

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455929203321
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Titolo	The Book of Reykjaholar : the last of the great medieval legends // Marianne E. Kalinke
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1996 ©1996
ISBN	1-281-99735-8 9786611997359 1-4426-8056-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (335 p.)
Disciplina	839/.63
Soggetti	Christian saints - Legends - History and criticism Old Norse literature - History and criticism Low German literature - History and criticism Tales, Medieval - History and criticism Christian hagiography - History - To 1500 Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- 1. Legenden/Lugenden -- 2. The Eve of the Reformation in Iceland -- 3. The Low German Sources of Reykjaholabok -- 4. Bjorn Þorleifsson of Reykjaholar: Copyist, Translator, Editor, and Compiler -- 5. The Communion of Saints -- 6. 'God alone knows whether this legend is true' -- 7. Sacred Romances -- 8. Bjorn Þorleifsson: Collector of Myths -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Book of Reykjahólar, produced on the very eve of the Reformation, investigates what may be considered the last medieval legendary. The legendary's significance resides in its preserving in Icelandic translation a group of otherwise unattested medieval Low German saints' lives. Marianne E. Kalinke presents a literary analysis of the Reykjahólar legendary, demonstrating what kind of sources the translator used in his compilation and how he collected, combined, and adapted these

texts to suit his Icelandic audience. The book also offers stylistic, thematic, and comparative analyses of the legends. A number of these Christian myths are apocryphal, some transmit folk tales and romances, such as the legend of the hairy anchorite (St John Chrysostom), the search for the highest king (St Christopher), the tale of the grateful lion (St Jerome), the tale of the dragon-slayer (St George), and the story of the holy sinner (Gregorius peccator). The legends belong to the vast corpus of German hagiography, yet the currency of these particular versions is documented today only in translation by virtue of their inclusion in this Icelandic legendary. The book opens with a survey of the development of German hagiography, goes on to a discussion of the religious and intellectual climate in early sixteenth-century Iceland, and then follows with a consideration of the legendary's Low German sources and its production by one of the wealthiest Icelanders of the time, Björn Thorleifsson of Reykjahólar.

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