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| |  | | --- | | The story of Siegfried and Kriemhild originated in Germany and spread to Norway and eventually to Iceland. The Scandinavian *Etta* contains elements of the *Nibelungenlied,* including its heroic figures. Most famously in the modern era, the *Nibelungenlied* was the primary inspiration for Richard Wagner’s four-cycle opera, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, and William Morris’s poem “Sigurd the Volsung and the Fall of the Niblungs.” J.R.R. Tolkien’s mythical giants and dwarfs in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy might well have been influenced by the *Nibelungenlied.* | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Siegfried and Kriemhild** | |

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| |  | | --- | | As a child of privilege, TR traveled to Europe twice with his parents. In 1872, TR, Eliot, and Corrine lived with a family in Dresden for five months (Mental Floss) before returning to the United States in November 1873. During this time, he learned German and became enamored with German culture and with the tales in the *Nibelungenlied.* Among his belongings still in the museum collection today are a set of German decorative silver plates in the library, an 1867 copy of the *Nibelungenlied,* and ivory figurines of the lovers Siegfried and Kriemhild. These figures can be seen in a 1904 photo of the drawing room mantle. | |

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