

## A Century after Grundtvig

On 2 September 1972 it was 100 years since the death of Grundtvig. In connection with this anniversary two societies, independently of each other, planned to hold an international Grundtvig Seminar in August 1972: the Danish Institute (Det danske Selskab) and the Grundtvig Society (Grundtvig-Selskabet). As early as 18 September 1970 the Danish Institute presented its plan to the Grundtvig Society. After discussions together the two societies decided at the beginning of 1972 to unite their efforts, so that the papers planned by the Grundtvig Society, including those to have been read at the ordinary annual conference should form part of the seminar, "A Century after Grundtvig", to which the Danish Institute had sent out invitations through its international contacts. The Grundtvig Society was thus able to profit from these contacts and from the Danish Institute's experience in arranging international congresses as well as excursions to Danish folk high schools. The Danish Institute could, on the other hand, count on the Grundtvig scholars invited by the Grundtvig Society participating in the seminar and contributing papers. The seminar was thus assured of a large number of participants and a high intellectual level.

The seminar was held according to plan at the International Folk High School in Elsinore from 13–19 August 1972, with altogether 64 participants, from Canada, Denmark, England, France, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and West Germany. By mutual agreement the preparatory administrative work and the daily running of the seminar devolved on Mr. Folmer Wisti, Director of the Danish Institute.

The Danish Institute has received financial support for the seminar from the Danish Cooperative Wholesale Society, the København-Sjælland Savings Bank and the Tuborg Foundation. This assistance has in addition covered the publication in English of Mr. Kaj Thaning's book on Grundtvig. Financial support for the seminar has been granted to the Grundtvig Society by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs and the Carlsen-Lange Foundation. This assistance also covers the publication of the lectures from papers read at the seminar in the present volume of Grundtvig-Studier. A number of copies are being sent by the Danish Institute to the participants in the seminar and to the Institute's other contacts.

As English was the language of the seminar, the contents of this volume are to a large extent written in English, but with an abbreviated Danish version. The contributions to Grundtvig-Studier written in Danish are as usual supplemented by a summary in English.