

"Speculative Masonry" had been introduced from England, on the Continent of Europe, where it was enthusiastically adopted as a pure code of morality and Universal Brotherhood.

The High degrees, as they are called, being the additions made to the original "Craft" degrees of Speculative Masonry to all above that of "Master Mason," which subsequently included the "Royal Arch degree." These High degrees were first promulgated about 1741, or a few years earlier—unknown before that period—and Modern Templary arose at the same time from the supposed connection that had traditionally existed between the Ancient Military Templars and the old Christian Builders of the Cloisters; but it was not until about 1780 (although known in Great Britain and Ireland some 20 or 30 years earlier) that these degrees secured any official Masonic recognition in connection with the degree of the "Royal Arch," to represent the Chivalric fraternities of the Middle Ages and provide for Christian Masonry being worked with the Universal Craft. They were at first, and for many years afterwards, conferred under Craft Masonic Warrants to give them sufficient legality to exist as distinct degrees allied to Free Masonry.

The old rituals of the Templar Encampments, as they were called, had but little uniformity, or any research to show how the Masonic connection originated, being but the fabrication of Masonic enthusiasts carried away by false impressions, the creation of their own fancy.

The degrees of Masonic Templary are not and never were intended to represent the *Military* features of the