

LA TRAGI-COMÉDIE FRANÇAISE

by Tony Pope

Introduction

Since the early 18th century, when Freemasonry was brought to France from Britain, there has been a proliferation of degrees, rites, Grand Lodges and Supreme Councils, and this ‘balkanisation’ of Freemasonry in France has continued through the 19th and 20th centuries. For detailed summaries, see the 1995 (Roberts) edition of *Coil’s Masonic Encyclopedia*, Henderson & Pope’s *Freemasonry Universal* (volume 2, 2000) or Michael Segall’s article ‘French Masonry, a general outline’ in issue 8 of *Harashim* (1998). With the advent of the 21st century, dissensions and alliances at home and on the world stage have produced drama which ranges from tragedy to farce.

The twentieth century

Although the Supreme Council of France officially recognised the Grand Lodge of France (GLdF) as a wholly independent body in 1905, recognition was not forthcoming from the United Grand Lodge of England. Instead, England encouraged two lodges to break away from the Grand Orient of France (GOdF) in 1913 and form a Grand Lodge which was immediately recognised by England and later renamed the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF). While the GLNF gradually accumulated recognition from mainstream Grand Lodges, the GLdF—and even the GOdF—also gained recognition from US mainstream Grand Lodges between 1917 and 1958. Despite the American doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction, a substantial number of US Grand Lodges recognised two or more French Grand Lodges simultaneously (see Paul Bessel’s ‘US Recognition of French Grand Lodges in the 1900s’ in *Harashim*, July 1998).

In 1955 a joint committee of the GLNF and GLdF drew up a proposal for amalgamation, as the United Grand Lodge of France, but the idea was shelved. Five years later, amalgamation was again considered, this time between the GLNF, GLdF and the GOdF, but agreement could not be reached.

Meanwhile, the GLNF had internal problems. Because expatriate English members and military—predominantly American—members outnumbered the French nationals, and the GLNF had an obsessive concern to demonstrate continued regularity as defined by the United Grand Lodge of England, the Deputy Grand Master and a substantial proportion of the French minority quit the GLNF in 1958 and formed a separate Grand Lodge of the same name. The seceders took legal action to gain possession of GLNF premises but were unsuccessful. They then moved to premises near the Paris Opera House and consequently were distinguished from the parent body by being called *Grande Loge Nationale Française Opéra*. They are now known as *Grande Loge Traditionnelle et Symbolique Opéra* (GLTSO).

These losses were compensated by the acquisition of the lodges of two smaller bodies which joined the GLNF that same year: the Grand Lodge of the Rectified Rite (previously subordinate to a Christian ‘high degree’ body, the Grand Priory of the Gauls, GPdG), and the Scottish Masters of St Andrew; and subsequently, in 1964, by providing a home for about 800 members of the Grand Lodge of France who were opposed to a treaty with the Grand Orient. As a result, 26 new lodges working the Scottish Rite Craft degrees were formed in the GLNF and thus, although there was still a strong English influence, the imbalance was redressed.

Not only did the GLdF lose members to the GLNF in 1964–65, as the result of the GLdF Grand Master’s flirtation with the GOdF, but also lost recognition by US mainstream Grand Lodges—although withdrawal of recognition was probably also influenced by the GLdF’s unilateral recognition of all Prince Hall Grand Lodges in 1952, which was re-affirmed in 1999 (see *Harashim*, April 2000). The GLdF subsequently devised a plan which it hoped would attract the three Grand Lodges which it considered ‘regular’: the GLNF, its rebel offshoot GLTSO, and another breakaway group, the French National Lodge (LNF). This was to be a body formed on the lines of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, to be called (not surprisingly) the United Grand Lodges of France—not to be confused with the United Grand Lodge of France (GLUdF), a mixed-gender offshoot of *La Grande Loge Mixte Universelle*. One of its main purposes was to enable mainstream recognition to be extended to ‘the four regular Grand Lodges’ in France.

The United Grand Lodges of France, after a gestation period of several years, was born in June 2000, with only two components, the GLNF and GLTSO—but it was effectively still-born, because of a

contemporaneous decision to form the United Grand Lodges of *Europe* on similar lines, with the GLNF, GLTSO and Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia (not to be confused with the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia) as its founder members. If the aim was to attract mainstream European Grand Lodges as members, and thus gain general mainstream recognition, it was doomed to fail, particularly with the subsequent admission of unrecognised Grand Lodges from Spain, Greece and Lebanon.

At the same time, the GLNF had its own problems, not only persistent scandals involving some GLNF officers, which allegedly resulted in about 200 southern members breaking away and forming the Grand Lodge of Massalia & St Vincent, but also the loss of a much greater number of members from lodges working the Rectified Scottish Rite, who returned to the protection of the Great Priory of the Gauls because, they said, the GLNF insisted on amending the rite in order to permit non-Christian candidates (see *Harashim*, January 2001). These problems were exacerbated by civil litigation between the GLNF and the GOdF—a key factor in one of the most startling moves in the drama about to unfold.

Parallel with all this, the three largest Craft bodies in France (GOdF, GLdF and GLNF) have all been active in creating lodges in new territory, Africa and Eastern Europe, and then sponsoring the formation of new Grand Lodges. These lodges and Grand Lodges closely resemble their French parents: those derived from the GOdF espousing the concepts which mark the parent as ‘irregular’ by mainstream standards; those of the GLNF being accorded mainstream recognition, but sometimes split by dissension (e.g. the Grand Lodge of Russia); and those of the GLdF claiming regularity but denied mainstream recognition. This missionary zeal has, in the case of the GLdF, sometimes been counter-productive; while it is not illegal in Masonic terms to erect a lodge in territory where an unrecognised Grand Lodge exists (witness the erection of Lodge Shankar #9526 EC in 1993, after England had withdrawn recognition from India), the GLdF certainly did not endear itself to mainstream Grand Lodges by erecting lodges in the Czech Republic, Israel and Quebec, where mainstream Grand Lodges already existed.

Senior members of the Grand Lodge of France have often declared that the GLdF is not particularly interested in, or in need of, outside recognition, but this is in conflict with the careful claim to regularity on the Grand Lodge website and with the appointment of specific officers responsible for fraternal relations in areas where the GLdF has no lodges or treaties of amity. Best known is Michael Segall, appointed by several successive Grand Masters as special representative for America, with responsibility covering the whole continent (where the GLNF has only one lodge, in Montreal, Canada) as well as the Caribbean (where the GLdF has several lodges). RWBro Segall is a life member and a Fellow of the Philalethes Society, well known and respected in Masonic research circles, who was instrumental in arranging treaties of amity with three Prince Hall Grand Lodges (those of the Caribbean, Georgia and the District of Columbia) and who has made extensive efforts to regain US mainstream recognition.

The new millennium

The breakthrough for the Grand Lodge of France came in 2001, with an exchange of recognition between the GLdF and the mainstream Grand Lodge of Minnesota, whose website featured reasoned arguments on the regularity of the Grand Lodge of France and the propriety of recognising more than one Grand Lodge in the same geographical area. Minnesota was careful to point out that it still recognised the GLNF as well as restoring recognition to the GLdF.

Michael Segall included the recognition as part of his report on the annual session of the GLdF. Ironically, he was enthusiastic about the appointment of Michel Barat as Grand Master and a young black architect from Cameroon, Jean-Marie Doumbé, as ‘Second Assistant Grand Master’ (equivalent of Junior Grand Warden). Segall announced that he had relinquished part of his duties in relation to America; a black Deputy Grand Chancellor for the Caribbean had been appointed, and Segall now held the post of Deputy Grand Chancellor for Relations with North America, both deputies being under Michel Singer, Grand Chancellor for Foreign Relations. Segall reported that a lodge had been ‘demolished’ for using a ‘white’ (blank) book instead of the Bible and refusing to return to regular practice. The United Grand Lodges of Europe had added further members who lacked mainstream recognition, and membership was opened to non-European Grand Lodges (see *Harashim*, October 2001, for further details). There were to be savage reactions to this recognition, but they were delayed and the intervals between reactions were filled with several incidents, some of them almost comic.

The first of these occurred in November 2001, when the President of France entertained nine French Grand Masters, from the GLdF, GOdF, GLTSO, LNF, and several female and mixed-gender Grand Lodges,

and two days later the same nine lunched with the Prime Minister. The GLNF was excluded from both functions (see *Harashim*, January 2002).

In December 2001 the Grand Master and long-serving Grand Secretary of the GLNF were replaced, and an amazing but low-key announcement was made within days of the accession of the new Grand Master, Jean-Charles Foellner. This was a reconciliation between the French National Grand Lodge and the body from which it seceded 88 years previously, with which it was currently locked in civil litigation, the Grand Orient of France. The document purported to 'restore the fraternal relations which have existed for nearly a century'. This was followed by a letter from Grand Master Foellner to Grand Master Bauer of the GOdF, proposing that their respective Grand Secretaries should work out a system for exchanging lists of members suspended, excluded or expelled, and confirming that he agreed in principle to periodic meetings of the 'Grand Masters, Grand Mistresses, Presidents and Lady Presidents' of the French Masonic Obediences. The GLNF, through Assistant Grand Master Nat Granstein, vigorously denied that this constituted formal recognition of the Grand Orient, but he declined to clarify several issues put to him by the editor of *Harashim* (see *Harashim*, April 2002). Surprisingly, no mainstream Grand Lodge took issue publicly with the GLNF over this restoration which did not quite constitute recognition.

There followed a round of documents. First was a declaration dated 20 February 2002, apparently signed by representatives of the nine Grand Lodges previously invited to tea by the President of France and to lunch with the Prime Minister. This included several alleged points of agreement potentially fatal to the claimed mainstream regularity of the Grand Lodge of France (see Appendix A). Then came the so-called Reykjavik Protocol, dated 10 March 2002, purporting to be an agreement between the GOdF, the GLdF and the International Order of Co-Freemasonry le Droit Humain (DH), made in Iceland (home of the President of the DH), embodying the essentials of the earlier (Paris) document and more. An English translation includes the statement:

For its part,

The Grand Lodge of France decides to acknowledge as interlocutors all the Federations, Jurisdictions and Pioneer Lodges of the Droit Humain in the countries where Lodges of the Grand Lodge of France are established. A masculine jurisdiction, it allows the Brethren of the Droit Humain to attend the tiled meetings of its Lodges, according to their respective regulations and the respect of their sovereignty. Although the Grand Lodge of France acknowledges the initiatory quality of both the Brethren and Sisters of the Droit Humain, the Sisters may only be received in ceremonies as provided by the principles, regulations and by-laws of the Grand Lodge of France.

[*Pour sa part,*

La Grande Loge de France décide de reconnaître comme interlocutrices toutes les Fédérations, Jurisdictions et Loges Pionnières du Droit Humain dans les pays où des Loges de la Grande Loge de France sont implantées. Obédience masculine, elle autorise les Frères du Droit Humain à participer aux travaux rituels de ses Loges, dans les conditions fixées par chacune et dans le respect de leur souveraineté. La Grande Loge de France reconnaît pleinement la qualité initiatique des FF\ et des SS\ du Droit Humain. selon sa tradition, les Sœurs peuvent être reçues dans les cérémonies prévues par les principes et règlements de la GLdF\]

These documents were supported by a photograph of the Grand Master of the GOdF, the International President of DH and the GLdF's Grand Chancellor Michel Singer shaking hands. Singer subsequently (2 September 2002) emailed the Grand Masters of all US mainstream Grand Lodges, making what was described as an official statement from the Grand Lodge of France, in which he pointed out that the (Reykjavik) document was null and void because it had not been presented to, and voted on, at his Grand Lodge.

According to material on the Grand Lodge website of the Grand Lodge of France (editorial of the Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations, September 2002), on 18 April 2002 Grand Master Michel Barat and Grand Chancellor Michel Singer accepted an invitation to lunch at the headquarters of the GLNF, where they met Grand Master Jean-Charles Foellner, Grand Secretary Jean-Pierre Pilorge, PGM Claude Charbonniaud, and Grand Chancellor for Foreign Relations Jean-Claude Tardivat. Together they drafted an agreement to restore fraternal relations between the GLNF and the GLdF, using a similar formula to the GLNF—GOdF agreement of December 2001. The terms of this agreement were posted on the UKMASON mailing list by *Philaethes* editor Nelson King on 3 June 2002 (see Appendix B). But, according to the GLdF, the agreement was repudiated by the GLNF in June, allegedly at the instigation of UGLE.

On 24 April 2002, the Grand Masters of the GOdF (Alain Bauer) and the GLNF (Jean-Charles Foellner) signed an 'Administrative and Disciplinary Protocol' which, while declaring that it did not constitute formal recognition in the terms specified by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1929, recognised the quality of the initiation provided by the other (*reconnaissent la qualité de l'initiation délivrée par chacune*) and agreed

on action to exclude the possibility of *unsuitable* brethren finding refuge by changing from one Obedience to the other. The agreed steps were to:

- Supply monthly lists of brethren struck off or excluded, and regular lists of *profanes* refused.
- Consult each other on all decisions to accept a brother originating from the other Obedience (*Elles décident de se consulter avant toute décision d'intégration d'un frère provenant de l'autre Puissance Maçonnique*).

The agreement would commence when ratified by both deliberative bodies, and could be revoked (by agreement or unilaterally) with at least six months notice (see Appendix C).

The translation is mine; unless I have misunderstood the passages which are repeated in French, above, the clear implication is that, subject to agreement of both bodies, a member of either body can *transfer* to the other without re-initiation or any 'healing' process. The line drawn between such an agreement and full recognition is very fine indeed.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was having problems, despite its careful presentation of justification for its action in restoring recognition to the Grand Lodge of France. The Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England took issue with the accuracy of the history of the Grand Lodge of France as presented by Minnesota, and other matters, to which Minnesota gave considered replies, and representatives of the Grand Lodge of France joined in. The Grand Lodges of Kentucky, Maine, Michigan and New York suspended intervisitation with Minnesota (for comment, see David Gray's article 'Freemasons, Parrots or Puppets?' in *The Masonic Voice*, vol 2 #1, to be reprinted in the next issue of *Harashim*).

On 16 April 2002 (two days before the GLNF—GLdF lunchtime meeting and six days before the GLNF—GODF Protocol) the French National Grand Lodge issued an ultimatum to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, faxed to 'ALL REGULAR GRAND LODGES' (see Appendix D). The terms of the ultimatum, which included the remark 'It appears the members of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota have forgotten the obligations they took when kneeling at the altar during their three degrees', might well have caused other US Grand Lodges to react in support of Minnesota—but this did not occur. On 22 May Grand Master Terry Tilton circulated a lengthy report to all Minnesota lodges, explaining the situation and stating: 'We have seriously reconsidered our action of the April 2001 Grand Lodge Session and at this time have determined that it was proper and well-considered.'

In June the United Grand Lodge of England withdrew recognition of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes that 'the Grand Lodge of Minnesota's recognition of the Grand Lodge of France is detrimental to Freemasonry', and Arizona, which had before it in Grand Session its Grand Master's recommendation to recognise the Grand Lodge of France, voted to defer consideration of the proposal. The total number of Grand Lodges imposing sanctions against the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was 12 in USA and 4 elsewhere. With all this in mind, plus the fact that the next Conference of Grand Masters in North America (COGMINA) was scheduled to be held in Minnesota, Grand Master Tilton issued his 'Final Edict' on 13 July 2002, forthwith suspending recognition of the Grand Lodge of France (see Appendix E).

Observers might have thought the play was over, but it proved to be merely a lengthy intermission. The next act was scheduled for February 2003, the location was Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the occasion the annual Conference of Grand Masters in North America, and also a meeting of the Commission on Information for Recognition, the powerful advisory body comprised of six members of Most Worshipful rank and an executive secretary—treasurer of similar rank.

Scene one was the meeting of the Commission on Sunday 16 February. When the Commission came to consider the subject of the Grand Lodge of France, the Grand Chancellor for Fraternal Relations of the GLdF, Michel Singer, was permitted to address the Commission at length. He was followed by the GLNF's Assistant Grand Master Nat Granstein, who disputed much of what the previous speaker had said. The Commission moved on to other topics and then adjourned. The chairman of the commission was scheduled to report on their deliberations to the Conference on Tuesday 18 November.

Off-stage, the Second Assistant Grand Master (= JGW) of the GLdF, Jean-Marie Doumbé, sought private audience with the members of the Commission, accompanied by the Grand Master of the (mainstream and pro-GLNF) Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, who acted as his interpreter. What was said and done at this unscheduled meeting was reported subsequently by the chairman, and has been the subject of comment by many of those most closely affected.

Scene two: at the Conference session on Tuesday 18 February, the report of the Commission on Information for Recognition was brought forward to first place on the agenda. What the chairman had to say is summarised in a report by Paul Bessel on his website, and is extracted here:

25. The chairman reported on the items listed above, leaving the information about France to the end.
26. He reported that Michel Singer, the Grand Chancellor of the GLF had asked for permission to speak to the commission two days earlier, and that he had said that the GLF requires all candidates to express a belief in a Supreme Being, that all GLF lodges are required to have the Bible open on their altars, that they permit visits with unrecognized and irregular Grand Lodges, and that the Iceland agreement among the GLF, GOF, and DH, is not in effect. He also reported that a representative from the GLNF then asked for and received permission to refute the comments of Michel Singer.
27. The commission chairman then reported that the Deputy Grand Master of the GLF, Jean-Marie Doumbe, who was at the Conference and who had attended the public session of the Commission on Sunday, later asked to speak to the commission. He told the commission members that he came to rectify untruths that had been made by Michel Singer to the commission, and he apologized for the false information that had been given to the commission. He said he was speaking on behalf of the Grand Master of the GLF, and a telephone call was arranged with the GLF Grand Master in which he supported what Jean-Marie Doumbe was telling the commission now.
28. It was reported that the Deputy Grand Master of the GLF, and its Grand Master too, said that the GLF does not require all candidates to express a belief in a Supreme Being but instead leaves this entirely up to the conscience of each candidate, that the GLF considers continued intervisitations with the GOF to be essential, that the GLF does not want to talk with North American Grand Lodges about regularity and recognition but only social contacts, and that the GLF Grand Master will send a letter to the commission with honest information.
29. It was reported in this public session that this was a great moment, and it brought closure to the entire issue of the GLF. This entire subject is now concluded.

No opportunity was given for Grand Chancellor Singer to respond on his own behalf, or for anyone else to defend him, and no explanation was immediately forthcoming for the extraordinary turn of events. Grand Master Tilton, in his report on the conference, expressed the opinion:

... it is my understanding that there is a faction within the Grand Lodge of France that wants to have the Grand Lodge of France more aligned with the style of the Grand Orient of France (which does not seek recognition from anyone). I am told that the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master who spoke will be severely questioned at the next quarterly Council meeting and a vote may be taken at the next Annual Communication in June 21–22, 2003, in Paris to reverse this direction. The damage that has been done by these statements is enormous, but the credibility of the Commission on Information for Recognition also is at stake, in my mind, as they willingly and without any more confirmation than the word of the Junior Grand Deputy (and an announced telephone call by the Junior Deputy Grand Master with the Grand Master to confirm his statements) have said that this is the nail that will seal the issue once and for all. Personally I believe that no such letter will be received to confirm those statements (and certainly not with the authority of the Grand Lodge) and the Commission will be in a most embarrassing situation of announcing something that was not true.'

Grand Master Tilton was fairly accurate in his forecast, but there was an ironic twist which he could not have anticipated. Second AGM Doumbé was charged and sentenced to be ineligible to hold any position of responsibility in the Grand Lodge of France for six years. But Grand Chancellor Singer was also charged, for using insulting language to Grand Master Barat, and received a similar sentence. Grand Master Barat was not available for the trials, having taken off for New Caledonia and resigned his post three days before the trial commenced. The word is that he may yet be charged, at the half-yearly communication in December.

With the resignation of Barat, a new Grand Master was elected, Yves-Max Viton. He is said to have been shocked 'by the GO attempt at take-over' and to favour better relations with the GLNF. The letter awaited by the American Commission did not arrive in the terms in which they anticipated.

On 4 July 2003 Grand Master Viton sent a circular to all US mainstream Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries exonerating Grand Chancellor Singer (Appendix F, below).

And what of Michael Segall, FPS, the Deputy Grand Chancellor for Relations with North America? He is now Assistant Grand Master!

terrible typos

Issue 27, p 7, col 3, para 1, should read:

The United Grand Lodges of France, after a gestation period of several years, was born in June 2000, with only two components, the GLdF and GLTSO—but it was effectively still-born, because of a contemporaneous decision to form the United Grand Lodges of *Europe* on similar lines, with the GLdF, GLTSO and Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia (not to be confused with the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia) as its founder members. . .

Appendix B

Verbatim text of draft agreement between the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF) and the Grand Lodge of France (GLdF), as posted on the UKMASON email List on 3 June 2002.

To the Glory of the Great Architect of the Universe

After many years of mutual silence, the French National Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of France, following a meeting between the two Grand Masters on April 18, 2002, have decided to re-establish fraternal relations.

The two Grand Lodges affirm and solemnly declare they recognize the full validity of the initiation they practice, giving each of their members the full quality of Brother in the concert of Universal Freemasonry.

The two Grand Lodges, in the mutual respect of their diversity, together declare to recognize the sovereignty and independence of each.

They mutually pledge not to interfere in each other's internal business.

They declare to work together towards the fraternity and Masonic peace hoped for since many years and will contribute together to a future when the French Masonic landscape will be that of concord.

They together promise to build a spiritual and humanist Masonry, in accordance with their mutual pledges.

An administrative agreement for handling the relations between the two Grand Lodges will be elaborated by a four-member parity delegation directed, respectively, by the Grand Secretary of the French National Grand Lodge and the Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of France.

In a spirit of good will, the two Grand Lodges pledge to jointly organize the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the French National Grand Lodge by means of a common symposium on the theme: "The Natural (Noachite) Religion" that will take place in 2003.

The MW Grand Master
of the French National Grand Lodge
Jean Charles Foellner

The MW Grand Master
of the Grande Loge of France
Michel Barat

Appendix D

Verbatim text of fax received by the office of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota on 16 April 2002

A LA GLOIRE DU GRAND ARCHITECTE DE L'UNIVERS
GRANDE LOGE NATIONALE FRANCAISE
PARIS

ASSOCIATION DECLAREE SOUS A LE N 197.910 LOI DU 1 Juillet 1901

TO ALL REGULAR GRAND LODGES

SUSPENSION OF RELATIONS WITH THE GRAND LODGE OF MINNESOTA

Whereas the Grand Lodge of Minnesota continues to recognize the "Grande Loge de France" despite a letter informing that it would withdraw such recognition if the Commission for Recommendation for Recognition of the Conference of Masters continued to find it irregular.

Whereas the "Grande Loge de France", is unrecognized by all regular recognized grand lodges in the world. For a Grand Lodge which is a member of the North American Conference which already recognizes the GLNF to recognize the Grande Loge de France" would be contrary to two of the criteria which the Conference set for its Conference of Information on Recognition in 1952.

The Grand Lodge seeking recognition should be in sole control of the territory, unless sharing that control with another regular Grand Lodge by treaty or mutual recognition. The GLNF already occupies France and does not recognize or have a treaty to sham the territory with any other Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge seeking recognition should be regular in practice. The "Grande Loge de France" is irregular in practice because:

It has formed or is proposing to form lodges in territories occupied by Grand Lodges considered to be regular by the Commission such as Spain, The Canaries, Togo, Israel, Quebec and poor suffering Czech Republic in existence since 1922 and where the "Grande Loge de France" created another Grand Lodge January 20, 2002.

The "Grande Loge de France" created the United Grand Lodge of Europe consisting of 8 fanciful irregular unrecognized Grand Lodges such as the Sun Grand Lodge of Lebanon.

The "Grande Loge de France" maintains relations and dual membership with the atheist Grand Orient de France, Mixed lodges such as the Droit Humain and feminine grand lodges.

It appears the members of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota have forgotten the obligations they took when kneeling at the altar during their three degrees.

Therefore, the GLNF this date suspends relations with the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and interdicts its members to attend my meetings with those of that grand lodge.

if the Grand Lodge of Minnesota withdraws its recognition from the "Grande Loge of France" before June 2002, this suspension will become nul and void otherwise the suspension will become complete withdrawal of recognition joining other grand lodges of Europe and some probably in the United States,

BY ORDER OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

Jean-Pierre PILORGE
Grand Secretary

Appendix E

Grand Lodge of France — Grand Master Tilton's Final Edict

EDICT of the Grand Master

July 13, 2002

To all Grand Lodges of North America and the Nations of the World, and to the Masters, Officers and members of all Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of Minnesota:

Whereas The Grand Lodge of Minnesota at its 148th Annual Communication extended fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge of France, and;

Whereas The Grand Lodge of Minnesota has taken this action based upon our study and conviction of the regularity of the Grand Lodge of France and in deference to the application of the rule of territorial exclusivity deemed by us to no longer be a relevant test of regularity, and;

Whereas Our actions have caused a number of sister jurisdictions to suspend recognition with the Grand Lodge of Minnesota in rigid conformity with the standards of the North American Conference of Grand Masters Committee on Information for Recognition, and;

Whereas This has made impossible the visitation of our members in these jurisdictions, and;

Whereas The Grand Lodge of Minnesota will host the North American Conference of Grand Masters in February, 2003 for their annual meeting, and;

Whereas Meaningful change and discussion of this issue is best done in dialogue and consensus in the forum of this North American fraternal association; now

Therefore Be it resolved that it is my order to forthwith suspend our recognition of the Grand Lodge of France to the end that we may again enjoy the fraternal benefits of mutual recognition and visitation with all sister jurisdictions. Also, it is my intent to more properly discuss the standards and application of standards of regularity in this larger arena of discussion.

The Grand Lodge of Minnesota wishes to re-establish greater trust in the decisions and processes of the North American Conference of Grand Masters Committee on Information for Recognition. We also desire to promote the continued unity and amity of all North American jurisdictions. This action is therefore taken to encourage the process of meaningful dialogue and change.

Given under my hand this 13th day of July in the year 2002 at St. Paul, Minnesota

Signed: Rev. Terry L. Tilton, Grand Master

Attest: Douglas J. Campbell, Grand Secretary



Déclaration commune des Obédiences maçonniques françaises

△ △ △



*H*éritières de près de trois siècles de Franc-Maçonnerie en France, assumant leurs racines communes dans les Obligations inscrites par James Anderson en 1723, fières de leurs identités et de la diversité des parcours qu'elles offrent à des Sœurs et des Frères de toutes origines et de toutes conditions, les Obédiences maçonniques françaises, fondatrices de « La Maçonnerie Française », proclament la déclaration commune suivante :

A l'écart des controverses partisans, engagées dans une démarche initiatique qui émancipe les consciences, les Obédiences maçonniques françaises affirment en commun :

- La primauté d'un parcours équilibré entre démarche initiatique, pratique d'une méthode symbolique et engagement citoyen et social ;
- Le rejet de tout dogmatisme et de toute ségrégation ;
- Le refus de tous les intégrismes et de tous les extrémismes ;
- La volonté de travailler à l'amélioration de la condition humaine, aux progrès des libertés individuelles et collectives ;
- La défense et la promotion de la liberté absolue de conscience, de pensée, d'expression et de communication ;
- La défense et la promotion de la laïcité, liberté essentielle qui permet toutes les autres ;
- La recherche du dialogue pour la paix, la fraternité et le développement

*E*lles décident de travailler ensemble à l'amélioration de l'Homme et de la Société et invitent les Sœurs et les Frères de toutes les Obédiences maçonniques à rejoindre cette démarche commune.

Grand Orient de France *ABRAU*

Fédération Française du Droit Humain *S. Goss*

Grande Loge de France *W. de J. G. -*

Grande Loge Féminine de France *Ad. Cart*

Grande Loge Féminine de Memphis Misraïm *M. A.*

Grande Loge Traditionnelle et Symbolique Opéra *P. J.*

Loge Nationale Française *J. A. T. -*

Grande Loge Mixte Universelle *M. A. B. -*

Grande Loge Mixte de France *L. Henry -*



Fait à Paris, au siège du Grand Orient de France,
le 20^{ème} jour du 12^{ème} mois de l'an 6001 (20 Février 2002)



Appendix C

Protocole Administratif et Disciplinaire G.L.N.F. – G.O.D.F

Entre les soussignés

La Grande Loge Nationale Française

Rappelant qu'elle est la seule Puissance Maçonnique Régulière Française reconnue par la Grande Loge Unie d'Angleterre
dont le siège est à 92200 Neuilly sur Seine – 65, Bd Bineau
représenté par le Grand Maître

d'une part

et

Le Grand Orient de France

Créé en 1728, s'affirmant Puissance Symbolique Régulière Souveraine
dont le siège social est à 75009 Paris – 16, rue Cadet
représenté par le Grand Maître, Président du Conseil de l'Ordre

d'autre part

Il a d'abord été rappelé :

Que les deux Obédiences signataires, conscientes et fières de leurs différences culturelles, reconnaissent la qualité de l'initiation délivrée par chacune, sans entamer un processus de reconnaissance selon les termes et les landmarks définis par la Grande Loge Unie d'Angleterre en 1929.

Que les deux Obédiences, soucieuses de lutter contre les dérives parfois enregistrées du fait du non-respect de leur serment par certains Frères dont la conduite est incompatible avec les valeurs de la Franc-Maçonnerie et les Lois de la République, ont décidé de ne plus leur laisser la possibilité de trouver refuge chez l'autre.

Il a été convenu et arrêté ce qui suit :

Article 1

Les Obédiences signataires décident de se transmettre mensuellement la liste des frères radiés ou exclus et de se communiquer régulièrement la liste des profanes refusés.

Article 2

Elles décident de se consulter avant toute décision d'intégration d'un frère provenant de l'autre Puissance Maçonnique.

Article 3

La présente Convention pourra être dénoncée, soit d'un commun accord entre les parties, soit unilatéralement, à tout moment.

En toute hypothèse, la dénonciation prendra effet au terme d'un préavis de 6 mois au moins.

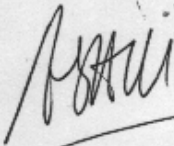
Article 4

La présente Convention est établie en quatre exemplaires originaux.

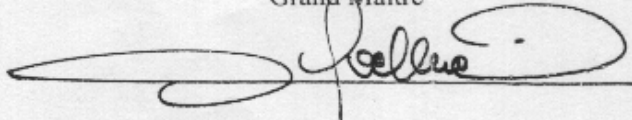
Son entrée en vigueur s'opérera dès qu'elle aura été ratifiée, dans les mêmes termes, par chacun des organes délibératifs des Obédiences signataires.

Fait à Paris le 24 avril 2002.

Pour le Grand Orient de France
Alain BAUER
Grand Maître



Pour la Grande Loge Nationale Française
Jean-Charles FOELLNER
Grand Maître





ID MAÎTRE
/MLS

À LA GLOIRE DU GRAND ARCHITECTE DE L'UNIVERS
GRANDE LOGE DE FRANCE
FRANCS-MAÇONS DE RITE ÉCOSAIS ANCIEN ET ACCEPTÉ
LIBERTÉ - ÉGALITÉ - FRATERNITÉ

**To: All MW Grand Masters and
MW/RW Grand Secretaries.**

Paris, July 4, 2003

Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Most Worshipful Grand Secretary,

Elected and installed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France after the resignation of my predecessor Michel Barat, I would like to extend to you and your Grand Lodge the best wishes of the Grand Lodge of France and of all its Brethren on occasion of the 4th of July, the USA Independence Day. It might also be a good occasion to take stock of the incident concerning the Grand Lodge of France which took place at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The ex-Second Assistant GM (which is our title for our Junior GW) whose intolerable behavior and words in Minneapolis have caused serious damage to the relationship between our Grand Lodges, has been tried and sentenced - in a first Masonic trial - to six years of ineligibility to any position of any responsibility at the Grand Lodge of France or any of its lodges. Which does not preclude additional penalties from other Masonic legal actions under way against him.


The past Grand Master, Michel Barat, who does not seem to have ever confirmed the statements of his Second Assistant GM, has resigned three days before the Grand Lodge Communication where this matter was tried, and which he thus did not attend.

I can - and want to - confirm once more that the assertions made in Minneapolis by the ex-Second Assistant GM have nothing in common with the truth and that we meet and work in the greatest regularity, to the Glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe, men only, in the presence of the open Bible on the Altar and while prohibiting any political or religious discussion, as proved by the documents you have received from us for years. Our friendship for American Freemasonry is genuine and only results from our wish to reestablish the excellent and friendly recognition which widely expressed itself on both sides between 1917 and 1965.

We regret the unauthorized and unjustified actions of our ex-Second Assistant GM in your country. We also think that the Commission on Information on Recognition of the COGMINA might have had other motives to ignore the documents we had presented - and the many testimonies in our favor by ranking American Masons.

While extending my best wishes, as well as those of my Grand Officers and all my Brethren, I remain most sincerely, fraternally and friendly yours,




p.p. Bro. Yves-Max Viton,
M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France