THE ancient Icelandic manuscripts, preserved in the big libraries of Scandinavia, constitute the richest treasure inherited from Northern Antiquity, and form the most important monument of the life of the Teutonic peoples in the past. Hitherto they have been accessible almost solely in transcriptions, more or less faithful printed copies, and scholarly and popular editions; but the manuscripts tell their own story best. An edition which practically supplies the place of the most important of the original precious manuscripts is now about to be published. Due to the advanced technique of reproduction this is now possible.

The first manuscript to be published is the *Flateyjarbók* (Codex Flateyensis) the most famous of all the literary treasures of *Iceland*. This manuscript came into existence in the years 1387–94, and was chiefly written by Jón Thórdarson and Magnus Thórhallsson; the latter also drew and painted the interesting and characteristic miniatures and initials. A prominent Icelandic chief, Jón Hákonarson, born in 1350 according to the records of the Flateyjarbók, defrayed the expenses of the production.

The Flateyjarbók owes its importance to the fact that it has preserved excellent written copies of earlier writings. In it we find sagas of the Norwegian kings (Olaf Tryggvason, St. Olaf, Harald and Magnus, Sverrer, Hakon the Old and others); further, old lays (Einar Skulason's Geisli, Einar Gilsson's Olafsrima and others). Incorporated in these sagas we find very valuable fragments of other sagas, dealing with countries other than *Iceland* and *Norway*, thus the saga of the Orkneys and the saga of the Faeroes. In this saga we find an account of the introduction of Christianity into the Faeroes and several events connected therewith. In the Orkneyingasaga, which resembles the sagas of the kings in its whole arrangement, the history of the Orkneys from the close of the 9th century to 1222 is given.

The Flateyjarbók also contains an account of remarkable periods in the history of the old Icelandic colony in *Greenland*, of the discovery of *Wineland* on the east coast of *America* and of the later voyages to that part. This is told in the tale of Erik the Red, and in the Grænlendinga Þáttr, which contain important contributions to our knowledge of the life and discoveries of the Norse settlers in Greenland. The Jomsvikingasaga and especially the Knytlingasaga are of great importance in their bearing on the history of *Denmark*. Thus, in the Jomsvikingasaga we find the history of Gorm the Old and Harald Bluetooth. *Sweden* is dealt with in a few short tales, and Eymund's Saga contains contributions to the history of *Russia*.

By its rich subject matter the Flateyjarbók is not only one of the most extensive but also one of the most important of Icelandic manuscripts. It is one of the principal manuscripts and invaluable by the knowledge it gives us of ancient Norse culture and the earliest voyages to Greenland and America.

In his introduction Professor *Finnur Jónsson* thoroughly explains the contents and history of the book.

The facsimile edition now about to appear is a full-size reproduction in photolithography, and will thus entirely supply the place of the manuscript and be of the greatest importance to everybody desirous of studying the original text.

The Flateyjarbók consists of 450 pages, 29×42.5 cm in size. The facsimile edition will be 36×47.5 cm including the margin, and about 8 cm thick. Inclusive of the introduction the book will comprise about 475 large folio pages. Only 150 copies will be on sale. The price will be 360 Kroner; bound in half vellum, 400 Kroner; bound in wooden boards with strings in imitation of old Icelandic bindings, 450 Kroner.

The Flateyjarbók (Codex Flateyensis) will appear in the early part of the summer of 1930 in good time for the millenary festivities at Reykjavik.