

Freemasonry and the Holy Grail

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Any mention of the Holy Grail naturally brings to mind the medieval Knights Templar organization, and from there it is just a short hop to Freemasonry. There is no direct organized connection between the two, but this does not mean to say that medieval craft free masons were not involved with Knight Templars and in Knight Templarism. The early free masons, of course, became organized and this led to Free and Accepted Masons which formed the basis for the Masonic Order. It is a “given” that aspects of medieval Knights Templarism found expression in the appendant bodies of Freemasonry, including the Order of DeMolay (founded in 1919). It needs to be stressed here that there is no “Templarism” in the Blue Lodges, so the same can be said for the Grand Lodges.

The medieval Knights Templars were destroyed (put to death) by, and in the name of, the Roman Catholic Church. Freemasons were also persecuted by the Church, however, to make a long story short, Freemasonry survived. It is this “survival” that leads to the speculation that Freemasonry per se is somehow connected with Knights Templar “secrets” and artifacts. The Holy Grail (drinking vessel used by Christ at the Last Supper) is the primary artifact that falls into this category.

From a practical stand-point, the Holy Grail was probably not anything extraordinary. The painting (fresco) by Leonardo da Vinci of the Last Supper shows a simple little drinking glass. This detail from the painting shows Christ’s hand reaching for a half-filled glass of wine. However, even showing glass is highly questionable because in 33 AD glass was a bit of a luxury. Whatever the case, we have to wonder why the Pope of Leonardo’s time did not say something about this detail. In other words, tell the artist that Christ had a chalice.

The most acceptable description of the drinking vessels used at the Last Supper is that they were little ceramic cups. In all likelihood, after the supper ended, all the dishes were gathered up, cleaned, and put back in the kitchen cupboard. It



is of course possible that Peter (or another apostle) collected the little cup used by Christ and passed it on to posterity. We can reason that the cup was later mounted on a stand, giving rise to what we now envision as the Holy Grail. This is precisely what appears to be the case with the postage stamp illustrated; although an actual image of the grail on the



stamp, as seen here, appears to indicate that the cup is made of glass. This grail, by the way, is claimed to be the actual artifact

Generally speaking, this whole subject would not even be “on the table” were it not for several authors who in the 1980s and later wrote what are called “docu-fictions.” In other words, novels that pretend to present actual facts. The books were commercial money-making schemes and they definitely paid off. Most academics will tell you that if a book that makes astounding claims is not published by a recognized university, then all you have are “astounding claims.” By the way, you are not going to find university books at your local supermarket.

As I have stated in other papers, the Masonic Order does not have any “secrets.” In other words, it does not have a vault somewhere containing earth-shaking artifacts and documents. Nevertheless, having said that, certainly individuals within the Order (or any Order for that matter) might have information akin to “secrets.” Does a Freemason know the whereabouts of the actual Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, the Golden Fleece and so forth? This is possible, as it could be possible for any persons on the face of the earth. The conclusion here is that Freemasonry as an organization is not connected with the Holy Grail, and beyond that the decision is up to the reader.

(Stamp illustrated is a Spanish postal tax stamp issued in 1968.)

UPDATE: The cup portion of the chalice shown has been proven to be made of carved agate. Such cups were definitely used up to the early part of the 1st century in Jerusalem in Jewish religious ceremonies. It is said that the Last Supper was held in a synagogue where such vessels were available. St. Peter is said to have collected the cup Christ used and took it to Rome, where it was later taken to Spain and ended-up in a church in Valencia. The Roman Catholic Church gives credibility to the artifact—two popes have gone to Valencia and celebrated mass using the chalice as seen in the photo. There is no mention of Freemasonry in the story of this alleged “Holy Grail.”