Lecture 1
Monday 14 March 2011

Critical issues in the interpretation of Old Norse literature
To begin this series of lectures I will survey the cultural background to the production of vernacular literature in medieval Iceland in order to identify the methodological issues that arise in relation to saga narrative and textual variability.

Background reading:
- Judy Quinn, ‘From orality to literacy in medieval Iceland’, in Medieval Icelandic Literature and Society, ed. Margaret Clunies Ross (Cambridge 2000), pp. 30-60
- Gíslí Sigurðsson and Vésteinn Ólason (eds.), The Manuscripts of Iceland, ed. (Reykjavík 2004)
- Margaret Clunies Ross, The Cambridge Introduction to the Old Norse-Icelandic Saga (Cambridge 2010)

Lecture 2
Monday 21 March 2011

Saga narrative and textual variability
I will discuss recent work on textual criticism in Old Norse in this lecture with a particular focus on the role of the editor in presenting a complex medieval textual tradition to readers.

Some of the texts to be discussed:
- Gianna Chiesa Isnardi, trans. La saga di Gisli figlio di Surr (Milano 1985)
- Marcello Meli, trans. La saga di Egil (Milano 1997)
- Marcello Meli, trans. La saga di Njall (Milano 1997)

Background reading:
- Fulvio Ferrari and Massimiliano Bampi (eds.), Storicità del testo, storicità della tradizione (Trento 2009)
- Judy Quinn and Emily Lethbridge (eds.), Creating the Medieval Saga: Versions, Variability and Editorial Interpretations of Old Norse Saga Literature, The Viking Collection 18 (Odense 2010)
Lecture 3
Wednesday 23 March 2011

The editing of orally transmitted poetry I

The transmission of eddic poetry is the topic of this lecture, which will involve a close examination of the variant texts of *Völuspá* (*La profezia della Veggente*), preserved in the Codex Regius anthology (GkS 2365 4o) and in apparent isolation in the encyclopedia collection, Hauksbók, as well as in many quotations with Snorri Sturluson’s *Edda*. The texts of the poem from Sophus Bugge’s 1867 edition will be supplied.

Background reading:

Lecture 4
Monday 28 March 2011

The editing of orally transmitted poetry II

An important issue in textual criticism which arises in relation to eddic poetry is the order of stanzas in phases of oblique dialogue. In this lecture I will consider the editorial rearrangement of stanzas in *Oddrúnargrátr* (*Il lamento di Oddrún*) and propose a return to the order presented in the manuscript. The text of the poem will be supplied.

Background reading: