microfiche of various Swedish records: church records, legal records, fire insurance records, and much more. SVAR also has a free research room at Ramsele in Ångermanland and an e-bookshop.

Arkion mainly worked with producing databases at several places in Norrland, including the useful 1890 and 1900 censuses, and many other good things for genealogists.

It will now be easier to use those facilities as well as those of SVAR, as only one subscription is needed, and everything can be found on one website. One enticing thing that has started to be available are the tax registers (mantalslängder).

www.svar.ra.se

The Canadian Census is safe!
Canadian historians of all kinds, genealogists, and many others have struggled since 1998 to get their 1911 census preserved for research, as their Bureau of Statistics wanted it destroyed. Their reason for this wish was that the people who filled out this schedule in 1911, had been promised that the information would remain confidential. In those days the authorities did not understand the historical value of a census. The struggle was finally won by the preservationists, and the 1911 census was preserved for research.

Now the last one has passed away, when Walter C. Lindquist, age 98, died in Iron River, Iron County, Michigan on 11 October 2004. He was a son of Moberg's maternal uncle (morbror) Aldo Gottfrid Aronsson Lindquist, who emigrated in 1881.

The Olsson Scholarship
The Nils William and Dagmar Olsson Scholarship for 2005 was awarded to Ms. Agnieszka Stasiewicz from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, who is studying “how much of the Swedish culture has survived until today” and the “Swedishness” in the cultural life of the contemporary America.”

www.svar.ra.se

Lars-Göran got the Charlotta medal
Lars-Göran Johansson, the former longtime archivist at the Swedish Emigrant Institute of Växjö, was awarded the institute's Charlotta medal on the Minnesota Day 2004. This was in recognition of Lars-Göran's many efforts on behalf of the institute during almost 30 years.

Lars-Göran resigned from the institute in 2002 to take up a position as archivist with the police in western Sweden, and moved to Göteborg.

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(APG-list 2005 July 1)

Swedish-American of the Year – Jeanne Eriksson Widman
The two lodges in Sweden of the Vasa Order of America has chosen Jeanne Eriksson Widman as the Swedish-American of the year for 2005. Mrs. Widman is widely known for her energy when it comes to furthering Swedish dancing, music, and culture. She has been the dance leader for the Vasa Folkdancers of New York for more than 25 years, she founded The Scandinavian Accordion Club of New York. Her father was the legendary musician Walter Eriksson.

Mrs. Widman is expected to come to Swen and take part of some of the Swedish American days during the summer, as for instance John Ericsson Day in Filipstad and Minnesota Day in Växjö.

(www.vasaorden.com)

A New CD
In late May the Stockholm City Archives (Stockholms Stadsarkiv) released a new CD, which contains information on all people living on Kungsholmen 1878 to 1926.

The CD is actually also a DVD; you get two discs in the same package. The DVD has lots of pictures, articles, film clips, and much more. All this costs about $50 (395 SEK + p&h and bank charges). Kungsholmen can be bought at the City Archives or from the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies. Their e-mail is <info@genealogi.se>

Have You Tried eBay?
At my last visit there I found several very inexpensive Swedish dictionaries, and an 1878 Swedish Bible. There are probably more interesting things, if you look for them.