Wulfstan’s Voyage

The Baltic Sea region in the early Viking Age as seen from shipboard

Edited by Anton Englert & Athena Trakadas


“Wulfstan said that he travelled from the Heaths, that he was in Truso in seven days and nights, that the boat was all the way running under sail...”

These simple but highly informative lines form the beginning of a travelogue which was found worthy of being inserted into the Old English version of the late Roman world history by Orosius, along with Ohthere’s often quoted report to King Alfred of Wessex.

Wulfstan’s account covers a voyage from the root of Jutland to the Vistula Delta – connecting the trading centres of Hedeby and Truso – and provides a rare and vivid view of the south-eastern Baltic Sea region in the early Viking Age, including aspects of inland navigation and local culture.

In this book, a panel of scholars presents the original source and debates its geographical, cultural, nautical and economic context in the light of recent investigations.

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