

KING ARTHUR IN HISTORY AND LEGEND

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King Arthur in History and Legend by W. Lewis Jones

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W. LEWIS JONES

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HISTORY
AND LEGEND**



KING ARTHUR
IN HISTORY AND LEGEND

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The Cambridge Manuals of Science and
Literature

KING ARTHUR
IN HISTORY AND LEGEND

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PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

THIS little book is an attempt to trace, in as clear and summary a form as possible, the origin and growth of King Arthur's historical and literary renown, and follows, largely, the lines of a chapter contributed by me to the first volume of *The Cambridge History of English Literature*. Although I have had, necessarily, to refer to much literary matter which is purely mythological, I have not sought to give any account of the speculations of those who in our own time have endeavoured to reconstruct and interpret the myths and beliefs of pre-historic Celtic heathendom. Nor have I made more than the briefest allusion to the subsidiary legends which, mainly through the agency of French romantic scribes, came to be associated with Arthur's name, and to be included in "the matter of Britain" as it emerged out of the age of high romance. The book deals, all but exclusively, with King Arthur himself, as he is known to chroniclers, romancers and poets.

My obligations to particular writers will be found

recorded in the paginal notes. I must, however, express here my special indebtedness to the writings of Sir John Rhys and the late Mr Alfred Nutt. To Mr Nutt, in particular, whose tragic and untimely death last year was a grievous loss to Celtic scholarship, I owe much private help and suggestion.

In one or two chapters of the book—the second and the third, more especially—I have reproduced, almost *verbatim*, a few short passages from articles of mine which have appeared in *The Quarterly Review*, and in the Transactions of the London Cymmrodorion Society.

W. LEWIS JONES.

BANGOR,
July 1911.

PREFATORY NOTE TO SECOND EDITION

IN this edition a few slight changes and corrections have been made in the text. The "Additional Notes" at the end of the book (pp. 138-140) supply a few omissions apparent in the first edition, some of which were pointed out to the author by his reviewers.

W. L. J.

July 1914.

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