

Origins & Regularity of



The National Grand Lodge of Greece

Est. 1986

**Member of the World Conference of Regular
Masonic Grand Lodges**

Edited by the office of Grand Chancellor, 2025

January 2025

Edited by the Office of the Grand Chancellor

RWBro. Dimitrios Skiadopoulos

D. Skiadopoulos



Jewel for the Grand Representative of the National Grand Lodge of Greece near to the recognized Grand Lodge



National Grand Lodge of Greece

The official emblem

The official emblem description

The shield in the center of the “coat of arms” is bordered in blue with eight rosettes copied from those of the Eleusinian¹ Propylaea². It is vertically divided in two parts.

On the left side are the Craft symbols: three columns representing the three ancient architectural rhythms (Ionian, Doric and Corinthian) with a golden square and compasses on a chevron.

The right side is divided in four quarters. On the upper left quarter is the Lion of Chaeronea³ on a white background; on the upper right the emblem of a Minoan Bull⁴ on red background; on lower left a the male statue of Greek Kouros⁵ on crimson; and on the lower right quarter the Byzantine Eagle⁶ on a dark blue background. So, this part of the shield bears the four symbolic figures and the colors of the Royal Arch, but also represents four eras of Greek civilization, namely the Minoan, Ancient (or Classic), Hellenistic and Byzantine.

The shield is crowned by a golden, radiating All Seeing Eye and the Royal Arch motto: “I AM THAT I AM”. At the foot of the shield in golden letters on blue is the Pythagorean “OPA, AKOYE, ΣΙΓΑ” (Vide, Audi, Tace - *in Latin*, See, Listen, Be Silent- *in English*).

On either side of the shield are two female statues. The left one vested in gold, robed in crimson and bearing a sword represents JUSTICE. The right one vested

¹ Eleusis is best known for having been the site of the Eleusinian Mysteries, one of the most famous religious events of the ancient Greek religion, and the birthplace of Aeschylus, one of the three great tragedians of antiquity. These Mysteries revolved around a belief that there was a hope for life after death for those who were initiated.

² A Propylaea, Propylea or Propylaia is any monumental gateway based on the original Propylaea that serves as the entrance to the Acropolis in Athens. The word *propylaea* (*propylaeum* is the Latin version) is the union of the prefix *pro* (before or in front of) plus the plural of the Greek *pylon* or *pylaion* (gate), meaning literally that which is before the gates, but the word has come to mean simply *gate building*.

³ Chaeronea was the site of several historical battles. Best known is that of 338 BCE, between Philip II of Macedon and a coalition of various South Greek states, mainly Thebes and Athens. During the battle, the elite unit of Theban soldiers known as the Sacred Band of Thebes was wiped out completely. The so-called Lion of Chaeronea, a nearly 20-foot-tall (6.1 m) funerary monument erected in honor of the Sacred Band

⁴ Bulls in general are believed to have been an important part of Minoan culture; excavations at Knossos by Arthur Evans have revealed several frescos depicting bull-leaping. It has been suggested bulls may have had some religious significance to them for example the large, exaggerated size of the bull compared to the human leaper may give an idea of the Minoans' reverence for the power of the animals. The Minoan bull leaper is a bronze group of a bull and leaper in the British Museum. It is the only known largely complete three-dimensional sculpture depicting Minoan bull-leaping, approximately 1600 BC.

⁵ Ancient Greek Kouros is the modern term given to those representations of male youths which first appear in the Archaic period in Greece. The term *kouros*, meaning (male) *youth*, was first proposed for what were previously thought to be depictions of Apollo and adopted as a generic term for the standing male figure. Such statues are found across the Greek-speaking world, the majority of these were found in sanctuaries of Apollo. These free-standing sculptures were typically of marble, but also the form is rendered in limestone, wood, bronze, ivory and terracotta. They are typically life-sized, though early colossal examples are up to 3 meters tall.

⁶ The Byzantine Eagle is a double-headed eagle, common symbol in heraldry. It is most commonly associated with the Byzantine Empire. In Byzantine heraldry, the heads represent the Emperor having authority over both secular and religious matters, as Byzantine emperors were regarded as Christ's vicegerent on Earth. It also signified the dominance of the Byzantine Emperors over both East and West.

in white, robed in blue and holding the cornucopia or horn of plenty represents BENEVOLENCE.



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MWBro. Ioannis Benetatos
14th Grand Master
since May 18th, 2024.

Dear brethren ,

The office of the Grand Chancellor was established on Sept 21, 2021 for the worldwide settlement of external relations and the amity - recognition between regular Grand Lodges for the benefit of the Freemasonry.

The main subject of the office is the presentation of the status of the National Grand Lodge of Greece for the extension of mutual recognition. The National Grand Lodge meets all regular standards and has adopted the Basic Principles for Grand Lodge recognition as UGLE edited on September 4, 1929. The general laws and regulations for the government of the craft is in the Book of Constitution of the National Grand Lodge of Greece and was made based (it's almost a replica) on the UGLE's 1984's edition, Book of Constitution.

Origin

February 7 , 1867

About the foundation of the National Grand Lodge of Greece on the 7 th of February 1867, the First Grand Orient was formed in Greece. That Grand Orient was presenting itself in the english-speaking world as a "Grand Lodge". Its first Officers were elected in June, 1867, but the position of the Grand Master remained vacant until July 1872. At that date, its first Constitutions were published and Dimitrios Rhodocanakis was elected its first Grand Master. The Council is elected by the representatives of its members-Lodges. The Grand Orient changed its name into "Grand Orient – Grand Lodge" in 1936 and after the second world war all its documents show the single appellation "Grand Lodge".

June 7, 1986

Inauguration of the National Grand Lodge of Greece, was formed by six (6) Lodges (approx. 250 members) previously under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Greece. On the 7 th of June 1986, six Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Greece decided to denounce that Grand Lodge due to continued irregularities, illegal disciplinary procedures and infringement to higher degree bodies. Those Lodges were "Palaion Patron Germanos", "Acropolis", "Parthenon", "Omonoia", "Miaoulis" and "Pistis". The representatives of these six Lodges, all present, appointed by the latter, after declaring unanimously the definite exit from the aforementioned federation, founded the National Grand Lodge of Greece, voted its first Constitution, and elected its first Council and Grand Master, Stephanos Paipetis. The inauguration ceremony was led by the late R.W. Bro. William R. J. Eve, Past Grand Deacon of the UGLE and first Deputy Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Greece in the city of Athens.

Regularity

The National Grand Lodge of Greece, satisfies the Basic Principles of Freemasonry for which the Grand Lodge of England has stood throughout its history as Accepted by the Grand Lodge, September 4, 1929. Specially the Regularity of origin is totally approved because it was established lawfully by three or more (6) regularly constituted Lodges.

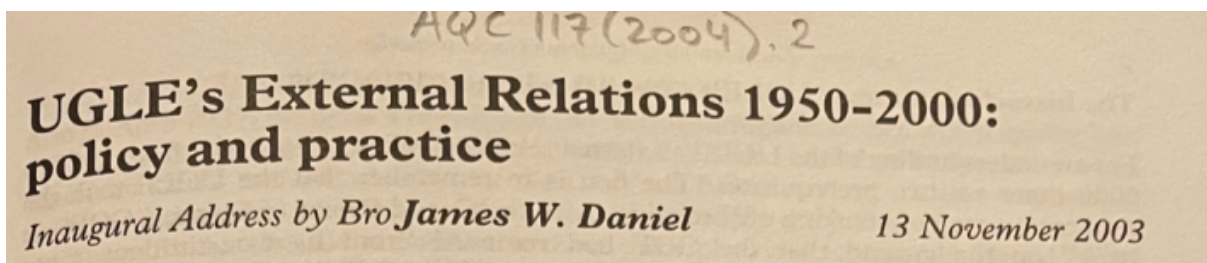
Facts

1) All three Mother Lodges declare the continuous regularity of the National Grand Lodge of Greece

Grand Lodge	UGLE	GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND	GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND
Recognition Since	1993-1999	04/05/1995	03/10/1994
Founded	1717	1736	1725

2) UGLE's external relations book specially declares the continuous regularity of National Grand Lodge of Greece

As referred in the page UGLE's external relations book 1950 -2000, with title: Policy and Practice, page 33: "... to withdraw recognition from the National Grand Lodge of Greece despite its continuing Regularity. "The recognition was withdrawn from the NGLG in an effort of the UGLE to encourage the two Grand Lodges to discuss mutual recognition.



RW Bro M.B.S. Higham, PJGW (Past Grand Secretary), the Grand Lodge then took the difficult and probably unique decision 'to withdraw recognition from the National Grand Lodge of Greece, despite its continuing regularity.' The Board had hoped that this action would enable the two Greek Grand Lodges to discuss their future relationship

3)It is undoubtedly declared the regularity of origin as referred in the passage from page 4 from the : GRAND LODGE NEWS
After The Meeting Of The United Grand Lodge Of England On 8 September 1999



GRAND LODGE NEWS

AFTER THE MEETING OF THE
UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND ON 8 SEPTEMBER 1999

being given in the Board of General Purposes's report. *"In June 1993 the Grand Lodge withdrew recognition from the Grand Lodge of Greece on the ground that it was behaving irregularly. In September 1993 the Grand Lodge recognised instead the National Grand Lodge of Greece, a body formed by some Lodges that had broken away from the Grand Lodge of Greece in 1986. At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge in June 1996 the President of the Board of General Purposes stated 'that grounds for our withdrawing recognition from the Grand Lodge of Greece may no longer apply but whilst that is good news, it does not alter the convention which requires us to ensure that a Grand Lodge which we recognize agrees to our recognizing a second Grand Lodge working in the same area.... In the fullness of time I hope that we will be in a position to recognize both the Grand Lodge and the National Grand Lodge of Greece, but that is not the current position...'*

The position has not changed since then

- **Structure of The National Grand Lodge of Greece (NGLG) :**

The Brotherhood of FreeMasons is a global and traditional, initiated Order. The Brotherhood is an Association of free people, regardless of race, nationality, social status and religious confessions, whose joint work is aimed at mastering the universal principles of life, and perfecting the highest spiritual human standards. Only mature men, free, and of good reputation, whose virtues are acknowledged by other Brothers, can become members of the Brotherhood. Relationships between the members of the Order are founded on the basis of tolerance, brotherly love and mutual assistance.

The Order has a hierarchy system and requires its members to strictly follow the Book of Constitution of the NGLG, adhere to ancient general principles of Masonry, and abide by the laws of the legitimate Masonic authorities. All of these obligations are taken upon the Brothers themselves, voluntarily.

Free Masons call each other "Brother". They gather in Temples, forming the Lodges, where the harmony of wisdom and spirit prevail. Each of their works in Lodges, holds to the glory of the Great Architect of the Universe and each FreeMason should belong to a certain Lodge and abide by its Constitution. Lodges work under the auspices of the NGLG.

The NGLG is an independent and sovereign organization and it is headed by the elected Grand Master.

Amongst the 77 Lodges under the National Grand Lodge of Greece jurisdiction

three (3) English-speaking Lodges

(Parthenon No 3, in Piraeus, St. George's Lodge No 52, in Athens, and Rudyard Kipling No 85, in Corfu Island) that work in the *Emulation Ritual*,

one (1) **German-speaking Lodge** (Sokrates No 31, in Piraeus) which works in the *Schröder Rite of 1801*,

two (2) **French-speaking Lodges** (La France No 58, in Athens, and La Paix No 95, in Corfu Island), that work in the *French Ritual of 1785*

one (2) **Italian-speaking Lodge** (Fratelli Bandiera No 86, in Corfu Island and Garibaldi No 13 in Athens) which works in the *Emulation Ritual*.

- **Working Rituals**

- ❖ *Emulation Ritual*

- ❖ *Scottish Rite*

- ❖ *Schröder Rite of 1801*

- ❖ *French Ritual of 1785*

Furthermore, the above referred Emulation Ritual, as in Greek was firstly published in January 1987 in Athens, by the NGLG and its a complete, faithful and bona fide Greek translation of the English 'Emulation' ritual as worked by the "Emulation Lodge of Improvement for Master Masons" approved and printed in 1969 under the United Grand Lodge of England.

• **International attendance:**

- ★ European Grand Masters Conference 2024
- ★ European Grand Secretaries' & Grand Chancellors' Conference 2024
- ★ World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges 2024
- ★ CMI , as a visitor 2024



• **Recognitions & External Relations**

'Recognition' means the decision of one Grand Lodge to permit intervisitation, i.e. to allow(i) its members to visit lodges under another Grand Lodge and (ii) its lodges to admit visitors from that other Constitution. (The two Grand Lodges are then said to be in 'Fraternal association', 'in amity' or to be in 'Masonic intercourse' with each other.)

'External Relations' is the term to include not only relations between NGLG and other Grand Lodges but relations between NGLG and other Masonic Bodies as in the leaflet Freemasonry's External Relations , edited by UGLE in 1993/4.

The Grand Lodges listed below this page are those mutual recognized by NGLG based on the basic principles for Grand Lodge recognition by the UGLE in September 4, 1929 which are included in the NGLG Book of Constitution and are:

1. Regularity of origin; i.e. each Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges.

2. That a belief in the G.A.O.T.U. and His revealed will shall be an essential qualification for membership.

3. That all Initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated.

4. That the membership of the Grand Lodge and individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of those who were made Masons as men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no Masonic association of any kind with bodies which make women Masons.

5. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control; i.e. that it shall be a responsible, independent, xv BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) within its Jurisdiction; and shall not in any way be subject to, or divide such authority with, a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.

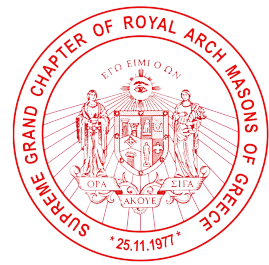
6. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely, the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square, and the Compasses) shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its subordinate Lodges are at work, the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.

7. That the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited.

8. That the principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.

- **NGLG in amity with other Masonic bodies operating in Greece:**

- The Supreme Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Greece, referred to as 'SGCRAM'. The senior officers within NGLG such as the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer automatically hold equivalent positions in SGCRAM. However, within SGCRAM the Grand Master is referred to as the First Grand Principal and the Grand Secretary as the Grand Scribe E. Convocations of SGCRAM are held on the day following the Annual Investiture of Grand Lodge.



- The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Greece and its Lodges Overseas.



- The Grand Council of the Royal and Select Masters of Greece and its Councils Abroad.



- The Great Priory of Greece (KT and KM).



- *The Grand Council of Knight Masons - Province of Greece.*

- *The Grand Conclave of the Order of Secret Monitor or Brotherhood of David & Jonathan - Lodge Conclave Damon & Phidias No 627.*

- Supreme Council 33^o for Greece A.A.S.R (Since December 2021)



Distinguished Certificates
Honorary Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador:
M.W. Bro. Ioannis Benetatos

A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: U.:



Fundada el 19 de junio de 1921 e.: v.:
Autoridad Suprema de la Masonería Simbólica Universal, en todo el territorio de la República
RECONOCIDA POR LA GRAN LOGIA UNIDA DE INGLATERRA
MIEMBRO FUNDADOR DE LA CONFEDERACIÓN MASÓNICA INTERAMERICANA – CMI –

**LA MUY RESPETABLE GRAN LOGIA DE LOS AA.: LL.: Y AA.: MM.:
DEL ECUADOR**

Por su destacada trayectoria masónica, siendo un referente de la fraternidad y un ejemplo a seguir para todos los Miembros de la Orden, se designa al M.:R.:G.:M.: de la Gran Logia de Grecia, M.:R.:H.:

IOANNIS BENETATOS
GRAN MAESTRO HONORARIO

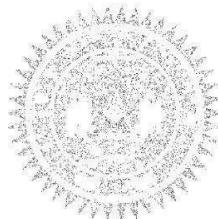
DE LA MUY RESPETABLE GRAN LOGIA DE LOS AA.: LL.: Y AA.: MM.: DEL ECUADOR

Dado en el Vall.: de Santiago de Guayaquil, en el Palacio Masónico “José Joaquín de Olmedo”, ubicado en las calles Francisco de Paula Lavayen 222 y Calixto Romero, punto geométrico de la Masonería Regular ecuatoriana, a los veinticuatro días del mes de octubre del 2023 e.:v.:

S.:F.:U.:


Carlos Iván Ugalde Ponce
GRAN SECRETARIO
GRAN LOGIA DE LOS AA.: LL.: y AA.: MM.:
DEL ECUADOR


Héctor Gabriel Vanegas y Cortázar
MUY RESPETABLE GRAN MAESTRO
GRAN LOGIA DE LOS AA.: LL.: y AA.: MM.: DEL ECUADOR



- **Communication - Technology:**

- The National Grand Lodge of Greece is listed in the Amity App and the Grand Chancellor V.W.Bro. Dimitrios Skiadopoulos is a verified administrator in the application.



- The Grand Secretary's everyday duties are processed based on a NGLG's website using Google Drive software and WordPress application, Microsoft office and Acrobat Apps respecting the GDPR General Data Protection Regulation, law and terms all made by volunteers, brothers, with high knowledge of computer science.



- The website of the NGLG (www.nlgreece.org) has a special form for petitions so we receive yearly round 100 requests from non masons asking for more information about Freemasonry and how to become one. A special team of experienced W.M. Bros. work on forming and advising them respectively.
- In January 2024 was held the (W.M.C.) Worshipful Masters Conference, with participants the active Worshipful Masters of the 65 Lodges under the auspices of the NGLG.
- Members of other Grand Lodges should practise the masonic protocol that all correspondence received by NGLG will only be replied to via their Grand Secretary/Grand Chancellor.
- The National Grand Lodge of Greece have consistently professed and practised throughout its history those established and unaltered Basic Principles of Freemasonry as they were accepted by UGLE

- **Master Masons international Certification**

After becoming a Master Mason each brother will receive in the next meeting of his lodge the Certificate of the Master Mason.



• **The Grand Representative of the National Grand Lodge of Greece**

The appointment of each representative of the Grand Lodge of Greece NEAR TO the other Grand Lodge is declared with a specific certification and a very distinguished jewel as follows in the photo.



To the Most Worshipful
The Grand Lodge of
and all others to whom these presents may concern,
send Greetings.
Be it known, that we reposing especial trust and confidence
in our well beloved



The Official jewel
for the
Grand
Representative
of NGLG

Do hereby Nominate, Constitute and Appoint him The Grand Representative of
The National Grand Lodge of Greece

near to

The Grand Lodge of

And We hereby Confer upon our said Representative ample powers
to promote and maintain the Dignity and Honour of

The National Grand Lodge of Greece

and to testify our good will, our high consideration and our friendly regard, so that
the Bond of Union may be strengthened and the interests of our Order increased.


In testimony whereof, we have ordered this Patent of Appointment to be prepared,

Caused the Seal of the National Grand Lodge to be hereunto affixed and
have signed the same at Athens Greece on this 30th day of January A.D. 2023, A.I. 6023

Grand Master

Georgios Deligiorgis



Grand Secretary

Nikolaos Markou

In Medieval times stonemasons traveled the country looking for work. Most people didn't read or write so they needed a way to prove that they had passed the rigorous apprenticeship to become a properly qualified craftsman. When you qualified as a master stonemason you were given special words and gestures that only another stonemason of that qualification would know. So, it is how your professional qualifications could be checked; a bit like a Medieval 'chip and pin' system.

Freemasonry borrows the traditions of stonemasons, so along with the tools and apron it adopted the idea of a symbolic handshake. The handshake, or 'grip' as a freemason would call it, varies with each of the three degrees. Just like with the qualification level of a stonemason, it allows you to confirm during the meeting that you've passed one or more of those ceremonial levels. The special handshake was very important in the past. If you were a freemason who travelled, you would want to prove you were really a member in a lodge. Today it is purely traditional and reminds freemasons of their symbolic link to those Medieval craftsmen every time they share it.

Brotherly Love, Relief and truth are traditions on which Freemasonry is founded, upon the building of King Solomon's Temple. Masons are reminded at Lodge to **"meet upon the level of equality, act by the plumb rule of uprightness, and part upon the square of virtue."** Freemasonry is not meant in any way to interfere with an individual's commitment to his faith, family or occupation. Freemasonry is not and never can be a replacement for these important institutions; rather, that it reminds every Mason of himself, his family, community and a belief in a Supreme Architect (an individual's own definition of a Supreme Being.)

Sincerely & fraternally,
Dimitrios M. Skiadopoulos

D. Skiadopoulos

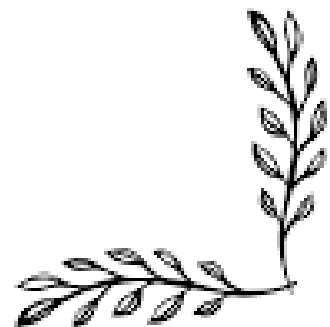
Grand Chancellor

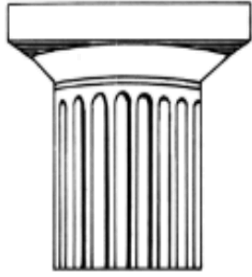


grand.chancellor@nlgreece.gr



www.nlgreece.org





DORIC



IONIC



CORINTHIAN



National Grand Lodge of Greece AF & AM