

# **A GUIDE TO BRITISH HISTORICAL FICTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649391240

A guide to British historical fiction by J. A. Buckley & W. T. Williams

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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BY

J. A. BUCKLEY M.A.

THE COUNTY SCHOOL, BECKENHAM

AND

W. T. WILLIAMS B.A.

THE COUNTY SCHOOL, BECKENHAM



LONDON

GEORGE G. HARRAP & COMPANY

3 PORTSMOUTH STREET KINGSWAY W.C.

1912

BALLANTYNE & COMPANY LTD  
TAVISTOCK STREET COVENT GARDEN  
LONDON



515 9102  
1312 B924

## FOREWORD

No attempt need be made to demonstrate the value of historical fiction as a handmaiden to history proper. Prompted by the consideration that teachers of History have rarely sufficient time to read or to search for suitable novels to recommend to their pupils, the authors have prepared this guide in the hope that it will be found useful to teachers in Secondary and Elementary Schools, and by students of History generally.

The list, which is representative and not exhaustive, has been compiled with a view to illustrating every phase of British History to which reference is usually made in an ordinary School course. In the case of events which might be termed historical landmarks, a wider range of choice has been presented, and efforts have been made to include books which treat of the events from different, and often conflicting, points of view.

In certain periods, mediocre works have, *faute de mieux*, found a place, while in others, *e.g.*, the Civil War, the Revolution, the 'Forty-Five, the 'Ninety-Eight, the task has been that of selection rather than that of investigation. Some works which are out of print have been included, but libraries—private and public—are still stocked with many of these; the same consideration has led to the inclusion of most of the works of Ainsworth,

James and other "standard" authors, whose volumes decorate—and, it is to be feared, often gather dust on—the bookshelves of many English households. In the late 19th Century it has been necessary to tread warily, and novels dealing with controversial and debatable questions have been largely excluded.

In conclusion, it should be observed that perfect accuracy is not claimed for the dates assigned to the books: they are intended to point out rather than to point the period.

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TIME.	SUBJECT.	TITLE AND AUTHOR.
Eolithic Age to Norman Conquest	<i>Early Britain</i>	<p><b>THE ROMANCE OF EARLY BRITISH LIFE</b> <i>G. P. Scott Elliot</i></p> <p>This is an account of the inhabitants of these islands from the earliest chapter of the geological record to the Norman Conquest. Eolithic man, his assumed migration south to escape the Ice Age, the Cave Dwellers, the Mammoth Hunters, the Picts and Celts, are pictured in a series of sketches which are based mainly upon real authorities and which may be recommended to young students for their charm and interest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Seeley. 5s.]</p>
The Stone Age	<i>The Cave Men</i>	<p><b>THE STORY OF AB</b> <i>Stanley Waterloo</i></p> <p>The story describes the life of a cave boy who lived during the period of transition between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic Ages in the great forest of the Thames basin. Prehistoric man, his precarious existence, his mode of life, his ceaseless watchfulness to protect himself by his slightly superior intelligence from the monsters of the time, his implements and weapons, are all described in a manner which renders the book an excellent introduction to history. Whilst maintaining the human interest by a well-told story, the author reconstructs these dark ages from the materials which have been preserved in the form of fossilised remains. The picture may be relied upon for accuracy as far as current knowledge goes, and the book may be warmly recommended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Black. 3s. 6d.]</p>