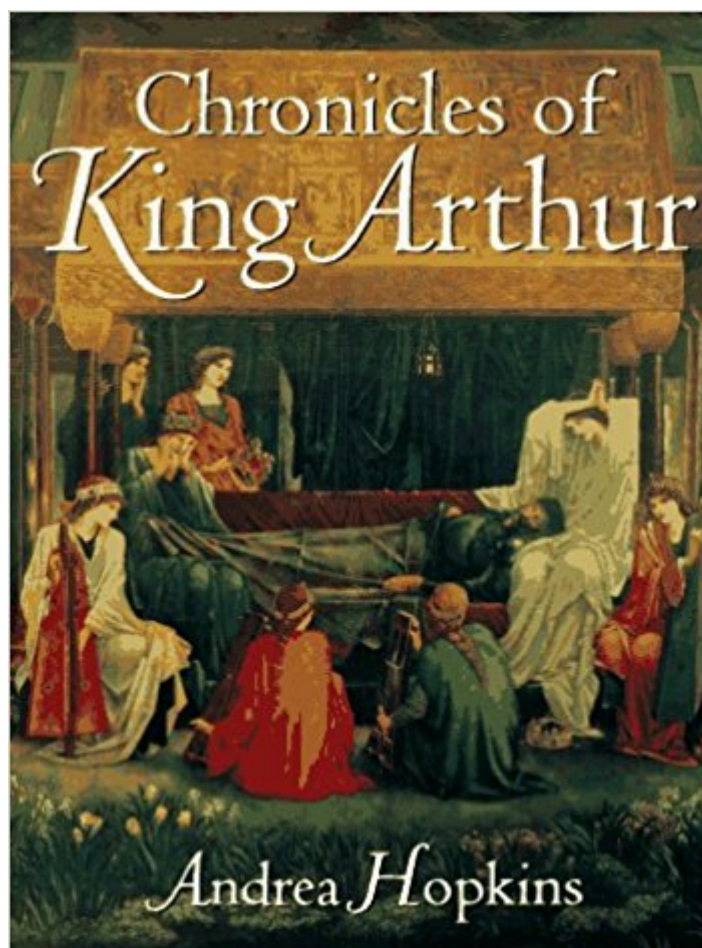


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Chronicles Of King Arthur



Synopsis

An illustrated compendium of Arthurian legend draws on the romance masterpieces of Geoffrey of Monmouth, Chretien de Troyes, and Sir Thomas Malory to recount the myths of Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. 25,000 first printing. \$25,000 ad/promo.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book performs a service, much needed: it gives a coherent account of the "King Arthur" stories. The author goes through the massive relevant literature-romances and poems in middle and early modern English, and in various vintages of several other languages-to arrive at a reasonably balanced narrative that gathers all the main characters and the principal tales associated with them. Now, there are probably thousands of stories that impinge on this early constellation of narratives, and more that arise every year in tribute to the perennial fascination of those bright initial inventions. But it is these core stories that are the important ones, just as are the core stories of the Bible, and some few of the Greek myths, as basic cultural equipment. This is a pleasant book to read, by a scholar, but not "scholarly". It is a medium-format glossy with many paintings and drawings by pre-Raphaellites like Beardsley and Burne-Jones that enhance the romance and magic that is so much of the appeal of the stories. There are wide margins to hold the occasional explanatory sidebar, as well as boxes convenient to--but out of the way of--the narrative flow, that discuss the bigger topics. Each of the stories is smoothly presented, with a seamless (but indicated) transition from Andrea Hopkin's connecting narratives to passages using the actual words (rendered into

modern English) of the principal teller of the tale at hand, be it Chr tien, or Geoffrey, or some anonymous medieval writer. More than one writer may contribute his bit to a particular story, but the connecting material keeps the telling coherent and compact.

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