

AWE, THE JOY OF SUMMMER

W A T E R H O U S E S Y M B O L I S M N E W S L E T T E R # 9 8

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

- Finger of God conveys helping the soul get to heaven
- Honey suckle conveys simplicity, luxury and happy times
- IHS conveys the name of Jesus Christ.
- Infants convey new beginning, new era, innocence, helplessness, and hope

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Excerpts of the article below was written by Jim Gorman who is the Visitor Services Assistant at Mount Auburn Cemetery (Cambridge/Watertown, MA). Originally printed in their July 2014 electronic newsletter of the Friends of Mount Auburn, it is reprinted here with permission.

One of the classic, colorful sights of summer, are the blossoms of Daylily, *Hemerocallis* spp. *Hemera* is Greek for day (each blossom generally lives for a day), and *kallos* means beautiful. While beautiful, some of these are also tough, rugged plants, which are at their best throughout July and August. Among the toughest, are the Tawny daylily, or Orange daylily, *Hemerocallis fulva*. Long ago, these perennials, in their native Asia, were primarily grown for their edi-

DAYLILY

bleness. The flower buds, and flowers, have been eaten for millennia, throughout numerous Asian cultures, and their culinary attributes were likewise adopted in Europe during the Middle-ages, via the Oriental silk routes, eventually coming to America with Dutch and English colonial settlers.

These fragrant, funnel-shaped 3-4 inches wide flowers, opening in the early morning occur in multiples of 5-20, at the end of 2-to-4 foot tall, leafless stem, called a scape. Each single flower has three tapels, and flowers usually have six stems. The 1-t-foot long, linear, arching, leaves form large, dense clumps. To read the whole article go to: <http://mountauburn.org/2014/horticulture-highlight-daylily-hemerocallis-spp/>.



Mount Auburn

FINGER OF GOD

Donna Cousens Conley sent me this great image to the right of the finger of God. Normally, on 19th century gravestones, one seen the finger of God pointing either upward or downward.

Upward conveys pointing the soul towards heaven and

downward conveys helping the soul get to heaven. In Oakland cemetery, Atlanta, I have seen the finger pointing downwards and with a ribbon and flowers attached to the finger. I have also seen the finger breaking the chains holding the deceased person to earth.



Hartland, Maine Cemetery

OAK TREE

This broken oak tree is from Mount Warren Cemetery in Deer Island, Maine. The grave marker is for Captain William Warren who died September 28, 1850 at the age of 39 years, 3 months & 11 days.

It can mean mortality versus immortality because the top of the tree will die but the bottom of the tree will live. Also, notice on the tree there are a couple of acorns which is a symbol of resurrection. Even though the broken

branch will die, the acorns will fall to the ground and will become new seedlings and eventually new trees.

In Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletter #2, I showed a grave stone Weeping Willow in Oakland Cemetery's Oldest Jewish section and one branch of the weeping willow had snapped which is very similar to this image. Mount Warren Cemetery used to be a church cemetery, but the church located next door has been deconsecrated in recent years and is

now a private residence.



Every
revolution
was first a
thought in
one man's
mind.

Ralph Waldo
Emerson

This delicate plant conveys simplicity, luxury and happy times. It's intoxicating scent may soothe jangled nerves and entice us to relax into the calmer rhythms of summer. Its light yellow flowers open up as the dawning sun shines its light - sweetly and gradually. Embrace the energy of the honeysuckle this summer, and see what kind of bright events you attract in your life as you do so.

HONEY SUCKLE



IDENTIFIED SYMBOL

Andrea Carlin from the Association for Gravestone Studies sent me the image to the far right.

The inquiry came from Leon Scott from Canada and he wrote that "I have attached a jpeg image taken of the gravestone of my great grandfather. (We sought out the grave-site during our recent visit to Kirriemuir).

The headstone was likely made in the year 1900 and there is a symbol embedded into the gravestone (near the top of the stone) that I am not familiar with. Do you or any of your colleagues have any insight as to what it may stand for?"

Occasionally, one can find "IHC" instead of "IHS" in churches and on grave-

stones. IHS simply stands for the name of Jesus Christ.

This type of symbol is called a Christogram, or a monogram using letters from Jesus Christ's name. IHS is derived from the first two letters of Jesus's name in Greek: iota, eta and sigma. The Greek letter eta was transliterated into the Latin as "H," while the letter sigma became the letter "S" or "C."



TWO INFANTS

Steve & Cathy Vogel sent this wonderful gravestone photo from Lavonia, GA, city cemetery. It is two sided for two infants who were not twins.

Infants convey new beginning, new era, innocence, helplessness, and hope. Curtain conveys concealment, protection, veil of the future, dropping curtain equals the end and death. Tassels in the Victorian period conveyed wealth and status.



ONE OF THE UNKNOWN SYMBOLS

Diane Nesmeyer solved the mystery of the symbol to the right:

FCL stands for Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty which is the motto of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Fraternity referred to the brotherhood and sisterhood of those who had served together, Charity referred to the work the organization did to ensure the well-being of

veterans as well as the pensions obtained for them, Loyalty referred to loyalty to the Constitution and flag of our country.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army who had served in the American Civil War.



Beth David Memorial Gardens, Hollywood, Florida.

Mistakes are a fact of life.

It is the responses to error that counts.

Nikki Giovanni

SUNFLOWERS

This entry is from Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletter 83.

The painting to the right is by Arcadia Plastov (1893-1972) and the title is "Arrival of Summer". The sunflower conveys gratitude, affectionate remembrance, turning the soul to Christ, worship, false riches, infatuation and the sun.

Also in this painting are represented the three ages of man with elderly, middle age and youth or a child. The elderly man seems to be pointing the young boy to the future.

Yellow conveys the sun, fruitfulness and joy.

This painting is from an exhibition on social or communist realism.



What are your ideas
for future newsletters?



WATERHOUSE
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The mission of Waterhouse Symbolism is to research and document symbols locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and to share that knowledge through this newsletter, blogs and other avenues.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

So far, this summer, we have had one small brush with Hurricane Arthur. Even though it did not produce much wind, it did produce inches and inches of rain. Rain conveys fertility, purification, the grace of God, life, spiritual influences from heaven, an increase in spiritual energy, initiation, mercy and the impartiality of Christ.

Take care,
Richard Waterhouse

TOUR OF MOUNT AUBURN

Caleb and I had the privilege of attending a tour at Mount Auburn appropriately entitled "Art and Artists" on June 29, 2014 given by the incredibly talented duo of Helen Abrams and Susan Zawalich.

This is my second tour I have taken with them and what I really like about their tour style is the ramble quality and that they cover general interest items as well as identifying types of trees and even stopping to view a Red Tailed Hawk who had graced us with his beauty and grandeur.

If you ever attended one of my symbolism tours at Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, you know that the most effective tours

were the ones that were more rambles than tours and involved the audience's questions as well. This tour was truly that and much more.

Some highlights of the tour included: visiting graves of Winslow Homer, Edwin Booth and the Binney Monument. To the right is the Binney Monument which includes some wonderful symbols: poppies convey sleep, rest, peace, fecundity, death, extravagance, ignorance, indifference and resurrection; shrouded figure conveys death; and urn convey death, mourning, fate, purification, the feminine principle and health. A closed urn conveys mortality and an open one conveys immortality.



Binney Monument by Thomas Crawford, 1847-1850, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA