

A Toponymic Aspect of the Euhemeristic
Concept. Comments on Snorri's Interpretation of
Asgarðr, Miðgarðr and Útgarðr in the *Prose*
Edda and *Ynglingasaga*

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The Scandinavian names of European towns were usually formed with the help of Old Norse *borg* “town”, e.g. *Rómaborg*. As opposed to these, some Eastern European places were characterized by the component *garðr*, literally “country estate” (*Holmgarðr*, *Miklagarðr*, *Kænugarðr*). The same component was also used to denote abodes of gods as in *Ásgarðr*, *Miðgarðr* and *Útgarðr* as large towns, which is contrary to the meaning of *garðr*. This may reflect Snorri Sturluson's intention to localize mythological places somewhere in the East. We attempt to demonstrate how Snorri models the mythological toponyms after the names of some East European localities in Old Norse.