

Press Release – Mars 2003

Edda and Art

Myths and legends of the Viking age, a book written by Snorri Sturluson. The book is a dialog between the old Nordic myths, and many of Europe's greatest artists have through the centuries been inspired by Edda. Their work is for the first time joined in one single publishing and the book therefore in many ways a cultural breakthrough. The book has over 360 beautifully illustrated pages with over 130 work of art.

The Edda was written around year 1220, in Reykholt, Iceland by Snorri Sturluson. It remains one of the most important books ever written in all of Scandinavia, and has sometimes been called the birth certificate of Nordic Culture. It is the main source of tales about the Aesir, the ancient Gods of the Nordic peoples. Its quality of style and sense of humour has ensured this brilliant text a place in literary history side by side with Homer's Ulysses. Edda has inspired many different artists, such as Tolkien and Wagner!

Edda tells the history of the birth of Sjælland (Denmark) and Danish kings, such as Hrolf Kraki and his giants, King Forde and his quern that could make gold. We also find the legend of Sigurd and the dragon and about the Ferniswolf whom ate the sun! About Thors incredible strength, and about the witches that spun humans live thread.

The aim of this edition is to show the Edda in the context of the great art it has inspired through the centuries and across national borders. The book contains about 130 paintings, watercolours, woodcuts, and drawings of artists from Denmark, The Faeroe Islands, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. The oldest illustrations are from an Icelandic 17 th. century manuscript and the youngest are painted by brilliant young artists of today.

Artists in Edda and Art

Among the artists in Edda are some of Europe's greatest: Nicolai Abraham Abildgaard, Peter Nicolai Arbo, Ásgrím Jónsson, John Bauer, Aubrey Beardsley, Max Beckmann, Ernst Billgren, Hakon Bjærke, Peter Brandes, Jóhann Briem, Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg, James Ensor, Max Ernst, Mariano Fortuny, Lorenz Frølich, Johann Heinrich Fussli, Constantin Hansen, William Heinesen, Hans Heyerdahl, Karl Isaksson, Jens Adolf Jerichau, Asger Jorn, Ernst Josephson, Wassily Kandinsky, Anselm Kiefer, Paul Klee, Carl Larson, J.L.Lund, August Malmström, Richard Mortensen, Gerhard Munthe, Kai Nielsen, Bjørn Nørgaard, Arthur Rackham, Odilon Redon, Axel Revold, Nicolai Roerich, Agnes Slott-Møller, Arnt Uhre, Dagfinn Werenskiold, Mårten Eskil Winge, Anders Zorn...

Edda on 351 pages and beautifully bound (size. 28x22 cm) in English translation by professor J.L. Young. Price 85 euro (ex vat)