



THE MILITARY
AND HOSPITALLER
ORDER OF
SAINT LAZARUS
OF JERUSALEM

A SHORT RÉSUMÉ OF THE HISTORY
OF THE ORDER
INCLUDING THE EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A REBEL GROUP IN FRANCE



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*Grand Chancery
Castell Lanzun, Mensija
San Gwann, Malta, G.C.*

TRADITIONAL ORIGINS

According to ancient tradition, the birthplace of the Order of Saint Lazarus was a leper hospital, constructed outside the walls of Jerusalem by the High Priest John Hyrcanus, who ruled over the Jewish people between the years 135 and 105 B.C.

Letters patent issued in 1343 by Jean, Duke of Normandy, later king of France under the name Jean II le Bon, attest to the tradition that the Brotherhood was founded in the year 72 A.D.

Most historians agree with the affirmation by Pope Pius IV in his Bull "Inter Assiduas" that the Order existed in 369 A.D. during the papacy of St. Damascus I, when Saint Basil the Great was Archbishop of Caesarea. It is this sainted archbishop who is considered the legendary father of the Order by virtue of his founding a large hospital for lepers near Caesarea.

Established since the fifth century at Acre and Constantinople, the Hospitallers of Saint Lazarus founded their principal hospital at Jerusalem in 530 A.D. Here they cared for and protected pilgrims to the Holy Places, and especially directed their efforts towards the amelioration of lepers. Their leprosarium or Lazar House was located outside the walls of the city near the postern of Saint Ladre, or Saint Lazarus, on which was believed to be the site of the ancient hospital founded by John Hyrcanus.

HISTORIC PERIOD

After the fall of Jerusalem to the Crusaders in 1098, leprous knights of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of the Temple, and of the Holy Sepulchre, and other sufferers of similar dread diseases, were placed under the care of the Hospitallers of Saint Lazarus. Because in most patients the disease progressed very slowly and because the hospitals required protection against the infidels as well as brigands and marauding bands, it was inevitable that the warriors of Saint Lazarus should sooner or later convert the Order into a knightly militia, as well as a hospitaller brotherhood.

The Order was held in great esteem by the Christian Kings of Jerusalem, and by all those who came in touch with their work of charity and protection. Baldwin IV, the leper King of Jerusalem,

was especially generous to the Order, but gifts of lands and kind were received from men and women of all ranks. So great was the military reputation of the leper knights that they were entrusted with the defence of the castles of Kharbet-el-Zeitha and Madjel-el-Djemeriah. But wherever there was fighting between Christians and infidels, knights of the Order rallied to the support of the Holy Cross. They considered themselves the "living dead", these "men who walked alone"; final death in defence of the Faith held no terrors for them.

So renowned was the Order and its work of mercy that after the fall of Jerusalem in 1187, Saladin the Great took the hospital of the Order under his personal protection. The Moslem conqueror permitted the poor of the city, who could not pay ransom, to leave the walls of Jerusalem by the Gate of Saint Ladre and take refuge in the hospital of the Order.

In 1191, during the peace between Saladin and the Crusaders, the Order established itself at the city of Saint Jean d'Acre, formerly known as Ptolomais. In this location, the Order secured sovereign rights over a portion of the city outside its wall. Its members built a fortress-hospice and a church called l'Eglise de Saint Lazare des Chevaliers. They were also granted Saint Lazarus Tower and the Church of Saint Lawrence near Caesarea. The Pope and other temporal rulers recognized the Order of Saint Lazarus as a sovereign power.

With the renewal of the war between the Christians and the Moslems, the Order gained added laurels, but at a sad price. After sustaining severe losses in many engagements, most of the leper knights of the Order were slain in the battle of Gaza in 1244. Those of the knights who were not present at that ill-fated battle joined the crusaders who remained to fight a forlorn hope. They accompanied Saint Louis of France in his Egyptian crusade and took part in his expeditions into Syria during the years 1250 to 1254. When Saint Jean d'Acre finally fell to the Mohammedans in 1291, the existence of the Order in the Holy Land ceased.

Before the loss of their last stronghold in the Latin Kingdom a group of knights of the Order established themselves in Europe. They founded hospitals, country houses, preceptories or com-

manderies throughout the continent of Europe and in Britain. The most famous of these were the preceptories at Boigny, granted the Order by Louis VII of France, and at Capua, Italy.

In 1489, Pope Innocent VIII attempted to amalgamate several Orders including the Order of Saint Lazarus, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and others into the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also known as the Order of Malta. The Papal Bull to this effect could not be enforced owing to the sovereign tradition of these Orders. This action resulted, however, in splitting the Order into two major branches, that under the rule of the preceptory at Boigny and the other under the authority of the Priory at Capua.

The Priory at Capua had been founded in the year 1211 and Pope Leo X granted it extraordinary privileges. From 1517 on, the leaders of this branch of the Order called themselves "Grand Master of the Order within the Kingdom of Sicily and elsewhere". In 1572, Pope Gregory XIII united this branch in perpetuity with the House of Savoy. This Bull specifically excluded the Spanish branch of the Order, which remained under the control of the Spanish Crown. The reigning Duke of Savoy, Philibert III, hastened to fuse the Priory of Capua with the recently founded Savoyard Order of Saint Maurice, and thenceforth the title "Grand Master of the Order of Saint Maurice and Saint Lazarus" has been hereditary in the Ducal House of Savoy and the Royal House of Italy. This Order has been conferred by H.M. King of Italy without restrictions of birth to both civilians and military.

It is with the senior branch, however, that we are concerned, the branch with its headquarters at Boigny in France. This jurisdiction had been founded in 1154 through a gift from King Louis VII to the first knight of the Order to leave the Holy Land. After the final fall of Saint Jean d'Acre, its commanders were recognized as "Grand Masters of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, Upon and Beyond the Seas". The sovereign character of the Order was recognized by the Kings of France and under their protection the Order continued to perform its sovereign functions.

In 1578, following the issuance of the Papal Bull of 1572, referred to above, Florentine François Salviati, Commander of Boigny and Grand Master of the Order, ruled that the action of Pope Gregory

XIII, in surrendering the Priory of Capua and the Order in Italy to the House of Savoy, did not affect the Commandery and the Order in Boigny. This ruling was affirmed by King Henry IV of France on the 7th September 1604, when he declared himself by letters patent the Supreme Sovereign of the Order.

Other important branches gravitated among these two jurisdictions. In England, the Master of the Hospital of Burton, founded in 1135, was Vicar General of the Grand Magistracy of Boigny for England. In Scotland the Order had been given St. Giles Cathedral by the Crown. The Spanish knights of the Order came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Magistracy of Boigny. The Commander of the famous convent of Seedorf, founded in Switzerland in 1134, bore the title of Master of Saint Lazarus. In Germany, the Commander of the Hospital of Saint Magdalene of Gotha was Provincial Commander; the Commander of Strigonia, in Hungary was Vicar General of the Grand Magistracy of Boigny. Thus Boigny assured the perpetuation of the sovereign existence of the Order.

In 1608, the Order was placed under a mutual Grand Magistracy with the Order of Mount Carmel, which had been lately founded by King Henri IV of France. Neither Order was suppressed nor was there an amalgamation of the two; the privileges of the two Orders were the same; up to 1779, knights were admitted simultaneously into the two Orders; they owed allegiance to a common Grand Master; neither Order lost its sovereign identity.

Under this organization, the Order continued its existence up to the French revolution. Both the military and hospitaller activities of the Order continued during this period. Members of the Order expanded their lazarettes for the care of lepers, while their confrères maintained a naval flotilla on active duty in the Mediterranean. The membership was recruited from the aristocracy of Europe; it was officially protected by the Kings of France although it was never a royal Order of France, and did not to appear in the Almanach Royal.

With the French Revolution, misfortune befell the Order. The decree of July 30, 1791, ordered the suppression of all royal and knightly Orders. Another decree, dated March of the following year, confiscated all its properties. The Order of Saint Lazarus seemed fated to disappear in the welter of blood brought on by the revolution. The Order was saved for posterity by its Grand Master, H.R.H. the

Count of Provence. Having escaped from the terror, the Prince Grand Master continued to fulfil the duties of his office from abroad. The creation of Hereditary Commanderies since the 17th century also ensured the perpetuation of the Order despite political fluctuations. In large measure, it has been due to these Hereditary Commanderies that the activities of the Order have continued to exist during periods of revolution and persecution.

Throughout his exile, the Count of Provence, as Grand Master, continued to confer the Order of Saint Lazarus. During this period H.I.M. the Emperor Paul I of Russia and members of his family and staff were admitted into the Order. The King of Sweden was also honored in this fashion, and the Hereditary Commandery of Gothland was established.

MODERN PERIOD

With the fall of the First French Empire, H.R.H. the Count of Provence became King of France under the name of Louis XVIII. In accordance with the tradition, established to ensure the independence of the Order, His Majesty resigned the Grand Mastership. For a brief time, the office of Grand Master was vacant; a Council of Officers of the Order assumed its administration.

Finally the Duc de la Chatre, Minister of State for King Louis XVIII, was elected Grand Master and undertook the reorganization of the Order. In view of this modern contribution, the Duc de la Chatre can be considered the Father of the modern Order.

Following the Revolution of 1830, the Order lost the temporal protection of the French government. In order to assure the continuation of their historic mission, the knights turned their activities towards the Christian Middle East, and placed themselves under the spiritual protection of the Greek Melchite Patriarchs of Antioch, Alexandria, and Jerusalem, who at that time had a degree of sovereignty in relation to the Sublime Porte. This spiritual protection ceased in 1930 when the Order regained the plenitude of its independence, thus permitting the re-establishment of the Grand Magistracy.

In 1930, the Officers of the Order, drawn from the Hereditary Commanderies, asked H.R.H. Don Francisco de Borbon y de la

Torre, Duque de Sevilla, Grand Bailiff of the Order for Spain, to assume the governance of the Order, with the title of Lieutenant General of the Grand Magistracy. His Royal Highness, a direct descendant of the Kings of Spain and France, who had distinguished himself on the field of battle as the "Hero of Malaga" during the Spanish Civil War, accepted the office. Through a manifesto issued in April 1931, he recalled to the knights the traditional double mission of the Order: Aid to lepers, and collaboration in the defence of the Faith and the Church. The Lieutenant General worked energetically and successfully for the expansion of the Order, and this activity resulted in the restoration of the office of Grand Master. It should also be remembered that the Spanish branch of the Order was exempted from the amalgamation with the Capuan branch. Although in time it fell into dormancy it was by no means extinguished. As a consequence a Spanish Bourbon prince assumed the chief office of the Order and revived the Spanish branch. In accordance with the Statutes and Regulations of the Order, the knights were asked to assemble in a General Chapter. This assembly was held on December 15, 1935, two days before the Feast of Saint Lazarus, at the Church of Our Lady of Missions at Epinay near Paris. Through a unanimous vote of the knights present or represented, H.R.H. Don Francisco de Borbon y de la Torre, Duque de Sevilla, was elected 44th Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem Upon and Beyond the Seas.

At this time, the administration of the Order was located in Paris under an Administrator General, Pierre de Cossé, Duc de Brissac, Mr. Guy Coutant as Chancellor and Mr. Paul Bertrand as Capitular. The seat of the Order was located in Madrid from where the Grand Master and his Grand Referendary, Don José Romero de Juseu, Marqués de Cardenas de Montehermoso, officiated.

The 44th Grand Master died on December 6, 1952, and was succeeded by his son Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon, first as Coadjutor and Lieutenant General of the Order, and later in 1960 as 45th Grand Master.

At this time a major development took place in the history of the Order. In 1961, Lt. Col. Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, Baron of Lochoreshyre, was invited to develop the Order in the English-

speaking world. He was appointed Commissioner General with the rank of Knight Grand Cross of Justice with collar.

As a result of this appointment the Scottish Grand Bailiwick with the perpetual Commandery of Linlithgow, the English Grand Bailiwick, with the perpetual Commandery of Burton Lazars, the Irish, Canadian, South African, American, Malta and New Zealand Bailiwicks were organized. Delegations were also instituted in Rhodesia and Australia and a leprosy research committee was established at Oxford. Work was also started in Ethiopia, Tanzania, India and Thailand as well as in Scandinavia.

Meanwhile, on the oecumenical side, the Episcopal and Anglican Churches were considered as fully Catholic Churches (as they claim to be) and this concept was incorporated in the various decrees establishing the English Tongue of the Order. The decrees of the Order promulgated in 1948 were modified accordingly.

An international Commission for Orders of Chivalry was established at the Fifth Congress of Genealogy and Heraldry held in Stockholm in August 1960. The commission was presided over by Baron Monti della Corte and under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Wurttemberg and its members were chosen from the highest nobility of Europe as well as from among internationally recognized experts in the fields of genealogy and heraldry. The purpose of the Commission is to judge Orders of Chivalry according to rules established by the Commission and decide whether or not to recognize them as legal chivalric entities. From its creation, the commission has acknowledged the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem as one of the semi-independent orders such as the Orders of Calatrava, Santiago, Montesa, the Most Venerable of Saint John in the British Realm, in the Netherlands, in Prussia and Sweden and as the Knightly Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Teutonic Order of Saint Mary of Jerusalem, the Bailiwick of Utrecht of the Teutonic Order of the Netherlands, and the Knightly Order of Vitez, protected by the Holy Crown of Hungary.

We now enter upon a chapter in the history of the Order which is not to its credit but which must be brought forth.

In 1967, tension arose between the Grand Master in Madrid and the administration in Paris. The latter accused the Grand Master of

lack of interest in the exercise of his Grand Magistral duties and called for a Chapter General for the purpose of ousting the Grand Master. Throughout those weeks, the Commissioner General of the English and Scottish Tongues was in active contact with Paris and pleaded that H.R.H. Prince Francisco be made at least Grand Master Emeritus if, as was said, he had no time to perform the work of the Order. This led to nowhere, and so, as not to split the Order, the Commissioner General decided to accede to the action being taken and the result was that H.R.H. Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon, 45th Grand Master of the Order, was removed from his Office. Not unnaturally, the Spanish Grand Priory withdrew from the Order and so a split in the Order was created. The Order was now, once again in three parts: St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, St. Lazarus of Spain and the rest of the Order.

H.R.H. Prince Charles Philippe d'Orléans, Duc de Nemours, was elected by the Chapter General 46th Grand Master of the Order on May 17, 1967. At this meeting, on being presented to all the principal officers of the Order, he congratulated the Commissioner General and said that the great spread of the Order throughout the world was due, in no small measure, to the latter's energy and assured the Commissioner General that he would always have his support.

The 46th Grand Master threw himself into the work of the Order with energy to such a degree that more tensions soon became apparent between himself and the administration in Paris. The actual crisis erupted over the Statutes and Regulations which he had been asked to sign and to swear to uphold. It was taken for granted by the Grand Master that there were no alterations contemplated to these, except what was generally understood, namely the special position which the Episcopal Church had come to enjoy as a fully Catholic Church. Consequently, when he was asked in January 1968 at Boigny to sign the ancient Constitution of the Order, he had every reason to believe that these were the 1948 Statutes as modified in respect to the oecumenical matters described above with the addition of the authorization of the Companionate of Merit which the then Chancellor Guy Coutant and the Commissioner General of the English Tongue had drawn up.

These statutes were not issued by Guy Coutant for nearly one year, when it was found that in no respect did they represent, with

evolutionary modifications, the fundamental constitution of the Order, but were statutes which deprived the Grand Master and the knights of the Order of all fundamental rights and placed all authority and appointment of their successors in the hands of Messrs. Guy Coutant, Paul Bertrand and the Duc de Brissac as Grand Administrator. The latter's office had, in fact, become redundant on the appointment of the Grand Master. These regulations were invalid as made clear by the Madrid Statutes of 1948 which were the last codified ones which stated that the Grand Master is the Supreme Head of the Order and the only one empowered to amend the Statutes and Regulations of the Order.

The Grand Master issued a letter in February 1969 in which, in line with the actions of Pope John XXIII and the Second Council, he abolished the sectarian differences between knights. Meanwhile the party in Paris held what they considered a Chapter General, without even the presence of the Grand Master, and deposed him!

The 46th Grand Master, the Duc de Nemours, refused to acquiesce and thereupon took steps to reform the Order still further. It was apparent that he had been made a tool of just as had been the 45th Grand Master, Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon. Therefore, he appointed Prince Michael of France as his Coadjutor and the Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon, the former 45th Grand Master, as his Grand Commander and named Lt. Col. Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg as Grand Referendary to replace the Marquis de Cardenas de Montehermoso, who had just died. Further he decided that an International Order should not have its headquarters in any large European city, where undue influence could be brought to bear upon it, so he moved it to Malta.

While these events were taking place, the proposals for a Commandery of Lochore, Edinburgh, which had commenced in times prior to these events and which was backed by a trust deed with funds, was founded and signed by the Grand Master and Prince Michael, his Coadjutor. Thus, in Scotland, St. Vincent's Church in Edinburgh, the Barony of Lochore, and the ambulance corps was formally brought into the Order as a perpetual and Hereditary Commandery. The organizations which in the end gave their allegiance to the Grand Master were: England, Ireland, Scotland, Malta, South Africa, Sweden, Hungary (in exile), New Zealand, Australia, Rhodesia,

Rumania (in exile) and Bulgaria (in exile). Parts of the English, Irish and Scottish organizations joined with Paris as did Canada, Austria and parts of Switzerland. Holland declared itself neutral.

Disregarding these latter organizations the Grand Master, as stated, set up his organization in Malta. In Nova Scotia, Canada, the Commandery of the Holy Trinity was organized, and with a grant of \$ 23,000 from the Nova Scotia government it set about restoring the ancient buildings at Pictou, where the first Highland Scottish settlers came to Canada and to establish these as a base for the Commandery. In France, the Grand Master considering himself the titular Commander of Boigny, set up a delegation to which adhered some French members of the Order which had followed the Grand Master.

In the midst of these activities the Grand Master died on March 10, 1970. Prince Michael of France, as Coadjutor assumed the interim Grand Magistracy and signed the following rescript dated March 14, 1970 in Paris before the Grand Referendary and the Order's Legal Adviser:

RESCRIT du Co'adjuteur assurant l'intérim de la Grand'Maîtrise. Nous, Michel d'Orléans, Fils de France, avons la très grande douleur de porter à la connaissance de tous nos confrères de l'Ordre Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint Lazare de Jerusalem, le décès de notre bien-aimé Oncle et Grand'Maître Général de l'Ordre, Son Altesse Royale, le Prince Charles Philippe d'Orléans, Premier Prince du Sang de France, Duc de Nemours, de Vendôme et d'Alençon, survenu à Neuilly-sur-Seine le dix mars, mil neuf cents soixante-dix.

Le décès de notre Grand'Maître laisse vacante la plus haute charge de notre Institution.

Ayant été nommé Co'adjuteur par le Duc de Nemours, il est de notre devoir, en attendant la prochaine tenue du Chapitre Général, d'assumer l'intérim de la Grand'Maîtrise.

Dans les circonstances actuelles, la personnalité pouvant maintenir, comme l'a fait le Duc de Nemours, l'esprit chevalresque oecuménique et charitable de notre Ordre est Monseigneur François de Bourbon et de Bourbon, actuellement Grand'Maître Emérite.

Nous proposons donc Son nom aux chevaliers qui, lors du prochain Chapitre Général, auront à élire le nouveau Grand'Maître Général.

Les exigences de la vie moderne font souhaiter qu'un autre Chapitre Général se prononce ensuite sur la mise au point de la réforme des Statuts de l'Ordre à partir des textes promulgués le quinze avril, mil neuf cent soixante-neuf et ultérieurement.

Pendant la passe de temps que durera notre intérim et durant lequel Nous promettons de servir l'Ordre de Notre mieux, Nous demandons à nos confrères de Nous garder la fidélité et le dévouement dont ils ont fait preuve à l'égard du Duc de Nemours et Nous espérons qu'ils aideront de même le futur Grand'Maître Général.

le 14 Mars 1970
MICHEL

R. Gayre of Gayre and Nigg
Grand Referendary

During this period the Order made considerable strides. A delegation was formed in Portugal headed by Chevalier Jorge Preto and another in Germany under Chevalier Werner Eickenberg.

The ambulance Corps of the Commandery of Lochore was organized and towards the end of 1972 one was organized in Northern Ireland. This was successful because the inhabitants distrusted the Protestant Order of St. John and the Catholic Order of Malta, whereas the Order of Saint Lazarus was truly oecumenical, thus it was able to operate with both sides.

The Grand Referendary provided the Castell Lanzun to the Order and gave a sum of money to rebuild and restore it as the Headquarters of the Order. It was inaugurated on May 12, 1973.

Meanwhile negotiations had taken place with H.R.H. Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon and on March 22, 1973 he was confirmed as 47th Grand Master. H.R.H. Prince Michael of France remained Coadjutor, Lt. Col. Gayre of Gayre and Nigg was promoted to Grand Commander, to fill the vacancy left by the Grand Master. Marquis de Haro Union, the Grand Referendary of Spain, became the Grand Referendary of the whole Order and Chevalier J. Amato-Gauci became Grand Chancellor and Custodian of the Treasury.

The Grand Priory of Suisse Romande, meanwhile, came over to the legitimate side of the Order. In Austria, a large body has also been created under the legitimate Order.

For the first time, since it lost its possessions in the French Revolution, the Order possessed property again, namely Castell Lanzun, Malta; St. Vincent's Church, Edinburgh; the buildings at Pictou, Nova Scotia; Lochore House, Malta, as well as three ambulance corps in Scotland, Ireland and New Zealand.

SO-CALLED "ACTS OF RECOGNITION" OF THE DUC DE BRISSAC

PART I

Concerning the Recognition of the Duc de Brissac

In a publication issued from Paris by the former Grand Chancery of the Order, dated 1970 and entitled "L'Election de Son Excellence Monsieur Le Duc de Brissac Comme Chef Suprême de l'Ordre, Chapitre Général, 10 février — 10 avril 1969; L'Activité de L'Ordre 1968-1969", among many claims which are not accepted, but which it would be tedious to go into now, there is at page 6 the following statement: —

"A la suite de son élection comme Lieutenant Général et Chef Suprême de l'Ordre, Son Exc. Monsieur le Duc de Brissac a reçu de nombreuses marques de sympathie des hautes autorités religieuses et civiles. Nous avons déjà cité Sa Beatitude le Patriarche Maximos V et Monseigneur le Comte de Paris, et parmi les autres citons celles de LL.MM. la Reine Elisabeth II de Grande Bretagne, le Roi Gustave VI de Suède, le Roi Baudouin de Belgique, le Roi Humbert II d'Italie, le Roi Constantin II de Grèce, le Roi Michel Ier de Roumanie, S.A.R. le Grand Duc Jean de Luxembourg, S.A.S. le Prince François-Joseph II de Liechtenstein, S.A.S. le Prince Rainier de Monaco, S.A.R. le Prince Bernhard des Pays-Bas, S.A.I. et R. l'Archiduc Otto d'Autriche, S.A.I., et R. le Prince Louis Ferdinand de Prusse, S.A.I. et R. le Grand Duc Wladimir de Russie, LL.AA.RR. le Comte de Barcelone, le Duc de Wurtemberg, le Prince Renier de Bourbon-Siciles, Duc de Castro, le Prince Ernest Auguste de Hanovre et S.A.E. le Grand Maître de l'Ordre Souverain de Saint-Jean de Jérusalem, de Rhodes et de Malte, S.A.R. le Grand'Maître de l'Ordre de Saint-Jean de Jérusalem (Bailliage de Brandebourg), S.A.R. de Grand Prieur du Vénérable Ordre de l'Hôpital de Saint-Jean de Jérusalem, Son Exc. le Grand'Maître de l'Ordre Teutonique, etc."

The whole credibility of the statements of this publication can be assessed upon facts which clearly emerge from an investigation of the alleged recognition which has been given to the so-called election of the Duc de Brissac as the head of the Order.

We have not felt it necessary to approach all the persons named, since, if only one of these alleged recognitions is disproved then the document is a false one, and its claims are shown to be untrue.

Furthermore, it has not been our wish to trouble all the august personages mentioned in this list unnecessarily, as we believe that the evidence which follows is sufficient to show that it is a statement which, taken in its totality, is as false as any document can be.

We are only concerned with Chiefs of Royal Houses, as the views of any other parties are not of crucial importance in regard to a recognition of a chief of an international and semi-independent Order, no matter how distinguished such other people may be.

The Archduke Otto is cited as among those who assented to this election. But from a letter written officially on his behalf it is clear that he was certainly misled. In this letter he says that he must recognise the Duc de Brissac *because he has the support of the Holy See. This is clearly untrue, as the Holy See only recognises Orders of foreign states with which it is in diplomatic relations*, its own Orders, and the Orders of Malta and the Holy Sepulchre which are under its Protection. This position has been made clear by the pronouncement of the *Osservatore Romano* dated 14-15 December 1970, which reads as follows: —

**L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO — 14-15 DICEMBRE 1970,
N.289, Page 2, "PRECISAZIONE"**

Translation

The Secretariat of State, following frequent enquiries regarding the validity of "honours and distinctions" granted by Bodies styling themselves "Chivalric Orders" considers it opportune to renew the definitions contained in the Communication issued on the 9th April 1970.

Following a solemn investiture of new Knights of the Chivalric Order of "S. Brigida di Svezia" carried out recently in a Parish Church in Rome, several enquiries have reached us for information regarding the attitude of the Holy See vis-à-vis Chivalric Orders bearing Sacred Dedications or Names of Saints.

We are now in a position to confirm what had already been published on the subject in our paper, viz: The Holy See, besides its own Chivalric Orders, recognized by International Law, considers as Catholic Orders, — and adopts as such — only the following two Chivalric Orders. viz: The S.M.O. of S. John of Jerusalem, known as the Order of Malta, and the Chivalric Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (Ordine Equestre del Santo Sepolcro di Gerusalemme).

All the other Orders, as, for example, the above mentioned "Ordine di S. Brigida", that of "Nostra Signora di Betlemme" and of "S. Giovanni d'Acridi", etc. are not recognized by the Holy See, as the Holy See is not in a position to guarantee their legitimacy, historical and juridical, their scope and their organization system.

The original Italian text of the foregoing is as follows: —

La Segreteria di Stato, in seguito a frequenti richieste sulla validità di "onorificenze e distinzioni" rilasciate da enti che si definiscono abusivamente "Ordini cavallereschi", ritiene opportuno rinnovare le precisazioni contenute nel comunicato del 9 aprile 1970:

In seguito ad una solenne funzione per l'investitura di nuovi Cavalieri dell'Ordine Cavalleresco di S. Brigida di Svezia, avvenuta di recente in una chiesa parrocchiale di Roma, vari lettori ci hanno chiesto informazioni circa l'atteggiamento della Santa Sede di fronte ad Ordini Cavallereschi aventi intitolazioni sacre o dedicate a Santi.

Siamo ora in grado di confermare quanto già pubblicato in proposito, in passato, dal nostro giornale: la Santa Sede, oltre ai propri Ordini Equestri, riconosciuti dal Diritto Internazionale, considera come cattolici — e tutela — due soli Ordini Cavallereschi: il Sovrano Militare Ordine di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme, detto di Malta, e l'Ordine Equestre del Santo Sepolcro di Gerusalemme.

Tutti gli altri Ordini — di nuova istituzione o fatti derivare da quelli medievali, come, per esempio, il su nominato Ordine di Santa Brigida, quelli di Nostra Signora di Betlemme e di San Giovanni d'Acridi, ecc., — non sono riconosciuti dalla Santa Sede non potendosi questa far garante della loro legittimità, storica e giuridica, delle loro finalità e dei loro sistemi organizzativi.

In the list on page 6 of this Paris publication there appears the alleged recognition by the *Sovereign Military Order of Malta*. But this is impossible, in view of the letter circulated by the Chancellor

Quintin Jeremy Gwyn of June 1971, or thereabouts, in which it makes clear that it only recognises the Orders of States, with which it is in some sort of relationship, those of the Vatican, and those under the latter's protection, and the Venerable Order of St. John in the British Realms and the Johanniter Orden of Germany and the like. A semi-independent Order, such as that of St. Lazarus, does not seek, and has never sought, any form of recognition from any other Order, which would be a reflection upon its own credentials and standing. In view of the letter to which we have referred it is clear that any recognition by the Order of Malta would be quite impossible.

It will be observed that *King Umberto II of Italy* is in the list of august personages alleged to have accorded recognition to the Duc de Brissac. The Grand Master, the Duc de Nemours, asked King Umberto why he had supported the Duc de Brissac, to which His Majesty replied that he had not, and had merely sent by telegram a polite acknowledgement as follows: —

Duc de Brissac
36, Court Albert I
Paris

Remercie lettre avec meilleurs voeux
U.

tr. il 25.6.69.

In the case of the *Count of Paris*, the Duc de Nemours, having heard the allegation that, as the representative of the Crown of France, and so as Protector of the Order of St. Lazarus, that the Prince had supported the Duc de Brissac against him, wrote to the Count of Paris and received the following reply:—

Mon cher Chappy,

Ainsi que je te l'écrivais naguère, je me suis toujours refusé à intervenir dans la vie et l'organisation des ordres de chevalerie, même lorsque j'y étais invité de la façon la plus pressante et malgré les sentiments d'attachement qui m'étaient bien souvent manifestés par beaucoup de leurs dirigeants.

Par conséquent, je n'ai pas eu à me prononcer en faveur de ton élection aux fonctions de Grand Maître de l'Ordre de Saint Lazare et je n'ai encouragé personne, bien entendu, à se déclarer contre toi

en cette affaire dont je n'avais pas à connaître.
Je te prie, mon cher Chappy, de me croire.
Louveciennes, le 19 mai 1969.

King Baudouin of Belgium also appears in this list of supporters of the Duc de Brissac; but upon being written to by the Grand Referendary to ask if it were true, received a reply which makes it clear he merely acknowledged the receipt of the letter, as will be seen from the following reply:—

November 24th 1970.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter you addressed to the King on October 28th last and which His Majesty read attentively.

The King — whose function it is not to take position in the controversy to which you refer — has nevertheless entrusted me in the mission of informing you that he has never been asked to support, nor has he ever supported, the election of the Duc de Brissac.

The Duc de Brissac by his letter, dated 27th May 1969, informed the King of his election and His Majesty, through the Chief of his Cabinet, simply acknowledged receipt of his message.

Yours sincerely,
A. MOLITOR,
Chef de Cabinet du Roi

A Monsieur le Lieutenant Colonel
Chevalier GAYRE OF GAYRE and NIGG,
Baron of Lochoreshyre,
Villa Lochore,
115 The Strand,
GZIRA (Malte).

The Ruling *Prince of Liechtenstein*, another of the alleged supporters of the election of the Duc de Brissac, in answer to enquiries, has replied as follows:—

12 Oktober 1971

Sehr geehrte Herren,
bestätige mit Dank den Erhalt Ihres Schreibens vom 7.d.M. in

Angelegenheit des "Ordre Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint-Lazare de Jerusalem".

Aus grundsätzlichen Erwägungen heraus möchte Seine Durchlaucht der Fürst zu den internen Problemen des Ordens nicht Stellung nehmen.

Als vor zwei Jahren S.E. der Herzog von Brissac Seiner Durchlaucht mitteilte, dass er zum Grossmeister des Ordens gewählt wurde, hat der Fürst, wie es in solchen Fällen üblich ist, für die Mitteilung gedankt und ihm seine besten Wünsche übermittelt. Diese Glückwünsche haben mit einer Anerkennung oder Nichtanerkennung des einen oder anderen Zweiges des Ordens nichts zu tun.

Ich hoffe, Ihnen mit dieser Klarstellung behilflich gewesen zu sein und bin

mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

DR. WILHELM,
(Kabinettsdirektor)

The translation of this letter is:—

Dear Sirs,

I am pleased to confirm the receipt of your letter of 7th inst. concerning the "Ordre Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint Lazare de Jérusalem".

As a matter of principle, His Serene Highness the Prince does not wish to comment on the internal problems of the Order.

Two years ago, when His Excellency the Duke of Brissac informed His Serene Highness that he had been elected Grand Master of the Order, the Prince, as is usual in such cases, thanked him for the information and sent him his best wishes. These best wishes have nothing to do with a recognition or non-recognition of one or the other branch of the Order.

I hope that I have been of aid to you in letting you have this clarification, and remain,

Yours very sincerely,

DR. WILHELM,
Director of the Cabinet.

Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain is also cited as having lent her support to the Duc de Brissac.

As a consequence the Grand Referendary wrote to the Foreign Office of the British Government, and the following is the conclusive reply:—

Lt. Col. Gayre of Gayre and Nigg.
Villa Lochore,
115 The Strand
Gzira, Malta.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to thank you for your letter of 2nd November about The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem and to inform you that Her Majesty The Queen has received no communication about the election of the Duc de Brissac as its Grand Master and has certainly not expressed any views about it.

I am Sir,
Your obedient Servant
(sd.) G.M.F. STOW
(for the Secretary of State)

In view of these statements, it is absolutely clear that this publication issued by this dissident group in Paris, is a completely specious, untrue, false, and lying document. If all else, which is stated therein, were true, the document taken as a whole must still be stigmatised in those terms, as it is untrue in so many particulars already cited above. If this were a prospectus of a Company which contained so many inaccuracies, half-truths, and downright lies, the promoters of it would find themselves in serious trouble for fraud under Company law in any country, and would be prosecuted for misleading the public.

Having established so devastating a repudiation of the worth of this statement, we have felt that it was unnecessary to trouble the other august persons and their governments, where these are concerned, with further enquiries.

What we find astonishing is that a gentleman of the rank of the Duc de Brissac, even if he had rebelled against the authority of the Duc de Nemours, and the legitimate authority of the Order, should have allowed his name to become associated with such a deception by his gross manipulators who have placed him in this impossible position in relation to high personalities all over Europe.

CONCLUSION

The legitimate Order in accordance with the Statutes of 1948, is that which is headed by the Grand Master. The rebellion against the Duc de Nemours was illegal and to refuse to recognize H.R.H. Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon, as 47th Grand Master is an act of continuing rebellion. Those, who persist in this attitude merely exclude themselves from the Order.

Surname

Christian names

Address

Grade in the Order

Were you aware of the scission in the order? YES/NO*

After reading this brochure would you be willing to rejoin the legitimate branch of the Order under the 47th Grand Master, H.R.H. Prince Francisco Enrique de Borbon y de Borbon? YES/NO*

If you have comments on the contents of this brochure, please forward them by registered post to:

The Grand Chancellor of the Military and Hospitaller Order of
St. Lazarus of Jerusalem
Grand Chancery
Castell Lanzun
San Gwann, Mensija
MALTA, G.C.

* Delete