

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

Grand Masters of the
Knights Templar

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Prepared by

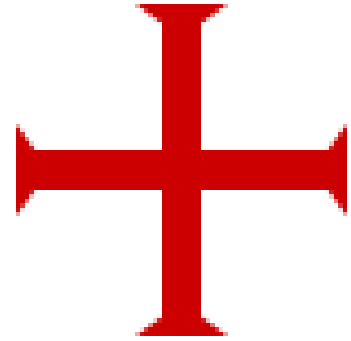


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INTRODUCTION



Grand Master

The term **Grand Master** is a title of the supreme head of various orders, including chivalric orders such as military orders and dynastic orders of knighthood. In medieval military orders such as the Knights Templar, the Grand Master was the formal and executive head of a military and feudal hierarchy, which can be considered a "state within the state", especially in the crusader context *lato sensu*, notably aimed at the Holy Land or pagan territories in Eastern Europe, as well as the Reconquista in the Iberian peninsula.

Each man who held the position of Grand Master of the Knights Templar was the supreme commander of the *Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon* starting with founder Hugues de Payens in 1118. While many Grand Masters chose to hold the position for life, abdication was not unknown. Some masters chose to leave for life in monasteries or diplomacy. Grand Masters often led their knights into battle on the front line and the numerous occupational hazards of battle made some tenures very short.

Each country had its own Master, and the Masters reported to the Grand Master. He oversaw all of the operations of the Order, including both the military operations in the Holy Land and eastern Europe, and the financial and business dealings in the Order's infrastructure of western Europe. The Grand Master controlled the actions of the order but he was expected to act the same way as the rest of the knights. After the pope issued a Papal Bull on behalf of the Templars, the Grand Master was obliged to answer only to Rome.

The following is a summary of the Grand Masters covering the period from 1118 to 1314 and the most recent Grand Masters of the restructured ORDO SUPREMUS MILITARIS TEMPLI HIEROSOLYMITANI (OSMTH) – Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem.



Payns

Payns is a commune in the Aube department in north-central France. The Commandery of Payns was located not far from the village of Payns. Payns was the fief of the lord Hugues de Payns, founder of the Order of the Temple which founded this commandery by a donation made before the October 31, 1127. Guy Bordel, son of the first master completed the property by a donation in 1130. This Commandery was abandoned by the Hospitallers of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem when they inherited it with the disappearance of the Order of the Temple, it was amalgamated with the Commandery of Troyes in the 15th century. The *Musée des Templiers Hugues de Payns à Payns* – open to the public - pays homage to Hugh de Payens and the Templars.



Hugh de Payens

(Grand Master 1118-1136)

In French his name usually appears as *Hugues de Payens* or *Payns*. There is no known early biography of Hugues de Payens in existence, nor do later writers cite such a biography. None of the sources on his later career give details of his early life. Information is therefore scanty and uncertain; embellishments depend partly on documents that may not refer to the same individual, partly on histories written decades or even centuries after his death. The earliest source that details a geographical origin for the later Grand Master is the Old French translation of William of Tyre's, *History of Events beyond the Sea*. The Latin text calls him simply *Hugo de Paganis*, but the French translation, dated to c. 1200, describes him as *Hues de Paiens delez Troies* ("Hugh of Payens near Troyes").

In early documents of that region *Hugo de Pedano*, *Montiniaci dominus* is mentioned as a witness to a donation by Count Hugh of Champagne in a document of 1085–90, indicating that the man was at least sixteen by this date—a legal adult and thus able to bear witness to legal documents—and so born no later than 1070. The same name appears on a number of other charters up to 1113 also relating to Count Hugh of Champagne, suggesting that *Hugo de Pedano* or *Hugo dominus de Peanz* was a member of the Count's court.

Hugues de Payens probably accompanied Hugh, Count of Champagne who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1104–07 and visited Jerusalem for a second time in 1114–16. Hugh de Payens remained in Jerusalem as there is a charter with "Hugonis de Peans" in the witness list from Jerusalem in 1120 and again in 1123. In 1125 his name appears again as a witness to a donation, this time accompanied by the title "magister militum Templi" ("Master of the Knights of the Temple"). He most likely obtained approval for the Order from King Baldwin II of Jerusalem and Warmund, Patriarch of Jerusalem at the Council of Nablus in 1120.

COUNCIL OF NABLUS

A council of ecclesiastic and secular lords was held in the crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem at Nablus on January 16, 1120. Nablus is a city in the northern West Bank, approximately 30 miles north of Jerusalem. It established the first written laws for the kingdom.

The council was convened by Warmund, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and King Baldwin II of Jerusalem. It established twenty-five canons dealing with both religious and secular affairs. It was not quite a church council, but not quite a meeting of the royal court; according to Hans Mayer, due to the religious nature of many of the canons it can be considered both a *parliament* and an ecclesiastical synod. The resulting agreement between the patriarch and the king was a concordat, similar to the Concordat of Worms two years later.

The canons of the council served as a sort of concordat between the church of Outremer and the Crusader States. The first canon is a promise by Baldwin to surrender the appropriate tithes to the patriarch, namely those from his own royal estates in Jerusalem, Nablus and Acre. In the second canon, Baldwin requests forgiveness for the tithes he had previously withheld, and Warmund absolves him in the third. Those who signed as witnesses to the canons were mostly ecclesiastics, with a few secular nobles.



Balantradoch

The Preceptory of Balantradoch was the principal house of the Order of the Temple in Scotland. It is eleven miles south of Edinburgh on the wooded banks of the river South Esk. The original church had a round nave, like so many Templar churches in imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. There would also once have been a full range of domestic and administrative buildings, none of which have survived. The Templars settled at Balantradoch sometime after Hugues de Payens came to Scotland and had met David I on his tour of European powers. He was gathering support for the expansion of the original band of nine knights into an international Order. From here the Templars administered the extensive properties donated by the faithful across Scotland. The Templars remained at Balantradoch until the suppression of the Order in 1307. It appears that Balantradoch was one of the few Templar properties that was transferred to the Order of St John. Today, it - and the surrounding village and parish - is referred to as Temple, Midlothian and is a recognized site in the GPUSA Pilgrim Medal Program.

At about this same time Warmund was approached by a group of Christian knights who requested permission to elect a master to lead them to defend the kingdom. King Baldwin II gave them quarters in the Temple of Solomon. Hugues de Payens was elected their master and Warmund charged them with the duty of keeping the roads safe from thieves and others who were routinely robbing and killing pilgrims en route to Jerusalem. This they did for nine years until the Council of Troyes in 1129 when they became a military order sanctioned by the Church; the Knights Templar.

As Grand Master, Hugues de Payens led the Order for almost twenty years until his death, helping to establish the Order's foundations as an important and influential military and financial institution. On his visit to England and Scotland in 1128, he raised men and money for the Order, and also founded their first House in London and another near Edinburgh at Balantradoch, now known as Temple, Midlothian. The *Latin Rule* laying down the way of life of the Order, attributed to Hugues de Payens and Bernard of Clairvaux, was confirmed in 1129 at the Council of Troyes over which Pope Honorius II presided.

COUNCIL OF TROYES

"We speak firstly to all those who secretly despise their own will and desire with a pure heart to serve the sovereign king as a knight and with studious care desire to wear, and wear permanently, the very noble armour of obedience."

Pope Honorius II, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, convened a council of ecclesiastics at Troyes, France in January 1129 to recognize and confirm the Order of the Knights Templar and to solve disputes involving the Bishop of Paris.

When Hugues de Payens spoke before the Council of Troyes on January 13, 1129, he did so in front of an august assembly of churchmen. Not only was Bernard there in person (despite the fact that he was suffering from a fever), but also Stephen Harding, Abbott of Cîteaux, the Archbishops of Sens and Rheims, ten bishops, Count Theobald of Champagne and, according to Jean Michel, the council's scribe, 'several others whom it would be tedious to record'. In addition to Hugues, the Templars were represented by Godfrey de St Omer, Geoffrey Bisol, Payen de Montdidier, Roland and Archambaud de St Aignan. The whole delegation was presided over by the Papal Legate, Matthew of Albano.

In his speech, Hugues described the origins of the Order and the rule by which they lived: attending the offices; communal meals taken in silence; plain clothing; no women. Each brother swore vows of poverty, chastity and obedience upon entering the Order. As the brethren were frequently called out of the Temple on knightly business, they were each allowed one horse (although this was later increased to three), and a handful of servants. When away from the Temple, recitation of paternosters replaced hearing the offices. Knights and servants alike were under Hugues' command, with the whole order being answerable to the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

After some debate, the Council, under Bernard's supervision, drew up what became known as the Latin Rule of the Templars, which was based on the rule described by Hugues in his speech. It consisted of 73 clauses and regulated every aspect of Templar life. In addition to keeping the observances that the Order was already following, the Latin Rule advised the brethren how to admit newcomers to the Order, and how they should be vetted before being sworn in; at what age newcomers could join (boys being advised to wait until they were old enough to bear arms); how long brothers could serve for (which was usually a fixed term before allowing them to return to secular life if they so wished); how to reprimand miscreants and what offences would lead a brother to be expelled from the Order (such as deserting the battlefield, leaving a castle without permission or via an unauthorized exit), and so on. Knights were to wear white habits, to signify chastity and purity, while sergeants and squires were to wear brown or black (it must be remembered that the majority of Templars were not knights, but those who worked in the elaborate support network in the West that allowed them to remain on military duty in the East). The brethren's clothing and the bridles of their horses were to be unostentatious, avoiding such concessions to fashion as pointed shoes with laces and long hair. The Rule demanded short hair with a monk's tonsure; beards were mandatory.

The Order was confirmed on January 14, 1129. The Order would not receive papal endorsement until 1139 when Pope Innocent II issued the papal bull *Omne datum optimum* (Latin for Every perfect gift).

Hugues de Payens died, apparently in Palestine, in 1136. The circumstances and date of his death are not recorded in any chronicle, though the Templars commemorated him every year on May 24, and it's presumed he died of old age. The 16th century historian Marco Antonio Guarini claimed that Hugues was buried in the Church of San Giacomo at Ferrara.

He was succeeded as Grand Master by Robert de Craon.

Battle of Tecua

At the end of 1138, the Kingdom of Jerusalem was weak. King Foulques was obliged to adopt a defensive attitude after the fall of the stronghold of Ba'in, in the South of the kingdom. During the summer of 1139, Thierry d'Alsace, Count of Flandre and a member the family of King Foulques, arrived in Jerusalem as his pilgrimage. He was accompanied by a small army. Foulques took advantage of his pilgrimage to set up an expedition to dislodge and destroy the plunderers settled in the mountains in the region of Galaad. The armies of Foulques and Thierry besieged the fortress of the plunderers located between mount Jil'ad and 'Ajlûn. During this long siege, Turkomans, seeing the Kingdom of Jerusalem without protection raided and plundered the village of Tecua (Teqoa). The only military force defending Jerusalem was the Templars. They raised all the available armed people to confront the Turkomans. When the Frankish armies of Foulques and Thierry approached, the plunderers disbanded in the plains of Ascalon and refused to fight. The Franks construed this as a win and set about pursuing their enemy. This mistake separated the French force. Noticing this, the Turkomans regrouped and attacked the Franks. Robert de Craon rallied the Knights Templar to head towards the front of the fight, in order to protect the flight of the Frankish knights. A great many Frankish Knights were killed and more than half of the Templars died.



Robert de Craon

(Grand Master 1136-1147)

Robert was born around the turn of the 12th century, the youngest of the three sons of Renaud de Craon - Lord of Craon – and Lady Enagen de Vitré. The Craon family was a French noble house, known to date back to the 11th century, originating in Craon in the Mayenne region of Anjou, northern France.

He eventually settled in Aquitaine and was engaged to the daughter of the lord of Angoumois, but gave up his wedding and travelled to Palestine after learning of the foundation of the Templar Order by Hughes de Payens. Robert was Seneschal of the Templars (1125) prior to succeeding Hugh de Payens as Grand Master in 1147.

As Grand Master, Robert was an excellent administrator. Under him, the Order achieved its hierarchical and management structure, and its international organization, based on the system of Provinces and Preceptories. During his reign as Grand Master, Pope Innocent III allowed Templars generous privileges. These were decreed in the Bull '*Omne Datum Optimum*' in 1139.

He was less fortunate as a military leader. As soon as he had been elected, he defeated Zengi, the emir of Aleppo and let his knights plunder the enemy camp; Zengi returned and destroyed the unorganized pillagers. Robert authorized the Spanish Templars to lead a naval expedition of about 70 ships against Lisbon, but this also ended in defeat. In 1140 the Templars resisted a numerically superior Turkish army at the Battle of Tecua. In 1143, after protracted negotiations between Raymond Berenguer IV (the Count of Barcelona and a Templar) the Order's mission on the Iberian Peninsula was defined. According to the *Obituary of Reims*, he died in January 1147, and was succeeded by Everard des Barres in April that year.



Everard des Barres

(Grand Master 1147-1151)

Everard des Barres was born circa 1113 in Meaux (around 28 miles east-northeast of Paris), France. He entered the Templar Order sometime in his teens and advanced quickly through the ranks.

In 1143, he started serving as Preceptor of the Templars in France, until his election and ascension to the station of Grand Master in 1147 when Robert de Craon, the previous Grand Master, died. At taking over as Grand Master he convened, in Paris, a meeting of the General Chapter of the Templars at which King Louis VII of France, Pope Eugenius III, many Templar knights and sergeants, and other Christian dignitaries were in attendance.



Painting by François Marius Granet of The Chapter of the Order of the Templars held at Paris, April 22, 1147

Being Preceptor of France, Everard was close to Louis VII and when the king set out for the Holy Land on the Second Crusade, Everard and a host of went along. Everard was sent ahead with other diplomats to treat with the Byzantine Emperor, Manuel I Comnenus, and work out a contract to allow the Frankish army to pass through the Byzantine territory. Diplomacy was needed as both the Franks were as suspicious of the Byzantine Emperor as he was of them.

While passing through the passes of Pisidia in the Cadmus Mountains, located in southwest Turkey, Everard des Barres saved King Louis VII's life during a battle with the Seljuk Turks. King Louis was so impressed with the courage and discipline that he placed the Frankish army under Templar command whereupon he divided them up into units with a Templar knight overseeing them. Through the rest of their journey, they lost very few lives.

Once the Franks arrived in Antioch, King Louis requested a loan of 2,000 silver marks from the Templar Grand Master to help finance further military operations; he had spent nearly all of his funds getting his troops to the Holy Land. To find the monies needed, Everard traveled to Acre and from that point the Templars started

to become the bankers and treasurers for the kings and lords in the Holy Land and in Europe.

In 1148, Everard des Barres led his Templar knights along with King Louis and King Baldwin III on an unsuccessful siege of Damascus. King Baldwin wanted to use the newly arrived Frankish army to lay siege on Damascus. The siege would most likely have been successful, except politics got in the way. King Baldwin had promised to give the city over to the Thierry of Alsace, Count of Flanders. Many of the Christian lords withdrew their troops and the Crusader army fell apart. The Muslims took advantage of this and attacked Antioch. In taking the city they beheaded Prince Raymond of Poitiers.

After the defeat at Damascus, Everard accompanied King Louis back to France. The Templar host was left back in the Middle East and his officers requested his return, but it never came. Then in April of 1151, Everard officially abdicated the office as Grand Master and became a Cistercian monk at Clairvaux. He died in the abbey at Clairvaux on November 12, 1174.

Everard des Barres set a mighty precedent as serving as a diplomat between monarchies as well as becoming a financier for them. This and their courage in battle started to catapult their reputation both in the Holy Land and in Western Europe. Becoming the treasury to the French crown would also sow the seeds that would lead to their downfall in 1307.

He was succeeded by Bernard de Tremelay.



Temple-Lès-Dole

The Commandery of Falletans (also called Dole) was founded around 1132, with the support of Count Renaud III of Burgundy, by the knights of the Temple, between the Doubs and the forest of Chaux. At the dissolution of the Order, in 1312, the Knights Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem took possession of the place until the latter were sold as national property, in 1791. The commandery then looks like a mansion, flanked towers and girders of walls, near which are a chapel and a tillery. All that remains today is the remains of a building built in the modern era with the stones of the old dungeon.



Bernard de Tremelay

(Grand Master 1149-1153)

Bernard de Tremelay was the fourth Grand Master of the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon and one of only seven who died in battle while in office.

Bernard was born sometime at the end of the 11th century, but the exact date is not known. He was born in the castle owned by his father, Humbert, Lord of Tremelay, near Saint-Claude (31 miles NW of Geneva, Switzerland) in the Jura (one of the administrative departments or regions of France). What exactly he did before joining the Templars is not known, but when he did join the Order he is seen as serving as Preceptor of the Temple-Lès-Dole in Jura, an important Preceptory in France. In June of 1151, he was elected as Grand Master of the Templar Order after the abdication of Everard des Barres.

When Bernard de Tremelay, King Baldwin III gave him the fortified city of Gaza which was an important city as it sat the gateway into Egypt, but it also stood between the Muslim controlled city of Ascalon and Egypt. The Templar Grand Master rebuilt the walls and constructed new towers to ensure it was near impregnable by land or sea. To better protect from attacks from Ascalon, he had surrounding fortresses reinforced.

At the end of 1152, King Baldwin III decided to take advantage of the divided Muslim leadership and military victories of the Latin Kingdom by leading his troops to

the city of Ascalon (between Gaza and Tel Aviv). In January of 1153, the Crusading army besieged this city. The city was besieged by land and sea, but was unable to prevent the city from being resupplied which caused the siege to cover several months. Ascalon had twice as many as the Crusaders had with ample supplies. The Crusaders were unable to break through the Muslim defenses, even with constant battering of the towers and walls. The only advantage the Crusaders was the use of siege towers that rose higher than the walls and from which they could fire volleys of arrows and missiles into Ascalon. The city wouldn't fall until late summer.

On August 15, 1153, a Templar siege tower was set afire, but because of the prevailing winds the fire blew back at the Muslims and the already weakened walls crumbled causing a breach to be opened in the Muslim defenses. The events that followed varies depending on the historical source, but all agree that the Templars were the first and only ones to make it through the breach and which resulted in the slaughter of the Templars including the Grand Master, Bernard de Tremelay, on August 16. Their bodies were hung from the walls which incensed the Crusading army; the city fell three days later.

After the death of Bernard de Tremelay, the Templar order elected André de Montbard as Grand Master.

Seneschals of the Order

- **Brother Guillaume**, mentioned in 1130
- **André de Montbard**, mentioned from 1148 to 1154, but he undoubtedly occupied the charge from 1140
- **Guillaume de Guirehia**, mentioned in 1160
- **Brother Béranger**, mentioned between 1174 and 1176
- **Gérard de Ridefort**, mentioned in 1183
- **Brother Hurson**, mentioned in 1187
- **Aymon de Aïs**, mentioned in 1190
- **Adam Brion**, mentioned in 1192
- **Brother Relis**, mentioned in 1192

André de Montbard

(Grand Master 1153-1156)



Andre de Montbard was born on November 5, 1097 in the Montbard Castle, in Burgundy. He was the son of Bernard 1st of Montbard and of Humberge de Tonnerre d'Angoulême.

The Montbard family came from Hochadel in Burgundy, and André was an uncle of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, being a half-brother of Bernard's mother Aleth de Montbard.

Recent analyses indicates that he was in the Holy Land before 1120 where he was put in charge with a certain *Gundemarus* of bringing a letter from the king of Jerusalem, Baudouin II to Bernard de Clairvaux. He entered the Order in 1129, where he quickly rose to the rank of seneschal, deputy and second-in-command to the Grand Master.

After the Siege of Ascalon on August 22, 1153, André was elected Grand Master to replace Bernard de Tremelay, who had been killed during an assault on the city on August 16. He apparently accepted his nomination with the sole intention of blocking the election of Guillaume de Chanaleilles who was a favorite of Louis VII, King of France.

He died on January 17, 1156, in Jerusalem and was succeeded by Bertrand de Blanchefort.

ELECTION OF A TEMPLAR GRAND MASTER

On the instruction of the grand commander, the commander of the election and his companion chose two more brothers, and then those four together chose two others, and so on, until their number reached twelve “in honor the twelve Apostles.” Next, these twelve appointed a brother chaplain who “will take the place of Jesus Christ” among them. The college of electors thus assembled was necessarily made up of eight knights and four sergeants. Finally, after everyone had prayed together, and after a sermon from the grand commander, reminding them that in carrying out their office they should have “God alone before their eyes, nor seek any other thing save the honor and the benefit of the house and of the Holy Land,” the electors retired and agreed on the knight who should be elected. Then they came back to the chapter, and after having made all those present swear obedience to the master of the Temple, the commander of the election went and found the man who had been appointed and said to him, “We, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, have elected as our master and now choose you, Brother So-and-so;” then turning to the rest, he said: “Fair lords and brothers, give thanks to God, here is our master.” “And straightaway the brother chaplains are to intone *Te Deum laudamus*.”



Bertrand de Blanchefort

(Grand Master 1156-1169)

The sixth Grand Master of the Order was Bertrand de Blanchefort, serving from 1156 until his death in 1169. While he is known as a warrior, his time as Grand Master was known for its reforms that transformed the image of the Templars from one of brutish knights to one of guardians, which led him to be known as the "Great Reformer of the Order."

Bertrand was born around 1109, but the exact date is not known. He was the youngest son of Lord Godfrey de Blanchefort from Guyenne. Guyenne was an old French province in southwest France whose main city was Bordeaux.

There is little information on when Bertrand de Blanchefort joined the Templar order, but what is known is that in 1156, just days after the death of the previous Grand Master, André de Montbard, Bertrand was elected to that position. His quick ascension was due to the fact that by 1156, Grand Master Montbard was an old knight and was in, as we shall say, in semi-retirement in France; similar to what the Grand Master Everard des Barres had done. In Montbard's absence, the Order was overseen by Blanchefort, so he was the most likely candidate when Montbard died in January of 1156.

Bertrand was taken prisoner after a battle between the forces led by King Baldwin III and the Islamic forces led by Nur al-Din near Banyas or Paneas in 1157. Paneas, named for the Greek god Pan, is natural springs and archaeological site located near Mount Hermon. On the return home, Baldwin dismissed the Frankish army which allowed Nur al-Din to set an ambush at Jacob's Ford just south of Hule Lake. The ambush was so successful most knights were killed, but among the captives were Odo de St Amand, Marshal of the Order (later to be the 8th Grand Master) and Bertrand de Blanchefort. He would remain a prisoner for 3-years until the



Nur al-Din

Nūr ad-Dīn Abū al-Qāsim Maḥmūd ibn ʿImād ad-Dīn Zengī (February 1118 – May 15, 1174), often shortened to Nur ad-Din was a member of the Oghuz Turkish Zengid dynasty which ruled the Syrian province of the Seljuk Empire. He reigned from 1146 to 1174. According to William of Tyre, although Nur ad-Din was "a mighty persecutor of the Christian name and faith," he was also "a just prince, valiant and wise, and according to the traditions of his race, a religious man." Nur ad-Din was especially religious after his illness and his pilgrimage. He considered the Crusaders foreigners in Muslim territory, who had come to Outremer to plunder the land and profane its sacred places. Nevertheless, he tolerated the Christians who lived under his authority, aside from the Armenians of Edessa, and regarded the Emperor Manuel with deep respect.

Byzantine Emperor, Manuel I, negotiated a treaty with Nur al-Din which included the release of the Frankish knights.

Once released, the Grand Master de Blanchefort worked on reforming the Rule of the Order which became known as the "Retraits." In this reform he specified more clearly the duties and responsibilities of the ranks within the Templar hierarchy. This "Retraits" also established some checks and balances on the authority of the Grand Master. One interesting change he pushed for was the use of the title "Master by Grace of God" which was approved by Pope Alexander III.

In 1163, Amalric I succeeded his brother Baldwin III as head of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. His focus would fall upon the caliphate in Cairo which was weakened by the infighting between the Sunni and Shiite sects of Islam. Amalric gathered his forces and set out to Egypt and was accompanied by the Templar and Hospitaller Orders. The Crusaders attempted to besiege the ancient city of Bilbeis in September of 1163, but had to retreat when the Egyptians destroyed the river embankments and flooded the plains where the Crusaders were stationed.

The following year, Amalric would have attempted to take the city, but Nur al-Din started expanding and invading into the Latin Kingdom so Geoffroi Foucher, a Templar, was sent to strike a deal with the Egyptian sultan to ally forces against Nur al-Din. In 1168, Amalric I turned back to conquering Egypt, but because of a treaty the Templars did not take part in this operation.

Surviving records show that Bertrand de Blanchefort died of old age January 2, 1169, in Reims, France.



Philip of Nablus

(Grand Master 1169-1171)

Philip of Nablus, also known as Philip of Milly, was born around 1120. Philip was the son of Guy of Milly, a knight of uncertain origin, who witnessed a dozen of royal charters in the Kingdom of Jerusalem between 1108 and 1126, and Stephanie, a Flemish noblewoman. Guy held fiefs in the royal demesne around Nablus (in the northern West Bank) and Jerusalem.

Philip first appeared in a royal charter in 1138. The absence of Philip and his brothers from the lists of witnesses of royal charters in the 1130s shows that they could not secure their father's position during the reign of Fulk of Anjou. Fulk seized the throne through his marriage with Melisende of Jerusalem and appointed his own men to the most important offices.

Philip's career started only after Fulk died and Melisende became the actual ruler of Jerusalem. He was first mentioned as lord of Nablus in 1144. Late in that year, the queen appointed Philip along with Elinand, Prince of Galilee, and Manasses of Hierges, to lead a relieve army to Edessa, but Imad ad-Din Zengi captured the town before they approached it. During the following years, he seized further fiefs, including lands in the hills near Nablus and Tyre. In 1148, upon the arrival of the Second Crusade, Philip participated in the council held at Acre, where he and the



Lordship of Oultrejordain

The Lordship of Oultrejordain was the name used during the Crusades for an extensive and partly undefined region to the east of the Jordan River, an area known in ancient times as Edom and Moab. Before the First Crusade, Oultrejordain was controlled by the Fatimids of Egypt, whose representatives withdrew when the Crusaders arrived. The various tribes there quickly made peace with the Crusaders. The first expedition to the area was under Baldwin I of Jerusalem in 1100. Baldwin also invaded again in 1107 and 1112, and built Montreal in 1115 to control the Muslim caravan routes, which provided enormous revenue to the kingdom. The Crusaders also controlled the area around Petra, where they set up an archbishopric under the authority of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

other native barons were overruled and the ill-fated decision to attack on Damascus was made.

Along with the powerful Ibelin family, Philip was a supporter of Melisende during her conflict with her son Baldwin III. In the division of the kingdom in 1151, Melisende gained control of its southern part, including Nablus. Despite this arrangement, Philip assisted Baldwin during the siege of Ascalon in 1153. He granted estates to Order of Saint Lazarus in 1153. From 1155, Philip was regularly listed among the witnesses on Baldwin's charters. He participated in the relief of Banyas in June, 1157, but he and his troops soon returned home, and were not present at Nur ad-Din's subsequent ambush of Baldwin at Jacob's Ford.

Philip's personal life is largely a mystery. William of Tyre describes him as one of the *"brave men, valiant in arms and trained from their earliest years in the art of war"* who accompanied Amalric to Egypt. Sometime after he became lord of Oultrejordain, he made a pilgrimage to the monastery of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. With his wife Isabella he had a son, Rainier (who predeceased him), and two daughters, Helena and Stephanie. Isabella died probably in 1166, which may have led to Philip's decision to take vows as a brother of the Knights Templar.

Philip joined the military order of the Knights Templar in January 1166, passing on to them a significant part of Oultrejordain, including the castle of Ahamant. Acting against the decision of the Templars, Philip joined Amalric's invasion of Egypt in 1167. The Ibelin family later recalled an event during the siege of Bilbeis, in which Philip saved the life of Hugh of Ibelin, who had broken his leg when his horse fell in a ditch. The Templars as a whole refused to support Amalric's invasion, and the king blamed them for the failure of the expedition. After the death of Grand Master Bertrand de Blanchefort in January, 1169, Amalric pressured them to elect Philip in his place in August of that year. With the election of Philip, Amalric regained Templar support for the invasion of Egypt, although by the end of the year Amalric was forced to retreat.

For unknown reasons Philip resigned as Grand Master in 1171, and was succeeded by Odo de St Amand. Philip accompanied Amalric to Constantinople as ambassador to the Byzantine Empire in order to restore good relations with them after the failure of the Egyptian invasion. He probably died on April 3, 1171 before reaching Constantinople.

OFFICERS OF THE KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM

There were six major officers of the Kingdom of Jerusalem: the constable, the marshal, the seneschal, the chamberlain (which were known as the "Grand Offices"), the butler and the chancellor. At certain times there were also bailiffs, viscounts and castellans. These offices developed from the typical officials that existed in northern France in the 11th century, the homeland of the first kings of Jerusalem.

Constable

The constable commanded the army, paid mercenaries and judged legal cases pertaining to the military. He was the most important officer in the kingdom, due to the almost constant state of warfare that existed between the Christian and Muslim states. The constable was

Pagan the Butler

Pagan was an influential retainer of Baldwin II of Jerusalem who mounted the throne in 1118. Baldwin soon reorganized the royal court and appointed his faithful supporters to the highest offices. Pagan was first mentioned as the king's butler in 1120. Pagan replaced Roman of Le Puy as lord of Oultrejordain by 1126. According to a royal charter which was issued in 1161, Pagan was the first lord of Oultrejordain, which implies that Le Puy had not ruled the whole territory of the lordship. Initially, Pagan had his seat in the castle of Montréal. After he could not prevent a band of Syrian soldiers from making a raid across the Jordan River, he decided to build a new fortress at a triangular plateau at the Wadi al-Karak which was located closer to the Dead Sea and Jerusalem. He transferred his seat to the newly built Kerak Castle in 1142. Pagan died in the late 1140s.

officially the second-in-command of the army, in which he exercised police authority and commanded a division twice as large as all others. In addition, constables also determined the boundaries and borders of the kingdom. During the coronation the constable would hold the king's horse.

Marshal

The marshal was next-in-command (and, apparently, a literal vassal) to the constable. He led the mercenaries and was in charge of the army's horses, and distributed the spoils of a victorious battle. On coronation day the marshal would assist the constable.

Seneschal

The office of seneschal in Jerusalem never achieved the prominence of its European counterparts but was important nonetheless. The seneschal administered the coronation ceremony, oversaw the Haute Cour (high court) in the king's absence, administered royal castles, and managed the royal finances and revenue. The seneschal's power was over only viscounts and not castellans, and the constable was still superior to the seneschal due in part to the kingdom's constant state of war. During coronations the seneschal would hold the royal scepter and oversee the coronation feast. The office was similar to, but not as developed as, the English office of the exchequer.

Chamberlain

The chamberlain administered the royal household and its servants, and had other honorary duties such as administering oaths. On coronation day the chamberlain would robe the king. He had his own fief from which he drew his salary.

Butler

The butler was in charge of the royal table and also administrated the kingdom's vineyards.

Chancellor

The chancellor drew up deeds and charters and managed the kingdom's diplomatic service. The chancellery is an interesting example of the fossilization of 11th century offices. It consisted of only a few secretaries and scribes, and never became the large administrative bureaucracy that had developed elsewhere in Europe. Chancellors tended to be clergymen who often became bishops or archbishops, sometimes while still holding the chancellery. The relative unimportance of the chancellor reflects the relative decentralization of royal authority as compared to states like France or England that were at the same time becoming more centralized.

Bailiff

The bailiff (or *bailli*) administered the kingdom in the absence or minority of the king, in the capacity of a regent; for example, during the captivity of Baldwin II, and the youth and illness of Baldwin IV. In the 13th century the bailiff ruled essentially as a king himself, and was the most powerful man in the kingdom, as the kings were usually foreign monarchs who did not live permanently in the kingdom.

Viscounts and Castellans

These two offices were sometimes held by one person and sometimes held by two separate people; sometimes one or the other was not held at all. They were named by the king and occupied the Tower of David, but their specific duties are mostly unknown and were probably not particularly important; one of the duties of the viscount was apprehending criminals and administering justice in the lower-class burgess court. Like the office of butler, these offices may not have survived the move to Acre.



Odo de St Amand

(Grand Master 1171-1179)

Known for his part in the Battle of Montgisard, Odo de St Amand served as the Order's eighth Grand Master.

Odo de St. Amand, also referred to as Eudes de St. Amand, was born of a noble family from Limousin, France around 1110 AD. He joined the Knights Templar in 1128. He became Grand Master after Phillipe de Milly resigned as Grand Master. He is remembered a strong and zealous leader which earned him both respect and displeasure.

He followed the Rule to a fault. In one incident in 1172, a Templar knight was accused of murdering an Ismaeli dignitary. King Amalric I, demanded that the Templar be turned over to him, but St. Amand refused, citing the Papal Bull which places the Templar order solely under the authority of the pope. Some say that the Templar knight killed the dignitary on orders from the Grand Master.



The Battle of Montgisard, 1177, by Charles Philippe Lari

He is also remembered for leading several victories, but the most notable is the Battle of Montgisard where the Templars defeated a superior size force of Saladin's Army. This battle occurred on November 25, 1177, located in Ramla (Israel southeast of Tel Aviv). This battle was between a Christian army of 375 knights, 80 Knights Templar, and several thousand infantry against Saladin's army of around 27,000 men. Saladin was taking advantage of the lack of Crusader forces in the area (as most of them were up north fighting) to march towards Jerusalem. King Baldwin IV, the leper king, dispatched what he could and to head them off. Saladin underestimated the king and allowed his army to become spread out over a large area. The two forces met at Montgisard near Ramla which caught Saladin by surprise and his troops were tired from their march from Egypt and looting. The Crusader forces charged and broke through the center routing Saladin's forces. Both sides lost many, but the Muslim forces lost over three-quarters of their troops; Saladin himself only survived by escaping on a camel.

Toward the end of his rule, St. Amand oversaw the construction of an impregnable fortress known as Chastellet near Jacob's Ford in Jordan. This fortress was located in an important place and effective with preventing Saladin's army from conquering Jerusalem in 1179.

After Saladin was defeated at the fortress, the Christians thought they could inflict further damage on Saladin so they launched an assault at the Battle of Marj Ayun (southern Lebanon). Unfortunately, Saladin had reorganized his forces and defeated the Christian Army, killing and capturing many. Among those captured was the Templar Grand Master, Odo de St. Amand. There were proposals of ransoming him, but he refused as it was against the Rule of the Order. In the next year, St. Amand died while still in jail (1180), but no exact date is known.



Arnold of Torroja

(Grand Master 1181-1184)

Arnold of Torroja was a knight of Crown of Aragon and the ninth Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1181 until his death in 1184.



Tomb of Arnold of Torroja

In February 2018 was announced the discovery of a tomb behind a wall in the San Fermo Maggiore church in Verona, which almost certainly is Arnold's final resting place. The church was destroyed when the river Adige flooded it in the 18th century. The tomb contained a stone sarcophagus with a cross pattée carved on it, itself containing a human body, and several analysis conducted by researchers of the Universities of Verona, Bologna and Nottingham together would confirm the identity of the deceased; if confirmed, it will be the first known tomb of a Templar Grand Master.

While no date of birth survives for Torroja; he was very old at his death, being in excess of 70 years when he was elected as Grand Master. He had served in the order for many years and was the Templar Master in Spain and Provence since 1167.

Arnold's military career had mainly been focused on the Reconquista, fighting Muslims for the Crown of Aragon and for Portugal but was principally active in Catalonia and Aragon. His appointment as Grand Master was likely due to his image as an outsider i.e. an experienced Templar whose power base was outside the Holy Land.

During the Grand Master's reign the Knights Hospitaller reached a new peak in their influence. There had been rivalry between orders previously but factionalism in the face of renewed Muslim pressure was unacceptable. Arnold was an experienced mediator. He tried to bring together the various factions in the East, knowing full well that if the Christians were split by internal disagreement, then their military strength would be fatally sapped. Saladin, a shrewd politician as well as a great commander in the field, was equally aware of potential hemorrhages among the Franks, and continued to consolidate his position with strategic alliances during the early 1180s, waiting for the time when Frankish disunity would signal the moment to attack.

In 1184, Arnold set off for Europe with Roger des Moulins, Grand Master of the Hospitallers, and Patriarch Heraclius in an attempt to impress upon Western leaders the gravity of the threat posed by Saladin. They planned to visit Italy, England and France, but he fell ill and died at Verona on September 30, 1184, leaving Heraclius and Roger to continue the mission alone.

He was succeeded as Grand Master by Gérard de Ridefort.



Gerard de Ridefort

(Grand Master 1184-1189)

Gerard de Ridefort came to the Kingdom of Jerusalem in the ill-fated Second Crusade, preached by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and was part of the Flemish contingent. When the French troops departed at the end of this crusade Gerard chose to remain behind. As a younger son, he had nothing to keep him in his native Flanders, so he took service with Count Raymond III of Tripoli. Gerard hoped to be given the next available fief.

He appears in the charter record in the service of Baldwin IV of Jerusalem in the late 1170s, and by October 22, 1179 held the rank of Marshal of the kingdom. Upon the death of William Dorel in 1180, Gerard expected Raymond to give him in marriage the sole heiress, Lucia of Botrun, along with her vast holdings. However, Raymond married her to Plivain the nephew of a Pisan merchant, for a bride price of 10,000 bezants.

Raymond reportedly gave to Plivain the Lady Lucia's weight in gold. Unfortunately for the Kingdom of Jerusalem, Gerard bore a vehement hatred for Count Raymond for the rest of his life, and this grudge was to have a disastrous impact on the Kingdom in the future.

Gerard fell seriously ill, after which he took vows as a Templar. De Ridefort's rise in the Order of the Temple was meteoric. By June, 1183 he held the rank of seneschal of the Order. He was elected Grand Master in late 1184 or early 1185, after the death of Arnold of Torroja in Verona.

The year 1185 was a year of factional polarization in the Kingdom of Outremer. In March, King Baldwin IV, known as the Leper King of Jerusalem, finally succumbed to his illness. Foresighted enough to put in writing his wishes on the matter of succession, he designated his nephew Baldwin V, called "Baudoinet" as his heir. Raymond III of Tripoli was chosen as Regent until Baudoinet's majority. Should Baudoinet die before his majority or without issue, the succession was to be decided between the pope, the Holy Roman Emperor and the kings of England and France.

Gerard continued to hold a grudge against Raymond of Tripoli, which influenced some of his political maneuverings. In 1186, when Baldwin V of Jerusalem died, Gerard took the side of Queen Sibylla and her husband Guy of Lusignan in the ensuing succession struggle. Raymond and his allies the Ibelin family were the leaders of the opposing faction, who supported the claim of Sibylla's younger half-sister Isabella.

However, Baldwin IV's wishes were ignored. During a palace coup, an alliance of Alice de Cortenay, the queen mother; Princess Sybilla, Baldwin's sister, Lord Raymond de Chatillon, the Lord of Kerak and Outrejordan and the Templars, seized the city of Jerusalem. Princess Sybilla was crowned Queen of Jerusalem. She then placed the crown on the head of her husband, Guy de Lusignan, a landless adventurer.



Guy of Lusignan

Guy of Lusignan (c. 1150 – July 18, 1194) was a French Poitevin knight, son of Hugh VIII of the Lusignan dynasty. He was king of the Crusader State of Jerusalem from 1186 to 1192 by right of marriage to Sibylla of Jerusalem, and of Cyprus from 1192 to 1194. Having arrived in the Holy Land (where his brother Amalric was already prominent) at an unknown date, Guy was hastily married to Sibylla in 1180 to prevent a political incident within the kingdom. As the health of his brother-in-law, Baldwin IV, deteriorated, Guy was appointed regent for his stepson by Sibylla, Baldwin V. Baldwin IV died in 1185, followed shortly by Baldwin V in 1186, leading to the succession of Sibylla and Guy to the throne. Guy's reign was marked by increased hostilities with the Ayyubids ruled by Saladin, culminating in the Battle of Hattin in July, 1187—during which Guy was captured—and the fall of Jerusalem itself three months later.

Raymond III of Tripoli, the former regent, rebelled openly against the new king, and in the winter of 1186-1187 (at the urging of Master Gerard), King Guy harried Count Raymond, until he felt forced to ally with the Sultan of Egypt, Saladin. Gerard saw this as further cause to denounce Raymond as a traitor to the Crown. Most of the other barons of the kingdom disagreed, and compelled King Guy to agree to arbitration to settle the dispute.

In the crisis of 1187, Gerard used the money sent by Henry II of England and deposited with the Templars in Jerusalem to hire additional troops for the *arrière ban* to defend the Kingdom of Jerusalem from Saladin. (Henry had sent the funds for his own future crusading plans, in penance for the murder of Thomas Becket: some of it was deposited with the Templars, some with the Hospitallers, in Jerusalem and Tyre). Gerard and fewer than 100 Templars, together with some Hospitallers, attacked Saladin's son al-Afdal at the Battle of Cresson; al-Afdal, however, had over 5,000 men. The Hospitaller Grand Master Roger de Moulins was killed; Gerard, though wounded, was one of the few survivors. Gerard's report of the battle was the source for a short narrative written by Pope Urban III to Baldwin of Exeter, archbishop of Canterbury.

In July of the same year Gerard led the Templars at the Battle of Hattin. Saladin had captured Tiberias and Guy was contemplating a march on the city to retake it. Raymond advised him to wait for Saladin to come to them, since they were in a well-defended, well-watered position, and would have to cross a dry open plain to reach Tiberias. Gerard opposed this, and convinced Guy to continue the march. He was supported by Raynald of Châtillon, a fellow enemy of Raymond.

The armies of Outremer ended up trapped on the dry plain and were defeated on July 4. Raymond and several other nobles escaped, but Gerard, Guy, and Raynald were captured by Saladin. The rest of the Templar prisoners were executed. Gerard remained a prisoner until 1188, during which time his Order was commanded by Brother Thierry from Tyre.

Gerard was given the condition by Saladin that, if he could convince a Templar fortress to surrender peacefully, he would be set free. He succeeded and on his release went to Tortosa, where he ably led the Templars' defense of their castle, which held out after the fall of the town to Saladin's siege forces. Having taken back control of his Order from Thierry, he seems to have seized the remainder of Henry II's money which had been left with the Templars in Tyre. This provoked a complaint from the city's defender, Conrad of Montferrat, in letters of 20 September, 1188 to Baldwin of Exeter and Frederick Barbarossa: "...*graver still, the Master of the Temple has made off with the King of England's alms*".

In 1189, he again joined forces with Guy, taking the Templars to the Siege of Acre. He was beheaded after being taken prisoner by Saladin again on October 4, 1189.



Robert IV de Sablé

(Grand Master 1191-1193)

Robert IV de Sablé was Lord of Sablé, the eleventh Grand Master of the Knights Templar and Lord of Cyprus from. Sablé-sur-Sarthe, commonly referred to as Sablé, is a commune in the Sarthe department, in the Pays de la Loire region, in western France.

Robert was born to a respected military family in Anjou and was a leading Angevin (House of Anjou) vassal of the king. His lordship was based in a cluster of lands in the River Sarthe valley, which he inherited in the 1160s.

In 1173, Sablé supported Henry the Young King, heir apparent to the throne of the Kingdom of England and duchy of Normandy, in a revolt against his father Henry II during the Revolt of 1173-1174. The uprising was crushed but Robert must have remained in favor with the Angevin kings, as Richard would later be instrumental in his appointment as Grand Master. He contributed money to French monastic houses in 1190 as a way of making amends.

Before his election as Grand Master, he led King Richard I's navy from England and Normandy to the Mediterranean, getting involved in the Reconquista in passage. The combined might of Richard the Lionheart's strategy, seasoned troops, and the elite Templar knights scored many victories. During the Third Crusade, they laid siege to the city of Acre, which soon fell. Throughout August, 1191, they also recaptured many fortresses and cities along the Levantine coast in the Eastern Mediterranean, which had been lost previously.

The new coalition's finest hour was the Battle of Arsuf, on September 7, 1191. Saladin's Muslim forces appeared to have become far stronger than the Christians, and a decisive victory was desperately needed. Pooling all of the Crusaders' strength, the Knights Hospitaller joined the ranks, plus many knights from Sablé's native Anjou, Maine, and Brittany. They met Saladin's troops on the dry plains and soon broke his ranks. Those who stayed to fight were killed, and the remaining Islamic troops were forced to retreat.

Sablé was lucky to have been Grand Master at all, as at the time of Gerard de Ridefort's death, he was not a member of the Templar Order. However, the senior knights had become increasingly opposed to Masters fighting on the front line, and the capture and beheading of Grand Master Gerard de Ridefort became the final straw. They delayed elections for over a year so that the rules regarding active service of Grand Masters could be reviewed. During this hiatus, Sablé did join the Order, just in time to be considered for election. When he was made Grand Master, he had been a Templar knight for less than a year.

Robert died in the Holy Land on September 23, 1193. Although there are no exact records of his birth date, it is believed that he was relatively old at the time of his death compared to the average life expectancy of the 12th century.

He was succeeded by Gilbert Horal.



Pope Celestine III

Born Giacinto Bobone reigned from March 30 or April 10, 1191 to his death in 1198. He was born into the noble Orsini family in Rome and served as a cardinal-deacon prior to becoming pope. He was ordained as a priest on April 13, 1191 and he ruled the church for six years, nine months, and nine days before he died aged 92. The Orsini family was one of the most influential princely families in medieval Italy and Renaissance Rome. Members of the Orsini family include three popes: Celestine III (1191–1198), Nicholas III (1277–1280), and Benedict XIII (1724–1730). In addition, the family membership includes 34 cardinals, numerous *condottieri*, and other significant political and religious figures.



Gilbert Horal

(Grand Master 1193-1200)

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 Celestin III confirmed the Papal Bull '*Omne Datum Optimum*' and so extended all privileges previously allowed to the Order. Prudent and rational, he tried to keep a politic of equilibrium between Christians and Muslims. He strongly committed himself so that the Treaty between Saladin and Richard Lion Heart was respected by Christians. Pope Innocent III and several Frankish lords denounced the attitude of Horal, accusing the Order of treason and collusion with the enemy. Gilbert Horal had to use all his diplomatic art to calm their minds.

During the time Horal was Master, quarrels between Templars and Hospitallers assumed gigantic and disastrous proportions. The two Orders engaged in armed fights about possession of cities and castles. In the quarrels, Pope Innocent III arbitrated in favor of the Hospitallers. It seemed as though he couldn't forgive the Templars for the treaties they signed with Malek-Adel, brother of the deceased 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 Alfambra by Alfonso II of Aragon as a reward for their efforts in the battles.

Gilbert died in December, 1200.



Phillipe de Plessis

(Grand Master 1200-1208)

Philippe was born in the fortress of Plessis-Macé, near Anjou, France in 1165.

In 1189 he joined the Third Crusade as a simple knight, and discovered the Order of the Temple while in Palestine. The Third Crusade was largely successful, recapturing the important cities of Acre and Jaffa, and reversing most of Saladin's conquests, but it failed to recapture Jerusalem, which was the major aim of the Crusade and its religious focus.

He was elected Master of the Order in the spring of 1201, some months after the death of Gilbert Horal. Upon election du Plessis adopted the same guiding principles of his predecessor, in that he upheld the truce between Saladin and Richard Lion Heart. What is more, at the end of this treaty in 1208, du Plessis proposed to the Masters of the Hospitallers and Teutonic Knights that they make a



Fortress of Gastein

Controlling in the south the approach of the Belen pass, this fortress was, at the time of the Crusades, of primordial importance for the defense of the Principality of Antioch. Known then as Gaston or Gastin, it passed under Frankish control in the years 1150, where the circumstances of its capture are not precisely known. In 1154, Brothers of the Temple held garrison there, as various chronicles report how a contingent of Templars of Gaston surprised and destroyed the body of the army launched by the Sultan Mas'ûd in the gorge of La Portelle. About 1170, the castle was taken from the Templars by the Armenian adventurer Mleh. At his death in 1175, his former "brothers" reoccupied their citadel. Thirteen years later, on September 26, 1188, the sultan Saladin seized the fortress, before dismantling it at the alarming announcement of the imminent arrival of the armies of Frederic Barberousse. It was the knight Foulques de Bouillon who recovered the citadel. In spite of ceaseless claims of the Templars and repeated interventions of the pope, the Armenian sovereign agreed to return Gaston to his rightful owners only in 1216, when it was deemed hardly defensible from the armies of the Baïbars which had just crushed Antioch, thus preferring to give up it after setting it on fire

new peace treaty with Malek-Adel. Pontifical legates harshly criticized this new accord and a political crisis ensued between the Templars and Pope Innocent III. The pope went so far as to threaten the Templars with apostasy if they refused to obey the legates.

During the term of du Plessis as Master, the Templars rarely participated in military actions. The Fourth Crusade was taken out of his control as was the finish of the siege of Constantinople. This may well have suited du Plessis as he generally tried to keep a good and peaceful relationship with the Muslims.

Despite his best efforts, a serious crisis nevertheless broke out between the Order of the Temple and the King of Armenia regarding the fortress of Gastein. The King of Armenia took advantage of the conflict to evict the Templars from his kingdom and to seize their properties. The pope had to intervene and pass judgement in favor of the Templars. The Order was therefore regained their unduly seized domains.

The relationship between the Templars and the Hospitallers was less than amicable. Their relationship was another dispute in which the pope had to constantly intervene in order to settle problems. In these inter-Order conflicts, the pope passed judgement in favor of the Hospitallers. This led the Templars into an association of increasing distrust with the Papacy.

To the credit of du Plessis, during his term as Master, the Order reached the pinnacle of its development in Europe. Gifts and recruits poured in from each and every Templar province.

The name of du Plessis appeared for the last time in an act signed in 1209. Reims obituary mentions his death on November 12, 1209.



Guillaume de Chartres (Grand Master 1210-1218)

Originating from Champagne, Guillaume de Chartres (c. 1178 – 1219) entered the Order when he was very young. He was the son of Milo IV, the Count of Bar-sur-Seine. He was admitted by the brothers of the Preceptory of Sours, located near Chartres.

The route of de Chartres in the Order before his election as Master is somewhat unknown. What is known is that he was elected Master at the beginning of 1210, sometime after the death of Philippe du Plessis at the end of 1209. He was also have been the Preceptor of the castle of Saped before 1188.

The first official act of de Chartres came in his first year (1210) as Master when he was called upon to assist at the crowning of Jean de Brienne as the new king of Jerusalem. This was of course just an honorific title for de Brienne as Saladin had controlled the city since 1187.

At the beginning of his term as Master, de Chartres built the fortress of Chateau-Pelerin (Athlit), on the road between Cesaree and Haïfa. In 1211, he arbitrated between Leo I of Armenia and the Templars, regarding the castle of Bagras.

As well as fortress building, Guillaume de Chartres also made himself busy with the problems of the '*Reconquista*' on the Iberian Peninsula. He sent a lot of reinforcements and equipment to the area. On July 16, 1212, the Templars participated in the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa. The battle was an important turning point in the *Reconquista* and in the medieval history of Spain. The Christian forces of King Alfonso VIII of Castile were joined by the armies of his rivals, Sancho VII of Navarre, Peter II of Aragon and Afonso II of Portugal, in battle against the Almohad Muslim rulers of the southern half of the Iberian Peninsula.

During Chartres' rule, the order flourished in Spain, achieving important victories against the Moors. Kings and great lords offered domains and fortresses to the Order, including the city of Tortosa (South of Catalogne) and the castle of Azuda (Sudda).

During the Fifth Crusade to the Holy Lands, Jean de Brienne (King of Jerusalem), Andre II (King of Hungary), and Pelage (the pontifical legate) decided to invade Egypt by the sea, beginning at Damiette. Against his judgment, Guillaume de Chartres was obligated to follow this conquest.

The siege of the city of Damiette lasted eighteen months during which all assaults failed. To make matters worse, conflict between Pelage and Jean de Brienne regarding the commandment of the army allowed the Muslims to send a reinforcing army to Damiette. Guillaume de Chartres headed the Templar army as they went to meet these reinforcements in an attempt to save the Christian troops from disaster.

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.

Reconquista

The ***Reconquista*** (Spanish and Portuguese for "reconquest") is a name used in English to describe the period in the history of the Iberian Peninsula of about 780 years between the Umayyad conquest of Hispania in 711 and the fall of the Nasrid kingdom of Granada to the expanding Christian kingdoms in 1491. The completed conquest of Granada was the context of the Spanish voyages of discovery and conquest (Columbus got royal support in Granada in 1492, months after its conquest), and the Americas—the "New World"—ushered in the era of the Spanish and Portuguese colonial empires.

Traditional historiography has marked the beginning of the *Reconquista* with the Battle of Covadonga (718 or 722), the first known victory in Iberia by Christian military forces since the 711 military intervention in Iberia of combined Arab-Berber forces. In that small battle, a group led by the nobleman Pelagius defeated a Muslim patrol in the mountains of northern Iberia and established the independent Christian Kingdom of Asturias. The *taifas* of al-Andalus tried to prevent the Christian threats from the north by paying *parias* (a form of tribute). After a Muslim resurgence in the 12th century the great Moorish strongholds in the south fell to Christian forces in the 13th century—Córdoba in 1236 and Seville in 1248—leaving only the Muslim enclave of Granada as a tributary state in the south.

After 1491, the entire peninsula was controlled by Christian rulers. The conquest was followed by the Alhambra Decree (1492) which expelled Jews who would not convert to Christianity from Castile and Aragon, and a series of edicts (1499–1526) which forced the conversions of the Muslims in Spain, although later a significant part of them was expelled from the Iberian Peninsula.



Piere de Montagut

(Grand Master 1218-1232)

Master of the province of Aragon since 1211, Pierre de Montaigu participated beside Guillaume de Chartres at the siege of Damiette.

The city, under the control of the Ayyubid sultan Al-Kamil, was besieged in 1218 and taken by the Crusaders in 1219. At the beginning of the Fifth Crusade, it was agreed that a force would attempt to take the Egyptian port city of Damietta, located at the mouth of the river Nile. The Crusaders then planned to use this city as a launching point for the southern portion of a pincer attack upon Jerusalem from Acre and Suez. Control over the area would also provide wealth to finance the continuation of the crusade, and reduce the threat from the Muslim fleet.

The city of Damietta was well fortified, with 3 walls, 28 towers, and a moat. The first objective of the Crusaders was to take the defensive river tower that protected the fortress of Damietta and anchored one end of a chain across the harbor. However, the approaches to the tower were limited by the large iron chain to the east, and the shallow depth of the river to the west. Assaults upon the tower began on June 24th, but they repeatedly failed. As a result, the Crusaders created a new type of naval siege weaponry, sometimes attributed to the chronicler Oliver of Paderborn; two ships were bound together, and four masts and sailyards were built, with a siege tower and ladder constructed on top. The structure was then covered with a layer of animal skins to protect from enemy attacks. On August 24th, the engine was brought to the tower; the next day, the men in the tower surrendered.

At the death of de Chartres in August, 1218, Pierre de Montaigu was immediately elected Master by the Knights gathered for a General Chapter. The siege of Damietta continued, but a discord seemed to occur within Muslim ranks. The Franks took advantage of this to cross the Nile River and to make raids in the fertile plains of the Nile delta. There, Frankish forces found themselves face to face with the Muslim troops of the Sultan of Caïro and the Sultan of Damas, who put their quarrels aside to unite against their common foe.

On February 25, 1219, the Crusaders received welcome news. The Sultan Al-Kamil had retreated, leaving the river bank near the city unoccupied by hostile forces. Pierre de Montaigu, with Guerin de Montaigu, Master of the Hospital, and Herman von Salza, Master of the Teutonic Order, joined forces to meet the Muslim army. The Crusaders quickly advanced, and spent the spring and summer fighting the Muslim troops with varying success. On August 29, the Crusaders attempted a large-scale attack on the enemy camp, but they quickly became disorganized and the Sultan's counterattack was fairly successful.

Soon after, a temporary truce was established, and peace terms were offered by the Sultan. The terms were highly favorable to the Crusaders; the Muslim leaders had agreed to surrender the city and Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Holy Cross, and all Christian captives in Egypt and Damascus, only withholding the fortresses of Kerak and Montreal. They even agreed to supply funds to repair Jerusalem's walls. King John advocated for accepting the peace terms, backed by the French and German troops. On the other hand, Cardinal Pelagius, backed by the Templars, Hospitallers,

and Italians, opposed it. Eventually, the terms were denied, and the fighting continued.

In early November, 1219, the Crusaders found the city of Damietta nearly unguarded. Upon entering the walls, they found that the town had been devastated by the lack of supplies and disease.

The occupation lasted only two years. In 1221, the city was recaptured by the Muslims and an 8 year truce was signed between Muslims and Christians. This truce enabled the Templars to send reinforcements from the Holy Land to Spain in order to participate in the Reconquista. On several occasions Pierre de Montaigu played the role of arbitrator between Jean de Brienne, Legate Pelage and the Hospitallers. In the course of these occasions, he showed a great diplomatic sense as he managed to conciliate the different parties.

In 1227, the Master of the Temple and the Master of the Hospital harshly criticized the attitude of the Germanic Emperor Frederic II. The Emperor preferred to stay in Italy rather than visiting the Holy Land as he had promised to Pope Honorius III and his successor Gregoire IX. Frederic II was excommunicated and as revenge, he attacked the Templar and Hospitaller domains within his European territories. Several Preceptories were plundered and some Templars and Hospitallers were killed.

Both Masters were also outspoken against Frederic II when he alone negotiated the retrocession of the city and the Kingdom of Jerusalem with the Muslims. The treaty was signed in Jaffa at the beginning of 1229 by Frederic II and the Sultan of Egypt. The city was returned to Frederic II, except for the Omar Mosque, an Islam holy place. Pierre de Montaigu accused Frederic II of wanting to establish his temporal power by seizing for himself alone all the wealth of Palestine. This accusation did nothing to calm the strained relationship between the two antagonists.

After signing the treaty, Frederic entered Jerusalem to be sacred king in the Church of the Saint-Sepulchre, despite being excommunicated by Pope Gregoire IX. Jean de Brienne was obligated to abdicate in favor of Frederic because Frederic had married his daughter Yolande, in 1225, four years earlier. When Frederic II arrived in Jerusalem, a riot broke out and he had to leave the city hurriedly. The Germanic Emperor accused the Master of the Temple of instigating the revolt. Frederic II fled back to Europe hurriedly, because his possessions in Italy were being threatened by an army raised by the pope and lead by the dethroned King, Jean de Brienne.

After these episodes, Pierre de Montaigu organized several raids against Muslims armies which encircled the few remaining cities of the Latin States. According to a Reims obituary, de Montaigu died in January, 1232.

The next Grand Master of the Order was Armand de Périgord.



Count of Périgord

Count of Périgord is a noble title in the peerage of France, first created for Emenon, who was also Count of Poitiers and Count of Angoulême. Most likely, the title was bestowed on Emenon in 845 by Pepin I of Aquitaine as a reward for Emenon fighting with Pepin against Louis the Pious. The title takes its name from the Périgord region of France, and the historic seat of the Counts of Périgord was Périgueux.



Armand de Périgord

(Grand Master 1232-1244)

Armand de Perigord, also called 'Hermann of Périgueux', was a descendant of the Counts of Périgord. Born in 1178, he enters the Order early as Master of the Province of Apulia and Sicily from 1205 to 1232 when he was elected Master of the Order.

From 1232, he organized attacks on Cana, Safita, Sephoria and Praetoria, and against the Muslim positions around the Sea of Galilee. All of these expeditions were failures and diminished the Templars' effectiveness.

In 1236, on the border between Syria and Cilicia, 120 knights, along with some archers and Turcoples, were ambushed near the town of Darbsâk. In the first phase of the battle, the Templars reached the town but they met fierce resistance. When reinforcements from Aleppo arrived, the Templars were massacred. Fewer than twenty of them returned to their castle in Bagras. The battle is also one of the few where the Beauceant fell into Muslims hands, after its bearer, the knight Reginald of Argenton, was cut down trying to save it.

Aside from these conflicts, the beginning of the Grand-mastery of Armand de Perigord is busy with quarrels of internal affairs and diplomacy that preoccupied the three Orders. The Templars wished to establish an alliance with the sultan of Damascus, while the Hospitallers and Teutonics preferred to approach to sultan of Cairo.

In September, 1239, Armand arrived at Acre as part of the force of the Baron's Crusade. The Barons' Crusade, also called the Crusade of 1239, was in territorial terms the most successful crusade since the First. Called by Pope Gregory IX, the Barons' Crusade broadly spanned from 1234-1241 and embodied the highest point of papal endeavor to make crusading a universal Christian undertaking. Gregory called for a crusade in France, England, and Hungary with different degrees of success. Although the Crusaders did not achieve any glorious military victories, they used diplomacy to successfully play the two warring factions of the Muslim Ayyubid dynasty against one another.

Armand made a treaty with Sultan of Damascus, in parallel with the Hospitaller treaty with the Sultan of Egypt and for a few years, the Barons' Crusade returned the Kingdom of Jerusalem to its largest size since 1187.

In 1244 the Sultan of Damascus demanded that the Templars help repel the Khwarezmians from Asia Minor. In October, 1244, the Templars, Hospitallers and Teutonic Knights, together with the Sultan of Damascus, confronted the Sultan of Egypt and his Khwarezmian allies at the Battle of La Forbie.

The battle began on the morning October 17, with the Christian knights repeatedly charging the Egyptians and fighting up and down the line. The Egyptian army held its ground. On the morning of October 18, Baibars renewed the fight and threw the Khwarezmians against the Damascene troops in the center of the allied line. The center was shattered by their furious attack, after which they turned on the allied left

and cut the Bedouin to pieces. The Emir's cavalry held stubbornly, but they were nearly annihilated; Al-Mansur finally rode from the field with 280 survivors; all that remained of his troops.

Threatened by the Egyptians in front and the Khwarezmians on their flank, the Crusaders charged the Mamluks facing them and were initially successful, pushing them back and causing Baibars some concern. Their assault gradually lost momentum as the Khwarezmid tribesmen attacked the rear and the flanks of the Christian forces, which were defended by disorganized infantry. The well-armed knights fought on doggedly and it took several hours for their resistance to collapse.

Over 5,000 Crusaders died. 800 prisoners were taken. Of the troops of the knightly Orders, only 33 Templars, 27 Hospitallers and three Teutonic Knights survived.

Armand de Périgord may have been killed during the battle, or may have been captured and survived until 1247. Pope Innocent IV at the First Council of Lyon in 1245 called for a new Crusade, the seventh, but the Franks were never again to muster major power in the Holy Land.



Richard de Bures

(Superior 1245-1247)

Richard de Bures was Lord of Chastel Blanc and may have been the seventeenth Grand Master of the Order of the Temple. However, it is possible he simply acted as Master during Périgord's captivity.

There is hardly any information about his life. The death of Armand de Périgord had been known for some time, and Richard de Burés was cited as “Superior” of the Templars; but without having been officially elected Master.



Guillaume de Sonnac

(Grand Master 1247-1250)

Sonnac was born to a noble family in the French region of Rouergue. De Sonnac was an established member of the order before his election as Grand Master. He was the Preceptor of Aquitaine in France for the Templars and arrived in the Holy Land around autumn of 1247.

Grand Master Armand de Périgord had been taken prisoner at the Battle of La Forbie in 1244, and after negotiations for his release failed two years later, De Sonnac was proposed as a replacement. Before his first year in the East was out, he was the Order's new leader.

De Sonnac's tenure was a particularly violent one. By 1247, the Christians had lost power bases in Tiberias, Mount Tabor, Belvoir and Ascalon. This prompted a fresh campaign from King Louis IX of France, who landed at Limassol, Cyprus on



Ransom of Louis IX

The defeat of the Crusaders and the capture of King Louis IX in Fariskur created shock in France. The Crusaders were circulating false information in Europe, claiming that Louis IX had defeated the Sultan of Egypt in a great battle and that Cairo had been betrayed into his hands. When the news of the French defeat reached France, a hysterical movement called the Shepherds' Crusade occurred in France. Louis IX was ransomed for 400,000 dinars. After he pledged not to return to Egypt again and surrendered Damietta to the Egyptians, he was allowed to leave on May 8, 1250, to Acre with his brothers and 12,000 war prisoners, including some from older battles, whom the Egyptians agreed to release. Many other prisoners were executed.

September 17, 1248. De Sonnac sailed from Acre to meet him and make preparations. Shortly after, the new Grand Master received an Emir from the Sultan, offering the Crusaders a peace deal. De Sonnac related this to the French King, who ordered him to cease any negotiations without gaining Royal permission first. This ensured the new campaign would be concluded with violence, not diplomacy.

On June 5, 1249, the French Crusader army, combined with de Sonnac and his Templar knights, attempted to land in Egypt. They targeted Damietta, just as the Fifth Crusade had years earlier. Fighting on the Egyptian beaches was heavy and the king fought in waist-high water alongside the troops. After a prolonged battle, the Muslims were forced to retreat, leaving the city almost undefended. The next day the de Sonnac wrote to Robert of Sandford, telling how on the morning after the battle, Damietta had been seized with only one Crusader casualty.

At the end of November, de Sonnac and King Louis began their march to Cairo, via Mansurah.

De Sonnac's next engagement was at the Battle of Al Mansurah, for the city containing the area's defensive force, the last obstacle to central Egypt. The Crusaders approached the battle by the canal of Ashmum which separated them from the Muslim camp. An Egyptian showed the Crusaders the way to the canal shoals. The Crusaders, led by Robert of Artois, crossed the canal with the Knights Templar and an English contingent led by William of Salisbury, launching a surprise assault on the Egyptian camp in Gideila, two miles from Al Mansurah, and advancing toward the royal palace in Al Mansurah. The leadership of the Egyptian forces passed to the Mamluks Faris Ad-Din Aktai and Baibars al-Buduqdari who contained the attack and reorganized the Muslim forces. Shajar al-Durr, who had full control of Egypt, agreed with Baibars' plan to defend Al Mansurah. Baibars ordered the gate be opened to let the Crusaders enter the town. The Crusaders rushed in, thinking the town deserted, only to find themselves trapped inside. The Crusaders were besieged from all directions by Egyptian forces and the local population, and they took heavy losses. De Sonnac refused to surrender.

With heavy wounds, only one eye and two remaining knights of the original 280, de Sonnac fought through the Egyptian army and out of the city, where he found the main Frankish army. He refused to rest and after receiving medical attention he returned and helped repulse a Muslim raiding party.

The Christian forces camped outside the city and were under constant attack. A major assault was launched by the Muslims on April 6, 1250 and de Sonnac joined the Frankish charge to meet the enemy. He fought along the riverbank until he was finally overwhelmed by the attackers. Blinded fully by a second injury to the head, he was hacked down and killed by Muslim troops.

His death and the capture of Louis IX marked an end to the seventh crusade. He was succeeded as Grand Master by Renaud de Vichiers.



Baibars

Baibars was the fourth Sultan of Egypt in the Mamluk Bahri dynasty. He was one of the commanders of the Egyptian forces that inflicted a defeat on the Seventh Crusade of King Louis IX of France. He also led the vanguard of the Egyptian army at the Battle of Ain Jalut in 1260, which marked the first substantial defeat of the Mongol army and is considered a turning point in history. As sultan, Baibars engaged in a lifelong struggle against the Crusader kingdoms in Syria, in part because the Christians had aided the Mongols. The reign of Baibars marked the start of an age of Mamluk dominance in the Eastern Mediterranean and solidified the durability of their military system. He managed to pave the way for the end of the Crusader presence in the Levant and reinforced the union of Egypt and Syria as the region's pre-eminent Muslim state, able to fend off threats from both Crusaders and Mongols, and even managed to subdue the Kingdom of Makuria, which was famous for being unconquerable by previous Muslim empire invasion attempts. As Sultan, Baibars also engaged in a combination of diplomacy and military action, allowing the Mamluks of Egypt to greatly expand their empire.



Renaud de Vichiers

(Grand Master 1250-1256)

Renaud de Vichiers was born around 1198 in the familial domain of Vichiers, Champagne. He joined the Knights Templar and was appointed Preceptor of Saint-Jean-d'Acre in 1240 and Master of France from 1242 to 1249.

He was a supporter and comrade-in-arms of Louis IX of France, who helped him be elected Grand Master in place of Guillaume de Sonnac, who was killed in Egypt. He shortly quarreled with Louis, though, over a diplomatic mission of Hugues de Jouy, Marshal of the Temple, to Damascus. The Grand Master sent Hughes to settle a land dispute with the Sultan. The king accused the Templars of being over bold in negotiating with the Sultan on their own behalf. Louis compelled Renaud to exile Hughes from the Holy Land and the Grand Master was forced to kneel barefoot before the king offering public apology.

In 1252, Renaud de Vichiers retired to a monastery where he stayed until his death on January 20, 1256.



Thomas Bérard

(Grand Master 1256-1273)

Thomas Bérard is an enigmatic person within the Order because his career is a mystery to historians. Some say he became Master in 1252 when Renaud de Vichiers retired. Others say Bérard became Master in 1257 when de Vichiers died.

Regardless of which version of history is correct, it is known that when Bérard was elected he found an Order in decay. He wrote several letters to the King Henry III of England describing miserable situation in the Holy Land. Their possessions in the Holy Land were reduced to a few cities and fortresses. In addition the quarrels between the Templars and the Hospitallers were far from over. If this were not enough, in 1257-1258 a civil war broke out between two important clans. On one side were the Templars and the Venetians, on the other side were the Hospitallers and Genoese merchants.

In 1260, yet another challenge arose when the Mamluk Baibars murdered Outuz, the Sultan of Cairo. In April 1263, Baibars besieged Acre. He seized some districts outside the city, but because of resistance by the Templars and Hospitallers, he left after a few days of fighting.

At the beginning of 1264, the Templars and Hospitallers seized the stronghold of Lizon, between Caïffa and Jenin. In June, both the Orders organized a raid which devastated the region of Ascalon and resulted in the slaughter of a 300 strong Mamluk military column. In July it was the turn of the Egyptians to devastate villages between Cesaree and the fortress of Athlit.

In 1265, Baïbars began a devastating foray in Frankish territories. In March, he seized and destroyed the stronghold of Cesarea. On his way, he seized Caiffa and reduced the city to dust. At the end of March, he tried to seize Chateau-Pelerin, the Templar fortress, but he failed because of the courage of the Templars defending the walls. Baïbars later tried to attack Arsûf, but the city was defended by 300 Hospitaller Knights who also strongly resisted. The attack by Baïbars lasted a month after which time the city eventually capitulated. Baïbars promised to free the knights who defended the city, but he actually arrested them and put them in chains as soon as they left the walls.

In 1266 the large Templar fortress of Safed was besieged by Baïbars after a failed attempt to conquer Pilgrim's Castle. It appears that the fortress garrison was betrayed by a hired Syrian soldier. All Templars (and Hospitallers) were beheaded after they refused to convert to Islam. Other fortresses fell next, among them Beaufort, only recently acquired by the Templars. Also, the city of Antioch fell to Baïbars and was never again held by Christian forces. The fall of Antioch left Templar fortresses in the Amanus Mountains easily accessible to attackers. Gaston, an immensely strong fortification on the road to Syria, was defended only by a small Templar garrison. Nevertheless, they decided to hold the fortress, but were betrayed by one of the brothers. Meanwhile, the Grand Master Thomas Bérard sent a messenger carrying an order to retreat to La Roche Guillaume. In February 1271, he ordered the surrender of Chastel Blanc with permission to retreat to Tortosa. In June, Montfort, the last inland fortification of Christians in the Holy Land, was yielded.

Bérard sent messages to the pope asking for help, and the pope responded by calling for an Eighth Crusade, which never arrived. After the loss of Crac des Chevaliers by the Hospitallers in 1271 a ten-year truce was agreed between the Christians and the Muslims.

According to "The Chronicle of the Templar of Tyre", Bérard died on March 25, 1273.



Guillaume de Beaujeu

(Grand Master 1273-1291)

Guillaume de Beaujeu entered in the Order at the age of 20. He is successively Preceptor of the Province of Tripoli in 1271, Preceptor of the Province of Pouilles in 1272 before being elected Master of the Order on May 13, 1273. Guillaume came from a powerful family of Beaujolais and had family ties with Louis IX, King of France, and Charles of Anjou, King of Sicily.

As soon he is elected, Guillaume de Beaujeu undertakes to visit the main Preceptories in the Occident and is convened by Pope Gregory X to the Council of Lyon during the summer of 1274. The pope seeks opinions the Master of the Templars and of the Hospitallers to organize a new crusade. Occidental barons are not enthusiastic about the idea of a new expedition to the Holy Lands. The death of the pope in 1276 definitively interrupts the preparations for this expedition. Guillaume de Beaujeu arrives in Acre in September, 1275. In 1279, he enters into



County of Tripoli

The County of Tripoli (1109–1289) was the last of the Crusader states. It was founded in the Levant in the modern-day region of Tripoli, northern Lebanon and parts of western Syria which supported an indigenous population of Christians, Druze and Muslims. When the Christian Crusaders – mostly Frankish forces – captured the region in 1109, Bertrand of Toulouse became the first Count of Tripoli as a vassal of King Baldwin I of Jerusalem. From that time, the rule of the county was decided not strictly by inheritance but by factors such as military force (external and civil war), favor and negotiation. In 1289 the County of Tripoli fell to Sultan Qalawun of the Muslim Mamluks of Cairo. The county was absorbed into Mamluk Egypt.

conflict with Hugh III King of Cyprus, who confiscates the Templar properties on the Island.

In 1282, Guillaume de Beaujeu, whose politics toward the Muslims was to gain time, profited from the Mongol Invasion in the East and in the North to extend for ten years the truce signed in 1271 with Baibars. The Frankish politics are however divided on the relationship with the Mongols and the Muslims. On one side, Armenian Christians seek an alliance with the Tartars and on the other side, Christians from south prefer to stay neutral; Guillaume de Beaujeu maintains friendly relationships with Cairo.

In spite of the truce, Kalâwun, successor to Baibars, attacks Tripoli. Alerted to the impending preparations, de beujeau warn the city dignitaries. Believing they are protected by the truce and suspecting the Templars want them to flee in order to take the city for themselves, they choose not to believe Guillaume and the city falls into Muslim hands on April 26, 1289.

Kalâwun next turns his sight on Acre. The slaughter of Muslim merchants on the road to Acre by recently disembarked Lombard troops gives him a justification he doesn't really need. In order to hide his preparations, Kalâwun requires that those responsible for the slaughter be surrendered to him under penalty of awful reprisals. Guillaume de Beaujeu proposes to the dignitaries of Acre to empty the prisons of those condemned to die and deliver them to Kalâwun to save time. The notables reject the recommendation, thinking they also are protected by the truce concluded in 1282.

The Christians benefit nevertheless from a few weeks of respite with the death of Kalâwun in November, 1290 in Cairo. A civil war starts for the succession of the emir, but Al-Ashraf Khalil the son of the latter, manages to thwart the plot and orders the execution of the General Turuntâi, head of the rebels. In April 1291, Al-Ashraf Khalil arrives with his army, estimated by the chroniclers of the time at 200 000 men, in front of the walls of the city. On April 5, the city is encircled, and the Muslim machines of war are installed. The Templars and Hospitallers ordered by their Masters, Guillaume de Beaujeu and Jean de Villiers, organize the defense of the northern ramparts, while Konrad von Feuchtwangen, Master of the Teutonic Order and Amaury, the brother of Henry II, King of Cyprus, deal with the western part of the ramparts. The night of the April 15-16, Guillaume de Beaujeu tries an exit with 300 knights. He surprises a contingent which camps opposite his positions, massacres several hundreds of combatants, but must retreat to the shelter of the ramparts of the city before being able to destroy all of the war machinery located in the enemy camp.

On May 16, in spite of the arrival a few days before of the King of Cyprus Henri II and of a thousand of combatants, part of the wall breaks down as a result of the enemy sappers. The Muslims enter the breach, but the combined attacks of the three Orders prevents them from progressing further into the city and the defenders manage to repel the Muslims beyond the ramparts.

On May 18, Al-Ashraf Khalil launches the final attack. Guillaume de Beaujeu gathers ten knights and as many Hospitallers including their Master, to repel the force. At one point during the siege, he dropped his sword and walked away from

the walls. His knights remonstrated. Beaujeu replied: "*Je ne m'enfuis pas; je suis mort. Voici le coup.*" ("I'm not running away; I am dead. Here is the blow.") He raised his arm to show the mortal wound he had received – an arrow had penetrated his mail under his armpit so that only the fletches were visible. Beaujeu died of his wound and the city fell to the Mamluks, signalling the end of Crusader occupation of the Holy Land.



Thibaud Gaudin

(Grand Master 1291-1292)

The history of Thibaud Gaudin within the Order is rather mysterious. Born to a noble family in the area of Chartres or Blois, France, he entered the Knights Templar well before 1260, because on that date he was taken prisoner during an attack on Tiberias. His great piety was deemed worthy of the nickname of "Gaudin Monk".

In 1279, Thibaud fulfilled the function of "Commander of the Land of Jerusalem", the fourth most important function in the Templar hierarchy. In 1291, he rode at the side of Guillaume de Beaujeu to defend the town of Acre, besieged by the formidable army of Mamluk Sultan Al-Ashraf Khalil.

On May 18, 1291, upon the death of Guillaume de Beaujeu, Gaudin remained in the city of Acre. The remaining knights of the Order, men, women and children found shelter in the Temple, the great fort of the Templars. Pierre de Severy, Marshal of the Order, Thibaud Gaudin, treasurer of the Order, and their knights were the last to defend Acre. After trying to break in for a whole week without success, Al-Ashraf Khalil offered the marshal of the Order to embark for Cyprus with all their possessions. Pierre de Severy agreed. An Emir and 100 Mamluks were permitted to enter the fort, but they began to molest some women and boys. Furious at this act, the knights slaughtered the Mamluks and barricaded themselves again. That night Pierre sent the treasure of the Order with its commander, Thibaud Gaudin and some non-combatants, by boat to Sidon. Acre fell the following day.

Thibaud Gaudin arrived with some knights at Sidon, where he was elected Grand Master. The Templars were determined to stand, but because they lacked numbers to properly defend the large city, they evacuated the city and moved to the Castle of the Sea. Thibaud Gaudin went to Cyprus in the hope of gathering reinforcements. To many, this was regarded as an act of cowardice. The Templars fought bravely, but once the engineers started building a causeway, they sailed away to Tortosa. July 14, 1291 emir Al-Shujâi entered the castle and ordered its destruction. The reinforcements never came. Beirut was taken on July 21, the castle of Ibelins and its walls completely destroyed. The sultan occupied Haifa on July 30, and the monasteries of Carmel destroyed. In early August, the Franks held nothing more than two fortified towns, both occupied by Templars. However, the garrisons were too weak to face a siege, so Tortosa was evacuated on August 3, and Athlit on August 14. They left for the sea fort of Ruad, two miles off the coast of Tortosa.

In October, 1291, a general chapter of the Order met in Cyprus. This meeting confirmed the election of Thibaud Gaudin as Grand Master and named new dignitaries in the important positions within the hierarchy of the Order. On that occasion, Jacques de Molay was named Marshal, to succeed Pierre de Severy, who died at Acre. Thibaud Gaudin tried to reorganize all the Templars after the devastation of the recent battles. Moreover, it was necessary for him to defend the Kingdom of Armenia from the encircled Turkish Seldjoukides and the island of Cyprus, occupied by a multitude of refugees. Apparently the task proved daunting for Thibaud Gaudin; he died in 1292, leaving an enormous rebuilding task for his successor.

Visitor of France

A visitor, in English and Welsh law and history, is an overseer of an autonomous ecclesiastical or eleemosynary institution, often a charitable institution set up for the perpetual distribution of the founder's alms and bounty, who can intervene in the internal affairs of that institution. Humbert de Pairaud was a dignitary of the Knights Templar in France and England from 1261 to 1275. He came from a noble family from Forez an old French province. He was installed as the commander of Ponthieu in 1257, master of the province of France (1261 and 1265), master of England and of Aquitaine between 1266 and 1271, and in the same period was the Visitor of France and England.



Jacques de Molay (Grand Master 1292-1312)

Little is known of his early years, but indications found in the minutes of a lawsuit, in the archives of European kingdoms of that time, suggest Jacques de Molay was probably born in the French region Molay, Haute-Saône, in the County of Burgundy. At the time, the territory was ruled by Otto III as part of the Holy Roman Empire. His birth year is not certain, but judging by statements made during the later trials, was probably around 1250. He was born, as most Templar knights were, into a family of minor or middle-ranking nobility. It is suggested that he was dubbed a knight at age 21 in 1265 and it is known that he was executed in 1314, aged about 70. If correct, these dates lead to the belief that he was born about 1244-1245.

In 1265, as a young man, he was received into the Order of the Templars in a chapel at the Beaune House, by Humbert de Pairaud, the Visitor of France and England. Another prominent Templar in attendance was Amaury de la Roche, Templar Master of the province of France.

Around 1270, Molay went to the East (Outremer), although little is recorded of his activities for the next twenty years.

After the Fall of Acre to the Egyptian Mamluks in 1291, the Franks who were able to do so retreated to the island of Cyprus. It became the headquarters of the dwindling Kingdom of Jerusalem, and the base of operations for any future military attempts by the Crusaders against the Egyptian Mamluks, who for their part were systematically conquering any last Crusader strongholds on the mainland. Templars in Cyprus included Jacques de Molay and Thibaud Gaudin, the 22nd Grand Master. During a meeting assembled on the island in the autumn of 1291, Molay spoke of reforming the Order and put himself forward as an alternative to the current Grand Master. Gaudin died around 1292 and, as there were no other serious contenders for the role at the time, Molay was soon elected. In spring 1293, he began a tour of the West to try to muster more support for a re-conquest of the Holy Land. Developing relationships with European leaders such as Pope Boniface VIII, Edward I of England, James I of Aragon and Charles II of Naples, Molay's immediate goals were to strengthen the defense of Cyprus and rebuild the Templar forces. From his travels, he was able to secure authorization from some monarchs for the export of

supplies to Cyprus, but could obtain no firm commitment for a new Crusade. There was talk of merging the Templars with one of the other military orders, the Knights Hospitaller. The Grand Masters of both Orders opposed such a merger, but pressure increased from the Papacy.

It is known that Molay held two general meetings of his Order in southern France, at Montpellier in 1293 and at Arles in 1296, where he tried to make reforms. In the autumn of 1296, Molay was back in Cyprus to defend his Order against the interests of Henry II of Cyprus.

From 1299 to 1303, Molay was engaged in planning and executing a new attack against the Mamluks. The plan was to coordinate actions between the Christian military orders, the King of Cyprus, the nobility of Cyprus, the forces of Cilician Armenia, and a new potential ally, the Mongols of the Ilkhanate (Persia), to oppose the Egyptian Mamluks and take back the coastal city of Tortosa in Syria.

For generations, there had been communications between the Mongols and Europeans towards the possibility of forging a Franco-Mongol alliance against the Mamluks, but without success. The Mongols had been repeatedly attempting to conquer Syria themselves, each time either being forced back by the Egyptian Mamluks or having to retreat because of a civil war within the Mongol Empire, such as having to defend from attacks from the Mongol Golden Horde to the north. In 1299, the Ilkhanate again attempted to conquer Syria, having some preliminary success against the Mamluks in the Battle of Wadi al-Khazandar in December, 1299. In 1300, Molay and other forces from Cyprus put together a small fleet of sixteen ships which committed raids along the Egyptian and Syrian coasts. The force was commanded by King Henry II of Jerusalem, the King of Cyprus, accompanied by his brother, Amalric, Lord of Tyre, and the heads of the military orders, with the ambassador of the Mongol leader Ghazan also in attendance. The ships left Famagusta on July 20, 1300, and under the leadership of Admiral Baudouin de Picquigny, raided the coasts of Egypt and Syria: Rosetta, Alexandria, Acre, Tortosa and Maraclea, before returning to Cyprus.

The Cypriots then prepared for an attack on Tortosa in late 1300, sending a joint force to a staging area on the island of Ruad, from which raids were launched on the mainland. The intent was to establish a Templar bridgehead to await assistance from Ghazan's Mongols, but the Mongols failed to appear in 1300. The same happened in 1301 and 1302, and the island was finally lost in the Siege of Ruad on September 26, 1302, eliminating the Crusaders' last foothold near the mainland.

Following the loss of Ruad, Molay abandoned the tactic of small advance forces, and instead put his energies into trying to raise support for a new major Crusade, as well as strengthening Templar authority in Cyprus. When a power struggle erupted between King Henry II and his brother Amalric, the Templars supported Amalric, who took the crown and had his brother exiled in 1306. Meanwhile, pressure increased in Europe that the Templars should be merged with the other military orders, perhaps all placed under the authority of one king, and that individual should become the new King of Jerusalem when it was conquered.

In 1305, the newly elected Pope Clement V asked the leaders of the military orders for their opinions concerning a new crusade and the merging of their Orders. Molay

Rex Bellator

Rex Bellator ("Warrior King", in French) is the term coined by Raymond Lulle in 1305 to designate a project whose objective is to unify the military orders in order to reclaim the Holy Land, following the loss from the Kingdom of Jerusalem from 1291. It is in 1305, in his *Liber of fine*, that Raymond Lulle created the term of *Rex Bellator*. Raymond Lulle, who on his side has considered as a solution to put an end to the rivalries between Orders to place them on different fronts, finally declares in favor of a single Order, which would have name "the Order of the Holy Spirit". The pope himself declares that the "common voice" calls for the fusion of Orders.

was asked to write memoranda on each of the issues, which he did during the summer of 1306. Molay was opposed to the merger, believing instead that having separate military orders was a stronger position, as the missions of each Order were somewhat different. He was also of the belief that if there were to be a new crusade, it needed to be a large one, as the smaller attempts were not effective.

On June 6, the leaders of both the Templars and the Hospitallers were officially asked to come to the Papal offices in Poitiers to discuss these matters, with the date of the meeting scheduled as All Saints Day in 1306, though it later had to be postponed due to the pope's illness with gastro-enteritis. Molay left Cyprus on October 15, arriving in France in late 1306 or early 1307; however, the meeting was again delayed until late May due to the pope's illness.

King Philip IV of France was in favor of merging the Orders under his own command, thereby making himself *Rex Bellator*. Molay, however, rejected the idea. Philip was already at odds with the papacy, trying to tax the clergy, and had been attempting to assert his own authority as higher than that of the pope. For this, one of Clement's predecessors, Pope Boniface VIII, had attempted to have Philip excommunicated, but Philip then had Boniface abducted and charged with heresy. The elderly Boniface was rescued, but then died of shock shortly thereafter. His successor Pope Benedict XI did not last long, dying in less than a year, possibly poisoned via Philip's councilor Guillaume de Nogaret. It took a year to choose the next pope, the Frenchman Clement V, who was also under strong pressure to bend to Philip's will. Clement moved the Papacy from Italy to Poitiers, France, where Philip continued to assert more dominance over the Papacy and the Templars.

The Grand Master of the Hospitallers, Fulk de Villaret, was also delayed in his travel to France, as he was engaged with a battle at Rhodes. He did not arrive until late summer, so while waiting for his arrival, Molay met the pope to discuss other matters, one of which was the charges by one or more ousted Templars who had made accusations of impropriety in the Templars' initiation ceremony. Molay had already spoken with the king in Paris on June 24, 1307 about the accusations against his Order and was partially reassured. Returning to Poitiers, Molay asked the pope to set up an inquiry to quickly clear the Order of the rumors and accusations surrounding it, and the pope convened an inquiry on August 24.

There were five initial charges lodged against the Templars. The first was renunciation of and spitting on the cross during initiation into the Order. The second was the stripping of the man to be initiated and the thrice kissing of that man by the preceptor on the navel, posterior and mouth. The third was telling the neophyte (novice) that unnatural lust was lawful and indulged in commonly. The fourth was that the cord worn by the neophyte day and night was consecrated by wrapping it around an idol in the form of a human head with a great beard, and that this idol was adored in all chapters. The fifth was that the priests of the Order did not consecrate the host in celebrating Mass. Subsequently, the charges would be increased and would become, according to the procedures, lists of articles 86 to 127[3] in which will be added a few other charges, such as the prohibition to priests who do not belong to the Order.

On September 14, Philip took advantage of the rumors and inquiry to begin his move against the Templars, sending out a secret order to his agents in all parts of

France to implement a mass arrest of all Templars at dawn on October 13. Philip wanted the Templars arrested and their possessions confiscated to incorporate their wealth into the Royal Treasury and to be free of the enormous debt he owed the Templar Order. Molay was in Paris on October 12, where he was a pallbearer at the funeral of Catherine of Courtenay, wife of Count Charles of Valois, and sister-in-law of King Philip. In a dawn raid on Friday, October 13, 1307, Molay and sixty of his Templar brother knights were arrested. Philip then had the Templars charged with heresy and many other trumped-up charges, most of which were identical to the charges which had previously been leveled by Philip's agents against Pope Boniface VIII.

During forced interrogation by royal agents at the University of Paris on October 24 or 25, Molay confessed that the Templar initiation ritual included "denying Christ and trampling on the Cross". He was also forced to write a letter asking every Templar to admit to these acts. Under pressure from Philip IV, Pope Clement V ordered the arrest of all the Templars throughout Christendom.

The pope still wanted to hear Molay's side of the story, and dispatched two cardinals to Paris in December, 1307. In front of the cardinals, Molay retracted his earlier confessions. A power struggle ensued between the king and the pope, which was settled in August, 1308 when they agreed to split the convictions. Through the papal bull *Faciens misericordiam*, the procedure to prosecute the Templars was set out on a duality, whereby one commission would judge individuals of the Order and a different commission would judge the Order as a whole. Pope Clement called for an ecumenical council to meet in Vienne in 1310 to decide the future of the Templars. In the meantime, the Order's dignitaries, among them Molay, were to be judged by the pope.

Geoffroy de Charnay

Geoffroi de Charney, (first name sometimes spelled Geoffrey, surname sometimes spelled de Charnay and de Charny), also known as Guy d'Auvergne ("The Boy from Auvergne"), was Preceptor of Normandy for the Knights Templar. Charney was accepted into the Order of Knights Templar at a young age by Amaury de la Roche, the Preceptor of France. Present at the ceremony was Brother Jean le Franceys, Preceptor of Pédenac. In 1307 de Charny was arrested, along with the entire Order of Knights Templar in France, and in 1314 was burned at the stake with Grand Master Jacques de Molay.

In the royal palace at Chinon, Molay was again questioned by the cardinals, but this time with royal agents present, and he returned to his forced admissions made in 1307. In November, 1309, the Papal Commission for the Kingdom of France began its own hearings, during which Molay again recanted, stating that he did not acknowledge the accusations brought against his Order.

Any further opposition by the Templars was effectively broken when Philip used the previously forced confessions to sentence 54 Templars to be burnt at the stake on May 10-12, 1310.

The council which had been called by the pope for 1310 was delayed for a further two years due to the length of the trials, but was finally convened in 1312. On March 22, 1312, at the Council of Vienne, the Order of the Knights Templar was abolished by papal decree.

In spite of his strong will and insistent demands toward his jailers, Jacques de Molay lingers in prison without audience from the pope. The latter nevertheless agrees to send three cardinals to Paris in December, 1313 to decide on the fate of the dignitaries. Arriving in Paris in March, 1314, the three cardinals dispense an irrevocable verdict, to condemn the dignitaries of the Order to life imprisonment. Jacques de Molay and Geoffroy de Charnay hotly contest this verdict, understanding that they had been played since the beginning by a pope who did not want to hear them. They both revoked all admissions made and proclaim the Order innocent of

Île aux Juifs

Île aux Juifs (Jews Island), Paris, also called Île des Templiers (Templar Island) is situated just west of the Île de la Cité (Island of the City). The island of the Jews belonged to the abbey of Saint-Germain-des-Prés. The island of the Jews adjoined the garden of the Palace and the convent or the quai des Augustins. It was on this island that Jacques Molay, grand master of the Templars, and Guy, commander of Normandy, were burned alive on March 18, 1314. A plaque marks the location today.



Translation: At this location, Jacques de Molay, last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, was burned on 18 March 1314. Soon after, the abbot of Saint-Germain-des-Prés complained to the king that, by this execution, he had been prejudicing the rights of his seignior. Philippe-le-Bel, in his reply, declared that he had not had this intention.

any charge carried against it. Jacques de Molay and Geoffroy de Charnay are immediately charged of recanting, and are delivered by the Cardinals to the secular law. A pyre is build the very same day on an island (Île de la Cité) of the Seine, at the foot of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

In the evening of March 18, 1314, Jacques de Molay and Geoffroy de Charnay are burned at the stake.

Of Molay's death, historians give the following account:

"The cardinals dallied with their duty until March 18, 1314, when, on a scaffold in front of Notre Dame, Jacques de Molay, Templar Grand Master, Geoffroi de Charney, Master of Normandy, Hugues de Peraud, Visitor of France, and Godefroi de Gonnevillle, Master of Aquitaine, were brought forth from the jail in which for nearly seven years they had lain, to receive the sentence agreed upon by the cardinals, in conjunction with the Archbishop of Sens and some other prelates whom they had called in. Considering the offences which the culprits had confessed and confirmed, the penance imposed was in accordance with rule — that of perpetual imprisonment. The affair was supposed to be concluded when, to the dismay of the prelates and wonderment of the assembled crowd, Jacques de Molay and Geoffroi de Charney arose. They had been guilty, they said, not of the crimes imputed to them, but of basely betraying their Order to save their own lives. It was pure and holy; the charges were fictitious and the confessions false. Hastily the cardinals delivered them to the Prevot of Paris, and retired to deliberate on this unexpected contingency, but they were saved all trouble. When the news was carried to Philippe he was furious. A short consultation with his council only was required. The canons pronounced that a relapsed heretic was to be burned without a hearing; the facts were notorious and no formal judgment by the papal commission need be waited for. That same day, by sunset, a pile was erected on a small island in the Seine, the Ile des Juifs, near the palace garden. There de Molay, de Charney, de Gonnevillle, and de Peraud were slowly burned to death, refusing all offers of pardon for retraction, and bearing their torment with a composure which won for them the reputation of martyrs among the people, who reverently collected their ashes as relics."

Provential Masters

The Knights Templar were led by the Grand Master, originally based in Jerusalem, whose deputy was the Seneschal. Next in importance was the Marshal, who was responsible for individual commanders, horses, arms and equipment. He usually carried the standard or nominated a standard-bearer. The Commander of the Kingdom of Jerusalem was the treasurer and shared some authority with the Grand Master, balancing his power. Other cities also had Commanders with specific regional responsibilities.

The Grand Master and his Seneschal ruled over Templar provincial Masters. The numbers fluctuate, but it is generally agreed that there were 21-22 Provinces: France, Poitou, Auvergne, Provence, Burgundy, Portugal, Castile, Aragon, Valencia, Sicily and Apulia, Roma, Tuscany and Lombardy, England, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Czech Lands, Jerusalem, Tripoli, Antioch, Cyprus, and Lesser Armenia. The following is a partial list of Provential Masters.

Masters of France

- Marcus Adrienn LeBlanc
- Sir Geoffrey de Charney
- Sir Jean De St. Leger (1096)
- Payen de Montdidier (1130)
- Robert de Craon (died in 1147)
- Everard des Barres (1143–1147)
- Guillaume Pavet (1160–1161)
- Geoffroy Foucher (1171)
- David de Rancourt (1171–1175)
- Eustache le Chien (1175–1179)
- Robert de Miliaco (1190)
- Raoul de Montliard (1192–1193)
- Gilbert Erail (1196)
- Arn Fredrik LeBlanc (1203)
- André de Coulours (1204)
- Guillaume Oeil-de-Boeuf (1207)
- André de Coulours (1208–1219)
- Guillaume de l'Aigle (1222)
- Fr. Aimard (1222–1223)
- Eudes Royier (1225)
- Olivier de la Roche (1225–1228)
- Pons d'Albon (1229)
- Robert de Lille (1234)
- Pons d'Albon (1236–1240)
- Fr. Damase (1241–1242)
- Renaud de Vichier (1242–1249)
- Gui de Basenville (1251–1253)
- Fabienn Deon LeBlanc (1253–1258)
- Foulques de Saint-Michel (1256–1258)
- Humbert de Pairaud (1261–1264)
- Amaury de la Roche (1265–1271)
- Jean le Francois (1277–1281)
- Guillaume de Mallay (1286)

- Hugues de Pairaud (1291–1294)
- Matthew John Norris (1294–1299)
- Gérard de Villiers (1299–1307)
- Jerar de Poitou (1307)

Masters of Auvergne

- Raymond del Boyso (1275–1279)
- Francon de Bort (1279–1288)
- Raymond de Mareuil (1288–1289)
- Géraud de Sauzet (1289–1291)
- Pierre de Madic (1291–1301)
- Humbert Blanc (1301–1307)

Masters of Provence

- Guillaume Catel (1204)
- Pere de Rovira
- Raimbaut de Caron (1255)
- Albert de Blacas (1308)

Masters of Portugal

- Guilherme Ricardo (1127–1139)
- Hugo Martins (1139)
- Pedro Froilaz? (1139?–1143)
- Hugues de Montoire (1143)
- Pedro Arnaldo (1155–1158)
- Gualdim Pais 1160 (1158–1195)
- Lopo Fernandes
- Fernão Dias (1202)
- João Domingues (1206–1209)
- Gomes Ramires (1210–1212)
- Pedro Álvares de Alvito (1212–1221)
- Pedro Anes (1223–1224)
- Martim Sanches (1224–1229)
- Estêvão Belmonte (1229–1237)
- Guilherme Fulco (1237–1242)
- Martim Martins (1242–1248)

- Pedro Gomes (1248–1251)
- Paio Gomes (1251–1253)
- Martim Nunes (1253–1265)
- Gonçalo Martins (1268–1271)
- Beltrão de Valverde (1273–1277)
- João Escritor (1280–1283)
- João Fernandes (1283–1288)
- Afonso Pais-Gomes (1289–1290)
- Lourenço Martins (1291–1295)
- Vasco Fernandes (1295–1306)

Masters of Castile and Leon

- Pere de Rovira (1152)
- Guido de Garda (1178)
- Juan Fernández (1183)
- Gutierre Hermildes
- Esteban de Belmonte
- Gomes Ramires (1212 and 1248)
- Pedro Álvarez Alvito (1221)
- Martín Martínez (1243)
- Pedro Gómez (1248)
- Martín Núñez (1257)
- Lope Sánchez (1266)
- Guillén (1269)
- Garci Fernández (1271)
- Juan Fernández Cay (1283)
- Ferrán Pérez (1286)
- Gómez García (1286)
- Berenger de Cardona (1292)
- Rui Díaz (1296)
- Gonzalo Yáñez (1296)
- Pedro Yáñez (1296)
- Rodrigo Yáñez (1309–1310)

Masters of Aragon

The following were *de facto* provincial masters before the formal creation of an Aragonese province:

- Hugh of Rigaud (1128–1136)
- Raymond Gaucebert (1134)
- Arnold of Bedocio (1136)

Masters after the creation of an Aragonese province:

- Pere de Rovira (1143–1158)
- Hugo de Barcelona (1159–1162)
- Hugo de Jofré (1163–1166)
- Arnaud de Toroge (1166–1181)
- Berenguer d'Avinyó (1181–1183)
- Guy de Sellón (1183)
- Raymón de Canet (1183–1185)
- Gilbert Horal (1185–1190)
- Pons de Rigaud (1190–1195 and 1202–1206)
- Gerard de Caercino (1196)
- Arnaud de Claramunt (1196)
- Pons Marechal (1196–1199)
- Raymón de Gurb (1200–1201)
- Pere de Montagut (1207–1212)
- Guillén Cadel (1212–1213 and 1229–1232)
- Guillén de Montrodón (1214–1218)
- Guillén de Azyllach (1221–1223)
- Robert de Puig Guigone (1224)
- Folch de Montpesat (1224–1227)
- Raymón Patot (1233–1234)
- Hug de Montlaur (1234–1238)
- Esteve de Belmonte (1239)
- Raymón de Serra (1240–1243)
- Guillén de Cardona (1244–1252)
- Hugo de Jouy (1254–1258)
- Guillén de Montañana (1258–1262)
- Guillén de Pontons (1262–1266)
- Arnau de Castellnou (1267–1278)
- Pere de Moncada (1279–1282)
- Berenguer de Sant Just (1283–1290)
- Berenguer de Cardona (1291–1307)
- Simón de Lenda (1307)

Masters of Sicily and Apulia

The organization of the province evolved with the development of the Order, resulting in the Masters sometimes having dual titles.

Masters of Sicily / Calabria:

- Hugo de Rocaforti (1197)
- Guglielmo Orelensis (1209)
- Ermanno de Petragors (1229)
- Bonifacio di S. Michele (1255)
- Angelo (1255)

Masters of Apulia:

- Enrico (1169)
- Guglielmo de la Fossa (1184)
- Guglielmo de Sancto Paulo (1196)
- Goffredo (1196)
- Nicola di Collalto (1208)
- Pietro de Ays (1213)
- Giacomo di Torricella (1255)
- Rainaldo de Varensis (1292 and 1299)
- Guilius (1295)
- Pietro Dada
- Pietro Peraverde Ultramontanus (1302–1303)
- Simone de Quinciaco (1307)
- Oddone de Valdris (1308)

Masters of Sicily and Apulia:

- Alberto de Canelli (1266)
- Baldovino (1267)
- Abramo (1269)
- Stefano de Sissy (1270)
- Guglielmo de Bellojoco (1271)
- Adymaro (1275)
- Simone de la Tour (1275 and 1276)
- Roberto (1277)
- Pierre Le Griffier (1279)
- Falcone (1284)
- Jubertus de Nicher (1285)

Masters of Sicily:

- Martino Cabillone (1283)
- Guglielmo de Canelli (1284)

Masters of England

- Fr. William Heath (1153–1156)
- Hugues d'Argentein
- Hoston de Saint-Omer (1153–1155)
- Adam de Somervila (1153)
- Richard de Hastings (1155–1185)
- Geoffroy Fitzstephen (1185–1195)
- Robert de Neuham (1195–1200)
- Thomas Bérard (1200)
- Fr. Alain (1205)
- Guillaume Cadeil (1214)
- Sir Roger St. Leger (1217)
- Aimery de Sainte-Maure (1215–1219)
- Guillaume de la Gravelle (1220)
- Alain Martel (1220–1228)
- Fr. Aimery (1228)
- Robert de Montfort (1234)
- Robert de Sandford (1235–1241)
- Fr. Amblard (1250)
- Roncelin de Fos (1252–1259)
- Robert de Sandford (1259)
- Humbert de Pairaud (1270)
- Gui de Foresta (1275)
- Robert de Torteville (1276)
- Henri de Faverham (1277–1278)
- Robert de Torteville (1280)
- Gui de Foresta (1288)
- Robert de Haleghton (1290–1294 Yorkshire)
- Guillaume de Tourville (1292)
- Gui de Foresta (1293–1296)
- Brian le Jay (1296–1298)
- Guillaume de la More (1298–1307)

Masters of Germany

- Gebhard (1241–1244)
- Johannes (1251)
- Widekind (1261, 1268, 1271, 1279)
- Friedrich de Salm (1288–1292)
- Bertram von Esbeke (1294–1297)
- Friedrich von Alvensleben (1303–1308)

Masters of Hungary

- Fr. Cuno
- Fr. Gauthier
- Fr. Jean
- Pons de la Croix (1215)
- Johannes Gottfried von Schluck (1230)
- Rembald de Voczon (1241)
- Thierry de Nuss (1247)
- Raimbaud de Caromb
- Jacques de Montreal
- Fr. Widekind (1271–1279)
- Gérard de Villers
- Frédéric wildgrave de Salm (1289)
- Bertram von Esbeke (1296)
- Frédéric de Nigrip
- Frédéric von Alvensleben (1300)

Masters of Poland/ Bohemia/Czech Lands

- Bernhard von Everstein (1291–1295)
- Friedrich Wildegraf (1308)
- Ekko (1292, 1297, 1302, 1308)
- Johannes Gottfried von Eberstein (1230)

Masters of Jerusalem

- Gilbert Horal (1183)
- Terric (1188)
- Gerbert (1190)
- Gui de Bassainville (1194)
- Barthelemy de Moret (1240)
- P. de Saint-Romain (1241)
- Giles (1250)
- Amaury de la Roche (1262)
- Guillaume de Montignane (1262)
- Simon de la Tour (1272)
- Goufier de Salvaing (1273)
- Arnaud de Chateaneuf (1277)
- Thibaud Gaudin (1291)

Modern Masters

The Order of the Temple was founded in France in 1705 and officially reconstituted in 1804 by Bernard-Raymond Fabré-Palaprat, (May 29, 1773 – February, 18 1838).

Bernard-Raymond Fabré-Palaprat was the son of a surgeon and nephew of a priest in the diocese of Cahors. He studied at the diocesan seminary and was ordained a priest. Leaving the priesthood, he studied medicine in Montpellier and Caen, where he received his medical degree. Moving to Paris the same year, he obtained another medical degree, and became the director general of the *Société médico-philantropique*.



On 4 November 1804 Fabré-Palaprat founded the Order of the Temple and revealed the existence of the Larmenius Charter (or "Charter of Transmission"). The Larmenius Charter, allegedly written in Latin in 1324, listed 22 successive Grand Masters of the Knights Templar from 1324 to 1804, Fabré-Palaprat's name appearing last on the list. The Charter is named after Johannes Marcus Larmenius, who allegedly wrote the document and was allegedly appointed Grand Master by Jacques de Molay while imprisoned, also having the power to appoint his successor (Thomas Theobaldus Alexandrinus in 1324; the first name on the list). It was recognized as an Order of Chivalry by its patron Napoleon Bonaparte in 1805.

Fabré-Palaprat's Order of the Temple claimed to possess significant relics: the sword of Jacques de Molay, the helmet of Guy Dauphin d'Auvergne, the Beausant, and four fragments of burnt bones taken from the funeral pyre where Jacques de Molay had been executed. These relics, described as "The Sacred Treasure of The Order of The Temple" in the Manual of the Order (and described within an Inventory in the Statutes of the Order), were displayed in March 1808 on the anniversary of Jacques de Molay's death, when members of the Order celebrated a public requiem for the 'martyred' Grand Master in the Church of St. Paul in Paris.

With the death of Napoleon III (9 January 1873), the Order lost its strongest protector. In 1945, Antonio Campello Pinto de Sousa Fontes (1878-1960) claimed that the OSMTH was the continuation of the Order of the Temple, Fernando Campello Pinto Pereira de Sousa Fontes (b. 1930) succeeded his father as the head of the Order in 1960.

The Regency of the Order of the Temple was at one stage passed on to Joséphin Péladan, later becoming amalgamated among other occult groups headed by Papus, finally becoming legally incorporated by a Belgian group known as the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ), as well as the *Sovereign Order of the Initiatory Temple* (OSTI), and its outer order known as *International Circle for Cultural and Scientific Research* (CIRCES International).

In 1995, the majority of OSMTH Templars (mostly grouped in the Grand Priories of Austria, France, Italy, Finland, England & Wales, Scotland, NATO and the USA) assembled in the Austrian town of Salzburg and democratically adopted several resolutions to restructure and modernize the Order. One of the landmark decisions was to withdraw recognition from the Regent of the Order, Fernando de Sousa Fontes.

Today the Order is a secular-military order of chivalry - a Knighthood which is intended for accomplished Christian military and civilian men (Knights) and women (Dames), who have demonstrated that they possess high ethical and moral principles and who wish to carry on the traditions of the Temple.

The international Order – OSMTH – has had four Grand Masters since restructuring in 1998.

Major-General Sir Roy Michael Frederick Redgrave, KBE MC

(Grand Master 1998-2004)

Roy Michael Frederick Redgrave was born on September 16, 1925 in the Athénée Palace Hotel, in Bucharest. His mother, Micheline Capsa, the daughter of a Romanian general, had just managed to check in there minutes before her confinement. The actor Sir Michael Redgrave was his father's half-brother.

He was educated at Lambrook preparatory school and Sherborne School. After Sherborne, aged 17 he enlisted as a trooper in the Royal Horse Guards (the Blues) in 1943. He was subsequently commissioned into 1 HCR, based at Aldershot.



Redgrave accompanied 1 HCR to Holland in time for the forced crossing of the Rhine. On May 1, 1945, Redgrave was leading a troop of the 1st Household Cavalry Regiment (1 HCR) west of the village of Düdenbüttel, near Bremen, when his armored car was hit by bazookas and set ablaze. He was standing beside the car and then came under accurate fire from a machine gun.

Redgrave climbed on to the turret, which was burning fiercely, and pulled out his wireless operator, who was wounded and helpless. As he got the man down on to the engine cover, he himself was wounded and fell to the ground.

He got up, lifted the operator, whose legs were shattered, and placed him in the comparative safety of a ditch. He grabbed two hand grenades and a Sten gun and returned to the car to help the driver. The side door of the armored car had been blown off and the driver was dead.

The wireless operator was too heavy to lift more than a few yards; so Redgrave, making use of what sparse cover there was, crawled, wriggled, rolled and, in places, ran through fields and hedges until he reached the village.

He came back with six troopers. They engaged the enemy, drove them off and brought the wounded operator back to HQ. It was past 2am when Redgrave finally reached a field hospital, where his own injuries could be attended to. He was awarded an immediate MC (Military Cross).

A few days after the action in which he was presented with his MC, the campaign in north-west Europe was over and he was discharged from hospital.

He married, in 1953, Valerie Wellesley; they had two sons.

After the war Sir Robert remained in Germany with the Blues and was involved in intelligence gathering. During this period he played rugby for the Rhine Army and was in its athletics team. He commanded a squadron in Cyprus during the Eoka campaign in 1959, and was mentioned in dispatches.

From 1960 to 1962 Redgrave served as military assistant to the Deputy Supreme Commander Europe at SHAPE and then commanded the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in London.

From 1965 to 1967 Redgrave commanded the Blues in BAOR and, after a move to HQ 2nd Armoured Division, was promoted to brigadier as Commander Royal Armoured Corps (RAC), 3rd Division, where he served from 1970 to 1972. In 1973 he became Commandant of the RAC (Royal Armoured Corps) Centre at Bovington and Lulworth.

Redgrave's final appointment was that of Commander British Forces Hong Kong. The interception of illegal immigrants into the New Territories proved an onerous task. In his first year, they numbered an estimated 200,000, of which about half were apprehended and returned to China. He was knighted (KBE) at the end of his tour and retired from the Army in 1980.

He became Director General of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and was subsequently appointed Honorary Colonel of the 31st Signal Regiment Volunteers.

Sir Roy Redgrave was selected as the International Grand Commander, the head of the International Magisterial Council, of OSMTH in March 1996. During the following Grand Magisterial Chapter Meeting of OSMTH, which took place on July 3-4, 1998 in Turku, Finland, Sir Roy was elected as the Grand Master of the Order for a period of 18 months. In 2000 Sir Redgrave was officially elected Grand Master.

Sir Roy Redgrave died on July 3, 2011.



Rear Admiral James J. Carey

(Grand Master 2004-2009)

James J. Carey was born in Berlin, Wisconsin on April 9, 1939. He attended Berlin Public Schools through high school, graduating as President of his high school senior class and lettering in three major sports. Youth activities included the rank of Eagle Scout, Silver Award Explorer, and President of 4-H. In 1956, he was named an Outstanding Junior Citizen of the State. He attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, majoring in Marketing and Business Administration. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and later studied for an M.B.A. at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, since selected several times as the top ranked MBA Business Management School in the United States.



Following college graduation, he joined one of the largest graphic arts firms in the nation as a Management and Marketing trainee. His business career was soon interrupted by active duty military service as a Naval Officer in the United States Navy where he was assigned to the U. S. S. Topeka home ported in Long Beach, CA. During his three years at sea, he served on two deployments to the Western Pacific, including service in the Vietnam War. In 1964, he was selected from among forty-four ships in Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Three as Junior Officer of the Year. He returned to his business career in Chicago in early 1966 in hopes of eventually entering into national public politics and having a greater impact on the future of the nation.

Following early and highly successful management and marketing assignments he began a consulting practice in international marketing and technology transfer with several business colleagues, focusing on high technology systems and training for the Middle East and Europe. In 1979, he affiliated with the Chicago firm of Telemedia, Inc., a major international military training and technology transfer corporation, as an International Business Manager. The next two years were spent in successful large scale international military and petrochemical programs in the Middle East, concentrating on Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia.

In June of 1981, based on his reputation in international business and extensive Navy involvement in maritime matters, Mr. Carey was asked by newly elected President Ronald Reagan to join his Administration as a Commissioner of the U. S. Federal Maritime Commission. He was confirmed for that position by the United States Senate on October 8, 1981 and was sworn into office the following day. In 1983, he was elected Vice Chairman of the Commission, a position he held for the next six year.

In that same year, then Commissioner Carey was asked by the White House Office of Presidential Personnel to establish a professional forum for the Senate Confirmed

Presidential Appointees, wherein they would meet regularly, socialize, network, and communicate with each other in the interests of better and more effective government. Mr. Carey was elected President of that organization and remained in that position for six years, during which time he regularly interfaced with Members of the President's Cabinet, all other federal government agency heads, and various Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Commissioners of the U. S. Government. In 1985, President Reagan asked Vice Chairman Carey to serve a second Federal Maritime Commission term, whereupon he was again confirmed by the United States Senate and sworn into office in December of that year. In early 1989, Vice Chairman Carey was asked by newly elected President George H. W. Bush to serve as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, a position he held for the next two years. During his nine year tenure at the Commission, Chairman Carey dealt regularly with most nations of the world and became a highly respected "voice of reason" in the international maritime community. Upon his return to the international business world in 1991, Chairman Carey's tenure at the Commission was cited by President Bush as "one of the most successful in the agencies history".

Parallel to his international business and government careers, Chairman Carey spent thirty-four years serving in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve. He began his military service as an enlisted Seaman Recruit, was selected for commissioning as an ENSIGN, and went on to hold seven separate commands in various amphibious, surface warfare, and Pentagon assignments and retired at the rank of Rear Admiral. From 1989 to 1992, he commanded Readiness Command Regi on SIX headquartered in the Washington Navy Yard, the largest Navy Readiness Command in the nation, involving over 10,000 naval personnel throughout the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. During the 1991 war with Iraq Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Admiral Carey's Readiness Command had the largest number of naval reservists called to active duty for the war of all the U. S. Navy Readiness Commands and was selected as The Top Readiness Command in the Nation. His final military assignment was in the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as the Division Director, Logistics Plans and Policy, at that time the only Naval Reserve Flag Officer to ever hold a Division Directors position on the Staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Carey retired in October 1994 in ceremonies held at the Washington Navy Yard.



Admiral Carey's personal decorations include four awards of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, three awards of the Navy Commendation Medal, and numerous other decorations representing service from the Vietnam War through Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Iraq. Admiral Carey has served as the International President of the Zeta Psi Fraternity, as National President of the Naval Officer-member Naval Reserve Association, and as Grand Prior of the Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America from 1996-1998.

In July, 1998, in ceremonies conducted in Turku, Finland, Admiral Carey was elected Grand Commander of OSMTH, the first American to serve in that position in the history of the Order. He was elected to serve as Grand Master in 2004, once again the first American to ever hold that position.

Admiral Carey's academic endeavors include over twenty years of service on the International Board of Directors of his college fraternity, Zeta Psi Fraternity of North America. He has also been inducted into five separate High I.Q. Societies. He also served for two years as President of the National Capitol Interfraternity Forum, the Washington, DC based confederation representing men's fraternity members to the U. S. Congress and governmental agencies in Washington, DC. He continues to be involved in numerous leadership roles in the Republican Party, has served in four American Presidential Election Campaigns and numerous Senatorial and Congressional Campaigns, is one of the founders and serves on the Board of Directors of the Reagan Administration Presidential Appointees Alumni Association, and is regularly called upon to serve in the role of advisor to elected Members of Congress.



In addition, he was the Founder and National Chairman of "THE FLAG & GENERAL OFFICERS' NETWORK", a "networking and professional contact" organization of active duty and retired U. S. Armed Forces Admirals and Generals, and served for three years as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Navy Mutual Aid Association and the Board of Governors of the National Association of Uniformed Services. Additional and more recent business activities include service on the Board of Directors of FEDNET, a Washington, DC based firm specializing in Internet coverage and broadcast of U. S. Congress hearings and press conferences. He also serves as Chairman of The Good Samaritans of the Knights Templar Foundation, Inc., a public charity and is Chairman of his own private foundation, The Admiral James J. Carey Foundation, Inc.

In the 2000 Congressional election cycle, Admiral Carey founded the bi-partisan National Defense Pac (NDP), with the mission to endorse U. S. military veteran candidates for the U. S. Congress and to aggressively support their election. In 2002, he founded the National Defense Committee (NDC), a national public policy grassroots membership organization, for the purpose of addressing policy issues impacting on U. S. national defense, intelligence, homeland security, and the veterans who served in each of these national missions. In 2005, he founded the Future Leaders for America Foundation, devoted to the sponsorship of internships for young Americans to come to the nation's capital and learn firsthand about the defense and security of their country. He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Future Leaders for America Foundation.

During the 2003 Iraq War, Admiral Carey appeared numerous times on national television as a defense expert, with appearances on CNN, Fox News, CNBC, MSNBC, and CNNFN, as well as radio talk shows. He has also written a bi-monthly column and commentary on military, defense, and homeland security matters for the military & veterans internet site, www.military.com and has had numerous OP-ED's published in various military, defense, and political publications and The Washington Times Newspaper in Washington, DC.

Brigadier General Patrick Rea

(Grand Master 2009-2018)

Brigadier General Patrick E. Rea was born and raised in Tinley Park, IL, and attended the University of Illinois in the late 1950s. In 1963, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and a Master of Arts degree in Economics one year later, branching into the transportation corps.

In 1964, 2LT Patrick E. Rea entered active duty and deployed to Vietnam one year later as a Platoon Leader in the 4th Transportation Command. After four months, he changed positions to serve as a staff officer within the command. Returning to the United States in July of 1966 and having been promoted to 1LT, he returned to reserve duty by December that year. He served as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Illinois in 1967, and a year later, as the Aide-de-camp to the 86th Army Reserve Command. CPT Rea assumed command of his battery in April 1970, and remained in command for 31 months until he was assigned as a Recruiting Officer. He remained in this position until September of 1975 when he was given the opportunity to command yet again.

As a Major, he assumed command of the 314th Army Security Agency Battalion. On September 15, 1977, MAJ Rea was promoted to LTC only 13 years after commissioning and remained in command until September 1979. He held several other positions until August 1982, when he was made the commander of the 308th Civil Affairs Group. One month later, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. Colonel Rea then served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations of the 86th Army Reserve Command and the Assistant Division Commander of the 85th Division (Training).

He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General on September 3, 1991, and retired from the US Army Reserve in 1997 after 33 years of service. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal and numerous other service and campaign medals.



After his return from Vietnam, Patrick E. Rea worked as the Assistant Dean of Men from 1966 to 1967 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and later as the Assistant to the Dean of the College of Business at the Chicago campus. In 1969, Patrick Rea started working as the Director of Training with the First National Bank of Chicago. He remained in this position until 1973, when he was promoted as the Vice President and Corporate Banker, responsible for over \$2.5 billion in loan underwriting, a position he held until 1999. Additionally, during his time at the bank, he also held numerous positions in other circles: serving as an adjunct professor at Webster University from 1974 until 1976, business administrator instructor at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1976, and then director and officer, including CEO of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Banking covering over 450 banks in northern Illinois between 1978 and 1982.

After leaving First National Bank, Rea took a position as the Executive Director of the Illinois Development Finance Authority from 1999 until 2004. Then, in 2004, Patrick Rea received a presidential appointment as the Regional Administrator of the United States Small Business Administration, Region V.

Patrick Rea served as Grand Prior of the Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America from 2002-2004. He was elected Grand Commander of the International Order in 2004 and Grand Master in 2009.

David N. Appleby

(Grand Master 2018-2026)

David N. Appleby was born in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from Ozark, Missouri High School, Missouri State University (BS Economics), and the University of Missouri, School of Law (JD). In addition to serving the Western District of Missouri, he is licensed to practice before all Missouri Courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. David has practiced law since 1976, and has served as the Prosecuting Attorney for Christian County, Missouri and as a Municipal Judge. Additionally, David has been active in numerous law related activities, including serving as the President of the Christian County Bar Association and as Chairman of the Regional Missouri Council on Criminal Justice.



Now a retired Colonel, David has extensive Active and Reserve service in the U.S. Army. He is a Vietnam veteran and has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Reserve Component Overseas

Training Ribbon, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Airborne Badge, Vietnamese Airborne Badge, Belgium Parachutists Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab. Additionally, David completed foreign service in Panama, South Korea, Germany and Belgium, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division and numerous Army and joint Special Forces (Green Beret) units.

David is also active in a number of civic organizations and has served as a member of the Board of Aldermen for Fremont Hills, Missouri. Recently, David served as President General (national president) of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

In addition to the SAR, David is a member of several charitable, patriotic, hereditary, fraternal and veterans organizations, including the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Military Order of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Special Forces Association, The Army & Navy Union of the United States, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Military Order of the Carabao, and the Sigma Pi Social Fraternity.

David was Prior I of the Priory of St. Louis the Crusader (1999-2001); Grand Prior XIV of the Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America (GPUSA) from 2004-2006; Prior II, Priory of Nieuw Amsterdam; and, Grand Referendry, OSMTH.



Patrick M. Carney

(Grand Master 2026-present)

Patrick Michael Carney was born on September 27, 1954, in Santa Monica, California, the youngest of four boys. By the age of two, the family relocated to the Pacific Northwest, where he spent his formative years. Active in the Boy Scouts and Sea Explorers, Patrick earned the Eagle Scout Award and Quartermaster Sea Explorer, along with the God & Country Medal. Patrick was the Salutatorian of the Lincoln High School (Tacoma) Class of 1972, where he earned letters in tennis and wrestling. He went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Washington in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in communications. At the UW, Patrick was initiated into the Zeta Psi Fraternity and served as Chapter President. In 1975, he was elected as the first Undergraduate Representative on the Board of Directors, where he ultimately served for 23 years, culminating in a two-year term of office as International President of Zeta Psi Fraternity and President of the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation 1991-1993.

Patrick's business career began in San Francisco in 1976 with Sunset Magazine as a marketing representative. For the next 12 years, he held sales and management positions, primarily with Time Incorporated publications, including Boston Manager of Sports Illustrated, Assistant Advertising Director of TIME International, Manager of Strategic Planning for the Magazine Group and Advertising Manager of the Magazine Development Group. Sports Illustrated sponsored him to the Masters Degree Program for Executives at Columbia University in the City of New York, where he earned his master's in business administration in 1981. A highlight of his experience at Sports Illustrated was personal attendance at the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 Winter Olympic hockey game in Lake Placid, NY.

His career took a turn in 1988 when he became a Registered Representative with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. in New York City. The experience included time as a broker on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Covering institutional accounts nationally, Patrick segued to the west coast and joined the private investment bank of Volpe Brown in San Francisco in 1993. Through the dot com boom of the Nineties, Patrick served as Managing Director for Europe, marketing IPO shares from London to Stockholm to Geneva. When Volpe Brown was acquired by Prudential in 1999, Patrick took his partnership equity and began a new life in the Lone Star State of Texas.

Settling in San Antonio, Patrick joined the firm of American Express Financial Advisors in 2003 and was on board when Ameriprise Financial was spun off in 2005. Spending 10 years total with the company in two stints, Patrick held the titles of Managing Director and Private Wealth Advisor. He also spent years with Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo Advisors. He is now a Managing Director with Raymond James & Associates in the Stone Oak Branch, San Antonio.

Raised in the Presbyterian Church, Patrick held the offices of Deacon at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian in New York and Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich, CT. He was selected a Commissioner to the 200th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Philadelphia in 1989.



While living in San Francisco, Patrick was invested into the Priory of St. Francis of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem by Grand Prior Adm. James Carey in September 1997. This began a wonderful association with dedicated Christian Knights and Dames that continues to this day. After moving to San Antonio and transferring to the Priory of St. Matthew, Patrick served as Chancellor and then Prior from 2007 to 2011. In 2010, he joined the Executive Committee of the Grand Priory of the United States as Grand Treasurer. In 2012, he chaired the Grand Convent Committee which hosted the 50th Grand Convent in San Antonio, highlighted by a private reception at the Shrine of Texas Liberty, the Alamo. The Saturday Gala Banquet drew 500 Knights and Dames to cut a ceremonial cake, one of the largest Templar gatherings ever assembled.

Patrick went on to serve as Grand Inspector, Grand Chancellor and Grand Prior XX, installed in Savannah, Georgia for a two-year term. He was also awarded the Dignity of Grand Croix in 2012, the rank of Grand Commander in the Order of Merit in 2013 and received the Distinguished Service Award. Having been a regular attendee at OSMTH international Grand Magistral Council meetings, Patrick was appointed Treasurer General of OSMTH in 2020, serving on the Magisterium for a six-year period. In 2025, he was elected Deputy Grand Commander, and at the April 2026 GMC meeting in Palermo, Sicily, Patrick was elected Grand Master V of the Order, with installation in Belgrade, Serbia in September 2026 for an eight-year term.

Alongside duties in the Templar world, Patrick serves on the Board of Directors of the Here I Am Charitable Foundation, led by Dame Juliana Taimoorazy. He also serves on the Hospital Visitation Committee of the Fellowship of San Antonio, his home parish. For relaxation, Patrick and Lady Andrea are avid golfers at TPC – San Antonio, and PADI certified scuba divers.