Practical Information regarding the Symposium *Uses and Abuses of Thoreau*, c/o the University of Gothenburg, May 2–4, 2018, with voluntary extension May 5-6 at Naturum Environmental Centre, Kållandsö.

**Facilities:** The Thoreau symposium will be held at the Conference Centre Wallenberg near Sahlgrenska University Hospital. The street address is Medicinaregatan 20A, three tram stops beyond the Faculty of Arts campus (which is located just above Korsvägen station, a city hub). From the tram stop Medicinaregatan, you only have a few hundred meters to go. And don’t worry, we will provide a map in due course. All snacks, coffee, lunch as well as conference dinner will be served at the Conference Centre Wallenberg. For more information about the facilities, see: [https://www.gu.se/english/conferences/conference-packages/wallenberg/?languageId=100001&disableRedirect=true&returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gu.se%2Fmotesservice%2Fkonferenspaket%2Fwallenberg%2F](https://www.gu.se/english/conferences/conference-packages/wallenberg/?languageId=100001&disableRedirect=true&returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gu.se%2Fmotesservice%2Fkonferenspaket%2Fwallenberg%2F)

**Accommodation:** There are plenty of hotels and hostels in Gothenburg. For your convenience, we recommend the ones located around the general area surrounding Korsvägen station: Hotel Lorensberg ([http://www.hotel-lorensberg.se/?lang=en](http://www.hotel-lorensberg.se/?lang=en)), Hotel Onyxen ([http://hotellonyxen.se/home/#welcome](http://hotellonyxen.se/home/#welcome)), and Hotel Scandic Opalen ([https://www.scandichotels.com/hotels/sweden/gothenburg/scandic-opalen](https://www.scandichotels.com/hotels/sweden/gothenburg/scandic-opalen)) are all solid midrange options, often used by visiting scholars. We also recommend the slightly more geographically distant, but just as comfortable, Hotel Panorama ([https://www.nordicchoicehotels.com/quality/quality-hotel-panorama1/](https://www.nordicchoicehotels.com/quality/quality-hotel-panorama1/)).

If you prefer the somewhat more expensive alternatives, Elite Park Avenue Hotel ([http://elite-park-avenue.gothenburg-hotels.com/en/](http://elite-park-avenue.gothenburg-hotels.com/en/)) on Gothenburg’s central avenue Kungsportsavenyn, and Gothia Towers ([http://gothiatowers.com/hotel/?lang=en](http://gothiatowers.com/hotel/?lang=en)) right on Korsvägen are good choices. The triple Gothia Towers rank among Gothenburg’s tallest buildings, and offer a panorama view from their top-floor restaurant Heaven 23 (appropriately on the 23rd floor) and famed for its generous shrimp sandwich. Its a popular resturant, so be sure to book a table in advance!

From Korsvägen you can take trams 6, 7 and 8 as well as 13 to the Conference Centre Wallenberg. Be aware of the direction of the trams: you are supposed to travel south, getting of at the third stop Medicinaregatan. The trip will take about ten minutes, depending on the traffic. We can also recommend the family-run Hotel Poseidon on Storgatan, a bit
behind central avenue. Its a cozy, smaller hotel in the comfortable Vasastaden area, (http://www.hotelposeidon.com) and 2 mins from the convenient Vasaplatseren bus and tram stop (more detailed information can be given upon request).

**Getting around:** Most of you will be arriving at Gothenburg Landvetter Airport from where you can take a taxi (about 400-500 SEK or USD 50-60; ask for a fixed price, and choose a respected company such as Taxi Göteborg, tel: +46-31-650-000). The Flygbussarna Airport Coach with regular departures every 20 mins just outside the terminal exit is also a good option (https://www.flygbussarna.se/en/landvetter) with prices set at ca 140 SEK (or USD 17) one way, alternately USD 30 for an open return ticket. The airport bus stops first at Korsvägen, from where you have easy walking distance to most hotels mentioned above (5-15 mins). If you stay at Elite Park or Hotel Lorensberg it is preferable to get off at the next stop, Berzelii gatan, or if at Hotel Posiedon to get off at the next one in turn, called Valand.

If you would like to use the public transport system in Gothenburg during your stay there are official buses and trams operated by the company Västtrafik covering the city (typically light blue or blue-and-white). You will find ticket information, timetables and maps on their web page: http://www.vasttrafik.se/#/en/. Västtrafik also have a travel planner app, which you can read more about here: http://www.vasttrafik.se/#/en/travel-information/4/. If you are due to arrive by train at the Central Station (Centralstationen), tram is the easiest way to get to your hotel. Lines 2 and 13, towards Mölndal and Sahlgrenska, respectively, stop at stations Valand, Berzelii gatan and Korsvägen (mentioned above). If you wish to order a taxi at any point, the largest company is Taxi Göteborg, telephone: +46(0)31-650 000. Usually a taxi is hailed within five minutes; charges start from USD 12-15 and a trip downtown will typically cost anywhere between USD 20 and 35. Be wary of private taxis, and openly soliciting drivers. By contrast a tram/bus ticket is USD 3 for 90 mins ride. Retired scholars/emeritii – actually anyone 65 and over – ride for free on our city buses and trams during all days between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm (be prepared to show ID for occasional ticket surveyors).

**History in brief:** Gothenburg was founded in 1621 by our king Gustav II Adolf, beginning as a heavy fortification at the mouth of the commercially vibrant Göta River, a vital transport artery in these parts since Viking days. Conflict with the Danes from the south was common. Some historians place the home and final resting place of warrior-king Beowulf in our riverbank area, although this supposition must be treated as apochryphal. The defensive rock-
wall around core Gothenburg, with portions extant to this day in the old city center, were
designed by Dutch architects, who also arranged a system of canals to facilitate logistics. The
commanding forts of Skansen Kronan (Fort Crown) and Skansen Lejonet (Fort Lion) also date
to the 17th century period. Somewhat later, merchants from Germany, England and Scotland
vitalized our town, and visitors will note the names of Chalmers and Dickson attached to
to several buildings and institutions.

During the latter half of the 18th century, the so-called Ostindiska Kompagniet
(East India Company) was based in the outer harbor area, their large sailing vessels trading
goods with China and thus bringing home lucrative spices, teas, silks, as well as fine china
kitchen- and dinnerware. During the 19th century, shipbuilding and associated repair became
specialites of Gothenburg harbor, and for long periods we were second only to Dutch
Rotterdam in capacity in this regard. With the rise in global competition during post-WWII
decades, however, these industries declined, and today the harbor area has instead become a
fairly gentrified residential area, perhaps best symbolized by our famed Göteborgsoperan
(Gothenburg Opera House) on the waterline. There are still ferry services to Denmark,
England and Germany, as well as some cargo traffic, plus sightseeing boating tours along the
coast during summertime. Immediately north of the harbor area are the islands of Hisingen
and Ringön, sites where large oil refineries and the Volvo car and truck plants reside. Today
Gothenburg ranks as the second-largest city in Sweden, fifth among Scandinavian cities, with
slightly less than 600 000 inhabitants in the urban cluster, and 1 million counting the larger
metropolitan area.

**Dining, tipping & cash:** Today Gothenburg hosts a wide range of restaurants, Swedes in
general being curious and enthusiastic about foreign cuisines. You will thus find Italian,
American, Mexican, Chinese, Thai, Japanese and Indian foods offered in our establishments –
and much else besides. Cafés also abound: Swedes being second only to the Finns in per-
capita caffeine consumption. In later years tastes have also become more refined, and a range
of coffees are hence on offer. There is furthermore a strong pub culture – Gothenburg
retaining its overall working-class character, much like Boston in the USA – with several
local micro-breweries represented at for example Ölrepubliken, The Rover, Bishop’s Arms or
Ölstugan Tullen. Here you can usually get good burgers and fries, and similar honest fare. If
you have an evening off to enjoy seafood, don’t miss out on this local specialty: Restaurang
Kometen on Vasagatan being a traditional mid-range option; while Fiskekrogen at Lilla
Bommen and Sjömagasinet a bit further off from city center are top-of-the-line
establishments, with fine dining on offer. Thörnströms Kök on Arkivgatan is another option offering Scandinavian dishes at a very high standard. Younger chefs are in turn improving their mettle with cross-kitchen brio at friendly hipster places such as Mr. P, Toso and Familien, all near Götaplatsen. Try to book a table beforehand if you seek a specific dinner option.

If you prefer vegetarian or vegan foods, we gladly recommend the raw-food place Open New Doors on Tyska Bron, Restaurang Simba which serves ethiopian cuisine down at Sankt Eriksgatan 3 and, if you have the time, the restaurant Blackbird Vegankök & Bar located at Stigbergslden 3. For those looking for a fine-dining experience, Syster Marmelad at Mariagatan 16 is an excellent choice. The kind staff can talk all day long about their vegan dishes, composed of mostly ecological ingredients with a “Nordic” style of cuisine, like the herb glasört (glasswort), which can be picked on the coastal beaches around Gothenburg. As always, to be sure you get to enjoy the tasty food mentioned above, book a table in advance!

Tipping is not necessary, but rounding off sums a little upward should you find yourself a satisfied patron is much appreciated (not expected however at over-the-counter places such as McDonalds, Burger King or Seven-Eleven). Typically tips will be in the 5% range, with a definite maximum at 10% (US residents please take note). Having a beer at a bar, adding 10 or so krona to your glass or bottle is fully sufficient (i.e ca 1 Euro or slightly more than 1 USD). VAT is included in all prices, without exception. Sometimes a coatroom service will be added to your bill if you choose to leave your jacket there (nota bene less valuables!), amounting to ca 20 krona, but this can be added to your total bill. All restaurants will take standard credit cards such as VISA, Mastercard, and American Express. You can tip by adding a chosen amount to the total when submitting your PIN-code; hence you do not need to carry much cash. ATM machines are of course widely available (usually called Bankomat), and will offer Swedish krona at a set exchange rate plus a fee of ca 30 krona per withdrawal. A final note on alcohol purchased outside of authorized restaurants and pubs: any beverage stronger than 3.5% by volume will only be sold over the counter at the Systembolaget stores, controlled by the federal government. Central ones are located at the Focus Mall about 500 meters east of Korsvägen; on Kungsportsvenyn near Valand Station, and at the northern end of the Nordstan Mall.

**Language & Etiquette:** Locals are typically friendly and happy to help with directions and suggestions, also speaking good English (especially younger people). Patiently queueing and
waiting one’s turn is also fairly ingrained, while rush-hour traffic will sometimes bring more stress and brusqueness to social interactions. Gothenburg has a relatively low crime rate – despite what all those Nordic thriller writers claim of our every nook and cranny – and walking freely and undisturbed on the streets and in its parks and nature reserves is something the city’s inhabitants value highly. Normal caution during late nights is of course advisory, as in any urban cluster, and it is good to be especially vigilant in the areas around Nordstan shopping center and the Central Station.

**Weather:** Gothenburg is a coastal town, steadily aired by southwest winds from the North Atlantic. By early May spring season should be well on its way, but colds spells and rainy days may still occur. While winter clothes are not necessary, do bring wind/weather-proof shell clothing, as well as a sweater or fleece should the weather prove temporarily chilly. Conversely, some years summer is virtually here by early May, and light clothing preferable. Check the forecast a few days before your travel, pack a small umbrella just in case, and you will be all set. For those of you planning to join the weekend excursion at Naturum Källandsö, it is advisable also to bring some sturdier shoes/low boots, scarf, gloves and a beanie/cap, as a tour on the water/archipelago may bring some extra wind chill and spray with it.

**Traffic:** If you are passing through the hubs of Korsvägen, Central Station/Drottningtorget, or Brunsparken during rush hours, please exercise caution and keep alert. Pedestrians have perennial right-of-way, especially at designated crossings, but car-, bus- and tram drivers can be (passive) aggressive at peak hours (ca 7:00-9:00 and 16:00-18:00). Bicyclists have increasingly joined the traffic mix in recent years, and despite their designated lanes should be treated with caution, as they habitually flaunt common rules, such as stopping at red lights and ditto for pedestrians crossing the road.

**Cooling off:** On the supposition that you may tire of the ambient urbanity of much of central Gothenburg, there are a number of parks, museums and nature reserves within quite easy and quick reach where you may recuperate. Closest to the Conference Centre Wallenberg is the large Slottsskogen (Castle Forest) Park, abounding in deciduous trees, ponds, and a fair number of outdoor zoo animals (no admission charge): moose, red deer, wild horse, ducks, seals, penguins and assortments of geese and wildfowl. At the entrance of Slottsskogen coming from tram stop Linnéplatsen (second beyond Conference Centre Wallenberg from direction Korsvägen), you reach our Natural History Museum of Gothenburg (Naturhistoriska muséet)
at the top of the hill. Opening hours are 11-17 all days save Mondays, admission 40 SEK (ca USD 6) for an annual card. The museum sports a vast array of taxidermied creatures, from elephants and a juvenile blue whale down to beetles and hummingbirds – much of them collected during the Museum’s heydays of ca 1890-1950. There are series of masterful dioramas involving nesting birds of Sweden, from all prominent raptors down to the smallest of finches. As such the establishment forms a time capsule of sorts; remaining modestly funded in comparison with Stockholm’s corresponding museum (very well worth checking out if you pass our capitol by, earlier or later).

The largest nature reserve area of Gothenburg, Delsjön, lies eastward: take tram number 5 toward Östra Sjukhuset (East Hospital) to stop Welandergatan, and walk up the sloping hill eastward to the Skatås Motionscenter (Magpie Hill Sports Centre). Here you can have coffee or a simple lunch, and the Centre is a good starting point for exploring the several running tracks, hills, ponds and lakes around Delsjön. If you choose to go up Brudarebacken, you will on a clear day be rewarded with a vista toward the west opening toward the city skyline and beyond it the Kattegatt section of the North Sea. The whole area is free to the public, and no fear of trespassing should keep you from it.

You can also make your way westward to our harbor areas, taking stram 9 or 11 to Vagnhallarna station. Here you can walk toward Sockerbruket (The Sugar Works) and Röda Sten (Red Rock), an artists’ colony and exhibit center, respectively, close under our Älvsborgsbron traffic bridge, and follow the walking trail here out toward the ocean. For those wishing to visit our archipelago islands, our tourist offices will be happy to oblige with more detailed advice. The Styrsö, Öckerö and Donsö islands, for example, are well worth day trips if you can afford the time, being served by regular and inexpensive ferries. Should you in turn be interested in the maritime history heavily influencing Gothenburg since its inception, the Sjöfartsmuséet (Mariners’ Museum) at Stigbergstorget (tram 9 or 11) is an excellent facility, with impressive models and displays. Opening hours are at last check 10-17 all days save Mondays, admission 60 SEK (ca USD 7). For this fee you will also be granted admission to the museum’s aquarium, which stocks much of the fish and other creatures from our coastal waters.

**Presentations:** All normally necessary equipment for slides and pictures, sound, etc. will be at hand during the sessions. We recommend that you bring your digital presentation material on a USB stick or, even better, e-mail it in advance to henrik.otterberg@lir.gu.se. That way, we can use a single computer, and the transitions between papers will hopefully run smoothly.
PowerPoint users are advised to pare their files down to screen display mode, and as backup also to save their PowerPoint presentations in PDF format. Please let us know if you require any special equipment for your presentation, and we will do our best to provide it. If you need to use a printer we can arrange this as well.

**Troubleshooting:** If something unforeseen happens you can always call a member of the organizing committee:

Henrik Otterberg: +46-703-433-313 (*first choice*)
Camilla Brudin Borg: +46-705-198-516

**Medicine:** In case you find yourself in need of replenishing over-the-counter medicine/drugs or similar, there are scores of apothecaries in town. Look for (invariably) bright green signs called ”Apoteket”, ”Apoteksgruppen” or similar. These have normal store hours (ca 10-18 weekdays, somewhat shorter on Saturdays, closed Sundays), and harbor staff with medical certification as apothecaries: they can thus offer advice and guidance regarding known conditions and remedies. Should you find yourself with uncertain symptoms or more acutely ill, however, we suggest seeking the nearest ”Vårdcentral” (”Treatment Centre”) to gain access to a certified physician/doctor. This will usually entail some waiting time and a cost of circa 200 SEK or USD 25. Doctors at the Vårdcentral:s are authorized to arrange orders of prescription medication on your behalf, to be presented at the ”Recept” counters of the abovementioned apothecaries.

**Emergencies:** In case of medical or other urgent issue, please call 112 to reach police/ambulance/fire brigade 24/7. An operator will quickly harken to your chosen language, and assist you with your situation. Emergency care at hospital or open clinic is free of charge in Sweden, but do bring along your passport or ID card if possible. If an emergency should occur, please notify us at your convenience once help has been secured on your behalf.