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**THE VÖLSUNG
BALLADS
FROM THE
FAROE ISLANDS
IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

Translated from Faroese by

HELEN F. LESLIE-JACOBSEN and
MORTAN NOLSØE JACOBSEN

ARC HUMANITIES PRESS



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ABBREVIATIONS

- CCF CCF numbers refer to the number of the ballad in Svend Grundtvig and Jørgen Bloch, eds. *Føroya kvæði: Corpus Carminum Færoensium*. Vols. 1–6. Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1941–1972.
- DgF Svend Grundtvig, ed. *Danmarks gamle Folkeviser*. 12 vols. Copenhagen: Selskabet til den danske Literaturs Fremme, 1853–1976.
- EYL EYL numbers refer to *kvæði* melodies of texts not included in CCF. See Marianne Clausen. *Løgini / Melodies*. Vol. 8 of *Føroya kvæði: Corpus Carminum Færoensium*. Universitetsjubilæets danske Samfund 559. Hoyvík: Stiðin, 2003.
- Fugloyarbók Copenhagen, Den Arnamagnænske Samling, AM Acc. 4 a.
- GKS 2894 I Copenhagen, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, GKS 2894 I.
- NF M. B. Landstad, ed. *Norske folkeviser*. Christiania [Oslo]: Tönsbergs, 1853.
- NKS 345 8vo Copenhagen, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, NKS 345 8vo.
- Sandoyarbók Copenhagen, Dansk Folkemindesamling, DFS 68.
- SMB Bengt R. Jonsson, Margareta Jersild, and Sven-Bertil Jansson, eds. *Sveriges medeltida ballader*. Stockholm: Svenskt visarkiv, 1983–2001.
- TSB Bengt R. Jonsson, Svale Solheim, and Eva Danielson, eds. *The Types of the Scandinavian Medieval Ballad: A Descriptive Catalogue*. Skrifter utgivna av svenskt visarkiv 5. Stockholm: Svenskt visarkiv, 1978.
- Utsyn L. Heggstad and H. Grüner Nielsen, eds. *Utsyn yver gammel norsk folkevisedikting*. Kristiania [Oslo]: Norli, 1912.
- * Asterisks within the text of the Faroese ballads denote that a reading is conjectural or is an emendation.

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE IDEA BEHIND offering a volume of English translations is to encourage more people who do not have Faroese as a native language to learn about the literature, language, and culture of the Faroe Islands. It is hoped that the English translation and notes will be helpful aids in engaging with the original sources. It should also be said that the selection of ballads here (those about the hero Sjúrdur, known in Old Norse as Sigurðr Fáfnisbani) should not be perceived as being the best, most sung, or more valued on the Faroes by those participating in the still-living ballad tradition. Indeed, they have been selected because they are amongst those best known abroad and are comparable to material found in the Old Norse world. We therefore hope that the selection will be of particular interest to those working in Nordic, medieval, and Old Norse studies and those interested in Faroese ballads in general.

We would like to thank Universitets-Jubilæets danske Samfund for permission to reproduce the Faroese text of the ballads from volume one of *Føroya kvæði: Corpus Carminum Færoensium*, published by Einar Munksgaard in Copenhagen in 1951.

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