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‘Across the divide: the transformation of ‘Vikings’ in twelfth- and thirteenth-century literary texts’

The depiction of Vikings in early insular sources as marauding pagans has been well documented. Their metamorphosis into Otherworld beings in post-twelfth-century Irish texts is also well known. By examining a body of material from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, specifically prose narratives such as *Cath Ruis na Ríg*, *Aided Guill meic Carbada* and early poems from *Dunaire Finn*, this paper will seek to chart and explain the Viking metamorphosis, addressing what the Vikings became, rather than what they did.