## York Rite Research Institute



# THE GUARDIAN



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National Heads of York Rite Masonry

- General Conference Grand Chapter H.R.A.M.
- General Conference Grand Royal
   & Select Masters
- Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U.S.A.
   MEGM
- General Conference Grand Court Heroines of Jericho GCGMAM





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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# **Knights Templar Vindicated**

### Fraternal Greetings:

ROME - The Vatican has published secret documents about the trial of the Knights Templar, including a parchment — long ignored because of a vague catalog entry in 1628 — showing that Pope Clement V initially absolved the medieval order of heresy.

The 300-page volume recently came out in a limited edition — 799 copies — each priced at \$8,377, said Scrinium publishing house, which prints documents from the Vatican's secret archives.

The order of knights, which ultimately disappeared because of the heresy scandal, recently captivated the imagination of readers of the best-seller "The Da Vinci Code," which linked the Templars to the story of the Holy Grail.

A reproduction of a 700-year-old document bears a replica of one of the three seals used by



James "Rocky" Dallas, Director

inquisitors in the case against the Knights Templar. In the longlost document, Pope Clement V absolved the knights of heresy. However, the order was still disbanded for "the good of the church" in 1312, apparently under pressure from King Philip IV of France.

Continued on back page ...

# YORK RITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The York Rite Research Institute (PHA), is an appendant body of the Phylaxis Society, having determined it to be in its best interest to, dedicate itself to the research and study of York Rite Freemasonry,

And thereby creating a Safe repository of valu-

able information for the brotherhood, that does hereby establish itself as a champion of York Rite Freemasonry.

Membership shall be Regular and special. Regular membership in The institute shall conMaster Masons, Royal Arch, Royal and Select Masters, Knights Templar, and Knight York Cross of Honor In the United States and abroad. Special Members Are those who wish to subscribe to our publication such as library's or other interested par-

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ties.

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# MEMBERSHIP INTO THE KYCH



Knights of the York Cross of Honor, was established as a Honor Group for York Rite Masons.

The requirements for membership are that each proposed candidate for membership must have presided over a Lodge as a Master, over a Chapter as High Priest, over a

Council as Illustrious Master and over a Commandry as Commander. Knights of the York Cross of Honor is a Honor Group of York Rite Masons who are dedicated to serving the Masonic Fraternity as a Labor of Love.

No individual should aspire to membership in KYCH, when he has done the required work, and done it well, he will be invited to membership. Those who labor will be rewarded by being invited. After a Mason has fulfilled the requirements of membership, his name may be proposed for membership by a member

of the K.Y.C.H.. The prospective member should not know that he has been proposed. When a Priory receives a proposed, such proposal must be held over until the next stated meeting of the Priory before it is Balloted on. Some of the Ballot rules vary in different Jurisdictions, to comply with Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations. In this Jurisdiction the prospect must receive a unanimous vote by secret Ballot. The prospective proposal should not know that his name was proposed until he is official notified that he is elected to be invited to petition to membership. If this rule is followed, no one that is

proposed and rejected should ever know that he was proposed and rejected, thereby saving much embarrassment. to everyone.

A member of K.Y.C.H. who has served any of the Four Grand York Rite Bodies as presiding Officer is thereby a Knight Grand Cross of Honor, with one Quadrant for each of the Grand Bodies he has served. This means that if he has served any of these Four Grand Bodies, before he is inducted into K.Y.CH., he would be a Knight Cross of Honor upon being inducted into membership.. If he serves any of these Four Grand Bodies after he is a K.Y.C.H, member, then he gets a Grand

Quadrant when his term ends for each of those Grand Bodies. When a member becomes a Knight Grand Cross of Honor, he is entitled to a Certificate from Convent General showing the distinction, i.e., Knight Grand Cross of Honor with, One Quadrant, Two Quadrants, Three Quadrants, or Four Quadrants, as "Dedicated to serving the Masonic Fraternity, as a Labor of Love."



# KYCH CONTINUED...

the case may be. These certificates are available from the Grand Registrar - General at no cost. Lapel emblems are available to indicate Knight Grand Cross of Honor. Each Quadrant is represented by the appropriate color of the order served, i.e., Blue for Lodge, Red for Chapter, Purple for Council, and White for Commandry, if the member is a Past Prior the background of his emblem should be Pur-

ple, if he is a Knight Grand Cross of Honour, but not a Past Prior, the background should be White.

The meaning of membership in K.Y.C.H. can best be explained by a closing statement of Most Eminent Knight Donald E. Friend, Grand Master General, at his Convent General Session in 1995, "As a Knight of the York Cross of Honour, you are a proven servant of the Ma-

sonic Fraternity , your inspiration has came from your Past, your duty is in the present , your Hope is in the Future, I ask you always to remember—In all you do , In all you say, In all of your actions, take a good look at yourself, you are someone's impression of Freemasonry ". This information was prepared by Ivan D. Rinck, Personal Representative No, 18 April 3, 1999.



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## LETS US NOT FORGET



The order of the Heroines of the Templar Crusade was founded to commemorate the history and tradition of the women of the Crusades, and the contribution they made to the cause, and to perpetuate and foster the high and noble qualities of unparalleled valor and heroism. It cannot be

said that all were men, for it is certain that part of these soldiers in the Second Panin War, were women.

These bands of dames were led by Eleanor Guinne, the consort of Louis VII, of France. They put on military insignia and appeared in every demonstration and fought side by side with Knights Templar, among whom were their fathers, husbands and son. These women, when they beheld the Saracens take the

Cross of Christ, spit upon it and trampled it under their feet, could restrain themselves no longer, and rushed into battle, taking the swords of the dead Templars, fought like demons and saved the day.

History has failed to accord to women, their recognition due them for their part in the Crusade. Hence, this great organization...

"To all of those that are fighting, so that you don't have to, please support out Troops.

# **Knights Templar Continued...**



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P.O. Box 5351 Tacoma, WA. 98415

W.B. Tyrone Johnson 308 So. 35th Street Tacoma, WA. 98416

Phone: 253-226-6470 Fax: 253-267-1412 Email: gphotographer@hotmail.com

We're building our web page for the Guardian, as soon as its done be prepared to enjoy, our World Wide presences...

Keep your eyes, on the Guardian.



# KNIGHTS TEMPLAR...

which linked the Templars to the story of the Holy Grail.

The Vatican work reproduces the entire documentation of the papal hearings convened after King Philip IV of France arrested and tortured Templar leaders in 1307 on charges of heresy and immorality.

The military order of the Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon was founded in 1118 in Jerusalem to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land after the First Crusade.

As their military might increased, the Templars also grew in wealth, acquiring property throughout Europe and running a primitive banking system. After they left the Middle East with the collapse of the Crusader kingdoms,

their power and secretive ways aroused the fear of European rulers and sparked accusations of corruption and blasphemy.

Accused by an indebted king Historians believe Philip owed debts to the Templars and used the accusations to arrest their leaders and extract, under torture, confessions of heresy as a way to seize the order's riches.

The publishing house said the new book includes the "Parchment of Chinon," a 1308 decision by Clement to save the Templars and their order.

The Vatican archives researcher who found the parchment said Friday that it probably had been ignored because the 1628 catalog entry on the 40-inch-wide parchment was "too Spartan, too vague."

"Unfortunately, there was an archiving error, an error in how the document was described," the researcher, Barbara Frale, said in a tele phone interview from her home in Viterbo, north of Italy.

# YORK RITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

"More than an error, it was a little sketchy," she said.

The parchment, in remarkably good condition considering its 700 years, apparently had last been consulted at the start of the 20th century, Frale said, surmising that its significance must have not have been realized then.

Burned at the stake

Frale said she was intrigued by the 1628 entry because, while it apparently referred to some minor matter, it noted that three top cardinals, including the right-hand man of Clement, Berenger Fredol, had made a long journey to interrogate someone.

"Going on with my research, it turned out that in reality it was an inquest of very great importance" on behalf of the pope, Frale said. Fredol "had gone to question the Great Master and other heads of the Templars who had been segregated, practically kidnapped, by the king of France and shut up in secret in his castle in Chinon on the Loire."

According to the Vatican archives Web site, the parchment shows that Clement initially absolved the Templar leaders of heresy, though he did find them guilty of immorality, and that he planned to reform the order.

However, pressured by Philip, Clement later reversed his decision and suppressed the order in 1312.

Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Templars, was burned at the stake in 1314 along with his aides.

Surviving monks fled. Some were absorbed by other orders; over the centuries, various

groups have claimed to have descended from the Templars.



rin:		. Applicant's Signature: 
I have served as a Grand Officer in:	*******	Date:

represent that I am a member f the Phylaxis Society in good standing and hereby submit the

Application to become a member of the York Rite Research Institute.

(Male/ Female) my date of birth is My name is

Address:

Zip

E-mail address:

Telephone: (

MY MASONIC JURISDICTION IS

My HRA Chapter

Commandery

Guild / Cyrene Court

currently hold the following offices:

Heroines Court