

Provincial Priory of London

KNIGHTLY



OPICS

Issue 1

Spring 2001

Editorial

This is the very first issue of a twice-yearly newsheet published by the Province of London. It starts life modestly as a two-sided A4 sheet but who knows what size and format it will be in five or more years. What it becomes depends largely on you the readers, because you are to be the main contributors. To help make this lively, interesting and a well-read paper please send me stories from

your Preceptory of special events such as centenary celebrations, stories about Knights with special qualities and any other unusual happenings. If you have an opinion you wish to air send me a letter. Perhaps you have done some research, share it with the rest of the Province. I will be depending on your contributions so if you have an item of interest write to me by 14th

June for inclusion in the Autumn issue and January 15th for the Spring issue.

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The Provincial Prior's Address to Provincial Priory

The Provincial Prior began his address by thanking all those who had supported him or sent him get-well messages during his time of pain and distress after his accident and thus missing last year's Priory. His edited remarks follow:

"I would now like to congratulate those Knights of this Province whom I have invested with or promoted in Provincial Office this afternoon especially those who have attained Office for the first time. I cannot emphasise too strongly that these appointments are not awarded lightly but only after considerable thought and input from the most senior Officers of the Province. Whilst they are made as a reward for past efforts they carry with them a duty for the future – a duty not only to continue support of your Preceptory but also to extend this to the Province in all its aspects and activities.

Now, your first opportunity to show support for the Province is to come along to the Provincial Carol Service with your family and friends. The Service is one of Nine Lessons and Carols and is followed by refreshments. Your second opportunity to support is at the Provincial Malta Meeting. This is a colourful meeting and will be your chance to witness some fine Ritual by the Very Eminent Sub-Prior David

Williams.

Brother Knights today is a milestone in the life of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard. E.Kt.Ernie Bond, P.Gt.AdeC who has been the Commander since the Province was consecrated in 1992 has asked to be relieved of his command. It was my especial pleasure earlier in the afternoon to appoint him to the rank of Provincial First Constable in appreciation of all that he has done for us. When the Bodyguard was first established it consisted of 10 members including the Commander and Deputy. Today it has 30 members. Ernie has guided that fine body of men even to the founding of their own Preceptory and indeed was the first Preceptor. Ernie we are so grateful to you for all you have done for the Province.

To the members of the Bodyguard I also extend the thanks of the Province. Either myself, the Sub-Prior or the Constables, visit each of the 26 Preceptories of this Province every third meeting. The Bodyguard provides an escort on every official visit and they are loyal Knights upon whom I can rely in any emergency to fill an office or carry the Sword or Banner.

Ernie is succeeded as Bodyguard Commander by E.Kt.Dick Fogwill,

P.Gt.AdeC who is no newcomer to command having formerly attained to the rank of Captain in the Royal Navy.

Finally, I extend the congratulations of the Brother Knights, to the Past Provincial Prior of this Province R.E.Kt.Jack Dribbell on attaining to the honour of Knight Commander of the Temple of the United Orders. A promotion so well earned.

When this Province was consecrated in September 1992, the then newly installed Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Jack Dribbell, addressed the Most Eminent & Supreme Grand Master and the assembled Knights with the words: - "If you wish to know what my hopes are for this new Province I can tell you in very few words; I should like London Knights Templar to be glad that we have our very own Provincial Priory."

Jack Dribbell with his team worked extremely hard putting down the roots of this Province. My task was and still is simply this, to carry on that work and ensure with my team that the happiness of the Knights and the well being of this Province is preserved for the foreseeable future. With your help Brother Knights we shall succeed."

Rt E Kt Alfred John Day

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry

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 and the Librarian is Rebecca Coombes.

The Library comprises approximately 43,000 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 current edition of the Calendar of The Great Priory for 1999/2000.

There are approximately 180 books on the subject of the Knights Templar recorded in the catalogue. In addition the Library also holds a collection of ritual material and a number of Knights Templar certificates are shelved in the 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. 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 10am to 5pm. Monday to Friday. Books may be consulted in the Library but cannot be borrowed. There is currently a card catalogue, arranged by author and subject, which readers may use to identify the books they would like to use. Anyone wishing to look at books about the Knights Templar can look under the name of the order in the subject catalogue, or, if the author is known, trace the book in the author catalogue.

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 charge 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.

Rebecca Coombes
Librarian

Dates to meet

Great Priory of the Temple *Wednesday 16th May 2001*
Provincial Priory of the Temple *Saturday 29th September 2001*
Great Priory of Malta *Monday 19th November 2001*

Provincial Regalia Shop

Welcome to your new Regalia Shop that will not only provide you with cheaper regalia but also add a few quid to the Provincial funds to provide the Province with extra facilities such as this copy of Knightly Topics you are reading.

I can supply you with Provincial ties, new regalia, a mantle badge swap service, and a mantle badge alteration service. And I am also operating a used regalia information service.

New regalia

When you are offered a new Provincial Rank you will receive with that offer a letter from me explaining how your new regalia can be purchased and/or your mantle badge exchanged or altered. If you want any other kind of new regalia either KT or KM just write to me with your requirements.

Used regalia service

If you have regalia you wish to dispose of, just write or phone me giving me details. Itemise them so that I can keep an accurate record to pass on to prospective buyers.

If you are looking for second hand regalia for a candidate then please phone me and I will give you the name and telephone number of a knight who has one for sale. The seller will be expected to make a contribution to Provincial funds through me.

See the editorial column for my telephone and address details.

George Hodge
Provincial Warden of Regalia

An Irish Grace

May you have food and raiment,
A soft pillow for your head,
May you be forty years in heaven,
Before the devil knows you're
dead

A variation

Be present at our festive board,
With guests we must, but cannot
afford,
And may the waiters please to
stay,
'til half past ten to clear away.