

Provincial Priory of London

Knighly **T**opics



Issue 23

Spring 2012

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Editorial

Bro Knights

In this issue we start the first part of a Guide to Sword Drill. If you collect each issue you will eventually have a complete guide to the art.

Out of the blue we received an insight into Knights Templar in Paris. You will find it on pages 2 & 3. Articles such as these are the life blood of Knightly Topics. So please consider writing one for the Province for our next issue.

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Shadwell Clerke Preceptory No 154 installs five Knights from Slovenia

Written by Roy Warman, PPA-de-C, Registrar

On Friday the 1st April the regular meeting of the Shadwell Clerke Preceptory No.154 played host to Great Priory by helping to install five new Knights from Slovenia. Members of the Edward V11 Preceptory of Improvement conducted the ceremony.

In attendance at the Grand Temple in Mark Masons Hall was the Provincial Sub-Prior Eminent Knight Michael C Fox together with other distinguished Knights and 45 visiting Knights. The meeting went very smoothly and was hailed a great success by all including the five new Knights who thanked Shadwell Clerke Preceptory for allowing them to be installed at their meeting. Fifty-one Knights dined at the Refectory after the meeting.

Great Priory conveyed their grateful thanks and appreciation to the Shadwell Clerke Preceptory for allowing their meeting to be used for this unusual occasion. The next day Great Priory consecrated a new Preceptory called Carantania Preceptory No 683, which meets in Slovenia.

This was not the first time Shadwell Clerke had been involved with Great Priory helping to install new Knights. In 1936 they installed a new Knight so that he could become a Founder in a Preceptory to be founded in Rhodesia, as it was then. The next time was in 1954 when they installed a new Knight so that he could join a Preceptory in Canada when he returned home.

Roy Warman

Breaking News

Our Provincial Prior Rt E Kt Edwin Bryant Goodwin, has decided to relinquish the Office of Provincial Prior and his resignation will take effect from the end of September 2012

The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand Master has invited V E Kt Michael C Fox Provincial Sub-Prior of the Province of London, to be the next Provincial Prior.

Mike has accepted and until he is Installed as the Provincial Prior for the Province of London in October, he is the Provincial Prior Nominate

Rt E Kt Eddie Goodwin remains the Provincial Prior for the period to the end of September 2012 and communications normally sent direct to the Provincial Prior should continue to be addressed to him.

The Temple in Paris

We are indebted to Michael Munro, PgtAdeC who, inspired by the article on the Order of St John in the Spring issue last year, decided to bring forward a work he was constructing and adapt it for Knightly Topics. *Editor*

The next time you visit Paris and step off the train at the Gare du Nord, consider that just a little over a mile away to the south east was once the site of a great complex of buildings known as the Temple. In the northern part of the 3rd arrondissement just to the south of the Temple metro station is a small park in the Square du Temple. This was once the site of the Templars' grandest Commandry, which by the time of the French Revolution had become one of the largest complexes in Europe, but by the time Napoleon had become Emperor of France, had completely disappeared.

It is uncertain as to the date, some indicate the foundation as early as 1140 but certainly by 1149 the Order had become large enough to warrant the need of headquarters in the West to control the lands and wealth donated to the Order, so they had built a Commandry in Paris, known by the residents of Paris as the Temple. The whole enclosure was surrounded by 25 foot high walls with 14 towers and broad covered ramparts broad enough for two men to walk abreast, or two columns of men to pass each other. The numerous and splendid buildings reserved for the knights to hold their Chapters General, with lodgings for the Knights Hospitaller, were significant enough to impress even visiting royalty.

One of the principle buildings within the Temple, and the most important to the Order, was the church dedicated to *Sainte Marie du Temple*. The entrance at the western end

was a great porch 20 foot wide and 30 foot deep. The facade above the entrance was a stained glass window of four panels surmounted by a seven rayed rose window and above this a tympanum with a small rose, the whole flanked by two towers. The sides were open bays of narrow stone pillars connected by a fine lace-work of stone. Beyond the porch was the nave, the oldest part of



the church built in the 1140's, round like all Templar

churches, in reference to the round nave of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where the first Knights of the Order took their vows at the foundation of the Order.

The nave or *Rotonde* of the church was 60 foot in diameter, the outer walls were divided by twelve pillars inside, and a corresponding number of contre-fonts outside, windows originally unglazed, divided each of the pairs of pillars. Within, six massive pillars were disposed in a circle in the centre of the floor, forming a circular aisle. They supported arches from which sprang umbrella vaulting ending above in a cupola lighted by narrow unglazed windows. At the eastern end was a small apse to the south of which was added, in 1222, a Norman belfry with a peal of six bells. Later still, at the time the western porch was added, the apse was replaced with another nave, a sacristy and six chapels around the sides of the nave, terminating with a new apse 100 foot further to the east of the first. Among the chapels housed in the apse was a chapel dedicated to St John the Baptist with eight tall windows decorated with rare stained glass, illuminated by the early morning sun. There was a carved wooden rood screen surmounted by a large crucifix dividing the nave from the choir. In 1780 the rood screen was replaced by a marble balustrade, beyond this was the altar flanked by stalls for the Grand Prior and the Brother Knights. Within the bell tower, on the south side, were stairs which led to a small compartment lighted by a stained glass window with an internal window looking down into the round nave where the mass could be observed remote from the rest of the congregation. Was this for special visitors or the sick or maybe even for knights who were suffering from leprosy contracted in the Holy Land?

To the west and north sides of the church was the "L" shaped cloister where each knight had his own room opening out onto a common corridor over-looking the church. Each room was a mere cell only large enough for a bed a table and a chair, the serving brothers slept in common dormitories, fully clothed

The uniquely distinctive feature of the Temple in Paris was the *Donjon* or keep, built in the reign of Louis IX, in about 1240. The square *Donjon* Tower with its large cen-



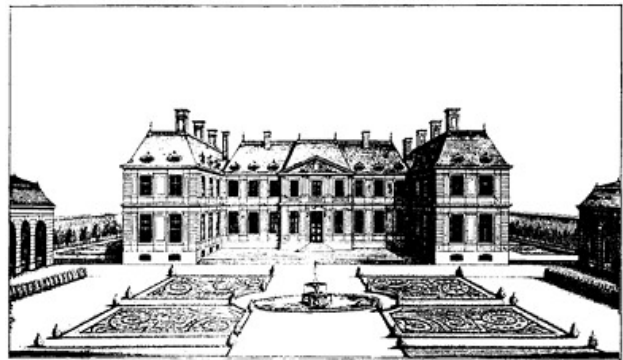
tral black-capped round tower, surrounded by four round black-capped turrets being in contrast with its white walls and tall chimneys was the principle feature distinguishing the Paris Temple. This was the famous *Tour du Temple* the most solid building in all France, 150 foot high with walls 10 to 12 foot thick. and while the church was necessary for their spiritual protection, the *Tour du Temple* was requisite for their physical protection, for the Temple was outside the walls of the city and Paris was not immune from attacks from many different enemy armies.

Access to the *Tour du Temple* was originally across a drawbridge over a moat to a gateway and postern door of iron and oak set in the *Petite Tour*, a smaller two turret half depth reflection of the four turret *Grande Tour* behind it. There was a guard room above the gate and apertures for archers or musketeers in its walls. Beyond was a grand hall, the Chapter House for the Templars, and later, the Hospitallers. Its main feature was a large central Gothic pillar that supported the three storeys above.

As the years passed the city of Paris grew outside its wall, out to the walls of the Temple itself and in about 1370 an outer set of city walls were built by Charles V, the north-eastern sector passing close to the north-east of the Temple leaving the Temple between the walls just to the south of and

within the *Porte du Temple*. The defensive nature of the *Tour du Temple* was now unnecessary, the moat was filled in, the drawbridge removed and the Prior's Palace built up to front the *Petite Tour*.

In 1667 the original Prior's Palace by the *Petite Tour* was replaced by a new palace in the eastern corner of the enclosure, the building had two floors with a third in the roof. Two wings formed an "H" shape for the palace with a horseshoe courtyard to the front. In one of the wings was the entrance hall with a marble staircase that led onto four grand saloons on the first floor. The extensive palace gardens were to the rear of the building.



During the Revolution, in August 1792, Louis XVI and the Royal Family were imprisoned in the *Grande Tour* of the Temple awaiting their eventual execution. When Napoleon came to power in France he was concerned that the Temple

would become a symbol of hope for the royalists and a place of pilgrimage. On 16th March 1808 a decree was passed for the destruction of the Paris Temple, by 1811 not a trace was left. The whole area was gradually transformed into an open air market specialising in old clothes, known as the *Carreau du Temple*. In 1857 the square was remodelled by Baron Haussmann into the park that can be seen today. The park marks where the Prior's Palace and garden formerly stood, a tranquil corner of a modern busy city from where the Templars once influenced the wealth of kings and nations.



In Case You Missed it the First Time!

A new series re-publishing articles from previous issues.

The following article was included in our first issue - Spring 2001 and updated for this edition by the current Librarian Martin Cherry.

Editor

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry at Freemasons' Hall

The Library and Museum at Freemasons' Hall dates back to the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1999 the Library and Museum became operational as a charitable trust. The Director of the trust is Diane Clements, the Curator, in charge of the Museum, is Mark Dennis, the Archivist is Susan Snell and the Librarian is Martin Cherry.

The Library comprises approximately 50,000 books on the subject of Freemasonry worldwide. Although Freemasonry is the main focus of the collection the Library also holds books on subjects, orders and allied degrees related to Freemasonry, such as the Knights Templar. The Library has a collection of the statutes, calendars and reports of the Knights Templar from 1846 up to the 2008 edition of the *Calendar of The Great Prior*.

There are over 700 books on the subject of the Knights Templar recorded in the catalogue including a large collection of ritual material. There are also a number of Knights Templar certificates in our documents collection. Subject files are also maintained on the Order. These comprise ephemera, press cuttings and correspondence and can be a source of valuable information that cannot be traced in the printed sources.

The majority of the material in the Library has been received through donation, however new books are purchased if they relate to the collections and this would include new publications about the Knights Templar.

The Museum has a quantity of Knights Templar items ranging from early nineteenth century aprons and sashes to jewels and swords. There are a number of pieces relating to the USA, including a complete uniform from c. 1950s/1960s. Only a small number of items are currently on display, although there is a full case on the Order in the Museum and an American uniform fea-

tured in our recent exhibition, The Patriot Mason: Freemasonry and American Society. A telephone call in advance of a visit is advisable in order that items can be retrieved from the stores.

The Library is open for research from 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. Books may be consulted in the Library but cannot be borrowed. There is an online catalogue on the Library and Museum web site (<http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/catalogue.php>), which readers may use to identify the books they would like to use. Anyone wishing to look at books about the Knights Templar can search for the words 'Knights Templar' as a key word search on the catalogue or search for authors, titles and subjects when known. The catalogue also includes records of some of the Knights Templar objects in the Museum, to which photographs have been attached.

The Library offers a photocopying service and copies may be made depending on the condition of the book, and taking into account copyright restrictions. Copies are charged at 10p for A4 and 20p for A3 sheets. All readers are required to fill out a reader registration form on arrival and show some form of identification.

The Library receives enquiries by letter and telephone on a daily basis. These enquiries are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. Library staff undertake a limited amount of research on behalf of enquiries, but due to time constraints and other duties, they cannot do extensive research and enquirers are encouraged to visit the Library and use the facilities themselves.

*Written by Rebecca Coombes, Librarian.
July 2000.*

*Updated by Martin Cherry, current
Librarian January 2012.*

An Illustrated Guide to Sword Drill - Part 1

The Eminent Knight Rodney L A Bancroft, TD, PGtSwdB, Marshal of The Provincial Priory of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire felt the need to improve the sword drill in the Province. To achieve this he decided to produce a Guide Book to teach all the aspects of sword drill and so enable Brother Knights to practise alone.

Rodney has graciously given permission to publish the contents of his guide in Knightly Topics and over the next few issues I will include a section of drill movements until the whole guide has been covered - from the method of drawing the sword to the investiture of an Officer and a Preceptor's use of the baton.

I am indebted to E Kt Mike Hewitt, JP, PPHerald who supplied all the photographs for the guide and now to me for inclusion in Knightly Topics.

Editor

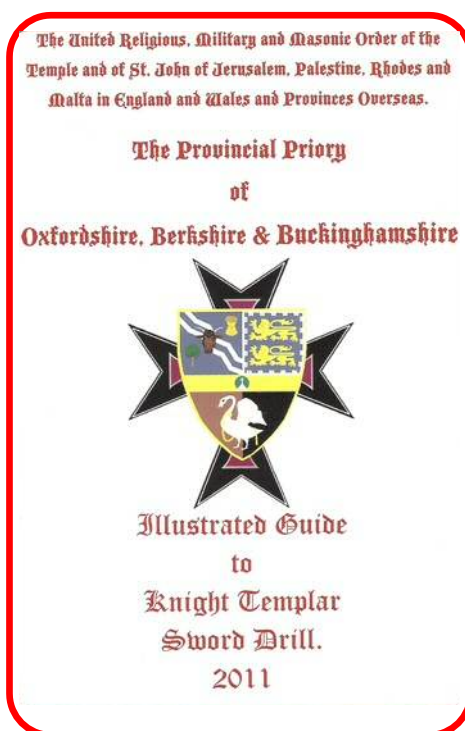
Introduction to the Guide

According to the British Army All Arms Drill Manual the definition of drill is to enable a body of men to move in unison in a smart and soldier like manner. Nothing looks better than when this is so. The purpose therefore of this booklet is to enhance the sword drill instructions laid down in the Ritual No.1 The Order of the Temple and Drill Ritual Book. As the majority of knights have never been taught any form of military drill movements and even less sword drill and, as in the most part, attend just a few Knights Templar meetings during the course of a year, what we have been taught is often forgotten. One of the key aims of this booklet is to enable Brother Knights to practise and hone those skills in the privacy of their homes so that when attending a meeting they feel comfortable about their abilities. The instructions in this booklet are as per Ritual No.1 The Order of the Temple Ritual Book and are accompanied by a series of pictures portraying the various stages of each drill movement. The timing of each movement is essential to ensure that everyone moves at the same time. The timing laid down in the

British Army Drill Manual is one, two three, one, between each segment of the movement. Only moving on the word one. Whilst you should always anticipate an instruction there should first and foremost always be a cautionary word of command, followed by precursor to the order, then the executive word of command. A typical example is that when opening the Preceptory. As soon as you see the Marshal forming up the procession or stand if a procession is not to be employed you should be ready to respond. On the command 'Brother Knights' that is your instruction to immediately stand in preparation (the cautionary word of command). This will be followed by 'To Order' the 'To' should be drawn out i.e. 'T o o o o o o' (this is the precursor to the executive word of command) You only move on the word '**Order**' (that being the executive word of command).

You will see from the pictures that we have tried to demonstrate the correct stance and indicate the position to adopt at each movement.

AT NO TIME DO YOU EVER KISS THE HILT OF THE SWORD.



Drawing the Sword

This is always given when in the standing position. The cautionary word of command is always **“Brother Knights”** followed by the pre-cursor **“Toooo”**.

On the executive word of command **“Order”** you grasp the scabbard with the left hand at the same time passing the right hand smartly across the body and grasp the hilt of the sword.



On the command “Order”

Draw out the blade until the arm is horizontal across the body, steadying the scabbard with the left hand, make a slight pause.



Slight Pause

Raise the sword slowly until the point is clear of the scabbard, and then bring it smartly to the recover, cut the left hand to the side.

At no time do you ever kiss the hilt of the sword.



The Recover

Make a slight pause and lower the sword to the carry.

The timing of the movements is normally taken from the Marshal but if he does not draw his sword take the time from the Knight who is nearest the East on the South side i.e. Next to the Chaplain.



The Carry

Carrying the sword - the position of the Carry

The forearm should be horizontal, hand in front of the elbow, elbow close to the side, blade vertical, cross-bar resting in the hollow between the thumb and first knuckle joint, (the little finger of the right hand may be left behind the hilt of the sword). Do not grasp the handle/hilt of the sword with the hand. This looks not only unsightly, but any slight movement of the hand will be exaggerated along the length of the sword.



The Carry



Returning the sword from the Carry



*Em Kt Rodney Bancroft, TD,
PGtSwdB, Provincial Marshal,
Originator of The Illustrated
Guide to KT Sword Drill*

1. Bring the sword to the Recover.
 2. Grasp the mouth of the scabbard with the left hand, leaving the thumb and forefinger free, drop the point of the sword into the mouth of the scabbard, guiding it thereto with the thumb and forefinger of the left hand. Feel for the blade with the left forefinger and thumb. If you need to, use your body to help steady the sword blade until you become accomplished in returning the sword.
- Do not look at the scabbard, wait for the Marshal for the final thrust of the sword into the scabbard.



The Recover



Slight Pause

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I had, in the past, quickly skim-read through Knightly Topics and put it away. Not so Issue 22! What a great “multum in parvo” it is. I could not put it down until I had devoured every page of it very carefully. The Ruminations on the Death and Resurrection of our Lord presented such a well-reasoned argument that one cannot but be assured that we serve a risen Lord!

In an age when it is being suggested in some quarters that Freemasonry abandons the landmark of a belief in the Supreme Being, it is heartening to realise that our Rite continues to maintain its Christian root.

The article on the Knighthood of St Paul was also so interesting and enlightening, and made me feel vindicated that I made myself unpopular in my Priory, when as the Preceptor, I insisted on going out to do the ceremony.

I presume you will, in due course, be informing us of the Vatican’s response to the request for Jacques de Molay’s pardon.

Long may Knightly Topics continue to be so informative and instructive!

YITBO, Henry M Lynch-Shyllon, 33°

PGM, Royal Order of Scotland, Sierra Leone



London Provincial Golf Society

President - Rt E Kt Edwin Bryant Goodwin - Provincial Prior



The main trophy event this year was held on Friday 27 April at the RAC Club in Epsom. The first 3 holes were played in heavy rain which was seen off by hot sun thereafter. The winner of the trophy, recently named The Provincial Prior’s Cup, is Roger Charter, the organiser. The event is open to all golf-playing Knights, and there are other matches to be played this year. Enquiries should be made to:

Roger Charter, 70 Rogersmead, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6LF

Tel: 01580 765283 Mobile: 07885 821352

Email: charter350@btinternet.com

Diary Dates 2012

Provincial Priory (Malta)	Monday 30 January
Great Priory (Temple)	Wednesday 16 May
Londinium Preceptory	Wednesday 6 July
Provincial Priory (Temple)	Monday 1 October
Great Priory (Malta)	Tuesday 20 November

Contact List

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