

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

After Alfred deals with the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, tracing the development of this group of texts, linking them to a southern court elite who were deeply engaged in kingdom-building, and offering both a detailed study of each chronicle and a broad contribution to the history of a critical period in the making of England and the English story. Bachelor Thesis from the year 2010 in the subject English - Pedagogy, Didactics, Literature Studies, grade: 2,0, University of Göttingen, language: English, abstract: In the long list of English rulers there is only one king who achieved to be honored with the epithet the Great. Alfred the Great is known today as one of the most successful kings of England and has become a national hero. The role of the national failure, however, has been ascribed to King Ethelred II, who is known as Ethelred the Unready. Both kings ruled in Anglo-Saxon times, their reigns are only about one hundred years apart and both had to face the same enemy: the Vikings from Scandinavia. Although it seems as if the two kings ruled under the same prerequisites, their reigns had very different outcomes and they have opposing reputations today. King Alfred, who ruled the kingdom of Wessex from 871 to 899, is today remembered and glorified as a great Christian king, who defeated the Vikings, who continuously invaded and plundered England in the second half of the ninth century. Apart from great military and political achievements, Alfred also stands for educational reform and is credited for having laid the foundations for what was to become the Anglo-Saxon kingdom. King Ethelred ruled this kingdom from 978 to 1016. Today, he is seen as a weak and powerless king, who did not manage to fight off the Vikings who were attacking the Anglo-Saxon kingdom during his reign, especially at the beginning of the eleventh century. He is accused of having lost control over his kingdom and having handed it over to the Vikings without developing a coherent strategy of defense. In order to find out how and why King Alfred and King Ethelred acquired such different reputations and whether they are justified, one has to have a close look at their reigns and especially at the actions they took to keep the Viking invaders from plundering and conquering their kingdom. Despite these problems, which will be a central theme in this work, the following text aims at presenting detailed accounts of King Alfred the Great and King Ethelred the Unready's struggles against the Viking invaders in order to allow for a direct comparison of their actions. Certainly, this work can make no claims of providing a comprehensive and complete picture of the kings' personalities and their reigns. It is rather meant to present an overview, which can be used as a basis for an evaluation and reassessment of Alfred and Ethelred's legacies.

The reign of 'thelred 'the Unready' (978-1016) is known to us mainly from a series of annals in the Anglo-Saxon Chrolicle, written at or after its close and accordingly conveying an impression of gathering doom as Viking armies ravaged the country and eventually, under the leadership of Swein Forkbeard and Cnut, brought about its conquest. Dr Keynes is here concerned to establish what light the royal diplomas issued in King 'thelred's name throw on this unhappy and notorious period. He first considers the general issues that bear directly on the value of royal diplomas as historical evidence for all periods of Anglo-Saxon history, discussing the circumstances under which these documents have been preserved, the techniques available for their criticism, and the arrangements that existed for their production. He then demonstrates how a detailed analysis of 'thelred's diplomas can transform our understanding of this troubled reign. On a practical level they provide invaluable evidence on the operation of royal government, and on a personal level they afford a remarkable insight into the relations between the king and his councillors, suggesting a picture of political manoeuvring and court intrigue which compensates for the chronicler's emphasis on the struggle against the marauding Vikings. By placing the familiar account of incessant warfare in the context of these domestic affairs it becomes possible for the first time to see the reign in its true perspective.

Begun by monks in the reign of King Alfred, the annals that are collectively known as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles are a record of life in England from the time of the Roman invasion to the middle of the twelfth century. Cataloging a thousand turbulent years of history, ending at the crowning of Henry II as ruler of a united nation, these fascinating accounts are presented here in a continuous narrative. From the everyday local dramas that made up the lives of the Anglo-Saxons to the intricacies of government and the reigns of kings, every aspect of life in the England of the Middle Ages is examined in detail. The modernized text is immediately comprehensible, but loses none of the rhythm, power or beauty of the original language, and traces the pattern of events chronologically, through the invasions of the Vikings and Normans, to the first of the Holy Crusades and beyond. With concise pictorial essays to help set the scene and shed light on some of the customs and practices of the times, this remarkable book brings England's past dramatically to life.

War, Kingship and Culture in Anglo-Saxon England

A New History

Illustrated and Annotated

A Translation and Commentary on the Text Attributed to Asser

The Medieval Life of King Alfred the Great

A Chronicle of England, B.C. 55-A.D. 1485

Teacher's Edition. The ninth-century English king Alfred the Great is perhaps best known for his military victories against the Vikings, but Asser's portrait of him also shows Alfred as a man of great personal character. In both his public and private life, Alfred sought to be just, pious, and merciful-and was the founder of Christian education in the English-speaking world.

Join Asser for a glimpse into Alfred's tumultuous and inspiring reign! About the Series: The Lochinvar Guides to Classic Works of Nonfiction are a valuable addition to your history or literature curriculum. Written from a Christian worldview and integrating Mortimer Adler's Great Ideas, each Lochinvar Guide is packed with background information, discussion questions, research assignments, and essay ideas. The structured questions guide students easily from the grammar stage to the logic and rhetoric stage, developing critical thinking skills. Pick up a Lochinvar Guide and experience the thrill of historical narratives.

From the author of The Gateway to the Middle Ages, ða fascinating portrait of an enlightened monarch against a background of darkness and ignorance! (Kirkus Reviews). Filled with drama and action, here is the story of the ninth-century life and times of Alfred:warrior, conqueror, lawmaker, scholar, and the only king whom England has ever called ðThe Great.ð Based on up-to-date information on ninth-century history, geography, philosophy, literature, and social life, it vividly presents exciting views of Alfred in every stage of his long career and leaves the reader with a sharply etched picture of the world of the Middle Ages

A valuable and honest account of the life of King Alfred. This work reports all his expeditions and the successes and failures of his wars. It is also a testament to the respect and esteem he inspired in those around him. It records the events and history of that time and in that regard too, it is a very significant work.

A non-fiction book about King Alfred, based on the personal visits by the author to the locations associated with him, combined with information gained from research. English and Anglo-Saxon history. Contains 27 colour images, including 20 customised maps.

King Alfred the Great

The First Kingdom

Sources and Interpretations of Anglo-Saxon Warfare in the Viking Age

The Anglo-Saxon World

After Alfred

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

Very few King's earn the appellation 'Great'. Alfred is the only English King honoured with this name and is credited with various successes (the foundation of a navy, English education system and religious revival). His memory looms large in the English Imagination. The medieval 'Life' of King Alfred of Wessex purports to be written by Asser, a monk in the King's service. This account of one of England's best loved and most famous kings has been accepted as offering evidence on most aspects of life in early medieval England and beyond. It was used in Victorian times to create a 'Cult' of Alfred. Alfred Smyth offers a carefully annotated translation of the 'Life' together with a long commentary. He argues that the 'Life' is a forgery which has profound implications not only for our understanding of the early English and medieval past but also for the nature of biography and history. This close scholarly rendering of the text allows the reader access to the intricacies of medieval history.

The bestselling author of The King in the North turns his attention to the obscure era of British history known as 'the age of Arthur'. Somewhere in the shadow time between the departure of the Roman legions in the early fifth century and the arrival in Kent of Augustine's Christian mission at the end of the sixth, the kingdoms of Early Medieval Britain were formed. But by whom? And out of what? In The First Kingdom, Max Adams scrutinizes the narrative of this period handed down to us by later historians and chroniclers. Stripping away the more lurid claims made for a warrior-hero named Arthur, he synthesises the research carried out over the last forty years to tease out the strands of reality from the myth. He reveals how archaeology has delivered evidence of a diverse and dynamic response to Britain's new-found independence, of material and intellectual trade between the Atlantic islands and the rest of Europe, and of the environmental context of those centuries. A skilfully wrought and intellectually probing investigation of the most mysterious epoch in our history, The First Kingdom presents an image of post-Roman Britain whose resolution is high enough to show the emergence of distinct political structures in the sixth century – polities that survive long enough to be embedded in the medieval landscape, recorded in the lines of river, road and watershed, and memorialised in place names. PRAISE FOR MAX ADAMS: 'A triumph. The most gripping portrait of seventh-century Britain that I have read ... A Game of Thrones in the Dark Ages' Tom Holland in The Times on The King in the North 'Gripping, hugely enjoyable and deeply scholarly' History Today, Books of the Year, on The King in the North 'Brilliantly combines history and archaeological research ... A compelling read' The Lady on Ælfred's Britain

A history of Britain in the violent and unruly era between the first Scandinavian raids in 789 and the final expulsion of the Vikings from York in 954. In 865, a great Viking army landed in East Anglia, precipitating a series of wars that would last until the middle of the following century. It was in this time of crisis that the modern kingdoms of Britain were born. In their responses to the Viking threat, these kingdoms forged their identities as hybrid cultures: vibrant and entrepreneurial peoples adapting to instability and opportunity. Traditionally, Alfred the Great is cast as the central player in the story of Viking Age Britain. But Max Adams, while stressing the genius of Alfred as war leader, law-giver, and forger of the English nation, has a more nuanced narrative approach to this conventional version of history. The Britain encountered by the Scandinavians of the ninth and tenth centuries was one of regional diversity and self-conscious cultural identities, depicted in glorious narrative fashion in The Viking Wars.

The unlikely king who saved England. Down swept the Vikings from the frigid North. Across the English coastlands and countryside they raided, torched, murdered, and destroyed all in their path. Farmers, monks, and soldiers all fell bloody under the Viking sword, hammer, and axe. Then, when the hour was most desperate, came an unlikely hero. King Alfred rallied the battered and bedraggled kingdoms of Britain and after decades of plotting, praying, and persisting, finally triumphed over the invaders. Alfred's victory reverberates to this day: He sparked a literary renaissance, restructured Britain's roadways, revised the legal codes, and revived Christian learning and worship. It was Alfred's accomplishments that laid the groundwork for Britian's later glories and triumphs in literature, liturgy, and liberty. "Ben Merkle tells the sort of mythic adventure story that stirs the imagination and races the heart?and all the more so knowing that it is altogether true!" ?George Grant, author of The Last Crusader and The Blood of the Moon

Alfred the Great and Ethelred the Unready. Two Anglo-Saxon Kings and their Actions against the Viking Threat

The Domesday Book

Being the Ford Lectures for 1901

History and Archaeology, AD 367–634

Arthur's Britain

The Viking Wars: War and Peace in King Alfred's Britain: 789–955

The fascinating story of one of England's most famous monarchs, Alfred the Great, from his birth to the discovery of a piece of his pelvis in a cardboard box in a museum in Winchester

In an era darkened by the terror of Viking invasions, England's first and greatest king was a beacon of light. "This is the story of England's birth. A great story, beautifully told." (Bernard Cornwell, author of The Pale Horseman) Alfred was England's first king, and his rule spanned troubled times. As his shores sat under constant threat from Viking marauders, his life was similarly imperiled by conspiracies in his own court. He was an extraordinary character?a soldier, scholar, and statesman like no other in English history?and out of adversity he forged a new kind of nation. Justin Pollard's enthralling account strips back centuries of myth to reveal the individual behind the legend. He offers a radical new interpretation of what inspired Alfred to create England and how it has colored the nation's history to the present day. Justin Pollard, a Cambridge-educated archaeologist, is a documentary filmmaker and the author of Seven Ages of Britain.

Presents the Anglo-Saxon period of English history from the fifth century up to the late eleventh century, covering such events as the spread of Christianity, the invasions of the Vikings, the composition of Beowulf, and the Battle of Hastings.

Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject English - Pedagogy, Didactics, Literature Studies, grade: 1,0, University of Göttingen, language: English, abstract: King Alfred, who ruled the kingdom of Wessex from 871 to 899, is the only English King, who came to be known as the Great. Today he is remembered and glorified as a great Christian king, who defeated the Vikings, who kept invading and plundering England in the second half of the 9th century. But apart from great military and political achievements, Alfred also stands for educational reform and he is credited for having encouraged the advancement of the Old English language in what was to become the Anglo-Saxon kingdom. What scholars know about Alfred and his actions today is mostly derived from four different sources. Most important is a biography of King Alfred called The Life of King Alfred. This text was written in 893 by Asser, a contemporary of the king. In this biography Asser states that he used to be a monk at St David's, a monastery in Dyfed in Wales, until King Alfred asked him to serve as one of his scholars and advisors. The biography deals with King Alfred's life starting with his birth, but ending abruptly, leaving out the king's actions in the 890s and his death. When dealing with Asser's biography of King Alfred, it is important to keep in mind that the text is not an objective and accurate work, but rather a "celebration of Alfred's greatness for the edification of multiple audiences" . The second source is the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which was written by one or more anonymous authors. This text deals with the political and military developments during Alfred's reign and it contains some information about the king himself. The origin of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and its role within the Alfredian translation program will be dealt with later in this work. The third source is the texts from King Alfred's translation program, which were a very important part of his educational reforms. The translation program is a topic that has caused many debates among scholars as will be seen in the course of this work. However, the different writings of King Alfred and the scholars at his court provide a lot of useful information on the king's thoughts and plans. Lastly, coins and archaeology provide important information about King Alfred the Great and his times as well. Since there are quite a lot of contradictory sources providing information on the life of King Alfred the Great, scholars have created quite different and controversial pictures of one and the same historical figure.

Asser's Life of Alfred the Great

King Alfred

The King and His England

The Life of Alfred the Great

The Kings & Queens of Anglo-Saxon England

Alfred's Wars

Alfred the Great (848 - 899) was a king in West Saxon and then the first king of the Anglo-Saxons, king of Britain. He spent his early career fighting Viking invasions, until in 878 he won a decisive victory against them, and then personally oversaw the conversion of the Viking leader to Christianity. He left a legacy for being gracious, rational, peaceable, and generally working to improve the overall quality of people's lives. This biography was composed by Asser (d. 909), a Welsh monk and later bishop. This large print version (14 point size) of Asser's work is from, "Asser's life of King Alfred, translated by Albert Stanburrough Cook (1853-1927); Boston, New York: Ginn and company 1906." The original footnotes are preserved, and surviving illustrations of King Alfred on coins and in artwork are included.

The seven centuries of the Anglo-Saxon period in England, roughly AD 400-1100, were a time of extraordinary and profound transformation in almost every aspect of its culture, culminating in a dramatic shift from a barbarian society to a recognizably medieval civilization. This book traces the changing nature of that art, the different roles it played in Anglo-Saxon culture, and the various ways it both reflected and influenced the changing context in which it was created. From its first manifestations in the metalwork and ceramics of the early settlers, Anglo-Saxon art displays certain inbuilt and highly distinctive stylistic and iconographic features. Despite the many new influences which were regularly absorbed and adapted by Anglo-Saxon artists and craftsmen, these characteristics continued to resonate through the centuries in the great manuscripts, ivories, metalwork and sculpture of this inventive and creative culture. This book highlights the character, leitmotifs and underlying continuities of Anglo-Saxon art, whilst also placing it firmly in its wider cultural and political context.

Asser's Life of King Alfred, written in 893, is a revealing account of one of the greatest of medieval kings. Composed by a monk of St David's in Wales who became Bishop of Sherborne in Alfred's service and worked with him in his efforts to revive religion and learning in his kingdom, this life is among the earliest surviving royal biographies. It is an admiring account of King Alfred's life, written in absorbing detail - chronicling his battles against Viking invaders and his struggle to increase the strength and knowledge of his people, and to unite his people at a time of conflict, uncertainty and war.

The first continuous national history of any western people in their own language, The Anglo-Saxon Chronicletraces the history of early England from the migration of the Saxon war-lords, through Roman Britain, the onslaught of the Vikings, the Norman Conquest and on through the reign of Stephen (1135-54). The text survives, in whole or in part, in eight separate manuscripts, each reflecting the concerns of the regions and institutions in which they were maintained. These texts have a similar core, but each has considerable local variations and its own intricate textual history. Michael J. Swanton's translation of these histories is the most complete and faithful reading ever published. Extensive notes draw on the latest evidence of paleographers, archaeologists and textual and social historians to place these annals in the context of current knowledge. Fully indexed and complemented by maps and genealogical tables, this edition allows ready access to one of the prime sources of English national culture. The introduction provides all the information a first-time reader could need, cutting an easy route through often complicated matters. Also includes nine maps.

The Whole Works of King Alfred the Great

In Search of Alfred the Great

The Life and Times of Alfred the Great

Britain in the age of Arthur

Annals of the Reign of Alfred the Great

A Man on the Move

This biography of Alfred the Great, king of the West Saxons (871-899), combines a sensitive reading of the primary sources with a careful evaluation of the most recent scholarly research on the history and archaeology of ninth-century England. Alfred emerges from the pages of this biography as a great warlord, an effective and inventive ruler, and a passionate scholar whose piety and intellectual curiosity led him to sponsor a cultural and spiritual renaissance. Alfred's victories on the battlefield and his sweeping administrative innovations not only preserved his native Wessex from viking conquest, but began the process of political consolidation that would culminate in the creation of the kingdom of England. Alfred the Great: War, Kingship and Culture in Anglo-Saxon England strips away the varnish of later interpretations to recover the historical Alfredpragmatic, generous, brutal, pious, scholarly within the context of his own age.

A fundamental part of English heritage, the Domesday Book is unique in medieval history, recording an entire country and its inhabitants town by town, with over 12,500 entries. In this lavishly illustrated book, Elizabeth Hallam and Thomas Hinde examine the background to the nine-hundred-year-old document, setting the events of 1086 into the context of the medieval world. It is a remarkable tribute to English continuity that almost all of the Domesday settlements still exist in some form or another.

A major re-examination of an important period in British history

The ninth-century English king Alfred the Great is perhaps best known for his military victories against the Vikings, but Asser's portrait of him also shows Alfred as a man of great personal character. In both his public and private life, Alfred sought to be just, pious, and merciful-and was the founder of Christian education in the English-speaking world. Join Asser for a glimpse into Alfred's tumultuous and inspiring reign! About the Series: The Lochinvar Guides to Classic Works of Nonfiction are a valuable addition to your history or literature curriculum. Written from a Christian worldview and integrating Mortimer Adler's Great Ideas, each Lochinvar Guide is packed with background information, discussion questions, research assignments, and essay ideas. The structured questions guide students easily from the grammar stage to the logic and rhetoric stage, developing critical thinking skills. Pick up a Lochinvar Guide and experience the thrill of historical narratives.

Teacher's Edition

Asser's Life of Alfred the Great: a Lochinvar Guide

Asser's Life of King Alfred

A Lochinvar Guide

The King, The Grave, The Legend

With Preliminary Essays, Illustrative of the History, Arts, and Manners, of the Ninth Century

No description available.

This book assembles a wealth of information about the Arthur of history by delving into the shadowy period of the past in which he lived. Drawing on evidence from both written adn archaeological sources, Leslie Alcock sifts history from fiction to take us back to life between the fourth and seventh centuries, a time of warfare and feuding, when Celtic Britain had shaken off Roman rule, and fell victim to floods of raiding Scots, Picts, and Anglo-Saxons. He also provides details on how the Britons lived, worshipped, dressed and fought, to create a vivid picture of the Arthurian age and its warrior hero.

In 893, Asser wrote this book, a biography of Alfred the Great entitled The Life of King Alfred; in the original Latin, the title is Vita Ælfredi Regis Angul Saxonum. The date is known from Asser's mention of the king's age in the text. The work, which is less than twenty thousand words long, is one of the most important sources of information on Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons from 871 to c. 886 and King of the Anglo-Saxons from c. 886 until his death in 899. He is well-known for overseeing the conversion of Viking leader Guthrum to Christianity, and defending his kingdom against the Viking attempt at conquest, leading him to become the dominant ruler in England.

The "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" is considered one of the most important documents of Anglo-Saxon history and was written by Saint Bede, or Bede the Venerable, an English Benedictine monk and well-known scholar who was born around 672 AD. The work, which begins as a general history of England from the time of Julius Caesar's invasion in 55 BC, details the rise of Christianity in England and becomes a detailed study of the different Christian churches and leaders of England. The history focuses chiefly on the conflict between Roman and Celtic Christianity from the introduction of Christianity to the Anglo-Saxon's by Augustine of Canterbury in 597 AD until the time of the book's completion in approximately 731 AD. In drawing upon numerous primary and secondary resources, Saint Bede creates not only an important and often accurate historical document, but also advances his own views on politics and religion, which was more supportive of the Roman church leaders than the Anglo-Saxons. One of the most important works of both English and Christian history, the "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" is a must read for scholars or students of either historical discipline. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper and follows the translation of J. A. Giles.

Ecclesiastical History of the English People

The Genuine Asser

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

Anglo-Saxon Chronicles and Chroniclers, 900-1150

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Asser's Life of King Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources

The Anglo-Saxon period stretches from the arrival of Germanic groups on British shores in the early 5th century to the Norman Conquest of 1066. During these centuries, the English language was used and written down for the first time, pagan populations were converted to Christianity, and the foundations of the kingdom of England were laid. This richly illustrated new book - which accompanies a landmark British Library exhibition - presents Anglo-Saxon England as the home of a highly sophisticated artistic and political culture, deeply connected with its continental neighbours. Leading specialists in early medieval history, literature and culture engage with the unique, original evidence from which we can piece together the story of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, examining outstanding and beautiful objects such as highlights from the Staffordshire hoard and the Sutton Hoo burial. At the heart of the book is the British Library's outstanding collection of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, the richest source of evidence about Old English language and literature, including Beowulf and other poetry; the Lindisfarne Gospels, one of Britain's greatest artistic and religious treasures; the St Cuthbert Gospel, the earliest intact European book; and historical manuscripts such as Bede's Ecclesiastical History and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. These national treasures are discussed alongside other, internationally important literary and historical manuscripts held in major collections in Britain and Europe. This book, and the exhibition it accompanies, chart a fascinating and dynamic period in early medieval history, and will bring to life our understanding of these formative centuries.

Traces the life and accomplishments of the ninth-century British king

The essential primary-source history of the British Isles through the early Middle Ages, fully annotated and illustrated with paintings and engravings. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is one of the most important sets of historical documents concerning the history of the British Isles. These vital accounts, thought to be first set down in the late ninth century by a scribe in Wessex, illuminate events throughout the Dark Ages that would otherwise be lost to history. Without this chronicle, it would be impossible to write the history of the English from the Romans to the Norman Conquest. The compilers of this chronicle included contemporary events they themselves witnessed, as well as those recorded by earlier annalists whose work is in many cases preserved nowhere else. With nine known versions of the Chronicle in existence, this translated edition presents a conflation of passages from different versions. Relying heavily on Rev. James Ingram's 1828 translation, the footnotes provided are all those of Rev. Ingram. This edition also includes the complete Parker Manuscript.

The White Horse King

Alfred the Great

The Alfredian Educational Reform and Translation Program

Anglo-Saxon Art

The Diplomas of King Aethlred 'the Unready' 978-1016

The Legal Code of Ælfred the Great