

# BROOK ALLEN

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## Welcome to Brook's Scroll

If you're historical fiction aficionados, travelers, dreamers, or adventurers, you'll want to take a look. People in the ancient world communicated in a surprising plethora of ways. Scrolls were only one format, and in Marcus Antonius's Rome would have been used specifically by the aristocracy or learned individuals, like scribes, who might even be well-educated slaves. Sometimes scrolls were used for correspondence, especially in arid, hot areas like Egypt or Syria. Other uses were for public records or to record official documents. Though often made of papyrus, scrolls were sometimes made of vellum--leather--which would last longer in humid regions.

Brook hopes you'll make yourself at home and read through her scrolls to learn more

about her work as an author, her research, travels, thoughts, and adventures!"


5/24/2020 2 COMMENTS

## Crusader Knights

***Welcome back to the blog! This week, I'd like to introduce a special guest, author Mary Ann Bernal. Her latest work takes place in the Middle Ages. So sit back, turn your imaginations on "high", and let's find out more about Crusader Knights.***



***Etienne, is that who you are? Why do you haunt my thoughts? (Crusader's Path 146)***

**Picture an impressionable teenager reading  Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott for a book report assignment.** Thoughts of Hollywood blockbusters such as Prince Valiant and Knights of the Round Table resurface, romanticizing a violent era where heroic knights save the day amid insurmountable odds.

**Visit the library,** choosing biographies of historical figures whose feats of daring have transcended time. El Cid, the Spanish knight, combatting the Moors. King Richard I, the Lionheart, joining the Third Crusade. Edward, the Black Prince, victorious at Poitiers. William Wallace, fighting to free Scotland of the English tyrant, King Edward I.

**There are the legends,** Arturius and Lancelot, and Robin Hood, larger than life icons, in all probability, a composite of actual warriors whose daring feats were memorialized.

**We must not forget** the fictional portrayal of knightly virtue. Prince Valiant, characterized on the big screen, was also a featured comic strip that was distributed weekly to American newspapers.

**That was then, and this is now.**

**Recently,** the TV series, Knightfall, sheds light on the deeds of the Knights Templar, the most recognizable military Order established during the Crusades. On the big screen, Ironclad, Arn: The Knight Templar, and the Kingdom of Heaven re-established interest in the Crusades. In the carnage arises courageous heroes, enticing a new generation of followers, incurable romantics, which isn't such a bad thing.



## The Knights Templar

**The First Crusade** resulted in the establishment of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and the Crusader States. With the city in Christian control, European Pilgrims flocked to the Holy Land. The lengthy journey was dangerous, which necessitated the formation of a protective force, ensuring the safety of Christians.

**In the early twelfth century,** a small group of knights established the Poor-fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, better known as the Knights Templar, headquartered on the Temple Mount. A holy site where the First Temple once stood.

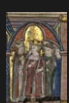
**The original knights promised to protect the pilgrims,** creating the vows of the Templar, based upon Benedictine rule, living an austere life. The knights swore oaths of obedience, celibacy, and poverty, giving their wealth to the Order. Prayer was a significant part of daily life with devotion to the Virgin Mary.

**As the Order grew in size and stature,** they developed a financial enterprise, leaving a quarter of the warrior monks to fight. They developed the first banking system, which made the Order very powerful and wealthy. The Templars were a feared fighting force for almost two hundred years before King Philip IV of France, who was in debt to the Order, had the knights arrested on Friday, the 13th. Suffice it to say these brave warriors suffered torture and death, being condemned on trumped-up charges to fill Philip's coffers with Templar wealth and, of course, eliminating his debt.



## **The Hospitallers of Saint John**

**In the early eleventh century,** the Hospital of Saint John was established in Jerusalem. The mission was to care for the sick, poor, and injured Pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. After Jerusalem fell to the Christians in 1099, the community's work increased, more hospitals were founded. Eventually, the Order became known as the Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem. The Hospitallers, also known as the Knights of Malta or the Order of Saint John, became a Military Order.



## **The Knights of Saint Lazarus**

**Based in Jerusalem,** the Knights of Saint Lazarus was founded by leper knights. Most of its members suffered from the contagion. Anyone who had contracted the disease within the Hospitallers Order joined the Knights of Saint Lazarus. The Lazarists wore a green cross upon their mantle.

**King Baldwin IV of Jerusalem was a leper,** who fought alongside the Knights Templar against Saladin in the late twelfth century.



## **Etienne**

**I decided against romanticizing Etienne's character in the story.** Yes, he is a brave knight, skilled in warfare, and loyal to his overlord. But he is also human with flaws. He has good and bad traits and, like all of us, struggled with his conscience when tempted. Etienne was real, a role model if you will, with all the frailties of the human condition. You might agree or disagree with his choices, but at the end of the day, he took responsibility for his actions.

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**Hashtags:** #HistoricalFiction #Crusaders

## ***Crusader's Path***

***By Mary Ann Bernal***

*From the sweeping hills of Argences to the port city of Cologne overlooking the River Rhine, Etienne and Avielle find themselves drawn by the need for redemption against the backdrop of the First Crusade.*

*Heeding the call of His Holiness, Urban II, to free the Holy Land from the infidel, Etienne follows Duke Robert of Normandy across the treacherous miles, braving sweltering heat and snow-covered mountain passes while en route to the Byzantine Empire.*

*Moved by Peter of Amiens' charismatic rhetoric in the streets of the Holy Roman Empire, Avielle joins the humble army of pilgrims. Upon arrival in Mentz, the peasant Crusaders do the unthinkable, destroying the Jewish Community. Consumed with guilt, Avielle is determined to die fighting for Christ, assuring her place in Heaven.*

*Etienne and Avielle cross paths in Constantinople, where they commiserate over past misdeeds. A spark becomes a flame, but when Avielle contracts leprosy, Etienne makes a promise to God, offering to take the priest cowl in exchange for ridding Avielle of her affliction.*

*Will Etienne be true to his word if Avielle is cleansed of the contagion, or will he risk eternal damnation to be with the woman he loves?*

Amazon.com:[www.amazon.com/Crusaders-Path-Mary-Ann-Bernal-ebook/dp/B084F3PGRQ/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?](http://www.amazon.com/Crusaders-Path-Mary-Ann-Bernal-ebook/dp/B084F3PGRQ/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=crusader%27s+path&qid=1590367826&sr=8-1)

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## **Mary Ann Bernal**

*Mary Ann Bernal attended Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY, where she received a degree in Business Administration. Her literary aspirations were ultimately realized when the first book of The Briton and the Dane novels was published in 2009. In addition to writing historical fiction, Mary Ann has also authored a collection of contemporary short stories in the Scribbler Tales series and a science fiction/fantasy novel entitled Planetary Wars Rise of an Empire. Her latest endeavor is Crusader's Path, a story of redemption set against the backdrop of the First Crusade.*

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MARY ANN BERNAL  
CRUSADER'S  
PATH  
*Blog Tour*  
May 26th — June 4th  
THE COFFEE POT BOOK CLUB



2 COMMENTS

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Mary Anne Yarde 

5/26/2020 04:08:58 am

Such an interesting post!

Thank you so much for hosting Mary Ann's tour today!!