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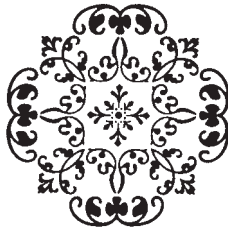
## THE TRIAL OF THE TEMPLARS

The Templars fought against Islam in the Crusader East for nearly two centuries. During that time the original small band grew into a formidable army, backed by an extensive network of preceptories in the Latin West. In October 1307, the members of this seemingly invulnerable and respected Order were arrested on the orders of Philip IV, King of France, and charged with serious heresies, including the denial of Christ, homosexuality and idol worship. The ensuing proceedings lasted for almost five years and culminated in the suppression of the Order. The motivations of the participants and the long-term repercussions of the trial have been the subject of intense and unresolved controversy, which still has resonances in our own time. In this new edition of his classic account, Malcolm Barber discusses the trial in the context of new work on the crusades, heresy, the papacy and the French monarchy.

MALCOLM BARBER is Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at the University of Reading. His other publications include *The Two Cities. Medieval Europe 1050–1320* (1992, 2004), *The Cathars. Dualist Heretics in Languedoc* (2000) and *The New Knighthood. A History of the Order of the Temple* (Cambridge University Press, 1994).

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# THE TRIAL OF THE TEMPLARS



Second edition

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University of Reading*



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*To my parents*

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## *Preface to the Second Edition*



Although the first edition of this book was published in 1978, it was effectively completed by 1975, so that, in terms of secondary reading at least, it is based on publications no later than the early 1970s. Since that time there has been a tremendous growth of interest in the history of the crusades and the military orders, as well as in the Order of the Temple and its dramatic demise. Some of this interest has been generated by a sub-industry of conspiracy theorists, satirised by Umberto Eco in his novel, *Foucault's Pendulum*, but at the same time there has been important research, especially in the publication and analysis of relevant texts. It seems, therefore, appropriate to try to bring the book up-to-date and to correct mistakes of judgement and fact in the first edition. I have been greatly helped by Simon Barton, Paul Crawford, Alain Demurger, Peter Edbury, Barbara Frale, Luis Garcia-Guijarro Ramos, Anne Gilmour-Bryson, Christian Guzzo, Piers Mitchell, Helen Nicholson, Jonathan Riley-Smith, and Joseph Maria Sans i Trave, all of whom generously made their research available to me, often before publication.

*Reading, 2006*  
M.C.B.

*Preface to the First Edition*



I wrote this book for two main reasons. Firstly, because the trial of the Templars was an affair of considerable importance in the middle ages which has been unjustly neglected by historians writing in English, and secondly, because I believe that the event has some relevance to the world of the late twentieth century so many of whose peoples have been, and continue to be, oppressed by regimes which use terror and torture to enforce conformity of thought and action.

I have received ungrudging help from many people in the writing of this book, but I should particularly like to record my thanks to Dr Bernard Hamilton of the University of Nottingham, Professor J. C. Holt of the University of Reading, and above all, to my wife, Elizabeth, the value of whose encouragement, support and criticism cannot be adequately expressed. I should also like to thank Mrs Janet Cory and Mrs Audrey Munro for the typing of the manuscript, Professor Lewis Thorpe, the editor of *Nottingham Mediaeval Studies*, for kindly granting permission for the reuse of material from my article 'Propaganda in the Middle Ages: The Charges against the Templars', which appeared in 1973, and the Syndics and editors at Cambridge University Press for their interest in the work.

*Reading, 1977*

*M.C.B.*

## Abbreviations



Baluze	<i>Vitae Paparum Avenionensium</i> , ed. E. Baluze, new edn. G. Mollat, 4 vols., Paris, 1914–27
<i>Cont Nangis</i>	Guillaume de Nangis, <i>Chronique latine de Guillaume de Nangis, de 1113 à 1300 avec les continuations de cette chronique de 1300 à 1368</i> , ed. H. Géraud, vol. 1, Paris, 1843
PL	<i>Patrologiae Cursus Completus, Series Latina</i> , 221 vols., Paris, 1844–64; <i>Series Secunda</i> , 4 vols., ed. J. P. Migne, Paris, 1845–6
Procès	<i>Le Procès des Templiers</i> , ed. J. Michelet. Collection de Documents Inédits sur l'Histoire de France, 2 vols., Paris, 1841–51
RH	<i>Revue Historique</i>
RHC <sup>r</sup>	<i>Recueil des Historiens des Croisades: Historiens Occidentaux</i> , 5 vols., Paris, 1844–95; <i>Historiens Orientaux</i> , 5 vols., Paris, 1872–1906.
RHG	<i>Recueil des Historiens des Gaules et de la France</i> , 23 vols., M. Bouquet, <i>et al.</i> Paris, 1738–1876
RQH	<i>Revue des Questions Historiques</i>
RS	Rolls Series