



Knight Templar

VOLUME LI

DECEMBER 2005

NUMBER 12

Merry Christmas—2005



Grand Master's Message for December 2005

"Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,"

These are famous words, which all Christians recognize, and this is my favorite Christmas hymn.

It is also my prayer for you and yours during this **Holy Season and during the coming year!**

This is a time to reflect and celebrate the birth of the Great Captain of Our Salvation, a time for us all to be reborn in our thoughts and actions towards each other and to all mankind.

Let us endeavor to deserve His wonderful Gift, deserve to meet Him hereafter Face to Face, by laboring as He did for the progress and advancement of humanity!



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

May God bless us,
every one!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth B. Fischer". The signature is written in black ink on a light gray background.

Kenneth B. Fischer
Grand Master, GCT

Please note: The information concerning the 76th Easter Sunrise Memorial Service and the events surrounding that wonderful Grand Encampment event was not complete at the deadline for the December issue. All details will be published in the January *2006 issue of Knight Templar*.

Knight Templar

"The Magazine for York Rite Masons - and Others, too"

DECEMBER: The Grand Prelate, Reverend Thomas Keithly, and other distinguished Sir Knights have offered us delightful Christmas stories, so the first few pages of this issue are devoted to Jesus' birthday. We think you will love these wonderful writings! Coverage of the 38th Annual Voluntary Campaign starts on page 13 with a Message from Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, P.D.C. and Trustee of the KTEF. The Campaign, named the Golden Anniversary Campaign, started on October 1, 2005, and continues through April 30, 2006. New members of Knights Templar Eye Foundation clubs are listed on pages 14 and 15, followed by the KTEF state tally on page 18 and the forms for the 33° and OPC clubs on page 19. There is news from Department Conferences throughout the magazine, and our feature story about Brother Ty Cobb is completed in this issue, Enjoy!

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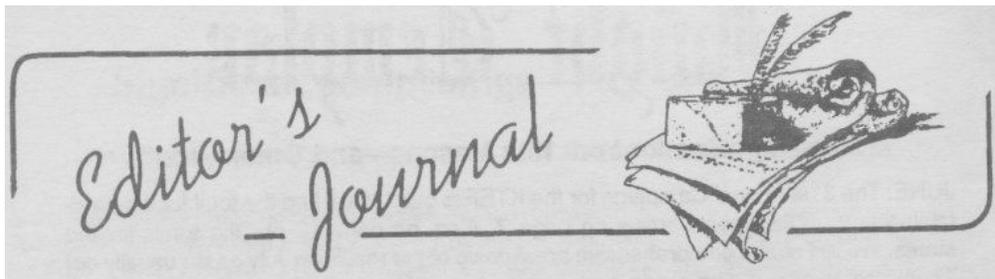
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When you order any of the items below, make check or money order payable to: the Grand Encampment, and send to: Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

Contacts for all Masonic organizations listed in our January 2005 issue should have the form for our next listing in January 2006. Please respond immediately as the magazine goes to the printer about December 12, 2005. If your organization has a new contact, please inform him/her of this. We would rather not leave any organization out!

The Order of Malta is now available on DVD. Each informative DVD is only \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H (\$18.50). Also, **the Order of Red Cross** DVD is now available at \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H. (\$18.50). Send in your order today!

Place Mats & Napkins: The place mats have pictures of the Masonic Presidents of the USA, and the napkins have the Cross and Crown emblem. The cost of either one is \$15.00 per 250 in intervals of 250 (ie. 250, 500, etc.—NO exceptions) PLUS S & H - UPS charges vary by location.

62nd Triennial Memorabilia: From the 62nd Triennial Conclave, we still have available the black carrying cases that were given at registration - \$20.00 plus \$6.00 S & H (\$26.00). See above for ordering information.

Great Knights Templar Gifts: Available is the 2-volume set of *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America* by Francis J. Scully, M.D., and *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America*, -Book II by Lt Col. Jacob C. Baird, Chairman, the Committee on Knights Templar History; As a set, the two books are

\$25.00 plus \$4.00 S & H (\$29.00). Separately, each book is \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S & H (\$18.00).

A Knight Templar magazine Index, including all previous indexes and covering the years, 1969-1999, is now available at a price of \$5.00, plus \$2.50 postage - total, \$7.50. This is your chance to invest at a bargain price in the index which covers main articles of the magazine from 1969 to the turn of the century.

A Pilgrim's Path: Freemasonry and the Religious Right: This is John J. Robinson's last book, and it is available as a hardbound copy. The book is available for \$15.00 each, plus \$2.50 S & H. **Born in Blood;** The exciting book by John J. Robinson is available at the price of \$17.00, including S & H. **Dungeon, Fire, and Sword-** This history of the Knights Templar by the late John J. Robinson is available for \$20.00 each, plus \$3.50 S & H (\$23.50).

An important and invaluable booklet entitled **The York Rite of Freemasonry-A History and Handbook** is available. It is authored by Sir Knight Frederick G. Speidel, This comprehensive, illustrated, 78-page booklet explains the degrees, history; symbolism, and benevolent programs of the Blue Lodge, the Chapter, the Council, and the Commandery. There is no limit on orders: \$1.50 each under 100 copies, plus S & H; \$1.00 each over 100 copies, plus S & H.

Pins: Malta pins and red or green widow's pins are \$5.00 each. You may order ANY quantity—even just one.

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America
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Grand Prelate's Christmas Message for 2005

Is Christmas Passé?

by Reverend and Grand Prelate
Thomas G. Keithly

When I was studying in England, back in the early fifties, I found that the United States is not the only country where some people lament the secularization and over commercialization of Christmas. After some public comment pleading to put Christ back into Christmas, one of the major British newspapers published a letter to the editor, in which a lady said that the Church had already appropriated their Easter holidays and now they were trying to take away their Christmas holidays! With characteristic droll British humor, the paper printed the letter without comment, letting the ironic humor speak for itself.

I for one love the excitement and the bustle, the sparkling lights and tinsel, the songs in the air, and visions of sugarplums, but as Christians, we also need to reflect on the meaning of the coming of the Lord. Jesus himself describes the day when God will manifest Himself:

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21: 25-28 NIV)

This doesn't bring to mind Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, does it? And yet, Let's be clear. Christmas is the Holy Day celebrating the **Incarnation** of God the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Saint Paul in his "Letter to the Philippians" wrote of Christ Jesus:

who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.'(Philippians 2: 6-7)

To put it simply, God the Son came "in the flesh" ("Incarnate" comes from the Latin "in" plus "carne" - flesh), to save us. The "Letter to the Hebrews" speaks of this Jesus, who for our sakes "*endured the cross, making light of its disgrace, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*" (Hebrews 12: 2)

Some contemporary commentators like to speak of "Incarnational Theology" I'm afraid some of this modernism seems to assume, since God created the world, everything is as it should be, and God puts his stamp of approval upon our pursuit of our desires. We must make note of the fact that he did not come incarnate in order to share in the "fallen state" of our human nature. The truth is, Jesus was born into this world, not because everything was going swimmingly well, but because we had made a mess of it. And to look at the world today, we still are making a mess of it. To grasp the significance of the Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we must acknowledge that we are fallen creatures. We **need** salvation, and to save us from the consequences of sin (our own sin, as well as the sin of the world around us), he not only became one of us, he *died* for us!

The "Letter to the Hebrews" says that "*it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*, yet this same God sent his only begotten Son, humble and mild, innocent and loving, even to sacrificing Himself, to lead us into the way of salvation. Of all the gift-giving and receiving this Christmas, remember that He is the greatest gift of all eternity. If we understand what it is about, Christmas is not outdated or passé, so let us join in the joy of the Season with a full understanding of the enormity of **the** gift. As a hymn from the Liturgy of St. James puts it:

*"Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For
with blessings in his hand Christ
our God to earth descendeth, Our
full homage to demand."*

Translated: Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885

Sir Knight and Reverend Thomas G. Keithly, Right Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America, resides at 1612 Kiltartan Drive, Dallas, Texas 75228-3746

Love Is God's Gift

by Sir Knight James C. Bryant

1 John 4: 19: "...because he first loved us." (KJV)

An ancient Greek proverb says you can tell the measure of love by what a person is willing to give up for it. The measure of God's love is apparent in the gift of His only begotten son to save the world. And the measure of Christ's love was the sacrificial gift of his life. The Apostle Paul

wrote: "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,*" And Jesus said, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*"

Love during Advent easily brings to mind God's greatest gift. It may be harder, though, to remember His purpose. Surely, Jesus' death on the cross wasn't just to provide an insurance

policy to prevent our damnation and ensure eternal life. Jesus makes it clear that the purpose of salvation - the healing of our mortally-flawed souls - is to glorify God through service here and now. We serve God by obeying His will. Jesus said, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

We prove our love for God by loving others. By this sign He doesn't mean loving fellow Christians only He directs our love toward everyone even the unlovely, the unloving, the rude, crude, and unwashed. He measures our love by our response to those in need and tells us that whenever we serve the least of His brethren we are doing it unto Him.

The Russian novelist Dostoyevsky said, "To love someone is to see him the way God intended him to be seen." Loving like Jesus loves us is the natural expression of God's love in us. It turns us into the light of the world and the salt of the earth. It involves us in the work Jesus left undone when *he said, "Greater works than these shall you do."* Know that we are one with God. We are strengthened, and we can do all things with this presence and power in our life.

A popular gospel song declares, "I love Thee, I love Thee, and that Thou dost know; But how much I love Thee my actions will show." The sentiment is on target because

love is not something we say; it's something we do. Love makes us bite our tongue rather than lashing out in anger. Love constrains us when we're ready to let somebody "have it." Love causes us to hold back when we really want to push ahead and be first. Love makes us conscious of our neighbor as a person and not an object. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In other words, love humanizes us.

The kind of love Jesus demands is not the Hallmark greeting card variety of sentimental love. It doesn't necessarily make us feel warm and fuzzy. No, the love Jesus expects of his followers is tough. It makes us turn the other cheek and walk the second mile and forgive seventy time seven and more. Genuine love for others is the evidence of Christ's indwelling spirit in us.

The nineteenth century poet Christina Rossetti wrote a poem which she entitled "Love Came Down at Christmas." The simple message is appropriate for Advent:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine.

Sir Knight James C. Bryant is a York Rite Mason residing at 2865 Lenox Road, Atlanta, GA 30324



In Humble Splendor

A Christmas Story by
Sir Knight John M. Suer

They stand humbly before the arrogant clerk, showing the strains of their long journey, a picture of devastation, and the woman, obviously pregnant, looks as though she might deliver at any moment. The man,

supporting her as best he can with one arm, vigorously motions with the other to emphasize the words coming from his very soul: "But Sir," he says, "we have already tried the others. This is the last hostel in the city. We have traveled far and for many days. We are exhausted and my wife is in need of a physician. Don't you understand, Sir? We can go no farther."

"Peasants," thinks the clerk.

"Bums! Just look at the rags they're wearing. Dirty! Unwashed for weeks, probably. Why don't they go away. These things always happen on my shift!" He opens his mouth to upbraid the couple again when he spies a lad of about twelve years loitering in the doorway. He signals the boy to approach and when he draws nigh places a coin in his outstretched palm and addresses him in this manner: "Hasten Thee now into the banquet room where ye shall find the master entertaining sheiks and other great personages from Antioch and Damascus. Inform the good master that a situation has developed that sorely needs his attention. Beseech him to come hither without delay, ere a great catastrophe befall us."

Closing his fingers over the coin, the lad scampers away, and presently the proprietor of the inn appears wiping his hands on his wine stained beard. "What is this interruption of my valuable time?" he asks, eyeing the odd couple.

Quickly the clerk explains his dilemma. The inn keeper tugs at his beard again as he contemplates the problem: These people must be expelled immediately or his lobby will be contaminated. It would be embarrassing for a child to be born here on his floor before God and everybody. He must act quickly and firmly, but diplomatically, for many eyes are upon him.

"I have a place for you," he says. "Follow me." He leads them a short distance from the inn to where a cave has been carved into the side of a hill. "This is where I stable my animals," he says. "It will at least shield Thee from the inclement weather. It is the best I can do. I will arrange for a physician. Shalom!" and he hastens away to return to his important guests, promptly ignoring his vow to summon the physician.

The two enter the stable, and as she leans wearily against a pillar for support, the man takes straw from a manger and scatters it over animal dung. He spreads their only blanket over the straw and helps his wife to lie down upon it. Removing his cloak, he spreads it over her exhausted body, tenderly tucking it about her shoulders, for it is turning colder. He remains kneeling at her side until he is sure she sleeps; then he carefully moves away. He is shivering from the cold. He sits and leans his back against the upright pillar. Sheep have been munching on grain as they watch the two humans. Now, they move silently and surround the sitting man as though sensing he is cold and that he needs the warmth of their wool. Soon, he too sleeps.

He is startled awake by a muffled cry from his wife and hastens to her side. Kneeling beside her, he discovers that she is in labor. Soon, he is holding a child in his work hardened but gentle hands. He lays the babe by its mother and searches his pockets for a bit of string, but finds none. In desperation he seizes a straw and draws it through his hands until it becomes flexible. With the straw he makes two ties around the umbilical cord, then severs it with his knife. "It's a man child," he says as he places the baby in its mother's arms. "I know," she answers and brings the little one to her breast where He receives His first earthly nourishment. When He has suckled His fill, she wraps Him in a swaddling cloth and places Him in the manger where He takes His first earthly sleep.

Thus some two thousand years ago in a place called Bethlehem, the above scene unfolded. News of this birth was carried to the outermost parts of the

world and would in time be known and celebrated as Christmas Day. It is He, the humble Babe in the manger, we should honor and remember as we buy and exchange our gifts this Christmas.

Sir Knight John M. Siler is a member of Williamsburg No. 50 as well as a P.C. of Barbourville No. 37, Barbourville, Kentucky. He resides at 56 Rains Street, Williamsburg, KY 40769-2000.

Time To Celebrate!

**by Pastor Emeritus and
Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr**

This is a special time of year, as we celebrate in December two significant occasions. For some it is Hanukkah; for others it is Christmas. Both have their origins in the ancient land of Israel. Both recite a story of the miraculous. Both tell how God works through the ordinary to create something unique and extraordinary.

Hanukkah is the festival of lights. It is a reminder how, after the cleansing of the temple, enough oil was found to keep the lamps of the Menorah burning for eight days. It is a time of celebration when gifts

are given. Much more, it is a story of freedom and deliverance and of how God makes His presence known through the courage of a savior, Judas Maccabeus.

Christmas, likewise, tells of a savior, whose name is Jesus. The setting is in Bethlehem, and the scene is very ordinary; a cave and straw and a manger and sheep and an innkeeper. Out of the circumstances so commonplace is born something miraculous. God's presence makes the ordinary spectacular.

We need these times of remembrance. We need to know our heritage. We need to know that God comes, a light shines, a new hope dawns. The days pass as other days pass, and the future is ever before us, which means, according to the promise of long ago, God in His mercy and love **will always be there to meet and to guide us.**

A joyous holiday to one and all!

Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr is Pastor-Emeritus, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland, a 32° Mason, Chaplain Emeritus of Baltimore Chapter, and a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, Maryland. He resides at 700 John Ringling Blvd., Apt. E202, Sarasota, FL 34236



Christmas Greetings-2005

by Sir Knight John B. Studell
Past Grand Prelate of Minnesota

We have all heard the beautiful story of Christmas as recorded in Matthew 1: 18-25 and Luke 2: 1-20. At least I hope you have had an opportunity to hear and preferably study this event. After all, it is "the greatest story ever told."

It is the story of a gift sent by God to all people - a Savior sent for the entire world. The one born that night was unique in all

history. He was not the creation of the union between a human mother and father. He had a Heavenly preexistence which was foretold and awaited. He was God, and this is why Christmas is called the "incarnation," a word which means "in the *flesh*."

In the birth of Jesus, the all-powerful and Mighty God came to earth in the flesh. He came not as many would expect, as a grown and powerful man, but as a helpless baby. He is a Heaven-sent minister with a message of hope, love, and renewal. His is an example to us all.

"Merry Christmas!" This familiar greeting of the season welcomes us like the return of an old and dear friend. Certainly this season of light is a time of renewal and hope. If we as Christian Knights can tap into the hope and joy of this season, we will be able to carry on our good works and have the life affirming message of Christmas in our hearts throughout the year.

As I see it, one of the great central themes of the Christmas story is that with the coming of the Lord, we can be joyous. His birth gives us license to be happy. No matter what life throws at us, we have the undeniable right to be joyful, because we know the rest of the story, and it ends well.

This being said, I know that many people experience great sadness and loneliness during the holidays. We need to do everything in our power to ensure that those whose lives we touch experience the warmth and love of Christmas through our deeds and words. It is a difficult task for many to perform, because so many of us are out of practice. To be happy, joyful, and truly merry is no easy state at which to arrive.

We need a template, a blueprint, and an inspiration. That inspiration or template is Christmas, an anniversary which comes every year to reaffirm our faith, cheer our hearts, and spur our efforts to make our world a better place. We are promised "good tidings of great joy."

There are many dead ends and false trails in man's quest for the joy of Christmas promises. Some attempt to become happy through what we have come to know as a "commercialized" holiday. For them, the day's success depends on the perfect gift and a materialistic windfall. Others use this special and holy day as an excuse to indulge unhealthy appetites through the "delivery system" of food, drink, and other substances. Neither of these

methods produces lasting joy or a successful Christmas season.

I am reminded of the life of Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian novelist. At an early age, he had achieved fame and fortune. He had a devoted following and everything that the world equates with success. He indulged himself in every form of vice, and yet, by his own account he was miserable. He had it all, and still he did not have true happiness in his heart. One day, he realized that and said, "I am so dissatisfied with myself as to be weary of life."

How many of us who appear affluent before the world will face another Christmas "weary of the world"?

Yet, it need not be so. Christmas shows us that we have received the greatest of all gifts and that if we are to feel worthy and satisfied we must turn the focus from ourselves to others. This is the key. Selfless giving on a grand scale. Giving of ourselves is the greatest of gifts and affords us the greatest rewards. To soothe the discomforts of others, to ease the sadness of our fellow beings, and to love without condition is the quiet secret to a happy and fulfilled life.

It is only by what we do for others and how we touch the lives of others that we will be remembered. We have a duty to carry the Christmas spirit with us every day of the year. If we can do this, we will build a better world; and after all, there is always room for improvement.

Joy that comes from love serves to make life a sweet and rewarding journey. Never underestimate your powers and abilities when it comes to loving and caring for your fellow man. Christian love is powerful!

During the height of the cold war, a communist general was quoted as saying, "We have built up such an arsenal that the only thing in this world we have to fear is the disarming power of Christian love as taught in

their Christmas story. Thank goodness they do not practice these lessons on a daily basis."

If we "do unto others" or treat others as we would be treated, I believe that we would know comfort and satisfaction as we never have before. I know that for myself, the best feelings or emotions that I have experienced have always come from giving to or doing for others.

What does our comfort mean if others around us are in want? How can we be relaxed in our prosperity when others are in need? I have always found these questions difficult to pose in a materialistic world.

Christmas is the anniversary of the coming of the Lord. He was laid at the feet of the world as a baby. At that time, only a few rustic shepherds and a handful of others who had seen his star came to adore him. He came as the ultimate gift of love. He came to serve. He came to know rejection and frustration. Only by living his human existence as he did could he lead us by example. He grew into an extraordinary man.

Jesus never sought worldly wealth, fame, or any of the things that the world deems to be the definition of success. He showed us the importance of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and comforting the inconsolable. His life was a message which would pass from generation to generation. His message was simply that of love, goodwill, peace and the way to salvation.

During this holiday season, when we look at a star or a decoration or handmade gift, remember the Christmas story. When we take the time to do kind things, we spread the message of the Christ child.

The shepherds spread the word concerning what the angels had told them about the child. We see that God used them to convey the heavenly message

as we should continue to do today. People hearing the messages were amazed by it because they realized that Christmas is the story of God becoming man. The shepherds "returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen." This means that we learn that they spoke not only to others about the glorious birth, but also to God in their praise. This established an example of a spiritual connection that we should follow today.

Yes, there are many lessons and examples born out by the Christmas Story, and none more so than what we have been discussing about joy. He came that we may have life and have it more abundantly, and abundant life should certainly be joyful. God does not send to us a spirit of fear but a sense of strength, if only we can learn to put aside our own ideas and definitions of what strength, love, satisfaction, and happiness are so that we may learn from the example of the life of Christ.

People ask me if I really believe that a helpless baby could have changed the world. I always try to answer by saying that I believe it just as I believe that love can change a heart and a mind, that kindness can change directions and attitudes, and that human emotion or brotherly love can alter the circumstances of a distressed individual. Remember the words of the popular song, "It's not what you take when you leave this world behind, it's what you leave behind you when you go."

Let us all as Christian Knights and Masons do our best to continue to live the blessed lesson of the Christmas story and to help where we can, give what we can, and love all that we can, so that when we are called to our Heavenly home, we will know that through our efforts we have not only

made the world a better place in which to live, but also a gentler and happier place for those whose lives we have touched. As Masons, we have a rich tradition of service and of taking care of our own. As Christians, our record should be just as impressive as it relates to the world as a whole.

In conclusion, permit me to wish to all of you and to your families a happy Christmas season. My Christmas prayer for you is that you will know peace, experience true joy, and be blessed with abundant health.

Sir Knight John B. Studell, Past Grand Prelate of Minnesota, resides at 2436 37th Avenue, S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

Tennessee Commandery Sells Lapel Pins To Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation



This year at the 144th Annual Conclave of Tennessee, Manchester Commandery No. 40 of Hillsboro, Tennessee, topped their donation of \$6,000 for the 36th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the KTEF by donating \$6,500 to the 37th Annual Voluntary Campaign.

Once again, the primary source of this year's donation was from the sale of a late 1800's Knight Templar apron lapel pin and 5 other pins. All profits go to the KTEF.

The pins are still available at a cost of \$6.00 each, postage included. They are, left to right, above: Mediterranean Pass, Knight Crusader of the Cross, 1800's Apron, Beauceant Shield, Malta, and Knights Templar/Blue Lodge. Remember: All **profits go to KTEF**. Send check or money order payable to: Manchester Commandery No. 40, C/O Garry L. Carter, Recorder; 424 Winchester Hwy.; Hillsboro; TN 37342. All 6 pins can be viewed at the website: www.YorkriteUSA.org

True Masonic Stein To Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation



The stein body, 7 and 1/2 inches tall, is white ceramic. It contains a pewter lid with the Holy Bible on top. It has a fancy thumb lift. On the body is a Masonic altar with the verse of Matthew 7:7 between the pillars, and on one side there is a poem, "A True Mason," and on the other side is a very colorful Masonic picture of the early days of Masonic heritage. Also, there are two gold bands. The price of the stein, including shipping and insurance, is \$55.00. **A \$10.00 donation from the sale of each stein will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** There is a limited supply of the stems, so if interested, please send check or money order to: Stanley C. Buz, PO Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1000 East State Parkway, Suite I
Schaumburg, IL 60173-2460
Phone: (847) 490-3838
Fax: (847) 490-3777

Your Charity has been dedicated to the **Gift of Sight** for **50 years**. What better way to demonstrate your continued Knightly benevolence and generosity than by making a contribution of **\$50** during this **Golden Anniversary Jubilee Campaign!**

The 38th Annual Voluntary Campaign- 50th Anniversary of the KTEF

Message by Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, P.D.C., Southwestern
Trustee of the Committee on Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Happy 50th Anniversary, Knights Templar Eye Foundation! What a great pleasure it is to be able to write a message of tribute to this wonderful institution.

Perhaps, if I relate one personal story, the readers will understand why I am so excited about the Eye Foundation. One of the first research grants received in California was sent to me for delivery while I was serving as Grand Commander of that state. I was to go to the University of California branch located in San

Francisco. That facility incorporates both a research hospital and ophthalmology clinic. It houses such activities as the Beckman Vision Center, the Keck Center for Integrative Neuroscience, and the University Department of Ophthalmology. I had never been there before and knew nothing about its activities. You can imagine that as I walked into the building dressed in my Knight Templar uniform - chapeau, sword, and the whole bit - I was a bit apprehensive! Needless to say, I got a few questioning looks. They had never seen such a get-up. I met with a very pleasant lady, Dr. Joan O'Brian, and her team and presented her with the check. We talked about her research, and I explained some of the history and philosophy of the Knights Templar. It was a delightful experience.



Now, fast forward to August 11, 2005. On that date I accompanied California Grand Commander Milton Abbott and Past Grand Commander Dan R. McDaniel once again to the University of California, San Francisco campus. On this occasion the three of us in uniform received no quizzical looks or curious questions. The greeting this time was something like: "Oh, Boy, the Knights Templar are here again!"

In the intervening, approximately 12 years, visits to that building to deliver checks from the Eye Foundation have become an almost annual event. The high quality of research being conducted and the outstanding credentials of the scientists and doctors have warranted much support from our dedicated team of proposal reviewers. We are now truly **a partner** with that superb institution. In fact, on that latter occasion, Grand Commander Abbott was able to hand over **three** \$30,000 checks to three very grateful researchers.

We were escorted into a nice, cozy conference room. Refreshments and drinks were there to greet us. All three recipients, with their supervisors, were in attendance. It was obvious that our visit was not only anticipated but also extremely welcome and important.

But the story gets better: The research managed by Dr. Joan O'Brian, mentioned above and supported by us some years ago, has been extremely successful. She has advised us that through our initial "seed money" they have been granted over \$1 million from the federal government. Their studies have revealed significant information about the causes of children's eye disease in underdeveloped countries. There has been great progress in avoiding some of those problems. This story is not unusual. Many researchers have reported that our funds have funded early conceptual studies. It is only after further investigation that larger dollars can be secured. In this manner, the KTEF opens the door to many important developments in the field of eye care.

You, friendly reader - Sir Knight, Lady, Friend - you can take pride in this and other stories. Let's keep up the good work. Continue your annual donations, and include the Eye Foundation in your will. God bless you for your support.

Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt is a Past Department Commander, Southwestern (1994-1997), of the Grand Encampment, a Trustee of the Committee on Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., and a P.G.C. of California. He is a member of Palo Alto Commandery No. 47, Palo Alto, California. He resides at 14101 Manuella Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. His e-mail is wbrpuitt@aol.com



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

No. 4,643—Robert C. Childers (IN)

No. 4,644—Charles D. Kolbe (WI)

No. 4,645—Gary Parker (WI)

No. 4,646—David R. Schreier (WI)

No. 4,647—Linda Schreier (WI)

No. 4,648—Paul E. Crowell (IN)

No. 4,649—Robert D. Miller (PA)

Grand Commander's Club

No. 102,224—Mac H. Morris (VA)

No. 102,225—Mark F. Arbeen (VA)

No. 102,226—David Eugene Helms (NC)

No. 102,227—William T. Lee, Jr. (VA)

No. 102,228—Robert D. Miller (PA)

No. 102,229—Ronald J. Burton (AR)

How to join the Grand Commander's or Grand Master's clubs: Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual

contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc; 1000 East State Parkway, Suite I; Schaumburg; IL 60173-2460. The phone number is: (847) 490-3838. The fax number is: (847) 490-3777.

Contributors to the OPC Club

Johnnie T. Morris (SC)

Johnnie T. Morris (SC)

in honor of Lucius A. Todd

John Hardin (WA)

in honor of Wally Rehberg

On page 19 are the forms for the 33^o Club and the OPC Club.



Minnesota "Eye-Gave" Pin Still Available And Benefiting The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The red, white and blue "EYE I GAVE" pin, a fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, sponsored by the Grand Commandery of Minnesota, is still available at \$5.00 each including shipping and handling. **All proceeds go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** Make checks payable to: Minnesota Grand Commandery, and send to: Allan Kauppi, 10508 Redwood Street, N.W.; Coon Rapids, MN 55433

***Please turn to page 18 for more coverage of KTEF news.
On page 19 are the forms for the 33^o Club and the OPC Club***

*Reprinted from Masonic Americana,
January 1, 1976 Setting the record straight*

These Men Were Masons

by Estel W. Brooks

Over the years many speakers have made many false claims of Masonic memberships due to reading unconfirmed items by over zealous authors. They did this because they took the word of men who they thought were reliable but who had not done the necessary research to make positive identification of their claims. Until lately, when a researcher really went to work on the subject, men were alleged to be Masons through hearsay or circumstantial evidence. The time has now come to refute these claims and to rely only upon those who have made diligent research and can prove their claims. We have many of our forefathers who can be proven to be Masons without making claims on some important man who might have been. Perhaps, we may overlook someone who is deserving, but future investigation will bring out the truth. Records of many Lodges have been lost through neglect, wars, and fire.

Now, through research, we are narrowing the claims of our forefathers who can be proven to be Masons. We must be careful because there are many people who are just waiting for us to make false claims about the patriots we claim as Brethren. Let us be especially careful in our assertions concerning those who were Masons. We might be reminded that one of General Washington's generals, Benedict Arnold, was proven a Mason.

It has also been alleged that two of our Presidents were Masons whose membership cannot be proven through research. They are Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. We know that they were deserving men, but let us not say they were Masons just because we wish they were. Jefferson is reported to have walked in a Masonic funeral procession, but in those days many important men did this without being Masons. Most researchers report these two men were not members of the Craft.

The Presidents of the United States of America that we can prove to be Masons are 14 in number and are as follows: George Washington, born in Virginia; James Monroe, also of Virginia; Andrew Jackson was born in South Carolina; James Knox Polk was born in North Carolina; James Buchanan in Pennsylvania; Andrew Johnson was born in North Carolina; James Garfield first saw the light of day in Ohio; William McKinley also was born in Ohio; Theodore Roosevelt of New York; William Howard Taft was born in Ohio; Warren G. Harding was of Ohio; Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York; Harry S. Truman from Missouri; and Gerald Ford of Nebraska.

Of these distinguished Presidents, five were Knights Templar. They were Andrew Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Harding, and Truman. Of these five, three were from Ohio.

When we start research on the men who can be proven to have been Masons we run into many problems. There are all sorts of claims concerning how many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Some authorities in the past have claimed as many as thirty. This list has now been narrowed down to nine indisputables. They are William Ellery of Rhode Island, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, John Hancock and Robert Treat Payne of Massachusetts, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes of North Carolina, Richard Stockton of New Jersey, George Walton of Georgia, and William Whipple of New Hampshire.

Some of the claims that have been made are as follows. In 1927 William L. Boyden, librarian of the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, claimed 15 of the signers were Masons. To this list the Iowa Grand Lodge library added 13 more.

In 1937 Hon. So! Bloom, as chairman of the United States Constitutional Sesqui-Centennial Commission, issued a government brochure claiming that there were 31 Masonic signers. In 1954 Ray Baker Harris, who had succeeded William L. Boydon, said that of the 56 signers there was positive evidence that there were 29 members or that there was a basis for presuming they were although the evidence was circumstantial.

These statements put all Masons on the spot. Who are we to believe? Probably the best and safest thing to do is to accept the nine which can be proven members and if more can be proven at a later date accept them at that time.

We hear many claims made about those who signed the Constitution. Again we hear nearly all were Masons. The list has now been narrowed down to 13. They were General George Washington and John Blair of Virginia, Gunning Bradford, Jr., John Dickinson and Jacob Brown of Delaware, David Brearly, Jonathon Dayton and William Patterson of New Jersey, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, James McHenry and Daniel Carroll of Maryland, Rufus King of Massachusetts, and Nicholas Gilman of New Hampshire.

It has been proven there were 13 Masonic signers, not definite on seven, and 19 were definitely not members of the Craft.

Another statement which has been made many times is that all of General Washington's generals were Masons. Such was not the case, however, although 34 of them were and one of them was Benedict Arnold.

We have heard that the idea of the "Boston Tea Party" originated in a Masonic Lodge. It has also been said that the Lodge meeting couldn't be held that night because there was not a quorum present. From the minutes of the Lodge that night, this can be disproved. Undoubtedly some Masons did take part in the "Party." There had to be more than one meeting to plan for such an act, and also because there were men who were not Masons in the group, they could not have attended the Lodge meeting. It was not a spontaneous meeting and must have had considerable planning beforehand.

Another statement that has been made is that all Masons in the Colonies severed their ties with the British Lodges. Such, however, was not the case as all Masons at that time were not Whigs or members of the Patriots Party. Some were Tories and remained loyal to England. They were not in favor of the separation from the mother country, either as citizens or Masons. In fact, due to the intense feelings of that time, many of the Tory Masons suffered physically and financially.

Among the signers of the Declaration of Independence who suffered a great loss were Ellery of Rhode Island, Stockton of New Jersey, and Walton of Georgia.

The British troops occupied William Ellery's home in Newport for three years and then destroyed it. While inspecting the Continental Army in upper New York state, Richard Stockton heard the British had invaded New Jersey. He hurried home and moved his family to a friend's home. Loyalists informed the British who captured him and treated him so badly that his health was impaired. He was finally exchanged and learned his home had been pillaged and partly burned. He never regained his health and died at 50. George Walton was a colonel in the militia. He was wounded and captured during the siege of Savannah in December 1778. He was held prisoner until exchanged for a navy captain in 1779.

With heroes like these and many, many more, let us not claim any others until it can be proven beyond a doubt that they were members of the Craft. We must not rely upon circumstantial evidence.

The article on pages 16 and 17 was submitted by Sir Knight Charles A. Games; H.P.D.C., P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations. He is a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. Write: Charles A. Games, 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944 or e-mail: charles.garnes@verizon.net

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
38th Annual Voluntary Campaign**

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending November 11, 2005. The total amount contributed to date is \$1221,932.66.

Alabama	\$907.00
Arizona	63.00
Arkansas	2,297.61
California	8,885.00
Colorado	340.00
Connecticut	25.00
Delaware	20.00
District of Columbia	500.00
Florida	1,272.00
Georgia	1,471.00
Idaho	100.00
Illinois	5,450.14
Indiana	10,603.68
Iowa	543.00
Kansas	596.00
Kentucky	1,776.50
Louisiana	523.00
Maine	195.00
Maryland	2,287.10
Mass./R.I.	265.00
Michigan	952.00

Minnesota	633.00
Mississippi	325.00
Missouri	1,443.00
Montana	175.00
Nebraska	220.00
Nevada	30.00
New Hampshire	175.00
New Jersey	1,056.80
New Mexico	856.66
New York	345.00
North Carolina	1,748.00
North Dakota	70.00
Ohio	2,897.05
Oklahoma	516.00
Oregon	125.00
Pennsylvania	3,083.31
South Carolina	1,132.00
South Dakota	130.00
Tennessee	6,837.47
Texas	9,642.00
Utah	20.00
Vermont	475.00
Virginia	6,839.00
Washington	93.00
West Virginia	585.00
Wisconsin	4,393.00
Wyoming	103.00
Miscellaneous	38,912.34

Boutique Table at MA/RI Annual Conclave Benefits KTEF

Joyce Poyton (Mrs. Robert F.), chairperson of the boutique table of the Grand Commandery's Officers' Wives' Association of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts! Rhode Island, is shown with items for sale at the Annual Conclave of the Commandery, which was held in October 2005. The boutique table raised \$900 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (submitted by Cynthia C. Winterhalter, Secretary of the Grand Commandery's Officers' Wives' Assoc.)



Use the forms below for 33° Club and Purple Cross Club donations!

Thirty-third Degree Club
Contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Donor _____ Personal, 33°:

Address _____ In honor of:

_____ phone () _____

Donor's Commandery No. _____ (for campaign credit)

State _____

Honoree _____ Enclosed: \$33.00

Scottish Rite Valley _____ Other:

Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Expiration date: _____

Number: _____ Signature: _____

Please send your check and the above form (or credit info on the form) to your Commandery Chairman or to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 1000 East State Parkway, Suite I, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

Order of the Purple Cross Club
Contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Donor _____ Personal, OPC:

Address _____ In honor of:

_____ phone () _____

Donor's Commandery No. _____ (for campaign credit)

State _____

Honoree _____ CK or OPC Enclosed: \$33.00

Other:

Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Expiration date: _____

Number: _____ Signature: _____

Please send your check and the above form (or credit info on the form) to your Commandery Chairman or to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 1000 East State Parkway, Suite I, Schaumburg, IL 60173.



Northwestern Department Conference In Boise, Idaho

On October 21, 2005, Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, M.E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, along with Sir Knight Glenn A. Siron, R.E. Department Commander of the Northwestern Department, surprised Sir Knight Eugene Wright, R.E.P.G.C. of Oregon, by presenting him with the Grand Master's Achievement Award, only the second one awarded during this triennium. The Conference started on Friday morning with the introduction of the dais officers from the Grand Encampment and a little lighthearted humor from Sir Knight Glenn A. Siron. During the course of the day, much needed information was presented and well received. Sir Knight Eugene Wright, R.E.P.G.C., Oregon, presented a power point program on Templar protocol. The day was capped off with Grand Master Ken Fischer's presentation and a question and answer time. Afterwards, the Grand Master showed a video about the upcoming 63rd Triennial Conclave to be held in Houston, Texas. Featured were the many opportunities there will be for a great time while Sir Knights and guests are attending the Triennial. At the banquet on Friday evening, Grand Master Fischer was introduced, and he made a few remarks on the Grand Master's Achievement Award. As he ended his explanation of the award, Sir Knight Steven Guffy, R.E.P.G.C. of Washington, stepped up and laid a hand on the shoulder of Sir Knight Eugene Wright and asked him and his Lady Elaine to follow him. He then presented them to Grand Master Fischer, and the Grand Master, aided by Sir Knight Siron, proceeded to present Sir Knight Wright with the award and medal. Sir Knight Gene was extremely surprised by the presentation and was truly speechless and very moved. In the picture, left to right, are: Sir Knights Kenneth B. Fischer, M.E.G.M.; Eugene Wright, R.E.P.G.C. of Oregon; and Glenn A. Siron, R.E.D.C., Northwestern. (story and photo by Sir Knight Steven L. Guffy, R.E.P.G.C. of Washington)



of Washington)

Mission Accomplished!

North Central Department Conference-2005

by Dr. James N. Karnegis, Department Commander
North Central Department of the Grand Encampment

The North Central Department Conference of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America was held Friday and Saturday, October 28-29, 2005, at the Kahier Grand Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota. The arrangements were made in cooperation with William Kauten, Regional Deputy Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, and Barnes Sharitt, Regional Deputy Grand Master of the General Grand Council. The 2005 North Central York Rite Conference was under the general auspices of the Grand Encampment.

This year on Friday, October 28, 2005, the Chairman and the staff of the Department of Ophthalmology of the Mayo Medical School hosted a special, optional event. Presentations about eye diseases and research updates were followed by personal tours of the ophthalmology research laboratories of the Mayo Clinic. The 115 attendees were appreciative and enthusiastic about the impressive program and facilities.

The regular business session of the North Central Department Conference began at 8:00 A.M. and was completed at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 29, 2005. The agenda was fully covered, and all of the items that had been specified by the Most Eminent Grand Master were included.

Program participants included: Kenneth B. Fischer, Most Eminent Grand Master; David L. Kempfer, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Pennsylvania and Chairman, Educational Foundation; Marvin L. Selock, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Illinois and Knights Templar Eye Foundation Administrator; and Dr. James N. Karnegis, Right Eminent North Central Department Commander. Anthony W. Lecakis, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Minnesota, gave the Invocation and Benediction, and Billie Joe Hildreth, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Iowa, led the "Pledge of Allegiance." Registration was under the expert supervision of Stanley P. Boyd, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Illinois.

There were 70 Sir Knights in attendance. As required by the "Statutes of the Grand Encampment," officers present to represent their Grand Commanderies were as follows:

Grand Commandery	Grand Commander	Deputy Grand Commander	Grand Generalissimo	Grand Captain General	Grand Recorder
<i>Illinois</i>	Pressly Laird	William Brown	Howard Hoffman	Jesse Lee Johns	Robert Cronk
<i>Wisconsin</i>	Charles Kolbe	Fred Roycraft	Lawrence A. Catellier	Lauren R. Handeland	Milton Gregory
<i>Iowa</i>	George Harrison	Donald Radloff	Stephen Libby	David Dryer	Willard Loper

<i>Minnesota</i>	Richard Anderson	Allan Kauppi	James Edgar, Sr.	Bruce V. Brendal	Harland Thomesen
<i>Nebraska</i>	Frederick Way, Jr.	John Dale	Steven C. Smith I	Theodore Johnson	
<i>North Dakota</i>	Nathaniel Knudson	Jeffrey Nelson	James V. Acker	Lon W. Kvasager	Merle Huhner
<i>South Dakota</i>	Gerald A. Johnson			Michael Gilleland	Harlan F. Peterson

The Conference produced much information, many suggestions, and lively discussion. It was not an event to have been missed.

In the evening there was a sumptuous banquet followed by a call-in talk show featuring that famous personality, Dr. Hau Nau Kau Pai (pronounced "How Now Cow Pie").

Grand Master Greets Grand Commanders



The above photograph was taken at the North Central Department Conference that was held in Rochester, Minnesota, October 28-29, 2005. It shows Sir Knight Kenneth Bernard Fischer, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar of the U.S.A., welcoming all seven North Central Department Grand Commanders.

Sir Knights, pictured from left to right, are: Charles Kolbe, Grand Commander, Wisconsin; George Harrison, Grand Commander, Iowa; Gerald Johnson, Grand Commander, South Dakota; Dr. James N. Karnegis, North Central Department Commander, Grand Encampment; Kenneth Bernard Fischer, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment; Richard Anderson, Grand Commander, Minnesota; Frederick Way, Grand Commander, Nebraska; Pressly (Al) Laird, Grand Commander, Illinois; and Nathaniel Knudson, Grand Commander, North Dakota.

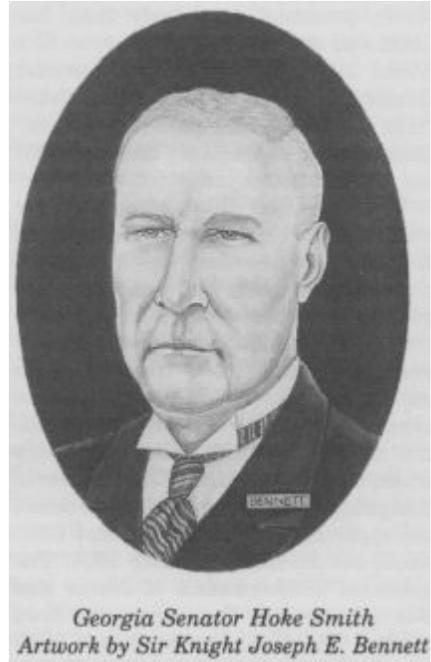
Part II: Ty Cobb: Baseball's Unpopular Icon

by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33°, FPS

During his perennial salary disputes with Frank Navin in 1913, the U. S. Senate took a hand in negotiations. Cobb had many powerful friends in government, one of whom was Senator Hoke Smith from Georgia. Smith threatened a senatorial investigation of baseball's controversial reserve clause, a move that owners feared more than anything else. Navin quickly agreed to the figure of \$12,000, which Cobb demanded.

Two prominent government figures were poker friends of Cobb. They were Presidents William Howard Taft, and later, Warren G. Harding. Taft and Cobb occasionally attended Lodge together during the president's trips to Augusta. Reports mentioned that President Taft invariably fell asleep during the Lodge session. The immensely obese president was the first person to be made a Mason "at sight" in the state of Ohio.

Ty Cobb enlisted in the military service in World War I in 1917. He was commissioned a captain in the army Chemical Warfare Service, along with famous pitcher, Christy Mathewson. It was a move by the government to encourage enlistment of athletes. Both Cobb and Mathewson were together during a tragic chemical training session in England in 1917. In a building equipped to conduct live poison gas training, a contingent of soldiers were present when the lethal substance was released into the room. Some of the military personnel did not hear the signal that gas had been released. They were exposed before they could don their gas masks. Eight soldiers died from gas inhalation, and another eight suffered severe lung damage. Cobb recovered from minimal inhalation, but Christy



Mathewson suffered severe lung injury, which resulted in his premature death on October 7, 1925.

Cobb resumed his sensational playing career in 1918, without any visible sign that he suffered from his brief military hiatus. Proof of that was a brilliant batting mark of .382 in 111 games. In fact, he would once again hit above the fabled .400 mark. He batted .401 in 1922, marking the third time in his career he crossed the magic threshold.

For several years, Frank Navin had badgered Cobb to manage the Detroit Tigers. The beloved longtime manager, Hughie Jennings, was suffering from exhaustion and mental deterioration. Navin had to replace him. Even though Navin and Cobb despised each other, the

owner knew Cobb was capable of maintaining capacity attendance at games played in Detroit. Cobb refused a number of times, realizing that the team was loaded with aging players and must have an infusion of new, young talent. Navin promised to remedy that, but Cobb was not moved to accept, until a friend chimed in, sportswriter Grantland Rice. He added his plea - "take the job, for the good of the team." Cobb agreed to manage, much against his will and better judgment.

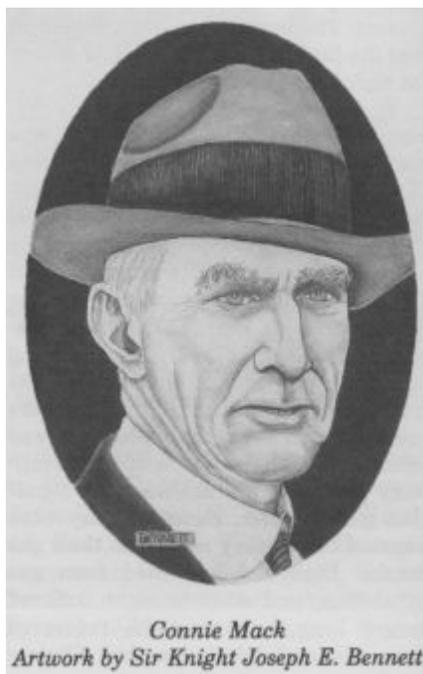
Cobb assumed the playing-manager position for the 1921 season. Navin failed to provide the necessary finances to purchase new players, and the team languished in the second division. Unable to provide a pennant contender with his available talent, Cobb's tenure was an unhappy one. Navin, too, became increasingly restive with the Tigers' failure to gain ground. When the story broke, accusing Cobb and Tris Speaker of conspiring to throw a game, Navin seized the opportunity to announce that Cobb would not be manager after 1926. The universal condemnation of Navin and Ban Johnson over the transparent hoax reached the U.S. Senate floor. Cobb's friends there urged him to sue Navin, Johnson, and all involved in the scheme. Cobb refused. He would be relieved to be rid of the job and free to retire.

Opening the 1926 season as player-manager, Cobb played in 79 games, batting .339 during a last lackluster team year. That season is memorable as the one in which he ended speculation about his ability to hit home runs. Since most of Cobb's career was played in the "dead ball" era, home runs were not plentiful. Cobb had only 118 to his credit during his entire career. On May 5-6, 1926, he announced an exhibition of his home run ability during two games at St. Louis. Cobb simply altered his grip on the bat, using a conventional position of the hands. During the two games, he had five home runs and four other hits. Now at 40

years of age, he nonchalantly explained to the astonished onlookers that he could hit home runs all day, if he chose to use a grip that would hinder his ability to hit where and when he wished. When the season ended, Cobb announced his retirement.

When Cobb's announcement was made public, he was inundated by offers for his playing services. He refused them all, yearning to retire to Georgia and tranquility, devoting his time to hunting, fishing, and spending time at home. He also looked forward to playing golf regularly. It was another sport he dearly loved. He would be 41 years old in December 1926, and Cobb pointed out that his running skills were beginning to erode.

The most persistent job offer came from Connie Mack, the venerable owner-manager of the Philadelphia Athletics. He offered Cobb a salary of \$70,000 a year as a player plus 10% of the gate for all exhibition games and a bonus at year end. Cobb still refused. He was a wealthy man, and money was not



a paramount consideration in his life. Mack made another offer. He handed Cobb a signed blank check and told him to write in any figure he wished. That convinced the Georgia Peach to sign.

Cobb made the announcement that he would play for the Athletics in 1927, during a sports writers' banquet at the Hotel Adelphia in Philadelphia. The sports world was amazed at the announcement. To a man, they agreed that Cobb and the gentle Connie Mack could not get along. They were very wrong, for Cobb was completely at ease under Mack's management and happier than he had ever been in the major leagues. He earned his salary, too. Although not quite so fleet as in earlier years, he was still a wizard on the base paths. During the 1927 season, he stole home during a game with the Boston Red Sox, just to prove he could still do it. Cobb ended the year playing in 134 games, batting .357. He also proved that he was a fine batting tutor for young players. One of his most prominent protégés at Philadelphia was young Al Simmons, who benefited royally from Cobb's coaching.

Cobb's chronic eye problem had deteriorated to the point that surgery was mandatory in 1926. He suffered from an ocular disease known as pterygium; a thickened film formed over the cornea. The operation was a success, but Cobb was required to wear colored lens for months during his recovery. The most amazing aspect of his problem was that he did not allow the problem to diminish his baseball performance.

When the 1928 season opened in Philadelphia, there were three old-time baseball greats listed with the team's active squad; Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, and Eddie Collins. Their baseball knowledge and counsel to Mack's young team were invaluable. Connie was rebuilding his baseball dynasty for one last time. Team development and training, during the final years of the 1920 decade, were Mack's highest priority.

Cobb and his two veteran peers were a tremendous asset to the effort.

Cobb's final season in baseball was 1928. Realistic about his aging legs, he carefully conserved his limited energy for the ball park. He retired very early, took his evening meal in bed, and slept until noon. He enjoyed a fine last year, playing in 95 games and posting a batting mark of .323. After it was over, he treated his family to a prolonged tour of Europe, departing in January 1929. His baseball wars were history.

During the final 30-odd years of his life, Cobb projected a softer, more gentle persona than he had on the baseball field. He enjoyed his wealth and indulged in his favorite outdoor sports; hunting, fishing, and golf. He donated the Cobb Memorial Hospital to his hometown of Royston, as a memorial to his father, William Herschel Cobb. In addition, he funded the Cobb Educational Foundation, dedicated to financing qualified youngsters in the pursuit of higher education. Ty Cobb revered his father's community legacy to local education and as a public official. As his son, those contributions were made in the hope that William Cobb's memory might survive in perpetuity.

Cobb's twilight years were spent in seclusion and declining health, ending with his death on July 17, 1961, at age 74. His mortal remains were barely deposited in the family mausoleum before the sports world began to debate his contribution to the national pastime and analyze his acerbic character. Few men knew Ty Cobb well, but everyone was familiar with his explosive, dazzling exploits. Nobody could dispute his playing record.

What turned a polite, religious boy of 18 into the sulfurous, driven athlete that was Tyrus Raymond Cobb? The metamorphosis, which took place as he began his major league career in Detroit, remains unexplained. The results were abundantly clear.

One aspect of Cobb's personality is perhaps the least publicized. Nevertheless, it may have been the major factor for his spectacular success in baseball. It was his endless determination to study the habits and personality of each player he faced. Cobb's uncanny sense of when a pitcher was about to throw the ball or the effects of his relentless effort to distract opposing players was phenomenal. His wild break for the next base, as the pitcher toed the rubber, was based on his knowledge of the opponent. Irresponsible risk-taking on the base paths was not as foolhardy as one might believe. Likewise, Cobb studied the science of batting all his life. His unorthodox grip was the distillation of his knowledge of how to hit a pitch wherever he pleased. It was not accidental; it was a cultivated science. Those lessons, learned and securely stored in his memory bank, enabled Cobb to create his great legacy for baseball. It was not the result of inherited natural talent.

It is up to each individual to determine his opinion of the baseball career and life of Tyrus Raymond Cobb. Judgment of his character is not a human prerogative. He believed, according to his own words, that he was not the raging, relentless athlete the sports world portrayed him, almost unanimously, to be.

As Freemasons, we are obliged to enfold Ty Cobb's faults and foibles within the mantle of Masonic charity. He was an esteemed Brother, who deserves our respect. My own unsolicited opinion of his achievements remains firm in the conviction that Cobb was the greatest ballplayer this country ever produced. As a matter of fact, my Dad held the same

opinion, for as long as I can remember. He was the court of last appeal.

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- IRA FRIEDMAN (Editor): *All Time Baseball Greats*, Pub: Starlog Press, New York; NY, 1980
- DONALD HONIG: *Shadows of Summer*, Pub: Penguin Books, Inc, New York, NY 1980
Baseball, Pub: Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, NY 1990
The American League, Pub: Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, 1987
The National League, Pub: Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, 1983
- WILLIAM M. MEAD: *World of Baseball: Low and Outside*, Pub: Redefinition, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia, 1990
- MIKE STATZKIN and JIM CHARLTON: *The Ballplayers*, Pub: Arbor House, New York, NY, 1990
- BY TURKIN and S. C. THOMPSON: *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball*, Pub: A. S. Barnes Company, New York, NY, 1959
- Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 330, FPS, and P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, is a member of Holy Grail Commandery No. 70, Lakewood, Ohio. He resides at: 734 Providence Avenue, Middleton, ID 83644



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2.5 inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. The emblem is to be centered on the Cross that adorns the left side of the mantle or ceremonial robe or on the left side (on pocket) of a dress blazer. The same use is required for the GCT emblem which is bordered with a wreath. The cost of the KCT emblem is \$8.50 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, and the cost of the GCT emblem is \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Contact: Jon Patrick Sweet, 7474 Benton Street, Westminster, CO 80003-7001, or phone (303) 430-8483

Past Grand Commander Of Pennsylvania Is First Recipient Of Grand Master's Achievement Award



Sir Knight George A. Hulsinger (2nd from right), Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, is the first recipient of the Grand Master's Meritorious Achievement Award. He is shown receiving the award from Grand Master Kenneth B. Fischer (2nd from left) at the Northeastern Department Conference held September 10, 2005, in Grantville, Pennsylvania. Grand Master Fischer was assisted on this happy occasion by Northeastern Department Commanders, Edwin R. Carpenter, Jr. - South (at right) and Robert P. Winterhalter - North (at left). This award was made possible by the hard work of all of the Sir Knights of Pennsylvania.

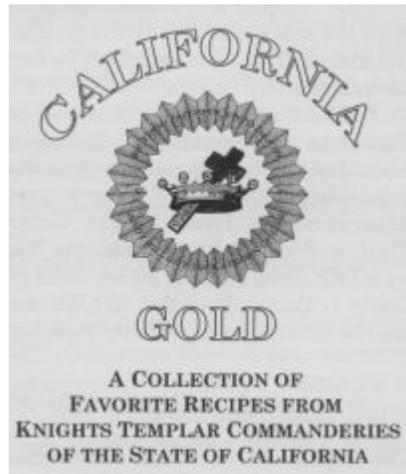
Sale Of Knights Templar Tote Bags To Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

This beautiful Knight Templar tote bag is designed for the men and ladies of the Knights Templar, and its sale will benefit the KTEF. The bag's size is 16 x16 inches, it is made of upholstery material, and it has two straps and is lined for extra reinforcement on the inside. On the front and back is a poem, entitled 'A Knight Templar' and down each side are the nine battle shields of the Templar Knights Also there is an arch with the working tools of the York Rite and the Almighty Seeing Eye This tote bag was designed for the members of the ladies auxiliary to carry their craft items back and forth to their meetings and to Grand Commandery functions, but it was made heavy enough to carry books and other important items for the men. The price of the tote bag is \$25.00, including shipping and insurance. A \$5.00 donation for each tote sold will go to the KTEF. Please send check or money order to: Sandra Knotts, PO Box 158, Trexierstown, PA 18087-0158



Sale Of California Cookbook To Benefit The KTEF

The Grand Commandery of California is selling cookbooks, shown right, to benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Entitled "California Gold," the book is a compilation of recipes submitted by Sir Knights and ladies of the Commanderies of California. It is bound in a 3-ring loose-leaf format and contains 750 recipes. The books sell for \$20.00 each, and **the entire amount goes to the KTEF**. They are able to do this because the publication cost of the books was covered by private donations. Make out checks to: Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Send to: Dan McDaniel, Attn: Cookbooks, 1250 Peterson Court, Los Altos, CA 94024



Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for \$135.00. (G.C. and P.G.C. add \$35.00 for gold decoration on cap visor.) The uniform includes white military style cap with insignia, short sleeve shirt, shoulder rank insignia, collar insignia, metal ribbon bar, name plate, plain black tie, tie clasp with cross and crown, and shipping and handling. Send us your cap size, shirt size, rank, Commandery name and number, choice of engraving on the tie clasp (plain/Knight Templar/your state/Commandery name and number) to the address below. For further information request an order form for your state (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope) or e-mail: ccwinterhalter@aol.com Make checks payable to: Milford Commandery No. 11. Mail to: Milford Commandery No. 11, C/O Robert P. Winterhalter, PO Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Please order soon to avoid the price increase March 1, 2006.**

Milford Commandery Polo Shirts Benefit KTEF

Milford Commandery also offers top quality white polo shirts with pocket. These shirts have your choice of embroidered insignia in full color (non-fading). Select from: Templar Cross, Cross and Crown, Royal Arch Mason, Royal and Select Master Mason, Cryptic Mason, York Rite, KYCH, York Rite College, and Masonic Square and Compass. We also offer a lady's shirt with Social Order of the Beauceant or any of the above emblems. Each shirt is \$30.00, plus \$5.00 S & H. You may add your name or nickname to the right side for \$5.00 additional. Royal Arch Mason shirts are also stocked in red, and Masonic Square and Compass may be had on white or royal blue shirts. There are eleven other colors available on special order. We also offer great 3-season jackets and a light weight flannel-lined jacket. Make checks payable to: Milford Commandery No. 11. Send to: P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. For further information, write us at this address or e-mail: Ccwinterhalter@aol.com **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!
..from the Staff of the Grand Encampment



The Grand Encampment staff persons are from top down, left to right: Sir Knight Charles R. Neumann, R.E. Grand Recorder; Sir Knight Lawrence E. Tucker, office administrator; Sir Knight James O. Potter, comptroller; Karla Neumann, accounting and database supervisor, Sylvia Ericksen, database operator; Joan Morton, assistant editor, and Bessie Cooper Leigh, word processor.



To place your "Knight Voice" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to "Knight Voices," The Grand Recorder, 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60630-2460. Items submitted to Knight Templar that refer to Templar or Masonic subjects will continue to be printed free of charge. All other items should be accompanied by a \$5.00 remittance made payable to the Grand Encampment. Any submission may be subject to editing. You must submit a written request and check, if applicable, for each time you want your ad to run. Each request must be separate and at monthly intervals, not several at the same time. All other requests for repeat ads will either run just once or will be returned to sender.

For sale: lapel pins. The 64th Triennial Conclave Committee is offering a lapel pin (2 knights on horseback) for \$6.00 each, including S & H. Checks payable to 64th Triennial Conclave Committee, C/O E. K. Longworth; 502 Wentworth Avenue, N.E.; Roanoke; VA 24012-3545. This is a fund-raiser for the 64th Triennial Conclave.

The Grand Commandery of Illinois is planning its 150th anniversary to be held in 2007. Part of the program is the issuance of a commemorative pin, available at \$5.00. Send to William H. Brown, V.E.D.G.C., 4100 North LeClaire, Chicago, IL 60641

For sale: Knights Templar lapel flag pin: double-hasp American flag with Malta Knights Templar logo superimposed. Sale to benefit Pennsylvania's 154th Conclave Committee. Pins are \$4.00 each (minimum order is 5), postage included. Checks payable to 154th Annual Conclave Committee, and mail to Rev. William D. Hartman, 951 Bridge Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

Sword slings available in 2-inch or 1-inch wide, white or black nylon straps with black, fine grade leather sword holder and with heavy duty black clips. They are adjustable to fit all sizes-\$19.00 each plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. For further details or brochure, write Tom Starnes, 3357 River Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044-5537, (678) 923-6776 or e-mail tonawsta@com.cast.net. Checks to KT Enterprises. % of net profits to KTEF.

Texas Sesquicentennial Conclave Memorabilia: medal (Conclave logs on front, "San Antonio Cdry #7" surrounding cross/crown on reverse) is suspended from white/black "beauceant" ribbon suitable for wearing with uniform or coat (\$7.00); canvas bag (13-in. x 15-in. x 1-in, with straps 10 inches at apex) bearing Sesquicentennial logo (\$5.00); baseball style hat bearing Sesquicentennial logo (\$10.00). All proceeds from hat sales to K1'EF These unique items can be viewed at www.albertpikedemolay.org/yorkritefindex.html. Send your order (include \$2.00 for mailing costs) and your check, payable to 2005 Grand Conclave, to James N. Higdon, 10122 N. Manton, San Antonio, TX 78213. Items will be sent day following receipt by return mail. H: (210) 344-4309, O: (210) 349-9933, e-mail: jnh.kt@hhzlaw.com

For sale: Knights Templar shoulder straps, pairs, finest quality available, all ranks, embroidered in extra fancy gold and silver bullion on velvet with Velcro backs: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate (green); \$40; Emeritus ranks: Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate (red); \$45; Honorary Past Commander with H.C. at foot of cross, \$50; Grand Commandery, Grand Rep., \$50; Past Grand Commander (purple); \$60; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$95. Also: chapeaux crosses w/Velcro back: Sir Knight, \$35; Past Commander,

\$40; Grand Commandery (red), \$50; Past Grand Commander (purple), \$55; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$75. Embroidered bullion sleeve crosses (pair), Velcro back. Sir Knight, \$35; P.C., \$40; Grand Commandery, \$45; P.G.C. (purple), \$60; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$75. Metal lapel crosses (pair): Sir Knight or P.C., \$40; Grand Commandery, \$45. Embroidered bullion cap crosses: silver, Sir Knight, \$40; P.C., gold, \$45. Metal cap crosses: silver, \$32; gold, \$38; Past Commander's jewel, gold plate, \$50. All plus shipping, handling, and insurance: 1st item, \$5.00 each additional item, \$1.00. Percentage to Knights Templar and Masonic charities. Checks to and mail to Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., P.C.; 60 Manor Road; Staten Island; NY 10310-2698

For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; coil for available sizes: (740) 9274586. \$23.00, includes shipping and handling. 10% of all sales will be donated to KFEF. General Merchandise Company; 13690 Broad Street, SW; Pataskala; OH 43062

For sale: gold-finish sword lapel pins: men's pin: land 114 inches long, with red stone in the center of the hilt, \$7.00 each, and ladies' pin: 2 and 112 inches long, with clear stone at the top of the hilt and a red stone in the center of the hilt, \$12.00 each; prices include S & H. Check or MO to Melrose Commandery 159th Grand Conclave, 17120 Theiss Mail Road, Spring, TX 77379. E-mail becky@abercrombiacademy.com. 10% to KTEF. The pine are a special project of the Grand Commandery of Texas 159th Annual Conclave.

For Sale: Middle Georgia Chapter No. 165, RAM., the first R.A.M. Chapter to be chartered in Georgia in 25 years, is selling their newly minted mark/penny for \$10.00 each or 2 for \$15.00, postpaid. Each minis accompanied with a certificate of authenticity. Checks or MOs to Middle Georgia York Rite Bodies; Charles E. Smith, Chairman; 6559 Cypress Drive; Eastman; GA 31023; e-mail chuck.e.smith@us.army.mil

2008-200th anniversary of Masonry in Ohio: Now, you can help insure that this celebration will be a great success by purchasing a beautiful 200-piece jigsaw puzzle depicting Brother George Washington opening his ledge in 1788. This 16 x22-inch art reproduction is an exact copy of the painting that hangs in many Ohio lodges. Help us get ready for the 2008 bicentennial, and own a real piece of Masonic history. price \$15.00 plus \$5.00 S & H. Each puzzle is packaged in a round, airtight can. To order call (614) 855-1401, or send payment and request to P Pat Davis, 8359 Morse Road, New Albany, OH 43054; online at www.ppdavis@dearthlink.net Proceeds to benefit the 2008 Bicentennial Fund.

Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & AM., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project: In addition to the

Masonic and Shrine jewels) boxes, we are now offering O.E.S. jewelry boxes: all are approx. 5.5 x5.5 x2.5 inches in size, constructed of exotic woods from Central America, and hand-crafted with an interlocking design. All profits go directly to Masonic charity with a portion going directly to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. The price for each box is \$20.00, plus \$6.00 S & H. Postage is pro-rated on bulk orders; please contact e-mail below or call (478) 934-7236 for pro-rated S & H rates. Check or MO to Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217 and mail to Harry A. Bruno, Chairman; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F & AM.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail harry217@bigfoot.com

For sale: peel-off, vinyl, royal blue square and compass decals designed to fit on your license plate or window, 2 inches high, 1 inch wide. 6 vinyl decals for \$5.00, postpaid. Also, approx. 4-inch reflective-chrome, vinyl square and compass, Past Master or Shrine decals to fit on your taillights, only \$5.00 per set of 2, postpaid. Also, black vinyl, square and compass decals, 3/4 by 3/4-inch, designed to place on the photo or list of your Past Masters who have gone on to that Celestial Lodge Above. 10 decals for only \$5.00, postpaid. All profits go to our Masonic Widows' Fund. Joe Allen, PM., Sec.; Cochran Masonic lodge No. 217, F & AM.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014

Fund-raiser: Lodge auto togs with blue vinyl letters on white, 6 x12-inch aluminum, include ledge name and number, square and compass, F & AM (AF & AM, AAFM, etc.), city and state: \$8.00 each-minimum order of 5. One free tag with each 10 ordered. Shipping for 5 is \$5.00, 10 is \$7.00, 20 is \$10.00 to same address in US. 25% of proceeds to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. Send info, check or money order to Ernest P Gentry, 893 Brookside Drive, Winder, GA 30680-2848, e-mail tagmaker@att.net

Planning a Rusty Nail Degree? We have pins and certificates available at \$35.00 per unit. (A unit consists of pins and 5 certificates, S & H included.) Please include your lodge name and number with your order if you wish to have them printed on your certificates. Make check out to Tim A. Stevens, 5 Old Danbury Court, Fairfield, OH 45014. Phone (513) 942-2490; fax (513) 272-2830. Proceeds go to the John Hayes Gerard Masonic Scholarship Fund and 10% to KTEF.

For sale: The Medal of Honor The Letter Gin Valor, a 268-page digest with the names, congressional citations, and Lodge membership of all Masons who have received our nation's highest military award for bravery. Books may be obtained by contacting Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., P.O. Box 9759, 3011 Old Dumbarton Rd., Richmond, VA 23228-0759, (804) 262-6551. The price is \$16.95 plus S & H. Author's portion of profits donated to KTEF.

For sale: hardbound book on Masonry, A Survey of the History and Mysteries of Freemasonry (revised-2nd printing). The book is 322 pages, indexed, contains a bibliography of 99 sources, and makes liberal use of footnotes. It also contains a 114-page glossary of Masonic words and terms. Written, published, and financed by Robert L. Breeding it can be obtained from him only. Price is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling. % to KTEF. Check or MO to Robert L. Breeding at 405 Ascot Court, Knoxville, TN 37923-5807. View info at buyyourownbook.blogspot.com E-mail breeding6905@bellsouth.net telephone (865) 599-6335.

New novelty book available: Pythagoras, This Cross is for You, by P. Master and P. Commander, Jack N. Barricklo, priced at \$7.00 each, postpaid. It's for the serious craftsman with short history, illustrations, and instruction by the Master" himself. % of profit to KTEF. (Please write "KTEF" in memo.) Checks payable to Ourland Enterprises, and send to Ourland Enterprises, 8631 McDade, Houston, TX 77080-4321

For sale: book, Rationale of Freemasonry: 240 pages, \$20.00 postpaid. % to KTEF. Make check payable to and order from Bob Demott, 3501 Equestrian Way, Knoxville, TN 37921

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 33 years and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. Those one day will end up in a Masonic museum. Why not find a home for your mark? I will gladly send you a check for one piece or will buy your collection. If you collect, I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. Especially needed are Hawaiian and Alaskan pennies. Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W Roger Rood, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705, (520) 888-7585

For sale: back issues of GNOSIS magazine still available, many with articles relating to Masonic and Templar subjects: issue 44 on Freemasonry, issue 51 on The Grail (\$7.00 each plus \$4.00 shipping). Full sets (No. 1-51: \$245 plus \$15 shipping. Send SASE for detailed issues listing and order form or go to www.gnossismagazine.com Make check or MO to GNOSIS-Jay Kinney; send to P.O. Box 14820, San Francisco, CA 941144820

For sale: Masonic promotional items. Be the envy of every Mason when you choose from a wide variety of custom imprinted, commemorative favorites such as: belt buckles, commemorative coins, lapel pins, tie bars, pins and clips, money clips, key chains, coffee mugs, medals and medallions, and wooden nickels. Perfect for fund-raisers, ledge anniversaries, installations, and promotions in general. For quote info, call or write Frank Looser, 809 Cobble Cove, Nashville, TN 37211, (800) 7654728 or e-mail fhj@comcast.net or visit online catalogs at www.cnfinteractive.com 100% satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. % to KTEF.

For sale: 4 cemetery lots in Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover, New Jersey (Morris County), in the Garden View section. Discount from current prices. Mel Bush, (201) 444-6604

For sale: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Johnstown, Pennsylvania: 4 burial sites, Lot No. 190, section G, spaces 14. I will sell for \$1,200 plus transfer fee of approx. \$150.00 for all 4 spaces. Call Kenneth R. Hollen, (724) 676-4332, Loaves message if necessary.

Wanted: Oklahoma Sir Knight is collecting Lionel trains. Please look in your attic or your storage closet, and call or write John Alexander, 7617 E. 66th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1802, (918) 2524981.

Buying all US and foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, silver, proof sets. Also selling gold coins. Call for quotes. Buyer has 40 years experience. A percentage of profits to KTEF. Randy Mogren, 8 Gould Street, Millbury, MA 01527, (508) 865-4816

Retired Texas schoolteacher, Mason, P.M., Sir Knight wants a car: I want a 1948 Chevrolet Business Coupe, the first car our family had after the War (WWII to you youngsters). It should be in good running condition and drivable because most likely I will come to where it is and drive it back to Corpus Christi, Texas. Paint and upholstery need not be original, but the engine, drive train, vacuum shift, etc., MUST be; besides, it HAS TO pass any state inspections, you know. Help me if you can, Brethren! I am 61 years young and would like to relive my youth now that I have retired, tooling down the highways and byways in my 1948 Chevy Business Coupe. And if you don't know what one is, you have really missed out in life! Write H. C. Arbuckle III, P.O. Box 3026, Corpus Christi, TX 78463-3026, or call (361) 882-5974 or cell (361) 816-2969 with the good news that you have one for me. Well both be glad you did!

