



# Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais

SU PRÊME CONSEIL DU 33<sup>DEGRÉ</sup> EN FRANCE  
1764 - 1804  
GODF

## Monthly letter 161 - June 2019

The Summer solstice is a period of exultation, both individual and collective, experienced by Master Masons. It is unique in the course of the solar year. That feeling of exultation which we all have is part of what Romain Rolland called the oceanic feeling of being one with the universe. It knows no limits; it belongs to the realm of initiation.

**Another word for exultation is euphoria. Etymologically, it is a reaction to all of the world's forms of dysphoria which are so many *mises en abyme* of mankind in so far as they undo human beings when they are engulfed in them.**

Any euphoria, which, in the final analysis, is nothing but one of the ways to fulfil our motto *Ordo ab Chao*, cannot fail to speculate upon itself.

How does that euphoria which reaches us find its justifications at that moment and within our Jurisdiction?

First, there is the continuity of the work which we all do on ourselves in the context of a permanent initiatory development and in the setting of our 236 Lodges of Perfection, our 7 regionalised Lodges of the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree and in the demanding practice of our rituals. This is the absolute precondition for the continuing elaboration of our humanistic spirituality.

Other justifications for that euphoria, however circumstantial and incidental when compared to the first, are not devoid of meaning for all that.

Thus, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, Ill. Bro. Pierre Mollier and I went to Greenville (Greene County, New York, USA) to pay our respects on the grave of Augustin Prévost after a visit of his home and his property. He was Deputy Inspector-General of the Rite of Perfection (1764) of Etienne Morin. Only Henry Francken was closer to Morin, and only Pierre Le Barbier was closer to Germain Hacquet. His pivotal position in the transmission of the Scottish Rite is only beginning to be acknowledged thanks to the work of historians.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, we reopened the Lodge of Perfection *La Parfaite Harmonie* installed by Etienne Morin in 1764 at the Orient of Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, for the third time, the Grand Meeting in the 25<sup>th</sup> degree of the Rite of Heredom, incorporated in the Grand Orient of France in 1804, was held in the Arthur Groussier hall.

Those three highlights of the life of our Jurisdiction reconnect us with our formal origins. In this way, the historical continuity in time and space of our Jurisdiction is materialized in the form of a singular ouroboros under our own eyes as well as those of the Masonic world in which we are active and of the Scottish Rite in particular.

From 13 to 15 June 2019 the American foundation *Policy Studies Organization* (PSO) together with the Museum of Freemasonry organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on the history of Freemasonry, in an exclusive partnership with the periodicals *Renaissance Traditionnelle* and *Heredom* and our Jurisdiction, represented by its Lodge of Research *Sources*. In that event, *Sources* was awarded the Kilwinning Prize in the persons of its past and present Grand Masters, Jean-Henry Passini and Didier Desor. Another *Sources* member, Dominique Jardin, also received an award. I had the honour, in the name of our Jurisdiction of making one of the closing speeches, the other was made by PSO President Paul Rich.

During that same period, four symposiums generated a great deal of interest and a great many participants.

- On April 29<sup>th</sup> *Education and Transculturality* at the François Rabelais University in Tours during which one of our three university prizes, the Georges Lerbet Prize, was awarded.
- On May 18<sup>th</sup> *Eccosism and Artificial Intelligence* in Grenoble and Madinina ; *Humanism and Identity in the Caribbean*, in Fort-de-France, with over 400 participants for the latter.
- On June 15<sup>th</sup> *Utopia-Uchronia* in Arc-et-Senans. The proceedings of this symposium will be published in n° 20 of our collection *Les Essais Eccossais* for which every member of the Jurisdiction is invited to take out a subscription.

The Great Universal Charter of Scottish Rite Higher Degrees addressed on April 15<sup>th</sup> by our Supreme Council to some 50 substantial and significant Humanist Supreme Councils over three continents, received their almost unanimous adherence to the principles it sets forth and the practices it proposes. After the customary ratification process, it should be proclaimed in December. It will bring together for the first time a number of male, mixed and female jurisdictions, who work or do not work to the glory of the Great Architect of the Universe, in the perspective of an alliance between all Secret Masters.

This is how, historically, intellectually and as a masonic body, the Grand Collège des Rites Eccossais-Grand Orient de France, joining Tradition with modernity, carries out its actions in the directions which it assigned for itself, taking the full responsibility for its various roles, thanks to the precious contributions of all its members whose commitment I hereby wish to salute deeply.

**Jacques ORÉFICE, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander**