

DARK TIMES

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2013

PAPER BURNS

The arson attacks which caused such damage in Glasgow last month have continued into September, though much of their work has been thwarted.

Attacks on both the Gallery of Modern Art and the City Council Chambers were foiled by security at the buildings, who were able to spot the attackers – youths with Molotov cocktails and masks. They were quickly driven off, and security even managed to grab hold of a couple of the perpetrators.

Meanwhile though, another building was not so fortunate, as the Glasgow Herald



was the subject of an assault, which resulted in significant fire damage to the internal fixtures and prevented publication of the paper for days while alternative arrangements were made.

The choice of non-Elysium locations to attack seems to suggest that there may be some purpose to these attacks beyond attempting to injure

Kindred, now the question is – what is that purpose. Or, is it simpler than that? Were last month's attacks simply a coincidence, centred on Elysium sites as they were. And can any further attacks be thwarted as successfully?

A BURNING TIDE

What began as a story of a protest movement escalating to violence has taken a dark and tragic turn. Contrary to initial reports of no casualties, the discovery of the charred remains of a mother and child in the ruin of the well-loved King's Theatre prompted many public outpourings of grief in the media, along with considerable outrage at those responsible. Fire investigators are trying to find the relatives of the deceased, and are said to be scouring what evidence may have survived the fire, along with security footage from before the incident to trace their movements. No missing person reports matching the pair have yet been filed, a fact many feel to be significant.

Shortly after the grisly discovery, a candle-

lit vigil was organised via social media channels, with many local celebrities lending their considerable online presences to encouraging their fans to attend. The successful remembrance ceremony blocked traffic on Bath Street for hours, and was in danger of disrupting commerce in nearby areas. Local actress Samantha Merton, best known for her critically-acclaimed Maria in London's West End production of The Sound of Music, made a special appearance to lead the mourners in song.

Ms Merton also appeared on STV News to discuss the arson and to condemn the protestors who had destroyed the landmark. Her tale of how watching pantomimes at the theatre inspired her rise to

BOON TRADING:

- *Adam Edelstein owes Gail a minor boon.*
- *Simon owes Augustus Trenchard a minor boon.*
- *Gail Middlemass owes Derek Feldman a minor boon.*

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A BURNING TIDE, CONTINUED...



fame were well received by her sympathetic hosts. Similarly upset stars made their concern known via interviews on television and in the newspapers of the fate of the People's Palace and the Scotland Street Museum. Indeed, a curator achieved brief fame for his tearful plea to the protestors to end their attacks on cherished public property. "Can't you people understand that burning our heritage hurts us all", he was quoted as saying.

Unfortunately, the police appear to be no closer to identifying those responsible for the attacks, though increased security is evident on other public buildings in the city. Whether these are funded by the police service or by private companies funded by the council was unclear – either way, the public purse is no doubt being dipped for funds. A police spokesman called for public calm and for anyone with information per-

taining to the identities of the arsonists to call a special hotline.

Public opinion appears to be turning against the protestors for now, with angry rhetoric against their action being widely spread. Meanwhile, those public figures who have formed part of the protest movement have sought to distance their numerous peaceful protests from an associated extremist element. Matt Andrews, a local politician who has been a staunch supporter of the protest movement, was quoted as saying "Just like the riots in London, any large movement of public conscience tends to attract those with a destructive mentality, who have no concept of the struggle for positive change." The protests are gradually losing support despite this disavowal of the attacks, but it remains unclear whether this will halt the hard-core element of the movement.

NEW CLUES

In such an interesting city, it must be hard to know where to look. Glasgow has so many attractions, how to choose just one to hold the attention. Yet I have always been a focused sort, and so once more, my focus turns to the skull of Loukianos. This relic continues to fascinate me, and I have the time to aid in the search.

This month, I am able to offer some more interesting news than before. It seems at least one fragment of the skull has changed hands. Perhaps it has been found, or perhaps it has simply moved from one mortal holder to another. In any case, the shifting impressions of the Sight have revealed a little more to me, and so I share it with you, in the hopes that knowledge shared is of the most value.

- 1) "The shield of commerce, with fiery attentions"
- 2) "The forger of a cage, for the animals"

which must not roam free"

3) "In a nightly scholars hands, meticulous, precise"

4) "Bravery on 8 wheels, to rival two and four"

5) "The collar of a still-free woman, bound for chains"

6) "Talented teaching, without board or chalk, for pupils of strong nature"

I wish you all good hunting, and look forward to aiding with the search in times to come.

Yours,
The Archivist



"THE PUBLIC PURSE IS NO DOUBT BEING DIPPED FOR FUNDS"

THE PARTY ORGANISER

Felix Cavendish at your service, and most importantly, at the service of Her Grace, Madame Guil, Justicar of Clan Toreador. Madame Guil has tasked me with the great privilege of organising the festivities at her gatherings to be held around Britain.

I have had the honour to work for many Princes over the years, across much of Europe, but this is the first time in many years that I have returned to the land of my birth. And at such a fascinating time; a potential turning point for all of Britain.

This is a time of great import for the Kindred of Scotland and Britain. The political landscape is shifting; Prince Houlton's ascension in London has raised questions about the continued relevance of the Treaty of Durham between the Toreador and the Ventre, while control over critical domains in Scotland is bartered, negotiated and fought over.

The eyes of the Camarilla are being drawn to these fair isles. In this instance they take the form of Madame Guil. She will be residing at Doune Castle, at the meeting point of four domains, to host the residents of those Courts to discuss these matters and their ramifications. While here, she will be hosting a number of parties where the stories and matters of importance to each Domain shall be discussed.

The Kindred of Glasgow are invited to a party regarding that city's affairs, which will be held on the nights of the 15th and

16th of November – at an event to be known as Caledonia Nocturnis. During the event, contests will be held to find the most talented in their fields – battles of wits, skill, the power of the mind, the arts and contests of arms. Prizes will include an opportunity for a private audience with Madame Guil herself.

On the second night, there shall be a masquerade ball during which a matter of central importance shall be raised. Madame Guil honours an ancient tradition where any guest wearing a mask is accorded anonymity, such that they are free to discuss matters openly, and cannot be held to any opinion or stance expressed in those circumstances. To encourage originality and passion in the masks themselves, a prize shall be awarded to the best mask on display (though basic masks shall be offered for those unable to make the contribution).

With this to serve as a small aperitif of what is to come, it is my intention to visit the Court of Glasgow for myself, to discuss the arrangements with you all in person, and take some suggestions on the specifics of the evening to come. I look forward to meeting you all, and if you should have any questions or suggestions, do approach me.

Your servant,

Felix Cavendish



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OF GLASGOW
ARE INVITED TO
A PARTY
REGARDING
THAT CITY’S
AFFAIRS”



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FROM THE PRINCE'S DESK



Good evening, fellow Kindred. Let it be known that in correction to my statement last month, the feeding ground granted to Squire Corvus Bran will in fact be the Rutherglen area of Glasgow.

Further, the problem of the blood disease is still with us. Squire Bran is my appointed official in this matter. Everyone will provide him every assistance as he may ask of them to cure this plague. Anyone who does not do so will answer to me.

In other matters, recent events have led me to the conclusion that greater resources are needed to secure our defences

against the mortal realm. Keeper of The Masquerade Dominic Leighton is a capable and respected individual but of late has been detained with his own affairs. As such I believe it is necessary to appoint an Under-Keeper of The Masquerade to conduct his duties in his absence. I invite those kindred who believe themselves worthy of the honour and capable of undertaking the task to approach me. I will consider the merits of the individuals who do so and will decide whether or not they are worthy of my favour.

Prince Trenchard

"NECESSARY TO
APPOINT AN
UNDER-KEEPER
OF THE
MASQUERADE"

SIMON HAILE

My good readers, this month I should really start with the reactions to the fire-bombing of three of the city's Elysia last month but I am attempting to avoid the duplication with the other article focussed solely on this issue. It would appear the domain of Glasgow does not take kindly to the attempts of burning its Elysia. While the carefully focussed public outrage has grabbed most of the media attention this month more subtle efforts are working behind the scene. Now it would appear to be a race between those who used the mob to do their dirty work and attack the domain and the angered kindred of Glasgow. Will the perpetrators be able to cut their ties and obfuscate their involvement quickly and thoroughly enough to thwart the efforts by those chasing them? From what I have seen the detectives in this have bumbled a bit in the run up and given Mister X some time to distance themselves from this. Now though Prince Trenchard has himself become involved and over the coming weeks we will see whether someone is handed over to the dawn for their crimes or whether this, like so many other inci-

dents in Glasgow, merely fades into obscurity.

Then of course we had the return of Tius and his heartfelt goodbye as he departs the domain for an indeterminate, but likely quite lengthy, period of time where someone explains to him what obey your elders actually means. It is good to see that Prince Trenchard's demands were met by elder Melik and neonate Book and hopefully now we can actually focus on the issues plaguing the domain. I for one am interested to hear the progress clan Tremere has made on their research into this so called blood disease or the location and condition of Mary Jezabelle or even the magic skull fragments in their absence.

Next on my list to talk about is one of the entertainments of the 2014 Glasgow Toreador Grand Ball. I have arranged with Prince Trenchard that the person who will produce the most deserving artist of this generation will be granted the permission to sire them and preserve them for eternity. It is a price worthy of the occasion and by now many member of clan Toreador



SIMON HAILE, CONTINUED

are looking at their pet projects and wonder whether they have what it takes to be chosen. To make matters a little more interesting we have started to invite a few members of other clans to bring their candidates to the ball. Assuming the candidates are serious entries and not an insult to the assembled society they will alongside the others be presented and given the chance to shine. So far ancilla Henri Devereaux, childe of the prince of Brussels and the up and coming neonate Hector of clan Nosferatu have been given the chance to prove their tastes.

Looking outside the domain there are of course a few happenings worth commenting on. Marcellus and Angus both had their life boons commuted into not even blood boons but major boons. I doubt that they both have actually performed any service such notable to have earned this change and so either there are some hefty promises exchanged behind the scenes or Prince Carter is attempting to distance himself from Angus and Marcellus.

Over in the north east we have finally seen a glimpse or two of the justification used

by Prince Lesley to attempt to retake Dundee after over a century of it having been a part of Edinburgh's extended domain. Even if those accusations were true I believe that it might have been left a little late to attempt to redress the situation. If you go back far enough in history you will always find a position more suited to your tastes and now, no matter how it is dressed up, it will likely come down to whether Aberdeen is in a strong enough position to bully Edinburgh into giving up the stewardship of Dundee and whether Thomas Carmichael has what it takes to become a Prince in his own right. After all if he beats back this infringement upon his domain there will be few in the country not willing to see him take a seat at the table of Princes.

So the lengthening nights will no doubt be filled with gossip and intrigue and the occasional stake in the back and promise to be interesting indeed.

Elder Simon Haile
Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow
Primogen to Prince Trenchard



“ABERDEEN IS IN
A STRONG
ENOUGH
POSITION TO
BULLY
EDINBURGH“

HARPY HOUR

Glasgow's troubles have evolved over the years, but one thing has made frequent appearances in the last decade - activities which have been directed at Kindred. From suspicious religious activities, to advanced cameras threatening the Masquerade, to these recent fire protests, making it a challenge to walk down the street at night. Kindred have never truly been safe in Glasgow, a running theme encouraging vigilance at all times.

Now that threat has been re-impressed, with Elysiums burning - the sanctums that provide much of the stability to our way of life (so to speak). What nature of enemy

could this be to use such intimate knowledge of us? One of our own, foolish enough to risk the certain death that would come with discovery? Or one of the myriad of outsiders who might wish us harm. Either way, the challenges are stacking up for the young Prince.

~

Interesting developments from my recent excursions around this country. Madame Guil's imminent arrival is on everyone's lips. What is less discussed, yet still ever present, is the speculation around what has brought her to this country. Her pres-

Dark Times

Dark Times
Chambre Dix, Hotel Britannique a Paris
75001 PARIS
FRANCE
Phone: +33 (1) 47 77 12 34
Fax: +33 (1) 47 77 98 76
E-mail: darktimes@gvlar.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

Articles over 750 words may not be printed in full in the main publication

HARPY HOUR, CONTINUED

ence was not anticipated, not scheduled, lacked the long build up and fanfare which would usually come with such a high profile visitor.

Rumour has spread that Prince Carlisle is less than happy with his Sire's return. I can assure you that those rumours are not baseless - a calm visage has long been part of his political success, but that much irritation cannot be hidden from a Harpy. Yet that is not the truly fascinating revelation, that came during my later visit with Thomas Carmichael.

The Steward of Dundee - younger, less experienced than his Sire, for certain, yet many forget that he is an Elder, an experienced political figure of exceptional lineage and of far greater standing than...some Princes. So his open irritation, just visible, seemed perfect, almost entirely covering the real feeling beneath - satisfaction. It seems Madame Guil's arrival is at least welcomed by some parties. Make of that what you will.

Margery Houndsorth-Stone
Harpy of London

the value of his insight. Makes me think I want to visit Glasgow again, and meet with this most interesting of our kind. You see, I was listening to stories of Glasgow and its business. A boring business for the most part, it must be said. From the excitement of Norfolk, it's hard to find interest in the squabbles of others.

Debates - tired arguments, self evident truths being discussed as though there was a need to explain the obvious. So much, so ordinary. And then a bombshell - the suggestion that Simon Haile, Elder of the Camarilla, jewel of the Toreador crown, might be incapable of siring a childe.

Perhaps it was an idle comment, a passing comparison with no deeper meaning. Yet Simon Haile is not the sort for such speculation, and Elodin not the sort to make it. His words should be carefully weighed for their value, and if he saw fit to mention such a thing, it warrants my attention. Elodin, your words have reached willing ears, speak on and I shall listen.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton,
Seneschal of Norfolk



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

Elodin - a name many of us know and a not inconsiderable Seer. I place some faith in

Best Regards,
Editor in Chief