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With Ballad Poets in the Audience: A Special Kind of Reception

(ABSTRACT:)

According to the theory I have advanced in recent years, the Scandinavian medieval ballad originated not in Denmark, as is usually believed, but in Norway, probably as late as c. 1290. *Fjórirks Saga*, *Karlamagnús Saga* and romantic sagas (in a broad sense) gave strong impulses to the ballad poets who hardly themselves read the saga texts but heard them being read aloud. I intend to show how the ballad makers used the saga texts (as well as Eddic lays and other poetry of the older kind) for their own purpose, and briefly also how in their turn ballads were used when saga texts were transformed into verse romances (the "Eufemiavisor").