



The textual tradition of Gunnlaugr Leifsson's *Merlínusspá*

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Abstract: The *Merlínusspá* by the Icelandic monk Gunnlaugr Leifsson, composed ca 1200 is a rendering of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Prophetia Merlini* into vernacular poetry. Questions considered in this paper are : whether Gunnlaugr's poetic rendering contains readings that might assist in the establishment of the archetype of the *Prophetia* ; whether his source manuscript confined itself to the *Prophetia* or extended to the entire *Historia regum Britannie* ; whether the source manuscript contained readings supposed to be distinctive of the Π class of *Prophetia*-only manuscripts ; whether the source was of the Vulgate or the First Variant Version type ; whether it incorporated annotations or even full-blown commentary in addition to Geoffrey's text.

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