

Silk's Cross

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 1 voices, 21 Jan 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/37>

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David_Lebling — 21 Jan 1997, 10:58

A few minutes with the encyclopedia both illuminates and obscures. Silk's cross is referred to as a "gammadion," and as a "voided cross." As it happens, and has been already pointed out, the swastika or "fylfot" is a gammadion (because it is made up of four gammas). (A voided cross is one with a hole in the center of it.)

However, there's another definition of a gammadion (from the OED): "voided greek cross," where the gammas are "back-to-back." Unfortunately, there is no picture. However, a greek cross is one where the arms of the cross are equal in length (a roman cross, more commonly seen, has the lower arm longer).

Silk's cross has an "X-shaped void" in it, according to _Nightside_. So, there are several possible looks one could imagine. The only one I could come up with that matches all the criteria is:

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This looks rather like the cross one used to see on German warplanes (WWI vintage, for example).

It has the problem that the gammas aren't attached to each other, but that's a small drawback, easily cured by a small connector at the end of each arm.

Dave Lebling
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Questions or problems to whorl-owner at lists.best.com

David_Lebling — 22 Jan 1997, 09:49 · follows David_Lebling

On the subject of crosses, I found

<http://www.amulet.co.uk/symbols/crosses/>

which has illustrations of more forms of cross than you've ever seen before. My suggestion for Silk's cross is listed as "Gammadion (1)". I don't think the arms being equal makes them any less gamma-like, by the way.

To answer someones question, a "fylfot" is a four-legged (as opposed to four-gamma'd) symbol

resembling a cross.

The word is derived from "full (of) foot". It generally is (incorrectly) identified with the gammadion or swastika today, huffs the OED.

I can't draw one in ascii, but interestingly enough, it is one of a family of symbols made from (running or flexed) human legs. The other well-known one is the triskele, a three footed figure. Severian's dog was named Triskele, of course.

Dave
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