

Sample paragraph from Chapter 8, p.216

Someone, perhaps the editor of the programme, perhaps Wood, had decided to restrict knowledge of Cornwall's presence in this poem just to those who understand Old Welsh, despite the clear reference. For the Welsh author of this poem, in the tenth century Cornwall, Arthur's country, remained a potentially active partner in a grand alliance of Celt and Viking that would rid Britain of overweening English power. By the twenty-first century, a millennium later, Cornwall's role in this was expunged, erased from the historical record. Perhaps it was just too embarrassing, or too challenging for the BBC mandarins to cope with, unable to understand how a mere 'English' county could possibly appear on equal terms with Celtic nations with their own devolved institutions. Or perhaps they were unable to escape the insidious influence of a dominant assimilationist model that insists Cornwall had been conquered by the English in the ninth century and 'fully' incorporated by the early tenth century. The *Armes Prydein Vawr* is far too unsettling to be allowed to disturb that comfortable myth.