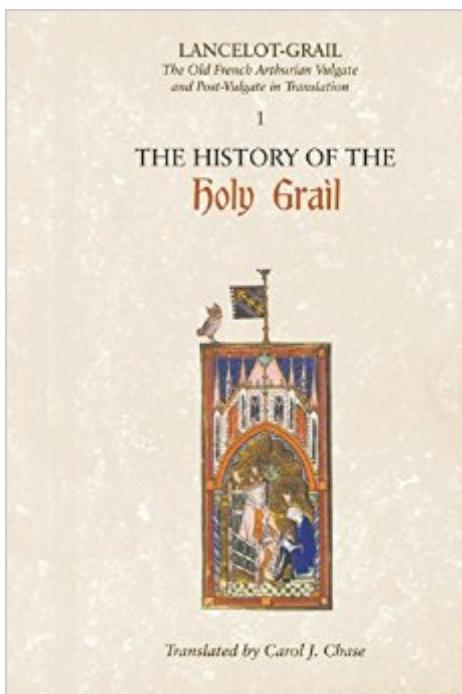


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Lancelot-Grail: 1. The History Of The Holy Grail: The Old French Arthurian Vulgate And Post-Vulgate In Translation (Lancelot-Grail: The Old French Arthurian Vulgate And Post-Vulgate In Translation)



Synopsis

Although The History of the Holy Grail opens the Vulgate Cycle, it was added after the events described in Lancelot and The Quest of the Holy Grail were already an established part of the Arthurian story. It is, in Hollywood terms, a 'prequel', and relates the story of the Grail from its first appearance at the Crucifixion up to the point where it is placed by Alain, the Fisher King, in the castle of Corbenic, whose inhabitants then await the arrival of the chosen Grail knight. Many points in the narrative are designed to foreshadow or to explain the later adventures connected with the Grail, but it also draws on the stories in the apocryphal gospels and other legends of the crucifixion such as the story of Veronica, as well as unrelated material such as the story of Hippocrates. But it also provides many details about the Grail itself which are not found anywhere else. It is less chivalric in tone from the subsequent books of the Vulgate Cycle, and relatively few copies of the original survive. For a full description of the Vulgate Cycle see the blurb for the complete set.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is in part a 13th story of the evangelism of Britain as written by an author who knew almost nothing about Britain or about the few traditions on this head which the Church thought it knew. The author's sources were in part the 'Joseph of Arimathea' written by the late 12th-century or early 13th century author named Robert de Boron and in part fragments of a supposed early history of the grail embedded in the 13th century romance 'The Quest of the Holy Grail'. A prose version Robert de

Boron's work appears along with its sequel the 'Story of Merlin' appears as a prequel to the 'Prose Lancelot' in some medieval texts but there are problems in marking its continuity fit with the 'Prose Lancelot' and the 'Quest of the Holy Grail'. For one thing, Robert de Boron seems to have imagined that Arthur began to reign about a generation after Christ while the 'Prose Lancelot' and the 'Quest of the Holy Grail' place Arthur in the 5th century following the birth of Christ based on supposedly historical chronicles. It would be impossible (although Robert de Boron seems to indicate it) that Perceval was the son of Joseph of Arimathea's nephew Alain/Alan the Stout unless Alain's life was amazingly prolonged. Instead, the 'Quest of the Holy Grail' only mentions a certain Alain/Alan the Stout who is a distant ancestor of Lancelot. Where Robert de Boron makes out that Joseph of Arimathea's brother-in-law Bron is the Rich Fisher, that is apparently the Fisher King of the grail stories, the 'Quest of the Holy Grail' makes no mention of either Bron for himself or as the father of Alain the Stout.

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