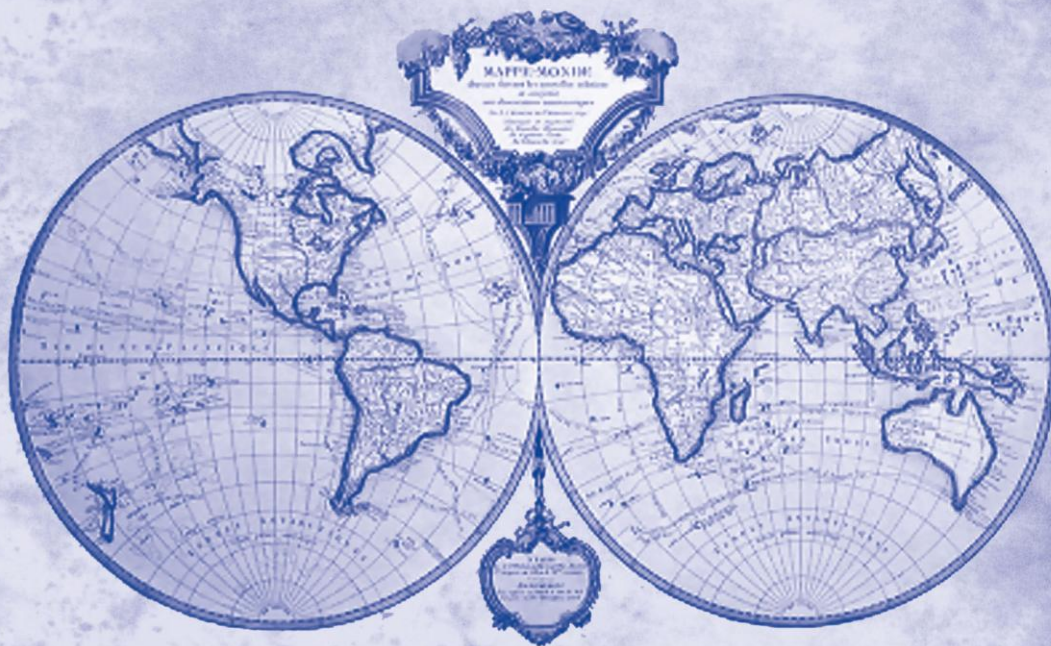


PAPELES DE MASONERÍA

IV



Centro Ibérico de Estudios Masónicos (CIEM)
Madrid • 2010

This issue of *Papeles de Masonería* is dedicated to the present situation of the Craft in the world, of Freemasonry in the crossroads of this beginning of the millennium. A historic crossroads, a crossroads in which ideas, philosophical currents, ideological options, views of life are intertwined, compete, are superimposed or try to impose themselves.

Surprisingly, those who contribute to *Papeles*, independently of their initiatic options, of their respective places of residence agree on one point: the Freemasonry is subject to all manner of pressures, which urge us towards a self-analysis before choosing an option. Does it choose tradition or modernity? The important thing is the ability to face problems, assume the challenges of an indispensable evolution that the new ages impose upon us.

Afredo Melgar, of the Lodge Concordia of Madrid, analyses with detail the present situation of the Craft, underlining the incompatibility between two antagonistic concepts: symbolism and materialism.

Amando Hurtado, of the Grand Lodge of France, refers to the dilemma of Freemasonry reviewing the Masonic developments in Spain after its legalization in 1979.

Keith Sheriff offers a completely new point of view about the development of the Craft in Gibraltar and the historical ties that bind it to the Spanish see Iberian Grand Lodges.

Yasha Beresiner, Past Master of the Research Lodge Quatour Coronati N° 2076 of the United Grand Lodge of England, refers in his article to the main milestones of British masonry in the 20th century.

Pierre Mollier, head of the Library, Archives and Museum of the Grand Orient of France, writes about the expansion of liberal masonry (Grand Orients) in Europe.

Thierry Zarcone, from the French National Centre of Scientific Research (CRNS), offers an innovative view of the problems encountered by Masons in present times in Muslim-Islamic countries of Asia, the Middle East and the Maghreb.

Thomas W. Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Glenys Waldman, librarian of this organization, denounce the havoc caused in the past decades by the materialistic current that tries to take control of the North American Lodges. Likewise, Claudio Torres Chávez, Peruvian freemason, describes the situation in South America.

Much more soothing, although not exempt of worry concerning the welfare of Masonry in Australasia (Australia and New Zealand) is the view offered by Martin I McGregor, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

Last, but certainly not least, is Jean Benedict's essay, of the Alpina Research Group, (Grand Lodge of Switzerland), which provides valuable details concerning the way Research Lodges around the world work.

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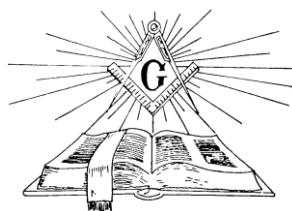
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