

Lineage Explanation

Filiation or lineage is sometimes a contentious topic, especially among different Martinist organizations. There is some research into our initiatic lineage going beyond Dr. Gérard Encausse to Louis Claude de Saint-Martin, and then even possibly all the way back to the Crusader period in Constantinople. However, we do not concern ourselves with this much and leave it to the academics of history to search and sort.

The modern movement and structure of Martinism was established and made popular by Dr. Gérard Encausse ("Papus"). We do, however, have and maintain a very direct lineage through Papus, to include his son Philippe who reinvigorated the Order in the 1950s–1970s, serving twice as its Grand Master.

After the death of Papus, many different Martinist orders were created. There were, for several decades, internal arguments and schisms around ideals and membership requirements, etc., resulting today in nearly a dozen different Martinist organizations. Many of these branches came directly from our root organization because of different ideals and perspectives of some of the members at the time who left our Order to start their own. We still regard our modern organization as pure and a direct continuation of the root or trunk of the tree, so to speak, of Martinism created by Papus.

Our governing body in France maintains and keeps many of the personal items of the Encausse family relating to the Order, such as Papus's Gavel, Sautoir, Sword, and Dagger., as well as an extensive library and archives of writing and research of the Encausse family and the early Martinist contemporaries. Our Order has also maintained "The Martinist Association," governed by French law since 1 July 1901, and also registered at the Prefecture on 2 August 1963. This Association is a non-profit and simply serves as the legal entity, similar to a U.S. non-profit corporation, and also holds many of the original legal copyrights and trademarks.

The Grand Council of the United States operates with direct authority and charter from the current Grand Master of l'Ordre Martiniste, Andre Gautier ("Gabriel"). The Grand Delegate of the United States for l'Ordre Martiniste and the sitting member for the United States on the International Supreme Council is Frère Robert Herd ("Gavreel"). Frère Herd was made S.I.I. by Grand Master Emilio Lorenzo ("Sitael") in Paris, France in 2015 and was made Grand Delegate of the United States in 2016. Frère Herd is also currently serving as the interim Grand Delegate for the countries of Canada, Mexico, and Haiti.