



LIGUE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES EUROPÉENNES DE RECHERCHE
ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Manuscript Librarians Group

Denmark – Backgrounds

Ivan Boserup (Royal Library, Copenhagen)

Contents: Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (collection history; major collections; catalogues and digitisation; other collections). – Statsbibliotekets Håndskriftsamling, Aarhus. – Danmarks Kunstbibliotek, Copenhagen. – Dansk Folkemindesamling, Copenhagen. – Den Arnamagnæanske Samling, Copenhagen. – Karen Brahes Bibliotek, Odense. – Statens Arkiver, Copenhagen. – Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg. – Arbejderbevægelsens Arkiv, Copenhagen. – Arktisk Instituts Arkiv, Copenhagen. – Kvindehistorisk Samling, Aarhus. – Niels Bohr Arkivet, Copenhagen. – Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen. – Thorvaldsens Museum, Copenhagen.

Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (collection history)

1. The Royal Library was founded by King Frederik III (1609-1670) in the 1650s by merging his private library with that inherited from his predecessors, and in particular by acquiring four important private libraries, The *Bibliotheca Regia* in the Castle of Copenhagen in his time housed more than 100 manuscripts, and was confirmed as National Library in the Danish Legal Deposit Law of 1697. Booty of war and acquisitions of whole manuscript collections from private scholars and collectors characterise the early 18th century. The Great Fire of Copenhagen, which spared the Royal Library and the Royal Archives, but annihilated the University Library, marks an intensification of manuscript acquisitions both in the private and in the public sphere. Besides important Icelandic codices, all the Danish medieval sources collected over the years by successive specially appointed Royal Historiographers were destroyed. New manuscript collections were established for the University Library, largely through private donations, but daring auction purchases and acquisitions of whole manuscript collections were also made, both privately and by the state.
2. The *Collectio Regia* or *Old Royal Collection* of manuscripts had grown to ca. 3,500 items when in 1785 the *Thott Collection* of the wealthy Count Otto Thott (1703-85) was bequeathed to the King (4,000 items), followed in 1796 by the acquisition of the collection of the prolific author and historian P.F. Suhm (3,000 items). It became the nucleus of the Royal Library's third main manuscript collection, i.e. the rapidly expanding *New Royal Collection*, which was only closed in 1990.

3. Collections acquired during the 19th century (*Uldall's Samling; Kalls's Samling*) are mostly focused on Danish history, while those acquired during the 20th century reflect the increasing popularity, in the wane of Romanticism, of the collecting of autographs (letters and literary manuscripts).
4. Economic factors, both in the private and public domain, triggered in 1927 the acquisition of the rediscovered and historically important *Ledreborg Collection*, and in 1938 the transfer to the Royal Library of all the manuscript collections in the *University Library of Copenhagen* (3,000 items).
5. In the 19th and 20th centuries acquisitions have mostly been in the form of personal archives of authors, artists, scientists, and other persons involved in cultural activities in Denmark. The Manuscript Department today holds c. 35,000 manuscripts and archival units of very varying extent, and more than one million letters.
6. Largely intact after 350 years, the unity of the original Royal collections has nonetheless suffered through a number of transfers. In 1835, the *Royal Collection of Graphic Art* (Kobberstiksamlingen) was transferred from the Royal Library to the National Gallery of Denmark, and in the late 19th century, by virtue of a law of 1888, all documents in The Royal Library and in the University Library that could be considered to be 'public records' were transferred to the *Danish National Archives*. The Manuscript Department was established as a separate unit c. 1900. At the same time, manuscript maps, musical scores, and oriental manuscripts were relocated in respective special departments. In 1932, with the last massive manuscript acquisition to date, all Hebrew and Jiddish manuscripts were relocated in a Judaica Department, today a section within the Department of Orientalia and Judaica. Finally, in 1971-79, following-up on a law passed in 1965 and a Danish-Icelandic treaty of 1971, 141 codices of demonstrably Icelandic origin were transferred from the Royal Library to the *University of Iceland*, together with roughly half of the total of the c. 3,000 items of the Arnarnagnæan Collection of Icelandic manuscripts, which had been bequeathed to the University of Copenhagen by the Icelander, Professor of Nordic antiquities Arni Magnusson (1663-1730).

Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (major collections)

- Gammel Kongelig Samling (GKS; Old Royal Collection; *Collectio Regia / Codices Regii*). Expanding c. 1650-1784. The Latin catalogue (of which an [extract](#) was published 1786) describes in detail 3,587 items, western as well as oriental, arranged by format and by subject matter.
 - 1. Frederik III's library included c. 15 Icelandic parchment codices including the 13th-century *Codex Regius of the Elder Edda* and the 14th-century *Flatejyrbók*, and a description of Greenland from c. 1600 with map and sailing instructions. Furthermore, the illuminated Norwegian [Hardenberg](#) law codex (c. 1300), the observation protocols of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, the "Copenhagen Wulfstan collection" produced in England c. 1000, the only known witness (France, early 14th century) of the *Chronique* of the French crusader Robert de Clari (c. 1200), and a handful of 15th century codices of Latin classical authors. Undocumented, but probable is the presence in Frederik III's library of the autograph illustrated manuscript of the *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno* of the Andean Indian Felipe [Guaman Poma](#) de Ayala (1615), rediscovered in 1908 and inscribed in 2007 on UNESCO's Memory of the World [Register](#). Besides, three Arabic codices of the *Koran*, of which at least two were gifts to King Frederic from the renowned orientalist Theodor Peträus (d. 1673).

- 2. Frederik III's son and successor Christian V was not interested in books, but received as a gift in 1692 a 12th-century codex of Justinus's abbreviation of the *Historiæ* of Trogius Pompeius, which had been owned by the mighty archbishop Absalon of Lund (died 1201), who according to his will had lent it to Saxo Grammaticus, author of Denmark's national historiography, the *Gesta danorum*, ca. 1200. As a gift in 1698, from the linguist and Parish Minister Peder Syv (Petrus Septimius, 1631-1702), was also acquired the superbly illuminated [Christina Psalter](#) (Paris, c. 1230).
- 3. The Great Nordic War 1700-20, which politically ended in *status quo*, resulted on the Danish side in some important booty of war. Approximately 80 manuscripts of Swedish origin came as part of the library of the Coyet family, seized by Danish troops operating in Southern Sweden in 1710. More important, in the Southern part of the Danish-Norwegian double monarchy, where the duke of Schleswig-Holstein had sided with Sweden and thus committed high treason, Gottorp Castle was occupied in 1713 and all its rich treasures taken as booty of war, including the ducal library with its collection of c. 350 manuscripts. Among these were the 4 bifolia of a 9th-century codex of Lucretius' *De rerum naturæ* (the [Schedæ Gottorpienses](#) of modern critical editions), as well as a complete Carolingian codex of the ancient Latin translation of the *Jewish Antiquities* of Flavius Josephus. Many manuscripts of alchemistic contents, and much material regarding the history and administration of the duchies of Schleswig-Holstein, came to the Royal Library with the booty from Gottorp.
- 4. A comparable number of manuscripts, but regarding European history, including hundreds of Italian and Spanish documents, were part of the library of the Professor of Law Christian Reitzer (1665-1736), acquired by the Crown in 1721. Reitzer's library also included all the manuscripts and *collectanea* of the learned historian Otto Sperling the Younger (1634-1715), a specialist in numismatics, the history of Hamburg, and the history of learning.
- 5. In 1732, before they were to be auctioned, the Royal Librarian Hans Gram (1685-1748) acquired *en bloc* 242 Hebrew, Greek and Latin manuscripts, nearly all formerly belonging to Frederik Rostgaard (1671-1745). Many of the Greek codices had been acquired by him in Venice in 1699 and are traceable to the monastery of San Niccolò and beyond this to the Venetian humanist Urbano da Belluno (died 1524). Other massive acquisitions include, in 1749, c. 340 manuscripts left by Hans Gram, among them numerous learned correspondence besides material on Nordic history. In 1784, 20 parchment codices were bought at the auction of the library of the Cathedral chapter of Hamburg, including the giant Latin *Hamburg-bible* in 3 volumes (1255) with unique illuminations showing the main stages of medieval book production.
- Thott'ske Samling (Thott Collection).
Donated 1785. The [catalogue](#), published in 1795, short-lists 4,154 western manuscripts arranged by format and subject matter.
 - 1. Kept as a separate collection as stipulated by the donor, this collection includes c. 400 parchment codices, many of them illuminated and representing French, Flemish, Burgundian, English, Italian, and German medieval art and book culture, e.g. the exquisite "[Folkungepsalter / Copenhagen Psalter](#)" from England, 12th century, the blood-dripping "[Alte Armatur und Ringkunst](#)" of Hans Thalhofer, Bavaria, 15th century, and the pleasing "[Chansons d'amour](#)", France, 15th century).
 - 2. The collection was created by acquisitions at auctions abroad as well as in Denmark, e.g. scores of *Alba amicorum* from many countries bought *en bloc* at the 1781 auction of the library of the German-born linguist and Danish civil servant C. F.

- Temler, when Thott was nearly 80 years old. The history of philology and criticism is represented by numerous important Latin correspondences, including letters sent to Pierre Bayle, and for example by Bayle's first autograph *adversaria* (in alphabetical order) to his famous *Dictionnaire*. With few exceptions, Icelandic literature is only represented through late 18th-century copies of Old Norse manuscripts that were at that time present in other collections in Copenhagen, but Thott's interest in manuscripts and his unlimited financial means were well-known, and his collection features a fair number of the original Danish literary manuscripts of the 15th and 16th centuries which are extant today. Early modern historical and topographical sources and documents are massively represented, particularly of course regarding Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Schleswig-Holstein. Thott's donation included 76 oriental manuscripts (Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, a.o.).
- Ny Kongelig Samling (NKS; New Royal Collection).
Expanding 1785-1990, in 3 Series. A handwritten shelf-list, arranged by format and by subject matter, encompasses the first and second Series.
 - 1. The 2,610 items of the manuscript collection of the wealthy prolific author and historian P.F. Suhm (1728-98) were acquired in 1796 and dispersed in the first Series of this collection which eventually covered miscellaneous acquisitions up to 1831. Suhm's manuscripts consist mainly of contemporary copies of sources regarding Denmark's history, which he needed for his historiographical work. However, he had also acquired original codices and documents, particularly at auctions after Danish historians and collectors of the previous generation, e.g. Jakob Langebek (1710-75). Thus he owned important medieval manuscripts from Norway, such as *Codex Tunsbergensis*, and the letter-book of Nydala monastery, and from Denmark, such as the letter-book of the Cathedral Chapter of Ribe, nicknamed 'Ribe Grandmama' (*Ribe Oldemor, Avia Ripensis*; today in the Danish National Archives), the letter-book of Løgum monastery, and other medieval sources with juridical, medical, or literary contents. Dispersed in the first Series of *Ny Kongelig Samling* were also the manuscripts, mostly of Spanish origin and regarding the history of the Spanish inquisition, of the German-born Professor of theology and Royal Librarian, D.G. Moldenhawer (1753-1823).
 - 2. The second series, 1831-89, contains, besides the personal papers (letters, manuscripts, diaries, etc.) of numerous authors of the Danish 'Golden Age', the scientific papers of Danish scholars, e.g. of the path-breaking Egyptologist Georg Zoëga (1755-1809), the co-founder of comparative linguistics and Professor of oriental languages Rasmus Rask (1787-1832), and one of the founders of classical archaeology, Peter Oluf Brøndsted (1780-1842). A famous item in this Series is the autograph draft (with numerous stylistic variants) of the Latin *History of Denmark* by Saxo Grammaticus (the [Angers-fragment](#)), exchanged in 1879 with the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris for the cartulary of a convent near Paris, which had formerly belonged to D.G. Moldenhawer.
 - 3. With the third series, 1889-1990, this collection became the great national repository of Denmark's written heritage in the form of manuscripts, drafts, diaries and letters, within all domains of Danish intellectual and cultural life.
 - Acc. 1990/1-.
Miscellaneous acquisitions of single manuscripts and personal archives of authors, artists, scholars, scientists, and persons involved in the cultural life of Denmark.
Cataloguing: online records in MARC format created directly in a separate file of the *REX* system

- Separately shelved collections focused on Danish history:
Uldall's Collection (536 items), 1803; *Kall's Collection* (688 items), 1822; *Langebek's Excerpts* (312 fascicules, transferred from the State Archives), 1825; *Werlauff's Manuscripts* (85 items), and *Allen's Collection* (94 items), 1871. Particularly important is the *Ledreborg Collection* of the political active Counts of Holstein-Ledreborg, acquired in 1925. It comprises 999 items and includes some medieval Danish and Northern German manuscripts, the most valuable of which, however, from the late 14th century, are still in private hands.
- Separately shelved archives of autographs and literary manuscripts.
The first major acquisition regarding the literary and cultural history of Denmark was the collection of manuscripts and autograph letters acquired in 1878 from the heirs of N.C.L. Abrahams, professor of French at the University of Copenhagen. Abrahams had started collecting in the 1840s, a decade before Edvard Collin (1808-1886) started collecting manuscripts of his close friend and *protégé* H.C. Andersen (1805-75), as well as other autograph literary material. Collin's sustained collecting was continued by his son Jonas, with an even wider scope, including Norwegian literature (Henrik Ibsen, a.o.), and the whole *Collin Collection*, divided into 660 sections with numerous subdivisions, in all 45 shelf meters, was donated to the Royal Library in 1905. The collection is particularly rich regarding H. C. Andersen manuscripts and letters (inscribed in 1997 on UNESCO's Memory of the World [Register](#)), but features manuscripts and/or letters of nearly all Danish and Norwegian authors of the 19th century. Smaller autograph collections acquired in the 20th century include the collections of *Marx-Nielsen* (1921), of *Palsbo* (1954), and most recently of *Troensegaard*. Focused on one single person, H.C. Andersen, is both the *Portman Collection* (1969), and the *Laage-Petersen Collection* (1949, including many rare prints and therefore located in the collection of Danish printed books).
- Separately shelved personal archives.
The huge archive of the theologian and poet N.F.S. *Grundtvig* was deposited in the Danish National Archives in 1890, but transferred in 1941 to the Royal Library. Further personal literary archives kept as separate collections include those of the literary critic *Georg Brandes*, acquired 1912 and 1927, and, more recently, archives of the composer *Carl Nielsen*, and of such prominent Danish authors as *Martin A. Hansen*, *Martin Andersen Nexø*, *Johs. V. Jensen* (Nobel Prize 1944), and *Karen Blixen*.
- Separately shelved institutional archives.
Gyldendals Arkiv (1920), the archives of the largest Danish publishing house, including correspondences with numerous authors; *Det kgl. Teaters Sufflørarkiv* (1930), the annotated drama manuscripts of the Prompters of the Royal Theatre; *Studerforeningens arkiv* (1936), the archives of the Copenhagen students' organisation. Not to forget: *Det Kongelige Biblioteks Arkiv*, the institutional archives of the Royal Library itself (Published [inventory](#), 1994).
- Collections of the University Library of Copenhagen.
1728-1938. A printed [catalogue](#) in 2 volumes (with a good index) was published 1925-35):
— *E donazione variorum* (1728-c. 1770).
The 237 items include the *Donatio Rantzoviana* (1731) of nearly 20 medieval codices with had belonged to the chancellor and historian Arild Huitfeldt (1546-1609). Among these was the Latin metrical paraphrase of the *Creation, Hexaemeron* (8,040 hexameters) of Andreas Sunonis (*Anders Sunesen*), chancellor and archbishop of Lund

1201-23, in a parchment codex from ca. 1300. Furthermore, an illuminated [Calendarium from Næstved](#), and letter-books from a number of Danish monasteries and cathedrals: [Esrum](#), [Øm](#), and [Aarhus](#), basically late-medieval copies of institutional archives of which nothing else remains. Other important donations included the [observations](#) of the mathematician and astronomer Ole Rømer (1644-1710), who in 1676 discovered the speed of light, donated in 1739 by his widow. Two years later, following a suggestion by Hans Gram, she sold (but later donated) the *Collectanea* of the historian Thomas Bartholin (1659-90), father of her second husband. The 25 volumes of the *Collectanea* (or *Bartholiniana*, as they have also been called by generations of Danish historians), among which the first and richest volume had burnt in the home of Hans Gram, contain accurate copies of sources on the church history of Denmark and Norway, which were no more after the Great Fire of 1728.

— *Additamenta* (c. 1770-1938).

The 2,163 items include a few medieval codices, among which the [Ebelholt letter-book](#), originally included in the Rantzau-donation of 1731. The particular importance of *Additamenta*, however, is twofold, containing on the one hand a number of original manuscripts of Danish poets of the 18th century, and on the other very many personal archives of 19th-century professors from all faculties of the University of Copenhagen. The Royal Library was in the same period acquiring personal archives of deceased Danish scholars in the humanities, but it was apparently less willing to include personal papers of professors of law, medicine, and natural sciences. *Additamenta* also includes archives of many Danes of some importance who had no direct connection to the University of Copenhagen.

— *Rostgaard's Samling* (Donated 1745).

After Frederik Rostgaard for financial reasons had been compelled to auction the main and most valuable part of his manuscript collection (1726), he continued to collect, focusing on sources regarding Danish national literature, history and antiquities. The eventual 504 items of this collection, bequeathed to the University Library, included a few late-medieval Danish law manuscripts (among which one which is particularly renowned because of its rare and well-preserved [girdle-binding](#)) and much material collected by Peder Syv.

— *Fabricius' Samling* (Bought 1770; not included in the printed catalogue).

Count Otto Thott, recently appointed Patron of the University of Copenhagen, arranged for the *en bloc* acquisition of the manuscripts and papers of the classical scholar located in Hamburg, Johan Albert Fabricius (1668-1736) and his son-in-law, the theologian and philosopher H. S. Reimarus (1694-1768). The 440 items include Fabricius' voluminous correspondence with scholars all over Europe, and a great number of printed text editions with handwritten collations by a wide range of classical scholars. Among Fabricius' medieval codices is the only known manuscript of the *Chronicle of Morea* (in medieval Greek), a gift from his Danish correspondent Hans Gram. The oldest Latin codex in the collection is a 10th-century manuscript of the *Formulary* or model letter-book of the monk Marculphus (7th c.).

— *Schiønning's Samling* (Donated 1814).

The 121 items include the lifelong and very detailed diary of Naval Captain Peter Schiønning (1732-1813).

— *Ørsted's Samling* (Donated 1897).

The papers, lectures, correspondences, etc. of the discoverer of electromagnetism, H.C. Ørsted (1777-1851).

- *Søren Kierkegaard's Arkiv* (Donated 1875; not included in the printed catalogue). The [manuscripts and philosophical diaries](#) (*Journals*) left at his death in 1855 by the philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (Inscribed in 1997 on UNESCO's Memory of the World [Register](#)).
- Letter collections.
 - Correspondences and single letters are found in all the above mentioned collections, and in the following alphabetically arranged Royal Library collections: *Bølling's Brevsamling, BD/BU* (Older Danish/Foreign Letters) and *NBD/NBU* (Recent Danish/Foreign Letters).
 - An index in two Series, sorted alphabetically by sender and receiver, respectively, and encompassing all the Royal Library and University Library collections, was started in the 1930s but discontinued in the 1980s due to lack of resources. It has been converted to a separate online database (see below).

Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (catalogues and digitisation)

- Printed catalogues (1844-1985).
 - Include: Medieval French mss. ([N.C.L. Abrahams, 1844](#)); Greek mss. (Charles Graux, 1879; [Bjarne Schartau, 1994](#)); Illuminated mss. ([Christian Bruun, 1890](#)); Old Norse mss. ([Kristian Kålund, 1900](#)); Middle Low German mss. ([C. Borchling, 1900](#)); Mss. regarding Nordic and Danish history ([Emil Gigas, 1903-15](#)); Spanish mss. ([P. Högberg, 1919](#); [Pilar León Tello, 1985](#)); Italian mss. ([P. Högberg, 1920](#)); Danish personal history [to 1923] ([Poul Behrend, 1925-27](#)); Medieval Latin mss. ([Ellen Jørgensen, 1927](#)); Danish Autograph Literary mss. ([Lauritz Nielsen, 1943](#)); *Americana* ([Palle Ringsted, 1992](#)); Slavonic mss. ([Gunnar Svane, 1993](#)). – An [inventory](#) in two volumes of the acquisitions 1924-87 was published in 1995, following-up on Poul Behrend 1925-27, and Lauritz Nielsen 1943.
- Online catalogues.
 - The manuscripts of the Royal Library are accessible via its [Online Catalogue](#) (select 'Materials' > 'Manuscripts and archives'). They can also be found in the following union catalogues:
 - [DANPA](#): The National Danish Database of Private Archives;
 - The [CERL Portal](#) of Manuscripts and Early Printed Material.
 - [Brevbase](#): letter base of the Royal Library with more than 200,000 records; it is estimated to give access to 1-2 million letters up to c. 1960.
- Digitisation (since 1998).
 - A plurality of selection criteria have been applied: preservation, scholarly interest, impact among the general public, possibility of external funding, upcoming relevant events or jubilees. Projects are more and more planned in large units i.e. subject-based portals with added value: [H.C. Andersen](#), [Per Højholt](#) (Danish modernistic poet, 1928-2004), [Greenland](#), [Latin medieval codices](#), [Latin medieval fragments](#), and [Guaman Poma](#), the most visited site among all of the library's digitisation projects, expanded with a searchable transcription of the 1190 pages of the codex, and many extra online resources.

Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen (other collections)

- *Orientalia*:
 - While Thott's oriental manuscripts were excluded from the printed 1795 catalogue, those of the Old Royal Collection had been fully registered, in a separate section of the

handwritten 1784 catalogue and in Erichsen's printed catalogue of 1786. In connection with the production of new joint catalogues, in Latin, of the oriental manuscript holdings of the Royal Library and the University Library (Vols. [I](#), [II](#), and [III](#), 1846-57), the Oriental and Hebrew manuscripts acquired by the University Library since 1728 (except recently acquired Pālī and Pehlevi manuscripts) were transferred to the Royal Library in 1845, where they were merged and reorganised together with the oriental manuscripts preserved there. Most important among these were the Arabic manuscripts acquired by Theodor Petræus and given to King Frederic III, manuscripts which Carsten Niebuhr (1733-1815) brought back from the Danish scientific expedition to Arabia [1761-1767](#), and 50 palm leaf manuscripts in Pālī acquired on Shri Lanka by Rasmus Rask in 1821 (supplemented by 100 more after his death in 1832). The [Oriental Collection](#) today consists of ca. 5,000 manuscripts

- *Judaica*:
A separate Judaica Department was established after the acquisition of the library of the former Chief Rabbi of Copenhagen, [David Simonsen](#) (1853-1932), including 160 manuscripts from the middle ages and later, and a vast correspondence (30,000 items) resulting from his broad scholarly network and deep involvement with Jewish humanitarian organisations. Besides the mentioned resources with David Simonsen provenance, the [Judaica Collection](#) includes c. 200 manuscripts.

[Statsbibliotekets Håndskriftsamling, Aarhus](#) (The manuscript collection of the State and University library of Aarhus)

Personal papers from scholars connected to Aarhus University; documents regarding the city of Århus and its cultural life; documents regarding the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

[Danmarks Kunstbibliotek, Copenhagen](#) (The Danish National Art Library)

Catalogue: [ARBIS](#)

Study collections:

- Collection of Architectural Drawings: 300,000 drawings; models; personal archives of architects, etc.
- Art Historical Picture Archive: collections of Danish art exhibition catalogues, photographs of Danish art, newspaper clippings, diverse photographic collections

[Dansk Folkemindesamling, Copenhagen](#) (The Danish Folklore Collection)

Founded in 1904 on the background of trends and initiatives among 19th-century scholars of Danish folklore. In 2008, it became a department within the National Library of Denmark, i.e. of the Royal Library. The institution focuses on the material culture of ordinary Danes, through history and in contemporary society. The holdings include 3 archives, searchable through three independent databases: the manuscript archive, the sound archive, and the photo archive.

[Den Arnamagnæanske Samling, Copenhagen](#) (The Arnamagnæan manuscript collection)

Arni Magnusson (1663-1730) had in his will bequeathed his collection of Icelandic manuscripts and an important sum of money to a foundation under the University of Copenhagen, dedicated to the promotion of the study and editing of Old Norse texts, and monitored by a scientific Commission (created in 1772). From 1732, the Collection was hosted by the University Library, but it was in 1956 embedded in a newly founded Arnamagnæan Institute directly under the University of Copenhagen, today renamed *Den Arnamagnæanske Samling* (The Arnamagnæan Collection). Approximately half of the Collection was transferred to Iceland during the years

1971-97. The remaining 1,400 items, an international team of scholars, and the reading room and reference library, are located in the Amager campus of the University of Copenhagen, in the [Department of Scandinavian Research](#) (*Nordisk Forskningsinstitut*).

Karen Brahes Bibliotek, Odense (The Library of Karen Brahe)

This little-known 17th-century library, which includes c. 350 manuscript items, was founded to promote Danish women's ability to study and take part in intellectual life at a par with men. It has since remained almost intact as it was left at the death of its founder, the learned noblewoman Karen Brahe (1657-1726). Its historical nucleus is the collection inherited from her elder book-collecting relative, Anne Gøje (1609-1681), including 76 manuscripts, among which all those formerly owned by Denmark's most learned woman, Birgitte Thott (1610-1662). The foundation, which Karen Brahe set up in her will, and which still owns the library, has secured the unchanged survival of the library through three centuries. The library is kept in the vault of the [Provincial Archives of Funen](#), in Odense. A detailed [catalogue](#) of the c. 350 manuscripts was published in 1956 by the Danish National Archives, and has been digitised by the Royal Library.

Archival institutions

[Statens Arkiver](#), Copenhagen (SA; State Archives)

Catalogue: [DAISY](#) (Dansk Arkivalieinformationssystem).

Presence in union catalogue: [The National Danish Database on Private Archives](#) (DANPA)

The State Archives is the collective name for:

- [Rigsarkivet](#), Copenhagen (RA; Danish National Archives)
Records originating from central Danish public authorities. Archives of political parties. Personal archives of politicians. Other personal archives
- [Landsarkiverne](#) (The four provincial archives at **Viborg**, **Aabenraa**, **Odense** and **Copenhagen**)
Records originating from regional authorities, e.g. the Courts of Law, the county authorities, the Police and many local authorities
- [Erhvervsarkivet](#) (The Danish Business Archives), Aarhus
Archival material of relevance for the study of the History and Development of Danish Trade and Industry
- [Dansk Data Arkiv](#) (DDA, The Danish Data Archives), Odense
Machine-readable data created by researchers from the Social Sciences and the Health Sciences communities; quantitative historical data, such as historical censuses

[Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv](#), Aalborg (Danish Emigration Archives)

Correspondences, manuscripts, diaries, biographies, newspaper clippings, photographs, portraits, etc.

Catalogue: [DAISY](#) (Dansk Arkivalieinformationssystem).

Presence in union catalogue: [The National Danish Database on Private Archives](#) (DANPA)

[Arbejderbevægelsens Arkiv](#), Copenhagen (The Archives of the Danish Labour Movement)

Since 1909, the Library and Archive of the Danish Labour Movement has collected the materials of the political, trade union, cultural, and co-operative organisations of the Labour Movement. Collections also include the archives of individuals linked to the Labour Movement. The holdings include 2,500 organisational archives and 275 personal archives.

Presence in union catalogues: [The National Danish Database on Private Archives](#) (DANPA)

[Arktisk Institut](#), Copenhagen (The Arctic Institute)

Founded in 1954 and restructured after Greenland obtained home rule in 1987. The holdings of the archives include diaries, manuscripts, reports, observations, letters, etc., of members of scientific expeditions to Greenland, and of other written material as well as photographic material related to the history of Greenland and the Arctic region in general.

- [Archives](#)

[Kvindehistorisk Samling](#), Aarhus (Collection of material related to Danish women's history)

Founded in 1964 and integrated as a Special Collection into the State and University Library in 1987. The holdings include the archives of Danish women's organisations, personal archives of politically active women, photos, etc., and more than 100.000 newspaper clippings.

Presence in union catalogues: [The National Danish Database on Private Archives](#) (DANPA)

[Niels Bohr Arkivet](#), Copenhagen (The Niels Bohr Archives)

Founded by Niels Bohr (1885-1962) in 1921. The holdings include archives of the institute itself and of Danish physicists' organisations, as well as the scientific papers etc. of the physicists Niels, Harald and Aage Bohr, and of 13 other nuclear physicists from a variety of countries, who have collaborated with Niels Bohr or worked at the institute.

[Nationalmuseet](#), Copenhagen (The National Museum)

- [Frihedsmuseets arkiv](#) (The Archives of the Resistance Museum)
- [Musikmuseets arkiv](#) (The Archives of the Music Museum)
The medieval codices are deposited in the Royal Library.

[Thorvaldsen Museum](#), Copenhagen (The Thorvaldsen Museum)

- [Thorvaldsens Brevarkiv](#) (The Thorvaldsen Letter Archives) holds 4,500 documents related to the sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770-1844):