

# John Bodnar—Members Items

## The Round Table of King Arthur and his Knights

As a young lad I was enthralled with the tales of King Arthur and his Knights and Merlin.

Whether Arthur and his Knights actually existed is a moot point but as The Round Table exists, it places some credence on the truth of the tales that have come down to us. Some of the postcards that I have collected illustrating The Round Table follow in this article.

The stories were gripping and thought provoking. Life's experiences, with their trials and tribulations were unfolded before one's eyes. Hopefully one would take the lessons presented to heart and live a better life for having been acquainted with them.



A Souvenir From Tintagel  
202mm x 146mm  
Giant Viewcard – Divided back – Coloured Photo Litho  
Harvey Barton, Bristol, England.  
Posted at Tintagel, March 20, 1967.

Arthur's Round Table was fashioned so that every Knight had an equal place. Sitting down to eat, they were served equally and no knight could boast that he was in a higher place than his peers. No one was treated any more or less courteously because he was a Scot, a Breton, a Frank, a Norman, an Angevin, a Fleming, a Burgundian or a Loherin.

John Hardyng's "Chronicle" of 1464, stated that the actual Table of King Arthur "hangeth there yet" on the West wall of the Great Hall of Winchester Castle.

It is a huge round wooden disc, eighteen feet in diameter and weighing 1 ¼ tonnes.

King Henry VIII had the painting of King Arthur and the names of his principle Knights done at his command in 1516.

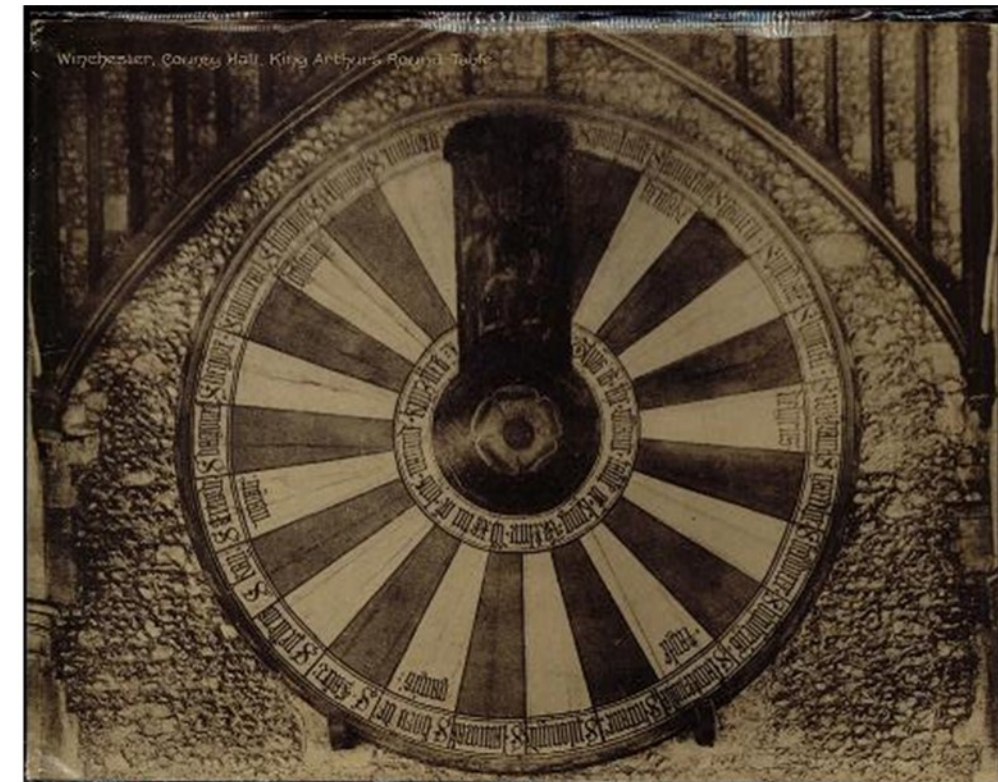
What we see today is a crudely restored and repainted version done in 1789, because the names of the Knights had crumbled away with age and were no longer legible.

On examination by Archeologists, it was discovered that the wooden disk was made as a table. The legs were removed and it was decorated and hung on the wall.

Over time a number of alterations had been done to it. These included being reinforced with planks and a band of iron clamped around the rim. The table had been shot at it is believed in 1645 by Cromwellian soldiers. The holes had been plugged with wine corks before being repainted in 1789.

When x-rayed it was found that no painting was evidenced under the one done in 1516. the reasons for this remained a mystery until the iron band was removed from around the rim. Then it was discovered that the rim was studded with iron tacks which would have held in place a leather covering or painted cloth. It was the obvious answer.

The age of the timber was ascertained by dendrochronological dating . giving a five year range from 1250 to 1255.



Above we have a reduced illustration of a Half-Penny Post Giant Photo-Card for Inland service only. The address and signature only were to be written on the card. The card details are as follows:

WINCHESTER, COUNTY HALL, KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE  
Giant Photo-Card, Undivided back, ColloTYPE  
(286mm x 224mm).

Two pages of standard sized postcards are shown next, the first without the Queen Victoria statue and the others with, illustrate some of the cards I have managed to collect. Undoubtedly more exist.

John Bodnar

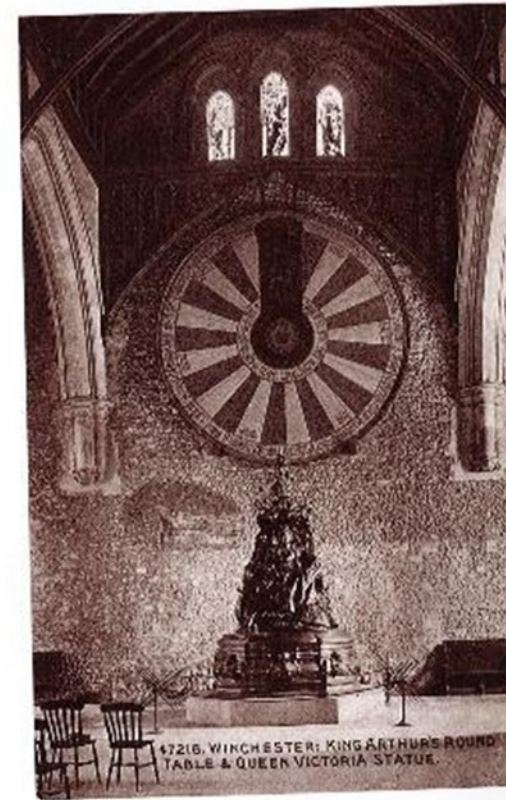
### REFERENCES:

- Hopkins, A., "Chronicles of King Arthur", London, BCA, 1993
- Matthews, J., & C., "Merlin", The Pitkin Guide, Norwich, Jarrold Publishing, 2004





WINCHESTER, GREAT HALL  
 Frith's Series Postcard, No. 55873,  
 Divided back, Collotype  
 Printed in Saxony  
 Half-Penny Stamp Postal Rate.

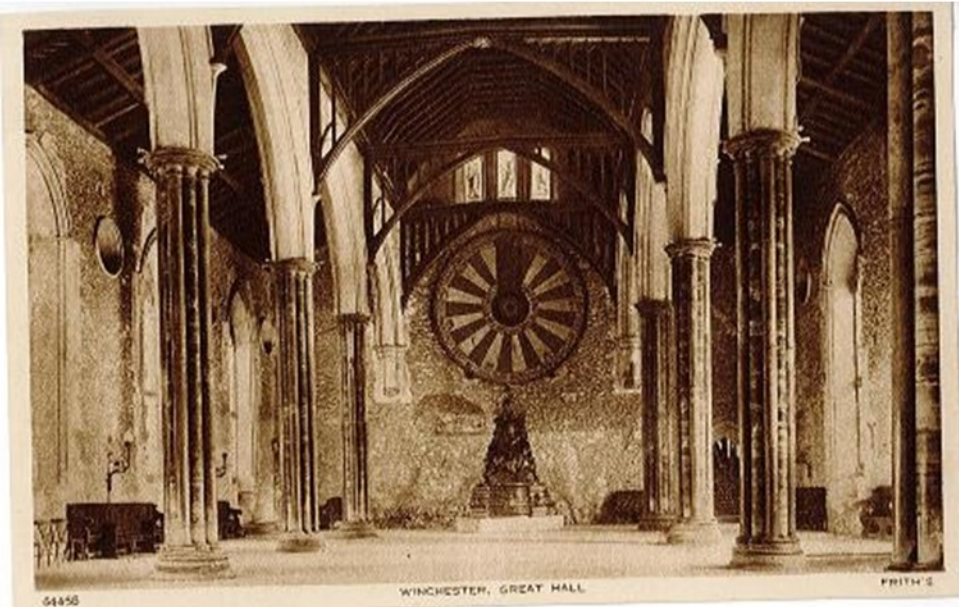


WINCHESTER: KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE &  
 QUEEN VICTORIA STATUE No. 47218  
 Divided Back, Half-Tone Block, Sepia Tone Series  
 Published by The Photochrom Co., Ltd., London and Tunbridge Wells,  
 All British Production.

WINCHESTER, GREAT HALL  
 Frith's Series Postcard #64458,  
 Divided Back, Collotype  
 Printed in England.



WINCHESTER, COUNTY HALL  
 Frith's Series, No. 6458  
 Divided Back, Collotype



WINCHESTER, GREAT HALL  
 Frith's Series Postcard #64458  
 Divided Back, Collotype  
 British Copyright.



COUNTY HALL  
 (KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE)  
 WINCHESTER 94057A  
 Valentine's "SEPIATYPE" Series  
 Divided Back, Collotype  
 Printed in GT. Britain.