

# Chivalric Romances





**Chivalry** – a set of values which the perfect knight was supposed to respect.



# The Code of Chivalry

To live one's life so that it is worthy of respect and honor by

## Fair Play

Never attack an unarmed foe.  
Never charge an unhorsed opponent.  
Never attack from behind.  
Avoid cheating.  
Avoid torture.

## Nobility

Exhibit self discipline.  
Show respect to authority.  
Obey the law.  
Administer Justice.  
Protect the innocent.  
Respect women.

## Valor

Exhibit courage in word and deed.  
Avenge the wronged.  
Defend the weak and innocent.  
Fight with honor.  
Never abandon a friend, ally, or noble cause.

## Honor

Always keep one's word.  
Always maintain one's principles.  
Never betray a confidence or comrade.  
Avoid deception.  
Respect life.

## Courtesy

Exhibit manners.  
Be polite and attentive.  
Be respectful of host, authority, and women.

## Loyalty

To God, Sovereign, Country, and the Code of Chivalry.

# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a plume and chainmail. He is mounted on a white horse and holds a sword across his chest. The background shows a battle scene with many soldiers on foot and horseback, carrying various flags and banners. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall style is that of a classic historical painting.

**Never attack an  
unarmed enemy.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full chainmail armor, riding a white horse. The knight is holding a sword across his chest. In the background, a large battle scene unfolds with many soldiers and colorful banners under a cloudy sky. The knight's horse is adorned with a brown leather harness and a blue and yellow sash.

**Never attack from  
behind.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full chainmail armor, riding a white horse. The knight is holding a sword aloft in his right hand. He has a beard and is wearing a helmet. The background shows a battle scene with many soldiers and flags, and a castle in the distance under a cloudy sky. The overall style is that of a classic historical painting.

**Show self-discipline.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a plume and chainmail. He is mounted on a white horse and holds a long sword across his chest. The background shows a battle scene with many soldiers and flags under a cloudy sky. The knight has a red cape and a blue and yellow sash.

**Obey the law.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in chainmail armor, riding a white horse. The knight is holding a sword and looking forward. The background shows a battle scene with many soldiers and flags. The sky is blue with white clouds. The overall style is that of a classic medieval manuscript illumination.

**Protect the  
innocent.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a plume and chainmail. He is mounted on a white horse and holds a longsword across his chest. The background shows a large battle scene with many soldiers on foot and horseback, flying various flags and banners under a cloudy sky. The knight's armor is highly detailed, showing rivets and textures. The overall style is reminiscent of classic European medieval art.

**Avenge the wronged.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a plume and chainmail. He is mounted on a white horse and holds a long sword across his chest. The background shows a large battle scene with many soldiers and flags under a cloudy sky. The knight has a red cape and a blue and yellow sash.

**Defend the weak.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a plume and chainmail. He is mounted on a white horse and holds a sword across his chest. The background shows a large battle scene with many soldiers and colorful banners under a cloudy sky. The knight's surcoat is blue and yellow.

**Never abandon a friend, an ally or a noble course.**



# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a plume and chainmail. He is mounted on a white horse and holds a sword across his chest. The background shows a battle scene with many soldiers and flags under a cloudy sky. The knight has a red cape and a blue and yellow sash.

**Always keep one's  
word.**



# Code of Chivalry

**Exhibit manners.**





# Code of Chivalry

A detailed illustration of a medieval knight in full chainmail armor, riding a white horse. The knight is holding a sword across his chest. The background shows a battle scene with many soldiers and flags. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall style is that of a classic medieval manuscript illumination or a historical painting.

**Be respectful to host,  
authority and women.**



# Code of Chivalry

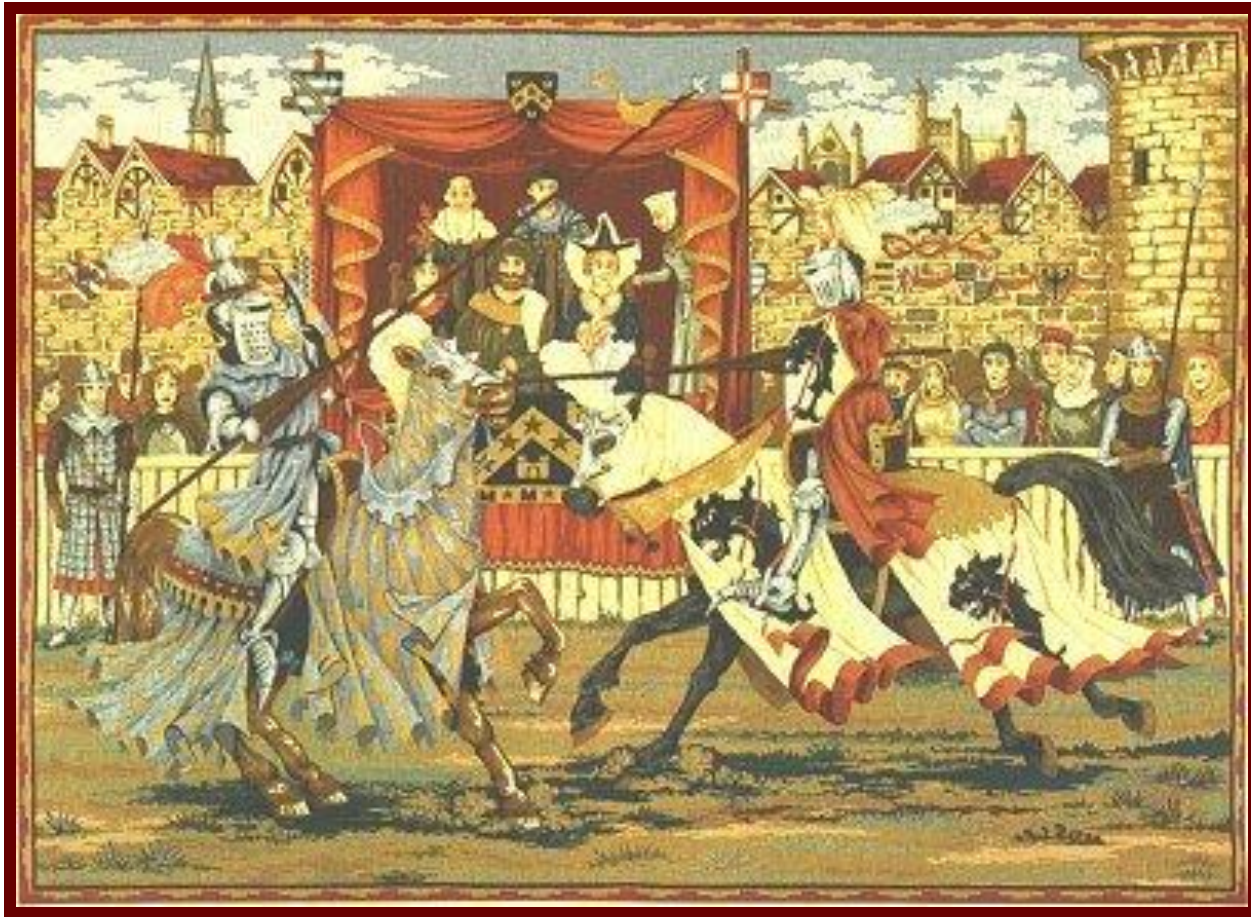
**Be loyal to God,  
sovereign, country  
and the code of  
chivalry.**





The cult of 'courtly love'





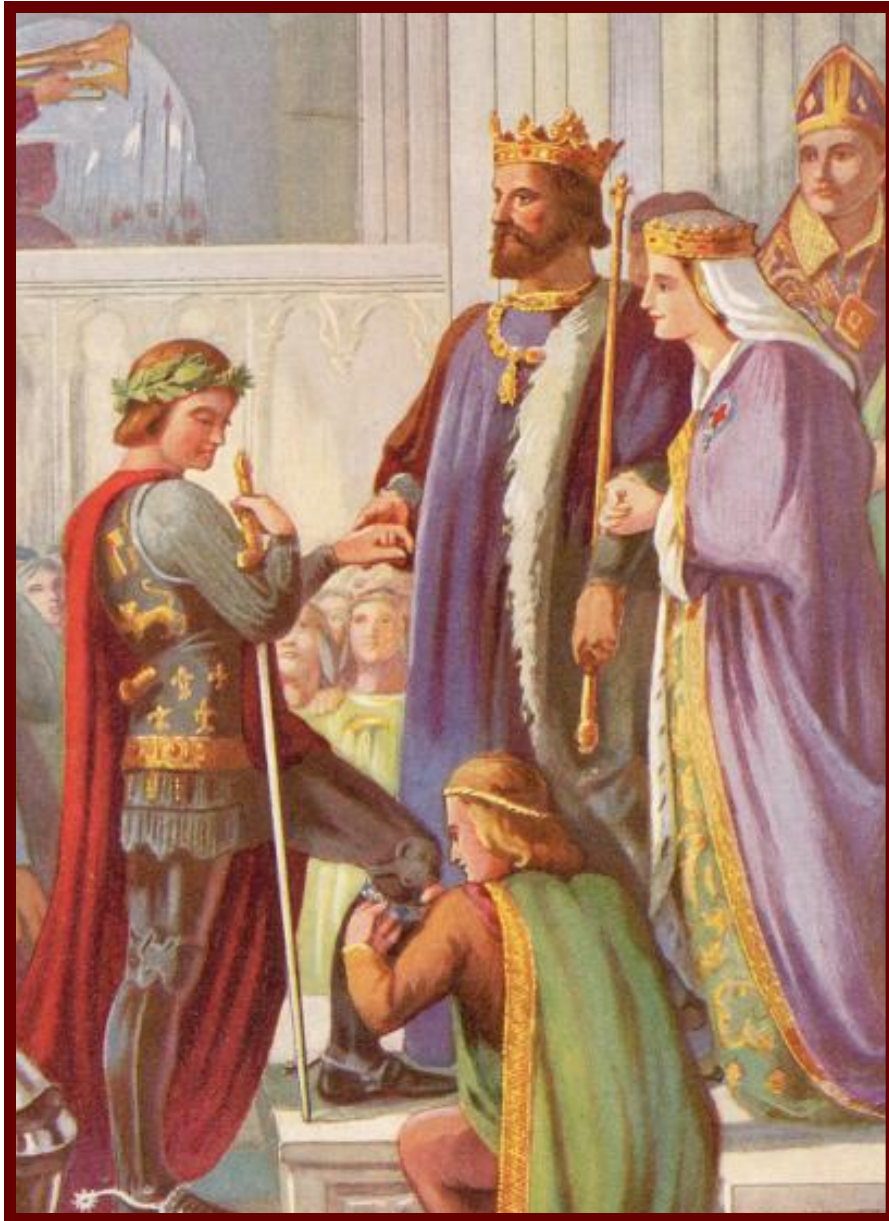
# Medieval Tournament





Minstrels  
(troubadours)





## Chivalric romance


a type of prose narrative describing the adventures of legendary knights, and celebrating an idealized code of chivalry and courtly love. It became popular in Medieval Europe in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



# The cycle of Arthurian legends







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**A legend** is a story about extraordinary deeds that has been told and retold for generations among a group of people. Some legends are thought to have a historical basis, but may also contain elements of magic and myth.





King Arthur legends are based on a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century Celtic warlord who lived in Wales and led his people to victory against Saxon invaders. The warlord was said to have been fatally wounded in battle and buried in the abbey of Glastonbury, where a gravestone can still be



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Uther  
Pendragon, the  
father of King  
Arthur





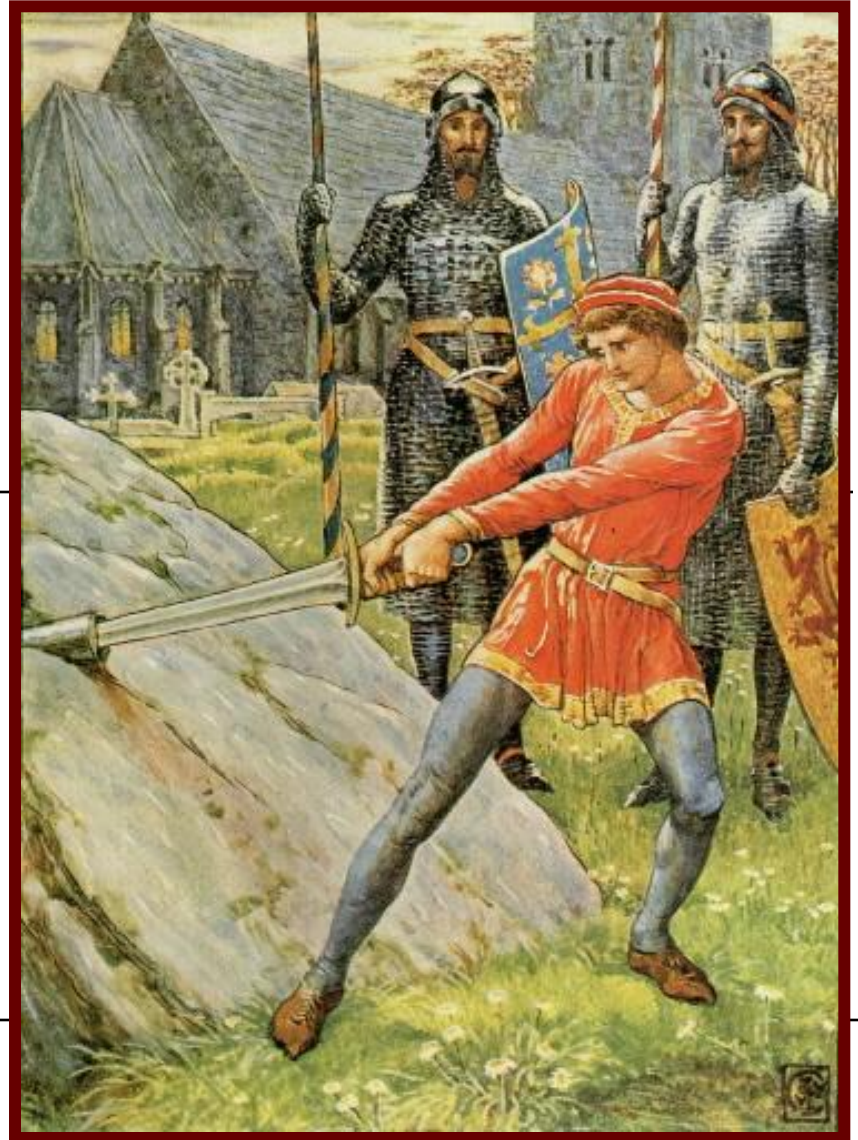
Tintagel Castle





Merlin

# The Sword in the Stone







# Crowning King Arthur

# Camelot





# The Knights of the Round Table

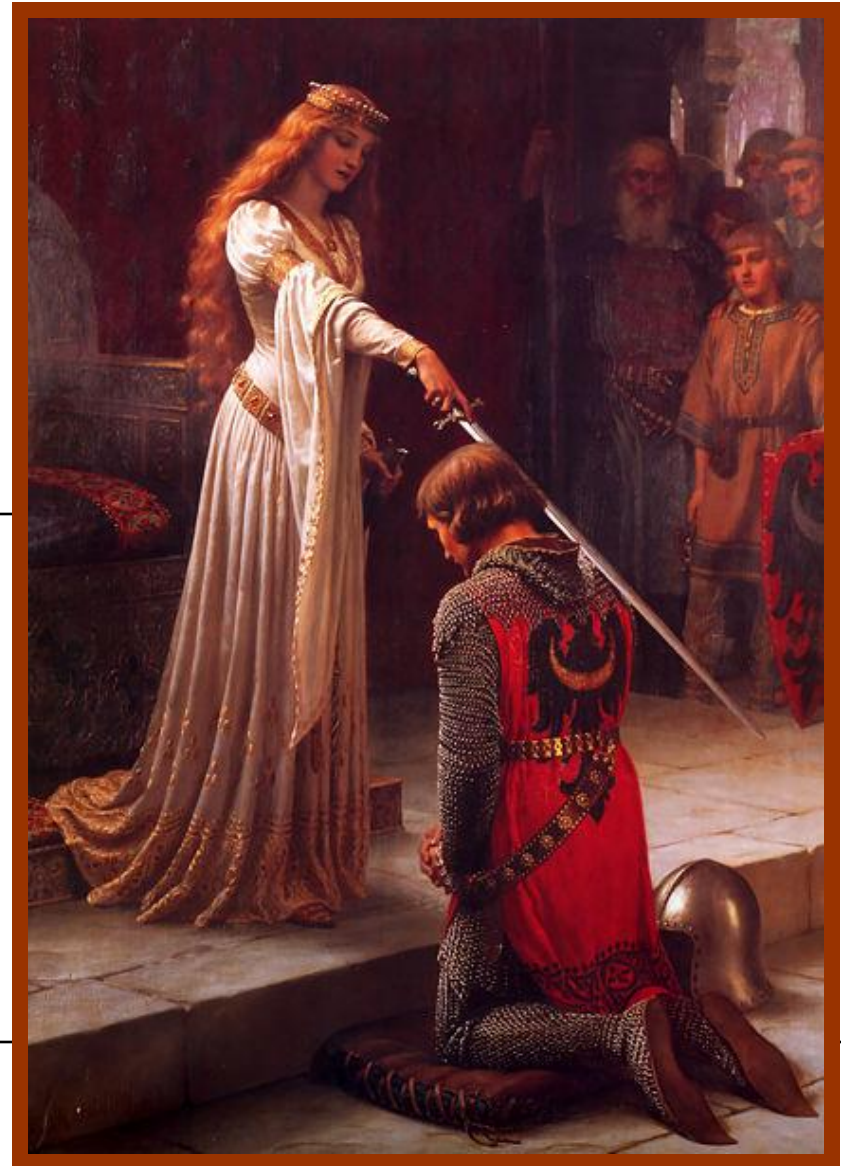




# Winchester Castle



Guinevere





Sir Lancelot  
of the Lake





Sir Gawain



# Tristan and Isolde





# The Lady of the Lake and Excalibur



# The Quest for the Holy Grail





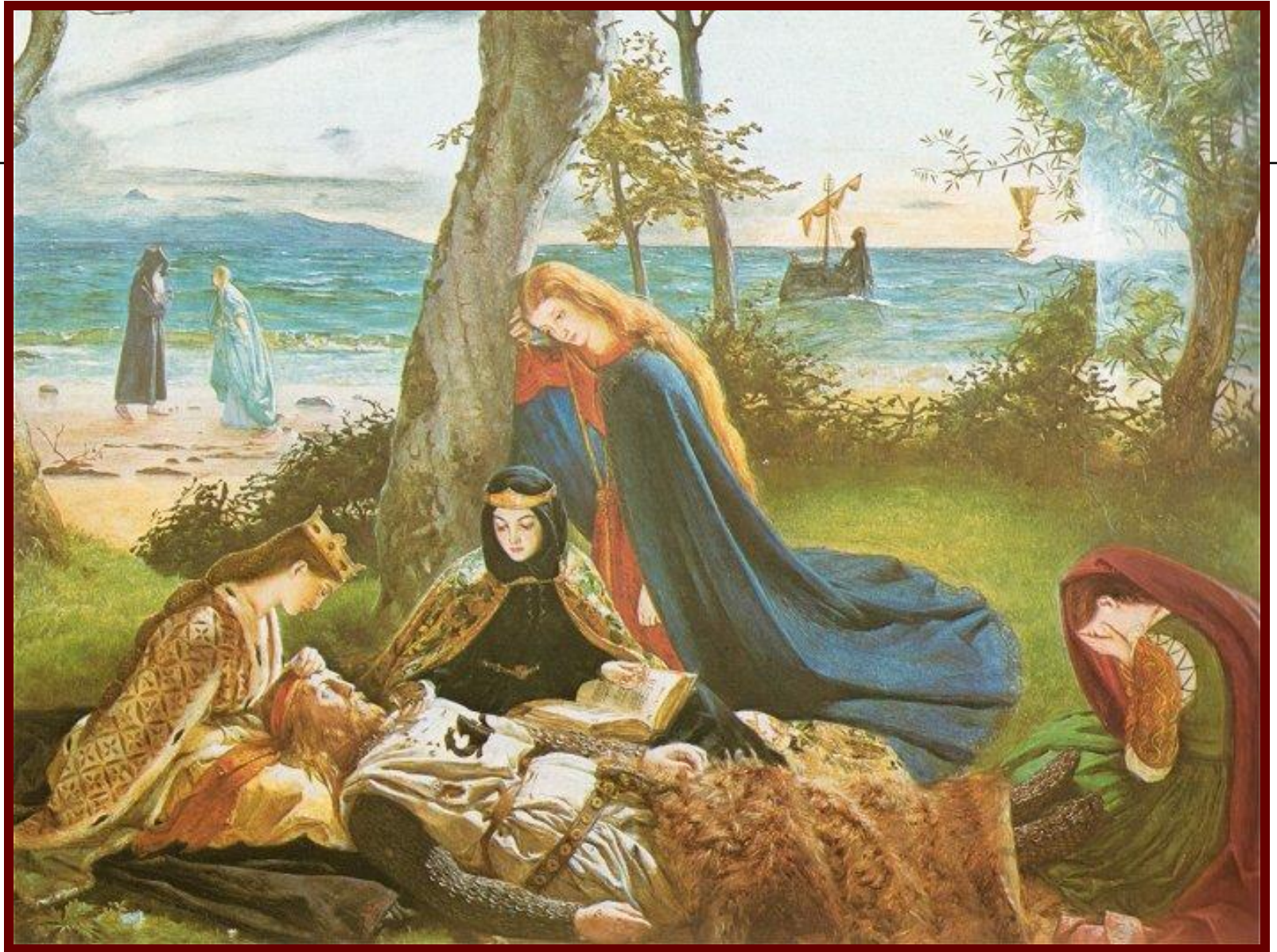
Arthur and Morderd

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# King Arhtur's death

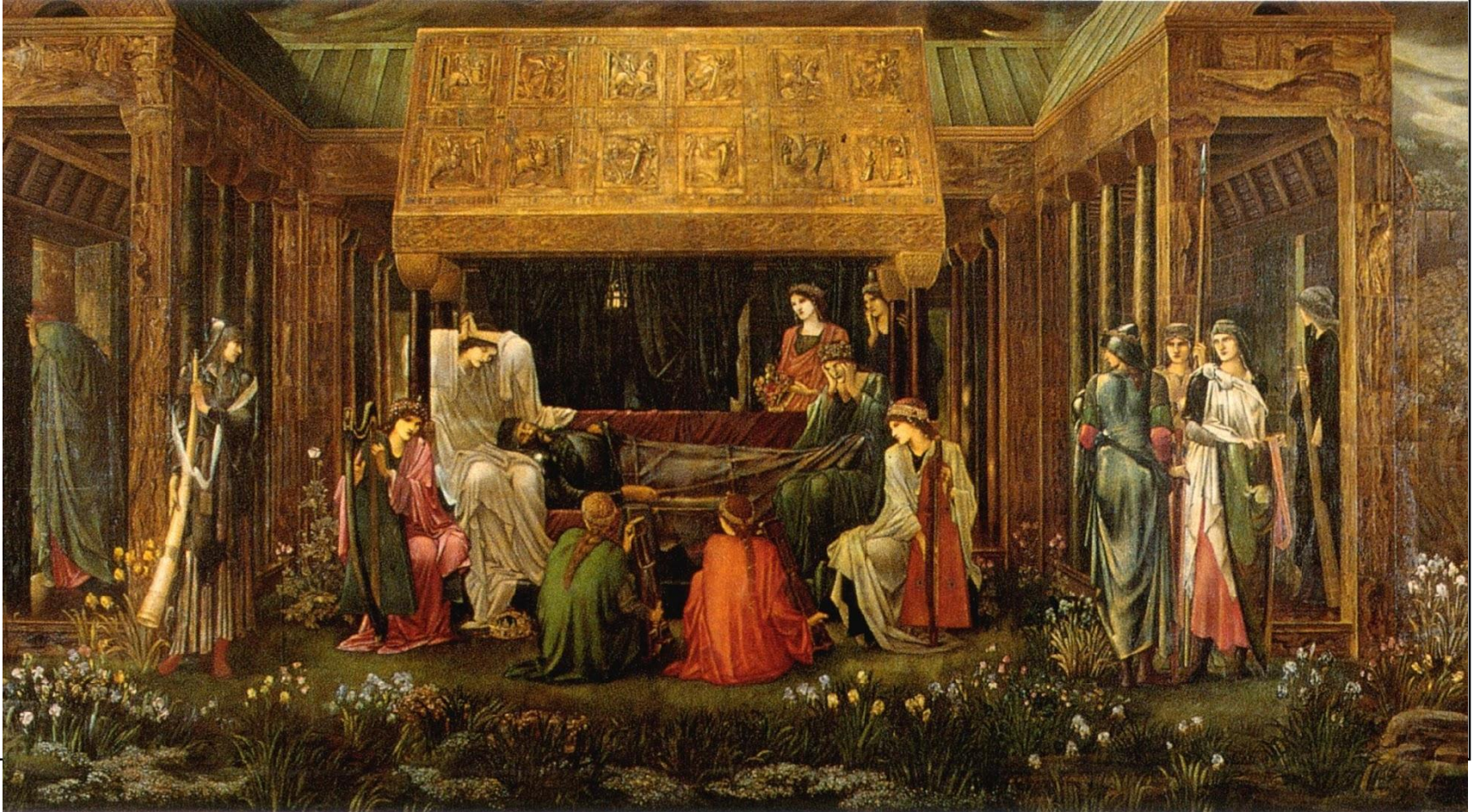








# Avalon

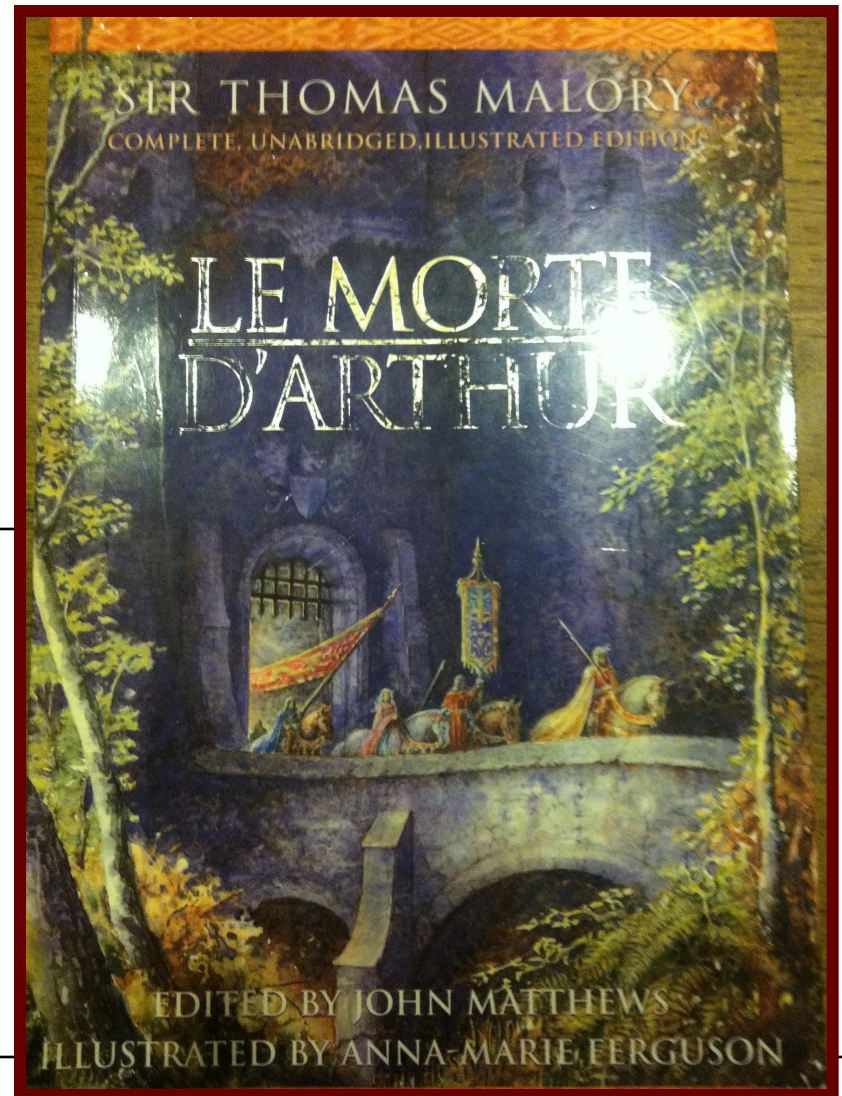




*Sir Thomas Malory*  
(c.1405-1471)



Sir Thomas Malory





# Sir Thomas Malory (1405?-1471)

- knighted in 1441.

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- elected an MP in 1445.

- arrested in 1451 for a variety of criminal acts including brawling, escaping from prison, extorting money, and committing rape.

- The book was probably written in prison.





# Le Morte D'Arthur

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- The title was given by the printer William Caxton.
- Malory's work was published in 1485.

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**I**n the begynnyng of **Arthur** for he was chosen kynge  
by aduenture and by grace for the moste pty of the barons. But he was  
**Ether** **Wendragon** son. But as **Merlion** made hit openly known. But  
yet many kynge and lordis hylde hym grete weyre for that cause. But **Walter**  
**Arthur** on com hem all the moste pty dayes of hys lyff he was rited by p commende  
of **Merlion**. So hit fette on a tyme kynge **Arthur** seyde vnto **Merlion** why  
woldes thou let me haue no wiffe. But woldes I myghte take a wyff. I wolde none  
take but by thy commende and aduise. Hit ys well done seyde **Merlion** that  
ye take a wyff. For a man of youre bonite and nobles sholde  
not be w<sup>th</sup> oute a wyff. Now is y<sup>e</sup> ony seyde **Merlion** that  
ye love more than a wyff. ye seyde kynge **Arthur** I love **Gwen**  
**my** were the kyngs daughter of **Lodegrian** of y<sup>e</sup> londe of **Cam**  
**berde** the wyf of **Goldwyrt**. In his house the table rounde that ye  
tolde me he had hit of my fadir **Uther** and that **Jamessell** is the  
moste valyante and fayrest that I knowe by byng or yet that eu  
I coude fynde. Seynt seyde **Merlion** as of her beaute and fayre  
nesse she is one of the fayrest on lyve. But and ye loved her not  
so well as ye do I sholde fynde you a damessell of beaute and  
of goodnesse that sholde lyve you and please you and youre  
herte were nat sette. But there as mannes herte is sette  
he wold be loth to retorne. that is trouth seyde kynge **Arthur**.  
So **Merlion** warned the kyng covertly that **Gwen** was nat  
golsom for hym to take to wyff. For he warned hym that **Lancelot**  
**celot** sholde love her and seke hym a gayne. And so he turned his  
tale to the aduentures of the **Sauvageval**. Then he desired of  
the kyng for to haue men w<sup>th</sup> hym y<sup>e</sup> sholde enquire of **Gwen**  
and so the kyng granted hym and so **Merlion** wente forth  
vnto kynge **Lodegrian** of **Camberde** and tolde hym of the desire  
of the kyng y<sup>e</sup> wolde haue vnto his wyff **Gwen**. Then he donze  
that is to me seyde kynge **Lodegrian** the beste tydyng that  
eu I herde. that so worthy a kyng of probesse & noblesse wold wille  
my dought. And as for my lordis I wolde geff hit hym yf I wiste

# The Winchester Manuscript