

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

8/2/93

The Special Projects Committee met in St. Hyacinth, Quebec, on Sunday, August 2, 1992, at 1:00 PM. The following members were in attendance, constituting a quorum:

Lee Smith	Bob Bruyn
Barbara Kulicke	Cece Forrester
Larry Watkins.	Ticky Harries (adjunct)

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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

This project was established in 1988. Of the 32 one-time Forum members still living, to date only one has been interviewed, Dr. Kenton Stephens, interviewed on video tape by Bill Rocap. Cece Forrester reported that Mariann Rowley has declined to participate in this history project. Barbara Kulicke had planned to interview Ruth Renn but she does not wish to be contacted either. Larry Mullins and Eric Cosh are also working on a video tape of Meredith Sprunger and his early experience with the Revelation.

We concluded that the major difficulty is that many Forumites may feel there will be an attempt to pry secrets from them and that we must do some work beforehand to make them more receptive to the project. Also, the lack of contact with the Forumites may be due to the lack of people willing or able to handle these interviews. Most of the Forumites are located in either the Chicago area or in Florida.

Larry Watkins drafted a letter to be sent to Forumites explaining that the Oral History Project and Fellowship Archives are underway and making progress and that we are looking for their input.

RESOURCE GUIDE OF SECONDARY WORKS:

This is the oldest project held by our committee, originating in a 1985 TDA resolution. An updated Resource Guide was made available just prior to this conference. The number of listings in the second edition was almost 40 percent more than the first. Credit goes to Matthew Block, Cece Forrester, and Carolyn Kendall for completing the timely update. In the future we intend to update the Resource Guide before each international conference.

ARCHIVES LIBRARY:

An Archives historical data base containing letters, newsletters, etc. from early days of the movement is to be established. The donation of files and records from early readers will be requested.

RESOURCE LIBRARY:

It has been decided to put prefabricated book shelving in the side room of the Fellowship offices to house the Resource Library.

We would like to find a small library control system that could implement bar coding to control the movement of materials as well.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The computer system (486, 50 MHZ, 1.2GB) and scanner have been purchased. Installation and training the staff in its use will begin in the fall of this year after the work relating to IC93 has subsided. John Hales and Matthew Block will be trained primarily for scanning documents since this is work that must be done locally. Other volunteers will be trained to help with the other work the system can be put to. Procedures must be established for training.

Projects for computerization will be the minutes from General Council meetings, from the Executive Committee, and possibly from the various other committees, in that sequence.

Following the computerization of this information, it was felt that short biographies of each General Council member would be valuable. Scanned photos of early events could also be input.

Procedures must be established for backing up the system and its data periodically.

Once the bulk of the back data is loaded, we would like to see the Resource Library and Bulletins from previous years accessible to outside users by MODEM.

The Special Projects Committee meeting concluded at about 2:30 PM.

Secretary

Approved:

Chairman

Dear Forumite,

In 1988 the Fellowship (the Urantia Brotherhood) established the History Project. This and the Archives Project, established shortly thereafter, are underway and we are beginning to make some progress in capturing a flavor for the enthusiasm and excitement of those early days during the early years of the infancy of the revelation.

Collecting the feelings and expectations of those earlier times has an historical importance which is captured in *The Urantia Book*:

History alone fails adequately to reveal future development—destiny. Finite origins are helpful, but only divine causes reveal final effects. Eternal ends are not shown in time beginnings. *The present can be truly interpreted only in the light of the correlated past and future.* Page-215

However, of the 33 one-time forum members presently identified, to date only two have been interviewed.

We, the Special Projects Committee of the Fellowship, have been asked to capture as much of the historical perspective on the beginnings of the revelation and of the beginnings of the Urantia movement as is currently possible. While we understand that there may be some reluctance on the part of Forumites to participate in a project which could impinge upon subjects not open to discussion, we have no intention to pry or extract secrets — our intent is to preserve that which can and should be preserved. Future Urantia Book students will rightly hold us accountable for preserving this historical view.

To that aim we wish to collect what we can of the early memories, pictures, letters, documents, first hand experiences, and other memorabilia that relate to the early times of the birth of the revelation. That is the reason the Archives Library Project has been established.

We have drawn up a questionnaire asking questions such as, how did you first find out about the Urantia Papers and become drawn into the Forum. We would like to get your responses, either on your own but preferably from a scheduled personal interview. We could also send out an audio tape kit for those who would like to do their own audio memoirs without an interview. Also, plans for a weekend gathering of all Forumites have been discussed.

Would you be interested in attending a gathering of Forumites, and if so, where and when would you like to see it happen? Would you be willing to have someone contact you for a personal interview? We are asking for a response, either in favor or not in favor of a personal interview, whether you would answer a written questionnaire, whether or not you may have material you could donate to this significant project. Thank you for your attention and we await your reply.

The Special Project Committee:

Bob Bruyn
Tony Finstad

Cece Forrester
Ticky Harries

Barbara Kulieke
Lee Smith

Larry Watkins