

# Rosicrucian Chronicles

Serving the Ideals of the Rosicrucian Movement

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**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AMORC/TMO AFFILIATED BODIES:**

*By Kenneth Thompson, F.R.C.*

Please remember that in a previous issue it was pointed out that Bernard and company have changed AMORC's legal status. AMORC has not legally been a fraternal organization for some time. Also, please note that this fact has been conspicuously kept from both the membership and the general public.

What does this change mean for the membership? For the Lodges, Chapters and Pronaoi the change means a great deal. There are two aspects of the change that are important to these Affiliated Bodies. The first is the question of legal authority and the second is the question of assets.

Ever since the change in AMORC's legal status the SGL/GL's have had no legal authority what so ever over the Affiliated Bodies. More importantly this means that the SGL/GL's have no authority over the Affiliated Bodies' assets.

The SGL/GL's do not have the authority either to grant Charters nor to deny or withdraw them. They can neither open Lodges (etc.) nor close them. They can neither open or close bank accounts nor buy or sell property for the use of Lodges (etc.) nor do they have the legal authority to demand "royal support". This action puts the Affiliated Bodies in a very

difficult position. For example, in the past the Bodies could depend upon the group insurance coverage from the SGL/GL. Currently the coverage is dangerously inadequate to non existent.

Also, the Affiliated Bodies may not now have the authority to exist as legal entities and may need to incorporate individually in order to secure their rights. The members and Officers need to assume the responsibility and act soon in the above matter in order to ensure the future of their Lodges (etc.). But, all prudent local groups who sincerely wish to continue to operate, must take steps as soon as possible to protect their assets and to provide for their own insurance coverage.

The SGL/GL has also "lost" their copyrights on all of the AMORC materials, including the Affiliated Body Hand Books. This means that the local group can continue operating as a fully Chartered Lodge (etc.) and that the SGL/GL's have no legal authority either to withdraw their Charters or to demand the return of the materials.

Additionally, due to the change in legal status, the SGL/GL's have no authority what so ever over any assets of any Affiliated Body. Let me stress that if the SGL/GL asks an Affiliated Body to send them their assets for any reason (including "royal support"), then the SGL/GL would be guilty of felony fraud and grand larceny. If the SGL/GL attempts to take or has

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taken a Lodges'(etc.) assets then the SGL/GL would be guilty of grand theft.

Officers please note that the SGL/GL also does not have the authority to appoint or to remove officers. Therefore, if you decline to give up your assets and the SGL/GL or anyone threatens to remove you, charges of racketeering and fraud can be filed.

All of this is easily verifiable. Please go to your public library and ask the resource librarian to help you with the non-profit charitable and fraternal organization law.

Why are these concerns being brought up now? Because our sources indicate that these individuals have already taken the assets of some Affiliated Bodies. The excuse given most often is that the funds will be used to take advantage of unrealistically high interest rates. It is a confidence game. My sources indicate that every Affiliated Body that has attempted to have

their assets returned has been refused. Some of those that have insisted have been closed and some that have declined to give up their assets, have been closed and have lost their assets anyway. Let me reiterate that when the SGL/GL changed their legal status they gave up the authority to either open or close an Affiliated Body and they gave up all legal claim over all of the Affiliated Bodies' assets. If you belong to an Affiliated Body which has been closed or whose assets have been taken, know that the SGL/GL has taken those actions and/or taken those assets under false pretenses.

Why have these individuals acted in this manner? There is nothing complex about their motives. They are only in it for the money. 1) They do not want to pay for or to be held responsible for the administrative side of a fraternal organization. 2) At the same time the SGL does want to convince the Lodges (etc.) to forward their assets before the members figure out the truth.

The example of the First Pennsylvania Lodge is particularly interesting. The F.P.L. was the oldest Lodge in the Western Hemisphere. Gary Stewart's people illegally seized the building and other property. The groups fought in court until the lawyers had emptied the Lodge's bank account. The SGL/GL then claimed that they were going to evict the G.S. people. Instead, the G.S. people sold the property, absorbed the assets and the SGL/GL stalled until the transaction was accomplished. Then, the two groups ended their law suits and signed a "non aggression" pact between them. The loyal AMORC members lost everything.

Both Gary Stewart and the SGL/GL had loudly claimed that they would battle forever to defend the Order and to expose the others' criminal activity. Neither has done so. Rather, they have protected each other and continue to put large amounts of the membership's money into their own and their lawyers' pockets.

The question is raised: These individuals whom you now criticize, are these not the ones chosen by Frater Lewis to govern the Order? The answer is an emphatic - No.

These individuals were being replaced by Frater

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The Rosicrucian Chronicles is published monthly by the following Rosicrucians:

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Open Letter to all AMORC/TMO  
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Lewis. The individuals had discovered their fate when they were given a final opportunity to do a good job and had failed. Since then, Bernard and company have engaged in a campaign of deceptions, designed to falsely discredit the Lewis'.

As we have seen, from the destruction that has occurred since Frater Lewis' transition, he had been correct not to promote these individuals. If Bernard and company had been correct in their criticisms, the only honest action for them to take would have been to resign rather than to continue to take salaries under false pretenses, as they have done.

They have not resigned, therefore, these individuals have been dealing falsely with Frater Lewis and the entire membership all of these years. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that during their entire time as members, these people have been taking their Oaths with lies upon their lips and are in every way living a lie.

The Great White Lodge and Brotherhood cannot give their support to or condone any kind of unethical endeavors or individuals. Therefore, unless and until all of the individuals in question resign or are removed, until all of the funds are returned, until all of the unethical behavior is ended and the damage repaired, the Great Fraternity will never again have any further affiliation, association or connection with AMORC.

Please, allow me to repeat, that with the change in status, the SGL/GL's have given up legal authority of any kind over the Affiliated Bodies or their assets.

Finally, please note, that our sources tell us that two more Grand Masters (England and the Netherlands) has resigned in protest to the above and the other continued nefarious behavior of Burnam, Christian, Irving, Charles and company.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Kenneth A. Thompson F.R.C.

## Reflections...

by Curt Warren, F.R.C.

Thoughts, opinions and reminiscences of a student on the Path

At the moment of the Vernal Equinox on March 20th, we celebrate our Rosicrucian New Year. This important event brings our consciousness to focus. We assess the accomplishments and the failures of the past. And, we look forward with hope and optimism to the possibilities inherent in the dawn of the New Year.

Looking back, I am saddened to see AMORC still in decline. It has been six years since the passing of Emperor Ralph Lewis; six years of failed leadership. The dues go up, the services go down, and the membership is left with fading hopes for a genuine Renaissance. With the sadness is a touch of nostalgia for the 150 or so people that once formed the heart and muscle of AMORC's administrative and production staff that have been discharged, laid off, or otherwise forced out. To those people--many that I worked closely with--I say: Remember that you really did do your very best for the Order. And your efforts will be rewarded by the Cosmic even though an ungrateful leadership honored your efforts with a discharge notice. AMORC has been diminished in both quality and potential with your dismissal.

Due to recurrent waves of administrative changes the often bordered on the chaotic, many members--like refugees--voted "with their feet" and left AMORC. My heart goes out to those members remaining since, now, they must carry an ever increasing burden both financially and in the many volunteer services that the members provide. To those members--although your path of service is now different than mine--I wish, with all respect for your efforts, a Happy New Year.

The AMORC I knew is smaller now...smaller in both size and spirit, thanks to what passes for leadership. AMORC is neither governed by democratic formulations that would ultimately base its leadership on the combined heart and will of the membership, nor is it graced with a benevolent, although autocratic, leader such as H. Spencer or Ralph Lewis provided.

I am reminded of a story (probably apocryphal) that during the battle of Waterloo, Napoleon stood watching as Wellington launched the Scots' Greys--a cavalry unit--onto the field of battle. They rode to glory...and were decimated. At the end, Napoleon remarked: " That was the finest cavalry in Europe,

and the most poorly led". With minor modifications, it might be a fitting epitaph to post on the door to the once Supreme Temple, wherein the Order celebrated the New Year under the auspices of the Emperor.

At this New Year, I also feel that the very ritual itself has been sullied by the presence of a pretender occupying the chair of the Imperatorship. Since last September, a question has remained unanswered: Christian Bernard, did you or did you not sign the Averment required of a duly elected candidate prior to your installation as Imperator? A simple yes or no will suffice.

All around the world, Rosicrucians will be gathering together to celebrate the New Year, and many of these events will be directed by a Grand Master, each a member of the Board of Directors. And none of them are worthy to cross the threshold of one of our Temples, since--by their silence as to the Averment issue--each is culpable in the perpetuation of a fraud on our traditions.

The Emperor's Averment is, in a sense, an "initiation"--a Crossing of the Threshold, if you will--in that the candidate voluntarily accepts the restrictions of our traditions while undertaking the responsibility of maintaining them. It prevents an "ego" from running roughshod over the commitment to "service"; and provides continuity. Christian Bernard was perfectly aware of the need to sign the Averment. I can only conjecture that his ego is such that he could not brook any restrictions on his freedom of action, and probably thought that no one would question him on this serious omission, if anyone bothered to notice.

There is an interesting pattern to Christian:

**Item.** His deliberate failure to sign the Averment, thereby obviating the traditions of his predecessors;

**Item.** His biography in the Rosicrucian Digest mentions he comes from a Rosicrucian family, but makes no mention that his father, Raymond Bernard, was for many years Grand Master for the French and then Supreme Legate. His father groomed him for the position of French Grand Master and handed it to him on a platter. Yet, again, his predecessor is not mentioned.

**Item.** Gary Stewart initiates Christian in the Traditional Martinist Order; and, upon taking power, Christian immediately resurrects an old member to re-initiate him thereby eliminating another predecessor's name from his Martinist pedigree.

Goodbye, Harvey and Ralph. So long, Dad. See you around, Gary. I wonder if anyone else has the feeling that this kid is trying to re-write history; to become a

legend in his own mind. He's young enough that after a decade or two, a new member into AMORC might be led to think that Christian is the Order if more of this historical surgery continues. Unfortunately, for historians, much of history is written by winners; fortunately, Christian hasn't won yet.

At the onset of this New Year--though saddened by the abysmal state of chronic ineptitude that is slowly and inexorably diminishing AMORC--I am heartened (and extremely so) by the support, both spiritually and financially, that the membership has demonstrated for the Chronicles. This is our 8th issue--monthly, not quarterly, folks!-- and our circulation is growing thanks to you who have so generously taken the time and absorbed the expense to photocopy the Chronicles to send to friends and members who were not on our mailing list. For all of us at the Chronicles: Many, many thanks! The extra stamps, the few dollars, the occasional larger donation--all taken together have made the Chronicles possible and confirm the dictum: Cosmic Law Fulfills! And, the most important asset we have is in the letters of support we have received. You--each of you--have opened a spiritual treasury for us that no amount of money can equal.

Though the administration of AMORC may view us as a mere handful of dissidents, bitter and disaffected, we are in fact the loyal opposition; loyal to the principles of the Order and opposed to petty tyrannies. No matter how many Grand Masters there are rearranging chairs on the sun decks, Christian is just another captain on a Titanic; and, the Chronicles are just the tip of the ice berg waiting out there.

Look to the far horizons, Christian Bernard. The clouds that are forming are not made of the dust of sheep being led to a financial fleecing; they are the clouds of a gathering storm of an honest membership marching to reclaim what is rightly theirs. And, what they are seeking to reclaim, Christian, is not your temporalities--not your properties, bank accounts, and grandiose but meaningless titles--but their spiritual community wherein every individual (from Neophyte to Imperator) is truly a student on the path to individual enlightenment, gathered together for the exchange of ideas, information, and real friendship. Together, we will create what always existed in potential; that is, a metaphysical empire dedicated to the common good and protective of the individual's right to manifest the Cosmic's plan within his or her own life as dictated by the concept of "God of our Heart."

*Fraters and Sorores: Happy New Year!*  
*Brothers and Sisters: Peace Profound!*

February 15, 1993

Rosicrucian Chronicles  
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Dear Fratres and Sorores,

I would like to thank you for your good work in publishing and distributing your informative newsletter. Suffering under AMORC's current "leadership", it is the only legitimate vehicle, to my knowledge, for informing the remaining membership regarding the otherwise secret actions and motives of those who have managed to acquire legal control over the organization. Indeed, who, even now, would know of Fr. George Graham's resignation as Grand Master (Spanish language) last year, much less his true motivation for that courageous act, if not for you. Having distanced myself from San Jose for the past two years, I realize all the more how little true communication takes place between AMORC's rulers and its members.

Although I read each issue of the Chronicles with interest and have been tempted to contribute in a small way to your search for understanding of AMORC's history and its future, I have not written before now because I can see no reasonable hope for AMORC's survival as an organization dedicated to the study and promulgation of the highest mystical teachings. When, after years of struggle to make AMORC adhere to its highest ideals my employment contract was terminated in January 1991 by Donna O'Neill, and then Christian Bernard and his lackeys removed me from my Supreme Board position almost unanimously in March 1991 (following a secret meeting at Burnam Schaa's home where, apparently, my future with AMORC was discussed and ended), I saw no hope for AMORC and quietly disappeared, relying on my own study and research for my spiritual progress. To try to explain the corruption, deceit, treachery, cowardice, egotism, etc. which I encountered in dealing with several of AMORC's highest officers during the last two years of my Board service would require chapters, not paragraphs. I worked under Gary Stewart, watching his brutal tyranny escalate day by day, secure in the knowledge that he had the three Board votes (his, Fr. Poole's/Peter Bindon's, and Christian Bernard's) which made him unimpeachable. I worked under Christian Bernard, knowing he had refused to stop Gary Stewart's destruction of AMORC until he was secure in his own arrangements to take over. I served at the pleasure of a Board composed largely of Grand Masters who had threatened to reject the Supreme Grand Lodge and become Imperators of their own little jurisdictions if they weren't given the Supreme Grand Lodge positions and votes which allowed them to put Christian Bernard in as Imperator. As difficult as this became at times, as long as there seemed to be any hope left I remained. I now believe that the Cosmic took mercy on me in removing me from that arena of futility.

However, the value of combining individual efforts to achieve something greater than what one can achieve alone is undeniable, and when I read Sr. Boyer's statement in the latest issue of the

Chronicles that "the communion of Rosicrucians ... is simply an exchange of ideas among equals" I was moved to make, once again, the ancient proposal that those seeking Truth join together to combine efforts and knowledge in recreating a vehicle for enlightenment, as was once in the Egypt of our oral history.

As Supreme Archivist, I had begun work to update AMORC's monograph system so that it might be as effective in the future as it was in the past. With the arrival of Antonio de Nicholas in January 1990 that project was doomed, when Stewart took RCUI and the IRC members (who were to be major contributors in this great project) from under my direction and turned them over to de Nicholas, whose ties to the Unification Church (Moonies), at least, are well documented. Then, three months later, Christian Bernard assumed control of everything, and revealed that his French jurisdiction was already distributing new and improved monographs with all the revisions taken care of for us. The only work left to the non-French was translation and distribution of the product to the consumers.

I know that AMORC has been a great force for doing much more good than evil in this world, and I'm sure that as long as the current moderately-altered monographs are being studied they will be of some benefit to those who can extract whatever value they retain. But it seems to me that we (active and inactive members) can do more, perhaps better, than waiting around to see if AMORC's teachings improve or decline (and, for that matter, whether AMORC survives in America despite the intentions and efforts of its conquerors). What I am proposing, therefore, is the initiation of a process whereby those of us still committed to Work and Worship can begin communicating, sharing ideas, coordinating research, and compiling principles, techniques, and knowledge for the benefit of our personal evolution and, hopefully, our world's evolution. If anyone reading this open letter feels a similar call, and wishes to participate in any way, I offer to serve as temporary coordinator until we can ascertain what degree of interest people still have in such work after all that we have been through. Within a few months an assessment of interest should be possible; until then this is simply an open offer with no commitment on anyone's part.

I see great possibilities in this direction; which, if any, will materialize I cannot yet say. We are going through a period of great changes in our world, with, I suspect, greater still to come. Let us visualize the future with confidence, and manifest it with courage. Peace Profound.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Warren Russeff

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SPIRITUAL HEIRS OF LIGHT

On February 20th 1990, Christian BERNARD, who had become aware of the risk he was running because of the honesty and integrity of some officers of the Grand Loge for French speaking countries, decided to exclude them from the Order without any valid reason.

Indeed, those Officers, whose dedication had never been questioned, even by the Grand Master himself, had come to understand the drastic changes in orientation of the purposes and ideals of AMORC, soon after the death of Ralph LEWIS. After trying vainly to convince Christian BERNARD and his father Raymond BERNARD of preserving the "Divine Heritage" that H.S. LEWIS had handed down, they decided to found SETI to safeguard the traditional and initiatic teachings of the Rose + Croix ( SETI = Sauvegarde des Enseignements Traditionnels et Initiatiques ).

Through reading the "Rosicrucian Chronicles" we have come to the happy conclusion today, that our brothers in the United States are reacting, in their turn, to defend the Rosicrucian Ideals. We want to congratulate those who have taken such a courageous initiative and give them our sympathy and our support.

In the same way as FUDOSI allowed our Brother H.S. LEWIS to build up the foundation of AMORC, we are convinced of the necessity for dedicated Rosicrucians to join forces to carry on the work in progress so that Truth may prevail.

*"Truth makes us free only when untruth has exhausted its power to enslave us".*

With the years going by and some thinking about it, we could almost certify that our mutual struggle against the forces of darkness impersonated by the "occupiers" in Omonville Castle, actually started on July 21st 1989 with the homage we paid to the first Emperor of AMORC during our Convention for French speaking countries.

Our brother Ken O'NEILL, who officially represented Gary STEWART and who was there with us, must have undoubtedly the best recollections of that symbolical and solemn celebration. As for Christian BERNARD, he did not even so much as attend the ceremony....

We are now utterly convinced of being the rightful spiritual heirs of the Rose+Croix on French ground.

Christian BERNARD's infamous attitude denies him any claim to any spiritual transmission, even though he can still use the material wealth of the Rosicrucian Order, together with his "business partners", but that should not last for ever.

The alteration of the original teachings of which we have indubitable proof, the unrestrained commercialising which shows through all the writings coming from the leading team, all the plans to modify the rituals, etc, all that will hasten the downfall of the Supreme Board of AMORC.

For three years, SETI has been developing a network of connections with esoteric groups and has kept in touch with many Rosicrucians from AMORC, and today we hold out our fraternal hand to our brothers on the American continent, and in particular to all the members of the Esoteric Hierarchy, whose duty is to preserve light.

The Rosicrucian network that you wish for can be established as soon as you read these words, as long as you sincerely aspire to serve the Rose+Croix and its Ideals, just as we do, with no other motivation but to remain honest and available.

For this purpose, we offer you to dispatch your "Rosicrucian Chronicles" to different groups of Rosicrucians in French speaking countries, and, as a counterpart, you could try to do the same with our "Reflets" on the American continent.

Besides, we are ready to consider any other form of collaboration to extend the influence of the Rosicrucian thought all over the world, according to the wish of our beloved H.S. LEWIS.

"Reflets", which is the expression of SETI, will welcome and publish all your articles which will be read by our numerous members. You may send them to :

SETI - BP 374 - 87010 LIMOGES CEDEX - FRANCE

Hand in hand, may we have the strength to face those who aim at destroying light, and let us work together in the service of the Rose+Croix.

For SETI, its President :

J.P. JULY



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January, 30th 1993

**ROSICRUCIAN CHRONICLES**  
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Dear Fellows Rosicrucian,

You will find here included an article that we would like you to publish in a next issue of your "Rosicrucian Chronicles".

We are at your disposal to publish your own articles in our "Reflets".

We include as well the latest issues of "Reflets" that you will get regularly from now on; on the other hand we would be delighted to get your "Rosicrucian Chronicles". (Thank you for sending us some previous issues of it).

The time has come for all the Rosicrucians to gather around the original Rose+Croix; our mutual acceptance and collaboration will be the guarantee of a future success in the development of a real rosicrucian network.

With our fraternal thoughts, let us serve together for more life, light and love.

The President

J.P. JULY

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 INFORMATION REGARDING ALL  
 AMORC/ TMO AFFILIATED BODIES**