



**The Sovereign Military Order of
the Temple of Jerusalem**

**Priory of St. James, Toronto,
Canada.**

**Newsletter
October 2010**

**Prior: H.E. The Rev'd Dame Nola Crewe,
GOTJ**



Greetings to the Dames, Knights, Postulants and Friends of the St James Priory:

We present for your edification and entertainment, our October Newsletter.

nnDnn

Nola, Alastair, William & Harold

Your Scribes

CALENDAR

Do add the following dates to your agenda: Send your news of upcoming events for inclusion in the next issue to Sir Alastair at alastairi@electricscotland.com

Monday 8 November 2010

General Meeting at Suite 2750, 145 King Street West, Toronto. Call Sir Keith with any questions 416 574 0338.

December dates to be confirmed.

AGENDAS and confirmation of times and locations go out prior to meetings.

*** Mark the 2nd Monday of the month in your datebook for a Templar meeting. If the agenda is thin and nothing is urgent, we will cancel it. Notices and agendas will proceed every meeting and cancellations will be equally broadcast. BUT do plan on attending. Your participation, wit and wisdom are needed!**

Saturday 6 November 2010

Investiture at Ascension of the Lord Priory, 1385 University Ave. West, Windsor, Ontario, N9B 1B6 Tel: (519) 256-4341

Convent 2010

THANK-YOU to everyone who made the International Convent the grand event it turned out to be. A particular thank-you to Sir Keith for co-ordinating just about everything, to Sir Randy for keeping us solvent, Sir Stephen for his endless problem solving and acquisition skills, Sir William for the Queen's Park excursion and Sir Ed (and his talented wife) for the

Niagara Falls adventure, Dame Joan for our banquet and her coping skills when the 140 reservations became 181 dining, Dame Joanne for the reception, Sir George for the Cathedral, Sir Michael for the printing, Dame Barbara, Sir Frank, Sir Matthew, Dame Dai, for the welcoming and shepherding skills, Sir Lake for the goodies bags, and so many more who gave us all the great gifts for the Silent Auction and loaned swords and packed and unpacked and delivered and picked up and did the thousand big and little things that made it all happen. To our Templars for giving talks on the Friday and to the Windsor Priory for their help and support. It was just incredible.

A Selection of letters about the Convent

Here is a glimpse of the Convent and some of the comments from those in attendance . .

Dear Ron,

I am sure all of our members join me in saying—THANKS! Of course, I must also add my deepest thanks to Grand Master II and the OSMTH-I Officers and Grand Priors that have so greatly assisted both in the meetings in Toronto and the last six years of my stewardship as Grand Commander.

As the new Grand Master I hope to be helpful in advancing our Order and its Christian Mission for the balance of this decade. I will be working closely with and supporting our new Grand Commander and our other officers as we meet the challenges ahead. Very, very best to all and many, many thanks for all that you each do.

Patrick E. Rea, Brigadier General - AUS Ret. Grand MaSTER III OSMTH-I



As Oscar Hammerstein declared, "There is nothing like a dame", except perhaps three of them: Prior Nola with two new Templars, Dame Maria and Dame Sabina.

Safely back in London after a glorious and exciting Toronto trip.

Thanks to you and your team for a wonderful Convent General - you have set a high bar for others to follow (hopefully England and Wales 2014!).

Kind regards and best wishes to GP Canada!

George MacLean KCTJ

Clerk, The Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales OSMTH-KTI



Sir Keith receiving his scroll for promotion to Knight Commander Temple of Jerusalem for his efforts on the Convent.

Thank you for this very successful meeting, please convey in my name all my thanks to your team. I am sure our Grand Commander will do the same as soon as he gets back to a computer

Col Marcel de PICCIOTTO

Deputy Grand Commander, OSMTH



I want to give you and your team a first class rating for an excellent convent and investiture. The hotel, facilities and timings were all executed in a professional manner in this very important, very transparent transfer of power and roles to the new Team.

I am glad that I attended and even had some time on the Sunday to do all the touristy things I had on my list.

Well done again! Yours fraternally

Chev Paul McGowan GCTJ
Commandery of St Clair, Scotland

My wife, Beth and I are back in Oslo. We just want to thank Br Ron and his team for a very successful meeting. Well done!

Rev.Stein Tennebø. GCTJ
GP, GP Norway



With the Speaker of the House MLA Jim Brownell

It was a distinct pleasure to attend the Grand Magisterial Council of OSMTH, held in your lovely city. This, even though the Sunday Marathon affected the planned departure schedules of some of our delegates. The visit to your Legislative Building was a success with my people. Particularly since the Speaker of the Assembly was present and spoke with some of the GP-Mexico delegates.

I do ask to comment on that the Steak we had on Saturday evening at the King Edward Hotel, was the best I have had in YEARS! Mine was, literally, so tender I need not use a knife!

H E COL Alfred L. Michaud, GCTJ
Grand Prior I, St. Joan of Arc of Mexico



A great time was had on the Niagara Falls Trip



It was great to be in Canada again, to enjoy Canadian food, charm and flair. Yet, most of all I enjoyed to be with you and so many brothers and sisters of our great Order celebrating Grand Master III our new Grand Master. It was simply marvelous!

Special thanks to you and all fine officers who planned and executed this outstanding event to perfection. Thank you also for all your special kindness extended to me.

Hope to see you soon again,

Renate, Princess zu Windisch-Graetz



Sir Tom, Fellow Viraf and Sir Rob

On behalf of myself and the other delegates from the Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales, I just wanted to say a personal 'thank you' to you and all your fellow Canadians for the warmth of your welcome, the obvious efforts that you had all put into the event a fortnight ago, and the patience and good grace with which you all dealt with the requests and expectations of such a wide range of nations and Grand Priories gathered in Toronto.

Simon Le Fevre
Grand Prior of England & Wales
OSMTH - Knights Templar International

From: Ennio H.A.R. Senese

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to really express my respect and gratitude for the way Sr. Nola and her Knights and Dames have managed this, for every (unexpected) downside they found a solution and resolved in a cool and friendly manner, I personally recall Joan Peters who I assisted with the dining setting which was potentially disastrous, but really kept her cool and executed just wonderfully. Besides myself ;) I don't know of any equivalent of Joan in GP Italy.



I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful weekend. Toronto was absolutely beautiful and your Knights and Dames did an outstanding job making us all feel very welcome. Everyone from Tinley Park (there were quite a number of us) had a great time and are looking forward to visiting Toronto again. Again, you did an outstanding job. God bless.

Judy Bruning
Assistant to the Mayor
Village of Tinley Park, IL



Grand Priory of Greece and me personally, we thank you for everything that you made for our sake, for your great hospitality and we congratulate your Grand Priory for the success and organization of the Meeting in Toronto.

Chev. Paul Tsolakian GCTJ



I would like to thank you all for the spirit of friendship and fraternity we shared in Toronto. It allowed us to work with ease, understanding and inspiration. I would also like to thank once more our Brother Ron for his care and hospitality which helped everybody and made us feel welcome and cherished.

Major-General Roumen Raltchev GCTJ, CMTH
Grand Prior I
Grand Priory of Bulgaria



The Blessing and the Grand Prior of Canada's Fan Club



The Grand Prior of Canada's Fan Club



The Blessing



The Oath



The Procession



The Welcome

Our Newest Templars



It is with great pride that we welcome and introduce the newest members of the St James Priory:

Sir Diego Alejo, KTJ, Sir Vicky Bagwalla, KTJ, Sir John J. Ball, KTJ,
Sir Jared Alexander Bettridge, KTJ, Sir Robert Salvatore Cunsolo, KTJ
Sir Remo D'Aloisio, KTJ, Sir Robert DeBartolo, KTJ, Dame Maria Guadagnolo, DTJ
Sir Nick Migliore, KTJ, Dame Sabina A. Pirri, DTJ, Sir John William Saucier, KTJ
and our first Templar Fellow, Viraf Savak Kapadia, FTJ

Leith's Templars

From the Electric Scotland Community Forums

We investigate Scotland's Templars and their association with Leith.



Roslyn Chapel

The association between Roslyn Chapel, the St. Clair family and Knights Templar has been recorded in numerous books both factual and fictional but not so well documented is the link between the Port of Leith near Edinburgh, Roslyn and a 16th Century hunt for Templar treasure.

Founded by Huges de Payen to protect pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land, the Templars were forbidden any personal wealth but there was no restriction on the Order as a whole. The Order grew wealthy from gifts of land from various European monarchs including King David I of Scotland.

Phillip IV did not make any such donation.

He resented the Order's wealth and influence. On 13th October 1307, known ever since as Black Friday, the French monarch ordered that the Knights be arrested on charges of trampling and spitting on the cross, homosexuality and worshipping an idol. Pope Clement V dissolved the innocent Order in 1312.

As the Templars were being arrested the Templar fleet at La Rochelle quietly slipped out of the harbour reportedly carrying the records of the Order and the treasure of the Templar Preceptory of Paris. The fleet sailed for Scotland and no doubt some of these ships landed at Leith as Berwick was in English hands after being sacked by Edward I in 1296.

There appears to be no record of where the treasure of the Templar Preceptory of Paris was deposited but one man who was certain he knew where it was hidden was Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig and Leith. Like the St. Clairs of Roslyn, the Logans were Knights Templar and later Masons. The first known association between the families was when Sir William St. Clair and the Logans accompanied Sir James Douglas as he carried the heart of Robert the Bruce to Jerusalem.

Another more tenuous link between the families is the mystery of the Maize.

At Roslyn Chapel there has existed since 1460 a sculpted example of a maize plant indigenous to the American Indians, yet Columbus is credited with introducing maize to Europe some fifty years later.

The Leith coat of arms, also appearing in 1460 bears the same cereal plant. Perhaps there is some truth in the legend that Henry St. Clair discovered America a hundred years before Columbus.

Leith became the principal Templar port of Scotland and it was here the Logans founded the Preceptory and Hospital of the Blessed Confessor St. Anthony, a home for the aged and infirm. During the installation of gas mains in St. Anthony Street, a large amount of bones were dug up and the graveyard belonging to the Preceptory was discovered to have stretched all the way from St. Anthony Street to the foot of Leith Walk.

On the corner of St. Anthony's Lane today, stands Trafalgar Hall, a purpose built Masonic temple bearing carved images of the pentangle and Templar Tau crosses under the roof. The hall is named in honour of the men of Leith who although probably pressganged, took part in the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 It was not for his generosity though that Sir Robert Logan achieved fame but for his posthumous presence at his own trial, where he stood accused of

taking part in the Gowrie Conspiracy.

David Lindsay the first minister of South Leith Parish Church (1560-1613) and chaplain to James VI claimed that an attempt had been made to kidnap the king whilst staying at the Earl of Gowrie's house in Perth.

As no one but Lindsay believed that such an incident occurred, Logan was probably implicated by means of forged letters, a common practice at the time. His skeleton was exhumed and brought into court to stand trial.

During the restoration of South Leith Church in 1847-8, Logan's bones were rediscovered at the west end of the north aisle. It would not have been unusual for a Mason to be buried in church grounds, Lindsay himself was probably a Mason and the first gravestone to be erected in the protestant churchyard in 1656 marked the burial place of Alexander Abercrombie, a Mason who fumigated houses after a deadly mixture of Bubonic and Pneumonic plague killed 2736 people in 1645. The skull and crossbones motif on his stone is derived from Masonic folklore.



A wicked Templar loved a great lady of Maraclea and violated her body after she died at a young age. A disembodied voice told him to return to the grave in nine months and he would find a son.

Nine months passed and he opened the grave to find instead a head on the leg bones of the skeleton.

Two things about Logan's re-internment though were extremely strange. Firstly it is unlikely that a traitor would be buried in consecrated ground and secondly his jawbone was not amongst his remains. It had been sawn off.

The latter suggests that if he was guilty of any crime then it was not treason but a crime against the Masonic Order.



In the ceremony of admittance into the 'Masonic cross degree of the Knight Templar of Jerusalem' the following words are incorporated: "I do solemnly promise and swear that I will never illegally reveal the secrets of a Knight Templar... if ever I wilfully violate this,...may my skull be sown asunder with a rough saw, my brains be taken out and put on a charger..." It would appear that Logan did indeed have a loose jaw and divulged what he believed to be the secret hiding place of the treasure of the Templar Preceptory of Paris.

Fast Castle (Castle Knowe), a fortress described by 'Sir Nicolas Throgmorton, in 1567 as a place 'fitter to lodge prisoners than folks at liberty' belonged to the Logan family from 1552 until 1606. On the discovery of old reports, Logan was convinced the Templar fortune lay

there and drew up a contract with John Napier of Merchiston Castle, inventor of Logarithms and at the time believed to practise the black arts. Drawn up in July 1594, the contract stipulated that Napier should search and seek out by all craft and ingenuity the said fortune or prove that no such thing had been there. The contract was to be destroyed once all the conditions were met.

Logan also shared his secret with the wild Earl of Bothwell and fully armed, Bothwell and Napier searched the castle. Since the contract is still in existence and in the possession of Trinity College, Cambridge two things can be assumed. They never found the treasure but neither did they prove that it had never been there.

Could it be we have all been looking in the wrong place for clues as to the whereabouts of the Holy Grail?

GOD was too busy today

This sentiment works for the Canadian military, too...

If you don't know GOD, don't make stupid remarks!!!!!!

A United States Marine was taking some college courses between assignments. He had completed 20 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist, and a member of the ACLU.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "GOD, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform... I'll give you exactly 15 min."

The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am GOD, I'm still waiting."

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform.

The professor was out cold.

The Marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently.

The other students were shocked and stunned, and sat there looking on in silence.

The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, "What in the world is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Marine calmly replied, "GOD was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid stuff and act like an idiot. So He sent me."

The classroom erupted in cheers!

Home from Africa

Dame Barbara Boles-Davies

Good morning.... How strange to see and feel rain after nearly seven weeks in dusty, dry Africa. I missed everyone so very much, not having e-mail or any form of communication... homesickness set in a few times. I felt isolated and far away.

Have sent pictures from my first project in Bulembu, Swaziland, where we worked mainly with AIDS orphans.... 56% of whom were infected themselves. Stories were Heartbreaking.. but Bulembu is giving them hope in a country where life expectancy is 32 (for males) and 38 (for females).

Each picture is a story.....these are a few that touched my heart.....







Fees

There has been some discussion about fees and they will be on the Agenda at the November 8th meeting. The Prior will be proposing that the \$250.00 annual dues include the Investiture dinner (since all Templars are expected to attend the Investiture). If you have any suggestions on the appropriate level of fees, what should be covered by them, etc., make sure you are in attendance to contribute to the debate.

The Route to Templar

One of the great things about meeting Templars from other priories and other countries is the sharing of experiences and activities. One subject that showed a clear contrast was the manner in which other countries require a more active process prior to becoming postulants or templars. Those wishing to join the Order must demonstrate their knowledge of Templar history and practices. For some this is in a paper, or a presentation, or attendance at a number of meetings, etc. They are initially known as novices or pages/maidens or some such while they explore the Order and determine whether they really do wish to make the commitment and the Priory has the chance to determine whether they would be a good fit. They then move onto Postulancy and then are vested at the next ceremony. This too will be on November's agenda for discussion. So bring your ideas, experiences and opinions.

You Gotta Love the Irish

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and could not find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to Mass every Sunday for life and give up me Irish Whiskey!"

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

Nomination for Nobel Prize

The priories have been invited to put forward nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. Sir Matthew has proposed that St James send forward the name of Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace. . . One School at a Time*, which details his quest in promotion of peace through the building of schools for girls in Afghanistan. Do you support this proposal? Is there any you feel is more worthy. Let us know.

Book Review

The Knights Templar

Written by Sean Martin

Review

Chevalier William Upper, CKTJ, MSc

If you'd like a quick read (145 pages) about the development of the Templars, and if you're looking for a condensed, well-presented read, then this is the book for you. Like books before it, author Sean Martin covers the basics and adds little to a seasoned Templar reader's knowledge. To the novice in this field, it is one of the books that will help you dip your toes in the history, myths and legends of our Military Order's past. Personally, I found the author's insight into the Trails very revealing. New statistics relating to the long trial period offered another perspective on the key players: Jacques de Molay and Pope Clement.

It would be un-professional to divulge the entire contents of this well-written, well-researched and well-presented book. However, in the interests of our Newsletter, here are some key points which certainly require further investigation:

- As some of the Templars arrived in Portugal they simply changed their name to the Knights of Christ, and continued for another two centuries doing what?!?
- Prince Henry the Navigator and Vasco da Gama were both Knights of Christ, as was Christopher Columbus' father-in-law, according to Martin.
- Is it possible that there is truth to the rumours that the Templars discovered America?
- There was a similar experience in Spain . . . with Templars taking refuge there.
- The entire Templar fleet sailed away from France with the Templar's Treasury before King Philip confiscated it: but did it sail away, never to be found?
- Is it possible, as Martin suggests, that the Swiss developed as a country and as leaders in world banking because of assistance from Templar Knights?
- Martin argues that most academics now acknowledge that the Templars were the initiators/founders of the rise of capitalism.
- Was Friday October 13th, 1307, the arrest date of the Templars in France, the worst abuse of government and religious power?



KNIGHTS OF LIVONIA, OR SWORD-BEARERS

Does the tragic outcome of the clash of Pope/King and Templar support the adage: "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely."? After reading this book, you may well believe that to be so.

Long-lost medieval glass returns to a Cotswold church

By cfisher

MEDIEVAL stained glass has returned home to a Cotswold church after an incredible and mysterious journey.

Three priceless pieces were lost, discovered and rescued before they being reinstated at St Mary's, Meysey Hampton.

Church officials fought to get two of them back when they finally surfaced at the JP Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Gleaming proudly and restored to its former glory, all the glass is back in a new east window in the chancel of the 1269 church, thought to have been built by the Knights Templar.

Diocesan registrar and solicitor Chris Peak helped to gain the triumphant return of the artefacts.

The stained glass had languished in a cardboard box in the vestry since the 1960s.

Then it disappeared and was thought to have resurfaced in Fairford before it vanished.

It was thought to have been handled by a stained glass artist in 1991 and restored.

Mr Peak said: "Then a catalogue was issued by a company in London's West End in 2004.

"It included a piece of Medieval stained glass, The Good or Penitent Thief, described as being one of the small group of remaining 14th century fragments from the church of Meysey Hampton. It was commissioned between 1340 and 1350.



"Two other fragments were listed, Three Figures From The Crucifixion and The Crucified Christ, as 'acquired by the J Paul Getty Museum in 2003'.

"Someone from the Council For The Care of Churches in London reported this to the Gloucester Diocese."

Mr Peak then started to negotiate with solicitors for the treasures' return.

"After quite a lot of hassle we managed to get them back," he said.

"The solicitors turned around and said it was going to be returned.

"It was a bit of a coup because apparently you never get anything back from the Getty Museum.

"We were stunned within the diocese, not only did we get those fragments back but The Good Thief as well. I feel proud that I was able to help."

Once returned, the trio was temporarily looked after by the district council-run Corinium Museum at Cirencester.

Then a local benefactor gave the funds for them to be reinstated in the church.

They were re-dedicated and incorporated in a window with two other remaining fragments, a hand in blessing and the figure of St Mathias.

Meysey Hampton parish council vice-chairman, Margaret Pursch, said: "It's a miracle we've got them back.

"The stained glass pieces have made what was once a plain glass window something really special."

Positions / Committees

A new year is approaching and there are many positions to be filled and committees are in need of working volunteers. What are you going to be and do and where are you going to commit your time? First and foremost, we need a SECRETARY . . . please call the Prior 416 466 0311 to volunteer.

Positions:

Champion (or Co-Champions) of Committees:

- Membership
- Social Events
- Fund Raising
- Investiture
- Charitable Projects

Bearers of the Key Symbols

- Sword Bearers
- Crucifer
- Flag Bearers

Chaplain

Master of Postulants

Assistant MOPs

Procession Marshal

Bearer of the Priory's Banner

Bearer of the Order's Banner

Master of Acolytes

Scribes

Raconteur

Secretary

Piper

Seneschal

Chatelaine

Aumonier

Historian

Marshall

Herald

Stationer

Treasurer

Auditor

Chronicler Lawyer / Medical Practitioner / Inspector Knight Protector Acquisitor / Armourer Archivist Chancellor Prior
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We intend to fill all these positions at the November meeting. Make sure you are there to take on your new (or, re-newed) role.

The First Parent

Whenever your Kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to his kids.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. The first thing God said to them was: "Don't."

"Don't what?" Adam asked.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," said God.

"Forbidden fruit? Really? Where is it?" Adam and Eve asked, jumping up and down excitedly.

"It's over there," said God, wondering why he hadn't stopped after making the elephants.

A few minutes later God saw the kids having an apple break and he was very angry. "Didn't I tell you not to eat that fruit?" the First Parent asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why DID you do it?" God asked exasperatedly.

"I dunno," Adam answered.

God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

There is a reassurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give your children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be so hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling his children, what makes you think it should be a piece of cake for you?
