1. Record Nr. UNINA9910456806103321 Autore Bitterli Dieter Titolo Say what I am called: the Old English riddles of the Exeter Book and the Anglo-Latin riddle tradition / / Dieter Bitterli Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Ontario];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2009 ©2009 **ISBN** 1-4426-8907-2 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (232 p.) Toronto Anglo-Saxon Series; ; 2 Collana Disciplina 829/.1009 Riddles, English (Old) - History and criticism Soggetti English poetry - Old English, ca. 450-1100 - History and criticism Riddles, Latin - History and criticism Riddles in literature Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations and Symbols -- Introduction -- Part I: Contexts -- 1. Latin Riddling and the Vernacular -- 2. Tell-Tale Birds: The Etymological Principle -- 3. Crossings: Combinatorial and Numerical Riddles -- Part II. Codes -- 4. Runic Strategies -- 5. Bits and Pieces -- 6. Letter Games -- Part III. Tools -- 7. Silent Speech -- 8. Beasts of Battle -- 9. The Flesh Made Word -- 10. Coda -- Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto Perhaps the most enigmatic cultural artifacts that survive from the Anglo-Saxon period are the Old English riddle poems that were preserved in the tenth century Exeter Book manuscript. Clever, challenging, and notoriously obscure, the riddles have fascinated readers for centuries and provided crucial insight into the period. In Say What I Am Called, Dieter Bitterli takes a fresh look at the riddles by

examining them in the context of earlier Anglo-Latin riddles. Bitterli argues that there is a vigorous common tradition between Anglo-Latin and Old English riddles and details how the contents of the Exeter Book emulate and reassess their Latin predecessors while also expanding

their literary and formal conventions. The book also considers the ways in which convention and content relate to writing in a vernacular language. A rich and illuminating work that is as intriguing as the riddles themselves, Say What I Am Called is a rewarding study of some of the most interesting works from the Anglo-Saxon period.