

DARK TIMES

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 5

MAY 2015

THE RESIDENT

I confess, dear readers, that I have been short of time this month. I have been busy on many travels to far-off, interesting places (and some not so far off, but perhaps no less interesting), and my work has kept me very busy, so I'm afraid I do not have a lot to share with you this month.

Boons are high on everybody's mind at the moment, with the prince sending out his request for a tally, calling to mind the classic census featured in so much history.

It is quite interesting, to me, to come to a city with such a loose grip on such things – with all the upheaval in recent months and years, it is a while since Glasgow seems to have had a consistent and reliable keeper of prestation. It is quite understandable, I imagine many would dismiss this post as unimportant when more pressing matters were at the forefront of everybody's mind.

So why have a keeper at all? Why not just keep track of your own boons and have done with it? I imagine many people probably think that such a thing is unnecessary, and perhaps day-to-day you are right. Boons are such an important thing to us as kindred that it is hard to imagine somebody daring to snub one, to break an oath or even invent one where none existed before, and when such turmoil washes over a city it is unlikely anybody would think of such mischiefs when they have other entertainments to hand.

In times of peace, however, such as we very much hope Glasgow to embark upon, these things are important. Our society functions so well because it has rules and guidelines, markers to keep us all within our relative peace and to protect from the all-out anarchy that would alert mortals to our presence and kill us all. The keeper of prestation is just such another marker. Boons are vital to our continued cooperation, and they must remain as sacrosanct and important as we all view them to be – this is the job of the keeper.

A person who can enforce these oaths we all use, someone to mitigate disputes and maintain order, like a bank the keeper of prestation will ensure that boons continue to be worth what they are worth, and does not allow 'fake currency' to flood the market.

Welcome this step towards organisation, kindred of Glasgow, gather your boons and fill in the census, take the chance to help this fair city back to normal operating procedure. If you disagree?



The Opinion of our local press officer.

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THE RESIDENT, CONT...

By all means, keep your boons to yourself,
but when a dispute is made over what you
are owed, and the keeper – whosoever they
may be – rules by what they have recorded?
You know exactly who to blame.

Niklas Takala
Dark Times Staff Writer

ELYSIUM

Ship Shape

It is with great pleasure I welcome you
all to the Tall Ship this evening, for a
night of splendid music and interesting
conversation. The Glenlee was built in
the Bay Yard at Port Glasgow, just a
little way down the river, and was one
of 10 vessels built by the shipping firm
of Archibald Sterling and Co ltd. A
beautiful piece of work that has been
restored to its former glory and I hope
you all enjoy its splendour this evening.

Singing of any kind from HMS Pinafore
or Pirates of Penzance is actively en-
couraged. Singing of 'My Heart Will Go
On' will result in a speedy expulsion
from the ship.

Tonight's Topics

Should there be sufficient interest re-
garding a debate then please allow me to
propose the following topics of which
one can be selected;

- The Treaty of Durham;
should the treaty be dissolved,
reworded or left as it is?
- The Camarilla; Who do we
let in? Do we open the doors to
respected kindred of other clans
that are not considered to be
from a 'Camarilla' clan? Or do

we ensure that our ranks are
offered only to those 7 Clans
that founded the Camarilla?

· The Unreleased childe; how
long is too long? How or can
the Camarilla regulate this?

· Integration or Separation; Is
it better to have our Prince's
each with their own town or
city working on their own or
perhaps a regular meeting of a
council of Prince's, or is there a
benefit / need to have one ruler
that can lead them all?

· Material Wealth; how im-
portant is the material world to
our kind?

· The Double life; what is the
best way to engage with the
kine without breaking our first
tradition?

As always I am open to other sugges-
tions

Amadeus Edelstein

Acting – Seneschal and Keeper of Elysi-
um

TIME TO MOVE ON

Ever since Lady Anne lost the throne of London and thereby the line of Mythras lost control of London people have been questioning the validity of the treaty of Durham. A treaty that even in Victorian times was hardly ever considered yet alone enforced. Sure every once in a while it was dug out to suit someones needs but ultimately it is entirely pointless. Looking at it now one might say that barring the domain of Severn, which as long as anyone remembers has been run by Mythras' line, there is no one on the side of Clan Venture who might consider themselves bound.

Needless to say there is precious little chance that the domain of Severn launches a crusade to attempt to conquer the domain of Edinburgh. On the side of Clan Toreador one has to ask who considers themselves bound by it either. Sure in London the clan of the rose steps carefully, after all we remember John Hort's meddling and what it cost the clan, but who would now at-

tempt to enforce the other side. I can hardly see Prince Houblon wishing to proclaim himself to be a follower of Mythras, as any who would attempt to enforce the treaty would need to do, nor can I see him allowing others to enforce these laws in his domain.

So we have a treaty that binds no one, and as such we should formally come together and have the Princes of Britain declare that the time of the Treaty of Durham has passed and that those who hold domain in the British Isles officially see it dissolved. If for some reason we cannot get all British Princes on board we should at least have Prince Houblon, Prince Carlisle and the Prince of Severn confirm this.

Simon Haile

ADIEU, ADIEU

Alas I must finally take my leave of your darling selves and your vibrant, dynamic, Domain. I stand humbled by the openness, friendliness, and generosity of the Kindred of the Domain of Glasgow, and I am quite sorry that I couldn't stay for longer and delve deeper into your individual stories. Unfortunately, the war in the Americas has regained some momentum and so I must fly or risk being left behind by the turning of the world and the events I must capture for posterity be left unreported.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank Prince Simon Haile for graciously granting my leave to conduct my research in his Domian, as well as Senechal Adam Edelstein for his warmth, attentiveness, and guidance while assisting me in my endeavors.

And so, farewell Kindred of Glasgow! I am sure it won't be too long before your brave actions again cause me to visit and record your latest triumphs!

Alain Gileas.

THE MISTAKES IN OUR PAST

History repeats itself, or so the saying goes, but how much history are we teaching the younger generation of our kind? How much is known by the Elder generation? Who guards and distributes this information? How much history should be given?

In a form that has lasted the ages, stories have often been used to teach morals and lessons. Fairy stories taught to mortal children often have messages hidden beneath the light stories. For example, Little Red Riding Hood, which teaches young children the dangers of meeting strangers. In Ancient Greek and Roman times they tell stories of great Heroes, often having to overcome many great things before reaching their goal, which is not always what they wanted in the first place. It taught the people then to respect the gods, to want to do better, to obey ones parents.

So where are our stories? Where are our legends?

We have our traditions yes, which serve as an excellent guide to all, especially young childer who are new to our world. However how many of them can tell you how these things came about? How many can tell you how and when the Camarilla was formed? How many can tell you stories of the great Princes or Justicars of our past? The History of our kind seems to be neglected and those that do not know their history are bound to repeat it.

Why is this? Is there simply no interest in knowing the past? Are there too few teachers to pass it on? Or is it so shrouded in mystery and secrecy that no one knows what should and should not be told? Does every Ventrue hear of Mithras? Does every Toreador learn about Rafael Du Corazon? Does every Tremere...well...talk about shrouded in secrets and mystery,

but you get the picture. How much do we actually know?

At this point the Brujah reading is probably thinking this is nonsense; of course history is important, just think on Carthage. It is true there is not many Brujah (and indeed, Ventrue) that do not know that old chestnut but how many actually know what it was about? How many know the intricacies of that point in their history? And how important is that to pass on to the younger members of their clan?

How important is it to know? That is the real question, there may be some out there that could tell that history, some that would want to hear it, but how important is it for us to know?

When a new Prince takes the domain, do they look at the history of their predecessor so that they might not make the same mistakes, or do they look only to their own future?

For example, let us take that topic which is so particularly 'hot' right now; The Treaty of Durham. How many young Toreadors embraced this century are aware of the significance and history behind this treaty? How many of them realise how much it affects them or could affect them if dissolved? Without this knowledge of the past how can these young Toreadors even hope to understand what their future holds for them?

Then again, they say knowledge is power. Perhaps this is simply the intention of wiser kindred who would not wish to allow something so important in the hands of little neonates. Perhaps allowing them to repeat the same mistakes as them in turn benefits them? After all if the ignorant young Toreador who does

THE MISTAKES IN OUR PAST, CONT...

not know about the treaty or how it came to be, then why would they ever try to lobby against it? To persuade others to dissolve it? Whereas if they were *informed*, well, then they might try to *change* things, they might try to secure a better deal for themselves; they might see they have been *wronged*.

Without the knowledge of the past how can we make any valid decision on our future? The young neonate whilst sometimes unwilling to listen would, I believe, listen closely to such tales, if presented in the same form as the Kine presents stories to their children. Fair-
ytales, Legends, with meaning, with messages.

Neonates and all those currently in ignorance of our history, ask questions. Do not accept 'because' as an answer,

delve further, find out more. Do not settle for the limited amount of information you have been given, always look for more. Listen to what your elders tell you, listen to the wisdom they have to impart, but always ask more for there is always more to discover. Learn about your past so as not to make the same mistakes as your sires.

Fenrixenj,
Belfast

A POEM

A moment of your time I need,
A warning that you all must heed.

For those who creep beneath the ground
In sewers where the echoed sound
Of secrets whisper truths and lies
That help your enemy's demise.

For those who sit on lofty seats,
With confident command of fleets
Of loyal sycophants and men
who guard you from both sword and pen.

For those entreating the arcane
To aid in their own selfish gain
Of powers, wealth and mysteries,

Destroying anything they please.

For those who only seek to harm
For those who dismiss grace or charm
For those with only self in mind
For those who never have been kind

Beware the claws and teeth that catch
Beware the day you meet your match
You cannot hide, you cannot fly
The day will come, the day you die.

- The Poet.

AKITON GLASGOW WOES AND SCANDAL

Research and Manufacturing company Akiton has been in the mortal media this month following a gruelling series of scandals that have come to the attention of the authorities.

The news broke early in the month that Strathclyde Police launched a series of early morning raids into Akiton's corporate offices and headquarters in the city centre.

Simultaneous raids were also undertaken at Akiton's factory facilities in Rutherglen. Forensics officers spent all day at these buildings along with regiments of uniformed and plain clothes police officer removing files, computer equipment and machinery for evidence.

Although not directly naming Akiton or any of its employees, Assistant Chief Constable Ruaridh Nicholson gave a statement to the press confirming that a major investigation was underway concerning drug supplies, major economic fraud and money laundering.

The media have been in frenzy all month speculating over the characters that make up the senior management of Akiton. There have been many rumoured links between some of the company directors and other employees with serious organised crime and other shades of vice and suggested criminality.

It is believed that there have been no arrests or charges at this stage.

Nevertheless, Glasgow City Council have apparently grown sceptical and worried about Akiton's corporate presence in this

city. On the advice of Strathclyde Police several of Akiton's licenses have been refused extension at the meeting of the local authorities licensing committee this month.

Despite no specific accusations being levelled at this point, cross party consensus on this issue was that in view of recent developments that it would inappropriate to renew the licences whilst the police were still conducting their investigations.

Akiton, although still able to operate under the permissions and accreditations it still possesses, will find it much more difficult to conduct its business for the foreseeable future.

In the press, an Akiton spokesperson expressed that the company was completely innocent of any wrong doing but would cooperate fully with all police enquiries. They declined to comment further.

A SHORT CONSIDERATION

A short consideration for you all; at what point should a prince's patience end?

Many kindred in many cities may express displeasure with the actions of their prince, they may do so in quiet corners, behind closed doors or, if they are very confident, even with the prince in sight. Many would say that a prince should not allow this, that all such dissatisfaction should be stamped out and eradicated as soon as it begins. That a prince should rule by fear, an iron fist tightly controlled.

I think we have all seen how well that sort of attitude can turn out, so unless a prince has a particular death wish – or is particularly confident in his own powers – perhaps this approach is the wrong choice for a city full of powerful creatures looking to further their own ends at any cost.

Others, of course, will say that such things should not be happening at all, that a domain should follow the commands of its prince willingly, for the rule is just and good and all agree with it. Such idealism, however pleasant to contemplate, is unfortunately not likely – you will never please everybody.

Dissent, however, is one thing, and there are many ways for a prince to deal with such things in a patient manner... but what about outright disrespect? For an ancillae or worse, a neonate, to openly question not just a prince's action, but his very word. For anybody of good standing it is insult enough, but for a prince? What would you do if a newcomer to your domain had the gall to stand in your court and denounce you as a liar? How long would your patience last?

And does anybody think it would be a good idea to be standing close to such a person when it finally gives out?

Anonymous

Dear reader, this article serves the purpose to provide background and explanation to the recent transition of praxis from myself, Simon Haile, to Angus McDonald. When archon Trenchard, then Prince Trenchard resigned his position to head with the Venture Justicar to Greece it fell to myself and elder McDonald to decide on who should lead the domain. At the time, in spite of Angus' extensive history within the domain, that decision was made to be myself.

Then a short while later at Madame Guile' conclave I was disabled and abducted by a mortal mystic. This mystic, who believed himself to be a man of faith, had me at substantial disadvantage and was preparing to sacrifice me to gain further mystic power. Elder Angus without consideration to his own safety highhandedly stopped the ritual and slew the mystic and rescued me, preventing my unfortunate demise.

This deed was quickly publicised and Justicar Guile even announced it at her conclave to the assembled Scottish Princes and representatives. At the time elder Angus had prior commitments keeping him from returning the domain immediately and he ordered me not to speak about the situation in his absence. Now though these commitments have run their course and I am free to lay bare what this means to myself the domain.

It is simple, I owe my life and my existence to Angus and hence I am his to command in all things. As such I could not be the eldest of the domain as important decisions, such as when to call the hunt, when to have someone destroyed or merely which members to admit into the domain would ultimately be his decision. Sure, if he desired I could and would be his mouthpiece and puppet on the throne but ultimately the decisions would be proclaimed by a different herald.

Therefore I am using this article to inform anyone who is concerned that I have indeed relinquished praxis and that Prince Angus McDonald has taken over as Prince of Glasgow. Prince Angus has generously asked me to become his seneschal and as such if anyone has an issue with this transition of power I would urge you to contact myself in the first instance before inadvertently challenging Prince Angus for the leadership of the domain.

Elder Simon Haile

Seneschal to Prince Angus of Glasgow

HARPY HOUR

A little bird on the wind informs that there is a French Nosferatu running around who can not hold his tongue. Speaking to elders is an often forgotten part of our education of young kindred. But it is an important one. A very important one in fact. It appals me to hear that one of my own countrymen, a Frenchmen—a kindred from the land that gifted to all polite civilization the art of courtly customs and decorum—should be found to be so lacking in decorum and sophistication. Among other things...I would strongly suggest that if one does not wish to find ones time wasted then would be best to give Jean-Yves De Blois how you say in English?...a wide berth. If only because you may find that his notes of credit become quickly worthless when he gets himself killed by whatever Prince he talks to next.

Anne-Jaques,
Harpy of York

A very exciting month but also a little disappointing. Niklas Takala is not a Malkavian after all. That saddens me a bit. Not that there is anything wrong about being a proof positive Toreador...(Unless Fortesque is bedevilling me!) Still it was fun finding out. And then there is that other thing...well, fuck.

Oliver Bulwar-Lytton
Seneschal of Norfolk



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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