

Abstract

The present thesis is a codicological and textual investigation of Codex Holmiensis A 49 (often called "Nådendals klosterbok"), a large medieval manuscript, written almost entirely in Swedish and containing around 30 texts.

A 49 is believed to have belonged to the Birgittine Abbey at Nådendal (in present-day Finland), which was a double monastery with communities of both nuns and monks. An attempt has been made in the thesis to contribute to the clarification of the various units' place of production (Vadstena or Nådendal) and use (the nuns or the monks).

A 49 is divisible into 13-14 production units. They seem not to have been intended as constituent parts of a single book, and the designation "Nådendals klosterbok", which is found on three separate occasions in the manuscript, refers to a codex which was presumably planned as a distinct collection of texts, the precise contents of which cannot now be determined. Plans for this book were presumably laid out at Vadstena Abbey, probably with the nuns intended as the primary environment where it would be used. Various production units in A 49 point, however, towards the monks, albeit without ruling out the possibility of use by the nuns. The manuscript's likely use in both houses is a potential reason for its fairly late binding.

The thesis discusses a series of theoretical and methodological questions, which are of particular relevance to the analysis of complex manuscripts, and the analyses hopefully show the methodological fruitfulness of coordinating a systematic codicological analysis of so-called multitext books with a textual analysis of the individual production units' texts, all the while taking into account the wider textual landscape which the individual textual witness, the individual production unit and the individual manuscript are a part of.