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Archaeologist Travels Back in Time in New Novel

Tony Collins' The Lost Crystal explores life and love in ancient Roman Britain

Great Chesterford, Essex – Tony Collins' new historical novel ***The Lost Crystal: Key to the Ancient World of Thar Cernunnos*** takes readers into the distant past, when the Roman Empire was withdrawing from the then-province of Britannia and the Saxons were invading.

Simon Tappins is working on an archaeological dig in the English countryside when he is suddenly transported almost 2,000 years back in time. He appears trapped between advancing Saxon hordes and the last Roman soldiers in Britain. His only chance of returning to his own time is the lost crystal of Thar Cernunnos – but with war raging around him, can he find it in time to save himself and the native girl who's become important to him.

Collins, himself a trained and experienced archaeologist, presents a tale wrapped within strands of reality. "In accurate and fascinating detail, many aspects of everyday life in the Roman town of Great Chesterford are disclosed," he says. "The principal character experiences the sounds of the marketplace, the smells from the wine bars and food shops, and the choking smoke from the industrial quarter."

Like all historical novels, ***The Lost Crystal*** is rife with historical detail and explanation, but Collins is careful to make sure the thrust of the story remains on the characters. "It is the people," he says, "and the cultural organization which reveals the unique economic ambience of the town during this dangerous period."

For more information, visit www.the-lost-crystal.com.

The Lost Crystal. Key to the ancient world of Thar Cernunnos by Tony Collins
Available from The book depository, Amazon (free postage), WH.Smith, etc

About the Author

Tony Collins was born in London and studied archaeology at Cambridge. He excavated many archaeological sites in northwest Essex, but was particularly inspired by the once-important Roman town at Great Chesterford where *The Lost Crystal*, his first novel, is set.

He recently retired and moved to Normandy, France, where he is currently working on a second novel – this time with a local twist.

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THE LOST CRYSTAL

KEY TO THE ANCIENT WORLD
OF THAR CERNUNNOS

