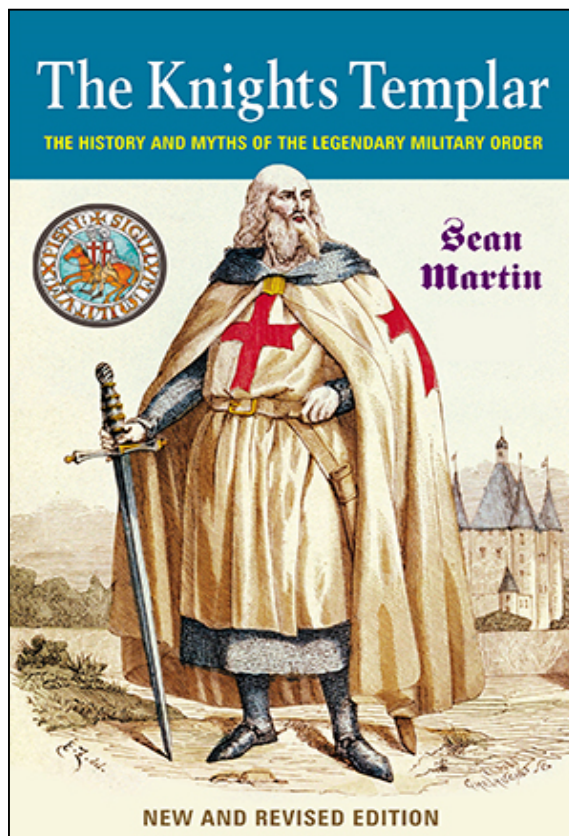




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THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

by SEÁN MARTIN

THE BOOK

The Knights Templar were the most powerful military religious order of the Middle Ages. Formed to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land, they participated in the Crusades and rapidly gained wealth, lands and influence and were answerable to none save the Pope himself.

In addition to having a fearful military reputation, they were also Christendom's first bankers, and played a large part in inventing the modern banking system. They were also involved in developments in navigation, architecture, medicine, and engineering, amongst others.

Seemingly untouchable for nearly two centuries, the Templars fell from grace spectacularly after the loss of the Holy Land. In 1307, all Templars in France were arrested on charges of heresy, homosexuality, denial of the cross and devil worship. The order was suppressed by the Pope in 1312, and Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master, was burnt at the stake as a heretic two years later.

The myth of the Templars was born and in the ensuing centuries, they have occupied a unique position in European history. Orthodox historians see them as nothing more than soldier-monks whose arrogance was their ultimate undoing, while others see them as occultists of the first order, the founders of Freemasonry, possessors of the Holy Grail and the Turin Shroud.

Sean Martin considers both the orthodox and conspiratorial version of events, and includes the latest revelations from the Vatican Secret Archives.

SEÁN MARTIN (Location: Edinburgh, UK)

Seán Martin is a writer, poet and filmmaker. He is the author of *The Knights Templar*, *The Cathars*, *The Gnostics*, *The Black Death*, *Alchemy and Alchemists*, *A Short History of Disease* and, for Kamera Books, *Andrei Tarkovsky* and *New Waves in Cinema*. His films include *Lanterna Magicka*: Bill Douglas & the Secret History of Cinema (released by the BFI), *Folie à Deux* and a series of documentaries on the filmmaker *Andrei Tarkovsky*: *Tarkovsky's Andrei Rublev*: A Journey (released by Criterion), *The Dream in the Mirror* (released by Criterion), *The Last Dream*: Andrei Tarkovsky and *The Sacrifice* and *A Dream of Italy*: Tarkovsky and Nostalgia. Martin won the Wigtown Poetry Prize in 2011, and his

collection of poems, The Girl Who Got onto the Ferry in
Citizen Kane, is published by Templar Poetry.

MARKETING & SALES POINTS

The mysteries surrounding the Knights Templar have ensured that they are an enduring subject of interest

There are over 350,000 freemasons in England and Wales alone, many of whom are interested in the organisation's historical associations with the Knights Templar

The Knights Templar share the same powerful crossover position between myth and history as the Arthurian legends

One of the few books to give equal weight and balance to the academic view and alternative theories, appealing to the 'new age' interests and military history enthusiasts.

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