

SCANDINAVIAN BOOKS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF
SCOTLAND 2

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READING ROOM BOOKS

The alterations in the main Reading Room have now been completed. The addition of a mezzanine floor has greatly increased the space available for reference books on open access. All the Scandinavian encyclopedias, some of which had been squeezed out of the old Reading Room, are now back on the shelves, and the Scandinavian literature, history and dictionary sections have been expanded. Some particularly useful reference books now on open access are:

Danmark. By J P Trap. 5th ed. Ed. by Niels Nielsen, Peter Skautrup and Poul Engelstoft. Gad. 1958-72. ["Trap's *Danmark*" (1st ed. 1858-62) is the Danish national historical gazetteer. It provides historical and descriptive notes on all localities in Denmark, with maps for every county, parish and city. It has numerous illustrations and valuable selective bibliographies.]

Kulturhistorisk Leksikon for nordisk Middelalder fra Vikingtid til Reformationstid. Copenhagen 1956-[1971].

[Signed articles with bibliographies written by leading medievalists in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. In progress. The latest volume, XVI, 1971, covers Skudehandel to Stadsskatter.]

Svenskt Pressregister 1880-1885 (1886-1890). 2 v. Litteraturhistoriska Institutionen i Lund, 1967-68.

[An Index of 33,000 reviews of literature, art, music and the theatre found in Swedish newspapers in the 1880s. Details of location, length and authorship (where known) are given for each review. Copies of the reviews themselves can be supplied by The Royal Library in Stockholm. It is hoped eventually to extend the period covered by the Index.]

Space has also been found for two up-to-date, semi-popular, well-illustrated histories of Sweden and Denmark:

Sten CARLSSON and Jerker ROSÉN. *Den Svenska Historien*. 10 v. Bonniers, Stockholm, 1966-68.

John DANSTRUP and Hal KOCK. *Danmarks Historie*. 14 v. Politikens Forlag, Copenhagen, 1962-66.

The Library's good coverage of Scandinavian author lexicons has been further improved by the recent acquisition of:

Jens Braage HALVORSEN. *Norsk Forfatter – lexikon, 1814–1880*. 6 v. Oslo 1885-1908.

[The personal copy of the Norwegian book-collector Jonas Skougaard.]

The latest volume of the *Svenskt Biografiskt Lexikon*, v. 19 (Heurlin-Inge) is now in the Reading Room and the *Svenska Akademiens Ordbok* (the definitive dictionary of the Swedish language begun in 1898) has now reached v. 26 (Skallrig – Skräpig).

RECENT SCANDINAVIAN ACCESSIONS

Codex Caesareus Upsaliensis. An Echternach Gospel-book of the 11th century. (A facsimile edition.) [With a monograph on the manuscript by Carl Nordenfalk.] Stockholm, 1971.

Selma JÓNSDÓTTIR. *Illumination in a manuscript of Stjórn*. Translated by Peter G Foote. Reykjavík, 1971.

[Demonstrates direct contacts between Iceland and English illumination of the early 14th century.]

Roar HAUGLID. *Norske Stavkirker*. Oslo, 1973.

[The first volume of an intended corpus of Norwegian stave-churches.]

Dansk Kunst Historie: Billedkunst og Skulptur. Politikens Forlag, Copenhagen, 1972–

[A new, fully illustrated, five-volume history. The first three volumes are in the Library.]

Fredrika BREMER. *Brev*. Samlade och utgivna av Klara Johanson och Ellen Kleman. 4 v. Stockholm, 1915-20.
 [Collected letters of an important 19th-century writer. Through her novels, her travel works, especially those on the United States, and her championship of women's rights Fredrika Bremer contributed significantly to Swedish life and culture.]

Carl SNOILSKY. *Samlade dikter*. 5 v. Stockholm. 1903-04.
 [One of the most urbane of Swedish poets, whose aristocratic origins conflicted with his desire to write for the people. Snoilsky is said to be a model for Pastor Rosmer in Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*.]

Ola HANSSON. *Samlade Skrifter*. 17 v. Stockholm, 1919,22.
 [A prolific essayist and sensitive poet, Hansson is probably best known for his *Sensitiva Amorosa* (a series of erotic case histories).]

Breve fra og til Holger DRACHMANN. Ed. by Morten Borup. 4 v. Copenhagen, 1968-70.
 [A fully annotated edition of Drachmann's correspondence which sheds new light on the nature of his political radicalism.]

Subscriptions to the following series have recently been taken out:

Stockholm Studies in Art History.

Odense University Studies in Art History

Bibliotheca Historica Lundensis

Studia Historica Upsaliensis

We have also acquired a complete run from 1880 of *Personal-historisk Tidsskrift*, the Journal of the Association for Danish Genealogy and Biography. This contains articles on Danish genealogy and cultural history, book reviews, and bibliographies of genealogical and biographical literature. There is an index of persons for the whole series. The Library now takes the current numbers of the Journal.

RECENTLY ACQUIRED ANTIQUARIAN (PRE-1900) BOOKS

Eric Thomas SVEDENSTJERNA. *Resa igenom en del af England och Skottland åren 1802 och 1803*. Stockholm, 1804.

[Svedenstjerna, a mineralogist, studied the iron-making industry during his visit to England and Scotland. He spent some time in Edinburgh, visiting the iron-works at Cramond, and was impressed by the mineral content of the surrounding hills. He also travelled through Fife, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.]

In 1972 the Library, with the strong support of historians in Edinburgh, decided to subscribe to the Swedish Section of the General Microfilm Company's *Scandinavian Culture Series*. This series, expected to continue for ten to fifteen years, covers virtually all Swedish books printed up to 1700, including those printed abroad. We have so far received 92 rolls of film containing 325 of the 730 titles listed in Collijn's *Sveriges bibliografi intill år 1600*, and 295 of approximately 6500 titles in his *Sveriges bibliografi 1600 – talet*. By subscribing to this series, we have already added substantially to our holdings of early Swedish books; although microfilm has some disadvantages, we could never have achieved this coverage by the occasional purchase of originals.

A much smaller but similar type of purchase is the microfiche edition of the publications of the *Samfund til Udgivelse af Gammel Nordisk Litteratur*. 61 v. Copenhagen 1880-1917. The society was founded in 1879 to publish critical editions of early Scandinavian texts, with emphasis on Icelandic sagas. Scholars from all the Scandinavian countries have worked on the Society's publications.

GABRIEL SCOTT EXHIBITION. MAY, 1974.

In March, 1874, Gabriel Scott, the Norwegian novelist and poet, was born in Leith where his father Sven Holst Jensen, was Pastor in the Norwegian Church. (He later used his middle-name Scott, given to him by his father, who had a deep affection for Scotland.) To commemorate this event the National Library is holding an exhibition which will run throughout May. It is hoped that the exhibition will include a number of loans from

Norway. The Library owns the manuscript of one of Scott's most successful children's stories, 'The Flying Table'. We have also acquired most of his novels in first editions. A recent purchase of rarity and interest is a copy of Caroline Schytte Jensen's privately printed song for her son's 50th Birthday.

During the exhibition it is planned to hold a Gabriel Scott evening, where aspects of his life and work will be presented with the help of dramatic illustrations performed by the Strathclyde University Theatre Group.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE FAROESE SAGA. Translated by G V C Young, O.B.E. and Cynthia R Clewer, B.A.(Hons), Belfast 1973.

The saga of the Faroe islanders deserves to be better known to English readers. There is much to admire in its salt-drenched pages. The story spans a period of thirty years on either side of the conversion. There is much discussion of the threat posed by the two Olafs, looking to Christianity to extend their power and enlarge their coffers. But the central figure in the saga is the memorable, complex and some ways, puzzling, Thrand.

According to the King of Norway, Thrand was "one of the worst people in all the northern countries", quite a claim to fame in a field offering strong competition. The saga follows his violent career from birth, through advancing age, failing strength and sight to a death from grief over the killing of his kinsmen. He is a thorough rogue as his red hair and freckled face would suggest, in sharp contrast to the decent Sigmund who has much in common with Olaf Tryggvason. Sigmund becomes Christian but Thrand resists conversion. In him are concentrated the reactionary forces of paganism. Threatened with a broad axe blade, he cynically conforms to save his life. "There are many creeds" says Thrand, "and they do not need to be identical in order to be right." The exploration of his character is a remarkable literary achievement.