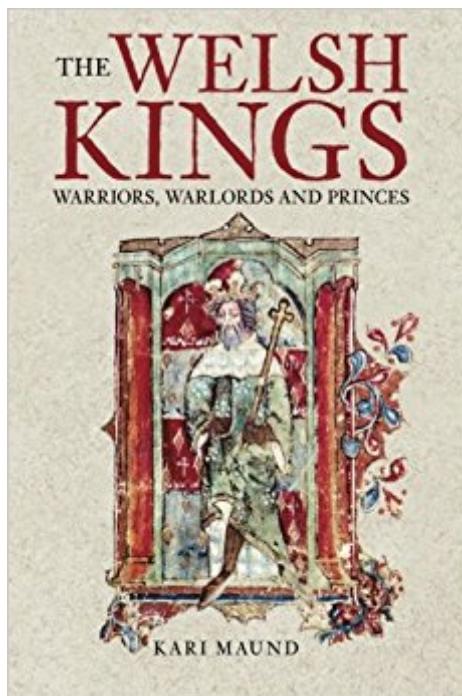


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The Welsh Kings: Warriors, Warlords, And Princes



Synopsis

In the early middle ages Wales was composed of a variety of independent kingdoms with varying degrees of power, influence, and stability, each ruled by proud and obdurate lineages. In this period a "kingdom of Wales" never existed, but the more powerful leaders, like Rhodri Mawr, Gruffudd ap Llywelyn, and Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, sought to extend their rule over the entire country. In this book, Kari Maund produces revealing pictures of the leading Welsh kings and princes of the day and explores both their contribution to Welsh history and their impact on the wider world. It restores these men to their rightful place among the past rulers of the island of Britain.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Tempus; 3rd edition (January 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0752429736

ISBN-13: 978-0752429731

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #826,160 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in Books > History > Europe > Great Britain > Wales #1301 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Royalty #1778 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain

Customer Reviews

Great reference book , I'm working on my Welsh history and ancestry! Thanks for the help!

Good short review which answers most questions.

Good reference when I can't remember the particulars of the subject's life.

Not as complete as I had hoped, but useful in my family tree work.

Great shape

"The Welsh Kings: Warriors, Warlords and Princes" by Kari Maund is like sauvignon blanc: it can be dry but ultimately it satisfies the palate. The "Warriors, Warlords and Princes" subtitle aptly summarizes the history of Wales from the end of Roman rule to the final subjugation of the last independent kingdom in 1283. From its sparsely-recorded days of early Welsh warriors carving rough kingdoms from the detritus of the receding Roman tide, the book moves on to the warlords of the eighth, ninth and tenth centuries resisting invading Irishmen, Norsemen and Saxons and on through the slow onslaught of the conquering Normans until Powys Wenwynwyn converted to a lordship under the rule of King Edward I. The author has researched the subject thoroughly. Maund provides a complete history from the fifth through the thirteenth centuries AD as told through the recorded histories of its many rulers. The names are repetitive to the point of dizziness (enough Gruffudds, Llywelyns and Owains to make your head spin with only the occasional Hywel or Bleddyn to provide relief) but the important part is the narrative of development from independent and competitive fiefdoms to eventual vanquishing by the encroaching English. "The Welsh Kings" could have used more detailed maps, and perhaps a timeline where major figures stood out prominently. It could definitely have used shorter paragraphs. Overall however, Maund's "The Welsh Kings" is a valuable work for the serious historian and a rich source of early Welsh history.

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