

**FRANZ THIMM'S SERIES OF EUROPEAN
GRAMMARS AFTER IN EASY AND PRACTICAL
METHOD. PART XI. THE ICELANDIC
LANGUAGE. A SHORT PRACTICAL AND EASY
METHOD OF LEARNING
THE OLD NORSK TONGUE OR ICELANDIC
LANGUAGE, AFTER THE DANISH**

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Franz Thimm's Series of European Grammars After in Easy and Practical Method. Part XI. The Icelandic Language. A Short Practical and Easy Method of Learning the Old Norsk Tongue or Icelandic Language, After the Danish by E. Rask & H. Lund

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E. RASK & H. LUND

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THE ICELANDIC LANGUAGE.

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A SHORT
PRACTICAL AND EASY METHOD
OF LEARNING THE
OLD NORSK TONGUE
OR
ICELANDIC LANGUAGE

AFTER THE DANISH

OF

E. RASK

WITH AN ICELANDIC READER
AN ACCOUNT OF THE NORSK POETRY AND THE SAGAS
AND A MODERN ICELANDIC VOCABULARY FOR TRAVELLERS

BY

H. LUND.



LONDON:

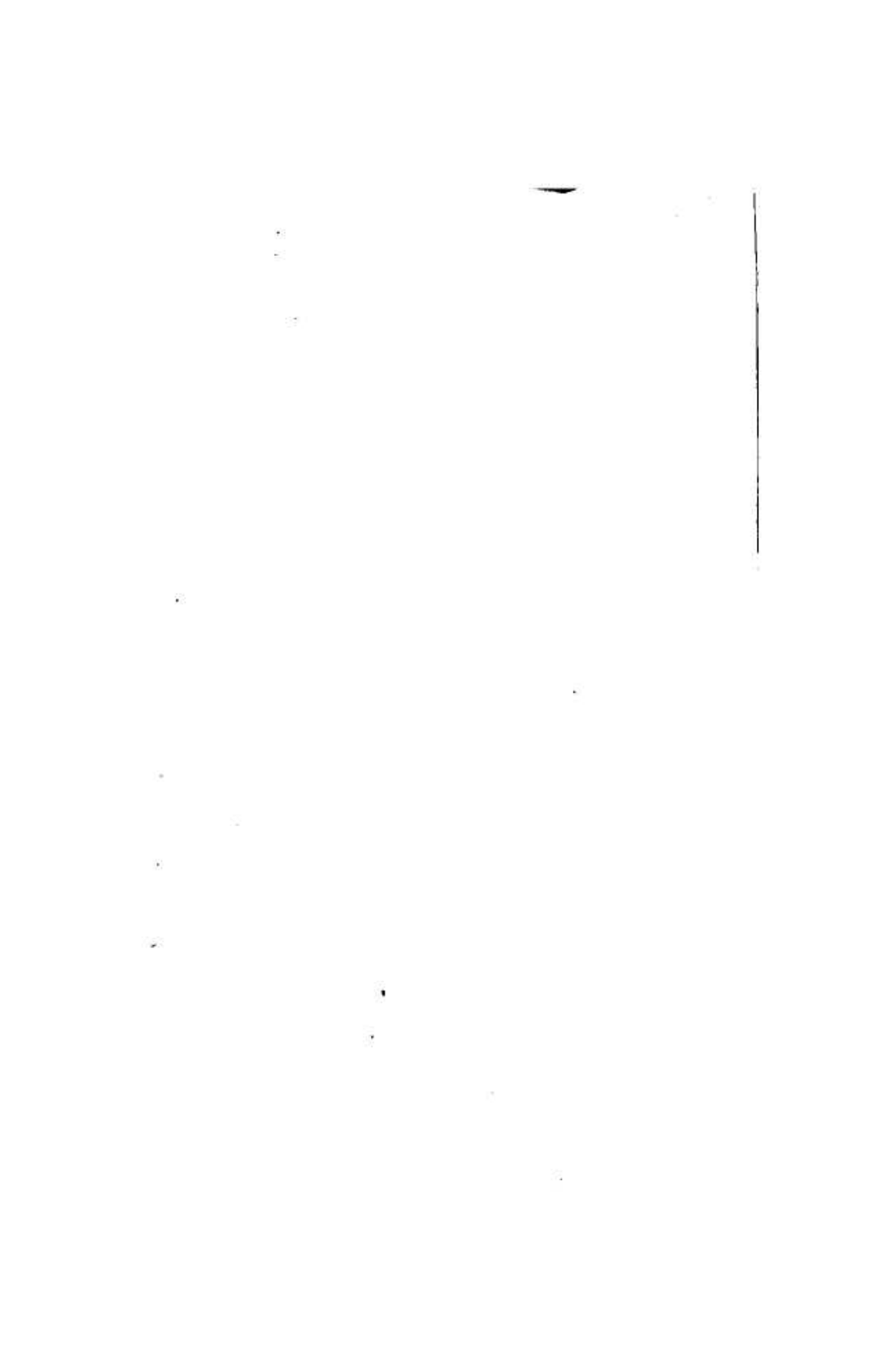
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PREFACE.

The Old Norsk or Icelandic and the Anglo-Saxon may be termed the parents of the English Language, and their Knowledge is not only highly useful but absolutely necessary to every educated Englishman who looks upon his language with the eye of a historian and philosopher. Nothing is more interesting than to look back to these two sources from whence the English tongue is derived, and a thorough knowledge of English is only possible by being acquainted with its origin.

These languages together with Anglo-Norman, early German, ancient, mediæval and modern English, ought to be regularly studied.

By adapting Rask's abridgement we have indicated a simple method of learning Icelandic, which we hope will be found generally useful.

The Editor.

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PART I.

The Pronunciation.

The Alphabet.

The Icelandic Alphabet is composed of the following letters

Pronunciation		Pronunciation	
A a	ah	R r	err
B b	bay	S s	s
D d	day	T t	tay
E e	a	U u	oo
F f	eff	V v	vay
G g	ghay	X x	iks
H h	hah	Y y	ue
I i	e	Z z	zet
J j	yod	Þ þ	th
K k	kah	Ð ð	dh
L l	el	Æ æ	ae
M m	em	Œ œ	oe (Danish œ, Ger- man ö)
N n	en	Ö ö	oe (German ö)
O o	o		
P p	pay		

1. The Old Norsk order of the vowels was the following

<i>Vowels</i>	<i>Diphthongs</i>
a	á æ
ö	au ey
e	— ei
i	— i
o	ó œ
u	ú —
y	— ý

2. *ø* always open, as in the danish words: *Døren, lønne*.

3. *e*, the same as in the danish: *bedre, Hest*. Before the open *e* (*é*) an *j* is often added in the pronunciation, which generally receives the accent (´) as: *lét (ljét) lod*, agreeing with the Danish *sjette* from *seks*, *jeg* from *tyó*. It is uncertain how far back into past ages this pronunciation may be traced.

4. *i*, as in the danish *vis, til*, it comes near to the danish *é* in *leve*, and is both long and short. When it goes over into *í*, it sounds like the danish in *Pil, vis, fire*.

5. *o*, always open, as the danish *å*, it is both long and short, as in: *Bogen, os, komme*; whilst *ó* sounds like the danish in *Os, Stol, stor*, perhaps a little broader.

6. *u* as in the danish words *Bud, Hul, kun*, long and short, in its transition to *ú* it sounds like the danish *Hus, Hul, brun*. That this pronunciation of the *u* and *ú* is the genuine old norsk, is proved not only by all the northern languages, but also by the Ferroe dialect, in which the correct sound has been maintained to this day, f. i.

<i>oldnorsk-ferroe</i>	<i>danish</i>
<i>kunna</i>	<i>kunne</i>
<i>kúga kúa</i>	<i>kue</i>

7. *y* as in the danish *Byg, hyppe*; it approaches a little to the danish *e* and is both long and short; changed into *ý* it sounds like the danish *Bly, Syre, flyde*. That *y* was really distinguished from *i*, is proved partly by the languages of the northern continent (Fastlands sprogene) partly by the icelandic pronunciation of the day, which pronounces *y* in *kyrr* short, but the letter *ý* long: but more particularly by the circumstance, that the poets (skaldene) form a half-rhyme with *i*, as Fms. 6, 35.

Herstillis þarf ek hylli,
hálf eru völd und Kálfi

8. *á* like the danish *av* in *Havre*, greek, latin and italian *au* in *aura* with a clear *a* (not like the german *au*).

9. *æ* almost like *aj*, so that the sound of *a* approaches the danish *æ*, and the sound of *j* somewhat resembles *e* (næsten *æje*).

10. *au*, as the danish *øw* or *ow*, which is still the pronunciation of the northern *au*, it is very much like the german *au*: *Auga, Auge*, the eye.