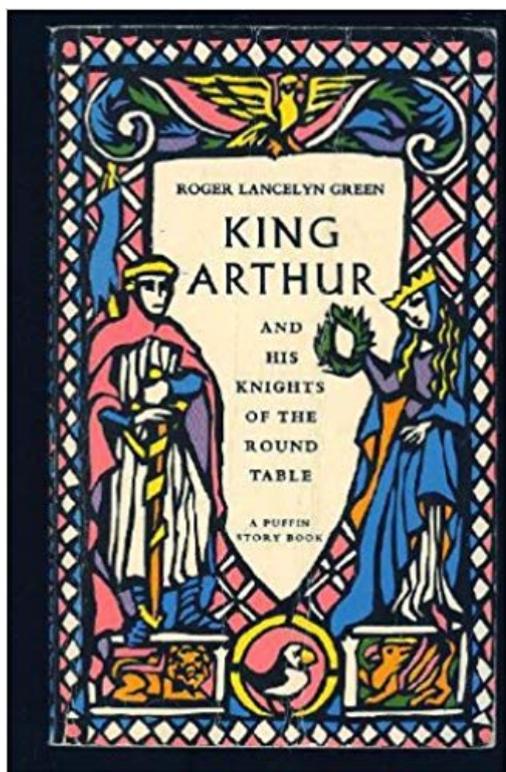


King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table *by* Roger Lancelyn Green



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ISBN: 0140055894

ISBN13: 978-0140055894

Author: Roger Lancelyn Green

Book title: King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table

Pages: 282

Publisher: Penguin Books (February 28, 1980)

Language: English

Category: Mythology & Folk Tales

Size PDF version: 1918 kb

Size ePUB version: 1143 kb

Size FB2 version: 1771 kb

Other formats: lrf lit mobi txt

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Reviews of the **King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table** *by* Roger Lancelyn Green

Phain

Sir Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur* is probably the best known telling of the Arthurian legend. It was published in the 15th century and has been the basis for many movies. It was a compilation of the known Arthurian tales of that time. Sir Knowles took that work (about 400 years later) and refreshes it in *The Legends of King Arthur and His Knights*. Therefore, much of what this book contains will be very familiar to the reader if they have read Malory's work. Sir Knowles collaborated with Lord Alfred Tennyson in the conception and execution of this book.

In the foreword, Knowles' Wife writes that Lord Tennyson referred to himself as the foremost scholar of the Arthurian legends and said that Knowles was perhaps the next behind him. A bit pretentious perhaps but it does give a bit of a pedigree to the contents. Don't let that dissuade you from adding this work to your collection. I have not read *Le Morte D'Arthur* for some time but it certainly seems that Sir Knowles has added a few stories and tales that perhaps were not available to Sir Malory. I do not recall them at any rate and would need to do a side by side to verify that. All in all this a nice collection of Arthurian tales and stories. It is certainly well worth the price, "free".

Whitestone

This is the book I would recommend to anyone just beginning to take an interest in Arthurian legend. It is based on Sir Thomas Malory's classic Arthurian work, *Le Morte d'Arthur*. So you get the same basic story without so many details, and it is easier to read. (It flows more nicely, and it is clearer and more entertaining.) So it is a good book to start out with to give you a basic overview of the story - not that all versions of any given Arthurian romance are the same, however.

The downside is that certain significant things are omitted - things that the author probably found morally objectionable- such as the exact circumstances of how King Arthur's mother Igraine became married to Uther Pendragon. Also, Lancelot and Guinevere's relationship becomes more G-rated in this version. So does Sir Tristram and Isolt's relationship (or Iseult / Isolde - I forget how it's spelled in this version).

Apart from that, however, it's a very good book in it's own right. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. The ending was especially epic.

And if you are a serious Arthurian fan, you'll need to read *Le Morte d'Arthur* anyway. So you can familiarize yourself with the spicier details of the story that way. (I also highly recommend Beroul's version of *The Romance of Tristan* for a more in-depth story about Sir Tristram a.k.a Sir Tristan and Iseult the Fair.)

sunrise bird

The book begins with King Vortigern being told of an enemy approaching. He orders that a castle be built within 100 days as a refuge from the oncoming attack. The story leads into a tremendous battle between dragons in a lake environment.

Merlin predicts that the outcome of the battle represents Britain's eventual decline. The stories build up to the end of King Arthur's reign due to the war with Sir Lancelot.

The story is thoroughly engaging for readers everywhere. The verse is written in an "Old English" colloquial style which adds to the interesting aspect of the stories presented.

Voodoosida

I bought this book for my 8yo son as his interest was growing in medieval times. The book is an episodic style of fiction and the heroes of the story make much of their goodness but mostly do nothing good. There is nothing to admire about the heroes and they have no arc of growth. Stuff just happens. And then more stuff happens. Lots of killing. More killing. Then it ends. Quite disappointing as a read, and it barely held the interest of my son, a voracious reader.

Wishamac

This is a good sized, thick book with torn edge paper. It has the feel of an adult book, but is meant

for kids.

The illustrations are black and white and often are made to look like manuscript illuminations (but B&W) and many have a Celtic intertwined motif that I find enjoyable. Arthur was a Celt, after all, and the English were Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who invaded fertile farmlands which they took for their own forcing the Celt inhabitants to Wales and Cornwall, both with little desirable farmland. I laugh when I see Hollywood calling Arthur King of England. He fought the English bitterly if we believe he existed at all. Arthur became popular after the Viking Normans conquered England and Arthur was celebrated as the fighter of the people who took the Celts place, and were now being displaced. Compare with Robin Hood (Saxons were the good guys and Normans were the bad guys) for the other side of the story.

There are 14 chapters here that cover the usual suspect in Arthurian lore.

If I had to criticize it at all, I would say it is a little cramped in presentation and presents itself as if it has more inertia than a more modern book. Personally, I like that but some might view this as a bit dated. Guess what? It is old-fashioned, and closer to the feel of the original stories.

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