

## **Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir**

There were significant changes in the external circumstances for manuscript production in Iceland in the early fifteenth century, but their consequences have not been adequately analysed. The fourteenth century was a golden age in Icelandic manuscript production, partly thanks to an export market in Norway. That market gradually closed down due to linguistic developments, and the plague that ravaged Iceland in the opening years of the fifteenth century is reckoned to have severely decimated the number of professional scribes. It is recognized that Icelandic manuscripts became smaller in the fifteenth century, but we need to delve deeper into the difference between fourteenth- and fifteenth-century manuscripts. What can be gauged from these books regarding the scribal environment and the circumstances surrounding their production and uses? Was there a change in the pattern of patronage? Were there changes, reflected in the manuscripts, in the reception of particular texts? Were fifteenth-century manuscripts intended for different uses than corresponding books in the fourteenth century? The paper aims to address such issues.