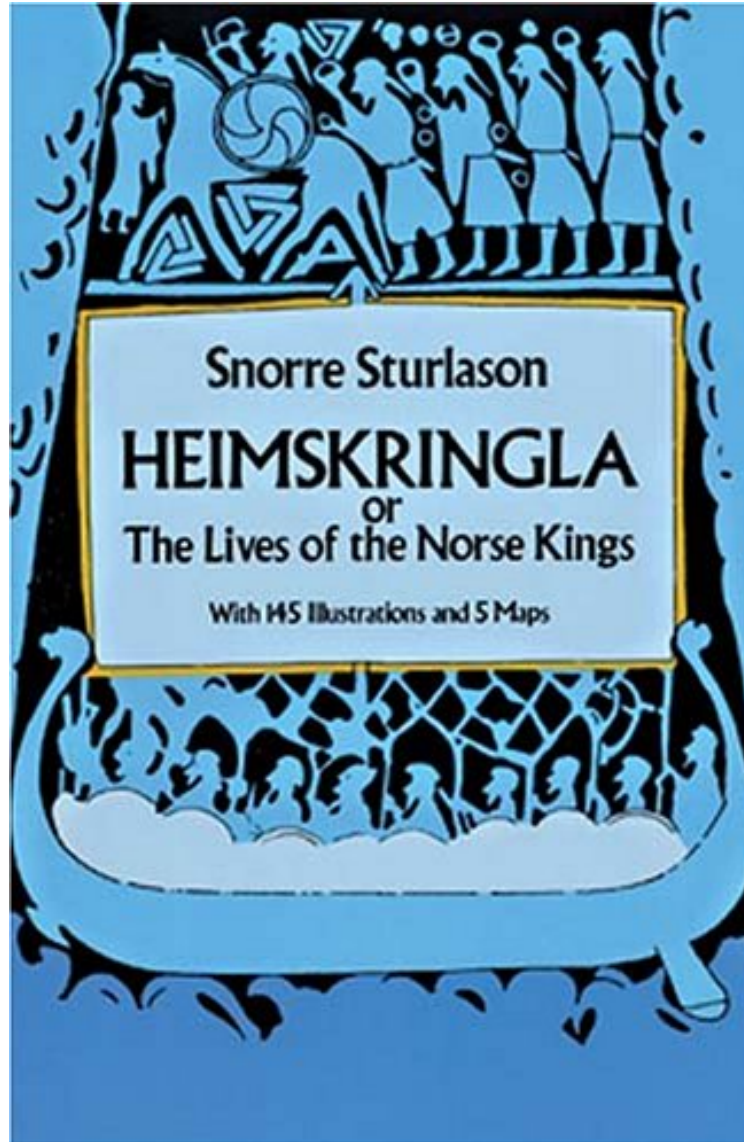


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## Heimskringla: or, The Lives of the Norse Kings

*Snorre Sturlason*

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**Snorre Sturlason : Heimskringla: or, The Lives of the Norse Kings** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heimskringla: or, The Lives of the Norse Kings:

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Hardly a "victorian" translation, but rather an attempt to retain old Norse flavor! By Webistrator This compendium of the Norse Kings' chronicles is a great effort to keep the flavor and literary rhythm of the original works by Snorri Sturluson. The extensive annotations and clarifications make this an ideal reference work for navigating the labyrinth of Icelandic and Norse sagas and other literature from the

Scandinavian side of the sea. It's an ideal companion to an aggregation of the Norse sagas. If this volume has a shortcoming, that is that it lacks what all of the present-day renderings of the related body of literature could have to add interest for the novice: up-to-date maps keyed to the individual chronicles. But in fairness, that could be a volume in itself, for sure! Criticism of this translation of the Snorri's chronicles of the lives of the Norse kings as "Victorian" is not very insightful. First, the Victorian era ended with the 20th century (Queen Victoria died in 1899). This volume dates at the earliest back to 1932. Second, expecting a translation that reads like Harry Potter does a major disservice to both Snorri's and the editorial board/translators' efforts. It might make for a more casual read, but that isn't the purpose of this volume. Perhaps a version of Clif's Notes or a lighter pictorial Marvel's comics edition will be forthcoming...5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Norse king history By J. Spencer This is the best history book that I have ever read. It is very full of history and details without any author input of personal opinions. I have been doing genealogy and this book has cleared up some questions that I could not find answers to anywhere. The book is well worth it for anyone into history or genealogy. 28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. OK, but..... By Christopher R. Travers I rate translations of historical document based on the importance of the original, the readability of the translation, and the availability of better translations. In rare cases, I also look at the fidelity to the original (in cases where I have read the material in the original language). This work gets 3 stars. On the first element, Heimskringla is of enormous importance in both mythological and historical studies relating to Viking and Medieval Scandinavia. Snorri's account begins with a mythological account of the gods euhemerized (as in Edda) in the Ynglinga Saga, and then goes through the history of the kings of Norway starting with Harald Fairhair. The material is of tremendous importance and even later sagas in the series have proven important in folklore studies. However the translation was made at a time when it was fashionable to provide very flowery translations of sagas and other Old Norse documents. The goal was to make the work feel classy and old. Unfortunately this greatly hurts its readability and, as Einar Haugan pointed out in his essay "On Translating from the Scandinavian," this approach fails to note that in their day such works did not have such a feel and hence a more direct translation is often better. Hence I think that the fidelity and readability issues are worth treating this edition as less important than it would be otherwise. Finally there are other translations out there which are more recent and reflect a better understanding of the Old Norse documents in their historical context. For this reason, while this isn't a BAD addition to one's library, I would recommend other translations instead.

Great classic by Icelandic poet/chieftain chronicles the reigns of 16 high kings descended from the warrior-wizard god Odin. Major section on 15-year reign of Olav II Haraldson, patron saint of Norway. Based on earlier histories, oral traditions, plus new material by author, all presented with intelligence, warmth and objectivity. Over 130 illustrations and 5 maps.

Language Notes Text: English (translation)