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Submission for a poster, a long paper or a short paper.

Dating post-medieval Icelandic manuscript basing on watermarks. A case study of selected nineteenth century *Hrómundar saga Gripssonar* manuscripts.

The tradition of copying literary texts by hand survived in Iceland unusually long in comparison to the continental Europe. While in Europe with the invention of print and popularization of printed books hand-copying was reserved for texts which didn't make it to the printing press, for example due to censorship, in Iceland situation was similar but somehow different. In Iceland the only printing press until year 1772 was owned by the bishopric in Hólar and only texts which were considered valuable enough, from the perspective of bishopric, could be printed (Halldór Hermannsson 1916). These, not surprisingly, included mainly religious texts.

This printing monopoly of the church influenced Icelandic book-production for centuries. The main bulk of popular Icelandic literature was copied by hand well into the 19th century (see for example (Driscoll 2017)). Icelandic post medieval manuscripts contain wide variety of texts, which from the perspective of the church were not worthy to be printed, including, not exclusively, sagas, rímur, and poems. The state of research on these post medieval manuscripts is far from satisfactory, however the growing interest in these manuscripts in the recent year has lead to a remarkable progress in our understanding of the co-existence of printed and hand-copied books (Davið Ólafsson 2017). Unfortunately, the catalogue records are rarely updated alongside of the progress in modern scholarship and frequently if the scribe didn't explicitly write in the colophon his name and date of copying the existing catalogues provide rather sparse information about the manuscript with usually very broad dating.

In my presentation I would like to discuss possibilities given by the close analysis of watermarks found in post medieval Icelandic manuscripts as a powerful tool for dating these manuscript. Even though the state of research on paper used in Icelandic manuscripts in particular is rather limited it is still possible to find convincing arguments for the origin of the paper used in selected manuscripts thanks to existing catalogues of Dutch, Norwegian and Danish watermarks (Voorn 1959, 1960; Fiskaa and Simons 1978; Churchill 1935). In my presentation I would like to discuss selected examples of the nineteenth century *Hrómundar saga Gripssonar* manuscripts, which have been rather sparsely catalogued and broadly dated, but which contain a rich evidence in form of watermarks to establish their more-precise dating. These include, for example, Lbs 2404 8vo, which is dated in the National Library of Iceland catalogue to the year 1805, but which is written on a watermarked paper sheets containing the date "1810" (Páll Eggert Ólason 1918), and BL Add 11109, which in the British Library catalogue is dated to the 18th century, but which contains a watermark with a date "182[7]".

Depending whether my submission is accepted as a long paper, short paper or a poster I would also like to include examples of watermarks I found in manuscripts with good

internal evidence of the dating (signed colophons), which might serve as a reference for dating of other manuscripts, which don't contain signed colophons or other indications of the dating, for example watermarks found in Lbs 1572 4to (dated to 1815-1827), which can be traced to the Roskilde-Maglekilde paper mill in Denmark.

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