



Knight Templar

VOLUME LVII

October 2011

NUMBER 10

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Knight Templar

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

William H. Koon, II
 Grand Master

Jeffrey N. Nelson
 Grand Captain General and Publisher
 3112 Tyler Parkway
 Bismarck, ND 5850

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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.**

JOHN L. PALMER
 Managing Editor
 Post Office Box 566
 Nolensville, TN 37135-0566
 Phone: (615) 283-8477
 Fax: (615) 283-8476
 E-mail: ktmagazine@comcast.net

Magazine materials and correspon-
 dence to the editor should be sent in elec-
 tronic form to the managing editor whose
 contact information is shown above.

Materials and correspondence concern-
 ing the Grand Commandery state suppl-
 ements should be sent to the respective
 supplement editor.

Lawrence E. Tucker
 Grand Recorder

Grand Encampment Office
 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
 Bellaire, TX 77401-2402
 Phone: (713) 349-8700
 Fax: (713) 349-8710
 E-mail: larry@gektusa.org

**Cover Photo by John Palmer of art
 in St. Peter's Cathedral, Rome.**

Guest Message

Each of the 325,000 Shriners probably has his own individual and personal reasons why he is a member of our Fraternity. On examining these reasons, we will probably find to our surprise that we have many more good reasons for belonging to the Shrine today than we could have named five, ten, or even thirty years ago.



We may have come into the Shrine because of obvious opportunities for pleasure and fellowship, but without being aware of any change, we found ourselves taking part in activities with serious aims. We discovered the greater pleasure, the more satisfying joy of serving others.

We found, for example, the richly rewarding experience of taking part in what has been called the world's greatest philanthropy – our Shriners hospitals for children. These hospitals, in the ninety years of existence, have transformed over a million boys and girls from helpless misery into normal, self-reliant human beings. We have taken these children for treatment and care regardless of their race, creed, color, or ability to pay.

Speaking for myself, I am a Shriner because I believe in the ideals upon which the Shrine was founded. I believe the Shrine provides an unexcelled means for an individual to express those ideals in a tangible, productive, satisfying way.

Shrinedom has given me a keener appreciation of what it means to be an American. In the Shrine I have found myself surrounded by men full of the joy of living, men of hope and optimism and understanding. They are loyal to the principles of Masonry and the Shrine, for they are identical with the principles of brotherhood and liberty embodied in the ideals of Americanism.

This friends, is the Shrine. These are a few reasons I wear this fez. I am proud of that symbol and of the 325,000 of my fellow Nobles who wear it.



Mike Severe,

Imperial Potentate – Shriners International

Chairman, Board of Directors – Shriners Hospitals for Children

From the
Grand Recorder's
Office...



2011
DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCES

Make your plans to attend one of the 2011 Grand Encampment Department Conferences. The format for the 2011 Department Conferences is designed to encourage interaction and participation by all attendees. Information is sent to all Grand Commandery Officers and Past Grand Commanders sixty days prior to the conference date. **ALL SIR KNIGHTS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** Visit the Grand Encampment website for registration information and additional conference details.

Northwestern Department

Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming
Michael B. Johnson, Right Eminent Department Commander
October 14-15, 2011.....Boise, Idaho

North Central Department

Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota
David M. Dryer, Right Eminent Department Commander
October 21-22, 2011.....Des Moines, Iowa

Southwestern Department

Arizona, California, Mexico, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah
Richard S. Butterfield, Right Eminent Department Commander
October 28-29, 2011.....Phoenix, Arizona



Prelate's Chapel

by
Rev. William D. Hartman
Right Eminent Grand Prelate
of the
Grand Encampment

“**A**nd when He [Jesus] got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves, but He [Jesus] was asleep. And they went and woke Him, saying, ‘Save, Lord, we are perishing.’ And He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O men of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, ‘What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey Him?’”
(Matthew 8:23-27)

We have been experiencing a lot of storms lately; the storms of financial and debt crises, political polarization, national governmental overthrow, street rioting and flash mobs, the loss of military personnel, poverty and personal crises, as well as actual storms, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Many people are turning to Wall Street and banks as well as Congress and the President to help calm these storms. Multiple charities are looking for donations to help calm the physical crises that so many are experiencing around the world. We recognize that “quick fixes” are a mirage, but long-term solutions seem to be outside our immediate grasp.

Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, a Methodist Pastor in Philadelphia a century ago, was experiencing such storms in his own life and ministry. Out of the anxiety and helplessness of this, he could write “When the storms of life are raging, stand by me. ... When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea, Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.” How well Dr. Tindley knew that our sure anchor in this life is the One who could calm the winds and the sea “in our storms of life.” The disciples on that night so long ago learned the power of Christ in the midst of their life-threatening storm. And so must we in these perilous times.

John Newton, some 250 years ago, learned this same life-saving experience during a sea storm that threatened to capsize the ship he was captaining. His life was spared that night and so changed him that he went on to share with others what great things God can accomplish in our lives when we pray for Him to “Stand by me.” To John Newton, it was “Amazing grace ... that saved a wretch like me.” It is the grace of God that will lead us “Through many dangers, toils and snares ... Tis grace hath brought [us] safe thus far, and grace will lead [us] home.” We need to put our sure trust in God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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IN MEMORIAM



Commodore Dewey Elliott, Jr.
Virginia
Grand Commander 1993
Born: September 4, 1925
Died: July 28, 2011

A Chat With The Managing Editor

I have received several notes from our readers who are concerned that some outlaw gang in Mexico has chosen to call itself Knights Templar. We can't control what some gang in Mexico does, so I recommend that we focus on other, more productive things and ignore them. The same applies to the European mass murderer who claimed to be a Templar and a Freemason. There is not much we can do to keep this obviously mentally derranged individual, assisted by an irresponsible press, from besmurching our reputation. I believe that our own character and the lives we lead as Templars are the best defense we can present. I would not stoop so low as to give any credence to these wild accusations. As Templars, we are the defenders of innocent people, not their murderers.

As you may know, I am writing this column in August in order for it to be published in October. This makes it difficult to give you timely news on any subject. In this issue, we not only have an excellent article about the seige of Malta but also the final version of our announcement for our upcoming *Knight Templar* magazine pilgrimage to Rhodes and Malta. Part one of the article about Malta also contained a short description of the seige of Rhodes.

There has been some difficulty locking in the schedules and the pricing for the airlines that serve Malta and Rhodes, but I am assured that it is now done and that the registration web site is up and running. In order to get the discount for early registration, you must sign up by the end of October. The only things we can't lock in are taxes and airline fuel surcharges. It just can't be done.

Our effort is to provide a first class and still affordable opportunity for our Sir Knights and their ladies to visit ancient Templar sites and enjoy a nice vacation together. I understand that the Grand Master and the Grand Captain General will be joining us this year. In deference to our ladies, there will be no "men only" activities, and there will be plenty to see that will interest anyone who is not a Knight Templar, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you.



A tower in Malta built by the Knights of the Order of St. John in the 14th century.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

october 2011



Letters to the Editor



This message was received from the web site;

In no way should there be political or Christian dogma promulgated in this magazine. We are Masons first and Templars second (our oaths should not be construed to be numerated). Future Christian Masons are not looking for evangelical dogma which has been permeating from the editorial section and the decision to run certain stories in the magazine. Beyond our oath and affirmation when becoming a Templar, there need not be further clarification on what way we should believe as Christians. These dogmatic stands have been an embarrassment to the order.

Sir Knight John Carden

Sir Knight John,

I just have to respond. First, I believe that the content you object to is in the letters to the editor rather than the editorial section. I try to be very careful not to editorialize on what I think others should believe, and I do not believe that it is my duty to censor their letters as long as they are behaving like gentlemen. I am happy to say that they do behave like gentlemen and Sir Knights almost all of the time. Therefore, as you see, I am also publishing your letter.

This magazine is not, strictly speaking, a Masonic magazine. It is a Templar magazine, and Templary is a Christian order. I suppose everyone sets their priorities to suit themselves, and this is OK with me. Although I am a Past Grand Master of Masons, I see myself as a Christian first and a Freemason second. That being said, I have no wish to

knight templar

impose my views about this on anyone else, so for the time being, we will continue to publish what the Sir Knights send in without attempting to censor them. Sorry!

The Ed.



Dear Sir Knight John,

After reading critical judgments of our members about others of our members in the *Knight Templar* magazine, I thought it appropriate to make the following comment:

Would we be better served, live more enriched and happier lives if we practice those beliefs and standards that we think everyone else should practice?

David Vick

Paducah York Rite Bodies

Sir Knight David,

*I agree. I recently read the book **Observing the Craft** by Andrew Hammer, and he puts forth the opinion that all the appendant bodies including both "Rites," with the possible exception of the Royal Arch degree, are not Freemasonry but something else entirely. He illustrates this by contrasting the ancient landmark of Freemasonry that insists on religious tolerance with the membership requirement of the Knights Templar that one be a Christian. In reading the letters to the editor, you might come to the conclusion that Templary is composed of a mixture of Freemasons who are Christian and Christians who are Freemasons.*

The Ed.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230
Phone (214) 888-0220
Fax (214) 888-0230.



**Greetings to all Sir Knights
wherever dispersed;**

This coming year I have the privilege of serving as chairman of Grand Encampment's 44th Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. During these next few months, I will attempt to keep you updated on the progress and breakthroughs in eye care. It has been almost a year since the Eye Foundation decided to do away with individual eye care and

direct the funds derived from the Eye Foundation to research. Grants are awarded every year to American universities for research in fascinating fields such as the field of amblyopia in which research is being conducted by Brenda Bohnsack, M.D., Ph.D. at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center. There, breakthroughs are being made that help thousands and thousands of people including those not yet born.

Sir Knights, there is no greater gift to mankind than the gift of sight. Through your contributions, many people still live productive lives and enjoy what most of us take for granted. If you are thinking of giving a gift to the Eye Foundation, there is a good deal of information on website (www.knightstemplar.org). The life sponsor program in particular is a way to contribute, and \$30 purchases membership in this program. Otherwise your Commandery will bill you one dollar a year for the Foundation. Other levels of membership are the Associate Patron for \$50 and the Patron for \$100. The Grand Commanders Club, and the Grand Masters Club are also available to those who want to contribute even more. With the recent events that are happening with our government and the cutbacks that are inevitable, more people are going to benefit through the kind and charitable acts of the Knights Templar.

We all need to give a sincere "Thank You!" to Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT for the great work he did on the 43rd annual voluntary campaign. Sir Knight Nelson was the first chairman to have any campaign that provided more than \$2 million. It is my sincere hope that the Sir Knights will continue to be charitable and give the gift of sight to people throughout the world.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Michael B. Johnson, KCT
Chairman, 44th Annual Campaign
10



Silver Trophies of the Grand Encampment

By
Sir Knight Paul Scheeler, PC

Antique silver expert John D. Ward was guest speaker at the Illinois Lodge of Research annual meeting on 7 October 2011, at the Springfield Hilton Hotel. Mr. Ward is Vice President and head of the Department for Silver and Objects of Vertu at the New York office of Sotheby's, the global auction firm founded in 1744 which operates in forty countries, with principal salesrooms in New York, London, Hong Kong, and Paris.

His presentation featured research on Masonic patrons and silversmiths who created opulent trophies including punch bowls, libation sets, candelabra, tea services, and ornamental objects such as loving cups. These were offered as prizes at marching drill competitions during state and national conclaves of Knights Templar. Commissioned by the Grand Encampment, these masterpieces were presented to champion drill corps from the early 1870s through the 1920s. His talk featured pieces from the collection of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35 of Chicago, including their sterling silver libation set made by the Gorham Co. given as second prize at the 1901 Triennial in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Mr. Ward determined that our liba-



Photo courtesy of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35.

tion set was made by a silversmith who was the Master of a Lodge in Rhode Island. We know the craftsmen who assisted him, their labor and materials costs, and the jeweler who sold the set. We even learned of similar libation sets that might also have been crafted by the same artisans," said Paul Scheeler, Past Commander of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35. "As a fraternal historian, I look forward to John's further research



LIBATION SET, WON BY ST. BERNARD DRILL CORPS, AT 35TH TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE, KNIGHTS' TRMPLAR, 1901.

Photo courtesy of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35.

on our five other trophies, any discoveries regarding those awarded to rival drill corps, and possibly even trophies presented at the state level.”

Champion Drill Corps of Interest

An initial review of Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery proceedings show existing commanderies that won trophies include: California No. 1 and Golden Gate No. 16 from California, Colorado No. 1 from Colorado, Columbia No. 2 from the District of Columbia, St. Bernard No. 35 from Illinois, Raper No. 1 from Indiana, Mount Olivet No. 12 from Kansas, Louisville-DeMolay No. 12 from Kentucky, Reed No. 6 and Hanselmann No. 16 from Ohio, Detroit No. 1 and DeMolai No. 5 from Michigan, Damascus No. 1 from Minnesota, and Ivanhoe No. 24 from Wisconsin.

Additional Commanderies with significant trophies may include: Los Angeles No. 9 and Golden West No. 43 from California; Joliet No. 4, Ivanhoe No. 33, and Evanston No. 58 from Illinois; Akron No. 25 from Ohio; Godfrey de Boullion-Washington No. 4 from Massachusetts; Beauseant No. 8 from Maryland; Minneapolis Drill Corps from Minnesota consisting of Zion No. 2, Darius No.7, and Minneapolis Mounted No. 23; Oriental No. 35 from Missouri; Cyrene No. 7 from New Jersey; Cyrene-Monroe No. 12 from New York; Tancred No. 82 from Texas; and Kenosha No. 30 from Wisconsin.

Particularly important are original invoices that might be in the Grand Recorder’s archives, either with the Grand Encampment or respective state Grand Commanderies. Related ephemera such as publicity photos, jewelers’ catalogs, or news articles describing the object



Photo courtesy of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35.

can also help illustrate the historic and intrinsic value of a piece.

Not all Commanderies that won Triennial prizes during the so-called “Golden Age of Fraternalism,” i.e. the post-Civil War Reconstruction era through World War I (or in the view of some scholars, the start of the Great Depression) have survived. Defunct Commanderies thought to have won silver trophies or other prizes during this period include: Chicago No. 19, Siloam No. 54, Columbia No. 63, and Lincoln Park No. 64 which merged with St. Elmo No. 64; Englewood No. 59 and Woodlawn No. 76 also of Illinois which merged with Mizpah No. 53; Emporia No. 8 of Kansas; and Apollo No. 15 of New York.

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Provenance Influences Valuation

For two decades Mr. Ward has presided over the sale of some of the world’s rarest and most valuable collections of silver, including objects of historic significance. He has placed works currently on public display with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Gilbert Collection in London, the Winterthur Museum and Country Estate in Delaware, as well as other major institutions in major American cities and the British National Trust.

At Sotheby’s Americana Week in January 2011, an important pair of American silver wine cups by Paul Revere, Jr. “The Patriot,” Boston 1792, attained a price at

auction of \$752,500. The cups were commissioned by Moses Michael Hayes, who founded The Massachusetts Bank in 1784 operating today as Bank of America. Artist and patron both served in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. In the year 1792 when the cups were made, Hays was Grand Master and Revere his Deputy. Hays had been Master of King David's Lodge in New York, the first Jewish Masonic Lodge in America, while Revere was one of the earliest Knights Templar in the United States. Masons composed a third of Revere's recorded clientele and spread across ten lodges including one in Surinam, and about two-thirds of his fellow Masons at St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston were clients.

"These findings highlight the importance of fraternal organizations in the patterns of patronage and diffusion of design, something that is just beginning to be in-

vestigated and which deserves to be better appreciated," said Mr. Ward. "For Commanderies and other Masonic bodies with major silver artifacts, it is vital to the historic provenance and accurate valuation of each piece, whether being evaluated for sale or insurance appraisal purposes, that the patron or jeweler who commissioned the object be identified. This process starts with the silversmith's mark typically stamped on the underside, and original invoices or early photographs can also prove quite useful."

A native of Springfield, Illinois, John Ward joined Sotheby's in 1997 and holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Chicago and master's degree in the history of decorative arts from the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, New York. For more information contact: john.ward@sothebys.com, or Paul Scheeler at oldchicagoyorkrite@msn.com.



Photo courtesy of Sotheby's.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation Research Grants



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230
Phone (214) 888-0220
Fax (214) 888-0230.



Left to right - Judie F. Charlton, M.D., the Jane McDermott Shott Chair of Ophthalmology at the WVU Eye Institute; Edward E. Ball, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of West Virginia; Satyabrata Sinha, Ph.D.; Ratnesh Singh, Ph.D.; Visvanathan Ramamurthy, Ph.D.; Max Sokolov, Ph.D.; and Paul Baker, Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of West Virginia.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation Supports Research at the WVU Eye Institute

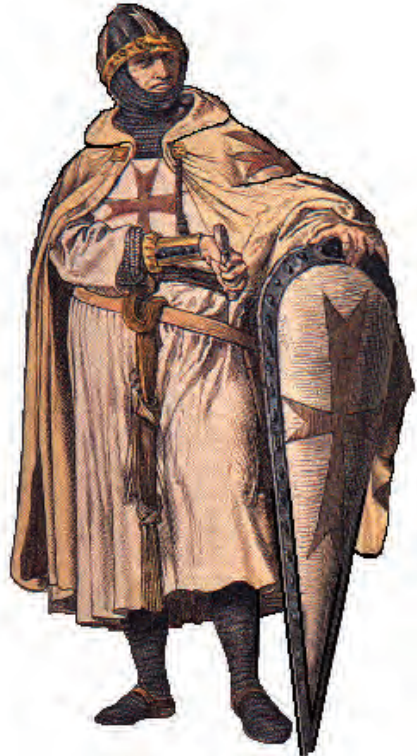
MORGANTOWN, West Virginia - The Knights Templar Eye Foundation recently shifted its focus from clinical care to research, and two scientists at the West Virginia University (WVU) Eye Institute are benefiting from its support.

WVU researcher associate, Dr. Satyabrata Sinha, has been awarded \$39,493 by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to study molecular chaperones, a kind of molecular machine that stewards the formation of other proteins. Although molecular chaperones are critical to eye health, their role in the development of blinding diseases remains poorly understood. Funded by the Knight Templar grant, Dr. Sinha will explore the connection between the molecular chaperones and the healthy function of cells in the retina responsible for vision.

Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Singh received \$40,000 from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. His research focuses on understanding lipid modifications of proteins needed for light perception. Defects in protein modification lead to various blinding diseases such as leber congenital amaurosis, a pediatric eye disease, and retinitis pigmentosa (RP). RP is a progressively blinding disease which affects over 400,000 individuals in the United States alone.

Understanding the role of molecular chaperones and lipid modifications in the eye is expected to provide new strategies to prevent blinding diseases.

Edward E. Ball, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of West Virginia, explained their interest. "Since 1956 the Knights Templar Eye Foundation has processed well over 80,000 applications from people requesting assistance for surgeries and care. Over the years, many West Virginians have been aided by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in receiving eye surgeries and care, but changes in the healthcare system have reduced this need. We can benefit the greater good of the community and the world by determining what causes vision problems."



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

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

DOWN

1. CAPS + TONE
2. ATLANTA around A
3. PAMPHLET anagram of HEMP
PLA(n)T(s) - N(orth &) S(outh)
4. CLEAN-CUT anagram of CLAN + CUTE
5. NAIL HEAD anagram of HAD + ALIEN
6. (r)ONCET + RUE

ACROSS

1. CAPO around PUCCIN(i)
7. TRAMPLE anagram of TEMPLAR
8. (KT editor John) PALMER
9. TIC (tac toe)
10. SPIRACLE anagram of REPLICAS
11. TACHYONS anagram of
ON YACHTS
12. ONE acrostic of O(ld)
N(ew) E(ngland)
13. (Grand Recorder Lawrence)
TUCKER
14. (Yogi) BER(r)A - R around MUD
15. EAST + ERTIDE anagram
of DIETER

This puzzle is from a guest constructor and Sir Knight from Albuquerque, NM, and an apprentice of our regular puzzle master. If you enjoyed this puzzle, please drop him a line at <ken@casa1800.com>. For detailed instructions on solving cryptic clues, go to <http://cerrillos.org/cryptic.htm>.

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>



knight templar

General Supplement

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

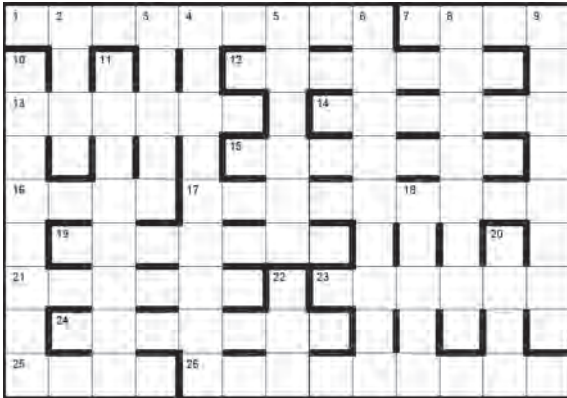
The Vatican - Rome





Yes, this bell tower is leaning. Everything leans in Venice.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE
by Loki
 Solution in Next Month's Issue



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>.

ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What Sadie Hawkins did when she heard of virginal guys? (6,3) 7. Cats and dogs retrogressed during part of second degree (4) 12. Discomfited marsupial forfeited record to foreign knight (7) 13. "So skyward, Boss? Campbells, for example?" (4,2.) 14. Place to cure an addict, maybe (6) 15. Kneaded breaddough starter, basted, and plunged in a fork (7) 16. "You, sir," he proclaimed, "are an addict" (4) 17. Master of a knight's vow used untruth to solidify ex-California fort (5,4) 19. Squared stones made odd use of Aeschylean ruse (7) 21. Islands are a Zero's base (6) 23. 192,255,238 in hex is a brownish color (6) 24. Scattered fine Sun. newspaper roto-gravure section (7) 25. Dines on chopped steak without knife (4) 26. Vocal motif of essay at a cheap price (5,4) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Oregon mountain and nearby area (4) 3,4,5. Patchwork purse, superior workmanship by established craftsman, is found in cryptic circumstances (5,9,6) 6. Urinating on yourself (6,3) 8. Strip events for stripper's habiliments (4-4) 9. Makes fun of pair of D's in orals (8) 10. What she says to tardy Oscar, and smack him? (8) 11. Eliminates lures (5,3) 18. Flutters, flits, pumps (5) 20. Glowing colors are new on outside (4) 22. Force to the right (3) |
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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.

THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL AND THE MODERN KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The first in a series

By

The Reverend Sir Knight Frederick A. Shade

What is the quest for the Holy Grail and how is it related to the modern order of Knights Templar? This is a question which has exercised the minds of several Masonic historians and writers such as A. E. Waite. The story of the Holy Grail is one of the most famous examples of Romance Literature from the Middle Ages. Fact and fable are closely interwoven, history and myth overlap, and the signs and symbols associated with both the Grail Cycle and the Templar Tradition appear to come from a common source. For these reasons, it is almost impossible for us today, in the twenty-first century, to come to a definite conclusion as to whether the alleged link between the Grail legend and the Templars is a valid one. However, I think I can give an answer in the affirmative if one accepts, at least in large measure, what I now present to you.

My case can be put briefly in this way. Although the Grail Cycle, as it is called, is not referred to specifically in our Ritual, nevertheless, a case can be made that there are some memorials of the Grail Tradition which have parallels today in our order, in particular the form of the Hallows or sacred objects of the Grail legend. Also, the modern-day Templar, like the Knight of the Holy Grail, is on a quest and a pilgrimage, one which is outlined in the ceremony of his installation as a Knight of the order and which

has strong parallels with the Romance Literature relating to the Grail Knights of the Middle Ages. Our ritual suggests that it is a physical journey that is being undertaken; this is also the case with the Grail story. In fact both the Grail Cycle and the Templar Ritual are allegories of a spiritual journey, and we can learn a great deal more about this journey by comparing them and seeing how these two traditions converge and diverge.

Getting back to the Grail Cycle itself, it is concerned with four things:

(i) The Institution of the Hallows and more especially that which concerns the origins of the Sacred Vessel.

(ii) The circumstances under which the Hallows were carried into Britain.

(iii) The search for the Hallows and the circumstances which led to their removal.

(iv) The occasion of their final departure from this earthly realm and Britain in particular.

The Cycle is presented in different ways by the medieval writers of the Romance. *The Quest for the Holy Grail* by Walter Map, for example, is published as a Penguin paperback and is one of the most popular and comprehensive versions available to us. There is also a German version of the Cycle which has other material added. This latter version introduced a Templar note among other things, and the Parsival (Perceval) devel-

opment in that Cycle is used by Wagner in his Operas, e.g. Parsival, etc.

What is the Holy Grail itself? The legend as set out in one account, *The Quest of the Holy Grail*, explains that the Grail is in fact the dish in which Christ ate the paschal lamb with His apostles and which was brought to Britain by Joseph of Arimathea, the first missionary to the island. The Grail is also associated with other sacred relics; more on this later. Once these precious relics had come to Britain, their custody devolved upon a line of Grail Keepers known as Fisher Kings, descendants of Joseph of Arimathea. The Grail was preserved in their Castle of Corbenic, enveloped in mystery, and hidden from the sight of such adventurous Knights as went in search of it. The several versions of the story tell how Arthur's Knights rode off in quest of the Holy Grail.

That is its supposed historical framework, and within this is weaved many magical and mystical stories, allegories, and things sacred. It is the best and most famous example of the Romance Literature of the Middle Ages, inspired by the strange stories relating to Arthur and his Round Table, the ancient Celtic legends concerning the Cauldron of Plenty, and the deeds of the Knights of the Temple who brought back many sacred relics and strange customs from their crusades in the Holy Land and surrounding countries. In the Grail Legend of the Middle Ages there is also a strong Cistercian influence on the spiritual lessons that are given to the Knights seeking the Grail. This is suggestive of a Templar influence as the ancient story was being developed and re-written during the period of the Crusades. The Cistercians had a very strong hold on the Templars; Bernard

of Clairvaux in fact supported their establishment as an order and also wrote their constitution.

For every journey there must be a purpose, a goal, and this is true also of the Grail Quest. But as this venture can take you through many worlds and different levels of experience, what is brought back may not be physical at all. In many ways this is the key to the whole matter of the Holy Grail and its interest to us as Freemasons who research and speculate on such things. It is very important to remember when studying the material on the Grail that, in spite of what one reads, the Grail itself is not really something physical but is a symbol of something less tangible. One can go further and say that the whole saga is in fact a spiritual story dressed up in the guise of history, the Grail itself being a metaphor of God's grace which the Knight receives on his journey.

But physical things are given to represent the Grail in the same way as events that are claimed to have happened are used as allegories. For example, in one place it is described as the dish of the Last Supper. Then it appears as the Vessel that received the effusion of Christ's blood when His side was pierced, and its "secrets" are claimed to be the mystery of the Eucharist. There are other objects which are used as metaphors and as things magical in this strange story and which provide us with further clues.

Another point worth mentioning here is that of all the Knights who went out in search of the Grail, only three are recorded to have arrived at Sarras, the heavenly city, and there assist in the office (service) of the Holy Grail. But Galahad alone, the perfect Knight, is judged to be the one worthy of seeing the mys-

teries within the holy vessel and of looking on the ineffable. Note how we have a similar theme in our ritual when the candidate arrives at that point in his own pilgrimage when he is permitted to look within the stone and there behold the secret. You will need to read the whole story for yourself to fully appreciate these things to which I am referring.

As with all true spiritual sagas, there are several layers of meaning, the literal or historical, the allegorical explained by the narrator, and the spiritual or ineffable also alluded to by the narrator; but as noted by St. Paul, it is not seemly to describe these ineffable things, and so we receive only a glimpse of them. Our own sacred scriptures follow the same formula as the early Church Father Origen explains to us, i.e. of having three levels or layers of meaning. In the case of scripture, Origen describes these three layers of meaning as body, soul, and spirit. In this context then, it is suggested that, at its deepest level, the quest is really a story of initiation. Certainly the seeker undergoes many adventures in this world before reaching his goal, and they decide both his fate and the waste land through which he travels, but the story is really concerned with the journey of the soul.

Like the allegorical accounts of Christian Rosencreutz, the Grail Legend is archetypal in form and is therefore representative of something that transcends history and the people to whom it refers. In the case of the Grail Quest, the saga includes the ritual question and answer, the Knight finding a way through the forest, the broken sword which must be restored, the cup, the lance which drips blood, and the trance or sleep of the initiate. All these things are familiar to us knight templar

from other sources such as the ancient Mystery Schools and their latter-day followers in contemporary orders, e.g. Freemasonry and the Rosicrucians.

What I now wish to do is refer very briefly to the main characters in this story, to the places where the main events occur, and then to the sacred relics which are central to the quest itself.

The story of the quest has its heroes; there are five of them - Lancelot, Gawain, Bors, Perceval, and Galahad. Of course, there are other Knights and personnel in the story, and these vary from one writer or chronicler to another. They include Merlin, Arthur, the Grail Hermit, and the Grail Maiden.

There is also the Grail Family, i.e. the Grail Keepers. Again, they are given slightly different names in the several versions of the story. There is Joseph of Arimathea, the first Guardian of the Sacred Vessel. Then we have the second Guardian, his brother-in-law, who is said to have remained alive for centuries, since the Ascension of Christ until he saw his grandson, Perceval. To Perceval is given the secrets of the Hallows, thus completing the trinity of the Grail Guardians, reflecting the Divine Trinity that bears witness in Heaven.

The Landscape of the Grail includes various forests, wastes, and sacred places. They include Sarras, the Heavenly city of the Grail; the Grail Castle, its earthly residence for a time; and other Castles such as the Chessboard Castle and the Castle of the Maidens. There is also the Grail Chapel, Glastonbury, the Waste Land, the Savage Forest, etc. Does this not follow a familiar pattern found in other mythologies and romances? I am again reminded of the Rosicrucian legends. Also, we have in some accounts a

pre-Christian version of the Grail Chapel that is called the Chapel in the Green.

All high quests end in the spiritual city, and there one beholds the sacred things that were once seen by a select few and then withdrawn from mortal eyes. And what are these things which are called the grail Hallows?

(1) There is the Grail or Cup or Goblet in which the blood of our Lord was received when he was on the cross.

(2) There is also the lance, said to be the spear which belonged to the Roman Soldier Longinus, and which pierced the side of our Lord when on the cross.

(3) The third Hallow is the sword which is at various times found whole or broken. It is given various origins. First, it is said to have been used to behead John the Baptist. Second, that it was the sword of Solomon. It was placed in a mythical ship that roamed the seas and finally came to the British shores where it was bequeathed to Galahad. The third source is as a token belonging to a legend of vengeance and therefore has no direct relationship with the Quest.

(4) Finally, there is the dish, and this appears at banquets with food aplenty. It obviously comes from pagan folklore and is given a spiritual meaning and a Christian context. Its sacramental analogy is the Paten, a golden dish on which rests the large host on the altar during the celebration of the Eucharist. The dish appears in different guises and is sometimes carried in by maidens or appears on a cloth descending from heaven.

The Hallows are obviously archetypes having universal application and providing man with many lessons regarding his relationship with God, his own nature, and his spiritual destiny. As you can see, they have also been linked with the Pas-

sion of our Lord, but it was not always so if we study the Celtic origins of some of these objects. Of course, their possible pre-Christian origins should not invalidate their Christian application anymore than the pre-existent Jewish Passover should invalidate the Eucharist instituted by Christ. Neither should the 25th of December, the Roman festival of Sol Invictus, invalidate the Festival of the Nativity. Festivals and events such as these have been transformed and given an entirely new significance and authority by virtue of the new revelation and dispensation which they convey.

To be continued next month.

Editor's Note:

If Sir Knight Shade's references to "our" ritual are confusing to you, remember that he is under the jurisdiction of a Grand Priory in Austrailia.

Sir Knight Fred Shade is a member of the Order in Victoria, Australia. He has been Chaplain of his Preceptory (Metropolitan No. 2) for many years and holds the rank of Past Great 2nd Constable. He was the founding Secretary of the Victorian Knight Templar Study Circle and its second President. He can be contacted by email at: fredshade@westnet.com.au.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation has several cemetery plots available in Memorial Shrine Cemetery, Wyoming, PA in exchange for a contribution to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Please contact the office at 214-888-0220 or Email manager@ktef.us if you are interested.

A Nest of Vipers

The Great Siege of Malta, 1565

The Second in a Series.

By

R.E. Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr.

Both Sides Prepare for the Siege

The deciding factors leading to the Siege of Malta were the capture in mid-1564 in separate incidents of the governors of Cairo and Alexandria as well as the 107-year old former nurse of Suleiman's daughter (returning from Mecca) by the order's galleys cruising the Eastern Mediterranean. These captives were worth considerable ransom. The sultan's court and subjects cried out for revenge. Not only this, but he was informed by spies of the order's plans to erect new massive fortifications within their secure harbor. The experience at Rhodes taught him that if this was allowed to happen, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to conquer and expel the Knights. At a meeting of the divan in October 1564, Suleiman made the decision to attack Malta. In November he named Mustapha Pasha as commander of the campaign and Piyale Pasha as admiral of the imperial navy, both seasoned campaigners. Due to past reconnaissance, the Ottoman high command was keenly aware of the topography of Malta as well as the situation of the Knights and their fortifications. One major drawback was the distance to Malta from supply sources—almost a thousand miles. The

invading army must carry with it sufficient food, shelter, timber, naval stores, and materials for a siege. They could rely only on limited support from the corsairs of North Africa. Timing was essential; there was a window of opportunity of but a few months. However, at campaign planning and arranging for logistical support, the central Ottoman government was unsurpassed (Crowley 87,90-91).

Shipbuilding, armaments, and provisions were undertaken at a grueling pace. Although it was clear that the Turks were preparing for war, European observers and spies were uncertain as to the objective. Malta was guessed, but so were other locations. In December, Suleiman decided against going himself. His proxy would be Mustapha Pasha. Also summoned from Tripoli was Turgut Reis (also known as Dragut), a corsair with extensive knowledge of the island who would help and advise Mustapha and Piyale. This division of command would later cause difficulty during the campaign. On March 30, 1565, the armada set sail from Istanbul amid much fanfare. The Ottoman fleet consisted of nearly 200 ships, mostly galleys. It carried about 30,000 troops not counting the galley slaves or the sailors on the ships. Of those troops, 6,300 were part of the elite Janissary

Corps of musketeers. During the course of the siege, at least 10,000 additional troops from Egypt and the other Islamic lands of North Africa would join the Ottoman army (Crowley 95-96).

Because of the uncertainty of the Turkish objective or due to hesitation on La Valette's part, it was not until January 1565, that the 70-year old Grand Master began taking action. This resulted in last-minute preparations for the island's defense. The key to Malta was the fine natural harbor on the eastern side of the island that extended four miles inland with several sheltered anchorages. Two adjacent necks of land jutted into the harbor, and it is on these pen-



insulas that the Knights had established their strongholds. On one of these was the town of Birgu which was protected by Fort St. Angelo commanding the water. The other promontory, Senglea, was separated from Birgu by a 300-yard wide inlet that was guarded by Fort St. Michael. Within this inlet the Knights kept their galleys. The town and Fort St. Michael were connected by a pontoon bridge and a chain could close the mouth of the inlet. In 1565 neither peninsula had complete fortifications on their landward sides (Crowley 99-100).

Across the water from these peninsulas was a much higher peninsula named Mount Sciberras, which was the key to the whole harbor. Unfortunately, its only protective structure was a small, hastily constructed, star-shaped fort called St. Elmo.

All three strongholds were unfinished and required urgent attention to withstand an Ottoman assault. In the early months of 1565, much was necessary to do.

To augment the defending force of some 600 Knights, in January, La Valette began trying to hire mercenaries as well as Spanish and Italian troops. Due to bureaucratic and logistical complications, in the end few of them arrived in time. The other source of men was the Maltese militia, for whom La Valette had little regard as soldiers. In the end, the Maltese provided the bulk of the fighting men and proved to be skillful and reliable troops. Also undertaken was a crash effort to procure adequate supplies of food and materials as well as forcibly evacuating noncombatants to Sicily. In the spring of 1565, La Valette's military force of 8,000 to 9,000 included his Knights, the army of Maltese irregulars, and other troops from Sicily. La Valette garrisoned isolated St. Elmo with fifty-two Knights and 800 additional troops including 200 Spanish soldiers from Sicily.

The Assault on Fort St. Elmo

On May 18, observers at St. Elmo and St. Angelo sighted the arrival of the Ottoman fleet. The alarm was sounded and all the inhabitants of Malta took refuge in the fortified towns. Most Maltese went to Mdina, the ancient capital of the island, located inland about nine miles north of the harbor. It was a fortified medieval citadel, but its fortifications were old-fashioned and vulnerable to cannon. To reassure the nervous local population, detachments of soldiers had been sent to the town, and the Knights' cavalry was stationed there in order to

carry out raids. The locals nearer the harbor crowded into St. Elmo, Birgu, or Senglea (Crowley 105,106).

The Ottomans began landing at the southern bay named Marsasirocco on May 19, confident they would easily conquer Malta in less than two weeks. Moving on Birgu, they assaulted its walls on May 21, which resulted in the death of twenty-one defenders and several hundred Turks. This initial encounter did reveal that the Turkish musket fire was more accurate than that of the Europeans due to the better weapons of the Turks. Admiral Piyale demanded that the first objective be St. Elmo so that he could have use of the safer Marsamuschetto harbor, on the Northwest side of Mt. Sciberras. Mustapha Pasha did not agree. He wanted to capture Mdina and focus on Birgu, but he grudgingly yielded to Piyale, who argued that the safety of the fleet was paramount.

Dragging cannons up to Mt. Sciberas, the Ottomans began bombarding St. Elmo on May 27. They expected that it would fall within a week. La Valette considered St. Elmo the key to Malta's defense. Throughout the Turkish assaults, he continually reinforced St. Elmo by sending soldiers across the harbor in boats. The decision not to capture Mdina was a big mistake on the



Turks Land on Malta

part of the Ottoman commanders. La Valette's cavalry force continually harassed the Turks from the rear, a tactic that would eventually prove very fruitful for the defenders.

To attack St. Elmo, the Turkish troops had to cross a moat under fire. The defenders had raised drawbridges and broken down other bridges so the Turks had to construct portable bridges. Such massed attacks were costly in terms of casualties. Furious attacks continued through May 29th with tremendous casualties among the Turks, although La Valette had to continually reinforce the garrison at St. Elmo with fresh troops. Dragut, arriving shortly after May 29, regarded the focus on St. Elmo to be a mistake. However, he also thought that since they were committed, the Ottomans could not abandon the attack and would have to continue until St. Elmo fell. Trained as an artilleryman by the Mamelukes of Egypt, Dragut brought increased order to the Turkish bombardment. He added batteries at Dragut Point and Gallows Point to bring fire on St. Elmo from all directions. Soon the Turks were firing about 7,000 rounds into St. Elmo every day. The fort was slowly being pulverized.

With summer at hand, the temperatures began to climb, providing an unexpected and ominous ally for the defenders. The hot sun and warm air ripened the unburied dead and bred disease, while the water sources poisoned in early spring by order of La Valette gave rise to dysentery in the Turkish camp.

The attacks on St. Elmo continued with fierce assaults spearheaded by the elite Ottoman troops known as Janissaries on June 3 and June 7. They possessed expertise in use of the arquebus

(an early portable gun with a long barrel, supported on a tripod by a hook or on a forked post). The defenders however, wreaked havoc among the Turkish attackers. Despite their success, some of the younger Knights in St. Elmo demanded on June 8 that the fort be evacuated. Instead, they were shamed into staying the course. Its garrison, aware that the length of their survival



Janissary

would determine the outcome of the whole campaign, hung on as men died and walls collapsed under day and night bombardment. An intense night assault on June 10 killed sixty defenders, but also resulted in 1,500 deaths among the Janissaries. The cannons of St. Angelo were used to support the defenders of St. Elmo with enfilading fire.

On June 18 the Ottomans suffered two stunning and decisive blows. The first came when shrapnel from a poorly aimed Turkish cannonball mortally wounded Dragut as it struck him beneath the ear. Only his thick turban prevented instant death, but the head wound put him out of action and eventually killed him a few days later. Another piece killed the Master General of the Turkish ordnance outright; he was the second in command of the army under Mustapha Pasha. The second blow came when artillery fire from the defenders killed the commander of the Janissaries.

Another furious assault on June 22 resulted in 2,000 more Turkish casualties, but the war of attrition was decisively favoring the attackers. It was clear that St. Elmo was doomed. Turkish troops breached the walls, and on June 23, the

eve of the feast-day of St. John the Baptist, a Turkish assault overran the fort. Nine Knights were captured by Dragut's men, never to be seen again and probably died as galley slaves. Five Maltese swam to safety, but the rest of the garrison perished with no quarter given. "Mustapha had some of the bodies of the Knights..., mutilated and dressed in their distinctive red and white surcoats and

nailed to crosses...launched into the water off St. Elmo's point, where the current washed them across to Birgu. La Valette retaliated by taking all the Turkish prisoners out of the dungeons and slaughtering them on the ramparts (Crowley 140)." In the course of the month-long siege of St. Elmo, the Turks lost 8,000 men, roughly a quarter of their troops, including many elite Janissaries. About 1,500 defenders had died. Two hours after St. Elmo's fall, Dragut "drank the sherbet of martyrdom and forgot this vain world." (Crowley 141). As Mustapha Pasha looked from the ruins of captured St. Elmo across the Grand Harbor to the fort of St. Angelo, he asked, "Great Allah! If so small a son has cost us so dear, what price shall we have

to pay for so large a father?" The small fort had fallen, but it had bought precious time for improving the fortifications and defenses of Birgu and Senglea.



Death of Dragut

To be continued

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Sir Knight Marshall is a Past Grand Commander and Past Grand High Priest of Alabama and serves as an Aide-de-Camp to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Knight Templar* magazine. He is also a Knight Commander of the Temple of the Grand Encampment and has published articles in the *Royal Arch Mason*, *Knight Templar*, and *Philaethes* Magazines. He resides at 161 Anna Kathryn Drive, Gurley, AL 35748 and can be reached at geomarsh@yahoo.com.



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DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Tuesday, May 08, 2012

Depart New York, JFK for your flight to Valletta, Malta

Wednesday, May 09, 2012

Arrival Malta and transfer to your hotel

Overnight: MALTA

Meals: Welcome Dinner

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Depart hotel with a guide and drive to Valletta - the capital city, a living, working city. The grid of narrow streets houses some of Europe's finest art works, churches and palaces.

Visit to St. John's Co-cathedral and Caravaggio: It was commissioned in 1572 by Grand Master Jean de la Cassière as the conventual church of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John.

Visit of the Upper Barracca Gardens: From these gardens guests can enjoy unrivalled views across one of the world's largest and deepest natural harbors, Grand Harbour, and over to the three cities.

Visit the Palace state rooms and the Palace Armoury: Dominating Palace Square, the Grand Master's Palace has always been the house of government in Malta, first by the knights, then the British, and now hosts the President's office. The Palace Armoury is one of the most visible and tangible symbols of the past glories of the Sovereign Hospitaller Military Order of Malta (The Knights of St. John). Lunch in Valletta

After lunch, guests will walk to the Mediterranean Conference Centre: This venue is the former "Sacra Infirmeria" of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, located adjacent to Fort St. Elmo and overlooking the Grand Harbor. It was built by the Knights of St. John in 1574 to serve as a hospital capable of treating 1000 patients. Finally walk to the Malta Experience for a 45 minute multimedia spectacular about Maltese history.

Transfer of group back to hotel. Timings 9AM to 5PM

Overnight: MALTA

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday, May 11, 2012

Group departs hotel accompanied by English speaking guide and drives to the three cities of Vittoriosa, Senglea, and Cospicua, known as Cottonera. This is where the Knights of St. John settled before Valletta was built, leaving a number of treasures in the form of art and architecture. Its waterfront was the main base for the order's galleys and boasts some of the finest harbor architecture found in Mediterranean ports. All three cities carry a second name, an honor which the knights felt should remind mankind of their valor during the 1565 siege.

Enjoy a short walk in Senglea, before stopping in Vittoriosa. See Fort St. Angelo from the outside, which was built around 12th century AD and was the headquarters of the Knights until Valletta was built. In Vittoriosa (better known as Birgu), you will find the residences of many well known Knights.

Visit of the Inquisitor's Palace. It was erected in the 1530s as the civil law courts of the Order of St. John soon after the Knights arrived in Malta. It continued to serve as law courts



until 1571 when the order transferred its headquarters to Valletta after the siege of 1565. Timings 9AM to 1PM
Overnight: MALTA Meals: Breakfast and Farewell Dinner

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Depart on a flight from Malta to Athens
Late Evening arrival in Athens

Overnight: Athens, Greece

Meals: Breakfast

Sunday, May 13, 2012

Half-day tour of Athens: The tour begins with a panoramic drive through the city center of Athens. View Panathenian Stadium, the Presidential Residence, the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, and Hadrian's Arch. Visit the Acropolis, the ancient architectural masterpiece built during the Golden Age of Athens. Finally, visit the new Acropolis Museum, built at the base of the monument where many of the original statues from the Acropolis are now displayed.

Transfer to the airport in Athens

Flight from Athens to Rhodes via Olympic Air

Check into your hotel. Welcome dinner in Rhodes

Overnight: Rhodes, Greece Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Monday, May 14, 2012

Lindos half day: On your arrival in Lindos, you will be captivated by the magnificent view of Lindos Bay, with its traditional houses of a sparkling white surrounded by bright blue and crystalline waters. The stunning beauty of the castle, the Acropolis of Athena Lindia on the top of the hill with its wonderful view, St. Paul's Bay (the apostle arrived in 58 BC), and the pebbled streets of the village fascinate visitors. Visit the acropolis on foot or by a special kind of cab "Taxi Lindos" driven by monkeys (supplementary cost.) Entrance fees for Acropolis of Lindos is included.

Overnight: Rhodes, Greece

Meals: Breakfast

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Depart by coach with official guide, **Rhodes full-day tour.** Don't miss the three windmills near St. Nicolas Fort, the New Market, the buildings of the Public Administration, the entrance of Mandraki's Harbor, the sub-marine aquarium, and the two deer, where the Colossus of Rhodes is supposed to have stood.

Moving forward to Mount Smith, enjoy several picturesque views of the city and the coast. You have the opportunity to visit the ruins of Appolon's Temple, the open-air antic stadium, as well as the amphitheatre.

The visit ends at one of the doors of the famous Medieval Town of Rhodes, better known as the Old Town, classified as historical monument by UNICCO.

Wander freely through the street of St. John's Knights in front of the archaeological museum and the Palace of the Grand Master. You will be surprised by the number of small shops selling everything, including handmade jewelry, leather, ceramics and rugs, wooden objects, and clothing. Entrance fees for Castello, the Archeological Museum, and the Palace of the Grand Master is included.

Overnight: Rhodes, Greece

Meals: Breakfast

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mid day transfer to the airport for your flight to Athens

Transfer to your hotel in Athens with the remaining afternoon free to explore Athens on your own.

Farewell Dinner in Athens at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Athens, Greece

Meals: Breakfast and Farewell Dinner

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Depart for home from Athens

Meals Breakfast

PRELIMINARY RATES

**\$3,567* pp dbl
+ \$182 current taxes**

*Based on a new projected air allowance of \$1940 pp including air taxes and current fuel \$420.

*Based on minimum 20 participants.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

John L. Palmer KTCH, KCT, 33°

Managing Editor,
Knight Templar magazine
ktmagazine@comcast.net
Office 615-283-8477

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CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS: All prices are based on current rates of exchange. Your final invoice will reflect any increases resulting from currency fluctuations.



Beauceant News

Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant Installs (Mrs. John A.) Mary Brogan of Texas as Supreme Worthy President

(Mrs. John A.) Mary Brogan was installed as Supreme Worthy President on Friday, September 30, 2011, at the 91st annual Supreme Assembly held in Newport Beach, California. Mrs. Brogan will visit all chartered assemblies of the Social Order of the Beauceant during her term. She will preside at the 92nd Annual Supreme Assembly in Ft. Worth, TX, September 23 – 28, 2012.

Mrs. Brogan is a thirteen year member of San Antonio Assembly No. 159, S.O.O.B. Her affiliation with the Masonic community began in childhood as a daughter of a Master Mason and Knight Templar and Order of the Eastern Star members. Her mother, Mrs. James P. Davis, is a past president of San Antonio Assembly No. 159, S.O.O.B. Mrs. Brogan is a past Grand Representative from Georgia to Texas, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and as an adult, served as Mother Advisor of San Antonio Assembly No. 3. Also, Mrs. Brogan has been a member of the Eastern Star for 44 years. Her Sir Knight, John A. Brogan, is a long-term member of San Antonio Commandery No. 7, Texas.



Mrs. Brogan was born in Gonzales, Texas but has lived all but a few months in San Antonio, thus earning the distinction of "Proud Texan." She holds a Baccalaureate Degree from the University of Texas, Austin and a Master's Degree from Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX. Mrs. Brogan is a Lifetime Certified Purchasing Manager and retired as the Acquisitions Manager of the Alamo Community Colleges where she was employed for twenty-seven years.

Following a college courtship, the Brogans were married in December 1972, during the Christmas holidays in Texas. They moved to Ohio State University for the winter term and the completion of John's Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1973. Homesick for family and friends, John accepted a position at the San Antonio electric utility where he could ply his training in power systems. The Brogans have two children; Patricia, married to Ryan Nelle, and David, married to Jennifer Kinnaman. They are blessed with three precious grandchildren, Brandon and Rachel Nelle and Calum Brogan.

Mrs. Brogan is active in her church, Shearer Hills Baptist, serving as a Trustee, a member of the choir, and on various committees. She is also the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for the Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio.

In 2008 Mrs. Brogan was honored to receive membership in the Grand Master's Club for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The anonymous benefactor had the gift bestowed at the Grand Annual Conclave, Texas Beauceant luncheon.

Mrs. Brogan's theme for the year is "Faith, Family, Friends." Two New Testament Scriptures are especially relevant. Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes," and John 8:12, "Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

During her term as Supreme Worthy President, Mrs. Brogan plans to continue emphasizing donations to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation which is Beauceant's primary charitable organization. Continued support to this special cause of providing light through sight is requested with honorariums, gifts, memorials, and estate planning contributions. If the eyes are a window to the soul, then the Knights Templar Eye Foundation enables the craftsman to provide a noble view so that others may see.

Grand Encampment Membership Awards



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Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Lady Glenda Palmer

The Youngest Templar – Orphan of Destiny by Michael Spradlin, Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN 978-0-399-24765-1.

The *Youngest Templar – Orphan of Destiny* is the third book in a series and should be read after *The Youngest Templar – Keeper of the Grail* and *The Youngest Templar – Trail of Fate*. I found the series to be fast paced and a lot of fun to read. I could not wait for the next book to be released each time in order to find out what had happened to Tristan, a Templar Squire; Robard, Tristan's traveling companion and ace archer; and Maryam, a female Saracen warrior. These are the three main characters of the series. Of course there are several bad guys led by evil Templar, Sir Hugh, who are pursuing the three. The story is an historical adventure set in the final decade of the 12th century. The plot has some great, clever, interesting twists and turns. As the plot unfolds, you find out about the background of each character, which has some intriguing surprises. Tristan has great character qualities; he is tenacious, courageous, bold, self-reliant, and chivalrous. His word is his bond, and he supports his friends with his life.

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for a DeMolay or teenager who likes to read, this is the series of books to buy.

If you are looking for an entertaining action packed read, these are the books for you. They will not be deep thought provoking Masonic reads, but there is nothing wrong with reading occasionally just for fun and entertainment!

I enjoyed every book in the series, especially the last one, *The Youngest Templar – Orphan of Destiny*, because in this book the mystery was solved—whom Tristan really was and why the Knight Templars took him on their journey to the Holy Land.





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John 4:14

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