



The King Who Was and Will Be: The World of King Arthur and His Knights

Books Reviewed:

[The King Who Was and Will Be: The World of King Arthur and His Knights](#) [1]

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Reviewer:

[Clive Barnes](#) [3]

New to Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

Any Arthurian enthusiast over the age of 11 will enjoy this companion to the tales of the Round Table, now out in paperback, Crossley-Holland has put together a diverting miscellany of history, legend, topography and literature, illuminating one or other facet of 'The Matter of Britain'. There are short descriptions of the major figures and events, consideration of their sources in Celtic legend and medieval romance, and a look at the real world of courtly love and tournaments. Perhaps the most interesting inclusions are extracts from medieval poetry and books of manners. Did you know that Thomas Malory, the first great compiler of these tales, penned 'Le Morte D'Arthur' while banged-up for activities that were not at all chivalrous? Crossley-Holland writes entertainingly and authoritatively. Malone's illustrations, which are richly coloured and textured and true to the medieval style, capture the spirit of a time that could have been but never was.

Running Order:

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