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handwork apprentices discovered in Nunnery near
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Late 15th-early 16th century graffiti incised by handwork apprentices discovered in Nunnery near Aachen Germany

Forty-two different hammers and geometric forms are etched into the plaster-covered wall that once formed part of the exterior wall of the St. Katherina Church. Measuring 40 x 2 meters, the images of varied hammers (for stone cutting, carpentry, etc.) and rosettes perhaps reflect a lesson given by a master (whose rosette is perfect) trying to guide the apprentices (whose rosettes leave much to be desired).



Re-written from <http://www.thelocal.de/sci-tech/20101116-31213.html>

Tunnel mystery below 15th century home

For 34 years Max and Angie Irvine wondered if a secret tunnel might lurk beneath their house. And for a moment, they thought someone may have stumbled upon the mysterious piece of history. Workmen digging for neighbor found a water-filled tunnel between the two homes which headed towards the Irvines' sprawling property. Investigations found the dark, damp hideaway was 10ft wide, 6ft high and 30ft long. Their home at Bank Hall in Broughton, near Preston, has a priest's hole and there have been suggestions a tunnel may lead to it. A call to an archaeologist followed and, in his opinion, the tunnel is probably a Victorian sewer, but he can't be 100% sure... So the mystery continues.

Father-of-three, Dr Irvine, 66, said: "We thought it was a tunnel which was linked to our house because it's been rumored over the decades that our house has a tunnel to one of the local churches." "It's unusual, because there wouldn't appear to be sufficient property round here to justify such a large system, but we're not really in a position to explore any further. It's too big a job for us to tackle at this stage so we're going to put a slab back over it and leave it for somebody else to explore in the future."

The house dates back to 1487 and there are rumors that a tunnel led from the house to a church. It was used by priests to hide and escape during the English Reformation under Henry VIII's reign. And two priests were indeed born at the property during the early 1600s. But Doug Moir, Lancashire County Council planning officer with a specialty in archaeology, said: "It's been suggested it may be a means of escape for priests but I wouldn't have thought so. If it's that sort of thing, it would be built out of brick because it would be very expensive. "Drains need to be cleaned out so it's quite usual for them to be larger to allow people to walk through." "But we'd be quite happy to change our opinion if he can find something that shows otherwise."

Adapted from http://www.lep.co.uk/news/tunnel_mystery_below_15th_century_home_1_66260