The clerical inventories of Hedmark and Østerdalen cover the period 1696–1779, a period of eighty years.\(^1\) Geographically, the district was vast; the southern part of the region lay close to Akershus, and thus Christiania, whereas the eastern part stretched towards Sweden and the northern towards the district of Trøndelag. Hence, at least some of the southern and northern parts of the district lay relatively close to urban centres, whereas the eastern parts may be characterized as being more peripheral. Hedmark & Østerdalen also had a Latin School, which was situated in the city of Hamar.

The Hedmark & Østerdalen clerical probate records comprise a total of thirty-two negotiations of assets, some of the same household. Overall, however, only eight inventories include descriptions of book collections. Of these, seven were recorded prior to 1750, which means that they lie within the scope of this study (see table 119). Of course, more than eight of the registered homes must have initially possessed books, and the reason why so many of the inventories lack book registrations may depend on selections made by the notarius: Contrary to the Bergen and Trondheim findings, where books were generally not listed if they were destined for resale, the clerical probate records of Hedmark & Østerdalen appear to have provided detailed information on book collections only in cases where books were to be officially auctioned after registration. There are also various time gaps in the registered material, which was due to a shortage of staff: A new notarius was not necessarily appointed when the previous notary retired, and this naturally prevented the continual registration of assets. Most of the books recorded in the Hedmark &

\(^1\) See Hedmark & Østerdalen clerical probate records 1696–1779, microfilm number NOR\(10\,45\).
Østerdalen probate records are also listed without any indication of date and place of publication.

*Table 119: Book owners listed in the Hedmark & Østerdalen clerical inventories 1696–1750*

Maren Jensdatter, married to the curate Erik Werdal, Romsdalen, ca. 10 volumes, 1701, folio 21
Niels Friis, parson of Tynset, ca. 130 volumes, 1704, folio 33
Jens Abildgaard, parson of Løten, ca. 360 volumes, 1745, folio 45b
Maren Olsdatter Hormemann, clerical daughter, Åmot, ca. 4 volumes, 1747, folio 80b
Magdalena Bergmann, married to the parson Niels Muller, Stange, ca. 13 volumes, 1747, folio 85b
Margaretha Seehus, married to the parson Claus Schultz, Tolga, ca. 70 volumes, 1747, folio 106
Hillebor Omsted, married to the parson Raphael Lund Juel, Vang, ca. 100 volumes, 1749, folio 137

Approximately 690 volumes were registered across the different collections, giving an average of slightly less than 100 books per household. This relatively high percentage, however, is due to the registration of at least one major book collection, namely that of Jens Abildgaard (ca. 360 volumes). Unfortunately, however, only a few items in Abildgaard’s collection are recorded with titles: According to the notarius, a separate catalogue with authors’ names had been made to facilitate the forthcoming sale of the collection, carried out in order to raise money for Abildgaard’s widow and several underage children.2

Various features may be noted regarding the books registered in the clerical probate records of Hedmark & Østerdalen: First, and similar to previous findings, the German influence remains persistent across the different collections, as a relatively high number of such authors are listed: Approximately fifty different German Lutheran authors are registered overall (see table 120), and of these, only eighteen authors are listed more than once across the different collections (see table 121). Interestingly, the authors most frequently listed in the records were, contrary to previous findings, more clear-cut Pietist or pre-Pietist, examples being Johann Arndt, Heinrich Müller, Philipp Jacob Spener and Christian S criver. This implies that Hedmark & Østerdalen may have constituted a special reception field for Pietist ideas, or that the impact of Pietism is more discernable in collections recorded closer to 1750.

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2 See Hedmark & Østerdalen clerical probate records NOR10 45; the inventory starts on folio 45b.