

**THE BOOK OF THE  
SETTLEMENT  
OF ICELAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649084845

The Book of the Settlement of Iceland by Ari Frodi & T. Ellwood

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ARI FRODI & T. ELLWOOD**

**THE BOOK OF THE  
SETTLEMENT  
OF ICELAND**



SETTLEMENT  
OF ICELAND :

ARI  
FRÓDI



translated  
by the Rev.  
T. Ellwood, M.A.

**The Book**  
of the  
**Settlement of Iceland.**

---

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL ICELANDIC OF  
ARI THE LEARNED,

BY

REV. T. ELLWOOD, M.A.

RECTOR OF TORVER,

Author of "Lakeland and Iceland."

---

KENDAL:

T. WILSON, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, 28, HIGHGATE.

1898.

*(All rights reserved.)*



To EIRÍKR MAGNÚSSON, Esq., M.A.

---

To you, to whom I owe much of what I know in Icelandic, with its exhaustless stores of literature and legend, I respectfully inscribe this translation as a slight acknowledgment of the kindness with which you have aided me by your suggestions and counsel in the study and annotation of the work.

T. ELLWOOD.





## PREFACE.

---

IT is about eleven years since I first began the translation of the Book of the Settlement of Iceland. The remarkable resemblance of its Place-Names and language generally to the Place Names and Dialect of my native county, Cumberland, as also of Westmorland and North Lancashire, having been that which set me going, and which through so many years has kept me to the work.

I did it first of all in single isolated chapters, singling out the chapters from any portion of the original work as they might seem to have an especial bearing on the local Place Names or dialect with which I was engaged.

I then wrote these out again as a whole. This translation of it as a whole was first completed in the spring of 1895. The work of writing it out occupied me almost incessantly during the winter and spring of that year.

Since then the translation has been copied and corrected, most of it twice over. The original Icelandic copy first used was one from the edition of Copenhagen, 1843. For a considerable portion of the work I used an edition taken from the *Mela Bók* and bearing that date of 1770 or thereabouts.\*

The Table of Contents, the Notes in a great measure, and the list of Place Names with references, are my own work. This I say not as claiming credit, but as acknowledging responsibility.

E. Magnússon, Esq., M.A., a distinguished Iceland, whose works in his own department of literature are too well and widely known to need comment from me, has throughout assisted me with his kind counsel and advice; to him, therefore, I have inscribed the translation. The character of this

---

\*The great discrepancy in places between the two editions used will account for some differences between those in the Register at the end and the names, &c., in the body of the work.

PREFACE.

immortal work of Ari may be well summed up in the words of this gentleman when he says:—"It is a classic of all classics in the mediæval literature of the whole Germanic world," and the present is an attempt to render, however imperfectly, that work from Icelandic, a language spoken by only about 60,000 or 70,000 people, all told, into English, spoken as it is by a kindred people, a race numbering over one hundred millions, whose maritime enterprize \* followed by settlement and colonization derived apparently from the Norsemen, have given them the dominion of a great part of the earth.

The Settlement of Iceland is contemporary, and in a great measure identical with that national migration which resulted in the Norse Settlement of the north-western portion of Great Britain. The glimpses of Early British Church History † that run through the following pages, show that Iceland derived its first knowledge of Christianity from British settlers, that when the Norsemen first left Norway they were heathen, but that their sojourn in the Hebrides or the north-west of our island, generally had the effect of converting them to the Christian faith.

This work in the original is unique as a record, for no other country in the world has such an account of its Earliest History, and no other country in the world affords such an unimpeachable testimony to the truth of its Earliest History by having preserved its original language, place names, men's names, and traditions, essentially unaltered and unimpaired.

T.E.

---

\* The author of the Book of the Settlement contrasts early Norse discovery with more recent discovery, when he says of Floki using the ravens to guide him: "Floki had consecrated the ravens to this service in Norway that they might lead him in his discoveries, as navigators in the north had not, at that time, any knowledge of the compass (leiðarstein) to guide them. See note in the original Icelandic edition, Copenhagen, 1843, I, 2, page 30.

† For notices of Early Church History see Prologue and I, 9, 12, 15; II, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and Notes; III, 12; V, 15.