

Secret Societies

The Knights Templar

1. The Order of the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon.
 - a. Founded c.1118
 - b. Took vows to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land.
 - c. Quartered in palace on the Temple Mount.
2. Won approval as new order in 1128.

They wore the white mantle of the Cistercians and the pope added a red cross in 1147.

3. Made independent of local bishops by papal bull in 1139.

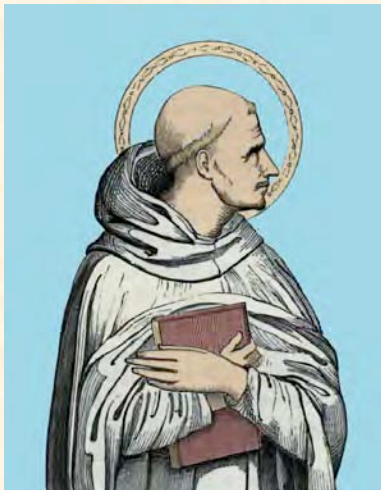


Two styles of crosses are associated with the Templars. Compare with Latin, far left/



More on the Templars

3. Became a depository for noble and royal funds.
4. Their fortunes changed when the Crusaders were finally ousted from the Holy Land.
5. Philip IV (the Fair) of France, jealous of the Templars wealth and power browbeat Pope Clement V to dissolve the order in 1314.



Friend and Foe

Left: St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who was related to one of the knights Templar and wrote their Rule.

Right: Philip IV (the Fair) of France, their mortal enemy.



The Templar Myth

Founded Free Masonry

How Brown used this myth

1. Secret knowledge
2. Pagan Religion
3. Pope orders destruction of Templars

The Priory of Sion

1982 best seller *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln.

Note: Leigh Teabing is an anagram of Baigent.

The “Real” Priory of Sion



The Priory of Sion was an association founded in May of 1956, in the French town of Annemasse chiefly by Pierre Plantard (1920-2000,) a French con artist who created an imaginary “history” of the “Priory of Sion,” on which part of the DaVinci Code book is based. The Association was dissolved sometime after October, 1956, but intermittently revived by Plantard who was imprisoned three times for various offenses. Plantard died in obscurity. His views have been repudiated on British and French television.