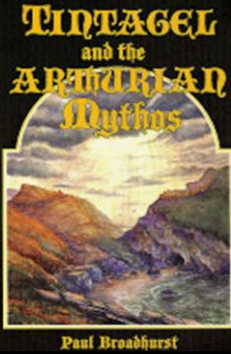


TINTAGEL AND THE ARTHURIAN MYTHOS

by Paul Broadhurst



On a dramatic rocky headland of the North Cornish coast stands Tintagel Island. Until recent times isolated and inaccessible, its legendary fame as an ancient royal citadel has spread across the centuries to be celebrated in folklore, mythology and a wealth of literature.

Medieval romance recalls it as the place which gave birth to the Arthurian cycle, with its heroic figures, questing knights and the search for the Holy Grail. Even today, it exerts a fascination that many people find irresistible.

Why should a remote spot like Tintagel have created such a unique place for itself in the annals of Britain's magical heritage?

Why, in popular tradition, was it the birthplace of King Arthur, where certain rocks, caves and other features are indissolubly linked with the legend of Arthur and the sorcerer, Merlin?

Tintagel and the Arthurian Mythos penetrates deeply into this mystery. It reveals that the significance of this rocky islet and its fame as a royal and mystical centre is rooted in an understanding that has been lost as successive ages have become more remote from nature. Its importance has been perpetuated in legends that have been the inspiration behind medieval and Victorian revivals, and which are now again being recognised as having an archetypal power to touch and transform the minds.

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