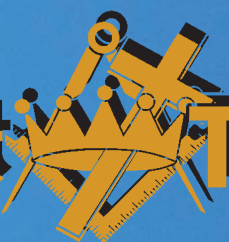


Knight Templar



VOLUME LIX

JULY 2013

NUMBER 7



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The cover photo is of the ancient
fortifications in the harbor in Malta
where the Knights kept their eyes
and ears open against an attack, and
it was taken by the editor.

Grand Master's Message

This month I would like to share with you some of the details of one of the most inspiring visits I have had the pleasure to make. Those of you who attended the 65th Triennial Conclave in Alexandria last summer may remember the discussions regarding problems within the Grand Commandery of Romania. I am pleased to report that this is a story of hard work and perseverance leading to success.

I had been invited to attend the Annual Communication of the National Grand Lodge of Romania by my good friend and brother, the Most Worshipful Radu Balanescu, Grand Master. I felt that if I was going to travel that long distance I would like to convene a special Conclave of the Grand Commandery during my visit in an attempt to return the Grand Commandery to good standing. Through the efforts of Past Grand Commanders Stefan Masu and Gabriel Gherasim, working with many other Sir Knights, this became a reality.

My day started out with a pass in review, with delegations of each of the eleven Commanderies being led by the Commander accompanied by their Beauceant. There were about one hundred Sir Knights in uniform participating, with marching music provided by a wonderful brass band. After reviewing the Sir Knights, we processed to the chapel for morning prayers led by the Eminent Grand Prelate. Following the prayers, we went to the Asylum where I was received under an arch of steel. The Grand Commandery of Romania was convened under my auspices, and the work of the day began with the election of new officers. I then installed the officers and charged them to work hard to rebuild and expand this fine Grand Commandery. After some brief remarks by the new officers and me, we adjourned to the banquet hall for a luncheon feast. It was a great day for Templary, and I left encouraged that the Grand Commandery of Romania is once again set on a course for success.

That evening brought a lavish reception for the guests of the National Grand Lodge of Romania. The following day, the National Grand Lodge convened in the Palace of the Parliament, the opulent center of the Romanian Government. It was a beautiful setting for an impressive session. There were guests from most of the Grand Lodges of Europe as well as representatives from Africa, Central America, South America, and the United States. I was honored to be received as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. The palatial room was filled with over nine hundred delegates and guests. The session was conducted with great dignity, style, and grace by Grand Master Balanescu. It was as impressive as any Grand Lodge session I have ever attended. The Romanian Masons and Sir Knights are young, enthusiastic, and driven to be successful. They should be an inspiration to us all. The day closed with a gala ball in the palace. It was a great experience!

I extend my thanks to Grand Master Balanescu, Past Grand Commanders Masu and Gherasim, and to all the Sir Knights and Brothers of Romania who made me feel so welcome. It was an experience that I will always remember, and I am proud that Romania is part of the family of the Grand Encampment!

Courteously, David Dixon Goodwin, GCT, Grand Master

✠ 

From the Grand Recorder's Office...



GRAND ENCAMPMENT 2013 DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

*The 2013 Grand Encampment Department Conferences are open to all Sir Knights.
Please make your plans to attend.*

NORTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Thomas X. Tsirimokos, Right Eminent Department Commander
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts/Rhode Island, New Hampshire,
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont
September 6-7, 2013 – Albany, New York

SOUTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

T. Michael Fegan, Right Eminent Department Commander
Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas
September 20-21, 2013 – Little Rock, Arkansas

MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Jeffrey G. Burcham, Right Eminent Department Commander
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,
North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia
September 27-28, 2013 – Alexandria, Virginia

NORTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Steven L. Guffy, Right Eminent Department Commander
Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming
October 18-19, 2013 – Boise, Idaho

NORTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Lauren R. Handeland, Right Eminent Department Commander
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
October 25-26, 2013 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota

SOUTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

David J. Kussman, Right Eminent Department Commander
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Mexico, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah
November 1-2, 2013 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Prelate's Chapel

by

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

William Parker, writing for the Knights Templar many years ago, said of Brother George Washington, "Few indeed are the men revered as is Washington ... it is doubtful that our nation would be as it is today without his leadership during a trying moment in history." Freemasons believe that Washington's Masonic background was a significant part of his philosophy of life. His deep regard for human liberty and the dignity of man gave strength to our cause at a moment when strength was needed. Washington's words upon becoming President reflect well his philosophy: "Integrity and firmness are all I can promise." Indeed, what more can a nation ask?



We today, who comfortably wear our freedoms so valiantly won in years past, can only dimly understand the absolute courage and personal risk that men like Washington took. Freedom was the driving force and compelling motive for Washington and his contemporaries who sacrificed lands, fortunes, health, and even life to win for us, their children, the blessings of freedom.

Freedom is a powerful, motivating force which holds out inextinguishable hope in the hearts of men and women in all countries and in all ages, freedom such as is inscribed on our own Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. Send them, the teeming refuse of your tempest and storm-tossed shores, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door." Freedom is a fairer land - the golden door of hope and opportunity.

I think of another leader of his people, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who dared inspire a later generation. "I have a dream ... deeply rooted in the American dream ... that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, Let Freedom Ring.'"

For Freedom is a fairer land, and as George Washington carried in his heart the ideals of liberty, justice, and freedom, so we too must likewise carry forward those same ideals.

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A Chat With The Managing Editor

As you are reading this, we will have just completed the annual cycle of regional York Rite meetings with the one in Tampa, Florida. The Grand Encampment calls their portion of these meetings Department Conferences. Although some leadership training is done at these meetings for our future leaders, the primary purpose is to provide an opportunity for the state leadership of the York Rite to communicate both ways with the national leadership. This is the place and time where our national leaders share their vision of what the York Rite will look like in the future.

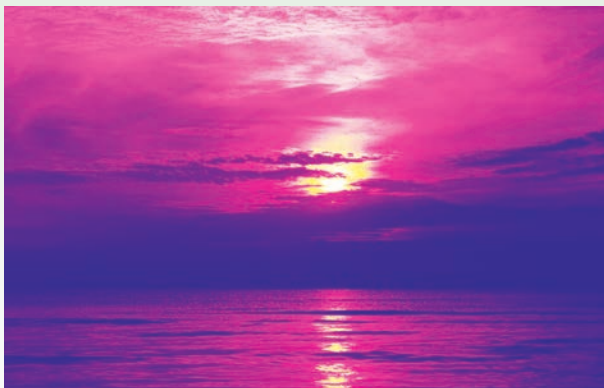
Change is constantly happening around us, and if we do not take action to deal with that change, our order will suffer. Each of the bodies should have its own mission statement. Why does the Chapter, the Council, and the Commandery exist? Have you ever thought about that? If not, how do you know if we are succeeding or failing? Do we simply exist to have large numbers of members?

I remember one of those shark movies several years ago when a marine biologist told the sheriff that a shark exists only to eat and make more sharks. Do we exist only to meet, eat, and make more Masons? If so, what's the point?

If you don't have a plan for the future, then anything you do will take you there. Missions, goals, plans, and visions; that's why these meetings are held so that everyone is on the same team and rowing in the same direction. Attendance is not limited to Grand officers. Anyone is most welcome to attend and participate. If you have a burning interest in promoting the York Rite, maybe you should consider attending and participating. Nothing would make our national leaders happier than to have a large number of members present in addition to the state officers. A new round of meetings begins in September. See page 5 for more information. Times, locations, and registration information can be found at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/dc.html>, and the next one will be in Albany, New York.

Maybe it would be a good idea to have a similar meeting in your state after the regional conference so you can have all the local officers on board with the plan, too. Just a thought.

Have a great summer!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The script is fluid and cursive.

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

Meet Our New Department Commanders

Sir Knight Howard Taft “Ted” Burgess

Right Eminent Southeastern Department Commander 2012-2014

Howard Taft “Ted” Burgess was born in 1949 in Belton, South Carolina to the late Louise and J. N. Burgess. He was educated in the public schools of Williamston, South Carolina and graduated from Tri-County Technical College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in electronics. He married the former Mary E. Waters of Belton, South Carolina in 1968. They are members of Whitefield Baptist Church. Ted and Mary have a daughter, Teresa, and a son, Teddy. They are the proud grandparents of four granddaughters, Jordan and Bailey Burgess and Mackenzie and Peyton Blackmon, and two grandsons, Joseph Contois and Tucker Blackmon. Sir Knight Burgess retired from the Torrington Company in Greenville, South Carolina.



Photo by John P. Westervelt

Burgess was raised in 1970 and is a Past Master and Past Secretary. He has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master and as Grand Marshal. He joined the Scottish Rite in 1975, has received the Knight Commander Court of Honor, and served as Venerable Master.

Excellent Companion Burgess was exalted in 1995. He has served as High Priest of his Royal Arch Chapter and currently serves as Secretary. He was anointed to the Holy Order of High Priests and has served as the Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner. He was elected Illustrious Master in 1997, is serving as Recorder, has served as District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Marshal, and received the Ish Sodi award in 2002 and in 2012. He is a Past Commander and Recorder of his Commandery, has received the honor of Knight Commander of The Temple, and served as Grand Commander in South Carolina in 2006.

Ted's memberships in other appendant bodies include South Carolina Masonic Research Society, Knight Crusader of the Cross, Royal Order of Scotland, Red Cross of Constantine, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus, Knight Masons, Hejaz Temple A.A.O.N.M.S, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and the Foederatis College of South Carolina. He has presided over Belton Chapter No. 105 O.E.S, S.A. Bannister Allied Masonic Degrees Council No. 336, and Piedmont York Rite College No. 84 where he was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross. knight templar

2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage



Pilgrim Ministers participating in the 2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage walking the ancient streets at Sepphoris in Galilee.

The dates for the two pilgrimages next year are February 10 - 20, 2014 and February 24 - March 6, 2014.

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.



A Chronological View of the Crusades c.A.D. 550 – c.A.D. 1325

Part 2 of a series
By
Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

Time Line - Holy Land Jerusalem

- 1095 Pope Urban II called for a holy war or crusade to free Jerusalem from Muslim rule. Army service and the promise of land and spoils appealed to the second and third sons who were limited by rule of primogeniture. Bishop Adhemar of le Puy was chosen to lead the first Crusade.
- Aug.-1096 The first crusaders were transported to Holy Land.
- Jul.-1099 Jerusalem was conquered and the Kingdom of Jerusalem was established. Godfrey de Bouillon was crowned with the title of "Defender of the Holy Sepulcher."
- Jun. 1100 De Bouillon died, and Balwin of Edessa succeeded and assumed the throne as King Balwin I.
- 1101–1105 King Balwin repelled Muslim attacks on Jerusalem.
- May 1110 Balwin took Beirut.
- 1118 Balwin invaded Egypt and died of disease.
- Apr. 1118 Balwin of le Bourg of Edessa, Cousin to Balwin I, assumed the throne as Balwin II.
- c.1118 Hugh De Payens asked Balwin II to sanction a new order of Knights, and the Knights of the Temple were created, taking vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The poverty vow applied to individual Knights, and the order was permitted to claim wealth. The Knights were given the al-Aqsa Mosque as a home.
- c.1127 Balwin appealed to Pope Honorius for Papal sanction of the order. Balwin II died and was succeeded by King Fulk I. Honorius issued a sanction to the order which included further vows as follows:

Unquestioned obedience to superiors
No contact with women, including mother or siblings
Never appear undressed
No bathing
Short hair and full beard to separate Knights from clergy and nobles

c.1138 Fulk I died and was succeeded by Queen Melisende, his wife, as regent to his thirteen year old son. The Queen appealed to Pope Innocent II for additional help defending Jerusalem against Muslim attack, and Innocent II issued the Papal Bull *Omne datum optimum*, exempting the Temple Knight order from all authority except the Pope. The order was allowed to recruit members, engage in commerce, collect fees including for the transport of European pilgrims to the Holy Land, and sell crops including sugar and cotton. The Arabic word for sugar, "al-Kandiq," became English "candy," and the Arabic word for cotton became the English word "Muslin." They served as bankers, guaranteeing that funds deposited in Europe for receipt could be redeemed in Jerusalem for cash. The order adopted "*non Nobis Domine, non Nobis, sed Nominous tuo da glorium*" (Not to us, Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give glory) as their official statement, and the order became expert in military logistics, training, and battle tactics.

1145 Queen Melisende appealed to Pope Eugenius III for reinforcements. Louis VII of France tried and failed to raise a Crusader army. Bernard of Clairvaux was an early sponsor of the Templar order and requested the Pope to appeal to the French Nobility to "take up the Cross." Clairvaux raised an army including several hundred Templars.

1147 King Conrad of Germany raised a second army and joined with the Kings of Poland and Bohemia to lead a Crusade to the Holy Land. The combined army underwent serious setbacks in Turkey, and the kings surrendered command to the Templars.

1148 Queen Melisende joined forces with the Templar led army and marched on Damascus which was under the control of Muslim, Unur en-Din. The Christians failed to capture the city and returned to Europe. Unur en-Din retained control of Damascus. The Holy Land remained divided with Muslim control of the North, and the second or "Bernard's Crusade" ended in a standoff with the Muslims gaining strength following the Christian withdrawal back to France.

The standoff remained until c.1150.

Christian Control of Jerusalem and the South

- c 1149 Baldwin III assumed the throne of the Kingdom of Jerusalem following the failed second Crusade, and Bernard de Tremelai was named Grand Master of Knights Templar order. Nur ed-Din Aleppo raided far north of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and threatened Antioch. Baldwin III, with a large force of Templars, forced Mujir ed-Din into an alliance against the common enemy, Nur ed-Din. Civil conflict between the Crusader states of Antioch and Tripoli forced Baldwin III to establish a Templar fortress at Tortosa to prevent Nur ed-Din from splitting the kingdom in half. The Nur ed-Din and Templar standoff continued until c. 1152. A civil war broke out between the Caliphs in Egypt, and in January, Baldwin III set siege to the Shiite city of Ascalon, the most Muslim city on the coast of the Holy Land.
- Jul. 1153 Forty Templars under command of de Tremelai breached the wall and were all killed by the Egyptians, and Baldwin III resumed the siege.
- Aug. 1153 Ascalon surrendered and was looted, and Baldwin named his younger brother, Amalric, ruler of the city. Andre de Montbard was named Templar Grand Master, replacing the slain de Tremelai. Baldwin III and Mujir moved against Nur en-Din, attacking the far north city of Aleppo. Shirkuh leader of Nur en-Din army, Ayub Emir of Baalbek, was the father of Yusef who would become "The Prosperity of the Faith" or Salah-ed-Din in Arabic and would be known as Saladin to future Crusaders. Nur ed-Din settled in Damascus and agreed to a truce with the Kingdom of Jerusalem.
- 1156 Bertrand de Blanquefort was named Templar Grand Master. Baldwin III raided Muslim herds and crops in the North, Nur ed-Din retaliated by capturing the Christian city of Banyas, and Baldwin and four hundred Templars recaptured Banyas before being massacred on the trip back to Jerusalem. Templar Grand Master de Blanquefort was captured.
- Feb. 1162 Baldwin III died and was replaced by Amalric.
- 1163 Amalric, with a force of Templars, invaded Egypt and was defeated by the flooding Nile. Nur ed-Din unsuccessfully attacked the Crusader city of Tripoli and then withdrew to Damascus. Shawar was overthrown as Vizier in Egypt and asked Nur ed-Din to attack Egypt and restore Shawar to the throne. Nur ed-Din feigned an attack on the Christian city Banyas while sending a major force led by Kurd Shirkul and his nephew Salah ed-Din south to Egypt. Shawar was restored as Vizier of Egypt while remaining under Nur ed-Din's control from Damascus. Shitte Shawar in Egypt turned on Sunni Nur ed-Din in Damascus and formed an alliance with Amalric to battle the common enemy.
- 1164 Nur ed-Din attacked Christian Antioch but was repelled, and six hun-

dred Templars were killed in the counter attack.

- 1167 Nur ed-Din attacked Banyas, and Shirkuh attacked Egypt after declaring the Sunni invasion of Shiite Egypt to be a holy war or jihad in Arabic, and Alexandria surrendered to Shirkuh. Saladin was given his first command to hold Alexandria against attack by the joint forces of Amalric and Shawar.
- Aug. 1167 Amalric ended the siege and returned to Ascalon.
- C.1167 Genghis Khan was born in Mongolia.
- c.1168 Templars were the largest and richest land holders in the Holy Land. Amalric planned another invasion of Egypt, the Templars refused to participate, and Amalric captured the Muslim city of Bilbeis and slaughtered the entire population. Vizier Shawar threatened to burn Cairo rather than surrender, and Nur ed-Din sent an army commanded by Shirkuh to rescue Cairo.
- Jan. 1169 Amalric retreated and blamed the latest Egypt defeat on the Templars for not joining his forces. Shirkuh captured Cairo for Nur ed-Din, Saladin was named ruler of Egypt, and Templar Grand Master de Blaquefort died.
- Jul. 1169 Amalric invaded Egypt again without Templar help, Philip de Milly was named Templar Grand Master, Amalric again retreated to Jerusalem, and Saladin became the most powerful Muslim after Nur ed-Din.
- c.1170-1174 De Milly resigned as Templar Grand Master to become King Amalric's ambassador to Byzantium, and Odo de St. Amand was named Grand Master. The last Shiite Caliph in Cairo died, and Egypt became dominated by the Sunni sect. Nur ed-Din planned an attack on Cairo against Saladin, Amalric aligned with Shiite Sheikh Rashid against Nur ed-Din, and a standoff ensued with three years of negotiations.
- 1174 Nur ed-Din died of disease, Amalric died one month later and was succeeded by his nineteen year old son, Prince Baldwin, who assumed the throne as Baldwin IV with Raymond of Tripoli as Regent. The Prince was afflicted with leprosy. Saladin was now the most powerful Muslim leader. Raymond contended with two factions, the Jerusalem rich nobles who favored peaceful negotiations with Saladin and the newer nobles and Templars who favored aggressive action against Saladin. Saladin captured Damascus following the death of Nur-ed-Din and then attacked the Christian city of Aleppo in the far north. He failed to take Aleppo but was named King of Syria and stayed in Damascus.
- 1177 Baldwin IV turned sixteen, and the regency ended.

- Nov. 1177 Saladin invaded from the south, the Templars defended Amalric's city of Gaza, and Baldwin IV's army moved to Ascalon between Saladin and Jerusalem. The Templars defeated Saladin and saved Jerusalem.
- Mar. 1179 Pope Alexander III convened the third Lateran Council in Rome and attacked Templar wealth but took no further action. Alexander III declared that the Templars could be used against Christian heretics, specifically naming Cathars in south France, and the council ended without calling for more Crusades to free the Holy Land.
- Apr. 1179 Saladin attacked the city of Banyas and swept through Galilee and Lebanon, burning and looting Christian cities. Templar Grand Master St. Amand was captured by Saladin.
- May 1180 Grand Master St. Amand died after year in Saladin's dungeon, Arnold de Toroga was named Templar Grand Master, and Baldwin IV agreed to a two year truce with Saladin.
- c.1183 Saladin controlled the territory from Libya to Iraq.
- 1184 Pope Alexander convened a council with Emperor Frederick of Germany and King Henry II of England, asking for another Crusade to the Holy Land. Templar Grand Master de Toroga died on his way to the council, Gerand de Ridfort was named Templar Grand Master, and Henry II refused to fund or join the Crusade but agreed to fund two hundred Templars for one year.

To be continued next month





Letters to the Editor



Letter to the Editor

In this letter I hope to explain page 11 of *Morals and Dogma* for Reverend Donald Heacock. We must look at the time Brother Pike wrote this book, published by the House of the Temple. America was a Christian conservative nation, the war between the states had just ended, and Lodges across our nation were experiencing revival.

Page 11 from *Morals & Dogma* states, "The Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses, are not only styled the Great Lights of Masonry, but they are also technically called the furniture of the lodge; and as you have seen, it is held that there is no Lodge without them. This has sometimes been made a pretext for excluding Jews from our Lodges, because they cannot regard the *New Testament* as a holy book. The *Bible* is an indispensable part of the furniture of a Christian Lodge only because it is the sacred book of the Christian religion. The Hebrew *Pentateuch* in a Hebrew Lodge, and the *Quran* in a Mohammedan one, belong on the altar and one of these and the Square and Compasses, properly understood, are the Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and work."

When we take a close look at this page, we see our instructions for the three different lodges... Christian, Hebrew, and Muslim. True, he tells us that his book of faith is to be used by the brother taking the oath. However, he does not tell us to remove the *Holy Bible*, only the book of faith other than the *Bible*. We can't without the Lodge being properly tiled.

As Christians we must try to under-

stand Islam and the *Quran*. For instance, the god of the *Quran*, is not the God of the *Holy Bible*, or the *Pentateuch*. We know that the *Holy Bible* teaches God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It's here, after some study, we find that Allah of the *Quran* cannot be the God of the *Bible*. For a Muslim to say so is an unforgiveable sin (shirk). The greatest sin a Muslim can commit is to say "Allah is a trinity of persons." In fact at (Sura 37:152) in the *Quran*, it says that if anyone says so he is a liar. In (Sura 4:171) the *Quran* says "say not Trinity" for Allah is one God glory to him.

Long before the conferral of a candidate, he must fill out a petition. There is a question on that petition which states, "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you firmly believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures?" When a Muslim candidate says "yes" to this question, he commits a (shirk) if he is a Muslim. Why? Because the Christian Mason and his God is far different than a Muslim and his god.

In Texas, our laws state that no quarrels are brought within the door of the Lodge, far less any quarrels about religion or nations, we being only Masons, of the catholic religion above mentioned (VI 2).

I think you can see now that there could be some confusion about any man who professes a belief in God as to whether he may or may not be qualified to become a Mason. As prospective new candidates, we jump too soon to try and gain new blood and spread our Masonic love for our fellow man when



Letters to the Editor



we should stop and do a much more thorough examination.

Sir Knight James D. Robbins
Ivanhoe Commandery No 8
Bryan, Texas

James,

I should point out to you that a petition in Texas may read quite differently than one from another jurisdiction.

The Ed.



Sir Knight John L. Palmer, Editor;

Great magazine this month, and I especially appreciated last month's! I had not expected my long winded letter to get published, but I have had much positive feedback back here at home.

With my letter; the North Central Department Commander, Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Lauren Handeland's introduction page; and our two page monthly supplement, October was pretty near an all Wisconsin issue! Pretty nice. I love the covers you come up with, too. Nicely done.

Now to this month's issue and the reason I wrote. The "Knights at the Bookshelf" has become a great resource for me. I have been reading so many dry historical accounts and text-like books about the Knights Templar that it got to be drudgery. I find the books of "historical fiction" actually fun to read. It is a nice read to see these Knights put in a context that is entertaining, informative, and educational at the same time.

knight templar

The trilogy by Jack Whyte that was mentioned in an earlier edition was fantastic. I breezed through the 2,436 pages in just over a week! The research that trilogy inspired has added many more volumes to my bookshelf and made the documentary books more enjoyable. I really do look forward to obtaining and reading this new trilogy by Robyn Young. Thanks for the inspiration and the tip. Well, it's off to Amazon.com to order more books!

Fraternally;

Sir Knight Clinton H. Cagle, Commander,
Burlington Commandery No. 50
Sturtevant, Wisconsin



Brother Palmer,

I just wanted to let you know that on this Thanksgiving Day I am thankful that you have upgraded *Knight Templar* magazine to its present form. I wouldn't change a thing. Keep fighting the good fight, and God bless you and yours for your good work.

Best

John Dinkel, PC



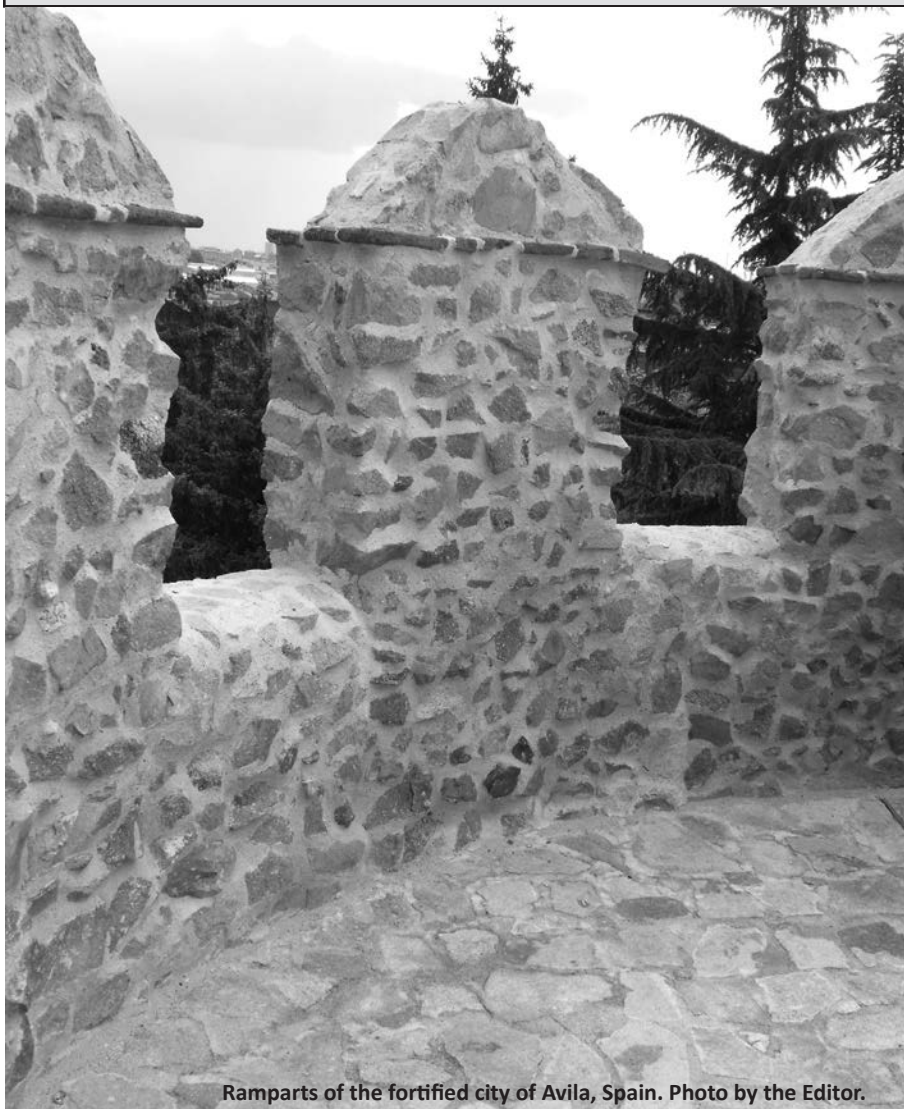
This Letter is in response to the lengthy letter to the Editor in the December 2012 Issue penned by Sir Knight Connolly.

The reason I was drawn to the York Rite was that it advertises itself as the Christian arm of Masonry. In fact, my Masonic *Bible* describes it as the "Militant Arm of Christianity." For me, the Knight

Continued on page 20.

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.



Ramparts of the fortified city of Avila, Spain. Photo by the Editor.

Sculpture in the fortified city of Avila, Spain. Photo by the Editor





Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

Templar degree was a physical ritual that confirmed the way I try, every day, to lead my life from the spiritual point of view. I have learned in the past year and a half that, for a much larger percentage, it is about the charity work and social events, but sadly, for more still it is another set of lapel pins and a pretty uniform.

Now as to "all of the sword sharpening" closing by Sir Knight Connolly, I would like to offer that while my original letter's comment to that effect was based on Ephesians 6:17 "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," that Sir Knight Connolly may be assured that I and others like me, within and outside of the Knights Templar fraternity, will keep our swords sharpened, our bayonets clean, and our powder dry, for our lines have defended God's people and the word of God from the Virginia countryside to the hedgerows of Europe, have stood watch against the godless Communists, and held against the Islamic forces that deal in terror. We sir, need not a big tent, because ours is an elite few, and I do wonder where, given a choice, that the Lord of Lords would choose to dwell? Would it be with those who adjusted his word to fit their worldly views or with those willing to give all to live by and defend his word as it is written? (This would fall more to Luke 22:36.)

In closing, this back and forth over the level of Christianity etc., has enlightened and educated me, in that time set aside for York Rite is far better spent inside my small tent with my small band of true brothers, for you see being one of

The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon in our time is not requisite of a Pope, a King, or a Masonic body but rather a desire, a readiness, and a way of life dedicated to the Most High.

Sir Knight Russell Howell, Jr., Bishop,
Saint Paul's Full Armor Church of God
www.saintpaulsfullarmor.org



Hi John,

I read your "Chat" page with interest. Einstein was quoted as saying that "eventually technology will bring us to the point where there will be no need for face to face communication, and the subsequent generation will be idiots!

I would be most pleased to join you in some lively conversation with a good wine and a fine cigar.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Sir Knight Ian Modelevsky



Greetings Sir knight John,

I am a newly knighted Mason at Louisiana Commandery No. 9. I read your article in the *Knight Templar* magazine and could not agree with you more about eye to eye communication. I think if we lose that, we are in big trouble.

Fraternally,
Brother Ric Maddox



Hello Sir Knight John,

I wanted to let you know that I couldn't agree more with your recent "Chat" section of the *Knight Templar* regarding young people and their smart phones as I type this on mine.

When we get the chance at the next Department Conference, it would be an honor to have a good cigar with you with my smart phone on vibrate deep in a pocket.

Raymond Telnock, D.C. 13
Knights Templar of PA



Sir Knight Palmer,

I have long appreciated the *Knight Templar* and the improvements that you have made to the magazine, but with the April issue you have outdone your-

self. Thank you for your devotion to the Craft, Templary, and most especially to the magazine.

Faternally,

Charles A. Collins, Jr.
South Carolina Commandery No. 1

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>.

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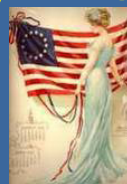
4th of July !



By

Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr

The FLAG!



We salute it at all festive functions and ceremonies. How well do we really know this symbol of our country? In the spirit of the fourth of July, here are a few questions about Old Glory.

1. The flag has thirteen stripes. Are there six white and seven red, or are there six red and seven white?
2. In the upper left there is a blue area with stars; what is this called?
3. Some stripes are shorter than others because of the blue area. How many are shorter?
4. The fifty stars form a rectangular pattern. How are they arranged?
5. How many spangled stars did Francis Scott Key see through the dawn's early light at Fort McHenry?
6. The stars have five points. How many points did Betsy Ross plan for the stars originally?
7. When should the flag on a public building be flown at half-mast ?

Answers:

1. There are seven red stripes and six white. Stripes at top and bottom are both red.
2. The blue area is called the field, union, or canton.
3. There are seven short stripes and six long ones.
4. The fifty stars are arranged in five rows of six stars alternated with five rows of five stars.
5. 15 stars adorned the flag that inspired our national anthem.
6. Six points. Betsy only knew a pattern for six-pointed stars.
7. Never! On occasion of official mourning or certain holidays the flag is flown half-staff, not half-mast. So Happy Fourth of July !

An Alternative Explanation of the Royal & Select Master Degrees

By
Sir Knight Gene Fricks

The legends behind the ritual of the Royal and Select Masters degrees are among those with only a vague basis in biblical antecedents. Unlike the legend of Hiram and the building of the first temple or that of Zerubbabel and the second temple, we have only a passing mention of Adoniram as the first overseer of King Solomon and a listing of Solomon's chief officers in I Kings 4:4. We do not find the secret passageway or the nine arches described in the II Kings story of the temple's construction.

Recognizing that the writers of the original rituals were men steeped in classical learning, we should look elsewhere for the source of this story. I suggest that the writings of the 15th century Arab historian, Mudjir ad-Din, may have been that source.

What prompted this thought was the celebration of the 3000th anniversary of Jerusalem several years ago and the renewed interest in its ruins that the commemoration sparked.

Let us review some of Jerusalem's history after the Roman destruction of Herod's Temple in 70 A.D. to set some background. Titus and his son Vespasian conquered Jerusalem after a long and bloody siege. Determined to bring the recalcitrant Jews to heel, the Roman 10th Legion, left to garrison the city, were ordered to level the temple down to its foundations. What we see today in Jerusalem is the temple mount platform upon which the temple sat, all that remains of

Herod's imposing construction project.

As part of the effort to obliterate a Jewish identity, the city was renamed Aelia Capitolina. The Roman emperors Hadrian and Marcus Aurelius had constructed on the platform a temple to their pagan deity, Jupiter. With the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity, his mother, Helen, herself a devout Christian, spent four years in Jerusalem attempting to identify and rebuild many of the structures associated with her faith. The Byzantines made the Church of the Holy Sepulcher their religious focus in the city and ignored the temple mount, using the platform as a garbage dump.

With the conquest of Jerusalem by the Arabs about 645 A.D., a renewed effort to restore the temple mount was undertaken. The temple mount is as sacred to Moslems as it is to Jews, for they share the same ancestor, Abraham. Moslems however, claim that it was on the mount that the angel of the Lord stayed Abraham's hand from sacrificing his son Ishmael (not Isaac). Ishmael is the hereditary ancestor of the Arab peoples. It was on the mount that Mohammed was said to have ascended to Heaven. With the focus of sanctity again on the temple mount, the Arabs undertook to construct the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Asqa Mosque.

Beneath the temple mount platform is substantial construction begun during the Maccabean period and extended

during Herod's construction. An aqueduct supported on arches and bridges brought water into the structure, and numerous bridges and passageways lie beneath the platform. These, the Arabs sought to reconstruct. One of the most impressive rooms beneath the platform is what Charles Warren named "Masonic Hall" during his exploration and excavations in 1868. General Sir Charles Warren, in addition to his many military and professional accomplishments, was an ardent Freemason and a Select Master. It was due to his efforts in the last century that structures that had lain in darkness for centuries were brought again to the light.

One area that Warren brought to light he called the "Secret Passage," a long, narrow east-west passage.

Mudjir ad-Din had described this secret passage which he wrongly attributed to King David who reputedly used the passage to travel from his palace at the Citadel near the Jaffa Gate to the temple without mixing with the common people. As a result of modern archaeology, we no longer place David's (and Solomon's) palace at the citadel.

Adjacent to the passageway on the north are a series of vaults that originally supported the aqueduct and served as cisterns for water storage. The lower part of the vaults in the secret passage rests on remains from the Maccabean period (1st century B.C.). The Romans had tried to destroy it. The bridge was not restored until after the Arab conquest. One of the largest vaults, almost twenty feet high, was Warren's Masonic Hall. Despite the damage of two earthquakes during the intervening centuries, the outer wall of the Masonic Hall is partially preserved on the northern

and eastern side. It is build of ashlar cut in the same meticulous manner as the ones on the western wall of the temple mount. Other structures that used this particular form of construction were of extreme religious and public importance during the Herodian period, but we have no idea for what purpose "Masonic Hall" was built.

What of the Ninth Arch? There are nine arches that carried the aqueduct above the secret passageway and that are preserved. Of course, at the point where the aqueduct entered the western wall of the temple mount, there is the most impressive Wilson's Arch, named for Warren's co-explorer, Charles Wilson. The secret passageway is blocked by the abutment formed by one wall of this arch, so it could not have been used for access to the Temple in any event. After their re-conquest of Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1244, the Arabs built eight gates to the temple mount from the west and erected additional religious buildings on the mount to emphasize its Moslem character. This required the Arabs to construct enormous substructures to support these new buildings and raise them up to the height of the temple mount. It is likely that during the extended construction period, extensive explorations were carried out by the Arabs, if for no other reason than to assure the integrity of their new buildings. During this period, they repaired earthquake damage to "Masonic Hall" and the arches. It is also likely that Mudjir ad-Din would have been exposed to the structures to create his history.

As a side note, in the period after its reunification of Jerusalem, the Israeli government has undertaken excavations to expand Warren's work, clearing out

much of what was left of the Moslem structures along the western wall of the mount. Much of this had fallen into ruin as a result of neglect and earthquake damage. Proceeding north along the wall, there is a strange large hall built in the form of a four-armed cross supported by four enormous pillars. However, the room was not constructed by the Crusaders as it was used as the foundation for a Moslem religious school.

Warren did not explore past the Cruciform Hall in his excavations, so it was left to the Israelis to continue a narrow tunnel to the east, nine hundred feet long but only six or eight feet wide. This tunnel eventually meets the original pavement and travels along the original street for a considerable distance. What is most striking is the quality and size of the masonry work on the western wall of the mount. Some of this has been exposed for the first time in over a thousand years.

Each stone is fully dressed with carved margins and central embossing. Every stone therefore, has three margins. While the stones average in height about four feet, at one point about sixty feet north of Wilson's Arch, we come to what the archaeologists called the "Master Course." Here the stones are eleven feet tall, and the largest is forty-two feet long. Ultrasonic testing indicates that the stone is fourteen feet thick. The weight of the stone is estimated at six hundred tons. Remember that these stones were placed without the benefit of machines, with only pulleys available to aid in their placement. Another stone is forty feet long and a third is twenty-five feet. The smallest stone is six feet long. Altogether, this portion of the wall is over one hundred feet long but composed of only four stones. What was Herod's purpose in

constructing so massive a wall?

It is easy to see where the stones were quarried as the quarry is at the end of the tunnel on the extreme northwest corner of the mount. Apparently, in leveling the mount to construct the platform, the builders used the materials right at hand.

However, the ultrasound testing provides an intriguing clue. Apparently on the other side of this wall is an enormous hall. Without the enormous wall, Herod's builders would have had to use flying buttresses which had not yet been invented. Why a hall here? Was it to ease the weight of the fill required to level the mount? Was there a large storage area beneath the mount for the use of the temple priests? However, we do not know how wide the hall is, and archaeologists are not likely to be given authorization to excavate to find out, as to do so would offend the sensibilities of the Moslem world. Tunneling beneath the Dome of the Rock would likely lead to war.

The foundation stone of Solomon's temple lies below the Dome of the Rock. This is apparently the stone that the builders rejected. It was too large to move so its top surface was leveled off and used as the cornerstone of the building. Beneath the rock is an open chamber that was used in the medieval period and perhaps before as a prayer chamber. The Crusaders cut a hole through the foundation stone to allow the smoke from their votary candles to escape. On the top of the rock are two carved areas. One is a rectangle of just the dimensions to have fit the Ark of the Covenant. The other is a low relief carving that looks suspiciously like a keystone. It is not possible to determine when this carving was made or by whom.

Early in the 20th century, there was much interest and energy expended in discovering the sources of the Cryptic Rite ritual. There seemed to be general agreement that the Select Master degree had been manufactured to describe the activities of Charles Stuart, the pretender to the English throne, and his friend, Louis XVI, king of France, in the person of Hiram of Tyre and Solomon. The council of three times nine were taken to represent the close supporters who had escaped to France with Charles. Thus the Select Master degree was a side degree to the 14th degree of the Scottish Rite. Until fairly recently, most Masonic writers seemed to accept that the Scottish Rite system had been formulated in France from among the supporters of the Stuarts. What has laid this tale to rest was a discovery that Charles Stuart, by his own admission, had never been a Freemason.

Under the old viewpoint, the Antients formulated the Royal Arch degree in competition with the Cryptic Rite to give the Masonic supporters of the Hanoverian king of England their own degree. Thomas Dunckerly was supposed to have removed the true word from the Master Mason degree, providing it with a substitute. The Antients' Royal Arch degree also drew on the 14th and 15th degrees of the Scottish Rite for its story line and symbolism.

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Charleston, South Carolina was the original possessor of the Royal and Select degrees in the United States. These were considered side degrees and as such, were under the jurisdiction of the Rite of Perfection. Henry Andrew Francken brought them with him in 1767 from France and

conferred them upon Samuel Stringer, who afterward moved to Maryland, and to Moses M. Hayes, who afterward became Grand Master of Massachusetts. Hayes apparently disseminated the degrees through Massachusetts and nearby states. In 1815 a Council was formed in New Hampshire.

Joseph Myers, at the foundation of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem at Charleston in 1778, deposited a copy of these degrees in its archives, and they were conferred in 1783 in the Lodge of Perfection in Charleston. Given the condition of the Scottish Rite degrees as found and rewritten by Albert Pike, we can only wonder what the early Royal and Select degrees looked like.

Joseph Cerneau brought them in 1807 from France to New York and established a Grand Council there. This Grand Council refused to recognize those receiving the degrees from any other source. However, its subordinates outside of New York united with Councils chartered from other sources. In this Grand Council, the Super Excellent Master degree was one of the series and was conferred in its subordinate Councils at an early date. Cerneau is regarded as something of a Masonic charlatan for his role in founding the Grand Commandery in New York when he had never received the Templar orders. His association with the founding of the Grand Council led to interesting confusion in the middle decades of the 19th century.

In 1817, the degrees were conferred in Baltimore on the members of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. One of the recipients was Thomas Smith Webb of Boston who was Deputy General Grand High Priest and the formulator of the Mark and Most Excellent Master

degrees. He returned north to confer the degrees on others who disseminated the degrees through Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York in 1818.

Jeremy L. Cross, Grand Lecturer of the General Grand Chapter, received the Select Master degree in 1816 from Philip P. Eckel in Baltimore and received authorization to communicate the degree to Royal Arch Masons, without fee, wherever he might travel. He claimed to have received dispensation from the Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Select Masons at Baltimore to grant dispensations to form independent Councils of Select Masters. The Grand Council of Select Masters was established at Baltimore by a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland; it did not survive him. Cross established thirty-three councils, including Brearley Council at Bridgeton, New Jersey on September 29, 1817, with James Giles as Thrice Illustrious Grand Master; William R. Fithian, Deputy Illustrious Grand Master; and Isaac R. Hampton, Principal Conductor. Each of these worthies was a member of Brearley Lodge No. 2 and Brearley Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. These were distinguished Freemasons in New Jersey.

James Giles was made a Mason sometime between 1776-1782 in a military lodge. In 1783, at age twenty-four, he was elected Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge No. 2 in New York City. This was the year that the occupying British evacuated the city. In 1784 Giles was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York. In 1790 he co-founded Brearley Lodge in Bridgeton and served it as Worshipful Master from 1790-1800 and 1812-1816. In 1815 he was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and served as Grand Master

from 1817-1819. A member of Harmony Chapter No. 52, Royal Arch Masons, in Philadelphia, he co-founded Brearley Chapter on October 16, 1815, and served as High Priest 1816-1819. On July 8, 1816, with Jeremy Cross in attendance, at a regular meeting of Brearley Lodge, Giles constituted Brearley Council of Royal and Select Masters.

William R. Fithian was raised at Brearley Lodge and elected Junior Warden in 1813. He served the lodge as Worshipful Master in 1817 and again in 1825. Exalted in Brearley Chapter in 1816, he served the chapter in various stations until 1827.

Isaac Hampton served Brearley Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1820-1821, 1834-1835, and 1840-1849. He was elected Senior Grand Warden in 1826-1827 and Grand Master of Masons in New Jersey 1828-1829.¹

Jeremy Cross is perhaps better known for having developed the idea of the symbol of the broken column, the weeping virgin, and Father Time to represent a fallen brother.

In 1829 James Cushman, also an itinerant lecturer and possibly an associate of Cross, went to Virginia and granted dispensations to form seven or eight Councils in various parts of that state. In 1820 a sufficient number of Councils existed in Virginia to form a Grand Council which continued until 1841. At that time, the Grand Council learned what had transpired in Maryland and, wishing to dissociate themselves from what was regarded as a fraud (no matter how innocently perpetrated), dissolved itself. Afterward, the Virginia Grand Chapter assumed jurisdiction over the Cryptic degrees.

The Royal and Select degrees had

originally been brought to the United States in 1783 and placed under the control of the Supreme Council, 33°. Mackey indicated that charters were given by representatives of the Supreme Council. The Royal and Select Councils eventually transferred their allegiance to the state Grand Councils. The constitution of the southern jurisdiction Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite actually contains a provision that the Supreme Council will exercise control over Royal and Select councils in states where no Grand Council exists. Every Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the southern jurisdiction would be a member of the Grand Council created under their auspices. This actually was the case in Mississippi in 1828.

The Northern Scottish Rite Supreme Council neither claimed nor exercised such powers, leaving the entire matter to the Grand Councils. The Grand Council of Pennsylvania was formed in 1847.

The Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State

of New Jersey was constituted at New Brunswick on November 26, 1860. At its sixth Annual Assembly in 1864, the Grand Council of New Jersey adopted the form of the Royal and Select degrees as practiced by the Grand Council of Connecticut and added the Super Excellent Master degree.

Notes

1. Michael J. Mislanik, historian, Brearley Lodge No. 2.

Sir Knight Fricks served Crusade Commandery No. 23, Haddofield, New Jersey, as Eminent Commander and the Grand Commandery of New Jersey as Grand Historian. Most importantly, he regards Sir Knight Richard Van Doren, whose recent work prompted this paper, as a fast friend and valued colleague. He can be contacted at genefricks@comcast.net.

IN MEMORIAM



Thomas Richard Mason
Arkansas
Grand Commander 2006
Born: October 8, 1938
Died: April 21, 2013

Lamar H. Jones
Utah
Grand Commander 1973
Born: November 9, 1923
Died: April 22, 2013

Grand Encampment Membership Awards

947 Simon McIlroy
Los Angeles Commandery No. 9
Los Angeles, CA

948 John Ray Cantrell
Kingsport Commandery No. 33
Kingsport, TN

Knightly News

MSANA to Reprint Complete Short Talk Bulletins

The publication of a complete collection of *Short Talk Bulletins*, the most widely distributed Masonic publication in the world, has been announced by the Masonic Service Association of North America.

The first of five projected volumes, a book of more than 750 pages, will be published in the fall of 2013 in two hard-cover editions, a leather-bound and gilt-edged "Grand Master Edition," and a linen-bound "Master Mason Edition." The editor of the volumes will be S. Brent Morris, P.M., Managing Editor of the *Scottish Rite Journal* and Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge in London.

"Short Talk Bulletins have been published monthly by the Masonic Service Association of North America for ninety years, since 1923, and are a treasure of American Masonry," said George O. Braatz, Past Grand Master, Masonic Service Association of North America Executive Secretary. "The knowledge contained in these Bulletins provides a foundation for understanding our fraternity, including Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and biography. These volumes should be at the core of any Masonic library."

Volume 1 will retail for \$90 for the Master Mason Edition and \$150 for the Grand Master Edition. However, those who purchase before September 1, 2013, will get a special pre-publication price of \$55 or \$110 plus \$7 shipping and handling for U.S. addresses. Lodges can purchase one Master Mason Edition for their libraries for \$45 plus \$7 shipping and handling for U.S. addresses (payment must be with a lodge check).

For more information, or to order online using a credit card, go to the Masonic Service Association of North America webpage: www.msana.com, where a sample chapter can be reviewed. If you have any questions, contact Masonic Service Association of North America.

#

George O. Braatz, Executive Secretary, Masonic Service Association of North America
8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785, 301-588-4010, msana@ix.netcom.com

knight templar

More Old Fobs and Masonic Jewelry



Sir Knight Robert Keene of Commandery No. 9 in La Crosse, Wisconsin sends us the rest of these photos of part of his collection. The photos were taken by Essex Photography and are published with permission. I will publish some more photos of his collection in future issues as space permits.

Sir Knight Peter B. Sawyer sends us the photo above of his Grandfather's ring and fob. He advises that the ring is white plastic. Does anyone know of other plastic Masonic jewelry?







Knights

at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

The Kensington Rune Stone - Compelling New Evidence, Authors: Richard Nielson and Scott F. Wolter, Publisher: Lake Superior Agate Publishing, 2006, ISBN 1-58175-562-7.

(Reviewer's Note: The Kensington Rune Stone is a 200 lb. stone slab discovered in 1898 by Minnesota farmer Olof Ohman, engraved with Scandinavian characters (runes), and purporting to record a 14th century pre-Columbian expedition of Goths and Norwegians to the interior of North America.)

The authors' stated purpose is to refute a century of consensus opinion labeling the rune stone a hoax by presenting "compelling new evidence" (i.e. the work's subtitle) supporting the artifact's authenticity. The writers promote the artifact's authenticity by selectively presenting circumstantial evidence that farmer Ohman would or could not have perpetrated such a hoax. Even the deathbed confession of Mr. Ohman's self-admitted hoax accomplice is discounted as unreliable. (Note: In many states dying declarations are granted exemptions from evidentiary rules barring hearsay testimony.)

From the outset, this work is odd in many senses. Odd in organization and layout, odd in physical dimensions, (presenting both shelving and handling challenges), and most importantly, odd in the extraordinary amount of hours and calories spent authenticating an artifact which, even if totally legitimate, would break little new ground or add much to the historical record.

The work is organized in roughly two sections; first, the various scientific investigations and second, one of the author's personal experiences with the stone. The author's experiences provide a more interesting narrative, and the work's readability could be improved if they were presented first with the various scientific investigations included as following appendices.

The scientific sections include geological and linguistic investigations. The approximately forty page geology section details various physical tests conducted on the stone. (Note: One author is a professional geologist.) In summary, the tests determined that the stone was typical and common to geological formations of upper

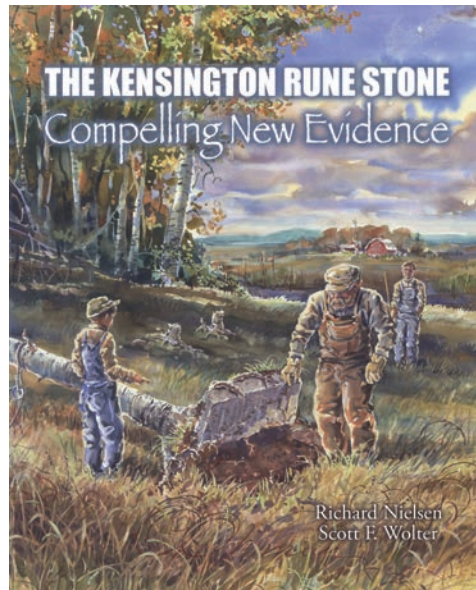
Mid-West, or essentially a dog bites man scenario.

The linguistics section is perhaps the most compelling albeit confusing of the scientific investigations. Of the many factors indicating that the stone is a hoax, the carved runes themselves are paramount. Even experts in Medieval Scandinavian languages, i.e. runologists, disagree whether some of the engraved characters are true runes and if so, from what time period. For example, one hoax camp runologist insists that several of the symbols did not exist until the mid-19th century, contemporary with the stone's discovery; while an equally credible runologist from the authentic camp insists the same runes were in common usage millennia ago. The linguistics section includes lengthy and meticulously detailed arguments citing minute shape differences in the "dotted R rune," "crossed L rune," and "bilateral T-rune," to mention only a few of many. The work presents a large number of professionally created diagrams and tracings of runes. (Note: *Microsoft Word* does not have rune characters in the built-in symbol library and cannot be used to illustrate here.) To this non-runologist reviewer, it would seem that some non-uniformity would necessarily result from hand-carving runes or symbols of any type into solid rock using a hammer and chisel.

One particularly questionable aspect of the linguistics section is the writers' attempt to simultaneously link Christopher Columbus and the Teutonic Knights, a Scandinavian branch of Knights Templar, to the Kensington stone via the hooked X rune. The writers claim that the hooked X character is found nowhere else except Columbus' personal signature. (Reviewer's Note: Steve Berry's recent novel, *The Columbus Affair*, is predicated on a similar premise.) The writers strongly deny any attempt to benefit from the recent popularity wave rippling from Dan Brown books and Templar lure in general and declare that the 2006 publication timing is pure serendipity. While I have no evidence pro or con to this claim, I am puzzled why the writers would elect to include a pre-emptive denial to a non-existent claim.

Viewed from the singular position of meeting their stated goal of authenticating the Kensington Rune Stone by refuting the substantial volume of evidence of a hoax, the work fails to even approach meeting their burden of proof. Whether the stone is authentic or a hoax neither adds to nor detracts from the possibility of pre-Columbian European visits and exploration to North America.

While I would not recommend this work to our general readership, I would recommend it to individual Templars interested in alternative historical narratives and having the savvy to discriminate the ruses from the runes.
knight templar





Beauceant News



San Antonio Assembly No. 159 had the pleasure of initiating (Mrs. Gene) Gay Carns at the Official Visit of the Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Joe) Lei Lani Cortez on April 8, 2013. Mrs. Carns is the wife of Sir Knight Gene Carns, Past Grand Master of Texas.



Twelve S.O.B. sisters from Long Beach No. 39, Los Angeles No. 42, and San Bernardino No. 200 attended the annual "Reciprocity" meeting of Santa Ana No. 61 on April 20, 2013. With the announced theme of "April Showers," the members and guests were invited to dress as inspired by the theme. An amazing number of outfits from "garden party" to "Disneyland in the rain" were in evidence. (Mrs. Robert) Debi Gannaway, Supreme Chaplain; (Mrs. Robert C.) Sandra Coe, Supreme Inner Guard; and (Mrs. James) Norma Burkett, member of the Supreme Assembly Examining Committee were recognized as was (Mrs. Thomas) Lynda Derby, Supreme Preceptress. (Mrs. Bruce) Ruth Ewald, Los Angeles No. 42, Supreme Daughter of the Household, was also present. Mrs. Coe, Mrs. Gannaway, and Mrs. Burkett are seen center front of the photograph. Reciprocity meetings are a long standing tradition of the California assemblies.

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**(Mrs. Joe) Lei Lani Cortez, SWP and the 2013 Hostess Group
Invite all members and their Sir Knights
to attend the**

**93rd Supreme Assembly Session
September 22 – September 28, 2013
Indianapolis Marriott East
7202 East 21st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219**

Registration information is available on-line at www.knightstemplar.org/soob or ask your Assembly Recorder for a packet. Ladies, as you know, we usually tag along with our Sir Knights. This is your opportunity to reverse things and bring your Sir Knights along to relax while we work. Tours and activities are available throughout the week to keep your Sir Knight busy. Be sure to stay for the installation of (Mrs. T. Michael) Debhra (Debbie) Fegan as Supreme Worthy President on Friday, September 27.

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