

The Templar Seal

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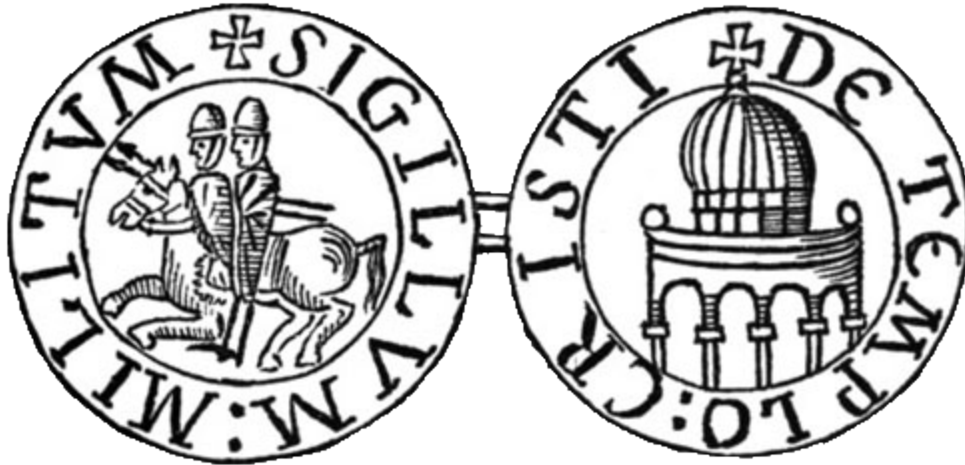
The Knight Templar Seal is the most enigmatic symbol of the famed Knights. We still use the seal today, but how many of us have considered its meaning let alone its importance?

The most prominent, most utilized and best-known symbols of the Knights Templar are the Cross, Lamb of God, two Knights riding a single horse, and the Dome of the Rock. Each of the Grand Masters of the Knights Templar utilized at least one, if not all four, of these seals throughout their history. Although the actual Relics of the Knights Templar are lost in antiquity, they still hold a powerful stay over the imagination of each Sir Knight, both past and present.



Knight Templar Seal

This picture only demonstrates perhaps the most famous and recognized symbol. However, look at the following picture.



Templar Seal

The Knights also used a double-sided seal, as pictured above; the dome of the rock and two Knights on a single horse which was utilized from 1158 until 1312.

Do these two different seals have anything in common?

The easy answer is: yes, the two Knights on a single horse is clearly visible. However, note that both Knights are armed as if ready for battle.

Foremost, let's deal with the two men on a horse issue. The Templar Rule #379 states that "two brothers should not ride on one horse."¹ I submit that many historians omitted the possible other connection, as outlined below, as it was easier to promulgate the existing myth. This possible new connection could be a more powerful symbol and does not distract us from the fact that they were from humble beginnings, but rather points us to something greater.

The Templar Rule, however, may provide us with an additional clue. There are multiple rules that require the presence of "two brothers." For example, Rule #153, describes how meat is to be divided between two brothers.² While in the original Latin Rule it is stated, "The Master should have two Knights as companions...."³

Why is the number two so important?

¹ The Rule of the Templars, J.M. Upton-Ward, the Boydell Press, Woodbridge published in 1992, ISBN 085155707 Page 104

² The Rule of the Templars, J.M. Upton-Ward the Boydell Press, Woodbridge published in 1992 ISBN 0851157017 Rule # 153 page 57 (the French rule).

³ Ibid Rule #79, page 40

The number 2 is usually related to harmony, balance and cooperation. It is also a symbol of adaptability and consideration, faith and relationships. This definition offers a totally supportable thesis that the Knights were demonstrating their trust in one another and their trust/faith in God

After all, did Jesus not say, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."⁴

As Masonic Templars, are we not taught the same thing? We are continually reminded that we can rely on our Lodge brothers without regard to religious beliefs, economic status, educational achievements, etc. A true spirit of friendship exists.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Bill Miklos

PM, KYCH

⁴ The Holy Bible, Matthew 18.20 Revised Standard Version, 1952, Thomas Nelson Inc.