

Rosicrucian Chronicles

Serving the Ideals of the Rosicrucian Movement

In this issue:

Empowering the Membership...page 1,2 & 3

Reflections... page 1,4 & 5
Martinist Affiliations and new information
on the Emperor's Averment

Letters from the Readers... page 5,6 & 7

Empowering the Membership - a change from Autocracy to Democracy

By *Susanne Mohs Boyer, F.R.C.*

Part I

The membership of AMORC needs direct control of the organization itself. We fund its operations with our dues and donations, but we have no control. It is like we have bought a car, and being members in good standing we can jump in the back seat and enjoy the ride quietly, but we are not allowed to question the abilities of the driver. Nor can we decide which route to take to reach our destination. Do you like the current route the AMORC "car" has taken? Are you looking forward to a lifetime of Bernard in the driver's seat? It is time to take the Order back, because they aren't going to give it to us. If we have the courage to change, what can we do about it?

I wish to emphasize that this article does not question our Rosicrucian spiritual heritage and documents, the Lewis' teachings or the ritual doctrines, which I hold in the highest regards and strongly promote in my RCUI classes. I am questioning the wisdom of having an organizational structure, which puts the Order in jeopardy. The purpose of AMORC is very clear: "To teach, foster, and perpetuate the traditional principles and laws of the Ancient Rosicrucians...to foster the spirit of brotherhood and understanding among men...."

Constitution of the Supreme Grand Lodge

Empowering the Membership...
Continues on page 2

Reflections...

By *Curt Warren, F.R.C.*

Thoughts, opinions and reminiscences of a student on the Path

In the September 2nd issue of the Rosicrucian Chronicles, we published the Emperor's Averment; a document to be signed prior to the installation of an Emperor. In that issue, I raised the question whether or not either Gary Stewart or Christian Bernard had ever signed it; raised the question of the legitimacy of the Emperorship.

A correspondent to the Rosicrucian Chronicles-- with whom I am personally acquainted and who prefers to remain anonymous-- has most kindly provided us with the following information:

"Page 567 of the SGL minutes, entitled SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUPREME GRAND LODGE OF AMORC, INC., FRIDAY - JANUARY 23, 1987 - 8:45 AM says as follows:

"The Emperor (GLS) then announced that he was required to sign an Emperor's Averment, as stated in the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Grand Lodge, at a meeting held on July 12, 1984. Having then signed it, he referred it to the official Document Book held in the Emperor's office for filing."

"Of course, those minutes are signed by all officers

Reflections...Continues on page 4

The next newsletter will be published on December 2, 1992. To receive your copy, please send a self addressed stamped envelope (or stamps) to the following address:

Rosicrucian Chronicles
P.O. Box 111891
Campbell, CA 95011-1891

But what is the best route for the AMORC "car" to take? Will the "car" ever get there at this rate? Do we take the route via the Domain of Silence in Canada and Chateau d'Omonville in France?

The nature of autocracy

AMORC is run as an autocratic organization. What is autocracy? Webster's defines it as: "Absolute power or authority of one person over others. Supreme, uncontrolled, unlimited authority or right of governing, held by one person; dictatorship and despotism." This unlimited, uncontrollable, supreme power belongs to the driver in the front seat, Christian Bernard and his rubber stamp Supreme Board.

The fact is there is neither incentive nor punishment for the autocratic leadership to share its information with the membership, because incentive and punishment comes from the top. For example, what were the justifications for the removal of board members with dissenting opinions (O'Neill,

Russeff, and Thompson) ?.

If the Board chooses to release information (accurate or not) to the membership, it is still not equal to empowerment, because the Grand Masters and Board members are not accountable to the membership.

Miss Knutson said in her second letter to the membership of June 15, 1991:

"We were as a group very trusting. I think we honestly felt something like this could never happen just because we are the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC - that somehow the high ideals and principles of our studies would of themselves protect us. And because of that simple trust, I believe many of us failed to involve ourselves as we might have in the objective, material and mundane operations of our Order."

We are still being asked to trust the information we receive as the truth and we have no means of checking it ourselves. If all is in order, why can't it be presented in the open?

Miss Knutson continues:

" - we are opening up this organization to you, so that you can hold us accountable and help us to operate in accordance with Rosicrucian principles. As members, you have the right to participate actively in our work - and you cannot do so without information."

When Miss Knutson entered into office, March 1991, she promised in her letter of June 15, 1991: "...the Board of Directors of the English Grand Lodge has resolved that an audit of our financial and administrative affairs be performed annually by a group of qualified members, with their report to be published in the Rosicrucian Digest." Have you seen any report? We have received lengthy letters from Miss Knutson, but have not seen a financial report audited by a disinterested auditing firm. But then again we have to have your permission for that don't we?

Today, over two and a half years after Bernard took the drivers seat of the AMORC "car," there are no checks and balances in place. There is still no accountability for economical and organizational changes in AMORC.

Some words from the driver

"It is always with honeyed words, in the name of tolerance, liberty, and love, that dishonest people seek to infiltrate our Order..." Bernard's Installation Speech, printed in the special edition of Forum 1991.

Rosicrucian Chronicles

Serving the Ideals of the Rosicrucian Movement

The Rosicrucian Chronicles is published monthly by the following Rosicrucians:

Roselyn Beuchat, F.R.C.
 Susanne Mohs Boyer, F.R.C.
 Nancy Ste. Vigne-Warren, F.R.C.
 Kenneth Thompson, F.R.C.
 Curt Warren, F.R.C.

Any opinion expressed in this newsletter is that of the individual author, who is solely responsible for the content and views presented herein.

Letters, Articles and Donations can be mailed to:

Rosicrucian Chronicles
 P.O. Box 111891
 Campbell, CA 95011-1891

Thank you for your support

R+C Chronicles

In Mr. Bernard's opinion, I probably belong to this category, because I question the organizational structure and the capabilities of the Board from the back seat and I believe it is a good idea for the membership to be empowered. My main concern is: If the Supreme Board does not act for the best interests of AMORC, should there not be a way for the membership to intervene? I cannot imagine that it was Dr. Lewis' intention to leave the membership powerless. With his constitution, he sought to protect AMORC against destroying forces from the outside. He couldn't imagine the destruction coming from inside at the executive level, and it has proven to be the most destructive force of all. How is the Order protected against destructive leadership? When no one has the right to ask questions and demand answers? The Supreme board is not the check and balance of the Emperor and the executive committee. They are part of the board and cannot be expected to investigate and control themselves.

From a Stewart to a Bernard

"I have been studying how I may compare..."

William Shakespeare - Richard II

After the Gary Stewart epoch the membership was in shock. How could a systematic deterioration of AMORC take place, when the Board is responsible for supervising the administration of AMORC? Soon after Gary's installation, members saw the effect of Stewart's true nature and started to voice their concerns. Some did it openly and were ousted. Others did it in the unsigned hierarchy letters. But what did the members of the Board do? They allowed the Stewart follies to continue for years, until Stewart transferred money out of the country. They finally intervened when they saw their financial prosperity transferred to Andorra, but they remained members of the Board. Were they ever held accountable and responsible to the Order and its membership? The question is: Are we better off today?

The Grand Masters became Board members

In the special edition of the Forum of 1991, quoting from the Letter column to the Grand Master, H.C.J., Grand Councilor Emeritus writes: "...Times are changing and autocratic systems everywhere are being displaced with more democratic ones. Having all the Grand Masters on the Supreme Council seems to be in harmony with this universal phenomenon...."

Yes, the Grand Masters have become board members, but the old guard (Bernard, Schaa and Bindon) are still there and helped Bernard take the Presidency of the Supreme Grand Lodge. The new board members were novices in the hands of the far

more experienced board members. To this day, to the best of my knowledge, there has not been a full investigation into the operations of AMORC during the Stewart epoch. A fraud audit was said to be in progress, but we have never heard the outcome. Further more, it was the board itself that was in charge of investigating the allegations about itself. How could they address these issues, and not at the same time answer for the question of their own competency?

New Grand Masters and Board Members are hand picked by Bernard and his board, so where is the incentives to question the policies and decisions? Supreme Secretary Thompson raised issues, and he was removed from the Board.

Bernard's record

Many things have happened to the Rosicrucian Order since Bernard took the office of President: the division of the English Grand Lodge, the move of the Supreme Grand Lodge to Canada, the down Grating of the Supreme Temple, the assumption of the Italian and Spanish Grand Lodges by the French Grand Lodge and there's probably a lot I have missed.

Is this the route AMORC should take to promote the enlightenment of its membership? We aren't even enjoying the ride from the back seat any more. We are behind the "car" pushing as hard as we can.

The process of democratization

Democracy is defined as, Government by the people, either directly or through elected representatives. Majority rule. It is a safeguard of the best interest of the Order.

As described in the article, "Discussing the Constitution and Bylaws" in the last issue, Secretary of the Supreme Board Kenneth Thompson said that Constitutions are: "...powerful tools for good or terrible weapons of destruction....".

In part II, we will begin the discussion of how the constitution of AMORC should be changed to benefit the membership and the organization as a whole.

We invite our readers to join the debate. We wish to hear from you with your suggestions or even if you wish to defend the current constitution. We can work this out, come to a consensus and present these changes to the Supreme Board.

The End

of that time, confirming the historical validity of the above citation."

In the same September 2nd issue, I had mentioned that to the best of their recollection, neither Supreme Archivist Warren Russeff nor Supreme Secretary Kenneth Thompson had ever seen either Gary's or Christian's Averment. On this, my correspondent says:

"I doubt that Warren would have seen it, because Gary's trust in anyone was quickly eroded by the Hierarchy letters;" , and "As for Ken Thompson seeing the Averment, he simply came into such a position far too late in the game to have had the opportunity."

I wish to publically thank our correspondent for providing us with this material; and, to emphasize to our readership, that we always strive to present the best available information in our search for truth. I withdraw my question as to Gary's legitimacy at this time although it is now moot inasmuch as Gary served at the pleasure of the Board and was subsequently removed from office by that same Board. But, I still raise the challenge to Christian's appointment.

On this point, my correspondent had this to say: "As for Christian and the Averment, he never signed one. Nor did he stick with the Emperor's installation formulated by Ralph Lewis. GLS was the first and only Emperor installed as RML dictated. Christian used that terribly bizarre aberration of the Germanic imagination loosed on the world by Wilhelm Raab."

Subsequent to the receipt of my correspondent's material, I have had the opportunity to verify the Board meeting minutes from an independent source; and, I find that the signatories to those minutes were: Gary L. Stewart, Arthur C. Piepenbrink, Cecil A. Poole, Burnam Schaa, and ... Christian Bernard. There is absolutely no question now that Christian knew that an Averment had to be signed prior to installation. I raise the same question now that I did two months ago: Did Christian sign the Averment? If so, send us a copy; we'll print it. If not, what is the Board of Directors of the Supreme Grand Lodge of AMORC, Inc. doing about it?

Until the receipt of the Averment material, I had originally planned this month's column to focus on Martinist affiliation. In the space left, I shall only comment on a single issue, which is best expressed in quote from A Martinist Treasury (by Trophimus, S.I.I. (pseud.); distributed by The Martinist Information Service, Greeley, Colorado,) on page 63:

"Luckily for Stewart, Poole also provided Stewart with a 'Certificate of Free Initiation' which clearly states that Stewart received the Fourth Degree. The document is dated May 22, 1987 and does not appear to be a forgery. Photocopies of both documents are in the archives of The Martinist Information Service. The problem that these documents do not solve is - did Cecil Poole hold the Fourth Degree?"

This problem, of interest to Martinist historians in general and to Christian Bernard in particular, revolves around the issue of the legitimate initiation of our late Vice-President Cecil A. Poole. It has already been documented that Gary Stewart received his initiation from Poole; and, from Gary, it was conferred on Christian. When Christian took control, he literally ransacked Rosicrucian Park looking for Poole's document. Failing to find it, he rooted out of decades-long retirement, Orval Graves, to provide a 'new' validation. Today Christian initiates under the Martinist code BRNRD/G-26 and the mystic name Phenix.

To digress for a minute, AMORC membership should be aware that the historical documents and the files of our late Emperors, H. Spencer and Ralph Lewis, are no longer at Rosicrucian Park. They are squirreled away somewhere in France due to the excessive zeal of Christian's archivist", an odd little character named Jean Louis Abraham who spent long hours at night in Rosicrucian Park ferreting out every scrap of paper of historical interest... and books, too. I can say from personal knowledge that the rare books remaining in the Planetarium vault are far short of what the original Shelf List would indicate should be there. Having watched him in action, my personal opinion is that Jean Louis is eminently qualified to play "Igor" in a Frankenstein movie; loving the darkness in which to rummage around in dead men's papers, seeking to secrete the truth from all for his Master.

The removal of the historical material and books from Rosicrucian Park was not handled according to proper archival procedures. No physical inventory of the books and documents was made at the time; no photographs or copies made of the material to insure a protection-copy in case of loss in transit or otherwise. In short, everything was just boxed up wholesale and shipped to France.

Unfortunately for Christian and "Igor", and fortunately for the membership, there are probably a dozen people that I can think of that probably have a file drawer or more of odd bits and pieces of historical material and document copies. Most of these people were connected with the International Rosicrucian Historical Council, a group that

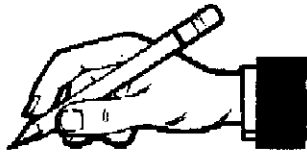
Reflections...

Continued from page 4

Christian tried to merge into the International Research Council. But, since Christian has not established his right to the Imperatorship, the remnant members of the IRHC are now like the 47 Ronin of Japanese tradition; that is, like masterless Samurai, they owe their pledges to a now-dead leader.

One of the document copies now held in trust for the membership is Cecil Poole's initiation. I have personally seen the original... and, I know where a copy resides. Fortunately or unfortunately, Gary Stewart's TMO Martinist rights are as valid as Cristian Bernard's. Each of them can legitimately claim to be a Sovereign Grand Master of a Traditional Martinist Order. But then, so can anyone else that holds the status of a Free Initiator.

Letters from the Readers



A Soror from Texas writes:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your newsletter.

I was quite upset, after then installation of the new Imperator, when I felt the energies leave Rosicrucian Park. The people responsible for the installation of a Frenchman should have known that the first thing he would do would be to steal the Supreme See! And that is exactly what he did! Perhaps they wanted to brake our Order apart and that is exactly what they did.

I am not a Gary Stewart fan, nor a member of his tacky little replica of AMORC. All they know how to do is copy the Lewis monographs....

A Frater in California writes:

I would like to share the following comments

with your readers:

Considering the poor performance of the Supreme Grand Lodge during the 1980s, where they gave the Order to a person who was not qualified to be a Rosicrucian much less an Imperator, and now we have a new Imperator who has arbitrarily decided to move the Imperator position to France, move the Sovereign Sanctuary to Canada, Chop up all the Grand Lodges so that few can survive, and denigrate our Supreme Temple to "Grand Temple".

All of this points out the real need to democratize the Rosicrucian Order by allowing the general membership to vote and decide on all major issues. This change is necessary because the current crop of Officers do not have the same high degree of attunement to the Cosmic that the Lewis's had.

Therefore, I propose that the Rosicrucian Constitution be amended to allow for the following:

I. Officer Recall

Every year a general membership confidence vote will be taken. If an Imperator, Grand Master or other Officer no longer has the confidence of the majority of the members, then that person will be removed from office.

II. Referendum

All decisions and decrees made by the Imperator and / or the Supreme Grand Lodge must be approved by a majority vote of all the members. All major decisions of the Grand Master must be approved by a majority of the general members of the Grand Lodge Jurisdiction.

III. Propositions

Any new idea being proposed by a member that has the signature of 1,000 members must be presented to the general membership. This proposition must then be accepted and acted upon if approved by a majority of the membership.

IV. Officer Election

Any Imperator, Grand Master or other officer before being appointed must be confirmed by a majority of the general membership.

V.

Any Rosicrucian Property, both Real Estate and otherwise, will be entrusted to the Grand Lodge Officers on behalf of the members of that Grand Lodge where the property is located. Any transfer of these assets must be approved by the Supreme Grand Lodge and a majority of the membership.

VI.

The Sovereign See of the Rosicrucian Order shall remain within this country until the 108 year cycle has concluded. San Jose is the best place for now but an alternate back up site in another region of this country should also be prepared just in case.

As we enact these much needed reforms the Order will be strengthened to survive the times ahead.

The following open letter was written by Susanne Mohs, in response to a letter she recieved from the membership Committee, dated September 30, 1992. (The Membership Commttee's letter is provided on page 7).

Open letter to the Membership Committee,
Rosicrucian Order AMORC
1342 Naglee Ave
San Jose, CA 95191

October 31, 1992

To whom it may concern:

Having receive your letter dated September 30, 1992, it is surprising that a serious matter such as an "ousting" is done with an unsigned letter. I am not only a long time member, I am also a member of the IRC, a RCUI instructor and a former employee.

The letter contain a vague accusation reading: "In light of the concerns you have been expressing about AMORC, we are somewhat surprised that you wish to continue as a member..."

What precisely have I expressed, that justifies you to react this way?

The letter is a clear indication of the policies for the handling of members with dissenting opinions to that of AMORC's administration. Obviously any opinion not in agreement with that of the administration/board at any given point is viewed as a threat. Your letter and my answer is published in the Rosicrucian Chronicles to give the readers a concrete example on AMORC's failed fraternal policies in action. Why is it not possible to remain a dues paying member and debate issues in the open?.

When I joined the Order, I did not leave my inquiring mind outside the threshold. Nor did I at any point in time take any oaths giving up my right of free speech, ask question and seek answers.

The membership committee asks me to write; "...a brief explanation of the specific concerns you have been expressing about AMORC, and also state why, in light of this, you still wish to continue as a member..." My concerns are expressed here in a nutshell: I am having to justify that I expressed myself openly! There is no need for me to restate the reasons I had for joining the Order, they are the same. They are the reasons why I am a Rosicrucian and that will not change, whether I am a dues paying member of AMORC or not. I challenge the Membership Committee to produce a reason for suspending my membership.

Sincerely and fraternally I am

Susanne Mohs, F.R.C.

In order to strengthen our network we encourage you to copy this newsletter and send it to Rosicrucians (active or not) whom you know.



The Rosicrucian Order

Known as "THE ANCIENT, MYSTICAL ORDER ROSAE CRUCIS" throughout the world

1342 Naglee Ave., San Jose, California 95191, U.S.A.

September 30, 1992

Ms Susanne Nyhegn Mohs

Dear Soror Mohs:

We are in receipt of your recent remittance, and wish to make an inquiry before accepting this check. The check arrived alone in an unmarked envelope, with no instructions as to what you wish it used for. Since it is for \$48.00, we are assuming it should be designated as a dues payment. We are, therefore, returning your check to you at this time.

In light of the concerns you have been expressing about AMORC, we are somewhat surprised that you wish to continue as a member. As viewed by us, your actions speak otherwise, and we want to be certain that we can provide you with what you need.

Please write a brief explanation of the specific concerns you have been expressing about AMORC, and also state why, in light of this, you still wish to continue as a member of AMORC. This will assist us in determining whether or not we feel you can continue to benefit from membership. After receiving your explanation, we will inform you of our decision.

With best wishes for Peace Profound, I am,

Sincerely and fraternally,
ROSICRUCIAN ORDER, AMORC

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



A worldwide nonsectarian and nonpolitical fraternity devoted to the investigation and study of the higher principles of life as found expressed in man and nature

Telephone (408) 947-3600

FAX (408) 947-3677