

Three Miracles of the Virgin Mary Concerning Childbirth Set in Medieval Iceland

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This paper will examine three recordings of miracles performed by the Virgin Mary for women in labour — in Kálfafell, Svinafell, and Kirkjubær — as well as some aspects of the development of the cult of the Virgin Mary in medieval Iceland. These stories form part of a large collection of Marian miracles found in AM 234 4to which was compiled in the southern diocese of Skálholt. The cathedral at Skálholt was founded in the first century after the conversion in c. 1000 and the translation of this particular collection of miracles between 1050 and 1200 from the Latin must have been one of the first Christian literary projects to have been undertaken, and it provides some of the earliest evidence of the Mary cult.