

# A Visit to the Faroe Islands in 1942 by Gabriel Turville-Petre

*Ein vitjan í Føroyum í 1942  
hjá Gabriel Turville-Petre*

*Thorlac Turville-Petre*

School of English, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

Email: Thorlac.Turville-Petre@nottingham.ac.uk

## Abstract

In his journal Gabriel Turville-Petre gives an account of his travels through the Faroe Islands in 1942. Despatched by the Foreign Office to investigate the views of the people during the British occupation, he met politicians such as Christmas Møller, Carl Aage Hilbert, Peter Mohr Dam and Kristian Djurhuus, writers such as Jóannes Patursson, Símun av Skarði and Janus Djurhuus, as well as farmers and businessmen, boatmen and schoolteachers. He gives his views, not always complimentary, on their characters and opinions. He describes the language and literature, the scenery and (less enthusiastically) the weather, as well as the food he was given, such as skerpikjøt, and traditions such as the chain dance.

## Úrtak

Í dagbók síni greiðir Gabriel Turville-Petre frá sínum ferðum í Føroyum í 1942. Foreign Office hevði sent hann avstað fyri at kanna sjónarmið hjá fólkinum undir bretsku hersetingini; hann hitti politikarar, m.a. Christmas Møller, Carl Aage Hilbert, Petur Mohr Dam og Kristian Djurhuus, høvundar, m.a. Jóannes Patursson, Símun av Skarði og Janus Djurhuus eins og bóndir, handilsmenn, sjófólk og skúlalærarar. Hann setur fram síni sjónarmið, ikki altíð rósandi, um teirra persónsmenskur og meiningar. Hann lýsir málið og bókmentirnar, landslagið og (minni eldhugaður) veðrið eins og matin, sum hann fekk, m.a. skerpikjøt, og siðaarvin, m.a. føroyska dansin.

## Introduction

Gabriel Turville-Petre (1908-78)<sup>1</sup> studied Icelandic at Oxford under the direction of J. R. R. Tolkien, and made several visits to Iceland, before being appointed Lektor at the University of Iceland and British pro-Consul in Reykjavík (1936-8). In 1941 Oxford appointed him to the Vigfússon Readership in Ancient Icelandic Literature and Antiquities (with the title of Professor from 1953), but he was then serving as a cryptanalyst at Bletchley Park and did not take up the post until after the War. In August 1942 the Foreign Office despatched him to the Faroe Islands during the British occupation ‘in order to study the inhabitants, their politics and conditions of life’.<sup>2</sup> Evidently his main task was to report on Faroese views about relationships with Britain and Denmark, and the strength of the wish for independence. He stayed there for two months. He did not generally keep a diary, and so this record of his visit must have been made as a background to a report to the Foreign Office, although it includes many details that would not have interested the officials.

Three months after leaving the Faroes, in January 1943, he married Joan Blomfield, who was herself a scholar of Old English and Old Icelandic. They had three sons. He visited Scandinavia many times after the war, and spent some months teaching Icelandic as Visiting Professor at Melbourne University in Australia, which he found immensely rewarding.

His scholarly publications include an edition of *Víga Glúms Saga* (1940), *The Heroic Age of Scandinavia* (1951) *Origins of Icelandic Literature* (1953) which traces

the roots of the sagas, *Myth and Religion of the North* (1964), described as ‘the best account of Old-Norse – Icelandic mythology in English’,<sup>3</sup> *Nine Norse Studies* (1972), and *Scaldic Poetry* (1976), focusing on the poetry of Egil Skallagrímsson. He was awarded the title of Officer (1956) and Commander (1963) of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon, and received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Iceland (1961) and Uppsala (1977); in 1973 he was elected Fellow of the British Academy. In 1976 the Viking Society for Northern Research instituted an annual Turville-Petre prize for the best student essay on Norse studies, and after his death the Oxford English Faculty established a Turville-Petre Room to house his extensive library.

In a lecture delivered to his Foreign Office colleagues on his return, he remarks on his attempts to bone up on the Faroe Islands before his trip, but notes how little reliable information was available: ‘I had one book entitled A Description of Ferroe, and this was a remarkably good book, but it was published in 1676 and was beginning to be out of date’.<sup>4</sup> In his lecture he gives a general description of the islands, the people and their history, ‘part of the flotsam and jetsam washed ashore on these unhospitable rocks as the waves of Viking migration flowed over western Europe’. He outlines religious and political history, the subjection to Norway and Denmark, the growing independence movements, and their linkage with Faroese language and literary culture. His lecture continues:

These notes about the Faroese language have brought me to the modern period of Faroese politics. Early in the present century the nationalist movement began to make itself [felt]. The islanders then split up into two main political parties, called the Unionists and the Home Rulers.<sup>5</sup> One of the chief points at issue between them was the language question. The Unionists, moreover, wished the Faroes to remain an integral part of the Danish State. The Home Rulers, at first, demanded Home Rule for the Faroe Islands within the Danish State – though since then, their demands have increased. The founder of the Home Rule Party, and for many years its leader, was the poet and historian Mr. Jóannes Patursson. Both of these parties took seats in the Løgting and have sent representatives to the Danish Rigsdag.<sup>6</sup> In 1928, the Social-Democrats<sup>7</sup> first won seats in the Løgting. At first this party showed strong nationalist tendencies, but collaboration with the Danish Social-Democrats, who formed the main prop of the Danish Government, seems to have modified their nationalism. In 1939 there was a cleft within the Home Rule Party, because some of its members agreed to submit to certain economic plans which the Danish Government had prepared for the Faroe Islands, and others refused. The result was that the original leader of the Home Rule Party, Jóannes Patursson, broke off from it and formed a new party called the People's Party (Fólkaflokkur). In the last election which was held for the Løgting, in January 1940, the seats were divided as follows: Unionists 8, Socialists



Gabriel Turville-Petre.

6, Home Rulers 4 and People's Party 6. It should be noted that this was the first election contested by the People's Party, and so the result probably did not give a correct idea of its strength.

The policies of the four parties in the few months before the occupation of Denmark by Germany and of the Faroe Islands by Britain may be summed up as follows:

The unionists advocated the maintenance of the status quo. The Faroes were to remain an integral part of the Danish State as an Amt or county, and to be administered by a Danish Amtmand, directly responsible to the Danish Government in Copenhagen. They argu-

ed in support of this policy that the Faroe Islands enjoyed a substantial subsidy – about 2 million kroner per year – from the Danish exchequer. In short, the Unionists were a Conservative Party. The Social-Democrats modelled themselves closely on the Social-Democrats of Denmark, with the difference that they advocated the official use of the Faroese language and the Faroese flag within the islands, and favoured the Home Rulers' demands for a larger measure of autonomy within the Faroe Islands.

The policy of the Home Rulers was never made quite clear. In internal matters they agree largely with the Socialists, but they laid more emphasis on nationalism and the need for home rule. Many of them also demand the right for the Faroese to send trade representatives abroad. The Home Rulers have made it clear that they do not necessarily wish to sever connections with the Danish State. They would probably be content to obtain a larger measure of autonomy within it.

The People's Party, although they have not expressed it exactly in those words, let it be known that they desired practically complete separation from Denmark.

This was the situation when Denmark was occupied by German forces on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1940. At that moment it appeared that the Faroes were a country with neither a government nor a system of government. Communications with the Government in Copenhagen were interrupted, and so this Government could not act in the Faroe Islands. The People's Party were not slow

to exploit the situation and immediately formulated proposals for the temporary government and administration of the islands until such time as communications with the Copenhagen Government were restored, and the Danish Government were liberated from German influence. They argued, not altogether illogically, that since the Danish Government and the Danish Rigsdag were now under German control, the Faroe Islands, which were neutral, and intended to remain so, could not recognise their authority. Therefore it was necessary for the Faroese people to devise some new system under which the islands should be governed temporarily. The model of the suspended Danish Constitution should be imitated as closely as possible. Above all, the temporary Constitution should be democratic. Therefore the county-council, or Løgting, should assume supreme legislative authority, thus taking over the functions both of the Danish Government and Parliament. The office of the Amtmand would remain administrative, as before. But instead of being responsible to the Danish Government and Rigsdag, the Amtmand would now be responsible to the elected representatives of the Faroese people, the Løgting, and to the Government which it would appoint.

The Amtmand now acted with noteworthy boldness and courage, clearly demonstrating his loyalty to his own Government. On 11<sup>th</sup> April he summoned the Løgting and announced to it that the Danish Government was still in being, and that it still had supreme authority in internal affairs. Moreover he, he said, had

been entrusted with plenipotentiary powers to act on behalf of the Danish Government and Rigsdag. On what this claim was based I do not know. One might have expected to see a large, pompous document signed by the King and Prime Minister and approved by the Danish Rigsdag. But the Amtmand produced no document in support of his claim to sovereign authority. Nevertheless, one cannot doubt that he acted with conviction and in good faith. He certainly believed that he had a right to these plenipotentiary powers. This much, at least, must be said for his claim: the Danish Government probably would have given him the powers which he claimed had it been in a position to do so. But this is something of an assumption.

The People's Party hotly contested the Amtmand's claims, largely on the ground that they could not recognise the authority of a man who represented the "German-Danish" Government in Copenhagen.

Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1940 the political state of the Faroes was somewhat tense. It may now be disclosed that the People's Party planned a coup d'état, whereby they would oust the Amtmand and establish a new democratic state. But on 13<sup>th</sup> April the first British forces arrived, after Mr Churchill had announced that the Faroe Islands would be held by Britain until such time as they could be handed back to a free Denmark.

On the arrival of the British, the Amtmand's position was unexpectedly strengthened. He formally protested to

the British authorities against the occupation, and in return they addressed him, not as Mr Amtmand, but as His Excellency the Governor. This they did, I believe, because they did not know any better, but it was a convenient mistake.

The British announced that they had no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of the Faroe Islands. They hoped that the administration would continue under the Governor, with the collaboration of the Løgting.

When the British landed, nearly everyone in the Faroes was pleased. The Governor was pleased, because the occupation relieved a tense situation, and because he had received assurances that the British would support his administration. The nationalists seem also to have been pleased, but for quite a different reason. They did not think that the British would give very hearty support to an Amtmand who represented the interests of a Government which was collaborating with the Nazis of Berlin.

The Governor again acted with skill and political astuteness, and outwitted his enemies. He negotiated with the British authorities who, though they knew little about it, were anxious to help the Faroe Islands in every possible way. They recognised the Amtmand, or Governor as they called him, as plenipotentiary representative of the imprisoned Danish Government. Without making difficulties they agreed that he should borrow any funds necessary for the administration on behalf of the Danish Government. In this way he gained the support of three out of four political parties in the Løgting. The

Socialists and Home Rulers agreed to collaborate with him apparently because they feared that, if they did not, necessary funds would not be forthcoming and the islands would find themselves in financial straits.

Together with the Amtmand the leaders of these three political parties drafted a temporary constitution for the Faroe Islands. It is under this constitution that the islands are administered now. It provides that the Amtmand shall have the authority of all Cabinet Ministers. In the administration of State finances his powers are nearly dictatorial, at any rate on paper. In other matters the Løgting has the right to pass bills, but the Amtmand has an absolute power of veto.

The only party in the Løgting which opposed the temporary constitution was the People's Party. This party has steadfastly refused to recognise the plenipotentiary powers which the Amtmand claims to hold. Mr. Jóannes Patursson and Thorstein Petersen are vociferous and energetic propagandists. They publish their scathing criticism of the Amtmand and of the Danish administration in their newspaper *Dagblaðið*. They object continuously that the temporary constitution is insufficiently democratic, and say that they cannot recognise the authority of a man who represents the German-controlled Government of Copenhagen.

A passage on the 'chain dance' supplies background information on the account of the dance at the end of the journal:

In the Faroe Islands no musical instruments are used to accompany the chain

dance. Instead, the dancers themselves chant long detailed ballads rhythmically and monotonously. Often these ballads run to as much as 600 lines in length. Some of those chanted today can be shown on linguistic and other evidence to be as old as the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The subject matter of these ballads is very devious. Some of them retell the stories of the Icelandic sagas – an indication of how widely the Icelandic sagas were known in the Faroe Islands in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Others, and these are not less popular, relate the exploits of famous heroes of medieval Europe – Siegfried, Charlemagne, Roland, Tristram. It is a remarkable fact that ballads about these ancient heroes are still chanted spontaneously and unaffectedly in the Faroe Islands.

Now the importance of these ballads from the social and political point of view is, first of all, that they have helped the Faroese people to remember that they are not Danes, nor even Norwegians, but that they are culturally a distinct nation. Furthermore, the ballads have kept the Faroese language alive and comparatively pure, through a period when every attempt was made to supplant it with Danish.



## The Journal <sup>8</sup>

**14/8/42:** Arrived Edinburgh at 4.10 A.M. Christmas Møller and I went at once to the Danish consul who gave us breakfast.<sup>9</sup> Left Ed[inburgh] 7.50 & went to Inverkeithing, flying from Donniebrissel [= Donibristle] naval airport at about 10. Arrived at Kirkwall at about 11.45 and sailed from there on H. M. Oakley about 12.45. The journey went very smoothly and we arrived in Thorshavn about 10.30 P.M. The Governor had been with us since Edinburgh.<sup>10</sup> The journey was arranged for his benefit.

On arrival the Governor invited us to stay with him. He then held a party at which many were present – Danes and people from the Brit. garrison – not one native of the islands. Does this mean a cleft between the Dan., Brit. & Færoese sections of the population? The British Consul, who was at the party, has a Danish wife.<sup>11</sup>

**15/8:** Spent most of the day talking with Mason & reading some of his papers. It rained very heavily all day, so I did not see much. In the evening I returned to the Governor with whom I met Mr Samuelsen, Chairman of the Sambandsparti.<sup>12</sup> Christmas Møller seemed very tired, restless and rather depressed. He is going to address a meeting in a day or two. Quite a nice but uneventful day.

**Sunday 16/8:** Had stayed the night at Governor's house. Got up late and had breakfast about 10.30. Spent the rest of morning reading about economic conditions in Færoes (Betænkning angaaende

Færøernes Erhvervsforhold, Thorshavn 1939). Lunched with Governor. Samuelsen was there again. I had some talk with him. He expressed a singular dislike for the Norwegians – their self-esteem. I could not help thinking he was afraid of them. In the afternoon I moved from the Governor's house to Mr Ingerslev. Ingerslev is in charge of Cable & Wireless (Great Northern Telegraph?). Very talkative, hospitable & cheerful. Mrs Ingerslev described the social relations between Dane and Færoese. She had found them very strained. The Færoese talk little and appear somewhat uneasy, perhaps suspicious. In other countries she had always been able to invite the wives of her husband's assistants to spend the evening, or for tea etc. Not so here, for if they came they would sit and say nothing. I have not yet looked at the question from the Færoese point of view.

**Monday 17/8/42:** Worked in morning, chiefly at Færoese Grammar, also reading Patursson's Føroya Söga.<sup>13</sup> In afternoon went to Jacobsen's 'Bókahandil' & made friends with the two brothers Niclasen, who own it. Both very fat, talkative, jovial and educated. They talked about the attitude of Danes to Færoese literature, history, etc. "If we like our own things, the Danes think we do not like them. But we like the Danes – we have been to school in Denmark and have friends there." Until recently Færoese was not taught in the schools at all. The Niclasens are nephews of Jakob Jakobsen.<sup>14</sup> Later in the day Mason took me to see Zachariassen, the Telegraph director and leader of Sjálvstýrisfl.<sup>15</sup> He talked intelligently about philol-

ogy and Færoese literature. I shall see him again.

**18/8/42:** Had lunch on trawler Tíree. Worked the rest of day, also slept, because Færoese sleepiness has not yet left me. The “high spot” came in the evening, viz. the Governor’s reception for Xmas M[øller]. Crowds of talkative people. Mostly Danes and British, also a few Færoese, mainly leaders of political parties friendly to the Danes.

**19/8/42:** Saw NOIC [Naval Officer in Charge] in afternoon. He told me about his travels in the islands was generally helpful & promised every assistance. In evening party at Consul’s for Christmas Møller. Party a great success. Everyone in good form.

**20/8/42:** A busy day – a discussion with Christmas Møller 9-10 A.M. then with Oscar Larsen. Have made mental notes of these discussions. Drank some gin with Col. Mackley and other officers before lunch. They gave me maps and told me of their experiences here. Discussed the Danish-Færoese question. Tea-party in afternoon with Mr Ingerslev. Christmas Møller was there. Afterwards I went to XM’s [Christmas Møller’s] lecture and was very impressed. He spoke of events in DK. since 9 April 1940. He was very well received by Danes and Færoese. I summarised the lecture.

**21/8/42:** Went to Library and talked to A. M. Jacobsen, the librarian (also Mayor) – a very civilized sort of man.<sup>16</sup> In evening

went to see L. Zachariassen Chairman of Sjálvstýrisflokkun. He helped me with my Færoese. Turned out to be very well up in literary and linguistic questions. He has translated Faust I into Færoese, p[ubl]ishe[d] in Varðin. He discussed the policy of DK. towards the Færoes, esp. the linguistic policy. He thought that, after the war, the relationship between DK. & F. would have to be changed. F. should still be linked with DK. in foreign affairs etc., but she should make her own laws for internal affairs, and have her own commercial representation and policy in GB. On the whole L.Z. did not seem very friendly to DK. His wife was present. She seemed exceptionally civilized & cultured.

**22/8/42:** Sailed 8.00 A.M. from Tórshavn on the small Færoe S/S ‘Smirill’. Called first at Skálavík and Húsavík on Sandoy and arrived at Tvøroyri at about 1.00 P.M. The weather was clear and very calm. Views were good. Stór Dímun and Lítla Dímun [= Stóra Dímun and Lítla Dímun] both stood out very clearly. On the voyage I talked to many people, including Mr Dam, leader of Socialist party in the Løgt-ing.<sup>17</sup> He was a bore, and although he talked a lot, he said nothing of any interest. More interesting than he was a Salvation Army Officer, who had spent about 9 years in Iceland and spoke good Icelandic. He told me, among other things, that most people in Færoes expect a change in the status of the islands after the war. Some think the Færoes will be united with UK., others that it will be united with Norway, few think it will remain a part of Denmark. My host in Tvøroyri, Mr Djurhuus, was



also on the ship.<sup>18</sup> He is a very well educated and civilized man. He is particularly interested in farming and is chairman of the Landbúnaðarráð<sup>19</sup> (or whatever it is called in Færoese). He is sýslumaður<sup>20</sup> for Suðuroy and member of the Løgting in interest of Sambandsflokkurin. As a man he is most attractive. In evening Capt. Downey asked me & Djurhuus to join a party. Most of the “big shots” were present at the party. They included Mr Guðmundur Mortensen, said to be a millionaire.<sup>21</sup> I understand that Mortensen supports the Fólkaflokkur, but I should say that he is chiefly if not only interested in making money. He has grown especially rich lately by carrying Icelandic fish in his ships to UK. I am told that he owns most of the ships here. He appears to have suspended operations for the moment because the Icelanders have put the price too high for him to make a profit. Quite an uneducated and not very pleasing man. I gather from the soldiers, who have much contact with all classes of Færoe men, that the “ordinary” people are very anti-Danish. It is chiefly the higher officials who are pro-D. The most interesting man at the party was Pastor Jacobsen from Hvalbøer – 78 and very learned.<sup>22</sup>

**23/8/42:** Slept till 9.30. Had an enormous breakfast at 10, incl. eggs, cold mutton, rullapilsen,<sup>23</sup> four coffee. At 11 I went to the Lutheran church as a courtesy to the soldiers & old pastor Jacobsen. The service was conducted in English. I sat in a corner and listened to the pastor’s excellent sermon. Took two soldiers out for coffee. Lunch at Djurhuus was lavish, with good Spanish red wine. I begin to talk

Færoese. Djurhuus and others talk it to me mostly, but they must talk very slowly if I am to understand. In afternoon went to a football match between the soldiers & local team. Local team won 3-0. Supper with Downey and other officers. Lasted till 1.15 A.M. Very nice discussions about politics etc. Drank too much gin. Djurhuus has told me a good deal about Rikard Thomsen, German consul Tvøroyri.<sup>24</sup> He has written articles in support of Germany in the Tvøroyri paper Føroya Tíðindi, which Djurhuus himself has answered. Thomsen in reply says that he will remember it against him in event of German victory.

**24/8/42:** Was taken in military truck from Tvøroyri to Fámjin (about 12 miles). Staying with schoolmaster Jacobsen<sup>25</sup> at Fámjin & eating with his brother,<sup>26</sup> a retired seaman, who talks very good English. Latter tells me he thinks the majority of the people would prefer union of F. & GB., & he himself thinks it would be better, although he has nothing at all against DK., except that it is rather far away & cannot do much for F., nor, being agricultural, does DK. properly understand conditions in F. He does not seem to think UK. will be very keen to have F. The schoolmaster, also a nice and intelligent man (if less so) seems more to prefer union with DK. Everybody seems very anti-Hitler. ‘I do not want to be a slave to Mr. Hitler’ said schoolmaster. He gives me F. reading lessons, we read Jacobsen’s sagnir.<sup>27</sup> Both brothers listen to Norw. news from London.

**25/8/42:** Quiet day at Fámjin. In evening went fishing with two fishermen in rowing boat. Read much Færoese aloud with schoolmaster.

**26-27/8/42:** 26/8 was a quiet day. Continued to read Jacobsen's folkstories with John Jacobsen. Talked much about politics both with John and Anton. They expressed quite different views. John was Sambandsmand, Anton neither wished the union with DK to continue, nor believed it would, but again favoured union with U.K. He did not agree with Socialism, and thought that it could never be realised. He talked to me mostly in Færoese, purely out of kindness, because his English is perfect. On 26/8 walked with J. Jacobsen to Kirkjuvatn, north of Fámjin – fog, could see nothing. On 27/8 started about 4 P.M. in very foggy wet weather for Vigar [= Vágur], accompanied by a young man called Jens, who talked only F., and a boy of 10 called Høgni. They took me so far that I could find the rest of the way alone. At the top of the hills it was rather cold, and a terrific wind, so that I began to be afraid of falling down the precipice. It took about 2 hrs. to reach Vágur, & I arrived at officers mess very wet. Was given whisky & warmed up. I begin to feel a disinclination to return to Tórshavn.

**28-29/8/42:** Both travelling days. 28/8 went for a walk from Vágur to the cliffs of the west coast in lovely sunshine. The view & colours on the west were impressive, and a pale blue choppy sea. In afternoon sailed with the motor-boat Sigmundi

from Vágur for Tvøroyri. The journey was very cold and there was only a small cabin which it was not possible to enter, because women were being very sick, in spite of the calm sea. The boat called at Porkeri, Hov and Øravík. The captain was very talkative and addressed me, or rather harangued me in Færoese, which was good for me, though I was rather dumb. He told me some stories about Sigmundur Brestisson, and about Havgrímur, who lived at Hov, and his temple and heathen sacrifices there.<sup>28</sup> He told me a story about a King of England and the Phoenix, which he took from a ríma. Then he let go about politics. The Færoes want to be independent and manage their own affairs. They would not give up their flag nor return to Denmark. DK. would buy no fish from them. He seemed friendly to GB., but did not favour union with it. A crowd of people gathered on the deck to hear him proclaim his views to me. I asked how he would like union with Norway. He thought it would be as bad as union with DK. No one I have met yet has advocated union with Norway. He was a good, strong type physically & full of national pride. I was warmly welcomed by Mr. Djurhuus, given tea & gin, and made generally comfortable. Morning of 29/8 went to see Mr Dam. He appeared nicer and more intelligent than on the Smiril. He asked me many questions about the political state of England. I explained as best I could. I asked him about the future of F. He said Greenwood had asked him the same.<sup>29</sup> His views were not clear, but as far as I can judge, he would be ready to resume the union with DK. as long as the sale of fish could be assured, especially

to GB. On the other hand, I gathered that he would prefer union with GB., if that would be a better way to secure prosperity for Færoe. In afternoon of 29/8 I set off for Pastor Jacobsen at Hvalbøer. The pastor had sent a little boy to meet me called Knútur. Knútur told me a lot of folk stories, which he assured me were true. He showed me where 'Turkish' pirates had been buried, where a priest pursued by them had fallen down a gully, and where drunks walking home from Tvøroyri had all but broken their necks.

**30/8/42:** Quiet and peaceful day with Pastor Jacobsen. He talked to me in F. the whole time, mostly about history, scholarship, also about politics. He reviewed the political status of the islands, and said that he regarded himself as a loyal Danish citizen.

**31/8/42:** Left Hvalbøer on 'Smiril' in afternoon. Got off at Skálavík in Sandoy & came to stay with tradespeople called Dalsgarð to whom I had been recommended by Pastor Jacobsen. Very hospitable.

**1/9:** Climbed up a low mountain from Skálavík, & felt rather tired. Much talk, chiefly about lit[erature] & politics with Viggo Dalgaard.<sup>30</sup> It will be mentioned later in this diary.

**2/9:** Meant to go further, but ended by remaining quietly in Skálavík, chiefly reading and talking. Had further talk with Viggo Dalgaard. His political views may be summarized. He has much sympathy

for DK., where he spent a year in hospital (t.b.?). The Danish policy towards the Færoe Islands has, however, shown a lack of understanding for the F. point of view. The Danes have not fully realised that the F. are a separate nation, that they are not Danes and cannot be made Danes. Until 1912 (?) Færoese was not taught in the schools at all. Only much later was Færoese allowed to be used as the Kenslumál (1936).<sup>31</sup> Now, the teachers are apparently free to do as they like, but even F. clergymen (there are only about 3) may not use Færoese more than every other Sunday. The linguistic policy of DK. had certainly made bad blood between F. and DK. The Greenland policy of the Danes had also been a cause of ill will between the two countries, though whether this policy had been just or not Dalgaard could not say. Dalgaard had no definite views about the future status of the islands, but he was more intelligent and coherent than Mr. P. M. Dam. He thought that future circumstances must decide the future status. Maybe, he said, GB. would wish to keep an occupying force in F. after the war, and the status of F. would then be like that of Egypt. If GB. decided to do this, the Færoe people would not be in a position to oppose them, though it would be against their will. If, on the other hand, Germany were to be so thoroughly crushed that GB. did not need to keep up fortifications here .....,<sup>32</sup> F. might return to DK., [but] the union would not [be] the same as before. F., e.g. would never use any other flag than that which she now used at sea. Dalgaard was friendly to GB., but a little afraid of her. He did not condemn the conduct of Brit.

troops in any way, but he wished they were not there.

**3/9:** Shared car Skálávik – Skopun with Viggo Dahlgaard. Then came by motorboat *Dúgván* from Skopun to Tórshavn in a very rough sea. Called at Hestur, a pretty village at the foot of a steep mountain, and passed close to Kirkjubøer.

**4/9:** Read much. Visited Hilbert in evening.

**5/9:** Worked. Went to see Norw. consul [Per] Wendelbo. In evening the Ingerslevs gave a party for Brit. officers & the Governor. Party was good, but a silly political question spoiled it for a while.

**6/9** In Tórshavn. NTR. [Nothing to report]

**7/9** In Tórshavn. NTR.

**8/9** Went to Library. The Librarian, M. A. Jacobsen took me to see Símun av Skarði, head of the Háskúli, a most impressive and interesting man with a wooden leg.<sup>33</sup> He is an important Icelandic scholar and has translated *Víga Glúms Saga* into Færoese.<sup>34</sup> He was reading the life of *Bólu-Hjálmar* when I arrived.<sup>35</sup> He talked easily and very clearly in Færoese. When I did not understand he repeated in Icelandic. He talked of books and scholars. Then he talked of politics – of the future of the F. He and most other people were friendly to GB. But they did not wish for any permanent union with her. I asked why. He said that GB. was so big. Without making any attempt to do so, GB would in time destroy

the language and rather frail culture of the Færoes, just as she was destroying the Gaelic of Scotland. He thought a loose union with DK. would be best for F., partly because DK. was weak, and would do “less harm” to F. culture than any other country. S. av S. spoke harshly of Danish policy towards Færoes in the past, especially their linguistic policy & their attempts to make Færoese into Danes. I asked if F could not be independent. He thought that would be unwise, chiefly for economic and financial reasons. Had dinner with Downie & other officers. Downie & Allen talked most & most sensibly.

**9/9:** Saw Símun av Skarði again. Then saw Mr A. Degn.<sup>36</sup> Obviously a learned man, but very depressed.

**10/9:** Went to see Wilkinson who cooked supper and talked much.<sup>37</sup>

**11/9:** Spent nearly whole day reading *Dimmalætting*<sup>38</sup> for 1940.

**12/9:** Read *Dimmalætting* for 1940-1 in morning. Had lunch with Mason. In the afternoon sailed on ‘*Dúgván*’ (instead of *Streymur* which was broken down) to *Sølmudafjörður* [= *Søldarfjørður*]. From *Sølmudafj.* went by bus first to *Sudurgøta* [= *Syðrugøta*] then to *Norðragøta*. The weather was calm and fairly clear. The *Gøta* district was very impressive, the fjord surrounded by steep and high mountains. I was shown the place where *Tróndur í Gøtu*<sup>39</sup> was supposed to have lived, immediately below the church at *Norðragøta*. I had no time to look at it properly because

the mail boat 'British Pride' was just starting for Klakksvík. The poet J. H. O. Djurhuus<sup>40</sup> travelled all the way from Tórsh. to Klakksvík. He was noticeably drunk, but rather charming. He talked to me very much in fairly good English and Icelandic, also Færoese, which I tried to talk as much as I could. He appeared learned in a way, & very cultured, making frequent references both to the sagas and classics without any self-consciousness. I admire his poetry, at least the little I have read, & hope to see him again. On arrival at Klakksvík at about 10 P.M. it was dark. I was met by the Danish doctor, Stærmose, with whom the Governor had arranged that I should stay. Stærmose has a F. wife.<sup>41</sup> He is quite unlike the other Danes whom I have met in the islands, and is much more sympathetic to the F. people, even, as he openly says, to their national ambitions. Late in the evening both the Stærmoses & I went to drink with Else (?),<sup>42</sup> managing director for Kielbro, and a typical Danish business man. 13/9 Sunday was spent quietly. Visited the schoolmaster Enniberg.<sup>43</sup> 14/9 Started at 10 A.M. on doctor's launch for Svínoy. Called at Hvannasund & spent a few hours on Fugloy, walking from Kirkja to Hattarvík, then went to Svínoy, which I shall describe later. [On facing page rough map and sketch 'Landing on Fugloy'.]

**15/Tuesday** } Both quiet days  
**16/Wednesday** } at Svínoy.

**17/Thursday:** Every evening after supper I have had long conversations with Jógvan. For him the interest seems to be that I am

English, and he has never had a chance to talk with Englishmen before. He is very intelligent and educated in a way though I doubt if he has ever read any book except the Bible. He reads Danish, and is able to speak it, for he learnt [it] at school in Svínoy. But he has never learnt to read or write F. He occasionally quotes F. poetry, and knows stories about Sigmundur Brestisson, which his father († 1904) had told him. I asked whether his father had read these stories. No, he had heard them and remembered them in every detail. My host talks much about farming and other means of livelihood. He is particularly keen on silver foxes, of which he has a considerable number. The skins are sold to UK. but he thinks it would be better to sell them to U.S. if trade could be opened up with that country. He thinks that farming is very backward in the Færoes, especially in Svínoy, and he tends to blame the Danes for this. There is no agricultural school in the F. He professes not to have strong political views, but it is obvious that he has. He admires the Icelanders for the way in which they have broken their union with DK. He thinks the politics of DK. in F. have been unwise and that the Danes have never understood conditions in F. The Greenland question and the language question are two on which he feels strongly. He quotes the Fólkafl. view that, during the monopoly period, the Danes have impoverished F., and that conditions here still suffer from the Danish trade policy then. He is convinced that after the war the status of the islands will change, but does not know what it will be. When questioned, he does not seem sure that F. could survive

alone economically. I have suggested union with N. or U.K. instead of DK., but he does not seem to favour these suggestions. I have then suggested that it might be best to have union with DK., but a much looser union than before. He seemed to approve of this. He thought especially that the Amtmaður should have less power than he has at present.

**18-20/9:** Remained with Jógvan Justinussen in Svínøi in great comfort. I had very much to eat, most probably too much, and it made me feel sleepy. I told them that in England last winter we were allowed only 2-3 eggs each a month. The result was that I was made to eat 3-4 eggs a day, besides large quantities of milk, skerpikjøt,<sup>44</sup> fish, blood-sausages etc. I walked over a good deal of the island during the comparatively short periods in which the weather was fine. When the sky was blue the sea turned a sort of pale forget-me-not blue. When it was grey but light, the mountains became deep blackish blue. I watched people cutting peat and carrying it home long distances down the hills in wooden baskets on their backs. [A crude illustration on facing page.] This seems a very primitive and laborious way of doing the job. Had they been Icelanders they would have used ponies. Both men and women in Svínøi carry the peat on their backs. There is only one pony in Svínøi, and he is considered too valuable to carry peat! One day a large case of provisions, probably from a lifeboat, was washed ashore. The finder, an old man with a red beard, appropriated it proudly. I believe there are complicated laws of drift in the Færoes, but in Svínøi

they refuse to observe them, – the finder is the owner. On Saturday evening (19/9) we sat up late, and Jógvan told a lot of stories. He told them well, but since he refused to tell anything of which he could not swear to be true, most of the stories were dull ghost stories of European type. One of them, however illustrated the use of the interesting Færoese expression siggja seg í hamferð. In spite of its etymology, this means “to see one’s double”, which is a sign of impending death. It is also worth remembering a rather good proverb which Jógvan quoted gestur hevur gløggst eyga.<sup>45</sup> The debased alliteration in this proverb suggests that the proverb is older than the phonological change  $g > j$ .

I played several games of chess. The Svínøyingar were very proud of their skills in chess, and played much better than I. I drew one game and lost the rest. They tell me I bring my pawns (Finnur, pl. ar = pawn in F. I don’t know the origin. Icel. is peð, Danish (I think) Bonde) too far forward, and I believe they are right.

**20/9** Spent the morning helping to feed the foxes & went down to see the post arrive at Svínøi Eiði. The post was carried in a sloop called Marianne. The postman, for some reason or other, lost his temper and refused to discharge the mail! Jógvan said that socialist doctrine is to blame for this! A large part of the village had gone down to receive the mail. It was interesting to see this crowd. The older women wore black shawls over their heads as they do, according to pictures, in Shetland. As a crowd they did not look like Icelanders. At least three were imbeciles.



Dr Stærmosé arrived in his launch at about 12 o'clock. I boarded it and sailed about 3. I felt some emotional pains at leaving Svínø. Few of the people ever read anything, but they are not uncivilised. They can tell stories and they know snatches of ballads about Sigmundur Brestisson and Sigurdur Fafnisbani.<sup>46</sup> They were very kind to me, partly perhaps because I talked Færoese (though badly). On the journey to Klakksvík there were several passengers besides me. One was Jógvan's brother who is a member of the Løgting for Fólkafl.<sup>47</sup> He demonstrated his nationalism by wearing complete Færoese costume including the gaily coloured garters & buckled shoes. In other respects he appeared to be an ass, and talked in a squeaky voice. The journey to Klakksvík was cold, but uneventful.

**23/9** Intended to go to Tröllanes with Dr Stærmosé, but there was a very hard storm & we could not go. Saw Djurhuus in the evening. He was impossibly drunk.

**24/9** Stayed quietly in Klakksvík. Read William Heinesen: Blæsende Gry. Good. Did not quite finish it.

**25/9** In morning came with Stærmosé in his launch to Tórshavn. Everybody thought I had disappeared. My lost luggage reached me. Great joy.

**26/9** The King's birthday. Danish flags and a few Færoese "Merki" covered the town. In the evening there was a show in the "Sjónleikahús" with speeches and a film of the King.<sup>48</sup> All the speakers spoke Danish

except P. M. Dam, who bobbed about like a jack in the box in Færoese paying compliments to DK. & especially her socialism. The film, the speeches and the music made me think there must be something mawkish and self-pitying about Danish nationalism. The show was followed by a party at the Ingerslevs. The Amtmand & about 20 others were present, all Danes except Mason & me. Perhaps the Danes themselves forget that the King of DK. is King of the Færoes, or perhaps they merely regard the Færoese as H.M. disloyal subjects – his colonial subjects. In the morning the Amtmand had given a reception. The Danes were hurt because the Norwegian consulate did not send a representative.

**27/9** Bright sunshine and warm. Got up at 9 & decided to walk to Kirkjubøur. I went straight over the hills. Stopped & read on the top in the sun. The view was lovely. Pale blue sea, the islands Hestur, Koltur & parts of Vágur stood out clearly, bathed in sunlight. I came to Kirkjubøur at about 12.30, & went straight to see Jóannes Patursson.<sup>49</sup> He received me in a very friendly way & read Eiríkur's letter about 6 times, sometimes aloud, sometimes to himself.<sup>50</sup> Mrs Patursson was especially interested to hear about her Icelandic relations. They gave me food & coffee & several books to take away. Later Poul Patursson, son of Jóannes, showed me round. I think this is one of the most interesting monuments I have ever seen, and the old buildings are mostly in a fine state of preservation & still in use, including the Bishops' study in the rokstova (?). A de-

scription is in J.P. booklet on Kirkjubøur.

Got back by car at about 7. Then went to supper with Major Hoy, educational officer on a short visit. He has some very interesting schemes to educate troops here, & to assist in educating the Færoese. I want to collaborate as much as I can.

**28/9** Spent morning looking at papers with Mason. In afternoon long conversation with the big Mr Niclasen in bookshop. In evening went to dinner with Norwegian Consul Wendelbo. In himself he did not seem very exciting, and looked weak in his splendid military uniform. He did however show himself uncompromisingly anti-Swedish. He thought the Swedish iron-mines should be given to Norway after the War. Sweden should pay for her conduct in the War, & Norway should be rewarded for hers. The King of Sweden is, according to Wendelbo, entirely pro-German, so are the police, army & navy.<sup>51</sup> Only the academic people & intellectuals are pro-Ally. (NB. Wendelbo was Norwegian Consul in Stockholm until recently.) Mrs Wendelbo is Icelandic, good looking in a rather professional way, and not uninteresting. She talked to me in Icelandic. She was more anti-Danish than her husband was anti-Swedish. I do not know how far she reflected her husband's opinions. She thought the policy of the Danes in Færoes was like that of Prussians. She could not understand why the Amtmaður had not broken with the Danish Govt. Nor could she understand the policy of the Free Danes here – their secrecy and refusal to publish list of members. Either you must support Quisling or you must be against him.

The Danes were trying to trim. They were now afraid that the British were becoming too popular in Færoes, and were doing all they could to impede their popularity. Their object in the F. islands was merely to hold them down and prevent their national characteristics asserting themselves (she gave some “evidence”). Yet she seemed to think that the Færoese would wish to remain under the Danish king, but not under the present administration.

**29/9** Worked during the day fairly hard. In the evening I took Wilkinson to see Símun av Skarði and Rasmus Rasmussen.<sup>52</sup> Both of them were charming, natural and learned, so was S. av S's son. The party was like a breath of fresh air after some of the shows I have been to.

**30/9** Worked during day. In evening went to see the Hammerbys and was bored. Whenever I tried to talk about the Free Danish Movement in the Færoes, Hammerby headed me off! A truly secret society!

**1/9 [= 1/10]** Had much talk with Jóannes P[atursson] who took me to see H. A. Djurhuus and Richard Long. Both pleasant and interesting.<sup>53</sup>

**2/9 [= 2/10]** Lunch with Masons. NTR

**3/9 [= 3/10]** Worked during day but very badly and without proper concentration. In evening drank some whisky & talked with Major Samuel, of whom I have lately seen a good deal. He made the same remarks as Mrs Wendelbo about the Danes: that they



Gabriel Turville-Petre met many significant politicians and cultural personalities on his voyage to the Faroe Islands in 1942.

are now afraid the British are becoming too popular, and that they are doing what they can to make them less popular. This sounds rather like the remark which Xmas Møller made to me about the British soldiers, viz. that they are almost too popular.

**Tuesday 6 Oct:** Started at 8 A.M. on 'Streymur' for Vestmanna. We went first to Miðvágur.

The weather was bright and clear, but the sea was extremely rough and it was very cold & windy. It was not possible to be in the cabin, because of the seasick soldiers. When I arrived in Vestmanna the air-raid alarm sounded. Whether it was a false alarm or not I do not know, but the people were remarkably nervous. I went to see the Sýslumaður, Gunnar Dahl-Olsen, and presented the letter which I brought from Jóannes Patursson, of whom G. D. O. is a cousin.<sup>54</sup> GDO was very busy, having just slaughtered ten lambs in the cellar. He received me gracefully though, I am afraid,

without much enthusiasm. However, he soon warmed up, defeated me at chess and talked, especially about politics. He believed much in Germany's strength, but was clearly anti-German fundamentally, as nearly everyone here is. His views on F. politics were difficult to discover (he is official arbitrator). On the whole he had nationalist leanings, and his wife took no pains to hide her nationalist sympathies. He thought that if an election were to be held, the Fólkafl. would gain seats, while Sjálvstýri. and probably Soc. Dem.<sup>55</sup> would lose. Samband might lose a bit too, but probably not so much. Mrs D. O. expressed ill feeling about the Directorate of the Landshandil, Knud Petersen and a Dutchman called Apol, but no Færoe man. The reason that K. P. got the job was, she said, because he used to have a good business exporting clipfish, and now he was unemployed. Efforts were being made to keep Færoeese people out of the administration.

**Wednesday 7 October:** I had intended to walk to Saksun, but the weather was impossible. I went to see a farmer called Peter á Heygum to whom I had an introduction from Jóannes Patursson. He was an enormous man, and very fine looking. He had been in Iceland for some months to learn Icelandic agricultural methods. He was also interested in Icelandic literature and spoke much about it, quoting strophes from Hávamál with the Icel[andic] pronunciation. He was very critical of the “Govt.”, especially of the administrative and commercial side of it. He chiefly blamed the Amtmaður, whom he described as ráðeríkur.<sup>56</sup> He thought the Brit. Consul should also share the blame, because he was too young and inexperienced. He took his advice only from the Amtmaður, and had become the friend & tool of the Amtmaður. He thought things would be different if the Brit. had sent an older and more independently minded Consul. I defended the Consul as best I could. I convinced my host, at any rate, that Mason meant the best, whatever mistakes he may have made. Who indeed would not make mistakes if he were in M.’s position! I have talked with a good many soldiers lately, both officers and men. It is remarkable that they are all pronouncedly “pro-F” and anti-Danish. This is perhaps a good thing because they counter-balance the consulate.

**8 Oct:** Remained at Vestmanna and went for a short walk, but spent most of the day reading Heðin Brú Fjallaskuggin. Very difficult Færeese.

**9 Oct:** Sailed on ‘Smiril’ to Miðvágur then to Tórsh. The sea was calm, but there was a lot of rain. In the evening I went to dinner with the Wendelbos again. Carlton (of the Eng.<sup>57</sup>) and two naval officers were also present. This time W. let himself go. We were talking about Comm. Stagg.<sup>58</sup> W. said he had only one fault: he likes the Danes too much. He then made scathing remarks about the Free Danish movement. He told us how a Danish captain had come to the Færoes to get volunteers for the Danish army (?) in England. He did not get one volunteer. The Free Danes said they only wanted a knitting club. Nor must the names and numbers be known. A list was kept in the Bank, but the day the Nazis come to F. that list will go in the fire. W. said that Denmark was an enemy of Norway. He who is not with us is against us. Norway was really Denmark’s enemy No. 1. W. spoke badly of Xmas Møller. I said I liked him. He said I would not have liked him if I had heard him speak here. I had, but I did not say so. I could see nothing in his speech to which I could object. W. also lashed out at the Governor. Said he was not Governor, but “somebody” had called him Governor.

**10 Oct.** In the afternoon I went to see H. A. Djurhuus and his wife. Both of them lavishly showered their books on me. We had a good deal of talk which turned to politics, especially to the Danish question. A three-cornered argument developed with me trying to defend the Danes, Mrs. D. taking an anti-Danish view but less uncompromising than her husband. She thought that after the war, some kind of

loose ‘cultural’ contact with DK. should be maintained, and did not oppose my view that F. should share DK’s foreign policy. Mr. D. believed that F. should have contact with Scandinavia, but favoured N. much more than DK. Like many people, he seemed so much more to admire N’s war policy than that of DK. He was bitter about DK’s policy, particularly her cultural policy in F. Both of them sharply criticised all the Danes here, and would not allow good words for any of them but Stærmose. It is sad that the best and most intellectual of the F. are also the most anti-Danish. In the evening was the Officers dance. I did not, of course, dance, but had much talk with the Brit. – also with Ihlen.<sup>59</sup>

**11 Oct.** After lunch Richard Long took me in a car to Velbastaður. Stayed there all the afternoon and most of the night. A lot of Færoese dances were performed – Karlamagnus Kvæði, Ormurin langi and Stamford Bridge.<sup>60</sup> Got home about 5 A.M.

**12:** Went to Louis Z[achariassen] in evening. He became very poetical.

**13:** Long talk with Mason in morning. Ditto with Amtmaður in afternoon. Both these conversations to be written elsewhere.<sup>61</sup>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> There is a biography and assessment of his contribution to scholarship by Peter Foote, *Proceedings of the British Academy* 64 (1978), 468-81, reprinted in *Interpreters of Early Medieval Britain*, ed. Michael Lapidge (London, 2002), pp. 485-99.
- <sup>2</sup> From a lecture given by G.T-P. on his return from the Faroe Islands, in which he says ‘I had been asked to write certain papers about them on behalf of this service’.
- <sup>3</sup> Heather O’Donoghue, in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press 2004-16), <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/58900>, accessed 4 April 2017.
- <sup>4</sup> Lucas Jacobsøn Debes, *Færoæ & Færoa Reserata* (Copenhagen, 1673); English translation London, 1676.
- <sup>5</sup> Sambandsflokkurin and Sjálvstýrisflokkurin, respectively.
- <sup>6</sup> The Faroese and Danish parliaments, respectively.
- <sup>7</sup> Javnaðarflokkurin.
- <sup>8</sup> The journal fills one notebook and three pages of a second. I have enclosed additions in square brackets. Spellings, sometimes eccentric, are retained, including ‘Færoes’ for ‘Faroës’, but a note is supplied where there might be confusion. For help and encouragement I am grateful to Judith Jesch, Malan Marnersdóttir, and especially Eivind Weyhe who has corrected a number of errors.
- <sup>9</sup> Christmas Møller (1894-1948). Leader of Danish Konservative Folkeparti from 1928; fled to Britain in 1942, where he became leader of the Free Danes. After the War he was briefly Foreign Minister in the coalition government. Obituary ‘Times’ 15.4.1948.



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- <sup>10</sup> Carl Aage Hilbert (1899-1953), the Danish Government's Amtmand (F. Amtmaður). See *Løgtingið 150: Hátíðarrit 2* (Tórshavn, 2002), pp. 77-145, 287. This volume gives brief CVs of members of the Løgting.
- <sup>11</sup> Sir Frederick Cecil Mason CMG (1913-2008); married Karen Rorholm. In 1943 he was appointed British Consul in Colón, Panama. Ambassador to Chile (1966-1970); Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations (1971-3). 'Times' obituary 21.1.2008, p. 57.
- <sup>12</sup> Andras Samuelsen (1873-1954). Leader of the Union Party, Sambandsflokkurin, from 1924; first Prime Minister of Faroe Islands 1948-50. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 346.
- <sup>13</sup> Jóannes Patursson, *Føroya Söga* (Tórshavn, 1939). See below, 27/9.
- <sup>14</sup> Jakob Jakobsen (1864-1918), linguist and folklorist and expert on the Norn language of Shetland.
- <sup>15</sup> Louis Zachariasen (1890-1960), writer in Færoese, director of the Færoese Telephone Company and leader of the Independence Party, Sjálvstýrisflokkurin. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 362.
- <sup>16</sup> Mads Andreas Jacobsen (1891-1944), Mayor of Tórshavn. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 294.
- <sup>17</sup> Peter Mohr Dam (1898-1968), Chairman of Javnaðarflokkurin from 1936; Mayor of Tvøroyri 1934-57; Prime Minister 1959-63 and 1967-8. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 266.
- <sup>18</sup> Kristian Djurhuus (1895-1984), speaker of the Løgting during occupation. Prime Minister 1950-9 and 1968-70. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 273.
- <sup>19</sup> 'Agricultural Council'.
- <sup>20</sup> 'Magistrate'.
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- <sup>21</sup> Owner of the shipping company N. J. Mortensen.
- <sup>22</sup> Gulak Jacobsen (1870-1953).
- <sup>23</sup> Rullupylsa, a mutton sausage.
- <sup>24</sup> Richard B. Thomsen (1888-1970), novelist.
- <sup>25</sup> Jógvan Jacobsen (1880-1957).
- <sup>26</sup> Anton Jacobsen.
- <sup>27</sup> Jakob Jakobsen, *Færøske Folkesagn og Æventyr* (1898-1901).
- <sup>28</sup> Sigmundur Brestisson (961-1005) introduced Christianity to the Faroe Islands in 999, as related in *Færeyinga saga*. The Viking leader Havgrímur lived at Hov on the east coast of Suðuroy in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and is buried there.
- <sup>29</sup> Arthur Greenwood (1880-1954), British Labour politician, member of the coalition government until Feb 1942, and then Leader of the Opposition.
- <sup>30</sup> Viggo Dalsgaard (1910-87).
- <sup>31</sup> 'Language of instruction'.
- <sup>32</sup> As in manuscript.
- <sup>33</sup> Símun av Skarði (1872-1942). Founded Føroya Fólkaháskúli in 1899. In the Løgting as member for Sjálvstýrisflokkurin 1906-14. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 350. Author of Faroese national anthem, 'Mítt alfagra land'. He died on 9 October 1942, 10 days after G.T-P. last visited him.
- <sup>34</sup> G.T-P.'s edition of *Víga Glúms Saga* had been published in 1940.
- <sup>35</sup> Hjálmar Jónsson, 19<sup>th</sup>-century Icelandic poet.
- <sup>36</sup> Anton Degn (1871-1950), author of *Over-sigt over Fiskeriet og Monopolhandelen paa Færøerne 1709-1856* (1929); *Færøske Kongsbønder 1584-1884* (1945). Member



- for Sambandsflokkurin. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 271.
- <sup>37</sup> Stephen Austin Wilkinson (b. 1919), musician and conductor, m. Anna Sofie Dam (1945). He was mine disposal officer in the Faroe Islands.
- <sup>38</sup> ‘Daybreak’: newspaper founded in 1877.
- <sup>39</sup> Tróndur í Gøtu, 10<sup>th</sup> century Viking leader, opposed Christianity, as related in *Færey-ínga saga*. Lived at Norðragøta on Eysturoy.
- <sup>40</sup> Janus Djurhuus (1881-1948), celebrated poet. In 2004 a series of ten stamps was issued in honour of ten of his poems.
- <sup>41</sup> Dr Vagn Stærmoose, m. Helena Enniberg.
- <sup>42</sup> Probably Poul Als Jensen.
- <sup>43</sup> Alexander Enniberg, father of Helena.
- <sup>44</sup> Dried mutton.
- <sup>45</sup> ‘A stranger has a sharp eye.’ The proverb is more usually ‘gløgt er gestsins eyga’.
- <sup>46</sup> The central character of *Völsunga Saga*.
- <sup>47</sup> Heini Justinussen (1896-1969), member of the Løgting 1941-43. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 307.
- <sup>48</sup> Sjónleikahúsið, the theatre in Tórshavn.
- <sup>49</sup> Jóannes Patursson (1866-1946). Nationalist leader and writer. Founder of Sjálvstýrisflokkurin in 1906, and Fólkaflokkurin in 1939. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 334. His wife, Guðny Eiríksdóttir, was from Iceland. The Patursson farm, Kirkjubøargarður, the bishops’ residence from c. 1100, had been the family home since 1550. The oldest part is the *roykstova*, ‘smoke room’. The Bishop’s study is in the house sometimes called *stokkastova*.
- <sup>50</sup> The letter is probably from G.T-P.’s life-long friend Eiríkur Benedikz (1907-88), Icelandic scholar, who had studied in England. In 1938 he succeeded G.T-P. as British pro-Consul in Reykjavík. In 1942 he was appointed to the Icelandic Legation in London, and later taught at University College.
- <sup>51</sup> King Gustav V was suspected of Nazi sympathies.
- <sup>52</sup> Rasmus Rasmussen (1871-1962), author and schoolteacher, married Símun’s sister, Anna Suffia av Skarði. He and Símun founded the Faroese Folk High School (Føroya Fólkaháskúli) in Klaksvík in 1899. In the Løgting as a member for Sjálvstýrisflokkurin. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 344.
- <sup>53</sup> Hans Andrias Djurhuus (1883-1951), poet; brother of Janus Djurhuus. Richard Sigmund Long (1889-1977), author and teacher; member for Fólkaflokkurin. See *Løgtingið 150*, 2, p. 315.
- <sup>54</sup> Gunnar Dahl-Olsen (1899-1978), m. Johanne Dahl.
- <sup>55</sup> Javnaðarflokkurin.
- <sup>56</sup> ‘Domineering’.
- <sup>57</sup> The Royal Engineers were building the airfield on Vágar.
- <sup>58</sup> Commander Frank Noel Stag (1884-1956), a Royal Navy officer involved in Danish and Norwegian resistance movements.
- <sup>59</sup> Nils Ihlen fled from Norway to the Faroes in 1940 and became assistant Norwegian Consul. His memoirs were published in 1956 as *Amatørkonsul*.
- <sup>60</sup> For Faroese chain dances see G.T-P.’s lecture, quoted above.
- <sup>61</sup> Presumably in a confidential report to the Foreign Office.

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