

Oak Island Mystery

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March 3, 2021



- I would like to thank the organizers for giving me this opportunity to present this material.
- They actually asked a different person to give this talk but somehow ended up with me!
- In case you don't know me, I've included a picture of myself...

Well no, this is who we all wish was giving the talk...



- That's Robert Langdon–Dan Brown's fictional character of “The Da Vinci Code” fame
- At this point, I'm going to refer you to the first talk I gave on this subject (see www.stirhaven.com)
- You should probably view that talk before proceeding with this one.
- But since you're here now, and possibly as prepared as I am, like that talk, I'll let you know when you're about to hit spoilers.
- At that point, you'll be welcome to stop watching this talk and come back to it later.
- Perhaps someone is recording this, but I've endeavored to make the slides readable in any event.

This is Oak Island, Nova Scotia



This is Shugborough Hall, Staffordshire, England



This is Rennes-le-Chateau, France



What do they all have in common?

- Shrouded in mystery!
- More theories than answers!
- Secrets revealed in Codes!
- Historical Ciphers with Provenance!

No, not fictional codes!



Oak Island: Money Pit

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THE READER'S DIGEST

January

Nova Scotia. The results were dramatic.

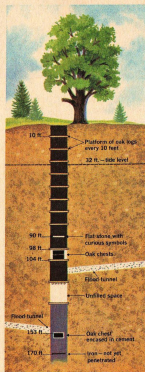
At 98 feet down, just where the crowbar had hit a solid mass in 1804, a horse-driven pod auger (which picked up a sample of anything it passed through) pierced a spruce platform. After dropping through an empty space, it cut into four inches of oak, 22 inches of metal pieces, eight of oak, 22 of loose metal again, four more inches of oak and six of spruce, and then into deep clay. To the drillers this suggested an exciting prospect—a vault containing two chests, one atop the other and laden with treasure, perhaps gold coins or jewels. Moreover, the auger brought up a tantalizing sample of what might be there: three links of a gold chain!

A second 110-foot shaft was dug in 1850. It also flooded. But this time a workman fell in and came up sputtering, "Salt water!" Then someone noticed that the water in the pits rose and fell like the tide. This discovery jogged old Tony Vaughan's memory: years before, he had seen water gushing down the beach at Smith's Cove—520 feet from the Money Pit—at low tide.

The treasure hunters stripped the sandy beach, searching for a hidden inlet of the sea. Under the sand, to their astonishment, they found tons of coconut fiber and eel grass on a stone floor that stretched, 154 feet wide, the full distance between high- and low-tide marks. More digging uncovered more surprises: five rock-walled box drains slanted in from

the sea and down, converging on a line aimed at the Money Pit.

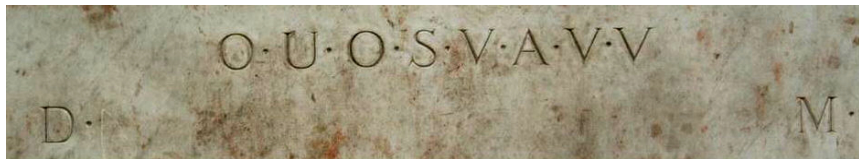
In effect, the beach acted as a gigantic sponge to soak up tidewater and filter it into a conduit. This con-



Shugborough: Shepherd's Monument



Shugborough: Inscription



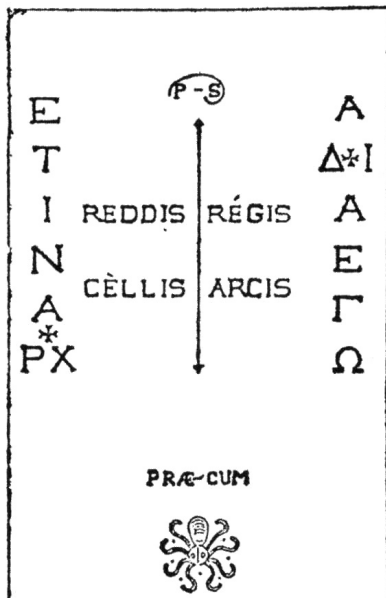
Rennes-le-Chateau: Asmodeus (This Place is Terrible)



Rennes-le-Chateau: Inverted Cross



Rennes-le-Chateau: Defaced Grave Stone



Oak Island Mystery

- In the 1750s, French fisherman began settling in nearby Chester, Nova Scotia.
- The French were expelled and the British began settling in the early 1760s.
- The first British settlers were seeking treasure that was rumored to be buried in this area!
- The British Admiral, Lord George Anson, is rumored to have made secret expeditions to the area.
- The early residents included the Smith and Vaughn families.
- In the 1790s, a Mr. McGinnis went to Oak Island, probably with a former slave, Samuel Ball, and I believe they were in possession of a certain map, diagram, and cipher. (see the previous talk and “Pour Angelique”)

Oak Island Mystery deepens

- McGinnis and Ball enlisted the help of the Smith and Vaughn teenagers to help dig in a large depression below an Oak Tree, above which they found, either a ship's block and tackle still hanging, or a branch that had been damaged by one.
- They found many signs that a big pit had been dug there.
- They found flag stones at the top, that had been moved to the location from a nearby river.
- They found a stone with cryptic etchings that made them and others increasingly superstitious.
- They later concealed the fact of this stone because the inhabitants refused to help them from "some kind of superstitious dread" and probably because they had deciphered it and wanted to keep its meaning secret.
- Every ten feet, they found wooden platforms.
- At around 40 feet they stopped for some unexplained reason.

- They formed a treasure seeking company and continued to dig to 80 or 90 feet.
- Running out of funding, and still desiring to go deeper, they claimed they found a stone with etchings which was deciphered to “Forty Feet Below Two Million Pounds Are Buried” .
- I believe this is the stone they found at the surface (the 0-foot stone) which motivated them to stop digging after failing to find anything 40 feet below.
- Continuing their dig resulted in massive flooding back to the 30 or 40 foot level.
- All subsequent attempts to unearth anything have failed.
- Of particular note, several pieces of parchment (one with the letters “vi”), leather book bindings, and some human bones have been recovered over the hundreds of years.

Oak Island Theories

- Captain Kidd's Treasure?
- The Masons became interested in the burial, believing that French treasure, possibly Crown Jewels, were buried there?
- Shakespeare's Works?
- Religious Artifacts?

Switching gears to the UK: Shugborough Inscription

- No one knows what it means!
- No one even knows when it appeared!

Shugborough Inscription Theories

- Optimae Uxoris Optimae Sororis Viduus Amantissimus Vovit Virtutibus ("Best of wives, Best of sisters, a most devoted Widower dedicates (this) to your virtues")
- "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity."
- Oro Ut Omnes Sequantur Viam Ad Veram Vitam ("I pray that all may follow the Way to True Life")
- Graffiti! Mary Venables, Vernon of Sudbury Hall, the Baron Vernon of Derbyshire, the honourable Edward Vernon-Harcourt and the 1st Viscount Anson of Orgreave (a hamlet United with Overley) and Shugborough

And now to France: Rennes-le-Chateau

- A Priest discovers a small treasure concealed in the church (golden chalice, coins, figurines?).
- And the secret behind the treasure!
- Buys a copy of two paintings: A Poussin and a Teniers.
- Goes a little crazy with renovations.
- Reveals his secret to housekeeper who promised to reveal it on death bed
- His deathbed confession leaves a Priest shocked!
- She dies of cerebral hemorrhage, paralyzed and speechless.

Rennes-le-Chateau theories

- Treasure of Blanche de Castille?
- Hoax to cover up trafficking in masses?
- Excuse to cover up grave digging?
- Concealed bribes to keep secrets?

- Okay, at this point I'm going to start revealing solutions!
- The Rennes-le-Chateau information is new and not contained in either of the books "Pour Angelique" and "A Pirate's Folly" and I'm not sure I'm up for writing another sequel (at least not any time soon) so you might as well stay for the Rennes-le-Chateau solutions!
- I'll give you another chance to leave shortly!

Rennes-le-Chateau solution

- A certain Elizabeth Anson sent her shares of the treasure of Oak Island back to whence it came!
- A church devoted to Saint Mary Magdalene as penance for her evil sins!
- Yes, Chateau-le-Rennes
- She melted the gold and fashioned crosses and religious figurines.
- A Priest acted as confessor to her sins.
- Accepting the treasure but concealing it in the church to become someone else's problem!
- Small parchments were concealed and a grave stone created that revealed the secret.
- Sauniere found these and in the act of searching graves and bearing the burden of the confessions probably ended up doing much of what is accused of him.

Rennes-le-Chateau solution, cont.

- Asmodeus (the Devil On Two Sticks) is an important reference in a three volume, 600 page work from 1773 which reveals the true story of Oak Island!
- Saunier's renovations were intended to document the secret!
- Most notably, he painted a hill in Shugborough with the Triumphal Arch!
- He also depicted the "Shepherd's purse" with gutted hole!
- Pirate's Skull and Crossbones!
- The inverted cross and gravestone reveal the secret of Oak Island!
- I can reveal the secret of the Teniers painting without spoiling the other.

Shepherd's Purse (guttled hole)



Triumphal Arch



Triumphal Arch (Dark Lanthorn?)



Pirate Skull and Crossbones



Teniers



After Teniers (Anne Margaret Coke)



After Teniers explained

- The Rennes-le-Chateau grave has a vertical double ended arrow hinting we should invert something (the other details will be explained later!)
- The inverted cross also hints that we should invert the cross in the painting!
- Anne Margaret Coke was a talented painter and wife to Thomas Anson, 1st Viscount Anson
- Thomas Anson was passed down the Anson secret of Oak Island/Shugborough Inscription.
- They thought the secret of the Shugborough inscription was too complex so they endeavored to leave the painting after Teniers as a clue (similar in spirit to the Shugborough decryption).

After Teniers - inverted cross (XL highlighted)



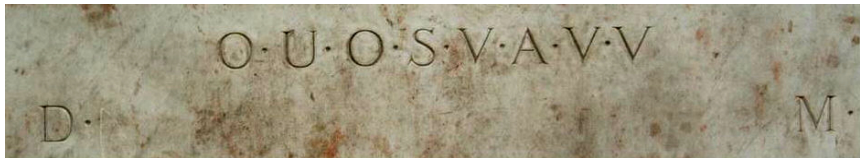
Spoiler Alert!

- So maybe things don't make sense yet, I promise they will...
- But, at this point you should probably
 - Read "Pour Angelique"
 - View the first talk
- or for less of a challenge
 - View the first talk
 - Read "Pour Angelique"
- Then Read "A Pirate's Folly"
- Then continue with this talk.

Secret of Shugborough

- The Bas-Relief sculpture was designed shortly after June 24, 1749.
- Commissioned work of Peter Scheemakers by Elizabeth Anson.
- Commemorates Elizabeth/George Anson's discovery of Oak Island! and more!
- Reveals the secret location of a great French treasure!

Inscription Reminder



Inscription solution

- The D. M. hints to a latin funerary inscription *Dis Manibus*
- Meaning a dedication “to the shades”
- So we are simply to take the other letters in pairs, citing the most common latin abbreviation!
- O. U. *Oculus Uterque*, Both eyes
- O. S. *Oculus Sinister*, Left eye
- V. A. *Vice Agens*, Acting in place of
- V. V. *Vice Versa*, The other way around.

Inscription solution, cont.

- Solution is easy:
- Both eyes, left eye, acting in place of, the other way around!
- But what does it mean?

Don't forget to look up! Shepherd's Monument



Poussin's Et in Arcadia Ego



Monument explained

- Noting the most obvious differences between Poussin's version and Scheemakers:
- Scheemakers reversed the image!
- The shepherd's staffs have been angled to form letters!
- From the grave stone we have a circular arrow starting at S and ending with the P (prae-cum before-with or take the pre-image)!
- I.e., we are to reverse **S**cheemaker back to **P**oussin's orientation!
- Latin literally reads "Return King's Storeroom to Arch"!
- Latin and Greek (Et In Arcadia Ego but also Et In Acadia Ego)!
- Note the spider/octopus is actually (three) Eyes with rotating staffs!

Scheemaker's reversed back to Poussin



Scheemaker's reversed back to Poussin (IV highlighted)



The other elements of the inscription

- Fingers pointing to R in Arcadia (as out of place)
- Oak Island in Acadia!
- Finger pointing to the N as in North
- Note the

D. M.

not

D. ·M

as an artist would have done!

- Indicates another meaning. Blank space before the M!
- George Anson circumnavigated the Earth just a few years before the inscription!
- D also stands for Degrees! (so the inscription is degrees)
- M also stands for Minutes! (not given! or given as blank)
- Presumably a latitude (longitude inaccurate, finger points to North!)
- Latitude often given as Roman Numerals!

Final Solution

- Both Eyes (II)
- Left Eye (LI)
- Acting in place of (X)
- The other way around (i.e., ILLIX is not a number! but XLIII is!)
- Ah but we have to turn the three staffs III according to Poussin!
- So XLIV (not XLIII or XLVI, both red herrings)
- Alright, note the relief immediately gives IV after Poussin!
- Anne Margaret Coke's/Thomas Anson Jr. brilliant idea is to immediately give XL after Teniers!
- THIS IS THE LATITUDE OF OAK ISLAND to the accuracy of that day!
- And the sculpture/inscription was known to exist in 1750 and Anson didn't know the minutes until very late in 1759!

Proof

- I have gazillions of first hand documents w/provenance!
- Richard Jago struggled “to print or not to print” poem in 1747.
- Richard Jago wrote over 100 page poem (Edge Hill) detailing the events exactly 5 years after George Anson’s death!
- George Anson left a posthumous cipher to his brother/relatives (which was really, really annoying to decrypt)
- Jago published (anonymously) 600 page story about the events (The Spiritual Quixote, credited to the editor, his friend Richard Graves)
- Jago on his death bed adds references to this epic story to his poem (my Graven Lines and prefaces). He signs the work with a cipher! (Gregory Gaskins subverting Censoring Christians)
- To dispel any other interpretations Jago explicitly relates the story to George Anson (Geoffrey Wildgoose–Anser=latin for goose!) by citing pg #'s and details within George Anson’s journal of his voyage around the earth!

Questions? stirhaven@gmail.com

Thanks!

Maybe I will write a sequel



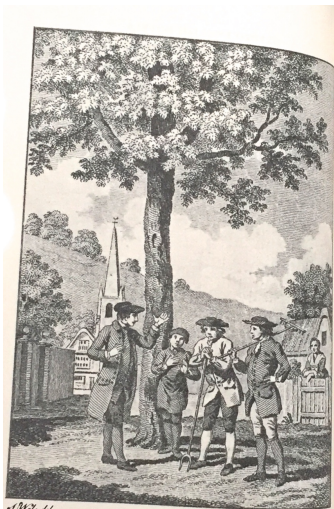
Maybe I will write a sequel



Maybe I will write a sequel



Maybe I will write a sequel



W. White del.

C. G. Johnson sc.

RICHARD GRIMM'S

~~Jago~~

THE Spiritual Quixote

OR
THE SUMMER'S RAMBLE OF
MR. GEOFFRY WILDGOOSE
A COMIC ROMANCE

