

## EDITORIAL

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“(...) in that it affirms the lively scholarly traditions of Viking studies in Latin America. Perhaps inevitably, most research on the Vikings has a heavy Euro-Scandinavian flavour, but there are no peripheries in the study of the past (...) to all his colleagues who have shaped such a rewarding and stimulating research environment for Scandinavian studies in Brazil and beyond.” Neil Price, preface to *Dicionário de História e Cultura da Era Viking*, Brazil, 2017.

Scholar interest in Medieval Scandinavia and the Viking Age began during the nineteenth century amidst large amount of research that was being carried out in Europe, including translations of medieval manuscripts. Following the same trend, Latin America was not far from that tradition. In the 1840s, Brazilian journal *Revista do Instituto Histórico e Geográfico* translated some studies by the Danish Carl Christian Rafn, famous for his publications involving Icelandic sagas and the Norse presence in America during the Medieval period. In the same decades, following the ideas of Peter Wilhelm Lund, several Brazilians during the 19th century discussed the matter of a supposed Viking arrival in Brazil.

Emerging around the 2000s with a large number of publications, events and academic activities, Scandinavian and Nordic studies became a privileged topic especially for historical researches, which subsequently gave birth to publications in English by Brazilians, also enabling their participation in international events and PhD training in Scandinavian universities.

The establishment of NEVE, *Nucleus of Vikings and Scandinavian Studies* (Núcleo de Estudos Vikings e Escandinavos, in Portuguese) in 2010 was extremely important for the consolidation of Nordic studies in Brazil. Since this period several congresses,

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courses and publications have been organized by the group, fostering a greater insertion of research on the field of Viking Age studies in Brazil. Also, more recently NEVE has been promoting exchanges and partnerships with international institutes and researchers, contributing to the process of globalizing Scandinavian studies.

Following this trend, *Scandia: Journal of Medieval Norse Studies*, intends to be a platform for studies on such a matter conducted in Latin America, and to act as an instrument for debate and exchange between academics from Romance and English speaking countries, whose central object is the Nordic studies. The journal has received several papers, especially in English, addressing the most varied fields of research in Medieval Scandinavia studies.

In the article *Between fiction and falsehood: the ethics of lying in the sagas of Icelanders*, **Brian McMahan** analyses some ethical and moral aspects present in the Icelandic Sagas, concluding that lie and deception were highly celebrated subjects by the writers of medieval narratives.

In *Eaten Hearts and Supernatural Knowledge in Eiríks Saga Rauða*, **Andrea Maraschi** develops an original interpretation of the famous seiðr episode involving the seeress Þorbjörg - this character's act of eating hearts during the ritual in Greenland had objective relations with European magical traditions, and therefore was not only a fictional account created to strengthen Christianity. In addition to a strong background in Scandinavian studies, the author still uses the theoretical reference of the anthropologist Ernesto de Martino, an important Italian scholar.

**Deniz Cem Gülen** compares the *Knýtlinga* saga and other European narratives in his article *The most powerful king in Scandinavia - the representation of Knútr inn ríki in Knýtlinga saga*, demonstrating that for studies concerning Icelandic sagas it is also necessary to use the comparative method and from a historical perspective.

**Christopher Crocker**, in his article *The discourse of dreams in medieval Icelandic saga writing*, demonstrates that the theme of dreams present in medieval Norse literature may have come from both native origins or from foreign influences, especially from the Christian tradition.

**Francesco Sangriso**, in his article *And insult conquers the silence of a thousand years: A níð for Stieg Larsson and the Old Norse poetry* compares the presence of the níð concept in Medieval Nordic literature with its use in contemporary Swedish literature.

The journal also presents in its content the presence of two articles translated into Portuguese. The first is a classic study by the Italian historian **Raffaele Pettazoni**, *Wotan-Odin*, in which the scholar conducts a comparative study between one of the most important Germanic deities and their correlations with Celtic and Indo-European religiosity. The second translation, *Mulheres como funcionárias do culto ou Especialistas Rituais na Era do Ferro Germânica?* is a recent article by the German researcher **Rudolf Simek** who quarrels the role of priestesses of the old Germanic prophets.

The last article of this section is a study on the scientific production of the Nucleus of Vikings and Scandinavian Studies, *Análise da produção científica do NEVE sob o viés da curadoria e da memória digital*, written by **João Paulo Moraes de Andrade** and **André Anderson Cavalcante Felipe**.

A debate is brought in the interview section with Danish scholar **Jens Peter Schjødt**, *Myth and Old Norse Religion*, in which the researcher discusses some topics related to the pre-Christian Nordic religion.

In the translation section brings the first Portuguese academic work of its kind: the famous eddic poem *Völuspá, a profecia da vidente: notas e tradução* by **Pablo Gomes de Miranda**. **Yuri Fabri Venancio** presents his translation of the Norwegian fairy tale *Det syvende far i huset* into Portuguese, an important source for studies on the relationship between Norse mythology and folklore.

The last section features a review of four books.

**Luciana de Campos** analyses the book *An Early Meal a Viking Age Cookbook and Culinary Odyssey* (Daniel Serra and Hanna Tunberg), an important study for those interested in Experimental Archaeology of the Viking Age diet.

**Fabio Baldez** comments on the book *The Martial Society: Aspects of warriors, fortifications and social change in Scandinavia* (Lena and Michael Olausson), an important publication on the theme of war in the Viking Age.

**Leandro Vilar** reviews the book *Os Vikings em Portugal e Galiza* (Hélio Pires), one of the few studies on the Nordic presence in Iberia during the Viking Age.

**Munir Lufte Ayoub** comments on the important translation from Arabic into Portuguese, *Viagem ao Volga* (by Aḥmad Ibn Faḍlan), one of the most famous medieval sources for the study of the Vikings.

For all readers, we wish you a great journey through the first issue of Scandia! The journal is open in a continuous stream for new contributions. We thank all those committed to the advancement of Norse studies in Latin America and Brazil.