

# Editorial

Arne Bugge Amundsen

This is the last volume of *ARV* to be edited by me. *ARV* was first published in 1945, so the current volume will be number 80. Since the beginning, *ARV* has had only five editors: Jöran Sahlgren (1884–1971) 1945–1951, Dag Strömbäck (1900–1978) 1952–1978, Bengt R. Jonsson (1930–2008) 1979–1992, Ulrika Wolf-Knuts (1947–) 1993–2002 and Arne Bugge Amundsen (1955–) 2003–2024.

My responsibility has been for the last 22 volumes, totalling around 5,000 pages. In the period 2003–2024, *ARV* has published a total of 160 articles and 409 books have been reviewed. In addition, a number of conference reports, obituaries and discussions have been published. Many volumes have been “open” thematically, but ten volumes have been thematic:

- 2006 Witchcraft and witch-hunting
- 2009 Nordic Spaces, edited by Lizette Gradén and Hanne Pico Larsen
- 2010 Memory and culture, edited by Henning Laugerud
- 2011 Museums and memories, edited by Saphinaz Amal-Naguib
- 2014 Magic, edited by Ane Ohrvik and Aðalheiður Guðmundsdóttir
- 2016 The cultural history of medicine, edited by Anne Eriksen
- 2018 Broadsheets and folk song, edited by Line Esborg and Katrine Watz Thorsen
- 2020 Digital methods in folklore studies
- 2023 Female folklorists
- 2024 Folk religion

This selection of topics shows that the judgements I made in an editorial in 2003 (pp. 7–8) have been followed up. At the time, I formulated it as follows, based on the very different situation for folklore studies in the Nordic countries: “How can a yearbook like *ARV* manoeuvre in such a situation? My answer is to show editorial openness and academic curiosity. *ARV* must continue to be a platform and a forum for those academic communities in the Nordic countries – and for my part, I am pleased to be able to include the Baltic countries – that see themselves as bearers of an important element

in the scholarly tradition that has defined itself as folkloristics for generations: The study of the relationship between people and elites, of stories and ideas, of religion and thought – all with an emphasis on what previous generations referred to as belonging to ‘the people’, and which today can perhaps be translated as that which cannot be unambiguously captured by ideologies, political correctness and textual norms.” Over the past 22 years, in fact, all five Nordic countries have been represented with articles and book reviews, the Baltic countries have been included, “traditional” topics in folklore studies have been given space, but there has also been room for “new” topics or new perspectives on old topics. Among the authors of articles, 6 have been from Estonia, 11 from Denmark, 14 from Iceland, 15 from Finland, 46 from Sweden and 66 from Norway. The distribution of authors has been roughly equal between men (88) and women (81).

The 2024 volume marks a new way of publishing *ARV*. The number of subscribers has declined significantly in recent years, and printing books is expensive. The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy has therefore orientated itself towards digital publishing. As of now, all volumes of *ARV* from 1981 are available digitally via the Academy’s website, and the plan is to digitize all volumes. From 2024, the primary form of publication for *ARV* will be digital.

I cannot foretell the future of *ARV* or of folklore studies in the Nordic countries, but I am convinced that, from 2025, when I am replaced as editor-in-chief by a new generation of gifted and dedicated Nordic scholars, the readers of *ARV* can look forward to further inspirational reading.