

SCANDINAVIAN BOOKS  
IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Isabel Henderson

The Library has a large collection of Scandinavian books in the Humanities. This includes:

1. All British publications with Scandinavian interest. These are deposited in the Library under statutory regulations and new publications are generally available for use in the Library three to four months after publication.

2. Antiquarian books (published before 1900). The Library of the Faculty of Advocates (which became the National Library after 1925) acquired in 1819 a fine collection of Scandinavian books assembled by the Icelandic scholar Grimur Thorkelin. The collection is particularly rich in early printings of the Icelandic sagas, early legal codices, topography, runology, ballad collections, early periodical literature and historiography.

On this foundation the National Library buys antiquarian books that supplement the existing material, or which have Scottish or typographic interest.

The Library has just received the first rolls of a microfilm series that will eventually cover all Swedish

books printed before 1700 as listed in the Swedish National Bibliography. A similar series of microfilms is available for early Danish and Icelandic books and these are being considered for purchase. A Norwegian series is also planned.

3. Books in the Humanities published in Denmark, the Faeroes, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. (Most of these are written in the language of origin, but some are in English.) These books have been bought systematically ever since funds became available after 1925. The bulk of the purchasing is in the fields of literature (texts and criticism) and history (sources and studies). The Library has also dictionaries of many types, national bibliographies, national encyclopaedias, dictionaries of national bibliography, subject and author bibliographies, and many other basic works of reference. The Library subscribes to three Scandinavian daily newspapers and to nearly fifty Scandinavian periodicals, including all the major literary and historical journals. A limited number of books on art and architecture, folk-lore and the Social Sciences are also purchased.

Monographs in category 3 can be borrowed for a period of a month, but only for use within other libraries. Librarians in Scotland can apply on behalf of their readers directly to the National Library. This should provide a speedy service.

Monographs in category 1 which are now out of print can also be borrowed, but librarians should make requests for these through the Scottish Central Library. Older studies and criticism and translations of Scandinavian writers belong to this class of material but many books go out of print in two or three years so that quite recent books may be available for loan. Material out of copyright and single periodical articles can be purchased in Xerox form.

Publications which may be of help in indicating the range of the collection are:

1. Scandinavia. A catalogue of an exhibition held in 1970. 350 items are described covering all aspects of the collection. 45p.

2. Foreign Accessions List. Free on request. This list appears weekly and at present contains all recent library accessions published abroad since 1900. The amount of Scandinavian material listed varies considerably from list to list. Sample back numbers can be sent to anyone who would like to find out whether this list is relevant to his interests.

3. A list of Scandinavian periodicals in the National Library. Free on request.

In general Reader's Tickets are issued to those who cannot find the material they require elsewhere - and

this will frequently be the case with books in the Scandinavian languages. Space imposes some restrictions in the issue of 6-month tickets and eligibility for these tickets depends on a number of circumstances. Enquiries about tickets should be made in the Library or by letter to the Librarian.

The staff in charge of Scandinavian purchasing will be very pleased to give help personally or by letter on any Scandinavian matter. They would also welcome suggestions for purchases. Norwegian and Danish queries should be addressed to Dr. Isabel Henderson, Swedish and Finnish queries to Mr. Stephen Holland and Icelandic queries to Mrs Elizabeth Thomson.

NORTHERN STUDIES  
IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES OF SCOTLAND  
EDINBURGH

John Baldwin

The National Museum is concerned with man in Scotland - tracing his evolution from earliest times to the present day. In the later periods, this extends beyond archaeological investigation to historical, literary and linguistic study, and work with field informants. Study is related primarily to the material objects - man's tools, techniques and what he has produced.