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OLYMPUS AND VALHALLA

The Culture of Ancient Greece and Rome as a Model for Scandinavian Authors

The Scandinavian North has a noticeable presence in the mythology and literature of the classical antiquity but much more significant is the role of many writers of ancient Greece and Rome for the development of the Scandinavian poetry and prose during nearly ten centuries. From the Icelandic Rómverja saga through Saxo Grammaticus' Gesta Danorum and Snorri Sturluson's Prose Edda this influence shapes the motifs and the aesthetics of the medieval Nordic literature giving it strong impulses, high criteria and the level of philosophy and style necessary for the creation of real masterpieces and for enriching the European culture during the next centuries with the impressive works of Stiernhielm, Rudbeck, Bellman, Holberg, Kierkegaard, Ibsen, Ekelund, Blixen, Ekelöf and others.