

UNUSUAL NEW BOOK CLUE TO TEMPLAR MYSTERY?

LONDON—Fiction writing has taken a new turn with the publication of a book entitled *Griffin & Sabine* by Nick Bantock. On the surface this publication appears to be a clever correspondence between two previously unacquainted people but on closer scrutiny may provide insight into the history of The Knights of the Templars, the study of which has consumed the energies of so many scholars for so long.

According to Templar lore, the knights (who established their order in 1118 AD) were to meet every 120 years from 1344 until 2064. The purpose of these meetings has been lost to history and indeed whether or not Templars still exist is a mystery. In *Foucault's Pendulum* by Umberto Eco, an ostensibly fictional account of the Templar history, revealed a plethora of detail about the Templars. One fact that cannot be ignored is that the last so-called Templar meeting set for 1944 was missed because of WWII. Since that time the Templars have made efforts to meet and have sent out messages for each other in an attempt to establish a date for such a meeting.

Eco's book, although he claims it is fiction, has been proven fact by one of his characters, Dr. Casaubon, a historian whose thesis was based on the study of the Templars. Dr. Casaubon, in a recent interview pointed out relevant clues in Bantock's book. "What first caught my attention was the title: *Griffin & Sabine*. First of all, in 1823, Sir Edward Sabine published a folio called *An Account of Experiments to Determine the Figure of the Earth by Means of the Pendulum Vibrating Seconds in Different Latitudes*. The pendulum was, and still is, the knights way of establishing where the meetings were to take place. Second, Griffin Moss lives at #41 Yeats Avenue. This is a strong reference as it is common knowledge that Yeats [the Irish Poet] belonged to a Rosicrucian society called *Stella Matutina*. The Rosicrucians are believed to be a modern day resurrection of the Templars for a number of reasons, the main reason being the relationship between the name Rosicrucian (or Rosy Cross) and the Templars use of the Rose and Cross on their shields. Thirdly, one can hardly ignore the ritual

eating of the Scottish Bannock bread by the Templars and the subsequent tie-in to the authors own name. I think that lastly, the date of the author's birth, that is 1949, and the number of Griffin Moss's address, that is #41, can be interpreted in many ways. The most obvious is that the sum of the two is 1990. Clearly a clue to the date of the next meeting. There are many other signs in *Griffin & Sabine*, something that will keep scholars such as myself busy for many years."

We attempted to get in touch with Mr. Bantock but were unable. A spokesperson (who wished to remain anonymous) from Chronicle Books which published Bantock's book has firmly denied any possibility that Bantock himself is a Templar. However, part of the Knight's lore is that a Templar will always deny vigorously that he is indeed a Templar.

We understand that 2 more books are expected in the *Griffin & Sabine* series. Perhaps more clues will surface.