

ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH

Den osynlige ärkebiskopen: Essäer om Olaus Magnus
by Elena Balzamo (Atlantis, 2015)

Olaus Magnus (1490-1557) certainly considered himself first of all as a loyal Catholic, as a fighter against Lutheranism and as his elder brother Johannes' assistant and successor on the Uppsala archbishop's seat. His suzerain, King Gustav Vasa, must have regarded him as a rebellious subject, a schemer and a traitor. His contemporaries must have seen in him an inexorable Scandinavian, the last Swedish Catholic archbishop, but also a poor emigrant whose material survival entirely depended on his roman colleagues' charity. For the posterity he is a great Renaissance figure, one of the 16th century most prominent Swedish intellectuals, an outstanding geographer and ethnologist, the author of two masterpieces: *Carta marina*, 1539, and *A Description of the Northern Peoples*, 1555.

Very little is known about his life and personality, nobody knows what he looked like, there exists no portrait of him – still his own works seem to contain some evidence not only about the reality they reflect but also about the worldview of their author and about his working methods.

The present volume contains six essays dealing with different aspects of Olaus Magnus writings, such as the problem of translation and literary heritage, the origin of visual elements in Olaus Magnus works, his military thinking, the image of the Far North in his writings, the problem of cultural transposition, and, finally, the discovery of the two existing copies of *Carta marina*.