
EDITORIAL: SWEDISH COMICS, NORDIC NETWORKS AND WWII

by Katja Kontturi, Martin Lund, Leena Romu, and Fredrik Strömberg





Dear reader,

We are excited to present to you this new issue of *SJoCA*. We hope that it will make for good summer reading! For your reading pleasure and edification, we offer two new articles, one forum text, and four reviews.

Although not by design, Ylva Lindberg's article looks at comics by two Swedish women cartoonists in a way that, in part, can be placed in the same tradition as Tahneer Oksman's recent "*How Come Boys Get to Keep Their Noses?*" *Women and Jewish American Identity in Contemporary Graphic Memoirs*. What Oksman and Lindberg share is a material that "evinces the ways that so many women cartoonists have come to experiment with how stories are told, bringing innovative viewpoints to a world of comics that has for so long been dominated by masculine perspectives and reminding readers of the complex and sometimes invisible genealogies connected to all modes of storytelling" (15).

In a sense, Jonas Otterbeck's article continues another tradition, focused on what, in some people's view, could be said to be the exact world Oksman is quoted as critiquing above: his article treats the Swedish comic strip *Rocky*, which was also discussed by Rikke Platz Cortsen in our last issue.

This issue's forum text is a report by Essi Varis and our own Katja Kontturi, from the Nordic Network for Comics Research's 2015 international conference in Oslo. In our review section, Frank Bramlett reviews a 2013 gallery show about the city of Stockholm and its relation to and representation in comics. Although the publication is somewhat belated due to *SJoCA*'s hiatus, it nonetheless provides an interesting addition to the body of museum comics exhibit reviews.

Ralf Kauranen reviews a new book about the Second World War in Finnish comics and Fredrik Strömberg reviews a history of black superheroes. Rounding off the issue is Julian Chambliss' review of the activist anthology *Comics Against Police Brutality*. While we do not usually review comics in *SJoCA*, we make an exception with this title, for reasons that are made clear in Chambliss' excellent review.

Enjoy!