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LUDMILA URBANOVÁ

PROFESSOR JAN SVARTVIK — A NEW DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA FROM MASARYK UNIVERSITY

Jan Svartvik, Professor Emeritus at Lund University Sweden, has become a member of the academic community of Masaryk University. On 26th March 1998 the honorary degree of **doctor honoris causa** was conferred on Professor Svartvik in the Aula Maxima of Masaryk University.

Jan Svartvik is a Swedish Anglicist of world-wide repute. His linguistic orientation is closely linked with the linguistic research of Czech Anglicists, particularly with that of Jan Firbas. His scholarly achievements are based on the functional approach to language, as well as on research applicability to English language teaching.

The departments of English at the Faculty of Education and at the Faculty of Arts highly appreciate the long-term contribution of Jan Svartvik to the development of English studies in Brno in the field of corpus linguistics, especially due to his supervision of young scholars. Recognition and gratitude were the impetus in the decision of the Faculty of Education to confer the doctor honoris causa degree on Jan Svartvik, the first Swedish scholar to be so honoured in the history of Masaryk University.

Jan Svartvik was born on 18th August 1931. He studied at the University of Uppsala where he obtained all his academic degrees. From 1970 to 1995 he worked in Lund as Professor of English; since 1995 he has been its Professor Emeritus.

Before he came to Lund, Jan Svartvik was working at universities in Uppsala, London, Göteborg and Providence (U.S.A.). The pre-Lund period was closely related to his scholarly activity at Brown University, Providence and at University College, London. Both universities saw the rise of the first extensive corpora of contemporary English.

Professor Svartvik has become a leading figure in the field of computational linguistics and language corpora, especially through the publication of *A Corpus of English Conversation* 1980. He is also widely acclaimed as the only non-native co-author of two extensive and unsurpassed grammar compendiums, namely *A Grammar of Contemporary English* (1972) and *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1985).

