

FOUNDATIONS

BEOWULF BY ALL

**COMMUNITY TRANSLATION
AND WORKBOOK**

Edited by

**JEAN ABBOTT,
ELAINE TREHARNE,
and MATEUSZ FAFINSKI**

ARC HUMANITIES PRESS



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PREFACE

BEOWULF BY ALL is the first ever community translation of the poem known as *Beowulf*, and is published here for the first time in workbook form as *Beowulf By All: Community Translation and Workbook* in order to provide space and an added incentive for readers to assemble their own working translations alongside this one.

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will warriors wake, but woeful raven's
 clamorous cackle, as clawing the dead
 to the falcon he boasts of feasting gloriously
 on yet writhing bodies, with wolf for company!"
 These were the words of the warrior valiant,
 of¹⁸⁷ dreadful tidings. He did not lie at all 3031
 in deeds or words. The warband all rose,
 went grieving under Earnanæs
 with scalding tears to see the wonder.
 There on the sand they found, soulless,
 holding his rest-bed, the one who gave them rings
 in earlier times. Then had the end-day
 come for that good man, the war-king,
 Prince of the Wederas; he died an awesome death.
 But first they had seen a rarer creature,
 dragon on the plain, lying opposite there,
 dreadful. It was the firedragon,
 grim horrorguest, burnt by flames.
 He was fifty foot-measures
 Long as he lay. In air-joy he had ruled
 at¹⁸⁸ night-time, and afterwards went down 3046
 to seek his den. Then he was fixed in death,
 he had made his last use of earth-caves.
 Goblets and cups stood beside him,
 dishes and precious swords lay,
 rusted, eaten-through, as though they had remained there
 for a thousand winters, in the earth's embrace.
 Indeed, that mighty legacy,
 the gold of ancient men, was surrounded by a spell,
 so that no man could reach the ring-cave
 unless God himself,
 the true king of victories, permitted him whom He wished—
 He is the protector of men—to open the hoard,
 even to such men as seemed fitting to Him.

187 Erin Sebo (ll. 3031–3045)

188 Harvard University, English 103G: "Beowulf and its Contexts" Class: Joey McMullen, Patrick McCoy, Deirdre Carney, Lauren Claus, Jack Goldfisher, Daniel Hellstrom, Lauren Herring, Natalie Hodges, Emma Kantor, Anna Kelner, Brittany Ledford, Joan Li, Emily Ott, Dylan Perese, Michael Savarese, Joseph Shack, and Erik Tamre (ll. 3046–3075)

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