

GLOSSARY

THE SANGREAL – BOOK 3 OF THE MAQLÛ

Real places, people, and history in the book.

“Truth is not only stranger than fiction, it is more interesting.”

William Randolph Hearst

I never planned for the books in this series to become so tied with reality and history. But in my research for book 3 – *The Sangreal*, I found I couldn't help but incorporate historical characters and events into the storyline than in book one. Some of the facts are so bizarre, though, that I thought the reader might wonder what is fantasy and what is fact in this book. Below are some of the more interesting facts and history I've incorporated. Enjoy.

Afterlife - My book's afterlife is loosely based on ancient Greek mythology's afterlife, which had four levels:

- The first 'level' is the Entrance to the Underworld. In Greek mythology, a soul must cross either the river Acheron or the more well-known Styx by paying the ferryman Charon with a gold coin. Once they cross the river, they are judged and sent to one of three places:
- Tartarus was the lowest and darkest where those who had been evil, cruel, or offended the gods went.
- The Plains of Asphodel were for those who had been ordinary people. It wasn't as nice as living, but neither was it as bad as Tartarus.
- The Plains of Elysium were for heroes and those who had pleased the gods.

Alcazar of Seville is a royal palace in Seville, Spain, built by the Moors. The palace is one of the most beautiful in Spain and is regarded as an outstanding example of Moorish architecture. It is the oldest royal palace still in use in Europe and is part of the Seville UNESCO World Heritage Site.

La Amistad was a private merchant vessel headed to Cuba when the captives revolted in 1839. The captives asked for the boat to return to Africa, but the plantation owners aboard managed to turn the ship north and run along the American coastline, where it was intercepted and the captives sent to prison. The ensuing legal battle over competing claims of property rights (slavery) and personal freedom made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, which eventually decided in favor of the captives and had them returned to their home country of Sierra Leone.

Ankh is the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic character for life. Its first known use was about 5,000 years ago. The Egyptians believed that living was only part of life and that the ankh symbolized our mortal existence and the afterlife.

Archivo General de Indias is part of the Seville UNESCO site. It is the repository for the archival documents of the history of the Spanish Empire in the Americas and Asia.

Auto-da-fé (act of faith) was the ritual of public penance of condemned heretics that took place during the Spanish, Portuguese, and Mexican Inquisitions. The most extreme punishment was execution by burning. In popular usage, the term auto-da-fé has come to mean burning at the stake. The first one in Spain occurred in Seville in 1481, when 12 Jews were burned at the stake. Estimates on the total number of people who died during the auto-da-fé's range from 10,000 to 30,000.

Battlements are defensive walls with gaps (usually rectangular) that occur at intervals to allow for the launch/firing of weapons for defense.

Bear Dance is the oldest dance of the Ute people (and one of the oldest in North America). Historically, it called the different groups of the tribe together after the first sound of thunder in the spring. It allowed relatives to socialize while providing an opportunity for the young people to meet and for marriages to be negotiated.

The girls/women chose their partners, not vice versa. It is expected that men accept. The boys stand in a line across from the girls. A line is drawn in the dirt, and dancers are prohibited from crossing, except at the end, to shake hands with their partners. The males and females also sit on opposite sides of the dance corral. These rules are enforced by "The Cat Man."

The dance starts early in the day and goes till sunset, with breaks for lunch and dinner. Traditionally, the girls tended to dance the most as a way of showing how strong they were and how they could hold up their end of the work in a marriage.

The Southern Ute tribe continues to follow this practice every year on Memorial Day weekend in Ignacio, Colorado.

- **Effigy rasps** are the musical instruments used at the dance. The rasp is a notched stick that makes the music when another stick is scraped against the notches. The ends of the larger stick are usually placed on a piece of corrugated tin to give the music an even more colorful tune.

Bimini is a chain of islands about 50 miles east of Miami, in the westernmost district of the Bahamas. It is one of the numerous spots believed to be where the Fountain of Youth can be found.

Biscúter is a microcar built in Spain in the 50s. The name comes from the first version of the car, which was roughly the size of two scooters. They were small because Europe was still recovering from the devastation of WWII, as well as the economic sanctions that other countries hit Spain with because of General Francisco Franco's dictatorship.

Bocadillos are a common sandwich for breakfast and lunch. A common variation is with Spanish Ham and Manchego cheese.

Bonito is a medium-sized fish in the tuna family. They travel in large schools, sometimes a half mile square.

Boyars were the highest rank of the feudal nobility in many Eastern European states. They were second in rank, only surpassed by the ruling princes.

Bran Castle is a fortress situated on the border of Transylvania and Wallachia in Romania. It is commonly known as “Dracula’s Castle,” although there is no evidence Bram Stoker knew anything about this castle when he wrote his book. It is now a museum.

Blackbeard (aka Edward Teach) (c. 1680 - 1718) was an English privateer who became one of the most infamous pirates in American history. He plied the waters of the Caribbean and Virginia/Carolina coasts in his 40-gun ship *Queen Anne’s Revenge*. He is remembered now for his fearsome appearance (he was a tall man with a long black beard who often placed slow-burning matches in his beard when he went into battle) and his rumored buried treasure, which has never been found.

Blackbeard’s Island is a wildlife preserve in Sapelo Sound, south of Savannah. Its name comes from the fact that Blackbeard is said to have buried his treasure on the island (none has ever been found). The only access is via boat.

Calix is an early chalice (drinking cup), often associated with the early Roman times.

Chimney Rocks National Monument is in southwestern Colorado and is the highest elevation of all the Chaco Canyon sites. It was active about a thousand years ago and housed about two thousand people. It’s unique because the two chimney rocks perfectly frame a major lunar event that happens once every 18.6 years.

- **Chaco Culture** flourished between the 9th and 13th centuries C.E. and lived in the ‘Four Corners’ region of the U.S. Southwest (Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon are two of their best-known sites). Known for their large structures, they are the ancestors of the Pueblo Indians.
- **Katy Freeman** was a high school student when, in 1990, she proved that you could send signals (she used mirrors while the Chaco Indians were believed to have used fires) from Chimney Rock Monument in Colorado to Chaco Canyon in New Mexico – eighty miles away!

Conquistadors were the explorer-soldiers of the Spanish and Portuguese empires of the 15th and 16th centuries. They brought disease (which killed tens of millions), war, and Catholicism to much of the Americas and parts of Africa and Asia. They were responsible for overthrowing the Incan, Mayan, and Aztec empires.

Crusade Routes were well-traveled paths to bring the Crusaders to the Holy Land. One of the most popular routes was the northernmost route, which went through Bulgaria, which is just south of Romania and not far from Wallachia and Poenari Castle.

Delphi is located on Mt. Parnassus and was an ancient religious sanctuary dedicated to the Greek god Apollo. It was home to the Oracle of Delphi and the priestess Pythia, who was famed throughout the ancient world for divining the future and was consulted before all major undertakings. The ancient Greeks considered Delphi to be the center of the world and marked by the stone monument known as the omphalos (navel). It's now a UNESCO site.

Diogenes (b ~ 404 or 412 BCE, d 323 BC) was a Greek philosopher who criticized the social values and institutions of what he saw as a corrupt Athenian society and believed that virtue was better revealed in action than in theory. He had a reputation for sleeping and eating wherever he chose, begging for a living, and often sleeping in a large ceramic jar in the marketplace. He became notorious for his philosophical stunts, such as carrying a lamp in the daytime and claiming to be looking for an honest man.

Dominican Order is a mendicant (begging) Catholic religious order founded in the 13th century to preach the Gospel and to oppose heresy. The teaching activity of the order and its educational organization placed the order at the forefront of the intellectual life of the Middle Ages.

Several other names have been used to refer to the order and its members.

- In England and other countries, the Dominican friars are referred to as “Black Friars” because of the black cappa (cloak) they wear over their white habits.
- In France, the Dominicans were known as “Jacobins” because their convent in Paris was attached to the Church of Saint-Jacques.

Dominican Friar's clothing

- **Capuce** is a hood attached to a circular piece of cloth that falls over the shoulders and comes down to a point in the small of the back. This hood used to be attached to the scapular but evolved into a rather elegant shoulder cape with hood.
- **Cassock** is a close-fitting ankle-length garment worn by the Christian clergy. It evolved from the tunic and often has a row of buttons down the front.
- **Scapular** is a long piece of cloth with a hole cut in the middle for the head; the material then hangs over the shoulders and covers the front and back of the tunic.
- **Tunic** is a loose outer garment with long sleeves.
- The white colors represent the purity of life with Christ, and the black is for penance and mortification.

Druids Very little is known about the ancient Druids, but they are believed to have been the educated professional class (religious and judicial leaders) among the Celtic peoples during the Iron Age (roughly 1200 BCE to 1 BCE). Unlike most cultures, female Druids held prominent roles in Celtic society. Unfortunately, the Romans wiped out their culture. Some of the key terms associated with the Druids in this book are:

- **Bandruí** is an Irish word for Female Druids.
- **The Five Elements** were believed to be the most fundamental parts on which everything is based but varied by belief and tradition. Four are common among most traditions (Earth, wind/air, fire, and water). The fifth element varies (e.g., aether, wood, metal, spirit).
- **Gaia** Many pagans (modern and ancient) worship Gaia as the spiritual embodiment of the Earth.
- **Groves** are how Druids organize themselves (just like Wiccans organize by covens). Since the ancient Druids were closely linked to nature, many of their meetings took place in groves of trees.
- **The Tree of Life** is believed to connect all life forms and is part of many of the world's religions and mythologies. To the ancient Druids, it symbolized rebirth and harmony and linked the upper and lower worlds.

Elisabetta Vlad Tepes' first wife's name is unknown, but legend has it she was named Elisabetta. It's also legend that she threw herself off the battlements of Poenari when she heard (falsely) that her husband was defeated in battle by the invading Ottoman Army.

Enlil is the King of Mesopotamian gods (equivalent to Gaia, God, The Great Spirit, etc.)

Flamenco Dancing is a musical and dancing art form from southern Spain known for its guitar music, expressive use of the arms, and rhythmic stamping of the feet.

Friars vs. Abbots vs. Monks

- **Abbé** is the title for lower-ranking Catholic clergymen in France.
- **Abbots** are the heads of monasteries or abbey.
- **Friars** work among laypeople and commit to a community spread across a wider geographical area than monks.
- **Monks** live in a self-sufficient community in a particular place.

Gilgamesh was a king of Uruk, Mesopotamia, who lived between 2800 and 2500 BCE. The *Epic of Gilgamesh* is considered the first great piece of literature. It was carved onto stone tablets long before the Old Testament but had some of the same stories and themes (e.g., the great flood garden of Eden).

Greek Orthodox Religion (also known as Eastern Orthodox) was founded in 33 C.E. It grew alongside the Roman Catholic Church until the great schism of 1054 CE when the two churches went their separate ways based upon differing ideologies (too numerous to list).

- **Greek Orthodox Churches** look very different than most other Christian churches. They often have at least two domes (the dome at the back is for God and is usually painted with a scene that depicts Heaven. The one in front is used as a watch out for sin. They tend to be smaller than their Western counterparts and far less ornate, with the walls and ceilings painted with scenes from the bible and of the saints.

Guadalquivir River is the only great navigable river in Spain. Nowadays, it is navigable from the Gulf of Cádiz to Seville, but in Roman times, it was navigable to Córdoba.

Gulf Stream Current is a warm and swift Atlantic Ocean current that originates in the Gulf of Mexico and flows along the eastern shore of Florida up to North Carolina, then veers east where it becomes the North Atlantic Current heading to northwest Europe.

Hand of Glory was usually made from the left hand of a murderer who was hung and is believed to have magical properties, especially when combined with a candle made from fat from the corpse of the same murderer.

Cup of Jamshid in Persian mythology is a divination (scrying) cup that also contains an elixir of immortality. Many Persian authors have credited the cup with the Persian Empire's successes.

Luddites were early 19th-century English textile artisans who protested (often violently) against newly developed labor-replacing machinery introduced during the Industrial Revolution. Nowadays, Luddite means one who is opposed to or slow to adopt new technologies into their lifestyle.

Magic can be anything from extraordinary supernatural powers to illusion, certain religious practices, and advanced technology. The word magic comes from the Persian word maguš (magician). In many ancient Mesopotamian societies, magic was an everyday event used for a wide array of purposes, from understanding omens to protecting oneself against spells cast by some witch. It was not only accepted; it was embraced. The concept of magic started taking on negative connotations in Greece, where it was thought to be used mostly by frauds. It wasn't until the Christian churches began preaching that magic was the work of demons and such that witchcraft became a hazardous occupation.

Mantua was an article of women's clothing that came into fashion in the late 17th century through the 18th century. It was initially a loose gown that replaced the bodice and skirt style that preceded it. It hung from the shoulders to the floor and was an overgown or robe.

Marduk was the Babylonian king of the gods. His famous ziggurat temple is considered the model for the biblical Tower of Babel.

Medinat al Zahra is another UNESCO site on the outskirts of Cordoba, Spain. It's a fortified palace-city built as a power symbol to show other caliphates in Africa and Iraq that the Spanish Moorish kingdom was their equal. It lasted less than a century before it was sacked, and the caliphate moved to Granada.

The Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella married in 1469, joining their kingdoms and unifying Spain. They are known for expelling non-Christians from Spain (especially the Jews and Muslims), the Spanish Inquisition, and funding Christopher Columbus' voyages.

- **Queen Isabella** (1451 - 1504) was Queen of Castille
- **King Ferdinand** (1452 – 1516) was King of Aragon

Morion is an open-faced combat helmet originally from Spain used in the 16th and 17th centuries. It usually has a flat brim and a crest from front to back.

Live Oaks (also known as evergreen oaks) are often associated with the Old South because of their huge spreading branches with Spanish moss hanging from them. It has a strong and dense wood that is used for shipbuilding.

Ottoman Empire, also known as the Turkish Empire, was founded at the end of the 13th century. At the height of its power, it was a multinational, multilingual empire controlling most of Southeast Europe, parts of Central Europe, Western Asia, parts of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa.

Hoping to reverse its territorial losses of the previous century, the empire allied with the Central Powers for World War I. The Empire's defeat and the occupation of part of its territory by the Allied Powers after WWI resulted in its partitioning and loss of its Middle Eastern territories. It also resulted in the Turkish War of Independence, which freed Turkey from the Allied rule and resulted in the Republic of Turkey.

King Phillip V (1683 – 1746) was the longest reigning Spanish Monarch and was king when the Treasure Fleet of 1715 sank in a hurricane. His ascension to the throne instigated the War of Spanish Succession, in which he won the right to remain king but lost some of the Spanish Empire to other European powers.

Plaza de España is a large half-circle with buildings running around the edge. It is accessible over a moat by numerous bridges representing the four ancient kingdoms of Spain. Beautiful tiled alcoves representing each of the provinces in Spain line the inside curve of the building.

Poenari Castle is a ruined castle in Romania overlooking the Arges River valley. It's notable for its connection to Vlad the Impaler, who rebuilt it and made it into one of his primary fortresses. It is here that Romanian legend says Vlad's first wife threw herself into the river from the ramparts rather than be captured by an approaching Ottoman Army led by Vlad's brother. Access to the now-ruined castle is via a climb of 1480 steps.

The Pythia was also known as the Oracle of Delphi (the most prestigious and authoritative oracle among the Greeks). The Pythia was always a woman and had to give up their family life, if they had one, to become the Pythia.

Supplicants had to pay for the opportunity to ask the Oracle a question. The Oracle would then answer, often in a frenzied state, possibly due to the vapors rising into the temple or perhaps

because the priestess used a poppy leaf (opium) on the fire to help induce a dazed state for both the priestess and the supplicants. They were also believed to have used a network of spies to gather information on the supplicants, making their predictions seem more real.

Romania is a country in southeastern Europe on the Black Sea. It was a part of numerous countries/empires over the last two millennia, including the Goths, Huns, Mongols, Hungarians, Ottomans, Germans, and was a member of the eastern block during post-WWII Soviet times. It is now a member of the European Union. It encompasses the old Wallachia, which Vlad Tepes ruled, and Transylvania, a well-known part of the *Dracula* story. Some of the cities mentioned in the book are:

- **Albesti** is a small town in the Carpathians between Poenari and Curtea de Arges.
- **Brasov** is a city in central Romania at the foot of the Carpathians and a part of Transylvania. It's the closest city to Bran Castle and Prejmer.
- **Bucharest** is a city of 2 million people and the capital of Romania. At one time, it was called 'Little Paris.' Its architecture is now an interesting blend of French, Communist, and modern architecture, and it's home to the largest parliament building in the world.
- **Curtea de Arges** was formerly the capital of Wallachia. It is in the foothills of the Carpathians, on the river Arges, and downstream from Poenari.
- **Prejmer** is a small town outside Brasov with a UNESCO-fortified church in the center of town.
- **Sighisoara** is a city in Transylvania in Central Romania. It has a well-preserved old town, including a 13th-century clock tower that dominates the city, and is another UNESCO site. Its fortification system was fairly unique, with a thick stone wall tying together a series of fortified towers, each manned by one of the guilds in the city.
- **Sibiu** is a well-preserved Medieval fortified city in Romania, in the Transylvania area. It's perhaps best known for 'The Eyes of Sibiu' – an attic window architectural feature on many of the city's roofs that look like eyes.
- **Targoviste** is a city northwest of Bucharest and was the capital of Wallachia for almost two centuries, including when Vlad Tepes was the ruler.
- **Wallachia** is a region in southern Romania (below Transylvania).

Sailing terms:

- **Directions** are given relative to the direction the ship is facing.
 - o Port is on the left side of the ship
 - o Starboard is on the right side

- **Dock cleats** are small anvil-shaped devices on the sides of a boat that can be used to help tie up the boat to a dock.
- **Tiller** is a lever to steer a ship by pushing it in one direction, which turns the ship in the opposite direction. It's directly linked to the rudder.
- **Ship's Wheel** was invented in the 18th century as sailing ships became bigger. It's linked to the rudder via a mechanical system. The ship turns in the same direction the wheel is turned. It

Sangreal (also known as Saint Graal or Holy Grail) in Arthurian legends is believed to be Christ's cup from the Last Supper (Holy Chalice). It was said to have been carried by Joseph of Arimathea to Britain and kept safe by a special group of guardians.

The quest for the Holy Grail was not an original part of the Arthurian tales but came along several centuries after the first tales were told. Even then, it started as a wonderous, but not holy, object. Its name also changed, eventually becoming the Holy Grail after much telling and retelling of the tales.

- **Arthurian Legend** is the tale of the legendary King Arthur, who was believed to have united Briton in post-Roman times. The legend includes stories of daring knights' quests, dragons, magic, love, and betrayal. One of the better-known parts of the lore is the quest for the Holy Grail. The tales may have been based on an actual Briton who lived around 500 CE.
- **Avalon** is a mythical island in the Arthurian legends where the sword Excalibur was forged and where Arthur was taken after his last battle. Arthur's sorceress, half-sister Morgan, is commonly believed to have ruled the island.
- **Sir Bors** (the younger) was the third knight who found the Grail.
- **Corbenic Castle**, according to legend, is where the Grail was kept. It is a place of great marvels, with the ability to mystically move to different locations.
- **Fisher King**, in Arthurian legend, was the last in a long line of British kings tasked with guarding the Holy Grail.
- **Sir Galahad** was one of the three knights of the Round Table that found the Holy Grail.
- **Sir Percival** was another of the knights who found the Holy Grail.

Seville Cathedral was originally a mosque but was converted into a cathedral after the Spanish drove the Moors out. At one time, it was the largest cathedral in the world (now it's the third largest). Along with the adjoining Alcazar Plaza, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Christopher Columbus is buried in the church.

- **Plaza del Triunfo** is a large public square that sits between the Cathedral and the Archives.

Sharur, in Sumerian mythology, is Ninurta's (Mesopotamian god associated with farming, healing, hunting, law, scribes, and war) mace. It's a powerful weapon that can fly over vast distances and communicate with its wielder.

Shoshonean is a dialect of the Uto-Aztecan language and the language historically spoken by the Ute Indians.

Snagov Monastery lies on a small island in a lake north of Bucharest, Romania. Local tradition states it is the burial place of Vlad the Impaler.

Space-time vortex, according to Einstein's theory of relativity, time and space are woven together in a 4-dimensional fabric. As an object, such as Earth, passes through it, a dimple (vortex) is created that would look like a person sitting on a trampoline. NASA ran experiments over a decade ago and proved that space-time vortices do exist, just as the theory of relativity predicts.

Spanish Cities mentioned in the book

- **Avila** is a Spanish city located west of Madrid, built before the Romans somewhere in the 5th century BCE. It has a massive fortress surrounding almost 80 acres of the city. The walls are, on average, nearly 40 feet high and were built almost a thousand years ago. It's another UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Cordoba, Spain**, is a city of over 300,000 people northeast of Seville on the banks of the Guadalquivir River. It's home to the Mezquita Cathedral, another UNESCO site.
- **Granada** is in the southeastern corner of **Spain**. It is one of the most visited cities in Spain because of its spectacular setting, the Alhambra, and the distinct Moorish architecture throughout the region. It was the last Moorish province in the Iberian Peninsula, falling to the armies of Isabella and Ferdinand in 1492. The metro area has almost 500,000 people.
- **Madrid** is Spain's capital and most populated city, with almost 7 million people.
- **Seville** is the capital and largest city of the province of Seville, Spain (south-central Spain). It was one of the wealthiest cities in Europe when it held the monopoly on all Spanish trade with the New World (Christopher Columbus set sail on his voyages from Seville). The metro area has three UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 1.5 million people.
- **Toledo** at one time, was the center of the Visigoth kingdom (the same tribe that sacked Rome in the 5th century). It's a UNESCO **Site** due to its extensive monumental and cultural heritage, including a mixture of Roman, Visigoth, Christianity, and Moorish cultures). Toledo is also known for its sword-making (thus the term Toledo Steel) and high-quality alloy. The Tagus River surrounds the city on three sides and has a population of less than 100,000.

Spanish Inquisition Torture and Execution priests would often be present during torture sessions and write down what the accused said. Below are some of the methods used.

- **Bronze Bull** was a hollowed-out execution device in the shape of a bull. The victim would be shoved inside, and a fire lit underneath. It was designed so that the person's dying screams would sound like a bull. Interestingly, the inventor of the device was the first victim.
- **Catherine's Wheel** was a torture device whereby the convicted person would be lashed to the wheel and bludgeoned. Then, their broken limbs would be woven into the wheel, and the person left to die.
- **Judas Cradle** was one of the more popular and painful torture devices during the Spanish Inquisition. It was a wooden device with a sharp wooden pyramid on top where the victim would be lowered onto the spike via pulleys and ropes.
- **Metal Coffins** were one of the more widespread torture and execution devices. Victims were stripped and put into a cage roughly the shape of a human body. The cage and victim were then hung in public.
- **Spanish tickler or Cat's Paw** was a clawed device with four prongs used to tear flesh from the victim as they hung.

Mount Subasio is a mountain in the Apennine range of central Italy. The UNESCO site of Assisi sits on its slopes.

Knights Templar was a powerful and wealthy Catholic military order that existed for nearly two centuries during the Middle Ages. Its original purpose was to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land. The Templars filled roles as knights in battle (wearing their white mantles with red crosses), bankers (the first international bankers), and many other functions.

- **Their founding** and explosive growth have caused all sorts of stories about how they became so powerful. The King of Jerusalem granted them a wing of an old palace on Temple Mount. When they left the Holy Land eight years later, they had amassed great wealth and power, leading to rumors that they had found a treasure or holy relics.
- **Friday the 13th** is considered an unlucky day, but its roots are tied to the Templar's demise. The King of France owed the Templars vast sums of money and convinced the Pope that the Templars were a threat. On Friday the 13th, 1307, most of the Templar order were killed or arrested and tortured by the king's agents.
- **Templar's treasure** the order was believed to have a vast treasure that was never found. The legend has spawned countless books and movies.
- **Temple Mount** is a hill in the old section of Jerusalem that is a holy site for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam for thousands of years. It's also believed to be where King Solomon built his temple. Templars used it as headquarters.

Tomás de Torquemada (1420 – 1498) was a Dominican friar, and the first Grand Inquisitor in Spain. He was a religious zealot who was Queen Isabella's confessor and personal advisor, as they shared many similar beliefs. Even though he was a descendant of Jews who converted to Christianity (conversos), he feared the Moors and Jews living in Spain and thus began a life-long pursuit of driving all 'heretics' (essentially anyone who didn't believe in his conservative Catholic beliefs) out of Spain. There is debate on how many people were executed during his time as the Grand Inquisitor, but the number is in the thousands. He was so reviled that his name has become synonymous with the Inquisition. His tomb was raided in the 19th century, and his bones were stolen and incinerated.

Tilley Hat is a versatile and durable hat made in Canada. They enjoy a cult-like following among some people.

Tonsure is the practice of cutting or shaving some or all of the hair on the scalp as a sign of religious devotion or humility. It is most often associated with specific Roman Catholic monastic orders.

Treasure Fleet of 1715 was just one of many treasure fleets that brought the riches of the New World to Spain to finance the country's wars and lifestyle. The fleet of 1715 was delayed until the end of the War of Spanish Succession, which meant that the plundered treasures had piled up. As the fleet was assembling, it was delayed even further by a gift request for the king's second wife. Since the fleet had been delayed for two years, the Spanish fleet commander knew pirates and privateers would be awaiting them. Still, he decided to launch despite it being hurricane season. They left Cuba and took the long way back to Spain along the coast of Florida. A hurricane struck them just days after they'd left, sinking all but one ship and hundreds of millions of dollars of treasure.

Captain General Don Juan Esteban de Ubilla was the overall leader of the 1715 'Plate' Fleet and commander of the treasure fleet originating in Mexico.

- **Capitán Don Antonio de Echeverz y Zubiza** led the fleet originating in South America.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is an agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture. World Heritage Sites are those sites considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

Ute Indians are an American Indian tribe that historically lived in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Utah but hunted over a much broader area. They currently have three reservations in southwestern Colorado and northeastern Utah.

Vlad Tepes III (c.1428 - 1477) was voivode (or prince) of Wallachia three times and the son of Vlad Dracul. As a young teenager, he and his brother were held hostage by the Ottomans to secure their father's loyalty. During that time, it's believed that Vlad rebelled against his hostage situation while his brother, Radu, embraced it and later became an Ottoman general.

Much of his life was spent trying to gain leadership of Wallachia or retain it. Most people think of him as a blood-thirsty madman, but many Romanians think of him as a hero who defended his country with brutal methods (namely impalement).

Even though it's commonly assumed that Bram Stoker used Vlad Tepes as the model for his vampire in *Dracula*, it's unclear whether he was even aware of him. The evidence also suggests that he did not use any of Vlad's castles for inspiration for his fictional character, Dracula. Instead, he relied on Romanian folklore of the wild Transylvania region and his imagination to create Dracula.

- **Impaling** is a method of torture and execution where an object, such as a stake or pole, penetrates through a person's torso. It is considered extremely harsh. However, contrary to popular belief, Vlad the Impaler was not unique in using this technique. It was first used almost two thousand years earlier than Vlad lived and was used by the Ottomans into the 20th century.

Vidaru Dam is a dam in the Carpathians that holds the Arges River back just upstream from Poenari.

- **Statue of Prometheus** is a huge metal statue of Prometheus holding lightning bolts near the Vidaru Dam. You can climb the tower to get a better view of the often snow-capped mountains surrounding the lake.

Wayside shrines are quite common beside the roads in Romania. They vary in size (some are no bigger than a postbox) and design (from simple to small chapel-like structures).

Windward Passage is situated between the eastern coast of Cuba and the western coast of Hispaniola (specifically Haiti). The Bahamas and Tortuga lie to the north, while Jamaica lies to the south end of the passage. It's known as the Windward Passage as it was a shortcut from Central and South America to Europe. It has the unique characteristic of the winds generally flowing southward during the day and reversing at night. Ships would take advantage of these conditions to move through the Passage more quickly.

Wormholes (also called Einstein-Rosen bridges) are another aspect of the theory of relativity. They theoretically link two different points in space-time via a 'shortcut.'