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The World's First Comprehensive *Knights Templar Encyclopedia*

San Francisco, CA (March 22, 2007)—The *Knights Templar Encyclopedia* is the first of its kind. Written by renowned medieval historian Dr. Karen Ralls, it has hundreds of entries on all aspects of these enigmatic knights of the Crusades, from scholarly sources only. Providing answers to a number of questions, such as:

- Who were the medieval Knights Templar?
- How is their name connected to Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem?
- What does their red cross symbolize?
- Why were they suddenly arrested on Friday, October 13, 1307?
- What unusual relics or Grail did they harbor?

Today, as never before, interest in the Knights Templar is growing exponentially, fuelled by the best-selling *Da Vinci Code*. But who were these powerful knights of the Crusades? What is fact and what is fiction? And how did they become the wealthiest multinational corporation in the medieval West?

The *Knights Templar Encyclopedia* presents in convenient, readable A-Z format, the fascinating history behind the most famous religious order of the Crusades. This authoritative reference containing hundreds of entries features a wealth of information on the key Templar people, places, events, symbols, organization, daily life, beliefs, economic empire, trial, and more.

The product of more than a decade of meticulous, scholarly research, this indispensable resource is for the general reader and specialists alike—for anyone, in fact, who is interested in the history and legacy of the powerful Knights Templar. It includes photos and illustrations, an extensive bibliography, a historical timeline, and a list of major European Templar sites.

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Karen Ralls, Ph.D., medieval historian, international lecturer, and media consultant, was postdoctoral fellow at the University of Edinburgh for six years before continuing her specialist medieval research at Oxford. A member of the Oxford University Religious Studies Society, the American Academy of Religion (AAR), and the British Society for the Study of Religion (BASR). Dr. Ralls was also former deputy director of the Rosslyn Chapel Museum exhibition (1996-2001). Originally from the United States, she has frequently appeared on the History Channel and Discovery, and in National Geographic TV documentaries. The author of *The Templars and the Grail* and other books, she has an award winning website www.karenralls.com.

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