

## Early London

### 1. Introduction

The comment in the twenty-ninth chapter of the Book of Acts in the Turkish Archives at Istanbul (formerly Constantinople), about the arrival of St. Paul in Britain at the Port of Raphinus and his preaching in their city upon "Mount Lud", (Ref.1 - p141), is interesting as it takes one back to the foundation and early history of London.

Gordon (Ref.2) and Waddell (Ref.3) both rely on Nennius and Geoffrey of Monmouth for their information. Gordon also uses information from the works of the Welsh scholar and bard, R. W. Morgan, and particularly refers to his "History of the Kymri".(Ref.2 - p85 & 106).

### 2. Prehistoric London

Gordon (Ref.2 - p6) shows the plan of the prehistoric London mounds. Two of the mounds are artificially constructed. One was known as Bryn Gwyn, the white or holy mound, and the White Tower of London was built on this site. The other was Tothill meaning the sacred mound. Both of these mounds are close to the Thames.

Four miles north east of St. Paul's Cathedral there is a hill which was known as "Llandin", a sacred or lake eminence, known today as Parliament Hill standing 322 feet high.(Ref. 2 - p7/8). On the north eastern slope of this hill is a stone monument on which it states public speaking is allowed. It appears that since "time immemorial" this hill has been used for numerous meetings both religious and political, either on the hill or on "Parliament Fields " at its base. (Ref. 2 - p110).

" The "Llandin" has been called the "Areopagus" of Britain, from the tradition that St. Paul preached from the summit. On this account the Apostle became the Patron Saint of London, his emblem, the sword of martyrdom, incorporated in the arms of the City, in the same way as St. Peter became Patron Saint of Chartres from the tradition that this Apostle preached in the "Grotte Des Druides", the Druidic rock temple, the actual foundation of the oldest Church in France". (Ref.2 - p110/111)

If this prominence in London was known as "Llandin", why does the twenty - ninth chapter of the Book of Acts refer to the "Mount Lud"? A further study of some important moments in London's history may give some clues to this question!

### 3. The Foundation of London

Brutus, recorded in Welsh history as the grandson of Aeneas, (Ref. 2,3 &5) founded the City of London. This is how Waddell (Ref3.- p156) summaries the story:-

"Brutus, having thus at last set eyes upon his kingdom (c.1100 BC), formed the design of building a city, and with this view travelled through the land to find a convenient site. And coming to the River Thames, he walked along the shore and at last pitched upon a place for his purpose. Here he built a city which he called 'New Troy' under which name it continued for a long time after, till at last, by corruption, it came to be called 'Tri-Novantam'".

### 4. King Lludd's City

Lludd, son of Heli (or Bel II), reigned from 70 BC to 59 BC. (Ref.3 - p388). Gordon, quoting an ancient Welsh manuscript of the Mabinogin preserved in Jesus College, Oxford, which was translated by Lady Charlotte Guest, (Ref.2- p123), records:-

"Lludd ruled prosperously and rebuilt the walls of London and encompassed it about with numberless towers. After that he bade the citizens build houses therein such as no house in the Kingdom could equal. Moreover he was a mighty warrior and generous and liberal in giving meat and drink to all who sought them, and though he had many castles and cities, this one he loved more than any. And he dwelt there in most part of the year and therefore it was called Caer Lludd and afterwards Caer London."

The same source records that Lludd caused the length and breadth of the Isle of Britain to be measured and found in Oxford the central point.

There appears to have been some contention over the new name "Caer Lludd" and the prehistoric name of "Llandin" still lingered on. Later the name became known to the Romans as Londin or Londinium. In the end, the current name "London" seems to blend the old and new Welsh names with London being pronounced "Lundun". The Welsh still call it "Caer Lludd". (Waddell Ref.3-410 - writing in 1922).

### 5. The Romans and London

On the death of Lludd, his brother Caswallon (Cassevellanus) was crowned King and elected as Pendragon (Military Commander) as the two sons of Lludd were too young to rule.

Androgeus (Avarwy), the elder son of Lludd, was given the City of Trinovantum (Caer Lludd or London) and the Duchy of Kent. The Duchy of Cornwall was given to his brother Tenuantius.(Ref. 2-p124).

When Caesar raided Britain in 55/54 BC, Androgeus sided with him and was given the name of "Mandubrad" by the Britons meaning "The Black Traitor".(Ref.2-p124).

Caesar refers to the Trinovantes, which he believed was the strongest tribe in South-Eastern Britain and to their Prince, which he calls "Mandubracius".(Ref.4-p138). After some fighting against the Romans and the surrender of 4 other allied kings, Cassivellaunus (as Caswallon was called by Caesar) was forced to seek terms of surrender. Caesar had decided to return to Gaul for the winter and granted Cassivellaunus's request for terms but demanded hostages, fixed an annual tribute to be paid by the Britons and forbade the molesting of Mandubracius and the Trinovantes.(Ref.4-p139).

#### 6. St. Paul in London

Did St. Paul preach at Parliament Hill as London's traditions claim? This is of course possible but according to the twenty-ninth chapter of Acts, (Ref.1-p141), Paul "stood upon Mount Lud; and the people thronged at the gate, and assembled in the Broadway". Today, Ludgate Hill is close to Ludgate Circus, which previously marked the Gate of Lud. Did St. Paul, in fact, preach from Ludgate Hill, on which St. Paul's Cathedral now stands, and was the Hill known in his day as Mount Lud (or Lludd)?

#### Publication References

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