A false portrait of Martines de Pasqually

A drawing circulates, purported to be that of Martines de Pasqually, taken from a work of Arthur Edward Waite published in 1911: *The Secret Tradition of Free-Masonry*. This author most likely took it from the not recommendable Léo Taxil whose work he knew.

The portrait was indeed in one of his books, *Le Diable au XIX siècle* [The Devil in the 19th century] (Paris, Delhomme et Briguet, s.d. [1893]), with this legend: "Martines de Pasqually, Founder of the Rite of the martinist Illuminates". Léo Taxil does not mention its origin for a good reason, because it is an imposture, since there is no portrait of the first master of the Unknown Philosopher.

Léo Taxil, whose real name is Gabriel Jogand (1854-1907), had become the master of the art of creating false information. He remains one of the most famous anti-Masonic writers. The critic of Free-Masonry was his business. He used the Christian anti-Masonic circles to gain fame, which he would never have had through is mediocre writing talent. Provocative and opportunistic, this Freemason expelled by the Grand Orient succeeded to utilize the anti-Masonic and anti-Semitic prejudices of his era to ridicule both, the catholic superstition and those whom he nicknamed "Brethren of the Three-Points". Thus we should be surprised that some websites present this portrait as Martines! It is even more astonishing as the mentioned portrait already has been denounced as fake, almost forty years ago, by Robert Amadou, in the periodical *l'Initiation* (Nr. 4, December 1965).

Let us recall that there is no portrait of Martines, the only information we possess about his physical appearance is what has been mentioned on a certificate of catholicity dated April 29th 1772. On this document on which Martines had had registered before

embarking on the *Duc de Duras*, the ship on which he left France to go to Saint Domingue, it can be read: "Medium size, black hair, wearing a wig". (see Gérard van Rijnberk, *un Thaumathurge au XVIIIeme siècle, Martines de Pasqually, sa vie, son oeuvre, son ordre* [A Thaumathurgist of the 18th century, Martines de Pasqually, his life, his work, his order]*, Lyon, P.Derain-L. Raclet, 1938, p.8)*

Note: The false portrait of Martines we present here has been slightly colored and placed on a color graduated-background.
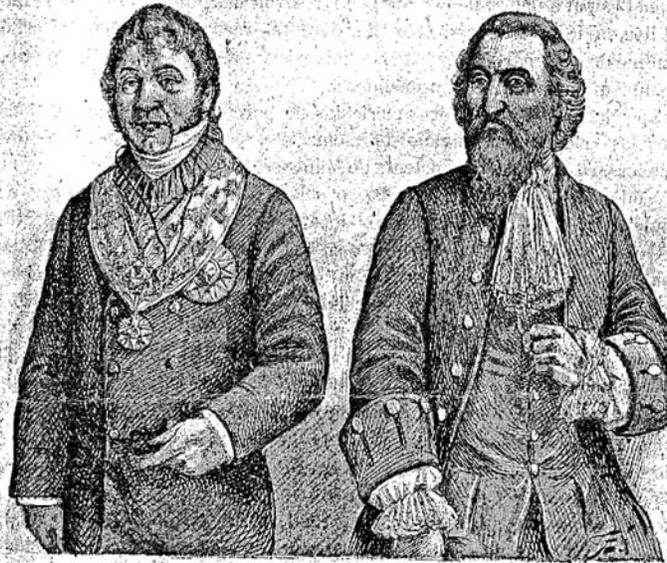
Dominique Clairembault

Source: http://www.philosophe-inconnu.com/Maitres/martines_portrait.htm

Additional Information:

Cover of Léo Taxil's - Le Diable au XIXe siècle

apprenez que, dans cet ordre à l'aspect bénin, il y a deux classes d'adeptes, dont l'une absolument secrète, et vous saurez que la seconde classe d'adeptes s'intitule « Ré-Théurgistes Optimates », exactement comme les Palladistes. Il y a encore une différence entre les Palladistes, qui n'ont qu'une classe (en cinq grades), et les Odd-Fellows, c'est que, chez les premiers, le prétendu Dieu-Bon est invoqué uniquement sous le nom de Lucifer (sauf en Italie), tandis que les Odd-Fellows parfaits initiés disent

LES JUIFS DANS LA FRANC-MAÇONNERIE

Marc Bédarride
Fondateur
du Rite de Misraïm

Martinez Pasqualis
Fondateur
du Rite des Illuminés martinistes

indifféremment Lucifer ou Satan. Ajoutons encore que les Palladistes nomment leurs groupes *triangles*, alors que les Odd-Fellows appellent les leurs *loges*, comme dans la maçonnerie ordinaire des grades symboliques.

Une loge d'Odd-Fellows fut constituée à Manchester, en 1809, et la division s'éleva bientôt entre les ateliers de Londres, Manchester et Liverpool. Les deux derniers se détachèrent de l'association, prirent le titre d'Ordre indépendant des Odd-Fellows, et nommèrent un Comité Central dont tous les membres devaient demeurer à Manchester.