

100 years of Scandinavian Actuarial Journal

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Founded in 1914, the Svenska Aktuarieföreningens Tidskrift (the Journal of the Swedish Society of Actuaries) celebrates its 100 years anniversary in 2014. Today it is, under the name Scandinavian Actuarial Journal (SAJ), a leading international journal of actuarial sciences, and many famous actuaries and mathematicians have been involved in its publications as authors, reviewers or editors.

On the occasion of SAJ's 100th anniversary, we give here a brief introduction to the journal. We hope to publish in the near future a book presenting a selection of articles, one from each year, that constitute 100 footprints of distinguished actuaries that contributed to the journal as authors, reviewers or editors.

Scandinavian Actuarial Journal is a journal for actuarial sciences that deals with mathematical methods for insurance and related topics of specific relevance to actuarial applications. In general, the journal publishes articles in insurance mathematics with a theoretical basis in probability theory, statistics, operations research, numerical analysis, computer science, demography, mathematical economics, or any other area of applied mathematics. It is published by Taylor & Francis on behalf of the Danish Society of Actuaries, the Actuarial Society of Finland, the Norwegian Society of Actuaries and the Swedish Society of Actuaries.

In the early 1900s, a number of Scandinavian academics expressed an interest in establishing a Scandinavian Society for Danish, Norwegian and

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Swedish academics and practitioners in the actuarial field. Professor Gösta Mittag-Leffler, Stockholm, argued that this was a necessary step towards the publication of a pure insurance mathematical journal. However, when the Danish Society was founded in 1902, the idea of a Scandinavian society was abandoned and in 1904 the Norwegian and Swedish societies were subsequently established. Later that year, at the Nordic Congress on Life Insurance in Copenhagen, the first issue of a joint journal, *Aktuaren*, was presented. The editor was Dr. J.P. Gram, Copenhagen.

When the union between Sweden and Norway was dissolved in 1905 the political and economic situation made financing the journal impossible and the project was postponed.

At the Nordic Life Insurance Meeting in Stockholm 1912 a joint journal was once again on the agenda. A committee consisting of Dr J.P. Gram, Denmark, Cabinet Minister L. Lindelöf, Finland, Manager Th. Faernley, Norway, and Professor Gösta Mittag-Leffler, Sweden, looked into the possibility of finally realizing a Nordic journal. There were many obstacles, however, which led the Swedish Society to consider publishing a journal of its own.

At the tenth anniversary of celebration of the Swedish Society the final decision to go ahead with the journal was taken and the first issue was published in May the same year. Dr. N. V. E. Nordenmark was appointed editor and the journal *Svenska Aktuarieföreningens Tidskrift* was published in four volumes 1914-1917.

In 1917 the Danish Society proposed that the Swedish journal should become a Scandinavian journal. In 1918, the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish societies agreed to the proposal and the *Skandinavisk Aktuarietidskrift* was born. Its first editor was Dr. Nordenmark, Sweden. In 1923 the newly created Finnish Society adopted the journal as its official publication.

The journal was published under the names of *Svenska Aktuarieföreningens Tidskrift* (the Journal of the Swedish Society of Actuaries), 1914-1917, *Skandinavisk Aktuarietidskrift*, 1918-1973 and was published in 56 volumes. In 1973 the name of the journal was changed to *Scandinavian Actuarial Journal* and all content presented in English. Until 1991 the journal was published by *Almqvist & Wiksell*, Stockholm, and since then by *Scandinavian University Press*, which was bought by *Taylor & Francis Group* in 2000.

References

- [1] Scandinavian Actuarial Journal ISSN 0346-1238 (Print), 1651-2030 (Online). Website <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/sact20>
- [2] Skandinavisk Aktuarietidskrift, journal 1918-1973, cf. Scandinavian Actuarial Journal.
- [3] Svenska Aktuarieföreningens Tidskrift, journal 1914-1917, cf. Scandinavian Actuarial Journal.