



OVN Foundation

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE • 25th MAY 2023, THE HAGUE

# A HERITAGE COLLECTION UNPARALLELED ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

*An Introduction to The Dutch Museum of Freemasonry in The Hague*

## Speakers

- **emerit. prof. dr. Margaret C. Jacob**, *University of California in Los Angeles (USA)*
- **dr. Andréa Kroon**, *Kroon & Wagtberg Hansen (The Netherlands)*
- **prof. dr. Jan Snoek**, *Universität Heidelberg (Germany)*
- **Martin Cherry**, *Museum of Freemasonry, London (UK)*
- **prof. dr. Henrik Bogdan**, *Göteborgs Universitet (Sweden)*
- **emerit. prof. dr. Eugène Warmenbol**, *Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)*
- **prof. dr. Ab de Jong**, *Leids Centrum voor Religiewetenschap (The Netherlands)*
- **prof. dr. Andrew Prescott**, *Glasgow University (UK)*

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## Why this conference?

Freemasonry is one of the oldest social networks in the world. It has been active in the Netherlands since 1721 and is distinguished by a remarkable ritual tradition. For over three centuries the initiation society produced an impressive cultural heritage. This consciously collected heritage was given a museum status in the middle of the 19th century under the rule of Grand Master Prince Frederick (1797-1881) and subsequently grew into a heritage collection of (inter)national importance.

The collection of the current Dutch Museum of Freemasonry consists of three interlinked collections: historical archives, scientific library (incl. the Kloss Collection) and historical objects. The importance of the collection reaches further than just the history of freemasonry itself, it documents the social, political and cultural history of the Netherlands and its international contacts. From the history of Western expansion to the emancipation of women, and from art history to gender studies, the collection is a gold mine for all disciplines within the Humanities.

The Dutch Museum of Freemasonry is therefore internationally renowned amongst academic researchers, although it is less well known to the wider Dutch public. Ample reason to put this best kept 'secret' in The Hague in the spotlight with an international conference. Experts from different countries and disciplines will discuss the founding of the collection and its relevance as heritage of international calibre (lectures in English). A special guest speaker from America (via Zoom) is emerit. prof. dr. Margaret Jacob, author of *The Radical Enlightenment* and *Living the Enlightenment*. She notably consulted Dutch lodge archives for her research. This conference provides a unique introduction to a collection that has been preserved in The Hague for more than 150 years, and which should continue to be cherished in the future.

## Venue

The event will be held at the Carlton Ambassador Hotel, which is conveniently located near the Dutch Museum of Freemasonry, and another significant venue: the lodge rooms designed by Karel de Bazel in 1916. These rooms, which were created by the renowned architect, Freemason, and Theosopher, are now a protected monument and part of the Beeld & Geluid Den Haag building complex. Guided tours of the lodge rooms will be organized for participants.

## Registration / costs

This conference (9.30 am to 6 pm) is open to students, researchers and heritage professionals, as well as lodge members and anyone with a love of history or cultural heritage. Registration in advance is required.

### Participation fee:

- € 75 regular rate
- € 50 OVN donors
- € 35 students (*please enclose a copy of your student ID*)

The fee covers tea, coffee, and closing refreshments, as well as a copy of the conference publication. In addition, tours are included; however, availability is limited.

To register, please email [info@stichtingovn.nl](mailto:info@stichtingovn.nl). After sending your email, you will receive a registration form and additional information. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be confirmed only upon receipt of payment.

**The closing date for registration is 22nd May 2023.**