My paper raises the question: Does the function of the fantastic, which is present in all or most Íslendingasögur, change during the two centuries in which the genre was productive? In order to answer the question a brief account is given of a survey of all the sagas, and an attempt is made to assess in which sagas the fantastic plays a significant role, what kinds of fantastic elements appear in the sagas and how important they are. Subsequently a comparison will be made between a couple of sagas selected from the group that can on good grounds be dated to the thirteenth century, and a selection of fourteenth century sagas. The final question will be: does the varying role of the fantastic in individual sagas justify a categorisation that defines the fourteenth century sagas as a kind of sub-genre which is more fantastic than the sagas from the thirteenth century? The above may sound more like the plan for a book than a short paper, and consequently it will end with suggestions rather than firm conclusions.