

Knight Templar

VOLUME LV

FEBRUARY 2009

NUMBER 2

The Search for the Significance of the Batican Documents Continues See Page 30



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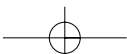
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Knight Templar

VOLUME LV FEBRUARY 2009 NUMBER 2
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 Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
 of the United States of America.

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

knight templar

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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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 Grand Recorder

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 e-mail: letucker@sbcglobal.net

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

The front cover is a photo of one of the synthetic parchment reproductions contained in the package of documents recently acquired by the Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Grand Master's Message

Valentine's Day



It's the one day of the year when we celebrate the love of our life in a very special way. We are indeed fortunate to have cards, flowers, candy, or jewelry to express our feelings for that special person in our lives. Love, marriage, children, grandchildren, and family; isn't that what Valentine's Day really commemorates?

But in a larger context, have you ever noticed that each month of the year in some way brings us something for which we should be thankful?

January – New beginnings and a fresh start.

February – That special someone in our life.

March – The end of winter and the anticipation of spring.

April – Easter and the lessons Jesus left for each of us.

May – The beauty of spring and renewal of life itself.

June – Summer and the joy of vacations and family fun.

July – Celebrating our good fortune to live in the United States of America.

August – The time of family reunions and the last fling of summer.

September – The joys of learning as school begins anew.

October – The bountiful harvest and the beautiful fall.

November – A time of reflection on the many blessings of the past year.

December – Family and the hope and joy the birth of Christ brings.

We as Templars, we as Americans, and we as people of faith are truly blessed. We live better and with more comfort than most of the rest of the world. We have hope, and we have faith. What more could we ask? Perhaps if we focus on what we have and what is good about our lives rather than what our problems are, we can find happiness beyond what we can now imagine.

Fraternally,



William H. Koon, II

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master



february 2009

From the Grand Recorder's Office...

Lawrence E. Tucker, GCT
Grand Recorder



YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM

In previous issues, we have introduced you to our new YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM. Many of you have responded by updating 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.

To assist you in accomplishing this task, please do the following:

- (1) Go to <http://www.knightstemplar.org>.
- (2) Click on Membership Update .
- (3) Enter First Name. Do not enter middle name or initial in this field.
- (4) Enter Last Name. Do not enter suffix, i.e. Jr., Sr. etc. in this field.
- (5) Enter Grand Commandery Jurisdiction, (State).
- (6) Enter Birth Date, (MM/DD/YYYY).
- (7) Click on Next > .

You can now update your information and make any necessary changes in your member record. When you have finished updating your record, click on Submit or Cancel .

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.

79th EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 12, 2009

HOTEL

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311
Make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel directly at (703) 845-1010 or call (800) HILTONS
\$100.00 Room Rate (mention Knights Templar)

MEAL TICKETS

Meal package, \$45 per person includes Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast buffet.

Order your meal tickets from the Grand Encampment Office

Mail your check, payable to Grand Encampment, 909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

Individual tickets may be ordered separately; Saturday dinner, \$35; Sunday breakfast buffet, \$20

Hotel and meal ticket cutoff date is March 5, 2009

No tickets will be sold at the door

**Direct questions to: John Elkinton in
The Grand Encampment Office at (713) 349-8700**



Prelate's Chapel

Sir Knight Jacob Beardsley
Past Commander
of Columbia Commandery # 1
New York City



TRUTH

Knights Templar teach the cardinal virtues, Holy Scriptures, and a commitment to exemplify these. We practice integrity and truth.

In the time of Jesus Christ, the Roman emperor was Tiberius (14 AD – 137 AD)

The Roman praetor (governor) of Judea was Pontius Pilate, born of a family of the Roman republic founding. He was on the social ladder to be important in Roman society. If he successfully governed Judea, collected higher taxes gathered through tax collectors such as St. Matthew, and kept law and order in Judea, he might eventually acquire a purple toga and become a Roman senator.

Jesus of Nazareth was the son of a carpenter a descendant of King David. David, King of the Jews, lived about 1000 years aforetime. This inheritance of Jesus made it dangerous to live under the eyes of Roman rulers. Most Jews expected Jesus to commence a rule of Judea liberating them from the Roman Empire. Jesus Christ taught that his duty to the Jewish people was to teach them how to live devoted to the will of God.

The Jewish priests in Jerusalem guarded the Jewish temple as reconstructed after the Persians liberated the Jews from exile in Babylon. The temple guards restricted the use of the temple only to Jews and the practice of the Jewish religious commandments.

The guarding priests forbade Jesus to teach in the temple, and delivered him to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, alleging that Jesus threatened to replace Roman government in Judea and to establish Himself as king.

Gospel of John 18: 37

Governor Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "So you are the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied "Is that your own question or have others suggested it to you? ... My Kingdom does not belong to this world. If it did, my followers would be fighting to save me from the Jews. My kingdom belongs elsewhere." "You are a king then?" asked Pilate. "Is this your word?" "My task is to bear witness to the Truth; for this I was born; for this I came into the world, and those who are not deaf to Truth listen to my Voice."

Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

Obviously, Governor Pontius Pilate had a different meaning of truth in the Roman Empire than Truth taught by Jesus Christ the Messiah.



64th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Virginia Triennial Conclave Committee is working hard to make this a memorable event honoring Sir Knight Richard Burditt Baldwin, GCT, and his leadership in Templary.

The 64th Triennial Conclave will begin with Drill Competition on Saturday, August 15, 2009, followed by a 'Pass in Review'. Sunday brings the Divine Service at 4:00 PM followed by the Grand Master's Reception. The Business Sessions will be on Monday & Tuesday, August 17 & 18, with the Grand Master's Banquet on Tuesday evening. Installation will occur on Wednesday.

The Hotel Roanoke (Rate \$145) is the Headquarters for the Triennial, but rooms are also available at the Sheraton Roanoke (\$119), and Holiday Inn, Tanglewood (\$94). Bus transportation will be provided to the Roanoke Civic Center for the Drills, and a loop schedule is being planned to provide transportation to and from the participating hotels.

Hotel arrangements are being handled by the 64th Triennial Committee, and you will receive confirmation from the hotel.

64th TRIENNIAL HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Phone Number _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

First Choice Hotel _____

Second Choice Hotel _____

(The Housing Committee will do their utmost to honor your request)

64th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Title _____ Jurisdiction _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Phone No. _____

E-mail address _____

VOTING DELEGATE REGISTRATION

(PGC, GC, DGC, GG, GCG of Grand Commanderies, or their Proxies where proxies are approved) (EC, GEN, CG of Subordinate Commanderies outside the USA or their Proxies)

Registration Fee \$225.00 _____

After April 30, 2008 \$250.00 _____

Voting Delegate Registration includes: 2 Tickets to Grand Master’s Reception, 2 Tickets to Grand Master’s Banquet, Badge, Ladies Pin, Program Book and Gift.

NON – VOTING MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee \$100.00 _____

After April 30, 2008 \$125.00 _____

Non-Voting Member Registration includes: 2 Tickets to Grand Master’s Reception, Badge, Ladies Pin, Program Book, and Gift.

LADIES LUNCHEON & ADDITIONAL TICKETS

_____ Ladies luncheon, Monday \$40.00 per person _____

_____ Grand Master’s Reception \$30.00 per person _____

_____ Grand Master’s Banquet \$60.00 per person _____

Please complete both registration forms and mail without delay to Dennis L. Wilhelm, 458 E. Cleveland, Delphos, OH 45833.

Make checks for registration & meals payable to: **64th Triennial Conclave**



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698 Fred R. Kaylor

Cyrene Commandery No. 34
Elizabethtown, PA 8-Dec-2008
4 bronze clusters

699 Lawrence V. Kaminsky

Hammond Commandery No. 41
Highland, IN 1-Dec-2008

700 Robert T. Johnson

Cyrene Commandery No. 48
Dayton, TN 1-Dec-2008

701-702 John D. Pugh, Jr.

Dickson Commandery No. 41
Dickson, TN 1-Dec-2008
Original & 1 Bronze Cluster

IN MEMORIAM



Paul A. Torgeson

North Dakota
Grand Commander 1990
Born: July 3, 1919
Died: November 20, 2008

Ernest Almer Forthman

Georgia
Grand Commander 2005
Born: September 26, 1932
Died: December 9, 2008

Jesse Clyde Branham

South Carolina
Grand Commander 1994
Born: February 22, 1917
Died: December 10, 2008

Robert Charles Franklin

Nebraska
Grand Commander 1987
Born: September 24, 1918
Died: December 13, 2008

Joel Charles "Jerry" Bingner

Oregon
Grand Commander 1985
Northwest Dept. Commander 1991-1994
Born: May 25, 1926
Died: December 14, 2008

We publish letters and articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar magazine*, or the Editorial Review Board.

A Chat With The Managing Editor

While engaging in my efforts to balance the information found in the Vatican documents with other sources, I am finding that there is an enormous body of literature out there about the Knights Templar; so much, in fact, that it is very confusing. Some of it seems to be very factual, some of it was written to be fiction, some of it is very exciting to read but jumps to the strangest unfounded conclusions that you can imagine, and some of it is just plain boring.

Assuming that many of you are interested in learning more about the Templars, both ancient and modern, we are launching a new feature this month and calling it "Knights at the Bookshelf." We will be reviewing books about Templary, both new and old, with the hope that we can save you some money that you might otherwise spend only to find out that a book does not interest you. We will review all sorts of books; long and short, factual and fanciful, new and old. Even the fanciful ones sometimes make for a good read.

A lot of folks seem to be interested in us of late, and it would be a good idea if we knew more about ourselves. After the first few months, drop us a note and let us know if we should continue the reviews. There are enough books out there to supply us with reviews for literally years. Also, if you come across an interesting book, send me a review for the magazine.

Right off-the-bat, I am going to recommend a two volume set entitled *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America*. This is the official history of the Grand Encampment beginning in 1816, and the second volume was published in 1999. It also includes about seventy pages of commentary about Templary before the Grand Encampment. The accounts of grandiose Templar activities which have occurred since the organization of the Grand Encampment are truly amazing. It is available from the Grand Encampment office for \$29.00 and can be ordered on the web site.

We are continuing our series on Templar buildings in this issue with an informative article on the Temple Church in London by Sir Knight Robert McCabe. The connection with the legal profession is particularly interesting.

Also, please take a look at page 5 and see if you can help our data base administrator by ensuring that your membership record is correct. It only took me two minutes to complete this task; of course, I did it on "company time."

Finally, we are beginning to receive more high quality articles for publication. This is great! Please keep them and your suggestions coming in!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor
february 2009

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

by

Sir Knight John L. Cooper, III, KCT

The *Gospel of Judas* bears little resemblance to the four gospels that we know in the New Testament. It is not the story of the life and ministry of Jesus, but is instead a theological discussion cast in the form of a story of Judas’ betrayal of Jesus – a story that reflects the beliefs of a particular community that “gnosis”, or knowledge about God, operates within the framework of a particular cosmology. Gnosticism, in addition to believing that an individual can “know” God directly, believed in a cosmology that held that the world as we know it was under the control of a “created” god who was lesser than God Himself, and that the purpose of obtaining “knowledge” of God was to free oneself from the control of this “god of this world” (cf. the use of “god of this world” by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:4). In the *Gospel of Judas*, Jesus is betrayed by Judas because that is what he was supposed to do in order to bring about the advent of the new age in which a more perfect knowledge of God would be known through Jesus.

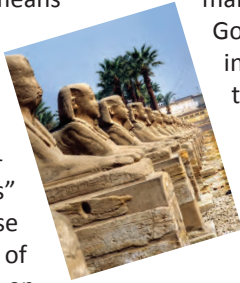
Judas is also portrayed in this “gospel” as being the apostle closest to Jesus – one that he entrusted with “secret” knowledge about him and his purpose which the other apostles didn’t truly understand. The writer has Jesus deriding the other apostles because of their “piety” – a piety which limited their ability to understand the bigger picture of Jesus’ mission. To illustrate this deri-

sion, the writer has Jesus laughing at the apostles - a characteristic that is foreign to the canonical gospels.

“One day when he was with his disciples in Judea, and he found them seated and gathered together practicing their piety. When he [approached] his disciples, gathered together and seated and offering a prayer of thanksgiving over the bread, [he] laughed. [And] the disciples said to him, ‘Master, why are you laughing at [our] prayer of thanksgiving? Or what did we do? He answered and said to them, ‘I am not laughing at you. You are not doing this because of your own will but because it is through this that your God [will receive] thanksgiving.’ “

It must be remembered that the purpose of the writer is to explain aspects of the struggle of his community with the increasingly powerful orthodox and catholic church, rather than recounting an actual historical occurrence. The writer is having Jesus deride the “piety” of orthodox and catholic Christians (in his opinion) who are more interested in celebrating the sacraments than in actually knowing God. Readers in the second century would have easily identified the reference to a “prayer of thanksgiving over the bread” as the Eucharist. Some gnostic communities had sacraments, but many apparently did not - considering them to be “earthly” things which interfered with their more “spiritual” worship.

There is another reflection of this struggle in the *Gospel of Judas* – that of martyrdom. By the second century the Roman state had decided that Christianity was a dangerous and subversive movement which should be suppressed. The result of this persecution was that it was increasingly difficult to be a Christian without running afoul of the authorities and courting death – often death by degrading and painful methods. Some of the church fathers developed a belief that martyrdom was a means not only of demonstrating that faithfulness to God might require the ultimate personal sacrifice, but that those who experienced martyrdom were greater “heroes” in the sight of God than those who escaped it. And some of the church fathers actually encouraged martyrdom as a way of becoming a “hero of the faith”.



It was on this point that some of the gnostic communities disagreed strongly with the orthodox and catholic church. With their belief in a personal and mystical experience of God, many of them thought that martyrdom was foolish and unnecessary. While they did not have a problem with a Christian proclaiming his faith, and thus exposing himself to martyrdom, they took strong exception to the idea of seeking it out. Elaine Pagels and Karen L. King explain what the writer was saying:

“The author of the *Gospel of Judas* point[s] out what he feels is a stunning contradiction: that while Christians refuse to practice sacrifice [to the Roman gods, as required by the authorities to avoid martyrdom],

many of them bring sacrifice right back to the center of Christian[ity] - by insisting that Christians that die as martyrs are sacrifices pleasing to God. (Pagels and King, page 59, see Selected References, below)

In other words, Christians refused to perform the required sacrifice to the “divine genius of the Emperor” (the usual formula) or to other gods, but the church was telling them that their deaths as martyrs were a “pleasing sacrifice to God”. The gnostics, as represented in the *Gospel of Judas*, objected to this teaching, and – along with their problem with legitimacy and authority being confined to bishops – felt that the orthodox and catholic church was on the wrong path.

There is much else in the *Gospel of Judas*, but for the purposes of this article, there are two items which may be of interest to contemporary Christians - and particularly Christians who are Masons and Knights Templar. First, Christian Freemasonry brings from its Masonic heritage an open attitude toward the beliefs of others not found in some Christian churches and sects today. The Order of Knights Templar is a Christian order, but we do not ask a member to belong to a specific church. The struggle for authority and legitimacy in the early church was revisited at the Protestant Reformation, and Templary is clearly on the side of multiple sources of authority and legitimacy. Just as Freemasonry “becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must else have remained at a perpetual distance” (Anderson’s Constitutions of 1723), so Templary

ry unites Christians of many persuasions and practices. And just as Freemasonry “oblige[s] them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves, that is, to be good men and true, or men of honour and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished,” so Templary unites Christians from a whole spectrum of beliefs and traditions.

Secondly, there are lessons to be learned from stories that are not necessarily true, but which help us understand important issues in life. The Legend of Hiram Abiff fulfills this function in Freemasonry, and in the *Gospel of Judas*, Judas Iscariot fulfills the function of causing us to take another look at how God can bring good out of evil. The “gospel” doesn’t portray Judas as a “good” man. It portrays him as someone used by God to achieve a greater purpose. The author doesn’t pretend that the Judas in his story is other than the Judas we know from other sources. But he is shown in this work to be a complex character – one whom Jesus trusted, and yet one whom Jesus knew would ultimately betray him. Even when the apostles didn’t understand his mission, Jesus did. And even when Judas Iscariot didn’t understand his role in the sacred drama, Jesus did. And the writer of the *Gospel of Judas* knew it too. At the end of the gospel he concluded:

“[And] their high priests murmured because [Jesus] had gone into the guest room for his prayer [the Upper Room at the Last Supper?]. For they were afraid of the people, since he was regarded by all as a prophet.

And they approached Judas and said to him, ‘What are you doing here? You are Jesus’ disciple.’ And [Judas] answered them as they wished. And Judas received money and handed him over to them. “

As Christian Freemasons we know that God’s plans are often not our plans – or at least not the plans we think that He should have for us. Remembering this, the “gospel” of Judas Iscariot can cause us to think anew about the meaning of God in our lives, and – from the ancient struggle with an authoritarian expression of Christianity – the value of tolerance and understanding amongst all Christians.

Selected References

The original *National Geographic* article, with accompanying text of the *Gospel of Judas*, and the history of the *Codex Tchacos*, can be found at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lostgospel/?fs=www9.nationalgeographic.com>

Irenaeus, Against Heresies, available online in an English translation at www.gnosis.org/library/advh.1htm.)

Elaine Pagels and Karen L. King, *Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*, ©2008, ISBN 978-0-14-311316-4, page 59

Rodolphe Kasser, Marvin Meyer, and Gregor Wurst, *The Gospel of Judas*, ©2006, 2008, ISBN 978-1-4262-0048-9

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.

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*Sir Knights,
Don't Forget
That
February
Fourteenth is
Valentine's Day!*



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

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Schaumburg, IL 60173

Phone (847) 490-3838

Fax (847) 490-3777



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,

Working together to achieve greater things.

That's why 12 years ago the Knights Templar Eye Foundation entered into a partnership with Eye Care America to support the Seniors Eye Care Program. This is a program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and includes volunteer ophthalmologists who provide services.

The program is open to anyone over the age of 65 who has not seen an ophthalmologist in three years or more. An eligible person can call the toll free number 800-222-EYES and will receive a referral to one of the 7,000 volunteers. These professionals volunteer their efforts to perform an examination and provide up to a year of treatment for any condition found. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the people receiving these services. Any Medicare or insurance available is accepted as full payment. That's right, no co-payment. Together we have helped approximately a quarter of a million people through this program.

In addition to our money, our efforts can help as well. A call to the administrative phone number 877-887-6327 can get you more information that can be shared with the people you know who need help.

Thinking of a gift to support our campaign? A visit to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Web site at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/ktef> can provide an abundance of information on the history, accomplishments, and methods of support. In particular let me mention the Life Sponsor program for active Knights Templar. Each Knight Templar is billed one dollar a year for the eye foundation unless they have made a onetime gift of only \$30. This can save you money over the long term and help our foundation now.

The web site will also explain other gifting programs such as the patron (\$100), associate patron (\$50), and the Grand Commander's and Grand Master's clubs mentioned in previous months. Next month we will highlight special programs and recognitions for larger donors including Charitable Foundations and Corporations. These larger programs are open to individuals too because it's when we make a personal commitment that things really get done.

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

That others may see.

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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| No. 5,375 Burch E. Zehner (OH) | No. 5,376 Joseph M. Causey (TX) |
| No. 5,377 Scott Bosch (WA) | No. 5,378 Charles R. Shaw (CA) |
| No. 5,379 Rodney R. Rufe (PA) | No. 5,380 Jerry L. Fenimore (CO) |
| No. 5,381 J. Richard Carter (PA) | No. 5,382 William K. Shipe (TX) |
| No. 5,383 Irvin L. Gallaspy (LA) | No. 5,384 Donald D. Lewis (PA) |
| No. 5,385 Terrence W. Schick (AZ) | No. 5,386 Gary W. Sockwell (GA) |
| No. 5,387 James N. Karnegis (NE) | |

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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:

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■ **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.*

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.



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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.



The photo below is of carvings in Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland and is copyrighted by Chad Bontrager. See the book review on page 34.



The Photo to the left is of St. John's Church in Akko formerly called Acre in northern Israel where the Templars made their last stand in the Holy Land and is copyrighted by igor kisselev.



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knight templar

**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
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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.**

THE TEMPLE CHURCH LONDON, ENGLAND

by

Sir Knight Robert F. McCabe, Jr.



The Order of the Knights Templar was a very real presence in medieval Europe. Jerusalem was the center of the Christian World, and much importance was given to visiting the "Holy City." Jerusalem was the center of medieval maps, and Christians looked at pilgrimages to Jerusalem as a way to have their sins forgiven. For those who could not make the pilgrimage, contributions to the Knights Templar provided an alternate way to achieve absolution and became a funding source for the Knights Templar. By the middle of the thirteenth century, the Knights Templar were said to own as many as 9,000 manors in Christendom. They also received gifts of gold and silver which, coupled with the rents from their lands, provided the finances needed to support the Order's work in Jerusalem.

The Knights Templar was a religious-military Order founded in Jerusalem in 1118, after that city had been conquered by the Christians in 1099. As part of the vows of knighthood, the Knights were required to take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The order's purpose was to guard Jerusalem and to protect pilgrims going to and from Jerusalem.

The order was strongly supported by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a prominent religious leader of the time and sanctioned by Pope Alexander III, who exempted the order from paying tithes and taxes. The order's direct allegiance was to the Pope, and it was a crime under penalty of excommunication to strike a member of the order. The order was very successful and quickly spread throughout Europe. It came to England in 1128, when Hugh De-Payne, then Grand Master of the Knights Templar, made a visit to London.

London became the center for the Knights Templar in England. The Knights initially settled in the Holborn area of London where the British Museum and the Grand Lodge of Free Masons are located today. The Order outgrew the Holborn location in 1161 and moved to its second location in the Strand. This was due south of its first location, and its land extended from Fleet Street to the River Thames. It was at this location that the Temple Church was built. The church was begun about 1162 and was consecrated in 1185 to the Blessed Virgin Mary by Heraclius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. The Church was round, as were all Templar Churches, to commemorate the Church



of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. In 1240, there was an addition which now forms the main part of the Church.

The area adjacent to the Church was used for dormitories for the Knights. It also had gardens and orchards to provide food for the Knights. The order continued to grow from gifts of land and money, and established numerous sites throughout England and Ireland. The land was farmed or rented for others to farm, and the money was sent to the Knights Templar in Jerusalem to continue to support the mission of the order. Jerusalem was eventually retaken by the Arabs, and the order became the prey of those desirous of its wealth. On Friday, October 13, 1307, the Knights Templar and all their property were seized by Order of Pope Clement, V at the urging of Philip, IV of France, known as Philip “the Fair” (and yes that is the origin of Friday the Thirteenth being considered unlucky). The King of England, at that time, was Edward, II, the son-in-law of Philip “the Fair”. He resisted the request to seize the Templars and their lands but after he was urged to do so by the Pope, acted on November 22nd to

seize the property of the order in England. The Knights were arrested, and the order was suppressed. As you probably know, the Vatican has recently released papers which show that the charges against the Knights Templar were without merit. The last Grand Master, Jacques DeMolay, was burned at the stake in Paris by Philip “the Fair” on March 18, 1314. There is a tradition that Jacques DeMolay, in his dying moments, challenged the Pope and the King to meet him within the year before the judgment seat. Both Clement, V and Philip “the Fair” were dead within a year.

Thereafter the lands, at least in England, were given to the Knights Hospitaller who continued to own them until 1540, when Henry, VIII seized all the Church land in England, proclaimed himself head of the Church, and made the lands crown lands.

About 1322, the Templar’s land in London was rented by the Knights Hospitaller to two law colleges which came to be known as the Middle and the Inner Temples. In 1608, the Middle and the Inner Temples petitioned King James I to have the land given to them, and on August

13, 1608, King James, I granted a charter giving the land which formerly belonged to the Knights Templar to the Middle and the Inner Temples in perpetuity on the condition that they maintain the Temple Church, which they have done.

England has a two level legal system. The paper work is done by the solicitors, and all cases tried in the High Courts must be tried by the barristers. All barristers are trained in the Inns of Court. There are four Inns of Court. They are: Grays Inn, Lincolns Inn, the Middle and the Inner Temples. In 2008, the Middle and the Inner Temples celebrated their four hundredth year as owners of the Temple Church with many special events at the Church.

The Temple Church is a regular Church of England church and is open

to the public having a full schedule of church services along with organ recitals and lectures and serves as a location for weddings, funerals, and special religious services for members of the Middle and the Inner Temples.

The Church has gone through many changes since 1185. An organ has been installed, and it has been remodeled several times. It escaped the great fire of London in 1666, but not the air attacks in World War II. On May 10, 1941, it was bombed and largely destroyed. Some of the Round Church survived; including the entrance door, but the roof, organ, and much of the rest of the Church was destroyed. After the War, the Temple Church was rebuilt and was rededicated in 1958, with Queen Elizabeth, II in attendance.



knight templar

During the great fire in London in 1666, the fire came dangerously close to the Church, and there was no water to fight the fire. The brave barristers were forced to use beer as a substitute and were successful in preventing the fire from reaching the Temple Church. They were also aided by the Duke of York, later King James, II who supplied the gun powder used to destroy some smaller buildings and help save the Church. The barristers later were required to sue the City of London to be reimbursed for the beer and, of course, were successful.

On the Templar grounds are presently located the Middle Temple Hall, The Inner Temple Hall, and numerous other buildings which act as chambers for the barristers and for those aspiring to be barristers. Each hall has a large dining room where the barristers and students have meals. There was traditionally a bar that separated the room, with the barristers sitting on one side and the students on the other. When a student was thought to be ready to be a barrister, he was called to the bar and questioned by the barristers. If the student was sufficiently qualified, he was admitted to the bar and permitted to join the ranks of the barristers.

The Temple Church has the effigies of several Knights lying on the floor of the Round Church. It is not clear whether the Knights are actually buried there or in the court yard outside, but in the 12th century, it would have been a great

honor to be buried in the Round Church, which represented the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, which was said to have been built where Christ was buried. In the Middle Ages in Europe, Jerusalem was the center of the Christian world. To the Christians of the Middle Ages, Jerusalem truly had great significance, all of which was represented by the Temple Church.

If you visit London and would like to visit the Temple Church, you are welcome to do so, but you should first make sure it will be open when you visit. It is open most afternoons if the Church is not having a private event, but you would be well advised to check the Church schedule on the internet. The Tem-

ple Church is located near Fleet Street on Inner Temple Lane and is only a short walk from the Temple underground station.

Between the Church and the Inner Temple Hall there is a column with a horse with two riders. This was an early Knights Templar symbol. You will also note that the emblem for the Middle Temple is the "Lamb of God", a symbol we still use today. If you visit the Temple Church, you should walk around the Temple grounds, and you will be sure to see the symbol on the Middle Temple Hall door.

The interior of the Temple Church has an altar designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect who designed St. Paul's Church, which was built after the great fire of 1666. The altar had



One of the common symbols of the ancient Templars was that of two knights riding the same horse.

been removed and placed in storage during one of the renovations of the church and was therefore available when the church was rebuilt in the 1950's.

The Temple Church is truly remarkable both for its history and for its beauty. It deserves to be placed high on the list of every Knight Templar who visits London.

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Sir Knight McCabe is a practicing attorney and a member of Duquesne Commandery #72. He also serves on the Board of Governors for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Erie, PA. He can be contacted at rfmccabe@yahoo.com, and his office address is P.O. Box 175, 534 Broadway, Pitcairn, Pennsylvania 15140-0175.

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PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Part III of a Three-Part Series

by

Sir Knight Clayton J. Borne, III

INTEGRITY

The world in which we now live is dramatically changing. Idealistic principles are important to fewer and fewer people. We demand of our leaders honesty, but we don't really expect them to be honest. Our societies have become problematic where honesty becomes relative and rationalization of all conduct is the norm. We often say that our communities are civilized societies of law, but too often laws are broken, and then attempts are made to justify the actions. That logic is corruptive, destructive but most importantly contagious.

Prevarication or lying has infected our culture. The generation of today lies without thought. They lie for no apparent reason. Recent surveys state that 90% of society frequently lies in some manner. Truthfulness is no longer a virtue people try to adopt for their lives. Conversely, Masonic philosophers and our Masonic ritual of instruction view truth as a divine attribute, and as we have previously stated, truth should be at the heart of each and every virtue.

Marriage and family are no longer sacred institutions. Infidelity is common place. The work ethics of our forefathers are disappearing from society. Procrastination at the workplace is common with no respect or appreciation given to employment. Society says that it wants respect, but modern man's life experiences evidence a serious lack of it. The lack of respect in society is the end result of

a lack of purpose, discipline, and moral commitment. These are the very ideals that we, as Masons, fight to preserve.

A brother whose life evidences qualities of honesty, discipline, and courage is proof of a transformed life that has earned respect. His life embodies an individual quest and a determined search for light. It is a fraternal concept shared with our brothers of like mind. This writer submits that the attraction, the spiritual reward, the ultimate objective of our spiritual brotherhood is the character which is the epitome of all virtue; namely Integrity. In general the quality is defined as our ability to naturally embrace a way of life with moral and ethical principles. Its presence in each of our lives will be the attribute that will continue to draw good men to our Lodges.

The driving force of our Masonic fraternity is to instill in each of our brothers a mission to create within each man who knocks at the door of our lodge a thirst for integrity. That desire can only be quenched by a commitment to moral principles and goals in each of our lives. We must teach that truth, honesty, and moral principles are of prime importance. The newly made brother should be instructed to subsequently understand that a man of integrity is unimpeachable; he is steadfast; his word is his bond. He is never critical of others, even of those with whom he is in opposition. He restrains his emotions and passions. He is reliable, and is one who

always pays his debts. He should stand upon principle no matter what the consequence whether alone or in a crowd.

CONCLUSION

To the Entered Apprentice and his search for light, "Integrity", and its Masonic ideals are but idealistic concepts although often cognitively embraced; it is rarely evident in his life. The apprentice, as he begins his transformation, begins to understand that a person of integrity is a person that thrives for consistency of principal and that principle translates to living the ideals. In other words, ideals such as truth, honesty, charity and moral discipline are no longer problematic nor are they mere idealistic principles. They are to become a true way of life. Our young brother is developing a philosophy of purpose.

The Mason begins to understand that fullness of life is found in that consistency, and he is made aware of the rewards and blessings of living a life with ideals as guiding principles. He realizes in a more profound way that his integrity is defined by the choices he repeatedly makes in his daily life. The brother begins to real-

ize that the joy in this life's reality is in the journey; the journey with ideals; the journey with purpose.

Our Spiritual Brotherhood is committed to the concept that all of mankind is entitled to be enlightened, and that process begins with a God centered life. It develops respect of the laws of society, but more importantly to us as Masons, it is a self imposed discipline. A discipline that through its ideal, generates unbelievable rewards; freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom to hold diverse beliefs to name a few.

Where the dignity of man, especially within the Brotherhood, is measured by the integrity of his life, that dignity becomes an ideal of respect; that ideal can then be freely expected and freely given. It is basic to the tenet of our fraternity.

Collectively, we as brothers, have the opportunity to make the world in which we live a better place, a place of integrity where our Masonic ideals do in fact become a way of life.

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.

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than 10 can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor, if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of 10. Some past issues are archived on our web site.
<http://www.knightstemplar.org>.

Templar News

The following article and photo are copyrighted by and reprinted with permission from *The Buffalo News*.

Replica documents of Knights Templar offer glimpse of the past

Vatican Templar Trial Transcripts displayed at Historical Society

By Jay Tokasz
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

During the Middle Ages, the Knights Templar protected Christian pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem. But by 1321, members of the military-religious order, known for their role in the Crusades, were tried for heresy and the group disbanded.

In recent years, the order of monks has become a subject of renewed interest, and have become more popularly known as guardians of spiritual treasures, in particular the mysterious lost Holy Grail, the chalice believed to have been used by Jesus during the Last Supper.

The Templars have been featured as key players in the juicy plot lines of blockbuster motion pictures and best-selling novels — fueling keen interest in what became of the secretive group nearly 700 years ago.

Those depictions, in movies like “National Treasure” and books such as “The Da Vinci Code,” are mostly fiction. But some Vatican documents giving scholars and history buffs deeper insight into the Templars’ real past were on display Fri-

day at the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society.

The reproduction set of Vatican Templar Trial Transcripts, here for a one-day presentation, are owned by the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge in Manhattan. The Masons’ ownership of the documents is somewhat ironic, because the Catholic Church historically has opposed Freemasonry and has banned Catholics from joining lodges.

Thomas M. Savini, the library’s director, acknowledged that the acquisition “will raise some eyebrows” inside and outside the Masonic fraternity.

A popular theory holds that to-day’s Masons, who number about 53,000 across New York State, including 3,000 in Erie County, evolved out of the Knights Templar. That is one of the reasons the Livingston library acquired the trial manuscripts in April.

Legend has it that the Templars went underground in the early 14th century to escape persecution by the inquisitors of King Philip IV of France, and then emerged two centuries later in Scotland as the Freemasons. One branch of modern day Masons that was organized sometime around the turn of the 19th century even calls itself the Knights Templar.

But the connection between the Knights Templar of the Crusades and Freemasonry is “highly dubious,” Savini said. “There is no valid historical documentation establishing that link.”

Due to the great deal of interest and inquiry into the possibility of a link, the library’s trustees felt a responsibility to obtain the trial documents as a resource

for both Masons and non-Masons.

The library is one of just a few groups in the United States, including the Cornell University library in Ithaca that possesses authentic reproductions of the "Processus Contra Templarios."

Seven hundred and ninety-nine numbered copies of the trial transcripts became available following the Vatican's 2007 announcement that the original parchments, misplaced for hundreds of years, had been found. The replicas were sold for 5,000 Euros (about \$6,300) each.

"It's almost a question of why wouldn't an organization want to have this as part of their archives," said Marlon Gayadeen, who teaches criminal justice at Buffalo State College and helped organize the Buffalo showing, one of several taking place across upstate New York.

The Masons have long been considered a secret, ritualistic society, although today's members say those days are long past. In the 21st century, Freemasons consider their group to be a society with certain private aspects, not a "secret society" with its negative connotations. Events like

the display of the Templar documents are further proof of that fact.

"We're removing the cloak, so to speak," Gayadeen said.

The transcripts, in tiny Latin calligraphy, re-create the folds, faded ink and mold stains found on the original. Some of the sheets are as long as 6 feet, and sewn together by thread, as was done in the 1300s.

"People who are fascinated or intrigued by history can come up and touch something that represents a document from 700 years ago," Savini said. "That tactile experience of history is an important part of education."

Friday, about 100 people in Western New York got a glimpse of the manuscripts, including the "Chinon Parchment," in which Pope Clement V absolved the Templars of heresy charges. Leaders of the Templars were nonetheless burned at the stake under King Philip IV, who sought to erase his considerable debt to the financially savvy warrior monks by banishing them.

jtoksaz@buffnews.com



So Who Were the Players ?

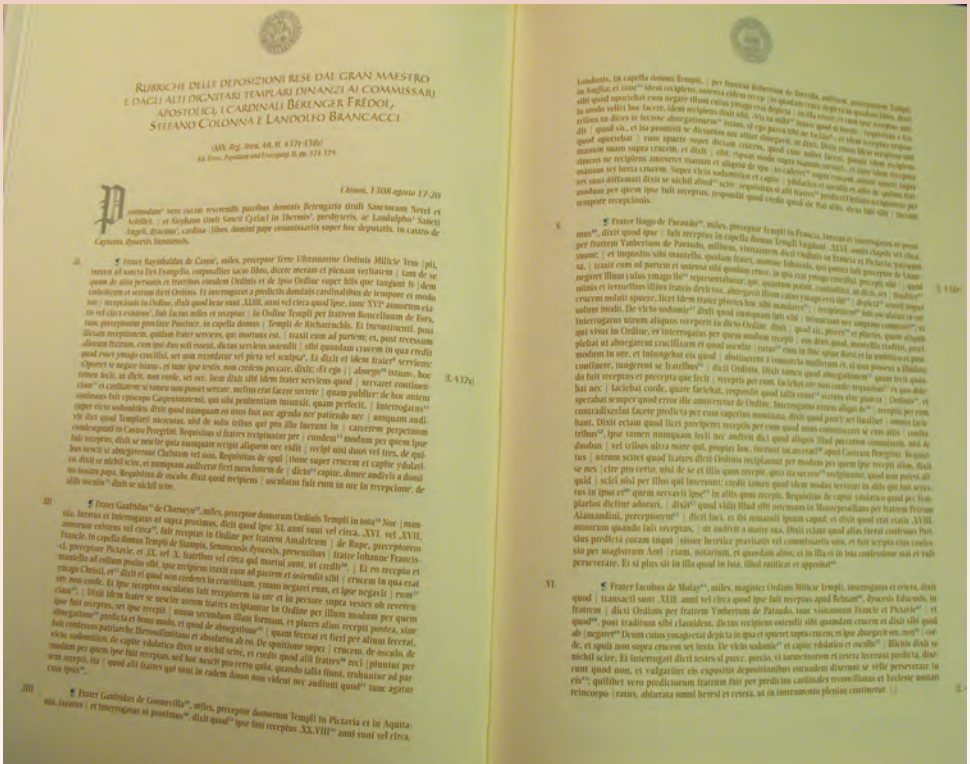
A Continuing Analysis of the Mystery of the Trials of the Ancient Templars

by
Sir Knight John L. Palmer, KCT
Managing Editor

Since the book I mentioned last month contains the only English in the package, we will next explore its contents. It has several sections and a few pages in the form of envelopes containing black and white prints of artwork concerning the trials.

The most relevant document and the one that created all the stir is titled *Minutes*

Of The Trial Published By The Papal Commissioner Cardinals Berengar Fredol, Etienne De Suisy, And Landolfo Brancacci Containing The Testimonies Of The Grand Master And The Leading Dignitaries Of The Temple And The Absolution Granted By The Above Mentioned Commissioners To The Same Templars "Demandato Domini Papae."



Chinon, 17-20 August, 1308. There is no English translation of this document in the book. What purports to be a rough translation can be found on the web at <http://www.inrebus.com/chinon.php>.

There appears to be printed texts (again not in English) of four dossiers from 1308 and a summary or notebook used in 1311 at the Council of Vienne.

The English portion of the document begins on page 103 with what is entitled “Historical Notes On The Trial Against The Templars” by Barbara Frale. Dr. Barbara Frale is an historian on staff at the Vatican Secret Archives and a specialist on the Templars, the crusades, and the papacy. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Venice. She lives in Viterbo, Italy, and her photo can be found on the web at <http://www.arcadepub.com/author>. She is due to publish her own book on the subject of the Templars in 2009. As of this writing, it is not yet available. We will try to review it when it comes available. Dr. Frale is apparently the researcher who discovered the misfiled Chinon document in 2001. Since she is on staff at the Secret Archives of the Vatican, we would expect that her commentary would present a relatively favorable perspective of the Church’s involvement.

After reading her “Historical Notes”, I am favorably impressed with her apparent attempt to remain impartial, her attention to detail, and her methodical approach to drawing conclusions. I have decided to present her conclusions in the light of other materials I have read about the subject.

Like any good story, the author must first develop his characters. There are three main characters in this story. First you have Philip, IV, king of France. Philip knight templar

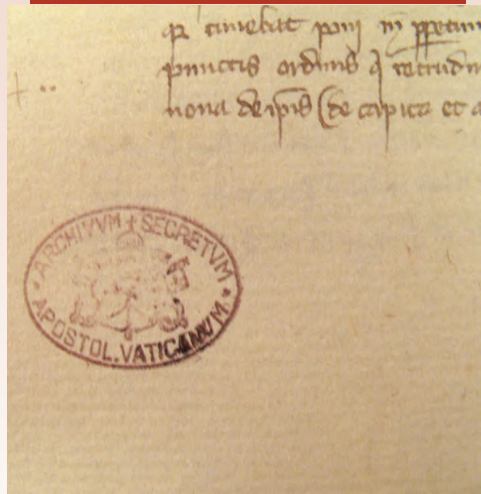
has always been portrayed as a villain in this story, and Dr. Frale does nothing to attempt to change this. In fact, from her perspective, he is the number one bad guy.

Next, you have Pope Clement, V. I have seen him portrayed as an evil despot, a weak and helpless puppet, a willing co-conspirator, and a fool, but Dr. Frale gives us a new opinion to consider; one I have not seen before.

Finally, we have not so much the man, Jacques DeMolay but the Order of the Temple as a whole as our third main character. In the end, it seems to me that Dr. Frale portrays them almost as you would an innocent bystander.

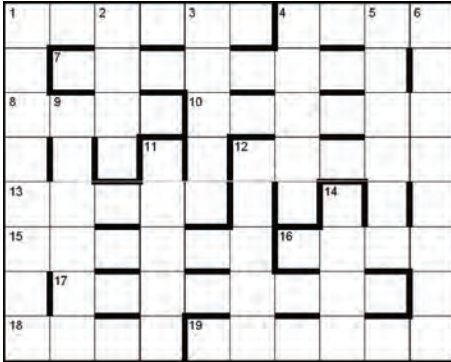
Next month, we will begin to take a really close look at King Phillip, where he came from, who he was, what motivated him, the events which influenced him, and what appears to have been his objectives. Motives are difficult to determine. A wise man once said that we tend to judge others by their actions and ourselves by our motives. Try to keep an open mind as we attempt to get into the minds of these players.

To be continued next month



Correction on Grand Commandery Dates Published in January

DATE	GRAND COMMANDERY	LOCATION	CONCLAVE REPRESENTATIVE
June 19 -20	Wisconsin	Green Bay	Franklin C. Boner
September 17-18	Kentucky	Lexington	Sid C. Dorris, III
October 10	Mass./ RI	Burlington	William J. Jones
October 23-25	Maryland	Aberdeen	Robert J. Cave



The author is a Knight Templar and 32° Scottish Rite Mason who follows Cryptic Crossword tradition by setting puzzles under a crucinym, choosing Loki, the Norse god of mischief. If you would like detailed instructions on how to solve Cryptic clues, Loki would be happy to oblige. Contact him at <okl.loki@gmail.com> or at 2501 W. Zia Rd., #6104; Santa Fe, NM 87505.

He also maintains an e-mail discussion group for Cryptic Puzzlers at <sob_softly_small_spasm-subscribe@egroups.com>.

ACROSS

1. Pipers are fine if emergency rooms follow (6)
4. Warm up house-top to take in food (4)
7. Singing softly with nothing on in key-ring (8)
8. Circle secretary's emblem to start lodge meeting (4)
10. Snoring guard in floral bed (6)
12. Nickel stolen from mansion of Brother (5)
13. Talked the part of a big wheel (5)
15. Cold aviator lost to high-priced dish (6)
16. Tuxedos were flops (4)
17. Trike crashed after Roy looked back at lodge (4,4)
18. Splash of ashen bucket (4)
19. Light bit of honey-pot goulash (6)

32

CRYPTIC (Freemason) PUZZLE by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue

DOWN

1. So.Cal. fop looks ridiculous in hat with bells (5,3)
2. French Brother gives up right to become a Mason (4)
3. Rascal says, "Oh, Gee," in Paris street (5)
4. Abif's greeting to father of apron (5)
5. A geode, cut off, holds light from time immemorial (3-3)
6. Bar poet and Mason from X-New York scion (8)
9. Tropical fruit can smear a young adult (6)
11. Slalom right & left to bagpipe music (5)
12. My railroad had begun as a Christmas gift from a king (5)
14. Short stroke to get tupperware back inside (4)



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february 2009

Beauceant News



Pictured L to R: Mrs. J. Michael Robbins, W.P., Mrs. Charles Long, Mrs. David Alcon, P.S.W.P., Mrs. Jacob Yingling, Mrs. Victor Reale, Mrs. James Morgan, P.P., Miss Anna Craig, and Mrs. Reginald Grose.

The Sisters of Westminster Assembly No. 245, MD, have several benevolent and charitable projects. Recently they presented gift wrapping paper, bows, and bags for use at the Hoffman Schools for Youth, a psychiatric residential treatment program for children located near Gettysburg, PA. In addition to monetary gifts, the assembly also gives the school Campbell Soup labels and Betty Crocker tabs for the Labels for Education program plus used card fronts for activities.

Another project, which began in March, is that manufacturer's coupons are mailed to nine military and DOD families stationed at bases in Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Turkey. Many dollars are saved by the recipients when they shop at the commissaries. \$200,000 worth will have been mailed by the time of this publication.

The Sewing Group was featured in this publication two months ago. The darling stuffed animals and pillows have gone to hospitals in MD, PA, and Russia.

For several years, this assembly has given at least \$1000 annually to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

- Reminder: Chartered Beauceant Assemblies can submit their pictures and news articles to Mrs. David E. Alcon, P.S.W.P. for publication in the *Knight Templar Magazine* at salcon@comcast.net or obtain mailing address from Recorder.

Correction and Apology

Ladies,

Even though Mrs. Brown, your Supreme Recorder, sent me the correct information, I managed to print the wrong dates for the Supreme Assembly which will be September 20-26, 2009 in Denver, Colorado. Please accept my apology. The Ed.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

A Review of Robert L. D. Cooper's 'The Rosslyn Hoax?'

By

Rex R. Hutchens

Past Grand Commander of Arizona

In the Preface of this fine work, Brother Cooper asserts, "However, this book should not be seen as a deliberate attempt to debunk popular mythology regarding the Knights Templar..." Having given this disclaimer, he proceeds to do exactly that. For those Masons meandering through the mist of the mythology of Masonic origins in the Knights Templar, this book is a valuable correction of historical misconceptions. In detailing the facts rather than idle speculation, Cooper essentially destroys the arguments of such works of ersatz Masonic history as Knight and Lomas' *The Hiram Key* and John Robinson's *Born In Blood*.

Cooper minutely examines the interior decorations of the chapel and presents rational alternatives to the whimsical, and occasionally nonsensical, explanations given in books purporting to use Rosslyn Chapel as evidence of a Masonic-Templar connection. His description of the interior is buttressed with a wealth of detail regarding the history of the St. Clair family and the actual purpose of the construction of the chapel.

Brother Cooper does occasionally make statements that many conservative Masons would dispute. For exam-

ple, on page 143 he asserts, "HA [Hiram Abiff] was not a real person but was invented in the eighteenth century by Freemasons for allegorical purposes." Now, the Bible has a very different take on the matter and explicitly defines Hiram as the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali (1 Kings 7:14) or Dan (2 Chronicles 2:13) and both sources attribute to him a significant contribution to the decoration of the Temple. While it is true that particular details of his relationship to the building of the Temple are Masonic inventions, he is nonetheless assumed to be an historical character. If he is not, then there is little reason to believe any of the biblical narrative regarding the Temple. The Masonic elaboration of the narrative takes two paths: nonbiblical and antibiblical. In the first case, the narrative is simply expanded with detail not to be found in the scriptures; in the second, the Masonic tradition is actually contradictory to the scriptural account. Examples of the second must include his status as architect of the Temple when the Bible says that it was designed by God through David (1 Chronicles 28:11-12). An example of the nonbiblical character of the Third Degree drama includes the details of his death

and burial. On the same page the author also says, "Hiram had the status of a king." It is hard to understand the point Cooper is making here. Either he is confusing Hiram, King of Tyre with Hiram Abiff or he is assuming some equivalency from HA's status as a Grand Master along with the two kings Hiram and Solomon. The rank of Grand Master does not give one the status of a king; as a former Grand Master, I know this to be true.

American Masons should be aware that the English version of the second section of the 3rd Degree is different from the one commonly used here. In the English version, Hiram is smote three times upon the head. This is a particularly interesting variation because the oldest description of the drama is from Pritchard's *Masonry Dissected* (1730), and it conforms to the American version. Cooper's comments are uniformly influenced by the English rendition of the ritual.

Of particular use and interest for Masonic scholars is his extensive bibliography which is conveniently divided into sections: The Theory of History, History, and a part he designates "Speculative History," which I would call "Utter Nonsense Written by Fools." Brother Cooper is a kinder man than I am.

As well as his penetrating analysis of the Rosslyn Chapel connection Templar-Masonic myth, Brother Cooper has provided a series of appendices, which present for the reader's perusal: The Schaw Statutes of 1598 and 1599; the Schaw Tomb translation; the Charter Granted by the Masons of Scotland to William St. Clair of Roslin in 1601; the Charter Granted by the Masons of Scotland to Sir William St. Clair in 1628; the Deed of Resignation of William St. Clair of Rossline, 1736; the Charter of Lodge Kirkwall

Kilwinning, granted 1st December, 1740; Ramsay's Oration of 1737; Funeral Oration for William St. Clair; Extract of the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*; *The Knights Templars of Scotland* by Chevalier James Burnes (1837). These are primary historical documents not all of which were readily available to the general Masonic audience until now.

In discussing his book, I told Brother Cooper that the only thing wrong with the title was the question mark. This book belongs on the bookshelf of every serious Mason.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Rex Hutchens is the editor of *Heredom: The Transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society* and author of *A Bridge to Light, A Glossary To Morals And Dogma*, and *Pillars Of Wisdom - The Writings Of Albert Pike*. He transcribed and annotated Albert Pike's *Lecture on Masonic Symbolism* and *A Second Lecture on Symbolism, The Omkara and Other Ineffable Words* and collaborated in the publishing of *The Book of the Words (Sephir H'Debarim)*. He can be contacted via e-mail at rchutchens@comcast.net



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