

Exhibition About Norway's Role in the Colonization of Greenland

(Oslo, January 6) Norway's role in the colonization of Greenland is little-known. An important part of this history is now showcased in a theme exhibition at the Nordic Bible Museum in Oslo.

Headed for Greenland in 1721

A crucial part of the history of Greenland is related to how the Bible was introduced to the colossal island kingdom in the West. The story began when Hans Egede and his family traveled to Greenland in 1721 on behalf of Denmark-Norway and King Frederick IV. Egede could not find any remaining vikings, but did alternatively direct his missionary work toward the indigenous peoples.

Greenland's first introduction to written language and a new way of thinking

The theme exhibition of the Bible museum illuminates how the Greenlandic translation aided in the development of the Greenlandic language and culture. The Bible became the first encounter between the inhabitants of Greenland and a written language. Simultaneously, a brand new way of viewing the world was introduced.

The exhibition has been given the name "Kalaallit Nunaat (land of the Kalaallit) - The history of the Greenlandic Bible" and comprises, among others, the rare first Greenlandic translation from 1766. Several other historically significant translations can also be found.

Exciting exhibition for all history enthusiasts

Executive director at the Nordic Bible Museum, Rune Arnhoff, welcomes everyone to the museum to learn more about Norway's part in the colonization, as well as the Bible's role amid two cultures. The museum has also released a brochure for the exhibition. Parts of the exhibition can be said to contain disheartening accounts of European colonization and missionary work.

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Photo caption:

1. Rare Greenlandic Bibles (Photo: The Nordic Bible and Book Museum)





2. Testamente Nutak - The New Testament from 1766 (Photo: The Nordic Bible and Book Museum)