

The Nibelungenlied

Ermanaric (fl. 350-376), king of the East Goths. His name occurs as Ermanaricus (Jordanes), Afmanareiks (Gothic) Eormenric (A. Sax) Jörmunrek (Norse), Ermenrich (M.H. German). He built up for himself a vast kingdom, which eventually extended from the Danube to the Baltic and from the Don to the Theiss. He drove the Vandals out of Dacia, compelled the allegiance of the neighbouring tribes of West Goths, procured the submission of the Herules, or many Slav and Finish tribes, and even of the Esthonians on the shores of the Gulf of Bothnia. In his later days the west Goths threw off his yoke, and, on the invasion of the Huns, rather than witness the downfall of his kingdom he is said by Ammianus Marcellinus to have committed suicide. His fate early became the centre of popular tradition, which found its way into the narrative of Jordanes or Jornandes (De rebus geticis, chap. 24), who compared him to Alexander the Great and certainly exaggerated the extent of his kingdom.

Attila (d. 453), King of the Huns, became king in 433, along with his brother Bleda. . . . In the first eight years of his reign Attila . . . made himself virtually supreme in central Europe. His own special kingdom comprised the countries which are now called Hungary and Transylvania . . . He sent his invading armies into Media. For nearly 20 years he seems to have ruled practically without a rival from the Caspian to the Rhine.

Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths (c. 454-526). The greatest ruler that the Gothic nation produced. Born about the year 454. The 33 years' reign of Theodoric was a time of unexampled happiness for Italy . . . He sullied his fame by the execution of Boetius and Symmachus . His death is said to have been hastened by remorse for the execution of Symmachus. He died August 30, 526.