

CODICUM and Textual Heritage

Lars Boje Mortensen

CODICUM



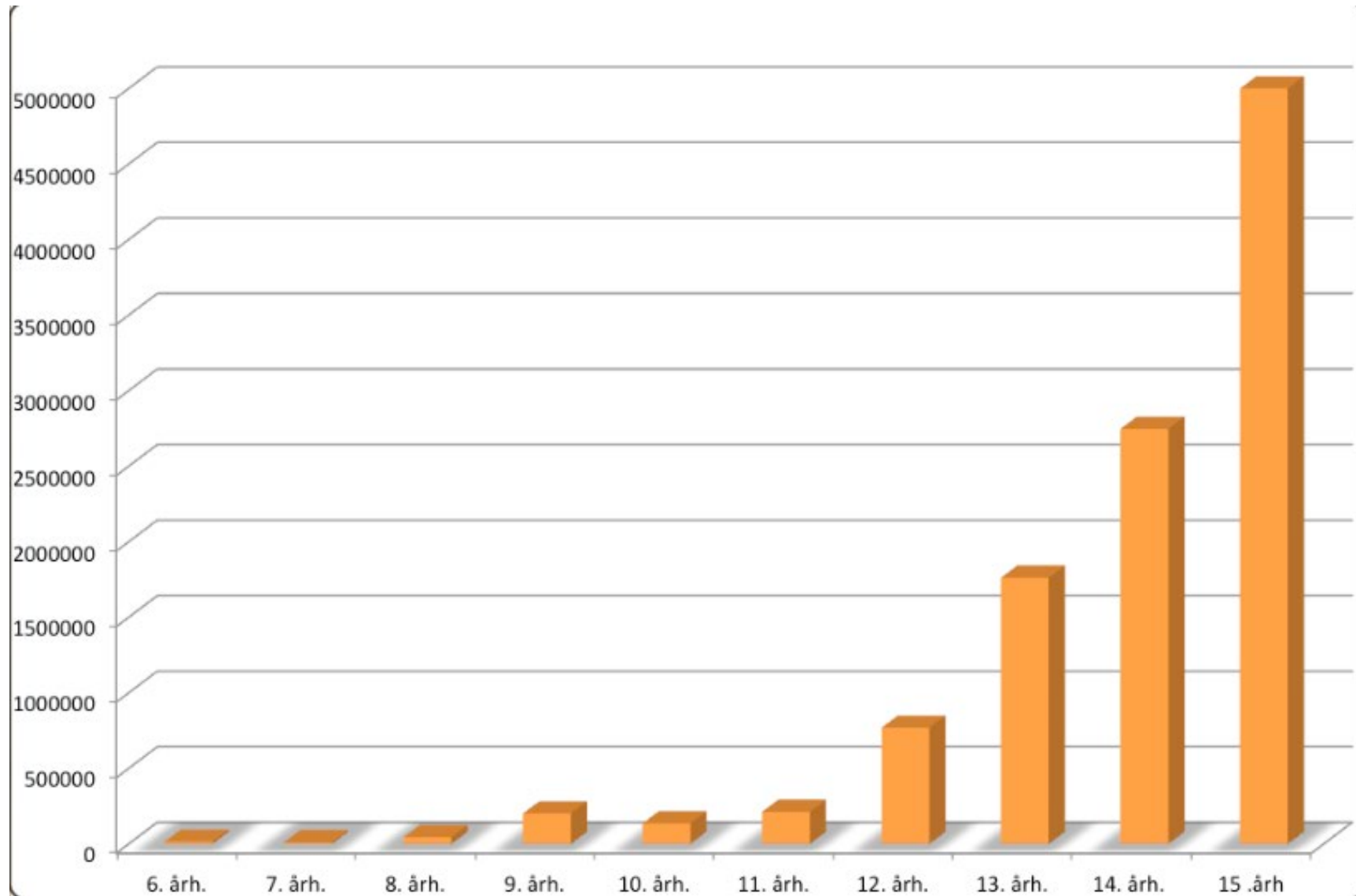
The Roman poet, Martialis c. 85 CE

qui tecum cupis esse meos ubicumque libellos
et comites longae quaeris habere viae,
hos eme, quos artat breuibus membrana tabellis:
scrinia da magnis, me manus una capit.
ne tamen ignores ubi sim uenalis et erres
urbe uagus tota, me duce certus eris:
libertum docti Lucensis quaere Secundum
limina post Pacis Palladiumque forum.

You who long for my little books to be with you everywhere and want to have companions for a long journey, buy these ones which parchment confines within small pages: give your scroll-cases to the great authors - one hand can hold me. So that you are not ignorant of where I am on sale, and don't wander aimlessly through the whole city, I will be your guide and you will be certain: look for Secundus, the freedman of learned Lucensis, behind the threshold of the Temple of Peace and the Forum of Pallas.

AT INVS XENEA SINGENTI MOLES IN VIGRAM
 IN PONIT SVXONEM MAIOR EMV MOVETV DAMOVE
 MONTE SVB AERIOQV NVNCALISE NVSABILLO
 DICITV ANTE ANVM MOVETENET PERSAECVLX NO MEN
 TIS ACTI SIKOPEA EXSECVITV ANNECITASIBYLINE
 SPEIVNGA METAVITVASTOQVEINAMANISTHATV
 SCNVPEATVMACVNTGAONEMOVM MOVETENIBALS
 QVAMSVPERAVDVLINEPOTERANTINPVNEVOLANTES
 TENDEREITERANNISTALLSSESETCALITVSATRIS
 FAXCIBVSEFFVNDENSSVPERADCONVEXATEAEAT
 QVATTVORTICIPAMVMNIGAAANTI STERGAIVVENCOS
 CONSTITVITFRONTIQVEINVERGITVINASACERDOS
 ETSVLMASCAPIENSAMEDIANTERCORNVASAITAS
 IGNIBVSINPONITSACRISIBAMINNAKIAA
 VOCEVOCANSTHECANTENCALLOQVEEADBOQVEPOTENTEAM
 SVPPONVNTALLICVITROSTEIDVMOVFCVOREAM
 SVCCIPVNTATERISISEXTRIVELLERYSAGNAM
 AENEASMATRIVMENIDVAMAGNEQVLSORORI
 ENSEFERITSTERILEMOVETIBIROSERPINAVACCAAI
 TVALSTYGIOREGINOCTVANA SCOTATARAS
 ETSOLIDAINPONITTAVROKVAIVISCERATIAMMIS
 LINGVSVTEAQVEQVAVITVNDENSARDENTI BVSEXTIS
 ECCEANTEAMRIAMSVBVMINNASOLLSETOATVS

Estimate of handcopied books 500-1500 (W. Europe)



The (fortunate?) shipwreck of Nordic hand-copied books c. 1050-1500

- At the Reformation (1530s) most books became "obsolete"
- Survival rates much better in Catholic Europe, but even in protestant England and Germany too
- In the Nordic countries they mainly disappeared through neglect
- Some were then actively destroyed for practical reasons, especially between c. 1560 and 1660 when solid wrappers were needed for paper accounts
- We now have c. 50.000 fragments kept at the four national archives

3043
mea: qua ut ueniamere
ar: Ecce exis me hodie
a facie dñi: & a facie tua
abfcondar: & ero mag
& pfug mīa. Qui nūc
g qui inuenerit me:
occidet me. Dixit dñs.
qua qm fiet ita: for nūc
occiderit cam fepulc
pumer. Posuim dñs cam
in fignū: ut nē mīr fi
ceret oī qui inueniret eu.

Egreffusq: cam **Le. m.**
a facie dñi: habi
tauit in cāra pfug ad on
entalē plagā eden. Igno
uit autē cam uxore suā:
que concepit & peperit
enoch. Et edificauit ciui
tate. uocauitq: nomē ei
ex nomine filii sui enoch.
Porro enoch genuit irad
genuit mauabel & ma
uabel genuit matiael
& matiael genuit ge
nuit lamech. Qui accepit
uxores fuas nomē unū ada:

& nomen alteri
Genuit ada
lamech q fuit
cum intentorū
Et nomē fīrū ei nūc
fuit pat canem
& organo. Sella i
tubal cham: qui
leator & faber m
opa erit & ferri

Sororū tuba
noemna
mech uxoris sui
sella. Audite uocē
uxoris lamech: &
sermonē meū. Qu
iurū muulnū mei
olefcentiā in lu
Septuaginta ultio d
cam de lamech u
gref fepulc. **Le. i**

Cognouit qu
huc ada ux
& peperit filiū: uoca
nomē ei feth dicens
m dñs sem alud p
quē occidit cam:

*Abuius Glodh
Hegensdals fra 1516
v. 1603. dag 1637
1638.*

*Monte Girardino ex Bergom
Dante 1481. Indag. o. 1637.
96. p. 1. 1637.*

*De 1. 1637.
1637.*

Fixet Reges tal. offit. Baasij.

*De am. 1637.
1637.*

Stallanger Leber

Pallen Ged. och Kveföletis
Cuarisjons sesats
1636. 1637. 1638.

*Minister Bergom
1637.*

1637.

1637.

E:

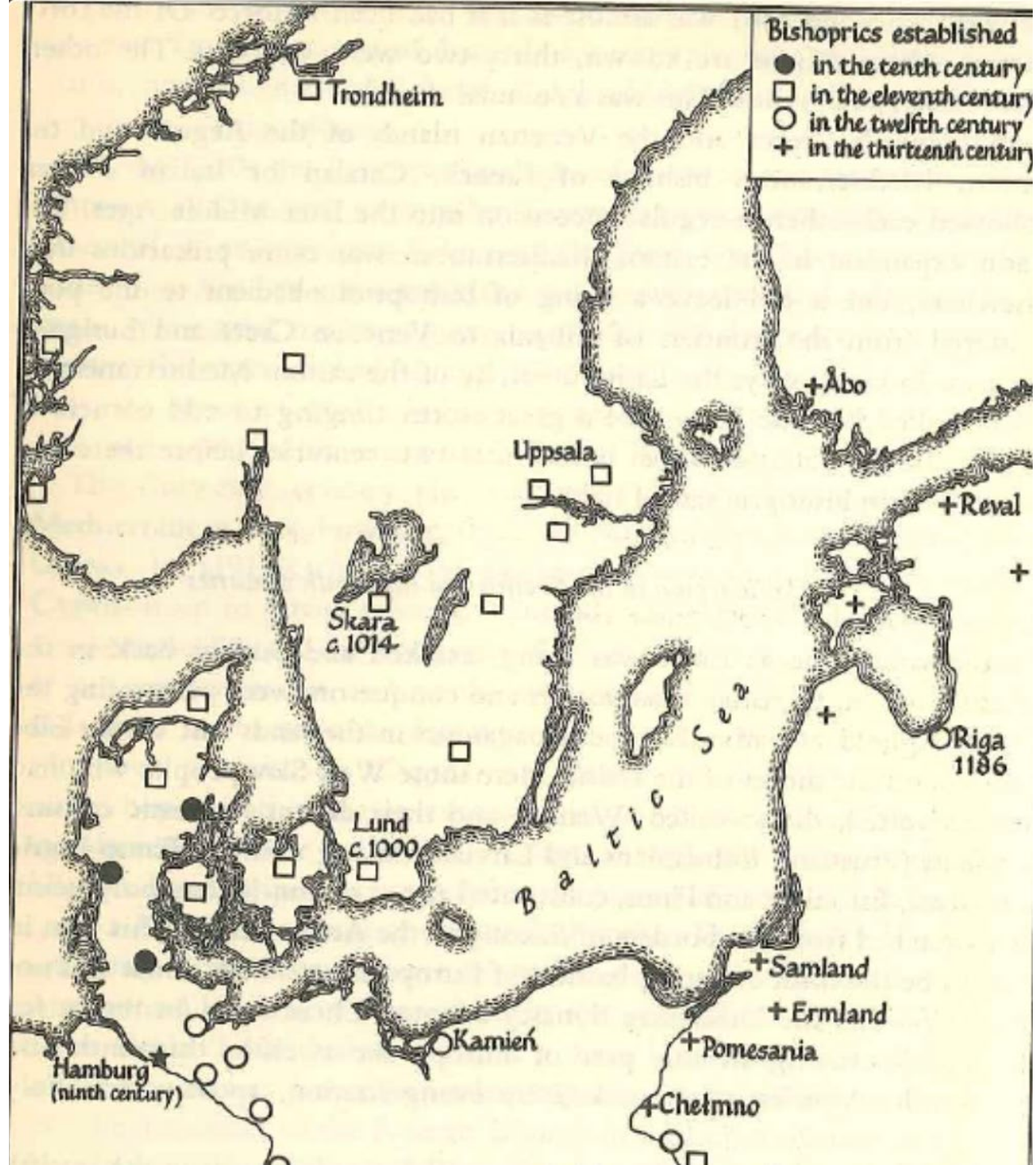
CODICUM

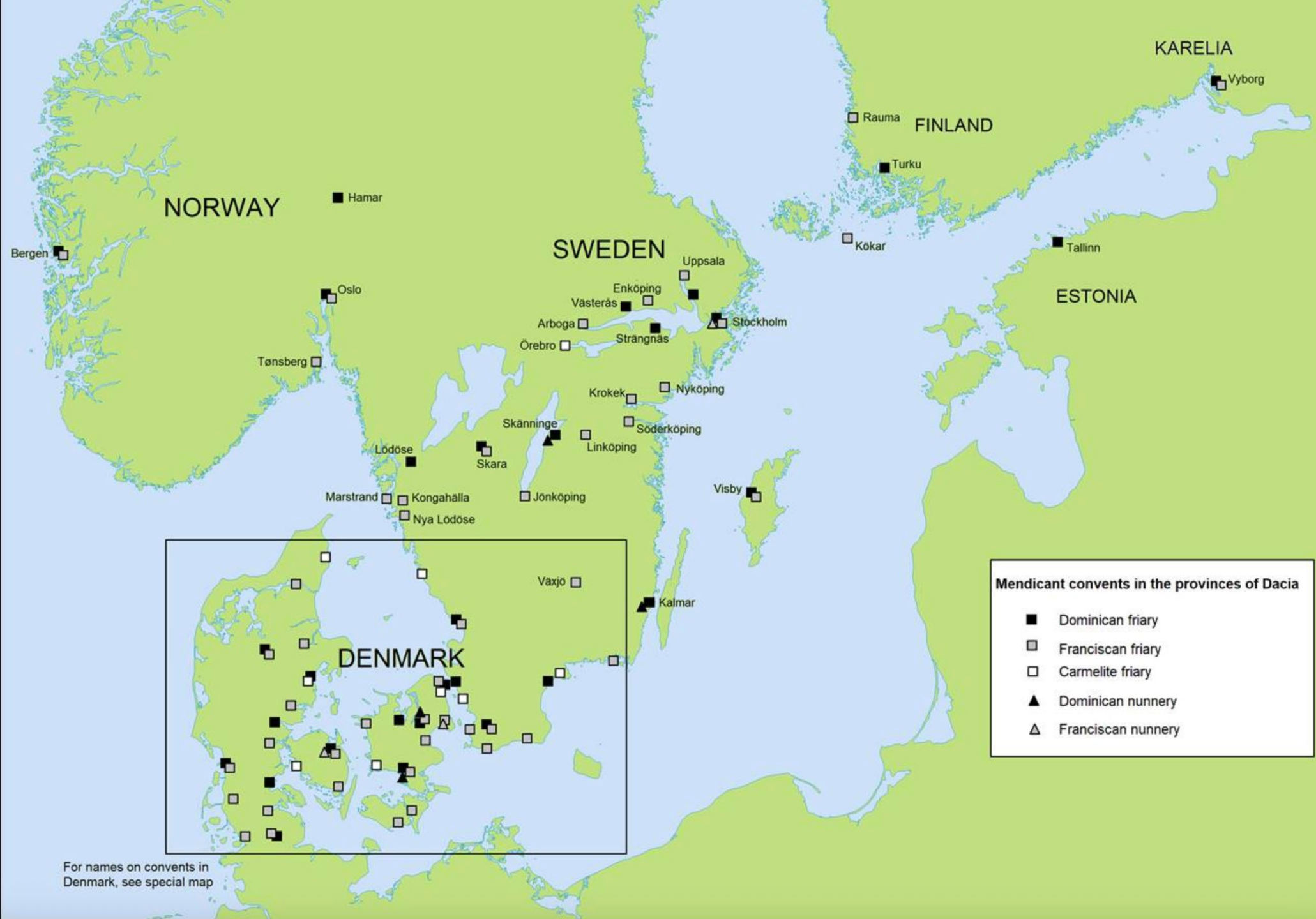
CORE TEAM



Key

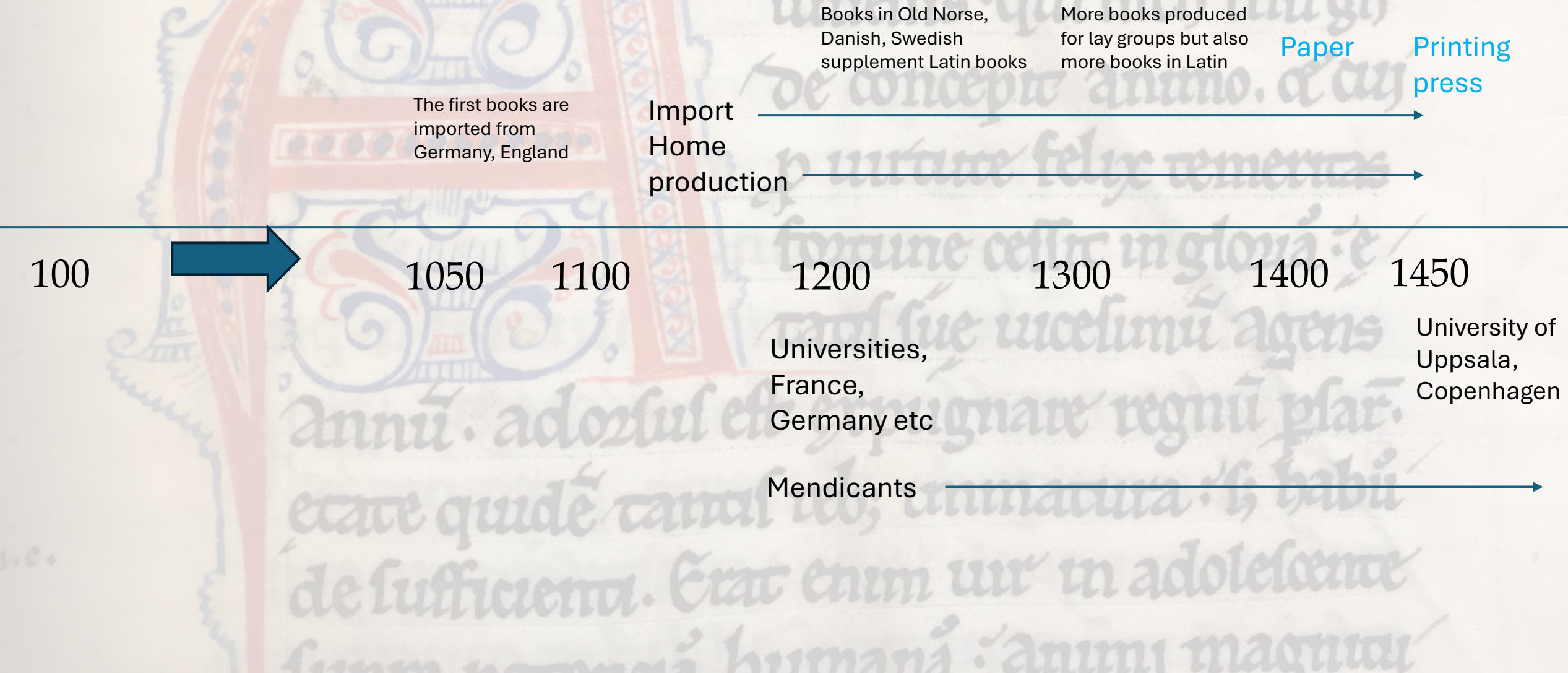
-  Major collection
-  Libraries with fragments





For names on convents in Denmark, see special map

Nordic book history timeline



(some of) the objectives of CODICUM

- not about discovery of unknown texts – we already know that they fall into these main groups: liturgy, theology, medicine, law, ‘literature’ (history, hagiography)
- (1) Import vs homemade?
- (2) Networks of knowledge (and ritual cohesion, “sammenhængskraft”)
- (3) Putting the less known and fragmented Nordic medieval book culture on the European map
- (4) “textual heritage” vs literary history, European vs national
 - "foreign and catholic" -> European -> "ours"
- (5) cutting edge biocodicology – new methods, new groupings of fragments?

Josephus Latinus in the North, c. 1100-1250

Bellum Judaicum
(7 books) –
completed c. 79.

- Translated into Latin c. 400. Some Carolingian copies, and became widespread from the 11th c. onwards

• *Antiquitates
Judaicae* (20
books) –
completed 93-94.

- translated into Latin c. 550. also very important in Latin Europe in the long 12th c.

UNESCO's categories:

-> *Beowulf* is included, but not Homer or Plato....

Tangible

Intangible

Documentary

Why is
the book
archive
before
printing a
special
case?

The specific textual fluidity
before printing

Our distance to the relevant
main languages

The disproportionate weight of
the textual record in
understanding the distant past.

