

Colic exorcism
Lbs fragm. 14

Kveisublaðið [the Colic leaf] is probably the only one of its kind to have been preserved in Iceland. The leaf is a vellum strip with a text or a prayer against colic or arthritis. This kind of prayer leaves are considered to have been fairly common, but they were confiscated in the witch hunt in the 17th century. The strip was used as an amulet and was most often tied around the patient. This leaf was preserved in episcopal archives and is believed to have been written around 1600. The text on the leave is both in Latin and Icelandic.



NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY OF ICELAND
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Sigríður H. Jörundsdóttir/ Halldóra Kristinsdóttir

Paper manuscripts and vellum leaves

Manuscript exhibition
1st floor at the National and University Library of Iceland



Manuscripts and vellum leaves

The physical appearance of manuscripts often gives insight into the world of those who owned, wrote and bound manuscripts in earlier times. An old vellum manuscript which had lost its value to its owner was used to protect a

Macic symbols and runes

The manuscript collections preserve many manuscripts containing magic symbols and runes. These manuscripts are often damaged which bears witness to their excessive use. Many of these manuscripts are miscellanies and containing, amongst other things, medical advice, which today would be regarded as superstition.

Three vellum leaves

Kringlublaðið [the Kringla leaf] is dated to c. 1260, the only leaf to survive from a manuscript called Kringla that was destroyed in the 1728 great fire of Copenhagen.

An English Psalter written (c. 1300) in Latin. The Psalter was separated and used for bookbinding; in all, there are 32 vellum leaves in Iceland that derive from this Psalter. It is likely to have come to Iceland from the Benedictine priory at Carrow near Norwich.

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Paper manuscripts

Amongst paper manuscripts at this exhibition are the manuscript of Iceland's Bell, a historical novel by the 1955 Nobel prize-winning Icelandic author Halldór Laxness (1902–1998), an autograph manuscript by the priest and poet Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614–1674) where he explores the Passion of Christ and a manuscript, containing a variety of material, including Snorri's Edda (the Prose Edda) and a Runic alphabet.



ÍB 299 4to. Snorra-Edda.