

Other common Instruments of the Passion are:



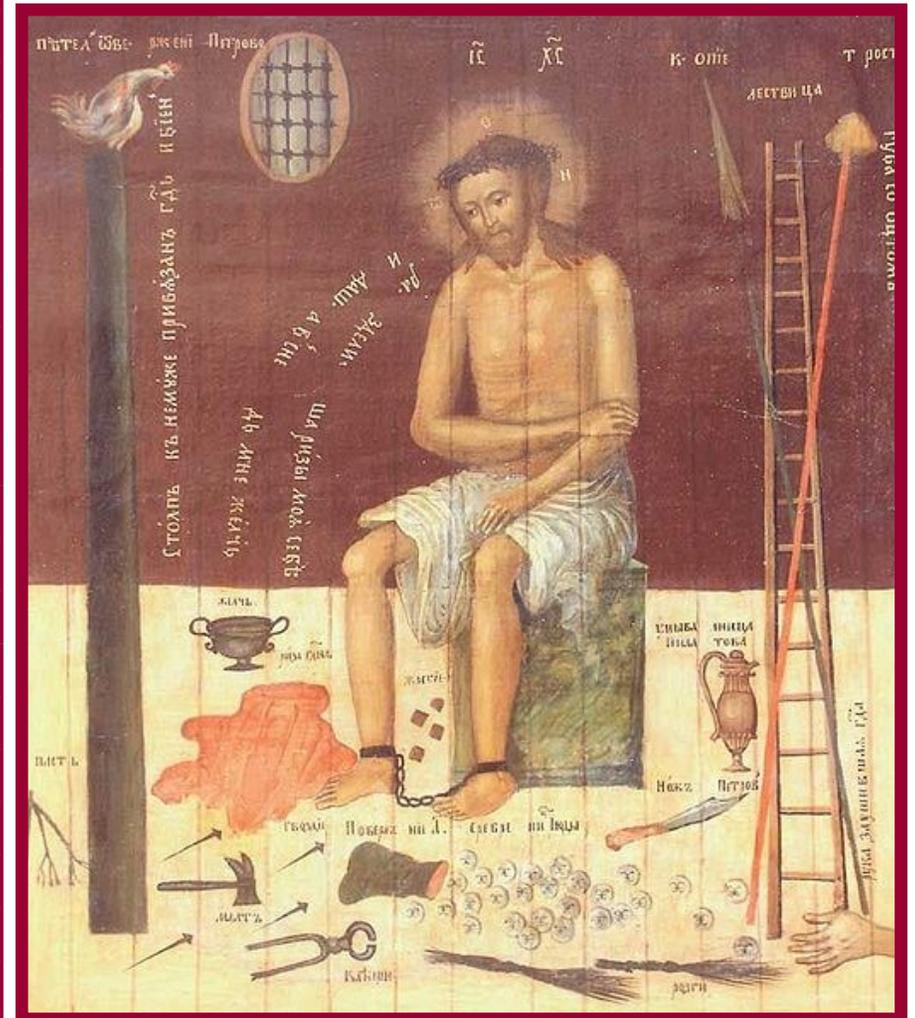
- The reed which was placed in Jesus' hand as a scepter in mockery.
- The purple robe of mockery.
- The Titulus Crucis, attached to the Cross. It may be inscribed in Latin (INRI, *Jesus Nazareus Res Iudaeorum*), Greek, Hebrew, or some other language.
- The Holy Grail, the chalice used by Jesus at The Last Supper, and which some traditions say Joseph of Arimathea used to catch His blood at the crucifixion.
- The Seamless robe of Jesus, and the dice which the soldiers cast for it.
- The rooster which crowed after Peter's third denial of Jesus.
- The vessel used to hold the gall and vinegar.
- The dice with which the soldiers gamed for Christ's robe.
- The ladder used for the Deposition (removing the body of Jesus from the cross for burial).
- The hammer used to drive the nails into Jesus' hands and feet.
- The pincers used to remove the nails.
- The vessel of myrrh, used to anoint the body of Jesus, either by Joseph of Arimathea or by the Myrrh bearers.
- The shroud used to wrap the body of Jesus before burial
- The sun and moon, representing the eclipse which occurred during the Passion.
- Thirty pieces of silver (or a money bag), the price of Judas' betrayal.
- The hand which slapped Jesus' face.
- The chains or cords which bound Jesus overnight in prison.
- The lantern or torches used by the arresting soldiers at the time of the betrayal, as well as their swords and staves.
- The sword used by Peter to cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant (sometimes a human ear is also represented).
- Sometimes the heads of figures from the Passion are shown, including Judas, Caiaphas, or the man from the Mocking of Christ spitting in Christ's face.

*(excerpted from: en.wikipedia.org)

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INSTRUMENTS Of THE PASSION



Russian Icon
"Jesus in jail with Instruments of the Passion"

ARMA CHRISTI ("WEAPONS OF CHRIST")

*Arma Christi, or the instruments of the Passion, are the objects associated with Jesus' Passion in Christian symbolism and art. They are seen as arms in the sense of heraldry, and also as the weapons Christ used to achieve His conquest over Satan; the prime member, The Cross, had been introduced into Christian art in the 4th century as the *crux invicta*, a symbol of victory. As a group they have a long tradition in iconography, dating back to the 9th century; the Utrecht Psalter of 830 is an example. This reflected an increase in theological interest in the sufferings of Christ at the time. The Middle English poem Arma Christi, which appeared before the end of the 14th century, exists in fifteen manuscripts, attesting to its popularity, of which seven are engrossed in highly unusual scroll form, designed to be displayed in church as a pictorial aid to public devotion; manuscripts of Arma Christi are generally accompanied by illustrations of the instruments, viewing of which, according to the texts, granted indulgence of a certain number of days in purgatory to come.

Relics of the most important items had a long history, dating back to the Empress Helena's discovery of the True Cross in the early 4th century. Relics claiming to be the Holy Lance, Holy Sponge, Holy Chalice and Nails from the Cross were all venerated well before the year 1,000. There was a wave of new relics in the West at the time of the Crusades, and a further wave as the Instruments became featured more prominently in devotional literature and practices in the 14th century.

In art the Instruments either surrounded an image of Christ in *andachtsbilder* (German for devotional image) subjects such as the Man of Sorrows, or might appear by themselves - often the image of Christ's face on the Veil of Veronica was the focal point of the image. In both cases the purpose of the representations was to symbolize the sufferings of Christ during His Passion. Possibly the earliest representation of the isolated instrument laid out across a space is in a drawing in a German manuscript of about 1175, where they are to one side of a Christ in Majesty. In devotional books they were sometimes,

by the Late Middle Ages, shown one at a time, accompanying one of the many texts that devoted meditations in turn to the episodes in which each had been used, before culminating in a figure subject with Jesus. Miniature versions of the objects were attached to rosaries and crucifixes, and used as aides to contemplate the sufferings of Christ.

THE INSTRUMENTS

Depictions of the Instruments of the Passion may include many combinations of those following (though the Cross of Jesus is almost always represented).



A primary group of the most frequently used instruments can be distinguished from depiction above:

- ◆ The Cross on which Jesus was crucified (True Cross), either depicted alone or with the crosses of the two thieves.
- ◆ The Crown of Thorns.
- ◆ The pillar or column where Jesus was whipped in the Flagellation of Christ.
- ◆ The whip (s), in Germany often birches, used for the 39 lashes.
- ◆ The Holy Sponge set on a reed, with which gall and vinegar were offered to Jesus.
- ◆ The Holy Lance with which a Roman soldier inflicted the final of the Five Wounds in his side.
- ◆ The Nails, inflicting four wounds (hands and feet).
- ◆ The Veil of Veronica.