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# Horses and Boars in Medieval Books

Nicholas Guzman



## Abstract

I want to find out why some people chose to use Boars in Medieval Books and why boars were in a lot of wars too. I also want to find out why there were a lot of people that tried to hunt boars too. I looked at why some people were changed into boars after they did something wrong. I also wanted to know why one of the animals that the judges chose to turn people into was a boar. I wanted to know how strong the boars could be if someone had to fight or hunt them.

I also want to find out why a lot of Medieval books talk about horses. I want to know why a lot of people wanted to bring horses with them when they were in a war. I also want to know why a lot of people needed horses. I want to know what the horses were supposed to do when they went to a war and how they helped people try to win a war. I want to find out what people thought about horses and why most people needed them when these books were written.

## What other people think about Boars and Horses

Here are some quotes from people that talk about what people thought about boars and horses.

THIÉBAUX, MARCELLE. "The Mouth of the Boar as a Symbol in Medieval Literature." *Romance Philology*, vol. 22, no. 3, 1969, pp. 281-299. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/44940429](http://www.jstor.org/stable/44940429). Accessed 24 Mar. 2021. "Ratio's allegorization deals with the boar as a general sinner and, with specific reference to the dangerous mouth, as a giver of evil counsels" (Thiebaux, 283)

Jeremy Withers, *The Ecology of Late Medieval Warfare in Lydgate's Debate of the Horse, Goose, and Sheep*, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, Volume 18, Issue 1, Winter 2011, Pages 104-122, <https://doi-org.unco.idm.oclc.org/10.1093/isle/isq122> "War horses charged into battle, while work horses pulled the enormous caravans that supplied an army out on campaign" (Withers, 104)

## The books and articles that I used and Questions

- I looked at some articles that talked about what horses and boars did in Medieval Books
- I looked at the Mabinogian book to see what the horses did in this book
- I looked at the UNC library site to see if I could find any articles

Questions:

1. Why did people use boars and horses when they went to war?
2. Why were there so many horses and boars in medieval books?
3. Why did Kings change people to boars that broke the law or did bad things?

## Results

I found out that a lot of people thought that boars were really strong and this is why most people took boars with them to fight in a war. I also saw that it was hard for people to hunt for boars because their tusks were long and they wouldn't let anyone get too close to them. Also if they wanted to hunt any boars, they'd have to be fast so that they don't get hurt from the boar's tusks. I also read that if some people broke the law that the judge told them that they'd have to kill a boar. If someone tried to hunt a boar they'd fight until they got tired or they died. They were always strong when they had to fight (Thiebaux, 282). Boars also got mad if they could see someone trying to hunt them (Thiebaux, 284). When most people thought about boars, they'd think that they always did bad things to people and other animals. This is why people chose to have boars fight with them. A lot of people wouldn't want to be close to a boar that's trying to fight with them.

I found out that most people wanted to bring horses to a war because they were fast. The horses that they chose to bring with them all had different jobs.

- Some people took their horses to a war
- Some horses had food that the soldiers could eat.

There were so many horses that had to go to war with other people. There were more horses that were being used in wars than in other wars that happened. Withers says that one of the reasons that people win wars is because they have horses with them and they really helped people when they needed it. Most people in this time needed to ride horses if they wanted to go somewhere. The reason why people liked to have horses in a war was because how fast they could take people to the war.

- They had food with them if anyone got tired from fighting in the war.
- They had to choose horses that were going to be good in a war.
- Most of the time the animals that they took had everything that the soldiers needed with them.
- Some people actually looked at how big they were to decide if they wanted a horse.

In the book *The Mabinogian: The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*, Rhiannon rode a horse and when people saw her they tried to stop her and ask her where her horse came from. Pwyll tried two times to ride his horse and see if his horse could go fast enough so that he could talk to Rhiannon. I also noticed that some people like Matholwch didn't want to lose their horses and they wouldn't let anyone take them. If someone wanted to give Matholwch other animals so that they can have his horses he'd decide to keep his horses. Also, Withers says that it's almost like the people that were in the war needed help from the animals and that the animals didn't need any help from the people that had them.

In the book when Pyredi and Manawydan saw a boar and they went to see where it was going. The boar went to a castle and when they went to the castle they found out that they weren't able to leave after they went in. When Rhiannon went to try and find Pyredi she couldn't leave the castle when she went in either. The boar took them to a golden bowl that they tried to take and then they couldn't go anywhere. The boar meant that something bad was going to happen to them in the castle.

- The king in this book changed Gwydion and Gilfaethwy to boars because they hurt a woman.
- The reason why the King wanted to change them to boars is because he wanted to show them that they were bad people.

There were a lot of horses that were hurt when they went to war. They were hurt by spears and many people left their horses outside when it was really cold. There was also a lot of rain and hail when the wars happened. Some people didn't take their horses with them when the war was going somewhere else. Most people didn't want anything bad to happen to their horses.

- There were people that wanted to hunt boar because they wanted to know what it was going to be like to fight in a war.
- More people wanted to hunt boars because it was going to be hard for them to hunt the boar.

Many people wanted to fight with a boar because they wanted to know what the war was like before they had to go to the war. There weren't many people that could hunt boar because they could get really mad and try to fight the person. People in a war felt like they needed to hunt boar because they had to be fast and they always had to watch what the boar was going to do. If they weren't fast enough the boar could hurt people that tried to hunt them. They always had to know where the boar was because they could get hurt.

A lot of people liked horses because they were fast most of the time and they were strong. When people chose horses to fight in the war with them they thought that big horses were going to be strong and they that they might win if they have those horses. Most people needed horses to go to some places that they needed to go. When the horses were in the war they didn't want to fight the people that were in the war they wanted to fight other horses. Also, the horses that were in the war didn't fight by themselves they had other horses with them to help them if they got hurt,

## More Results

- When the war was happening fast, horses would fight by themselves.
- Most horses didn't have time to wait for other horses.
- Sometimes some horses didn't know where they could find other horses either.
- Many people needed to bring horses with them.

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## Conclusion

After I read all of these articles I found out why people didn't see boars as good animals. Many people needed to take boars with them to a war because many people were scared to see boars. Most people couldn't hunt boars and a lot of boars hurt people. When someone saw a boar they thought that there was something bad that was going to happen. Boars were also good in wars because they had big tusks and it was hard for anyone to fight them.

Most people needed horses to give them food while they were in a war. If the soldiers didn't have horses there wouldn't be anyone to help them. The horses had to be fast if they took someone to a war. Also, a lot of people wanted to buy horses to take them to other places. Most people had horses with them when they went to war.