

Riddle 47: the 'Moth' or 'Bookworm' riddle

Moððe word fræt. Me þæt þuhte
/ 'mɒððə 'wɔrd 'fræt 'me: θæt 'θuhtə /
A moth words ate. To me that seemed

wrætlicu wyrd þa ic þæt wunder gefrægn
/ 'wræ:tliku 'wɪrd θɑ: ɪf θæt 'wʊndər jɛ'fræjn /
a curious event when I that wonder heard

þæt se wurm forswealg wera gied sumes,
/ θæt se 'wurm fɔr'swealx 'wera 'jɪəd sumes /
that the worm swallowed up the song of some man

þeof in þystro, þrymfæstne cwide
/ 'θe:əf ɪn 'θy:stɾɔ 'θrymfæstnɛ 'kwɪdɛ /
a thief in darkness glorious utterance

ond þæs strangan stapol. Stælgæst ne wæs
/ ɒnd θæs 'strɑŋɡɑn 'stɑðl 'stælgæst nɛ wæs /
and its strong foundation. The thieving guest was not

wihte þy gleawra þe he þam wordum swealg.
/ 'wɪxtɛ θy: 'glɛ:awɾɑ θə he: θɑ:m 'wɔrdʊm 'swɛalx /
at all the wiser that he those words swallowed.