

Provincial Priory of London

*K*nighly *T*opics



Issue 13

Spring 2007

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Please send me news from your Preceptory and other features to include in our future issues.

I am happy to receive your contribution by disk, mail or email.

George Hodge
Ithaca, Warren Lane
Finchampstead,
Wokingham,
Berkshire, RG40 4HS
Tel: 0118 973 0966

New email address below
george.hodge@tiscali.co.uk

Editor

Right Eminent Knight A J Day, KCT

Rt E Kt Alfred John Day, KCT, affectionately known throughout as Alf has had a significant impact upon the Provincial Priory of London. He served the first Provincial Prior of London, Rt E Kt Jack Dribbell, faithfully



and well as Provincial Vice Chancellor which office was to stand him in good stead when he became Provincial Prior in 1997. At its creation the Province of London consisted of twenty four Preceptorates and in 1992 St John at Ealing Preceptory No 576 was consecrated, requiring a great deal of organisation and liaison between the Preceptory founding Registrar, the Province and Great Priory. It was most successful. Upon becoming Provincial Prior Alf's task was to consolidate and build upon the foundation laid by his predecessor. He continued the very successful Family Carol Service and the Registrars' Mess as part of the consolidation and he built up the Province by Consecrating The London Bodyguard Preceptory No 614 in 1998 and Londinium Preceptory No 632 for London Installed Preceptors in 2001. In 2002 he accepted into the Province of London, at

the request of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Coromandel Preceptory No 73 from Madras. The ceremony of reponement, as it is called, being conducted by the Grand Master at a most enjoyable meeting.

Rt E Kt Alf has presided over our Annual Provincial meetings of the Temple and Malta with an air of genial authority and has greatly endeared himself to all of the Knights in his Province and to many in other Provinces.

Sadly, in 2006, he found it necessary to retire as Provincial Prior as a result of health problems and his cheery presence has not been felt in the Province since that time. Happily it seems that his health is now improving and we are all hopeful that he may soon be able to attend some of our meetings.

The Province and all the Knights owe a great debt of gratitude to Rt E Kt Alf for moulding it into such a happy and successful Province and we all hope and pray that he may soon be restored to good health and take his place among us once more.

Thanks Alf, "well done thou good and faithful servant."

R E Kt Eddie Goodwin, Provincial Prior

Provincial Priory 2006

It is not often that a Provincial Prior is installed and on this joyous occasion Clive Thompson, Provincial Vice-Chancellor reports the events.

The last Friday in September witnessed a most memorable and enjoyable day, albeit a long one, at Mark Masons' Hall - another milestone in the life of the Province of London.

At 09.30 hrs the staircase was adorned with the Preceptory Banners and their bearers for the Great Marshal to rehearse them and the cushion bearers. The day had begun.

At 11.00 hrs the Installing Officer, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Leslie Felgate Dring, GCT, accompanied by his assisting Officers, entered in procession under an Arch of Steel. Once seated he appointed his officers and opened a Chapter of Provincial Priory.

The Roll of Preceptories was called and their Banners paraded - a truly colourful display.

The Installing Officer directed that the Provincial Prior Nominate be introduced in due form and R E Kt Eddie Goodwin entered the Chapter room under an Arch of Steel preceded by his Regalia on cushions. His Patent of Appointment was read, he recited his obligation and paid homage to the ME & S Grand Master. He was then invested and installed, his first task being to invest E Kt Michael Conrad Fox as his Provincial Sub-Prior.

The Grand Master then spoke of the significant contribution that the Past Prior RE Kt Alfred John Day, KCT had made

to the Province of London and his confidence that RE Kt Eddie Goodwin would continue to build on Alf's legacy.

At 12.30 hrs the Right Eminent Provincial Prior adjourned the Chapter of Provincial Priory and 163 Knights dined with the usual conviviality of the Province. After dinner RE Kt Eddie Goodwin thanked the ME & S Grand Master for being the Installing Officer for the day. To show his appreciation and that of the Province he presented him with a framed print of St James's Palace and a litre of Bombay Sapphire Gin.

At 15.55 hrs the Provincial Prior and Provincial Sub-Prior, attended by the Officers of the Priory, entered in procession and the Chapter of Provincial Priory was resumed.

From the humorous way that RE Kt Eddie welcomed the distinguished guests it was obvious to all that the meeting was going to be lively and enjoyable one and it was.

After the usual business of the Priory, the Provincial Prior addressed the meeting which closed around 17.30 hrs. This very special Chapter of London Priory was over.

From the hubbub in the bar area afterwards it was clear that the day had been a successful and most enjoyable one, the Knights looking forward to our next meeting in January.

Clive Thompson

The Provincial Priors Address

It is a great pleasure to see so many of you here today and I welcome you all to the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of London.

Brother Knights, my address will not be very long this year for, although Installation meetings are generally happy and joyous occasions, this one is tinged with sadness because it has occurred only because of the indisposition of our former Provincial Prior, RE Kt Alfred John Day, KCT. Alf, as he is universally known, has been a very popular and successful Provincial Prior and I hope that he will soon be restored to good health and strength. I also hope that I shall manage to be a worthy successor to him for which task I shall need the help

and support of all of you, my Brother Knights, and I have no doubt that this support will be forthcoming.

Overall we have shown a net numerical increase this year of 17 Knights and that is an encouraging trend. I urge you all to look for good quality candidates for our Order and I stress good quality. At the same time we must also look for good quality candidates to introduce into the Craft and Royal

Arch for they are our future. Sadly thirteen of our Brother Knights have departed to the Holy City and we have remembered them in our Requiem this afternoon.

On a happier note I have been pleased to invest and promote a number of our Brother Knights and I offer them my



sincere congratulations. They do not need me to tell them that these honours are given as a reward of merit but also anticipate continued strong support for their Preceptories and this Province. The same applies to those Brother Knights who were honoured with Great Rank this year. I congratulate them and urge them to attend the Malta Investiture meeting in November.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank those officers who have supported this Provincial Priory during this year and to hope that they have enjoyed the experience. In particular my thanks are due to Mike Fox for his hard work as Vice-Chancellor, Phillip Brown, our Provincial Marshal and his team of Deputy Provincial Marshal, Dave Ashbolt and the two Past Deputy Provincial Marshals, Richard Roberts and Keith Bates and the Commander of my Bodyguard, Dick Fogwill and his Deputy, Gordon Rolls, together with the members of the Bodyguard. A great deal falls upon these Brother Knights particularly at the time of preparation for

these Provincial meetings and they rise to the challenge with great enthusiasm and efficiency. My thanks are also due to our Provincial Treasurer, Peter Brassett who has continued the good work of his predecessor and ensured that we are financially secure. I should also like to thank our Provincial Organist who adds so much to our ceremonies with his music. My grateful thanks to them all. At the same time I welcome Em Kt Clive Thompson who has taken over from Mike Fox as Provincial Vice-Chancellor and David Phythian who has taken over from Gordon Rolls as Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard and I wish them well in their new offices.

Brother Knights, it has been a great pleasure for me to see so many London Knights here today and to see so many old friends here as guests of the Province. I do hope that you have all enjoyed our Annual Chapter of Provincial Priory meeting and I wish you all a safe journey home. God bless you all.

A Templar's Walk Through Paris

The conclusion of Mike Munro's Paris tour

The rue du Temple originally began on the banks of the Seine and ran across what is now the Place de l'hôtel de Ville, traversing the old city and out through the city walls built by King Philippe Auguste, and into the open fields. Today the street is full of small shops with apartments above, interspersed with old buildings. At the far end jewellery shops predominate.

Continue up the rue du Temple to number 41, Hôtel Berlize built 1580, it is one of the oldest buildings in Paris. On the first floor is a superb ceiling painting from the reign of Louis XIII. Within is the Café de la

Gare (a modern café style theatre in the round with a reputation in Parisian cultural circles), the name is derived from the station for exchanging horses that was part of the hotel. Where the rue du Temple crosses the rue Rambuteau you will be leaving the 4th and entering the 3rd arrondissement,



the original city wall of Philippe Auguste roughly marks the boundary between the two arrondissement. A little further along on the left at 71-75 is l'hôtel d'Avaux de St-Aignan. It is at this point that the rue du Temple actually crossed the city walls. This building houses the Jewish museum dedicated to the history of the Jews in this quarter.

At number 79 is l'hôtel de Montmort built in 1623 where Molière once lectured.

Off to the left between rue des Gravilliers and rue Reaumur running parallel to the rue du Temple is the rue Volta, number 3 is the oldest house in Paris, possibly built in 1240.

When it was built it was outside the city walls in the midst of woods and fields with an open view of the countryside, rather than hemmed in as it is today by surrounding buildings. Rue Volta is easier to find from the rue Reaumur end of the street.

Get it Right - A Marshal's Guide

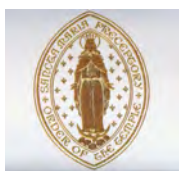
The writer of these observations (who wishes to remain anonymous) served first as Deputy and then Marshal in two preceptories. He has long retired from these offices but notes that his successors continue to fall into the same old traps that snared him. He offers the following set of signposts to help them avoid some of his more embarrassing mistakes.

Editor

- **Check the room!** The Marshal is well advised to check the ballot box and balls, alms dishes, cushions, regalia, S.e, and accoutrements. It is disconcerting to arrive almost at the end of the ceremony only to find that there is no quill pen in place: not many of us carry them nowadays.
- **Get some help!** A wise Marshal will "come to an arrangement" with the Chaplain: the latter is likely to have his ritual book open throughout the ceremonies. If the Marshal is in doubt about "what comes next" he should give an enquiring glance to the Chaplain who can indicate the cue with a discreet, minimalist gesture.
- **Lay it down!** When opening the Bible the Marshal should lay his sword down briefly on the S.e while he does so. (The Registrar should do the same when calling the Muster Roll). He should not carry his sword when, for example, taking the Minute Book or Declaration Book to the Eminent Preceptor. When the Marshal's sword is returned to him after the Accolade he should sheathe it before removing the kneeling stool. One Marshal of my acquaintance forgot this and was in a fair way to skewering the First Standard Bearer, the Candidate, and the Provincial Sub-Prior all on the same kebab.
- **No kissing please!** The sword drill rubric is perfectly clear; "It is not correct to kiss the hilt or touch it with the lips in this position" i.e., at the recover.
- **Put it away!** It is not unusual to find a tatty bit of paper used in the Bible to mark the place. It is respectful neither to the Good Book nor to the Candidate to allow it to remain in place after opening.
- **Do it together!** The easiest way to avoid catching fire when placing the veil on the cross is for the Marshal and his Deputy to do it together with the points of their swords from opposite sides of the S.e. A moment's practice before the preceptory is opened will make it easy.
- **Take them off!** It is a truism in Masonry that "the Candidate never wears gloves". Some Outer Guards are apt to send the Candidate in for the second part of the ceremony wearing gloves. Likewise, the Marshal should ensure that the Preceptor-elect has taken off his gloves before presenting him to the Installing Preceptor.
- **Leave him alone!** The Marshal should not hold the Candidate's hand (or anyone else's). If steering is needed, it should be done by pointing and/or a gentle touch on the elbow.
- **Wear it yourself!** The Marshal must advise the Standard Bearers to present each item of accoutrement (i.e., breastplate, helmet, shield) as if he, the Standard Bearer were about to wear it; but the spurs should be presented so that the Candidate sees the rowels. The spikes on the rowels are meant to remind us of the sufferings of our Lord.
- **Uncross those legs!** It is a convention of the Order that knights do not cross their feet or legs when in the Chapter House. This may be only for regimental neatness but other explanations can be offered. As the Candidate at one point reverentially crosses his feet, it may be thought irreverent to cross them at other times. In many Templar churches, both here and on the Continent, there are medieval effigies of armoured knights lying on their

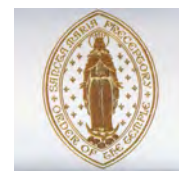
tombstones. Very often the right knee is drawn up and the right foot rests on the floor, crossed over the left thigh; if this position is appropriate for departed knights, perhaps we who are still in the land of the living should avoid it. Lastly, it is suggested that as Knights may have to spring to military action at any time they should avoid any posture which slows them down.

- **Keep it cool!** The ceremony is a dramatic one at certain points but the Marshal should not allow enthusiastic officers (e.g. the Past Preceptor in the South East or himself when preparing the Candidate to prove his devotion to the Order) to over-dramatise the action.
- **Move the furniture!** It is very easy to forget to move out the eastern kneeling stool before Part II of the ceremony. If the Standard Bearers are the least bit unsure of their positions, the Marshal should rehearse the procession and recession before the Candidate is re-admitted.
- **Use both hands!** The Candidate must hold the cup of m.y in both hands.
- **Present the token!** For this duty the Marshal must stand to the south of the Candidate (so that the latter can see what is happening); the Marshal's sword is held neither vertically nor horizontally but inclined down at an angle of 45°.
- **Use your Deputy!** The Marshal needs to make sure that his Deputy is thoroughly familiar with his duties. There is a lot of "fetching and carrying" to be done and the Marshal has enough worries without having to nurse the Deputy. In particular, the latter must be thoroughly familiar with his part in the cubic stone part of the ceremony. After the ceremonies are over and the Closing gets under way, the Deputy Marshal should make it his business to stand directly facing the new Companion-in-Arms at the appropriate point and show the Candidate how to do the movements when the Chaplain says "Let us pray", and after the "Amen". (Note: In preceptories where no Deputy is appointed it is the duty of the First Herald to assist the Marshal throughout.)



Sancta Maria Preceptory No 183

The Preceptory had its centenary on 23 rd October 2006. The paper reproduced below was researched and presented on that occasion by the Registrar, Stuart Voy



The early years of Sancta Maria Preceptory remain for the most part a mystery, a result of the Registrar's Minutes of the Preceptory's meetings being lost or destroyed.

However, all is not lost. Being armed with the Founders Petition and having the use of modern technology, three names stand out: namely, R. Palmer-Thomas, M. W. Blackden and A. E. Waite. Of the three, A. E. Waite is probably the best known for his Masonic writings and his involvement in Freemasonry in general. The list of his Masonic papers and publications is too large to go into here but he is probably best known for his Publications entitled *The Secret Tradition in Freemasonry* and *A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*. He is also regarded as an important figure in English Occultism.

Both Waite and Palmer-Thomas were members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. As a member of the Order of the Golden Dawn, Palmer-Thomas encouraged

Waite to join the "Second Order" (a higher degree in the Golden Dawn) and it was this that may have led Waite to seek initiation into Freemasonry.

It seems that Palmer-Thomas offered Waite encouragement and was present as a guest when Waite and Blackden were initiated into Runnymede Lodge No 2430 at Wraysbury, Buckinghamshire on 19 September 1901. Both were then raised in St. Marylebone Lodge No 1305 on 10 February 1902, again it seems probable with the assistance of Palmer-Thomas who was a personal friend of G. S. Beeching who was then both Master of Runnymede and Secretary of St. Marylebone.

At this time Waite and Blackden were admitted into the Rosicrucians both being proposed by Palmer-Thomas. They were then Exalted in Metropolitan Chapter No 1507 on 1 May 1902 and one week later installed as Knights Templar at the Consecration of the King Edward VII Preceptory.

On 9 April 1906 Palmer-Thomas, Waite and Blackden sign the Petition, stating that they are desirous of establishing a Preceptory under the style and title of Sancta Maria to meet at Mark Masons' Hall. Palmer-Thomas becomes our first Preceptor, Waite becomes Preceptor in 1909. Of Blackden, I am not sure, as he is not listed as a Past Preceptor and as we have no records, further research must be done.

The Preceptory and its purpose

“The Sancta Maria Preceptory is founded for the purpose of drawing together Brethren who regard and value the Temple as an Order of Christian Chivalry, and who are interested in all that bears on its history and ritual. In addition, therefore, to the ordinary work of a Preceptory, papers and discussions on these and kindred subjects will be welcomed” This is taken from the Installation Address of Eminent Knight R. Palmer-Thomas, First Preceptor on May 12th 1906.

Waite had by now started to develop a theory (and by association probably held by Palmer-Thomas and possibly Blackden), that all esoteric practices e.g. Alchemy, Rosicrucianism, Christian Mysticism and Freemasonry were secret paths to a direct experience of God and that the symbolism in each of these traditions had a common root and a common end and that their correct interpretation would lead to a revelation of concealed ways to spiritual illumination. I wonder how many of our Founder Members felt likewise. It is my view, that without an understanding of Medieval Christian Mysticism, it is difficult to understand the world of the medieval Knights Templar and the importance of The Holy Sepulchre. Hence, I feel the specific mention of Christian Chivalry, history and ritual in the Installation Address of our First Preceptor.

As far as papers and discussions are concerned, Waite delivered a series of papers on Templar Symbolism at Sancta Maria Preceptory between 1908 and 1910. His last and most important paper “The Knights Templar and their alleged perpetuation in Freemasonry” was delivered in the Preceptory in 1930.

The three, Palmer-Thomas, Waite and Blackden, now leave us, with the exception of Waite (he was Registrar from

1910-1940) who is mentioned in the minutes of a meeting held on 23 September 1960 when the Preceptory gave assistance to Waite's daughter who was at the time in distressed circumstances. The Preceptory agreed to give her 10 Guineas.

The tradition of giving papers has continued to the present day, as well as an interest in Templar history and symbolism. The earliest extent minutes of a meeting I have is of a meeting that took place in St. Margaret's Church, Uxbridge, on 12 May 1958. The Knights were requested to assemble at the Church Hall at 4:00 pm and process to the church clothed in the habit of the Order at 4:30 pm. The Preceptory was opened (in the church) at 4:45 pm and the meeting was followed by Evensong at 6:30 pm.

This on the face of it was a very special Installation meeting. The Installation of the new Preceptor took place in the church vestry. One can only assume then that the meeting proper took place in the nave. The Templar flag flew above the church for the day and according to the local newspaper, history was being made as not only were Knights Templar processing through the streets but it was the first time in hundreds of years that a Preceptor had been Installed in a church and the first time a Knights Templar flag had flown over a church since 1338 (I cannot, without further research verify the author's historical accuracy.).

In conclusion, the very nature of a meeting such as this, celebrating 100 years, forces us to look at the past not only the past of this Preceptory but of the Order and indeed the medieval Knights Templar. Although my research has only touched on three past members of this Preceptory, their ideals, whether we realise it or not, have been handed down to us (member to member). We the living are in a way the Past, Present and Future not only of Sancta Maria Preceptory in particular but of the Order in general.

Source: The Masonic Career of A. E. Waite by Bro. R. A. Gilbert - (AQC Vol 99 1986) - www.mastermason.com

Stuart Voy

Provincial Regalia Shop

May I remind you that your Regalia Shop not only provides you with cheaper regalia but also adds to the Provincial coffers and provides the Province with extra facilities such as this copy of Knightly Topics you are reading. The shop can supply you with:

Provincial ties, new and used regalia for Great and Provincial ranks, a mantle badge swap & alteration service and a used regalia information service.

Your Regalia Officer is E Kt Stephen Neville. He can be contacted at:

77 Harrow Drive, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1NT
Telephone: 01708 446 618. email: steve-neville@ntlworld.com

The Medieval Order of Knights Templar

This is an extract from the the Origin and History of the United Religious & Military Orders of the Temple and Malta by R M Handfield-Jones to whom I am grateful. In the introduction he makes the point that the modern Orders of Templar and Malta have no direct connection with the Medieval Orders founded at the time of the Crusades.

Editor

The Holy City of Jerusalem having been captured by the Crusaders in 1099, a band of French Knights led by Hugh de Payens and Godefroi de Saint-Omer formed themselves into an Order to protect pilgrims on their way to the Holy Sepulchre. In 1118 King Baldwin II presented them with a house near the site of King Solomon's Temple, from which they took their name. In 1128 the Order was sanctioned by the Council of Troyes and by the Pope, and a code of rules framed by Saint Bernard pledged the knights to poverty, chastity and obedience. They were thus a combined religious and military Order devoted at first to good works and fighting for the Cross. In time the Order attracted many knights from all over Europe and with the increase in numbers its influence spread far and wide. Financial and material aid flowed in and the Order became rich, powerful, domineering and unmindful of the high ideals which had originally inspired them. As their power, wealth and arrogance grew, so these ideals began to degenerate. Eventually this led to the antagonism of those in high places, both in Church and State, to say nothing of the intense dislike in which they were held by the common people. Allegations began to be heard, hinting at heresy, apostasy and evil practices; in 1305 these finally reached such proportions that the Pope, influenced by Philippe le

Bel, denounced and disowned the Order. In 1307 the King banned the Order and arrested all the knights upon whom he could lay his hands. Under torture some knights confessed to such misdeeds, among them certain high dignitaries of the Order. It is true that many recanted and withdrew their confessions, which having been obtained under torture were worthless in any case. But the damage had been done and finally the Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, was burned at the stake in 1314. The Order of the Temple was completely and permanently destroyed.

In England the King was slow to act and although many Knights were arrested none were tortured and any penalties were not severe.

It is impossible to form any real judgement as to the truth of the allegations made against the Templars. It is possible that there was an element of truth in them. The fact remains that the Order made itself so universally detested that it is not surprising that it inspired reprisals.

It is well to remember that the King of France must not be accused of acting from avarice for he bestowed all the wealth and possessions of the Templars upon the Hospitallers.

Diary Dates 2007

Great Priory (Temple)	Wednesday 16 May
Londinium Preceptory	Friday 6 July
Provincial Priory (Temple)	Saturday 29 September
Great Priory (Malta)	Tuesday 20 November
Provincial Carol Service	Monday 17 December

Contact List

Provincial matters, rules etc	Clive Thompson, Prov Vice Chancellor	020 8398 5410
Provincial finance	Peter Brassett, Prov Treasurer	01277 227 742
Ceremonial matters	Phillip Brown, Prov Marshal	0208 595 2645
Provincial Priory history	Simon Brookman, Prov Archivist	07970 951 371
Provincial Regalia Shop	Stephen Neville, Regalia Officer	01708 446 618
Knightly Topics	George Hodge, Editor	0118 973 0966