

About the Authors

Ólafur Sveinsson (1761–1845) was an Icelandic farmer, fisherman, and scribe who spent most of his life in the world of the innumerable small islands and skerries of the fjord of Breiðafjörður in Western Iceland, where he farmed on the island of Purkey. He is the author of a Treatise on Elves that sets out to prove to the reader why a rational human being and good Christian of necessity has to believe in elves.

Jón Jónsson is an Icelandic folklorist with research interests as varied as vagrancy, place-names, folk belief, historical diaries, and the archiving of photographic evidence of past folk life. He is director of the Research Centre of the University of Iceland in Strandir – The Folklore Institute, in the Icelandic Westfjords.

Matthias Egeler is a scholar of Old Norse and medieval Irish literature and historian of religions who has gone astray into the rich world of North Atlantic folk belief. He is Professor of Old Norse Literature and Culture at the Institute for Scandinavian Studies, Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main.