



Monthly letter n°143 - February 2017

In the context of immediacy of today's world, *presentism*,¹ strongly incites to revisit the past and encounter unaccomplished prospects, thus opening the gates of the future by restoring a past-present-future circularity whence every transmission derives.

In 1762, when Etienne Morin (1717, Cahors – 1771, Kingston, Jamaica) sailed to the Americas, he was the bearer of a patent from the Grand Lodge of Parisian Masters of the first Grand Lodge of France (1728), of which the Grand Orient of France is the successor.

This patent entitled him to propagate the Scottish freemasonry of the Rite of Perfection, which had been in the making since 1740, after the Chevalier de Ramsay published *The Travels of Cyrus* and his *Discourses*.

In 1764, in Santo Domingo which was then a French colony, Etienne Morin established a system of Scottish higher degrees totalling 25 degrees, the Consistory of Princes of the Royal Secret, ultimate degree of the Rite. This Consistory was at the origin of both American and French *ecossisms*, culminating in the Supreme Councils of the A.:A.:S.:R.: in 33 degrees.

It should be noted that modern historiography has brought into light the prominent part played by Germain Hacquet des Naudières (1756 - 1835), Knight of Saint-Louis, Officer in Santo Domingo.²

There, in 1798, he was conferred all the degrees of the Rite and named Deputy Inspector General of the Consistory of Princes of the Royal Secret.

Back in France, in 1803, in Paris he founded the Consistory of the Royal Secret and participated in 1804, together with Count de Grasse-Tilly, in the creation of the Supreme Council of France which joined the Grand Orient of France.

In 1815 he became Grand Commander of the Grand Consistory of Rites and President of the Supreme Council, and he was, in that capacity, regarded as the organiser of the Scottish rites of the Grand Orient of France, where the Order of the Royal Secret was practised until 1848 under the name of Scottish Rite of Heredom.

Some Supreme Councils, whether in America or in France, have claimed to be the sole heirs and custodians of the Scottish Higher Degrees. Some do not recognise us, the others, in a patronizing fraternal gesture, recognise our 18th degree.

Today, history has shown the inanity of such attitudes which rest on no initiatory, legal or historical grounds: it has now been revealed that Germain Hacquet is the missing link between us and the exceptional line of descent connecting us with Etienne Morin and with the Chivalric Masonry instituted by the Chevalier de Ramsay.

The Grand Orient of France is, therefore, the indisputable legitimate custodian of Etienne Morin's Rite of Perfection in 25 degrees and of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in 33 degrees.

It behoved us, as the direct successors of the Supreme Council, Grand Consistory, Grand Directory and Grand College of Rites, to accept in full the consequences of those facts.

At its meeting of February 10th 2017, the Supreme Council, Grand College of the AASR – Grand Orient of France, by virtue of its constituent powers, decided, in accordance with the Grand Orient's Scottish tradition, to adopt the following title :

Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais
Grand College of Scottish Rites
Suprême Conseil du 33^{ème} en France
Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree in France
- 1764 Rite Ecossais d'Heredom. Rite Ecossais Ancien Accepté 1804 -
- 1764 Scottish Rite of Heredom. Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite 1804 -
Grand Orient de France.
Grand Orient of France

By so doing, the Grand Orient of France, through its Scottish Jurisdiction, claims its historical position of first Scottish masonic power in the world.

This preeminent position offers the most promising international prospects.

The Scottish Rite of Heredom is being restored in the Grand College of Scottish Rites. With a view to making it an Academy of Ecossism, the Grand Conservatory of Princes of the Royal Secret will be installed. The ceremony will comprise the initiation of a number of holders of the 32nd degree of the AASR, on the 2nd day of the 4th month A. L. 6017, in the *Arthur Groussier* masonic hall.

Thus, the unfulfilled past will open onto future fulfilments.

Jacques OREFICE, 33rd

Translated by JPGNT

¹ -F. Hartog - Régimes d'historicité. Présentisme et expériences du temps, *Le Seuil*, 2002

Regimes of Historicity: Presentism and Experiences of Time, *Columbia University Press*, 2015; translated by Saskia Brown

² -P.Mollier, L'Ecossais, AMHG, 2015