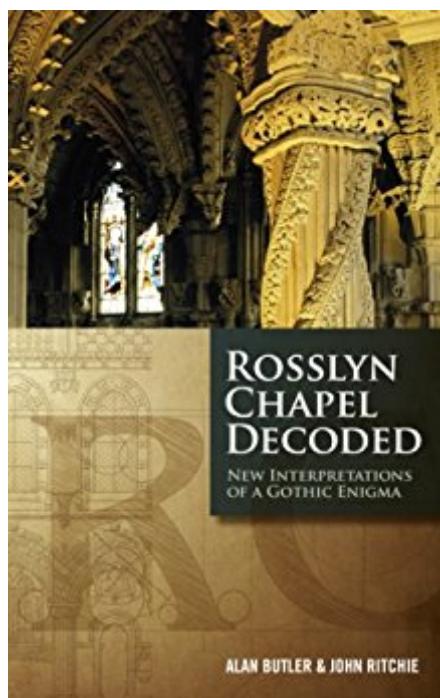


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Rosslyn Chapel Decoded: New Interpretations Of A Gothic Enigma



Synopsis

Rosslyn Chapel is a deeply enigmatic 15th-century Gothic masterpiece, situated near Edinburgh. Although generally referred to as a 'chapel' and acting as a local parish church these days, Rosslyn is actually much more than either - and in fact most people who have studied the site in detail come to the conclusion that those who created the structure in the 15th century were not, in reality, intent on building a Christian church at all. In fact, nothing at Rosslyn is what it seems. With its overpowering air of mystery, its superlative stone carvings and its strong Templar and Freemasonic connections, Rosslyn represents one of the most absorbing historical puzzles in Britain. The discovery of new evidence by the authors puts a new slant on the motivations of those who decided to create a New Jerusalem in the Scottish Lowlands. The signs pointed the authors to a lost holy relic - the skull of St Matthew the Evangelist, in whose name the chapel is dedicated. There is startling evidence that this skull came to Rosslyn in the early 15th century, brought there by polymath, librarian and all-round genius Sir Gilbert Hay, who also put together a substantial library. What follows is no less than an adventure, using the clues from the lost books to locate St Matthew's skull - now in Washington, DC. The authors also embark on a thorough examination of Rosslyn Chapel's credentials, both a Christian church and as an icon of the impending Renaissance, a reconstruction of King Solomon's Temple and an astronomical observatory - all suffused with ancient beliefs that would have had the chapel's builders burned at the stake if their true motivations had been discovered.

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Customer Reviews

We just returned from Scotland and the Rosslyn Chapel was one of our stops. This was a very wonderful and interesting place. The guides told us a lot about what we were seeing, but memory would not serve for long. I purchased two of the book offerings at the chapel shop. I looked at "Rosslyn Chapel Decoded" but did not purchase it. Big mistake, for this book is by far the most informative and interesting of the three books. This book opens so many more avenues of thought and speculation about builders intentions. This was not a church, although it became one, it was a family chapel that was designed at the whim of its owners. So many mysteries about the different elements of the building that may never be solved. So many different religious elements evolved in the carvings in and outside of the building. I never would have known the real meaning of the beautiful carvings and secrets of this wonderful chapel without this book. It will make you want to go to Scotland and see for yourself .

Since the cottage industry of Rosslyn Chapel began, only two books have been written that compelled me to write a review; This one of course, and its predecessor, Rosslyn Revealed. Why? Because authors Alan Butler and John Ritchie probably came the closest to telling the true history and purpose of the Chapel. Sure, that's just my opinion, but it is based on personal experience having been there six times. That might not mean much if I were a local, but the trips originated from my home in San Francisco. Because of those visits and the many books I read before, during, and after, I was satisfied I knew the story of Rosslyn Chapel. But Butler and Ritchie's first book together, Rosslyn Revealed, started me to question what I believed. Now, this sequel, ROSSLYN CHAPEL DECODED, makes me want to go back to Scotland once again to see the Chapel with "new" eyes!

I really liked this book. I enjoy the writing style of these writers. They tell interesting things about the Rosslyn Chapel. The idea about Mithraism seems a bit far fetched to me, it is very much

speculation. That may also be because I never heard of Mithraism still being practised so late in time. The idea did inspire me to keep an open mind though. Thank you!

This was an excellent discussion of Rosslyn chapel with many intriguing insights on the history, architecture, purpose. I was fascinated by all the background research and detail the authors presented, which they apparently collected from vast, diverse and credible places. The book is expertly written (scholarly yet highly engaging) and approaches the topic in a finely crafted way. I also appreciated the great care they took in describing certain aspects of the chapel, so much so, I really got a sense of the place itself (having never been there). I felt as if I was being personally led through the chapel on a tour by a personal guide. If you're interested in medieval architecture, art and society (all of which I am), you'll thoroughly enjoy this book. And though the authors touch on the many mysteries and possibilities surrounding Rosslyn Chapel, it's not at all some sort of epic conspiracy-theory sort of tale about the Templars. It's a very serious work that shows great scholarship. Superbly done and highly recommended.

Very interesting theories here, after visiting the Chapel, this detailed breakdown of the various aspects of the chapel was awesome and very thorough. The Chapel guides should refer to these theories around the three pillars, they make so much sense.

Enjoyed this book...I saw the documentary on PBS...and was intrigued by the story....the book goes in to more detail.....

I love the books by Alan Butler! His and his research partner's findings always lend new information to existing mysteries. The author just doesn't parrot the findings of others, he does his own research and comes to new and original conclusions. He goes the extra miles and effort to present new and interesting information on age-old mysteries. A well-researched book that sheds new light on the enigmatic Rosslyn Chapel.

We just visited Rosslyn, bought for my husband's birthday and is a great book. Visit there if you ever have the chance!

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