

# The Grand Bailiwick of the United States of Mexico in the 1930s

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## Abstract

A copy of a letter held in the Torri ta' Lanzun Archives of the Order of Saint Lazarus relates to the setting up of a jurisdiction in Mexico during the third decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The letter reveals interesting insights on how the Order was managed and its history viewed by its leaders.

## Keywords

Order of St Lazarus, Mexico, jurisdiction, early 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Introduction

The Archives of the Order of Saint Lazarus held in Torri ta' Lanzun in Malta include a number of files pertaining to the first half of the twentieth century. These archival documents help to elucidate the process of reorganization that was adopted during the inter-wars period, a reorganization that involved a process of internationalization extending to the Americas. These documents further reveal other facets relating to how the Order was being managed and how the administration viewed the Order's history.

The document in question is an undated typed carbon-copy of a letter sent by the Archimandrite representing the Melkite Patriarch H.B. Cyril IX to the Marquis of Guadalupe. The importance of this document relates to the actual text of the letter and the letterhead/border notes printed on the paper the letter is typed upon. The document forms part of the pre-1960 archives of the Order held in Paris which remained in the custody of the Paris Obedience being eventually transferred to Canada

and subsequently in 2018 to the re-united Order's archives held a Torri ta' Lanzun in Malta.<sup>1</sup>

## Content



**Marquis of Guadalupe**

The letter primarily documents the establishment of the Grand Bailiff of the United States of Mexico under the direction of Marquis of Guadalupe and the award of Knight Grand Cross of Justice to the Marquis. The marquisate of Gradalupe Gallardo was established by Fernando VII of Spain in favour of Manuel Rincón-Gallardo y Calderón on the 27 April 1810. It fell into abeyance after the death of the second marquis in 1887 but was re-establish in 1894 by Alfonso XIII of Spain. At

the time of the letter [undated but probably written during the period 1928-1930]<sup>2</sup>, the marquisate was held by Carlos Rincón-Gallardo y Romero de Terreros who had inherited the title after the death of his father in 1906. Carlos Rincón-Gallardo y Romero de Terreros (\*1874

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<sup>1</sup> Letter Archimandrite representing the Melkite Patriarch H.B. Cyril IX to the Marquis of Guadalupe, undated but c.1930. *Documents belonging to Coutant de Sasseval (former Chancellor, Paris Obedience) relating to Mexico*. Originally Canadian Box 7/9[6m] transferred to Pre-1960 Archives Box \*, Torri ta' Lanzun Archives – MHOSLJ, Malta.

<sup>2</sup> The available copy of the letter is undated but was probably written during the period 1928-1930. The *ante diem* date is based on the date registered in the printed border notes of the letter which refer to a 1928 letter by Pius XI. The *post diem* date is based on the confirmation of the presence of the '*chapitre des Etat-Unis du Mexique*' confirmed in: Paul Bertrand de la Grassiere. *Histoire des Chevaliers-Hospitaliers de Saint-Lazare*. (Paris, 1932), 190; and the year when the Patriarch withdrew his protectorship to the Order [*vide infra*].

†1950; s/o Eduardo Rincón-Gallardo y Rosso \*1848 †1906 and María del Refugio Romero de Terreros y Goribar †1906) was also the III Duke of Regla, XI Marquis of Villahermosa de Alfaro, a knight of the Madrid Royal Corps of Nobility and of the Order of Montesa, and a knight grand cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He married María de la Concepción Cortina y Cuevas and was succeeded by his daughter María de la Concepción Rincón-Gallardo y Cortina (†1954).<sup>3</sup>



The letter was issued from the office of *Le Grand Aumônier* and signed by the Archimandrite representing the Melkite Patriarch H.B. Cyril IX, possibly Mgr. Arsèsene Attié. Mgr. Attié (†1934) was admitted to the Order of Saint Lazarus in 1926 when he was serving as the rector of the Melkite Church of St. Julien le Pauvre in Paris which in 1929 was defined as the principal church for the ceremonies of the Order.<sup>4</sup> Mgr. Attié served as *Grand Aumônier* of the Order, but resigned the post in 1930 when the Council of the Order decided to re-establish the Grand Magistry and

<sup>3</sup> Marquesado de Guadalupe Gallardo. *Wikipedia* (U.S.A.: Fundación Wikimedia Inc., 16.ix.2019)

[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marquesado\\_de\\_Guadalupe\\_Gallardo](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marquesado_de_Guadalupe_Gallardo) accessed 19 October 2019; J. Fernandez de Pardo Dufoo. S. Exc. Le Marquis de Guadalupe. *La Vie Chevaleresque* 6, (01.vii.1934), 107.

<sup>4</sup> Ordre de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem. *Statuts – Règlement spéciaux concernant les insignes et les uniforme de l'Ordre de saint Lazare de Jérusalem*. (Paris : Journal Officiel d'Annonces judiciaires et legale, 1929), 2.

appointed the H.E. Duke of Seville Francesco de Paula de Borbón y de la Torre as Lieutenant General and eventually Grand Master (1935). Mgr. Attié was awarded the French Legion of Honour and the Ottoman Order of Medjidieh.<sup>5</sup> The *Grand Aumônier's* office was functioning from a different address (at 45 Boulevard Saint Germaine, Paris) than that of the *Office Centrale* of the Order of Saint Lazarus (at 75, rue Blanche, Paris). The former now serves as part of the Hotel Abbatial Saint-Germain.



**45 Boulevard Saint Germaine, Paris (@Google maps, 2019)**

While written by the *Grand Aumônier* of the Order, the letter reflects the thoughts of H.B. Cyril IX. The close relationship between the Melkite Patriarchate and the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in the period is clearly and equivocally stated in the first paragraph:

*"I have the honour to confirm to Your Excellency that His Beatitude Monseigneur CYRIL IX, Catholic Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem*

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<sup>5</sup> Monseigneur l'archimandrite Arsène ATTIE. *La Vie Chevaleresque* 6, (01.vii.1934), 114.

*and all the East, is the Protector of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, as were before His Beatitude, his predecessors of the above apostolic see.”*

This is further confirmed by the letterhead printed on the letter which clearly states: “*ORDRE DE SAINT LAZARE DE JÉRUSALEM – PROTECTEUR: SA BÉATITUDE LE PATRIARCHE GREC MELCHITE CATHOLIQUE D’ANTHIOCHE, D’ALEXANRIE, DE JÉRUSALEM ET TOUT L’ORIENT*”. H.B. Cyril IX Moghabghab (\*1855 †1947) was ordained priest in 1883 and appointed Bishop of Zahlé (Lebanon) in 1889. He was elected Patriarch in 1925 and served until his death in 1947.<sup>6</sup> The *Grand Aumônier* was an ecclesiastic who represented the Patriarch on the Council of the Order. The post was generally assumed by the representant of the Patriarchate appointed to the city where the Order’s seat was established.<sup>7</sup> In 1930, because of the reformation of the Grand Magistry, the Patriarch withdrew his formal protectorship of the Order.<sup>8</sup> The withdrawal of the Protectorship of H.B. Cyril IX, however, did not completely break off relations between the Order and the Melkite Patriarchy retained close relationships through the Archbishop of Acre, Nazareth, Bethlehem and all of Galilee Mgr. Gregorius Haggear (†1940) serving as Spiritual Grand Prior of the Order.<sup>9</sup> Mgr. Haggear was eventually replaced in the post by Mgr. George Selim Hakim who was

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<sup>6</sup> C. Savona-Ventura. *Biographies Ordo Sancti Lazari Hierusalem – Grand Maitres, Protecteur & Administrateurs*. (Office of the Grand Archivist – MHOSLJ: Malta, 2016), 135.

<sup>7</sup> *Statuts* (1929), *op. cit.*, 5.

<sup>8</sup> Paul Bertrand de la Grassiere. *L’Ordre militaire et hospitalier de Saint-Lazare de Jerusalem: Son histoire - son action*. (Paris : Peyronnet et Cle, 1960), 103.

<sup>9</sup> *Letter from H.E. Grigorios Haggear Arch de Galilee to le Comte Charles Otzenberger-Detalle dated 28 March 1939*. Manuscript, Torri ta’ Lanzun Archives, Malta, 1939, +2pp.; *La Vie Chevaleresque* 21/22, (1938), 89.

elected Patriarch in 1967 as H.B. Maximos V and who then reassumed the Spiritual Protectorship of the Order.<sup>10</sup>

The document further suggests that the offer to establish a Grand Bailage of the Order in Mexico was initiated by the Marquis de Guadalupe. It further illustrates the management structure of the Order at the time with day-to-day management being carried out by the Council. In addition, the letter further confirms that the terms of the 1911 statute were still in place<sup>11</sup> so that the charitable activities of the Order were directed to the missionary and hospital work of the Melchite Patriarchate

*“I will not fail to draw the attention of His Beatitude to the precious contribution which Your Excellency wishes to make to the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, and to the happy effects which such collaboration will certainly have.”*

*“His Beatitude will be very happy that Your Excellency will accept the office of Grand Bailli of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem for the United States of Mexico, a charge that the Council of the Order acting on the authority of His Beatitude has conferred Your Excellency at the same time as the title of Knight Grand Cross of Justice.”*

*“I have the firm hope that Your Excellency will do well to contribute to the development in his country of this chivalrous order which devotes its activity to supporting and assisting the missionary and hospital work of the Greek Patriarchate Melchite Catholic.”*

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<sup>10</sup> The role of Spiritual Protector was defined by GM Decree 4/1969 which declared that *“The Spiritual protector of the Order is His Beatitude the Greek Melchite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, of Jerusalem and Alessandria, at this time His Beatitude Maximos V.”*

<sup>11</sup> de Jandriac. Les chevaliers Hospitaliers de Saint Lazare de Jérusalem et de Notre Dame de la Merci. *Rivista Araldica* 11, (1913), 679-683.

Ordre hospitalier fondé en 370 par Saint Basile le Grand, établi à Jérusalem vers 629, transformé en ordre militaire en 1115. Suzerain d'un quartier de Saint Jean d'Acre de 1191 à 1291.

Placé sous la protection temporelle des Rois de Jérusalem de 1099 à 1291 et des Rois de France de 1516 à 1801.

Et placé sous la protection spirituelle des Patriarches catholiques de Jérusalem (de rite grec de 629 à 1054, de rite latin de 1100 à 1318, de rite grec de 1837 à nos jours).

PRINCIPALES BULLES ET LETTRES  
PONTIFICALES  
RELATIVES A L'ORDRE :

BENOIT IX . . . . .	1043
NICOLAS II . . . . .	1059
URBAIN II . . . . .	1096
PASCAL II . . . . .	1115
INNOCENT III. . . . .	1213
HONORÉ III . . . . .	1220
GRÉGOIRE IX. . . . .	1234
ALEXANDRE IV . . . . .	1253
URBAIN IV . . . . .	1261
JEAN XXII . . . . .	1318
LÉON X . . . . .	1517
PIE IV. . . . .	1560
	et 1565
PIE V . . . . .	1567
PIE XI . . . . .	1928

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BULLE DU CARDINAL DE VENDOME  
LÉGAT DU PAPE CLÉMENT IX. 1668  
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LETTRES DES PATRIARCHES  
CYRILLE VIII . . . . . 1911  
CYRILLE IX. . . . . 1926

Other information of interest furnished by the document relates to the short printed marginal resume regarding the history of the Order of Saint Lazarus as perceived at the time. This historical resume reflects the history as eventually published by the Grand Chancellor of the Order Paul Bertrand de la Grassiere.<sup>12</sup> The text reads:

*“Ordre hospitalier fondé en 370 par Saint Basile le Grand, établi à Jérusalem vers 629, transformé en ordre militaire en 1115. Suzerain d'un quartier de Saint Jean d'Acre de 1191 à 1291. Placé sous la protection temporelle des Rois de Jérusalem de 1099 à 1291 et des Rois de France de 1516 à 1801. Et place sous la protection spirituelle des Patriarches catholiques de Jérusalem (de rite grec de 629 à 1054, de rite latin de 1100 à 1318, de rite grec de 1837 à nos jours).”*

The text further gives a list of Papal Bulls and letters, and Patriarchal letters believed relevant to the history of the Order. Many of the Papal Bulls and letters promulgated after 1234 have been identified and are

<sup>12</sup> Paul Bertrand de la Grassiere (1932), *op. cit.*

available for study. The Bulls promulgated prior to 1220 have yet to be traced.

Of particular interest are the listed contemporary letter from Pius XI dated 1928 and the letters from the Patriarchs dated 1911 and 1926. None of these documents are presently extant other than what has been quoted by contemporary authors. The 1928 letter from Pius XI to Order must refer to Letter 3511/27 dated 19 January 1928 sent by Cardinal Gaspari Secretary of Vatican State in the name of Pius XI to Marquis Fernand de l'Église de Ferrier de Félix who served as President of the Association Française des Hospitaliers de Saint-Lazare. This letter stated:

*"Monsieur le Président, le Saint-Père a agréé avec bienveillance le filial hommage des coeux qu'au nom de l-Ordre vous lui avez adressés à l'occasion de votre fête annuelle de fin d'année. Sa Sainteté vous en remercie de Coeur et formant à son tour les meilleurs voeux pour la prospérité des Hospitaliers de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem et leurs familles, leir envoie à tous une speciale benediction apostolique. Veuillez afréer, Monsieur le Président, avec mes remerciements pour les souhaits que vous m'avez adressés, les voeux que je forme pour l'Ordre, ainsi que l'assurance de ma haute consideration."*<sup>13</sup>

The first Melkite Patriarchy letter must refer to the letter from Cyril VIII to the Paul Watrin Chancellor of the Order dated 3 June 1911, which discussed the role of the Eastern Church in which the Order was interested, and concluded:

*"...En terminant, comme gage de reconnaissance et de notre vive affection, nous accordons à tout l'Ordre notre bénédiction".*<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Paul Bertrand de la Grassiere (1960), *op. cit.*, 100-101.

<sup>14</sup> Bertrand de la Grassiere (1960), *ibid*, 98.



The second letter refers to the letter from Cyril IX Moghabghab to the Order dated 17 March 1926 which concluded:

*"C'est une oeuvre éminemment missionnaire et digne de leurs traditions qu' accompliraient mes chers fils les hospitaliers de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem, en aidant au recrutement des prêtres, à leur soutien dans les villages pauvres, au retour des milliers de dissidents à leur mère l'Eglise romaine. Dieu leur en rendra certainement au centuple la récompense, car ils auront le mérite d'avoir rendii à Dieu des milliers d'âmes. En vous recommandant donc instamment toutes ces oeuvres, je vous envoie, ainsi qu'à tous vos freres de l'Ordre, ma paternelle bénédiction." <sup>15</sup>*

## Conclusions

This document is particularly important since it confirms the *status quo* of the relationship between the Order of Saint Lazarus with the Melkite Patriarchate in the late 1920s / early 1930s, besides providing an insight into the perception of the leaders about the Order at the time. It further provides information regarding the development of a Lazarite presence in Mexico. It further belies the comment made by author Leone Castelli in 1944 who reports that the Marquis never agreed to his admission to the Order of Saint Lazarus and protested his appointment, a comment repeated by modern distractors of the Order.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Paul Bertrand de la Grassiere (1932), *op. cit.*, 186 ftnote 2.

<sup>16</sup> Leone Castelli. *La Estafa de San Lazaro* (Mexico: Geno Latino, 1944); François Velde. "Revived" Order of Chivalry: the case of the Order of Saint Lazarus (05.ix.1996). In: *Heraldica* (Chicago, U.S.A.: François Velde, 1995-2003). Website available at: <https://www.heraldica.org/topics/orders/lazarus.htm>.

## Text and Translation <sup>17</sup>

*Letter from L'Archimandrite representant de Sa Beatitude Le Patriarche Cyrille IX to Le Marquis de Guadalupe undated. Manuscript, Torri ta' Lanzun Archives, Malta, [~1928-1930], +1p.*

A Son Excellence le Marquis de GUADALUPE

Excellence,

J'ai l'honneur de confirmer à Votre Excellence que Sa Béatitude Monseigneur CYRILLE IX, Patriarche Catholique d'Antioche, d'Alexandrie, de Jérusalem et de tout l'Orient, est le Protecteur de l'Ordre de Saint Lazare de Jérusalem, ainsi que l'ont été avant Sa Béatitude Ses prédécesseur [*sic*] sur le siège apostolique précité.

Sa Béatitude sera très heureuse que Votre Excellence veuille bien accepter la charge de Grand Bailli de l'Ordre de Saint Lazare de Jérusalem pour les Etats Unis du Mexique, charge que le Conseil de l'Ordre agissant sous l'autorité de Sa Béatitude a conférée à Votre Excellence en même temps que le titre de Chevalier Grand Croix de justice.

J'ai le ferme Espoir que Votre Excellence voudra bien apporter ses efforts au développement dans son pays de cet ordre chevaleresque qui consacre son activité à soutenir et à aider les œuvres missionnaires et hospitalières du Patriarcat Grec Melchite Catholique.

Je ne manquerai pas d'attirer l'attention de Sa Béatitude sur le précieux concours que Votre Excellence veut bien apporter à l'Ordre de Saint Lazare de Jérusalem et sur les heureux effets qu'une telle collaboration aura certainement.

En vous adressant mes remerciements personnels pour votre dévouement envers les œuvres catholiques d'Orient, j'envoie à Votre Excellence et à sa famille, ainsi qu'aux membres de l'Ordre de Saint Lazare de Jérusalem au Mexique, ma Bénédiction Pastorale.

L'ARCHIMANDRITE REPRESENTANT DE SA BEATITUDE LE PATRIARCHE CYRILLE IX

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<sup>17</sup> Transcribed and translated by Charles Savona-Ventura.

## English Translation

To His Excellency the Marquis of GUADALUPE

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to confirm to Your Excellency that His Beatitude Monseigneur CYRIL IX, Catholic Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem and all the East, is the Protector of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, as were before His Beatitude, his predecessors of the above apostolic see.

His Beatitude will be very happy that Your Excellency will accept the office of Grand Bailli of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem for the United States of Mexico, a charge that the Council of the Order acting on the authority of His Beatitude has conferred Your Excellency at the same time as the title of Knight Grand Cross of Justice.

I have the firm hope that Your Excellency will do well to contribute to the development in his country of this chivalrous order which devotes its activity to supporting and assisting the missionary and hospital work of the Greek Melchite Catholic Patriarchate.

I will not fail to draw the attention of His Beatitude to the precious contribution which Your Excellency wishes to make to the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, and to the happy effects which such collaboration will certainly have.

By expressing my personal thanks for your dedication to the Catholic works of the East, I am sending to you Your Excellency and his family, as well as to the members of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in Mexico, my Pastoral Blessing.

ARCHIMANDRITE REPRESENTING HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH CYRIL IX