

## Covenant Charter, Covenant Of *Reservo Scientia*, Founded 1007

### embership

The covenant of *Reservo Scientia* allows four levels of membership on its council, and recognizes three additional levels of status, which it offers to visitors of the covenant and recent graduates.<sup>1</sup>

Membership in the covenant is predicated on being a member in good standing of one of the True Lineage Houses of the Order of Hermes – Bonisagus, Guernicus, Mercere, Tremere. No individual not of the True Lineages may be considered a member, and any magus who transfers his allegiance to a House which is not one of the True Lineages immediately forfeits all membership rights.

The status of Protected Guest may be extended to any person by the formal invitation of a single full member of the covenant. Protected Guests are afforded the basic rights detailed by this charter, and are not obligated to the Council of Members, nor are they a member of this council. Protected Guests may partake in meetings of the Council of Members should they desire it, but are obliged to leave if asked to do so by a member of the Council, and are afforded no voice or vote, though the former may be granted at the pleasure of the council chairman. The status of Protected Guest may be revoked by the member who granted it, or by a vote of the Council of Members.

The status of Graduate is automatically extended to any person who completes an apprenticeship with a member of the Council of Members, has successfully completed a wizard's gauntlet, and is a member in good standing of the Order of Hermes, provided that said graduate swears the Oath Secundus. Graduates are afforded the basic rights detailed by this charter, but are obligated to the Council of members, though they are not a member of this council. Graduates may partake in meetings of the Council of Members should they desire it, but are obliged to leave if requested by the Dean, and are afforded no voice or vote, though the former may be granted at the pleasure of the council chairman. The status of Graduate may be revoked by majority vote of the Council of members, and may not extend beyond 40 seasons past the completion of the guest's apprenticeship.<sup>2</sup> In addition, should the Graduate transfer allegiance to another of the Houses of Hermes which is not of the True Lineages, it is understood that the graduate immediately forfeits his rights as a Graduate.<sup>3</sup>

The status of Magus in Residence may be extended to any magus not of the True Lineages of the Order of Hermes by a majority vote of the Council of members, provided that the magus first swears the Oath Tertius. Magi in Residence are afforded the basic rights detailed by this charter, but are obligated to the Council of members and accrue certain responsibilities as detailed by the covenant charter. They are not members of the Council of Members, but may partake in meetings should they desire it, though they are obliged to leave if requested by a member of the council, and are afforded neither voice nor vote, though the latter may be granted at the pleasure of the council chairman. The status of Magus in Residence shall last neither more nor less than 60 seasons and shall not be revoked except by a majority vote of the Council of Members under circumstances of grave concern.<sup>4</sup>

The status of Probationary Member of the Council may be extended to any magus in good standing of the Order of Hermes who is a member of one of the four True Lineages of the Order, who owes no allegiance to any other covenant, who swears the Oath of Covenant, and who is admitted upon the unanimous approval of the current Council of Members. Provisional Members assume the basic and provisional rights detailed by this charter and the duties therein attached. The status of provisional member shall last no less than 60 seasons, although a unanimous vote of the senior magi of the Council of Members may reduce this time in exchange for particularly noteworthy service to the covenant.

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<sup>1</sup> Amended Spring 1170. Previous version read *four levels of membership on its council, and recognizes two additional levels of status, which it offers to visitors of the covenant and recent graduates.*

Amended Spring 1132. Original text read *four levels of membership on its council, and recognizes a fifth level of status, which it offers to visitors of the covenant.*

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph added Spring 1132

<sup>3</sup> This line added Winter 1156

<sup>4</sup> This paragraph added Spring 1170

The status of Full Member of the Council is extended upon the completion of the required time spent as a Probationary Member, provided that all duties and responsibilities of Probationary Membership have been met, unless testimony be brought against the magus showing him to be unfit for promotion, in which case the Council of Members may, by majority vote, extend his time as a probationary member or withdraw membership altogether. Should elevation to full member take place then all rights and duties of probationary membership are shed, to be replaced with the assumption of the basic and full rights detailed by this charter of a full member, and the duties therein attached. Full membership persists, unless abridged through censure, cancelled through expulsion, or replaced by a higher level of membership. Full membership shall last a minimum of 120 seasons, although a unanimous vote by the senior magi of the Council of Members may reduce this time in exchange for particularly noteworthy service to the covenant.

The status of Senior Member of the Council is extended upon the completion of the required time spent as a Full Member, provided that all duties and responsibilities of full membership have been met, unless testimony be brought against the magus showing him to be unfit for promotion, in which case the Council of Members may, by majority vote, extend his time as a Full Member, reduce him to Probationary Member, or withdraw membership altogether. Should elevation to Senior Membership take place then all rights and duties of a Full Member are shed, to be replaced by the assumption of the basic and full rights detailed by this charter of a Senior Member, and the duties therein attached. Senior Membership persists, unless abridged through censure, cancelled through expulsion, or replaced by a higher level of membership. Senior membership shall last the remainder of the magus' earthly life, unless replaced by a higher level of membership, or renounced by the magus<sup>5</sup>.

The status of Dean shall fall upon the senior Bonisagus magus who is a member in good standing of the Council of Members. Should elevation to Dean take place then all rights and duties of other forms of membership are shed, to be replaced by the assumption of the basic and full rights detailed by this charter of a Dean, and the duties therein attached.

Should a magus ever come to desire release from this covenant, he must renounce his Oath of the Covenant before a meeting of the Council of Members. The Dean may, at his discretion, call a special meeting for this purpose<sup>6</sup>. At that time the magus is relieved of all duties and rights of the Covenant, and may not call upon such rights furthermore.



### Governance of the Covenant

The members of the covenant of *Reservo Scientia* are governed by a Council of Members, which consists of all members of the Covenant who have taken the covenant oath and have been formally accepted into the covenant, unless such members have been deprived of their vote due to censure. The council shall not declare action except on behalf of the entire covenant, and no action may be demanded of individuals by council agreement. Conversely the rulings of the council may not be overturned by an individual.

Any member of the covenant has the right and duty to convene the Council of Members for matters justly grave, and all members shall be charged with attendance and diligence in the proceedings. Should it not be possible to convene a full Council of Members, and quorum consisting of more than half the covenants members is considered valid, so long as the Dean or Praefectus are present to preside, else the council's duty must be delayed until such time as the full council may be convened. The Council of Members will convene four times each year, one day prior to each equinox and solstice, regardless of call from any member, and members of the covenant shall endeavor to make themselves present.

Motions to be decided upon by the Council of Members must be introduced by a member, debated fully and justly, allowing those who wish to speak to do so, and then proposed for a vote. Proposals must be seconded by another member of the covenant; else no vote may take place. All issues shall be passed by

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<sup>5</sup> This line added Fall 1102

<sup>6</sup> This line added Fall 1034

majority vote of those present, save only those items where specific exceptions are made elsewhere within the charter<sup>7</sup>.

The Council of Members is empowered to bestow certain titles and responsibilities on members of the covenant, as follows

- I. Diocetes – the Diocetes must be selected from among the Senior Members of the covenant, and is chosen by majority vote from among two candidates selected by the Dean. The Diocetes may not hold any offices in addition to that of diocetes. It is the responsibility to the Diocetes to oversee and disburse the covenant’s store of mundane wealth and vis, and to give an accounting of each at council meetings. The Diocetes shall serve a term of seven years, and may be reelected to consecutive terms.
- II. Librarius – the Librarius must be selected from among the Senior Membership of the covenant, and is chosen by majority vote from among two candidates selected by the Dean. The Librarius may not hold any offices in addition to that of librarius. It is the responsibility of the Librarius to oversee the covenant library, to account for all books within, to oversee the seasonal selection of books, to arrange for book exchanges between covenants, and to give an accounting of the state of the library at each council meeting. The Librarius shall serve a term of seven years, and may not be elected to consecutive terms.
- III. Curator – the Curator must be selected from among the Senior Membership of the covenant, and is chosen by majority vote from among two candidates selected by the Dean. It is the curator’s responsibility to oversee the physical facilities of the covenant and its covenfolk, both mundane and magical, and to oversee repairs, modifications, new construction, and account for the mundane stores of the covenant, and give an accounting of the state of the covenant at each council meeting. The Curator shall serve a term of seven years, and may not be elected to consecutive terms<sup>8</sup>.
- IV. Captain of the Turb – the Captain of the Turb is selected by majority vote of the Council of Members. Any member of the council may nominate a candidate as Captain of the Turb. The Captain of the Turb need not be Gifted<sup>9</sup>. It is the responsibility of the Captain of the Turb to oversee the training, equipment, and operations of the covenant garrison. The Captain of the Turb shall present a written<sup>10</sup> report on the state of the covenant garrison at each meeting of the Council of Members. The Captain of the Turb serves at the pleasure of the Council of Members and may be replaced by a majority vote at any council meeting.

In addition it is the responsibility of the Dean to appoint a Praefectus. It is the duty of the Praefectus to chair council meetings in the event that the Dean cannot attend. The Praefectus serves at the pleasure of the Dean, and may be replaced at any time.

## Resources Owned by the Covenant

Resources of the covenant are held in common by all members of the Council of Members, and it is the responsibility of the council to maintain and defend them.

The covenant of *Reservo Scientia* lays claim to all the vis originating from undisputed and unclaimed vis sources discovered by members of the council, save for the first harvest of a new vis source which belongs to the finder or finders<sup>11</sup>. This covenant also lays claim to any vis gifted to the Council of Members as a whole. In all other situations, undisputed and unclaimed vis belongs to the finder or finders.

Specifically, the covenant lays full claim to the following sources of vis:

- I. The area known as the Field of Rebirth, a source of Muto vis. This claim has been registered with House Mercere and accepted by House Guernicus in accordance with Hermetic Law.

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<sup>7</sup> Amended Summer 1067. Original text added *All votes shall be taken by a show of sigils, which may be deputized for magi who do not wish to attend.*

<sup>8</sup> Amended Winter 1087. Original text omitted *and may not be elected to consecutive terms*

<sup>9</sup> Amended Spring 1120. Original text did not specify that the Captain of the Turb need not be Gifted.

<sup>10</sup> Amended Winter 1058. Original text replaced *written* with *verbal*

<sup>11</sup> Amended Winter 1024. Original text has no exception for finders.

- II. The area known as the Goblin Cave, a source of Terram vis. This claim has been registered with House Mercere and accepted by House Guernicus in accordance with Hermetic Law.<sup>12</sup>
- III. The artifact known as the Gargoyle Rose, a source of Herbam vis. This claim has been registered with House Mercere and accepted by House Guernicus in accordance with Hermetic Law.<sup>13</sup>
- IV. The location known as the Shrine of Mithras, a source of Ignem vis. This claim has been registered with House Mercere and accepted by House Guernicus in accordance with Hermetic Law.<sup>14</sup>
- V. That portion of the covenant library known as the Spider's Home, a source of Vim vis. This claim has been registered with House Mercere and accepted by House Guernicus in accordance with Hermetic Law.<sup>15</sup>
- VI. The mystical being known as the Crone, a source of Creo vis. This claim has been registered with House Mercere and accepted by House Guernicus in accordance with Hermetic Law.<sup>16</sup>

This covenant lays claim to all books obtained by member of the council while acting at the behest of the council, and all books scribed by members of the council in which either a) the book is donated to the covenant library as part of an obligation of the member, b) payment is made to the scribing magus from the covenant's resources. This covenant also lays claim to any books gifted to the Council of Members as a whole, or received in trade from another covenant.

The council lays claim to all magical items obtained by members of the council while acting at the behest of the council, and all magical items made by members of the council in which either a) the items was donated to the covenant as part of an obligation by the member, b) payment was made to the creating magus from the covenant's resources. The council also lays claim to any magical items gifted to Council of Members as a whole.

The council lays claim to all monies generated using the resources of the covenant. The council also lays claim to monies obtained by members of the council while acting at the behest of the council. The council also lays claim to any monies gifted to the Council of Members as a whole.

The council lays claim to the buildings, defenses, chattels, and inhabitants of the covenant. The council also lays claim to any such buildings, defenses, chattels, and inhabitants gifted to the Council of Members as a whole.

Surplus resources of the covenant will be determined at the Winter meeting of the Council of Members. Resources necessary for the continued existence of the covenant and the protection of its member's rights are accounted for first; this includes payment for seasons of work performed on behalf of the covenant, and a stipend of vis for the casting of Aegis of the Hearth. Contributions to all debts owed by the covenant are decided by the Diocetes and set aside. The remaining resources re deemed surplus and shall be allocated to the settlement of requests from each member of the covenant.

## **R**ights of Members of the Covenant

Each and every member of the covenant, graduates<sup>17</sup>, magi in residence<sup>18</sup>, and protected guests shall be entitled to the basic rights of the covenant, to whitt, full and unrestricted access to the protection and support of the covenant within the boundaries of the code and by all the rights and benefits accorded by the Code of Hermes, the benefit of a sanctum which shall remain inviolate and the supply of materials thereof, access to the library of the covenant in accordance with the covenant charter,

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<sup>12</sup> Added Winter 1017

<sup>13</sup> Added Winter 1047

<sup>14</sup> Added Spring 1093

<sup>15</sup> Added Spring 1110

<sup>16</sup> Added Fall 1153

<sup>17</sup> Ammended Spring 1132. Original text did not mention graduates.

<sup>18</sup> Ammended Fall 1170. Previous version did not mention magi in residence.

and victuals appropriate to the status of the magus. These basic rights shall not be abridged except by expulsion from the Council of Members.

In furtherance and additional to the basic right, a member of the covenant shall be entitled to the full rights of the covenant according to his or her status, to wit, the right to presence and a vote in the Council of Members (unless restricted by censure), which he shall exercise dutifully and with prudence. Further, full access to the services and skills of the servants and covenfolk. Further, right to some portion of all surplus provision and store necessary to conduct his studies, or the travel demanded by these studies., such rights to include (but not be limited to) vis, monies, and diverse magical and mundane resources claimed by the covenant. Where a conflict is evident between members of the council over the allotment of surplus resource, distribution is by seniority. Where both disputants are of equal status, distribution is by lot. These rights shall not be abridged except by the decision of the Council of Members under circumstances of grave concern.

In furtherance and additional to the basic rights of a member of this covenant, a probationary member of the covenant is entitled to the probationary rights of the covenant, to wit, a fractional share of those rights and duties offered to a full member of the covenant, such share being equal to half that offered to full members. A probationary member may claim only half the share of the surplus provision and store of the covenants resources afforded a full member. The services and skills of the servants and covenfolk may not be halved, but the needs of a full member of the covenant take precedence over the needs of a probationary member. Further, a probationary member of the covenant who remains true to his Oath of Covenant has the right to remain at the covenant for total of 60 seasons following the conferral of this status. Further, a probationary member of the covenant has the right to be considered for full membership of this covenant after serving a total of 60 seasons as a probationary member, and may be considered sooner at the discretion of the Council of Members. These rights shall not be abridged except by decision of the Council of Members under conditions of grave concern.

### **R**ights of Graduates<sup>19</sup> and Magi in Residence<sup>20</sup>

In furtherance and additional to the basic rights of guests of the covenant, a graduate will receive limited access to texts within the covenant library on the understanding that these texts may be studied only within the library building. Graduates shall receive one pawn of vis from the year's surplus, as determined by the Diocetes after all covenant members have received their shares. In the event that insufficient vis exists for all graduates to receive one pawn, distribution will be by seniority. Graduates shall have limited access to laboratory facilities provided for the covenant specifically for their use. Graduates may not be called on to serve the covenant by the Council of Members, providing that their service has already been utilized once during the current solar year, and that there are other graduates who have not yet served the Council of Members during the current solar year, although this right may be waived by the Dean in circumstances of grave concern in which the graduate's expertise is of especial value.

In furtherance and additional to the basic rights of guests of the covenant, a Magus in Residence shall receive a ½ share of surplus covenant vis supplies as determined by the Diocetes. They shall receive restricted access to the covenant library, but may petition the Council of Members for special access to other texts. They have full access to a laboratory facility which has been made available for their use. Magi in residence may not be called upon to serve the covenant by the Council of Members more than once in a solar year, though this right may be waived by the Dean in circumstances of grave concern in which the magus in residence has skills that are of especial value.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Added Spring 1132

<sup>20</sup> Amended Fall 1170. Original did not include magi in residence

<sup>21</sup> This paragraph added Fall 1170

## esponsibilities of Members of the Covenant

Members of the covenant of *Reservo Scientia* are obliged to obey the Oath of Hermes and the Peripheral Code, as demanded by the Oath of Covenant, failure on this account will not be tolerated by the Council of Members, and the covenant reserves the right to censure those members who are convicted in just Tribunal of an offense against the Order of Hermes.

The responsibility of the members of this covenant towards its lasting success is dependant on service to the covenant. The Council of Members will declare the duties that need to be performed at the regular meetings of the covenant. Such duties include, (but are not limited to) the safeguarding and harvesting of the covenant's claimed vis sources, the safeguarding and harvesting of the covenant's income, and the wellbeing and discipline of the covenant's employees, the maintenance of the covenant's resources, the increase of the covenant's resources, and the maintenance of good relations with the covenant's allies. Duties that will not entail more than a week of service at low personal risk will be assigned by the council to its members, with no more than one being assigned to each member each season. Such assigned duties attract no recompense or advantage to the member who discharges them, but cannot be refused without reasonable extenuation.

Duties which will entail a higher investment of time or personal risk will be offered up for service by the covenant. These services will attract a remuneration which shall be commensurate with the time, risk, and potential benefits to the covenant. This remuneration is decided by the Dean, in conjunction with senior members of the covenant. The Council of Members is not empowered to force a member to accept one of these duties unless failure to perform it would be in breach of this covenant, in which case the threat of censure may be employed. All payments will be made in the Spring meeting of the Council of Members. If there is more than one claimant for the service and each claimant refuses to share the duty, then the Dean shall assign the duty. If there is insufficient vis to meet the demands of the council, the Dean may withhold payment for one or more years. Covenant work may be declared such retroactively.

Each probationary member of the covenant shall be obliged to perform no fewer than one of the tasks under remuneration currently outlined by the Council of Members during his period of probation. For this mandatory service, no payment need be offered by the Council of Members.

The covenant of *Reservo Scientia* dedicates itself, its members, and its resources to the teaching of Gifted individuals in the arts of Hermetic magic. As such it is the responsibility of all members to seek out Gifted individuals, wherever they may be found, and to oversee their training. In order to remain in good standing each member of the covenant must train a minimum of one apprentice every twenty years. More apprentices may be trained at the member's discretion. No probationary member will be considered for full membership unless and until that member has trained an apprentice who has passed his wizard's gauntlet and become a member in good standing within the Order of Hermes.

The covenant of *Reservo Scientia* further dedicates itself, its members, and its resources to the preservation and expansion of knowledge – in particular knowledge of the magical arts, but also to knowledge in its purest form. Because of this, the submission of worthy texts to the covenant library are a requirement for advancement within the covenant hierarchy. Those who wish to advance to the rank of Member must submit a tractus of value to the covenant library. This tractus must not duplicate, in whole or in major, a work already extant in the covenant library. It is not required that the tractus be an original work by the magus: it is enough that the tractus be of value to the covenant. Said tractus will be given over to the Librarius for appraisal. The Librarius shall determine whether a given work is of sufficient quality to warrant promotion.

Those seeking promotion to Senior Member must submit a summa of value to the covenant library. This summa must not duplicate, in whole or in major, a work already extant in the covenant library. The summa must be an original work produced by the magus. Said summa will be given over to the Librarius for appraisal. The Librarius shall determine whether a given work is of sufficient quality to warrant promotion.

## **R**esponsibilities of Graduates<sup>22</sup> and Magi in Residence<sup>23</sup>

Graduates are obliged to place themselves at the disposal of the Council of Members, and to undertake such duties as the Council of Members sees fit to place upon them. Such tasks may include, but are not limited to, expeditions to collect the covenant's vis supplies, trade expeditions to distant covenants, delivery or collection of goods from distant covenants, supplemental instruction of younger apprentices, assisting members of the covenant as laboratory assistants or scribes, and defense of the covenant against dire threats.

Magi in residence are required, first and foremost, to see to the training of an apprentice while living at the covenant. Magi in residence must, over the course of their fifteen year stay, raise and train an apprentice in a manner appropriate to their particular House, and may train additional apprentices during this time should they choose. Magi in residence are also required, during their fifteen years at the covenant, to produce a book suitable for the covenant library. This book may be a summa or a tractus at the discretion of the Librarius and the magus in residence. Magi in residence may also be called upon to perform other duties by the Council of Members. Such duties may include, but are not limited to activities to defend the covenant against dire threats, negotiations with their House on matters of interest to the covenant, and supplemental instruction of young apprentices in areas where the magus in residence has appropriate knowledge.<sup>24</sup>

## **C**ensure of Members of the Covenant

If a member should contravene the decisions of the Council of Members, by vote or by charter, then the member may be censured or expelled by a vote of the Council of Members. Censure requires the passing of a motion at a meeting of the Council of Members. The censure of a full member revokes his or her voting rights on the Council, and further revokes all rights of his current status, returning him to probationary status, whereupon he assumes all the rights and responsibilities of a probationary member, save that he is not allowed a vote at council meetings. The censure of a probationary member shall abridge the rights and responsibilities of probationary membership, and the individual shall thereafter be considered as a Protected Guest under the invitation of the Dean.

Expulsion is enacted by unanimous vote of the remaining Council of Members. Expulsion is the only means by which a member of the covenant shall lose his basic rights, and requires that the former member ceases to draw upon those basic rights subsequent to the first full moon after the expulsion was enacted. Should a magus be cast out of the Order of Hermes, it is the duty and obligation of the covenant that he shall also and without delay be expelled from the covenant.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> This section added Spring 1132

<sup>23</sup> Amended Fall 1170. Original made no reference to magi in residence

<sup>24</sup> This paragraph added Fall 1170

<sup>25</sup> Ammended Winter 1087. Original included a succeeding paragraph "*At the discretion of the Council of Members a censured member of the covenant may be reinstated. This requires a unanimous vote of all council members. The reinstated member shall be elevated to his previous status, and all rights, responsibilities, and duties thereof shall immediately accrue. It shall be as though the individual had never been censured.*"