Quests of the Round Table -----Table of Contents-----

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Quests of the Round Table

Object of the Game

The goal of the game is to be the first player to become a Knight of the Round Table. A player raises his rank by successfully completing "Quests" and defeating other players in "Tournaments." A players receives "Shields" for each successful Quest and each victory in a Tournament. A player starts with the rank of Squire, and, as soon as he receives enough Shields, he advances in rank to become a Knight, and then a Champion Knight. When a player earns enough Shields to become a Knight of the Round Table, he wins the game. (Note: In the directions, "he" always means "he or she.")

Game Components

The game components consists of Shields and three (3) separate decks of cards: the Rank Deck, the Adventure Deck, and the Story Deck.

The Shields

There are four (4) sets of differently marked Shields. Each set consists of ten (10) identical Shields. The players earn Shields for victories in Quests and Tournaments and in some Events.

Rank Deck

There are three kinds of Rank Cards: Squire, Knight, and Champion Knight. One of these cards is placed face up in front of the player to show his current rank. A player can have only one Rank Card face up at any time. As a player advances in rank, he hands in the card for his previous rank and takes the card representing his new rank.

Adventure Deck

There are five types of Adventure Cards: Foe Cards, Weapon Cards, Ally Cards, Amour Cards, and Test Cards. Twelve (12) of these cards are dealt to each player at the beginning of the game. Adventure Cards are drawn, played, and discarded throughout the game.

Foe Cards are used to challenge your opponents during Quests.

Weapon Cards may give extra strength to a Foe, and they may increase your Battle Points when fighting a Foe during a Quest or fighting other players during a Tournament. The number of Battle Points provided by a Weapon is printed on the card.

Ally Cards represent characters from the legends of King Arthur and his court. An Ally gives you extra strength during Quests and Tournaments. Some Ally Cards have special abilities that are described on the individual card.

Amour Cards are played to increase a player's Battle Points during Quests and Tournaments. You also can use the indicated number of Bids when faced with a Test.

Test Cards are played to challenge players to a "bidding contest" during a Quest.

Story Deck

There are three types of Story Cards: Quest Cards, Tournament Cards, and Event Cards. A player draws one Story Card at the beginning of his turn. This card determines players' actions during that turn. The card is discarded at the end of the player's turn.

Quest Cards announce an upcoming adventure. However, for the adventure to take place one player must "sponsor" the Quest. Whoever sponsors a Quest challenges opposing players by pitting fierce Foe Cards, Weapon Cards and Test Cards against them.

Tournament Cards announce a gathering of all players of the realm to participate in a friendly contest of arms called a Tournament.

Event Cards announce a special Event for that turn which will involve one or more players.

Game Set-up

Before starting play, separate the cards in the Rank, Adventure and Story Decks. Shuffle the Story Deck and place it in the center of the table.

Place a Squire Card face up in front of each player to indicate he begins with a rank of Squire. The remaining Rank Cards are placed aside for use later in the game. Each player places his ten (10) identical Shields next to his Squire Card.

Shuffle and cut the Adventure Deck. Deal twelve (12) Adventure Cards to each player.

Game Sequence

The player to the left of the dealer has the first turn. Play always proceeds in a clockwise direction.

At the beginning of each turn, a player turns over the top card of the Story Deck to see what will occur during his turn. What happens depends upon the type of card that is drawn:

Quest Card: A Quest is announced, and the players follow the rules described in "Quests."

Tournament Card: A Tournament is announced, and the players follow the rules described in "Tournaments."

Event Card: An Event is announced, and the player whose turn it is must follow the rules described on the Event Card.

A player may never hold more than twelve (12) cards in his hand. Any cards more than twelve (12) either must be immediately discarded or put into play.

For example, a player with ten (10) cards draws three (3) cards, giving him a total of thirteen (13) in his hand. He holds an Ally card; he may play it instead of discarding to bring his cards in hand back to twelve (12).

Battle Points

In the game you will battle other players during Tournaments and will battle Foes during Quests. How well you do in these battles depends upon your strength. In Quests of the Round Table, the more Battle Points you have, the stronger you are.

A Squire has 5 Battle Points, a Knight has 10 Battle Points and a Champion Knight has 20 Battle Points (these are listed on the Rank Cards). However, you can increase your strength during a Quest or Tournament using Weapon, Ally, and Amour Cards. You add the Battle Points shown on these cards to that of your rank. *For example, a Squire with a Horse has* 5+10=15 Battle Points.

The Foes you fight during Quests also have Battle Points which are indicated on their cards. A Foe may only increase his Battle Points by using Weapon Cards.

Shields & Rank

Each time you win a Tournament or Quest, you receive a certain number of Shields. The number of Shields you win is shown on the Tournament or Quest Card. These Shields are placed on your Rank Card and are used as counters as you progress in rank. The number of Shields needed to advance are:

From Squire to Knight 5 Shields
From Knight to Champion Knight 7 Shields
From Champion Knight to Knight of the Round Table 10 Shields

When you advance in rank, you exchange your current Rank Card for one showing your new rank.

Sometimes you will have more Shields than are needed to advance to the next rank. If so, place the extra Shields on your new Rank Card. These count toward what is needed to advance to the next rank.

Quests

Whenever a player draws a Quest Card from the Story Deck, a Quest is announced. Once the Quest is over, the player who sponsored the Quest will draw additional cards from the Adventure Deck to supplement his hand. Players who survive the Quest receive Shields which are needed to advance in rank.

Sponsoring a Quest

The player drawing a Quest Card immediately decides whether to sponsor that Quest. If he decides not to sponsor the Quest, the next player on his left decides whether to become the sponsor. If this second player decides not to sponsor the Quest, the next player to his left chooses, and so on. If all players decline to sponsor the Quest, the card is placed in the Story Deck's discard pile and that player's turn is over.

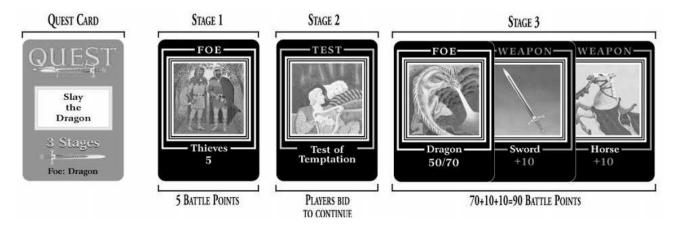
The Quest's sponsor does not go on the Quest, but instead creates the Quest by setting up groupings of Foe, Weapon, and Test Cards which challenge the other players.

Setting Up a Quest

The Quest begins as soon as someone decides to become the sponsor. The Quest Card is placed in the middle of the table. The card states how many "stages" are in the Quest. Each stage represents an encounter which the players participating in the Quest must overcome to complete that Quest.

For each stage, the sponsor places a Foe Card, combined Foe and Weapon Cards and/or a Test Card from his hand face down on the table in groupings beside the Quest Card. Each grouping of cards represents a "stage" of the Quest. The number of stages played must be equal to the number of stages shown on the Quest Card.

As the illustration below shows, the Slay the Dragon Quest has three (3) stages. The sponsor must place 3 groupings of card(s) (stages) face down next to the Quest Card.



As the illustration shows, only one Foe or Test Card may be played during each stage of the Quest. The sponsor may strengthen a Foe's Battle Points by giving it Weapon Cards from his hand. Each Foe uses as many Weapons as the sponsor wishes to give, but it can never be given two Weapon Cards of the same type, such as two Battle axes.

The sponsor must arrange the Foe Card, or Foe and Weapon Cards, so that the total number of Battle Points coming into play at each stage increases from stage to stage. There must be more Battle Points (Foe Cards + Weapon Cards) in the second stage than in the first, and so on.

Foe Cards with extra Battle Points: Some Foe Cards have two Battle Points values, for example, "15/25." When a Foe is named on the Quest Card in play, and if the sponsor uses that Foe, the higher Battle Point value applies; if the Foe is not named the lower value applies.

For example, the Slay the Dragon Quest is sponsored, and the sponsor plays the Dragon Foe Card with Battle Points of "50/70." The higher value is honored.

Test Cards: Test Cards do not have Battle Points and may be played in any stage of the Quest, regardless of the number of Battle Points in play in the previous or next stage. Only one Test Card may be played in each Quest.

Playing a Quest

After the sponsor has set up the stages of the Quest, each of the other players decides whether to join the Quest. Players who choose not to join the Quest must sit out until that Quest is over. The Quest now begins and is played one (1) stage at a time.

Sponsor's Role

The Quest's sponsor never fights any Foes nor does he bid on Tests. He oversees the Quest, making sure the rules are followed.

Before the Quest begins, the sponsor hands out one (1) card from the Adventure Deck to each player going on the Quest.

The sponsor announces whether each stage contains a Foe Card or a Test Card:

If a Foe is encountered: Each player must fight the Foe. Before discovering what type of Foe he is encountering, however, he must decide how much of his strength he wishes to use to overcome the Foe's Battle Points.

If a Test is encountered: A bidding contest ensues. Players bid cards among themselves to see who is willing to play the greatest number of cards in order to pass the Test.

A Foe is encountered

If the upcoming stage is against a Foe, each player on the Quest now decides which cards in his hand he wants to use against the Foe. He places the selected cards face down on the table.

The player's minimum strength is shown by the Battle Points of his current rank. He increases his strength by playing Weapon, Amour and/or Ally Cards. A player may play more than one Weapon Card per stage, as long as he does not play two Weapon Cards of the same type. A player may not play more than one Amour Card per Quest. A player may play any number of Ally Cards at any time. The Battle Points provided by these cards are added to those of his rank.

After players in the Quest place the cards they want to use for that stage face down on the table, the sponsor then turns over his Foe Card or combined Foe and Weapon Cards for that stage. The players turn over their cards for that stage.

Each player adds up his Battle Points and compares them to those of the Foe. If the player has more Battle Points than the Foe, or the player and Foe tie, the player proceeds to the next stage of the Quest and draws one (1) card from the Adventure Deck. If the Foe has more Battle Points, the player is defeated and must sit out the remainder of the Quest. In any stage, more than one (1) player can defeat the same Foe. In this case, all players to do so draw one (1) card from the Adventure Deck and continue to the next stage of the Quest.

After each Quest stage, players must discard all Weapon Cards used for that stage. Amour cards are discarded at the end of the Quest. Ally Card may remain in play.

A Test is encountered

The Quest's sponsor announces the Test at the beginning of the stage in which it is encountered. He immediately turns the Test Card face up. A bidding contest now begins. The players bid cards from their hands to see who will pass the Test. Players who choose not to bid do not continue on the rest of the stages of the Quest.

Bidding begins with the player to the left of the Quest's sponsor, and the player announces how many cards he bids to pass the Test. The next player to the left then bids. Each player's bid must be higher than the last, or the player drops out of the Quest. This continues until all players on the Quest have made a bid, or have chosen to drop out.

The player who has bid the most number of cards passes the Test, and he discards the number of cards that he bid. Only the highest bidder goes on to the next stage of the Quest. That player draws one (1) card from the Adventure Deck.

Sometimes a player will encounter a Test Card when he is the only player left in the Quest. In this case, the player bids the minimum bid indicated on the Test Card. If there is no number on the Test Card, the player must make a minimum bid of three (3). If he is unable to bid three (3) cards, he drops out and the Quest is over.

Free Bids

All Amour Cards, as well as some Ally Cards, give players "free bids" if the player has the card in play during a Test. Free bids are given on the Amour or Ally Card. The number of free bids reduces the number of cards that must be discarded if that player wins the bid.

For example, a player wins a Test by bidding nine (9) cards. He has the Queen Guinevere Ally Card in play which gives him three (3) free bids. He would, therefore, have to discard only six (6) cards of his choice from his hand.

The "Mordred" Foe Card

This card may be used as a normal Foe or to remove another player's Ally from play. To remove an Ally Card, you simply say which character you wish to remove as you play the card. The Mordred Card and the Ally Card are immediately placed in the Adventure Deck's discard pile.

You may play the Mordred Card during your turn or at any point during a Quest or Tournament in which you are engaged.

The End of the Quest

The Quest ends when either:

- 1) all players are defeated or forced to drop out, or;
- 2) one or more players successfully make it through every stage of the Quest.

All players who successfully complete the Quest receive as many Shields as there were stages in the Quest. If all players on the Quest are defeated or drop out, no Shields are awarded. The sponsor draws from the Adventure Deck, whether players on the Quest won, were defeated, or dropped out. He draws a number of cards equal to:

The number of cards he used to sponsor the Quest

PLUS

The number of stages in the Quest

For example, in the illustration on page four (4), the sponsor draws eight (8) cards (5 cards used to sponsor the Quest + 3 stages in the Quest) from the Adventure Deck.

*****Discarding: Once a Quest ends, players place all Adventure Cards used during the Quest, except Ally Cards, into the Adventure discard pile. (Ally Cards remain in play for the duration of the game unless removed by an Event Card or Mordred Card.) Discard the Story Card to its discard pile.

It is now the turn of the player to the sponsor's left. When all the cards of either Deck are used up, reshuffle the Deck and continue play.*****

The preceding text between the asterisks are actually a correction to the rules that is glued onto the original rules. I can't remove it or figure out much of what is actually on the page at this point. The original paragraph starts out "Once a Quest ends, the sponsor places the cards he used to set..." and ends "...are used up, reshuffle them and continue play."

Tournaments

In the time of King Arthur, Tournaments were held in which knights from all over the realm challenged each other to jousts and sword fights to see who was most skilled and courageous. Whenever a Tournament Card is drawn from the Story Deck, each player decides whether to enter the Tournament. The player drawing the card announces his decision first, followed

by each player to the left. If only one player enters the Tournament, the Tournament is not held.

The winner of a Tournament is the player with the most Battle Points.

Tournament Play

Each player entering the Tournament draws one card from the Adventure Deck.

Next, each player decides which cards from his hand he will use to challenge other players. Players may play Ally, Weapon and Amour Cards to increase the number of Battle Points of their rank. As usual, a player may not play more than one Weapon of the same type or play more than one Amour Card. Ally Cards on the table are added to your Battle Points.

In unison, all players place the cards they chose face up in front of them. The player who has the most Battle Points provided by his Rank Card, Ally Card(s) on the table, *plus* the cards he has just played wins the Tournament. A player may choose to play zero (0) cards from his hand, giving him only the Battle Points of his Rank Card and Ally Card(s) on the table.

The winner of the Tournament receives a number of Shields equal to the number of players who entered the Tournament. Some Tournaments also give the winner bonus Shields. The number of bonus Shields is on the Tournament Card.

Tie-Breaking in Tournaments

The players in a tie discard the Weapon Cards just played. Ally and Amour Cards remain in play. Each of these players then decides which cards he will play in the tie-breaking round. This second round is played exactly like the first. If there is still a tie after the second round, all players in the second round receive as many Shields as the number of players who originally entered the Tournament.

Winning the Game

As soon as a player earns enough Shields to become a Knight of the Round Table, he declares himself the winner. It is possible for more than one player to declare himself a winner during the same turn. If this happens, all players who have just become Knights of the Round Table must participate in a final Tournament.

The winner of this last Tournament wins the game. If this final Tournament is also tied, those players in the tie all win the game.

Two-Player Game

Sometimes, there will be only two players available to play *Quest of the Round Table*. The rules are the same for a two-player game. However, there will be only one player on a Quest, and there will never be competitive bidding in Tests. This means the player must bid what the card says, or, if there is no minimum bid shown on the Test Card, the player must bid three (3).

Legend of King Arthur Quest for the Real King Arthur: A Selective History

Was there really a King Arthur? Historians do record the "Battle of Camlan, in which Arthur and Medraut (Mordred) fell", in A.D. 539 (Annales Cambriae). Arthur also appears as a character in the ancient Welsh romance *Kilhwich and Olwen*. Some scholars have traced Arthur and other characters in the story to the ancient Celtic pantheon. Other scholars believe there were two Arthurs, an ancient British god and a human general or chieftain. The legend of Arthur grew over hundreds of years with English, Breton, and French contributors, and gradually the stories merged. Sir Lancelot was not a part of the story until 1215, when the book *Prose Lancelot* appeared, and the romantic story of Lancelot and Guinevere was added to the legend. Sir Thomas Malory brought the various legends together in 1469 in his book, *Le Morte d'Arthur (The Death of Arthur)*. This book elaborated the order of chivalry, the knightly code of honor.

For many centuries, peace was enforced in the British Isles by the Romans. The Roman Empire stretched from Jerusalem to Britain, and the "Pax Roman" (Roman Peace) prevailed throughout the Empire for about 200 years following the reign of Augustus (27 B.C. – A.D. 14). When the roman Empire collapsed after A.D. 476, Britain was left without military protection. She was under attack on all sides by the Scots, Picts, and Saxons. It was Arthur the King who repelled these invading hoards, united Britain, and forged a balance between the old Druid religion and the new Christianity.

According to the legend, Arthur was the son of King Uther Pendragon. Immediately after his birth, Arthur was given into the keeping of Merlin, the Druid magician. To protect Arthur, Merlin sent him to Sir Hector, who brought the child up as his own son. After Uther's death, the teenage Arthur astounded all by drawing a sword out of a massive stone. None of the others claiming the right to be king could budge the sword. In later adventure, Arthur was given the enchanted sword Excalibur by the Lady of the Lake. Arthur could suffer no wound as long as he wore Excalibur's magical scabbard.

King Arthur made beautiful Guinevere his Queen. Their court was at Camelot. He sat with his strong and valiant knights about a great round table. They soon came to be known as the "Knights of the Round Table". Arthur and his knights fought bravely in many battles far and wide. In the end his treacherous nephew (or son; his parentage is in question), Sir Mordred, betrayed him and, during Arthur's absence, tried to take the throne and the Queen from him. Arthur and Mordred met in battle at Camlan, where Mordred was killed by Arthur, and Arthur was mortally wounded for Excalibur's scabbard had been hidden from him by the wicked and treacherous Morgan Le Fey. Arthur was taken to the island of Avalon, where the Lady of the Lake cared for him. According to legend, Arthur will return to Britain in her time of need.

Many authors have been fascinated by the legend of Arthur. T.H. White's *Once and Future King* became the basis for the musical 'Camelot' (1960) and the animated film 'The Sword in the Stone' (1963). Another, more recent film interpretation can be seen in 'First Knight' (1995).

The Characters

Sir Galahad: The noblest knight of the Round Table, Galahad was the son of Lancelot.

Sir Gawain: The oldest son of King Lot of Orkney, Gawain was the mightiest knight of the Round Table. Sir Gawain undertook the challenge of the Green Knight.

Queen Guinevere: She was the daughter of King Leodengrance and wife of King Arthur. She fell in love with Sir Lancelot, thereby causing the downfall of the Order of the Round Table. When Arthur sentenced her to death, Lancelot rescued her, and she spent the rest of her days in a nunnery.

Queen Iseult: The wife of King Mark of Cornwall, but she loved Sir Tristan, his nephew, and a knight of the Round Table.

Sir Lancelot: The son of King Ban, Lancelot was the greatest knight of the Round Table. He lived in the castle Joyus Gard. After the tragic deaths of both Guinevere and Arthur, Lancelot became a hermit. Look on the Lancelot card for the Queen's scarf, a token of her love for this great knight.

Merlin: He was a powerful magician and advisor to King Arthur. As a boy, Merlin had the gift of "sight"; he could prophesy the future. Merlin's enchantment of Uther Pendragon caused Queen Igraine to mistake Pendragon for her husband, Gorlois. When she gave birth to Arthur, he was entrusted to Merlin for his protection. In the end, Merlin was imprisoned in a cave by the enchantress Niniane.

Morgan Le Fey: The half sister of King Arthur became a powerful sorceress and Arthur's enemy. She hid the magic scabbard of Excalibur, which made Arthur mortal in his final battle at Camlan.

King Pellinore: A fearless knight, Pellinore once overpowered Arthur and almost killed him. Merlin, using his magic, saved Arthur. Pellinore became obsessed with the search of the Questing Beast, a beast no one had ever seen. It had the body of a leopard, the head of a serpent, the thighs and tail of a lion, and the hooves and legs of a deer. Though he searched tirelessly, Pellinore never found the Questing Beast.

Sir Percival: The Holy Grail appeared to Sir Percival in a vision. He went on an unsuccessful quest for it.

Sir Tristan: His love for Queen Iseult caused him to be banished from Cornwall. He entered King Arthur's Court, where he was a powerful knight. Eventually, he was forced to flee to Brittany. There he married another woman who was also named Iseult.

About the Illustrations

The armor depicted on the cards is authentic, although it spans a range of dates that follow the actual period in which King Arthur reigned. In Arthur's time, chain mail and surcoats, along with primitive helmets, were all that knights would wear. In interpreting the Arthurian era, many artists have taken the artistic license to use armor from later periods. Our artists have used both early and late armor. The Black Knight is wearing German armor of the 14th century. He has on his left side a falchion, a special armor-denting, sickle-shaped sword. The Green Knight is wearing 15th century Venetian armor. His skirt is of a type worn at the time both by English and French knights. The Evil Knight wears 15-16th century ceremonial armor. Must of the rest of the armor is from earlier periods.

Illustrations by Annie Campbell, Storn Cook and Terry Donnelly

Game Design by Scott Kimball

Suggested Reading

Bradley, Marion Z. *The Mists of Avalon* (Ballantine Books, 1982)

Bulla, C.R. The Sword in the Tree (Harper, 1988)

Lang, Andrew, ed. King Arthur: Tales of the Round Table (Schocken, 1987)

Pyle, Howard. The Story of King Arthur and His Knights (Macmillan, 1984)

Stewart, Mary. Arthurian Saga, 4 vols. (Fawcett, 1985)

Sutcliff, Rosemary. The Sword and the Circle (Dutton, 1981)

Twain, Mark. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (Morrow, 1988)

White, T.H. The Book of Merlyn (Univ. of Texas Press, 1988)

White, T.H. *The Once and Future King* (Berkley, 1983)

Winder, Blanche, ed. Stories of King Arthur (Airmont, n.d.)

Books about Armor

Byam, Michele. Arms and Armor (Knopf, 1988)

Yue, Charlotte and David. *Armor* (Houghton-Mifflin, 1994)

Quests of the Round Table Card Frequency

CARD	FREQUENCY
ADVENTURE DECK	Z
WEAPONS	
Excalibur	2
Lance	6
Battle-ax	8
Sword	16
Horse	11
Dagger	6
TOTAL	49
FOES	47
	1
Dragon Giant	2
Mordred	4
Green Knight	2 3
Black Knight	
Evil Knight	6
Saxon Knight	8
Robber Knight	7
Saxons	5
Boar	4
Thieves	8
TOTAL	50
TESTS	
Test of Valor	2
Test of Temptation	2
Test of Morgan Le Fey	2 2
Test of the Questing Beast	
TOTAL	8
ALLIES	
Sir Galahad	1
Sir Lancelot	1
King Arthur	1
Sir Tristan	1
Sir Pellinore	1
Sir Gawain	1
Sir Percival	1
Queen Guinevere	1
Queen Iseult	1
Merlin	1
TOTAL	10
AMOURS	8
ADVENTURE DECK TOTAL	125
	- 12 -

STORY DECK	
QUESTS	
Search for the Holy Grail	1
Test of the Green Knight	1
Search for the Questing Beast	1
Defend the Queen's Honor	1
Rescue the Fair Maiden	1
Journey through the Enchanted Forest	1
Vanquish King Arthur's Enemies	2
Slay the Dragon	1
Boar Hunt	2 2
Repel the Saxon Raiders	2
TOTAL	13
TOURNAMENTS	
Tournament at Camelot	1
Tournament at Orkney	1
Tournament at Tintagel	1
Tournament at York	1
TOTAL	4
EVENTS	
King's Recognition	2
Queen's Favor	2
Court Called to Camelot	2
Pox	2 2 1
Plague	1
Chivalrous Deed	1
Prosperity throughout the Realm	1
King's Call to Arms	1
TOTAL	11
STORY DECK TOTAL	28
RANK DECK	
Cauira	A
Squire Vaight	4 4
Knight	4
Champion Knight	4
RANK DECK TOTAL	12