


Knight Templar



VOLUME LV

JANUARY 2009

NUMBER 1



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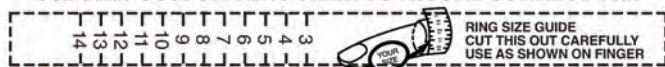
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Knights Templar

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Grand Encampment Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>

knight templar

VOLUME LV JANUARY 2009 NUMBER 1

Published monthly as an official publication of the
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
of the United States of America.

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Materials and correspondence concerning the Grand Commandery state supplements should be sent to the respective supplement editor.

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Address changes or corrections and all membership activity including deaths should be reported to the Recorder of the local Commandery.

The front cover is a photo of Iguaçu falls on the border of Brazil and Argentina. This waterfall currently has the greatest average annual flow of any waterfall in the world. The photo copyrighted by Jamie Lee, and is used by permission.

Grand Master's New Year's Message

As we approach a new year, the epitaph on John Wayne's tombstone is appropriate. "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday." In that spirit, the officers of the Grand Encampment list our New Year's Resolutions.



- 1. We resolve to have the YRIS (York Right Information System) fully implemented with training for our Grand Recorders.**
- 2. We resolve to have the Grand Chapter & Grand Council portions of YRIS operational and available.**
- 3. We resolve to make further improvements to the editorial content of the *Knight Templar* magazine.**
- 4. We resolve to have a 3 year and a 6 year long range plan in place to be reported on in this publication next January.**
- 5. We resolve to expand department conferences to include all officers, administrative officers of a Grand Commandery, and interested Sir Knights.**
- 6. We resolve to identify and involve untapped talent in our membership.**

Your team of Grand Encampment Officers is committed to move Templary forward. Next December, we'll again report our progress on these resolutions.

Happy New Year!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Koon, II".

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

From the Grand Recorder's Office...

Lawrence E. Tucker, GCT
Grand Recorder



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence E. Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style.



Prelate's Chapel

by
Robert Cave
Right Eminent Grand Prelate
of the
Grand Encampment



The Order of the Temple abounds with words, phrases, thoughts, and imagery found in Christianity in both the Old and New Testaments. Take for instance the sentence found in the Prelate's comments following the candidate's vow in the Order which reads, "And may the Almighty, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in Him, be now and evermore thy defense and consolation."

The candidate has just been told that he must decide if he will engage in warfare against the enemies of those who are helpless and the Christian faith (and then later that he must embark upon four years of warfare as a test of his courage). It is, to say the least, a daunting challenge. However, he is also assured that he does not face the challenge alone. He is told that if he keeps the faith God will be a strong tower for him.

The image of the "Tower" is a familiar one in the Old Testament. In Psalm 61:1 and 3 it states "Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. For you have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy." In Psalm 144: 1-2 we find, "Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle – my loving-kindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer. In Proverbs 18:10 it states "The name of the Lord is a strong tower."

Towers were common and found in various sizes and places in biblical times. They could be seen in cities and on farm lands and were constructed of impenetrable material. Their main purpose was defense against an enemy. Here is the imagery that the new Sir Knight is to take with him in his possible warfare for the defense of the innocents and the faith. It is an image of God as a strong tower who will ultimately defend him and encourage him as he attempts to remain faithful to his vows in this valiant and magnanimous Order. In living out our lives as Christians and Knights of this Order, we too have this defense and consolation if we trust in God. And truly the need was no greater then than now.

Again, we invite any Sir Knight to submit his thoughts on Christianity and Templary for possible inclusion in this column. Please email it to Jobrjcave@aol.com or mail it to Rev. Robert J. Cave, 137 Glen Drive, Ridge, New York 11961.

The Chapel in the Tower

By
Sir Knight Mark A. Tabbert

In their long distinguished history, the Knights Templar have worshipped in many churches and chapels. Yet how many Knights have worshipped in a chapel owned by every Knight in America? Indeed, how many Knights are aware of that chapel high in the tower of the George Washington Masonic Memorial?

The Memorial was conceived, built, and is owned by all Freemasons in America; therefore, it is your Memorial and your Chapel. The Memorial honors the memory of the Father of our Country. It also stands as a perpetual reminder to all Freemasons of his virtues and how we ought to live both as Masons and as citizens. Begun in 1922, its exterior was completed during the Great Depression. The interior spaces began to take shape immediately following World War II, beginning on the first floor with an exhibit from the Shrine in 1946. The Grotto then assumed responsibility for the third floor in 1948.

Most important, and with much fan-fare, Memorial Hall was dedicated by President and Past Grand Master Harry S. Truman when he unveiled the monumental bronze statue of Washington donated by DeMolay International in 1950.

Work in the upper Memorial's tower, however, was prohibited due to a lack of elevators. In 1947, a contract was awarded to the Otis

Elevator Company to design a lift that could operate in the 7.5 degree-angled shaft. The first elevator was installed in the south shaft in 1950 but remained reserved for construction workers only. The second and north elevator was not installed until 1956. With its completion, regular public access was possible from the fourth floor through the observation deck on the ninth floor.



After the Grotto's renovation of the third floor, the Royal Arch Masons undertook the fifth floor. Soon after, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania sponsored the creation of the Louis A. Watres Library on the sixth floor. The two Scottish Rite Supreme Councils took charge of the fourth floor George Washington Museum.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar considered sponsoring the seventh floor in 1954. It had a large floor space but lacked

windows. By the 1955 Triennial Conclave (the same year it established the Eye Foundation), the Grand Encampment decided on the eighth floor. (The General Grand Council Cryptic Masons later renovated the seventh floor.) Although a much smaller floor, as the tower's top tier, the Knights saw a unique opportunity to transform the space into something special with its four walls of windows more than 30 feet high.

The Memorial Association approved the Grand Encampment's request to take charge of the eighth floor in 1955. To fund the renovation, the Grand Encampment requested 15 cents per Knight per Grand Commandery. The first contribution came from the Grand Commandery of Iowa for \$1,487 (\$11,400 in today's dollars).

Unlike the other participating Masonic bodies, the Knights Templar chose not to create a replica ritual space. Instead, under the leadership of Grand Master Walter DeLamater, they created a place of prayer and meditation; a chapel with an atmosphere reflective of the Middle Ages where a Knight aspirant would prepare for service.

With such a vision before them, money was quickly raised and the work began in earnest. The Chapel was decorated with a paved floor, marble altar, wood paneling, wood benches, and seating niches. Two suits of armor, a medieval sword, and other chivalric items completed the furnishings.

The chapel is gloried by four beautiful stained-glass windows. The north window shows Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount. The south window shows Jesus heal-

ing the blind (a reference to the Templar Eye Foundation). In the east is the crucifixion of our Lord, and in the west, above the altar, is the ascension of Jesus Christ.

The chapel was completed on April 20, 1957, the Saturday before Easter. Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Bruecker joined Grand Master DeLamater and the officers of the Grand Encampment in the dedication and consecration of the chapel to God and to the Craft.

At the Memorial's 1958 annual meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Frederick F. Schondau stated: "It is fitting that the room that suggests prayer and meditation should find a place in the Memorial dedicated to George Washington who prayed at Valley Forge."

For fifty years, generations of visitors, Knights Templar, and the occasional wedding party have found inspiration and comfort in the chapel. Today, a new generation of visitors and Masons tour the Memorial and visit the eighth floor. They are equally impressed with its beauty and want more information on the order. They want to know of the Templars' good works, purposes, history, and regalia.

Is it not the time for us Knights to rededicate ourselves and our history to our chapel? Perhaps it is time for our chapel to tell the story of the order and the countless Sir Knights who dedicated themselves to serve God and the Craft.

Sir Knight Mark A. Tabbert is a member of Boston Commandery No. 2, Boston, MA and is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA.



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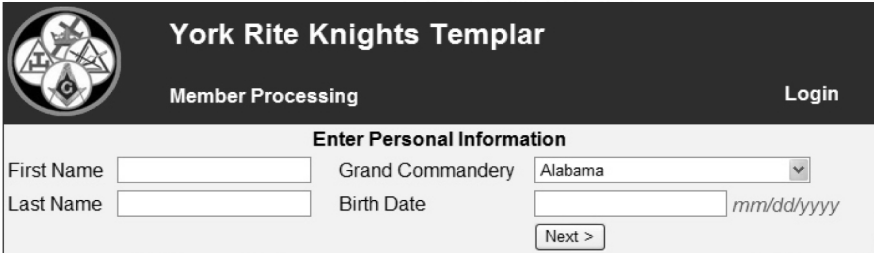
For several years, your Grand Encampment Officers have been evaluating membership database systems. Your Grand Commandery Officers have been informed of our progress and were introduced to our new YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM at our recent Department Conferences. You now have an opportunity to update your personal contact information. This information will be available to your local Commandery Recorder, your State Grand Recorder and the Grand Encampment Office.

Please be assured that this information is secure and will be available for fraternal use only. Here follows directions for you to update your member profile.

We've added a *new feature* to our website;
the **SECURE MEMBER UPDATE LINK.**

Use this feature to verify your current contact information.

By following the provided step-by-step instructions (*see sample below*) you can now update your information online.



The screenshot shows the 'Member Processing' page of the York Rite Knights Templar website. At the top left is the York Rite logo. The page title is 'York Rite Knights Templar' and the sub-header is 'Member Processing'. There is a 'Login' link on the right. Below the header is a section titled 'Enter Personal Information' with the following fields: 'First Name' (text input), 'Last Name' (text input), 'Grand Commandery' (dropdown menu with 'Alabama' selected), and 'Birth Date' (text input with a date format hint 'mm/dd/yyyy'). A 'Next >' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Please visit

<http://www.knightstemplar.org>

Click on Membership Update. Enter First Name, Last Name, Birth Date and Grand Commandery to securely confirm, correct and update your information.

If you need any assistance, please contact John Elkinton in the Grand Recorder's Office. He can be reached at (713) 349-8700 or by email at john@gektusa.org.
knight templar

A Chat With The Managing Editor

This is the first issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine to be published in full color. We have attempted to include photographs which will bring more life to the articles and enhance your enjoyment of the magazine. Bear with us in the coming months as we learn how to use color to enhance your reading experience.

The addition of color has been made possible by our sponsors who have underwritten the cost by advertising in the magazine. We have received numerous requests over the past few months from Sir Knights to provide information about where they could obtain uniforms and Knight Templar jewelry. We hope that the addition of limited advertising will supply answers to those inquiries and that you will make it worthwhile to our advertisers to continue underwriting this expense. We have also reduced the amount of non-commercial advertising beginning with this issue. Some of the items we previously carried in the "Knight Voices" section have been moved to the Grand Encampment web site <http://knightstemplar.org/knightvoices/>. You can find them there.

On another note, we are continuing our two series about the Vatican documents, and Templar buildings in this issue. I am also interested in running a series of articles about Templar jewelry and watch fobs. I am seeking Sir Knights who are knowledgeable in this area to do the research and write the articles. We are very interested in any articles you may wish to submit about the history, philosophy, and symbolism of Templary, Christianity, and Freemasonry.

Make sure you take the time to read the very interesting article this month on the Gospel of Judas. My longtime friend, Sir Knight Cooper, is a very knowledgeable Freemason and past Grand Secretary of Masons in California, and we are fortunate to have him as a contributing author.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, Ms. Joan Morton, longtime assistant editor for this magazine retired at the end of last year. She almost single-handedly produced this magazine for many years. Her assistance in getting me trained for this job has been invaluable, and you will, no doubt, see some degradation until I can work my way up to a level of expertise anywhere near hers. Thank you, Joan, for all you have done for us. I am sure that the state supplement editors and all our readers wish for you a most enjoyable retirement!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor
January 2008

Were there really only nine?

By Sir Knight Stephen Dafoe

Past Grand Historian, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada

For the past few months, we have been taking a close look at the final days of the Knights Templar and the myths connected to that part of their story. But the origins of the order are equally clouded in legend.

Though we may not be able to recite all of their names by heart, most Masonic Knights Templar are aware that there were nine men who formed the original order in the early years of the twelfth century.

But were there really nine?

The traditional list of founding members of the Knights Templar comes to us, not from the time of the Templars, but from the writings of the French historian Charles du Fresne du Cange (1610-1688), who recorded them in his book *Les familles d'outre-mer*, published nearly two centuries after his death. In fact, the Templars kept no minutes or records of their early days, at least none that have survived, so to form a picture of those early days we must examine what contemporary chroniclers wrote about them and their humble beginnings.

Our notion that Hugh de Payens and Godfrey de St. Omer were joined by seven valiant knights comes to us largely from the writings of William, Archbishop of Tyre

(1130 – 1190); however, William does not tell us that there were nine at the start, but rather that in their first nine years of existence, the Templars could raise no more than nine men. Although William was born in the Holy Land, he was not an eyewitness to the formation of the Templars. In fact, the Templars had already existed for more than a decade when William was born, and

his chronicle was written many years later around the time of the Battle of Hattin (1187) when the Templars were well established.

Another medieval chronicler contemporary with the time of the Templars was Michael the Syrian, Patriarch of Antioch. In Michael's account of the Templars' beginnings we are told that Hugh de Payens had travelled to the Holy Land and vowed to never return to France. After serving in King Baldwin, II's army for a period of three years, de Payens, along with the thirty knights who had accompanied him east, accepted the king's advice to continue to serve the cause. According to Michael, Baldwin granted the



knights a portion of the al Aqsa Mosque, believed to be Solomon's Temple, and thus the Templars were born.

Although Michael the Syrian's account has received less attention outside historical circles, it is certainly a more plausible account of the formation of the Templars than William's assertion of just nine knights in nine years.



But there is another, more fanciful account of the early days of the order that is worthy of mention; the story presented by Walter Map, the Archdeacon of Oxford and a clerk in the court of King Henry II of England. While both Michael the Syrian and William of Tyre credit Hugh de Payens as the leader, Walter introduces us to a Burgundian knight named Paganus, who single-handedly took on the task of defending Christian pilgrims. In Walter's story (more in keeping with Arthurian legend than medieval history) Paganus was troubled to see Christians regularly at-

tacked at a horse pool near to Jerusalem. It was only after his opponents became too numerous for him to handle on his own that he petitioned for assistance. However, that assistance was not to come from the king of Jerusalem, but rather from the monks of the Temple of the Lord (Church of the Holy Sepulchre). Like the traditional account, Map's story tells us that the canons of the Lord's Temple granted Paganus a base of operations from which to draw more knights to the cause.

After several centuries, we will perhaps never know precisely how many Templars there were in those early days, but what remains important is the fact that the order grew over the years to serve the cause of Christianity for nearly two centuries.

Sir Knight Stephen Dafoe is a freelance writer, author, and publisher who lives in Alberta, Canada. He is Past Grand Historian of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada and is currently serving on the editorial review board of the *Knight Templar* magazine. He is author of *Nobly Born: An Illustrated History of the Knights Templar and The Compasses and the Cross: A History of the Masonic Knights Templar*. He also coauthored *The Warriors and the Bankers* and *The Knights Templar Revealed*. He is the founder of TemplarHistory.com.

Stephen has appeared in several documentaries on the history of the Templars and related subjects including *Sacred Societies* - A&E, *In Search of Satan* - MSNBC, and *The Prince and the Grail* - Vision TV Canada and served as a consultant in the production of *The Templar Code* - History Channel.

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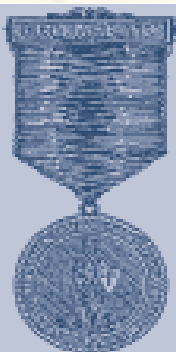


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A message from

Duane Lee Vaught, GCT

General Chairman of the 41st Annual Campaign

R.E. Grand Captain General

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the USA

Greetings Sir Knights,

In previous months we have discussed eye surgery for children and how the cutting edge research funded by our Eye Foundation has led to the former techniques being replaced. Non-surgical treatments now serve those needs, but we do continue to fund surgery.

In recent years, cataracts have become the day to day disease being addressed. In the last five years, over six thousand people have had their cataract procedures funded by the Eye Foundation. Like the children, these are people who need treatment, have no insurance or other source of payment, and cannot afford the treatment on their own. They are also under the age of 65, and most could still have productive work lives if their sight were restored.

Interestingly, these procedures are concentrated in certain states. Some states get almost no benefit from Eye Foundation surgeries. In those states, government programs

have copied us and are now serving those needs. In some ways, it is satisfying to think that needs we have been serving for generations now are viewed by society as a necessity for all people. Perhaps we should move on to the next big challenge of serving needs that most people just haven't recognized yet but someday will.

I mentioned that the cataract surgery was for those under the age of 65. For our more senior patients there is a different program which will be highlighted next month.

This month's topics are wills and estates. I am a CPA and sometimes I have to discuss this unpleasant topic with clients. One memorable client always tells me that if he can't take it with him he isn't going. He is well over 70 now, still getting around fine, and inventing new products. Who knows, he may pull it off. Most of us however, deep down, are more pessimistic about the chances of living forever. It's fine and wise to have resources while we live but if we don't need them after we are gone we can have the satisfaction of knowing that our parting gesture

was one of helping others. In the last voluntary campaign forty-two estates represented a significant portion of the annual giving. Forty-two people who had cared for all their earthly needs and for those left behind; then found some left to benefit humanity. That is a legacy.



That Others May See

Duane Lee Vaught, GCT
General Chairman of the Campaign
7850 N Thames Dr
Bloomington, IN 47408-9337

Horoshi S. Aguilung
Phillipines
Grand Commander 1997
Born: August 8, 1925
Died: October 27, 2008

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| No. 5,365 Michael A. Riley | No. 5,366 Steven B. Jackson |
| No. 5,367 Clark Balwin Loth | No. 5,368 Charles Perez |
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| No. 102,802 John K. Andrews | No. 102,803 Edwin M. Lindke |
| No. 102,804 William Gerald Haynie | No. 102,805 Charles F. Miller |

How to Join the Grand Commander's or the 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 E. State Parkway, Suite I, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-2460. The phone number is: (847) 490-3838. The fax number is (847) 490-3777.



Knight

Voices

Items for this section may be submitted by e-mail to ktmagazine@comcast.net.

■ **Wanted:** Masonic Chapter pennies by an avid collector. I have been building this collection for 36 years and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These 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 Iowa, Michigan, Hawaii, and Alaska pennies.** *Maurice Storck, Sr., 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 888-7585.*

■ **Wanted:** Marshall Commandery, Marshall, Michigan has a young Knight of Malta wishing to receive the Order of the Temple, but is financially unable to purchase a new uniform and wants to wait a year or two until he can afford a uniform. Size 54 long. I will pay shipping, contribute reasonable amount to KTEF, or pay reasonable cost to purchase same. *Contact Leonard J. White, Generalissimo, (517) 784-8098.*

Please visit the classified section of our web site. These and other listings can be found on the Grand Encampment web site at:
<http://knightstemplar.org/knightvoices/>

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 \$165.00. (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 or to request an order form for your state (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope), send to Milford as indicated below 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, P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**

Tennessee Commandery Continues Sale of Lapel Pins To Benefit the KTEF

Manchester Commandery No. 40, Manchester, Tennessee, is pleased to announce that it is continuing its fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and has added a new Blue Lodge/Knights Templar pin to its selection of unique lapel pins! In the past five years of pin sales, donations to the Campaign have exceeded the \$29,500 mark! Manchester No. 40 would like to thank those who have purchased these pins and encourage you to check out the new Blue Lodge/Knights Templar pin. The entire collection, along with 3 new York Rite pins, can also be viewed in color at www.yorkriteusa.org These pins are available for \$6.50 each or any 9 (nine) pins for \$45, with free shipping, and **100% of all profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** Make check or money order in American funds payable to: Manchester Commandery No. 40. Send to Garry L. Carter, Recorder; 530 Winchester Hwy., Hillsboro, TN 37342. Thanks again for your continued support.



1800's Apron



KT/Blue Lodge



KT/Blue Lodge



Malta



Knight Crusader



Beauceant Shield



Beauceant Standard



Mediterranean Pass



KT Chapeau



Ark of the Covenant



Ark of Covenant
Past High Priest



Order of the
Silver Trowel

General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.





**Knights Templar Chapel
George Washington Masonic Memorial
Alexandria, Virginia**

Grand Commandery of California Sesquicentennial Coins to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The Grand Commandery of California is selling its Sesquicentennial coins for \$15.00 postage paid, and **all profits from the sale will be donated to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation**. Make checks payable to and send to: Charles R. Waterman, Jr, 731 Scottsdale Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.



Sale of California Cookbook to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

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.



A COLLECTION OF
FAVORITE RECIPES FROM
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR COMMANDERIES
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Sale of Milford Commandery Polo Shirts Benefits KTEF

Milford Commandery also offers top quality white polo shirts with pocket. These shirts have your choice of embroidered insignia in full color (nonfading). Select from: Templar Cross, Cross and Crown, Royal Arch Mason, Royal and Select Master Mason, Cryptic Mason, York Rite, KYCH, York Rite College, or Masonic Square and Compasses. 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 Compasses may be had on white or royal blue shirts. There are eleven other colors available by 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.**



Letters to the Editor



A fantastic job with the magazine. The type is easier to read, and the articles are much more interesting. I especially appreciate S.K. Stephen Dafoe's shining light and truth on the too-often fanciful stories of the Templars and Freemasonry. And the Christian themes in S.K. Cave's "Prelate's Chapel" are a breath of fresh air, too.

I also want to compliment the Grand Master on his variety of attire. The saucer-style hat he is wearing in the November 2008 issue is much more attractive to me than a chapeau with ostrich feathers. Our uniform needs updating, and I appreciate S.K. Koon's willingness to show us some alternatives for the future.

S.K. David Williamson



You are to be commended for scoring a bullseye on the target resolution that the Knight Templar magazine be improved in readability, content, quality, and appearance. For what it is worth, you have my validation that you did a great job. As comments come in, keep in perspective that you have to weigh the whole. There are some people who are against any change as a matter of principle. And there are some who think that they want change but will second-guess the minute details of your specific changes.

I have a number of comments and ideas to share with you. The American Flag and eagle cover was terrific. In addition to the image, I like the cover paper change and the charm of color. There are many beautiful subjects for future cov-knight templar

ers. One whole class would be various KT stained glass windows. Close-ups of jewels, badges, and emblems give you another category. Chapeaus and uniforms are striking, especially those which have slipped into history. Swords and arches of steel have a certain appeal to the non-KT Mason. Degree costumes and aprons can be exceptionally beautiful if high quality examples are used. I am sure that your mind takes it beyond here.

The inside back cover, because it shows color pictures in high quality, is a precious page. The text on this page should be limited to allow more photographs here. Perhaps the facing page on plain paper could carry the stories related to the pictures on the inside back cover.

I will admit my prejudice in favor of feature articles, particularly those which have intellectual value. SK Jim Marple's article was terrific. Your magazine without feature articles and only news and fund-raising scoreboards would be a formula for boredom.

The Knight Voices, or Masonic related advertisements, is an appreciated category for many people. It is appropriate to continue this, in the reduced size font which has been used for years.

The bane of all Masonic editors is the group photograph. These are of little interest except to the people who are in them. Keep up the good work and move forward with confidence on making more improvements.

SK Howard Duncan



Masonic Conferences - 2009

MEETINGS HELD DURING "MASONIC WEEK" IN WASHINGTON D.C.

February 11-14
Alexandria, VA
(annually)

Grand College of Rites, U.S.A.
Grand Master's Council, A.M.D.
Council of the Nine Muses No. 13, A.M.D.
Great Chief's Council No. 0, Knight Masons, U.S.A
Masonic Order of the Bath in the U.S.A.
Ye Antient Order of Corks
The Society of Blue Friars
Grand Preceptors Council of the Commemorative Order of
St. Thomas of Acon in the Province of the USA
Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor
Royal Society of Knights Occidental

CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA

February 15-17
Anaheim, CA
(annually)

Current Conference Chairman:
Gerald L. Carver
905 Ridgewood Harbor Rd.
Waterloo, SC 29384

Contact:
Glenn E. Means
2019 N.E. Avanti Ct.
Blue Springs, MO 64029-9368

CONFERENCE OF GRAND SECRETARIES OF NORTH AMERICA

February 16-17
Anaheim, CA
(annually)

Current President:
Max L. Carpenter
P.O.Box 42210
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0210

Contact:
John C. Mardin
813 Beech St.
Manchester, NH 03104-3136

CONVENT GENERAL, KNIGHTS OF THE YORK CROSS OF HONOUR

September 26
Jackson Hole, WY
(annually)

Current Grand Master General:
Stanley N. McIrvine
291 Indian Paintbrush #H
Casper, WY 82604-3896

Contact:
Kenneth D. Buckley
P.O.Box 656
Beggs, OK 74421-0656

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

October 30-November 5
Tulsa, OK
(annually)

Current Grand Matron:
Barbara Benton
201 N. Mercedes Drive
Norman, OK 73069-6446

Contact:
Alma Lynn Bane
1618 New Hampshire Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20009-2549

GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL

February 15
Anaheim, CA
(annually)

Current President:
Michael D. Brumback
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301-2751

Contact:
George D. Seghers
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301-2751

GRAND COLLEGE OF AMERICA, HOLY ROYAL ARCH KNIGHT TEMPLAR PRIESTS

February 13
Alexandria, VA
(annually)

Current Grand Preceptor:
Kenneth B. Fischer
5138 Shady Oaks Ln.
Friendswood, TX 77546-3018

Contact:
Lawrence E. Tucker
5909 West Loop South
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

GRAND COUNCIL, ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES OF THE U.S.A

February 14
Alexandria, VA
(annually)

Current Grand Master:
Kenneth B. Fischer
5138 Shady Oaks Ln.
Friendswood, TX 77546-3018

Contact:
Franklin C. Boner
10866 Butler Road
Newark, OH 43055-8852

GRAND COUNCIL, KNIGHT MASONS OF THE U.S.A.

February 13
Alexandria, VA
(annually)

Current Great Chief:
Donald B. Street
112 Golfers Ln.
Nashville, NC 27856-1628

Contact:
Douglas L. Jordan
PMB 234, 4094 Majestic Lane
Fairfax, VA 22033-2104

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE U.S.A.

August 15-19
Roanoke, VA
(triennially)

Current Grand Master:
William H. Koon, II
7200 Slabtown Road
Columbus Grove, OH 45830

Contact:
Lawrence E. Tucker
5909 West Loop South
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

INTERNATIONAL SUPREME COUNCIL, ORDER OF DeMOLAY

June 17-20
Kansas City, MO
(triennially)

Current Grand Master:
C. Michael Watson
257 Countryside
Troy, OH 45737

Contact:
Joe A. Williams
10200 N.W. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64152

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

February 15
Anaheim, CA
(annually)

Current Chairman:
William G. Roberts
P. O. Box 193
Tonopah, NV 89049

Contact:
Richard E. Fletcher
8120 Fenton St.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

THE MASONIC SOCIETY

February 13
Alexandria, VA
(annually)

Current President:
Roger S. Van Gordon
P.O. Box 151
Edinburgh, IN 46124-0151

Contact:
Ronald D. Martin
1427 W. 86th Street, #248
Indianapolis, IN 46260-2103

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.

June 2-6
Indianapolis, IN
(annually)

Current National President:
LTC Joseph H Baker, Jr.
1108B Norman Drive
Alexandria, LA 71303

Contact:
Nelson O. Newcombe
8301 East Boulevard Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22308-1399

SOCIETAS ROSICRUCIANA IN CIVITATIBUS FOEDERATIS

February 12
Alexandria, VA
(annually)

Current Supreme Magus:
William H. Koon, II
7200 Slabtown Road
Columbus Grove, OH 45830

Contact:
Franklin C. Boner
10866 Butler Road
Newark, OH 43055-8852

SUPREME ASSEMBLY, SOCIAL ORDER OF THE BEAUCEANT

February 20-26
Denver, CO
(annually)

Current Supreme Worthy President:
Mrs. John A. Kleinfelder
2203 Blue Lake Drive
Magnolia, TX 77354

Contact:
Mrs. Richard D. Brown
1526 East 13th Avenue
Winfield, KS 67366-4606

SUPREME COUNCIL, 33^o, A.A.S.R., N.M.J., U.S.A.

August 23-25
Boston, MA
(annually)

Soverign Grand Commander:
John Wm. McNaughton
P. O. Box 519
Lexington, MA 02420

Contact:
Richard B. Burgess
P. O. Box 519
Lexington, MA 02420

knight templar

SUPREME COUNCIL, 33⁰, A.&A.S.R., SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

October 1–6
Washington, DC
(biennially)

Soverign Grand Commander:
Ronald A. Seale
1733 16th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Contact:
William G. Seizemore
1733 16th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

SUPREME COUNCIL, ORDER OF THE AMARANTH, INC.

June 28–July 1
Atlanta, GA
(annually)

Current Supreme Royal Matron:
Mrs. Monya Boggs
651 Pathwood Lane
Stockbridge, GA 30281–7429

Contact:
Gayle V. Adank
P. O. Box 557579
Chicago, IL 60655–7579

SUPREME FOREST, TALL CEDARS OF LEBANON OF NORTH AMERICA

May 27–31
Wildwood, NJ
(annually)

Current Supreme Tall Cedar:
George A. Morgan, Jr.
Bethlehem, PA

Contact:
A Ralph Horlbeck
2609 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

SUPREME GUARDIAN COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF JOB'S DAUGHTERS

August 5–9
(annually)

Current Supreme Guardian:
Marilyn Olson
P.O. Box 696
Torrington, WY 82240

Contact:
Jeanette Thomas
233 West 6th Street
Papillion, NE 68046

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL, RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

June 11–13
Oklahoma City, OK
(annually)

Current Grand Soverign:
Charles L. Stuckey
609 Rustic Road
Ponca City, OK 74604–5913

Contact:
Ned E. Dull
P. O. Box 5716
Springfield, IL 62705–5716

YORK RITE SOVEREIGN COLLEGE OF NORTH AMERICA

July 22–25
Cincinnati, Ohio
(annually)

Current Governor General:
Edward H. Fowler, Jr.
317 First Ave.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012–2159

Contact:
D. Allen Surratt
500 Temple Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201

2009 ANNUAL CONCLAVES

DATE	GRAND COMMANDERY	LOCATION	CONCLAVE REPRESENTATIVE
February 22 -24	Alabama	Birmingham	Sid C. Dorris, III
March 5 -7	Alaska	Anchorage	Lawrence E. Tucker
March 6 -7	New Jersey	Somerset	Duane L. Vaught
March 8 -10	South Carolina	Myrtle Beach	Robert J. Cave
March 12 -13	Delaware	Wilmington	Sid C. Dorris, III
March 12 -14	Arkansas	North Little Rock	James M. Willson, Jr.
March 14	Portugal	Lisbon	William H. Koon, II
March 15 -17	North Carolina	Raleigh	Sid C. Dorris, III
March 21	District of Columbia	District of Columbia	William H. Koon, II
March 25 -28	Kansas	Manhattan	James M. Willson, Jr.
March 26 -27	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	David D. Goodwin

DATE	GRAND COMMANDERY	LOCATION	CONCLAVE REPRESENTATIVE
March 28	North Dakota	Mandan	William H. Thornley, Jr.
April 4	Connecticut	Rocky Hill	David D. Goodwin
April 4	Nebraska	Columbus	Vaughn F. Shafer
April 5 -8	Florida	Lake Mary	David D. Goodwin
April 6 -7	Louisiana	Hammond	James M. Willson, Jr.
April 11	Oregon	Canyonville	James C. Herndon
April 18	Idaho	Idaho Falls	James C. Herndon
April 23 -25	Indiana	Indianapolis	William H. Koon, II
April 24	New Mexico	Albuquerque	David D. Goodwin
April 25 -27	Texas	Waco	Duane L. Vaught
April 26 -28	California	Bakersfield	Sid C. Dorris, III
April 28	Maine	Bangor	David D. Goodwin
April 30 –May 2	Virginia	Charlottesville	William H. Koon, II
May 1 -2	Tennessee	Nashville	William J. Jones
May 1	Italy		Lawrence E. Tucker
May 3 -5	Georgia	Macon	Duane L. Vaught
May 7 -9	Mississippi	Meridian	James M. Ward
May 8 -9	New Hampshire		William H. Koon, II
May 9	Romania	Bucharest	
May 9	Utah	Salt Lake City	David D. Goodwin
May 13 -15	West Virginia	Elkins	William H. Thornley, Jr.
May 15	Missouri	Jefferson City	Duane L. Vaught
May 17 -20	Pennsylvania	Mt. Pocono	William H. Thornley, Jr.
May 21	Washington	Wenatchee	Sid C. Dorris, III
May 27 -29	Montana	Kalispell	James C. Herndon
June 4 -6	Iowa	Cedar Rapids	William H. Koon, II
June 8	Vermont	Killington	Robert J. Cave
June 8	Nevada	Carson City	Duane L. Vaught
June 17 -20	Wisconsin		Franklin C. Boner
June 26	Minnesota	Willmar	Jeffrey N. Nelson
August 1	Illinois	Peoria	Duane L. Vaught
August 7 -8	Michigan	Flint	Franklin C. Boner
August 14 -16	Arizona	Scottsdale	Robert C. Coe
September 11	Colorado	Longmont	William J. Jones
September 17 -19	Wyoming	Casper	William J. Jones
September 18 -19	South Dakota	Pierre	David M. Dryer
September 18 -20	New York	Rochester	Robert J. Cave
September 20	Kentucky	Lexington	Sid C. Dorris, III
October 1	Massachusetts/ Rhode Island		William J. Jones
October 8 -10	Ohio	West Chester	William H. Koon, II
October 14-19	Phillipines		William H. Koon, II
October 23 -25	Maryland		Robert J. Cave



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Corrections To Previous Issues

Don V. Riley, 33°, of Tennessee should have been included in the list of members of the 33rd Degree Club.

Although we listed Sir Knight Donald C. Murray correctly as the Grand Commander of Vermont in the November issue, the photo shown was of Sir Knight Milton A. Slavin, Grand Commander of Idaho. Our apologies to both Sir Knights, especially Sir Knight Murray for omitting his photo completely.

We hope that the color photo of Sir Knight Murray shown to the right will mitigate the offense.



PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Part II of a Three-Part Series

by

Sir Knight Clayton J. Borne, III

THE EFFECT ON MAN OF A BELIEF IN GOD

I submit that the reason that a belief in God is essential for our Spiritual Brotherhood is because of our fraternity's purpose to aggressively encourage the development of the spiritual nature of man, well knowing that our object over time is the creation and development of a self-disciplined society. That development must begin with each of us personally and its success be measured by our individual spiritual advancement. When viewed collectively, this discipline creates dynamic lodges. The obvious question becomes, how does this process individually and collectively take place? Exactly what are the results, and are they truly in harmony with what we believe are our personal objectives?

Very simply, a belief in God has an immediate and direct bearing on our values and convictions. Those have a direct effect on our behavior. The motivation of the acceptance of belief opens the door to the spirit life after death and our ability as finite creatures to pass upon death to an infinite state. Exactly how does this intellectual belief transform each of us, and is our Masonic Fraternity doing its part in stimulating this growth?

Understanding that once man has a belief in God, this belief creates, in addition to the most basic concept of survival which dominated and existed in a non-orderly barbaric society, a true purpose for life. Belief in a creator, God, transforms man from a rude, self-cen-

tered, savage state into a creature with a more civilized, meaningful purpose. That objective or hope is to unify himself ultimately with his creator with the sincere desire of returning to the spirit or infinite state always with eternity in view. It begins to change our convictions and beliefs and ultimately our lives. How does the acceptance of God and this life changing process take place?

Our Masonic Brotherhood teaches and encourages a philosophy of self transformation and the development of a character that recognizes the need to subordinate personal gain and self interest to the greater good of society. The transformation of the finite spirit in each of us demands a reassessment of the most basic concepts of life in order to give priority and meaning to the fundamental concepts of goodness which are absolutely necessary for the advancement of mankind in a free society. This society evidences the individual and collective self-discipline necessary to maintain order. That order has a fundamental principle; that principle is "truth". Our Brotherhood embraces truth as the heart and soul of each and every virtue. As Masons we advocate a virtuous life. It logically follows that a virtuous life results in a life of integrity.

I submit that individual integrity is the essential element in a social structure that encourages individual and collective liberty. It insures a disciplined society that cultivates, in a secure way, the collective, peaceful advancement of

humanity. In general, where personal integrity is lacking, laws become problematic and are of little value. This is why we, as Masons, endorse this unselfish discipline for all of humanity, especially our brotherhood. How exactly do we individually achieve these idealistic principles, and what is our responsibility as Masonic mentors, especially to the Entered Apprentice, who is still trying to understand himself and the confusion of the world in which he lives? It begins with a belief in God.

MASONIC IDEALS

As we strive to cultivate integrity in our personal lives and collectively in our spiritual brotherhood, our efforts meet with constant resistance. As appalling as it may be, society today is a reflection of disrespect, an unappreciative and uncaring disease that migrates into all aspects of our culture. The cure as with all other social problems is education.

The Masonic ideals and their influence on society through the ages have been exerted in no better or nobler purpose than the ageless struggle by the Brotherhood for “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity” and ultimately a secure freedom for society. Our Fraternity, through the ages, has been the champion of oppressed people with the object being the emancipation of mankind from every form of tyranny. Within our lodges, liberty or freedom, especially in thought, was freely encouraged. That freedom, based on these principles, made possible the natural progression of a transformed life.

The humanist philosophy so prevalent in society poses obstructions to our Masonic ideals. The basic concept

of Liberty has always had an aggressive enemy. It is the self-centered concept of entitlement. The entitlement belief is the direct result of the modernist doctrine that there is no rational basis for values. Despite our Masonic brotherhood’s continued efforts to promote integrity, the value system of society has been eroded. Many of society’s values become problematic; in other words, nothing is truly good or bad. It’s all a matter of opinion. We must ask then, how and why have principles? Do as you please or whatever you can rationalize as being right. Without the liberty to choose our own actions and make our own choices, we lose the qualities of responsibility that make us uniquely human. It is only when people do the right thing freely that we can have confidence in their character. If they act out of principles such as truth, benevolence, and productiveness as taught in our Lodges, then we know that their actions result from good character and the principle of liberty is preserved.

To be continued next month

Sir Knight Clayton J. (Chip) Borne, III is a Past Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana and a practicing attorney-at-law in that state. He is a member of the Dormer Masonic Study Circle (London, England), the Masonic Study Society (London, England), the Louisiana Lodge of Research, and the Scottish Rite Research Society. He has published a book entitled *The Story of Early History in Louisiana including History and Roster of Perfect Union Lodge (1973 to 2001)*. Sir Knight Borne and his wife Nancy reside at 1800 Lakeshore Drive, Mandeville, LA 70448.

So What's in the Package?

A Continuing Analysis of the Mystery of the
Trials of the Ancient Templars

by
Sir Knight John L. Palmer, KCT
Managing Editor



Since I am able to show you color photos for the first time this month, I thought we might devote this article to a physical description of the Vatican package. The package comes in a cloth bag with a drawstring having the insignia of the secret archives of the Vatican imprinted on one side. The bag contains a leather portfolio measuring approximately 13.5 inches wide, 18.5 inches tall, and 5.5 inches thick which is folded in the center and closed by two sets of leather thongs. Opening the portfolio, we discover three separate compartments; one in the form of a pocket on each side and one thin pocket running the entire width of the portfolio in the same manner as the bill portion of a man's wallet.

From the pocket on the right side, we remove a white or ivory book approximately 11.5 inches wide, 18 inches tall, and 2.25 inches thick. On the front cover of the book is embossed in gold "Processus contra Templarios" (roughly translated "Proceedings Against the Templars"—remember that all my translations are a stretch). Near the bottom is an insignia or logo which is roughly square containing two crossed keys on a checkered field surrounded by a border containing the inscription "Archivum Secretum Vaticanum," under which is the inscription "Archivio Segreto Vaticano." The spine of the book is similarly inscribed. The book contains several hundred pages, the majority of which are printed in Italian or Latin. The left hand pages are printed in English beginning on page 103. We will speak more of the contents of the book in future issues.

From the left pocket, we remove another folio which is approximately the same size as the book and is secured by a string closure. Opening this second, smaller portfolio, we discover that it also has a compartment on either side. The front of the right compartment is embossed with the same inscription as is on the cover of the book. It also has a small outer pocket containing what I perceive to be the certificate of authenticity bearing the serial number of this copy; 504. On the right side is also a cutout containing very real looking synthetic replicas of three different wax papal seals.

The pocket on the left of the smaller portfolio contains a sizeable sheaf of replica documents each a little larger than letter size, all written on synthetic parchment which looks and feels very much like the real thing. These documents are all, of course, in Latin.

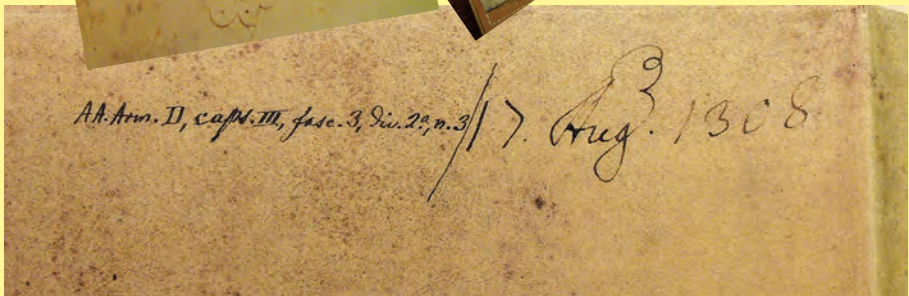
From the large thin pocket, we remove some more documents also written in Latin. I believe that



these images were transferred from the original documents to these synthetic ones using some sort of photographic process and that some of the images have been enhanced to improve legibility. These documents differ from the others in that there are fewer of them, they have not been as well preserved, and show signs of what appears to be mould stains, and they are larger. Each document is folded several times in order to fit the pocket. They consist of several sheets sewn together to form longer documents.

Many of the documents have lengthy marginal notes and several have hand drawn decorative images either in the margins or between written sections. On the reverse side of one of these documents is an inscription which clearly bears the date "Aug 1308."

This article is intended only to give a visual tour of the artifact for those of you who might never get to see one in person. Next month we will take a closer look at the contents of the book.



THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS ISCARIOT A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE “LOST APOSTLE” PART 1 OF A 2-PART SERIES

by

Sir Knight John L. Cooper, III, KCT

Judas Iscariot is arguably the most maligned man in Christian history. The New Testament portrays this close confidant of Jesus, as a greedy and selfish man who sold out his Master to the authorities for thirty pieces of silver. Then, when remorse overcame him, he tried to give the money back – only to be rejected by those to whom he had betrayed Jesus. Unable to undo what he had done, he committed suicide in despair. According to the author of the Acts of the Apostles, the place where he died became known as the “Field of Blood.”

That’s the story we know from the New Testament. But is there another story? It turns out that there is – one that was found beneath the sands of Egypt in the 1970’s. Called the “Codex Tchacos”, it passed through several hands after its original discovery at Al Minya, in Middle Egypt. Found in a cave, much like the celebrated “Dead Sea Scrolls”, the “gospel” was written on papyrus (a paper-like material made from reeds which grow along the Nile River), and was written in Coptic. Coptic is the descendant of the language of the Ancient Egyptians, and was that spoken in Egypt until the Arab Conquest in A.D. 641, when Arabic began to replace it. Coptic is still used today by the Christian Church of Alexandria and Egypt as a liturgical language.

By the time that scholars first had access to the Codex, it was in fragments. It took them five years to assemble the fragments, and in 2006 the public first learned of the existence of this “gospel” when *National Geographic* magazine made it available – in

print and on the Internet. The publication of the Gospel of Judas stirred the popular imagination, and more so since Dan Brown’s *The DaVinci Code* had sparked interest in “repressed” religious texts from the past. The Gospel of Judas seemed to add to the suspicion that what we knew of early Christianity from the New Testament might not be the whole story.

Actually the Gospel of Judas was known to exist, but all copies were thought to have perished in the early days when what became the Orthodox and Catholic Church was struggling with competing Christian movements that they labeled “heresies.” The second-century Church father, Irenaeus, mentioned the “Gospel of Judas” in his work *Against Heresies* where he wrote:

“They declare that Judas the traitor was thoroughly acquainted with these things, and that he alone, knowing the truth as no others did, accomplished the mystery of the betrayal; by him all things, both earthly and heavenly, were thus thrown into confusion. They produced a fictitious history of this kind, which they style the Gospel of Judas.” (*Ireneaus, Against Heresies*, 1.31.1, See Selected References, at the end of this series).

Judas did not write the Gospel of Judas. It was written more than a century after his time, probably in Greek, by a Christian group that was struggling for its own identity against the Orthodox and Catholic Church as represented by Irenaeus. That type of

Christianity eventually triumphed, but not without a prolonged fight – and perhaps not without the assistance of the Emperor Constantine who called a church council at Nicaea in A.D. 325 to resolve differences among the competing Christian movements so that he could recognize and support the one determined to be “authentic.” The resulting “consensus document” became known as the Nicene Creed, and from that point on, other “Christianities” were in decline. But the Gospel of Judas comes from a time when the struggle was still going on, and that struggle is reflected in the gospel.

It may seem strange to us, as it did to Irenaeus, to call a book attributed to Judas Iscariot a “gospel.” The word “gospel” in Greek means “good news,” and almost all Christians, of whatever movement or persuasion, hardly thought that Judas Iscariot had anything to do with “good news” of any kind. Even the Gospel of Judas itself freely admits that Judas betrayed Jesus to the Roman authorities. If so, why did the author of the Gospel of Judas use that term, and why did the author feel the need to “set the record straight” about Judas’ role in the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus?

First, the Gospel of Judas emerged from a “gnostic” Christian community. The word “gnostic” comes from the Greek word for “knowledge,” and a common characteristic of “gnostic” groups was their intense interest in how an individual comes to “know” God. In the Orthodox and Catholic Church, knowledge of God in general, and of Jesus and Christianity in particular, came from the body of knowledge transmitted to the Church from the apostles through bishops who were considered to be the successors of the apostles. By the second century the Church was assembling a canon of Christian Scripture to supplement this transmitted knowledge, and soon the New Testament

Canon became the norm against which to measure the received knowledge. However, this canon could only be interpreted authoritatively by the bishops and their successors in a direct line which was believed to stretch back to the original apostles.

Gnostic Christians took a different view of how knowledge of God was obtained. Theirs was a much more unstructured movement, and they believed that individual Christians could obtain knowledge of God – and sometimes of Christianity itself – by direct revelation or inspiration. They looked with suspicion on the authoritarian model of the Orthodox and Catholic Church, and trusted more in a direct inspiration, as they believed, from God. The Gospel of Judas reflects this difference of opinion. Judas Iscariot was an “anti-establishment” figure. He was the apostle who abandoned his position with the Twelve, and the gnostic community in which the Gospel of Judas was written seized upon him as an appropriate symbol of their struggle with the descendants of the apostles – the bishops. It was an “in your face” kind of thing. It was saying to their aggressive rivals that being a descendant of the apostles and claiming the sole authority to teach the “truth” about Christianity was not the only game in town. And using Judas Iscariot as the supposed “author” of this “gospel,” the community in which it was written was attracting attention to their belief that there was an alternative source of knowledge about God and about Jesus which they believed themselves to possess.

To be continued in the February Issue

Sir Knight John L. Cooper, III, KCT is Past Commander of Golden Gate Commandery No. 16, in California. He is a KYCH, 33°, Past Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Lodge of California, and a holder of the Meritorious Medal in Silver from the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. He can be contacted at johnlilburnfreemason@gmail.com.

Beauceant News

(Mrs. Herbert) Debbie Kennedy and ten other members of Kingsport Assembly No. 244, Tennessee, Social Order of Beauceant, prepared and served a delicious supper to the Sir Knights and guests at Kingsport Commandery No. 33 Inspection by R.E. Grand Commander Ray Lee Covey on October 25, 2008. The other members of Kingsport Assembly No. 244 were (Mrs. L. Bruce) Peggy Austin, (Mrs. Joe) Barbara Bettini, (Mrs. Don) Janet Clayman, (Mrs. Gary) Susie Coates, (Mrs. Bill) Jo Ann Craddock, (Mrs. John) Minnie Davidson, (Mrs. Phillip) Ida Elam, (Mrs. Herbert) Debbie Kennedy, (Mrs. Paul) Emma Rutledge, (Mrs. Douglas) Barbara Skeens, and (Mrs. Charles) Susan Thames.



(left to right): (Mrs. Philip) Ida Elam; (Mrs. John) Minnie Davidson; (Mrs. Herbert) Debbie Kennedy, Worthy President; (Mrs. Gary) Susie Coates; (Mrs. Don) Janet Clayman; (Mrs. Joe) Barbara Bettini; (Mrs. Douglas) Barbara Skeens; Mrs. (Charles) Susan Thames; (Mrs. L. Bruce) Peggy Austin, (Mrs. Paul) Mary Emma Rutledge, and (Mrs. Bill) Jo Ann Craddock.

Many members of Elizabethtown Assembly No. 266, PA, give generously of their time and talent for Benevolent Projects. This year they have clipped, sorted and tallied manufacturers coupons, \$150,000 worth of which were subsequently mailed to 9 military or DOD families stationed overseas at non-combat bases in Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Italy and Germany. Also, the Sisters donate stuffed animals, select non-perishable food items, toiletries, coloring books, and many other items to the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, PA. Hand crafted lap robes and quilts are presented for patients at the Health Care Center on the campus of the Masonic Villages in Elizabethtown.



(left to right): Mrs. Howard Miller, P.P., Mrs. Errol Betzenberger, Mrs. Tom Miller, Mrs. Albert Miller, Mrs. Jay Eisenhower, P.P., Mrs. Leslie Loomis, P.P., Mrs. Daniel Maust, W.P., and Mrs. David Alcon, P.S.W.P.

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