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Newsletter

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Myth and History in Celtic and Scandinavian Traditions

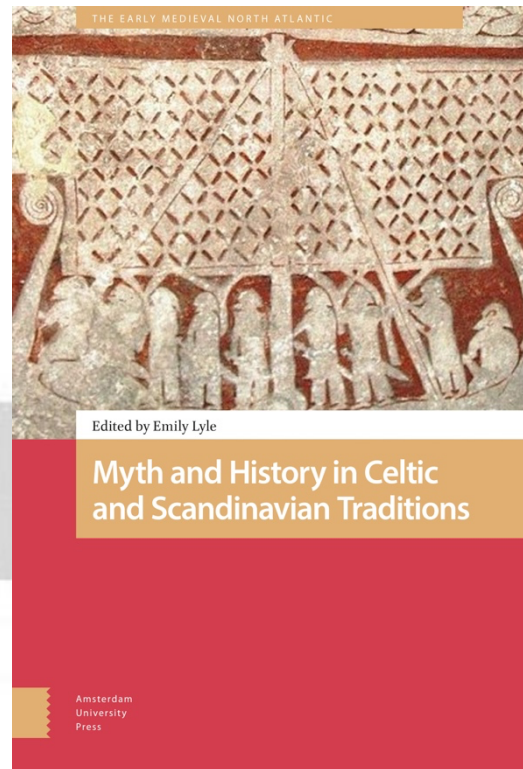
Emily Lyle, University of Edinburgh

Published by Amsterdam University Press in 2021 in the series *The Early Medieval North Atlantic*. Hardback ISBN 9789463729055 €128.99; eBook ISBN 9789048554065.

Myth and History in Celtic and Scandinavian Traditions explores the traditions of two fascinating and contiguous cultures in north-western Europe. History regularly brought these two peoples into contact, most prominently with the Viking invasion of Ireland. In the famous *Second Battle of Moytura*, gods such as Lug, Balor, and the Dagda participated in the conflict that distinguished this invasion. Pseudohistory, which consists of both secular and ecclesiastical fictions, arose in this nexus of peoples and myth and spilled over into other contexts such as chronological annals. Scandinavian gods such as Odin, Balder, Thor, and Loki feature in the *Edda* of Snorri Sturluson and the *History of the Danes* by Saxo Grammaticus. This volume explores such written works alongside archaeological evidence from earlier periods through fresh approaches that challenge entrenched views.

The volume opens with an introduction by Emily Lyle. The first group of chapters is on Celtic tradition, the second group is on Scandinavian tradition.

John Carey opens the section on Celtic tradition with the article “The Nature of the Fomoiri: The Dark Other in the Medieval Irish Imagination”. Elizabeth A. Gray discusses “Tuatha Dé and Fomoiri in *Cath Maige Tuired*”. The third chapter is Ina Tuomala’s “Exploring *Cath Maige Tuired* through the Concept of Hybridity”. Joseph Falaky Nagy then carries this theme further in “How Time



Flies in the *Cath Maige Tuired*”. Alexandra Bergholm discusses “The Idols of the Pagan Irish in the Medieval Literary Imagination”. Kevin Murray considers “Myth as a Historical Resource: The Case of *Orgain Denna Ríg* (The Destruction of Dinn Ríg)”. Ksenia Kudenko brings this section to a close with an exploration of “Hagiography as Political Documentation: The Case of *Betha Beraigh* (The Life of St Berach)”.

Karen Bek-Pedersen turns attention to Scandinavian tradition with “Baldr’s Achilles’ Heel? About the Scandinavian Three-God B-

Bracteates”. Joshua Rood then explores “The Cult of Óðinn in the Early Scandinavian Warrior Aristocracy”. Morten Warmind examines “Myth to History in Saxo”. Emily Lyle discusses “The Scylding Dynasty in Saxo and Beowulf as Disguised Theogony”. James Parkhouse then turns to Icelandic sources in “Loki the Slandered God? Selective Omission of Skaldic Citations in Snorri Sturluson’s

Edda”. Jonas Wellendorf concludes the section with a chapter on “Ymir, Baldr, and the Grand Narrative Arc of Mythological History”.

For more information, please visit the publisher’s website at:

<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789048554065/myth-and-history-in-celtic-and-scandinavian-traditions>.

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