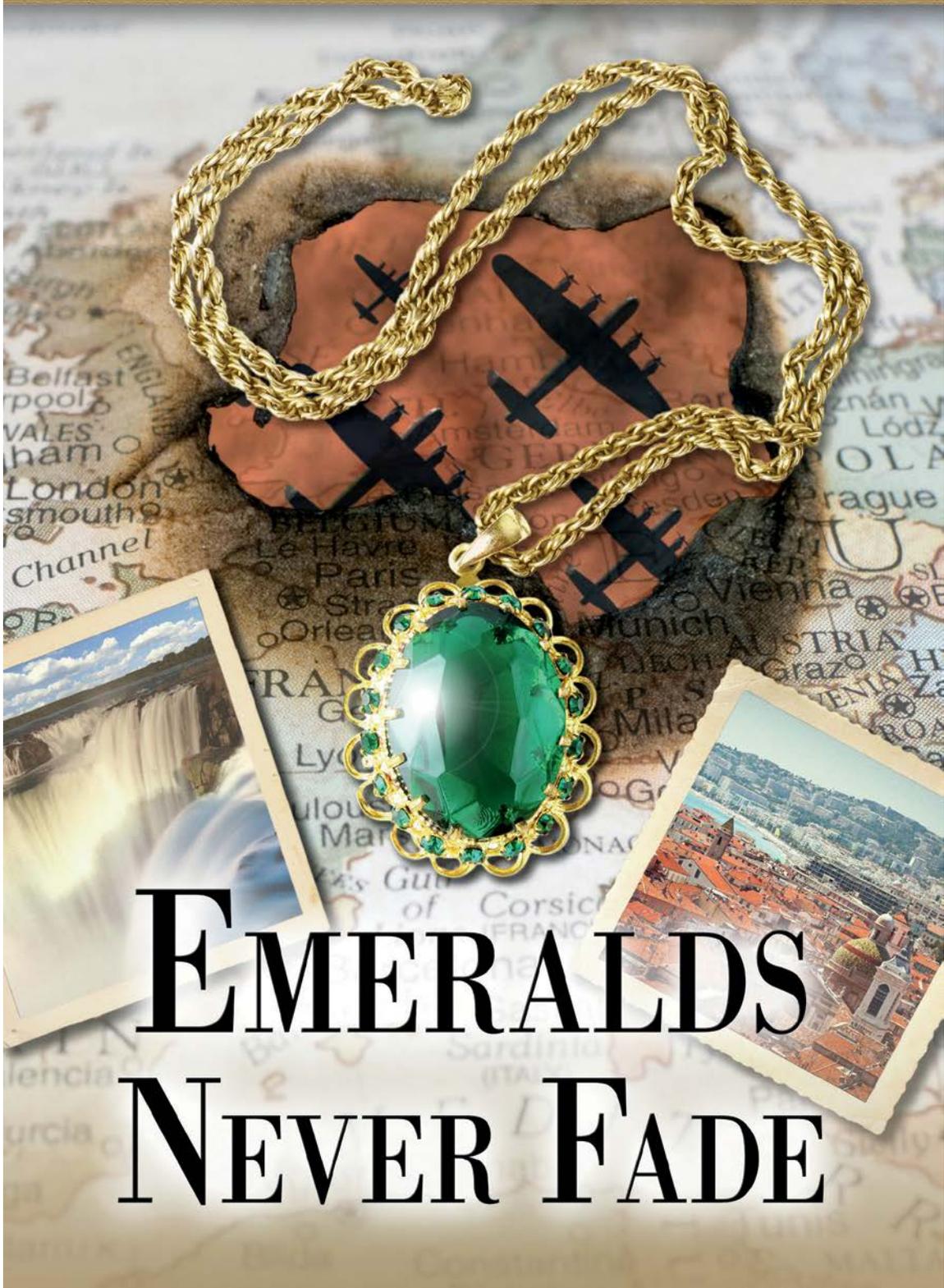


STEPHEN MAITLAND-LEWIS



# EMERALDS NEVER FADE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Emeralds Never Fade, a Tale of Jewish Persecution and Nazi Escape**

Ridge Literary Inc. is pleased to announce the November 30, 2011 publication of *Emeralds Never Fade* by Stephen Maitland-Lewis. Spanning four decades, the novel follows the lives of two Germans—one of them Jewish.

The story begins as World War II approaches and Jewish citizens of Augsburg, Germany face growing hatred. Two boys don't care that one is a Jew, but Nazi supremacy ends their weekly piano lessons. After the war, instead of finding that his Jewish family had survived the Holocaust, Leo Bergner uncovers a conspiracy involving the Nazis, Swiss banks, and the sale of Jewish assets to finance the escape of war criminals. The other German, Bruno Franzmann, spends the war working at a concentration camp, but as the Allies advance, he risks capture and prosecution. With the help of a Catholic seminary, he escapes to South America where he hatches a plot to blackmail his fellow Nazis. For Leo and Bruno, contrasting heritage defines their separate destinies, but a lost family heirloom brings them back together, and years later, decides their fate.

Stephen Maitland-Lewis, author of *Hero on Three Continents*, drew on his Jewish background and experience as an international investment banker, combined with extensive historical research, to compose the tale of *Emeralds Never Fade*, which provides a balanced view of both Jewish and non-Jewish Germans during and after World War II. The book further speculates on conspiracies between the Nazis, Church, and Swiss banks that, while fictional, are based on actual events.

“Firstly,” Maitland-Lewis said, “I was driven to write this book as I am haunted by all that Nazi Germany represented. To quote from Sir Ian Kershaw, one of the world’s foremost experts on Hitler, ‘*The road to Auschwitz was built by hate, but paved with indifference.*’ And secondly, I am obsessed with the question of those pillars of the community who had front-row seats on the Inferno and seized upon opportunities to profit from the extermination of their Jewish neighbors and clients.”

*Emeralds Never Fade* will be available for purchase November 30, 2011.

**For further information, visit the author and publisher websites:**

[www.maitland-lewis.com](http://www.maitland-lewis.com)  
[www.ridgeliterary.com/enf](http://www.ridgeliterary.com/enf)

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## ***Ridge Literary Inc. presents for review***

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**Author:** Stephen Maitland-Lewis

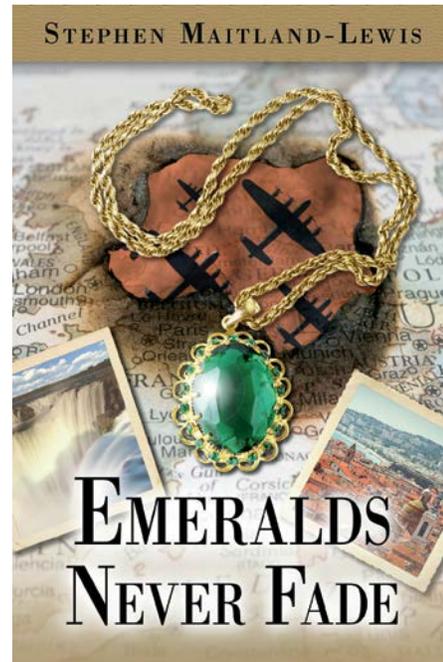
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### **Description:**

Before World War II, two German boys enjoy playing piano, and one visits twice each week to teach the other. When the Nazis seize power, the lessons must end—one of the boys is Jewish.

Leo Bergner, the Jewish pupil, escapes Germany while his piano teacher, Bruno Franzmann, is called to serve the Fatherland. His assignment to work at a concentration camp turns to peril as the war nears an end. With the Allied forces closing in, he risks capture and prosecution as a war criminal.

After the war, Leo begins a career in banking and uncovers a conspiracy of further Jewish persecution, involving the assets of concentration camp victims. His investigation into the corrupt dealings of his own bank puts him in direct opposition to his beloved Israel, while also jeopardizing his career, his marriage, and his life.

Bruno escapes to Buenos Aires and must begin anew, lost in a strange land where only his wits can save him. He hatches an unscrupulous plot to finance a multi-national corporation, and in time, his efforts require a business trip to London—his first visit to Europe since he escaped.

After forty years, a lost family heirloom will decide their fate.

**Cover image and other materials available at**  
[www.ridgeliterary.com/enf/press](http://www.ridgeliterary.com/enf/press)

**A copy of your review would be appreciated.**  
Send via e-mail to: [info@ridgeliterary.com](mailto:info@ridgeliterary.com)

## ***Synopsis: Emeralds Never Fade***

On his eighth birthday, Leo Bergner receives a wonderful gift—a piano. Better still, his father arranges for an older boy named Bruno, an accomplished pianist, to visit each week and teach Leo. Unlike Bruno, Leo is a Jew, and in the days preceding World War II, the rise of atrocities aimed at the Jewish population of Germany ends Bruno’s weekly visit to the Bergner home.

Fearing for their son’s safety, his parents send Leo to stay with cousins in France. After failed attempts to convince Leo’s stubborn father to leave Germany, at last his parents flee while they still can and join him in France, but something is wrong—his mother’s emerald pendant, passed down through generations and always around her neck, is gone. Stolen during *Kristallnacht*.

When Germany invades Poland, many fear that France is next. The Jewish community organizes an evacuation of children to Palestine for the duration of the war, and again Leo is separated from his parents. At a kibbutz in Palestine, Leo makes new friends, but restless as a teenager and determined to end Nazi oppression, he decides to join the British army.

Though not a Jew, Bruno’s life isn’t much better. Born with a clubfoot and walking with a limp, he could not join the Hitler youth. Instead he is sentenced to desk jobs, eventually as a payroll clerk at a concentration camp. When news of the Allied advance reaches the camp, Bruno makes plans to escape. But first he steals payroll records that might prove useful later. He flees across the border into Austria and meets a priest who promises safe passage over the Alps into Italy. There he hides for months in a monastery before embarking on a voyage to Argentina.

Now a British soldier, Leo reports to England where he stumbles upon a synagogue service and meets a kind and sympathetic man. Invited for dinner, Leo is the guest of a distinguished Jewish family, and he is taken by the youngest daughter. Romance blossoms but Leo is called for duty in Cairo, then Italy and eventually Holland, from where his unit penetrates German lines and liberates a concentration camp. As the war winds down, Leo returns to London hoping to resume his romance, and she accepts his proposal. Leo and his new wife travel to France in search of his family, and finding no trace of them, he can only assume they perished in the Holocaust.

Settled in Buenos Aires and thirsting to advance, Bruno hatches a plot to blackmail his fellow Nazis—using the payroll records from the camp. His bank account swells, and mingling with prominent Argentine political figures elevates him to a position of power that fuels a string of business acquisitions. He is introduced to the beautiful daughter of an important general, and in time she becomes his wife. For her birthday, from the cache of stolen valuables he had smuggled out of Germany, he selects the best—a stunning emerald pendant.

In Geneva, Leo begins a career in banking and his duties include weekly trips to Rome, acting as a courier of gold and precious artwork delivered to a Catholic seminary. Years later, Leo uncovers questionable accounts linked to his assignments as a courier, and he determines the deliveries were the assets of concentration camp victims. His tenacity to expose the truth risks his marriage, his career, and even his life, as hired thugs beat him within an inch of it.

After recovering from his injuries, Leo relocates to London, and his childhood friend from Israel is in town for a conference. He convinces Leo to attend the crowded event, where Leo recognizes a man with a limp. And his wife—wearing his mother’s emerald pendant. Bruno flees the scene as Leo’s frenzy ends in his collapse.

Determined to track down the emerald, Leo obtains a dossier on Bruno and books a flight to Argentina. From his hotel in Buenos Aires, he telephones Bruno to arrange a meeting they will both regret.



**2012 Benjamin Franklin  
Award for Historical Fiction**



**2012 Written Arts Award  
for Best Fiction and  
General Fiction**

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Maitland-Lewis' tale is scrupulously researched,  
saturated with rich historical detail.

***KIRKUS REVIEWS***

Gripping novel of historical fiction.

***FOREWORD REVIEWS***

A fine and recommended read, not to be  
overlooked.

***MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW***

A thrilling page-turner.

***REBECCA'S READS***

## ***Praise for Emeralds Never Fade***

“Maitland-Lewis blends a unique, educated and informed voice to create convincing characters living through one of history’s darkest hours. Impeccably researched, *Emeralds Never Fade* is a poignant story of two men whose lives, and the lives of their family members, are forever altered by a period of history that should never be forgotten. As Hitler’s Nazis march across Europe and the horrors of the Holocaust unfold, Maitland-Lewis delivers a personal account of loss, love, sacrifice and triumph. *Emeralds Never Fade* is hard to close at night and hard to forget.”

*Robert Dugoni*

*NY Times bestselling author of MURDER ONE and BODILY HARM*

“I started *Emeralds* and couldn’t put it down until the end. It is a page turner—greatly enjoyable and informative. Perfecto!”

*Connie Martinson*

*Nationally syndicated journalist and TV host of CONNIE MARTINSON TALKS BOOKS*

“An extremely clever, well-crafted thriller that compels the reader to turn page after page excitedly. The author, Stephen Maitland-Lewis, earnestly informs about an intensely significant historical era which he tautly wraps around with irresistible charm his fascinating tale of mystery and intrigue.”

*Robert K. Tanenbaum*

*Bestselling author of the BUTCH KARP THRILLER SERIES*

“Stephen Maitland-Lewis beautifully crafts a story of intrigue that examines the human condition in all its layers. The fascinating journeys of Leo Bergner and Bruno Franzmann are vividly detailed in a tour de force account of men shaped by their remarkable life experiences. *Emeralds Never Fade* gains power and poignancy with every riveting page.”

*Jim Engster*

*NPR host and President of Louisiana Radio Network*

“*Emeralds Never Fade* is so compelling that at first I thought I had written it myself. This book is great!”

*Alan Zweibel*

*Thurber prize-winning author of THE OTHER SHULMAN*



## ***Praise for Emeralds Never Fade***

“A fascinating combination of thriller and psychodrama of an entire era, *Emeralds Never Fade* is a vivid depiction of two characters in the vortex of the most desperate hour in Jewish history. With echoes of *The Chosen*, Maitland-Lewis captures the very personal fallout of the Holocaust in a manner that captures events in both their terror and absurdity.”

*Eric Dezenhall*

*Author of THE DEVIL HIMSELF*

“A deftly woven and intriguing tale of two German boys played out against the unspeakable horrors of the Nazi regime and World War II—a page turning thriller that won’t disappoint.”

*Dr. James Muyskens*

*President, Queen’s College, New York*

“Maitland-Lewis is a master storyteller. *Emeralds Never Fade* depicts not only a staggering and grand sweep of history but the fascinating mysteries of the human heart.”

*Brad Schreiber*

*Award-winning journalist and author of BECOMING JIMI HENDRIX*

“Stephen Maitland-Lewis deftly guides us through the dark times of Nazi Germany, where birth and circumstance muddy the boundaries of good and evil. We travel the continent and beyond, through the exciting world of international banking, as we follow separate lives that are yet intertwined, with an ending that is completely unexpected.”

*Pam Atherton*

*Award-winning talk show host*

“A major tour-de-force and personal account of one of the most horrifying and compelling eras the world has ever endured. The characters come alive in Stephen Maitland-Lewis’ inspiring prose to the point you simply can’t put it down or wait to attack the next inspiring, fascinating page.”

*John L. Seitz*

*Senior Editor, The Beverly Hills Courier*

## ***Praise for Emeralds Never Fade***

“A pulsating story of two boys once joined together by the love of music, then separated by the paths of war. A gripping read with a heart-pounding ending.”

*Monty Hall*

*Iconic television personality*

“I’ve been waiting for Stephen Maitland-Lewis to top *Hero on Three Continents* and he has done it with *Emeralds Never Fade*. This compelling story of tragedy and triumph kept me riveted to the very last page.”

*A. C. Lyles*

*Producer, Paramount Pictures*

“I could not put ‘Emeralds’ down, and cannot forget the story and the boys whose future was shaped by the Holocaust. It’s a thrilling page-turner, believable in its geography and history, and dramatic in every way. It is epic with a powerful ending, and profoundly meaningful.”

*Joseph Benincasa*

*President & CEO, The Actors Fund*

“A compelling read punctuated with unexpected twists and turns that make it difficult to put the book down.”

*Roger Lefkon*

*Former Merv Griffin Entertainment and NBC television executive*

“Stephen Maitland-Lewis has crafted an important novel that is an enjoyable and compelling read. An exciting and moving page-turner.”

*Jerry Zeitman*

*Hollywood Producer*

“Put this marvelous story at the top of your ‘must read’ list. The characters come alive and will impress you... and haunt you as the story reveals its secrets. A powerful study of behavior patterns as life events unfold. Enjoy it—and take its lessons to heart.”

*Rabbi Dr. Sanford M. Shapero*

*Former Regional Director of The Union For Reform Judaism*



## Emeralds Never Fade

Stephen Maitland-Lewis  
Ridge Literary Inc. (2011)  
ISBN 978-0-9993802-0-8  
Reviewed by Tia Bach for RebeccasReads (11/11)

World War II is looming, but two German boys only know their shared love of playing the piano. Soon, forces beyond their control or understanding, separate them as Germany becomes an unsafe place for Jews. Leo Bergner's parents see themselves as German, not just Jews, and refuse to believe Hitler will go as far as the rumor mill suggests. After family begs them to see the writing on the wall, Leo's parents ultimately send him to safety in Palestine.

Bruno's parents force him to quit teaching the Jewish pupil, and he ends up joining Hitler's troops. Thanks to a bum foot, he is spared getting his hands too dirty in the war, but he gains valuable knowledge while working in an administrative capacity at a concentration camp. Knowledge he later uses to his advantage.

The story continues to unfold. Leo ends up fighting the Germans in the British army while Bruno escapes to Argentina just before the Allied Forces close in. Leo feels the burden of his past, of his lost loved ones, even when he marries and moves into a career in banking. Bruno uses information gathered during the war to survive.

Leo ultimately uncovers a bank conspiracy involving stolen Jewish possessions. His family's lost emerald heirloom, stolen during the war, brings the two men back together in an explosion of emotions and fate.

The author intricately weaves together the stories of Leo and Bruno throughout the novel. Each man is affected by the war, but uses different means to cope and move on. From the moment Bruno steals the emerald, we know their fates are intertwined. With each page turn, we eagerly anticipate how the two stories will collide. The author leaves us guessing until the very end.

Although the novel is a thrilling page-turner, it is still steeped in emotion. Both men are victims of circumstance. I found Leo's letters from his mom particularly touching, and Bruno grew up under the thumb of selfishness and judgment. Neither man's character is clear cut, both are just men held strongly in the often cruel hands of fate. You will enjoy this rich story, and its well-crafted characters, from beginning to end. An amazing cover seals the deal.

<http://www.rebeccasreads.com/Reviews/ReviewLewisEmeraldsNeverFade.html>



# ForeWord Reviews

In this gripping novel of historical fiction, the author explores an infrequently examined aspect of the Holocaust: what happened to the money, jewelry, and other assets stolen from the Jews by the Nazis? How complicit were the banks of Switzerland? And what role did the church have in the theft?

The setting is World War II. Two boys, Bruno and Leo, both German and the latter Jewish, have a brief acquaintance as the former instructs the latter in piano. To keep him safe from the increasing restrictions against the Jews, Leo Bergner's family sends him on a train to Nice, France, where he is to stay with his aunt and uncle; his mother and father temporarily stay behind. After that, Leo and Bruno Franzmann, the German piano teacher, have no contact for decades.

Leo's mother Ulrike owns a precious and unique emerald, one that was handed down from her great-grandmother. One day, Ulrike comes home without her emerald; though she refuses to say what happened to it, she is devastated by its absence, and Leo is devastated on her behalf.

A series of events lands Leo on a kibbutz in Palestine. Leo's military career begins here and eventually takes him all over Europe. He marries but is unlucky in love. Through his father-in-law, however, he does enter a second career as a banker. All the while, Leo is never certain as to what happened to his family; he lost touch with them soon after arriving in the Middle East.

A concurrent story is being told about Bruno. While Bruno spent the war years as a file clerk at a concentration camp, he knows he will be prosecuted after the war. Bruno steals some files and with the help of a monastery, he ends up in Argentina, where he reinvents himself as Bruno Fernandez. Using underhanded methods, Bruno becomes a wealthy businessman. Fast-forward four decades. Now the setting is a conference room in London. Leo catches a glimpse of his former piano teacher and his wife...and of a long-lost family heirloom.

The story is well-constructed as the viewpoints shift between Leo and Bruno over forty years. Maitland-Lewis has created authentic characters that simultaneously evoke sympathy and provoke outrage. Particularly compelling storylines are Leo's frantic search for his family and his feelings about his crumbling marriage. Part expose, part love story, part homage to family, the author deftly takes the reader through a shameful time in history as he laments what was lost. He indicts "bystanders" who profited from the atrocities of Jewish extermination, including not only the Nazis but some of the German people, the church, and Swiss banks. This is a real page-turner that will not only entertain but will also shed light on a little-known aspect of the consequences of World War II.

Stephen Maitland-Lewis, whose occupations have included attorney, banker, and luxury hotel owner, is also the author of the novel *Hero on Three Continents*.

Hilary Daninhirsch, November 18, 2011

<http://www.forewordreviews.com/reviews/emeralds-never-fade/>

## About the Author



Photograph by Nathan Sternfeld

Stephen Maitland-Lewis is an award-winning author, a British attorney, and a former international investment banker. He has held senior executive positions in London, Kuwait and on Wall Street prior to moving to California in 1991. He has owned a luxury hotel and a world-renowned restaurant and was also Director of Marketing of a Los Angeles daily newspaper. Maitland-Lewis is a jazz aficionado and a Board Trustee of the Louis Armstrong House Museum in New York. In 2014, he received the Museum's prestigious Louie Award. A member of PEN and the Author's Guild, Maitland-Lewis is also on the Executive Committee of the International Mystery Writers Festival. His novel *Hero on Three Continents* has received numerous accolades, and *Emeralds Never Fade* won the 2012 Benjamin Franklin Award for Historical Fiction and the 2012 Written Arts Award for Best Fiction. His novel *Ambition* was a 2013 USA Best Book Awards finalist and won first place for General Fiction in the 2013 Rebecca's Reads Choice Awards. His novel *Botticelli's Bastard* was a 2014 USA Best Book Awards finalist in three categories and won the Bronze Award in Best Regional Fiction (Europe) at the 2015 Independent Publisher Book Awards. In January of 2016, Maitland-Lewis was sworn in as a Freeman of the City of London and admitted as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of City Solicitors. In April of 2016, he became a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society (FRGS). Maitland-Lewis and his wife, Joni Berry, divide their time between their homes in Beverly Hills and New Orleans.

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