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The A to Z of Denmark

Alastair H. Thomas

The A to Z Guide Series, No. 226

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To Janet Thomas,

for her patience, support, and sharp eye for detail,

and to our sons, Simon and Andrew.
DENMARK (55–58° N, 8–15° E) showing neighboring countries: Norway, Sweden, Poland, Germany and the post-1920 Danish/German border; seas: North Sea, Skaggerak, Kattegat, Baltic Sea; Jutland and the islands of Funen, Zealand, Lolland, Falster, Mon, Bornholm; the capital Copenhagen and significant towns such as Ålborg, Århus, Esbjerg, Ribe, Odense, Rønne.
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About the Authors
Work on this *Historical Dictionary of Denmark* was begun by Stewart P. Oakley, professor of Scandinavian studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. He took important planning decisions on the titles of many of the entries and wrote first drafts of many entries in the first half of the volume. Where his entries have been carried over into the second edition, they are initialed SPO. Stewart Oakley’s invaluable historical scholarship informed the genesis of this book. Its completion serves as a memorial to his career as a scholar of Danish history and literature.

Following Stewart Oakley’s death in 1995, the dictionary was taken over, the entries revised and completed, and the volume carried through to publication by Alastair H. Thomas, Professor (now emeritus) of Nordic Politics at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, England. He extended the scope of the dictionary to include brief biographies of many politicians and contributors to Danish musical, literary, cultural, academic, medical, scientific, and commercial life.

For the second edition, much new material has been added and some entries dropped. The text has been thoroughly revised and updated. The maps now include Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and the local government structure that took effect in 2007.

In any project such as this, inclusion or omission of topics is a matter of judgment. But the intention has been to give English-speaking readers the means to become familiar with the main lines of Danish history and the lives and achievements of the many great Danes who have contributed to the development of their country and its culture or have made their mark on the world stage. That interest can be taken further with the bibliography. This includes, principally, English-language publications selected to give readers the information necessary to follow up a topic of interest. Most were published since 1965, although a few earlier items of lasting interest are also included.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My involvement in this project was suggested by Professor Clive Archer. Staff at the Danish Institute in Edinburgh were helpful in supplying information and answering questions. Dr. Frands Schjødt Pedersen suggested useful sources. Annette Scheel supplied information about Greenland. The University of Central Lancashire gave me a semester of research leave in 1998 and funded travel and living costs in Denmark. The Institute of Political Science of the University of Copenhagen made accommodation available during May 1998. Hans Jørgen Nielsen helped to arrange this, and he and his wife, Bodil, made me welcome, while staff in the Institute’s Library helpfully answered questions.

Work on this second edition has benefited from the vast expansion of material available on the internet.

My mother, Edith Thomas, née Edelmann (1907-1957), grew up in Nakskov on the island of Lolland; it was she who awakened my interest in Denmark. Grete Edelmann, hospitable as ever, has encouraged that interest in Denmark and the Danes for the past half-century. My wife and sons have supported me in long hours spent at the computer. They all contributed to the successful completion of this book, and I thank them all—although, as always, final responsibility for the content rests with the author.

AHT
EDITOR’S FOREWORD

Denmark is one of the smaller European democracies. On a world map it is hardly noticeable, a promontory and some islands north of Germany and south of the Norwegian-Swedish peninsula—though it achieves greater geographical prominence when the large but sparsely populated territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland are added.

On older maps it would have been easier to find. The Viking realm of King Knud (or Canute, 1018-1035) included Denmark, England, most of Scotland including the North Atlantic isles, Norway, and the southern and western coasts of Sweden. Two centuries later the Danish empire included all the southern Baltic coast and conquests in Estonia. Queen Margrethe I’s Kalmar Union (from 1397) united the three crowns of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. From the 17th century, Denmark had colonial possessions in the West Indies, West Africa, and India. But by 1866 even Southern Jutland (recovered in 1920) had been lost and King Christian IX (who reigned 1863-1906) had little more than his progeny to support his unofficial title of “the father-in-law of Europe.”

During the 20th century Denmark made the transition from a tiny country dependent on farming, fishing, and shipping to a highly developed modern society with sophisticated technological industries, a thriving service sector, and high levels of welfare provision.

At the start of the 21st century, Denmark, with its thriving capital, Copenhagen, is peaceful, progressive, and prosperous (the second-richest European Union country after Luxembourg), and individual Danes continue to make their mark in the world.

*Historical Dictionary of Denmark* does justice to the term “historical.” It covers the older, more “glorious” periods when Denmark was a force to be reckoned with and mixed freely in European politics and wars. It presents the earlier rulers and explains the conditions of the times. But it also provides ample coverage of the modern and contemporary eras, with less prominence for kings and queens and more for the politicians and political parties, the trade unions, and other organizations that run the country. The subjects covered reach well beyond politics and warfare into the economy, society, and culture (art, music, literature, and religion) with, of course, a look at the welfare state and at Danish relations with other countries and the European Union. This is buttressed by a chronology, an introduction, several useful appendixes, and a substantial bibliography.

This volume was initiated by Stewart Oakley, one of the most eminent British specialists on Scandinavia, whose many books include *The Story of Denmark*. After Professor Oakley died in 1995, the work was continued by Alastair H. Thomas, Professor (now emeritus) of Nordic Politics at the University of Central Lancashire. He has also written extensively on Denmark, Scandinavia, and social democracy. This
dictionary benefited greatly from the complementary interests and perspectives of two fine scholars who have managed to provide a picture of a country which, while small, certainly matters.

Jon Woronoff
Series Editor
The letters Æ æ, Ø ø, and Å å, in that order, follow Z at the end of the Danish alphabet. For the convenience of English-speaking readers, in this dictionary they are sorted as Ae, O, and Aa, respectively. These letters are pronounced: æ like ea in bear ø like ea in early or like u in burden; and å like aw in claw. Danish is notoriously difficult to pronounce, but some guidance may help with names of places or people. D sounds as in English at the start of a word, but after an accented vowel as th in this; for example Odense is pronounced Othense with a short final e. J always sounds as a short y (unless there is a French derivation, as in ajour, up-to-date). W is little used, but is pronounced v. The Faroese and Icelandic languages (like Anglo-Saxon) use Đð (eth) and þþ (thorn); eth is sounded as th in thing, and thorn like th in the. One of the given names of Queen Margrethe II is Ærhardtur.

When a person is known by other than his full first name(s), this is shown in the dictionary by underlining. For example, ANDERSEN, HANS CHRISTIAN is known to Danes as H.C. Andersen; ESTRUP, JACOB BRONNUM SCAVENIUS is known as J.B.S. Estrup; and GRUNDTVIG, NICOLAJ FREDERIK SEVERIN is known as N.F.S. Grundtvig.

Where a publication is mentioned in a dictionary entry, a translation of the title has generally been given, and the following convention has been adopted:

Grøndahl, Jens Christian, Tavshed i oktober (1996; Silence in October 2000) shows that the book was published in Danish in 1996 and in English in 2000.
His book, Kvinden i midten (1985; The Woman in the Middle) was published in 1985. The translated title (without a date) implies that there is no English-language edition.

We have aimed to be consistent in spelling names. But a difficulty arises where a name originates in another language. For example, the Danish royal house of Oldenburg originates with the German dukedom of Oldenburg. Similarly, the Danish spelling of Slesvig is used to refer to the duchy, the northern part of which became Sønderjylland, the southernmost county of Denmark, while the southern part became part of the German land (state) of Schleswig-Holstein. Individuals with French or German origins have had Danish careers. Danish spellings are used unless there is clearly a non-Danish context: Prince Henrik rather than Prince Henri, for example, or the Danish royal house of Oldenburg, but the Count of Oldenburg.

Words in bold indicate a cross-reference to an entry on this topic elsewhere in the dictionary. Entries by Stewart Oakley, initialed SPO, have been carried over from the first edition.
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AC  Akademikernes Centralorganisation, Central Organization of Professional Employees (literally of university graduates)
AD  Anno domini (Latin), of the Christian era
AEK Atomenergikommissionen, Atomic Energy Authority (= DAEK)
AMPA Amager Partisaner, Resistance Group in World War II
AOF Arbejdernes Oplysningsforbund, Workers’ Educational Association
A/S Aktieselskab, joint-stock company
AS Akademikernes Samarbejdssudvalg, cooperation committee of professionally qualified occupations
ATP Arbejdsmarkedets Tillægspension, Employment Supplementary Pension
ATV Akademiet for de Tekniske Videnskaber, Academy for Technical Sciences
BC before Christ
bn. billion = 1,000 million (in Danish milliard, mia.)
BOPA Borgerlige Partisaner, communist-dominated Resistance group in World War II
c. circa, about
cand. candidatus (male) candidata (female), graduate
cand. act. candidatus actuarii, graduate actuary
cand. agron. candidatus agronomiae, graduate in agriculture
cand. art. candidatus artium, graduate in a minor subject in connection with a major subject, e.g., cand. jur. et art., graduate in law and a minor subject
cand. brom. candidatus bromatologiae, graduate in food science
cand. geom. candidatus geometriae, graduate in geodesy and cadastral science
cand. hort. candidatus hortonomiae, graduate in landscape gardening or horticulture
cand. jur. candidatus juris, graduate in law

cand. lact. candidatus lactonomiae, graduate in dairying

cand. ling. merc candidatus linguae mercantilis, graduate in business languages

cand. mag. candidatus magisterii, graduate in arts in major and minor subjects

cand. med. candidatus medicinae, graduate in medicine

cand. med. vet. candidatus medicinae veterinariae, graduate in veterinary medicine

cand. merc. candidatus mercaturae, graduate in business economics

cand. oecon. candidatus oeconomiae, graduate in economics

cand. pharm. candidatus pharmaciae, graduate in pharmacy

cand. phil. candidatus philosophiae, graduate in arts in major subject only

cand. polit. candidatus politices, graduate in public administration

cand. polyt. candidatus polytechnices, graduate in engineering

cand. psych. candidatus psychologiae, graduate in applied psychology

cand. scient. candidatus scientiarum, graduate in a major science subject

cand. scient. pol. candidatus scientiarum politicarum, graduate in political sciences

cand. silv. candidatus silvinomiae, graduate in forestry

cand. soc. candidatus socialium, graduate in social sciences

cand. stat. candidatus statisticae, graduate in statistics

cand. theol. candidatus theologiae, graduate in theology

CB Civilt brandværn, Civil defense organization in World War II
CD Centrum-Demokraterne, Center Democrats (party)
CF Civilforsvaret, Civil Defense
CFF Civilforsvarets Forbundet, Civil Defense Union
CFK Civil Forsvars Korps, Civil Defense Corps from 1949
CO Statstjenstemændenes Centralorganisation, Central Organization of Civil Servants
DA or DAF Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, Danish Employers’ Federation
DAÆ Dansk Andels Ægeksport, Danish Egg Export Committee
DAEK Danmarks Atomenergikommissionen (= AEK)
DAG Danmarks Andelsgødningsforretning, Danish Co-operative Fertilizer Society
DAL Danske Arkitekters Landsforbund, National Association of Danish Architects
DASF Dansk Arbejdsmands- og Specialarbejderforbund, Danish