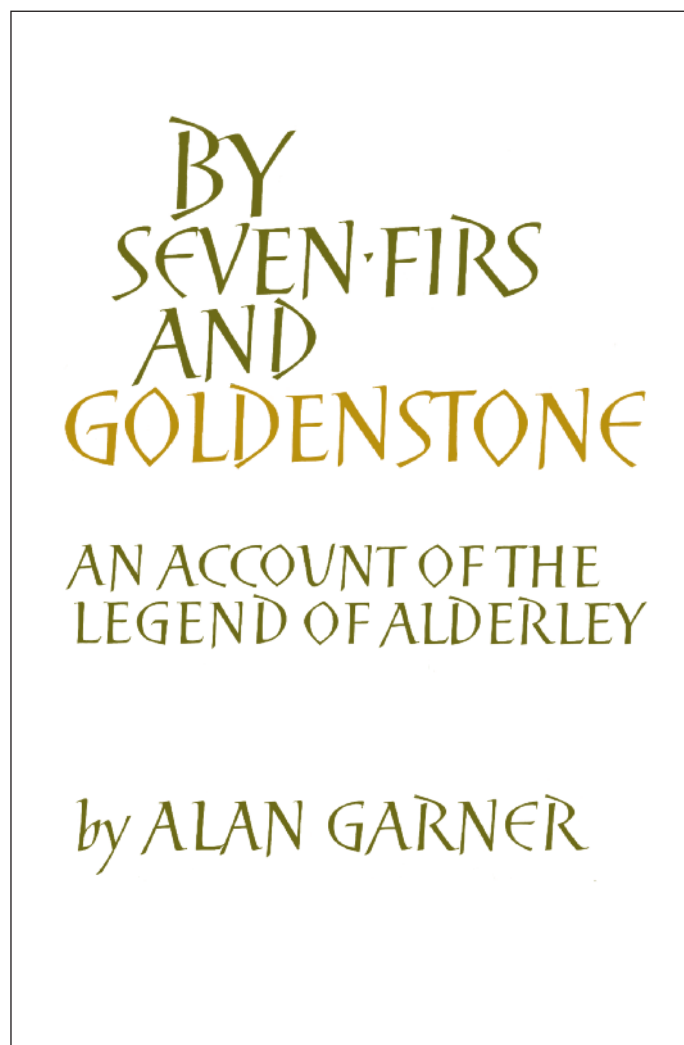


In November 2007 the Temenos Academy was honoured to welcome Alan Garner to give a talk entitled *By Seven Firs and Goldenstone – An Account of the Legend of Alderley*. It gives us particular pleasure to publish this talk in 2010, the year which marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Alan Garner's first novel, which draws on the legend of Alderley Edge, *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* – a book which has, remarkably, never been out of print.



In *By Seven Firs and Goldenstone* Alan Garner relates how, in examining a local oral tradition, a version of the myth of the Sleeping Hero, told to him as a child by his grandfather, he was later able to discover the existence of the Bronze Age on Alderley Edge, which is now, as a result, the earliest dated metal working site in England.

Alan Garner, OBE, is one of our most distinguished and brilliant writers of imaginative fiction. In addition to *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen*, his main works, in order of publication, are: *The Moon of Gomrath* (1963); *Elidor* (1965); *The Owl Service* (1967); *Red Shift* (1973); *The Stone Book Quartet* (1977); *Strandloper* (1996) and *Thursbitch* (2003). A collection of his essays and lectures, *The Voice That Thunders*, appeared in 1997.

His many awards include The Carnegie Medal; The Guardian Award; The Lewis Carroll Shelf Award; The Phoenix Award of America; The Karl Edward Wagner Special Award; and First Prize at the Chicago International Film Festival for writing and presenting the documentary 'Images'. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and Co-Founder of the Blackden Trust.

The book features a cover design by Tom Perkins.

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