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Beowulf and the Comic Book: Contemporary Readings



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Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses Año 2007, Número 55

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Fecha

2007

URI

<http://riull.ull.es/xmlui/handle/915/14398>

Resumen

Este trabajo explora la apropiación del poema anglosajón Beowulf por parte de una manifestación artística tan distintiva del siglo XX como es el cómic. Desde 1941 hasta hoy día, el texto ha sido revisado por diferentes autores a lo largo de las distintas fases del desarrollo del cómic como medio independiente de forma paralela a su legitimación como pieza fundamental de canon literario inglés. En el contexto de la actual construcción de la Edad Media como objeto de consumo, los Beowulfs del cómic se convierten en terreno de negociación entre la cultura oficial y la popular en tanto que revisan la épica germánica altomedieval para adaptarla al gusto del gran





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Abstract: This paper explores the appropriation of the Old English poem Beowulf by such a distinctive 20th-century art-form as the comic book. Since 1941 to present day, the text has been revisited by several authors at different stages of the development of the comic as an independent genre in a process parallel to its legitimation as a central part of the English literary canon. In the context of the modern commodification of the Middle Ages, the Beowulfs in comic book become a territory of negotiation between high and low culture as they revisit early Germanic epic to render it suitable for y the time that Beowulf was written down, Germanic tribes from Scandinavia and elsewhere in north-ern Europe had been invading England's shores for centuries. The principal human characters in Beowulf hail from three Scandinavian tribes: the Geats, the Danes, and the Swedes. The genealogy of these tribes is shown below. THE GEATS Swerting. "Beowulf and the Comic Book: Contemporary Readings." Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses, no. 55, 2007, pp. 107-127. Archived at <https://idus.us.es/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11441/63425/09> (María%20José%20Gómez%20Calderón%29.pdf. - - -. "From the Middle Ages to the Middle Market: Beowulf and the Comic." Paper presented at 2007 Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations. Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA.