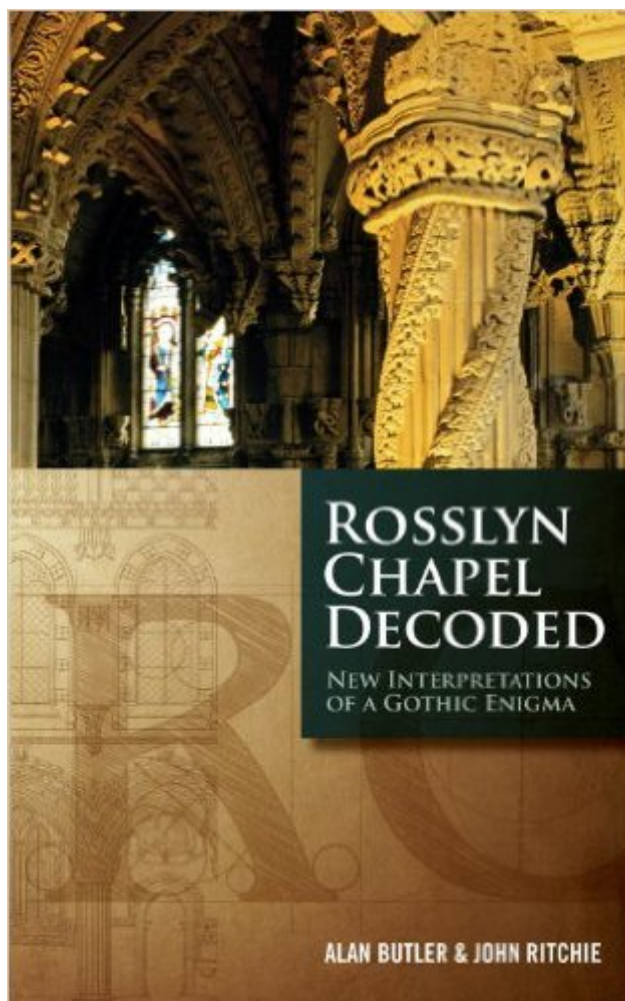


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Rosslyn Chapel Decoded: New Interpretations Of A Gothic Enigma



Synopsis

With its superlative stone carvings and strong Templar and Freemasonic connections, Rosslyn Chapel is a 15th-century Gothic masterpiece that appeared in *The Da Vinci Code* represents an absorbing historical puzzle. Alan Butler and John Ritchie believe that its walls once sheltered a holy relic: the skull of St Matthew. They lay out their startling evidence, complete with formerly unpublished images, and embark on an unprecedented exploration of the Chapel's history, as a Christian church and as something more: a reconstruction of King Solomon's Temple and an astronomical observatory.

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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 .

This was even better than I had suspected it might be. I was particularly thrilled with the portion that explained St. Matthew's Pillar. I too, had heard that pillar explained in another, less realistic way and this book shed a lot of light on the true symbolism the pillar represented. I also enjoyed all of the information on freemasonry that Alan Butler and John Ritchie included in *Rosslyn Chapel Decoded*. This book tells of the rich history of the small chapel much better than previous books I had read about the subject. I learned a lot about Mithraism that I wasn't aware of and it helped me to answer some of the questions I had never been able to answer before. I love the descriptive quality of the authors' writing. Although it is usually fiction that makes me feel this way, this non-fiction account of the chapel made it seem as though I were standing within it, appreciating the timeless and ornate beauty. If you have been to Rosslyn Chapel or plan to visit there, you will want to read this book. Even if you aren't planning a visit, this book is worth reading for the detailed history it explains. There is also a very intriguing section about the possible connections between Washington DC and Rosslyn chapel or more specifically the Cathedral of St. Matthew. The authors make you stop and think about what you might have learned and offers other possible explanations that are intelligent and plausible. Overall I found this to be a really well written book with a lot of information that I had not been able to acquire anywhere else. The authors have done their research and written a book that was not only informative, but beautifully constructed and fun to read. This review is based on a digital ARC from the publisher.

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!

How I wish I'd read Alan Butler and John Ritchie's *Rosslyn Chapel Decoded* before visiting Rosslyn Chapel. Really, I would have taken so much more from the experience had I been better acquainted

with Chapel's history. Butler's work offers readers a detailed look at the Chapel, beginning with its founding and coming forward to renewed interest sparked by Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. It also explores the multitude of symbols and architectural details within the Chapel, many of which you could hardly hope to notice when visiting for the first time. An easy to read volume, perfect for anyone wishing to know more about the beloved landmark.

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.

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