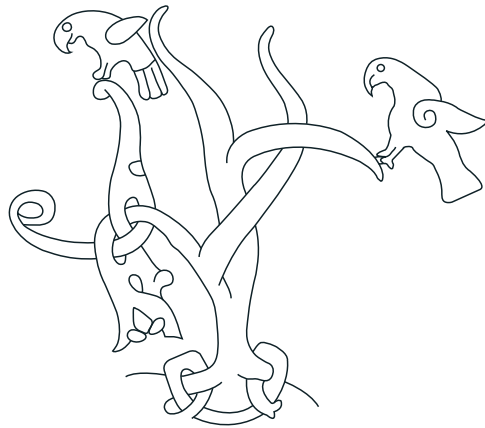


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Eymundr, Ingigerðr, Yngvarr enn víðförli, Anunder a Ruzzia: Swedish Princes in Russia in the 11th Century

Savva Mikheev

According to the epilogue of the Yngvars saga víðförla Yngvar was a grandson of Olaf Skötkonung.

Fiodor Braun (1910) suggested that the protagonist of the saga was a son of Emund the Old, the elder son of Olaf Skötkonung. His hypothesis was based on the Swedish runic inscriptions mentioning *sons of Emund* and brothers Anund, Eric, Hakon, Yngvar and Ragnar (U 513, U 540, Sö 279). Brauns supposition accounts for the scale of the Yngvar's campaign. Many runestones erected in Svealand were dedicated to its participants.

Elena Mel'nikova (1976) suggested that Yngvar's campaign should be dated 1043 when Vladimir, son of Yaroslav the Wise and Ingigerd, Olafs daughter, attacked the Greeks. Yngvars saga mentions a warrior named Valldimar. It seems that Yngvar and his brother-in-arms Vladimir were cousins.

Eymundar þáttur Hringssonar as well as Yngvars saga describes a campaign in the East with the Scandinavians involved in it. After several battles Emund stays in Russia as a local king.

According to the prologue of the Eymundar þáttur Emund had Norwegian origin. But the prologue was evidently added to the þáttur at a late date in its long history. Robert Cook (1986) suggested that Emund was a member of Swedish and not Norwegian ruling family.

There is reason to believe that Emund the Old was the prototype for the Eymundar þáttur' protagonist Emund. If we follow the þáttur and assume that Emund the Old was actively involved in intestine wars of Russian kings in the first half of the 11th century, we get a number of questions answered: (1) why memorial stones for Emund's sons were erected by their brothers and not by their father, (2) why one of the candidates for the Swedish throne after Emund's death was referred to as *Anunder a Ruzzia* (i. e. Anund from Russia) by Adam of Bremen, (3) why in both the Saga and the Þáttur we meet a Gardaketill (i. e. Russian Ketill) serving Emund and then Yngvar, and finally (4) why around 1020 the younger son of Olaf Skötkonung Anund Jacob rather than his elder brother was elected king.

More detailed argumentation of proposed genealogy of Emund can be found in my book about the Russian intestine war of 1015–1019 (Mikheev 2009: 174–194).

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