

Beowulf With The Finnesburg Fragment Edited By C L Wrenn Fully Revised By W F Bolton

Unlike some other reproductions of classic texts (1) We have not used OCR(Optical Character Recognition), as this leads to bad quality books with introduced typos. (2) In books where there are images such as portraits, maps, sketches etc We have endeavoured to keep the quality of these images, so they represent accurately the original artefact.

Although occasionally there may be certain imperfections with these old texts, we feel they deserve to be made available for future generations to enjoy.

Professor J.R.R. Tolkien is most widely known as the author of 'The Lord of the Rings,' but he was also a distinguished scholar in the field of Mediaeval English language and literature. His most significant contribution to Anglo-Saxon studies is to be found in his lectures on Finn and Hengest, two fifth-century heroes in northern Europe. The story is told in two Old English poems, 'Beowulf' and 'The Fights at Finnesburg,' but told so obscurely and allusively that its interpretation had been a matter of controversy for over 100 years. Bringing his unique combination of philological erudition and poetic imagination to the task, however, Tolkien revealed a classic tragedy of divided loyalties, of vengeance, blood and death. The story has the added attraction that it describes the events immediately preceding the first Germanic invasion of Britain which was led by Hengest himself.

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