

One of the Oldest Mysteries of the Ancient World Explored in New Novel by Minnesota Attorney

By Rachel M. Anderson, Contributing Writer

(Ephesus) – There are mysteries that date back to the early days of Christianity. What happened to the bones of the Virgin Mary? Where is the Star of Artemis? Did Jesus leave writings?

Some say Mary ascended to heaven after her son, Jesus, died on the cross. Others say her tomb is in the Kidron Valley at the foot of Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Another theory is that she was buried near her home near Ephesus, a Turkish city once considered the trade center of the ancient world. Could Ephesus also contain the sacred star and writings?

In the new novel, *The Ephesian Artifacts*, by Minnesota attorney Patrick W. Ledray, it is the latter theories that are explored. When the story begins, a young attorney named Scott Frank is looking for law books and furnishings for an office in Minnesota. He has just graduated from law school and is ready to begin his career.

But his law practice gets sidetracked when he gets pulled into a quest being undertaken by the owner of the mansion in Chanhassen, Minn., where he has decided to rent office space. Rutherford Ruffescott needs help getting to the bottom of the mystery of what happened to the Virgin Mary, and other sacred relics, and Scott Frank is drawn into the quest.

The novel is filled with action and adventure, and readers get a history lesson along the way. Ledray says he actually began work on the novel in 1988.

“I remember waking up in the middle of the night after the idea for the book quite literally popped into my head,” he says. “I didn’t have an outline or anything. What I did was put everything into this I was interested in based on my experiences traveling.”

Ledray is a retired Army Colonel, and estimates that over the years between work and leisure he has visited at least 28 different countries. He focuses on Ephesus in this novel because it is one of his favorite places in the world.

“I have been to the ancient city of Ephesus three times, and every hotel and restaurant described in the book are places I have either stayed at or visited,” says Ledray, who goes on to explain that in addition to doing extensive research online and in the library for his novel, he also had the hundreds of photographs and the copious notes he took during his trips to use as reference materials.

“I probably have five cardboard boxes filled with documents. Over the years, whenever I would come across anything interesting about Ephesus or the Virgin Mary, or Artemis on the Internet, or in newspapers or magazines I would save it,” he says.

In addition to providing detailed descriptions of the places he has been in the novel, the author also explores the history of people in the ancient world. Part of the story involves a cult made up of women based on the



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ancient Amazons, a race of female warriors. Amazons were said to have founded the city and temples of Ephesus. They are also credited with inventing the cavalry.

The Ephesian Artifacts will be officially released in November of 2015. For more information, visit www.patrickledray.com.

About the Author



In addition to his work as an author, Patrick Ledray is an attorney, practicing in the Twin Cities. He practices in the areas of business law, civil litigation and criminal defense, but considers himself a general practitioner.

He was on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1971 – 1974, and served with the Army Reserves from 1974 – 1999, where he achieved the rank of Colonel. During his career he earned numerous decorations and badges, including the Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

In the year 2000 he was named the Honorary Consul of Romania. In that role, he is responsible for fostering cross-cultural activities that connect America and Romania, promoting trade between the two countries and assisting Romanian nationals living here with legal matters, such as authenticating birth certificates and other documents. He also assists people who have questions about travel to Romania, and represents the country as a member of the Minnesota Consular Corps, of which he is a past president.

In 2012, he added published author to his list of accomplishments. Romanian Dragons, Inc., published his first children's book, ***The Dragon in the Christmas Tree***, which was inspired by his ties to Romania. Dragons are legendary there, reportedly having lived in the Carpathian Mountains for generations.

Patrick Ledray and his wife, Susan, live in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is being offered for your use copyright free and cost free. High-resolution photography is also available for free upon request. To request a review copy of ***The Ephesian Artifacts***, or arrange an interview with Patrick Ledray, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, at 952-240-2513 or rachel@rmapublicity.com.*

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