

1931/13.1.6

4/5/69?

Rd Woodhouse

Dear Sir, Mr

Your valued favour arrived by this evening post, and I hasten to reply by the same.

The matter has been intimated to me — I have sent several attacks upon the Constantinian Order ~~to~~ to the 'Freemason' some of which were never published.

The Prince wrote me an attack upon the Masonic Statutes, which I sent on to the Grand Recorder (Littler)

He replied saying that in consequence of correspondence with a brother signing 'Lupus' After a delay of two months

(Orig from 4th July to 8th April) during which the subject was being investigated by the authorities at Florence I wanted upon the Italian Champ d'Affaires by appointment on the latter date + x 1;

We were then informed that it was not the intention of King Victor Emmanuel's government to restore the order or to confer its dignities in future. Count Maffei intimated that the order was practically

defunct & that the Claimant "Lacaris"  
would not be recognized in any shape  
whatever. He also added that accessible  
records of the Order were rare & that his  
Government could not account for the  
existence of an order in England  
which bore a similar name to two identical  
Jewels or Croces, unless upon the theory  
which the Count himself suggested that  
many of the old Knights were Crusaders  
& probably Templars Hospitallers in  
which case the Croces were doubtless  
worn in the Secret Convents of those  
Chivalric Orders.

They were assured no objection would be  
taken to them by the Italian Government  
the the goes on to tell me that  
Documents in the handwriting of the  
Duke of Susea, "Ancient rituals &  
documents proving the Masonic existence  
of the English Order" during last century,  
had just been found in the Grand  
Secretaries office, Yesterday (3 May)  
forwarded to Lord Kentis, by despatch  
of Lord Gifford.

Then then goes on to say: —

" If the Prince Rhodocanathos establishes  
his claim as the legal successor of  
Constantine such an event would  
doubtless make him a personage of  
great interest to an order which  
commemorates his illustrious ancestor  
if any poor efforts of mine can  
avail to cause his election as  
Grand Patron, or to any other  
honorable post in the Order, they  
shall be forthcoming at the  
proper moment.

*Confidential*  
Now the Prince is exceedingly  
anxious to obtain the honor of  
Grand Patron. Though the lineage  
of his family is far superior to  
that of any British Peer, his  
family having intermarried with  
the Cascuris, Cornaro, Paleologi,  
the Orsini, Narnese, Visconti,  
&c. &c. yet he is poor, & why  
should he be esteemed & acknowledged  
the Patron of an order that was  
eagerly sought by a man of the  
intellect of W. H. The Duke of Devonshire.

Nothing is yet resolved as to the  
Civic branch as it is necessary  
to see what alteration is proposed  
in the Maroni Order.

The Premier has written me a letter,  
complaining of letters going to King,  
Victor Emmanuel, stating that  
Angelus Plavron Com meno had no  
right to sell the deputy of his name  
as they were then as well as the  
Senior descendants (I privately he  
told me his ancestors made an  
unsuccessful protest) - stating  
that <sup>as soon</sup> as he received documents from  
the Archives of his name on the Ancient  
Statutes he would write further thereon.  
When he returns me this I will  
send it on to you.

I have informed little that on the  
Senate consenting to the following  
felt certain Mr. Hyman would do  
everything he could to persecute  
the German Order.

1. A reasonable & sensible alteration  
of the present Statutes of the Order.
2. The adoption of the letter granted

Masters of England by Lord Kenilwick -  
+ Patriarch instead of Eusebius.

3. The preservation of a Throne in  
perpetuity for the "Hereditary,  
"Supreme, Sovereign Grand Master"  
"of the Constantinian Order of St. George."

4. This being resolved upon that  
they should solicit the Patronage  
of the Prince.

Between ourselves, the Prince is most  
anxious, to emerge from the retirement  
in which his Court has lived since  
the loss of his Property - + if you  
can help him with an article  
in the Masonic Magazine, to the  
Grand Patronage of the Masonic  
Order, you will please him.

I have no doubt he has ulterior  
objects, his father now resides in  
Florence. Masonry played a  
great part during the Conquest  
of Victor Emmanuel.

I am very anxious to get suggestions  
as to the complete re-constitution  
of the Masonic Order, My suggestions

to the Prince being, - that if the  
Masonic bands cannot be constituted  
in accordance with the original  
Statutes, - then to accept the patronage  
& appoint his own Knights, & his own  
patent. Is it possible to get a  
copy of the Scotch Chivalric diploma?  
for information.

The governments of other countries  
would I fancy take alarm, if the  
Prince was to institute a  
Chivalric Chapter - Masonry you  
must bear in mind is a legal  
institution throughout the world -  
& you never seem to realize that  
all the Chivalric orders connected  
with Masonry, have been formed,  
are formed, & will ever be dissolvable  
wherever it is politic to do so.

There is no manner of doubt about  
this - everything reliable proves it -  
that the Templar Order was  
constituted on this basis by the Streets  
& connected by ties with Masonry.

Everything as you will see is yet  
in embryo - begging your advice

fornitance — though we must  
neither of us do anything to  
compromise the Prince.

I have considered the matter  
again, with the Prince.

And he assures me that his  
father would either abdicate  
the dignity of Grand Master in  
his favour, or give him  
letters patent to act for him.

The order has not seem to have  
held, in later times, the high  
position you seem to ascribe to  
it — and all orders will  
gradually fall in public  
estimation (I say this with  
sorrow as the result of reflection)

The Constitution as mentioned  
by Hugh Clunton, on the revival  
of Charles V, resembled  
greatly that given in the Statute  
of the Massonic Order.

- It was made to consist of 3 Classes -
- 1- The Grand Cross 50 in number who regulated all the other.
  2. The Perfect Knights or barons.
  - 3- The Knights in waiting.

These latter were very numerous, & although the order originally required 40 shillings, yet in time the Cross was prostituted for money, & the very meanest individuals were admitted.

I remain  
Yours

John Garton

Ps.

In great haste for post.

When the Prince is general  
is out I will ask him to send  
you a copy - We are now very  
intimate friends. I congratulate  
you on the literary dignities  
I own upon you - You  
deserve them all.