

than the text, is immensely thorough in its historical research and always a pleasure to read. The printed text is modernized; however, the University of Birmingham Press has included a CD-ROM with nice clear images of all the manuscript's pages. This is an excellent expedient: it makes an already most interesting book a place where scholars of the seventeenth century will feel entirely at home.

Mary Elizabeth Ailes. *Military Migration and State Formation: The British Military Community in Seventeenth-Century Sweden*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002. xiv + 192 pp. + 8 figs. + 2 tables. \$50.00. Review by LEE SATHER, WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY.

The period roughly stretching from 1600 to the early 1700s is generally referred to as Sweden's Age of Greatness when that nation briefly acquired a Baltic empire and played a major role in the 30 Years' War and European politics for several decades thereafter. These developments led both to a significant growth in the size of its military forces and to the creation of the "military state." Given Sweden's particularly limited resources, it was also forced to recruit relatively large numbers of foreign troops both as ordinary soldiers and officers. Professor Ailes in this work examines the 119 British officers recruited in this fashion, their integration into Swedish society, and the significance of this phenomenon in the creation of a Swedish military state.

In her first chapter Ailes discusses the various phases to Swedish recruitment of foreign officers, particularly those from Britain. She notes that this practice occurred most often during the decade from 1628-1638 when Sweden established supremacy over the Baltic states at the expense of arch-rival Poland, successfully participated in the Thirty Years' War, and became a major European power. Demand receded thereafter as Sweden's role and power declined especially after 1660. Ailes also makes the point that recruitment of officers abroad not only fulfilled the obvious military need for officers as the army grew in size but also was done to

reduce the bargaining power of the native nobility during a period of critical constitutional strife with the Crown.

Ailes in her second and third chapters examines the recruitment process by which Sweden secured the services of these British officers. She finds that almost all of the British officers came from Scotland since the English possessed other outlets for opportunity and Irish Catholics sought military service elsewhere. Most of the Scots who served in the Swedish army were younger sons of noble families, illegitimate, or belonged to cadet branches of the nobility. If this was the “push,” the “pull” or advantage to seeking service in Sweden came from the proclivity of the Swedish monarchy during the seventeenth century to reward their foreign officers much more handsomely—including the greater likelihood of ennoblement—than was true elsewhere, such as in Denmark. For example, thirty-five officers from twenty-eight British noble families were ennobled in Sweden during the seventeenth century. Most were then entitled to sit with members of the third (lowest) class of nobles in the *riksdag* [Parliament] although seven became aristocrats or of the first class of the order. All therefore owned large amounts of land and enjoyed considerable social prestige.

But the actual integration of these foreign officers into Swedish society was another matter. In the fourth and most extensive chapter Ailes considers this situation. Her study shows that half of the British officers in Sweden during the century married British women either prior to or during their Swedish service. This first generation therefore tended to be a tightly-knit group that shared a common language and religion and remained relatively isolated from their Swedish peers.

Circumstances were much different for the second generation of these families during the second half of the century. On one hand, the influx of foreign officers declined considerably and new opportunities for advancement through military success became almost non-existent as Sweden followed a less aggressive foreign policy. But this group nevertheless were generally able to capitalize on their fathers' previous achievements and their own greater acculturation to Swedish society. They often married with native

Swedes, including into the highest ranks of the Swedish nobility, and were able to play a much more active role in public affairs. Ailes also investigates in this chapter the relative success of British officers in acquiring substantial amounts of land through the policy of donation practiced particularly by Gustav II Adolf [Gustavus Adolphus] and Queen Christina in the first half of the century. Here she shows the rather remarkable willingness of Swedish rulers to reward loyal foreign officers in this way as well as native noble officers. Ailes also presents evidence of Swedish rulers who allowed three generations of foreign officers to retain their property without ennoblement or granted land to the widows of foreign officers as clear and unusual examples of the loyalty that these monarchs demonstrated towards those who had served them well.

Another indication of the more complete integration of the second generation into Swedish society can be seen through their participation in the *riksdag*. Although verbatim records of the body do not exist, available evidence indicates that this was the case and Ailes concludes correctly that their more complete mastery of Swedish as well as their greater status within Swedish society accounts for this development.

In her last chapter Ailes discusses the interesting opportunities that existed for this group to act as diplomatic envoys, chiefly as representatives of the Swedish government to the British court. But she also points out that on occasion they were employed to represent British interests in Sweden or in some cases an individual might alternate diplomatic roles as circumstances allowed.

This work reflects the author's extensive use of Swedish archival sources and published primary works in both English and Swedish. Her study also ought to introduce interested readers to the extensive consideration by Swedish historians of their country's Age of Greatness and the "military state." This study is a welcome addition to this discussion of an oft-forgotten military group and corrects common misconceptions of their treatment and later fate.