

DARK TIMES

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LACK OF LEADERSHIP?

Glasgow's underworld has ever been a mire of shifting controls, temporary alliances, coups and assassinations. The tableau has shifted and changed a dozen times in the last decade, yet what has been constant throughout that period is the strength of wills which have vied for control of the various factions.

At times the battle for control of the underworld has spilled onto the streets of the city, with violent conflicts claiming the lives of many innocent citizens. At other times the war has been fought behind closed doors – struggles to take the city street by street, nightclub by nightclub and drug dealer by drug dealer.

But now, there seems to be an uncharac-



teristic calm among the criminals and their gangs, all the momentum has apparently been robbed from their works. The factions themselves still have their leaders, some of whom command considerable elements. Yet the undercurrents which have dominated Glasgow's criminal scene, tying loose groups into overwhelming alliances and controlling swathes of the city, are gone.

Without that guidance, that control, it can be expected that the underworld will splinter further and turn upon itself, until a new leading light emerges to take command. The question then remains – who will that be? Who will show the initiative, the strength and the guile to take the power on offer, and who will oppose them or aid them.

RIPPER MURDERS CONTINUE

With each week it seems Glasgow grows ever darker, with a grim pall cast over its populace by the monthly tales of murder. A grim spectre of a bygone age haunts the streets, apparently able to kill with impunity.

The police efforts to apprehend the "Glasgow Ripper" continue unabated, but without any obvious progress. Even the Serious Crime Unit, which has been quietly and efficiently working across the city appears to be at a loose end.

Now the case appears to have caught the imagination and attentions of those scholars of the activities of the original Ripper,

whose work his Glasgow counterpart has emulated so closely. The details are so alike by all accounts that the murderer must be a scholar of Jack the Ripper's crimes.

No doubt this explains the visit of renowned Ripper scholar Norman Hanssler, giving up his studies between Copenhagen and London. Either he is in the city to satisfy his own curiosity, or he is here at the behest of the police to provide his expertise. Either way, if he begins to draw too close to uncovering details of the Glasgow Ripper, can he truly be safe from a murderer who kills seemingly without trace?

BOON TRADING:

- *None this month*

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PRINCE TRENCHARD

Good Evening Kindred,

“INSULTS TO
THEM BY OTHER
MEMBERS OF MY
DOMAIN I WILL
NOT TREAT
LIGHTLY”

I hope that this evening finds you all well and prosperous in your affairs. It saddens me that I cannot preside over Court in person on this occasion but I have every confidence that Seneschal Blair will conduct the evening with all due professionalism. She will hear your petitions and she will pass on your concerns to me at the first opportunity. In return you will respect her as you would respect me in my own Court until my return.

It is well known to all that Glasgow has gone through turbulent times these past few months. Violent conflict has bred yet further violent conflict. As Prince of Glasgow it is my intention, as I know it is the intention of the higher levels of the Tower, to see that these troubles end. I wish it to be common knowledge that I hold no particular rancour with any group or clan in the Camarilla, so long as they pay their due respects to me and the Traditions within my own Domain. Misters Campbell and Book have already fell at that particular hurdle but I hope that they will be the last to do so. It is my true wish that Glasgow will now rejoice in peace under my hand more than it has done in the past.

It has been expressed to me that some more clarity would be welcomed as to the role of the College of Squires that I have created. The role of these promising Kindred is to act as representatives from the lower orders of their clan to me personally. Similarly, they stand in the court as My Men and Women - they serve me loyally when I demand it and insults to them by other members of my domain I will not treat lightly. In return for their service to me, these Squires hold domain over feeding grounds within My Domain. Along with the usual rights of exclusivity over feeding in their territory, they also have rights to determine havens and have exclusive right to the resources, conducting of business and making of profit within that territory except over those areas where Domain is held in priority by a superior Kindred.

In recognition of their services to me and of their diligence to the Camarilla, these are the Kindred who I have elevated to the new college of Squires - They are Levi Tius of Clan Tremere , Alexander Barker of Clan Venttrue, Corvus Brann of Clan Malkavian and Evelyn Blair of Clan Toreador.

For further clarity, these are the Kindred who I allow to hold domain in Glasgow;

Elder Simon Haile holds domain over all the arts and performance resources of Glasgow. By this I mean all the theatres, cinema, auditoriums and performance spaces as well the orchestras, theatre groups, musicians etc. of Glasgow. Elder Haile also holds domain over all the Universities and establishments of further learning within Glasgow with exception of the Domain held by Elder Leighton as follows;

Elder Dominic Leighton holds domain over the medical profession of Glasgow. This includes all NHS and private medical practices, medical research laboratories, hospitals, and all medical facilities of the Universities and establishments of further learning within Glasgow.

Mr Hector Rozalees holds domain over the Sewers of Glasgow on behalf of the Nosferatu of Glasgow.

Domain over the Police Service in Glasgow I hold entirely to myself. Any infringement of this aspect of Glasgow life will be punished most severely. But all these domains mentioned take precedence over the claims of the Squires.

There are a few other matters that I should like to address you on. The matter of the breach of Elysium as mentioned by Keeper of Elysium Haile has now been settled. On this occasion I have shown leniency to a respected Elder and fine Sheriff. But let me make it crystal clear - should any of you commit any such offense I will not be so generous a second time. I will destroy anyone else who abuses Elysium in my Domain.



ANNOUNCEMENT CONTINUED...

There will be others who are no doubt curious where I stand on other major issues of the day. The domain of London, for example. For my own part, I regard myself as beholden to Prince Wallace of Birmingham and he may count on my support in the British Isles should he wish it regardless of whatever cause he may see fit to lend his prestige. However, unlike the Viscount I am not blind to certain realities. I am prepared to acknowledge that the dispute over the praxis of London was settled by a legitimate conclave, one presided over by our own distinguished Justicar Ulysian Thraces of Clan

Venture at that. By his illustrious word, which by Camarilla rules I hold to be final and lawful, I thus acknowledge John Houbon as the legitimate Prince of London and regard that matter as closed until such time, if ever, as Justicar Thraces or another of his order chooses to re-open it again.

That is all I have to say to you, fellow Kindred. I wish you all long nights and happy hunting.

Prince Augustus Trenchard



Ivory Tower

FROM SIMON HAILE

So much has happened during the last month that if I were to attempt to capture it all in my article I would double the size of the publication and certainly lose those with small attention spans, especially because most of my readers were present at the last court, heard the archon's declarations and witnessed for themselves that Augustus Trenchard is now officially in the eyes of the Camarilla the prince of the Glasgow. Maybe things didn't go as smoothly as some had hoped but then his decisions during his ascendancy have been a little controversial to say the least.

Many outwith and within the domain have feared that Prince Trenchard, having served as seneschal to Prince Aldworth, would merely be a smaller clone of Aldworth without the grand personality. Those detractors might now point at the recent spate of exiled kindred and claim that his is exactly what Aldworth would have done. So let us look at the cases in a bit more detail.

First we have Ricky "The Faceman" Brown, who only a short time ago was elevated to Trenchard's right hand position. Ricky is wanted by the justicariot for a number of breaches against the tradition of destruction. Those breaches occurred before Trenchard was officially the prince of Glasgow and as such the punishment of Ricky is being left to the representative of the justicariot who will

ultimately hold judgement over him. In the meantime, provisionally for one year and one day, Ricky is banished from the domain where our Elysium's will hold no sanctuary for him and should he be discovered he will be disabled and handed over to a representative of the justicariot for judgement.

Next we have Malcolm Campbell, a nosferatu ancilla with a reputation of a gruff and unpolished exterior. After a length absence from the domain Malcolm returned and demanded to be given domain over all the media, a position he enjoyed under the Viscount, furthermore he wanted a position on the primogen council and to be known as an elder. In return for this he offered to use his influence to threaten the masquerade in the domains of our rivals requiring them to spend considerable resource in covering up those threads, he went to on to threaten that the same could be done to Glasgow should his demands not be met. The masquerade is not a tool for political gain, it is the first Tradition for the very simple reason that its sanctity comes first before anything else. Glasgow does not wish to associate with an individual who threatens this most sacred institution, even if his threats might have been, and we certainly hope so, hollow and neither will we give succour to them in our Elysia.

Last on the list we have the neonate known

"CLONE OF
ALDWORTH
WITHOUT THE
GRAND
PERSONALITY"

FROM SIMON HAILE CONTINUED...



as Book, or Regent Book. Here I was not a direct witness to the behaviour he has exhibited but I have been informed that he has insulted Prince Trenchard and broken the second Tradition. His breach must have been extreme to warrant the same treatment as those hunted by the justicariot or those who threaten the very foundation of our entire society. I will endeavour to get Prince Trenchard to spell out what Book has done to deserve to be treated worse than we would treat a member of the Sabbat, who could seek refuge in our Elysia without fear. Maybe, seeing that Carter removed Manchester and Liverpool's protection of Elysia from him and he justifiably removed said protections from Malcolm and Ricky he simply lumped any exile into the same category.

Speaking of the protection of Elysium, under Prince Trenchard's reign a number of aspects of our society will become more formal than they used to be under the Viscount. One of those is access to the domain and the protection of Elysium. The changes will prevent elements in breach of the Tradition of Hospitality claiming that they were on route to an Elysium if discovered. In essence along our borders with other domains and at some key transport hubs such as the airport and major train stations will be posted representatives of the court to receive visitors and those wishing to seek the protection of Elysium. They will inform the required parties and arrange transport and ensure that the parties reach the Elysium and will be returned to the border of the domain in good time and health. After these systems of access have been established and publicised any kindred without the word of acceptance discovered within the domain of Glasgow will be treated as in breach of the Tradition of Hospitality and face severe punishment and potentially destruction. As soon as this is finalised I will make the map showing the domain borders as well as the places where access can be granted available and publish a copy in the Dark Times.

Another area of formalisation will be

“ONLY BOONS
RECOGNISED
AND RECORDED
CAN BE TRADED
WITHIN THE
DOMAIN OR
ENFORCED”



Prestation. The following will be about recording and trading prestation, not about prestation itself, for a more in depth look at Prestation itself, the different types please refer to my article from July last year (Volume 13, Issue 7). Prestation within the domain of Glasgow will be witnessed and recorded by authorised officers of the court, initially by either Prince Trenchard, his senechal Evelyn Blair or myself. Only boons recognised and recorded can be traded within the domain or enforced. Facilities for private, or secret, arrangement will of course be provided. Breaches against the secrecy of these arrangements will be treated in line with breaches of any formal promise made as part of prestation. If you do not wish to make the keepers of prestation aware of your agreement nothing stops you from entering a gentleman's agreement with another party. The downside of these completely private agreements is that breaches of those agreements will not be punished by the domain and so you are entirely relying on the honour of the individual you are dealing with without formal recourse. Boons which span domains require to be registered only if the kindred owing the service is a resident of the domain of Glasgow or if the debt is based on an ongoing obligation by a resident to allow the domain of Glasgow to act against any who fail to uphold their debts and promises. The repayment of a boon will be confirmed by the kindred who owns the debt. In case of a dispute the keepers of Prestation will seek to discuss the matter with both parties involved before making a formal judgement. Over the coming months we will endeavour to take a census of outstanding debts and obligations.

Next we come to the issue regarding Dot the anarchist and Mary Jezabel. As late as April the 15th I spoke to Mary Jezabel regarding the fate of Dot, who according to some claims is another alleged victim of Ricky Brown, her fiancée. At the time Miss Jezabel claimed that Dot was still under her care and well but could not meet me in an attempt to lay those rumours to bed. By the time of the May court, where I had hoped to arrange a visit it appeared as if Mary Jezabel had been kid-

FROM SIMON HAILE CONTINUED...

napped by one Dr Hooksley. What we know for certain is that Miss Jezabel was chained to a solid looking radiator and that someone going by the name of Dr Hooksley did cut off her finger with a scalpel. Miss Jezabel experienced a blur of fear and desperation, some feelings of helplessness but also longing or love towards her captor, given credence to a potential blood bond. Her mind was torn between the desire to flee and the desire to stay with her captor. The finger was delivered to the court in a box together with threats which claimed the captor of Miss Jezabel had made her and therefore had the right to unmake her. Those threats were written by a man calling himself Zeeshan Shahid who wrote them under duress and fear for his own safety. Mister Shahid, who appears to be of Indian descent and in his forties handily left fingerprints of his own on the threats. What we do not know, and something that no doubt the scourge is looking into, is whether Dr Hooksley actually entered the domain of Glasgow without the word of acceptance, which would put him in my view in breach of the Tradition of Hospitality. Mary Jezabel, specially seeing the strength of her feelings for him, might well

have met him willingly outside the domain. Dr Hooksley also could have been granted access to the domain by Prince Carter or Duke who at the time were reserving themselves those rights. What happened to Dot in all this is unclear. Maybe a good search of Miss Jezabel's haven, if that location could be found, might give us some answers.



Before I leave you for the moment I would like to share one slightly amusing observation. A few days after speaking to Prince Houlon in London I found myself putting together a small suitcase full of cash for someone. As I was placing the bank bundles in the case I noticed the very picture of Prince Houlon looking back at me. I have done a little bit of reading up on the matter on it turns out that in 1994 the bank of England commemorated its 300th birthday by featuring its first governor, Sir John Houlon, on the reverse of the final Series E 50 pound note the by over 5 years oldest still in use note at the moment. Maybe Prince Houlon's ambitions were evident long before I ever noticed them.

Elder Simon Haile

“THIS IS A CALL TO THOSE WHO WISH TO STEP APART FROM THE CAMARILLA”

LETTER FROM PETER FRASER

Many of you will have seen me around recently - I don't tend to keep too low a profile after all. I've been visiting Glasgow a lot recently, by popular demand (to a given degree of popular...). The reason is simple and the same reason that has driven me on for a lot of years - discontentment with the Camarilla.

I'm not going to talk about the many problems I have with it. I've done that for many years, and if anyone is interested in debating the subject with me, I'm always happy to chatter on. What I want to talk about is the people who aren't happy. Some of them will stick it out in the Camarilla, in the interests of changing the beast from the inside. I had that same option myself, but I chose the Anarch path.

I respect the intentions of those who'll fight for the Camarilla to change from within, but I believe that I have to lead my nights in a way I can live with, and I only find the freedom to do that within the Anarchs. I still push for reform of the wider sect, and the progress is certainly slowed by my detachment, but for the sake of my integrity, I'm willing to be patient. We have a long time after all!

So, this is a call to those who wish to step apart from the Camarilla politics which have disillusioned so many. If you have made the choice, if you know the path you want to walk - do not wait! There will be those around you who will try, by hook or by crook, by fear or by force, to change your mind and to retie you to the Ivory Tower.



LETTER FROM PETER FRASER CONTINUED...

If you have made your choice, and if you would choose the protections which come from a movement like ours, you must speak out and make your choice known for all to take account of. Until it's known, it doesn't count - say it loud and say it proud!

And to any who may be considering this choice, or who may have made it and wish to make their choice known, get in touch. Happy to offer my opinions, insights and assistance to any who choose it. Thank you to Glasgow for the opportunity.

MEDIA-TOR



As a workman must have his tools, so must a city have its resources, if it is to survive and thrive. Each resource has its value, and there are always Kindred capable and willing to make use of them. For keeping the Masquerade, for searching for those in breach of Hospitality, to keep abreast of and influence the politics of the kine – they serve vital roles.

Chief among these resources, to my mind, is the media. Over centuries, the written and broadcast word has gained an importance which stretches over all other fields. “The pen is mightier than the sword” – those words were written by the Harpy of Birmingham, over 150 years ago, yet what was a proposition in that time, and a vain boast in the mouth of Cardinal Richelieu, has become fact through the turning of the ages and the spread of technology.

Although recent times have shown that the media may be troubled in its own way, ultimately the control of information triumphs over politics, business, even government power. And therefore careful hands are needed, to administer such a vital commodity.

With the best of regards,
Dr Robert Douglas Hume
A member of the Brotherhood

SKULL WATCH



Though I have not been present in Glasgow for a little time, and perhaps am not welcomed back again, my search for the pieces of the skull of Loukianos still continues. I have heard many reports that the fragments are imbued with potent influences, bringing success and strength to those who possess them.

There will be considerable value to those involved in the finding of the fragments – both in renown and more directly, and I wish to be a part of the glory that will follow. So I now renew my call for information, for allies and for the fragments themselves if the opportunity should arise.

May fortune light your way.

OPEN BOOK LETTER

Dear Prince Trenchard

I must first offer my apologies for the manner in which this letter finds itself delivered to you. Had I not been exiled from the domain for a slight I am still yet in the dark to its nature, I would have delivered this to you personally. Actually that is a fallacy as I would have no need to write this letter in the first place. Furthermore, had I not, in effect, been declared anathema and seen the rights afforded unto me by the Pax Vampirica removed, I would have ensured this was hand delivered. Actually, that would be the second fallacy as I would not trust you now, despite your position, to maintain the accords and traditions of our lineages if you thought you would gain more temporal power by it.

By now you will have noticed the absence of your Primogen of Squires, Levi Tius. As his recent actions were proving to be of too great a distraction, he has been recalled to better ensure his studies and reading are uninterrupted. I trust that this will not inconvenience the court or domain to any great extent. After all, given the transient nature of many of Glasgow's Kindred and disappearances that have happened under your rule, you will have no problem finding a suitable replacement. This is an internal matter for House Tremere and I do hope you do not take offense or seek retrIBUTions where none are needed. I have accepted your exile and will continue to serve the domain and House Tremere as instructed albeit with some increased restrictions on my movement. Such is the burden of responsibility Prince of Glasgow.

Now to the matter of my exile; as I have stated I am still somewhat unsure as to what exactly I have done to merit a breach of the Second Tradition. Maybe it was for not signing your petition some

months back. However that seems unlikely as you were not then my elder, or indeed Eldest of Glasgow. Of course I am being flippant as I know that the reason for my exile was down to nothing more than the trading of a boon from a neonate of your court. That Levi Tius would ask such of you for a boon speaks volumes as to his misunderstanding of his training and etiquette afforded to members of House Tremere from all within the House's ranks. That you would accept is borderline deafening. Of course I shall keep this to myself and spread this no further. A Prince whose power and politick can be traded for trivial boons would probably lose face. This then the third fallacy as an open letter keeps no secrets. Levi Tius positively gushed that he thought the scheme Machiavellian in its genius. A newly enthroned power should remove all opposition. The failing here obviously being a gross mistake in my opposition to you as Prince, Prince Trenchard. In honesty, I believe you to be inexperienced and rash, but I have never defied you. I strove at all times to strengthen the domain of Glasgow. One should never defecate where one rests; to paraphrase a colloquialism.

By now I have already taken too much of your very important time and so shall end here. You most certainly should not spend any more of your resources on an exiled neonate such as my humble self.

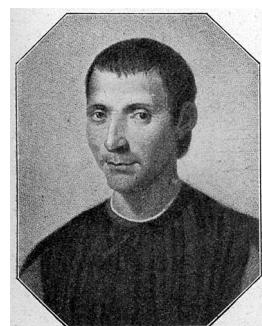
It seems you have learned much from the late Prince Aldworth. It is truly a shame though that you have not adopted any of his more admirable traits.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Book, of House Tremere, Regent of Glasgow

Dictated not read.

"I STROVE AT ALL TIMES TO STRENGTHEN THE DOMAIN OF GLASGOW"



Niccolo Machiavelli

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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

So at long last Glasgow has its own dedicated Prince again – albeit a very grudgingly permitted Prince. Archon Sinclair seemed highly unimpressed with Trenchard's leadership, going so far as to advise those present to jump ship. However, despite his disdain, he was surprised to find a strong base of support for Trenchard – in spite of a weak condemnation from his own Sheriff and a feeble “me too” from the Scourge.

So with the Archon gone, and Trenchard's shaky praxis established, time to make his mark and show the kind of Prince he wants to be – jobs for his cronies, a slap on the wrist for Angus Macdonald for breach of the Pax Vampirica and anyone who has said a nasty word to him shown to the door. Not quite an encouraging start. No doubt there'll be a better spin on that soon, but those are the early indications. Best of luck if you remain in Glasgow.

Long live Prince Trenchard, and may he rule in the spirit of benevolence which characterises the greatness of Clan Ventre. Direction and leadership – our contribution to the endeavour of the Camarilla – may they be found in Glasgow in abundance.

Henry Newbolt – Harpy of Birmingham

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How precarious is the position of a Prince who is publicly disapproved by an Archon? Who is not even considered an Elder yet steps before those more senior? Who haemorrhages what support he has while making enemies left and right? How long can such a Prince truly stand? Glasgow traded its Tyrant for a Warrior, yet is now left with nothing but a Fool.

Margery Houndsorth-Stone – Harpy of London

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Prince Carlisle is pleased to let it be known that his Sire, Madame Guil, Justicar of Clan Toreador, intends to visit Britain in the months to come. Her arrival will be of great benefit to this country, with all the sophistication and spectacle it heralds. Expect to hear more of the particulars shortly.

Lady Eleanor – Harpy of Edinburgh

~

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



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