

SEIÐR

Michaela Šebetovská

ABSTRACT

The thesis is about an Old-Norse practice called *seiðr*, which was performed as a prophetic and magical ritual, according to some authors similarly to shamanic ones. The emphasis is put on information obtained from the Old-Norse textual sources. Despite their fragmentary nature, the aim of this work is to make a well-arranged summary of the facts provided by these primary sources. The main subjects are the beings performing *seiðr*, their characteristics, place in society, equipment and conditions required for the ritual and its goal. This information is then used for interpretation and a detailed analysis of several aspects of *seiðr*.