

Albus Dumbledore

Headmaster of Hogwarts



Considered by many the greatest wizard of modern times, Dumbledore is particularly famous for his defeat of the dark wizard Grindelwald in 1945, for the discovery of the twelve uses of dragon's blood and his work on alchemy with his partner, Nicolas Flamel. Professor Dumbledore enjoys chamber music and tenpin bowling.

Hengist of Woodcroft



Hengist was a Saxon King of Britain shortly before King Arthur's time, who helped King Vortigern defeat Scot and Pict rebels. Later, he led a rebellion of his own, and eventually founded the county of Kent. According to rumors in the wizarding world, he was persecuted by Muggles, presumably in England, left for Scotland, and founded the village of Hogsmeade. Many believe the Three Broomsticks Inn was originally his home.

Circe

(SEER-see)

In Greek legend, a sorceress, the daughter of the sun god Helios and the ocean nymph Perse. By means of drugs and incantations she turned humans into lions, wolves, or swine. Odysseus visited her on his return from the Trojan War, and she changed his companions into swine. Odysseus himself was protected by an herb given him by Hermes, and he compelled the sorceress to restore his companions.



Merlin

Magician and wise man in Arthurian legend

In Geoffrey of Monmouth's History of the Kings of England, Merlin was an adviser to King Arthur, with magical powers that recalled his Celtic origins. Later narratives made him a prophet of the grail and gave him credit for the idea of the Round Table. In Sir Thomas Malory's Morte Darthur he brought Arthur to the throne and served as his mentor throughout his reign. His downfall was linked to his infatuation for an enchantress, who imprisoned him after learning the magic arts from him.



Morgana

Morgan le Fay - "Morgan the Fairy"

Enchantress in Arthurian legend. Skilled in the arts of healing and changing shape, she ruled Avalon, the island where King Arthur retreated to be healed of his wounds after his last battle. She had learned her magic powers from books and from Merlin. In other stories she is Arthur's sister and enemy, and seduces him to produce a son who later kills Arthur.



Ptolemy

(TOL-uh-mee) Claudius Ptolemaeus;
Greek astronomer and Mathematician (AD 127-145)



In order to explain retrograde motion of the planets, he refined a complex geometrical model of cycles within cycles that was highly successful at predicting the planets' position in the sky. The earth-centered Ptolemaic system became asserted in until the sun-centered Copernican system replaced it. His Geography contained an estimate of the size of the earth, a description of its surface, and a list of places located by latitude and longitude. Ptolemy also dabbled in mechanics, optics, and music theory.

Alberic Grunniön

Alberic or Alberich



The name of the all-powerful king of the dwarves in Scandinavian mythology, a hideous gnome popularized as the thief of the magic ring of gold guarded by the Rhine Maidens in the *Nieblungenlied* by the German composer Richard Wagner (1813-83). He amasses a huge fortune in gold by stealing, but is later captured by the gods and forced to give it all up in return for his freedom. One of the prizes given to a 'hero' of the Ring Cycle is an Invisibility Cloak.

Paracelsus

orig. Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim.
German-Swiss physician and alchemist (1493-1541)

He valued the common sense of common people more than the dry teachings of Aristotle, Galen, and Avicenna, and stressed nature's healing power. All were welcome at his lectures (which he gave in German, not Latin) at the University of Basel, but such broadmindedness scandalized the authorities, and eventually he was forced to flee the city. His methods were ahead of their times and he devised treatments that weren't used elsewhere for centuries.



Agrippa

Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim
German mystic and alchemist (1486-1535)

His career was diverse: secret agent, soldier, physician, orator, and law professor. In 1524 became personal physician to the queen mother at the court of King Francis I in Lyons. Some believed him to be not only an alchemist but a demonic magician. After several stays in prison, variously for debt and criminal offenses, he died in 1535.



Clíodna

(CLEEV-nak)

Celtic Irish goddess of beauty and the otherworld, the eldest daughter of the last Druid of Ireland. She had three magical birds that could sing the sick to sleep and cure them. Clíodna fell in love with a mortal, Ciabhan, but the sea god Manannan Mac Lir put Clíodna into a magic sleep and then sent a wave to pull her back into the Land of Promise.

