

Rosicrucian Chronicles

Serving the Ideals of the Rosicrucian Movement

Reflections...

By Curt Warren F.R.C

(Thoughts, opinions and reminiscences of a student on the Path.)

Ralph Maxwell Lewis experienced the Great Initiation on Monday January 12, 1987, at 11:26 P.M. He was eighty-two years old. Of the Second Cycle of the Order in America, Ralph Maxwell Lewis was the second Emperor...and the last.

Ralph was a good man. Good in the sense that his accomplishments far outweighed his failures; a man in the sense that those same strengths and weaknesses that shaped his leadership also gave him some very human and humane dimensions. He possesses the gravity and demeanor of an Emperor, well leavened with a warmth and a wit. Above all else, he truly loved the membership he was charged to guide. He devoted his life to the Order, validating and fulfilling his father's work; he was a son who brought credit to Harvey Spencer Lewis' name.

Time exacts its toll on all of us, an Emperor is no more immune to the processes of natural law than are any of us on this plane. During the last few years of his regime, ill health resulted in his leadership being sharply curtailed; in other words, we had a "part time" Emperor. And, transition or retirement had thinned the ranks of his Old Guard: Harvey Miles, Jimmy Whitcomb, Cecil Poole and many others. Ralph knew that Time was his relentless enemy; his arthritis reminded him of it every day. At the end, Ralph did not name his successor. He trusted the Supreme Grand Lodge to do this. But perhaps -- just perhaps -- Ralph had some lingering doubts about the future when the reins of power would be taken into other hands. On January 5, 1984,

Ralph composed the Emperor's Averment, which is reproduced on page 4 and 5 in its entirety.

(Note: I was appointed by Ralph Lewis to the Executive Council of the International Rosicrucian Historical Council, and a life member of the English speaking jurisdiction. I also had the privilege of writing the Constitution for the I.R.H.C. signed by then Grand Master Gary Stewart and countersigned by Ralph Lewis, Emperor. Those of us connected with the I.R.H.C. were given access to a great deal of archival material, and had permission to copy such material as was germane to our individual researches.)

As you read the Emperor's Averment, bear in mind that according to Supreme Archivist Warren Russeff and Supreme Secretary Kenneth Thompson, to the best of their knowledge, neither Gary Stewart nor Christian Bernard ever signed this document. If either of them has, it should be a simple matter to produce it since it is to be kept with the Oath of Office. It could be faxed worldwide in a day.

If, in fact, the Emperor's Averment was not signed, then neither Gary nor Christian were

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A Word From Our Forefathers

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness."

—Thomas Jefferson,
Declaration of Independence, 1776.

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The Rosicrucian Chronicles is published monthly by the following Rosicrucians:

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Reflections... (continued from page 1).

eligible for installation. They could, under common law, be installed as President, Chief Executive Officer, or some such secular title; but, they would have no right to the title of Emperor, nor any rights appended to that office.

Any acts of a doctrinal nature would be null, and any appointments to a ritualistic office — such as a Grand Master — would be void. Gary and Christian could legitimately claim to be Grand Masters regularly installed by Emperor Ralph M. Lewis; the same could be claimed by, for example, Wilhelm Raab or Irving Soderlund. But, if the office of Emperor has stood empty for the last five years as I believe it has, then any corrective actions will need to be implemented to once again weld together the broken links in the chain of Initiatic Tradition. Perhaps many problems of the recent past and present are in some way the result of this severed chain.

To repeat myself: Of the Second Cycle of the Order in America, Ralph Maxwell Lewis was the second Emperor... and the last.

Fratres and Sorores, remember that a Rosicrucian is a "walking question mark". Exercise your right of free inquiry into the affairs of the administrative offices of an organization that your dues, past and present, support. Ask your questions and expect truthful answers. For myself, my personal choice was to let my membership lapse, since I can no longer — in good conscious — financially support AMORC as it is currently administered.

Coming up in the next issue:

Empowering the Membership—a change from Autocracy to Democracy.

By Susanne Mohs Boyer, F.R.C.

Discussing the Constitution and Bylaws

By Kenneth Thompson, F.R.C.

Reflections...

The down grading of the Supreme Temple

By Curt Warren, F.R.C.

Letters from the Readers.



Imperator's Sanctum
Temple of Alden

Rosicrucian Park
San Jose, California 95191

Some years ago, I fulfilled a wish of Dr. Lewis' and made it a necessity as well; that is, that there should be a formal Installation Ritual for an Imperator. There had been none in modern times, Dr. Lewis having received his authority and initiation abroad.

I prepared such a ritual a few years ago. It is in our file of initiations and should be used when the occasion requires it.

Attached to that ritual is a copy of the enclosed Averment. This Averment must be signed before the duly elected candidate as an Imperator is installed. It should be signed in the presence of all the members of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Grand Lodge. They should sign the original, which will subsequently be kept with the Oath taken at the time of the Installation.

Needless to say, there should be no deviation from the contents of this Averment, which are basic to the perpetuation of the ideals of the Order. Any candidate who refuses to do so or wishes to make changes, shall not be installed.

IMPERATOR

Ralph M. Lewis
January 5, 1984

Witnessed by:

Michelle Ziebel

RML:mz
Enc.



Imperator's Averment

I, _____, having been duly elected by the Supreme Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis, to the august office of Imperator, do solemnly aver and pledge as a Rosicrucian, and in accordance with the ideals of the Rosy Cross, to honor, fulfill, and preserve the content of the following obligations:

- I will not delete the word God from the official teachings of AMORC, even though the Rosicrucian Order is not a religion.
- I will not omit the phrase, "God of our Heart," from rituals or monographs of the Order, allowing the member to place his or her own interpretation on the phrase.
- I will not delete or alter the present use of an Invocation being delivered at the Convocations of AMORC, or as used elsewhere in its doctrinal work.
- I will not suppress or disregard, in AMORC literature, the recommendation of a Home Sanctum for every member, and its use in connection with official rituals and initiations. I will consider such a sanctum, whenever possible, as an essential and integral part of the Rosicrucian membership.
- All rituals of installation by AMORC (and by the Martinists), such as for Colombes and Officers, shall be continued. Likewise, the Appellation Rite, the Rosicrucian Wedding Ceremony, and the New Year Feast shall be perpetuated. With time, they may be adapted to the changing conditions, but never so altered that their purpose or message is lost.
- I affirm that I will always be conscious of the fact that AMORC is a mystical Order. I therefore pledge to preserve those spiritual values of the Order which are related to the Rosicrucian traditional meaning of the word mystical. The word spiritual shall mean, in the Rosicrucian sense, a recognizing of a transcendent Universal Oneness of all Reality; the awareness thereof being the ultra state of consciousness of which man is capable.
- I shall always be aware that traditionally and chronologically the Rosicrucian Order has always been a fraternal (nonsectarian) mystical organization. It therefore must be devoted to two fundamental pursuits:
 - (1) The enlightenment of man;
 - (2) The individual attainment of Peace Profound.

The "enlightenment" shall be construed as being the study of the traditional teachings of AMORC, supplemented by the advanced knowledge of the age in which AMORC exists. The "Peace Profound" shall be construed as the search

for and the attainment of Cosmic Consciousness, as a personal state of euphoria.

- The Studies of modern science, in all of their phases, shall be applied to the teachings of AMORC wherever they can best serve them. Such studies, however, shall never, as a whole, be given priority over the mystical concepts and basic doctrines of AMORC.
- I am aware that the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, has always encouraged the arts as a function necessary to the higher emotional nature and mystical attainment of man. Therefore, I pledge to further such cultural pursuits within the economic means of AMORC. This shall include such existing activities as that of the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, the Art Gallery, the Planetarium; also dramas, concerts, video presentations, and other activities having similar objectives.
- I do recognize that the printed word is only a tool by which the Rosicrucian student attempts to acquire an understanding of the Order's traditional precepts and the ultimate application of them. But nevertheless, that tool, the printed monographs of AMORC, shall never be issued to anyone except as an incident of his or her active membership in AMORC. They shall never be sold or loaned or in any way made available to any individual except as stated in the Constitution and official pronouncements of the Order.
- I further recognize that the legally adopted Supreme and Grand Lodge Constitutions of AMORC are the legal structure of A.M.O.R.C. They should always be accepted as the legal guide for the authority and activities of AMORC.
- I do further pledge to determine that every Rosicrucian is made aware of the existence of the Grand Lodge Constitution and is urged to acquire same. In this manner, the member's prerogatives and rights are protected by the instrument of the Constitution, as well as those of AMORC.

(Newly Elected IMPERATOR)

(Date)

(Vice-President)

(Supreme Legate)

(Supreme Secretary)

(Supreme Treasurer)