

# the SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, INC.

Board of Directors • Post Office Box 743 • Milpitas, California 95035-0743

Reply to: Gary Abbott  
November 25, 1986

To J. W. Donnelly from Gary Abbott, ombudsman for the Kingdom of the Outlands, send Greetings.

Thank you for your letter of November 12th introducing me to Amtgard. You surmised correctly that I was not familiar with your organization.

I am pleased to see that two somewhat similar organizations appear to be happily coexisting in the Southwest. I agree that it is in our mutual interest to encourage people to participate in either or both of the organizations.

I also realize that members of one organization may feel that the other organization is competing for members. Unfortunately, that is completely true. All organizations, and in fact all leisure time pursuits, compete for the same resources: people. In that sense, our two organizations "compete" with the Rotary Club, surfing, the Kiwanis, the movies, and PuttPutt. It is a simple fact of life that each of us has a fixed amount of leisure time available, and it is up to each of us to decide what activities to participate in.

That said, I do not believe that it will be possible to issue a "letter of formal recognition" as you requested. Establishing a policy of "diplomatic recognition" to some groups implicitly establishes that other, unrecognized groups are not "approved", and that does not seem fair to me. A formal recognition will inevitably be construed by the general populace as "approved", and the lack of recognition will imply "unapproved". We do not believe we can establish "diplomatic ties" with Amtgard any more than we could establish "diplomatic ties" with the Shriners.

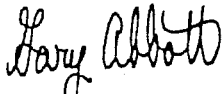
I think it is in both our best interests to make calming, shushing noises to any of our members who raise the subject of "member stealing".

If I can proffer a little friendly advice on a point raised in your letter, you mention that you "collect dues as a non-profit organization". I hope that you have applied for and received a letter of tax exemption from the IRS. Since you said that Amtgard is much closer to fantasy than to history, as in the SCA, it occurred to me that you might have difficulty getting (or proving) educational benefits under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). If you don't have an IRS letter, run, do not walk to the IRS office and see if you can qualify under some of the special sections under Section 501(c) if not under the more

common ones in Section 501(c)(3). We have been audited twice in recent years, and they are not casual about it; they were thorough.

In closing, I wish you and Amtgard continued health, and I hope the members in the Southwest will see, as you and I do, that our organizations complement one another, not compete with one another.

Yours in service,



Gary Abbott

cc: Corporate files

Aramithris, Rex  
1416 Cakdale  
El Paso, Tx. 79925

Dec. 3, 1986

To Gary Abbot from J.W. Donnelly, Monarch of Amtgard- Kingdom of the Burning Lands, I send greetings,

Thank you for your prompt response to my letter of Nov. 12. Your consideration and open attitude towards Amtgard is the positive frame of mind that I had hoped to find in the upper echelons of the S.C.A.

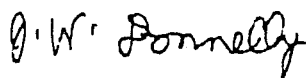
I agree with your reasoning as to the S.C.A.'s inability to formally recognize Amtgard, although I would point out that one would have a difficult time locating any other organization closer in nature and outlook to the S.C.A. than Amtgard. I can appreciate your perspective, but I had hoped for more. As the oldest and largest medieval fighting organization in the country, the S.C.A. is in a sense Amtgard's older brother. Compared to Amtgard, Markland, Dagorhir, etc., the S.C.A. has the advantages of established longevity, resources, and personnel. With the similarities between Amtgard and the S.C.A., and considering the friction encountered in some quarters, it seemed natural to establish contact between the respective ruling bodies.

Most Amtgard members participate in at least some S.C.A. functions, and no one has ever considered giving either society up. It is my duty as Monarch of this kingdom to see to the growth and stability of the club. Good relations with the S.C.A. is one step in this direction. We are going to the Estrella war in Atenveldt in February, and I have written to the Autocrat, requesting permission to stage an Amtgard demonstration.

I realize that Amtgard can offer only limited benefits to the S.C.A. at this time, and because of that, I thank you again for your kind letter. I hope that in the future both Amtgard and myself can do more for the S.C.A. The potential in this country for the growth of medieval style organizations has barely been tapped.

I hope that this holiday season finds you and yours healthy and happy.

sincerely,



January 12, 1987

Richard W. McCarthy, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
#2 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, Tx 79999

Dear Mr. McCarthy;

I am a representative of a club called Amtgard, which meets in Memorial Park on Saturdays. We are a medieval recreation society which uses safe foam weapons to simulate sword and sorcery style combat. I am enclosing a flyer which will give you a little more information. Our membership exceeds 400 locally, and our weekly attendance at Memorial Park averages forty.

About two years ago several of our members, including myself, made a presentation before a meeting of Parks and Recreation to explain what we are and iron out any difficulties with our use of the park. We would like to inquire whether any problems have arisen since then, or if you have any questions or need any information concerning our club. We would be happy to provide you with anything you might need.

Additionally, we would like to thank you for replanting the grass and removing the paving which ran through the middle of the park. The pavement was a hazard to our members, several of whom received minor injuries from falling on it.

We wish to request a water fountain to be placed within the body of the park, perhaps on the bridge where the road used to be. It is a long walk from the center of the park to one of the available fountains in the summer heat, and far too often they are not operational. It would relieve a lot of traffic and disturbance at the library if the water fountains and restrooms at the park were kept open and working.

Finally, we would like to have more trash cans available. We make an effort to clean up after ourselves and others, particularly picking up broken glass in the areas which we use frequently. Yet if there are no trash cans within a reasonable distance, we can do no more than pile it up somewhere, taking our own trash home. I know that the trash cans are frequently stolen, but perhaps you could chain them to light posts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your efforts to improve Memorial Park and the city as a whole are appreciated. If you have any questions or would like further information about the club, please call me during working hours at [REDACTED], or at home at 565-3659. We will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

*Michele Ellington*

Michele Ellington  
AMTGARD: Chapter of the Burning Lands  
[REDACTED]  
El Paso, Tx 799

encl: 1

JONATHAN ROGERS  
MAYOR  
KENNETH E. BEASLEY  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



**CITY COUNCIL**

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DISTRICT NO. 6

January 12, 1987

Ms. Michelle Ellington, AMTGARD  
Chapter of the Burning Lands

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
El Paso, TX 799

Dear Ms. Ellington:

We will be establishing a drinking fountain in the general body of Memorial Park near the bridge between February 2 and 6.

Additional trash cans will be made available the week of January 26 and the restroom situation should be corrected by January 30. Mr. Richard Chavez, my park superintendent, is scheduling your requests at this time.

I appreciate your concern for Memorial Park and you may be assured that I share them. If you have further concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard W. McCarthy  
Director  
Parks and Recreation

RWM/gr

cc: Richard Chavez

Aramithris, Rex  
King of the Burning Lands  
c/o J. W. Donnelly  
1415 Oakdale  
El Paso, Texas 79925

Mr. Donnelly:

Thank you for writing. My name is Sean M. Richey, though the members of Dagorhir know me as Dominus. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. I became president of Dagorhir in the fall and have been very busy shaping the organization to reflect its present needs and currently active members.

In the past few years, Dagorhir has grown from a local to a national organization. Chapters have formed in Illinois, Ohio, Washington (state), and I understand groups are starting in Florida and Massachusetts. Last year the Dagorhir Kingdoms met in Ohio for a battle. It was a glorious success. We call this meeting RAGNAROK and it will be an annual event from now on. We are preparing now for RAGNAROK II, also scheduled for April in Ohio.

I certainly would like a copy of your rulebook if I may, thank you. Your magic rules intrigue me. While we have experimented with the concept to some degree, we do not use it with any frequency. Our Illinois chapter does, however. We are in the process of consolidating our rules as a national group.

At the risk of sounding imperious, I would like to invite the Kingdom of the Burning Lands to join Dagorhir as a new chapter. You would, of course, retain sovereignty over your lands, as well as your name. Kingdoms like Pent Wyvern, once contacted, have added "Dagorhir" as a prefix to their name. Thus Dagorhir Pent Wyvern. For this reason, the original Maryland/Virginia chapter have renamed ourselves the Dagorhir Aratari, after the founder. Dagorhir is growing rapidly. Within five to ten years, I believe we shall surpass the SCA as the major national medievalist organization. I do hope you'll join us, King Aramithris. The future is ours to create. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

*Dominus*

Dominus Collegium  
Allaricus Xirinius  
Imperator

P.S. If you wish to contact me more quickly and directly, my phone number is (703) 780-0834 and my address is:

Sean M. Richey  
3126 Batter Sea Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22309

Dagorhir  
P.O. Box 218  
Pensington, Md. 20895

(301) 251-9292

Amtgard, Kingdom of  
the Burning Lands  
c/o J.W. Donnelly  
1416 Oakdale  
El Paso, Texas 79925

March 10, 1987

To Dominus Collegium, Allaricus Xirinius, I send greetings,

I thank you for your recent letter. As Monarch of Amtgard, and a senior club officer, I have embarked on a course of strengthening the foundations of Amtgard, both in a legal sense, and in terms of contacting/solidifying relations with like-minded agencies. Your offer of joining Dagorhir is something I must take up with the populace, and to that event I need more information on your society.

Some areas that I would like to see clarified:

1. What is the legal status of Dagorhir in the eyes of the U.S. government, and what is the status for the affiliate chapters of Dagorhir?
2. What advantages are accrued by Dagorhir chapters, and what obligations are accepted by membership as a Dagorhir chapter?
3. I would like to know more about your growth and expansion in recent years, including membership totals, names and data on the individual kingdoms, etc. Some photographs would be nice.
4. Amtgard has also taken some steps towards expansion. We planted the seeds of one such new group in Chicago, Illinois. Contact with this new chapter was lost, and we thought them disbanded. Could your magic-using chapter in Illinois be this "lost tribe"? It would be a nice touch if our two organizations had more in common than we originally thought.
5. If the populace is not agreeable to yielding sole autonomy of this club, what other forms of association would be agreeable to your society? I am certainly in favor of establishing friendly ties with all foam weapons societies.
6. Your great war in Ohio in April sounds very interesting. How many people do you expect? Unfortunately, our month of Crown Qualifications and tournies are also in the month of April. At the S.C.A. Estrella War in Phoenix during Feb. of 1987, we staged some small demonstrations. One encounter between a spearman of ours (who incidentally, is a former King of Amtgard) and some unknowns with 2-handed boffer swords was widely talked about. The rumor is that at least one of these swordsmen was from the Ohio chapter of Dagorhir. Did you have any people at Estrella?

I can certainly identify with your time and effort being directed inwards on taking the club where it has to go. I spend a lot of time on administrative details. Your letter was certainly more friendly than the contacts we have had with the S.C.A. Have you had more luck in dealing with them than we have? They perceive Amtgard as a major threat to their status quo in the southwest, and yet many S.C.A. members participate in Amtgard.

I am compiling a kit to mail to you, including our most recent newsletter, some photographs, and our section on magic in combat. If I can't retrieve the negatives in a reasonable period of time, then I will at least send some photocopies in order to give you a general idea of what goes on out at Amtgard.

I wish you and your organization continued health and I hope to hear from you soon.

sincerely,

Aramithris, Rex

Aramithris, Rex

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Unto His Majesty King Gilos Dawnhope and the populous of Amtgard,

Amtgard, as you know, has incorporated itself as a non-profit organization under the premise of being an educational organization by virtue of the Arts and Sciences Guilds. To further strengthen our claim as being a legitimate state approved institution, I feel it would serve Amtgard's interests to be seen as a community service organization as well as an educational organization.

I therefore suggest the revising of the Order of the Phoenix to include community service as cause for its award. I feel that it should also be considered as the equivalent to the Order of the Rose (for service to the club) and thus earn its recipients credit towards the Knighthood of the Flame. I believe that any service our membership could give to the community would reflect favorably on Amtgard itself.

The Phoenix is already an order given for service outside the club, thus revising it to include community service is merely focusing the order and making it more specific. It is not included in the Copora and thus would not warrant any revision of that document and would only represent a more narrow interpretation of this existing award.

This order would encourage club members to do beneficial services to the community thus expanding their awareness and

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experiences within it. It would further lend strength to Amtgard as an organization, with the goals of education and service of and to the community included as official club policy.

Such services as: running food and clothing drives for the needy, organizing the cleaning up of parks, schools, graveyards, etc... and other volunteer services to the community in the name of Amtgard would warrant the awarding of this order at the highest levels.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

sincerely,

Arch Duke Aredhel Kemenva



GWYNNE Y

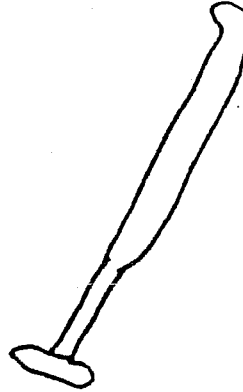


# CHRIS E

February 6, 1989

Cub Scout Pack 238  
Den 2 (leader Janine Lund: 598-9780)

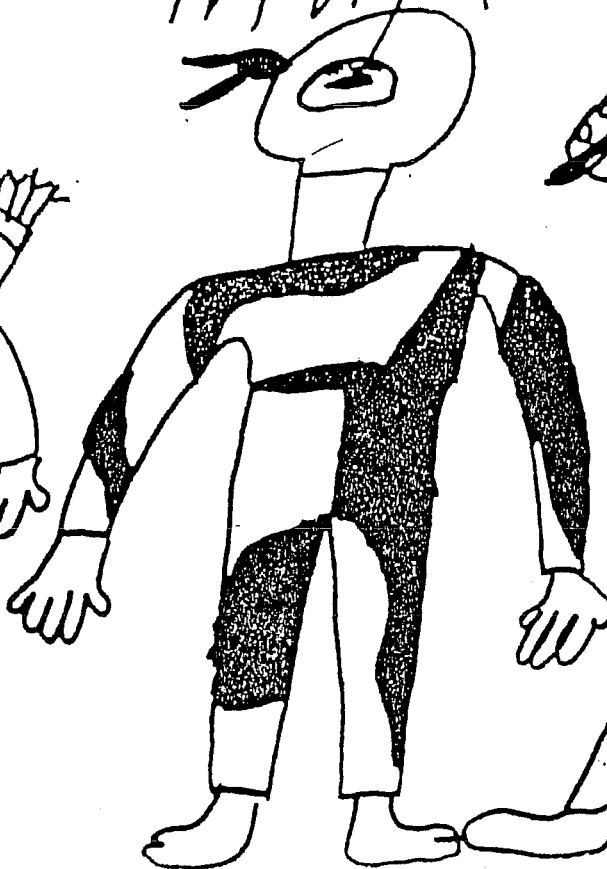
Mr. Ben Passmore  
AMTGUARD  
2601 N. Kansas  
El Paso, TX 79902



Dear Mr. Passmore, I Liked the show

I Liked these guys

Ninja



Big

February 13, 1989

Dear Amtgard Member:

I would like to introduce you to Roundtable, a new Bi-monthly magazine dedicated to providing high quality research for the medieval recreationist. It is our goal to be of service to living history groups, medieval hobbyists and wargamers interested in the medieval and renaissance periods (to 1700AD).

To that end, we are providing a society column of different medieval societies news and reports of major events and crown tourneys, coronations, etc. We would like to be able to list your organisation's happenings in the column. If you would send any news or reports that you think might be of interest to other medievalists, we would love to review them for publication. Black and white photos of good quality would also be a great asset.

We are also interested in placing an advertisement in your club newsletter for our magazine. If you could send us information on cost, mechanical requirements and deadlines for publication, we would greatly appreciate it.

The Premier issue of Roundtable is due out in April. Our feature article for this issue is on the replica of the Golden Hinde, Sir Francis Drake's ship that circum-navigated the world in 1577-1580. We are also receiving articles about Byzantine Chess, the Cortez/Coronado expeditions into North America, and Heraldry before 1400A.D..

Some of our regular features are the society page mentioned above, plus listings on how to contact different societies, book reviews, listings of museum happenings and exhibits of interest to those of us interested in history before 1700, and an always wide variety of topics to enrich the medieval experience. A six issue (one year) subscription is \$18.

As a by line, we are trying to contact members of a group called Dagorhir. If you know anyone that could put us in contact with this organisation, we would like to include them also.

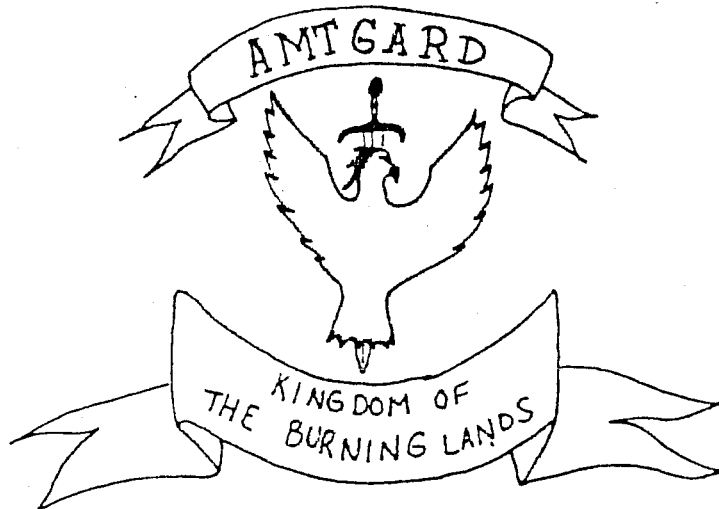
Please write or call soon!

Sincerely,



Theresa Holland and Daniel Briggs  
Executive Editors

P.S. : Deadline for happenings to be reported on in April is March 1. Thanks!



February 16, 1989

Milord;

Thank you for your interest in AMTGARD. Enclosed you will find the article you requested, along with a number of other informative materials. If, in the future, you find that you are in need of submissions, please contact us. AMTGARD possesses a wealth of related art work, poetry, fiction, historical research, humorous essays, and articles on such topics as beginner's garb, organizing feasts, and planning major events.

We would love for you to attend some of our upcoming events. Foremost among these is our Interkingdom Olympiad, scheduled for March 11th and 12th. Others include our Crown events, taking place through out April, and the Barad-Duin in Austin on March 4th and 5th.

We very much look forward to the publication of your first issue, and offer our support in whatever way we can help. We who are members of these like organizations have much in common, and it will be interesting to see new perspectives on old themes.

Once again, thank you for contacting us, and please keep in touch. Hopefully you will be able to make it to one of our events soon.

Sincerely,

King Gilos Dawnhope  
AKA Ben Hill Passmore IV, 2601 N. Kansas, El Paso, Tx 79902

# Roundtable

February 23, 1989

J.W. Donnelly  
1416 Oakdale  
El Paso, TX 79925

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

Thank you for your package dated 2/18/89. The information and article about Amtgard will be very helpful in compiling our group lists for the magazine. We will return the photo as soon as it comes back from the printer.

Our plans for March are as of yet, very unsettled, but if there is any way one of us can come to your events, we will try. We want to be sure to support your group, and also be sure that we have an understanding on how Amtgard works, and how Roundtable can best be of service to it. We want to be able to bridge the communication gap between all the different recreationist societies, to do this well, we must have at least a basic working knowledge of their systems. Your group has been very helpful, yourself especially, and we are grateful. We believe that all the recreationist societies could learn from one another and learn from the great number of professional scholars who study the medieval age and write about it, but whose work is not readily available to the hobbieist.

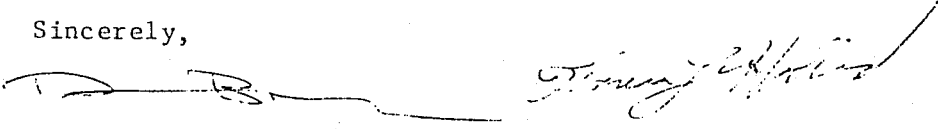
We will most likely run a paragraph or so on our events and exhibits page for the Amigo Con, including of course, the fact that the Burning Lands plans on having displays there. Except for large events, we do not plan on running event type announcements for individual group happenings, as we think that members should be encouraged to buy their group newsletters for this information.

We are enclosing a subscription form/ad, we may make another different ad. If we do, we will call you and tell you that we are sending new ad copy, keeping in mind your March 18 deadline.

We are also returning one of the photos that you sent us, we feared it would not reduce well. Thank you very much for entrusting us with these items.

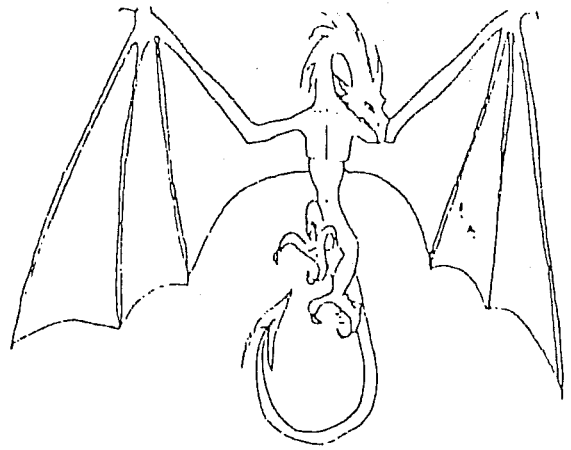
We will be mailing the first issue of Roundtable after the first of April. Please feel free to contact us if you have more news, questions, suggestions, etc. By the way we are looking for mailing lists to buy. We think that direct mail marketing would really help our cause.

Sincerely,



Daniel Briggs and Theresa Holland  
Executive Editors, Roundtable  
Box 715, La Coste, Tx 78039  
(512) 762-3583

Unto the populace,  
Greetings...



As some of you may know, in my mundane life I work for the City, monitoring social programs and physical projects designed to help El Paso's needy. Some time ago, I was asked to contribute information and opinions to a publication being developed by the United States Conference of Human Services Officials. We recently received our copy. One of the questions we were asked was "What programs should be developed to help remedy the problems of young people in the United States?". They chose to quote my answer as a good suggestion; "Provide interesting recreational activities for young people, opportunities for positive social interaction and a peer support system."

So what does this have to do with Amlgard? I was thinking of Amlgard when I wrote it. That's right, Amlgard isn't just a great way to spend your Saturday afternoons. According to a group of national experts, it's a good way to help save the world. So when friends and family ask what you're getting out of Amlgard, argue that it's worthless, that it's poisoning your mind, just hit them with this one. Tell them that, according to "A Status Report on Children in America's Cities", a program or club which provides interesting recreational activities for young people, as well as opportunities for positive social interaction and a peer support system has potential for helping to solve the problems of today's youth.

Today's fun is tomorrow's growing. In Amlgard we learn to care for people who are very different from us, racially, socially, religiously. We see value systems other than those we were raised with, we think, we create. And in doing these things, we make Amlgard something bigger and better than it would appear at a cursory glance. Of course, we always knew that.

Princess Janee Darkfalcon

