

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE
CONSTANTINIAN
NEWS

No. 1 / 2023



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Dear Dames and Chevaliers

The world is now different compared with the world three years earlier. First the Covid - 19 pandemic with all its variants. Then we were forced to meet the brutal, criminal Russian war. The normal calendar for meetings and all other events has changed. We can hope despite of the Ukrainian war that the civilized world can return to the normal life. We still has to help Ukraine in its brave battle to defend its society.

Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni was able to arrange the International Convention in September 2022 in Washington DC. Although the circumstances in America and Europa were still a little bit disturbed due to Ukrainian war and slow recovery from the pandemic, the convention in USA was very well organized. Orfeo Trombetta and his team had made an excellent event. Many thanks for that.

Usually the interval between the International Conventions is three years. This year, however, this is changing. This year we have the 70 years jubilee of OCM. Master and the government have decided a different interval for IC in order to celebrate the “birthday” of OCM. The Austrian bailiwick was very positive to the initiative to organize in this year The International Convention. So it was decided to have this 70-years IC in Vienna in September, 2023. The program in this meeting will be most interesting including three excellent lectures concerning the history and spirit of our Order. I really hope that very many of our members will attend it. Please, look at your calendars and make reservation to the hotel and make your travel arrangements. Of course you have also send your registration paper. In this special Constantinian News you will find all needed information and also some pictures and stories from earlier International Conventions.

Let us meet in Vienna and enjoy these interesting days there.

Turku 12th of April, 2023

Toivo Salmi
Chancellor

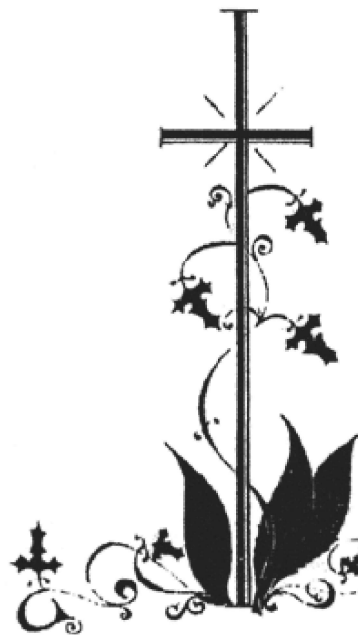
IN MEMORIAM

Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants

GOCM
Honorary Member
Ireneos
1939 – 2023

KCM
Tuukka Alhonen
Exarchate of Finland
1942 - 2023

KCM
Mauri Reunanen
Exarchate of Finland
1944 - 2022



Do not be afraid;
I am the First and the Last.
I am He who lives.



Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Selbständige Komturei Österreich

Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich

ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140

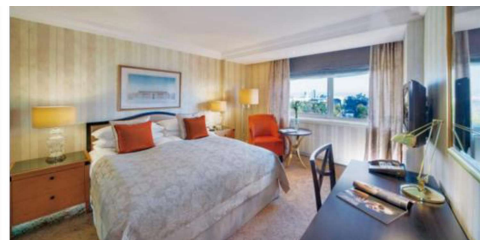
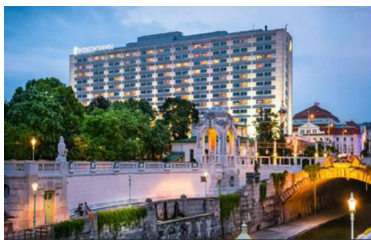
Vienna, March 2023

PROGRAM for the OCM CONVENTION 2023

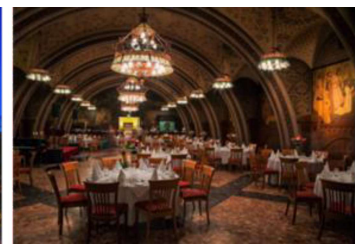
70th Anniversary of the establishment of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Friday, 1 September 2023

Individual check-in at **Intercontinental Vienna** (www.vienna.intercontinental.com). Handout of **nametag** and 70th OCM Anniversary Cross to all participants. Guaranteed availability of all reserved rooms at 4.00 pm on day of arrival. Earlier availability of rooms is possible in many cases, or as per individual respective booking



- 3.30 – 5.00 pm **Registration at OCM Hospitality Desk** in the hotel lobby.
- 4.00 – 5.00 pm **General Assembly** of Austrian Bailiwick (Austrian knights only)
Venue: Saloons “Schubert” + “Lehar”
Attire: blue blazer, black OCM tie, dark grey trousers, black shoes
- 5.30 – 6.00 pm **Bus Transfer** to “Wiener Rathauskeller” at the Vienna City Hall
www.wiener-rathauskeller.at
- 06:30 – 23:00 pm **Convention Opening, Master’s Reception & Dinner** at the
“Rittersaal” (knights’ hall) in the City Hall of Vienna
Attire (gents): blue blazer, white shirt, OCM tie, dark grey trousers
Attire (ladies): elegant dress



- 23.00 – 23.30 pm **Bus Transfer** back to the Intercontinental.

Saturday, 2 September 2023

6.30 – 8.30 am (individual) **Breakfast** at the Intercontinental.

9.00 am – 1.30 pm **Guided Historic City Tour** for **spouses**, shopping possibility and lunch in the city center of Vienna. *Attire: smart casual.*



8.45 – 9.00 am **OCM Meetings**, opening by the Chairman of the OCM Council, **Rune Rydén**
Venue: Intercontinental, Ball Room, sections 5-6
Attire: preferably dark blue blazer, black or yellow OCM tie, dark grey trousers, black shoes.

9.00 – 10.00 am **“History of the Ancient Patriarchate of Alexandria and its current position in Africa”**
High Representative of the Patriarchate of Alexandria & All Africa

10.00 – 10.15 am Coffee Break

10.15 – 11.30 am **“Rise and Fall of the Austrian Empire”**
Markus Braun, KCM

11.30 – 12.15 pm **Lunch break**
Saloon „Four Seasons”, ground floor

12.15 – 1.00 pm **“Legislation under Constantine the Great”**
Deputy Master Dr. Jürgen Schumacher

1.00 – 2.30 pm **Change of attire**
Gentlemen: white tie or gala uniform, OCM insignia;
Ladies: floor-length festive dress.

2.30 – 3.00 pm Idle **Walk** to the Peterskirche. Note: tourist buses are prohibited within the 1st district of Vienna. www.peterskirche.at

3.00 – 4.00 pm **Quick rehearsal of ceremony** (only for Austrian knights and international candidates) followed by the **ceremony, knightly accolades** and **honoring** of distinguished knights.



4.00 – 4.30 pm **Group picture** in front of Peterskirche and idle **walk** back to the Intercontinental.

4.30 – 6.45 pm Break, individual spare time.

7.00 – 12.00 pm **Gala Dinner at the Intercontinental Vienna**
Venue: Intercontinental, Ball Room, sections 1-4
Attire: Gentlemen: white tie or gala uniform, OCM insignia;
Ladies: floor-length festive evening dress.



Group picture taken at the International OCM Convention 2013 (Salzburg)

0.00 – 02.00 am Intermezzo Hotel Bar (facultative)



Sunday, 3 September 2023

Note: standard **checkout time** for hotel rooms is **12.00 am** (noon).

06.30 – 9.00 am Individual Breakfast

10.15 – 11.15 am Individual possibility for Holy Mess at the St. Stephan´s Cathedral



End of program.

Werner H. Bittner, KCCM
Baillie of Austria

Stefan Paris, KCM
Secretary & Treasurer, Austrian Bailiwick



REGISTRATION Form

International OCM Convention 2023

70th Anniversary of the establishment of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Vienna, Austria

1-3 September 2023

Note: kindly register asap, latest till 31 July 2023

Send this form (filled out and signed) to
ocmconvention2023@gmail.com

I herewith register as participant(s) of the International OCM Convention 2023.

Full name of OCM Member:

Country / Exarchate / Bailiwick:

Full name of accompanying Spouse:

Total number of participants (including spouse): 1 person 2 persons

I already transferred the **participation fee** of **€ 395.00 per person/participant** (note: for registrations **after 31 May 2023**, the participation fee increases to **€ 445.00** per person/participant).

to the Austrian bank account of the **Austrian Bailiwick** at **ERSTE Bank**:

Account holder: Verein der Konstantinritter in Oesterreich (Austrian Bailiwick)

IBAN: **AT07 2011 1838 1450 3500**

BIC: **GIBAATWWXXX**

The **participation fee** covers all expenses per participant as per the official program of the International OCM Convention unless specified as "facultative".

Naturally not included are hotel rooms and connected private expenses at the Inter-continental Vienna. Hotel rooms need to be booked individually according to your respective needs. The Convention's **special room rates** are € 229.00 (single occupancy) and € 259.00 (double occupancy) and include breakfast.

Option: if you intend to take advantage of already being in Vienna to stay a bit longer, kindly note that the special room rates also apply 3 days before our Convention and 3 days after our Convention.

Hotel room reservation link: [International OCM Convention 2023 - Start your reservation \(passkey.com\)](https://www.passkey.com)

.....
Date and Signature of OCM Member

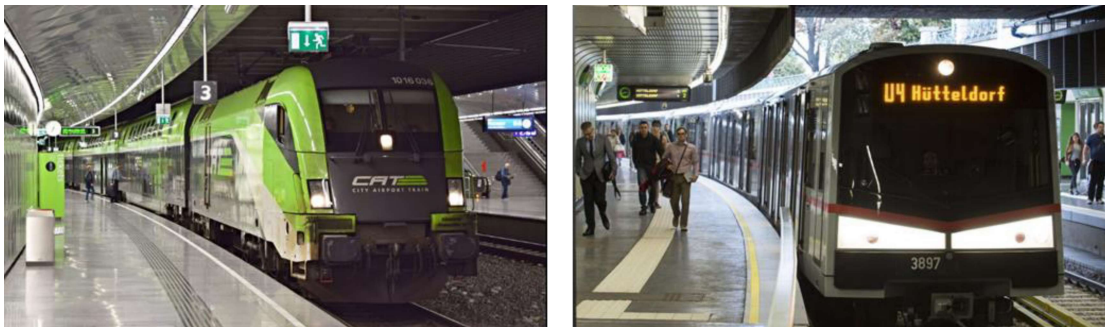
From Vienna International Airport (VIE) to the Intercontinental Vienna

The location of **VIE** is relatively close to the city center of Vienna.

Under normal traffic conditions a local **Taxi** or **Uber** should take about 20-30 min from VIE to the **Intercontinental** located at Johannesgasse 28, 1030 Vienna.



If you want to use the excellent Viennese **Public Transport** system, you could pre-book tickets for the **CAT (City Airport Train)** Link: [Non-stop airport transfer to Vienna! | City Airport Train](#) which has its station right at the airport taking you non-stop to "Wien Mitte" (Landstrasse). From there you can take the subway line "U4" from "Landstrasse" to "Stadtpark" which is only one station away in the direction of "Hütteldorf". Once you get off U4 at station "Stadtpark", the **Intercontinental** lies directly across the street (30 meters).



The Intercontinental Vienna (Johannesgasse 28, 1030 Vienna)



Memories of previous conventions

While we are waiting for the convention of this jubilee year of the Order, it would be appropriate to recall memories of previous conventions.

The following pages contain excerpts from Constantinian News magazines from different years, so that first there is the cover of the respective magazine, and then a few pages related to the convention of that year.

As the Secretary - General of the Order, I have randomly chosen the pages to be published now. I apologize if any important memory has been left out, but everything cannot be published in this context.

On this page, one picture is published in which the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Convention. After all, the international government is fully responsible for the event.

We all believe that the Austrian convention, of which the program and registration instructions are elsewhere in this magazine, will be good and successful.



From left Chancellor Toivo Salmi and Vice-Chancellor Leif Syrstad

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE 50 YEARS ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE

THE
CONSTANTINIAN
NEWS

No. 2 / 2003

Opening word

Your Eminence, Representative of His Beatitude the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, Your Serene Highness, Eminences, Excellencies, Dear Dames, Dear Knights, Ladies and Gentlemen,



The Exarch of Greece George Haramis

We warmly welcome you to Greece.

This convention has a very important meaning for our Order, as we are celebrating its gold jubilee.

After 13 days, on the 29th of this month will be completed 50 years from the historical day when the unforgotten founders re-established the Order of St. Constantine the Great.

On this day, also will be completed 550 years from the fall of Constantinople, and the sacrifice of our

last Emperor Constantine the 11th, Constantine Palaiologos.

For us, the Greeks, is an ill-omened day, but we recall it, as the day of Renaissance of the Hellenism in the modern history.

Thank you for your presence. We wish you a happy time during your stay in Greece.

Especially I thank my dear confrère, our Secretary General, Giorgio (Giorgo) Schumacher,

for his support to the organizing committee of our Convention.

Thank you and Welcome

George Haramis
Exarch of Greece

**MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY MASTER OF THE
ORDER H.E. YRJÖ von GRÖNHAGEN :**

**CONGRESS 50 YEARS ORDO SANCTI
CONSTANTINI MAGNI 16 – 18.5.2003**

PEACE LOVE SERVICE

YRJÖ VON GRÖNHAGEN



The Master's answer :

Esteemed Honorary Master and
Confrère,

on this festive occasion of the 50-
years-anniversary of the Ordo Sancti
Constantini Magni we would like to
express our very warm and knightly
regards to the Grand Old Man of the

Order, who has given the outstand-
ing part of this life and innovations
to make the OCM a legal interna-
tional Christian and Ecumenical Or-
der under the auspices of His Beati-
tude Petros VII, Pope and Patriarch
of Alexandria and All Africa.

With great respect and warmest
wishes for your health.

*Kuivasti kiitos
Pasi
Hau-Anttoni
Jürgen Schmiedt
Richard S. Johnson*

*Svechtik Neupol
Konstantin Papadon
F. Papadon G. Haranis*

Yrjö von Grönhagen

Vice Chancellor H.E. Hans-Olof Kvist :

The spirit of the order

Your Eminence !
Your Serene Highness !
Excellencies !
Exarchs and Bailies !
Dames and Knights !

People who want to know the true nature of a specific chivalric order do well in glancing at its constitution. So will I, having in good memory that the constitution of the OCM during the existence of the Order, first as a knight society, has been subjected to many changes. However, since the legalization and creation of the Order by his Beatitude, Pope and Patriarch Nicolaos VI, on May 12th, 1970, the constitution guarantees the chivalric nature of our Order. What is, then, essential to the Order?

Firstly, not every human society and movement can be called a chivalric order. As it is said in the book about OCM edited by our Honorary Master Yrjö von Grönhagen, a contemporary Order cannot be considered legal or empowered if it is not accepted and recognized by an individual sovereign or sovereign ecclesiastical authority with a tradition from the first Christian centuries.

Secondly, it is essential to the Spirit of our Order, that it is spiritually protected by our High Patron, His Beatitude Petros VII, Pope and Patriarch of the Holy Orthodox and Apostolic See of Alexandria and All Africa. Why? Because the legal rights to give spiritual protection to an Order belong exclusively to the five bishops of the Pentarchy, approved in 431 by the Ecumenical Synod of Ephesus-Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. This protection underlines the Christian nature of our Order. It is not bound by a specific confession, but, nevertheless, as a Christian Order it, in principle, presupposes the membership of every dame and knight of the Order to some Church. The See of

Alexandria is an Holy and Orthodox See and, therefore, I think, the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, the Creed that is most diffused and actually confessed by most churches in the world, is a good expression of what apostolic Christianity means and also what is meant by the word "Christian" in our Constitution. Being founded in the Bible the concrete formulations of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed indicate what apostolic Christianity is all about and thus unite Christians all over the world. For a long time sociologists of religion have discussed the issue of how religious faith in a secularized world really comes forth, or, when speaking of Christianity, what Christians in such a world really believe. In such context, postmodern private, individual and pluralistic religiosity has been described as "believing without belonging". But there is also a "belonging without believing", a religion practiced by a minority on behalf of a majority that accepts what the minority does, a "vicarious religion" (Grace Davie). With regard to people's real religiosity it is, therefore, worth noticing, that our Order is a Christian Order in a very deliberate sense. Again, I would like to point to our Constitution, which stresses the readiness of every member of the Order to regard themselves as Servants of God and to defend Christian religion against the attacks of atheism and materialism. There is no need to say that such a defence is possible only when each member of the Order has sufficient insights into Christian faith and enough experience of Christian life and when each member understand that Christianity in a proper sense and, particularly, chivalry always presupposes what I would call "believing with belonging".

Thirdly, the Order is a Christian and Ecumenical Order. In true appreciation of our High Patron, who spiritually protects our Order, and encourages its members to confess the apostolic Chris-



*H.E. Hans-Olof Kvist
Vice Chancellor.*

tian faith, all members, as Christians of their own churches, are committed to respect each other and to prove a true ecumenical spirit in their mutual personal relationships. Ecumenism is an activity that witnesses of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who prayed for those given him by the Father, that "they all may be one" (John 17:21). Christ's church on earth has a universal dimension - he was given the power in heaven and earth and he sent his disciples to teach all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit (Math.27:19). Christ and the world belong together.

Fourthly, Church ecumenism, therefore, has a specific relation to "ikouméni" ("ecumene"), to the whole world. The Constitution of our Order has paid attention also to this aspect. Our belief in Christ, The Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6), includes also a motive to work for peace in the world. Following Constantine the Great also OCM has as its noble aim the establishing of universal peace in the world, working for that peace through encouraging better under-

standing among mankind and through building of spiritual bridges between cultures in all fields. Our Order is an eastern Order. People living in Mediterranean areas have a long experience of living and taking into consideration people of other faiths. Tolerance is continuously needed, a peacemaking tolerance directed to people who as created by God have the same human rights as Christians. May we - celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of OCM, listen to some words written this year by our High Patron, his Beatitude, Pope and Patriarch Petros VII, to President Bush, words describing a model attitude toward peace: "...from the land of Nile river and a country which is a model and example of harmony between Christians and Muslims, I wish to make an earnest call...to avoid any attacks of Iraq...I call on Your Excellency to try and find a peaceful solution rather than that of war...Such a war would be seen as an attack against Islam. Such an impression, though false, would have unjust far reaching and long lasting consequences upon religions, their faithful and their reputations. Religions, in essence, have nothing to do with politics, terrorism, and war...I invite Your Excellency to offer up intense prayer to God, who created us all, that peace may reign in the whole world. I also ask our Lord to enlighten all the leaders of all nations to work to build a world without violence, a world that loves life and grows in justice and solidarity. May the New Year be a joyful, peaceful, graceful and blessed one for Your Excellency, the members of your beloved family, the people of the United States of America and the whole world". The urging, wise and friendly words of our High Patron represent the implementation of what is underlined in our Constitution.

Fifthly, Christians and knights regarding themselves Servants of God should according to the first and second commandments taught by Christ "love God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind" and "his neighbour as himself" (Math.27:37-39). Love of God includes love of human beings. Our Order is a Christian and Humanitarian Order. Since its beginning OCM has aimed at humanitarian help for those in need. This was the motive of the initiators and

founders of OCM, who planned an organization consisting of persons belonging to different Christian churches in order to give humanitarian help to refugees of war. The humanitarian dimensions has continuously been important to the Order and the Government would like to direct its warm thanks to all knights who locally have organized activities of this kind and to all knights, who faithfully have paid their annual fees to OCM. Since the creating of the Order as a chivalric Order in 1970 its humanitarian sector has been brought in closer contact with the goals of the Patriarchate of Alexandria and its dioceses in Africa. As we all know there is much suffering and need on that continent. It is an honorary commitment for every knight to help the Patriarchate to help.

The five traits of the Spirit of the Order described ahead are all mentioned in the Constitution of the Order. There is, however, still something, on which I would like to concentrate. The Constitution also contains a wording about the connection between the high aims of the Order and its central organization. That causes me to utter something generally about the spirit of the Order as a chivalric Order.

Irrespective of whether our Order should be understood against the background of an uncertain tradition, according to which it has its roots in the Ordo Constantini, the imperial guard founded during the reign of Constantine the Great and consisting of young men of noble descent from the oldest families in Byzantium, or against the background of the prehistory and history of the twelfth century military orders and later western orders, the resultant orders contain the ideas of serving, defending, helping and protecting different subjects, Christ, the Church, rulers of different kinds, persons in need, especially the sick, the neighbour or other Christians. Despite the fact that our Order in no way accepts the idea of a military order it has from the military orders inherited the idea of a strong and effective central organization. As a matter of fact this is still one of the most characteristic traits of the spirit of chivalric orders in general. This trait is also an essential expression of the spirit of our Order. The Order need to be flexi-

ble and adaptive when confronting situations which demand quick and strong measures. In addition, in order to be able to fulfil its commitments to the Patriarchate of Alexandria the Order as a worldwide organization demands a strong central organization. This aspect is clearly expressed in the Constitution. Every dame and knight of the Order is committed to follow the order of the Order written in its Constitution. Consequently, helping and protecting, essential to the spirit of humanitarian chivalric Orders, presupposes a continuous supply of money from the Order to the persons in need. In other words, in order to keep its commitments and to live according to its spirit following the instructions of the central organization of the Order and paying the annual fees are necessary for the very essence of the Order as a Christian chivalric Order. Only in that way the wording of the Constitution that the significance of the OCM is derived from its high aims and its strengths from its worldwide distribution and central organization has a real meaning.

After having said this I would like to end my speech through returning to the very basis of every Christian Order, the Holy Scriptures and the Christian faith. In his second epistle to Timothy (2:1-5) the apostolic writer says: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be soldier. And if a man also strives for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." In this passage the issue concerns the order of faith. Following and obeying Christ has its own laws of faith, to be strong in his and to love as he has loved us.

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI

THE
CONSTANTINIAN
NEWS

No 3/2011



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
in
PORVOO/FINLAND
July 1 – 3, 2011

ADDRESS OF THE HIGH PATRON OF THE OCM



H.E. George Haramis, the Exarch of the OCM Greece, transmitted to the audience the sacred wishes of His Beatitude Theodoros II, the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa.

† Θεόδωρος Β΄ Πάπας και Πατριάρχης Αλεξανδρίας και Αφρικής

Enlightened Government and Noble Knights of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni,

Filled and inspired by exceptional spiritual jubilation I address the international convention of the Order. The extraordinary circumstances associated with the profound sociopolitical transformations, taking place in the Middle East during the previous six months, has obliged me to modify my program and to postpone for a more convenient time in the future my official visit to the Orthodox Church of Karelia and All Finland, initially planned to be prolonged so as to attend the proceedings of your convention.

Nevertheless, and in spite of the huge distance that separates us this day, I would like once again to reassure you that I wholeheartedly share the noble goals of your Order. Especially in our times of high changeability and unpredictable turbulence, the panhuman principles of tolerance and charitable offer that you are consistently advocating should mold the solid foundations of our societies.

Therefore I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to all those who have inspired, helped and creatively worked for your convention, and cordially wish every success to your working sessions.

Our Patriarchal Blessings

f Theodoros II

†THEODOROS II

Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa

Alexandria, June 23, 2011

FINLAND IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REFLECTIONS OF THE CONSTANTINIAN HERITAGE



Constantine the Great and the Early Christian Church

- The First Council of Nicaea (325) decided of the Ecumenical doctrine of the Christian Church
- The Nicene Creed is yet today the official Creed of the Churches in Finland –however there are later variations in its interpretation
- Patriarchs of Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem held the highest rank among the representatives
- Decisions of the Council of Nicaea were recognized by the entire Church

St. Athanasius of Alexandria Church Father

- Bishop Alexander of Alexandria and his theological assistant Athanasius of Alexandria were central figures of the Council of Nicaea and formulation of the Early Christian doctrine
- St. Cyril of Alexandria championed the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431) –condemnation of Nestorian heresy and proclamation of Virgin Mary to be Theotokós, God-Bearer
- Patriarchate of Alexandria fought for the Unity of the Church

Early Christianity in Finland

- Byzantine influence already

through Viking connections

- Crusades to Finland and to the Holy Land were simultaneous phenomena in the 12th and 13th century
- The Chapter of Turku Bishopry 1276
- Orthodox Christianity started to spread in Carelia
- Eastern Christianity influenced Finnish language and culture in the Early Middle Age
- Battle of the Neva 1240 and Battle of Lake Peipsi set the boarder between the Eastern and Western Christianity in Northern Europe

Bishop Aimo T. Nikolainen

- (1912 –1995), Founding Member of the Foundation for the Finnish Institute in the Middle East
- Professor of New Testament Exegetics at the University of Helsinki 1946-72 and Dean of the Theological Faculty
- Chairman of the Finnish Ecumenical Society (1966) and internationally active in the Ecumenical Movement
- Bishop of the Helsinki Diocese 1972-1982
- Chairman of the Bible Translation Committee 1973-92
- OCM Aimo T. Nikolainen-Grant for the Finnish Institute in the Middle East for ecumenical research or

research on Middle East churches or interfaith dialogue

Córdoba and Al Andalus From Biblical Studies to Oriental Languages

- Development of the European universities (studia generale) since 12th century arouse interest to arabic manuscripts mediating the Greek science and adding to it new features and innovations
- Increased intellectual dialogue between the Orient and the Occident –intellectual exchange in Al Andalus
- Learned publications appeared and disputations were held between learned men, like Raymundus Martini, Pugio fidei adversus Mauros et Judaeos(1278)
- Disputations between Christians and Jews in Paris 1240, Barcelona 1263, Tortosa 1413-14 etc.

Humanism and Reformation

- Comparative study of Biblical texts, especially at Collegium trilingue Buslidianum(est. 1518) of Erasmus of Rotterdam at Louvain
- Collection of Hebrew manuscripts at the Vatican library boosted in the 15th Century
- Book printing: during the years 1470-1500 at least 175 Hebrew and Aramaic incunabula were printed
- First Hebrew grammar appeared in Latin 1504
- Hebrew was commonly taught at universities

Scientific research of Oriental Languages

- Growing interest to comparative linguistic studies between Hebrew, Aramaic, Syrian, Arabic and Ethiopian in the 17th century
- A widening interest to oriental languages both at the Catholic and Protestant universities (Leiden, Amsterdam, Oxford, Rome, Paris)
- Critical studies: Jean Morin, Ex-

ercitationes biblicae(1633); Louis Cappell, Histoire critique du Vieux Testament (Critica Sacra, 1650)

Biblical and Oriental Languages at the old University of Turku

A chair in linguarum sacrarum since 1640 Oriental studies of Johannes Gezelius jr. (1647-1718) in the 1670's in Holland, Germany, England and France Hebrew Grammar of Simon Paulinus in 1692 and Hebrew and Arabic types at the University Printing Press in Turku Linguistic theories were created about relationship between Swedish, Finnish and Hebrew (gothicism of Olaus Rudbeckius)

Finnish Orientalists in the 18th and 19th Century

Teaching in Arabic at the Academia Aboensis (Turku) for the first time in 1709 Petter Forsskäl (1732-1763), Naturalist on the Royal Danish expedition to Egypt and Yemen 1761-1763. Flora Aegyptiaco-Arabica in 1775 Georg August Wallin (1811-52), Travels in Egypt, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Persia. Visited Mecca 1845 (converted to Islam?)

Modern Finnish Research in North Africa and the Middle East

Semitic Association 1893 → Finnish Oriental Society 1917 Edvard Westermarck (1862-1939), in Morocco since 1898 Arthur Hjelt (1868-1931), travels in the Middle East in Early 20th Century Hilma Granqvist (1890-1972), Sociological and socio-anthropological research in the Palestinian village Artas in 1920's Aapeli Saarisalo (1906-1986), Archaeological research of Biblical Countries since 1910's (Palestinian roads!)

Finnish Research in the Middle East

Growing interest through 20th Century Professor Armas Salonen (1915-1981), Mesopotamian archaeology Professor Simo Parpola (s. 1943), Assyriology Professor Rostislav Holthoer (1937-97), Egyptology Professor Jaakko Frösén (s. 1944),

hellenism, papyrology Professor Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila (s. 1963), arabic and persian languages and literature - More focus on political studies!

Foundation for the Finnish Institute in the Middle East

The number of Finnish research and cultural institutes started to increase in the 1990's (13 + 4) Research institutes in the Mediterranean area: Rome 1954, Athens 1984, Middle East 1994 Planning started in the early 1990's, Founding Charter was signed 1 June 1994 Founded by three universities, Finnish Cultural Foundation and other research organizations and private persons

FIME Goals

Constitution §2: "The aim of the Foundation is to support research and teaching of languages, cultures and religions of the Middle East through scientific and cultural activities in the Middle East." Humanities and social sciences are the main focus, but also projects in natural sciences, health sciences and agriculture have been supported

The Institutes covers a large area both geographically and operationally

Basic funding and research projects

Basic funding is appropriated annually by the Ministry of Education - Annual funding covers salaries, rent

and basic activities and enables also permitting grants Project funding is applied and governed separately. Project manager accepts bills and reports to the director and to the Board Individual researchers are accommodated at the Institute

Finnish Institute in Damascus

Registered in Syria 2007 Own house bought with support of Alfred Kordelin Foundation 2007 Located in Zaitouna, Old Town of Damascus UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site (Old Town, Damascus)

Alexandria

Participation in the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the dialogue between cultures Bibliotheca Alexandrina - member of the World Digital Library Swedish Institute in Alexandria

GOPAL Project

The Medieval Library of the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate in Alexandria Project of the University of Helsinki supported by the Academy of Finland and the Foundation for the Finnish Institute in the Middle East - Connection to the Constantinian heritage through Finnish research

Dr. Jussi Nuorteva
Honorary member KCCM
National Archivist



From the left: exarch G.Haramis, hon.members J.Paarma, S.Niinistö, M.Paatero a. Deputy Master R.Ilaskivi.

VISIT AT THE CATHEDRAL CHAPTER



Bishop Björn Vikström welcomes the Master and provost Håkan Wilhelmsson (Sweden).

The visit at the cathedral chapter in Porvoo was hosted by Bishop Björn Vikström. At this historical place the Czar Alexander I of Russia proclaimed Finland grand duchy of Russia in March 1809. Since then the Czar of Russia were at the same time grand dukes of Finland until 1917, when Finland became an independent republic.



In the historical room.

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE CONSTANTINIAN NEWS

No. 2 / 2013

INAUGURATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 6.9.2013

Your Eminency, dear members of the government, knights of the Order and accompanying spouses,

I am absolutely delighted to see so many familiar faces and likewise so many new members at the 60-years anniversary convention of our Order here in Salzburg.

As usual I should like to start my opening words remembering shortly two earlier events in the history of the OCM.

First, celebrating this year's convention in Austria I like to remember another international convention of the OCM held in Austria, that is to say in Graz in 1967. At that early date the OCM was not yet a chivalric Order, but a Constantinian Society. Perhaps that meeting wasn't a festive convention in the sense we have experienced it during the past 20 years. However, as far as I remember, the contents of the discussions concerning the targets and the assignments of the OCM, were of high value and enthusiasm. At that meeting was also seriously discussed the strategy, how to achieve the spiritual protection of one of the Patriarchates of the Pentarchy. Another, perhaps minor reason to keep that early meeting in my mind: I was invested knight of the Order at that very occasion in Graz.

One of the highlights amongst the OCM conventions was also the 50-years anniversary convention in Athens. This time I like to remember that festive meeting particularly, because it was the last time I had the opportunity to meet the metropolitan of Kissamos and Selynos in Western Crete, the Bishop Eirinaios, who passed away in April of the current year in the great age of 102 years.

We should always remember, that it was Eirinaios, who knocked at the door of the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate in Alexandria and brought the OCM successfully under the auspices of the late Patriarch Nicolaus VI. Eirinaios joined the OCM in 1963 and was prelate of the OCM for more than 40 years. He was a wise and very cordial personality. We will cherish his memory.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for

the Order to welcome George Haramis, whom the High Patron of the OCM, His Beatitude Theodoros II has again delegated to attend this 60-years anniversary convention.

I am also pleased to welcome our honorary member Emeritus Archbishop Jukka Paarma, who will give us tomorrow an interesting lecture about 'Ecumenism as Challenge of the OCM'.

I welcome the other lecturers as well as all Constantinian knights and their accompanying spouses, who have gathered here in Salzburg.

I appreciate the commitment of the members of the Order and particularly of the members of the executive committee, who have taken during the past years much responsibility heading the not always easy administrative work of the Order.

As you all know the OCM international is mainly a charity organization strongly committed to the Patriarchate of the Alexandria. Therefore it is a pleasure for me to announce, that the OCM has transferred the annual support of 20.000 Euro to the account of the Patriarchate in August 2013.

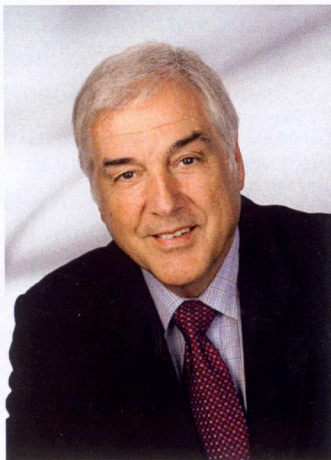
It has also been a tradition, that on occasion of international meetings the Order likes to support organizations in the host country, which are involved in urgent charity work. Today the OCM will give a financial support of 2.000 Euro to the help organization 'Ma hilf', which is working for people in immediate need in the region of Vorarlberg in Western Austria.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these encouraging words about campaigns of our Order I proclaim the 60-years anniversary convention of the OCM opened.



**Friedrich,
Duke and Prince von Beaufort-Spontin**

THE CONFERENCE OF ROMAN EMPERORS



Your Serene Highness, honoured members of the government and the council, officers and honorary members of” the Order of St. Constantine the Great.

Distinguished and Esteem Ladies, gentlemen and guests of the ”world day of knights 2013”.

On behalf of bailiwick of Austria I have indeed the great honour, privilege and pleasure to talk to you about a truly historic event (I personally like to think of it as the ”first Viennese congress”) which took place on Austrian soil roughly 1700 years ago at Carnuntum (then a Roman garrison) near to Vienna...

The Emperors’ conference in 308ad. This very significant meeting of high-ranking Roman dignitaries might have eluded even the wisest and most erudite among us, had it not been for one person shedding light on this, until then ”rather dark spot” in history. We certainly owe our thanks to the founder and director of **ART CARNUNTUM** - **Piero Bordin** - who was the first to start research into this hitherto ”dark matter”. In 2009 his work led

him to this extraordinary discovery of eminent importance. Funnily enough, he owes his findings to a chance meeting with Gerard Depardieu, the famous French actor, and Thomas Gottschalk – then host to a very popular Saturday-night Tv-programme in German-speaking areas of Europe. Well, Gerard Depardieu was at Carnuntum giving a reading of works by Augustinus, and Thomas Gottschalk for his show called ”I bet you anything”, was asking and looking for candidates from Carnuntum posing as Roman legionaries. Piero Bordin had organised the reading, and was also heavily involved in Thomas Gottschalk’s show. Being a very thorough man, he wanted to provide background information for these two events. His research (somehow) led him on the trail of ”the Emperors” conference” in Carnuntum on November 11th 308ad. What a significant day! Why you might be asking. Well, I try as best as I can to explain how the ensuing development up to the memorable year 313ad manifests a remarkable change whose world-wide impact cannot be imagined any greater.

But first of all we have (unfortunately) to go back to the roots! As we all know, Emperor Constantine the First was born on February 27th (incidentally also my 91-year old mother’s day of birth) 288ad in ”Naissus” Upper Mösia - today’s ”Nis” in Serbia. Other sources list the year of his birth in 272ad, 273ad or ca. 285ad. He grew up in garrisons at his father’s side, and even as a very young man showed extraordinary ”soldiers’ virtues”. But not only that - he also possessed a sharp mind and an incredible talent for organisation. He was such a gifted man – alas, his

general education and knowledge, to put it politely, left a lot to be wished for. On the other hand, to be fair, his statesman’s-like views, visions and qualities, as well as his later display as an exceptional army leader are, of course, without any doubt. So he is quite rightly called **INVICTI** - never once defeated! After his father’s death on July 25th 306ad at ”Ebucarum” (today’s York in England) he was hailed **AUGUSTUS** by his troops; but his co-regent Galerius only acknowledged him as ”Caesar”. (I think ”Sub-Emperor” best defines the term ”Caesar” in this context). Another of Constantine’s virtues which I haven’t mentioned so far, was patience.

So he bid his time until 307ad, when the old Emperor Maximian also acknowledged him as ”Augustus”. Additionally, Maximian proposed a union with his daughter, and Constantine and Fausta were married. Yes, Fausta who, for well-known reasons, was executed on her husband’s orders two decades later.

A deed always leaving a dark stain on Constantine’s otherwise spotless vest.

What really is of such interest for us today, is the fact that in the years 308ad to 311ad actual history was written which would affect, in due course, the future development of our world in a truly lasting way.

So, on November 11th 308ad this ”Emperors’ conference” took place in Carnuntum and, as I have mentioned already, made history as it was partly responsible for the triumphal progress of Christianity and thus our western culture. The conference was attended by three Roman Emperors – Diocletian (Emperor Emeritus) who also chaired the

meeting, Maximius and Galerius and all the Caesars.

In hosting this conference Carnuntum was at the center of world politics and world history. An altar dedicated to mithras, the so-called "Emperors' conference altar" portrays (to a certain extent) the religious policy of the rulers present. Preserving the traditional state religion (but) together their personal "guardian gods" such as Heracles or/and Jupiter.

Maybe the most important result of this conference was the decision to establish a new "tetrarchy" (the rule of four). In reaching this agreement the distribution of power in the Roman Empire was being rearranged. Appointed rulers in the Eastern Empire were Galerius as "Augustus" and Maximian as "Caesar". In the Western Empire it was Licinius as "Augustus" and Constantine as "Caesar".

Constantine who, as we all know, would enter history with the cognomen "the Great", and also as the one who by tolerating the Christian religion really set a milestone, although, it has to be said, he himself received baptism only on his deathbed.

But before Constantine, it was actually Galerius who, only two and a half years after the conference, issued "the toleration act of Nicomedia" (today's Izmet in Turkey) on April 30th 311ad. This act ensured for the first time that the Christian religion was tolerated. Two years later in 313ad, Constantine and Licinius issued their "agreement of Mediolanum" (today's Milan). This is not only much more in the people's mind – but also more conclusive and therefore of greater importance. It granted Christianity the status of an officially recognized (permitted)

religion. Constantine substantiated his (inner) conversion with a divine apparition he experienced before the decisive battle at the Milvian bridge.

Constantine's struggle to achieve single rulership began with this famous battle at "Saxa Rubra" in 312ad. This battle at the Milvian bridge ended with Constantine's victory over one of his remaining co-regents, Maxentius, who together with thousands of his men drowned in the river Tiber when the bridge of boats they were retreating over collapsed. As Galerius had already passed away in 311ad, there remained only two more "obstacles" to attain sole rulership – namely Maximius and Licinius. Maximius was beaten by Licinius at the battle of "Adrianopel" and died while taking flight. In 324ad Constantine's and Licinius's forces met at "Cibalae" (on the Sau). Licinius was defeated but allowed to keep his domains Asia, Egypt and Threce. But then, after two more battles in 324ad – one on July 3rd at "Adrianopel" and the second on September 18th at "Chalzedon/Crysopolis", Licinius was utterly defeted.

With these victories Constantine had achieved his final goal – to be sole Emperor of the Roman world.

In the same year (324ad) he outlawed pagan sacrifices, and proclaimed Christianity as the new official state religion.

So within a very short span of time, set into motion by the Emperors at Carnuntum an incredible and hardly imaginable change had taken place. A change which forever transformed the western world and left (at least until now) an everlasting footprint.

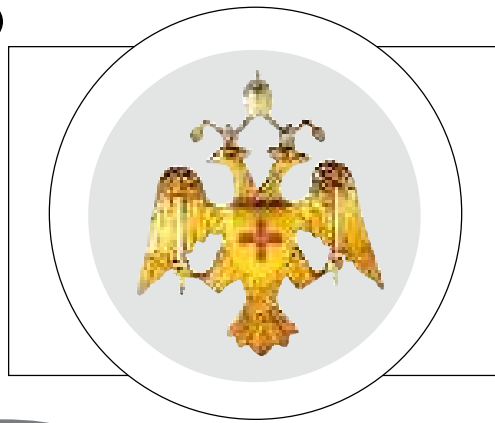
Your Serene Highness, Esteemed knights of the "Ordo Sancti Con-

stantini Magnum" – or as I would have addressed you during the time of St. Constantine – **Illustres, Spectabiles, Clarissimi et Perfectissimi!**

Although I appreciate the Latin language very much, forgive me, if I switch back to English. My distinguished audience, I sincerely hope that my comments were not too boring for you. They probably were only a (feeble) attempt to make you more familiar with a few, may be not so well-known details of our historical conception.

Finally and lastly, I do want to apologise for my "Viennese English" – and really thank you very much for your kind attention.

Reinhart Wanek
Dr. med.

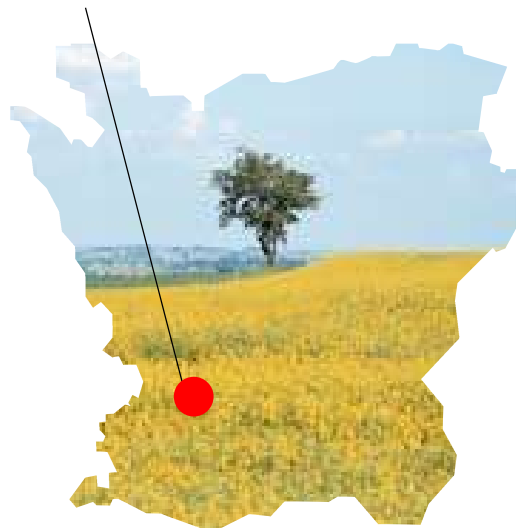


Pro

*OCM Exarkat Sweden and
Comturi: Sancti Laurentii Scaniae*

gram

*"International Convention"
22 - 24th September 2017
in Lund and scenic Skåne*



Welcome
to Lund.

*During the "International Convention" guests
will stay at the Elite Hotel Ideon, Lund.*

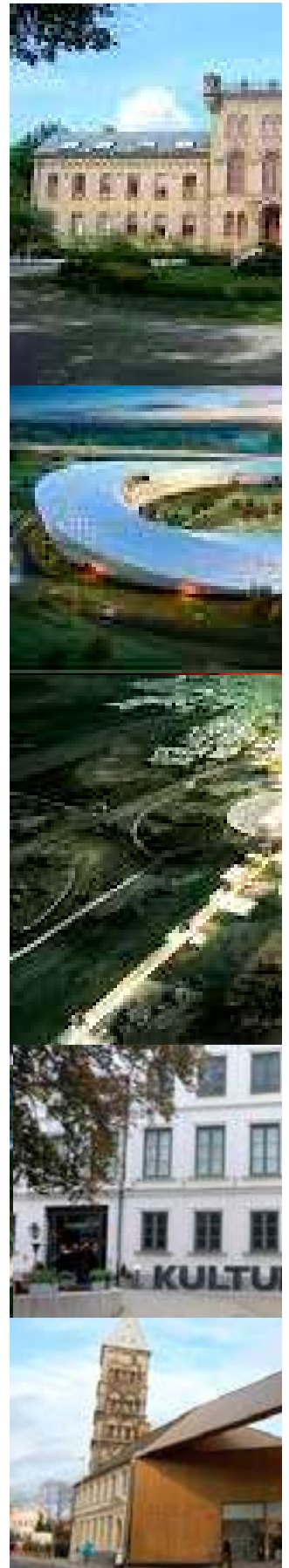
Program

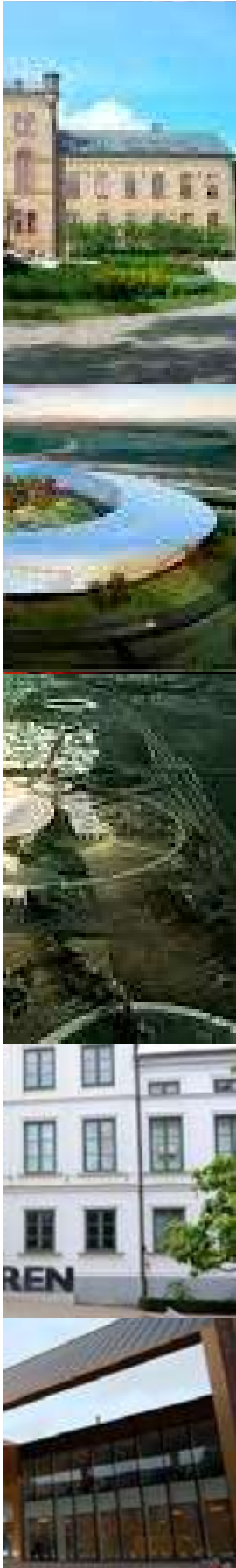
Friday

- 14.00 Check in at the Elite Hotel Ideon in Lund and
registration for the "International Convention"
18.30 "International Convention" opens.
20.00 Light supper at Elite Hotel Ideon in Lund.

Saturday

- 07.30 Breakfast at Elite Hotel Ideon.
09.00 Meet in the hotel lobby for the initial introduction of
the Chairman of the Council of the Order Rune Rydén.
– Uppåkra.
09.30 Bus tour through the ESS and Max IV, Lund Institute
of Technology, and city sightseeing.
11.30 Return to Elite Hotel Ideon for lunch.
12.00 Lunch is served at Elite Hotel Ideon.
13.45 Lecture at the Elite Hotel Ideon:
Toivo Salmi and Leif Syrstad - Moderator / Chairman
Fredrik Vahlquist - Swedish saints.
Jonas Hafström - University of Lund and the World.
Jouni Elomaa - The message of the Order.
15.45 The lectures will end with coffee and snacks.
16.15 Exercise with knight cadets.
17.30 Travel together by bus to the Cathedral.
18.00 Knight's dubbing in the Cathedral of Lund with
musical interludes.
20.00 Banquet in the "Great Hall" at the Elite Hotel Ideon
in Lund with speeches and entertainment.





Let us take care
of you

*in the historic university town
of Lund.*

Lund

Sunday

- 08.00 Breakfast at the Elite Hotel Ideon.
10.00 Guided tour of Lund Cathedral with cicerones
Dean Emeritus Håkan E. Wilhelmsson and
Chairman of the Council of the Order Rune Rydén.
11.00 Worship at Lund Cathedral.

Elite Hotel Ideon

Elite Hotel Ideon is located on
Scheelevägen 27, in the center of Lund.
<https://www.elite.se/sv/hotell/lund/hotel-ideon/>

Parking spaces are available.
On Saturday an all-day bus is at
our disposal.



2022 Washington

In 2022, the International Convention was held in Washington. In his speech at this event, the Master noted, among other things, the following:

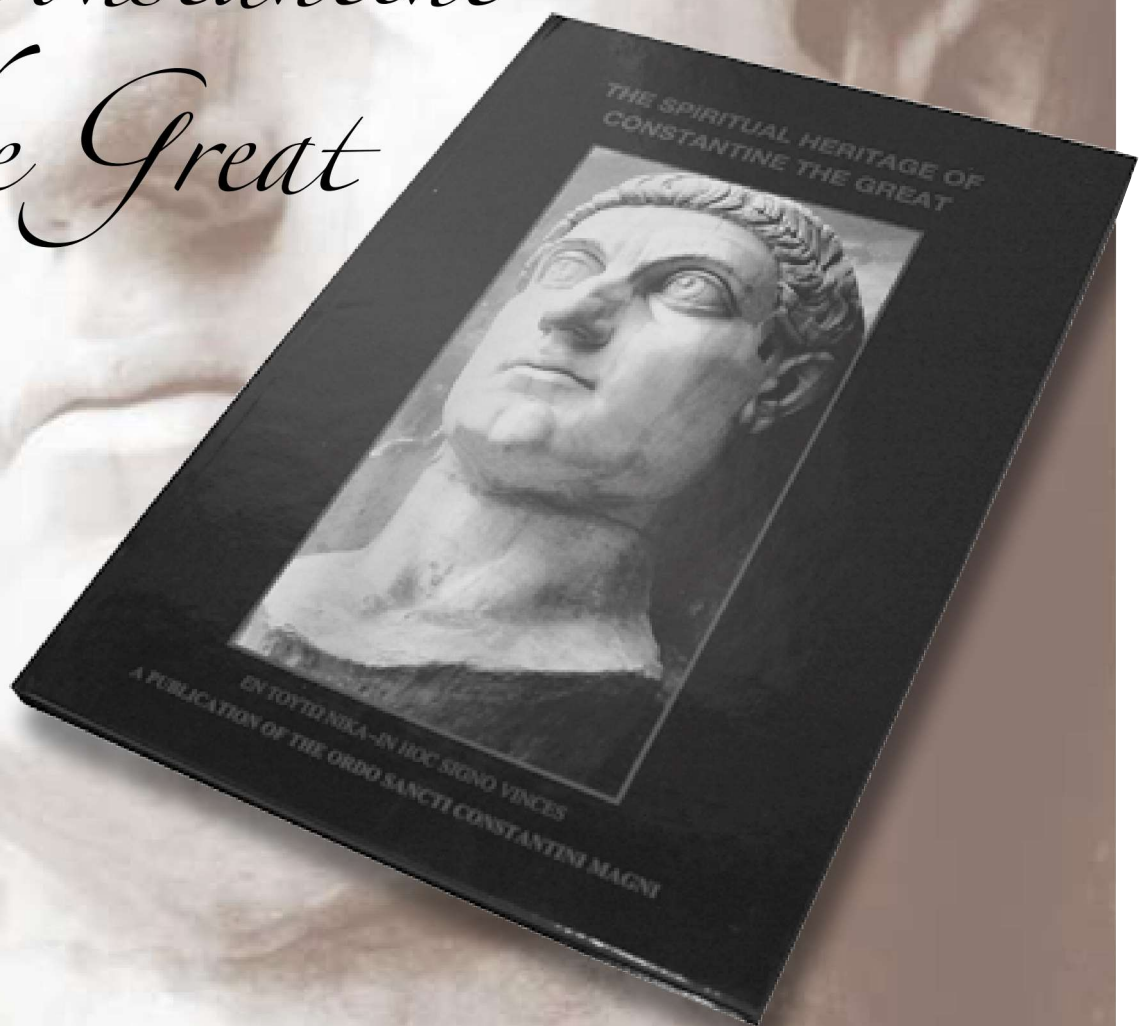
“According to the archives of the Order, in 1964 two Americans, first Mr. Rodney Hartwell and still in the same year Mr. Robert Formhals were accepted members of the OCM by the then chancellor, the Swiss Richard Guyer-Frey. Both were undoubtedly very well connected, to speak in modern terms. Anyway, in the 1960ies Hartwell and Formhals together recruited most of the new members to the Exarchate of the United States. That both had already disappeared from the Order in 1977, for whatever reason, is another question. I think, however, it is appropriate to mention Hartwell and Formhals on this occasion as the starters of the activities of the OCM in the United States of America.”

Below is a picture of some of the participants of the event at the Cosmos club.



Participants in Washington. The Master and Lady Eleonora in the middle, Exarch O. Trombetta and Dame Elisabeth (l.), Archbishop A. McMEnamin (r.)

The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great



is an OCM publication (2008) in regard to it's editorial content well estimated by several experts.

Every OCM member should read the book, which is also worth to be presented to many of your friends.

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