



On November 25th 2017, in the *Arthur GROUSSIÉ* temple packed with attendants and in the presence of the Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France and of many French and foreign delegations, the Lodge of Research *Sources*, presided by Jean-Henry Passini, celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation by Grand Commander Chabanne (1917-2002), by the organisation of a conference open to masons of all ranks from that of apprentice, on the following subject: *The Master's degree : What next ?*, the proceedings of which will shortly be available. In the form of round tables, the conference approached, without exhausting them, the various scheduled topics, while holding the continued attention of some two hundred participants all through the day.

It must be pointed out that the Lodge of Research *Sources** is the only Lodge of Research in the world whose workings are in the 30th degree and which comprises dozens of active members, corresponding members and associate members. The latter belong to other Jurisdictions. In addition to the impressive list of their personal publications in every domain of hard and soft sciences, the members of *Sources* carry out a transdisciplinary research work within the 5 commissions** : *Semantics, Semiotic Hermeneutics, History and rituals; Studies and Research in Human Sciences ; The Rights, the Rule, the Law and Arts and Letters*.

On the occasion of that anniversary, the 9th issue of the proceedings of the Lodge was published, under the title *Journey across the rituals of the 18th degree, Knight Rose Croix*, and sparked an immediate and strong interest by its editorial quality. It is essential reading for all bearers of the degree. ***

The 40th anniversary offered me an opportunity to pay a heartfelt tribute to three eminent members of *Sources*:

- Daniel LIGOU, Professor at the University of Dijon, historian, founder of masonic historiography, introduced masonic studies in the university, wrote some two hundred articles and directed a great many theses; he was one of the nine original members of *Sources*. His dictionary, *Le Ligou*, is to freemasonry what the *Larousse* dictionary is to the French language.
- Georges LERBET, Professor at the University of Tours, philosopher, a specialist of educational sciences, published, along his university writings, some ten reference works on masonry, about symbolic masonry as well as the AASR. His last book – a must read – is entitled *Freemasonry, a Philosophical and Spiritual Quest for Knowledge*.
- Bruno ETIENNE, Professor at the Institute for Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence, anthropologist, founder in 1987 of The Observatory of Religions is the author of dozens of works. The last one is entitled *A Half-opened Grenade* and subtitled *For a Secular Spirituality as the Last Chance for the West*. In that literary testament, he openly mentions his work in the *Sources* Lodge.

His Lodge of Perfection, *L'Écho du Grand Orient de France* in Nîmes, which he founded in 1981, celebrated on December 2nd the centenary of the birth of Grand Commander Chabanne. With untiring determination, he reaffirmed the specific features of the Grand College of Rites, viz. the development of a form of thought at the service of a demanding spirituality and of an ambitious policy of international relations serving Scottish universalism. For the one, he founded the Lodge of Research *Sources*, for the other the RIHGE - *Rencontres Internationales des Hauts Grades Ecossais - International Encounters of Scottish Higher Degrees*

The Grand College of Scottish Rites which I direct is honoured to continue and expand with unbroken determination the work initiated by Grand Commander Chabanne.

Jacques OREFICE

33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

* *The Sources encounters*, on the theme of *Hierarchy and the way of initiation* will take place on March 2018 at the Hôtel Pulmann-Lac in Bordeaux.

** The conference *Sources 2018* around the works of the commissions will take place on November 2018 in the Arthur GROUSSIÉ Temple.

*** The catalogue of the publications of the *Sources* Lodge and of the Grand College of Scottish rites, as well as the subscription documents are available on the site: www.amhg.fr. Click on La Librairie.