from Cyprus to consult about a crusade. Tortured first by royal officials, then if need arose by the papal inquisition, 36 Templars died under torment in Paris alone. Of the 138 examined in Paris, 123 confessed to spitting on or at the cross at the rites when they joined the order. The Grand Master confessed to spitting on the crucifix and denying Christ. When papal opposition collapsed, Templars were arrested in England, Aragon, Castile, and Sicily, but the Pope assumed control and summoned a general council to decide the case. When the public trial began in 1310, many Templars withdrew their confessions, trusting in the pope—in vain. As relapsed heretics 67 were consigned to the flames. In all about 120 died in Paris.

In 1312 Clement abolished the order, transferring its property to the Hospitaleers. At last Jacques de Molay revived his courage and repudiated his confession, whereupon he was burnt along with the Preceptor of the order in Normandy, in front of Notre Dame de Paris. This horrible trial confirmed the precedent for burning heretics, blasphemers, and sodomites—something the scholastic philosophers Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas during the thirteenth century. Franciscans and Dominicans, enemies of the order and leaders of the Inquisition, helped in the prosecution and propaganda. More than ever since the fall of the Roman Empire, a Catholic secular power, the Capetian monarchy, already inured by its bloodthirsty campaigns against the Albigensians, was exploiting the supposed ties between demonic powers and heretics, blasphemers, and sodomites—against whom the Christian clergy had for so long warned. This was a momentous precedent for Hitler in the twentieth century, but a more immediate one for the torture and murder of Philip's son-in-law Edward II of England in 1327, engineered by Philip's daughter Isabella.


William A. Percy

TENNYSON, ALFRED, LORD (1809–1892)

English poet laureate. The son of a country rector, Tennyson began writing poetry at the age of eight. In 1830 he published his first significant book, Poems Chiefly Lyrical. Three years later occurred what was probably the most important event of his life: the death of his close
friend Arthur Hallam in Vienna. They had met at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1828, and had taken two continental trips together, which had deeply impressed the poet. Tennyson's continual and intense brooding over the loss yielded many manuscript drafts, which he finally combined in his major poetic sequence, In Memoriam, published anonymously in 1850. Later he gained fame for a number of individual shorter poems, as well as for the Arthurian cycle, The Idyls of the King (1859). Profiting from the innovations of the romantic poets, Tennyson enjoyed a superb ear, and was able to combine color and richness of imagery with ethical statement. By no means the apologist for Victorian beliefs that he is sometimes taken to be, Tennyson found the way to capture some of the chief moral dilemmas of his age in verse of matchless eloquence.

From the first, In Memoriam puzzled and disconcerted many of Tennyson's admirers. It is difficult to avoid the challenge of a prolonged expostulation to a dead friend that speaks of "A spectral doubt which makes me cold,/ that I shall be thy mate no more." For Tennyson, Hallam had once been "the centre of a world's desire," its "central warmth diffusing bliss." The years had only brought more depth of feeling: "My love involves the love before;/ my love is vaster passion now;/ tho' mixed with God and Nature thou,/I seem to love thee more and more."

In a contemporary review of In Memoriam, Charles Kingsley found the poetic sequence a descendant of "the old tales of David and Jonathan, Damon and Pythias, Socrates and Alcibiades, Shakespeare and his nameless friend, of 'love passing the love of woman.'" Benjamin Jowett, wondering whether it was manly or natural to linger in such a mood, excused the poems by speaking vaguely of their "Hellenism." For a century and a quarter after the publication critics twisted and turned to avoid directly addressing the disturbing implications of this pivotal work. To be sure, Tennyson complicated matters by conflating the love of his dead comrade with the love of Christ. Probably in his own mind the poet laureate was never sure what the meaning of the whole searing experience was. It is significant that he was able to marry his cousin Emily Sellwood, as he had long planned, only after the final publication of In Memoriam.


Wayne R. Dynes

TESLA, NIKOLA

Serbian-American scientist and inventor. Born the son of an Orthodox priest in the village of Smiljan in the province of Lik, he received his higher education at the Technische Hochschule in Graz and at the Charles University in Prague. In 1882 he worked for the telephone company in Budapest and invented the amplifier, and in February of that year discovered the phenomenon of the reverse magnetic pole. Between 1882 and 1884 he worked in Paris and Strasbourg, rebuilding the Edison dynamos. Then he came to America and worked with Edison himself for a time. In 1886 he invented the arc lamp for lighting city streets, and in April 1887 he founded the Tesla Electric Company. He also built the first high-efficiency multiphasic current machines and motors. In November and December 1887 he applied for patents for the Tesla induction coil and other inventions. In 1888–89 he worked for Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, applied for a patent for the transmission of alternating current, and built the first high-frequency generators, and in 1890 he discovered high-frequency currents. In 1892 he patented a transformer to increase oscillating currents to high potentials, and began his work on wireless telegraphy.