

## Glasgow Court

Prince	◆ Magnus Burton of Clan Tremere
Seneschal	◆ Icarus of Clan Ventrue
Primogen	◆ Giuliana Dunsirn of the Giovanni Anti-Tribu ◆ Mary Graham of Clan Toreador ◆ Heather "Jack" Jackman of Clan Brujah ◆ Travis Moon of Clan Malkavian
Whips	◆ Callum of Clan Toreador, Whip to Heather Jackman ◆ Sabastien Greene of Clan Malkavian, Whip to Travis Moon
Sherif	◆ Rafiq Zev Ben Zion of Clan Asamite
Scourge	◆ Daniel Rogers of Clan Nosferatu
Keeper of Elysium	◆ Amelia Howard of Clan Toreador
Harpy	

*From the Editor:*

December— the darkest month of the longest nights.

The highlights in this issue are observations on Clan Dunsirn of the Harpy of Edinburgh and a thorny letter from one of the Roses to the rest.

For those less politically minded, look out for the culture segments in botany and music.

Wrap your ghouls up warm this season and make the most of out-and-about kine, who despite the darkness, are chasing their insatiable greed for flashing lights and wrapping paper.

## Reminder from the Editor

A reminder to all Kindred who receive this publication that prolonged possession of this publication is done so at your own risk and that the Editor advises destruction of this publication upon reading.

*Pour vous illuminer, pour vous livrer la vérité.*

Dark Times—Bringing News from the Shadows

### **'Clan Dunsirn' - a velvet revolution?**

As we pass the latest anniversary of the split amongst Clan Giovanni, those with an academic interest in observing kindred politics may wish to consider the impact this has had on both the clan and society.

It is rather difficult to truly assess the events *prior* to the schism. The necromancer family have always had a habit of being both covert about 'clan business', and overt with their cousinly feuds. Theories on the reasons for this vary, and are left as an exercise to the reader.

Wild claims were certainly made. Rumours ranged from the Cappadocians having remarkably recovered from extinction; to physical assaults on havens by ghosts; to an attack on Venice itself (could even the massed capabilities of the Devil Clan have kept such a thing out of mortal news?); to the clan plotting nothing less than the end of the world.

We cannot know for sure, but it is *reasonable* to suppose that whilst certainly more must have occurred than was reliably reported - there must also have been a great degree of exaggeration and hyperbole. Still, there was sufficient difference that the schism occurred, despite the costs to each side of such a divorce. Without being in the room where it happened, it is impossible to say exactly what threats and concessions must have been made by both sides to enable the political sea-change that followed.

What has been easier to observe have been the consequences.

The quiet integration of the newly-formed Giovanni Anti-Tribu into the Camarilla - and to a lesser extent, to the Anarch Movement. The rise of the Dunsirn family from an outlier sub-family to the central leaders of the revolution. Most visible are the Ladies on either side of the Central Belt of Scotland - Laura Dunsirn to the east, first Prince of that name; and Giuliana Dunsirn to the west, the clan's self-proclaimed 'Capo'. But look more closely, and the rebels from the youngest clan have been making friends and cementing their influence across the country. Virtually every domain houses at least a couple of their representatives. Freed from Venice's influence, they have slipped into many of the still-smouldering absences left by the fall of Soteria.

Still a minor clan amongst the Camarilla, and unlike the Assamites' remarkable precedent, without a Justicar to call their own (unsurprising, given that the Giovanni Anti-Tribu are solely resident in the British Isles). But if the progress they have made in just three years is anything to judge by, a clan to watch.

*Deacon*

*Elder Toreador  
Harpy of Edinburgh*

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## *Open Letter to Clan Toreador*

My fellow roses,

There has been much discussion this year regarding the situation in Paisley. For those who have not tracked the dispute, the Paisley Art Institute has been in conflict with the council since 2018 after the Paisley Museum was closed for refurbishments. The council have suggested a storage solution for the work, the artists in question have argued that there is a contract stating how the art must be displayed. There has been ample back and forth between the two parties, much acrimony.

Perhaps there are details to this dispute I have missed. I am sure my clanmates who are more involved might be happy to correct me, if I have gotten anything wrong. However, before they do, I would like to make them aware of my position, which is simply this. I do not care. At all.

The vagaries of kine contract law are meaningless to me. While I'm sure that surveying this collection may make for a diverting afternoon, in this part of the world we are not starving for such diversions. There are more than enough galleries and displays of art in this part of the world to occupy a thousand lifetimes and that's assuming that your sole area of interest is painting. When we consider such things as film, television and music, I can comfortably say that however this dispute is resolved will not keep me up at night. I do not care what happens to this particular collection.

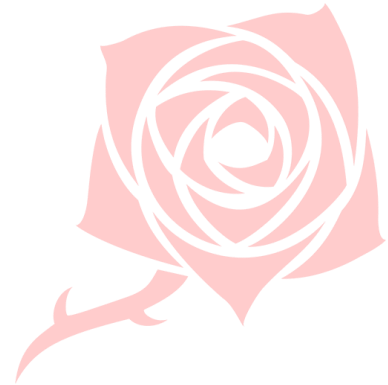
Thus I have been content, up until recently, to ignore this issue. If my clanmates wish to get involved, more power to them. However, apparently my desire not to get involved is not entitled to the same respect. In recent attempts to interact with some of my clan dwelling outside of the city, I have been told that by not taking a side in this conflict, my opinions are not welcome on other topics. My clanmates expect me to protect the rights of artists.

Let me make this clear: Fuck Artists. I don't owe you shit. We of the rose are not here for artists, we are here for Art. I have never been to this gallery, I haven't seen the work at the center of all of this and I have no particular intention to do so. Yet I am expected to drop everything because some art collective gets in a tiff with a museum over a contract that no one can actually prove exists? Even if it does exist, what the fuck do I know about contract law? What do I care?

There is an assumption amongst my clan that we must support artists if we value art. Perhaps it is my life as a critic talking, but I have found many artists to be pretentious, uptight whiners who expect a free ride because they create things. I have no desire to indulge this fantasy. This is just like that one musical about the poverty tourists in alphabet city whining because they have to pay rent.

If my fellow Toreador wish to rally to the defence of these artists (who remember, are throwing a hissy fit because their art needs to be put into storage while the museum is refurbished) then far be it from me to stand in their way. But how dare you criticise me for not doing the same? I will not waste my time defending the rights of artists I have never met to work I have never seen. I have more valuable things to do with my time.

Kind Regards,  
*Christopher Napier*



Personals**Thoughts**

by Dr. Sabastian Greene.

*Always remember that a red carpet  
can be used both ways and by  
anyone at any time.*

From the desk of Draven Southsea.

I am interested in training in Fortitude, Obfuscate, or Tenebrous Veil. Training in Potence or Dominate available in return.

I hate to impose on people's hospitality, I really do, but can someone let me use their Herd for a while? It's taking a bit longer than I thought to build up volunteers of my own, just need a couple of Dolls to get myself started. I'll treat them good, I promise!

Cheers guys, you're doing me a solid, I won't forget it. ~Shaftoe

Knowledge & Culture

Observations through Academia in Botany.

***Dracaena Draco Marginata 'Colorama'***

*(Pictured right).*

I may acquire a Dragon Tree plant which hails from Madagascar. This variant has a red/pink tinge on the long sharp leaf edge, it is not known where it got this streak, however as the Dragon tree has a certain mythology to it, I can imagine a scenario. The bark also Bleeds Crimson sap which is interesting,

It is also used for its resin (dragons Blood) which can be used in Traditional medicine, Dyes & Varnish, another ability this plant has is to make air cleaner, I'm not sure how that would apply to Kindred but i can see how some lingering chemicals or toxicity can make eyes sting and cause a bitter taste.



~Alex Caimbeul

Tune Time

There was a scene in the UK music scene running from the early nineties to around the late aughts that I will refer to as, for lack of a better term, UK\_Goff. That name comes from an IRC chatroom where a great deal of its members congregated. We're talking real early internet days here people, many of these acts were posting their work to a website that was literally called mp3.com. For the less technically minded kindred out there, that's like having a book called "Book".

It was a scene that developed following the first and second waves of goth and industrial music that was having the closest thing it would ever see to mainstream success in the mid 90's. Bands like KMFDM, Die Krupps, Nine Inch Nails and My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult were appearing on movie soundtracks and headlining shows.

As all good bands do, they were inspiring the next wave of acts that would evolve on those ideas. Bands like The Chaos Engine, Deathboy, The Cruxshadows, Inkubus Sukkubus and Earth Loop Recall were all a part of this underground wave, some because they were inspired by these groups, others who were already around but took advantage of a fertile underground scene.

Of course, they received little of the success of these mainstream groups. The style of music that had brushed the pop cultural zeitgeist in the mid nineties was gradually subsumed into the juggernaut of alternative music that was the nu-metal scene at the turn of the century. Some of those who were already successful stuck around for a time, but the majority moved on with their lives, remembered only by those lucky few of us that encountered them.

(As an aside, whoever arranged for Inkubus Sukkubus to be played at our recent winter ball, I want you to know, I see you and salute you, as a fellow traveler in similar waters) But pop culture is a pendulum and it swings back to everyone eventually. Industrial and Goth has been creeping back into music slowly but surely over the last ten years. Youth Code have been ploughing the same furrows as Skinny Puppy once explored, HEALTH clearly learned a trick or two when they were supporting Nine Inch Nails, transforming from an abrasive noise rock act to produce one of the most impressive darkwave artists on record, then transforming again into fully Ministry influenced industrial metal.

Now it seems, the pendulum has again found its way to that obscure example of british independent industrial goth that as near as I can tell can best be identified by the name of an ancient irc chat. Is IRC even a thing anymore? I don't know. But if you were to travel back in time with a copy of Zetra's self titled debut, they would fit right in.

I first heard Zetra supporting Author and Punisher and they blew me away. I caught them again supporting Skynd and they did the same thing all over again.

Zetra are a duo, known only as Adam and Jordan. Adam is on lead vocals and guitar, Jordan plays synths and sings backing vocals. They have an elaborate backstory and mythology focusing around an entity they call "The Spirit of Zetra." They wear corpse paint and cover the stage in old TVs and rusted chains. This may make you think you are in for an evening of grimy furious black metal, but in actuality, their music is a staggeringly beautiful fusion of darkwave synthpop and dreamy, blissed out shoegaze.

On record they are good, but live they are fantastic. They have a natural stage presence that suits big stages or dingy clubs. Adam is a genuine guitar hero, the kind of musician that will make boys run home and beg their parents for a guitar. After a series of EPs and singles in the years between the covid lockdowns and 2023, they signed with Nuclear Blast records and released their self titled debut album in September of this year. If you would prefer to check out their recorded stuff, Suffer Eternally and Starfall are great places to start, though in truth the whole album is great.

However, my genuine suggestion would be to discover them like I did. Zetra are a fantastic live band. They create a wall of sound that fills the venues they play with icy beauty. Live is where the shoegaze element really comes into focus. Shoegaze is not an easy genre to capture on record. Loveless by My Bloody Valentine took two years and half a million pounds to record, a process which arguably led to the bankruptcy of Creation Records. Zetra do not have that kind of clout yet, though I personally would be delighted to see what they might do with it.

But in the room, without the challenges of recording, that wall of sound can encompass the senses completely. You can get lost in the waves of aching synths, drown in the strains of glacial guitar that sound impossibly huge from just one instrument. All the while, the haunting beauty of the harmonised vocals call through the dark, leading to the close. Zetra will be playing at the Glasgow Garage on the 31st of January next year. I will be there and I genuinely, sincerely hope that my fellow kindred will join me. As a critic, there are few things as exciting as stumbling across an unknown act that blows you out of the water. I want them to keep making music. That means we need to come out and support them.

I hope to see you there.

~an avid Zetra fan

# The Shroud Presents...

## Clan Pasta Shapes (Official)

