

District of Columbia Supplement

Paul S. Newhall, KTCH, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Editor: Michael J. Kastle, KTCH, Grand Deputy Commander

A little history lesson for this month.

The Larmenius Transmission refers to the Knights Templar who do not have Freemasonry connections. The most notable of these is "The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem", not to be confused with "The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta" (known as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM), Order of Malta or Knights of Malta for short), headquartered in Rome.

The Larmenius Charter or Carta Transmissionis ("Charter of Transmission") is a manuscript created by Johannes Marcus Larmenius (Fr.: Jean-Marc Larmenius) in February, 1324 AD. The document is written in a devised ancient Knight Templar Codex --- the same codex (coded language) used in ancient Templar documents involving the transfer of monies between Preceptories for traveling merchants.

In the document, Larmenius, then a very aged man in his 70's, states that the Grand Mastership of the Knights Templar Order was verbally transmitted to him ten years earlier (March, 1314) by the imprisoned Jacques DeMolay, the last Grand Master of the "First Phase" (Crusade period) of the Knights Templar. (DeMolay was judicially murdered [burned at the stake] by King Phillippe IV ["Phillippe le bel" or "Phillip the Fair"] on March 18, 1314 AD on the far west end of the *Ile de la Cite*. This island is in the middle of the Seine River in Paris, France, on which the Cathedral of Notre Dame is located, and separates the main part of the city with the *Rive Gauche* district.) Larmenius was a Palestinian-born Christian who became a member of The Order of the Temple during the waning years of the Crusades.

He was later the Templar Preceptor on the island domain of Cyprus after the Templar exodus from the mainland of the Holy Land to Cyprus after the fall of Acre in 1295 AD. In this position, Larmenius was left in charge as Templar Seneschal (second highest rank in the Order) of the large remaining "exited" Templar forces in the Mediterranean in 1305 AD when DeMolay was tricked into coming to Paris for meetings with King Phillippe IV (le bel) and the "puppet Pope" Clement V of "Papal Captivity" fame at Avignon, France.

In the document, Larmenius states he has become too aged to continue with the rigorous requirements of the Office of Grand Master, and "transfers" his Grand Mastership of the Templar Order to Franciscus Theobaldus, the Prior of the Templar Priory still remaining at Alexandria, Egypt. With this declarative Charter, Larmenius protects the Order for perpetuity by continuing the legitimate line of Grand Masters of the Templar Order, which continues the "Second Phase" of the Order through the "Dark Period" through to its semi-private unveiling at the Convent General of the Order at Versailles in 1705 AD by Phillippe, Duke of Orleans, elected Grand Master of the Templar Order, and later also Regent of France.

The Charter was hidden during the French Revolution of 1792 (believed to have been in French Masonic circles), and resurfaced again in the Court of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1804 by a Court doctor to Napoleon, Bernard-Raymond Fabré-Palaprat. The Charter carries a list of Grand Masters from Jacques de Molay, on through to Fabré-Palaprat.

Skeptical modernist researchers have claimed that the codex, once deciphered, appears to be more modern, scholarly Latin, and not ecclesiastical Latin used during the period of its supposed origin. This theory has been argued to the contrary by ecclesiastical Latin scholars who have stated the coarse grammar of the translated Latin used is typical of that in 14th Century usage. (Wikimedia Foundation, Inc)

The Scottish Transmission refers to the Knights Templar who do have Freemasonry connections.