

NON-
FICTION



PHOTO: INGER MENTE VØGHANSEN

/ Henrik Yde

NEXØ - Martin Andersen Nexø's liv og værk

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Martin Andersen Nexø's birth, Lindhardt og Ringhof have just published the long-awaited, lavishly illustrated biography by acclaimed researcher and literary historian Henrik Yde. This biography is mandatory reading for anyone interested in the life and letters of one of Denmark's most distinctive and canonical authors, who had gained a vast international readership, even whilst still alive and writing in those non digital times.

Nexø knew hardship all too well from his own upbringing and it became the central theme of his two major works, *Pelle Erobreren* (*Pelle the Conqueror*), and *Ditte Menneskebarn* (*Ditte, Child of Man*). In Denmark during Nexø's lifetime, *Pelle the Conqueror* was the most widely read literary work after Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. 'Pelle' was translated into 24 languages, and the adapted screenplay by Bille August won the Golden Globe, Palme d'Or, and an Academy Award.

Yde gives an interesting account of how Nexø's work engaged with the writers of his age and with the prevailing European literary tradition, such as Denmark's N.F.S. Grundtvig and works like Cervantes' *Don Quixote* and Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* and Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.

HENRIK YDE (1950) is a literary historian and a prominent researcher in the authorship of Martin Andersen Nexø. His doctoral dissertation on N.F.S. Grundtvig's influence on Martin Andersen Nexø (1991, Aarhus University) was published as an illustrated, two volume introduction to Nexø's life. Between 1995 and 2013, Yde published a series of annotated editions of Martin Andersen Nexø's major works in collaboration with Det Danske Sprog- og Litteraturselskab (The Society for Danish Language and Literature). More recently he was awarded the Martin Andersen Nexø prize for his lifetime engagement with Nexø's work.



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Politiken



New major work on Martin Andersen Nexø embraces both his incredible life, expansive personality and socialism.

Politiken

ABOUT BOOKS FROM DENMARK

Books from Denmark is a new initiative from the Danish Arts Foundation, taking over from the previous publication, *Danish Literary Magazine*. Twice a year, *Books from Denmark* will present a 'right now' selection of the best and most interesting Danish fiction, non-fiction and Children and Young Adult literature. All titles are selected by the Committee for Literary Project Funding, with literary quality as the key selection criteria.

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The Danish Arts Foundation supports the work of translators in different ways. This includes support for translations to and from Danish, sample translations, mentor support for translators, events and network support for translators, travel grants for translators and research travel for publishers.

DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION

The Danish Arts Foundation works to promote Danish art and artistic creativity, both in Denmark and abroad. The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces is the administrative arm of the Danish Arts Foundation.

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