

BADGES OR SYMBOLS
OF THE
APOSTLES
OF CHRIST

(The Original 12 Apostles with Matthias and Paul added)

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(2012)

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Introduction

The badges or symbols The Twelve apostles of Christ and the latter apostles, Matthias and Paul, are often represented as follows.

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The Four Evangelists

The four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, are usually represented in art as follows:

Ancient Symbols

Evangelist	Ancient Symbol
Matthew	A man's face
Mark	A lion
Luke	An ox
John	A flying eagle

Art Symbols

Evangelist	Art Symbol
Matthew	With pen in his hand, and a scroll before him, looking over his left shoulder at an angel.
Mark	Seated writing, and by his side a couchant winged lion.

Evangelist	Art Symbol
Luke	With pen, looking in deep thought over a scroll, and near him a cow or ox chewing the cud. He is also frequently shown as painting a picture, from the tradition that he painted a portrait of the virgin.
John	A young man of great delicacy, with an eagle in the background to denote sublimity.

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The Apostolic Badges/Symbols

Apostle	Symbol	Comment
Andrew	An "X" shaped cross	Because he was crucified on such a cross.
Bartholomew	A Knife	Because he was flayed with a knife.
James the Great	A scallop shell, a pilgrim's staff, or a gourd bottle	Because he is the patron saint of pilgrims.
James the Less	A fuller's pole	Because he was killed by a blow on the head with a pole, dealt him by Simeon the fuller. (A fuller is a worker who cleans and prepares (prepares the fibres, bleaches, etc.) wool prior to being made into cloth.)
John	A cup with a winged serpent flying out of it	An allusion to the tradition about Aristodemos, priest of Diana, who challenged John to drink a cup of poison. John made the sign of a cross on the cup, Satan like a dragon flew from it, and John then drank the cup which was quite innocuous.
Judas Iscariot	A bag	Because he had the bag and "bare what was put therein" (John xii, 6).
Jude	A club	Because he was martyred with a club.
Matthew	A hatchet or halberd	Because he was slain at Nadabar with a halberd
Matthias	A battle-axe	Because he was first stoned, and then beheaded with a battle-axe.
Paul	A sword	Because his head was cut off with a sword. The convent of La Lisle, in Spain, boasts of possessing the very sword.

Apostle	Symbol	Comment
Peter	A bunch of keys or A cock	(keys) Because Christ gave him the "keys of the kingdom of heaven". (cock) Because he went out and wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow (Matt. xxvi, 75).
Philip	A long staff surmounted with a cross	Because he suffered death by being suspended by the neck from a tall pillar.
Simon	A saw	Because he was sawn to death according to tradition.
Thomas	A lance	Because he was pierced through the body, at Meliapore, with a lance.

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Final Resting Places

According to Catholic legend, seven of the Apostles are buried at Rome.

ANDREW lies buried at Amalfi (**Naples**).

BARTHOLOMEW, at **Rome**, in the church of Bartholomew, on the Tiber Island.

JAMES THE GREAT was buried at St. Jago de Compostella, in Spain.

JAMES THE LESS, at **Rome**, in the church of SS. Philip and James.

JOHN, at Ephesus (Greece).

JUDE, at **Rome**.

MATTHEW, at Salerno (**Naples**).

MATTHIAS, at **Rome**, in the church of St. Peter.

PAUL, at **Rome**, in the church of S. Paolo fuori le Mura.

PETER, at **Rome**, in the church of St. Peter.

PHILIP, at **Rome**.

SIMON or SIMEON, at **Rome**.

THOMAS, at Ortona (**Naples**). (?Madras.)

The supposed remains of MARK THE EVANGELIST were buried at Venice, c.800.

LUKE THE EVANGELIST is said to have been buried at Padua (N. Italy)

N.B. - Italy claims thirteen of these apostles or evangelists - Rome seven, Naples three, Mark at Venice, Luke at Padua, and Paul at Rome.

End

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18092012