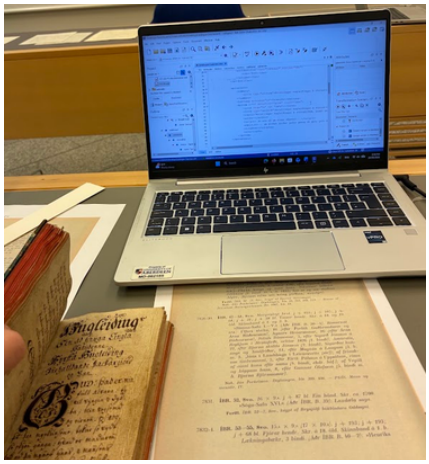
Viking Society for Northern Research Funding Report

With the support of the Viking Society's Research Support fund, I was able to attend and undertake training at the Summer School in Scandinavian Manuscript Studies, hosted by the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, at the University of Iceland. The course ran from the 15th to 25th of June earlier this year. I first attended the summer school in August 2024, and this year was eligible to take the Advanced module. The course covered numerous topics, including further instruction in palaeography, codicology, manuscript description/transcription using XML, as well as more advanced topics including editorial technique and textual criticism.

Throughout the course, we built on the skills learned in the basic course, including how to catalogue manuscripts using XML. Through this, we had to make decisions on what and what not to include. As someone who focuses on the literary studies, this was immensely valuable, reminding me of how many people with different skillsets work to bring an edition together. I was also continually reminded that editions are also reflective of their own cultural contexts, and that this should be kept in mind with engaging with them.



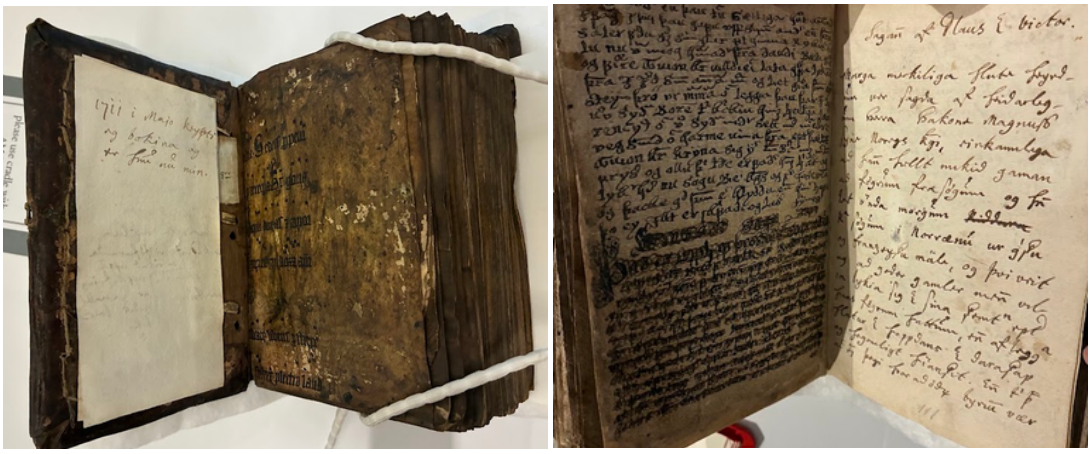
Cataloguing a manuscript with XML.

The course also had us experimenting with various new digital tools, such as eScriptorium, and worked with physical catalogues. I was particularly interested in the changes in approaches to manuscripts and texts throughout the centuries, in regard to shifts in early modern and modern philosophies on care of objects. We also learned about new techniques in analysing pigments in illuminations, as well as learn about paper conservation. As part of the latter exercise, we were able to try making paper ourselves! There were numerous other creative activities, including instruction on book making and the creation of paper seals, which all helped solidify the material nature of the objects we were working with.



My attempt at paper making.

As part of the course, we were able to work with manuscripts directly. Some highlights of this included seeing several notes and additions from Árni Magnússon himself. This was my favourite part of the basic programme, and it was truly a joy to be able to handle the manuscripts again, armed with even more knowledge.



AM 38 8vo, where a fragment is visible in the binding, and a version of Viktors saga ok Blávus, edited quite forcefully by Árni Magnússon.

Outside of studying, we were also in Iceland for the National Holiday, and were able to enjoy the festivities, and explore the museums and streets of Reykjavík. With our name badges from the summer school, we were able to gain free entry to several of these museums. On the Sunday, we took an excursion out of the city, and saw several sites throughout the Snæfellsnes peninsula. These included Helgafell (which was particularly relevant as a cite of manuscript production), and a very intense (and exciting) walk down the Berserkjagata. Of particular interest was being able to see the grave where Guðrún Ósvífrsdóttir is supposedly buried.



Guðrún's grave, a view at Helgafell, and the Berserkjagata, which was an exciting hike!

Throughout the course, I was able to meet numerous other postgraduate students and early career researchers, as well as catch up with old friends. The summer school was invaluable, and lead to valuable academic and professional connections. The skills I learned in this course have already helped me while I work on my thesis, and has reminded me of the fascinating interdisciplinarity of the field. This summer school is an invaluable experience for a postgraduate student, and I am incredibly thankful to the Viking Society for Northern Research for giving me the funds that made this trip feasible.



The view from our accommodation.