



The concept of airmasses and its use for navigation across the N-Atlantic in the middle ages.

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Description of the characteristics of airmasses over the N-Atlantic exist in medieval Nordic literature. It has been suggested that correlation between wind direction, cloud pattern and sensible weather was used for navigation across the ocean in these times. A method of navigation, based on the medieval documents is proposed and applied for trips from Norway towards Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and N-America. The method is quite successful between Norway and Iceland, but difficulties arise as one gets further west. The results support the idea that meteorological knowledge was crucial for navigation before the availability of the compass.