



HALLDOR GUDMUNDSSON

Biography



HALLDOR GUDMUNDSSON (b. 1956) studied literature at the University of Iceland and at the University of Copenhagen. For 19 years he worked in publishing, for the longest time as the publisher for Mal & Menning. At the same time he continued researching and writing about literature and the history of literature, with emphasis on the works of Halldor Laxness, about whom he has previously published three books.

Halldor Laxness – A Biography received the Icelandic Literary Prize for 2004 as the best work of non-fiction. It was also voted the Biography of the Year by Icelandic book-sellers. His book about Gunnar Gunnarsson and Thorbergur Thordarson was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize.

Halldor Laxness – A Biography sold to:
UK (MacLehose Press/Quercus)
Sweden (Leopard)
Denmark (Vandkunsten)
Norway (Tiden/Norsk Gyldendal)
Germany (btb)

REVIEWS ON WRITER'S LIVES

"The best biography." BOOKSTORE EMPLOYEES

"Incredibly intriguing ... a bold idea ... a remarkable book written with vigour and intensity." ICELANDIC STATE TELEVISION, SILFUR EGILS

"This lively book reflects the author's profound knowledge of both of his subjects and the times that produced them... keeps the reader engaged until the last page. ★★★★★" BLADID

"... a vivid work about two vivid men. ★★★★★" FRETTABLADID

"A masterpiece." SAGA RADIO

"A welcome addition to the literary history corpus ... written with great skill. A work of meticulous scholarship and a terrific read." MORGUNBLADID

REVIEWS ON HALLDOR LAXNESS – A BIOGRAPHY

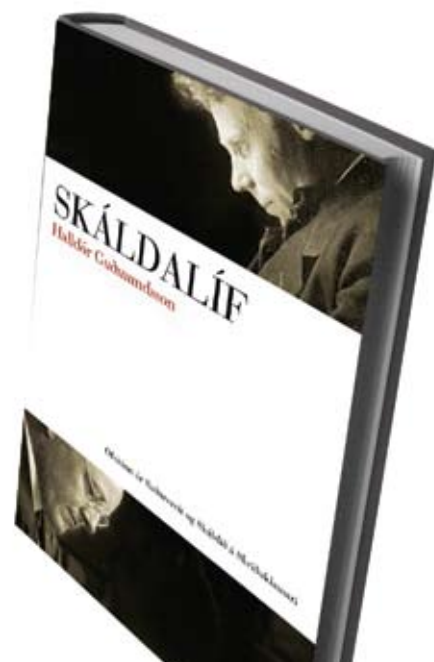
"Halldor Laxness creates a world that belongs in another dimension... It is an endearing and unforgettable voice, and we must tip our hats to Gudmundsson for setting it in context." TELEGRAPH, UK

"Halldor Gudmundsson's major biography of Halldor Laxness, the Icelandic writer of the 20th century, is an exhilarating read and at times reads like a novel." TELEGRAPH, UK

"The work is stylistically admirable, exceptionally informative and will be the standard biography of Halldor Laxness." DIE WELT

"Gudmundsson interweaves the diverting story of Laxness's life with critical commentary on his work, in the manner of the best literary biographers. His tone is appealing: intimate and understanding but far from hagiographic, and not averse to critical irony." IRISH TIMES

HALLDOR GUDMUNDSSON WRITER'S LIVES



THE SUDURSVEIT PRODIGY

AND THE SKRIDUKLAUSTUR POET – A BIOGRAPHY

Do they have anything at all in common, the cosmopolitan Gunnar Gunnarsson and the homebody Thorbergur Thordarson? One wrote in Danish and saw his books translated into a host of foreign languages; the other's books were a well-kept secret known only to the few who knew his native tongue. One probed the mystery of human existence; the other was a noted and mercurial humorist.

But they were Icelandic farmers' sons, virtually of an age, and they had grand dreams for their own future

and that of their country. They devoted their fealty to foreign warlords – each according to his own political views – and that devotion turned to bitter disappointment. But they both made a decisive impact on the development of Icelandic literature.

Halldor Gudmundsson sketches a unique portrait of these two authors in this parallel biography. He tells of their youth and upbringing, the difficult years of penury, their fateful love affairs, their longing for the country, their travels abroad, and their return home.

By juxtaposing the two men, using the brilliance of each to illuminate the other, Gudmundsson elicits a new and fresh view of both.



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