

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Karen Ralls, M.A., PhD, medieval historian, religious studies scholar, and international lecturer, obtained her doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. She was Postdoctoral Fellow at Edinburgh for six years prior to relocating to Oxford, England, where she now conducts further specialist medieval period research. A member of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the British Association for the Study of Religion (BASR), Dr Ralls lectures worldwide, speaks at international conferences and has appeared on numerous American, British and European TV documentaries for History Channel, Discovery, and National Geographic. She is also Medieval Editor and writes a regular column for *Sacred History*, an American magazine for general readers which was selected in 2006 by Library Journal as one of the "Top 30 new periodical releases" in the USA.

Originally from the USA, Dr. Ralls' recent books include the forthcoming *The Knights Templar Encyclopedia* (Career Press, 2007), *The Templars and the Grail* (Quest, 2003), and the academic titles *Music and the Celtic Otherworld* (St Martin's Press/Edinburgh University Press, 2000) and *Indigenous Religious Music* (Ashgate Academic, 2002). Her interests include music and art history; in 2005, she completed a specialist Medieval and Renaissance Art History course at the highly regarded Victoria and Albert Museum in London. For more information, please see her award-winning website www.ancientquest.com.