

The Artists' Guild

A preliminary meeting was held on June 14th, 1912, at 79 West Cromwell Road, W., to consider the advisability of forming a Guild for Artists on a religious basis to include both men and women "whose main work is any branch of Art."

At St. Paul's Chapter House on November 8th a number of Musicians, Painters and Craftsmen assembled and formed this Guild.

The Bishop of Winchester was elected and has agreed to become President for the first year.

Many of those present enrolled themselves as members or associates.

The Chair was taken by Mr. Walter Ford, who gave the following address which sets forth the object of the Guild:—

"There are many religious people who have no belief in Art, there are more artists who have no belief in religion.

"We who meet to inaugurate this Guild are able to believe in both.

"Though we welcome all sincere religious belief, however vague, yet our own confidence in the future of religion, of human society and of art,

is bound up with our allegiance to a definite Faith, to the Divine Person of its Founder, and to a Church, which, whatever the errors and backslidings of her long history, has yet striven to interpret her Master's Will on earth, and which, in spite of divisions, is united by the profession of that unpopular thing, a dogmatic Creed.

“It is a false supposition that the grandeur of a religion is in proportion to the vagueness of its tenets, or that an all-embracing toleration is necessarily the sign of a specially enlightened mind. Men often tolerate more, because their own beliefs are less strongly held.

“This Guild of Artists, as was demonstrated at the Meeting held in June, feels that it is truer wisdom to start as a smaller body with strong principles than as a larger body with weak ones. So it was decided that the nucleus of the Guild should be composed of those only who, in the words of our constitution, belong to some body in communion with the See of Canterbury, and who can conscientiously subscribe to our two Rules. But it is open to us to welcome, and we shall welcome cordially as associates, all those whose conscience prevents them from subscribing to more than the general expression of our purpose, which is ‘to unite in a common Bond of Fellowship those who desire to consecrate their gifts to the Glory of God.’

“As to the need of such a Guild, I imagine that we find it when we observe what is going on all around us in every field of life, religious, political, artistic. Dissolvent processes are busily at work, overturning every principle hitherto accepted, breaking down all restraints, obliterating distinctions, which, when the world was more professedly Christian, were taken for granted, distinctions between right and wrong, beauty and ugliness, purity and foulness.

“It is not hard to see the connection between what offends Christian thought in contemporary literature, art and politics, and the decay of the religious spirit.

“Though noble art has not always in Europe been directly inspired by Christian belief, it has yet flourished in societies where Christian belief has prevailed. It has shared with Christians many of their views, ideals, aspirations. To-day we have to face in all branches of art—and in rapidly widening circles—work which is not merely non-religious, but actively anti-religious and anti-Christian. It is one thing to leave religion out: it is another thing to thrust irreligion in.

“The Guild then seeks to unite in a common society those artists who believe in the Christian Faith, and who find in it an inspiration for their life and for their art, which is their life's work.”

The Artists' Guild

President: THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

Chaplains: THE REV. J. NEVILLE FIGGIS, C.R., D.Litt.,
Hon. Fellow of St. Catherine's Coll., Camb.,
House of Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorkshire.

THE REV. E. STOGDON, M.A.,
Harrow Mission.
Latimer Road, W.

THE REV. W. B. TREVELYAN, M.A.,
Warden of Liddon House, 15 Thurloe Square, S.W.

Council: WALTER FORD, Chairman.

FRANCIS BURGESS, F.S.A.Scot.

Sister ROSE HORNBLLOWER, C.H.F.,
A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M. } Music.

REV. CYRIL MILLER, Mus.Bac.

ELLIS ROBERTS, M.A. - - - Literature.

EMILY FORD

GEORGE KRUGER

T. NOYES LEWIS

ETHEL KING MARTYN, R.E. } Painting and Designing.

ELLEN C. WOODWARD - - - Metal-work.

J. HAROLD GIBBONS - - - Architecture.

Honorary Treasurer: WALTER FORD, Esq.,
25 Stratford Road,
Kensington, W.

Honorary Secretary: Miss M. C. M. BERGMAN,
107 Goldhurst Terrace,
South Hampstead, N.W.

THE ARTISTS' GUILD

The object of the Guild is to unite in a Common Bond of Fellowship those who desire to consecrate their gifts to the Glory of God.

CONSTITUTION

1. Members of the Guild shall consist of men and women whose main occupation is in some branch of Art, and who belong to some religious body in communion with the See of Canterbury. Men and women who are not qualified for ordinary membership may at the Council's discretion be elected Associates.

2. The Officers of the Guild shall be the President, Chaplain or Chaplains, Secretary, and Treasurer.

3. There shall be a Council consisting of the Officers of the Guild, and ten other members. Three shall form a quorum.

4. The Officers shall be elected triennially and the Council annually. The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Council by members of the Guild; the Chaplain or Chaplains by the President and Council.

5. Candidates for membership must be proposed and seconded by members of the Guild.

6. The Council shall administer the ordinary business of the Guild, and meet at least twice a year.

7. There shall be an Annual General Meeting in October, and such other meetings as the Council may arrange during the year.

8. Additions to or alterations in the Constitution and Rules may be made only at the annual General Meeting, and

by a majority of two-thirds of the members present, and notice of all proposals for such additions or alterations must be sent one month beforehand to the Secretary.

9. There shall be an annual subscription of one shilling. The Treasurer shall present a balance sheet to the annual General Meeting.

RULES

1. Members shall be responsible for mutual help to each other and to the Guild by the practice of daily prayer. The Guild Prayer shall be used once a week.

2. They shall take part in an annual Corporate Communion on a day to be fixed by the Council, if possible, in the same Church.

PRAYER

O Lord God Almighty, who dost by Thy Holy Spirit endow Thy servants with manifold gifts of knowledge and skill, grant us grace to use them alway for Thine honour and for ministry to the life of man, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.