

Simon Armitage Sir Gawain

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Becoming the Pearl-Poet
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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

preserved on a single surviving manuscript dating from around 1400 composed by an anonymous master sir gawain and the green knight was rediscovered only 200 years ago and published for the first time in 1839 one of the earliest great stories of english

literature after beowulf the poem narrates in crystalline verse the strange tale of a green knight on a green horse who rudely interrupts the round table festivities one yuletide casting a pall of unease over the company and challenging one of their number to a wager the virtuous gawain accepts and decapitates the intruder with his own axe gushing blood the knight reclaims his head orders gawain to seek him out a year hence and departs next yuletide gawain dutifully sets forth his quest for the green knight involves a winter journey a seduction scene in a dream like castle a dire challenge answered and a drama of enigmatic reward disguised as psychic undoing simon armitage s new version is meticulously responsible to the tact and sophistication of the original but responsible equally to its own powerfully persuasive claims to be read as an original new poem it is as if six hundred years apart two northern poets set out on a journey through the same mesmeric landscapes acoustic physical and metaphorical in the course of which the gawain poet has finally found his true and long awaited translator

description the programme for the reading of simon armitage s translation of sir gawain and the green knight the programme details the history of the manuscript and the possible origin of the anonymous author an interrogation of the poem s form and a broad outline of the poem is also discussed a biography of armitage also features

with contributions from 29 leading international scholars this is the first single volume guide to the appropriation of medieval texts in contemporary culture medieval afterlives in contemporary culture covers a comprehensive range of media including literature film tv comics book adaptations electronic media performances and commercial merchandise and tourism its lively chapters range from spamalot to the rsc beowulf to merlin computer games to internet memes opera to young adult fiction and contemporary poetry and much more also included is a companion website aimed at general readers academics and students interested in the burgeoning field of medieval afterlives complete with further reading weblinks my favourite guides to contemporary medieval appropriations images and interviews guide to library archives and manuscript collections guide to heritage collection see also our website at medievalafterlives.wordpress.com

who is the pearl poet how do ideas about his life and interpretations of his poems shape our understanding of his work in late medieval england and beyond in becoming the pearl poet perceptions connections receptions readers can explore the world of this extraordinary fourteenth century writer in part i perceptions five scholars give insightful literary analyses of the narrative poems attributed to the poet pearl cleanness patience sir gawain and the green knight and st erkenwald in part ii connections six scholars examine connections between these

diverse poems focusing on authorship ecology material culture sartorial adornment shields and the poet's pastoral theology in part iii receptions scholars consider the illustrations of the pearl manuscript british library ms cotton nero a x the poet's cultural situatedness in the northwest midlands and ricardian court his religious contexts later translations and paraphrases of his work and his medieval and modern audiences intended for students and scholars alike this book encourages readers to gain a deeper understanding of the pearl poet and his world learning many new things and enjoying old things in a new way

annual collection of essays on diverse aspects of the fifteenth century this year emphasizing topics in medieval literature the fifteenth century defies consensus on fundamental issues most scholars agree however that the period outgrew the middle ages that it was a time of transition and a passage to modern times fifteenth century studies offers essays on diverse aspects of the period including liberal and fine arts historiography medicine and religion volume 38 addresses a broad spectrum of topics monastic reformation of domestic space in richard whitford's werke for housholders margery kempe and spectatorship in medieval drama the book of margery kempe and the trial of joan of arc a new edition and interpretations of the book of the duke and emperor in the context of ms manchester chetham's library 8009 mun a 6 31 two cultural perspectives on the battle of lippa transylvania 1551 translation and manipulation of audience expectations in sir gawain and the green knight the dry tree legend in medieval literature and wessel gansfort john mombaer and medieval technologies of the self book reviews conclude the volume contributors brandon alakas maria dobozy andrew eichel rosanne gasse kate mclean jesse njus sarah ritchey p r robins barbara i gusick is professor emerita of english at troy university dothan alabama review editor rosanne gasse is associate professor of english at brandon university

while a compass might tell us which direction we are going there is really only one direction to which it ever points north north is the ultimate point of orientation but it is also a celebrated destination for the adventurous the curious the solitary and the foolhardy in this fascinating book updated in this accessible pocket edition peter davidson explores the concept of north through its many manifestations in painting legend and literature arctic bound davidson takes the reader on a journey from the heart of society to the most far flung outposts of human geography packing in our rucksacks a treasure trove of stories and artworks from the icelandic sagas to nabokov's snowy kingdom of zembla from hans christian andersen's forbidding snow queen to the works of artists such as eric ravilious ian hamilton finlay and andy goldsworthy he celebrates the different ways our artists and writers have illuminated our relationship with the earth's most dangerous and austere terrain through davidson's astonishing but inviting erudition we ultimately come to see north as a

permanent goal frozen forever on a horizon we never seem to quite reach

featuring both the original text and a modern translated version this fourteenth century arthurian poem tells the legendary tale of the mysterious green knight and sir gawain a great knight of the round table the knights of the round table are celebrating yuletide when their festivities are interrupted by the mystifying green knight riding on his green horse the green knight challenges king arthur s legendary men to a wager he who takes a blow at the green knight must be prepared to accept a return attack one year and one day later it is the gallant sir gawain who takes this challenge on he raises his axe and strikes off the head of the green knight yet the intruder is undefeated still alive he picks up his head and promises he will see sir gawain in a year and a day in stanzas of alliterative verse ending in a rhyming bob and wheel the poem chronicles sir gawain s heroic quest this high quality edition features both william allan neilson s 1917 translated text and the original version by the anonymous writer known as the pearl poet or the gawain poet ragged hand has proudly republished this classic poem in a beautiful new edition complete with an introduction by k g t webster this volume is not to be missed by fans of the famous legend of king arthur and his knights of the round table

this middle english poem about the moral testing of a young hero is commonly described as the greatest arthurian romance in our literary tradition it is a question still as to who the author is but this poet is considered second only to chaucer

in this classic example of the chivalric tradition a stranger in green armor issues a challenge to the knights of the round table and sir gawain volunteers to do battle for his uncle king arthur includes the original poem and a prose translation

a re examination the separating sword that demonstrates the complexity of intertextual influences across linguistic and cultural boundaries

this book examines poems plays and chronicles produced in cheshire from the 1190s to the 1650s that collectively argue for the localization of british literary history

the alliterative morte arthure the title given to a four thousand line poem written sometime around 1400 was part of a medieval arthurian revival which produced such masterpieces as sir gawain and the green knight and sir thomas malory s prose morte d arthur like gawain the alliterative morte arthure is a unique manuscript held in the library of lincoln cathedral by an anonymous author and written in alliterating lines which harked back to anglo saxon poetic composition unlike gawain whose plot hinges around one moment of jaw dropping magic the death of king arthur deals

in the cut and thrust of warfare and politics the ever topical matter of Britain's relationship with continental Europe and of its military interests overseas Simon Armitage is already the master of this alliterative music as his earlier version of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight 2006 so resourcefully and exuberantly showed his new translation restores a neglected masterpiece of story telling by bringing vividly to life its entirely medieval mix of ruthlessness and restraint

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