

A HANDBOOK TO EDDIC POETRY

This is the first comprehensive and accessible survey in English of Old Norse eddic poetry: a remarkable body of literature rooted in the Viking Age, which is a critical source for the study of early Scandinavian myths, poetics, culture, and society. Dramatically recreating the voices of the legendary past, eddic poems distil moments of high emotion as human heroes and supernatural beings alike grapple with betrayal, loyalty, mortality, and love. These poems relate the most famous deeds of gods such as Óðinn and Þórr with their adversaries the giants; they bring to life the often fraught interactions between kings, queens, and heroes as well as their encounters with valkyries, elves, dragons, and dwarfs. Written by leading international scholars, the chapters in this volume showcase the poetic riches of the eddic corpus and reveal its relevance to the history of poetics, gender studies, pre-Christian religions, art history, and archaeology.

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Frontmatter
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Myths and Legends of Early Scandinavia

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*Translations and abbreviations of the titles
 of eddic poems*

I: Poems in the Codex Regius

<i>Alvissmál</i> (<i>All-wise's Sayings</i>)	<i>Alv</i>
<i>Atlakviða</i> (<i>Poem of Atli</i>)	<i>Akv</i>
<i>Atlamál in grœnlensku</i> (<i>Greenlandic Sayings of Atli</i>)	<i>Am</i>
<i>Brot af Sigurðarkviðu</i> (<i>Fragment of a Poem about Sigurðr</i>)	<i>Br</i>
<i>Fáfnismál</i> (<i>Sayings of Fáfnir</i>)	<i>Fm</i>
<i>Grímnismál</i> (<i>Grímnir's Sayings</i>)	<i>Grm</i>
<i>Gripisspá</i> (<i>Gripir's Prophecy</i>)	<i>Grp</i>
<i>Guðrúnarhvöt</i> (<i>Whetting of Guðrún</i>)	<i>Ghv</i>
<i>Guðrúnarkviða I</i> (<i>First Poem of Guðrún</i>)	<i>Gðr I</i>
<i>Guðrúnarkviða II</i> (<i>Second Poem of Guðrún</i>)	<i>Gðr II</i>
<i>Guðrúnarkviða III</i> (<i>Third Poem of Guðrún</i>)	<i>Gðr III</i>
<i>Hamðismál</i> (<i>Speech of Hamðir</i>)	<i>Hm</i>
<i>Hárbarðsljóð</i> (<i>Hárbarðr's Song</i>)	<i>Hrbl</i>
<i>Hávamál</i> (<i>Sayings of the High One</i>)	<i>Háv</i>
<i>Helgakviða Hjörvarðssonar</i> (<i>Poem of Helgi Hjörvarðsson</i>)	<i>HHv</i>
<i>Helgakviða Hundingsbana I</i> (<i>First Poem of Helgi Hundingsbani</i>)	<i>HH I</i>
<i>Helgakviða Hundingsbana II</i> (<i>Second Poem of Helgi Hundingsbani</i>)	<i>HH II</i>
<i>Helreið Brynhildar</i> (<i>Brynhildr's Ride to Hell</i>)	<i>Hlr</i>
<i>Hymiskviða</i> (<i>Hymir's Poem</i>)	<i>Hym</i>
<i>Lokasenna</i> (<i>Loki's Quarrel</i>)	<i>Ls</i>
<i>Oddrúnargrátr</i> (<i>Oddrún's Lament</i>)	<i>Od</i>
<i>Reginismál</i> (<i>Sayings of Reginn</i>)	<i>Rm</i>
<i>Sigrdrífumál</i> (<i>Sayings of Sigrdrífa</i>)	<i>Sd</i>
<i>Sigurðarkviða in skamma</i> (<i>Short Poem about Sigurðr</i>)	<i>Sg</i>
<i>Skírnismál</i> (<i>Sayings of Skírnir</i>)	<i>Skm</i>
<i>Vafþrúðnismál</i> (<i>Vafþrúðnir's Sayings</i>)	<i>Vm</i>
<i>Völundarkviða</i> (<i>Poem of Völundr</i>)	<i>Vkv</i>

xii *Translations and abbreviations of the titles of eddic poems*

Völuspá (Seeress's Prophecy) Vsp
Völuspá (Hauksbók) (Seeress's Prophecy, Hauksbók) Vsp(H)
Þrymskviða (Þrymr's Poem) Þrk

II: Other eddic poems

Baldrs Draumar (Baldr's Dreams) Bdr
Battle of the Goths and Huns Hunn
Buslubæn (Busla's Curses)
Darraðarljóð (Song of Dörruðr) Darr
Eiríksmál (Sayings of Eiríkr [blood-axe]) Eirm
Fjölsvinnsmál (Sayings of Fjölsvinnr) Fjöl
Gestumblinda gátur (Riddles of Gestumblindi)
Grottasöngur (Song of Grotti) Grt
Gróugaldur (Groa's Chant) Gg
Hákonarmál (Sayings of Hákon) Hák
Haraldskvæði (Hrafnsmál)
(Poem about Haraldr / The Raven's Sayings)
Hildibrandr's Death-Song
Hjálmar's Death-Song
Hrókskviða (Poem of Hrókr)
Hugsvinnsmál (Sayings of Hugsvinnr) Hsv
Hyndluljóð (Song of Hyndla) Hdl
Krákumál (Sayings of Kráka)
Merlínússpá (Merlin's Prophecy)
Rígsþula (List of Ríg) Rþ
Sólarljóð (Song of the Sun) Sól
Víkarsbálkr (Vikarr's Section) Vík
The Waking of Angantýr