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### [53] *Rask and Bredsdorff: Funish Friends and Pioneers of Linguistics*

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Rasmus Rask (1787-1832) is internationally famous whereas his Funish friend Jakob Hornemann Bredsdorff (1790-1841) is only little known, much less than he deserves. Bredsdorff and Rask were friends already from Funen; in their time as students at Copenhagen University they were close and discussed matters linguistic intensely. They worked together on the dictionary of the Royal Danish Academy, Rask asked in vain (1819) Bredsdorff to accompany him on his great voyage to India, and he wanted Bredsdorff to take care of his linguistic heritage. Søren Bloch (1772-1862), a leading pedagogue and scholar, was the most important teacher of both Rask and Bredsdorff, he continued to have contact with them after they came to the University, and he is a crucial link between them (Andersen in Bredsdorff 1982). Bloch published original and influential books on linguistics that were studied by Rask and Bredsdorff, and Bloch took much good advice from them. Bredsdorff wrote an important and original paper on language change (1821), and later on the relation between Germanic languages; he experimented with orthographies; he gave fine phonetic transcriptions of everyday speech, and explained and modified Chladni's phonetic notations. In all of these subject areas, also Rask made substantial original contributions (the same applies to runes where Bredsdorff, however, made more lasting contributions than Rask); they exchanged letters throughout their friendship. Vilhelm Thomsen, Otto Jespersen and Holger Pedersen valued Bredsdorff's contributions to language change and phonetics highly. In the context outlined above, I shall scrutinize their contributions to phonetics and phonology, focussing upon (i) Rask's work (a) on Funish and (b) his experiments with radical orthographies, and (ii) Bredsdorff's phonetic transcriptions of different forms of Danish: (i)(a) Rask's work on his Funish mother tongue (published 1938) started in his schooldays; it shows an excellent grasp of phonological distinctions; (i)(b) in this and other early work, Rask experiments with orthographies much more radical than what scandalized his contemporaries in (1826); (ii) Bredsdorff transcribed Danish dialogues using a system he had constructed, partly based upon Chladni.

Basbøll & Jensen. 2015. Rask – a linguistic giant between the 18th and 20th century. HL 42:153-167 [Rask bibliography].

Bredsdorff. 1821. Om Aarsagerne til Sprognes Forandringer. In Bredsdorff 1933:1-27.

Bredsdorff. 1933. Udvalgte Afhandlinger (ed. Glahder). København: Levin & Munksgaard.

Bredsdorff. 1982 [1821]. On the causes of linguistic change. Translation with commentary, by Henning Andersen, with an essay on J. H. Bredsdorff. HL IX:1-41 [Bloch and Bredsdorff bibliography].