



Knight Templar

VOLUME LVI

November 2010

NUMBER 11

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Knights Templar

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 of the United States of America.

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**Address changes or corrections
 and all membership activity
 including deaths should be re-
 ported to the Recorder of the
 local Commandery. Please do
 not report them to the editor.**

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Grand Master's Message

Each year as I contemplate this message of Thanksgiving to you, I am reminded of how lucky we all are to live in this great country of ours and to be a part of the greatest fraternity in the world.

Growing up on the farm, Thanksgiving always marked the end of the harvest season, and whether you had a good crop, bad crop, or mediocre crop, you were thankful for the opportunity to have made it through another year with your health and the ambition to do what you love again the very next year. You celebrated your good opportunity while surrounded by the family you loved on the land whence you came, and prayed to God thanking Him for the many blessings He had bestowed and for the strength He gave you each day.

On Thanksgiving Day, those will be the things I will be grateful for. Additionally, as Grand Master, I will be giving thanks for the many Templar blessings He has enabled me to be involved with over the past three years. I will be giving thanks for an outstanding team of Templar leaders who have taken us forward in membership, our conferences, for the vast improvements made to this publication, and for the ability to update our records instantaneously and on-line. I will be giving thanks for the ability to see Templary grow outside of these United States of America and for the opportunity to be a part of it happening.

God has given me the wonderful gift of surrounding me with good people in the officers elected and appointed in our Grand Encampment. I will be especially grateful for the opportunity to be a part of more exciting things to come in the future. In the end, our humble beginnings in this land of ours gave us Thanksgiving where we, one day a year, give thanks for the blessings we have as well as for the ability to do more in the coming year.

On behalf of the officers, past and present, we wish for you and your family a most memorable Thanksgiving, and may God grant you the health, wisdom, and opportunity to do more next year.

Happy Thanksgiving!



William H. Koon, II

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

november 2010

THANKSGIVING TIME

By
Sir Knight Donald Kerr

Thanksgiving is a time to think about ourselves and our country. It is a time to thank God for the blessings bestowed upon us. Sometimes a feeling creeps over us that everything is wrong and discouraging, and life is out of tune. Usually we hear the worst before we realize there is always the best that is hidden from our sight.

Once upon a time, a young bride moved with her army husband to California far from home and friends. Their small apartment was in a rundown neighborhood near to an Indian settlement. The heat was unbearable; the wind blew all the time; dust and sand were everywhere. The days were long and lonely. The neighboring Indians were none too friendly.

The bride wrote home to her mother saying she was coming home. In time a letter came from her mother. It said, "Two can look out from prison bars – one sees mud the other stars." The girl read the lines again and again and felt ashamed. She started on a new course and made friends with the Indians. She learned to weave and made pottery. She studied the desert and saw things she had never seen. Her spirit changed, and everything else changed. The heat was the same, the wind continued to blow, the distance from home was the same, and the Indians were as they always were. But everything was better and brighter because the girl adopted a new point of view.

Thanksgiving gives a chance to see ourselves from a higher ground – to remember the kind word, the cheery smile, the friendly handshake. Therefore, it is time to "Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits." So, a happy Thanksgiving to one and all!



The Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr, a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, MD, is Pastor-emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. He resides at 700 John Ringling Boulevard, Apt. E202, Sarasota, FL 34236-1586.

Knighly News

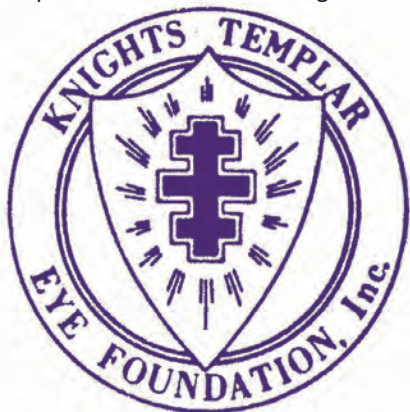
From the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

A large part of the mission of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation focuses on helping to fund research into the causes and treatment of diseases and developmental problems of the eye. Recently a grant was awarded to a researcher at the University of Michigan who concentrates on the development of eye muscles in children. Children with eye muscle problems may have crossed eyes or one eye that looks in a different direction than the other. This condition is known as Amblyopia, more commonly referred to as “Lazy Eye.” If left untreated, the normal eye becomes dominant, and the “lazy eye” eventually becomes useless. Surgical treatment is frequently an option for many children with this problem, but more surgery is often required as the child grows.

Research into these types of eye problems in children is being done at the University of Michigan’s Kellogg Eye Center in Ann Arbor. Brenda L. Bohnsack, MD, Ph.D. was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to help finance her continuing investigation of developmental eye problems. Her research includes the study of Zebra Fish which have an eye structure very similar to the human eye. She also works with Zebra Fish embryos to observe and experiment with eye muscle development. Her goal is to discover new and improved treatment options for children with eye muscle problems.



A check was presented to Dr. Bohnsack at her lab in Ann Arbor by Sir Knight William P. Herlihy, Grand Commander of Michigan, who was accompanied by Sir Knight Roy A. Ickes, Grand Generalissimo, and Sir Knight Paul M. Tarr, Jr., Grand Warder. Dr. Bohnsack was both pleased and excited to receive the grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and enthusiastically expressed her thanks. To show her appreciation, the following week, Dr. Bohnsack traveled to the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Michigan where she addressed the Sir Knights and Ladies at the annual banquet about her work and again offered her thanks.



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knights templar

**Solution to Cryptic Puzzle on Page 20
of October Issue**

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

DOWN

1. REDS double definition
2. ISTHMUS: IS + TH(e)M +(or)+ US - ORE
3. ST. + ATE
5. ARROW: homophone of ARR ROW
6. DAYS acoustic
7. LET ON double definition
8. OAK LEAF: O.A. + anagram of FLAKE
11. MONEY acoustic
12. APNEA anagram of PAEAN
13. ALL IN double definition
14. CE (chemical symbol)+ LT.
15. CLUE double definition

ACROSS

1. RA + DISH
4. BARD: DRAB reversed
7. LOST WORD: ST.+ W(olbod)O inside LORD
9. DELTA double definition
10. MY BAR in reverse order
16. ENNU: homophone of ON WE
17. LEVEL: EVE in (he)LL
18. BEST + 1 + ARY(ans)
19. THAI: homophone of TIE
20. ON FILE double definition

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.

IN MEMORIAM



Domestic 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>.

Wallace Finley Emerson
New Hampshire
Grand Commander 1997
Born: 04/29/1924
Died: 05/18/2010

Charles L. "Pete" Taylor, Jr.
Georgia
Grand Commander 1993
Born: 09/26/1947
Died: 09/05/2010

A Chat With The Managing Editor

CHIVALRY, CHRISTIANITY - TEMPLARY

A WAY OF LIFE!

I saw a news story a few minutes ago which made me really angry. The whole thing was just plain stupid. It seems that we are trying some of our own SEALS for war crimes, because they may have socked a guy in the mouth who be-headed some innocent Americans and drug their bodies through the streets.

I learned many years ago that there is a big difference between ignorance and stupidity. Ignorance is almost always curable; stupidity is often not. Stupidity is sort of a combination of ignorance and arrogance.

Did you ever meet someone who was proud to be ignorant? Now I'm not saying that we should be ashamed of our ignorance. After all, a wise man once said that "Everyone is ignorant, just about different subjects." I'm just saying that when we discover that we are ignorant about something that matters to us, we ought to set about remedying the situation. We ought to be willing to learn. That willingness to learn or "teachability" is known as humility. Knowledge will cure ignorance; it takes humility to cure stupidity.

Some say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. I don't know about that. I learn something new every day, and I'm getting to be a pretty old dog. Why, just last week I learned how to spell puissant. I even know what it means now.

How difficult can it be to learn which fork to use first at a banquet or which way to pass the rolls? It shouldn't take more than a couple of lessons.

I think that many of us are ignorant about Templary. I am trying to find some more good articles to publish in the magazine which will help with this. Let me know what you would like to learn about.

It's November, Veteran's Day, Election Day. If you see a veteran, tell him (or her) what you think of their service in defense of our freedoms and even of our lives. If you want to cure some stupidity, vote!



Handwritten signature of John L. Palmer

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

A Visit to the Shroud Up Close and Personal

The second in a series exploring the Shroud of Turin and a possible connection with the Ancient Templars.

By

Sir Knight John L. Palmer

It is May 12th, 2010, Torino, Italy. We were finally here after a challenging trip from Nolensville to Nashville to Atlanta to Milano, Italy! Our flight from Nashville to Atlanta had been delayed an hour. It turned out that this was not a connection problem for us, since the flight from Atlanta to Milano was also delayed – by six and one half hours. We almost didn't make it. Plane troubles, FAA regulations requiring a new flight crew, and volcanic ash from Iceland almost stranded us in Atlanta, but we had an appointment to keep in Turin. We arrived in Milano only in time to eat and turn in for the night. The next day we toured Milano to see the Last Supper by Leonardo DaVinci and to recover from jet lag.

This morning, we boarded the 9:00 AM train for the two hour ride to Torino (Turin). It had been raining on and off for two days since we arrived in Italy. I could see the snow covered Swiss Alps to the north.

Arriving in Turin, we changed from train to an electric street car jammed with people. It apparently operated on the "honor" system, and we Americans seemed to be the only ones paying for tickets. After temporarily losing some of our party in the mad dash to exit the street car, we finally found each other

and arrived at Saint John's Cathedral. From the outside, it was not so impressive; certainly no match for Notre Dame in Paris or the Cathedral of Saint Mary we had seen the previous day in Milano. A rather plain stone church next to a freestanding bell tower, obviously built on the ruins of previous structures, pagan and then Christian.

We were apprehensive about what to do. We had reservations to see the shroud at 1:00 PM, but we didn't know what the process was. We had heard about the eight hour waits and long lines which plagued visitors when the shroud was last on display in the year 2000, but there were no lines in front of the church. People seemed to be wandering in and out of the church at will. This must be the right place. There were police and emergency personnel everywhere including what appeared to be Swiss military, no doubt guarding one of the Pope's most prized possessions.

I finally found a policeman who looked at my "reservation" and directed me to the next corner and around the block behind the church. I saw the line or "queue" as they called it when I rounded the second corner. It was about five people abreast and at least a half mile long before it entered the rear of the complex. It wound around through

a park and was periodically punctuated by white tents containing people who looked like volunteers wearing lavender smocks with a Rotary International logo on them who checked our



reservations every two hundred yards or so and gave us instructions such as “please remove your backpacks.”

Surprisingly, security was not strict. There were no metal detectors and no one looked in my backpack or my camera bag. A dentist from France and his wife stood behind us in line. They were from a nearby town in France which, when translated into English, means “Knight’s Mountain” and had driven about 120 kilometers to Turin that morning to see the Shroud.



We were lucky that it didn’t start raining again until we were under cover. The line was moving right along. Being the engineer geek I am, I calculated that they were pushing about 5,000 people per hour through the line. I became concerned that after standing in line for two hours, we would only get a fleeting glimpse of the shroud at the end. Penitent knight templar

periodically, some senior citizen dressed in lavender or in a nun’s habit would come up behind us pushing a person in a wheel chair. The crowd always parted and let them through toward the front of the line. Although I wouldn’t call the mood jovial, people were really well behaved; not entirely reverent, but patient and congenial.

A series of covered ramps had been constructed for the exhibition that seemed to be attached to the exterior walls of the centuries old buildings that comprised the complex. They

wound back and forth in a complex serpentine pattern.

Suddenly the queue stopped. An older lady was down on the floor ahead. EMTs swarmed to her rescue with oxygen and stretcher, some wearing pins emblazoned with the cross of the Hospitallers. No one filed past her – we

waited. When she revived, to my surprise, she insisted on continuing on ahead to see the shroud, so they found her a wheel chair, and she joined the ever increasing parade of wheel chairs whisking past the queue to the front. Finally, after we viewed, in a group of about 200, a short film in Italian apparently pointing out the features and markings on

the shroud, we entered the final queue. I was thinking that I had never seen so many people in wheel chairs when it dawned on me that all these people had come here with the hope that they would be healed by the shroud! For centuries, people have believed that the shroud could miraculously heal them. It made me a little sad, this parade of illness and affliction. I stepped aside and prayed that each would find the healing they sought.

Finally, we arrived at the Cathedral side entrance near the front door. Inside, it was dark and elaborate. Rose stained glass windows, gothic arches, huge oil paintings in the niches, one prominently of St. John the Baptist baptizing Christ, all contrasting with the large big screen plasma TVs displaying live images of the shroud from behind the altar in the other end of the church. We finally reached the front of the queue. Only one hour and fifty-five minutes had elapsed. They were letting us enter in groups of fifty or so. We were in three tiers so everyone could see. Velvet rails, “no photos, no flash, silence, please.” Everyone was quiet although occasionally a flash would go off – no one objected. A nun was to the right of the shroud signing for the deaf. A soft female voice over a speaker system was describing the image and other features of the cloth less than twenty feet away. It was in a massive dark oak frame behind six inches of bullet proof glass, in an atmosphere of inert gas, but, unlike our Declaration of independence in the National Archives, it was crystal clear in every detail. The image was faint, but the shroud was well lit. Perhaps too much light some would say. I felt

someone behind me struggling to see. A very short Italian lady who had stood in line for two hours and couldn't see. I stepped aside and helped her to the front. We had five minutes, longer than I had expected. People all around me were weeping as they respectfully filed out on the opposite side of the cathedral. Then it was over. My once in a lifetime opportunity to stand within twenty feet of an object that may actually have been witness to the resurrection of my Savior. I would never know for sure in my lifetime, but I suppose that it is like all religion – faith based.

We then focused on getting to our next destination, a lecture about the Shroud of Turin by Barrie Schwartz, the photographer who documented the 1978 Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP). After a long walk in the rain and another tram ride, we found the hotel and were ushered into the meeting room just in time for the start of the lecture.

Barrie is Jewish and had told me that when he was called to serve on the STURP team in 1978 that he was sure that the Shroud was not authentic. After thirty-two years of research, he is now convinced that the Shroud is, indeed, the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified around 1,987 years ago. Barrie has a fantastic web site on the subject (www.shroud.com), and we are most grateful that he has allowed us to use some of his photographs. See Barrie's web site for more of his photos.

Last month we discussed some of the physical characteristics of the Shroud. Next month, we will discuss the image on the shroud.

To be continued next month.
november 2010

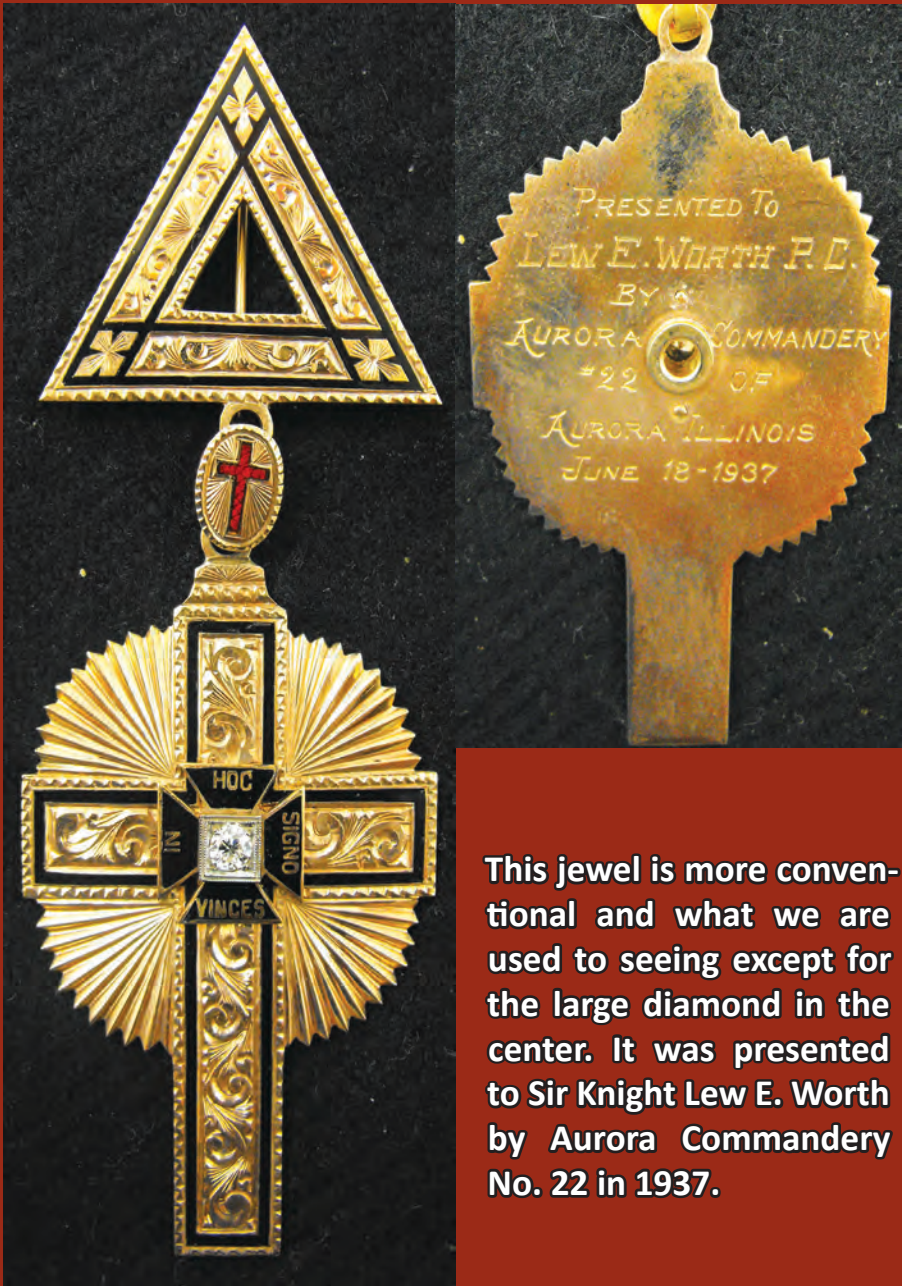
Another Photographic Sampler of Templar Jewels on Display at The House of the Temple

By
John L. Palmer

In October we published a few more photographs of Templar watch fobs, part of the collection of Templar jewelry at the museum in The House of the Temple in the District of Columbia. This month, I thought you might be interested in seeing some of the Past Commander jewels so I included a couple.



The reverse of this one indicates that Sir Knight Hugo was Commander of Duluth Commandery No. 18.



This jewel is more conventional and what we are used to seeing except for the large diamond in the center. It was presented to Sir Knight Lew E. Worth by Aurora Commandery No. 22 in 1937.



I couldn't resist this death's head fob which belonged to Sir Knight Benjamin Haxton in 1857.



Greetings Sir Knights,

The 43rd Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) is now underway. As you recall, we raised \$2.1 million for the KTEF during our last campaign. This was a tremendous achievement, especially in these tough economic times, and I thank each and every one of you for your generosity and hard work. There were several large testamentary gifts which added significantly to the campaign total last year. Although appreciated, we cannot count on this happening every year and each of us must support the Foundation and its life-changing work to the extent we can. Although we can take justifiable pride in our past accomplishments, we must look to the future.



Elsewhere in this edition of the *Knight Templar* magazine you will read about the change in direction of the KTEF. As society and its needs evolve your Foundation must likewise evolve and focus its resources accordingly. These are truly exciting times as evidenced by the research being conducted by Dr. Brenda Bohnsack at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center involving zebra fish. Over the coming months as the Foundation transitions from case processing to research and education we will report on the exciting research that you are sponsoring. We will also report on the difference the Foundation has made by providing timely grants to young researchers. Oftentimes these grants have provided funds at a critical stage in the young researcher's career allowing him or her to move forward in the research arena.

Remember that a \$30 contribution to the KTEF entitles you to recognition as a Life Sponsor, a \$50 contribution entitles you to recognition as a Patron, a \$100 contribution entitles you to membership in the Grand Commander's Club, and once contributions reach a total of \$1000, you are entitled to membership in the Grand Master's Club. In addition, there are recognition awards for larger gifts. Foundations, corporations, or individuals contributing \$10,000 receive a Golden Chalice, and foundations, corporations, or individuals contributing \$25,000 receive a Grand Master's Sword of Merit.

Remember, every contribution, regardless of the amount is deeply appreciated. Also please know that during this season of Thanksgiving you are truly making a difference. Sir Knights, PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

Jeffrey N. Nelson KCT, PDC
Chairman
43rd Annual Campaign





Knight Voices

Please visit the classified section of our website. These and many other listings can be found on the Grand Encampment web site at:

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



Many individuals, Commanderies, and other Masonic bodies have a number of interesting articles for sale which benefit the three Grand Encampment charities. Please visit the web site above to see what they have to offer.

Items for this section of the magazine may be submitted by e-mail to ktmagazine@comcast.net. Items for sale will only be published if 100% of the sale price is donated to The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, or The Holy Land Pilgrimage.

■ **Wanted:** Masonic Chapter pennies by an avid collector. I have been building this collection for 36 years and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These one day will end up in a Masonic museum. Why not find a home for your mark? I will gladly send you a check for one piece or will buy your collection. If you collect, I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. **Especially needed are Iowa, Michigan, Hawaii, and Alaska pennies.** *Maurice Storck, Sr., 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 888-7585.*

■ **Wanted to buy or trade:** Law enforcement patches with Masonic designs (working tools, emblems), cities with Masonic "presidential" names (Washington, Jackson, Johnson, Truman, etc.). Thanks for your help in building my collection. *Daniel Patz, PM, 8401 Tayside Court, Fort Worth, TX 76179.*

■ **Wanted To Buy:** Oklahoma Sir Knight is collecting "Lionel Trains". Please look in your

attic or your storage closet and call or write *John Alexander, 7617 E. 66th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133-1802, Phone 1-918-252-4981.* I will answer all inquires-Thank You.

■ **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 !!

■ **Wanted:** Always buying and trading for old law enforcement items. Badges, patches, call boxes, sirens, other police equipment particularly with Masonic motif. *Lawrence Baird P.M. PO BOX 1459 MORENO VALLEY CA 92556*

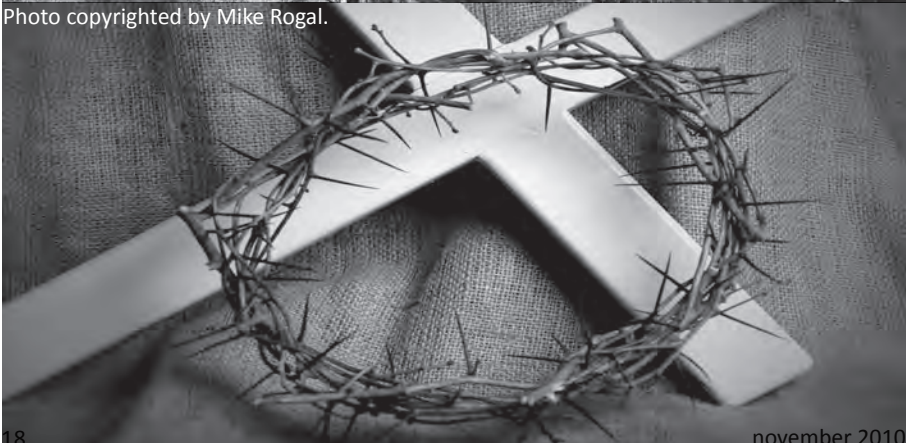
General Supplement

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.

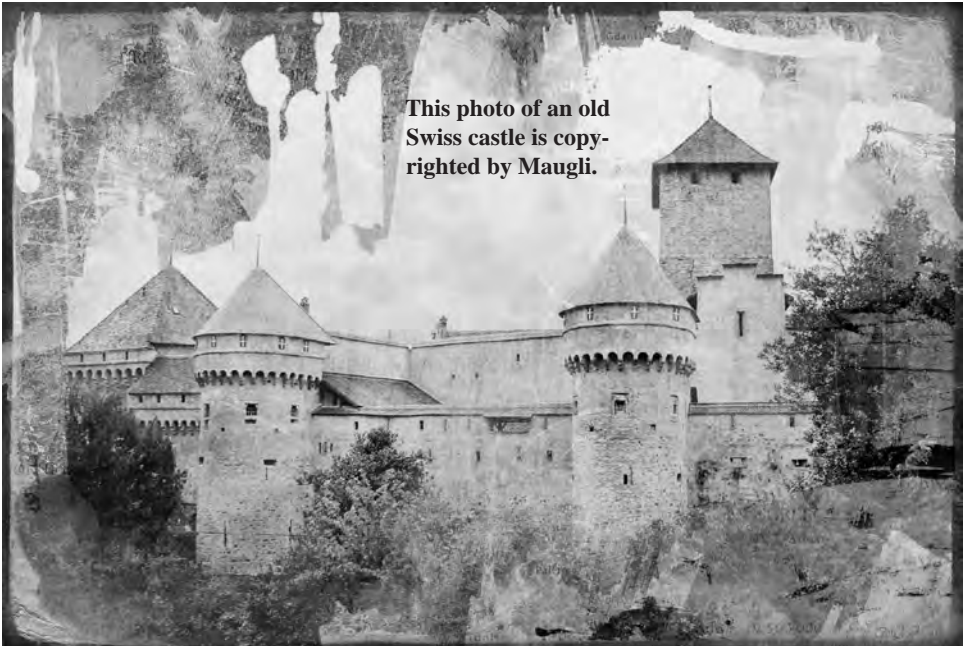
Winter castle copyrighted by Maugli.



Photo copyrighted by Mike Rogal.



This photo of an old Swiss castle is copyrighted by Maugli.

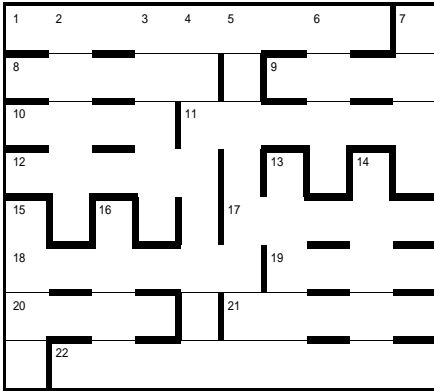


knight templar

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue



DOWN

2. Give again a single donation to royal domain (5)
3. Lodge officers uniforms revolved in Texas (5)
4. Narcissistic fantasies ended, parachute got rips (3,5)
5. Dependence on outside religious stance (8)
6. Sore from eliminating Royal head from Arch, and adding Royal heart. (4)
7. Enter "Inn #2" Speakeasy (4)
13. Spry and flexible; 49 in age (5)
14. Improvised chamber pot sounds like a pie nut (5)
15. Chisel finished sketch (4)
16. Cad used a stiletto, perhaps (4)

■ **For Sale:** Blue Lodge wall hanging 100% U.S. cotton upholstery material with a black upholstery backing. The size is 25" by 33" with multiple colors. The design is of the Masonic working tools. Price is \$49.99 which includes shipping and insurance. Entire sale price to be donated to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. *S. C. Buz, P. O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052.*

ACROSS

1. "Brotherly rat in fern, Albert" (9)
8. Correct problems with Delaware Volkswagen (5)
9. Search endless snack mix (4)
10. Foe hears fake (4)
11. Contorted hold at match for has-been (3,3)
12. Swift armada (5)
17. Silver net, ball lace, tip (5)
18. Piece of Templar jewelry finished, even with fastener (3-3)
19. Mesoamerican in California (4)
20. Eyeless chief cook (4)
21. Hide chlorine acorn-tree (5)
22. Single ale drunk to view atop an unfinished pyramid (3-6)

The author is a Knight Templar 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, go to <http://cerrillos.org/cryptic.htm>.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Knights Templar Eye Foundation – Change in Direction

With the passage of the new Healthcare Reform Bill by Congress and a number of other related events, the Trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. on August 14, 2010, voted to move out of case processing and redirect the dollars allocated for treatment to research and education. Effective December 31, 2010, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation will no longer be participating in direct patient care except as is currently done with the Seniors Eye Care Program in partnership with Eye Care America and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

There were a number of other circumstances involved in the decision such as compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy regulations, computer software replacement, staff retirement, etc., but primarily, the passage of national healthcare was the underlying factor. The need for our services will be greatly reduced or eliminated. Further, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation had moved over the years from primarily treating children to almost exclusively treating adults for cataracts. Additionally, our cases were processed primarily in only about 25% of the United States due to state government programs. The trustees further felt that research benefits everyone's eyesight no matter where they live, whether in this country or in the other countries where the Grand Encampment has Grand and Subordinate Commanderies.

We have learned over the years that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that we have had fewer and fewer children with strabismus (crossed eyes) to treat. Our research dollars have helped develop new, non-surgical treatments for this problem.

Your Trustees are excited about the prospects of being able to benefit more of humanity by redirecting your generosity from treating 2,000 individuals per year to benefiting untold millions in generations to come.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.



1000 East State Parkway, Suite I

Schaumburg, IL 60173

Phone (847) 490-3838

Fax (847) 490-3777





Letters to the Editor



“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

Good Morning Sir,

I’ve read this letter more than a few times. Not having the December issue, I can’t say what it was written in response to or who the writer is in relation to the magazine, but clearly he claims to be a Templar and had several statements to make.

I started this comment with that quotation from Matthew because it seems to address part of the issue I see created in the essay and because it is important to recognize that Christ admonished us to attempt bigger and greater things in our lives. Those bigger and greater things are further expressed in Corinthians and Philipians:

2 Corinthians 7:1 “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Philipians 3:12 “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”

So let’s look at Dr. Williams’ basic statements:

#1. Without the resurrection

story, the Christian faith would not have succeeded.

#2. The meaning of the resurrection is open for discussion.

#3. Scripture is a flawed historic document.

#4. Jesus’ true nature is not as relevant as his message.

#5. Orthodoxy limits man’s perspective.

#6. The concept of original sin is destructive; man was never “perfect.”

#7. The idea of God was born of man’s need.

#8. The Christian story is not literal but a fabrication, a message to show us the way.

#9. The Christian story holds us back, tells us we are “less than who we are.”

#10. There is no “right way” to be a Christian.

I suppose I could boil this all down to a negative message: Fundamental Christianity is a hoax. Christ was not God’s son and believing that limits our ability to be all that we can be.

Dr. Williams would have us believe that there is no God, but rather that the Almighty is a construct of the human mind, a sort of collective father figure created by us accidentally sentient beings as a means to explain what is a demonstrable, evolutionary, randomness; that life is created not by God but by scientific laws, chance mutation, and genetic adaptations.

So if man has not fallen from his original state of being a perfect creation of God, (goodbye to Adam and Eve’s disobedience), there would be no need for Christ to have been born to redeem us. Christ would not have risen from the dead to demonstrate the Father’s love

and mercy. There is no need for us to strive for any state of perfection, no matter how futile the attempt may be. Just live for the moment. Be in the present. You are OK where you are right now.

That's how my dog lives. She's happy; she ate this morning. She's content to be sleeping and has no plans for the rest of the day. What a life. If she woke up and bit me right now that would be groovy. She'd be living in the moment, and that's what Dr. Williams would have us believe is a good thing.

Again, I have to apologize for not understanding the context of his writing "the letter." What I do know is that by faith I believe Christ is the Son of God. He was born, suffered, died, and rose to fulfill a promise made by the Father to show us the way, the truth, and the life we should be living every day. And because of that, I believe in my ability to be redeemed, to live, die, and be resurrected into the perfect love of the Father. Can I prove it? No. Can my perspective on what it means to be a Christian change? Not if I hold to those tenants of my faith securely. Anything less is not Christianity; it's mere hero worship. I might as well sit under a tree with Buddha or ride the horse with Mohammed, because while those two guys are exemplary and show a way to live, they give no meaning to my crusade to be Christ like, to strive to earn the Father's love, and enter into a communion with all those who have preceded me in Christ's perfect love.

I don't know why this article was printed, I don't know what relevance the editor saw in it to push it to print but in a way I'm thankful because for one of the first times, it has caused me to think about something written in the magazine. I guess the controversy it should

knight templar

cause is good and must cause a general cry out to his editorship, but as a Christian Knight it is my duty to defend against its humanist message.

Yours in Christ,

John Francis Proulx K.T.
St. George Commandery
Nashua, NH

Dear John,

I believe that you are referring to the letter to the editor from Sir Knight Williams that appeared in the March 2010 issue. The letter was printed for the same reason that I print most of the letters that I receive. I consider my role as one of Editor rather than censor. I do not believe that it is prudent or right for me to refuse to print things that I don't personally agree with. That would be an insult to the Sir Knights who pay for and read the magazine. Besides, I have been known to have been wrong on occasion (just ask my wife). As long as you all are reasonably kind to each other, you may express your opinions as you please.

I am not sure that I fully understand everything you are saying in your last sentence, so rather than risk changing your meaning, I did not try to edit it and just printed it as you wrote it.

I will say one thing about Sir Knight Williams; he has certainly gotten your attention and apparently made quite a few Sir Knights give some extra thought to what they believe and exactly why they believe it.

The Ed.

Let Us Pray

By

Terry Plemons, Right Eminent Department Commander

We ought often to pray and lift our voices to God while there is strength and peace within our minds and bodies to do so. A day will come when our strength will be exhausted, when our minds are broken with grief or pain, and when we are unable to pray as we wish leaving us with only the sweet memories of our commune with God. We know that as we have honored Him with our lives, He will now bless us in our hour of need.

It is a simple matter to acknowledge the providence of God in our lives while we are surrounded by the blessings of life. We lift our eyes to heaven and praise our Creator for all He has done, but all things are fleeting, especially life. We are starkly reminded that in the midst of life, as quickly as a spring rain dispels the warmth of the sun, tragedy may enter our lives. In that moment we will be forever changed.

During these times our faith will be tested. All that we hold dear and profess will be laid bare before the world. May we continue to stand in the awe of God's majesty, beholding the splendor of our King! Francis Xavier was able to pray to God saying, "I love you, not because you have the power to give heaven or hell, but simply because you are you, my King and my God."

We are most attentive when we are driven by an inmost need to ask God for something or when we are prompted by a joyful heart to thank Him for all the good things He has done. Our relationship with God should not be confined to these momentary situations but should be the bedrock of our souls. In order for this to happen, this relationship between us and our Creator must be constantly revived, and the affairs of our everyday lives have to relate back to it.

When our souls are directed to God and He is the very depth of who we are, we will be better able to pray. When prayer is the foundation that upholds our entire existence, we will become men of peace. Through prayer we will be better able to bear pain and misfortune; we will be better able to understand others and open ourselves to them.

If we follow the will of God, we know that in spite of all the terrible things that may happen, we will never be without a refuge. In the beginning creation was made of love. When it seems that no one can or will help us, we may go on trusting in the One who loves us and whose love never fades. We do well to remember that He is not our servant but rather that we are His.

We must remember to whom we pray. When we approach Him, it is an occasion for us to examine our consciences seriously asking, "How do I treat God's holy name; do I stand in reverence before the burning bush, before the incomprehensible closeness?" Do we take care that God's holy companionship with us will draw us up to his purity and sanctity, instead of dragging Him down into the sin of this world?

We have witnessed and know that the heavens and earth are full of His glory and majesty. We must remember and be comforted by the knowledge that when difficult times come, God has not changed but rather the reality and circumstances in which we find ourselves. In the midst of our sorrow and difficulties there is always mercy and grace. Reaching deep within ourselves to that place where we commune with the Master, may we join the host of Heaven as we bow to our knees, our hearts uplifted in His mighty presence as we proclaim, Holy, Holy, Holy, is our God.

Knight Templar Magazine **First Annual Pilgrimage** **to the** **Sites of the Ancient Templars**

The Knight Templar magazine is pleased to announce that we have arranged the first of what we hope will be an annual pilgrimage vacation for our Knights and their families. This trip is not a fundraiser for the magazine, the Grand Encampment, or any of the Grand Encampment charities. It is intended simply to be of service to our readers. We have done what we can to keep the cost low so that our Knights may have the opportunity to visit some of the sites of the ancient Templars. This first trip is particularly appropriate because it is to Portugal, virtually the only country that never suppressed the Templars since the 14th century. One of the modern Portuguese coins even has the depiction of two Knights on a horse used by the ancient Templars.

Our Grand Master and his lady Elizabeth will be going on the tour with us in May 2010. Since the number that can be accommodated on one tour is limited, it is important that you reserve your trip as soon as possible.

The highlights of the tour are covered on the next two pages. It is our plan to design these trips for the ladies as well as the knight templar



Knights and to include places of interest and activities that would interest all. Here is your chance to go to Europe with other Sir Knights from across the country and to actually see some of the places we read about each month in our magazine. I hope

you will be able to join us.

If the response is sufficient, the plan is to do a trip like this each year to different Templar sites.

The details of this trip are shown on the following pages.



Templar Knights



Day 1 - Sunday, 15 May 2011

- Arrival at Lisbon airport
- Meet, greet & transfer to the hotel
- Morning and lunch at leisure
- Lisbon City tour - Belém Quarter

Some of these monuments represent the "Golden Age" of the Portuguese Discoveries, which began in the 15th Century.

- Dinner at leisure
- Overnight at the Real Palacio Hotel



Day 2 - Monday, 16 May 2011

- Lisbon - Évora

Évora is the Capital of the Alentejo province. Évora is known as the "City Museum" and classified by UNESCO as "World Heritage".

- Walking tour of Évora
- Lunch in Évora.
- Afternoon visit of Monsaraz village and Church of the Santa Maria da Lagoa
This Church contains the tomb of Gomes Martins Silvestre, knight templar and responsible for the settlement of the Monsaraz population.
- Overnight at Évora Hotel

Évora Temple of Diana



Day 3 – Tuesday, 17 May 2011

- Évora - Monfortinho
- Visit of the Royal Stud Farm
Founded in 1748 by D. João V., famous for the "Lusitano" horses and Falcons breeding.
- Departure to Idanha-a-Nova
The town features the ruins of a castle erected by the Templars. Constructed in 1187 by Gualdim Pais, Master of the Order of The Templars, the ruins of Idanha-a-Nova Castle are idyllically situated on the right bank of the River Pônsul.
- Lunch hosted by Town Hall
- Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto villages
Ancient cathedral, Renaissance-style church and Templars Tower, a relic of the Templars.
- Dinner
- Overnight at the Astória & Fonte Santa Hotels in Monfortinho.

Day 4 - Wednesday, 18 May 2011

- Monfortinho - Fátima - Tomar
The most important catholic shrine in the world dedicated to Virgin Mary.
- Visit Almourol Castle
A Templar Knights stronghold during the "Reconquista", is situated on a small rocky island in the middle of the Tagus River.
- Tomar
One of the oldest and most charming towns in Portugal, founded by the Order of Knights Templar.
- Convent of the Order of Christ
Originally a Templar stronghold built in the 12th century. The Convent of Christ of Tomar is one of Portugal's most important historical and artistic

monuments and has been in the World Heritage list of UNESCO since 1983.

- Santa Maria do Olival church
This was long the seat of the Grand Chapter of the Templars and later the Knights of Christ, the mother church of all the Order's churches in the colonies containing the tombs of many of the Order's Knights and Masters.
- Synagogue
Built in the 15th Century Synagogue, now the Museum Luso-Hebraico Abraão Zacuto located on what was once Rua da Judiaria.
- Medieval dinner at the ancient Refectory of the Convent of Christ
- Overnight at Hotel dos Templários



Convent of Christ

Day 5 – Thursday, 19 May 2011

- Tomar - Sintra - Estoril
- Lunch at Colares wine Cellars
- Visit of Quinta da Regaleira
This property is a labyrinth of wonderful spots. An unexpected Palace in perfect union with Sintra atmosphere.
- Cape Roca
The westernmost point of continental Europe.
- Overnight at the Hotel Palácio in Estoril

Day 6 - Friday, 20 May 2011

- Departure transfers to Lisbon airport

«End of program»

Tour Cost

Per person in double room**\$1,780**

Trans-atlantic airfare supplement from Newark, NJ (estimated) **\$1,040**
per person.

Single Supplement **\$395**

The price of the tour includes:

Day 1

Coffee Break at “Pasteis de Belem” pastry
1 night in the 5 star Real Palacio Hotel in Lisbon with breakfast

Day 2

Coffee Break at Pousada in Évora
Lunch in Evora
Dinner with drinks at Evora Hotel
1 night in the 4 star Evora Hotel in Évora with breakfast

Day 3

Dinner with drinks at Hotel Fonte Santa
1 night in the 3 or 4 star Monfortinho Hotels with breakfast

Day 4

Lunch with drinks at Templários Hotel
Cocktail & medieval dinner at Refectory of Convent of Christ/Tomar
1 night in the 4 star Templários Hotel in Tomar with breakfast

Day 5

Lunch at Colares wine cellars
Wine tasting at Colares wine cellars
1 night in the 5 star Palacio Estoril Hotel in Estoril with breakfast
for a total of 5 nights.

Deluxe private air conditioned motor coach through the program

Official English speaking guide

Entrance fees at museums and monuments mentioned

Tips to bus drivers and tolls

Taxes and services

Not included:

Transportation from your location to Newark and back

Visit the Grand Encampment web site to sign up!

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

Grand Encampment Membership Awards

785 Michael W. Klinger
Hospitaller Commandery No. 46
Lock Haven, PA 18-Aug-2010

796 Richard A Rodibaugh
Kedron Commandery No.18
Latrobe, PA 17-Aug-2010

797 Robert Lee Liddell, Jr.
Griffen Commandery No. 35
Griffin, GA 3-Aug-2010

798 James Thomas Farmer
Griffen Commandery No. 35
Griffin, GA 3-Aug-2010

799 Van Scott McGee
Griffen Commandery No. 35
Griffin, GA 3-Aug-2010



800 Lawrence Everett Brock
Griffen Commandery No. 35
Griffin, GA 3-Aug-2010

801 Mark Shelley Johnson
Griffen Commandery No. 35
Griffin, GA 3-Aug-2010

802 Royce H. Taylor
Damascus Commandery No. 8
Pine Bluff, AR 31-Aug-2010
4th Bronze Cluster for a Silver Cluster
(Total now at 55 members)

For Sale: York Rite Lapel Pins and INRI Pins. Entire sale price to be donated to the KTEF: \$5.00 per pin. Shipping, \$2.50 per order. Other pins available at www.knightstemplar.org/knightvoices. Send check or MO to Manchester Commandery No.40, Garry L. Carter, Recorder, 530 Winchester Hwy, Hillsboro, TN 37342. glcarter61@blomand.net.



The Grand Commandery of Washington in commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of its Chartering has issued a limited edition 125th Coin, available until the celebration in 2012. The coin is \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling with all proceeds to go to the Knights Templar Educational Foundation. Please make checks payable to the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Washington, 811 North Chelan Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801.





Knights

at the Bookshelf

By

Sir Knight Mark A. Tabbert

33 Keys to Unlocking the Lost Symbol: A Reader's Companion to the Dan Brown Novel. By Thomas R. Beyer Jr. published by Newmarket Press in 2010. ISBN: 978-1-55704-919-3.

D In September 15 it was a year since Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* was released. For the previous six years the world had impatiently waited for his sequel to *The Da Vinci Code*. Those six years saw a host of writers besiege Dan Brown's castle. Each one proclaiming he discovered what adventure he had in store for his champion Robert Langdon. Thankfully most of their predictions were wrong while wiser heads waited for *The Lost Symbol* before joining in.

Thomas Beyer, the author of *33 Keys to Unlocking The Lost Symbol* and a professor of Russian at Middlebury College was among those who held out. His book makes a good companion to Robert Langdon's adventure. It is organized into seven parts, each containing a portion of the "33 keys." The parts are: "Names and Games," "The District of Columbia," "Art & Architecture," "Cryptology," "Lost & Found Science," "Freemasonry," and "The Secret Teaching in All Ages." At the end of each key and more especially at the end of the book are links to relevant websites and "Sources and Resources."

Each of the thirty-three keys give an overview of the topic, some information, and explains some of the misconceptions. Beyer usually takes a direct passage or scene from *The Lost Symbol* and compares it to the facts. For example in Key #9 "The House of the Temple," Beyer writes in response to the idea that the building is secretive: "Quite the contrary the building has always welcomed visitors, and for those unable to visit Washington, DC, there is a stunning virtual tour on the Internet."

Section Six: "Freemasonry" includes keys 27-30: "Origins," "Rituals and Symbols," "The Founding Fathers," and "Masons in Power." These keys reveal nothing new to the informed Freemason; indeed much of the text relies on popular Masonic publications and websites. Still, it is always good to see a non-mason rely on the Craft for his facts rather than on its detractors or erroneous sources.

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Perhaps the book's best quote concludes the key 30, "Conspiracy theorists always find coincidences to support their claims. But their creation of fiction from simple facts rivals the writings of Dan Brown himself."

Like Brown's *The Lost Symbol* this book is a refreshing change from past so-called exposures. Rather than dismissing Freemasonry as something Beyer does not understand or even care to understand, he shows a respectful deference to its complexities. He knows he is writing to Dan Brown's fans, not to please Freemasons or their enemies.

A year after *The Lost Symbol's* release and reading all 33 keys, there is still one secure lock left: Why the big fuss over an entertaining novel? Perhaps *The Lost Symbol: the movie*, due 2012, will explain all. Stay tuned.

Sir Knight Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and can be contacted at mtabbert@gwmemorial.org.



Symbolism of the Hiramic Legend

By
Sir Knight James A. Nash

My purpose here is to explain what I believe is the meaning that we should take from the Hiramic Legend. We can search the Bible and history books, but we will not find the story of Hiram Abiff as we tell it in the second section of our Master Mason Degree. Therefore, we must assume that this story is an allegory and that it will take study and contemplation to understand its true meaning.

This part of our degree work is just another way of telling the age old story of the struggle between good and evil. My purpose is to explain how I believe the main characters of the second section of the Master Mason Degree are used as symbols, their meaning, and how they are used to communicate the lesson that they are intended to impart.

Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff represent wisdom, honesty, and perseverance. Collectively they represent all that is good and pure in the world. They epitomize brotherly love, relief, and truth. They represent the state of perfection that each of us should be striving to attain, even though we will never be able to reach it. The three principle fellowcrafts represent the labor that each of us must perform, the contemplation that we must exercise, and the care for all mankind's welfare so that we become a better person each day. We constantly grow in order to get closer to that state of perfection and to insure that the world is left a better place when we leave it. The three ruffians represent ignorance, prejudice, and greed. They are the forces of evil

that are constantly attempting to undo and defeat the forces of good. Once we realize what each of these groups of characters represent, then we are able to contemplate their effects on the human condition.

The first ruffian represents ignorance. Ignorance in this context is the lack of knowledge of how to properly relate to and act toward others or how to consider the welfare of others. Ignorance allows a person to be easily led or influenced to commit offences that harm other people. These offences can take the form of plotting against someone, spreading rumors, lying, or other conduct that is detrimental to others or that may benefit the perpetrator at someone else's expense. Ignorance stifles the mental growth of a human being and helps prevent his ability to think beyond self. It also tends to foster an exaggerated sense of self entitlement which tends to encourage the type of behavior that ignorance perpetuates.

The second ruffian represents prejudice. Prejudice creates and encourages hate and intolerance. The practice of intolerance makes a person or group reject the opinion or belief of others summarily, without giving any thought as to their validity or value. Prejudice is a narrow mindedness that encourages hate because of race, religious or political beliefs, or some other reason that is unreasonable or invalid. It discourages a person from understanding his or her differences with others and blocks the growth and strength that understanding and acceptance can produce.

The third ruffian represents greed. Greed is the desire to obtain wealth or power by any means necessary. Greed can manifest itself through thievery, deception, swindling, or any other means which can result in one person or group attaining an unfair advantage over another.

In contrast, the three principle fellowcrafts collectively represent the attainment of knowledge and the individual's effort to improve by practicing the Masonic tenets of brotherly love, relief, truth, and morality. They epitomize the effort to battle the three ruffians in defense of good. They teach us to battle ignorance by gaining knowledge of how to properly treat and relate to others. They demonstrate that this is not an easy task but a lifelong effort to improve our ability to practice the knowledge we gain. They teach us to battle prejudice by the realization that every person should be treated equally without regard to their race, religious or political belief, wealth, or station in life. Every person should be treated as an individual and judged only by how they live their life and what they give to humanity. They teach us to battle greed by realizing that there are things in life that should be more valuable to us than wealth or power. Honor, integrity, and honesty are invaluable in the battle against evil. The respect we receive from others for possessing and utilizing these qualities will earn an individual the kind of love and respect from others that is more valuable than any amount of money or the possession of any object.

The three ruffians demonstrate that the forces of evil are always at work to influence the unsuspecting and the weak and to recruit them in the battle so that evil can triumph over good and knight templar

chaos can then rule. They use powerful weapons and allurements to influence and win people to their side, and they are always present to capture anyone who might slip. The three fellowcrafts demonstrate that although the forces of evil are powerful and relentless, we can still prevail through perseverance and the diligent practice of virtue.

The last event in this part of our degree, when the individual receives the last secret of a Master Mason, represents the rebirth of the individual into a life where he is to work through the study, contemplation, and practice of these principles and virtues to continually improve. This practice is noticed by others and therefore influences and benefits all mankind. Honor, integrity, reputation, and respect are the benefit for the individual when he takes these lessons to heart and practices them in his daily life. The Master Mason practicing these virtues in his daily life will influence others to seek association with us in order to improve themselves.

Each individual is free to accept or reject these thoughts. I contend that this is a valid assessment of the symbolism of the Hiram legend and a reasonable interpretation of how we should utilize the lessons of the degree. Even if there is disagreement on this interpretation, there should be agreement that it does offer thought into the meaning of what we should learn from Masonry.

Sir Knight James A. Nash, KYCH is a Past Commander of Taylor Commandery No. 28 in Sanford, Florida. He resides at 186 Forest Lane, DeBary, FL 32713-2050 and can be contacted at jnash527embarqmail.com.



Beauceant News

Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265 celebrates 10th Anniversary with a Tea Party.

Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265, Social Order of the Beauceant, was constituted on August 19, 2000, by Mrs. Jay U. Ibsen, PSWP, who was SWP at the time. Elizabethtown Assembly is very grateful to Mrs. David E. Alcon, PSWP, Past President of Westminster Assembly No. 245, who did an endless amount of the work to organize the Assembly, and became the first Worthy President of Elizabethtown Assembly.

Tables at the tea party were decorated with antique tea pots, and each person attending received a "Tea for One" set. Background music was provided by pianist, Al Goodman, during the luncheon while friendship and fellowship were enjoyed by all.



Left to right: (Mrs. Stanley S.) Marion Black, Director of Music, S.K. Stanley S. Black, P.D.C., S.K. George H. Taylor, P.D.C., (Mrs. George H.) Jane Taylor, Chaplain, (Mrs. John M.) Jackie Ellermann, W.P., S.K. John M. Ellermann, P.D.C., (Mrs. Stephen) Mary Ann Koonrad, Daughter of the Household, and S.K. Stephen Koonrad, P.C.

S.K. Leslie J. Loomis, REPGC, (the Mad Hatter who served), and (Mrs. Leslie J.) Sandy Loomis, Supreme Historian, Chairman of the anniversary celebration.

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“The wind blows
where it wishes and
you hear the sound
of it, but do not
know where it comes
from



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and where it
is going; so is
every one who
is born of the
Spirit.”
John 3:8