

King Arthur

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Comments:

This book is an extended Arthurian bibliographical essay and as such it is a decent starting point for anyone wishing to study the period. All of the important sources are covered and the narrative of two of the most important ó Geoffrey of Monmouth and Thomas Mallory are presented as a synopsis. So if all you want is a narrative of the story as presented by these authors then this book gives you that. Many of the important historical sources are also mentioned.

Breaking the story down into the medieval and Celtic versions is a nice idea. The final chapter ó the historical Arthur ó is also a good place to start; I would recommend Mike Ashley's "A Brief History of King Arthur" as the next port of call for an overview of the sources and the historical fact behind the narrative.

If you are a newcomer to the subject, then this is a very good place to start as it provides a good sketch of the relevant source material. For the enthusiast, this is a bit basic but it is nevertheless nice to have a handy synopsis of Geoffrey and Mallory as the stories can get a bit confusing.

--Paul Le Long

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

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DANIEL MERSEY