

PAPELES DE MASONERÍA

VI



Centro Ibérico de Estudios Masónicos (CIEM)
Madrid • 2012

This sixth edition of our annual magazine *Papeles de Masonería* is devoted to Masonic architecture. It is a project that our editorial staff has been cherishing for over a lustrum, hoping someday to emulate the – few - English and French Masonic art publications.

“Let none enter here if not Geometer”, read the inscription situated on the façade of Plato’s Academy. The message had an incomprehensible meaning for the profane.

Architecture is, by definition, the science and the art of space. In the Craft, architecture carries the name of *constructive symbolism*. It is a method that allows us to understand the dynamics of universal creation.

The joint authors of *Papeles* try to penetrate in the complex, although little known universe of Masonic architecture, offering a unique overview of this valuable legacy of Freemasonry.

François Gruson, Professor, architect and member of one of the most important French Masonic Obediences, was also the promoter and artifice of the ambitious project that led to the creation of the Museum of French Masonry, in the Parisian headquarters of the Grand Orient of France (GOF). In his article, Gruson tries to answer the question: *Does a Masonic Architecture exist?*

Claude Gagne, celebrated historian of the Order ascribed to the Supreme Council of France (SCF), tries to draw parallelisms between the architecture and the construction of Masonic rituals.

James Stevens Curl, member of the Royal Academy of Ireland and the Royal College of Architects of Scotland, teaches the history of architecture in prestigious British universities. Curl, initiated and author of several books about the architectural legacy of the Craft, offers us the opportunity of better getting to know the historic monuments related to the evolution of Freemasonry in England and Scotland.

Eric Hennaut, Professor of Fine Arts in Brussels and an expert in architectural styles created or adopted by Belgian Masonry, offers us a wide panorama of initiation art in a country where the Order has enjoyed and still enjoys great prestige.

Miguel Colmenares, Madrid architect belonging to the Grand Lodge of Spain (GLE), devotes most of his article to the main monuments built by and for initiates in both Madrid and the Canary Islands.

M^a Teresa Llopis, historian, reveals the Masonic symbology of the *Panteón de los Hombres Ilustres* (Pantheon of Illustrious Men) in Madrid, where lay several personalities linked with the history of Spain and of our Order.

Jonás B. Marín, member of the Board of Directors of the CIEM, writes about Masonic architecture in Barcelona, underlining the legacy of the Brothers that participated in the creation of urban structures in the capital of Catalonia during the 19th century.

William Pesson, architect and member of the National Grand Lodge of France (GLNF), offers an exhaustive review of the historic development of the different architectural movements and styles associated with the edification, century after century, of the Masonic monuments in France.

In his contribution, Stephane Ceccaldi, director of the Museum of the Grand Lodge of France (GLF), emphasizes the need to identify, restore and preserve the valuable architectural heritage of universal Masonry.

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Centro Ibérico de Estudios Masónicos (CIEM)
Madrid

P.O. Box 6.203
E - 28080 – Madrid (Spain)
www.cienmas.org
E-mail: cien.madrid@gmail.com

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