

Adamson, Rolf. 2014. *Reformivriga tidningar och svårflörtad överhet. Stockholmspressen och den högre förvaltningen under 1820-talet*. Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien (KVHAA), *Handlingar, Historiska serien 28*. Stockholm 2014.

Tryckt bok, Block A–C, 408 sidor.

E-bok, cd, Block A–E, 596 sidor.

### *Abstract*

(Reform-minded newspapers and impervious authorities. The Stockholm press and central government during the 1820s.)

During the last fifteen years the number of publications about Swedish newspaper history has increased markedly. On the one hand an authoritative five-volume summary of developments up to the present time has been published. On the other hand a new view has emerged among press historians of the most important modernizing endeavours in the early history of the Swedish press.

Previously, the emergence of *Aftonbladet* in 1830 was seen as the beginning of a new era, much more professional than the earlier one. Now, however, young researchers, especially Cecilia Rosengren, have noted that some new traits attributed to *Aftonbladet* can already be found in other prominent Stockholm papers in the early 1820s. I agree with these authors. But their arguments can be extended and honed, which is what I have tried to do in this volume. The most important of the newspapers started around the year 1820 was *Argus*, a severe critic of the government and of regional-based bureaucracy and an ardent supporter of the liberty of the press. Some weaknesses of the new press are noted, too.

### *Keywords*

New era of the newspaper press, Stockholm, the 1820s, criticism of bureaucracy, liberty of the press

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ISBN 978-91-7402-418-0 (tryckt bok, Block A–C)

ISBN 978-91-7402-419-7 (E-bok, cd, Block A–E)

ISSN 0083-6788

*Utgivare:* Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien (KVHAA),

Box 5622, SE-114 86 Stockholm, [www.vitterhetsakad.se](http://www.vitterhetsakad.se)

*Distribution:* eddy.se ab, Box 1310, SE-621 24 Visby, <http://vitterhetsakad.bokorder.se>

*Omslag:* Wrangelska palatset, akvarell av Fredrik Isberg (1813–1874)

Foto: Bertil Wreting. © Nordiska museet

*Grafisk form:* Bitte Granlund, Happy Book

*Tryck:* Elanders Fälth & Hässler 2014

