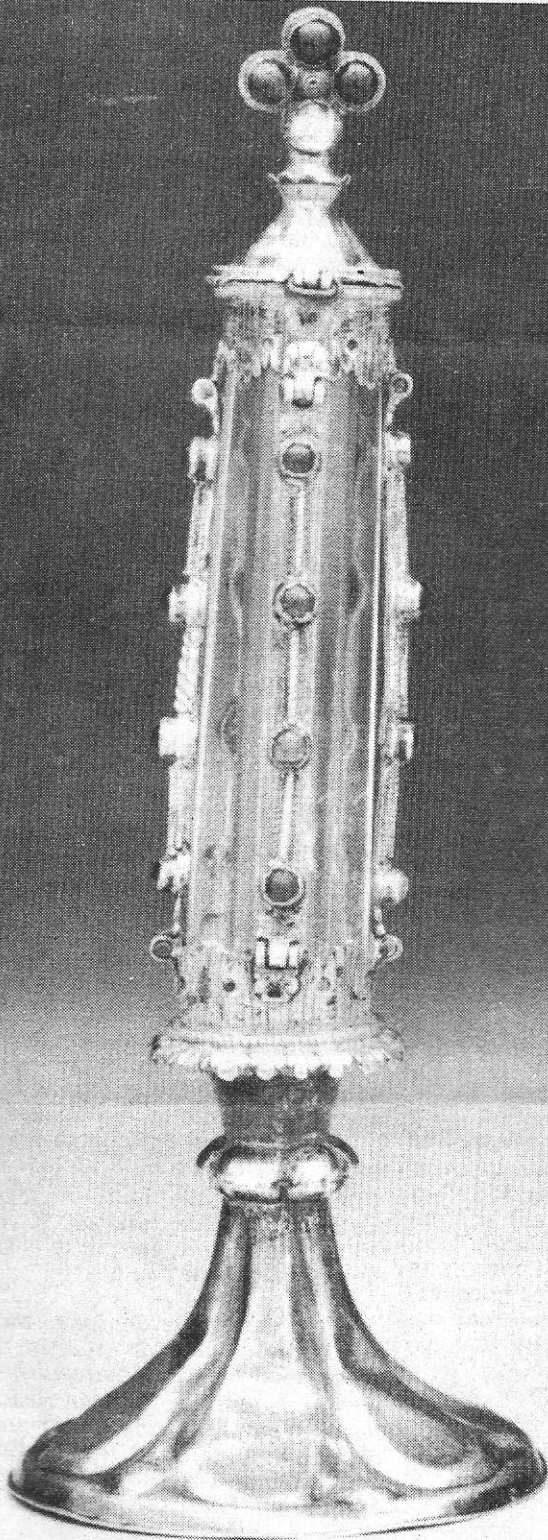


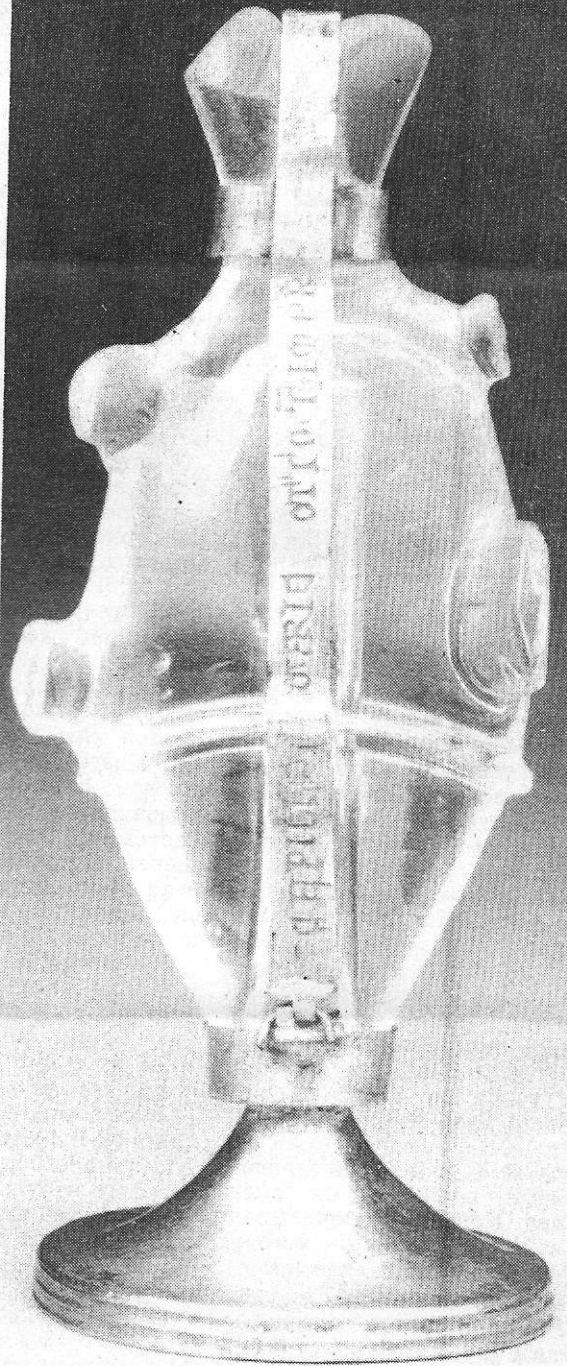
**The Samuhel Gospel, as displayed at the Dallas Museum of Art.**



**Reliquary box of Henry I, from late Ninth Century.**

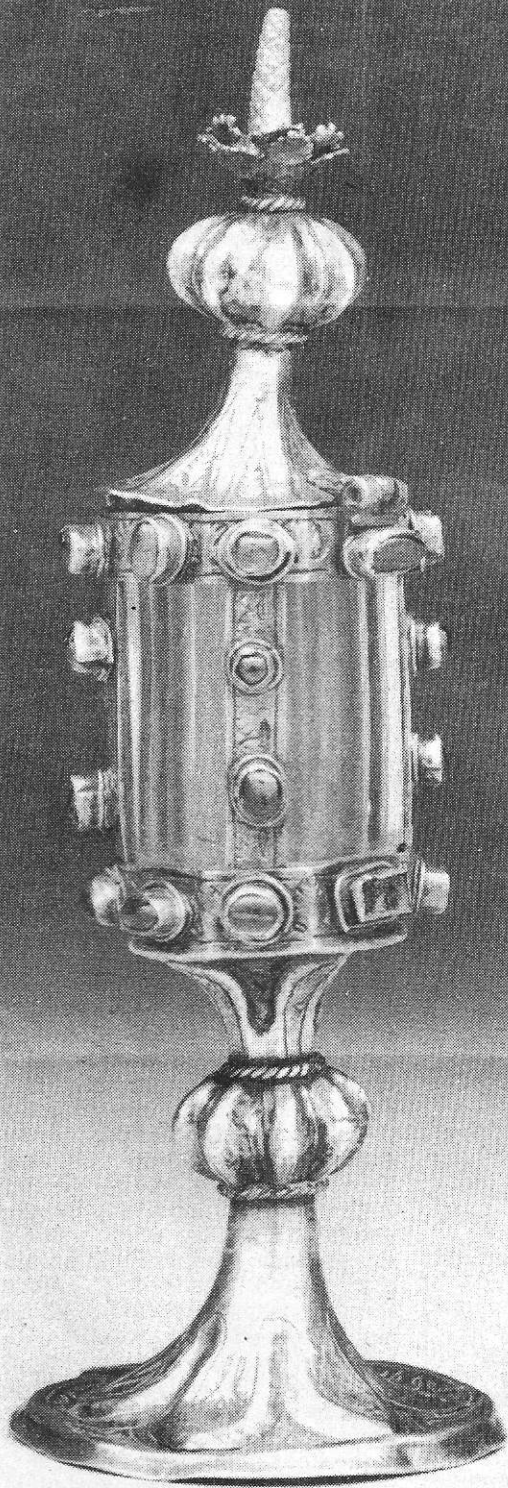


**Monstrance reliquary in form of a turret (13th Century).**

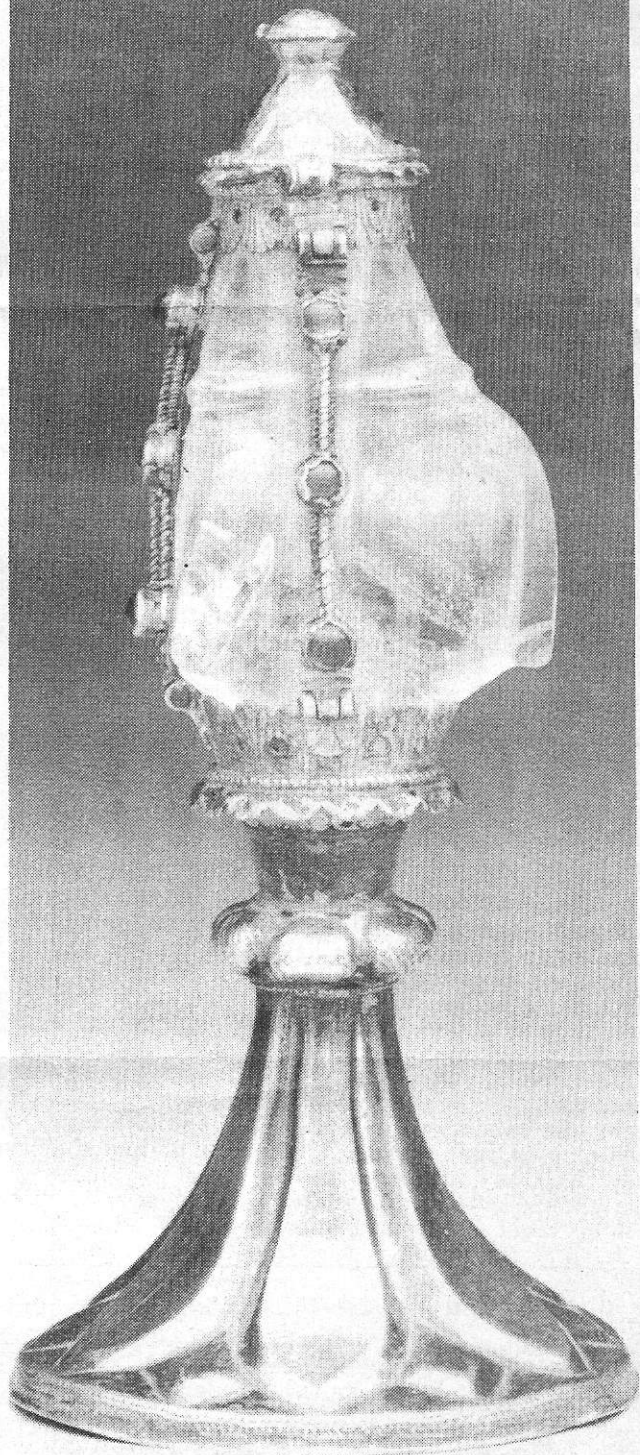


**Reliquary in form of fish, containing hair of the Virgin. (4th Century).**





**Thirteenth Century reliquary in form of turret.**



**Fish-shaped crystal reliquary from 4th Century Egypt.**

Sherman, Texas 75090

Price 25 Cents



AP Laserphoto

## Quedlinburg Treasury

**Ancient gold, silver and gem laden relics stolen from a German mine shaft by Army Lt. Joe T. Meador of Whitewright during WW II may go on display next month at a Dallas museum. See related story, Page A3.**



# Quedlinburg Treasures Are on View in Dallas

3/9/92

By WILLIAM H. HONAN

Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, March 8 — The Quedlinburg treasures went on display at the Dallas Museum of Art this weekend as part of an out-of-court settlement between the Government of Germany and the heirs of the American Army lieutenant who stole the treasures in the closing days of World War II. From all appearances it might have been just another international loan show.

One visitor, A. T. Muller of St. Louis, said: "I'm surprised they don't come out and say they were stolen. Maybe it's morbid curiosity, but that's a large part of why we came to see them." He was among nearly 1,500 to attend the first weekend of

the show.

Neither any of the speakers at the museum's opening on Saturday, nor the parchmentlike, 32-page catalogue on sale for \$10, so much as mentioned that the treasures were here because they had been stolen.

The closest the museum came to acknowledging foul play was an oblique reference in an introduction to the catalogue by Richard Brettell, the director of the museum, that the name Quedlinburg had provoked "an intense debate about the ownership of works of art, about war 'booty,' and about cultural patrimony."

In fact, there never had been a debate about the ownership of the Quedlinburg treasures because the heirs of the soldier who mailed them to his mother in Whitewright, 60 miles north of here, acknowledged in court

at the outset of the case that the treasures had been "inappropriately removed."

Asked to explain the oversight, Mr. Brettell said that any mention of thievery would have been inappropriately "sensational."

The German officials who came for the opening insisted that the \$2.75 million their Government paid to the heirs of the thief was not a ransom but a finder's fee.

Klaus Aurisch, the German consul general from Houston, said that Finderlohn, or remuneration for finding lost objects, has legal standing in German jurisprudence.

The Rev. Friedemann Goszlau, the pastor of Stiftskirche Domegemeinde Quedlinburg, the small Lutheran church in central Germany, where most of the treasures had been kept

for a millennium, hinted at the truth when he remarked wryly, "The objects are comfortable here, but they are getting homesick."

The heirs of Joe T. Meador, the American officer who stole the treasures from their hiding place in a mine shaft southwest of Quedlinburg in April 1945, issued a public statement for the first time since the treasures were traced to their safe deposit box in June 1990. The heirs, Jack Meador and Jane Meador Cook, declared that their brother had been falsely portrayed in the media as "a high living thief" and had been, in reality, "a quiet man who loved art."

His stealing the treasures, they went on to say, was "fortunate for the Germans" because otherwise the

Continued on Page C15

## Quedlinburg Treasures Go on View in Dallas

Continued From Page C11

treasures might have "fallen into the hands of the country that occupied East Germany."

There were, however, a number of artworks that remained at the Quedlinburg church throughout the years of Soviet occupation and domination of East Germany. They were unharmed.

Most visitors were not taken in by the statements — or the omissions — of dignitaries. Karen O'Quin of Austin said: "I thought it was funny that the legend on the wall said the pieces were discovered in Texas but didn't say how they were discovered. They should at least give a hint about how they got here."

Robert Garst of Irving, Tex., said: "I wish these things could talk and tell their stories. That would be something."

Jane Nakama of St. Louis seemed transfixed by the lavishly ornamented reliquary that is said to have belonged to Heinrich I, the 10th-century ruler of an early configuration of German states. "I came to see these things because they are so very old," she said. The box is one of the nine treasures being shown publicly for the first time since the beginning of World War II, when the Nazis moved them to a bank vault and later to the mine shaft for safekeeping.

### International politesse: nobody mentions the trove was stolen.

The treasures also include a gold-, silver- and jewel-embazoned biblical manuscript dated 1513; a liturgical ivory comb dating to the seventh or eighth century; five reliquaries of cut rock crystal dating to the 10th century, and a heart-shaped vessel believed to have been fashioned in the 15th century.

The museum turned over two of the galleries in its European paintings section to the treasures. The nine artworks were displayed in Plexiglas vitrines mounted on gray pedestals.

In Whitewright, where Joe Meador lived until his death in 1980, skeptics were also plentiful. "I hope they're going to pay taxes on all that money just like you and me would have to," said Mary Lou Thrasher, who used to work in the Meador family's farm equipment store and was shown the treasures on many occasions.

Marjie McDowell, who studied art with Joe Meador's mother, said, "I can't put stealing on it, yet that's what it is."

3/7/1992

## Dallas Morning News Quedlinburg artifacts go on display at DMA

The highly anticipated exhibit of priceless medieval art objects from the Quedlinburg church in Germany finally goes on view Saturday at the Dallas Museum of Art. Originally scheduled for February of last year, the exhibition was canceled at the last minute because of extended court proceedings.

In 1990 the Lutheran Church of Quedlinburg filed a federal lawsuit against the heirs of former

### ART

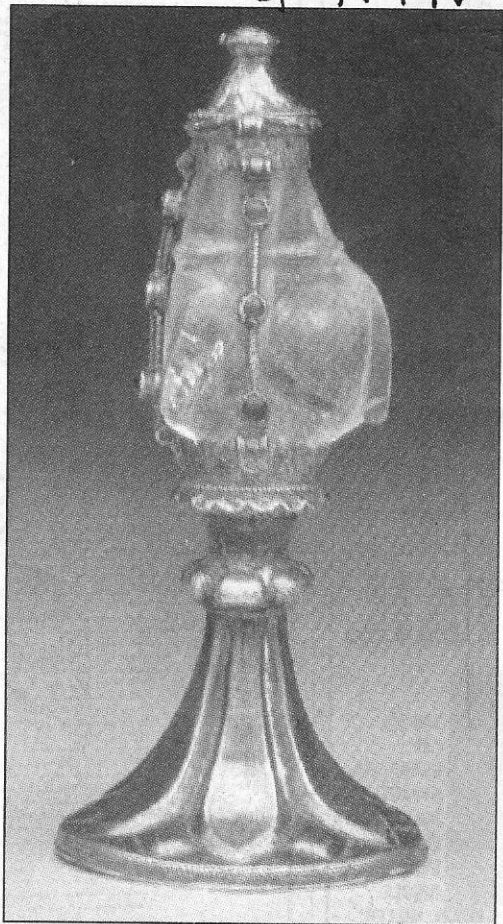
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Joe T. Meador of Whitewright, Texas, who is believed to have taken the objects from a German mine shaft during World War II.

Under a recent agreement signed by the Meador family and the German church, the family relinquishes all claims to the objects, which will be returned to Germany at the close of the exhibit on April 26.

Highlights of the 8th- to early 16th-century objects include a jeweled reliquary box and an ivory comb decorated with garnets. Joining the original eight artifacts is the *Evangelistar*, a 1513 manuscript with a jeweled case, which is on loan from the Lutheran Church of Germany.

For information, call 922-1200.

— Janet Kutner



A reliquary, 10th to 13th century.