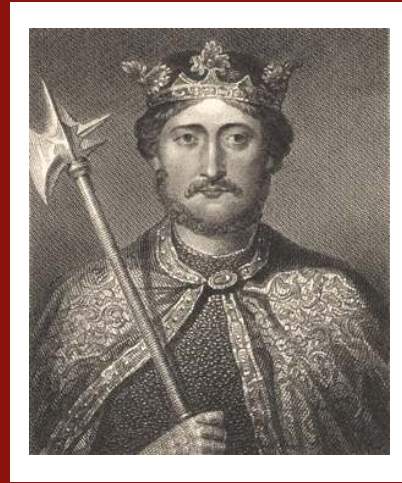




he Third Crusade's Impact on London

Edward Rutherford's *London* leaps through the years with such depth and description one can only wonder how so many things could have happened in one city. The novel touches on The Knights Templar, King Richard I of England (1157-1199) "The Lionheart", and the impact of the Crusades on London and the communities surrounding the city. *London* has two chapters that really touch upon this time period in *The Saint* and *The Mayor* when the late 12th century and most of 13th century London is covered. In London, the crusades gave an aura that radiated heroism, truth, and valor all for the good of Christianity and England. Behind the scenes, lies, corruption, and deceit wrought calamity upon The Lionheart's kingdom. Those who could barely afford it were forced to pay taxes that were raised for the Third Crusade (1189-1192). Jews were targeted from the moment of the Lionheart's coronation. William Longchamp (unknown-1197) loyalty to Richard was unswerving and because of this he incurred the wrath of English subjects while The Lionheart was absent from his kingdom.



King Richard I of England (1157-1199)

In Plantagenet
England the characters
Alderman Sampson Bull
and his brother Michael
have stark differences
that become clear as the
story progresses.



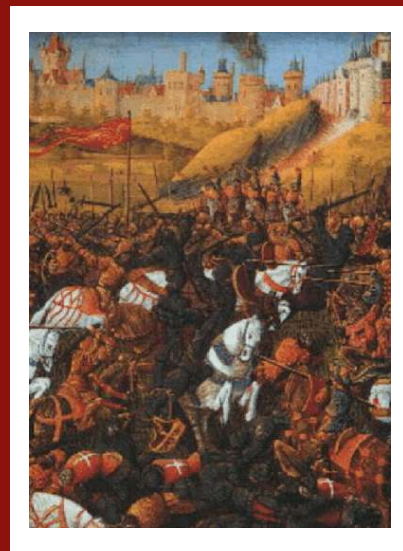
King Richard The Lionheart faces Saladin

“Brother Michael was a pure and simple soul. Three years younger than Sampson, he could not have been less like him.” (*London* page 293) Sampson Bull is the type of man that would sneer in response to being asked if he would join Richard the Lionheart. Sampson did not like King Richard I as his king and he certainly did not enjoy the idea of fighting in The Holy Land for a man he did not believe in. Bull was a man of importance and he had become head of the family after his father’s death. He was a rich merchant who dealt in wool and cloth and he was also a respected alderman of his ward in the city. This meant he was a part of an inner circle that organized the militia and also a part of the greater council of London. This also meant that when Richard I heightened taxes to help pay for his crusade he made Alderman Bull a very upset man.

David Bull stood outside the gateway to the Temple Church. “From this church, at any moment, the greatest hero in Christendom was going to emerge: King Richard the Lionheart.” (*London* page 321) Richard had a great

reputation as a military leader and as a result he gained popularity among the people. As the King of England proceeded through the city to be crowned he looked among the crowd at many men, women, and children. Such a captivating man immediately affected all those who met his gaze. One such person was David Bull, Alderman Bull's son. "David Bull was aware only of a hard, Plantagenet face. Until a tiny piece of magic occurred. Passing through the gateway, Richard the Lionheart briefly rested his gaze upon the little crowd. Seeing the boy, almost without thinking he looked straight into his eyes and smiled. Then, knowing full well that by this simple ruse the youth was now his for life, he clapped his heels to his horse, and rode away towards Westminster." (*London* page 322) This event changed David's life and he rushed to his Uncle Michael in the hopes that he would talk to his father on his behalf, he was ready to go on the crusade.

Later, when Brother Michael and David approach Sampson Bull about this topic, the reader finds them discussing how many die before even reaching the Holy Land. The hero in Richard used his power on a young boy who had a good chance of dying of disease or being killed by other Christians even before reaching the Holy Land. Richard used a subtle form of coercion to add one more to his troops and his status put this boy's life in danger. On his

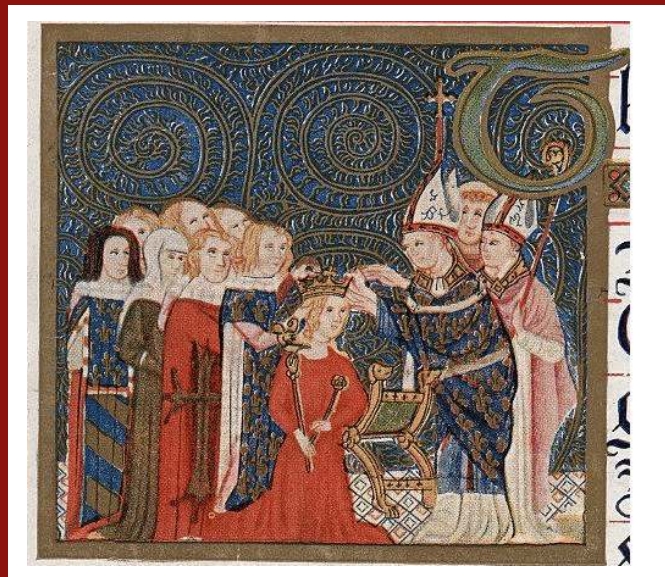


The Third Crusade

accession to the throne, Richard ordered that *The battle for the Holy Land* no Jews were allowed at his coronation.¹ He may have wanted to save them from insult, but when some Jews did come bearing gifts they were thrown out to the mob. A rumor had spread that the king wished for the killing of these Jews and the mob listened to this rumor by viciously murdering the defenseless people. The destruction spread through the city and all Jews were targeted. In the novel, Rutherford uses the event as Brother Michael and David Bull confronted Sampson Bull about joining the crusade. At that moment a servant burst into the hall and exclaimed that a riot had started. This was caused by the fools that killed the harmless Jews earlier that day. Michael saves a Jew from death in an ensuing scene where he states, “It is written that at the last the Jews also shall be converted to the true faith. If, however, we kill them, they cannot be converted.”

(*London* page 333)

In 1194, harassment of the Jews continued when Richard's appointed Chancellor, William Longchamp, issued the Ordinance of the Jews. It began, “All the debts, pledges,

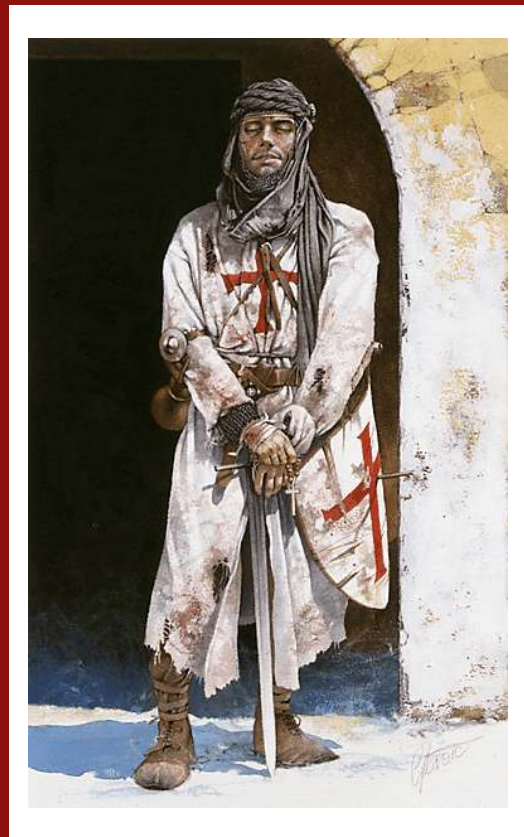


This depicts Richard's coronation in 1189

Birnbaum, Eli, *The History of the Jewish People* (1189 September 3, RICHARD THE LIONHEARTED (England)
<http://www.jewishhistory.org.il/history.php?startyear=1100&endyear=1199>

mortgages, lands, houses, rents, and possessions of the Jews shall be registered. The Jew who shall conceal any of these shall forfeit to the King his body and the thing concealed, and likewise all his possessions and chattels...” (*The Jews of Angevin England: Documents and Records*)² There were many moneylenders in London at this time. Financing was necessary to continue expanding trade, paying off the overseas expenses of the crusades, and the enormous amount of activities the Plantagenets’ empire was involved in. There were large quantities of money provided by other European moneylenders, along with the Jewish community of England, but also the most Christian of the crusading orders, the Knights Templar. These groups all used similar methods of obtaining money, except that most moneylenders held estates, the Templars were specialists in land management, but the Jews were still forbidden to own land.

The Knights Templar were best known for their military activities, but there is a very well constructed financial administration that existed. The Templars always collected donations from the



A lone knight of the Knights Templar

² Source: Roger de Hoveden, iii. 266, ed. Joseph Jacobs, *The Jews of Angevin England: Documents and Records* (London, 1893), p. 156-59.

Middle East, but many came from Western Europe. In order to protect and guard the pilgrims it was found necessary to defend Palestine. After the Templars had re-conquered Spain and Portugal their reputation spread throughout the Christian world and donations poured in. The donations came in the form of vacant property, land, vines, tax rights, etc. and this became the base of their wealth. The Templars were seen as defenders of Christianity because they protected the many pilgrims that wished to visit the Holy Land.

In England, the Templars were granted land which included Castle Baynard on the River Fleet.

They built a round church here to copy the Templar headquarters in Jerusalem, Temple Mount. The order was allowed to use St.

Clement Danes near the Thames riverside. When the Templars' headquarters were moved to the Temple Church in London they once again built a round church, they used the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem as their model.³

"New churches and other foundations were clustering about the city. On the Thames riverside near the Aldwych the crusading Knights Templar were building the great headquarters already called the Temple." (*London* page 294) When Pope Innocent III issued a Papal Bull in 1200, he declared that everyone and everything that resided within the

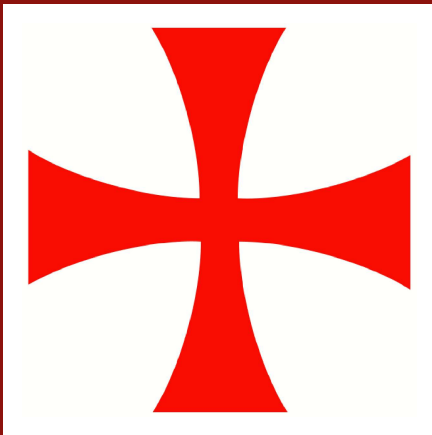


The Temple Church

³ Addison, Charles G. (1842) *Chapter XI, The Temple Church*
http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/history_of_the_knights_templar/chapter_11.htm

buildings of the Knights Templar were immune from local laws. By doing this the Pope ensured the finances necessary to supply the advancement of the Templar's banking facilities. It is because of the power the Knights Templar held that The Lionheart departed for the Holy Land to fight the most sacred of all knightly adventures, the new crusade.

The Templars, along with most religious orders at the time, became bankers in every city they could establish themselves in. Peasants would often give their money and property to churches abbeys for protection. The



Knights Templar Cross

churches and abbeys were equal to present day strong boxes because people would deposit money, jewels, and small property there. Since they were religious houses, people looked upon what was inside as untouchable. The Templars were given deposits of many pilgrims' fortunes in the case of death, and then the order would transfer the money to their heirs. They had such a massive pool of resources that they could lend money in large sums to the Middle East and elsewhere. They supplied the bulk of financing for the crusades to the Holy Land.

Richard left behind a very trusting individual in William Longchamp as Chancellor of England. Longchamp quickly discovered the difficulty of managing London as Richard's Chancellor in his absence. Sampson Bull is a perfect representation of those who wished to oust the Chancellor and

inevitably Richard by providing access for his brother John into the city. The bishop of Ely, Longchamp, came to dominate London as chancellor until he was forced into exile by a rebellion in 1191. One of the king's ministers was Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, the same position Thomas Becket held before his death. Alongside Eleanor of Aquitaine, Walter was able to end a rebellion by Richard's brother John in 1193.⁴ The sly



John of England

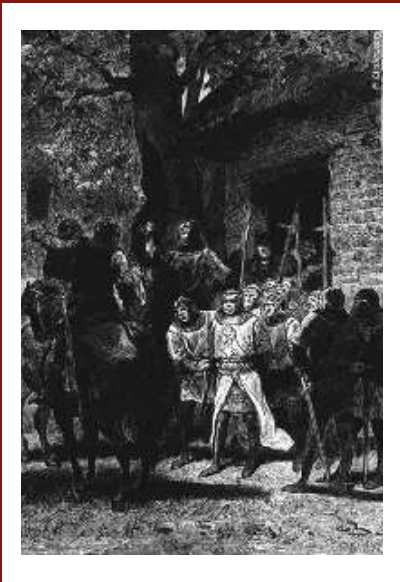
and envious brother had tried gaining support throughout England and then revolting to take the crown while Richard was gone. He was forced into exile, but on the Lionheart's return to England he forgave his brother and promised him succession to the throne of England.

Sampson Bull and the aldermen had made a deal with John, Richard's brother, in *London*. In exchange for their support and access into the city, John granted the men something. He promised to make London a commune and this allowed the city to choose a mayor. His wife, Ida, is furious and his son hates him for betraying the king he had loved ever since laying eyes on him. As David Bull ran away from his home, Pentecost Silversleeves was riding through the city with four horsemen all faithful to Longchamp. They met

⁴ Henderson Philip Richard, *Coeur de Lion. A biography*. Lnd. Hale - 1958. 12-13 p.

three knights who declared their allegiance to John and charged. “As the three knights rushed, he (Siversleeves) instinctively tried to wheel his horse to run away. But there were cobbles underfoot. His panic made him act so suddenly that his horse slipped and fell, and he was lucky, as he crashed to the hard ground, to fall clear.” (*London* page 369)

In moments one of John’s knights began climbing off of his horse and Siversleeves took the opportunity to stab the man deep in the side, killing him. The frightened, corrupt Pentecost Siversleeves immediately began going over the chain of events in his head. He felt his best bet was to betray the man he had sworn to fight beside, Chancellor Longchamp. David Bull ran over to him and saw what happened. The crooked man murdered Sampson Bull’s son with the fallen knight’s sword after giving David his own sword. Siversleeves had become the embodiment of corruption as he hid in the shadows and waited for the knight’s fellows to come back. His plan had worked and they believed David to be the killer of their friend. Siversleeves does come to support John in the end, but only out of a need to survive. John was much like him though, betraying his brother after promising to stay out of England while Richard was on the crusade. John was power hungry and seized authority from Longchamp that night in London.

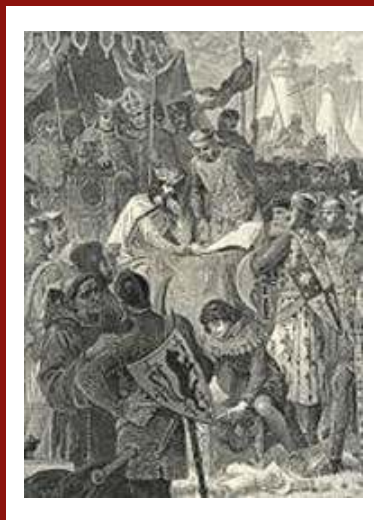


King Richard I captured

The deceiving, dishonest, and damaged London would soon return to the hands of Richard I when he returned. “This reign saw some important innovations in taxation and military organization. Warfare was expensive, and in addition Richard was captured on his return from the Crusade by Leopold V of Austria and held for a high ransom of 150 000 marks.

Various methods of raising money were tried: an aid or scutage; tax on plow lands; a general tax of a fourth of revenues and chattels (this was a development of the so-called Saladin Tithe raised earlier for the Crusade); and a seizure of the wool crop of Cistercian and Gilbertine houses...”⁵ The ransom was eventually paid and the Lionheart returned to London, he died in 1199 and his brother John took over the kingdom.

The rebellion John had put together had failed, but in 1215 a group of the most important barons in England came together against him. The disgraceful, lying, and betraying brother of the honorable, hero Richard the Lionheart could not stop the barons from entering London. They forced King John to agree to the “Articles of the Barons”, this agreement was formally



John signs the Magna Carta

⁵ Henderson Philip *Richard, Coeur de Lion. A biography*. Lnd. Hale - 1958.21-23p.

documented, the Magna Carta.⁶ King John immediately renounced it as soon as the barons left London, and Pope Innocent III also negated the agreement and freed John from his pledge to obey it. King John was a living example that the lies, deceit, and corruption of a person's past can catch up with you. Many men and women used the crusades to their own advantage, Pentecost Silversleeves was the epitome of all these people. During this time period some men were made into heroes and martyrs while others merely cowards and thieves.

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