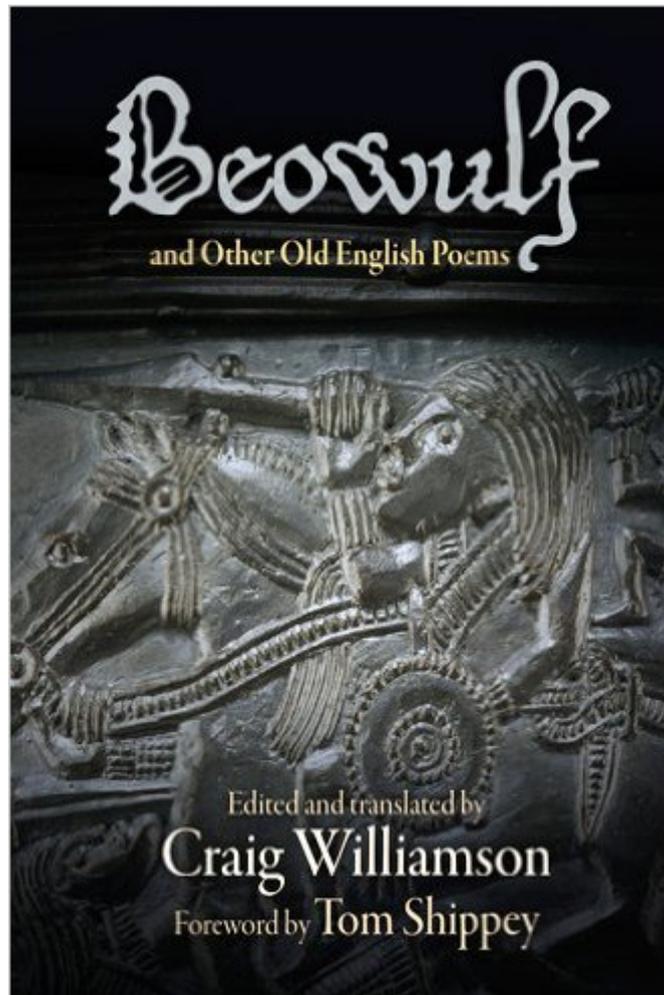


The book was found

"Beowulf" And Other Old English Poems (The Middle Ages Series)



Synopsis

The best-known literary achievement of Anglo-Saxon England, *Beowulf* is a poem concerned with monsters and heroes, treasure and transience, feuds and fidelity. Composed sometime between 500 and 1000 C.E. and surviving in a single manuscript, it is at once immediately accessible and forever mysterious. And in Craig Williamson's splendid new version, this often translated work may well have found its most compelling modern English interpreter. Williamson's *Beowulf* appears alongside his translations of many of the major works written by Anglo-Saxon poets, including the elegies "The Wanderer" and "The Seafarer," the heroic "Battle of Maldon," the visionary "Dream of the Rood," the mysterious and heart-breaking "Wulf and Eadwacer," and a generous sampling of the Exeter Book riddles. Accompanied by a foreword by noted medievalist Tom Shippey on Anglo-Saxon history, culture, and archaeology, and Williamson's introductions to the individual poems as well as his essay on translating Old English, the texts transport us back to the medieval scriptorium or ancient mead hall to share an exile's lament or herdsman's recounting of the story of the world's creation. From the riddling song of a bawdy onion that moves between kitchen and bedroom, to the thrilling account of Beowulf's battle with a treasure-hoarding dragon, the world becomes a place of rare wonder in Williamson's lines. Were his idiom not so modern, we might almost think the Anglo-Saxon poets had taken up the lyre again and begun to sing after a silence of a thousand years.

Book Information

Series: The Middle Ages Series

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press (June 30, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812243455

ISBN-13: 978-0812243451

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,606,950 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #122 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > European > Norse & Icelandic Sagas](#) #247 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Ancient, Classical & Medieval > Medieval](#) #967 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Epic](#)

Customer Reviews

Following an admirably informative and clear introduction on Old English poetics, Williamson offers a very good translation of *Beowulf*, both in terms of its fidelity to the source material, and in terms of its (much more difficult to quantify) poetic "feel." Not only does Williamson do a good job of using alliteration without being very conspicuous about it (none of the "six sly snakes sip straws by the stream" kind of thing), but he carefully chooses a vocabulary which suggests timelessness without archaism. This is a major problem with some *Beowulf* translations, which use such an archaic register of English that one needs a glossary to read them - or such a modern vocabulary that the poem never really gets a chance to cast its spell. Some sections in particular - *Beowulf's* boasts in Heorot, Wiglaf's speech to the cowardly retainers, and several of the fight scenes - are really well-rendered. On the negative side, there are slips, where words that seem excessively modern creep through - "cancel my days" (l. 640), "cheap bargain" (l. 2415), and "East-Germanic tribes" (l. 2496), for example, broke the flow of the writing to me. The translator is clearly a fan of J. R. R. Tolkien, and the nods to, and citations of, Tolkien sometimes seem excessive. But the best part of this book is suggested by the other half of its title - "Other Old English Poems." Williamson's translation of *Beowulf* falls a little short of Liuzza's for me in terms of fluency and art (but a good way ahead of Heaney's).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

"Beowulf" and Other Old English Poems (The Middle Ages Series) Talk English: The Secret To Speak English Like A Native In 6 Months For Busy People (Including 1 Lesson With Free Audio & Video) (Spoken English, listen English, Speak English, English Pronunciation) "The Farce of the Fart" and Other Ribaldries: Twelve Medieval French Plays in Modern English (The Middle Ages Series) The *Hǫfuðvæðingljóð*: With Selections from Other Poems of The Edda, Illustrating the Wisdom of the North in Heathen Times (English and Old Norse Edition) Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages (English and Italian Edition) The Law of Treason in England in the Later Middle Ages (Cambridge Studies in English Legal History) The Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington, Del., From 1697 to 1773, With an Abstract of the English Records From 1773 to 1810 and Catalogue and Errata of the Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church Dark Ages Mage (Vampire: The Dark Ages) Dark Ages Companion - A Sourcebook for Vampire: The Dark Ages Dark Ages Vampire (Vampire: The Dark Ages) The Etablissements de Saint Louis: Thirteenth-Century Law Texts from Tours, Orleans, and Paris (The Middle Ages Series) The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History: A Forgotten Heritage (The Middle Ages Series) Witchcraft in Europe, 400-1700: A

Documentary History (Middle Ages Series) Ritual, Politics, and the City in Fatimid Cairo (Suny Series in Medieval Middle East History) (Suny Series, Medieval Middle East History) Popes, Lawyers, and Infidels: The Church and the Non-Christian World, 1250-1550 (The Middle Ages) The Youth and Teen Running Encyclopedia: A Complete Guide for Middle and Long Distance Runners Ages 6 to 18 Bonds of Wool: The Pallium and Papal Power in the Middle Ages (Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Canon Law) Thrice Great Hermetica and the Janus Age: Hermetic Cosmology, Finance, Politics and Culture in the Middle Ages through the Late Renaissance Marriage and the Family in the Middle Ages The Hanged Man: A Story of Miracle, Memory, and Colonialism in the Middle Ages

[Dmca](#)