

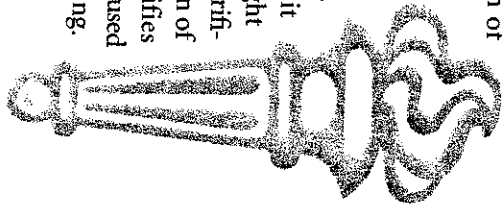


The phoenix,

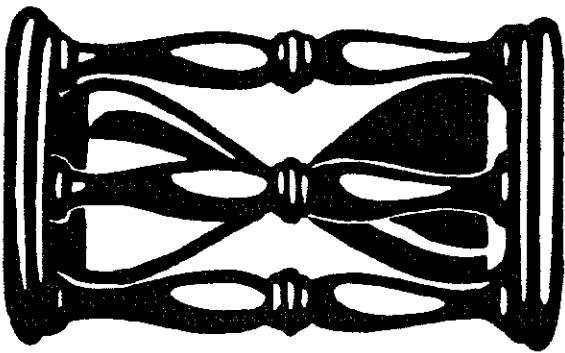
a mythical creature who bursts into flames at death but rises again from its own ashes, was adopted by the early Christians as a fitting symbol of the resurrection of Christ.

Symbolism: Having an object to represent an idea or a feeling

The Flaming Torch *Right*
Signifying the regenerative power of fire, the upright flaming torch symbolizes life. In many cultures, it is frequently used in initiation or fertility rites. In Greek mythology, it was the emblem of Eros and Aphrodite, symbolizing the flame of love; Hercules used it to defeat the Hydra. Conversely, when the torch is depicted held downward, it symbolizes death. In Christianity, it came to signify Christ as the Light of the World and was a sign of purification through God's illumination of the spirit. The torch also signifies truth and intelligence and is often used as an emblem of places of learning. When associated with the seven deadly sins, it represents anger.

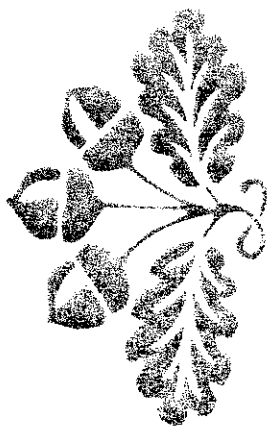


Hourglass *Right*
The hourglass is primarily a symbol of mortality, a reminder that life is finite. As the sand measuring the passage of time flows from the top to the bottom of the hourglass, so death draws closer with remorseless inevitability. However, because it must be inverted before it can function, the hourglass also symbolizes the life and death cycle, and heaven and earth. In addition, it is a symbol of the Christian personification of Temperance.



Acorn *Above*

The acorn, seed of the mighty oak, is a symbol of potential. In Norse and Celtic belief, acorns were symbolic of life, fertility and immortality. Druids swallowed acorns, which were believed to have prophetic qualities, and acorns were sacred to Thor, whose Tree of Life was the oak. Acorns and oak leaves form one of the circular "hex" signs used by the Amish and Mennonite communities of southern Pennsylvania, the various signs believed to bestow favors such as protection or natural abundance.



Whale *Below, left*

The huge whale was a symbol of power and the regenerative energy of the cosmic waters until it came to be regarded as the devourer of the biblical Jonah, when it symbolized death, the grave and the jaws and belly of hell. In this context, however, it can also signify resurrection, because, once Jonah had renewed his faith after three days, the whale released him. The story can be compared with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. In Inuit (Eskimo) tradition, the whale is a trickster. Because of their massive size, early sailors mistakenly tried to land on whales, and so they represented the devil's lure and cunning. Furthermore, the whale can be a cosmic symbol, either as a carrytid of the universe (in Arab and Slav countries and Russia), or as the embodiment