

**THE INFLUENCE OF
GOTHIC LITERATURE
ON SIR WALTER SCOTT**

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The INfluence of Gothic Literature on Sir Walter Scott by Walter Freye

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WALTER FREYE

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THE INFLUENCE OF „GOTHIC“ LITERATURE
ON
SIR WALTER SCOTT.

INAUGURAL-DISSERTATION

DER HOHEN

PHILOSOPHISCHEN FAKULTÄT DER UNIVERSITÄT ROSTOCK

ZUR

ERLANGUNG DER DOKTORWÜRDE

VORGELEGT VON

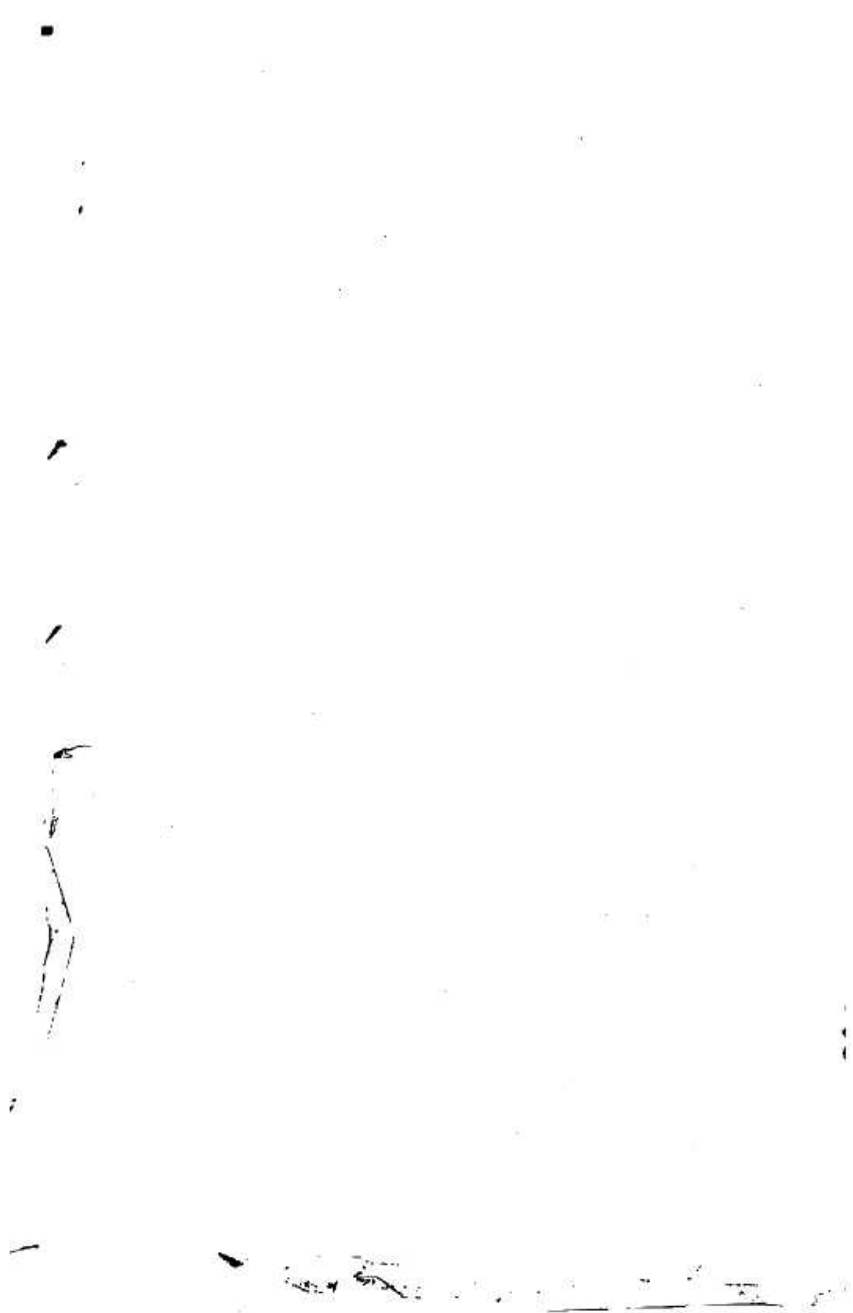
WALTER FREYE

ADS DISSEN.

Rostock

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1902.

„Meinem Vater“.





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In the literature of all German tribes, beginning in the oldest and remotest times, we find a liking for superstitions, dreadful events, awful spectacles etc developed to a far greater extent than with any other nations. In ancient times all descriptions of nature, for instance, only give us the wild and terrifying. In Beowulf only the terrors of winter are described

Beowulf 515, 545—548, 1127—28, 1330—33

»zeofon yðum weol, wintres wylme

þa wit atsomne on sæ wæron
fif nihta fyrst, oð þæt une flod todraf,
wado weallende, wedera cealdost
nipende niht ond norðan wind
heodo-grim andhwearf; hreo wæron yða.«

» Hengest þa gyt
wæl-fagne winter wunode mid Finne

holm storme weol
won wið winde; winter yðe beleac
is-gebinde

Similar powerful verses on horrors in nature are given to us in the old-German »Muspilli« and the Anglo-Saxon poem, which we call in German »der Seefahrer«. Muspilli; 27—37:

»so inprinnant die perga poum ni kistentit
 enihc in erdu, aha artruknent
 muor varsuulhit sih, suillizot lougiu der himil,
 mano fallit, prinnit mittilagart,
 sten ni kistentit verit denne stuatago in land,
 verit mit diu vuiru viriho uuison:
 dar ni mac denne mak andre mo helfan vora demo
 muspille.

denne daz preita uusal allaz varprennit,
 enti vuir enti luft is allaz arfurpit,
 uuar ist denne diu marha, dar man dar eo mit sinen
 magon piehc?

Seefahrer 12—25; 31—33

» þæt se mon newat
 þe him on foldan fægrost limpeð
 hu ie earmcearig iscealdne sæ
 winter wunade wræcan lastum winemægum bidroren.
 bihongen hrimgicelum: hægl scurum fleag.
 þær ic negehyrde butan hlimman sæ
 iscaldne wæg, hwilum ylfete song:
 dyde ic me to gomene ganetes hleopor
 and hulpan sweg fore hleahtor wera,
 mæw singende fore meðodrince.
 Stormas þær stanclifu beotan, þær him stearn oncwæd
 isigfeþera: fuloft þæt earn bigeal
 heaswigfeþra. Nænig hleomæga
 feasceftig ferð frefran meahthe
 »Nap nihtscua, norþan sniwde,
 hrim hrusan band; hægl feol on eorþan,
 Corna caldast.«