

Sigurðar saga fóts (The Saga of Sigurðr Foot)

A Translation

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Abstract

This is the first English translation of the short Icelandic romance *Sigurðar saga fóts*, with an introduction presenting the evidence for its dating and immediate literary context. Like most Icelandic romances, *Sigurðar saga* is a bridal-quest story; the support of a foster-brother is key to the hero winning the bride; and the foster-brothers start out as opponents before recognising their mutual excellence and swearing foster-brotherhood. Uniquely, however, the men who become foster-brothers begin by competing for the same bride (Signý): the eponymous Sigurðr fótr wins Signý only because Ásmundr gives her to him in exchange for foster-brotherhood. Ásmundr's decision can be read as demonstrating with unusual starkness the superior importance in much Icelandic romance of homosocial relationships over heterosexual ones, giving the saga a certain paradigmatic status. Translating the saga in an open-access forum and reconstructing its literary context will, we hope, encourage further analyses.

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