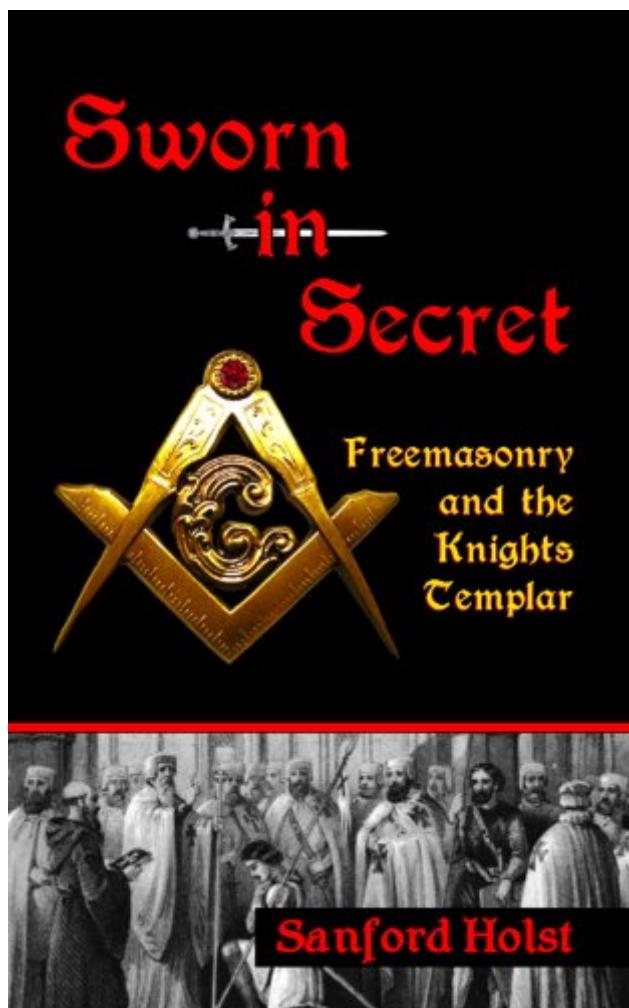


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Sworn In Secret: Freemasonry And The Knights Templar



Synopsis

This exploration of the remarkable people and influential activities of Freemasonry is truly stunning. It sheds considerable new light on how this brotherhood's practices, symbols and rituals took shape and affected the world around it. "Born in Blood" began this work before its author passed away in 1996. Now noted historian Sanford Holst has brought together many more discoveries that bring to life this society's quiet leaders and far-reaching influence. The roots of Masonry are traced to Solomon's Temple, the rise of Christianity, and the Crusades. This society's relationships with stonemasons and the Knights Templar also take on new and significant meaning. We come to see how Masons were active in events that caused the fall of kings in Europe, the rise of democracy, and the Vatican's loss of its supreme position atop the Christian world. After this secretive society emerged into public view in 1717, it had a strong influence on George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and other Masons who helped create a new country in America. Those struggles are seen through the experiences of people who lived through these events--often told in their own words and drawn from remarkable collections of records dating from those times. Masonry remains active around the world, and its influences are still felt in our lives today. Holst served as master of a Masonic research lodge, which allowed him to obtain access to manuscripts not normally seen by the public. Forty-five illustrations brighten this memorable journey of discovery.

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Customer Reviews

This is the best book about the history of Freemasonry that I have ever read. That is because most books I've seen that delved into the history of Freemasonry have been written by people who were simply Freemasons. This book is written by someone who is both a Freemason and a historian, and it shows in his reasoning and in the depth of detail about the Knights Templar and the times in which they lived that you just can't get from Masonic writers such as Pike and Mackey. They are good, but Holst is more modern and has a more readable writing style than they, along with his wealth of research. Holst makes, to my mind, a very good argument for there to be a connection between the Knights Templar and Freemasonry, and it is consistent with what I already know about linguistics and life in the medieval era. It is also not the typical argument that I've seen. This book is well worth reading

Sanford Holst has really made an admirable name for himself as an historian in recent years, and this is one of his greatest contributions. The book uses solid academic rigor capitalizing on the author's unusual access to source documents, interviews, and personal experience to drive beyond orthodox History of the Knights Templar and Freemasonry; examining many of the legends, myths, and hypotheses of the common threads of both organizations. Holst's work herein is surprisingly unbiased in its conclusions, which usually take the form of possibilities and probabilities instead of staking claims based on inconclusive evidence by merely parsing the evidence down to that which supports one's preconceived notions. As such, it is an masterfully enlightened (and enlightening) treatment of many of Ancient and Medieval History's most interesting questions. I would characterize this book as authoritative, but not orthodox, history. This enhances its intellectual value and makes it far more interesting to read than an orthodox volume such as Barber's The New Knighthood.

Being one who has asked questions, often with very poor answers given in response; I can truly say what a pleasure it is to have so many questions answered so easily and well. I have been drawn into the history, and the times, of the events spoken of, and it seems like every time a question begins to form in my mind, it is answered as I read on in the next several paragraphs. The writing is

clear, concise, and amazingly researched. The author, Sanford Holst, is to be commended for a work excellently done, and I can only hope that his next project is done as well as this. A must read for those interested in the Knights Templar. Jim Laage

A complete historical, mystical, suspense filled treasure - and a genuine peek behind the curtain to one of the most mysterious organizations on earth. If you've always wondered about the Knights Templar, the Masons, and Freemasonry, this is the definitive book. Enjoy!

Provides a more intelligent history of the masonic origins than most. When speculating, the author clearly states that he is speculating .. A much needed book for the masonic history investigator. Expands on Born In Blood and follows the trail of history much farther back in time. If you are an American, and enjoy the freedoms and rights of this country, then you need to understand Freemasonry. Freemasonry, its forms, constitution ,relationship with religion, and education are all mirror images of the US constitution. You live in a Masonically conceived republic this book does much to explain how and why good men suffered and worked for so long to bring forth these freedoms. Also if you are a man that enjoys these freedoms you need to be a free mason.

I liked the book very much. I've been involved in the masonic world for many decades, starting with my father and his associates. I think many people have incorrect notions about what and who the masons are. Anyone who is interested in the deeper cultures of the middle ages will enjoy this book...and perhaps learn more of the world's history.

An excellent, eye-opening book. Lots of gruesome details, though. The perfect companion to Tobias Wabbel's book about the Templar Treasure.

I found the first half of the book more enjoyable than the second half - I thought the second half got bogged down in a bunch of stuff that I found less interesting. The early part dealt with the formation of the Templars and their success up until King Phillip of France outlawed the Templars so he could confiscate their wealth to help solve his own financial problems.

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