



## **The Chinon Parchment**

### **Response by The Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales**

Recent news stories have reported on the planned release of the 'Chinon Parchment'. The Vatican's Secret Archives, one of the world's great repositories of historical documents, is allowing the production of a limited edition of 800 numbered copies of the parchment.

The Chinon Parchment was recently rediscovered by Dr Barbara Frale, a historian who was conducting research in the Secret Archives.

The parchment appears to show that the Pope at the time of the suppression of the Templars, Clement V, actually exonerated some senior Templars from some of the crimes of which they were accused. Historians have long maintained that the confessions of the Templars, extracted through the use of torture, were simply a means for Philip IV of France to avoid his indebtedness to the Order.

The Grand Priory has always subscribed to the widely held academic view that the historical evidence clearly shows that the accusations of heresy levelled at the mediaeval Templar Order were unjust.

The Grand Priory believes that the Chinon Parchment augments historical knowledge and is therefore useful by providing an additional credible source of reference for these widely held views.

The Chinon parchment does seem to support the opinion that Pope Clement V only went along with the Templar trials, purely to appease the French king in his pursuit of Templar lands, money and other assets.

In conclusion, the Grand Priory is delighted to learn that further historical archives have been made public which we see as a positive and useful advancement of learning and understanding of the World's history. The Grand Priory further recognises the valuable work carried out by the archivists at the Secret Archives, and in particular Dr Frale, which has ultimately led to such an important document being available for further research.

More information can be found on:

- The Grand Priory of England & Wales' website at: [www.templars.org.uk](http://www.templars.org.uk)
- The OSMTH - Knights Templar International website at: [www.osmth.org](http://www.osmth.org)

#### **Background Information on OSMTH - Knights Templar International**

OSMTH - Knights Templar International is the only modern Templar organisation recognised by United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation in Special Consultative Status. OSMTH is an interdenominational Christian and chivalric organisation that take its inspiration from the

highest ideals of the Order of Knights Templar, founded by Hugh de Payens and eight companions in Jerusalem, circa 1119, to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land.

The modern Order was formed in 1804, and follows in the tradition of the 1841 Paris Declaration of Principles that commits its members to ecumenical Christianity and active charity.

Full membership is open to Christians, over eighteen years of age, who are willing to commit themselves to the traditions of the rule of life and the code of chivalry prepared for the medieval Order under the guidance of St Bernard of Clairvaux. Associate membership is open to others who are in sympathy with its ideals and wish to support the work of the Order.

The objects of the member associations of OSMTH - Knights Templar International include:

- pursuing excellence in work and daily life to the greater glory of God;
- promoting international peace and justice;
- providing humanitarian relief to the poor, sick and needy;
- assisting persons to undertake pilgrimages;
- conserving Christian holy sites in the Holy Land;
- increasing mutual understanding between faiths;
- encouraging historical research; and
- conserving heritage sites associated with the medieval Knights Templar.

OSMTH - Knights Templar International is an umbrella organisation, recognised by the United Nations as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Special Consultative Status, and has member associations in Austria, Canada, England & Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, NATO, Norway, Serbia and the USA.

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