

**ANNA OWENA HOYERS A
POETESS OF THE
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY:
A DISSERTATION**

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Anna Owena Hoyers a Poetess of the Seventeenth Century: A Dissertattion by Adah Blanche Roe

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ADAH BLANCHE ROE

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HEIMREICH'S WESTPHALEN MONUMENTA INEDITA IV,
TAB. 28.

ANNA OWENA HOYERS
A POETESS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

A Dissertation

PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF BRYN MAWR COLLEGE IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Um

BY

ADAH BLANCHE ROE

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I. MANUSCRIPTS AND EDITIONS.

The most comprehensive manuscript collection of Anna Owena Hoyers' poems is in the Royal Library in Stockholm.¹ It is bound in parchment and consists of 221 leaves, thirteen of which are left blank. The inside of the front cover is adorned with three small prints. The one in the center is a picture of Anna Owens herself,² with the inscription, "Obiit, Ao: 1655. Den 27: 9: b: Altt, 71, Jahr. A: O: H:" To the left is a representation of St. Michael's fight with the dragon, to the right the Hoyer family coat of arms.³ The latter bears the date 1643 and the words, "Caspar Hoijer Honos virtutis praeium."

The first Part of this manuscript, comprising 164 leaves written continuously (except Folio 134) on both sides, was inscribed by Anna Owens' sons, Caspar and Friedrich Hermann Hoyer. For the second Part the manuscript must be reversed. In 1658 Christian Straus obtained possession of it, and, beginning at the back, proceeded to copy into it the hymns of Herr Krustern, written in prison in Moscow and dated 1657. The index records seventeen hymns, but there are only six there, "Buszgebett desz Königs Manass" and Psalms 13, 1, 70, 25, 79. According to an inscription on the third page, the manuscript went back into the Hoyer family in 1660. The inscription reads, "Christian Straus, Dem das Buch Gehörigh, Anno Christy 1658," and on the margin is written, "Non est verum, Caspar Hoyer 1660," so that Straus's work was probably curtailed. With Folio 17 of Part II begin again the poems of Anna Owens copied by her son Friedrich Hermann Hoyer.

¹ Riks-Biblioteket, Stockholm, Handskrifter, Vitterhet, Tysk, No. 1854 (quoted as St. MS).

² Another picture of her as a young patrician lady appears in Heimreich's Supplementa, in Westphalen Monumenta Inedita, IV, Tab. 28. (See frontispiece.)

³ The coat of arms shows the head, shoulders and forelegs of a unicorn. It occurs also in Andreas Angelus' Holsteinische Chronica, I, 60.

The first page of Part I contains the title, "Lieder verfasset oder gesammelt von Anna Ovena Hoijer 1624-1655," and two Latin epigrams; the second page, a short poem in German and a Latin letter-cross. Then follows an inaccurate index of the first lines of the songs. About fifty of these Anna Owens had herself composed, usually signing them with her initials A. O. H. or, as was so often done at the time, spelling out her own name in the initial letters of the stanzas. For three of the songs (nos. 4, 6, 69) she wrote her own music. For the others she often chose some well-known melody. Twelve of them appear also in the only edition of her poems now in existence, published in Amsterdam in the year 1650.

Seven are hymns:

Steht Auff von Allen Sunden, St. MS no. 1; Poem. p. 302.

O, du geliebte Christenheit, St. MS no. 10; Poem. p. 228.

O, Gott mein Herr wie wunderbahr, St. MS no. 14; Poem. p. 299.

Christe Gotts einiger Sohn du bist, St. MS Fol. 45; Poem. p. 282, with music.

Unter den Dornen Rosen stehn, St. MS no. 25; Poem. p. 219.

Auff, auff es ist nun Zeitt, St. MS no. 36; Poem. p. 223.

Komb Davids Sohn sturtz Babylon, St. MS no. 38; Poem. p. 177.

One poem can be classed as a hymn only in the sense that it is a song expressing religious feeling, for it is quite personal in tone:

Auff, Auff Zion und schmucke dich schon, St. MS no. 35;

Poem. p. 216, with the refrain, "Hans Owens Tochter Anna."

Two poems are in praise of her royal Swedish patronesses: Grosmechtigste Königin, Frewlein Hochgeboren, St. MS no. 28; Poem. p. 276.

Frewet euch mit mir ihr frommen, St. MS no. 37; Poem. p. 279.

Two are didactic:

Geldt- und Welt-freunde vortrauwen, St. MS no. 17;
Poem. p. 294.

Weh ju pastoren, St. MS no. 67; Poem. p. 259.

The other poems of the Stockholm manuscript may have appeared separately in pamphlet form, as did "Ein Schreiben über Meer gesandt," "Süssbittre Freude," etc., but I have not been able to find any trace of such publications. So far as I have been able to discover, they exist only in manuscript. They are as follows:

Twenty hymns:

- Dasz 2 Liedt. Adde, Adde du blinde Welt.
 Dasz 3 Liedt. Adde ihr Menschen Kinder.
 Dasz 4 Liedt. Auff, Auff lobt Gott mit singen (with music).
 Dasz 6 Liedt. Alles wasz sich bewegt (with music).
 Dasz 7 Liedt. Zu wem soll ich nun fliehen hin.
 Dasz 9 Liedt. O Jhesu Christ mach mich bereit.
 Dasz 11 Liedt. Auff, Auff Jungen und Alten.
 Dasz 15 Liedt. Alimechtiger Gott und Herr der Herscharen.
 Dasz 16 Liedt. Allein zu Gott hab ich gericht, mein zuversicht.
 Dasz 18 Liedt. Ach, Ach ihr Menschen, last euch sagen.
 Dasz 19 Liedt. Bekehret euch uon Eur bosheit.
 Dasz 22 Liedt. O Gott mein Herr dein Ehr, und Lob vermehr.
 Dasz 23 Liedt. O Jesu Köning, Gott und Herr.
 Dasz 24 Liedt. Ach Herr bewahr mein Kinderlein.
 Dasz 31 Liedt. Ach Gott wie gehts her im Land.
 Dasz 39 Liedt. Auff Zion, Auff, bereit dich.
 Dasz 40 Liedt. Alle Völcker der Erden Nah' und weit.
 Dasz 49 Liedt. Auff mein Hertz zu erheben.
 Dasz 57 Liedt. O Herr bekehr, Regir und Lehr.
 Fol. 158. Jesu Christ, der du bist mensch gebohren (with music).