



Selma Lagerlöf in the library at Lagerlöfgården in Falun, 1923. Private ownership.

In 1897, Selma Lagerlöf moved to Falun, mainly for practical reasons, as her sister Gerda Ahlgren and her family already lived there and the two sisters could help take care of their mother and aunt. In addition, Selma Lagerlöf was already a full-time writer at this point, and was independent of her place of residence after resigning from her teaching position in Landskrona in 1895.

During the first ten years in Falun, Selma, her mother, and her aunt lived at three different addresses in the city. On New Year's Day 1907, Selma Lagerlöf bought the house on Villavägen, *"a red wooden house with homely rooms and angled wing buildings, where there was also a stable. It had a large terraced garden, and in the summer no one could notice that the house was right next to the city limits. The previous owner had declared that he did not want to sell to anyone other than Selma Lagerlöf, and he also had his reasons for this, as no one other than a busy writer with large print runs would have bought this house for its idyllic appearance and paid 27,000 [Swedish kronor] for it without investigating the condition of the building and what it would cost to make the house habitable."* (Elin Wägner)

In 1909–1910, the house was renovated and expanded according to plans by architect Klas Boman of Falun. The library's mahogany interior was made by Axel Johansson's Furniture Workshops in Falun. The writer now had a *"both representative and 'wonderfully warm and quiet' working room"*, as she often wrote in her letters.

The study is displayed at the Dalarna Museum as it looked on Villavägen. Selma Lagerlöf's bedroom was located behind the small white door, and the large window on the first floor in the background.



Photo: Birger Nordensten.

All her furniture, books and ornaments can be recognised from old photographs. The curtains, however, are not Selma Lagerlöf's - those that were there during her time are long gone - these have come from Skansen's wardrobe and are from the 1910s, so they match the time period of the library's interior. The paintings are hung as they were on Villavägen, for example, the portrait of Gustaf Fröding suffering from illness in the background under the balcony, has hung in that location since she received it from Ida Bäckman, a journalist and good friend of both Fröding and Lagerlöf.

The library table and the two large chairs are recognized from many representative photos of the writer - these pieces of furniture were already in the apartment in Central Palace at Stora Torget, where she moved in 1902. The Gustavian writing desk, furthest to the left, is her first desk in Falun.

The books have been arranged on the shelves in the same order as they were listed in 1933, the year Selma Lagerlöf handed over the contents of the villa to her sister and her family. The books filling the shelves on the balcony above

the entrance door have nothing to do with Selma Lagerlöf, they are a gift to the museum that has been placed there for example, the beautifully bound books show examples of beautiful bookbinding. The fact that there were empty shelves in the library is because a large number of books were taken to Mårbacka when that library was completed in 1923 (also furnished by Axel Johansson's Furniture Workshops).

Selma Lagerlöf's villa at Villavägen 34-36 - among the people of Falun called Lagerlöfsgården - was demolished in 1968. In its place today is a row of terraced houses. Through collections organized in 1960-1961 by the Lions Club of Falun, the library was saved and a foundation plate for the acquisition of the rest of the contents of the farm was laid. A planned auction was stopped in the fall of 1961, all of Selma Lagerlöf's furniture and other contents were purchased together with the library furnishings, and the Selma Lagerlöf Collection Foundation in Falun was formed. Funds for this purchase were made available by the Lions Club of Falun, the city of Falun, and a private donor.



Photo: Birger Nordensten.

Selma Lagerlöf in Falun

November 20, 1858 - March 16, 1940

1892

Visits Gassarvet near Falun

1893

Visits Gassarvet near Falun

1894

Visits Gassarvet near Falun

DUNUNGEN -part of "osynliga länkar"

1897

Moves to Promenaden

1898

Moves to Mormorsgatan

GUDSFREDEN

1899

DROTTNINGAR I KUNGAHÄLLA

EN HERRGÅRDSSÄGEN

1900

INGEMARSSÖNERNA

MELI

1901

JERUSALEM I

1902

Moves to Centralpalatset

JERUSALEM II

1903

HERR ARNES PENNINGAR

1904

Awarded Swedish Academy's gold medal.

KRISTUSLEGENDER

1905

Suffragette group formed in Falun

1906

NILS HOLGERSSON I

1907

Awarded honorary doctorate in Uppsala, buys Lagerlöfs-
gården in Falun and Mårbacka

NILS HOLGERSSON II

1908

TÖSEN FRÅN STORMYRTORPET

1909

Awarded Nobel Prize, buys the whole Mårbacka property

1910

EN STILLA KVÄLL I MITT ARBETSNUM

After 1910

Stays alternately at Mårbacka and in Falun

1914

Becomes member of Swedish Academy

1923

Mårbacka is renovated

1928

ANNA SVÄRD

1935-1939

Lives for long periods in Falun

1939

STJÄRNGOSSEVISA



Villavägen 34-36, Falun. Photo: K G Svensson, Dalarnas Museum.