



Knight Templar

VOLUME LV

MAY 2009

NUMBER 5

*Baseball
Biographies
are Back
See Page 23*

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Knight Templar

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 of the United States of America.

Contents

A Message From The General Grand High Priest
Emory J. Ferguson 4

Triennial Conclave Information 7

Legend of the Quatuor Coronati
Sir Knight Hugh A. Cole 9

*A Continuing Analysis of the Mystery
 of the Trials of the Ancient Templars*
Sir Knight John L. Palmer 21

Brother Bill McKechnie Baseball Manager
Sir Knight Ivan Tribe 23

The Early Templars
Sir Knight William P. Arney 30

Features

Grand Encampment News
 Grand Recorder Lawrence E. Tucker 5

Prelate's Chapel
 Grand Prelate Robert Cave 6

Knightly News 8

A Chat With The Managing Editor 10

Letters to the Editor 11

Crossword Puzzle 12

In Memoriam 13

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation
 General Chairman Duane Lee Vaught 15

Knight Voices 17

Grand Commandery Supplement 18

Recipients of the Membership Jewel 27

Crossword Puzzle Solution from April Issue 32

Beauceant News 33

Knights at the Bookshelf 34

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knight templar

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

Lawrence E. Tucker
 Grand Recorder

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The front cover is a photo of a portion of the ruins of the Templar castle at Acre, the site of their last stand in the Holy Land and is copyrighted by salamanderman. This site is still being excavated.

A Message
from the
Most Excellent General
Grand High Priest

Emory J. (Smokey) Ferguson



Greetings Sir Knights:

What a privilege it is for me to have the opportunity to submit an article for the *Knight Templar* magazine, and I thank the Most Eminent Grand Master William H. Koon, II for the opportunity to do so. I am privileged not only as the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International but as a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Alabama as well. Asking those of us who represent the General Grand Chapter and the General Grand Council to submit articles for the *Knight Templar* magazine is a tribute to the Most Eminent Grand Master for an attempt on his part to exhibit a unified effort between the General Grand Chapter, the General Grand Council, and the Grand Encampment.

Though our goals and programs are somewhat different, the goal of the General Grand Chapter is to spread Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world, and where we establish new Royal Arch Chapters and Royal Arch Grand Chapters it opens new horizons for the Grand Encampment to explore and to broaden their base for the possibility of recruiting new Sir Knights into our Order.

Several weeks back I was visiting one of the grand jurisdictions that does not belong to the General Grand Chapter where I was approached by a Companion who very proudly advised me that his subordinate chapter was chartered by the General Grand Chapter. In the course of our conversation I asked him when his Grand Chapter issued the chapter a new charter. After witnessing a very blank look on his face he told me that his Grand Chapter had not issued them a charter, and I got an even more surprised look on his face when I informed him that because per capita had not been paid to the General Grand Chapter, his chapter was operating without a charter. That conversation makes me wonder how many other chapters or Grand Chapters that were chartered by the General Grand Chapter may be holding convocations without a valid charter.

Fraternally and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emory J. Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

Emory J. Ferguson, PGC, KCT

From the Grand Recorder's Office...



Lawrence E. Tucker
Grand Recorder

DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

The 2009 Grand Encampment Department Conferences are open to all Sir Knights. Please make your plans to attend.

Southeastern Department

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee
Robert E. Burleson, Right Eminent Department Commander

The Southeastern Department Conference will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, please contact Sir Knight Bob Burleson, 12157 Delaware Woods Lane, Orlando, FL 32824-8611; Residence telephone: (407) 859-4004; Email: bob_burleson@yahoo.com.

YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM is up and running! Grand Recorders are being trained on the membership module; constituent Recorders will be trained following Grand Recorder orientation.

MEMBERS: Many members have responded by updating their contact information. If you have not done so already, please do. You are also able to change your address online. Visit the Grand Encampment website <http://www.knightstemplar.org/> for more details. This information is available to your local Commandery Recorder, your state Grand Recorder, and the Grand Encampment office. Please be assured that this information is secure and is available for fraternal use only.

RECORDERS: Once you have completed the short training session, constituent Recorders will be able to enter membership changes; i.e. knightings, deaths, suspensions, dimits, reinstatements, and address changes for your Commandery. This will make the current monthly reports obsolete. You will receive updated information as the implementation of the York Rite Information System continues.

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



Prelate's Chapel

by
Robert Cave
Right Eminent Grand Prelate
of the
Grand Encampment

I was lying on my bed one afternoon recently letting my broken ankle rest after a session with the physical therapist, and I began to read the 91st Psalm. When I came to the 4th verse, I immediately thought of Templary. The verse states in part "His (God's) truth shall be your shield and buckler." "His truth" reminded me of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the initial Order on the path to becoming a Knight Templar. You will recall in the "Immemorial Discussion" Zerubbabel suggests that truth is greater than wine, the power of the king, or the influence of women. Those involved in the discussion then affirm "Blessed be the God of truth." However, of even greater interest to me was the part that stated "He (God) shall be your shield and buckler." In the Order of the Temple, after the Prelate administers the solemn vow of the Order, he instructs the pilgrim that he will be expected to wage war against the enemies of certain categories of people as well as the Christian Religion. If he will engage in the warfare, he must lay aside his pilgrim's garb and take up a sword and buckler. As sideliners we know what a buckler is, because we see it given to the candidate. But would we know what a buckler is if we did not see it?

According to the *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, a buckler is "a small, usually round, shield carried in the hand or worn on the arm." Apparently ancient shields fell into two categories. There was the large one that protected the whole body and the smaller one usually carried on the left arm. It is the smaller shield that could be more appropriately called a buckler.

In the Old Testament the shield is referred to in two ways, literally and figuratively. For instance, the literal use is seen in I Kings 10:16-17 which states "King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold." We see its figurative use in Psalm 18:2 which reads "The Lord...is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold," and in verse 30 "As for God his way is perfect. The word of the Lord is proven; he is a shield to all who trust in him."

I believe that the image of the buckler (small shield) can be instructive for us as Knights Templars. We agree to wage war against the enemies of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian Religion. While we no longer need to have a buckler to protect us literally against an enemy's physical attack, we do need the strength and fortitude to stand up to those who decry our faith and have no regard for the innocent and helpless in our society. As we are told in the Order of the Temple, the Almighty is a sure defense (buckler) for all who put their trust in him. With the Lord by our side in a good cause he will always be our defense and consolation.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA – For the Ladies !

Triennials are always an exciting time for the Sir Knights with drill competition and the Grand Conclave not to mention the camaraderie one has visiting with old friends from across the country. But what does Roanoke offer for the ladies aside from beautiful scenery?

Shopping!!

Near the Civic Center where the drills will be held is the Roanoke Antique Mall with 20,000 square feet and over 100 dealers from around the area. The Historic Farmers Market, the oldest continually operating market of its type in Virginia, is located in the downtown area. The market contains imported house wares, clothes, fine art, pottery, sculpture, Virginia wines, and more. Gourmet restaurants are conveniently located nearby. Every woman loves chocolate! The ‘chocolatepaper’ is downtown and has chocolates from around the world as well as distinctive greeting cards and unique gifts to excite the mind. The downtown shopping is located across a 500 ft. walkway from the Hotel Roanoke and contains a plethora of quaint shops.

If shopping malls are to your liking, there are two! A large mall is located near the Sheraton Roanoke. The Holiday Inn Tanglewood is located almost within walking distance of a mall as well.

Certainly while your Sir Knight is doing the things he enjoys, you ladies will have plenty to entertain you in beautiful Roanoke!

Sir Knight Baldwin and the 64th Triennial Committee chose well when they picked Roanoke, Virginia, as the site for the 64th Triennial. Why wait; make reservations now. The forms are in the March 2009 *Knight Templar* or are available on-line at www.knightstemplar.org. It will be a Triennial to remember!

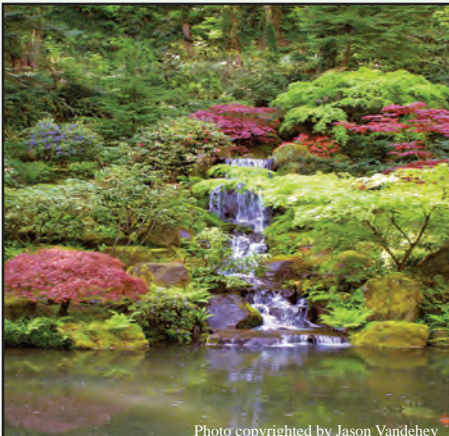


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Knightly News

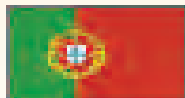
FIRST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER in EUROPE

During the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Portugal held in Lisbon on March 7, 2009, several "Firsts" occurred. Our Grand Master, Sir Knight William H. Koon, II, GCT was in attendance, and following the Installation of Officers, he installed Sir Knight Joaquim Pinto Coelho as Department Commander for Europe. This is the first time the Grand Encampment has ever had a Department Commander for Grand Commanderies outside of the United States.

Sir Knight Coelho will be responsible for the Grand Commanderies of Portugal and Italy as well as the Subordinate Commanderies in Romania. Our Grand Master had announced his intention to appoint Sir Knight Coelho for the 65th Triennial, but did so early in order that Sir Knight Coelho could be installed in his own Grand Commandery. This occasion was also the first time a Grand Encampment Officer has ever been installed outside of the United States of America. Sir Knight Coelho was invested with the rank and dignity of Knight Commander of the Temple at the banquet held that evening.

These events mark a new awareness and appreciation for our Grand Commanderies in Europe. The Grand Encampment is evolving and becoming more global in scope. The American York Rite is extremely popular in countries who have symbolic lodges established and wish to expand and adopt appendant orders. The American York Rite is far simpler to establish than other forms, and this accounts for its popularity. The Grand Encampment Officers are refocusing their attentions toward these developments to the end that those who wish to be Knights Templar may do so under our banner.

Sir Knight Coelho is a Past Commander of Henry the Navigator Commandery No. 1 and was the first Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Portugal. He is also a Past Grand High Priest of their Grand Chapter and a Past Illustrious Grand Master of their Grand Council. He was instrumental in organizing the York Rite in Portugal. He is also the Supreme Magus of the High Council of the Societas Rosicruciana in Lithuania (Masonic Rosicrucians). He is well known throughout Europe and will serve us well as Department Commander.



LEGEND OF THE QUATUOR CORONATI (the four crowned martyrs)

by

Sir Knight Hugh A. Cole

In the third century of the Roman Empire, Diocletian summoned whom he believed to be his most especially skilled craftsmen. He ordered that they erect a marble statue depicting Asclepius, the god of healing and medicine. In *Breviary of Rome*, published in 1474 A.D., it names the craftsmen as Claudius, Castorius, Symphorianus, and Nichostratus (three masters and an apprentice). They had recently converted to the newly emerging Christianity and considered the statue to be a pagan god. "Let the Emperor know that we truly are Christians, and never can depart from the worship of our God!" They thus politely informed the Emperor that they must decline to erect the statue.

Diocletian fumed and ranted at such a display of insubordination! They would pay for their actions serving to dissuade others from such disrespectful behavior! They were subsequently caused to strip off their clothing and be scourged by scorpions before returning to their work. Remaining steadfast in refraining to obey the Emperor's orders, Diocletian had them encased alive in lead coffins and tossed into the Tiber River! Their punishment intended to set an example of the fate awaiting the disobedient!

Eventually, the bodies were retrieved from the river and buried along the road leading from the river to the Colosseum. In about 311-314 A.D., Pope Melchiodorus caused the four steinmetzen (stonemasons) to be distinguished for their mar-

tyrdom by the Roman Catholic Church as the Quatuor Coronati, (four crowned martyrs.) The church considered that the martyrdom must have taken place on November 8, 287 A.D. and designated November 8th in the Christian calendar on which to distinguish and commemorate the Quatuor Coronati (the four crowned martyrs) of steinmetzen (German stonemasons.) Regulations of Strasburg steinmetzen in 1459 A.D. begin "In the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and of our gracious Mother Mary; and also of her blessed servants, the Four Crowned Martyrs of everlasting memory."

The earlier *Regius Manuscript* of the Constitutions of Masonry of 1390 A.D. (*Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*) mentions this same legend. From these references we may conclude that the Four Crowned Martyrs precede mention of John the Baptist having been a Patron Saint of steinmetzen (our ancient forefathers, the German operative stonemasons), and as John the Apostle's being regarded as a Patron Saint as speculative forefathers founded the fraternity on emerging from its operative roots in the 18th century!

Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research Lodge in London, England perpetuates the inclusion of this legend in our fraternity.

Sir Knight Hugh A. Cole is a member of Aurora Commandery No. 22 and dual member of Sycamore Commandery No. 15 of Illinois. His e-mail address is cole3579@sbcglobal.net.

A Chat With The Managing Editor

Many of you have told me that you miss Dr. Ivan Tribe's biographies of famous or semi-famous people who were Masons. Since baseball season is nearly upon us, I thought we would include one of his famous baseball biographies this month. See page 23.

You will notice that our Grand Master has invited our General Grand High Priest to use the space usually provided for the Grand Master's message. He informs me that we will have other guest columnists in the coming months. It's good to share this space with the other Masonic bodies. I look forward to seeing what they have to say.

When I left the last seven words off of Rex Hutchen's article in March, it was truly a regrettable error, but it did prove worthwhile because I received at least 1,000 phone calls and e-mails wanting the rest of the article. This tells me that you are reading the magazine and are interested in the content. Great news! Interestingly, about a third who contacted me were ladies. I had no idea so many of the ladies were reading our little magazine. Also, I discovered that many of you are taking articles to Sunday School for discussion.

I am still interested in what you want to see in future issues, so keep those letters to the editor coming in!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

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This Templar watch fob found in the collection of the House of the Temple museum contains seven diamonds and three pearls and has the emblem of the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite on the reverse.



Letters to the Editor



I have read letters in the new magazine from people who are enjoying the newly redesigned KT Magazine with delight, and they offer approval on the new format and content. I am glad somebody is willing to take on that job, and I'm glad it is not me, but I hope you don't mind if I offer a bit of negative feedback.

First of all, I have never been a fan of heaping great praise on a new editor for his new and better format, making it sound like the old editor was not very good at it. Sort of like a worker who was cast aside because he wasn't considered as smart as the new editor on the block. I'm sure both of you worked equally hard to put out this fine publication. It is not that I don't like your format, but here are my complaints.

First of all, color is certainly an eye catcher, but it also can have its disadvantages. I notice you sometimes have a color background for a small article; in fact, sort of an eye catcher was the one where the background was from light at the bottom to darker at the top. For me, that was hard to read, in fact, I was unable to read some of the text at the top because of my astigmatism. Another one had a light color for a background and it also was a bit hard for me to read, but the contrast was not so bad that I couldn't read all of that text. I hope you are more careful with that.

In the phased out format, the editor used to feature stories about famous people who were Masons, and I loved reading them, even looked forward to it. My wife also enjoyed them. I miss those, although I can imagine that those authors are probably worn out from all the work they were doing, and maybe they have exhausted the people to write about. I enjoyed those items for years. Not that your content is not very good, because I do read much of what's in it. knight templar

However, the magazine is just not necessarily improved except for the color format. However, your work is also very good, and I don't envy you the responsibility. I also have a similar monthly task since I have been writing a monthly column for fourteen years now that I would like to give up, but at the request of many of the editors who use it, I keep it going. Anyway, that is my comment and it is only meant to be just a bit of criticism for you and some praise for the last editor. I want him to know that I miss his work, but I understand that it was time for him to "pass the pen."

Bob Click

Bob, we really do appreciate constructive feedback. I have much to learn about the effective use of color in the magazine. What little I manage to do well is largely due to the efforts of Ms. Joan Morton who edited the magazine for twenty years before she retired and had less than a year to train me as the new editor.

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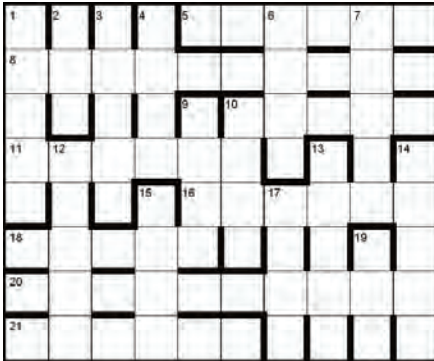
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CRYPTIC (Freemason) PUZZLE
by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue



DOWN

1. Wooden rods, and in the Warden's stations (5)
2. Frog fare with teeth and talon (3)
3. Florence's report on icebergs (5)
4. Approves of some doctors (4)
6. Fancy hubcap I give to wise-guys (4)
7. On what to meet a tool (5)
9. Ground meat for our guys (4)
10. Assorted small, medium, and large monogram for charity (4)
12. Flower produces heroin for British rebels (5)
13. Carriage full of ants (5)
14. Secret route hides way back (5)
15. A tale nary tangled (4)
17. Pour vociferous epithet on Fellow-Soldiers of Christ (4)
19. Iron snooze on a Shriner (3)

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.

ACROSS

5. Solomon's claim to fame was up here (tap side of head) (6)
8. Hebrew priest-tribe gets in a late service start, but makes situations less dire (10)
10. Silver Avenue Tequila Plant (5)
11. Elides vibrating from engine (6)
16. Shout "You is surrounded by enough of a vial" (6)
18. Hello to a sheep from Tyre (5)
20. Prophet with arcane jargon who interpreted lore's argot (10)
21. Softly sharpens headpieces (6)

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>.



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IN MEMORIAM



William Hobart "Sandy" Pierce
Oklahoma

Grand Commander 2002
Born – January 11, 1924
Died – February 21, 2009

David L. Kempfer, Sr.
Pennsylvania
Grand Commander 1997
Born – March 18, 1937
Died – February 2, 2009

The York Rite fob shown to the left is in the collection of the museum of the House of the Temple in Washington D.C., headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction.

Philip G. Cook
Iowa

Grand Commander 1996
Born – January 10, 1940
Died – May 1, 2008

Charles Jacob Shoup, Jr.
Arizona

Grand Commander 1994
Born – October 16, 1927
Died – March 16, 2009



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SO MOTE IT BE WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

By

Worshipful Brother Paul Weathers

So Mote It Be. So sweet is the sound. It has such a strong meaning to the true Mason.

The word 'mote' is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'may'. But the meaning to the Mason should be much more personal. Whether at the end of one's prayer, at the pronouncement of the sacred union of marriage, at the blessed birth of a child, or at the solemn bidding good bye to one who is loved and respected, we say those meaningful words, So Mote It Be.

When I say those words, So Mote It Be, I'm not speaking to those mortal beings around me, I'm speaking directly to The Supreme Deity of all existence. I'm asking God to look into my heart and know what is there that I may not know the words to express. I'm asking God to recognize my needs, even those I don't know exist and provide for them, to know my weaknesses and frailties of life, to know all that my humble existence cannot comprehend. I'm yielding to His will and imploring His mercy.

What do those words mean to you, my Fraternal Brother? So Mote It Be.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

1000 East State Parkway, Suite I
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,

One Yard

I don't go to races that often, but I have been to the Indianapolis 500 track many times. They call it the brickyard because at one time it was a brick track. Then as now, it is a two and one half mile oval, and the race is 500 miles. There is still a small part of the track that is brick; one yard at the finish line that is crossed 200 times during the race. The entire point of the race is to be the first to cross it the 200th time.

Those who have attended this year's department meetings and seen the video we show, might recall that in the past 10 years the average difference between first and second place in the race is 1.54 seconds. 1.54 seconds that separates the victor from everyone else. May is when the race is run each year, and May is the end of our voluntary campaign.

This is a difficult year for all charities (and most people as well). The thing is... difficult or not, there are still people to be helped and progress to be made for the good of mankind.

On the day I write this, there is still over a month to go on the 41st campaign. It is time for another pit stop. However, when this arrives in your mailbox we will be in the last stages of the race and closing on the finish. Will we succeed? Will we surpass last year? Will we continue to demonstrate that our commitment to mankind is greater than the troubled headlines? On the day I write this we don't know the answer to some of those questions.

We do know that the Eye Foundation has accomplished a vast amount of good. We know that we will continue to do so. And we know that while September through March have been doom and gloom in the newspapers, the voluntary campaign has been ahead of last year at every single weekly tally.

1.54 seconds can determine the winner. One yard of brick – about the distance of one long step is the finish line.

Will we be taking that extra step or looking for excuses?

The Eye Foundation office is still open; still accepting contributions so....

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

- | | |
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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 above is of a model of the temple mound as it would have looked in the time of Christ. The model is in Jerusalem, and the photo is copyrighted by posztos. The Dome of the Rock shown in the photo opposite top is in the spot where the temple is shown above, near the center of the mound. The mosque shown in the photo opposite bottom is to the extreme left of the temple compound in the model above. This is the place that presumably was given to the Templars as their base of operations shortly after their formation.



The photo above is copyrighted by Dejan Gileski and is of the entire temple mound as it looks today. The Templar headquarters is to the extreme left of this photo.



Photo of the mosque known as The Dome of the Rock which many think occupies the exact site of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. Photo is copyrighted by Rostislav Glinsky.



This photo is of the mosque which many think was occupied by the Templars soon after their organization when they were headquartered on the temple mound in Jerusalem. The view is from the Dome of the Rock looking to the south. The photo is copyrighted by Avner Richard.

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.



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The Paradoxical Pontiff

Ferocious and Pejorative, Paranoid and Palliative,
or Pious and Pitiable?

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

by

Sir Knight John L. Palmer, KCT

Managing Editor

In attempting to analyze the role of Pope Clement V in the trial of the Templars, his character, and his motivation, it will be necessary to take into consideration the events leading up to the capture, trial, and executions of the Templars and the environment in which these events took place.

Although my primary source for this information is the documentary notes accompanying the Vatican documents, it was necessary to include material from Dr. Barbara Frale's new book *The Templars – The Secret History Revealed*, from *The Knights Templar* by Sean Martin, and from *The Knights Templar Revealed* by Alan Butler and Stephen Dafoe. Although these other authors do not necessarily agree with Frale's conclusions about the nature of the Pope's involvement, they provided many valuable facts, dates, and names that were necessary to round out the story and to place everything in the correct chronological order. Be patient; this is going to take more than one month.

It is first important to understand a few facts. The Papacy did not have a standing army except for the Templars and the Hospitalers. The Templars and

Hospitalers, though allies in many ways, were sometimes considered to be rivals and did not always play well together. Pope Innocent II issued a document entitled *Omne Datum Optimum* which "liberated" the Templars from all control of civil or political authority. It declared them to be autonomous and under the sole direction of the Pope. The Templar statutes themselves declared that the Pope alone was the "...head and master of the Temple after our Lord Jesus Christ." This put the Order above all law except for Papal authority, and it flourished in this role.

The immunity the Templars enjoyed began to erode when, during the Albigensian Crusade or the Crusade against the Cathar heresy as the Church then called it, the Pope authorized the questioning of both the Templars and the Hospitalers thus undermining his authority and their Papal protection. An article about this crusade can be found in our October 2008 issue. Understand that "questioning," at that time, included inquisition by torture with a presumption of guilt. For the most part, to be charged with heresy was a guaranteed lengthy torture session ending in execution no matter how you plead.

The Church had been engaged in a struggle with King Philip IV of France for some time before Clement became Pope. Philip was desperate for funds and hungry for power. He wanted all Europe consolidated under him and the funding necessary to launch a universal crusade under his leadership to once and for all drive the infidel from the Holy Land and to establish him as Emperor of the Christian world. First, he wanted the Orders combined and put under his jurisdiction so he could retake Constantinople.

In 1294 when the Italian Benedetto Caetani was elected as Pope Boniface VIII, the strife began and was constant thereafter until Philip died. Philip wanted to take from the Pope authority over the clergy in his kingdom. Philip and Edward I of England, being equally destitute because of warring with each other, both decided to levy taxes on the clergy. This, of course, was considered by the Pope to be defiance of Papal authority. The King then bullied Boniface into declaring Philip's grandfather, Louis IX, a saint.

Philip began to try to expand his influence into the Pope's backyard in Italy by charging the Italian bankers, the Lombards, with heresy and stripping them of their assets. In defense of Church authority, Boniface decided to excommunicate Philip, who in turn, charged the Pope with heresy, had him kidnapped, and intended to put Boniface on trial as a heretic. Although the Pope was rescued with the aid of the locals, this experience broke his health, and he soon died. A pattern of behavior was developing for Philip. These same charges of heresy would soon be leveled against the Templars.

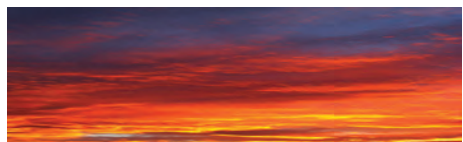
Boniface was succeeded by another Italian, Niccolo Boccasins who was elect-

ed as Pope Benedict XI. Although Benedict attempted to reconcile the struggle between the Church and the King, he refused to absolve or pardon those henchmen of Philip who he considered responsible for the death of his predecessor. Benedict died after only one year of a stomach ailment which might have been cancer, but was commonly believed to be poisoning by order of the King.

The King was, no doubt, weary of dealing with Italians, and possibly because of his influence, in 1305 Bertrand De Got, a Frenchman, was selected Pope Clement V in an election which was highly contested between the French and the Italian clergy. The head of the Italian faction refused to certify his election, and Clement assumed the Papacy only after the death of this Italian. Because of this strife between the Italian and the French factions, Clement moved his Papal throne from Rome to Avignon, France where he felt safer.

Around the time the Pope ascended his throne, several Knights who had been expelled from the Templars accused the Order of gross misconduct. Philip, at the coronation of Clement attempted unsuccessfully to force the Pope to initiate an "investigation" of the Templars on the charge of heresy. Although the King ignored the law for the most part, the charge of heresy could not be legally tried and punished by civil authority; this was reserved for the Church. In July of 1306, Philip arrested most of the Jews in the kingdom, deported them, and seized their assets.

To be continued in the June Issue



BROTHER BILL McKECHNIE:

Baseball Hall of Fame Manager and Fifty-Year Mason

By
Sir Knight Ivan Tribe

Nobody ever accused Bill McKechnie of being a great baseball player. He was good enough to make the major leagues but was average at best. However, as a manager he was atypically outstanding. Lee Allen, the baseball historian of a generation earlier, described the man called the “Deacon,” as a “wily ascetic ... shrewd handler of men and a genius at getting the most out of pitchers.” In his years as a manager in the National League, he managed to bring in four pennant winners and two world championships. When one considers that many—if not most—of his managing years were spent with cash-strapped franchises, his achievements seem even more remarkable. On top of all that, McKechnie spent more than fifty years as a Mason.

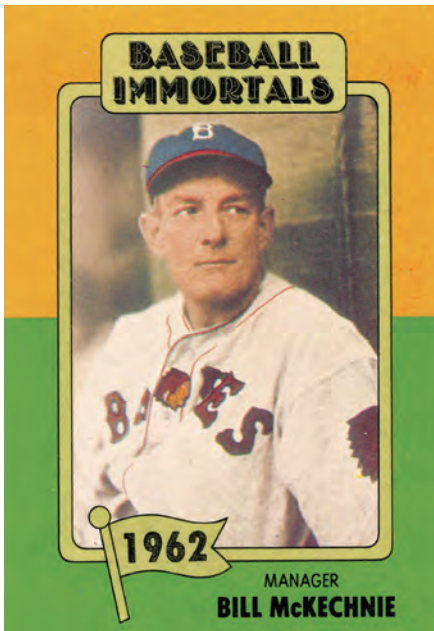
William Boyd McKechnie was born of Scottish ancestry in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, on August 7, 1886. His parents, Archibald and Mary Murray McKechnie, had immigrated to the upper Ohio valley from the greater Glasgow area. It was said of young Bill that he inherited from his parents the typical Scottish characteristics of being “dour, thrifty, and canny.” Like many American youth, especially those in the greater Pittsburgh area, McKechnie fell in love with baseball. After some semi-pro experiences, he entered the minors in 1906, via the Washington franchise in the Pennsylvania–Ohio–Maryland League, a Class D loop with teams extending from Zanesville, Ohio, to Cumberland, Maryland, with most of the teams in the Keystone State. His major league baseball career began in 1907

when the near-his-hometown Pittsburgh Pirates called him up in late summer to play third-base. He made his debut with the Bucs on September 8. It was hardly a spectacular beginning. Bill appeared in three games getting one hit in eight times at the plate for a .125 average.

Over the next five years McKechnie divided his time between the Pirates, Canton of the Ohio Pennsylvania League where he played regularly and hit a respectable .274, and St. Paul of the American Association. His best year with Pittsburgh came in 1911 when he hit .227 appearing in 104 games. Not long afterwards, he went briefly to the Boston Braves and then to the New York Highlanders, then managed by Frank Chance, once famed as the “peerless leader” of the Chicago Cubs. By this time, Bill was gaining a reputation as one of the shrewdest baseball men around in spite of his limited talents as a player. Fred Lieb (a Mason), one of the best-known baseball writers, is alleged to have asked the manager why he kept a .134 hitter like McKechnie next to him on the bench. Chance replied “because Bill McKechnie has more brains than the rest of this dumb club put together.”

In the meantime the young Scotsman married Berlyn Bien in 1911. She passed away in 1957. The McKechnies had four children including Bill, Jr. who went into the business side of baseball and served in various capacities including Director of the Cincinnati Reds farm system and President of the Pacific Coast League from 1968 until 1973 and also became

a Mason. The other children were James, Beatrice, and Carol.



In 1914, William Boyd McKechnie joined Orient Lodge No. 590 in Wilkinsburg, ironically giving his occupation as "salesman," which must have been his off-season job. He received his degrees on May 26, 1914, November 17, 1914, and December 20, 1914. He also belonged to the Scottish Rite, joining the Valley of Pittsburgh in November 1915. His other Masonic affiliations included Syria Shrine Temple in Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Court No. 2 of the Royal Order of Jesters. On February 2, 1940, he received the 33° by special dispensation in Pittsburgh. On June 2, 1964, he received his fifty year pin from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Known for his regular attendance and choir membership in the local Methodist church, he earned the nickname "Deacon."

McKechnie soon got the opportunity to play regularly when a new major league, "the outlaw" Federal League entered the picture. Bill joined the Indianapolis club and experienced his best season as a player, playing regularly at third base, compiling a .304 average in 149 games, and chalking up 47 stolen bases. The team was loaded with talent; five players hit over .300 with Benny Kauff as their top star and another future Hall of Fame member Edd Roush leading the way to a first place finish. Nonetheless, the club lost money, and the owner transferred the franchise to Newark, New Jersey, in 1915. McKechnie hit only .257, but in mid-season he got his first shot as a manager. His team compiled a winning record but proved unable to lift the team out of fifth place. Nonetheless his reputation as being baseball smart continued to grow and improve. With the demise of the Federal League, Bill returned to the Nationals with the New York Giants.

A Giant for slightly more than half a season, McKechnie with Edd Roush and Christy Mathewson was traded to the Cincinnati Reds on July 20, 1916. The latter became the Reds manager, and Bill continued in his familiar role as a utility infielder. By 1918, he was back with the Pirates where he experienced one of his better seasons, hitting .255. Closing out his major league career with the Bucs in 1920 with a .216 average in 46 games, Bill had one more year as a player hitting .321 with Minneapolis of the American Association; he came back to Pittsburgh as a coach in 1922. When Manager George Gibson had problems maintaining discipline, he resigned and McKechnie became the Pirate skipper. The stern Scotsman had more success, and despite the antics of such rowdy players as Rabbit Maran-

ville and Moses Yellowhorse, brought the team in for a third place finish. Two more similar seasons followed, and then in 1925, the Pirates won their first pennant since 1909. With future Hall of Famers like Max Carey, Harold "Pie" Traynor (also a Mason), and Hazen "Kiki" Cuyler, the Pirates also took the World Series over the Washington Senators.

The 1926 season proved a disappointment for both McKechnie and Pirate fans. Much of the problem resulted from a feud between star player Max Carey and former Pirate manager and club Vice President Fred Clarke. Carey was released on waivers to Brooklyn on August 18. The team slipped to third and, Bill's "contract was not renewed for 1927." He closed his career as Pirate manager with 409 victories against 293 defeats. Needing a job, the Wilkesburg native signed with the world champion St. Louis Cardinals as a coach for 1927.

The Redbirds slipped to second place under new manager Bob O'Farrell and in 1928, the front office elevated McKechnie to become manager in 1928. Bill led the Cards to another pennant but lost the World Series to the virtually unstoppable New York Yankees club. Owner Sam Breadon sent McKechnie to Rochester and brought in Red Wing manager Billy Southworth to St. Louis. However, Southworth wasn't ready for the big time yet, and by July, the owner brought McKechnie back to St. Louis to finish the season. This time Breadon admitted his error and offered the Deacon a two year contract. In essence Bill said "thanks but no thanks" and signed a longer management contract with the Boston Braves.

Although Brother McKechnie's eight-year tenure in Boston did not bring any pennants to Braves Field, the manager received numerous positive marks for

doing as well as he could with what he had. The franchise tended to be both cash-strapped and talent-limited during those depression wracked years. At his best, the Deacon provided Beantown fans with three winning seasons and another break-even year. At his worst, the 1935 Braves team had one of the poorest seasons in National League history winning 38 and losing 115 (being just slightly worse than the 1961 New York Mets). It was his only managing job in the majors where his teams had an overall losing record, and many considered him a virtual miracle worker for doing as well as he did. In 1936, the new owner renamed the team the Boston Bees, but it did not bring about substantial improvement. Bill received Manager of the Year honors in 1937, just for bringing in a winning record (79-73) and a fifth place finish.

After the expiration of his last contract with the Boston Bees, Bill McKechnie received several managerial offers but accepted that of the Cincinnati Reds. The latter franchise had also endured hard times during the depression years, but some seeds of improvement had already been sown. Local business tycoon Brother Powell Crosley had bought the bankrupt club in 1933 and hired Brother Larry McPhail to run it. After finishing in the cellar for four consecutive years, the team had climbed to sixth and fifth in 1935 and 1936, but fell back to the bottom in 1937. They had a nucleus of a better team, however, with solid performers like Ernie Lombardi, Paul Derringer, Frank McCormick, and Ival Goodman. McKechnie induced Crosley to buy pitcher (and Brother) Bucky Walters from the Phillies in mid-season, and he went on to win eleven games for the Reds. Johnny VanderMeer pitched a pair of back-to-back

no-hitters in raising the Reds to fourth place, finishing only six games out of first. As Reds historian Lee Allen recalled, "Writers tabbed the Reds as the team of the future."

The future came to pass in 1939 and 1940. Walters and Derringer were at their peak winning a total of 50 games the first year and 42 in the second, while rookie, Junior Thompson, proved to be an able starter. Billy Werber held down third base while Lonnie Frey and Billy Myers patrolled the middle of the infield, and Harry Craft gave the Reds their best center fielder since Edd Roush. In 1940, McKechnie found a fourth able starter in veteran Jim Turner who had won twenty games as a thirty-four year old rookie in Boston for the Scotsman in 1937. The Yankees humiliated the Reds in the 1939 World Series, but in 1940, the boys from Cincinnati defeated Detroit in a seven game series and became the champions of baseball. Derringer and Walters won two games each in that series.

While the Reds were at their peak in those years, one might take note that Masonic influence was strong. Club owner Powell Crosley belonged to College Hill Lodge No. 641. In addition to manager McKechnie, coaches Hank Gowdy and Jimmy Wilson both held membership in the fraternity. Team members who were or eventually became Masons included Bucky Walters, Bill Werber, Billy Myers, and Junior Thompson.

The 1941 Reds fell to third place, and then World War II and the aging process took its toll on the squad. The team re-

mained in the first division through 1944, managing to finish a distant second in 1944. The next two years were even worse as the 1945 team dropped to seventh (61-93), and only the 1935 Braves lost more



Brother Bill McKechnie as Reds manager with club owner, Brother Powell Crosley.

games among McKechnie teams. The first postwar Red squad was only slightly better, and with the fans demanding a new manager, Bill was dropped. It didn't help; his successors did worse, and there was no winning home team at Crosley Field until 1956. Brother McKechnie's career in the national pastime continued as

a coach with the Cleveland Indians from 1947 until 1949 and with the Boston Red Sox in 1952 and 1953.

Thereafter, he retired to Bradenton, Florida, where the Pittsburgh Pirate spring training ballpark was named McKechnie Field in their former manager's honor. In 1962, as the only manager ever to win pennants for three separate franchises, Brother McKechnie was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. After his death on October 29, 1965, "due to complications caused by a lingering illness of leukemia and virus pneumonia," his services were held in the Trinity Methodist Church in Bradenton on November 1 with many baseball dignitaries in attendance. Burial took place in Manasota Memorial Park in Oneco, Florida. Election to the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame took place in 1967.

Brother Bill McKechnie was remembered as one of the best National League managers. His teams won four pennants and two World Series. All of the teams he managed had winning records except for the Boston Braves, and his work there was considered a tribute to what a good skipper can do with a weak team. According to the *Baseball Encyclopedia*, Bill McKechnie stood only five feet nine inches tall; his obituary in the Scottish Rite records quoted a long-time friend as saying he was "a humble but great man, a devoted husband, and an ardent believer in prayer." But as a man and as a Mason, he stood much taller.

Sir Knight Tribe is a professor of history at the university of Rio Grand in Ohio, a holder of the KCT, KYCH, and 33°. He has been a regular contributor to the *Knight Templar* magazine for many years and resides at 111 E. High Street, McArthur, OH 45651.

knight templar

Bibliography

Bill McKechnie lacks an adequate biographer, but much information may be gleaned from the histories of teams that he managed. Among the best are Brian Mulligan, *The 1940 Cincinnati Reds* (McFarland & Co., 2005) and Lee Allen, *The Cincinnati Reds* (Putnam, 1948). Others include Frederick Lieb's two classics, *The Pittsburgh Pirates* (Putnam, 1948); and *St. Louis Cardinals: The Story of a Great Baseball Club* (Putnam, 1944); and Harold Kaese, *The Boston Braves* (Putnam, 1948). For McKechnie's Masonic records, I am indebted to the staff at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and to the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, NMJ.

Thanks also to Sir Knight Roger E. VanDyke for his careful proofreading.

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The Early Templars

By

Sir Knight William P. Arney

In the January 2009 issue of *Knight Templar* magazine, Sir Knight Stephen Dafoe described the near-contemporary accounts of the founding of the original Order of Knights Templar and questioned the assertion of William of Tyre that, after nine years of existence, the Order fielded a mere nine knights. Sir Knight Dafoe went on to summarize the other near-contemporary accounts of Michael the Syrian, who uses a figure of thirty original knights, and Walter Map, who offers no specific number. All those medieval accounts are of highly questionable accuracy. Dafoe points out that none of those authors were present during the events they describe. The Templar archives of the East were lost when the Moslems took Cypress after the crusaders were expelled from the Holy Land.

The present article will follow up on Dafoe's work by examining a piece of primary source evidence: a truly contemporary document, the provenance and accuracy of which is beyond dispute – *The Original Latin Rule*, given to the Templars by the Council of Troyes in 1129. St. Bernard and the assembled noblemen and church officials of the council created the rule. It was widely copied and distributed, and though it was later modified, the original document is still available to us, undiluted. It does not describe the origins of the Order, but it does provide a window into the state of the Order nine years after its founding.

At the Council of Troyes, Hugh de Payen first described to the assembled nobles, bishops, and witnesses that the customs

under which he and his knights had lived up until then had been under the auspices of the Patriarch of Jerusalem. The patriarch was a Greek Orthodox official and the ranking Christian churchman in Jerusalem at the time. After Hugh's introduction, the Order was accepted and given its Rule. Some established customs were affirmed, some modified, and some rejected. But within the document are revealing clues regarding the state and customs of the Order at that time. For instance, it is commonly believed that the Templars were given their white robes and mantles by pronouncement of the Council of Troyes. William of Tyre is again the source, but the Latin Rule indicates otherwise.

Article 20 - *Servants not to have white clothes, that is cloaks*

*"We strongly condemn the practice that prevailed without discrimination in the house of God and of His knights of the Temple . . . Sergeants and squires were wearing white clothes, something that was extremely prejudicial to us, since there have appeared on the other side of the mountains some pseudo-brothers who are married, and others claiming to be of the Temple although they are in fact seculars . . ."*¹

This passage tells us a number of things. First, the wearing of white was an established custom *before* the Council of Troyes. Furthermore, white was being worn without discrimination within the Order. Sergeants, squires, temporary members, and married

brothers all seem to have been wearing white garments. This was very bothersome to the Council, and they corrected it in no uncertain terms. In future, white was to be worn only by the chaste.

The passage has a more esoteric message as well—a hidden clue, if you will. It tells us that there were, by 1129, sergeants, squires, temporary, and married members in the Order at the time—and all presumably wearing white. Hugh's mission to the West had a number of components, one of which was fundraising for the Temple. It is instructive that the fundraising tour of Hugh de Payen took place *before* the Council of Troyes. He could not have successfully done this without an established network already in place throughout Europe. This is pretty good circumstantial evidence that this was a large, organized, international organization by 1129.

Most of what we know about Hugh de Payen comes from this period during which he returned to the West. There are existing documents dated as early as 1126 recording donations to the Temple in Europe. Some of these may be connected to Hugh, Count of Champagne, joining the Order in 1125, but the earliest is Spanish. This would indicate that Hugh de Payen may have returned to Europe as early as that year or sent others ahead. The Council of Troyes opened in January of 1129, so Hugh may have been soliciting support in Europe for up to two years before that date. The last document placing him in the East is dated 1125, though this does not prove that he left immediately thereafter.

Article 53 – *No further acceptance of sisters*

"It is dangerous to add more sisters to the order because the ancient enemy knight templar

has expelled many men from the straight path of Paradise on account of their consorting with women.

*"Therefore, dearest brothers, in order that the flower of chastity should always be evident among you, it shall not be permissible henceforth to continue this custom."*²

That couldn't be plainer. By the time of the Council of Troyes, nine years after their formation, the Templars already had enough female members to send the council into fits. One wonders if they too had been wearing white. The injunction against *more* sisters perhaps indicates that the Council was not requiring that the existing sisters should be expelled.

Further investigation leads to the conclusion that the Order subsequently ignored the ban on women. In a practical sense, it would have been nearly impossible to exclude them. Women sometimes made direct donations such that they donated all their lands and possessions in exchange for becoming a dependent of the Templars and sharing the spiritual benefits of membership. The Templars were not inclined to refuse such donations. In one documented instance, the Templars not only ignored the ban on women, but also had a sister *commanding* at least one commandery in Spain as late as 1198—after the fall of Jerusalem to the Moslems.³

Article 52 – *How married brothers are to be treated*

"We allow you to receive married brothers on these conditions . . . they should each bequeath after death a portion of their wealth . . . However, they should not wear white robes nor white mantles. If a married man dies before his wife he should bequeath

his part to the brothers and his wife should have the other to sustain her . . .”⁴

We again note the proscription on wearing white by the unchaste. But the division of property mandated in Article 52 would prove to be very inconvenient. When the widow died, the property left to support her was lost to the Order. It was much more fiscally practical to take in both husband and wife, support the widow with proceeds of the property and then take all the property when she died. Moreover, any donated property was likely to contain milk maids or other female serfs. The land could not be worked without them. There is ample evidence that the Order ignored Article 52, but it does establish that married men were members of the Temple in 1129.

So we can conclude that the Order had knights, squires, temporary brothers, married brothers, and women, as members in communities all over Europe by 1129, when William of Tyre would have us believe there were only nine knights.

¹ Barber, Malcolm, and Keith Bate, *The Templars*, Manchester University Press, Manchester and New York, 2002, pp. 40, 41.

² Ibid. p. 49

³ Tommasi, 'Uomine e donne gegli ordini militari', 201-202, with commentary at pp. 200-1, quoted by Nicholson, Helen, *The Knights Templar*, Sutton Publishing Ltd., Gloucestershire, 2001, p.132. In email correspondence, Prof. Alan Forey suggests that a preceptrix would not have held authority over knights or other male members, but most likely governed a satellite house of sisters.

⁴ Barber, *The Templars*, Ibid. pp. 48-49.

Sir Knight William Arney is an architect and amateur historian living in San Francisco, California. He is a Past Commander of California Commandery No. 1, and is the seated (and Past) Master of California Lodge No. 1. He lives in the apartment where Dashiell Hammett wrote *The Maltese Falcon*, and where the detective, Sam Spade, lives in the novel. He can be contacted at: widowson1@juno.com.

Solution to Cryptic Puzzle on Page 12 of April Issue

1	D	2	E	3	J	E	4	C	5	T	I	6	O	N	7	H
8	O	D	O	R	E	H	A	M	M	O						
	C	10	P	H	I	L	I	P	I	V	L					
11	T	E	N	T	12	S	E	N	T	R	Y					
13	R	E	14	L	I	E	F	15	O	16	P	A	L			
	I	17	D	O	O	R	18	S	T	O	P	A				
19	N	I	L	E	U	H	20	F	E	R	N					
	E	21	C	L	E	M	E	N	T	V	D					

ACROSS

- EJECTION anagram
- ODOR anagram
- AM+M(odus) O(perandi)
- PH+I+LIP+IV
- TEN+T
- SENTRY homophone for CENTURY-U
- RELIEF = (p)ILFERE(r) anagram
- OPAL anagram
- DOORSTOP anagram
- NILE anagram
- FERN homophone for FURN(ace)
- L>CEMENT+V(ictory)

DOWN

- DOC+TRINE
- JOHN
- CEL homophone
- THIEF anagram
- OM+I.T.
- HOLY LAND spoonerism
- SERUM homophone
- LOLL acrostic
- POE+T &Lit!
- SHE anagram

The author is a Knight Templar and 32° Scottish Rite Mason who follows Cryptic Crossword tradition by setting puzzles under a crutonym, 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.



Beauceant News



Shreveport Assembly No. 60 supports three charities; The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Shrine Hospital Transportation Fund, and "Toys for Tots" at Christmas. Each year, the firemen from Fire Station #7 come to collect the toys. They always eat with the members of the Assembly, and their favorite meal is Jambalaya.

Pictured L–R front row: Mrs. J.T. Rosson, Mrs. Roy May, Mrs. Dwight Brown, Mrs. Larry Ledbetter, Mrs. Jack Giles, Geneva Mae Dolph, Mrs. Charles England, and Mrs. Manfred Johnscher. Back row: Aaron Naquin, Jerry Moore, Captain Brian Barker, Chris Brown, Captain Mack Huddleston, and (Mrs. Pat) Chloe Dickson, Worthy President.



The members of Warren Assembly No. 77 of Warren, OH, have cooked many meals over the past few years; Installation and Inspection dinners for Warren Commandery No. 39 and Niles Commandery No. 79 and light suppers the first Tuesday of every winter month for one of the Blue Lodges.

Pictured is the Warren Commandery Inspection Dinner on February 21, 2009, when Richard M. Holcombe, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Ohio, attended.

Front row (sitting – left to right): Mrs. D. Joseph Moore; Richard M. Holcombe, REGC; Mrs. Jared Murphy, Assistant marshal; and Mrs. Ruth Liddle, Worthy President of Warren Assembly.

Second row: Mrs. John Vargo, First VP; Mrs. Clarence Culver, Past President 1982, 1986, 1990, 1995; Mrs. Robert Baker, Inner Guard; Mrs. Frank T. England, Color Bearer; Mrs. Perry Coxson, Daughter of the Household; Mrs. Lou Ann Kilgore, Cook; Mrs. Alan Burton, Outer Guard; and Mrs. Richard H. Palm, Recorder.

Third row: Mrs. Bruce McDowell, Oracle; Mrs. Thomas Weller, Chaplain; Mrs. Richard Antill, prospective member; Mrs. Lloyd Carmichael, Standard Bearer; Mrs. George Edmisten, new member; Mrs. Edward Scott, Pre-press; Mrs. Richard Goddard; and Mrs. David Hyde, Marshal.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight John L. Palmer

A review of *The Templars The Secret History Revealed* by Barbara Frale
hardback: 232 pages
Publisher: Arcade Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-55970-889-0

Dr. Barbara Frale is the Vatican secret archives historian who wrote the historical notes that comprise the only English part of the Vatican “Chinon Parchment” document package. In this book, she describes the rediscovery of the parchment when she was doing research in the archives. She then proceeds to deliver an exciting and fairly comprehensive, although concise, history of the Templar order. She definitely looks at historical events in a way that I had not previously considered.

This is a serious, historical documentary, well written, and easily understood even by those who may not have been previously exposed to Templar history. It is a great reference book and is well footnoted.

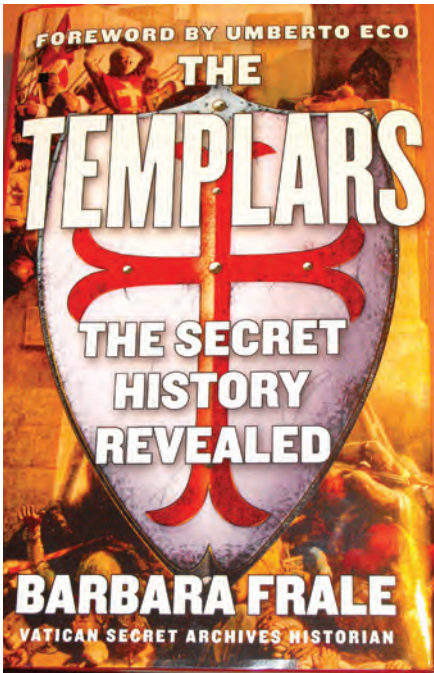
At first, I suspected that this book might be a “propaganda” piece seeking to improve the image of the Vatican’s role in the Templar trials, since their recent exposure in the popular fiction world has not been particularly positive, but I soon discovered that she has done an excellent job of being impartial about the whole matter; something that the conspiracy theorists and even us Free-

masons seem to have a hard time doing.

She focuses on the reasons for everything she relates beginning with the crucifixion of Christ, the construction of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the spread of Christianity into Europe, and the motivations for the crusades. It is in this context that she unfolds the story of the order that has incorporated one of the most mysterious and revered bodies of men in the history of western civilization. She details their involvement in each crusade and their dealings with the aristocracy, the religious hierarchy, and their enemies. Finally, she expands on her historical notes and presents a detailed, step-by-step account of what happened from the time that the Templars were defeated in Acre until the day that DeMolay was burned at the stake.

If you know nothing of the Templars, this book will bring you up to speed. If you are like me and have read so many books on the subject that you are thoroughly confused, this book will help clear things up for you. Even if you are bored with history, this book will not put you to sleep.

I look forward to the next book which she must inevitably write.



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>.

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*Don't forget to
spend some time
this summer just
enjoying God's
great gift of
nature.*