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VOLUME LVII

NOVEMBER 2011

NUMBER 11

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Knight Templar

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 Published monthly as an official publication of the
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**Address changes or corrections
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Grand Master's Message

Thanksgiving for me has always been a time of reflection and contemplation; a time we spend with friends and family being thankful for another year and our times together as we look forward to the Christmas season.



A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit with a couple of Knights Templar from Massachusetts who recalled memories of a mutual friend who passed to his eternal reward ten years earlier and who I learned had been a mentor to all of us. The thought occurred to me at this season about how many teachers, counselors, and mentors I have had and I am sure you must have had as well, who may no longer be with us but touched us in a very meaningful way.

I recall the expression that “we have friends for a moment, a season, or a lifetime.” As I recall this particular friend, he was there but for a moment, but the moment he was there was very important to me, and he provided something in my life which at that point in time I sorely needed. I certainly can never repay his friendship or for that matter be a mentor to him, but I certainly can be there for others at that moment in time when they may have a need or even just a kind word. Perhaps that is the only way we can ever repay the many kindnesses we’ve received from others.

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to remember those who were there for us at a time when we needed a helping hand or good counsel. Many times our lives move so fast, and with all the activities we are involved in, we forget to take time to remember. As you remember, also remember the debt we owe to those who helped us and take time to find the opportunity when you might help others.

Certainly in my busy life, I might have missed the opportunity to remember that special friend who reached out his hand in friendship well over ten years ago. Since that meeting with his friends, it has given me an opportunity to have fond memories and to give thanks for those many, many special mentors whom I’ve been fortunate enough to have in my life. Won’t you take the opportunity as well? I think you’ll enjoy the fond memories, and you’ll have a warm feeling as you ‘pass it on.’

Happy Thanksgiving!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Koon, II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

november 2011

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Prelate's Chapel

by

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

“Come, ye thankful people come, Raise the song of harvest home ...
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied ...”

Henry Alford-1844

This month we celebrate a holiday unique to this country – a national day of thanksgiving. Despite the devastating weather, financial woes, and threats of war, we are a country that has been truly blessed over the years. Indeed God has “shed His grace” on us, and let us give thanks! Yes, I know that the turkey is the main feature of Thanksgiving Day in many homes. A good meal, family gatherings, and special worship services mark this memorable day. I would hope that in each Commandery conclave this month, there would be a moment of special remembrance for all that God has given us and for all the blessings of this life and country we enjoy.

I would also hope that another special day would be remembered and tribute paid thereto. November 11th marks what we now call Veterans Day. The name has changed over the years, but the intent has not. And that intent is to pay special tribute to all those who have served their country in the military in times of peace and in times of war. We especially want to remember all those who have made the supreme sacrifice, for we truly know that “freedom is not free.” Our freedom has been bought at a dear price. Hundreds of thousands of military lie in graves as silent witnesses to their devotion to this “Land of the free and home of the brave.” We have enjoyed living in the greatest country on earth because of their sacrifice! Let us not, in our devotions and recognition, fail to thank those veterans living among us, for they too made a sacrifice of time, energy, devotion, and oftentimes physical hardship and injury.

We can be truly grateful in this time of thanksgiving for this hallowed land and for those who have made our nation great by protecting its borders and its freedom.

Most holy and loving God, our heavenly Father, we give Thee thanks and praise for all Thy goodness showered upon us in this land of freedom and opportunity. We remember before Thee those who have given of themselves to make this land great and free. May their legacy inspire us to follow in their footsteps and give ourselves for others that future generations may rise up and call us blessed. Bless our country and give us contrite hearts to worship Thee for all the goodness we have seen in the land of the living. Guide and direct our feet aright that generations to come may walk in paths of righteousness. This we pray in the name of the Great Captain of our Salvation, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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A Chat With The Managing Editor

I met some of our old friends and brethren from another state recently at a national Masonic meeting. They informed me that the Sir Knights in their jurisdiction were very angry about the change of direction of the Eye Foundation. I later got to thinking about this.

We choose these Sir Knights who are on the board of the Eye Foundation either directly or indirectly by election. We send them to meetings so that they will be well informed, we trust them to make difficult decisions, and then we are unhappy with the decisions they make. I have to believe that these board members must have known that quite a few people would be unhappy with their decision to refocus the foundation on research and education. I can think of no benefit the board members received from making this decision except grief from some of the Sir Knights who disagreed with them, and yet, they made it anyway.

One of the definitions of chivalry is that a chivalrous person makes decisions based on what is good for others without regard for what is good for himself, sometimes at great sacrifice. Maybe the board was doing the chivalrous thing by making a decision which would benefit the most people.

What about the people who are angry? Sometimes it makes us feel good to look into the eyes of the person we are helping. That's a good thing. When we are no longer able to do that, perhaps we no longer get that good feeling. That begins to make the anger look a little selfish. Are we angry because we no longer get to "feel good" when we help a person one-on-one? I don't know. I just trust the Sir Knights we choose to do the best they can.

A psychologist friend recently explained to me that some people enjoy being happy and others enjoy being angry and upset, so in a way, that makes them happy too. She explained that whichever group you fall into, you enjoy it, so everybody must be happy all the time. (I didn't really understand it either, but just for a moment it made sense to me).

I have decided to adopt as one of my heroes a character named Elwood P. Dowd. Some of you may remember him as the fellow Jimmy Stewart played in the movie *Harvey*. He seemed to be a really happy man. One of the things he said in that movie was to the effect that someone had told him that in order to be happy and successful, one had to be very smart or very pleasant. He went on to say that he'd tried smart, but preferred pleasant.

Have a great autumn!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor



Letters to the Editor



Sir Knight Palmer,

There seems to be a great deal of discrepancy between the Red Cross of Constantine article by Sir Knight Herndon and the Red Cross of Constantine history as told by Harold V. B. Voorhis in his 1963 book.

Voorhis claims that the Red Cross of Constantine came into being in 1865, and precursor groups had little effect on its organization. I think it's important to distinguish between traditional and actual history.

Sir Knight Louis S. VanSlyck
Columbus, Ohio



Dear Sir Knights,

I am just your average Joe, living one day at a time in this great nation we live in. I have only been a Knight for a short while compared to most of your readers, but I have been a warrior of Christ since I was a young man in Vacation Bible School when I accepted the Lord as my Savior at the young age of seven. At that young age, I of course had a lot of questions like why and what if and how, and with Christian parents, most of them were answered. For the questions they couldn't answer, I was lucky to have an uncle that had been a preacher for decades.

I tell you all this to get to the subject of your writings on the "Shroud of Turin." You have had people write in saying that they "completely dismiss the knight templar

idea" of this ever covering Christ. Even after the writer brings up the scripture of John 20:7, where it talks about the wrappings just laying there and a face cloth had been rolled up and set aside in its own place. If I am going through stuff and come across something I want to save that is important, I set it aside to be saved as was this face cloth. The Bible doesn't tell us if it was a small piece of cloth or an eight foot or bigger piece of cloth, just that it was set aside from the rest.

Then the subject of decaying of the body is brought up. We all know that Christ's body was stabbed with a roman spear while hanging on the cross. Then after he died, his body was completely cleaned and washed according to tradition. Don't you think common sense would tell you that the wound would still seep as would any human. Let's remember that he was and always will be the son of God, but while on earth he was still a human, and until God brought him back from the dead, his body would start to decay a small amount.

When I was a young new Christian at the age of seven, I asked my uncle, the preacher, if God made Adam and then Eve, and they had Cain and Abel, and then Cain killed Abel, then Cain left and came back many years later with a wife. I asked, it doesn't say anything in the Bible about God making any other people where did Cain get his wife? What he told me I have never forgotten, He told me God only tells us in the Bible what he wants us to know, and what he thinks is important for us to know, and the rest didn't matter. So when the Bible tells us



Letters to the Editor



Cain came back with a wife, just believe he did because God said so in his Bible.

So is the cloth in the tomb that was laid aside the Shroud of Turin? We will never know for sure, because God didn't think it was important enough for us to know or he would have put it in the Bible. Was his body decaying? We don't know for sure, because once again it wasn't in the Bible. So as Christians and Knights, we need to try to stop reading too deeply into things and take the Bible as it is, God's Word. If the Lord wants us to know something, it will be in plain sight in the Bible, there won't be a mistake in what he wants you to know. Or the Lord will tell you himself.

I say "Thank You" for your story on the Shroud. As Knights and Christians, let's just stick to what the Lord tells each and every one of us in our own heart and the way each of us interpret the Bible in our own way. That is why we live in this great nation to have that freedom to believe what we want to; so to each his own.

I personally am looking forward to the great work you are doing on your magazine, and the Shroud article. That is just it, it is a story you decided to write about, and I find it interesting, and I'm glad you are. I hope people don't read too deep into what you are writing and just take it as a story instead of what you believe and the Gospel truth.

Thank You Brother
Sir Knight Phillip McConnell

Sir Knight John Palmer:

Congratulations on creating *Knight Templar* magazines that are interesting to read! In a letter to you published in the current issue, the writer, Sir Knight Scott A. Horstmeister, notes that "If one is in the York Rite and changes their beliefs and is no longer Christian they should leave the Rite, since one of the prerequisites for joining is being a Christian." I submit that these qualifications are valid for Templary but not for the "York Rite." It is my understanding that there is no prerequisite to be a Christian to join the Chapter or the Council – only that you must be a Mason. I would appreciate that this correction be noted. Thank you.

Best regards.
Cordially,
Ted - Edmund D. Harrison



Hello Sir Knight John,

I have just read the letter to the Editor by Sir Knight Jack Oliver and want to make it known that I have NEVER read any letter that more represented my thoughts on that subject. How very well expressed by him and how pleased I am that you published it.

Just to tell you more about this writer; I will tell you that I have been a Mason since 1948, a Knight since 1962, and a Shriner since 1976.

Fraternally;
Joseph F. Riley

Templar Treasures

By

Sir Knight Trasen S. Akers

Many Masonic bodies across the United States have come into possession of various treasures over the years. These can range from simple minute books from bygone eras that bear the signatures of important men of the times to more awe inspiring items. For example, Norman Masonic Lodge No. 38 A.F.&A.M. proudly displays a Tyler's register from 1899 bearing the signature of James S. Buchanan who was the fourth President of the University of Oklahoma.¹ In the antechamber of Lawton Commandery No. 18 in Lawton, Oklahoma, another truly great Templar treasure can be found.

Old cannons will know the city of Lawton as being adjacent to Fort Sill which was constructed in 1869 by elements of the 10th U.S. Cavalry and the 6th U.S. Infantry. Eventually the School of Fire was established at Fort Sill in 1911.² Fort Sill and the military in general have long had a connection with the fraternity in Oklahoma. In December of 1917, over two-hundred soldiers from Camp Doniphan at Ft. Sill were given passes to journey to Guthrie for a special Scottish Rite reunion; it was the first time Oklahoma Consistory No. 1 conferred all twenty-nine degrees and with a class composed entirely of servicemen. Due to the number of soldiers interested in being made 32° Masons, the post commander issued an order limiting the number of passes that could be issued at any one time. With this restriction on the number of troops

that could leave the post, the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies erected a Masonic "club house" on site for the purpose of communicating the degrees to soldiers. Even Harry Truman, then a Lieutenant, is on record as having visited the Guthrie Valley A.A.S.R. during this time.³ In addition to this Masonic activity, the Fort Sill Masonic Club long had a presence on the post and could count men such a Brigadier General Dwight E. Aultman, a former post commander, among its members.⁴

General Aultman certainly was not the only general officer associated with the Masonic fraternity in Oklahoma though. Throughout its history a number of generals of the Oklahoma National Guard have been Masons. General Ewell L. Head of Muskogee served with the Guard prior to WWII and was an active member of both the Bedouin Shrine and the Knights Templar.⁵ General Hal L. Muldrow of Norman, the son of the first Grand Master of the State of Oklahoma, was a member of the McAlester Valley A.A.S.R. Generals William S. Key of Seminole and Frederick A. Daugherty of Oklahoma City both held the post of Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Oklahoma.⁶

It was in the late 1940s that an artillery officer stationed at Fort Sill, Major Ralph L. Paddock, Jr., presented a special gift to the Sir Knights of Lawton.⁷ As one enters the asylum they will notice a large shadow box hanging in the antechamber that contains what appears to

be a rather non-descript sword of Nebraska regulation, some letters, a photo, and two brass plaques. On closer inspection, the curious will find that this particular sword bears the name of one of this nation's great military heroes, General John



John J. Pershing's Knight Templar Sword.
Photo courtesy of Sir Knight Trasen S. Akers

J. Pershing. It is only fitting that such a memento would be deposited in a locale steeped in military history.

Pershing was born in Missouri in 1860 and had the privilege of growing up in an era of some of America's greatest generals.⁸ He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1886 where his classmates recognized that he possessed a rare quality of leadership. Upon graduation, Pershing was assigned to the 6th U.S. Cavalry and sent to Fort Bayard, New Mexico. In 1891 he reported to the University of Nebraska to serve as Professor of Military Science and Tactics.⁹ Pershing had previously taken the degrees of Freemasonry in December of 1888 in Lincoln Lodge No. 19 of Lincoln, Nebraska. It was while posted at the University of Nebraska that he was exalted in Lincoln Chapter No. 6 on March 28, 1894, and was dubbed and created a Knight of the Temple on December 3, 1894, in Mt. Moriah Commandery No. 4.¹⁰

After serving in Cuba in 1898, Pershing left for Manila to fight the Moros. It was while in Cuba that Lieutenant Pershing earned a Silver Citation Star for his Spanish Campaign Medal; the Silver

Star Medal was not yet in existence. For his service in the Philippines, then Captain Pershing was recommended for promotion to Brigadier General.¹¹ The system of awards and decorations in the military was still in its infancy and brevet promotions for outstanding service were still very much a part of the American military.¹² His military career also brought Pershing to Oklahoma City for a short time as Assistant Chief of Staff of the Southwest Division in 1904. Pershing would go on to serve as Commander of the American Expeditionary Force in WWI and Army Chief of Staff in 1921. He even visited Oklahoma members of the newly formed 45th Infantry Division at Camp Wolf adjacent to Fort Sill shortly before his retirement.¹³ Pershing held the rank of General of the Armies when he retired in 1924, thus making him the only person to be bestowed that rank while living.¹⁴

One never knows what may await them in the archives of the various Masonic Bodies across the land; some truly contain hidden treasures. Even if that stack of papers in the back room does not yield up that rare signature or those

rusty old swords in the armory do not bear a notable name, the fellowship is always well worth the distance traveled and a treasure unto itself.

Special thanks are owed to Sir Knight Bob Stalnaker and the Sir Knights of Lawton Commandery No. 18 for preserving this unique piece of history.



General of the Armies John J. Pershing

End Notes

¹ Norman Lodge No. 5 AF&AM, Tyler's Register, 1898 – 1901, Private Collection, Norman Lodge No. 38, Norman, Oklahoma.

² "Fort Sill," Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/f/fo038.html>>, Accessed 6 April 2011.

³ *The Oklahoma Consistory* (January 1918), Vol. 3, No. 1.

⁴ Fort Sill Masonic Club, Memorial Plaque, Post Chapel, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

⁵ Ewell Lewis Head, Photos, 1897 – 1936, Private Collection, David Greenshields, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

⁶ Robert G. Davis and James T. Tresner II, *Indians, Cowboys, Cornerstones, and Charities: A Centennial Celebration of Freemasonry in Oklahoma* (Guthrie: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma Library and Museum, 2009), 156 – 161.

⁷ Department of the Army, *Official Army Register*: January 1951 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1951), Vol. 1: 514.

⁸ William R. Denslow, *10,000 Famous Freemasons* (Richmond: Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., 1957), Vol. 3: 331.

⁹ "John Joseph Pershing, General of the Armies," Arlington National Cemetery Website, <<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/johnjose.htm>>, Accessed 6 April 2011.

¹⁰ Denslow, 331.

¹¹ "John Joseph Pershing, General of the Armies."

¹² William W. Savage, Jr., Class Lecture Notes, U.S. Military History to 1902, University of Oklahoma, Fall, 2005.

¹³ Larry Johnson, *Historic Photos of Oklahoma* (Nashville: Turner Publishing Co., 2009), 105.

¹⁴ "John Joseph Pershing, General of the Armies."

Sir Knight Trasen S. Akers currently serves as Eminent Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2007 where he studied American History. Sir Knight Akers resides in Oklahoma City, OK and can be reached at tsakers85@gmail.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 Infermeria" 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

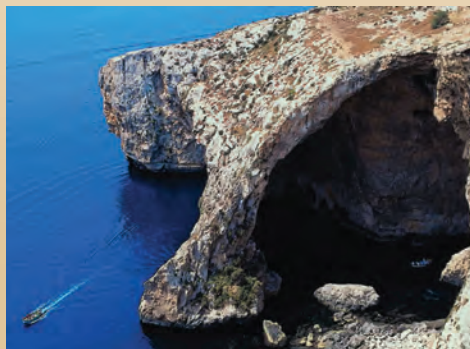
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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

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+ \$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:

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Managing Editor,

Knight Templar magazine

ktmagazine@comcast.net

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Greetings Sir Knights

Through my travels to the different departments, I realized that you need more information on the partnership between Eyecare America (ECA) and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This partnership has been ongoing for fifteen years and provides eye care for United States citizens and legal residents 65 years and older who have not seen an ophthalmologist in three years or more and do not belong to a health maintenance organization or the Veteran's Administration.

The Seniors Eyecare Program ensures that every senior has access to medical care and promotes annual dilated eye exams. The program raises awareness about age-related eye disease and provides free eye care educational materials and facilitates access to eye care at no out-of-pocket cost. By age 65, one in three Americans will have some form of vision impairing eye disease. Most seniors do not realize this, because there are often no warning signs, or they just assume that poor sight is a natural part of growing older. By detecting and treating eye disease early through annual dilated eye exams, seniors can preserve their sight.

In 2011 ECA launched their new online referral center (ORC) on its website, eyecareamerica.org. This online referral center realized a savings of 93% when comparing ORC referral-related expenses to corresponding call center-related expenses. These savings in back office operating costs enabled ECA to reallocate resources to maximize the power of the Internet and direct people to eyecareamerica.org. It is hoped that an increasing number of Sir Knights will use the ORC to help family members, friends, and members of the Masonic community to see if they qualify for an eye exam and care through Eyecare America.

Since the beginning of our partnership with Eyecare America, ECA patients have received \$6.14 in care for every dollar contributed by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. In fiscal year 2010-2011 that number has jumped to \$9.95 for every dollar Sir Knights donate, resulting in nearly \$25 million in patient eye care.

November is the month of thanksgiving, so let all of us give thanks for our eyesight and contribute to the 44th voluntary campaign so that we may continue to give the gift of sight to all who need our help.

Fraternally,

Mike Johnson, KCT, Chairman of the 44th Voluntary Campaign

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | C | 2 | H | A | 3 | S | 4 | E | D | 5 | M | E | N | 6 | S | 7 | T | E | 8 | P | |
| 10 | O | O | 11 | R | U | X | 12 | S | A | M | U | R | A | I | A | | | | | | |
| 13 | S | O | U | P | C | O | S | 14 | S | M | O | K | E | R | | | | | | | |
| | C | D | L | E | E | 15 | S | T | A | B | B | E | D | O | | | | | | | |
| 16 | U | S | E | R | 17 | L | I | E | G | E | L | O | R | D | | | | | | | |
| | L | 19 | A | S | H | L | A | R | S | R | I | F | 20 | N | I | | | | | | |
| 21 | A | Z | O | R | E | S | 22 | G | 23 | C | O | F | F | E | E | | | | | | |
| | T | 24 | F | U | N | N | I | E | S | N | T | S | O | S | | | | | | | |
| 25 | E | A | T | S | 26 | T | H | E | M | E | S | O | N | G | | | | | | | |

ACROSS

1. CHASED homophone of "chaste" + MEN
7. STEP reversal of PETS
12. SAMURAI anagram of MARSUPIAL - LP
13. SOUP CO. = SO + UP + C(ommanding) O(fficer)
14. SMOKER double definition
15. STABBED anagram of B(readdough) + BASTED
16. USER homophone of "you sir"
17. LIEGE LORD = LIE + GEL + (fort)ORD
19. ASHLARS odd letters in A(e)S(c)H(y)L(e)A(n)R(u)S(e)
21. AZORES anagram of "a zero's"
23. COFFEE converted from decimal to hexadecimal:
192(base 10) = C0(base 16), 255 = FF, 238 = EE
24. FUNNIES anagram of "fine sun"
25. EATS anagram of STEAK - K(nife)
26. THEME SONG double definitions

James Caveness Taylor
Oklahoma

Grand Commander 1974
Born: October 20, 1929
Died: September 16, 2011

Past South Central Department Commander

knight templar

DOWN

2. HOOD double definition
- 3,4,5. SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER anagram of PURSE + double definitions
6. NUMBER ONE double definition
8. TAKE-OFFS double definitions
9. PARODIES homophone of "pair o' D's"
10. OSCULATE pun on "Osk (Oscar) you late"
11. RULES OUT anagram of LURES + indicator
18. LIFTS anagram of FLITS
20. NEON = NE(w) ON
22. GEE double definition

IN MEMORIAM



Robert C. Ickes
Michigan

Grand Commander 1999
Born: November 16, 1928
Died: September 16, 2010

Commodore Dewey Elliott, Jr.
Virginia

Grand Commander 1993
Born: September 4, 1925
Died: July 28, 2011

Joseph F. Chalker
Maryland

Grand Commander 1993
Born: December 8, 1924
Died: September 11, 2011

James D. Berry
Texas

Grand Commander 1979
Born: July 11, 1914
Died: September 8, 2011

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.

Tomb of an Italian Knight in Milano, Italy.





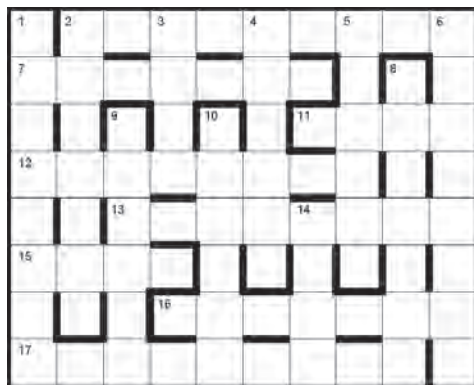
knight templar

Inside the castle of Milano, Italy.
Photo by the Editor.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue



ACROSS

2. Scar Smith developed shortly before St. John's Day (9)
7. Train bent and shoved through (7)
11. China's mass has 1 amazing secret (4)
12. Compliant with Orient, garden plot replaced river (8)
13. Freemason Davy's missile lands in Connecticut (8)
15. Dissolute soak worshipped Druidic trees (4)
16. Enervating trip, first hop around legendary Masonic meeting place (7)
17. Adobe building stinging bugs bossman irresolute about initial erection elevations (5,4)

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>.

DOWN

1. One of Solomon's successors Chinese leader bore back to Jerusalem's gate (8)
2. Jack or King, perhaps, who frequents eight downs (7)
3. Door to the west of cross (4)
- 4,5. Pick a dog's owner for a cryptic role (6,6)
6. Entrepreneurs' babes to dress provocatively aboard steamship (5-3)
8. Nightclubs or cafés with wine-stewed rib-toss (7)
9. Family of insurance spokes-creature get curtailed duplicitous sock (6)
10. It creates harmony even when served in Ravioli Napoli (6)
14. Disgusting lake greens (4)



Robert David McMarlin
Virginia

Grand Commander 1977

Born: August 24, 1916

Died: September 11, 2011

Thomas James Allen
Iowa

Grand Commander 2003

Born: May 5, 1927

Died: September 11, 2011

Joseph Jackson Johnson
Florida

Grand Commander 1977

Born: April 15, 1918

Died: September 20, 2011

november 2011

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nicholas Edward Abreu.....CA | Ronald D. Birely.....CO |
| Mel W. Thompson.....CO | John Thow Holt.....GA |
| Chester A. Chabot, Jr.MA/RI | George Raymond Katchue.....NC |
| David Patrick ToralNE | Ronald L. McVey, Jr.NE |
| Norman Revis AaronNE | Rev. Mark Edmond MegeeNJ |
| Buddy Ralph Gentry.....OH | Peter G. CouladisOH |
| James Davis TrentSC | Edwin Martin LindkeTX |
| Walden Ellwood SheltonTX | Robert Darol PerkinsTX |

Grand Commander's Club

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Steven Mark Fowler.....CA | Walter D. Waddell, Jr.GA |
| Charles Robert Rogers.....GA | James William GreenGA |
| John Thomas Guy, Sr.GA | Russell J. Slora.....VT |
| Lawrence E. Lathrop, Jr.ID | Charles Robert Rogers.....IL |
| Charles Robert Rogers.....IL | Patrick GrubbsIL |
| James C. & Alma HeapIN | David Brian EmmittKY |
| Wayne Michael BoughmanMD | Clyde Franklin Ebersole.....MD |
| Norman Ray Sanford.....MD | Dwight Edward RhudeMI |
| John Kenneth RutzMN | Thomas Louis WimbishNC |
| Joseph Allen Raubar.....NY | John Douglas WoodOH |
| Scott Alan HorstmeierOH | Harvey Robinson Ogden.....OK |
| Alfred D. Much.....PA | Gary Overton GarnerTN |
| James Allen ThompsonTN | Roger Lee BallTN |
| Gary Howard FreedmanTX | Edwin Martin LindkeTX |
| Jason Loyd JacksonTX | Claude A. Norton, Jr.VA |
| Edwin Martin LindkeTX | |

How to Join the Grand Commander's or the Grand Master's Clubs

Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and Commandery credit is given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.; 1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5, Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230 , Phone (214) 888-0220, Fax (214) 888-0230.



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A Nest of Vipers

The Great Siege of Malta, 1565

The Third in a Series.

By

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

Senglea and Birgu under Attack and Siege

On the same day that St. Elmo fell, the defenders received an important boost. Another 42 knights along with a force of soldiers from Sicily totaling 700 men landed on Malta and managed to sneak past the Turkish lines to reinforce Birgu by crossing Kalkara Creek on the Northeast side of the city. Meanwhile, hoping to avoid more bloodshed, Mustapha Pasha offered the Knights honorable terms of surrender. La Valette refused, remembering that the low morale of the townspeople had been a crucial factor in Rhodes in 1522. Any hint of negotiation could lessen resolve. Mustapha began setting up his cannon to bombard Birgu and Senglea. His plan was to attack the fort of St. Michael at Senglea first. The westward side of Senglea, which could be easily bombarded from the shore, had no serious fortifications. If Mustapha could find a naval way of attacking the westward side, Senglea would soon be his. He had further decided that all Christians would be killed except La Valette, and he would be taken to the Sultan in chains.

From July 6 to July 14 Mustapha had a total of 80 ships drug over greased roll-knight templar

ers by oxen 1000 yards across the peninsula of Mount Sciberras to threaten the defenders of fort St. Michael while bypassing the guns of St. Angelo, but a deserter from the Turkish army had informed La Valette of the Turkish plan to attack across the water. La Valette accordingly caused a pontoon bridge of airtight barrels to be assembled that could be used to transfer troops quickly from Birgu to Senglea. In addition, his Maltese shipwrights conceived the idea of driving a long line of stakes into the seabed about a dozen paces from shore with a chain passing through iron hoops attached to each. This would provide a defensive barrier stretching along the entire western shore of Senglea and stop an amphibious landing (Crowley 149).

As dawn broke on the morning of July 15, boats with multicolored pennants and packed with men approached the shore. The shore guns opened up and ripped through the fleet, killing many. The Ottoman forces attacked both the landward walls and the Spur at the tip of the Senglea promontory. Fierce fighting ensued with both sides engaged in close combat. During the heaviest part of the engagement, Mustapha launched ten large boats with about 1,000 janissaries and marines, which headed around the

tip of the Spur to a section where there were no defenses and extremely low ramparts. Two hundred yards away was the tip of the second peninsula of Birgu. Unknown to the Ottomans, however, the defenders on Birgu had a concealed gun battery, almost at water level. The commander carefully loaded his five cannon with grapeshot, stones, chain pieces and spiked iron balls, and waited (Crowley 153,154). This well-prepared trap caught the Turks totally by surprise and destroyed them. Next, the arrival of a group of Maltese Christians crying "Relief! Victory!" caught a Turkish rear post unawares. Word spread through the Turkish forces that a large army from Sicily was about to attack, and the commander, believing himself outnumbered, sounded the retreat. However, this supposed van of the Christian battalions was merely a local force from Mdina that had come along to see if it could help. Panic ensued among the Turks, and they left off the attack and waded into the water, trying to reach the few remaining landing boats near the shore which were overturned in the process. Seizing the opportunity, the defenders rushed onto the beach, stabbing and shooting the disorganized and confused Ottoman soldiers. Some of these threw down their weapons and begged for mercy, but St. Elmo was still fresh in Christian minds, and no mercy was shown. "Four thousand dead lay sprawled at the walls and drifted gently in the sea. Bodies washed up on the shore for days." (Crowley 154, 155)

As Malta was being besieged, messengers were furtively crossing by small boats from the island to Sicily carrying coded messages to Christian Europe. Some messengers made it; others were

caught by Ottoman patrol ships. In return, some few Knights of St. John from other outposts as well as various soldiers of fortune headed for Sicily to join the rescue attempt. But vacillation and delay on the part of European royalty, particularly King Philip II of Spain, stalled progress in forming and transporting a relief force.

Because of the disaster of July 15, Mustapha decided to attack both Senglea and Birgu by the means that had been employed on St. Elmo. He would now subject both to heavy bombardment, trenching operations, and surprise attacks. He would concentrate his efforts on the short land fronts of both peninsulas simultaneously. At dawn on July 22, from the heights above the harbor, sixty-four guns in fourteen batteries pounded the defenses of Birgu and Senglea. The people in Sicily, 120 miles to the north, could hear the rumble of this cannonade. The Turks attempted to enter Senglea by the use of two huge towers but were successfully repulsed by the Knights. La Valette exhorted the besieged to be courageous, and during the most ferocious stage of the battle crossed over from St. Angelo to join in the battle.

For the first time in the siege, the Turks were driving mines beneath the defenses. At St. Elmo they had been unable to do so because of the hard rock on which the fort was built, but the soil of Birgu was more pliable. It had been mining that had won for the Turks at Rhodes, and they now attempted to repeat their success. This was a task of extreme difficulty, and even the specially trained Egyptian engineers found themselves faced with an almost insuperable problem. The soil of Malta lies six feet

deep at most, with sand and limestone beneath; when quarried this could be cut quite easily, but it was incredibly difficult to tunnel through at short notice. While the sappers worked underneath, the batteries continued to harass the Christian defenses from Mt. Salvatore and the far side of Kalkara Creek. The sappers labored mightily to dig tunnels under the walls of Birgu in order to fill them with gunpowder and thus destroy or undermine the fortifications. On August 18 a mine exploded under one of the walls and it partially collapsed, and the Ottomans launched a coordinated attack on both Senglea and Birgu. They penetrated into Birgu but were successfully repulsed by troops led by a slightly wounded La Valette who retook the breached wall. "Withdraw, Sire, to a place of safety!" shouted one of his staff during the conflict. "The enemy is already in retreat!" Although this was true, the Turks still occupied the breach. La Valette knew his presence alone had put new heart into the garrison, and now was not the time to forsake his men. Limping, he went forward up the slope. "As long as their banners still wave in the wind," he said, "I will not withdraw."

The Turks also erected more large siege towers to threaten the walls of Birgu. La Valette's nephew was killed attempting to destroy a Turkish siege tower on August 18. Although the tower survived that day, the Knights destroyed it soon after. A cannon was run out and fired chain-shot, which consisted of two large cannon balls fastened together by chain. Immediately on leaving the cannon's mouth, the chain-shot whirled in an arc, acting like a giant scythe. At point blank range, this whirling chain sliced, ground up, and pounded the wooden knight templar

structure. The tower sagged and buckled as the Turks leapt from its heights. Finally, it collapsed in a wrecked heap with a thunderous crash, spilling men, arms, ammunition, pitchers of water, and incendiary grenades in all directions. The cannon was returned back inside the fortress, and a Maltese work party immediately started to restore the outer wall. As they watched the giant tower be set on fire, the Ottoman leaders were almost despondent. It was becoming more and more difficult to induce their men to attack, sickness was spreading, and ammunition and provisions were beginning to run low. Their will to fight was dampened by their numerous losses. The next day, August 20, the Knights even managed to capture another Turkish tower. Manned by Janissary snipers, the base of the tower had been reinforced with earth and stonework to forestall a repetition of previous events. These snipers began to pick off the remaining defenders on the other side of the ruined walls, and as they began to falter, La Valette realized that if the tower were to remain there, keeping the garrison pinned down, a further frontal assault would almost inevitably succeed.

As before, he ordered the Maltese workmen to open a way through the wall at the base at a point where they could not be seen by the Janissary snipers. The moment that the last blocks fell away, a raiding party made straight for the tower. Never expecting that the defenders would venture outside the walls and prepared for cannon shot only, the Turks were taken completely by surprise. Scaling the tower with the stone base giving them easy access to the lower reaches, the soldiers mounted the ladder floors, killing the Janissaries as

they progressed. The Christians then turned this tower into an observation post and furnished it with their snipers.

Desperation was present on both sides. Mustapha's dark mood deepened when he learned that a large store ship coming from North Africa to replenish their diminishing supplies had been captured by a Christian galley. The Ottomans were running low on gunpowder, evident to the defenders of Malta, who observed the cannonade from the Turks subside significantly. Inside Birgu, the Grand Council of the Knights urged La Valette to abandon Birgu and retreat to St. Angelo. He refused because he believed this would mean total defeat soon after. Meanwhile, Mustapha ordered the capture of Mdina, but that effort was forsaken in the face of strong resistance by the garrison inside the town.

What of the expected reinforcements for the besieged? From the beginning of the siege, La Valette and the Knights had hoped for European aid from Sicily. The Spanish Viceroy of Sicily, Don Garcia de Toledo, had promised to send an army in June and then July, but both times it failed to appear. Finally, on August 25, a Spanish fleet with 8,000 to 10,000 soldiers sailed from Syracuse for Malta. However, a storm delayed and damaged it. The fleet returned to Sicily and did not sail again until September 4.

On September 1, the Turks attempted one last all-out assault which ended in failure. The fighting forces of Mustapha and Piyale were getting dreadfully mauled with the remaining troop strength down to about 15,000 men.

Relief Arrives at Last

On September 7, the long-awaited

Spanish force from Sicily finally arrived, comprised of about 8,000 men. In order to deceive the Turks, La Valette sent double agents into the Turkish camp to spread the word that twice that number had landed. As a result, Mustapha ordered an evacuation on September 8. However, Turkish scout ships sent word of the small relief fleet, and Mustapha ordered the troops already on board to disembark, but Piyale countermanded his order. Disagreement between the two commanders had become a common occurrence. Thus, about 9,000 Turks were onshore to face the 8,000 men of the relief force. The troops from Sicily, disappointed not to have been able to fight for the faith, now bore down upon the Moslems. They engaged in fierce battle, slaughtering 3,000 of Mustapha's army and drove the remainder to sea. Thus, the Ottomans were turned back, and they retreated, boarded their ships in an orderly manner, and set sail for Constantinople.

The Aftermath of the Siege

The Great Siege was over, having lasted four extremely costly months. The Grand Master and his council now took the time to take stock of what had befallen them. 7,000 Christian soldiers and Maltese had died defending the island, including 250 of the Knights. Although the garrison consisted of 9,000 men at the beginning of battle, only 600 remained capable of bearing arms at its end.

The Turks had lost approximately 15,000 men. Mustapha Pasha and Piyale likely trembled for their lives when they returned in defeat to Constantinople. Suleiman's rage was terrible, but he

spared their lives. "There is not one of my officers whom I can trust!" he cried. "Next year, I myself, the Sultan Suleiman, will lead an expedition against this accursed island. I will not spare one single inhabitant....! I see that it is only in my own hand that my sword is invincible." The expedition did not take place, and in the following year he turned his attention to the war in Hungary where he died in 1556 at the age of 72. In the course of a long reign, perhaps the most glorious period in the history of Islam, he had only met with two defeats. The one was his failure before the walls of Vienna in 1529, and the second-and by far the most damaging-was at Malta. This was the last formal attempt made by any leader of the Ottoman Empire to break into the western Mediterranean, and it was the defeat of his army in this great siege that first checked the westward expansion of Turkish power.

The tenacity and heroic action of La Valette during the Great Siege caused him to become greatly admired. Afterward, all the princes of Europe sent their congratulations; the pope offered him a cardinal's hat (which he refused); 300 noblemen came and offered him their services. To protect the island from any future attack, the Grand Master had another town built in 1566 upon the site of the Fort St. Elmo ruins. This was the city of Valette (or Valletta) which made Malta virtually impregnable. The last years of La Valette's life were saddened by disputes with the pope, but at the time of his death, in his seventy-fourth year, he was busy preparing "for some great deed of war and of conquest." La Valette died on August 21, 1568. In his final request, he appealed to his brethren to live together in peace and unity and

knight templar

to uphold the ideals of the order.

He now lies in the great crypt of the Cathedral of St. John. The inscription upon La Valette's tomb, composed in Latin reads:

"Here lies La Valette, worthy of eternal honor. He who was once the scourge of Africa and Asia and the shield of Europe,whence he expelled the barbarians by his holy arms is the first to be buried in this beloved city, whose founder he was."



ValetteTomb

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 *Philalthes* magazines. He resides at 161 Anna Kathryn Drive, Gurley, AL 35748 and can be reached at geomarsh@yahoo.com.



Beauceant News

San Antonio Assembly No. 159 held its annual New Member Dinner at a local Mexican restaurant. Left to right is Mrs. Frank Galindo; Mrs. Edward Strey, Worthy President; and Mrs. John A. Brogan, Supreme Worthy President.



The 156th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Texas, R.E. William E. Matyastik, Grand Commander, held in Waco, Texas, was the setting of the presentation of membership in the Grand Master's Club to two Beauceant ladies during the Saturday luncheon on April 25, 2009. Supreme Worthy President, Mrs. John A. Kleinfelder, center, presented the plaques and pins to Mrs. R. D. Moore, Past Supreme Worthy President (Austin No. 125), right, and Mrs. John A. Brogan, Supreme Worthy Preceptress (San Antonio No. 159), left. A generous donation was made by

an anonymous contributor in support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in their honor. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Brogan were deeply touched and honored by this gift, especially since the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is also the official charity of the Social Order of the Beauceant. Mrs. John Brogan is now serving as Supreme Worthy President 2011-2012.



THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL AND THE MODERN KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The second in a series

By

V.Em.Kt. Very Rev. Frederick A. Shade

The Grail Castle, the chalice, the lance, and the sword; herein lies the consecrating motive which moves through the whole Grail Cycle. They are sacramental in character, but they are not the same as those of the Catholic Church, and this is a distinction that we should bear in mind. They claim another source of consecration and blessing, a different source and authority, one that bypasses the Church and its hierarchy. This is why the Church has never approved of the Grail Cycle in spite of the link made by some of the writers between the hallows of the Grail and those of the Church. It is not really because they may have pagan origins which bothers the Church, but that this tradition claims an authority and source of blessing of their own, one which puts them outside the establishment. This is a most interesting line of enquiry, and A. E. Waite's book *The Hidden Church and the Holy Graal* is the best work on this subject, but it is heavy-going!

It appears that the hallows of the Templar tradition, those objects and symbols to which we give special attention, are likewise of a similar family to those of the Grail Cycle. However, it may be that this similarity is accidental rather than deliberate; the question is still open to debate. Whatever may be the true answer to the possible link between these various traditions – the Hallows of the Church, the Grail Cycle, and the Knights Templar, each of them have their place in the scheme of things as a knight templar

source of instruction and as instruments of grace. For the Mason who is dedicated to making the spiritual journey such as the one outlined in our Templar ritual, each of these traditions and their hallows provide him with a great deal of information about the quest he is undertaking and also about the deeper aspects of the Christian faith, of revelation and divine grace.

There are also what are called the Lesser Hallows, and these crop up in the different versions of the story of the Grail according to the writer's preference. There are the sacred nails used at the crucifixion and the crown of thorns called the golden circle. There is also the face cloth of Veronica legend with which Christ was laid in the Sepulcher, also the pincers and the shield of Judas Macca-baeus. None of these are essential to the Grail Cycle, and they appear singly or in groups in the different stories of the Holy Grail.

The Five Changes

The Grail is a mystery within a mystery. In fact the Grail, so-called, appears in many forms in the various accounts and is said to pass through five changes. Those who sought the Grail, according to the various texts, did not necessarily have any idea what they were looking for or where they might eventually find it. The accounts of the Grail Knights make this very clear, as they just rushed off in pursuit of their goal

without any plan at all. As I have already suggested, the term 'Grail' should be understood as a generic term, and it should not be confined to just the Grail Cup. This is because associated with the Grail are objects called the Grail Hallows, as I have already said, and each is a channel or the means by which divine grace, the gift of healing, and even the gift of immortality, is received. Altogether they include the dish or platter, the spear or lance, a stone or green jewel of heavenly provenance, and the cup or chalice or goblet.

Sometimes it is very difficult to keep track of them, these objects and their many changes, as in the Welsh story of Culhwch and Olwen for instance. This collection of sacred and magical objects is further expanded to become the Thirteen Treasures of Britain.

I have mentioned four ways in which the Grail appeared in these stories, but there are in fact five. The fifth manifestation is the Child, and this is what Galahad witnessed at the celebration of the Grail ritual in the Grail Chapel – the Divine Other, the living sacrifice which changes into the forms of Bread and Wine.

The actual sequence of the five changes of the Hallows is given in the Grail story as follows:

Spear – Cup – Child – Stone – Dish. The sequence and purpose of these changes have been described in this manner. The Spear and Cup are the signs by which are shown the coming of the Divine Child, who will be sacrificed upon the Cubic Altar of the four elements, and whose body will afterwards be laid within the Dish. His blood flows down the Spear into the Cup and all begins again the endless cycle which is the regeneration of the human soul into a divine being which it must one day become. The story of the third

degree has this same theme – human regeneration. Also, much of the symbolism of the five changes is referred to in the Rose Croix Degree.

Five is a significant number, and the symbolism of the Grail is reflected in the rosary (the five decades of beads for each mystery), in the five wounds of Christ, and in the five knights and what they represent – Perceval (Youth), Gawain (Manhood), Bors (Maturity), Lancelot (Worldliness), and Galahad (Spirituality). There are a number of other correspondences, but these I will not detail here except to mention that of the five 'houses' or castles in the Arthurian world: The Castle of Marvels, the Castle of Adventure, the Castle of Camelot, the Castle of Joyous Garde, and the Castle of Corbenic. In each of these rested one of the Hallows, the symbolic references of the Grail but not the Grail itself.

The Knights Templar and the Holy Grail

German writers such as Wolfram identify the Knights of the Holy Grail with the Knights Templar, but this seems to have been something added to the original story. As far as the Knight Templar influence on the romance literature in England is concerned, there appears to be no direct link at all, or at least historians like A. E. Waite have not found one. However, at the time of writing the Grail Cycle which was several centuries after the time of King Arthur and the Round Table to which it refers, the writers obviously had Knights like those of the Order of the Temple as their model.

Since that time these two streams together with their traditions, folklore, magic, and symbolism have become intertwined, so today it is almost impos-

sible to separate them without a lot of research and some guesswork. In fact, many people feel that this attempt to separate the several traditions contained within the Grail Cycle is no longer necessary as one tradition has considerably enhanced the other. Traditions, such as Freemasonry and even our own religion, develop as a result of experience and enhanced understanding as well as cross-fertilization from other traditions and will also change according to cultural and other factors. No living tradition including Freemasonry is static!

There may or may not be a direct link or relationship between the two traditions; there may or may not be a direct transmission of the Grail Hallows to the modern Knights Templar of Freemasonry or indeed to our medieval predecessors. Personally, I see these many coincidences to be highly suggestive of such a link in ideas if not in an actual physical transmission, but that is just my opinion.

In each Tradition, the Grail and Knight Templar, we have several features and patterns in common. For example, each is an allegory of the soul's journey through life; each has set out certain stages of initiation, moving inexorably towards the goal of heavenly refreshment, and using the same or similar signs and symbols.

Perhaps these suggest a direct link, certainly a common source of inspiration and purpose. It also confirms the proposition that the mystical tradition in religion has no boundaries, that this mystical tradition and teaching is common to all cultures and religious traditions. It is one of the most significant threads of spiritual thought and experience that can easily be identified wherever it may appear. It appears in Freemasonry, and it appears in the Grail Cycle.

To be continued next month.
knight templar

Grand Encampment

Membership Awards

848 Joel D. Ratliff, Sr.
Winchester Commandery No. 12
Winchester, VA 17-Aug-2011

849-850 Darrell Wade Gifford
Ivanhoe Commandery No. 18
Jonesboro, AR 11-May-2011
2 Bronze Clusters

851 Gary W. M. Davis
Watauga Commandery No. 25
Johnson City, TN 08-Sep-2011
2nd Bronze

852 James Arnold Saults
Watauga Commandery No. 25
Johnson City, TN 08-Sep-2011

853 Ralph Burks Taylor
Dickson Commandery No. 41
Dickson, TN 2-Aug-2011

854 Gayle R. Logsdon
Jacksonville Hospitaller No. 31
Jacksonville, IL 19-Feb-2011

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: fredshade@westnet.com.au.

Thank God for America!

By
Reverend Sir Knight Donald Craig Kerr

“Be strong in what you stand for, but be careful what you fall for.”

Whoever said that was right. At this Thanksgiving time we can look back with pride and gratitude to the strength, loyalty, and energy which have made this country what it is. There are times too, to be sure, when we are taken in by crazy and foolish ideas that do us more harm than good.

What America is can be told in a story about some Boy Scouts who had found an old section of a railroad track. Each boy wanted to try and walk on the rails, which is never as easy as it looks. Every time a boy would try, he would lose his balance and fall off. They took a bet and two boys jumped on opposite rails. They held out a hand to each other in order to keep their balance. In a few minutes they had walked the entire distance without falling off.

In a nutshell that is how America works. So, at this Thanksgiving time let us be thankful for everything we can do together to help each other as well as someone else. That is what our Shrine hospitals do every day. When we can't or won't or don't help each other, we not only suffer but so does everyone else. Cooperation, as someone said, is doing with a smile what we have to do anyway.

There are a lot of people in this world. Everyone does not think as we do but everyone has the same feelings as we have. All of us love and hate and worry. None of us can be a lone wolf or live as if no one else lived beside us.

When we think of Thanksgiving let us be reminded of how someone has helped us and how we have helped someone else. That is what makes our country strong and our community safe. So, we say, God bless America! And blessings too to you and your family and friends.



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.



Knights

at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

Murdered Magicians - The Templars and Their Myths by Peter Partner, Publisher: Oxford Univ. Press, August 1982, ISBN-10: 0192158473, ISBN-13: 978-0192158475.

Dr. Partner takes a much different view of the Templars from other books I have read. He views the Templars as historical entities similar to a modern political party or lobbyist. He explains the real history of the Templars in Part 1, and the beliefs and “facts” created in the 18th century in Part 2.

Dr. Partner’s writing style uses long sentences and the needlessly distracting inclusion of French language words and phrases, (i.e. freres casaliers -rural brothers, gonfanon baucau- black and white banner). He also chooses obscure words that sent me to the dictionary. (i.e. gravamina, and verisimilitude). Note: Dr. Partner is a British academic which may account for the language awkwardness.

He begins the order’s history by distinguishing between religious and military orders at the time of the Crusades. The Church tried unsuccessfully to prevent men with blood on their hands from touching holy things by creating the alternate military orders, and he dispels the myth that Knights taking up the cross were from the upper crust of European nobility. St. Bernard is quoted as saying in 1095 before the Templars were established that, “the men who crusaded were scoundrels, sacrilegious plunderers, perjurers, and adulterers whose departure from Europe was certainly a double benefit; the people of Europe are glad to see the back of them, and the people to whose assistance they are going in the Holy Land are delighted to see them.”

This work claims there were never more than 300 fully armed Knights Templar in the Holy Land at any given time which differs with many other works. He further claims many of the same Knights served as bodyguards to European royalty as well tax collectors and the first international bankers.

Partner disputes the widely held notion Templars lived in filthy squalor, by citing their clothing allowance, and their eating meat three times per week. While his documentation is sparse, it is quite believable. The beginning of alienation with the Pope and rival orders began immediately following the fall of Acre in 1291, and Partner makes a strong case for the Templars being the scapegoats for the loss of the Holy Land. At the time of suppression, Partner estimates 2000 Templars remained in France while less than 150 fell victim to the Inquisition’s enhanced interrogation techniques and that property was confiscated from only fourteen full Knights.

knight templar

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Partner only partially subscribes to the conventional notion that Philip IV arrested the Templars strictly for financial reasons as much of the confiscated property was transferred to the Hospitaller order, rather than the French crown. He declares King Philip IV was superstitious and quite possibly considered the Templars agents of the devil, betraying God by losing the Holy Land to the Muslims. In Phillip's mind suppressing the Templars would be fighting the good fight against the devil and his minions.

By the 16th century, much true Templar history was already gone and writers began creating their own versions. Partner provides an excellent timeline of the prevailing attitudes about the Templars such as innocent church heroes versus actual practicing witches and demons.

In the early 17th century, French writer Jean Bodin directs guilt back toward Philip, while in the mid-17th century, French historian Pierre Dupay defends Philip's actions as justified.

The 18th century immortalized the Templars into a mythological cult of romanticized chivalry which Partner believes remains today.

In summary, this work presents a fresh and perhaps unorthodox view of the Templars. Despite the awkward language and annoying words, I would recommend the work to anyone interested in the Templars from an historical aspect.



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