



TRADITIONAL GRAND LODGE OF FRANCE

Exemplarity • Fraternity • Solidarity

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The Constitution of **The Traditional Grand Lodge of France** took place on June 23, 2012 in Aix-en-Provence through the creation of an association which was initiated by 34 regular Lodges. The name of this association is "Grande Loge Traditionnelle de France", G.L.T.F. in abbreviation, which is a registered trademark at the INPI under the number 3919979.

The GLTF is an initiatic brotherhood, whose essential content is founded on the faith in God, the Great Architect of the Universe, and on the respect of the specific traditions of the Order. Within assemblies called Lodges it unites men that are free and independent who are merely guided by their own conscience, engaging themselves to apply in practice the ideal of peace, fraternal love, tolerance and respect.

Its objective is to constitute and assemble symbolic Lodges, so called of St-Jean, using exclusively the degrees of apprentice, fellowcraft and master. Its target is the moral perfection of the entire humanity. It means to reach this through the improvement of its members practising the action every man should undertake on himself in order to win

against his passions, correct his frailties and progress on his spiritual way.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE 19TH OF JANUARY 2013

The Traditional Grand Lodge of France was consecrated by three regular Lodges, all created in France:

- "the R.L. LACYDON", Orient of Marseille.
- "the R.L. FELIBRIGE", Orient of Arles.
- "the R.L. ARMOR", Orient of Lorient.

Moment solennel et indispensable à son existence maçonnique, plus de 500 Frères représentant les 41 Loges pétitionnaires, ont rempli entièrement la Salle du conclave du Palais des Papes en Avignon.

It was a sacred moment and indispensable to its Masonic existence, when more than 500 Brethren from 41 requesting Lodges filled entirely the Conclave Hall in the Palais des Papes in Avignon.

The Grand Master elect of the G.L.T.F., Jean-Luc VENTURINO, took over his charges during a strong and solemn ceremony, respecting the old practices and established customs following Masonic tradition. It was a moment which all those Brethren will never forget. During his heartfelt allocution, the Grand Master

of the G.L.T.F. pointed out the essential objectives of this new Obedience for the coming years:

- to give to all brethren seeking moral accomplishment and spiritual elevation, the surroundings, worthy of the heights that they seek in a Lodge.
- to work in peace and harmony according to the rules and regulations of traditional masonry
- to apply on all occasions, examples of exemplary behavior, brotherhood and solidarity.
- to develop an obedience open to all men who are law-abiding and who acknowledge a belief in God.





Principles laid down for the constitution



The G.L.N.F. has been through the worst crisis in the history of Freemasonry. Bad in all respects, but above all, in its duration.

Facing this inextricable and dishonorable situation for Masonic hearts, many Brethren, discouraged by the permanent quarrels inside their obedience, have demonstrated for more than a year their wish to turn over the page in order to build a more serene future.

These Brethren, tranquil, responsible and determined, and maintaining the fundamental principles ruling traditional Freemasonry, unanimously decided to create a new obedience, bearing the name of GRANDE LOGE TRADITIONNELLE DE FRANCE.

The GLTF strongly supports the great intangible principles of Regular Masonry to which it adheres entirely.

Profoundly respecting Mason tradition, the GLTF works following the intangible principles of Regular Masonry:

- Faith in God, Great Architect of the Universe
- Respect of the Landmarks
- Respect of the Ancient duties
- Respect of the habits and customs of the Order
- Respect of the Rule of 12 points
- Respect of the obligations of Freemasons

The members of the GLTF gather, away from the profane world, in Lodges where the Volume of the Sacred Law is at all times on display, in order to work zealously and assiduously in agreement with the principles and rules dictated by this constitution and the rules promulgated by Grand Lodge, the Provincial Grand Lodges and the Lodges themselves.

The GLTF imposes on its members respect of the opinion of others. All discussion of politic, confessional or social character is forbidden to member masons that could disturb the fraternal union and the perfect harmony of thought which are to reign inside the lodge. Only those men shall be admitted into the lodges which have reached majority and have a good reputation and therefore are worth in all respects to be named Brother. They shall be obliged within the lodges to cultivate the respect of their homeland, the head of the

state and the laws of this state. They are to consider the work to be an essential duty, a token for the progress of human beings.

They fulfill their commitment to respect in word and writing a strict discipline and the greatest possible discretion towards the profane world. Furthermore they commit themselves to practice charity, to help and to protect their brethren in all circumstances and to assist them at all times when necessary.

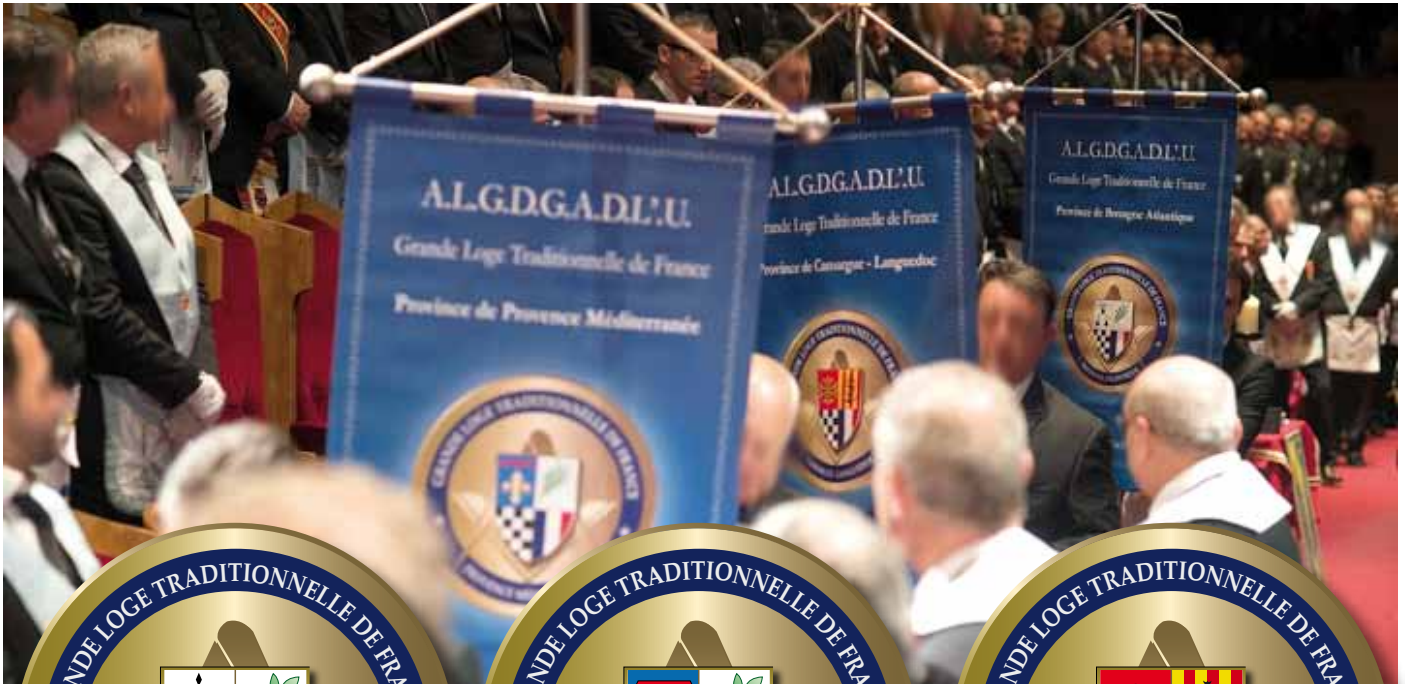


It is with the feeling of having accomplished a duty and the satisfaction of having assisted to a great moment of fraternity that we are now allowed to look towards a new horizon.

This day, the 19th of January 2013, seals forever the work of masons who have never neglected their duties. This day is not only the end of a painful expedition but also the beginning of a great destination. From now on we are ready for our march. Strengthened by our experiences we now must unfold our efforts to build up a masonry in conformation with the initial spirit. We

have got rid of the unnecessary in order to now concentrate on what is essential.

The man, the mason, will be the center of our priorities. We shall integrate men of high quality into our rows, chosen with good judgment. Our duty will be to enhance and to elevate without ever to deviate from our holy mission. We all are, at whatever level of advancement, workers at a gigantic construction site. Our knowledge, our competences and energies ought to converge to our ultimate target: The production of true masons so that they in turn conceive the society.”



An organisation dedicated to the lodges and the brethren

The GLTF is governed by its Statutes, Constitution and General Regulations which define the organization and functioning of masonic and civil matters.

The Grand Master leads the Grand Lodge and at the same time presides the civil Association. He is elected for a period of three years, immediately renewable once only, but restricted to a period of two years. He is appointed by the Grand National Council, assembled for this purpose through a secret ballot in two tours. In his masonic functions he is assisted by the College of National Officers, the National College of Wises and the National College of the Worshipful Masters.

The Grand National Council is composed of all the members of the College of the National Officers, the National College of Wises and of the National College of the Worshipful Masters, as well as of all Provincial Grand Masters in activity. It is

chaired by the Grand Master or his Deputy, if detained. It meets at least twice a year on the order of the Grand Master. It receives the proposals from the Grand Master and from the three National Colleges. He will analyze them and decide on applications.

The College of National Officers is composed of Grand Officers occupying the traditional charges of a Grand Lodge: Right Worshipful Master, Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Masters, Inspectors, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, Almoner, and so on....

The National College of Wises watches over the proposals submitted by the other colleges to be conform with the statutes and these present regulations. It examines every topic laid before it by the Grand Master or by one of the National Colleges. At all occasions it may act as referee and as censor. It may equally seize itself in order to examine a decision or proposal from the

Grand Master or from one of the National Colleges that seem to be in contradiction with the statutes or general reglementation. It is composed of 24 members chosen among experienced brethren having occupied functions of Worshipful Master and who have been free-masons for more than 15 years.

The National College of Worshipful Masters shall finally be composed of 42 Worshipful Masters that are on duty. The Worshipful Masters, who are part of the members, are to be elected by the complete assembly of Worshipful Masters from the different Provinces for a limited period, which shall not exceed the duration of their active functions within the lodge of which they are member. It assembles at least twice per year summoned by its president. It is charged in particular:

- To collect in a formal way all opinions, wishes and proposals from the Worshipful Masters from the Lodges and



- their members and to inform The Grand Master and the Grand Council.
- To inform the Worshipful Masters, the Lodges and their members of the possible changes and directions sought by the Grand Master and the Grand Council.
 - To propose to the Grand Master and to the Grand Council the possible changes and the directions sought by the Worshipful Masters through the Provincial Councils of Worshipful Masters, the Lodges and their members.

The Grand Master also is **the President of the GLTF Civil Association** which is directed by a Board of directors of between 11 and 13 members, it meets at least 3 times a year.

The board of directors will delegate the daily administration of the association to an Office composed of:

- A President, i.e. the Grand Master of the GLTF

- A Vice-President, i.e. the Deputy Grand Master
- A Secretary, i.e. the National Secretary
- A Treasurer, i.e. the National Treasurer

The definitions concerning the remits of every member of the Office result, in the first place, from their masonic qualifications and also from their daily administrative capabilities, and are based on the general rules of the GLTF.

The General Meeting of the GLTF Association will execute the constitutional and legislative power. In particular it confirms the minutes, approves the accounts and the budgets, names the members of the Board of Directors and ratifies the President proposed to be the Grand Master. The General Assembly Meeting, chaired by the Grand Master is composed of ex officio members and of delegated members.

- Ex officio members are :
- The Grand Master and the current Deputy

- Grand Master ,
- The Past Grand Masters
- The active National Officers as well as the members of the National Committee

The delegated members are the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden of every Lodge qualified for its representation.

The administration of the GLTF is organised by Provinces and their quantity is equal to their number of administrated provinces 21. Every Province is covered by a Provincial Grand Lodge, which does not represent a legal entity.

The Provincial Grand Lodge applies its jurisdiction on the Lodges situated within its territory of responsibility. As with the national organization, the Provincial Grand Lodges are governed by the Provincial Grand Masters who are assisted by a college of active provincial officers and the provincial governing structures: The College of the Wises and the College of the Worshipful Masters.

The lodge in the center of our masonic organisation



It is the Lodge, which is the melting pot of real Masonry. It is there where the Masons live and grow up. We want to place these Lodges and their Worshipful Masters into the center of the Grand Lodge.

From now on, nothing can be done without the agreement of the Lodges that administer and organize their finances. For

too long we were told that the Worshipful Masters were the true leaders of the Order. When creating the G.L.T.F. it has been our intention to place the Worshipful Masters into the heart of the affairs through their Colleges, not only on a National but also on a Provincial level.

Every Lodge is in possession of its Bye-

Laws that are imposed on all members, thus respecting the usage and customs of traditional Freemasonry and the statutes and General Regulations of the G.L.T.F.

As at a National and Provincial level, the Lodge will have a College of Wises chaired by the Worshipful Master and composed of all Past Masters of the Lodge and also of all the Worshipful Masters, past or present and members of the Lodge.





Practised Rites



Unlike International Grand Lodges, the number of recognized and practiced rites in France is particularly important. They have been imported, one after the other, from England, Scotland, the United States and from other European countries.

This particular French practice of multi-rites within the Constitution is unique in the world as the majority of Grand Lodges use fewer.

The Lodges of the G.L.T.F. practice the following rites :

- The Ancient and Accepted Rite,
- The Scottish Rectified Rite,

- The French Rite,
- The Emulation Rite,
- The York Rite

Complementary to the instructions practiced in the instruction workshops, the G.L.T.F. has endowed itself with 3 Lodges of Instruction, one for the Scottish Rectified Rite, one for the French Rite and for Brittany, one Instruction Lodge of multi-rites.

The authority of the G.L.T.F. is sovereign over the symbolic "blue" Lodge's first 3 grades. It guarantees to its members access to ordinal jurisdictions, the "Improvement" workshops of every rite, either within the frame of an existing jurisdiction, or within

the frame of new jurisdictions.

On the other hand, the ordinal Jurisdictions are sovereign and independent. They do not play any role in the G.L.T.F. and do not intervene in any way in its decisions, its actions or orientations.

The Master Masons may have access to the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch when they integrate in a Chapter of the Royal Arch of the Grand Traditional Lodge of France, after having achieved the Master degree and having worked at least as Junior Deacon in a Blue Lodge. The G.L.T.F. today has 5 Chapters of the Royal Arch.

Respect of the rule in twelve points

All Master Masons, who have adhered to the G.L.N.F. are obliged to respect this rule.

1. Freemasonry is an initiatic brotherhood which has as a fundamental tradition a belief in God, Grand Architect of the Universe.
2. Freemasonry refers itself to the Ancient Duties and to the Landmarks of Fraternity, particularly concerning the absolute respect of the specific traditions of the Order that are essential for the regularity of the jurisdiction.
3. Freemasonry is an Order to which only men, respectable and free may belong, who engage themselves to practise the ideals of peace, love and fraternity.
4. Freemasonry thus aims to morally perfect its members and eventually, the entire humanity.
5. Freemasonry imposes on its members the precise and scrupulous practice of the ritual books and the symbolism, which are

the means of access to the knowledge of the spiritual and initiatic ways, which are its particularity.

6. Freemasonry imposes respect of the opinions and beliefs to all its members. When inside the Lodge all discussions of political or religious matters are forbidden. Thus it is a permanent centre of fraternal union and tolerant comprehension between men in profitable harmony, who would have remained strangers without it.
7. Freemasons take their obligations on the Volume of the Sacred Law in order to give to the oath sworn on it a solemn and sacred character, indispensable to its longevity.
8. Freemasons gather, away from the profane world, in Lodges where the three Grand Lights of the Order are always on display: One Volume of the Sacred Law, a square and a pair of compasses, in order to work according to the Rite, the Constitution and the General Regulations of the Constitution.

9. Freemasons are only allowed to admit men into their Lodges, who have reached the age of majority, are of good reputation, are gentlemen, faithful and discrete, worthy in all respects to be their brothers and capable of recognising the limitations of mankind and the unlimited power of the Eternal.

10. Freemasons cultivate, within their Lodges, love for their homeland, the submission to the laws and respect for constitutional authorities. They consider work of essential importance to the human beings and honor it in every form.

11. Freemasons contribute, giving an active example of good behavior, virile and trustworthy, to the Glory of the Order respecting the Masonic Secrets.

12. Freemasons honorably owe to each other help and fraternal protection, even at the risk of their own lives. They practise, in all circumstances, the art of keeping calm and perfect self-control.



GLTF Solidarity

Handouts, solidarity, charity, fraternity, assistance, mutual aid, goodwill, kindness, generosity, philanthropy...all these terms may be found repeatedly in all texts, codes and regulations, that govern the different Masonic organizations.

But here as in many others, the true, the only stake is the action to fight:

- The despair of sick people to which a smile, a soothing word, a simple sign of true friendship can bring real relief.
- The despair of those who, during these difficult times, may have been deprived of employment and meet with the greatest difficulties in finding a new one.
- Also the despair of those who find

themselves sporadically in an inextricable financial situation that puts into question their present, their future and the evolution of their family.

- Finally as well the despair of those, who could find themselves, either by negligence or by ignorance, imprisoned in the jaws of juridical problems and to which it is necessary to bring professional help.

Once, Jean-Baptiste Willermoz, the encoder of the Rectified Rite, did not hesitate in his Letter for a candidate to be admitted by a Lodge to exhort the future Mason to make himself useful to the suffering part of humanity through the practice of charity.

This is exactly the target the new structure adopted by G.L.T.F. SOLIDARITY, constituted as an association and composed of four commissions: Health, Employment, Accommodation and Legal.

Nothing is more beautiful than to watch a smile come back to the face of a suffering man. Nothing can be more beautiful than to watch happiness reappear in the eyes of someone who had forgotten even its existence.

Without any doubt the duty of charity and of solidarity are the foundations of our new Constitution.



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