

# BOOK REVIEW

## WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH

### THE ROSSLYN HOAX

By Robert L. D. Cooper

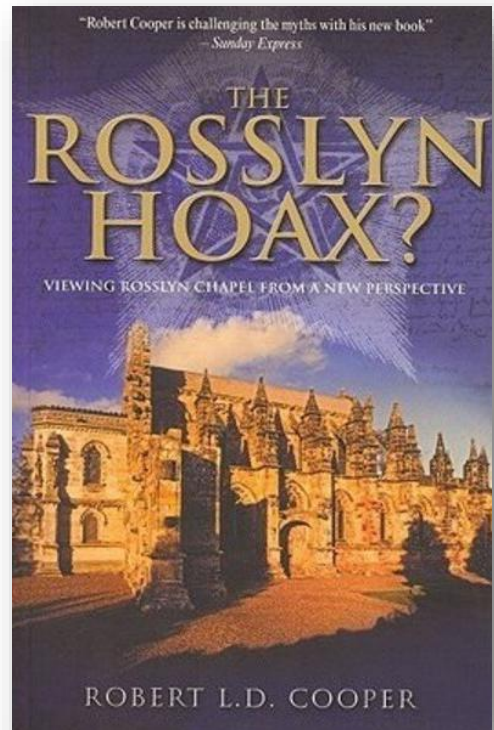
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**T***he Rosslyn Hoax*, by Robert L.D. Cooper, takes a deep dive into the mystery surrounding Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland, a place that's often linked to wild theories about Freemasonry and the Knights Templar. What many people don't know is that Robert L.D. Cooper is not only a Freemason himself but was also the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, a position he held for almost 30 years. This unique insider perspective allows him to dispel many of the myths and separate fact from fiction.

Cooper shows how many of the theories circulating about Rosslyn Chapel and Freemasonry are pure fiction; ideas that most Freemasons would dismiss as nonsense. One of the major points he makes is that these myths often get magnified by researchers who become so specialized in a particular field that their work starts to get recycled and referenced over time. The accumulation of knowledge creates a false sense of authority, and soon these researchers' arguments are quoted by others as expert sources. The result is a whole narrative built on circular reasoning, where researchers are simply citing each other rather than dealing with the facts. Cooper breaks this cycle by showing how much of what we think we know about Rosslyn Chapel is just part of a self-reinforcing web of misinformation.

One of the strongest arguments Cooper makes against the Knights Templar connection is the examination of grave slabs at Kilmartin, a historic site in Scotland. These grave slabs, which are claimed to show Templar imagery or symbolism, are actually more grounded in regional Scottish iconography than in any



direct Templar ties. Cooper explains that many of these so-called Templar symbols are actually common motifs found across medieval Scotland and were not exclusive to any one group. This kind of evidence challenges the notion that the Templars had a significant presence in Scotland, debunking one of the most persistent myths tied to Rosslyn Chapel.

Cooper also addresses the myth that Robert the Bruce was excommunicated, which is often cited as the reason he supposedly welcomed the Templars into Scotland. Cooper debunks this by pointing out that while Bruce had tensions with the Pope, he was never formally excommunicated. He was in a state of suspended excommunication for a time, which was a common medieval practice, but he was later reconciled with the Church. The idea that Bruce's excommunication was tied to the Templars or Rosslyn Chapel is a fabrication, based on misunderstandings and exaggerated connections.

Instead of focusing on the conspiracy theories, Cooper digs into the real history of Rosslyn and Freemasonry, offering a much-needed perspective on what's actually true. His background gives him the authority to separate the truth from the fiction, clearing up decades of misinterpretation. This book, however, is not just about debunking myths; it's about uncovering the true history and significance of Rosslyn Chapel and exposing some of the magnificent truths around it for what it really is. In my search for "light" in Freemasonry, I've found the truth to be even more fascinating than the myths are. That's what really resonated with me in Cooper's ***The Rosslyn Hoax***.

Not only does Robert Cooper bring unmatched credibility to the table, but this book is a straightforward look at how myths about Rosslyn Chapel and Freemasonry have been built up over time. If you're curious about what's real and what's just sensationalized history, ***The Rosslyn Hoax*** will change the way you think about both Rosslyn Chapel and Freemasonry.

***The Rosslyn Hoax*** remains in print and is easily obtainable from online booksellers.