

A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
SWEDISH CLUB OF CHICAGO



1947



THE FORMER WILLIAM DICKINSON HOME

THE CLUB HOUSE
Occupancy by the Club was in 1896 and has continued to date.

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A SECTION OF THE MAIN LOUNGE

Foreword

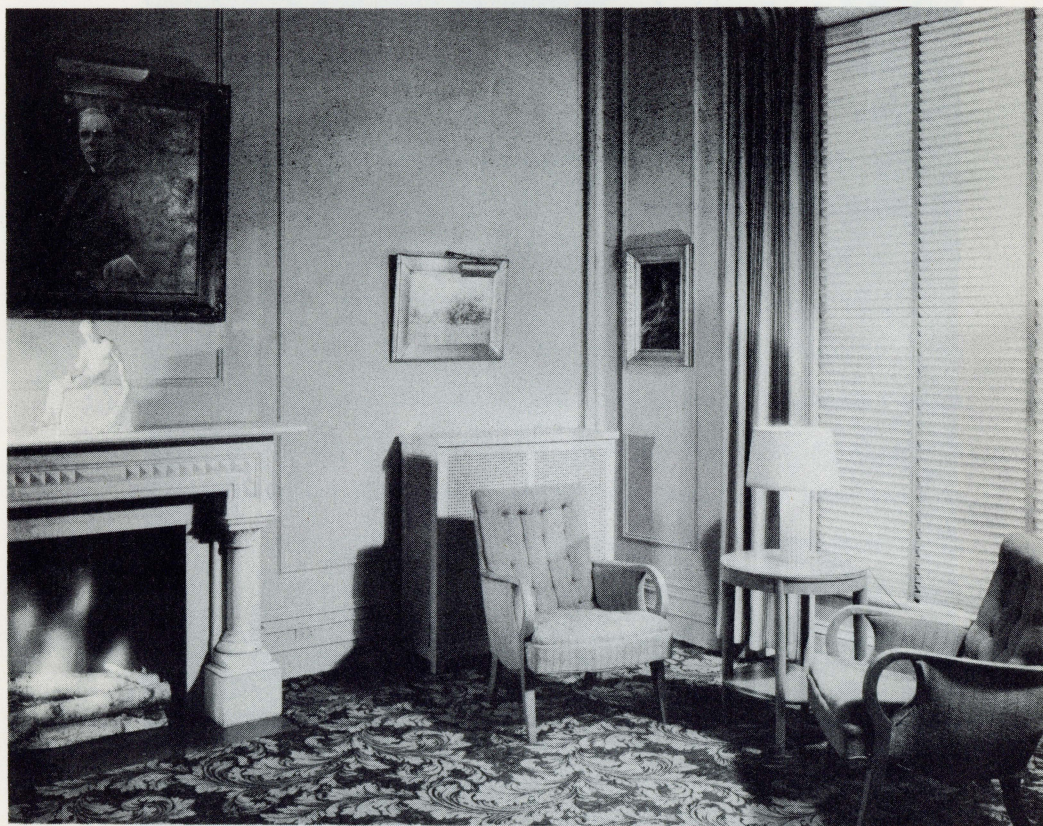
"The richness contributing to American national life by the intellectual, spiritual and cultural background of Christian nationals from across the seas, taking to their hearts the spirit of the American ideal, is not to be overlooked."

"I am American of the first generation; I feel strongly for the countrymen of the land of my fathers living here, and who are now part of the American scene, and who are not forgetting their spiritual and cultural background."

"A people that has lost its tradition is doomed. If a process of leveling down, of making everybody alike by blotting out all racial traits were accepted as desirable, America could well become the most impoverished land spiritually on the face of the earth; out of our highly praised melting pot will have come a dull, smug complacency, barren of all creative thought and effort. Soon we would have reached the perfect democracy of barrenness. Gone will have been the distinguishing traits, whatever they may be, given by God; dead will have become the hidden life of the heart that is nourished by tradition, the idioms of language and an attitude toward life. What, therefore, will have been left."

"In the generations to come all this tradition will be blended in things American to make a richer American national pattern; but the varied traditions in the meantime must be conserved to be thus blended."

"I believe the Scandinavian brings a richness and a capacity of response to things American and the American ideal, comparable to any national group in these United States."



ANTE-ROOM OFF THE MAIN LOUNGE

To the Members of The Swedish Club of Chicago

In constructing a history of The Swedish Club of Chicago the writer has gone back to the informal beginnings. However, when a club historian thus ventures, he is likely to stir up a kindly hornet's nest among our elder members, not fully familiar with the facts of origin or who interpret those facts differently than the writer.

I have attempted to correlate the facts chronologically. If some of our elderly members take exception to my interpretation of the facts of origin, facts which may appear to reduce our years of existence, please remember that as club existences go in a metropolitan area—a period in excess of fifty years is a long, long time. The mortality in clubs drawing their membership from even the most diverse sources, is large. That being the case we should feel proud that for over half a century there has been in existence here in Chicago an organization composed of Americans of Swedish birth and Americans of Swedish descent, having as its prime aim and purpose the preservation and appreciation of the language, songs and customs of Sweden.

I am indebted to the following club members for the assistance given me in compiling the data presented herein: Messrs. John L. Svenson, Frank Gustafson, Hermann Olson, O. C. Nylund, Ragnar Cederlund and Godfrey Wedell.

To Mr. Daniel Anderson I pay special tribute because his constant prodding forced me to live up to my job as Club Historian and finally put into writing the facts I have gathered over a considerable period of time. I am indebted to Mr. Frederick A. Thulin for the "Foreword" and "Epilogue."

I call attention to the illustrations plentifully appearing in this brochure; the illustrations enrich the history.

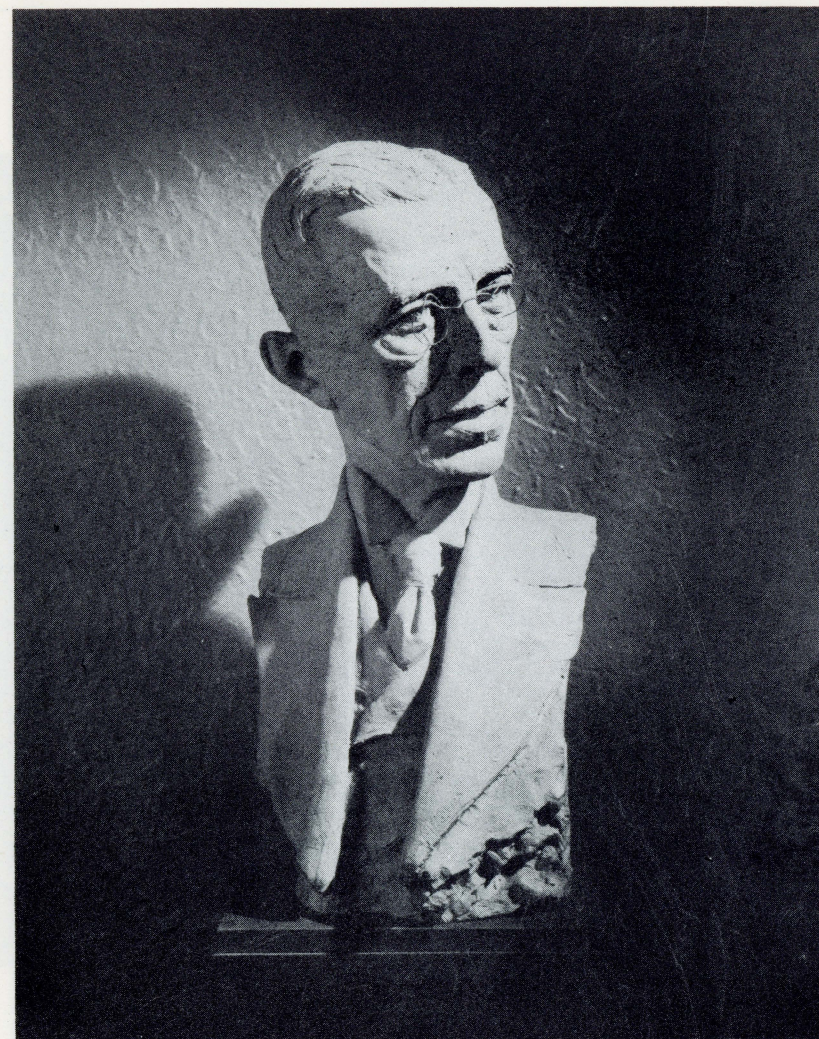
Sincerely,

HERBERT R. HEDMAN,
Club Historian.

April 23rd, 1947.



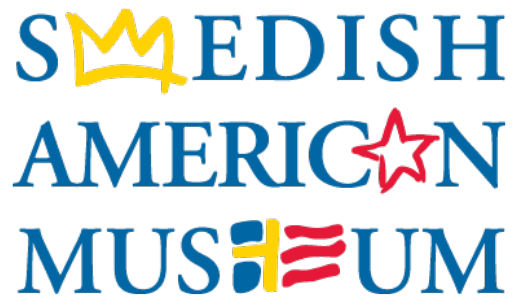
Autographed photographs of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf and Crown Princess Louise, presented to the Club, by the Crown Prince and Princess on the occasion of their visit to the Club.



SCULPTOR: A. MORETTI

KING GUSTAV V. OF SWEDEN

This bust is one of the relatively few sculptures made at the behest of the King and presented to The Swedish Club of Chicago in 1933.



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