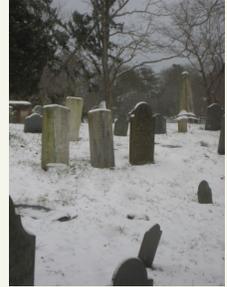


# QUIETNESS OF WINTER



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 1

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS

- Hour glass conveys transiency of life, time, and night
- Trees convey immortality, the life of cosmos and wisdom
- Frankincense conveys wisdom, purification of the mind and divine love
- Stag conveys peace and harmony

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope you have a very successful 2014!

Father conveys the masculine principle, heaven, dominion, the conscious, tradition, wisdom, moral commandments, the supreme deity, the Creator, death (in this case the death of 1921), and prohibitions.

Father time is an angel and he conveys spiritual influences acting upon the earth, messenger of God, saintliness, and sweetness.

He has an hour glass tied to his waist which conveys the transiency of life, time, inversion, evanescence, creation and destruction, perpetual inversion of the upper and lower worlds, death, night, night time as opposed to the sundial which conveys daytime. It is the attribute of the

Grim Reaper, Father Time, and Saturn.

Baby conveys new beginning, new era, innocence, helplessness, and hope.

The cover is for 1922 and important dates for that year include:

- The Tomb of Tutankhamen is discovered on November 4th in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.
- Lincoln Memorial is dedicated.
- Amelia Earhart sets altitude record for female pilots.



## THE LONELINESS OF TREES

One of my favorite parts of winter is looking at the bareness of trees. The painting to the right is Nonquitt Marshes, 1877-1878 by R. Swain Gifford (1840-1905), Oil on panel, and resides at the Ca- hoon Museum of American Art.

Trees convey immortality, the life of the cosmos, the link between the three worlds (heaven, earth and the underground or hell), longevity, fertility, mythic ascension, the slow process of individuation, wisdom, universe, eternal life and the Church.



## G O L D

Chris Prince reminded me of Epiphany and the three wise men by sending me small packets of frankincense and myrrh. The other symbol of the three wise men is gold.

If you know the story of the three wise men, you know they heard about the birth of baby Jesus and went to visit him and extol him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. On their way to visit, they met with Herod who suggested on their return, they come to him and tell him

where Jesus was living.

After meeting with baby Jesus and realizing what a special child he was, they had a dream not to return to Herod because his intention was to kill.

Gold conveys solar light, divine intelligence, superiority especially on a spiritual plane, pure light, heaven, worldly wealth, the sun, divinity, glory of God, sacredness, revealed truth, marriage, fruitfulness and the glory of faith triumphant.



*Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.*

Helen Keller

Frankincense conveys wisdom, purification of the mind, divine love, Old Testament priesthood and Christ's priestly office. It is one of the attributes of the Nativity of Christ.

The names of the three wise men and what gifts they brought are: Melchoir (Gold), Caspar (Frankincense) and Balthazar (Myrrh).

## F R A N K I N C E N S E



## M Y R R H

Myrrh conveys a sacred ointment, embalming, purification, chastity, gladness, higher qualities, peace, bliss, truth, logic, natural good and witness. It is the attribute of the Nativity of Christ, the Virgin Mary and Nicodemus.

It is interesting to note that to make something out of all

tree symbols of the wise men, you have to change the structure of the material. For gold, you have to melt it into shapes like bullion cubes, rings, etc. Frankincense is used for used in perfumery and aromatherapy and Myrrh is used for perfumes, medicines (such as aromatic wound dressings), and incense ingredients.



**VANITAS**

While wandering the halls of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, I found the painting to the right, Vanitas by Cornelius Gijsbrechts painted in 1659.

Flemish "Vanitas" is a type of symbolic still life painting based upon biblical themes. The term, Vanitas, refers to arts, learning, and time, with the skull emphasizing the certainty of death. In today's reading from Ecclesiastes, the writer laments, "sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed

by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil."

Paired with the reading from Ecclesiastes is the Lukan parable of the rich man who put his faith in storing up riches. The rich man's philosophy of eat, drink and be merry brings this response: " But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'" (from the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt, Nashville)



**S T A G**

Adrienne Anderson sent me this Christmas card image of her painting "Stag", mixed media on wood, 8 x 8 inches. She explains in her Christmas card that "the stag represents one who has high ideas and one who will not fight unless provoked. The stag also represents peace and harmony. During the Middle Ages the white stag was considered a messenger of divine importance with strength, fortitude and rejuvenation and because its

antlers resemble branches it is associated with the 'Tree of Life'. The stag is also linked with the Arts specifically with poetry and music. In Buddhism the stag represents knowledge and the Chinese regard it as a symbol of virility and happiness. Medieval writers say of the stag: 'one who will not fight unless provoked: a lover of music and harmony and who will see his times and opportunities'".



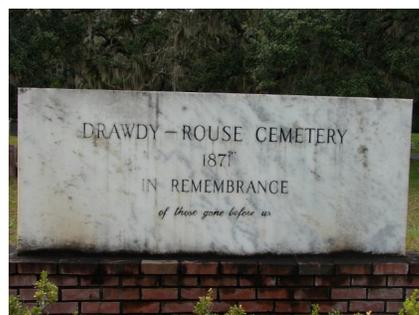
Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

Goran Persson

**M O R E T U R K E Y S I N C E M E T E R I E S**

Amy Larner Giroux sent me the following photos and note: The attached photos are from 2008 and are of turkeys in the Drawdy-Rouse Cemetery in Orlando, Florida. My son and I were in the cemetery and the turkeys tolerated us as long as we did not point the camera towards them. If we did they would run away. My son hid behind a marker to shoot the attached picture of them as they wandered close to the

edge of the area. I have also seen turkeys in other cemeteries around Central Florida.



**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 research with individuals.**



**NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a very successful New Year.

Above is part of my family standing left to right: Michelle, Janet, Caleb, me and Jim.

Sitting left to right: Amanda, Mills and Rachel.

Take care,

Richard Waterhouse

## FACT VERSUS LEGEND

Nancy Demmers said there is a similar story to the Blocher Mausoleum (see last month's newsletter) in Savannah's Bonaventure: the story of Corinne Lawton. The young woman fell in love with a man who was not favored by her family and they planned to send her away. It is said that right before she was to be sent away, she walked into the waters of the Wilmington River (that flows by Bonaventure) and drowned. There were symbols at her grave (wilted wedding bouquet) etc. in the usual Victorian way! Another wonderful legend! Nancy sent a Facebook message and explained she checked with her tour guide who told her the tale and had an interesting response. Not far from my response about "legends". The tour guide explains that the "Myth" or story of her dying on her wedding day, the drowning, has existed for a long time in urban lore, even long before tours were happening in Savannah.

She believes that there are other facts that point to some of the storyline. There is too much surrounding the "legend" to only be that -- a legend. She does not think the mythos of her does any harm, if anything it is the stuff great lives are made of. People who have lost someone young, too soon and of course, Corinne touches minds and hearts of everyone who has experienced unrequited love. She has become kind of an accidental maiden of these things in Bonaventure. And in some sense, because she is near the bluff where 40 people drowned themselves, they painted her with that brush a bit too. If anything, it only adds the mystique of all and in a way, such intrigue is healthy because it does spur the inquiring minds of people to actually research the life & times and keeps the debate healthy.

If you have other stories that touches the fine line between fact versus legend, please share them with us.

