

CYNE-WEORC : Kingmaking

For the Coronation of Kenric II and Avelina II
by Lucien de Pontivy, drawn from *Beowulf*

Hwæt! We Eást-thegns / in geardagum,
þeodcýninga, / þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas / ellen fremedon!
Aledon þa / leofne þeoden,
beaga bryttan / on bearn bælf-fyres.

Sin ge-swegra / wig-gomen com.
Eodon him þa togeanes, / gode þancodon,
ferþ-grim þegna heáp, / ferhþum fægne.
Tomas Hrafn-hyll maðelode, / on him tohte scan,
Aras ða bi ronðe / rof oretta,
heard under helme, / hiorosercan bæf.

"Eart þu se Essex, / se þe wið Edward wunne?"

Kenric maðelode, / "Na! Ge-swegra ic beo!"

æfter þæm wordum / weorold-cempa leod
efste mid elne, / nalas ondsware
bidan wolde; / wig-wylm onfeng.
Swa mec gelome / léod-mægen
þreatedon þearle / þryðswyðe ecgþræce.
Kenric gemærunge gemacode. / Mægenræs forgeaf
hildebille, / Hrafn-hylle cwellede.

þa wæs Essex / herespel gyfen,
wig-gomen weorð-mynd, / þæt him his winemagas
agirnon hyrdon. / Eode Avelina forð,
cwen Kenrices / cynna gemyndig,

"Bruc ðisses cyne-ric, / Kenric leofa,
cen þec mid cræfte / ond þyssum cyn-ren
wes lara liðe. / Wes þenden þu lifige,
æþeling, eadig!"

þæt was god cýning!

*Listen! We have heard / of the East-thanes glory,
in the old days / the kings of tribes –
how noble princes / showed great courage!
They laid down the king / they had dearly loved,
their tall ring-giver, / in the center of the bier.*

*His cousin / came to the tourney.
They clustered around him, / his thanes
fierce in battle / happy in their hearts.
Thomas Ravenhill spoke, / gleaming from battle
the famous champion / stood up with his shield
brave behind helmet / in hard war-shirt*

"Are you the same Essex / who challenged Edward?"

Kenric replied, / "No! I'm his cousin!"

*After these words / the warrior of the world
turned boldly / would not wait
for answer / surging battle enfolded them.
Again and again / the champions
made fierce attacks / with violent swordplay.
Kenric finished it. / He put his whole force
behind his sword-edge, / killed Ravenhill.*

*Then Essex was given / victory in battle
such honor in the tourney / that the men of his house
eagerly served him. / Avelina came forward,
Kenric's queen, / mindful of courtesies;*

*"Enjoy this kingdom / the treasure of a people.
Make known your strength, / yet be to the common-folk
gentle in counsel. / While you may live,
be happy, O prince!"*

That was great king-ship!