

Ceawlin The Man Who Created England

In this book Rupert Matthews puts forward his ground breaking new theories on the collapse of the post-Roman order in Britain and the formation of England. Drawing on newly analyzed written sources and the growing mass of archaeological finds he presents a very different picture of post-Roman Britain than that usually put forward. In place of the anarchy and mayhem, Rupert suggests that Romanised governmental structures managed to survive the economic collapse of the 5th century and the population collapse of the early sixth century to emerge in new and barbarianism form in the later sixth century. The key figure in this story was Ceawlin, King of Wessex in the 570s. It was he who finally smashed the old order with his ambitious grab for power and who thus opened the way to the creation of the England that we know today with its English culture, English language and English character.

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CARADOC AGAINST THE SAXONS The occupation of Britain by the Romans from 43 AD to 476 AD resulted in most of Wales including the Silurian kingdom of Gwent in southeastern Wales being conquered. Caradoc Freichfras, King of Gwent in 550 AD, was aware of how the Romans defeated Caratacus, Silurian king in 52 AD, Boadecia, Queen of the Iceni British tribe in 60 AD, and later the Caledonians and Picts of Scotland, from what

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his ancestors told him. As the Romans left and the Saxons arrived at the invitation of Vortigern, the High-King of Britain, to fight the northern tribes of Scotland as they raided England, he was also aware of how the British tried to stop the subsequent invasion of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes into the southern Britain about 410 AD to 550 AD. Not wanting his homeland of Gwent to be taken by the aggressive Saxons, Caradoc and other Welsh kings stopped the Saxon advance at the battle of Tintern Forest in southeastern Wales in 584 AD and the Saxons never returned to the land claimed by the Celts as early as 600 BC.

The Long War for Britannia is unique. It recounts some two centuries of 'lost' British history, while providing decisive proof that the early records for this period are the very opposite of 'fake news'. The book shows that the discrepancies in dates claimed by many scholars are illusory. Every early source originally recorded the same events in the same year. It is only the transition to Anno Domini dating centuries afterward that distorts our perceptions. Of equal significance, the book demonstrates that King Arthur and Uther Pendragon are the very opposite of medieval fantasy. Current scholarly doubts arose from the fact that different British regions had very different memories of post-Roman British rulers. Some remembered Arthur as the 'Proud Tyrant', a monarch who plunged the island into civil war. Others recalled him as the British general who saved Britain when all seemed lost. The deeds of Uther Pendragon replicate the victories of the dread Mercian king Penda. These authentic--yet radically different--narratives distort

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history to this very day.

William of Malmesbury's *Regesta Regum Anglorum* (Deeds of the English Kings) is one of the great histories of England, and one of the most important historical works of the European Middle Ages. Volume II of the Oxford Medieval Texts edition provides a full historical introduction, a detailed textual commentary, and an extensive bibliography. It forms the essential complement to the text and translation which appeared in Volume I.

The author has determined in an earlier McFarland book (*The Historic King Arthur*, 1996, paperback 2007) that there was not a historic King Arthur during the sixth century. However, as listed in *The Historia Brittonum*, there was a "great king of all the kings of Britain" named Ambrosius Aurelianus who was conflated with a heroic Arthur of the second century, and hence with the legendary King Arthur. To further authenticate the Celtic/Romano "King Arthur,"—that is, Ambrosius—the author here examines seven major historical figures of the period A.D. 383–500 based upon the Genealogical Preface of *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and the emendation of dates in that chronicle. Those seven allies and adversaries are Vortigern, Vortimer, Vitalinus, Cunedda, Cerdic, Otha, and Mordred. Through an extensive analysis of Arthur's 12 battles listed in the *Historia Brittonum*, this work explores both the influences of the High King's allies, and the shifting allegiances of his enemies. A battle list provides possible geographic locations for each of the battles, including a new site for Arthur's fateful battle at Camlann.

A major re-examination of an important period in British history

Part of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Collaborative Series*, which now includes editions of the main texts through from A to F.

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This compelling saga about a beautiful Celtic princess who gives her heart to a Saxon prince explodes with the passions of love and war. When the Saxon army, in its bloody charge against the Celts, captures the child-princess Niniane, they bring her to Cynric, King of the West Saxons. Enchanted by her innocence and beauty, he makes Niniane a favored prisoner. But she soon discovers that the King's court abounds with tempestuous intrigues and tormented rivalries. And when the adulterous and envious Queen arranges for a duel between the King's beloved illegitimate son and her own son, heir to the throne, intrigue turns to deadly peril. With this epic novel of the star-crossed passion that swept the Celts and Saxons to the brink of war—and two lovers to the edge of oblivion--Joan Wolf brilliantly brings alive a little-known but fascinating age.

'Historical fiction doesn't get much better than this'
ANGUS DONALD, author of *The Outlaw Chronicles*.

'Matthew Harffy's tale of England in the Dark Ages is nothing less than superb'
HISTORICAL NOVEL

SOCIETY. 'Murder, betrayal and vengeance fuel tribal warfare and personal combat. Beobrand is the warrior to follow'
DAVID GILMAN. AD 633. Warlords battle across Dark Age Britain to become the first king of the English. In a land rife with upheaval and danger, young Beobrand arrives in Northumbria in search of vengeance and to find his place in the world. First, he must learn to fight with sword and

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shield, to defend himself and the war-ravaged kingdoms that become his home. Relentless in pursuit of his enemies, Beobrand faces challenges which transform him from a boy to a man, standing strong against his king's enemies in the clamour and gore of the shieldwall, and leading his men into the darkest of nights and the bloodiest of battles. But as adversaries old and new close in, can Beobrand save his kith and kin from the evil forces that surround them? And can he mete out the retribution he craves without sacrificing his honour... or even his soul? Collected in a single volume for the first time, the first three novels in the epic Bernicia Chronicles series, comprising: *The Serpent Sword* *The Cross and the Curse* *Blood and Blade*.

Reproduction of the original: *History of the Anglo-Saxons* by Thomas Miller

"Nicanor - Teller of Tales" by C. Bryson Taylor.

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England's battlefields bear witness to dramatic turning-points in the country's history. At Hastings, Bosworth Field, Flodden and Naseby, the battles fought were to have an enormous effect on English life. This double volume, containing Burne's famous "Battlefields of England" and "More Battlefields of England" make it possible for readers to follow the course of 39 battles from AD 51 to 1685, as if they were on the battlefields themselves.

It is the year AD 560. Gerennius, or Geraint, the last remaining captain of King Arthurs triumphant stand against the Germanic invades of Britain, is faced with the problem of who should succeed him as king and pendragon of his southwestern kingdom of Dumnonia. Neither of his middle-aged sons is fitted for the purpose: Jestyn is a reclusive would-be hermit, and Selyf a boisterous, drunken bully. Geraint foresees only chaos and defeat after he dies. Then one day, from his fortress above the Vala River, he hears a laundry girl singing a sad song. In this novel, one of Cornwall's foremost authors surveys the panorama and conflict between Saxon invaders and native Celts and between the two great religions of Dumnonia: the Pantheon of Celtic gods and the growing impact of Christianity, brought to southwest Britain by Welsh and Irish Saints. This is a tale told with splendour and eloquence, to be compared with works of T.H. White and John Cowper Powys for its historic mastery and surefooted detail. Read and be mesmerised. Paul Newman, author of *Galahad*, *The Lost Gods of Albion*, and editor of *Abraxas*
Geffrei Gaimar's *Estoire des Engleis* is the oldest

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surviving example of historiography in the French vernacular. It was written in Lincolnshire c.1136-37 and is, in large part, an Anglo-Norman verse adaptation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Its narrative covers the period from the sixth century until the death of the Conqueror's son William Rufus in 1100. This is an important text in historiographic terms, less as an historical source than as an early example of informative literature written in a secular perspective for a predominantly baronial audience. It illustrates the multilingualism and multiculturalism of twelfth-century Anglo-Norman Britain, and shows the descendants of the Norman conquerors seeking to integrate themselves culturally into their adoptive homeland during the 1130s. It also ranks among the earliest extant witnesses of the rise of courtly literature in French, and of named female literary patronage. This edition offers a critical text of one of the chronicle's four extant manuscripts. There is an introduction placing the poem in its social and literary contexts, followed by the medieval text, edited according to critical interventionist principles and comprising 6532 rhyming octosyllables. A facing modern English prose translation, the first concern of which is accuracy, aims also to convey the tone and style of the original rather than provide a strictly literal rendering of it. The extensive explanatory notes to the text are followed by a bibliography and a complete index of place and personal names.

Beobrand has land, men and riches. He should be content. And yet he cannot find peace until his enemies are food for the ravens. But before Beobrand can

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embark on his bloodfeud, King Oswald orders him southward, to escort holy men bearing sacred relics. When Penda of Mercia marches a warhost into the southern kingdoms, Beobrand and his men are thrown into the midst of the conflict. Beobrand soon finds himself fighting for his life and his honour. In the chaos that grips the south, dark secrets are exposed, bringing into question much that Beobrand had believed true. Can he unearth the answers and exact the vengeance he craves? Or will the blood-price prove too high, even for a warrior of his battle-fame and skill?

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