



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

Northern Medieval World

Medieval Institute Publications

3-2-2020

Paranormal Encounters in Iceland 1150-1400


Ármann Jakobsson

University of Iceland, armannja@hi.is

Miriam Mayburd

University of Iceland, myryamm@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/mip_nmw

 Part of the European History Commons, Medieval Studies Commons, and the Scandinavian Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

Jakobsson, Ármann and Mayburd, Miriam, "Paranormal Encounters in Iceland 1150-1400" (2020).

Northern Medieval World. 5.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/mip_nmw/5

This Edited Collection is brought to you for free and open access by the Medieval Institute Publications at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Northern Medieval World by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



DE GRUYTER

PARANORMAL ENCOUNTERS IN ICELAND 1150-1400

*Edited by Ármann Jakobsson
and Miriam Mayburd*

THE NORTHERN MEDIEVAL WORLD:
ON THE MARGINS OF EUROPE

DE
|
G

MIP
MEDIEVAL
INQUIRY PROJECT

Paranormal Encounters in Iceland 1150–1400

The Northern Medieval World



On the Margins of Europe

Editorial Board

Carolyne Larrington, St. John's College, Oxford (Chair)

Oren Falk, Cornell University

Dawn Hadley, University of Sheffield

Kate Heslop, University of California, Berkeley

Jana Schulman, Western Michigan University

Jón Viðar Sigurðsson, Universitetet i Oslo

Paranormal Encounters in Iceland 1150–1400



Edited by
Árman Jakobsson and Miriam Mayburd

DE GRUYTER



ISBN 978-1-58044-329-6

e-ISBN (PDF) 978-1-5015-1386-2

e-ISBN (EPUB) 978-1-5015-1361-9

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019955108

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

© 2020 Walter de Gruyter Inc, Boston/Berlin

Cover image: © photo by Miriam Mayburd

Typesetting: Integra Software Services Pvt. Ltd.

Printing and binding: CPI books GmbH, Leck

www.degruyter.com

Contents

Introduction: The Paranormal Encounter — 1

Part I: Experiencing the Paranormal

Ármann Jakobsson

“I See Dead People”: The Externalization of Paranormal Experience in Medieval Iceland — 9

Miriam Mayburd

It Was a Dark and Stormy Night: Haunted Saga Homesteads, Climate Fluctuations, and the Vulnerable Self — 21

Ásdís Egilsdóttir

Happy Endings: The (Para)Normality of Miracles — 39

Andrea Maraschi

Pórgunna’s Dinner and Other Medieval Liminal Meals: Food as Mediator between this World and the Hereafter — 49

Marion Poilvez

A Troll Did It?: Trauma as a Paranormal State in the *Íslendingasögur* — 71

Sarah Bienko Eriksen

Traversing the Uncanny Valley: Glámr in Narratological Space — 89

Anna Katharina Heiniger

On the Threshold: The Liminality of Doorways — 109

Sean B. Lawing

The Burial of Body Parts in Old Icelandic *Grágás* — 131

Daniel C. Remein

Paranormal Prose: “Para-Narrative” and Ice in the Icelandic Sagas — 151

Part II: Figures of the Paranormal

Andrew McGillivray

Encounters with Hliðskjálf in Old Norse Mythology — 175

Sandra Ballif Straubhaar

“Ok flýgr þat jafnan”: Icelandic Figurations of Böðvarr bjarki’s Monster — 193

Arngrímur Vídalín

Demons, Muslims, Wrestling Champions: The Semantic History of *Blámenn* from the Twelfth to the Twentieth Century — 203

Kent Pettit

The New Faith vs. The Undead: Christmas Showdowns — 227

Zuzana Stankovitsová

Following up on Female *fylgjur*: A Re-Examination of the Concept of Female *fylgjur* in Old Icelandic Literature — 245

Rebecca Merkelbach

***Dólgri í byggðinni*: Meeting the Social Monster in the Sagas of Icelanders — 263**

Part III: Literature and the Paranormal

Christopher Crocker

Even a Henchman Can Dream: Dreaming at the Margins in *Brennu-Njáls saga* — 279

Pórdís Edda Jóhannesdóttir

A Normal Relationship?: Jarl Hákon and Þorgerðr Hølgabrúðr in Icelandic Literary Context — 295

Gunnvör S. Karlsdóttir

Priest Ketill’s Journey to Rome — 311

Ingibjörg Eyþórsdóttir

“Darraðarljóð” and Its Context within *Njáls saga*: Sorcery, Vision, *Leizla*? — 327

Martina Ceolin

Paranormal Tendencies in the Sagas: A Discussion about Genre — 347

Shaun F.D. Hughes

Reading the Landscape in *Grettis saga*: Þórhallur, the *meinvættur*, and Glámur — 367

yoav tirosh

Trolling Guðmundr: Paranormal Defamation in *Ljósvetninga saga* — 395

Védís Ragnheiðardóttir

“Meir af viel en karlmennsku”: Monstrous Masculinity in *Viktors saga ok Blávus* — 421

Index — 433