

THE CRAFT FREEMASONRY NEWSLETTER No. 10 JULY 2006



THE FOUNDATIONS OF REGULAR CRAFT RITUAL

In 1740 throughout Europe was circulating a Masonic oath written on a pamphlet invoking that the Freemason will protect and preserve the Traditions, Uses and Costumes of the Craft.

In order to preserve and avoid losing the original meaning and to prevent any further deviation and other foreign innovations from taking place, forced upon us by those not knowing the Traditions of the Craft, its uses and customs of Ancient Freemasonry, the Masonic High Council the Mother High Council issues the following Craft Document under the name and title of "The Foundations of Regular Craft Ritual", to be used as the guidelines of Ancient and Regular Craft Masonry constituting the basic requirements for the perpetuation of Regular Craft Freemasonry.

1. All Craft Freemasonry Rituals had their origin in England.
2. That there be no debarment from membership because of nationality, of race, of colour, of sectarian or political belief; that a belief in the G.:A.:O.:T.:U.:and His revealed will shall be an essential qualification for membership.

3. That all initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated. At all times the book of Kings must be present as this is where the record of the building of Solomon's Temple is first given and constitutes the base of the Craft legend.

4. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control, i.e., that it shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organisation with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) within its jurisdiction; and shall not in any way be subject to, or divide such authority with, a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.

4.1 That preserves, works and performs the complement ceremonies of the Mark Man, Mark Mason to the Fellow Craft Degree and Installed or Past Master Ceremonies to the Master Mason Degree, of which all this workings or ceremonies of Ancient Craft freemasonry must be used in complement to all Regular Craft Rituals of EA., FC. and MM..

4.2 That no Master Mason shall be allowed to take the Chair of the WM of a Regular Craft Lodge if he has not been installed.

5. In accordance with earlier Craft English ritual the three Lesser or Movable Lights of the Lodge being the Sun, First Quarter Moon and the Worshipful Master shall always be on display when the Grand Lodge or its constituent Lodges are at work; to light man to, at, and from their work, the chief of these being the Worshipful Master.

6. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry shall always be on display when the Grand Lodge or its constituent Lodges are at work: the Square, Compasses and the chief of these being the Volume of Sacred Law, these being the fixed lights of the Lodge.

7. As per the usage of the Grand Lodge of London (1717-1723) the two Wardens are situated in the West of the Lodge, and represent the two pillars at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple, and the Brethren must always enter the Lodge between this two pillars, that the Masonic Delta with or without the all seeing eye must be placed above the altar or table of the Worshipful Master, (no other altar or extra altar exists in Craft Freemasonry). Only wax candles are used on the altar or desk of the WM., SW., JW., Secretary, Orator, and around the Tracing Board of the Lodge. The Sword a Masonic symbol its use must be preserved and maintained. The Tracing Board must always be placed in its traditional place the centre of the Lodge.

8. That the principles of the Ancient Charges, Customs, and Usages of the Craft shall be accordingly observed.

8.1 That the Grand Officers and Officers of a Craft Lodge must be elected every year.

9. Master Masons Aprons can also be painted depicting the symbols of the Craft Freemasonry.

10. That a Grand Lodge must be multi-ritualistic.

10.1 That a Regular Craft Ritual has to have a Opening an Initiation and a Closing; that it must make allusion to the G.:A.:O.:T.:U.:; that it must have at least the book of Kings must be present as this is where the record of the building of Solomon's Temple is first given and constitutes the base of the Craft legend; that the Legend is of the Craft Degrees is that of Hiram Abif or Adoniram and of no other.

11. That all Freemasons must believe in the Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of Man and the immortality of the Spirit.

11.1 That the Ancient custom of Masonic Songs in Lodge should be encouraged and be maintained has it serves to further strength the Spirit of the Fraternity and deepen the Bonds of Brotherly Love among all Masons.

12. That the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be prohibited.

These Masonic principles constitute the Foundations of Regular Craft Ritual.



Grand Lodge of Regular Free & Accepted Masons of France

Address delivered by The Most Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Serge Bouthemy, Provincial Grand Lodge of Paris Ile-de-France at the Annual Craft Investiture on the 24th of June 2006

The Grand Lodge of Regular, Free and Accepted Masons is a traditional initiation Order, We are Regular Free Masons because we claim our belief in a Grand Architect of the Universe, in his revealed willingness, because we take our oath on the volume of the Holy Law and we practise our craft in the presence of the three Great Lights, and all the Lodge Officers are Installed Masters, this and this alone rests our claim to regularity.

Labouring to the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe, the Lodge practise an unchanging ritual which symbolism is drawn from the ancient craft of the operative's builders. In this perfect and regular lodge, there's no room for any political or religious discussion and Enlightenment is imparted to us in a time and a space designed as sacred. What these men worthy enough to being Free Masons seek in a lodge is a law leading to a spiritual and moral improvement and linked to the invigorating and brotherly practise of charity. The consciousness of the presence of the others is an essential Masonic virtue for the building up of our inner Temple, The initial Temple.

Worshipful Masters in our lodges are sitting in King Salomon's throne. In Hebrew the name Salomon means "man undisturbed" Consequently, let us behave like a "man undisturbed" to oppose the dilution of all fundamental human certainties in the profane world, because "a man undisturbed" knows he's linked to tradition and universality.

Before the Worshipful Master of a Lodge is installed, his instructor makes sure he's determined to faithfully maintain the ancient usages and customs like all Masters in all times did before him. During the period of time when I occupied the throne I realize that a number of attitudes and unchanging values were just as essential to the Provincial Grand Master in charge of a traditional obedience that they had been before him. One can be struck by the extent of the powers that falls to the Provincial Grand Master who except for the Grand Treasurer, can select his Senior Officers or dismiss them unrestrictive and who, in all circumstances can take decisions without appeal.

This power is trusted to him by the Grand Master of the Order. In a world where conversations, discussions or round tables are the rule, we are tempted to consider that this power is an anachronism or a provocation. But this is only an illusion for so extended as it may be, this power is not exerted according to personal consideration or in the inspiration of the moment, but only for the good of the Order or the best idea we have of the Order. In addition, the Grand Master of the Province doesn't exert his power alone and a form of labour division is established in the lodge just like in any human society having reached an advanced degree of development, Sharing labour in the Lodges isn't something, which must be invented. It already exists since the Grand Masters of the Province received their authority from the Grand Master's hands. And they have to fulfil the duties of their offices without neglecting or exceeding any.

To be sure the development of the Grand Lodge will make such delegation of power even more necessary with the aim to extend and certainly not contradict the Grand Master's action within the lodges. The notion of authority has its right place in Masonry but it doesn't exclude fraternity implying from the one who has to enforce his authority a constant rigor in fulfilling the duties of his office.

Once he's elected The Provincial Grand Master isn't a president interested just to find a majority and he won't be busy just to discover which dominating trend he should follow. He doesn't act as a middleman either. In front of two opposed attitudes, choosing a middle way between two opposed attitudes isn't always as good decision to take and in order to please everybody; one often ends up displeasing all parties. Such an attitude added to the vigilance exerted by the Order constitute her major asset and her strength. Her asset is based on the principles, which founded her law; her strength is linked to her attachment to these principles.

The Masonic Order is resolutely modern with her methods enabling her to face the contemporary world and to prepare the one of tomorrow. The sociologists who have elaborated the method of "group dynamic" have just reinvented what has been practised in our lodges for centuries.

The progress in human sciences which has revealed the importance of communication and behaviour techniques is a rediscovery of a knowledge coming from the Operative Mason's rules. The secret of our method consists essentially in the integration of individual intelligences into the group's collective intelligence through the practise of the ritual.

It has been decades since traditional Free Masonry has discovered what Father T. de C brought to today's sociology or in other terms that collective intelligence is far superior to the addition of individual intelligences which make them up.

A renewed destiny is offered to the Masonic order at a time when real power falls to technicians who tend to forget that "science without conscience brings about the ruin of the soul" to rephrase the French philosopher Pascal. Craft Freemasonry integrates progress in its chain of age-old traditions and if we can save our essential characteristics, then Regular Free Master Masons will play in tomorrow's world the same role that monastic orders played once and are still playing today. In face of the issues linked to spirituality (religious crises, the development of sects, of magical practises, or of political sectarianism) the Masonic tradition or the values stemming from it may appear as a solution:

- Words get through eternal symbols a real meaning.
- Assistantship is replaced by an active fraternity.
- Reflection on death takes its traditional place again.
- Creative work is re-sanctified.
- A perfect tolerance allows everyone to follow the religion of their choice.

Initiation and rituals give to the Free Masonry a temporal dimension including the past and the future but she will only be unable to fulfil her mission without our common and individual efforts Let's keep on improving personally to bring to the world what we have learned from the traditional values the Order is passing on to us in our lodges. This way the Free Masonry M is a chance for the modern world in the advancement and enlightenment of humanity.



A LA GLOIRE DU GRAND ARCHITECTE DE L'UNIVERS

Allocution du Très Respectable Frère Serge BOUTHEMY

Grand Maître Provincial Paris - Ile de France

La Grande Loge des Maçons Réguliers Francs et Acceptés est un Ordre traditionnel, initiatique et universel.

Nous sommes des Francs-Maçons Réguliers parce que nous affirmons notre croyance en un Grand Architecte de l'Univers et en sa volonté révélée, parce que nous prêtons serment sur le Volume de la Sainte Loi, et que nous travaillons en présence des Trois Grandes Lumières.

La Loge qui travaille à la Gloire du Grand Architecte de L' Univers pratique un rituel immuable dont le symbolisme est tiré de l'Art de bâtir.

Dans cette Loge Juste et Régulière, il n'y a aucune place pour une discussion politique ou religieuse, et c'est dans ce Temps et cet Espace Sacrés que nous transmettons la Lumière.

Ce que viennent chercher en Loge les hommes dignes d'être Francs -Maçons, est une loi qui mène au perfectionnement spirituel et moral lié à la pratique d'une charité vivifiante et fraternelle. Cette vertu de reconnaître la présence de l'Autre est indispensable dans la construction en nous du Temple Initial.

Les Vénérables Maîtres de nos Loges, sont assis dans la Chaire du Roi Salomon. Salomon en hébreux veut dire "Homme tranquille".

Puissions-nous, nous comporter devant la dilution de toutes les certitudes fondamentales du monde profane, en homme tranquille parce qu'il se sent reliait à la tradition et à l'universalité.

Avant d'installer le Vénérable Maître d'une Loge, son installateur s'assure qu'il est résolu à maintenir fidèlement les Anciens Usages, Us et Coutumes comme l'ont fait tous les Maîtres dans tous les temps.

De même mon passage dans cette Chaire m'a fait entrevoir un certain nombre d'attitudes et de constantes qui, elles aussi s'imposent dans tous les temps au Grand Maître Provincial d'une obédience traditionnelle.

On est souvent frappé par l'étendue des pouvoirs dévolus au Grand Maître Provincial qui peut, à l'exception du Grand Trésorier choisir librement ses Grands Officiers ou les renvoyer et qui, en toutes circonstances, décide en dernier ressort. Ce pouvoir, il le tient *du Grand* Maître de l'Ordre.

Dans un monde où règnent : le colloque, la table ronde et la concertation, on est tenté de les juger anachroniques et provocants. Il y a là une simple apparence car les pouvoirs si larges soient-ils, ne peuvent s'exercer en fonction des considérations personnelles, ou de l'inspiration du moment, mais seulement pour le bien de l'Ordre ou l'idée que l'on s'en fait.

Au surplus, l'exercice des pouvoirs du Grand Maître Provincial n'est pas solitaire. Comme dans toute société humaine à un stade avancé de développement, une division du travail doit s'établir.

Elle n'a pas à être inventée car elle existe déjà en Maçonnerie, où les *Grands* Maîtres Provinciaux exercent sur les Loges et les Frères de leurs Provinces toute l'autorité qu'ils ont reçue du Grand Maître. Les Grands Officiers Provinciaux doivent remplir les devoirs de leurs charges sans en négliger ni outrepasser aucun.

Il est certain que la croissance de la Grande Loge des Maçons Réguliers, Francs et Acceptés rendra plus nécessaire encore de semblables délégations de pouvoirs. Elles doivent prolonger l'action du Grand Maître sans la contrarier.

Le terme d'autorité a sa place en Maçonnerie sans exclure la Fraternité, il implique de la part de celui qui en est le dépositaire, une rigueur de tous les instants dans l'accomplissement des devoirs de sa charge.

Une fois élu le Grand Maître Provincial n'est pas un Président voué à la recherche d'une majorité, occupé à découvrir la tendance dominante pour mieux la suivre, il n'est pas non plus un arbitre.

En présence de deux attitudes opposées, la solution sage n'est pas toujours entre les deux. Ce peut être l'une de ces attitudes extrêmes, ou encore une troisième voix. A vouloir plaire à tous, on aboutit souvent à mécontenter chacun. Cette attitude et la vigilance exercées par l'Ordre constituent pour lui un capital et une force. Un capital qui a ses sources dans les principes dont il a fait sa règle, une force que perpétue son attachement à ses principes.

L'Ordre Maçonique est résolument moderne, car il possède des méthodes qui permettent d'affronter le monde contemporain et de préparer celui de demain.

Les sociologues qui ont mis au point la dynamique de groupes, n'ont fait que réinventer ce qui est pratiqué dans nos Loges depuis des siècles. Les progrès des sciences humaines qui ont mis à jour l'importance des techniques de comportements et de communication n'ont fait que découvrir que ce que nous savions à partir des règles opératives du métier.

Le secret de la méthode maçonnique réside essentiellement dans l'intégration par le rituel des intelligences individuelles, dans l'intelligence collective du groupe.

La Franc-Maçonnerie Traditionnelle a ainsi découvert depuis des décennies ce que le Père Teilhard de Chardin a appris à la sociologie actuelle, à savoir que l'intelligence collective est supérieure à la somme des intelligences individuelles qui la composent.

Un nouveau destin s'offre à l'Ordre Maçonique dans une époque où le pouvoir réel échoit à des techniciens qui oublient que "science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'Ame" car, il peut intégrer le progrès dans la chaîne des traditions séculaires.

Si nous sauvegardons nos caractéristiques essentielles, la Franc-Maçonnerie régulière jouera dans le monde de demain le rôle qu'ont joué les Ordres Monastiques autrefois et qu'ils jouent encore aujourd'hui.

Devant le problème lié à la spiritualité (crise religieuse, prolifération des sectes, pratiques magiques, intransigeances liées à la politique), la tradition maçonnique ou les valeurs qui en sont issues, en paraîtra telle une solution.

- Le Verbe retrouve sa véritable signification à travers les symboles éternels.
- L'assistanat est remplacé par une fraternité active.
- La réflexion sur la mort reprend sa place traditionnelle.
- Le travail créateur est re-sacralisé.
- Chaque Homme pratique la religion de son choix dans la tolérance la plus parfaite.
- La transmission s'effectue par l'initiation et le rituel, donnant à la Franc-Maçonnerie sa dimension temporelle vers le passé et vers l'avenir.

Cette mission, la Franc-Maçonnerie ne pourra la remplir qu'à travers nos efforts communs et individuels.

Poursuivons notre perfectionnement personnel pour apporter dans la cité ce que nous pourrons, des valeurs traditionnelles que l'Ordre nous aura transmises dans nos Loges.

C'est de cette manière que la Franc-Maçonnerie représente l'une des chances du monde moderne pour faire avancer l'humanité vers la Lumière.

Allocution prononcée, le 24 juin 2006 à l'occasion de l'installation du Collège des Officiers Provinciaux



T.R.F Samuel BADINGA
Député Grand Maître
G.L.P. Paris Ile-de-France



T.R.F. Serge BOUTHEMY
Provincial Grand Maître Provincial
G.L.P. Paris Ile-de-France



FEDERAL GRAND ORIENT OF ITALY



A.:G.:D.:G.:A.:D.:U.:

" IDEA " solo chi ha vere Idee ha veri progetti di lavoro !

Il Grande Oriente Italiano Federale - GOIF , la vera IDEA del nuovo lavoro Massonico in Italia . Nella Istituzione Massonica , la volontà dei suoi appartenenti è sempre quella di concretizzare giorno dopo giorno la realizzazione dei Valori della propria appartenenza nel rispetto della nostra Tradizione. Per ottenere ciò di cui sopra, dobbiamo lavorare incessantemente intorno ad un Vero e Armonioso Progetto, intorno ad una Vera IDEA, quale Faro di Luce che dovrà illuminare sempre meglio la strada da seguire.. " come il ciclista che nel buio della notte deve pedalare più forte affinché la luce prodotta dalla dinamo lo aiuti ad illuminare meglio la strada da percorrere, il massone ha necessità di pensare sempre più ad elaborare nuovi progetti massonici, affinché la luce prodotta da una Nuova e Corretta " IDEA " massonica, possa illuminare il suo futuro e sicuro lavoro da compiere " .. .

Il Grande Oriente Italiano Federale - GOIF è l' IDEA , il Progetto concreto e vero, della Massoneria Italiana. Il GOIF dopo la sua Costituzione in Italia del 13.10.2005 ha visto realizzarsi la sua Consacrazione il 23.06.2006 , alla presenza del M.W. Segretario Generale fratello Rui Alexander Gabirro della Regular Grand Lodge of England - RGLE e del R.W. Gran Maestro Deputato fratello Philip Fowler del Masonic Hig Council of India - GLUI .

La presenza del Grande Oriente Italiano Federale - GOIF nel panorama della Massoneria Italiana vuole essere un punto molto Luminoso dell'Ortodossia Massonica nel rispetto rigido dell'Etica ,della Morale , della Virtù, nonché luogo di incontro e di Unità, di tutte le presenze attuali - Massoniche Regolari Multiritualistiche in quanto non possono esistere Istituzioni Massoniche Regolari che pretendono una sola visione Unilaterale nella ricerca Interiore Massonica.

Essere in equilibrio con questo corretto Mondo Massonico è semplice, è solo necessario mettere in pratica uno dei nostri valori fondamentali come l'Umiltà e assumere quale Unica e Nuova Base di Riflessione Propositiva tutte le differenze delle Scuole di Pensiero Massoniche Italiane Esistenti , affinché " le differenze " diventino il Cemento difficile della Costruzione e non più il Motivo facile della Divisione .

Costruire quindi , ponendosi con Libertà , Uguaglianza , Fratellanza e Tolleranza ad ascoltarci , per l' Antica e Nuova Costruzione della Cattedrale del Rinascimento Massonico Italiano e Mondiale, nella Regolarità ! Lavoro importante e indispensabile da compiere , nella " IDEA " della direzione per l' Unificazione della Comunione Massonica Italiana.

Un grazie a tutti i fratelli delle Gran Logge del Mondo regolarizzate con la RGLE e a tutte le Gran Logge che costituiscono il Grande Oriente Italiano Federale - GOIF , per il loro lavoro attuale e futuro , fatto e da fare, per il bene della Massoneria Universale. Federale - GOIF, per il loro lavoro attuale e futuro , fatto e da fare per il bene della Massoneria Universale.

Sinceramente e Fraternamente vostro fratello

Pasquale Cerofolini, GOIF
Gran Maestro Federale d'Italia



A.:G.:D.:G.:A.:D.:U.:

" IDEAL " only he who has true Ideas has true working projects!

The Federal Grand Orient of Italy GOIF, has become the true IDEAL of the new & revitalized Craft Masonic work in Italy.

Within the Masonic Institution, the purpose of the Brethrens is always to put in practice (realize) day-by-day ones values in respect to the tradition of the Craft.

To do that, we have to work hard on a true and harmonic project (= IDEAL) as to shed the Light in the path that is to be followed... "So as a biker who in the darkness of the night pedals stronger and stronger so that the light emanating from the dynamo helps him to see the road ahead, in the same way a Mason needs to think higher and higher so that the light emanating from the new and original IDEAL can enlighten his (and ours) future work."....

The Federal Grand Orient of Italy GOIF is the IDEAL, the original project for the unification of Italian Craft Freemasonry.

The Federal Grand Orient of Italy, after being Constituted on October the 13th, 2005, was then consecrated in due form on June the 23rd of the 2006. Being officially present at this solemn event our RW Bro. Rui Gabirro, Secretary General of the Masonic High Council of the Regular Grand Lodge of England (MHC/RGLE) and the MW Bro. Philip Fowler, Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic High Council of India.

The existence of the Federal Grand Orient of Italy (GOIF) in Italian Craft Freemasonry is meant to be a lighting point of the Masonic orthodoxy with the strictest respect for the ethics and the virtues of the Craft, it aims to be a meeting point of unity for all regular and multiritualistic Masonic institutions in Italy, has it's not possible the existence of Masonic Institutions that may think there is only one unilateral vision of the essence of Masonic research.

The Federal Grand Orient of Italy aims to be in correct balance with the Masonic world, it is only necessary to place in practice a most important value such as humility and for one to assume a unique new basis for pro-positive reflection. And the differences resulting from the existing Italian Masonic Schools of Thought, "the differences" those may become the difficult glue of construction and not the easy reason for the divisions any longer.

Therefore its through Freedom, Equality, Brotherhood and Tolerance, that we have to listen to ourselves and build the old and new construction of the new Cathedral of both the Italian and world-wide Masonic Renaissance. Above is an important and necessary work to realise, through the " IDEAL" aimed at the unification of the Italian Masonic Communion.

For all the Masonic work, aimed to reach the universal Brotherhood, that has been realized and for that, that is yet to come to all the Brethren of our new confederation of Regular Grand Lodges in the world and the Brethren of the Grand Lodges that are part of the Federal Grande Grand Orient of Italy my warmest thanks to you all.

Sincerely & Fraternally
MW Pasquale Cerofolini, GOIF



COMMUNICATIONS

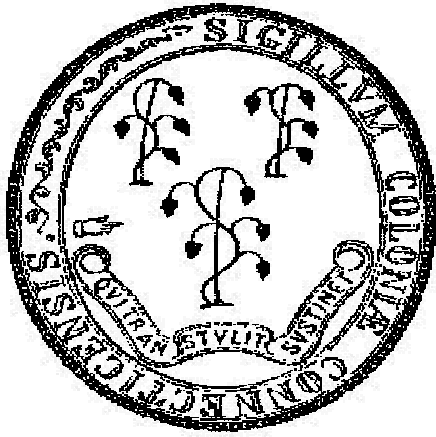


VIRGINIA

MW & RW Grand Officers, Officers of the MHC the Mother High Council of the World and Brethren: We would like to felicitate and welcome to the Regular Grand Lodge of Virginia the following Craft Lodge:

Past Masters Lodge No. 6 Virginia Beach

We wish to recognize the Masonic work that the regular craft freemasonry Mason of Virginia have done in establishing and consolidating the cement of the Craft in their State.



CONNECTICUT

MW & RW Grand Officers, Officers of the MHC the Mother High Council of the World and Brethren: The Masonic High Council of the United States of America has communicated that they have established a new Masonic High Council in the State of Connecticut. We would like to extend our welcome to the Masonic High Council of Connecticut and to congratulate the MW Bro. Clifton Moore on his appointment as Senior Grand Officer of Connecticut.

BOLIVIA

The Grand Secretary of the Masonic High Council of Bolivia has communicated to us their new Home Page.

www.glr.info



PARAGUAY

The Grand Secretary of the Masonic High Council of Paraguay has communicated to us their new Home Page.

www.granlogiaregular.org.py



ARGENTINA

MW & RW Grand Officers, Officers of the MHC the Mother High Council of the World and Brethren: Several Argentinean Brethren have now instigated official contact with the Masonic High Council, the Mother Masonic High Council of the World, in order to establish in due form a Masonic High Council for Argentina.



SLOVENIA

The Grand Secretary of the Masonic High Council of Slovenia has communicated to us their new Home Page.

<http://www.prostozidarji.com>

All enquiries should be sent to the attention of The Masonic High Council Secretary General:

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