



Beowulf and the Critics (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies)

J. R. R. Tolkien

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The most important essay in the history of Beowulf scholarship, J.R.R. Tolkien's *Beowulf, The Monsters & the Critics*, has rightly been much studied and discussed. But scholars of both Beowulf and Tolkien have to this point been unaware that Tolkien's essay was a redaction of a much longer and more substantive work. *Beowulf and the Critics*, which Tolkien wrote in the 1930's and probably delivered as a series of Oxford lectures, presents both unpublished versions of Tolkien's lecture (A and B) each substantially different from the other and from the final, published essay. The edition includes a description of the manuscript, complete textual and explanatory notes, and a detailed critical introduction that explains the place of Tolkien's Anglo-Saxon scholarship both in the history. *Beowulf and the Critics* will be of interest not only to Anglo-Saxonists, but also to scholars of Tolkien's works and general readers. Long, LONG out of print, this is a beautifully crafted piece of rhetoric. It is as insightful and readable a critical commentary as one is likely to find in medieval studies or literary criticism in general.

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