

Fact Sheet 342**ON THE TRAIL OF JEAN CHASTELLAIN****By Sally Machin****The Steward No. 32, 2024**

Who was Jean Chastellain? We know that he was the artist who produced the four exquisite windows, illustrating the Life of Christ, above the altar in the Minster, but comparatively little is known about him. However, we do know that he worked from 1517-1547 and that he was the foremost French Renaissance Parisian master glass-painter. He was often inspired by the engravings of Dürer, and his work can be found in many churches throughout France today.

The huge Temple enclosure, built by the Order of the Knights Templar, dated from 1140, and covered a quarter of Paris; within its walls stood the Temple Church. King Philip the Fair, threatened by the powerful Templars, dissolved the Order in 1307 but the great enclosure remained. Chapels were added to the Church in the 16th century and Chastellain made the stained-glass windows for the Chapel of the Sacred Name of Jesus. During the Revolution Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were imprisoned in the Temple complex before their execution.

The Temple Church was razed to the ground by the Revolutionaries but by the foresight of one Revolutionary, Lenoir, who established the Musée des Monuments, twenty glass windows were saved. When the House of Bourbon was restored in 1814, the collection was dismantled, and five window panels found their way to a pawnbroker. These were purchased by Henry Gally Knight, the Sherriff of Nottingham, in 1815.

Gally Knight put them up for sale at Christie's in London but there were no purchasers for the first four panels. The fifth panel Christ bearing his cross was sold to a P C Foster. Gally Knight presented the unsold panels to the Minster, where they were firmly attributed to Chastellain. Miller of London skilfully adjusted the sizing and installed them over the altar.

In January 2014, in a sale in New York another panel appeared, depicting the Adoration of the Magi. The stylistic characteristics, together with technical features, led experts to believe that this was also painted by Chastellain. In addition, the glass historian, Dr Françoise Perrot was almost certain that this panel was made for the Temple Church. It was purchased by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

It is believed that these windows came from a cycle of eleven depicting scenes throughout the life of Christ, and David Turner has identified the eleven lancets of the Chapel.

Parts of another window, Ecce Homo, can be seen in the Bristol Lord Mayor's Chapel and yet another is in the Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers. Articles on these two windows will appear.

in later editions of The Steward. David Turner's excellent Fact Sheets 112 and 314 are recommended reading



*Adoration of the Magi by Jean Chastellain, 1546. Philadelphia Museum of Art.
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