



Knight Templar

VOLUME IV

JUNE 2009

NUMBER 6

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Knight Templar

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

Magazine materials and correspondence to the editor should be sent in electronic form to the managing editor whose contact information is shown above.

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

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A Message from the Grand Master of The Order of DeMolay

C. Michael Watson



Do you know what “leaven” is? No, it’s not what comes after ten and before twelve! It’s a substance or material such as baking powder or yeast, that when mixed with other ingredients, creates a gas. The gas in turn, lightens the batter or dough causing bread to rise as it’s being baked. What would our bakery products be without this substance?

Just as the appearance of leaven would seemingly have little effect on dough but produces amazing results, so it would appear that the influence of a few good men would be of little or no consequence in today’s world.

The Marine Corps has a recruiting slogan, “Looking For A Few Good Men”. They are proud of their rich heritage and the fact that they are the smallest in number of any branch of our armed forces. And maybe you too, could be “One of the Few ... the Proud” by enlisting.

Freemasons, the “few good men” in our nation and around the world, applying the symbolic tools of the Mason’s trade, can be the men of good character who respond to the challenges of today’s society. They can allow the influence of their lives to become the redeeming factor that impacts human society to bring about positive change like leaven in dough which produces amazing results.

Just as that dough rises, let’s “rise” to the occasion and demonstrate to the world that we Masons, “the Few ... the Proud,” possess the strength of character that is necessary to influence positive change in the moral direction of our society.

You have an incredible opportunity to be a positive influence on young men who represent our future. Your Commandery can sponsor a DeMolay Chapter, or you can become a DeMolay chapter advisor and be a redeeming and stabilizing influence in the lives of good young men. As leaven produces such a significant result, you can be like leaven by making a difference in a young man’s life.

Will you “rise” to the occasion?

The National D-Day Memorial Tour Bedford, Virginia

The National D-day Memorial opened in 2001 appropriately in Bedford, Virginia. Bedford lost more of its native sons on a per capita basis than any other community in America. The Bedford Boys, 19 brave men, all of Company A gave the last full measure at Omaha Beach on June 14, 1944. The memorial is a testimony to them and all those who lost their lives on D-Day.

On Sunday, August 16, 2009, a Tour is planned to visit the National D-day Memorial located 30 minutes from Roanoke. Buses will leave at 1:30PM, and will return to the Hotel Roanoke before 3:30 PM. Cost for the trip is \$25.00 per person, and a light lunch will be provided.

Mail your reservations along with your check to: Eva Longworth
502 Wentworth Ave. NE
Roanoke, VA 24012-3545



Photo copyrighted by MaxFX

ATTENTION “Crafty” LADIES (or Sir Knights)

In her travels across the country, Lady Elizabeth Koon, wife of our Grand Master, has been asking talented ladies to donate examples of their handiworks to be sold in the hospitality room in August at the Triennial in Roanoke. Proceeds from the sale of these items will be donated to the **Knights Templar Eye Foundation**.

If you can be of assistance in this worthwhile project, please send your handiworks to:

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Roanoke, VA 24012-3545

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Come! Join in the Hospitality! The Southern Breakfast is back! On Monday, August 17, 2009, at 7:30 AM, the Southern Breakfast will begin with Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Breakfast Potatoes, and all the trimmings, not to mention good ole Southern Hospitality! Gather together for good fellowship, good food, and a great start to your Grand Encampment day....and....all this for only \$25.00 per person!

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by
Robert Cave
Right Eminent Grand Prelate
of the
Grand Encampment

Prelate's Chapel

It is surprising how the teachings of Templary jump out at us at unexpected times and places. A few months ago, I was taking physical therapy for my broken ankle and working out on a “Semi Recumbent Cycle” (stationary bicycle). The time of the exercise was set for ten minutes and was being reduced one second at a time until the ten minutes of peddling was completed. It was a boring exercise and my mind was wandering. But after a while my mind became fixed on the seconds ticking off on the machine, and I thought of my life ticking off in second increments and that my life too would end as would the exercise.

My musings then went to the Prelate’s Address in the Order of the Temple where we are reminded that “although you now stand erect in all the pride and strength of manhood, yet in a few brief moments you may be cold in death.” The truth of this and the rest of the paragraph in the ritual is not only possible but sobering. If the ritual ended here we would be left with negative thoughts about the Order and depressed beyond words.

But thankfully, Templary is founded on the Christian religion for as the Prelate continues with his address, he reminds the pilgrim that even though in the midst of life we are in death; we can turn to God, and the answer we receive from God is life. We are reminded that a firm faith in the truth and a childlike trust in our Savior will not only afford consolation at the end of life but eternal happiness in the world to come. What a powerful affirmation of Christian teachings. (To get the full effect and beauty of this passage it is necessary to read it in its entirety. I have paraphrased it here to protect the integrity of the Order.)

Sir Knights, we are blessed that we belong to this Christian body which continuously sheds light on our pilgrimage in life. The teachings of Templary are applicable to our experiences when we sometimes least expect it.

Again, we invite Sir Knights to submit their thoughts on the relationship between Templary and Christianity. Please send articles to Rev. Robert J. Cave, 137 Glen Drive, Ridge, New York 11961 or email to Jobrjcave@aol.com.

Knighly News

Whitefish, Montana All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Well-Wishers Greet The Return Of Their Rector From His Ten-Day Holy Land Pilgrimage.

The annual pilgrimage is sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar headquartered in Houston, Texas and the state Grand Commandery.

From the humble beginning in 1977, through February 2006, a total of 1,569 Christian Ministers, nation-wide, have been sent to the Holy Land as guests of the Knights Templar.

The Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Trip is a strenuous educational and spiritual study seminar, historical and cultural immersion experience, and not a vacation trip. The Templars, an appendant Masonic body, seek to send ordained Christian ministers, Masonic


membership not required, who would not otherwise have the opportunity to go to the Holy Land.

Father Bradley said, "It was an extraordinary experience to see places which have been the venues for events that have changed the world from the perspective of three great religions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. As a Christian, to be on ground walked upon by Jesus was life changing and undoubtedly will enrich and inform my ministry immensely. It was a dream come true to be a part of this pilgrimage, and I will be forever grateful to the Knights Templar for making it all possible."



The Rev. Canon Bradley S. Wirth is greeted by All Saints members, and the Montana Grand Commander of Knights Templar, Phil Blaisdell.

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Phillip Alan Tilson
Maryland
Grand Commander 2003
Born: March 21, 1930
Died: January 17, 2009

Sam E. Hilburn
Texas
Grand Commander 1975
Born: June 15, 1921
Died: April 12, 2009

Lee David Holcomb
Georgia
Grand Commander 1991
Born: August 26, 1923
Died: April 21, 2009

knight templar



- 718 Paul W. Friend
Angola Commandery No. 45
Angola, IN 23-Mar-2009
4 Bronze Clusters
- 719-720 Gary W. M. Davis
Watauga Commandery No. 25
Johnson City, TN 26-Mar-2009
Orig & 1 Bronze Cluster
- 721 Joseph Dryer, Jr.
Cumberland Commandery No. 26
Cookeville, TN 26-Mar-2009
- 722 Kenneth W. Matheny
Cumberland Commandery No. 26
Cookeville, TN 26-Mar-2009
- 723 Charles L. Welch
Jackson Commandery No. 13
Jackson, TN 30-Mar-2009
- 724 Von Lewis
St. Omer Commandery No. 19
Bristol, TN 6-Apr-2009
- 725-726 Ricky G. Stanley
Fort Bend Commandery No. 74
Rosenberg, TX 9-Apr-2009
Orig & 1 Bronze Cluster
- 727 Bernard S. Golubiewski
Dieu Le Veut Commandery No. 45
Wilkes-Barre, PA 14-Apr-2009

A Chat With The Managing Editor

Well Spring has sprung, and with any luck, as you read this, I will be attending the international conference on the history of Freemasonry, so don't call me until after the first week in June. I am hoping to land some really smart people to write some articles for our reading pleasure and edification. If I can get enough of them lined up, maybe I can really go fishing some time.

I'm beginning to see a lot of news concerning a connection between the Knights Templar and the shroud of Turin. I will try to get some of it into future issues.

As we prepare to attend our Triennial in Roanoke this August, I thought it might be interesting to take another look back at Triennials of the past. See Sir Knight Benesch's article on Page 29.

I am fortunate to have been able to attend the Grand Encampment Easter sunrise service in Alexandria, Virginia this year. See photos of the events of the weekend beginning on page 24. My friend, Sir Knight Mark Tabbert, had an interesting suggestion. He wondered if the Sir Knights might be interested in conducting a prayer vigil in the Templar Chapel on the eighth level of the George Washington Masonic Memorial next year. We could have Sir Knights in prayer in thirty minute shifts from sundown on Good Friday until sunrise on Easter Sunday morning. If your Commandery or Grand Commandery would be interested in participating, send me an e-mail. We will see if there is enough interest to put such an activity together. I believe it would take around one hundred volunteer knights to staff of all aspects of such a vigil.

I have just been informed that Sir Knight Sam E. Hilburn, Honorary Past Grand Master and Past Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment, has just passed away. We will publish an appropriate obituary in the next issue.



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John L. Palmer
Managing Editor



The image above of a calling card from the Triennial Conclave of 1880 in Chicago was sent to us by Sir Knight Robert C. Hazelton, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Maine.



Letters to the Editor



Mr. Palmer,

I am contacting you concerning the *Templar News* article reprinted from *The Buffalo News* in the February *Knight Templar* magazine. In the article, it states that "...because the Catholic Church historically has opposed Freemasonry and has banned Catholics from joining lodges." This is a serious error! Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Pope lifted the ban on Catholic men becoming Freemasons in May of 1983, and to my knowledge it has never been reinstated. In fact, I checked with the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and they informed me that the ban is still lifted.

I am Catholic and received my MM in the spring of 1983. The day after the evening I had my exam at lodge, I came home from work and turned on the news. I remember it was the last news item for the evening from Frank Reynolds at ABC News. He said that the Pope lifted the ban on Catholic men becoming Freemasons. Not 15 minutes later, my devout Catholic in-laws stopped at our home. My father-in-law noticed my Masonic ring whereon I informed him that it was now OK to be a Mason. Whew, that was close!

Please make the appropriate correction in your next issue or as soon as possible. There has been a ton of misinformation flying around on the Internet. A few years ago, someone claiming to have the true knowledge claimed that the ban was never lifted. This is incorrect, and I am frankly

knight templar

disappointed that Mr. Tokasz, the original writer for the *Buffalo News*, didn't check his facts. It is a shame to taint an otherwise fascinating article about the Knights Templar as they have been, in theory, linked to the forming of the Freemasons which emerged as the Grand Lodge of England in 1726. Catholic Freemasons may second guess their decision based on misinformation. The record must be set straight although I don't expect the newspaper to do it.

Respectfully and Fraternally,

Tom Lang
Past Master
Damascus Lodge #290 F & AM
Milwaukee, WI

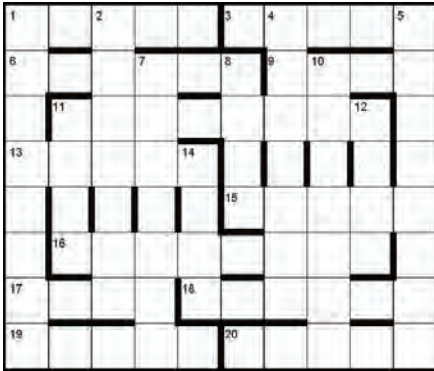
Tom,

Thanks for your input. The article was sent to us from one of our Grand Commanderies to be published as a news story. We always obtain permission from the original publications such as newspapers or magazines before we re-print copyrighted material. It is not appropriate for us to substantially change the content of that material and still to acknowledge the copyright, so we generally simply publish it as we receive it. We are certainly all about truth, and your letter will perhaps trigger another interesting topic for discussion in our magazine.

The Ed.

CRYPTIC (Freemason) PUZZLE
by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue



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ACROSS

1. Pen's inferior to eupemized swear-word (5)
3. Big boomer is a bust (1-4)
6. A Jewish teacher, average, lost better than average numerals (6)
9. Overdose or fumes (4)
11. Knight Templar milieu on the outskirts of crushing parades (8)
13. Knight's isle grows beer ingredient rated tops (5)
15. Past-tense of fill? Sounds like bad language (5)
16. Australians send Chai mixtures (8)
17. If Ness wasn't Scottish, he might be Veronica (4)
18. Court session as S, M or L (6)
19. Bagpipes' wail almost sounds like a squirrel (5)
20. Limb or metal, to Templars (5)

DOWN

1. Observed pepper grinders and lumber makers (8)
2. Paddle a hair on the edge of a bark (7)
4. Skin Dobbin partway back mostly with a dagger (7)
5. Confederate headed North to get right and more light (8)
7. Mutilate a song, but Sonny's partner (7)
8. Soft leather behind the shin (4)
10. Speak to relinquish mine (7)
11. Canadian domain based on ferrous Quebec coffee (4)
12. Tennis matches done in the West (4)
14. The East begins, as I assume (4)

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>.

More About Clement

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

by
Sir Knight John L. Palmer, KCT
Managing Editor

In the last issue, we left Clement just as he had been installed as Pope in France. It is interesting to note that Clement had appointed ten Cardinals, some of whom were his relatives and that all ten resigned because they thought he was being too diplomatic with the King. Appeasement wasn't working with Philip.

On another front, the Pope wanted to discuss with the Grand Masters of his military Orders the plans for another crusade. There had actually been two types of crusades; the general crusade consisting of a large army of untrained, undisciplined, and uncoordinated troops launched for the purpose of taking back the Holy Land in general and the "particular" crusade where a smaller group of highly trained professional troops targeted specific smaller objectives. Probably because of the Templar's recent experience in Acre, DeMolay favored the large, all-out offensive of a general crusade.

Clement called a meeting for November 1, 1306, but the meeting was delayed because he was overcome by an acute gastro-intestinal ailment. One cannot help but wonder if he suspected that he too was being poisoned, and who knows, perhaps he was.

After his arrival in France, DeMolay asked the Pope to investigate and ex-

onerate the Order from the rumors of heresy presumably being proliferated by the King. The Pope wrote to the King in August 1307 agreeing to initiate an investigation but ordering Philip to take no further action until October 14th at which time the Pope was scheduled to have completed his treatment for his stomach ailment. Giving the King a specific date turned out to be a bad mistake.

On Friday, October 13, 1307, one day before the Pope was to initiate his investigation; Philip captured, charged, "interrogated", and convicted the Order so that he could hand the entire matter over to the Pope fully completed for his ratification. To the credit of the Pope, he responded in an entirely different fashion by refusing to accept the verdict, declaring the arrests illegal, ordering the release of the Templars, and declaring that the King's actions were an affront to the authority of the Church.

Of course Philip did not release the Templars, and on October 25th, DeMolay and other leaders, after continuing torture, finally confessed to denying Christ and spitting on the cross. Philip then incited a large crowd to demand the conviction and punishment of the Templars.

On October 27th, Clement declared the King to be blatantly in contempt of the Church, but feeling the public pres-

sure, issued an arrest warrant for the Templars throughout the rest of Europe in an attempt to get control of the proceedings and presumably to get to the truth before he had to sacrifice the entire Order. It is possible that he still held out hope that the Templars would be exonerated by his investigation if he could just wrestle the initiative away from the King.

Philip had published a forged confession from DeMolay under a stolen seal in order to get more of the Templars to confess. On December 12th, Clement sent two Cardinals for the second time to question DeMolay, and they finally managed to get him alone where in private he retracted his confession which he said was the result of torture. On hearing this report, in February of 1308, Clement censured the inquisitors, suspended all proceedings against the Templars, and went to Poitiers in another attempt to regain control of the situation.

Clement demanded that the King send him DeMolay so that the Pope could question him personally, but as I related earlier, the caravan was divided in route, and DeMolay and other leaders were diverted to Chinon while 72 prisoners, no doubt hand-picked by Philip's henchmen, were delivered to the Pope for questioning. These seventy-two prisoners appeared before the Pope on June 27, 1308.

In the mean-time, Philip sent French troops to seal off the town of Poitiers, and the Pope became, in effect, the prisoner of the King. Remember that the Pope's only military force had just been arrested by his own orders. So much for the security and safety of France. In the meantime, at Chinon, DeMolay and the other leaders were again subjected to sufficient torture

that they retracted their retractions.

Still trying to gain control of the situation by taking the initiative, Clement set in place two different judiciary bodies; one to try the Order and the other to try individual Templars. He again demanded that DeMolay be turned over to him, personally for questioning. Failing this, he dispatched three Cardinals, Berenger Fredol, Etinne de Suisy, and Landolfo Brancacci to Chinon who conducted two sessions of hearings, the first from June 28th until July 21th, 1308 and another from August 17th through August 20th, 1308. The second of these produced the now famous Chinon Parchment which triggered this analysis in the first place. This document relates "The testing of the Grand Master and leading dignitaries and the absolution granted to the same." We will examine the exact contents of this document more thoroughly in future articles, but for now, we will have to continue the analysis of Clement's involvement in the next issue.

To be continued next month.

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Ark of the Covenant
Past High Priest



Order of the
Silver Trowel

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.



Knight

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<http://knightstemplar.org/knightvoices/>

■ **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.*

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California Gold Cookbook Sales Discontinued

For the last four years, the ladies of the Grand Commandery of California, through the leadership of Mrs. Helen McDaniel, wife of Sir Knight and PGC Dan McDaniel, have offered for sale a recipe book made up of recipes collected from the ladies and Sir Knights of the Commanderies of California. This book has gone through four printings for a total of a few more than 1,800 books resulting in net contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation of just over \$36,000. We want to extend our sincere thanks to those of you who purchased the book and for your kind comments that accompanied your order letters. This project, in addition to being a learning experience in how to publish a cookbook, has been a labor of love. Thank you again for your support without which this project would not have been possible.

Voices

■ **WANTED to BUY:** Daggers, swords and any other military items—U.S., German or others. American Flyer, Lionel or Marx trains or train sets (in any condition). Civil War articles, including, money, stamps (Confederate or Union), and pre-1924 US stamps, German or German (Axis) WW II stamps. Retired Sir Knight Tim Rickheim, 14761 Tunnicliffe Road, Petersburg, MI. 49270-9716/ email: vonRueckheim@hotmail.com or call collect (734)854-3021— I will answer ALL inquires—THANK YOU !!

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.

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>.

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.





Photo to the left is copyrighted by André Klaassen . Photo above is copyrighted by David V.

**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.



Milford Commandery sells *A Song in Stone* benefiting KTEF

A Song in Stone by Walter H. Hunt is a great read about a modern day young man visiting Rosslyn Chapel when he suddenly finds himself in the thirteenth century working his way to becoming a Templar. He knows that the Templars face dissolution and death at the hands of the French King and the Pope. He even meets the Grand Master, Jacques DeMolay but can do nothing to change history. The end is amazing, but you will have to read that yourself. For your hard copy edition, signed by the author, send \$25.00 (postpaid) to Milford Commandery No. 11, PO Box 321 Ashland, MA 01721-0321. All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

**Solution to Cryptic Puzzle on Page 12
of May Issue**

DOWN

1. W(est)+AND+S(outh)
2. FLY dbl.def. (zipper)
3. FLOES homophone
4. VETS dbl.def.
6. MAG+I
7. LEVEL dbl.def.
9. TEAM anagram
10. ALMS = S(mall) + M(edium) + A(nd) + L(arge) anagram
12. IRIS+H
13. BUGGY dbl.def.
14. (sec)RET RO(ute)
15. YARN anagram
17. POOR homophone
19. FE+Z

1	W	2	F	3	F	4	V	5	T	6	E	7	M	8	P	9	L	10	E
8	A	L	L	E	V	I	A	T	E	S									
	N	Y	O	T	9	T	10	A	G	A	V	E							
11	D	12	I	E	S	E	L	I	13	B	E	14	R						
	S	R	S	15	Y	A	M	17	P	U	L	E							
16	H	I	R	A	M	S	O	G	18	F	T								
20	A	S	T	R	O	L	O	G	E	R									
21	P	H	O	N	E	S	R	Y	Z	O									

ACROSS

5. TEMPLE dbl.def.
8. LEVI<A+LATE+S(ervice)
10. AG+AVE
11. DIESEL anagram
16. U<AMPLE
18. HI+RAM
20. ASTROLOGER anagram
21. P+HONES

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>.

What's in the Package?

By

Sir Knight David E. Stafford

Like so many of you, I am an E-bay junkie. I spend hours on my home computer electronically rumbling through thousands of items until I find that one collectable I cannot live without. I usually have these precious treasures shipped to my office. Why do I have them shipped to the office instead of to my home? Well, the answer is simple. I don't want my wife to know on what precious Masonic item I spent our grocery money. Last week, the two-volume edition of Blanchard's *Scotch Masonry* arrived at school. The ladies in my office are always excited about my boxes. They find it exciting to learn what unusual item Dr. Stafford has bought now. There is an element of excitement in the unknown contents of the boxes that arrive in the post. The ladies carried the box of books into my office, and stood in front of my desk waiting for me to open it . . . Is it another pair of double-headed eagle candlestick holders, is it more books, is it another funny plumed hat? I opened the box to reveal the books. Books are never as exciting to them as glass, knick-knacks, ties, tuxes, robes, lithographs, and the other countless items that occasionally arrive, but the excitement was still there.

As I sat at my desk flipping through the pages of my new treasure, I began to reflect on the ladies repeated excitement about my mail. In my mind it began to take the form of a Masonic allegory. The packages are not unlike Freemasonry. The world just like the ladies

cannot see what is inside, but they have an insatiable curiosity. What it holds is a puzzle, and those who do not know its secrets have a desire to know for sure what Masonry hides. My packages always have an obvious exterior which clearly shows to whom and from whom it was sent, but there is never an indication from its exterior as to what item is contained therein. Freemasonry does the same. We have an outward appearance, we are a charitable institution that seeks to take good men and make them better, but the spiritual and philosophical secrets we teach are never revealed to the outside world.

A long shot? Well, it may not make any sense to you, but it made me begin to think about Freemasonry's exoteric and esoteric teachings. I suppose the best place to begin with this discussion is to look at the definitions of exoteric and esoteric. Webster's Dictionary gives three definitions for the word exoteric: "1.a. suitable to be imparted to the public <the exoteric doctrine> 1.b. belonging to the outer or less initiate circle. 2. relating to the outside. For esoteric, Webster's has the following: 1.a. designed for or understood by the specially initiated alone. 1.b. requiring or exhibiting knowledge that is restricted to a small group, difficult to understand. 2.a. limited to a small circle. 2.b. private or confidential. 3. of special, rare, or unusual interest." Now, how do these definitions apply to Masonry?

I propose that there are two basic ap-

plications of the terms exoteric and esoteric to Freemasonry. The first involves the ritual and the second involves those who practice those rituals. The rituals of Freemasonry generally have two interpretations; one that is obvious and superficial (exoteric) and another that is deeper and hidden within the text and symbols of the ritual (esoteric). In ancient times symbols were used to conceal teachings and knowledge; whereas, in today's society we are accustomed to the use of symbols to proclaim the obvious. In previous times, symbols were used by groups, fraternities, and cults to disguise teachings. To the uninitiated a symbol would have superficial meaning, but to the initiated, the same symbol would remind them of mystic or esoteric teaching.

The esoteric teachings of Freemasonry are personal and individual. It is up to each Mason to decipher the hidden meanings for himself. The idea is to surround yourself with well-informed brethren to help guide your path to realization within the Craft. The problem arises when you realize that there are few brethren who are interested in the more esoteric elements of Masonry. This brings us to the next way in which esoteric and exoteric refers to Masonry.

It has been stated that there are two types of Masons, non-reading Masons (exoteric) and reading Masons (esoteric). In the May 1885 edition of *The International Standard* appears a review of a book entitled *Freemasonry from the Great Pyramid of Ancient Times* by Tho. Holland. In this review the following may be found, "An exoteric Mason is one of whom the apostle says, 'They are not all Israel that are of Israel,' but occupy the outer courts, and probably many will never enter

the holy of holies" (p. 169). In contrast, the same article describes an esoteric Masons as "a deep student of all the (Masonic) mysteries, and especially of those that are divine." An exoteric Mason is a man who is satisfied with the superficial, basic understanding of the meanings within the lessons of the Craft. They are the Masons who have no greater ambition than flipping pancakes and supporting high school scholarships (all well in good in their place). Mackey in his article *Reading Masons and Masons who do not Read* states, "there are more Masons who are ignorant of all the principles of Freemasonry than there are men of any other class who are chargeable with the like ignorance of their own profession." Many of these exoteric or non-reading brethren petitioned the lodge looking for economic, political, and professional advancement. Many of them found it; however, that is far from a noble reason to unite with the Royal Order. I do not say this to offend any of my brethren. Those of you reading this edition of *Knight Templar* magazine are most likely reading Masons.

In opposition to an exoteric Mason is an esoteric Mason. An esoteric Mason is a brother who has a zeal for knowledge and higher thought. These are those men who petition the Craft in search of greater knowledge and understanding of the world about them. They surround themselves with well informed brethren and engage in edification through reading, debate, and in-depth study of the Craft's rituals. They seek out the rituals of other Masonic systems and compare them to gain more light. They study the rituals of Freemasonry in the contexts of time, religion, politics, philosophy, soci-

ology, and human progress. They apply their spirituality and question their own basic beliefs in the journey for a greater understanding of themselves and the mystic bond. An esoteric Mason is a man of the enlightenment in modern times.

It is not to be assumed that one Mason is better than the other. In order for the fraternity to be all that it can be, it is essential for lodges to have a balance between exoteric and esoteric Masons. A lodge made up completely of exoteric Masons quickly loses its status as a secret society and holder of great secrets and becomes little more than a Rotary, Lions, or Kiwanis Club. A lodge made up entirely of sole minded esoteric Masons could rapidly become uncharitable, indulgent, and elitist. There is one thing that I have learned; it is taught over and over within both the lodge and church; this is moderation or balance. In order for the lodge or any organization to have success there must be a balance. Freemasonry is no different.

Sir Knight David E. Stafford, 32° is a member of Nashville Commandery No. 1, Nashville, Tennessee. He holds an earned doctorate in education from Tennessee State University and serves as a school administrator for the Sumner County Board of Education. He is a past master and the current secretary of Bethpage Lodge No. 521. He may be reached at david.stafford@sumnerschools.org.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com>

The International Standard issue containing the book review (pp. 168 & 169) may be found at <http://books.google.com/books?id=JRYAAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover>

Albert Mackey's "Reading Masons and Masons who do not Read" was first published in 1875 in *The Master Mason*. It is available on-line at:

<http://www.mn-masons.org/assets/3536.pdf>

knight templar

Templar And York Rite Pocket Crests Available

From Mt. Moriah Commandery No. 4.

These crests are the bullion embroidered style. They are designed as pocket crests. The York Rite crests are 3 inches and the Knights Templar crests are 2 inches. They are absolutely beautiful on the Chapter red jacket, or the Council grape jacket. The crests are \$35.00 each plus S&H. Insurance extra on request. Send check or money order to Sir Knight Thomas Morrissey, 5340 LaSalle, Lincoln, NE 68516. All proceeds go to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.



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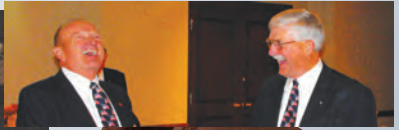
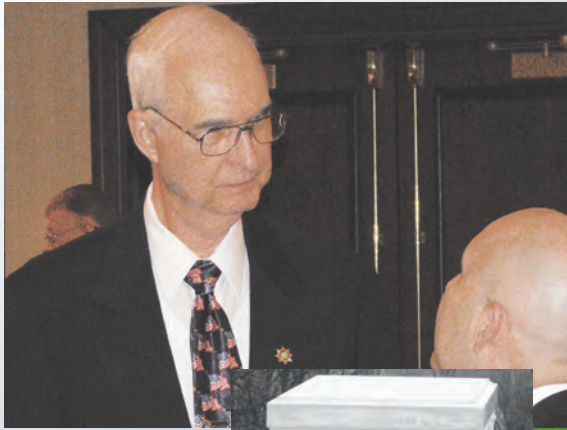
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Easter 2009



WHEN TEMPLARY WAS ON PARADE

By

Sir Knight Walter P. Benesch

There was a time in the history of the Grand Encampment when Knight Templars went all out during the Triennial Conclaves. Many a post card was created celebrating the various Triennials and showing some of the activities associated with the conclaves. A few of these post-cards came to me as President of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club from two club members from England back in 2002 in gratitude for receiving the Degree of Philately.



But first a quick review of some history of the Grand Encampment. This will help us understand the history and development of the Conclaves which issued these early post cards.

The Grand Encampment in the United States was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 19, 1797, the subordinate Encampments being under the Grand Lodge

of Pennsylvania. On February 16, 1814, delegates from Encampments in New York, Maryland, and Delaware reconstructed a second Grand Encampment. On May 6, 1805, in Providence, Rhode Island, a convention of two Encampments and a Council of the Red Cross was held. The next year this latter body formed the "Grand Encampment" and adopted the name "United States Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders." On June 21, 1816, eight bodies met in New York and emerged with the title "General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders for the United States of America." An attempt was made to combine the two groups without success for many years. On September 15, 1856 a new constitution was adopted and changed the name to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America which is the current name. It was decided that the Grand Encampment would have Triennial Conclaves, a tradition which continues today.

By the end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the knight templar



1900s, Templary was approaching its zenith in terms of numbers and national recognition. Triennial Conclaves and even state Annual Conclaves were becoming major events. Many issued special post cards picturing the occasions. The post cards, besides being collector items, indicate the growing influence and wealth of the Commanderies and the Grand Encampment.

By the turn of the 20th Century, the annual conclaves of specific Grand Commanderies were producing their own post cards. The post card shown here was from the 53rd Annual Conclave for the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania which was held in Pittsburg, May 21st through 23st, 1906. It shows two Sir Knights at sword salute with a jewel between them. What is most interesting is that the card was designed, produced, and issued by the United Cigar Stores Company which at that time was a major tobacco supplier. This then served two purposes, as a commemorative post card of the Annual Conclave and as a major advertisement for the United Cigar Stores. The implication is that the Knight Templars and their conclaves were now becoming more popular and well attended and that private companies were sponsoring some of



the post cards and other activities of the Conclaves.

The earliest of the Triennial post cards in the collection is this card celebrating the 9th Triennial in Denver during the summer of 1892. The artist was Robert D. Hall of Canon City Commandery in Colorado. It appears that Sir Knight Hall made these cards while he was attending the Triennial meeting in Denver. He delivered them to Most Eminent Grand Master Hugh McCurdy from Michigan. From the design, we can deduce that the old triangular apron with the skull and cross bones was still in use. Also, note the faint mountains in the background representing the Colorado Rockies which served as a backdrop to the Triennial.

Welcome to State Street, but of Albany, New York, not Chicago, Illinois. This is a post card of the New York Annual Conclave held on September 4, 1906. Note the size of the parade. Although there may be ONLY several hundred Knight Templars in the parade, when combined with the spectators along the parade route, the total number was likely in the thousands. You can see the spacing between the various Commanderies of Sir Knights as they march down the street.

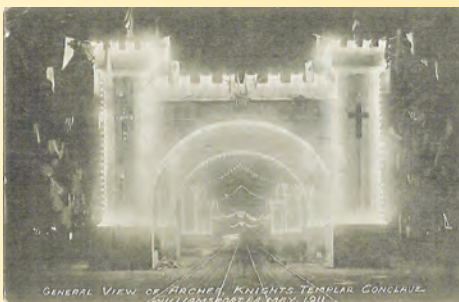
The next year, the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar held its Triennial Conclave in Saratoga Springs, New York. Henry W. Rudd of Rhode Island was elected the Grand Master. Not pictured here but part of the collection is





a beautiful color post card of the parade down the main street of Saratoga Springs. It is unique that it is taken from a photo and then hand colored to produce the actual post card. Another post card from the same Triennial shows a Knight on horseback with sword raised, galloping past a set of

pillars with "In Hoc Signo Vinces" embossed on an arch. Each of the main pillars is topped with a sculpture knight in armor; the one on the right holding a Beauceant and the pennant of the Grand Encampment. Above the arch is an embossed Knight Templar Cross outlined in gold. The embossing of the post card would have significantly increased the cost to produce but it was part of a trend of embossed cards popular around the turn of the new century. Another color post card of the same general period has the Knight Templar Cross in black and gold with the crown and red Templar Cross. A very elaborate "K. T." is under the cross. The dimensions of the Cross is 1 ½" x 2". The card was made in Germany, "for the Reichner Brothers, Publishers, Boston, Mass." This is another example of the prestige and influence of the Knight Templars during that period.



One of the most impressive sets of post cards came from the 31st Triennial Conclave. It was held in Chicago, August 6th through 13th, 1910. One color post card from the 31st Triennial Conclave in Chicago shows the Marshall Field & Company store in downtown Chicago decked out in banners and Templar Crosses. Most of the banners were on the third

floor windows but some extended from the seventh floor almost down to the street. The main banner was directly over the main entrance and was about 100 feet in height. Remember that Marshall Field's occupied a whole Chicago block. Just imagine a black, white, and red horizontal banner with Templar Crosses on the white around the whole building between the 2nd and 3rd floor in addition to the suspended emblems of the Grand Encampment.



This Knight Templar Emblem was made in the establishment of C. D. Peacock, Chicago's largest retail jeweler, and is on exhibition during Conclave week in their store at the corner of State and Adams streets. It is also in 7x11 1/2 inches; it contains 744 diamonds, selected from their new stock, ranging in weight from 2 1/2 carats down, with a total weight of over 225 carats, and is valued at over \$50,000.00.

C. D. PEACOCK Established 1857 Jeweler State and Adams Sts. Chicago

724 page illustrated catalog of goods in our store mailed on request

The post card on the left pictures the jewel made for the Triennial. On the back of the post card is the personal note:

"The Masonic Conclave was a success. All the Commandery won high praise in sword drill."

The words on the post card speak for themselves. "This Knight Templar Emblem was made in the establishment of C. D. Peacock, Chicago's largest retail Jeweler, and is on exhibition during Conclave week in their store at the corner of State and Adams streets. Its size is 7x11 1/2 inches; it contains 744 diamonds, selected from their new stock, ranging in weight from 2 1/2 carats down, with a total weight of over 225 carats, and is valued at over \$50,000.00." Remember the \$50,000.00 was in 1910 dollars. It would be hard to estimate the value of this jewel in today's market. It would be a unique collector's item and worthy of a museum.

The Chicago Triennial Conclave did have a more affordable jewel produced. It was not quite as elaborate or jewel encrusted as the one above, but it was impressive. The jewel was reproduced as part of a "welcome" sign in Grant Park off Jackson Blvd. The sign was 133 feet in height. There were 4,500 electric lights integrated into the sign so that during the Triennial it could be seen night and day. At the time, it was the tallest electric sign in the world with 20,000 feet of wire and 5,000 feet of steel cable supporting it. There were four post cards produced showing the jewel; two of the welcome sign.

Sir Knight Walter P. Benesch is Commander of Columbia Commandery No.2 of the District of Columbia and Past Commander of Old Dominion Commandery No.11, formerly at Alexandria, Virginia, now Fairfax, Virginia. He resides at 3501 Slade Run Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042-3923.





Beauceant News



Mount of Holy Cross and SOOB

The Mount of the Holy Cross was first photographed by William Henry Jackson in 1874. W.H. Jackson was employed by the Denver Rio Grande Railroad as a photographer traveling along with a surveyor taking pictures of the scenery to help entice travelers to take their trains across the country. His picture of “the Cross”, along with many he had taken in the Yellowstone area of Wyoming, became very famous when they were published in the “Harper’s Weekly Magazine”. The residents of Colorado were rightly proud of “their Cross,” and it became an icon in the Christian community.

When the members of the SOOB Society of Denver were re-writing their ritual in 1913, they included a passage to reflect their pride in the cross. They may have also read the poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, memorializing his wife who had passed away. In the poem “The Cross of Snow” he wrote, “There is a mountain in the distant West that, sun defying, in its deep ravines displays a cross of snow upon its side”. Beauceant members will see the similarity of the wording.

This September at the Supreme Assembly, which is being held in the home of its origin, Denver, Colorado, the members will have an opportunity to view “The Cross” on a tour to be held on Sunday, September 19, 2009. Plans for the 2009 Hostess Group are progressing, and the members are looking forward to welcoming and entertaining all its members to the 89th Annual Supreme Assembly.



Mrs. John (Velma) Kleinfelder, Supreme Worthy President, with the Sir Knight William Koon, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, at the Easter service in Alexandria.

knight templar



On Friday, February 26, 2009, Tampa Assembly No. 208, SOOB, celebrated 50 years of service to Tampa Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8. A scrumptious dinner, balloons decorations, and the appropriate "Happy 50 Years" signs started the evening. A special presentation of "Building Our Flag" was given by S.K. Rob St. John of the National Sojourners Heroes of '76. It seemed only fitting that Tampa's only living Charter member, Mrs. James Vanders be honored at this time. Unfortunately Jessie was too ill to be present.

PSWP Mrs. Keith Dean is shown presenting a 50 year membership card to S.K. James. PSWP Mrs. Paul Case was also present. A letter of congratulations from SWP Mrs. John Kleinfelder was read. A rose, several get well and congratulation cards, and a Life Membership in the Assembly were also presented to Mrs. Vanders. After our meeting, all adjourned to the dining hall to enjoy cake and ice cream to complete the evening's festivities.



Mrs. Jeanette Rife, Supreme Most Worthy Oracle, pinning Mrs. John (Velma) Kleinfelder, SWP with the Companion of the Temple, while Grand Master Koon looks on.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

***A Review of The Truth About Anti-Masonry; Straightforward Answers to the Critics of Freemasonry* By W. Bruce Pruitt**

Reviewed by
Sir Knight Stephen Dafoe

Freemasonry, W. Bruce Pruitt reminds us, is the oldest organization (religious bodies aside) dedicated to the encouragement and fostering of brotherhood, support of family, and the relief of want; admirable and laudable pursuits that all Freemasons are aware of. And yet, after many centuries of fulfilling this role in society, Freemasonry continues to be labeled as a sinister, politically-motivated, anti-religious cult fixated on a goal of world domination. *The Truth about Anti-Masonry* by our well-known and well-regarded Past Grand Commander, W. Bruce Pruitt is a brief, yet thorough book that offers, as the subtitle states, “straightforward answers to the critics of Freemasonry.”

Although a number of Masons will argue that anti-Masonic persecution was a thing of the 1990s, a cause that petered out in a post-9/11 world, it is important to remember that the evolution of the Internet into Web 2.0 has helped spread ignorance regarding Freemasonry to a new generation. Any doubt as to the truth of this can be remedied by visit-

ing YouTube and reading the comments posted on Masonic videos or by searching the term anti-Masonry on popular social networking sites including FaceBook and MySpace. Indeed, Freemasonry is still an institution that is mistrusted and misunderstood by the misinformed.

The Truth about Anti-Masonry is a valuable resource for responding to some of the various claims made about the Masonic Order to this day—not the out in left field fantasies of the black helicopter crowd, but the false claims that have the ring of truth; claims that Freemasonry is a religion, that its members become involved to the exclusion of family, that Freemasonry involves itself in matters of politics, and that Freemasonry is a cult. Each claim against the Order is answered by Brother Pruitt in a concise and reasonable manner.

The book is one that can be read in an evening and individual chapters would make interesting topics of discussion during lodge meetings. The book is published by the Dorance Publishing Co. Inc. and retails for \$9.00 per copy. The book is also available from Amazon.com.

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