

Folk-tales

of the British Isles



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James Riordan was born in Portsmouth on the south coast of England in 1936 into a docker's family. On leaving school he worked variously as barman, postman, doublebass player and railway clerk. After military service in the Royal Air Force, he studied social sciences at Birmingham, London and Moscow universities and remained in higher education. He is a doctor of philosophy and currently Professor and Chairman of Russian Studies at the University of Bradford.

His interest in folktales was sparked by hearing Bazhov's Urals tales while on a visit to Sverdlovsk in 1959. He subsequently translated a Bazhov collection, his first publication. He has published some twenty folktale collections, several of which have been translated into other languages and gained international awards. His most recent publications are *Tales of King Arthur* and a collection of tales featuring women heroes.



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