Har svenska språket en själ?

(Does the Swedish language have a soul?)

A Talk in Swedish by

Catharina Grünbaum

7 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009

at Deutsches Haus, 420 W. 116th St., NYC

(bet. Amsterdam & Morningside)

Catharina Grünbaum is one of Sweden’s most influential language specialists and is widely known for her books, articles, lectures, and radio programs. For twenty years she has served as a “linguistic watchdog” for Dagens Nyheter (The Daily News), the country’s largest morning daily paper, where she also writes a weekly language column.

In the eyes of the world the character of Sweden and Swedish are expressed in the very Swedish concept lagom – that is, “without excess.” But the Swedish language is suited to bureaucracy as well as poetry. It contains words like omsorgsnämnd (disability and rehabilitation services board), trygghetsnarkoman (security addict), julinjusa nätter (June-light nights), and solvarma smultron (sun-warm wild strawberries). Catharina Grünbaum will speak in Swedish about what is uniquely Swedish in the Swedish language. Discussion will follow in Swedish and English.

Sponsored by the Columbia Swedish Program with the assistance of the Consulate General of Sweden in New York. For information: phone, 212-854-4015; e-mail, <vam1@columbia.edu>.