



Knight Templar

VOLUME LX

JULY 2014

NUMBER 7

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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>.

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.

Knight Templar

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

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Cover Photo of monument in Arlington National Cemetery taken by the editor.

Grand Master's Message

I trust you enjoyed a break from me last month when we had an opportunity to hear from Robert Lang, the Immediate Past International Master Councilor of DeMolay. His description of visiting the site of the burning of DeMolay on May 18th, the 700th anniversary, was informative and his message inspiring. I hope all of you will consider helping your local DeMolay Chapter to the extent that you are able to do so. I know you will find it greatly rewarding.

The last couple of months have been very busy for the officers of your Grand Encampment. In addition to visiting Annual Conclaves of our Grand Commanderies, we have visited the Grand Lodges of Indiana and New York as well as the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine and DeMolay International. We also conducted the Southeastern Department Conference last month, the last in this year's cycle of conferences. We will begin a new round of conferences in September with new presentations.

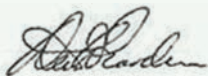
This month we are looking forward to attending the Imperial Session of Shriners International as well as the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

In May, several officers attended The World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges, the Annual Communication of the National Grand Lodge of Romania, the Romanian Masonic Week, the European Department Conference, and the Annual Conclave of Romania, all in Bucharest. We would like to express our great appreciation to Sir Knight and Most Worshipful Radu Balanescu, Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Romania; Sir Knight Lonel Ciuclea, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Romania; and Past Grand Commanders Stefan Masu and Gabriel Gherasim for their hospitality and friendship. It was a great experience!

We are truly blessed with the warm receptions, hospitality, and brotherhood that is extended to us whenever we visit within Templary or with a part of our extended Masonic Family!

The bonds of Freemasonry are strong within the family, and we are proud to be a part of it.

We look forward to seeing you "on the circuit!"

⌘ 

David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master



The future is ours! We must seize the moment!
Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.

From the Grand Recorder's Office...



GRAND ENCAMPMENT 2014 DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

The 2014 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 5-6, 2014 – Manchester, New Hampshire

SOUTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

T. Michael Fegan, Right Eminent Department Commander
Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas
September 19-20, 2014 – Topeka, Kansas

MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Jeffrey G. Burcham, Right Eminent Department Commander
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia
October 4, 2014 – Alexandria, Virginia

NORTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Steven L. Guffy, Right Eminent Department Commander
Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming
October 17-18, 2014 – Boise, Idaho

NORTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Lauren R. Handeland, Right Eminent Department Commander
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
October 24-25, 2014 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota

SOUTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

David J. Kussman, Right Eminent Department Commander
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Mexico, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah
October 31 - November 1, 2014 – Ontario, California

Prelate's Chapel

by

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

How often have we heard those words: “No, freedom isn’t free.” We here in the United States celebrate our Independence Day this month. Usually we do so with parades and picnics and fireworks. Hopefully, we pause to remember those who have “paid” for our independence ever since 1776. Our nation has survived and prospered because of the sacrifice of many who laid down their lives for us. No, freedom isn’t free!

Yet, we are born to be free. We are reminded in Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, “For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (5:1) Paul was not necessarily talking about physical slavery to dictators but to a higher spirituality. He was talking about our slavery to sin and death. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the condemnation of death fell upon them. We humans were thrown into the darksome prison house of sin and death, never again to be free as children of God, but God would not have it so. God could not “go back on His Word” (“Adam, you are dust, and to dust you shall return” [Gen. 3:19]), else we could not trust Him. “So God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved.” (John 3:17) For “whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

No, our freedom is not free, but our salvation is. For all who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, salvation is freely given. Jesus Himself paid the price!



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

David W. Reed.....	TN	Leroy D. Kifer.....	WI
Robert W. Gregory	CO	Vance J. Spencer.....	CA
John W. Via, III	TX	David A. Duskey.....	PA
Glen M. Cunningham	MA/RI	William R. Epp, Jr.	MA/RI
Todd O. Galarneau	MA/RI	Markeith E. Host.....	MA/RI
John H. Nelson	MA/RI	Doug E. Petty.....	IA
Robert L. Price.....	CT	James M. Wilburn.....	TX
Eloy Diaz	GA		

Grand Commander's Club

Andrew M. Gedge	TN	Jason F. Hicks.....	TN
Ricardo R. Wright.....	IL	Mark G. Mattern.....	PA
James C. Hutchinson, Jr.	CT	William S. Boyd.....	TN

Knights Templar Eye Foundation

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

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

A Chat With The Managing Editor

The number of members that compose the Grand Encampment is now around one hundred thousand. Think of the potential for making the world a better place for all! The ancient Templars never had anywhere near that number at one time. Probably they never had near that number in total from 1118 A.D. to 1312 A.D., but look what an impact they had on the world! We are still talking about them seven hundred years later, and it's not just Templars talking about them, it's the general populace. Do you think they will be talking about us in seven hundred years? If so, what do you suppose they will say?

You know, I suspect that we don't really have one hundred thousand Templars, just one hundred thousand members. A man is a member because he wants to be, for all kinds of different reasons. Likewise, a man is a Templar because he wants to be, but there are fewer reasons. Do you remember the comedian, Jeff Foxworthy? The one who said, "You might be a red neck if..." How do you know if you are a Templar or just a member? Here are a couple of thoughts:

You might be a Templar if you have come face to face with your own mortality and resolved to devote your remaining span of life, however long or short it might be, to making this world a better place for everybody to live in.

How about the other side of the coin? For instance:

You might not be a Templar if you are more concerned about the amount of your dues than about being of service to other people.

I can think of hundreds of these, can't you? Maybe I'll share one or two every month. I'll bet you have better ones than I do. If you send them in, I'll give you credit if I publish them. If you are a member rather than a Templar, only you know for sure. It's not my job to figure that out. You can decide to become a Templar any time you want. Just attend the next conferral of the Order of the Temple at your Commandery, listen attentively, make your decision, and figure out what you need to resolve to become a real Knight Templar.

In the mean time, think about having a great time with your family this summer; they deserve it, and you might not have the opportunity next summer!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

Correction:

May issue page 21 letter to the editor
was from Sir Knight Robert H. Knight.

july 2014

Wilber M. Brucker 49th Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

(Third in a series on our Grand Masters)

by

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT

Chairman, Grand Encampment Knights Templar History Committee

Wilber Marion Brucker; Governor of Michigan, national and state government official, and Grand Master at the Golden (50th) Convocation of Templary; was born in Saginaw, Michigan on June 23, 1894, the son of Ferdinand and Roberta (Hawn) Brucker. His father was a judge and congressman. He received his elementary and secondary education in the public schools of Saginaw and graduated with an LL.B. in 1916 from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He was admitted to the Michigan bar in the same year. He helped earn his way through school by waiting on tables, selling newspapers, and doing various summer jobs. He also received his J.D. degree from the University of Detroit in 1931 and his Ph.D. from Hillsdale College and Alma College, in 1932.

After graduation in 1916, he enlisted as a private in the 33rd Infantry of the Michigan National Guard and participated in the United States Army expedition against Pancho Villa on the Mexican border. From 1917 to 1919, during and after the First World War, he was in the United States Army, advancing in rank from second to first lieutenant. He attended Officers' Training Camp at Ft. Sheridan, Il-



linois, and was commissioned and sent to France, where he attended the French Warfare School for American officers and was assigned to the 166th Infantry, 42nd (Rainbow) Division as a 1st Lieutenant. He participated in the Aisne-Marne, Saint-Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne offensives; received the Silver Star and Purple Heart; and later served with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine in Germany until his return to this country in 1919.

In 1919 he established an independent practice of general law in Saginaw, later that year becoming Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Saginaw County. Elected prosecuting attorney in 1922, he served two terms, and in 1926 he was appointed Assistant Attorney General of Michigan, remaining in that office until he was appointed Attorney General in February of 1928 to fill a vacancy. Elected to a full term in November of 1928, Brucker served as Attorney General until 1930.

He was married in New York City on August 18, 1923, to Clara Helen Hantel, daughter of Emil and Regina Hantel of Saginaw, and had a son, Wilber Marion, Jr., born in 1924.

A stalwart Republican, he was elected

the 32nd Governor of Michigan in the fall election in 1930 and served one term (1931-1932). As Governor of Michigan, Brucker instituted a broad economy program which conserved state funds during the national economic depression of the period, and to those men on welfare, he gave work building roads in the state. He allowed no new taxes or state bond issues, insisted upon keeping politics out of law enforcement, and refusing to grant pardons, placed the parole system upon a merit basis. During his tenure, he strengthened the Michigan state police by adding one hundred men to the force. He was beaten in 1932 in the Democrat political landslide led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1933 he moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he conducted a general independent law practice until 1937, after which he was a partner in the law firm of Clark, Klein, Brucker, and Waples in Detroit until 1954. After returning to his law practice, Brucker ran for the United States Senate in 1936, facing Prentiss M. Brown (a Mason) from St. Ignace. Brucker's billboards proclaimed: "Brucker Knows Michigan." Brown countered, "Michigan Knows Brucker," and won handily.

During this period, he continued to be active in the Republican party, serving as a delegate from Michigan to the Republican National Conventions in 1932 and 1936, as chairman of the 14th Congressional District Committee during 1945-49 and the Michigan State Convention in 1948, and as a member of the platform committee and as Michigan delegate at the 1948 Republican National Convention. In 1954, Dwight D. Eisenhower nominated him as General Counsel of the United States Depart-

ment of Defense, and after confirmation by the United States Senate, he served as General Counsel for about one year. As General Counsel to the Department of Defense at the time of the Army-McCarthy hearings before the senate committee headed by Joseph R. McCarthy, Brucker insisted that the military give the committee all the facts it wanted, and in so doing he was considered instrumental in defusing some of the crisis atmosphere at the hearings.

Appointed Secretary of the Army to succeed Robert T. Stevens in July of 1955, Brucker remained in that post until January of 1961 when he returned to the practice of law in Detroit. Under Brucker's leadership as Secretary of the Army, the army's arsenal of defensive and offensive guided and ballistic missiles and rockets was greatly expanded, and work was furthered in all fields of research and development to assure the technological superiority of American arms. The army placed in orbit the country's first earth satellite on January 31, 1958, and subsequently, two additional satellites were launched. The army's combat divisions were completely reorganized according to the so called pentomic concept in order to adapt them fully to the requirements of either an atomic or non-atomic war on any scale; the powerful, mobile Strategic Army Corps was created, ready for movement by air to deal promptly with aggression in any part of the world, and the Army's Ready Reserve Forces were built to greater strength and effectiveness. Additionally, a large housing program was inaugurated and carried out at army installations at home and abroad, and policies and programs were put into effect which increased the attractiveness of an army career. In 1957,

Sir Knight Brucker was elected
Grand Master of the Grand Encamp-
ment of the Knights Templar

The latest Movement of England Temple of the Spirit
of America comes from the body, the name of its
founder, a country and a city, was on June 23,
1870, British Empire, was installed by one, first Lord
Bishop, and therefore, to the United States, the
first year.

From a small band of 100 valiant Sir Knight to 1600,
valuing most of our men and women's prosperity
and happiness, the spirit of England has changed over
the world and throughout all of England by Christ. In
1900, around of 600,000 valiant Sir Knight, Temple are
valued under our banner and have received in their
loyalty and devotion to our Christian cause.

In those who believe we can give the spirit of England
progress, continued that to progress and example, we
should follow of England, will be at reaching as the
highest. I cannot find the right way to achieve, a firm
religion upon our nation "IN THE SPIRIT OF A
CONSTITUTION."

WILLIAM E. BROWN, Great Britain

18 THUGS

THE TEMPLE OF THE SPIRIT
OF AMERICA
Temple, London



Knight Templar magazine was made a monthly magazine instead of being produced on a quarterly basis.

The author is in possession of a souvenir plate issued in commemoration of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Templary in the United States. On the front side is a depiction of the Grand Master's jewel of office, and on the reverse side is a message written by Most Eminent Sir Knight Brucker with his signature as follows:

"The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America returns to New York, the scene of its founding a century and a half ago, when on June 20, 1816, DeWitt Clinton was installed as our first Grand Master, and Templary in the United States began its forward march.

From a small band of five hundred valiant Sir Knights in 1816, through years of war and peace and economic prosperity and depression, the spirit of Templary has remained undaunted and steadfast in our allegiance to Christ. In 1966, upwards of four hundred thousand stalwart Knights Templar are enlisted under our banner and bear witness to their loyalty and devotion to our Christian cause.

To those who follow us, we pass the torch of Templar progress, confident that by precept and example, our beloved order



of knighthood will be as enduring as time itself. I recommend to the Templar of tomorrow a firm reliance upon our motto: 'IN HOC SIGNO VINCES.'"

Wilbur M. Brucker, Grand Master

Past Grand Master Brucker suffered an apparent heart attack after attending an Economic Club luncheon in Detroit and died soon after in the emergency room at Harper Hospital, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, on October 28, 1968 (age 74 years, 127 days). He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. His wife Clara died on March 24, 1980, and was interred beside him. His son, Wilber Brucker, Jr., died on November 9, 2003, (also of a heart attack) and was interred in Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Columbarium, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Upon his death, General William C. Westmoreland, then United States Army Chief of Staff, said, "... Those who mourn him now may also mourn the passing of an age when the simple virtues of courage, loyalty, industry, and faith were enough to qualify a young man for Governor of Michigan."

Right Eminent Sir Knight Marshall, KYGCH(3), KCT, 33°, is a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Knight Templar* magazine and has published several articles in that magazine as well as in the *Royal Arch Mason* magazine. He can be reached at geomarsh@yahoo.com.

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Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY GRANT REVIEW 2014

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. supports research that can help launch the careers of clinical and basic researchers committed to the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children such as amblyopia, cataract, glaucoma, optic nerve hypoplasia, nystagmus, and retinopathy of prematurity. It supports clinical and basic research on conditions that can or may eventually be treated or prevented.



Doctors from throughout the country along with Foundation officers and trustees review and discuss each grant application to determine which should be approved for funding based on the merits of the proposal.

Each year the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. invites eligible investigators to submit applications for pediatric ophthalmology grants:

- Career-Starter Research Grants - up to \$60,000 per grant. Applicants for these grants are at the beginning of their academic careers and must have received a M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree.
- Competitive Renewal Grants - up to \$60,000 per grant to extend the original 2013 grant project for one additional year if the data accumulated in the first seven months of the original grant awarded in 2013 are compelling.

Along with these two grant programs, in 2012 the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation identified a signif-

icant need for well-trained pediatric ophthalmology faculty (mentors) in developing countries. As a result of this initiative, your Foundation has created a 1-year fellowship to help meet this training need.

- The Training Mentors for Developing Countries (TMDC) Fellowship is an annual stipend of \$60,000. Those receiving the stipend have agreed in writing to return to their native country immediately following the fellowship to practice pediatric ophthalmology for a minimum of five years and to the extent possible, be directly involved in the training of residents during those five years.

At an annual meeting held every March, officers and trustees of the Foundation come together with ten doctors specializing in pediatric ophthalmology from many leading hospitals and research institutions throughout the country to review the applications and recommend which applications should be funded with a grant.

We are pleased to report that this year we received fifty-one career-starter research grant applications, fifteen competitive renewal grant applications, and one fellowship application. Twenty career starter grants, nine competitive renewal grants, and one fellowship grant were recommended for funding by the committee, and all thirty were approved by the officers and trustees serving on the Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee consists of David D Goodwin, President, member of the committee, and Trustee of the Foundation; Duane L. Vaught, Chairman of the Committee, Vice President, and Trustee of the Foundation; Jeffrey N. Nelson, member of the Committee, Vice President, and Trustee of the Foundation; Michael B. Johnson, member of the Committee and Trustee of the Foundation; William Jackson Jones, member of the Committee, Past President of the Foundation, and current Trustee.



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

Greetings Sir Knights,

This is the day that the Lord has made, and Sir Knights, let us rejoice and be glad in it. The 46th Voluntary Campaign is in the books. I am simply humbled at what you have accomplished. We raised over \$1.3 million dollars during the Campaign, and two of our Grand Commandereries achieved 100% in Life Sponsors, something many said could not be done. Congratulations to The Grand Commandereries of Tennessee and Montana; Sir Knights, you set the bar for others to follow.

All across the Jurisdiction we saw a significant increase in the total number of Life Sponsors. We also saw a nice increase in the number of members of the Grand Master's and Grand Commander's Clubs. Simply stated, the letters I received and the warm welcome from so many of you strengthen my resolve that our efforts are indeed making a difference.

Sir Knights, because of your dedication and your generosity, I have no doubt that our researchers are making and will continue to make advances against the diseases of the eye we have chosen to combat. By now, the research grants have been presented to all of the doctors. I had the pleasure this year of presenting two grants. Let me tell you, Sir Knights, once you meet the doctors involved and their staffs and hear about what they are doing, it will humble your heart. Just think, our Father in heaven has chosen us, the Knights Templar, to be able to provide the financial support that is so critically needed.

Sir Knights, I leave you with these few thoughts. First, our work is not done; we have more to do. Second, never underestimate your contribution, large or small. The combined effort of "we" is where our strength lies. Sir Knight Walter DeLamater and his generation created the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and now it has fallen to us to continue the good works God has laid before us. When like minded men join together for a common cause, seemingly impossible things can be accomplished. Thank you for making the 46th Campaign a success. Sir Knights, you are in my prayers. Please remember our researchers in yours.

In His Service,

Terry L. Plemons, KGC





Letters to the Editor



Sir Knight John,

I thought Free Masonry was non-political. The article that Sir Knight Bob Staight wrote in the last *Knight Templar* magazine was pretty much political and not needed in this fine magazine.

Thanks,
Albert Jeffery, Wooster Commandery
No. 48 Ohio.



Albert,

As I understand it, politics and sectarian religion are not topics for discussion within the walls of the Lodge. Apparently Templary does not abide by these rules as we obviously and explicitly limit our membership to Christians and freely talk about Christianity within as well as outside the asylum. I re-read Sir Knight Straight's letter, and it seems to me that he was talking about morality rather than politics. I assume that his use of the term "Left-wing" made you think it was political. Would you have written if he had used the term "Right Wing?" I certainly do not want our letters to the editor to turn into a political debate. The trouble I have is that our entire set of organizations deal almost exclusively with morality. There seems to be some areas where politics is also concerned with morality. I don't believe that we have to stop talking about those areas of morality just because politicians choose to get involved with them. Above all, I do not believe that I should be allowed to ex-

knight templar

press my opinions in the "Chat" column while depriving you of that same privilege in "Letters to the Editor." Maybe we should do away with both features. Do you suppose that would make everyone happy or just a few? One thing is certain. I can't make everybody happy.

The Ed.



Sir Knight John:

In the July 2013 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine (vol: LIX no. 7) on page 22 there is a short quiz about our country's flag — Old Glory. The answer to question 4 indicates that there $(5 \times 6) + (5 \times 5)$ stars representing a total of 55 States. May I respectfully suggest than a subsequent issue should include a quiz to name the most-recently added 5 "new" States.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Hugh T. Hoskin
Golden West Commandery No. 43

Would Mexico be one of them?

The Ed.



John L. Painter, Managing Editor
Knights Templar Magazine
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

Sir Knight Painter,

I take strong exception to your statement in the December "Chat with the Managing Editor."

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.



Photos of stone mason's carvings in Salamanca, Spain taken by the editor.





Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

God is not mentioned in the *Constitution of the United States of America*, much less Christianity. Our founding fathers even went so far as to attach the 1st Amendment to insure that we would be continually reminded never to try to add either of those words. They knew better than to mix religion and politics. To say we are a Christian nation puts us in the same category as a Muslim nation, a Hebrew nation, a Hindu nation, a Buddhist nation, or a godless nation, where those not of that belief have fewer rights and benefits than those who are. However:

If we were a Christian nation, would we have approved a constitution that kept one quarter of our population and their descendents in perpetual slavery?

If we were a Christian nation, would we have needed a bloody four-year civil war to free those same Americans from bondage?

If we were a Christian nation, would we have allowed multiple laws to be passed aimed at making those recently freed Americans second class citizens for the next one hundred years?

If we were a Christian nation, would we have tried to systematically exterminate the native inhabitants because we did not value them or their culture and coveted their lands?

If we were a Christian nation, would we have supported administrations that engaged in the clandestine assassination or overthrow of legally elected leaders because they did not agree with our strategic interests?

If we were a Christian nation would we have permitted (and still permit) the continuation of protracted and pointless

wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan?

If we were a Christian nation, would we need a multitude of anti-discrimination laws to force [us] to render to every man his just due without distinction?

If we were a Christian nation, our faith would be used to promote the teachings of Christ, and we would not allow it to be used to advance a particular political agenda.

If we were a Christian nation, there would be no hungry, no homeless, no sick, and no "one percent," because the rich would have divested themselves of their obscene fortunes to feed, to shelter, and to heal.

In light of our history, the slogan "We are a Christian nation" becomes the propaganda, as if continually saying it will make it so. If we delude ourselves into believing it, we are no better than the Pharisees who gave lip-service to God in the Temple, departed thence, and acted in the world as if no obligation we resting upon them.

To sum up, Brother Painter, we are most definitely not a Christian nation, we never have been, and in reality we never should be. But it would be nice if we occasionally tried to act like one.

Respectfully,
Sir Knight Steven C. Moss
105 Roman Avenue
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Dear Sir Knight Moss,

First, my name is Palmer, not Painter and my address is P. O. Box 566, Nolensville, Tennessee, not Bellaire, Texas.

The copy of the Constitution of the United States of America which I keep on my desk does not, I believe, contain the word "God." However my copy of the Declaration of Independence does. I acknowledge that these are indeed two different documents.

I do agree with you that there is probably no such thing as a Christian Nation, but there might be a nation founded upon Christian principles.

Finally, in the December 2013 Chat column, I clearly stated "I suppose it depends on how you define a Christian country." You can define that any way you want and come to any conclusion you like. That's one of the many, many things I like about this country. I hope that you will one day find something you like about it.

The Ed.



Sir Knight Editor;

Sir Knight Lewis' article was a good one, although I believe the title did not express the theme of the article. The article seemed to be about the use of power by leaders and individual lodge members. Lewis did a great job explaining how the righteous use of power can do much good and how unrighteous use of it can be harmful. In Utah, several years ago, the Grand Master used his authority wisely and graciously. He enabled a young brother who was battling leukemia to become a Mason. As of this year, this late brother's father is a Past Grand Master. His other sons are Masters, Dr. Joseph DiLorenzo, KYCH, and Charles Fred Jennings, Commandery No. 6, Price, Utah.

knight templar

Regards;

Dr. Joseph DiLorenzo, Past Eminent Commander, Charles Fred Jennings Commandery No. 6, Price, Utah.



Sir Knight Editor;

In reference to a letter in the April 2014 issue of the *Knight Templar* from Reverend Stanly M. Latta, Ph. D., Raleigh, North Carolina, I call you attention to his erroneous statement that God is referenced in the *Constitution of the United States*. There is no reference to God.

In Article VI, Section 3 it states, "... no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

In the first Amendment to the *Constitution*, it states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

We as Christians do not do ourselves any favor by misrepresenting the facts. Contrary to what people would like to believe, ours is a secular government by design. With some forty-two thousand different denominations of Christian churches within the United States, we cannot even agree on what we do believe.

This has worked very well for over two hundred years and we should be very careful not to impose certain beliefs over another person.

Sincerely,
Sir Knight Joe Gillis
Adamsville, TN

The Thoughts of a Holy Land Pilgrim

By
Reverend Steven G. Tiner

I was greatly blessed to have been a pilgrim with the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage of 2006. One of the highlights of that journey was a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The morning we were told we would be visiting the Holy Sepulchre I became very excited. We were in the old city walking the Via Dolorosa, and we knew we would end this walk at the Church. I expected an unfolding vista as we approached the greatest church in the world. There was none, just a jumble of buildings hemmed in on all sides by the crowded markets, shops, and homes of a medieval town. We turned a corner past some souvenir stores, and there it was. I will never forget my first gaze upon it. Few holy places can match its record of virtually continuous veneration since the time of Constantine.

Any pilgrim to the Holy City quickly picks up on the Jerusalemite pride for one of the great shrines of civilization, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It is the only church in the world where six of the most ancient Christian denominations worship side by side. The Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Armenian Orthodox churches are known as major communities, with rights of possession and usage at the holy places. The Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian Orthodox churches are deemed minor communities, with rights of usage but not rights of possession at the holy places. Prior to my journey to the Holy Land, when I thought of this place of eventful history, I most often was thinking in terms of headlines such as "Monks Come to Blows over Seat at Church" and "Priests Brawl at Holy Sepulchre." The war between the churches has become such a familiar tale of religious immoderation that it may dominate the thoughts of Westerners when they consider this place of inherent interest. Regrettably, when I visited Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one pilgrim among dozens in the 2006 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, the monks of the various sects were all tediously well behaved. It is true that prior to my arrival in Jerusalem, my thoughts of the church centered around the centuries of discord. This changed, however, when I beheld Christianity's holiest place for the very first time. For sixteen hundred years, monks have served there. St. John of Damascus, writing in the eighth century, called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (also known as the Anastasis or Church of the Resurrection) the "mother of all the churches."

This is the place where Christians believe it all began, where Jesus Christ was crucified and rose from the dead, where every Christian was "born." Tradition locates the omphalos, the "navel of the world," only a few yards from the tomb. As a Western visitor, it's easy to be repelled by the mixture of styles, the mediocrity of

much of the art, the cacophony of sights and sounds within a confined space, and the line to get to the tomb; but it must be remembered when visiting that this place is not a museum. It is a living place of worship, charged with faith and passion. From an architectural standpoint, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a feast. It is the only church in the world where first-century Herodian, second-century Hadrianic, fourth-century Constantinian, eleventh-century Byzantine, twelfth-century Crusader, nineteenth-century neo-Byzantine, and twentieth-century modern masonry are visible in one place. Other great temples, such as the Parthenon in Athens, the Pantheon in Rome, Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, and the nearby Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem may be more beautiful, but the Holy Sepulchre is a building dedicated to a single great belief shared by all Christians, that humanity was saved through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I'm so very thankful to Knights Templar everywhere for the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. My ministry was greatly enriched by this journey.

The Reverend Sir Knight Steven Tiner is Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery and a member of Hugh de Paynes Commandery No. 1 in Little Rock. He is Lead Pastor at Levy Baptist Church in North Little Rock and resides at 3501 Pike Avenue, North Little Rock, AR 72118. He was one of our Holy Land Pilgrims eight years ago and can be contacted at steventiner@levybaptist.com.



knight templar

A Trip to the Serpentarium

By

Sir Knight Tom Lewis, Jr.

Equality and love for everyone, it's hard to argue with that. We were born pure, not seeing race, sexuality, ego, hate, or anger. It's hard to remember those days, but there are reminders every time a new life enters this world, and if you can believe it, it is still inside everyone. Our core has been clouded over the years, but perspective usually comes when you least expect it. It is truth.

Here is a quote by Dr. Helen Schucman that sums everything up quite nicely, "Your task is not to seek for love but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it."¹

We are often taught that our fear of serpents goes back to the Garden of Eden, that it is an inborn reaction. We are afraid of serpents because of the enmity that has always existed between serpents and the children of Eve, just as distrust and enmity have always existed between Jews and Muslims or Muslims and Christians. The problem is that Muslims didn't always hate Jews and Christians. At the close of the first millennium, Muslims respected Christians and Jews as "People of the Book." So where does the hate and distrust come from?

A few years ago, my wife and I took our four month old grandson, Jay, to Edisto Serpentarium, and given that most people are, if not downright afraid, at least apprehensive of snakes and such, Jay's reaction was amazing. He was totally fascinated with all the different col-

ored snakes and other reptiles. When I brought over a six foot ball python for him to see up close, he was actually reaching for it! He could sense Betsy and I weren't afraid of it, so he wasn't afraid either, but he was curious. It was something new, and he wanted to experience it. The experience just reinforced in me the fact that we aren't born afraid of anything; it's all learned behavior. We learn to fear from our families first and then our companions. Our children learn to fear what we fear, just as we learned to fear what our parents feared. Our children learn our attitudes and prejudices from us as surely as they learn to talk with the same regional accent as we have. My son may have attended grammar school in Connecticut, but he still has my southern drawl.

We say in our ritual that among Masons no contention exists except that noble contention or rather emulation of who can best work and best agree. Masonry teaches us that a man's personal faith is not relevant in the Lodge as long as he has one. His name for God and his method of worship are his own business. Likewise, we say that race is not an issue among Masons. Among many of us that have taken the deeper concepts of Masonry into our hearts and lives, that is true. Unfortunately, many others among us only give lip service to Masonry; they still practice Masonry only on the surface. By observing our babies, the evidence is clear that we are not born with

prejudices – prejudices are born of fear, and babies are born fearless. Perhaps to truly practice the precepts of Masonry we must become as little children and seek to break down the barriers we have built over a lifetime. After all, as Christians we believe Jesus said, “Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.”² Maybe this is what Jesus meant – that we must divest ourselves of the fears we have learned and developed over a lifetime and become as fearless and accepting as babies.

Think for a moment what it could mean to the state of the world if people could lose their fear of things and people that are just different. If we didn’t unconsciously consider anything or anyone who was different to either be inferior or dangerous. What a world we would live in if everyone in the world would view the world as a child does – a place full of wonder rather than a place full of danger, if we actually took the extra effort to evaluate those we meet as individuals rather than as a member of a group or class.

It must start somewhere. What better place than within our fraternity? We already profess to be willing to risk our lives for each other, to be unwilling to cheat each other, and to consider each

brother of our order and by extension his family as members of our own families. It’s all right there in the obligations we all took. What if we all actually did what we swore before God with our hand on his Holy Word that we would do? What would happen if we all decided to throw off our prejudices like a worn-out shirt and decided to treat others according to each one’s own qualities rather than as a member of a group we may have learned to distrust? What could it mean to each of us personally, to Masonry as a whole, and to the world we live in if we all just lived up to our Masonic obligations? It couldn’t fail to be noticed. Then we wouldn’t have to seek brotherhood; it would seek us. Rather than going in search of light, we would reveal it.

End Notes

¹ Marcus Amaker – *Charleston Post-Courier*

² Luke 18:17

Sir Knight Tom Lewis, Jr. is a member of Jackson Commandery No. 13 in Jackson, Tennessee. He resides at 2104 St. Peters Lane, Charleston, SC 29414 and can be contacted at thl@gel.com.

Grand Encampment

Membership Awards

1005 George Edminston, III
Warren Commandery No. 39
Warren, Ohio

1006 Harry L. Tripp, Jr.
DeSoto Commandery No. 56
Farmington, MO



Beauceant News



Washington Everett Assembly No. 242 Worthy President, Mrs. Dennis Osborn, welcomed Mrs. T. Michael Fegan, Supreme Worthy President, on the occasion of her Official Visit. The Assembly was also delighted to welcome two new sisters to our order; (Mrs. Peter) Mardi Dawson, wife of Past Grand Commander, and (Mrs. William) Priscilla Cannon, wife of a Knight Templar. WELCOME LADIES!



Worthy President (Mrs. Robert) Norma Pierson was pleased to have Ms. Kris MacPherson initiated into Pueblo Assembly No. 11 during the Official Visit of the Supreme Worthy President. As a special recognition of her visit and in deference to her office, Mrs. Fegan was honored by Pike's Peak Commandery No. 6 with an Arch of Steel under the direction of Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Dave Reynolds. Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Fegan was escorted by her husband, Sir Knight T. Michael Fegan, Right Eminent Department Commander, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

The Rarity of a Russian Double-Headed Eagle With All-Seeing Eye

By

Sir Knight James A. Marples

It is commonplace to see images of the double-headed eagle as an emblem in heraldry, as an emblem of royal empires such as the Hapsburg Empire as well as the Russian Empire, and as a fraternal emblem as in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

A “crowned” double-eagle is commonplace to see in all of the above settings, especially in Russian heraldry. However, to see a crowned double-eagle (issued by Russia) with the all-seeing eye within the delta or triangle is a true rarity. The example below is the only such example that I have ever seen. It is a Russian Medal, issued by Czar Nicholas I in the year 1849 for the “Pacification of Hungary and Transylvania.” On the obverse is a radiant triangle with the eye of providence (Almighty God) above a crowned double-headed eagle, wings upward, shield of armor, with scepter and orb held in its claws. I think it is worth noting that the all-seeing eye of Almighty God is positioned above the man-made royal crown. The eagle’s claws are holding the scepter and orb. The legend (translated) “God with us. Consider, Heavens, and Submit!”

The double-headed eagle knight templar

symbol dates back thousands of years. Turkish princes used it on their banners, and later the Knight Crusaders adopted it, even though it had been their enemy’s insignia. For some peculiar reason, the emblem instilled confidence and pride. The double-headed eagle in the Russian coat of arms dates back even before the reign of Ivan III (1462-1505). For centuries it was colored the traditional “imperial black” color. Today, it is generally golden. However, in England, the Mercian Kings (region of the “Midlands” of England from the 6th to 10th Century) used the double-eagle as their symbol prior to the Norman Conquest by William-the-Conqueror in the year



A.D. 1066. It was the seal of the Count of Wurzburg, Germany in the year 1202 and also the seal of the bishop of Cologne, Germany. It was the crest of the city of Vienna in 1461. In France, historical evidence shows the emblem used by Count de Montmajour with the motto: "I shall hold myself erect and not blink." It is clearly evident that the virtue of "Eternal Vigilance" was always associated with the double-headed eagle.

In a Scottish Rite Masonic context, the double-headed eagle was introduced by King Frederick the Great of Prussia, an early patron in the formative stages of the Scottish Rite. It first appears in the 30° as a Kadosh emblem, sometimes referred to as the degree of the "White and Black Eagle." Due to ritualistic confidentiality, the full significance is known to those Masons who hold that degree. Suffice it to say that the white and black duality has much underlying allegorical symbolism. The most apparent is the duality of the nature of mortal man. All of us are composed of traits which are both good and bad. Additionally, the duality of the light of "day" versus the dark of "night" is an inherent component of nature's equilibrium. The double-headed eagle of the 32° and 33° are generally silver in color in the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America and black in color in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The gold beak and claws hold a ceremonial wavy sword from which a draped banner is held. The Southern Jurisdiction retains the motto of the 32°: "SPES MEA IN DEO EST" (My Hope Is In God.) Recently, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction elected to abandon that in preference to a draped banner merely saying the English word, "FREE-MASONS." The Latin Motto of the 33° is

"DEUS MEUMQUE JUS," usually translated "God and My Right," however, from reading many ancient Masonic writings, I find a more accurate translation is "God and My Moral Rightness."

The background data indicates that the Pacification Medal was issued by Russia because the Hungarians, under the leadership of Lajos (Louis) Kossuth, rebelled against Austrian rule in 1848. Consequently, a young Emperor of Austria, Franz Josef, appealed to Tsar Nicholas I for military assistance. In June of 1849, Russian troops under the command of General Paskevich crossed the Carpathians from Poland and invaded Hungary. The Hungarians put up a resistance but were crushed, and Kossuth fled to Turkey. Small silver medals were given to military personnel, medics, and priests who participated in the pacification campaign.

Although Kossuth was defeated, he lived to champion democracy. He traveled to the United States and wrote out a handmade application form to petition to receive the degrees of Freemasonry in Cincinnati Lodge No. 133 Free and Accepted Masons in Ohio. The petition made the case for "emergency," and the next day, February 19, 1852, Louis Kossuth and four other friends were initiated as Entered Apprentices; passed to Fellow Crafts; and on the following day, February 20, 1852, were raised as Master Masons. Soon after, Louis Kossuth was exalted as a Royal Arch Mason in Cincinnati Chapter No. 2 of Royal Arch Masons. Brother Kossuth delivered many Masonic speeches in Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri; and various other venues. Single-headed eagles have been used as symbols of "imperial power." By contrast, a double-headed eagle was a symbol of a double-empire. After the

division of The Holy Roman Empire, the double-headed eagle was considered emblematic of one head figuratively “looking to the West” (or toward Rome) while the other head was figuratively “looking to the East” (toward Byzantium). Ecclesiastically, the emblem took on similar symbolism, due to East-West differences or influences. The Orthodox Church has traditionally had its “See” of authority in the Eastern Bloc countries, whereas the Roman Catholic Church has had its “See” of authority in the West, namely at Vatican City near Rome.

In the fraternal realm, with Ancient Craft Masonry in general and Scottish Rite Masonry in particular, a similar East-West symbolism was likewise implied. The first usage of the symbol in Freemasonry was in the year 1758, when a body calling itself “The Emperors of East and West” was established in Paris, France. However, The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, when organized as such, utilized this emblem shortly after that time. The Supreme Council, 33°, Mother Jurisdiction of the World, at Charleston, South Carolina adopted the emblem as its official Insignia in 1801 when that Scottish Rite Supreme Council was founded, and the original “Seal” of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas, founded in 1838, bore a representation of the double-headed eagle.

As such, the double-headed eagle of Lagash is the oldest royal crest in the world. Lagash was an ancient Sumerian city located midway between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern-day Iraq. The “storm bird,” as the symbol was called, was symbolic of soaring and flight, although representations of the double-eagle sitting perched or at-rest are quite common. The Crusaders brought it to knight templar

the Hapsburgs and the Romanovs.

Getting back to the Pacification Medal by Russia, it features the Russian crowned double-headed eagle with a radiant all-seeing-eye of Almighty God above it. This is truly a rare sight.

Russia was then mainly Orthodox Christian, yet it would eventually become a communist-Leninist nation after the assassination of the Czar in 1918. After Emperor Nicholas I died, he was replaced by Alexander II and finally Nicholas II. It is worthy of note that this latter Czar Nicholas II’s mother was a sister to the wife of King Edward VII of England (Maria Feodorovna). Thus, Edward, VII was an uncle by marriage to the Czar. Both were Christians; Nicholas II, a Russian Orthodox, and Edward, VII was the Head of the Church of England. Additionally, Edward VII was a kindhearted worldly gentleman as well as a Knight Templar Mason, and he also held the 33° in the Ancient and Accepted Rite of England and Wales and its districts and chapters overseas.

For a nation such as Russia to collapse into revolution in 1918 and to go communist and atheistic speaks volumes about that nation’s past leaders. The gentle fraternity of regular Freemasonry has always and continues to champion liberty and a belief in a Supreme Being combined with the added belief in the hope for the Immortality of the soul. Many detractors want to blame Masonry for various grievances; however, Freemasonry has striven harder for religious freedom and toleration as well as for freedom from ideological oppression than nearly any other group. Freemasonry cannot be blamed for squabbles between nations. As just illustrated above, in countless wars and conflicts,

there have been Masons or Masonic kinfolk on both sides.

The Pacification Medal issued by Russia trumpeted a victory in one battle in the overall scheme of mankind's history. Czar Nicholas I died during the Crimean War due to his catching a cold and stubbornly refusing to seek medical attention. However, the Crimean War led to great leaps in medical advancements such as field surgery, the use of anesthetics, plaster casts for broken limbs, improved amputation methods, and development of five-stage triage. It was also the war with the first tactical use of railways, and the new invention of the "telegraph" enabled the first "live" reporting by war correspondents. It prompted the pioneer of the nursing profession, Florence Nightingale, and her staff of thirty-eight women and fifteen Catholic nuns to go directly to the war zone. Ms. Nightingale discovered the horrible neglect of wounded soldiers and was credited with reducing death-rates from forty-two percent by making improvements in hygiene herself or calling for the Sanitary Commission. By her devoted attention to wounded and ill patients, she earned the nickname, "The Lady with the Lamp," as she made her nightly rounds of visiting patients personally.

As for the Pacification Medal with "The All Seeing Eye of Providence" or "Almighty God," it is such a rarity that few Russian double-eagles before or afterward made such an outward display of reverence toward the Creator. In battles, mortal men often invoke God to be on their side. I think it is more important that we be on God's side. Had Nicholas I lived, it is possible that Orthodox Christianity would have thrived continuously in Russia without interruption. It is

also possible that the atheist, Vladimir Lenin, would never have ascended to power. Revolutions thrive when people lose hope. Mid-19th Century Europe was evidence of this. Real pacification occurs when a citizenry is vigilant, at ease, and content but confident of military might, and unified, not by force or coercion, but by national loyalty. This medal, featuring the all-seeing eye of providence atop a Russian double-headed eagle, was a rarity for Russia. The word "pacification" in Pacification Medal is somewhat misleading. The countries of Hungary and Transylvania (part of modern-day Bulgaria) were defeated, and dissent was muffled. Despite that unsavory description, war is war. The purpose of this article is to show a rare instance where a Russian medal employed the best symbolism, yet when one element was later discarded (the emblem of Deity), it was a harbinger of Russia's gradual and downward spiraling decline from its past glory.

Almighty God, our Creator and preserver, is rightfully at the top of this medal. This is emblematic of God being a top priority in our lives. Separation of church and state can and should exist. A small degree of separation ensures that no parochial or partisan dominance will be able to snuff out the rights of persons with slightly differing beliefs. The "radiant" or rays of light depicted on the Medal are "blessings" bestowed by the Creator. As an omnipotent Supreme Being, Almighty God, truly reigns supreme. As this article illustrates, various empires and entities have employed the double-headed eagle design. Some survive although many have suffered eventual extinction, and a few empires which lost their sense of proper priorities, eventually degenerated into corruption, and

some have either entirely faded away or have ceased to have an atmosphere of peace and prosperity when they lose faith in God.

For all regular Freemasons, belief in Almighty God is paramount.

Sir Knight James A. Marples, is a member of Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 12 and can be contacted at P. O. Box 1542, Loneview, TX 75606. This article was presented originally to Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F. and is reprinted here with their permission.

Sources / Exhibits / Recommended Readings

- *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* by Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33^o and a Knight Templar.
- *10,000 Famous Freemasons* by William R. Denslow.
- "Louis Kossuth, Mason and Apostle of World Democracy by David Kruger". *Scottish Rite Journal*. June 2001.
- 1849 Russian Medal for the Pacification of Hungary and Transylvania. Mint Year 1849. Weight 0.41 grams. Diameter 29 mm. Composition: Silver.
- Bro.: Kossuth spoke at a meeting of Center Masonic Lodge #23 at Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 28, 1852, in which he urged all people to appreciate Masonry's "excellent precepts and high moral teachings of the order to appreciate its benevolent purposes and useful works."
- "The Builder", a *Journal of Freemasonry*. April 1923 issue.



33rd Degree

Compasses and Square

By
Sir Knight David P. McCash

The compasses and square have practical meanings on many levels. Their uses can be seen throughout our universe and especially in our world. The point of the compasses directs the mind of a Freemason to the distance all men are from the divine. The point also reflects our earth within the vastness of our universe, where there is one place where all the necessary elements and conditions are concentrated to support life. Physicists have argued that there is no one center of the universe. For mankind, our earth is the center within the celestial sphere, the dome of stars that surrounds us in the sky looking outward from any location upon our globe.

In the days of the Roman Empire, the world was divided into four parts known as quadrata. The Roman quadrata represented the four corners of the earth, and it was always depicted as a circle divided into four parts with the crossed point being the center or the navel of the earth. Rome was the umbilicus of all the known world, dispensing its technology, laws, and culture throughout. Traditionally, Jerusalem is considered the navel of the world and the center point where God communicated with His prophets and where His statutes and laws were dispensed.

St. Augustine argued against pilgrimages to Jerusalem, because it diminished the importance of Rome as the new spiritual capital. Augustine argued, "there must be more than one center in the world, just as a fire sends forth sparks, and each new spark lands somewhere and starts a new fire, so did Jerusalem" (Schmidt, *Books of Jeu*).

At this center point (the axis mundi), the ancient Israelites, the Greeks, and the Romans set up their tents or tabernacles which later became temples. The holy space within these structures became the center of everything, the point to which members of the society made pilgrimages, where the nourishing and instructive knowledge of soul and mind were dispensed – a Lodge of perfection. Similarly, our Blue Lodges and the religious structures of our faith are placed in central locations in our neighborhoods.

These tabernacles were supported by a central pole, the point of the pole pointing to the polestar of the heavens above. In some tabernacles, the "tent poles sometimes represented the four cardinal points or the two turning points of the sun in the summer and winter solstice" (Nibley, *Tenting, Toll, and Taxing* pg. 604). The tent pole concept has been carried over "into the pillars of the temples and palaces, even into the columns of medieval churches and the stately facades of our own public buildings" (Trask, *Shamanism*).

We see the circular dome (the compasses) of the cosmos upon a single point within a squared tabernacle or temple. For instance, the Lord instructed Moses to make the tabernacle, a portable tent temple with wooden walls covered with gold. The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube of ten cubits while two similar cubes formed

the Holy Place (Exodus ch. 26). The two tent poles of the tabernacle became pillars in fixed temple locations and have more meaning than just decoration. Modern scholars have described them as solstice suns and even petrified sunbeams, symbolic of the light coming down from the celestial realm to fill the Lodge and temple with heaven's light.

Interestingly, the Egyptians and even the ancient Maya constructed their sacred edifices to capture rays of the sun to fill designated areas with sunlight at certain periods of the solar calendar. Likewise, each Freemason, as a craftsman, should construct his sacred edifice, upon which he is called to labor, the very tabernacle and temple that we are, to receive and capture the rays of the sun or the light of our Creator (Isa. 60:19; John 8:12) and to fill his heart which, figuratively speaking, is the inner most chamber of his temple, his very own Holy of Holies.

The compasses and square have practical meanings on many levels. The two pillars found in every Blue lodge have meanings to each initiate in addition to those which are described in this article. Even with the unique uses of the compasses and square within the geometry of our cosmos and physical world, I would argue that the greatest use of the compasses and square is taught to the initiate of the Blue Lodge of ancient craft Masonry.



Sir Knight David P. McCash of Prather Commandery No. 62 resides in Indianapolis, Indiana and can be contacted at dpmccash@yahoo.com.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Dates for 2015 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage:

Group 1, February 9 - 19, 2015

Group 2, February 23 - March 5, 2015

All forms from each Grand Commandery Committee on the Holy Land or Grand Recorder (nomination form, certification form, and check) are due to Sir Knight Emmett Mills (Grand Encampment Chairman) no later than October 15, 2014.



Knights

at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight Bruce W. Barker

The Templar's Secret, by Thomas Madachik, Published 2014, ISBN 978-1-4931-5930-7.

The *Templar's Secret* is about an inventor and Freemason who decodes a formula attributed to Isaac Newton and creates an invention that provides unlimited energy to consumers. Along with several Sir Knight Brothers, they build a successful company that threatens the status quo of current energy based economies and governments, triggering multiple attacks from many disparate origins for many different reasons.

As a Mason, you may have often thought about the history, symbolism, and tenets of our order and considered that those elements would make a fascinating backdrop that you could include in a fictional tale. Well, Thomas Madachik has successfully done just that.

The *Templar's Secret* not only weaves historical and factual Masonic themes into its plot, it also incorporates many aspects of Masonry into many of its main characters. Thomas Madachik does well in addressing the many misconceptions of Masonry that are widely held by the general public by repeatedly presenting the outwardly known good works and the effects of our efforts.

This story is well crafted and is a worthy amalgamation of spy thriller, government intrigue, industrial espionage, and conspiracy theory genres, with a mild love interest subplot to keep it fun and broaden the reader base. The characters are developed with a level of detail and fidelity which should be consentient with avid readers' expectations of certain roles.

This is a quick and entertaining read with many simultaneous threads. The author jumps quickly between them, leading up to what seems like a climax with multiple outcomes possible. I like reading a book where you clearly understand and even anticipate divergent paths coming together, but in which the ending is not solidly predictable before completing the book.

Certainly any Mason or Knight Templar will recognize many of the references made throughout this story, appreciating the favorable explanations of the often misunderstood existence of Masonry and the Knights Templar in today's world. However, the uninitiated will not feel excluded, as it does not require membership or inside knowledge to understand what the author intends, and the story stands well on its own without need for explanation.

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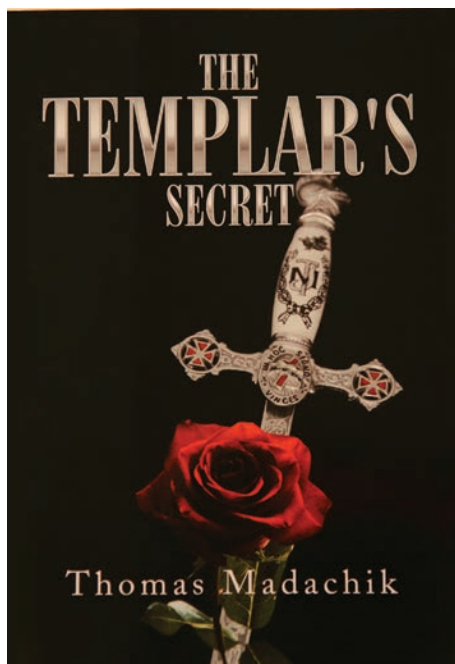
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