Snorri Sturluson qua Fulcrum

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Abstract: Snorri Sturluson qua Fulcrum: Perspectives on the Cultural Activity of Myth, Mythological Poetry and Narrative in Medieval Iceland

The present paper constructs an overview of Snorri Sturluson’s impact, through Edda, on the cultural activity of mythology in vernacular poetries and narration. General evidence of impacts on eddic and skaldic poetries (§1) provides a frame for a series of illustrative examples, beginning with the relatively unequivocal cases of Lokrur (§2) and the late stanzas added to Baldrs draumar (§3). However, the kenning ‘mud of the eagle’ clearly indicates Snorri’s reception in a contemporary context (§4), opening a three-part survey of cumulative evidence of influence on Lokasenna (§5–7). The possibility of influence as a model for Þrymskviða’s composition is suggested (§8), which would have analogues in saga prose (§9). Although details may be equivocated, Edda nevertheless emerges as a (sometimes contested) voice of authority in medieval Icelandic mythological discourses.

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