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NEWSLETTER

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Database of missing books - Royal Library, Copenhagen

The Royal Library in Copenhagen recently published a list of missing books <http://www.kb.dk/kb/missingbooks/index-en.htm>. The site is of interest because of the detailed information that is provided. After having suffered numerous thefts, the Royal Library conducted an

Ownership mark	Description	Notes
	Signature of Friedrich II of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorp. Here placed on the pastedown. Also seen is a shelf mark. On the fly leaf Friedrich has also written his name, with year and place: "1769 Friedrich Du-Holstein erbetet Heydelsberg".	Duke Friedrich II of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorp (1566-1587), son of Duke Adolf II and Christine of Hessen. He studied at the University of Heidelberg. He succeeded his father in 1586 but died the following year at the age of nineteen. In 1606 Duke Johann Adolf founded a library at Gottorp Castle. It was captured by the Danish King in 1713 and transferred to the Royal Library between 1735 and 1749. See a Gottorp coat of arms on a binding here (this is only one of a number of various Gottorp arms; however, they all consist of the same components). Clovis Heubeau, <i>Sieur de Nuyssement: Les oeuvres posthumes</i> (1578).
	Signature of Hans Gram, with place and year: "Jo. Grammi. Hafniae MDCCXXXIII".	Hans Gram (1685-1748), collector of books, philologist, historian, librarian of the Royal Library from 1730 to his death. His private library comprised c. 24,000 books and c. 300 manuscripts. After his death his collection of books was sold at two auctions and most of it ended up abroad. The entire collection of manuscripts, however, was not put up for auction but was bought by the Royal Library. <i>Joh. Sailer von Kayserberg: Das innig Leben</i> ... (1510).
	The price of the book when sold by ...	The Harley library. This book was acquired by Thomas Osborne as part of the famous Harley library. The Harley library was founded by Robert Harley (1661-1724) and continued by his son Edward Harley (1689-1741), after whose death the printed books were purchased by Thomas Osborne.

inventory of its stacks, from 1979 to 1999. A list of books in the older collections that were then found missing is published on the website (though the list also includes some items which were known to be missing before the 1970s). At present the list of missing books comprises books printed in the period 1501–1800, chronologically arranged by year of publication, and provides antiquarian book traders and auction houses with an efficient way to establish whether a given book is listed among the books missing in the Royal Library.

The list is based on shelflists dating from c. 1820 and onward, but every record has, as far as possible, been verified in other library catalogues, and the bibliographical information has been expanded and brought up to date. Bibliographical data was collated from information retrieved from the *Hand Press Book database*, the *Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog* (KVK), and from bibliographies and other printed sources, e.g. the VD 16 (*Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachraum erschienenen Drucke des 16. Jahrhunderts*). Copy-specific information (e.g. hand-written notes, important provenance information, binding features) on the shelflist has also been included in the list of missing books.

Of particular interest is the website's survey in pictures and words of physical means of identifying items belonging to the Royal Library collections. The site gives detailed information on owner's marks, both inside and on the binding, the way shelfmarks were constructed in the Royal Library, and also details on royal monograms and the Danish national coats of arms.