



NOVA ROMA ONWARD

A discussion paper

BY

Gnaeus Iulius Caesar

AND

Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix

CONTENTS

PAGE

INTRODUCTION	1
THE REBIRTH	2
CUSTODIANS OF CULTURE	3
BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF ACTIVISM	6
THE RIGHT OF REPRESENTATION	8
THE NATURE OF SOVEREIGNTY	12
FIVE STEPS TOWARDS THE DECLARATION	13
SUMMARY	14

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

INTRODUCTION

Nova Roma is now over seventeen years old. A debate has commenced on its Main List concerning the implementation of the discussion paper *Nova Roma Reborn*, published in 2009.

In order to set that paper in perspective, we think it necessary to demonstrate how those proposals link to a broader and more long-term strategy; a strategy that pursues the vision contained within the Nova Roman *Declaration* and translates that into practical and achievable steps that Nova Roma can, if it so chooses, pursue over time. These will be outlined in this paper, *Nova Roma Onward*. We chose that name deliberately, to reflect the next stage after rebirth, the phase of growth.

As much as it is helpful to set the future in context, it is also necessary we feel to show how reforms that have already been executed tie into the overall goals that we outline, as well as to explain how the Senate, and the authors, have occupied their time since 2009.

After publication of *Nova Roma Reborn* in 2009, events in Nova Roma accelerated towards what is now known as the “second civil war” of 2010. The immediate aftermath in 2011 was a consolidation year, during which the Senate attempted to gain control of financial systems that had been thrown into chaos by the departure of the former senatorial majority, as well as establish a manual process for elections until control of the electoral voting tools could be implemented. There were also issues with a competing organization, and an impeding audit by the IRS.

In 2012 and 2013 the authors of this paper, *Nova Roma Onward*, executed a number of necessary reforms during their respective consulships, in order to repair the most immediate and pressing issues that had been highlighted or identified for the first time by the divisive events of 2010 and 2011. These were matters such as strengthening the Senate, through new compressive operating rules, to prevent a further attempt at a hostile takeover bid by future disaffected elements, comprehensive budgetary reforms and the creation of a more logical tax methodology, introduction of a conflict of interest policy, introduction of a new code of conduct, a revised citizenship *lex*, a new *cursus honorum lex*, as well as many other matters that were discussed by the Senate and comitia of Nova Roma.

The years 2014 and 2015 became essentially consolidation years. The heavy legislative agenda, the many *senatus consulta* and *leges*, of 2012 and 2013 were counterbalanced by two years of a more regular senatorial agenda, focusing

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

mainly on social events and housekeeping matters. For both authors 2014 and the first half of 2015 also posed challenges in the area of personal health, now resolved but which took them out of the arena of advocating for *Nova Roma Reborn*.

The publication of *Nova Roma Onward* is the natural culmination of many discussions that have taken place on various lists in 2015, and it reflects the desires of many, if not all, citizens to see a practical implementation of a greater vision. This vision intentionally dovetails neatly with the changes we advocate for in *Nova Roma Reborn*.

THE REBIRTH

Let us skip forward to a time, hopefully, when the changes in *Nova Roma Reborn* have been implemented. The two corporations have been established, Nova Roma Inc. along the lines of a traditional democratic non-profit organization, devoid of Roman titles and functioning fully in compliance with the laws of Nova Roma Inc's incorporation state, while the res publica has been re-established under more Roman principles than ever before.

The service contract is in place between the two entities, providing the necessary operational base of stability to ensure the two components parts of the greater whole that is Nova Roma do not conflict with each other, or interfere in each other's established mandate, but instead support as one the work of the other.

As stated in *Nova Roma Reborn*, under Associated Groups, page 97 onwards, the rebirth of Nova Roma Inc. into a form recognizable to many other Roman centric and archaeological groups, with traditional titles and structures (a Board of Directors and not a senate for example) and familiar by-laws (not *leges* and *senatus consulta*), will provide those other groups with a measure of comfort at the prospect of being associated with Nova Roma.

It is our contention that if we were to perpetuate the use of the term *micronation* or were our structure to reflect that, the detrimental effect that would have on the possibility of serious relations and associations with more academic groups would be severe. Striking up "diplomatic relations" with odd sounding, and frankly odd in nature micronations would be a huge disservice towards gaining credibility in the eyes of those other groups, and eventually their respect.

Instead we feel that these academic groups, and those associations that in the future Nova Roma seeks to join as an affiliated organization, will be far more receptive to recognizable organizational structures as Nova Roma Inc. would become. Membership of and affiliation with such groups can heighten the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

reputation of Nova Roma as a whole, both non-profit and *res publica*, but that it is likely that Nova Roma Inc. in its revised format will spearhead these links. Many academics would look upon the *res publica's* use of Roman names, the organizational structure of the Senate, comitia and collegia as simple role-playing. Even if we attempted to educate them otherwise, our contention is that it

is, and would be, a bridge too far for most (if not all) of them to cross. Nova Roma needs to be credible, and if the *res publica* does not engender that credibility and confidence then the task will have to fall upon the non-profit side of Nova Roma Inc. to drive these *memorandums of understanding* forward.

We could be collectively dogmatic and demand these other groups recognize us as a serious organization, but we stand more to gain by our association with them than they with us. Therefore logically we have to play by the rules and normal conditions that such groups operate by, and feel comfortable with.

Therefore project to this time in your mind where you see Nova Roma Inc. striking these *memorandum of understanding* with such groups and associations. We need to be associated with professional bodies that invite partnerships with other sections of society, civic minded groups and of course non-profit organizations whose area is the classics. We need to groom Nova Roma into that role, but you may, indeed should, ask what that role is exactly?

CUSTODIANS OF CULTURE

Within Nova Roma's *Declaration* there are three clauses that speak to that role:

"We acknowledge ancient Roman territory to be our cultural and religious homeland, and claim historical rights to all sites and territories which were under the direct control or administration of the ancient Roman Republic and Empire between 753 BCE and 395 CE"

"Our pledge is to embody a benign and beneficial cultural and spiritual influence throughout all societies, while remaining politically neutral and lawful in action."

"Nova Roma also claims temporary dual sovereignty over all other sites where the gods and goddesses of ancient Rome shall be worshiped by our citizens, to preserve our cultural and spiritual unity."

These of course are heady and dramatic claims. A reasonable person, grounded in reality, understands that especially in the post 9/11 world, nation states are

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

deeply suspicious of (and rightly so) and openly hostile to, secessionist movements, or non-state actors such as ISIS.

One can say that we don't know how or when that Nova Roma's sovereignty will be recognized by enough nations to make it a reality. That is of course undeniable. We don't know, but the absence of likelihood doesn't make this a valid possibility, and thus a reasonable goal.

In fact the lack of any predictable and practical set of circumstances, short of a complete collapse of the existing world order due to a planetary disaster, which in turn would render the goal pointless as survival in its most basic form would be the only viable goal for survivors, means that this goal is virtually certain not to be achieved in its most extreme form.

Extreme sovereignty is one we classify as where Nova Roma possesses a viable land border, national assets, a sustainable GDP, in fact all the trappings of a normal nation state. We simply don't see this occurring, ever. That is we believe a reflection of the realities of life, and any claim to the contrary we see as self-delusional and fantasy based.

That does not mean however that the vision and enthusiasm that was poured into the *Declaration* was wasted. Look again at exactly what it says in those sections quoted above. It claims historical rights, pledges to the exercise of benign cultural and spiritual influence, and temporary dual sovereignty over specific sites.

In this early 21st century activism is prevalent. There are movements that seek to protect animals, protect the whales, the fish, the very oceans themselves, and the environment in general, not to mention the burgeoning human rights organizations. Eventually as space exploration morphs into space exploitation, there will be activists forming to defend stars, planets, gas clouds and the purity of asteroid belts. It seems as though the human mindset of many in this age is wired to protest and to protect at a greater level of engagement than ever before.

Think for a moment too of the fate of knowledge in the former province of Britannia, two to three hundred years after the Emperor Honorius told the British provincial officials to look to their own defenses. By then the infrastructure of Roman life had collapsed into piles of ruins, very few ordinary people knew who had built the great Roman roads, or who had once inhabited the crumbling towns and cities. The "*Dark Ages*" had truly descended. This too could once again be the fate awaiting us.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

Ancient sites, Roman among them, face the threat of complete decay, of total obliteration, not just from fanatical groups but also from the ravages of weather and the lack of resources from national governments. Action is needed.

Here lies the role for Nova Roma to aspire to and to follow a concrete path to its realization. We should aim to make this organization the recognized international advocate for Roman and classical world sites, and its members the activists for the preservation of those sites.

If we do not seek this role, claim it for ourselves and work towards it, then we risk a new dark age descending, for what other organization of any mass speaks as activists for those mute and crumbling vestiges of a once great past?

Who better to perform this role than Nova Roma? Not the Nova Roma of now, but the Nova Roma after *Nova Roma Reborn* is implemented, a Nova Roma that has forged links of merit with recognized professional bodies, a Nova Roma that has adopted this discussion paper too as a foundation of growth.

This would be a Nova Roma that has risen from the footnote of a Wikipedia entry to a world-wide recognized name, embodying the merits of living history in action, supporting not only re-enactment groups, and all the other cultural aspects of Roman society that the mores of our times permit, but also a Nova Roma whose members support in all ways that they can those partner organizations.

A Nova Roma whose growing membership participates in fund raising for related charitable purposes that would see the advancement of Nova Roma's mission through the preservation of those classical cultural sites.

A Nova Roma that initiates, or engages in existing, awareness campaigns to stave off imminent threats to Rome's surviving architectural and other cultural remnants, be it from the threats of military action, terrorism or nature depredations of erosion and pollution.

A Nova Roma that seeks to galvanize nation states through activism into protecting those sites that lie within their borders, in part through the provision of sufficient funding.

A Nova Roma that like the legions of old is a primary line of defense to the encroachments of the new dark ages, not through force of arms, but through force of words, of reason, of active yet peaceful opposition to the dual threats of ignorance and disregard. A Nova Roma that becomes the guardians of our classical past and the embodiment of the voice that past does not have. For example, the words of Titus Livius can ring down through the ages about the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

threats posed by the Gauls and the Carthaginians, but he is impotent to speak in defense of his own cultural heritage. That task must devolve onto us.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF ACTIVISM

We see the role of Nova Roma Inc. as our ambassador into the modern world, yet our community is a Roman one. Inside of our “gates” we organize along Roman line and this sets us apart. This is not just living history, a recreation of the past, but the synthesis of the ancient world with the modern; Romanitas in action.

This expression of Romanitas has been, and will be again, noisy, messy, emotional and confrontational, because we are a living, growing human society subject to all the pressures of communal life. Our *res publica* should also have a noble purpose to offset those moments that appear less than positive, although anything that indicates that life exists, that an organizational heartbeat is present, is a good thing in our minds regardless of the form it takes.

Yet human beings instinctively need to aspire to a higher meaning, even if they do not always recognize that consciously. We have talked in this paper of engendering activism. This activism is a call to cultural arms. Not for us the actual clash of gladius on scutum, but instead our weapons are words, debate, and persuasion. We seek to protect the knowledge of the classical world, especially the Roman world, and its remaining treasures.

Following the implementation of *Nova Roma Reborn* we predict that the conditions will be favorable for the development of an increasingly active and engaged citizenry inside the *res publica*. That citizenry through the life of the *res publica* will be the engine of that activism.

If we pursue and achieve partnerships with associated professional groups, projects will be debated between Nova Roma Inc. and those groups, ones where we can assist practically. Nova Roma has endured one project that wasn't grounded in realism from its inception, and it had potentially severe consequences for us, so we should only involve ourselves initially in existing projects sponsored by our partner organizations..

We have not yet garnered sufficient exposure as an organization in the disciplines necessary to initiate our own projects from scratch. That will eventually come, but for now we can gain recognition through supporting the existing work of other associated groups.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

These could be emergency letter writing campaigns to local governments over the decrepit state of monuments, fundraising to finance archaeological excavations, or activism among local communities to highlight the classical world and at the same time promote the mandates of partner organizations as well as our own.

The governmental structures of the *res publica*, Senate, comitia, magistrates and appointed officials would work together on these assigned “state projects”, projects disbursed and overseen by the censors, with appropriate rewards being distributed in the form of census points (CP) to the specific organizers and participants. Publicity could be garnered both for the project work and for Nova Roma itself, a win-win situation for all concerned.

Think of the value of seeing a Roman community in action, galvanized behind a meaningful project aimed at preserving classical culture for the benefit of all. This is that part of the *Declaration* in action; “*Our pledge is to embody a benign and beneficial cultural and spiritual influence throughout all societies, while remaining politically neutral and lawful in action.*”

The projects of the *res publica* would of course not be just for the benefit of others. It would continue to strive to advance its own mission through such efforts, the regular holding of the *conventus*, local recruitment drives in the provinces, meet-and-greets at a very local and personal level, participation in and creation of living history events, modelled on the successes in provinces such as Pannonia.

The standing committees of the Senate would become more active and engaged, focusing on providing the co-ordination and central support that they were designed to give, not necessarily to initiate but to evaluate and support project work wherever possible within the scope of their powers and abilities.

The economy of activity would morph into becoming an economy of activism too; active activism that generates creativity, engagement and purpose amongst the citizens. The two parts, non-profit and *res publica*, of the whole that is Nova Roma would be working in synchronism.

Reporting to partner agencies on this activity, and its results, would be key to establishing that positive reputation we spoke of above. The Senate Communications Committee would collate the reports and feed them through to the Senate’s representative on the Nova Roma Inc. Board of Directors, so he or she could present them at meetings with those partner agencies.

Gradually those partner organizations would appreciate the hive of activity in the *res publica* and likely initiate direct contact with the Senate. In such cases where

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

this efficiency of direct contact was seen as comfortable and beneficial to the partner organizations, the Senate may assume regular contact with them, with the Board of Directors of the non-profit arm stepping to one side and assuming more of a strategic oversight, financial approval (where disbursement of funds are concerned) and reporting role, than one of day-to-day direction and tactical co-ordination of projects.

As such direct contact developed with partner organizations and the elements of the *res publica* one could expect to see a circulation of knowledge and the development of working relations change to support for the concept of the *res publica*. Outside groups need to see its value, its energy and enthusiasm, as well as its value to them and to the classical world in general.

Nova Roma has to sow its fields with the seeds of professionalism and co-operation in order to reap a harvest of cross-pollination of membership. People in other organizations must become enthused by the activism of the citizens of the *res publica* as well as the steady professionalism of the non-profit side. The symbiosis of those two elements, enthusiastic activism and steady professionalism will we feel create the foundations for lasting and productive partnerships.

THE RIGHT OF REPRESENTATION

The *Declaration* speaks to the claimed rights to all the sites and territories that once fell under the control of the Roman Republic and Empire. Again this is an impressive claim, and totally unrealistic in its most extreme form. No one is going to hand most of western and large swathes of central Europe over on a plate, now or anytime in the future.

If you were to claim you were the natural and rightful inheritor of the title of King of Siam, would the current military government of Thailand just doff its cap and shuffle away, leaving the throne available for you to ascend? One might say that would be highly unlikely. If you were a direct bloodline descendant of someone who had once sat on the throne then your claim maybe taken more seriously than were you to be someone who simply was attracted to, and enthusiastic about, the culture and history of Siam and felt inexplicably drawn to it.

What is a "historic right"? How do we prove in any rational and sane debate that Nova Roma, an organization founded in 1998 in the United States of America, is the natural and lawful inheritor of that right? Why is this even important? Well, the *Declaration* forms part of our foundation documents, and therefore we need to demonstrate to the wider world not only the sanity of what otherwise to many people must seem like an organization based on insanity, but also that the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

foundational documents are realistic and practical, and that our *res publica* is therefore based on firm footings and not shifting sand. It is a question of credibility when we engage with a wider audience.

Clearly we are not collectively, or individually even likely to be, descended from those Ancient Romans who ruled the Empire, or much less the Republic of Rome. Yes, again theoretically it might be possible, but for many of us our family roots lie in the cold dark Germanic forests, or in stark Norwegian fiords, rather than the sun bathed forums of Rome.

Even for those born and raised well within the boundaries of Rome, of Italy and of the former Roman provinces, the influx of “barbarians” from beyond the Rhine, and subsequently in our own age from other continents that never knew the *Pax Romana*, has diluted those bloodlines to the point that such claims can only ever be viewed by the wider world as fantasy.

Therefore we think it is generally accepted that we in Nova Roma lay this claim to “historic right” to those sites much like salvage hunters do. When they study a long lost vessel, research it, live the story of its history and its study the accounts of its eventual loss, and then by dint of hard work pin-point the location of the wreck and proceed to raise it from the deep, either whole or bit by bit. The effort that salvagers expend, the fact that no one prior to that had bothered with such an enterprise, or that previous such efforts had failed, is akin to the nature of our claim. The salvager gets accorded for his efforts a legal right to the wreck. So too with Nova Roma. We would plan that the work we put in gets translated into, and rewarded by, recognition that our claim to those “historic rights” are valid and sustainable.

If, beyond the mere expression of it, that claim that is made in the *Declaration* is to have anything more of substance to it than a hollow ring, then Nova Roma has to do much more. in terms of hard work to make the claim not only on the basis that we were the first, or we are the only surviving attempt, to lift Ancient Rome from the pages of history and therefore have some inherent right to these sites, but more importantly on the basis of the investment of our efforts into the work of activism and then advocacy on behalf of them.

Through that work, and our partnerships, we will seek to become a recognized voice, not as experts in archaeology or preservation techniques, but the voice of the wider peoples of the world for whom classical culture is part of their birthright. We will bring to the table of such discussions not only a portfolio based on active involvement in the wider issues of preventing loss or damage to these sites, but also as the natural leaders of a silent majority, who until those sites are under

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

imminent threat or have actually been lost to the ravages of war, pollution or sheer neglect, tend to not have such matters on the radar of everyday life and concerns.

Even when some horrific destruction does occur, for many people in that wider world, the daily grind of meeting financial commitments, raising families and the demands of employment take priority over the loss of what they perceive as ruins from a bygone age. It simply isn't something that of itself causes people to rise up *en masse* and protest.

Therefore we feel that the world would benefit from the direct involvement in the protection of classical sites, and culture in general, by a group whose claim to advocacy on behalf of that culture is founded not only effective activism but by that deep, almost spiritual, affinity to and for the civilization of Ancient Rome.

If Nova Roma takes advantages of the structural changes that will occur through the implementation of *Nova Roma Reborn*, and links its recruitment to its increasingly public face as the defenders of, and advocates for, the protection and advancement of that culture that was Ancient Rome's, and this results not only an increase in our overall membership, but more importantly an increase in its active and involved membership, then our claim to have inherited those "historic rights" will, we feel, be viewed as more legitimate by our partner organizations.

Exactly what organization types would we be looking to partner with? Initially we would suggest local classical cultural and archaeological groups, especially in provinces where we can deliver "boots on the ground" to assist with any practicalities of project work these groups may have, such as maintenance work on clearing sites, helping to maintain visitor amenities. Naturally one would hope that a practical return, in addition to building positive relationships, might be reduced rates of entry to sites, increased access to sites above and beyond that available to the ordinary public, participation in informational seminars and small research activity tasks. Nova Roma Inc. should seek out organizational or group membership in small to mid-level groups, congresses and conferences. The return on the financial investment here would be the networking opportunities that would exist.

If therefore we achieve that goal, of becoming active, enthusiastic activists engaged in the protection and promotion of our spiritual ancestors' culture, then what you should ask?

The answer for the authors is that we continue to build our reputation, using the networking concept above and linking to our increasing exposure through associated membership with the wider classical cultural society and groups, up to

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

the point where we can make a realistic and legitimate application for recognition of our rights of advocacy, based on that activism, with organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Council, where we would seek the designation for Nova Roma as it having Special Consultative Status within that committee.

That status would be based on the facts that we would be a large dedicated community, who accurately live according to the precepts of the Roman *res publica*, as far as the mores of our time permit, combined with the active activism dedicated to the peaceful rejection of the forces of what can be characterized as

the forces of a new Dark Ages, fundamentalist extremism, pollution, wanton disregard, ignorance, and engaging in campaigns to turn back the tide of their influence and effects on the remnants of classical culture.

So to summarize, the authors suggest that Nova Roma adopts a long term plan that starts our involvement in this wider classical cultural community at a local level, be it town, city, province or state (and that would depend on the strength of existing Nova Roman membership) and then through the tool of active activism and networking increase our exposure and participation from a patchwork of such groups into a wider and more comprehensive coverage.

Nova Roma Inc. should formalize these partnerships through *memorandum of understandings*, and at the same time be active in promoting Nova Roma itself. Cross-pollination of membership will then hopefully occur between Nova Roma and our partner groups.

Apart from the satisfaction of attempting to turn back the tide of this new Dark Age, the practical benefit is that if successful, linked to a substantial increase in membership over the years, will see Nova Roma positioned as a having the ability to mobilize activist boots on the ground, to be vocal in the defense of our classical cultural heritage, as an organization that actively seeks and gains publicity and thus, finally, as an organization whose views are valuable, insightful and representative of a growing groundswell of public opinion. In short we will gain the right to claim to be advocates, and to be consulted on these specific and special areas of concern to UNESCO.

At this point when such a claim has credible justification, we should make the application for Special Consultative Status. Whether successful or not in that endeavor, Nova Roma will still be in a far stronger position than ever before to be a voice that must be heard. All activist and advocacy based groups follow a similar path. There is absolutely no reason why Nova Roma cannot and should not follow the same route map in an area that has scant public voice. If we really believe in the Declaration, and the sentiments behind it, then we are morally

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

bound to find a way to make that document a living one, an actionable one, a meaningful one outside of the emotional feelings it engenders reading it and imagining it so. It is long past the time to stop imagining and make this reality.

THE NATURE OF SOVEREIGNTY

The whole issue of sovereignty has been a contentious topic inside Nova Roma. At various points it has been hijacked as a cloak for those who wished to ignore the trammels of non-profit regulations and laws, in favor of their own courses of action which flouted those. The banner of “sovereignty” would be raised and a number of people were emotionally attracted to it, seeing the assertion of it as somehow fulfilling our self-proclaimed mandate.

The reality is, as far as we can see, that Nova Roma will never be sovereign in the sense that nations are. Oh yes, we may find theoretically some hard-up near failed state to lease us an island (at very best), or we might rent out some abandoned oil platform in the middle of storm-tossed seas, but honestly who is going to want to be the guest of a near failed state, or constantly living in the middle of raging seas?

Italia is not going to hand itself over to us, nor is the city of Rome, nor any of Rome’s former provinces. This is childish fantasy. Worse, given the potential mental instability of some people in this world, they may actually take this claim in its most extreme form seriously. We have already seen evidence in postings that there are some people who really apparently believe this is possible. Now some may say that it is a harmless romantic dream, and qualify that with “*who knows the future?*”, which is tantamount to adding fuel to that fire again. Anything that could potentially end up with some mentally unstable person taking unilateral action in pursuit of that fantasy is something we should neither tolerate nor encourage. We are all members of nation states and we owe our allegiance to those, and to their laws, and that is where the argument on sovereignty in our mind begins and ends in respect of its most literal form.

Sovereignty however comes in many guises, and does not have to be linked to land borders, or even land at all. As soon as organizations talk, however far into the future, about trying to obtain land that means someone has to lose it, or give it to us. At this point it reeks of secession to the outside observer. However fanciful the concept, or however insignificant the person who posts on such matters is, or isn’t, in the decision making process, these are all qualifications that can be lost on those employed to sniff out and monitor secession, especially in this post 9/11 world. That is why as an organization we should firstly have no truck with such nonsense, grounded as it is not in reality, and also secondly why

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

we need to firmly and finally further define exactly what we do mean, and what we do not mean, when we refer to sovereignty.

We propose that sovereignty for Nova Roma should be defined as a general state of acceptance, by those authorized to do so nationally and internationally, that Nova Roma is an entity which is granted a standing invitation to participate as an observer. This is the recognition granted by the United Nations to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. The UN does not recognize it as "non-member state" or "intergovernmental organization", even though it does have its extraterritorial status and sovereignty within its headquarters recognized by Italy.

This claim to the UN would have to be made at a point when Nova Roma's position as numerically a continually growing entity was well established, and where it had gained advocacy rights through pursuit of active activism as described above. At this point Nova Roma could try to negotiate with individual countries, most likely where it is numerically strongest, that it should be viewed as a "sovereign subject of international law."

At this point, were this to be successful, Nova Roma could assess its standing internationally and determine the next steps, if any, that could or should be taken. For now this would be the finite goal of, and the only expression of, sovereignty that Nova Roma would aspire to.

Therefore we need not concern ourselves with linking land to sovereignty. The former can be pursued without the latter being a prerequisite of possession. We should not aspire to being granted extraterritorial status, let alone full nation state status. As described above we believe this is neither practical nor helpful.

If Nova Roma can even achieve the steps and milestones we advocate here, this will be an extraordinary success. It may take years, more likely generations, but at least we will have a clearly defined plan of action, a set of achievable goals, to work to. These will be ones couched in a manner that are clearly seen to fit within the current system of international governance, and not the ramblings of proto-secessionism.

FIVE STEPS TOWARDS THE DECLARATION

These then are what we believe the five steps, as outlined in this paper, should be to push Nova Roma forward towards the implementation of the vision outlined in the Declaration:

1. Fully implement *Nova Roma Reborn*.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

2. Under the Nova Roma Inc. banner establish working relations and partnerships with academic groups that pertain to preservation and promotion of Roman sites and the spread of knowledge of Roman culture, either specific or general, and begin activism in support of that.
3. Based on growth in Nova Roma's status and standing from (2) being achieved, seek "Special Consultative Status" to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
4. Based on achieving (3) and a further growth in Nova Roma's status and standing, seek UNESCO NGO official partner status.
5. Based on (4) being achieved then seek "Permanent Observer Status" at the UN under the classification of "other entities". At the same time commence negotiations with selected national states to be recognized as a "sovereign subject of international law".

SUMMARY

The goals outlined here will not be achieved overnight, but they are intended as a long-term plan which Nova Roma can work towards if it so chooses. It gives concrete form to the vision outlined in the Declaration, one of the most if not the most important of our foundation documents.

At some point Nova Roma needs, in our minds, to articulate exactly how it intends to implement the Declaration. If it chooses not to then that document's value will be diminished. It will be dismissed as riddled with fantasy.

We are sure that some will say that in *Nova Roma Onward* we have set our sights too high, but if this is too high then the Declaration is clearly even further outside of our abilities to implement.

We believe that by giving Nova Roma a goal of becoming involved in the form of activism and advocacy we describe, that our range of networked contacts will increase, and depending on our contributions, we stand a very real chance of increasing the level of regard for us among those professional and academic circles. Currently they have zero to little regard, judging us on our organizational structure, our naming policies, and finally our track record. Therefore the bar isn't being set very high.

Our proposals follow a logical path, from the introduction and implementation of *Nova Roma Reborn* onwards. What we see as the most far reaching part is the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

articulation of a long-term practical plan, which successive generations of Nova Romans can work towards achieving.

Success will not be automatic, but having a destination and a general map of how we intend to get there is, we feel, a positive advance. There would be setbacks, periods of stagnation, retreats, and then advances again. That is the normal course for activist and advocacy groups, indeed one might say for nations too.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

INTRODUCTION

Nova Roma is now over seventeen years old. A debate has commenced on its Main List concerning the implementation of the discussion paper *Nova Roma Reborn*, published in 2009.

In order to set that paper in perspective, we think it necessary to demonstrate how those proposals link to a broader and more long-term strategy; a strategy that pursues the vision contained within the Nova Roman *Declaration* and translates that document into practical and achievable steps that Nova Roma can, if it so chooses, pursue over time. These will be outlined in this paper, *Nova Roma Onward*. We chose that name deliberately, to reflect the next stage after rebirth, the phase of growth.

As much as it is helpful to set the future in context, it is also necessary we feel to show how reforms that have already been executed tie into the overall goals that we outline, as well as to explain how the Senate, and the authors, have occupied their time since 2009.

After publication of *Nova Roma Reborn* in 2009, events in Nova Roma accelerated towards what is now known as the “second civil war” of 2010. The immediate aftermath in 2011 was a consolidation year, during which the Senate attempted to gain control of financial systems that had been thrown into chaos by the departure of the former senatorial majority, as well as establish a manual process for elections until control and repair of the electoral voting tools could be implemented. There were also issues with a competing organization, and an impeding audit by the IRS.

In 2012 and 2013 the authors of this paper, *Nova Roma Onward*, executed a number of necessary reforms during their respective consulships, in order to repair the most immediate and pressing issues that had been highlighted or identified for the first time by the divisive events of 2010 and 2011. These were matters such as strengthening the Senate, through new compressive operating rules, to prevent a further attempt at a hostile takeover bid by future disaffected elements, comprehensive budgetary reforms and the creation of a more logical tax methodology, introduction of a conflict of interest policy, introduction of a new code of conduct, a revised citizenship *lex*, a new *cursus honorum lex*, as well as many other matters that were discussed by the Senate and comitia of Nova Roma.

The years 2014 and 2015 became essentially consolidation years. The heavy legislative agenda, the many *senatus consulta* and *leges*, of 2012 and 2013 were counterbalanced by two years of a more regular senatorial agenda, focusing

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

mainly on social events and housekeeping matters. For both authors 2014 and the first half of 2015 also posed challenges in the area of personal health, now resolved but which took them out of the arena of advocating for *Nova Roma Reborn*.

The publication of *Nova Roma Onward* is the natural culmination of many discussions that have taken place on various lists in 2015, and it reflects the desires of many, if not all, citizens to see a practical implementation of a greater vision. This vision intentionally dovetails neatly with the changes we advocate for in *Nova Roma Reborn*.

THE REBIRTH

Let us skip forward to a time, hopefully, when the changes in *Nova Roma Reborn* have been implemented. The two corporations have been established, Nova Roma Inc. along the lines of a traditional democratic non-profit organization, devoid of Roman titles and functioning fully in compliance with the laws of Nova Roma Inc's incorporation state, while the *res publica* has been re-established under more Roman principles than ever before.

The service contract is in place between the two entities, providing the necessary operational base of stability to ensure the two components parts of the greater whole that is Nova Roma do not conflict with each other, or interfere in each other's established mandate, but instead support as one the work of the other.

As stated in *Nova Roma Reborn*, under Associated Groups, page 97 onwards, the rebirth of Nova Roma Inc. into a form recognizable to many other Roman centric and archaeological groups, with traditional titles and structures (a Board of Directors and not a senate for example) and familiar by-laws (not *leges* and *senatus consulta*), will provide those other groups with a measure of comfort at the prospect of being associated with Nova Roma.

It is our contention that if we were to perpetuate the use of the term micronation, or were our structure to reflect that concept, the detrimental effect that would have on the possibility of serious relations and associations with more academic groups would be severe. Striking up "diplomatic relations" with odd sounding, and frankly odd in nature micronations would be a huge disservice towards gaining credibility in the eyes of those other groups, and eventually their respect.

Instead we feel that these academic groups, and those associations that in the future Nova Roma seeks to join as an affiliated organization, will be far more receptive to the recognizable organizational structure Nova Roma Inc. would have become. Membership of and affiliation with such groups can heighten the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

reputation of Nova Roma as a whole, both non-profit and *res publica*, but that it is likely that Nova Roma Inc. in its revised format will spearhead these links. Many academics would look upon the *res publica's* use of Roman names, the organizational structure of the Senate, comitia and collegia as simple role-playing. Even if we attempted to educate them otherwise, our contention is that it is, and would be, a bridge too far for most (if not all) of them to cross. Nova Roma needs to be credible, and if the *res publica* does not engender that credibility and confidence then the task will have to fall upon the non-profit side of Nova Roma Inc. to drive these *memorandums of understanding* forward.

We could be collectively dogmatic and demand these other groups recognize us as a serious organization, but we stand more to gain by our association with them than they with us. Therefore logically we have to play by the rules and normal conditions that such groups operate by, and feel comfortable with.

Therefore project forward to this time in your mind, where you see Nova Roma Inc. striking these *memorandums of understanding* with such groups and associations. We need to be associated with professional bodies that invite partnerships with other sections of society, civic minded groups and of course non-profit organizations whose area of interest is the classics. We need to groom Nova Roma into that role, but you may, indeed should, ask what that role is exactly?

CUSTODIANS OF CULTURE

Within Nova Roma's *Declaration* there are three clauses that speak to that role:

"We acknowledge ancient Roman territory to be our cultural and religious homeland, and claim historical rights to all sites and territories which were under the direct control or administration of the ancient Roman Republic and Empire between 753 BCE and 395 CE"

"Our pledge is to embody a benign and beneficial cultural and spiritual influence throughout all societies, while remaining politically neutral and lawful in action."

"Nova Roma also claims temporary dual sovereignty over all other sites where the gods and goddesses of ancient Rome shall be worshiped by our citizens, to preserve our cultural and spiritual unity."

These of course are heady and dramatic claims. A reasonable person, grounded in reality, understands that especially in the post 9/11 world, nation states are

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

deeply suspicious of (and rightly so) and openly hostile to, secessionist movements, or non-state actors such as ISIS. This is also a reason we need to clarify Nova Roma's concept of what form sovereignty would take.

One can say that we don't know how or when that Nova Roma's sovereignty will be recognized by enough nations to make it a reality. That is of course undeniable. We don't know, but the absence of likelihood doesn't make this a valid possibility, and thus a reasonable goal.

In fact the lack of any predictable and practical set of circumstances, short of a complete collapse of the existing world order due to a planetary disaster, which in turn would render the goal pointless as survival in its most basic form would be the only viable goal for survivors, means that this goal is virtually certain not to be achieved in its most extreme form.

Extreme sovereignty is one we classify as where Nova Roma possesses a viable land border, national assets, a sustainable GDP, in fact all the trappings of a normal nation state. We simply don't see this occurring, ever. That is we believe a reflection of the realities of life, and any claim to the contrary we see as self-delusional and fantasy based.

That does not mean however that the vision and enthusiasm that was poured into the *Declaration* was wasted. Look again at exactly what it says in those sections quoted above. It claims historical rights, pledges to the exercise of benign cultural and spiritual influence, and temporary dual sovereignty over specific sites.

In this early 21st century activism is prevalent. There are movements that seek to protect animals, protect the whales, the fish, the very oceans themselves, and the environment in general, not to mention the burgeoning human rights organizations. Eventually no doubt as space exploration morphs into space exploitation, there will be activists forming to defend stars, planets, gas clouds and the purity of asteroid belts! It seems as though the human mindset of many in this age is wired to protest and to protect at a greater level of engagement than ever before.

Think for a moment too of the fate of knowledge in the former province of Britannia, two to three hundred years after the Emperor Honorius told the British provincial officials to look to their own defenses. By then the infrastructure of Roman life had collapsed into piles of ruins, very few ordinary people knew who had built the great Roman roads, or who had once inhabited the crumbling towns and cities. The Dark Ages had truly descended. This too could once again be the fate awaiting us.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

Ancient sites, Roman among them, face the threat of complete decay, of total obliteration, not just from fanatical groups but also from the ravages of weather and the lack of resources from national governments. Action is needed.

Here lies the role for Nova Roma to aspire to and to follow a concrete path to its realization. We should aim to make this organization the recognized international advocate for Roman and classical world sites, and its members the activists for the preservation of those sites.

If we do not seek this role, claim it for ourselves and work towards it, then we risk a new Dark Age descending upon us, for what other organization of any mass and instant recognition world-wide speaks as an activist for those mute and crumbling vestiges of a once great past?

Who better to perform this role than Nova Roma? Not the Nova Roma of now, but the Nova Roma after *Nova Roma Reborn* is implemented, a Nova Roma that has forged links of merit with recognized professional bodies, a Nova Roma that has adopted this discussion paper too as a foundation of growth.

This would be a Nova Roma that has risen from the footnote of a Wikipedia entry to a world-wide recognized name, embodying the merits of living history in action, supporting not only re-enactment groups, and all the other cultural aspects of Roman society that the mores of our times permit, but also a Nova Roma whose members support in all ways that they can those partner organizations.

A Nova Roma whose growing membership participates in fund raising for related charitable purposes that would see the advancement of Nova Roma's mission through the preservation of those classical cultural sites.

A Nova Roma that initiates, or engages in existing, awareness campaigns to stave off imminent threats to Rome's surviving architectural and other cultural remnants, be it from the threats of military action, terrorism or the natural depredations of erosion and pollution.

A Nova Roma that seeks to galvanize nation states through activism into protecting those sites that lie within their borders, in part through the provision of sufficient funding.

A Nova Roma that like the legions of old is a primary line of defense to the encroachments of the new Dark Age, not through force of arms, but through force of words, of reason, of active yet peaceful opposition to the dual threats of ignorance and disregard. A Nova Roma that becomes the guardian of our classical past and the embodiment of the voice that past does not have. For example, the words of Titus Livius can ring down through the ages about the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

threats posed by the Gauls and the Carthaginians, but he is impotent to speak in defense of his own cultural heritage. That task must devolve onto us.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF ACTIVISM

We see the role of Nova Roma Inc. after *Nova Roma Reborn* is fully implemented as our ambassador into the modern world, yet our community is a Roman one. Inside of our “gates” we organize along Roman line and this sets us apart. This is not just living history, a recreation of the past, but truly the synthesis of the ancient world with the modern; Romanitas in action in other words.

This expression of Romanitas has been, and will be again, noisy, messy, emotional and confrontational, because we are a living, growing human society subject to all the pressures of communal life, whether virtual or real. Our *res publica* should also have a noble purpose to offset those moments that appear less than positive, although anything that indicates that life exists, that an organizational heartbeat is present, is a good thing in our minds regardless of the form it takes.

Yet human beings instinctively need to aspire to a higher meaning, even if they do not always recognize that consciously. We have talked in this paper of engendering activism. This activism is a call to cultural arms. Not for us the actual clash of gladius on scutum, but instead our weapons are words, debate, and persuasion. We seek to protect the knowledge of the classical world, especially the Roman world, and its remaining treasures.

Following the implementation of *Nova Roma Reborn* we predict that the conditions will be favorable for the development of an increasingly active and engaged citizenry inside the *res publica*. That citizenry through the life of the *res publica* will be the engine of that activism.

If we pursue and achieve partnerships with associated professional groups, projects will be debated between Nova Roma Inc. and those groups, ones where we can assist practically. Nova Roma has endured one project that wasn't grounded in realism from its inception, and it had potentially severe consequences for us, so we should only involve ourselves initially in existing projects sponsored by our partner organizations..

We have not yet garnered sufficient exposure as an organization in the disciplines necessary to initiate our own projects from scratch. That will

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

eventually come, but for now we can gain recognition through supporting the existing work of other associated groups.

These could be emergency letter writing campaigns to local governments over the decrepit state of monuments, fundraising to finance archaeological excavations, or activism among local communities to highlight the classical world and at the same time promote the mandates of partner organizations as well as our own.

The governmental structures of the *res publica*, Senate, comitia, magistrates and appointed officials would work together on these assigned “state projects”, projects disbursed and overseen by the censors, with appropriate rewards being distributed in the form of currency points (CP) to the specific organizers and participants. Publicity could be garnered both for the project work and for Nova Roma itself, a win-win situation for all concerned.

Think of the value of seeing a Roman community in action, galvanized behind a meaningful project aimed at preserving classical culture for the benefit of all. This is that part of the *Declaration* in action; “*Our pledge is to embody a benign and beneficial cultural and spiritual influence throughout all societies, while remaining politically neutral and lawful in action*”.

The projects of the *res publica* would of course not be just for the benefit of others. It would continue to strive to advance its own mission through such efforts, the regular holding of the *conventus*, local recruitment drives in the provinces, meet-and-greets at a very local and personal level, participation in and creation of living history events, modelled on the successes in provinces such as Pannonia.

The standing committees of the Senate would become more active and engaged, focusing on providing the co-ordination and central support that they were designed to give, not necessarily to initiate but to evaluate and support project work wherever possible within the scope of their powers and abilities.

The economy of activity would morph into becoming an economy of activism too; active activism that generates creativity, engagement and purpose amongst the citizens. The two parts, non-profit and *res publica*, of the whole that is Nova Roma would be working in synchronicity.

Reporting to partner agencies on this activity, and its results, would be key to establishing that positive reputation we spoke of above. The Senate Communications Committee would collate the reports and feed them through to the Senate’s representative on the Nova Roma Inc. Board of Directors, so he or she could present them at meetings with those partner agencies.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

Gradually those partner organizations would appreciate the hive of activity in the *res publica* and likely initiate direct contact with the Senate. In such cases where this efficiency of direct contact was seen as comfortable and beneficial to the partner organizations, the Senate may assume regular contact with them, with the Board of Directors of the non-profit arm stepping to one side and assuming more of a strategic oversight, financial approval (where disbursement of funds are concerned) and reporting role, than one of day-to-day direction and tactical co-ordination of projects.

As such direct contact developed with partner organizations and the elements of the *res publica* one could expect to see a circulation of knowledge and the development of working relations change to support for the concept of the *res publica*. Outside groups need to see its value, its energy and enthusiasm, as well as its value to them and to the classical world in general.

Nova Roma has to sow its fields with the seeds of professionalism and co-operation in order to reap a harvest of cross-pollination of membership. People in other organizations must become enthused by the activism of the citizens of the *res publica* as well as the steady professionalism of the non-profit side. The symbiosis of those two elements, enthusiastic activism and steady professionalism will we feel create the foundations for lasting and productive partnerships.

THE RIGHT OF REPRESENTATION

The *Declaration* speaks to the claimed rights to all the sites and territories that once fell under the control of the Roman Republic and Empire. Again this is an impressive claim, and totally unrealistic in its most extreme form. No one is going to hand most of western and large swathes of central Europe over on a plate, now or anytime in the future.

For example, if you were to claim you were the natural and rightful inheritor of the title of King of Siam, would the current military government of Thailand just doff its cap and shuffle away, leaving the throne available for you to ascend? One might say that would be highly unlikely. If you were a direct bloodline descendant of someone who had once sat on the throne then your claim maybe taken more seriously than were you to be someone who simply was attracted to, and enthusiastic about, the culture and history of Siam and felt inexplicably drawn to it. Nova Roma's claim would undoubtedly be disregarded in the same way.

What is a "historic right"? How do we prove in any rational and sane debate that Nova Roma, an organization founded in 1998 in the United States of America, is the natural and lawful inheritor of that right? Why is this even important? Well, the

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

Declaration forms part of our foundation documents, and therefore we need to demonstrate to the wider world not only the sanity of what otherwise to many people must seem like an organization based on insanity, but also that the foundational documents are realistic and practical, and that our *res publica* is therefore based on firm footings and not shifting sand. It is a question of credibility when we engage with a wider audience.

Clearly we are not collectively, or individually even likely to be, descended from those Ancient Romans who ruled the Empire, or much less the Republic of Rome. Yes, again theoretically it might be possible, but for many of us our family roots lie in the cold dark Germanic forests, or in stark Norwegian fiords, rather than the sun bathed forums of Rome.

Even for those born and raised well within the boundaries of Rome, of Italy and of the former Roman provinces, the influx of “barbarians” from beyond the Rhine, and subsequently in our own age people from other continents that in antiquity never knew the *Pax Romana*, has diluted those bloodlines to the point that such claims can only ever be viewed by the wider world as fantasy.

Therefore we think it is generally accepted that we in Nova Roma lay this claim to “historic right” to those sites much like salvage hunters do when they study a long lost vessel, research it, live the story of its history and its study the accounts of its eventual loss, and then by dint of hard work pin-point the location of the wreck and proceed to raise it from the deep, either whole or bit by bit. The effort that salvagers expend, the fact that no one prior to that had bothered with such an enterprise, or that previous such efforts had failed, is akin to the nature of our claim. The salvager gets accorded for his efforts a legal right to the wreck. So too with Nova Roma, and in pursuit of that we would plan that the work we put in gets translated into, and rewarded by, recognition that our claim to those “historic rights” is valid and sustainable.

If, beyond the mere expression of it, that claim that is made in the *Declaration* is to have anything more of substance to it than a hollow ring, then Nova Roma has to do much more. In terms of hard work to make the claim not only on the basis that we were the first, or we are the only surviving credible attempt, to lift Ancient Rome from the pages of history and therefore have some inherent right to these sites, but more importantly on the basis of the investment of our efforts into the work of activism and then advocacy on behalf of them.

Through that work, and our partnerships, we will seek to become a recognized voice, not as experts in archaeology or preservation techniques, but the voice of the wider peoples of the world for whom classical culture is part of their birthright. We will bring to the table of such discussions not only a portfolio based on active

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

involvement in the wider issues of preventing loss or damage to these sites, but also as the natural leaders of a silent majority, who until those sites are under imminent threat or have actually been lost to the ravages of war, pollution or sheer neglect, tend to not have such matters on the radar of everyday life and concerns.

Even when some horrific destruction does occur, for many people in the wider world, the daily grind of meeting financial commitments, raising families and the demands of employment take priority over the loss of what they perceive as ruins from a bygone age. It simply isn't something that of itself causes people to rise up *en masse* and protest.

Therefore we feel that the world would benefit from the direct involvement in the protection of classical sites, and culture in general, by a group whose claim to advocacy on behalf of that culture is founded not only effective activism but by that deep, almost spiritual, affinity to and for the civilization of Ancient Rome.

If Nova Roma takes advantages of the structural changes that will occur through the implementation of *Nova Roma Reborn*, and links its recruitment to its increasingly public face as the defenders of, and advocates for, the protection and advancement of that culture that was Ancient Rome's, and this results not only an increase in our overall membership, but more importantly an increase in its active and involved membership, then our claim to have inherited those "historic rights" will, we feel, be viewed as more legitimate by our partner organizations.

Exactly what organization types would we be looking to partner with? Initially we would suggest local classical cultural and archaeological groups, especially in provinces where we can deliver "boots on the ground" to assist with any practicalities of project work these groups may have, such as maintenance work on clearing sites, helping to maintain visitor amenities. Naturally one would hope that a practical return, in addition to building positive relationships, might be reduced rates of entry to sites, increased access to sites above and beyond that available to the ordinary public, participation in informational seminars and small research activity tasks. Nova Roma Inc. should seek out organizational or group membership in small to mid-level groups, congresses and conferences. The return on the financial investment here would be the networking opportunities that would exist.

If therefore we achieve that goal, of becoming active, enthusiastic activists engaged in the protection and promotion of our spiritual ancestors' culture, then what comes next?

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

The answer for the authors is that we continue to build our reputation, using the networking concept above and linking to our increasing exposure through associated membership with the wider classical cultural society and groups, up to the point where we can make a realistic and legitimate application for recognition of our rights of advocacy, based on that activism, with organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Council, where we would seek the designation for Nova Roma as it having Special Consultative Status within that committee.

That status would be based on the facts that we would be a large dedicated community, who accurately live according to the precepts of the Roman *res publica*, as far as the mores of our time permit, combined with the active activism dedicated to the peaceful rejection of the forces of what can be characterized as the forces of a new Dark Ages, fundamentalist extremism, pollution, wanton disregard, ignorance, and engaging in campaigns to turn back the tide of these negative influences and effects on the remnants of our classical culture.

So to summarize, the authors suggest that Nova Roma adopts a long term plan that starts our involvement in this wider classical cultural community at a local level, be it town, city, province or state (and that would depend on the strength of existing Nova Roman membership) and then through the tool of active activism and networking increase our exposure and participation from a patchwork of such groups into a wider and more comprehensive coverage.

Nova Roma Inc. should formalize these partnerships through *memorandum of understandings*, and at the same time be active in promoting Nova Roma itself. Cross-pollination of membership will then hopefully occur between Nova Roma and our partner groups.

Apart from the satisfaction of attempting to turn back the tide of this new Dark Age, the practical benefit is that if successful, linked to a substantial increase in membership over the years, will see Nova Roma positioned as a having the ability to mobilize activist boots on the ground, to be vocal in the defense of our classical cultural heritage, as an organization that actively seeks and gains publicity and thus, finally, as an organization whose views are valuable, insightful and representative of a growing groundswell of public opinion. In short we will gain the right to claim to be advocates, and to be consulted on these specific and special areas of concern to UNESCO.

At this point when such a claim has credible justification, we should make the application for Special Consultative Status. Whether successful or not in that endeavor, Nova Roma will still be in a far stronger position than ever before to be a voice that must be heard. All activist and advocacy based groups follow a similar path. There is absolutely no reason why Nova Roma cannot and should

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

not follow the same route map in an area that has scant public voice. If we really believe in the Declaration, and the sentiments behind it, then we are morally bound to find a way to make that document a living one, an actionable one, a meaningful one outside of the emotional feelings it engenders reading it and imagining it so. It is long past the time to stop imagining and make this reality.

THE NATURE OF SOVEREIGNTY

The whole issue of sovereignty has been a contentious topic inside Nova Roma. At various points it has been hijacked as a cloak for those who wished to ignore the trammels of non-profit regulations and laws, in favor of their own courses of action which flouted those. The banner of “sovereignty” would be raised and a number of people were emotionally attracted to it, seeing the assertion of it as somehow fulfilling our self-proclaimed mandate.

The reality is, as far as we can see, that Nova Roma will never be sovereign in the sense that nations are. Oh yes, we may find theoretically some hard-up near failed state to lease us an island (at very best), or we might rent out some abandoned oil platform in the middle of storm-tossed seas, but honestly who is going to want to be the guest of a near failed state, or constantly living in the middle of raging seas?

Italia is not going to hand itself over to us, nor is the city of Rome, nor any of Rome’s former provinces. This is childish fantasy. Worse, given the potential mental instability of some people in this world, they may actually take this claim in its most extreme form seriously. We have already seen evidence in postings that there are some people who really apparently believe this is possible. Now some may say that it is a harmless romantic dream, and qualify that with “*who knows the future?*”, which is tantamount to adding fuel to that fire again. Anything that could potentially end up with some mentally unstable person taking unilateral action in pursuit of that fantasy is something we should neither tolerate nor encourage. We are all members of nation states and we owe our allegiance to those, and to their laws, and that is where the argument on sovereignty in our mind begins and ends in respect of its most literal form.

Sovereignty however comes in many guises, and does not have to be linked to land borders, or even land at all. As soon as organizations talk, however far into the future, about trying to obtain land that means someone has to lose it, or give it to us. At this point it reeks of secession to the outside observer. However fanciful the concept, or however insignificant the person who posts on such matters is, or isn’t, in the decision making process, these are all qualifications that can be lost on those employed to sniff out and monitor secession, especially

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

in this post 9/11 world. That is why as an organization we should firstly have no truck with such nonsense, grounded as it is in fantasy, and also secondly why we need to firmly and finally further define exactly what we do mean, and what we do not mean, when we refer to sovereignty.

We propose that sovereignty for Nova Roma should be defined as a general state of acceptance, by those authorized to do so nationally and internationally, that Nova Roma is an entity which is granted a standing invitation to participate as an observer. This is the recognition granted by the United Nations to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. The UN does not recognize it as "non-member state" or "intergovernmental organization", even though it does have its extraterritorial status and sovereignty within its headquarters recognized by Italy.

This claim to the UN would have to be made at a point when Nova Roma's position as numerically a continually growing entity was well established, and where it had gained advocacy rights through pursuit of active activism as described above. At this point Nova Roma could try to negotiate with individual countries, most likely where it is numerically strongest, that it should be viewed as a "sovereign subject of international law."

At this point, were this to be successful, Nova Roma could assess its standing internationally and determine the next steps, if any, that could or should be taken. For now this would be the finite goal of, and the only expression of, sovereignty that Nova Roma would aspire to.

Therefore we need not concern ourselves with linking land to sovereignty. The former can be pursued without the latter being a prerequisite of possession. We should not aspire to being granted extraterritorial status, let alone full nation state status. As described above we believe this is neither practical nor helpful.

If Nova Roma can even achieve the steps and milestones we advocate here, this will be an extraordinary success. It may take years, more likely generations, but at least we will have a clearly defined plan of action, a set of achievable goals, to work to. These will be ones couched in a manner that are clearly seen to fit within the current system of international governance, and not the ramblings of proto-secessionism.

FIVE STEPS TOWARDS THE DECLARATION

These then are what we believe the five steps, as outlined in this paper, should be to push Nova Roma forward towards the implementation of the vision outlined in the Declaration:

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

1. Fully implement *Nova Roma Reborn*.
2. Under the Nova Roma Inc. banner establish working relations and partnerships with academic groups that pertain to preservation and promotion of Roman sites and the spread of knowledge of Roman culture, either specific or general, and begin activism in support of that.
3. Based on growth in Nova Roma's status and standing from (2) being achieved, seek "Special Consultative Status" to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
4. Based on achieving (3) and a further growth in Nova Roma's status and standing, seek UNESCO NGO official partner status.
5. Based on (4) being achieved then seek "Permanent Observer Status" at the UN under the classification of "other entities". At the same time commence negotiations with selected national states to be recognized as a "sovereign subject of international law".

SUMMARY

The goals outlined here will not be achieved overnight, but they are intended as a long-term plan which Nova Roma can work towards if it so chooses. It gives concrete form to the vision outlined in the Declaration, one of the most if not the most important of our foundation documents.

At some point Nova Roma needs, in our minds, to articulate exactly how it intends to implement the Declaration. If it chooses not to then that document's value will be diminished. It will be dismissed as riddled with fantasy.

We are sure that some will say that in *Nova Roma Onward* we have set our sights too high, but if this is too high then the Declaration is clearly even further outside of our abilities to implement.

We believe that by giving Nova Roma a goal of becoming involved in the form of activism and advocacy we describe, that our range of networked contacts will increase, and depending on our contributions, we stand a very real chance of increasing the level of regard for us among those professional and academic circles. Currently they have zero to little regard, judging us on our organizational structure, our naming policies, and finally our track record. Therefore the bar isn't being set very high.

NOVA ROMA ONWARD

Our proposals follow a logical path, from the introduction and implementation of *Nova Roma Reborn* onwards. What we see as the most far reaching part is the articulation of a long-term practical plan, which successive generations of Nova Romans can work towards achieving.

Success will not be automatic, but having a destination and a general map of how we intend to get there is, we feel, a positive advance. There would be setbacks, periods of stagnation, retreats, and then advances again. That is the normal course for activist and advocacy groups, indeed one might say for nations too.