

The character of Merlin, closely related to the legend of the king Arthur, fascinate readers and writers for already several centuries. Nevertheless, for many people, readers or not, his real nature remains hidden under the image of a wizard. But this literary character hides more aspects, which are revealed by this work.

The first part tries to elucidate particular aspects of the medieval literary creation, which is specific by the anonymity, the heterogeneity and by the fact of rewrites. At the same time it describes the historical background, in which the Arthurian legend and the character of Merlin were born. These two facts are underlying for the enumeration of the occurrences of Merlin in the medieval literature. The description of these texts outlines the evolution of this character, departing from the Welsh prophetic verse, over the Latin texts of Geoffrey of Monmouth to French romans of 12th and 13th century.

The presence of Merlin in the Welsh tradition of prophetic verse let guess the relation of this character with Celtic origin, transferred by the oral tradition. The second part of this work, tries to describe the reminiscence of ancient societies (Indo-European and Celtic) that have influenced the cultural and social evolution of important part of Europe. The description of these societies leads to the distinction of several literary archetypes, which rise through the character of Merlin. Through the texts, Merlin is thus compared to the Celtic hero and druide.

With use of several sources (literary, ethnological and historical), this study tries to depict the solid description of the character of Merlin, by specifying the subject on the relation of Merlin to Celtic origins. This specification was necessary for the whole and exact treatment of the subject in the possibilities of the master thesis.