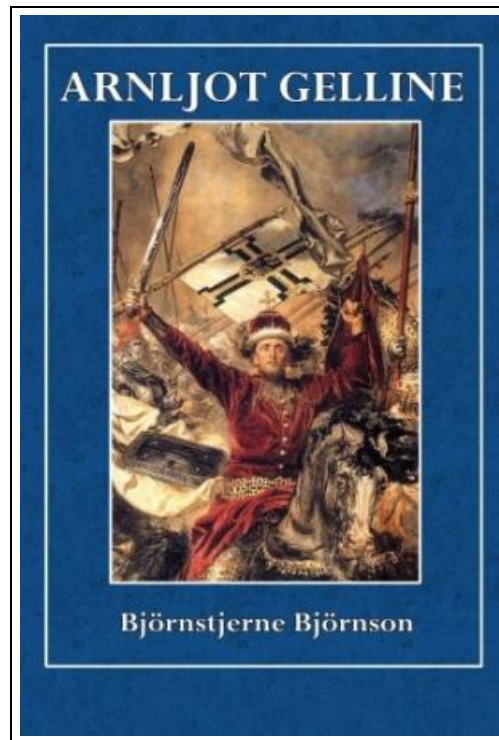


Arnljot Gelline



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Reviews

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ARNLJOT GELLINE



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In the lyric-epic poem Arnljot Gelline, we have Bjornson in his first, purely Norse, period. The hero is an outlaw who joins the forces of King Olaf Trygvason and falls with him in the Battle of Stiklestad for the cause of Christ against the older gods. The story is told in a series of vivid episodes, each with a mood and metre of its own. To a reader unable to appreciate the stern reserve power of Norse poetry, such a piece will seem bare in subject and abstruse in style, but to him who catches the tone it will be rich in inspiration. The alternations of gloom and radiant vision are like the changing lights of a broken storm on the North Sea. Dr. Payne has followed the original in rhythm and rhyme, with the result that he conveys to the reader much of its atmosphere. He is most happy where the verse is freest and least rhyme is required. Here his phrasing has great directness and dignity, together with a sweep that carries one along breathlessly. In the more set passages, the inversions of the English are at times disturbing. Fortunately the great moments come where the translator is most completely submerged in the scenes and emotions of the poem. A compact introduction and notes with full quotations from the Heimskringla and Bjornson's other sources make the volume attractive alike to the general reader and the scholar. - Scandinavian Review, Volume 6 [1918].



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