



Pendragon

VOL 1. No.2.

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Page 1.

CONTENTS.

Officers And Committee.....	Page 2.
Editorial.....	" 3.
Members Letters.....	" 4.
The Sleeper's Hill.....	" 5.
From Lynchlyn to the Severn.....	" 6.
Formation of Cadbury Hill.....	" 7.
Members Roll.....	" 8.
Forthcoming Events	" 9.
Youth Group of the Pendragons.....	" 10.

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Material for forthcoming Magazines, which will be gratefully received, should be sent to the Editor by the Saturday previous to the end of the month on which the Magazine is published. This will enable us to include any letters and articles in the next edition.

"PENDRAGON" will be published every two months providing enough material is available and the activities of the Society warrant it.

Editor.

D. GORRINGE.
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PENDRAGON SOCIETY.

Page 2.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1966-67.

President; GEOFFREY ASHE ESQ.F.R.S.L.

Chairman; T.Staples.Esq.

Hon.Secretary; A.Schlesinger.

Hon.Treasurer; F.J.O.Male Esq.

Committee: Mrs.J.Foster.

Messrs. D.Corringe,A.J.Male.M.Darling.

P.Wynn-Jones.P.L.Male.

Will members please note that subscriptions are due on
APRIL 1st.

Members over 21.....£1-1-0d.

Under 21.....10-0d.

New Members under 21 years of age 16/- including Badge.

This is the second edition of PENDRAGON and it is intended to publish the Magazine every two months. Readers of our first journal will remember the aims of the Society, and it seems that the forthcoming Summer will realise a few of these ambitions.

The excavations at present being carried out in this area are all of very great archaeological interest. The Bath 15th. century house being investigated under the direction of Mr. Owen is well worth attention, and Members would be well advised to make a trip to Bath, and see the dig, without, it must be stressed causing any inconvenience to anyone on the site.

The reports from the teams under P. RAHTZ on the Cheddar dig and the very important Glastonbury Tor Excavations, are both invaluable reading for Members hoping to partake in activities this year, as they will provide essential grounding on the surrounding areas, geologically and for settlements.

We welcome all new Members to the Society and extend an invitation to any prospective Members who are interested in Post Roman-Pre-Saxon England.

In this, the 1st. edition for 1966 may I wish for all of us a rewarding year in return for the perseverance, in the face of, at times, bitter and cynical views from other people. We send our special best wishes to the Hampshire Group and hope to see them in the Summer.

D. Gorringe.

From Desmond Hoskins of Farnham, Surrey.

There were two men named Arthur in the Welsh genealogies of Nennius. I was struck by the fact that both their families originated from the same place in N.Ireland and both born in the century following Arthur's death. One family was that of Aidan, King of the Scots, and the Scottish kingdom of Dalraida was founded by the Scotti from N.Ireland. The other family was that of a Prince of South Wales of Irish descent from N.Ireland. Coincidence, or an indication that the Arthurs had a family significance? I am not unmindful of the fact that many Irish had settled on the North coast of Devon and Cornwall and that also King Mark of the Tristan legend was Irish.

Would anyone care to follow up this line of research?

From Adrian Savage of Cambridge University.

Nennius's tomb of differing length might best be a river island. The fall and rise in the level of the river would explain the changes in the tomb's size.... If he was buried hastily while the army was in retreat, they may never have had time to bury him deeply enough to escape the attentions of wild animals. Also the freshly disturbed earth be less noticeable on an island. Thus wild animals would not get the scent of the body and it could be buried shallowly and the Saxons would not know of the man's death and burial. There are certainly many islands in the Wye near Hay and again near Fownhope, 5 miles south of Hereford, and in the mouth of the Lugg where it joins the Wye near Mordiford, 3 miles south of Hereford.

At some time an inscription was set up on the tomb and Nennius read this. Now LICAT AMH R. I don't think this could represent Relicat Imperator. (This was suggested by another member) AMHR is a pretty vague abbreviation for Imperator and the word Relicat does not exist in Latin. It could stand for Reliquat but this would mean "He may leave the Emperor behind!" I imagine the inscription stands for LICAT AMPNIS or AMNIS, meaning "The river surrounds him!".... I must point out that I still don't know or understand why the word AMNIS though a perfectly regular Latin word for river & in use in the Medieval period, for the more common words Flumen or Fluvius....

Anyway that's my theory.

Has anyone anything to add to this theory? or other suggestions to make. Our member thinks the most likely place to look for this grave would be at Mordiford. He says the topography of the place, a broad, flat valley, edged by steep hills crowned with hill-forts seems to suit.

More letters in our next edition.

The most picturesque of legends about this mighty warrior Arthur are those which depict him in a magic sleep, awaiting the summons of his country men, a summons that will galvanise him into heroic activity again.

There are a number of places in England and Wales (but not, I think, one in Scotland at all) that are reputed to be the resting place of Arthur in his magic sleep.

In a number of places the resting place is in a haunted cavern and in others it is in a hillside with no mark to show his grave, so that men should not be tempted to disturb and awake him before his time.

There is a very special version of this legend which is Winchester's own. This is the legend of the Bishop of Winchester Peter des Roches (who crowned Henry III at Gloucester in 1216) while he was hunting in a wooded part of the country, below a steep hill just beyond the city walls, came across a knight in full armour who led him into a glade. The glade was empty when they arrived but then a fair mansion materialised out of the hillside. The Bishop was then asked to dine with the King; he did so because he could not very well refuse, and he was set at the King's right hand. He asked the King who he was, and received the reply that he was Arthur, once Lord of all realms of Britain. Then he asked the King if he was among the saved, and he was told, "In truth I await God's great mercy".

It came out in the course of conversation that every seven years Arthur was allowed to waken just for the day.

Then the Bishop said, (and I think we can sympathise with him,) "Who will believe me, my Lord when I tell how today I have seen and spoken with King Arthur?" "Close thine hand", said the King and the Bishop closed his hand. "Now open it", said the King, and out of the opening hand there flew a butterfly. Then Arthur said, "Allof your life you shall have this memorial of me, at every season you will be able to do this, and you shall always have it in your hand".

If one has read the Chronicle right, Peter des Roches seems to have written this story himself. At any rate he did become famous for his power over butterflies, and men would beg a butterfly from him for his benediction, even in the Cathedral, even in winter, and the place of this strange encounter was called.....

THE SLEEPER'S HILL.

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(From "WINCHESTER" by Brian Vesey Fitzgerald.)

Can any reader send us Arthurian legends or traditions such as this one, from any other place in Britain.

There is an old story that Britain was first colonised by a group of refugees from Troy. Their leader was a man called Brutus and from this first king the name Britain was evolved.

No one knows of course, whether there is any truth in this or not, but hundreds of years later a bard called Taliesin made reference to it and also issued a strange prophecy:

Oh! What misery, through extreme of woe,
Prophecy will show on Troy's race!
A coiling serpent proud and merciless,
On her golden wings from Germany.
She will over-run England and Scotland,
From Lynch-lyn sea-shore to the Severn.
Then will the Britons be as prisoners,
By strangers swayed from Saxony.
Their Lord they will praise, their speech they will keep,
Their land they will lose, except wild Wales.
Till some change will come, after long penance,
When equally rife the two crimes come.
Britons then shall have their land and their crown.
And the stranger swarm shall disappear.
All the angel's words as to peace and war
Will be fulfilled to Britain's race.

This is another of those mysteries that lie hidden in the 200 missing years of Britain's story, and which historians and archaeologists are now trying to fill in for us.

The vital figure in the middle of this period is a Romano-British soldier called Artorius whose title was Dux Bellorum who led a resistance force of cavalry clad in "blue" armour, and who became known to later generations as King Arthur. Recent research shows us that he was as tough as they come, was disliked by the Priest adored by his men, and just about as elusive as the Scarlett Pimpernel. Apart from skirmishes all over Britain he appears to have fought twelve major battles. According to general belief he was finally killed by a traitor and buried at Glastonbury, yet an early historian remarks "a mystery for ever the grave of Arthur" and for long generations it was said that he was only sleeping and would come again.

There is a Sleeper's Hill in Hampshire and another near Melrose: both lay claim to Arthur though there are also others.

(See the article on Page 5.)

FORMATION OF CADBURY HILL.

Page 7.

By A.J.Male.

CADBURY HILL(Camelot) is an outrider of the Jurassic Limestone Mass,formed between 120 and 150 million years ago,which,in geological terms can be said to be "recent". This mass of rock covers most of the South and East of Somerset,and rarely exceeds 400ft. above sea level;at Cadbury it reaches a height of approximately 350ft. On this mass there were no subsequent deposits,because all rock formations are formed under water,and Cadbury was not inundated for a sufficiently long period.

On all sides except the Eastern,the basic rock is Alluvium,the cause of this is that at times during the past 30million years,the area has been covered by water. This deposit rises to a height of approximately 50 to 100ft.above sea level at the present time.

The Hill itself,has evolved from the main mass of limestone by a process known as denudation.This is the action of the wind,rain,ice,sea and river,wearing away the softer material and rounding off all sharp projections, leaving Cadbury approximately the shape it presents today.

The ramparts and ditches of the fort were cut out of the Hill by man,and any reinforcing that had to be carried out,was done with stone taken from the quarries in the hills to the East,and from the Hill itself during the building of the fortress.

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SOME PENDRAGON MEMBERS. (A further list will be issued
later)

Geoffrey Ashe, Esq. F.R.S.L. Maidstone Kent.
Mrs. Ashe.
Miss Jane Barrett, Yeovil & Streatham, London.
Pauline Baker, Hants.
G.E. Bass Esq. London.
Donald Bryan, Eastleigh. Hants.
Michael Burford, Keynsham, Bristol.
P. Bransome Esq. Keynsham, Bristol.
Mrs. Brown, Bristol.
James Craigon, Esq. Co. Cork.
Michael Darling, Bristol.
Mrs. J. Foster, Bristol.
Miss Elizabeth Eyres, London.
Nicholas Odin Faulkner, Somerset & Kent.
Willoughby Gray, Esq. O.B.E. Andover Hants.
Mrs. Gray.
Mrs. Paula Grant, Chandlers Ford Hants.
Jean Jo & Hugh Griggs, Otterbourne Hants.
David Gorrings, Bristol.
Miss Wendy Godwin, Bristol.
Ronald Gow, Bristol University.
Desmond Hoskins Esq. Farnham Hants.
Mrs Mary Hatfield, Somerset.
Stephen Knight, Glastonbury & U.S.A.
Leslie Keating Esq. M.A. Sussex.
Mrs. Barbara Kent Worcestershire.
Mrs. Lazarides, Cornwall.
Frank Lawrenson, Bristol.
G.K. Lake Esq. New York, U.S.A.
Mary Leeke, Bristol.
Hilary Long, Bristol.
Francis J.O. Male Esq. A.J. Male & P.L. Male, Bristol.
W.B. Martin Esq. London.
C. Mayo, Esq. M.I.C.E. Newcastle Monmouth.
Michael Pape Southampton.
Mr Pratchett, Esq. South Cadbury Somerset.
Mrs Racy, Bristol.
Commander Skyrme, Salisbury.
Robert Stoker, Esq. Chester.
Anya Seton (Mrs Hamilton Chase) U.S.A.
Sir Ian Stuart-Knill, Somerset.
Alex Schlesinger, Bristol.
Terry & Brenda Staples, Keynsham Bristol.
Anne Summers, Bristol.
Adrian Savage, Cambridge University.
Rosemary Suttcliffe, Sussex.
Christopher Turner Esq. M.A. Godalming.
Mrs. Trelawney-Ross, Bristol.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Page 9.

MARCH 5th.....Forum of Archaeology in the Pump Rooms BATH.
(Among the speakers are Mr.Raleigh-Radford,
P.Rehtz.)
Members To meet at the West Door Of Bath Abbey
at 2p.m. Meeting starts at 2-30p.m.

APRIL 2nd.....Talk (illustrated) by Sir Ian Stuart-Knill Bt.
on THE AUTHENTICITY OF KING ARTHUR.
At St.Mary's Church House at 2-30pm.
This is a MUST for all Members who can
make it.

JULY 16th. - AUG.6th...DIG AT CADBURY .(More details later).

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STOP PRESS

From Donald Bryan of Eastleigh Hants. A late letter!

"If Cadbury Castle and Dolbury Hill down delved were.
Then the men of Dunmonia might plough with a golden coulter
and edre with a golden share,
A dragon keeper of the treasure was alleged to fly nightly between
Cadbury Castle and Dolbury Hill".

This was found in an old guide book, The publishers are no longer
in existence. Can anyone suggest a source from which this might
have been taken, or how to track down such a source?

Applications for Membership of The Pendragon Society
should be addressed to one of the following:

Mrs.J.Foster.Garden Flat.22 Alma Rd.Clifton.Bristol.8.

Francis J.O.Male. St.Mary's Church House.
36 Tyndalls Park Road Bristol.8. Tel.37 959

Terry Staples. 2 Hollway Close. Stockwood Bristol.

Donald Bryan. 13 Kelvin Road. Eastleigh. Hants.

The Youth Group was formed early in 1966 for administrative and other reasons. The actual formation of such a group had been contemplated for some time. The Youth Group contains all members of the Pendragon Society under the age of 21.

A committee was formed at the first meeting of the year. Consisting of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as well as two other Committee members. This newly formed branch will continue to work alongside the major part of the Society.

There is to be no decrease in the responsibility of the younger members, as members of the youth group will still hold positions on the main committee. They will also be able to vote at meetings of the Pendragon Society.

In the past younger members have played a great part in the running of the Society. In fact when the Society was formed in Bristol in 1964, all the Members were under 21 except Mrs. Foster (who was 22), Mr. Male and our President Mr. Asho. Since that time many adults have joined the Society, though the younger Members have continued to play an important part in field work and administration. It was generally felt that this state of affairs might not last with a majority of adults, furthermore, as an ever increasing number of teenagers are becoming interested in archaeology and History the Society must hold some attraction for them.

The natural solution to these problems has been the formation of a Youth Group within the Society.

Thus the future sees the two branches of the Society working together, as before in our task of research into the Dark Ages, and the missing centuries of British history.

Alex Schlesinger.

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YOUTH GROUP COMMITTEE.

Chairman.....Michael Darling.

Secretary.....Alex Schlesinger.

Treasurer.....Roger Webster.

Members...Messrs.A.J.MALE:F.LAURENSEN.