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VOLUME LVII

December 2011

NUMBER 12



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Knights Templar

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**Address changes or corrections
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 not report them to the editor.**

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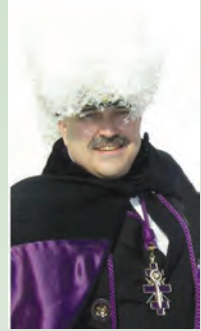
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Grand Master's Message

You've Lost that Lovin' Feelin' was a 1964 Righteous Brothers hit that speaks of lost love. Thinking of the song made me wonder what else we might have lost. I well remember as a child of the 1950's my Grandfather asking me to give up some of the toys I no longer played with so that less fortunate children could have a Merry Christmas. He and the men who worked with him at the West Ohio Gas Company made a project of collecting toys for distribution in the poor area where their offices were located. In the 2008 Christmas message, I told a similar story of a friend and his employees who provided a most merry Christmas for a needy family.



In our busy lives, have we lost that personal touch at Christmas? Certainly, even in these difficult economic times, it is likely that our children and grandchildren have more than they could ever need, but there are those who don't. There are children who never know the joys our families know. What about them? Look around; they may be closer than you think.

In Christmases past, I have spoken of hope and its ever present companion opportunity. Should we as chivalrous Christian Templars not lead the way in providing hope to a child or to those in need? Should we seek the opportunity to do so?

We donate our money, but do we donate our time and efforts? Do we give of ourselves? Are we missing something by not including that personal touch? Giving money to a needy cause, though necessary, gives only a moment of satisfaction. Giving of ourselves and our time in a virtuous cause is not only noble and chivalrous, it is also very rewarding, not just for a moment but for a lifetime.

This magazine will be in your hands no less than three weeks before Christmas. Please take a moment, look around you, and find that child, person, or family who for whatever reason will not have a Merry Christmas this year without your help. Don't lose that "*Lovin' Feelin'*," not this Christmas. Find the opportunity to give hope. You'll be glad you did.

On behalf of the officers of the Grand Encampment, I wish for each of you a most enjoyable holiday season.

Merry Christmas!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Koon, II".

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

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- Ladies Tea & Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.
- Men's Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.
- Family Dinner: 7:00 p.m. (Invitation Only)

Holy Saturday Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

- S.O.O.B. – SWP Official Visit for Santa Ana Assembly No. 61 (at Hotel): 10:00 a.m.
- Gene Autry Tour: 10:00 a.m.
- Formal Banquet: 7:00 p.m.

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- To the Shrine Auditorium: 9:30 a.m.
- Easter Service: 10:00 a.m.

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Prelate's Chapel

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

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. Yes, we do get caught up in the busyness of the buying season with all the food, decorations, presents, gift-wrap, and hopefully, time for worship. Time! It seems there is too little of it as December 25th approaches. Take time to enjoy the music, the hymns, and the beauty of this season. Prepare your hearts and minds to hear the angels sing. See the shepherds on their way to Bethlehem and the Wise Men kneeling at the feet of the baby offering their gifts. Especially in this world of sin in which we live today, we need to make God's love real to all those around us.

I share two poems with you from the publication of The Salesian Mission 2010 Christmas booklet which well expresses the need for spiritual preparation for Christmas. First:

"Hope came down to earth on wings of love when Christ our Savior left His throne above,
To become flesh and dwell with mortal men;
Born in a cattle stall in Bethlehem, Love came down to earth so long ago,
To free us from the curse and set our hearts aglow.
We follow on, still searching for the light, led by the star forever shining bright,
Love builds bridges linking heart with heart, crossing ocean depths, peace to impart.
With joy we celebrate our Savior's birth;
For love still spans the gulf between Heaven and earth."
- Regina Wienczek -

and this prayer:

"Dear Father, at this Christmastide, I ask for gifts that will abide;
For "Heart Gifts" that will stronger grow throughout the days which come and go.
Most trusting faith in Thee, I need, a child-like faith, for this I plead;
A faith in goodness, truth and love, all wrapped in beauty from above.
Much kindness, Lord, enough to share with friends and mankind everywhere;
For ties that bind all human hearts are loving deeds kindness imparts.
I'd like to find beneath my tree a package marked 'Humility.'
And please leave there, some patience too, a liberal sum, if You so choose.
Grant understanding, so I may not judge my brother on life's way.
Help me to feel another's woe and true compassion always show.
These presents money cannot buy, for only You, Lord, can supply
Such "Heart Gifts" that will stronger grow throughout the days which come and go."
- Beverly J. Anderson -

Hold Christmas close to your heart – it is God's gift of salvation.

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A Chat With The Managing Editor

There are four things I need to share with you this month. First, the survey we did concerning the popularity of the “Knight Voices” classified advertisement section and the “Cryptic Crossword puzzle.” The votes are in, and I can tell you that they were underwhelming. From over 100,000 readers, only 19 were interested enough to respond. Of the 19, 2 said we should discontinue both, 9 wanted to keep the puzzles, and 10 wanted to bring back the classified section. It seems obvious to me that the response rate indicates that few of you are interested in either. Considering the cost of the pages, we will drop both and try to devote the space to things which might be of more interest to more of you such as feature articles. You have spoken and the die is cast.

Second, we have had a number of requests that we publish some of the articles we presented as a series in a separate booklet so you can read the whole story in one place. Although back issues of the magazine are available on line at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive.html>, there still seems to be a desire to have hard copies available. We are working with a publisher at no cost to the magazine to make two such books available to you. One would be a collection of all the biographies of famous Masons that Sir Knight Ivan Tribe has contributed through the years. The number of biographies he has published in this magazine is almost 100. The second is a book containing the complete two series of the articles on the Templar trials and the Shroud of Turin. If you will be patient with us for a few months, I will tell you when they are available and how to order one.

Third, several of you have asked when a current index of all back issues of the magazine will be available. I am working on this, but in order to do it properly, I have to scan in all the old paper indices, convert them to text, and combine them into one electronic index. My current thoughts are to provide this index on the web page as a searchable document and to update it monthly as the magazine is issued. This is going to take a while, but I am working on it.

Finally, although you have missed the deadline for the early-bird sign up, we still have seats available for our Templar trip to Malta, Rhodes, and Athens. The absolute deadline is January 31st. If you find some extra cash at the end of the year you hadn't expected, we would be delighted to have you join us.



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor
december 2011



Letters to the Editor



Concerning the article “An investigation of Masonic Inspiration” in the July 2011 issue, the author of this article perpetuates a myth as it relates to the so-called “Boston Massacre.” The British soldiers attacked were not “guarding the Customs House in Boston.” They were returning to quarters after having been relived from duty. The “rocks” being thrown at them included cobblestones and those snowballs included rocks and sharp objects. The individuals throwing these and verbally taunting and threatening those British soldiers were not fine and upstanding colonists. Rather they were street rabble.

One of the dead, actually the second in the sequence of shooting was a Natick Indian by the name of Crispus Attucks. He was resurrected later by abolitionists and recreated as black and a former slave when they needed a black hero for their own purposes. Attucks was not positively identified until a week after his death because his companions knew him only by his street name.

Those British soldiers were put on trial before a civilian jury at which they were defended by two well-known pro-independence lawyers at least one of whom is reputed to have been a member of the Sons of Liberty. The upstanding citizens of Boston sitting on that jury found these shooting to be justified, and all charges against those British soldiers were dismissed.

One of the witnesses testifying at that trial, speaking in favor of the soldiers, and against the town rabble involved in this incident, actually was a negro slave. The citizens of Boston widely con-

demned the actions of that street rabble. The term “Boston Massacre” was not used at the time of this incident. It was invented later for propaganda purposes, along with the highly inaccurate etching which is still used to illustrate this event. The myth of the “Boston Massacre” needs to be put to rest.

Joseph F. Connolly, II



M.W. Brother Palmer,

I generally read the Knights Templar Magazine from cover to cover and have announced on several occasions the great job that you are doing as Managing Editor.

I was struck this morning while reading the “Chat with the Managing Editor.” Your analysis of “they” was so much on point that I was inclined to thank you for the comments. It should be required reading for all Masons.

I too, choose not to be a victim.

Fraternally and sincerely,

Terry W. Posey
Past Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Ohio



Knights Templar Cross of Honor Templary's Highest Award

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor for the year 2011. These distinguished Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service and have been rewarded for it. The *Constitution and Statutes* of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

This year the Grand Commanderies have selected only fifty-nine Sir Knights to receive the coveted Cross of Honor.

ALABAMA

Kenneth Benjamin Baker
Anniston No. 23

ARIZONA

Douglas S. Robertson
St. Andrew No. 17

ARKANSAS

George Kirby Coffman
Hugh de Payens No. 1

CALIFORNIA

Thomas R. Derby
Long Beach No. 40

Courtney Miles Scandrett
Orange County No. 36

COLORADO

Jack D. White
Flat Irons No. 7

CONNECTICUT

Charles Andrew McCollum
Stamford-Clinton No. 3

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Walter Powers Benesch
Columbia No. 2

FLORIDA

Ralph E. Vaughan
Sunshine No. 20

GEORGIA

Robert Winslow Tidwell
Coeur de Lion No. 4

IDAHO

Jerry D. Parsons
Idaho No. 1

ILLINOIS

Earl Wesley Knight
Patton No. 69

INDIANA

James Leonard Kerns
Kokomo No. 36

John Earl Hylemon
H.W. Matthewson No. 66

IOWA

William Charles Smithson
Temple No. 4

KANSAS

Claude L. Carpenter
Reno No. 26

KENTUCKY

Michael Roy Grigsby
Somerset No. 31

LOUISIANA

Vincent John Ogrinc
Ascension No. 6

MAINE

Charles E. Wadleigh
Maine/Trinity No. 1

MARYLAND

Leland Patrick Linder
Palestine No. 7

MASSACHUSETTS/ RHODE ISLAND

Russell Thomas Scanlon
Calvary No. 13

Luigi Domenico Firmani
Beauseant-Palestine No. 10

MICHIGAN

Joseph Medved
Lexington No. 27

MINNESOTA

Michael J. Maxwell
Marshall No. 28

MISSISSIPPI

Joe Weslie Vawters
Hattiesburg No. 21

MISSOURI

Ronald Lee Skiles
St. Graal No. 12

MONTANA

Alan Tery Frohberg
Black Eagle No. 8

NEBRASKA

Philip J. Post
Mt. Zion No. 5

NEVADA

Earl H. Purington
Lahontan No. 7

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Harry Stephen Wood
Palestine No. 11

NEW JERSEY

Robert B. Maynard
Trinity No. 17

NEW MEXICO

Casper Joseph Brown
Rio Hondo No. 6

NEW YORK

Jose L. Valencia, Jr.
Malta No. 21

NORTH CAROLINA

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Griggs No. 14

J. Luigi Ammons
Raleigh No. 4

NORTH DAKOTA

Stanley J. Whicker
St. Aldemar No. 3

OHIO

Arthur Roy Sterling
St. Luke's No. 34

Thomas L. Rath
Defiance No. 30

Gene David Lynch
Massillon No. 41

OKLAHOMA

Alfred Douglas Fryman, Jr.
Elk City No. 22

OREGON

Peter J. Stidd
Oregon No. 1

PENNSYLVANIA

Richard N. Swanson
Warren No. 63

William H. Trout
Packer No. 23

PHILIPPINES

Emmanuel R. Bravo
Luzon No. 9

SOUTH CAROLINA

Terry Chanault Shaver
Newberry No. 6

Nelson Dwight Horton
Gaffney No. 18

SOUTH DAKOTA

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Capitol City No. 21

TENNESSEE

James Arnold Saults
Watauga No. 25

TEXAS

Eugene Schneider
Odessa No. 110

Milton Montie Skipper, Jr.
Amarillo No. 48

Terry L. Flippo
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Howard Lloyd Hastings
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SALUTING OUR GRAND COMMANDERS

Congratulations are extended from our Most Eminent Grand Master, William Howard Koon, II and the grand officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., to the newly elected Grand Commanders of the Grand Commanderies under their jurisdiction. As a part of this salute to their dedication and tireless service to Templary, *Knight Templar* magazine is printing the available names and pictures of the Sir Knights who will serve as Grand Commanders for the current Templar year.

The Grand Commanders, whose pictures appear on these pages, will be the guiding hands on the tiller of the ship of Templary, navigating their vessel faithfully through the uncharted waters ahead.



Jack C. Wade
ALABAMA



Eugene D. Prentice
ALASKA



William A. Garrard, Jr.
ARIZONA



Lee Stringfellow
ARKANSAS



Casey W. Norris
CALIFORNIA



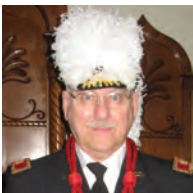
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George Brooks
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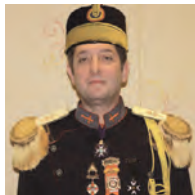
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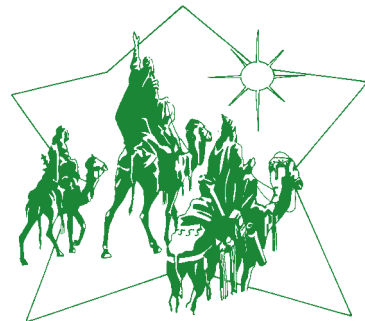
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WYOMING



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ROMANIA



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Greetings Sir Knights,

Merry Christmas! December, the month we celebrate our Lord and Savior's birthday, is a special time for Knights Templar. In our Commanderies we hold a Christmas observance, read the Christmas story, and toast the leaders of our Grand Lodge, our Grand Encampment, our President, our Ladies, and those who have passed to the Celestial Lodge above. It is a time of celebration with our families, a time to reflect on what we accomplished in the past year, and a time to set new goals for a new year.

As chairman of the 44th annual campaign, it is my goal to make this year a most successful campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. In my Commandery we hold a steak and cake supper during our Annual Conclave which is a fundraiser for the Eye Foundation. It is sponsored by the Knights Templar Black Horse Troop which was started by a most beloved Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Albert Cross. This fundraiser meets or exceeds \$10 per member for Hugh de Payen Commandery No.7. If every Commandery met the \$10 per member goal for the Eye Foundation, the result would be \$1,200,000. I would encourage each Commandery to sponsor an Eye Foundation project and meet or exceed the worthwhile goal of \$10 per member.

Those of you who would like to make an individual contribution can do so through your Commandery or by contacting the Knights Templar Eye Foundation office. Sir Knight Robert W. Bigley will be very happy to help you in whatever direction you might want to proceed, whether it be gifts from retirement plans, life insurance policies, bequests by will, or cash and securities. Remember that a contribution of \$100 entitles you to membership in the Grand Commander's Club, and once the total reaches \$1000, you will be enrolled as a member of the Grand Master's Club. The phone number for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation office is 1-214-888-0220.

Sir Knights, I would like to thank you for all the support you have shown to the Eye Foundation this past year. Your generous gifts provide the gift of sight for many people around the world. Again, Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Michael B. Johnson
Chairman

**Solution to Cryptic Puzzle on Page 20
of the November Issue**



DOWN

1. JEROBOAM = MAO + BORE + J(erusalme) all reversed
2. CLUBMAN double definition
3. ROOD reverse of DOOR
- 4,5. SELECT MASTER double definitions
6. START-UPS = TART-UP inside S(team)S(hip)
8. BISTROS anagram of RIB TOSS
9. GECKOS = GE(t) + anagram of SOCK
10. VIOLIN hidden in (ra)VIOLI N(apoli)
14. KALE anagram of LAKE

ACROSS

2. CHRISTMAS anagram of "scar smith"
7. ELBOWED = EL + BOWED
11. ASIA hidden in (h)AS 1 A(mazing)
12. OBEDIENT = O(r)IENT with BED replacing R(iver)
13. CROCKETT = ROCKET inside CT
15. OAKS anagram of SOAK
16. HILLTOP = ILL + T(rip) inside HOP
17. MASON BEES anagram of BOSS-MAN around E(rection) E(levations)

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>.



Robert David McMarlin
Virginia

Grand Commander 1977
Born: August 24, 1916
Died: September 11, 2011

Vernon Leroy Marion
Nevada

Grand Commander 2004
Born: February 15, 1935
Died: March 16, 2011

Albert Ross Masters, Jr.
Iowa

Grand Commander 1971
Born: January 20, 1927
Died: September 30, 2011

North Central Department Commander 1997 - 2000

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.

A small section of an astronomical or “sun” calander in the floor of the Church of the Golden Madonna in Milano, Italy.

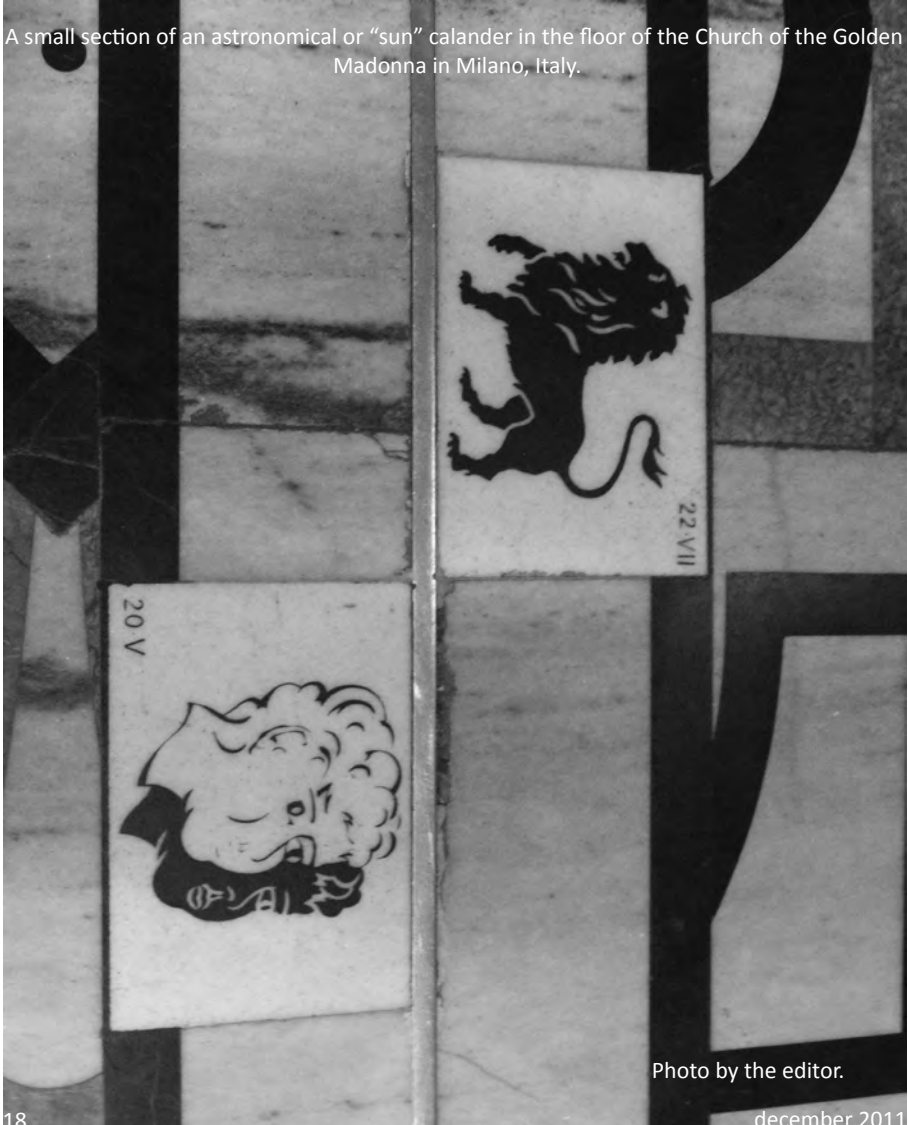


Photo by the editor.



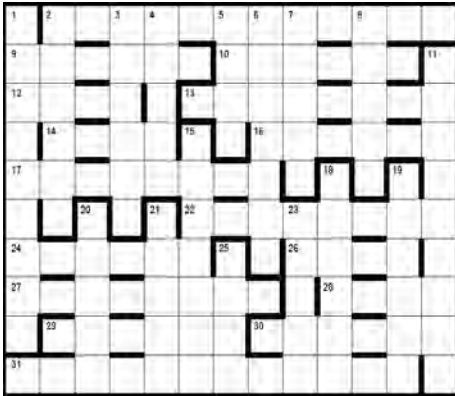
knight templar

Photo by the editor.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue



DOWN

1. Masonic ceiling to tarry aboard S.S. Kentucky (6,3)
2. Darwin's beginning, where X and Y meet (6)
3. Plunge around ring eliminates pee from rest room (6)
4. Unseats despite losing head during jousts (5)
5. Grand Lodge promotion for being happy (4)
6. Interlaced ore found in scry of Hermetic discipline (7)
7. Fourth gal gets five-eighths of Washington's coins (5)
8. Ridge where are the heartless (5)
11. In chaotic dorm, Google (at one G) finds rectilinear enclosure stretching West to East (5,4)
15. Shake die bag, large and important (3,4)
18. It sees 1/3 of Fellowcraft wages go to Entered Apprentice (6)
19. Scheduled blackboard to begin daily (6)
20. French brother failed initiation again and again (5)
21. Auction alien bottom cleaner (5)
23. Brief breeze has no enthusiasm (5)
25. Edison Arantes do Nascimento slipped on bananas' peel (4)

ACROSS

2. Baby doc wants to get Arkansas in line for this puzzle's shape (6,6)
9. Audition trout stream around fork (6)
10. Textually, you are in love with window slat (6)
12. Gold plating in Japanese aboriginal language (4)
13. Where WWI started with explosion of Rose Java (8)
14. Mannerly man's grand enterprise (4)
16. Adjudged average and boxed up (6)
17. Wagnerian cycle Sidhe gives up heroism for choice seat at sporting event (8)
22. Ugly guardian would achieve clean throat noisily? (8)
24. In throat, sore did cause ugly situation (6)
26. Polaris constellation is right in America (4)
27. Keep out of need over calves (4-4)
28. Not applicable to alliance (4)
29. Something to endure or bargain for (6)
30. Chopped tree so, from both sides (6)
31. Railroad bridge to get on rectangular chart (12)

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>.

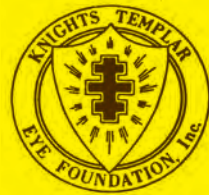
We publish letters and articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation Research Grants



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



On July 12, 2011, Sir Knight Richard Dunaway, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Oklahoma, and Sir Knight Jim Rossi, the Oklahoma Knights Templar Eye Foundation Chairman, presented a pediatric ophthalmology research grant to Dean A. McGee of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The research is of experimental therapy for juvenile autosomal dominant macular dystrophy specific silencing of mutant protein that causes early childhood blindness.



Pictured above are left to right:
Sir Knight Richard Dunaway, Dean A. McGee, and Sir Knight Jim Rossi.

THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL AND THE MODERN KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The third in a series

By

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

And now, permit me to show the close similarity and possible identity between the Grail and Templar hallows, i.e. those revered objects and signs which they have in common. In the Templar ritual there appears the order's own hallows. They are four in number:

1. There is the cup. It first appears in the Templar ritual as the cup of refreshment and is given to the weary pilgrim on his arrival. It contains water only. Later in the ceremony it becomes the cup of libation and memory, which is partaken of by the novice. On this occasion it contains wine.

2. The dish of bread, which is the food given to the pilgrim on his arrival.

3. The stone, which is written within and without. A new name is given to the novice, after it is consecrated by his blood. It is only then that the secret within the stone is revealed. It contains the name of the Divine Child.

4. The skull of mortality, with which the novice undertakes a year of penance, and with which the Imprecations are made.

There are several other hallows and sacred signs in the Templar tradition. Some of the lesser hallows of the Grail cycle are suggested here, such as the Templar crucifix, with the nails prominently displayed thereon. There is the knight's sword, which is to be wielded in defense of the faith and also his shield, all which are beautifully explained in the

quotation from St. Paul. They may not necessarily come directly from the Grail legend, but they certainly evoke many aspects of that tradition and resonate as hallows in their own right.

I will mention one other which is very important in the Templar tradition. I refer to the sepulcher, which appears as the central item of the Preceptory furnishings. In all my researches, I have been unsuccessful in finding an explanation as to the significance of the sepulcher in the Preceptory. Presumably it is empty, but why do we guard it? Is it the Lord's sepulcher at Golgotha, or is it perhaps our own tomb as some have suggested? No one can tell me, but I do believe it is there for a very important reason, one of which perhaps the modern Order of the Temple is not even aware. The Order of Constantine tells us something of this mystery in its appendant Order of the Holy Sepulcher but only a little. In any case, the sepulcher in the Templar tradition could have an entirely different meaning. Any ideas? This is where the Grail cycle, as well as the hallows of the Christian Church, could help us in answering these questions. The writings of A. E. Waite have helped me in unraveling this particular mystery, but there is a long way to go yet!

The Knights keep watch over an empty sepulcher, and this is suggestive of it having a spiritual significance as well as possible historical context. It is empty,

some suggest, so that the Spirit might draw all things to it. It is also for a similar reason that the sacred cup of the Grail is exalted and beyond our reach. The cup of the Grail is a temporary physical sign of something spiritual. It is seen only by a few and then briefly. The sepulcher in the Preceptory, likewise, is a temporary physical sign of something spiritual. This is why it is empty. It is, in a sense a sign of resurrection of both body and spirit.

I therefore suggest that the signs and hallows of these traditions, the Church, the Grail, and the Knights Templar, are pointing to the greater mysteries, to things which are not really of this world. This is why we have so much difficulty in understanding what they really mean. We bring them down to our level of comprehension and lose something as a result.

So, each of these traditions offers us a story, a myth-cycle, that is supposedly founded in history (or rather superimposed upon certain events which are claimed to be historical). They also point to a higher teaching of which the custodians and Institutions that perpetuate them know very little.

The Christian Church ignores the Grail tradition at its peril in the same way as Freemasonry ignores its origins in the Ancient Mysteries at its peril. To ignore these things and the other underground streams of tradition and teaching which nourish the tradition will lead to a growing superficiality in both institutions. Unfortunately, that is already happening; our traditions, Christian and Masonic, are being impoverished.

It is generally accepted these days that within modern Freemasonry there exists a hidden stream which has carried the secret tradition down the centuries. It is also claimed that the Templar knight templar

tradition has left its own mark not only on western spirituality but also on the development of Freemasonry during its formative years. What is also fascinating is that even the ancient Order of Knight Templary had its own hidden source and tradition. There is, for example a Gnostic thread as well as other non-Christian influences within the Templar tradition, but that is another story! It is important to know these things, as they help us to understand how one tradition has overlapped or influenced another. In this present case, it is likely that the Grail cycle has had some influence on our ritual, if only as a source of archetypal ideas and symbols.

I appreciate that I have been somewhat repetitive in what I have been saying, but I am dealing with rather deep and abstruse material and also ideas and theories which I find rather difficult to unravel. I can, therefore, only suggest these connections.

The Grail and the Sacrament

A few words on the so-called "sacramental" aspects of these several traditions, as this gets to the very heart of the cycle.

A. E. Waite says that "Man may enter into the consciousness of himself as being actually that vessel of reflection which testifies of everything without to the centrum concentratum within." This reminds me of the hermetic maxim, "As above, so it is below." When this comes to pass it can be said of him, as it was said once of Perceval, "And the Most Holy Grail shall appear no more herein; but in a brief space shall you know well the place where it shall be." The sacrament of the Holy Grail, i.e. the receiving of Divine Grace directly and also the vi-

sion splendid, is truly a mystical experience, a spiritual marriage, given by God alone and only to the worthy Knight. The story is full of mystery and of mysteries. The inward and spiritual nourishment is the reward for labor. It is a gift of grace. A few, only a few in the Christian Church, like St. Paul, have been carried up to the Third Heaven and there beheld the Blessed One. In the Grail tradition the successful Knight was Perceval.

The Grail cycle is certainly intertwined with the Christian faith, as it is written by Christians for Christians and has a Christian message in each of its chapters. In many ways it is written in the style of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. However, as I've said, its background is a mixture of Christian and pre-Christian (pagan) traditions. It is therefore not surprising to see the merging of Grail and Eucharist ceremonies which at the same time have pagan or Celtic overtones. For example, the Grail service or mass, looks very much like the usual Eucharist service of the Christian Church, but they are not the same. It is therefore not surprising that the Catholic Church has never approved of the Grail cycle as it has these heretical overtones.

In the later *Lohengrin Romance* of the German version of the Grail cycle, we find this Eucharistic motif in a strange guise. In this *Swan Story* the chain of one of the swans was made into two chalices, and mass being said therein, the bird was restored to proper human form. Again, a symbolic representation of the transformation of the soul. Notice this recurring theme in these stories and legends – regeneration, transformation, and resurrection. It also appears in Freemasonry in the third degree in particular and is implicit in many other degrees.

Waite says, rather poetically, that the Grail itself is no more meant to be taken literally than any other fable. For this reason it can be described as a divine paradox. Likewise, the quest is not pursued with horses or clothed in outward armor, but in the realm of the spirit. Also it is declared, Christ's blood in the Grail Cup is there and yet it is not there. "It is like the cup of the elixir and the stone of transmutation in Alchemy, yet it seems to be one thing under its various veils, and blessed are those who find it." Do you not see the analogy with the *Chymical Marriage of Christian Rosencreutz*? Do you not also see how important is the symbolism of the cubic stone and the rose in the Rose Croix Degree in the understanding of the mysteries of the Grail? And so has the crusade of the modern Knights Templar changed from that of his predecessor, for our battle is now a spiritual one, symbolically represented in the ritual and no longer requires metal armor, a horse, and a battlefield in a foreign land.

I wish to conclude my brief survey of this fascinating and somewhat complicated subject by quoting the words on the jacket of the Penguin publication of *The Quest of the Holy Grail*. This work is purported to have been written by the medieval author Walter Map. On the jacket the publisher writes:

"The fusion of fabulous legend and Christian symbolism gives the quest a tragic grandeur and mystical aura. The richly colorful world of the court of King Arthur is the setting for a story that was intended on another level as a guide to the spiritual life, aimed at the court rather than the cloister. Chivalrous adventurers like Gawain, Lancelot, and the saintly Galahad journey across a land strewn

with fantastic dangers, temptations, and false promises. Combining Celtic myth and Arthurian romance, the quest is an absorbing and radiant allegory of man's equally perilous search for the grace of God."

All I feel I can do now is to put the question: Isn't this also the quest of the Masonic Knights Templar, the search for the grace of God? And is not the ritual of our order a modern-day version of the Grail cycle of medieval times?

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Matthews & Green, *The Grail Seeker's Companion*

John Matthews, *The Grail. Quest for the Eternal*

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 on email: fredshade@westnet.com.au.

Grand Encampment

Membership Awards

855-856 Robert L. Clemmons
Lubbock Commandery No. 60
Lubbock, TX 19-Sep-2011
2 bronze clusters

857 Lawrence N. Jolma, Jr.
Potomac Commandery No. 3
Washington, DC 4-Oct-2011

858 Gerald W. Peeters
Potomac Commandery No. 3
Washington, DC 4-Oct-2011

859 Brian David Harms
Prather Commandery No. 62
Indianapolis, IN 30-Sep-2011



860-862 Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.
Palestine Commandery No. 7
Annapolis, MD 7-Oct-2011
Original and 2 bronze clusters

863-865 Joseph P. Westfall
Appomattox Commandery No. 6
Petersburg, VA 6-Oct-2011
Original and 2 bronze clusters

*Your invitation to join us on a
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May 8-17, 2012*

10 DAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Round Trip Flights - JFK-Malta-Rhodes-Athens-JFK
- Airline fuel surcharges of \$420, subject to change until airline tickets are issued.
- 8 nights accommodations at the following hotels or similar
- 3 nights San Antonio Hotel & Spa, Malta
- 3 nights Semiramis Hotel, Rhodes, Greece
- 2 nights Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens or similar
- 8 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinner
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
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- Entrance fees per itinerary
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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

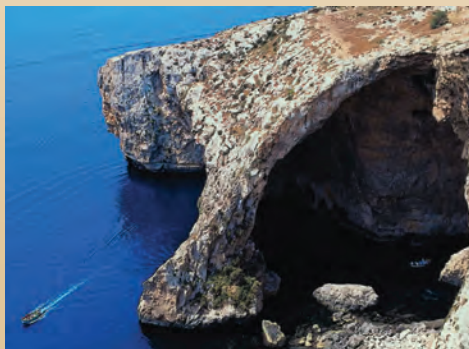
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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

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.

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FUEL SURCHARGES: Airlines and cruise-lines retain the right to adjust prices based upon market price fuel surcharges. In those cases, Gate1 will adjust your invoice accordingly. In order to avoid these potential charges, your entire group must be paid in full and airline tickets issued.

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

A Time for Peace

by

Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr

This is the season of peace which is our eternal quest. It is what we want. It is what we pray for, but it eludes us. In the dark days of WW II, the commander of the British forces, Field Marshall Montgomery, said, "The greatest single factor in the world is strength; religious strength, moral strength, economic strength, military strength. It is strength that makes for peace."

This holiday season speaks primarily of peace. So what is it that we are all talking about? Is peace the prize of all virtues? Is it only the absence of war? Is it something given after everyone has what they want? If we escape the turmoil of terrorism, will life be more peaceful?

My philosophy comes from the Bible, which says that peace is a by-product of righteousness. In other words, something else must first come before peace. There is peace where there is harmony. There is peace where there is justice. There is peace where there is honesty, truth, equity, and respect.

It would be foolish to think that there can be peace if people prove to be untrustworthy and pertinacious. It is right that we should pray for peace, but it is a delusion to believe that peace will come when humanity does not take the necessary steps to straighten itself out. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" are words

of Biblical wisdom. If we cannot be at peace with ourselves, we cannot be at peace with one another.

To those of a Christian mind, Christ is the Prince of Peace. To those of a Jewish culture, peace is inherent in all that the prophets proclaim. "For a child is born for us, a Son is given ...Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Therefore, "Depart from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it."

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL!

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



Grand Master's Report – 2011 Goals and Resolutions

Last January in the Grand Master's Message, I listed the goals and resolutions of the Grand Encampment officers. As promised, I'm pleased to make the following report:

Make Templary the most prestigious order one may petition. Throughout this year, during every conference and at Grand Commandery visitations, we have stressed the need to add prestige to our order by how we dress, the locations where we meet, and in our conduct. Every one of us at every level needs to do our part, and I am pleased to say we are seeing improvement.

Expand this prestigious order throughout the world. This is a continuing process. A dispensation was given for the formation of a Commandery in Monaco. Croatia and Brazil are working hard to be ready for charters in 2012, and preliminary discussions have been held with the Ivory Coast in Africa.

Membership stabilization during the 65th triennium. Several Grand Commanderies have experienced membership stabilization with zero loss this year, but across the Grand Encampment, this aggressive goal likely will not be met during this triennium with only eight months left. Perhaps we can meet it in the 66th triennium.

Increase the visibility of the order. We are pleased to report that our Grand Commanders are telling us at conferences some interesting progress they are making.

Finance – Growing our permanent fund to a level where the order will be self-sustaining. Currently, the permanent fund stands at around \$6.5 million up from \$4 million in August 2006. We are making progress. The goal is to have a \$10 million fund.

Closer associations between Grand Commanderies and Department Commanders as well as Grand Commandery Coordinators. This is an area where we need to develop good work habits by example, and I am pleased to say that we have seen measureable progress. Guidelines and suggested duties have been developed for Grand Commandery Coordinators and will be available soon.

Improve the quality of the ritualistic work being done. Our Grand Commanders are reporting that their efforts at excellent ritual are showing progress. This, of course, is done at a local level and will add to the prestige of the order mentioned above.

I took the opportunity to look back at the goals listed for 2008, 2009, 2010, as well as 2011. Some of the things mentioned in the early goals have been achieved and many are far along in progress. At the end of every year, we need to avail ourselves of the opportunity to look back at where we've been, analyze how we are doing, and determine where we are headed. I like where we are. There are always areas where we could have improved more, but I believe we are on track. Naturally, as Grand Master, I wanted more, but I am pleased to say that we have made great strides.

One year ago we set lofty goals, well knowing that some would be met and others would need to be continued but all the time realizing that without them we would not prosper. You alone will be the judge of our successes. It is our duty to report our progress, but the approval is yours.

Your Grand Encampment officers are pleased with our progress, yet realize that more work needs to be done. We are up to the challenge! Be sure and read the January Grand Master's Message to see what the resolutions for 2012 will be!



knight templar

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Koon, II".

William H. Koon, II, GCT

Grand Master



Knights



at the Bookshelf

By

Sir Knight John L. Palmer

The Last Templar – The Tragedy of Jacques de Molay Last Grand Master of the Temple by Alain Demurger, translated by Antonia Nevill, published by Profile Books Ltd., ISBN 1 86197 553 8.

This is the most comprehensive and detailed book I have encountered about the life and times of Grand Master Jacques DeMolay. It contains details about DeMolay which I had never before heard. In recent times, there has been a trend to portray DeMolay as an illiterate soldier who was not up to the prestigious and diplomatic position he occupied, but this book belies all that. It is extremely well referenced and quotes many examples of letters and other documents issued by the last Grand Master.

I am amazed at the amount of information that is available on this historical figure. It is not only a biography of this Templar leader but also a detailed account of the intrigues, campaigns, battles, and negotiations undertaken by the order from the time of the fall of Acre until the calamity of his execution in 1314. It describes the various diplomatic trips DeMolay made all over the known world settling disputes, defending the order, and soliciting support for the Templar order in the post-crusade years.

In this book, DeMolay is portrayed as the knightly hero and the astute leader of the Templars during a period of low morale when they seemed to have lost their reason for existence. His skill as a diplomat is well documented as are his successful attempts to reform and revitalize the Order of the Temple and to equip it to prosper in the post-crusade environment in which they found themselves after the fall of Acre.

This is not only a good read for the serious student of ancient Templar history, but it reaffirms that DeMolay was indeed the great leader and hero that the modern Templars have always believed him to be. Included as appendices are extensive notes and references, a chronological list of contemporary Popes, genealogies of many of the royalty and rulers on both sides of the Crusades, a chronology of relevant events between 1243 and 1315 and where DeMolay was and what he was doing at the various times, an extensive bibliography of Templar books, and of course, an index.

I would recommend this book, if for no other reason than as a reference.



Beauceant News



On October 7, 2011, Everett Assembly No. 242, Washington, welcomed Mrs. John A. Brogan, Supreme Worthy President, for her official visit to their assembly. Mrs. Dennis Osborn, Worthy President, presided as they initiated Mrs. J. Rex Hartsfield and Mrs. Margaret Kennedy.



Eugene Assembly No. 198, Oregon, met with the Supreme Worthy President, Mrs. John A. Brogan, on October 6, 2011, for the official visit with Worthy President, Mrs. Tom Jones.

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE *and* THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of our Lord 2011

To all Valiant and Magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~
Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER

An award-winning song which captured my imagination as a youth, as it did for many others when it was written in 1920, was "Follow the Gleam". The authors, Sallie Hume Douglas and Helen Hill had been fascinated by tales of the Holy Grail, and they used this legend to inspire others.

"To knights in the days of old, Keeping watch on the mountain height,
Came a vision of Holy Grail And a voice through the waiting night ...
And we who would serve the King, And loyally Him obey,
In the consecrate silence know, That the challenge still holds today:
Follow, follow, follow the Gleam, Banners unfurled o'er all the world; ...
Follow, follow, follow the Gleam Of the Light that shall bring the dawn'."

Yes, as the Wise Men so long ago followed that Gleam, that new star in the constellation of the heavens, to behold and fall down to worship the baby, born in a stable and laid in a manger, who would become King of Kings and Lord of Lords, then, now and forevermore - so must we follow that "Gleam of the Light that shall bring the dawn" of a new day, a new era of peace and goodness for all who live on this earth. Catch the vision of a new world bathed in the Light of Christ and sheltered by the Love of God.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas season, Grand Master, we toast you and Lady Elizabeth for your untiring dedication and leadership of our great Order, amidst all these troubling times of discontent, and wish you a Blessed Christmas and the best of health and happiness for this coming year of 2012.

In His name,

The Committee on Religious Activities
Rev. Dickie W. Johnson, Chairman

(This toast was prepared by Reverend and Sir Knight William D. Hartman, R.E. Grand Prelate)



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

To the Grand Prelate, the Committee on Religious Activities and to all Sir Knights, wheresoever dispersed: Greetings!

My thanks to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate and Committee on Religious Activities for a most humbling toast.

The toast just given by our Grand Prelate touches on a thought provoking concept. Consider the trust those Wise Men demonstrated in following the new star with the hope of beholding their new born Savior. Think of their surprise to find him in a simple stable lying there in a manger. Their faith was strong and imagine what that moment must have been for them. The experience of having been in the presence of Jesus the Christ would have been with them for the rest of their lives.

During this Christmas Season, it is appropriate we demonstrate our belief in Jesus Christ. Chivalry, Christianity, Templary – A Way of Life should be paramount in our minds during this Season. Let us emulate the faith of those wise men as they sought their Savior. May we too, be as dedicated to find an ever abiding faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The officers and membership of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America join me and Lady Elizabeth in expressing our best wishes to you and your family this Christmas Season.

In His Service,

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master



The foregoing Toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2011.



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