

Waterhouse Symbolism  
Symbolism e-newsletter #1  
July 2, 2006

Welcome to the first issue of my symbolism e-newsletter. A friend of mine once said that when I travel, I collect symbols. I am sharing three symbols that I collected on my trip to Rome, Italy in April 2005.



This funerary monument is in the Vatican's Saint Peter's church and is for one of the many Popes buried there (I have forgotten the name of the Pope). Notice, the dead lion - a symbol of courage and valor (similar to the confederate lion at Oakland). Notice the boy angel (Putto in Italian) is holding a downward torch and he is snuffing out this life on earth so the Pope will have eternal life. If you are familiar with the Joseph E. Brown monument in Oakland, you know that the two angels below Gabriel are snuffing out the person's life here on earth.



This is from another church in Rome. The skull is always the symbol of death and mourning and the temporary nature of life. It also symbolizes the transition of life to death. In many of the portrayal of the saints in Renaissance Art, you see the skull in the paintings symbolising the shortness of life.



Pope Urban VII's Arms in St. Peter's, Rome, Italy. Notice the three bees. Three things together is the symbol of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost). The bees are symbols of immortality and rebirth, as well as diligence and social organization. In Christian symbolism, a queen bee represents the Virgin Mary, As Mary gives birth to Christ, the queen bee produces honey.