Lyonesse In History,
Its Chronology

To better establish *Lyonesse* within the genre of Historical Fiction, let us work with the ***historicity*** of King Arthur, two generations after the saga of *Lyonesse*, (*Green Pearl,* p. 534).

This examination has all been meticulously excavated by the scholarly author and highly regarded researcher, Graham Phillips, BBC broadcaster, radio journalist, and acknowledged authority tapped for many TV-appearances (in the U.S. especially for programs on the History Channel ™). In what follows, including the chronology chart, I herewith cite, quoting both directly or paraphrasing, from his books:

- ***King Arthur, The True Story*** (w/ Martin Keatman), 1992.
- ***The Chalice of Magdalene, The Search for the Cup That Held the Blood of Christ,*** rev. 2004
- ***The Lost Tomb of King Arthur, The Search of Camelot and the Isle of Avalon,*** 2016.

A quick word on peoples and language: Celts comprise the Britons and Irish branches (among others); in a streamlined sense Britons = the Welsh of today.   Celtic language is Gaelic, which during 3.5 centuries under Roman hegemony became admixed with a portion of Latin to become Brythonic; Brythonic later evolved into modern Welsh.   (It is more complicated than this simplification.)

Two misunderstandings must be diffused at the outset: the names 'Arthur' and 'Uther Pendragon'. Note: We can observe Uther Pendragon and King Arthur listed in the genealogy of the first book's front end-sheet.   (Among the VIE, only vol. 36 has it.)

'Arthur' is a form of by-name or totemic name, where the first syllable, *Arth,* from the Brittonic language and also preserved in modern Welsh, means 'bear', which stood for a common Celtic practice of the period wherewith warlords would assume the battle-name of an animal.   He may not only have used the Brythonic word *Arth,* but also the Latin word for bear, *Ursus.* His original title may therefore have been *Arthursus,* later being shortened to Arthur.   (One could venture as *Arthursus* the meaning might be The Bear's Bear, or perhaps The Double-Bear, although that's me wondering, not Graham Phillips.)

'Uther Pendragon' is another by-name or designation. 'Uther' almost certainly derives from the Welsh word *'uthr',* meaning 'terrible' (= 'frightening'). 'Pendragon' from the Welsh means 'head (or chief) dragon'.   Thence together, the name means the 'terrible head dragon'.

The task before Graham Phillips is to unmask the actual historical figures abaft these by-names.

This he does! Here is not the place to portray all that out.   It is achieved!   Read & enjoy the books!

The actual historical man behind King Arthur was a Votadini war-chief named Owin Ddantgwyn!

His father's name was Enniaun Girt, who was bestowed the title 'Uther Pendragon'!

Who were the Votadini (click link)?   This bears upon Uther Pendragon and King Arthur.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Votadini

- The Votadini were a Brittonic people of Iron Age Britain. Their territory was in what is now south-east Scotland and north-east England. First Century Romans recorded the Votadini as a British tribe, and between 138–162 they came under direct Roman military rule as occupants of the region between Hadrian's and the Antonine Walls.
- When the Romans drew back to Hadrian's Wall the Votadini became a friendly buffer state, getting the rewards of alliance with Rome without being under its rule, until 410 when the Romans withdrew from Great Britain.
- Cunedda, legendary founder of the Kingdom of Gwynedd, North Wales, is understood to have been one of their chieftains. A later king of Gwynedd was none other than another Votadini, Enniaun Girt, a.k.a. Uther Pendragon. His son, war-chief The Bear ('Arthur'), became king of another Brittonic kingdom in central England, but Arthur's nephew also became king of Gwynedd.

It does not matter in the least that Jack did not know there is <u>valid historicity to King Arthur</u>. What difference would that have made? And contrarily, tying *Lyonesse* to a **King Arthur Legend** actually *does* offer a tether to History simply because, quite traditionally, it has always been accepted that <u>this</u> particular Legend had some viable anchor within Real History! That is because we owe a demarcated <u>thanks to Gildas, Bede & Nennius</u> for the notion that there exists a glimmer of deep English history pertaining to this king / war chief, shadowy as he might seem. Jack, the anglophile, who had traveled England from top to bottom, would have been fully appreciative about this long-held ***potentiality*** of Real History behind the King Arthur Legend. So I would answer my query just above: NO difference would have been made. It is perfectly fine that ***all*** that Jack ***could've*** been aware of was the Legend of King Arthur!

King Arthur happily is that propitious phenomenon that is the 'golden railroad spike' conjoining two distant 'U.S. coasts', which is to say, the one coast of Real History and the other coast of Fiction. The Fictional *Lyonesse* saga takes place in the era two generations before King Arthur, that very entity who it serendipitously turns-out to be is the Votadini war-chief named Owin Ddantgwyn from Real History. We can run a chronology of Real History, and we can run a Fictional genealogy, and ***in principle*** they do not have to ever actually 'touch' at any point, although they can certainly interweave together (going by other factors), never touching.

But Jack's genealogy – purely of itself – presents a quite dastardly thorn! It implies that King Arthur and Uther Pendragon have <u>not</u> a Votadini heritage out of Real History, but instead a Lyonessian legacy going back many Fictional generations to Olam Magnus at the root. Though that doesn't demolish the thesis, it weakens the very idea that Lyonesse is *Historical* Fiction! History says Votadini; Fiction says Olam Magnus! Well, egad! . . . is this resolvable? I aver: absolutely YES … IT IS.

And the reason is because Jack is a genius! – irrespective that all Jack knew at the time-of-writing was the Legend of King Arthur.

It is resolvable because Vance establishes a lineage to Uther Pendragon from *Lyonesse,* and a prescient way–given all Jack <u>could</u> know–to branch away from that lineage rooted in the Fiction of the Elder Isles.

Alas, in character so typical of happenstance, the situation as it stands is a little rannygazoo because just at this point of resolution there is a dissever between the text and the genealogical chart{!}, which

results in two ways to view that lineage. However, **either way** does NOT invalidate the lineage{!}; it is just how directly one chooses to see that lineage.   This is not in any way a devastating issue.

Suldrun's Garden on p. 3 says: *"Uther II fled to Britain (there to sire Uther Pendragon, father of Arthur)".* Let's note in passing Jack's sagacious idea to fictionally name two as Uther I and Uther II, leading in heritage to an actual Uther Pendragon who *does* exist in History!   How heapingly, cleverly suggestive!!

Jack said *"to sire",* not 'father of' as he specified between Uther Pendragon & Arthur. 'Sire' in Jack Vance is wobbly. That is because 'sire' can mean either 'father' <u>or</u> 'progenitor'. (Only with horses does 'sire' always mean 'father'.)   For example: on the same page in SG Jack says Fafhion Long-nose *"sired"* Olam III; but rather he directly 'fathered' Rordec II by the genealogical chart, who 'fathered' Olam III. It would seem Jack's meaning of 'sired' therefore is 'progenitor of'.   The statement: "Fafhion Long-nose is the progenitor of (or he 'sired') Olam III" would be a True statement. He's the grandfather of Olam III.

But alas, no, not so fast!, because in *Madouc* on p. 3 Jack says, "Olam III, son of Fafhion Long-nose".   So in that case it leaves us to ask: **who** the bally heck then is Rordec II? Brother of Olam III? If so why mention him since he's of <u>zero</u> relevance to any later lineage lines, besides which he is placed <u>under</u> Olam III like a progenitor!   (Spatterlight Press removed Rordec II.)

Given that confusion drawn from 'sire', we can see the lineage from Uther II to Uther Pendragon in two ways: 'father of', or 'progenitor for'. Uther II <u>fathered</u> Uther Pendragon as Jack indicates <u>textually</u>. Uther II is then of course Arthur's grandfather. This means perforce that Uther II is of the generation of Kings Casmir & Audry II, so that King Arthur can remain two generations from the saga of *Lyonesse,* which is to say, away from the reigns of Kings Casmir and Audry II.

That is the interpretation from Vance's text.

The interpretation from the genealogy chart does not match that!   It shows Uther II contemporaneous – i.e., **horizontal** – to King Phristan of Lyonesse, directly preceding King Casmir. To get from Uther II to Uther Pendragon therefore takes an interpolation. But this is really no major difficulty.

Looking at the genealogy chart (either VIE or Spatterlight Press) – *did you ever notice this?* – things are weird because Jack's genealogy is <u>missing a generation</u> in the King Arthur / Uther Pendragon line!

Uther II is of the generation of (or horizontally to) Phristan, King of Lyonesse, the generation just preceding King Casmir. Then there is a gap in that legacy line, which is illustrated at that point in VIE to be a very thin conduit (and in Spatterlight Press as a vertical dotted line, the only dotted line! by the way), creating somewhat of a mystery as to what that's meant to mean. (Dotted line likely = unknown.) Notwithstanding, **no one** of that line is named **and** belonging to the generation of King Casmir!

Under the genealogical proviso that Uther II is contemporary with King Phristan, certainly in that case Uther Pendragon is *NOT* directly fathered by Uther II since that makes Uther Pendragon land in King Casmir's generation rather than one generation later, and thus *CANNOT* be fathered by Uther II, because then King Arthur would be of Aillas' generation!

We can also see on the chart that Uther Pendragon himself is of the generation immediately *after* King Casmir. Recall that the Lyonesse saga is two generations away from King Arthur, and Uther Pendragon, his father, counts as one of them. Uther Pendragon is ***necessarily*** in the generation of Suldrun &

Cassander, and of Trewan & Aillas. Recall, the saga of *Lyonesse* is back away from them one generation by its having King Casmir and King Audry II reigning.

(Though VIE's wonky genealogical tree is a bit slapdash, with balloons making Aillas look a generation younger than Suldrun, something flagrantly absurd.   Spatterlight Press makes that even worse. Rather than pseudo-lengthening vertical lines-of-descent to make counterfeit room to squeeze everything in, thereby ruining the horizontal lines-for-contemporaneous lives, they instead needed two side-by-side full pages to spread-out a proper genealogical chart!   As is, that genealogical chart is a sad disaster.)

So what happened during this very thin (or dotted) genealogical line from Uther II to Uther Pendragon???   In other words, during the exact generation of King Casmir?

Jack at this juncture was absolutely prophetic{!} because he had had Uther II go to Britain! (This holds true equally in the text-based case.)   One must ask oneself what at first seems an odd question: in the unlimited universe of fictional imagination, why did Jack ever concoct to have Uther II go to Britain? Why not Armorica?   Aquitaine?   Even Ireland?

Well the factor that plays into this choice of Britain is that Uther II ***necessarily*** had progeny, indicated by the thin lineage-line duct, ***in order to produce*** Uther Pendragon ***of Britain*** shown by the Lyonesse genealogy. From the unlisted generation – represented by the thin lineage-line – he, or she, or they, would tally to be in the generation of King Casmir. Jack never gives any names, but simply uses the illustrated thin legacy line and leaves it blank. (Or in Spatterlight Press, the dotted-line.)   That person is (or those persons are) NOT physically resident within Lyonesse, or even on the Elder Isles!   So it makes a sort of sense not to give any name . . . Uther II has gone to Britain, incommunicado!

To now mesh this Fiction (Lyonesse genealogy) with History (the actual Votadini), someone ***in Britain*** – **ahem! Uther II** – and not in Armorica, not in Aquitaine, went north to join the Votadini, manifestly marrying into that Scottish tribe, and it is THAT which makes that lineage-line become coherent to History! It could have been Uther II himself (the text case where Uther II was coetaneous with King Casmir), and/or it could have been one or any of his progeny, male or female (the genealogical-chart case where Uther II was coterminous with King Phristan).   Whichever the case (textual or gene.-chart) *his* half-Scottish ***progeny*** ('fathered' or 'sired' meant as 'progeny') of that union would certifiably already *BE* Votadini by descent. And that issue is, namely, Enniaun Girt, Uther Pendragon!   Likewise on to King Arthur in the following (second) generation.

In the Historical Fiction of Lyonesse, Uther Pendragon and King Arthur have dual heritages: Votadini is the Historical legacy, Olam Magnus is the Fictional legacy.   Lyonesse is a Historical Fiction.

That makes for just a pippin of a circumstance!   Thanks, Jack!

With that imbroglio out of the way, much of what is key in the actual history of Britain relative to *Lyonesse* is when Rome leaves. After departure of the Roman Legions, the Britons face streams of invasions from the Irish in the West, and invasions from the Picts in the North. This is *BEFORE* ingress of the Angles, Saxons & Jutes. Note: The term "Pict" originated around the 3rd century AD as a generalized exonym and pejorative used by the Romans to indicate a people having blue tattooing.

A tyrannical family named Vortigern ascend as overlords to the various separate regional kingdoms of central and southern Britain. A historically devastating strategy is invoked by Vortigern II via his inviting

mercenary tribes from Jutland, Europe, to fight the Irish and Picts. These tribes – the Jutes, Saxons, Angles who all intermix to become the Anglo-Saxons – wind up even disposing himself in their overtaking of almost all Britain.

"Gildas later denigrated Vortigern [II] for his misjudgment and also blamed him for the loss of Britain. He is cited at the beginning of the genealogy of the early Kings of Powys" (Wikipedia: Vortigern).
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vortigern

A vastly superior Romano-Celtic leader ascends to the surviving assorted British arms: Ambrosius Aurelius, descendant in Aurelius family of Marcus Aurelius. *"Ambrosius's parents were slain by the Saxons and he was among the few survivors of their initial invasion."* He reorganizes the crushed British forces, and, relevant now, invites a far more loyal tribe to assist in this war for Britain – the Votadini, who had been loyal to the Romans.   Here it is well to speculate that if:
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> Arthur was the son of a Votadini King of Gwynedd [viz., Uther Pendragon], he certainly would have made an ideal commander-in-chief of the British forces. He [as warlord called The Bear] came from a hardy warrior tribe whose people had considerable first-hand experience fighting Anglo-Saxons, the Irish and the Picts. More importantly, he would almost certainly remained isolated from the political and religious wranglings that divided the Britons.

Thus so, here steps into History the person **nailing the time-mark for *Lyonesse***: King Arthur, The Bear.

{ Sidenote: As an example for why I discount Geoffrey of Monmouth: he *"transforms Ambrosius into the uncle of King Arthur, the brother of Arthur's father Uther Pendragon, as a ruler who precedes and predeceases them both. He also appears as a young prophet who meets the tyrant Vortigern;   in this guise, he was later transformed into the wizard Merlin"*, (Wikipedia: Ambrosius_Aurelianus). **}**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambrosius_Aurelianus

NOW we can interlace a chronology of Real History side-by-side to the genealogy given in *Lyonesse.* I will presume the common span 20 years for each generation in *Lyonesse.*   (Nowadays, generations commonly span 30 years since marriages ensue later; also, in Late Antiquity lifespans were shorter.)

Chronology embraces points of relevance. The Votadini ruled between the two Roman walls; Marcus Aurelius is ancestor to Ambrosius Aurelius who is strongly connected to both Uther Pendragon and King Arthur (and King Arthur succeeds him); Christianity spreads throughout Europe, etc., etc.

The Real History Chronology & Genealogy of Britain & Lyonesse

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(Working from VIE having Rordec II; elsewise adjusted years are in **red**)

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700 BC   Celts migrate from Austria-Hungary to the British Isles

43-44 AD   Britain brought under Roman rule

122   Hadrian's Wall erected in northern England

141-143   Hadrian's Wall extended into Scotland (Antonine Wall after Emperor Antonius Pius)

161-180   Marcus Aurelius becomes Roman Emperor

280 Olam Magnus, first King of Lyonesse, then King of the Elder Isles

284-305   Diocletian and Maximian are Roman co-Emporers

300 Set-marker for Rordec I   Olam Magnus, first King of Lyonesse, then King of the Elder Isles

320 Set-marker for Olam II   Set-marker for Rordec I

325   The Roman Empire adopts Christianity as state religion

340   Interregnum conflicts: Quarnitz I, Niffith I, and Niffith II who was killed by Fafhion Long Nose   Set-marker for Olam II

360 Set-marker for Fafhion Long Nose, King of the Elder Isles   Interregnum conflicts: Quarnitz I, Niffith I, and Niffith II

380 Set-marker for Rordec II   Set-marker for Fafhion Long Nose, King of the Elder Isles

400   Set-marker for Olam III

410   Roman legions leave Britain – recalled in defense of the Visigoth's sack of Rome

410-500   Upon exodus of Roman law & order, England breaks down into petty kingdoms; internecine warfare; additionally pressures anew from invading tribes of Irish and Picts

420   Kingdom of Powys is founded in central England, (75 years later 'Arthur' becomes its king, and then succeeded by his son)

420 Set-marker for Uther I

425   Nennius places the initial rise of Vortigern in this year

430   Birth of Ambrosius Aurelius, descendant in Aurelius family of Marcus Aurelius

435   Vortigern becomes overlord of the tribes of Britons

440   Huns attack Roman Empire . . . [could that be related to Uther's II decision?]

440   Set-marker for Uther II, who goes to Britain

446   Pictish raids recommence in northern Britain; further Irish invasions of West Wales take place

447   Death of Vortigern

449   Vortigern II invites Anglo-Saxon mercenaries into Britain to fight the Picts and Irish

451   Attila the Hun defeated at Chalons; 453 Attila dies . . . (just an incidental for context)

455   Saxon Revolt; British forces are defeated

455-460   Anglo-Saxons take control of eastern Britain; Vortigern II is disposed, (dies 465)

459-460   Romano-Celtic Ambrosius surmounts as British leader; British defenses are reorganized; an Imperialist revival takes place in Britain; the Scottish tribe Votadini, counting Cunedda and his mercenaries, are invited into North Wales to expel the Irish; Cunedda founds the Kingdom of Gwynedd in northern-most Wales, (Uther Pendragon becomes its king 20 years later)

460   Set-marker for LYONESSE: Casmir-Sollace of Lyonesse, King Audry II of Dahaut

473   Anglo-Saxons advance westward

475   Ambrosius becomes High King of Britain; the Votadini help him oust the Vortigern family

476   Death of Romulus Augustulus, the last Roman emperor ; end of Roman Empire of the West

477   Ambrosius leads Britons to push back Anglo-Saxons

479   Anglo-Saxons confined to east and southeast England

480   Enniaun Girt (Uther Pendragon) becomes King of Gwynedd in North Wales, where the most Romanized traditions of life have continued to hold sway.   Military stalemate between the Britons and the Saxons in south England; the Angles suffer defeat in the north of Britain.

480   Set-marker for Uther Pendragon, first generation after *Lyonesse*

485   Renewed Anglo-Saxon advance in the southeast

485-488   Owin Ddantgwyn (warlord Arthur), son of Enniaun Girt, fights for Ambrosius against the Angles;   Arthur is a war chief.

488-493   Anglo-Saxons pushing west all across Britain; advent of aggressive Arthurian campaigns

495   Owin Ddantgwyn (Arthur) becomes King of Powys, a kingdom in the heart of Britain

493-500(?)   Battle of Badon; Gildas describes the battle as such an "unexpected recovery of the [island]" that it caused kings, nobles, priests, and commoners to "live orderly according to their several vocations."   Gildas depicts Arthur as a war commander, not a king himself; Nennius identifies Arthur as the leader of the victorious British force at Badon.

500   Owin Ddantgwyn (Arthur) assumes control of Britain as King-successor to Ambrosius, not disposer;   after Battle of Badon occurs, there blossoms a long (~20 year) peace

500   Set-marker for King Arthur, second generation after *Lyonesse,* and commencement of a long peace called The Era of Camelot

519   Battle of Camlann; possible death of Arthur; Anglo-Saxons renew advances into British territory

519   End of widespread peace under King Arthur . . . end of The Era of Camelot

519-520   Cuneglasus King of Powys (central England);   Cuneglasus is son of Owin Ddantgwyn; Maglocunus King of Gwynedd (N. Wales);   Maglocunus is nephew of Owin Ddantgwyn

545   Gildas writes *On the Ruin and Conquest of Britain;*   Maglocunus is middle aged

731   Bede completes *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*

830   Nennius writes *The History of the Britons*

871   *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* is completed

927   Saxon king Athelstan becomes ruler of all England, the first Unified Kingdom of England established

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Next for **Lyonesse In History** will be the section entitled:
"Its Geography"