

## The Politics of the International Round Table Since 2002

The founding of the International Round Table occurred in New York City in 1947. Since then it has rotated between the United States and Europe; odd years in the USA, even years in Europe. Meetings have always been held in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year (September – December).

In 2002 the International Meeting was held in Paris in early December. On the agenda that year, placed there by the Priory of Scions (who were represented by 2 Europeans that year), was a discussion of the presence of Division 10 and the Federated Societies at the USA Round Table, along with the absence of the Priory of Scions having a full seat at the US Round Table.

Concern about Division 10 and the Federated Societies was voiced by European members of all four organizations. Concern over the issue that the Priory of Scions did not have a seat at the US Round Table was voiced by the Priory of Scions, Circle of Hermes, and Project Garnet.

The Priory of Scions objected to not having a seat at the US Round Table on obvious grounds. The Circle of Hermes objected because it believes that an body as important as the US Round Table should not exclude a major international society. Project Garnet's objections stemmed from its own precarious position as the newest society at the Round Table. The the Scarecrow took a more neutral position, believing as they do that local politics are the purview of locals, though they voiced a general opinion that it did not seem within the spirit of the Round Table to deny representation to the Priory of Scions at any level.

The meeting ended with requests by the European members that the leaders of the US Round Table take action to prevent Division 10 from attending US Round Table meetings, since D10 was considered a threat to the over all safety of the societies as a whole. There were also requests that the Federated Societies be relegated to strict observer status, and the Priory of Scions be granted equal representation.

In 2003, the International Meeting was held in the USA. There were few Europeans in attendance, and those that came merely reiterated the demands from the previous year.

In 2004, the International Meeting should have been held in Copenhagen. The Circle of Hermes, however, refused to call the meeting as a continued sign of protest over D10, the Priory of Scion's lack of seat, and the inclusion of the Federated Societies. Instead, they simply called for elections of a new International Council. (Roles to be filled by PCs.)

For the 2005 International Council, the Priory of Scions broke with tradition a second time and put forth two Europeans (usually it's one American and one European) to be their representatives. Project Garnet put forth two Americans, and the Scarecrow and Circle of Hermes each put forth one European and one American.

The American Circle of Hermes representative called the 2005 meeting for late October.