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Titolo	Audun and the polar bear [[electronic resource]] : luck, law, and largesse in a medieval tale of risky business // by William I. Miller
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2008
ISBN	1-282-39926-8 9786612399268 90-474-4344-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (167 p.)
Collana	Medieval law and its practice, , 1873-8176 ; ; v. 1
Altri autori (Persone)	MillerWilliam Ian <1946->
Disciplina	839/.63
Soggetti	Law, Scandinavian Sagas
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [147]-152) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Some technical matters : dates, origin, versions -- The story of Audun from the Westfjords (Audun's story) -- The commitment to plausibility -- Helping Thorir and buying the bear -- Dealing with King Harald -- Giving the bear to Svein : the interests in the bear -- Saying no to kings -- Eggs in one basket and market value -- Rome : self-impoverishment and self-confidence -- Repaying the bear -- Back to Harald : the yielding of accounts -- Audun's luck -- Richness and risk -- -- Motives -- Gaming the system : gift-ref -- Regiving and reclaiming gifts -- Relevant law -- Serious scarcity, self-interest and Audun's mother -- In the gift vs. in on the gift -- Gifts upward : repaying by receiving and funny money -- The obligation to accept -- Giving up and down hierarchies : of god(s), beggars, and equals -- Nadad and Abihu : sacrifice, caprice, and binding god and kings -- Funny money that is not so funny -- Of free and closing gifts -- Coda : the whiteness of the bear.
Sommario/riassunto	Audun's Story is the tale of an Icelandic farmhand who buys a polar bear in Greenland for no other reason than to give it to the Danish king, half a world away. It can justly be listed among the finest pieces of short fiction in world literature. Terse in the best saga style, it spins a story of complex competitive social action, revealing the cool wit and

finely-calibrated reticence of its three main characters: Audun, Harald Hardradi, and King Svein. The tale should have much to engage legal and cultural historians, anthropologists, economists, philosophers, and students of literature. The story's treatment of gift-exchange is worthy of the fine anthropological and historical writing on gift-exchange; its treatment of face-to-face interaction a match for Erving Goffman.
