

# CONTENTS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Acknowledgements .....   | 11  |
| A note on orthography .....  | 13  |
| Prologue .....   | 15  |
| <b>I. Boundaries</b>   |     |
| 1. Time and narrative .....  | 39  |
| Intercalation and conversion in <i>Íslendingabók</i> .....             | 40  |
| Irruption .....  | 48  |
| Embedding: narrative and metaphoric strategies .....                   | 51  |
| 2. Unwelcome at the threshold .....                                    | 62  |
| The king's <i>gestir</i> .....   | 62  |
| Mortal guests: <i>gesterfð</i> .....                                   | 64  |
| Konungs <i>gestir</i> .....  | 69  |
| <i>Gestr</i> in the four texts .....                                   | 75  |
| Other threats to the boundaries in <i>Nornagests þátr</i> .....        | 84  |
| The end of Nornagestr .....  | 94  |
| <b>II. Witnesses</b>   |     |
| 3. Corpus and history .....  | 99  |
| Prologues and claims of access, the nature of the historical record .. | 100 |
| Narratives and truth: <i>historia, fabula, argumentum</i> .....        | 107 |
| The narratives in Flateyjarbók .....                                   | 109 |
| 4. Interrogating the text .....  | 128 |
| Age and genre .....  | 129 |
| The Burgundian material .....  | 134 |
| Performance issues: the delivery of Eddic poetry .....                 | 135 |
| <i>Skemtan</i> .....   | 139 |
| 5. Landscape and memory .....  | 143 |
| Qgvaldr and his cow: mythological echoes .....                         | 146 |
| Linguistic landscape and irruption .....                               | 148 |
| Proverbial discourse at Qgvaldsnes .....                               | 149 |

### **III. Echoes**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>6. Óðinn and Qgvaldsnes.</b> . . . . .     | 155 |
| Irruptions and banishments of Óðinn . . . . . | 155 |
| Interpreting Óðinn. . . . .                   | 161 |
| The four texts . . . . .                      | 187 |
| <b>7. <i>Der ZauberSpiegel</i></b> . . . . .  | 193 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Epilogue</b> . . . . .                     | 206 |
| Person. . . . .                               | 206 |
| Place. . . . .                                | 207 |
| Things . . . . .                              | 209 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Sources</b> . . . . .                      | 214 |
| <br>  |     |
| <b>Index</b> . . . . .                        | 230 |