

From Seaweed & Ballads to the Library

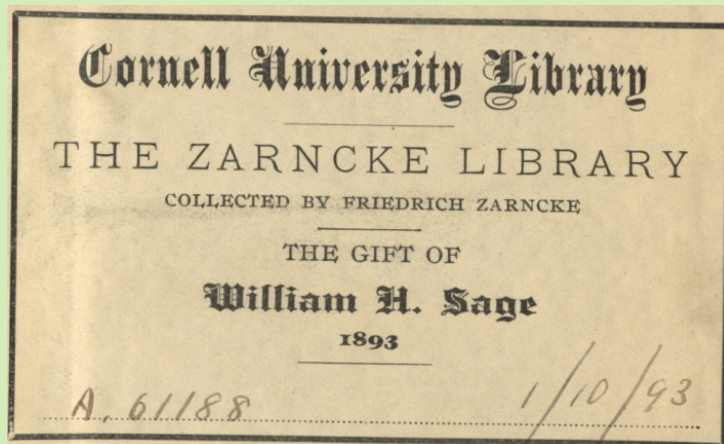
*200 years since the publication of
the first book in Faroese language*

Færøiske Qvæder
om
Sigurd Fofnersbane og hans Æt.
Med et Anhang.
Samlede og overfattede
af
Hans Christian Pongbye,
Sognepræst i Gjesing.

At the National Library of the Faroe Islands
from the 15th of May to the 1st of September 2022

The National Library of the Faroe Islands was founded in 1828. It is the oldest Faroese institution, and its affairs were taken over by the Faroese Government, following the enactment of the Home-Rule Law in 1948.

The library holds many Special Collections. They include private libraries donated by various people.



The Old Library Collection – XII

[2968]

It is written inside the book, that the library got this copy in 1829, one year after it was founded.

The copy is beautifully bound.

It is preserved in a safe in the depository.

Færøske og islandske Digte.
2968. Færøiske Qvæder om Sigurd Fofnersbane og
hans Æt. Med et Anhang. Samlede og over-
satte af Hans Christian Lyngbye. Med en Ind-
ledning af P. E. Müller, Randers 1822. 1 Bd. 8.

Katalog over Færø Amts Bibliotek. (1909). Tórshavn.

Additional Collection (EyD) – X 4/4

Some pages are missing from this copy.

On the front endpaper is this bookplate:

EX. LIBRIS
FØROYA.AMTS
19BÓKASAVN27

It indicates that this copy was a library copy and lent out before.

Note in the book is dated 6th of December 1991.

Faroese National Collection (FD) – XI

This copy has the shelfmark *f* 85.42 in the Faroese National Collection.

On the front endpaper is an Ex libris bookplate:

EX LIBRIS
C. M. HERMANSEN

Carl M. Hermansen (1897-1976), who owned the book, was a Danish priest in South-Streymoy from 1921 to 1924. He also became a politician.

The copy is beautifully bound in brown leather.

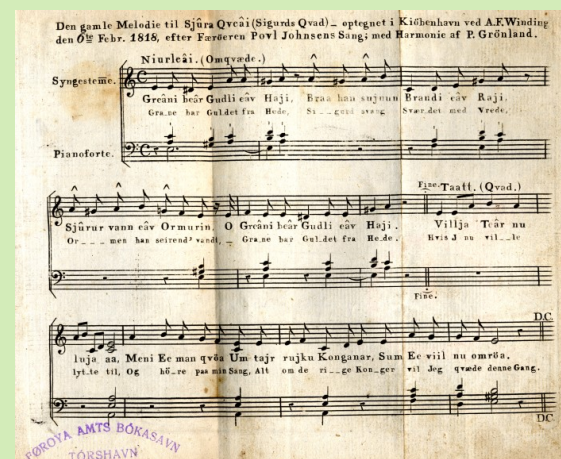
Færøiske Qvæder by H. C. Lyngbye

is usually preferred to as the first book published in Faroese.

The book was published in Randers, Denmark, in 1822. Six years before the library was founded.

This small exhibition is done to exhibit the 12 copies that the National Library owns of Lyngbye's book.

Each copy has its special story and most of them are preserved within Special Collections.



Hans Christian Lyngbye (1782-1837)

Was a Danish theologian, botanic and natural historian. He came to the Faroe Islands in 1817, when working on his Latin work about seaweed and algal flora, *Tentamen hydrophytologiae danicae*.

During his time in the Faroes, he is supposed to have met with the Faroese scholar Svabo. With the assistance from [Carl Christian] Rafn, [Peter Erasmus] Müller helped Lyngbye publish a book of nearly 560 pages with most of the important Faroese ballads from the archive of Faroese oral literature. [Jens Christian] Svabo might have introduced Lyngbye to some Faroese language, which enabled him to write down the ballads – later he was helped by Johan Henrich Schrøter (1771-1851) as well. [. . .] Additionally, many actors and forms of agencies were behind the hugely important Faroese edition of the *Sigurd Ballads*. [. . .] *Faroese Folk Ballads about Sigurd, Bane of Fafner, and his Family* was the first book ever to be printed in Faroese.

Simonsen, Kim. (2015). *Before the library: A wave in European cultural history. Lyngbye, Davidsen and Rafn 1817-1828*. Network for European Travel Writing to the Romantic Far North 1800-1900.

Additional Collection (EyD) – IX 3/4

Christian Matras (1900-1988), professor and poet, brought this copy to the library as a gift in 1977, from Ragnhild Kjelnæs, Frederikshavn.

Interestingly, it was originally a gift from H. C. Lyngbye til Jens Davidsen (1803-1878), Librarian, in July 1833.



Reading Room – VI

The library has one copy in the Reading Room that people are welcome to use at the library.



Additional Collection (EyD) – VII 1/4

This copy was a gift from Patricia L. Conroy (1941-2012), professor at the University of Washington, Seattle.

A note in the book says:

Cornell University Library
Collected by Friedrich Zarncke
The Gift of
William H. Sage
1893

Patricia L. Conroy was an associated professor at the University of the Faroe Islands from 1981-1982.

She gave this copy to the library in 2003.

Additional Collection (EyD) – VIII 2/4

This copy is in poor conditions. To protect it, it is currently packed in a white case.

Maria Mikkelsen (MM) – I & II

In Maria Mikkelsen's Collections are two copies of *Føroyske Quæder*.

Maria Rebekka Mikkelsen (1877-1956) was a special friend of the library. Her private library consists of about 6000 books. The library also preserves her letters and manuscripts.

Both of the copies contain her Ex libris bookplate, made by the writer and painter William Heinesen (1900-1991), – Maria Rebekka Mikkelsen – on the front endpaper.



Arnold Jensen (AJE) – III

Arnold Jensen was of Faroese descent. He collected Faroese books. His book collection, about 1000 items, was donated to the library in the 1980's.

From the look of it, Jensen must have bought this copy in an antique bookstore. At least, the bookplate belonged to someone else.



Ólasavnið (ÓJA) – IV & V

In Óli Jacobsen's collection are two copies of *Færøiske Qvæder*. The Faroese Government purchased Óli Jacobsen's (1915-1983) book collection from his heirs, in 1983. His collection contains mostly Nordic and English books.

The first copy belonged to the Danish official, Christian Bærentsen (1862-1944). Jacobsen got it from Bærentsen's son Håkon, in 1968. Håkon Bærentsen gave the book to Jacobsen in remembrance of his father.

