Stories from Sagas of Kings

Edited by Anthony Faulkes

Of the six texts presented here as ‘stories’, five are found as þættir included in Icelandic sagas of Norwegian kings, in texts such as Morkinskinna, Flateyjarbók and Hulda/Hrokkinskiina. The sixth, the longer of the two included versions of Stúfs þáttir, may give an indication of how these stories existed independently before being incorporated into the kings’ sagas. Most feature Haraldr harðráði (1046–66), who was particularly popular as the subject of such stories, and relate his encounters with Icelanders, some of them poets; in one, Völsa þáttir, the king is St Óláfr (1015–30), in a highly-coloured account of missionary activity in Norway.

The texts of this edition are reproduced from Íslendinga sögur IV and V, ed. Guðni Jónsson (Reykjavík, 1946–47), and are normalised for the modern Icelandic reader. They are published here with an introduction, notes and glossary compiled by Anthony Faulkes.

Contents: Halldórss þáttir Snorrasonar inn fyrri, Halldórss þáttir Snorrasonar inn síðari, Stúfs þáttir inn meiri, Stúfs þáttir inn skemmri, Völsa þáttir, Brands þáttir örva.

First published as Stories from the Sagas of the Kings in 1980. In this second edition, published in 2007, the introduction, notes and glossary have been corrected and reformatted with minor additions.

ISBN 978 0 903521 72 7                      Price: £10 (£5 for Viking Society members)