

National Background: Denmark 2015

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Manuscripts are held in libraries and archives in Denmark.

Content: Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (collection history; major collections; catalogues and digitisation; other collections); Statsbibliotekets Håndskriftsamling, Aarhus; Danmarks Kunstbibliotek, Copenhagen; Dansk Folkemindesamling, Copenhagen; Den Arnemagnæanske Samling, Copenhagen; Karen Brahes Bibliotek, Odense; Statens Arkiver, Copenhagen; Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg; Arbejderbevægelsens Arkiv, Copenhagen; Arktisk Instituts Arkiv, Copenhagen; Kvindehistorisk Samling, Aarhus; Niels Bohr Arkiv, Copenhagen; Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen; Thorvaldsens Museum, Copenhagen.

Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen

<http://www.kb.dk/en/index.html>

The Royal Library was founded by King Frederik III (1609-1670) in the 1650s by merging his private library with that inherited from his predecessors, and in particular by acquiring four important private libraries, The Bibliotheca Regia in the Castle of Copenhagen in his time housed more than 100 manuscripts, and was confirmed as National Library in the Danish Legal Deposit Law of 1697. Booty of war and acquisitions of whole manuscript collections from private scholars and collectors characterise the early 18th century. The Great Fire of Copenhagen, which spared the Royal Library and the Royal Archives, but annihilated the University Library, marks an intensification of manuscript acquisitions both in the private and in the public sphere. Besides important Icelandic codices, all the Danish medieval sources collected over the years by successive specially appointed Royal Historiographers were destroyed. New manuscript collections were established for the University Library, largely through private donations, but daring auction purchases and acquisitions of whole manuscript collections were also made, both privately and by the state. The library holds c. 35,000 manuscripts and archival units of very varying extent and more than one million letters.

Gammel Kongelig Samling (GKS; Old Royal Collection; Collectio Regia / Codices Regii).

Expanding c. 1650-1784.

Major holdings:

- The Latin catalogue (of which an extract was published 1786) describes in detail 3,587 items, western as well as oriental, arranged by format and by subject matter.
- 15 Icelandic parchment codices including the 13th-century Codex Regius of the Elder Edda and the 14th-century Flatejyrbók, and a description of Greenland from c. 1600 with map and sailing instructions.
- the illuminated Norwegian Hardenberg law codex (c. 1300)
- the observation protocols of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, the "Copenhagen Wulfstan collection" produced in England c. 1000, the only known witness (France, early 14th century) of the Chronique of the French crusader Robert de Clari (c. 1200)
- a handful of 15th century codices of Latin classical authors
- the autograph illustrated manuscript of the Nueva corónica y buen gobierno of the Andean Indian Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala (1615)
- three Arabic codices of the Koran, of which at least two were gifts to King Frederic from the renowned orientalist Theodor Petræus (d. 1673)
- Medieval French mss. (N.C.L. Abrahams, 1844)
- Greek mss. (Charles Graux, 1879; Bjarne Schartau, 1994)

- Illuminated mss. (Christian Bruun, 1890)
- Old Norse mss. (Kristian Kålund, 1900)
- Middle Low German mss. (C. Borchling, 1900)
- Mss. regarding Nordic and Danish history (Emil Gigas, 1903-15)
- Spanish mss. (P. Högberg, 1919; Pilar León Tello, 1985)
- Italian mss. (P. Högberg, 1920)
- Danish personal history [to 1923] (Poul Behrend, 1925-27)
- Medieval Latin mss. (Ellen Jørgensen, 1927)
- Danish Autograph Literary mss. (Lauritz Nielsen, 1943)
- Americana (Palle Ringsted, 1992)
- Slavonic mss. (Gunnar Svane, 1993)
- An inventory in two volumes of the acquisitions 1924-87 was published in 1995, following-up on Poul Behrend 1925-27, and Lauritz Nielsen 1943.

Other collections

- oriental and hebrew manuscripts (mostly transferred to the Royal Library, except recently acquired Pâli and Pehlevi manuscripts)
- Judaica: 200 manuscripts, 160 manuscripts from the middle ages and later, and a vast correspondence (30,000 items) resulting from his broad scholarly network and deep involvement with Jewish humanitarian organisations.
- David Simonsen provenance

Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg

<http://www.udvanderarkivet.dk/forside/>

Correspondences, manuscripts, diaries, biographies, newspaper clippings, photographs, portraits, etc. Catalogue: DAISY (Dansk Arkivalieinformationssystem). Presence in union catalogue: The National Danish Database on Private Archives (DANPA)

Statsbibliotekets Håndskriftsamling, Aarhus (The manuscript collection of the State and University library of Aarhus)

<http://www.statsbiblioteket.dk/forbiblioteker/gamle-sider/specialsamlinger/handskriftsamlingen>

Personal papers from scholars connected to Aarhus University; documents regarding the city of Århus and its cultural life; documents regarding the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

Kvindehistorisk Samling, Aarhus

<http://www.statsbiblioteket.dk/forbiblioteker/gamle-sider/specialsamlinger/kvindehistorisksamling>

Founded in 1964 and integrated as a Special Collection into the State and University Library in 1987. The holdings include the archives of Danish women's organisations, personal archives of politically active women, photos, etc., and more than 100.000 newspaper clippings. Presence in union catalogues: The National Danish Database on Private Archives (DANPA)

Danmarks Kunstbibliotek, Copenhagen (The Danish National Art Library)

<http://www.riha-institutes.org/Institutes/DK.aspx>

Study collections:

- Collection of Architectural Drawings: 300,000 drawings; models; personal archives of architects, etc.
- Art Historical Picture Archive: collections of Danish art exhibition catalogues, photographs of Danish art, newspaper clippings, diverse photographic collections

Dansk Folkemindesamling, Copenhagen (The Danish Folklore Collection)

<http://www.kb.dk/da/nb/fag/dafos/index.html>

Founded in 1904 on the background of trends and initiatives among 19th-century scholars of Danish folklore. In 2008, it became a department within the National Library of Denmark, i.e. of the Royal Library. The institution focuses on the material culture of ordinary Danes, through history and in contemporary society.

Major holdings:

- 3 archives: the manuscript archive, the sound archive, and the photo archive

Den Arnamagnæanske Samling, Copenhagen (The Arnamagnæan manuscript collection)

http://nfi.ku.dk/english/collections/arnamagnaeian_collection/

Arni Magnusson (1663-1730) had in his will bequeathed his collection of Icelandic manuscripts and an important sum of money to a foundation under the University of Copenhagen, dedicated to the promotion of the study and editing of Old Norse texts, and monitored by a scientific Commission (created in 1772). From 1732, the Collection was hosted by the University Library, but it was in 1956 embedded in a newly founded Arnamagnæan Institute directly under the University of Copenhagen, today renamed Den Arnamagnæanske Samling (The Arnamagnæan Collection). Approximately half of the Collection was transferred to Iceland during the years 1971-97.

Statens Arkiver, Copenhagen

<http://www.sa.dk/content/us/>

Catalogue: DAISY (Dansk Arkivalieinformationssystem). Presence in union catalogue: The National Danish Database on Private Archives (DANPA) The State Archives is the collective name for:

- Rigsarkivet, Copenhagen (RA; Danish National Archives) Records originating from central Danish public authorities. Archives of political parties. Personal archives of politicians. Other personal archives
- Landsarkiverne (The four provincial archives at Viborg, Aabenraa, Odense and Copenhagen) Records originating from regional authorities, e.g. the Courts of Law, the county authorities, the Police and many local authorities
- Erhvervsarkivet (The Danish Business Archives), Aarhus Archival material of relevance for the study of the History and Development of Danish Trade and Industry
- Dansk Data Arkiv (DDA, The Danish Data Archives), Odense Machine-readable data created by researchers from the Social Sciences and the Health Sciences communities; quantitative historical data, such as historical censuses

Arbejderbevægelsens Arkiv, Copenhagen

http://www.arbejdernuseet.dk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=307&Itemid=479

Since 1909, the Library and Archive of the Danish Labour Movement has collected the materials of the political, trade union, cultural, and co-operative organisations of the Labour Movement. Collections also include the archives of individuals linked to the Labour Movement. The holdings include 2,500 organisational archives and 275 personal archives. Presence in union catalogues: The National Danish Database on Private Archives (DANPA)

Arktisk Institut, Copenhagen

<http://arktiskinstitut.dk/>

Founded in 1954 and restructured after Greenland obtained home rule in 1987. The holdings of the archives include diaries, manuscripts, reports, observations, letters, etc., of members of scientific expeditions to Greenland, and of other written material as well as photographic material related to the history of Greenland and the Arctic region in general.

Niels Bohr Arkivet, Copenhagen

<http://www.nba.nbi.dk/>

Founded by Niels Bohr (1885-1962) in 1921. The holdings include archives of the institute itself and of Danish physicists' organisations, as well as the scientific papers etc. of the physicists Niels, Harald and Aage Bohr, and of 13 other nuclear physicists from a variety of countries, who have collaborated with Niels Bohr or worked at the institute.

Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen

<http://natmus.dk/>

- Frihedsmuseets arkiv (The Archives of the Resistance Museum)
- Musikmuseets arkiv (The Archives of the Music Museum) The medieval codices are deposited in the Royal Library.

Thorvaldsen Museum, Copenhagen

<http://www.thorvaldsensmuseum.dk/>

- Thorvaldsens Brevarkiv (The Thorvaldsen Letter Archives) holds 4,500 documents related to the sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770-1844):

Karen Brahes Bibliotek, Odense

<http://www.karenbrahe.dk/karenbrahes-bibliotek.html>

This little-known 17th-century library, which includes c. 350 manuscript items, was founded to promote Danish women's ability to study and take part in intellectual life at a par with men. It has since remained almost intact as it was left at the death of its founder, the learned noblewoman Karen Brahe (1657-1726). Its historical nucleus is the collection inherited from her elder book-collecting relative, Anne Gøje (1609-1681), including 76 manuscripts, among which all those formerly owned by Denmark's most learned woman, Birgitte Thott (1610-1662). The foundation, which Karen Brahe set up in her will, and which still owns the library, has secured the unchanged survival of the library through three centuries. The library is kept in the vault of the Provincial Archives of Funen, in Odense. A detailed catalogue of the c. 350 manuscripts was published in 1956 by the Danish National Archives, and has been digitised by the Royal Library.