

Casket find could reveal remains of Cervantes

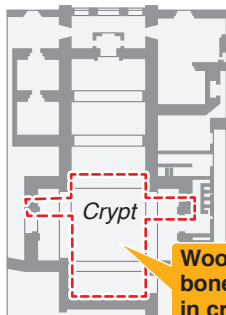
Researchers looking for the remains of Miguel de Cervantes have found part of a casket bearing his initials. The bones inside the coffin, which are apparently mixed up with those of other burials, are being analysed to see if they belong to the author of *Don Quixote*



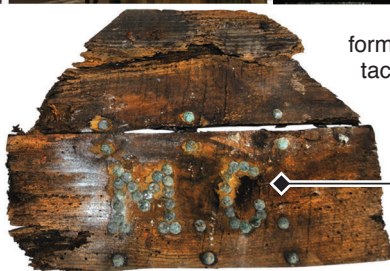
Convent of Trinitarians: Cervantes buried here after his death in 1616, but remains were lost during reconstruction work in late 17th century



Church



Crypt



Initials "M.C." formed with metal tacks embedded into wood

Wooden fragments of casket containing bones of at least 10 people found in niche in crypt underneath convent chapel

FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION

Soldier Cervantes was wounded at 1571 Battle of Lepanto, which pitted Ottoman forces against Holy League, led by Spain

- 1 Team of forensic experts looking for body of 68-year-old male showing signs of musket shots – one or two in chest and one that paralyzed his left hand
- 2 Investigation will refer to author's own stories, in which he relates that shortly before his death he had only six teeth
- 3 Thought to have suffered from osteoarthritis of spine

