

The Templars And The Grail Knights Of The Quest

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At the Table of the Grail Dec 02 2019 In this stimulating collection of essays, some of the finest contemporary writers show how themes from Eastern and Western traditions meet in the different versions of the Quest, and are rich in insights for us all.

Sources of the Grail Jul 29 2019 The mysterious and powerful legends surrounding the Holy Grail, often identified as the cup used by Christ at the Last Supper, provide a rich literature, its origins and meanings veiled by the distance of centuries. Here, the well-known Arthurian scholar John Matthews has brought together a unique collection of texts and commentaries from the Grail literature spanning many centuries, such as *Perceval* by Chretien de Troyes, *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory, *The Mass of the Sangraal* by Arthur Machen, *Mystic Aspects of the Grail Legend* by A. E. Waite, and more. From early Celtic tales to medieval romances, these magical stories, full of symbols and wondrous events, still resonate strongly in the human soul. A wonderful sourcebook for researching and enjoying the Grail legends from ancient to modern times.

King Arthur and the Grail Quest Aug 02 2022 A thrilling and inspiring tale of a journey and a vision - the quest for the Grail. In this book, noted Arthurian specialist John Matthews has created an easily understood survey of the origins and merging of the epic themes and legends concerned with the Holy Grail.

With a great wealth of illustration and specially created colour plates, King Arthur and the Grail Quest provides a fascinating survey as well as including five of the traditional stories, retold by the author. In addition, there is a full summary of all sources and an extensive bibliography.

The Lost Book of the Grail Oct 12 2020 Reveals the long-forgotten prequel to the Grail mythos and how it has profound resonance with modern times • Includes the complete text of the Grail prequel, The Elucidation of the Grail, a 13th-century poem newly translated by Gareth Knight and Caitlín Matthews • Examines the forgotten story of the Faery Wars and the role of Well Maidens in the Grail story • Discusses the Seven Guardians of the Stories, the Grail Kings and Anti-Grail Kings, the Rich Company, the Courts of Joy, and the otherworldly Land of Women Unveiling the long-forgotten prequel to the Grail quest stories, Caitlín and John Matthews examine The Elucidation of the Grail, a forgotten 13th-century French text, and show how it offers the key to understanding the sevenfold path of the Grail and the deeper stories beneath the Christian Grail narrative. Beginning with a new translation of The Elucidation by foremost esotericist Gareth Knight and Caitlín Matthews, the authors provide a complete commentary on the poem, revealing a startling alternative cause of the Wasteland and the Grail quest, one which has a profound resonance with our own times. They examine the forgotten story of the Faery Wars and explain the Faery Accord, an agreement that once existed between humans and the Faery and upon which the spiritual and physical health of the land depends. The offering of the Grail and its regenerative powers by the Maidens of the Wells--Faery women--was part of this Accord. King Amangons and his men violated the Accord, through their abuse of the Well Maidens and other evil actions, causing the wasting of the land. The Knights of King Arthur seek to avenge the Well Maidens and rebirth the Grail to restore access to the lost paradisiacal "Courts of Joy" held in ancestral memory. On their quest, they encounter the Rich Company whose greed keeps the Knights occupied in long wars of attrition, yet their quest to restore the generous hospitality of the Wells--the true Grail, the Faery Grail--continues. In addition to the Faery Accord and Knights' quest, the authors examine the Seven Guardians of the Stories, the Rich Fisher, the Courts of Joy and paradise lost, and the otherworldly Land of Women. They show how this lost book of the Grail reveals themes familiar to the modern world and offers hope of healing the rift between the worlds of Faery and human as well as restoration of our natural belonging to the land.

The Grail Legend in Modern Literature Jun 07 2020 The Grail legends have in modern times been appropriated by a number of different scholarly schools of thought; their approaches are analysed here.

The Sword and the Grail Jan 03 2020 Draws on new archaeological evidence to argue that, years before Columbus, Prince Henry St. Clair of Orkney arrived in North America with the intention of establishing a colony and discusses the role of the Knights Templar in the expedition. 20,000 first printing.

The Book of the Holy Grail May 19 2021 First translated into English by our country's third president, this is the Bible of Gnostic Christianity, the original source for the legends of the Holy Grail, Freemasonry, even of the Mormon Church. Its text contains the most attacked and suppressed alternative gospel of the life of Jesus, and the book disputes accounts in the traditionally accepted gospels regarding what Jesus' mission on Earth really was, what Jesus taught, and how Jesus died.

The Virgin and the Grail Aug 22 2021 Some fifty years before Chrétien de Troyes wrote what is probably the first and certainly the most influential story of the Holy Grail, images of the Virgin Mary with a simple but radiant bowl (called a "grail" in local dialect) appeared in churches in the Spanish Pyrenees. In this fascinating book, Joseph Goering explores the links between these sacred images and the origins of one of the West's most enduring legends. While tracing the early history of the grail, Goering looks back to the Pyrenean religious paintings and argues that they were the original inspiration of the grail legend. He explains how storytellers in northern France could have learned of these paintings and how the enigmatic "grail" in the hands of the Virgin came to form the centerpiece of a story about a knight in King Arthur's court. Part of the allure of the grail, Goering argues, was that neither Chrétien nor his audience knew exactly what it represented or why it was so important. And out of the attempts to answer those questions the literature of the Holy Grail was born.

Merlin and the Grail Tradition Mar 17 2021 A collection of essays tracing the historical importance and esoteric influence of Merlin and the Grail tradition, from its mythological beginnings right down to its relevance in modern magical practice.

The Lost Book of the Grail Feb 25 2022 A New York Times Bestselling Author English professor Arthur Prescott is happiest when surrounded by the ancient books and manuscripts of the Barchester Cathedral library, nurturing his secret obsession with the Holy Grail and researching his perennially unfinished guide to the medieval cathedral. Then a beautiful young American arrives in Barchester to digitize the library's manuscripts, and Arthur's tranquility is broken.

Appalled by the threat modern technology poses to the library he loves, he sets out to thwart Bethany, only to find in her a kindred spirit with a similar love for knowledge and books - and a fellow Grail fanatic.

Golf and the Grail Sep 03 2022 This book is not yet another manual on how to play golf. Its author is neither a player nor a professional teacher. This is the pupils' book. It is the first of its kind, which makes it unique. It gives an account of the apprentice golfer's quest for perfection, authenticity, and beauty and the long, hard road that must be travelled to achieve this. The journey of initiation necessarily precedes initiation to the golf course. In doing so, this book brings to light a philosophy in the literal sense of the word: the love of wisdom. as described by Shawn Clement, the founding father of Wisdom in Golf, and transmitted throughout Europe by Édouard Montaz, his brilliant disciple. Édouard and Virgile. Master and pupil. The pupil who learns from the master, who in turn learns from the pupil. This virtuous exchange opens up the path to inspired golf. And overturns the normal order of things. Indeed, it brings with it a revelation that sheds new light on the Arthurian legend and the quest for the Grail.

The Shroud and the Grail Jun 27 2019

Merlin and the Grail Jun 19 2021 This trilogy establishes a provenance for the Holy Grail and, through the figure of Merlin, links Joseph of Arimathea with mythical British history and with the knightly adventures of Perceval's Grail quest.

Grail Knights of North America Jul 21 2021 A decade ago, Michael Bradley published the Canadian bestseller, *Holy Grail Across the Atlantic* (Hounslow Press, 1988), presenting the astounding evidence that a European settlement in Canada had been established in Nova Scotia ninety-four years before Columbus and ninety-nine years before John Cabot. Incredibly, mediaeval documents and maps showed that this settlement had been founded by refugee Knights Templar from Scotland - knights who had been created for the sole purpose of guarding the Holy Grail. Bradley presented evidence that these Grail-believing religious refugees and their knightly protectors had been instrumental in discovering, settling, and influencing the development of New France and, later, the fledgling American Republic. The book was automatically ridiculed by conventional North American historians, while at the same time serving as the model for European works (e.g. *The Sword and the Grail* by Britain's Andrew Sinclair). Michael Bradley's investigation stimulated some serious professional and academic researchers to join his quest to find further evidence of the Knights Templar in Canada and the United States. Now, in 1998, comes the publication of the long-awaited sequel to *Holy Grail Across the Atlantic* - *Grail Knights of North America*. Realizing from mediaeval documents that the initial Nova Scotia refuge of AD 1398 must have harboured many Grail believers, and that the secret colony must have expanded, Bradley began to trace evidence of Grail Knights from Nova Scotia, through New Brunswick to the St. Lawrence River, and on to the Great Lakes as far as Niagara, New York State, and central Pennsylvania. Evidence of their presence has been uncovered on both the Canadian and American sides of this great waterway. Bradley poses compelling questions about his discoveries, and offers plausible and provocative answers as we travel with him and his companions (both academic and amateur) along the trail of the Grail Knights of North America.

The High Book of the Grail Oct 04 2022 Vivid translation of one of the earliest and most important Grail romances.

Guardians of the Grail Mar 05 2020 The Grail Legend takes you back through the centuries to view an emerging family dynasty who may soon attempt to establish One-World government.

The Templars and the Grail May 07 2020 Why do the powerful medieval Knights Templar, the famed warriors of the Crusades, still intrigue many today? A secret society long shrouded in mystery, the Templars were believed to conduct mystical rituals, to guard the Holy Grail, and to possess the priceless treasures of the Temple of Jerusalem. Did they bring their treasure to North America, as some legends say? This definitive work about the Templars and their presumed

hidden knowledge addresses many such fascinating questions, with rare photos from the Rosslyn Chapel Museum (Scotland) included. *The Legend of the Grail* Feb 02 2020 Constructed from the many and often contradictory Grail legends, here is a single, consistent and accessible narrative for the general reader - now available in paperback.

The Mystery of the Grail Feb 13 2021 In this important study of the meaning of the Grail, one of Europe's greatest esoteric philosophers discloses the pre-Christian and initiatic sources of this symbolic motif that is so central to Western mythology and culture. He demonstrates how the main features of the legend are from an older tradition analogous to the great heroic sagas and cycles of the North, and that the Grail itself is a symbol of initiation. Evola uncovers the hidden meaning in the often surreal adventures of the knights who searched for the Grail, interpreting them as inner experiences and tests for the seeker. He also explores the history of the myth in the Middle Ages, its use by the Knights Templar and the Cathars, its legacy during the decline of the Holy Roman Empire, and its links with Rosicrucianism, alchemy, and Masonry. This excursion into the realm of the Grail throws new light on an endlessly fascinating subject.

The Grail Procession Nov 24 2021 By the 12th century, European literature was rich with tales of a procession carrying a group of objects closely tied to the Passion of Christ--the Holy Grail, the lance that pierced Christ's side, the sword used to behead John the Baptist, and a dish from the Last Supper. While legends of the quest for the Holy Grail continue to grip the popular imagination, the other relics, once closely associated with the Grail legends, receive little mention. Still, the overlooked Grail Hallows, as they are called, have a rich symbolic history, winding through the ages--and leading in some surprising directions. This exploration of the forgotten relics of the Grail Procession examines the body of evidence hinting at their authenticity, and traces their history as symbols, from the early days of Christianity, to Celtic mythology, to "the foggy wastelands inhabited by history's outcasts," to the suits of the modern tarot. The oral histories and a possible sourcebook that informed the earliest known stories are discussed. Illustrations and photographs of relevant locations and objects, including the cards of the tarot, further illuminate the story. An appendix gives a timeline of the Hallows' history, and there is a bibliography and an index.

Romance of the Grail Oct 24 2021 Joseph Campbell made the power of story undeniable through the power of his own storytelling. Editor Evans Lansing Smith here collects Campbell writings on Arthurian legends that make events like Merlin's death and the Lady of the Lake retrieving Excalibur not just vibrant but also central to the mythologist's thinking. Three cornerstones of Campbell's celebrated scholarship are found here. The Arthurian myths opened the world of comparative mythology to Campbell, turning his attention to the Near and Far Eastern roots of myth. Calling the Arthurian myths the world's first "secular mythology," Campbell found metaphors in them for human stages of growth, development, and psychology. Finally, the myths exemplify a kind of love Campbell called Amor in which individuals become more fully themselves through connection. Campbell's infectious delight in his discoveries makes them essential for anyone intrigued by the stories we tell — and the stories behind them.

The Complete Story of the Grail Jan 27 2022 The mysterious and haunting Grail makes its first appearance in literature in Chrétien de Troyes' Perceval at the end of the twelfth century. But Chrétien never finished his poem, leaving an unresolved story and an incomplete picture of the Grail. It was, however, far too attractive an idea to leave. Not only did it inspire quite separate works; his own unfinished poem was continued and finally completed by no fewer than four other writers. The Complete Story of the Grail is the first ever translation of the whole of the rich and compelling body of tales contained in Chrétien's poem and its four Continuations, which are finally attracting the scholarly attention they deserve. Besides Chrétien's original text, there are the anonymous First Continuation (translated here in its fullest version), the Second Continuation attributed to Wauchier de Denain, and the intriguing Third and Fourth Continuations - probably written simultaneously, with no knowledge of each other's work - by Manessier and Gerbert de Montreuil. Two other poets were drawn to create preludes explaining the background to Chrétien's story, and translated here also are their works: The Elucidation Prologue and Bliocadran. Only in this, The Story of the Grail's complete form, can the reader appreciate the narrative skill and invention of the medieval poets and their surprising

responses to Chrétien's theme - not least their crucial focus on the knight as a crusader. Equally, Chrétien's original poem was almost always copied in conjunction with one or more of the Continuations, so this translation represents how most medieval readers would have encountered it. Nigel Bryant's previous translations from Medieval French include *Perlesvaus* - the High Book of the Grail, Robert de Boron's trilogy *Merlin and the Grail*, the *Medieval Romance of Alexander*, *The True Chronicles of Jean le Bel and Perceforest*.

Heretic Apr 05 2020 In the flames of unceasing war, a young archer's heart, will, and courage will be supremely tested in the conclusion of an epic quest for vengeance and the greatest prize in all history: The Holy Grail.

The Lost Book of the Grail Dec 26 2021 From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Bookman's Tale* comes a new novel about an obsessive bibliophile's quest through time to discover a missing manuscript, the unknown history of an English Cathedral, and the secret of the Holy Grail. Arthur Prescott is happiest when surrounded by the ancient books and manuscripts of the Barchester Cathedral library. Increasingly, he feels like a fish out of water among the concrete buildings of the University of Barchester, where he works as an English professor. His one respite is his time spent nestled in the library, nurturing his secret obsession with the Holy Grail and researching his perennially unfinished guidebook to the medieval cathedral. But when a beautiful young American named Bethany Davis arrives in Barchester charged with the task of digitizing the library's manuscripts, Arthur's tranquility is broken. Appalled by the threat modern technology poses to the library he loves, he sets out to thwart Bethany, only to find in her a kindred spirit with a similar love for knowledge and books—and a fellow Grail fanatic. Bethany soon joins Arthur in a quest to find the lost Book of Ewolda, the ancient manuscript telling the story of the cathedral's founder. And when the future of the cathedral itself is threatened, Arthur and Bethany's search takes on grave importance, leading the pair to discover secrets about the cathedral, about the Grail, and about themselves. "Lovett's unique work combines literary and historical research with classic elements of cozy mysteries, classic love stories, and exciting adventure tales to create a true genre-blending masterpiece. At once funny, heartwarming, and suspenseful, *The Lost Book of the Grail* has something for every kind of reader, and every kind of book-lover, alike." —Bustle

Crusade Against the Grail Apr 17 2021 The first English translation of the book that reveals the Cathar stronghold at Montségur to be the repository of the Holy Grail • Presents the history of the Papal persecution of the Cathars that lies hidden in the medieval epic *Parzival* and in the poetry of the troubadours • Provides new insights into the life and death of this gifted and controversial author *Crusade Against the Grail* is the daring book that popularized the legend of the Cathars and the Holy Grail. The first edition appeared in Germany in 1933 and drew upon Rahn's account of his explorations of the Pyrenean caves where the heretical Cathar sect sought refuge during the 13th century. Over the years the book has been translated into many languages and exerted a large influence on such authors as Trevor Ravenscroft and Jean-Michel Angebert, but it has never appeared in English until now. Much as German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann used Homer's *Iliad* to locate ancient Troy, Rahn believed that Wolfram von Eschenbach's medieval epic *Parzival* held the keys to the mysteries of the Cathars and the secret location of the Holy Grail. Rahn saw *Parzival* not as a work of fiction, but as a historical account of the Cathars and the Knights Templar and their guardianship of the Grail, a "stone from the stars." The Crusade that the Vatican led against the Cathars became a war pitting Roma (Rome) against Amor (love), in which the Church triumphed with flame and sword over the pure faith of the Cathars.

The Sword and the Grail Nov 12 2020 Recounts the adventures of Perceval on his quest to become a knight.

The Cross and the Grail Aug 10 2020 The two symbols at the heart of Christian belief -- the Cross and the Grail -- represent the two faces of contemporary Christianity. The Cross is its outward face -- masculine, public, exalted. The Grail is its hidden or esoteric face -- magical, feminine, sought by many, but found only by those who are able to ask the right questions. In this inspiring and practical book, Robert Ellwood examines ways of making Christian belief vital and responsive to contemporary life, now and for the future. Drawing on the teachings of Theosophy and of the Liberal Catholic Church, as well as the themes and motifs of medieval romance, Ellwood shows Christian practice at its most profound to be a philosophical, meditative, and mystical path well in keeping with the Ancient Wisdom Tradition.

The Temple and the Grail Sep 22 2021 In the popular imagination, the Holy Grail – part of the legendary romance of King Arthur – belongs to the realm of myth. The Knights Templar also have a legendary, enigmatic aspect. Despite the immense volume of historical research available, plausible explanations to the ‘mystery’ at the core of their practices have yet to be revealed. By studying these two themes side-by-side and showing their inner relationship, Veltman reveals valuable new perspectives. On the one hand he demonstrates that the ‘poetic imagination’ of the Grail mystery has its origin in concrete historical events; and on the other hand, that the true history of the Knights Templar is, essentially, esoteric. Combining historical research with insights gained from the work of Rudolf Steiner, Veltman presents an impressive survey of the subject, beginning with the pre-Christian Mysteries and ending with a vision of Michaelic Christianity. He analyses the significance of the holy city of Jerusalem, the Temple of Solomon, the Temple Legend, the Grail Temple, the Rosicrucians, the Templars’ gold, and the fraught question of evil. In addition, he sketches the continuation or metamorphosis of the Grail and Temple impulses into the future, including the critical ‘balancing’ role of Europe between East and West. To become effective, this important European task – which, he says, is continually being thwarted – must be properly understood within the realm of human consciousness.

The Grail Within Aug 29 2019 Originally privately published in a limited edition of just ninety-three copies, and hand distributed to other senior adepts, The Grail Within is Allen Greenfield's exploration of the "Central Secret" of many western mystery schools, now exposed in this book for the first time. This powerful form of sex magick which has been practiced for thousands of years. The Grail Within is not just a primer but takes on the subject in depth with sections on enlightenment, sexual scrying, the creation of a star child, symbols, as well as a discussion of the now infamous Babalon working. Greenfield also goes into a powerful magickal technique of "Scrying in the Flesh." This book is a must have for practioners and others interested in harnessing the power of sexual magick to raise their consciousness and explore the realm beyond.

The Story of the Grail and the Passing of Arthur Sep 10 2020 This time-honored retelling of the Arthurian legends follows the adventures of Sir Gerwaint, Galahad's pursuit of the Holy Grail, as well as the last days of King Arthur-his attack on Sir Launcelot, fatal battle with Sir Mordred, and final journey to Avalon. Howard Pyle's four-volume series on the life and kingship of Arthur, of which this is the last, cemented the author's well-deserved reputation. The wonderful medieval flavor of The Story of the Grail and the Passing of Arthur is enhanced by Pyle's courtly language and his 39 richly atmospheric pen & ink illustrations. Pyle's work as an illustrator came to epitomize the "Golden Age of American Illustration." HOWARD PYLE (1853-1911) was an American writer and illustrator. Born in Wilmington, Delaware, Pyle began teaching illustration in his forties, and counted among his students N. C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish, Frank E. Schoonover, and Jessie Wilcox Smith. His many books were frequently set in mediaeval Europe.

Genesis of the Grail Kings Apr 29 2022 Adam and Eve were not the first man and woman on Earth, but they were certainly the first of a kind. When the Israelites made their exodus from Egypt, their spiritual leader was not Moses, but Miriam - a queen and high priestess of the pharaonic succession. Joseph, the father of Jesus, was not a humble carpenter, but a trained alchemical metallurgist of the highest order. These and other contentious facts are disclosed for the first time in this remarkable study of the original kings - the early Pendragons, the unique royal ancestors of King David and Jesus. Drawing on files and hitherto secret archives of the ancient Dragon Sovereignty, Genesis of the Grail Kingstells the ultimate story of earthly kingship from its early Mesopotamian foundation. It reveals why the Messianic bloodline was so important, and explains in detail the true heritage of the Holy Grail. The author draws comparisons throughout between the biblical scripture and the historical documents from which the Old Testament is derived, so that a very different and highly controversial picture emerges. Here are the documented records of the hermetic Phoenix, the Philosophers' Stone and the Tables of Testimony - records which give stunning insight into active longevity, the transmutation of gold and the anti-gravitational science of the pharaohs

Glastonbury and the Grail May 31 2022 Glastonbury, a small town in Somerset, England, stands at the epicenter of a longstanding tradition placing the Holy Grail in Britain. Legend holds that Joseph of Arimathea traveled to Britain, bringing with him both a gathering of followers and the cup that Jesus used at the last supper. He is said to have buried the Grail at Glastonbury, where some claim he founded the first church in England. This volume chronicles one man's

personal quest to find historical evidence supporting the traditional beliefs surrounding Joseph of Arimathea and the Holy Grail in southern England. Bolstered by an abundance of evidence supporting the presence of Joseph in 1st Century Britain, he separates his findings from the fantasy of the Grail Romances, answering questions about the Grail and the origins and progressions of its legend.

Keeper of the Grail Sep 30 2019 In 1191, fifteen-year-old Tristan, a youth of unknown origin raised in an English abbey, becomes a Templar Knight's squire during the Third Crusade and soon finds himself on a mission to bring the Holy Grail to safety.

Perceval, Or, The Story of the Grail Jul 01 2022 In this verse translation of Perceval; or, The Story of the Grail, Ruth Harwood Cline restores to life the thematically crucial Arthurian tale of the education of a knight in his search for the Holy Grail. Cline's translation, faithful to the highly synthetic, deliberately ornate nature of medieval French, follows Perceval from his home in Wales, through his rich and raucous adventures as a member of the fraternity of knights, to his climactic meeting with the Fisher King. Paralyzed by his first glimpse of the Grail, Perceval fails to save the ailing king. Distraught, the knight begins a new quest for the Grail, a journey on the road of penitence and faith. Perceval's venture, the true test of his knighthood, ends without conclusion; the death of author Chrétien de Troyes left unsaid and undetermined the success of Perceval's quest.

The Mystery of the Grail Dec 14 2020 In this important study of the meaning of the Grail, one of Europe's greatest esoteric philosophers discloses the pre-Christian and initiatic sources of this symbolic motif that is so central to Western mythology and culture. He demonstrates how the main features of the legend are from an older tradition analogous to the great heroic sagas and cycles of the North, and that the Grail itself is a symbol of initiation. Evola uncovers the hidden meaning in the often surreal adventures of the knights who searched for the Grail, interpreting them as inner experiences and tests for the seeker. He also explores the history of the myth in the Middle Ages, its use by the Knights Templar and the Cathars, its legacy during the decline of the Holy Roman Empire, and its links with Rosicrucianism, alchemy, and Masonry. This excursion into the realm of the Grail throws new light on an endlessly fascinating subject.

Quest for the Grail Oct 31 2019 A spiritual leader leads men and women on an inner journey to find the true self using the ancient Arthurian legends of knights in search of the Holy Grail.

The Goddess, the Grail, and the Lodge Jan 15 2021 Examines the theory that the Grail is a symbol replete with feminine overtones and that its central place in modern religion suggests the survival of age-old religious beliefs focusing around a Great Goddess.

The Grail Legend Nov 05 2022 Writing in a clear and readable style, two leading women of the Jungian school of psychology present this legend as a living myth that is profoundly relevant to modern life. 17 illustrations.

The Grail, the Quest and the World of Arthur Mar 29 2022 The idea of the quest, is crucial to Arthurian literature, investigated in texts, manuscripts, and film.

The Grail Jul 09 2020 The medieval legend of the Grail, a tale about the search for supreme mystical experience, has never ceased to intrigue writers and scholars by its wildly variegated forms: the settings have ranged from Britain to the Punjab to the Temple of Zeus at Dodona; the Grail itself has been described as the chalice used by Christ at the Last Supper, a stone with miraculous youth-preserving virtues, or a vessel containing a man's head swimming in blood. In his classic exploration of the major versions, Roger Sherman Loomis shows how the Grail, once a Celtic vessel of plenty, evolved into the Christian Grail with miraculous powers. Loomis bases his argument on historical examples involving the major motifs and characters in the legends, beginning with the Arthurian legend recounted in the 1180 French poem by Chrétien de Troyes. Loomis's book builds suspense as he proceeds from one puzzle to the next in revealing the meaning behind the legends.--From publisher description.