Contents

	Acknowledgements	vii
	INTRODUCTION	
	Popular Culture and Grail Scholarship	1
1	The Medieval Texts	15
	Chrétien de Troyes's Perceval 15	
	The Welsh <i>Peredur</i> 16	
	Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival 17	
	Robert de Boron's Joseph d'Arimathie 18	
	The French Vulgate Cycle Estoire del Saint Graal 19	
	The Didot Perceval 20	
	The Continuations of Chrétien's Perceval 20	
	Perlesvaus 20	
	The French Vulgate Cycle Queste del Saint Graal 21	
	Sir Thomas Malory's <i>Le Morte D'Arthur</i> 22	
2	Christian vs. Pagan: Origins and Culture Wars	28
	The Celtic Pagan Origin Theories 36	
	The Christian Origin Theories 42	
	The Mystery Cult Fertility Ritual Theories 44	
	The Influence of the Celtic Pagan and Mystery Cult Fertility Ritual	
	Origin Theories on Modern British and American Arthurian Fiction 47	
	The Christian Grail in Modern British and American Arthurian Fiction 65	
	The Origin Controversy and Cultural Conflict in Modern British	
	and American Grail Fiction 68	
	Modern Syncretism and the Grail 74	
	Battle for the Grail: Whose Legend Is It Anyway? 79	
3	Humanism and the Grail Legend: From Skepticism to Metaphor	82
	Tennyson, White and Following Writers' Humanist Views of the Grail 84	
	Skepticism Regarding the Grail Visions 96	
	Psychologizing the Grail 99	
	Mythologizing the Grail and Making It Metaphor 103	
	Grail Quest as Metaphor in Twentieth-Century British and American	
	Arthuriana 107	

vi CONTENTS

4	Esoteric Mysticism: Actualization of a Grail Redefined The Power of Glastonbury and the Reality of the Grail 118 Esoteric Knowledge and the Mystery Cult of the Grail 122 Secret Societies and Conspiracies 136 Alternative Spirituality, Self-Realization and a Grail for the New Age 142	117
	CONCLUSION BIBLIOGRAPHY	149 151
	Index	167