

FORTEAN TIMES 203 (November 2005)

### Gullible's Travels

All you need to know about the Therapeutate priests of Tuthmoses and their high-powered friends

The Shadow of Solomon

The Lost Secret of the Freemasons Revealed

Laurence Gardner

Harper Element

Hb, 408pp, illus, notes, bib, ind, £14.99, ISBN 0007207603

Laurence Gardner's authority for these 'revelations' depends on his claims on the dustjacket. He is "distinguished as the Chevalier de St Germain, Prior of the Knights Templars [sic] of St Anthony (1561) and of the Sacred Kindred of St Columba", and "attached to the European Council of Princes as the Jacobite Historiographer Royal".

Gardner has been touting these roles since his first book, when he was 'Sir' Laurence Gardner. There is no substance to any of these fancy titles, which arose only from Gardner's partnership with the alleged HRH Prince Michael of Albany, self-advertised Scottish royal.

The evidence has long suggested that the Prince is actually a Belgian chap – with dubious documentation – called Michel Fosse, that there are no Princes on the European Council, and that Fosse couldn't make anyone Chevalier or Prior of anything. Unless sound evidence is produced to the contrary, these titles add nothing to Gardner's standing or credibility, and probably detract from it. He is also, it seems, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (open to anyone, £40 a year), and a Professional Member of the Institute of Nanotechnology (join over the internet, £35).

So does the book's content convince? Does it stand by itself? It surely doesn't. It doesn't just regurgitate the rotten research of others, it wilfully decorates it. He has the Nine (Templar) Knights (remember them?) finding "documents hidden during the Jewish Revolt against Roman dominion in AD 66-70. These included manuscripts which enabled them to challenge certain Roman Church doctrines and New Testament interpretation". His source for this? Prince Michael of Albany. Prince Michael's source? None at all.

Gardner tells us about the Templar fleet, the Templar contribution at Bannockburn, and how Henry Sinclair discovered America in 1399. All nonsense, just repeated from the rest of the circle of Templar fantasists. You could never say these people don't share.

And the Lost Secret of the Freemasons?

Well, it seems to be that the Ark of the Covenant was a great big “electrical capacitor...capable of drawing enough energy into storage from the atmosphere to produce many tens of thousands of volts”. Why? Because “the Therapeutate priests of Tuthmoses, the Great Ones of the House of Gold, Moses, King Solomon and others used high-voltage electrical fire to transform gold into an exotic white powder that became the magical 'stardust' of romantic legend”.

It's simple enough ploy to undermine a book or author by suggesting that the author might be secretly conducting research into disinformation and gullibility.

Given Gardner's claims, his refusal to argue his case in correspondence, and his willing adoption and elaboration of proven nonsense, it would be an easy claim to make here.

I have to consider this possibility when he says of this mysterious white powder, without any reference or proof, that it “...is now being researched for industrial use in terms of its fuel-cell capabilities because it is super-conductive and can attract, store and distribute high-volume energy. Also the world of medicine has become fascinated by its future potential to cure immune system deficiencies and cellular breakdown in AIDS and cancer conditions. It is a slow wave-form light, which resonates precisely with the light frequency of human DNA and constitutes the very Light of Life itself.”

If this book – and Gardner's others – are part of an experiment in disinformation, then it's time to challenge both author and publisher to come clean and stop taking our money. If it isn't, then this is just an awfully – and I mean AWEFULLY – bad book.

Kevin McClure

FORTEAN TIMES VERDICT  
DISINFORMATION OR NONSENSE?  
UP TO YOU TO DECIDE!