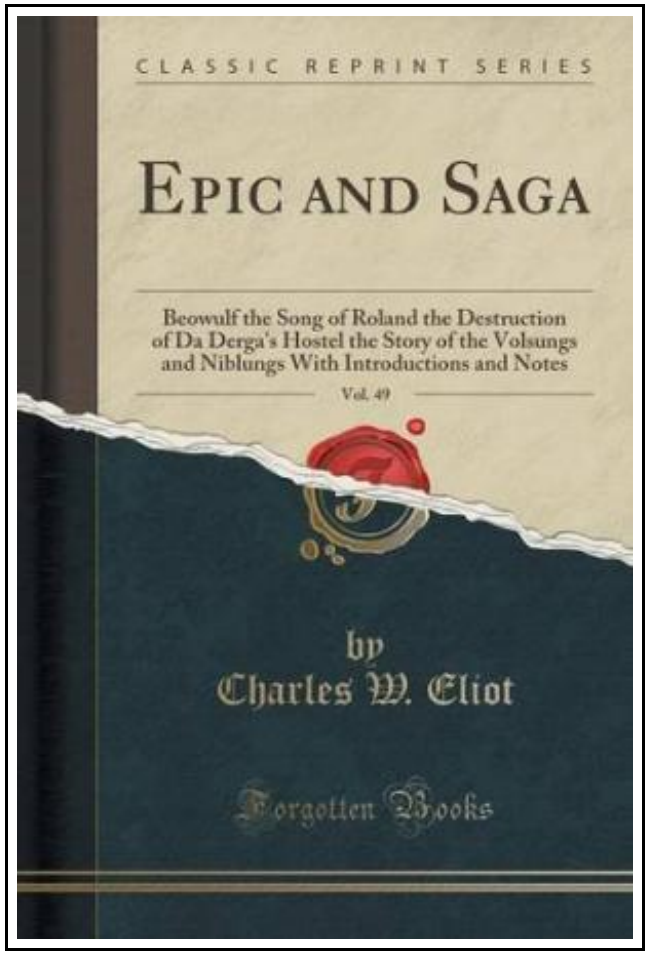
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Epic and Saga, Vol. 49: Beowulf the Song of Roland the Destruction of Da Derga s Hostel the Story of the Volsungs and Niblungs With Introductions and Notes When our Teutonic ancestors migrated to Britain from the Continent of Europe, they brought with them the heroic songs which their minstrels were accustomed to celebrate the deeds of their kings and warriors. In Section xvi of Beowulf will be found a short description of the recitation at a feast of this kind of lay. Perhaps as early as the seventh century of our era, after the introduction of Christianity, an unknown poet gathered material from these lays and composed the epic of Beowulf. Besides the stories, he took from the older songs their metrical form and many features of style; but how far he retained their actual language there is no longer any means of knowing. A good deal of comment and reflection he must have added; and the structure of the epic is certainly due to him. He did not sing or chant to a harp as his predecessors in the treatment of this material had done; he wrote a book to be read. Beowulf is thus not folk-song, but belongs to a much more conscious and developed stage of art than the popular ballad. The exploits narrated in the poem belong to the life of Germanic peoples before they crossed the North Sea, and at least one of the characters can be identified with a historical personage. Hygelac was the Danish king Chochilaicus, who was killed in a raid into the countries near the mouth of the Rhine, not far from 520 A.D.; and...

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