

S2E2

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Five Secret Societies That Have Remained Shrouded in Mystery

From the Knights Templar to the Freemasons to Skull and Bones, here's what we know (and don't know) about secret societies through history.

[JESSICA PEARCE ROTONDI](#)

ThePalmer/Getty Images

Secret societies have flourished throughout history and count [Founding Fathers](#) and royals among their ranks. Members (most often men) have been tapped to join [The Knights Templar](#), the [Freemasons](#), the Bavarian Illuminati, Skull and Bones and Bilderberg. The allure of secret societies is part mystery, part legend.

Conspiracy theories have surrounded them for centuries, with rumors of groups like the Illuminati being linked to everything from the [French Revolution](#) to the [assassination of JFK](#). But it's important to separate fact from fiction. Here are the real stories behind history's most exclusive secret societies.

[Click here to watch "Secret Societies" on HISTORY Vault](#)

1. The Knights Templar



The first seal of the Knights Templar.

Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images

The [Knights Templar](#) were warriors dedicated to protecting Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land during the [Crusades](#). The military order was founded around 1118 when Hugues de Payens, a French knight, created the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon—or The Knights Templar for short.

Headquartered at Temple Mount in [Jerusalem](#), members pledged to live a life of chastity, obedience and poverty, abstaining from gambling, alcohol and even swearing.

The Knights Templar were known for more than their military prowess and moral lifestyle. They became one of the most wealthy and powerful forces in Europe after setting up a bank that allowed pilgrims to deposit money in their home countries and withdraw it in the Holy Land.

ADVERTISING

Their influence swelled to a new high in 1139, when Pope Innocent II issued a Papal Bull exempting them from paying taxes... and decreeing that the only authority they had to answer to was the Pope. At the apex of their power, the Knights Templar owned the island of Cyprus, a fleet of ships and lent money to kings. But not all kings were happy customers.

READ MORE: [10 Reasons Why the Knights Templar Were History's Fiercest Fighters](#)

What Happened to the Knights Templar?

When the [Crusades](#) came to an end after the [fall of Acre](#), the Knights Templar withdrew to Paris, where they focused on their banking endeavors. On October 13, 1307, King Philip IV of France, whom the Knights Templar had denied additional loans, had a group of knights arrested and tortured until they made [false confessions](#) of depravity. In 1309, as the city of Paris watched, dozens of Knights Templar were burned at the stake for their alleged crimes.

Under pressure from the French crown, Pope Clement V formally dissolved the order in 1312 and redistributed their wealth. Rumors that the Knights Templar guarded artifacts like the [Holy Grail](#) and [Shroud of Turin](#) began bubbling up among conspiracy theorists. Popular books and films like *The Da Vinci Code* continue to inspire curiosity about the Knights Templar today.

WATCH: [America's Book of Secrets](#), premiering Tuesday, May 11 at 10/9c on The HISTORY® Channel.

Knights Templar Symbol: The Cross of Lorraine



A soldier of the Knights Templar, with the Cross of Lorraine pictured below.

Hulton Archive/Getty Images

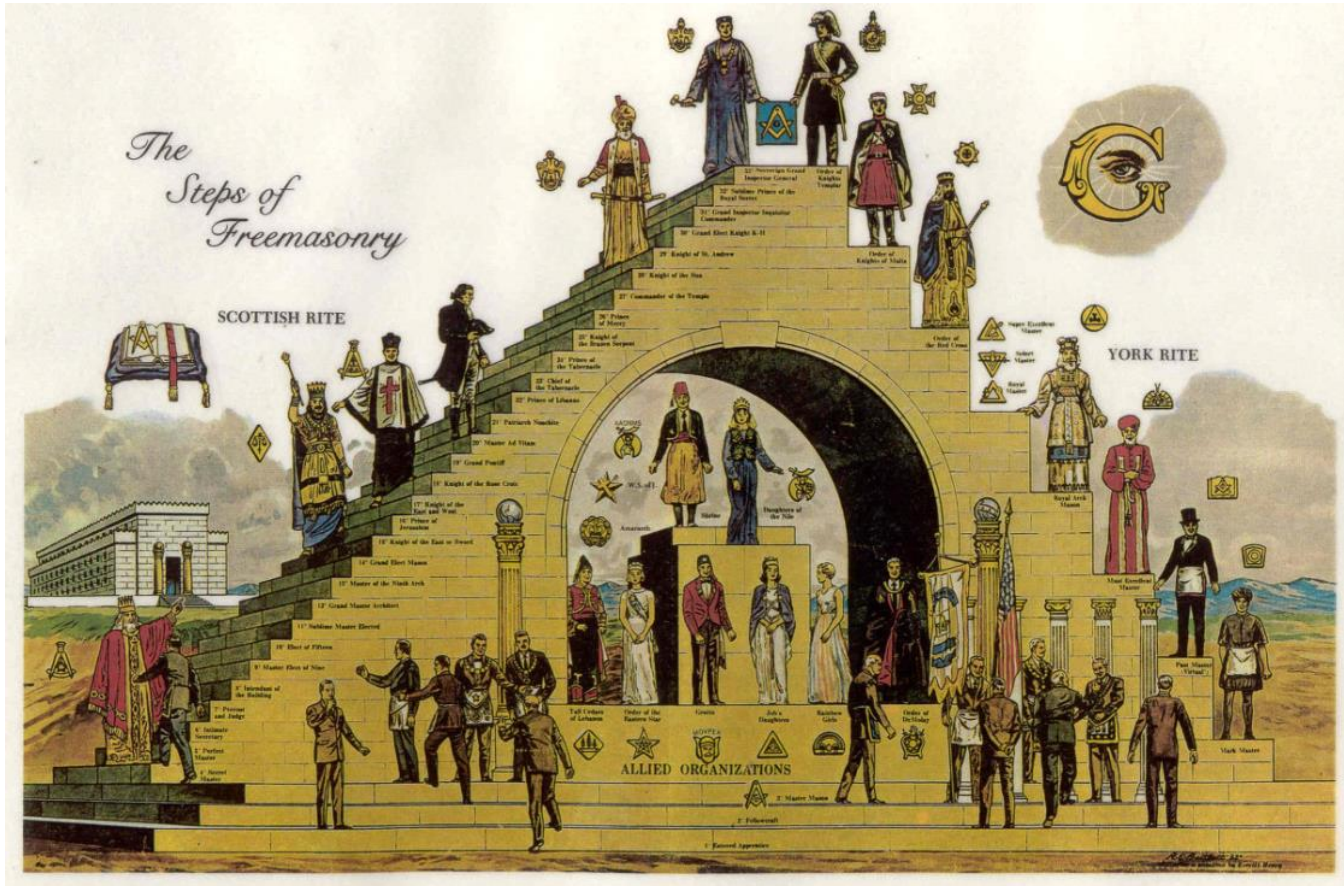
The [Cross of Lorraine](#) (*Croix de Lorraine* in French) is a double-barred cross that is featured prominently in the coat of arms of the Dukes of Lorraine. After Lorraine Nobleman Godfrey de Bouillon became the king of Jerusalem during

the First Crusade, the symbol became known as the “Jerusalem Cross.” When the Knights Templar arrived in the Holy Land, they adopted it as the symbol of their order.

During [World War II](#), the Cross of Lorraine was a symbol of the French resistance to Nazi rule. Some eagle-eyed observers have claimed to spot the Cross of Lorraine in the [Exxon and Nabisco logos](#) and even stamped on [Oreo cookies](#).

Read more: [Who Were the Knights Templar?](#)

2. The Freemasons



The steps of Freemasonry.

Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images

The freemasons loom large in American history—after all, [13 of the 39 men](#) who signed the [U.S. Constitution](#) were Masons. Founding Fathers like [George Washington](#), [James Monroe](#), [Benjamin Franklin](#), [John Hancock](#) and [Paul Revere](#) all counted themselves as members of the fraternal order. But who are the freemasons?

The freemasons can trace their routes to the [Middle Ages](#) in Europe, a time when most craftsmen were organized into local guilds. Cathedral builders, by nature of their profession, had to travel from city to city. They identified one another via signs of their trade, like the builder’s square and compass in Freemasonry’s now-iconic symbol.

The earliest reference to masons is in the *Regius Poem*, or Halliwell Manuscript, which was published in 1390, but Freemasonry as we know it today was founded in 1717, when four London lodges merged to form England’s first [Grand Lodge](#). Freemasonry quickly spread across Europe and to the [American colonies](#).

Freemason Beliefs

Freemasonry is not a religion, though members are encouraged to believe in

a [Supreme Being](#), or "Grand Architect of the Universe." Masonic temples and secret rituals have brought them into conflict with the Catholic Church. The Church first condemned the freemasons in 1738 and has gone on to issue around [20 decrees](#) against them. In 1985, Roman Catholic Bishops restated over 200 years' worth of these strictures in the face of an increased number of Catholics joining the order.

The Church wasn't their only enemy; the secrecy of the masons garnered such distrust in early America that it inspired America's first "third party": [The Anti-Masonic Party](#).

Are There Freemasons Today?



A depiction of a Masonic ritual taking place in a New York Masonic lodge, circa 1900.

Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Freemasons exist today, and their public image has been greatly influenced by the high-profile charity work of the [Shriners](#), a subset of freemasons also known as "the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine." The Shriners were founded by freemasons in 1870 at New York City's Knickerbocker College and continue their volunteer work today.

How Do You Become a Freemason?

The rituals around becoming a freemason are shrouded in secrecy, but have entered the public imagination in film and TV and were even parodied on an episode of "[The Simpsons](#)." Membership is open to all males over the age of 21, and women can join an associated group known as "The Order of the Eastern Star." According to the [New York Times](#), aspiring members must ask to join and cannot be otherwise approached, as summed up in a recruiting slogan: "All you have to do is ask."

ADVERTISING

If you do get in, you'll be in good company: [Famous freemasons](#) include [Mozart](#), [Winston Churchill](#), [Davy Crockett](#), [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) and John Wayne.

Freemason Symbol: The Square and Compasses



The Freemason symbol for the Grand Loge de France, the third largest Masonic obedience in France.

Andia/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

The most recognizable symbol of the freemasons is "The Square and Compasses." The right angle of the builder's square is joined by a compass, a central tool in geometry—which, according to some [experts at MIT](#), is represented by the "G" at the heart of the symbol. Others have interpreted the "G" as representative of [God](#), the "Grand Architect of the Universe."

The Eye of Providence



The Eye of Providence is on the dollar bill.

Spyros Arsenis/EyeEm/Getty Images

The view of the All-Seeing Eye as a masonic symbol has been [sharply debated](#). Long before the freemasons, Egyptians used the "[Eye of Horus](#)," and the all-seeing eye appears repeatedly in [Renaissance art](#) as a symbol of Christianity and [God's watchfulness](#). But organizations like the Philadelphia Federal Reserve claim freemasons Henry Wallace and [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) purposefully chose it when they [redesigned the dollar bill](#) in 1934.

According to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, the "[All-Seeing Eye](#)" is a masonic symbol of the "watchful care of the Supreme Architect" that began appearing in printed Masonic literature [in the mid-1700s](#).

3. The Illuminati



The initiation of an Illuminatus.

Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

The Illuminati were founded by professor [Adam Weishaupt](#) in Bavaria on May 1, 1776. Weishaupt, chafing at the power of the conservative Catholic Church and the Bavarian monarchy, sought to cast aside organized religion in favor of a new form of "illumination" through reason. Inspired by the spread of the [Enlightenment](#) across Europe, he also drew upon ideas expressed by the Jesuits (he was a former member), the Mysteries of the Seven Sages of Memphis, the Kabbalah and freemasons. He recruited heavily from the latter group, infiltrating masonic lodges in his quest to recruit some of the wealthiest and most influential men in Europe.

Members of the Bavarian Illuminati, referred to as "[Perfectibilists](#)," were broken into three tiers of increasing power and drawn from societal elites including noblemen like former freemason Baron von Knigge and writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. All communication was in cipher and members were given classical nicknames (Weishaupt's, for example, was Spartacus).

What Happened to the Illuminati?

The organization flourished before being stamped out by Karl Theodor of Bavaria, who issued an edict making membership in the Illuminati [punishable by death](#) in 1787. But the death of the Bavarian Illuminati did not quell gossip about their clandestine activities, and conspiracy theorists have linked the group to everything from the [French Revolution](#) to the [assassination of JFK](#). The Illuminati served as inspiration for Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons* and *Foucault's Pendulum* by Umberto Eco.

4. Skull and Bones

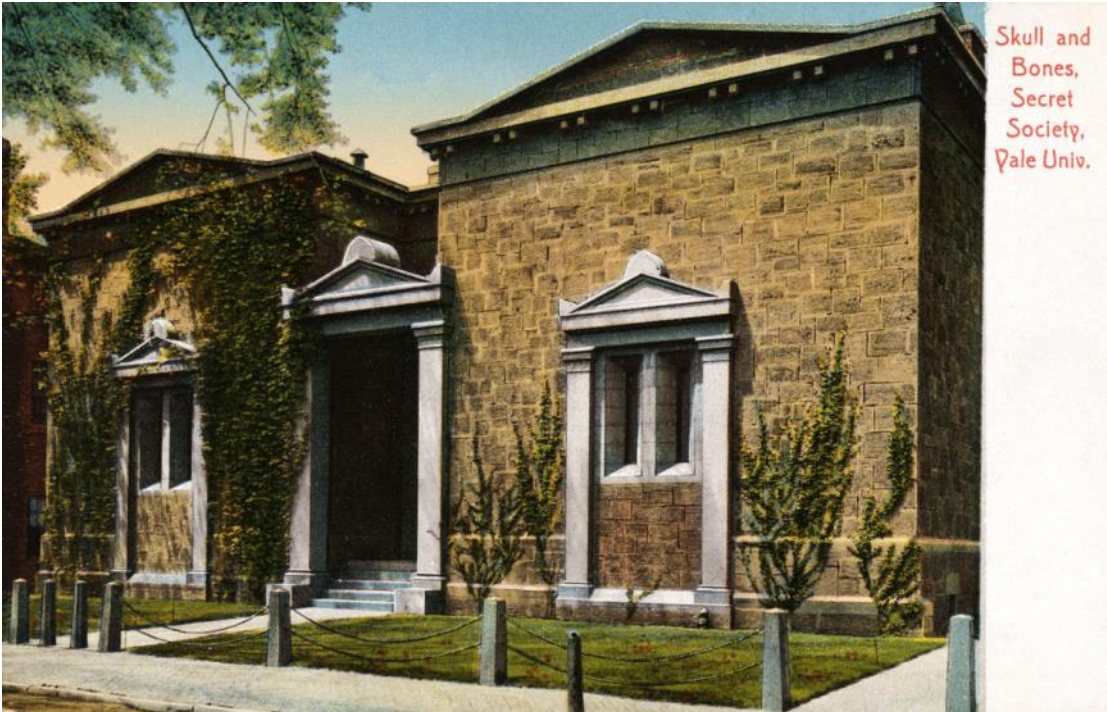


Skull and Bones members from the class of 1861.

Manuscripts and Archives Digital Library/Yale University

The Order of Skull and Bones is a secret society founded at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut in 1832. Skull and Bones founder William Huntington Russell was inspired by an occult society he'd visited in Germany. His co-founder was Alphonso Taft, future Secretary of War under [President Grant](#) and father of president [William Howard Taft](#)... who would also be a member of Skull and Bones. The prominent list of Bonesmen includes several presidents and modern-day power brokers.

How Do You Join Skull And Bones?



A postcard showing the Skull and Bones Society building known as "The Tomb."

Rykoff Collection/Corbis/Getty Images

Each year, [15 seniors at Yale](#) are tapped to join Skull and Bones. Their names are published in *Yale Rumpus*, though what happens behind the closed doors of [The Tomb](#), the windowless meeting space where Bonesmen gather twice a week, is under wraps: Members take an oath of secrecy. Graduate members are referred to as "patriarchs," while those undergoing initiation are called "knights." Outsiders of the group are "barbarians."

Famous Skull and Bones members include Presidents William Howard Taft, [George H.W. Bush](#) and his son, [George W. Bush](#); founder of *Time* magazine Henry Luce; former secretary of state and presidential hopeful John Kerry; Fortune 500 elites and members of the CIA.

The controversial 1986 exposé *America's Secret Establishment* by Anthony Sutton claimed that Skull and Bones was out to create a "new world order" run by Bonesmen, prompting myriad conspiracy theories.

Symbol: Skull And Bones



Manuscripts and Archives Digital Library/Yale University

The symbol of Skull and Bones is, appropriately, a skull with two crossbones. What's less clear is the meaning of the number "322" beneath them. [Yale Alumni Magazine](#) points to a popular theory that it represents the year 322 B.C., when [Alexander the Great](#) died.

Watch: [Was Geronimo's Skull Stolen by Skull & Bones?](#)

5. Bilderberg



The 1966 Bilderberg Conference took place in Wiesbaden, Germany, where leading American and Europeans met, including NATO Secretary General Manlio Brosio (left).

Roland Witschel/Picture Alliance/Getty Images

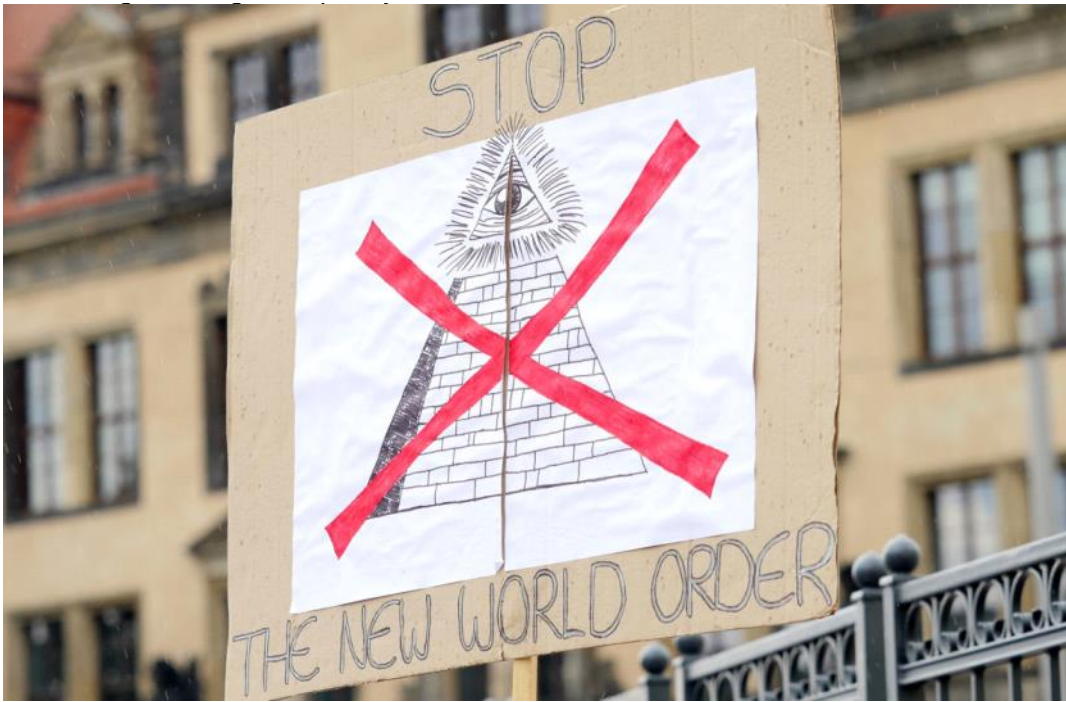
The first Bilderberg Meeting was in 1954 and held at the Hotel de Bilderberg in the Netherlands, from which the organization gets its name. Convened by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, it was a gathering of powerful politicians from North America and Europe designed to foster [warmer relations](#) between the two continents among fears of growing [anti-Americanism](#) in Europe.

While not strictly a secret society like the Illuminati or freemasons, Bilderberg's [high-profile attendees](#)—previous guests have included [Bill Clinton](#), [Margaret Thatcher](#), [Angela Merkel](#), Tony Blair and [Henry Kissinger](#)—and its use of the [Chatham House Rule](#) blocking attendees from sharing what actually happens in meetings gives the group an air of mystery. Journalists are barred from reporting on it. Meeting minutes are not released.

How Do You Get an Invite to the Bilderberg Meeting?

Bilderberg attendees are selected by a dedicated [international committee](#). Every year, about [120-140 people](#) are invited, with about two-thirds coming from Europe and one-third from North America. [The Washington Post](#) reports that while backgrounds in government and politics are the most common, attendees from fields like academia, finance and media have also been included.

Bilderberg Meeting Conspiracy Theories



A protester's sign reads "Stop The New World Order" near the venue of the 2016 Bilderberg Group conference on June 12, 2016 in Dresden, Germany.
Chad Buchanan/Getty Images

The level of secrecy surrounding the Bilderberg Meeting have given rise to many rumors, including unproven theories that Bilderberg attendees are behind the creation of the European Union, the invasion of Iraq and the bombing of Serbia, reports the [New York Times](#). Conspiracy theorists have painted the group as plotting a [new world order](#). Their [official website](#) maintains, "Thanks to the private nature of the Meeting, the participants take part as individuals rather than in any official capacity, and hence are not bound by the conventions of their office or by pre-agreed positions."

Publicly known topics of conversation for this year's Bilderberg Meeting are [Brexit](#), cyber security and [climate change](#).

What happens behind the closed doors of these secret societies has caused debate for centuries. What's clear is that they continue to spark the imagination and curiosity of the public.

From <https://www.history.com/news/secret-societies-freemasons-knights-templar>

Freemasonry

Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:21 PM

Freemasonry or **Masonry** consists of [fraternal organisations](#) that trace their origins to the local guilds of [stonemasons](#) that from the end of the 14th century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients. Freemasonry has been the subject of numerous [conspiracy theories](#) throughout the years.^[a] Modern Freemasonry broadly consists of two main recognition groups:

- **Regular Freemasonry** insists that a volume of [scripture](#) be open in a working lodge, that every member profess belief in a [Supreme Being](#), that no women be admitted, and that the discussion of religion and politics be banned.
 - **Continental Freemasonry** is now the general term for the jurisdictions that have removed some, or all, of these restrictions.
- The basic, local organisational unit of Freemasonry is the [Lodge](#). These private Lodges are usually supervised at the regional level (usually coterminous with either a state, province, or national border) by a [Grand Lodge](#) or Grand Orient. There is no international, worldwide Grand Lodge that supervises all of Freemasonry; each Grand Lodge is independent, and they do not necessarily recognise each other as being legitimate.
- The degrees of Freemasonry retain the three grades of medieval craft [guilds](#), those of [Apprentice](#), [Journeyman](#) or fellow (now called Fellowcraft), and [Master Mason](#). The candidate of these three degrees is progressively taught the meanings of the symbols of Freemasonry and entrusted with grips, signs and words to signify to other members that he has been so initiated. The degrees are part allegorical [morality play](#) and part lecture. Three degrees are offered by Craft (or Blue Lodge) Freemasonry, and members of any of these degrees are known as **Freemasons** or **Masons**. There are additional degrees, which vary with locality and jurisdiction, and are usually administered by their own bodies (separate from those who administer the Craft degrees).

Origins^[edit]



Goose and Gridiron, where the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster, later called the [Grand Lodge of England](#) was founded

Since the middle of the 19th century, Masonic historians have sought the origins of the movement in a series of similar documents known as the [Old Charges](#), dating from the [Regius Poem](#) in about 1425^[a] to the beginning of the 18th century. Alluding to the membership of a lodge of operative masons, they relate it to a mythologised history of the craft, the duties of its grades, and the manner in which oaths of fidelity are to be taken on joining.^[a] The 15th century also sees the first evidence of ceremonial regalia.^[a]

There is no clear mechanism by which these local trade organisations became today's Masonic Lodges. The earliest rituals and passwords known, from operative lodges around the turn of the 17th–18th centuries, show continuity with the rituals developed in the later 18th century by accepted or speculative Masons, as those members who did not practice the physical craft gradually came to be known.^[a] The minutes of the [Lodge of Edinburgh \(Mary's Chapel\) No. 1](#) in Scotland show a continuity from an operative lodge in 1598 to a modern speculative Lodge.^[a] It is reputed to be the oldest Masonic Lodge in the world.^[a]



View of room at the Masonic Hall, [Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk](#), England, early 20th century, set up for a Holy Royal Arch convocation

Alternatively, [Thomas De Quincey](#) in his work titled *Rosicrucians and Freemasonry* put forward the theory that suggested that Freemasonry may have been an outgrowth of [Rosicrucianism](#). The theory had also been postulated in 1803 by German professor; J. G. Buhle.^[a]

The first Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster, later called the [Grand Lodge of England](#) (GLE), was founded on St John's Day, 24 June 1717,^[a] when four existing London Lodges met for a joint dinner. Many English Lodges joined the new regulatory body, which itself entered a period of self-publicity and expansion. However, many Lodges could not endorse changes that some Lodges of the GLE, which came to be known as [Moderns](#), had made to the ritual, and a few of these formed a rival Grand Lodge on 17 July 1751, which they called the "[Antient Grand Lodge of England](#)." These two Grand Lodges vied for supremacy until the Moderns promised to return to the ancient ritual. They united on 27 December 1813 to form the [United Grand Lodge of England](#) (UGLE).^[a]

The [Grand Lodge of Ireland](#) and the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#) were formed in 1725 and 1736, respectively, although neither persuaded all of the existing lodges in their countries to join for many years.^[a]

North America^[edit]



[Erasmus James Phillips](#), first Freemason in present-day [Canada](#), [Old Burying Ground \(Halifax, Nova Scotia\)](#)

The earliest known American lodges were in [Pennsylvania](#). The Collector for the port of Pennsylvania, John Moore, wrote of attending lodges there in 1715, two years before the putative formation of the first Grand Lodge in London. The [Premier Grand Lodge of England](#) appointed a Provincial Grand Master for North America in 1731, based in Pennsylvania,^[a] leading to the creation of the [Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania](#).

In [Canada](#), [Erasmus James Phillips](#) became a Freemason while working on a commission to resolve boundaries in [New England](#) and, in 1739, he became provincial Grand Master for [Nova Scotia](#); Phillips founded the first Masonic lodge in Canada at [Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia](#).^[a]

Other lodges in the colony of Pennsylvania obtained authorisations from the later [Antient Grand Lodge of England](#), the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#), and the [Grand Lodge of Ireland](#), which was particularly well represented in the travelling lodges of the British Army.^[a] Many lodges came into existence with no warrant from any Grand Lodge, applying and paying for their authorisation only after they were confident of their own survival.^[a]

After the [American Revolution](#), independent U.S. Grand Lodges developed within each state. Some thought was briefly given to organising an overarching "Grand Lodge of the United States," with [George Washington](#), who was a member of a Virginian lodge, as the first Grand Master, but the idea was short-lived. The various state Grand Lodges did not wish to diminish their own authority by agreeing to such a body.^[a]

Jamaican Freemasonry^[edit]

Freemasonry was imported to [Jamaica](#) by British immigrants who colonized the island for over 300 years. In 1908, there were eleven recorded Masonic Lodges, which included three Grand Lodges, two Craft Lodges, and two Rose Croix Chapters.^[a] During slavery, the Lodges were open to all "freeborn" men. According to the Jamaican 1834 census, that potentially included 5,000 free black men and 40,000 free coloureds (mixed-race).^[a] After the [full abolition of slavery in 1838](#), the Lodges were open to all Jamaican men of any race.^[a] Jamaica also kept close relationships with Masons from other countries. Jamaican Freemasonry historian Jackie Ranston, noted that: Jamaica served as an arms depot for the revolutionary forces when two Kingston Freemasons, Wellwood and Maxwell Hyslop, financed the campaigns of Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, to whom six Latin American Republics owe their independence". Bolivar himself was a Mason, enjoying contacts with Brethren in Spain, England, France, and Venezuela until after gaining power in Venezuela, he prohibited all secret societies in 1828 and included the Freemasons.^[a]

On 25 May 2017, Masons around the world celebrated the 300th anniversary of the fraternity. Jamaica hosted one of the regional gatherings for this celebration.^[a]

Prince Hall Freemasonry^[edit]

Main article: [Prince Hall Freemasonry](#)



9 things you didn't know about Freemasonry



The back of a U.S. dollar bill, featuring the obverse of the Great Seal of the United States - an all-seeing eye atop an uncompleted pyramid.

AP PHOTO

(CBS News) "Sunday Morning" looks at the rumors, fears and conspiracy theories sparked by the [Freemasons' fraternal order](#), its secrets and rituals.

1. When meeting, Masons do not discuss religion or politics.

"There are certain subjects which are prevented or we simply proscribe from discussing within the lodge," Piers Vaughan, master of St. John's Lodge #1 in New York, told Mo Rocca. "And religion is one. Politics is another."

One of the world's leading experts on Freemasonry confirms.

"Do they discuss forms of politics and events that have happened? Yes, they do," said UCLA history professor Margaret Jacob. "Do they say, 'Well, I'm a Democrat and therefore I think ... ' Or, 'I'm a Republican ... ' No, I don't think they do that."

2. Freemasonry is not a religion.

"Freemasonry has the look of a religion," said Jacob. "You think of religion as ritual, there's also this ritual element. But there are no priests, there are no ministers, there are no rabbis, there's no system of clergy of any sort. Everybody's their own thinker."

3. The Catholic Church condemns Freemasonry.

Jacob said the initial response to Freemasonry in continental Europe, particularly in Catholic Europe, was suspicion from seeing "all these men [from] different neighborhoods, different professions meeting in the cafe, breaking bread together, doing rituals, what could this be? Political conspiracy or religion."

In 1738 the Catholic Church condemned Freemasonry, and has since issued about 20 decrees -- directly or indirectly -- against the fraternity. In 1983 Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI) re-affirmed this position.

4. Atheists are not welcome.

Freemasonry is not a religion per se, but agnostics or atheists cannot belong, said Brent Morris, a Masonic historian, editor of the [Scottish Rite Journal](#), and a 33rd degree Freemason.

"This is an organization of believers," he said. "When it was started on a formal basis in 1717, many historians believe that it was trying to bridge the gap between the religious civil wars that had been going on in England at the time. The Catholics would get in power and beat up on the Protestants; the Protestants would get in power and beat up on the Catholics; and everyone was beating up on the Jews."

"So when the Freemasons were formed, [they] said, 'Here's a group of men that agree that God is central in their lives, they can even agree that God compels them to do good in the community, then they can shut up after that.' That was a radical concept -- that men could get together and agree on that fundamental level, and then get on with their lives."

So could an atheist join? No, said James Sullivan, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York: "The reason we, I think in the past, wanted somebody that had a belief in a supreme being is because we take certain obligation to be a good man, to support the fraternity. And if you didn't have a belief in a supreme being, the obligation would mean nothing."

5. Most of the Founding Fathers were NOT Freemasons.

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Brethren in Spain, England, France, and Venezuela until after gaining power in Venezuela, he prohibited all secret societies in 1828 and included the Freemasons.^{[[citi](#)]}

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Prince Hall Freemasonry^{[[edit](#)]}

Main article: *[Prince Hall Freemasonry](#)*

Prince Hall Freemasonry exists because of the refusal of early American lodges to admit **African Americans**. In 1775, an African American named *[Prince Hall](#)*^{[[citi](#)]} along with 14 other African-American men, was initiated into a British military lodge with a warrant from the *[Grand Lodge of Ireland](#)*, having failed to obtain admission from the other lodges in *[Boston](#)*. When the British military lodge left North America after the end of the Revolution, those 15 men were given the authority to meet as a Lodge, but not to initiate Masons. In 1784, these individuals obtained a Warrant from the Premier Grand Lodge of England (GLE) and formed African Lodge, Number 459. When the *[UGLE](#)* was formed in 1813, all U.S.-based Lodges were stricken from their rolls – largely because of the *[War of 1812](#)*. Thus, separated from both UGLE and any concordantly recognised U.S. Grand Lodge, African Lodge retitled itself as the African Lodge, Number 1 – and became a *de facto* Grand Lodge. (This lodge is not to be confused with the various Grand Lodges in *[Africa](#)*.) As with the rest of U.S. Freemasonry, Prince Hall Freemasonry soon grew and organised on a Grand Lodge system for each state.^{[[citi](#)]}

Widespread *[racial segregation](#)* in 19th- and early 20th-century North America made it difficult for African Americans to join Lodges outside of Prince Hall jurisdictions – and impossible for inter-jurisdiction recognition between the parallel U.S. Masonic authorities. By the 1980s, such discrimination was a thing of the past. Today most U.S. Grand Lodges recognise their Prince Hall counterparts, and the authorities of both traditions are working towards full recognition.^{[[citi](#)]} The United Grand Lodge of England has no problem with recognising Prince Hall Grand Lodges.^{[[citi](#)]} While celebrating their heritage as lodges of African-Americans, Prince Hall is open to all men regardless of race or religion.^{[[citi](#)]}

Emergence of Continental Freemasonry^{[[edit](#)]}



Masonic initiation, Paris, 1745

English Freemasonry spread to France in the 1720s, first as lodges of expatriates and exiled *[Jacobites](#)*, and then as distinctively French lodges that still follow the ritual of the *[Moderns](#)*. From France and England, Freemasonry spread to most of Continental Europe during the course of the 18th century. The Grande Loge de France formed under the Grand Mastership of the Duke of Clermont, who exercised only nominal authority. His successor, the *[Duke of Orléans](#)*, reconstituted the central body as the Grand Orient de France in 1773. Briefly eclipsed during the *[French Revolution](#)*, French Freemasonry continued to grow in the next century,^{[[citi](#)]} at first under the leadership of *[Alexandre Francois Auguste de Grasse](#)*, Comte de Grassy-Tilly. A career Army officer, he lived with his family in *[Charleston, South Carolina](#)* from 1793 to the early 1800s, after leaving *[Saint-Domingue](#)*, now Haiti, during the years of the *[Haitian Revolution](#)*.

Schism^{[[edit](#)]}

The ritual form on which the Grand Orient of France was based was abolished in England in the events leading to the formation of the *[United Grand Lodge of England](#)* in 1813. However the two jurisdictions continued in amity, or mutual recognition, until events of the 1860s and 1870s drove a seemingly permanent wedge between them. In 1868 the *Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the State of Louisiana* appeared in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, recognised by the Grand Orient de France, but regarded by the older body as an invasion of their jurisdiction. The new Scottish Rite body admitted blacks. The resolution of the Grand Orient the following year that neither colour, race, nor religion could disqualify a man from Masonry prompted the Grand Lodge to withdraw recognition, and it persuaded other American Grand Lodges to do the same.^{[[citi](#)]}

A dispute during the *[Lausanne Congress of Supreme Councils of 1875](#)* prompted the Grand Orient de France to commission a report by a Protestant pastor, which concluded that, as Freemasonry was not a religion, it should not require a religious belief. The new constitutions read, "Its principles are absolute liberty of conscience and human solidarity", the existence of God and the immortality of the soul being struck out. It is possible that the immediate objections of the United Grand Lodge of England were at least partly motivated by the political tension between France and Britain at the time. The result was the withdrawal of recognition of the Grand Orient of France by the United Grand Lodge of England, a situation that continues today.^{[[citi](#)]}

Not all French lodges agreed with the new wording. In 1894, lodges favouring the compulsory recognition of the Great Architect of the Universe formed the *[Grande Loge de France](#)*.^{[[citi](#)]} In 1913, the United Grand Lodge of England recognised a new Grand Lodge of Regular Freemasons, a Grand Lodge that follows a similar rite to Anglo-American Freemasonry with a mandatory belief in a deity.^{[[citi](#)]}

There are now three strands of Freemasonry in France, which extend into the rest of Continental Europe:-

- Liberal, also called adogmatic or progressive – Principles of liberty of conscience, and laicity, particularly the separation of the Church and State.^{[[citi](#)]}
- Traditional – Old French ritual with a requirement for a belief in a Supreme Being.^{[[citi](#)]} (This strand is typified by the *[Grande Loge de France](#)*).
- Regular – Standard Anglo-American ritual, mandatory belief in Supreme Being.^{[[citi](#)]}

The term ***Continental Freemasonry*** was used in Mackey's 1873 *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* to "designate the Lodges on the Continent of Europe which retain many usages which have either been abandoned by, or never were observed in, the Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as the United States of America".^{[[citi](#)]} Today, it is frequently used to refer to only the Liberal jurisdictions typified by the Grand Orient de France.^{[[citi](#)]} The majority of Freemasonry considers the Liberal (Continental) strand to be Irregular, and thus withhold recognition. The Continental lodges, however, did not want to sever masonic ties. In 1961, an umbrella organisation, *[Centre de Liaison et d'Information des Puissances maçonniques Signataires de l'Appel de Strasbourg](#)* (CLIPSA) was set up, which today provides a forum for most of these Grand Lodges and Grand Orients worldwide. Included in the list of over 70 Grand Lodges and Grand Orients are representatives of all three of the above categories, including mixed and women's organisations. The United Grand Lodge of England does not communicate with any of these jurisdictions, and expects its allies to follow suit. This creates the distinction between Anglo-American and Continental Freemasonry.^{[[citi](#)]}

Italy^{[[edit](#)]}

In the early 20th century Freemasonry was an influential semi-secret force in Italian politics with a strong presence among professionals and the middle class across Italy, as well as among the leadership of the parliament, public administration, and the army. The two main organisations were the Grand Orient and the Grand Lodge of Italy. They had 25,000 members in 500 or more lodges. Freemasons took on the challenge of mobilizing the press, public opinion and the leading political parties in support of *[Italy's joining the Allies](#)* of the First World War in 1914–1915. Traditionally, they promoted Italian nationalism focused on unification, and undermining the power of the Catholic Church. In 1914-15 they dropped the traditional pacifistic rhetoric and used instead the powerful language of *[Italian nationalism](#)*. Freemasonry had always promoted cosmopolitan universal values, and by 1917 onwards they demanded a *[League of Nations](#)* to promote a new post-war universal order based upon the peaceful coexistence of independent and democratic nations.^{[[citi](#)]}

From <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasonry#History>>

What Is Freemasonry?



Freemasonry is a post-collegiate *fraternity* dedicated to the spiritual development of the initiate into a broader sense of the self, how they relate to the *Divine* and their contributory role in the world. It conveys this message through a series of progressive degrees initiating the candidate into a deeper level of understanding and membership. Ultimately, the raised *Master Mason* is given the allegorical tools to further work on an develop their Masonic intuition.

Fraternity

The largest and oldest secular fraternal order in the world, Freemasonry crosses all religious boundaries to bring together individuals of all countries, sects, and opinion in peace and harmony to work towards the betterment of all mankind. A universal brotherhood, Freemasonry is dedicated to serving the divine through service to family, country, and humankind.

Philosophy

Freemasonry is a philosophical organization emphasizing the study of *moral [symbols](#)* to build character in its participants. This education is the foundation of a more profound understanding of mankind and his existence in society. Living today in a "throw away society", Freemasonry teaches about the value of *history, freedom, and charity* (ultimate perfection of the human spirit) towards all mankind.

Spiritual

to support the fraternity. And if you didn't have a belief in a supreme being, the obligation would mean nothing."

5. Most of the Founding Fathers were NOT Freemasons.

Two of America's earliest presidents, George Washington and James Monroe, were Freemasons, as were Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock and Paul Revere. But many leading figures in the American Revolution -- including John and Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Thomas Paine -- were not Masons.

Of the 56 figures who signed the Declaration of Independence, only nine were confirmed Masons, according to the *[Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania](#)*; and of the 39 delegates of the Continental Congress who signed the draft of the new nation's Constitution in 1787, only 13 (one-third) were Freemasons.

6. There are NO secret Masonic symbols on the U.S. dollar bill.

The back of the dollar bill features an incomplete pyramid with an eye on top of it. Many people -- including some Freemasons -- say it's a Masonic symbol, but that's not the case. UCLA's Margaret Jacob says these symbols have been used by many different groups, including Masons, throughout history.

"I'm sure there are a lot of Freemasons who want to believe [they're Masonic symbols] and who will tell it to you, because it makes the Lodges seem important," Jacob said. "I mean, if you have a symbol on the dollar bill, that's a big deal!"

Brent Morris said there are two types of people who want to promote the idea that the symbols are Masonic: "The pro-Masons and the anti-Masons -- and that pretty well covers the universe.

"The Eye of God is a common icon for God looking over the affairs of man," Morris said. "It's an icon that appears in cultures across the centuries. The uncompleted pyramid [which also appeared on a 50-pound Colonial note] represented that our country was not yet completed, that we were continuing to grow."

7. The Shriners are Freemasons.

The Shriners (known formally as the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine), the charity organization best known in the popular mind for driving tiny cars in parades, are an off-shoot of the Masons. They run 22 children's hospitals where patients don't pay a cent.

"You must be a Mason to become a Shriner," said Morris.

8. The secret Masonic password originated as a job tool

Masonry began as a guild for stone masons who built the castles and cathedrals of Medieval Europe. "If you were a baker, a miller, a brewer, you could spend your entire life in one village practicing your trade," said Morris. "If you are a mason, after they repair the church or build the town hall, there might not be any mason work in that town for decades, so you had to move to another jobsite.

"Now, you're illiterate; the officers of the lodge are probably illiterate. So that's why they believe the Masons' word came into effect. It allowed the craftspeople to move from one jobsite to another and identify themselves as being part of the trade union.

"We have evidence in Scotland going back to the early 1600s that the Masons' word existed, and [that] was how you as a Mason in Edinburgh could identify yourself to a Mason in Lancashire that you were a member of the guild and could have work."

"Are there secret handshakes?" asked Rocca.

"Oh, secret handshakes, of course," replied Morris. "I mean, what's the point of having a password if you don't have a handshake?"

9. There is no hidden Masonic code on Rolling Rock beer bottles.

Introduced in 1939, the Rolling Rock brand of beer, from the Latrobe Brewing Company of Pennsylvania, ends a statement on its label with the cryptic "33." Over the years it has been suggested that it refers to the 33rd degree of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

According to "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry" (Alpha), Latrobe insists the "33" refers to 1933, the year Prohibition ended.

In 1986, *[Cecil Adams' "The Straight Dope" column](#)* investigated this urban legend and found that "33" actually was scribbled under the statement, indicating how many words it contained, and the printer mistakenly added it to the label. [You see, it's *always* printing errors.

From <<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/9-things-you-didnt-know-about-freemasonry/>>

Inside the secret world of the Freemasons

(CBS News) *The Square and Compasses are among the traditional tools of stonemasons. They also form the symbol of a group that has been misunderstood and even maligned for many centuries. This morning, Mo Rocca takes us inside:*

It's the world's most well-known secret society. Rich with symbols and ritual, it's the source of legends . . . parodies . . . and conspiracy theories.

Welcome to the world of Freemasonry.

True or false? The Masons are a secret society. "No. That's false," said UCLA history professor Margaret Jacob, one of the world's leading experts on Freemasonry.

The real nature of Freemasonry is a spiritual force behind each member, improving themselves morally by associating with other like-minded individuals. Also, Freemasonry acts as a social organization, promoting the interaction between like-minded members within the lodge to build friendly bonds between them. By fostering this brotherhood, relationships are made such that even meeting outside of the comforts of the lodge the bonds remain and genuine affection prevails. Wherever traveling, masons meet and greet other masons as brothers as a result of these bonds.

From <<https://freemasoninformation.com/what-is-freemasonry/>>

Freemasons For Dummies Cheat Sheet

Freemasons are part of an ancient tradition with rituals and symbols all their own. As a Mason, you can earn degrees, join esoteric and social organizations, and become privy to the language and abbreviations specific to Freemasonry.

Freemason Blue Lodge Degrees

The local Blue Lodge is the place where you and your Freemason neighbors begin your Masonic careers. A *Blue Lodge* is a lodge of Freemasons that confers the first three degrees:

- 1^o — Entered Apprentice
- 2^o — Fellow Craft
- 3^o — Master Mason

You can join other Masonic organizations to earn further degrees.

Groups Affiliated with Freemasons

Freemasons are generally a social bunch who want more and more people to join in their love for their rituals. The mid-1800s saw the addition of more groups joining the Masonic family, including groups for female relatives of Masons, as well as their children.

Called *appendant bodies*, some of these groups developed to confer more-involved, Masonic-style degrees. Others satisfied the desire for military-style drill teams. Still others were created to allow wives and children to take part in the lodge experience. The following list lays out the groups for adults affiliated with Freemasonry:

- **The York Rite:** York Rite is actually a descriptive term used for three cooperative groups (which include the Knights Templar) that confer a total of ten degrees in the United States. The degrees making up the York Rite are considered concordant to the first three Masonic degrees, meaning they confer additional Masonic degrees that enlarge and expand on the first three lodge degrees. You must already be a Master Mason before you can join the York Rite.
- **The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite** (or *the Scottish Rite*): Perhaps the most visible and least understood appendant body of Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite isn't particularly ancient, and it didn't come from Scotland. It is technically a *concordant* body, because some of its degrees continue the story of the building of Solomon's Temple started in the first three lodge degrees. The Scottish Rite appears in a major role in Dan Brown's novel, *The Lost Symbol*.
- **Shriners international:** The Shrine has often been called the "playground of Freemasonry." Shriners wear red fezzes, ride little cars in parades, sponsor circuses, and do other wacky things to raise money for their 23 children's hospitals in North America.
- **The Mystic Order of the Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm** (simply and affectionately known as the Grotto): Over the years, the Grotto has unfairly earned the unflattering nickname "the poor man's Shrine," but built on the premise that men would be better Masons if the solemn teachings from the lodge could be interspersed with a little socializing and fun.
- **The Order of the Eastern Star (OES):** Created to be a Masonic-style organization open to women, without simply being a copy, parody, or rip-off of the Masonic degrees. The Order of the Eastern Star is open to men who are Master Masons, and female relatives, spouses, and descendants of Master Masons.
- **The Order of the Amaranth:** A group for both Masons and their spouses and female relatives, it's open to all faiths.
- **The Social Order of the Beauceant:** Unusual in American Masonry because it does not require or even admit men. It is an organization of women limited to the wives and widows of Knights Templar.
- **The Ancient Egyptian Order of SCIOTS:** Its motto is "Boost One Another." They're dedicated to social activities and helping each other in their personal and business lives.
- **High Twelve:** An organization for Master Masons who generally meet for an hour once a week to enjoy fellowship and to support Masonic and patriotic causes.
- **National Sojourners:** An organization designed especially for Freemasons who have served in active duty of the armed forces of the United States.
- **The Tall Cedars of Lebanon:** Founded as a fraternal organization to promote "fun, frolic, and friendship," and to standardize its ritual. Local chapters are called forests, and members are called tall cedars. Its adopted headgear is a pyramid-shaped hat with a tassel. The degree is purely for fun.

Youth Groups Affiliated with Freemasonry

Freemasons encourage young people to become involved in their rituals. Over the years Freemasons have started several groups for young people. You need to have a Masonic connection to join the Order of DeMolay or Job's Daughters, but a girl of any race, creed, or religion can join the International Order of the Rainbow. Masonic youth groups are in the following list:

- **Order of DeMolay** (for boys): DeMolay confers initiation and knighthood on boys, followed by awards of merit. Its members hold office and conduct the ritual and business of the chapter, teaching boys leadership skills, financial responsibility, civic awareness, and public speaking. Today, membership is open to boys between the ages of 12 and 21.
- **Job's Daughters** (for girls): The purpose of the order is to band together young girls for character building through moral and spiritual development, teaching a greater reverence for God and the Bible, patriotism, and respect for parents.
- **The International Order of the Rainbow** (for girls): Although its teachings are based on Christian writings used to show basic values integral to many religions, the order is open to girls of all religions.

Officers of a Typical Freemason Lodge

True or false? Freemasonry is a religion. No, said Jacob.

True or false? Masons were behind the American Revolution. "False, false, false," she said.

"Okay, but what about on the dollar bill? The eye and pyramid?" asked Rocca.

"Oh, yeah, the eye, yeah," said Jacob. "Everybody says it's Masonic. In fact, it's commonplace in the 18th century, that particular set of symbols."

True! Freemasons laid the cornerstone of America -- well, at least some of its most iconic structures, like the National Cathedral in Washington and the Statue of Liberty.

9 things you didn't know about Freemasonry

So what is Freemasonry? Simply put, it's the world's oldest and largest fraternity. Its membership is a Who's Who of world history -- George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Winston Churchill, Mozart, Davy Crockett, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Houdini, Gerald Ford, Henry Ford, John Wayne, even Colonel Sanders.

If you want to be a Mason, you can petition a local lodge for membership. You'll need to demonstrate good character and belief in some sort of Supreme Being. Oh, and in almost all lodges, it's men only.

Next, you're up for a vote, explains New York State Grand Master James Sullivan. "The lodge votes to accept you, and then you have your three degrees that you go through."

Once you earn "the third degree" (and yes, *that's* where the phrase comes from), you can join any number of Masonic off-shoots.

Take Brent Morris. He's a 33rd degree Mason and a historian at the House of the Temple for the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction. (It's that big building in Washington, D.C.)

"This isn't like the Masonic Vatican, but it's an important building," said Rocca.

"It's an important building, absolutely right," said Morris. "It's one branch of Freemasonry in the United States, and that's our headquarters."

Inside, the temple lodge room is a stunner. And downstairs, you can see the flag that Buzz Aldrin took to the Moon with him.

Now, if tiny hats and small cars are your thing, there are the party animals of Freemasonry, the Shriners.

You may know them better for their 22 childrens' hospitals, where patients don't have to pay a cent -- the Masons are philanthropic. They reportedly donate \$2 million to charity *every day*.

Freemasonry began in medieval Europe as a guild for stonemasons, but lived on as a social organization. The first grand lodge was created in London in 1717. "Now there are many men in these lodges that are not associated with a trade organization; they're 'gentleman Masons,'" said Morris. "They're not stonecutters."

A modern fraternity had been created.

It wasn't long afterward that those conspiracy theories began.

From <<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/inside-the-secret-world-of-the-freemasons/>>

Freemasonry is full of ritual, and for rituals you need people to be responsible for the various activities associated with the ritual and for the lodge in general. And what would any lodge be without a leader? The following list shows the officer positions available in a typical lodge:

- **Worshipful Master (WM):** President
- **Senior Warden (SW):** First vice president
- **Junior Warden (JW):** Second vice president
- **Secretary:** Recorder
- **Treasurer:** Financial officer
- **Senior Deacon (SD):** Worshipful Master's messenger
- **Junior Deacon (JD):** Senior Warden's messenger
- **Senior Steward (SS):** Page
- **Junior Steward (JS):** Page
- **Marshall:** Master of ceremonies
- **Inner Guard:** Inner door guard
- **Tyler (or Tiler):** Outer door guard
- **Chaplain**

The Lost Symbol: Truth or Fiction?

Dan Brown's book, *The Lost Symbol*, invites much curiosity — and speculation — about a brotherhood of secrets and symbols. So, what's the truth behind the storytelling? Here are a few facts revealed:

- **Did the Masons build Washington DC?**
The Freemasons of Virginia and Maryland conducted ritual ceremonies for the first foundation marker stone of Washington D.C., as well as the cornerstones for the President's Mansion (the White House) and the Congress House (the Capitol building). George Washington and engineer Pierre L'Enfant were Freemasons, and consulted with non-Mason Andrew Ellicott, who finished designing the street plan of the city after L'Enfant was fired from the project. Masons really did lay the cornerstone of the Washington Monument, along with contributing a series of commemorative stones that appear inside of the obelisk.
- **Have most U.S. Presidents been Freemasons?**
Only 14 of them (the first was George Washington, and the most recent was Gerald Ford).
- **Do 33rd degree Scottish Rite Masons drink out of a skull?**
Dan Brown cribbed the ceremony in the first pages of *The Lost Symbol* from an anti-Masonic exposé written in the 1870s to embarrass the Masons. It's NOT accurate.
- **Is the "Chamber of Reflection" real?**
Yes, although Dan Brown took some liberties with it. Some Masonic lodges and appendant groups place initiates into a Chamber of Reflection to meditate on their past life and future mortality before certain degree ceremonies, but it is not a uniform practice. It is far more prevalent outside of the U.S. However, Masons do not have private rooms like this in their homes or businesses (like the basement of the U.S. Capitol building).
- **Do Masons accept members from all religions?**
The first requirement for membership in the Masons (along with being for men only) is the belief in a Supreme Being," but a man's religion is considered his own business.
- **Is the House of the Temple a real place?**
Yes, it is the headquarters of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction in Washington D.C. Just as Brown said, it is located at 1733 16th Street NW, and it can be toured by the public. And it is pretty much as described in *The Lost Symbol*, except that human sacrifices do not take place in it. The George Washington Masonic Memorial is also a very real place in Alexandria, right across from the King Street Metro stop.
- **Are pyramids a Masonic symbol?**
No, this is fiction created by Dan Brown. Pyramids do not appear in regular Masonic ritual or symbolism, and the Masons did not put the "unfinished pyramid and the all-seeing eye" on the back of the U.S. dollar bill. These are myths.
- **Do Masons really have a universal distress signal?**
Yes, it is a combination of words and hand signals.
- **Do Masons have a secret cipher code?**
Yes, although it's no secret now that Brown told everybody about it. Just for the record, there are variations of it that he didn't reveal.

From <<https://www.dummies.com/religion/spirituality/freemasons-for-dummies-cheat-sheet/>>

One Man Exposed the Secrets of the Freemasons. His Disappearance Led to Their Downfall

Before his book could be published, William Morgan was dragged away by a group of Masons, never to be seen again.

[MARTIN STEZANO](#)

Universal History Archive/ UIG/Getty Image

In the early morning hours of September 12, 1826, a Batavia, New York stoneworker named William Morgan went missing from the local jail. Morgan was not a man of importance. In fact, he was known as a bit of a drunk—a drifter who, [according to historian and author of *American Hysteria: The Untold Story of Mass Political Extremism in the United States*](#) Andrew Burt, “had moved his family relentlessly throughout the countryside, hauling his wife, Lucinda, and two young children from one failed venture to the next.”

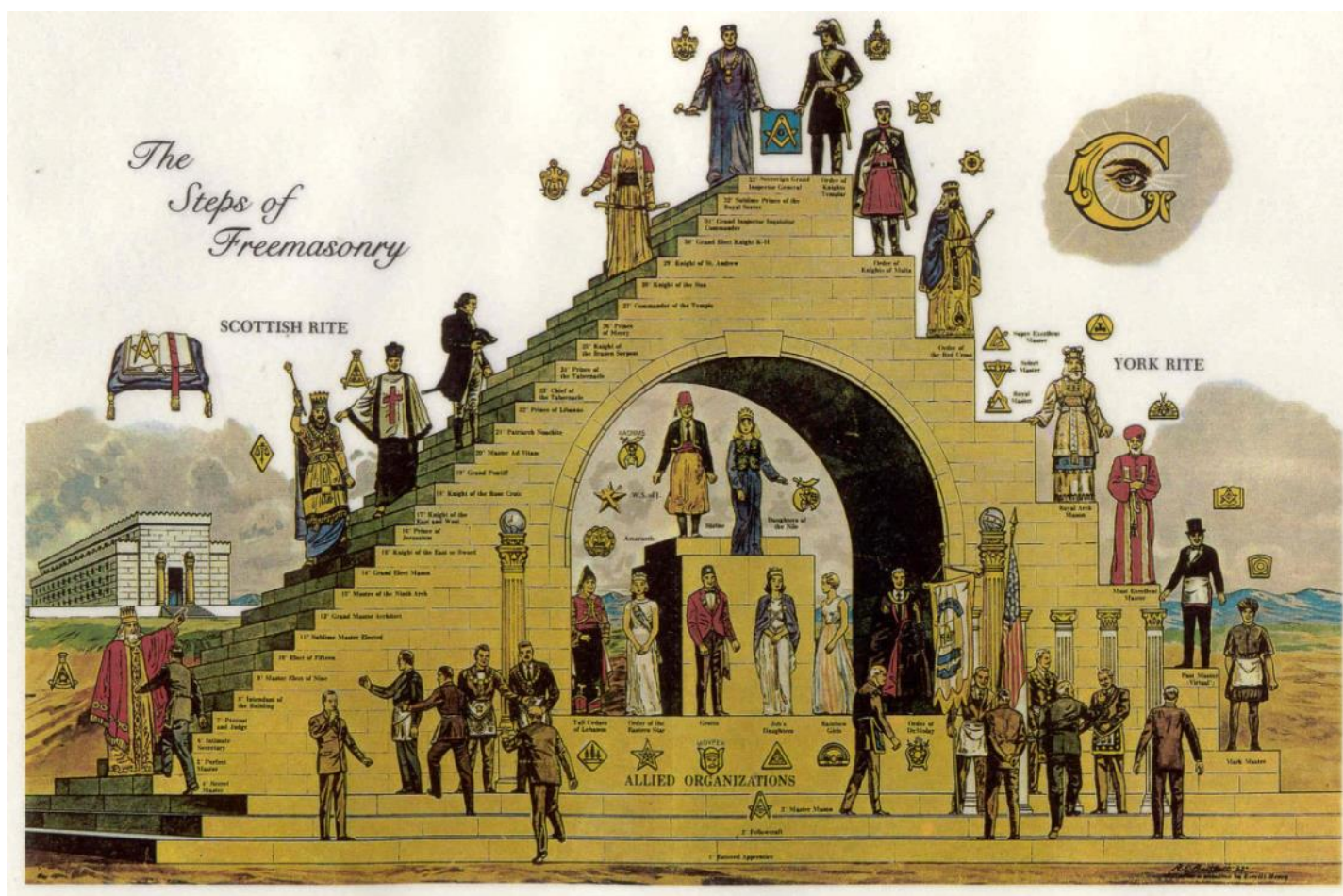
But Morgan was more than the vagabond he appeared to be. He had also managed to infiltrate the secret society of freemasons and was threatening to publish a book exposing the powerful organization’s tactics. As a result of his plan, the local Masons began harassing Morgan, hoping to stop the publication of the exposé.

After being held in prison on trumped up charges, Morgan was bailed out by a group of Masons and carried away, never to be seen again. The conspiracy surrounding his disappearance fueled local anti-Mason sentiment, which in turn led to a national anti-Mason movement that shook to the core one of history’s most influential secret societies and changed American politics forever.

Long before the Freemasons became a flashpoint in early 19th century politics, the order was a humble stoneworkers organization, believed to have been formed in England and Scotland in the 1500s. The organization soon took on a more philosophical air, using the principles of stonemasonry as a [guiding metaphor](#) in order to secretly assist its members in other areas of

business and society.

The first Masonic lodges began showing up in the colonies in the early 18th century, and swiftly gained power and influence. Members of the Freemasons eventually played a pivotal role in the formation of the United States—13 of the 39 signatures on the U.S. Constitution belonged to Masons—and, by the time Morgan disappeared in the 1820s, it had representatives entrenched at every level of the country's social, economic and political hierarchies. Nowhere was this more true than in New York.



The Steps of Freemasonry.

Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images

To Morgan, and his friend David C. Miller, a local newspaper publisher struggling to keep his publication afloat, the successful Freemasons presented a daily reminder of wealth that seemed, for them, simply unattainable. As A.P. Bentley wrote in his 1874 book [*History of the Abduction of William Morgan and the Anti-Masonic Excitement of 1826-30*](#), The two men “entered into partnership to print a book which the public was to be told disclosed the secrets of masonry, in hopes to make a fortune out of the gaping curiosity of the vulgar.”

Under the false pretenses of being a Mason himself, Morgan gained access to

the local lodge and documented several of the organization's cryptic ceremonies and induction rituals. Once Morgan had these veiled details down on paper, Miller began teasing their very public release. In August of 1826, Miller [hinted](#) at the incendiary nature of the upcoming exposé, saying he had discovered the “strongest evidence of rottenness” in the centuries-old institution.

Miller and Morgan's threat to reveal the innermost secrets of the Masons spread quickly. In every neighboring county, Masonic chapters were soon gripped with panic, fear and outrage at what the two men might disclose. Imagining the worst, committees were organized to assess the potential fallout from Morgan and Miller's proposed story. As the publish date approached, the Masons began a targeted campaign of harassment against the two would-be book publishers.

Law enforcement officers loyal to the Freemasons arrested and jailed Morgan and Miller for outstanding debts. Miller's offices became a target as well. On September 8, a posse of drunken Masons tried to destroy his print shop, and it was damaged by a small fire two days later.

On September 11, a gang of Masons showed up at Morgan's house with an arrest warrant for petty larceny. It seems he had borrowed a shirt and tie from the owner of the local tavern and never returned it. Soon after he arrived at the police station, the charges were dropped, but Morgan was immediately arrested for another petty debt of \$2.65. Late in the evening, he was bailed out by group of Masons led by Loton Lawson—the mastermind of the kidnapping, according to [Light on Masonry](#), a 19th century compilation of documents about freemasonry.

He was escorted hurriedly into a carriage and taken away, never to be seen again. The [last word](#) anyone heard Morgan utter was, allegedly, “Murder!”



Anti-Freemason, William Morgan (1774 - c.1826).

Kean Collection/Getty Images

The rumors of Morgan's disappearance spread throughout New York. With each new county that heard the news, it seemed the brutality and drama of the kidnapping grew exponentially, while the desire to portray it accurately diminished at a similar rate. The "insular, secretive, powerful" Masons, as Burt described them, soon became a popular symbol of everything that was wrong with the country.

The men accused of Morgan's disappearance were put on trial, but in January of 1827, they were handed relatively lenient sentences. Although they had been involved in a potential murder, the four defendants—Loton Lawson, Eli Bruce, Col. Edward Sawyer and Nicholas G. Chesebro—received prison terms ranging from one month to two years in jail, convicted, [as Burt put it](#), of "forcibly moving

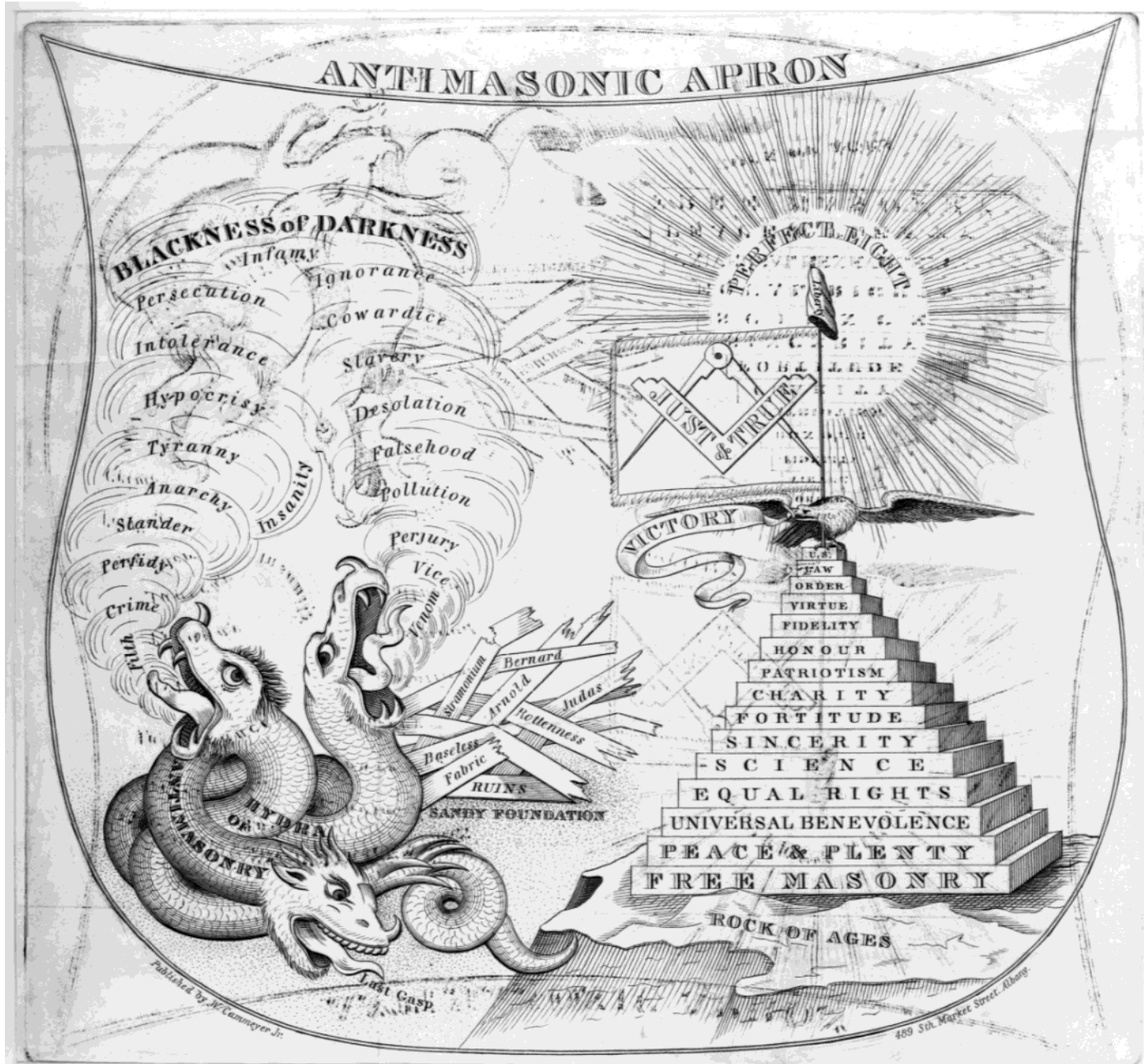
Morgan from one place to another against his will.” The all-powerful Masons had, in the eyes of those who opposed them, gotten away with murder

“Everybody loves a good conspiracy story,” says Burt. “And that was the initial spark—headlines, outrage, crimes, a murder. It didn’t take long before a movement was borne.” The outrage led to calls for political action. Citizens from all over New York state met and declared their intent to stop voting for candidates with Masonic ties. If New Yorkers didn’t want to be ruled by the Masons, their most immediate course of action was to vote them out. That sentiment extended to the media as well, as Mason-owned newspapers were boycotted.

The fervor in New York slowly made its way around the nation. As early as the next elections in 1828, anti-Masonic candidates were winning offices all over the country. Even the sitting president, John Quincy Adams, [declared](#) that he had never been, and would never be, a Mason. The Anti-Masonic party—considered America’s first “third party”—had officially gone national. In 1830, they became the first political party to [hold a presidential nominating convention](#), a custom eventually adopted by all major American political parties.

Unfortunately, the party’s first national convention would be its last. Infighting over who to nominate, and how to expand the party’s core platform to other issues other than hating the Masons, led to its ultimate demise. Says Burt about the death of the movement: “Ultimately, there wasn’t enough substance to the movement to allow it to endure, and it simply collapsed under its own weight.”

That’s not to say that the movement was a complete failure. Because of the Morgan Affair, and the ant-Masonic sentiment that followed, memberships dwindled and Masonic influence diminished all over the country. Although it still exists, the organization is a shadow of its former self.



An attack on the Anti-masonic party produced shortly after their September national convention. It symbolically contrasts the Freemasons, as aligned with peace, equal rights, and other positive qualities, and the Anti-masonic party aligned with "darkness."

Corbis/Getty Images

Shortly after Morgan's disappearance, Miller published *Illustrations of Masonry* with a scathing introduction that was written "in the absence of the author... who was kidnapped and carried away from the village of Batavia, on the 11th day of September, 1826, by a number of Freemasons." In it, [Miller stated](#):

"When we now see the gaudy show in a lodge-room, and a train of nominal officers with their distinction and badges, it may give us some faint idea of scenes that are past, and may gratify an idle curiosity, but produces no substantial good under heaven."

Although the book itself was tame compared to a political tell-all you might read today—Morgan gave a word-for-word account of a rather dull lodge opening ceremony, for example—it still contained some gasp-inducing juicy moments for early 19th century readers. Morgan revealed that prospective members had to sign and declare an oath of loyalty to the Masons, and to keeping shrouded the organization's darkest secrets, all under punishments of torture and death.

According to Morgan, one of the exchanges he witnessed involved the Senior Deacon of the lodge poking the exposed chest of a newly appointed member with the tip of a compass and issuing the following threat: "As this is a torture to your flesh, so may it ever be to your mind and conscience if ever you should attempt to reveal the secrets of Masonry Unlawfully."

The public's morbid curiosity about the Masons, combined with the outrage over Morgan's notorious disappearance, helped make the book a bestseller. Unfortunately, Morgan wasn't around to enjoy any of it. Despite many wild theories—had Morgan assumed a new identity and fled to Canada, or was he perhaps executed as a pirate in the Cayman Islands?—the mystery of what exactly happened to William Morgan has never been solved.

From <<https://www.history.com/news/freemason-secrets-revealed>>

Handshakes

Saturday, May 8, 2021

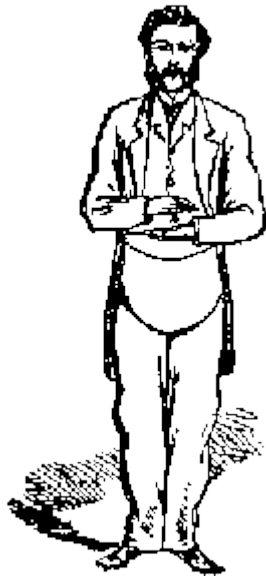
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Secret Masonic Handshakes, Passwords, Grips And Signs Of Blue Lodge Masonry

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

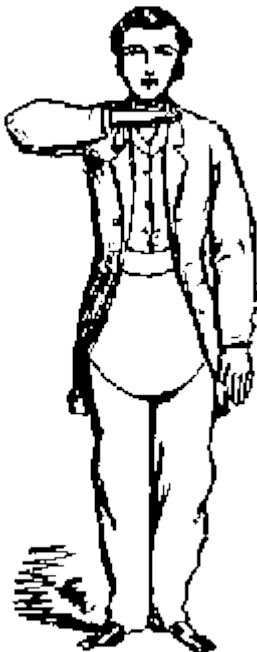
(First Degree in the Blue Lodge)

DUEGARD OF AN ENTERED APPRENTICE



The Duegard of an Entered Apprentice represents the position of the hand when taking the oath of an Entered Apprentice, "*my left hand supporting the Bible and my right hand resting thereon.*"

SIGN OF AN ENTERED APPRENTICE



The sign of the Entered Apprentice alludes to the penalty of the Entered Apprentice's obligation. The sign is made by drawing the right hand rapidly across the neck as shown on the left. The penalty that the sign alludes to is, *"having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly violate this my Entered Apprentice obligation."* Explanation of the Entered Apprentice sign: Draw the right hand rapidly across the neck as represented and drop the arm to the side. This action shows the penalty of having the throat cut and the tongue ripped out.

"BOAZ"

GRIP OF AN ENTERED APPRENTICE (HANDSHAKE)



The Grip of the Entered Apprentice is made by pressing the thumb against the top of the first knuckle-joint of the fellow Mason, the fellow Mason also presses his thumb against the first Mason's knuckle.

The name of this grip is "Boaz". When a candidate is imparted with this grip and its usage it is done in this manner."

First the Worshipful Master says to the candidate:

"I now present my right hand in token of friendship and brotherly love, and will invest you with the grip and word. As you are uninstructed, he who has hitherto answered for you, will do so at this time."

The Worshipful Master of the lodge then has this exchange with the Senior Deacon, who is standing next to the candidate, who is still kneeling at the altar, after have assumed the obligation of this degree:

Note: In the following discourse WM stands for Worshipful Master, and SD stands for Senior Deacon.

WM: Brother Senior Deacon.

SD: Worshipful Master.

WM: I hele.

SD: I conceal.

WM: What do you conceal?

SD: All the secrets of a Mason in Masonry, to which this token alludes.

(At this time, the candidate is shown the grip of an Entered Apprentice)

WM: What is that?

SD: A grip

WM: Of what?

SD: Of an Entered Apprentice.

WM: Has it a name?

SD: It has.

WM: Will you give it to me?

SD: I did not so receive it, neither will I so impart it.

WM: How will you dispose of it?

SD: Letter it or halve it.

WM: Letter it and begin.

SD: You begin.

WM: Begin you.

SD: A

WM: B

SD: O

WM: Z

WM: (Directing his words to the candidate): "Boaz, my Brother, is the name of this grip, and should always be given in the customary manner, by lettering or halving. When lettering, always commence with the letter, "A".

FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE

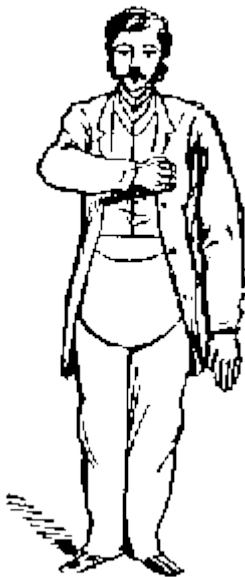
(Second Degree in the Blue Lodge)

DUEGARD OF THE FELLOW CRAFT



The duegard of the Fellow Craft represents the positions of the hands when taking the oath of the Fellow Craft degree, *"my right hand on the Holy Bible, square, and compasses, my left arm forming an angle, supported by the square and my hand in a vertical position."*

SIGN OF A FELLOW CRAFT



The sign of the Fellow Craft alludes to the penalty of the Fellow Craft obligation. The sign is made by cupping the right hand over the left breast, drawing it quickly across the body, then dropping the hand to the side. The penalty that the sign alludes to is *"having my left breast torn open, my heart plucked out, and given to the wild beasts of the field and the fowls of the*

air."

Explanation of the Fellow Craft sign: The action of cupping one hand over the left breast and drawing it quickly across the body signifies the heart being ripped out if the candidate should violate his Fellow Craft obligation.

**"SHIBBOLETH"
PASS GRIP OF A FELLOW CRAFT
(HANDSHAKE)**



The hand is taken as in an ordinary hand shake, and the Mason presses the top of his thumb against the space between the first and second knuckle joints of the first two fingers of his fellow Mason; the fellow Mason also presses his thumb on the corresponding part of the first Mason's hand.

The name of this grip is "Shibboleth". When a candidate is imparted with this grip and its usage it is done in this manner:

First, the Worshipful Master says to the candidate:

"I now present my right hand in token of the continuance of friendship and brotherly love, and will invest you with the pass-grip, pass-word, real grip and word of a Fellow Craft. As you are uninstructed, he who has hitherto answered for you, will do so at this time. Give me the grip of an Entered Apprentice."

As previously explained from the Entered Apprentice degree, he then has this exchange with the Senior Deacon, who is standing next to the candidate, who is still kneeling at the altar, after having assume the obligation of this degree):

WM: Brother Senior Deacon.

SD: Worshipful Master.

WM: Will you be off or from?

SD: From.

WM: From what and to what?

SD: From the grip of an Entered Apprentice to the pass-grip of a Fellow Craft.

(At this time, the candidate is shown the Pass Grip)

WM: Pass. What is that?

SD: The pass-grip of a Fellow Craft.

WM: Has it a name?

SD: It has.

WM: Will you give it to me?

SD: I did not so receive it; neither will I so impart it.

WM: How will you dispose of it?

SD: Letter or syllable it.

WM: Syllable it and begin.

SD: You begin.

WM: Begin you.

SD: Shib

WM: bo

SD: leth

WM: Shibboleth, my Brother, is the name of this grip. You should always remember it, for should you be present at the opening or a Fellow Crafts Lodge, this pass-word will be demanded of you by one of the Deacons, and should you be unable to give it, it would cause confusion in the Craft.

"JACHIN"
REAL GRIP OF A FELLOW CRAFT
(HANDSHAKE)



The Mason takes the fellow Mason by the right hand as in an ordinary hand shake, and presses the top of his thumb hard on the second knuckle, the fellow Mason presses his thumb against the same knuckle of the first Mason's hand.

At this point in the ritual, the instruction goes directly from the pass grip to the real grip.

WM: Will you be off or from?

SD: From.

WM: From what and to what?

SD: From the pass-grip of a Fellow Craft, to the real grip of the same.

WM: Pass. What is that?

SD: The real grip of a Fellow Craft.

WM: Has it a name?

SD: It has.

WM: Will you give it to me?

SD: I did not so receive it; neither will I so impart it.

WM: How will you dispose of it?

SD: Letter or halve it.

WM: Letter it and begin.

SD: You begin.

WM: Begin you.

SD: A

WM: J

SD: C

WM: H

SD: I

WM: N

WM: Jachin, my Brother, is the name of this grip, and should always be given in this manner, by lettering or halving it. When lettering, always commence with the letter "A".

MASTER MASON DEGREE

(Third Degree in the Blue Lodge)

DUEGARD OF A MASTER MASON



The Duegard of the Master Mason alludes to the position of the hands when taking the oath of the Master Mason, *"both hands resting on the Holy Bible, square, and compasses."*

SIGN OF A MASTER MASON



The sign of the Master Mason alludes to the penalty of the Master Mason's obligation, *"to have my body cut in two, my bowels removed and burned to ashes which are then to be scattered to the four winds of heaven."*

Explanation of the Master Mason sign: The sign is made by drawing the thumb quickly across the waist to the right hip, then dropping the hand to the side. This action shows the stomach being ripped open.

"TUBALCAIN"

PASS GRIP OF A MASTER MASON (HANDSHAKE)



The Mason places his thumb on the space between the second and third knuckles of the fellow Mason's right hand, while the fellow Mason moves his thumb to the corresponding space on the first Mason's hand. The thumb is pressed hard between the second and third knuckles of the hands.

The name of this grip is "Tubalcain". When a candidate is imparted with this grip and its usage it is done in this manner:

First, the Worshipful Master says to the candidate:

"I now present my right hand in token of the continuance of friendship and brotherly love, and will invest you with the pass-grip and pass-word of a Master Mason. As you are uninstructed, he who has hitherto answered for you, will do so at this time. Give me the real grip of a Fellow Craft."

(As explained from the preceding degrees, he then has this exchange with the Senior Deacon, who is standing next to the candidate, who is still kneeling at the altar, after having assume the obligation of this degree):

WM: Brother Senior Deacon.

SD: Worshipful Master.

WM: Will you be off or from?

SD: From.

WM: From what and to what?

SD: From the real grip of a Fellow Craft to the pass-grip of a Master Mason.

WM: Pass. What is that?

SD: The pass-grip of a Master Mason.

WM: Has it a name?

SD: It has.

WM: Will you give it to me?

SD: I did not so receive it; neither will I so impart it.

WM: How will you dispose of it?

SD: Letter or syllable it.

WM: Syllable it and begin.

SD: You begin.

WM: Begin you.

SD: Tu

WM: bal

SD: cain

WM: Tubalcain, my Brother, is the name of this grip.

"MA-HA-BONE"

**REAL GRIP OF A MASTER MASON
(HANDSHAKE)**



The Mason firmly grasps the right hand of a fellow Mason. The thumbs of both hands are interlaced. The first Mason presses the tops of his fingers against the wrist of the fellow Mason where it unites with the hand. The fellow Mason at the same time presses his fingers against the corresponding part of the first Mason's hand and the fingers of each are somewhat apart. *This grip is also called the Strong Grip of the Master Mason or the Lion's Paw.* Instruction for this grip is given at the "graveside", after the candidate has been "raised".

Speaking to the candidate, the Worshipful Master says, "My Brother, I will now instruct you as to the manner of arriving at the real grip and word of a Master Mason. As you are uninstructed, he who has hitherto answered for you will do so at this time. Give me the pass-grip of a Master Mason."

WM: Brother Senior Deacon.

SD: Worshipful Master.

WM: Will be you be off or from?

SD: From.

WM: From what and to what?

SD: From the pass-grip of a Master Mason to the real grip of the same.

WM: Pass. What is that?

SD: The real grip of a Master Mason, or lion's paw.

WM: Has it a name?

SD: It has.

WM: Will you give it to me?

SD: Place yourself in the proper position to receive it and I will.

WM: Mark the difference, my Brother, Heretofore your answer has been; I did not so receive it, neither will I so impart it. Now it is: Place yourself in the proper position to receive it and I will.

WM: What is the proper position to receive it?

SD: On the Five Points of Fellowship.

WM: What are the Five Points of Fellowship?

SD: Foot to foot, knee to knee, breast to breast, hand to back, and cheek to cheek or mouth to ear. (Cand and WM are placing themselves on the Five Points of Fellowship as the SD names them.)

WM: Ma

Cand: Ha

WM: Bone.

(WM may have the cand begin, while still in position, ie., Cand: Ma. WM: Ha. Cand: Bone, being sure the candidate fully understands the word.)

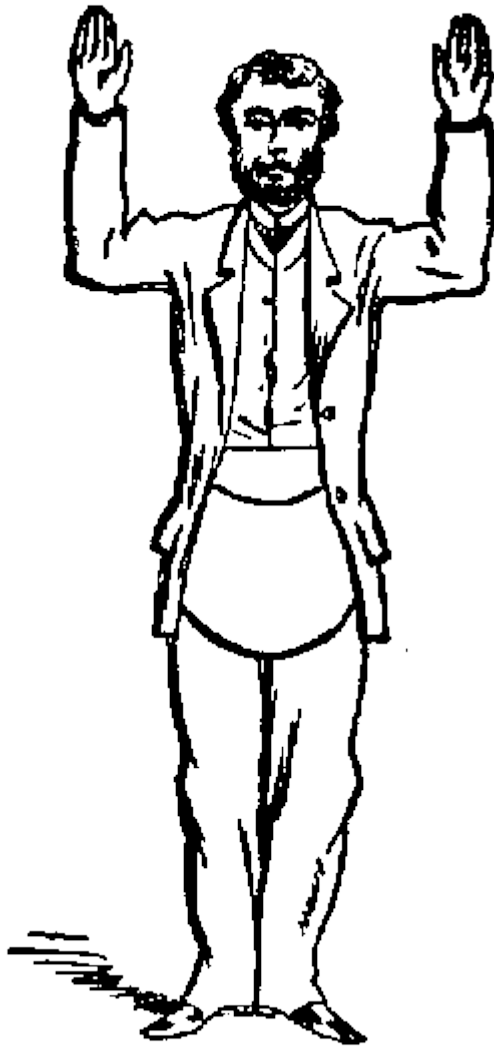
THE FIVE POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP



During initiation into the Master Mason Degree, the candidate first receives the Real Grip of a Master Mason, along with instructions in how it is properly communicated, as he is "raised", or resurrected, at the conclusion of the Hiramic Legend. The Worshipful Master, or a lawful designee, reaches down and grasps the hand of the candidate by this grip and "raises" him from the dead to the position known as the Five Points of Fellowship. The Five Points of Fellowship is demonstrated as the Worshipful Master and candidate embrace one another thusly: foot to foot; knee to knee; breast to breast; hand to back; and cheek to cheek, or mouth to ear. While in this position, and at low breath, the Worshipful Master then whispers "Mah-Ha-Bone" into the ear of the candidate. "Mah-Ha-Bone" is the substitute for the Master's Word. It means, "What, the Builder!". This proper means for an

exchange of the substitute for the Master's Word is alluded to in the Obligation of a Master Mason: "Furthermore, I do promise and swear that I will not give the substitute for the Master's Word in any other way or manner than that in which I receive it, which will be on the Five Points of Fellowship, and at low breath."

GRAND HAILING SIGN OF DISTRESS



After receiving instruction in the proper communication of the substitute for the Master's Word, the candidate is then instructed in regards to the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress. It is given by raising both hands toward heaven, with each arm forming the angle of a square, or a 90 degree angle. The arms are then lowered in three distinct motions to the sides. In other words, ending with both arms in the natural downward position, such as when one is standing at

"Furthermore, I do promise and swear that I will not give the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress of a Master Mason, except for the benefit of the Craft while at work or for the instruction of a Brother, unless I am in real distress; and should I see the sign given, or hear the word spoken, I will hasten to the relief of the person so giving it."

The candidate is additionally instructed, however, that if he is in a place where the sign could not be seen, he is to utter a substitute for the sign: "*O Lord, my God, is there no help for the Widow's Son?*" He is additionally advised that the sign and these words are never to be given together.

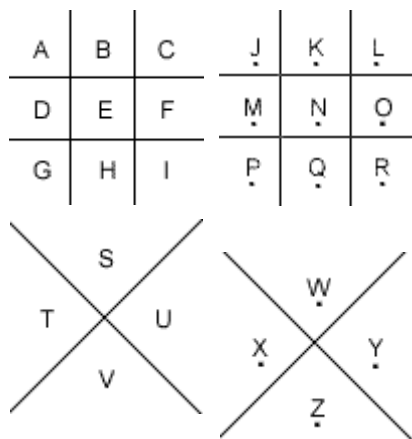
Ciphers

Saturday, May 8, 2021

6:38 PM

Masonic Cipher

The centuries old Masonic Cipher uses two tic-tac-toe diagrams and two X patterns to represent the letters of the alphabet. Letters are enciphered using the patterns formed by the intersecting lines and dots.



The name *Bob Smith* would be encrypted as follows:

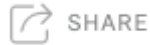
U•U V•Γ>Π
B O B S M I T H

From <<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/about-us/lab/forensic-science-communications/fsc/jan2000/olson.htm#masonic%20cipher>>

Terms

Saturday, May 8, 2021 6:40 PM

A Glossary of Masonic Terms



By Christopher Hodapp

Part of [Freemasons For Dummies Cheat Sheet](#)

Freemasons have their own lingo, like many organizations. They give special meaning to some common words and have terms you won't hear anywhere but in a Masonic lodge. The following list is a glossary of sorts for some common Masonic phrases:

- **Appendant bodies:** Masonically affiliated groups that Masons or their relatives may join.
- **Degree:** One of three progressive stages of advancement in the lodge, conferred using a ritual ceremony; additional degrees are conferred by appendant bodies.
- **Grand Lodge:** A governing organization with authority over the individual lodges in its jurisdiction.
- **Grip or token:** A special identifying handshake used by Masons to identify each other, different for each degree.
- **Hoodwink:** Blindfold worn by candidates during portions of degree ceremonies.
- **Initiated:** The completion by a candidate of the 1st Masonic degree.
- **Light:** Masonic knowledge.
- **Lodge:** A group of Freemasons assembling under the authority of a charter issued by a Grand Lodge; also a building or a room where Masons meet.
- **Operative:** The period of Freemasonry when Masons actually worked with stone and constructed buildings
- **Passed:** The completion by a Mason of the 2nd degree.
- **Profane:** A non-Mason.
- **Raised:** The completion by a Mason of the 3rd degree.
- **Recognized:** The agreement between Masonic Grand Lodges that each other's rules and customs conform to a certain accepted standard.

- **Regular:** A classification of Freemasonry that practices customs which conform to the laws and regulations of a Grand Lodge.
- **Sign:** A hand gesture used as a mode of identification between Masons, different for each degree.
- **Sitting in the East:** The position in the lodge room where the Worshipful Master sits, also known as the Oriental chair; lodges are symbolically situated east and west.
- **Speculative:** Freemasonry as practiced today, using the symbolism of Operative Masons to build character in men.
- **Step:** A position of the feet used as a mode of recognition between Masons, different for each degree.
- **Word or pass:** A password used as a mode of recognition between Masons, different for each degree.

From <<https://www.dummies.com/religion/spirituality/a-glossary-of-masonic-terms/>>

Rosicrucianism

Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:42 AM

Rosicrucianism is a [spiritual](#) and [cultural movement](#) that arose in Europe in the early 17th century after the publication of several texts that purported to announce the existence of a hitherto unknown [esoteric](#) order to the world and made seeking its knowledge attractive to many.^[a] The mysterious doctrine of the order is "built on esoteric truths of the ancient past", which "concealed from the average man, provide insight into nature, the [physical universe](#), and the spiritual realm."^[a] The manifestos do not elaborate extensively on the matter, but clearly combine references to [Kabbalah](#), [Hermeticism](#), [alchemy](#), and [Christian mysticism](#).^[a] The Rosicrucian manifestos heralded a "universal reformation of mankind", through a science allegedly kept secret for decades until the intellectual climate might receive it. Controversies arose on whether they were a hoax, whether the "Order of the Rosy Cross" existed as described in the manifestos, and whether the whole thing was a [metaphor](#) disguising a movement that really existed, but in a different form. In 1616, [Johann Valentin Andreae](#) famously designated it as a "[ludibrium](#)". Some scholars of esotericism suggest that this statement was later made by Andreae in order to shield himself from the wrath of the religious and political institutions of the day, which were intolerant of free speech and the idea of a "universal reformation", which the manifestos called for. An example of the rosy cross symbol predating the early Rosicrucian manifestos is that shown on the [central panel](#) of the [Harbaville Triptych](#), which is Byzantine and comes from the 10th or 11th century. The symbol is a Calvary cross with a rose in its centre, which is identical with what the masonic/rosicrucian scholar Manly Palmer Hall claimed to be the original symbol of the rosicrucians. In his work "Silentium Post Clamores" (1617), the rosicrucian [Michael Maier](#) (1568–1622) described rosicrucianism as having arisen from a "[Primordial Tradition](#)" in the following statement: "Our origins are Egyptian, Brahmanic, derived from the mysteries of Eleusis and Samothrace, the Magi of Persia, the Pythagoreans, and the Arabs." By promising a spiritual transformation at a time of great turmoil, the manifestos influenced many figures to seek esoteric knowledge. Seventeenth-century occult philosophers such as Maier, [Robert Fludd](#), and [Thomas Vaughan](#) interested themselves in the Rosicrucian world view.^[a] According to the historian David Stevenson, it was influential on [Freemasonry as it was emerging in Scotland](#).^[a] In later centuries, many [esoteric](#) societies have claimed to derive from the original Rosicrucians. Rosicrucianism is symbolized by the [Rosy Cross](#) or Rose Cross. The largest and most influential of these societies has been the [Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn](#), which consisted of several well known members of society. The other is the [Rosicrucian Order, A.M.O.R.C.](#), an international, initiatic Fraternity, which involves itself in several educational and cultural activities worldwide.

Rose-Cross Degrees in Freemasonry^[edit]



18° Knight of the Rose Croix jewel (from the Masonic [Scottish Rite](#))

According to [Jean Pierre Bayard](#),^[a] two Rosicrucian-inspired [Masonic](#) rites emerged toward the end of 18th century, the [Rectified Scottish Rite](#), widespread in Central Europe where there was a strong presence of the "Golden and Rosy Cross", and the [Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite](#), first practiced in France, in which the 18th degree is called *[Knight of the Rose Croix](#)*. The change from "operative" to "speculative" Masonry occurred between the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 18th century. Two of the earliest speculative Masons for whom a record of initiation exists were Sir [Robert Moray](#) and [Elias Ashmole](#). [Robert Vanloo](#) states that earlier 17th century Rosicrucianism had a considerable influence on Anglo-Saxon Masonry. [Hans Schick](#) sees in the works of [Comenius](#) (1592–1670) the ideal of the newly born English Masonry before the foundation of the [Grand Lodge](#) in 1717. Comenius was in England during 1641.

The [Gold und Rosenkreuzer](#) (Golden and Rosy Cross) was founded by the alchemist [Samuel Richter](#) who in 1710 published *Die warhaffte und vollkommene Bereitung des Philosophischen Steins der Brüderschaft aus dem Orden des Gülden-und Rosen-Creutzes (The True and Complete Preparation of the Philosopher's Stone by the Brotherhood from the Order of the Golden and Rosy Cross)* in Breslau under the pseudonym Sincerus Renatus.^[a] In [Prague](#) in the early 18th century as a hierarchical [secret society](#) composed of internal circles, recognition signs and alchemy treatises. Under the leadership of [Hermann Fictuld](#) the group reformed itself extensively in 1767 and again in 1777 because of political pressure. Its members claimed that the leaders of the Rosicrucian Order had invented Freemasonry and only they knew the secret meaning of Masonic symbols. The Rosicrucian Order had been founded by Egyptian "[Ormusse](#)" or "[Licht-Weisse](#)" who had emigrated to Scotland with the name "Builders from the East". In 1785 and 1788 the Golden and Rosy Cross group published the *Geheime Figuren* or "The Secret Symbols of the 16th and 17th century Rosicrucians".

Led by [Johann Christoph von Wöllner](#) and General Johann Rudolf von Bischoffwerder, the Masonic lodge (later: *Grand Lodge*) *Zu den drei Weltkugeln (The Three Globes)* was infiltrated and came under the influence of the Golden and Rosy Cross. Many Freemasons became Rosicrucianists and Rosicrucianism was established in many lodges. In 1782 at the Convent of Wilhelmsbad the *Alte schottische Loge Friedrich zum goldenen Löwen (Old Scottish Lodge Friedrich at the Golden Lion)* in Berlin strongly requested [Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg](#) and all other Freemasons to submit to the Golden and Rosy Cross, without success.

After 1782, this highly secretive society added Egyptian, Greek, and Druidic mysteries to its alchemy system.^[a] A comparative study of what is known about the Gold and Rosenkreuzer appears to reveal, on the one hand, that it has influenced the creation of some modern initiatic groups and, on the other hand, that the Nazis (see *[The Occult Roots of Nazism](#)*) may have been inspired by this German group. According to the writings of the Masonic historian E.J. Marconis de Negre,^[a] who together with his father Gabriel M. Marconis is held to be the founder of the "[Rite of Memphis-Misraim](#)" of Freemasonry, based on earlier conjectures (1784) by a Rosicrucian scholar Baron de Westerlo^[a] and also promulgated by the 18th century secret society called the "[Golden and Rosy Cross](#)", the Rosicrucian Order was created in the year 46 when an [Alexandrian Gnostic](#) sage named [Ormus](#) and his six followers were converted by one of Jesus' disciples, [Mark](#). Their symbol was said to be a red cross surmounted by a rose, thus the designation of [Rosy Cross](#). From this conversion, Rosicrucianism was supposedly born, by purifying [Egyptian mysteries](#) with the new higher teachings of early Christianity.^[a] According to Maurice Magre (1877–1941) in his book *Magicians, Seers, and Mystics*, Rosenkreutz was the last descendant of the Germelshausen, a German family from the 13th century. Their castle stood in the [Thuringian Forest](#) on the border of [Hesse](#), and they embraced [Albigensian](#) doctrines. The whole family was put to death by [Landgrave Conrad of Thuringia](#), except for the youngest son, who was then five years old. He was carried away secretly by a monk, an Albigensian adept from [Languedoc](#), and placed in a monastery under the influence of the Albigenses, where he was educated and met the four Brothers later to be associated with him in the founding of the Rosicrucian Brotherhood. Magre's account supposedly derives from oral tradition.

Around 1530, more than eighty years before the publication of the first manifesto, the association of cross and rose already existed in Portugal in the [Convent of the Order of Christ](#), home of the [Knights Templar](#), later renamed [Order of Christ](#). Three *bocetes* were, and still are, on the *abóbada* (vault) of the initiation room. The rose can clearly be seen at the center of the cross.^[a] At the same time, a minor writing by [Paracelsus](#) called *Prognosticatio Eximii Doctoris Paracelsi* (1530), containing 32 [prophecies](#) with [allegorical](#) pictures surrounded by enigmatic texts, makes reference to an image of a double cross over an open rose; this is one of the examples used to prove the "Fraternity of the Rose Cross" existed far earlier than 1614.^[a]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosicrucianism#Legacy_in_esoteric_orders>



Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry



We frequently hear of an alleged connection between Freemasonry and so-called "Rosicrucianism" brotherhoods. In the course of the last couple of centuries there have been many hundred claims set up to the title of "Society" or "Fraternity" of the Rosy Cross. Any brother who feels inclined to dip into the question of extinct Masonic rites and degrees, by a short course of Mackey's *Masonic Encyclopedia*, will be, if not already informed, astonished to find that all the Masonry we are officially aware of today is but a mere fragment of all that has at one time or other figured as of impressive importance to the craft.

In the archives of the Scottish Rite are preserved evidences of the voluntary abdications of a number of imposing Masonic "rites" that once enjoyed high favor and numerous membership, but which eventually dissolved, under pressure of internal dissensions, and the larger hope embodied in the rise of a body so constituted as to obviate the possibility of unbecoming strife and other weaknesses.

At the present moment the empty dignities and now meaningless powers of obsolete rites are occasionally heard of as passed from hand to hand, for trifling money considerations, wherever a gull can be induced to believe that he is receiving high Masonic degrees, even though the same may be conferred upon him by a single individual "by virtue of powers," etc., in a basement dining room or hall bedroom.

The chief significance that attaches itself to the revival of interest in the Rosicrucian's lies in the fact that, according to the strict spirit of the ancient brotherhood, there can be but one organization in existence entitled to their name and secrets, and that organization never had nor, it is claimed, never will have any public or exoteric existence. It is not the sort of club or society that has officers, holds public or even private meetings and elects eligible persons to membership.

The true Rosicrucian may never meet another of his mystic order on the physical plane. He is not initiated in a hall or chapter room after having paid a fee; but it is made known to him by occult means that he has been found worthy of admission into this literal band of immortals, and thereafter he is shown how to project his perceptions on to a higher plane upon which it is possible for him to meet, know and commune with all his fellow members, who assemble like witches upon a sabot, in a twinkling of an eye, by merely willing to do so, no matter where their physical bodies may happen to be sojourning.

In fact, the first public gossip concerning the Rosicrucians and their wonderful powers began to be bruited about at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Membership in the fraternity was attributed to various alchemists by the herd, and claimed by numerous charlatans on the other hand. Many tales are told of the discovery of weird underground vaults in otherwise deserted places, which upon being opened were found to be brilliantly illuminated by perpetually burning lamps—that is to say, until extinguished by the admission of outer air. These were said to have been the secret meeting places of the Rosicrucians.

From the very nature of Rosicrucianism as described, however, that of tradition must necessarily be spurious, as the mere fact of publicity, upon however private or restricted a scale is sufficient to stamp it as such. The existence of Rosicrucianism might be claimed, and certain highly endowed scholars and scientists be suspected—nay, openly charged—with being members of its charmed circle; but no genuine record exists of any ancient Rosicrucian Society upon which any theory of continuity might be based by a modern group of students of the occult.

There is quite a successful modern Rosicrucian Society in London, the moving spirit of which was the late Dr. Wynn Westcott, formerly coroner for the County of Middlesex. As a research body, disinterring many interesting legends about the reputed Rosicrucian's of the Middle Ages, this latter day society has done good work.

It all sums up in the state of mind of the person most interested. An old Potsdam pensioner once wrote King Frederick the Great in much distress over the suppression of a military decoration, the only one he had ever received. The king smilingly wrote on the margin of the complaint, "Pensioner X has herewith our royal permission to wear all the abolished decorations he likes."

Just as the evolutionary process, through which all organic beings have arrived from lower forms to present high states of development, may be traced in the structures of those beings themselves, so the structure of any mystical order claiming extraordinary antiquity will reveal the foundation of its claims to the student, irrespective of any personal contentions.

Our own craft has hardly departed from the use of ancient monitors and lectures connecting Masonry with the beginnings of the human race – Adam, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Moses, and other patriarchs-which had become a laughing stock among our strenuous modernists, when it begins to transpire that the structure of Freemasonry is superior to her traditions, and that he who knows Masonry structurally will have no difficulty whatever in comprehending all these curious connections as apt and purposeful.

When this knowledge becomes more common to the fraternity we shall be in a position to understand the difference between that which guarantees the genuineness of our own antiquity and the claims that any mystical brotherhood may at present set up, of surpassing age, royal descent, and the possession of the fundamental arcane of the universe, without the average Mason's being able to prove that his pretensions have any greater value than those of the newcomer.

From <<https://freemasoninformation.com/masonic-education/books/the-beginning-of-masonry/roscruicism-and-freemasonry/>>

Knights Templar

Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:45 AM

The **Knights Templar**, full name **The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta**, is a [fraternal order](#) affiliated with [Freemasonry](#). Unlike the initial degrees conferred in a regular [Masonic Lodge](#), which (in most [Regular Masonic jurisdictions](#)) only require a belief in a [Supreme Being](#) regardless of religious affiliation,^[1] the Knights Templar is one of several [additional Masonic Orders](#) in which membership is open only to Freemasons who profess a belief in [Christianity](#).^[2] One of the obligations entrants to the order are required to declare is to protect and defend the Christian faith. The word "United" in its full title indicates that more than one historical tradition and more than one actual order are jointly controlled within this system. The individual orders 'united' within this system are principally the Knights of the Temple (Knights Templar), the Knights of Malta, the Knights of St Paul, and only within the [York Rite](#), the Knights of the Red Cross.

Like the Masonic [Red Cross of Constantine](#) being inspired by the [Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George](#) and the [Order of Malta](#) being inspired by the [Sovereign Military Order of Malta](#), the Masonic order of Knights Templar derives its name from the medieval [Catholic military order Knights Templar](#). However, it does not claim any direct lineal descent from the original Templar order.

Knights symbolism in Freemasonry^[edit]

The earliest documented link between Freemasonry and the Crusades is the 1737 oration of the [Chevalier Ramsay](#). This claimed that European Freemasonry came about from an interaction between crusader masons and the [Knights Hospitaller](#).^[3] This is repeated in the earliest known "[Moderns](#)" ritual, the Berne manuscript, written in French between 1740 and 1744.^[4]

In 1751 Baron [Karl Gotthelf von Hund](#), und Altengrotkau began the Order of Strict Observance, which ritual he claimed to have received from the reconstituted Templar Order in 1743 in Paris. He also claimed to have met two of the "unknown superiors" who directed all of masonry, one of whom was [Prince Charles Edward Stuart](#). The order went into decline when he failed to produce any evidence to support his claims, and was wound up shortly after his death.^{[5][6]}

In 1779 the High Knights Templar of Ireland Lodge, Kilwinning, obtained a charter from [Lodge Mother Kilwinning](#), in Scotland. This lodge now began to grant dispensations to other lodges to confer the Knights Templar Degree. Some time around 1790 the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland was formed, which began to warrant Templar Lodges, and evolved into the Supreme Grand Encampment in 1836.^[7] The Early Grand Encampment chartered several Scottish "encampments" one of which, having been chartered in 1805 as the "Edinburgh Encampment No. 31", then became the "Grand Assembly of Knights Templar in Edinburgh", who then sought a charter from the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the Order in England.^[8] It seems that the Templar degree had filtered into the lodges of the [Antients](#) from Ireland about 1780, and was recorded at York about the same time.^[9] In the five degree system developed by the [York Masons](#), the Knights Templar degree sat between the Master Mason and the [Sublime Degree of Royal Arch](#).^[10]

Grand Conclave of England^[edit]

Templar masonry in England entered a new era in 1791, with the formation of its first Grand Conclave, with [Thomas Dunckerley](#) as Grand Master. At that time, there were eight known Templar encampments in England, the most senior being the Encampment of Redemption at York, and the Baldwin encampment at Bristol, at whose request Dunckerley began his mission. Under his leadership, the number of encampments steadily grew until his death in 1795. Stasis then followed, until in 1805 their Royal Patron, [Duke of Kent](#), became Grand Master himself, re-energising the society and launching it into an era of growth and development. Dunckerley laid the foundation for this not only by promoting the order, but by standardising the ritual and insisting on proper record keeping.^[11] The Grand Conclave went into a period of decline between 1872 and 1895, when it was re-founded as the present day Great Priory of England and Wales.^[12]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_Templar_%28Freemasonry%29>

Masonic Knights Templarism

June 7, 2020 admin-templar Modern Templars 0



One of the most frequently asked questions we receive is "How do I become a Masonic Knight Templar?" Masonic Templarism is one branch of what is commonly called The York Rite. Freemasonry has, since its formal inception with the uniting of four London based lodges in 1717, sought an answer for its roots in history. The speculations have been as varied as the Freemasons who have offered them. Among the speculations have been the Masons of Ancient Egypt, The Roman Building Guilds, Solomon's workmen and a host of others. In the early 1700s a new theory was presented for Masonic history and that was, that the Freemasons began in the medieval deserts of the Levant with the Crusaders and Knights Templar. The responsibility for this theory lies with two different men, Andrew Michael Ramsay and the German Baron Karl Von Hundt. For a detailed account of the Ramsay Oration and latterly Von Hundt's Rite of Strict Observance Masonry, see the article in this section of the site, entitled, "Do the Templars Still Exist?"

This set of speculation whether grounded in fact or merely wishful thinking on the part of the Fraternity, has met with acceptance by many Freemasons world wide. By the same token many Freemasons have rejected it as inaccurate.

Regardless of ones acceptance or rejection, it cannot be argued that Masonry does carry within its side degrees a form of Masonic Templarism. While the Scottish Rite contains a degree revolving around the Templars, this page will deal with York Rite Templarism. Within Freemasonry's York Rite are found four bodies, which are in The United States and Canada as follows:

The Craft or Speculative Lodge

Entered Apprentice

Fellowcraft

Master Mason

Capitular Masonry – Chapter

Mark Master Mason

Virtual Past Master (USA)



Freemasonry & The Knights Templar

[1 Comment](#) / [Blog](#) / [History](#)

The Separate Fraternity Inspired By Founding Support From Templar Chivalry

As a historical institution, the Order of the Temple of Solomon is distinctly "Non-Masonic". This neutral description objectively reflects the following facts: (1) The chivalric Order of the Temple of Solomon of the Middle Ages never merged into the later fraternity of Freemasonry of the Renaissance; (2) Freemasonry does not claim to be a chivalric Order, as it does not possess the Fons Honourum to grant official Knighthood in nobility; (3) Freemasons do not receive Knighthood from the chivalric Order by achieving the Masonic "Templar" degree; and (4) Knights and Dames of the Templar Order do not become members of any Masonic fraternity by receiving chivalric nobility.

Notwithstanding this clear separation of two distinct traditions, with different practices, Freemasonry and the Templar Order do share one significant "moment" of an intersecting point on the timeline of history, which created some shared affinities for ancient knowledge: In the 15th century, surviving Templars taught stonemasons some Gothic building techniques and sacred geometry, which inspired the esoteric foundations of Freemasonry.



For this reason, the Masonic fraternity uses the honorary title of "Knights Templar" for its highest 33rd degree of initiation, in tribute to the earlier Templars.

Freemasonry was thus established approximately 330 years after the chivalric Knights Templar, making them separate organizations, each with their own unique heritage in its own right.

In the modern era, there has been increasing public exposure of an infamous secret society called the "Bavarian Illuminati", which has sometimes infiltrated and misused the fraternity of Freemasonry, as well as some other groups. The 18th century "Illuminati" was created another full 330 years after the Masonic fraternity, such that authentic Freemasonry itself does not espouse nor embody any principles of that later secret society. As a result, the Order of the Temple of Solomon is a formidable 660 years older than the "Illuminati", with no connection whatsoever to that suppressed counter-culture, not even indirectly.

The Sovereign Magistral Order of the Temple of Solomon offers its support to Freemasons and their Lodges, in friendship, to help restore and preserve authentic and uncorrupted Freemasonry, by replenishing it with the full depth of the most ancient knowledge of the Temple of Solomon which originally inspired the Masonic tradition.

The Order recognizes authentic Freemasons as kindred spirits, who share an inspiration and passion for ancient esoteric knowledge of the divine mechanics of consciousness of the universe. That common characteristic of both Masons and Templars should be honoured, and is sufficient and compelling reason to ensure friendly and mutually supportive relations between them.

Therefore, with the modern restoration and public re-emergence of the Templar Order, Freemasons now have the historic opportunity to personally experience precisely the same interaction and mentorship from the direct continuation of the original Knights Templar of the 12th century, as the very first Freemasons enjoyed in the 15th century.

An Objective Context Of Authentic Freemasonry

The teachings and traditions of Freemasonry are essentially comprised of symbolism, allegory and metaphor inspired by the ancient construction of the Temple of

Fellowcraft
Master Mason
Capitular Masonry – Chapter
Mark Master Mason
Virtual Past Master (USA)
Most Excellent Master
Royal Arch
Cryptic Rite Masonry
Royal Master
Select Master
Super Excellent Master
Chivalric Masonry
Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
Order of Malta
Order of the Temple – Knights Templar
The Chivalric Orders

The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross

The first order conferred in the chivalric system is the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the story contained within predates the era of the crusades. The candidate represents Zerubbabel who is well familiar to the Royal Arch Mason (a requirement for admission) at the time of King Darius. Zerubbabel visits the king in order to convince him of his commitment to the Jewish people and in the process is asked to take part in a debate over which has greatest sway in the kingdom – wine, women or the king. The end result of the debate being the candidate offering a fourth option and an excellent argument is made on the power of Truth.

The Order of Malta

This is the first of the Christian Orders contained in the Chivalric system and relates the story of St. Paul's arrival on the island of Melita which we know today as Malta. In the next portion of the order the history of the Knights of St. John (Knights of Malta) is explained and the periods of the orders history is paralleled with the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. While Freemasonry often comes under attack by fundamentalists who view it as unchristian, the candidate for admission into this Christian order can offer clear argument to the contrary.

The Order of the Temple

The Order of the Temple of Knights Templar Order is the most beautiful in the series. The order is broken into three portions:

Novice
Installation
Consecration

These portions are sometimes conferred together but more often done on two or three separate occasions. During the ceremonies the candidate represents a knight of the era that succeeded the Crusades and vowed to visit the Holy Sepulcher. As a trial of his worthiness he must make a pilgrimage for seven years in the direction of the Holy Sepulcher. After having served six years of preparation he is commanded to devote the remaining year of preparation to penance. The ritual teaches beautiful lessons on the death and ascension of our Savior and the candidate is at last received into full fellowship, in the most solemn manner.

It is important to note that in Canada and the United States there are some differences to the Orders, but essentially they follow the above model.

A Potential Candidate for Masonic Templarism, must be a member of the Craft Lodge, and Royal Arch Chapter. In some jurisdictions it is required that the potential member must also be a member of the Cryptic Rite.

Unlike most branches of Freemasonry, wherein the Candidate need not follow a particular faith, the Chivalric Orders of Masonry require a belief in the doctrine of the Trinity. That is to say they must profess a faith in Christianity.

History Of The Order In North America

The first Templar to be initiated in the United States was William Davis who was given the degrees of Excellent, Super Excellent, Royal Arch, and Knight Templar by the St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge on August 28th, 1769. Davis owned an apothecary business in Boston, but is perhaps most noted for his efforts at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Here it was Davis who suggested the "Barrel Defense" in which Barrels full of earth and stone were rolled down on the attacking units.

Of course other Revolutionary War notables would be invested with the honor of being Knights Templar, among them Paul Revere who was initiated on December 11th, 1769. Latterly, on May 14th 1770, Joseph Warren another Revolutionary War hero would add his name to the roster of early American Templars.

In Canada the first Provincial Grand Conclave was organized in 1855 under the direction of Colonel William James Curry McLeod Moore who took the role of Provincial Grand Commander. Thirteen years later the first Grand Priory was formed as the Grand Priory of the dominion of Canada and once again Colonel McLeod Moore would take the helm as Canada's first Grand Prior.

Today the order encompasses all of Canada and goes by the name of The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada of the United Religious and Military Orders of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, and of the Temple.

Unlike the US where individuals bodies are referred to as Commanderies and the principle officer is called a Commander, in Canada these bodies are called Preceptories and the principle officer is the Presiding Preceptor. Generally Preceptories and Commanderies alike will take the name of a key player in Templar or medieval history, for example King Baldwin Preceptory Number 6 or Hughes de Payens Commandry Number 12.

Membership Requirements

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Unlike most branches of Freemasonry, wherein the Candidate need not follow a particular faith, the Chivalric Orders of Masonry require a belief in the doctrine of the Trinity. That is to say they must profess a faith in Christianity.

From <<https://templarhistory.com/masonic-knights-templarism/>>

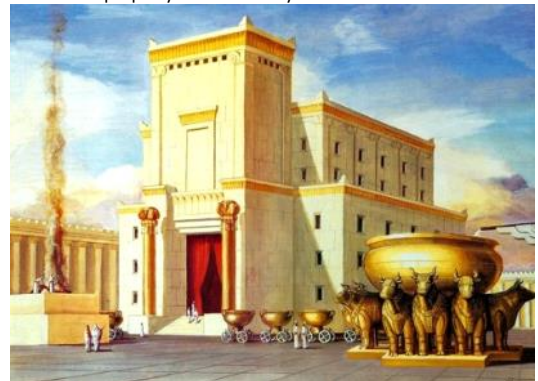
An Objective Context Of Authentic Freemasonry

The teachings and traditions of Freemasonry are essentially comprised of symbolism, allegory and metaphor inspired by the ancient construction of the Temple of Solomon, which is applied as an esoteric representation for principles of personal transformation. Additionally, the concept of stonemasonry itself is considered symbolic of an intended stewardship role as "architects of society". This is related to the predominant Masonic requirement of belief in the Supreme Being (i.e. God), referred to by the symbolic title "Great Architect of the Universe".

The use of ceremonial regalia in Freemasonry began as a new practice contemporary with its creation in the 15th century [1], with regalia serving as an additional dimension of symbolism supporting the esoteric teachings.

The famous system of "degrees" of Freemasonry originated from the secular tradition of medieval craft Guilds, since the Guilds regulated the qualifications of all stone masons. Due to this professional regulatory context, Masonry developed independently as a network of Lodges. Each national or regional Grand Lodge is autonomous from those of other countries, Lodges of different jurisdictions do not necessarily recognize each other [2], and there is no single international governing body [3].

The Masonic tradition of sworn secrecy came from the legitimate quasi-legal "trade secret" needs of the professional craft Guilds of stone masons in the 15th century. Although modern Freemasonry no longer involves any trade craft requiring such protection, that practice is still valid for the sake of tradition. Indeed, that early legal doctrine of protecting "trade secrets" remains an important part of international intellectual property law to this day.



Painting re-creating the historical Temple of Solomon excavated by the Knights Templar

These points of historical background explain why the Masonic hierarchic degree system and Lodge structure diverges from the monastic Knights Templar governance, which was based upon a centralized but egalitarian "round table" principle of a Grand Mastery. This context also explains why Freemasonry is characterized by secrecy, in contrast with the Knights Templar principles of exercising public official authority for visible preservation and open popularization of esoteric knowledge as the collective heritage of humanity.

The fraternity of Freemasonry emphasizes the metaphorical Temple of Solomon conceptually, and concentrates on the symbolic aspects of its physical construction by highly advanced stone work in ancient times, based upon teachings from surviving Templars from ca. 1446 AD.

In contrast, the chivalric Templar Order focuses on the total body of knowledge gained from its nine years of deep underground archaeological excavation of the actual Temple of Solomon from 1118 AD, including an accumulated library of the Essenes discovered within that Temple. The 12th century Templars attributed their famous stone work and building skills to their reverse engineering from that ancient site, supported by mentoring from Egyptian chivalric and priestly Orders.

Rosslyn Chapel – Templar Commandery Which Created Freemasonry

Rosslyn Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland, is famous as a "Templar" structure, although there has been some confusion as to whether it was from hereditary Templars descendant from the original Order, or whether it was solely "Masonic". That issue is resolved by a factual balance, that its design and construction by the surviving Knights Templar was precisely the historical event that served to create the newly formed fraternity of Freemasonry.

Rosslyn Chapel was built under William Sinclair, a hereditary descendant from the first Grand Master of the Order, Hughes de Payens, who was married to Catherine Saint Clair, the niece of Baron Henri Saint Clair of Roslin. This genealogy provides a direct connection between the founder of Rosslyn Chapel and the original Order of the Temple of Solomon. [4]

Since Freemasonry highly values its historical connection to the Knights Templar which first established the fraternity, Masonic Lodges traditionally give special status to hereditary descendants of William Sinclair, who by that ancestry can be reasonably described as a "descendant of Hughes de Payens", even if indirectly. Notwithstanding genealogical connections to 15th century hereditary Templars from nobility families who were prominent in the original Order, it is important to

THE TEMPLAR-FREEMASON CONNECTION





Medieval HistoryKnights TemplarTreasure Hunting

Carl Cookson and Hamilton White have their work cut out for them in *Lost Relics of the Knights Templar*. Not only do they have to uncover the true provenance of their hoard of mysterious medieval artefacts, but they also have to delve into all the myths and half-truths that continue to swirl around the Templars.

One of the most contentious questions relates to the possible connection between the Templars and the Freemasons. This is the stuff of blockbuster novels and Hollywood thrillers, but how and why did historians start to ponder this alleged link?

Freemasonry is a fraternal organisation which developed out of guilds of actual, working stonemasons (known as 'operative masons') in the Middle Ages. These were the highly skilled men who would travel long distances to build cathedrals and other landmarks, with early 'lodges' being set up on building sites to accommodate them. Over the centuries, the era of operative masons began to wane, and slowly the guilds began to take in distinguished people who were not stonemasons and builders. These members became known as 'speculative masons'. Exactly when and how the organisation went from being made up of literal, operative masons to allegorical, speculative masons is still a matter of debate. But the era of speculative Freemasonry as we know it today – a semi-secretive organisation of well-connected men – began in 1717 when a cluster of London lodges gathered in a tavern to create the first Grand Lodge.

So where do the Templars come in?

A gulf of time certainly separates the end of the age of the Templars and the advent of speculative Freemasonry. The fall of the chivalric order began with the mass arrests of French Templars on 13 October 1307 – an infamous date thought by some to have inspired the 'Friday the 13th' superstition. The knights were accused of idolatry, blasphemous rituals and sexual deviance, and the Grand Master of the Templars was among those who were burnt alive. The order was eventually extinguished in 1312 – many, many generations before the Freemasons emerged as a secret society of thinkers and influencers.

However, it's been speculated that some of the knights escaped the savaging of their order to lay down roots elsewhere. Historians have mused over a tantalising confession given by one Templar, Jean de Chalon, who alleged that some members of the order in Paris were given word of the crackdown and managed to slip away on ships, to parts unknown.

Jean de Chalon's story has been dismissed by some scholars as highly unreliable, as it was presumably given while the luckless knight was being tortured. But what if it was true? Stories have persisted about these fleeing Templars finding sanctuary in Scotland, with some 18th Century Scots alleging that members of the order had brought secret treasure from the Holy Land with them. One such account came from a Scottish exile in Germany named George Frederick Johnson. As the historian Peter Partner, author of *The Murdered Magicians: Templars and their Myth*, tell us, Johnson played a key role in changing the way we imagine Templars, from 'unlearned and fanatical soldier-monks to that of enlightened and wise knightly seers, who had used their sojourn in the East to recover its profoundest secrets.'

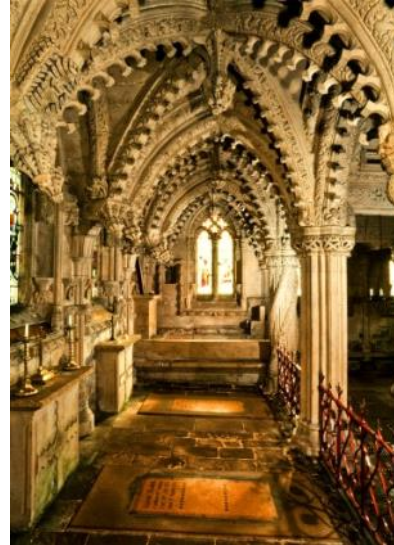
This romanticisation of the Templars as seekers of holy truths and holy relics – including [the Holy Grail](#) and [the Ark of the Covenant](#) – has become a mainstay of pop culture. But the Scottish connection also, in some people's minds, ties the Templars in with the Freemasons. After all, Scotland was where the earliest speculative lodges were formed, centuries before London hosted the first Grand Lodge meeting in 1717. Many have attempted to piece together a link between the Templars who allegedly settled in Scotland (and fought alongside Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn, according to lore), and the earliest Freemasons. A particularly significant site for those who believe in the link is Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian, known to millions as a key location in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. The chapel is famed for its many intricate carvings, some apparently being Templar and Masonic symbols. Could the chapel have been the repository of the fabled Templar treasures smuggled out of France on the eve of the mass arrests? And do the carvings imply a kind of cross-pollination between the exiled knights and the Scottish masons?

The timeframe doesn't seem to back up this version of events, as construction began on Rosslyn Chapel in the 15th Century, long after the fall of the Templars. However, some have speculated that, prior to the alleged treasures being kept at Rosslyn, the exiled Templars originally sought refuge at another site, Kilwinning Abbey in Ayrshire. Unlike Rosslyn, this structure *did* exist at the time of the Templars' fall. Fascinatingly, Kilwinning is also home to Lodge Mother Kilwinning, reckoned to be the oldest Masonic lodge in the world. Kilwinning has therefore been identified as the place where Templars and operative masons potentially came into contact.

Did Templars in Scotland influence operative masons, who in turn passed on the Templars' esoteric wisdom, secrets and traditions onto the earliest speculative Freemasons? It's one of the great puzzles of the past which will always intrigue us. But the true extent of the connection, if any such connection even exists, may never be proven.

From <https://www.history.co.uk/shows/lost-relics-of-the-knights-templar/articles/the-templar-freemason-connection>

to hereditary descendants of William Sinclair, who by that ancestry can be reasonably described as a "descendant of Hughes de Payens", even if indirectly. Notwithstanding genealogical connections to 15th century hereditary Templars from nobility families who were prominent in the original Order, it is important to delineate the difference between this cultural connection and any claim to succession of the 12th century chivalric Order of the Temple of Solomon: By the rules and protocols of royalty and chivalry under customary international law, the juridical succession of the Knights Templar as a chivalric Order was vested exclusively in its Grand Mastery, as established by the Fons Honourum royal authority of the Kings of Jerusalem. By definition, the Grand Mastery of the Templar Order only followed succession through other Grand Masters. During the 700 year period of abeyance of the Grand Mastery, legitimacy of succession necessarily reverted back to the royal patronage of the Order's sovereignty, and thus could only lawfully follow the dynastic line of King Fulk of Jerusalem. It was precisely that royal line which legally re-established the Grand Mastery of the present Order of the Temple of Solomon in 2013.



Rosslyn Chapel: 'Lady Chapel' (15th century): Knights Templar Solomonic architecture

Accordingly, as a matter of historical and legal fact, succession of the original Knights Templar was never vested in the Sinclair family, which was only a sponsor of the Templars, was never part of the Grand Mastery itself, and never received royal patronage from the dynastic King Fulk line. Therefore, no aspect of legitimate "Sovereign Magistral" succession of the Templar Order was ever conveyed to the Sinclair nobility family, nor to any other leaders or members of Freemasonry. Fortunately, the original Order has been fully reestablished in the modern era, and is accessible to all Freemasons who desire a living connection to their authentic conceptual roots.



Rosslyn Chapel: 'Apprentice Pillar' (15th century): Knights Templar Solomonic architecture

Modern Templar historians have found evidence that "Henry Sinclair... wished to construct an edifice that would somehow 'reflect' the earliest achievement of the Templars; namely, their excavation of Solomon's Temple on the sacred mound in Jerusalem." Thus, Rosslyn Chapel was "a medieval representation of what the part of Solomon's Temple excavated by the Templars... probably looked like", and "is said to

be a copy of Solomon's Temple which was in Jerusalem." [5]

The active use of Rosslyn Chapel by hereditary Templar descendants of the Order spanned the period of approximately 259 years from ca.1466-1725 AD. This supports the conclusion of many historians, that the original Order had in fact survived the French persecution of 1307 AD, and continued to thrive as an underground network, serving as a hidden force of great positive influence, development and prosperity throughout Europe.

The surviving Templars, preserving and continuing the original Order of the Temple of Solomon, needed to integrate all of their most important secrets, and most advanced building technologies, sacred geometry and symbolism into the design of Rosslyn Chapel. Having it constructed, which required contracting builders, thus presented a serious problem, in particular how to keep key elements of their sacred knowledge secret, despite having to disclose and even teach many such secrets to the uninitiated builders.

For these reasons, as Masonic historians admit and explain, those real Templars were "forced to invent some way of securing the secrecy of those taking part in the building of [Rosslyn] Chapel. Using aspects of Templar belief and worship, William Sinclair created a 'secret society' to which his stonemasons were introduced." This "started out as a form of 'charter' assuring the masons of continued patronage and exclusive privileges regarding their trade". As a result, "the precepts of Freemasonry owe much to the survival of Templar and post-Templar thinking in Scotland."

The original Templars "understood very well that at least a proportion of the masons constructing the edifice would find themselves party to mathematical and geometric secrets that [they] would not have wished to pass into the public domain. As a result, [they] tied these masons together into the tightest of guilds, replete with horrible oaths of retribution handed out to anyone who betrayed the trust of the new fraternity. ... But these men were bound together by solemn oaths that endured for generations, since there had undoubtedly been advantages of preference, welfare and mutual aid written into the original concept of the pledge made" to the Templars.

This "proto-Masonic guild" was styled based upon "the workers who had once created Solomon's Temple, of which Rosslyn was a partial copy. These matters conferred a 'special status' on the workers involved, and one that their sons and grandsons did not wish to relinquish." [6]

It was in 1446 AD that Henry Sinclair received the founding charter from the Vatican of the Roman Catholic Church for the construction of Rosslyn Chapel. Modern Templars therefore consider this to be the year when the fraternal society of Freemasonry was first established.

This same strategy of creating an isolated "secret society" to build a sacred Templar cathedral was also used for Chartres Cathedral in France. Chartres was designed by the Knights of the Temple of Solomon, and was constructed starting in 1194 AD by a Guild of stone masons which was created and named by the Templars, called the "Children of Solomon". [7]

Kirkwall Scroll – Evidence Of Masonic Independence & Protection Of Templars

One important artifact in the historical record, called the "Kirkwall Scroll", highlights that Freemasonry was a new and unique offshoot based upon the knowledge and mentorship of the Knights Templar, yet entirely separate and developing in its own independent direction.

The Kirkwall Scroll is a historical document, hanging on display in the Masonic "Lodge Kirkwall Kilwinning No. 38", in Orkney, England, which was carbon dated to the 15th century. It consists of 3 sheets of paintings on linen canvas, sewn together, that spans 5.5 meters tall and 1.6 meters wide. Its text is written in the Enochian alphabet from the Book of Enoch, called the "language of angels". The scroll prominently features extensive original Masonic symbolism, which was never used by any Knights Templar, as its core content.

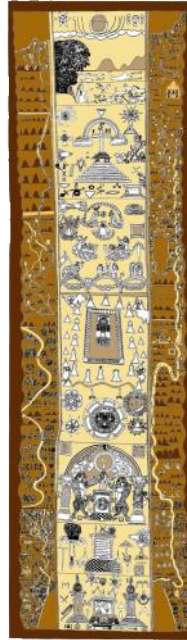
The Lords Saint Clair of Orkney founded Rosslyn Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland, which was built by the Earl of Orkney William Sinclair in the 15th century, in memory of his grandfather, Count William of Saint Clair. According to legend, Count William in the 14th century formed a secret order to protect the Templars, who had become a secret society only for survival, since they were persecuted by France in 1307 AD and released from the Vatican in 1312 AD.

According to the Director of Rosslyn Chapel Hall, Bob Brydon, "The operational part of the brotherhood, related to the trade guilds and masons, was also strongly associated with Saint Clair, so there is no doubt that the Kirkwall Scroll has important implications."

The Kirkwall Scroll is significant as perhaps the most tangible evidence proving that Masonry was independent as a unique offshoot since its earliest inception, and was mostly created for the Order of the Temple of Solomon to protect themselves as a formerly persecuted Order surviving in secrecy.

The 15th century Kirkwall Scroll contains a depiction of a Christian cross labeled with the inscription "ISH", a version of the classic "IHS" in a different order, indicating that they are acronyms. Masonic tradition holds "IHS" to mean "Isis Horus Seb" from the Egyptian tradition which was highly valued by the Templars. The "IHS" inscription is used primarily by the original Knights Templar, and by the Jesuits. This substantiates a historical connection of some surviving Templars continuing through the later 16th century Jesuit Order.

The Kirkwall Scroll



(U) 2010 Sovereign Magistral
Order of the Temple of Solomon

'Kirkwall Scroll' at Kilwinning Masonic Lodge in Orkney, England (15th century)
The scroll's newly invented inscriptions, by a newly created Masonic offshoot, express the knowledge and beliefs of the first Freemasons about the higher-level Templars who inspired them, evidencing that the original Templars were believed to be those same Knights who later were protected by, and thus continued to operate through, the Vatican Jesuits. The Jesuit Order was officially established on August 15, 1534 AD.

Freemasonic Perception Of The Order Of The Temple Of Solomon

A classic painting, which is famous in Masonic fraternity circles, was published in Life Magazine on 08 October 1956, illustrating an article called "The Structure of Freemasonry". This modern artistic work best expressed – in the simplest form of visual reference – the full complexity of the organizational structure of Freemasonry. Perhaps most significantly, or at least most relevant to the present topic, this painting explains the relationship of Masonry relative to external and independent chivalric Orders.



Underneath the arch, in the center, several outside Orders are presented, labeled as "Allied Organizations". Among them is a Shriner wearing a 20th century Egyptian Fez cap, Order of the Eastern Star, and Daughters of the Nile, showing that the Masons had learned the central importance of ancient Egyptian mysticism from the medieval Templars. On the bottom right of the Arch is a robed man, labeled as "Order of De Molay", named after the famous "last" Grand Master of the Order of the Temple of Solomon before the 700 year abeyance of its Grand Mastery (until it was restored during 2007-2013 AD).

This indicates Masonic acknowledgement of the Knights Templar tradition as a separate and external Order, although it is a reference to another offshoot group that is allied with Freemasonry, while the chivalric Order of the Temple of Solomon is not affiliated.

The steps on the left side present the 33 degrees of initiation for the Scottish Rite, with their "Grand" level on the top step of the 33rd degree. The steps on the right side present the levels of the York Rite, the top 3 levels of which are Masonic sub-orders named after earlier Orders which are independent in their own right, including the "Order of the Red Cross" (version of Rosicrucians), and the "Order of Knights of Malta" (version of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta).

At the top of the steps on the right side is the "Order of Knights Templar" (version of

the 12th century Order of the Temple of Solomon of the original Knights Templar). The Templar figure uniquely occupies the highest level of the 33rd degree of Masonic initiation.

This evidences that Freemasonry recognizes the Knights Templar as inherently being the highest possible level of sacred knowledge available to all Freemasons. It also confirms that the Order of the Temple of Solomon does not need any “degrees”, because all Templars are already at the highest level of initiation, equally all 33rd degree masters, by virtue of being members of the original medieval chivalric Order which embodies the most ancient sacred knowledge aspired to by all Freemasons. Thus, Templar Knights and Dames of the Order do not need to join Freemasonry, because they are already established at the equivalent of the 33rd degree level, firmly rooted in the original 12th century tradition. However, all Freemasons can enter and even surpass that level by receiving knighthood in the Templar Order. New members of the Order are rapidly trained in 33rd degree knowledge, from the beginning, such that all further experience in the Order takes them far above and beyond what is normally available to most Freemasons within their lifetimes. Many Freemasons have expressed some discomfort that Masonic Lodges generally do not accept women, such that their wives cannot participate, causing some frustration or complications in their family life at home. As women are full and equal members in the Templar Order, sharing chivalric missions as a Knight and Dame couple would thus be a refreshing breakthrough, adding a new dimension of mutual interest and bonding in the family relationship.

Invitation To The New Renaissance Of The Modern Era

Numerous Freemasons around the world have mentioned, or at least heard rumours about, the existence of coveted, exclusive, secret “above 33rd degree” levels. However, authentic Freemasonry has only 33 degrees, and Masonry itself is not secret, as the complete libraries of its teachings are openly published in bookstores worldwide. Therefore, by definition, anything supposedly “above 33” is in fact not Freemasonry, but distinctly something else. That body of knowledge deals with the specifics of historical agendas against religion and against humanity itself, and the classical “battle between good and evil”.



Authorized King James Version). Contrary to that dedicated purpose, the negative agendas of certain secret societies have opposed all religion, seeking to undermine all real spirituality.

The Knights Templar, of the original 12th century Order of the Temple of Solomon, possess the full range of “above 33rd degree” knowledge, having full understanding of the historical record evidencing specific negative agendas. More importantly, the Order has detailed information on the means and methods to cause such agendas to fail, backfire and implode, for the effective defense of human rights and freedoms. Therefore, for the first time in history, all Freemasons now have the opportunity to fully enjoy the coveted “above 33rd degree” knowledge, firmly on the side of the historically proven “good guys”, the original Knights Templar, unequivocally remaining on the path of God.



‘Magnificat’ by Sandro Botticelli (1480 AD) in Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy, capturing the spirit of the Renaissance

Any agendas to suppress traditional religion are inherently opposed to the teachings and values of Freemasonry from the Renaissance, and fundamentally violate all of the ancient doctrines and principles of the Knights Templar from the Middle Ages. Indeed, they would violate everything that was ever sacred throughout all of human history.

Now in the modern era, the 12th century Knights Templar, of the Sovereign Magistral Order of the Temple of Solomon, call all Freemasons, Christians, Muslims, and all genuine spiritual religions, to join forces in unity – while preserving and respecting their different traditions – to defend the principle of religion itself, and promote religious freedoms under the Rule of Law.

By this call to action, all fraternities, priesthoods and spiritual seekers are invited to join the Knights Templar in our mission to create the “New Renaissance” of the modern era. All who believe in goodness, tolerance, spiritual connection to universal divine energies, and humanity, are encouraged to join us on this Holy Quest of historic global importance.

From <<https://freemasonscommunity.life/freemasonry-knights-templar/>>

At the Papal Inquiry into the Templars at Poitiers

Vatican Secret Archive

Registra Avenionensia 48, f450r

June 1308

translated by Jason Colavito

2016

NOTE Conspiracy theorists believe that the Knights Templar were deeply involved in religious conspiracies, including the alleged discovery of the Ark of the Covenant and the supposed secret of Christ's marriage to Mary Magdalene and the Holy Bloodline descended from their child. The widespread belief that the Templars escaped from the raid on the Templar order conducted on October 13, 1307 in a fleet of galleys launched from New Rochelle rests entirely on the unreliable testimony of Brother Jean de Châlons, who made the following statement under torture at the papal inquiry into the Templars at Poitiers in June 1308. It is the only reference to a Templar fleet in all of medieval literature, and almost certainly a lie. The testimony below was recorded by the papal interrogators after a number of prominent Templars recanted their earlier confessions of blasphemy and other crimes.



Testimony of Jean de Châlons

Brother Jean of the city of Châlons, a Templar residing in the chapter-house of Nemours in the diocese of Troyes, having been sworn by an oath and interrogated, as stated above, said while under oath that around seven years ago he was received in Bois in the *baylivia* [a type of administrative district] of Merlan in the diocese of Reims, in the church in the aforesaid place. And the church was presided over by Brother Gilbert, the preceptor of the said location, with assistance from five brothers. He asked for bread and water and to be admitted into the society of the Order, and three times in succession the order came from the preceptor to carry himself out from the chapel, but as the preceptor and the other brothers deliberated, he persisted in his petition, and the said preceptor responded: "My son, I have considered this great request, because not everything that they see of us outwardly allows them to know that which is within. It will be necessary to sustain yourself and to do many great and arduous things." He at last replied that he would carry all the burdens that the master thought well to grant him, and in reply the preceptor said: "We have a procedure to receive you," and he placed a mantle around his neck and, opening a missal, made him swear obedience in all things, swear chastity, and swear to the renunciation of his property. And showing him an image of the crucifix in the missal, they asked him if he believed in the crucifix and Him who was represented by this image. He responded: "I truly believe." And the preceptor said: "You must three times deny this Christ who is represented through this image, and spit upon this image and the cross which represents Him." But when he made no move to do so, the preceptor rebuked him, saying, "Would you show yourself to be disobedient to an order?" And he was threatened that if he did not so deny, the preceptor would have him placed, within a few days, into the pit at Merlan. And he said that this pit or prison is so harsh that no one is able to live there for very long, and he saw that one man had been thrust within and did not live but five days. He himself became the sometime keeper of this prison, and during his time as such nine brothers died from the harshness of the prison. At last, shaken by threats and terrors, he denied

Christ three times with his mouth but not with his heart, and with great tears and sorrow in his heart. He said that after he received a kiss, which meant that he had been received, the Comte de Longpré entered the house for a meal. And the said preceptor dismissed him and said, "Let us go and sing together to the count. Let us dismiss the remainder, because we will finish it another time." But the said preceptor never sought him afterward. He did not know whether the preceptor dismissed the remaining points of the reception because he had forgotten or he had become occupied elsewhere. And this witness might have left the Order quite honorably, if he had dared and had he been able. He was in the Order for six years, and he was not only one of these people but also became a preceptor himself. He also said that a certain priest of the Order, Renaud by name, induced more than sixty Templars through secret writings to then revoke their confessions. He himself had even received pressure in this way many times from his friends, though he did not know which among them they were, that he should revoke (his own confession). He also said that he had confessed this crime to a chaplain of the Order, who did not absolve him, because he was doing good work with the power and privileges of the Order. He also said that so great is the cruelty in this Order that if any preceptor developed a hatred for any brother and wished to have him killed, he would go to the visitor of France [i.e. Hughes de Pairaud] and especially to Brother Gérard, the preceptor of France, saying that this brother was disobedient. And then, so long as he gave them a good sum of money, it was permitted, which meant that the brother was arrested and thrown into the aforementioned pit, where he died. And he had himself seen many people die there, of whom they said that there was no reason for their deaths except for the cash payment, and he heard from the brothers of the Order that this was the customary way things were done. And he said that no one was received into the Order unless he gave them a lot of money, and that he himself had given at his reception five hundred *livres*, and Brother Robert de Malen, his associate, had given just as much. At his reception, Gilbert the preceptor, Jean de Vallecute, Reginald de Cormesi, Pierre of Brie, and Thierry the Younger were present, and in their presence and by their inducement he denied Christ and believed, because of the many people gathered around him, that only then would the aforementioned count then come. He even said that they gave little alms, and much of the alms they received they left for their own use. Never did he see anyone corrected in the chapter, not in all his time in the Order. They abused Apostolic letters brashly, and in any one of the preceptories they had clerics who harassed many people with their commands. Then he said that, learning beforehand about this trouble, the leaders of the Order fled, and he himself met Brother Gerard de Villiers leading fifty horses; and he heard it said that he set out to sea with eighteen galleys and that Brother Hugues de Châlons fled with the whole treasure of Brother Hugues de Pairaud. When asked how he was able to keep this fact secret for so long, he responded that no one would have dared reveal it for anything, if the Pope and the King had not opened the way, for if it were known in the Order that anyone had spoken, he would at once be killed. And he said, he was the preceptor of Nemours at the time of the raid, and before that he had been the preceptor of Marmot. When he was asked how he knew that Brother Renaud had induced the Templars to recant their confession, he said it was because he and the other brothers had signed a testament on a parchment sealed with lead, that they should revoke their confession, lest the order be dissolved. Hence he invited them to recant, and the witnesses and the other brothers said, "How can we recant the truth? What we have confessed, we cannot contradict, because it will not stand beside our confession." The others said: "We are confounded, in perpetuity, if we do not recant," and the witness himself said: "I would rather be without honor forever than to damn my soul by recanting a true confession," and he said that the aforementioned Brother Renaud had conceived of this revocation of the confession from the brother of the Grand Master, the Dean of Langres.

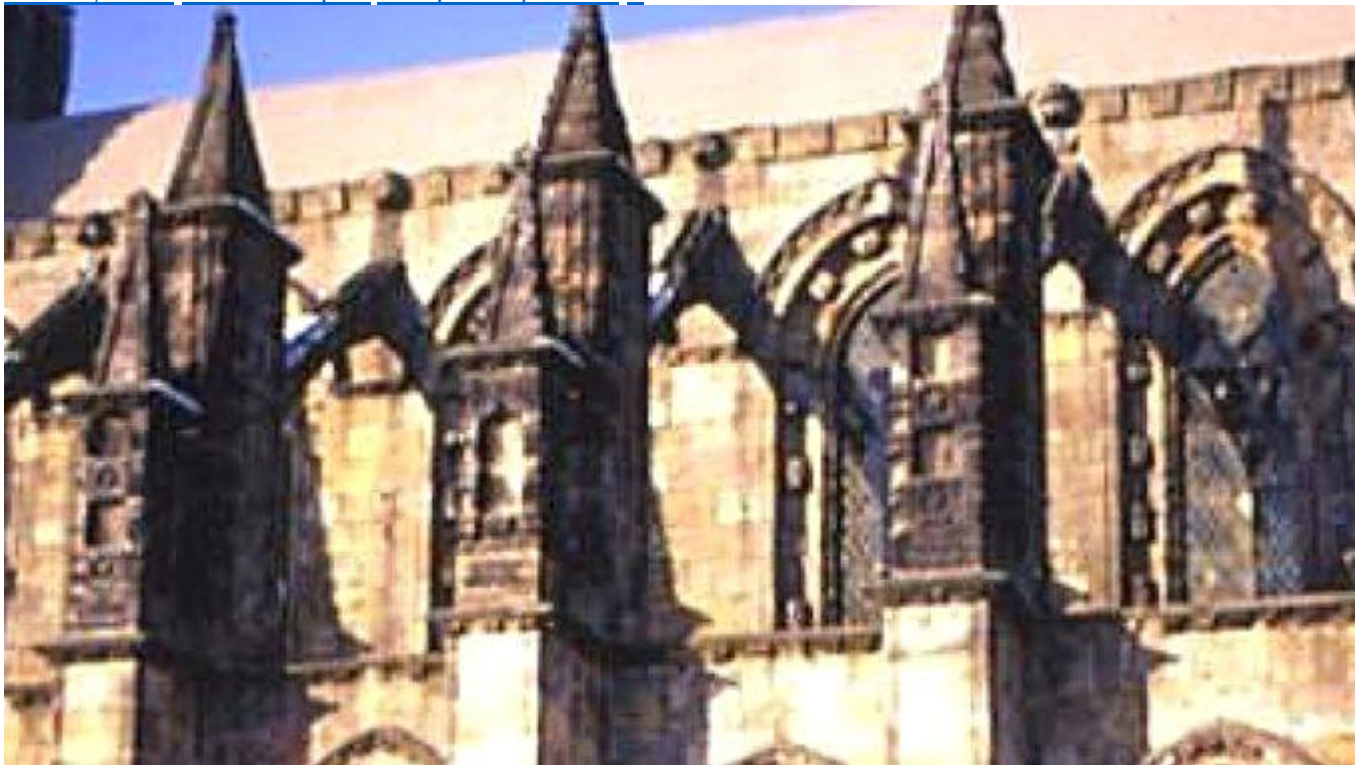
From <<https://www.jasoncolavito.com/testimony-of-jean-de-chacirclons.html>>

Rosslyn Chapel

Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:25 AM

Rosslyn Chapel: A Legacy in Stone

June 7, 2020 [admin-templar](#) [Templar Mysteries](#) 0



Anne Burgess / *Rosslyn Chapel* / [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

by Dr. Karen Ralls © 2003

Near Edinburgh, Scotland, stands Rosslyn Chapel, one of the most ornately-carved 15th century medieval stone chapels in all of Europe. In more recent times, Rosslyn has become more widely known, as the building and its history were featured in the movie, *The Da Vinci Code*. Although Rosslyn is officially known as the Collegiate Church of St. Matthew and is today an active Scottish Episcopal church, the chapel retains its special historic legacy for all to see and experience.

In my research, I describe and explain the symbolism of the exquisite medieval carvings in the chapel, from the Green Man to the famed Apprentice Pillar, and explain the key components of its history. Through the centuries, many have thought that there may be the Grail or some other treasure hidden there. But why is this small Scottish chapel so important today? Let us start with the known facts.

SIR WILLIAM ST. CLAIR, FOUNDER

An extraordinary effort in its time, at the end of the late Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance, work on the chapel began in 1446 and was personally overseen by Sir William St. Clair, the third and last St. Clair Prince of Orkney. According to an account written in 1700 by Father Richard Augustine Hay, Canon of St. Genevieve in Paris. Sir William inspected each of the hundreds of images in draft form in wood before giving it to the masons to carve in stone. Fr. Hay refers to various builders and masons as coming from “other regions” and “foreign kingdoms”, with France as a good bet.

Although Rosslyn Chapel took nearly 40 years to build, contrary to popular belief, Sir William was not a Knight Templar nor a Freemason. Rosslyn was begun in 1446 — much later than the dissolution of the Templar order (1312) and much earlier than the official beginnings of Freemasonry (1717), with the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England.

There is no documented historical evidence for a medieval Knights Templar connection with Rosslyn Chapel itself; further, the Templars did not build Rosslyn Chapel. However, not far

away, at the nearby village of Temple, still stand the ruins of what was once the genuine headquarters of the Scottish Knights Templar, then called Balandtradoch. So the real Templar connection is not, in fact, at the site of Rosslyn Chapel, it is at the village of Temple, where the ruins of the Scottish preceptory can still be seen today.

THE REFORMATION

Although Rosslyn Chapel was generously endowed by its founder, Sir William St. Clair, and by his grandson, by the time of the tumultuous 16th century, the Reformation had a devastating effect on religious sites in Scotland. Many Catholic churches, altars and furnishings were badly damaged or destroyed, and the Rosslyn Chapel, too, fell into disuse. In 1650, Oliver Cromwell's troops attacked nearby Rosslyn Castle; in addition, his troops also housed his horses in nearby Rosslyn Chapel as well. Some believe this may have helped to save the chapel from further destruction, claiming that Cromwell was a Freemason, and that this may have been why he did not order the chapel destroyed. Yet there is no direct evidence that Cromwell was a Freemason, according to the Grand Lodge of England.

In 1688, an angry Protestant mob from Edinburgh and Roslin village pillaged and burnt the castle and further damaged the chapel, which remained abandoned until 1736, when James St. Clair began repairs. Given this turbulent history, we are fortunate indeed to have Rosslyn Chapel in all its glory today.

THE GREEN MAN

The profusion of carved symbolism is extraordinary throughout the chapel, ranging from biblical allegory to pagan symbolism. One of the best-known images is of the Green Man, of which there are at least 103 representations inside the chapel alone, with an additional number on the exterior and roof as well. Art historians have noted that Rosslyn Chapel has the greatest number of Green Man images of any medieval chapel in Europe.

Commonly portrayed as a head with profuse foliage growing from his mouth, the Green Man (and Lady) represent fertility, growth, and the fecundity of nature. The many faces of the Green Man range from joyful to downright impish. Although many assume that the Green Man is mainly a "Celtic" motif, this is not the case. Green Man carvings are also found in ancient eastern temples, in the Apo Kayan area of Borneo, the chapels of Dhankar Gompa in the Himalayas, in the temples of Kathmandu and in the Jain temples of Ranakpur, and in Roman buildings. In short, the Green Man is a universal theme with very early roots.

In the context of Rosslyn chapel, no doubt Sir William was acknowledging the inherent Celtic traditions of the area and the beautiful natural setting of Roslin Glen. It may well be that the chapel is placed precisely where it is because of the surrounding natural environment and the fact that the glen was known to many long before the chapel or castle were built; bronze age artifacts have been found here, and Roman finds involving the possible worship of Mithras, and what many believe to be runic and/or Pictish carvings have also been discovered.

The Apprentice Pillar

Stunning in its exquisitely carved beauty, the famous Apprentice Pillar at Rosslyn is associated with much of the historical legacy of the chapel, and is one of three stone pillars believed to represent the concepts of wisdom, strength, and beauty. Its symbolism as a whole represents to some a 'world tree', a fountain of immortality, illustrating the perpetual conflict of the forces of light and darkness. At its base is the "Dread Biter" serpent of the Norse sagas, said to lie at the root of the Yggdrasil world tree, which continuously gnaws away at the forces of darkness and ignorance.

In more modern times, some have attempted to claim that the Apprentice pillar is hollow and may contain a "Grail" hidden within its pillar—specifically, a silver platter. Scans have been done of the pillar and no metal was detected; however, others speculate that the Grail hidden there is not made of metal. Some insist it may be a mummified head of Christ or a simple wooden chalice, yet there is no proof of these theories.

The Apprentice Pillar also has a special Masonic tale associated with it, as explained by the Earl of Rosslyn in the official chapel guidebook:

"The Master Mason, having received from the Founder the model of a pillar of exquisite workmanship and design, hesitated to carry it out until he had been to Rome . . . and seen the original. He went abroad and in his absence an apprentice . . . set to work and carried out the design as it now stands, a perfect marvel of workmanship. The Master Mason on his return, seeing the pillar completed, instead of being delighted at the success of his pupil, was so stung with envy that . . . with rage and passion . . . he struck [the apprentice] with his mallet,

killed him on the spot.”

Much of the genuine message of Rosslyn Chapel is as much about where a specific carving is located and how it relates to what is around it, as about the design of a specific carving. It is often neglected that much of the symbolism at Rosslyn is from the Old or New Testament or is apocryphal-based, or may be pagan iconography—a great variety of symbols are present. At Rosslyn, it does matter if a carving is located on the north wall as opposed to the east wall, or next to one carving and not another, for example. In a sense, Rosslyn can be “read” as a library in stone. If you start in the northeast corner and walk clockwise around the chapel, the Green Men carvings get progressively older, for example, and the Dance of Death carving is closer to the end than the beginning. The great Cycle unfolds . . .

WILL THERE BE AN EXCAVATION?

Theories abound about what material treasures may be hidden at Rosslyn Chapel, speculations that have created a “mythos in the making” about this religious site. In keeping with many medieval family chapels, the founder and a number of his descendants are buried in its vaults; yet, even so, some rather wild speculations continue, which have unfortunately largely detracted from the important architectural legacy of the chapel and the good work of the Sinclair family and Rosslyn Chapel Trust in preserving the building. The question remains: Will the vaults of Rosslyn Chapel ever be excavated?

The Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, Mr. Stuart Beattie, was asked about the excavation issue, clarifying:

“Due to the Scottish law of the ‘Right of Sepulchre’, a rather lengthy legal procedure would have to be followed, in order to secure the necessary permission to dig on the church grounds by the authorities. Meanwhile, the focus is on the preservation of the building, and not on excavation, at this time. ”

James Simpson, architect of the extensive conservation project at Rosslyn, states in his recent contribution to the book that accompanied the 2002 Rosslyn art exhibition at the National Gallery of Scotland:

“It may be 2010 before the programme of conservation and development currently envisaged is completed. Fifty or so years of decline will have been followed by thirty years of making up the deficit. Nor will that be the end of the matter; managing and caring for a site like Rosslyn never ends. It is in the very nature of ‘heritage’ that responsibilities, as well as rights, are passed on from generation to generation . . . ”

Speculation will undoubtedly continue as the conservation project will not be finished until at least 2010, and any excavation would occur after that at the very earliest.

A LEGACY IN STONE

Over the years various churches, Guilds, the Templars, the Rosicrucians, and the Masons have all recognized something of their own traditions in the complex allegory presented by Rosslyn Chapel—an arcanum, a book in stone.

The Templars, too, have never lost their intrigue or mystery for us today. By exploring the major interrelated topics about this medieval military religious order, historians hope more information will come to light in the coming years. Let us recall, too, in our modern times, one of the Templars’ important mottoes—‘Carpe Diem!’ (Seize the day!).

From <<https://templarhistory.com/rosslyn-chapel-a-legacy-in-stone/>>

Lodge Mother Kilwinning - The Mother Lodge of Scotland



Lodge Mother Kilwinning Masonic Building Concentrated 1893

The Mother Lodge of Scotland is situated in the Ayrshire town of Kilwinning. This old and ancient Lodge of Freemasons dates back to the building of Kilwinning Abbey around the year 1140, the ruins of which still stand to the rear of the Lodge to this day and has a unique history second to none in the Masonic World.

Before the forming of The Grand Lodge of Scotland in the year 1736, Mother Kilwinning was a Grand Lodge in her own right, issuing charters and warrants to Lodges wishing to enjoy the privileges of Freemasonry.

The Mother Lodge of Scotland, 99 Main Street, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, KA13 6AW
[Map and directions to Lodge Mother Kilwinning](#)

The R.W.M. Bro. Munro McLean and the Office Bearers would like to thank all the Brethren who attended the Installation and Festival of St. Thomas at Lodge Mother Kilwinning on Saturday the 21st December 2019.

[Lodge Mother Kilwinning Office Bearers 2020](#)

The Mother Lodge is featured in the Terra Masonica DVD "Around the World in 80 Lodges".



The first meeting place of the Lodge of Kilwinning took place in the chapter house within the Abbey grounds and remained there until the reformation in 1560 when the Earl of Glencairn, a blood enemy of the Earls of Eglinton who held a long tradition with the Lodge, sacked the Abbey.

The present meeting place of the Brethren today is situated at the, Masonic Lodge, 99 main Street, Kilwinning and the first photograph of this old building, pictured on the left, was taken by Photographer Royal for Scotland, George Washington Wilson in 1892 - [Mother Lodge History](#)

From <<http://www.mk0.com/>>

LODGE MOTHER KILWINNING

Lodge Mother Kilwinning is a [Masonic](#) Lodge in [Kilwinning, Scotland](#), under the auspices of the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#). It is number 0 (referred to as "nothing" and not zero) on the Roll, and is reputed to be the oldest Lodge not only in Scotland, but the world. It is thus styled **The Mother Lodge of Scotland** attributing its origins to the 12th Century, and is often called *Mother Kilwinning*.

Legend has it that [Kilwinning Abbey](#) was built by stonemasons who had travelled from Europe and established a lodge there. In 1599 [William Schaw](#) introduced the Second Schaw Statutes which specified that "ye warden of ye lug of Kilwynning" to "tak tryall of ye [airt of memorie](#) and science yrof, of everie fellowe of craft and everie prenteiss according to ayr of yr vocations".

As early as the reign of [James II](#), the lodge at Kilwinning was granting warrants for the formation of lodges elsewhere in Scotland such as, for example, Canongate Kilwinning, Greenock Kilwinning, and Cumberland Kilwinning. In 1736, the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#) was organised and the Kilwinning lodge was one of its constituent lodges. That same year, it petitioned to be recognized as the oldest lodge in Scotland. However, as has happened so many times over Freemasonry's long history, the lodge's original records had been lost and the claim could not be proven. The petition was therefore rejected, wherefore Kilwinning seceded and again acted as a grand lodge, organising lodges in Scotland and on the continent, as well as in Virginia and Ireland. In 1807 Kilwinning "came once more into the bosom of the Grand Lodge, bringing with her all of her daughter Lodges".

From <<https://freemasonry.network/masonic-structures/masonic-lodge/different-types-lodges/mother-lodge/lodge-mother-kilwinning/>>

Famous Freemasons in History

A short list of famous Freemasons from history.

Looking for something more specific?

- [U.S. President Freemasons](#)
- [Masonic Astronauts](#)
- [Five Famous \(or Infamous\) Masons](#)
- [Founding Fathers](#)

A

Abbott, Sir John, J. C.

Canadian Prime Minister 1891-1892.

St. Paul's, No. 374, E.R., Montreal, 1847.

[Augustus, Edward Duke of Kent](#)

Father of Queen Victoria and last Grand Master of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England in 1813.



Ed
Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin – First Mason on the Moon
Aldrin, Col. Edwin Buzz

[American astronaut](#) and member of the first moon landing.

33 deg. Montclair Lodge No. 144 New Jersey.

Allende, Salvador

Former President of Chile.

Lodge Progreso No. 4, Valpariso, in 1935.

[Anderson, Robert](#)

Brevetted Major General USA, commanded Charleston Harbour at the start of secession.

[Appleton, Sir Edward Victor](#)

English physicist. Nobel prize for physics 1947.

Isaac Newton Lodge, No. 859, Cambridge.

[Armistead, Lewis A](#)

Brigadeer General CSA. Served with Pickett at Gettysburg where he was mortally wounded.

Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 Virginia.

Armstrong, Louis*

American Jazz legend.

Lodge of Montgomery No. 18, PHA, New York

**there is some contention to this claim, as no complete proof has been discovered.*

[Arne, Thomas Augustine](#)

English composer, includes Rule Britannia.

[Arnold, Benedict](#)

Major General and early American Revolution war hero. Eventually changed allegiance and sided with the British, being

Famous Freemasons



An overwhelming number of the world's best and brightest have been or are [Freemasons](#). These groups give you far from a comprehensive list — they're just a sampling:

- **Founding fathers:** America's most famous Freemason, George Washington was initiated in 1752, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Other founding fathers who were also Masons include Benjamin Franklin, Marquis de Lafayette, Robert R. Livingstone, John Hancock, and Aaron Burr.
- **U.S. presidents:** Fourteen U.S. presidents are definitely known to have been Freemasons: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Gerald R. Ford.
- **Explorers and adventurers:** Freemasons who blazed new trails include Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie, Sam Houston, Christopher "Kit" Carson, Lewis and Clark, Charles Lindbergh, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin.
- **Science and medicine:** Many Freemasons have played an important role on the scientific and medical frontiers, among them Edward Jenner (discoverer of the cure for smallpox), Joseph Lister (the man who pioneered the concept of antiseptics in medicine), and Alexander Fleming (won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of penicillin).
- **Actors and entertainers:** The entire entertainment industry has had its share of Masons, including the Ringling Brothers, jazz great William "Count" Basie, John Wayne, Harry Houdini, Richard Pryor, and Mel Blanc.
- **Athletes:** Famous athletic Masons include "Sugar Ray" Robinson, Jack Dempsey, John Elway, and Scottie Pippin.
- **Businessmen:** Henry Ford, a titan of American industry, was a Freemason. Ford shared the ties of Masonic brotherhood with Walter P. Chrysler, Nathan Meyer Rothschild and John Jacob Astor, Charles Hilton, Colonel Harland Sanders, and Steve Wozniak (co-founder of Apple Computer).
- **Statecraft:** Masons have made great world leaders. Among them are Sir Winston Churchill, Fiorello Laguardia, Kalakaua (King of Hawaii), and many English kinds (including William IV, Edward VII, Edward VIII, George IV, and George VI).
- **U.S. Civil Rights leaders:** Masons who've been active in the quest for equal rights for all citizens of the United States include Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, and Medger Evers.
- **Arts and letters:** The world of art, music, and literature wouldn't be the same if it weren't for the contributions of the Masons Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Aleksander Pushkin, Jonathon Swift, Oscar Wilde, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Alex Haley, and Mark Twain.

From <<https://www.dummies.com/religion/spirituality/famous-freemasons/>>

branded a traitor ever after.

Affiliated member of Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven CT.

Ashmole, Elias

Founder member of the Royal Society and became the first known English speculative

Mason at Warrington, Lancashire, in 1646.

Ataturk, Mustapha Kemal

Former President of Turkey 1923-1938.

Member of an Italian Lodge, Macedonia Resorta e Veritus.

Austin, Stephen

“The father of Texas”.

Louisiana Lodge No. 109, St. Genevieve, Missouri.

Autry, Gene

Screen western star.

Catoosa Lodge No. 185, Catoosa, Oklahoma.

B

Badgley, William

Canadian Lawyer, first Dean of the Faculty of Law at McGill University, Montreal.

St. Paul’s Lodge, No. 374 UGLE, Montreal.

Past Provincial Grand Master.

Bailey, Joseph E

Brilliant Civil Engineer who served in the Civil War. Rose to Maj. General and after retirement was shot and killed serving as a sheriff in Missouri. One of fourteen Union officers who received the thanks of Congress.

Columbia Lodge No. 124 Wisconsin.

Ballard, Harold

Feistyowner of Toronto Maple Leafs National Hockey League team. Corinthian

No. 481, GRC, Toronto, Ontario

Banks, Sir Joseph

Founder of the famous Kew Gardens, Londo.

Somerset House Lodge UGLE

Banks, Nathaniel P.

“ The fighting politician” Governor of Massachusetts, Civil War Maj.

General, Senator and US Marshal. One of fourteen Union officers who received

the Thanks of Congress.

Monitor Lodge MA.

Barham, Eugene A.

American Admiral and war hero. 33deg. AASR.

Barnardo, Dr. T. J.

Founder of the Barnardo home for orphaned boys.

Basie, William “Count”

American jazz pianist.

Wisdom Lodge No. 102 PHA, Chicago and Shriner, New York.



Beard, Daniel Carter

Founded the [Boy Scout movement](#) in United States of America.

Mariners Lodge

No. 67, New York City

Benes, Eduard

President of Czechoslovakia 1935-1938.

Lodge Jan Amos Komensky No. 1, Prague

and Lodge Pravda Vitezi.

Bennett, Viscount R. B.

Canadian Prime Minister 1930-1935.

Berlin, Irving

American songwriter and composer.

Shriner and Scottish Rite.

Munn Lodge No. 190 New York City.

[Bolivar, Simon](#)

South American liberator.

Initiated in Cadiz, Spain. Became involved with Knights Templar and Scottish Rites and founded Order and Liberty Lodge No. 2 in Peru.

Bonaparte. Jerome, Joseph, Louis & Lucien

All 4 brothers of Napoleon were Masons but not the great Emperor himself.

Bongo, Omar

President of Gabon.

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Gabon in 1983.

Borden, Sir Robert L.

12th. Canadian Prime Minister 1911-1920.

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 1, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

[Boralum, Gutzon](#)

Sculptor and painter. Most famous for his colossal Mt. Rushmore national memorial

in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Howard Lodge No. 35, New York City, serving as W. Master 1910-1911.

[Borqlum, Lincoln](#)

Son of Gutzon (previous), finished the above memorial.

Battle River Lodge No. 92 South Dakota.



Brother Ernest Borgnine

[Borgnine, Ernest](#)

American Actor,

Abingdon Lodge No. 48, Abingdon, Virginia.

Boswell, John

Laird (Lord) of Auchinleck.

The earliest recorded non-operative Mason recorded anywhere – 1600 AD, Edinburgh.

Bowell, Sir Mackenzie

Canadian Prime Minister 1894-1896.

St. Lawrence Lodge No. 640 E.R. Montreal, PQ. Affiliated with Belleville Lodge

No. 123, Bellville, Ontario.

Bowie, James

Famous American frontiersman, died at the Alamo.

Humble Cottage Lodge No. 19, Opelousas, Louisiana.

Bradley, Omar Nelson

American General, chairman – joint chiefs of staff. West Point.

Lodge No. 877, Highland Falls, New York State.

Brant, Chief Joseph

Mohawk Chief Thayendanega, of the Six Nations Indians.

Hiram's Cliftonian Lodge No. 417 E.R. (M) London, UK.

Burke, Edmund

Irish/English statesman. Great friend to the US colonies.

Jerusalem Lodge No. 44, Clerkenwell, London, UK.

Buchanan, James

15th President of the USA. W.Master of Lancaster

Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Past District Deputy Grand Master of

the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Burbank, Luther

American naturalist and horticulturist.

Santa Rosa Lodge No. 57, California.

Burke, Edmund

Anglo-Irish statesman.

Jerusalem Lodge No. 44.

Burns, Robert

Scottish poet.

St. David's Lodge No. 174, Tarbolton.

Butlin William

W. Bro. Sir "Billy" Founded the chain of Butlins Holiday camps. Heavily involved in charities.

Byrd, Richard E.

American Admiral, aviator and explorer.

Federal Lodge No. 1 Washington DC and established Antarctica Lodge No. 777

under the GL of New Zealand.

Byron, Lord William

British poet.

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) 1747-1751.

C

Campbell, Sir Malcolm

World land speed record holder. Member of many Masonic bodies.

Cantor, Eddie

American entertainer.

Munn Lodge No. 190, New York City.

Carson, Christopher "Kit"

American frontiersman.

Montezuma Lodge No. 109, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Casanova, Giovanni

Italian adventurer and philanderer.

Made a Mason in Lyon, France.

Chagall, Marc

Russian artist. Vitebsk, Belorussia.

Chrysler, Walter P.

American automobile manufacturer.

32 degree AASR, Salina, Kansas. Member of

Isis Shrine Temple at Salina, Kansas. Reportedly a visitor to Cedar Lodge,

Oshawa, ON, No. 270, GRC while employed by Buick Corporation.

Churchill, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer

English statesman and Prime Minister.

Studholme Lodge No. 1591 and Rosemary's Lodge No. 2851.

Citroen, Andre

French automotive engineer.

Lodge La Philosophie Positive, Paris.

Clark, Lt. William

Led expedition into the North West Territories.

St. Louis Lodge No. 111, St.

Louis, Missouri.

Clark, Roy

Country western singer.

Jenks Lodge No. 497, Oklahoma.

Cleaveland, Moses

American pioneer, soldier and lawyer.

Initiated in a military lodge and then became W. Master of Moriah Lodge, Connecticut.

Clinton, de Witt

Prominent American statesman. NYC Mayor.

Grand Master GL of NY, Grand Master

of Knights Templar.

Cobb, Tyrus R

American baseball great and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Royston Lodge No. 426, Detroit, MI.

Cody, William F. (Buffalo Bill)

American frontiersman and Indian scout.

Platte Valley Lodge No. 15 Nebraska.

Cohan, George M.

American entertainer.

Pacific Lodge No. 223, New York City. Shriner.

Cole, Nathaniel, (Nat King)

American singer and pianist.

Thomas Waller Lodge No. 49 PHA. Los Angeles.

Colt, Samuel

American manufacturer. Most famous for hand guns.

Conacher, Charlie

Toronto Maple Leaf ice hockey legend.

North Gate Lodge No. 591, Pickering, Ontario, Canada.

Cooper, Leroy Gordon

American astronaut.

Carbondale Lodge No. 82, Colorado.

Correll, Charles

Amos of Amos & Andy.

Trio Lodge No. 57, Chicago.

Coxe, Daniel

English lawyer. First Prov. Grand Master in North America, appointed by the Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of England.

Crockett, David

American frontiersman. Gained immortality

at the Alamo.

D

Darwin, Erasmus

Physician and botanist.

Initiated at St. David's Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh in 1754.

De Grey, George Frederick Samuel Robinson Earl

Governor General of India 1880-1884. Grand Master UGLE 1870-1874. Most famous today for Earl Grey Tea.

De Mille, Cecil B.

American film producer – director.

Prince Orange Lodge No. 16, New York City.

Dempsey, W.H. "Jack"

American world heavyweight boxing champion

1919. Kenwood Lodge No. 800, Chicago Illinois.

Dermott, Laurence

Irish born Grand Secretary of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England 1752-1771.

Wrote Ahiman Rezon.

Diaz, Porfino

President of Mexico. Shriner.

Diefenbaker, John George

Canadian Prime Minister 1957-1963. 57 year member of the craft. 33 deg. Sottish Rite. Knights Templar and a Shriner (First Potentate of Tunis Temple, Ottawa).

Initiated, passed and raised, Wakaw Lodge No. 166 GRS (Saskatchewan). Affiliated Kinistino No. 1, GRS. Honorary Grand Master of DeMolays.

Dole, Robert J.

Senator. Russell Lodge No. 177, Russell, Kansas.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

English writer, works include Sherlock Holmes.

Phoenix Lodge No. 257, Portsmouth, England.

Drake, Edwin L.

American oil pioneer.

Oil Creek Lodge No. 3, Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Prince Henry Frederick

Duke of Cumberland, younger brother of George III. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) Granted Prince Hall his charter in 1884 which only arrived in 1887.

Dunant, Jean Henri

Swiss founder of the Red Cross, co-winner of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

Dunckerly, Thomas

Illegitimate born son of George II, consolidated the Royal Arch and was the first Grand Master of the Masonic Knights Templar. Acted as Grand Master for the warranted lodges in Quebec.

Dunn, Alexander Robert

Canadian soldier who won Canada's first Victoria Cross at the Charge of the

Light Brigade at Balaclava. Ionic Lodge No. 18 (now No. 25), Toronto, Ontario.

E

Edward VII. King of Great Britain

Grand Master of the UGLE 1875-1901. Also Provincial Grand Master for Lower Canada.

Edward VIII

King of Great Britain. Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1936.

Elway, John

Denver Bronco retired quarterback (#7) and NFL Hall of Fame inductee.

South Denver Lodge #93.

Ellington, Edward Kennedy "Duke"

American jazz musician.

Social Lodge No. 1 PHA, Washington DC.

F

Faber, Eberhard

American manufacturer. CEO of the Eberhard Faber Pencil Co.

Chancellor Walworth Lodge No. 271, NY City.

Fairbanks, Douglas, Snr.

American actor.

Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, California.

Fields, "W.C.", William Claude

American comedian and entertainer.

E. Coppee Mitchell Lodge No. 605, Philadelphia PA.

Fitch, John

True inventor of the steamboat.

Bristol Lodge No. 25, Bristol PA.

Fleming, Sir Alexander

Scottish bacteriologist and discoverer of Penicillin. Held Grand Office in the UGLE.

Fleming, Sir Sanford

Canadian engineer and surveyor. Suggested the use of time zones.

St. Andrew's Lodge No. 16, Toronto, Ontario.

Fleming, Dr. Walter Millard

American physician, co-founder member of the Shrine. Rochester Lodge No. 660, Rochester NY. Potentate of Mecca Temple NY and Imperial Potentate from 1876 to 1886.

Florence, William Jermyn

American actor, co-founder member of the Shrine.

Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 155, Philadelphia PA.

Fletcher, Sir Banister Flight

English architect and writer on the subject.

Authors Lodge No. 3456, London England.



Gerald R. Ford
Ford, Gerald R.

38th [President](#) of the USA.

Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Ford, Henry

American automobile manufacturer.

Palestine Lodge No. 357, Detroit MI.

Forrest, Nathan

Enlisted private who financed his own cavalry regiment and rose to Lt. General CSA. Angerona Lodge No. 168 TN.



Ben Franklin
[Franklin, Benjamin](#)

American statesman and inventor.

St. John's Lodge Philadelphia PA.

G

Gable, Clark

American actor. Most famous for Gone with the wind.

Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, California.

Garfield, James Abram

20th President of the USA. Knights Templar and Scottish Rite.

Columbus Lodge No. 246, Garrettsville, Ohio.

Garibaldi, Giuseppe

Italian revolutionary and liberator.

Tompkinsville Lodge No. 471, Staten Island NY. 33 deg. Grand Master of the

Grand Orient of Palermo.

Gatling, Richard J.

American inventor of the repeating gun.

Center Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis.

George IV

King of Great Britain. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) 1790-1813 while still Prince of Wales.

George VI

King of Great Britain. Grand Master of Scotland and honorary Past Grand Master of the UGLE. Initiated in Naval Lodge No. 2612. Royal Arch First Principal, 33 degree AASR, Past Grand Master Mark Master Lodge.

Gilbert, Sir William S.

English poet and play write, partner of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

St. Machar Lodge No. 54, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Gillette, King C.

American manufacturer and inventor of the safety razor.



John Herschel Glenn, Jr
Glenn, John.

[American astronaut](#) and Senator, 33 deg.

Concord Lodge No. 688, Concord, Ohio.

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

German poet. 50 year member of Amalia Lodge, Weimar.

Goldwater, Barry M.

US Senator.

Arizona Lodge No. 2, Phoenix, May 12, 1931.

Gompers, Samuel

Founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

Dawson Lodge No. 16, Washington DC.

Gosden, Freeman

Andy of Amos & Andy.

Petersburg Lodge No. 15, VA

Grissom, Virgil "Gus"

[American astronaut](#), killed in Apollo 1 fire.

Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Indiana.

Guillotin, Joseph Ignace

French humanitarian doctor, sought the decapitating machine linked to his name as a more humane method of execution. Founder member of the Grand Orient of France.

H

Haig, Earl Douglas

British Field Marshal during World War I.

Elgin Lodge No. 91, Leven, Scotland.

Hall, Prince

First known black American Freemason. Initiated in an Irish military Lodge in 1775, he later founded African Lodge No. 459 EC, which still survives.

Hancock, John

American merchant and patriot, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Massachusetts Lodge No. 277, Quebec, Canada. Later affiliated with St. Andrews Lodge, Boston, MA.



Warren G. Harding
Harding, Warren G.

29th [President](#) of the USA.

Knight Templar, 33 deg. Scottish Rite, first President to become a [Shriner](#). Marion Lodge No. 70, Marion, Ohio.

Hardy, Oliver

American comedian and actor, partner of Stan Laurel.

Solomon Lodge No. 20, Jacksonville, Florida.

Haydn, Franz Josef

Austrian composer. Lodge Zur Wahren Eintracht, Vienna.

Henson, Josiah

American black slave who escaped from slavery in Kentucky into Canada. Inspiration for the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

Mount Moriah Lodge No. 4 GRC, Dresden, Ontario.

Hilton, Charles C.

American hotelier. Founded Hotel Hilton which led to the famous chain of luxury hotels.

William B. Warren Lodge No. 309, Chicago, Illinois.

Hoban, Jame.

American architect, designed the original White House and its replacement.

Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington DC.

Horton, Tim

Canadian ice hockey legend. Founder of the donut chain bearing his name.

Kroy Lodge No. 676, Toronto, Ontario.

Hoover, J. Edgar

American lawman and head of the FBI. Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington DC.

Hopkins, Sir Frederick Gowland

English biochemist. Nobel prize winner for medicine 1929. Discovered essential amino acids and researched vitamins.

Aesculapius Lodge No. 2410.

Horlick, Alexander J.

American industrialist. Founded Horlick's Malted Milk Co.

Belle City Lodge No. 92, Racine, Wisconsin.

Hornsby, Rogers

Member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Beacon Lodge No. 3, St. Louis, Missouri. RAM & KT.

Houdini, Harry

American magician and escape artist.

St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City.

Houston, Sam

American pioneer and first president of Texas.

Cumberland Lodge No. 8, Nashville, Tennessee.

Hussein, King of Jordan

Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Jordan

I

Ingalls, Donald

Writer Producer for television and film.

Past Grand Master of California.

North Hollywood Lodge No. 542

Irwin, James Benson

[American astronaut](#). Member of the 4th moon landing.

Lodge Tejon No. 104, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Isma'il, Pasha

Viceroy of Egypt. Presented an obelisk to USA to be erected in New York City.

Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Egypt.

Ives, Burl Icle

American entertainer. Magnolia Lodge (now Magnolia-La Cumbre Lodge) No. 242

in Santa Barbara, California. Knight Templar, St. Omer Commandery No.30, Santa

Barbara, Apr. 15, 1978; Shrine, inducted at Al Malaikah Shrine Temple, Los

Angeles, 33 deg. AASR, Grand Cross.

J

Jackson, Andrew

7th President of the USA. Harmony Lodge No 1, Nashville, Tennessee. Royal Arch

Mason, 6th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

Jackson, Rev. Jesse

Harmony Lodge No. 88, PHA, Chicago, Illinois

Jarvis, William

Provincial Secretary for Upper Canada. First Provincial Grand Master (Ancients) for Upper Canada.

Jenner, Edward

English doctor who discovered the principle of vaccination.

Faith and Friendship Lodge No. 270, Berkeley UK.

Johnson, Andrew

17th President of the USA. Greeneville Lodge No. 19, Greeneville, Tennessee.

Knight Templar and first President to become 32 deg. Scottish Rite.

Johnson, John A. "Jack"

American world heavyweight champion boxer 1908-1915.

Lodge Forfar and Kincardine No. 225, Dundee, Scotland.

Johnson, Lyndon B.

36th [President](#) of the USA.

Johnson City Lodge No. 561, Johnson city, Texas.

Jolson, Al

American singer and actor who portrayed black minstrels.

St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City.

Jones, John Paul

Scottish born "Father of the American Navy".

St. Bernard Lodge No. 122, Kirkcudbright, Scotland.

Jones, Melvin

American businessman. Co-founder of Lions International.

Garden City Lodge No. 141, Chicago, Illinois.

K

Kalakaua

King of Hawaii.

Islam Shrine Temple.

Kellar (Keller), Harry

Founder of the *Royal Dynasty of American Magicians*. [American magician](#) who presented large stage shows during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Kemp, Jack

Former U.S. Senator/Secretary of HUD, New York. Quarterback for Buffalo Bills.

Fraternal Lodge No. 625 in Hamburg, NY.

Kent, His Royal Highness Prince Edward the Duke of

Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

King, Charles

American biochemist, isolated vitamin C. Whitman Lodge No. 49, Pulman, Washington.



Rudyard Kipling
[Kipling, Rudyard](#)

English Nobel Prize winning writer, born in India, most famous for The Jungle Book.

Hope and Esperance Lodge No. 782, Lahore, India.

Kitchener, Lord Horatio Herbert

British General and statesman. British Union Lodge No. 114, Ipswich, England. District Grand Master of Egypt, Sudan and the Punjab. Junior Grand Warden of the UGLE in 1916.

L

Lafayette, Marquis de

Already a Freemason in France, he was given honorary membership by many lodges and Grand Lodges across the USA.

Laguardia, Fiorella H.

American politician. Three time Mayor of NY City and namesake of the International Airport.

Garibaldi Lodge No. 542, New York City.

Layton, Athol

Canadian professional wrestler.

Birch Cliff Lodge No. 612, Scarborough (Toronto),

Ontario. Potentate Rameses Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. 1968.

Lindbergh, Charles

American aviator who made the first non-stop flight from America to Europe. His plane was the Spirit of St. Louis and bore the Masonic insignia.

Keystone Lodge No. 243, St. Louis, Missouri.

Lipton, Sir Thomas Johnstone

Scottish merchant famous for the tea he transported from Ceylon.

Scotia Lodge No. 178, Glasgow.

Listz, Franz Von

Hungarian composer.

Lodge Zur Einigkeit, Frankfurt, Germany.

Lloyd, Harold C.

American actor.

Alexander Hamilton Lodge No. 535, Hollywood, California.

A.A.O.N.M.S. Imperial Potentate.

M

Macadam, John Loudon

Scottish engineer. Developed the smooth waterproof road surface.

MacArthur, Douglas

5 star American General, served in both world wars. Made a Mason "at sight" in the Philippines and became 32 deg in

Manilla and life member of the Nile Shrine Temple, Seattle, Washington.

Macdonald, Sir John Alexander

First Canadian Prime Minister. St. John's Lodge No. 758, Kingston, Ontario. Honourary Past Grand Senior Warden.

Maclean, John Bayne

Founder of Maclean's Magazine and President of Maclean's Publishing Co.

Ionic Lodge No. 25, Toronto, Ontario

Madison, James

4th President of the USA. Madison is said to have been a Member of Hiram Lodge No. 59, Westmoreland County, Virginia, a Lodge which had only a short existence, and whose records are lost.

Marshall, George C.

5 star American General. Made a Mason "at sight" by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

Mayer, Louis B.

American film producer with partner Sam Goldwyn.

St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City.

Mayo, Dr. Charles H.

American physician. Co-founder of the Mayo Clinics and Mayo Foundation for medical research.

Rochester Lodge No. 21, Rochester, Minnesota.

Mazzini, Giuseppe

Italian revolutionary. Worked towards the liberation and unification of Italy.

Past Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy.



William McKinley
McKinley, William

25th [President](#) of the USA. Hiram lodge No. 21, Winchester, Virginia. Mark,

R. Arch and Knight Templar.

McLaughlin, Col. R. S. "Sam"

Founder of the McLaughlin Carriage Co. which later became General Motors of Canada. Cedar Lodge No. 270, Oshawa, Ontario. Grand Steward, 75 year member in the craft. Royal Arch, Knight Templar, President of Oshawa Shrine Club.

McLaughlin, John

Invented the modern Canada Dry version of Ginger Ale in 1907.

Cedar Lodge, No. 270 GRC.

McNair Alexander

First Governor of the State of Missouri, member of Herman Lodge #28, St. Charles,

Missouri later known as Herman Lodge #3 after the formation of the Grand Lodge

of Missouri.

Meriwether, Lewis

Leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition, first Governor of the Louisiana Territories and , was one of the founders of St. Louis Lodge #111 with a charter from Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Mesmer, Franz Anton

Austrian physician. Studies in magnetism led to the art of Mesmerization, which later became hypnotism.

Affiliated with the French Lodge Les Philadelphes.

Michelson, Albert Abraham

American physicist. Successfully measured the speed of light, gaining the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1907. Washington Lodge No. 21 New York City.



Tom Mix , May 21, 1925

[Mix, Tom](#)

American actor. Made over 400 western movies.

Utopia Lodge No. 537, Los Angeles, California.

Molson, John

Founder of Molson Breweries. St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374 UGLE, Montreal. Past Provincial Grand Master.



James Monroe

Monroe, James

5th [President](#) of the USA.

Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Montgolfier, Jacques Etienne

French inventor. developed the hot air balloon.

Lodge Les Neuf Soeurs, Paris.

[Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus](#)

Austrian composer

Lodge Zur Wohltatigkeit., Vienna.

Murphy, Audie

American soldier and actor. Most decorated US soldier in WW II.

32 Degree. AASR, KCCH, Dallas, Texas.

N

Nasmyth, Alexander

Scottish painter and inventor, friend of Robbie Burns.

Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, Edinburgh.

O

Oglethorpe, James E

English politician and soldier. Founder of Savannah GA. First W. Master of King Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia.

Olds, Ransom E.

American automotive engineer whose name is linked to the General Motors Oldsmobile division.

Capitol Lodge No. 66, Lansing Michigan.

Owen, Most Rev. Derwyn T.

Archbishop of Toronto and Primate of all Canada.

Ionic Lodge No. 25, Toronto, Ontario.

P

Palmer, Arnold Daniel

33 deg. Inspector General (Honorary) elect. AASR.

Loyalhanna Lodge No. 275, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Peale, Norman Vincent

American clergyman and author.

Milwood Lodge No. 1062, Brooklyn, New York.

Peary, Robert E

American explorer. First to reach the North Pole. Kane Lodge No. 454, New York City.

Pedro I, Dom Antonio Pedro de Alcantara Bourbon

Declared Brazil independent from Portugal and was crowned emperor. Returned to Portugal and was crowned King Pedro IV. Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Brazil.



J. C. Penny

[Penny, James C.](#)

American founder of the J. C. Penny department store chain.

Wasatch Lodge No. 1 Salt Lake City, Utah.

Pershing, John Joseph

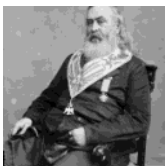
American General.

Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln Nebraska.

Pickett, George E.

Major General CSA. Developed the Pickett fence, defeated at Gettysburg.

Dove Lodge No. 51, Virginia.



Albert Pike

Pike, Albert

American lawyer, soldier and author. Confederate General. Sovereign Grand Commander AASR, Southern Jurisdiction, author of [Morals and Dogma](#).

Western Star Lodge No.2, Arkansas.

Polk, James Knox

11th [President](#) of the USA.

Columbia Lodge No. 31, Columbia, Tennessee. Also a Royal Arch Mason.

Poinsett, Joel R.

USA Secretary of War, Master: Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Charleston, introduced

Freemasonry into Mexico, and the pointsetta to America.

Pryor, Richard

American actor and comedian. Henry Brown

Lodge No. 22, Peoria, IL.



George Mortimer Pullman
Pullman, George M.

American engineer. Developed the luxury railway sleeping and dining cars. Pullman is, perhaps, the intended founder of [Labor Day](#) as a consequence of the Pullman strike of 1894.

Renovation Lodge No. 97, Albion New York.

Pushkin, Aleksander

Russian poet. Lodge Ovid, Kischinev.

R

Revere, Paul

American Revolutionary War hero.

St. Andrews Lodge, Boston. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Richards, Michael

American actor and comedian.

Riviera Lodge No. 780 Pacific Palisades, Ca

Richet, Charles Robert

French physiologist. His research into allergies and immune serum won him the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1913.

Lodge Cosmos under the Grand Lodge of France.

Rickenbacker, Eddie

US Air Force pilot and war hero. Downed 21 enemy planes and 4 balloons.

Kilwinning Lodge No. 297,MI.

Ringling Brothers

American showmen.

All seven brothers and their father August Ringling were members.

Baraboo Lodge No. 34, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Robinson, "Sugar Ray"

American light heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

Joppa Lodge No. 55 PHA, New York City.

Rodriguez, Abelardo L.

President of Mexico. Shriner.

Rogers, Roy

American cowboy, singer and actor. 33 deg. KCCH.

Hollywood Lodge No. 355, Hollywood, California.



Franklin D. Roosevelt
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano

32nd President of the USA.

Also Scottish Rite. He was present at the raising of his three sons, all of whom were raised in Architect Lodge No. 519, NY City.

Honorary Grand Master of Demolays.

Holland Lodge No. 8, NY City.



Theodore Roosevelt
Roosevelt, Theodore

26th President of the USA.

Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York State.

Rothschild, Natan Meyer

Anglo-German financier.

Emulation Lodge No. 21.

Rubio, Pascual Ortiz

President of Mexico. Shriner.

S

Sabatini, Raphael

English novelist. Wrote Captain Blood, Scaramouche, etc.

Jerusalem Lodge No. 197, London, UK.

Sarnoff, David

Radio and TV executive, Marconi and RCA.

Strict Observance Lodge No. 94, New York City.

Sax, Antoine Joseph

Belgian instrument maker. Invented the Saxophone and Saxhorn.

Lodge Les Vrais Amis de L'Union.

Sayer, Anthony

First Grand Master elected by the "Four Old Lodges", London, England,

June 24th., 1717.

Scott, Robert Falcon

British polar explorer, perished with his entire party.

Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127, London, UK. Also Navy Lodge 2612

Scott, Sir Walter

Scottish writer and poet. Ivanhoe, The Talisman, etc.

Saint David Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh.

Sellers, Peter

English actor. Pink Panther, Goon Show, etc.

Chelsea Lodge No. 3098, London, UK.

Shackleton, Sir Ernest H

One of the most famous of all Antarctic explorers,

Navy Lodge 2612.

Shillibeer, George

English inventor. Pioneered the omnibus.

Etonian Lodge of St. John No. 209, Windsor, UK.

Sibelius, Jan

Finnish composer, suggested to be second only to Mozart as a Masonic composer.

Suomi Lodge No. 1 Helsinki.

Simcoe, Lord John Graves

First Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada – now Ontario.

Union Lodge No. 307, E.R. (Moderns), Exeter, England.

Sinclair, Gordon “Sinc”

Canadian journalist and broadcaster. John Ross

Robertson No. 545, Toronto, Ontario.

Skelton, Richard B. “Red”

Comedian and TV star.

Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, Indiana. Famous Shriner.

Smathers, James F.

Inventor of the electric typewriter,

Gate City Lodge No 522, Kansas City.

Sousa, John Phillip

American composer and band leader. Stars and Stripes Forever.

Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington DC.

Stutz, Harry Clayton

American automotive pioneer circa 1900.

Ancient Landmarks Lodge No. 319 Indianapolis. RAM, Kt. Templar and member of Murat Shrine Temple – all Indianapolis.

Sullivan, Sir Arthur Seymore

English composer with partner Sir W. S. Gilbert.

Grand Organist of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Swift, Jonathan

Irish poet and writer. Gulliver’s travels.

Probably Lodge No. 16, Dublin.

T

Taft, William H.

27th President of the USA.

Made a Mason “at sight” in Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Thomas, Dave

Founder of Wendy’s hamburger chain.

Sol D. Bayless Lodge No. 359, Fort Wayne IN. 33 deg. AASR. Grand Cross.

Tillis, Lonnie Melvin “Mel”

American Country Music entertainer.

Branson Lodge No. 587, Branson, Missouri 33deg AASR, Grand Cross.

Tirpitz, Alfred Von

German Admiral. Restructured the German Navy. Lodge Zur Aufrichtigen, Herzen, Frankfurt.

Travis, William B.

American commander at the Alamo.

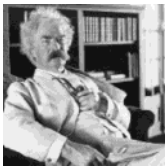
Alabama Lodge No. 3, Claiborne, Alabama.



Harry S. Truman
Truman, Harry S.

33rd [President](#) of the USA.

Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Missouri. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, Knights Templar, 33 deg. Scottish Rite and Shrine Potentate. Honorary Grand Master of DeMolays.



Mark Twain
[Twain, Mark](#)

American writer (Samuel L. Clemens).

Polar Star Lodge No. 79, St. Louis, Missouri.

V

Valdes, Miguel Aleman

President of Mexico.

Shriner.

[*Vivekananda, Swami Narendramah Datta*](#)

Leading exponent of both Hinduism and Yoga in the west.

Hope and Anchor Lodge No. 1 Calcutta, India.

Voltaire, Francois Marie Arouet

French writer and philosopher.

Lodge Les Neuf Soeurs (accompanied by Ben Franklin).

W

Wadlow, Robert Pershing

Tallest human, almost 9 feet tall.

Franklin Lodge No. 25, Alton, Illinois.

Wallace, George C.

Governor of Alabama.

Orator of the Grand Lodge of Alabama in 1961.

Warner, Jack L.

American film producer and one of the Warner Brothers.

Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, CA.

Warren, Gen. Joseph

Physician, Patriot, killed at Bunker Hill.

St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston. Grand Master of Massachusetts.

Washington, Booker T.

American author.

Made a Mason "at sight" by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Washington, George

1st President of the USA.

Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia.

Watson, Whipper Billy

Canadian professional wrestler.

Temple Lodge No. 525.

Wayne, John

American film star.

Came through the system from DeMolay.

33 Deg. Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, Tucson, AZ.

Webb, Capt. Matthew

English swimmer. First man to swim the English Channel.

Neptune Lodge No. 22.

Wellington, Arthur Duke of.

British soldier and statesman. Defeated Napoleon at Waterloo.

Irish Lodge No. 494, Trim, Ireland.

Wilde, Oscar O'Flahertie Wills

Anglo Irish dramatist. The importance of being Earnest.

Apollo Lodge No. 357, Oxford, UK.

William IV

King of England, made a Mason at Plymouth, England, March 9th. 1786.

Wilson, William Mercer

First Grand Master of the independent Grand Lodge of Canada, 1855. Also first Grand First Principal of Royal Arch Masons of Canada.



Steve Wozniak
[Wozniak, Steve](#)

Co-founder of Apple Computers.

Charity Lodge #362, Campbell, CA

Z

Zanuck, Darryl F

American film producer. Co-founder of 20th Century Productions.

Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles.

Ziegfeld, Florenz

American producer. Ziegfeld's Follies.

Accordia Lodge No. 277, Chicago, Illinois.

From <<https://freemasoninformation.com/masonic-education/famous/famous-freemasons-in-history/>>

Top Ten Masonic Conspiracies

By [Illuminati Rex](#)

Top Ten Masonic Conspiracies and the Facts Behind Them – Whether you believe the Masonic brotherhood originated in Ancient Egypt, with the Knights Templar or in the medieval stonemason guilds, it is clear that Masonry has a long history and plenty of opportunities to get entangled in scandals and conspiracy theories. Here are the most popular Freemasonic conspiracy theories:

- No. 10 – [Jack the Ripper](#)
- No. 9 – [Freemasonry and Washington, D.C.](#)
- No. 8 – [The Kidnapping of Captain William Morgan](#)
- No. 7 – [The Poisoning of Mozart](#)
- No. 6 – [Freemasonry and the New World Order](#)
- No. 5 – [Freemasons Worship the Devil](#)
- No. 4 – [Judeo-Masonic Conspiracy](#)
- No. 3 – [Albert Pike and the Three World Wars](#)
- No. 2 – [Propaganda Due Masonic Lodge](#)
- No. 1 – [Illuminati Infiltration of Masonic Lodges](#)

No.10 Jack the Ripper
A serial killer ritually murders London prostitutes in order to cover up a scandal involving the British Royal family



The Masonic conspiracy rests on the testimony of Joseph Sickert, son of painter Walter Sickert who was allegedly involved in the conspiracy along with the Queen's personal physician, Sir William Gull (aged 72!), police commissioner Sir Charles Warren and other high-level Freemasons. In Sickert's tale, Queen Victoria's grandson and heir apparent Prince Eddy, Duke of Clarence had married and fathered a child with a common Irish Catholic shop clerk from London's East End. With the entire monarchy's fragile state and a Catholic bastard now standing in line for the throne, the Freemasons were charged with cleaning up the mess and eliminating all witnesses. Sickert had the role of playing the Duke's brother on his outings and suspiciously was not himself of a target of the Masonic hit squad, leading some to believe that [Walter Sickert himself might be Jack the Ripper](#) or at the very least, one of his accomplice. (There are currently [over 100 suspects in the Whitechapel Murders](#)).

In 1976, Stephen Knight wrote *Jack the Ripper. The final solution*, a bestselling book based on Sickert's account. Sickert admitted to the Royal Conspiracy hoax in The Sunday Times of London in 1978. Despite the admission, the story remained popular and spawned a myriad of articles, books and movies including the big-budget 2001 film *From Hell* (based on the Alan Moore's graphic novel by the same name), the 1979 *Murder by Decree* (famous for depicting actual secret Masonic grips) and a host of other movies.

The words "The Juwes are the men that will not be blamed for nothing." (see the [Goulston Street Graffiti](#)) were found scribbled in chalk near the double-murder scenes of victims Stride and Eddowes. Sir Charles Warren, head of the London Police and the Most Worshipful Master of the Quator Coronati Masonic Lodge erased the reference to "juwes" left behind by Jack the Ripper. Ostensibly, to avoid a backlash against the local Jewish population. Conspiracists point out that the unusual spelling of "Juwes" is a reference to the Masonic murder of Hiram Abiff by the three ruffians Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum.

Top 8 Most Compelling Masonic Conspiracy Theories Out There

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08 May 2013 11:00

The Freemasons have been around since medieval times; and since then, there have been no shortage of masonic conspiracy theories.

Many of those theories have been debunked over time; however, many more have yet to be confirmed or debunked.

Below is a list of eight of the most compelling Masonic conspiracy theories out there.

Top 8 Theories about Freemasonry

1. Freemasons Control the World

One of the most compelling and long lasting masonic conspiracy theories is that the Freemasons' main objective is to control the world under a one world government or that they have already established such a government.

This so-called one world government has been hotly debated for decades. The fraternity, of course, denies these accusations, but the theorists contend that the facts are clear.

However, such claims can neither be confirmed nor denied because there is no hard evidence to support or refute the New World Order theories.

2. Freemasons Worship Satan

Since the fraternity's inception there have been claims that Freemasonry is actually a satanic cult.

Many Christians claim that to be a Freemason is to stand against god. This sentiment can be traced back to the 1730s when Pope Clement condemned the secret society.

3. Freemasons Faked the Moon Landing

Not only do some believe the Apollo moon landing was faked, but that it was created by Freemasons.

According to William Cooper:

"C. Fred Kleinknecht, head of NASA at the time of the Apollo Space Program, is now the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Council of the 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction. It was his reward for pulling it off. All of the first astronauts were Freemasons." (3)

4. Freemasons Are in League with the Illuminati

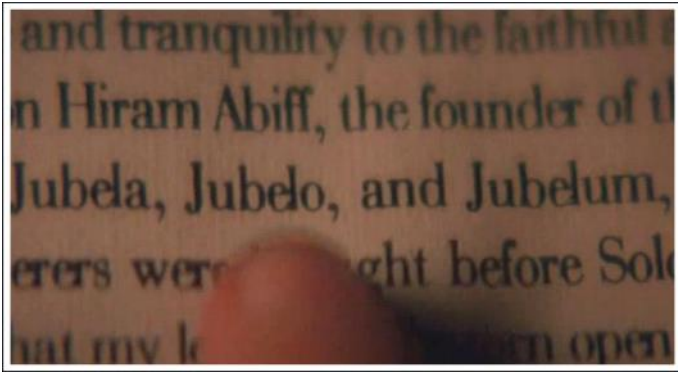
The Freemason Illuminati connection usually appears in different forms.

Some contend that the Illuminati evolved from Freemasonry while some believe the opposite is true.

This conspiracy is often associated with the global take over conspiracy.

5. Freemasons Are Responsible for the Occult Revival

During the 19th century there was an explosion of occult interest. This occult revival is commonly attributed to the Freemasons.



Actor Johnny Depp's finger discovering the names of the three ruffians.

Due to the lack of forensic evidence, it's impossible to completely rule out the masons as the culprit behind the Jack the Ripper killings. However, there really isn't any reason to do so. Some evidence does pop up once in a while, for instance author Patricia Cornwell's research into DNA proved that at least one of the letters attributed to Jack the Ripper was written by Walter Sickert.

Parallels between the Ripper murders and Masonic Oaths:

All "Canonical 5" victims had their throat cut from left to right. (See Entered Apprentice Oath below) The fifth victim's heart was taken. (See Fellowcraft Oath below) Four of the victims abdomen were slashed with Kelly's completely emptied. (See Master Mason Oath below) Knight claims that Jack the Ripper's murders paralleled Masonic blood oaths. (see below)

Oath of an Entered Apprentice:

"ALL THIS I MOST SOLEMNLY, SINCERELY PROMISE AND SWEAR, WITH A FIRM AND STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO PERFORM THE SAME, WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR SECRET EVASION OF MIND WHATEVER, BINDING MYSELF UNDER NO LESS PENALTY THAN THAT OF HAVING MY THROAT CUT ACROSS, MY TONGUE TORN OUT BY ITS ROOTS, AND MY BODY BURIED IN THE ROUGH SANDS OF THE SEA, AT LOW-WATER MARK, WHERE THE TIDE EBBS AND FLOWS TWICE IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, SHOULD I EVER KNOWINGLY VIOLATE THIS MY ENTERED APPRENTICE OBLIGATION. SO HELP ME GOD, AND KEEP ME STEADFAST IN THE DUE PERFORMANCE OF THE SAME."

Oath of a Fellowcraft

"ALL THIS I MOST SOLEMNLY PROMISE AND SWEAR WITH A FIRM AND STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO PERFORM THE SAME, WITHOUT ANY HESITATION, MENTAL RESERVATION, OR SELF-EVASION OF MIND WHATEVER, BINDING MYSELF UNDER NO LESS PENALTY THAN OF HAVING MY BREAST TORN OPEN MY HEART PLUCKED OUT, AND PLACED ON THE HIGHEST PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE, THERE TO BE DEVOURD BY THE VULTURES OF THE AIR"

Freemason researcher, Terry Melanson, states:

"The occult revival of the 20th century can be directly attributed to Freemasonry and its peripheral entourage of acolytes: Theosophy, the New Age Movement, Satanism, Cabalistic Black Magic, Enochian Magic, Gerardian Wicca, Alexandrian Wicca and Sex Magic." (5)

6. Freemasons Are Waging a War Against Islam

There have been some theories that contend that Freemasons are waging a clandestine war against Islam.

This theory has obtained such a following that many believe that the September 11th attacks were actually orchestrated by the Freemason to create anti-Islamic sentiments.

However, some believe this war dates further back than just 9/11. According to some theorists, all major conflicts in the Middle East can be contributed to the Freemasons and stretch as far back as the crusades.

7. Freemasons Are Waging a War on Christians

Just as there are masonic conspiracy theories that the Freemasons are waging a war against Islam, there are theories that they are waging a war against Christianity.

According to one theorist, a prime example of a battle in this war occurred in 1910 when, "Freemasons took power in Portugal with a Provisional Government by force of arms. The first act of this government on October 8, 1910 was to suppress all Religious Congregations and to expel the Jesuits." (7)

However, the article states that the Freemasons were eventually defeated. These theories are often associated with the satanic cult theory.

8. Freemasons Control Hollywood

In order to effectively spread Freemason philosophy and dogma, Hollywood music and movies have been infiltrated by the fraternity or at least that is the theory. Subscribers of this theory, point to the imagery found in most music videos.

Though these are not the obvious square and compass, but rather a more subtle even subliminal message. They often point to such music moguls as Jay-Z, Rhianna, Nas, and Kanye West as proof of this subliminal messaging.

According to theorists, movies are no different. However instead of using subtle imagery, believers contend that movies, especially Sci-Fi films, are being used by Freemasons to introduce the idea of a one world government. The plots usually revolve around a global alien invasion that the entire world must band together to defeat.

Theorists state that such a concept is being used to indoctrinate unsuspecting movie goers into believing that a one world government is not only palatable, but favorable.

One site even states, "Like the movie Independence Day, an attempt to unite the world through militarism would unfold using ET as the new cosmic scapegoat". (9)



Is There Anything to the Theories?

None of these masonic conspiracy theories have been definitively proven or disproved. Theorists have conjecture and circumstantial evidence (at best) on their side to try to make their case.

At the same time, the Freemasons offer their word and circumstantial evidence that these theories are bogus.

However, the secretive nature of the organization is proof enough for some people that the theories are true.

15 Disturbing Theories About The Freemasons

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and most secretive secular fraternal societies, dedicated to a moral and ethical approach to life. Members are called freemasons or masons, and are encouraged to take part in volunteering or charity work and to give back to the community. There are several entry requirements such as believing in one God and having a penis (for most anyway), among others and all discussions regarding politics or religion are forbidden.

Since its inception, the Freemasonry has been associated with literally every type of conspiracy the insane mind can fathom. Around the time it stopped being hip to blame the Jewish people for everything that's wrong with the world (a memo some didn't get), Catholics have singled out the Freemasonry as its new target and centuries later, organizations and individuals such as the Nazi Party, Spanish dictator Franco and Hamas have also jumped on the bandwagon. You may think this is a clear exaggeration but this list will show you plenty of disturbing theories that have been woven around the secrecy of this organization.

15 THE FREEMASONS CONTROL THE WORLD

Via: henrymakow.com

This is by far the most common theory associated with the Freemasonry. It controls the workings of our society with members infiltrated in every organization which has any sort of influence in world decisions. Essentially, this theory equates Freemasons with the New World Order. The fraternity would obviously not admit it controls the world, even if it actually did, so it vehemently denies this allegation. In the meantime, theorists will point out several of the fraternities key members involved in agencies and government in the United States and the United Kingdom since the dawn of the organization.

Names such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Franklin Theodore Roosevelt, and even Barack Obama are commonly associated with the fraternity although its secrecy makes it difficult to verify these claims, at least when they pertain to current world leaders.

14 THEY ARE SECRET SATAN WORSHIPPERS

Via: youtube.com

OUT, AND PLACED ON THE HIGHEST PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE, THERE TO BE DEVoured BY THE VULTURES OF THE AIR, SHOULD I EVER KNOWINGLY VIOLATE THE FELLOW CRAFT OBLIGATION. SO HELP ME GOD, AND KEEP ME STEADFAST IN THE DUE PERFORMANCE OF THE SAME.

(SOME SAY, MY HEART AND VITALS TAKEN FROM THENCE, AND THROWN OVER MY LEFT SHOULDER, AND CARRIED INTO THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT...)"

Oath of a Master Mason

"ALL THIS I MOST SOLEMNLY, SINCERELY PROMISE AND SWEAR, WITH A FIRM AND STEADY RESOLUTION TO PERFORM THE SAME, WITHOUT ANY HESITATION, MENTAL RESERVATION, OR SECRET EVASION OF MIND WHAT-EVER, BINDING MYSELF, UNDER NO LESS PENALTY THAN THAT OF HAVING MY BODY SEVERED IN TWO, MY BOWELS TAKEN FROM THENCE AND BURNED TO ASHES, THE ASHES SCATTERED BEFORE THE FOUR WINDS OF HEAVEN, THAT NO MORE REMEMBRANCE MIGHT BE HAD OF SO VILE AND WICKED A WRETCH AS I WOULD BE, SHOULD I EVER, KNOWINGLY, VIOLATE THIS MY MASTER MASON'S OBLIGATION. SO HELP ME GOD, AND KEEP ME STEADFAST IN THE DUE PERFORMANCE OF THE SAME."

— DUNCAN'S MASONIC RITUAL AND MONITOR

The Ultimate Jack the Ripper resource can be found [here](#) and this site looks at the murders from a [Freemasonic point of view](#). Note that Freemasons are not allowed to discuss Masonic obligations and penalties with **Cowans**. (non-masons) Admittedly, the supposed ties between the Ripper's modus operandi and Masonic penalties are far-fetched.



involved in agencies and government in the United States and the United Kingdom since the dawn of the organization.

Names such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Franklin Theodore Roosevelt, and even Barack Obama are commonly associated with the fraternity although its secrecy makes it difficult to verify these claims, at least when they pertain to current world leaders.

12. THEY ARE SECRET SATAN WORSHIPPERS

Via: youtube.com

Stemming from its secrecy, the Freemasonry is commonly linked with Satanism, an accusation first substantiated by Pope Clement in the 1730s. Since then, several Christians have proclaimed Freemasons as people who stand against God.

These claims remain unproven at this point, but its proponents defend themselves against such claims, explaining that this is precisely why one of the requirements specifies they believe in a single God while not naming which religion's God. While the fraternity will say this is a way to keep the society open to people of all faiths, its detractors will often use this as justification for their allegations of devil worship in the Freemasonry.

13. THEY FAKED THE MOON LANDING

Via: ufoinsight.com

This is where it starts to get interesting. Some claim C. Fred Kleinknecht, head of NASA during the Apollo Space Program, is claimed to have been the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Council of the 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction.

This is the sort of very pompous title associated with the Masonry but don't worry if it sounds confusing. It means that Kleinknecht not only belonged to the elite of one of the world's most secretive societies but was actually its leader.

It's claimed this was his reward for pulling off the fake moon landing alongside with the first astronauts, who are also alleged to belong to the fraternity.

12. THE FREEMASONS ARE IN LEAGUE WITH THE ILLUMINATI

Via: dailymail.com

As you may have expected at the start of this article, the Illuminati are involved. The theories vary greatly with some saying that the Illuminati evolved from Freemasonry while others state its opposite, while an even smaller group of people claim the Illuminati have infiltrated the Freemasonry to capitalize on its network for their own recruitment purposes.

This conspiracy theory is a spin-off of the New World Order theory but it's interesting in the way it portrays the Illuminati as the secretive organization we know it to be, controlling the higher echelons of the Freemasonry, another highly secretive organization – all for the sake of world domination. All the makings of conspiracy are present here, apart from actual evidence.

11. THE JEWISH-FREEMASONRY CONSPIRACY

Via: leasks.co.uk

If this one is giving you some déjà vu, it's because you've heard it close to a million times before, mostly when the socio-political views of Adolf Hitler are brought up. Hitler defended that the Freemasonry is a Jewish-led fraternity gunning for world domination.

He also persecuted the Freemasons for partly the same reasons he went after the Jewish people. This theory had its inception in a Russian book called The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which details the Jewish-Freemasonry attempt for world domination. This book is highly popular in the Middle East and Hamas frequently mentions this theory in its own hate rhetoric.

10. THE FREEMASONS ARE ON A QUEST TO BRING DOWN ISLAM

Via: pbs.twimg.com

Following from the previous theory, there is a strong belief in some Islamic circles that the Freemasonry is at war with Islam. This theory is so prevalent and believed to such a degree, its defenders maintain the September 11th attacks were organized by Freemasons in order to incite waves of anti-Islamic feelings throughout the world.

Others believe 9/11 was not the first act of aggression against those who believe in Allah. This faction of theorists claim that all larger conflicts in the Middle East can be associated with the meddling by Freemasons in an ideological, clandestine war which has been waged since the time of the Crusades.

9. THE FREEMASONS ARE ALSO TRYING TO ERADICATE CHRISTIANITY

Via: henrymakow.com

Along with accusations of Satanism, several fingers have pointed to the Freemasonry as an enemy of Christianity. According to these claims, a prime example of a battle in this war occurred in Portugal at the start of the 20th century when the Freemasons took power by forming the first provisional government after the monarchy had been abolished.

Supporters of this theory mention the first act of the provisional government in October 1910 was to declare all religious organizations to be illegal and expel all the Jesuits from the country. As with most of these theories, the claims point out this ideological war is run by the top Freemasons who leave the lower members of the fraternity out of these schemes.

8. THE FREEMASONS RUN HOLLYWOOD

Via: youtube.com

This is one of my favourite theories. In order to disseminate their views to the wider public, Freemasons have taken over Hollywood using its movie making industry to brainwash the masses. Apparently countless directors and actors are also aware of the propaganda machine implemented by the Freemasons and actively participate themselves.

In the views of some conspiracy theorists, this type of propaganda is most noticeable in the Sci-fi genre, where a global alien invasion takes place and only a militarized top-to-bottom organization of world leaders is able to defeat the invaders.

This plants the idea that a unified world government is a favourable and actually preferable system than what we currently have.

7. THE FREEMASONRY INVENTED INCOME TAXES TO CONTROL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Via: 3.bp.blogspot.com

As a European citizen, this is definitely one of the most disturbing theories as I genuinely hadn't heard of it before. According to the supporters of this theory, Freemasons are behind income taxes in the United States. Surely, there has to be a tiny fraction of misinterpreted evidence to support this, right?

Well, see for yourself. This theory is built on one convicted tax protester's claim during a standoff with police officers, which linked income taxes with the "Zionist, Illuminati, Free Mason movement" in a potpourri of conspiracy theories. A newspaper investigated this claim further and uncovered the Brown family's more sensible views on the issue: " (they) believe the IRS and the federal income tax are part of a deliberate plot perpetrated by Freemasons to control the American people and eventually the world."

6. THE JACK THE RIPPER KILLINGS WERE THE WORK OF THE FREEMASONRY

Via: huffingtonpost.com

This Masonic conspiracy is definitely one of the most interesting theories on this list. It's built upon the testimony of Joseph Sickert, son of painter Walter Sickert who was allegedly involved in this plot along with a few important figures in British society, including the Queen's personal doctor Sir William Gull and the police commissioner Sir Charles Warren.

According to Sickert, Queen Victoria's grandson and heir Prince Eddy, Duke of Clarence had married and fathered a child with an Irish Catholic commoner. As the royal family could not afford to have a Catholic bastard in line for the throne, the Freemasons were tasked with eliminating all witnesses. Sickert's father accompanied Prince Eddy on his outings and pretended to be his brother.

The fact he wasn't killed means not all witnesses were eliminated. Perhaps he's Jack the Ripper?

5. CAPTAIN WILLIAM MORGAN'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS THE WORK OF THE FREEMASONRY

Via: padfield.com

William Morgan was a regular visitor of some Masonic Lodges in the state of New York until his standing in the fraternity was increasingly questioned. At this point, he was "blackballed" by the society, which is the same as expelled. Feeling censored, William Morgan threatened the Freemasonry with the exposure of its secrets in his next book.

When he managed to secure a sizeable advance from a local newspaper in order to reveal the organization's secrets, he proceeded to brag and angered quite a few of its members in the process. In a series of escalating events, his publisher's house was set on fire and Morgan was sent to prison twice, one of those times for stealing a tie. He disappeared and five men were sentenced after admitting to kidnapping him.

4. ALBERT'S PIKE THREE WORLD WARS

Via: wikipedia.org

In an 1871 letter to an extremist leader called Giuseppe Mazzini, Albert Pike predicted the coming of three world wars which would be necessary for the world to accept a unified world under Lucifer. Mazzini was a strong believer in a unified Italy and a European version of the United States. In what can only be described as a creepy prediction, Pike announced the first world war would overthrow the monarchies and create a "fortress of atheistic Communism." The second world war would then pin the Fascism against Zionism before the third world war would oppose Islam against the Zionists. When these wars concluded, Lucifer would rise to rule the world.

3. MOZART'S DEATH

Via: mozart.com

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was initiated as an Apprentice of Zur Wohltätigkeit -Vienna's Masonic Lodge – in December 1784 and remained an active member of the fraternity until his death. In one of his most famous operas, The Magic Flute, Mozart incorporated various symbols from Freemasonry's ceremonies. This was common throughout his work as he also penned several other Masonic odes.

This conspiracy theory points to an alternative interpretation of the circumstances of his death. Although unsubstantiated by physical evidence, given the lack of symptoms usually linked with arsenic or mercury



Click on image to watch Murder by Decree trailer (1979)

Trailer Running Time : 1:02

No.9 Freemasonry and Washington D.C.

The Founding Fathers, Freemasonry and the capital of the United States



Since 1776, no less than [14 Presidents of the United States](#), [18 Vice-Presidents](#) and around [40 Supreme Court Justices](#) have been Freemasons. Many of the Founding Fathers were active Freemasons. [Thirteen of the 39 signers of the US Constitution](#) were Masons; [9 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence](#). Just under half of George Washington's [Continental Army generals](#) were Freemasons.

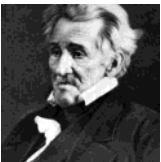
Masonic Presidents



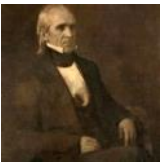
George Washington (Pres. 1789-1797)



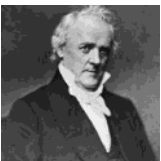
James Monroe (Pres. 1817-1825)



Andrew Jackson (Pres. 1829-1837)



James K. Polk (Pres. 1845-1849)



James Buchanan (Pres. 1857-1861)

via: mozart.com

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was initiated as an Apprentice of Zur Wohltätigkeit -Vienna's Masonic Lodge – in December 1784 and remained an active member of the fraternity until his death. In one of his most famous operas, The Magic Flute, Mozart incorporated various symbols from Freemasonry's ceremonies. This was common throughout his work as he also penned several other Masonic odes. This conspiracy theory points to an alternative interpretation of the circumstances of his death. Although unsubstantiated by physical evidence, given the lack of symptoms usually linked with arsenic or mercury poison, this theory indicates Mozart was assassinated for revealing too much of the organisation's secretive proceedings.

2 ITALIAN MASONIC LODGE CONSPIRACY

Via: igiornienotti.it

The P2 Masonic Lodge was uncovered in a police raid of the home of Lucio Gelli after the scandal involving the Vatican-owned Banco Ambrosia, where the friend of Roberto Calvi (also known as God's banker) and P2 brethren was found hanged in a London bridge.

Police discovered a list of over 900 members of the P2 Lodge including several high-ranking government officials members of the Italian Parliament. Some of the most notable entries on this list included future Italian President Silvio Berlusconi and Mafia banker Michele Sindona. This lodge was also linked with Operation Gladio, where Gelli cooperated with British and American agencies to organize a series of terrorist attacks designed to stop the rise of communism in Italy.

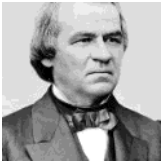
1 THE WASHINGTON-FREEMASONRY CONSPIRACY

Via: blackholezoo.com

This conspiracy revolves around the theory which states the United States was founded by Freemasons who have gone through an extensive hassle to include Masonic symbols into several sectors of American society, namely in national seals, streets in the country's capital of Washington, DC, as well as in the architecture of several landmarks throughout the country and the famous dollar bill.

In fact, no less than 14 Presidents, along with 18 Vice-Presidents and roughly 40 Supreme Court Justices have been known, reputable and active Freemasons. This extends to the country's Founding Fathers as well as 13 signatories of the Constitution and 9 of the Declaration of Independence. Surely they can't all be power-hungry Satanists, right?

From <<https://www.theclever.com/15-disturbing-theories-about-the-freemasons/>>



Andrew Johnson (Pres. 1865-1869)



James A. Garfield (Pres. 1881)



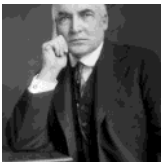
William McKinley (Pres. 1897-1901)



Theodore Roosevelt (Pres. 1901-1909)



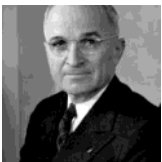
William H. Taft (Pres. 1909-1913)



Warren G. Harding (Pres. 1921-1923)



Franklin D. Roosevelt (Pres. 1933-1945)



Harry S. Truman (Pres. 1945-1953)



Gerald R. Ford (Pres. 1974-1977)

Freemasons George Washington and Thomas Jefferson appointed Freemasonic brother Pierre Charles L'Enfant to design the new capital of the United States, Washington D.C. L'Enfant inserted multiple Masonic symbols into the street layouts of Washington.

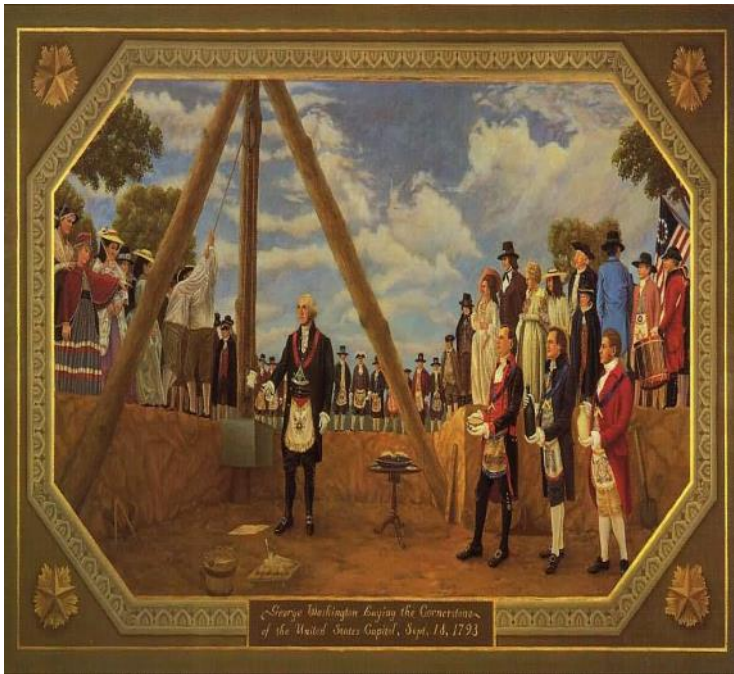


George Washington Masonic National Memorial



House of the Temple

Some Presidents still opt to use [George Washington's Masonic Inaugural Bible](#) when being sworn in as POTUS. Masons, being masons, [have a thing for laying cornerstones](#).



George Washington leveling the cornerstone of the United States Capitol

The headquarters of the American Revolution was the Masonic-owned Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. The tavern's second floor served as a large meeting place for the Lodge of St-Andrews and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Paul Revere was the Senior Deacon of St-Andrew's Lodge. There, they dressed up as Mohawks and proceeded to dump over 9- thousand pounds of tea from the British East India Company into Boston harbor. The incident remains one of the most famous political protest in American history.



House of the Temple



Masonic Vice-President Henry A. Wallace and Masonic President FDR added the pyramid to the dollar bill in 1935

The Crowned Heads of Europe all began systematically outlawing Freemasonry in their domains after realizing that a lot of leaders of the revolutionary forces were Freemasons. The Masonic doctrine of equality did not sit well with the Monarchs' tyrannical dictatorships, even the more Enlightened ones.

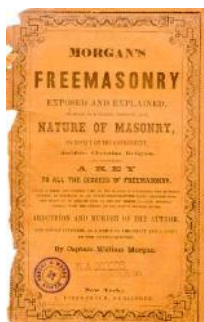
Check out [The Illuminati Symbol, the Great Seal and the One Dollar Bill](#).

No.8 The Kidnapping of Captain William Morgan

1826 – A Masonic whistleblower disappears after announcing his intention to publish the secrets of Freemasonry



William Morgan routinely visited New York state Masonic Lodges in the cities of Batavia, Le Roy and Rochester, but his Masonic standing gradually came into question and he was removed ("blackballed" in Masonspeak) from the membership. Rebuked, Morgan threatened to expose the Freemason's inner secrets in his upcoming book. He furthered angered the local masons by bragging about receiving a sizable advance from a local newspaper for his exposé's publication.



Four Freemasons tried to prevent the printing of Morgan's exposé by setting fire to Morgan's publishers. They were apprehended and 3 were indicted.

Morgan was then arrested and sent to debtor's prison for allegedly owing \$2.68. His publisher paid the fine to get him released but he was immediately rearrested on a trumped up charge of stealing a shirt and tie. That night, a man claiming to be Morgan's friend paid the fine and the two men entered a waiting carriage. **Captain William Morgan was never seen again.**

Freemasons **Loton Lawton**, **Nicholas Chesebro** and **Edward Sawyer** eventually coughed up to kidnapping William but denied murdering him. They claimed they took Morgan to Fort Niagara where they gave him \$500 to go to Canada. The three men and two other accomplices were convicted of William Morgan's Kidnapping.

Morgan's pamphlet *Freemasonry Exposed and Explained* selling for a buck a piece and his [Illustration of Masonry](#) soon became best sellers and gave rise to the first American third party, the Anti-Masonic party, with Thurlow Weed opposing Masonic President Andrew Jackson. The party managed to elect two state governors before it gradually fizzled out after 1835.

No.7 The Poisoning of Mozart

After revealing Masonic secrets in his opera *The Magic Flute*, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is poisoned by his the Brotherhood



Mozart was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on December 14th, 1784 at the at a *Zur Wohltätigkeit* ("Beneficence") Masonic Lodge in Vienna. Mozart was more interested in the intellectual and philosophical aspects of freemasonry rather than its occult aspects. As such he was surrounded by members of the Bavarian Illuminati including one of his mentors, Illuminatus Ignaz von Born.

The Magic Flute did not reveal any Masonic secrets but it did not hide Mozart's displeasure with the anti-Masonic Austrian Empress Maria Theresa and the Vatican. Pope Clement XII had [issued a papal bull against freemasonry](#) in 1738. Mozart incorporated many musical symbols from Freemasonic ceremonies into his opera. For example the [overture's opening features three harmonized chords](#). The number three reoccurred numerous times on the overture echoing a Masonic Initiation.



Mozart was an active Mason until his death, wrote many Masonic odes and is known as a [Masonic composer](#). He was a happy mason. Unfortunately, Mozart's health was fragile and he was afflicted with a number of serious disease [including typhoid, smallpox, syphilis, and hepatitis](#).

On his return from Prague to Vienna, Mozart became convinced that he had been poisoned. In November 1791, he became bedridden and died the following month. His fellow masons held a [Lodge of Sorrow](#) in his honor.

The theory that Mozart could have been poisoned either by Freemasons or by his rival Antonio Salieri is not supported by physical evidence. [Mozart displayed none of the symptoms of either arsenic or mercury poisoning](#) as he lay dying.

Movie director Stanley Kubrick is also rumored to have been snuffed by members of an [unnamed secret society](#) for revealing too much in his Eyes Wide Shut.

No.6 Freemasonry and the New World Order

Freemasonry provides cover for the secret plutocratic rulers of the world



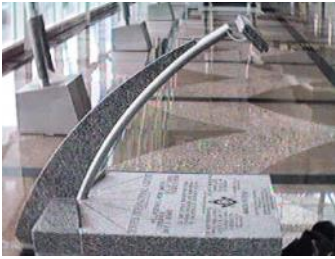
Ancient secret societies have metamorphosed into modern elite think tanks where they are able to fund researchers that serve their various agendas. The Freemasons were once very powerful and the members of the elite class joined it en masse in the 1800s and early 1900s, but the Elite class no longer requires the cover of freemasonry to meet secretly and plan world domination.

Members of the ruling class are free and can easily meet in closed-door meetings surrounded by employees gagged by iron-clad non-disclosure agreements or their teams of attorneys protected by client-attorney privileges. They also meet in larger committees and conferences such as the Trilateral Commission, Chatham House, The Council of Foreign Affairs, and the Bilderberg group where secrecy is always strongly enforced.

The structure of modern masonry itself also makes it useless for proponents of the New World Order. There is no top-down command structure as in a corporation or the military. Instead each Lodges individually recognizes other Masonic lodges and make independent decisions in all local matters. It would be impossible for a secret group on top to secretly command lower level masons.

Freemasonry accepts members of all religions which fit with the New World Order's plan for the formation of a one world religion. Could the Masonic Grand Architect of the Universe be the unifier of all the world's religions? One is doubtful.

At the Denver International Airport, artist Leo Tanguma's ["In Peace and Harmony with Nature"](#) as well as his ["Children of the World Dream of Peace"](#) have caused much speculation as to motive.



Weird Masonic pedestal



Some say it's a keypad leading to underground facilities. Others say its Braille.



Children of the World Dream of Peace



New World Airport Commission plaque at Denver International Airport



Swastika in aerial view – Tribute to the Nazis or most efficient runway design?

No.5 Freemasons Worship the Devil
High-level Freemasons practice ritual murders in service of Satan



The theory that Freemasons worship Satan gained popularity in the 1890s with the writings of French journalist **Gabriel Jogand-Pagès**. After the publication of Pope's Leo XIII's anti-Masonic [Humanum Genus](#), Jogand-Pagès made a great show of leaving Freemasonry and pretending to return to Roman Catholicism. He was able to carve a comfortable anti-Masonic niche for himself.

Under the pen names of **Léo**



Taxil or **Dr. Bataille**, Jogand-Pagès published a series of stories detailing Freemasonry's involvement with Satanism. He based his articles in parts on the revelations of his entirely fictitious Satanic High Priestess, Diana Vaughan and the Masonic "Palladium" which practiced ritual murders and worshiped the devil Baphomet. Taxil also claimed that Scottish Rite Grand Commander Pike was the "Sovereign Pontiff" of universal Freemasonry. He transcribed the following address in which he claimed Pike was giving instructions to the 23 Supreme Councils of the World.

“THAT WHICH WE MUST SAY TO THE CROWD IS, WE WORSHIP A GOD, BUT IT IS THE GOD ONE ADORES WITHOUT SUPERSTITION. TO YOU SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL, WE SAY THIS AND YOU MAY REPEAT IT TO THE BRETHREN OF THE 32ND, 31ST AND 30TH DEGREES – THE MASONIC RELIGION SHOULD BE BY ALL OF US INITIATES OF THE HIGH DEGREES, MAINTAINED IN THE PURITY OF THE LUCIFERIAN DOCTRINE.

IF LUCIFER WERE NOT GOD, WOULD ADONAY (THE GOD OF THE CHRISTIANS) WHOSE DEEDS PROVE CRUELTY, PERFIDY AND HATRED OF MAN, BARBARISM AND REPULSION FOR SCIENCE, WOULD ADONAY AND HIS PRIESTS, CALUMNIATE HIM?

YES, LUCIFER IS GOD, AND UNFORTUNATELY ADONAY IS ALSO GOD, FOR THE ETERNAL LAW IS THAT THERE IS NO LIGHT WITHOUT SHADE, NO BEAUTY WITHOUT UGLINESS, NO WHITE WITHOUT BLACK, FOR THE ABSOLUTE CAN ONLY EXIST AS TWO GODS. DARKNESS BEING NECESSARY FOR LIGHT TO SERVE AS ITS FOIL, AS THE PEDESTAL IS NECESSARY TO THE STATUE, AND THE BRAKE TO THE LOCOMOTIVE.

THUS, THE DOCTRINE OF SATANISM IS HERESY, AND THE TRUE AND PURE PHILOSOPHICAL RELIGION IS THE BELIEF

IN LUCIFER, THE EQUAL OF ADONAY, BUT
LUCIFER, GOD OF LIGHT AND GOD OF
GOOD, IS STRUGGLING FOR HUMANITY
AGAINST ADONAY, THE GOD OF
DARKNESS AND EVIL”

In April 1897 the now famous Taxil called a press conference and [confessed to the fraud](#). Nevertheless, [some are still not convinced](#). Fundamentalist Comic book artist Jack Chick was inspired to write [one of his famous tracts](#) on the subject.

Beyond the Taxil Hoax, Albert Pike writes about Lucifer in [Moral and Dogma](#)

*“”LUCIFER, THE SON OF THE MORNING! IS
IT HE WHO BEARS THE LIGHT, AND WITH
ITS SPLENDORS INTOLERABLE BLINDS
FEEBLE, SENSUAL, OR SELFISH SOULS?
DOUBT IT NOT!” (P. 321)*

Most Masons believe that Pike was referring to [deliberate mistranslations in the King James Bible](#) and how Lucifer originally meant the morning light (a designation presently reserved for Jesus) or the planet Venus.

The George Washington statue designed by Horatio Greenough was initially installed in the US Capitol's Rotunda but was relocated to the Smithsonian Museum of American History in 1908 due to controversy caused not by Washington's similar posture to occultist Eliphas Levi's depiction of Baphomet, but because of George's bare chest.



Horatio Greenough's George Washington



Levi's Baphomet

Christian Fundamentalists and Roman Catholics often point out the pagan elements found within Freemasonry's symbols and rituals, but this would also be true of Christianity itself... (i.e. Yule as the origin of Christmas, Spring Solstice as the origin of Easter) hardly a case to support Masonic worship of the Beast.

No.4 Judeo-Masonic Conspiracy

Jewish Elders of Zion and the Freemasons are involved in a conspiracy to completely exterminate all Goyim



The Judeo-Masonic conspiracy is rooted in the [Protocols of the Elders of Zion](#) first published in 1905 in Russia by Sergei Nilus. The book details a joint Jewish-Freemasonic conspiracy in which the two work together to bring the end of the world. Despite the Tsar's disapproval of the methods and attempts at confiscating copies of the Protocols, they served as a nice diversion from [Russia's recent humiliation against Japan](#) and the book continued to circulate widely and went through many editions.

In the protocols, the Jews are the power behind the Freemasons and use the fraternity as a screen:

“SECRET MASONRY WHICH IS NOT KNOWN TO, AND AIMS WHICH ARE NOT EVEN SO MUCH AS SUSPECTED BY, THESE “GOY” CATTLE, ATTRACTED BY US INTO THE “SHOW” ARMY OF MASONIC LODGES IN ORDER TO THROW DUST IN THE EYES OF THEIR FELLOWS.

— PROTOCOL 11

Like the Illuminati, the Elders allegedly used Masonic lodges as recruiting grounds for their own purposes:

“MEANTIME, HOWEVER, UNTIL WE COME

**INTO OUR KINGDOM, WE SHALL ACT IN
THE CONTRARY WAY: WE SHALL CREATE
AND MULTIPLY FREE MASONIC LODGES IN
ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD,
ABSORB INTO THEM ALL WHO MAY
BECOME OR WHO ARE PROMINENT IN
PUBLIC ACTIVITY, FOR THESE LODGES WE
SHALL FIND OUR PRINCIPAL INTELLIGENCE
OFFICE AND MEANS OF INFLUENCE. —
PROTOCOL 15**

In 1921, The Times reporter, Philip Grave discovered that a great portion of the *Protocols* had been plagiarized from an Anti-Napoleon III work, *The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu* written by French artist Maurice Joly. The Dialogues themselves were later discovered to be partly plagiarized from Eugène Sue's *Les Mystères du peuple*. Other sources for the *Protocols* text included Abbé Barruel's *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism*, but with the blames now attributed to the Jews, the power behind the Freemasons and anti-Semitic legends of Jews sacrificing Christian babies and poisoning wells.

The book was popularized in the United States by Freemason and admirer of Nazi Germany, Henry Ford. Adolf Hitler was a firm believer in the *Protocol's* legitimacy and banned Freemasonry in Germany as a result. The *Protocols* continue to be popular in the Middle East and was recently a best seller in Syria.

The Masons are often accused of plotting to rebuild Solomon's Temple at the present location of the Islamic Dome of the Rock. Freemasons maintain that their rituals refer to a metaphorical temple inside each mason. They also [deny Lyndon Larouche's claim](#) that the Freemasons are attempting to gain control of Temple Mount in Jerusalem and begin building the third temple of Solomon.

No.3 Albert Pike and the Three World Wars

33 ° Freemason and Confederate Army General Albert Pike writes to Italian revolutionary leader detailing his futuristic vision of three world wars



In a 1871 letter to revolutionary leader Giuseppe Mazzini, Albert Pike described the coming of three world wars necessary for the world to accept a unified world under Lucifer. Mazzini was himself a great supporter of a unified Italy and a United States of Europe, a precursor to the European Union. The First war would overthrow the Czars and build a "fortress of atheistic communism." The second war would pin the Fascists against the Zionists. The third war would be fought between Islam and the Zionists. Lucifer would then rise to rule the world.



The letter was brought to light by conspiracy researcher William Guy Carr who claimed the letter was on display at the British Museum in London. The Museum itself denied the claim. Carr then pointed to respected author Cardinal Rodriguez of Chile's **The Mystery of Freemasonry Unveiled**, in which, according to Carr, Rodriguez also claimed to have seen the Pike-Mazzini letter at the museum.

After verifying the quote from Rodriguez's book, Illuminati researcher Terry Melanson discovered that [it made no mention of three world wars](#) and that furthermore, Rodriguez was referring to Dr. Bataille's **Le Diable au XIXème Siècle** as being on display at the British Museum, **not** the Pike-Mazzini letter. Dr. Bataille was a nom de plume for hoaxer **Gabriel Jogand-Pagès**. (see Masonic Conspiracy #5 above)

Sample of the Pike-Mazzini letter

“THE FIRST WORLD WAR MUST BE BROUGHT ABOUT IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE ILLUMINATI TO OVERTHROW THE POWER OF THE CZARS IN RUSSIA AND OF MAKING THAT COUNTRY A FORTRESS OF ATHEISTIC COMMUNISM. THE DIVERGENCES CAUSED BY THE “AGENTUR” (AGENTS) OF THE ILLUMINATI BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND GERMANIC EMPIRES WILL BE USED TO FOMENT THIS WAR. AT THE END OF THE WAR, COMMUNISM WILL BE BUILT AND USED IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND IN ORDER TO WEAKEN THE RELIGIONS

THE SECOND WORLD WAR MUST BE FOMENTED BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FASCISTS AND THE POLITICAL ZIONISTS. THIS WAR MUST BE BROUGHT ABOUT SO THAT NAZISM IS DESTROYED AND THAT THE POLITICAL ZIONISM BE STRONG ENOUGH TO INSTITUTE A SOVEREIGN STATE OF ISRAEL IN PALESTINE. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM MUST BECOME STRONG ENOUGH IN ORDER TO BALANCE CHRISTENDOM, WHICH WOULD BE THEN RESTRAINED AND HELD IN CHECK UNTIL THE TIME WHEN WE WOULD NEED IT FOR THE FINAL SOCIAL CATAclysm.

THE THIRD WORLD WAR MUST BE FOMENTED BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DIFFERENCES CAUSED BY THE “AGENTUR” OF THE “ILLUMINATI” BETWEEN THE POLITICAL ZIONISTS AND THE LEADERS OF ISLAMIC WORLD. THE WAR MUST BE CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ISLAM (THE MOSLEM ARABIC

WORLD) AND POLITICAL ZIONISM (THE STATE OF ISRAEL) MUTUALLY DESTROY EACH OTHER. MEANWHILE THE OTHER NATIONS, ONCE MORE DIVIDED ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE CONSTRAINED TO FIGHT TO THE POINT OF COMPLETE PHYSICAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMICAL EXHAUSTION, WE SHALL UNLEASH THE NIHILISTS AND THE ATHEISTS, AND WE SHALL PROVOKE A FORMIDABLE SOCIAL CATAclysm WHICH IN ALL ITS HORROR WILL SHOW CLEARLY TO THE NATIONS THE EFFECT OF ABSOLUTE ATHEISM, ORIGIN OF SAVAGERY AND OF THE MOST BLOODY TURMOIL.

THEN EVERYWHERE, THE CITIZENS, OBLIGED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST THE WORLD MINORITY OF REVOLUTIONARIES, WILL EXTERMINATE THOSE DESTROYERS OF CIVILIZATION, AND THE MULTITUDE, DISILLUSIONED WITH CHRISTIANITY, WHOSE DEISTIC SPIRITS WILL FROM THAT MOMENT BE WITHOUT COMPASS OR DIRECTION, ANXIOUS FOR AN IDEAL, BUT WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE TO RENDER ITS ADORATION, WILL RECEIVE THE TRUE LIGHT THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL MANIFESTATION OF THE PURE DOCTRINE OF LUCIFER, BROUGHT FINALLY OUT IN THE PUBLIC VIEW. THIS MANIFESTATION WILL RESULT FROM THE GENERAL REACTIONARY MOVEMENT WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE DESTRUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY AND ATHEISM, BOTH CONQUERED AND EXTERMINATED AT THE SAME TIME.”

Source: <http://rense.com/general80/pike.htm>

No.2 Propaganda Due Masonic Lodge
Italian Masonic Lodge is used as a cover to coordinate everything from terrorist bombings, massive financial frauds and drug trafficking



The covert P2 Masonic Lodge was discovered in a 1981 police raid on Lucio Gelli's home by Italian authorities in the aftermath of the Vatican-owned Banco Ambrosia scandal in which "God's banker" Roberto Calvi and P2 brethren was found hanging under London's Black Friars Bridge. Police discovered a list of over 900 P2 Lodge members which included high-ranking government officials and **43 Members of the Italian Parliament**. The list also included the name of future **Italian President Silvio Berlusconi** and Mafia banker Michele Sindona.

The P2 Masonic Lodge was voted out of the Grand Lodge of Italy in 1974 but Gelli managed to "convince" the Grandmaster to issue his lodge another warrant. By 1981, regular Masonic lodges were eager to distance themselves from the P2 Lodge and it was officially disavowed in a Masonic Tribunal which ruled the 1974 vote valid.

The P2 Lodge was also used as a cover for [Operation Gladio](#) in which Gelli cooperated with American and British intelligence to promote fascism activities, including the 1980 Bologna railway bombing in order to prevent a communist takeover of Italy.

No.1 Illuminati Infiltration of Masonic Lodges

Adam Weishaupt's Bavarian Illuminati infiltration and "Illumination" of European Freemasonic Lodges



The Bavarian Illuminati was [founded by Adam Weishaupt in 1776](#). The following year, Weishaupt was initiated as a Freemason at the *Die Loge Theodor vom guten Rat* in Munich. He soon realized the potential of Masonic Lodges as recruiting grounds for his own secret society and directed members of his Order to begin Illuminating Freemasonic Lodges throughout Germany and later Europe. After the dissolution of the Masonic Rites of Strict Observance at the **1782 Masonic Congress of Wilhelmsbad**, Weishaupt and **Baron Von Knigge** were shrewdly able to snatch up old Strict Observance members and increased membership in the Bavarian Illuminati to around 3000 members. The Illuminati soon had Illuminated Lodges in France, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Poland, and Hungary.

The anti-clerical and anti-monarchical doctrines of the Bavarian Illuminati and other revolutionaries influenced the events leading up to the French Revolution.

"THE GREAT STRENGTH OF OUR ORDER LIES IN ITS CONCEALMENT; LET IT NEVER APPEAR IN ANY PLACE IN ITS OWN NAME, BUT ALWAYS COVERED BY ANOTHER NAME, AND ANOTHER OCCUPATION. NONE IS FITTER THAN THE THREE LOWER DEGREES OF FREE MASONRY; THE PUBLIC IS ACCUSTOMED TO IT, EXPECTS LITTLE FROM IT, AND THEREFORE TAKES LITTLE NOTICE OF IT. NEXT TO THIS, THE FORM OF A LEARNED OR LITERARY

*SOCIETY IS BEST SUITED TO OUR
PURPOSE, AND HAD FREE MASONRY NOT
EXISTED, THIS COVER WOULD HAVE BEEN
EMPLOYED; AND IT MAY BE MUCH MORE
THAN A COVER, IT MAY BE A POWERFUL
ENGINE IN OUR HANDS.”*

— [PROOFS OF A CONSPIRACY](#), JOHN ROBISON (1797)

From <https://www.illuminatirex.com/masonic-conspiracies/>

Crazyboard

Sunday, May 9, 2021 7:48 PM

