

## LOST TREASURE OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (2014)

By Walt Wright

This 8 X 10 painting is best viewed in low to moderate light at a distance of about four feet. The colors are deep and rich within the cavern walls. This allows for a sharp contrast to the bright elegant sword in the foreground. In low light this sword shows itself in an elegant manner. However, in brighter light a surprise is revealed, a dragon is hiding among the rocks in the cavern.

Under King Philip IV the order of the Knights Templar were disbanded and many of them falsely accused and executed. It is said that over hundreds of years a large treasure of gold, rare gems and valuable artifacts was acquired in payment for their services. Upon fleeing for their lives they made sure King Philip would not get his hands on their treasure. They sailed their ships to parts unknown and hid the treasure where it could never be found. Many feel it is possible the treasure made it to the new world, as the knights were known to travel the Norse trading routes. Imagine walking into a huge open cavern and finding this enormous treasure glowing from light descending from the cavern ceiling. It would take your eyes a moment to adjust.

Such a find would excite anyone but there is another rumor regarding this mass of wealth, which should also be considered. It was said that the treasure was protected by a holy curse. The Knights Templar's were "warrior monks" of a highly secretive order. They were entrusted with the church's most ancient spells and holy incantations ...including those found among folklore, such as the Golem and mystical dragons.

