

# VIKING ENTERPRISE

BY

SVEN AXEL ANDERSON, A.M.

*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN THE  
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK

1936

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To  
THE MEMORY OF  
I. I. A.

## PREFACE

THE purpose of the present study is to elucidate in a realistic way the viking traffic and possibly contribute a chapter to economic history.

My interest in the viking traffic and my decision to attempt an interpretation of it is in good part due to a number of comments on the activities of the Swedes in Russia in viking times by Professor Vladimir G. Simkhovitch. I am further indebted to Professor Simkhovitch for stimulating advice during the preparation of the study. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Joseph Dorfman, Columbia University, for his thorough criticism and numerous suggestions, especially with regard to the organization of the material. Professor John H. Wuorinen, Columbia University, gave me much valuable advice in matters pertaining to Scandinavian history. My appreciation is also extended to Professors Leo Wolman and Arthur R. Burns, Columbia University and Dr. Robert L. Sharp, Wheaton College, who have read the manuscript. Miss Harriet Peck, Librarian of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has aided me greatly in making available a number of necessary books.

S. A. A.

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## VITA

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THE author of this study was born in Mörrum, Sweden, June 6, 1900. He holds the degree of A.B. (1927) from Upsala College and of A.M. (1928) from Clark University. He attended the general seminar in Economics at Clark University conducted by Professors S. J. Brandenburg, J. A. Maxwell and A. F. Lucas. At Columbia he attended Professor Simkhovitch's seminar in Economic History, Professor J. Russell Smith's Seminar in Economic Geography and the seminar in Economic Theory conducted by Professors J. M. Clark and J. W. Angell.

He has been a member of the faculties of Upsala College, the University of Vermont and is now teaching at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

His previous publications are "Iceland's Industries," *Economic Geography*, July, 1931; "Agricultural Vermont" (in collaboration with Professor Florence M. Woodard), *Economic Geography*, January, 1932; "Forests and Forest Activities in Sweden," *Journal of Geography*, February, 1933; "Location Factor in the Choice of Free Port Sites," *Economic Geography*, April 1934; and "The Origin of the Old Norse Sagas," *Scandinavian Studies and Notes*, May, 1936.

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