WRITING PEASANTS

STUDIES ON PEASANT LITERACY IN EARLY MODERN NORTHERN EUROPE

Edited by

Klaus-Joachim Lorenzen-Schmidt
Bjørn Poulsen

Meinem lieben Freund Ignace mit herzlichen Grüßen von

LANDBOHISTORISK SELSKAB
## Contents

**Preface** ......................................................................................................................... 8

**Abbreviations** ............................................................................................................... 9

**Introduction**

KLAUS-JOACHIM LORENZEN-SCHMIDT  
and BJØRN POUlsen  ................................................................................................. 11

1 Some Reflections on the Peasant's Relationship to  
Written Documents in Agrarian Society  
KERSTIN SUNDBERG  ................................................................................................ 19

2 Early Literality in Rural Communication in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period.  
The Example of Schleswig-Holstein  
KLAUS-JOACHIM LORENZEN-SCHMIDT  ..................................................................... 33

3 The *Memorial und Jurenal* of Peter Hansen Hajstrup (1624-1672).  
Literacy as a Precondition for Leaving the Peasant's World  
DETLEF KRAACK  ..................................................................................................... 50

4 A 17th Century Zealand Parish Clerk and his Diary  
MARGIT MOGENSEN  .................................................................................................. 77

5 Danish Peasants in the Process of Modernization.  
Some Notebooks and Diaries from the Period of Land Reform in the Late 18th and Early 19th Century  
BJARNE STOKLUND  .................................................................................................. 87
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Peasant, Soldier and Subject. Military Service and Patriotic Discourse in Danish Peasant Writing</td>
<td>TINE DAMSHOLT</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A Thirst for Knowledge and Religion. A late 18th Century Schleswig Rural Writing Book</td>
<td>BJØRN POULSEN</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Peasants’ Accounting Books in the Context of a Market-Oriented Agricultural Development. The Case of Westphalia 1750-1880</td>
<td>MICHAEL KOPSIDIS</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Information Management and Education in the Age of the Handwritten Letter: An ‘Open University Course’ in the Early 19th Century</td>
<td>KARL-HEINZ ZIESSOW</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>‘Barefoot Historians’: Education in Iceland in the Modern Period</td>
<td>SIGURÐUR GYLFI MAGNÚSSON and DAVID ÓLAFSSON</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>‘Self-written Lives’ or Why did Peasants Write Autobiographies?</td>
<td>BRITT LILJEWALL</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Erik Axel Karlfeldt – the Farmer’s Son who Kept a Diary and Won the Nobel Prize</td>
<td>JANKEN MYRDAL</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13 A Personal Document from the Southern Provinces of the Netherlands: Naissance and 'Double Character' of the Panken Diaries
   PETER MEURKENS ........................................ 252

14 Peasant Diaries as a Microhistorical Investigation.
   LIV EGHOLM ........................................ 271