

Sir Gawain And The Green Knight

The magnificent heritage of English poetry before Chaucer is often neglected because of difficulties with unfamiliar dialect. These translations reveal what we are missing if we ignore it. Piers Plowman belongs to the tradition of medieval allegory, but without any of the stuffiness that label suggests. It paints a vivid picture of everyday life in the 14th century with a vigour and detail which anticipates The Canterbury Tales. However, the jewel in the crown of Middle English verse is Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, here presented in the classic version by JRR Tolkien, author of The Lord of the Rings (currently being filmed). A wonderfully told story which combines suspense, fantasy, exquisite domestic detail and sensuality.

"This Norton Critical Edition of the anonymously written fourteenth-century Arthurian romance Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is derived from a verse translation by Marie Borroff, first translated in 1967. The poem follows Gawain, a knight of King Arthur's court, as his honor is tested by the Green Knight. After succeeding in beheading the Green Knight, who survives the ordeal, Gawain must uphold his end of the bargain and, after a year's time, meet with the Green Knight again so that the knight may return the grim favor and behead Gawain. The "Contexts" in this Critical Edition provide readers with selections of the poem in its original Middle English, as well as other Arthurian stories that may have influenced the anonymous Gawain-poet. "Criticism" includes a selection of essays on themes ranging from the poem's descriptive techniques, to its use of time and gender. A chronology and selected bibliography are also included"--

The fabulous and romantic adventures of Gawain, King Arthur's nephew.

Of the five poems contained in this book, two are acknowledged masterpieces. The plot of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, an Arthurian romance, brilliantly interweaves elements of suspense and high comedy. Pearl, a dream vision, presents its poignant story of the education of a misguided Christian soul in metrically intricate and verbally ornate stanzas that add up to an overarching numerical design. Together with these two, Patience, Cleanness, and Saint Erkenwald make up the complete works of their anonymous author. All exhibit the dramatizing powers and metrical virtuosity of a master-poet. But none became part of the established literary canon until the second half of the nineteenth century, when the single manuscript copies in which they survive were edited and printed. Taken together, these works offer us a wide-ranging portrait of life in the late Middle Ages from the point of view of an independent-minded, learned, and cosmopolitan Englishman, a man as conversant with the conduct of life in great households as with Christian tradition and doctrine. He knew, among other things, how to sail a medieval passenger ship from its mooring to open sea, how to dress the carcass of a deer or a boar at the end of a royal hunt, and how a knight might flatter a noble and beautiful lady in the most intimate of situations while politely evading her seductive overtures.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight ; Pearl ; Cleanness ; Patience

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, and Sir Orfeo

With Sir Gawain and the Green Knight ; Pearl and Sir Orfeo (anon.)

Simon Armitage's "compulsively readable, energetic, free-flowing, high-spirited version" (Edward Hirsch, The New York Times) of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight offers "a brilliantly well-tuned modern score for one of the finest surviving examples of Middle English poetry" (Poetry Review) that "recreates the original's gnarled, hypnotic muscle, its tableaux and landscapes, and its weird, unsettling drama" (Mark Ford, the Financial Times). This edition, revised by Armitage with advice from scholars Alfred David and James Simpson, also offers a new introduction by the translator.

The fourteenth-century poem Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is one of the greatest classics of English literature, but one of the least accessible to most twentieth-century readers. Written in an obscure dialect, it is far more difficult to digest in the original than are most other late medieval English works. Yet any translation is bound to lose much of the flavour of the original. This edition of the poem offers the original text together with a facing-page translation. With the alliterative Middle English before the reader, James Winny provides a non-alliterative and sensitively literal rendering in modern English. This edition also provides an introduction, explanatory and textual notes, a further note on some words that present particular difficulties, and, in the appendices, two contemporary stories, The Feast of Bricriu and The Knight of the Sword, which provide insight on the poem.

The inspiration for the major motion picture The Green Knight starring Dev Patel, an early English poem of magic, chivalry and seduction. Composed during the fourteenth century in the English Midlands, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight describes the events that follow when a mysterious green-coloured knight rides into King Arthur's Camelot in deep mid-winter. The mighty knight presents a challenge to the court: he will allow himself to be struck by one blow, on the condition that he will be allowed to return the strike on the following New Year's Eve. Sir Gawain takes up the challenge, decapitating the stranger - only to see the Green Knight seize up his own severed head and ride away, leaving Gawain to seek him out and honour their pact. Blending Celtic myth and Christian faith, Gawain is among the greatest Middle English poems: a tale of magic, chivalry and seduction.

A new volume of the works of the Gawain poet, destined to become the definitive edition for students and scholars. This volume brings together four works of the unknown fourteenth-century poet famous for the Arthurian romance Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, in their original Middle English. In one of the great tales of medieval literature, Gawain, the noblest knight of King Arthur's court, must keep a deadly bargain with a monstrous knight and resist the advances of his host's beautiful wife. The dream vision of Pearl depicts a bereaved father whose lost child leads him to glimpse heaven. And in moral poems based on stories from the Bible, Cleanness warns against sins of the flesh and of desecration, while Patience encourages readers to endure suffering as God's will. Little is known about the so-called 'Gawain poet', who wrote during the late fourteenth century. It is believed that he came from south-east Cheshire, an important cultural and economic centre at the time, and he was clearly well-read in Latin, French and English. Although he is not named as the author of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Patience, Cleanness, the four works have been attributed to him based on a careful comparison of their language, date and themes. Myra Stokes was formerly Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at Bristol University. Her books include Justice and Mercy in Piers Plowman and The Language of Jane Austen. Ad Putter teaches at the English Department and the Centre for Medieval Studies of the University of Bristol, where is Professor of Medieval English Literature. His monographs include Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and French Arthurian Romance and An Introduction to the Gawain Poet, and he is also co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to the Arthurian Legend.

In a Modern English Version with a Critical Introduction

A Reading of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

An Authoritative Translation, Contexts, Criticism

While the knights of King Arthur's Round Table are toasting the new year, a colossal stranger clad in green armor bursts in to deliver a formidable challenge: Any of them may strike off the intruder's head as long as he is prepared to receive a similar blow from the Green Knight in one year. Of all the gallant knights in the assembly, only Sir Gawain—brave, gallant, and true to his word—is willing to answer the dare. So begins this gem of medieval English literature, which traces Gawain's adventures as he endeavors to fulfill his pledge. Dating from the late fourteenth century or earlier, the story blends paganistic elements with Christian ethics to celebrate the virtue of forgiveness, thus forming a classic example of the chivalric tradition. This edition presents the legend in two forms: in prose and in verse, both translated by the distinguished scholar Jessie Weston.

Originally published in 1965, A Reading of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is an interpretation of the most important poem in Middle English literature, the only fourteenth century work which can stand beside Chaucer. The book examines the poem's conventions and purposes in a critical analysis and provides a useful and insightful introduction to 'Sir Gawain'. It will be of interest to students and academics studying the poem of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

Christmas gift edition of Armitage's hugely popular translation: with revised text, and color illustrations by Clive Hicks-Jenkins

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.

And Pearl, Purity, Patience

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight - Rethinking Romance

In Prose and Poetry

A collection of three medieval English poems translated by Tolkien for the modern-day reader and edited by his son, Christopher Tolkien, containing romance, tragedy, love, sex, and honor, with exclusive features.

A collection of three medieval English poems, translated by Tolkien for the modern-day reader and containing romance, tragedy, love, sex and honour.

A comprehensive and accessible volume of some of the best-loved medieval literature in its original Middle English This volume brings together four works of the unknown fourteenth-century poet famous for the Arthurian romance Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, in their original Middle English. Also gathered here are the famous medieval texts Pearl, Cleanness, and Patience, complete with new scholarly apparatus to aid firsttime readers and experts alike. For more than sixty-five years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,500 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

'Innorfur I must set off to receive that blow, to seek out that creature in green, God help me!' J.R.R. Tolkien spent much of his life studying, translating and teaching the great epic stories of northern Europe, filled with heroes, dragons, trolls, dwarves and magic. He was hugely influential for his advocacy of Beowulf as a great work of literature and, even if he had never written The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, would be recognised today as a significant figure in the rediscovery of these extraordinary tales. Legends from the Ancient North brings together from Penguin Classics five of the key works behind Tolkien's fiction.They are startling, brutal, strange pieces of writing, with an elemental power brilliantly preserved in these translations.They plunge the reader into a world of treachery, quests, chivalry, trials of strength.They are the most ancient narratives that exist from northern Europe and bring us as near as we will ever get to the origins of the magical landscape of Middle-earth (Midgard) which Tolkien remade in the 20th century.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Cleanness, Patience

Critical Studies of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Sir Gawain & the Green Knight

It is New Year at Camelot and a mysterious green knight appears at King Arthur's court. Challenging the knights of the Round Table to a Christmas game, he offers his splendid axe as a prize to whoever is brave enough to behead him with just one strike. The condition is that his challenger must seek him out in a year and a day to have the deed returned. Sir Gawain accepts and decapitates the stranger, only to see him pick up his head, walk out of the hall and ride away on his horse. Now Gawain must complete his part of the bargain, search for his foe and confront what seems his doom... Michael Smith's translation of this magnificent Arthurian romance draws on his intimate experience of the North West of England and his knowledge of mediaeval history, culture and architecture. He takes us back to the original poetic form of the manuscript and brings it alive for a modern audience, while revealing the poem's historic and literary context. The book is beautifully illustrated by throughout with detailed recreations of the illuminated lettering in the original manuscript and the author's own linocut prints, each meticulously researched for contemporary accuracy. This is an exciting new edition that will appeal both to students of the Gawain-poet and the general reader alike.

Seminar paper from the year 1999 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1 (A), University of Zurich (English Seminar), course: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, comment.: abstract: This paper discusses how the author of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight uses, explores and sometimes undermines the conventions of the Arthurian romance genre. As a basis for this investigation, a definition of the genre is sketched, using a structuralist model along with a set of typical motifs found in many romances. Having established the essential genre elements the papier then examines the way the Gawain-poet makes use of these in his text. After identifying the fundamentally generic structure of the poem the author concentrates on incidents where the poet plays ironically with the reader's genre expectations.

Important and wide-ranging studies of the ideological exploitations performed by and upon the medieval romance.

The adventures and challenges of Sir Gawain, King Arthur's nephew and a knight at the Round Table, including his duel with the mysterious Green Knight, are among the oldest and best known of Arthurian stories. Here the distinguished author and poet John Gardner has captured the humor, elegance, and richness of the original Middle English in flowing modern verse translations of this literary masterpiece. Besides the tale of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, this edition includes two allegorical poems, "Purity" and "Patience"; the beautiful dream allegory "Pearl"; and the miracle story "Saint Erkenwald," all attributed to the same anonymous poet, a contemporary of Chaucer and an artist of the first rank. "Mr. Gardner has translated into modern English and edited a text of these five poems that could hardly be improved. . . . The entire work is preceded by a very fine and complete general introduction and a critical commentary on each poem."—Library Journal

The Exploitations of Medieval Romance

The Works of the Gawain Poet

The Morphology of the Middle English Poem Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

The legendary tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table is one of the most famous folk tales in history, with Merlin the Wizard and the virtuous Sir Lancelot being known and loved by young and old alike to this day. Slightly less celebrated, however, is The Green Knight, who first appeared in the 14th-century Arthurian poem “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”. One of Arthur's greatest champions, he is both a judge and tester of knights, looked upon by his peers as an amiable yet terrifying and mysterious personage. One of the best known Arthurian stories, it is a classic example of chivalric romance within which The Green Knight goes on a quest that tests his prowess, virtue, and determination in the face of great danger. The poem is written in stanzas of alliterative verse which all end in a rhyming bob and wheel, and is attributed to the unidentified “Pearl Poet”. This volume contains the original text together with an English translation by William Allan Neilson, making it a must-have for those with an interest in the famous Arthurian legend. Ragged Hand is proudly republishing this classic Arthurian poem now in a brand new edition complete with an introduction by K. G. T. Webster.

A dazzling recreation of the most memorable Middle English poem, and one that captures the original alliterative verse in all its dimensions: sense, sound, and rhythm. --Ad Putter, Professor of Medieval English Literature, University of Bristol

Sir Gawain & the Green Knight is a classic Arthurian tale of enchantment, adventure and romance. This splendid new translation - by one of the world's leading poets - has already been acclaimed in America. Modern and Middle English parallel text edition.

Originally published in 1965, A Reading of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is an interpretation of the most important poem in Middle English literature, the only fourteenth century work which can stand beside Chaucer. The book examines the poem's conventions and purposes in a critical analysis and provides a useful and insightful introduction to 'Sir Gawain'. It will be of interest to students and academics studying the poem of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

Piers Plowman

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Patience, Cleanness

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight - Facing Page Translation

Presents a scholarly translation, an essay on the metrical form, translator's notes, and explanatory annotations of the canonical Arthurian romance.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

This anthology of medieval writing provides a context for a deeper understanding of the Gawain-poet's originality and skill.

'The finest translation in and for our time' (Kevin Crossley-Holland) Sir Gawain and The Green Knight, with its intricate plot of enchantment and betrayal is probably the most skilfully told story in the whole of the English Arthurian cycle. Originating from the north-west midlands of England, it is based on two separate and very ancient Celtic motifs of the Beheading and the Exchange of Winnings, brought together by the anonymous 14th century poet. His telling comprehends a great variety of moods and modes - from the stark realism of the hunt-scenes to the delicious and dangerous bedroom encounters between Lady Bercilak and Gawain, from moments of pure lyric beauty when he evokes the English countryside in all its seasons, to authorial asides that are full of irony and puckish humour. This new verse translation uses a modern alliterative pattern which subtly echoes the music of the original at the same time as it strives for fidelity.

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Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

The Gawain Poet

When the mysterious Green Knight arrives unbidden at the Round Table one Christmas, only Gawain is brave enough to take up his challenge. . . . This story, first told in the 1400s, is one of the most enthralling, dramatic and beloved poems in the English tradition. Now, in Simon Armitage, the poem has found its perfect modern translator. Armitage's retelling of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight captures all of the magic and wonderful storytelling of the original while also revitalising it with his own popular, funny and contemporary voice.

Three epic poems from 14th century England speak of life during the age of chivalry. Translated from medieval English.

"This prose rendering of a poem from the late fourteenth century (or earlier) recounts an adventure undertaken by King Arthur's famous nephew, Sir Gawain. Brave and chivalrous, faithful to his word and ever-mindful of his honor, as well as that of others, Gawain represents the model of knightly grace. When a gigantic stranger clad in green armor bursts in on the Round Table assembly to issue a challenge, the gallant Gawain volunteers to do battle for his king. This parable blends pagan elements and Christian ethics to celebrate the virtue of forgiveness, and it is frequently assigned to classes in literature and history because of its short length and its excellent representation of chivalric tradition"--

The quest of Sir Gawain for the Green Knight teaches him a lesson in pride, humility, and honor.

A Verse Translation

A New Verse Translation

The Green Knight (Movie Tie-In)