

DARK TIMES

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2015

FROM THE PRINCE'S DESK

Dear subjects,

Today I wish to talk about the contingent often referred to as the harpies.

Recently I have repeatedly come under the miscomprehension that a key virtue of a harpy is friendliness.

Looking at the origin of the term, in mythology harpies are ravenous, filthy monsters who have a woman's head and a bird's body. They are eating and carrying evildoers into the underworld.

Even in modern parlance it is a word to describe a person who draws someone into their grasp by pleasing the victims biggest desire only to destroy all that makes them what they are.

Now neither of those describe someone friendly as their primary attribute. Harpies are not your friendly neighbourhood news outlet. Instead they are socially ferocious and able to destroy the standing of anyone in their court. This power is required to ensure that promises witnessed by the harpy are kept.

So in order to be recognised as a harpy you require the have proven your social might that if you declare someone as a persona non grata that the court not only takes note but also accepts your verdict and and treat them as a pariah.

I don't care what favours have been traded or who has succumbed to Nikalas Takala's charm he is not the harpy of the domain of Glasgow.

Simon Haile
Prince of Glasgow

BOON TRADING:

- *None to report.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SENESCHAL EDELSTEIN	2
------------------------	---

IGNORANCE OR ENLIGHTENMENT	3
-------------------------------	---

PHILOSOPHY	3
------------	---

A MESSAGE FROM SENESCHAL EDELSTEIN

Elysium

The First Exhibition

Firstly, allow me to bid you all a warm welcome to one of the first exhibitions being displayed in the Elysia this year! The Kelvingrove Art Gallery has held many extraordinary works over the years and I am honoured to have had the opportunity to add to that. Many of the beautiful paintings currently surrounding you have been painted by Joseph Stirling, a rising star in the local artistic community. Joseph himself attended the Glasgow School of Art where he learned to refine and improve his increasing talent.

Although little Joseph is not the only one with paintings on show in this particular exhibition. A number of the more exquisite paintings, including many of the landscapes, have been provided by very dear and artistic sister Elisabeta Edelstein. In her travels abroad with Archon Trenchard she seems to have found many an opportunity to paint and much inspiration amongst the beautiful ruins of Greece.

You may notice that in places where it looks like there should be a painting it has been removed. For the purposes of the court this evening it was better to remove their presence however they will be reinstated following the end of court and I hope you will return to view these mesmerising paintings.

As always, I am happy to hear any suggestions anyone may wish to make in regards to what further improvements could be made to any of our Elysia. If you have an exhibition, performance or event you wish to see at any of the Elysia in the city please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bring out your debts!

I have in my possession the current list of debts currently outstanding for those that have wished to have it noted. The previous owner, my dear friend Gilbert who unfortunately and tragically perished at the Battle of Dundee, did his best to update this list and so I shall endeavour to do the same. I will allow a month's grace for anyone to view their own boons within the book, free of charge, to refresh their memories of those debts still outstanding. From this point on I will be available to note down any future boons that may change hands and of course to scratch off any fulfilled boons.

Should one or both of the participants wish it I will be happy to note in the Dark Times each month when these boons have been made or fulfilled.

The Valentines Ball

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to Lady Rose Sailsbury for the invitation to a most magnificent ball. The location the music, the company, the music, the refreshments and of course the music. It was simply sublime. It was wonderful to meet so many new acquaintances such as John Dee and Robert Melik, both fantastically interesting and charming people, I look forward to seeing you both again once the tour begins. Not to mention bumping into a few old ones, two of Glasgow's dearest allies Prince Thomas Carmichael and Prince Carlisle, both, as always incredibly handsome. A superb evening, I cannot wait for the next one.

Amadeus Edelstein

Acting – Seneschal and Keeper of Elysium

IGNORANCE OR ENLIGHTENMENT

In my, admittedly short, time in kindred society I have discovered the existence of many new things ranging from the terrifying and beautiful. Often they are both in equal measure.

It was a shock to the system to realise that Kindred exist but one would expect the discovery that other such "supernatural" entities exist to come as little surprise. I found that my surprise, wonder and apprehension were not diminished upon each and every discovery. Perhaps this is a condition of my youthful years.

Once knowledge of these beings, forces and the like has been gleaned one receives the secondary gift of vigilance. Knowing that these things could be a problem is the first step to dealing with any problems that arise later.

Once equipped with this knowledge conscientious kindred have a duty to ensure the security of the domain.

Having said that I come to the point hinted at by the title; is it better to remain ignorant and hope others will be vigilant on your behalf, or become enlightened and face some of what we share this world with? Is ignorance bliss or does knowledge liberate you?

I welcome peoples thoughts on the subject and to those who wish to learn some basics I hope to run a series of lectures on separating the truth from fiction on the occult.

Levi Tius

What is a curse? A mere malediction of the mind and soul, or a supernatural effect placed by beings of old? After studying our own affliction for several years I have come to the conclusion that what we have is not a curse.

It is a chance given to us to become perfect beings. We could waste our time in wanton destruction or we can build like the kindred of old. I for one believe that we have been sent to guide the kine from there own destruction.

They are not puppets to send into the meat grinder that is the Jihad between Clans and Sect. Why can't we make an attempt to build a city where the people are moulded by the good we can achieve, maybe then can we reveal ourselves and humanity wont hunt us down. I know what I am writing can be seen as blasphemy towards the very con-

cept of the Camarilla and for some it may seem close to the teaching of our enemy but they rule by fear and are hunted like dogs. Maybe one day we will see a city of the likes of Carthage. But for now we will be content with living within this set of rules that for now protect us from the hunters, garu, mages and the myriad of enemies.

To those who may be offended by this letter, think not of it as an attack against our beloved Ivory Tower but as a thought and idea that will most likely never flourish but must be still spoken.

If anyone wishes to discuss this matter further then please place your reply on the dark times. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

From one philosopher to another,
Diogenes of Sinope

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@gvlarp.com

NAMES PROVIDED WILL BE
PUBLISHED WITH THE ARTICLES.
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE
ACCURACY OF ANY ARTICLE.

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

There truly is no better time to throw a ball than February – what better way to celebrate the month of romance than with a chance to matchmake, to welcome old friends, to make new ones and plan delicious schemes?

My own little party at Kensington Palace seems to have been no exception to this rule. Invitations were extended to the cream of London society, as well as to eminent Toreador throughout the United Kingdom.

As is so often the case, it would appear that most of my Ventrué guests had commitments elsewhere. That said, Prince Houblon was able to send his esteemed Sheriff Helmut in his stead, while the Ventrué Harpy of York, the lovely Ann Jacques, looked resplendent on the arm of Niklas Takala. According to the British grapevine, this lovely young man is the new Harpy of Glasgow – how fitting for two Harpies to fly together, and what a charming couple they made for the evening!

Another adorable couple who shone at the festivities were the up-and-coming musician Amadeus Edelstein – Adam to his friends! – and his escort Eric Ponsonby. This fetching pair will soon tour Europe,

and are bound to take the Continent by storm. Of course, yours truly wouldn't dream of missing such an elegant event – what a wonderful way to socialise with our European cousins!

It was a lovely surprise to meet John Dee during the evening. I took the opportunity to make some excellent conversation with this eminent Tremere who, for someone usually so reticent, was quite the sociable gentleman. As a Clan the Tremere truly are misunderstood – once one takes the chance to reach out to them socially, they can make for some rewarding company.

Of course, not everyone can enjoy this festival of love with a sweetheart, as was the case for Prince Simon Haile of Glasgow, who was sadly unaccompanied for the event. Perhaps his solo appearance accounted for his surprisingly safe choice of evening attire.

Prince Haile's conservative choice was a rare note of discord in what was overall a riot of colour, costume and scintillating company – a wonderful and successful party!

-Lady Rose Salisbury, London



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