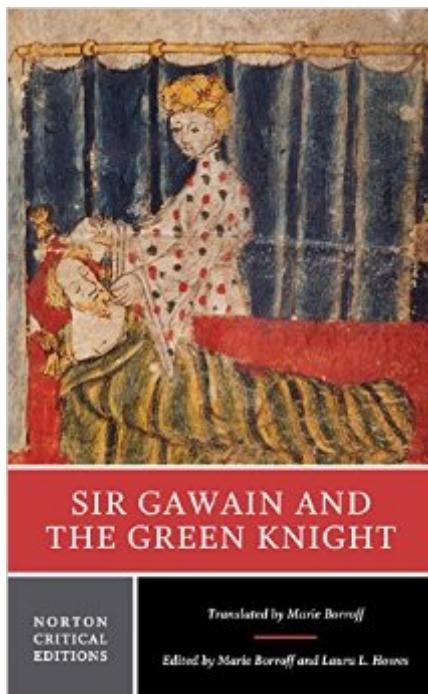


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Sir Gawain And The Green Knight (Norton Critical Editions)



Synopsis

This long-awaited Norton Critical Edition of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* includes Marie Borroff's celebrated, newly revised verse translation with supporting materials not to be found in any other single volume. The text is accompanied by a detailed introduction, an essay on the metrical form, the translator's note, marginal glosses, and explanatory annotations to assist readers in the study of this canonical Arthurian romance. "Contexts" presents two French tales of *Sir Gawain* and a passage from the *Alliterative Morte Arthure*, also translated by Marie Borroff, as well as three selections from the original Middle English poem. "Criticism" collects ten interpretive essays on the poem's central themes. Contributors include Alain Renoir, Marie Borroff, J. A. Burrow, A. Kent Hieatt, W. A. Davenport, Ralph Hanna III, Lynn Staley Johnson, Jonathan Nicholls, Geraldine Heng, and Leo Carruthers. A Chronology of important historical and literary dates and a Selected Bibliography are also included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this little book (about 80 pages long), which my son had given to me for safe keeping, and started to read it one night recently when I was having trouble getting to sleep. And what an interesting little book it is. As the title indicates, it is a new verse translation (published in 1967) of a poem by a mediaeval poet who lived about the time of Geoffrey Chaucer. There is a short introduction about how the poem came to be preserved in the library of Robert Cotton, the great

Elizabethan antiquary, as well as a description of this Arthurian Romance with its theme of the ideal of knightly conduct - of courage, loyalty and courtesy. Equally interesting in this brief introduction is a discussion of the alliterative style of the poem, and the principles the translator had to follow to ensure that her translation into Modern English would be able to adhere as closely as possible to this style. There is a short section at the back of the book on the Metrical form of the original poem which provides a detailed description of the "alliterative long line" of the poem and samples of the original Middle English version for comparison with the translated version. The poem is about 2500 lines long and the alliterative style can probably be best appreciated if it is read out aloud. I am not going to go into the tale because that might spoil the fun, but it was an unexpectedly enjoyable read and I learnt more than I expected about the form and style of poetry of medieval times.

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