

**THE KING'S CLASSICS.  
THE HISTORY OF FULK  
FITZ-WARINE**

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The King's Classics. The History of Fulk Fitz-Warine by Alice Kemp-Welch & L. Brandin

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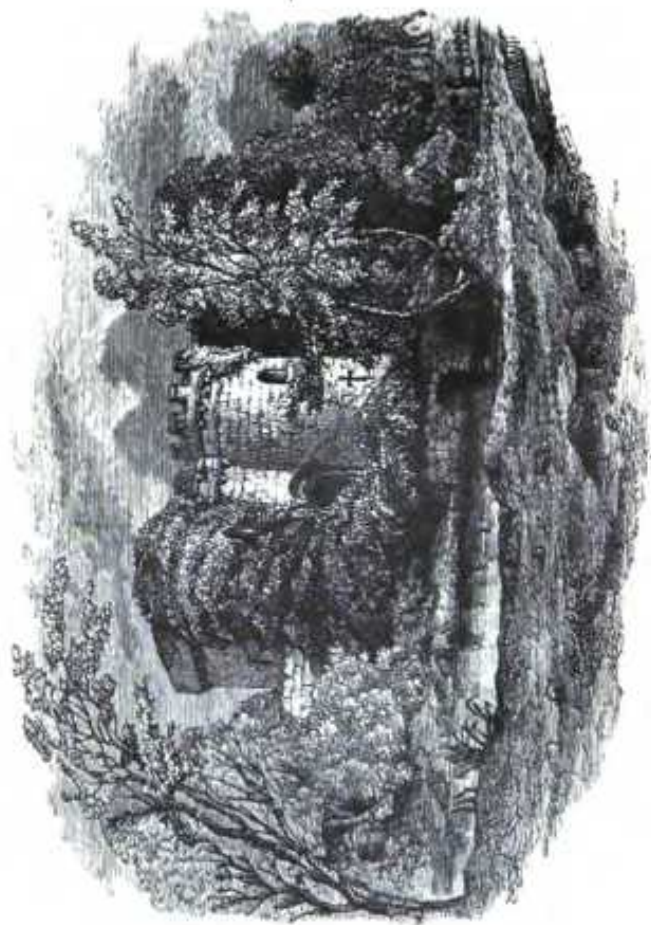
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**ALICE KEMP-WELCH & L. BRANDIN**

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WHITTINGTON CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HISTORY OF  
FULK FITZ-WARINE<sup>Av</sup>  
ENGLISHED BY ALICE  
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AN INTRODUCTION  
BY L. BRANDIN PH.D.

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## INTRODUCTION

**Previous Translations.**—The manuscript in the British Museum (MS. Reg. 12, c. xii) which contains the history now specially translated for the "King's Classics" by Mrs. Kemp-Welch, has been several times published—in 1833 by Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy, in 1840 by Francisque Michel, in 1855 by Thomas Wright for the Warton Club, in 1858 by L. Moland and C. d'Héricault in their *Nouvelles françaises en prose du xiv<sup>e</sup>s.*, and in 1875 by Joseph Stevenson, at the end of Radulph de Coggeshall's *Chronicon Anglicanum* (Rolls Series). It has been translated into English by Thomas Wright and Joseph Stevenson, in their works above alluded to; it has been examined critically in the same works, as well as in the edition of Francisque Michel, and in the article by Paulin Paris in *Histoire Littéraire de la France* (vol. xxvii, pp. 164-186); it has been noticed and epitom-



mized by Leland and by Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy ; it has been made use of by Thomas Wright in his *History of Ludlow* ; and the general results of the works of which it has formed the subject-matter have been well summarized, reviewed, and greatly enriched by Mr. H. L. D. Ward in his *Catalogue of Romances in the Department of MSS. in the British Museum* (vol. 1, pp. 501-508).

**Ambiguous Character of the Text.**—Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy, on p. 41 of vol. 3 of his *Descriptive Catalogue of Materials relating to the history of Great Britain and Ireland to the end of the reign of Henry VII* (London, 1871), has already recognized the ambiguous character of this work. "It seems," he says, "to be partly romance and partly history." The editors who came after him did no more than develop this remark of the great English scholar, and the sum and substance of their dissertations is, that *Fulk Fitz-Warine* is an historical romance containing much romance and a little history.

**Its Foundation on Fact.**—Such history as it contains has been revealed by a study of the Public Rolls which concern Fulk and the other Fitz-Warines, and which have been very conveniently, and almost in their entirety, collected by the Rev. W. Eyton in his

*Antiquities of Shropshire.*<sup>1</sup> It has been admirably summarized by Mr. H. L. D. Ward, whose own words we cannot do better than quote. "The romancer," he says, "has entirely forgotten Fulk I., who died before Michaelmas, 1171, but the other genealogical matters seem to be fairly correct. It is quite certain that Fulk II., who died before Michaelmas, 1198, really married Haweis de Dinan; that the Fitz-Warins had long-standing claims to the castle of Whittington; that the castle was delivered over to the Welsh Prince Meuric; that Fulk III. consequently rebelled in 1201; and that this outlawry was revoked on the 15th November, 1203. Among the fifty-two names of his companions attached to the pardon are those of William Fitz-Fulk and Philip and Ivo Fitzwarin, probably all three of them brothers of Fulk III., and also those of Baldwin de Hodenet and William Malveissin . . . It is also certain that Fulk III. married Matilda, the widow of Theobald Walter . . . On the other hand, it is equally certain that Theobald Walter is mentioned as still alive on the 4th August, 1205, though he seems to have died before October 8 of that year . . . Fulk rose again in arms in the Easter-

<sup>1</sup> For the genealogical questions, consult the genealogical tables in the Rev. W. Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*.

week (April 19 to 25) of 1215, and joined Robert Fitz-Walter ; and it was not till more than a year after King John's death that Fulk made his peace again, and obtained reseizen of his lands, namely in November 1217. He continued to be regarded as a dangerous Baron Marcher ; and in November 1222, the Earl of Chester was urged to inspect the fortifications going on at Whittington Castle, and to see that they were not made stronger than were required for the purpose of resisting the Welsh . . . There are indications that Fulk IV. acted for his father during the last years of his life ; and this again favours an assertion made by the romancer, namely, that he was blind for seven years. He seems to have died before August 1260."

**Its Element of Romance.**—Such are the historic data on which the author's work has been built up. To these he has added anachronisms, matter purely imaginative, faithful and picturesque descriptions of places in Shropshire with which he was very familiar, and legends then current in England, as well as souvenirs of *chansons de geste* with which he had become acquainted on the Continent. At the very outset, for example, he borrows, from a local tradition, the legend of Payn Peverel, "le fier et hardy cosyn le roi," who happily delivered the country from the