

Templar Families (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought: Fourth Series)

By Jochen Schenk

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Founded in c. 1120, in the aftermath of the First Crusade in Jerusalem, the Order of the Temple was a Christian brotherhood dedicated to the military protection of pilgrims and the Holy Land, attracting followers and supporters throughout Christian Europe. This detailed study explores the close relationship between the Order of the Temple and the landowning families it relied upon for support. Focussing on the regions of Burgundy, Champagne and Languedoc, Jochen Schenk investigates the religious expectations that guided noble and knightly families to found and support Templar communities in the European provinces, and examines the social dynamics and mechanisms that tied these families to each other. The book illustrates the close connection between the presence of Cistercians and the incidence of crusading within Templar family networks, and offers new insights into how collective identities and memory were shaped through ritual and tradition among medieval French-speaking social elites.

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Review
'Essential reading for all scholars seeking to understand the Templars as a whole, beyond their activities on the battlefield.' The Medieval Review

About the Author
Jochen Schenk is Research Fellow (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter) at the German Historical Institute, London, and a Senior Member of Wolfson College, Cambridge.

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