



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1997, 8th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 12th, 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Norse Openmindedness and the Discovery of Vinland

Krishnam Nambudiripad
Illinois Wesleyan University

Dan Terkla, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Krishnam Nambudiripad and Dan Terkla, Faculty Advisor, "Norse Openmindedness and the Discovery of Vinland" (April 12, 1997). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 8.
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1997/oralpres/8>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation 1.5

**NORSE OPENMINDEDNESS AND
THE DISCOVERY OF VINLAND**

Krishnam Nambudiripad and Dan Terkla*, Department of English, IWU

Much has been said about the Christian/pagan conflict in Icelandic sagas. Eirik's Saga deals with this problem throughout the story. At the time this saga was written, the newly established Christian Church considered paganism evil. The scene entitled "Gudrid is Told Her Future" portrays the noble heathen in an odd way for the pagan magic works. Can the idols be considered evil and still have power to help? The story is definitely told from a Christian perspective, yet this scene does not deny the power of pagan rituals. To reconcile paganism in such a manner, the Norse left room to discuss ideas that conflicted with their beliefs. This open-mindedness may have been integral to their discovery of North America.