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VOLUME LXVIII

NOVEMBER 2022

NUMBER 11



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KNIGHT TEMPLAR

VOLUME LXVIII NOVEMBER 2022 NUMBER 11

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
of the United States of America.



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David Studley
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On the Cover: A weary pilgrim embarks on a pilgrimage at the Angel of
Shavano in the mountains outside of Salida, Colo., in 2013.
Photo by Ben Williams

From Your Editor

I'm writing this mid-September, laid up in bed, recovering from COVID. *Again*.

My brother, visiting from New Zealand for my father's memorial service held in Maryland a few weeks earlier (which had been delayed over a year because of New Zealand's stringent reentry requirements on account of the virus), must have picked it up somewhere across country. He and my mum took a road trip, driving willy-nilly from Maryland to Denver – rural routes, small roads, the badlands, the heart of America, the black hills, the roads less traveled, *etc.* – because, as children, we took road trips around Europe. There was an ultimate destination, and a deadline. But the route crystalized from the ether.

Once they arrived, we took a trip to Pagosa Springs, through South Park, down across the San Luis Valley, along the Rio Grande, past the Sangre de Christo Mountains, over Wolf Creek Pass, into the San Juan Forest and the southern reaches of the San Juan Mountains – my favorite mountains, the *shining mountains* – sacred monument to the Utes. Up here there are only stars... and those who come to touch them.

We took a day trip to Santa Fe, opting to drive through Apache lands – Dulce, New Mex. – and then across oil plots on sand-track roads, washed out, full of surprises. We arrived late, St. Francis's Cathedral was already closed. But outside there's a labyrinth in the flagstones – just like Chartres. Like children, my brother and I walked it, winding the rounds in the evening light, alighting at the Jerusalem cross along a beam from the West. Then, back in the car, back to Pagosa.

Dave (my brother) fell ill that night. We didn't know it was COVID. We packed up and head home via Aspen, over Independence Pass. We got home late that evening. I began to suspect the worst (from the symptoms) and Dave tested positive the next morning.



In Memoriam

Edward W. Hart

b. 05/02/1930

d. 01/19/2022

Grand Commander Okl. in 1997



סוּחַ. אֲחִי עָמַד בְּפֶתַח הַבַּיִת. הָיָה שָׁם אֶת הַיָּד הַיְמָנִית וְהַיָּד הַשְּׂמֹאלִית
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Somehow my mum, who shared over 4,000 miles with him in a car, avoided infection. I was not so lucky. Happily, it's not as bad as the last time I had it: That was Delta. With its million little teeth, it chewed its way deep inside. This is Omicron and, I hope, it will finally rid me of the long-term symptoms I was suffering. Perhaps the renewed immune response will pull all those spikes out of my brain? Like a campsite unearthed? That's my prayer.

"All things happen for the power of good," my grandmother, Lady Pritchard, used to say. And perhaps that's the real alchemy: To hew love out of hardship. To build temples in the places of suffering. For this I am thankful! *Family. Brotherhood.* The adventure amid the labyrinth of life. Here we stake our claim – this is where the world is made! Happy Thanksgiving!

Grand Master's Message

Sir Knight David J. Kussman, GCT
Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



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To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, USA.
Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

My beloved Knights,

The spiritual person is the one who is thankful for everything. He is the one who receives everything with thanksgiving, and who knows that he has nothing except what is received from God.

“A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.” (John 3:27)

“Every good gift and every perfect gift are from above, coming down from the father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17)

In the Old Testament, thanksgiving was fundamental in the life of God's people. The temple liturgy offered thanksgiving and praise and psalms of thanksgiving to God.

In the New Testament, thanksgiving is at the heart of our lives as Christians and as Templars. The word *eucharist* (εὐχαριστία) means thanksgiving and is the very center of our mission in this world. In remembrance of all His salvific acts in Christ, we the faithful “lift up our hearts” and “give thanks unto the Lord.”

Lady Kim and I join with the Officers and Staff of the Grand Encampment in wishing you and your families a happy and joyous Thanksgiving season.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Our journey continues...

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Kussman".

David J. Kussman, GC
Grand Master

Prelate's Apartment

Rev. Terry L. Plemons
Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment

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God has not called us to a spirit of fear, in fact three-hundred-and-sixty-five times in the Bible God tells us to “fear not.”

We certainly live in difficult and uncertain times. Psalm 33 gives strength for the days we live in.

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people He hath chosen for His own inheritance. The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy. To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

We are a blessed people, called by the Lord to be His chosen people. The church should be filled with songs and praises of thanksgiving for all the Lord has done. This thanksgiving let us lift up our voices praising our God for the great things “He hath done.”

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.” 1 John 3: 1. That is exactly what we are: rejoice and give thanks to the Lord!

As the Lord spake unto Moses to say to Aaron and his sons,

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give the peace.

In Christ Love,

SK Terry

R.: E.: Grand Prelate GEKT USA

Vision of the Future

How Predictive Medicine is Curing Childhood Blindness

by Ben Williams



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When you meet Dr. Tom Lee, Director of the Vision Center at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, he's quick to point out the role of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) in spurring the most important research in pediatric ophthalmology today.

"It's the only foundation in the entire world that is exclusively devoted to childhood blindness," he says. "Every major contributor to pediatric ophthalmology has been touched by this foundation. I can't tell you how important [KTEF] is."

KTEF is at the center of pediatric ophthalmology. By identifying key areas of research for seed funding, KTEF accelerates research into experimental areas where, over the last few decades, the greatest advances in pediatric ophthalmology have been made. The Knights Templar have launched some of the most important careers in the field, including Dr. Lee's.

"None of us in the field would be there

[without KTEF]," Dr. Lee says. "Everything we've been able to accomplish is because of this foundation."

Understanding this impact is complex. Restoring sight for even one child is a worthy goal in and of itself (if you've ever seen the video of a young girl running jubilantly around exclaiming, "I can see in the dark! I can see in the dark!" then you know what I mean)¹ but curing childhood blindness doesn't just help the blind. Preventing blindness early on impacts society as well. We're a visual society: Everything we do – from watching Netflix to reading this article in the *Knight Templar* – overemphasizes sight as a primary means of accessing information. As a result, it's no surprise that 35% of blind students drop out of high school. More than half of blind people are unemployed (55%) and those that find work are frequently

¹ You can watch the video here https://vimeo.com/591006151?embedded=true&source=video_title&owner=63966369



Photo by Ben Williams

Dr. Tom Lee, a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, is busy curing childhood blindness with his team at the Vision Center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

chronically underemployed: The average salary of a blind person is under \$22,000. As a result, Dr. Lee estimates a lifetime cost to society of between \$800,000 and \$1 million for each blind person, realized in lost earnings, taxes, and the opportunity cost of needed care (often a family member takes time to provide care for blind relatives, for example). When you consider that 85% of childhood blindness is preventable, the impact of Dr. Lee's work comes into focus.

There are many types of disease and congenital problems that contribute to childhood blindness. Dr. Lee and his team have dedicated their careers – each initiated by KTEF starter grants over the decades – to solving several of them.

One project of Dr. Lee's team at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles substitutes

genes in retinas of children having rare mutations that create blindness. A few years ago, the author of this column experienced firsthand the results of this work – a friend and Sir Knight, Darren Klinefelter's, daughter was born with a rare mutation. Her vision was 20/2,500, and declining. She was born legally blind, able to distinguish only shapes and shadows. She was set to become completely blind as a teenager. However, after this treatment at Children's Hospital, Livie now tends goal for her soccer team, BC United. She has a blue belt in karate. It's an incredible thing to witness – a miracle.

"I couldn't play outside after dusk," she told a group at the Foundation for Fighting Blindness in July. "After my surgery I started seeing butterflies and birds...I am now at a fifth-grade reading level, where I should be. I now have 20/60 vision and am a member of a competitive soccer team."

Four years ago, the procedure involved positioning engineered viruses to insert genetic sequences into the retina *in vivo* and essentially reprogram the patient's retinal cells. Cellular division thereafter repaired the mutation, and the retinas were restored. Even four years ago, this was cutting edge. But things have been changing fast. Now a whole new field is opening up: using white blood cells from a patient's blood, Dr. Lee's team is now able to grow duplicate retinas *in vitro* and then, through a biochemical process, tailor an individualized enzyme for transcription in the patient's eyes that will substitute the single mis-sequenced base in the gene that creates the mutation. This is known as "ocular disease focused exome sequencing." It replaces a single molecule in the genetic code rather than a whole gene.

By growing duplicate retinas *in vitro*, the procedure is testable over shorter timeframes to tweak the medicine for a specific patient. Then, when statistically maximized, it can be used to optimal effect.



Olivia “Livie” Klinefelter, (left) sharing her story with the Foundation for Fighting Blindness and (right) tending goal for her soccer team, BC United.

The era of bespoke medicine has begun. And this procedure does not require embryonic stem cells – simple white blood cells are harvested from a standard blood sample. These cells are placed in a sort of cytoplasmic soup wherein, stimulated with the right biochemistry, protein synthesis assembles a genetic replica of the patient’s retina. Once grown over a period of a few weeks, the base editing can be initiated by engineered enzymes capable of resequencing the mis-sense strand of DNA. Then, when the DNA is transcribed by mRNA, the base sequences are corrected, and the aberrant protein structures are avoided. A healthy retina results.

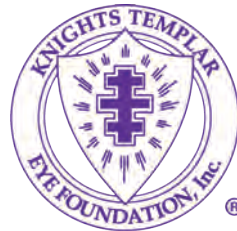
So far, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles has 227 children with genetic ocular disorders; of these, 114 have had their mutations already identified. Customized treatment is the next step.

In the future, this type of procedure knight templar

may individualize medicine in astounding ways. Imagine bespoke medicine that can cure cancer, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, really any cellular deformity corrected by restoring mis-sense DNA in the body. It’s remarkable. And it’s progressing fast.

At the annual meeting of the KTEF in August this year, your Board voted to continue funding this exciting research in predictive medicine.

It’s all possible because of your donations.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc

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.

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Some Templar Traditions in Masonry

by Giovanni A. Villegas



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In 1751, fourteen years after Ramsay's Oration, a masonic order in Germany was created by Baron Karl Gotthelf Von Hund. It would come to be known as the Rite of Strict Observance. Baron Von Hund claimed to have received the rituals from a "reconstituted" Templar Order in Paris, suspiciously around the time of Ramsay's death in 1743.

This Rite claimed to adhere to "unknown superiors" who supposedly directed all of Masonry and were said to be the original Knights Templar.

The Rite was called the Rite of Strict Observance to distinguish it from the preex-

isting English Masonic Templary, which Von Hund called the Late Observance. The Rite of Strict Observance was also called Rectified Masonry, as it was particularly devoted to reforming Masonry by establishing cohesion and homogeneity through the regulation and enforcement of strict discipline. It was said to have attempted to limit the esoteric and occult characteristics additional to Masonry, which at that time were widely practiced. It may also have been concerned with the rectification (or reintegration) of the souls of its members.

Von Hund's eventual inability to produce evidence to substantiate his claims



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Karl Gotthelf von Hund und Altengrotkau claimed to have been initiated into a secret lineage of Templars, under the aegis of the Bonnie Prince Charlie.

of “unknown superiors” allegedly in charge of the Order, and his inevitable failure to initiate members to its supposed mysteries, led to the dramatic decline of the Rite of Strict Observance. It was finally dissolved in 1782 when a convent in Wilhelmsbad, under Jean-Baptiste Willermoz, decided that “Freemasonry was not, after all, descended from the Knights Templar.”

This led to their reconstitution of Strict Observance into the *Rite Ecossais Rectifié* (RER) or the Rectified Scottish Rite.

This new, Rectified Scottish Rite was

organized as early as 1778 as a reformed body of the French branch of Strict Observance, infused with other elements originating from diverse sources such as the *Élus Coën* of Martinez de Pasqually; the Symbolic Masonry of the *Grand Orient de France* (which would eventually become the French Rite); and the *Ecossais*, or Scots Master degrees.

The Rectified Scottish Rite removed all emphasis of the Templar legacy and the York influence of British Masonry. Its denial of the Templar influence was replaced with the

Elsewhere, Arthur Edward Waite, in his short work, *The Templar Orders in Freemasonry*, claimed to have discovered a set of rituals called *Le Chevalier du Temple*, which were said to have been created between 1768 and 1789. These rituals allegedly operated within the first three Craft degrees. They suggested that a number of surviving Knights assembled and created Freemasonry to preserve the chivalry that previously existed in the Templar Order. The obligation portion was conducted in front of a black tomb which represented the tomb of DeMolay. The lessons of the first degree related to the Canons of the Holy Sepulcher; the second, to the Hospitallers; and the third degree, to the Templars themselves, particularly the martyrdom of DeMolay, substituting Hiram Abif in the legend. The three ruffians were also replaced with Pope Clement V, King Philip IV, and the Prior of Montfaucon (who betrayed the Order to the King).

Incidentally, the 30th degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite tells its own version of the Masonic-Templar connection. In the Traditional Lecture, it is said that:

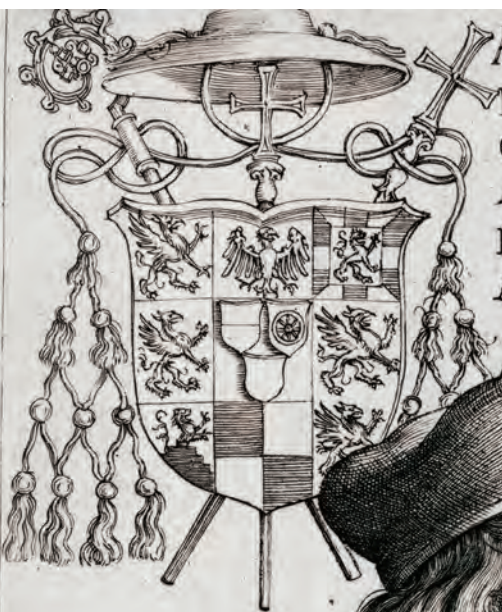
This name, Frères Maçons in French, adopted by way of secret reference to the Builders of the Second Temple, was corrupted in English into Free-Masons.

Masonic Templary currently exists in Preceptories and Pories in England and elsewhere around the world. It also exists through Commanderies and Grand Commanderies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the world's largest Masonic Templar jurisdiction.

Whatever tradition is adopted, Masonry and Templary have been linked throughout history if not through lineage, at least through emulation.

Knightly virtues and chivalry are certainly things Freemasons thought worth preserving and, as such, entire Masonic systems arose in honor of that first and historic Order of the Temple.

[illegible]



ALBERTVS · MI · DI · SA · SANC ·
ROMANAE · ECCLAE · TI · SAN ·
CHRYSO · GONI · PBR · CARDINA ·
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§ SIC § OCVLOS § SIC § ILLE § GENAS § SIC §
§ ORA § FEREBAT §
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Albertus Magnus –

Saint, Doctor, Prelate, Alchemist, Isolator of Pure Arsenic and Dabbler in Gunpowder

by James Marples

It is somewhat rare to find a saint who was interested in Alchemy. It is even more rare that this same person was awarded not merely one, but two doctorates. Such a man was Saint Albertus Magnus. Furthermore, this same alchemist is credited by nearly everyone as the inventor of the modern cannon and pistol. It must be noted that the primitive cannon was developed in China centuries earlier, as well as gunpowder and other types of explosives. Yet, amazingly, Saint Albertus Magnus “perfected” those inventions.

Furthermore, it is unusual that the Grand Encampment’s only research commandery is Albertus Magnus Commandery No. 92, located in Chicago, Ill.

Albertus Magnus is sometimes called Albert the Great. He was a philosopher, scientist, and theologian. He was born c. 1193 or c. 1205 (source citations vary)¹ and died at Cologne, Germany, on November 15, 1280. Albertus is regarded as a doctor of the Church due to his extensive knowledge and his proficiency in diverse fields of endeavor and for being a stalwart supporter and defender of Christianity. He also held a university doctorate. In 1245, he decided to move to Paris, where he received his doctorate and soon established himself as a prominent teacher.

Prior to that, Albertus studied at the famous Padua, near the even more famous city of Venice, Italy. In 1223, Albertus

1. Biography of Albertus Magnus; Saint Albertus Magnus | Encyclopedia.com

joined the Order of St. Dominic (sometimes called by the shorthand name “The Dominicans”). He was even deemed a “Mysti” by the Dominican Order. His popularity is largely due to the fact that his endeavors helped inspire his pupil, the great Saint Thomas Aquinas.²

Albertus was a great student of the powers of Nature. He was Bishop of Ratisbon (now the town is basically absorbed by the larger city of Regensburg, Germany), and there became interested in alchemy and even set up a laboratory there. It must be stated that all his alchemical endeavors were done with complete loyalty to the Church. He made contributions to logic, metaphysics, meteorology, mineralogy, and zoology (among other fields of endeavor).³

He was separate and distinct from Arab commentators who had incorporated their own ideas into the Aristotle’s recorded studies; yet Albertus Magnus “was not averse to using some of the outstanding Arab philosophers in developing his own ideas in philosophy.”³ Saint Albertus Magnus even taught at the University of Paris c. 1241. Whether by coincidence or on purpose, he followed a long line of alchemists and Rosicrucians who made their way from Venice to Paris. Albertus Magnus’s work in alchemy has been acknowledged by factions of society which normally would condemn it; yet they did not disavow it.

Albertus Magnus had the courage to speak-up and defy conventional wisdom by “constructive corrections” of faulty studies by others. Consider this: Albertus Magnus’s student, another German Dominican, Dietrich von Freiburg, who corrected Aristotle’s assertion that the lunar rainbow occurs only twice in fifty years. He retorted: “I myself

have observed two in a single year!”⁴

Albertus Magnus knew of solar rays as well as the refraction and reflection of light. Albertus Magnus made one pioneering discovery when he asserted that each individual raindrop plays a role in a rainbow’s overall formation.⁵

Albertus seems to be the first to mention the word “spinach” in Western Civilization. In 1937, Daniel Stolcius composed a Mystic picture-book, in which he placed a commentary that Saint Albertus Magnus’s surname was emblematic of “Industrious and Excellence.”⁶

In 1260, Pope Alexander IV made Albertus Magnus, the Bishop of (modern day) Regensburg (near Munich, Germany). As such, he cultivated a reputation for humility. After Pope Alexander IV died, Albertus Magnus was able to resign his bishopric post after three years.

Saint Albertus Magnus “was the most prolific writer of his century and was the only scholar of his age to be called ‘the Great’; this title was even used before his death.”⁷ By papal decree in 1941, he was declared the patron saint of all who cultivate the natural sciences.⁸

Regarding Metaphysics, Albert the Great studied the works of Aristotle. He mainly focused on Neo-Platonism. Although he may have misunderstood some of the minor details of Aristotle’s thoughts, he compiled a hierarchy and called it “a

4. *ibid*

5. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/philosophy-and-religion/saints/saint-albertus-magnus>. 04 Aug 2022

6. Lawrence and Nancy Gladstone. *The Friar and the Cipher*. (Doubleday Books: 2005.)

7. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Albertus-Magnus>. Accessed 05 Sep 2022.

8. George Engelke. *The Little Mystic-magic Picture Book for the industriously practicing Abecedarian of the Fraternity of the Rose Cross*. Translated from the German by Nicolaus (no surname given). (The Aries Press: Chicago, 1937.)

2. Dominican Record of Albertus Magnus.

3. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/albert-great/> Accessed 05 Sep 2022.



summoning of the good.”⁹ He speaks of “the First Cause” (which is interpreted as Almighty God).

“His uncreated light calls forth a hierarchically ordered universe....At the top of this hierarchy of light are to be found the purely spiritual beings, the angelic orders and their intelligences.....Beneath the angels and intelligences are the souls that produce intellects. Finally, there are the immersed forms.... Under this heading, Albert establishes another hierarchy, with the animal kingdom at the top, the plant kingdom, then the world of minerals, and finally the elements of material creation.”¹⁰

Albert had a love of astronomy and even had tools of astronomy such as the astrolabe. Although “he had no telescope, he speculated that the Milky Way is composed of stars, and attributed the dark spots on the Moon to configurations on its surface, and not the

Earth’s shadow.”¹¹ He seemed to understand that the tides on Earth were related to the movements and phases of celestial bodies, such as the phases of the moon and tides of the oceans. He wrote treatises on minerals, plants, and animals. As for psychology and anthropology, Albert Magnus had a deep concern for the relationship of the soul to the body. He said, “Divine light is only a means by which the intellect can obtain its object.”¹² His conclusion of treatises is probably most important, on the value of “Ethics.” For a man to write treatises on rainbows while undertaking experiments with firearms, he was truly a complex man.

From 1263 to 1264, he was legate of Pope Urban IV, preaching the Crusade throughout Germany and Bohemia. He settled at Cologne and helped make peace between the Archbishop and the city. Saint Albertus Magnus was also a peacemaker.

9. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Albertus-Magnus>. Accessed 04 Aug 2022.

10. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/albert-great>.

Accessed 04 Aug 2022.
knight templar

11. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/philosophy-and-religion/saints/saint-albertus-magnus>. Accessed 04 Aug 2022.

12. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/albert-great>. Accessed 05 Sep 2022.

Arthur Edward Waite, in his Biography of Albertus Magnus, states that “in the year 1480, the Great Chronicle of Belgium records him Magnus in Magica, Major in Philosophia, Maximus in Theologia....” Waite claims that Albertus Magnus’s invention (or rather adaptation) of the pistol and cannon were simply attributed to him “by Matthias de Luna.”¹³ However, modern research proves Waite was wrong. As noted, gunpowder was invented in China around the year A.D. 1100 or possibly earlier. It was brought to Europe after the year 1200. The oldest mention of gunpowder in Europe is in a letter from (Roger) Bacon to Pope Clement IV in 1267. “By the year 1275, Albertus Magnus described it as four parts saltpeter to one part charcoal to one part sulfur.”¹⁴

Of course, gunpowder was refined by Europeans and Americans in subsequent centuries. However, it is significant that a clergyman such as Saint Albertus Magnus

13. A. E. Waite. Lives of Alchemystical Philosophers, based on materials collected in 1815. (1888). Available at <http://www.katinkahesselink.net/his/albertus-magnus.htm>. Accessed 04 Aug 2022.

14. <https://www.conservapedia.com/Gunpowder>

played such a pivotal role in its modern development. His knowledge of the precise mixture of compounds proves he had a laboratory and experimented enough to describe its characteristics.

His full name was St. Albert (the Great) von Bollstadt, O.P., and as earlier noted, he was also a member the Dominican Order of the Order of Preachers. That particular group was given papal sanction by Pope Honorius III, the same pope who gave papal sanction to the Templars. He led a full life worth contemplating.

For his efforts, St. Albertus Magnus was dubbed “the patron Saint of all who cultivate the natural sciences.”¹⁵

15. New Catholic Encyclopedia.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at rosehillks@yahoo.com or 1300 Greenbriar Drive, Longview, TX 75604.

St. John's Commandery No. 20 150th Anniversary Commemorative Coin

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Meet Your Department Commanders

Sir Knight Sidney J. Leluan III Latin America Department Commander

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Sir Knight Sidney J. Leluan III - KCT-KYGCCH was born to Sidney, Jr., and Patricia Leluan on 5 July 1959 at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada. He is a graduate of Salpointe Catholic High School (1977) and attended the University of Arizona.

He is married to Debbie. They have four sons and two granddaughters, so far.

Sid travelled the world, not only as a dependent child in the Air Force to foreign lands, but also due to his deep love and passion for Masonic Rites. He never interferes with local customs nor does he impose an “American” way of doing things.

“The local customs must be observed and respected while a guest in a foreign country,” he says.

Sid has a reasonable command of the Spanish language. He is widely respected in the Latin and South American countries where he serves the Grand Encampment as a co-Department Commander with his dear friend, Dick Butterfield, for the Caribbean, Latin and South American countries – the largest contiguous region of the Grand Encampment.

Sid began his journey in Masonry



in Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, “The Duke’s Lodge,” in 1981 when he was initiated, passed and raised alongside his father, Sid Jr. He became its 26th Master in 1986.

He joined Adobe Lodge No. 41 in 1988 and became Master there in 1992. He joined the Scottish Rite (Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, 2007, and serves as

Director General of Ritual and Ceremonies) and Shrine (Serves as parliamentarian) in 1981 and York Rite in 1982.

He has served his constituent Tucson York Rite bodies as well as being Grand High Priest (2009), Illustrious Grand Master (2013), and Grand Commander of Arizona (2014).

He is a recipient of many awards and accolades which modestly prohibits listing here. He is a Past Patron of his Eastern Star Chapter; Past International President of the Association of High Twelve Clubs’ Past Grand Governor of Arizona, York Rite Sovereign College of North America; Past Prior, Arizona Priory Knight of the York Cross of Honor; IX Grade Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis; Sixth Grade, The Operatives; Past President South Arizona Chapter, National Sojourners; Past

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• Virgin Islands • Puerto Rico

Sovereign, Kachina Council Allied Masonic Degrees; Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council No. 0 Knight Masons; and Past Monarch (2013-16), Altan Kol Grotto.

Sir Knight Sidney belongs to the following concordant bodies: Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Trinity Chapel No. 12 ,St. Thomas of Acon; Yeoman of York, Order of the Scarlett Cord; International Order of DeMolay, Honorary Legion of Honor, Past Chapter Dad, and Chairman Advisory Council; Rainbow, Past Advisor and member of State Board; Royal Order of Scotland (1993); Royal Order of Jesters; Order of Athelstan; Sword of Bunker Hill; Masonic Order of the Bath; Life member, Philalethes Society. Sir Knight Sid has served on the National Boards of Royal Arch Research Assistance (2011-2017) and the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (2015 - 2017).

Sir Knight Sidney is proud to have been considered worthy of such a responsibility and undertakes to meet it with vigor and enthusiasm for the betterment of the Grand Encampment.

Sir Knight Sidney was appointed and installed as Department Commander for the Latin America Department at the 68th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America on August 18, 2021.

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Sidney J. Leluan

To Be a Pilgrim!

by Ben Williams

According to etymonline.com, the word “pilgrim” is derived from *per-* “beyond” + *agri*, the locative case of *ager* “country, land,” from the Latin root, *agro*, meaning “field.” Its first usage appears concurrent the crusades. It means “a person traveling to a holy place (as a penance or to discharge some vow or religious obligation, or seeking some miracle or spiritual benefit),” also “a traveler” generally, “a wayfarer.”

In Old French, it is *pelerin*, or *peregrin*, from Late Latin *pelegrinus*, a dissimilation of *peregrinus* meaning “foreigner, stranger, foreign resident.” It’s the source of the Italian, *pellegrino*.

Those who rode the Mayflower to the New World in the seventeenth century, founding the Plymouth Colony, were “Pilgrim Fathers.”

As Knights Templar, we are first *pilgrims*. All of us, strangers in strange lands, in search of truth.

There is a good hymn that immortalizes what the word has come to mean and why pilgrim实施 is a predicate for knighthood. This is a hymn worth learning (if you do not already know it) and one worth sharing with your commandery (if you do). After all, few things bond people together better than

song. Certainly, music was more common in our commanderies than it is today. Perhaps

this hymn will be one you might consider during your next Orders? This hymn in particular lends itself to commandery: it’s an easy melody to master, it has profound symbolism appropriate for our ritual, and, also important, it is short. Perhaps you can find a group of Sir Knights to practice it with, and then, at the appropriate moment in the ritual, sing it a *cappella*?

The words were penned by the seventeenth century, English Puritan, John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim’s Progress* (1684), in which the poem appears. Bunyan wrote it during a twelve year prison sentence for refusing to conform to the official state church. There is a modernized version, from the 1906 English Hymnal, but the older one is preferable (in my opinion). Thus, I include the original words *center*. (The version modified by Percy Dearmer in 1906 is

included with the music, *right*, if you care to note the differences).

The tune commonly used today was arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, who took the melody from a traditional folksong, *Our Captain Cried All Hands*. This melody is now known, perhaps coincidentally, as

Who Would Valiant Be?

Who would true valor see,
Let him come hither;
Once here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather.
There’s no discouragement
Shall make him cone relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound;
His strength the more is.
No lion can him fright,
He’ll with a giant fight,
But he will have a right
To be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin, nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit;
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away,
He’ll fear not what men say,
He’ll labor night and day
To be a pilgrim.

He who would valiant be

English Traditional

Monks Gate
65.65.66.65

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'He who would valiant be'. It is written for piano in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. The score is organized into three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains measures 1 through 5, the second system contains measures 6 through 10, and the third system contains measures 11 through 15. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Measure numbers 5, 10, and 15 are clearly marked above the treble staves. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 15.

He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy follow the Master.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round with dismal stories
Do but themselves confound—his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.

Monk's Gate (Monk's Gate is the name of the hamlet in West Sussex where the folksong originated). It is a fitting name for the melody matched with Bunyan's lyrics. I think you'll find it an enjoyable exercise. If you would like to hear the hymn in action, please visit the links below.

Manchester Cathedral congregation giving the hymn a good go:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiSAjwtpFUc>

Monk's Gate Melody:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAvGjb1vgcU>



Chivalry In Action

How we treat our enemies is defines the better part of valor.

by Ben Williams

The best measure of chivalry is probably metered by how we treat our enemies.

After all, it's easy to treat friends well, and obey the moral law in the midst of peace. But how easy is it to maintain respect for your enemies, and in the midst of war?

As far as nation states are concerned, certainly enemies should be opposed, and forcefully if necessary. But how enemies are treated by a victor on and off the field of battle is certainly telling. To fight with honor, to oppose with valor, and remain a graceful victor are signs of a worthy opponent. This is the code of chivalry which seems almost completely lost in the modern day.

Perhaps no one more than Saladin (Salah-ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub) – that “defender of the faith,” the great foe of the Templars – better exemplifies this, to fight fiercely, cagily, and yet purpose himself with honor.

Saladin used many tactics in opposing his foes. Yet he always treated them, when worthy, with dignity and respect. A famous example occurred at the battle of Arsuf in 1191. Richard the Lionheart was moving his forces south having won back Acre, *en route* to the port of Jaffa. Liberating Jaffa was a vital step towards conquering Jerusalem. But Saladin (who had anticipated their journey), lay in wait in a wooded tract along the coast.

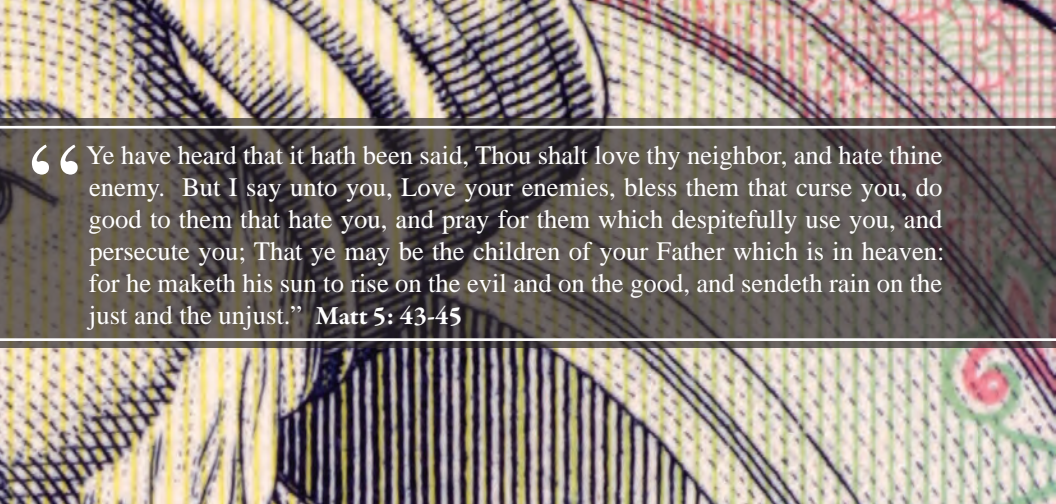
It is said his forces outnumbered the Christians three to one.

After initially being pushed back, the Franks mounted a routing counterattack. King Richard, true to his moniker, the “Lion Heart,” bore the vanguard. One Christian account of the battle, *Itinerarium Regis Ricardi*, records Richard's part in the battle thus:

There the king, the fierce, the extraordinary king, cut down the Turks in every direction, and none could escape the force of his arm, for wherever he turned, brandishing his sword, he carved a wide path for himself: and as he advanced and gave repeated strokes with his sword, cutting them down like a reaper with his sickle, the rest, warned by the sight of the dying, gave him more ample space, for the corpses of the dead Turks which lay on the face of the earth extended over half a mile.

At some point in the battle, though, Richard's horse went down – probably stuck with an arrow, we might presume. For Saladin to win with grace, it seems, his foe should lose with dignity: Modern accounts (probably embellished) allege Saladin stopped

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“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.” **Matt 5: 43-45**

the battle and had two horses brought to the King. We don't know if this is entirely true. But what *is* documented is that Saladin's brother was caused to bring two horses to the King in the midst of battle, in token of his valor.

Richard's forces were greatly outnumbered, and no matter what, any horse was a plus. *The Itinerarium Regis Ricardi* (a Christian account) records:

While the king was thus laboring with incredible exertions in the fight, a Turk advanced towards him, mounted on a foaming steed. He had been sent by Saphadin of Archadia, brother to Saladin, a liberal and munificent man, if he had not rejected the Christian faith. This man now sent to the king, as a token of his well-known honorable character, two noble horses, requesting him earnestly to accept them, and make use of them, and if he returned safe and sound out of that battle, to remember the gift and recompense it in any manner he pleased. The king readily received the present, and afterwards nobly recompensed the giver. Such is bravery, cognizable even in an enemy; since a Turk who

knight templar

was our bitter foe, thus honored the king for his distinguished valor. The king, especially at such a moment of need, protested that he would have taken any number of horses equally good from any one, even more a foe than Saphadin, so necessary were they to him at that moment.

On another occasion, it's also documented that Saladin saved Richard by sending fresh fruit and water to him and his men when, in privation, they suffered in the desert. Saladin could have just let them perish. But that would be dishonorable.

Such chivalry to one's enemy – what the British might term, “good sport” – is almost unheard of today.

In all the furor of the modern world, remember this simple fact: Christ taught us to *love our enemies* – to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Even in the midst of battle. Justice is revealed in humaneness: Never in inhumanity. If we are to be exemplars of Christian knighthood, then we must act without hatred, without emotion, and proceed beneath the banner of the cross in rectitude and rightness to bring light to the world.

Fais ce que dois advienne que pourra!

BEAUCEANT

In April, Kingsport Assembly No. 244, Kingsport, Tenn., initiated three new members. Pictured with the members are (Mrs. L. Bruce) Peggy Austin, Supreme Currier (2021-2022); new sisters: (Mrs. Jay) Karen Young, (Mrs. Charles) Charlene Blair, (Mrs. Tracy) Stephanie Rhoton; (Mrs. James) Debrah Pulley, President; and (Mrs. Gert W.) Carolyn "Susie" Coates, Supreme Color Bearer (2021-2022).



Melrose Assembly No 204, Houston, Tex., hosted the annual Gulf Coast Friendship Circle on August 6th at the Monument Inn Restaurant in LaPorte Texas. With thirty-six Ladies, Sir Knights and family in attendance representing Melrose, Park Place, Port Arthur, Waco, and Dallas Assemblies. Fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Westminster Assembly No 245, Westminster, Md., celebrated the 100th Birthday of (Mrs. James) Winnie Conner, PP. She is pictured here with Westminster's only surviving Charter member, (Mrs. Kurt) Norma Wood, PP. Both sisters live out of the state but were able to attend virtually during our COVID meeting.

Picture from left to right:

(Mrs. Carl) Doris Wisner, PP (MD-Charter Member); (Mrs. James) Winnie Conner, PP (SC- birthday girl!); (Mrs. Kurt) Norma Wood, PP (SC)



Topeka Assembly No. 24, Topeka, Kans., in August initiated a new sister (Mrs Andrew) Abby Mosley. Sisters assisting in the ceremony were from Topeka Assembly, Wichita Assembly No. 8, Wichita, Kans. and Omaha Assembly No. 91, Omaha, Neb.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Two Golden Chalice Presentations

Two Golden Chalice presentations were made in the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania within Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1 and Duquesne Commandery No. 72.



Sir Knight Larry D. Horath, Pennsylvania's Eye Foundation State Chairman presented the Golden Chalice to Sir Knight Michael A. Wolcott in recognition of his contribution of \$10,000 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Presentation was made during the annual Crystal Ball held by Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1

On hand for this great event were Grand Commandery officers and the officers and members of the Commandery.



The second Golden Chalice was a \$10,000 contribution to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation from Duquesne Commandery No. 72 in memory of Sir Knight Nichol Jameson, Treasurer of the Commandery. Sir Knight Jameson was the advisor, confidant, friendly face, and a constructive criticizer of "his boys". He provided a warm greeting to all new candidates on their journey and after they became Knights Templar, he gently instructed all of them on how to, where to and when to.



From left to Right – Sir Knights attending the event representing both the Grand Commandery and Constituent Commandery were Darrel A. Davis, Commander; Mark G. Mattern, Grand Commander; Larry K. Boyer, Past Commander; Sean M. Tomasic, Past Grand Commander.

“To improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care.”

Sword of Merit Presentation



At the 2022 Grand Commandery of California Annual Conclave a Sword of Merit was presented by Sir Knight David Kussman, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar and Sir Knight Jeffrey Bolstad, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, to the outgoing Grand Commander of California, Sir Knight David Studley, who is now serving as the Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment.

All three also serve as Officers and Trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

This Sword was presented in recognition of Sir Knight Studley donating to the Grand Masters Club and completing Tier 5 with a total of twenty-five Grand Masters Clubs totaling \$25,000 in contributions.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation automatically recognizes the accomplishment of completing Tier 5 by awarding a Sword of Merit..



KJEF 55th Voluntary Campaign

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)

When you gather with your family this Thanksgiving with all the foods we enjoy, pause for a moment and thank the good Lord for all your blessings. Would you also think about what you can do to help others? It is my hope you will consider the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. No gift is too small or too big. The dollar you give could be the one which helps find the cure for one of the many diseases associated with the eyes. Quoting our Grand Master, David Kussman: “Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight. Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed. Research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives.”

Last month I wrote about the Life Sponsor Program and that I would love for each of the local Commanderies and Grand Commanderies to be 100%. So, what are the benefits of the life sponsorship program? If you currently do not hold a life sponsorship, contact your local Recorder so your Commandery can have the privilege of receiving the 100% participation award.

One way to make contributions to our charity is through your employer's matching gift programs. I have a few Sir Knights in my



own Commandery whose employers offer this benefit. Their employers deduct a certain amount each week from their paycheck. The company will then match a certain percentage of the donation and send a check to the Foundation. Check with your employer's Human Resources department to see if they offer such a program.

Using social media to publicize our efforts for the Foundation is a very real help: one of my Facebook friends saw the last article that was shared on Facebook and told my relative about it, who then donated. Sharing the Knights Templar Eye Foundation page on your personal and Commandery page is a way of sharing our mission to research eye disease treatment and cures.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (KJV)

In Christ Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul W. Friend".

Paul W. Friend, PGC, KTCH
Chairman, 55th Annual Voluntary
Campaign

november 2022

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

August 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022

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CA Ronald W. Alcorn III
CA Edwin S. Balao
CA Courtney M. Scandrett
DC Robb C. Mitchell
FL Paul W. Friend
FL Edward J. Mayfield Jr.
FL Walter D. Morris
FL Robert D. Sever
FL Luis A. Urrutia
GA Timothy P. Kelley
IL Robert J. Cepielik
IN Duane L. Vaughn
KS Leslie K. Needham
KY Gregory A. Raque
KY William M. Yount
LA Edwin L. Horton Jr.
MA/RI Adam R. Baker
MA/RI Sebastian M. Clementoni
MA/RI Wilfred M. Cote
MA/RI Paul M. Harris
MA/RI Alan D. Imgrund
MA/RI Louis Kabelka

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MA/RI Timothy A. Maxwell
MA/RI Peter A. Mooradian
MA/RI William Noun
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VA Joseph B. Hale
VA Jason C. Trenary
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GA Timothy P. Kelley
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