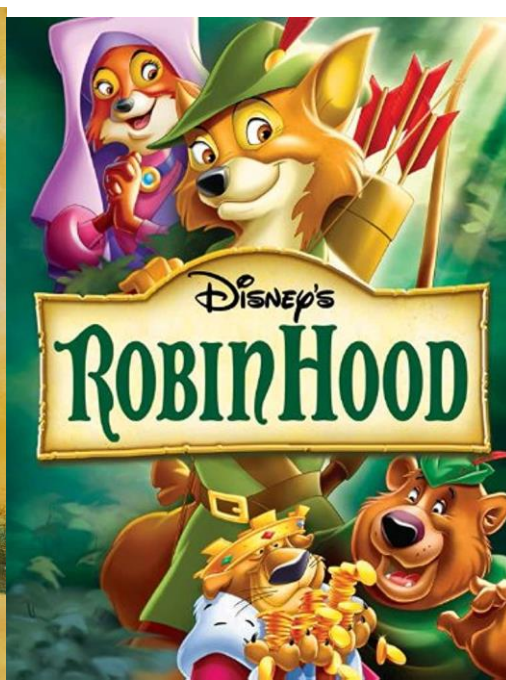


1938



1973



1991



1991



2010



2019

ACCEPTED MYTH

Was his last name really Hood?

“Merry Men”

Sir Guy of Gisborne

Origins of the Robin Hood legend was known during his time.

The events occurred during the reign of King John (1199-1216)

HISTORICAL REALITY

Unknown. Assigning “Hood” was a way in which to denote someone being a fugitive.

The phrase “merry men” occur in the earliest known ballad. (1450). Little John and Will Scarlet (R.H. nephew) are mentioned here.

RH kills him and cuts off his head. Also killed the Sherriff of Nottingham

The Robin Hood story had been passed down through sonnets. *The oldest references to Robin Hood are not historical records, or even ballads recounting his exploits, but hints and allusions found in various works; from 1228 onwards, the name Robinhood occur in the rolls of English justices; 1261-1300 there are 8 such references.*

↳ Earliest sources have him as a commoner; not an aristocratic.

The first documented appearance of Robin Hood was in Piers Plowman (written in 1377); the main body of tales date from the 15th century. Scottish historian John Major, writing in 1521, argues that Robin Hood was active in 1193-1194.

Two of his contemporaries’ date Robin Hood to 1283-1285, and to 1266. An epitaph recorded by Thomas Gale in 1702 recorded a grave purporting to be that of Robin Hood at Kirkless (where legend says he was killed), dated to 1247.

Two other outlaws lived during the time, and whose activities are similar to Robin Hood; it is possible Robin Hood was a reflect of them, created for the masses.

Early sources point to the reign of King Edward (1272 through 1377, depending on which one)

Sherwood Forest as the forest

The literary evidence firmly places the outlaw activities in the north, near Sherwood Forest and in the Barnsdale area.

RH is a supporter of King Richard

This allegiance first appeared in 1521, in a book by a historian

“Steal from the rich, give to the poor”

Earlier sonnets have him stealing from the rich to line his own pockets

Maid Marion

The earliest medieval Robin Hood stories gave him no female companion. Marion is first introduced into the narrative in the 16th century sources. (Culturally, a Marion and a Robin were figures in the May Day festivities which involved archers and forests)

1592, play portrayals of her are inconsistent, some as a Norman and some as a Saxon.

1598, she appears as Robin Hood’s wife. Here, her original name was Matilda before she changed it. she also has a cousin, Elizabeth of Staynton

The 19th century antiquarian, Joseph Hunter, identified a Robert Hood, yeoman from Wakefield, Yorkshire, in the archives preserved in the Exchequer, whose personal story matched very closely the story of Robin in Anthony Munday's play, and this Robert Hood also married a woman named Matilda, who changed her name to Marian when she joined him in exile in Barnsdale Forest (following the Battle of Boroughbridge) in 1322, and who also had a cousin named Elizabeth de Staynton who was Prioress of Kirklees Priory. If these parallels are not coincidental, then the Marian of Robin Hood fame, whose origins may be distinct from the Marian of the May games or of Monday's play, may derive all her roots from her association with the historical Robert Hood of Wakefield

A 1716 source identifies “Clorinda” as Robin Hood’s bride.

Friar Tuck

Seems to enter the legend through the May Games too.

Robin Hood had his land taken from him.

A “William, son of Robert Rodehod, fugitive” was part of an outlaw criminal gang “whose chattels were seized without warrant” was pardoned in 1262.