



## Grand Commandery "King Ferdinand I" of the Knights Templar of Romania

KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS  
JUNE 2022

### **140 years of Royal Arch in Romania**

#### Part 1 – Introduction

Throughout the ages, there have been people who have been either solitary or organized into fraternal associations who have succeeded in working on the progress of humanity, in trying to make the world in which we live better, and in inducing their fellow men the idea that the work for the evolution of our spiritual life is the way to the ultimate truth. It must be cultivated at least as much as the rational and the material so that man can separate himself from other earthly beings and manage to find his purpose: That is, to make, where he will pass, light around him.

Perhaps one of these associations is Freemasonry. Far from being a doctrine as it is perceived in the profane environment, this system of spiritual thought is A TEACHING that manifests itself through allegories and symbols that take deep roots in the heart and mind of the one who knocks at the temple gate and who, through initiation, receives the light.

If operative Masonry, which has its beginnings even in antiquity, as the few preserved documents show, we know that it had the purpose of building temples (cathode) in the most proper meaning of this type of construction, speculative Masonry

aimed to build inner temples of people who all, Together, to compose the one spiritual temple of humanity.

Chronologically speaking, the speculative history of Romanian freemasonry is confused with that of universal freemasonry and more so with the modern and contemporary history of the Romanian people. Regardless of the era we have passed, whether we are talking about the Phanariot era, the spring of peoples (The Revolution of 1848), the moment of obtaining state independence, the moments of the two Union or the two World wars, the Romanian Freemasons played a fundamental role, Role that led to what is perfectly sublimated in Article 1 of the Constitution, namely that *"Romania is a national, sovereign and independent state, unitary and indivisible"*.

The Royal arch masonry will reach our lands 140 years ago. The period is not at all accidental and overlaps with the favourable and flourishing internal context in which the Romanian Masonry was found at that time. Charles I – the King of Romania, although he refused to enter Masonry and lead it inside for reasons that are not known to us, was indeed a true spiritual father of Romanian freemasonry. During his long reign of nearly five decades, thirteen of the eighteen ministers who led the government were Freemasons. For us regular Romanian Masons, besides strengthening the Union, gaining state independence, forming the Kingdom of Romania – things that are related to profane history, the constitution of the National Grand Lodge of Romania in 1880 is also a very important historical moment. Moreover, on top of all this, we regular Romanian Freemasons who are part of the Royal arch Masonry and implicitly of the York Rite, this historical period is extremely important because, only two years after the establishment of the National Grand Lodge of Romania will be established the *Supreme Chapter of the Royal Arch Rite of Romania* being, at that time, as the information in the documents we currently hold shows us, the only Supreme Chapter of the Royal Arch Rite in all of Europe except those of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

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