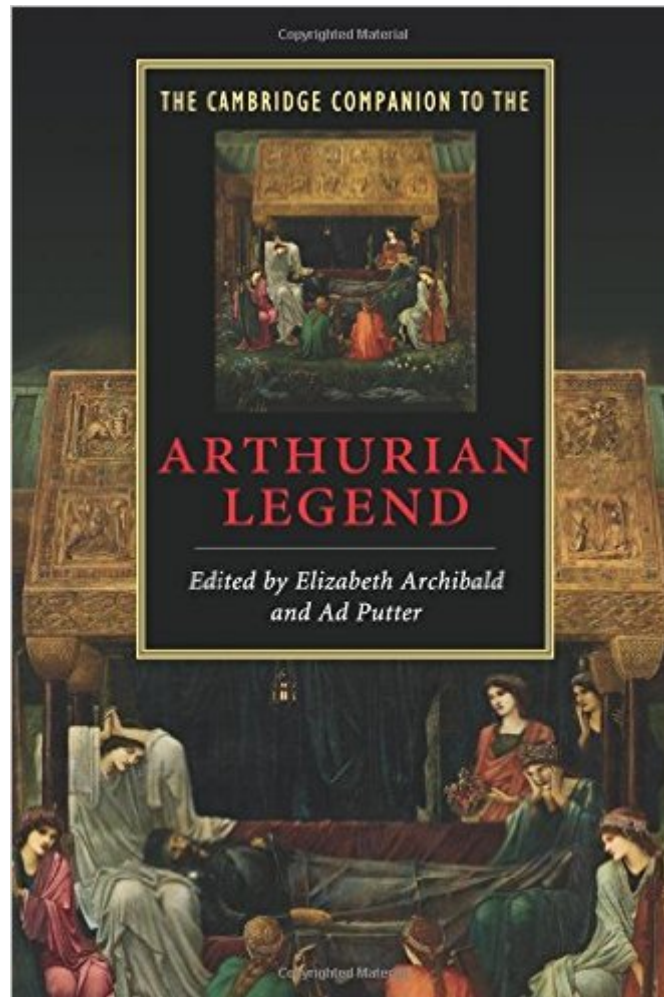


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The Cambridge Companion To The Arthurian Legend (Cambridge Companions To Literature)



Synopsis

For more than a thousand years, the adventures of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table have been retold across Europe. They have inspired some of the most important works of European literature, particularly in the medieval period: the romances of Chrétien de Troyes, Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*. In the nineteenth century, interest in the Arthurian legend revived with Tennyson, Wagner and Twain. This Companion outlines the evolution of the legend from the earliest documentary sources to Spamalot, and analyses how some of the major motifs of the legend have been passed down in both medieval and modern texts. With a map of Arthur's Britain, a chronology of key texts and a guide to further reading, this volume itself will contribute to the continuing fascination with the King and his many legends.

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Customer Reviews

Rating: 4 Stars
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Was King Arthur a real person? Maybe he was based loosely on a historical figure from the past? In *The Cambridge Companion To The Arthurian Legend*, the editors do not seek to find the real Arthur, because they feel he is an enigma. Many historians and researchers have thought they'd found clues as to who he was and what exact time period he lived in; nevertheless, nothing concrete has been found. The editors of Archibald and Putter state the goal of this book: "Our aim is to strike a

balance between the descriptive and the analytic, so this companion is divided into two parts. The chronological section shows how the legend evolved from the shadowy Welsh tradition through medieval chronicle and romance and post-medieval skepticism to modern novels, cartoons and films. Here we have concentrated on the Anglophone versions for the post-medieval period. In the thematic section we have chosen themes which seem to us to be the key to understanding Arthurian literature; all essays in this section deal with both medieval and post-medieval material, though the main focus is medieval." Page 3. The Cambridge Companion To The Arthurian Legend, is an academic study of King Arthur, both in medieval history and through to the twenty-first century. Arthur legends appeared in France, Germany, Wales, Greece, and Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. The focus of this book will be on "English traditions." Pros: 1. I'm a beginner in the study of King Arthur and I learned so much in this book. For example, I did not know Arthurian legends were in other countries.

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