

PLAN

Part I - Background

- 1.0 The Alans - where did they come from?
- 2.0 Culture
 - 2.1 Connecting with Arthur's swords
- 3.0 Military style
 - 3.1 Connecting to Arthur the Dragon King
- 4.0 Misconception that Alans were barbarians
 - 4.1 Assimilation into other cultures

Part II - Arthur

- 1.0 Was there a real Arthur?
 - 1.1 Merlin, Arthur's magician and counselor
- 2.0 The early Arthur
- 3.0 Arthur as king
 - 3.1 The reaches of the kingdom

- 3.2 Copying the kingdom
- 3.3 The Round Table
- 4.0 Arthur's alleged exploits
- 5.0 Arthur is brought to Avalon

Part III - Knights of the Legends

- 1.0 Sir Lancelot du Lac
- 2.0 The Grail Knights
- 3.0 Tristan, Dinant and Andret
- 4.0 Gawain, Gareth, and Epinegris
- 5.0 Sagramore, Valiant and the post Arthur influence

Part IV - Conclusion

- 1.0 Constantine, son of Cador
- 2.0 The Once and Future King

PROLOGUE

A great deal of the commonly accepted "truths" about King Arthur and his knights does not fit easily into the Celtic Britain or Roman ethos. The code of chivalry, martial skills on horseback, women elevated to near divinity, all of which exemplify the legends, are not from either group. Both held women as second class citizens and Rome is known for foot soldiers and single combat in the coliseum. Many of the elements can not be traced to 5th - 6th century Britain when Arthur is alleged to have lived either.

Arthur of the legends is an archetypal hero. The quests of his knights all follow a format. They travel through wilderness, come to a pool, lake or stream in a grove of trees where they rest and meet a damsel among the trees or in a tent. Along comes a champion/guardian or captor of the girl who issues a challenge, fights, and is defeated by the knight. The damsel then asks for the head or blood of the loser to be used in magic. The knight then moves on to the next challenge. Arthur himself remains pretty much a background figure until the affair with Guinevere forces him to drive Lancelot back to France.

Arthur (the real one) may be a composite of 7 English and 1 French Arthurs. There are facts known about all 8 of them, but beginning with Geoffrey of Monmouth "Arthur" is deemed to have lived in the latter 400s and was known to be a great war leader and a mythical figure. This exhibit deals with how the Alans figure into the source of the legends and who the players were. It is the culture of the Alans that most closely mirrors the culture of the legends. The legends themselves grew - first by oral telling - then by written word and continue to be expanded even today.