

THE OLD POPULAR BALLADS OF DENMARK

»Danmarks gamle Folkeviser« (*DgF*)

begun by

Svend Grundtvig in 1853

Invitation to a Subscription

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Universitets-Jubilæets danske Samfund
Copenhagen 1965

Address: Danmarks gamle Folkeviser, c/o Dr. Erik Dal,
Forchammersvej 1, Copenhagen V, Denmark

The edition of the text of the old popular ballads of Denmark, *Danmarks gamle Folkeviser*, has now been completed; only the music volume and the index volume are still in the course of preparation. The satisfaction of the editors, felt at the bringing to a close a work, the first instalment of which saw the light in February 1853, is somewhat diminished by the fact that the earliest instalments of the work have been out of print since long before the turn of the century.

It has therefore been decided by the publishing society: *Universitets-Jubilæets danske Samfund*, to issue an invitation to subscribe for *an unchanged photographic reprint of the whole of the edition of the text*, including the just published textual appendix, volume X. The volumes of the new edition will not be sold separately, but as many own either the old series (I–V, 1853–90, by Svend Grundtvig, finished by Axel Olrik) or the new (VI–X, 1898–1965, by Axel Olrik and H. Grüner-Nielsen, finished by Karl-Ivar Hildeman, Erik Dal, and Iørn Piø), *the two halves of the work will be offered for sale separately*. It is planned to publish vols I–V together and a little later vols VI–X together.

When for more than a hundred years the abbreviation *DgF* has been found in European and American studies of ballads, and when *DgF*-numbers belong to the established symbolic language of research in the fields of language, literature, and folklore, the reason is not merely that the Danish folk-song in itself stands high, in quality as well as in the age of the tradition – the first printed book of ballads in Northern Europe is among the oldest sources (1591). The reason is also that the originator of the work, *Svend Grundtvig*, amid fierce controversies, here demonstrated principles of editing which were to prove suitable and epoch-making. All recordings of a ballad were collected and examined; the most important were printed with a capital letter as signature and the transcripts belonging to them were given a small letter as signature. The deviations from the printed text were gathered in a system of notes. The principle was: „all there is, and all as it is“. In spite of the fact that this principle was not always applied in its strictest sense, Grundtvig's work was an immense epoch-making step forward. The greatest recognition was for Grundtvig the English ballad edition from 1882 ff, whose editor, *Francis James Child*, in big and small based his work on the method of his

Danish predecessor. Also the German standard edition, Freiburg 1935 ff, acknowledges this debt.

At least as admirable as the work of publication in itself were the introductions which Grundtvig wrote for each type of ballad. In spite of the many improvements as regards facts and methods brought forward in the course of the intervening century, the large, mostly comparative introductions are still a starting-point and a storehouse of information for Danish and foreign scholars.

Two of the finest testimonies of the importance of the Danish ballad scholars are some lines in John Meier's preface to *Deutsche Volkslieder mit ihren Melodien* I 1935, quoted in the Danish half of this prospectus, and the following words from F. J. Child's Advertisement to Part I of *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* I 1882:

In the editing of these ballads I have closely followed the plan of Grundtvig's Old Popular Ballads of Denmark, a work which will be prized highest by those who have used it most, and which leaves nothing to be desired but its completion. The author is as much at home in English as in Danish tradition, and whenever he takes up a ballad which is common to both nations nothing remains to be done but to supply what has come to light since the time of his writing. But besides the assistance which I have derived from his book, I have enjoyed the advantage of Professor Grundtvig's criticism and advice, and have received from him unprinted Danish texts, and other aid in many ways.

The first half of the work comprises the following groups of ballads:

I: Ballads with legendary, partially Norse, subject. Grundtvig put the first because he considered them a direct continuation of a Norse tradition. Grundtvig's very rare and important specimen pamphlets from 1847 will be reproduced at the end of this volume.

II: Ballads of magic with contents relating to Nature myths and other supernatural matters – an essential group in East Scandinavian ballad tradition and a very important group as regards folklore. In this volume was also included the Danish representatives from the category of ballads which are based on (popular) Christian faith, while the ballads of magic, though dating from centuries after the change of religion, are still heathen.

III: Historical ballads more or less connected in time and circumstance with Danish (and to a certain degree Swedish) kings and nobles. Contains individual ballads and groups of ballads like the Valdemar ballads, the Marsk Stig ballads, and the Niels Ebbesen ballad.

IV–V: Ballads of chivalry – reflecting the original environment of the ballads, the sphere of large farmers and the lesser nobility, who had also created the larger part of the three special groups.

The optimism of Svend Grundtvig when, twenty-eight years old, he published the first instalment of his work was frustrated by his working conditions and by personal circumstances, which impeded the work, but also by the unexpected growth of the material by the accumulation of new collections. Collections organised by himself showed fair results, but the collections of Evald Tang Kristensen, the Jutlandish collector, who started his work in 1867, assumed prodigious proportions. Much was therefore left undone when Grundtvig died in 1883, only 58 years old. The many remaining textual types, nos 288–539, therefore, were published by his pupil *Axel Olrik* and after his death in 1917, 52 years old, by *H. Grüner-Nielsen* († 1953).

VI–IX comprise the remaining ballads of chivalry bordering on the late lyrical ballad and the post-medieval rustic ballad.

Finally *X* which is a textual appendix, begun by *H. Grüner-Nielsen* and brought to a conclusion by the three above-mentioned younger scholars. It prints texts recorded in modern times and it brings the old introductions bibliographically up to date, partly by means of independent contributions.

It is these ten volumes of c. 6400 pages in all (see specimen page reproduced on the opening pages of this prospectus) which are now offered as a reprint in the size of the original and bound in 5 + 4 strong cloth bindings (vols VIII and IX are gathered in one volume). A brief introduction in English to each volume will be added.

XI: *Music*. This edition of the music was begun by *H. Grüner-Nielsen* in collaboration with *Erik Abrahamsen*, on the basis of the preparatory studies by *Hjalmar Thuren*. The work is being continued by *Nils Schiørring* and *Thorkild Knudsen*. The three existing instalments (1935, 1938, 1959) cannot be ordered together with the photographic reprint of the text. But when, in a few years, the edition of the music is completed, the whole of vol. XI (cloth bound) will automatically be forwarded to the subscribers. The price cannot be stated at the moment.

XII: *Indexes*. Various kinds of preparations for a comprehensive index volume have already been made. The work on this volume will be intensified during 1965. The index volume will not be published in instalments but will be sent to the subscribers in one volume, bound like the text-volumes.

NB. Subscription for DgF I-V and/or VI-X (with later forwarding of XI-XII) is binding on the subscribers. Orders can be placed in 1965. The price is Dan. kr. 500.- for I-V and Dan. kr. 500.- for VI-X. In the event of a sufficient number of orders vols I-V will be printed and published in 1966 and VI-X in 1967. The copies of the impression not ordered in advance will then be price-regulated in consideration of the 1967 price level. Booksellers will be given a discount of 25% and members of Universitets-Jubilæets danske Samfund 15% by direct order.

Other ballad publications from Universitets-Jubilæets danske Samfund

Føroya Kvæði. Corpus Carminum Færoensium a Sv. Grundtvig et J. Bloch comparatum. Udgivet af Chr. Matras og N. Djurhuus.

Svend Grundtvig and Jørgen Bloch's complete MS of the Faroese ballads has been in preparation for a number of years under the editorship of Chr. Matras and now N. Djurhuus. This edition has no introductions and music, and notes of variant readings will not be given. Each of the c. 200 types of ballads, however, are represented by several recorded texts. Of this work, which is connected both with ballad research and Norse studies, the following parts have been published:

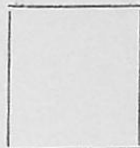
- I, 1-3 (Dan. kr. 38.-)
- II, 1-3 (Dan. kr. 16.25)
- III, 1-2 (Dan. kr. 15.50)
- IV, 1- (Dan. kr. 6.50)
- IV, 2 and V-VI in preparation.

Danske Skæmteviser (Folkeviser og litterær Efterklang) efter Visehaandskrifter fra 16.-18. Aarh. og Flyveblade. Udgivet af H. Grüner-Nielsen. (Dan. kr. 10.-). XII + 420 pp.

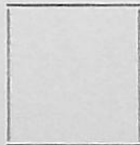
Jesting ballads are not, as a matter of principle, included in DgF. A number of these, however, are on an equal footing with the medieval ballad as regards sources, form, and age. DgF, therefore, can be said to have got a supplement when, in 1927-28, H. Grüner-Nielsen published the early sources of Danish jesting ballads, with notes and indexes.

Erik Dal: Nordisk folkeviseforskning siden 1800. Omrids af text- og melodistudiets historie og problemer især i Danmark. (Dan. kr. 28.-). 448 pp., ill.

This bibliographical, historical, and systematic survey of ballad studies from the whole Scandinavian area was published in 1956. An English summary is included (pp. 410-430).



Danmarks gamle Folkeviser c/o Dr. Erik Dal
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IL DIRETTORE
Prof. Gaetano Falzone



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Dr. Gaetano Falzone, Directeur,
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Mon cher Collègue,

Je vous remercie de votre aimable lettre du 19 janvier et me réjouis à l'idée d'avoir l'occasion d'étudier de plus près la "Sicilia Turistica".

Malheureusement nous ne publions pas au Danemark une revue analogue. Afin de vous permettre de vous faire une idée de la revue mensuelle de l'Office National du Tourisme de Danemark, je vous ai expédié ce jour, sous pli séparé, un exemplaire de cette publication "TURISTEN" (le Touriste). Mais étant rédigée en danois et s'adressant surtout à nos membres, cette revue n'est, comme vous le verrez, ni richement colorée, ni autrement attrayante pour touristes étrangers. Si, toutefois, vous désirez la recevoir tous les mois, je porterai avec plaisir votre nom et adresse sur la liste des personnes à qui nous expédions cette revue.

Malheureusement, il me sera probablement impossible de partir pour Palermo au mois de juin prochain, comme ma présence à Copenhague est indispensable justement à cette époque à cause de réunions importantes.

Je vous prie de croire, mon cher Collègue, en l'expression de mes sentiments les plus cordiaux.

E. Bollerup
E. Bollerup

FOR DANMARK

Palermo, 19 gennaio 1954.

Egregio Dott.
ERIK BOLLERUP
K o b e n h a v n

Caro Collega,

ricordando che Lei conosce la lingua italiana mi permetto scriverLe nella mia lingua per ringraziarLa della cortese risposta e per rallegrarmi del Suo ritorno al lavoro dopo la malattia cui mi accenna con la Sua del 7 gennaio.

Consiglierei la direzione dell'Istituto di Giornalismo di Palermo a rivolgersi al Journalistforbundet per ulteriori notizie.


Mi é gradita l'occasione per informarLa della imminente apparizione della mia rivista bimestrale "SICILIA TURISTICA". La predetta Rivista verrà inviata anche al Turistforeningen for Danmark con preghiera di volere effettuare il "cambio" con le proprie pubblicazioni.

La Rivista si propone un programma di illustrazione e di documentazione della Sicilia turistica. Spero Le piacerà.

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Frattanto Le invio, caro collega, le mie espressioni più cordiali.

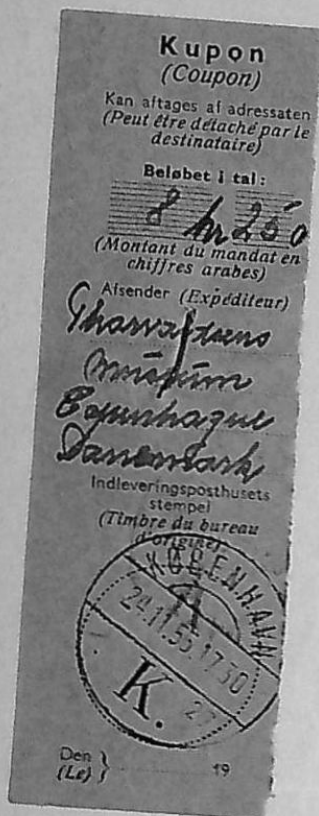
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A la Direction de la
Rivista Bimestrale del Turismo
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Via Mario Rapisardi, 16
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Messieurs,

En vous remerciant de votre lettre du 20 novembre, j'ai le plaisir de vous faire savoir que nous serions très contents de recevoir le no. 5 de votre Rivista avec l'article du M. le professeur Rodolfo de Mattei, intitulé "Visioni di Palermo a Copenaghen". Je vous envoie aujourd'hui la somme de lire 750 par mandat-de-poste international.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.

Sigurd Schultz

directeur