Raffel, Burton, transl. Das Nibelungenlied: Song of the Nibelungs

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Main content

Article Preview :

The Nibelungenlied belongs to world literature and is one of the most significant "classics" of medieval heroic poetry. It has been studied and translated, paraphrased, made into movies, and adapted in myriad other forms. The present translation by Burton Raffel, an expert philologist also in Middle English and Old French, immediately appeals to the reader, being nicely bound and pleasantly prepared. It would, of course, be entirely untrue to claim that Raffel here offers a first translation, but "classical" texts like the Nibelungenlied constantly invite new efforts. Raffel renders the Middle High German not into prose, as A. T. Hatto (1965) and others have done, but into rhymed English verse (as some have done in the nineteenth century). This has the advantage of appealing to the reader's aesthetics, but it also means that Raffel took great liberties with the original text. The first stanza demonstrates how much he deviated from his source in order to establish a metrical flow in his translation. "Uns ist in alten maeren wunders...

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Das Nibelungenlied. ebook | Song of the Nibelungs. By Burton Raffel. Add Book To Favorites. Sign up to save your library. No poem in German literature is so well known and studied in Germany and Europe as the 800-year-old "Das Nibelungenlied." In the English-speaking world, however, the poem has remained little known, languishing without an adequate translation. This wonderful new translation by eminent translator Burton Raffel brings the epic poem to life in English for the first time. ...read more. Format. Burton Raffel's new translation of Das Nibelungenlied, the foremost epic of German literature, stands head and shoulders above every other translation available today. Fast-paced and clear, this English Nibelungenlied gives new life to the old Siegfried legend. Das
Nibelungenlied is one of the underappreciated classics of western literature. An inspiration and source for everything from Wagner to Tolkien, the epic was first written in the 12th century, copied extensively throughout the High Middle Ages, and then virtually disappeared until the 1700s. Its popularity bloomed again during the romantic era, when poets keen on the medieval romance and scholars seeking a Germanic national literature found a common inspiration in the rediscovered epic. The Nibelungenlied, or "The Song of the Nibelungs", is a Middle High German epic poem first written sometime in the thirteenth century. Though its author is unknown, The Nibelungenlied remains one of the premiere Germanic texts. It is appreciated for its literary style, contrasting the themes of emotion and violence, and its recollection and assimilation of older Germanic tales. The Female Protagonist at the Heart of the Story. The tale of the Nibelungs is told in two parts, however both center on Kriemhild, the primary female protagonist. The story of the Nibelungs begins by introd