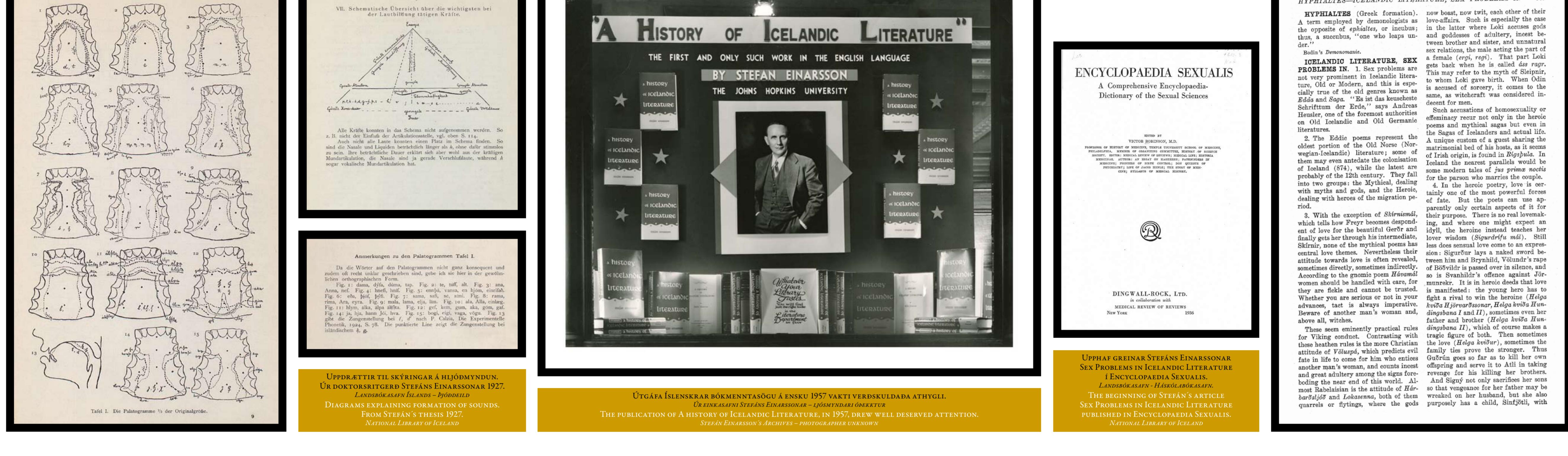




# DR. STEFÁN EINARSSON

## MILDIR, FRÆKNIR MENN BEST LIFA ... THE GENEROUS AND BOLD HAVE THE BEST LIVES ...

(HAVAMÁL)



### UM MÁLVÍSINDI

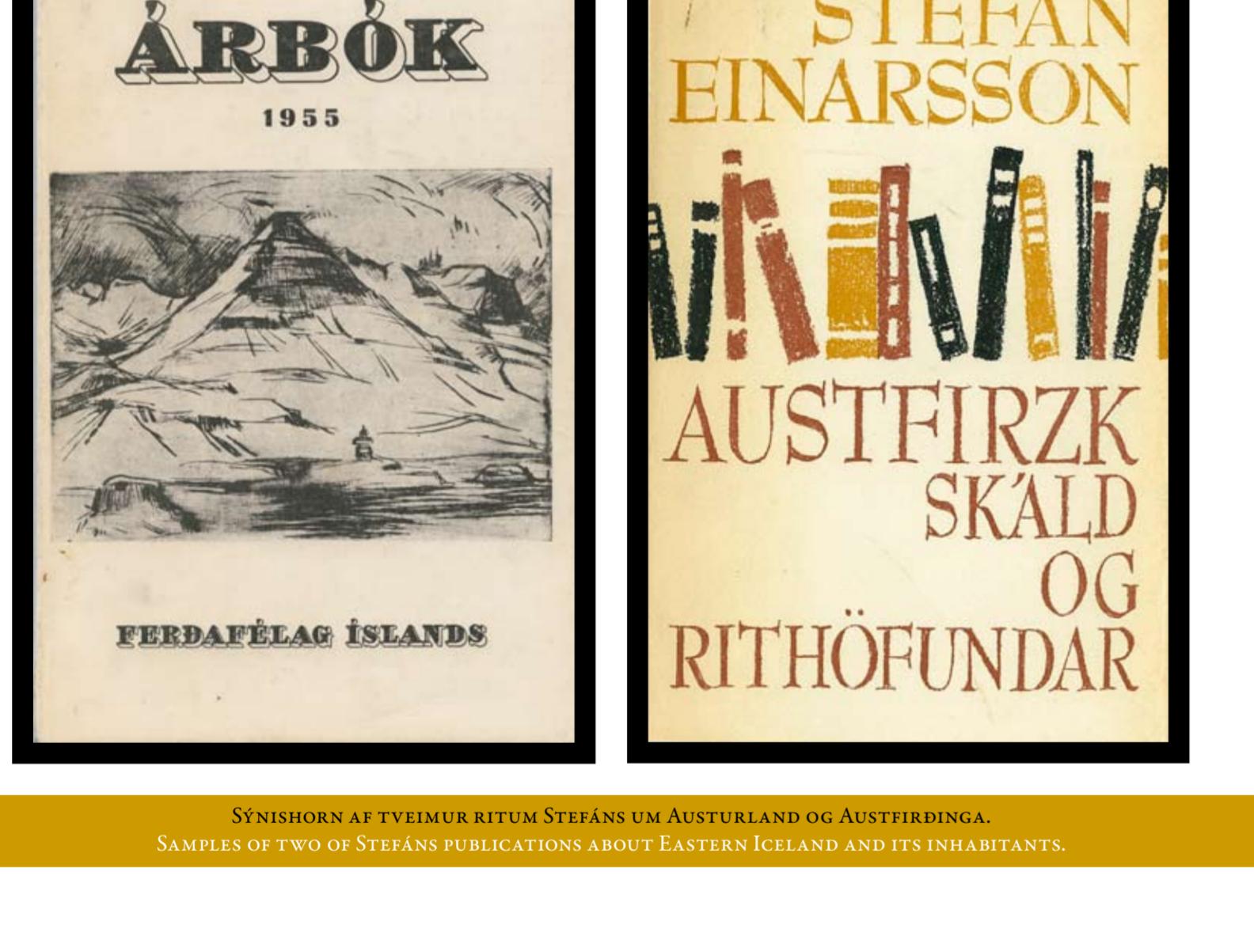
Hljóðfræði var framan af sérgrein Stefáns. Bæði magisters- og doktorsritgerð hans voru á því svíði og árið 1930 kom út í Oslo bókin *A Specimen of southern Icelandic speech. A contribution to Icelandic phonetics* (1930) published in Oslo. Later Stefán wrote about sound changes in Icelandic conditioned by the system (1949). In Baltimore he created teaching material for modern Icelandic and this led to his published work *Icelandic Grammar, Texts, Glossary* (1945), sem hefur margssinn verið endurprentað. Því tengdis síðar *Linguaphone Icelandic course I-III* (1957), sem varð vinsælt tungumálanámskeið. Árið 1939 tók Stefán að aðstoða við fornislenska orðabók á vegum Árnastofnumar í Kaupmannahöfn og var tilnefndur sem aðalritstjóri hennar 1941, en styrjöldin gerði þau áform að engu.

### LINGUISTICS

Phonetics were initially Stefán's specialty. Both his Masters and PhD theses explored this field, as did his book *A specimen of southern Icelandic speech. A contribution to Icelandic phonetics* (1930) published in Oslo. Later Stefán wrote about sound changes in Icelandic conditioned by the system (1949). In Baltimore he created teaching material for modern Icelandic and this led to his published work *Icelandic Grammar, Texts, Glossary* (1945) which has seen many reprints. Later this was linked with the *Linguaphone Icelandic course I-III* (1957) which proved a popular language study material. In the year 1939 Stefán began work on a Dictionary of Old Icelandic under the auspices of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies in Copenhagen and was nominated as its chief editor in 1941. But the war put an end to these endeavors.



STEFÁN VAR ÁSAMT JÓNI HELGASONI PRENTARA UTGAFENDU BREIDDELU 1948.  
STEFÁN, IN COLLABORATION WITH PRINTER JÓN HELGASON, PUBLISHED BREIDDELU IN 1948.



SÝNISHEFÐI TYFLUM RÍTUM STEFÁNS UM AUSTURLAND OG AUSTURFIRZ.

### UM AUSTURLAND

Stefán gleymdi ekki heimahögumunum. Hann hafði frumkvæði að söguritum um Breiðdal og ritaði sjálfur merka kafla í bókina *Breiðdu*. *Drög til sögu Breiðdals* (1948). Fyrir Ferðafélag Íslands skrifði hann tvar árbækur: *Austfirðir sunnan Gerpis* (1955) og *Austfirðir nordan Gerpis* (1957). Að endingu fylgdi svo austurisk bokmenntasaga sem 6. bindi í safnritinu *Austurland: Austfirzk skáld og ritihöfundar* (1964).

### ABOUT EASTERN ICELAND

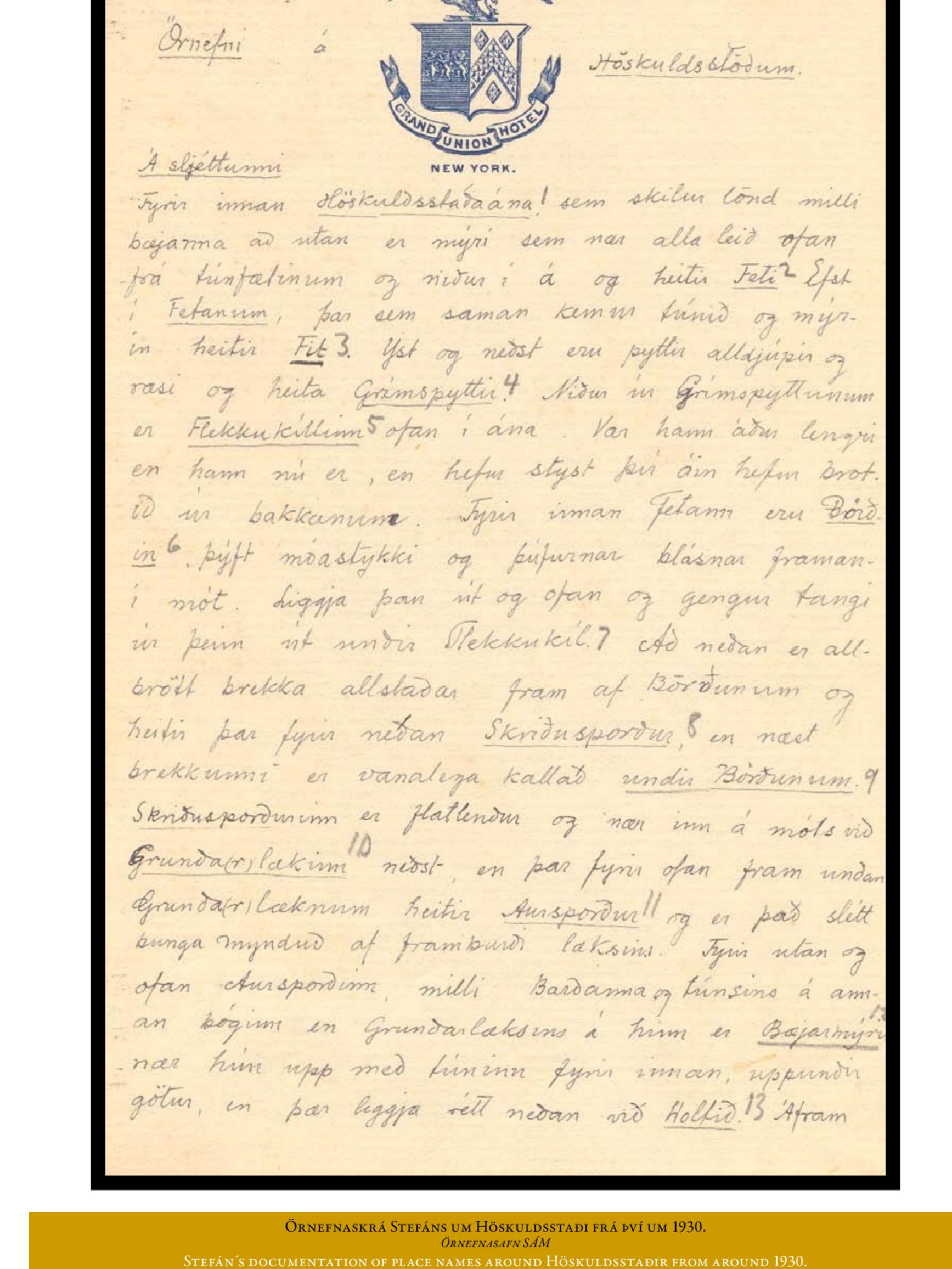
Stefán never forgot his roots. He initiated the recording of the history of Breiðdalur and wrote important chapters in the book *Breiðdu*. *Drög til sögu Breiðdals* (1948). For The Icelandic Touring Association he wrote two yearbooks: *Austfirðir sunnan Gerpis* (1955) and *Austfirðir nordan Gerpis* (1957), about the areas north and south of the Gerpir promontory. His final writings on East Iceland's literary history appeared as the 6th volume in the anthology *Austurland: Austfirzk skáld og ritihöfundar* (1964).

### UM BÓKMENNITIR

Fyrsta bók Stefáns á íslensku kom út árið 1933, það er *Saga Eiriks Magnússonar fræðimanns og bokavarðar í Cambridge en han var ómumbróðir Stefáns. Með þessu verkari var Stefán kominn inn á svíð ritlistar en bokmenntaryni áttu eftir að verða honum áhugamál upp frí því. Á fjórða áratugnum ritaði hann margar greinar um íslenska rithöfunda. Birtus þær fyrst í tímarritum en síðar í safnritinu *Skáldapring 1948*. Jafnframt fylgdi stórvirkri um íslenska bokmenntasögum, ymst á ensku eða íslensku, svo sem *History of Icelandic prose writers: 1800-1940* (1948), *A history of Icelandic literature* (1957) og *Íslensk bókmenntasaga 874-1960* (1961).*

### ABOUT LITERATURE

Stefán Einarsson's first book in Icelandic, *Saga Eiriks Magnússonar*, was published in 1933. The book dealt with the life of Eirikur Magnússon, academic and librarian at Cambridge University and Stefán's great uncle. This work marked his first foray into the field of literature and from that point his interest in literary critique grew. In the 1930's he wrote many articles about Icelandic authors. They were first published in journals and later in the anthology *Skáldapring* in 1948. At this time he also produced some great works about Icelandic literary history, written in either Icelandic or English, such as *History of Icelandic prose writers: 1800-1940* (1948), *A history of Icelandic literature* (1957) and *Íslensk bókmenntasaga 874-1960* (1961).



### UM ÖRNEFNASÖFNUN & ÞJÓÐFRÆÐI

Annad sem lýsti þjóðræknii Stefáns voru söfnunarstörf hans. Hann kom til Íslands árin 1930, 1933, 1951, 1954, 1957 og 1961, ekki síst til að safna örnefnum og þjóðfræðilegum fröldleik í samstarfi við heimamenn. Hann ritaði fjölda af örnefnaskránum jáða, einkum austurlands, og eru þær varðveishtar í örnefnasafni Árnastofnunar og hafa reynst mikilvægur grunnur við frekari skráningu. Stefán varð fyrstur Íslendingur að safna þjóðfræðeini með því að hljóðrítira það að segulbönd árin 1954 og 1957. Þannig hljóðrítirði hann á Austurlandi sagnir, kveði, lausavisur, þulur og rímur, efnir sem ymst var malt fram, sungið eða kvæði. Eru upptökur hans varðveishtar í þjóðfræðisafni Árnastofnunar og hjá Ríkisútvarpini.

### ABOUT THE COLLECTION OF PLACE NAMES & ETHNOLOGY

A fine example of Stefán Einarsson's patriotism is shown in his accumulation of Icelandic place names and ethnological knowledge. During his visits to Iceland in the years 1930, 1933, 1951, 1954, 1957 and 1961 he spent considerable time devoted to these subjects. He wrote numerous registries of Icelandic estate place names, particularly in the East. These are preserved at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies and have proved to be an important foundation for further registration. Stefán became the first Icelander to collect oral history by recording ethnological material on tape in the years 1954 and 1957. In the East of Iceland he recorded locals telling, singing or chanting stories, poems, verses, folksongs and rhymes. His recordings are preserved in the ethnological department of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic studies and The Icelandic National Broadcasting Service.

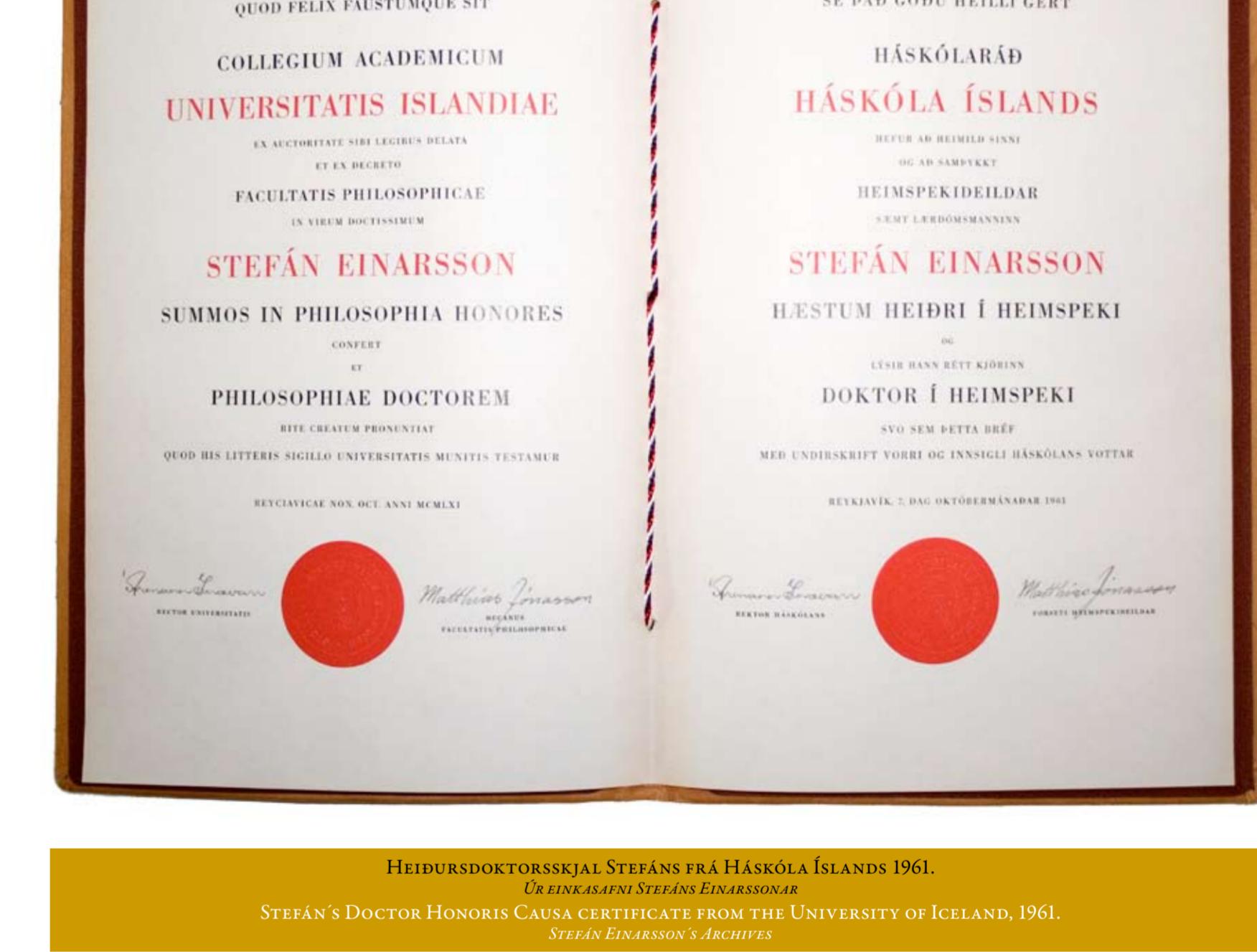


### FRÆÐIMAÐUR & MIKILVIRKUR RITHÖFUNDUR

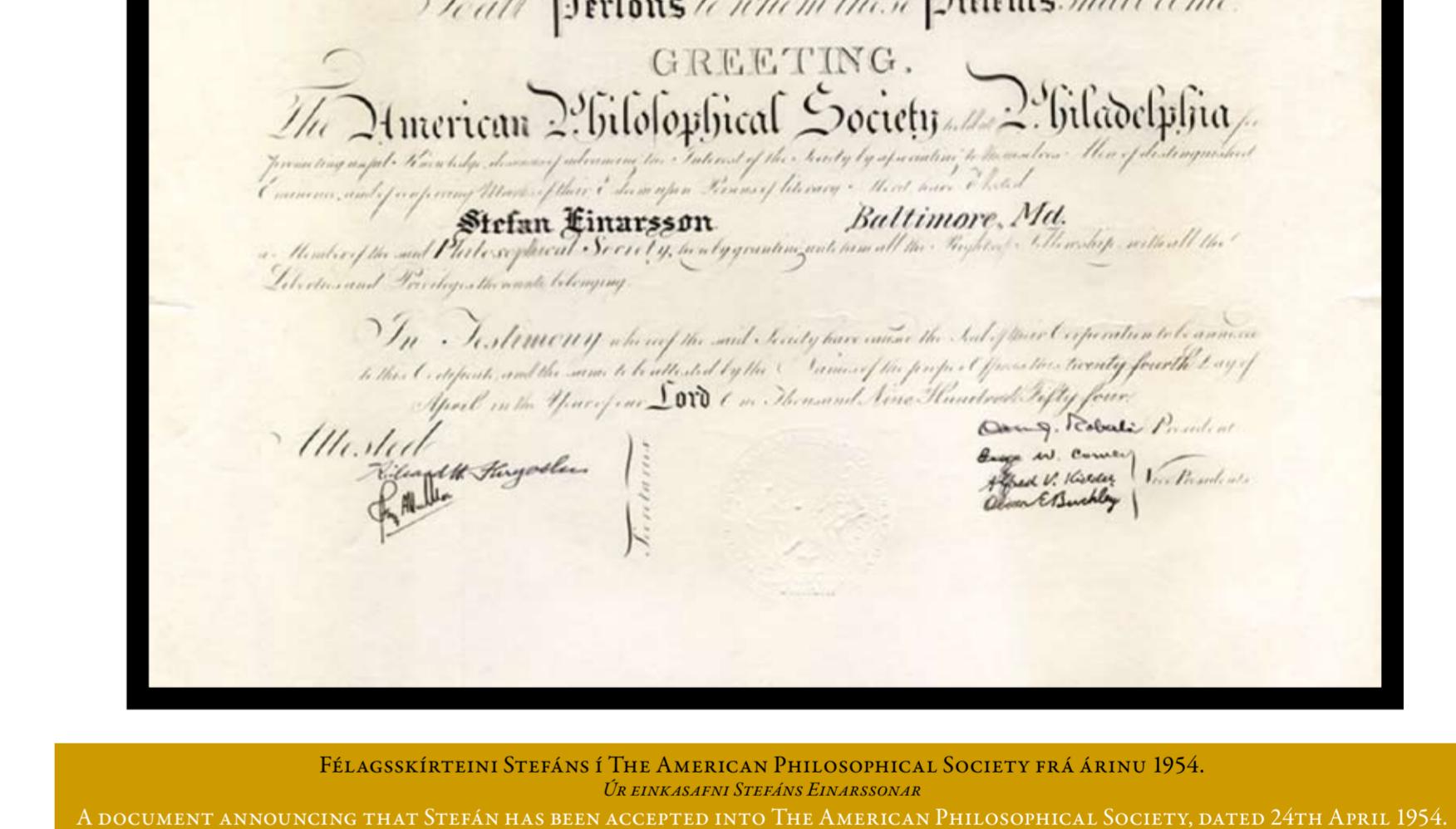
Stefán Einarsson var mjög afkastamikill fræðimaður. Ritaskrá hans á timabilinu 1920 til ársins 1969 telur rúmlega 500 titla, þar af 16 bækur útgáfnar eftir hann sjálfan, þýr sem hann ritsýrt og eina sem hann vinni til að hlaut. Birtar greinar eftir Stefán eru 208 talsins og rítdómur 297. Sennilega hefur enginn fyrir og síðar kynnt Ísland og íslenskar bokmenntir jafn ítarlega fyrir enskumalandi heimi og Stefán Einarsson. Eins og sjá má af dæminu hér fyrir ofan spönnuðu fræðastörf hans afar vitt svíði.

### ACADEMIC & PROLIFIC AUTHOR

Stefán Einarsson was a very productive academic. His bibliography from 1920-1969 counts over 500 works, of which 16 are books written by himself, three which he edited and one he was co-author to. Published articles are 208 and critiques 297. Most likely no one has ever introduced Iceland and Icelandic literature as thoroughly to the English speaking world as Stefán Einarsson. As can be seen from the above sample his academic work spanned a very wide field.



HEIMBARDOKTORSÁLAUTUR FRIÐ HÁSKÓLA ÍSLANDS 1961.  
STEFÁN'S DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA CERTIFICATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND: 1961.  
STEFÁN EINARSSON'S ARCHIVES



### FÉLAGSAÐILD & VIÐURKENNINGAR

Stefán var afar virtur fræðimaður og varð ásamt Vilhjálmri Stefánssyni fyrstur Íslending til að fá inngöngu í eitt virðulegasta fræðafélag Bandaríkjanna, *The American Philosophical Society*. Einnig var hann félagi í *Vísindafélagi Íslands* frá 1935 til dalaðags og í *Þjóðræknisfélagi Íslands* vestanhaðs. Hann skrifði 34 greinar í tímártíð *Þjóðræknisfélagsins* á árabilinu 1928-1964. Stefán var sýndur margvislegur sómi, var m.a. gerður að heidursfélaga í *Hinu íslenska bókmenntafélagi*, semdir riddarakrossi hinnar íslensku fálkaorðu árið 1939 og heidursdoktorsnafnboti við Háskóla Íslands árið 1961. Einnig fikk hann *Guggenheim Fellowship* til rannsóknar, viðurkenningu sem fáum hlotaðist.

### MEMBERSHIP & AWARDS

Stefán was a highly respected academic and became, along with the explorer Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, the first Icelander to be granted enrollment into one of USA's most venerable academic associations, *The American Philosophical Society*. From 1935 until his death Stefán was also a member of *The Societas Scientiarum Islandica*. Overseas, Stefán was also a member of the *Icelandic National League* and wrote 34 articles in its journals between the years 1928 and 1964. He was honoured in many different ways; he was, for example, an honorary member of *The Icelandic Literary Society*, invested with the Order of the Falcon's highest order, The Knight's Cross, in 1939 and the University of Iceland awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1961. He was one of few to be awarded the *Guggenheim Fellowship* for research.

