

The Howard V. and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library

St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA

The Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College is a study and publication center available for use by anyone with an interest in the thought and works of Søren Kierkegaard and related thinkers. The Library is open year-round but hours are limited and prior arrangement for use is recommended. Extended stays are possible and housing can be arranged. For information, please contact Curator Gordon D. Marino, Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College, 1510 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, Minnesota, 55057, USA. Telephone: 507-646-3846. Fax: 507-646-3858. Email: marino@stolaf.edu.

The Kierkegaard Library was the personal collection of Howard V. Hong, who taught philosophy at St. Olaf College for forty years, and Edna H. Hong, writer and translator. It was given to the College in 1976. It remains the largest single collection of materials by and about Søren Kierkegaard outside of Denmark. The collection has supported the 26-volume English translation of the works of Kierkegaard, entitled *Kierkegaard's Writings*, which the Hongs undertook. This series has been published by Princeton University Press and were completed in May 1998. The preparation of *Søren Kierkegaard's Journals and Papers*, edited and translated by the Hongs and published by Indiana University Press, was also supported by the Library collection.

The Kierkegaard Library includes 10,000 book volumes and 3,000 periodical articles with new acquisitions added regularly in all languages. The Library also includes microfilm copies of Kierkegaard manuscripts held by the Royal Library in Copenhagen and materials in other formats such as cassette tapes, compact discs, videos, microfiches, and electronic resources. The Library is divided into sub-sections including: editions and translations of Kierkegaard's writings; secondary critical works concerning Kierkegaard; primary and secondary works about thinkers related to Kierkegaard; dissertations; reference materials; and periodicals. A section on Danish history, literature, and culture is also included. The Library welcomes gifts to the Library particularly publications from abroad which may be difficult for the Library to locate otherwise.

An important part of the collection is the replication of Kierkegaard's personal library based on contemporary records. This section consists mainly of Danish and German editions read by Kierkegaard. Books are also included which Kierkegaard might have seen or owned before his death in 1855.

Bibliographic access to the collection is through the online catalog of St. Olaf College (www.stolaf.edu). All records are also available through the OCLC international bibliographic database. Specialized subject headings have been added when appropriate.

A microfiche edition of the catalog is available upon request.

Activities of the Library include the Summer Scholars Fellowship Program which provides housing and a modest stipend for scholars between June 1 and November 15 to facilitate personal research at the Library. Application must be made to Curator Gordon Marino by April 1 including a proposal for research, curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation. Scholars are notified of acceptance for the summer by May 1. Past fellows have included scholars from many countries as well as American graduate students and teaching faculty. Assistance is offered to accepted scholars by the Library regarding visa applications and travel arrangements. The resources of St. Olaf College, including the main library and sports facilities, are made available. Danish language instruction and regular discussion seminars are also held for summer fellows.

The Hong Kierkegaard Library has sponsored three conferences including the International Kierkegaard Conference in June of 1997. Future conferences are likely to take place every four years with smaller events possibly planned every two years.

The Library makes every effort to work cooperatively with the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre at Copenhagen University and other groups around the world. It seeks to promote Kierkegaard scholarship by supporting the work of both beginning and advanced scholars in the field of Kierkegaard studies and related subjects. The Library also seeks to distribute resources among scholars who might not otherwise have access to them. The Library publishes the *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter* which is published twice a year.

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Hong Kierkegaard Library