

Download Beowulf : An Introduction

Introductions to the Old English poem called Beowulf often begin with something of the sort: 'Beowulf is written in West Saxon and recorded only in the Cotton Vitellius A. xv manuscript...' One may wonder why such a work would be introduced in this rather dry and relatively uninformative manner. Introduction and Background. Beowulf, a poem written by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet, is considered one of the most important works in all of English literature. However, it was almost a forgotten work. Written in the Anglo-Saxon era, only one Beowulf manuscript survived into modern times, and it was almost destroyed in a fire in the 1700s. A classic of Anglo-Saxon literature, "Beowulf" remains one of the greatest epic poems ever written. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper, includes an introduction by Kemp Malone, and a preface and annotations by the translator, J. Lesslie Hall. Beowulf's people have been identified with many tribes: but there is strong evidence that the Geatas are the Gutar (O.N. Gautar), the inhabitants of what is now a portion of Southern Sweden, immediately to the south of the great lakes Wener and Wetter.