



Merlin once and future wizard: The figure of Merlin then and now

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During my presentation, you will see how the figure Merlin has developed from the medieval seer to the most powerful wizard that the world has ever known. The aim of this talk is to demonstrate the development of Merlin as a character, beginning from his medieval account and comparing it to its three modern counterparts presented in the series *The Adventures of Merlin*, *Once Upon a Time* and in the film *Shrek 3*.

These three depictions of Merlin remain in opposition to one another, each defying one stereotype about race, age, and wisdom. Although they all present Merlin as a wizard, each of them emphasizes different parts of his original character. While comparing these three accounts of Merlin with the primary figure of Merlin, some similarities with medieval texts can be noticed, like the depiction of Merlin as a young boy and an old- wise man, and his connotations with the Saint Grail. This research will be based on findings from *Historia Regum Britanniae* by Geoffrey Monmouth, *Cinema Arthuriana: Twenty Essays* by K.J. Harty, *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Thomas Malory, and *Merlin and the Grail: Joseph of Arimathea, Merlin, Perceval: The Trilogy of Arthurian Prose Romances* attributed to Robert de Boron, *Merlin a Casebook* by Peter Goodrich, and Marina Warner's *Once upon a Time: a short history of fairy tale* to enumerate a few.