

**HISTORICAL PLAYS FOR
CHILDREN. FIRST SERIES: ALFRED
THE GREAT; ROBIN HOOD; THE
ARMADA; THE ENTERPRISE OF
THE "MAYFLOWER"**

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Historical Plays for Children. First Series: Alfred the Great; Robin Hood; The Armada; The Enterprise of The "Mayflower" by Amice Macdonell

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AMICE MACDONELL

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CHILDREN. FIRST SERIES: ALFRED
THE GREAT; ROBIN HOOD; THE
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THE "MAYFLOWER"**

In Preparation

THE SECOND SERIES

SAXON AND NORMAN

MAGNA CHARTA } ONE-ACT PLAYS
EDWARD III. } IN ONE BOOK

AND OTHERS

HISTORICAL PLAYS

FOR

CHILDREN

BY
AMICE MACDONELL

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

FIRST SERIES

ALFRED THE GREAT
ROBIN HOOD
THE ARMADA
THE ENTERPRISE OF THE
"MAYFLOWER"

LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & SONS
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1909

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LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE

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ALFRED THE GREAT



STAGE DIRECTIONS

For this play one exit and entrance, right or left, is required. No proscenium curtain is necessary. Two of the boys, in acting clothes, come on the stage, after the Prologue and between the scenes, and arrange chairs, &c., in view of the audience.

No scenery is needed. Places can be indicated by placards, as—"Palace of King Alfred."

For all the scenes, curtains of some plain colour, green or brown holland, for instance, make a good conventional background, across which a long evergreen garland, caught up at regular intervals, may be hung.

To indicate a small room (such as the Neatherd's hut), a screen can be put in front of the background curtains. For outdoor scenes, large boughs set in a pot, or even wooden chairs completely covered with greenery, will represent bushes.

PROPERTIES

ACT I

SCENE I.—ALFRED'S CHILDHOOD. IN THE PALACE OF KING ETHELWULF. Two large chairs. Book. Bows and arrows.

ACT II

SCENE I.—ABOUT TWENTY-FOUR YEARS LATER. EARLY IN 878. IN KING ALFRED'S PALACE, WINCHESTER. Three chairs. Bench. Table, with cups, jugs, food, drinking-horn, for a feast. Harp.

SCENE II.—SOME DAYS LATER. MOORLAND IN WEST COUNTRY. Bushes. Bundles. Books.

ACT III

SCENE I.—SPRING, 878. IN THE NEATHERD'S HUT, ATHELNEY. Bench. Stones or bricks for a fire. Iron pot. Fagots. Dough for cakes. Bow and arrows. Book.

SCENE II.—AFTER EASTER, 878. IN KING ALFRED'S STRONGHOLD, ATHELNEY. Benches. Table, with jug, cups, dishes, bread. Fagots. Distaffs. Harp. Standard. Sword. Shield.

SCENE III.—NEAR WHITSUNTIDE, 878.—BY THE BATTLE-FIELD OF ETHANDUNE. Bushes. Herbs, linen, ointment for wounds. Standard. Raven banner.

ACT IV

SCENE I.—LATER IN KING ALFRED'S REIGN. IN KING ALFRED'S PALACE, WINCHESTER. Night-time. Stage darkened. Two chairs. Table, with candle lit. Lantern. Books. Writing materials. Plans of ships.

SCENE II.—TOWARDS THE END OF KING ALFRED'S REIGN. IN KING ALFRED'S PALACE, WINCHESTER. Two large chairs. Sheaf of corn. Standard. Plan of Athelney Monastery. Jewel.

DRESSES

The Saxon dress, with its ample folds and flowing lines, is very simple and it has a distinctly classical character.

Except for the crown, the royal dress differed little from that of other people. The men wore a plain tunic to the knee, fastened round the waist with a piece of folded cloth or an ornamented belt. The tunic (the chief and characteristic Saxon garment) fitted tight round the neck and fastened in front. It was often open at the sides, from the hips downwards. A cloak, generally short, was fastened on