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1987-1988

# Annual Report of the Rowan Tree Church

Rowan Tree Church

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Annual Report  
of  
The Rowan Tree Church  
1987 - 1988

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## YEAR'S END FISCAL SUMMARY

The following figures summarize, month by month, as accurately as possible the month-to-month financial activity of the RT Church budgets. Figures represent in each case the month's-end budget levels for each of the various budgets beginning with November, 1987 and running through October 1988, the fiscal year's end. Abbreviations for each of the budgets are explained below.

With the exception of Land Fund and Campout budgets, the 10/88 budget figures are self-explanatory and show precisely the budgetary amounts. In the case of the Land Fund, the budget figure is artificially high due to an additional \$161.00 which has been donated to cover costs associated with the Church's IRS filing, and temporarily stored in the Land Fund budget. Also, the Campout budget reads zero for the end of the fiscal year as a matter of routine: any additional funds remaining in the Campout budget after Campout costs have been covered are routinely distributed to other budgets on basis of need.

It is also important to remember that these budget amounts do not necessarily reflect the general solvency of the RT Church. Some budgets have remained in negative territory for the entire year, but this does not indicate insolvency or cause for great concern; it simply shows how funds are distributed throughout the church, and which budgets may or may not require greater attention throughout the coming year.

Financial Report  
 Dec 1 1987 - Aug 30 1988  
 Brian Vroblosky

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Overall, the individual budgets have enjoyed a fairly healthy year. The information summarized on the following pages is drawn from all available records of financial activity, and includes all of the budgets applicable to the organization. As can be easily seen, the majority of the budgets are well-endowed, and those few budgets in negative territory have been consistently negative and -encouragingly- at negative levels that remain fairly constant. They reflect inadequate allocation of funds more than unhealthy overspending. By reconsidering the current distribution of incoming monies, it should be possible to keep even these negative budgets consistently in the black. Plans are in effect to review current distribution guidelines as well as more clearly define the working responsibility of financial officers in order to ensure the continuing health of the budgets.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
11-87	+28.43	+15.85	+71.18	+4.98	+892.59	+50.01
12-87	+7.43	+32.60	+59.59	-4.11	+946.59	+35.01
1-88	+24.01	+79.12	+63.03	-15.12	+999.09	+56.25
2-88	-5.98	+89.56	+74.81	-16.69	+1036.84	+23.13
3-88	+28.50	+133.67	+120.72	-18.69	+1070.34	+50.07
4-88	+46.63	+74.58	+99.20	-12.72	+1085.34	+41.88
5-88	+30.99	+88.81	+132.05	-0.77	+1115.34	+15.00
6-88	+49.16	+43.52	+173.20	-13.17	+1195.34	+48.12
7-88	-14.84	+23.58	+101.22	-39.09	+1256.34	+10.00
8-88	+60.48	+79.32	+201.66	-23.59	+1276.68	+81.95

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- 1.....Rowan Tree Church
  - 2.....Mystery School
  - 3.....Subscription Library
  - 4.....Periodical Library
  - 5.....Land Fund \*Reflects \$115.00 collected donations toward IRS filing
  - 6..... Eldermentor Compensation +monthly amounts disbursed from contribution
  - 7.....Secretary Compensation + monthly amounts disbursed from contributions
  - 8.....RT News
  - 9.....The Unicorn
  - 10.....The Littlest Unicorn
  - 11.....Board of Directors
  - 12.....Campout \* reflects excess remaining amount to be distributed to Board of Directors budget

	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
11-87	+21.75	+4.31	+51.49	-59.34	+6.81	na
12-87	-17.50	-33.28	+67.42	-3.25	+9.46	na
1-88	+17.50	-35.04	-28.95	+49.85	+19.00	+10.68
2-88	+6.00	-26.98	+73.65	+8.47	+18.89	+4.30
3-88	+10.00	-24.75	+92.43	+20.45	-5.75	+4.30
4-88	+5.00	-14.12	+122.45	+46.58	-15.66	-9.30
5-88	+10.00	-51.27	+151.48	+43.46	-21.56	+25.70
6-88	+16.50	-45.28	+186.12	+47.00	-17.51	+25.70
7-88	0.00	-57.65	+177.12	=52.71	-23.90	+155.70
8-88	12.33	-42.15	+236.27	+74.61	-17.90	+20.85**

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Introduction

Bethaai  
 Secretary for The Board of Directors

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Traditionally, the Annual Report has been an account of the Church's Autumn Equinox meeting: included in this report are the results of the latest balloting process, and various reports from officers that before this year had no need to report because the positions did not exist. Growth on the part of the Church and it's Members have made the change in the Church from a somewhat disorganized group of people into a family...people willing to volunteer and work until the job gets done because they want to.

Last year at this time, the Annual Report presented 3 things that the Board of Directors needed to accomplish- 1, the blessed IRS filing, 2, to insure the Church premises, and 3, to establish good communications with everyone involved in the Church. Well, the insuring of the Church was dropped, the IRS filing is very,very, very near to completion, and ~~by~~ the amount of mail that you've been receiving lately, the communication has definitely improved.

All in all? The Board of Directors is in fine shape, we've got the IRS filing to complete and then we're starting on the Book of Legislation. Mourn BOD roster at the present time includes Helen Voelker as President, Daniel Hennessey as Scribe, Bethaai as Secretary, and Paul Sweetser as Treasurer.

## Eldermentor - The Mystery School

There is much involved in the operations of The Mystery School. In the physical world this includes a fair amount of paperwork and basic office "stuff," but the total time involved is small compared to the real work.

In the past year, Study Guides have been written for about a third of the coursework, which includes the levels of study at which eighty percent of the students currently are working. This provides a Mentor with a greater capacity to handle students with vastly increased communication regarding the nature of the study. The Study Guides provide the students with an invaluable resource for developing further their communications skills and in learning to provide information for a Mentor.

Also in the past year a series of introductory papers were compiled and written which guide a new Mystery School student through information which provides background and procedures necessary for the type of study The Mystery School provides.

In addition, the process of making master tapes to facilitate the transcription of the written Tradition of Lothlorien has been completed for all of the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Keys for which Study Guides have been written.

Although this work took over a hundred hours to complete, and another two hundred (or so) remain, it has also served to decrease the total time it takes on a per-student basis, yet increasing the amount of communication which takes place.

In an indirect manner, the time spent on the manuscript for A WICCAN BARDO will be highly influential for the future of The Mystery School (and also The Rowan Tree Church). Although the monies earned from this book will be personal during my lifetime, as with A MASTER BOOK OF HERBALISM, the copyrights will be left to The Mystery School and The Rowan Tree Church. The information in A WICCAN BARDO will make a dramatic difference in the nature of study which will be found in The Mystery School's future.

Other aspects of my position include working with the subscription library to guarantee that adequate copies of required texts are maintained; working with the Board of Directors to determine that the future for both School and Church is not in peril; and attempting to maintain a workable budget. The latter two aspects are the most difficult, for the actual maintenance of such an organization as The Rowan Tree Church requires more attentiveness and time than the membership has been able to provide. An aspect of the Eldermentor is that s/he must be the Crone-like watchdog. There is always that bottom line: if the Church cannot caretake itself then the Mystery School and The Tradition of Lothlorien must separate from the Church. This awareness is an aspect of the Crone's realities. But it is my faith in the mutual future that has me waiting to assist in the completion of

the IRS filing and in seeing you, as Members, begin to guarantee that the financial and managerial aspects of The Rowan Tree Church are stable and handled in a responsible manner. The process of hoping (and thus helping, nagging and offering advice, encouragement and warning) for a solid future can never be removed from the person who is the founder.

At present, the position of Eldermentor is greatly involved in The Church's founding. In the future, this position will be primarily concerned with making certain that The Mystery School is harmonious, well-staffed, and that new students meet the standards established as we create our own history, day by day.

In the past year, The Mystery School has attained a level of stability and growth which is unprecedented. The development of the above-mentioned teaching aids has enabled this to take place, as has my ability to take more time with The Mystery School. This is because more and more you as Members have become responsible for the running of the Church itself, as it must be. I bless all of you and encourage you to continue this work.

#### Editor - The Unicorn

The past year has seen The Unicorn change its format from a typeset page to one prepared on a Macintosh. This has both greatly improved the visual appearance and provided for an increase in text without any change in the number of pages.

The editor's responsibility includes guaranteeing that each issue is received by nearly all subscribers on or before the Sabbath. It also includes developing resources for contributing writers and artists, the responsibility for the general appearance and layout; operating all of this within the budget [this past year included an expensive, special issue for the tenth anniversary, yet we have remained in the black!].

I am assisted by various members at various times. Sometimes someone has volunteered to address envelopes, although this does not take place on a regular basis. In addition, Rev. Don Schrader deserves thanks for his financial investment in the computer which is made available for The Unicorn's use.

#### Subscription Librarian

The subscription library has added more than two hundred volumes in the past year. The catalogue has grown to a point where major changes in its' availability and maintenance will need be implemented in the coming year.

The library needs additional help, but until a local member is found who has a fair amount of time, the completion of adding book plates and the cleaning and maintenance will have to wait.

The library is undervalued by the membership as a resource, but in years to come, this will inevitably change.

## Secretary

Changes in the Secretary's position have taken place in the past year. With the development of the current Board of Directors, a far greater amount of personally-written correspondence is handled by these persons and the basic responses have been established as form letters.

Most of my work as Secretary really goes beyond the boundaries of this position. This position has me processing all incoming mail, which means that I monitor what is going on and can intervene, pass on urgent messages, make certain that problems are dealt with, etc.

The mail is collected and processed six days a week. All requests for subscriptions, orders, etc. are handled by the Secretary. The monies are removed and forwarded to the Bookkeeper. The mail handled by the Secretary is handled in a timely manner. 60% is posted within 48 hours of its receipt. The remaining volume of mail is posted within seven days (when I have other pressing priorities).

Periodical Librarian Report

Daniel Hennessey

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The Periodical Library continues to grow and I am behind in my filing. In order to make it more accessible to the Membership, I have begun writing a column in the RT News. It is called the PAG/MAG review and twice monthly critiques a different publication or issue. The Publication Library is constantly receiving new additions because The Unicorn exchanges subscriptions with about forty other publications. Although The Unicorn continues this exchange service, it has recently discontinued financial subsidization of it, and so the Publication Library's emergence on the Church's books as an entity plunging into the red about \$20.00 per month. I have requested that a new item be added to the monthly form asking for .50¢ for the Periodical Library. This should be out in October. I am also attempting to start an entirely new publication: "The Best of The Publication Library for the Current Sabbat." I am in the process of collecting permission to reprint articles from the various editors and so far have received four -out of four- positive responses. If this endeavor comes off, proceeds will go towards the creation of financial solvency for the Periodical Library.

Board of Directors Scribe Report

Daniel Hennessey

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This position was created partially in response to the need for a definition of just what my official position of the Board is. I am responsible for authoring correspondence from the Board to the membership via the RT News. I also handle correspondence with outside entities, individuals, or groups which have business with the Board. I recently wrote to an individual who had requested Membership but had some misconceptions about the type of organization that we are. I also recently wrote to an individual who was under the assumption that we might wish to become his coven's "mother church". We don't. I much enjoy writing and have naturally been volunteering to do this type of work on the Board. Now it has become a position.

Periodical Exchange Secretary/Monitor Report

Daniel Hennessey

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The Unicorn exchanges subscriptions with about forty publications and exchanges advertizing with a little under half of these. All incoming publications need to be monitored in order to verify that all of them for which we print classified or display advertizing are printing ours as well. We also need to insure that all those to which we send subscriptions send us theirs in return. After this process they are ready for filing in the Library. Secretarial exchange work involves the written communication with those publications

who fail to keep up their end of the exchange bargain. When this failure continues then the exchange secretary informs The Unicorn editor that they need to be deleted. The Exchange Secretary solicits brand new exchange arrangements as well as responding to any exchange arrangement solicitations which we receive. It is fun to correspond with other Secretaries and Monitors, and this work also helps my filing.