

Culture and Living | Iceland Monitor | Tue 7 Feb 2017 | 12.37 GMT | Modified at 13.04

Dracula's lost Icelandic sister novel



Screenshot/ Literature hub (sic!) [Literary Hub]

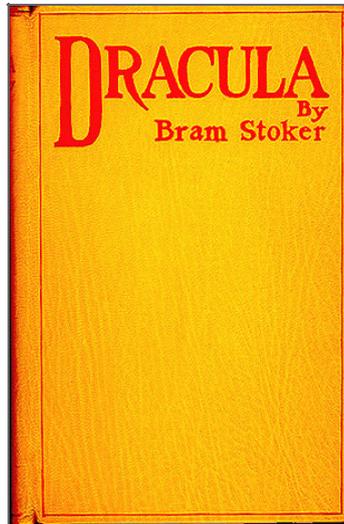
An article published by author and art historian Hans Corneel de Roos on website [Literary hub](#) describes how Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula* has an Icelandic sister, a work titled *Makt Myrkranna* (Powers of Darkness).

In 1900, Icelandic publisher and writer Valdimar Ásmundsson set out to translate Bram Stoker's world-famous 1897 novel *Dracula*. Called *Makt Myrkranna* (literally, Powers of Darkness), this Icelandic edition included an original preface written by Stoker himself. *Makt Myrkranna* was published in Iceland in 1901 but remained undiscovered outside of the country until 1986, when *Dracula* scholarship was astonished by the discovery of Stoker's preface to the book. However, no one looked beyond the preface and deeper into Ásmundsson's story.



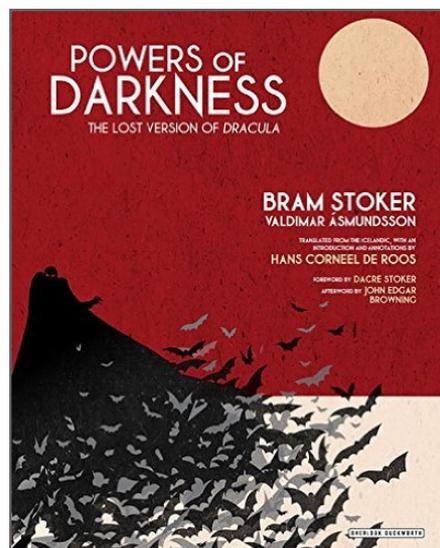
Irish author Bram Stoker. Photo/ Wikipedia

“I started copying the text of these chapters to create a complete digital transcription of *Makt Myrkranna*,” writes De Roos. I copied some random paragraphs into Google translate and found that the strange gibberish appearing in the right column described scenes not found in the novel *Dracula* —at least, not as we know it. Jonathan Harker was called “Thomas” now; Mina appeared as “Wilma” and Lucy as “Lucia.” Thus, the *Makt Myrkranna* translation project was born, and I would not give it up until this lost novel had surrendered its mysteries. What I eventually discovered turned out to be a story more exciting and elegant than *Dracula* itself.”



The first edition cover of *Dracula*. Photo/Wikipedia

De Roos argues that due to the even more sexual nature of the Icelandic version, “one might argue that for Bram Stoker, who had to delete parts of his *Dracula* manuscript in order to have it published by Constable, the publication in Iceland meant an opportunity to launch an uncensored version of his vampire tale.”



Powers of Darkness: The Lost Version of Dracula, a brand new translation of the Icelandic text into English. Photo/ Amazon

Makt Myrkranna, originally thought to be a translation of Stoker’s *Dracula* is therefore, according to De Roos, something much different.

“I rather suspect that Valdimar Ásmundsson, who in the 1901 book version is listed as the translator of Stoker’s narrative, acted as the Irishman’s co-author.”