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Nilsson, Astrid M. H.

2019

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Nilsson, A. M. H. (2019). *Laughter in Johannes Magnus*. Abstract from Colloquium Balticum XVI Lundense: De Risu, Lund, Sweden. Advance online publication.

Total number of authors:

1

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Laughter in Johannes Magnus

Astrid M. H. Nilsson, Lund

A majority of Johannes Magnus' greatest work, the *Historia de omnibus Gothorum Sueonumque regibus*, is taken up by biographies of good and daring Gothic kings and heroes and their chevaleresque exploits, as well as of evil tyrants and their villainous deeds. Little room is left for humourous comments and stories, or other features that amuse the reader (unless, of course, he or she finds the mere idea of a Gothic exodus from Sweden laughable).

There are, however, a few occurrences of laughter in the work, and they will be discussed in this paper. I shall aim to answer the questions of why someone laughs, and to what effect, as well as delve into the question of why there is so little laughter in the work and what that tells us about portrayal in historiography.