

**ISLANDICA AN ANNUAL RELATING TO
ICELAND AND THE FISKE ICELANDIC
COLLECTION IN CORNELL UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY, VOLUME I. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
ICELANDIC SAGAS AND MINOR TALES,
VOLUME II. THE NORTHMEN IN AMERICA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649000616

Islandica an annual relating to iceland and the fiske icelandic collection in cornell university library, Volume I.Bibliography of the Icelandic sagas and minor tales, Volume II. The northmen in america by Halldór Hermannsson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HALLDÓR HERMANSSON

**ISLANDICA AN ANNUAL RELATING TO
ICELAND AND THE FISKE ICELANDIC
COLLECTION IN CORNELL UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY, VOLUME I. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
ICELANDIC SAGAS AND MINOR TALES,
VOLUME II. THE NORTHMEN IN AMERICA**

797
32

2

ISLANDICA

AN ANNUAL RELATING TO ICELAND
AND THE
FISKE ICELANDIC COLLECTION
IN
CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

EDITED BY
GEORGE WILLIAM HARRIS
LIBRARIAN

VOLUME I.
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ICELANDIC SAGAS
AND MINOR TALES

By HALLDÓR HERMANSSON

ISSUED BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ITHACA, NEW YORK
1908

Z
2556
H35
cop. 2

COPYRIGHT, 1908.
BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

ANDRUS & CHURCH, PRINTERS
ITHACA, N. Y.

INTRODUCTION.

Willard Fiske, the first Librarian of Cornell University, was not only a skilful bibliographer and scholarly librarian but also an indefatigable book-collector. When he resigned his librarianship in 1883, after fifteen years of service, and took up his residence in Italy, he was fortunate in being able to devote his leisure to bibliographical studies and to indulge his fondness for collecting books. How he was led, a few years later, to bring together and present to the University Library a collection of Rhæto-Romanic literature, numbering some fourteen hundred volumes, and a remarkably complete Dante collection, comprising over seven thousand volumes, he has charmingly told in the introductions to the printed catalogues of these collections. His visits to Egypt led him to make a collection of the literature of transcription which he also presented to the University Library, while to the National Library of Iceland he presented a collection of some twelve hundred volumes on the game of chess and its history. At his death in 1904, he bequeathed to Cornell University his extensive Petrarch and Icelandic collections and not only made generous provision for their maintenance and increase, but bequeathed also to the University all his residuary estate as a fund for general library purposes, adding altogether about half a million dollars to the endowment of the University Library.

Of the collections given by him to the University Library the Icelandic collection is much the largest. It is also the oldest and perhaps the richest in rare books and editions. Its formation was the work of a lifetime, for its beginning was made by Mr. Fiske when a student in the University of Upsala more than fifty years ago. Here he became imbued with a deep and abiding love for the Old-Icelandic language and literature, and took advantage of the favorable opportunity offered by his residence in Scandinavia to collect books in this field. Upon his return to America in 1853, he became an assistant in the Astor Library,

then just about to open its doors under the superintendence of that able and learned librarian J. G. Cogswell, from whom he received valuable training in bibliographical methods. At the same time he kept up his Icelandic studies and gradually added to his Icelandic collection. A description of the collection was given in 1860 in Wynne's "Private Libraries of New York," and it was then reputed to be the richest collection of Icelandic literature and history in the country. A later account of the collection is given by M. W. Plummer in the "Bulletin of Bibliography" for April, 1897; but the fullest description is that given by E. P. Evans in the "Beilage zur Allgemeinen Zeitung," 13, 14 Sept. 1896. Since then it has been largely increased and now contains about nine thousand volumes.

Some idea of the completeness of the collection in its special field may be gained from the four numbers of Mr. Fiske's privately printed "Bibliographical Notices" which contain supplements to the British Museum Catalogue of Books printed in Iceland, and from the Bibliography of the Icelandic Sagas here printed. But a clearer conception of the scope and extent of the collection will perhaps be obtained from the following general description of it, given by Mr. Fiske himself in No. V. of his "Bibliographical Notices."

"The collection includes nearly every publication enumerated by Möbius, besides all the archæological treatises, all the works on the scattered remains of runic literature and on Scandinavian mythology, all the annals, travels, natural histories, government documents, ecclesiastical writings, biographies and bibliographies, which can, in any way, throw light on the history, topography, indigenous products, commerce, language and letters of Iceland. It lacks very few of the editions and translations of the sagas, the ancient laws, the Eddas, and the skaldic lays, and very few of the treatises which illustrate them; it lacks still fewer of the strictly linguistic works—dictionaries, grammars, anthologies—relating to either the Old-Icelandic or the New-Icelandic, possessing, to give a single instance, every edition and version of the numerous philological productions of Erasmus Rask. It includes most of the texts edited by Swedish scholars in the 17th and 18th centuries, and all of those edited by the remarkable group of Norwegian scholars in the 19th century, as well as every text, translation and tract issued by

the Arna-Magnæan Commission, the Lærdómslistafélag, the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, the Icelandic Literary Society, the Nordisk Literatur-Samfund, the Norsk Oldskriftselskab, the Þjóðvinafélag and the Samfund til Udgivelse af gammel nordisk Litteratur. It has all the impressions of the Icelandic Bible, or of its parts. Its series of Icelandic periodicals—whether printed in the island itself, in Denmark or in Canada—is absolutely complete; and all but complete is its series of laws, ordinances and rescripts, regulating the island's affairs, promulgated by either the Danish or the Icelandic authorities. Of the geographical descriptions of Iceland, from those published in Hakluyt and Purchas and Ramusio to the voluminous work of the French expedition under Gaimard—from the earliest dubious notices of Thule in the mediæval chronicles to the recent and exact topographical reports of Thoroddsen—scarcely one is wanting, each and every published voyage being present not only in its various original editions but in all its translations. The cartography of Iceland is especially well represented, beginning with the charts compiled to accompany the voyages of the Zeni, the editions of Ptolemy and the works of Olaus Magnus, Ortelius and Münster, and coming down to the remarkable map of Björn Gunnlaugsson and the marine and coast surveys issued by the Danish, British and French governments. As to Greenland the collection possesses those writings which concern themselves with the early European settlements in that icy region, and with the fugitive visits paid by navigators from the Icelandic commonwealth to the opposite northernmost shores of the American continent; and as to the Færo archipelago it has brought together those which treat of the Icelandic dialect there spoken, or of the older history—the saga age—of the interesting insular group. In addition to its books and pamphlets and journals the collection includes a great number of ephemeral publications—broadsides of various sorts, placards, funeral inscriptions, *vers d'occasion*, prospectuses, circulars—and not a few engravings and photographs of Icelandic persons and places."

Besides making ample provision for the maintenance and increase of the Dante, Petrarch, and Icelandic collections, with which Mr. Fiske so greatly enriched the University Library, and which constitute such a splendid and permanent memorial

of the bibliographical knowledge and skill of their collector, his will contained the following bequest :

"I give and bequeath to the said Cornell University the sum of Five Thousand (5000) Dollars, to have and to hold the same forever, in trust, nevertheless, to receive the income thereof, and to use and expend the said income for the purposes of the publication of an annual volume relating to Iceland and the said Icelandic collection in the library of the said University."

At the time the will was made, Mr. Fiske, in discussing its provisions with Professor Horatio S. White, whom he appointed his literary executor, suggested that this annual volume might contain an accession list of the collection, or papers, etc., on, *e. g.*, the discovery of America by the Norsemen, or on any topic connected with the history, philology, literature, etc., of Iceland, including, *e. g.*, the saga literature. In pursuance of these provisions and suggestions the first of the series of annual volumes is now issued, containing a bibliography of the sagas relating to Iceland, prepared by Mr. Halldór Hermannsson, who was associated with Mr. Fiske in his later bibliographical work and is now in charge of the Fiske Icelandic collection in Cornell University Library.

G. W. HARRIS.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
ITHACA, JUNE, 1908

BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE
ICELANDIC SAGAS
AND MINOR TALES

BY
HALLDÓR HERMANNSSON