

3-1-1998

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Recommended Citation

Rosvall, Ted (1998) "Swedish Telephone Book on CD," *Swedish American Genealogist*. Vol. 18 : No. 1 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol18/iss1/6>

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Swedish Telephone Book On CD

Ted Rosvall

Sweden finally has what a lot of other countries, including the U.S., have had for a long time—a telephone book on CD. TELIA, the Swedish telephone company, released this much-awaited new product, called BAS, in December of 1997. It works on both PC (Windows) and Macintosh platforms. It can be purchased in ordinary bookshops and special telephone shops (*Telebutik*) in most Swedish cities, for approximately 200 Swedish *kronor* (U.S. \$25).

For the genealogist and those seeking lost relatives, this is a dandy tool. In addition to the White Pages, the CD also covers the so-called “Pink Pages.” Unfortunately, the Yellow Pages are not included. At your fingertips, you have around five million names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals, institutions and businesses. You can easily get all listings of a surname or see if any people with a certain surname are still residing in an area from which your family came. You can readily find the addresses and telephone numbers of local parish offices, tax offices, cemeteries or societies of various sorts.

The CD contains a self-instructing program that is easy to learn and use. Nonetheless, the three extra Swedish letters (ä, å and ö) may give you problems if you try to use the CD on an “American” computer. On most computers, it is possible to find the extra letters through a combination of key strokes and/or special functions.

The only major objection to the CD is that addresses do not include zip codes. These can, however, be bought on a separate diskette from TELIA.