

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Sharing the love of literary works:
the connection between
our ancient Crusader brethren
& our historic Masonic roots
by Sir Knight Roger S. Ross

Fellow Sir Knights,

As I continue my journey up and down this fantastic state of California, I am greeted by many current Knights Templar who want to learn more about the origins of Templary, and of Freemasonry, and the connection between our ancient Crusader brethren and our historic Masonic roots. I have researched this history since I became an Apprentice in the mid-nineteen nineties, and continue to pursue this journey of discovery today.

I am indebted to many Brothers and numerous authors whose research pre-dates my own, and I would like to introduce my readers to some of them today.

One of the most prolific writers of Masonic/Templar fiction is, of course, Dan Brown. His *Da Vinci Code* was published twenty years ago in 2003, and became a movie that introduced (or re-introduced) much of the general public's interest into the mysterious world of Freemasonry/Templarism. He continued his semi-historic, and occasionally hysteric mixture of lore and imagination, with *Angels & Demons* and other novels featuring Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon. His novels contained just enough actual history into the Crusader's Knighthood to keep a true Templar reading to find some gems of truth woven into an exciting modern mystery story.

Moving into the non-fiction category, three other authors loom large. Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh have combined their knowledge and talent to create some fantastic tomes that sparked my interest, and I recommend them to any student of our Chivalric Order. I highly recommend both *Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (joined by Henry Lincoln, copyright 1982) and *The Temple and the Lodge* (copyright 1989) which is sub-titled: *The Strange and Fascinating History of the Knights Templar and The Freemasons*. The latter book which contains a very convincing connection between Scottish Templars and the formation of modern freemasonry...

(quoting from the top of page 194: "It is not clear precisely when-within the privacy of lodges whose records, if they ever existed, have long been lost-the connections between Freemasonry and the Templars were first made explicit. Very likely it was as early as 1689...")

The final author I would like to introduce you to today is John J. Robinson. I first read *Born in Blood* by Mr. Robinson around 1996, and was immediately hooked on the connection between the crusading Templars and the modern Masons. Part I of this book is 11 chapters about the Knights Templar, and Part II (chapters 12 through 25) is

entitled *The Freemasons*. I guarantee you that this is one fascinating read. The blurb on the inside of the cover reads: "Its mysterious symbols and rituals had been used in secret for centuries before Freemasonry revealed itself in London in 1717".

Robinson has also penned *Dungeon Fire and Sword* and *A Pilgrim's Path*, which I highly recommend to any scholar of Templary/Freemasonry, or anyone simply curious about the history of either of these two organizations. Next month I'll introduce you to (or remind you of) further authors of Masonic/Chivalric tomes.

I'd like to remind all California Templars that the Colorado River Fall Festival is fast approaching on Tuesday, October 24th. This is a great opportunity to get all of the York Rite Degrees for your candidates in a couple of days, including the entire Knight Templar Orders. You must submit your ***Request to Confer Courtesy Work*** before October 1, 2023!



Fraternally,

Roger S. Boss
Grand Commander

AMAZON LINKS TO BOOKS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ARTICLE:

Dan Brown: *DaVinci Code* [<https://a.co/d/gj6lrCT>]

Dan Brown: *Angels & Demons* [<https://a.co/d/4OIZJ73>]

Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh: *Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* [<https://a.co/d/475DYrP>]

Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh: *The Temple and the Lodge* [<https://a.co/d/j96z2Sj>]

John J. Robinson: *Born in Blood* [<https://a.co/d/ilyYvsr>]

John J. Robinson: *Dungeon Fire and Sword* [<https://a.co/d/bfqCKT7>]

John J. Robinson: *A Pilgrim's Path* [<https://a.co/d/5J9oIDo>]

✠ ATTENTION GRAND OFFICERS :

This year, the Southwestern and Northwestern Department Conferences for Grand Encampment have been combined. We will meet October 20-21 in Salt Lake City at the Little America Hotel (same location as last year). Please register ASAP, all Grand Dias Officers must attend. Please contact me and let me know that you are registered.

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