



Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar

COMMITTEE OF KNIGHT TEMPLAR ADVANCEMENT OF THE SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA



Never Forget

by Sir Knight Michael Millard

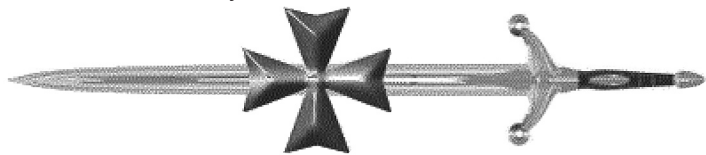
Being a fan of history, I was excited to join Preceptory and be a Knights Templar. Who doesn't know or hear about the times of chivalry, King Arthur, and the Crusades. After joining, I realized that there is not only a history of our Order of Knights Templar; there is also a rich history of our Sovereign Great Priory. I had an opportunity to pick up a copy of Michael Jenkyns excellent book: *The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada of the United Orders of Malta and the Temple 1855-2002: The Supreme Grand Masters*. It is available now and your registrar will have information on how to purchase it. Not only does it have biographical information on all the Grand Masters, it also has summaries of the Annual Assemblies. Our rich history of the Order in Canada is documented in this book so that we can see where we have come from to arrive at where we are today. Some of the information is quite surprising.

For example, the Preceptory I belong to, Harington Preceptory #14, was named after Very Eminent Knight Thomas Douglas Harington. It was chartered in 1871 in Trenton, Ontario and moved to Almonte and finally North Bay, Ontario in 1893. Not only was V. Em. Knight Harington at the very first meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave for Canada in 1855, but his death was mentioned in the proceedings in 1882. What is important about this is that Harington Preceptory was named after him while he was still alive. Current statutes only allow the naming of a Preceptory after someone who is no longer living. This kind of information is invaluable to historians who want to record the history of their preceptories, and illustrates how things change over time.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who is interested in our history as an Order in Canada, or who is interested in their own Preceptory's history. We must never forget the history of the Templars who we represent. But we must also never forget those who went before us to form this Order in Canada and who carried it on to the present day. Hopefully, what we do today and tomorrow will echo far into the future and they will look back and never forget us.

The Sword

by R. Em. Kt. Carl Sherwood



The sword worn by the Knights is symbolical of the spirit with which to employ and attack the temptations and wiles of the devil. Knights Templar are pledged to defend the holy Christian faith and to fight with the sword in defense of the cross against all infidels and unbelievers.

The cross of Christ is being attacked in various ways. Today's removal of the Lord's Prayer from schools, television and movies that promote profanity, violence, and illicit sex to name a few.

If there ever was a time for Christian men to maintain the faith of our fathers and to stand up in defence of Christian tenets and principals, it is now! This is even more marked when we see leaders in all levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal, opening up ways and means to allow people to desecrate gods commandments.

Identifying Symbolism

by Rt. Em. Kt. George Corbin, K.C.T.

Symbolism, crest or logo seems to be one of the most sought after identifications of our society today. Rt. Em. Kt. W. Bruce Miller, Chairman of Knight Templar Advancement in his annual report to Sovereign Great Priory in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia encouraged the use of the roundel on all summonses. The use of the roundel either in colour or black and white would be recognizable by our Preceptories and all Masonic bodies across Canada. It would be an immense step forward for the Sovereign Great Priory to have this crest or logo as part of our Statutes.



Symbolism with the image of Jesus as a lamb is one of the most common and striking examples of Christian symbolism. The reference to the lamb can be found in many of the books of the Bible. Of course, it must be admitted that symbolism is too important to avoid or dismiss. Being a Christian and Military Order, the showing of our symbolism can be traced back many years in history. We find the Masonic symbol (square and compasses) on Masonic Temple signs and welcoming visitors as they enter the limits of our cities. Yes, even today, many cities have large buildings (usually in the center of town) bearing the emblem or logo of the square and compasses atop a wall or cornerstone. In many towns or cities the buildings carrying the emblem on the wall may be "an old building" or the lodge may have ceased operation entirely.

Let us all as Knight Templars use the crest (roundel) on all our summons as a recognizable symbol to all Knights and fellow Masons. The adoption as part of the rich panorama of Christian symbolism used in Templary is both appropriate and instructive.

That Which Was Lost

Imagine the surprise of Rt. Em. Kt. Guy Deveau when browsing in a flea market, he happened to open an old, but well preserved book. Carefully typewritten pages, in black ink with red type for highlighting, revealed it to be the Minute Book of Hugh De Payenes Commandery, #30 KT of Buffalo, N.Y. for December 12th, 1932 through to March 8th 1937. Further research discovered that this Commandery was still in operation. Sir Kt. Tom Jeacock, in cooperation with Past Commander Jeff Williamson of Erie Commandery Buffalo will assist in returning it to the Commandery.

Some interesting pieces of information found in the minutes.

Oct. 8th 1934 communications from St. Bernard de Clairveaux Preceptory #19, K.T. of Dunnville, Ont. giving detailed instructions to Sir Knights attending their 60th anniversary Church Service on Oct. 14th.

Feb. 11th, 1935. Guest speaker Most Em. Sir Allen B. Barr Past Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, gave a most interesting and thrilling address on the Templars of the Crusades from the time of their organization through to the suppression and destruction of the Order" note M.Em.Kt. Allen Barr was a frequent visitor.

Nov. 9th, 1936. A report was given of a fraternal visit to Cyrene Preceptory K.T. of Toronto, where the Templar orders were conferred "in accordance with the Canadian ritual, which was greatly enjoyed by all". Also Commander Em. Sir Warren B. Wilkes was made an Honorary Life Member, and was presented with a Cyrene Preceptory Jewel.



The Seal of Sovereign Great Priory

Before looking at the seal that has become synonymous with the Templar order it is first important that we have an understanding of the purpose of such seals.

In the Middle Ages, the most common ways to show the authenticity of a document was to affix a seal to it. These seals were images carved into a block which, when pressed into warm wax, left behind an inverse image of the picture. It worked much like a modern photo negative does. It identified the author of the document and was meant to stop people from forging or tampering with official documents and correspondence.

In an age when even illiterate people needed to conduct business transactions, seals allowed an individual to declare his agreement even if he couldn't sign his name.

There were seals of ecclesiastical bodies, Monarchs, individuals and even orders like the Templars. Although one image would, in modern times, become synonymous with the order, there were in fact many Templar Seals. However it is this traditional seal that has garnered the most attention and speculation.

The traditional seal of the Knights Templar depicted two knights riding a single mount and was actually the seal of Grand Master Bertrand De Blanchfort who developed the seal for his personal usage in 1168.

The image of the two knights astride a single horse was said to represent their vow of poverty. The original, founding members being so poor that each knight could not afford his own horse. While this is perhaps true of the original nine members, it certainly was not representative of the group as a whole latterly, as during De Blanchfort's reign the Templars had great wealth in both land and other assets. So great was this wealth, that they lent it to monarchs and in so doing, quite likely invented the banking system as we know it. In fact as early as the Council of Troyes, when the Latin Rule was composed an individual knight was permitted three horses to his care and a Grand Master even more.

From Templarhistory.com - Stephen Dafoe and Alan Butler, Site Editors

The Rise and Fall of the Knights Templar

Often new members to our order are interested in a deeper understanding of the history of the Templars whom we pay homage to. Unfortunately many books on the subject are exceedingly long and dry. The Rise and Fall of the Knights Templar is a shorter work that is full of fact and detail and gives a concise overview of the rise and fall of the original Templars.

Contained in this short volume are

works by Charles Addison, Henry Hart Milman and F. C. Woodhouse, each a noted historian from years gone by.

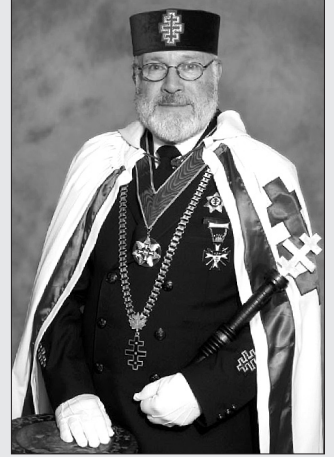
The book also has an introduction by Sir knight Stephen Dafoe, Past Grand Historian of the SGPC as well as an appendix of a couple of the papal documents that saw the demise of the order in the years between 1307 and 1312. The book sells for \$7.00 US and is available at: www.templarhistory.com/store.html



Where were you when the lights went out?

At 4:11 p.m. on August 14, 2003, a cascading power failure plunged 50 million Canadians and Americans, in Ontario and seven States, into darkness. I was in Montreal on my way to Hamilton to visit the Deputy Grand Master in hospital, en route to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in St. Louis, Missouri. Driving along Highway 401 that night was surreal, knowing that there were that many people who did not have lights, water, telephones, air conditioners in a heat wave, elevators and all the amenities we have come to take for granted. It reminded me of crossing the desert, just before Christmas in 1974, between Cairo and Port Said. During the day, we had seen no evidence of anyone as we travelled along the highway by bus. As we returned, just off the highway and in the darkness, the desert was alive with vehicle and troop movements. It was more a feeling that they were there, as we could see almost nothing. We were in Egypt to deliver operational supplies, as well as Christmas trees and turkeys, to the Canadian Forces on Peacekeeping duties. This Christmas, there are more than 3,600 Canadian sailors, soldiers and air personnel deployed overseas on operational missions. On any given day, about 8,000 Canadian Forces members - one third of our deployable force - are preparing for, engaged in or returning from an overseas mission. Please include them and their families in your prayers.

Throughout the turbulence of this year, ordinary heroes have faced challenges, including violent weather conditions with high winds, flooding, droughts, forest fires, as well as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, West Nile Virus and Bovine Spongi-



form Encephalopathy. Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message referred to 1997 as *annus horribilis*. 2003 has been Canada's *annus horribilis*.

In September 1939, a series of events had propelled England into the largest war of all time. King George VI, a few brief months after the start of that war, prepared his traditional Christmas message and chose a quotation from a much loved piece of poetry by Minnie Louise Haskins:

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied, go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God; that shall be to you better than a light, and safer than the known way."

As we stand at the gate of this new year, may Minnie's words, made famous by an earthly King during troubled times, convey the message of hope of the Eternal King.

I wish for you, and those whom you hold dear, God's richest blessings for a merry Christmas and happy New Year. Go in peace and may the Great Captain of our Salvation go with you.

Most Eminent Knight
Robert W. Munday, G.C.T.,
C.D.**Supreme Grand Master

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PREPARED BY:

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