

National Background: Sweden 2015

Katinka Ahlbom (Kungliga biblioteket)

Content: Kungliga biblioteket, Stockholm, Svenska Akademiens Nobelbibliotek

Kungliga biblioteket, Stockholm

<http://www.kb.se/english/>

The Manuscript Collection

The National Library suffered a severe disaster in 1697: the Palace Fire. About four fifths of the manuscript collection was destroyed; 1 103 manuscripts burned or disappeared in the melee and only 283 were left, according to an inventory done shortly after the fire.

One of the missing manuscripts returned to the National Library about 100 years later. Queen Christina accepted Siebenhirter's prayer book as a gift from an Austrian who was serving as a general for Sweden. The prayer book was later stolen in the confusion on Palace Hill, but was eventually found in the possession of a goldsmith and bought back for the National Library in 1825. Damaged by fire and water and redolent of smoke, it is now kept in a beautiful coffer and is one of the more magnificent examples of Late Medieval painting held by the National Library

Major holdings:

- Older Manuscripts
The oldest material is made up mainly of European medieval manuscripts, both Swedish and foreign. The National Library's collections contain about 1 100 manuscripts dating from before 1600, about 300 in Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian, and about 350 in Latin. All together, there are about 10 000 volumes. In recent years, the Manuscripts Division has been concentrating on cataloging the library's studbooks and manuscript travelogs. Cataloging of the Latin manuscripts is in progress. The National Library's medieval manuscripts are being microfilmed in partnership with the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library.
 - Magnus Eriksson's Law of the Realm
 - The Ericsson Manuscript
 - De arte phisicali et de cirurgia
 - The Revelations of Saint Birgitta
 - The Elder Westrogothic Law
 - Eric XIV's Astrological Almanac for 1567
- Swedish 17th and 18th century manuscripts from King Charles XII to Bellman
Notable manuscripts in this group include the collection in the Archeology compartment (Fornkunskap - F), which houses reports and notations from 17th century inventories of antiquities and cultural heritage monuments - valuable sources for Swedish archeology and art history.
Two examples are the collections of Johan Peringskiöld, known as the "Searches for Antiquities", and, in what may be the most remarkable manuscript in this area, Johannes Bureus's (1568-1652) enormous volume of memoranda, "Sumlen".
 - King Charles XII
 - Johannes Bureus
 - Carl Gustav Tessin
 - Carl Michael Bellman
- Private Archives
 - Personal archives predominate, particularly the archives of authors and other literary personages

- archives of artists, academics, and politicians
- archives pertaining to the history of books, libraries, printers, rare books, and the book trade; and the archives of associations, periodicals, and the women's movement.
- about 350 archives.
 - Astrid Lindgren
 - Selma Lagerlöf
 - The Strindberg Room

Svenska Akademiens Nobelbibliotek, Stockholm

<http://www.nobelbiblioteket.se/eng>

The Nobel Library is intended to assist the Swedish Academy in the evaluations required for the Nobel Prize in Literature and for the Academy's own prizes and awards. The primary task of the library is to acquire and make accessible recent works of literature, along with literary criticism and linguistics. It concentrates mainly on contemporary literature, which in many cases is acquired in the original language.