

PINPOINT



TERRACOTTA WARRIORS: UNVEILED

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Knights of Europe

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The order of knighthood started out as a military ethos, whereby a man-at-arms would pledge his sword and loyalty to a lord of higher standing in exchange for land, protection and privileges. The service element was paramount, since in the absence of central authority and rule of law, and in lands deprived of large urban centers, a warrior community bound by oaths of fealty was the most effective means of social cohesion. A knight had to show prowess by deeds of arms. A knight had to demonstrate fidelity to his lord. A knight had to be companionable to illustrate that he was a man of character who could command the allegiance of friends and followers. A great knight also had to foster not only a reputation of near

invulnerability, but he also had to leave behind a legacy of greatness, a myth and legend of his deeds.

Knights are commonly the longsword-weilding and mounted warriors of medieval Europe and are one of the most influential groups in shaping the entire European world in terms of government, political power, Christianity and other major factors in the history of Europe and neighboring lands and during the Christian crusades. Similar to the Japanese samurai, knights are servants of the monarchy or other political leaders especially during the middle ages and are associated with the ideals of chivalry, Christianity and code of conduct. The concept of knighthood as an elite warrior should uphold the values of

loyalty, honor, benevolence and faith.

Famous orders of knighthood in history are the Knights Templar, Order of Saint Lazarus, Knights Hospitaller, Teutonic Knights, Royal Order of the Seraphim. Some of them are subjects to many literary and visual arts specifically during the Renaissance periods especially the Knights Templar who became objects of legend and are found in many famous books and novels in modern literature. In popular culture and modern times, knights are still very famous subjects in many historical or fantasy movies, animations and video games.

Historically, the ideals of chivalry were popularized in medieval literature, especially the Matter of Britain and Matter of France, the former based on Geoffrey

of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* ("History of the Kings of Britain"), written in the 1130s. Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* ("The Death of Arthur"), written in 1485, was important in defining the ideal of chivalry which is essential to the modern concept of the knight as an elite warrior sworn to uphold the values of faith, loyalty, courage, and honour. During the Renaissance, the genre of chivalric romance became popular in literature, growing ever more idealistic and eventually giving rise to a new form of realism in literature popularised by Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. This novel explored the ideals of knighthood and their incongruity with the reality of Cervantes' world. In the late medieval

"THE 7 KNIGHTLY VIRTUES: COURAGE, JUSTICE, MERCY, GENEROSITY, FAITH, NOBILITY, HOPE"

period, new methods of warfare began to render classical knights in armour obsolete, but the titles remained in many nations.

Heraldry is the study of a system of symbols used to represent individuals, families, countries, and such institutions as churches and universities. The basic heraldry symbol is the coat of arms. Coats of arms were originally used on the shields of knights. Heraldry is related to systems of symbolism, such as seals and flags. It also is connected with genealogy, the study of family history.

The rulers of countries in ancient times used special messengers called heralds to deliver messages and orders around the kingdom. In the Middle Ages, heralds became personal assistants for the king and the position carried many privileges. It was a crime to interfere with the work of these men. The first coat of

arms was first used in the Twelfth Century. Christian knights from Europe who fought in the Crusades used them. The Europeans wanted to get control of Palestine from the Muslims. The knights wore heavy metal armor during battle, and helmets covered their faces. They showed coats of arms on their shields and flags so their followers could recognize them in battle.

Heraldry also served as like an identification card when not in battle. European societies in the middle ages were governed by a political and military system called feudalism. Under this type of order, landowners gave noble's possession but not ownership of land in exchange for military and protective services. The upper classes consisted of royalty, nobility, and clergy. Members of these classes had their possessions and official documents marked with their coat of arms. The common people did not have coats of arms.

Some orders of knighthood, such as the Knights Templar, have become the subject of legend; others have disappeared into obscurity. Today, a number of orders of knighthood continue to exist in several countries, such as the English Order of the Garter, the Swedish Royal Order of the Seraphim, and the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav. Each of these orders has its

own criteria for eligibility, but knighthood is generally granted by a head of state to selected persons to recognise some meritorious achievement.

Knighthood in the Middle Ages was closely linked with horsemanship (and especially the joust) from its origins in the 12th century until its final flowering as a fashion among the high nobility in the Duchy of Burgundy in the 15th century. This linkage is reflected in the etymology of chivalry, cavalier and related terms (see Etymology section below). The special prestige given to mounted warriors finds a parallel in the *furusiyya* in the Muslim world, and the Greek *hippeus* and the Roman *eques* of Classical Antiquity.

In Ancient Rome there was a knightly class *Ordo Equestris* (order of mounted nobles) from which European knighthood may have been derived. Knighthood as known in Europe was characterized by the combination of two elements, feudalism and service as a mounted warrior. Both arose under the reign of the Frankish emperor Charlemagne, from which the knighthood of the Middle Ages can be seen to have had its genesis. Some portions of the armies of Germanic peoples who occupied Europe from the 3rd century CE, had always been mounted, and some armies,





such as those of the Ostrogoths, comprised mainly cavalry. However it was the Franks who came to dominate Western and Central Europe after the fall of Rome, and they generally fielded armies composed of large masses of infantry, with an infantry elite, the *comitatus*, which often rode to battle on horseback rather than marching on foot. Riding to battle had two key advantages: it reduced fatigue, particularly when the elite soldiers wore armour (as was increasingly the case in the centuries after the fall of the Western Roman empire); and it gave the soldiers more mobility to react to the raids of the enemy, particularly the Muslim invasions which reached Europe in 711. So it was that the armies of the Frankish ruler and warlord Charles Martel, which defeated the Umayyad Arab invasion at the Battle of Tours in 732, were still largely infantry armies, the elites riding to battle but dismounting to fight, providing a hard core for the levy of the infantry warbands.

As the 8th century progressed into the Carolingian Age, the Franks were

generally on the attack, and larger numbers of warriors took to their horses to ride with the Emperor in his wide-ranging campaigns of conquest. At about this time the Franks increasingly remained on horseback to fight on the battlefield as true cavalry rather than as mounted infantry, and would continue to do so for centuries thereafter.

“FIGHTING FOR THEIR HONOR AND ON BEHALF OF THEIR KING”

Although in some nations the knight returned to foot combat in the 14th century, the association of the knight with mounted combat with a spear, and later a lance, remained a strong one.

From the ninth to the early eleventh centuries, invasions of the Magyars from the east, Muslims from the south, and Vikings from the north struck western Europe. This unrest ultimately spurred greater

unity in England and Germany, but in northern France centralized authority broke down and the region split into smaller and smaller political units. By the ninth century, many knights and nobles held estates (*fiefs*) granted by greater lords in return for military and other service. This feudal system (from the medieval Latin *feodum* or *feudum*, fee or fief) enabled a cash-poor but land-rich lord to support a military force. But this was not the only way that land was held, knights maintained, and loyalty to a lord retained. Lands could be held unconditionally, landless knights could be sheltered in noble households, and loyalties could be maintained through kinship, friendship, or wages.

Mounted armored warriors, or knights (from the Old English *cniht*, boy or servant), were the dominant forces of medieval armies. The twelfth-century Byzantine princess Anna Komnena wrote that the impact of a group of charging French knights “might rupture the walls of Babylon.” At first, most knights were of



William Marshal is one of the greatest knights of the middle ages. It is said that he satisfied

all the virtues of knighthood despite the odds against him. He was immensely skillful with all sorts of arms; was loyal to his lord; defended the faith gallantly; won the favor of a great woman; was the most famous knight of his times and thereafter; was respected,

diplomatic and merciful. He made his mark defeating all comers at the many tournaments held during his day, and that didn't mean he won trophies; no, he took names — so that he could ransom those defeated knights with their families. Aside from actual battle, the tournament was the one place a knight could enjoy combat, be seen by his betters, and display his prowess. And with the money William bought better arms and land, on top of gaining prestige. About these guys. Even at the age of 70, such was his physical and moral strength that he was able to lead the royal army against France and dictate the terms of peace. He reissued the Magna Carta, even though the barons were defeated, organized a successor regency and ensured the orderly transition of his own estates to his sons.

humble origins, some of them not even possessing land, but by the later twelfth century knights were considered members of the nobility and followed a system of courteous knightly behavior called chivalry (from cheval, the French word for horse). During and after the fourteenth century, weapons that were particularly effective against horsemen appeared on the battlefield, such as the longbow, pike, halberd, and cannon. Yet despite the knights' gradual loss of military importance, the system by which noble families were identified, called heraldry, continued to flourish and became more complex. The magnificence of their war games—called tournaments—also increased, as did the number of new knightly orders, such as the Order of the Garter.

If you are ever in Europe, we recommend you visit the biggest medieval city in Europe, the picturesque old town of Rhodes is an unexpected delight. A rabbit's warren of narrow streets and buildings of traditional architecture, much of the town as it appears today was built by the Knights

of St. John at the end of the Byzantine era. Following the conquest of the Holy Land by Islamic forces, the crusading Knights retreated to Rhodes, over which they claimed sovereignty, fortifying the northern tip of the island with the castle, towers, bridges, and gates that still stand. The Knights would later move again, weathering a name change and establishing a more famous state on the island of Malta. What they left behind saw an invasion of the Turks, who built mosques, public baths and mansions for the new patrons, followed by Italian colonizers after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and British bombs during World War II. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1988, it's a minor miracle so much of the town's architecture has managed to survive 700 years of relentless give and take. For that, the flaneur in me was quite grateful this afternoon.

(Illustrations provided by UNESCO World Heritage. Heraldry and Teutonic Knights in Battle. Photographs by Michael Nassar. left to right. Street of Rhodes, Knight in Rust Armour, and Training Field.)

TOP 5 DESTINATIONS



MACHU PICHU Often referred to as “The Lost City of the Incas”, Machu Picchu is an ancient Inca city, high in the Andes of Peru. Since it was not plundered by the Spanish when they conquered the Incas, it has become an important cultural site and is considered a sacred place. A visit to Peru would not be complete without it.



TIMBUKTU Located on the Niger River in the country of Mali. Timbuktu has a long history as a trading outpost that linked Southern and Northern Africa among the Sahara Desert..



SYDNEY The largest, oldest and most cosmopolitan city in Australia. As the oldest European settlement, the city is surrounded by nature and national parks, which extend through the suburbs and right into the shores of the harbour.

TAINAN

This former capital during the imperial times is the oldest city in Taiwan. Famous for its temples, historic buildings and snack foods.



ROME Also known as the “Eternal City”, is the capital and largest city in Italy and the Lazio region. This once centre city of the globe’s greatest civilizations is now classified as a “global” city with historical ruins and modern qualities.



FOR NOVEMBER



GRAND MARCHÉ

A two-story market with stalls and shops in Timbuktu, has a restaurant on the top floor with an incredible view of Timbuktu.



NARROW DOOR CAFE

Narrow Door Cafe or Zhai Men Kafei is located on Namen Road across from the Confucian Temple. Narrow Door is part of a new movement where old buildings are turned into funky bars and cafes.



ART GALLERY CAFE

Located at the eastern end of the Grand Court, Art Gallery serves modern Australian dishes with fantastic views over Woolloomooloo and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

LA TAVERNACCIA



This family run restaurant cooks traditional Italian dishes with a warm and friendly atmosphere. If you want a taste of the authentic food,

this is a must eat stop.



QUNUQ

Named after the Quechua word meaning warm, this restaurant is located in the Sumaq Machu Pichu Hotel. Using native ingredients like pumpkin, trout and alpaca in haute cuisine, Qunuq promises an unforgettable gustatory adventure with culinary connections to the timeless Inca spirit.