

PAPELES DE MASONERÍA

VII



Centro Ibérico de Estudios Masónicos (CIEM)
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This issue of *Papeles de Masonería* is dedicated to anti-Masonry, a current that accompanies the development of our august Order for more than two hundred years, that is to say, since the first half of the 18th century. Those who have lived under authoritarian regimes know without a doubt that anti-Masonry is the equivalent of intolerance, violation of the basic rights of the human being, arbitrary detention, torture, privation of liberty, labour discrimination, confiscation of goods. The anti-Masonry current has accompanied us, and will most probably continue to do so during the following lustrums. To analyse this disturbing phenomenon, the CIEM has requested the collaboration of Brethren from various countries.

André Combes, director of the Institute of Masonic Studies and Research of the Grand Orient of France – IDERM, editor in chief of the magazine *Chronicles of the History of Freemasonry*, makes a brief historical revision of the anti-Masonry current in France, recalling the dangers it implies for the democratic system.

Yasha Beresiner, former president of the lodge of research Quatour Coronati N° 2076 of the United Grand Lodge of England, analyses the outreach of the parliamentary initiatives destined to introduce the control of British civil servants belonging to the Craft.

Giuseppe M. Vatri, of the Grand Orient of Italy, historian of Freemasonry, offers us an unknown vision of left-wing anti-Masonry, a current born in the transalpine country during the second decade of the 20th century.

León Zeldis, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Israel, reviews the evolution of Russian Freemasonry, since its creation up until our days.

Jacques Charles Lemaire, of the Grand Orient of Belgium, member of the Royal Academy of French Language and Literature of Brussels, centres on the conflict between the Belgian Freemasonry and Church.

Luis Algorri, journalist, member of the Spanish Symbolic Grand Lodge, covers in his article the different stages in the development of Freemasonry in Spain, emphasizing the poor intellectual level of the accusations formulated by the anti-Masonry currents.

Chip Berlet, journalist and independent researcher and Jeffrey Croteau, director of the Library and Archives of the National Heritage Museum – Museum of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Lexington (Massachusetts) U.S.A. study in depth the binomial Freemasonry – conspirational paranoia, common denominator in the relationship between the Craft and the North American conservative right wing.

Martin Javor, professor of history at the University of Prešov (Slovakia) and scholar of Freemasonry, describes the historic journey of the Lodges of Central Europe, from the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the doors of the 21st century.

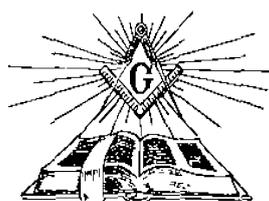
Finally, *Papeles* offers two unpublished documents written by members of religious associations contrary to Masonry. The first dates from the late 18th century; the second, from the first decade of the 21st century. Curiously or unfortunately, it can be noted that the terminology has not changed.

The Editorial Team of Papeles de Masonería

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