

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

The Arnamagnæan Manuscript Collection

Joint nomination submitted by Denmark and Iceland

Ref N° 2008-33

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1 SUMMARY

The Arnamagnæan Manuscript Collection derives its name from the Icelandic scholar and antiquarian Árni Magnússon (1663-1730) – Arnas Magnæus in Latinised form – who, in addition to his duties as secretary of the Royal Archives and, from 1702, professor of Danish Antiquities at the University of Copenhagen, spent much of his life building up what is by common consent the single most important collection of early Scandinavian manuscripts in existence, nearly 3000 items, the earliest dating from the 12th century. The majority of these are from Árni Magnússon's native Iceland, but the collection also contains many important Norwegian, Danish and Swedish manuscripts, along with about one hundred of continental European provenance. In addition to the manuscripts proper, the collection contains about 14000 Icelandic, Norwegian (including Faroese, Shetlandic and Orcadian) and Danish charters, both originals and first-hand copies (*apographa*).

Upon his death in 1730 Árni Magnússon bequeathed his collection to the University of Copenhagen. Along with this he made an endowment from his private estate from which money was to be drawn for the publication of text editions and studies pertaining to the manuscripts. A royal charter formally establishing a foundation to administer the bequest was issued in 1760, and 12 years later a permanent Commission was established as the governing body of that Foundation.

The manuscripts and documents in the collection are invaluable sources on the history and culture of medieval, renaissance and early-modern Scandinavia and, in a more general way, much of Europe. Perhaps foremost among the texts preserved in the collection are the many examples of the uniquely Icelandic narrative genre known as the saga, widely recognised as constituting one of the highpoints of world literature and still translated and read throughout the world today. The sagas tell not only of the voyages and settlements of the Viking age, but also the beliefs and practices of the northern peoples before the coming of Christianity and in the first centuries after the conversion, revealing a society in a state of transition, from heathendom to Christianity, from orality to literacy, from primitive decentralised oligarchical democracy to centralised monarchic rule.

The collection is important for another reason, too: even before its constitutional separation from Denmark in 1944 Iceland had begun petitioning for the return of the Icelandic manuscripts in Danish repositories and it was eventually agreed, in May 1965, that roughly half the items in the Arnamagnæan Collection (1666 items, in addition to all the Icelandic charters and apographa), should be transferred to the newly established manuscript institute in Iceland, along with a smaller number of manuscripts (141) from the Royal Library (*Det Kongelige Bibliotek*). The first two manuscripts were handed over immediately after the ratification of the treaty in 1971 and the last two in June 1997, the entire process of transfer

thus taking 26 years. The manuscripts transferred to Iceland have retained their original shelfmarks, and the two institutions which jointly act as custodians of the collection, the Arnamagnæan Institute (*Den Arnamagnæanske Samling*) in Copenhagen and the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies (*Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum fræðum*) in Reykjavík, work closely together to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to the manuscripts in the collection. The successful – and amicable – resolution of this dispute is widely regarded as a landmark in the history of the debate concerning the return of cultural treasures.

2 DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Name (person or organisation)

Denmark: The Arnamagnæan Institute, Department of Scandinavian Research, University of Copenhagen.

Iceland: The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, University of Iceland.

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

The two institutes are the joint custodians of the collection.

2.3 Contact person (s)

Denmark: Matthew James Driscoll, D.Phil. (Oxon), Head of Section and Curator, The Arnamagnæan Institute.

Iceland: Dr. phil. Vésteinn Ólason, professor, director of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

2.4 Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email)

Denmark: The Arnamagnæan Institute, Department of Scandinavian Research, University of Copenhagen. Njalsgade 136, DK 2300 Copenhagen S.

Tel (+45) 35328500 (Secretariat) Fax (+45) 35328468

E-mail: mjd@hum.ku.dk

Website: arnamagnaeansk.ku.dk

Iceland: The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies
Árnagarði – Suðurgötu, IS-101 Reykjavík.

Tel (+354) 5254010 (Secretariat) Fax (+354) 523 4035

E-mail: vesteinn@hi.is

Website: www.arnastofnun.is

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

For the purposes of this nomination ‘The Arnamagnæan Manuscript Collection’ refers to the manuscripts and other documents bequeathed by Árni Magnússon to the University of Copenhagen on his death in 1730 as well as any items which subsequently became part of the collection up to the 26th of May 1965, when the law regarding the division of the collection between Iceland and Denmark was passed by the Danish Parliament. Items which have been acquired by either of the two sections of the collection after that date are not included in this nomination.

The Collection, so understood, comprises the following manuscripts and documents (reference is made here to shelfmarks; in the majority of cases a shelfmark corresponds to a single manuscript item, but it can also refer to a collection of fragments, occasionally of widely differing provenance, in which case more than one item can be included under a single shelfmark):

Manuscripts (total 2865 items):

AM (for Árni Magnússon): AM 1-485 fol. (643 items); AM 1-1063 4to (1552 items); AM 1-278 8vo (298 items); AM 414-481 12mo (79 items).

Rask (for Rasmus Kristian Rask): Rask 1-119 (123 items).

Steph (for Magnús Stephensen): Steph 1-78 (79 items).

StE (for Stefán Eiríksson), StE 1-6 (6 items).

Kr (for Johan Krieger): Kr 1-4 (4 items).

KG (for Konráð Gíslason): 1-37 (38 items).

Accessoria 1-43 (43 items).

Documents (total 13938 items):

Diplomata Danica: Fasc. I – LXV + Suppl. Rosk. I – III (1571 items); Apographa (1372 items).

Diplomata Norvegica *): Fasc I – CIII (776 items); Apographa (2895 items).

Diplomata Islandica *): Fasc. I – LXXVI (1285 items); Apographa (6039 items).

*) These figures do not include the items transferred from the Arnamagnæan Collection to the National Archives of Iceland in 1928 (c. 770 items) and Norway in 1937 (c. 1100 items).

Bibliography:

Lists of manuscripts transferred to Iceland: The Arnamagnæan Institute and Dictionary. Bulletins 10-21 (1975-1998).

List of manuscripts remaining in Denmark: *The Arnamagnæan Collection in Copenhagen after the Settlement*, The Arnamagnæan Institute and Dictionary. Bulletin 16 (1988).

For a detailed list of the shelfmarks kept in the Copenhagen section of the collection see:

www.arnamagnaesk.ku.dk/haandskriftssamlingen/udlevering/haandskrifter_i_kbh/

For a detailed list of the shelfmarks kept in the Reykjavík section of the collection see:

www.arnastofnun.is/page/arnastofnun_hand_hdr_sam

3.2 Description

Dating: The manuscripts in the collection are dated to ca. 1150 – 1850.

Languages: The manuscripts are predominately written in Icelandic, Norwegian and Danish, with a smaller number in Swedish, Faroese, Latin, German, Low German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Basque.

Material: Vellum manuscripts make up about 20% of the collection, the remainder being on paper.

Binding: Older bindings contemporary with the manuscripts themselves are few in the collection, and the majority of the manuscripts are in preservation bindings of recent date, although older bindings which have had to be removed are preserved along with the manuscripts, providing a wealth of information on binding practices over the last five centuries.

Illuminations: Lavishly illuminated manuscripts are relatively rare in the collection (because rare among Scandinavian manuscripts generally), although some quite fine examples can be found among the manuscripts with religious or legal content.

Content: The Icelandic manuscripts, which make up the bulk of the collection, are extremely multi-faceted and contain representatives, often the oldest and best of those extant, of virtually every type of Old Norse-Icelandic literature. There are, in addition, many examples of written works from later periods, both literary and scholarly. Foremost among the texts preserved in the manuscripts are the famous Icelandic sagas, which detail the voyages by Viking-age explorers and settlers, principally from Norway, who travelled west, often via the British Isles and the Faeroes, to Iceland, and from there on to Greenland and North America. The settlers took with them a strong oral tradition which formed the basis for a new written literature in Iceland two centuries later, most notably in the mythological and heroic poems of the *Edda* and in the *fornaldarsagas* (legendary sagas), which relate the deeds of kings and heroes in Scandinavia before the settlement of Iceland. At the same time, ties with the old country were strengthened with the writing of the *konungasögur*, or Kings' sagas, with their many skaldic verses, the majority of which are thought to have been handed down orally. The new nation, keenly aware of and interested in its origins, wrote down stories of the settlement and the establishment of the political institutions of the Icelandic commonwealth in works such as *Landnáma* (The book of settlements), *Íslendingabók* (The book of Icelanders) and the *Íslendingasögur* (Icelandic family sagas), while in the compilation known as *Sturlunga saga* there are stories of the subsequent decline and fall of the commonwealth in the mid to late 13th century, when the Icelanders swore allegiance to the Norwegian crown. The manuscripts also contain tales of the final phases of Viking expansion, when Icelanders journeyed further to the west, to Greenland, and from there to the shores of North America, around the year 1000, and also of voyages to the east to Russia and on to Byzantium, and south to the Mediterranean. The conflicts between the old religion and the new, the conversion to Christianity and the development of the early church are also described in texts preserved in manuscripts in the collection, along with vernacular translations of key religious texts for use by the fledgling church, such as homilies, saints' lives and the books of the Bible. The influence of new cultural currents can also be seen in the translations and adaptations, both in prose and verse, of didactic and encyclopaedic works, and later of continental chivalric romance. Works of historiography and annals are also found in many manuscripts, as are important legal texts.

Manuscripts of Norwegian provenance in the collection, which number around 280, contain, alongside legal texts and translations of saints lives and other religious works, important examples of early translations of chivalric literature, principally from French. Among other significant early Norwegian works preserved in the collection is the *Konungs skuggsjá* or *Speculum regale*, a didactic work from around 1250 which has the form of a dialogue between father and son.

There are 250 Danish manuscripts in the collection – the largest number in any one place – consisting predominately of legal codices (among them one manuscript of *Skånske lov*, the Law of Skaane, written entirely in runes) and works of a religious nature, including several important prayer books written by, or at least for, prominent women. The Swedish manuscripts in the collection are far fewer, numbering only 32, but include some important early legal, medical and religious texts.

Finally there is a number of manuscripts of continental provenance, principally in Latin, but with some also in German, Low German, Dutch, Spanish and Italian. Among these are several of major importance, such as one 13th-century Spanish manuscript containing the only copy now in existence of a commentary on the Apocalypse written probably in 551 by

Apringius Pacensis (from Beja, Portugal). Another is a richly illustrated guide to the art of war, in particular the use of cannon, written around 1450 by a German engineer affiliated with the Danish court.

The original charters (*diplomata*) and apographa, of which there are in all nearly 14000, are not only valuable as historical sources but also provide a wealth of material on the growth and development of the Scandinavian languages; their value for onomastic studies cannot be overestimated.

Bibliography:

Kristian Kålund, *Katalog over Den Arnamagnæanske Håndskriftsamling I-II* (København, 1889-1894).

Jón Helgason, 'Den Arnamagnæanske samlings proveniens', *Betænkning vedrørende de i Danmark beroende islandske håndskrifter og museumsgenstande* (København, 1951), pp. 117-176 (a survey of the provenance of the manuscripts in the collection).

Hans Bekker-Nielsen and Agnete Loth, *Oversigt over håndskrifter i Den Arnamagnæanske Samling indgået efter Arne Magnussens død* (unpublished manuscript, Copenhagen, 1968) (A list of the manuscripts added to the collection after the death of Árni Magnússon).

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Is authenticity established?

The authenticity of the collection itself, and of each item within it, is very well documented:

- 1) Árni Magnússon himself made a list, which still exists, of the oldest part of the collection.
- 2) Árni Magnússon also made notes containing detailed information on the origin and provenance of most of the manuscripts in the collection; these notes are generally now kept with the manuscripts to which they refer.
- 3) Árni Magnússon's extensive correspondence, which now also forms part of the collection, contains much information on the provenance of the manuscripts and the means by which he acquired them.
- 4) The will made by Árni Magnússon (and his wife) makes explicit his intentions for the collection after his death.
- 5) A complete inventory of the collection made by Jón Ólafsson, Árni Magnússon's amanuensis, shortly after Árni's death in 1730, fully documents the extent of the collection at the time; this inventory is now also part of the collection.
- 6) The royal charter for the Arnamagnæan Bequest from the 18th of January 1760 inaugurated the Arnamagnæan Foundation, and in 1772 a permanent Commission was established as the governing body of that Foundation. The Commission's archives are housed at the Institute in Copenhagen,
- 7) Kristian Kålund's *Katalog over Den Arnamagnæanske Håndskriftsamling* from 1889-1894 documents in detail the extent and nature of the collection as it was at the close of the 19th century.
- 8) The extensive research into the manuscripts, the results of which have appeared in thousands of editions, monographs and scholarly articles over the last 200 years, also documents the authenticity of the collection.
- 9) The *Lov om ændring i fundats af 18. januar 1760 for Arne Magnussens Legat* (Den arnamagnæanske Stiftelse) no 194 of 26 May 1965, passed by the Danish Parliament,

and the subsequent agreement between Denmark and Iceland is the foundation for the division of the Arnamagnæan Collection between the two countries.

- 10) Extensive documentation is preserved from the period 1973-1986 regarding the division of the collection and the subsequent conservation, photographing and transfer of manuscripts to Iceland in the period 1973-1997.

Bibliography:

Hans Bekker-Nielsen and Ole Widding, *Arne Magnusson: The Manuscript Collector* (Odense: Odense University Press, 1972).

Sigrún Davíðsdóttir: *Håndskriftssagens saga* (Odense, 1999) (a detailed overview of the political debate in Denmark and Iceland preceding the division of the collection).

Jeanette Greenfield: *The Return of cultural treasures*, 3rd edition (Cambridge, 2007), pp. 13-40 [First edition 1989] (discusses the implications of the division of a cultural treasure like the Arnamagnæan Manuscript Collection).

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established?

Although there are early Scandinavian manuscripts in other collections, most notably in the Royal Libraries in Copenhagen and Stockholm and the University Library in Uppsala, the Arnamagnæan Collection is both the largest and most comprehensive collection, containing texts of virtually every known literary genre. As artefacts the manuscripts in the collection also represent a wide variety of styles, techniques and materials. Without the manuscripts in the Arnamagnæan Collection, the study of almost any aspect of early Scandinavian language, history and culture would be severely hampered, if not impossible.

4.3 Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style satisfied?

(a) *Time*. The manuscripts in the Arnamagnæan Collection are an unparalleled source of information on the beliefs and practices of the northern peoples both before the coming of Christianity around the year 1000 and in the first centuries after the conversion; they depict a society in a state of transition, from heathendom to Christianity, from orality to literacy, from primitive oligarchical democracy to centralised monarchic rule. Árni Magnússon's collection is also very much a child of its time, the late 17th and early 18th century, a period which saw the formation of a number of major manuscript collections in various parts of Europe, and represents a humanist-inspired effort to collect, preserve for posterity and make accessible to the international scholarly community the cultural heritage of early Scandinavia.

(b) *Place*. The texts describe, among other things, voyages undertaken by Scandinavians, whether for settlement, trading or raiding, over a large part of the known world – and beyond, to Iceland, Greenland and ultimately to the shores of North America.

(c) *People*. The texts in the collection, the sagas in particular, present a rich panoply of historical and quasi-historical personages, from the legendary heroes of migration age Germanic tribes, to the warriors, poets and kings of Viking-age Scandinavia, to the chieftains and yeoman farmers of the Icelandic commonwealth.

(d) *Subject and theme*. The texts in the collection are invaluable sources on the culture and history of mainland Scandinavia and the North Atlantic colonies at the time of the Viking expansions, a period which has profoundly shaped not only how this region is seen by rest of

the world, but in no small way also how the region sees itself. In the 17th century these sources were discovered by Scandinavian scholars, often working directly for the monarch, who were keen to demonstrate the glorious early histories of their kingdoms: it was in fact this interest which resulted in the manuscripts being collected. In the 19th century these same sources provided inspiration for romantic poets and dramatists such as Adam Oehlenschläger in Denmark and Esaias Tegnér in Sweden, and also fuelled the national-romantic movements which led to political independence for Norway and Iceland.

e) *Form and style.* The manuscripts in the collection exhibit a linguistic and stylistic richness which among other things reflects the meeting between a strong vernacular oral tradition and continental Latin learning, resulting in the development of a unique narrative language.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

a. *Rarity*

Because of Árni Magnússon's comprehensive, thorough and well documented search for manuscripts and manuscript fragments our knowledge of the richness and variety of medieval Scandinavian literature is far more extensive than it would otherwise have been. There is no doubt that he, through his collecting and copying activities, secured this material for posterity.

b. *Integrity*

The story of the preservation the Arnamagnæan Collection is one of great dedication and respect for the will of the founder on the part of the trustees of his estate. Ever since the collection was first merged with the University Library in 1730 it has been kept as a special collection. Although it has been augmented through individual purchases and gifts and the acquisition of a number of smaller collections, the Arnamagnæan Collection remains essentially as he left it.

c. *Threat*

In 1728 there was a great fire in Copenhagen which threatened to destroy Árni Magnússon's collection of manuscripts and printed books (the University Library was completely destroyed, as were many private libraries). Fortunately he was able to save most of the manuscripts but lost many of his printed books. After Árni's death in 1730, and until 1957, with the establishment of the Arnamagnæan Institute, the collection was housed in the Copenhagen University Library. Since 1976, with the move to new premises, the collection has been kept in a high security, climate controlled vault. The manuscripts which were transferred to Iceland beginning in 1973 are kept in similar conditions. There appears therefore to be no threat to the collection at present.

d. *Management plan*

Recognising the importance of the manuscripts in the collection its custodians have, from the beginning, endeavoured to ensure its long-term survival, while at the same time making it available to the scholarly community. In connexion with the move to new premises in 2002 a new manuscript vault was designed in Copenhagen, employing a passive air-conditioning system which allows for a certain degree of variation in temperature depending on the outside temperature (between about 15-16° C in winter to 23-24° C in summer); relative humidity remains fairly constant at around 50%. A similar vault is planned in connexion with a move by the institute in Iceland to new premises in 2011. Both sections have conservation workshops with trained personnel, three in Copenhagen, one in Reykjavík. Security systems

have been installed and disaster plans worked out for both sections of the collection in consultation with technical advisers.

All the manuscripts which were transferred to Iceland in the period 1973 to 1997 were photographed on microfilm in Copenhagen prior to being sent to Iceland; manuscripts needing conservation were generally photographed both before and after conservation. Back-up copies of these microfilms are kept off site. Both sections have photographic ateliers, which in the last 7-8 years have increasingly employed digital photography rather than film, and work on an electronic catalogue of the entire collection, with links to the digitised images, is in progress. In connexion with the conservation and photographic work carried out in Copenhagen a series of international seminars has been organised on 'the care and conservation of manuscripts' beginning in 1994; the 11th such seminar will be held in April 2008.

The institute in Copenhagen oversees the publication of a series of scholarly monographs under the general title *Bibliotheca Arnamagnæana*, the first volume of which appeared in 1941, and a series of critical editions of Old Norse/Icelandic texts, *Editiones Arnamagnæanæ*, inaugurated ten years later; 53 volumes have thus far appeared in the former series, 46 in the latter. The institute in Iceland has a similar series, *Rit*, of which 69 volumes have appeared since 1972. Electronic editions using XML are in preparation at both institutes.

Bibliography:

Care and conservation of manuscripts vol. 9, 2005 and vol. 10, 2008 (Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum).

Tim Padfield and Poul Klens Larsen: 'Low energy air-conditioning of archives', *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, 2006, Vol. 27/2, pp. 213-226.

5 LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

On his deathbed Árne Magnússon bequeathed his collection of printed books and manuscripts and his estate to the University of Copenhagen. On the 18th of January 1760 king Frederik V of Denmark issued the statutes for the endowment of Árne Magnússon, *Legatum beati Arnæ Magnæi*, now called Den Arnamagnæanske Stiftelse (the Árne Magnússon Foundation), an independent foundation that since then has owned, preserved and furthered the research and publication of the manuscripts.

By law passed by the Danish parliament 26th May 1965 the Árne Magnússon Foundation was divided into two sections, one that remains in Denmark in the care of The Arnamagnæan Institute, part of the University of Copenhagen, and the other, established for the purpose in Iceland under the auspices of the University of Iceland and in the care of The Árne Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)

The custodians of the two sections of the Arnamagnæan Manuscript Collection are:

In Denmark: The Arnamagnæan Institute, Department of Scandinavian Research, University of Copenhagen. Njalsgade 136, DK 2300 København S.

Tel (+45) 35328500 (Secretariat) Fax (+45) 35328468

In Iceland: The Árne Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

Árnagarði – Suðurgötu, IS-101 Reykjavík.

Tel (+354) 5254010 (Secretariat) Fax (+354) 523 4035

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

Independent foundation under the auspices of the University of Copenhagen and the University of Iceland and the Icelandic Government respectively.

(b) Accessibility

The collection is open for anyone with a bona fide research interest in the material. Reading rooms with working facilities, access to extensive special subject libraries and guidance by the staff are available for postgraduate students and scholars at both institutes. On-line access is gradually being increased through digital images on the two institutes' web-sites.

For the general public following services are offered:

In Copenhagen: Guests, school classes and groups of students are received and guided by the staff.

In Reykjavík: An exhibition is open daily for the public with guided tours. A printed catalogue of the exhibition is available and a website with an extensive introduction to the manuscripts for the general public can be accessed at www.handritinheima.is. School classes are received and guided by a museum educator.

(c) Copyright status

The collection as such is not protected by copyright restrictions. However, both institutes hold copyright of all secondary documentation such as photographs, slides, microfilms, digital images and so on which they produce. All publications published by the two institutes are also protected by copyright.

(d) Responsible administration

Denmark: The Arnamagnæan Commission was set up in 1772 as a governing body for the Arnamagnæan Foundation, the collection of manuscripts and printed books that Árni Magnússon bequeathed, along with his private estate, to the University of Copenhagen in 1730. It is under the auspices of this Commission that much of the research and publication activities relating to the manuscripts in the collection has been, and continues to be, carried out.

The Arnamagnæan Institute was founded in 1957 in order to ensure optimal curatorial conditions for the collection and to set up an international environment for manuscript research at the University of Copenhagen. The institute became in 2003 a section within the Department of Scandinavian Research, a part of the Faculty of Humanities at the University. The head of the section also acts on behalf of the Arnamagnæan Commission as curator of the collection.

Iceland: By law no. 40 passed by the Icelandic Parliament on the 12th of June 2006 the government of Iceland is the protector of the manuscripts and documents transferred to Iceland in accordance with the agreement between Denmark and Iceland on the division of the collection between the two countries.

The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies is a state financed research institution directly under the Ministry of Education and Culture. The institute has close ties to the University of Iceland and functions as a research institute under its auspices. The Minister of Education and Culture appoints a five-man governing body which corresponds to the Arnamagnæan Commission in Copenhagen. The Minister also appoints a Director who is responsible for the running of the institute.

(e) *Other factors*

6 *MANAGEMENT PLAN*

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES/NO

If yes, attach a summary of the plan. If no, please attach further details about current storage and custody of the materials.

Yes. See section 4.4.d.

7 *CONSULTATION*

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional *Memory of the World* committee

Denmark: The nomination is put forward and endorsed by The Arnamagnæan Commission, The Arnamagnæan Institute and The National UNESCO Memory of the World committee and the responsible minister in the Danish government in mutual understanding with the Icelandic government.

Iceland: The nomination is put forward by The Árni Magnússon Institute of Icelandic Studies and endorsed by the Minister for Education and Culture and the Icelandic government in consultation with the Icelandic UNESCO committee.

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

The following information will **not** be taken into account in deciding whether or not to inscribe documentary heritage on the *Register* but will be included in the database as additional information. Some of this information may be drawn from the management plan (item 6 above).

8 *ASSESSMENT OF RISK*

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

Both sections of the collection are kept under environmentally-controlled conditions in modern (Copenhagen 2006) and relatively modern (Reykjavík 1969) and monitored safety repositories (the Reykjavík institute is due to move into a new building in 2011). Security measures are high. There are no immediate threats to the collection.

9 *ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION*

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

The manuscripts in the collection are generally in good condition and are constantly monitored by the conservators, who employ the latest techniques and materials.

PART C - LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

(Please print name) Matthew J. Driscoll (*Denmark*)

(Signature).....  (Date)..... 27.03.2008

(Please print name) Vésteinn Ólason (*Iceland*)

(Signature).....  (Date)..... 26.03.2008