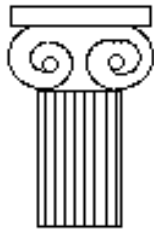
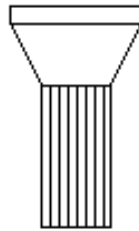


QUEBEC ANGLOPHONE HERITAGE NETWORK

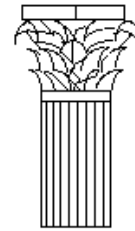
Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty: *English Freemasonry in the Province of Quebec*



Ionic Column
Wisdom



Doric Column
Strength



Corinthian Column
Beauty

Jacques G. Ruelland, Ph.D.

Following the foundation of the Grand Lodge of London in 1717 by four lodges, Freemasonry soon spread to Europe and North America. British soldiers brought the world's oldest fraternity to Canada at the time of the Conquest in 1759. They immediately created a Provincial Grand Lodge which was directly linked to London. A number of soldiers, members of the aristocracy and traders in New France were active Masons, as well, and although they were enemies on the battlefield, both French and British soldiers met in the same lodges.

The oldest lodge in Quebec is Montreal's Lodge of Antiquity No. 1. It is followed in age by Albion Lodge No. 2 and St. John's Lodge No. 3, both in Quebec City, Dorchester Lodge No. 4 in Châteauguay, and Golden Rule Lodge No. 5 in Stanstead.

The growth of Masonry in English Quebec encouraged French-speaking Masons to open their own lodge in Montreal, the *Loge des Cœurs-Unis*, in 1870. Only one year earlier, in 1869, the Grand Lodge of Quebec, with 28 individual Masonic lodges, had been founded under Grand Master John Hamilton Graham.

Currently, the Grand Lodge of Quebec numbers 75 member-lodges, 11 of them Francophone. The total membership is about 4,500.

From the beginning, Masonic lodges were visited by the most “respectable” English-speaking citizens who were attracted by the qualities of Freemasonry. For them, Masonry was a kind of “club” where they met people of good reputation. The spirituality of Masonic rituals and ceremonies also met their needs. And, as they still do today, Masonic lodges organized activities to help the poor and assisted with other charitable causes, such as funding hospitals and helping orphans.

Masonry only really started to flourish in French Quebec after the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s. Today, solidarity and tolerance have become a part of Quebecers’ consciousness. Helping sick or disabled people without discrimination, and working to improve society, Masonic organizations such as the Shriners, serve as models for everybody.

Freemasonry, which requires a belief in the existence of a supreme being, is about searching for truth outside of the formal bounds of churches. Their quest leads Masons to the symbolic meaning of objects. For Masons, a symbol is a visible sign with which a spiritual feeling, emotion, or idea is connected. Symbolism is universal; as such, it is the primary Masonic tool in the building of a universal Brotherhood.

By means of its objects, its vocabulary, its literature, its rituals and ceremonies, its benevolence, and its example of a system of morals, Freemasonry offers a philosophy of life and a true worldwide fraternity. In Quebec, the fraternity has become a centre of harmony, help and friendship for all Quebecers. Built on the strictest respect for the constitutions of the Craft, Masonry seeks to marshal the energy and the good will, and to promote the growth of the noblest feelings among men. On its cornerstone of tolerance and brotherly love have been built walls of wisdom, strength and beauty.



Jacques G. Ruelland, Ph.D. teaches history at the Université de Montréal. He is also a museologist and a writer. He is Past District Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Secretary, and Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. He is Past Master of the Loge Jean T. Désaguliers No. 138.

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