



ORDRE INTERNATIONAL DES CHEVALIERS DE LA Foudre *



GRAND PRIEURÉ DE FRANCE



HISTORY OF THE GRAND PRIORY OF FRANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THUNDERBOLT

The International Order Knights of the Thunderbolt or International Order of the Knights of Thunderbolt brings together altruism, elegance of mind, fervor of the Knights who make up this ancient order, awakened by its **Great Supreme Master Vittorio GIFRA**. This renowned specialist in writing and ancient heraldry and phaleristics, shared his experience with numerous specialists in the world, through several works dealing with these sciences, He has been an approved expert with the Tribunal for several decades and the Chamber of Commerce of Alessandria (Italy). Manager of a large local company, Vittorio GIFRA has always participated to local municipal life. He was President of the Council for more than fifteen years. Municipality of Arquata Scrivia, charming town in Piedmont, headquarters of the International Order Knights of the Thunderbolt.

His associative and professional commitments, his personal qualities have been rewarded with numerous Italian or foreign decorations:

Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic,
Knight's Cross of the Order of Malta,
Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Danilo I of Montenegro,
Grand Officer of the Order of the Eagle of Georgia and the Seamless Tunic of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vittorio GIFRA is also the official representative of LIBERLAND in Italy and Chief of Protocol to H.E. Vit Jedlicka, President of the Free Republic of Liberland.

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Awakening of the Order of the Knights of Thunderbolt

In 2013, with his knowledge and historical culture of mythologies Greek and Roman, Vittorio GIFRA decides to awaken this ancient Order of Chivalry to make it the spearhead of respect for all traditions memories and good taste.

Thus, the future Knights-Founders and himself list the resolutions, the intentions of our Chivalrous Order:

- contribute to the dissemination, knowledge and practice of historical studies and genealogical sciences of heraldry and phaleristics,
- create and develop a spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding, in uniting members with mutual spontaneous friendship and fraternity, carry out works of mercy, charity and philanthropy perpetuating the teachings of ancient Chivalry,
- promote the principles of "good governance" and "good citizenship", in taking an active part in civic, cultural, social and moral, encouraging members to improve their communities in ways that philanthropic, promoting a consistently high level of efficiency and ethical and fair standards in commerce, industry and professions, both in public and in private,
- participate as much as possible in the founding of the "MAISON DES KNIGHTS" for the Knights of Lightning who want to live in community, preserve, perpetuate, disseminate and transmit ancient traditions culinary, both local and national, encourage and publicize everything that has relating to the art of cooking and oenology, facilitate their original publication and promote the reissue of thematic books by old authors, and promote the culinary tourism,
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relating to the art of cooking and oenology, facilitate their original publication and promote the reissue of thematic books by old authors, and promote the culinary tourism,

- and share the fruit of tireless work with Associations and Orders Nationals and Internationals who have the same ideals by sealing treaties of friendship.

On the right choice of the symbol of Lightning

Lightning, symbol of power, speed, eloquence, destruction and love, appears on all documents and diplomas issued by our Order.

In Greek mythology, lightning is the attribute of Zeus (the equivalent of Jupiter in Roman mythology), the king of the gods. They are the uncles of this god (three cyclops) who made this lightning and offered it in gratitude of their release. Steropes designed the lightning, Argès created the glow and Brontes made the storm.

If Zeus's lightning has three lightning bolts which can warn, punish and destroy, the fourth lightning bolt that appears on the diploma symbol and documents of the Order is that of the Knights' sword, symbol of authority and power. The threads of his blade, parallel and equal, represent justice. Outfit by the blade, this sword recalls the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ which protects the Knight during combat. Thus, in the spirit of the pure Chivalry of the Middle Ages, Christianity characterizes all the Knights of the Order.

In 2016, during joint work on the development of Liberland laws, Vittorio GIFRA offers Noël MÉLET, passionate about medieval chivalry, 1st Counselor of the Embassy then Official Representative of Liberland in France, join the Order to create a Grand Chapter in France.

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CREATION OF THE FIRST KNIGHT OF FRANCE

On March 19, 2016, in GAVI (Piedmont in Italy), Noël MÉLET was made a Knight of the Order of Lightning and is elevated to the rank of Grand Commander of the Grand Star of Merit of the Order.

CREATION OF THE COMMANDERIE SAINT-FLORENT de ROYE

On April 20, 2016, the **Knight-Promoter Noël MÉLET**, Grand Commander, received his license official to create the "**Commanderie Saint-Florent de Roye (Somme)**".

At the end of 2016, **two Knights-Promoters were created**,

André MÉLET on September 16, 2016 in Kalives-Polygyros (Kalkidiki - Greece)

Patrick CAUVIN on October 12, 2016 in Roye (Somme - France).

On October 17, 2016, the Association "Grand Chapter of France of the Order International Knights of Lightning" is officially declared in Somme Prefecture under receipt W803001668.

From then on, the Association's essential goal is to promote and pursue the work of remembrance undertaken for several years by the Knights André MÉLET and Patrick CAUVIN, in particular the repair of the forgotten graves of the Veterans who died for France during the great wars of 1914/1918 and 1939/1945.

The **Grand Chapter of France KoFT** (KoFT : abbreviation of the Order of Knights of the Thunderbolt) becomes the main partner of the French Souvenir Committee of Roye (Somme) with the Knights André MÉLET, president, Patrick CAUVIN, flag bearer and Noël MÉLET, contributing member.

At the same time, Knight André MÉLET continues his work for Mémoire des Men (Ministry of the Armed Forces) and for Généanet by deciphering the registers and the roles of the Armies from the end of the Kingship to the Napoleonic Wars. Its exceptional contribution in volume and quality propels it to first place in official annotators for several years. Today he is one of the first

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referents of the INSA of Rennes whose memorial work is directed by Mr. Yvan Leplumey, lecturer and researcher at IRISA in partnership with the Ministry of the Armed Forces. The January 2023 review devotes an article praising the important work carried out by Grand Prior André MÉLET for several years.

In 2022, the Grand Chapter becomes the GRAND PRIEURÉ DE FRANCE.

The administrative modification is registered with the Somme Prefecture in accordance with current regulations.

In its statutes, the Grand Priory of France has chosen to honor with various rewards the commitment to volunteering of individuals in all the domains.

This is how the **Medal of Honor of the Grand Priory of France** was created in 2022 to reward deserving people very involved in the culture, memory, associations, To date, around fifteen medals have been granted to personalities particularly involved in the areas mentioned. All Knights are by right holders of this decoration which they wear during ceremonies.

Since the establishment of this award, the GRAND PRIEURÉ DE FRANCE

records numerous applications. Indeed, any honorable person and probe can claim to become a Knight or Lady of our chivalrous Order of which

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****Noël MÉLET, Knight Grand Commander, Grand Prior of France**

André MÉLET, Knight Grand Commander, Grand Seneschal of France

Patrick CAUVIN, Knight Grand Commander, Grand Master of Ceremonies **

are the three FOUNDING KNIGHTS.



Noël MÉLET, GCST, Grand Prior of France, is **Consul General of the Nation of Hawaii for France, Official Representative of Liberland in France and Ambassador of VITOUN** (Nepal Tourism Village) in France.

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