

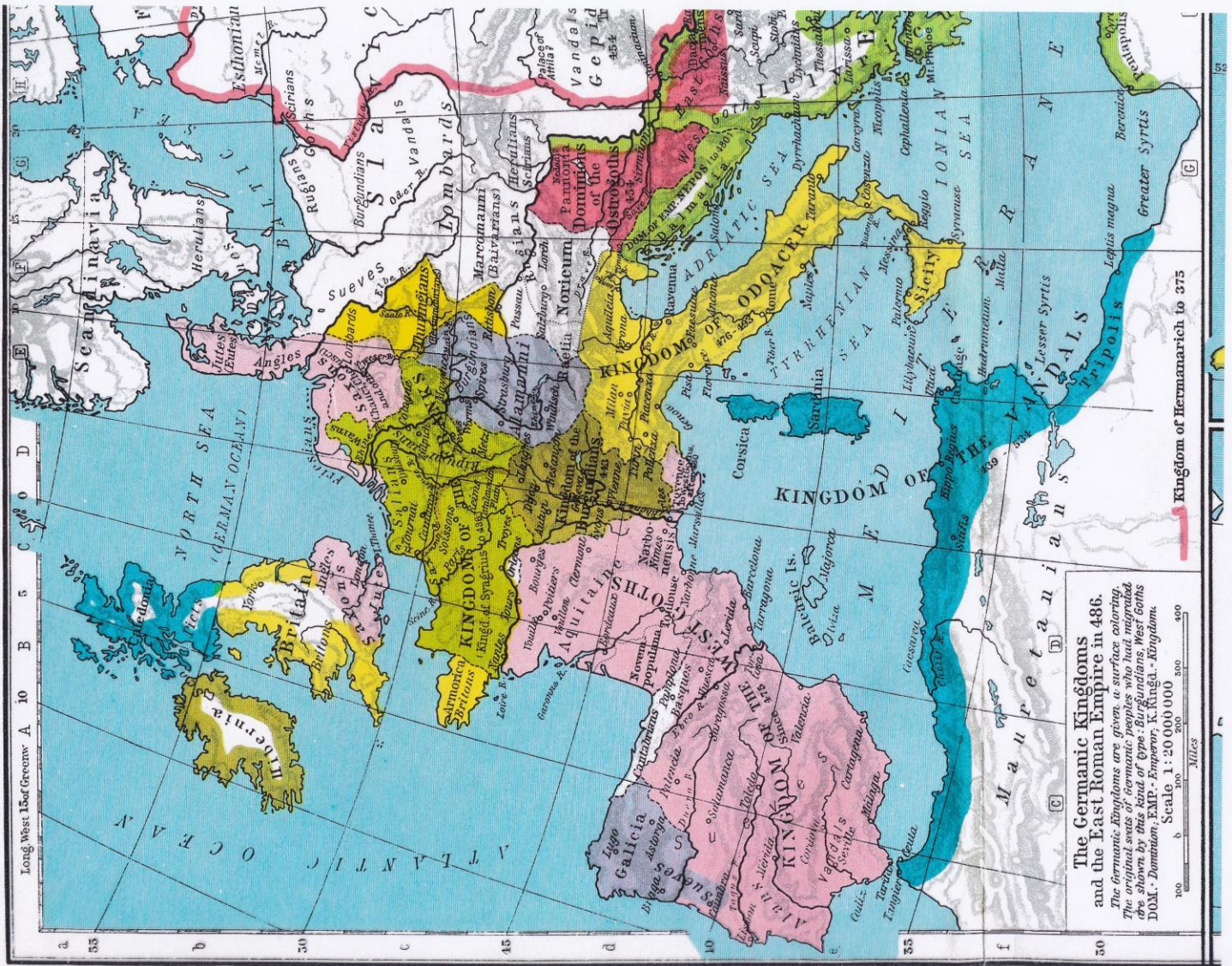
Arthur's Britain

- 1: Romano-British militiaman, 6th C
- 2: North British cavalryman, 6th C
- 3: Welsh tribal warrior, 5th-6th C









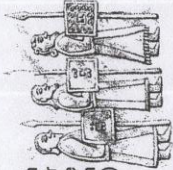
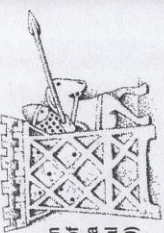


The Germanic Kingdoms and the East Roman Empire in 486.
 The Germanic Kingdoms are given a surface coloring. The original seats of Germanic peoples who have been driven by the East Roman Empire are marked with a dot. DOM: Domain; EMP: Empire; KING: Kingdom.

Scale 1:20,000,000
 Miles
 0 100 200 300 400

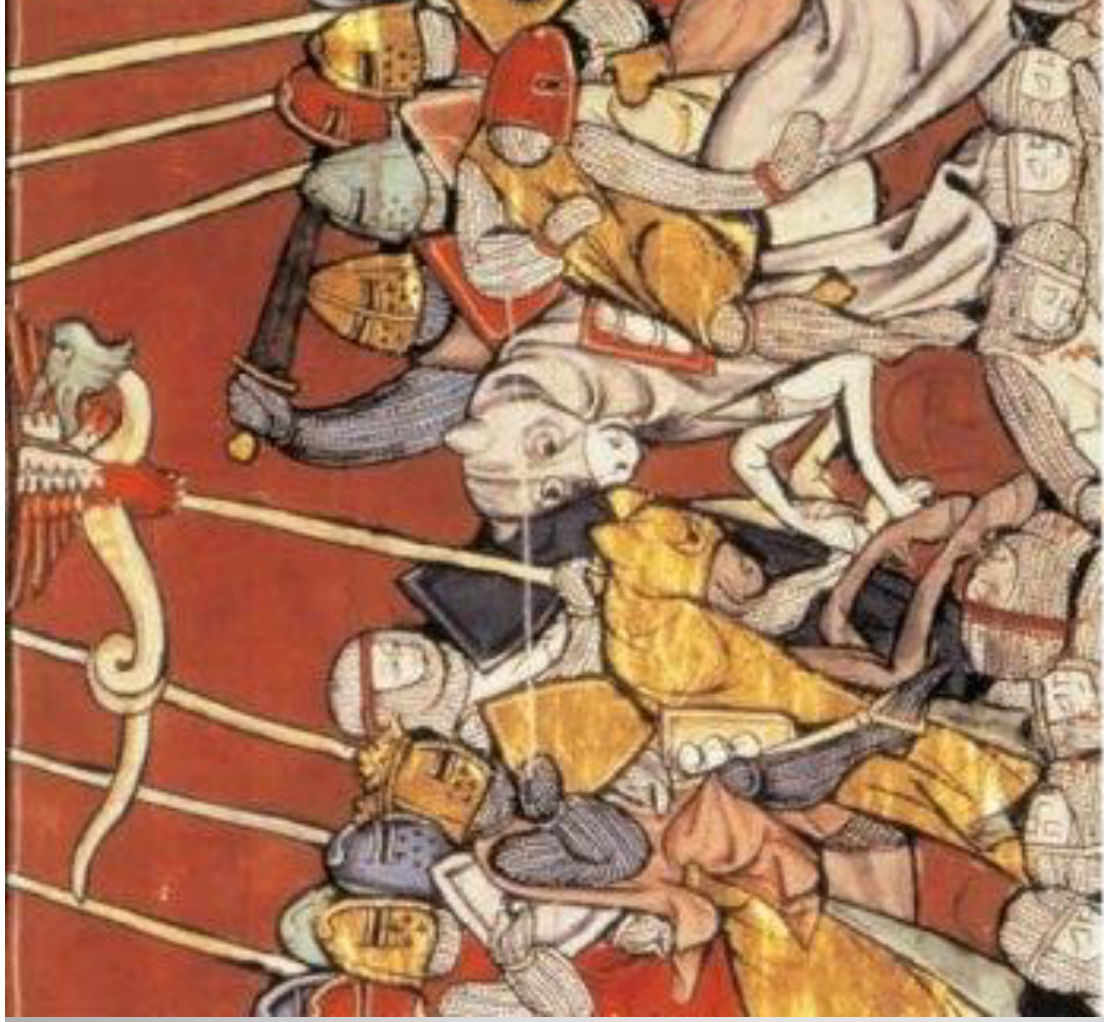
Kingdom of Hermanarich to 375

AD100 200 300 400 500 600 700 ----- 1100

 <p>Celtic torc, gold, (1st century AD)</p>	 <p>Bronze hanging-bow (5th or 6th century)</p>	 <p>Pictish warrior gravestone inscription (8th century)</p>	 <p>Detail from archivoit of Modena Cathedral (c.1120)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudius invades Britain (43) • Revolt of Boudica (60/61) • Construction of Hadrian's Wall begins (122) • Lucius Artorius Castus commanded Sarmatian cavalry in Britain (175) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picts, Saxons, Scots and Atacotti harass Britain (364) • Magnus Maximus declared emperor (383) • Stilicho withdraws troops from Britain (401 or 402) • Election of usurpers Marcus, Gratian and Constantine III (406-7) • Britain devastated by Saxon incursions (408 or 410) • Britons revolt from Roman Empire (409) • St Germanus of Auxerre sent to Britain (429) • Britons ask Agilulf for aid against barbarians • Patrick's mission in Ireland • <i>Superbus tyrannus</i> invites Saxon mercenaries to Britain • Ambrosius Aurelianus leads British forces against the Saxons • Battle of Mount Badon and birth of Gildas (c.485) • Entry for Battle of Badon in <i>Annales Cambriae</i> (518) • Gildas's <i>De Excidio Britanniae</i> (c.528) • Entry for the Battle of Camlann in <i>Annales Cambriae</i> (539) • Battle of Arberydd, in which Myrddin goes mad (c.573) • Battle of Dyrham (577) • Battle of Catraeth (c.590) • St Augustine arrives at Canterbury and the death of St Columba at Iona (597) • Aneirin composes <i>Y Gododdin</i> • St Kentigern's mission in Strathclyde • Kingdom of the Gododdin destroyed (638) • Bede completes his <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> (731) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harleian manuscript produced, containing <i>Historia Brittonum</i> and <i>Annales Cambriae</i> • <i>Culhwch ac Olwen</i> is written down • Geoffrey of Monmouth's <i>History of the Kings of Britain</i> (c.1136-38) • Geoffrey of Monmouth's <i>Life of Merlin</i> (c.1150) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wace's <i>Roman de Brut</i> (c.1155) • Chrétien de Troyes writes five Arthurian romances (c.1170-91)
<p>FRANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witnesses in Gaul observe that part of Britain has fallen to the Saxons (c.441) 		
<p>GERMANY</p>			
<p>REST OF WORLD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visigoths sack Rome; Honorius urges cities of Britain to see to their own defence (410) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archivoit of Modena Cathedral (c.1120)

The timeline above is intended to help readers visualize the temporal span of the significant figures, historical events and creative works mentioned in this book. At the same time, it reveals how these elements may have influenced one another. Also evident from such a chart is the remarkable longevity of the Arthurian myth.

The chronology is less precise in its early medieval phase than in later eras. While the historical and mythological roots of Arthuriana stretch back into antiquity, most scholars have considered the fifth and sixth centuries (shaded above) to be the most formative. For some, this is because the historical Arthur may actually have lived in this period—thus it is often known collo-



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the complete



romances

of

chrétien

de

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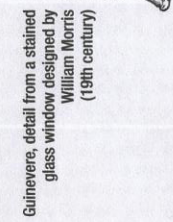


translated with an introduction by

DAVID STAINES



The Sword in the Stone, from a medieval manuscript illumination



Guinevere, detail from a stained glass window designed by William Morris (19th century)



Prince Valiant, created by Hal Foster in 1937

• Layamon's *Brut*

• Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

• Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1470)

• Edmund Spenser writes *The Faerie Queene* (1590–96)

• Alfred Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*

• T.H. White's *The Sword in the Stone* (1938)

• Rosemary Sutcliffe's *Sword at Sunset* (1963)

• Leslie Alcock's excavations at Cadbury 'Camelot' (1966–70)

• Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)

• John Boorman's *Excalibur* (1981)

• Geoffrey Ashe's *Discovery of King Arthur* (1985)

• Robert de Boron's *Merlin*

• The anonymous *Perlesvaus*

• French Vulgate cycle (1215–35)

• Post-Vulgate cycle (1230–40)

• Hartmann von Aue's *Erec and Iwein*

• Ulrich von Zatzikhoven's *Lanzelot*

• Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzifal* (1210)

• Gottfried von Strassburg's *Tristan* (1210)

• Joseph Bédier's *Le Roman de Tristan et Iseut* (1900)

• Founding of the International Arthurian Society (1949)

• Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (1865)

• Richard Wagner's *Parsifal* (1882)

• Hal Foster's *Prince Valiant* appears in American newspapers

• *Camelot* opens on Broadway (1960)

• Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Mists of Avalon* (1982)

• The NBC-TV mini-series *Merlin* (1998)

• Dante's *Inferno* (c.1310)

• Old Norse *Tristrams Saga*

• Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889)

qually as 'The Age of Arthur'; for others, because these years provided the personal names, battles and heroic ethos which form the heart of the Arthurian legends.

Lastly, the timeline illustrates the spatial dimension of the Arthurian tradition. From being a wholly insular figure in the early Middle Ages, Arthur came to 'conquer' much of conti-

ental Europe by the early modern period and, beginning in the nineteenth century, to capture the attention of America as well. While never entirely shedding its guise as a national British myth, Arthuriana in the twenty-first century is certainly a trans-Atlantic, if not international, phenomenon.

The Penguin English Library

SIR THOMAS MALORY
LE MORTE D'ARTHUR

VOLUME 1







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ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

IDYLLS OF THE KING



THE BOY'S
KING ARTHUR

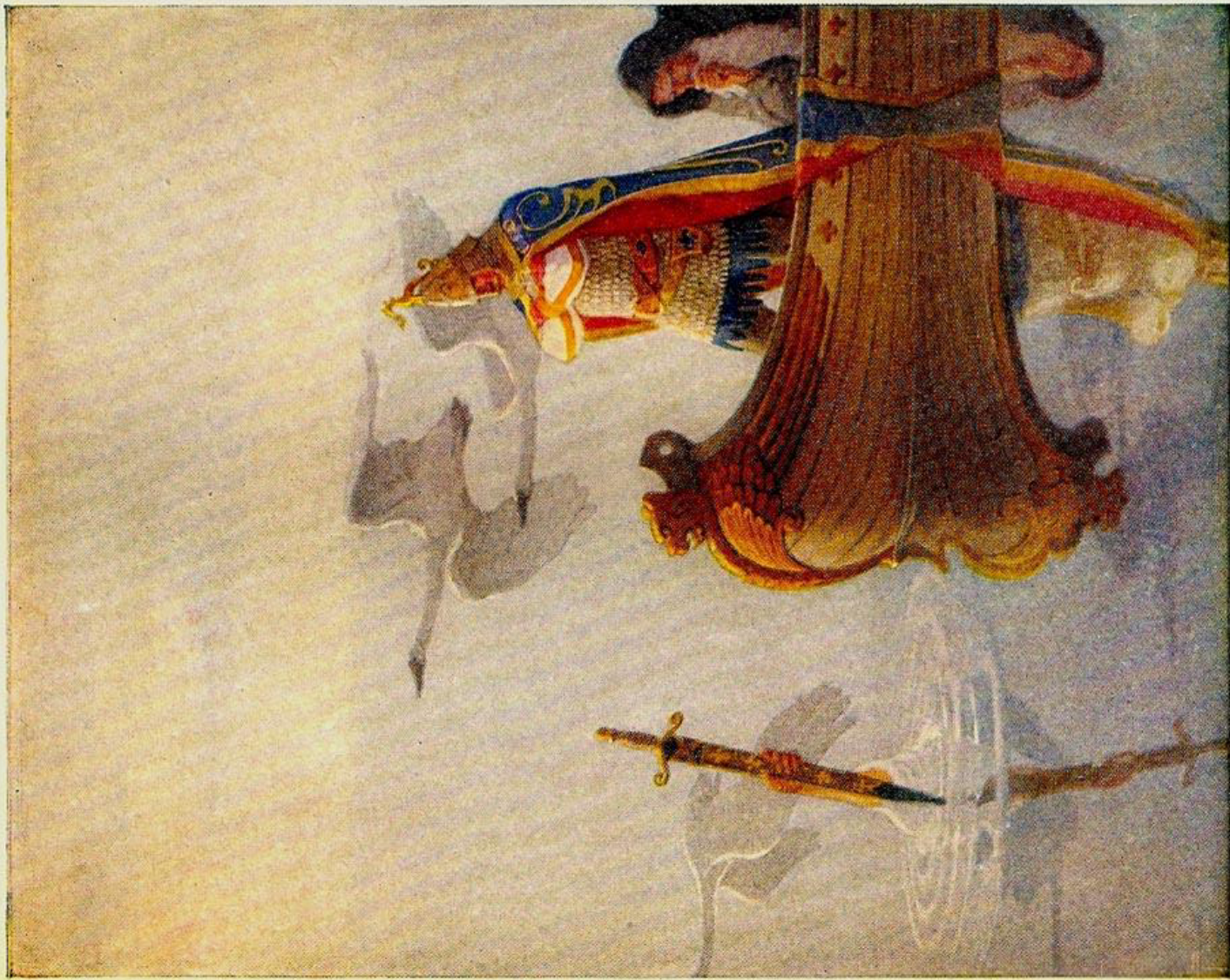


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And when they came to the sword that the hand held, King Arthur took it up

