

READING LIST:

If *Paradise Walk* piqued your interest in *The Canterbury Tales*, Arthurian Romances, English History, or the process of making a pilgrimage or long walk, Mary has suggestions for more reading.

The Canterbury Tales

There are several editions of *The Canterbury Tales* available, both in the original Middle English and in modern translations. I recommend the Norton Critical Edition with the Middle English text and excellent notes for the modern reader.

For a scholarly analysis of the “Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale,” see *The Wife of Bath: Complete, Authoritative Text with Biographical and Historical Contexts, Critical History, and Essays from Five Contemporary Critical Perspectives*, edited by Peter G. Beidler (Boston and New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin’s Press, 1996). This has both the Middle English text and a modern translation.

Most of Chaucer’s tales were derived from other sources and I depended on Sigmund Eisner’s *A Tale of Wonder: A Source Study of The Wife of Bath’s Tale* (New York: Burt Franklin: 1957).

King Arthur:

For a good background on the development of the Arthur story, I recommend: Anne Berthelot, *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*, translated from the French by Ruth Sharman (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1997).

If you want to get a taste of the early versions of the stories, start with the classic Thomas Malory *Le Morte d’Arthur*. Malory wrote the book while he was imprisoned at Newgate Prison and, like *Canterbury Tales*, it was first published by William Caxton in the late fifteenth century. I like the Modern Library edition.

Malory was influenced by the twelfth-century *Arthurian Romances* of Chrétien de Troyes, which are translated from French in a Penguin Classics edition.

For a collection of different Medieval versions you might consider the two volumes edited by James J. Wilhelm, and published by Garland Reference Library as *The Romance of Arthur: An Anthology of Medieval Texts in Translation*.

English History and Architecture:

The works of two twelfth-century historians were very influential to me: Geoffrey of Monmouth’s 1138 *History of the Kings of Britain*, and William of Malmesbury’s

Chronicles of the Kings of England (Historia regum Britanniae) and *The Early History of Glastonbury (De Antiquitate Glastoniensis Ecclesie)*. All three books are available in numerous editions.

Alec Clifton-Taylor, *The Cathedrals of England* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1967).

Ralph Adams Cram, *The Ruined Abbeys of Great Britain* (New York: Churchman, 1905).

Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, *Historical Memorials of Canterbury* (New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., 1906).

Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, *Historical Memorials of Westminster Abbey* (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co., 1899), 2 vols.

Literature and the English Landscape:

Russell Chamberlin, *The Idea of England* (New York: Thames and Hudson, 1986).

Margaret Drabble, *A Writer's Britain: Landscape in Literature* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979).

Canterbury Pilgrimages

Hilaire Belloc, *The Old Road* (London: A. Constable, 1904).

Shirley Du Boulay, *The Road to Canterbury: A Modern Pilgrimage* (London: Harper Collins, 1994).

Sidney Heath, *In the Steps of the Pilgrims* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1911).

Maurice Hussey, *Chaucer's World: A Pictorial Companion* (Cambridge University Press, 1967).

Seán Jennett, *The Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury* (Cassell: London, 1971).

Howard Loxton, *Pilgrimage to Canterbury* (Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1978).

Jack Ravensdale, *In the Steps of Chaucer's Pilgrims: From Southwark to Canterbury from the Air and on Foot* (London: Souvenir Press, 1989).

H. Snowden Ward, *The Canterbury Pilgrimages* (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1904).

Francis Watt, *Canterbury Pilgrims and Their Ways* (London: Methuen & Co., 1917).

Long Walks in England

Robin Bush, *Somerset: The Complete Guide* (Stanbridge, Dorset: Dovecote Press, 1994).

Adam Nicolson, *The National Trust Book of Long Walks in England, Scotland and Wales* (New York: Harmony Books, 1981)

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Bones and Other Relics of Thomas Becket

John Butler, *The Quest for Becket's Bones: The Mystery of the Relics of St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1995). This is the indispensable book on Becket's corpse.

The Limoges Reliquaries