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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Merlin Reveals Mermaid Melusine's Secret in New King Arthur Series

Marquette, MI, January 13, 2015—What made medieval royalty want to claim descent from a shape-shifting fairy? Whether a mermaid or a flying serpent, Melusine of Lusignan was seen as a desirable ancestor by many noble and royal houses of Europe, and she was both reviled and celebrated by medieval audiences. Now she tells her own story in award-winning author Tyler R. Tichelaar's new historical fantasy novel *Melusine's Gift: The Children of Arthur, Book Two*.

According to legend, Raimond, Count of Lusignan, met the beautiful Melusine at a forest fountain. They fell in love and she agreed to marry him if he promised never to disturb her when she locked herself away every Saturday. Raimond agreed, but fearing his wife was committing adultery, he eventually spied on her and discovered she was a mermaid. Later, when tragedy struck their children, he lashed out at his wife, calling her a serpent. Heartbroken, Melusine sprang wings and flew out the castle window, her serpent tail trailing behind her.

Tichelaar has always been intrigued by Melusine and believes the explanations behind her mystery lie in her being raised in Avalon, home to Morgan le Fay and King Arthur's final resting place. "I suspect she learned magic in Avalon and simply enjoyed shape-shifting, something humans couldn't understand," says Tichelaar. "As for the connections to royalty, the whole premise of my Children of Arthur series is that King Arthur's descendants live among us today. I believe Melusine played a key role in that lineage."

In Tichelaar's first novel in the series, *Arthur's Legacy*, twentieth century Adam Delaney, an American-born young man, meets the wizard Merlin, who reveals to Adam that he is a descendant of King Arthur and his family will aid in fulfilling the prophecy of King Arthur's return. Now in this sequel, Adam and his English wife are on their honeymoon in France where they discover their family's connection to Melusine. This knowledge will aid them in the future when they must fight forces determined to stop Arthur's return.

The Children of Arthur series has won praise from readers and Arthurian experts. Jenifer Brady, author of the Abby's Camp Days series, says, "Readers unfamiliar with Melusine's place in history will be drawn into her world, while the captivating web of multi-layered stories within stories combine and complement to obliterate the preconceived notions of those who consider themselves experts on her legend." And John Matthews, author of *King Arthur: Dark Age Warrior and Mythic Hero*, states, "Works of this kind are hugely important because they keep the legends alive and bring them into the 21st century. Strongly recommended for all who love the old and the new in mythic fiction."

Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D., is the author of numerous historical fiction novels, including *The Best Place* and the award-winning *Narrow Lives* as well as the scholarly books *The Gothic Wanderer* and *King Arthur's Children*.

Melusine's Gift: The Children of Arthur, Book Two (ISBN 9780979179099, Marquette Fiction, 2015) can be purchased in paperback and ebook editions through local and online bookstores. For more information, visit www.ChildrenofArthur.com. Review copies available upon request.

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