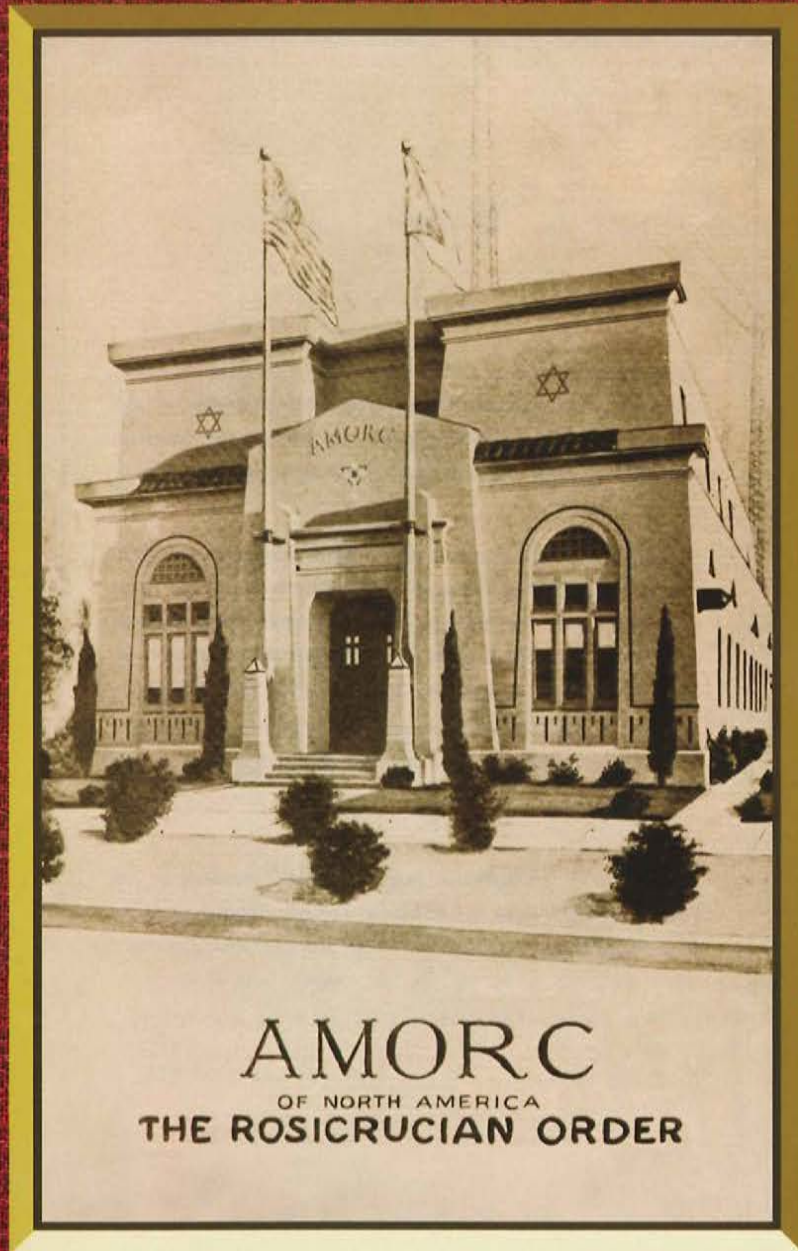


# Rosicrucian Digest<sup>®</sup>

Volume 80 • Number 2 • 2002

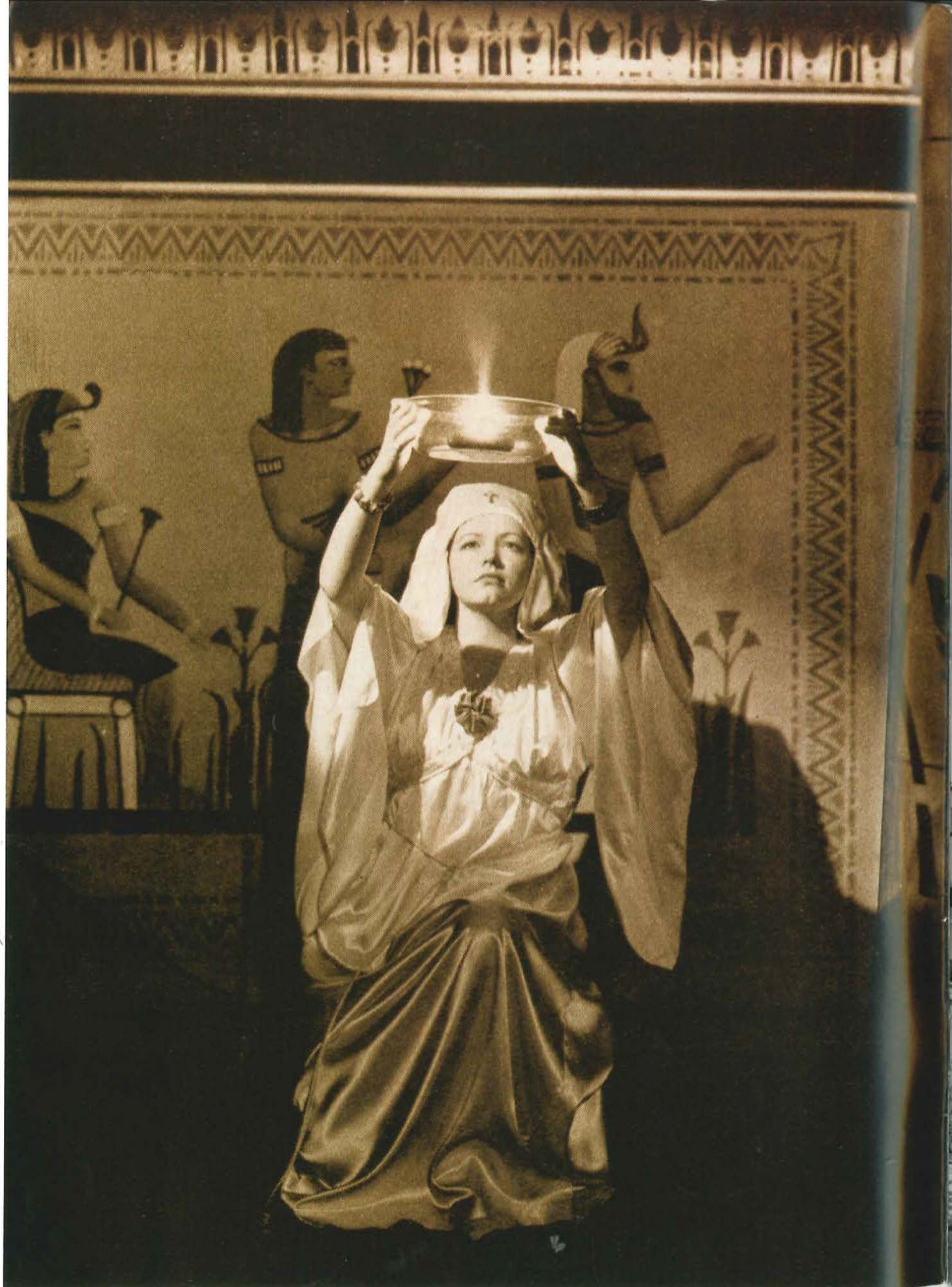


## *Rosicrucian Park*

*Its History  
& Future*

*Part One of a  
Two-Part Series*

*75th Anniversary Commemorative Issue*



# Rosicrucian Park History

December 1927  
to the Present:

Part One

by David Cherveney, F.R.C.

*The Grand Temple, originally dedicated as the  
Supreme Temple in 1949.*

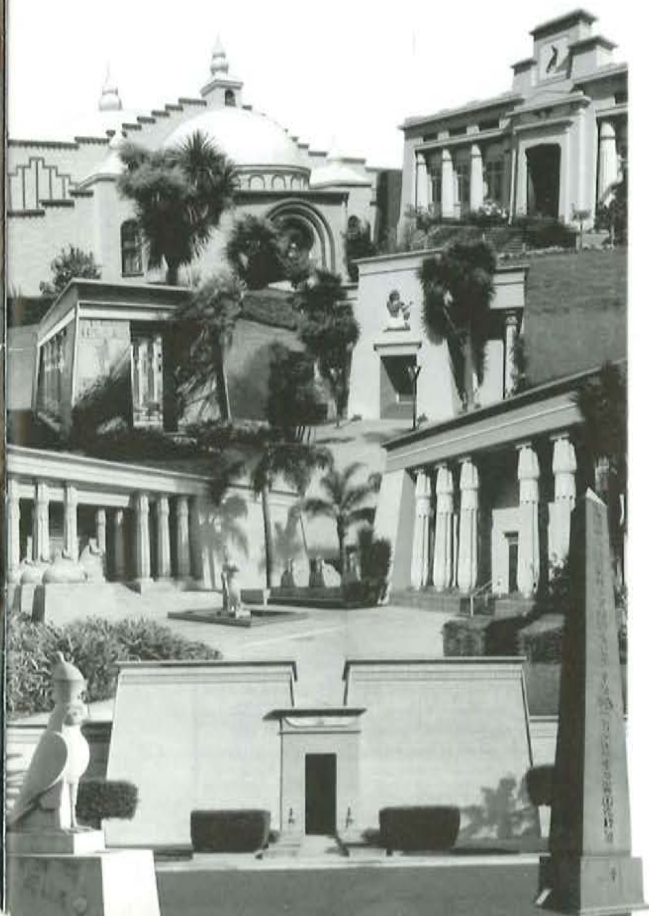


**T**HIS YEAR Rosicrucian Park marks its seventy-fifth year as the focus of Rosicrucian activity in North America and the world. The word *focus* is a most apt description since in the households of ancient Rome, the hearth (*focus* in Latin) was the center of the home. Sacred to the Goddess Vesta whose virtues defined the sanctity, purity, and harmony of the ideal Roman family, the hearth provided warmth and light, and it was the place where nourishment was prepared. In so many ways, Rosicrucian Park has served the Rosicrucian Order and the San Jose community in these very capacities.

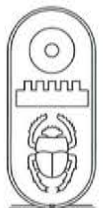
Rosicrucian Park's Supreme Temple', dedicated on July 17, 1949, was made possible by the generous donations of Rosicrucians from all walks of life. From that moment, it has embodied the very soul of Rosicrucian Work and Worship. It was a dream of Dr. H. Spencer Lewis to erect a temple that could accommodate all those who might wish to attend Convocations and participate in all aspects of Rosicrucian spiritual life. Construction began when the material shortages and rationing following World War II came to an end. Today it is home to the ritual life of the English and Spanish Grand Lodges. Devoted Rosicrucians flock from around the world to visit this magnificent temple and, if possible, take their initiations within this vibrant sacred space.

The Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, dedicated on November 26, 1966, is a living center of instruction and inspiration for Rosicrucian students, school children on tours, and perennial students of all walks of life. Special exhibits, tours, lectures, workshops, and salons provide a kaleidoscopic exposure to humanity's cultural and ethical development.

Since 1939, the Rosicrucian Research Library has served the research needs of those who hunger for greater understanding of the arts, sciences, philosophy, and more arcane subjects. Here is found an amazing repository of resource material ranging from rare, beautifully bound first editions to scrolls and videos, or perhaps a recent download from the Internet. Research Librarian Soror Myra Marsh gladly and quickly locates specific articles and reference works to assist your research needs.



*Rosicrucian Park, a kaleidoscopic cultural experience. Beginning at the top right and proceeding clockwise, we see the RCUI Building, Rosicrucian Research Library, Grand Temple, Obelisk, AMORC Administration Building, Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, Akhnaton Shrine, and the Planetarium.*



*The Arts are essential at Rosicrucian Park.*



*The Camperdown tree, a gift from the Hermes Lodge, embodies the serenity of an Oriental brush painting. It shades the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum's north wall.*

*Sculpture "Coming and Going" gazes across the placid center of Rosicrucian Park in the 1940s.*



*Soror Diana Bovee Salyer's "Mural of Initiation" in the Grand Temple, one of many authentic Egyptian murals created by Soror Salyer for the Temple's interior.*

*One of Winterholder's sphinxes.*



**ROSICRUCIAN DIGEST**—Official Magazine of the Worldwide Rosicrucian Order

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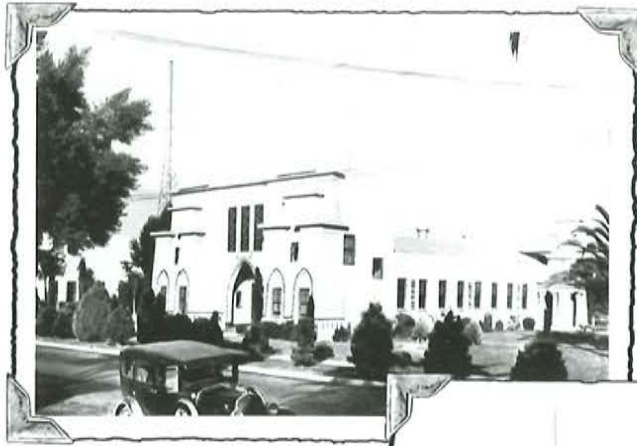
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Rosicrucian  
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No. 2  
2002

## Souvenirs of the Park's Early Years



*Francis Bacon Auditorium, 1930s.*



*Looking down Naglee Avenue, c. 1939.*



*The original Rosicrucian Egyptian and Oriental Museum, 1930s.*

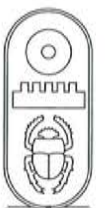
Dedicated in 1970, the AMORC Administration Building houses the offices of our Venerable Grand Master, Soror Julie Scott, officers of the Supreme Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge, and the staff for the Membership, Instruction, and Publications Departments. It is here that teamwork, a spirited determination to apply positive models, and new applications of technology are propelling the Order into the 21st century.

The beautiful grounds of Rosicrucian Park provide an oasis of serenity in the midst of the frantic bustle of Silicon Valley. In its early days of pioneer settlement the Santa Clara Valley was known as "The Valley of Heart's Delight," and perhaps a portion of that magical place is preserved here for the pilgrim in need of the spiritual refreshment that beautiful surroundings can provide.

There are other resources at Rosicrucian Park that are absolutely vital and at times all too invisible. These are the volunteers and the donors. Stand in the middle of the Park and look about you. If it were not for the service and support of legions of these unselfish benefactors from 1927 to the present, a very

different, subdivided, scene might greet your eyes. The very earth beneath your feet, the statuary, much of the landscaping, and the striking architecture are all, to some degree, the result of generous acts of service, donations, and bequests.

The artistry and craftsmanship of Rosicrucian members greet the eye wherever you turn your gaze in the Park. The stately sphinxes and the evocative sculpture "Coming and Going" by Frater Erwin Winterholder, Swiss artist and Rosicrucian, occupy special niches in the imagination of all those who have viewed these works of art. In designing the stunning murals for the Grand Temple, Soror Diana Bovee Salyer, a former Los Angeles County Museum staff artist, fulfilled a unique volunteer opportunity. When construction of the temple interior was finished, the mural designs were scaled to the dimensions of the temple's interior walls, the outlines applied, and many talented Rosicrucian volunteers participated directly in the coloration and decoration of this sacred place. What began in 1927 continues to evolve and attract the attention, energy, and efforts of those devoted to Rosicrucian principles.



# Let us get acquainted

We are your neighbors here in San Jose,  
We are known all over the World--but--

## Do YOU know the Rosicrucians?

Hundreds of prominent men and women visit us yearly from all parts of the World, and reside here in San Jose for days. Hundreds of local residents visit our Oriental Museum and Egyptian Building monthly. We have made San Jose known to millions throughout the World—but there may be a few in this district who do not know us. What would YOU say to a stranger who asked you about us? Would your Civic Pride let you admit that you knew less about us than a man living in Europe?



Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, F.R.C.  
National Head of the Rosicrucians  
A Resident of San Jose  
and World Traveler and Lecturer

### Here are some very interesting facts YOU should know

#### What the Rosicrucians are—and are not.

The Rosicrucians and the Rosicrucian Brotherhood, constitute a fraternal organization of very old and honored history. The organization is NOT a Church nor a religious or sectarian organization.

In fact, the Rosicrucian Brotherhood is no more of a religious organization than the Freemasons, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, and many other similar bodies. It is older than some of these, more universally organized in one body, and has different purposes, but its membership is open to women as well as men, and to persons of all races, all tongues, and all religions throughout the whole civilized world.

It is a brotherhood devoted exclusively to the dissemination of knowledge that will enable men and women to live more abundantly, more successfully, more happily, and more peacefully. Its archives have been the repository of the most marvelous knowledge of all ages, and this knowledge, secretly preserved, is freely given to its members, for home study.

The emblem of the Brotherhood is the cross with a red rose in its center. This is not a religious emblem. The cross is older than Christianity, and the rose is an ancient symbol of self-illumination.

#### Famous in Early American History.

The Rosicrucians first came to America, at Philadelphia, before that city had a name, in 1694. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson became officers of the organization after it had participated in the establishment of many of America's famous institutions. The Brotherhood has a glorious record in connection with the foundation of this Republic, as will be found in the Congressional Library.

The Brotherhood first came to the Pacific Coast, near Carmel, early in the seventeenth century. Its first plots of ground finally came into possession of our Headquarters here in San Jose. A later foundation was in this valley. That is why we have made San Jose the site of the headquarters for the whole of North America.

The organization had its traditional foundation in the Orient long before the Christian era, and during the life of Christ was well organized, and since then has been operative in every civilized land. Thousands of historical books refer to its great work in behalf of civilization, and the world's most eminent characters have been members.

Freemasonry and other organizations have degrees in their work named in honor of the original Rosicrucians.

#### What the Rosicrucians freely offer to others.

The Rosicrucian Brotherhood offers to men and women an opportunity to become better acquainted with the higher faculties that remain dormant in each one of us until awakened and trained to perform the most miraculous achievements.

The organization offers a vast storehouse of practical and fascinating knowledge relating to our human possibilities—our ability to mentally create our environment as we wish it, to transmute the obstacles in life to stepping stones toward success, perfect health, and happiness. It reveals in simple and indisputable manner the truth of the power of inner-self to accomplish in life what the outer-self cannot hope to do.

For centuries the organization has been known to possess the most astounding facts of life. Such men as Lord Bolinger Lytton, Sir Francis Bacon, Leonardo da Vinci and thousands of like mind have said that a halo of glory surrounds the achievements of the organization in behalf of its members.

Practically every teacher and lecturer on the subjects of New Thought, Mental Science, Psychic Science, Cosmic Power, Abundant Living, and Modern Applied Psychology, has derived his knowledge from the Rosicrucian principles, for this organization is the originator and master school of such teachings.

#### Free Oriental Museum and Egyptian Temple.

Two reasons bring thousands of men and women to the Rosicrucian headquarters on Naglee Avenue each year. These reasons may surprise you. First, there is the only Oriental Museum in this city, which contains relics and rare articles from Egypt and other Oriental lands of a highly instructive nature. Even groups of art students and members of the San Jose Women's Club and others in this valley come here to admire the exhibits.

Secondly, they come to visit the finest Egyptian Temple anywhere in the West, and to see the magnificent gold work, carvings, paintings, and tapestries, while admiring in what many thinking out of the recesses in the architecture.

Museum and Temple are open to the public, with no admission fees, daily except Sunday, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., and on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Come and enjoy the lecture by our Hostess while you are escorted through all the buildings.

#### We Can Help YOU.

No matter what your problems in life may be, the Rosicrucians can help you with their practical knowledge and long experience. Whether your plans are frustrated by unknown obstacles, or whether you have dreams and hopes that you cannot bring into full realization, the Rosicrucians can point out to you the way to success and happiness, with their fascinating home reading.

Lectures come to this city and charge you large fees for class instruction in the very work that this organization is doing for hundreds of thousands throughout the world. You are closer to the largest and most successful workers of this kind in the world. Why not become acquainted with what is so close to you, and far more economical.

Our building on Naglee Avenue are the foremost executive offices for over three hundred branches in the United States, Canada and Mexico. We are known to thousands of people in every part of this country and to millions throughout the world.

Thus your radio every Wednesday evening to KHX at Hollywood at 7:30 and hear our unusual program. There is a surprising feature in it.

#### Our printing plant is largest in the Valley.

As a purely commercial printing plant, doing all the printing of our organization and for other firms while doing work like the best craftsmen produce, we have the largest plant of its kind between San Francisco and Los Angeles, located on West Julian Street near the paper warehouses. An editorial and business office is maintained in the First National Bank building.

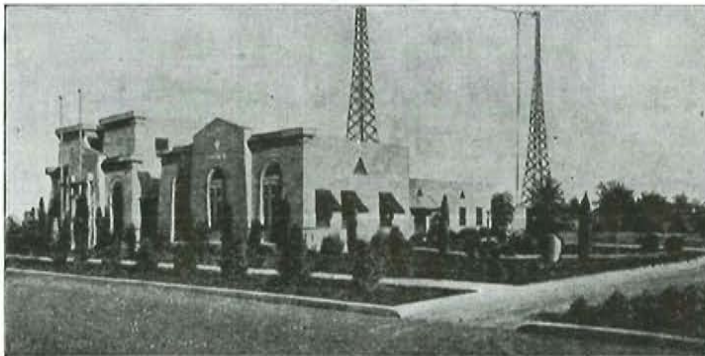
Here tons of printing are released each month. Our organization has the largest output, and possessing mail of any firm or institution in the valley. From \$5.00 to \$10.00 pieces of mail leave our headquarters monthly for all parts of the world, advertising San Jose, as well as carrying our help and practical assistance, to every large city of the world.

Our administration offices on Naglee Avenue and our printing plant, the Rosicrucian Press, on Julian Street, give employment to a large number of persons, and our officers and directors occupy many homes in this city. We also have hundreds of members in San Jose who occupy very important positions in all lines of activity. We are an integral part of the community life of this city, as well as representing many thousands throughout the whole of North America.

#### FREE SOUVENIR BOOK

If you cannot call during the day, or on Monday or Wednesday evening, and see our Museum and Temple and receive interesting pieces of Rosicrucian literature, free, why not mail the coupon below? An instructive, fascinating book will be gladly sent to you, without any obligation, by mail.

Remember this is the International Rosicrucian Brotherhood. All of the branches in the world are known as AMORC, the Rosicrucian Brotherhood. Our office here in San Jose are the International Headquarters for North America—not simply a local branch. Come and see the work being done here that is going to all parts of the world. You will be fascinated and surprised, we are sure. Know what is going on in your city. Your Civic Pride should tempt you to call. There are no obligations and you will be cordially entertained.



A View of the Oriental Museum, Egyptian Temple and other Administration Buildings of the Rosicrucian Headquarters on Naglee Ave., near Park Ave.

If you cannot call to see us



MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY and receive a Souvenir Book or Telephone Ballard (8295 6296)

#### Gift Book Coupon

Librarian G. B. C., Rosicrucian Library, San Jose, California.

Sir:—

I am anxious to know more about the Rosicrucians, therefore please send me, without obligation, a free Souvenir Book. (Print your name and address)

Name .....

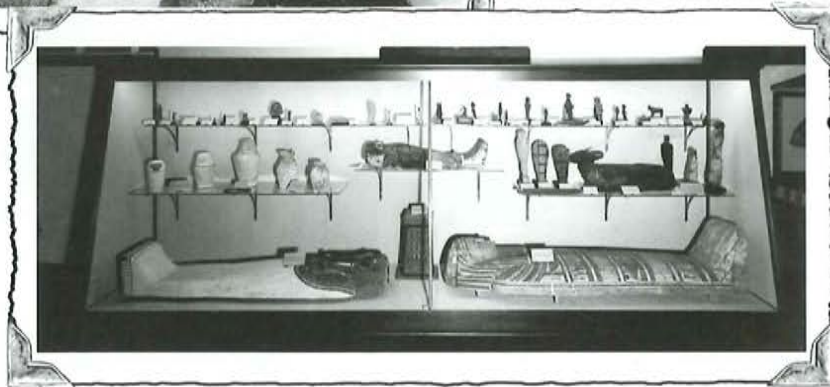
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*Moorish entrance to the original Museum (left); Sekhmet statuette, RC 1 (right), the first artifact in the collection; and (below) a portion of the early collection.*



RC 1



## Building AMORC The Park Evolves

In its infancy, the Park consisted of a single lot that Dr. Lewis had no compunction about designating "Rosicrucian Park." According to the anecdotes of Frater Harvey Miles, Grand Secretary at the time, when Dr. Lewis was asked how he could call a single lot a "Park" he would reply, "Because that is the way I see it will be in the future." It was indeed amazing that the portion of the block acquired by the Order for accommodating both the original AMORC Administration Building and Supreme Temple was owned free and clear by the end of 1929! October of that year saw the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression.

It is humbling to contemplate what was accomplished at Rosicrucian Park in the depths of such devastating economic hardship. Consider the following: As more of the city block was purchased, Francis Bacon Auditorium (the largest in San Jose for many years) was dedicated in 1931, followed by the original Rosicrucian Egyptian and Oriental Museum in 1932, the Rose-Croix University in 1934, the Planetarium in 1936, the Rose-Croix Research

Institute and Clinic in 1938, and the Research Library in 1939. Great public projects had been undertaken at that time under the aegis of the Federal Government, but for a relatively small organization such as AMORC to erect several monumental structures was just short of miraculous.

The opportunity to contribute to the works at the Park and to have one's contribution acknowledged, no matter how modest, gave members a sense of partnership not only in the construction of new buildings, but a sense of participation in the Great Work. The Order's charitable organization at that time, the Kepher-Ra Club, assisted local families in need, thus forging a link with the community that would take on many other forms. The AMORC Sunshine Circle's outreach included part of the Navajo Nation that was then ineligible for government assistance, and AMORC's efforts enabled Navajo children to attend school.

Imagine for a moment that you are living in San Jose in the mid-1930s and raising a family. Life's necessities are hard to come by and luxuries non-existent. Yet, perhaps within walking distance, there is a free museum, planetarium, and an auditorium where interesting lectures and musical or dramatic









*Dr. H. Spencer Lewis in a rare moment of repose . . .*

offerings are regular events. These programs will enrich the memories and imaginations of your children for a lifetime. The setting for these cultural events is a park where you can escape for a while from the hardships of the mundane world and perhaps find a peace of mind that helps you to continue on. The value of such a community center is inestimable.

“From the beginning of Dr. Lewis’ work under the auspices of the Rose Cross, Egypt loomed large, for many reasons. At the Order’s first headquarters in New York City in 1915, he used Egyptian motifs and designs in the interiors and began to collect artifacts from “the Orient,” through the generosity of members. These were used appropriately throughout the buildings and this continued to be the case as the Order’s Headquarters moved from New York City to San Francisco in 1919. In 1921, the Emperor was contacted by the Egypt Exploration Society of Boston, soliciting support for the Society’s work, and especially their expeditions to Tell el-Amarna, site of Pharaoh Akhenaton’s sacred city. Dr. Lewis enthusiastically supported their work on behalf of the Order’s members, and as a result garnered a significant portion of the Society’s support for the project.

“In gratitude, the Egypt Exploration Society donated several artifacts from their finds, and these artifacts became the nucleus of the Order’s collection. Dr. Lewis gratefully created display cases, both in his residence and outside his office in the Order’s

*Dr. Lewis, Dr. Clement LeBrun, and Soror Emily Lanini entrust fifteen vital Rosicrucian principles to the keeping of the Sphinx.*

San Francisco headquarters to display these treasures, and judiciously and eagerly began to add to this incipient



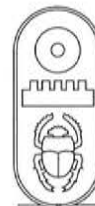
*. . . and out in nature at the easel.*



*Dr. Lewis and Buddy.*

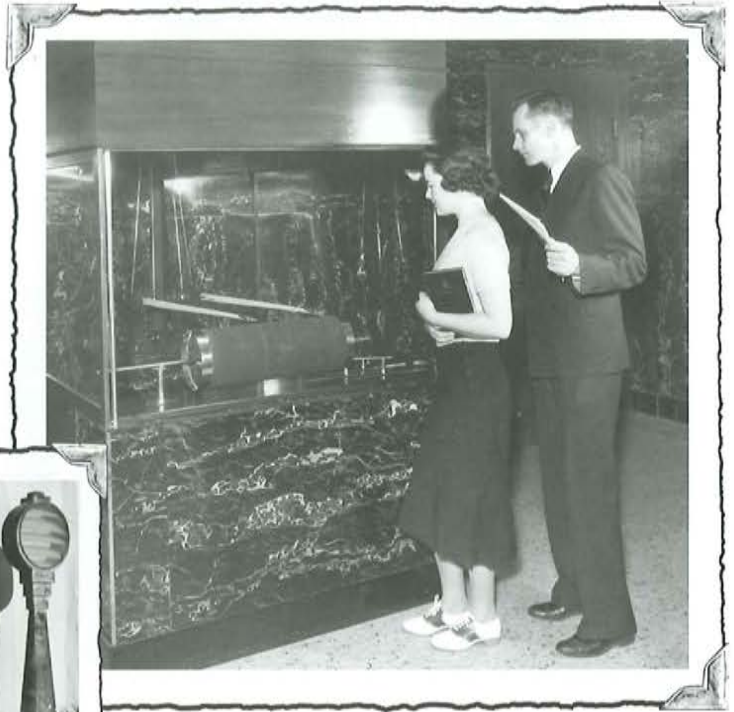
Egyptian collection through his own purchases and the donations from members and friends.”<sup>2</sup>

Grand Master Julie Scott loves to recount the fact that for several years Dr. Lewis had a small image of the goddess Sekhmet on his desk, at that time the only artifact in the “collection.” When asked by visitors what it was, the Emperor would reply, “This is the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum!” This tiny 5.5-inch (13.9-cm) artifact now proudly bears the catalog number RC 1, the first artifact in the largest Egyptian collection in the Western United States.



*A Rosicrucian  
passion for science*

The seismograph (right) in the Planetarium's Science Museum recorded California's frequent earthquakes, and (below) star-struck youngsters eagerly anticipate the Planetarium's next "Theatre of the Sky" show, early 1950s.



Serviceman and his companion view Science Museum's Foucault Pendulum, 1940s (above), and (left) Frater Erwin Watermeyer's RCU Physics class, 1940s.



*Speak into the Microphone! In the 1930s Dr. Lewis broadcasted directly from his office over AMORC's radio station. Note microphone on desk.*

## Rosicrucian Park on the Air

In its earliest days, Rosicrucian Park boasted two thirty-meter radio towers. The AMORC station call letters were 6KZ and broadcasting began on February 15, 1928. Emperor H. Spencer Lewis, who was an innovator in this burgeoning field of communication, presented regularly scheduled broadcasts, including programs of live musical performances. In the early 1930s young radio aficionados who had nowhere to meet and discuss the exciting new technology found a haven at the studio in Rosicrucian Park's Administration Building. Rosicrucian programming was also aired on the very powerful Los Angeles station KNX. This station caught the attention of future members throughout California, the Southwest, and the Pacific Northwest. When Dr. Lewis' son, Ralph, was elected to succeed him, he continued to keep Rosicrucian and community programming on the air. Even after the removal of the station and towers at the Park, San Jose radio station KEEN broadcast local talent contests from Rosicrucian Park's Francis Bacon Auditorium. AMORC's policy of using available technology to advantage has continued throughout the history of the Park.

## The Spirit of the Park

There has been a nearly tangible force of spirit at work in Rosicrucian Park from its very beginning. In an address entitled "H. Spencer Lewis, the Man," delivered to those attending the 1957 Rosicrucian

Rally at Saint Pancras Town Hall in London, England, Frater Peter Falcone brought images of Rosicrucian Park's early days to life with touching, intimate recollections. The events recounted are a vivid portrayal of the late Emperor's passion for members who would drop by after work several times a week to assist Dr. Lewis in assembling what would become the U.S.A.'s first American-built planetarium equipment, to be housed in Rosicrucian Park's new planetarium.

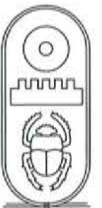
As related by Frater Falcone, the evening would soon continue into the wee hours of the morning, with no sense of fatigue felt by any of the participants.

Another mid-1930s reminiscence tells of Dr. Lewis announcing to his companions that they would comprise an orchestra to entertain the

membership at an upcoming Rosicrucian convention. It did not deter Dr. Lewis in the least that he was the only accomplished musician among the lot. To aid Frater Falcone in playing the bass violin (an instrument Frater Falcone knew nothing about!), Dr. Lewis reduced notation and fingering to their mathematical essences and proceeded to make numbered chalk marks on the bass' fret board indicating which of his fingers the numbers represented. There were only three rehearsals before the performance at the opening of that year's Rosicrucian Convention, and yet through Dr. Lewis' genius, the limited program was well performed and the music warmly received.

The spirit that continued in the Park after the transition of Dr. Lewis was embodied in the accomplishments of his son, Emperor Ralph M. Lewis. Rose-Croix University and the Research Library reached new levels of eminence and excellence. The ensuing paragraphs illustrate the evolution of the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum into a world-class institution during Ralph M. Lewis' tenure.

"It took decades, but Ralph Lewis' continuation of his father's dream was finally realized in November, 1966, as the doors opened to the largest display of Egyptian artifacts in the Western United States, and the only such museum on the planet architecturally designed in the Egyptian revival style, and situated in an Egyptian-style park. Even the moving of the artifacts was personally and lovingly supervised by the





*Dr. Lewis on "Reaching the Roof": "I allowed my mentally-created structure to tower into the skies to enormous heights . . ." symbolized by Rosicrucian Park's Obelisk (above) in the process of being placed into position, 1937. (Upper right) AMORC officers Cecil A. Poole and Ralph M. Lewis confer near the official entrance to Rosicrucian Park—the Park Portal—under construction, mid-1930s.*



*(Above) Emperor Ralph M. Lewis turned the first shovelful of soil at the Grand Temple's groundbreaking on August 20, 1948, while other officers of the Supreme and Grand Lodges witnessed the event; and (left) the new Temple under construction, late 1948.*

Imperator, as related by former Museum Tour Guide, Frater Juan Pérez, who assisted in the move.”<sup>3</sup>

## “Reaching the Roof”

In a 1930s *Rosicrucian Digest* article entitled “Reaching the Roof,” Dr. Lewis declared his views on success and achievement. There was no miniature scale dimension to Dr. Lewis’ plan for the Rosicrucian Order or for Rosicrucian Park. The article’s opening paragraphs explain the derivation of the title: “Not long ago a contractor started to build a home in the suburbs of this city, and I was interested in watching the care with which he constructed the foundation. It appeared to me that a very fine and attractive home was to be built on the concrete walls, which he planned and constructed so carefully.

“Shortly thereafter I met the contractor at a luncheon and asked him how his new house was progressing, and was astonished to hear him say that he was just completing the roof. ‘Why,’ said I, ‘you have reached the roof very quickly.’

“Yes,’ replied the contractor, ‘you know when some persons build, they plan a roof that is very close to the ground and it does not take much time or much effort to build up from the foundation to the roof.’”<sup>4</sup>

If you’ve already guessed that Dr. Lewis was among those whose roofs are never near the ground but soar far above the ground, let his words—again from “Reaching the Roof”—confirm your supposition. “I allowed my mentally-created structure to tower into the skies to enormous heights and I raised the roof of the structure so high that from where I stood in the picture I could not see where it was nor what it looked like. In fact, I never felt sure that there was a roof upon this mental structure or that a roof was even necessary, for it seemed to me that the only thing to consider was the making of the foundation so strong and the walls so supported, that story after story could be added to the building in its rising heights without limit and without fear of collapse or weakness.”<sup>5</sup>

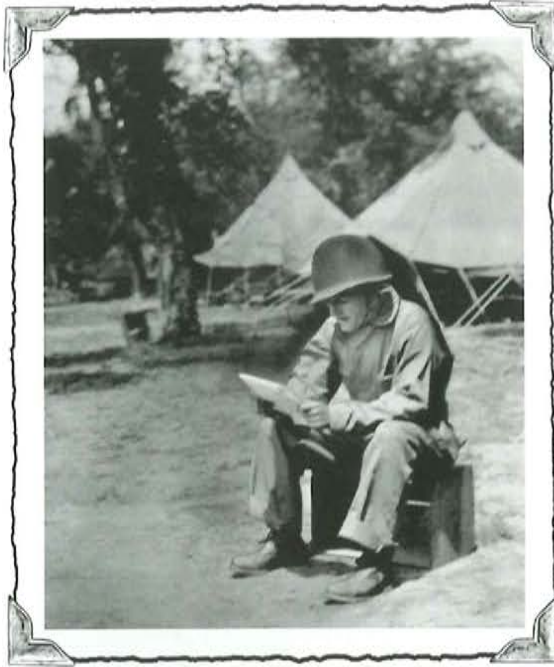
This unlimited visionary approach has been the driving and sustaining force animating Rosicrucian Park for the last seventy-five years. The principle of visualizing and still keeping oneself open to the inspirational touch of the hand of the Cosmic is in fact an exercise in humility. It could be expressed as cultivating the patience necessary to avoid reaching our roof too soon.

Good painting instructors advise the novice to resolve details slowly and patiently, thus allowing intuition and inspiration to play their part in the creative process. Dr. Lewis’ oil paintings and



(Above) Dr. Lewis, an accomplished musician, playing his cello, and (right) the Rosicrucian Orchestra of the 1930s and 1940s was a wonderful example of the Rosicrucian passion for the arts.





*A soldier keeping up with Rosicrucian studies during World War II.*

watercolors, still to be found here at the Park, testify not only to his ability as a painter, but also serve to demonstrate what can be accomplished when we believe not only in ourselves, but in something greater.

When Ralph M. Lewis became Imperator after his amazing father's transition in 1939, this unlimited perspective was perpetuated and the further evolution of Rosicrucian Park continued. This erudite and articulate mystic increased the wealth of Rosicrucian literature and profoundly enhanced the landscape of Rosicrucian Park. During his tenure, his father's hope to construct a new Supreme Temple was realized in 1949, and a much expanded Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, as we know it today, became a reality in 1966.

## Rebuilding AMORC The War Years and After

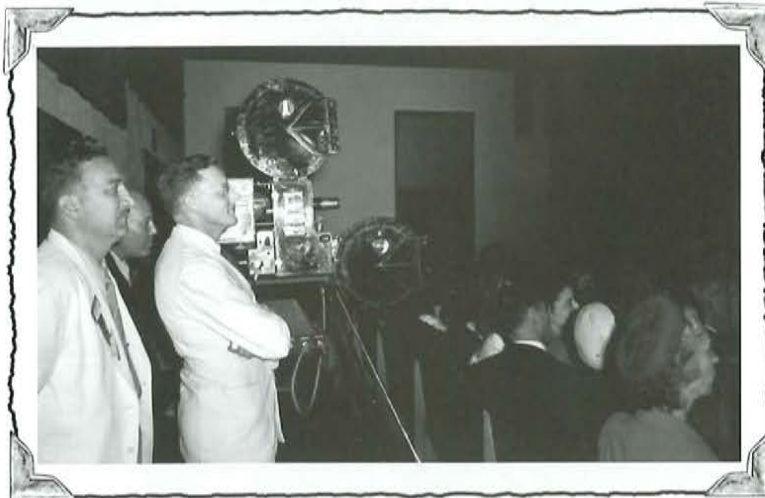
The war years at Rosicrucian Park were a time of intense activity. The massive rush to enlist in the Armed Services created a diminished work force nation wide. In response to this circumstance, Supreme Grand Lodge officers at the Park picked up brooms, mops, and gardening tools to keep the buildings and grounds in apple-pie order for the duration. To allow any deterioration of the premises would have been a kind of defeat and disservice to those who looked to this oasis as their spiritual home. Activities and programs continued at Rosicrucian Park, despite the irregularities imposed by the war on American society.

Rosicrucian Convocations and Initiations were held throughout World War II, and the Order continued producing the full complement of monographs, books, and magazines for distribution to Rosicrucian students at home and in the trenches. (Although the thinness of the *Rosicrucian Digest's* paper in the 1945 issues attests to rigorous wartime paper rationing!) Conventions and Rose-Croix University International (known as RCU in those days) continued to be held at the Park. In a preface to the 1944 edition of *Hieroglyphs*, the RCU yearbook, Frater Cecil Poole wrote the following: "If we want to be successful in meeting the challenge of a complex environment, such as exists today, we find it increasingly necessary to draw not only on our own experience, but upon the experience of those about us and those who have preceded us."<sup>6</sup> Opportunities to put such exchanges of experience into action did indeed present themselves.

During the war years numerous fratres and sores in military service came through the Bay Area, and others were stationed at nearby bases, affording them the opportunity to visit Rosicrucian Park and attend RCU. One Rosicrucian Convention during those years included a special forum that focused on members in military service. These Rosicrucian students were able to relate how their studies were enabling them to adjust and be flexible in dealing with the harsh realities of wartime military service.



*Imperator Ralph M. Lewis in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid.*

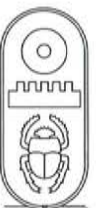


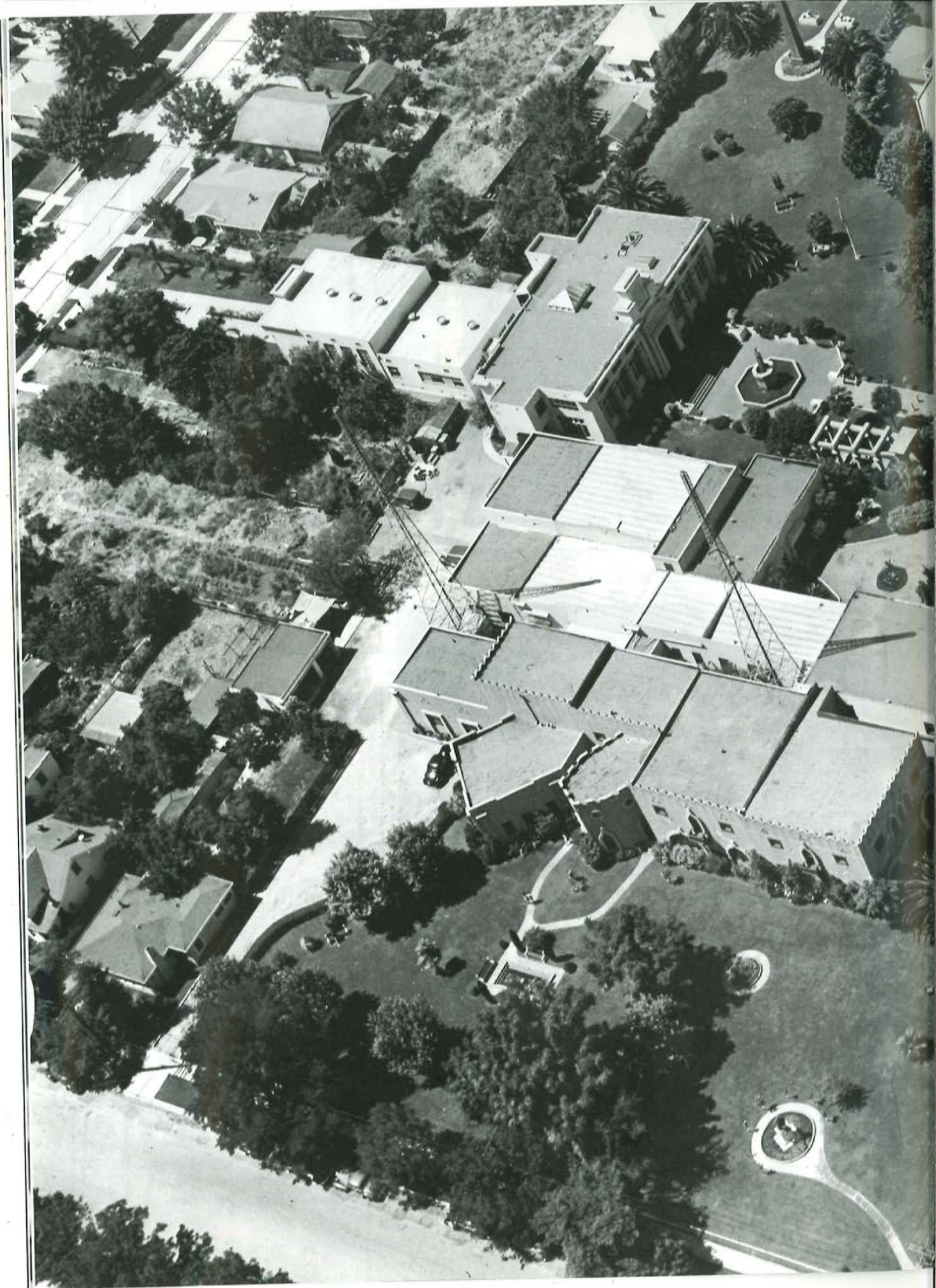
From upper left, clockwise: *Inveterate traveler and cinematographer, Emperor Ralph M. Lewis, behind the camera "on location" in a faraway land; Ralph and Gladys Lewis in Barbados, mid-1950s; Emperor Ralph M. Lewis and Frater Erwin Watermeyer at a RCU screening.*

Throughout the Rosicrucian Order there was a consciousness of the necessity to serve those serving our nation. In Los Angeles, AMORC's Hermes Lodge made its library and social room available for twelve hours a day to Rosicrucian servicemen and service-women and their friends, providing a warm welcome and refuge from the exigencies of military life.

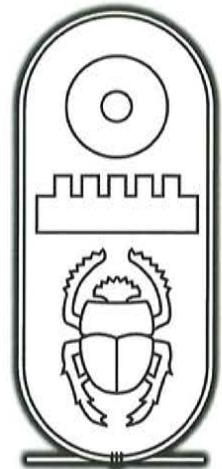
Even before the end of the Second World War, appeals for Emperor Ralph M. Lewis' presence in Europe made their way to Rosicrucian Park via the underground. Rosicrucian Officers from the continent greatly desired the rebuilding of the Order following years of devastation. Considering the

extremely sensitive and restrictive nature of communications among mystics in such perilous times, where stray information could be a matter of life or death, it is very significant that these messages were given priority. After all, the Rosicrucian Order and its teachings did not find favor in the eyes of Fascist regimes. In Europe, literature and properties belonging to the Order were destroyed as casualties of war or as intentional targets of repressive rule. Anticipating a time when the light of Rosicrucian learning could burn again more brightly, those courageous European fratres and sorores—the Order's caretakers on the Continent—took the risk of contacting the Emperor in the only way possible.









*Aerial view of Rosicrucian Park, 1939. Despite a decade of worldwide economic depression, Dr. Lewis' vision of Rosicrucian Park was coming into fruition! Beginning at the photo's top center and moving clockwise, we see the Egyptian Obelisk, Planetarium, Park Portal, Francis Bacon Auditorium, AMORC Administration buildings, and the Oriental Museum. In the photo's lower center, a lawn and garden area with a small fountain and the coolness of shade trees beckoned visitors. Nearby, a rounded section of the building (behind the Museum) contained the private office of Emperor H. Spencer Lewis, behind which can be seen AMORC's two radio broadcast towers. In the center of Rosicrucian Park are the Plaza Fountain, Akhnaton Shrine, and Rose-Croix University Building—behind which is the just-completed Rosicrucian Research Library. Adjacent to the Library (upper left side of photo) is a large vacant lot, eventual site of the Rosicrucian Temple, constructed in 1949. As can be seen, in 1939 there were still a number of private homes occupying the city block that was rapidly becoming Rosicrucian Park.*



*Much-enlarged Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum under construction in 1966.*

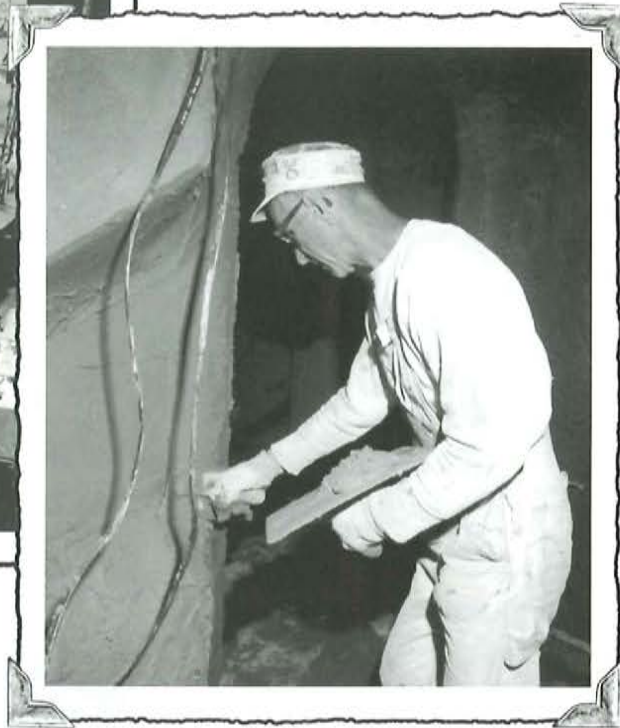
In the spring of 1945, Imperator Lewis attended the World Security Conference, convened at the War Memorial Opera House on San Francisco's Van Ness Avenue. This conference of leaders from around the world gave birth to the United Nations. The war in Europe ended on May 7, 1945, and the Imperator immediately began making arrangements and "doing battle" with all the multinational red tape that a trip to post-war Europe would entail. In the summer of 1946 the journey to Europe was finally possible. A heartwarming reunion in Paris with the European Legate, Soror Jeanne Guesdon, preceded the F.U.D.O.S.I Conclave in Brussels. (F.U.D.O.S.I., in French, *Fédération Universelle des Ordres et Sociétés Initiatives*, or in Latin, *Federatio Universalis Dirigens Ordines Societatesque Initiationis*, was a federation of Rosicrucian and other mystical orders dedicated to perpetuating the initiatic tradition.) In her book, *Great Women Initiates*, Soror Hélène Bernard recounts more events from the remarkable life of Mlle. Guesdon. Meetings with officers of several European jurisdictions followed, and the groundwork for European reestablishment was begun. On the home front, a tremendous relief effort on the part of AMORC's affiliated bodies across America went into full swing to assist Rosicrucians in Europe and the Pacific.

Another very visible contributor to the Park as we know it today was architect Frater Earle C. Lewis, Imperator Ralph Lewis' talented brother. Earle served as architect for the Supreme Temple, the AMORC Administration Building, the Research Library, and the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum. His powerful,

monumental designs give the Park its visual cohesion, a vital element of esthetic unity. He was also, for many years, the painting and sculpture instructor for RCUI. Even if one was not to achieve the master painter level of a da Vinci, Cassat, or Monet (at least in this incarnation), a profound understanding and appreciation of the creative process was imparted to every student who was fortunate



*San Jose Mayor Ron James (left) and Rosicrucian Imperator Ralph M. Lewis cut the ribbon, officially opening the new Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum on November 26, 1966.*



*Scenes from the preparation of the new Museum's décor during the summer of 1966. (Clockwise, from above) Artists work on rock tomb paintings; plasterer at work; the completed rock tomb, which is an exact reproduction of a 4000-year-old Egyptian noble's rock-cut tomb at Beni Hassan; artist John Mee, Imperator Lewis' talented nephew, at work on the Museum's atrium frieze.*



*Lewis cut the  
ber 26, 1966.*



(Clockwise, from above) Frater Lewis with Max in front of the RCU Building, 1960s; Ralph M. Lewis working at his desk as AMORC Supreme Secretary, San Francisco, 1924; Emperor Lewis in his home office and sanctum (note pet dog seated behind Frater Lewis).



Frater Lewis' favorite photo of himself! Ralph Lewis had a passion for photography and film and traveled to the sites of ancient civilizations the world over. He once told a friend, "If I hadn't served as Emperor, I would have been a photographer for National Geographic!" He had a keen sense of history and a deep appreciation for the contributions of past civilizations to our present-day society.

## Glorious afternoons in the Park



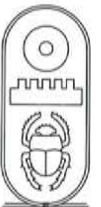
*Rosicrucian Park was the setting for many wonderful outdoor RCUI luncheons in the 1950s and 1960s, sometimes complete with musical entertainment at the Plaza Fountain! (Right) Emperor Ralph M. Lewis and young boy sailing a model boat at the Plaza Fountain in the center of the Park, early 1940s.*

enough to elect one of his classes. Frater Lewis held his painting classes in the open air, with the Park as part of the visual inspiration for his students—yet another inspiring role the Park has played.

During his tenure as Emperor, Ralph M. Lewis was also responsible for a monument of a different kind. He crafted a body of literature that is outstanding in the history of mysticism. With unequalled clarity, he defined the concept of the "Rational Mystic" for the 20th century and perhaps for all time. *The Sanctuary of Self*, *Through the Mind's Eye*, and *The Conscious Interlude* are but a few selections of the scholarly, yet never pedantic works that comprise the legacy he bequeathed to humanity. These works resonate with the mathematician or physicist, as well as with the Hermeticist. The necessity for humility is imparted in terms that are practical. A palpable sense of reverence for the Divine permeates these works that at first might seem an incongruity in such a rational

format. Upon reflection, this makes perfect sense. Emperor Lewis lived through several periods of occult and mystical resurgence. Some of the practices advocated during these times of revival were at best questionable, and at worst harmful. Maintaining objectivity in one's studies was a tradition of Rosicrucian study that Frater Lewis felt could not be overemphasized, and nearly all his books, articles, and discourses make reference to this vital approach to enlightenment.

Frater Lewis communicated clearly and succinctly, an all too rare quality in a mystic, and his recorded discourses reveal a profound love of sharing what he had learned. His capacity for clear, compelling analogy was vast. The following excerpt gives a simple, yet powerful, clarification of the difference between knowledge and wisdom: "All knowledge does not stand the test of time. True wisdom does. It is





26th Dynasty mummy cases of Usermontu and Tâ'awa Tâ Sherit, and detail of the latter.

sagacious in meeting circumstances and applying what is known in the right manner. Time proves or disproves decisions that men make. The knowledge that survives and continues to be applicable when called upon is *Wisdom*.” It is humbling and inspiring to recall, while relaxing on a bench in Rosicrucian Park, that such powerful literature was composed in this amazing setting.

## The Case of the Mummy Who Knew the Way to San Jose

“In 1971, a landmark event took place at the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum when an unexpected visitor came to stay: A mummy case had been purchased as part of the on-going acquisitions, and the supposedly empty case was found to be occupied! This priceless find has been the subject of continuing investigation as to the mummy’s actual identity. In the course of these investigations, an x-ray in 1995 revealed an iron pin in his leg, evidence of ancient posthumous repair.”<sup>8</sup>

There is indeed a certain amount of mystery connected with the mummy found occupying the

beautifully crafted coffin of the priest Usermontu, who lived in Thebes in the 26th Dynasty (circa 600 BCE). The story begins with the rescue of artifacts so that they might be properly conserved and displayed with the reverence due to human funerary relics. The 1971 *Neiman-Marcus Christmas Catalog* offered a pair of “His and Her” mummy cases. Usermontu’s case and its companion, a Ptolemaic period woman’s coffin, might have been destined for a decorative and relatively anonymous existence in an affluent Dallas suburb but for the quick action of a soror in Texas. She contacted the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and was instrumental in securing the purchase of the cases. When the mummy cases arrived from England, they went through customs in Florida. X-rays revealed that Usermontu’s case was occupied! This complicated the customs’ processing and involved the police, since it had to be established that the human remains were not the result of a crime. The antiquity of the ancient stowaway was established, and even if it had been a case of foul play, the likelihood of producing witnesses was remote. The mummy cases and the unsuspected traveler were released to the care of the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum.

Even after the 1995 examinations of the mummy were performed and the pin discovered, ongoing



*As yet unidentified, the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum's stowaway mummy exhibits hallmarks of 19th-Dynasty mummification practices. Note the crossed arms and opened mouth. In the inset x-ray to the right, the pin joining the mummy's femur and tibia demonstrates a sophisticated knowledge of joint articulation.*



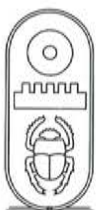
scrutiny indicates he could conceivably be a resident of the 19th Dynasty, 600 years earlier than originally suspected, thus making the presence of the metal pin even more astounding.

Step into the Museum for a moment and let your eyes adjust to the cooler light. Turn to the left, descend a short flight of stairs, and approach the case that contains the remains of this, as yet unidentified, time traveler. Notice the crossed arms with manicured hands displaying nails dyed with henna. The posture and the dye were particular features of the 19th Dynasty and, as a rule, were reserved for Royals. Based on criteria put forth in *The Mummy in Ancient Egypt* by Aidan Dodson and Salima Ikram, Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum Curator Lisa Schwappach has matched eight out of ten potential conditions that were particular features of 19th-Dynasty mummification practices. Look to your left and notice two exquisite mummy cases of similar design. The male mummy case was the intended resting place of Usermontu, and the curator has identified the adjacent coffin as that of a kinswoman, perhaps a cousin. Her name was Ta'awa Ta-sherit. Charm, beauty, and a certain impish quality still radiate from her masterfully carved portrait. Her coffin was acquired in 1980 from Sotheby's, the international art auction house, thus effecting a long-delayed family reunion. The cases are of slightly different heights, yet the proportions, dimensions, and placement of carvings, as well as the similar palette of hand-produced colors, proclaim that these might be the work of a single workshop or artisan.

## Fraternity and Sorority on a Unique Campus

Since 1934, Rosicrucians have had the opportunity to study beyond the scope of the conventional university curriculum. From its inception, Rose-Croix University (today's RCUI) provided a course of study embracing the arts, physics, philosophy, psychology, chemistry, and the healing arts from a standard academic perspective, but with the added dimension of a *Rosicrucian* point of view. The dynamics of this institution have varied over the years, and courses under the aegis of Rose-Croix University have been given at Lodges, Chapters, Pronaoi, and Conventions throughout this jurisdiction and the world.

Rose-Croix University is not a building; it is wherever the banner of Rosicrucian learning is unfurled and eager minds gather to acquire further instruction. Classes for the upcoming Summer 2002 Session include Rosicrucian Principles, Self-Discovery, Alchemy, Kabala, Art, Science and Mysticism, and more. This continuing tradition of alternative study is greatly enhanced by the unselfish contributions of volunteers who anticipate the needs and comfort of students and instructors. Volunteers participate in registration, student orientation, and in many other areas of service that make attending RCUI a joyous experience. The instructors are truly living treasures of the Rosicrucian Order. They bring vital insights from



*Art and Alchemy at RCU*



(Left) Rosicrucian artist Oronzo Abbatecola (second from left) teaching an RCUI art class at Rosicrucian Park's Fountain Plaza in the 1950s, and (below) from the same era, Rosicrucian artists draw and paint from a model. San Jose's wonderfully temperate summer climate lends itself beautifully to outdoor art education.



Sculpture instructor, Earle C. Lewis, architect and avid artist, teaching an RCUI art class in the 1950s. Frater Lewis designed a number of Rosicrucian Park's stunning Egyptian-style buildings, including the Grand Temple, present Administration Building, and the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum.



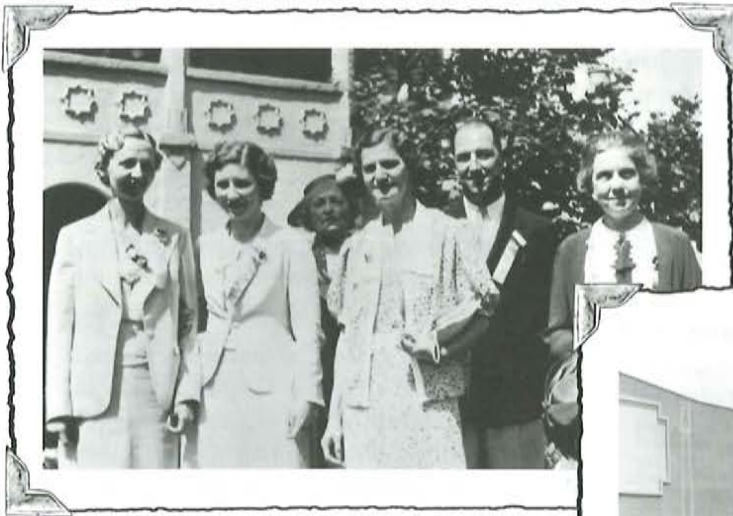
In a 1940s RCUI science class, Anatomy and Physiology Instructor, Dr. H.F. Syndergaard (center) observes the operations of Frater Orval Graves, who served as the AMORC Research Librarian at that time.



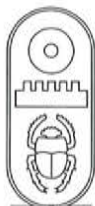
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For many years Rosicrucian Conventions occurred annually in Rosicrucian Park. The Park's first Convention occurred in the summer of 1928, where Convention attendees posed in front of the just-completed original AMORC Administration Building (upper left). Many Conventions attracted Rosicrucians from throughout the world. (Above) Rosicrucians from three different nations admire one of the Park's sphinxes at the 1952 Convention, and (left) a happy group posed for this photo near the Planetarium during a Convention in the late 1940s.



(Above) Rosicrucians gather amid roses near the Plaza Fountain during a Convention in the 1950s, and (left) fratres and sorores at the 1962 Rosicrucian Convention wait in front of the Grand Temple for admission into Convocation.





(Above) The 1950s saw RCUI students enjoying day-long train junkets to nearby redwood forests, the beaches of Santa Cruz, and historical sites on the Monterey Peninsula. (Right) In 1957, world-renowned singer Soror Edith Piaf (front row, center), of Paris, France, accompanied by her secretary and members of the French Grand Lodge, paid a visit to Rosicrucian Park.



their academic, professional, and personal experiences to enlighten and enrich in an atmosphere that exists in perhaps no other institution of learning. The experience of attending and sharing time and ideas with others of a mystical nature is refreshing and nurturing beyond description.

In the upcoming Summer Session, two of the classes will be open to non-members, affording a wonderful opportunity to attend with a friend or loved one who may be interested in the Order. This session will combine the opportunity for introductory level instruction, and for the most part offer advanced topics that are not to be found in any summer quarter catalog in mainstream or alternative institutions. This is an ideal exposure to Rosicrucian study, and classes will be conducted in Rosicrucian Park. If you have been pursuing home study and have not attended a Rosicrucian event recently, this would provide an ideal opportunity to touch base with both the Order and Rosicrucian Park. You will become better acquainted with activities and projects at the Park, and you may even find an outlet for your abilities or a project you wish to support.

*Imperator Ralph M. Lewis (right) with two AMORC Grand Councilors, Dr. Sergio Sanfeliz Rea and Harold P. Stevens, admire blossoms near the Park's Augustus Caesar statue in this 1960s-era photo. Frater Lewis wrote, "Each day we intentionally, or indifferently, sow a seed. These seeds are our daily thoughts and actions. Nature nurtures them alike. Time will reveal their harvest. Will it be what we have sought from life?"*

## Conventions Bring the World Together

In August, 1929, Rosicrucian Park hosted its first convention. Conventions have included lectures, workshops, opportunities for fellowship, special convocations, and networking to raise the level of Rosicrucian activities throughout the world.

The 1939 Rosicrucian Convention was planned to coincide with the Golden Gate Exposition in nearby San Francisco, which was celebrating the completion of two awesome bridges—the Golden Gate and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridges. As anticipated, the Convention's attendance was





*International vignettes from the 1982 Rosicrucian World Convention. Clockwise, from above; Emperor Ralph M. Lewis, ever the philosopher and teacher, converses with fratres and sorores attending the Convention; Rosicrucian Colombes speaking three different languages lend their translation abilities to aid Convention attendees from throughout the world; and fratres and sorores from Nigeria and West Africa in front of the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum.*

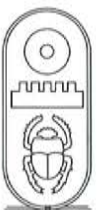
enhanced, thanks to the lure of this World's Fair, celebrating the 20th century's outstanding engineering achievements. Sadly, Emperor H. Spencer Lewis, in failing health, was unable to address the assembled throng at the Francis Bacon Auditorium. It was less than a month later on August 2, 1939, that the formidable gentleman passed through transition.

The 1943 Rosicrucian Convention was attended by a strong representation of American and Allied military personnel. In that time of world strife, discussions and forums affirmed the value of Rosicrucian teachings and principles as valuable means of dealing with challenging circumstances, and a renewed sense of dedication to the Order was forged while a deeper understanding of Rosicrucian purpose was conveyed to the community.

In a speech delivered to Rosicrucians gathered at the World Convention in Göteborg, Sweden, in August 2001, Soror Irene Beusekamp-Fabert, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Dutch Language Jurisdiction, shared these thoughts: "As Grand Master, I have had great experiences and I have met some very special people, not only in my jurisdiction, but also during Rosicrucian conventions and other

meetings. For instance, during my first visit to Surinam I met a cheerful eighty-year-old gentleman named Uncle Nick. His mother was a slave and he too had always had to labor hard. He heard about our Order, became a member, and together with his fellow brothers and sisters, he participated in the advancement of the Order in Surinam. His words still ring in my ears: 'I am a happy man, the Rosy Cross has given me everything. I owe everything to the A.M.O.R.C.' He always carried our Order with him in his heart. I commemorate all the Rosicrucian workers who unconditionally and loyally gave the best of themselves in the service of our ideals."<sup>9</sup>

Rosicrucian Park will be the venue for a World Peace Conference from June 29 to July 4, 2004. This will be the first time in many years that Rosicrucian Park has hosted such a gathering. Members have always made conventions and other gatherings at Rosicrucian Park a cherished memory for those who attend. In some cases, such a journey is the trip of a lifetime. If you have ever attended such a Rosicrucian gathering, you know the efforts that other fratres and sorores put forth to welcome you, put you at ease, and generally try to make your experience a cherished memory.





*Imperator Ralph M. Lewis in thoughtful reflection, 1940s.*

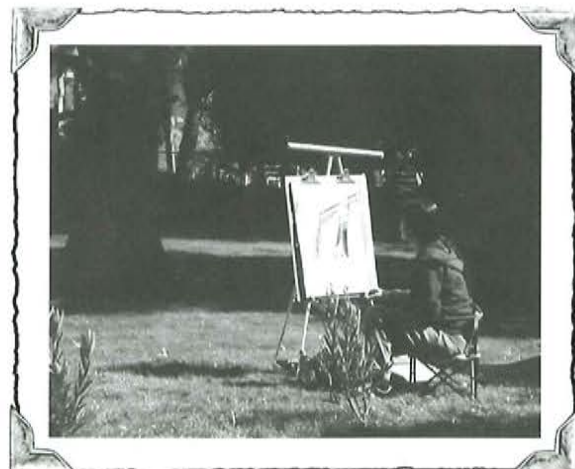
## Reflections on a Treasure Hunt

Gathering material for this history was in some ways a challenge and in all ways a delight. The challenging part was to find unusual material and fresh perspectives, since very experienced writers have already done excellent histories of the Park. The delightful part involved searching through numerous old files and boxes, pouring over old

publications, and viewing vintage photos, slides, and negatives in the quest for visual documentation. Listening to audio tapes of discourses and countless reminiscences brought Rosicrucian Park's earlier days to life in a way that only the human voice can do. In many ways it was like spending a rainy day going through old steamer trunks and hatboxes in the attic of a home that has seen many generations come and go. Co-workers and longtime members shared wonderful stories and were happy to indicate further resources that might contribute to the story of Rosicrucian Park. One file contained an assortment of short captioned photographs

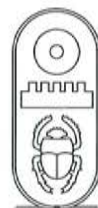


*Rosicrucian Park serves as an inspiration to those who appreciate beauty and mystery. Local art student, Corrine Vallez, has chosen the buildings at Rosicrucian Park for her semester project.*





*The original Amenhotep Shrine (right) and today's Akhnaton Shrine (above) reflected in the Fountain of Living Waters near the center of Rosicrucian Park.*



from *Rosicrucian Digests* from the 1930s and 1940s that spoke of courage, determination, and generosity during the Depression and War years. Choosing texts and images for inclusion was no easy matter.

While delving into what seemed a rather unpromising file drawer, an artifact surfaced with a heartwarming story to tell. A copy of *Hieroglyphs* from the 1946 RCU session, once the personal copy of an attending soror, was filled with inscriptions and autographs of her classmates. One of the inscriptions was a short and charming poem, signed by a frater who is still very active in service to the Ralph M. Lewis Lodge and to the Park in a volunteer capacity. When asked if he recalled the soror and composing and signing the poem in that faraway summer of '46, it appeared that he did,

***The Silent Sentinels,  
witnesses to the  
Park's History***



and suddenly that summer was not so very long ago or so very far away. When asked further if one of the initials in his signature might stand for "Romeo," our good frater blushed a shade of red that would do credit to any twenty-year-old and said, with a nostalgic twinkle in his eye: "Well, you know, Love is one of the points of our Rosicrucian triangle."

During lunch, after a recent weekend work party, a frater and soror began a discussion about what sets AMORC apart from religions or other groups. One frater immediately suggested that it was a matter of choice. He offered a personal perspective stating, "My parents weren't Rosicrucians and my kids have no interest in it." He went on to say that affiliation and service weren't a result of religious guilt, familial or social pressure; it was purely a matter of choice. That statement suddenly put the Park into perspective. So much of what is good, positive, and special about the Park and the Rosicrucians who built it has been the purity of motivation. The shared desire to create a beautiful, sacred space has proven to be a powerful force. We often hear the words "Labor of Love," and a variety of images may come to mind, but all too rarely do we realize we are standing in the middle of one!

***To be continued . . .***

**Footnotes:**

1. Currently the Grand Temple.
2. Armstrong, Steven, unpublished paper, 2001.
3. *Ibid.*
4. Lewis, H. Spencer, "Reaching the Roof," *Rosicrucian Digest*, Vol. X, No. 1, February, 1932, p. 4.
5. *Ibid.*
6. Poole, Cecil A., *Hieroglyphs*, Rose-Croix University, Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, 1944.
7. Lewis, Ralph M., "Why Does Man Reject Wisdom?" *Rosicrucian Forum*, Vol. 56, No. 5. (April 1986), p. 99.
8. Armstrong, Steven, unpublished paper, 2001.
9. Beusekamp-Fabert, Irene, "What the Rosicrucian Path Has Taught Me," *Rosicrucian Digest*, Vol. 79, No.4, (2001 No. 4 issue), p. 12.

# *Love Is the Law*

*Give thanks for Life, for Light, for Love.*

*Let your love brighten your heart and the hearts of others.*

*Surround yourself with a widening aura of love*

*and dispel shadows of gloom and depression.*

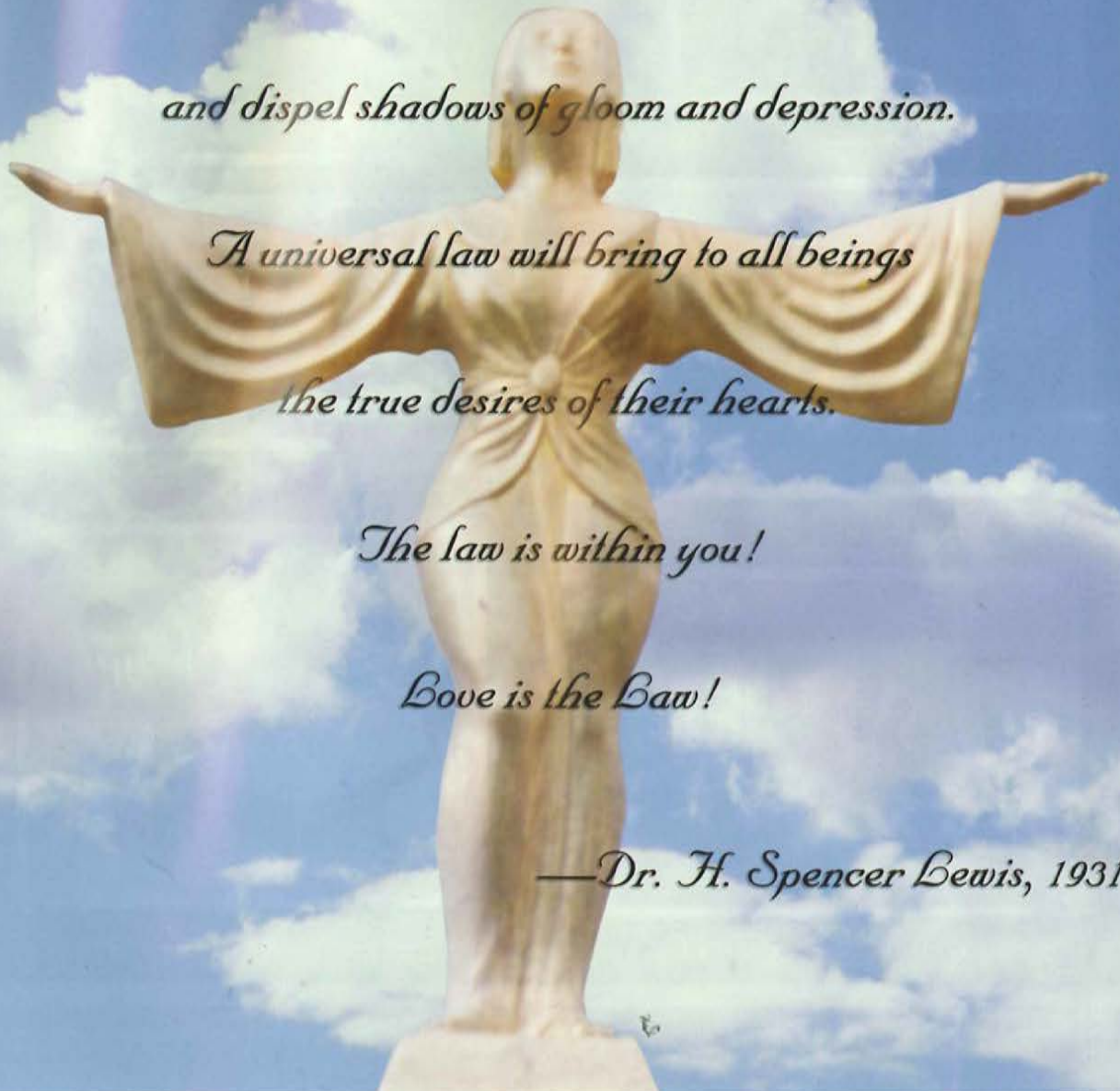
*A universal law will bring to all beings*

*the true desires of their hearts.*

*The law is within you!*

*Love is the Law!*

*—Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, 1931*





Francis Bacon Auditorium  
Dedicated 1931



AMORC Office  
Scenes, circa 1929



Oriental Museum, circa 1932

Rose-Croix University  
mid-1940's



Dedicated 1936



National Lecture Board Caravan, 1940's



Research Laboratory, circa 1939



Ralph Lewis meets Maha Bodhi dignitaries, 1948