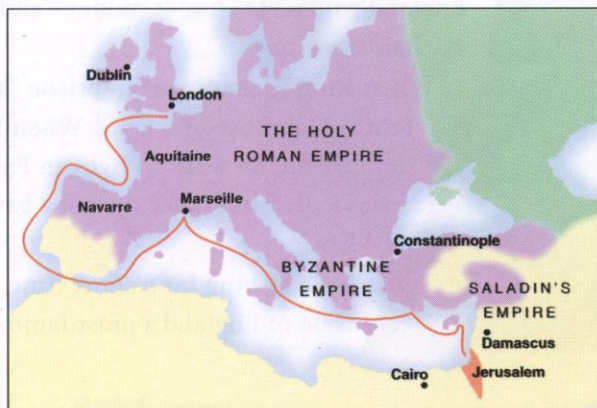


# King Richard, the Lionheart

**K**ing Richard was born in Oxford on 8th September 1157. He was the third son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was also called the Lionheart, because of his great courage.

Richard was a tall, athletic<sup>1</sup> man. He was well educated<sup>2</sup>. He loved music and composed<sup>3</sup> songs in French and Provençal. He spoke Latin very well.

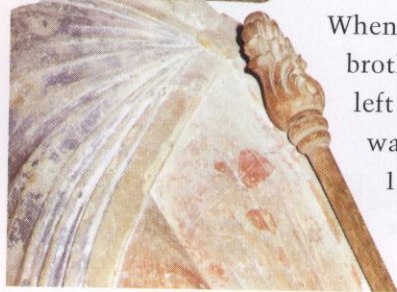
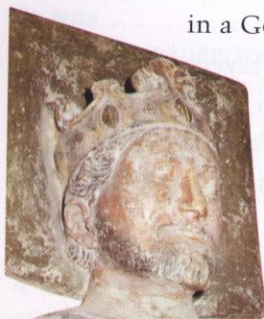
He became King of England in 1189, but he only stayed in England seven months! After, he went to the Holy Land on the Third Crusade. He wanted to free the city of Jerusalem from the Muslim leader, Saladin. At that time, everyone in Western Europe wanted to free the Holy Land.



1. athletic : 健壮的。 2. well educated : 教养良好的。 3. composed : 创作。

He organised a fleet<sup>1</sup> and an army. In 1190, he led them to the Eastern Mediterranean<sup>2</sup>. There he conquered Cyprus<sup>3</sup> and freed the coast of the Holy Land. He was a great warrior. But he did not free Jerusalem.

Duke<sup>4</sup> Leopold of Austria captured King Richard in Vienna when he was returning from the Holy Land. Richard remained



in a German prison for fourteen months.

After fourteen months,

England paid a big sum of money<sup>5</sup> and King Richard was freed.

When King Richard was in prison, his brother John became King. When Richard left prison, he went to fight in France. He was killed in France during a battle, in 1199.

He was king for a short time, but he is one of England's most famous kings.



1. fleet : 舰队。

2. the Eastern Mediterranean : 东地中海地区。

3. Cyprus : 塞浦路斯。

4. Duke : 公爵。

5. a big sum of money : 一大笔钱。



# Robin meets Maid<sup>1</sup> Marian

**W**hen Robin Hood was a boy, his best friends were Marian Fitzwater and her brother, Mark. Robin played with them and taught them to use the bow and arrow. He also taught them to fight with the sword.

Robin loved only Maid Marian, and she loved only him. One spring day Marian's father, Lord Robert Fitzwater of Malaset, said to her, 'Marian, you are a beautiful maid. Soon you must marry. There is a very rich nobleman who wants to marry you.'

'What is his name?' Marian asked.

1. maid: 女孩。

# Robin Hood



'His name is Sir Guy of Gisbourne, a good friend of the Sheriff of Nottingham.'

When Marian heard this, she was very unhappy. This was terrible! She did not want to marry Sir Guy of Gisbourne. She loved Robin Hood and wanted to marry him.

She decided to run away to join Robin Hood. She disguised<sup>1</sup> herself as a knight<sup>2</sup>. Then she took her horse and went to Sherwood Forest.

Robin Hood was in the forest. He was coming from Nottingham, and was disguised as a beggar.

They met in the forest. It was evening and it was almost dark.

When Robin saw the knight, he asked, 'What are you doing in the forest?'

'What are *you* doing here, beggar man?' answered the knight.

They did not recognise each other.

'This is outlaw country. Go back! You can't stay here. We don't know you.' Robin said.

'I cannot go back! I am not afraid of outlaws,' answered the knight, taking out a sword. 'I am ready to fight you!'

And so the fight began. Both were experts with the sword. But Robin fell to the ground.

The knight said, 'Now, take me to your leader. Take me to

1. disguised : 伪装。

2. knight :







Robin Hood!' She took off<sup>1</sup> her helmet<sup>2</sup> and Robin was very surprised. It was his dear Marian! Robin took off his beggar clothes. Marian recognised Robin. She, too, was very surprised! Then, they kissed.

There was great happiness in Sherwood Forest that evening. Marian and Robin were finally together. Friar Tuck married<sup>3</sup> them after a few days. There was a big wedding celebration in the forest.

Maid Marian was now part of Sherwood Forest. She was gentle and kind to all. Everyone loved her.



1. **took off** : 脱掉。

2. **helmet** :



3. **married** : 证婚。