

Songs of the soldiers

Introduction in English to 'Soldaternes viser'.

My web page 'Soldaternes viser' will give you an introduction to an exiting universe about Danish drafted soldiers who were involved in the Napoleonic wars (ca. 1805-1820). A few of them left a note book where they had written down various subjects, mainly songs.

The pages 'Formål' and 'Baggrund' tell in Danish about the purpose and the background of my study, and via 'Visebøgerne' you may find the eight song books that I have found untill now. A facsimile of some of the song books and a fair copy of all the song books are present.

'Viseoversigt' has links to a table of all 191 songs in the song books. The page also has tables showing the subjects of the songs and the language used. There are no songs in English, but English people might be interested in the following songs:

Song book writer	Page	Song	Comments
Christian Hansen	64	<i>Ein englischer Husar...</i>	Song originally featuring a Prussian hussar, but here an English hussar. He is taken prisoner by the French but he is so cold-blooded that the French general Davout (prince of Eckmüll) pardons him. The change of nationality is interesting, as England was the enemy of Denmark most of the war.
Jørgen Madsen Skyum	10	<i>Dronning Caroline... Queen Eleanor's Confession.</i>	Translation af traditional English ballad <i>Queen Eleanor's Confession</i> . The change of name into Caroline might originate in the English princess, Caroline Matilda, who married the Danish king, Christian VII, and who was later exiled to Celle in Hanover.
Jens Madsen Hinge	12	<i>Tre høje herrer monne skrive om Bretland...</i>	Bretland is old Norse for Britain, and the song describes an imaginary dialogue between the later king Frederik VI (as crown prince) and admiral Nelson on the day of the sea battle off Copenhagen in 1801.

The page 'Kontakt' gives you the opportunity to contact me, and I would be happy to receive any comments or inquiries.

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Jens Rasmussen