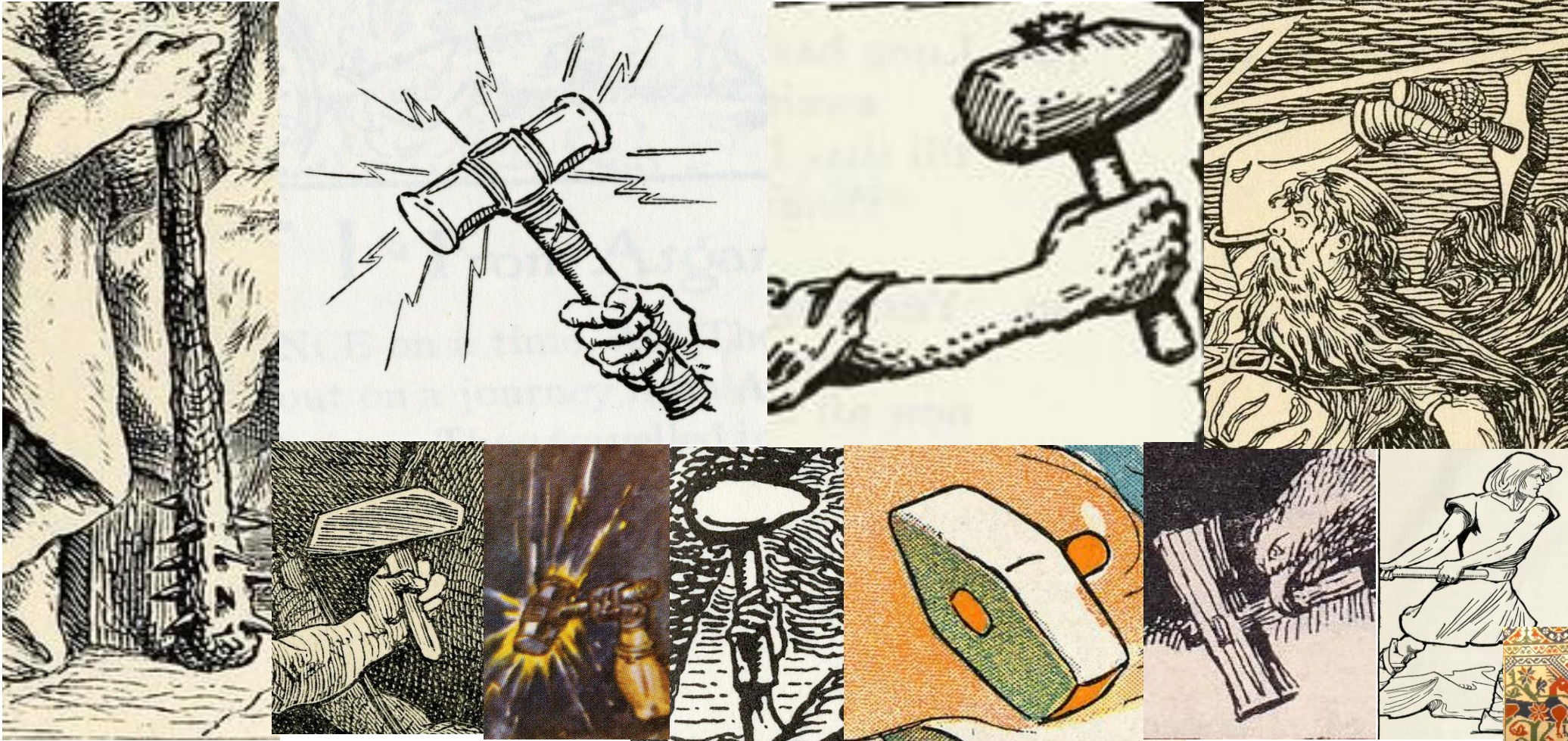


Modifying Mjöllnir: The Consequences of Re-Imagining Old Norse Mythology



Congress 2021: Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada

Trish Baer, Medieval Studies, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.





Overview

- 1. Archaeological Evidence for Belief in Þórr/Thor**
- 2. Manuscripts and Early Print Texts**
- 3. Victorian/Edwardian Retellings and Illustrations**

- 1. The Heroes of Asgard* - Annie and Eliza Keary (1857)
- 2. Asgard and the Gods* - W. Wagner (1880)
- 3. Norse Stories* - Hamilton Wright Mabie (1882)
- 4. Asgard Stories* - Mary H. Foster (1901)
- 5. In the Days of Giants* – Abbie Farwell Brown (1902)
- 6. Children of Odin* – E. E. Speight (1903)
- 7. The Elder Edda* – Olive Bray (1908)

- 4. Concluding Remarks**

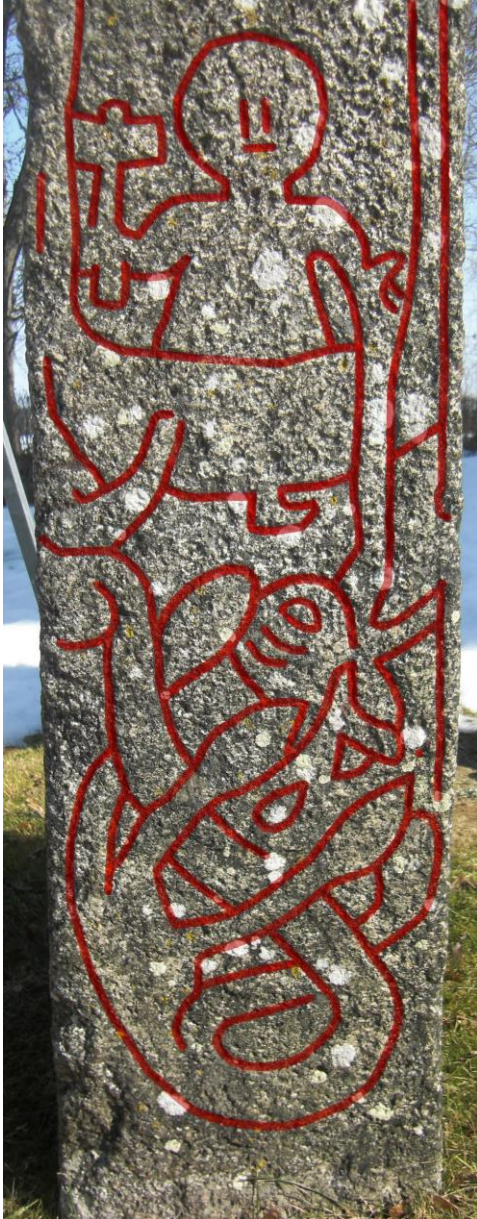




1. Archaeological Evidence for Belief in Þórr/Thor



Uppland, Sweden: The Altuna Rune Stone



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Altunastenen U 1161 %28Ra%C3%A4-nr Altuna 42-1%29 Tor detalj 0440.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Altunastenen_U_1161_%28Ra%C3%A4-nr_Altuna_42-1%29_Tor_detalj_0440.jpg)



Religious Amulets

<https://www.pitt.edu/~dash/hammerpix.html>



“This tenth-century soapstone mold, found at Trendgården, Jylland, Denmark, could be used to cast either heathen or Christian amulets. “



“Found in Egholm, Denmark. This mold was used to cast Thor's hammer amulets as well as small ingots of different size and value.”



“Miniature Thor's hammers were widely used as religious amulets during the Viking era. These charms were normally between two and three centimeters in length, and typically made from silver. “



9th Century Viking Coins and a Coin Weight



A lead weight, with an Anglo-Saxon coin set into the top. These were probably used by the Vikings to weigh out payments in coinage.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/vikings/money_01.shtml





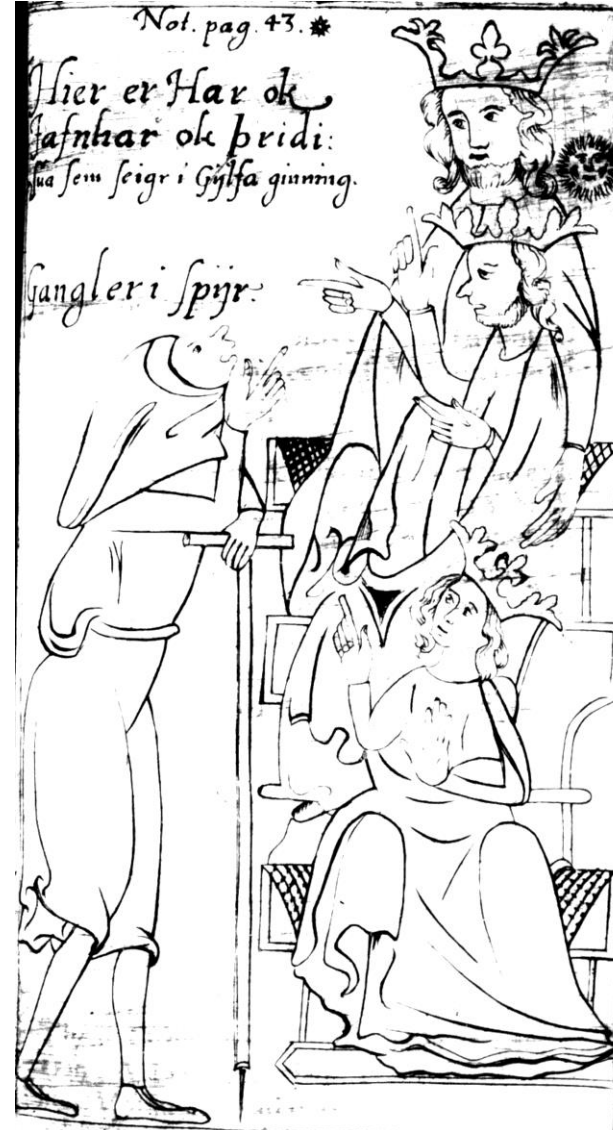
2. Primary Text Sources

- Parchment Manuscripts**
- Early Print Books**
- Hand-copied Icelandic Paper Manuscripts**



“The Deluding of Gylfi” in the *Prose Edda*

Codex Upsalinsus (1325) Verelius’s Copy (1664)



Left: Anonymous

Uppsala: Carolina Rediviva.
Codex Upsaliensis.
c. 1325. Parchment manuscript.

Right: Olaus Verelius (1618 – 1682)

Copper plate engraving:
Verelius, Olaus. *Gothrici & Rolfi
Westrogothiae Regum
Historia...* Scandinavian Culture
Series. Roll 359,
Item 1.
Upsaliae: Curio,
1664. Microfilm.
Page [43a].



“Frigga, Thor and Odin”

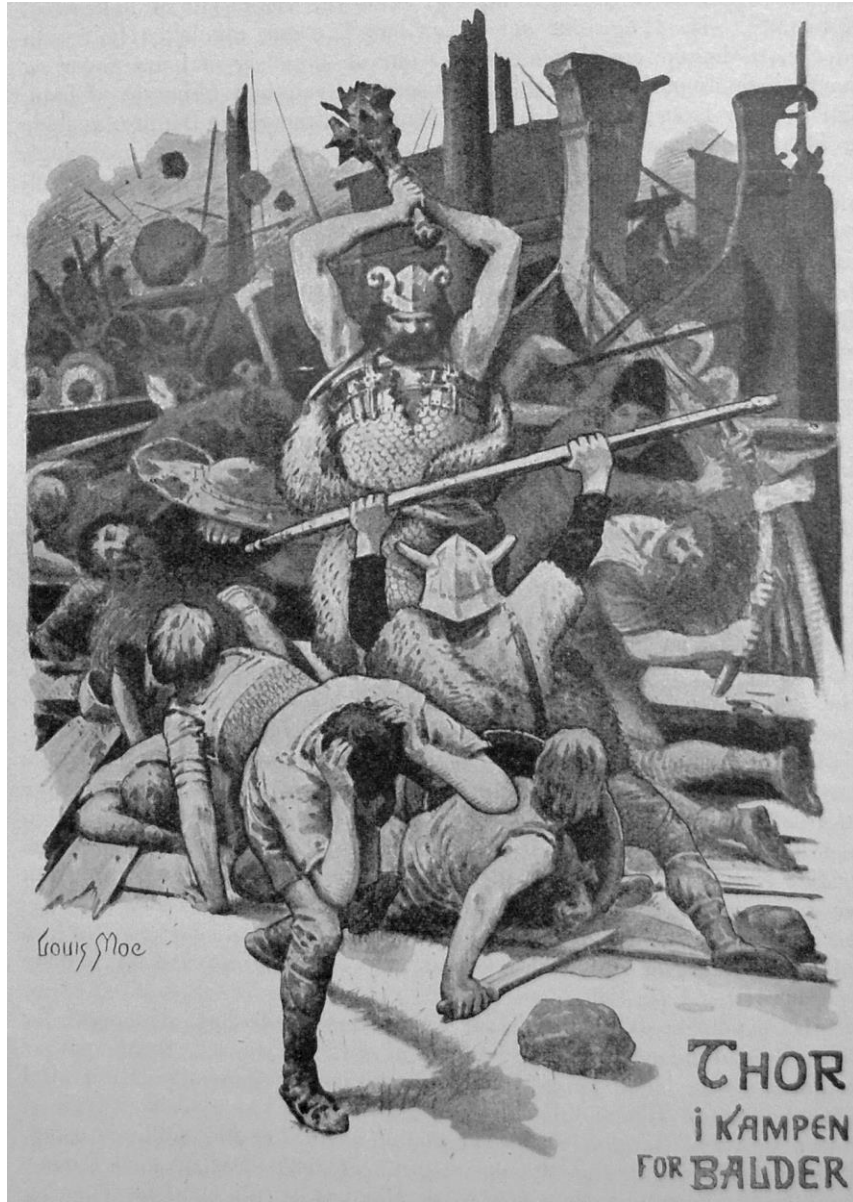


Olaus Magnus (1490 – 1557)

Magnus, Olaus. *Description of the Northern Peoples*: Rome 1555. Translated by Peter Foote, London: Hakluyt Society, 1996. Print. Page 151.



“Thor in Battle for Baldr”



**Louis Moe
(1857 – 1945)**

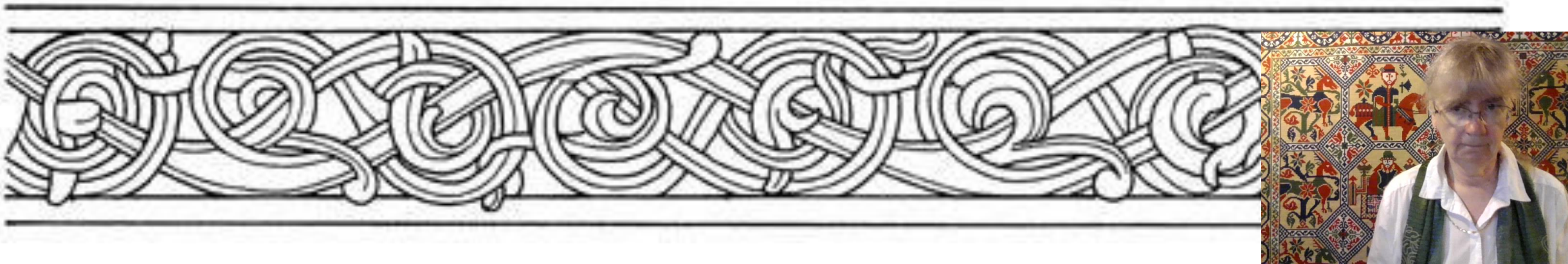
**Saxo (Grammaticus).
Gesta Danorum
1216**

***Danmarks krønike.*
Edited by Fr. Winkel Horn,
Copenhagen: A. Christiansens
Kunstforlag, 1898. Print. Page 70.**





3. Victorian/Edwardian Retellings and Illustrations



“Idunna Giving the Magic Apples”



**Louis Huard
(1814 – 1874)**

**Keary, Annie and Liza Keary.
The Heroes of Asgard.
London: Macmillan and Co. Limited,
1908. Print. Page 195.**





The Treasures of the Gods



The Making of Mjöllnir



E. Boyd Smith (1860 - 1943)

Brown, Abbie F, and E B. Smith. *In the Days of Giants: A Book of Norse Tales*. [Boston] : Houghton Mifflin, [1902]. Print. Page 88.



1. Golden Hair for Sif
2. Gungnir (spear) for Óðinn
3. Skiðblaðnir (ship) for Freyr
4. Gullinbursti (boar) for Freyr
5. Draupnir (ring) for Óðinn
6. Mjöllnir (hammer) for Þórr



“Thor”



A. Chase



Chadwick, Mara L. P. *Legends of Norseland*. Boston: Educational Pub. Co, 1894. Print.
Page 67.





The Binding of Fenrir



Fenrir and Tyr



Fenrir and Thor



Left: Louis Huard (1814 – 1874)

Keary, Annie and Liza Keary.
The Heroes of Asgard. London:
Macmillan and Co. Limited, 1908.
Print. Page 265.

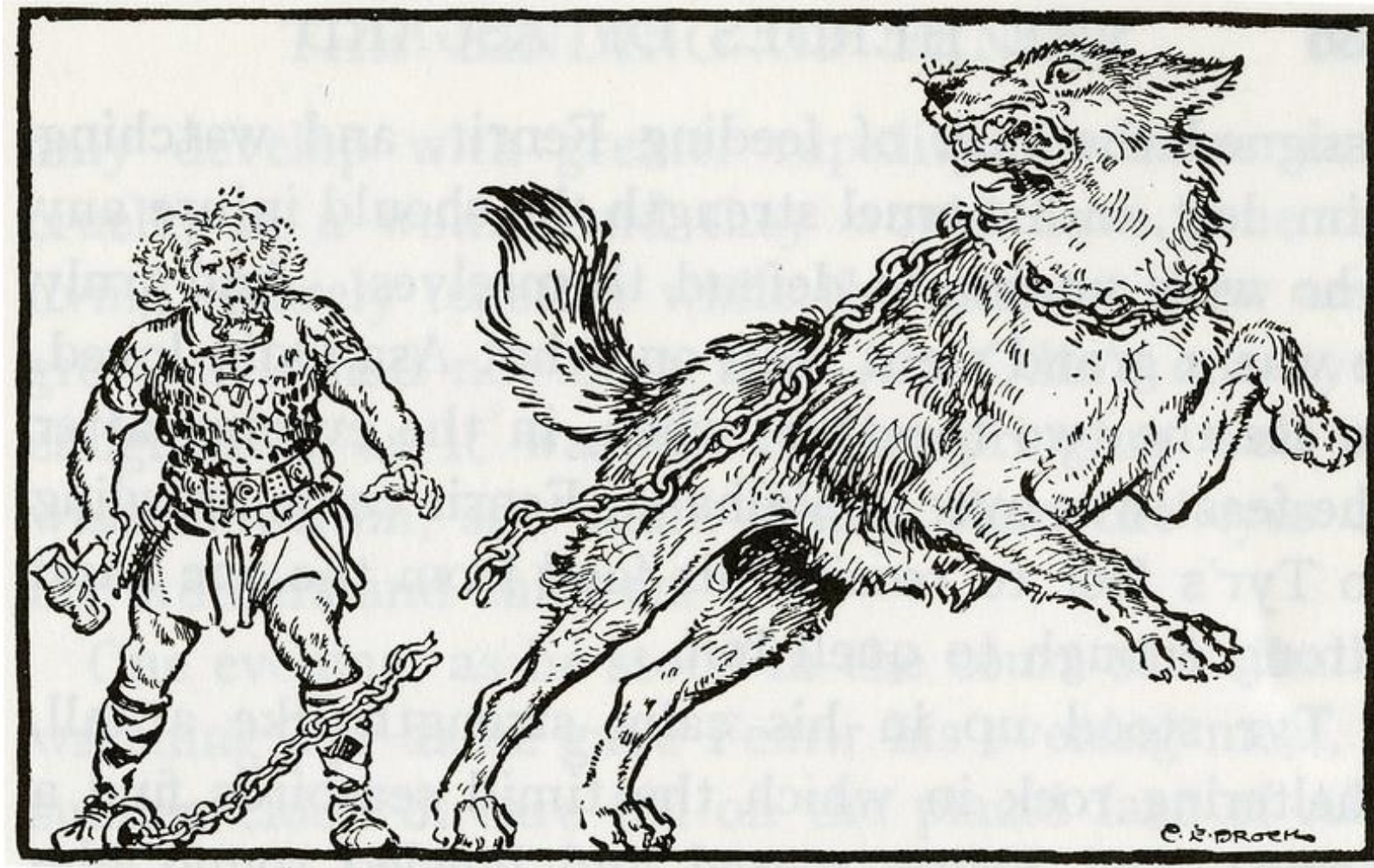
Right: H. L. M.

Foster, Mary H, and Mabel H.
Cummings. *Asgard Stories:
Tales from Norse Mythology*.
New York: Silver, Burdett and Co.,
1901. Print. Page 19.



The Binding of Fenrir

Charles E. Brock
(1870 – 1938)



Keary, Annie, and Eliza Keary. *The Heroes of Asgard: Tales from Scandinavian Mythology*. London: Macmillan & Co, 1930. Print. Page 185.



The Binding of Fenrir



Charles E. Brock
(1870 – 1938)

Keary, Annie, and Eliza Keary.
The Heroes of Asgard: Tales
from Scandinavian Mythology.
London: Macmillan & Co, 1930.
Print. Page 177.



Thor Binding Fenrir



F. Tegetmeyer



Wagner, W. W., S. W. Anson, M. W. Macdowall, Anne Renier, and Fernand G. Renier. *Asgard and the Gods: Tales and Traditions of Our Northern Ancestors*. London: W. Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Paternoster Row, 1882. Print. Page 153.





Þórr's Trip to the Court of Útgarðaloki



Thor and Skrymir



Louis Huard (1814 – 1874)

Keary, Annie and Liza Keary.
The Heroes of Asgard. London:
Macmillan and Co. Limited,
1908. Print.



“I am the giant Skrymir”



E. Boyd Smith
(1860 - 1943)

Brown, Abbie F, and E B. Smith.
In the Days of Giants: A Book of
Norse Tales. [Boston] :
Houghton Mifflin, [1902]. Print.
Frontispiece.



Thor Wrestling with Elli



**Charles E. Brock
(1870 – 1938)**

**Keary, Annie, and Eliza Keary.
*The Heroes of Asgard: Tales
from Scandinavian Mythology.*
London: Macmillan & Co,
1930. Print. Page 72.**

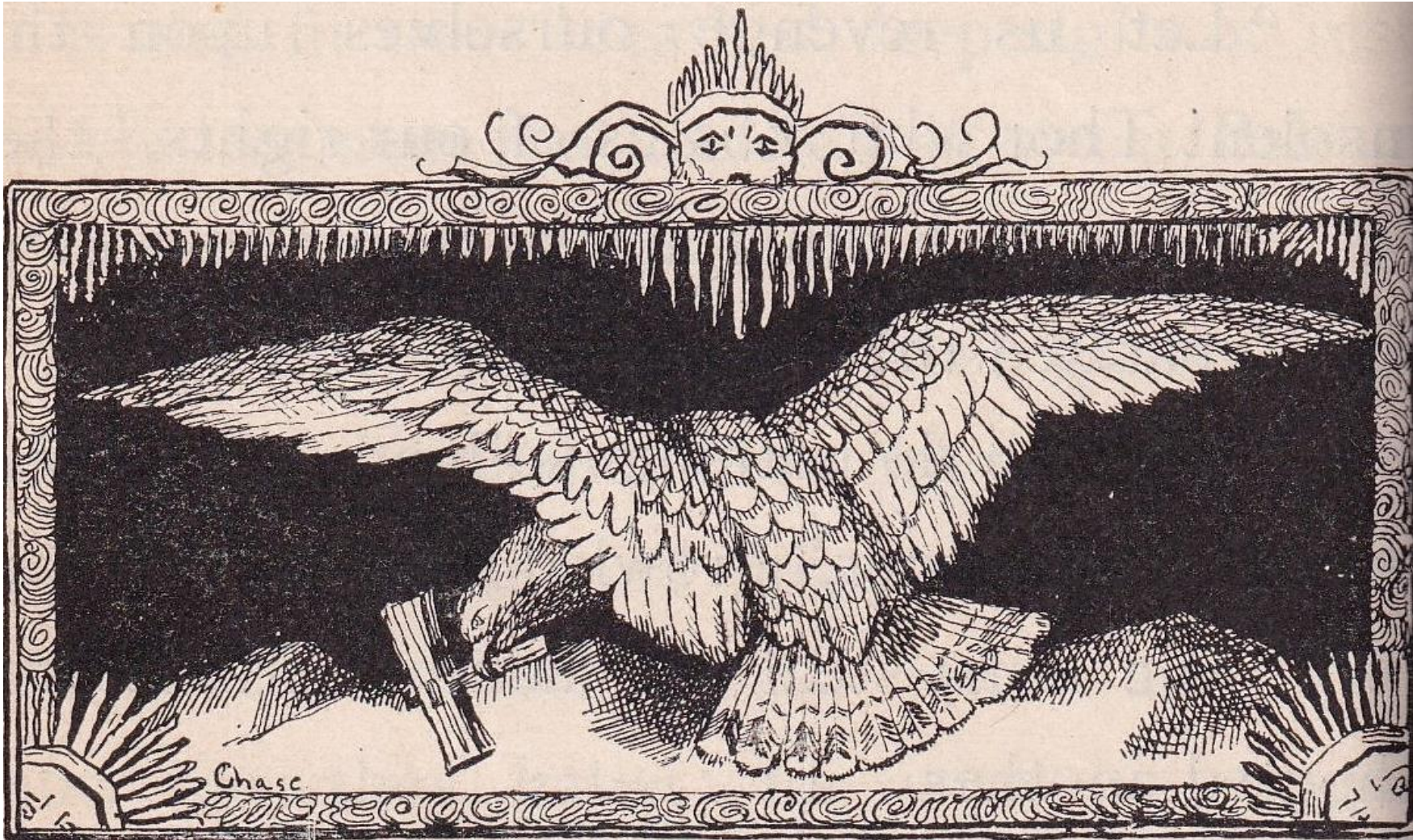




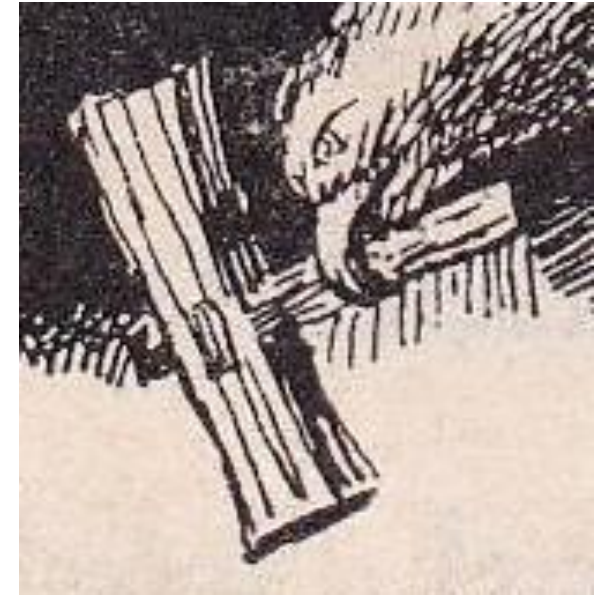
The Theft of Þórr's Hammer



Thrymr Stealing Þórr's Hammer



A. Chase



Chadwick, Mara L. P.
Legends of Norseland.
Boston: Educational
Pub. Co, 1894. Print.
Page 74.



Pórr as a Bride

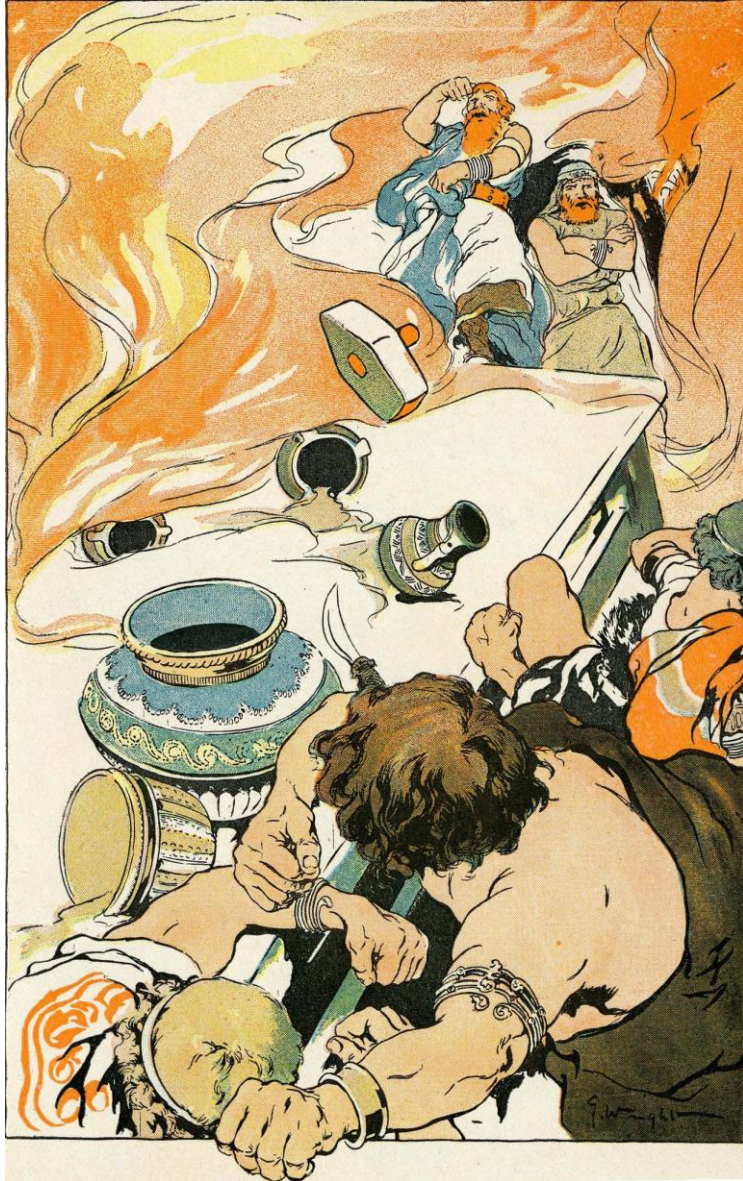


E. Boyd Smith (1860 - 1943)

Brown, Abbie F, and E B. Smith.
In the Days of Giants: A Book of Norse Tales. [Boston] : Houghton Mifflin, [1902]. Print. Page 88.



Pórr and Thrymr's Wedding Feast



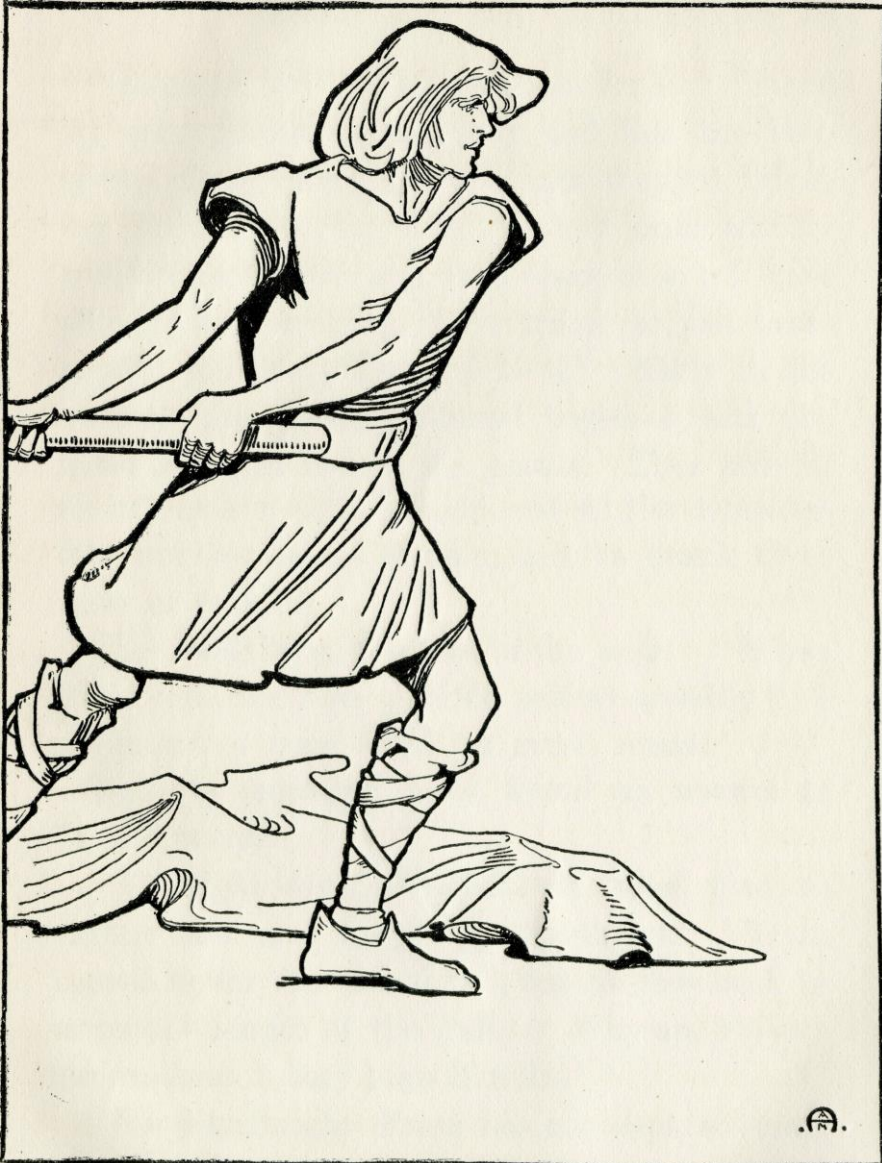
George Hand Wright (1872 – 1951)

Mabie, Hamilton W, and
George Wright. *Norse
Stories Retold from the
Eddas*. New York: Dodd,
Mead, 1902. Print. Page
138.



Pórr and Thrymr's Wedding Feast

Anonymous



“The mighty Thor became glad at heart when he once more had his hammer in his hands.”

*Speight, E E. Children of Odin.
London: H. Marshall, 1903. Print.
Page 19.*





Pórr's Fishing Trip



Pórr's Fishing Trip



The Elder or Poetic Edda: Commonly Known As Sæmund's Edda.
Translated by Olive Bray, London: Viking Club, 1908. Print. Page 113.

W. G. Collingwood (1854 -1932)



Pórr's Fishing Trip

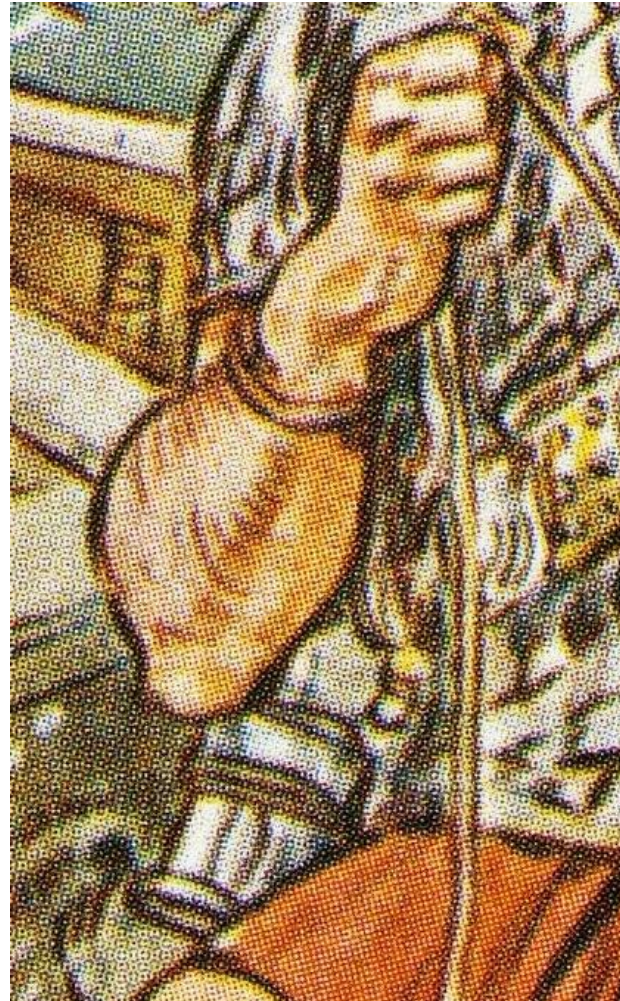


George Hand Wright (1872 – 1951)

Mabie, Hamilton W. and George Wright. *Norse Stories Retold from the Eddas*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1902. Print. Page 122.



Þórr's Fishing Trip



**Charles E. Brock
(1870 – 1938)**

**Keary, Annie, and Eliza Keary.
*The Heroes of Asgard: Tales from
Scandinavian Mythology.* London:
Macmillan & Co, 1930. Print.
Page 72.**



Þórr's Fishing Trip



*Speight, E E. Children of Odin.
London: H. Marshall, 1903.
Print. Page 19.*





The Battle of Ragnarök



Ragnarök

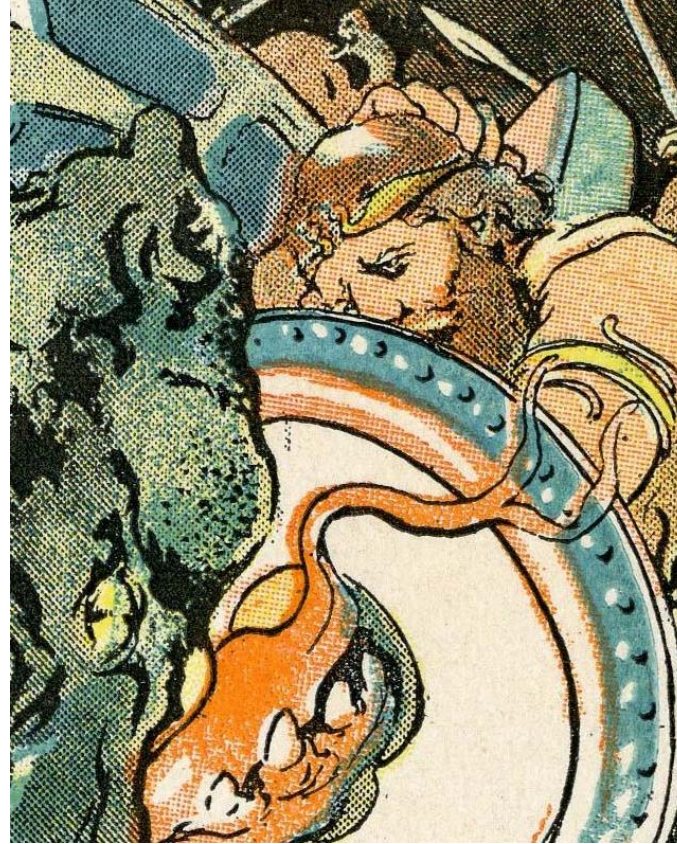


Wagner, W, W. S. W. Anson, M. W. Macdowall, Anne Renier, and Fernand G. Renier.
Asgard and the Gods: Tales and Traditions of Our Northern Ancestors. London: W. Swan
Sonnenschein & Co., Paternoster Row, 1882. Print. Page 299.

Anonymous



Ragnarök



George Hand Wright (1872 – 1951)

Mabie, Hamilton W. and George Wright. *Norse Stories Retold from the Eddas*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1902. Print. Page 240.



Ragnarök



Charles E. Brock (1870 – 1938)

Keary, Annie, and Eliza Keary.
*The Heroes of Asgard: Tales
from Scandinavian Mythology.*
London: Macmillan & Co, 1930.
Print. Page 72.



Ragnarök

H. L. M.



Foster, Mary H. and Mabel H. Cummings. *Asgard Stories: Tales from Norse Mythology*. New York: Silver, Burdett and Co, 1901. Print. *Page 104.*





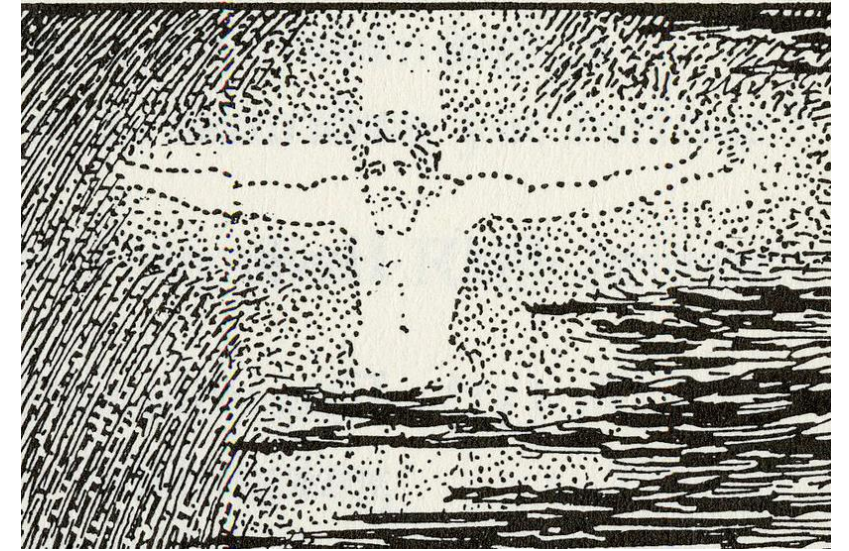
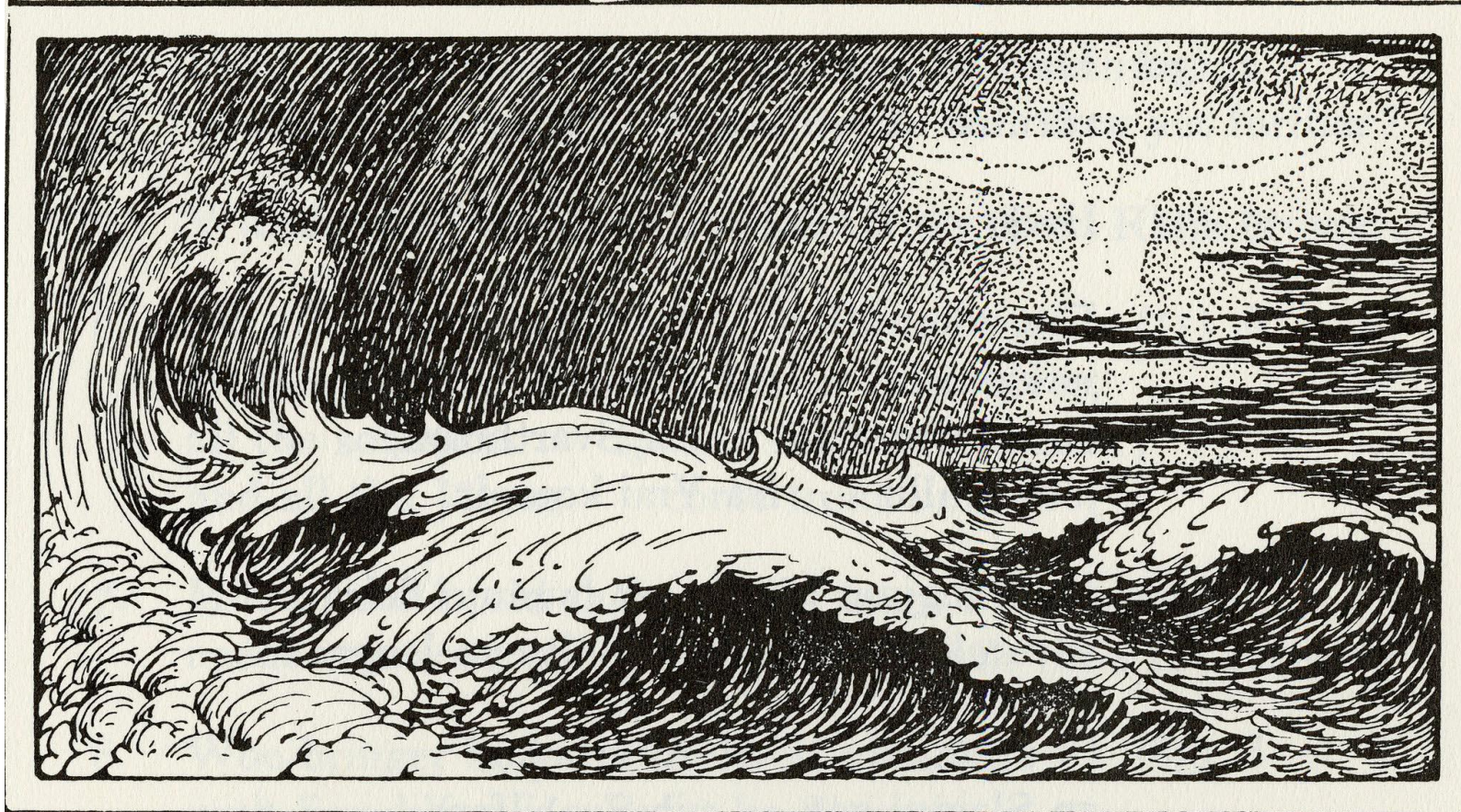
Prophecies and Post-Ragnarok



Völuspá In Skamma

W. G. Collingwood (1854-1932)

“The Vision of the Mighty One”



The Elder or Poetic Edda: Commonly Known As Sæmund's Edda. Translated by Olive Bray, London: Viking Club, 1908. Print. Page 219.

“There shall come hereafter another mightier
Whose name I dare not now make known:
Few there are who may see beyond
When Odin fares to fight with the Wolf.” (v. 17, 223)



Völuspá

“Ragnarök”

W. G. Collingwood
(1854-1932)



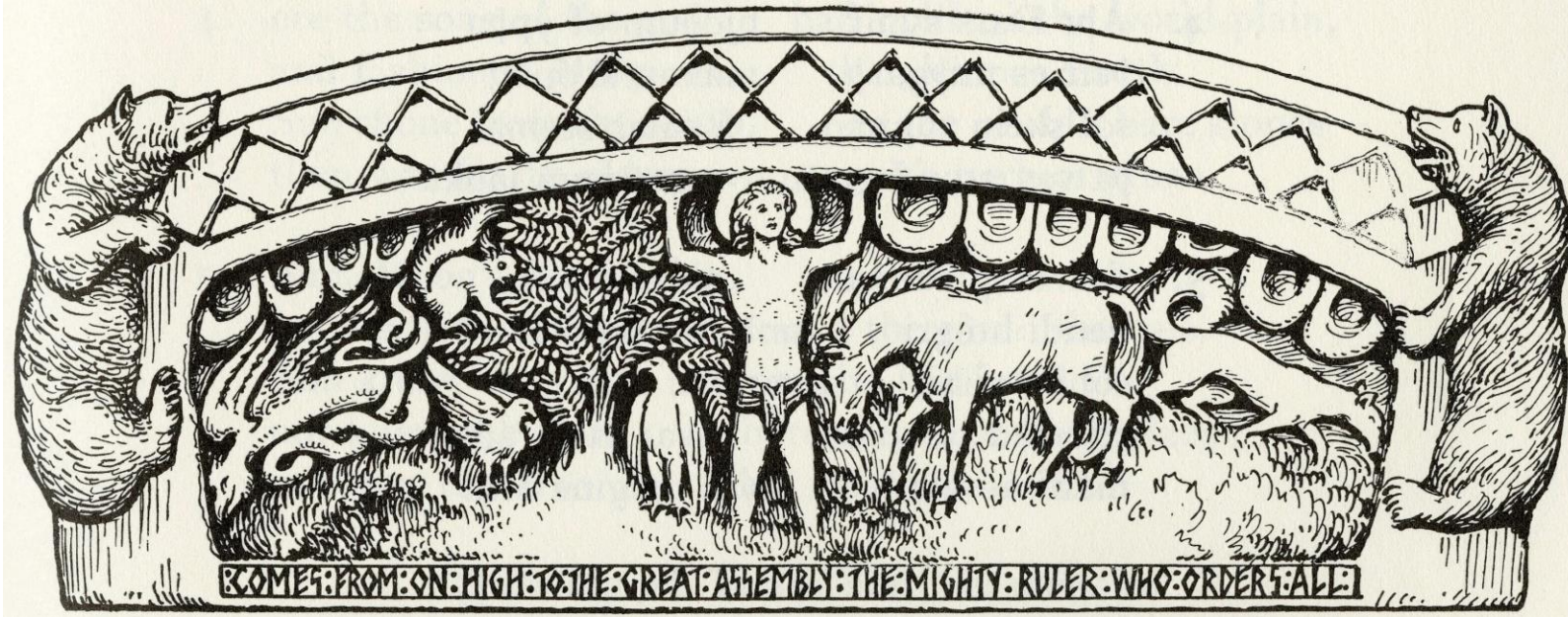
*The Elder or Poetic Edda: Commonly Known As
Sæmund's Edda.* Translated by Olive Bray, London:
Viking Club, 1908. Print. Page 275.



Völuspá

“The Restoration”

W. G. Collingwood
(1854-1932)



**“COMES FROM ON HIGH TO THE GREAT ASSEMBLY:
THE MIGHTY RULER WHO ORDERS ALL”**
(Völuspá verse 65)



*The Elder or Poetic Edda: Commonly Known As Sæmund's
Edda.* Translated by Olive Bray, London: Viking Club, 1908.
Print. Page 276.





Concluding Remarks



The Death of Baldr

**W. G. Collingwood
(1854-1932)**



The Elder or Poetic Edda: Commonly Known As Sæmund's Edda. Translated by Olive Bray, London: Viking Club, 1908.
Print. Page 276.

