



ROYAL ARCH MASONRY – Part 4 (final)

It is important to understand that the General Grand Chapter International is not a governing body over the affiliated Grand Chapters but plays the role of a consultant and mentor. Such an affiliated Grand Chapter is the Supreme Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Romania, having a rich Masonic tradition as we shall continue to show.

A turning point in the history of modern Romanian freemasonry was the creation of a Grand Lodge by Captain Constantin MOROIU placing under obedience 14 Lodges on 8th /20th of September 1880. The same Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Constantin MOROIU, after two years, on November 15th, 1882, when he had a Lodge of Perfection and a Chapter, founded the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch in Romania.



The Masonic Magazine “Triunghiul” (“The Triangle”) published the Decree dated November 15, 1882, approving the introduction to Romania of the “Royal Arch” ritual with 4 degrees: Perfect Master, Distinguished Master, Excellent Mason and Royal Arch. The decree dated January 1st, 1883, stood the independence of the Royal Arch Rite towards the other Masonic entities led by Constantin MOROIU and the official title of the Rite’s supreme authority: the Supreme Chapter of the Royal Arch Rite of Romania. The official publication of the Romanian Masonry, “Triunghiul” magazine, stated that the Lodge of Perfection and the Royal Arch Rite Chapter could only admit members from the

Symbolic Obedience of the National Grand Lodge “who will have at least a Master Mason degree and a 25-year of age”.

The re-opening of the Lights in the York Rite of Romania dates back to January 1999, when a group of Master Masons were initiated in Greece as Royal Arch Masons, when the first Chapters were founded: “Veritas” No. 1 having E.C. Manole IOSIPER as High Priest; “Fraternitas” no.2 having E.C. Radu IONESCU as High Priest; “Lux” No.3 having E.C. Ștefan MÂȘU as High Priest.

In the same year 1999, the Supreme Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons was formed, and the late Most Excellent Companion, Radu IONESCU, was elected as Grand High Priest. The Charter was received on November 3rd, 1999 at the Triennial of the General Grand Chapter International, held in Kansas, Wichita.



On June 6th 2002, at the first Annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Romania, Most Excellent Companion Ștefan MÂȘU was elected Grand High Priest, and the Constitution was adopted. At that time in Romania were active 6 Chapters with 140 members.

Currently, the Supreme Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Romania counts 25 Chapters, numbering more than 600 members working with fervency and zeal to the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Traian POPESCU
Grand High Priest