

SUMMARIES

THE ROYAL LIBRARY abbreviated: RL

Carl S. Petersen: Marcus Meibom and Villum Lange.

In the oldest history of the RL, two names are of special importance, those of Marcus Meibom and Villum Lange. Meibom was of a Gottorp family, and studied the law at Königsberg and medicine at Leiden. 1652-53 he stayed at the court of Queen Christina at Stockholm as a librarian, and from 1653 he was in Copenhagen where on October 25, 1653 he was given an annual pension by Frederik III. Though Meibom was connected with the RL, this pension cannot, as some have thought, be regarded as an appointment to a librarianship, but must rather be considered a state grant to a scholar. In 1655 the King gave him an honorary appointment, but very little is known about his connection with the RL before 1660. Similarly, the historian Prof. Villum Lange received no formal appointment as a librarian, though he was actively concerned in such undertakings as the acquisition of the famous Icelandic medieval MSS for the RL through a correspondence with Bishop Brynjólfur Sveinsson of Skálholt 1656-58. After 1660 we find Marcus Meibom acting as librarian to the King, still without formal appointment. In 1663 he was dismissed and ordered by the King to give up the library. Subsequently, Meibom became Director of the Sound Toll from which he retired in 1668 to spend his remaining years in Holland, from 1674 till his death on February 15, 1710.

Erik Dal: Three Danish 16th Century Fragments. A Hymn-Book, an Almanac and a Ballad.

The article deals with the following fragments not before described: 1. An almost complete copy of Hans Tausen's hymn-book, now first acquired by the library (A. Kröger, Rostock, 1568). 2. A unique almanac, older than the Danish almanacs hitherto described (H. Vingaard, Copenhagen, 1555). 3. A unique proof sheet of one of the first ballad prints, being a supplement to another proof sheet in the library (L. Benedict, Copenhagen, not before 1578).

R. Pauli: From Bartholin to Struensee.

From the collection of V. Maar, historian of medicine, which was sold by auction in 1952, RL acquired several works by the well known Danish anatomists Bartholin and Winsløw, whose textbooks were translated into many languages. The Library acquired also some of the rare theological controversial pamphlets by their famous colleague Nicolaus Steno, written after his conversion to the Catholic faith.

Tue Gad: Danish Literature in Dutch Translations.

A revision of the books in *Durch* in the RL Danish Department offered an opportunity to check the extent to which Danish literature had been translated into Dutch. Of the literature before 1870 it can be said that three authors, Ludvig Holberg, Hans Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard, have been so fully translated as to give an adequate impression of their work as a whole. Beyond these three, translations are few and far between. The literature of the period 1870–1953, on the other hand, has been very fully translated, and nearly all the major prose-writers are represented by one or more books, some of them by a considerable number, as e.g. J. P. Jacobsen, Herman Bang, Karl Gjellerup, Johannes Jørgensen, Martin Andersen Nexø, Karin Michaëlis, Gunnar Gunnarsson, J. Anker Larsen, Hans Kirk, and Kaj Munk. As might be expected, fiction dominates. Modern Danish drama is only known through three plays by Kaj Munk. In the field of poetry, three travel-books and anthologies (A. Andersen Feldborg 1826, C. J. Hansen 1860, and A. Coussens 1913) have offered specimens of older poems, but the want of a Dutch anthology of 20. century Danish poetry has still to be filled.

Poul Balle: Greenland „Incunabula“.

The oldest book printed in Greenland dates from 1793 and was produced at New Herrnhut near Godthåb. It contains a collection of hymns in the Greenland language, and the copy in the RL may well be unique, since not even the mother foundation at Herrnhut was aware of its existence. The book was printed by the Slesvig missionary Jesper Brodersen who was in Greenland 1783–88 and 1790–94, and had taken with him a small primitive printing outfit. After Brodersen there is a lacuna in the printing history of Greenland. But the RL recently received some printed material from 1855–56, a couple of news-sheets, some hymn-leaflets, and a medical pamphlet, which turned out to have been printed with the types used by Brodersen in 1793. With the year 1857 begins a new era in Greenland printing under the auspices of the government official H. Rink.

Bjørn Ochsner: Some Early Danish Silhouettes.

The first three portrait silhouettists of any importance to work in Denmark were the amateur von Wickede and the professionals Limpricht and Weitlandt. An attempt has here been made to ascertain the dates of their stay in this country, to identify and to survey their work, with the aim of tidying up material of such obvious biographical and cultural value. – Von Wickede's work is dealt with on the basis of Friederich Münter's *album amicorum* and Friederike Brun's *album*, which supplement the most important collection of v.W.'s silhouettes, the album now preserved in the Reventlow museum at Pederstrup, which has unfortunately suffered damage and diminution through fire. In the case of Limpricht and Weitlandt the individual attribution of the 249 silhouettes contained in the so-called Limpricht-album in the RL has been settled beyond doubt. It is further pointed out that 222 of the silhouettes represent members of Drejer's Club 1781–85. Other Limpricht silhouettes mentioned include 22 likewise done in Copenhagen 1781–82, now in the St. Annen Museum at Lübeck. An attempt

has been made to decipher the inscriptions, frequently couched in mysterious terms, stating the identity of the person portrayed. Several silhouettes engraved by Fridrich are shown to have been based on originals by Weitlandt who worked in this country at any rate from 1784–1821, and regarding whom new information is offered.

Torben Nielsen: Karl August Tavaststjerna in the Danish Book-Market.

Karl August Tavaststjerna (1860–98) was a pioneer of the modern spirit in Finnish literature in the Swedish language. But conditions in Finland in the Nineties were inimical to literary experiments. The difficult problems of national and foreign politics called the nation's intellectual powers to the defence of legal and national traditions and T. who objected to submitting his art to external demands, and was intimidated by the prospect of censorship, turned to foreign countries for an audience. In Denmark he was cordially acclaimed as a progressive writer by the leading critics headed by Georg Brandes. He was warmly sponsored by Peter Nansen, whose archives, now in the RL, contain twenty letters from T., written 1891–95 one among many proofs of the loyalty inspired in colleagues of the most varied creeds by that supposedly frivolous man of letters. Those written by Nansen (who was from 1896 to 1916 director of Gyl-dendal, the leading Copenhagen publishing firm) have been lost, but his personality is clearly mirrored in Tavaststjerna's part of the correspondence, which mainly concerns Nansen's activities as translator and sponsor of T.'s work.

R. Edelmann: An Illuminated Hebrew Manuscript. A Contribution to the History of European Art.

Jewish art differs from other art only in its choice of subject and in the purpose for which it is used. Jews have been very active as creative artists also within the Non-Jewish world, as many examples show. The ban against representation of living creatures did not prevent a considerable artistic activity, which did not even shrink from representing angels and the very celestial „Chariot“ and the „Four Beasts“ in Ezechiel 1. – Among the various kinds of ancient Jewish art, that best preserved is the art of book illustration. The illuminated Hebrew MS in the Royal Library (Cod. Hebr. XXXVII) here described contains Maimonides' „More Nebuchim“ (Guide of the Perplexed) and Jehuda ibn Tibbon's „Biur meha-milloth hazaroth“, and was written 1348 at Barcelona by Levi ben Isaac hijo Caro of Salamanca. The illumination is of high artistic quality, and no doubt due to the same hand as the writing. It consists of five miniatures and several ornamental borders combined with illuminated initials and chapter headings. It is done in the composite Spanish style of the period, but with a definitely personal character. A 14. century Spanish MS in Latin, *Consuetudines Cathalonie*, two miniatures from which are reproduced in J. Bardona, *Die spanische Buchmalerei II*, pl. 104a and c, Lpz. 1930, appears very probably to have been illustrated by the same artist. – The second part of our Hebrew MS shows a different ornamentation consisting of intricate ink scrolls adorning the chapter- and paragraph headings, and extending to the margin. Nevertheless, this part also has been done by the same hand.

Palle Birkelund: Two Indian Bibles in the RL.

After a brief survey of the conditions under which the Cambridge Press, first printing office in North America, was established, and of the most important events in the 54 active years of the press, John Eliot's missionary activities among the Indians and his endeavours to translate the Bible into the Algonquian language are outlined. In spite of many difficulties the Indian Bible, the first bible printed outside Europe, was finished in the course of 1661-63. The RL possesses a perfect and nearly mint copy in a contemporary English binding of richly gilt dark blue morocco, and as the copy has the English title page and the dedication to Charles II (it belongs to the group designated by Wilberforce Eames the third variant) it may be one of the very rare copies which through the book-seller Samuel Gellibrand were bound for dedication purposes. It was acquired in 1789 for a sum of 2 mark (= 1 shilling in silver) in the sale of Otto Thott, the great Danish book collector, who had bought it from the English bookseller Thos. Osborne, who 1743-45 sold the large Harleian Library. On the fly leaf are inscribed the initials *KLM* and *Pr 15*, while the back of the front endpaper carries the signature $\frac{mu}{n}$. Many copies of the Eliot Bible were destroyed in King Philip's War, and a new edition was printed at Cambridge in 1685. This too is represented in the RL, though the copy lacks the last three leaves; it may be identical with that known to have been in the library of Otto Thott. The rough brown binding was undoubtedly done at Cambridge or Boston immediately after publication, since it has been in the possession of Joshua Scottow, one of the earliest Massachusetts colonists. In 1686 Scottow presented the bible to George Burroughs, the unfortunate minister of Falmouth, who was executed as a witch during the notorious witchcraft epidemic in Salem.

H. P. Rohde: Henri III Bindings in the RL.

At present we know three (four) bindings in the RL connected with Henri III of France, and containing the following books: *Cronica di Marco Guazzo*, Venice 1553; *L'office de la vierge Marie*, Paris 1586; and *Fernando Lopes di Castagneda, Historia dell'Indie orientali I-II*, Venice 1578. Based partly on L-M-Michon, *La reliure française*, Paris 1951, the attribution of the three bindings is discussed, and the conclusion is that the Guazzo-binding was probably done in the workshop of Nicolas or Clovis Ève, the prayerbook probably by Clovis Ève, and the Castagneda volumes probably by Nicolas Ève. The articles further investigate the history of the three books, their connection with Henri III, and what they can tell us about him.