

THE CONTRIBUTION OF ENGLISH FOLKLORE TO THE WORLD

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First of all, we want to answer a question, like: What is folklore? Folklore is made of two words: folk, which means regional people, and lore, which means stories. Therefore, folklore reflects stories told by people in a particular region. Folklore can explain a population's values, beliefs, and preferred way of life with its literary themes. The term folkloristics, along with the alternative name folklore studies. They study on folklore. This can be exemplified by Thomas, William Bascom. They are also folklorists. Because they work and research on folklore. And also they focus on the study of human creativity within specific cultural and social contexts, including how such expressions (for example: stories, music, material culture and festivals) are connected to political, religious, ethnic, regional, and other forms of group identity.

Well, when we talk about English folklore, the most visible example come to our mind which is Robin hood. Facing to reality, English folklore consists of the myths and legends of England, including the English region's mythical creatures, traditional recipes, urban legends, proverbs, superstitions, and folktales. Its cultural history is rooted in Celtic, Christian, and Germanic folklore.

During the Renaissance in the 16th century, England looked to more European texts to develop a national identity. English folklore has continued to distinguish according to region, although there are shared elements across the country. Its folktales include the traditional Robin Hood tales and the Brythonic-inspired Arthurian legend, and their stories often included a moral imperative stemming from Christian values. The folktales, characters and creatures are often derived from aspects of English experience, such as topology, architecture, real people, or real events.

When most people think of English folklore, they think of giants, witches, and dragons. While these creatures are certainly a part of English folklore, they are only a small part of it. There are many famous figures and tales from English folklore that deserve to be more well-known. One of the main distinctions when compared to Greek mythology for instance is that English folklore is heavily influenced by the different settlers to the islands. There is a mixture of Celtic, Viking, and Roman traditions with tales inspired by the French Normans and Germanic Saxons.

There are many famous figures and tales from English folklore. One of the most famous is King Arthur, who is featured in numerous legends. Other famous characters include Robin Hood and Jack the giant killer, each of which has different importance.

King Arthur may not technically be considered folklore but many of his tales are stories about a legendary king, so there are aspects of English folklore here. King

Arthur is a well-known figure in British culture and there are many tales about him, such as the story of his sword Excalibur and the Knights of the Round table.

Robin Hood - Robin Hood is perhaps the most outstanding figure from English folklore. He was an outlaw who stole from the rich and gave to the poor, which is why he was very popular with ordinary people in England. For example in this ballad we can see Maid Marian, she is the love of Robin Hood. One female character in Robin Hood ballad which I can say that Maid Marian. Maid Marian is the heroine of the Robin Hood legend in English folklore, often taken to be his lover. She is not mentioned in the early, medieval versions of the legend. Her history and circumstances are obscure, but she commanded high respect in Robin's circle for her bravery and independence as well as her beauty and loyalty. For this reason, she is celebrated by feminist commentators as one of the early strong female characters in English literature.

Although English Folklore has many influences, its largest are its Christian, Celtic and Germanic. Non-Christian influences also defined English folklore up to the eleventh century, such as in their folksongs, celebrations and folktales. I am going to share one fact is that the 305 ballads collected by Francis James Child published during the English revival in the 19th century. During the English folksong revival, English artists scrambled to constitute a national identity consisted of England's past folksongs and their contemporary musical influences. Authors such as Francis James Child, Arthur Hugh Clough, and Chaucer made English folksong supranational because of the desire to import other languages' words, pronunciations, and metres.

English folklore also contained beliefs of the paranormal, including premonitions, curses, and magic, and was common across all social classes. It was not regarded with the same validity as scientific findings, but was made to be trusted by the restated accounts of a magician or priest's clients who saw the ritual's spectacle and so trusted in its productiveness. Even when such rituals failed, such as a 15th-century physician using a golden artifact to heal his patients, their failures were attributed to the inconstancy of magic.

As for English folktales, some such as Weber argue that they were passed down for the purpose of reflecting the grim realities of a child's life and hence instilled valued English morals and aesthetics. Others such as Tatar would counter that these folktales' fantasies were so removed from reality that they were a form of escapism, imaginative expression, and linguistic appreciation. Most folklorists would agree that the purpose of English folklore is to preserve, entertain, and instruct on how to participate in a just and fair society. From history we know that before England was founded in the year 927, Wessex and its surrounding areas' cultures were transformed by the invasion of the Danish King Guthrum between 865 and 878. The king of Wessex, King Alfred, prevailed against King Guthrum's troops in 878 and King Guthrum was baptised and became the ruler of Chippenham. Norse words were then introduced into the English

language, and eventually English folklore melded with Norse traditions such as in their iconography, which became more Greek, and in their clothing and folktales which adopted more Nordic elements. The folklore of the people of England continued to be passed down through oral tradition.

During the Renaissance, artists duplicated these traditions in the written word; such as Shakespearean plays' reflections of English folklore through their witches, fairies, folk medicine, marriage and funeral customs, superstitions, and religious beliefs. The Grimm brothers' publications such as German Legends and Grimms' Fairy Tales were translated from their original German and distributed across Europe in 1816. Their stories inspired publishers such as William Thoms to compile legends from within English folklore and without to compose an English identity. The stories that the Grimm brothers collected were integrated into the English school curriculum throughout the 19th century as educators of morality.

After reading The book “King Arthur” , you do not suppose all of English folklore’s main characters are not authority people or rich people. However some of them might be rich and authority people. But most of them are about ordinary people such Robin Hood and so on. Emma Lavelle is a freelance writer and keen photographer with an endless wanderlust. She said about English folklore, All around the world there are mysterious tales of local folklore that are still passed down through word of mouth, although it’s nowhere near as common nowadays to sit around the fire telling spooky stories as it once was. Due to the country’s rich history and its many invaders such as the Celts, the Vikings and the Normans, England is rife with interesting folklore tales, although the telling of them is sadly on the decline. Here are eight mysterious stories from across the north of England that are easy to believe when you’re visiting wind-swept moors and isolated villages. She is an armchair traveler and likes travelling .

This mysterious subject isn’t easily understood. Folklore is a difficult blend of storytelling, superstition, convention and custom that has its roots in practices that went on well before recorded history. Somehow, many of these fascinating ideas are still existent – and, in some cases, even believed – to this day. Whilst some stories and customs are quaint, others are downright creepy. Either way, you can’t visit the UK without learning a little about our long history of folklore. Besides another fact is that English folklore has woven a rich tapestry of magical and mysterious stories, which have been passed down through generations for centuries and take in some the most beautiful corners of the land. King Arthur’s Legend of the Sword and the brave antics of Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men are two of the most famous tales, but there are lesser-known yarns spun about vengeful queens, haunted forests and fluffy fairy steeds. So, to conclude English literature is famous for its outstanding and rich folklore among other nations.

The list of used literature:

1. English folklore by Thiselton Dyer / 2016.
2. M.Bakoeva, E.Muratova, M. Ochilova. ENGLISH LITERATURE. Tashkent 2010
3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Robin-Hood>
4. <https://englishhistory.net/folklore/>
5. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_folklore