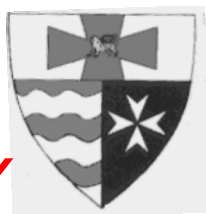


Provincial Priory of London

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NIGHTLY



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OPICS

Issue 7

Spring 2004

Editorial

Welcome Bro Knights to Issue 7 of Knightly Topics. You may wonder at its size of 8 pages and so do I! But it is due to the magnificent response I've had for features and Simon's generosity in supplying the printed issue. I rang him - he was in Malta at the time - and asked if I could have an extra 2 pages. "Can't be done" he said "you'll have to have 4 extra". So here we are with a bumper edition. Please keep the features flowing.

There has been an abundance of new Preceptory banners being dedicated in the last year or so King Edward VII, Empress and now Coromandel. R E Kt David Williams' interesting oration on the origins and use of banners concludes in this issue and to clarify the odd terms in use we now have an article on Vexillology which, according to the Oxford dictionary, is "a study of flags".

Do send me your Preceptory history, customs and events in letters or features with photographs if possible. Please write to me by January 15th for inclusion in the Spring issue and June 14th for the Autumn issue.

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KT on the Island of Malta

Founder, Kt David J Broxup, describes the events leading to the establishment of a Preceptory that meets in Malta

On the 16th May 2003 at Mark Masons Hall in London the Supreme Grand Master Leslie Felgate Dring GCT consecrated the **Waller Rodwell Wright Preceptory and Priory No 640**. The installing officer R E Kt A J Day, Provincial Prior for London, and the rest of the consecrating officers assisting him, carried out the ceremony with dignity.

At the invitation of the R E Kt A J Day, Provincial Prior for London, Founding Eminent Preceptor E Kt Nicholas Peter George was invited to take the chair in the presence of 36 founding Knights and 72 officers and guests, assembled from far and wide.

After the Preceptory was consecrated R E Kt Norman G Bliss, Provincial Prior for Oxon, Berks and Bucks performed the subsequent Banner Dedication ceremony in grand style. The ceremony was attended by 108 Knights and invited guests who afterwards gathered to be wine and dined in true Knights Templar fashion.

Style and sincerity characterised the inaugural meeting, attended by the grand total of 30 founding Knights, on Saturday 4th October 2003 in The Masonic

Hall in Valletta. Two Knights were installed at the meeting and a further two Knights the following Tuesday. Several more candidates have already been proposed and seconded, ready to be installed at the meetings in 2004 along with several joining Knights.

The 'Ladies of the Knights' - a title claimed by the wives and partners accompanying a number of the Knights - also enjoyed coach excursions organised to explore Malta's historic past and visit her sister island, Gozo. Exotic dinners and a relaxing atmosphere extended into the early hours.

Brother Knights will always have a warm welcome from the Preceptory as visitors or joining members and will, I am sure, enjoy visiting the lovely island of Malta in the heart of the Mediterranean. The Preceptory is based in Malta and will meet on the first Saturday in May and the first Saturday in October at The Masonic Hall, 6-7 Marsamxett Street, Valletta, Malta GC.

For further details please contact our Registrar, Kt Graham Perry, Spinney Hill, 54 Buckingham Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 5HL.



Address by the Right Eminent Provincial Prior - 2003

I have already welcomed the official guests of the Province for their attendance and whilst it may be said that they put the icing on the cake by their presence here it is worth the thought that if the members of the Province itself were not to attend in good numbers and with enthusiasm then there would be no cake to ice and so I thank you each and every one for your support today.

The impending Constitution of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter of London taking place at the Albert Hall in two days time will have adversely affected the attendance here today. If you are going to support the London Craft and Chapter meeting but have nevertheless come along today to lend weight to this meeting then you are doubly welcome and my gratitude to you is that much greater.

One of the most colourful parts of our Agenda is the parade of the Preceptory Banners. This item is under the direction of the Provincial Sub-Prior, Eddie Goodwin who has continued the work previously undertaken by David Williams and I congratulate him on the success of his efforts. This item is always difficult to arrange and this year has proved no exception. Whilst talking of Eddie Goodwin, I congratulate him on behalf of the Province on attaining the Office of Great Registrar in Great Priory.

I must not forget to congratulate those Knights of the Province whom I have either promoted in Provincial Rank or Invested with Office today. Those who have active rank, especially the four A-de-C's, the Sword Bearer and the Banner Bearer, will have a good opportunity to show their worth in the Official Visits made to our Preceptories in the coming year. I thank all the Provincial

Officers for the work they are going to undertake for the good of us all.

I must also thank all those who have worked so hard to make today a success especially the Provincial Vice-Chancellor and the Provincial Marshal. It is always a fight to get arrangements made on time but that is part of life in a Province.

During the last year the Province has again been very active. In January 2003 our newly acquired Preceptory Coromandel No.73 installed 18 French Knights into the Order in preparation for the Constitution of the new Great Priory of France. Coromandel carried out its duty in a splendid way on a very snowy Saturday morning in January 2003 and earned the approbation of the several members of Great Priory who attended.

As a result of this, several senior Knights of this Province were invited to join the Great Priory team to travel to Paris for the Constitution of that Great Priory in July. Between us we carried out three difficult ceremonies and assisted in the forming of that Great Priory. Others Knights including some of our guests here today were pressed into service as Installing Officers, Constables, Heralds and other positions needing to be filled. It was hard work but great fun. Dick Fogwill, our Bodyguard Commander was Sword Bearer, Banner Bearer and Herald and two of our Bodyguard (Keith Bates and David Phythian) inserted themselves into the Grand Masters Bodyguard. You can read about this in Knightly Topics, the newssheet published by George Hodge.

It is also worthy of note that our good friend Christian Pajolec a long time member of our Preceptory of Galilee was made a Knight Commander of the Temple in the new Great Priory. I was privileged to have a small part in his

ceremony. Christian now carries a Right Eminent rank and we extend our congratulations to him.

In October of 2002 the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master and officers of Provincial Priory were entertained at the Centenary meeting of King Edward VII Preceptory No 173. This was a fine meeting arranged by E Kt Joe Small. The Festive Board was something of a revelation to the Grand Master but he was still smiling at the end and said that he had enjoyed himself.

We have another Centenary meeting next month when Empress Preceptory No 178 will celebrate their birthday. Sadly the Grand Master will be recovering from an extended Masonic visit to the Far East and will not be able to come along. Instead I have been asked to present the Centenary Warrant and to dedicate the Preceptory's new Banner. Joe Small is again organizing affairs and the Preceptory will be pleased to welcome any Brother Knight who wishes to attend.

My Bodyguard, commanded by Dick Fogwill, attends these meetings. They provide an escort at all Official Visits. Dick organizes them extremely well and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Brother Knights, time prevents me from saying more today. We work quietly – we work well. We have had a great year in this young Province and we have made a lot of progress. It may interest you to know that the number of Knights in the Province now stands at over one thousand. A big Province but a very happy one, and this all stems from the enthusiasm of our members.

Thank you for your support. Keep up the good work and let us go on to even greater things in the future.

Banner Dedication - Part 2

Concluding the feature from the last issue given by R E Kt David Williams, KCT which outlined the history of the banner used as a rallying point and to distinguish friend from foe

So what has all this to do with the banner we see before us today? You have after all been in existence for 100 years and have managed without one for well over 50 years. All very true, but I would suggest to you, it is as a result of your predecessors exhibiting that same dedication and fortitude to the Preceptory symbolised in the attitude of the crusading Knights Templar to their banner and of the thousands of first world war soldiers to their flag.

V E Kt A J Collins wrote in 1952 that at one time it was the custom for the Past Preceptors of King Edward VII to provide themselves with their appropriate banners and as the Preceptory met on the eve of Great Priory, these together with those of other distinguished knights would adorn the walls, creating as he put it “a never-to-be-forgotten scene”. At the same time he expressed a hope that some interested Knight might bring to light these and the Preceptory Banner. This has obviously not happened and so after 50 odd years, we have a new banner to be dedicated. The Preceptory is indebted to the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement for their generosity in presenting the new banner and to E Kt Tony King for his inspired design. I suspect that Tony will be surprised to learn just how inspired that design is. The motif on the banner would appear to be based on the Scottish rule of Grand Quartering and it bears four emblems associated with the United Or-

ders. In the first quarter we have a pupure field on a Maltese Cross argent between four lions passant d’or. The Maltese Cross needs no explanation; it is set against a background of purple, the majestic colour of justice. The lion, the king of beasts represents strength, courage, generosity and valour.



King Edward VII Banner

In the second quarter we have argent on a cross gules between four roses gules and a dove, one of the sacred symbols of the Order. The colour white signifies peace and sincerity; the red cross denotes courage & military fortitude combined with benevolence & magnanimity.

The third quarter is azure on which is the Pascal Lamb, another of our sacred

symbols. Blue of course is one of the colours that signify loyalty & truth.

The fourth quarter is pupure on a chevron of ermine between three Fleur-de-lis d’or, and a cock, the third of our sacred symbols. The chevron is a symbol of protection; ermine of nobility and the Fleur-de-lis denotes valour, faith & wisdom.

Rather appropriately there is, at the head, the heraldic helmet of a knight. As well as the obvious connection King Edward was a Knight of the Garter and the Imperial Crown surmounts the whole. So this new banner incorporates many of the attributes which characterise our United Orders – courage, strength, valour, fortitude, protection, loyalty, nobility, magnanimity sincerity, benevolence, generosity, wisdom, faith and truth.

May this banner be a visual reminder of what you stand for together with all of us in this Christian Order, and may it be a rallying point, at which

with the aid of the Great Captain of our Salvation and through our ceremonies and symbols we become more worthy of the service to which He has called us and in which He maintains us.

See page 5 for an explanation of flags and their terminology

The Inauguration of the Great Priory of France

As reported by the Provincial Prior on page 2, a number of Knights were invited to assist in the Constitution of the new Great Priory of France in June 2003. David Phythian, one of The Provincial Bodyguard and a member of Coromandel Preceptory No 73, compiled this précis of events

On Wednesday 25th June the participants journeyed to Paris on Eurostar and made their way to the modern and purpose-built headquarters of G.L.N.F. in rue Christine de Pisan in the North West of the City.

This first ceremony was a closed affair with only English Knights in attendance, with one necessary exception, for the evening's work was to install the Grand Master Designate of France, Jean-Charles Foellner, in the Malta Degree. Certain items of KT regalia were lent to him for the ceremony, including a mantle proudly sporting the badge of the London Provincial Prior's Bodyguard!

After rehearsals, the Chapter was opened by the R E Kt David Ivor Williams, with the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master in attendance. R E Kt John Tuckey fulfilled his normal role as Great Marshal. Other London Knights taking part were:

Pentagonal Table

R E Kt David Ivor Williams	Eminent Prior
R E Kt Alfred John Day	Lieutenant General

Octagonal Table

E Kt Richard Fogwill	Hospitaller
V E Kt Eddie Goodwin	Admiral

(having already conferred the degree of Knight of St Paul and the Mediterranean Pass)

E Kt Keith Bates	Chancellor
Kt David Phythian	Treasurer

After the ceremony, a buffet was provided for the knights taking part and their ladies. Some knights then went along to a concert of Mozart, including the Requiem, which was being held for charity, by the G.L.N.F at Salle Gaveau.

On Thursday 26th June the work of the day was to consecrate three new Preceptories under the Great Priory of England and Wales, which would be subsequently transferred to the Grand Prieuré of France when it was inaugurated the next afternoon. The ceremonies all took place in the very impressive and modern Grand Temple in the basement of the building.

The format for all the ceremonies was the same and broadly comprised:

- Consecrating Officer enters, appoints his officers, opens a Preceptory of the Order and states the object of the meeting.
- The Preceptory is then consecrated with Corn, Wine and Oil, each involving solemn prayer and the perambulation of the petitioners. The Great Prelate carries the Censer and lights the candles on the Sepulchre. The Consecrating Officer consecrates the Standards and they are placed in the west. The Preceptory is then dedicated and consecrated, then concluded with proclamations from the Heralds (first English then French) and solemn prayer.
- The Installing Officer installs the Preceptor Designate. The other officers are then invested, elected and appointed as appropriate.
- Any other business including the confirmation of the by-laws and the election of honorary members.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and the Great Vice Chancellor were in attendance at all the meetings, as was the Great Marshal and the Great Prelate. The Consecrating Officers, Installing Officers and the London knights that assisted were as follows:

Saint-Louis Preceptory No. 642

M E & S Grand Master	Consecrating Officer
R E Kt Trevor Gulliver	Installing Officer
E Kt Richard Fogwill (also acting as Herald)	Standard Bearer Vexillum Belli
Kt Ian Brookes	Escort Knight
E.Kt Keith Bates	acting Grand Master's Body guard – Arch of Steel
Kt David Phythian	acting Grand Master's Body guard – Arch of Steel

Montjoye Saint-Denis Preceptory No. 643

R E Kt Alfred John Day	Consecrating Officer
V E Kt Eddie Goodwin	Installing Officer
E.Kt Richard Fogwill	Sword Bearer
Kt Ian Brookes	Escort Knight
E.Kt Keith Bates	acting Grand Master's Body guard – Arch of Steel
Kt David Phythian	acting Grand Master's Body guard – Arch of Steel

Saint Gilles Preceptory No. 644

R E Kt Keith Breeding	Consecrating Officer
E.Kt Keswick Jones	Installing Officer
R E Kt Alfred John Day	First Constable
E.Kt Richard Fogwill	Standard Bearer Vexillum Belli (also acting as Herald)
Kt Ian Brookes	Escort Knight
E.Kt Keith Bates	acting Grand Master's Body guard – Arch of Steel
Kt David Phythian	acting Grand Master's Body guard – Arch of Steel

Malta Degree

Friday 27th June, our last day, was also busy. The first ceremony, in the morning took place in the Grand Temple and was to give the Malta degree to twenty-eight French Knights. The offices on the Pentagonal and Octagonal Tables were filled by the same participants as the meeting on Wednesday. V E Kt Eddie Goodwin again delivered the Degree Knight of St Paul and the Mediterranean Pass.

Inauguration of The Great Priory of France

The second ceremony on Friday, the raison d'être for all that had gone before, was the Inauguration of the Grand Prieuré des Ordres Unis Maçoniques, Religieux et Militaires du Temple et de Saint-Jean de Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes et Malte pour la France.

The early afternoon, after lunch, comprised rehearsing the officers for the Inauguration by the Great Marshall. The ceremony started at 4 p.m. with the entrance, under an Arch of Steel, of several Grand Masters from other constitutions.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master acted as the Constituting and Installing Officer and the Great Vice Chancellor, Great Marshal and Great Prelate filled their usual roles. A detailed order of service for this most historic ceremony is to be found in the summons to the meeting. Broadly, however, the order of events was:

- The Constituting and Installing Officer enters, opens a Chapter of Great Priory and is saluted with eleven.
- After an address from the Constituting Officer and a prayer from the Great Prelate, the Great Priory of France is Constituted and Proclaimed.
- The knights of the Great Priory of France approve their statutes and elect a Grand Master.
- The Grand Master Elect (who was outside the Chapter) is escorted in and addressed by the Installing Officer.
- After supplicating the Blessing of the Holy Trinity, the Grand Master Elect enters into a solemn engagement, is invested and installed by the Installing Officer.
- His Banner is placed and he is saluted with eleven.
- The Constituting Officer then “will waive jurisdiction over, and transfer the allegiance of the three Preceptories” to the Great Priory of France.
- The new Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master now invests and installs the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal designate (who was also

outside the Chapter) into office. His Banner is then placed and he is saluted.

The remaining business of The Great Priory of France is then conducted, including investing/electing the Great Officers and giving honorary Past Great rank to the English Knights who presided over the three days’ work.

In terms of London participation, R E Kt Alf Day and V E Kt Eddie Goodwin acted as Cushion Bearers (once some cushions had been found!). E Kt Richard Fogwill acted as Captain of Guards and E Kt Keith Bates and Kt David Phythian continued to assist the Grand Master’s Bodyguard in the Arch of Steel.

The day (and week) was then rounded off with a dinner with the ladies at the Meridien Hotel at Porte Maillot.

In addition to the Knights previously mentioned, E Kt Bill Coates, E Kt Tony Clarke and E Kt Jeremy Burnett-Rae provided strong support and representation.

From the perspective of the writer, this was a hard working and historic three days that rewarded the participants far more than the effort put in. The memory of it will remain forever. It is hard to imagine how the English Knights could have presented a more experienced and professional impression to the new French Knights. The masonic commitment of all those who made the three days happen cannot be doubted.

Vexillology

E Kt John W Mitchell, PPGHer, of the Annus Mirabilis Preceptory No 206 writes:

The word "vexillology" refers to the study of flags. Greek texts dating from the fifth Century B C refer to Admirals displaying purple flags on their ships.

Persian armies were led into action by a bearer carrying a Red flag hanging from a cross bar attached to a pole. The Romans adopted the idea for their Cavalry, each unit having a "Vexillum" which comprised a piece of red cloth (with a heavy fringe) displaying the name of the unit, its emblem, or occasionally a portrait of the current Emperor. Amongst these was the Labarum of Constantine the Great, which displayed, on a field of Imperial Purple, the "Chi Rho" symbol in gold.

There are a wide variety of flags used for different purposes. Their various names and uses have been well established over many years. Unfortunately the majority of people frequently use incorrect terminology when referring to any particular flag - Masonic organisations being amongst the worst offenders in this regard. This short article provides a brief description of terms, which are frequently encountered, and indicates the apparent correct usage of each. This may also produce an outraged response from Vexillological Society members pointing out errors.

The design of Flags is closely interlinked with the rules of

Heraldry. As some heraldic terms will be used in this article (and they are also widely misused) it is as well to define them first.

An **Achievement** comprises some or all of the following elements:

1. A **Shield** on which is displayed the **Arms** of the owner;
2. A **Helmet, and/or hat**, indicating the **Rank** of the owner;
3. **Mantling** in the principal livery colours of the owner;
4. On top of the Helmet is placed the **Crest** of the owner;
5. The Shield may rest on an appropriate **Ground**;
6. The Shield may have **Supporters** on either side;
7. The owner’s **Motto** (which may be in any language).

The Badges of any decorations may be suspended from the Achievement and the Arms may be superimposed on the Badge of an Order or encircled by a depiction of the Collar of an Order.

An Armigerous person may also be granted the right to one or more personal **Badges**, which can be worn by his/her followers.

There are at least 65 different types of flag, but only a few of the principal ones concern us.

A **Pennon** is a small triangular flag affixed to the end of a Knights lance, displaying his Arms so that they appear

upright when hanging from a lance, which is extended horizontally. In Britain since Tudor times it has been customary for the Pennon to show the livery colours of the Bearer surmounted by a Badge. When a Knight was promoted, the tip of the Pennon was cut off to leave a rhomboid known as a **Banneret**; he thus became a Knight Banneret, from which the modern title of Baronet has been derived.

Pennants are extremely long thin triangular or swallow tailed flags, which were originally designed for use at sea. Nowadays they are frequently used on land for a variety of purposes.

Banners are Square or Rectangular (height greater than width) depicting the Arms of the owner (sometimes on a background of the livery colours).

Banners were carried into battle or in procession immediately behind the owner so that his followers could locate him easily. A stiffening bar could be affixed to the top of the banner to hold it away from the pole, to make identification easier. For indoor use Banners are nowadays frequently suspended from a cross bar. Masonic Standard Bearers carry Banners.

An **Ensign** is a flag depicting National Arms flown from the stern of a ship.

A **Jack** is a similar flag flown from the Jack Staff at the bow of a ship. When visiting a foreign country it is customary for a ship to fly a courtesy flag from the yardarm of the ships mast depicting the arms of that country.

A **Gonfanon** was originally a large square lance flag with tails, carried by the ruler when leading his Army. Its name is derived from the Norse *gunn-fane* meaning war flag.

A **Gonfalon** is an extremely long flag, either square or with tails hung from a cross bar, depicting the owners Arms and livery. These are subject to a separate Grant of Arms and were originally hung from top of the mast of the owner's

ship, with ends of the tails hanging in the water. The person granted the right to fly a Gonfalon being known as a Gonfaloniero. A typical Gonfalon, well over 50 feet in length, can be seen in the old hospital in Toledo.

In modern times both Gonfanon and Gonfalon have been used to indicate any large flag hanging from a cross bar and bearing the Achievement or Arms of a non-military organisation, be it a company, civic corporation or trade union.

A **House Flag** depicts the owners' badge, crest or achievement on a background of one or more of the Livery Colours.

In K T Preceptories, one Banner depicts the black and white Arms of the Order, and a House Flag shows the (Red Cross) Badge. At least one book on heraldry depicts the Arms of the Knight Templars as being the Red Cross superimposed on the black and white livery colours.

A **Standard** is a long thin tapering flag of heraldic design and subject to a grant of Arms. The length varies according to the rank of grantee and the country from which the grant was obtained: In some countries a Knight's Standard was a mere two and a half yards long, whereas in others a Sovereign's Standard was as much as eight yards in length. Standards are never carried, they always stand at a fixed rallying point, or fly from a building or camp to show where the owner is located. The design of Standards varies according to the grant, but a typical Standard would display from the hoist; the Arms of the country, the Arms of the bearer and a descate tail in livery colours on which appears the bearer's Crest, Motto and Badge(s). There is a very fine example in Stationer's Hall in London, high on the wall directly opposite the flight of steps leading down into the Hall.

Those interested in finding out more are recommended to refer to: *The World Encyclopedia of FLAGS* by Alfred Znamierowski and/or *Heraldic Standards and other Ensigns* by Lt. Col. Gayre of Gayre and Nigg.

The Empress Preceptory No 178 Centenary Meeting and Banner Dedication

The Empress Preceptory No 178 was consecrated at Mark Masons Hall on 1st October 1903. The ceremony was conducted by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master the Earl of Euston, GCT and the oration on the nature and principles of the Order was given by the Chaplain, V E Kt Rev C E L Wright, MA, P Gt Prelate. (To be published later)

To celebrate the centenary of this Preceptory a very successful meeting took place on Thursday 30 October 2003, just under a year later than the similar meeting of their twin Preceptory, King Edward VII. The R E Provincial Prior conducted the centenary celebration, during which V E Kt Graham Redman delivered a history of the Preceptory and the Centenary Warrant was pre-

sented. The R E Provincial Prior then dedicated the Preceptory banner. The Preceptory was closed and the Bro Knights retired to the Royal Overseas League to dine.

After which the Registrar, Joseph Small, gave a huge sight of relief at the completion of his second centenary celebration and banner dedication in one year.

Letters (the first!)

In response to the article on The Connaught Army & Navy Group published in the Autumn issue E Kt John Mitchell writes:

According to my records there used to be seven Masonic units in the group: the one missing from your list being the Connaught Army & Navy Cork Board. Somewhere in my archives I have a manuscript copy of the Connaught Army and Navy Cork Board Ritual which was probably worked (prior to the Festive Board) after meetings of the Connaught Army and Navy Lodge of

Mark Master Masons. The Lodge may still have the original Cork Board Warrant amongst its records.

There were at least fourteen Mark Lodges in London which had Cork Boards pinned to them, all of which ceased working prior to the 1939/45 war. The Grand Cork Board at that time was under the Grand Mastership of Lord Harris who did not like the Degree and set out to suppress it. As far

as I am aware the only pre-war Cork Board which is still operational, is one in Lancashire, which meets once every two years.

The Cork Lodges now working in England all use the Scottish Ritual, which is similar to that previously used by the Connaught Army and Navy Cork Board and includes the same secrets.

John W Mitchell

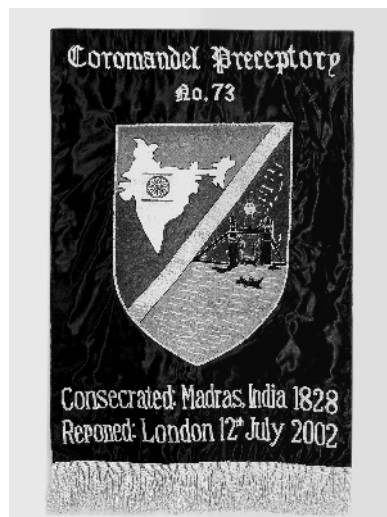
The Coromandel Preceptory Banner

At the meeting of the Preceptory held last December V E Kt E B Goodwin, Provincial Sub-Prior, Immediate Past Preceptor, Coromandel Preceptory gave the following description of the banner:

Brother Knights, it is usual on these occasions to give a broad description of the history of banners in general before proceeding to describe the particular banner in question. We have a very full agenda today and most of us are familiar with the history and so I shall confine myself to a brief description of the banner of the Coromandel Preceptory. I should say at the outset that this banner has been donated by a Brother Knight who wishes to remain anonymous.

The banner depicts both the origins and the current situation of the Preceptory. On the dexter, or right-hand side from the position of the bearer of the shield, is shown the outline of the map of India, the country of origin of the Preceptory. The sinister, or left hand side, shows the location of the current home of the Preceptory, here depicted by Tower Bridge, well known as a London landmark throughout the world.

The colours on the Indian side are important because they correspond to the colours on the flag of India, a tricolour of saffron, white and green. Saffron stands for courage, sacrifice and renunciation, white for purity and truth, and green for faith and fertility. In the cen-



tre of the flag is a wheel in navy blue to indicate Dharma Chakra, the wheel of the law in the Sarnath Lion Capital. This symbol, known as the Chakra is a Buddhist symbol dating back to 200

BC. It has 24 spokes, which are meant to indicate that there is life in movement and death in stagnation. Rather appropriate really to the situation of this Preceptory. The vivid red line delineates the Coromandel Coast, which runs from just north of Madras southwards to the southernmost boundary of Tamil Nadu. The beach at Madras is said to be the largest single expanse of beach in the world.

The London side depicts the Tower Bridge, with its centre spans raised as if to receive the device known as the "Sun in Splendour" symbolising the rise in the fortunes of Coromandel Preceptory and the welcome afforded it by the Province of London. A further spread of influence and knowledge from east to west.

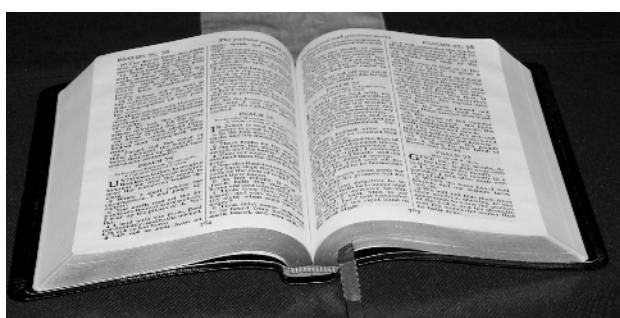
May this Preceptory, which appears to have been consecrated in India in 1828, and then known as the Encampment of St John of Jerusalem, long prosper in its new home and under its new banner.

Presentations to Provincial Priory

At the Chapter of the Provincial Priory held on 29 September 2003 E Kt Trevor Dutt formally presented a new bible to the Province. The Rt E Kt Alfred John Day, Provincial Prior, thanked E Kt Dutt for his most kind gift which would enhance our future meetings. Later, at dinner, E Kt Dr John Norris of Mount Calvary Preceptory presented two figures of knights wrought in pew-ter. These he had found in an antique shop and considered them ideal to grace the top table at Provincial Priory Dinners. The Provincial Prior thanked him for such a thoughtful gift and tasked our Provincial Sub-Prior to display them on future occasions.

Editor

The knights presented to Provincial Priory by John Norris



Bible presented by Trevor Dutt



The History of the Province

The Provincial Prior has decided to record and maintain the History of the Province in its first ten years and also to include the two years previous to its formation when the Preceptories were formed into two groups. To action this he has formed a small Committee, its members are:

R E Kt Jack Dribbell, KCT, E Kt Dai Davies, P Gt A-de-C and Kt Simon Brookman

The Provincial Prior has charged Kt Simon Brookman with the task of accumulating as much material as exists before memories become dim and important matter is lost. He especially asks and expects that all members of the Province and especially Preceptory Registrars past and present will assist Simon in his task. Simon can be contacted at home and on his mobile:

73 Canning Road, London, N5 2JR. Tel 07973 269 859

Dates to Meet

2004

Great Priory (Temple)	Wednesday	19 May
Prov Priory (Temple)	Monday	29 September
Great Priory (Malta)	Tuesday	16 November
Prov Carol Service	Monday	13 December
Londinium Preceptory	Wednesday	15 December

2005

Prov Priory (Malta)	Friday	7 January
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