



# The Grail Hunters Timeline:

Tracking Searchers for the Holy Grail by George Smart

## Chapter 6: 2006 into the future

A complete guide to modern-day Grail researchers, theories, news, books, movies, TV, and explorations. Includes the Knights Templar, Oak Island, Rennes-le-Château, The Da Vinci Code, the Gospel of Judas, Holy Blood, Holy Grail, the Shugborough Monument, the Newport Tower, Rosslyn Chapel, the Jesus Bloodline theory, and much more: year by year, often month by month, for the last 60 years.

Key: Books, Articles, and Papers Documentaries, Movies, and DVD's

Vatican News Key Events

Items in yellow are questionable and need additional verification. Want to help? [Send Email](#)

January 2006

Picknett and Prince publish The Sion Revelation: The Truth about the Guardians of Christ's Sacred Bloodline.

German network ZDF shows Terra X: Geheimakte Sakrileg – Der Mythos von Rennes-le-Château exposes the fraudulent claim of treasure or secrets at Rennes-le-Château, featuring Jean-Luc Chaumeil, Henry Lincoln, Jan Rüdiger (Humboldt University History Professor), Antoine Captier and Claire Corbu, and journalist Jean-Jacques Bedu.



Jean-Luc Chaumeil



Jan Rüdiger



Henry Lincoln



Antoine Captier



Jean-Jacques Bedu

BBC One shows Richard Hammond and The Holy Grail with host Richard Hammond (born 1969), Tom Asbridge, Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones (Master of the Temple Church, London), Ian Robertson, Geoffrey Ashe (Arthurian scholar), Richard Barber (British historian), Simon Cox, Stephen O'Shea, Karen McDermott, Gerald O'Collins (Professor of Christology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University), and an uncredited American psychic musing about Rosslyn Chapel.



Richard Hammond



Stephen O'Shea



Geoffrey Ashe



Gerald O'Collins

February 2006

Andrew Sinclair publishes Rosslyn.

William F. Mann publishes The Templar Meridians: The Secret Mapping of the New World.

National Geographic shows The Secret Bible: Knights Templar, Warriors of God, with Tim Wallace-Murphy, Larissa Tracy (Longwood University Professor), Jill Claster (Professor of History at NYU), James Wasserman, Karen Ralls, Robin Griffith-Jones, and Stuart Beattie.



Larissa Tracy



Jill Claster



James Wasserman



Robin Griffith-Jones



Karen Ralls

March 2006

Richard Baigent and Richard Leigh's suit against Dan Brown and Da Vinci Code publisher Random House for copyright infringement comes to trial in London.

Oddvar Olsen (magazine editor of The Temple) publishes The Templar Papers: Ancient Mysteries, Secret Societies, And the Holy Grail with contributions from Lynn Picknett, Robert Lomas, Karen Ralls, Stephen Dafoe, Sandy Hamblett (publisher of the Journal of the Rennes Alchemist), Yuri Leitch (Glastonbury-based artist), Vincent Zubras, Jr., (Grand Master of the



Vincent Zubras, Jr.

Dallas-based Ordo Pauperum Commilitum Christi et Templi Solomonis, Equites Templi. He claims direct lineage from the Templars and possession of the Larmenius Charter, a document purported to list Grand Masters since Jacques de Molay), Barry Dunford, Bob Mander (Liverpool-based researcher), Mark McGiveron (researcher and writer based in Glastonbury), Damien Prestbury (researcher in Manchester), Ani Williams (new age generalist in Sedona), and Terence Wilson. Many of the chapters appeared as articles in The Temple.



Bart Ehrman publishes Truth and Fiction in The Da Vinci Code.



Piers Paul Read publishes Templars: The Dramatic History of the Knights Templar, the Most Powerful Military Order of the Crusades.



Dan Burstein publishes an updated Secrets of the Code.



The History Channel series Digging for the Truth shows The Da Vinci Code: Bloodlines, where host Josh Bernstein interviews Alice Jouve (art historian, lecturer, and long time Paris resident), Tuvia Fogel (literary agent) revealing that radar scans show a crypt under the church at Rennes-le-Château, Tim Wallace-Murphy, Jean-Jacques Cassiman (Department Human Genetics, University of Leuven), Daniel Perrier (Curator, French National Museum of Archeology), biblical scholar Kent Dobson, and Archbishop Severios Malki Murad (St. Marks Syrian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem). Bernstein does an interesting experiment to test the Jesus bloodline connection to the Merovingians. He commissions a DNA test on the remains of 1,400 year-old Merovingian Queen Aregund, wife of King Clothar I. He concludes that if she is from the line of Jesus then her DNA would have middle-Eastern genetic markers. The DNA test fails.



Josh Bernstein



Alice Jouve



Jean-Jacques  
Cassiman



Daniel Perrier



Archbishop Severios  
Malki Murad



Tuvia Fogel

The Da Vinci Code is now the bestselling adult hardback book in history, selling more than 40 million copies. Brown is the sixth best-paid celebrity in the world, earning \$77M (£43.8 million) between June 2004 and June 2005, according to Forbes magazine.



Brian Allan, co-director of Scotland's Paranormal Encounters Group says the Rosslyn Chapel cubes represent something called The Devil's chord – a low frequency sound in the range of 80 to 110 hertz – which was proscribed by the Catholic Church in the middle ages as it was believed people exposed to the chord for prolonged periods would start to achieve higher states of consciousness (and therefore lose their need for and loyalty to the Catholic Church).



Brian Allan

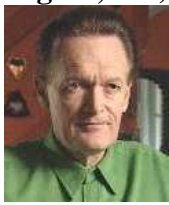
April 2006



National Geographic's Is It Real?: Da Vinci's Code features Jean-Luc Chaumeil, Tammy DiNicola (former Opus Dei member), Martin Kemp (Oxford Art History Professor), Richard Leigh, Sharan Newman, Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince, Father William Stetson (Catholic Information Center in Washington, DC), and Tracy Twyman (occult historian).



Tammy  
DiNicola



Martin Kemp



Father  
William  
Stetson



Tracy Twyman

Random House and Dan Brown are found not guilty in a London court. "The plaintiffs' case has failed," Justice Peter Smith said. "Even if the central themes were copied they are too general or too low a level of abstraction to be capable of protection by copyright law." Baigent and Leigh are ordered to pay the majority of Random House's legal bill, estimated at £1.3 million, plus a comparable bill from their own attorneys. Regarding the intense media coverage, Judge Smith said "It is a testament to cynicism in our times that there have been suggestions that this action is nothing more than a collaborative exercise designed to maximise publicity for both books."



Within a week of the verdict, plaintiff Michael Baigent publishes The Jesus Papers: Exposing the Greatest Cover-up in History, asserting Jesus did not die on the cross but was taken down, resuscitated, and moved to upper Egypt with Mary Magdalene where they had a child. Baigent promises "incontrovertible evidence that Jesus was alive in the year 45" but fails to deliver. Baigent tells of meeting an unidentified antiquities dealer with two parchments allegedly from Jesus to the Sanhedrin, but as Baigent can't read the language and the parchments disappear anyway, the reader is left with absolutely nothing new.



Justice Peter Smith



Just a few days later, Dan Brown receives a new plagiarism claim from Mikhail Anikin, senior researcher in the Department of the History of Western European Art at the Hermitage museum in St Petersburg, Russia. The author claims he first decoded the Mona Lisa and coined the phrase





Tom Asbridge

“The DaVinci Code” in his 2000 book. Anikin asks for an apology and half the revenue from Brown’s book.

**i** The same week, Templar bodies are found beneath the collapsed castle walls of Jacob’s Ford, near the River Jordan in northern Israel. These bodies can be dated to August 29, 1179 because their location links them to attacks by Muslim leader Saladin. "Never before has it been possible to trace their remains to such an exact time in history," British historian Tom Asbridge says. "This discovery is the equivalent of the Holy Grail to archaeologists and historians. It is unparalleled."

**i** The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejects the appeal of Lewis Perdue’s 2004 plagiarism claim against Dan Brown.

**i** Traverse City, Michigan based Rock Management, an oil and gas company led by Alan Kostrzewa (also manager of Kosco Energy LLC), buys out David Tobias remaining land on Oak Island, including the original pit. Dan Blankenship continues to own the other 50% share and will work with the new partners Kostrzewa; oil man Marty Lagina, President of Croft LLC; his brother Rick Lagina; and Craig J. Tester of Chartwell Properties. They now collectively own 23 lots including the site of the original pit, and are represented by Wayne Marryatt of the McInnes Cooper law firm in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



James Tabor

**b** James Tabor publishes The Jesus Dynasty: A New Historical Investigation of Jesus, His Royal Family, and the Birth of Christianity, stating Jesus is not the son of God or Joseph but that of a Roman soldier, Pantera, and that when Jesus died, his brother James took over his ministry.

**cc** At a press conference in Washington, the National Geographic Society discloses the existence of a 66-page codex containing the only known surviving copy of the Gospel of Judas. The 26-page Judas text is said to be a copy in Coptic, made around A. D. 300, of the original Gospel of Judas, written in Greek the century before. The Gospel of Judas was known to already exist in 180 A.D. because this is when Irenaeus, together with other church leaders, vigorously refuted and rejected its inclusion into the New Testament. The Gospel of Judas portrays Jesus telling Judas to hand him over to the Romans. The DVD features Frieda Nussberger-Tchacos, papyrus restorer Florence Darbre, Coptic expert Rodolphe Kasser, Bart Ehrman, Craig Evans (Acadia Divinity College) Elaine Pagels, Coptic expert Marvin Meyer (Chapman University), Judas expert William Klassen (University of Waterloo), Stephen Emmel (Coptic studies professor at the University of Münster in Germany), Donald Senior (Pontifical Biblical Commission), and Robert Schuller (founder of the Crystal Cathedral).



Florence Darbre



Stephen Emmel



Rodolphe Kasser



Marvin Meyer



William Klassen



Craig Evans

**cc** The Da Vinci Code: Where it All Began covers Rennes-le-Château from the on-the-scene perspective of French experts mostly unknown in the US, including Antoine Captier, Marc Rambiel (researcher), Jean-Claude de Brou, Jean Pellet (researcher), André Douzet, George Kiess (President, Center for Templar Research), Claude St. Clair (historical archeologist), Pascal Guillaumes (Chronodrome Project), and Jean-Marc Phillippe (Project Keo). The two-hour film explores the geography around Rennes-le-Château in detail.



Marc Rambiel



Jean Pellet



George Kiess



André Douzet



Claude St. Clair

**cc** Ed Bradley of CBS News’ 60 Minutes reports on the Prieuré de Sion hoax, featuring Henry



Lincoln, Jonathan Riley-Smith (Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Cambridge), Claude Charlot (Director of Museum Archives of the Bureau of Associations at the Paris Prefecture of Police), Bill Putnam and John Edwin Wood, and Jean-Luc Chaumeil.



Ed Bradley



Jonathan Riley-Smith



Claude Charlot



Jean-Luc Chaumeil



Bill Putnam



John Edwin Wood

May 2006



Michael Fass



Objecting to Rosslyn Chapel’s wildly popular involvement with the claims of The Da Vinci Code, Chapel Reverend Michael Fass resigns effective in July.



Simon Cox publishes The Dan Brown Companion.



Bart Ehrman publishes Peter, Paul, and Mary Magdalene: The Followers of Jesus in History and Legend.



BBC Four shows The Da Vinci Code: The Greatest Story Ever Sold, with Richard Leigh, Jonathan Riley-Smith, David Aaronovitch (Columnist, The Guardian); Jack Valero (Opus Dei UK Director), Ruth Gledhill (Religion Correspondent, The Times), Evelyn Welch (Professor of Renaissance Studies, Queen Mary), conspiracy expert James McConnachie, Robin Griffith-Jones (Master of the Temple Church, London), Brian Sewell (Art critic, The Evening Standard), math professor Fred Piper, Sarah Dunant (historical novelist), and Mike West (Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral).



Ruth Gledhill



David Aaronovitch



Evelyn Welch



James McConnachie



Mike West



BBC Four shows Did Jesus Die? concerning theories of Jesus’ possible survival of the crucifixion. Featuring Elaine Pagels (Princeton University Religion Professor), historian Peter Stanford, John Dominic Crossan, Paula Fredericksen, Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor of the École Biblique), Tom Wright (Canon of Westminster), Cathar expert Thierry LaCombe, Richard Andrews, James Tabor, Steve Mason of York University, and Abdullah Assiz Kashmiri.



Peter Stanford



Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor



Tom Wright



Thierry LaCombe



Abdullah Assiz Kashmiri



Channel Five shows Revealed...The Man Behind the Da Vinci Code, a documentary on Henry Lincoln. With Lincoln, Brian Ford, Sharan Newman, Helen Nicholson, John Edwin Wood, Erling Haagenen, Jim Bennett, Ed Danson, Peter Barber (of the British Library), and archival footage of Christopher Cornford. Lincoln is adamant the bloodline of Jesus is not be believed or disbelieved. “It is nothing more than a hypothesis.”



Henry Lincoln



Brian Ford



Peter Barber



Sharan Newman



Christopher Cornford



Da Vinci: Tracking the Code. Background on the locations used in The Da Vinci Code.



Channel Five shows Angels and Demons: The True Story, with Diane Apostolos-Cappadona (Professor in Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University), Mark Irving (art critic, The Times), Simon Cox, Dan Burstein, George Lechner (Italian art historian), Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, Lindsay Johns (medieval historian), James Wasserman, Michael Barkun (author of Culture of Conspiracy), Peter Stanford (religious historian), Amy Bernstein (Renaissance historian), Greg Tobin (author of Selecting the Pope), and medieval history professor Antonio Sennis.



Diane Apostolos-Cappadona



Neil deGrasse Tyson



Mark Irving



George Lechner



Michael Barkun



On May 19, The Da Vinci Code movie premieres worldwide with Tom Hanks as Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, Ian McKellen as Sir Leigh Teabing, Alfred Molina as Bishop Aringarosa, and Audrey Tautou as cryptographer Sophie Neveu.

June 2006



Clifton Power



Shugborough Monument



On June 18, the Sunday Mail reports that infamous royal imposter Michel LaFosse (a.k.a. H.R.H. Prince Michael of Albany) will be deported, having lost his British citizenship for submitting a forged birth certificate.



Clifton Power publishes ARCADIA: The Solution to the Templar Code D.O.U.O.S.V.A.V.V.M. For over 250 years a mysterious inscription on the Shepherd's Monument in the gardens of Shugborough Hall in England has confounded investigators. The Monument was erected in 1748 with a white marble bas-relief of 'Shepherds of Arcadia', a painting by Nicolas Poussin executed about 1640. On this monument is an inscription, very mysterious, just a series of letters. Power believes he has solved the coded inscription. He believes each letter is the first letter of a Latin word: *Dominus Orientis Universum Orbis Sol Veni Arcadia Vidi Vici Mortis*, or in English, "Radiant Lord of the Universe the Orb of the Sun. I Came to Arcadia, I saw, I conquered Death."



André Douzet and Phillip Coppens publish The Secret Vault: The Secret Societies' Manipulation of Saunifre And the Secret Sanctuary of Notre-dame-de-marceille.



Vern Swanson publishes Dynasty of the Holy Grail.



Ron Howard produces The Da Vinci Files.

July 2006



Callum Jensen



Where Callum Jensen believes the treasure is buried near Lincoln Cathedral.



In London, Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh file for an appeal of their copyright case against Random House and Dan Brown.



Author Callum Jensen (a.k.a. Dan Green) claims to have pinpointed the location of the Holy Grail at Lincoln Cathedral on the site of the former St. Margaret's Church. He believes it's crypt is still intact, and using clues drawn from anomalies in the Lincoln Cathedral windows and other sources, he used one of the Rennes-le-Chateau parchments to determine the final location. Roy Bentham, chief executive for the cathedral, said Mr Jensen's request for a ground scan would be considered and a decision made by the end of 2006.



André Douzet publishes The Wanderings of the Grail: The Cathars, the Search for the Grail And the Discovery of Egyptian Relics in the French Pyrenees.



Alan Butler & Stephen Dafoe publish The Knights Templar Revealed: The Secrets of the Cistercian Legacy.



The History Channel shows Lost Worlds: Knights Templar with Helen Nicholson and Jonathan Phillips.



Ashley Cowie publishes The Rosslyn Matrix, in which he declares Rosslyn Chapel does not involve the Jesus bloodline, Templars, or any other secret societies. Instead, he believes a certain carving in the Chapel (left) is a "lost system for measuring time and distance involving both latitude and longitude. It's a priceless mapping treasure."



Carving from Rosslyn Chapel featured in The Rosslyn Matrix

August 2006



Dan Burstein publishes Secrets of Mary Magdalene.



Roddy Martine publishes The Secrets of Rosslyn.



After five years of excavations, Vatican archeologist Giorgio Filippi confirms the re-discovery of Saint Paul's tomb of after 200 years. It will be raised from under an altar in St Paul Outside-the-Walls to allow the faithful to view.



Giorgio Filippi

September 2006



Robert Cooper publishes The Rosslyn Hoax.



James Wasserman publishes An Illustrated History of the Knights Templar.




October 2006




The Red Light

 Paul Spice publishes The Watchers.

 Alan Butler and John Ritchie publish Rosslyn Revealed: A Library in Stone, suggesting the Sinclair family of Rosslyn are descendants of Ebionites, an early Christian sect where individuals are encouraged to have a personal experience of God, not one primarily dictated by a central church. Ebionites believed in only the Gospel according to Matthew and dismissed other versions. Also, Butler and Ritchie announce their “discovery” of a small window (left) in Rosslyn Chapel where light turns the opening red on certain days: March 21, the first day of spring, and September 21, the beginning of winter and also Saint Matthew’s day. They believe Freemasonry was rooted in the Ebionite philosophy.

 Reissue of Otto Rahn’s 1933 book, Crusade Against the Grail: The Struggle between the Cathars, the Templars, and the Church of Rome.

December 2006


 Channel Four shows The Family of Jesus on December 25. The host Dr. Robert Beckford believes the original message of Christianity involved Mary Magdalene, John The Baptist, and the immediate members of the family that shared the original bloodline of Jesus. Featuring Dr. Esther de Boer, Mother Catherine (Russian Orthodox Nun); Father Stefano de Luca (Franciscan Monk); Dr Helen Bond (Edinburgh University); Father Nicolai Spiro (Greek Orthodox Church); Archbishop Abba Melchizedek (Ethiopian Church); Father Lawrence (Guardian of The Milk Grotto); Issa Khoury-Jaraisy (Shop Keeper); Professor Richard Bauckham (St Andrews University); Aviram Oshri (Archaeologist); Father Saleh (Greek Orthodox Church); Dr. Mordechai Aviam (Director of Archeological Research at the Institute of Galilean Archeology); Professor James Tabor (author, *The Jesus Dynasty*); Father Eugenio Alliata (Franciscan Monk); Dr Shimon Gibson (The Cave of John the Baptist); Professor Ronny Reich (University of Haifa); Dr. Raffaella Giuliani (Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology); Reverend Dean Bechard (Pontifical Biblical Institute); Ignatius Zakkai Iwas (Patriarch of Syriac Orthodox Church); and Archbishop Aristarchos (Greek Orthodox Patriarch).





















January 2007

 Richard Leigh and Michael Baigent appear before the UK Court of Appeals to reverse their \$2M pound judgment. Their lawyer, Jonathan Rayner-James, argues the original judge erred in dismissing the case. He claims that Brown's wife Blythe, a key contributor to The Da Vinci Code, ”knew that she was exclusively using HBHG for that subject matter comprising the Langdon/Teabing lectures,” adding ”she took a 'short cut' through the research and investigation and simply lifted the material from HBHG.”

February 2007

 Producer James Cameron and Director Simcha Jacobovici using evidence from DNA tests, archaeological surveys and biblical studies, asserts the 1980 ossuaries belonged to the biblical Jesus and his family. He films The Lost Tomb of Jesus for the Discovery channel featuring Ouriel Maoz, Rivka Maoz, Dr. Shimon Gibson, Professor Tal Ilan, Professor James Tabor, Frank Moore Cross, John Dominic Crossan, Naama Vilozny, Professor Amos Kloner, David Mevorah, Professor Andrey Feuerverger, Bill Tarant, Professor François Bovon, Dr. Stephen Pfann, Steven J. Cox, Dr. Carney Matheson, Efraym Shochat, Oded Golan, Dr. Charles Pellegrino, and Robert Genna. Joe Zias, former curator of archeology at the Israeli Antiquities Authority and Kloner, the first archaeologist to examine the Talpiot tomb in 1980, both deny its authenticity.



	 Under heavy police guard Israeli archeologists remove tons of debris next to Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque to create a pedestrian ramp, enraging Muslims who claim potential damage to Islamic holy buildings.
March 2007	 Richard Leigh and Michael Baigent lose their UK appeal against Dan Brown.
April 2007	 Karen Ralls publishes the <b>Knights Templar Encyclopedia: The Essential Guide to the People, Places, Events, and Symbols of the Order of the Temple</b> .
May 2007	 Composer Stuart Mitchell announces a concert of the music he deciphered from the Rosslyn Chapel cubes. He and his father Thomas, a musician and ex-Royal Air Force code breaker, lead a world premiere concert of what is now being called the Rosslyn Motet inside the chapel on May 18. Four singers accompanied by eight musicians play the music on medieval-era instruments.
	 Lincoln Cathedral denies Dan Green's request for a ground scan, citing a lack of staff to oversee the work.
June 2007	 Christopher Hodapp and Alice Von Kannon publish <b>The Templar Code For Dummies</b> .
July 2007	 On July 10, with Pope Benedict XVI's blessing, the Vatican releases a document declaring the Catholic Church is the one true church and that other Christian denominations shouldn't be called churches.
 Ross Hemsworth	 On July 10 author and radio host Ross Hemsworth announces he has evidence that Jesus has a twin brother (James) and that Jesus and Mary Magdalene are buried in Glastonbury legendary resting place at Glastonbury Abbey of King Arthur and Guinevere.
October 2007	 On the 13 <sup>th</sup> , the 700th anniversary of the Templar arrests.
 Barbara Frale	 To commemorate the occasion, the Vatican publishes a special \$8,000.00 collector's edition of the Chinon Parchment, a scroll in the Vatican archives showing that Jacques de Molay and other Templar leaders had been exonerated by Pope Clement V (1264-1314) at Chinon nearly six hundred years before. This document, discovered in 2001 by Vatican archivist Barbara Frale, proves the innocence of the Templars and clarifies that the King of France, not the Pope, was behind their undoing. Only 799 copies are printed. Each is exceptionally large, 20x80 inches.
November 2007	 Death of author Richard Leigh.
June 2008	 Oak Island to be open to the public for a weekend conference.
Future	 Release of <b>Bloodline: The Movie</b> , featuring claims by Ben Hammott (a.k.a. The Tombman) of finding a previously unknown tomb near Rennes le Chateau in 2000. Based on "discovered" bottles and a chest, Hammott believes he has the tomb contain an important body and artifacts.
 Ben Hammott	
2009	 Plans call for the Gospel of Judas codex to be returned to the Coptic Museum in Cairo.
2019	 On July 28, according to author Tim Wallace-Murphy, the seven major planets will align with the locations of Rosslyn Chapel and the cathedrals at Amiens, Paris, Chartres, Orleans, Toulouse, and Compostela. This moment could be the apocalyptic creation of a new Jerusalem, says Wallace-Murphy, according to the <b>Bible's</b> Revelation of St. John. "Not a destruction of the world," he assures us, "but a transformation to a heaven on earth."