
THE YORK RITE'R

Terminillo's Sword In The Stone (Rieti, Italy)



NEAR THE CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING TRACK on Terminillo, a winter resort famously developed by Italian Dictator Mussolini in the 1930s, a mysterious medieval sword stands as a testimony to an ancient local legend.

Templar Knights fleeing persecution are said to have left this sword in stone as a landmark in 1307.

The sword is set in the stone in an area known as “Cinque Confini” (Five Borders), at a spot where traditionally the territories of five towns met. Those towns are Rieti, Cittaducale, Micigliano, Borgovelino, and Castel Sant’Angelo.

It’s said the sword was placed at this location by five Templar knights who were fleeing persecutions proclaimed by the King of France, Philip the Fair, in October of 1307.

On December 21st of that year, the five knights led by Guy de la Roche met at the border between the papal states and the Kingdom of Sicily (which at the time ran along the ridges of Terminillo), where they were hoping to find sanctuary.

According to legend, Roche planted his sword in the stone and dissolved the order, freeing himself and his brothers from their vows. The five knights then sought shelter in various communities and villages around the area. Roche chose to become a monk and lived his final days in one of the Franciscan sanctuaries in the valley of Rieti.



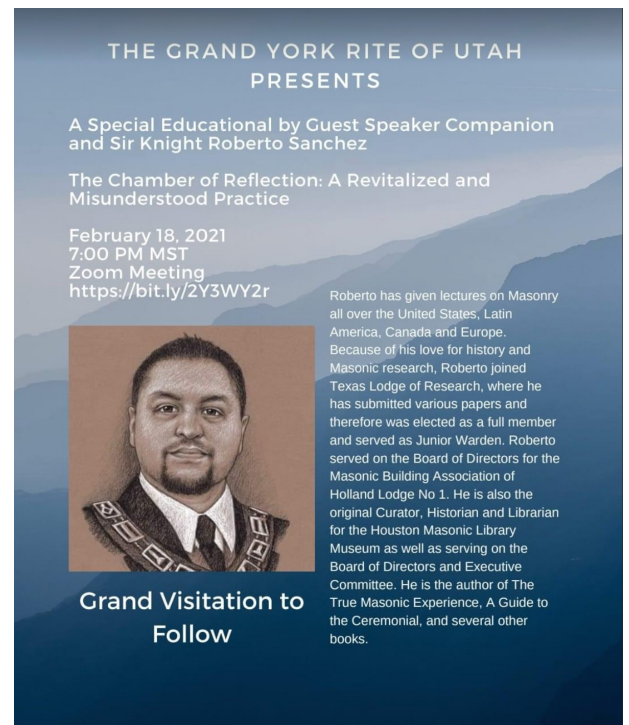
Update as of August 2020:
The sword had disappeared.
The bottom part of the sword
is still stuck in the rock,
which led some to believe
that it has been stolen. It's
unknown if it will return

Legend has it that the knights would meet again at the same spot where they dissolved the order every Solstice Day.

It's unclear whether the sword is the original or a copy. The date 1307 and the initials INIO (In Nomine Iesu Omnipotentis) are inscribed on the sword. Local residents also added a plaque to the site featuring Roche's final words.

Education Series

The Education series continues in February when we are honored to have Companion and Sir Knight Roberto Sanchez presenting as part of the Provo visitation.



THE GRAND YORK RITE OF UTAH
PRESENTS

A Special Educational by Guest Speaker Companion
and Sir Knight Roberto Sanchez

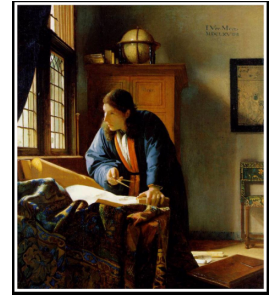
The Chamber of Reflection: A Revitalized and
Misunderstood Practice

February 18, 2021
7:00 PM MST
Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/2Y3WY2r>

Roberto has given lectures on Masonry all over the United States, Latin America, Canada and Europe. Because of his love for history and Masonic research, Roberto joined Texas Lodge of Research, where he has submitted various papers and therefore was elected as a full member and served as Junior Warden. Roberto served on the Board of Directors for the Masonic Building Association of Holland Lodge No 1. He is also the original Curator, Historian and Librarian for the Houston Masonic Library Museum as well as serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He is the author of The True Masonic Experience, A Guide to the Ceremonial, and several other books.

**Grand Visitation to
Follow**

Ask Adoniram



Jurisprudence Committee

As a part of the York Rite'R newsletter that has started going out to the membership of Utah, it was thought to start a piece that the members could ask questions to have answered. Perhaps call it "Ask Adoniram" to get the membership to inquire about the Grand York Rite Constitution, Bylaws or perhaps just recent adopted changes that have taken place at recent Grand Sessions.

The past year has been a particularly rough year for all of us, and not being able to have an in-person Grand Sessions made it difficult for all. However, several pieces of Legislation were proposed and passed.

The Constitution was changed to reflect a new quorum to conduct the business of a Chapter or Council to only 5 members of a constituent body. This is only to conduct business, and a quorum of 9 is still required to perform the degrees for a candidate. This change followed a change that took place in the Grand Commandery, following adoption by the Grand Encampment in 2018. The Proposed legislation sought to permit the smaller Chapters and Councils around the State that have over the years had difficulty in meeting the previous Quorum amount.

The Grand York Rite bodies adopted a change to the fiscal period of the Grand York Rite, to the calendar year so as to get in accordance with the fiscal periods especially with the Grand Encampment. So at the Local level, this means the Recorder has to submit the annual returns in December, rather than in April prior to the Grand Sessions. And so most Recorders and Treasurers will be closing out their books now at the end of the calendar year. So donations sent in through the Recorder will be for that calendar year.

These are a couple of highlights that happened with the most recent Grand Sessions. If any Companion or Sir Knight has a question that they would like to know more about, submit your question to “Ask Adoniram” and we will do our best to have an answer posted in the next release of the York Rite’R.

**Brian J. Hastings,
Chairman Jurisprudence Committee**

Masonic Conundrum

The November/December Conundrum asked: “Masons now recognize the symbol of the Royal arch as the “mysterious triple tau”...Masonic documents and literature apparently contain no references to the triple tau until the early 19th century. Prior to that, Royal Arch jewels clearly showed a capital T superscripted over a capital H. It appears that, over time the serifs were dropped off of the letters, and then it evolved into what we now know as the :Triple Tau.” so, the question is what did the “TH” stand for?

Research indicates that the “TH” stood for Templum Hierusalem, Latin for “Temple at Jerusalem,” or Solomon’s Temple. Another possible interpretation that has been put forward I’d Hiram of Tyre, representing either King Hiram or the principal architect in the legend of the Third Degree.

Following are the names of those who submitted the correct answer: Treavor Wilkinson, Blake Hansen, Reed Fanning, Lonnie McCulloch and all though he didn’t send a formal response Companion John Bridegroom during his educational talked about and gave the correct answer.

January / February Conundrum.

In the November / December issue the Allied Masonic Degrees was spotlighted. The Conundrum this time is close to home. Give me the name and number of the local Council here in Utah. Who it is named after and what distinction they share. There is a clue in this issue. For extra credit give me the years they held that common distinction.

When you have the answer, email it to theyorkriter@gmail.com those who get the correct answer will be listed in the next issue.

York Rite Happenings

Red Cross of Constantine
January 16th (2pm Zoom)

Grand Lodge of Utah
149th Communication
January 29th & 30th

Provo Visitation
February 18th

Save The Date

York Rite Festival (Covid permitting)
March 26th & 27th





You Are Religious

The Art of Manliness

When asked if they are religious, many people today will say they're not (often adding that they are, nevertheless, spiritual).

This distinctly modern refutation of religiosity makes use of a distinctly modern, and altogether too limited, definition of the word.

Religion, as popularly understood today as an



allegiance to certain beliefs, creeds, and institutions, did not come into English use until the 17th Century.

Anciently, the root of the word was used differently, and may have arisen from the Latin for “to bind together.” Thus, religion might best be understood as whatever it is that connects us to the higher parts of existence, links us to community, ties us to greater meaning— keeps the pieces of our psyches, our souls, from flying apart.

You can create a liturgical rhythm in your calendar by observing holidays like Christmas and Easter...or the “high holy days” of Selection Sunday and Black Friday.

Purification may be sought through repentance...or a detox diet; penance may be paid by sitting in a pew...or running on a treadmill.

An excommunicate offense can be located in a doctrinal heresy, or a political defection.

You can deal with the future’s uncertainty by consulting the prophets of scripture, or the prognosticators of Twitter; make decisions by sending a query towards the heavens, or typing it into Google. Instinctively responding to chimes signaling a call to prayer is a habit of devotion; so is instinctively responding to the ping of your phone. Tithing money to a church reveals the priorities of the heart; so does sacrificing hours, weeks, and days on the altar of your devices.

The relevant question is not whether you are or aren’t religious.

Because everyone is.

The real question is what the pieces your religion is holding together add up to... what, exactly, is it leading you to become?

York Rite SpotLight



The order was formed in Monroe, North Carolina on March 13, 1930. On June 6, 1930 the Convent General of the United States. Of America was formed to administer the Order. Membership in the **Knights of the York Cross of Honor (KYCH)** cannot be applied for. In order to be considered for membership, a proposed candidate must have served as:

Worshipful Master of a Masonic Lodge.

High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter.

Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal and Select Masters.

Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar.

Knights of the York Cross of Honor is an Honor Group of York Rite Masons who are dedicated to serving the Masonic Fraternity as a Labor of Love. No individual should aspire to membership in KYCH, when he has done the required work, and done it well, he will be

invited to membership. Those who labor will be rewarded by being invited.

After a Mason has fulfilled the requirements of membership, his name may be proposed for membership by a member of the KYCH. The prospective member should not know that he has been proposed. When a Priory receives a proposal, such proposal must be held over until the next stated meeting of the Priory before it is balloted on. Some of the Ballot rules vary in different Jurisdictions, to comply with Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations. In this Jurisdiction the prospect must receive a unanimous vote by secret Ballot. The prospect should not know that his name was proposed until he is officially notified that he is elected to be invited to petition to membership. If this rule is followed, no one that is proposed and rejected should ever know that he was proposed and rejected, thereby saving much embarrassment to everyone.

Any Knight, having served as presiding officer in any Grand Body of Symbolic, Capitular, Cryptic or Chivalric Masonry, shall be entitled to the rank and decoration of Knight York Grand Cross of Honor. A Knight York Grand Cross of Honor shall be entitled to wear a quadrant or quadrants on the golden circle of his official jewel, if he possesses one, and within the rays of his lapel button or watch charm as follows:

Past Grand Master of Grand Lodge....Blue
 Past Grand High Priest....Red
 Past Illustrious Grand Master....Purple
 Past Grand Commander....White



The meaning of membership in KYCH can best be explained by a closing statement of Most Eminent Knight Donald E. Friend, Grand

Master General, at his Convent General Session in 1995, “As a Knight of the York Cross of Honor, you are a proven servant of the Masonic Fraternity, your inspiration has come from your Past, your duty is in the Present, your Hope is in the Future, I ask you always to remember—In all you do, in all you say, in all of your actions, take a good look at yourself, you are someone’s impression of Freemasonry”.

