



IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article using Microsoft Word. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

Upcoming Events:

Grand York Rite of AlaskaMar 7-8
Grand York Rite of Oregon Apr 10-12
Easter Observance..... Apr 20
Grand York Rite of IdahoApr 24-26
Grand York Rite of MontanaJun 5-7

Magister Templi

By Sir Knight Barry E. Newell

Throughout history, the title Magister Templi, or "Master of the Temple," has carried significant weight, appearing in various traditions and organizations that trace their lineage to the medieval Knights Templar. While commonly associated with the Grand Masters of the Templar Order,

historical records suggest that this designation was also used by other officers entrusted with the administration of Templar lands and provinces. Beyond the medieval era, the title found its way into esoteric traditions, particularly within Rosicrucianism, where it took on a new symbolic meaning tied to the mastery of both historical knowledge and spiritual enlightenment.

In regards to it being a title in medieval Templary, Bro. Albert Mackey states that the Master of the Temple was "originally the official title of the Grand Master of the Templars," which is accurate, though it was not a title used exclusively by the Grand Master. Templar officers in charge of various provinces and lands would often sign official documents using "Magister Templi." This ambiguity has led to disputes over the names of those who presided over the Knights Templar. For example, it remains debated whether Richard de Bures served as Grand Master or was merely in charge of a province. In honor of the Knights Templar who founded Temple Church in London, the head of this church still carries the title of "Master of the Temple."

Within the Societas Rosicruciana, the Eighth Grade is known as Magister and is the first of the Ruling Grades of the Society. While today the word Templi is omitted, some older documents of the Society still reference "Magister Templi." Theories abound regarding the relationship between Rosicrucianism and the Knights Templar. The common use of the red cross and similar philosophies contribute to these speculations, just as theories exist linking the Knights Templar to Freemasonry. However, when examining the title Magister Templi, its meaning diverges in these traditions. Within the Templars, "Temple" referred to King Solomon's Temple, whereas in Rosicrucianism, the "Temple" represents the Vault of Christian Rosenkreutz, the legendary founder of Rosicrucianism. This distinction suggests that a Magister Templi should be a master of the history, rituals, and mysteries of Rosicrucianism. Furthermore, it symbolizes that a Magister should attain mastery not only over the physical body but also over the Self, in accordance with the ancient Hermetic maxim: "As above, so below; as within, so without."

The enduring presence of the title Magister Templi across different traditions highlights its deep esoteric significance. Whether within the Templar Order, Rosicrucianism, or other mystical systems, the title represents a pursuit of wisdom, leadership, and mastery. Its evolution over time underscores the continued reverence for knowledge and enlightenment, reinforcing its role as a bridge between historical authority and spiritual transcendence.

