



Knights Templar Encyclopedia

By Karen Ralls

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Knights Templar Encyclopedia By Karen Ralls

This book presents the fascinating history behind the most famous military religious Order of the Crusades--the Knights Templar. Written by leading Templar authority and medieval historian Dr. Karen Ralls, this sourcebook of hundreds of entries features a wealth of information on the key Templar people, places, events, symbols, organization, daily life, beliefs, economic empire, and trial.

The *Knights Templar Encyclopedia* provides a comprehensive view of the facts about this powerful medieval Order, A to Z. Meticulously gleaned from scholarly sources over a period of sixteen years, the encyclopedia covers key areas about the medieval Order itself, and also, other major medieval topics of increasing interest today and how they specifically relate to the Knights Templar -- i.e., the Grail, the Black Madonnas, King Arthur, Templar sites, Rosslyn Chapel, key Templar symbolism, seals, and relics, Gothic cathedrals, Mary Magdalene, the Jolly Roger flag, alchemy, Freemasonry, the Guilds, chivalry, stained glass, Bernard of Clairvaux, the origins of the Order, Templar archives, Assets, Treasuries, Loans, Maritime trade and ports, Farms, Feast days, to name but a few entries. Several key Appendices are included: a Templar Chronology of Events; a list of Grand Masters; a list of Popes during the time of the medieval Order; a list of the charges against the Templars; key Templar Sites; and Illustrations. In addition, a special 'Recommended Reading' section, from scholarly sources, under specific subject headings to further aid the reader, is also included.

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Editorial Review

Review

"offers both general readers and specialists alike a remarkable source work on the famous medieval military order. The essential guide to the people, places, events, and symbols of the order." --Letchworth's Masonic Books, London

"...a very useful resource...the Appendices alone are worth the price of the book...I can heartily recommend this fine effort by an enthusiastic authority in Templar studies." --M. Snell, Medieval History, About.com

"... a remarkable source work on the famous medieval military order. Scholarly and authoritative, Dr Ralls' treasury of Templar tradition is highly recommended" --Professor Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, University of Exeter UK

"...thoroughly researched...a fascinating source of detailed knowledge and very user-friendly... highly recommended." --Kate Gooch, Editor, Avalon Magazine, UK

"...accessible...It does work together well and the bibliography is excellent...As a general reader, or to get you under way, it has much to commend it." --Stephen Andrews, The Templar Booklet, UK

"If you're looking for the one indispensable book about the Knights Templar, this is it." -- Robert Ellwood

"Before heaven and earth and with all of you here as my witnesses....I declare, and I must declare, that the Order is innocent. Its purity and saintliness is beyond question." -- Jacques de Molay

From the Back Cover

"Karen Ralls gives us the basic known facts about Templar history...If you're looking for the one indispensable book about the Knights Templar, this is it."

---Robert Ellwood, professor of Religion Emeritus, University of Southern California, in praise of *The Templars and the Grail*

"The *Knights Templar Encyclopedia* offers both general readers and specialists alike a remarkable source work on the famous medieval military order. Scholarly and authoritative, Dr Ralls' treasury of Templar traditions is highly recommended."

---Professor Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, Professor of History, University of Exeter (UK)

Who were the medieval Knights Templar? How is their name connected to Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem? What does their red cross symbolize? Why were they suddenly arrested on Friday, October 13, 1307? What unusual relics or Grail did they harbor?

A first of its kind, **Knights Templar Encyclopedia** presents in convenient, readable, A-to-Z format, the fascinating history behind the most famous military religious Order of the Crusades -- the Knights Templar. Written by leading Templar authority and medieval historian Dr Karen Ralls, this authoritative sourcebook of hundreds of entries features a wealth of information on the key Templar people, places, events, symbols,

organization, daily life, beliefs, economic empire, trial, and more. This indispensable resource is for the general reader and specialist alike -- for anyone, in fact, who is interested in the history and legacy of the powerful Knights Templar (1119-1312).

About the Author

Karen Ralls, PhD, medieval historian and world religions scholar, obtained her doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. She was Postdoctoral Lecturer and Fellow (University of Edinburgh) and also Deputy Curator of the Rosslyn Chapel museum exhibition (1995-2001) prior to continuing with her specialist work in Oxford, England. A member of the Templar Heritage Trust UK, the American Academy of Religion and originally from the USA, Dr Ralls lectures internationally, speaks at conferences, leads workshops and tours, serves as museum and art consultant, and has appeared on a number of *History Channel, Discovery, and National Geographic* TV documentaries. Her award-winning Ancient Quest website is www.ancientquest.com.

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