

**MEMORY OF THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL REGISTER  
NOMINATION FORM**

**Denmark - Treasures from the Royal Library - National Collections**

PART A - ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Abstract:**

The Royal Library Manuscript Department holds Denmark's largest collection of literary and artistic archives. The nominated documentary heritage includes as highlights: the manuscript and correspondence of Hans Christian Andersen; the Søren Kierkegaard Archives (manuscripts and personal papers); the Dalby Book (a Latin Gospel on parchment), the Inca Chronicle (Guaman Poma's hand-written chronicle), the Angers fragment (parts of Denmark's first national chronicle) and maps of the Polar Region.

**1. Identity and Location:**

*Name of the Documentary Heritage:* Treasures from the Royal Library - National Collections

*Country:* Denmark

*Address:*

Det kongelige Bibliotek  
P.O. Box 2149  
DK-1016 Copenhagen K., Denmark  
<http://www.kb.dk>

**2. Legal information:**

**Owner:**

The Royal Library (Ministry of Culture)  
Director General: Mr. Erland Kolding Nielsen  
P.O. Box 2149  
DK-1016 Copenhagen K., Denmark

**Custodian:** Heads of Collections

**Legal Status:**

ú *Category of ownership:* Public property

ú *Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage:* Det kongelige Bibliotek, Dpt. of Preservation

ú *Accessibility:* Public access

ú *Copyright status:* Det kongelige Bibliotek, cf. Lov om Ophavsret af 14. juni 1995, Danish copyright law.

ú *Responsible administration:*

- Rare, valuable and fragile parts of collections are placed in air-conditioned safety vaults (increased storage capacity as of 1998)
- Valuable objects from Special Collections are currently security-filmed according to management plan

**3. Identification:**

**Description:**

- a. Manuscripts and letters to/from Hans Christian Andersen from/to:  
Collin, Ny kgl. Samling, Holger Laage-Petersen, Arne Portman
- b. The Søren Kierkegaard Archives - Manuscripts, drafts, personal papers, letters
- c. The Dalby Book  
A Latin Gospel Book written in Scania ca. 1060, with four full page pictures of the Evangelists. Gl. kgl. S. 1325, 4to. Parchment 21,5 x 15,2 cm, 285 fol.
- d. The Inca Chronicle  
Guaman Poma's hand-written chronicle, containing ca. 400 illustrations, Guaman Poma de Ayala: El Primer Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno. The Inca Chronicle, written in Peru ca. 1610 Gl. kgl. S. 2232, 4to. Paper 21,7 x 14,7 cm, 1200 fol.
- e. The Angers-fragment  
consists of 4 folios, the only remaining parts of a manuscript containing the text of Denmark's first national Chronicle, the Gesta Danorum, written by Saxo Grammaticus around 1200. Ny kgl. S. 869, 4to. Parchment 21,6 x 16,1 cm
- f. Maps of the Polar Region  
The Resen map of Polar Regions  
Indicatio Gronlandie vicinarum regionum versus ... H.P.Resen 1605. 4100-0-1605/1. 562 x 763 mm. Manuscript map.

The Hans Egede map of Southern Greenland  
Nova Delinatio Grønlandiæ Antiquæ hvis Wester Siide 1723 og 1724 ...  
d. 4. Januarij 1737. 4100-0-1737/1. 283 x 450 mm. Manuscript map.

The Høeg Hagen map of Northeast Greenland

Niels Peter Høeg Hagens 6 manuscript maps. Danmarks Fjord and Independence Fjord ... 1907. 4100.271-0-1907/1-2a. 3 maps 341 x 210 and 3 maps 418 x 341.

#### Visual documentation:

- a. Opening from Hans Christian Andersen's Diary from a travel in Germany 1831
  - b. Letter to Søren Kierkegaard's fiancée, Regine Olsen, 1840, with a portrait of the artist
  - c. A page from the Dalby Book
  - d. A page from the Inca Chronicle
  - e. The Angers-fragment
  - f. The Resen map of Polar Regions 1605.
- The Hans Egede map of Southern Greenland 1737.  
Detail of the Høeg Hagen map of Northeast Greenland 1907.

#### History:

The Royal Library was founded in 1653 and comprises the National Library of Denmark, the Copenhagen University Library in the fields of theology, the humanities, social sciences and law, as well as the Danish Museum of Books and Printing and the National Museum of Photography. In 1989, the Royal Library was merged with Department 1 of the University Library (founded in 1482). Open for public use since 1793.

The main emphasis in the older foreign collections is on the historical subjects, and the 17th and 18th century collections are generally regarded as among the richest in Europe.

As the National Library of Denmark the Royal Library has a special position with regard to the Danish collections. The various arrangements, which since 1697 have directed all publishers or printers to deliver a number of copies of all printed publications to the Royal Library and the former University Library, have resulted in the Royal Library becoming the owner of the most complete collection of books published in Denmark and of foreign books about Denmark. Likewise, the Library's Manuscript Department holds Denmark's largest collection of literary archives and private archives within the arts, incl. music, and culture.

see also: <http://www.kb.dk>

**History (Special):** ad a. The Hans Christian Andersen-collections are the result of systematic collecting on several levels. The material in Ny kongelig Samling is based on the current acquisition of the Library. The Collin manuscript-collection was donated in 1905 and the Holger Laage Petersen collection in 1954. The Arne Portman-collection was purchased in 1969. ad b. Kierkegaard was very careful in preserving almost every note that he had written. After his death, his papers were brought from his flat to his brother, the Bishop of Aalborg. Later they were given to the University Library in Copenhagen, and finally transferred to the Royal Library after the Second World War. ad c. In the Middle Ages the book belonged to the Augustinian convent of Dalby in Scania, then part of Denmark. It was acquired by the Royal Library before 1785. ad d. The manuscript was acquired by the Royal Library before 1785. ad e. The Angers-fragment was found in 1866 in the binding of a book from the 15th century in Bibliothèque Publique of Angers. It was acquired by the Royal Library in 1879 (by exchange of a manuscript of French origin).

#### Bibliography:

general:

- Historiske Efterretninger om det store kongelige Bibliotek i Kiøbenhavn / E.C. Werlauff. 2nd rev. ed. 1844. x, 432 pp. [The major source for the history of the Library up to 1844]
  - Dansk Bibliotekslitteratur. Bidrag til en bibliografi / E. Allerslev Jensen & Torben Nielsen. Cph. 1950
  - Kilder og litteratur til Det kongelige Biblioteks historie trykt 1844-1992 / Harald Ilsøe. 2nd rev. ed. Cph. 1993. [Bibliography covering publications on the history of the Library printed 1844-1992]
  - On Parchment, Paper and Palm Leaves ... Treasures of The Royal Library, Denmark /Harald Ilsøe. 1993. 364 pp. [Selected bibliography p. 345-348]
  - Information Brochures 1990- [Brief introductions to the departments, collections and functions of the Library]
- see also: <http://www.kb.dk>

special:

- The Royal Library Binding Section, Preservation and Restoration Workshop /By Knud Erik Larsen, Per M. Laursen and Erik Løvborg. 1992. 47 pp.

ad a.

- Katalog over danske og norske Digteres Originalmanuskripter i Det kongelige Bibliotek / ved Lauritz Nielsen. 1943. XXXVIII, 383 pp.
- Den collinske Manuskriptsamling/ by Carl S. Petersen. BOGVENNEN 1930. Offprint
- Den Laage-Petersenske H. C. Andersensamling / by Erik Dal. In: FUND & FORSKNING II, 1955, p. 59-74

ad b.

- Søren Kierkegaards Papirer / ed. by Niels Thulstrup. 2nd ed. Vol. 1-16. Cph. 1968-1978. 25 vols.
- Skriftbilleder. Søren Kierkegaards journaler, notesbøger, hæfter, ark, lapper og strimler / by N. J. Cappelørn et al. Cph. 1996. 178 pp. - ill.

ad c.

- Greek and Latin Illuminated Manuscripts, X-XIII Centuries, in Danish Collections / by M. Mackeprang, V. Madsen &

C.S. Petersen. Cph., London, Oxford 1921.

- Catalogus codicum latinorum mediii ævi Bibliothecæ Regiæ Hafniensis / by Ellen Jørgensen. Hafniæ 1926  
- Illuminatio. Texts and Illustrations of the Bible in Medieval Manuscripts in the Royal Library, Copenhagen / by Erik Petersen. In: TRANSACTIONS OF THE XVth CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIBLIOPHILES (Copenhagen 1987). Cph. 1992, p. 90f

ad d.

- Letter to a King. A Picture-History of the Inca Civilisation by Huamán Poma / ed. C. Dilke. London 1978  
- Escritura y censura en el nuevo mundo / by Felipe Guaman Poma. Santiago, Chile 1993 (with bibliography)

ad e.

- The Angers Fragment and the Archetype of Gesta Danorum / by Ivan Boserup.  
In: Saxo Grammaticus. A Medieval Author Between Norse and Latin Culture / ed. Karsten Friis-Jensen. Cph. 1981, p. 9-26.

- Catalogus codicum latinorum medii ævi Bibliothecæ Regiæ Hafniensis / by Ellen Jørgensen. Hafniæ 1926, p. 403f.  
- Danmarks Middelalderlige Håndskrifter. En sammenfattende boghistorisk Oversigt /by Lauritz Nielsen. Cph. 1937, p. 58ff.

- Saxonis Gesta Danorum / eds. J. Olrik & H. Ræder, tom I, Hauniæ 1931, p. XIIIff.

ad f.

- Nord i tåkeheimen: utforskningen av jordens nordlige strøk i tidlige tider / By Fridtjof Nansen. Kria., 1911. VII, 603 pp. - ill.

- Groenlandia / Peder Hansen Resen / Ed. by J. Kisbye Møller. Charlottenlund: Det Grønlandske Selskab, 1987. 189 pp. - ill.

- Det gamle Grønlands nye Perustration, eller: En kort Beskrivelse om de gamle Nordske Coloniers Begyndelse og Undergang i Grønland, Grønlands Situation, Luft og Temperament og dets itsige Indbygges Klædedragt, Handtæring, Spise, Sprog, Ægteskab og andre saavel i Samqvem som i egne Huuse nu brugelige Sæder / by Hans Egede. Cph. 1729.

- Kort Beretning om den Grønlandske Missions Beskaffenhed / by Hans Egede. Cph. [1737?]

- Hans Egede and the Frobisher Strait / by Ib Rønne Kejlbo. In: GEOGRAFISK TIDSSKRIFT 70, 1971, p. 59-139

- Nova Delineatio Grønlandiæ Antiquæ. Et hidtil ukendt Hans Egede kort / by Ib Rønne Kejlbo. In: FUND & FORSKNING XXI, 1974, p. 47-70

- Danmark-Ekspeditionen til Grønlands Nordostkyst / by Achton Friis. Illustrations by Aage Bertelsen and Achton Friis. Kbh. 1909. VI, 670 pp. 9 plates - ill.- 2nd ed. Cph. 1987. 431 pp. - ill.

- Mindeblade om Danmark-Ekspeditionen 1906-08 / ed. by Fritz W. Bistrup et al. Charlottenlund: Det grønlandske Selskab, 1983. 125 pp. - ill.

- Omkom 79 ' fjorden: tragedien på Danmark-ekspeditionen 1906-08 / by Vagn Lundby. Illustrations by Poul Gernes. Cph. 1984. 203 pp., VI!! plates - ill. map

#### 4. Management plan:

**Access policy:** Public access. However, restricted material - i.e. manuscripts, non-print material, large folios, foreign books over 100 years old, literature from the Danish Dept. - may only be used in reading rooms under surveillance.

**Preservation and managerial policies to control the physical environment of the manuscripts:** - Preservation procedures and policies to control the physical environment - i.e. air quality, temperature, humidity, light levels, shelving, storage, security, building maintenance, handling by staff and users and display techniques. These procedures and policies should take into account the significance, physical state and required use of the documentary heritage

Building policies for new central storage, finished 1997: temp. 18 ° C; hum. 30-40% RH;

UV-filterlight; steel shelving; high security; special handling procedures regarding fragile parts of collections

- Preservation treatments employed including details about access to professional conservation expertise and facilities  
Well-equipped modern Conservation Workshop with skilled staff

- A disaster prevention and recovery plan

Katastrofeplan for Det kongelige Bibliotek. 1995. 49 pp. /The Royal Library Disaster Plan

- Number of preservation staff, their qualifications and opportunities for their continued training

The Royal Library employs 6 trained book-restorers, 6 trained conservators and 4 assistants (incl. staff financed via external funds). The staff attends special courses and conferences.

- Description of how preservation activities are incorporated into general management activities

The preservation policy of the Royal Library is laid down in the Preservation Council, comprising the Director General, the Head of the Preservation Division, the Heads of Preservation, of the Collections, of the Custodial Services, the Head Bookbinder, the Head of the Rare Book Collections and the Head of Security.

**Details of preservation budget:** Budget 1995, incl. staff: DKK 13,3 million

#### 5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria:

##### ú ad a. Hans Christian Andersen

**Influence:** The Hans Christian Andersen-collections comprises the most complete accumulation of Hans Christian manuscripts in the world, forming the essential sources to the Hans Christian Andersen research and/or critical editions of his authorship

**Time:** The Collections reflect the aesthetic - and social way of life of the author and his time

**Place:** The collections reflect the contemporary importance of Hans Christian Andersen's authorship in Denmark and Europe

*People:* The Collections contain very important sources to the international history of the Hans Christian Andersen-Reception

*Subject/theme:* The Collections cover exhaustively the authors significance to the History of Literature

#### ú **ad b. Søren Kierkegaard**

*Influence:* The influence of Søren Kierkegaard has been immense, especially in the 20th century

*Time:* Kierkegaard was both typical and atypical for his time. As a thinker he was far ahead of his time. As a human being he was in many respect deeply rooted in it.

*People:* Kierkegaard has had a substantial impact on Danish culture in general and on theological matters in particular, as an author and as an extraordinary personality

*Subject/theme:* The Kierkegaard Archives contain documents related to all aspects of Kierkegaards life and writings

*Form and style:* Kierkegaards writings are not only marked by stringent and original thinking, but also by an unusually rich and effective literary style

*Contextual assessment:* The Kierkegaard Archives belongs to the most complete and comprehensive archives left by any author. It is of primary importance for the study of Kierkegaard and his era

*An evaluation of the authenticity:* The Kierkegaard Archives consist exclusively of authentic material

*An assessment of rarity:* Almost all the papers in the Kierkegaard Archives have been written by Kierkegaard, and are therefore unique. Also as an archival entity the Kierkegaard Archives must be regarded as a rarity

#### ú **ad c. The Dalby Book**

*Influence:* The Book of Dalby has had no documented influence on later books, but as the first known representative of European book culture, its influence has been considerable

*Time:* The Book of Dalby is extremely important as a witness of written culture in the postviking, early Christian period in Scandinavia

*Subject/theme:* The Book of Dalby contains the four Gospels in Latin, a very common book in the Middle Ages, but the manuscript has a most individual value because of its history, the script and the pictures

*Form and style:* The Book of Dalby is written in a Caroline script. It is possible to detect European as well as specific Scandinavian elements in its design

*Contextual assessment:* Although the Book of Dalby has many topological parallels in Europe, it is a unique document within the context of written culture in Scandinavia

*An evaluation of authenticity:* The scarcity of external evidence and the rarity of comparable material has hitherto made it impossible to reach a final conclusion as to the precise origin of the book

*An assessment of rarity:* In a Scandinavian context the Book of Dalby must be considered extremely rare.

#### ú **ad d. The Inca Chronicle**

*Influence:* Poma's chronicle is considered as an extremely important historical document in Peru and has influenced modern concepts of the past

*Time:* The Chronicle is a unique source for the history and culture of Indian life in Peru in the years around 1600

*Subject/theme:* Poma represents a defence of the racial and cultural integrity of Indians. His chronicle provides a unique and invaluable insight into the daily life of the Indians

*Contextual assessment:* Poma's chronicle is considered to be of primary importance for the study of Inca culture

*An assessment of authenticity:* The lack of comparable material and supportive evidence has led to a scholarly discussion about the Poma's authorship of the chronicle

*Form and style:* Poma de Ayala's Chronicle of the Incas is addressed to King Philip III of Spain, and describes the history and conditions of the Inca Empire before and after the Spanish conquest. Poma presents a defence of the racial and cultural integrity of the Indians. 400 of the 1200 pages of the manuscript are full-page pen drawings, which provide a unique and invaluable insight into the daily lives of the Indians. Poma's work is the only known illustrative material of the early history of Peru and its early colonial period.

#### ú **ad e. The Angers Fragment**

*Influence:* Saxo's Gesta Danorum has had a fundamental influence on Danish history and literature. It is a work of international scale and reputation, a masterpiece in the literature of the Middle Ages.

*Time:* Saxo was closely related to the most influential political figures of his time, and his Gesta Danorum not only

describes, but also reflects one of the most important periods in Medieval Scandinavia

*Place:* Gesta Danorum deals with Denmark in an expansive period of the country. It not only deals with Denmark and Denmark's place in European politics, but also with the surrounding geographical areas in Scandinavia, in the Baltic, in England and on the Continent.

*Subject/theme:* The Gesta Danorum basically deals with the history of the Danes from the earliest beginning to Saxo's own era. As one of the earliest and most important of Denmark's national literary monuments, Saxo's Gesta Danorum has played an integrating role in the formation of the nation's concepts and notions of history.

*Form and style:* Gesta Danorum was written in Latin, in prose as well as poetry. It is formed as a narrative of the history of the Danes, interspersed with poems, some of which are based on Icelandic sources. Saxo's Latin was in many respect extraordinary for his time, extremely elaborate and based on classical models. The four folios contain formal and compositional alterations, and the fragment thus seems to be part of Saxo's own working copy.

#### ú **ad f. Maps of the Polar Region**

The three maps are unique, handdrawn documents concerning the Polar region and the mapping of these areas from 1600 until this century.

Resen's map, based on the first Danish expedition to Greenland, is widely used in historical context dealing with the early travels of the Northerners to the American continent. Egede's map is the first native map of Greenland by the Danish missionary Hans Egede, who solved the question about the Frobisher Strait.

The Høeg Hagen map is the first mapping of this hitherto unknown land. The sketches are the only papers left from the disastrous Denmark Expedition 1906-1908, ending with the death of the surveying team. The map was later found on the body of Jørgen Brønlund and is one of the very special items in the Map Collection.

*Place, People, Subject/theme, Form and style:* For their important information about the Polar region and their form and rarity these maps are of world significance

#### **6. Consultation:**

ad a.

Dr. phil. Erik Dal  
Forchhammersvej 1  
DK - 1920 Frederiksberg C, Denmark

ad b.

Niels Jørgen Cappelørn, Director of Research  
Søren Kierkegaard Forskningscenteret  
Købmagergade 46, 4.  
DK - 1150 Copenhagen K., Denmark

ad c.

Mag. art. Søren Kaspersen  
The University of Copenhagen  
Institut for Kunsthistorie og Teatervidenskab  
Njalsgade 80  
DK - 2300 Copenhagen S., Denmark

ad d.

Dr. phil. Niels Fock  
Bredgade 56 DK - 1260 Copenhagen K., Denmark

ad e.

Professor Birger Munk Olsen  
The University of Copenhagen  
Institut for græsk og Latin  
Njalsgade 92  
DK - 2300 Copenhagen S., Denmark

#### **7. Nominator:**

**Name:** Det kongelige Bibliotek / The Royal Library

**Relationship to the documentary heritage:** Owner

**Contact person:** Steen Bille Larsen, Deputy Director

**Contact details:** as "Identity and location"

PART B - SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

#### **8. Assessment of risk:**

ú Political climate - voluntary information: The political climate in Denmark is very stable, leaving no danger of any kind of riots, civil wars etc.

ú Environmental conditions: The environmental and physical conditions are the primary risk factors.

ú Preservation budget: The preservation budget (DKK 13,3 million) does only cover the immediate needs and damages, leaving no reserve for dealing with the crucial problem of paper deterioration. The most urgent need is conservation and stabilisation of the paper of the manuscripts and letters.

ú Extent and nature of use: Frequent use of the collections by researchers and exhibitors are also increasing risk factors

#### **9. Preservation Assessment:**

ad a. The Hans Christian Andersen Collections: About 60% of the manuscripts and letters need continuous conservation and minor repair, but the Collections as such have never been exposed to serious damages. Following the Security and Preservation policy of the Royal Library the manuscripts are kept in safe-deposit stacks, with controlled temperature and humidity. Use of the material from the collections is only allowed in secured reading room areas, and as of October 1998 only in new surroundings in the future Centre for Manuscripts and Rare Books.

ad b. The Kierkegaard Archives. The papers need constant supervision. Several parts of the archives need conservation or repair

ad c. The Book of Dalby: is in a fairly good condition, but needs constant supervision

ad d. The Inca Chronicle: The condition of the manuscript is very bad. It needs a thorough conservation, but appropriate methods have not yet been developed. The physical condition of the Inca Chronicle means that any kind of use or display etc. is prohibited. The manuscript has been security-filmed and a fac-simile edition has been published. Digitization is under consideration.

ad e. The Angers -fragment is in a fairly good condition, but needs constant supervision

ad f. The maps are vulnerable because of the paper quality. They have been security-filmed.  
No actual plans for further preservation

Mr. Steen Bille Larsen, Deputy Director, is in charge of the Preservation at the Royal Library, assisted by the Head of Preservation, Mr. Jonas Palm.

Prepared by Birgitte Hvidt, Sectional Librarian, 5 May 1997