

- Tolkien, J.R.R. *A Middle-English Vocabulary* (1922). Influential work of philology, written during Tolkien's time as an academic at the University of Leeds. See also his foreword to Walter Haigh's *A New Glossary of the Dialect of the Huddersfield District* (1928).
- Topsell, Edward. *The Historie of Foure-Footed Beastes* (1607). Includes a section on dragons, in which Topsell confidently asserts "this which I have written may be sufficient to satisfie any reasonable man, that there are winged Serpents and Dragons in the world."*
- Tuchman, Barbara. *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th-Century* (1978). Fascinating work of narrative history that frames the medieval world in the context of the 'Little Ice Age'.
- Warburton, John. *Vallum Romanum : or, the History and Antiquities of the Roman Wall* (1753). Detailed account of Hadrian's Wall – the model for the northern Wall in the series - including numerous illustrations of symbols and carvings.*

Online

- 'History behind Game of Thrones': <http://history-behind-game-of-thrones.com>. Essential guide to the series and its parallels with World History.
- 'A Wiki of Ice and Fire': <http://awoiaf.westeros.org>. Preeminent online encyclopedia, curated by a community of fans.
- Holland, Tom. 'Game of Thrones is more brutally realistic than most historical novels': <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2013/mar/24/game-of-thrones-realistic-history>. Superb short article that explains how "different events – and different periods – elide to consistently potent and surprising effect" in Martin's work. See also the same author's 'Game of Thrones: The Real History': <http://www.empireonline.com/movies/features/game-thrones-history>.

Please note: * indicates an item from our **Special Collections**. ID may be required to view these items.

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Tomes of Thrones:

Some History and Books behind *Game of Thrones*

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"When you play the game of thrones, you win - or you die." - Cersei Lannister

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Listed here are many of the books used to create our pop-up exhibition 'Winter is Coming: Game of Thrones and the Leeds Libraries' Collections'. All are available in either our Information and Research or Local and Family History departments, with many available for loan.

Books

- Aulnoy, Marie Catherine La Mothe, Comtesse d'. *The History of the Earl of Warwick, Ser-named the King-Maker* (1708). The political and amorous life of a key 'War of the Roses' participant; to be usefully compared with, among others, Ned Stark, Peter 'Littlefinger' Baelish and Jaime Lannister (the 'Kingslayer').*
- Biondi, Giovanni Francesco. *An History of the Civil Warres of England* (1641). Detailed history of the 15th-century 'War of the Roses' – for Lancaster and York, read Lannister and Stark.*
- De Joinville, John Lord et al. *Chronicles of the Crusades* (1848). Collection of accounts from the Crusades, including extracts from a contemporaneous Arabian MS which mentions 'Greek Fire' and the Mamluk slave armies. *
- Druon, Maurice. *The Iron King* (1956 – signed by the author). First entry in the 'grimdark' historical fiction series called the "original *Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin.*
- Eddison, Eric Rucker. *The Worm Ouroboros* (1922). Influential high-fantasy, of which Leeds Central Library holds the manuscript edition – see: <https://secretlibraryleeds.net/special-collections/the-e-r-eddison-collection>.*
- Godwin, William. *Lives of the Necromancers* (1834). Highly readable history of 'magick', which includes a chapter on John Dee – whom Elizabeth I called "my philosopher." Dee's forays into the darker depths of alchemy and the occult call to mind the fallen Maester Qyburn.*
- James I, King of England. *The Workes of the Most High and Mightie Prince* (1616)* Includes the texts 'Daemonologie', 'The True Law of Free Monarchies' and 'Basilikon Doron' – works that illuminate the 'divine right of kings', as seen in the horrific actions of King Joffrey.
- Larrington, Carolyne. *Winter is Coming: The Medieval World of Game of Thrones* (2016). Essential reading for comparing the *Game of Thrones* world to the people, places, events and culture of 'real world' history
- Malory, Thomas Ser. *The History of King Arthur and of His Noble Knights of the Round Table* (1927). Classic work of chivalry that contains – among many other parallels with *Game of Thrones* – an account of a duel fought by a Knight as 'champion' for one accused of a fatal poisoning.
- Niebuhr, Barthold George. *A Dissertation on the Geography of Herodotus* (1830). Mainly of interest for its map of the Ancient World, the delineation of which compares intriguingly with that of Martin's Essos.*
- Peel, Frank. *Battle of Towton: A Paper Read Before the Heckmondwike Antiquarian Society* (1885). Detailed description of the bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil – to be read with the 'Battle of Winterfell' in mind.
- Pollard, A.J. *The Wars of the Roses* (2001). Short modern account.
- Polo, Marco. *Concerning the Kingdoms and Marvels of the East* (1871, with maps and other illustrations). Classic account of travel to the 'exotic' East and encounters with the Mongols – on whom the Dothraki are clearly based.
- J.B. Post ed., *An Atlas of Fantasy* (1979). Contains maps of the influential Tolkien and Eddison worlds.
- Ridpath, George D. *The Massacre of Glenco* (1703). Blood-curdling account of a notorious event in Scottish history – one of several influences for the 'Red Wedding'.*
- Sandford, Francis. *A Genealogical History of the Kings and Queens of England, and Monarchs of Great Britain: 1066-1707* (1707). Includes chapters on Isabella of France and Margaret of Anjou – both likely sources for the character of Cersei Lannister. *
- Saxton, Christopher. *Atlas of the Counties of England and Wales* (1590). The first survey of English counties, reflecting the huge importance of early map-making on the creation of fantasy worlds like Martin's. A facsimile is also available (both *).
- Schedel, Hartmann. *Liber Chronicarum* (1497). A history of the world that makes room for a wealth of strange creatures. A facsimile edition is also available (both *).
- Sumption, Jonathan. *The Hundred Year's War: Volume 1 – Trial by Battle* (1990) and *The Hundred Year's War: Volume 2 – Trial by Fire* (1999). Authoritative history of this bloody medieval conflict.