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Summary

The Holy Grail

Account by:	Unknown. Staff reporter.
Source:	<i>Egyptian Gazette.</i>
Location:	Cairo, Egypt.
Event:	1954.
Report:	1 Apr 1959.
Catalogued:	8 Aug 1976.

Report

**ASTONISHING FIND
NEAR SAINT
CATHERINE'S
MONASTERY**
Holy Grail discovered in Sinai?

A team of experts has speculated that a well-preserved bowl discovered 1954 in Sinai could be the "Holy Grail" of medieval legend.

The bowl was unearthed by four boys, aged between 9 and 10, who were clearing an ancient rockfall encountered while they were exploring a cave near Saint Catherine's Monastery.

Local archaeologists have long been aware of the rockfall but had left it undisturbed for fear that its removal might bring down the entire cave roof. The plucky youngsters moved the rocks regardless and behind them found a niche containing the bowl and a copper scroll.

Scholars in Cairo, led by the renowned American Egyptologist, David D. O'Connell, were asked study the artefacts and have this week published their findings.

Ancient Tongue

The bowl is corded ware, manufactured in the region of the Aral Sea some four thousand years ago.

The scroll is written in Tannaitic Hebrew and dates from around 100 A.D.. Words in this ancient tongue describe the bowl as having had the property of healing all ailments in any who supped from it.

The scroll further states that the bowl was brought to Antioch by Pelles of Athens and that

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later it became the property of a physician named Loukâs, whom Prof. O'Connell's team believes to be Saint Luke the Evangelist.

Legend

The scroll goes on to explain that upon the death of Saint Luke the bowl ceased to function. It was buried according to his wishes on the slopes of Mount Sinai, close to where the Ten Commandments were revealed to Moses.

Professor O'Connell suggests that the story of the bowl is the source of the legend of the Holy Grail.

When asked by this newspaper if the bowl retained any of its curative properties, Professor O'Connell quipped, "Well I've still got this damn-able cough, so I guess not!"

Notes

Prof. David D. O'Connell died in New York of lung disease 12 Mar 1965.

The facts of the article were confirmed by one of the four boys, Magdi Ragab, interviewed Suez 4 Aug 1976.

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The bowl and copper scroll were sent to Moscow for further study Oct 1960, but were lost in transit.

The Egyptian Museum in Cairo is rumoured to possess O'Connell's original research materials, including a set of detailed photographs and a charcoal rubbing of the scroll. The museum's director denies this rumour.