

Göteborgsstudier i nordisk språkvetenskap 26

# Lov og tekst i middelalderen

Produksjon og resepsjon  
av Magnus Lagabøtes landslov

*(English Summary)*

av Anna Catharina Horn

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## Abstract

This thesis investigates fifteen out of a total of thirty-nine extant manuscripts containing The Norwegian Code of the Realm (1274), henceforth the Code. They are all dated before 1400. The fifteen manuscripts display some kind of harmonization of two particular chapters in the sections on assault and land rent, respectively. I work from the hypothesis that these manuscripts share a common background in a particular exemplar and/or scribal milieu.

The thesis has two aims. One is to further our understanding of the relation between the preserved MSS of the Code. The other is to develop a method for analysis of texts which display contamination, or texts that have been transmitted using several exemplars. The analyses are based on parameters that are tied to the production and reception of the Code.

The new method is composed of elements from both textual criticism and material philology. The object of study is raised from the level of the word, phrase, or clause to that of the graphic unit of the *chapter*, defined by elements as initials and rubrics. The chapter is the crucial component upon which the structure of the Code is built.

First, a selection of variables regarding codicology, layout, and script are analyzed. Based on the scribes' ability to execute these features, the manuscripts are sorted into three levels of proficiency.

Second, the analysis of the structure of the text shifts to a focus on the order of the chapters. Thus, the structures of the fifteen manuscripts are put into a diagram. The variants are revealed as patterns, which show that the manuscripts have additional variants in common. Nearly all variants relating to rearrangement or interpolation turn out to be attested in earlier regional laws, although by the time when the Code was promulgated, these should presumably have been rendered obsolete. This suggests that the manuscripts derive from a milieu where the Code was seen as a symbiosis of old and new rules, and that older law codes were used as exemplars together with the new Code in order to produce the most convenient Code.

KEYWORDS: Law, text work, text witness, text carrier, Middle Ages, Magnus Lagabøtes landslov, codicology, palaeography, scribe, textual criticism, material philology, textual structure, textuality, manuscript culture.

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