

# THE LOGOLOGICAL MILLIONAIRES

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Logology has intrigued many writers. George Bernard Shaw, for example, gave us the word GHOTI. Pronounced 'fish', it is a compound of the GH of ENOUGH as the 'f', the O of WOMEN for the 'i' and the TI of EMOTION for the 'sh'. But, few writers have made a fortune from a single piece of wordplay. The exception is a trio--Michael Bagent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln--who turned one piece of wordplay into the best-seller *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*.

Their thesis turns on a charade of the word SANGREAL. Generally this word is understood as SAN/GREAL or Holy Grail. They came up with the revolutionary idea of perceiving it as SANG/REAL or Blood Royal. The book then turns history and theology on its head in order to 'verify' their ingenious wordplay. True, they are dismissive of their basic tenet but nevertheless it still provides them with a 'clue' to the concept that Jesus faked his crucifixion, married Mary Magdalen and their lineage (the Blood Royal) was preserved by the early kings of the Franks to whom the original crusaders and, later, the Freemasons pledged their fealty.

The trio researched the early Frankish period to a considerable extent, but overlooked one vital piece of logological evidence, the famous SATOR square. This was known to the doctors of the Merovingian (early Frankish) period as a 'magic square' which had the power to guard against toothache and the bite of mad dogs. The square contains the contentious word AREPO which, in a February 1993 Word Ways article, I suggested might be a non-word which enabled the construction of a sort of cheater's palindrome.

But could I have been mistaken? Does AREPO have a real (the pun is intentional) meaning? Can you solve the mystery of AREPO and, by re-writing history, become the fourth logological millionaire?