

# Rosicrucian Chronicles

Serving the Ideals of the Rosicrucian Movement

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## Messages from Past Masters

*"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God"*  
- Thomas Jefferson

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### Part 1:

The concern that is to be discussed next, is the thoroughly fraudulent statements that continue to be issued "officially" by the those who are attempting to hold the AMORC hostage. I will begin with the example of the "Member Review Committee Report" as printed in the Winter 1992-93 Rosicrucian Digest published in February 1993.

First, allow me to share that I have been a loyal active Rosicrucian for more than 25 years, have held almost every kind office possible in the Order. In addition, I have extensive training and experience in business, financial analysis and non-profit organizations, all thoroughly documented. During that more than 25 years, I was able to closely observe and analyze what was occurring in the Order, from a time well before Mr. Lewis' transition through to the present.

I held several positions at the Park, including Affiliated Body Administrator for the English Language Jurisdiction and India, Class Master, Director of the Council of Solace, Master and

Ritual Director of the Supreme Temple, President of the Rose-Croix University, Sovereign Director of the T.M.O. and Supreme Secretary of AMORC. Because of my previous experience in financial analysis and "fraud busting", it has been painfully easy to discover the facts behind and document the true actions of those who are currently occupying the Park. Because I know that the true facts are so very different than they are being presented in the report, I personally find it exceedingly difficult even to look at the Digest and write this article without being overwhelmed with sadness and pain.

Everyone who has seen the report and has talked to me about it, has expressed the opinion that it is an obvious and outrageous insult to the membership, as well as an obvious attempt at a cover up. They also indicated that they feel the same deep pain of betrayal that I feel at this very moment as I write to you.

Allow me to strongly suggest that everyone obtain a copy of the Winter 1992-93 issue of the Rosicrucian Digest and study pages 14 and 15 for themselves. Then, we can review it together paragraph by paragraph. I do not have the time or the space here in the Chronicles to teach a course in financial analysis, non-profit corporation law or the legal obligations of directors. But, I will do my best to clarify the issues for our readers.

The first paragraph claims that "the tradition was

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restored of allowing members to review the English Grand Lodge's administrative and financial operations on an annual basis." As we shall see, this claim is a false one.

The false claims begin in that very first sentence. The "tradition" is to hold a thorough review of all of the AMORC's operations not just the EGL. A complete review of all of the AMORC beginning with the Supreme Grand Lodge and continuing with a complete review of all of the Grand Lodges' operations. Please note that they do not say "complete operations" or "complete review". These individuals persistently and pervasively use every type of word game to mislead and to try to hide their use of half truths. It is as important to pay attention to what they do not say as it is to pay attention to what they do say.

The second paragraph makes unsubstantiated claims concerning the committee selection process and is stated in such a manner as to give

the false impression of more continuity than exists.

Paragraph three sentence one, according to members of the committee and others, is misleading in the extreme, again in its use of half truths. The committee members did see some documents of the types listed. But, the set of documents was exceedingly incomplete and there were a number of highly questionable entries that they were not permitted to research. In a valid review, a committee would have been allowed to go anywhere they wanted, at any time they wanted, to see anything they wanted and to copy anything they wanted. A valid committee would insist. This committee was not allowed to do any of the above. Some of the committee attempted to insist but they were stalled and ultimately refused the opportunity to examine the requested materials. A valid committee would refuse to issue a report under these circumstances. There is evidence that the committee did not issue the report in the form that we see it here.

Also, please note that since last summer most of the remaining member employees have been fired and multiple sources have reported that the non-member "Personnel Director" George Salerno has forbidden anyone from hiring members into AMORC. There have also been a number of other changes the result of which is that the AMORC reviewed last June bears no resemblance to the current AMORC. This is gross misrepresentation.

Paragraph three sentence two, is also both false and misleading. The individuals in question do not have the training or the experience to give an "in-depth presentation" on any business or financial matter and have never done so. One of the reasons they are working so hard to silence and discredit me is that I found it so easy to expose their incompetence.

"Grand Master" Kristie Knutson and "Chief Financial Officer" John Hinton were completely unable to explain their own financial reports in our monthly SGL meetings. When asked normal questions concerning such reports, instead of answering they would bumble, bluster and change the subject. When I insisted that they explain themselves, they admitted that they

## Rosicrucian Chronicles

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did not know how the report was prepared or what the numbers meant. They then begged for time to revise and return with valid, supportable figures. Christian Bernard and company always agreed. But, they never returned with such a revision and Christian Bernard etc. increased their efforts to hide the incompetence. They never submitted one valid report to the SGL or the government.

We are still discussing paragraph three sentence two. For a group being audited to give such a self-praising, self-serving presentation of its condition can only be considered extremely suspect. Any experienced auditor would view such an occurrence as an extremely suspicious conflict-of-interest situation. Such a valid auditor would most likely take the extra effort either to re-audit the group and examine every detail with special care or to turn the project over to another auditor, one famed for their rigor and tenacity. No re-audit occurred.

Paragraph four is an excellent example of the phrase "double talk". In paragraph one they say that they are "allowing members to review the..." EGL's "...financial operations...". Then, in paragraph four sentence one, it is stated that "The purpose...is not [my underline] to provide a financial audit...". First they pretend to give you something and then they take it away. The sentence goes on to say that they have an auditing firm "to prepare accurate and rigorous financials". Implying that the use of the accounting firm, makes a committee review unnecessary. Even assuming that the "financials" are "accurate and rigorous", the committee should have been allowed to review those materials as well. The fact is that none of AMORC's administrations has provided one single accurate or "rigorous" financial document since Ralph Lewis passed through transition.

Every non-profit organization is required to engage an independent auditing firm. The last one that was engaged was Arthur Anderson and Co.. One of the most well known and prestigious accounting firms in the country. In their reports they strongly protested the removal of the normal accounting safeguards by Burnam Schaa and Irving Soderlund. Christian Bernard and Co. then fired Arthur Anderson for doing an honest job. Just as so many other honest

people who have worked for the Park, have been removed for fulfilling their responsibilities. The fact is that, an indispensable part of the "the tradition" and any valid review is an audit of the auditing firm's report. This is an exercise necessary to ascertain whether there has been any collusion between the accountants and the administration. As well as to determine whether the administration even knows how to choose a competent accountant.

Any experienced auditor would look at the "Report of the Committee" statements as extremely indicative that the administration, it's lawyers and accountants have been "cooking the books" in a vain attempt to conceal all of the conflicts of interest and self-dealing transactions. The report is given on material that is more than two years old and material that is unverified and unverifiable. All attempts at verification were blocked vigorously. If the administration is truly highly capable and competent, they would have provided fully audited materials for all of the years and would have done so a long time ago. As usual they will blame many others for the shortcomings. The fact is that the lack of complete materials proves their incompetence. The embarrassingly obvious methods that they are using to attempt to hide their lack of preparation is indicative that they are far too immature and dishonest to be in any position of responsibility.

As it is, none of the data can be checked or verified, and deliberately so. The "document" does not contain a single dollar figure and it clearly demonstrates that the current administration is violating the law in a number of ways. Beginning with the fact that they are years behind in preparing the necessary financial and other reports for the government.

The analysis of the section entitled "Findings of the Committee" will require more space than is available this month. Therefore, that portion of the discussion will be continued later and we'll skip to the last section. The first three items listed under the "Recommendations..." section are already required by law. They are not just things that might be nice to do, (like curtains with ruffles.), they are requirements of the law. Additionally, the law requires that the financial reports be available, at all times, to anyone who

asks for them, not just members.

One of the purposes of the Chronicles is to give honest, loyal Rosicrucians the information that they need to protect themselves. In that spirit, it is strongly recommended that the Committee members sue Sandra Huff, Kristie Knutson, Burnam Schaa and Robin Thompson, etc. for misrepresentation and the fraudulent use of their names. Otherwise the Committee members will very likely be held financially responsible for the AMORC's losses. The SGL/EGL is planning to use this as one method of avoiding their own prosecution.

In summary, please take particular note that this "financial report" contains no financial information at all. In its entirety this "document" is not a report at all, it is an exercise in deception and misrepresentation. It is purposely designed to conceal rather than to reveal. Otherwise it would contain financial and other data that could be checked and verified. Also, please keep it in mind that these individuals have taken great pains to avoid answering every charge that has been leveled. If we had been deceiving you, they would have filed charges against us long ago and they have not. As it is, they know that once charges are filed, all of their crimes will be revealed in open court and to the news Media. Then, it will really hit the fan.

There are a number of books on the subject in the stores and the public libraries. I strongly suggest that you arm yourselves with as much data from objective sources as possible. The data from the current AMORC is presently unreliable in the extreme, at best.

One note concerning the legal obligations of directors. Directors are required, by law, to actively seek out complete and accurate information concerning their organization's activities and to move against misconduct of any kind. A reminder to all of the directors of the SGL and the EGL, ignorance is no defense against charges of wanton and criminal negligence. Simply taking people at their word without verification is also an insufficient defence against negligence. As directors you have the fiduciary responsibility and financial losses will be recovered from your personal property.

The End

## *Reflections...*

By Curt Warren

Thoughts, opinions and reminiscences of a student on the Path

For decades AMORC's advertisements have carried the notation, "Not a religion". And, this is true for AMORC as a non-profit, philosophical fraternity. But, there was a time-- a long time-- when AMORC sponsored a sister organization called The Pristine Church of the Rose Cross.

The first Church was established in New York City, probably concurrent with the establishment of the Order there, circa 1915. The Church was active until late into the 1930's. The leadership of the Church centered on the "Rev. H. Spencer Lewis, F.R.C., Ph.D., Archbishop of The Pristine Church and Master of the Temple."

It is my belief that Emperor H. Spencer Lewis was aware that while a philosophical school, such as AMORC, has a broad appeal to a large audience, there exists within that audience a smaller group that takes the totality of the teachings, the hierarchy, and the rituals another step and applies the term "religion" to it. For many members, AMORC is a religion; or, at least, an adequate substitute that replaces what they deem as inadequacies in most traditional religions of Western Culture.

Though the Church was probably moribund shortly before his transition, it certainly was after the death of H. Spencer Lewis. But, its legacy survived within the framework of AMORC as we know it. The Appellation Rite, the Rosicrucian Wedding Ceremony, and the New Year Feast are derived from the ceremonials of the Pristine Church of the Rose Cross. These rituals, the Emperor's Averment states, "shall be perpetuated." This is one, very important reason for why I have been constantly pressing AMORC's leadership -- especially Christian Bernard -- on the issue of his duty to have signed this Averment prior to his taking of the office. The Emperor's Averment, in another part, states: "The word spiritual shall mean, in the Rosicrucian sense, a recognizing of a transcendent Universal Oneness of all Reality;

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the awareness thereof being the ultra state of consciousness of which man is capable." Compare the content of this statement by Emperor Ralph M. Lewis to that of his father in this, the first article of religion of The Pristine Church: "I know that there is but one living, true and Infinite God, creating and sustaining all things, visible and invisible; whose Essence is diffused throughout the Universe and whose Mind and Consciousness are the soul of Man." The first statement is philosophical and neutral; the second, is religious and personal. Yet, both express the same basic ideas; that is, that there is One, and every human is connected to that One. All they need to do is to open themselves to that inner reality.

Many of the older members of AMORC reading this may have been members of The Pristine Church, others may have heard of it, and for still others, this may be their first exposure to the idea that AMORC had a religious aspect. For these latter, I remind them that the Rosicrucian Movement as we know it -- circa 1604 A.D. -- was concurrent with and connected to the Protestant Reformation. Among the first manifestoes of the Order was the book Fama Fraternitatis, circa 1614/15, which describes the Order as composed of a "Father" and seven "Brothers"; in other words, of an Abbot and seven brothers. The description is of a small order of contemplatives, both mystical and religious.

In the next month's column, I shall present an outline of the Pristine Church derived from its literature, and present its seven Articles of Religion.

The End

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

## Easter - Resurrection to a New Understanding

By *Susanne N. Mohs*

*... In Christian terminology death is indeed the expression for the state of deepest spiritual wretchedness, and yet the cure is simply to die, to die to the world."*

*Soren Kirkegaard - The Sickness Unto Death*

The journey towards spiritual understanding is an ongoing atonement to the higher (inner) self. For most individuals, the spiritual journey is exemplified by a wandering in and out of different religious or spiritual establishments. It is a constant reforming and reshaping of our beliefs, it is a continuing spiral where we progress from one conception of truth to the next. We evolve by letting go of our old conceptions. In other words we die to the old concept and can then be resurrected (lifted up) to a new level of understanding. This is the drama of Easter with the crucifixion, the death and the resurrection of Christ as the allegory of the spiritual evolution.

**Don't you realize I have the power...**

When Jesus was taken before Pontius Pilate, Pilate said: "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered: "You would have no power over me, unless it were given to you from above." (John 19, 10 & 11) The power from above refers to our own higher consciousness. To conform to doctrines without question, to accept doctrines as indisputable, to blindly trust in something or someone, is to have given our power away to speak and judge for ourselves, diminishing ourselves to mere subjects in the hands of the will of others.

**Fundamentalism or the Search for Truth**

As mysticism shows us, there are many paths to the truth and many truths. To believe in one doctrine, such as AMORC's, shows that the search has ended. Once the search is over, there is no journey - only validation of our adopted beliefs.

Spiritual and personal growth is an action of expansion and renewal. When we exclude ourselves from outer influences, we seek to protect our present beliefs against those we see as threats, who's intent may be to bring new ideas. We ridicule and feel superior over other paths and believers to maintain our unshaken belief in our doctrines. They mean so much to us, because we have given them dominion over ourselves. In other words, we have become fundamentalists.

I believe that this is the current path of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, which is not sparked by renewal. The leadership have withdrawn into rigid fundamentalist attitudes and are as far from the Rosicrucian ideas as christianity is from christian mysticism. AMORC'S Officers are holding the order in a spiritual dungeon -- forcing AMORC into dogma. By not giving all Rosicrucians a choice of AMORC'S direction, and by maintaining supremacy over all AMORC properties, funds, artifacts and teachings (that the leadership regards as their own to with as they please), they will pillage and destroy until everything is gone.

When an organization retreats into the past, it is doomed. No organization can flourish under such circumstances. The key element of the mystical and alchemical processes, is transformation, not petrification.

### A Hollow Icon

Kristie Knutson states in her most resent donation plea of March 1, 1993: "With your gift...you will guarantee that AMORC continues to offer the world the priceless gift of ideas -- ideas which broaden minds, which focus talents, and which set humanity free from the limits of intolerance, ignorance, superstition and fear." This is indeed the noble purpose of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, but in the hands of the current Rosicrucian leadership it has been turned into a hollow icon. This icon is a fusion between their rigid fundamentalism and the gift of ideas, which broaden minds, set us free from intolerance, ignorance and fear.

They use Rosicrucian allegories so that we'll believe Rosicrucianism still exists in the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC. If we still have our

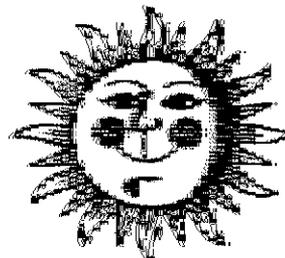
power, we will not be deceived and can say as Soren Kirkegaard did "...it would indeed be blasphemous to praise the ideal and not strive after it oneself..."

### Trust

The former Dutch Grandmaster, Beusekamp-Fabret spoke to me after the removal of English Grandmaster, Donna O'neill in March 1991. She urged me to have complete trust in the leadership of AMORC and trust that they are doing the best for AMORC. A few month ago Grandmaster Buesekamp-Fabret left her position. I never gave the leadership my trust, trust must be earned! There is something wrong with an organization that does not strive to earn trust, but demands trust from its membership. A fine example of this hypocrisy is the financial statement in the Winter issue 1992/93 of the Rosicrucian Digest, which is examined in Kenneth Thompson's article (pages 1-4 in this issue). It is easy and comforting to believe that all is well in the beloved Order, to believe the excuses for economical, organizational, and spiritual discrepancies. But it is hard to question and even harder to face the truth.

Easter symbolizes the death of old concepts and a birth of a new ideas. We are fastened to the cross with the nails of our own misconceptions. When we refuse to expand our minds and give up old ideas, our spirit suffers. We hope some doctrine will come and pull us down, but we hang there until we face our misconceptions, until we stop seeking outside ourselves. Once we turn inward, we die to the world (our old concepts) and we plunge in darkness until we realize that the truth was always within. When that happens, we are resurrected to a new level of spiritual understanding.

With these thoughts I wish you all a glorious Easter.



Throughout history, cultured civilizations have instructed their members through the use of signs and symbols from which they derive an interpretation of the meaning of life. The higher the regard for a symbol, the more profound its effect upon the evolution of human consciousness and manifestation of social structure. One such symbol of power is that of the bird.

Most birds, by their very nature, can fly into the air and rise above everything. Therefore, such birds as the eagle, the skylark and even the tiny hummingbird have become symbols of freedom, perceived as images of spirit and revered as manifestations of a Supreme Being. To adherents of biblical tradition, the dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit and becomes the image of enlightenment and peace, representing an ancient covenant between God and Man as depicted in the story of Genesis. A flaming dove symbolizes the fiery power of the Cosmic which descends from highest realms to invite the soul-personality into its Ommeity. It is this Bird of Fire which speaks to the heart and soul of every sincere Rosticrucian. This flaming dove is our beloved Colombe.

For the purpose of concentrating upon the image of Colombe in the mirror of Self, and recognizing essential truth pertinent to serious concerns of today, it is well to venture upon an allegorical journey.....

Having been born and reared in a large family, you evolved from infancy to adulthood within the bonds of love and learning. You were taught to harmonize with all things as you grew from one stage of life into another, and you were comfortable in the old homestead with its familiar furnishings, sounds and aromas. You knew your way around with your eyes closed, and could maneuver the labyrinthine estate with ease. Your needs were always met with abundance, and when you returned at night, the lights were always on for you. There was joy and peace, and deep contentment in your family.

As an adult you ventured out into the world and traveled far to see new places and learn new things. Using your talents, you found suitable employment and produced many wonderful things for all to share. Drawing from the familial bond from which you grew, your self-confidence led you to even greater adventures into unknown opportunities for advancement and enrichment of life. The love of your family was a light to your path, and you knew no fear. But you yearned to return home and savor once more that kinship which had always warmed your heart. You decided to make the journey back to the old homestead.

It was evening as you approached the home of your youth. The yard and pathway still looked much as it did when you left, but you sensed a strangeness in the air. All was dark and no one seemed to be around to welcome you. Your key fit the door and you opened it slowly, stepping into the darkness. As the latch clicked shut behind you, you groped for a light, but the lamps were not where they once were. You stumbled over objects which blocked the passages you had known, and a feeling of cold and loneliness swept over you. What happened to your home? Where did

your family go, and why was there no warmth? Cherished memories of a happier time flooded your mind with sad longing, and you stumbled again, falling into a musty closet. Huddled there on the cold floor in the darkness, you groped again for a lamp. Finding none, you explored unseen paneling and pulled open a drawer which contained a small candle and some matches. Upon lighting the wick, you winced in pain as the tiny flame momentarily blinded you. Rising to full stature, you walked out into the large family room and turned on the house lights. It was quite clear that the old family members had gone and others unknown to you had moved in. The house was remodeled and redecorated. Nothing you had known was left. With the knowledge of love and guidance you were once given, you took the small candle and walked out into the night toward a New Dawn.

Certainly this allegory evokes myriad images in the minds of many readers. It portrays a life experience and also symbolizes the changes which have taken place within the parameters of AMORC, especially at what was once (and still could be) the Worldwide See of the Order. However, the lesson of this story reaches far beyond the mundane. Our allegorical candle is, of course, the Colombe bearing light to the sacred Shekinah of human consciousness. Just as the presence of a ritualistic Colombe is essential to Rosticrucian Temple Work, so too, is the esoteric dove, the Bird of Fire vital to the unfolding of each individual mystic rose upon the cross of this earthly plane.

As we ponder the ever-changing face of the institution of AMORC, we must work positively for the protection and preservation of pristine teachings and sacred initiatic tradition handed down from time immemorial through the legacy of Harvey Spencer Lewis and all who have labored in loving fraternity toward the attainment of the Greater Light.

Change is a great universal law. All things change, and just as our allegory shows, there is no such thing as going home if indeed home means "the good old days" because nothing stays as it was either exoterically or esoterically. We have the freedom to increase our knowledge and understanding, to move about and effect new circumstances that evolve into new manifestations of growth, all the while retaining the silver cord of arcane knowledge which feeds intuition and mental discernment for right action. We must ever seek the Light from the Colombe Within, the Bird of Fire if we are to evolve on the Path. I encourage all who are disheartened by recent turn of events within AMORC to light that inner candle, allow the Flame to burn ever more brightly as our Torch is courageously carried forward to new horizons, and to lend support to the restoration of our fraternal bond.

We cannot go home to the "good old days" and therefore, must not waste time and energy lamenting the loss of what might have been. Let us be a Flame of Light, Life, and Love to one another so that, in turn, we may stand as a symbol of Truth for the illumination of the world.  
SO MOTIE IT BE.