

Knightly Topics

Issue 37
Provincial Priory of London



St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group

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Your newsletter needs you: it has always thrived on content from you, its readers. Any items of Preceptory news, history of the Orders, Ritual, Symbolism or other relevant subjects should be submitted to the Editor at:
media@londonprovincekt.org
 We look forward to hearing from you and remember the more we have of *your* material, the less you will have to read contributions from the Editor.

KnightlyTopics



Issue 37
July 2020

www.londonknightstemplar.com

A message from the Editor

E.Kt. Angus Rhodes Prov.A.-de-C.

Dear Brother Knights,

This is a special issue with very much a Knights Hospitaller and Order of Malta theme, featuring articles exploring the Order and the Island.

In the past month we have seen the Nativity of St John the Baptist. He is rightly hailed in our Templar ritual as the forerunner of Christ when we recall him during the Ceremony of the Cup of Memory. We remember him in our Symbols due to his Baptism of Christ in the Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended like a Dove. In some older Ritual he is also expressly associated with the Skull, recalling the fact that he was made a martyr by a drunken, lustful King Herod Antipas.

There was an excellent Virtual Service for this Feast and we are delighted to feature Rev'd Niall's superb and informative Homily in this issue.

You will also find an introduction to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital followed by an update on their activities and present needs. Many thanks to Jamie Ingham-Clarke for helping us put this together. May saw the launch of Great Priory's 20 for 2020 Appeal for the Hospital during a recorded Address from the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master. We have details of this later in the issue together with a Provincial top-up appeal.

I am delighted to be able to include the list of Provincial Appointments, which have been released and are on the Provincial website. We have included details of the Preceptory of Installed Preceptors, Londinium, together with a timeline and notes on the history of Malta by V.E.Kt. Victor Parnis, our past Sub-Prior. Guess who their latest member is...

There is also the odd lighter-hearted feature such as a Knight-themed Crossword, a further Mediæval recipe and some daft pictures.

On a lighter note, in the last issue I included this photograph asking whether anyone could identify what is different about the Banner of Rhodes:



I am afraid we have no winners this time. This is the Scottish version of the Banner of Rhodes and was taken at a Malta meeting in Aberdeen. Their Ceremony is somewhat different to ours as is their arrangement of Banners, which makes being assigned the Banner of Rhodes a far more pleasurable experience. They also have a physical two-handed sword, which I am pictured holding. It felt about the right size...

Perhaps we can arrange a visit in future for anyone interested. In the meantime, anyone feeling competitive may complete the Crossword and send it in to the editorial team. The first correct entry will have their name published and receive a reasonably priced drink from the Editor the next team we meet in the MMH bar!

I hope you enjoy this issue and keep well.

Warmest fraternal regards and Yours in the Bonds of the Order.

† E.Kt. Angus Rhodes Prov.A.-de-C.
media@londonprovincekt.org

Provincial Priory of the Temple

2020 - 2021

I am delighted to be able include the list of Provincial appointments, which have been released and are also available on the Provincial website:

Provincial Officers

Prov. Sub-Prior: Antony Legge
 Prov. Prelate: Rev Michael Seymour-Jones
 Prov. Chancellor: Christopher Radmore
 Prov. First Constable: John Bond
 Prov. Second Constable: Colin Pope
 Prov. Treasurer: (To be elected)
 Prov. Registrar: Brian Francois
 Prov. Vice-Chancellor: Ian Brooks
 Prov. Marshal: Keith Florence
 Prov. Dep Marshal: Tony Bown
 Prov. Dep Marshal: Ian Burgess
 Prov. Almoner: Andrew Bodnar
 Prov. First Herald: Peter Ibbotson
 Prov. Second Herald: Robert Neal
 Prov. Standard Bearer (B): Richard McAllister
 Prov. Standard Bearer (VB): Douglas Abbott
 Prov. Banner Bearer: Neil Pinner
 Prov. Sword Bearer: Mark Johnson
 Prov. Aide de Camp: Nicholas Robinson
 Prov. Aide de Camp: Robin van Geene
 Prov. Aide de Camp: Huw Shooter
 Prov. Warden of Regalia: Oswald (Terry) Hall
 Prov. Chamberlain: DKS
 Prov. Capt of Guards: Babatunde Lawal
 Prov. Organist: Christopher Damp
 Prov. Guard: Derek Weobley

Past Provincial Banks on Promotion:

Past Registrar: Tony Pattison
 Past Herald: John (Jack) Eames
 Past Herald: David Major
 Past Standard Bearer (VB): David Clarke

Past Provincial Banks

First Appointment:

Past Second Constable: David Hiscock
 Past Chamberlain: Neil Hutchings
 Past Chamberlain: David Peck
 Past Herald: Marco Badiali
 Past Aide de Camp: Allesandro Brocchi
 Past Aide de Camp: James Carter
 Past Aide de Camp: Ricky Harrynarine
 Past Aide de Camp: Adewale Oladele-Ajose
 Past Aide de Camp: Paul Wilson



Provincial Prior
 Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson



Provincial Sub-Prior
 E. Kt. Antony Legge



Provincial Prior's Bodyguard

Commander: Ian Drury
 Deputy Commander: Wayne Krause
 Registrar: Vernon King
 Chaplain: Rev'd Niall Johnston

Glenn Brown
 Ronald Crucikshank
 Neil Clarke
 Seirios Kokkalis
 Kenneth Old
 Christopher Pearce
 Christopher Griggs

Michael Hearn
 Henry Lamb
 Mark Leung
 Peter Malmstrom
 John May
 James Payne
 Stephen Pinner

Roger Werret
 Adam Armsby
 Robert Spence
 Alexander Till
To be Appointed:
 Edward Jordan
 Robert Oakley-Watson

Regalia

E.Kt. Terry Hall Prov.W. of R.

Dear Brother Knights,

I must remind all those Knights receiving a first appointment or promotion, they will need to acquire their new Mantle Badges. If you wish to order them through me please do so in good time to ensure there is no problem with supplying your regalia. Those Knights receiving a first appointment to Provincial Rank will also need a Provincial Sash. The following items are also still generally available:

- Provincial & Bodyguard Ties £15.00
- Cufflinks £15.00
- Pin Badges £10.00

... plus postage and packaging if you do not wish to wait until the next meeting that we are both attending. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any Knights Templar or Malta regalia needs.

Also, please do let me know if you have any second-hand regalia you no longer need, which you are prepared to donate to enable me to raise further funds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

†E.Kt. Terry Hall
Warden of Regalia
 Tel: 07773 783996
pwor@londonprovincekt.org

The Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

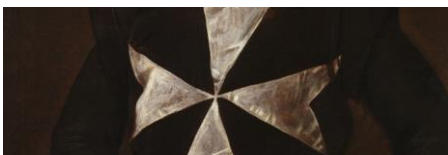
A brief note on its earliest years

Our Ritual indicates: *"That Order was originally founded in Jerusalem, during the first Crusade, about the year of our Lord 1099, by the association of many pious Knights with the Fratres of St. John's Hospital; an establishment previously founded in 1048 for the relief of Pilgrims proceeding to worship at the Holy Sepulchre."*

The year 1048 appears to relate to an alleged request to the Fatimid Caliph Al-Mustansir Billah by a group of Amalfi Merchants to build a Hospital in Jerusalem. Scholarly debate on the precise date of the foundation of the original Hospital in Jerusalem continues with sources varying. Previous hospitals or hospices for pilgrims had existed, but appear to have been short-lived.

Solid evidence certainly exists to suggest that at the time of the capture of Jerusalem on 15 July 1099, during what we now refer to as the First Crusade, the Hospital existed and was being run by a pious man named Gerard. William of Tyre, writing the best part of a century later, suggests he was a man of Amalfi.

What is the significance of Amalfi?



R.M Handfield-Jones wrote the following in his book, the Origin and History of the United Orders, which was included in the 2000 Statutes and quoted by the 2001 edition of our Malta Ritual, notes:

"There is a story that a group of traders from Amalfi opened a Christian Mission in Jerusalem, and that this Mission led the Hospitallers to adopt the eight-pointed Cross, this being part of the armorial bearings of the Republic of Amalfi. There is no historical evidence for this – to the Hospitallers, the Cross represented the eight Beatitudes and to the Traders it was simply their famous compass by which they established their wide trading

empire. It may or may not be coincidental that the eight points correspond to the eight Langues of the Order."

Historian Helen Nicholson, one of the premier historians of the Mediæval Chivalric Orders, refers to an anonymous Amalfi Chronicler's account of the visit to Jerusalem of Archbishop John of Amalfi in the 1070s and prior to the First Crusade (I am currently seeking a copy of this). Whilst there he visited two hospitals founded by men of that city, one for men and one for women.

What is certain is that the institution was provided with Papal recognition via the Bull Pie Postulatio Voluntatis issued by Pope Paschal II on 15 February 1113. He refers to the man later referred to as Blessed Gerard instituting the Hospital, thus he may have been its founder. At least one account suggests Gerard used to stand on the walls and throw bread to starving Christians waiting below. **It is no wonder the people considered him blessed.**

One of the key elements in their care was that they viewed each and every patient as though that person was Christ Himself and served them accordingly (perhaps a good moment to review **Matthew 25:34-46?**). Raymond du Puy took over as Grand Master around the time of the foundation of the Knights Templar and wrote a rule' which included the following:

"16. HOW OUR LORDS THE SICK SHOULD BE RECEIVED AND SERVED.-

And in that Obedience in which the Master and the Chapter of the Hospital shall permit, when the sick man shall come there, let him be received thus, let him partake of the Holy Sacrament, first having confessed his sins to the priest, and afterwards let him be carried to bed, and there as if he were a Lord, each day before the brethren to eat, let him be refreshed with food charitably according to the ability of the House..."

In due course the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem became one of the two

greatest Religious Chivalric Orders alongside the Knights Templar. In going into battle, the Templars formed the Vanguard and the Hospitallers the Rearguard seeking to encourage the secular forces to stand and fight with them. For more on the importance of their forces please see Ian Drury's excellent article in the previous issue.

...one of the key elements in their care was that they viewed each and every patient as though that person was Christ Himself and served them accordingly

When they moved to Rhodes and Malta they took their Hospital with them, as well as founding a small, but effective navy. The Hospital developed many innovative techniques, which were adopted on a wider basis until its fall in 1798 when Napoleon took Malta. The physical Jerusalem Hospital ceased to exist until the Nineteenth Century, when the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital was established to continue the work of the original Knights Hospitaller (see the articles later in this issue).

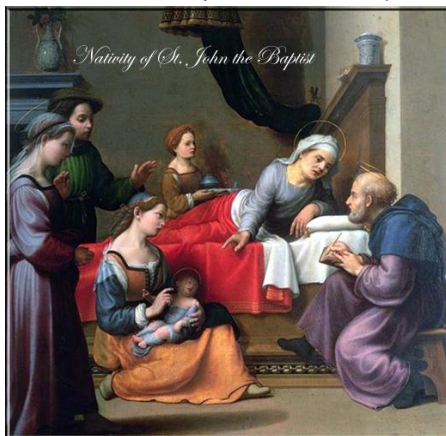
As noted elsewhere, the Hospital's great patron Saint, St John the Baptist has his primary Feast Day on 24th June (a traditional date for early Masonic installations) – perhaps we could add to the Christmas Day tradition by all saying a prayer and drink to those illustrious Knights of old on that date?

There are other practical things we might personally do, which we will come to later in this issue...

The Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist

E.Kt. Rev'd Niall Johnston P.Prov.A.-de-C.

This is the excellent Homily given by our dear Eminent Knight, Niall, at the special Provincial Church Service recorded for the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist.



I would strongly exhort you to read Niall's excellent text, and even better, access the full Service: <https://youtu.be/z3eJohf9hLg> Incidentally, Niall is one of the most recent Joining Members of Londinium Preceptory – if you are interested, you will be in excellent company [see the article on page 7 – Ed].

Brother Knights, here we are, albeit in strange circumstances, celebrating the birth of Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Knights Hospitaller and, today, of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

This is a rare feast. The Baptist is in illustrious company. Only three times during the year does the Church celebrate a birthday: for Jesus, for His mother and, today, for John the Baptist.

When you consider the circumstances surrounding it, the nativity of John the Baptist is almost as full of wonder as the nativity of Jesus. Like Jesus's birth, there is great mystery. There was an angel who announced it; parents who hadn't planned on it; and a name for the baby that was chosen by God.

In one of the more remarkable moments of this gospel, Elizabeth defied family tradition with one succinct phrase:

"He will be called John." John is an ancient Hebrew name rich with meaning – for

Zechariah and Elizabeth. And for us. The name is not an accident; translations have it as "Gift of God" or "God is gracious". It was pronounced by the angel Gabriel – and its meaning serves to send a message to the world.

In making what seemed impossible possible...God is gracious. In working miracles where we least expect...God is gracious. In offering us that most precious and elusive commodity: hope...

God is gracious. And so it was that, before this child has uttered a word, John, just with his name, announced the hope that would come with the Christ.

God is gracious.

How desperately we need to hear that now. The news in recent months has been numbing, and dispiriting. In a time of global pandemic, of political mudslinging, of economic anxiety, it can be tempting to forget that simple, undeniable and enduring truth: despite our hardships and misgivings, our problems and setbacks, God is gracious. He gives us hope and His grace is what sustains us.

We are also reminded today that we have come to a kind of turning point in the liturgical calendar. The birth of John the Baptist is the pivot around which our calendar turns – just as his life was the fulcrum for our faith. He was the last prophet of the Old Covenant – and the first prophet of the New. He is the doorway through which humanity was able to enter the Christian era. He opened the world's ears – and eyes – to hope. He made us ready for Christ. Just past the summer solstice, when the days are longest, the nativity of St John the Baptist serves to draw our attention to a distant star of winter and the birth of hope.

As a prophet, and a martyr, and a saint, John the Baptist was one of God's gifts to a needy and searching world – a sign to us of a Father's generous love for His children. A cause for optimism and a reason for hope.

In the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, we also find a beacon of hope. The Eye Hospital provides hope for many who

are affected by ophthalmic issues. Its dedicated staff, from cleaners to consultant surgeons are a gift from God, using their God-given talents to bring hope and healing to many. Many are not Christians, yet they are proud to bear the name of Saint John and to serve God's people, irrespective of their individual faiths. Why?

Elizabeth, the Baptist's mother, put it so clearly and so perfectly, as mothers often do. Because God is gracious... and the Eye Hospital is a gift of God. Thanks be to God!



Sultan's Delight!

A late Mediæval Turkish Recipe



Soleyman the Magnificent, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, is a part of the History of the Order of Malta. As you will read in Victor's talk, he ultimately expelled the Order from Rhodes, but was unable to take Malta. The Knights Hospitaller and the Ottoman Turks were regular rivals on the high seas where they sought to raid one another's shipping.

Following on from the discussion in the Cook in the last issue, I have included a mediaeval recipe that I recently cooked and found to be delicious. With this issue focussing on the Order of Malta this recipe seemed like a good one to share. It is alleged to have been a favourite of Soleyman and originally a closely guarded and secret recipe of the Topkapi Palace kitchen. It is colloquially known as Sultan's Delight (hünkâr beğendi). Having tasted it, I think it is a shame the two sides of the conflict could not have sat across a table eating this to discuss peace. Either that or had a cook-off!

[An article I read erroneously suggested the secret family recipe was *Turkish Delight* – this goes to show the danger in misunderstanding a single word. Perhaps an issue relevant to us all when we learn our Ritual. - Ed.]

Sultan's Delight

Serves: *Four People*

Preparation Time: *Around half an hour*

Cooking time: *Just over an hour*

2lb/900g of diced lamb
4 cloves of crushed garlic
2 finely chopped red onions
2 finely chopped green peppers
6 dried figs
½ pound/200g Feta cheese
2 tbsp pepper paste
2 tbsp tomato puree
2 tbsp olive oil
2 bay leaves
Chopped Parsley (to serve)
Freshly ground salt & black pepper

For the Roux & Aubergine Puree

4-5 Aubergines
3-4 tbsp butter
Half a pint of Milk
1-2 tbsp of plain flour

Mix the diced lamb in a bowl with the garlic, one red onion, puree, paste, a bay leaf and some freshly ground salt and pepper. Cover it and place in the fridge. If possible leave it overnight to settle the flavours.

Cook the aubergines, whole with skin on, (ideally) over a woodfire barbecue – I do not have one so substituted a griddle. They need to be on a high heat and turned until the skin is charred on each side, at which point take them off the cooker and allow them to cool enough to be able to touch them with your fingers.

Slice them in half down the length of the aubergines, scoop out the flesh into a bowl and mash it. Discard the skins and stalk. Cover and store in the fridge until needed.

The Lamb Stew:

Put on a large saucepan on the hob at medium heat adding olive oil and butter to the pan. Stir in the other red onion plus a bay leaf and cook it until it is translucent. Add the green peppers, stirring for a further minute. Now add the stored lamb together with the tomatoes, dried figs and hot water. Bring the mixture to the boil, before reducing the heat to low and simmering for an hour. Season to taste.

The Aubergine Puree

About ten minutes before the stew is due to be ready, make a roux in a separate saucepan. Personally I judge the proportion of butter, flour and milk by how it thickens, but the above amounts are a rough guide. Melt the butter over a low heat and then gradually add the flour, stirring it into the butter. Turn the hob up to medium and slowly whisk in the milk. Once the roux is made add in the mashed aubergine and stir frequently for about five minutes as the mixture thickens, before stirring in the feta cheese.

Spoon portions of the aubergine puree onto a plate or bowl first, adding the stew on top and then sprinkle chopped parsley. It is not part of the traditional recipe, but I make a separate portion of rice or couscous to serve it with in order to offset the richness of the dish.

Next Issue:

Recipe for a Mediæval flatbread thanks to the Provincial Sub-Prior.

Preceptory FOCUS

Londinium Preceptory of Installed Preceptors No. 632



Londinium Preceptory and Priory was founded in 2001 by a number of notable Knights of the Province, including the founding editor of this publication, V.E.Kt. George Hodge.

It is open to all Installed Preceptors holding a subscribing membership of a London Preceptory and holds two meetings per year at 10 Duke Street followed by an excellent meal in a nearby Club. The Installation of the new Preceptor takes place on the Third Wednesday in December and includes the outgoing Preceptor normally presenting a short paper on a topic of interest to our Orders. This year V.E.Kt. Victor Parnis presented an interesting talk on the history of the Island of Malta, before installing the new Eminent Preceptor, Richard Bowyer (pictured here with the new Registrar, E.Kt. Roger Farley). A summary of Victor's excellent presentation may be found on

page 12. On the first Friday in July Londinium normally holds what is effectively the *other* Malta meeting for the Province. The Eminent Prior for the year is installed plus the Malta Ceremony is conducted for any Knights Templar awaiting the same. Aside from the camaraderie, being a member of Londinium affords the opportunity to take a regular part in a full Knights of Malta meeting as an Officer. This is a most meaningful Ceremony and worth seeing and taking part in as often as possible. If you are an Installed Preceptor, or soon to be, and interested in joining this highly prestigious Preceptory. Provincial Officers especially are encouraged to join Londinium and broaden their contacts across the Province. Please feel free to make contact with the Registrar via:

reg632@londonprovincekt.org



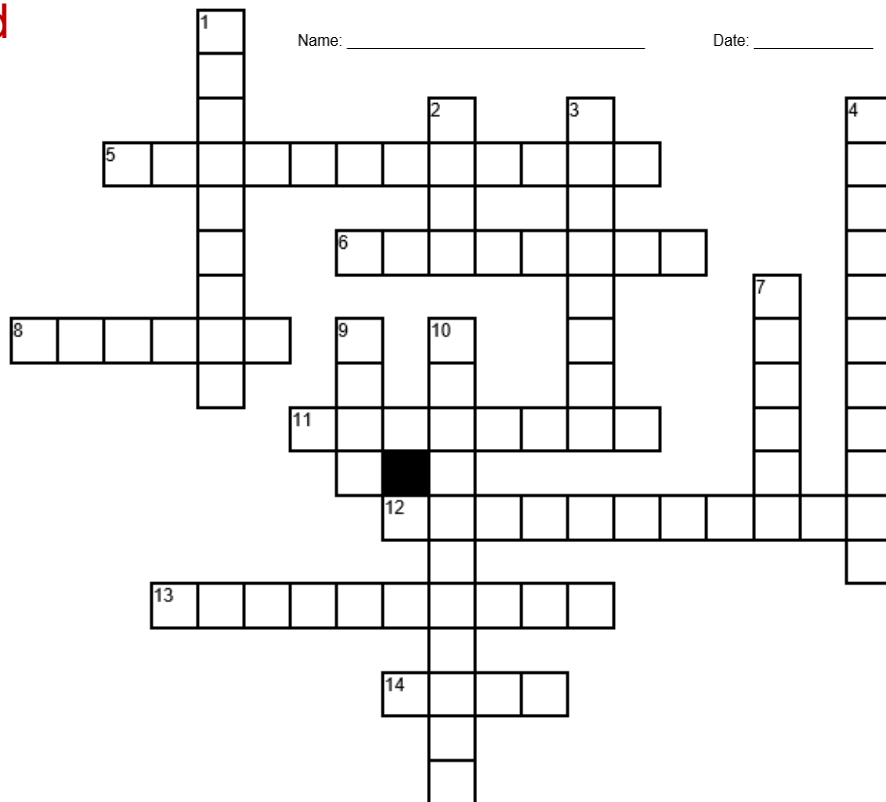
A Knightly crossword

Across

5. The Immediate Past Great Prior of Malta (5,7)
6. The site of the original Hospital of St John (8)
8. Shipwrecked on Malta (2,8)
11. The Sultan that captured Rhodes from the Hospitallers (8)
12. The first editor of Knightly Topics (6, 5)
13. Patron of the Hospital; St John (3, 7)
14. Site of the newer Eye Hospital opened in 1992 (4)

Down

1. The London Priory of Installed Priors (9)
2. Queen who gave a speech at the Eye Hospital Gala in 2018 (you may need to check the Eye Hospital YouTube page for this). (4)
3. Grand Patron of the United Orders and chartered the Most Venerable Order (8)
4. A Malta Officer; historically in charge of the local mercenary light cavalry (11)
7. The legendary Founder of the Hospital (6)
9. The servant that may cut off a bad Knight's spurs (4)
10. The main location the Eye Hospital outreach serves (3,4,4)



Name: _____

Date: _____



**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**

Two orders One history

Why do we support the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and what connection is there between us? These are questions I have heard asked by individuals on a number of occasions.

The United Orders

I would firstly note that our Templar Order has enjoyed Royal patronage almost from its earliest inception. Aside from a Charter issued by the Camp of Baldwyn in 1780, our (now) United Orders first came together under a central authority via Thomas Dunckerley's Grand Mastership of 1791. King George III officially recognised him as a Fitzroy, an illegitimate son of George II (although some modern scholars have challenged his claim). Even the Camp of Baldwyn in Bristol, Antient York Conclave of Redemption in Yorkshire and Antiquity Encampment in Bath ultimately consented to the plan and accepted Dunckerley as the head of the Orders.



H.R.H. Prince Edward took over as Grand Master from 1804 to 1807 when he became Duke of Kent and our first Royal Grand Patron with the first Duke of Sussex assuming the title of Grand Master in 1812. From then until his death in 1843, the Duke of Sussex took the reins, albeit permitting very little additional activity. This was seemingly due to the recent conflict between the Antients and the Moderns over what constituted the pure antient form of the Craft.



In 1872 H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, became Grand Master and his mother, Queen Victoria, became Grand Patron of our Orders the following year. When he ascended to the throne as King Edward VII, he also switched to begin Grand Patron. Subsequently H.R.H. Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, headed the Orders from 1908 to 1939 and King George VI accepted the honorary title of Past Grand Master in 1937. In addition to this Royal Patronage, many Peers of the Realm have been Grand Master or Great Seneschal throughout the life of our United Orders.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

After the surrender of Malta in 1798 the Roman Catholic Church maintained (some argue founded) the strictly Catholic Sovereign Military Order of Malta from the ashes of the Hospitallers that had surrendered the Island. However, ecumenical groups continued in France and elsewhere. In Nineteenth Century Britain there was a revival of interest in the Order of St John and the idea of re-establishing a physical hospital once again to care for the Lord's sick as the original Hospital had. In 1871 the British branch of the Order had a new constitution and thereafter welcomed the membership of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales.

British members noted the severe eye problems afflicting the population of Jerusalem and Palestine at the time, especially trachoma, concluded that this was a particular area of need. They sought permission and financial support to establish a hospital to provide specialist care and were successful in their endeavours. This new St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital was opened and in 1882 and received a Royal Charter from Queen Victoria.

In 1888 the Queen issued a further Charter officially establishing what is now the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem as a Royal Order of the Crown. On 24 July of that year she also wrote the following note to her son:

The SJEHG logo is used with kind permission.

© St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group - <http://stjohnseyehospital.org>

The St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital contd.

*“Dearest Bertie,
I want to ask you now to give me the
Order of St John and to make me a
Dame Chevalier or Lady Justice, - if it
can be –, as I take so much interest in it
all and should like to have it.
Love to all,
Ever your Devoted Mama
V.R.I.”*

From its earliest inception it has shared a number of common members with our Orders including the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn holding the position of Grand Prior.

During the First World War the original Eye Hospital was closed by the Turkish Army and severely damaged. I understand from Great Priory, that had it not been for considerable donations from our United Orders, which had already become a regular donor, the Hospital could not have reopened. Thanks to the efforts of our illustrious forebears, reopen it did and the relationship has flourished ever since.



From the great work the United Orders has engaged in, our past Great Seneschal was honoured to be made an Officer of the Most Venerable Order. We have a Commander of that Order in our own Province in the person of E.Kt. Jamie Ingham Clark (above) who is also a Trustee of the Eye Hospital, another Officer via Right Eminent Knight Eddie Goodwin, Past Provincial Prior, and both our own Right Eminent Provincial Prior and Deputy Marshal are involved in the Order.

What does the Eye Hospital do?

“Saving Sight, Changing Lives”

is the short form of their Mission Statement. That is quite literally what the Eye Hospital does every day for the inhabitants of the region.



The flagship Hospital in Jerusalem and facilities in Anabta, Hebron and Gaza plus the Mobile Outreach Programme, which travels across the West Bank bringing eye care to isolated communities, ensures the greatest possible reach and impact in the region. The main hospital in East Jerusalem has been operating for 137 years. The hospital is also the only provider of eye care for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and sees many of the most complex eye cases that are referred from medical centres across the West Bank and Gaza. As it is the only charitable provider of eye care, the importance of the hospital for the region cannot be overstated.

The Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, treating patients regardless of ethnicity, religion or their ability to pay.

The Hospital continues to treat trachoma and the patients in the region have a higher rate than we do of congenital issues such as cataracts and glaucoma. They also suffer from regular childhood issues such as strabismus (i.e. squints), retinal detachments, cornea scarring, childhood cancers and problems created by conflict in the region.

Things that would be quickly picked up and routinely dealt with in the West would lead to children spending their life blind or partially-sighted were it not for the outreach undertaken and the referrals made to the clinics and main Hospital. Funding and access to advanced treatment is equally as important as once diagnosis has been made the Hospital must act quickly. The patient often needs regular follow-up appointments. A very brief information film on that can be found here: [Please click here](#)

We will provide you with more information and updates in each issue.

A question periodically asked by some members is whether the Eye Hospital is not sufficiently funded by now and whether it actually needs our funding. The past few years have involved a high number of challenges for the Eye Hospital, not least the devaluation of the pound and the loss of their American government funding. This has led them to have a greater need for funding than ever and forced them to consider closing down certain vital services, such as the outreach into areas from which patients are unable to travel.

In stepped the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master utilising the donations of the members of the United Orders in order to save the outreach programme at that time.

However, the present pandemic has created a new crisis, which is outlined below and for which we request your generous attention.

Urgent Coronavirus update

The Eye Hospital faces unprecedented challenges at this time and the CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, has appealed for support to keep the Hospital staff employed through the pandemic and beyond.



The Eye Hospital is in a unique situation where it receives directives from two governments. Access in and out of the West Bank was closed in mid-March and that meant staff who live in the West Bank could not come to Jerusalem for work and so they have been put on annual leave. The Hospital is determined to support them but will soon run out of funds to do so and, in any case, when staff run out of annual leave they will go onto unpaid leave. As they are in the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority does not have the funds to support them through a government scheme. Staff who reside in Jerusalem have also been asked to go on annual leave as Jerusalem has been hit most hard by the Pandemic and is currently under lockdown; the Eye Hospital staff are not considered key workers. Once these staff use up their annual leave they will be offered some support by the Israeli government. The Palestinian Authority has locked down the West Bank (internally) and so all clinics are now only offering emergency eye care. Furthermore, the mobile outreach programme in the West Bank has temporarily ceased, and the team are providing limited services to Jerusalemites residing outside the wall. As most patients cannot access eye care, no income is being generated. The Eye Hospital's Gaza Hospital and mobile outreach is still open and seems to be

unaffected by the pandemic. Let us pray that Covid-19 does not spread to Gaza where it would be almost impossible to prevent contagion.

There are a total of 273 staff across the Eye Hospital ranging from cleaners, doctors, guards and nurses to administrators and all are essential to the Hospital's work. Staff with specialist skill in ophthalmology are in short supply in the Palestinian territories. Most of the staff have been with the Hospital for decades, and the Eye Hospital aims to secure funding for their salaries so they can continue to serve for decades to come. The staff are part of the wider communities that the Hospital serves and, as a significant employer in these communities, the Eye Hospital creates stability, economic growth, and opportunity. Eye Hospital staff and their families rely on the generosity of supporters to keep their livelihood.

I know that you will be as concerned as I am by the dire situation that the Eye Hospital finds itself in. Generations of Knights have provided support to this wonderful organisation and feel a deep sense of commitment to the Hospital, its staff and its vital work. If we do not act now to provide for continuity of staffing beyond this pandemic, the Eye Hospital of the future will be a much-diminished institution, if it survives at all. Future generations of Knights may have no opportunity to experience the camaraderie that has been built up between the Knights Templar and the staff of the Eye Hospital in making a very real difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable inhabitants of the Holy Land. We must do what we can to support the Eye Hospital and we must do so now!

Brother Knights, I am conscious that some of you may find yourselves faced with a loss of income owing to work restrictions. However, I ask you to contribute whatever you feel able so that we can support the Eye Hospital in a very practical way by keeping staff in employment through the pandemic and ensuring that they have jobs to come back to. I know that you will be as generous as you are able at this difficult time. At the very least, please keep our friends at the Eye Hospital in your thoughts and your prayers:

The Prayer of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people; Bless, we beseech thee, the work of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Especially accept our thanks for its work done with skill and faithfulness; and grant that it may continue to be a centre of light and healing to all who come within its walls and to those touched by its outreach; through him who is the Light of the World and the Great Physician, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us further pray that our combined efforts will enable the Eye Hospital to save young lives like that of young Yazan here.



How you can help

A new Appeal has been launched for 2020 by Great Priory, details of which may be found overleaf. Please read and consider this carefully.

Further Information

Further details on the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital may be found here: <https://www.stjohnseyehospital.org/> Or by contacting E.Kt. Jamie Ingham Clark:

jamie.inghamclark@stjohnseyehospital.org

20 for 2020



The present conditions having precluded a meeting of Great Priory of the Temple taking place, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master instead broadcast an excellent Address from his own home.

Cinematography was courtesy of his son, Lewis Clement, briefly pictured in the video... His full Great Priory Address may be seen:

<https://youtu.be/isbVw7D6Vc0>

The Grand Master utilised this Address to launch a new Appeal in order to help the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital with the present crisis and to extend the Swift Appeal to every single member of the United Orders.

The Swift Appeal

For the past few years, Provincial Priorities have been able to earn recognition for raising £5,000 or more in one calendar year. The Provincial Priory of London was the first to achieve this having been presented with a Swift in January 2018.

The Swifts presented are replicas of the Swifts sculpted by Mark Coreth on the Tree of Hope in the Peace Garden next door to the Muristan Clinic site in East Jerusalem. Muristan is the part of the city where the original Hospital of the Knights Hospitaller. Each donor that provides the Swift target has their name inscribed on one of the Swifts and is presented with a replica. The funds provided enable the Eye Hospital to continue to operate its many functions. More details on Muristan may be found here:

<https://www.stjohnseyehospital.org/our-impact/muristan>

The sculpted Olive Tree represents the hope for peace in the region and the Swifts the amazing birds flying annually from Sub-Saharan Africa through the Holy Land across the world. The Eye Hospital Swift was made to represent a message of hope, peace and unity.

The 20 for 2020 Appeal

extends the Swift Appeal so that every Member of the United Orders may earn a Swift Badge by donating a minimum of £20 to the Eye Hospital in what the Grand Master has entitled the year of *"Perfect Vision"*. This has been planned since 2019, but its importance has increased exponentially as a result of the present conditions.

Donations may be made electronically at: <http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020> or by cheque.

Full details of *how* to donate may be found here including a video by Jamie:

<https://markmasonshall.org/orders/knights-templar/219-knights-templar-20-for-2020-appeal>



Each £20 donation will be recognized by sending you a limited edition Swift tie/lapel pin

Provincial Priory Alms

The Provincial Prior hopes that every Knight in the Province will donate to this appeal. You can make more than one donation but, as the Provincial Prior mentions in his welcome to the Service for St John the Baptist, we would encourage you, if you are able, to top up your donation through the Provincial Appeal especially as this is the only collection of alms at this service (and may be for Provincial Priory generally in 2020)!

You can donate now at:

<https://mcf-relief-chest-scheme.everydayhero.com/uk/st-john-s-eye-hospital-jerusalem>

Please use this hyperlink rather than going in through the Masonic Charitable Foundation home page.

A brief resume of the history of Malta

V. E. Kt. Victor Parnis, P.Gt.Reg.

The ensuing topic is not meant to be a history lesson but rather to illustrate simply the influence of the interaction to the evolution of the island situated at the crossroads of the trading and warring routes. This included:

- † the impact of invasions by so many conquerors: the Phoenicians, Persians, Romans, Vandals and Goths, the Byzantine Ottomans and Arabs, the French and the English;
- † the two hundred and fifty years occupation and influence of Knights of Malta drawn from a mix of nations and languages;
- † the influence of Masonry (different Masonic Orders including the French Rite of which some of the original Knights of Malta were secretly members);
- † different Languages including Sanskrit, Arabic, Latin/Roman and English.
- † As the Knights of Malta did not have anywhere to which they could return or could call home they (having been repulsed from the Holy Land, lost Rhodes to Suleiman, etc) they made the Island their home split into Provinces/ Langues. Interestingly, the Phoenician Name Malta (Maleth) means Refuge, haven or Harbour. Greek Melite – honey.

Prehistory (the Neolithic period) the first inhabitants probably migrated from Sicily during 4500 – 2500 BC and were Farmers growing wheat, barley, rearing goats. Around 3500 BC the settlers built many mysterious megalithic structures/temples (Goddess of Fertility Astarte in Temple). **Phoenicians 8th Century (320 years)** These temples were maintained by the Phoenicians, great traders, sailors and warriors who in the Eighth Century came from what is now Lebanon and Syria. They set up a colony and naval base, introducing their alphabet { the origin of my name Parnis is Phoenician through Greece (Parnis mountains 30 Kms NW of Athens and into Malta). They were also skilled at glass making, weaving and built great temples expanding their Empire



founding a colony and spreading into Empire founding a colony and spreading into Carthage (North Africa – Libya, Tunisia)
599 BC Cyrus the Great conquered the Phoenicians.
264 to 146 BC the Punic Wars (Carthage Phoenicians vs Rome).
218 BC Malta incorporated into the Roman Republic – the Sicilian/Latin language and laws come in and remained so until 395AD.
60 AD St Paul was taken prisoner and shipwrecked on the way to Rome introducing Christianity to the Islands.
454 & 464 AD the Vandals & Goths invade Malta and defeated Romans.
535 AD - Byzantines conquer and Malta becomes part of byzantine Empire
870 AD Ottomans and Arabs conquered Sicily and Malta Islands and ruled for 200 years; introduced much especially language followed by Normans in 1090
1048 AD – a Community of Muslims populate Malta.
1053 AD - Byzantines (schism and in competition with Rome and elsewhere – Religion and military power – try to recapture Malta but Failed.
1091 Roger of Sicily invades and defeats

the Muslims who surrendered.
1122 AD Arab uprising.
1127 AD Christianity re-established.
1194-1266 AD Malta ruled by Swabians SW Germany Bavaria under Frederick II Holy Roman Emperor, thrifty (see Hans Holbein 1497 and Kepler (mathematician 1571-1630).
1224 AD expulsion of all Muslims after uprising.
From 1266 ruled by the Angevin Dynasty: Henry II, Richard 1 Lionheart (crusades) & John of Magna Carta fame - also Angevin (Normans) Italian section in Sicily and Naples.
1283 to 1530 Aragones Rule – Catalans (Catherine of Aragon was of course Henry VIII first wife), which was brought to an end by discontent over higher taxes and feudal rule (Hapsburgs – 130 years).
1530 – 1798 Emperor Charles V bequeathed the island in 1530 to the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (Hospitallers) on condition of their using their forces to repel the Moorish rovers who occupied that part of the southern Mediterranean. They had to defend the island very frequently, formed an

The history of Malta contd.

effective navy and were often in dispute with Ottoman ships, which took the island of Djerba (Carthage now Tunisia/Libya). 1557 de Valette was elected Grand Master of Knights of Malta.

1562 The Holy Inquisition began persecutions of anyone who opposed teachings of Catholic Church (including Masons?).

The Golden age of Renaissance and up to early 16th to 17th (1350-1600) The influence of Masonry spread with the intermingling frequent visits of nobility of other main countries/provinces of what is now Europe from France, Spain, Germany, Netherlands, England and even Russia. It attracted Famous painters philosophers etc. including Caravaggio, Antoine Favray (portraits of Turks and Grand Masters Co-Cathedral in Valetta and embellishing churches), Mattia Preta Neopolitan (Ornate Italian Baroque) a Member of the St John of Jerusalem Philosophers.

1574 the Sacra Infermeria was being built: a grand hospital 500 ft main Hall and the best chemist scientists set up departments of anatomy & surgery/biology.

The resistance was formidable against a recorded 40,000 Turks and mercenaries vs 700 knights and 8000 local islanders who adopted a scorched earth policy in destroying crops and poisoning wells. One story runs that Turks beheaded prisoners and sent the heads to la Valette who in turn beheaded all the Turkish prisoners and ordered their heads to be fired from their cannons. In my naivete I didn't think that the knights particularly the Knights of Malta (Hospitallers) could be so blood thirsty. The siege was ended by the defeat of the Turks and their retreat on 8th September was declared a national holiday (the Feast of our Lady of Victories).

The GROWTH OF Masonry – this happened from when the Knights of Malta arrived, as mentioned above. Then from 1730 onwards the Inquisition was focussed on this since so many members of the nobility were Masons, mainly French Rite. Most of the Knights were of the nobility from mainland Europe and Masons frequently visiting capitals Rome, Vienna, Lyons, Marseille etc. and eventually the islands. Lodges of Harmony

by Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena (who may have been a Mason) for performances, pageants etc. mainly 'to keep the young knights out of mischief and to provide honest entertainment. There were also Cultural exchanges between Palermo, Naples and Valetta.

1775 After the Priests Rebellion against The Order was crushed and leaders executed, an investigation titled Processo Lante ordered 1776 into how deeply Masons penetrated High office and the Grand Inquisitor, who was also Ambassador to Holy office in Rome, specifically directed against Freemasonry to expose all Masons present and past. My namesake, Angelo Parnis, gave testimony at the Inquiry implicating other noblemen at whose Initiation he was present. (A law-abiding citizen or whistle-blower or shameful snitch?!!). Lante discovered that several Canons of the Co-Cathedral and his three closest associates and investigators were Masons. He had underestimated the phenomenon of Masonry and conveniently 'lost' the Report which should have been sent to the Inquisition HQ in Rome. It was only discovered thirty odd years ago in local Cathedral archives. Masonry connected Malta to European Capitals.

The following quotation from no less a person than Casanova in his Memoires: ***“Every young man who travels, who wants to know the wide world, who does not want to be inferior to another and excluded from the company of his equals in our time, must be initiated into what we call Freemasonry.”***

The Decline of the order 1770-1798 these last three decades saw the gradual decline of influence and popularity of the Order because of the lavish lifestyle, haughtiness and despotism of the Grand Masters (building ornate palaces, land-owning via feudal system – mimicking the extravagant nobility of the continent such as the Hapsburgs, Tsars, English and other notables) of corruption. They were also given to occasional cruelty and violence. As mentioned above, the rising of the Priests was violently suppressed and the leaders executed.

& Secrecy – Parfait Harmony, Zabbar Lodge (early 1700s) were in existence. Another attempt was made by the Vatican through its Grand Inquisitors of St John of Jerusalem in Malta to banish Freemasonry in 1738 and 1741 because of the presence in freemasonry of so many in the Order. As an aside, in 1732 the Manoel Theatre was commissioned, built and personally funded

The Siege Of Malta May to September 1565: Ottoman Turks besiege Malta in a violent and bloody conflict and although Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette had requested assistance/reinforcements from the Pope, Emperor Charles and the Sicilian Viceroy none was forthcoming so he was compelled to join in the action.



The history of Malta contd.

1798 Napoleon, on his way to war in Egypt invaded the island Plundered the churches, private property and raided the sacra infirmeria of silver (cutlery which was melted down to make payments to troops in Egypt) and abolished slavery, the Roman inquisition, all noble titles and forced the Knights into exile and to renounce Masonry, new reforms in education, judicial, administration, public finance and medical facilities. As consequence of which, Tsar Paul of Russia becomes de facto Grand Master of the Order as knights who fled Malta sought refuge in Russia. End of rule by the Order after 268 years.

1800 Nelson came to the aid of Malta, fighting French who surrender but 20,000 locals were killed. La Valette's sword was stolen by French during the battle and apparently has been on exhibition in the Louvre since then.

1802 Malta was returned to the Order of St John under Peace of Amiens.

1813 Malta became a Crown Colony.

1815 The Congress of Vienna reaffirmed the British Rule under Treaty of Paris.

1854-56 The Crimean war increased military activity, supply base (population in 1851 – 114,000)

1869 The Suez Canal Opened and Malta became even more important as a **strategic** staging trading post. The impact of opening of Suez Canal meant different nationalities shipping – courted by major powers.

1915 -18 Malta earned name of 'nurse of the Mediterranean' 'Sacra Infirmeria'.

1936 Maltese and English confirmed as official Languages in Schools and government and commerce.

WW2 George VI awarded the Island George Cross after it was severely bombed due to the brave resistance of the population (there was a wonderful memorial to this near the Tower of London).

1947 Malta gained self-Government, but wanted more independence.

1953 Malta considered itself to have been snubbed by British Government by not being invited to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. This upset the political class.

1964 Independence after 160 years of British Rule

1965 Council of Europe

1970 EEC

1974 Republic

2004 EU

2008 eurozone

2016 Population – circa 450,000

As a final observation, I believe Masonry in Malta is now becoming more acceptable and new Lodges, Preceptories are being consecrated as the influence of religious restriction wanes – some brethren present are Founders and Joining Members.



**V. E. Kt. Victor Parnis,
P.Gt.Reg.**

Past Provincial
Sub-Prior of London

What have you been doing during lockdown?

We would be delighted to hear and publish **YOUR** stories (especially the fun ones).

How has your Preceptory dealt with the suspension of formal Masonic activity? How have you kept in contact one another? Have you formed a WhatsApp Group or had regular Zoom calls? Have you undertaken any additional challenges for charity? Or do you have any amusing photographs of beards grown, hair shaved, et cætera?

Are there any lessons you have learned during this time that you think we could use to improve how we keep in touch outside of meetings both as an Order and a Province? This newsletter is by and for members of the Province so please help us tell your story by contacting us here: media@londonprovincekt.org

In future issues...

- Further updates on the St. John Eye Hospital
- A Day in the Life of a Knight Templar
- Special features on Pilgrimage
- A recipe for Mediæval flat bread
- Reminiscences of a Bodyguard Commander
- Provincial and Great Priory Updates
- Preceptory Focus – could this be your Preceptory?



A few final thoughts

Our eight-pointed Maltese Cross has been said to represent a number of things.



In Handfield-Jones's history of the United Orders, as well as some old versions of the Malta Ceremony, they are said to be reminders of the Eight Beatitudes, which may perhaps comfort us all during this time:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are thee, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹²Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." **Matthew 5:3-13**

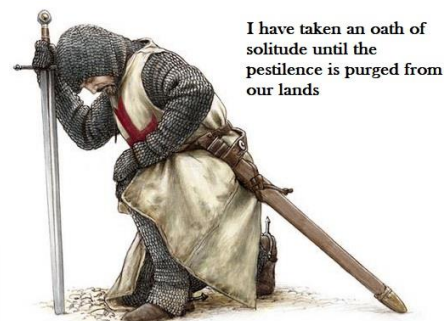
We are also taught that they represent the Eight Chivalric Virtues, which are: Loyalty, Piety, Frankness, Bravery, Glory & Honour, Contempt of Death, Love for the Poor & Sick and Respect for the Church.

We have all had to observe a new kind of bravery during this trying period when we are separated from one another and

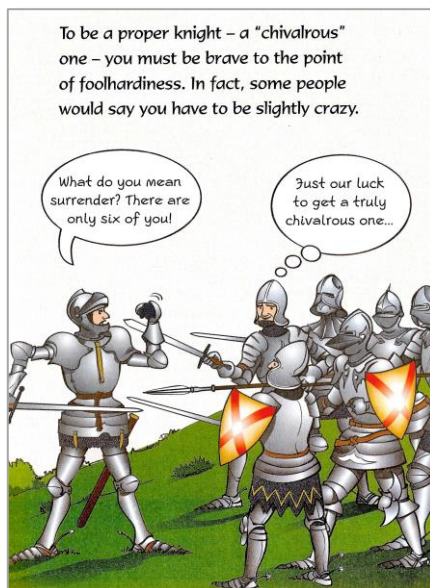
unable to meet. Many of you may have had to isolate, but never forget that your Brothers are here and available to assist.

As this issue is being put together, it appears the lockdown may be easing and it may be possible to obtain a drink out in an alehouse once more. With any luck, we may receive further guidance on resuming our meetings by the time of the next issue.

Until the lockdown eases to the point that we may all be together once more:



I have taken an oath of solitude until the pestilence is purged from our lands



Keep safe and well Brother Knights.

***Yours in the Bonds of the Order,
The Editor and Knightly Topics Team***

Thank you to the Usborne Official Knights Handbook by Sir Archibald Whistleblade for its guidance on the meaning of the Chivalric Virtue of Bravery, left.

(Perhaps books such as this may be a good gift for sons of Knights – interest them early like my Dad did! – Ed.)