

Preface

It seems incredible that Bjarne Thorup Thomsen has been in Edinburgh for thirty-five years. In 1987, we were moving our Scandinavian Studies department from Aberdeen down to Edinburgh, and for the first time it became possible to appoint a full-time lecturer in Danish, followed by Norwegian in 1989. It was important to select the right candidates, and Bjarne and Arne Kruse, respectively, proved to be excellent choices and valued colleagues. Working together, we were able to build from the ground up a reputable Scandinavian centre of note in Edinburgh. It was particularly gratifying that both men have played important roles in the fortunes of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies in the years since, and it is little wonder that the society's journal continues to go from strength to strength following their stringent and expert rejuvenation of the organ.

We are delighted by developments in and around the University of Edinburgh Scandinavian Studies department over the years since its inception, and note that it has not only produced many hundreds of alumni through its rich and varied undergraduate teaching, but that it also remains consistently one of the most well-liked language and area studies degrees offered. Upon our arrival from Aberdeen, we inherited just one PhD student, and it has been most gratifying to see the nurturing of researchers blossom over the years.

The solid work in this centre of research is not confined to the graduate students: it was apparent to us both from our very first encounter with him that Bjarne was a young man of considerable intellect and eloquence, and we were quite certain that a career of insightful research outputs lay ahead of him. We were not wrong.

Given Bjarne's modesty and kindness, as well as his attentiveness and skill as a supervisor, we have found him to be a first-rate friend, colleague, and mentor. We are not surprised to see that this sentiment is one shared by many others featured as contributors to this splendid volume.

We greatly appreciate all Bjarne has done since our paths first crossed thirty-five years ago, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Irene Scobbie

Corbridge, July 2022

Peter Graves

Edinburgh, July 2022

Irene Scobbie was editor of *Northern Studies* from 1989 until 1992. Until her retirement in 1991, she was Reader in Swedish and Head of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She was appointed a Commander of the Royal Swedish Order of the Polar Star in 1986.

Peter Graves gave the fourth Hermann Pálsson Lecture in 2008. Until his retirement in the same year, he was Senior Lecturer in Swedish and Head of the School of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh. He was appointed Knight (First Class) of the Royal Swedish Order of the Polar Star in 2009.