

DARK TIMES

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BIRMINGHAM; THE FIRST KINDRED VICTIM AND THE AUDIT REPERCUSSIONS

By *Rebecca Jones*

The first kindred victim of the recent 'outbreak' in Birmingham has now been identified. Henry Newbolt of Clan Ventrule, the Ex-Harpy, is the first of our kind to be infected with the recent disease which has been dubbed by mortal doctors as the 'White Plague' due to the pale colour that mortals have turned due to a lack of being able to retain blood.

Doctors, both mortal and kindred, have discovered that the infection begins with cold like symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing and headaches, however quickly descends into more serious conditions, including the loss of blood through orifices and increased dangerous temperatures.

In relation to Kindred the symptoms are similar; the infection began with involuntary blood loss which has led to Newbolt falling into Torpor. Since falling into this state there have been no further changes to his condition and he remains quarantined. At present there have been no deaths recorded and doctors continue to monitor each of the patients afflicted.

One Kindred Doctor in the area who wished to remain anonymous informed the Dark Times that at present it is believed that the infection is of an occult nature, however officials from the domain have been working to suppress this information. There are others that believe this might be opening signs of warfare with the 'enemies' of Birmingham.

Whereas there are others who believe that actions may not be attributed to a single person, but an entire clan, one stated, "Who knows what they're cooking up in those hovels. You don't see any of them working on this, you know why? Cause they already know,



because they put it there. We made a mistake letting them in, and I'm not the only one that thinks so."

Officials from the court of Birmingham state that the disease is now contained and other than the Ex-Harpy there have been no further recorded cases of it. In terms of the Masquerade, members of the domain are working nightly to ensure that all potential breaches are contained.

In light of recent events the Auditors that had been present have been immediately removed by the Archon who has sent word to Birmingham that they have until the end of the month of April to identify the source of the outbreak, contain and eradicate it and ensure all breaches are covered. It has been said that if the domain fails to act on this adequately then further action will be taken by the Archon personally.

BOON TRADING:

For further information on boons please see your local Harpy

- *Jeremy Holt has fulfilled his major boon to Levi Tius.*
- *Sheri Wilkins has fulfilled her major boon to Levi Tius*
- *Deanna McCarthy has fulfilled her major boon to Levi Tius*
- *Gilberto Gonzales has fulfilled his major boon to Levi Tius*

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FROM THE PRINCE'S DESK



GLASGOW DOMAINS AND PRIMOGEN

By Prince Brown

To date, the currently domains held within Glasgow are as follows:-

- The Domain of Telecommunications is held by Sebastian Fawkes.
- The Domain of Police is held by Daniel Smith.
- The Domain of Hotels is held by Ethan Fletcher.
- The Domain of Academia is held by Levi Tius.
- The Domain of Shipping is held by Finn Huxley.
- The area of Ward 16 is the Domain of the approved Tremere Clan in Glasgow.
- The sewers are the Domain of the approved Nosferatu Clan in Glasgow.

THE SABBAT PROBLEM

By Prince Brown



In the last few months, thankfully, some have taken up the opportunity to learn the tactics required to combat our enemies in the Sabbat but there is still more to be done. However the plan of action has been refined somewhat. Until the issue grows worse there will be one among each Clan who will be designated as being required to learn and will be learning this from me personally. Everyone else may choose to learn within this time but will also be learning it from me personally and will earn positive marks to their favour for doing so.

- The area of Springburn is held as the Domain of Finn Huxley.
- Ethan Fletcher is the Regent of the City of Dumfries.
- The Primogen Council of Glasgow currently stands as the following:-
Finn Huxley
Levi Tius
Antoinette de Savigny d'Anglure

Proclamation

Let it be known that Louis DuBois, childe of Madam Du Barry, childe of the Prince of Marseilles, is under my protection from this night forward. He is a young kindred, recently released in the court of Lorraine under the watchful eyes of Prince Melanie D'Medici. Louis requires guidance that I have promised to provide. Should Louis have, inexperienced as he is, provided you with reason to be offended, then I ask you humbly to be given the opportunity to resolve the situation before it escalates. If I was unaware of the situation I would see this opportunity as a personal favour. Other than that I will perceive any attack against Louis, his holdings or reputation as a direct attack upon myself. In fact I will consider it worse because you lacked the courage to act me directly and instead decided to test your mettle against a mere childe, as yet inexperienced in both courtly life and the art of the feud.

Elder Simon Haile
The Iron Rose

PROBATIONARY KINDRED

By Prince Brown

As indicated, all new members among the Domain's Kindred are subject to review to ensure their benefit to the Domain. The following is the list of new members whose reviews are happening this Court and in following Courts.

- Torsten McKenzie has his review at this upcoming April court.
- Gwent Lyr has his review at the May court.
- Martin Strain has his review at the May court.
- Giulia Giovanni has her review at the May court.
- Gerry Giovanni has his review at the May court.
- The Viscount has his review at the May court.
- Marshal Michel Ney has his review at the June court.
- Ben has his review at the June court.
- Ethan Sullivan has his review at the June court.
- Gordon has his review at the June court.
- Rose has her review at the June court.

THE ACADEMY

Experts in a wide variety of skills are ready to aid in diagnostics and possible resolution of supernatural, occult, and mundane issues. Please contact the following mailbox with details and your query will be examined and evaluated. If appropriate an agent will be in touch to further the investigation as per your needs.

Investigations@theacademy.com



FROM THE OFFICE OF SENESCHAL FLETCHER

By Seneschal Fletcher

Foresight is something that I take a great deal of stock in. It's a skill none should be without and we should all take the time to hone. I also believe that initiative is a thing to be rewarded. I will take this opportunity to congratulate Elder Ney and the neonates Aldsworth,

Rathbone & McKenzie. During this time of trial and danger they have demonstrated their vigilance and pluck by snatching our foes from the streets and weakening the forces of our enemy. Such Kindred who would follow duty, wherever it calls, and perform so well, will always have a sympathetic ear.

ARE YOUR SERVANTS ACTING STRANGELY?

By Henry Randall, Keeper of Elysium

After the recent events in Birmingham and the with the society of Hunters abducting ghouls we have been forced to keep an closer eye on those who serve us in recent months. Do they show signs of infection? How vulnerable are they to 4 armed men pulling up in an unmarked van and bundling them in on their way to work or running your errands?

Now, though I have been told that there might be a new threat afoot, what this threat is I cannot say, both because I wasn't given all the details and because I lack the understanding on the matters of these matters, but seeing that I received the warning I figured I might as well share it.

So keep a close eye on your servants and think to yourself whether any of their behaviours are odd? Have they started humming a strange melody while they

work? Are they depressed when before they were cheery or vice versa? Maybe they have a sudden obsession with a daytime television show or started consuming nothing but vegetable smoothies. These are just some examples as the oddness will be in line with their character, their predispositions and how they are being affected.

While a single case would likely be a coincidence, I feel that if a pattern emerges across the domain then we might have sufficient information to start locating the influence and dealing with it, and so I would be grateful if any information could be passed to myself to be collated.

PRIMOGEN NEWS

By Finn Huxley, Venttrue Primogen

It is with great pleasure that I announce the grand opening of my latest venture to the general public. My secure transport between Europe and the Americas is now open to all Camarilla kindred of good standing. Simply speak to me at Court or contact me via the usual channels and we can discuss the creation of a bespoke package of secure transportation, communication requirements, feeding requirements, number of entourage, and size of suite.

I would like to publicly apologize to Daniel of Clan Tremere, our upstanding Keeper of the Masquerade, for my failure to procure for him a desired resource. I

would have the Harpies record a small favour I offer as recompense.

I would like to heartily thank Queen Anne and her Seneschal, Lord Nottingham, for taking the time to speak to me recently, and for the sublime hospitality they both extended to such a small cog as myself.

And lastly, I would like to congratulate the Viscount Sir Charles Augustus Aldsworth of Clan Venttrue on his ascension to the rank of Ancilla. Very well deserved, I'm sure. I would further urge Kindred to ignore the ignoble offer of a bounty from the Prince of Manchester for an attack on the person of the Viscount Aldsworth. Respectfully, you executed him once, Sir, and once should be enough!

RIGHT TO SIRE

SID OPPERMIN of Clan Gangrel has been granted the right to sire by the Prince of Aberdeen.

RACHEL DURY of Clan Malkavian has been granted the right to sire by Prince of Norfolk.

FIRST PRESENTATIONS

EVA REYNOLD, Clay Conely of Clan Venttrue presented his childe Eva Reynold to Lady Anne and the London Court.

LOUIS KEE, Eddie Carston of Clan Brujah presented his childe Louis Kees to Prince Carter and the Manchester Court.

FINAL DEATHS

WILLOW CALHOUN, met her final death in Miami, Florida in a freak snake incident.

JENNY DUVAL from Guarda met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

JEFFREY RIZO from Guarda met his final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

ROSANNE HECKMAN from San Sebastian met her final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

BRYAN FREDERICK from San Sebastian met his final death in the war against the Sabbat in Spain

ON THE MOVE

BEN, GORDON and ROSE were presented to the Glasgow Court and were welcomed by Nosferatu Prince Ricky Brown.

ANGUS MACDONALD and SIMON HAILE were presented to the Bergen Court and were welcomed by Gangrel Prince Baroness Erika

THANKS & REQUEST

By Torsten McKenzie

I want to thank Prince Brown for allowing me to remain in his domain, Primogen Tius for his help in testing me, and Seneschal Fletcher for his teachings. I am always willing to help my city out in anyway I can.

I would like some assistance from my elders and betters to investigate the dodgy goings-on in the West Nile Street casino. If you have any information about this I would like to talk to you at the next Court.

I have also been getting threatening messages in the form of graffiti from what I believe might be Sabbat. Probably because of who my Sire is. But this means they are present in Glasgow now. Everyone should take care as you travel around and make sure your havens are well guarded.

Thanks to my friends Gail and Finn for all their help again this month and for teaching me all about the Camarilla and my Clan. And thanks to big Prince Leslie for letting me into his domain and taking the time to talk to me.

Good night.

THE RESURRECTION MACHINE

By Elder Simon Haile

I was present when Glasgow's Prince, the Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth was executed. I saw his aura flicker, fade and finally evaporate as his body turned to ash. I saw the gannets attempting to obtain some if not all of the ash and these memories are quite vivid.

I have it on good authority that the Gangrel elder known as Cruithni destroyed the entity known as Mithras. I have spoken to a number of witnesses and their accounts not only matched but were quite realistic. Cruithni himself carried himself with a quiet confidence after the event which could only stem from having defeated the one person he feared.

Lady Anne Bowesley had disappeared from the polite society. Ru-

VIGILANCE REQUIRED

By Henry Randall, Keeper of Elysium

During the month a number of strange occurrences have been noted on and near Netherlee Road in Cathcart. These include, but are not limited to, technical problems, unexpected equipment failure, feelings of uneasiness and agitation in mortals. I get the feeling that something dark and

mours were rife that she was in torpor, maybe destroyed but definitely kept under lock and key.

Now we have seen the return of all three and I have to ask myself, were we all mistaken or where these people really dead only to walk the halls of power again? Of course a methuselah could have told us that we witnessed these deaths, and we would have believed them, they could have told us to forget them and we would have. So that might be a relatively simple answer. There was someone present who managed to make the whole court remember something that did not in fact happen.

Maybe though, and this is the worrying thought, we were not mistaken. Maybe someone has found a way to bring back the dead, and bring them back so life like that they themselves believe it and sell it to everyone else. The question though is, what deal with the devil would one have to make to bring the destroyed back from their purgatory and hell. What will it cost to have someone for a night, a week or a month. Is the reason that Mithras has disappeared behind Lady Anne's rule a testament to someone only having paid the price for 3 months?

What could you do with a machine like that? Mithras is a legend and there are other, even scarier legends out there. What happens when we are talking Amaranth, Ishtar or Arikel. Entire bloodlines might be affected, will this be the prophesied end of days? Let us hope that the costs to bring back the legends of the past is simply too

insidious is housing or hiding there and with the repeated warnings that the Sabbat might be trying to hide in our midst it would be easy to assume it is them. Thus far I have attempted to inform the Sheriff and the Scourge about these findings but it has proven more difficult than it should to do so.

In any case. Keep yourself safe. Stay away and hope that the matter will be dealt with soon.

high to meet, or that maybe Britain was simply wrong and the Viscount had been spirited away from his execution by someone rather persuasive.

Let us also hope that our enemies do not believe that such a machine exists in the British Isles, because while we were successful in Spain, they nevertheless have the ability to turn Britain into a smoking ruin, and if they believe that this price is here, maybe they are willing to sacrifice the blood required to do so.

**Truth, honour faith and pride;
all convictions surely died,
Honesty's time has passed
time for lies are here at last,
Truth is false I'm so fed up
how did we come to be so
fucked?,
Hate, fear, pain, death
all our country has got left.**

**Talk to children hear them say
"daddy left again today,
brother steals and Mommy lies"
future lost before their eyes,
The sun was lost behind the
clouds they wrapped it up and
blacked it out,
Acid rain fell today
it came and washed our hopes
away.**

**This was once the land of dreams
now these dreams have turned to
greed,**

**In the midst of all this wealth
the poor are left to help them-
selves,**

**A capitalist's democracy
no one said that freedom's free,
The spirit of Scotland rots away
no truth, no justice the *Blue
Blood's* way.**

NEWS FROM SPAIN

By Angus MacDonald

It is with great pleasure that I announce the purge of Salamanca of the presence of the foul Sabbat. In a daring three-pronged assault the steadfast Kindred of Spain and our European allies, supported by our noble friends in Clan Assamite, surgically excised the vile tumour of three veteran Sabbat packs, an infiltration pack that was to lead the way in a renewed assault on Camarilla territories, and the Archbishop himself along with his Templars.

The Prince of Thorns, as the Archbishop was known, was an infamous creature of Clan Tzimice, whose vulgar deeds and huge body count made him feared and dreaded

in Camarilla circles. His Final Death avenges half a millennium of crimes against the innocent Kine of Europe and the honest sons and daughters of all our Clans.

Unfortunately Salamanca wasn't held, but after a recent visit to the Portuguese Domains I believe that a new era in the Crusade in Spain has begun. An era that will see the very close cooperation between Spanish and Portuguese Kindred, to the extreme detriment of the Sabbat. I would single out Jesus Olivarez of Clan Brujah, Sheriff of San Sebastian, and Beatriz of Clan Toreador, Prince of Guarda, for their sterling efforts and warlike demeanours during this Crusade.

Following the eradication of the Sabbat in Salamanca and my retrieval

of a vital asset from Madrid, along with the destruction of the notorious Shattered King and Silent King packs therein, the war in Spain is in a strong position as we move into the short nights of the spring and summer. Consolidation is key during this time.

I would like to thank the Princes of the French Domains for their hospitality during my recent visits, especially Prince Villon of Paris for the gift of a villa. I look forward to returning in the near future.

I have in my possession vital intelligence that is essential for the preservation of the strategic advantage by the Camarilla of Europe over the Sabbat. I will be disseminating this intelligence shortly.

THE GREAT WIZARD DEMOTION

By Angus MacDonald

Over the past month there has been a large change of 'offices' within a series of English Domains and others throughout Europe.

It has been suggested by some that this is due to the multitude of 'Audits' taking place within the UK and Europe at the behest of Justicar Naves, however it does not take close examination to see who is being targeted. In the domain of York the current Keeper of the Masquerade, Gerry Binning of Clan Tremere has been replaced by Lynn Burrows of clan Nosferatu. Over in Severn, Primogen member Carina Dunsmuir of Clan Tremere has been removed and currently the position remains vacant.

It has also recently been announced that in Frankfurt, the Senechal Arran Hutton of Clan Tremere has not only been replaced but asked to depart the domain for reasons that are as yet, unknown.

Whilst the recent audits have been stated as the reason for this; following investigations have uncovered unsavoury findings about these

office bearers that could affect the audit, other potential reasons have been raised by court members.

One member of the court of Norfolk stated, "There's rumours you know, Princes can't trust them, they got too many secrets, haven't they? And then folks were saying that they might be responsible you know? For all the stuff that's happened recently...like in Birmingham, and London last year. I mean I don't know if it's true...I just heard..."

When we enquired on the Archon Darling's position a spokesperson from the Archon had this to say, "Any recent changes made by Princes have not been made at the request of the Archons or the Justicar. Recommendations will be provided following the conclusion of the Audit currently taking place."

And in relation to Clan Tremere, the spokesperson said, "The Archon continues to work with all clans of the Camarilla to ensure that the traditions are continued to be upheld."



I seek my master... my Archbishop... my Prince of Thorns...

But if I go to the east, he is not there;
if I go to the west, I do not find him.
When he is at work in the north, I do not
see him;
when he turns to the south, I catch no
glimpse of him.
But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tested me, I come forth as
gold.

My feet have closely followed his steps;
I have kept to his way without turning
aside.
I have not departed from the commands of
his lips;
I have treasured the words of his mouth
more than my nighty blood.

Then the Noble Beast came in disgrace.
We laughed and sought to harrow him.
But he stands alone, and who can oppose
him?

He does whatever he pleases.
He carries out his decree against us, and
many such plans he still has in store.
That is why I am terrified before him;
when I think of all this, I fear him.
Angus has made my heart faint;
the Young Wolf has terrified me.
Yet I am not silenced by the darkness,
by the thick darkness that covers my face.

The final words of the Black Prophet, Amonet Ansurwari of the Malkavian anti-tribu, Left Hand of the Archbishop of Salamanca, prior to her execution by sword and by fire after her capture in the Battle for Valladolid.

ON WAR (PART II): AN ESSAY

By Marshal Ney

Last month I asked the question on whether or not studies and treatises of mortal warfare could be applied to and help in the guidance of kindred warfare also. I began my discussion by considering the works of Jomini. I found that the most notable parts of his theories that could be applied to us were;

- The importance of operating on interior lines.
- That the main object of war is to bring the enemy to a decisive battle.
- And not to rely on over prescription and dogmatic thinking in our strategy.

This month I continue my discussion with another contemporary of mine, Carl von Clausewitz.

Clausewitz was a Prussian of middle class birth. Despite not being an aristocrat, membership of which was by and large essential to qualify for being an officer in the much admired if outdated Prussian Army of those days (as was the case in all of Europe to be fair) he was nevertheless commissioned as an ensign (Fahnenjunker) in the 34th Infantry Regiment in 1792. Thereafter, much like Jomini, he spent most of his career as an officer in the General Staff of the Prussian Army throughout the wars we fought with Prussia, Russia and the rest. Unlike Jomini however, I do not recall ever having been introduced to him personally. Although it is possible I suppose we met briefly in battle at the Siege of Mainz in '93 or at Jena or some-such. Where he also differs from Jomini personally is that his career was decidedly less glittering and his personal renown in his life time infinitely less impressive. After a turbulent and intermittent career in the Prussian staff he spent much of the rest of his career, if you can call it that, from 1818 onwards as the Major General commanding the War College, (the Allgemeine Kriegsschule), neck deep in admin-

istration and little else. It was until the Polish rebellion in 1831 that he was sent into command again where he then promptly died of the local cholera epidemic. No way for a soldier to die, especially for a general, but there you have it. I saw much worse in Russia in 1812 believe me.

In any case, he lacked quite same depth and range of practical experience of generalship than Jomini did. But history and later scholarship has proved kinder on Clausewitz's works than Jomini's and, in all due respect to my own old Chief of Staff, not without good reason. Clausewitz's work, unfinished at the time of his death, departs from the merely tactical and operational to consider the nature of warfare itself and its place in a wider political context. You may recall that it was with this very point that I hoped to derive the most from this discussion. If there is some common nature or quality to all warfare in an abstract sense (kindred or mortal, past, present and future, real and imaginary) then any such work that informs the conduct and exercise of one kind of warfare (mortal in this case) must, logically, be able to inform the conduct of all the others (kindred warfare in our case).

Clausewitz begins with the essential and simple definition of war as "an act of violence intended to compel our opponent to fulfil our will". Immediately, however, he finds the definition inadequate to describe the different kinds of war it is possible to fight. The problem is solved by his suggestion that there are in fact two types of war. In outlining the first of these he is clearly influenced by the teachings of Immanuel Kant and his concept of Ding-an-sich (literally, "thing in itself"). Clausewitz's first type of war is a Kantian "ideal type" - that is, an abstract notion of what war would be like if it could be waged as an isolated act. The term he uses to describe it is "absolute war" or absoluten krieg. This concept should not be, but often erroneously is, confused with the concept of "total war" or totaler krieg. According to the dictates of logic, "absolute"

war would be waged until it ends with the complete victory of one side over the other. Moreover, it would be conducted with the "utmost violence": since our enemy cannot be compelled to fulfil our will as long as he retains even the slightest capacity to resist, logic demands that unlimited force be used against him until all trace of resistance is extinguished. In "absolute war" there is no place for moderation; indeed, since it threatens to undermine the whole purpose of the conflict, it is nothing less than "an absurdity".

However, Clausewitz is well aware that, in reality, war is never an isolated act. Nor is it always waged with the intention of bringing about the total defeat of the enemy and achieving "absolute" victory by their total annihilation. On the contrary, war is frequently much more restricted in scope, in terms both of the objectives for which it is fought and the means with which it is waged. In order to take account of these realities he outlines his second type of war, which is "limited" war. In the real world, Clausewitz tells us, the conduct of war is inevitably constrained by a series of factors, which he later terms "frictions": these include the international situation that forms the background to all conflicts, the impossibility of landing the single, decisive blow that will lead to complete victory, and the fact that results in war are never absolute and permanent. Most important of all, however, is the fact that war does not take place in a political vacuum, but is fought for specific objectives which decisively affect its conduct.

Political objectives will decide not only why war is waged, but also how. The more ambitious the political goal, the more violent and akin to "absolute" war will be the methods of warfare used to achieve it; the more limited the goals, the more restrained the military strategy is likely to be.

How is war to be waged successfully in pursuit of its political goals? Clausewitz refuses to provide easy answers to this question. Nevertheless,

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he provides quite a few observations that, I feel are no less illustrative ourselves than they are to mortal kind.

The most important lesson we should take from Clausewitz - the same lesson that was learned from him by that other great Prussian staff officer, Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke – is the important part played in warfare of “friction” and time. War is incredibly complex with any number of area for things to go wrong; weather conditions can stop us in our tracks, we can have inaccurate intelligence on the location, size and intentions of our enemy, our supplies can be delayed, our orders can be misinterpreted by our subordinates, the enemy commander we intended to remove from play can be in Berlin with his family rather than in the command post we take by surprise. Knowing this, it is in the nature of kindred especially to make plans down to the last details in an attempt to take account of every minutiae and possibility. Whilst conventional wisdom applauds such attention to detail, and a healthy attention to it is by no means trivial, it nevertheless, in my experience has a tendency in fact to increase the vulnerability of kindred military planning to the role of chance and creates more opportunities for those frictions to cause things to go wrong. War is at best in his view “a calculation of probabilities”. Instead, a kindred commander is advised to remember the importance of Time. As von Moltke observed, no plan survives first contact with the enemy. And rather than rely on intricate plans worked out down to the last detail, such admirable preparedness is better devoted into giving tactical combat units as much time as possible to complete their objectives.

Rather than formulate a plan were the timing and positioning of every manoeuvre, position and strike is critical and thus all the more likely to fall victim to circumstances born of the unknown, it is much better to prepare your units for more common eventualities and equip them so that they can

respond to any arising situation as circumstances demand. By allowing subordinates tactical discretion and operational initiative and building in reserves and redundancies and allowing more time for mistakes and responses to be made, the commander creates a more flexible and dynamic military force that can more easily react and overcome the frictions of warfare and leave as little to be calculated by probability as possible.

Secondly, Clausewitz is instructive in what the aim of war should be, both for mortals and for kindred. The aim in waging war is to locate the enemy's centre of gravity, the focal point of his strength, and then to devote all available means to attacking it. He lists three potential centres of gravity: the enemy's army, his capital, and the army of a stronger ally. In general, however, he leaves no doubt that the defeat of the enemy's army is the main effective means of bringing him to his knees. The objective, after all, is to overcome the enemy, which requires “the destruction of his military force.”

Once the enemy's centre of gravity has been located, certain principles can also guide the commander in the best way to attack it. Clausewitz makes no bones about the simplicity of his main principle: “The best strategy is always be very strong, first generally then at the decisive point” In sum superiority in numbers is the most important factor in deciding the result of a battle; it will usually – though not always – be decisive.

In broad terms this point is largely in concord with the similar instructions laid down by Jomini. Both authors stress the importance of bringing maximum, preferably overwhelming, force to bear on the enemy at the decisive point. Although to our eyes this dictum may seem obvious and simplistic believe me to the ancient regime army commanders who preceded men like Jomini, Clausewitz and myself these principles were often far from understood or accepted. The emphasis in the days of Marlborough or Frederick were on endless manoeuvres and attrition through threats on supply

lines. And in our wars as kindred are perhaps not these lessons also sometimes lost? Many a siege have I seen fail because this or that Prince or Bishop divided his forces and attempted spread her defences so thin or endlessly skirmished or reconnoitred in piece meal that her diluted, un-consecrated army was destroyed by superior numbers brought to a local point. Further, no amount of shadow play or proxy, mortal, influence warfare can ever truly destroy an opponents capacity to resist our will so long as he and his forces, whatever they may be, remain in play to oppose us. But this basic principle I have so often seen forgotten.

Again, perhaps also obviously, another area where Clausewitz agrees with Jomini is the inherent superiority of fighting on the defensive. As already discussed last month the defender has all the advantages of being to act closer to ones on supplies, knowing the terrain, the local population etc.

However, there is one major area where Clausewitz departs quite markedly from Jomini – the emphasis on seeking a single decisive engagement. In Jomini's case, the decisive battle is the central plank of warfare. For Clausewitz however, although bringing superior numbers at a decisive point is key to winning a battle at a tactical level once it has been joined, at a strategic level, a decisive battle in itself is almost impossible to achieve outside the abstract realm of “absolute” war. The uncertainties of war make achieving such a single act of Gotterdamerung incredibly difficult to achieve and the pursuit of them in fact places disproportionate amount of risk on the one who seeks on it than is usually necessary;

“This need to achieve a quick victory of annihilation is made even more critical to countries that lack strategic depth where, because of their size, any operational defeat would automatically have the gravest strategic consequences for the country.”

In reality, decisive battles do not decide the outcome and, more specifically, results on the battlefield do not

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produce permanent outcomes.

From this I can speak from my own personal experience. I was neither permitted nor inclined to interfere with the American Civil War of 1861-65, apart from those elements of it that occurred in kindred life that concerned me. But from what I could see of it from my house in South Carolina I observed time and again Union army after Union army grasping desperately for the all important decisive blow against the Confederacy, only each and every time to be repulsed for no gain and thousands of meaningless losses. In the end they destroy the South's centres of gravity (Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Richmond) through a patient strategy partially of blockade and logistics and more gradually bringing the weight of blue waves against the grey stone shore.

Moreover, even in those times where you feel as a commander you have at last achieved the master stroke victory you sought there remain an abundance of personal, emotional and moral forces against you that will in the long run deny you final victory. Our victory at Austerlitz was a "decisive" victory and brought to an end the War of the Second Coalition. But although we wounded and crippled the Austrians for a time they remained a proud and brave if poorly led empire (you will never here a word from me against the courage of Austrian soldiery!). Austerlitz was not so decisive that it stopped the Austrians, Russians and their other allies from

seeking revenge and coming at us again for the next 15 years in the Third, Fourth and Fifth coalitions. So too do I think this point in particular is especially true for us as kindred. Yes, you may well find your enemy and best him. You may crush him decisively in a titanic battle of arms, wits and will. You destroy him, scatter his ashes, kill his allies and cull his herd and take his domains for your own. But what of his childer or sire? Have you accounted for them all? Do they now seek revenge on you for your actions? What of his allies that remain? Or former allies of your own that now look at your new holdings and victories with jealousy and desire? Can you make good on your promises for support? Have you the strength now to defend your expanded realm? How long will it be really before you are called to defend your own colours yet again? How "decisive" can any battle be for you in the long run for those who love so long as us?

Both Clausewitz and Jomini of course have much more to say on the subject. But in this essay I hoped to demonstrate that there was useful and informative truisms on warfare in their works that could be applied to warfare as we kindred conduct it despite the vast differences in scale and combat effectiveness of the participants. I believe that we have demonstrated this indeed to be the case and that the sound advice we can take from both Jomini and Clausewitz is the following four points;

1. We as kindred share in the in-

herent martial advantages of operating on the defensive. We should not over complicate, micro manage, over predict or over think our military plans. We simply can not predict every possible outcome, friction, occurrence, chance, move or counter-move. Every engagement will be different and no plan will survive first contact with the enemy. Instead we should make our military units as flexible, mobile, self reliant and reactive as possible and plan and prepare our units accordingly in order to combat any general threat or obstacle they may encounter.

At a tactical and operational level, we must always make every effort to find our enemies centre of gravity and bring all our possible strength and numerical advantage against him at the decisive point in order to eventually and completely destroy their capacity for further resistance to our will.

At a strategic level however, a decisive battle should only be sought when we have the resources and strategic initiative to render it our only option. Even when we are the victorious we should be always be vigilant and pursue all other paths to peace for the decisive battle is rarely a final act.

A LETTER TO MY CREDITORS

By Simon Haile, Elder of the Camarilla

It would appear that for the moment the struggle in Spain is going to progress without my involvement.

That means I am free to return to Britain for the moment and hence I find myself in a position where I can begin to pay my many debts.

The war has honed many of the skills that usually get neglected in the

halls of power and so I might be in the perfect position with the skills to advance your agenda.

Favours are matters for the ages, and so there is no hurry or need to act now, but as yet my plate is empty and I have almost my entire attention to dedicate to these debts.

I am looking forward to be hearing from you.



MISSING SENESCHAL FROM THE DOMAIN OF YORK

By Anne Jaques, Harpy of York

The Prince of York is offering a major boon to anyone that can locate the Seneschal of York, Elder Finlay Hoskins of Clan Malkavian. Elder Hoskins has been missing for over a month and his last known location was the Court of Manchester where officials there have informed us that he left the domain after a brief discussion with the Harpy where he informed her, 'I shall have to go further west then, seek these lost souls out.' Anyone with any information in regards to the whereabouts of Elder Hoskins should contact myself or the Acting-Seneschal, Eileen Moffat of Clan Toreador.

FROM MANCHESTER; THE SECOND REQUEST

By Seneschal Hector Dunn

We have asked nicely and so far no one has taken us up on our very kind and generous offer. Such a pity, we really could have made it worth your while. Never mind, we shall direct this request to the one in charge shall we, especially since he's decided to throw his lot in with the imposter. Prince Brown, would you please be so kind as to bring us the imposter that you heroically defended last month? Prince Carter would very much like to have a little chat with him and if the only way is under your supervision then an invitation is extended to your good self to visit the domain of Manchester. Whilst within the domain you and your pet will both be under the hospitality of Prince Carter and afforded all the luxuries that go with that, for one night only. We hope you accept this time Prince Brown.

CAUTION: READ WITH CARE

The following article was posted anonymously to the dark times and contains sensitive material. Due to advice from Justicar Naves the Dark Times has included this article in order to warn other kindred of the insanity of those we fight against and the lengths they will go to in order to bring down our strong and upright Camarilla. As such the following article has been heavily redacted.

I, Lord Zoltan, Prodigy of Zaralom, Flayer of Flesh & Scourge of Rodna... enlighten you of the Seventh Tradition of the Camarilla; The Code of Milan in Accordance with his esteemed Excellency, Ricky 'The Face', in honour of his ascension from Prince of Glasgow to Deacon of the Region. Praise Caine!

THE REMAINDER OF THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN REDACTED

ALL HAIL PRINCE BROWN

By A Voice in the Night

Prince Ricky Brown, Prince Ricky "The Faceman" Brown, Prince Ricky "The Faceman" Brown of Glasgow.

Not since Prince Bartolomeo Murillo who was slain a decade ago has Glasgow had a more questionable figure head. But what do we know about him. The facts, not the countless additional rumours.

* Ricky was not created of a Camarilla member with permission to sire an offspring, Ricky clawed his way out of a Sabbat spawning pit. FACT.

* Ricky has destroyed a Sabbat prisoner in Glasgow before he could be interrogated by Prince Trenchard. FACT. One has to wonder what he didn't want the Camarilla to learn.

* Ricky has been found guilty of the breach of the tradition of Destruction, yet his sentence was commuted. FACT.

* Ricky has broken his word to

defend the domain to Archon Edelstein, then his Prince, in spite of his signature having been witnessed, and fled the domain. FACT.

* Ricky is harbouring those whose blood is forfeit in another Camarilla domain. FACT.

* Ricky is forcing everyone in the domain to learn the teachings of the Sabbat. FACT.

* Ricky is not welcome in any of the English domains, nor Aberdeen & Inverness and I doubt he would receive a warm welcome in Edinburgh or Dundee. FACT.

Members of the domain of Glasgow and the Camarilla of Britain, maybe you should worry who you have sworn loyalty to and accepted into the realm of Prince of Britain and look at the FACTS.

ENDORSEMENT

By Seneschal Alejandro Fasqueuz

The Prince Fransisco of the domain of Lisbon would like to extend his endorsement of the recent proclamation made by Prince Ricky Brown of Glasgow.

The following words are that of Prince Fransisco;

"Prince Brown has shown great wisdom in deciding to instruct his domain in this

manner. As one of the leading domains in Portugal, fighting this seemingly endless war against the dogs of the Sabbat, I can think of no better way to protect ourselves than to know our enemy better. I myself ensure that each and every member of my domain knows of the enemy we fight, for without that knowledge how can we ever hope to win this war?"

"Prince Brown there will be those in the UK that will say that it is un-Camarilla of you to do this. In truth you show more bravery than all the rest put together."

VENTRUE BUZZ

By *Henry Randall*

How fickle the harpies are was once again seen this month. Where last month everything finally looked up for Glasgow's leadership, this month more dissident voices seemed to be in the majority. Be that those who claim to have seen a pledge document Prince Brown had allegedly signed and then ignored or those who claim that forcing neonate to

learn Sabbat propaganda is a surefire way to lose those who take a while to find their place in the sacred order of the Camarilla to our ancient enemies.

Now the real question here is, who is stirring up this trouble. Neither allegation is particularly new and neither had any new details added to it in recent weeks. After the generally positive month of February someone or a group of someones must have put considerable influence

behind these rumours to make them the talk of the town from Dundee to Severn.

The obvious answer might be the court of Manchester, after all their demand to receive the Viscount had been turned down by Prince Ricky, but from where I am sat I don't believe a campaign of rumours is the style of Prince Carter. Maybe we need to look closer to home and consider who might have something to gain by a weakened Prince Ricky?

HARPY HOUR

Tsk Tsk England, one little outbreak and you're all running around looking for someone to blame. Poor old warlocks, they are always the first ones to get it, there's a word for that, easy targets. Find a new clan to throw under the bus why don't you, it was the Toreador last year, the Tremere this year. I know, why not the Malks...or is that too terrifying a prospect even for you?

Far, Harpy of Edinburgh

Goodness gracious those were some extensive rules provided by the Keeper of Elysium in Glasgow although I will only admit to having read a paragraph of it, a neonate should hardly be granted any more time than that.

Ann-Jacques, Harpy of York

Thanks to all for clarifying the Prince of Glasgow's position, I am sure all of Princes of the UK will sleep easy in their havens knowing that the Prince of Glasgow has matters well in hand. For a domain so often plagued with that most dreadful enemy can you really blame them? Ignorance can lead to mistakes and as they say, knowledge is power.

Sarah Miles, Harpy of Birmingham

Run rabbit, run rabbit, run, run, run... so many little rabbits on the run this month. The big floppy eared one up in Glasgow, the little baby black ones that are our neighbours and the scared little white rabbits of the magicians that made a boo boo and don't know how to

clean it up. Careful though rabbits, all you little rabbits, the Crow is coming, he's flying over the sea.

Lucretzia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

Kudos to Prince Brown for standing by the recently reincarnated one. It would appear that mummy's little boy (who walked in a neonate and left an Ancilla) is still very much the apple of her eye. And from what the ravens of the Tower of London tell me, mummy's little boy might have a little competition for her affections. Mummy's little boy's little friend was received equally as well. Indeed, he was talked about often during the court, perhaps more often than the little biscuit himself.

Lady Salisbury, Harpy of London

What more proof do we require that they are dangerous and should be removed immediately? Well done to Prince Lytton for taking the action he has and I hope that more continue to do so the same. They have far surpassed their usefulness.

Joseph Carroll, Harpy of Norfolk

You do know it's all her doing, right? What is the best way to solidify power that to unite us all against a common enemy. Careful Queenie, you're predecessor threw another clan under the bus in order to get ahead. Let's hope that this time her head ends up on the block before others are hurt and the true legitimate heir to the throne of London is restored to his rightful place.

Ryan Harding, Harpy of Severn

There we go folks, we have his reasons and given what we know of Glasgow they make sense to us, although I don't see Prince Carmichael doing the same. That would require him pulling himself away from the charming and beautiful Marie Darnley. The Prince of Glasgow's case was put across eloquently by the dear Seneschal of Glasgow Ethan Fletcher, and of course the Harpy...oh, what was his name again? I forget, I would check the Dark Times but he doesn't appear to have a slot here, what's wrong little birdie, don't you want to tweet with the rest of us?

Katie Redding, Harpy of Dundee

Well done to Lord Lott on an exciting first night of the hunt, maybe next year's hunt can focus on finding all these missing domain officials. First Henry Newbolt is missing then turns up infected, and now the Seneschal of York. Why doesn't whoever is responsible do us all a favour and make the Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow disappear?

Dougal Douglas, Harpy of Aberdeen

Prince Brown warns against the Sabbat in his domain but turns a blind eye to the threat that sits at his top table beside him. How long before he realises that he has a snake in his midst that will stop at nothing to usurp him.

Morag Cunningham, Harpy of Inverness

Quote not available.

Sebastian Fawkes, Harpy of Glasgow

THE 8TH PILLAR?

By Leo Di Vinezia

With such events in the mortal world taking place like Brexit and the possibility of a second independence referendum in Scotland to reverse the decision made two years ago, in what ways does this parallel our own dear sect?

Since 1493 there have always been Seven Clans of the Camarilla and so it is set to remain.

Or is it?

Since the Convention of Thorns much has changed, both in the mortal world and in our own to the point where one could look back on such a document and wonder will we ever see another clan on that document?

Or indeed, will we ever see a clan remove itself from it?

Over the years, as we have grown and developed as a sect, we have seen that these strict rules in regards to who and who may not join have been bent over the years.

I would wager that there is not a court in all of Europe that has not seen one regular member at some point who are not, as we would say, a Camarilla 'clan'.

I do not speak of our Giovanni cousins who are permitted to come and go from our domains doing business as they like but of those clans who ignore their 'independence' and become fully



fledged and accepted members of the Camarilla.

Now this is a very rare occurrence I will grant you, it is not often that one will meet with a Ravnos or a Setite willing to part with their own freedom to join the Camarilla, but there are members from both these clans, rare as they are, that see the benefits of being a member of this sect can bring.

What if this was not so rare? What if there was a clan who had spent the past 500 years thinking, 'well....we really missed out on that didn't we?'

Imagine that such a large percentage of this hypothetical clan wished to join the Camarilla, would they be heard? Would they have a seat at the table at least to discuss the possibility?

What would they have to go through as a clan to prove that they are worthy of joining the Sect?

There will be those that would say this is a pointless discussion as no clan that is currently not a member of the Camarilla would ever consider it, least of all a large number of them.

And to that I would say, you had better keep a closer ear to the ground for there might be such a clan.

A clan that has been helping the Camarilla in Spain, a clan previously mistrusted by most now beginning to earn back that trust as they fight back to back with Camarilla soldiers.

Ask for the stories of the warriors of Spain that helped drive back the Sabbat and assist in the reclaiming of Camarilla domains. Their presence there has not been hidden, the work they do there not kept secret, listen and find out for yourselves for there may come a night where they seek a seat at our table and we must be ready for when they do.

Not only that, but what of the clans that no longer see the benefit of the Camarilla? Or rather, what of the Clan that no one sees the benefit of keeping anymore? Could those that currently fight in Spain replace another that has shown themselves to be a liability? More is certainly preferable to less, but if we are going to be losing one would it not be better to add a formidable ally in their place?

KINDRED ART OF THE MONTH!

By Rosalie Gypsy

Singing Sensation Cecilia Phillips, who took New York by storm last year with her album 'SeaSong', has announced a new album which she will collaborating with December's breakout stars in Athens, the Serenity Sisters.

Cecilia, with her low sinful voice that is perfect for the expensive music lounges to be found in New York, has been on the scene for the past 20 years, however if you believe the rumours then she has been around for a lot longer than this.

Cecilia announced the new album with the Serenity Sisters at her most recent performance in the court of New Orleans and stated the album is due to be released in the autumn of this year. However, those in the domain of New York were recently treated to a preview of what this new album will entail when Cecilia and the Serenity Sisters put on a surprise performance for Prince Jack Rosares and his court.

The visiting Keeper of Elysium from the court of Jackson had this to say, "It was divine! For a moment I felt transported to another world entirely, a dream, a beautiful dream, as if I could see it playing before my eyes, it was...they are wonderful, I would do anything to hear that music again."

Although it wasn't to everyone's tastes as Sheriff Watson of New York stated, "it was alright."

You can now pre-order the album and tickets for the forthcoming tour.



INTERVIEW WITH A VISCOUNT

By Vicky Stone

As far as comebacks go, they don't usually get much better than the comeback king himself. The, some may say, notorious Viscount, others of course might choose a more positive descriptor... 'passionate' '(over)zealous', I'll let you decide. However no matter what way it goes, there is no one single event that's caused more tongues wagging than his return (again). I even heard he arrived at the court of Glasgow dressed as a giant chicken. The Chinese new year of the rooster a tenuous excuse at best to dress up, reminiscent of his Santa Claus surprise.

I managed to catch up with the man himself in the last few weeks to get his side of the story. We met at a Victorian styled tea rooms, a glimpse into the way he looks at the world, perhaps or just a quaint novelty.

So let's get straight down to it, what happened in Manchester before your 'disappearance'?

Disappearance, a very tactful way of putting it young man. Look, I have never been in favour of the way Manchester and Liverpool operates as a domain. Anarchs? Setites? no, no. Not the way we do things. As the traditions dictate however, Thy Domain is thy own concern, but it was becoming a drag, affecting its neighbours. There was an archon travelling the UK berating Princes into making sure that we were prepared for a possible Sabbat invasion, most probably from an Irish staging ground. There were a few incidents in the wider area of my domain, but deftly dealt with. There were similar issues in Liverpool and into Manchester. Both domains are two of the easiest reached from across way, so it was no surprise we were the first to deal with the problem. We dealt with ours decisively and openly. I suppose it makes a modicum of sense to be loud in victory...which makes you wonder why Carter denied it so profusely. I digress, we of course clashed and it culminated in me deciding that Carter was not fit to rule. Obviously he disagreed. I worked with his Sheriff to get into his inner sanctum. But he knew we were coming. There was a leak, on that I am sure and I have my suspicions, but I will keep that to myself. There was a bloody battle between my War Coterie and his senior cabinet. I can tell you it was so very close. A very well laid plan allowed me to make good my escape, although it meant lying low for a protracted length of time. Sneaky little bugger aren't I!?

Well that does beg the question, where have you been for the past several years?

I have to say that's state secrets dear lady! Although if any of your readers have any thoughts I'd be interested to hear the top theories....hanging out with Elvis and Lucky Lucan no doubt!

Very cryptic. I'll see if any theories are forth coming. Well, now that you are back, what are your intentions? Are you a good ally to have in Prince Brown's corner or a threat eyeing your old seat...

I've had my time in the big chair. I always wanted to be more of a background figure. I love being in the mix without having to stir! I think there was some expectation that I was going to take back, or attempt to take back, Praxis, but Ricky is no slouch, it would be more than a few honeyed words in an ear or two let me tell you! No. I am content, we have a responsible and ambitious young prince, and I am honoured at the hospitality he has shown me and it would be the least I could do, to throw my weight behind him, whatever it is worth. I shall be a loyal and dutiful subject to our goodly prince.

Well that's good for one prince. Although I can imagine not all of these Isles are so pleased with your return. What are your intentions specifically with Prince Carter?

Who?

I'm sure that will go down well in the salons across the county. What about the other Ventrule, how are they taking your sudden return?

I was at one point one of the leading Ventrule in the country. I think I am in a rather unique position. There have been numerous Kindred who have been deceased throughout time, only to come back time and again. You need only look at our Lord Mithras. And of course he had his Chamberlain Lord Camden, who was, some say, a master of death. Usually when they come back it is clear they were only play acting...but I think as I was 'killed' in open court, by a prince and so much turmoil caused, I genuinely think many believe I am truly back from the dead. naturally I am closest with my cousins, and they have come quickly to see it truly is I. Her Majesty certainly has, and I suppose who else's opinion really matters?

So, may I ask, Manchester. Who was with you on that fateful night, are they glad to see you return or do they worry you'll rope them into something else?

My main compatriots were the loyal Angus and the venerable Marcellus. I have always seen it wise to be a friend of the Gangrel. They've supported me through both my reigns in Glasgow and I was most proud to learn that Angus went on to rule the domain for a time after me. I wouldn't have thought it was even possible to contemplate the undertaking without either of those by my side. Haile, who also ventured with us in the Intel stages was invaluable in his own way. But it's was my Gangrel friends I most relied upon. In fact with their assistance I would have assuredly succeeded if it wasn't for some extra natural forces at work! And I regret none

of my compatriots are still resident in the domain now that I return.

You have always been an ardent follower of Lady Anne, a close confidant perhaps? Is this relationship still as strong?

I have been a whole hearted supporter of Queen Anne. By divine right our Lord Mithras ruled these domains, and in his absence that same right is passed to Her Majesty. It is a shame not everyone sees that, but she will, of course, correct them in time. I'm sure as long as I prove to be an able and useful member of the Camarilla I will enjoy her support.

There are whispers of certain measures that stir controversy enacted by Prince Brown. I wont question his word, but would you have done anything differently if you were still prince?

It is not for me to second guess my prince. He has his reasoning and I can tell you he has included expert advice from those he surrounds himself with, he takes on sound advice and then he will make his final ruling, on all matters. If he asks my opinion, I will make it known. I think he values the unique situation I find myself in, as I have a working experience of what he has to deal with now. I hope, I trust it will work out for the benefit of all. He has several difficult tasks ahead of him, none even an ancient well established domain, such as Edinburgh or London, would easily deal with. This new administration will be tested, although I am confident he will meet this head on.

The Prince of Manchester, Prince Carter. I heard he has made an offer to the court of Glasgow, are you concerned, he will want to make amends. Do you still think him unfit to rule?

Now, we both have out differences, I highly doubt we'll ever put them aside. But as a prince, I think he should get on with affairs of state and not be so hell bent on the fate of a mere neonate or ancilla.

I'm sure everyone treats you as such a junior. With her return to office in London, still in an acting role for now, do you think she has any intentions of restoring the order of things that have gone by the wayside in recent years? The treaty of Durham for instance.

I'm afraid such lofty matters of state are a bit above my station at present. Although I can vouch for her majesty being a benevolent and wise ruler. I am sure if the Toreador are willing to look for the assurances of years gone past, she will hear them.

Thank you Viscount for your time and your candour. I hope this gives our readers a chance to know the man more and answers questions on the lips around the country.

To Contact, Email Dark Times with Reference

FOR SALE

ENGAGEMENT RING, slightly dented where I threw it at his head, £500 ONO.

REF: FSENG17

MIXED HERD mostly Caucasian, all smokers, slightly damaged.

REF: FSMIX18

HEX BAGS, curse your friends and family, minor boon per bag, no refunds

REF: FSHEX19

ANTIQUES CHEST, brass finishing, excellent condition, unopened, £300 ONO

REF: FSANT20

GARDENING SERVICES OFFERED, hedge trimming, landscaping, paving and excellent water features, price negotiable

REF: FSGAR21

SERPENTIS, learn the secrets of the snakes, price negotiable

REF: FSSER22

BAG OF HOBNOBS, slightly broken, not the chocolate kind, will trade for major boon.

REF: FSBAG23

HAUNTED DRESSING TABLE, spirit is too chatty, free to a good home.

REF: FSHAU24

WANTED

ROPE AND CABLE TIES, it's a sex thing, honest. Price negotiable.

REF: WAROP17

OCCULTIST, must know Enochian, salary negotiable

REF: WAOCC18

BUCKET, I miss it.

REF: WABUC19

HERD, AB negative blood donors, will pay Major Boon.

REF: WAHER20

ANY INFO on whereabouts of KRAL BAY, last seen in Constantinople in 1346,

REF: WAKRA21

PLUMBER, no questions asked, will pay handsomely,

REF: WAPLU22

PEN PALS

NAME: Rolland Wosby

LOCATION: Paris

CLAN: Tremere

AGE: 23 years

LIKES: puzzles, reading and occasionally getting into mischief lol jk, I'm a good student

DISLIKES: the sun, garlic bread and vampire cliches

LOOKING FOR: A Jedi Master to teach me the ropes, help me Obi Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope

REF: WOSBYR0010

NAME: Rhonda Skara

LOCATION: Vancouver

CLAN: Gangrel

AGE: 50+

LIKES: Matchmaking, cooking, storytelling, and blood sports

DISLIKES: Tremere

LOOKING FOR: Someone to share recipes with and a nice young woman for my childe to settle down with.

REF: SKARAR0011

NAME: Marie Darnley

LOCATION: Dundee

CLAN: Toreador

AGE: 50+

LIKES: Music, history, Latin and art.

DISLIKES: The Tudors - the series and the family.

LOOKING FOR: Someone with something interesting to say.

REF: DARNLM0012

NAME: Captain John Smith

LOCATION: New York

CLAN: Ventre

AGE: 200+

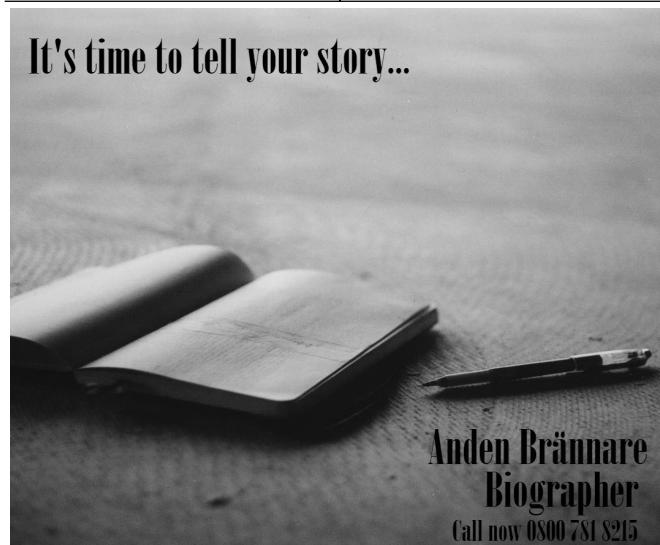
LIKES: War stories, tactics and the yankees.

DISLIKES: The Mets

LOOKING FOR: someone to swap stories with.

REF: SMITHJ0013

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Oracle's Mailbag

Docendo discimus

Welcome to this feature where the mystical is demystified for the enrichment and elucidation of our fellow kindred. Letters for the attention of the Oracle should be directed to the PO Box noted below.

Oracle, I have recently noted a marked improved the running speed and grappling strength of the herd. In some cases, I detect that they have made extreme changes to their diet. Are they plotting a rebellion? Perplexed in Scarborough.

I too have noted this shift in the wind and it should be, to coin a phrase, embraced. A more athletic herd evokes the classical athleticism of the old world. And nothing is more satisfying than prey that offers a bit of competition. Regarding diet, however, we must be more vigilant. The scourge of veganism will weaken your herd, making them barely more nourishing than beasts of the field – this should be discouraged.



Addendum regarding the advice of Sam to Unhappily Unreleased

Far be it from me to interfere in the affairs of others, however as a bulwark of propriety and in the interests of political cohesion I feel compelled to offer a contrasting opinion.

Regardless of your personal opinion - you are in no position to decide anything about your status. Sam has rightly noted that there is an expectation that the Sire will prepare you for release. Howev-

er, I remind you that your Sire can destroy you on a whim, and tolerates your lack of gratitude for their own purposes.

To be blunt – the praise of the revered Elders for an unreleased child is ash on the wind – this costs them nothing. Do not for a moment believe that the rest of the court do not have designs on your Sire, as such you are a liability to your Sire.

Take advantage of this relatively safe formative period in your existence to learn how to conduct yourself in society – more importantly, if you cannot dispose of your impatience, learn to channel it to where it will not threaten your existence. If you wish to demonstrate your readiness – display awareness of your circumstances, make yourself useful to the court, and show evidence of concrete progress such as gaining minor favours over your betters.

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Dear Sam,

I have just moved from Birmingham due to recent events but I have noticed that the court I have moved to has a larger number of Tremere than usual. I am concerned that similar events, as a result, start to take place here. The Prince is a ventrue and seems to be a reasonable man, my question is, should I raise my concerns with him or wait to see if my fears are proven right.

-Concerned from Coventry



Dear Concerned from Coventry,

First of all way to jump to conclusions here, I would like to point out to my dear readers that there has been absolutely no proof that the Tremere had anything to do with the Birmingham plague (yes we all think it, but no proof!). Secondly, a lot of cities have seen an increase in Tremere recently, this doesn't mean there is anything untoward going on, perhaps they are forming a book club? Best keep your concerns to yourself for now. Just remember that old adage, keep your enemies close and the Tremere closer.

Sam

Dear Sam,

I have recently started a new business venture, however one of my peers has recently offered me some, let's call it, constructive criticism. Should I, being the bigger, and obviously better man, take on-board this criticism and grow from it, or should I tell this person, let's call him, Oracle, to fuck off?

- Super Sexy Sam



Dear Super Sexy Sam,

Great name by the way, I bet you're really handsome too and really great in bed. Don't you dare doubt yourself for a second, you are a rockstar! I am sure people would much rather take your advice than that of some Sabrina the Teenage Bitch, it is sad that the Oracle's postbag was so empty he had to go through your used letters and give such boring advice, what's life without a bit of danger. You follow your dreams Sam, clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose.

Sam

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

It would appear that the dangers of this world continue to grow, with the plague in Birmingham claiming its first kindred victim, tensions growing between the clans, never mind domains, and of course the return of those we thought we would never see again who have surely been changed by their experiences. So how do we protect ourselves? How do we ensure that in this world that grows darker by the day that our potential for immortality remains just that?

Our world is changing and although I am loathe to admit it, we must change with it. Technology moves forward at a pace even those of us with the ability to move quickly must find extraordinarily fast, and every day there is a new danger that presents itself to our kind. Thus, we must get on board this train or else be run over by it. Is this an answer to our protection? However technology so often fails the kine, how can we rely on it if its own creators cannot?

Then we must look back to tradition then. The traditions. They have long been the pillars of our Camarilla society and will be for centuries to come; of this no one can have any doubt around. As long

as we abide by these traditions then surely safety is assured? That, of course, all depends on those that are adhering to them, those clans that abide by the Camarilla; so long as all of us are singing from the same hymn sheet what could go wrong?

But are we? Are we all on the same page?

Looking through the articles and letters in this issue I would say not. A wedge is being driven in and this time it might actually stick. And what will we do then? It is a decision that is far above my pay grade and indeed the grade of many of the people that choose to comment, this is a matter for Justicars and those of import... however...perhaps the Justicars in their wisdom will choose to give the people a voice.

I look forward to a very interesting future, if not a darker one.

Yours Kindly,
The Editor of the Dark Times

