Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages

BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

New Volumes
Poetry from Treatises on Poetics
Edited by Kari Ellen Gade in collaboration with Edith Marold

2 vols, clii + 1359 p., 1 b/w ills, 160 × 240 mm, 2017
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This volume presents most of the poetry contained in the Scandinavian poetic and grammatical treatises, such as the poetry in Skáldskaparmál, the þulur, Háttatal, the Third and Fourth Grammatical Treatises and Háttalykill. Included also are Málshátakvæði and stanzas from Laufás Edda not recorded elsewhere.

Poetry in fornaldarsögur
Edited by Margaret Clunies Ross

2 vols, approx. 1100 p., 160 × 240 mm
Hardback: € 140
Publication date: September 2017

This volume contains all the anonymous poetry from medieval Icelandic mythical-heroic sagas (fornaldarsögur), such as Heiðreks saga, Gautreks saga, and other sagas set in prehistoric Scandinavia and more exotic locations. This diverse body of poetry is treated here for the first time as significant in its own right rather than as an appendage to the Poetic Edda. It also contains a new edition with extensive notes of Gunnlaugr Leifsson’s Merlinuspá, based on Geoffrey of Monmouth’s Prophecies of Merlin, as well as the little-known but entertaining Skaufhala bálkr by Sviartr á Hofstöðum, a mock-heroic poem about a fox.
ALSO AVAILABLE

Poetry from the Kings’ Sagas
From Mythical Times to c. 1035
Edited by Diana Whaley
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The first volume of two, on the large and important body of skaldic poetry preserved in sagas about the kings of Norway and other Scandinavian rulers.

It is dedicated mainly to court poetry in praise of rulers from the legendary Yngling kings to Óláfr Haraldsson (St. Olav) and Knútr Sveinsson (Cnut the Great). Alongside formal commemoration of raids and battles there are dialogues with valkyries, lively travelogue, accounts of miracles, and freestanding stanzas capturing frustrated love and moments of humour.

Review
“Poetry from the Kings’ Sagas 1, like the other published volumes of the series, is stunning in the amount of information - both documentary and interpretive - that it makes available (…) We can look forward to the new wave of skaldic studies it is certain to generate. It lives up to the high standards and, not least, the efficiency of the series thus far, and bodes well for the volumes that are still forthcoming.”


Poetry from the Kings’ Sagas
From c. 1035 to c. 1300
Edited by Kari Ellen Gade
Hardback: € 140

The second volume of two, on the large and important body of skaldic poetry preserved in sagas about the kings of Norway and other Scandinavian rulers.

It contains poetry composed during the period c. 1035-1300, from the beginning of the reign of Magnús Ólafsson (d. 1047) to the reign of Magnús Hákonarson (d. 1280). The poetry commemorates events that took place on Scandinavian soil and on the Continent, as well as in England, Ireland, Scotland, the Orkneys, Russia, Africa, and Byzantium.

Review
“This is another Landmark publication (…) This publication renews one’s faith in the possibilities of scholarship. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those involved in bringing this series into being.”

R. Frank, in The Medieval Review, 10.03.08

“One should not stint praise when dealing with a work of such excellence.”

Poetry on Christian Subjects
Edited by Margaret Clunies Ross

Hardback: € 140

This volume is devoted to poems of Christian piety, often recorded outside prose contexts, which date from the mid-twelfth to the end of the fourteenth century. They range in subject matter from saints’ lives and lives of the apostles to poems addressed to the Cross and the Virgin Mary and reveal the poetic compositions of some of the learned ecclesiastics (and a few laymen) of medieval Iceland.

Review
“As far as the textual criticism and decipherment of skaldic poetry are concerned, after this edition not much is left for anyone to add.”


IN PREPARATION

Poetry on Icelandic History
Edited by Guðrún Nordal

Poetry in Sagas of Icelanders
Edited by Tarrin Wills, Kari Ellen Gade and Margaret Clunies Ross

Runic Poetry
Edited by Edith Marold
ISBN 978-2-503-51895-4

Bibliography and Indices
Edited by Hannah Burrows
**Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages**

The Norse-Icelandic *Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages* project aims to produce a new edition of the known corpus of skaldic verse, including runic inscriptions in metrical form. In practice this means editing all poetry supposed to be from earliest times until c. 1400, which does not belong to the collection in the Codex Regius of the Elder Edda and related collections. This is the first edition of the skaldic corpus from first principles since Finnur Jónsson’s *Den Norsk-Islandske Skjaldedigtning* (1912-15).

The edition is produced in eight volumes, each one based on distinct source categories arranged in assumed chronological order, so that the manuscript contexts in which the poetry has been preserved will be kept in view. This basis of selection, plus the inclusion of an English translation and notes, should prove useful to readers outside skaldic studies, such as historians, archaeologists and scholars of other medieval literatures, who have previously found skaldic verse rather inaccessible. The volume of runic poetry will also contain images of the objects on which the inscriptions were carved. There will be a ninth volume comprising various indices and a complete bibliography of works relevant to skaldic poetry.

“*This is a landmark publication, renewing one’s faith in the possibilities of scholarship. The editors’ methodological rigor, profound learning, and solidly grounded conclusions have placed the study of skaldic verse on a new footing.*”

R. Frank, in *The Medieval Review*, 09.10.19 on Poetry on Christian Subjects
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