

FROM ENGLAND TO FRANCE

The Order of the Illuminati was the greatest single misfortune ever to befall European Freemasonry because it became at once the pattern and the point of departure for a succession of secret, underground, political conspiracies which divided Masonry and brought disgrace upon its name.

*Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*¹

Sion Fails to Win the French Crown: Beyond Monarchy, Towards Revolution

Sion failed to capture the French throne for the Merovingian House of Lorraine during the Religious Wars of France. As we shall see in this chapter, Sion continued its scheme to secure the French crown, having successfully brought the British crown under its dominion through England's Glorious Revolution.

We will review Sion's intrigue, carried out by Grand Master Charles Radcliffe, to prevent the return of Templar Charles Edward Stuart to the throne of England. These plans also involved the creation and spread of Sionist-inspired Masonic lodges across Europe, which will figure later in our history.

Of the crowned heads of Europe, one in particular arose to thwart Sion's designs on the French throne - Frederick the Great of Prussia, a powerful military leader and 32nd degree Templar Freemason. Opposing Frederick was the Grand Master of Sion after Radcliffe's death, Charles of Lorraine, who although defeated by Frederick, helped select Adam Weishaupt as founder of the Illuminati - a secret society which would eventually penetrate and ultimately transform French Freemasonry on the Continent into a revolutionary power and shape the creation of a new world power in North America.

Sion Controls British Monarchy

When Sion's Rosicrucians united the splintered factions of English Freemasonry in 1717, they embarked on a course to control the British

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monarchy permanently. The ease with which they accomplished this is indicated by the following three facts. First, the king was a Mason. Second, His Majesty's royal court was staffed with Masonic fellow travellers. Third, beginning in 1737, the firstborn son of every reigning monarch, except one, has been titular head of English Freemasonry.

Sion Turns to the Continent

With British kings under Masonic obedience, Sion's Grand Masters were no longer required in England. After the death of Isaac Newton in 1727, we find Sion shifting her attention to the Continent where the Stuarts were in exile. The new Grand Master of Sion appears to have had a two-fold assignment: (1) direct the Templars against the French throne: and (2) thwart any Stuart attempt to reclaim the British crown.

Sion and Templars: Allies or Enemies?

Sion shrewdly selected as the new Grand Master Charles Radcliffe (GM 1727-1746), himself a Knights Templar. Either the hierarchy of the Priory of Sion and the Knights Templar had united to link the organizations in this one man, or it is possible that Radcliffe was a double-agent in the cause of Sion.

Subsequent events and Masonic symbology suggest both scenarios. Radcliffe seems to have been a double-agent, but only Sion's hierarchy was aware of his commission. Lower grade initiates who

hobnobbed with the Grand Master were unwavering Templars. To them he would appear loyal to their cause.

Radcliffe's involvement in and support of the Stuart cause had long been established. He and his brother James participated in the Scottish rebellion of 1715. Both were captured and imprisoned, and James executed. Radcliffe made a daring escape and found refuge in the Jacobite ranks in France. So far as the Jacobites were concerned, he was one of them.

Radcliffe had additional and unusual credentials which endeared him to the Stuarts. His mother was an illegitimate daughter of Charles Stuart II by the king's mistress, making him a grandson of the monarch and cousin to the exiled (Bonnie) Prince Charles Edward. Radcliffe could have won the Young Pretender's confidence through kinship alone, even had he not built his reputation as a Jacobite supporter.

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Radcliffe was in Paris in 1727 when he humbly accepted the appointment of Grand Master of the Priory of Sion. Evidence reveals that he was aware of the dangers he faced working as a double-agent. Radcliffe, for example, kept a low profile, operating to a significant degree through intermediaries. Not surprisingly, his tactics proved clever, even when facing execution. More important to him than life was the success of his mission. Radcliffe may well have been the most brilliant of Sion's Grand Masters. Yet he remains an obscure personality.

Planting English Masonry on the Continent

Meanwhile the seeds of English Freemasonry were being sown throughout the Continent by Dr. Desaguliers, one of the Rosicrucian founders of the United Grand Lodge. Desaguliers visited The Hague in 1731 to initiate the Merovingian Nicolas-Francois, duke of Lorraine, into Masonry.² Francois, holder of the title "King of Jerusalem," became head of English Freemasonry on the Continent.

Desaguliers' timing was no accident. Two years earlier, in 1729, Francois had begun a lengthy stay in England, for which there has been given no explanation. His contacts, however, deserve mention for they tell us what may have transpired there. He became a member of the Gentleman's Club of Spalding, whose members consisted of a number of Rosicrucians, among whom were Desaguliers himself, Isaac Newton, and Freemason Alexander Pope, Voltaire's mentor during the years 1726-1728.³

Templar Charles Ramsay: Masonic Spokesman of his Age

Another of Desaguliers' contacts in London was a Templar, Chevalier Ramsay. Ramsay, who had been exiled with the Stuarts returned to join the Gentleman's Club of Spalding at precisely the same time as did Francois. More significant is Ramsay's prompt appointment to the Royal Society, without any apparent credentials. The Royal Society, led by Desaguliers and Newton, was, as you may recall, Sion's controller of the British monarchy before English Freemasonry was united.

No record of what transpired during Francois' encounters with the English Sionists is forthcoming. Yet we can speculate, based upon subsequent events. Francois and Ramsay both returned to the Continent in 1730 with separate assignments to move against the French throne. If one failed, the other would succeed.

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Radcliffe: Power and Voice Behind Ramsay

When Ramsay returned to France he became increasingly active on behalf of Templar Freemasonry. On March 21, 1737, he made a famous Masonic speech before the Grand Lodge of France in Paris, on the basis of which he became the preeminent Masonic spokesman of his age. *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* authors conclude, however, that another figure hovered behind Ramsay: "the real voice behind Ramsay was that of Charles Radcliffe - who presided over the lodge at which Ramsay delivered his discourse and who appeared again, in 1743, as chief signatory at Ramsay's funeral."⁴

Proposed: A French (Reformed) Masonry

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Free masonry records Ramsay's famous speech as having been Masonry's seventh historical address. Ramsay "discussed Freemasonry and the Crusaders and traced an imaginary history of its course through Scotland and England into France, which was to become the center of the reformed [Templar] Order." ⁵

Based upon the content of his speech (obviously intended for the ears of his Templar companions), Ramsay's assignment was to steer the Templar Stuarts away from the Scottish and British thrones to a permanency in France, "the center of the reformed Order." His speech, however, failed in its purpose.

Sionist Radcliffe: The Pretend Pretender

In 1742 Charles Radcliffe, who was now personal secretary to the Young Pretender, Charles Edward Stuart, learned that the Prince was planning an attempt on the British throne by way of Scotland. Immediately Radcliffe went into action to thwart his Majesty's scheme. He employed an adventuresome nobleman, a Protestant and German Mason in the English Masonic Obedience, who would be able, if need be, to communicate with London. His name was Baron Karl Gottlieb von Hundt, or Hund.

Hund had just arrived in Paris from London. While at the Paris lodge, he learned of the existence of the Order of Knights Templar in Scotland. Fascinated by the Knights, he sought membership and was initiated into the higher degrees of the Order just before he embarked for Germany. The man who presided over his initiation was thought by

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Hund to have been the bonnie Prince Charlie himself. Proof has since been given that the initiation was not under the leadership of the Pretender at all, but was Charles Radcliffe in disguise. ⁶

Hund's Mission: To Spread Templar Freemasonry in Germany

Impersonating the Young Pretender, Radcliffe told Hund of his intent to reclaim the British crown, hoping the disclosure would somehow reach Protestant London via the German Protestant Hund.

Hund was then given the mandate to take to Germany with all haste the high degrees of Jacobite Freemasonry and establish there an aristocratic lodge, which would be descended directly from the Knights Templar. There he was to await further instruction from "Unknown Superiors." Before Hund departed, he was given a list of Knights Templar Grand Masters from Hughes de Payens on.

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry picks up the story: "Von Hund returned to Germany possessed of powers, or a Deputation granted to him in Paris by which he was authorized to disseminate the advanced Degrees in that country. He was not slow to exhibit these documents, and soon collected around him a band of adherents. He then attempted what he termed a reform in primitive Freemasonry on the simple English system of the three Symbolic Degrees, which alone most of the German Lodges recognized. The result was the establishment of a new system, well known as the Rite of Strict Observance." ⁷ Its name derived from the oath it demanded, an oath of unswerving, unquestioning obedience to the mysterious Unknown Superiors.

The Rite of Strict Observance was comprised of Germans drawn entirely from the intellectual and aristocratic classes, per Radcliffe's instructions. On its membership roster were princes, dukes, barons, Prussian and German ministers, all of Protestant stock. ⁸ Freemason Gould, in *History of Freemasonry*, observes that "[n]o trace of Jacobite intrigues ever blended with the teaching of the Strict Observance" ⁹- which means that no further instruction came down to Hund from his Unknown Superiors.

Political Consequences of Hund's "Instructions"

The lack of further "instruction" may well have been Radcliffe's intent. Endless waiting for further orders

would frustrate the adventuresome Hund, even embarrass him - maybe force him to talk. Indeed, he began to complain that his Unknown Superiors had abandoned him. In his

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defense, he revealed that his initiation had been conducted by the Bonnie Prince - and that the Young Pretender intended to reclaim the British crown. Such politically indiscreet and inflammable talk would, by its nature, reach London.

Meanwhile, the Young Pretender planned to invade Scotland in 1745. Radcliffe, expected to follow, delayed several months. No one knows why. We can only speculate. Perhaps Radcliffe awaited confirmation from London that it knew of the Bonnie Prince's plans. Perhaps he delayed to "leak" to England his own departure date. At any rate, to maintain his cover, Radcliffe finally set sail for Scotland.

Holy Blood, Holy Grail, provides details of the entire ill-fated venture:

"In 1745 the [Young Pretender] landed in Scotland and embarked on his quixotic attempt to reinstate the Stuarts on the British throne. In the same year Radcliffe, en route to join him, was captured in a French ship off the Dogger Bank. A year later, in 1746, the Young Pretender was disastrously defeated at the Battle of Culloden Moor. A few months thereafter, Charles Radcliffe died beneath the headsman's ax at the Tower of London."¹⁰

Charles Radcliffe, Grand Master of Sion, paid the greatest price for the defeat of the Stuart cause. In a eulogy to him, the authors of *Holy Blood* state, "It is probable that Scottish Rite Freemasonry was originally promulgated, if not indeed devised, by Charles Radcliffe. In any case Radcliffe, in 1725, is said to have founded the first Masonic lodge on the continent, in Paris. During the same year, or perhaps in the year following, he seems to have been acknowledged grand master of all French lodges and is still cited as such a decade later, in 1736. The dissemination of eighteenth-century Freemasonry owes more, ultimately, to Radcliffe than to any other man."¹¹

Victorious Sion and Charles Stuart: The Pretender Admitted into Templars

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Free masonry reveals that a few months after Prince Charles Edward arrived in Scotland, "[o]n September 24, 1745, he was admitted into the Order of Knights Templar, and was elected Grand Master, an office which it is said that he held until his death [in 1788J."¹² During his initiation, the Young Pretender apparently learned of the Sionist-Rosicrucian plot that would defeat his bid for the Scottish throne. He alludes to these opponents upon his return to France, where he founded in 1747 the Scottish Jacobite Chapter of Freemasonry, better known as the Scottish Rite. In its three-paragraph

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charter the Prince wrote: "our sorrows and misfortunes [came] by that of Rose Croix...."¹³

Realizing a power mightier than the Templars caused his downfall, Prince Charles turned his back on England and directed his attention toward the French throne to avenge the death of Jacques de Molay. *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* confirms that the Scottish Templars were the ones who "invented the Degree of Kadosh, which represents the revenge of the Templars."¹⁴

Confirming Hund's Claims

Meanwhile, Baron von Hund was still awaiting orders from his Unknown Superiors. For ten years, and to his own embarrassment and subsequent disgrace, Hund had received no further instruction. As a result, his contemporaries dismissed him as a charlatan and accused him of having fabricated the story. In defense he could only reply that his Unknown Superiors had abandoned him. Until his death he affirmed his integrity.¹⁵

The authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* credit the veracity of Hund's claim: "By 1746.. Radcliffe was dead. So were many of his colleagues, while others were in prison or exile - as far away, in some cases, as North America. If Hund's 'Unknown Superiors' failed to reestablish contact with their protege, the omission

does not seem to have been voluntary. The fact that Hund was abandoned immediately after the collapse of the Jacobite cause would seem, if anything, to confirm his story. "16

The most convincing evidence to confirm Hund's story, the authors continue, "is a list of grand masters of the Knights Templar, which Hund insisted he had obtained from his 'Unknown Superiors.' On the basis of our own research, we had concluded that the list of Templar grand masters in the *Dossiers secrets* was accurate - so accurate, in fact, that it appeared to derive from inside information. Save for the spelling of a single surname, the list Hund produced agreed precisely with the one in the *Dossiers secrets*. In short, Hund had somehow obtained a list of Templar grand masters more accurate than any other known at the time.... This would seem to confirm that Hund's story of 'Unknown Superiors' was not a fabrication. It would also seem to indicate that those 'Unknown Superiors' were extraordinarily knowledgeable about the Order of the Temple - more knowledgeable than they could possibly have been without access to privileged sources."17

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A Sion-Merovingian Marriage: In Hopes of a Future Messiah of Israel

The Merovingian Nicholas-Francois, Duke of Lorraine, returned to France from England in 1730 to activate his Sionist assignment. He first planned to wed the Merovingian Empress Maria Theresa von Habsburg of Austria. The alliance would for the first time merge in one "Holy Blood" family the titles King of Jerusalem and Holy Roman Emperor, with the Spear of Destiny in its possession. In one or two generations the Messiah of Israel (known to the Holy Grail bloodline as the Lost King) would be born. To the Merovingians, the Lost King would combine awesome esoteric, political, and military powers - and be a personage to be feared and obeyed.

Consolidating Power: Taking France by Marriage

In 1731 Francois was initiated into English Freemasonry at The Hague by Dr. Desaguliers. Four years later he married Maria Theresa von Habsburg. When Francois moved his court to Vienna, it became the European capital of Sionist English Freemasonry.

Francois' younger brother by four years was Charles of Lorraine, a skilled military commander. In 1744 Charles married Maria Theresa's sister, Marie Anne, and became commander-in-chief of the Austrian army, putting the Austrian military at the service of Merovingian-Sionist aims. In 1746, upon the death of Charles Radcliffe, Francois appointed Charles of Lorraine Grand Master of the Priory of Sion. Indeed, the royal court at Vienna had become the most powerful esoteric-political body on earth. To become the greatest military power, Vienna would only have to occupy the powerful French throne. To achieve this, the Grand Master of Sion had three choices at his command - take France by force, marriage, or subversion.

Taking France by force was out of the question, however. The historians Will and Ariel Durant describe the power of France:

[T]he French state was the strongest in Christendom, confident in its natural resources, the skills and loyalty of its people, the strategy of its generals, the destiny of its King.

One reason for French domination was manpower. France had a population of 20,000,000.. while Spain and England had 5,000,000 each, Italy 6,000,000, the Dutch Republic 2,000,000. The Holy Roman Empire, which included Germany, Austria,

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Bohemia, and Hungary, had some 21,000,000; but it was an empire only in name.. and divided into over four hundred jealously 'sovereign' states, nearly all small and weak, each with its own ruler, army, currency, and laws, and none with more than 2,000,000 inhabitants. France.. was a geographically compact nation, united under one strong central government..

To secure the French throne by marriage, Francois and Maria gave their daughter Marie Antoinette in

marriage to the Bourbon king of France, Louis XVI. This royal marriage brought the Merovingian's final ambitions within grasp. As *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* observes: "It was in the eighteenth century.. that the Merovingian bloodline probably came closest to the realization of its objectives. By virtue of its intermarriage with the Hapsburgs [or Habsburgs], the house of Lorraine had actually acquired the throne of Austria, the Holy Roman Empire. When Marie Antoinette, daughter of Francois de Lorraine, became queen of France, the throne of France, too, was only a generation or so away. Had not the French Revolution intervened, the house of Hapsburg-Lorraine might well, by the early 1800s, have been on its way to establishing dominion over all Europe."²⁰

Sion's Powerful Rival: Frederick the Great, Templar King of Prussia and Head of High Masonry

According to *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, "the exiled House of Stuart exercised an important part in the invention and extension of what has been called the High Masonry."²¹ We know that by 1755 the Templar Scottish Rite had advanced to 32 degrees. At the head of High Masonry was Frederick the Great (Frederick II), the powerful military leader of Prussia. *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* tells us that Frederick "was initiated as a Freemason, at Brunswick, on the night of August 14, 1738, not quite two years before he ascended the throne."²²

Frederick's initiation took place with haste following Ramsay's famous speech. Frederick had sensed that Templarism was being developed to topple the French throne. He wanted to use it to further Prussian supremacy. Upon ascending the throne in 1740, he became even more active in Freemasonry, initiating two of his brothers, a brother-in-law, and a duke into the Templar Rite. That same year he called an urgent conference with Voltaire. Two remarkable events

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followed: (1) additional degrees were added to Templar Freemasonry; and (2) instructions for a revived Order of Templarism were taken to Paris.

By 1746 Frederick's initiates had founded fourteen Masonic Lodges. That same year, after Radcliffe's death, Frederick became the acclaimed head of Continental Freemasonry. He then used the Scottish Rite for his own independent bid for the French throne, by trying to destroy the alliance between France and Austria. Time and again he created discord between Versailles and Vienna through his Masonic agents.

Sion was taken by complete surprise and forced to counter Frederick's political and military ventures. In 1750 Voltaire was deployed the second time to Prussia, to persuade the King to redirect his efforts toward the Catholic Church. Charles of Lorraine, the new Grand Master of Sion, took Austria's armies into several battles against the Templar king. Charles fought the monarch in a final battle in 1757 (called the Battle of Leuthen) and lost. "And yet Frederick regarded Charles as a worthy and 'redoubtable' adversary and spoke of him only in glowing terms."²³

In consequence of Charles' defeat, Empress Maria Theresa von Habsburg relieved him of his command, and Charles of Lorraine retired to his capital at Brussels.²⁴ From there he worked through intermediaries, as did Radcliffe. For example, Charles apparently had something to do with the selection of a renegade Jesuit named Adam Weishaupt to further the goals of Sion. Weishaupt, in turn, was founder of the Illuminati.

The Illuminati: A Convenient Alliance

Sion and the Templars both had their sights set on the French throne, but were not yet united in their efforts. For example, Frederick the Great, as head of the Templar Scottish Rite on the Continent, wanted to take the French throne by intrigue, while Sion planned to absorb it through marriage.

As we have observed, Sion had several simultaneous programs to reach its goal of world government. The Illuminati, although short lived by that name, appears to have been the one program most successful. Its assignment was to develop an alternate form of government at Paris - a democratic republic involving a coalition with the Templars should the impending French Revolution overthrow the Bourbon dynasty.

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The first worldwide exposure of the Continental conspiracy involving the Illuminati was published in 1798, nine years after the French Revolution had begun. Authored by John Robison, professor of Natural Philosophy at Edinburgh University, *Proofs of a Conspiracy against all the Religions and Governments of Europe* was, among other things, a written warning to Great Britain and her oligarchic Brotherhood.

John Robison, a Master Mason in English Freemasonry, was a man of unquestionable character. He exposed the *illuminati* as an order housed within French Freemasonry bent on the destruction of the Roman Catholic Church, the dethroning of all monarchies, and the confiscation of businesses and land.²⁵ Its ultimate aim was to inaugurate a New World Order governed by an initiated few.

For several years prior to the French Revolution, Robison traveled throughout Europe, frequenting many Continental Lodges. Being a Scotsman, he naturally wanted to receive the high degrees in the Scottish Rite. During his travels he learned of the Illuminati. Appearing sympathetic to their cause, Robison was entrusted with Illuminati documents. After the French Revolution and its atrocities, he studied these Illuminati documents and for the first time realized that republican French Masonry was in total opposition to the designs and directions set forth by monarchist English Masonry. He therefore felt he was not infringing on his Masonic obligation of silence by unmasking this clandestine Order.

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry describes Robison's book as "a history of the introduction of Freemasonry on the Continent, and of its corruptions, and.. to a violent attack on the Illuminati. But while recommending that the Lodges in England should be suspended, he makes no charge of corruption against them, but admits the charities of the Order, and its respectability of character."²⁶

Mackey in his final comment seems to concur with Professor Robison's evaluation of French Freemasonry during the Revolution:

"So that, after all, [Robison's] charges are not against Freemasonry in its original constitution, but against its corruption in a time of great political excitement. 27

Weishaupt and the Illuminati

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry describes the Illuminati as: "A secret society, founded on May 1, 1776, by Adam Weishaupt, who was Professor of Canon Law at the University of Ingolstadt. Its founder at first called it the Order of the Perfectibilists; but he subsequently gave it the name by which it is now universally known.... Weishaupt,

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though a reformer in religion and a liberal in politics, had originally been a Jesuit.... To give to the Order a higher influence, Weishaupt connected it with the Masonic Institution, after whose system of Degrees, of esoteric instruction, and of secret modes of recognition, it was organized.... The character [or symbol drawn as a rectangle], now so much used by Freemasons to represent a Lodge, was invented and first used by the Illuminati [as was the point within a circle, by which the Illuminati was symbolically and universally identified].... [I]t cannot be denied, that in process of time abuses had crept into the Institution and that by the influence of unworthy men the system became corrupted."²⁸

Conspiracy researchers have mixed opinions about who was behind the Illuminati. A "Miss Stoddard," author of *Trail of the Serpent* and writing under the pseudonym "Enquire Within," views the Illuminati as "The Knights Templar. . .gathering again. "29 Many Templars did join the Illuminati. Just as evident, however, is that Rosicrucians were represented in the Order as well. Edith Starr Miller, in *Occult Theocracy*, states that the Illuminati was as much Rosicrucian as it was Templar~

Each author calls the Illuminati "short-lived"; each concurs that initially its "Great Plan" was pure, but that corruption set in; and each states that its membership consisted of Templars and Rosicrucians.

The plan of the Hierarchy in Sion and in the Templars remained so secret, however, that even the highest degree Masons were perplexed as to the real function of the Illuminati. The Illuminati appears to have been a cooperative venture to inaugurate the New World Order long dreamed of by both the Priory of Sion and the Knights Templar.

Sion and Weishaupt

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry gives Weishaupt's birth date and states his hostility toward the Jesuits: He "adopted the characteristic or Order name of *Spartacus*, was born on February 6, 1748, at Ingoldstadt, and was educated by the Jesuits, toward whom, however, he afterward exhibited the bitterest enmity, and was equally hated by them in return."³¹

When Weishaupt formed the Illuminati, he used the Jesuit structure as guide, yet employed the Egyptian rites of Ormus in his ceremonies, the same rites exercised by the Priory of Sion. Rev. J.R. Church agrees that probably Weishaupt was a Sionist, and concludes: "The Illuminati, then, may be simply another name in the ongoing development of the Priory of Sion..."³²

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Church also compares the ceremonies, symbols and theology of the Illuminati with Sion and the Rosicrucians and finds them identical, all three deriving from Egyptian mysticism.³³ For example, the point within a circle (a form of the All-Seeing Eye of the Egyptian sun-god Osiris), is a symbol in all three orders.³⁴ Weishaupt's goal was also identical to Sion's: a New World Order controlled by an initiated few.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1984) indirectly connects the Illuminati with Sion via the Rosicrucians, observing that "[t]he name illuminati is also given. ..to the Rosicrucians."³⁵ This fact is documented in the *Rosicrucian Manual* itself:

Members who attain and complete the psychic instruction of the ninth degree or those above it may enter the Illuminati, which is a higher organization of the order wherein the worthy members continue to carry on specialized work and studies under the direction of the imperator of their jurisdiction and the personal cosmic masters. Members cannot ask for admission to the Illuminati, but must wait until they have been found ready and are invited in this additional work.³⁶

One of Weishaupt's first initiates was a traitor to his own royal house - Louis Philippe Joseph, Duke of Orleans, cousin to the Bourbon king of France. The Duke had already been initiated into French Grand Lodge Freemasonry, and according to *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, he "was elected Grand Master in the year 1771, upon the death of the Count de'Clermont."³⁷

The Duke of Orleans broke from the Masonic turmoil in France, which centered around British obedience in the French Grand Lodge, and founded the clandestine French Grand Orient Lodge in 1772. The Duke, according to *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, also held the position of Grand Master in this opposition Lodge until he was guillotined during the Revolution in 1793.

Weishaupt's Brilliant Career

In 1772, Weishaupt at age 24 was a brilliant religionist. Dr. Mackey reports that he became that year Extraordinary Professor of Law, and in 1775, Professor of Natural History and Canon Law, at the University of Ingoldstadt.³⁸ On May 1, 1776, at age 28, he officially organized the secret society he had started in the university five years earlier. Students at Ingolstadt University were his first initiates. After graduation they scattered throughout the Continent, working in their

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various professions where Weishaupt engaged them in furthering his revolutionary goals.

According to *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, "It was not until 1777 that Weishaupt was initiated in the Lodge Theodore of Good Counsel, at Munich. Thence forward, Weishaupt sought to incorporate his system into that of Freemasonry, so that the latter might become subservient to his views and with the assistance of a staunch Templar, Baron Knigge, who brought his active energies and genius to the aid of the cause, he succeeded in completing his system of Illuminism."³⁹

The Illuminati and Masonry

By 1785, nine years after Weishaupt had officially recorded the Illuminati as operative, Illuminati doctrines had sufficiently penetrated the French Grand Lodge and the French Grand Orient that they changed forever the direction of these two Continental Brotherhoods, ultimately reshaping International Freemasonry.

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Free masonry condemns the influence of Weishaupt's Illuminati upon Freemasonry: "The Order of the Illuminati was the greatest single misfortune ever to befall European Freemasonry because it became at once the pattern and the point of departure for a succession of secret, underground, political conspiracies which divided Masonry and brought disgrace upon its name"⁴⁰

Not surprisingly, the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* fail to mention Adam Weishaupt. Their research, restricted to individuals named in the "Priory documents," would not find Weishaupt among them. They do, however, name a Rosicrucian Sionist who figured in the Illuminati plot, and who may well have been the "controller" of Weishaupt. He is mentioned along with two Grand Masters of Sion, although he himself was never a Grand Master. His name was Joseph Balsamo.⁴¹

Balsamo worked as a double-agent for Sion by joining the Templar Strict Observance. Soon afterwards, Adam Weishaupt ordered the Illuminati to absorb into its ranks the best of the initiates in the Strict Observance. Nesta Webster confirms that "The first Masonic body with which the Illuminati formed an alliance was the Stricte [sic] Observance...."⁴²

Illuminati: A Contingency Plan

Our research concludes that the Illuminati was initially formed as a cooperative venture between the hierarchies of Sion and the Templars

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to finish the task of two centuries ago - that of dethroning the Bourbons. The Templars were seeking revenge for the death of Jacques de Molay. Sion was seeking the French throne for the Merovingian Lorraine-Habsburg dynasty. Should Sion fail in its bid for a universal monarchy, it would transform its strategy to bring about a New World Order of republicanism. In either case the British crown was no longer necessary for the protection of the Merovingian kings. The Templars would again assume that function, for Templar military lodges were already forming throughout the French forces.

Weishaupt's Handler: Kolmer or Charles of Lorraine?

Nesta Webster reports that Weishaupt did not receive the inspiration on his own for forming the Illuminati. In 1771, she claims, a mysterious Jutland merchant named Kolmer, who supposedly had spent many years in Egypt, returned to Europe to initiate Weishaupt into the Rose-Croix rites of Egyptian mysticism. On his way to Germany from Egypt, Kolmer stopped at Malta, where a remnant of the English competitors of the Knights Templar existed under the name Knights of Malta. There Kolmer rendezvoused with a famous Freemason and magician named Cagliostro. Together they displayed their magic to the crowds, nearly bringing about an insurrection among the people. Both men were driven off the island by the Knights of Malta and Kolmer promptly went to Germany for a rendezvous with Adam Weishaupt. During the next five years, Kolmer initiated Weishaupt in all the mysteries of his secret doctrine, ending his instruction in the spring of 1776. On May 1, 1776, Weishaupt founded the Illuminati.⁴³

Kolmer is not mentioned in the Priory documents. In fact, Nesta Webster says he is the most mysterious man in this whole plot. Before he met Weishaupt, there was no previous history of him, other than his encounter on Malta with Cagliostro. Afterwards he disappeared. Yet, Cagliostro described Kolmer with respect and admiration, calling him "this universal genius, almost divine."⁴⁴

Subsequent events suggest that Kolmer was none other than the Grand Master of the Priory of Sion - Charles of Lorraine. But who is this mysterious Freemason, Cagliostro?

Cagliostro and Egyptian Freemasonry

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry acknowledges the importance of Cagliostro in the spread of Freemasonry throughout Europe:

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"The history of Freemasonry in that century would not be complete without a reference to this personage. To write the history of Freemasonry in the eighteenth century and to leave out Cagliostro, would be like enacting the play of Hamlet and leaving out the part of the Prince of Denmark."⁴⁵

Cagliostro established more Masonic Lodges throughout Europe than did any single man then or since. On Malta he was appointed by Charles of Lorraine (disguised as the Jutland merchant Kolmer) to act in his behalf - as the link between the Grand Master of Sion and Weishaupt. *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* says Cagliostro's real name was Joseph Balsamo,⁴⁶ the man mentioned in the Priory documents as a figure in the Sionist conspiracy along with several Grand Masters of Sion. This man had the power of a Grand Master of Sion, yet, was never a Grand Master himself. The Priory documents say of such men:

"Custodians of a secret, one can only exalt them or destroy them. Thus people like...Joseph Balsamo, the dukes of Nevers and Gonzaga, whose wake is attended by a perfume of magic in which sulphur is mingled with incense- the perfume of the Magdalen."⁴⁷

Five years after Joseph Balsamo/Cagliostro met Kolmer at Malta we find Cagliostro in London where he becomes connected with Rosicrucian English Freemasonry. According to *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, in April, 1776, one month before Adam Weishaupt officially founded the Illuminati, Cagliostro was initiated as an English Mason "in Esperance Lodge, No.289, which then met at the King's Head Tavern."⁴⁸ In 1777, the year Weishaupt was initiated into French Grand Orient Freemasonry, Cagliostro "was subsidized," according to Mackey, "by several extremely wealthy men, who, themselves dissatisfied by the state of affairs in Europe, did not hesitate to place their riches at his disposal for the purpose of undermining the tyrannic powers which then wielded sway."⁴⁹

The "tyrannic powers" in Europe undoubtedly refer to the French throne. And the wealthy men in England may well have been Sionist Rosicrucians. Since Mackey does not mention them by name, we cannot positively connect them with Sion, nor can we speculate on who these individuals may have been. Yet, with substantial funds from England, Sionist Cagliostro returned to the Continent and founded Egyptian Freemasonry, which played a significant role in the Sionist plot against France, not only in the French Revolution, but for a century and a half beyond. The coat of arms Cagliostro adopted for his Order was the six pointed star, identical to that created by the Merovingian Dagobert H at the Rennes-le-Chateau, and later adopted by the Priory of Sion. This

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six-pointed-star later became the herald of the future genuine Jewish Zionist movement, which insignia has mistakenly led many conspiracy researchers to believe the conspiracy of Jewish origin.

Nesta Webster tells us that when Cagliostro returned to the Continent, he joined the Illuminati. She reports that "Cagliostro had also been initiated into the [Templar] Strict Observance near Frankfurt and was now employed as agent of the combined order. According to his own confession his mission 'was to work so as to turn Freemasonry in the direction of Weishaupt's projects'... Cagliostro also formed a link with the Martinistes who [followed] in the footsteps of the Rosicrucians...."⁵⁰

Cagliostro received orders from and acted in behalf of Charles of Lorraine, the reigning Grand Master of Sion, who was relieved of his military command for failing to defeat Frederick the Great. Disguised as the Jutland merchant Kolmer, the Grand Master met Cagliostro on Malta where they planned their strategy. Cagliostro was to join the Illuminati with two conspicuous goals in mind: (1) turn French Freemasons into insurrectionists through drug addiction, prostitution, and witchcraft; and (2) unite Rosicrucian and Templar Freemasonry on the Continent. The ostensible purpose of the latter will not be evident until later. Yet from Cagliostro's day forward we find a mixture of Rosicrucian and Templar ceremonies in both Masonic orders.

It is undeniable that the frenzy leading up to the French Revolution was created by Cagliostro's esoteric Egyptian Freemasonry. At the same time, Weishaupt and his Illuminati operated in the political arena.

A Summary

Sion had not altered its plan to capture the French throne for the House of Lorraine since its failure during the Religious Wars. It met only with partial success under Weishaupt. The French Revolution did dethrone the Bourbons, as Sion desired. The King of Jerusalem dynasty, however, was unable to ascend the French throne after the Revolution destroyed the monarchy.

This intrigue, with its counter-intrigues, seemed to blend Rosicrucianism and Templarism. Hence, conspiracy researchers have not understood the dual conflict within the French Revolution and they have misconstrued the French Masonic conspiracy as a continuation of Adam Weishaupt's Illuminati plot. On the other hand, opponents of conspiracy theory view the Illuminati as non-existent after 1785, since

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in that year it was exposed by the Bavarian government and ordered to disband. What actually happened is not immediately apparent. Sion and the Temple, however, had other plans for the Illuminati on another continent in a new world.

