

DARK TIMES

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MISSING YOUR APPOINTMENT?

This month, details emerged of the outcome of a Camarilla conclave, which took place in Venice in January. The reasons for the Inner Circle calling the meeting were initially unclear, but six Justicars were noted to have attended. Aleister Crowley however, the Malkavian Justicar, was not seen at the event.

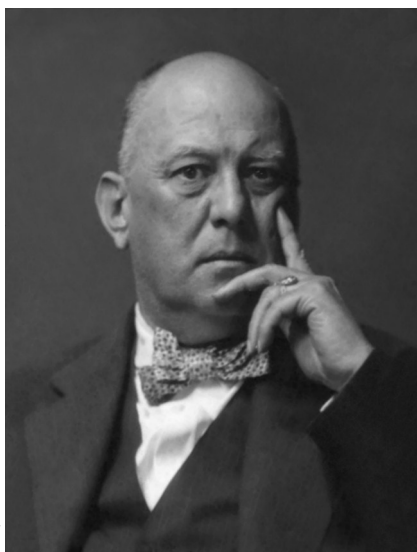
It has now been made known that the Inner Circle of the Camarilla has made a decision on who should hold the position of Malkavian Justicar, as attempts to locate Crowley over the past years have proved unsuccessful. No verdict was given as to the Circle's opinion, but many sources claim that the notorious Malkavian is considered to have been destroyed.

Crowley had faced numerous difficulties during his tenure, and has not been seen in over two years. In 2009, his recently granted position was called into question when he was linked with the slaughter of members of the press, whom he had supposedly called to a barn under his own name. The massacre took place in Hastings, where Crowley was alleged to have died as a mortal in 1947.

Crowley was already an unusual choice for the role, and caused considerable consternation, with several more suited candidates being passed over in the process. Malkavian politics are always opaque, but to have the Inner Circle appoint a reputed multiple diablerist, who was Embraced less than a century ago; the reasons for that decision have been speculated on ever since.

Following the massacre in Hastings, Crowley was seen in the area as a ghostly apparition, who scared a number of people to death, an incident which was reported widely in the mortal news with no satisfactory explanation. This coupled with the debacle of the press conference left many Kindred calling for a proper investigation into Crowley's actions and to call him to account for breaching the Masquerade.

These issues culminated in Marcus Leavenholme, Elder of Clan Malkavian who was



Aleister Crowley before his Embrace

based in London, hosting the Archon Jean-Marc d'Harfleur. Rumours circulated for months that d'Harfleur's purpose in travelling to Britain from Paris was to deal with the pressing matter of Crowley. Harfleur departed some months later, with no confirmation of what had passed during his time here. Since that time though, neither Crowley nor Marcus Leavenholme have been seen publicly.

Crowley's absence has left a substantial gap, with his clan's expectations falling into a gaping abyss. This led to the Inner Circle's meeting to debate the issue, with the other Justicars also present. Unexpectedly, despite several prospective candidates known to have been in the city at the time, no pronouncement was made. It is understood that the duties of the position will be filled in the future, but the only name which has been reliably repeated is that of Garland Greene, who is not a known Kindred. Given the unpredictable nature of the clan, this uncertainty provides no one with security.

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BOON TRADING:

- *Minor Boon - Granted by Eve Harrington-Mitford to the Duke of York*
- *Minor Boon - Granted by Donald Basingshawite to Colman Rashleigh*
- *Minor Boon - Granted by Nathan Kyte to Duke*

GO FOURTH AND SLAUGHTER

A fourth in the almost monthly chain of murders took place this month in Glasgow, and it would appear that the killers are becoming predictable, were it not for the substantial departure from their previous methods which marked this particular slaughter.

This time, the victims were not another family, held in their homes while their neighbours carried on their business, oblivious to the horrors unfolding next door. Instead, this latest incident was the most brazen, taking place within a guarded military base, and displaying the confidence these butchers are gaining, and the danger if their momentum continues apace.

“THE FULL
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The scene of the crime was the headquarters of the Royal Marine Reserves on Helen Street, just north of Bellahouston Park. The victims were two dozen serving reservists, all well trained and armed, and most of them having served tours in the Middle East. All that training helped them little though, unprepared as they were for what await-

ed them on the night of the 27th of February.

Their deaths were not as prolonged as previous victims; the murderers were aware this crime scene could not go undiscovered beyond the morning. They were as bold as ever though. Their atrocities lasted through the night, and the final victim died barely half an hour before the murders were discovered. Some of the flesh had been stripped from the corpses and consumed, but the bodies were not entirely consumed as with the previous offences. Time had been taken to inscribe the symbols across the inner walls of the barracks though, with the full complement of sigils adorning the interior of the building.

Police remain completely at a loss as to the motive for the crimes or the identity of the culprits, while the Serious Crime Unit remains crippled after Meldrum's assassination. In the meantime, questions are being raised outwith the domain as to the point at which Glasgow's Kindred will begin to take the matter seriously.

CRIME AND PREJUDICE

This month saw a series of changes which dramatically altered the underworld landscape in Glasgow, the fallout from which has still to be seen in full. No doubt Glasgow's many criminally minded Kindred will see the breadth of opportunities raised by these changes though.

The first of the changes was heralded by the death of the head of Glasgow's remaining major crime family. The crime magnate had been slowly restoring his family's resources and control, but the last month saw a rapid rise in the internal animosities he had previously been able to quell. It is believed that one of his rivals eventually decided to remove the head of the family, but surprisingly no one from the faction has emerged to claim the position.

The leading contender to take charge of the remaining Glaswegian crime syndicates is a matriarchal figure; Josie Couper. Couper holds blood ties to both of Glasgow's historic crime families, and though both are substantially depleted now, it is believed she may now hold enough sway to tie the weakened groups into a single power bloc. Her career will be most interesting to observe.

Meanwhile, the north of Glasgow saw the ebb of a tide of vigilantism which had threatened to consume the city. Residents in the north had been systematically purging a huge swathe of the city of any undesirables, in a show of intoler-



ance most unlike the hospitable reputation Glasgow is usually able to maintain, despite the myriad of dangers here.

Now though, the number of violent incidents is on the decline, sightings of gangs roaming the streets are much reduced, and a watchful peace has returned to the region. Police are claiming that their engagement tactics had worked to ease the fears of residents, but the truth is that they had largely abandoned the region over three months ago, and are only now returning in any numbers.

Who takes responsibility for either development isn't known, but how will Glasgow's Kindred respond to them, and will anyone take credit? Tune in next month to find out.

IMPRESSIONS OF GLASGOW - BY SIMON HAILE

My recent relocation to Glasgow began with an interesting discussion with his excellency, Prince Aldworth, at the Winterball in Edinburgh. His excellency and I discussed the future of the domain of Glasgow and his excellency's vision was well aligned with my own desires for a domain in which I would wish to dwell.

I had decided to leave my previous domain due to a conflict brewing between the prince and a powerful elder. Someone would force me to pick sides sooner or later, a fate I would much rather avoid. After having discussed matters with members of most domains in Britain I decided that Glasgow would best suit my needs and experiences.

A few short weeks later I found myself having private meetings with some of the driving forces of the domain and then eventually I attended the first public court. It was most interesting and vibrant. You cannot help but hear rumours about how things are handled in other domains but until you actually see them for yourself, you can never be quite prepared.

The main difference to my previous experience was that many members of the court had an almost pathological need to share information with anyone and everyone who would listen. A lot of it would make you wonder whether the person had been forced into acting foolish through the loss of prestatation or the like but not many members of the court seemed to actually care about those antics. Some were outright comical or such blatant untruths that I must wonder who they were expecting to fool.

Maybe I should include some examples of the things that were openly bandied around the court to explain what I mean. There was member of court who wanted us to know where they would be found on most given nights, how old they were and all the exotic places they had apparently stayed since their embrace. Those places allegedly included China, Japan, the Orient and the Middle East. I am not proclaiming to be an expert on these matters but I remember how many of the envoys sent by the Camarilla returned from those places and it would be a large stretch to believe that this kindred had casually travelled them all, extremely doubtful. Then we

had people openly criticising his excellency and the running elite of his domain. Some of those harsh

criticisms were at least thinly veiled and other dressed up as news but there was no misinterpreting the intent. I am not certain they really expected me to believe Glasgow's second in command so incompetent that his failures caused him to be surrounded by an almost palpable aura of guilt or his excellency was preventing others from investigating potential threats to the masquerade but I suppose they wished to show that they could make those statements without any comeback by the ruling elite.

Then there were the ill advised offers of goods and services. I mean, would you buy a haven from another member of the court who does not manage to keep it quiet where they themselves can be found? Even if I should trust another to the degree that I allowed them to know where one of my havens were I would surely chose someone I can trust to keep sensitive information private. Others asked me whether would pay them to look into one matter or another going on in town. May I suggest to them that they look into these matters and maybe attempt to sell the findings? Otherwise how competent can they really be if I have to fund their work in the first place. I understand that being the one who has bought the sole right to the knowledge of who is responsible for the cannibal murders is of value, particularly if another member of society is involved, but if you wish to sell information, sell information not your attempts to obtain it.



"THEY WISHED TO SHOW THEY COULD MAKE THOSE STATEMENTS WITHOUT ANY COMEBACK BY THE RULING ELITE."

Not all is lost though in Glasgow. There are those who understand the art of making conversation, those who have manners and know their place in the hierarchy and the importance of decorum. Hopefully those who understand that by faithfully serving the domain they do also serve themselves both directly and indirectly will manage to show those less developed the ways of the polite society.

Dark Times

Dark Times
Chambre DixHotel Britanique a Paris
75001 PARIS
FRANCE

Phone: +33 (1) 47 77 12 34
Fax: +33 (1) 47 77 98 76
E-mail: darkerthannight@gmail.com

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The Dark Times is a publication for the benefits of members of the Camarilla only and is made available at the monthly court held by the Prince of Glasgow.

The newsletter should only be made available to other Kindred, and all care should be taken to ensure that it cannot breach the Masquerade.

The Dark Times accepts submissions, and any Kindred should forward their contribution to the address to the left. We look forward to your efforts.

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO
THE SHADOWS

HARPY HOUR

This was an interesting month overall, with dramatic changes in the demographics of Glasgow.

Initially it seemed that news of Julius Montgomery's death in his haven had driven away many of Glasgow's residents. Among others, Eve Harrington-Mitford was seen in York making arrangements for a new place to reside, and even the legendary "Handsome" Ronnie Mould was seen outwith Glasgow for the first time in decades. But overall, Glasgow gained more members than it lost (quantity, not quality) – it seems the danger is an attraction...or else Montgomery was doing more to keep people away than anyone knew. Either way, it was certainly a popular term of discussion.

"Kindred in Aberdeen are concerned about the influx of young kindred to Glasgow. We recently managed to narrowly avoid a breach of the Masquerade when a neonate of the city was seen by a street sweeper, ripping a memorial statue out of concrete. Luckily Elder Aine was keeping an eye on him and his companions so no harm was done but with your city so busy, how do you plan on keeping everything safe?" – *Karen Walls, Brujah Ancilla, Aberdeen*

Edward Williams has been heard observing that Colman Rashleigh has visited Severn three times in the last couple of months, and held conference with a member of the Primos Council. What was discussed is uncertain, but with Severn's position towards the new residents of London still unclear,

Williams speculated that some clarity might be found soon.

"I see that kindred are flocking to Glasgow like flies on a 2 week old corpse. I can understand neonates such as Viktor or Ancilla rumourmongers such as the bad-tempered Malcolm Campbell running north, I suppose. Malcolm, I hear that Glasgow makes enemies just as fast as you did in London. What confuses me, however, is the rumour that the Gangrel Elder Bohdan Nechai is heading your direction. Perhaps he heard about the Viscount's recent blood-hunt and wants to try his skills." – *Lucretia Reflection, Malkavian Harpy of Manchester and Liverpool*

And finally... Leap Days throughout history have attracted all manner of suspicion. Women were able to propose to men on this day, as the normal traditions were considered to no longer apply. Prince Carter Branch seems to have taken this history to heart; declaring that upon the 29th of February no location within his domain of Norfolk would be considered an Elysium. Predictably this had the effect that no Kindred were seen out and about for the whole day. Was this what Branch intended? Is there method in his madness?

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



A monthly summary of
British Camarilla news,
politics, gossip and rumour,
straight from the Harpy's
mouth.