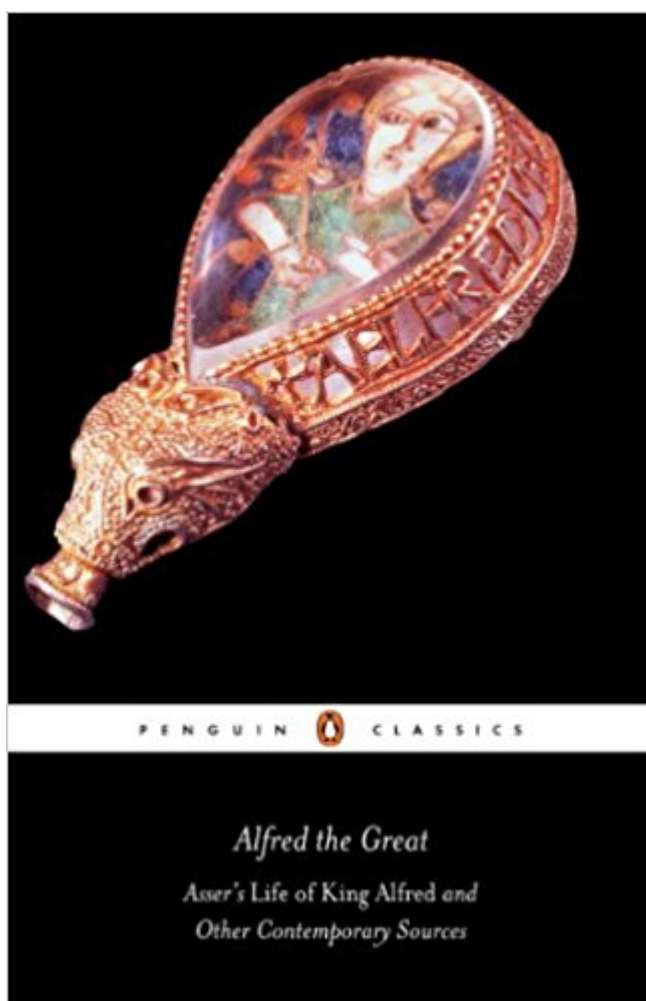


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Alfred The Great: Asser's Life Of King Alfred & Other Contemporary Sources (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

This comprehensive collection includes Asser's Life of Alfred, extracts from The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and Alfred's own writings, laws, and will. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Latin (translation)

As king of Wessex, he strove to emulate those kings of the past who, in his own words, had 'succeeded both in warfare and in wisdom'. He led the battle against the Viking invaders of England, and presided over the revival of religion and learning among his people: his reputation is a measure of his success.

Alfred the Great is most popularly known as the king who burned the cakes. However, he was also the king who saved England from being entirely overrun by the Vikings, and he laid the groundwork for his daughter's campaigns which conquered the Viking settlements and territory in England. This

book provides a great deal of insight on his life and accomplishments. This book contains an extensive introduction which is substantially longer than any of the sources provided in the book, as well as the key contemporary sources regarding the life of Alfred the Great. These sources include the biography written of him by Bishop Asser, the relevant portions of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, translation of key religious works translated into Old English by Alfred the Great himself, and finally various legal documents authored by him. The book also includes an appendix which examines the authenticity of the cake-burning story among other things, and extensive end-notes that make up approximately half of the volume. All in all, this is a well put together sourcebook regarding the life of what was arguably England's greatest king. Highly recommended.

It comprises mostly primary sources that were never intended to be entertaining or "literary", per se, but it moves quickly and provides plenty of food for thought.

They wanted it, I gave it. They appreciated it. Must have been for college.

Excellent book, translation could flow a little better at times, but otherwise it is quite readable. But it contains a wealth of information about Anglo-Saxon England in the 9th century.

I am not a historian. Seemed like a good read that offers a contemporaneous look into the man about whom this period likely revolves. I will come to know more as I read more (reading Bede's "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" now). Although there are many acknowledged limitations in both this and Bede, it is a beginning and worth the effort and cost to me.

A great consolidation of all the information available about Alfred the Great. He was THE Renaissance Man before the Renaissance. A true Anglo-Saxon hero and role model that history buffs and genealogical researchers will thrill over!

Excellent source for learning the accomplishments of Alfred the Great.

great stuff I love history primary documents If you're interested in the English language, culture, history and so on, read this

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