



## THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL – A PAUSE IN HISTORY

As we read the history of the human species, we are constantly struck at how it seems to ramble on, how it appears to leap from one resting place to another, pausing only long enough to reset its past to its present. These moments are linked together by a common theme, a common purpose, and perhaps the most interesting, a common personality. This article will help us look at some of these moments and see how they link together and bring us to a resting place at the Musgrave Manor.

This article was originally presented to The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem at their August 2021 meeting. The quiz which was use is also included. Let's begin with a question from the canon,

**“Whose was it? Who will have it?”**



And did those feet in ancient time  
walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
on England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
among those dark satanic mills?

From a poem by William Blake

British folklore is filled with stories which explain how they came to be a special place, a “green and pleasant land.” In this story, Jesus of Nazareth accompanies his uncle, Joseph of Arimathea, on a buying trip to the British Isles. This picture is of Tintangel where iron was mined in its caves.

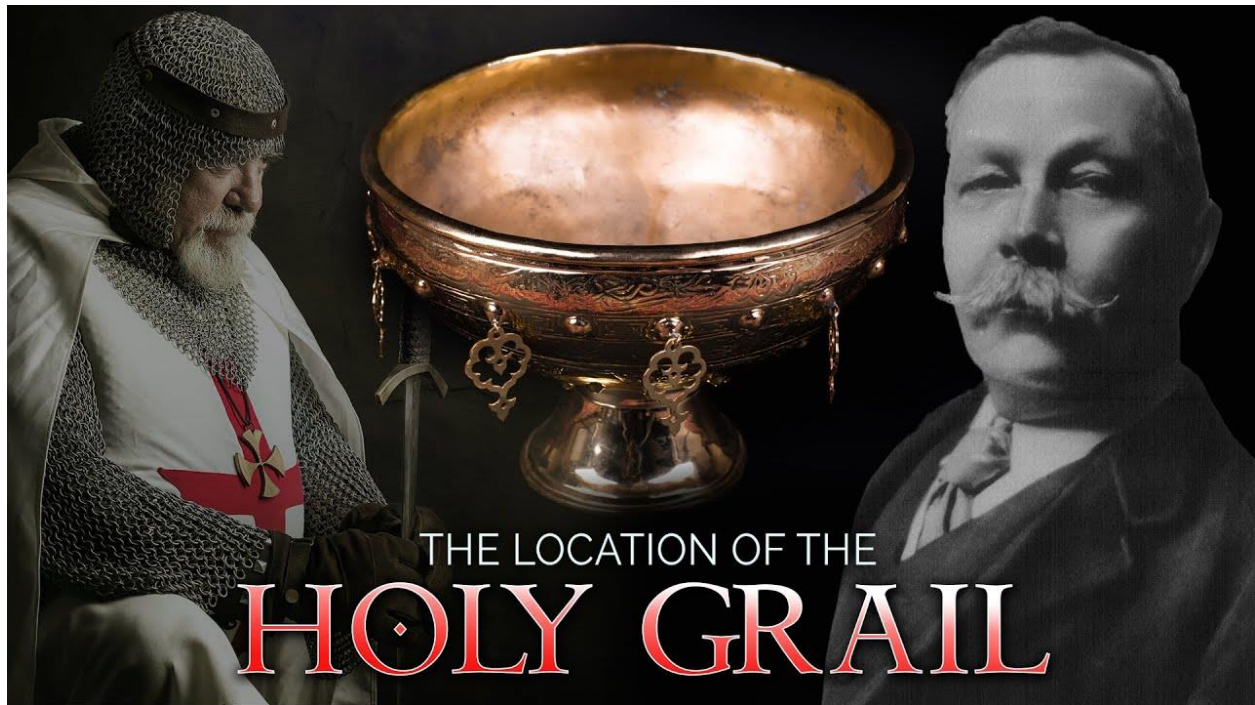
The Romans mined the area, and after they officially left Britain, some of them stayed behind. The area is Cornwall, and over the centuries it became dotted with castles. The one at Tintangel is a focal point of this article because it is instrumental in the development of the Arthurian legend. It is here that Merlin was said to live in one of the caves, and it is in the castle where the story of Arthur's birth unfolds.

The action of the story moves inland. The most likely spot for King Arthur's court – and I know I am speaking of a legend as if it were a fact – is Cadbury Castle in Somerset. It was developed during the Bronze and Iron Ages, so it certainly meets the test of time.



It would have been here that the Holy Grail was finally brought and worshipped. (Note: There are as many competing narratives for the Grail as for the location of King Arthur's Court. I have written a non-Sherlockian article on this subject and found the topic very interesting.) This is the remains of St. Michael's Tower on Glastonbury Tor. It marks the traditional location of the Court of King Arthur.

So how does this tie into “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual”? Holmes tells the story of how the crown of Charles I of England came to be at Musgrave Manor, itself a resting place for the history of Britain. Arthur Conan Doyle certainly understood this when he wrote these words.



## Holy Grail: A Parable Poem

By *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

HIGH-BROW HOUSE was furnished well  
With many a goblet fair;  
So when they brought the Holy Grail,  
There was never a space to spare.  
Simple Cottage was clear and clean,  
With room to store at will;  
So there they laid the Holy Grail,  
And there you'll find it still.