

**THE GRAAL PROBLEM
FROM WALTER MAP
TO RICHARD WAGNER**

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The Graal Problem from Walter Map to Richard Wagner by J. S. Tunison

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J. S. TUNISON

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BY

J. S. TUNISON

Author of "Master Virgil" and "The Sapphic Stanza"



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*What is it?
The phantom of a cup that comes and goes?*

*Was I too dark a prophet when I said
To those who went upon the Holy Quest,
That most of them would follow wandering fires
Lost in the quagmire?*

PREFACE

Brevity has been zealously aimed at in the pages that follow. To have added translations and abstracts and detailed analysis of the Arthurian romances to what in that kind is already existent and readily accessible for all who wish to investigate the subject, would be a mere impertinence in a writer whose qualifications for the task here essayed are those of a critic and mediævalist, and not those of a folk-lorist or interpreter. The attempt is made to deal solely with the difficulties of a literary cycle, and the merits of the solution are left to the acuteness and penetration of readers.

As to the use of the orthography *graal* in place of the conventional *grail*, nothing more can be said than that the former is historically the earlier form, and the one which indicates clearly the derivation of the tales in which it

PREFACE

figures. If one were writing an essay on Tennyson's poems, the spelling *grail* would be sufficiently accurate; but in a field of investigation where Tennyson apparently never ventured, the usage which he sanctioned may justly be neglected, if good reasons can be given for the deviation.

In stopping short with the consideration of Wagner's drama as literature, leaving the discussion of his music untouched, the dictates have been followed of both necessity and reason — necessity, through lack of requisite musical learning; reason, because it is only as a poet that Wagner can be compared with his predecessors.

The author's thanks are due to Frank E. Tunison, of *The Dayton Journal*, for timely suggestions and for efficient aid in reading the proofs of this book.

J. S. TUNISON,
BETA THETA PI ROOMS,
CINCINNATI, January, 1904.

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