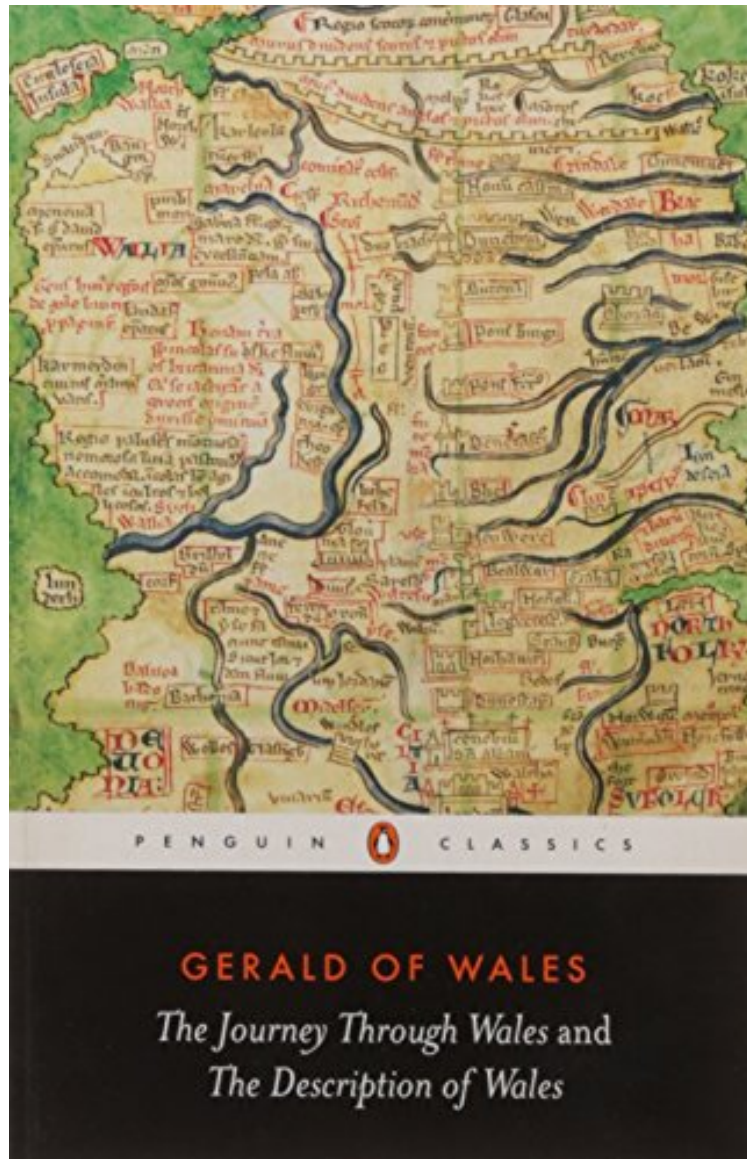


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The Journey Through Wales and the Description of Wales (Penguin Classics)

Gerald of Wales

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Gerald of Wales : The Journey Through Wales and the Description of Wales (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Journey Through Wales and the Description of Wales (Penguin Classics):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Of variable readability, but excellent source material By Christopher

R. Travers This is a fascinating little book which the translator has done an excellent job of putting in general context with other works, not only in the introduction and appendices but also in the extensive footnotes tracing quotations. Gerald was quite clearly a fan of Roman literature (Virgil, Lucan, Horace, etc) and he clearly saw the Welsh, as did Geoffrey of Monmouth, as a part of some ancient Trojan extension of culture. This book contains two of Gerald's writings. The first is *The Journey Through Wales*, which I found very easy to read, and which basically recounts a trip around Wales preaching and performing Mass. Each area is described in substantial detail and often historical episodes or accounts of relics of saints are interspersed in the text. Some of these accounts have clear pagan origins meaning that students of Celtic prehistory as well as of the Middle Ages may find much material in here to ponder. Of course separating Catholic from Pagan elements is not very easy, but I have no doubt it could be done. At any rate that synthesis is what made Medieval Wales into what it was. The second part is *The Description of Wales*, which describes the geography and people of that country. The first part of that book describes all that is noble. The second part describes all that is not. It ends with a prediction of how the English will probably eventually conquer Wales, and what can be done to keep up a resistance. I found this book to be quite a bit drier than *The Journey Through Wales*, but it could be of interest to many people nonetheless. Despite the dry portions of the second work, I decided to give this work 5 stars because the first work brings Wales to life so vividly and provides so much material for consideration that this book really should be on the top of the reading list for anyone interested in Wales and/or the middle ages. Highly recommended. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good Book! By Megan I had read about this book elsewhere and had not come across it myself. It is very good, and although somewhat dated in language, very interesting and well written. Of course, you must keep in mind the "prejudices" of medieval writers, and be aware going in of church and other politics. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Great

Scholar, churchman, diplomat and theologian, Gerald of Wales was one of the most fascinating figures of the Middle Ages and *The Journey Through Wales* describes his eventful tour of the country as a missionary in 1188. In a style reminiscent of a diary, Gerald records the day-to-day events of the mission, alongside lively accounts of local miracles, folklore and religious relics such as Saint Patrick's Horn, and eloquent descriptions of natural scenery that includes the rugged promontory of St David's and the vast snow-covered panoramas of Snowdonia. The landscape is evoked in further detail in *The Description*, which chronicles the everyday lives of the Welsh people with skill and affection. Witty and gently humorous throughout, these works provide a unique view into the medieval world.