



## **British Goblins: Welsh Folk Lore, Fairy Mythology, Legends and Traditions (1881)**

*Wirt Sikes , T.H. Thomas (Illustrator)*

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**British Goblins: Welsh Folk Lore, Fairy Mythology, Legends and Traditions (1881)** Wirt Sikes , T.H. Thomas (Illustrator)

1881. In a certain sense Wales may be spoken of as the cradle of fairy legend. It is not now disputed that from the Welsh were borrowed many of the first subjects of composition in the literature of all the cultivated peoples of Europe. In the ground it covers, while this volume deals especially with Wales, and still more especially with South Wales, where there appear to have been human dwellers long before North Wales was peopled, it also includes the border counties, notably Monmouthshire. Illustrated. Contents: The Realm of Fairy; The Spirit World; Quaint Old Customs; Bells, Wells, Stones and Wagons.

## British Goblins: Welsh Folk Lore, Fairy Mythology, Legends and Traditions (1881) Details

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## **From Reader Review British Goblins: Welsh Folk Lore, Fairy Mythology, Legends and Traditions (1881) for online ebook**

### **Jeanna Aarhus says**

The Industrial Revolution scared the fairies away, and now our current administration is talking of eliminating the EPA. The world is cruel!

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### **Katy says**

Interesting source for folks who are interested in the various mythologies of Wales.

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### **Ethan Mckenzie says**

British Goblins, written in 1880, does a good job at its stated purpose- collecting and loosely categorizing Welsh Folklore of every category, ranging from the reasons behind certain customs and superstitions of daily life, to descriptions and associated stories of various faeries, goblins, and giants, to descriptions of apparitions and the view of the afterlife, to more fantastic things, like dragons, standing stones, and magic wells and stones.

It stays away from sneering at the superstitions-most of the time- but some of this has to be expected in the era. Mr. Sikes also does a decent enough job tying in how changing Christian beliefs intermixed with native folklore, and occasionally remarking on similar customs(often very unusual ones) that are present almost everywhere in the world.

The reason I removed one star, is simply that it isn't really insightful enough to impress much, and often turns to Greek predecessors in mythological archetypes with little reason I can see, and treats them as unassailably "obvious." Something, which, I think stems from older models of cultural progress that are entirely too focused on Rome and Greece.

If it's important- I got this in digital format from Forgotten Books.

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### **Lorna says**

A poignant collection of folk lore taken mainly from the small rural villages and towns of Wales -particularly North Wales. It was rather lovely to read a 'natural history' of sorts of places where I often walk. Many of these stories lie hidden or lost. Like another reviewer put it, the fairies have largely been chased away by the industrial revolution and I suppose ultimately the Enlightenment.

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### **Laura says**

i have not read this yet, but for research purposes i need to know if there are actual fairies making an appearance in this book? i know that they appear commonly in welsh folklore, and so im looking for some mythology collections. thank you (and im sorry my question was so poorly worded)

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### **Emma says**

Interesting volume classifying and re-telling fairy lore from Wales. Stories are various collected by the author or collected from earlier sources. The book does well as collecting and categorising these stories without offering too much larger commentary on why people believed the things they did.

The edition I read was printed by Wildside press. The physical object is lovely - bound with a sense of age and printed on good quality paper to give it the air of an artifact. Unfortunately, images from the original text were not reproduced but the image captions were, at times, left blank. Typographical errors were also preserved so make of that what you will.

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### **Gill says**

A book, very much of its time but with echoes of another world which has disappeared on the surface. An interesting insight into folklore, beliefs and customs, many of which still linger under the surface of modern life and need preserving

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### **William Frost says**

Reading this gave me a fascinating look at folk-lore and fairy stories from someone who was much closer to the time period than we are. Some of the chapters were dull, and many of the stories were redundant, but I enjoyed it overall and recommend it.

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### **Kenneth says**

This book, originally published in 1880, is a collection of mainly Welsh folklore dealing with fairies, ghosts, spirits, assorted quaint customs connected to life events and holidays, and, in the last section, sacred wells, bells, standing stones (think Stonehenge only not quite as spectacular), dragon legends etc. Although a somewhat anecdotal approach is taken, I suspect the author has in fact preserved a good deal of information that might have otherwise been lost. Some of his informants were older people who had memories of the early 19th century and had heard of things alleged to have happened in the 18th century and before. The author, Wirt Sikes, was the American Consul in Cardiff, Wales, beginning in 1876.

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### **Tina says**

Very good, but I think I read this several years before I joined Goodreads as it seems very familiar.

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## **?Ruth? says**

I found this book difficult, not particularly bad but rather dry and written in a very old-fashioned style. However I've always been fascinated by myths and legends of any sort and so the content was interesting in it's own way. The way the book is written is more like a list than a continuous narrative, with mini-stories lumped together into categories, which are then divided into chapters. This would make it an excellent reference book but not really a book for entertainment or relaxation :).

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## **Andrew says**

An enjoyable enough book and one which I got from Project Gutenberg as it was in the public domain and the subject matter was of interest as recently I have read a few european texts based on legends and fables. It was an enjoyable enough read..the version I read missed the illustrations but still has a large index offering other suggested readings and as such was well sourced,In some ways however 'welsh goblins' might have made a better title as much of the tales and folklore where based in Wales and England,Scotland and Ireland make for very brief entries. Tales of Corpse candles,Goblins,Hags,Fairys,Giants and Arthurian folklore however abound and although some of the tales have little impact it was a fun book and worthwhile if only to keep memory of some of the tales through the decades. an enjoyable book then...but not one I am likely to re-read soon and I suspect I could have found better books on the subject but for now...this did OK.

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