

**ECHOES FROM MIST-LAND: OR,  
THE NIBELUNGEN LAY,  
REVEALED TO LOVERS OF  
ROMANCE AND CHIVALRY; PP.  
1-217**

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pp. 1-217 by Auber Forestier

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**AUBER FORESTIER**

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*The Nibelungen*

*52*

# ECHOES FROM MIST-LAND;

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## THE NIBELUNGEN LAY

REVEALED TO LOVERS OF ROMANCE AND CHIVALRY.

BY

AUBER FORESTIER.

*Translated, with an Introduction, by the Author*  
*(W. Woodcock)*

SECOND EDITION.

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TO

**RASMUS B. ANDERSON,**

of the University of Wisconsin,

AUTHOR OF "NORSE MYTHOLOGY,"

WHOSE GENEROUSLY OFFERED SUGGESTIONS HAVE PROVED SO

HELPFUL IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FOLLOWING

INTRODUCTORY PAGES, THESE ECHOES FROM

MIST-LAND ARE, WITH GRATITUDE

AND ESTEEM, RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED BY

**AUBER FORESTIER.**





## PREFACE.

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“WE find in ancient story wonders many told,” are the opening words of Germany’s national epic poem of the days of chivalry, the Nibelungen Lay: thus indicating from the outset the sources whence are derived the life-like characters, the joyances and high-tides, the weeping and the woe, depicted in its charmed pages, the purport and significance of which it is the ambition of the writer of this volume to reveal to American lovers of romance and chivalry. The class of readers which have been reached by English translations of the venerable lay has been small. The scholar prefers seeking the original, where, having penetrated the outer crusting of the period when it was written, he can best hold communion with its spirit, which, in every true work of art, belongs to all periods. The general reader is apt to be repelled by a literal translation of stories of the olden time, which, however admirable, being but a forced transplanting of past modes of expression, often renders the spirit difficult of access while striving strictly to imitate the letter.

Longing to awaken with loving hand long reverberating echoes from the mystic land of mist, which is the literal significance of the Nibelungen land, to

conjure up for popular ken the champions bold and ladies fair of the old lay, with the motives prompting, the influences surrounding and pervading them, we have retold its tale in simple English prose, in style, so far as possible, adapted to the mode of thought and expression of our day and country; and while holding with strict accuracy to the incidents, and, so far as we ourselves have grasped it, to the spirit of the original, we have simply attempted to follow its language in conversations, and in these only so far as modern prose would admit. The text used has been mainly that of Karl Simrock, who has been occupied with the publication of the *Nibelungen Lay* for upward of half a century.

Great care has been taken to render the explanatory and suggestive remarks correct and comprehensible; but the subject is too rich, varied and many-sided to be exhausted here. The special object of this volume is to interest readers in seeking further acquaintance with its materials in the sources indicated; and if we succeed in this our cherished object, if we become the means of guiding thoughtful minds to the study of the *Nibelungen Lay* in the original, together with all its related myths and sagas, in their various presentations, our labor will not have been in vain.

September 25, 1877.

## CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION, . . . . .	ix-liv
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### BOOK I.

HOW KRIEMHILD DREAMED A DREAM, . . . . .	1
ABOUT SIEGFRIED, . . . . .	4
HOW SIEGFRIED JOURNEYED TO WORMS, . . . . .	7
HOW SIEGFRIED FOUGHT WITH THE SAXONS, . . . . .	15
HOW SIEGFRIED FIRST SAW KRIEMHILD, . . . . .	23
HOW GUNTHER FARED TO ISENLAND TO WOO BRUNHILD, . . . . .	27
HOW GUNTHER WON BRUNHILD, . . . . .	33
HOW SIEGFRIED FARED TO THE NIBELUNGEN LAND, . . . . .	40
HOW SIEGFRIED WAS SENT TO WORMS, . . . . .	44
HOW GUNTHER CELEBRATED HIS NUPTIALS WITH BRUNHILD, . . . . .	48
HOW SIEGFRIED JOURNEYED HOME WITH HIS BRIDE, . . . . .	54
HOW GUNTHER INVITED SIEGFRIED TO A GRAND HIGHTIDE, . . . . .	57
HOW THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED, . . . . .	62
HOW THE QUEENS RATED EACH OTHER, . . . . .	65
HOW SIEGFRIED WAS BETRAYED, . . . . .	71
HOW SIEGFRIED WAS SLAIN, . . . . .	76
HOW SIEGFRIED WAS BEWAILED AND BURIED, . . . . .	85
HOW SIGMUND JOURNEYED HOME AND KRIEMHILD TARRIED BEHIND, . . . . .	91
HOW THE HOARD CAME TO WORMS, . . . . .	95