

## The King Was A Dowser

By Bob Ater

Alfred The Great was king of the Anglo-Saxons from 848 to 899 A.D. He was called "The Truth Teller" and "Man Of Learning." He was noted for being a wise king. Like many other rulers in times past he was also a dowser.

An artifact of interest to dowzers was found in Newton Park in 1693. It was an engraved jewel, which had been once mounted on the end of Alfred's dowsing rod. It was found in Somerset, England and presented to the Bodleian Library in 1718 by Thomas Palmer of Fairfield, Somerset. It is now in the Anglo-Saxon art collection of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

We know that this artifact once graced Alfred's dowsing rod because he is pictured on the jewel as he, no doubt, appeared in life with his rod and jewel.

On the edge of this artefact it is written, that "Alfred made me". The three drawings of the device show that it is very ornate. An actual photograph of the device is also shown. These are all from the book Alfred the Great, Maker of England, By Beatrice Lees, which was published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in 1919.

