

Did Robin Hood truly exist in history??

Affirmative:

- Evidence of a historical Robin Hood from an entirely different time period
- In the British Library of London there survives a historical tale of Robin Hood
 - A Little Gest of Robin Hood is set in the early fourteenth century during the reign of Edward II
 - Robin is a soldier in the army of Thomas, the earl of Lancaster
 - 1322 Robin is forced to become outlawed after a failed rebellion
- Lancaster's rebellion was a historical event
- There have been historical records discovered of his existence in the fourteenth century
- In the archive of Wakefield Manor there is record of a "Robert Hode"
- Robin Hood was a common medieval name
- Records were found of other outlaws in his band

Negative:

- Not possible to determine who is the historical Robin Hood
- The Robin Hood legend appears to be derived from several different sources and not from a single person
- There is not enough historical evidence to conclude that Robin Hood exists
- Scottish historian John Major wrote in 1521 that Robin Hood was active in 1193-94 at the time of John's attempted coup against Richard
 - On 25th July 1225, the royal justices held an assize at York
 - The penalties were recorded in the Michaelmas roll of the Exchequer
 - Included 32s. 6d. for the chattels of "Robert Hod"
 - The account was carried forward into the following year
 - He had acquired the name of 'Hobbehod'
 - Only original bearing the name of Robin Hood
- An epitaph recorded by Thomas Gale in 1702
 - Recorded a grave purporting to be that of Robin Hood lay at Kirklees 1247
- Different outlaws bearing resemblance to a "Robin Hood"
- The name Robin Hood could be an alias

- Names like Little John, Friar Tuck, and Will Scarlet are common Medieval names
- There were not that many literate people during that time period
- There are two separate “Robin Hoods” from the 12th century and 13th century

SOURCES

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