

My Memories of Sweden by Robert D. Hulshouser, CPP
In Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary Jubilee of the Swedish Chapter

My good friend, Hans Wermdalen, CPP, asked if I would be willing to write a few words in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the Swedish Chapter of ASIS International. Of course, I accepted this invitation enthusiastically. It is a distinct honor to be a part of your very special anniversary event.

My first vivid memories of Sweden occurred in October 1990, when I joined three other members of the Privacy and Personnel Information Management Committee in presenting two, two day seminars to members of the former Norden Chapter and Skandia Insurance on the topic of "How to Hire and Keep Quality Employees." Hans Olof Olsson was our host for this event, and I must say that we were treated royally. Coincidentally, Hans was a valued member of our Committee and participated in almost all of our meetings in the USA and the ASIS Annual Seminars. It is here that I met many Swedish friends with whom I've maintained ongoing professional and personal relationships. Friends such as Hans and Hans started what has become a lasting bond with Sweden for me. You've always represented the very finest of attributes as security professionals and as friends.

In October 1992, Hans Wermdalen and I were part of a team of security professionals who were invited to participate in the first "Private Security, Investigation and Business Intelligence Delegation" to the Russian Federation. Once again, Hans and I were associated in a security venue of international cooperation and significance. In fact, this delegation was so newsworthy that we were featured on a CBS "Street Stories" program. This adventure validated the necessity for international cooperation in private security matters as our business focuses became more global.

During the Presidency of Bonnie Michelman, CPP, I again had the privilege of returning to Stockholm for your Chapter's Seminar in 2001. This was an extraordinary visit. We also had quite a bit of fun. How can we ever forget that beautiful dinner cruise in the Stockholm Archipelago? I certainly learned the art of singing songs from our Scandinavian friends that evening! Bonnie and I enjoyed your hospitality and benefited immensely from our professional exchanges with you. We even had a great dinner outside of Stockholm with Hans Wermdalen and his lovely wife, Vivian. As a surprise, Hans Olof Olsson and his wife drove from Tyreso to have dessert with us. As part of our overseas trip, we also attended the ASIS European Security Conference in London. It was here, that I first discussed the activities of the ASIS Global Business Strategies Commission that I chaired from 2000-2001. With this Commission's recommendations, our Society was making its first major inroads into becoming a truly inclusive and international professional society. We are now called "ASIS International" and not the "American Society for Industrial Security". We have a European presence with our office in Belgium. My Swedish and Scandinavian security experiences influenced my global thought processes deeply.

Throughout my ASIS International experiences, I have benefited from the wonderful associations that I've had with the Swedish security community and the members of your chapter. Whether attending European security conferences or the ASIS Annual Seminar and Exhibits, I always look forward to seeing you.

May you enjoy a sensational 20th Anniversary Jubilee. Congratulations and Skål.