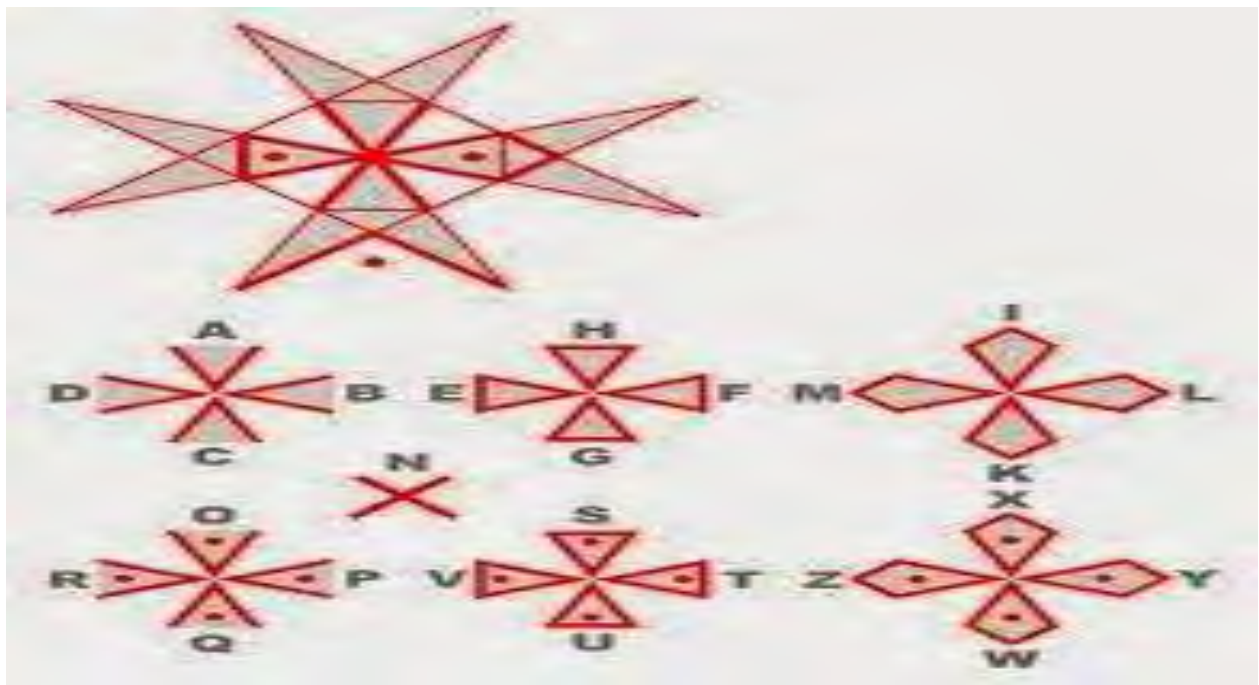




Richard N. Lewis, REGC
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Greetings Sir Knights,

Several Sir Knights have asked about the cipher that appears in our monthly Knight Templar magazine. I found some information on that and would like to share it with you. The Templars out of necessity had to come up with a way of keeping their correspondence private and secure. This protected the transactions of merchandise and other secret documents from being seen and understood by those that did not need to see them. The coded alphabet was kept from most Templars and was used only by those of higher positions. As they became creditors to French princes and even the King himself the need for secrecy was crucial. Historians have placed the code's origination somewhere around the 1200's. One researcher, Charles Maillart de Chambare proved the existence of the code on three documents from the 12th century. One of them is in the National Library of Paris. These letters of credit have been speculated to have occurred on nearly 10,000 parcels. The alphabet was created from the Templar Cross.



Each symbol is a piece of the cross of the Order. This cross was carried hanging from a ribbon. This is the cross of the eight beatitudes (Cross of Eight Points). The letter "W" did not exist in the Latin alphabet so there is the need to question the authenticity of this alphabet. This dates it as an Anglo Saxon and post Order creation. However, the National Library of Paris has a manuscript dating from the 1200s with a "W". Perhaps this was a password or an additional symbol to confuse a potential spy or as a password to authenticate the document. The cross when placed within other shapes, i.e.: a square, polygon or octagon gives rise to different symbols. This secret code was known only to the knights carrying the medallion around their necks. Remember, not every Knight had access to the medallions.

I hope that this helps everyone that is into deciphering the codes.

A lot of the information in this article came from a paper written by Camila Hoya entitled "The Secret Alphabet of the Templars".

In His Service,

Richard N. Lewis, Grand Commander