

The Priory of Sion

Prieuré de Sion

Robert C. Newman



Claim in *The Da Vinci Code*

FACT: The Priory of Sion – a European secret society founded in 1099 – is a real organization. In 1975 Paris's Bibliothèque Nationale discovered parchments known as *Les Dossiers Secrets*, identifying numerous members of the Priory of Sion, including Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and Leonardo da Vinci.

Problems with the Claim

- If the Priory really is a secret organization, then there would be **little** evidence for its existence.
- If it is a fraud, there would be **no** evidence for its existence before the fraud was perpetrated.
- The parchments known as *Les Dossiers Secrets* were apparently discovered **inside** the Bibliothèque Nationale in 1975. How did they get there? Were they forged and planted?
- In fact, we do have some evidence about the Priory and its alleged history. Let's see.

Pierre Plantard (1920-2000)

Pierre Plantard "was the principal figure associated with the **known** history of the Priory of Sion, and is widely believed to have been the main **creator** of many of the claims about the Priory's supposed past history that later inspired the books *Holy Blood*, *Holy Grail* and *The Da Vinci Code* among others."

"Pierre Plantard" in *Wikipedia*

Plantard

- Pierre Plantard is mentioned in *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* as the current Grand Master of the Priory of Sion.
- The Plantard family is mentioned in *The Da Vinci Code* as descendants of the French Merovingian royal family (442).



Priory Founded 1956

The Priory was founded in 1956 by Pierre Plantard and Andre Bonhomme, who signed the statutes and registration documents required by the 1901 French Law of Associations. The Priory's purpose was to promote the "Defense and Liberty of Low-Cost Housing." The original Priory of Sion had nothing to do with the Templars, the Grail, or related matters, according to co-founder Bonhomme.

"Pierre Plantard" in *Wikipedia*

"Priory of Sion Debunked" at *<http://priory-of-sion.com>*

Piory of Sion Registration



SOUS-PRÉFECTURE
ANNEMASSE (HAUTE-SAVOIE)
7 MAI 1956
ARRIVÉE



KM 94550

PRIORÉ DE SION
Chevalerie d'Initiation et Règle Catholique
& d'Union Indépendante Traditionaliste



Monsieur
Sous-Préfet

Monsieur le Sous-Préfet,

Nous soussignés
l'Association, ayant pour titre :

MAISON DE SION
sous titre : C.I.R.C.U.I.T

sollicitons de votre haute bienveillance l'autorisation de constituer légalement cette sus-dite association conformément à la Loi du 1er Juillet 1901 et Décret du 16 Août 1901.

L'objet de cette association serait : 1° la constitution d'une association catholique destinée à restituer l'Antique Chevalerie, 2° Poursuite d'étude et pratique de la solidarité.

Son Siège Social serait :

"Sous-Cassan"
à ANNEMASSE (Haute-Savoie)

Le Bureau du Conseil de cette association serait ainsi composé :

Président : BONHOMME André, dit : Stanis BELLAS, né le 7 décembre 1934 à ANNEMASSE (Haute-Savoie) - de Nationalité française, .../

profession : Correspondant de Presse demeurant 16, rue E. Millet, à GAILLARD (Hte-Savoie)

L. Jean, né le 7 mars 1931, à Plainpalais GENEVE : française
- Demeurant 28, rue du Commerce à VILLE LA GRANGE (le)

Arpe, dit : CHYREN, né le 18 mars 1920, à PARIS (7) (Carte Nationale n° 537) demeurant : Sous-Cassan

d, né le 11 Décembre 1928 à EVIAN-LES-BAINS (Hte-française, sion, demeurant : 1, rue des Marronniers à AMBILVOIE)

à cette présente demande :

Statuts, sur papier timbré.

numérotées.

r d'une réponse favorable, veuillez croire, avec nos remerciements anticipés, à l'assurance d'un dévouement dévoués.

Pour l'Association

Par délégation :

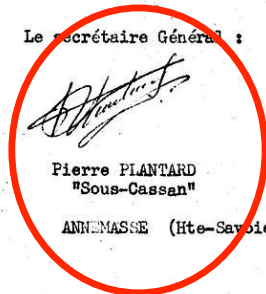
Le Secrétaire Général :

Le Président
Bureau du Conseil :

Pierre PLANTARD
"Sous-Cassan"

ANNEMASSE (Hte-Savoie)

André BONHOMME
dit : Stanis BELLAS.



Plantard's Organizations

Already from 1937 onward, Plantard had been involved in the creation of several bogus organizations: the French Union (1937), the French National Renewal (1941), and the Alpha Galates (1942), an order of knighthood for which he was briefly imprisoned by the Vichy government for not registering his group. Plantard later served six months in prison for fraud and embezzlement (1953-54).

"Pierre Plantard" in *Wikipedia* and "Priory of Sion Debunked"

Priory of Sion Mythologized

Plantard revived the Priory from 1962 onward, "creating a mystique involving the legends of Gisors, Berenger Saunier and Rennes-la-Chateau, secret societies, his claim to be from a French Line of Kings, the keeper of secrets and possessor of secret parchments – he also claimed that the Priory of Sion was founded during the Crusades by Godfrey de Bouillon, was linked with the Knights Templar, and produced a list of Grand Masters spanning centuries."

"Priory of Sion Debunked"

Plantard's Downfall

In 1993, "Plantard claimed that Roger-Patrice Pelat had once been grandmaster of the Priory of Sion. Pelat was a friend of then-President of France Françoise Mitterand and center of a scandal involving French Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy. A French court ordered a search of Plantard's home, turning up many documents, including some proclaiming Plantard the true king of France. Under oath, Plantard admitted that he had fabricated everything, including Pelat's involvement with the Priory of Sion."

"Pierre Plantard" in *Wikipedia*

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Response to the Claim

- As best we can tell, the Priory of Sion is an invention of Pierre Plantard and Andre Bonhomme, initially to promote lost-cost housing in the area where they lived.
- It appears to have been "upgraded" by Plantard into a mystical secret society with a striking history and an impressive list of grand masters.

The Priory of Sion

Chevalerie d'Initiation et Règle Catholique
& d'Union Indépendante Traditionaliste

Appears to be a hoax!