

LETTERS

From Paul Smith of 75, Waverley Lane, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE14 2HG

A question: Is there any surviving artistic portrait of Geoffrey I de Charny in existence?

[Answer: No, there is no known portrait. In accordance with the custom of the time, there would almost certainly have been an appropriate effigy on Geoffrey's tomb, created for him at royal expense fourteen years after his death in the Eglise des Célestins, Paris. But the church and its tombs have long since disappeared, and regrettably there is no known record of its one-time monuments.

However, Geoffrey II's tombstone, at the abbey of Froidmont, near Beauvais, was destroyed only as recently as the First World War, and fortunately a drawing of this has been preserved. A detail of this is reproduced below (right), together with what may be a likeness of the Templar Geoffrey de Charnay, as portrayed in a near contemporary manuscript now in the British Museum.]



Templar Geoffrey de Charnay



Geoffrey II de Charny