

# LITERATURE

The knight who narrates Geoffrey Chaucer's Knight's Tale is described as having served with the Knights.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Order and its relations with Poland, Masovia, and Lithuania are the main subject of Nobel Prize-winning Polish author Henryk Sienkiewicz's historical novel *The Teutonic Knights*, which describes the era of the Battle of Grunwald from the Polish point of view. A Polish film based on the novel, *Krzyżacy*, was released in 1960.

The conflict between the Order and Poland is featured in James A. Michener's historical novel *Poland*.

The conflict between the Order and Poland in years 1409-1411 with Teutonic-Lithuanian conflict and Hanza cities trading business as background is featured in Dariusz Domagalski's fantasy-historical series of novels and novellets *Delikatne uderzenie pioruna*, *Aksamitny dotyk nocy*, *Gniewny pomruk burzy*, *I niechaj cisza wznieci wojne*. Fantasy part is mostly connected with true nature of the world (meaning there is no God in Christian understanding but Sephirots meaning emanations taken from Kabbalah and many of the novel's characters serve those attributes while the world is in war between two groups of them. Many historical characters are depicted in the series.

In the Conrad Stargard science fiction series, by Polish American writer Leo Frankowski, the Teutonic Knights are depicted in an extremely hostile way, including repeated references to their "bad body smell". The title character, a modern Polish engineer who is sent back in time to the 13th century and introduces modern technology, encounters Teutonic Knights who are taking children into slavery, whereupon he kills them and sets the children free. Stargard's later conflicts with the Teutonic Knights culminate with his exterminating the entire order by flooding the city of Torun with poison gas.

Descendants of the Teutonic Knights play an important role in the novel "Le Roi des aulnes" (translated as "The Erl-King" or "The Ogre", taking place in Nazi times, which was written by the French Goncourt Prize winner Michel Tournier.

Author Bruce Quarrie, an historian of the Third Reich, titled his study of the elite Waffen-SS Panzer Divisions Hitler's Teutonic Knights.

In the book cycle "the Mongoliad" the Teutonic Knights, and some similar rivals, are the central characters on a quest to kill the Khan of the Mongols.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the 1967 Nick Carter spy novel, *The Bright Blue Death*, the Teutonic Knights are a neo-Nazi paramilitary organization intent on overthrowing the West German government.

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1. Chaucer, G *The Canterbury Tales*, 'The Prologue' II 43-6, 51-4
  2. Jump up ^ *The Mongoliad*