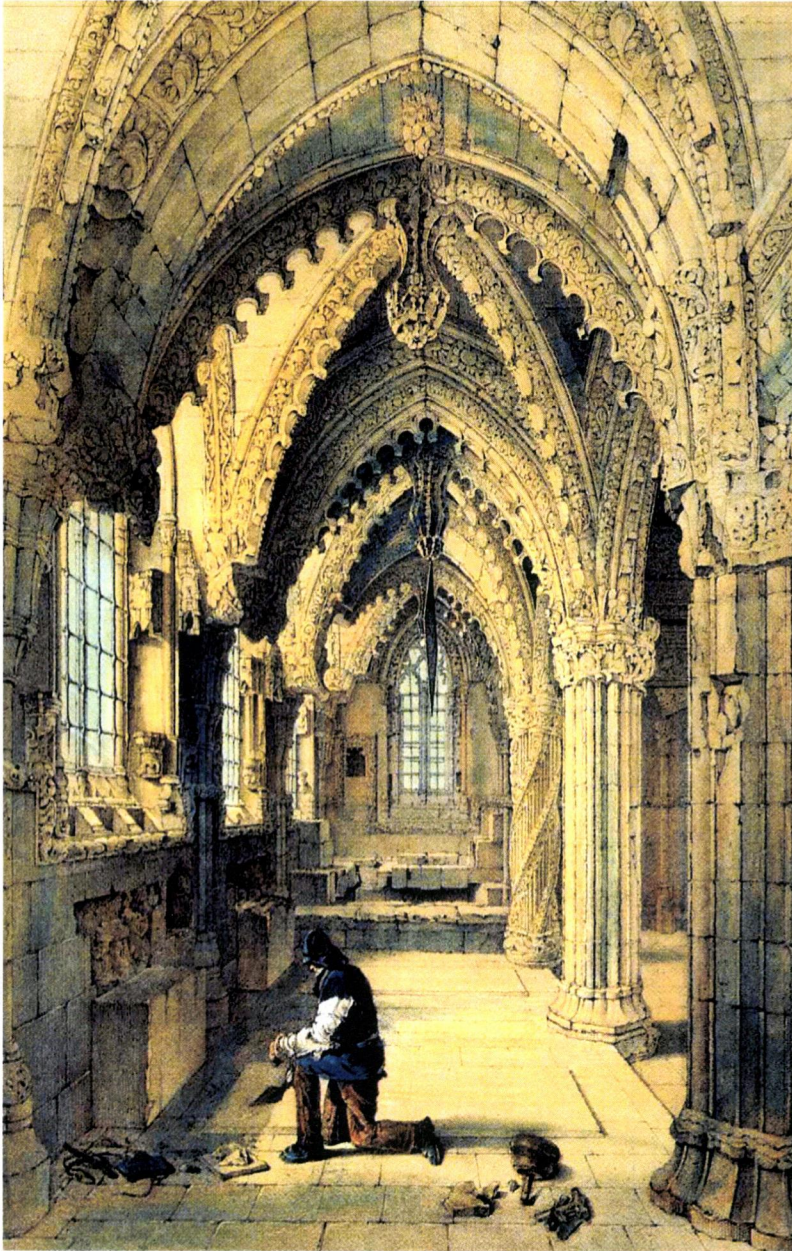


"To write on rock is to write on a solid parchment;
but it requires a pilgrimage to see it".

Albert Pike, in Moral and Dogma



A visit to ROSSLYN CHAPEL

by: Joerg W. Butscher 32° joergwin@sympatico.ca



scanned from ... ROSSLYN CHAPEL by the Earl of Rosslyn

*A Gift to all of Freemasonry
from "the Operative Mason" of yesterday
to the "Speculative Mason" of today*

As a Master Mason and a member of both the Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies, as well as a Mocha Shriners, I became intrigued, after reading DAN BROWN'S book THE DA VINCI CODE, by the many symbols the Author used to make this book "an amazing tale with enigma piled on secrets stacked on riddles". It is truly a fascinating story. In my view, this novel is neither anti-Christian in general nor anti-Catholic in particular, nor anti-Freemasonry.

"The Knights Templars is an Order formed in 1118. Their mission was to protect travelers on the roads to the Holy Lands. In short order the Templars blossomed to a very large organization. Their Mission today is to enhance the Masonic virtues of faith, hope and charity, supported by wisdom, strength and beauty, adding the chivalric principles of the Crusades of honour, duty and courage, so that the results will be in harmony with our Masonic beliefs." 1)



photo by: joergwin



Rosslyn Chapel and the THE DA VINCI CODE

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A. A. O. N. M., Mocha Shriners, London, ON. Canada

Sources: ROSSLYN CHAPEL by The Earl of Rosslyn 1997

www.rosslynchapel.org.uk

www.rosslyntemplars.org.uk

www.lothianbuses.co.uk

www.edinburgharchitecture.co.uk/rosslyn_chapel.htm

1) Family of Freemasonry in Ontario <> www.grandlodge.on.ca

2) Heiderose Brandt Butscher, PhD.

3) Rosslyn and the Western Mystery tradition





photo by: joergwin

The final 14 words of Matthew 28 (the last chapter) is...

*"and lo I am with you always
even unto the end of the world"*

DAN BROWN, the Author is "demythologizing the origins of the eternal-feminine which has dominated many cultures of the past as a strong female persona that represents the creative and dynamic sexual as well as reproductive force, both in nature as well as in human relationships. This feminine persona attains divine stature in some cultures, and in others she represents the strong and fecund force of reproduction and generation". 2)



Stone carving, St. Marien Cathedral, Lübeck, Germany

photo by: joergwin

DAN BROWN compares the symbol \triangle to a "blade representing all that is masculine" and likewise the inverse symbol ∇ "is the chalice, which represents the feminine". He describes the Equilateral Triangle this way... "The Blade and Chalice. Fused as one. The Star of David \star ... the perfect union of male and female... Salomon's Seal... marking the Holy of Holies, where the male and female deities -Yahweh and Shekinah - were thought to dwell".

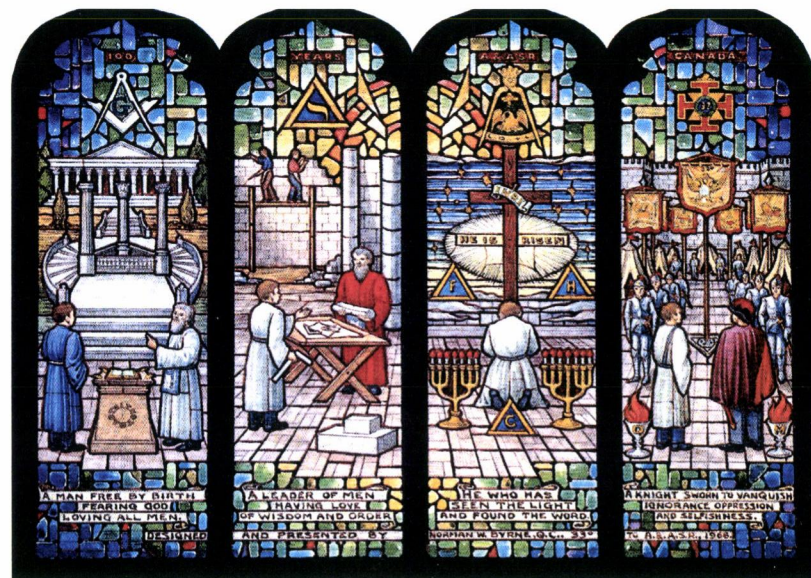
Br. George H. Steinmetz, the distinguished and well qualified Author of the book FREEMASONRY ITS HIDDEN MEANING, describes a spiritual interpretation of the esoteric work of the Masonic lodge, analyzes the lectures and symbols of the three degrees and describes the Equilateral Triangle this way... "Envisage the square on a quadrant. If it is progressed thirty degrees (which is 1/12th of a circle and a complete sign of the zodiac) to sixty degrees, then joined by a cross piece, an equilateral triangle is formed. The ancient symbol of Deity is an equilateral triangle with an angle pointing downward ▾ toward His creation. The perfect man is symbolized by an equilateral triangle with an angle pointing upward ▴ toward his Creator. Here is the SYMBOL of man, "in the image and likeness" of the SYMBOL of his Creator"... "When these two triangles are intertwined they form a six-pointed star, the shield of David, ⬠, or seal of Salomon, as it is likewise known, which for ages has been the Grand Symbol of the perfect union of the Supreme Being with the Divine Man".



Freemasonry is truly the oldest and largest fraternity in the world, dating back to the Middle Ages and farther. It is also the most controversial organization in the world -- condemned by many religious figures as "satanic" and spoofed by many others because of its "secretive nature", yet much truth has been written about "Freemasonry".

The Guilds, the Templars, the Rosicrucians and the Masons have all recognized something of their own moral teachings in the complex allegory presented by Rosslyn Chapel.

An arcanum, an illustration of symbols, in stone, an unfinished labour of Brotherly love will last forever. Relief, Truth, Temperance, Fortitude and Justice are all evident at Rosslyn Chapel, together with a genuine belief in the one living and true God who will punish vice and reward virtue.



Memorial Window to commemorate 100th Anniversary of Scottish Rite Masonry in Canada. Window depicts craft and Scottish Rite Masonry. Designed and presented to Scottish Rite bodies by Norman W. Byrne 33°



photo by: *joerquin*

The six double stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel, added in 1867, show the twelve apostles St. Peter & St. James the Greater; St. John & St. Andrew; St. Philip & St. Bartholomew; St. Matthew & St. Thomas; St. James the Less & St. Thaddeus; St. Simon & St. Matthias.

When I visited the 15th century *Rosslyn Chapel*, in October 2005, I was captivated by one of Scotland's loveliest and most historic churches, renowned for its famous carvings. The Architecture within the Chapel is glorious and some of the greatest artifacts in archaeological folklore are said to exist under and within *Rosslyn Chapel*.

The most convenient route to the village of Roslin, 10 KM south of Edinburgh's Waverley Train Station, is by the Lothian Bus 15A, from St. Andrew Square, Princess Street or Lothian Road Bus stop to Roslin Hotel.



photos by: *joerquin*

The first time that I was attracted to the story of *Rosslyn Chapel* was after reading the book *THE DA VINCI CODE* by Dan Brown. Built by the "Templars", it is known as the "Chapel of Codes" because of the many symbols carved into the stones of the chapel. R.W. Bro. Kenneth J. M. MacKenzie, D.D.G.M. Algoma East District 2004/5, Sault Ste Marie, described *Rosslyn Chapel* as a "wonderful place with so much masonic history, its almost surreal".

Bro. Ken also introduced me to an informative and fascinating web site www.rosslynchapel.org.uk which in turn linked to www.rosslyntemplars.org.uk which is dedicated to researching the Knights Templar and their History, Scottish Freemasonry and other masonic subjects of interest, as well as investigating *Rosslyn Chapel* from a historical point of view.



photo by: joerguin

Matthew c21 v42 " did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builder rejected, the same is become the head of the corner"



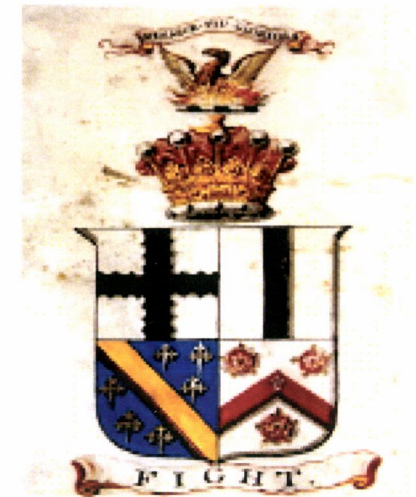
The numerical code of 7 in the Book of Matthew is hidden within Rosslyn Chapel. It is laid out precisely in the direction of the sun which rises due east and sets due west. It contains 14 freestanding pillars. Sept. 21st St. Matthew day, in the Biblical period the 7th month, the autumn equinox. Consider the following: c12 v45 = 7 spirits, c18 v12 = 7 times. c22 v25 = 7 brethren, c15 v34 = 7 loves, c15 v38 = 7 baskets.



photo by: joerquin

Similarly the Master Builder must have been aware of the Old Testament, Haggai chapter 2 verse 1, "In the seventh month in the one and twentieth day of the month came the word of the Lord" - Haggai unto Zerubbabel regarding the rebuilding of the "House of God" on the site of the ruined Temple of Salomon. 3)

This impressive web site is authored by a small group of distinguished Scottish Freemasons, collectively known as Rosslyn Templars, together with the services of several other prominent non-Scottish Masonic historians. Their goal is to show that *Rosslyn Chapel* is part of a "jigsaw" in placing *Rosslyn Chapel* into the historical Scottish ecclesiastical jigsaw.



Coat of arms of the earl of Rosslyn

The Collegiate Church of St. Matthew or *Rosslyn Chapel*, was founded in 1446 by Sir William St. Clair, third and last Prince of Orkney, a great and rich man, with strong Templar connections belonging to the orders of "Knight of the Golden Fleece" & "Knight of the Coquille St. Jacques".

The chapel took 40 years to build and survived attacks during the Reformation and occupation by Cromwell's troops a century later simply because of its "Freemason" connection. It was damaged in 1688 when a mob ransacked its "Popish" furniture and vestments.

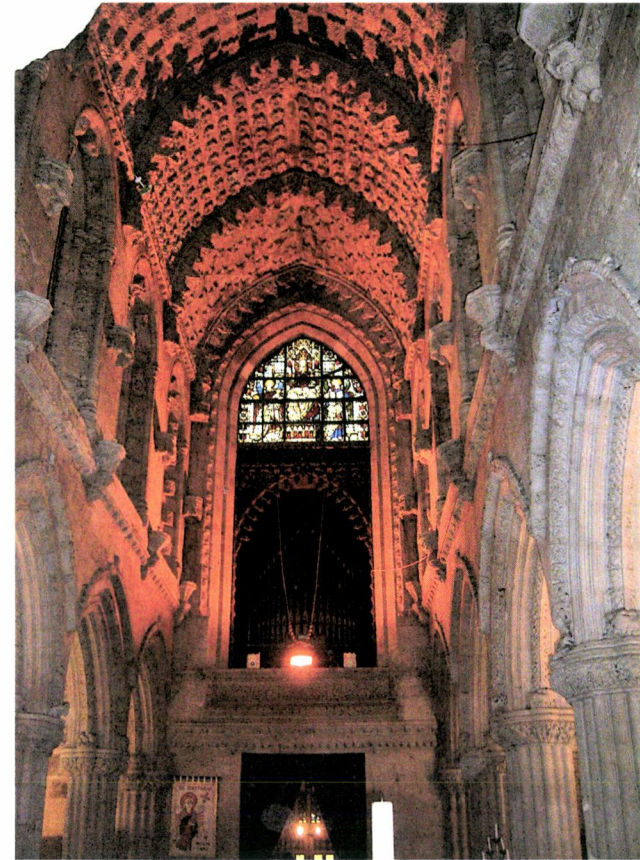
The foundation stone for a whole Church was laid on St. Matthew's day, 1446, however, only the choir, side chapels and the Sacristy were completed. The foundations for a much larger nave at *Rosslyn Chapel*, excavated in the 19th century, suggest grander plans were made for the chapel and therefore *Rosslyn Chapel's* asymmetry is just one of the many unique architectural features. The orientation is due east & west, marked out by the solar ray by ancient tradition. A double equilateral triangle regulates the proportions at Rosslyn.



scanned from ... ROSSLYN CHAPEL by the Earl of Rosslyn



photo by: *joergwin*



The stone-carved plants and flowers that adorn *Rosslyn Chapel* are reminiscent of the Book of Matthew - *ch.6-vs 28-29* "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."



photos by: *joergwin*

A series of carved figures, the "Danse Macabre", an allegorical representation of death's supremacy over mankind, illustrated on a ripped arch, show an abbot, a king, a bishop, a cardinal, a gardner, a child, a farmer and others, each with a skeleton next to it. The representation of the star of Bethlehem and sculpted figures of the Virgin and Child and Eastern Kings, associated with the birth of Christ, is extraordinary.

Carvings, depict the following images: the crucifixion and the crown of thorn, three figures observing the crucifixion and Angels rolling away the stone, Angels holding a cross and a Devil with kneeling couple, the Lamb of God, Lucifer, the fallen angel, bound and upside down. Similarly, the seven virtues and the seven deadly sins are gloriously carved into stone: Indian corn or maize, a plant unknown in Britain at the time the chapel was built, is carved into a window arch, both fascinating and curious. The significance of the native corn is that Newfoundland and/or the North American Coast may have been discovered before Columbus.

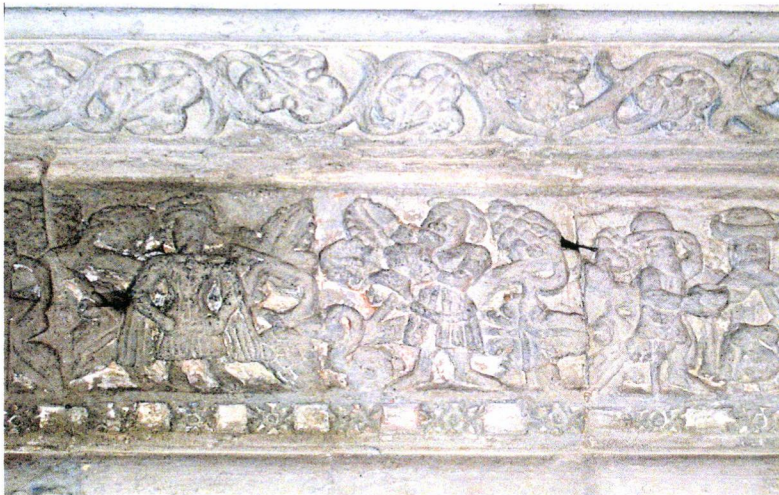


photo by: joerguin

Rosslyn Chapel in all aspects of life is a very dynamic and vibrant place and has been in ownership by the Rosslyn family since its foundation in 1446 (Peter, the 7th Earl of Rosslyn). The Chapel had many Royal visitors from George V and Queen Mary in 1931, to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in 1961 and the Prince of Wales in 1998. St. Matthew's Collegiate Church is a member of the Episcopalian Church and is still used today as a place of worship. It holds regular services with Family Eucharist on Sundays at 10:30am and Evensong at 5:00pm.

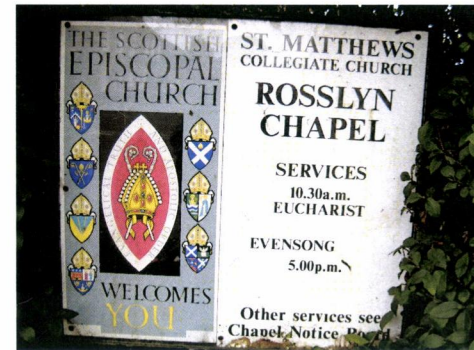


photo by: joerguin

This uniquely beautiful and historic building is currently undergoing major conservation and refurbishment. The view of the exterior of this remarkable church is presently impaired and most likely remains so for many years. A Metal scaffolding, with a walkway all around, has been erected to view the exterior not only from ground level but also from the upper level. This scaffolding, together with a heavy-duty steel roof over the chapel, protects the fine exterior stone carvings from the elements and also from destructive hands. Much research into the nature of the structure, its materials, earlier treatments and the establishment of the best course of action and techniques to be employed in the future are critical factors in the proper conservation of this jewel in stone.



The current works, valued at \$1 million, are being jointly funded by Historic Scotland, European Regional Development Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Rosslyn Chapel Trust, established in 1996.



photos by: *joergwin*



the Mason's Pillar < photo by: *joergwin*

The large variety of allegorical pillar treatments, carvings of Apostles and Martyrs, details of roof showing stars with sun, moon, dove and Christ with his hand raised in blessing, as well as the 32 different forms of arch throughout *Rosslyn Chapel* are elaborate and unique. Likewise of interest are the curious operative masons' marks on the individual stones, the use of which was rare even at the time of building.

Latest research suggests however, that the legend of the murdered apprentice is not unique to Rosslyn Chapel. Rouen Cathedral, Gloucester Cathedral, the great Mosque of Damascus, the Mosque of Damietta, Seaton Collegiate Church, near Rosslyn Chapel, plus others, all have similar legends.

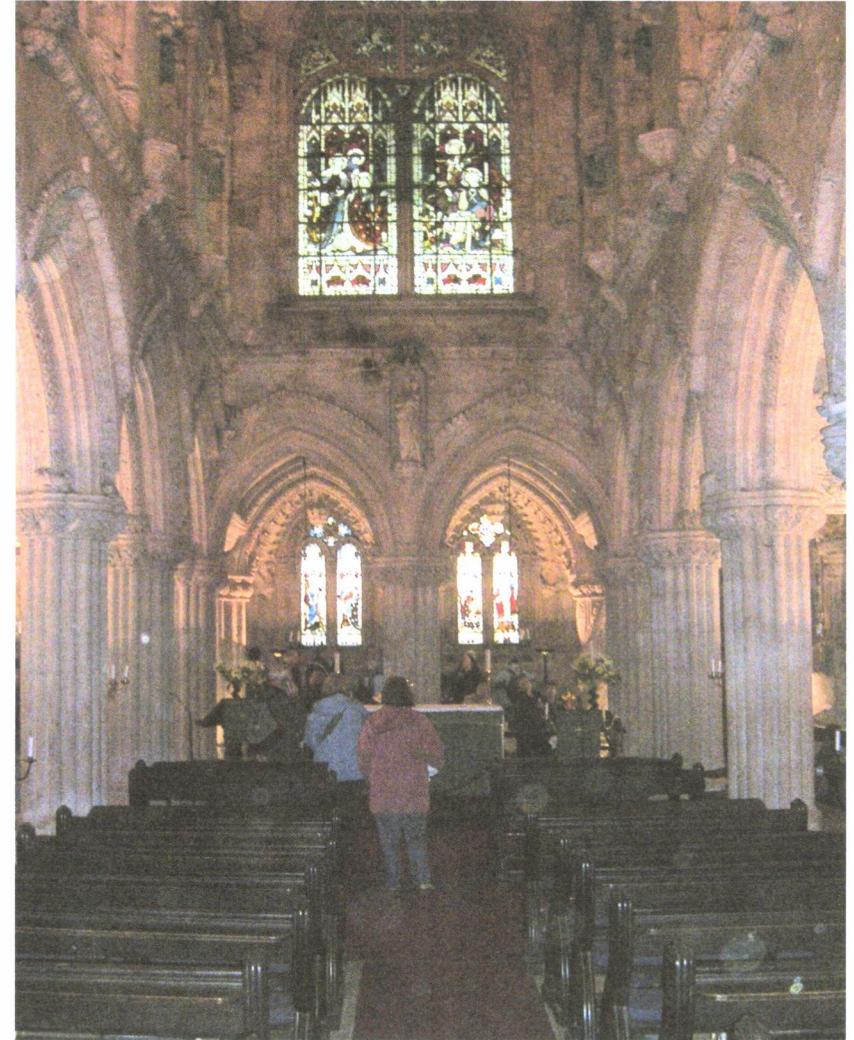
The entwined dragons at the foot of the Apprentice Pillar - eight winged serpents which have eaten evil's forbidden fruit, are symbols of Satan. The spirals coil around the "Tree of Life" form a double helix. Intriguingly, when the pillar was carved the meaning of the double helix, DNA, basis of life, was not to be discovered for another 500 years.



photos by: *joerguin*

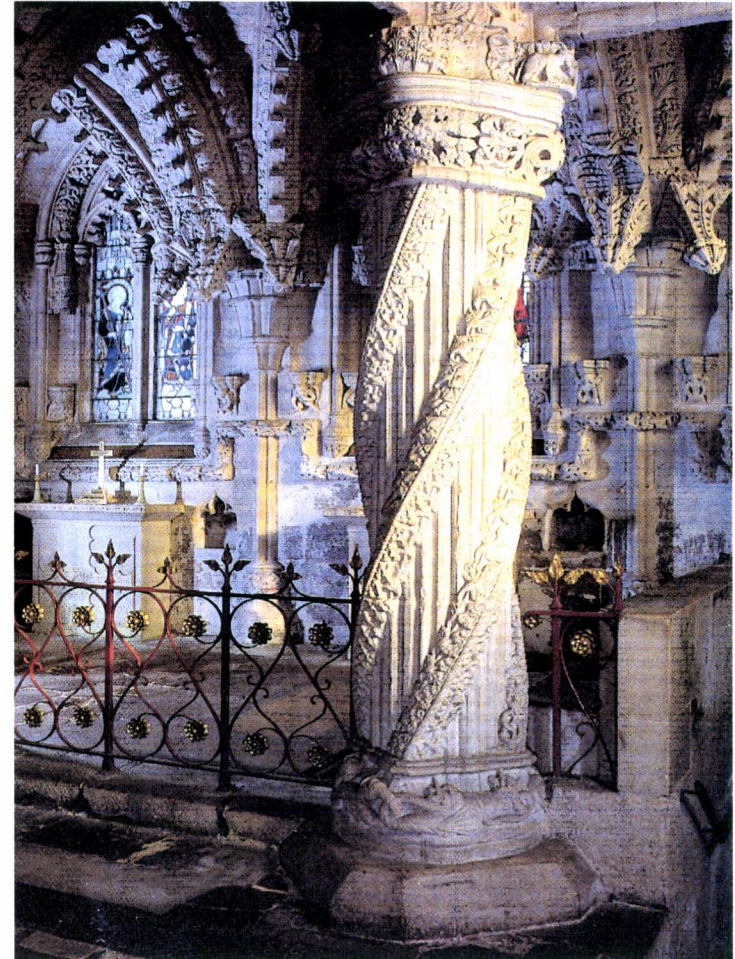
The pillar standing on the left of the Apprentice Pillar is the Mason's Pillar, said to be the work of the Master Mason, splendid, but it is less elaborate in design and execution. At the top of the Mason's Pillar is a figure of an angel holding a bible and proclaiming the gospel news of Jesus' birth. These two, very distinct Pillars in particular as well as the many other symbols in the Chapel in general, are reminiscent of Jachin and Boaze, King Salomon and Hiram Abif and the rebuilding of the Temple.

Rosslyn Chapel contains 14 free standing Pillars. Three Pillars standing are carved with musical instruments, to represent the host of God. Some of the other pillars are: a series of carvings showing Isaac on the altar with the ram caught by the horns, Abraham looking towards his son, Samson destroying the philistine lords, David killing the lion, the prodigal son, the Crucifixion and some that depict the history of the Rosslyn Family.



photos by: *joerguin*

The most famous and original carving of all at Rosslyn is the 2.5 m high extraordinary knotted "Apprentice Pillar", symbolizing the "Tree of Life", also known as the Prince's Pillar and presumably named after the founder of the chapel - William St. Clair "Prince" of Orkney.



This pillar was apparently the result of a bizarre series of events. The Master Stone Mason who commenced carving the Apprentice Pillar was unable to complete the work. He went to Rome to receive guidance on finishing it. On returning to Rosslyn the Master discovered the pillar had been finished by his apprentice and subsequently killed his young apprentice in a fit of jealousy and anger. A tiny head of a man with a slashed forehead, set at the apex of *Rosslyn Chapel* ceiling at the far northwestern corner of the building, is supposed to represent the apprentice, his murderer the corresponding head at the opposite side.