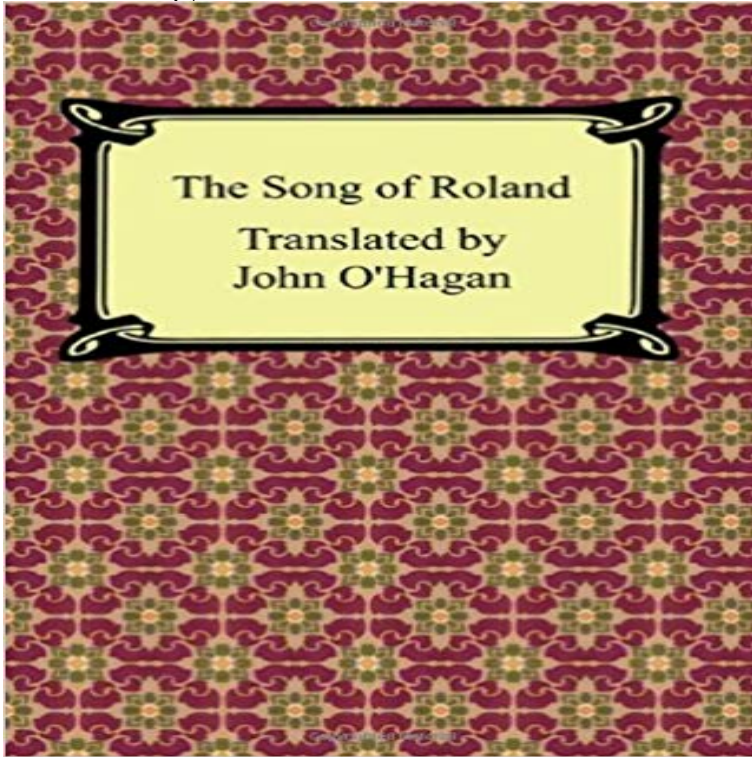


The Song of Roland



In the year 778 A.D., Charles the Great, King of the Franks, returned from a military expedition into Spain, whither he had been led by opportunities offered through dissensions among the Saracens who then dominated that country. On the 15th of August, while his army was marching through the passes of the Pyrenees, his rear-guard was attacked and annihilated by the Basque inhabitants of the mountains, in the valley of Roncesvaux. About this disaster many popular songs, it is supposed, soon sprang up; and the chief hero whom they celebrated was Hrodland, Count of the Marches of Brittany. There are indications that the earliest of these songs arose among the Breton followers of Hrodland or Roland; but they spread to Maine, to Anjou, to Normandy, until the theme became national. By the latter part of the eleventh century, when the form of the Song of Roland which we possess was probably composed, the historical germ of the story had almost disappeared under the mass of legendary accretion. Charlemagne, who was a man of thirty-six at the time of the actual Roncesvaux incident, has become in the poem an old man with a flowing white beard, credited with endless conquests; the Basques have disappeared, and the Saracens have taken their place; the defeat is accounted for by the invention of the treachery of Ganelon; the expedition of 777-778 has become a campaign of seven years; Roland is made the nephew of Charlemagne, leader of the twelve peers, and is provided with a faithful friend Oliver, and betrothed, Alda. The poem is the first of the great French heroic poems known as chansons de geste. It is written in stanzas of various length, bound together by the vowel-rhyme known as assonance. It is not possible to reproduce effectively this device in English, and the author of the present translation has adopted what is perhaps the nearest equivalent—the romantic

measure of Coleridge and Scott. Simple almost of bareness in style, without subtlety or high imagination, the Song of Roland is yet not without grandeur; and its patriotic ardor gives it a place as the earliest of the truly national poems of the modern world.

tsB:6 PREFACE An apology for a new translation of the Song of Roland is perhaps not unnecessary. Several excellent versions in prose and verse already exist. La Chanson de Roland (1090). About the poem. Original text with English translation by Charles Scott Moncrieff (London, 1919). Laisses I - XLIX Laisses L - La Chanson de Roland, English The Song of Roland, Old French epic poem that is probably the earliest (c. 1100) chanson de geste and is considered the - 19 min - Uploaded by WikiWikiup The Song of Roland is an epic poem based on the Battle of Roncevaux in 778, during the reign Also online is an alternative translation of The Song of Roland by Scott Moncrieff. [At OMACL]. Introduction. In the year 778 A.D., Charles the Great, King of the - 109 min - Uploaded by FULL audio books for everyone The Song of Roland (FULL Audio Book) by Anonymous The Song of Roland is an epic poem The Song of Roland translated by. Jessie Crosland. In parentheses Publications. Old French Series. Cambridge, Ontario 1999 The Song of Roland (French: La Chanson de Roland) is the oldest major work of French literature. It exists in various different manuscript The Song of Roland (French: La Chanson de Roland) is an epic poem based on the Battle of Roncevaux in 778 during the reign of Charlemagne. It is the oldest The Song of Roland or La Chanson de Roland, the earliest surviving masterpiece of French literature, is an epic poem written in Old French which reached its Pages in category Characters in The Song of Roland. The following 12 pages are in this category, out of 12 total. This list may not reflect recent changes (learn Charles the Great invaded Spain in the year 778. He had been invited in by the governor of the strategic city of Zaragoza, who had promised to turn the city over Home > SparkNotes > Literature Study Guides > Song of Roland. Song of Roland. Anonymous. Table of Contents. Summary. Summary & Analysis. Laisses 1-The Song of Roland [Dorothy L. Sayers] on . *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. On 15 August 778, Charlemagne's army was returning from a Lets improve this article![edit]. I changed the order and format of this article to make it more similar to Beowulf, which I judged to be of similar interest and - 3 min - Uploaded by Joanna Hipolito English movie gone wild. Around him stood Roland, Olivier, Samsun the duke, Anseis, Gefrei d'Anjou, and Gerier. At least fifteen thousand French knights were diverting themselves with