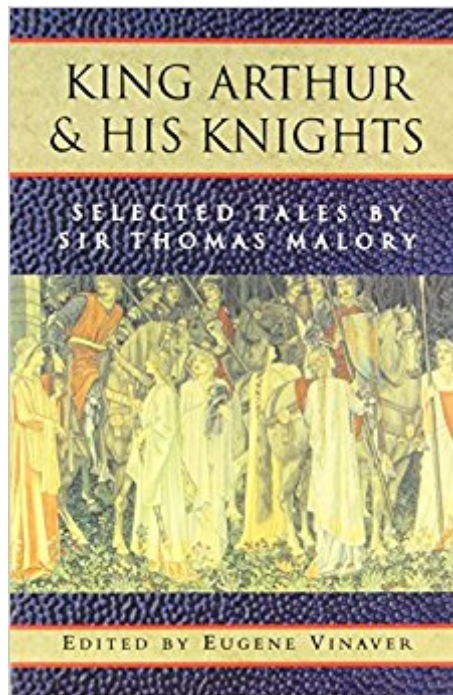




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King Arthur And His Knights: Selected Tales



Synopsis

This thoroughly readable collection of Malory's famous stories of King Arthur includes the familiar legends, plots, exploits, and characters which have become part of the cultural tradition of the English-speaking world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I admire both the introduction and the selections."--David Wallace, University of Minnesota
"Excellent intro - the illustrations are a nice touch as well. An update of the bibliographical essay (it goes only as late as 1971) is my only suggestion for improvement. I will definately use it again next spring for my intro. to medieval English literature class."--Robert W. Barrett, Jr., University of Pennsylvania
"Invaluable selection from the greatest English Arthurian work, and indispensable foundation for the study of the contemporary legend."--Professor Thomas A. Shippey, St. Louis University
"I've used this book for years."--Deborah J. Hyland, St. Louis University
"The best student edition of Malory available. It cleaves Keith Baines's limp translation from the brain pan to the saddle bow."--Lan Lipscomb, Troy State University, AL

Sir Thomas Malory (c.1405-1471) was the author or compiler of the famous Le Morte d'Arthur.

The book I received was the wrong book! Same title but wrong IS NUMBER

Good condition. Exactly what I expected.

We are really appreciate for your quick delivery. This was our little surprise for my dear daughter and she were very glad to receive this book of her favorite. Thanks,

I received the book on time. I ordered this book for my husband. He loves anything related to the Templars and Knights. This one was not to his expectations.

I read this book to get a taste of Arthurian legend and to determine whether I'd like to read the whole "Le morte d'Arthur". For my part, I think this edition of the "Selected Tales" will suffice. The plots are dry and not as adventurous as I expected, but many of the episodic elements are often unintentionally hilarious. For example, King Arthur kills 100,000 Roman men and is crowned Emperor. Then Arthur agrees to kill his wife because someone choked to death during a dinner she cooked! And as far as I can tell from these tales, in Arthur's day, jousting fulfilled the same purpose as hand-shaking does today. Lancelot and Galahad are the two most likable characters who rise above the others being consistently petty, stupid, rash, prideful, and violent. All in all, this volume is well worth reading, but unfortunately Vinaver selected tales mostly devoid of Merlin, who appears very little in these selections.

This nice collection of tales of King Arthur and his knights of the table round is a wonderful reading for anyone concerned with the history of western civilization and the thought that helped shape it. The book begins with Merlin, and really King Uther Pendragon and the wife of the Duke of Cornwall, Igraine, and the conception of one King Arthur. Following are tales of knight errantry, profiles of brave souls such as Guinevere, Arthur, Merlin, and perhaps most notably, Sir Lancelot and his erstwhile beloved Elaine, and their child, Sir Galahad. The tales are highlighted by prophecies, magical kingdoms, chaste maidens and not so chaste queens. These are, of course the christianized versions of these stories, but it is a strange christianity indeed. The eucharist holds no sway here, where instead, the sankgreall, or holy blood, just appears, sometimes from a cenosr a dove bears in it's mouth, other times leeching from a long sword bore by Christ Himself (to Sir Galahad). Angels bear away noble souls to heaven, while sorcery and magic are promulgated side by side with christian feasts and observances. The thin line between paganism and christianity is blurred to the point the stories bear an uncontested occultic thread from beginning to end which is to good effect here. This is a book when once bought, will be treasured. Hopefully still for many years

to come!

I've used this text to teach upper-division college classes on the Arthurian legend, and I'd say that this is the best text for that purpose. First, although there are some useful and interesting tales missing (such as the tale of Sir Lancelot, and the tale of Sir Gareth), most the truly vital ones are there -- and the death of Arthur is presented in its entirety. Second, Vinaver DOES modernize the spelling. But you can't modernize the spelling of an archaic word and, since he is NOT writing a translation but providing a modern-spelling edition, he simply standardizes the spelling of the archaic words and provides a gloss on each one. This is much more useful than the banal translations by Keith Barnes and Richard Barber (Legends of Arthur, from Boydell and Brewer). This edition is the best way to get used to Malory's beautiful style without having to figure out Middle English spellings (which isn't really very difficult in Malory's case). It's a well organized book, and makes Malory appealing without compromising on the language -- which is one of Malory's greatest facets. The only problem I have with this text is Vinaver's insistence on re-ordering the tales according to Malory's French originals. "The Knight of the Cart" should be presented AFTER "The Poisoned Apple," and certainly not before the Quest of the Holy Grail. It makes much better sense where Malory put it, where it shows Lancelot's deteriorating morals as his relationship with Guenever intensifies. Also, I'd like to see either more from the Quest for the Holy Grail, or nothing at all. The tiny fragment of the story presented here is almost incomprehensible to first-time readers.

This is a gift for someone that is studying to become a chef. I did take it out of the box and it is a very nice product. The weight and handle are very good for cutting and even my smaller hands felt comfortable with the size. my parents need it, i will come next time . fast and in time, love it .

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