

## ARIZONA SUPPLEMENT

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### **Gilbert Horal, Grand Master 1193-1200**

Gilbert Horal or Erail (died December 1200) was the 12th Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1193 to 1200. Gilbert Horal was born an Aragonese (from the Kingdom of Aragon in modern-day Spain), and entered the Templars at a young age. He stayed in the provinces of Provence and Aragon, where he took part in the battles of the Reconquista on the Iberian Peninsula, and became Grand Master of the province until 1190. Then he became the Grand Preceptor of France, and in 1193, after the death of Robert de Sablé, he became Grand Master of the Order. In 1194, Pope Celestine III gave the Templars more privileges.

Horal was known for wanting peace between the Christians and the Muslims, though some disagreed and thought that this showed treason and collusion with the enemy. During his leadership, the quarrel between the Templars and Hospitaliers increased. The arbitration of Pope Innocent III was in favor of the Hospitaliers because the Pope could not forgive the Templars for making the agreements that they had with Malek-Adel, brother of Saladin.

Another of Gilbert Horal's accomplishments was that he took the time to organize and consolidate the possessions of the Templars in France and Apulia. In Spain, the Templars took an active part in the Reconquista, and in 1196 were given the fortress of Alhambra by Alfonso II of Aragon as a reward for their efforts in the battles.

### **Phillipe de Plessis, Grand Master 1201-1208**

Philippe du Plessis (1165 – 12 November 1209) was the 13th Grand Master of the Knights Templar. He was born in the fortress of Plessis-Macé, Anjou, France. In 1189 he joined the Third Crusade as a simple knight, and discovered the Order of the Temple in Palestine. After the death of Gilbert Horal he became Grand Master. He helped uphold the treaty between Saladin and Richard I. In the renewal of this treaty in 1208 he suggested that the Teutonic Order and Hospitallers should make a new peace treaty offer with Malek-Adel. The accord was criticized by Pope Innocent III.

There were few military actions during his rule; the Fourth Crusade never arrived in the Holy Land. The King of Armenia was in opposition to the Knights regarding the Gastein stronghold. The Templars were initially expelled

from Armenia, but the pope intervened in the dispute.

Relations with the Hospitaliers were tense. During his rule the Order of the Temple reached its greatest height in Europe.

His name is last documented in 1209.

### **Guillaume de Chartres, Grand Master 1210-1218**

Guillaume de Chartres (Guilielmus de Carnoto, Willemus de Carnoto), (c. 1178 – 1219) was the 14th Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1210 – 26 August 1218. He was the son of Milo IV, the Count of Bar-sur-Seine.

In 1210, Guillaume de Chartres assisted at the coronation of Jean de Brienne as King of Jerusalem. In 1211, he arbitrated between Leo I of Armenia and the Templars, regarding the castle of Bagras. During his rule, the order flourished in Spain, achieving important victories against the Moors. He had contact with the Mongols under Genghis Khan and was accused of treason as a result.

Guillaume died in 1219 of pestilence, (possibly endemic typhus), as a consequence of being wounded during the siege of Damietta, in Seborga in the Holy Land.

### **Peire de Montagut, Grand Master 1218-1232**

Peire de Montagut (? – 28 January 1232) was the 15th Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1218 to 1232. He took part in the Fifth Crusade and was against the Sultan of Egypt's conditions for raising the siege of Damietta. He was previously Master of the Crown of Aragon.

A close friend of Guillaume de Chartres, it was most likely the trust the previous Grand Master had in him which meant he himself was elected so quickly in 1218. At the same time, the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller was Guérin de Montaigu, who is likely to have been Pere's brother. The close relationship between the two military orders during this period was probably a result of this.

His actions against the Muslim forces working for the capture of Jerusalem were so effective, that they were forced to propose a surrender. In return for the Templars calling off their siege at Damietta, the Islamic forces would return many Frankish soldiers, halt attacks on Jerusalem and most importantly, return the part of the True Cross, captured from the Europeans at the Battle of Hattin. Catholic pressure meant the Muslim terms were refused and the carnage continued. His military victories, aided by the Hospitaller knights, made him a renowned warrior.

He died in 1232 of apoplexy.

Courteously,  
Russell R. Sayre, Grand Commander 2020-21