

Advanced
Dungeons & Dragons

Ravenloft®

Campaign Expansion

The Gothic Earth Gazetteer

a Masque *of the* Red Death accessory



World Leaders of the 1890's

| Nation | Years in Power | Nation | Years in Power |
|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| Austria-Hungary (Emperor) Francis Joseph | 1867- | Great Britain (Prime Minister) Marquess of Salisbury | 1886-1892 |
| Belgium (Monarch) Leopold II | 1865- | William E. Gladstone | 1892-1894 |
| Brazil (President) Manuel Deodoro de Fonesco | 1889-1891 | Earl of Rosebery | 1894-1895 |
| Floriano Peixoto | 1891-1894 | Marquess of Salisbury | 1895- |
| Prudente José de Moraes Barros | 1894-1898 | Italy (Monarch) Humbert I | 1878- |
| Manuel Ferraz de Campos Salles | 1898- | Japan (Emperor) Mutsuhito (Meiji Tenno) | 1867- |
| Canada (Prime Minister) Baron Stanley of Preston (Frederick Stanley) | 1888-1893 | Japan (Prime Minister) Ito Hirobumi | 1885- |
| Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair (John Gordon) | 1893-1898 | Mexico (President) Porfirio Díaz | 1887- |
| Earl of Minto (Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmond) | 1898- | Norway and Sweden (Monarch) Oscar II | 1872- |
| Chile (President) José Manuel Balmaceda | 1886-1891 | Portugal (Monarch) Carlos I | 1889- |
| Jorge Montt | 1891- | Russia (Emperor) Alexander III | 1881-1894 |
| China (Emperor) Kuang Hsü | 1875- | Nicholas II | 1894- |
| France (President) Marie François Sadi Carnot | 1887-1894 | Spain (Monarch) Alfonso XIII | 1886- |
| Jean Paul Pierre Casimir-Périer | 1894-1895 | Turkish Empire (Sultan) Abdul Hamid II | 1876- |
| François Félix Fauré | 1895-1899 | United States of America (President) Benjamin Harrison | 1889-1893 |
| Émile Loubet | 1899- | Grover Cleveland | 1893-1897 |
| Germany and Prussia (Monarch) William II | 1888- | William McKinley | 1897- |
| Great Britain (Monarch) Victoria | 1837- | | |

THE GOTHIC EARTH GAZETTEER

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INTRODUCTION



he first thing every student of journalism learns are the elements that a good newspaper account must include: who, what, when, where, why, and how. In my opinion, the same elements are critical to the creation of an exciting campaign setting. To that end, I am pleased to present a plethora of whos, whats, and whens in this book—*The Gothic Earth Gazetteer*.

The where part of our formula was provided in the *Masque of the Red Death* boxed set. The *Atlas of Gothic Earth* section in the *Guide to*

Gothic Earth booklet provides a Dungeon Master with a wealth of information about Gothic Earth's most famous (and infamous) settings.

The hows and whys of a good *Masque of the Red Death* campaign were provided in that same book. The rules give DMs the needed game mechanics (the hows and whys) to resolve the diverse circumstances that arise during play.

The what question is answered in the *History of Gothic Earth* section, which allows Dungeon Masters to see how the influence of the powers of Darkness shaped human history into what we know as Gothic Earth.

Because of the great amount of material required to create a complete portrait of the *Masque of the Red Death* universe, the who and when sections of the boxed set were cut somewhat short. This isn't to say that anything vital was left out of *Masque of the Red Death*, only that I wish more could have been said. Well, thanks to requests from lots of people who bought the *Masque* boxed set, the determination of its fans inside TSR, and a great deal of begging on my part, I've now got my chance.

The time has come to answer those last two questions and complete the Gothic Earth puzzle.

The Road Ahead

As its name implies, *The Gothic Earth Gazetteer* is filled with information about the people and events of the 1890's. It is organized into several chapters, each of which offers countless opportunities to make a *Masque of the Red Death* campaign come to life.

Timeline: The first chapter of this book is a detailed listing of the major events of the 1890's. These headlines can be used as starting points for

DMs designing adventures, or as background events to enhance the atmosphere of the role-playing experience.

For example, a DM wishing to create an adventure flips through the 1890's headlines. Two things catch his eye: the massacre of Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee, and the suicide of Vincent Van Gogh. Both events could make excellent adventures. What if the ghosts of Sitting Bull and his followers returned to exact vengeance on the men who slaughtered them? What if Van Gogh didn't commit suicide, but instead was murdered?

Investigating the murder of one of the world's most famous artists sounds exciting, so the DM researches Van Gogh's life, the circumstances surrounding his death, and the area in which he lived. Before long, he's able to call his players together for a *Masque of the Red Death* game.

Major Events: This chapter is a series of brief essays that provides the reader with a detailed look at some of the decade's most interesting events. The essays included here were chosen for their ability to provide beneficial insight into life on Gothic Earth.

An example of the benefit of these essays can be illustrated through the *Masque of the Red Death* boxed set. The *Red Death* adventure is set in Bucharest. Had the players finished their previous game in another European city, what better way to get them to Eastern Europe than aboard the Orient Express?

Who's Who: Dungeon Masters and players will probably turn to this section more often than any other part of *The Gothic Earth Gazetteer*. This collection of brief biographies details many of the most important people in the 1890's. These can serve either as NPCs or as models for players who wish to use historical personalities as characters.

Name dropping can be an excellent way to establish the character of an adventure. PCs who cross the Atlantic on a ship might strike up a conversation with a fellow passenger, only to discover that he is Arthur Conan Doyle. The DM can now use Doyle as the focus of the adventure, as a red herring to distract the players from something else, or simply as a walk-on character who plays no part whatsoever in the horrors to come.

"Welcome to my house. Come freely. Go safely; and leave something of the happiness you bring!"

Bram Stoker
Dracula

INTRODUCTION

The Qabals: Fans of *Masque of the Red Death* all seem to ask for the same thing: more information about the qabals and their mysterious work. Here is their wish fulfilled: profiles of nine secret organizations. These range from the lawful good monster hunters of Die Wächtern to the sinister minions of the chaotic evil Six-Fingered Hand. You'll also learn a little about Gothic Earth's Vistani and a qabal that predates even the Red Death itself.

Characters who are qabalists can select a group that matches their alignment. From then on, the DM can use a PC's qabal as a force to drive adventures. Other qabals may be introduced as enemies, temporary allies, or sudden-death saviors. The list of known qabals included in this chapter gives the DM plenty of organizations to add mystery to a campaign.

World Leaders: The inside cover of this book, as you may have already noticed, includes a table listing the major political leaders of the world. This is to allow a DM to easily drop these names into a game, and serves as an excellent starting point for research into events taking place everywhere in the world during the 1890's.

Calendar: The final component in *The Gothic Earth Gazetteer* is a poster-sized calendar depicting the decade of 1890. Players and DMs can now tell at a glance when the next Friday the 13th will occur or what day of the week Halloween will fall on in any year.



Author's Note

Masque of the Red Death was written with a heavy emphasis on historical events, personalities, and places. This is not intended to force every DM to invest hours in research before each game session. Hopefully, this book will go a long way toward giving DMs a good understanding of what life is like on Gothic Earth. The goal of this setting is to frighten players and spin a good tale of terror. DMs simply need to sound convincing about the 1890's; if the players believe the DM understands the subtleties of life on Gothic Earth, the game will feel much more real to them.

But this doesn't mean that DMs should gloss over the importance of research while designing an adventure. Certain important facts, such as the names of Jack the Ripper's victims and the street addresses of his killings, can make the players feel as if their characters are reliving history. With a little luck, they might even learn something.

Readers will notice that the vast majority of the events listed on the following pages occur in Europe and North America. This doesn't mean that nothing else is happening in the world, nor does it mean that I think events in, say, Asia or South America are less important than those listed here.

However, as I established in the history section of the *Guide to Gothic Earth*, the focus of this game is traditional Gothic Horror. Because nearly all stories of this genre are focused on characters in Europe and North America, those places seem best suited to the campaign and thus receive the most attention.

I've tried to present an objective view of history. Because every reference work has its own bias, this is no easy task. Perhaps the most notable example is the Spanish-American War. Some reference works portray the United States as an imperialistic nation bent on grabbing territory. Others paint a picture of Spain as a barbaric oppressor looking to crush democracy in Cuba and in her other colonies. DMs, as always, are free to put their individual spin on events to best suit their campaigns.

I've also tried to get all of the facts straight, especially dates and names. Again, many reference works disagree. In some cases, variations are minor and probably will not be noticed. In others, the discrepancies are more pronounced. But these differences can be easily dismissed if we remember that while Gothic Earth mirrors our earth, the reflection is not perfect. I look forward to receiving letters correcting my mistakes and informing me of things left out.

I hope you enjoy this book and find the material in it as interesting to read as I did to research and write.

William W. Connors

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S



In the *Masque of the Red Death* boxed set, an effort was made to show the ease with which historical events from the 1890's might be researched and used as inspiration for adventures. In this chapter, Dungeon Masters will find a list of the most important (or interesting, at any rate) events from the final decade of the 19th century.

These items range from such innocuous events as the creation of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec's first music hall posters in 1892 to the destruction of the U.S.

Maine in Havana Harbor and the subsequent outbreak of the Spanish-American War. With a little effort, any of the entries that follow can easily be developed into *Masque of the Red Death* adventures.

Prospective Dungeon Masters should note that these events are organized primarily by geography and partially by chronology (by year).

Information Availability

As the name of this chapter implies, the events described within were all worthy of mention by the press of the day. As a result, knowledge of such happenings can be considered common knowledge for the player characters, and specific information can be acquired with minimal effort on their parts.

Of course, on Gothic Earth, what the players discover about a situation is not always what is really happening. Government agencies, police, and similar sources of information are notorious for covering up facts that make them look bad, but which might be invaluable to player characters. After all, why would a constable making his rounds in London tell the press, or some unknown adventurers for that matter, that The Slasher's latest victim lived long enough to whisper the words "loup-garou?"

The ease with which player characters can obtain information is up to the DM. For a particular character who has special access to the press or is a regular reader of newspapers and magazines, the events outlined in this chapter should be considered common knowledge. The details that go along with these headlines, however, may be harder to obtain. This is especially true for military matters or those that arouse superstition. Individual Dungeon Masters will have to make these decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Of course, it might be difficult to research certain headlines, either because they are purposely hushed up or are generally being ignored by the press. On the other hand, some topics will be reported in such detail that PCs will have difficulty rooting out the true facts. Their investigations may well turn up conflicting or purely false information. A skillful Dungeon Master will take care to tightly control not only what the player characters learn, but exactly when they learn it.

Adventures in Research

When designing adventures that are dependent on any degree of research, care must be taken to ensure that the recovery of important information is not wholly dependent upon ability or proficiency checks. This advice is offered for two reasons: first, a critical part of an adventure should not rely purely on a die roll, and second, players should be required to role-play at least some portion of their research.

The DM must be careful to make research within an adventure both entertaining and realistic. Characters with journalistic or academic backgrounds are usually the ones that players turn to when they need answers. This doesn't mean that others in the party should be left out, however. Thumbing through a musty old library in the basement of a crumbling mansion is always more exciting when half the party is busy trying to keep a pack of moldering zombies or ghouls off your back—and repeated reports of shotguns and occasional screams of terror can make it difficult to concentrate.

Such a scene can even be taken a few steps further. In many cases, attempts to research unusual events can become adventures in themselves. Suppose the PCs are exploring a tomb in Egypt and discover, much to their horror, that the vital scrolls necessary to destroy a rampaging mummy are currently on display at the Royal Museum in London.

The years like great black oxen
tread the world,
And God the herdsman
goads them on behind,
And I am broken
by their passing feet.

William Butler Yeats
The Countess Cathleen (1892)

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S



HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1890

North America

- ⊗ Sitting Bull (Sioux chief) arrested and killed by U.S. troops in South Dakota.
- ⊗ Sioux Indians are massacred at the Battle of Wounded Knee.
- ⊗ Idaho is inducted as the 43rd state; Wyoming is inducted as the 44th state.
- ⊗ The Forth Railway Bridge is opened, replacing the Brooklyn Bridge as the longest span.
- ⊗ Psychologist William James publishes *The Principles of Psychology*.
- ⊗ Photographer Jacob Riis documents the plight of New York City's poor in *How the Other Half Lives*.
- ⊗ Naval officer Alfred Mahan publishes *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*.
- ⊗ Daughters of the American Revolution founded.
- ⊗ Eleven million acres of Sioux lands in South Dakota (which had been ceded to the U.S. in 1889) were opened to settlement by a presidential proclamation.
- ⊗ National American Woman Suffrage Association formed by the union of two lesser groups.
- ⊗ Oklahoma Territory established.
- ⊗ Dependent Pensions Act passed to aid U.S. Civil War veterans and widows.
- ⊗ United States Congress authorizes the construction of three armored battleships.
- ⊗ Yosemite National Park founded by act of U.S. Congress.
- ⊗ U.S. stock market panic follows the failure of Baring Brothers, a London banking house.
- ⊗ In Baltimore, rubber gloves are used for the first time in surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital.
- ⊗ In Chicago, the first entirely steel-framed building opens.
- ⊗ Led by .345 hitting Dan Brouthers, Boston wins the hard fought championship of the 1890 Players' League.
- ⊗ In the National League, Brooklyn easily dominates the field to win the championship with a record of 86-43.

Europe

- ⊗ German chancellor Otto von Bismarck is dismissed by Emperor William II.
- ⊗ Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh commits suicide.
- ⊗ Claude Debussy begins composing Suite Bergamasque, including Clair De Lune.
- ⊗ *Hedda Gabler* published by Henrik Ibsen.
- ⊗ *The Golden Bough* published by Sir James G. Frazer.
- ⊗ Swiss government introduces social insurance.



- ⊗ Britain exchanges Heligoland with Germany for Zanzibar and Pemba.
- ⊗ William II of Germany and Alexander III of Russia meet at Narva.
- ⊗ Accession of Queen Wilhelmina; Luxembourg separates from the Netherlands.
- ⊗ Emil von Behring announces his discovery of antitoxins.
- ⊗ First electrical power station in England opens at Deptford.

Africa

- ⊗ Zanzibar becomes a British protectorate.
- ⊗ Cecil Rhodes becomes the prime minister of the Cape Colony.
- ⊗ The British South Africa Company acquires Zimbabwe, beginning conflicts with the Ndebele.

Asia

- ⊗ Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore publishes *Manasi* or *The Mind's Embodiment*.
- ⊗ First general election in Japan.

Other Information

- ⊗ Global influenza epidemics break out.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1891

North America

- ⊗ The American Express Company introduces traveler's checks.
- ⊗ James Naismith devises the game of basketball in Springfield, Mass.
- ⊗ Massive emigration from Europe to Canada begins. By 1914, more than 3 million people will arrive.
- ⊗ W. L. Judson invents the clothing zipper, although it does not see practical use until 1919.
- ⊗ U.S. farmers send large quantities of corn to famine-stricken Russia.
- ⊗ Nine Circuit Courts of Appeal are created by an act of Congress.
- ⊗ Office of Superintendent of Immigration created by an act of Congress.
- ⊗ Mob in New Orleans hangs 11 Italian immigrants.
- ⊗ The Populist (or Peoples') Party is founded in Cincinnati.
- ⊗ The Empire State Express sets speed record between New York and East Buffalo (436 miles in 7 hours, 6 minutes).
- ⊗ 900,000 acres of Sauk, Fox, and Potawatomi lands in Oklahoma are opened to settlement by a presidential proclamation.
- ⊗ Following the collapse of the Players' League, the National League becomes baseball's only credible professional association.
- ⊗ The Boston Beaneaters, led by the pitching of Kid Nichols and John Clarkson, win the first of three National League championships.

Europe

- ⊗ French artist Paul Gauguin travels to Tahiti.
- ⊗ English novelist Thomas Hardy writes *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.
- ⊗ Anglo-Irish author Oscar Wilde publishes *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
- ⊗ Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, and Italy) is renewed for 12 years.
- ⊗ William II of Germany visits London.
- ⊗ Entente between France and Russia.
- ⊗ Revolutionary Young Turk Movement begins in Geneva.
- ⊗ Sir Arthur Conan Doyle publishes the first of his Sherlock Holmes stories in *The Strand* magazine.
- ⊗ Sir Arthur Conan Doyle publishes *The White Company*.
- ⊗ Rudyard Kipling publishes *The Light that Failed*.
- ⊗ Independent Theatre Society founded in London by J. T. Grein.



- ⊗ Pope Leo XIII issues *Rerum Novarum*, a papal encyclical on the conditions of the working man.
- ⊗ Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec produces his first music hall posters.
- ⊗ Pan-Germany League founded.
- ⊗ In *Gordon-Cummings v. Lycett* (a legal case involving cheating at cards), the Prince of Wales admits that he played baccarat for high stakes.

South America

- ⊗ Sailors from the U.S.S. *Baltimore* are attacked by locals in Valparaiso while on shore leave, causing strained relations between U.S. and Chile.

Asia

- ⊗ Eugene Dubois discovers the first homo erectus remains on Java in Indonesia.
- ⊗ Trans-Siberian railway construction begins.
- ⊗ Wide-spread famine in Russia.
- ⊗ Japanese earthquake kills 10,000 people.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1892

North America

- ⊗ Writer and political revolutionary Jose Marti founds the Cuban Revolutionary party.
- ⊗ The San Francisco Examiner begins printing the first newspaper comic strip.
- ⊗ C. F. Cross and E. J. Bevan discover viscose and manufacture rayon.
- ⊗ First automatic telephone switchboard patented.
- ⊗ Major strikes occur among iron and steel workers.
- ⊗ "Gentleman Jim" Corbett takes heavyweight boxing title from John L. Sullivan.
- ⊗ Telephone connection between New York and Chicago completed.
- ⊗ First elevated railroad opens in Chicago.
- ⊗ Immigration station in New York City transferred to Ellis Island.
- ⊗ University of Chicago founded.
- ⊗ Charles E. Duryea invents the first American automobile when he produces a gasoline powered buggy.
- ⊗ Three million acres of Cheyenne and Arapaho land are opened for settlement by presidential proclamation.
- ⊗ Republican National Convention held in Minneapolis.
- ⊗ Democratic National Convention held in Chicago.
- ⊗ Prohibition Party National Convention held in Cincinnati.
- ⊗ Cholera is carried to the United States by steerage passengers on the Hamburg-American Moravia.
- ⊗ Grover Cleveland becomes President of the United States.
- ⊗ Construction begins on the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.
- ⊗ Boston's "Heavenly Twins" (Hugh Duffy and Tommy McCarthy) help the Beaneaters claim their second straight National League championship.
- ⊗ Pitching for Cleveland, Cy Young leads the National League in ERA and compiles a 36-11 record.

Europe

- ⊗ Impressionist artist Paul Cézanne completes the *Card Players*.
- ⊗ French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec paints *At the Moulin Rouge*.
- ⊗ Rudolph Diesel invents the Diesel Compression/Ignition Engine.
- ⊗ Giolitti becomes Premier of Italy.
- ⊗ Gladstone becomes Prime Minister of England.



- ⊗ Britain and Germany form an agreement regarding the Cameroons.
- ⊗ Pan-Slav Conference held at Krakow, Poland.
- ⊗ George Bernard Shaw publishes *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.
- ⊗ Oscar Wilde publishes *Lady Windermere's Fan*.
- ⊗ Alfred, Lord Tennyson dies.
- ⊗ Walt Whitman dies.
- ⊗ Lottie Collins introduces *Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay* in her music hall performance.
- ⊗ Monet begins his series of pictures of the cathedral at Rouen.

Asia

- ⊗ Dmitri Ivanovsky discovers viruses.
- ⊗ Prince Ito becomes Premier of Japan.
- ⊗ Tchaikovsky introduces *The Nutcracker* at St. Petersburg.

Pacific Islands

- ⊗ First marketing of canned pineapples.

Africa

- ⊗ Tewfik the Khedive of Egypt dies and is succeeded by Abbas II.
- ⊗ Cape-Johannesburg Railroad completed.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1893

North America

- ⊗ Cleveland is inaugurated as the 24th U.S. president; Hendricks becomes vice president.
- ⊗ Stephen Crane writes *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*.
- ⊗ American artist Louis Comfort Tiffany begins producing art nouveau glassware.
- ⊗ Henry Ford constructs his first automobile.
- ⊗ World Exposition held in Chicago.
- ⊗ In New Orleans, the longest recorded boxing match is held. It lasts 110 rounds (7 hours, 4 minutes) between Andy Bowen and Jack Burk.
- ⊗ United States in financial panic following the failure of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.
- ⊗ Thomas Edison produces the kinetoscope.
- ⊗ In Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Medical School opens.
- ⊗ Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City, Utah opens.
- ⊗ Issue of gold certificates suspended when gold reserves in U.S. Treasury fall below legal minimum of \$100,000,000.
- ⊗ American Railway Union founded in Chicago.
- ⊗ Major stock market crash on June 27th.
- ⊗ World's Parliament of Religions opens in Chicago in conjunction with the World's Fair.
- ⊗ The Cherokee Strip (6,000,000 acres) is opened to settlement.
- ⊗ Colorado adopts Women's Suffrage by popular vote.
- ⊗ The Boston Beaneaters, with a team batting average of .290 and over 1,000 runs scored, win their third straight National League Championship.

Europe

- ⊗ Victor Horta's Tassel House in Brussels initiates the art nouveau architectural style.
- ⊗ *Fram*, a Norwegian ship, is purposely frozen in the Arctic ice pack by Fridtjof Nansen to test his theory of drifting ice in the polar cap. As the ship drifts, Nansen tries (and fails) to reach the North Pole.
- ⊗ Independent Labor Party formed at conference in Bradford, England.
- ⊗ Franco-Russian Alliance signed.
- ⊗ Trial over Panama Canal corruption held in Paris.
- ⊗ Oscar Wilde publishes *A Woman of No Importance*.
- ⊗ Engelbert Humperdinck publishes his opera *Hänsel und Gretel*.
- ⊗ Karl Benz constructs his first automobile.
- ⊗ Imperial Institute founded at South Kensington, London.
- ⊗ Manchester ship canal constructed in England.



- ⊗ Corinth Canal opens in Greece.
- ⊗ Lady Margaret Scott wins the first British Golf Championship.

Africa

- ⊗ The Ivory Coast becomes a French colony.
- ⊗ Gladstone's second Irish Home Rule Bill is vetoed by the House of Lords in Britain.
- ⊗ Natal is granted self-government.
- ⊗ Starr Jameson crushes revolt against British South Africa Company in Matabele.
- ⊗ Swaziland annexed by Transvaal.

Asia

- ⊗ France adds Laos to the Union of Indochina.

Pacific Islands

- ⊗ New Zealand grants women the right to vote, becoming the first nation to do so.
- ⊗ Queen Liliuokalani is ousted in Hawaii and a provisional government is established with the connivance of John Stevens, a U.S. Minister.
- ⊗ Hawaii proclaimed a U.S. protectorate by John Stevens at the request of the provisional government.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1894

North America

- ⊗ Unrest, rioting, and strikes characterize the year for the United States. All told, some 750,000 workers walk off their jobs.
- ⊗ Field Museum of Natural History opens in Chicago.
- ⊗ Professor Henry Preserved Smith is convicted of heresy by the Presbyterian General Assembly.
- ⊗ Henry Demarest publishes *Wealth Against Commonwealth*, urging government control of monopolies.
- ⊗ Percival Lowell builds an observatory to study the Martian canals.
- ⊗ The Baltimore Orioles win the National League championship following a June charge to overtake Boston.
- ⊗ In the wake of political unrest in Hawaii (see Pacific Islands), the U.S. Senate announces that Hawaii should maintain its own government and that interference by other countries will be seen as an unfriendly act against the U.S.
- ⊗ Railroad strike in the Western U.S. ordered by the American Railway Union following a strike against the Pullman Car Company in Chicago. U.S. troops are called in to ensure safe shipment of mail.
- ⊗ Labor Day becomes a national holiday in the United States.
- ⊗ Carey Act grants 1,000,000 acres of land to each far western state, provided that they undertake irrigation projects.
- ⊗ United States institutes income tax of 2% on incomes over \$4,000.
- ⊗ United States signs commercial treaty with Japan.
- ⊗ Flagstaff Observatory built in Arizona.
- ⊗ Berliner invents graphophone disc to replace cylinders.

Europe

- ⊗ Britain establishes a protectorate over Buganda and conquers the rest of Uganda.
- ⊗ The arrest of Captain Albert Dreyfus spawns a political crisis in France.
- ⊗ English artist Aubrey Beardsley illustrates Oscar Wilde's *Salome*.
- ⊗ Czech artist Alfons Mucha designs a poster of Sarah Bernhardt.
- ⊗ English author Rudyard Kipling publishes *The Jungle Books*.
- ⊗ Guglielmo Marconi invents the "wireless telegraph."
- ⊗ Germany and Russia sign commercial treaty.
- ⊗ Prince Hohenlohe becomes Chancellor of Germany.
- ⊗ Lord Rayleigh and William Ramsay discover argon.



- ⊗ England introduces "Death Duties," a form of inheritance tax.
- ⊗ Yersin and Kitasato (working independently) discover the plague bacillus.

Asia

- ⊗ Rebellion in Korea begins the First Sino-Japanese War as Japan and Korea declare war on China. Chinese defeated at Port Arthur.
- ⊗ Thousands of Armenians are massacred in Turkey.
- ⊗ Sun Yat-sen begins a movement to end the Manchu dynasty in China.
- ⊗ United States signs commercial treaty with Japan.
- ⊗ Swedish explorer Sven Hedin travels throughout Tibet.

Africa

- ⊗ Starr Jameson completes his occupation of Matabeleland.
- ⊗ Uganda becomes a British Protectorate.

Pacific Islands

- ⊗ Republic of Hawaii proclaimed.
- ⊗ Following a manifested failure of the local government, Sanford B. Dole is elected president of Hawaii.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1895

North America

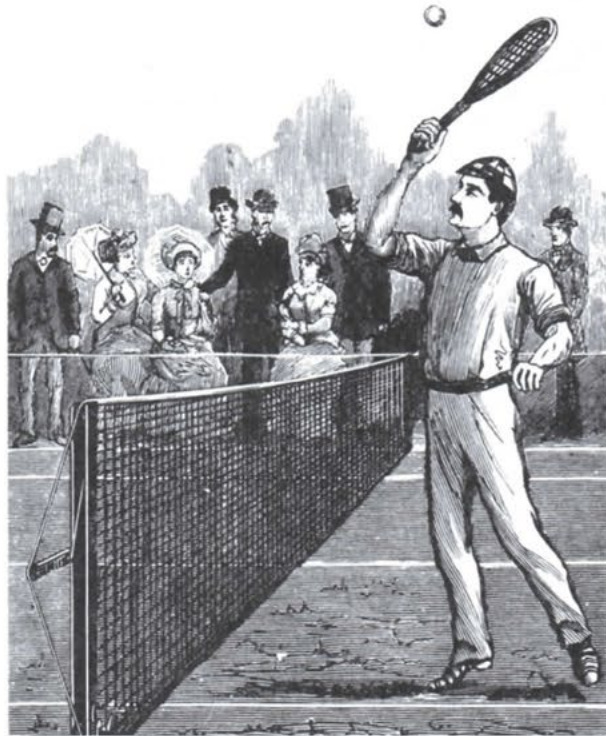
- ⊗ The Cuban War of Independence begins against Spain; Jose Marti is killed in battle. United States declares neutrality.
- ⊗ The American Bowling Congress (ABC) is founded.
- ⊗ First professional football game played in Latrobe, PA.
- ⊗ First U.S. Open Golf Championship held.
- ⊗ King C. Gillette invents the safety razor.
- ⊗ First Church of Christ, Scientist, opens in Boston.
- ⊗ New York Public Library founded.
- ⊗ Term "yellow journalism" born in clash between newspaper giants Hearst and Pulitzer in New York.
- ⊗ President Cleveland appoints panel to mediate Venezuelan boundary as disputed between Great Britain and Venezuela.
- ⊗ First automobile race held in Chicago; J. F. Duryea wins, covering the 54 mile course at a speed of 7½ miles per hour.
- ⊗ Rookie pitcher Bill Hoffer finishes 30-7 with a 3.21 ERA to help the Baltimore Orioles win the National League Championship.

South America

- ⊗ Border dispute between Brazil and Argentina decided by U.S. President Grover Cleveland in favor of Brazil.

Europe

- ⊗ Sir Henry Irving becomes the first British actor to be knighted.
- ⊗ Anglo-Irish playwright Oscar Wilde writes *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- ⊗ The first list of best-selling books is published by *The Bookman* magazine.
- ⊗ Sigmund Freud develops his revolutionary theories of psychoanalysis.
- ⊗ Louis and Auguste Lumière invent motion-picture camera. First public film show held in Paris.
- ⊗ Wilhelm Roentgen discovers the Roentgen ray or X-ray.
- ⊗ Joseph Thomson discovers the electron.
- ⊗ Bulgarian Premier Stefan Stambulov assassinated.
- ⊗ Italian forces defeated by Abyssinians at Amba Alagi.
- ⊗ H. G. Wells publishes *The Time Machine*.
- ⊗ Sienkiewicz publishes *Quo Vadis*.
- ⊗ London School of Economics and Political Science founded.
- ⊗ Construction of Westminster Cathedral begins in London.



- ⊗ Von Linde produces a machine for the liquefaction of air.
- ⊗ Britain's Peter Latham becomes the world lawn tennis champion.
- ⊗ Oscar Wilde pursues unsuccessful libel action against the Marquis of Queensbury.
- ⊗ Kiel Canal opens in Germany.

Africa

- ⊗ The Jameson Raid on the Boer republic of Transvaal increases anti-British hostility.
- ⊗ British South Africa Company lands to the south of Zambezi become Rhodesia.

Asia

- ⊗ Russian revolutionary Vladimir Ilyich Lenin is exiled to Siberia.
- ⊗ Japan defeats China; the Shimonoseki Treaty establishes Korean independence.
- ⊗ Queen of Korea assassinated with the help of the Japanese.
- ⊗ Following a massacre of Armenians in Turkey, Sultan Abdul Hamid II promises reforms.
- ⊗ The third volume of *Das Kapital* by Karl Marx is published (posthumously).
- ⊗ Konstantin Tsiolkovski establishes the principles of rocket propulsion.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1896

North America

- ⊗ Utah becomes the 45th state.
- ⊗ John Philip Sousa composes *The Stars and Stripes Forever*.
- ⊗ Niagara Falls hydroelectric plant opens.
- ⊗ Led by pitchers Billy Hoffer and George Hemming, first baseman "Dirty" Jack Doyle, and Hughie Jennings, the Baltimore Orioles win the National League Championship for the third straight year.
- ⊗ Klondike Gold Rush begins.
- ⊗ Billy Sunday abandons baseball to pursue a career as an evangelical preacher.
- ⊗ Robert G. Ingersoll gives his controversial lecture *Why I Am an Agnostic*.
- ⊗ Yale begins experiments with X-rays.
- ⊗ Andrew White publishes *History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom*.
- ⊗ U.S. economy bolstered as treasury rises to safe levels for the first time in years.
- ⊗ Nicaraguan Canal report indicates that the project is not economically feasible.
- ⊗ Spanish General Weyler arrives in Cuba and begins ruthless suppression of revolutionaries.
- ⊗ Nicaraguan Revolution breaks out.
- ⊗ United States Marines sent to protect U.S. interests in Nicaragua.
- ⊗ U.S. offers to support Spain in pacification of Cuban Revolution with goal of achieving Cuban independence. Spain refuses.
- ⊗ Edison Vitascope unveiled at Koster & Bial's Music Hall in New York.
- ⊗ First successful demonstration of heavier-than-air flight by Samuel P. Langley.
- ⊗ Republican Convention in St. Louis.
- ⊗ Socialist Labor Convention in New York.
- ⊗ Democratic Convention in Chicago.
- ⊗ William McKinley elected 25th President of the United States.

Europe

- ⊗ The first modern Olympic Games are held at Athens, Greece; 13 countries compete. John Connally of the U.S. is crowned as the first Olympic champion in 1,504 years.
- ⊗ Italian composer Giacomo Puccini writes the opera *La Boheme*.
- ⊗ Antoine Henri Becquerel discovers radioactivity.
- ⊗ Ernest Rutherford employs magnetism to detect electrical waves.
- ⊗ Sir William Ramsay discovers helium.
- ⊗ Evidence supporting the innocence of Alfred Dreyfus is suppressed in France.
- ⊗ Establishment of the annual Nobel Prizes for Physics, Physiology & Medicine, Chemistry,



- Literature, and Peace.
- ⊗ *Der Judenstaat*, the foundation of the Zionist Movement, is published by Theodor Herzl.
- ⊗ National Portrait Gallery in London relocated to Westminster.
- ⊗ *The Grand Duke*, Gilbert and Sullivan's last comic operetta, is performed in London.

Asia

- ⊗ A tsunami kills 27,000 people in Japan.
- ⊗ Britain takes control of Malaya.
- ⊗ Massacres of Armenians occur in Turkey.
- ⊗ Russia and China sign the Manchuria Convention.
- ⊗ Tsar Nicholas II visits Paris and London.
- ⊗ Major wheat crop failure in India.

Africa

- ⊗ King Menelik II defeats the Italians at Adwa, maintaining Ethiopian independence.
- ⊗ Starr Jameson surrenders at Dornkop.
- ⊗ Military alliance formed between Transvaal and Orange Free State.
- ⊗ Matabele Revolt in Rhodesia put down by Baden-Powell.
- ⊗ France annexes Madagascar.
- ⊗ Kitchener begins his campaign against the Mahdi in the Sudan.

Arabia

- ⊗ Nasr-ed-Din, Shah of Persia, is assassinated.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1897

North America

- Beginning of a decade of prosperity for U.S. economy.
- McKinley is inaugurated as the 25th U.S. president; Hobart becomes vice president.
- The first U.S. subway opens in Boston.
- American comic strip "The Katzenjammer Kids" is begun by Rudolph Dirks.
- Ronald Ross discovers that mosquitoes are the carriers of malaria.
- Boston Beaneaters win National League Championship, ending Baltimore's dynasty.
- Joseph Conrad publishes *The Nigger of the Narcissus*.
- Yerkes Observatory dedicated in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.
- Thomas C. Chamberlin announces his Planetesimal Hypothesis of the formation of the earth.
- Grant's Tomb dedicated on Riverside Drive in New York City.
- U.S. issues protests to the Spanish government about General Weyler's conduct in Cuba.
- Liberal government comes to power in Spain. General Weyler recalled from Cuba.

Europe

- British physician Havelock Ellis begins his *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*.
- Austrian artist Gustav Klimt helps to found the Vienna Secession group.
- French primitive artist Henri Rousseau paints *The Sleeping Gypsy*.
- French dramatist Edmond Rostand writes *Cyrano de Bergerac*.
- English author Rudyard Kipling publishes *Captains Courageous*.
- Ferdinand Braun invents the cathode ray tube.
- Theodor Herzl begins Zionist movement at a conference in Basel, Switzerland.
- Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.
- Crete and Greece declare unity.
- Turkey declares war on Greece and is defeated at Thessaly.
- The Peace of Constantinople ends war between Greece and Turkey.
- Mathieu Dreyfus discovers that the document



that convicted his brother was actually written by Major M. C. Esterhazy.

- H. G. Wells publishes *The Invisible Man*.
- Shaw publishes *Candida*.
- Rodin creates Victor Hugo.
- Tate Gallery opens in London.
- World Exhibition at Brussels.
- Royal Automobile Club founded in London.

Asia

- Stanislavsky founds the Moscow Art Theater and begins the method acting technique.
- Russian author Anton Chekhov writes the play *Uncle Vanya*.
- Ivan Pavlov conducts experiments on conditioned reflexes in animals.
- King of Korea proclaims himself Emperor.
- Germany occupies Kiao-Chow, China.
- Russia occupies Port Arthur.
- Major famine sweeps India.
- Japan protests U.S. annexation of Hawaii.

Africa

- Sultan of Zanzibar abolishes slavery.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

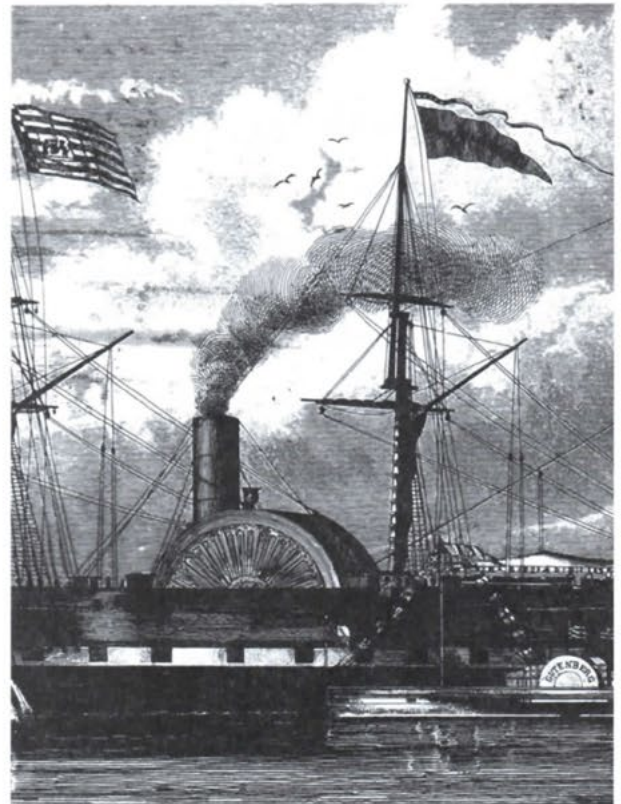
1898

North America

- ⊗ The Spanish-American War (see detailed timeline on next two pages) begins.
- ⊗ In baseball, Ted Breitenstein (Cincinnati) and Jim Hughes (Baltimore) both throw no-hit games on April 22.
- ⊗ City of Greater New York officially founded, consolidating Kings and Richmond counties.
- ⊗ Anti-Imperialist League founded at Faneuil Hall in Boston. The group is composed of intellectuals who oppose the war with Spain.
- ⊗ Hawaii officially becomes a part of the United States.
- ⊗ Upon the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, Theodore Roosevelt is elected governor of New York.

Europe

- ⊗ Britain obtains a 99-year lease for Hong Kong from the Chinese.
- ⊗ Spain cedes Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the U.S. in the Treaty of Paris.
- ⊗ Anglo-Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw publishes *Arms and the Man*.
- ⊗ H. G. Wells publishes *The War of the Worlds*.
- ⊗ Christiaan Eijkman discovers diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies.
- ⊗ Marie and Pierre Curie discover radium and polonium.
- ⊗ Major Esterhazy acquitted in Dreyfus forgery trial.
- ⊗ Zola publishes open letter to the President of France entitled *J'accuse* and is imprisoned.
- ⊗ Colonel Henry admits to forgery of document in the Dreyfus case.
- ⊗ Empress Elizabeth of Austria murdered by Italian assassin.
- ⊗ Bismarck publishes *Reflections and Memoirs*.
- ⊗ Henry James publishes *The Turn of the Screw*.
- ⊗ Oscar Wilde publishes *The Ballad of Readin Gaol*.
- ⊗ Sir William Ramsay discovers the inert gases xenon, krypton, and neon.
- ⊗ Ferdinand von Zeppelin builds his first airship.
- ⊗ The Metro (subway) opens in Paris.
- ⊗ First photographs using artificial light sources are taken.



Arabia

- ⊗ William II of Germany visits Palestine and Syria.

Asia

- ⊗ The Boxer Uprising begins in China; Empress Tz'u-hsi imprisons the emperor.
- ⊗ Russia leases Port Arthur from China.
- ⊗ Britain leases Kowloon from China.
- ⊗ Japanese bacteriologist Shiga discovers the dysentery bacillus.

Africa

- ⊗ Paul Kruger reelected president in Transvaal.
- ⊗ Kitchener wins important battles at Atbara River and Omdurman before reaching Fashoda.
- ⊗ The Fashoda Incident, a confrontation between British and French troops, leads to a French withdrawal from the Sudan.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

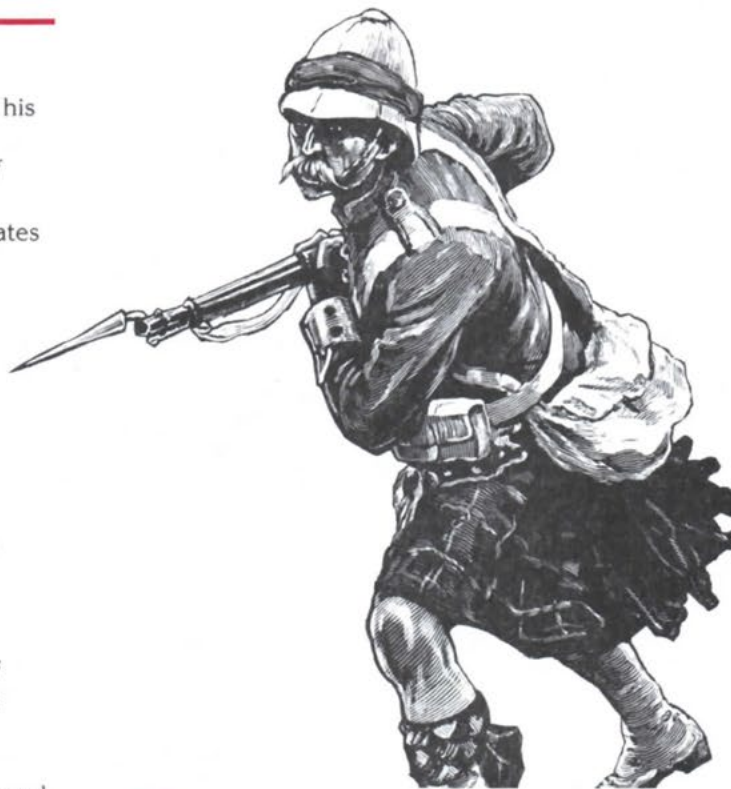
1899

North America

- ⊗ American composer Scott Joplin publishes his *Maple Leaf Rag*.
- ⊗ American artist Winslow Homer paints *Gulf Stream*.
- ⊗ U.S. Secretary of State John M. Hay advocates an open door policy for China.
- ⊗ Journalist Winston Churchill escapes from Boer captivity.
- ⊗ Boll weevil crosses the Rio Grande and begins to spread north through cotton producing states.
- ⊗ Wake Island, unclaimed by any power in the aftermath of the Spanish-American war, is claimed by the U.S.S. *Benington*.
- ⊗ Rudyard Kipling's *The White Man's Burden* is published in McClure's. The London Times publishes it under the title *An Address to the United States*.
- ⊗ U.S. Congress approves the construction of three battleships, three armed cruisers, and six protective cruisers.
- ⊗ U.S. Secretary of War Alger resigns amid criticism of his office on July 19. He is replaced by Elihu Root on August 1.
- ⊗ Hurricane hammers Puerto Rico, killing 2,000.
- ⊗ On Nov. 21, U.S. Vice President Garret A. Hobart dies at Paterson, New Jersey.

Europe

- ⊗ Designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh completes the Glasgow School of Art.
- ⊗ In France, the Cour de Cassation annuls the Dreyfus judgment and calls for a retrial.
- ⊗ Dreyfus is pardoned by presidential decree.
- ⊗ German Emperor William II visits England.
- ⊗ Ibsen publishes *When We Dead Awaken*.
- ⊗ James Ward publishes *Naturalism and Agnosticism*.
- ⊗ Pope Leo XIII's bull *Testem Benevolentia* condemns the Americanism of the Paulist founder Isaac Hecker.
- ⊗ Johann Strauss (b. 1825) dies.
- ⊗ Rutherford discovers alpha and beta rays.
- ⊗ First Hauge Conference held. Hauge Permanent Court of Arbitration formed to adjudicate international disputes.



Africa

- ⊗ The South African War begins between the Boers (Afrikaners) and the British.
- ⊗ The British under Robert Baden-Powell are besieged by the Boers at Mafeking.
- ⊗ English composer Edward Elgar writes *The Enigma Variations*.
- ⊗ Anglo-Egyptian Sudan Convention held.
- ⊗ Johannesburg Uitlanders protest to Queen Victoria about actions of the Boers.
- ⊗ Bloemfontein Conference on Transvaal held.
- ⊗ Paul Kruger's ultimatum triggers the war between Britain and the Boers.

HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

1898

The Spanish American War

January

- 2 Battleship *Maine* arrives at Havana, Cuba on a friendly visit from Key West.

February

- 9 Private letter from Señor Dupuy de Lôme, Spanish minister to the U.S., stolen in Havana, is published by Hearst's *New York Journal*. It calls President McKinley a spineless politician. Señor de Lôme is recalled by Spain.
- 15 At 9:40 PM, the battleship *Maine* explodes in Havana Harbor, killing two officers and 258 sailors.
- 25 Commodore George Dewey is given secret orders to make ready for war. In the event of its declaration, he is to move against the Spanish fleet in the Philippines.

March

- 9 Congress unanimously approves 50 million dollars for "national defense and each and every purpose connected therewith."
- 9 U.S. army is officially mobilized.

- 17 Senator Redfield Proctor, recently returned from Cuba, delivers speech to Senate detailing conditions there, and stirring pro-war sentiment.
- 19 Battleship *Oregon* leaves San Francisco for Florida by way of Cape Horn.
- 21 Naval court of inquiry finds that the *Maine* was destroyed by "external action."
- 22 Spanish board of inquiry finds that the destruction of the battleship *Maine* was due to an internal explosion.
- 27 U.S. Minister Woodford in Madrid receives a dispatch in which Spain is urged to grant amnesty to Cuban rebels until October 1, revoke the reconcentrado order, and accept U.S. aid in peace negotiations.
- 28 Findings of naval investigation into the destruction of the *Maine* are made public.
- 29 Woodford delivers the dispatch of March 27 to the Spanish government.
- 30 Spain revokes its reconcentrado order at the request of Minister Woodford.
- 31 Spain proposes arbitration of the *Maine* affair and formation of a Cuban Parliament.

April

- 3 Minister Woodford assures McKinley that "if you can still give me time . . . I will get you the peace"



HEADLINES OF THE 1890'S

you desire so much.”

- 5 Consul General Lee is recalled from Cuba to meet with President McKinley.
- 9 Queen of Spain orders Captain-General Blanco to suspend hostilities in an effort to further peace talks.
- 11 McKinley asks Congress for permission to use force in Cuba “as may be necessary.”
- 19 Congress passes The Teller Amendment, recognizing Cuba and demanding the withdrawal of Spanish forces from the island, and authorizes McKinley to use force if Spain refuses.
- 20 Spanish minister in Washington recalled.
- 21 U.S. Minister Woodford expelled from Spain.
- 22 *Nashville* captures Spanish merchant ship *Buena Ventura* off Key West.
- 22 Admiral Sampson leaves Key West to establish blockade of Cuba.
- 23 McKinley calls for 125,000 volunteers to support the war effort.
- 24 Spain declares war on the U.S.
- 24 Great Britain declares neutrality.
- 24 Commodore Dewey ordered to move against Spanish fleet in Philippines.
- 25 Secretary of State John Sherman resigns. William Day replaces him.
- 25 Congress declares war with Spain to have been in effect since April 21.
- 26 Congress increases army to 60,000 men.
- 27 Dewey’s fleet leaves Mirs Bay, China.
- 27 U.S. fleet bombards forts at Matanzas, Cuba.
- 28 France declares neutrality.
- 29 Admiral Cervera’s fleet leaves Cape Verde.

May

- 1 Battle of Manila Bay. Dewey bombards Spanish fleet, destroying 10 ships and killing 381 sailors. U.S. casualties are eight men slightly wounded.
- 2 Dewey’s fleet takes up position at Cavité.
- 6 Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in as Lt. Colonel of 1st Regiment of U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (the Rough Riders).
- 11 Dewey promoted to Rear Admiral.
- 12 San Juan bombarded by Admiral Sampson.
- 19 Spanish fleet arrives at Havana under command of Admiral Cervera.
- 24 Battleship Oregon arrives at Key West.
- 25 McKinley calls for 75,000 more volunteers.
- 29 Commodore Schley begins blockade of Cervera’s fleet in Santiago Harbor.

June

- 1 Admiral Sampson assumes command of the U.S. blockade fleet.
- 3 *Merrimac* scuttled in Santiago Harbor to block exit of Spanish fleet. Maneuver fails.
- 6 U.S. fleet bombards Santiago Harbor.

- 10 623 Marines and 24 officers land at Guantanamo Bay.
- 12 Vice Admiral von Diederichs arrives in Manila aboard *Kaiserin Augusta*, joining the three German, two British, one French, and one Japanese warships there. Two other German ships are en route.
- 14 Under the command of General Shafter, 16,887 U.S. troops leave Tampa for Cuba.
- 20 Shafter and his troops take up station outside Santiago Harbor.
- 20 Guam seized by U.S.S. *Charleston*.
- 24 First land battle of the war sees Spanish defeated by Wheeler’s troops.
- 30 Troops from San Francisco reach Manila Bay.

July

- 1 Battle of El Caney sees Spanish blockhouse captured after eight-hour fight.
- 1 Battle of San Juan Hill. General Hawkins and infantry take San Juan Hill. Colonel Roosevelt and Rough Riders take Kettle Hill and charge up San Juan Hill. U.S. casualties are 112 officers and 1,460 men killed, wounded, or missing.
- 3 Battle at Santiago destroys Cervera’s fleet.
- 4 U.S. forces take Wake Island.
- 10 Shafter bombards Santiago.
- 17 Santiago surrenders to General Shafter. U.S. losses in the siege and capture are 260 killed and 1,431 wounded.
- 20 Colonel Leonard Wood appointed military governor of Santiago.
- 25 Gen. Miles begins conquest of Puerto Rico.
- 26 Spain, through France, requests peace.
- 28 Ponce surrenders Puerto Rico.
- 30 McKinley states peace terms.

August

- 12 Peace protocol between U.S. and Spain signed.
- 13 Manila occupied by U.S. troops under General Wesley Merritt and Admiral Dewey.
- 16 General Merritt learns of the signing of peace protocol.
- 20 Admiral Sampson parades his fleet up the Hudson River, crowning several days of nationwide celebrations in the U.S.

September

- 8 Secretary of War Russel Alger requests a commission to investigate conduct of the war by the War Department.

December

- 10 Treaty of Paris signed, ending Spanish-American War. Spain gives up Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines in exchange for \$20,000,000.

EVENTS OF THE 1890'S



The previous chapter gave a broad overview of the events of the 1890's. This chapter will give a closer look at some of the more interesting developments. Any of the incidents detailed here could easily form the basis for an individual adventure or, with a little extra work, an ongoing campaign.

Even if a Dungeon Master doesn't wish to base an adventure on any of these current events, these situations can play important roles in scenario design. For example, the spread of spiritualism through the United States and

Europe can add a great deal of flavor if presented as a backdrop against which other events of a campaign are played out.

As in the previous chapter, the information presented here is admittedly biased toward events in the Western World. Again, this is due to the traditions of the gothic genre that *Masque of the Red Death* is intended to emulate.

Forbidden Lore

Each entry that follows ends with a brief discussion of the forbidden lore associated with the topic. This information makes the DM's task of adventure design even easier. Of course, there's no need for a Dungeon Master to feel bound by the forbidden lore presented in this text. Anyone who has an exciting idea for an adventure ought to feel free to toss out the macabre twists suggested here and replace them with products of his own imagination. After all, the whole point of the game is to have fun.

Fact and Fiction

These historical essays can also help Dungeon Masters create fictional background information that feels authentic. For example, from reading the Dreyfus Affair entry, a DM would learn that France (indeed, much of Europe) is polarized over the issue of individual liberties, the power of the state, and the persecution of minorities. A great many prominent people have come out on both sides of the issues comprising the Dreyfus Affair.

The background information presented in that essay can be used to establish the mood of the

populace or government about similar issues. In the example of the Dreyfus Affair, the essay mentions strong anti-Catholic sentiments in France at the time. An adventure in which the characters are called upon to work closely with the French Catholic church, therefore, might be characterized by police harassment and an utter lack of bureaucratic cooperation.

Building a Historical Library

Any Dungeon Master running a *Masque of the Red Death* campaign would be well advised to keep a notebook of important reference materials. This can be as simple as keeping a file of photocopies of interesting information, photos, artwork, and even advertisements from the period.

If the DM has access to a good computer system, the task becomes much easier. A CD-ROM encyclopedia greatly reduces the time required to obtain correct facts and figures in a historical adventure. However, it's still advisable to keep a file of paper copies to be used as instant handouts.

In either case, a personalized reference book such as this serves two purposes. First, it acts as a journal in which details of past adventures can be kept for quick review. Second, it serves as a device to ignite the DM's imagination and continually fuel the generation of new adventure ideas.

The latter advantage has proven to be so true that most DMs who follow this practice end up with more adventure ideas than they can ever hope to play. Experience has shown that adventures in the *Masque of the Red Death* campaign setting usually present numerous possibilities for spin-off adventures. By keeping careful files, a DM can be ready for any situation that presents itself.

History, if thoroughly comprehended, furnishes something of the experience which a man would acquire who should be a contemporary of all ages and a fellow-citizen of all peoples.

Joseph Roux
Meditations of a
Parish Priest (1886)

EVENTS OF THE 1890'S

Ghost Dancers

The roots of the ghost dance can be traced far back in the history of Native American religions. It seems probable that the ghost dance grew out of an earlier movement that appeared in the Pacific Northwest.

In modern use, the term refers to a messianic movement that became prominent among several of the western tribes during the 1870's. During the late 1880's and the first half of the 1890's, it spread to the Plains Indians.

Prophets of the ghost dancers are said to have died, visited God, and returned with the message that the dead would soon rejoin the living. When this eventually happened, the world would be transformed into a place of happiness, plentiful game, and freedom for the Native American people. The ghost dancers were counseled to speak only the truth, love their fellow man, and join in the spiritual dances that would hasten the coming of the new age.

According to the Native American prophets, the invading Europeans would be destroyed when a great wave of earth would cover the world. In the wake of this, all nonbelievers would be buried forever. The world would be renewed and the wrongs committed against the Native American people would be avenged.

These beliefs originated in the year 1870, when the prophet Tavibo began to relate his revelations of a new world to the Paiute people of Nevada. In 1887, the prophet Wovoka is said to have died and later returned to his people with a ritual dance that they could perform to hasten the coming of the revival of their ancestors and the coming of a new world. Wovoka's teachings spread through the Native American settlements, eventually reaching the plains and acquiring followers among the Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, and Oglala Sioux.

Nowhere were the principles of the ghost dance more readily accepted than among the Sioux tribes at Pine Ridge, North Dakota. The Sioux were embittered from years of hunger, natural disasters, and disease. Their relations with the United States government were poor, and their future looked bleak at best. To them, the promise offered by the ghost dance represented a chance to revive the Sioux nation.

The ghost dance movement came to a sudden end in 1890. On December 15, Sitting Bull, Chief of the Sioux, was arrested and killed by U.S. troops. Two weeks later, on December 29, the Battle of Wounded Knee erupted. During this clash, U.S. troops under the command of General Nelson A. Miles slaughtered hundreds of Sioux warriors, women, and children. Many of them wore ghost shirts that bore eagle, buffalo, and morning star patterns. It was believed that these would protect them from the

bullets of the U.S. troops.

With the disaster at Wounded Knee, the ghost dance movement fell apart. While it was still practiced among some tribes until 1895, it would never regain the popularity that it held before the slaughter of the Sioux.

Forbidden Lore

As far as the general public is concerned, the death of Sitting Bull and his Sioux followers spelled the end of the ghost dancers. Many of the soldiers stationed near the Sioux reservations, as well as visitors to Wounded Knee, tell a different story. While different experts put forth different theories to explain the increasingly unusual accounts that have come to light, the fact that something macabre is occurring cannot be denied.

The most common belief is simply that the ghosts of Sitting Bull and his people remain near the area where they were killed. Without a doubt, numerous reports of spectral beings, mysterious sounds, and unexplained deaths can be confirmed near Wounded Knee. Sitting Bull was certainly dedicated to his cause, and if ever there were a man with the passion to sustain himself after death, it was the great Sitting Bull.

Still, a number of parapsychologists and metaphysicians who have studied the events following the massacre at Wounded Knee remain unconvinced about Sitting Bull's potential powers. This is not to say that they do not believe something supernatural is afoot. Rather, they suggest that the mystical powers of the ghost dancers have done more than simply convert them into common apparitions. Several investigators who have studied the area report that mankind faces a new and unique agent of the supernatural.

It is impossible to say at this time whether the forces haunting Wounded Knee are aspects of Sitting Bull and his followers—spirits called into existence by the power of their ghost dances—or an unrelated phenomenon whose manifestation at this time and place is utterly unrelated to massacre of the Sioux people.

Arctic Exploration

The 1890's are a time of exploration and adventure. Many frontiers are available to men and women of Gothic Earth, but none is as deadly as the Arctic. High atop the world, adventurers race to be the first to reach the North Pole.

While Irish monks and Norsemen are reported to have been in Iceland and Greenland as far back as the 9th century, the first true surveys of the Arctic can be traced to the 15th and 16th centuries. Explorers of that era hoped to find a route to China.

EVENTS OF THE 1890'S

Instead, they discovered the Arctic islands. Foremost among these explorers was Britain's Martin Frobisher.

In later decades, others pressed the frontiers of explored lands further and further north. Among these were the Dutch navigator Willem Barents and Henry Hudson. In 1671, the German explorer Friedrich Martens wrote a book detailing the landscape and natural history of the arctic that became the standard reference book on the Arctic until William Scoresby, Jr. published his own work in 1820.

In Asia, exploration of the Russian Arctic began in the 17th century with the conquest of Siberia. In the 18th century, Vitus Bering became the first to sail the strait between North America and Asia that now bears his name.

With the dawn of the 19th century, a veritable army of explorers set their sights on the north pole. This began in 1818 when Sir William Edward Parry and Sir John Ross retraced the path taken by William Baffin in the 17th century. Other adventurers quickly followed suit and the race was on.

In 1831, Sir James Ross became the first man to visit the north magnetic pole.

In 1847, Sir John Franklin became the first explorer to chart a passage through the Arctic islands of North America. He was unable to travel the proposed route, however, for the passage was choked with ice and unnavigable. Indeed, Franklin's entire expedition perished when their ship was caught in the ice. Other routes through these islands were located by Sir Robert McClure and Richard Collinson. In both cases, however, the way was blocked with ice.

Eurasian Arctic exploration continued in the 19th century as well. In 1878, Adolf Erik Nordenskjöld made a successful transit of the long-sought-after Northeast Passage.

International conferences on Arctic exploration were held in 1879 and 1880. These led to cooperative meteorological studies and magnetic surveys of the region. In addition, Arctic observation stations were set up by several countries, including the United States, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, and Austria.

In 1893, Fridtjof Nansen sailed the *Fram* into the ice pack, where it became entrapped. For three years, he drifted with the polar ice and made observations that set new standards for polar and oceanographic research. In 1895, Nansen left the *Fram* and traveled northward. While he failed to reach the pole, he set a new record for northward exploration by reaching 86° 14' north latitude.

Forbidden Lore

Perhaps the most unusual information to come back from any of the polar expeditions was brought to

light only recently, with the discovery of a journal believed to have been written by Sir John Franklin during his ill-fated 1847 expedition.

The generally accepted theory had been that Sir John led a group of men away from their ship, which had become frozen in the ice, in the hope of finding some means by which the ship's company might be saved. The recent discovery of this journal, if it is indeed authentic, paints a grim picture of the last hours of the Franklin expedition.

In the log book, which was discovered by a Canadian meteorological team, Sir John writes of an encounter with a terrible creature. He never describes it clearly, but refers to it on several occasions in terms that lead one to believe it was reptilian in appearance. At one point, he likens the intensity of the creature's gaze to the glare of bright sun on an endless blanket of snow.

It is clear from Sir John's account that the beast was responsible in some way for the fate of his vessel. Whether the creature somehow lured them into a cul-de-sac from which they could not escape or actually caused the waters around them to freeze is unclear.

Is the recently discovered journal an authentic record? No one is certain. Much of the writing is muddled and confused, little more than the ramblings of a man who has all but lost his grip on sanity. Perhaps it is only the account of a madman's visions, and nothing else. If the journal is in any way accurate, however, does the human race dare to ignore these words of warning?

Railroads

Unheard of a century earlier, the railways of Gothic Earth are an integral part of the world's economy and society in the 1890's. After the invention of a rail-guided steam locomotive in 1804 by England's Richard Trevithick, the world never looked back. Steel tracks fanned out across the globe like the strands of a great spider's web.

In 1825, the first commercial railway opened in England. Within only 30 years, rail lines spanned all of North America and Europe. By the 1890's, steam engines have evolved so far that they can reach speeds of 100 miles per hour.

Trans-Siberian Railroad

Construction on what would become the Trans-Siberian Railroad began in the 1880's. During that decade, a line was laid that stretched from Moscow to Chelyabinsk, a distance of just over 1,000 miles.

By 1891, the goal of building a railway that would stretch clear across the continent of Asia had been established. Work began at both ends of the line. The West Siberian sector, which ran from

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Chelyabinsk to the Ob River, was completed in 1896. In 1897, the Ussuri section was completed, linking Vladivostok with Khabarovsk, and in 1899, the mid-Siberian sector bridged the gap between the Ob River and Irkutsk.

At the close of the 19th century, the Transbaikalian section was nearly completed. This link will expand the railway to reach both Lake Baikal and the western border of Manchuria.

Transcontinental Railway

On May 10, 1869, the tracks of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads were joined at Promontory Point, Utah. This historic merger made the transcontinental railway, a dream that had begun in 1845, a reality.

The early years of the project were hindered by debates over the routing of the railroad, a matter that was greatly simplified when many southern states attempted to secede from the United States. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Congress pushed through a number of land grants and loans, finally creating a construction race between the Central Pacific and Union Pacific lines.

Both sides suffered labor and material shortages. The Central Pacific depended upon Chinese workers and had to import its rails from the east coast. The Union Pacific depended largely upon Irish immigrants or veterans of the Civil War, and had to transport the vast majority of its timber from Wisconsin. In addition, profiteering and other scandals were widespread.

By 1883, a number of other railroads had duplicated the efforts of the Central and Union Pacific lines. The Southern Pacific managed to connect New Orleans and Los Angeles; the Santa Fe line bridged Chicago and Southern California (via Albuquerque), and the Northern Pacific linked Duluth and Portland.

The Pullman Strike: One of the most important events to affect railroading in the 1890's was the Pullman strike of 1894. Lasting from May to July, the Pullman strike virtually shut down the railroad lines in the western United States before the federal government stepped in to end it.

The roots of the Pullman Strike lie in the Panic of 1893. During that economic crisis, the Pullman Palace Car Company of Illinois lowered the wages paid to its workers. However, the company failed to reduce rents or other charges it assessed to those living in the Pullman company town outside of Chicago. On May 11, a group of Pullman employees, acting as representatives from the American Railway Union, protested these matters. In response, the company fired them.

Eugene Debs, head of the American Railway Union, challenged the powerful Pullman company by

calling for a boycott of all Pullman cars. This resulted in a tremendous tie-up of railway traffic throughout the United States.

On July 2, Attorney General Richard Olney obtained a court injunction to halt the strike. In his opinion, the strike was having too great an economic impact on the country and it was slowing delivery of the U.S. mail. On July 4, federal troops arrived in Chicago to enforce the injunction. Members of the Railway Union refused to return to work and riots broke out. The troops responded with force, killing several of the rioters.

By July 10, the strike had been broken and rail service began to return to normal. In the aftermath, Debs and other union officials were tried, convicted, and jailed for disobeying the federal injunction.

Orient Express

Perhaps the most famous railway train on Gothic Earth, the Orient Express ran for the first time on June 1, 1889. Its route began in Paris, passed through Budapest, Bulgrade, and Sofia, and terminated amid the domed temples of Constantinople. All told, no fewer than 10 railway companies and six national governments monitor the Orient Express to ensure that its journey is uninterrupted.

Technically, the Orient Express began operation in 1883. Prior to its famous 1889 run, a complete railway journey from Paris to Constantinople was not possible. Instead, the Orient Express left Paris and ran only as far as Giurgevo, a small town on the banks of the Danube at the border of Rumania and Bulgaria. At that point, passengers crossed the river on a ferry and boarded another train that wound across Bulgaria to Varna, on the Black Sea. From Varna, passengers would travel by steamer to the port of Constantinople.

The distance traveled by the train is roughly 1,850 miles. Using the price for rail transportation given in *A Guide to Gothic Earth*, we can calculate that a ticket on the Orient Express would cost about \$55.00. However, few trains anywhere on Gothic Earth match the elegance with which the Orient Express conveys passengers. Indeed, some individuals feel that the three days required for the train to leave behind the west and arrive in the east is something of a vacation all by itself. As might be expected, this elegance has a price, and in addition, the rail companies and countries involved in operating the Orient Express recognize that their line has no competition. Thus, the actual fee for a ticket on the Orient Express runs \$75.00 to \$100.00 depending on the level of luxury selected for the journey.

Forbidden Lore

The rails of the world are alive, if that is the right term, with ghost trains. This is especially true in the

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American West. During the days of the race to build the transcontinental railroad, many lives were lost to accidents and mishaps. Not all of these souls rest easily in their graves.

Additionally, the remote places that many railways pass through carry men and women far away from the relative safety of civilization. As night settles over the mountains of eastern Europe or the badlands of North America, who can say what forgotten, ancient horrors might stalk the speeding engines and hunger for their helpless passengers?

Perhaps the most unusual incident involving the world's railways involved the Orient Express itself. In the winter of 1892, the train left via the Eastern Railway of France on Wednesday, January 6, precisely on time at 7:30 P.M. That Friday, January 8, the train rolled slowly into Constantinople station at 6:35 P.M., exactly one hour late. The engine's fire was out, the boiler was cold, and the entire train was empty. No trace of a single passenger was found anywhere. All the freight and baggage was intact, and half-eaten meals waited in the dining car as if passengers had excused themselves for a moment intending to return promptly. No sign of a struggle could be found anywhere.

The railway companies and national governments involved quickly hushed up the whole affair after an investigation revealed nothing. No official explanation was ever given for the mishap, and probably none will ever be found.

The Dreyfus Affair

In 1894, France was rocked by one of the greatest political scandals ever to hit the Third Republic.

The repercussions of this ordeal were to threaten the government and involve some of the most famous names on Gothic Earth. But in the end, France was a stronger, more cosmopolitan state for the trials and tribulations of Captain Alfred Dreyfus.

The Dreyfus affair began in 1894. At that time, Alfred Dreyfus, an Alsatian Jew, was not only a Captain in the French army, but also an officer on the General Staff. When he was charged with passing important papers to the German military, the news sent a shockwave through the nation.

Despite a lack of solid evidence, Dreyfus's court-martial in 1894 resulted in his conviction, largely to satisfy the demands of the military. Following this kangaroo court, Captain Dreyfus was imprisoned on Devil's Island.

Secrets continued to be passed to the Germans even after Dreyfus's conviction. In time, a major by the name of Ferdinand Esterhazy was implicated in the affair. When Colonel Georges Picquart attempted to reopen the case in 1896, he was promptly dismissed from office. The efforts of Dreyfus's

brother finally brought Esterhazy to trial in 1897, but against all evidence, he was acquitted.

In January of 1898, the famous novelist Emile Zola published *J'accuse*, an open letter that attacked the army and brought the entire affair to public attention. The government responded to this by imprisoning Zola. The public, however, was moved by Zola's skillful pleas, and Dreyfus's cause was taken up by France's Jews, radicals, socialists, and intellectuals.

In 1898, the major document presented as evidence against Dreyfus was proven to be a forgery. Captain Dreyfus was tried again. As before, political pressure led to him being found guilty; he was returned to prison in 1899.

President Loubet, recognizing the dissension that the Dreyfus Affair had sown among the French people and within the government, pardoned the young man as well as Zola. Both were promptly freed.

The wake of this affair cast doubt upon the credibility of the army. In addition, both the monarchists and the Catholic Church, who sought to foster anti-Dreyfus feelings among the public, were publicly humiliated by the matter.

The future of France certainly seems to rest in the hands of society's pro-republic elements. Although the current trends may change, it is not unlikely that this will help to usher in a new age for the Third Republic. Perhaps the France of the 20th century will be a true democracy with a government that enjoys the support of the public. The Dreyfus Affair taught many that France's society must be a racially and culturally tolerant one, no matter what course the rest of Europe opts to follow.

Forbidden Lore

Rumors about the Dreyfus Affair abound in both the press and among the general public. Few rumors, however, even come close to hinting at what some paranormal researchers now suspect.

While the general consensus is that Captain Dreyfus was falsely accused and wrongly convicted, the truth of the matter may be far darker. Investigations of the matter by members of Die Wächtern have led that group to suspect that this incident accidentally uncovered the actions of some shapechanging creature. They claim that such a beast impersonated Dreyfus on several occasions, although the reasons for this masquerade remain unknown.

Although the efforts of Die Wächtern's agents can provide no conclusive evidence of these claims, several suspicious elements surround but do not directly expose the Dreyfus Affair. Some have even speculated that a link exists between this incident and a series of mysterious deaths among the intelligence branch of the French military. It may be that this qabal has stumbled upon information too alarming to be

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made public and that Captain Dreyfus has the dubious honor of being used in its coverup.

Zionism

The father of the modern Zionist movement is Theodor Herzl. His efforts, and those of several other groups in the 19th century, led to the establishment of defined goals and principles in the quest for a Jewish homeland.

The origins of Zionism can be traced back to the Jewish Diaspora—the Babylonian Exile of the 6th century B.C. Both *Psalm 137* and the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* tell of a longing for Zion (or Jerusalem) among the exiles. During that century, the Jews encountered a number of messianic figures who claimed that they would lead them into Zion. Such events continued even through the latter half of the 16th century, when Italy's Nasi family attempted unsuccessfully to establish a Jewish community in Galilee.

Prior to the French Revolution, European Jews lacked the mobility and personal freedom needed for the formation of a true Zionist movement. Still, even after this liberation, Europe was marked by Jewish ghettos and anti-Semitism. The 19th century, however, saw an increase in nationalist sentiments among European Jews. People like Yehuda Alkalai, Moses Hess, Zvi Kalischer, David Luzatto, and Leo Pisker campaigned heavily for the principles that would become modern Zionism. Philanthropists such as Edmond de Rothschild and Moses Montefiore contributed heavily to their efforts, even sponsoring programs to support Jews who wished to leave Europe and return to the Middle East.

In 1897, Herzl called together the World Zionist Congress at Basel, Switzerland. With the formation of this body, Zionism at last acquired a global political voice. Despite opposition from both the right and left in Jewish culture, the Zionist Congress began to grow in strength.

While the future of the Zionist movement was by no means certain, events in France (see The Dreyfus Affair) showed a promising trend toward acceptance and tolerance of Jews in Europe and throughout the world.

At the same time, however, anti-Semitic groups continued to thrive in many parts of the world. Indeed, many governments remained adamant in such policies and overtly or covertly encouraged anti-Semitic actions by their citizens. Perhaps the most horrific examples of this were the pogroms in Russia. In an age when tolerance and enlightenment seemed to be taking hold of the human race as never before, the menaces of bigotry and violence remained undaunted in their

efforts to cripple progress and reduce the human race to barbarism.

Forbidden Lore

Like any religious movement, Zionism had its enemies. Anti-Semitic groups were powerful throughout Europe and other countries. The enemies of the Jewish people, however, are worthy of special attention for two reasons.

The first is the simple fact that Judaism in an ancient faith. According to the Old Testament, Abraham became the father of the Hebrew people some four thousand years ago. The fact that this is roughly the same time that the Red Death was allowed to slip into ancient Egypt has not escaped the notice of the world's metaphysicians. Many believe that clues about the power of that great evil might be found in the most ancient Jewish writings and religious treasures. Perhaps relics such as the ark of the covenant or the golem hold the secret of the Red Death's defeat.

Whether this is true is impossible to say. The possibility, however, is enough to cause the Red Death to allocate some fraction of its power to the persecution of these people.

It is rumored that a number of qabals devote considerable attention to the search for Hebrew treasures, in the hope that their legends will be true. Some seek to harness the power or knowledge of these items for use in the battle against evil, while others wish to destroy them in the service of their dark master. Still others, however, have less clear objectives in mind. What they would do with items such as the ark of the covenant remains to be seen.

The second reason to study the rise of anti-Semitism is that, from the Red Death's point of view, this surge in hatred is pure opportunity. In many parts of the world, anti-Semitic feelings are easy to stir. The natural distrust that all men feel toward those they perceive as different from themselves can be easily turned into fear and hatred. These, in turn, are the perfect fuel for the fires of violence and the choking fog of ignorance upon which the Red Death prospers. Wherever bigotry is allowed to run unchecked through the shallow minds of the ignorant, the Red Death has already won its battle against good.

Spiritualism

The basic premise of spiritualism—communication with the dead—is by no means a modern invention. Indeed, the search for a secure afterlife is what led the ancient Egyptians to discover, practice, and perfect the art of necromancy which allowed the Red Death to slip into the world so many centuries ago. Toward the end of the 19th century, however, a

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more modern incarnation of these beliefs has swept through the United States and, to a lesser extent, the rest of the western world.

The birth of modern spiritualism can be traced directly to a young woman named Margaret Fox. In 1848, shortly after moving into a new home near Hydesville, New York, the Fox family began hearing loud cracks and snaps in the dead of night. No obvious source could be found for these manifestations, which always appeared to center around Margaret Fox and her sisters. Eventually, it was concluded that the entity responsible for these spirit rappings was a spectre that the Fox sisters knew as "Mister Splitfoot." The entity was able to give coded answers to questions posed in the company of the young women.

The success of this remarkable phenomenon spread quickly. Others soon began to report that they were able to duplicate the powers of the Fox sisters. By the mid-1850's, the cities of the United States and Europe were thick with mediums and beliefs in mystical powers.

In the wake of the American Civil War (which saw an entire generation destroyed in many parts of the U.S.), the spread of spiritualism was overwhelming. With so many families mourning the losses of the war, it was only natural that they turn for comfort to individuals who claimed to be in contact with departed children and husbands. For a time, the practice of spiritualism became a part of almost every family's weekly ritual.

Of course, the world was not without its skeptics. Members of the press, as well as law enforcement officials, began to prove that many of the nation's so-called mediums were nothing more than tricksters. Through sleight of hand, innovative tricks, and various gadgets, they fooled customers into believing that they were genuinely in contact with the afterlife.

The lure of spiritualism was not to be defeated. Many mediums leaned upon the public fascination with science to give credibility to their work. They employed many techniques to prevent fraud (or, at least, to give that appearance), and offered "proof" that their experiments were valid.

An excellent example of this pseudo-science was the development of spirit photography. Some photographers reported that they had captured the invisible wonders of the spirit world with their cameras. With this "proof" of the existence of apparitions, the spiritualist movement continued to grow. In many cases, however, spirit photographers were proven to be only skilled fakers who used double exposures and similar techniques to attain their wondrous results.

Belief in the wonders of spiritualism was not limited to the uneducated or other simple folk. Even as more and more proof was assembled to show that the vast

majority of mediums were frauds and criminals, the public held fast to their beliefs. Early practitioners of spiritualism included the well-known American journalist Horace Greeley and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Many people felt that the movement should have suffered a fatal blow in the mid-1880's when Margaret Fox and her sisters came forth and admitted that they were fakes. They demonstrated to a shocked world that the spirit rappings attributed to the mysterious Mister Splitfoot were nothing more than the snapping of joints in their feet.

The general public, however, had long ago accepted the notion of spiritualism and all its wonders. The revelation that Margaret Fox and her sisters were frauds did almost nothing to the movement. People had wholly embraced the idea that communication with the dead was not only possible, but widespread.

The arrival of the 1890's did nothing to change this. Average citizens are more than willing to accept the possibility of communication with the spirit world. Most will gladly recount one or two examples from their pasts in which they experienced something of a spiritualist nature.

Forbidden Lore

What does all this mean for characters of the spiritualist class? Not a great deal, actually. The idea that a group of people in a darkened room is able to evoke a series of mysterious tappings from beyond the grave is a safe one; no one's view of the world is likely to be threatened by such an event. A person who claims to have such powers isn't likely to be denounced as a fake or subjected to persecution for his or her powers.

On the other hand, a character who is able to call upon the spirit world to work magic that is nothing short of miraculous will frighten anyone. Indeed, someone who is actually in daily contact with the spirit world is more likely to be denounced as a fake than would a clever prestidigitator. After all, believing that someone can cause a table to float a few inches off the ground is much easier than accepting that the same person can call upon the spirits to whip up a *fire storm* or to *transmute metal to wood*.

Ironically, those who actually have the gifts they claim are more likely to be denounced and persecuted. For this reason, the vast majority of true spiritualists keep their powers hidden, and contribute little or nothing to the public perception of the field.

African Colonization

The 1890's saw an explosion of European colonization in Africa. The proud heritage of this continent, which dates back some 2.5 million years, was swept aside by greedy nations eager to

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control (and exploit) more land than their neighbors. The results were predictable: war, disease, and suffering for the natives, and wealth, slaves, and nationalist pride for the Europeans.

While northern Africa, especially Egypt, had been a major factor in Mediterranean and European trade for centuries, the southern regions of that continent remained largely unexplored until the 1400's. At that time, the Portuguese began to explore Africa's western coast. They were primarily interested in gold, and thus established trading posts in Gambia and the Gold Coast. In addition to gold, however, they found another treasure: slaves.

Portuguese control of Africa lasted throughout the 1400's and 1500's. In the 1600's, however, many of their trading posts were given over to the Dutch, who also established Cape Town.

With the establishment of European colonies in the New World, the demand for slaves increased dramatically. By the 1800's, over 10 million slaves had been delivered from Africa to work in the Americas.

Some African nations, especially the Ashanti, were able to use the gold and slave trades to make themselves wealthy and powerful. Others, however, were overrun by the European powers and vanished from the face of Gothic Earth.

During the 1700's, European powers began to establish missions in Africa. Before long, large numbers of Africans were converting to Christianity. Sadly, not all of these conversions were voluntary.

By the 19th century, however, the first phase of European influence in Africa had passed. The United States and Great Britain outlawed the slave trade in 1808, although slavery itself existed in the United States until the end of the Civil War.

The end of the slave trade, however, saw expanded European interest in Africa itself. With the rest of the world all but fully explored and at least marginally under the sway of European powers, expansionist governments were forced to look elsewhere for new frontiers. As the Ottoman Empire declined, regions of North Africa that had been under Turkish domination since the 1500's became targets of European opportunism. France acquired Algeria and Tunisia while the British Empire added the jewel of Egypt to its crown. In South Africa, the Dutch began to expand from Cape Town, conquering the native population as they went.

Of course, not all of Africa's strife at this time was caused by Europeans. Throughout the 1700's and into the 1800's, religious reformers spread the Muslim faith through western Africa with a series of jihads (holy wars) that left them in control of the majority of the western grasslands. In South Africa, the Zulu armies fought numerous wars against their neighbors, building a vast empire for themselves.

The latter half of the 1890's saw a sudden rush on the part of European powers to gain land in Africa. Although they resorted to military tactics in some areas, the majority of these controls have been acquired through trade and economic pressure. With the 20th century just around the corner, Africa has been almost totally carved up by Belgium, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

It is worth mentioning that much of the land claimed by the European nations at this time had never been visited by a white man. Large numbers of natives were being ruled by people and governments they had never seen or heard of. Sadly, they were due to learn more than they cared to about their new masters.

Forbidden Lore

The African continent was, many believe, the birthplace of man. Here, millions of years ago, men descended from the trees, learned to walk erect, fashioned crude weapons, and, perhaps most important of all, mastered the rudiments of magic. The glorious history of this land cannot be forgotten or, as much as the nations of Europe might try, erased.

Centuries ago, in regions now controlled by Great Britain, the science of necromancy evolved. As the ancient Egyptians probed deeper and deeper into the mysteries of death and the possibilities of an afterlife, they set into motion a series of events that would all but destroy the enchanted world they knew. While it would be wrong to say that the concept of evil originated with the pharaohs, it is quite correct to note that it was their mistake that gave the world's evil not only form and personality, but also the unlimited power of magic. As such, the ancient temples of Egypt are among the most powerful sources of necromancy and evil magic in the world. Adventurers exploring these regions would do well to remember that.

Still, it is vitally important to remember that the same events that brought the Red Death into the world created an enclave of untainted good. Hidden away in the heart of the African jungles is The Lost Empire, a pocket civilization that fled Egypt to escape the evil threat Djoser had brought into the world. Hidden from the rest of the planet, they practice untainted magic and look forward to the day when they can make amends for the mistakes of their ancestors.

The leaders of The Lost Empire recognize, however, that the day when they will turn their powers against the world's evils is not yet here. The increasing violation of Africa by the nations of Europe threatens their cloak of secrecy. If they are discovered, the Red Death will see them as the menace they are. If that happens, all the powers of The Lost Empire will be overwhelmed by the might of this ancient foe.

WHO'S WHO ON GOTHIC EARTH



It can rightly be said that any age or place is defined by the people who live there. The nature of Gothic Earth's folk, their passions and dreams, their triumphs and failures, all come together to make the world what it is.

In this chapter, we'll examine the most important people of the 1890's. From Ernst Abbe, the German optics expert, to French author Emile Zola, the people of Gothic Earth provide a grand overview of all that is good and evil in their world.

Some of these people are heroes; others are villains.

Many are recognized for their accomplishments, such as Thomas Edison or William Jennings Bryan. A few, such as Winston Churchill and Sigmund Freud, have yet to achieve the greatness for which they will be remembered.

For the most part, the entries in this Who's Who section describe the real men and women who lived and labored in the final years of the 19th century. A few fictional characters have been inserted as well—people like Abraham Van Helsing and Sherlock Holmes, whose exploits are so well known that any discussion of the 1890's seems flawed without them.

While the list that follows is quite extensive, it is by no means exhaustive. To claim otherwise would be absurd. Even if this entire book were devoted to biographies of Gothic Earth's most celebrated individuals, it would remain sadly incomplete. Still, based on the references that appear here, a Dungeon Master can easily add other prestigious personages to this list.

Assumptions

This Who's Who is written from the perspective of an author in 1899. As such, the accounts include mention of events that may not have taken place at certain points in a given campaign. This is particularly true of artists and painters, whose greatest works may still be years away.

Dungeon Masters should view these as opportunities to set up adventures involving important historic events; examples are the arctic expeditions of Peary or Nansen, and the oceanographic researches of Murray aboard H.M.S. *Challenger*.



Forbidden Lore

While the majority of the following information is factual, readers must remember that Gothic Earth is not an exact duplicate of our own world. Thus, a number of Forbidden Lore entries have been included along with the biographies. These offer the DM a more macabre and creative view of the events of the day.

Players should always question the information they receive, and that includes the forbidden lore included with this chapter. One of the difficulties that adventurers usually encounter in their travels is an inability to gather reliable information. Still, the importance of paying attention to local rumors and gossip cannot be dismissed. After all, many an adventurer has met with an untimely death when he chose to ignore the mysterious stories of supposedly ignorant peasants. Thus, the forbidden lore that follows should be considered springboards for adventure twists and red herrings.

"Fame is but an inscription on a grave, and glory the melancholy blazon on a coffin lid."

Alexander Smith
On the Writing of Essays (1863)

WHO'S WHO ON GOTHIC EARTH



Abbe, Ernst (b. 1840): Born in Germany, Abbe graduated from Gottingen University in 1861 and took a position at Jena University in 1863. Shortly afterward, he began working with Carl Zeiss and helped him to found the Zeiss Optics Company. When Zeiss died in 1888, Abbe took over the firm. He established the Carl Zeiss Foundation to sponsor scientific research and social improvement. In addition to such innovations as the Abbe Refractometer and the apochromatic lens, Abbe made numerous contributions to the science of optics. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he is Gothic Earth's foremost authority in this field.

Forbidden Lore: Ernst Abbe

Abbe carries a great deal of guilt over the death of his great friend Carl Zeiss. The two were working together on a device that was not unlike a magic lantern in basic operation. Had the device worked as planned, it would have created a three-dimensional image instead of the flat one normally produced by such devices. When finally activated, the Abbe-Zeiss Projector worked far better than either had hoped; it created images that were not only three-dimensional, but mobile and alive. Tragically, those images were also very evil.

Alexander III, Emperor of Russia (b. 1845): A hardline believer in the absolute power of a monarch, Alexander's first action upon ascending to the throne in 1881 was to renounce the limited constitution established by his father, Alexander II. Not noted as an intellectual, Alexander III ruled primarily by instinct. He declared a state of emergency in 1881 which allowed him to circumvent courts and other legislative safeguards. Noted for press censorship and anti-semitism, Alexander III is a blunt ruler interested only in the Russification of his state.

Anthony, Susan B. (b. 1820): Perhaps the world's foremost campaigner for women's rights, Susan B. Anthony came from a Quaker background. A former teacher, she quit to become the manager of her family farm. During that time, she met Frederick Douglas, William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, and other men of similar interests. These encounters persuaded her to become an outspoken reformist. After encountering sexual discrimination

while working with the Daughters of Temperance and the American Anti-Slavery Society, she helped found the American Equal Rights Association and the National Woman Suffrage Association. In 1872, she was arrested for attempting to vote. Since 1892, she has been the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Arrhenius, Svante (b. 1859): A talented chemist and physicist, Arrhenius is a proponent of Panspermia. According to this theory, life was brought to the Earth by a meteorite.



Beardsley, Aubrey (b. 1872, d. 1898): One of England's most talented illustrators, Aubrey Beardsley produced a great quantity of art during his tragically short lifetime. Perhaps his best works were his unique drawings used to illustrate Oscar Wilde's *Salome* in 1894. Before he was even 20 years old, Beardsley had illustrated a special edition of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*. He later went on to produce controversial editions of such books as *Volpone*, *Lysistrata*, and *The Rape of the Lock*. In 1894, he became the art editor for *The Yellow Boom* (an avant-garde magazine) and a regular contributor to *The Savoy*, both of which were published in London.

Becquerel, Antoine Henri (b. 1852): A French physicist, Becquerel (pronounced be-KREL) is best known for his 1896 discovery of radioactivity. As a result, he is considered one of the founders of nuclear physics. Elected to the Academy of Sciences in 1889, he was appointed professor of physics at the Museum of Natural History in 1892 and the Ecole Polytechnique in 1895.

Bell, Alexander Graham (b. 1847): With the exception of Thomas Edison, Bell is perhaps the most famous inventor on Gothic Earth. Born to a family with a tradition of learning and teaching, Bell was raised on a diet of knowledge. His studies of speech, deafness, anatomy, physiology, and music forged one of the most imaginative and deductive minds in human history.

Born in Scotland, Bell eventually moved to North America and became a professor of vocal physiology at Boston University. As his interest in electricity grew, he attempted to craft a harmonic telegraph. These efforts led to his patenting of the telephone in 1876. One year later, he married Mabel Hubbard, who, like his mother, was deaf.

Bell also invented a number of other communication devices, including one that transmits speech on waves

WHO'S WHO ON GOTHIC EARTH

of light. In 1880, he helped found *Science* magazine and, in 1898, was made president of the National Geographic Society. Since 1895, Bell has turned his attentions more and more to the field of aviation.

Besant, Annie Wood (b. 1847): Besant has risen to become an important member of the Theosophist movement, having studied under its leader, Madam Elena Blavatski since 1898. She is also an important political voice in India, where she has resided since 1898, and founded the Central Hindu College at Banaras.

Bierce, Ambrose (b. 1842): Noted for his cynical wit and haunting tales of horror, death, and warfare, Bierce is often known by the nickname Bitter Bierce. A veteran of the Civil War, Bierce fought for the Union both at Shiloh and Chickamauga and was wounded during the battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Several of his stories, including the popular *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* and *Chickamauga* were based on his life in the army.

After the war, he headed west and became a regular contributor to the *San Francisco News Letter*, and later became its editor. In 1871, he married Mary Ellen Day and subsequently traveled to England where he published *The Fiend's Delight*, *Dust Panned Out in California*, and *Cobwebs from an Empty Skull*. Upon his return to the United States, he worked for several San Francisco newspapers and published *In the Midst of Life*, one of his best-known works. In 1896, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he continues to pursue his career as a journalist and pen tales of the supernatural and macabre.

Forbidden Lore: Ambrose Bierce

Bierce's tales of the macabre and supernatural are often based on personal experiences. As a member of the Order of the Crimson Dawn, he has studied magic and has seen many things that no mortal man was ever meant to witness. For his own part, Bierce has become a somewhat talented adept. Of course, his knowledge of magic has not come without a price.

Blackwell, Antionette Brown (b. 1825): An outspoken advocate of women's suffrage and civil rights, Blackwell has fought against bigotry and injustice all her life. She studied religion at Oberlin College, but was not permitted to graduate because her school opposed the ordination of women as ministers. In 1853, she was ordained by the Congregational Church in Wayne County, New York, becoming the first ordained woman minister in the United States.

Blackwell, Elizabeth (b. 1821): Born in England, Blackwell came to the United States in 1832. In 1849, she graduated from the Geneva College of Medicine in New York, becoming the first woman physician in the United States. In 1857, she and her sister, Emily, opened the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. She is among the 19th century's greatest advocates for women's rights.

Blackwood, Algernon (b. 1869): As a writer, Blackwood is best known for his accounts of the occult and the supernatural. Among his best known works are his chronicles recounting the adventures of John Silence, a paranormal investigator.

Bly, Nellie (b. 1867): Although her true name was Elizabeth Cochran, the pen name of Nellie Bly is well known throughout the United States. Cochran took her pseudonym from a song by Stephen Foster after she began work for the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* in 1880. In her writing, she explored such topics as divorce and life in the slums.

Her fame exploded in 1887 when she faked insanity to gain admittance to an asylum and expose the dreadful conditions within. Her account of this ordeal was published under the title *Ten Days in a Mad House* by the *New York World*. Following that, she attempted to duplicate the feat of Jules Verne's fictional Phileas Fogg, an adventure that she detailed in *Nellie Bly's Book: Around the World in 72 Days* (1890). She recently married wealthy businessman Robert Seaman, but still pursues a life of wild adventure.

Boas, Franz (b. 1858): In 1881, Boas received a doctorate in physics from the University of Kiel, where his studies also included geography and mathematics. In 1883, he joined a scientific expedition to Baffin Island where he became interested in the culture of the Eskimo people. In 1886, he began fieldwork among the Kwakiutl and other tribes of the Pacific Northwest. In 1896, Boas became the Curator of Ethnology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, a position that he retains to this day. In addition, he recently (1899) became Columbia University's first Professor of Anthropology, a position that he vows to hold until the day he dies.

Borden, Lizzie (b. 1860): Perhaps the most infamous "folk villain" in the world, Lizzie Borden was a Sunday School teacher living with her father and stepmother in 1892. When they were both murdered by blows from an ax on August 4th of that year, Borden was arrested and charged with the ghastly crime. In 1893, she was tried and acquitted, although a doubting public continues to believe in her guilt.

Bryan, William Jennings (b. 1860): A native of Salem, Illinois, Bryan studied law and began a legal practice in that state before moving to Nebraska in 1887. In 1890, he was elected to Congress, and in

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1892 he was reelected. A major participant in the battle over "free silver," he failed to win a third term and lost his congressional seat in 1894.

As the U.S. economic trouble grew near the middle of the decade, Bryan reached a wide audience both as a public speaker and editor of the *Omaha World Herald*. In 1896, the democratic party was split over the issue of free silver, with Bryan on one side and Grover Cleveland on the other. Although nominated for the presidential race, he ultimately lost to Cleveland. Still, defeat has not lessened Bryan's interest in government, and he remains one of the most respected politicians in the United States.



Canary, Martha Jane (b. 1852): Better known as Calamity Jane, Canary was born in Princeton, Missouri, and orphaned by 1867. In an age in which femininity was considered the highest virtue, Calamity Jane built her reputation as a crack shot who wore men's clothes and frequented taverns. Stories of her adventures were a staple of the wild west.

In the 1870's, Jane became the companion of Wild Bill Hickok and, in 1891, was briefly married to a cabbie named Clinton Burke. In recent years, she has toured with a number of wild west shows. Although her hard life has certainly taken its toll on the fiery woman, there are few who can match her marksmanship, even as she enters her autumn years.

Carnacki (b. 1872): Known only by his last name, this gentleman has brought a vast array of scientific weapons to bear in his war against the horrors of the supernatural. By combining the powers of modern physics and engineering with a broad knowledge of the occult, Carnacki has had many successful adventures. Whether his efforts will bring him fame and fortune or only an untimely death remains to be seen.

Carnegie, Andrew (b. 1845): Possibly the most famous industrialist in the history of the United States, Carnegie was born to a poor family and had little education. He came to the U.S. from his home in Scotland, settling in Allegheny, Penn. in 1848. After a series of jobs, he began work with the Pennsylvania Railroad and introduced the Pullman sleeping car. In 1859, he became head of the railroad's western division. In 1865, he resigned to form the Keystone Bridge Company, built a steel-rail mill, and bought out the Homestead Steel Works. By 1888, he owned a vast iron and steel complex. He has spent this decade consolidating his holdings and, with the 20th century

looming, promises to be one of the most powerful men in the world for a long time to come.

Cézanne, Paul (b. 1839): Although something of a recluse, Cézanne has demonstrated both a skill and a talent that surpass many modern impressionists. He strives, in his own words, to create "something more solid and durable" than his contemporaries.

In 1861, he left his home in Aix-en-Provence and moved to Paris, where he became a close friend of the well-known novelist Emile Zola and the impressionist painter Camille Pissaro. Although he displayed his work with the latter in 1874, Cézanne remained outside the mainstream of the impressionist movement.

From 1865 to 1870, his work dealt with unusual subjects, often of a violent and fantastic character. Since that time, however, he has rejected the somber colors and heavy paints that marked these works. His close association with Pissaro has greatly influenced his work, although he clearly retains his own sense of shape, style, and lighting, perhaps best exemplified in his 1873 work, *House of the Hanged Man*.

The dawn of the 1890's brought about another change in Cézanne's technique, first evident in his series of *Card Players* (1890-92). While he has begun to show an interest in more static subjects of late, the direction his work will take next remains to be seen.

Forbidden Lore: Paul Cézanne

In recent years, Cézanne's work has become more and more frenzied. The scenes he depicts grow increasingly violent or macabre. Some critics have said that the artist is simply slipping over the edge and into madness. In truth, Cézanne's work depicts the internal struggles of his mind as it seeks to ward off a sinister, intruding spirit. Exactly where and how Cézanne became infected with this "spiritual parasite" are unknown. It seems certain, however, that he will not escape its domination without outside help.

Challenger, Professor (b. 1857): Noted for his blustering manner and powerful physique, Challenger is an imposing figure, especially among the stoic halls of academia.

As a youth, Challenger proved gifted, with a keen mind and a natural athleticism that served him well. He graduated with high honors from the Royal College of Physicians, then went on to study biology and natural history on his own. His physique made him a stellar athlete and gave him the physical stamina required for research in the wilderness.

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Challenger has always been fascinated by ancient legends and mysteries. In 1895, he launched his first expedition, attempting to find a lost civilization in the jungles of Africa. While he claims to have accomplished that mission, he was unable to produce any physical evidence of his success. Where he will go next is anybody's guess, but some say that he is on the trail of the lost continent of Atlantis.

Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich (b. 1860): A talented playwright and novelist, Anton Chekhov is certainly one of modern literature's greats. His skill in establishing mood and tension through the use of mysterious hints and comedy have enabled him to draw epic tales from seemingly mundane themes.

The son of a struggling grocer, Chekhov graduated from Moscow University with a degree in medicine. He soon gave this up, however, to pursue his writing, which by 1888 had become widely recognized. In 1890, he undertook a journey to Sakhalin Island, a Russian penal colony, which he later wrote about in his book of the same name. Afterward, he settled down in the village of Melikhova and began to practice medicine again, while also working as a farmer and pursuing his writing. Diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis in 1897, Chekhov has moved to Yalta, where he may well spend the rest of his life.

Christie, Sir William Henry Mahoney (b. 1845): Astronomer Royal since 1881, Christie is responsible for many improvements to England's Greenwich Observatory, including the addition of a 28-inch refracting telescope and the institution of daily sunspot checks.

Churchill, Winston Leonard Spencer (b. 1874): Born at Blenheim Palace, Churchill is the son of Lord Randolph Churchill, who was himself the third son of the seventh Duke of Marlborough. The young man can thus trace his family to the first Duke of Marlborough. With this in mind, it is somewhat surprising that his mother, Jennie Jerome, is an American.

Although his childhood was for the most part unhappy, Churchill has always shown a fascination for history, poetry, and warfare. His excellent memory has often been noted by his peers. Churchill graduated from the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1894, and received a commission in the 4th Hussars. Following his graduation, he served in India, Cuba, and the Sudan.

Pursuing an interest in journalism, Churchill was sent to cover the war in South Africa for the *Morning Post* in 1899. There, he was captured by the Boers, only to stage a daring escape that made him an instant celebrity. If recent history is any indication, young Churchill is well on his way to becoming one of the most daring and respected journalists England has ever known.

Forbidden Lore: Winston Churchill

When he first came to South Africa, this clever young journalist longed to see for himself the mysteries of this great unexplored continent. No one can deny that he got what he wanted. Less than a month after his arrival in Capetown, Churchill happened upon a young woman who was being attacked by a pair of masked hoodlums. He interceded, driving off the thugs and saving her life. In short order, Churchill found himself helping the woman defeat a terrible creature that sustained itself on the brains of living men and wielded great psychic powers. When all was said and done, Churchill had learned of The Lost Empire and became an agent of that most ancient qabal.

Cleveland, Grover (b. 1837): A native of New Jersey, Grover Cleveland served as the 22nd and 24th President of the United States, making him the only chief executive in the history of the nation to serve nonconsecutive terms.

After the death of his father in 1853, Cleveland found work in such places as the New York Institution for the Blind before moving in with a wealthy uncle in Buffalo.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1859. Opting for a career in politics, Cleveland became the assistant district attorney of Erie County in 1863, although he was promptly drafted for military service in the Civil War. Cleveland avoided the service, paying another to take his place so that he could continue to support his mother and sisters. Following the war, Cleveland returned to law.

In 1881, he was elected mayor of Buffalo, where he dealt quickly with corruption and overspending. Indeed, his fiscal policies led him to be known as the "veto mayor." In 1882, his career continued with a victory in the race for governor of New York. His reputation as an independent man of principles angered the machine politicians who controlled the government at the time. Following a bitter campaign against Republican Senator James G. Blaine in 1884, Cleveland was narrowly elected to his first term as president.

As the first Democratic president in 24 years, Cleveland was forced to compromise some of his own political beliefs to keep control of the party, especially in his political appointments. Cleveland failed in an attempt to reduce tariff levels in 1887, and ended up with an almost protectionist campaign during his bid for reelection. This cost him dearly, and he lost the election to Republican Benjamin Harrison.

Following his defeat, Grover Cleveland returned to a

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private law practice in New York City. Meanwhile, Harrison's administration pursued an activist agenda that included the passage of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, the McKinley Tariff, and record-high budgets. Voters who had become accustomed to Cleveland's style found these reforms excessive and, in 1892, he reclaimed the presidency while leading the Democrats to control both the House and Senate.

Cleveland's second term began with a national crisis as federal gold reserves plummeted and depression swept the country. Responding quickly, he managed the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, but alienated the Free Silver wing. He also resisted expansionist pressures, refusing to support revolutionaries in Cuba and Hawaii. Perhaps his only departure from such conservative foreign policy occurred in 1895, when he issued a belligerent warning to England demanding that it avoid intervening in Venezuela's boundary disputes. His administration suffered further from the Pullman Strike (see *Events of the 1890s*) and ongoing economic troubles. When the election of 1896 came, the Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan for president.

Since leaving office, Cleveland has moved to Princeton, New Jersey and resumed his legal practice. He appears to have embraced his role as an elder statesman, and has accepted a position on the board of trustees at Princeton University.

Crowley, Aleister Edward (b. 1875): Crowley is among the world's best-known experts on the occult and the supernatural. His embrace of evil and the dark aspects of spellcasting has made him one of Gothic Earth's most controversial authors. Most consider him eccentric, a few think he is insane, and a handful see him as a creature of darkness. Crowley's best known work to date is *Songs of the Spirit* (1898).

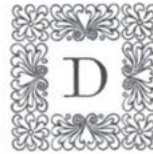
Forbidden Lore: Aleister Crowley

Many have accused Crowley of being an evil man, declaring that his study of black magic has taken its toll on his spirit. In fact, this is utterly untrue. While he is undeniably evil, Crowley isn't a human being. While it is impossible to say for certain what type of creature passes for Aleister Crowley, it is important to note that the fiend wields the powers of both an adept and a mystic with great skill. No one who has investigated the true nature of this malevolent being has survived long enough to pass his discoveries to another.

Curie, Marie (b. 1867): A renowned physicist, Marie Curie is best known for her work with radioactivity and the discovery of radium and polonium in 1898. Born Maria Sklodowska in

Warsaw, Poland, she spent many years as a teacher and governess before moving to Paris to study mathematics and physics at the Sorbonne. After receiving her degrees in 1894 and 1895, she met and married the physicist Pierre Curie. The couple has one daughter, Irene, who was born in 1897.

Curie, Pierre (b. 1859): One of the best known physicists in France, Curie obtained his doctorate in 1896, the same year that he married Marie Sklodowska. Before that time, however, he had distinguished himself for research into the properties of crystals and the discovery of piezoelectricity. He has one daughter, Irene.



Davis, Richard Harding (b. 1864): Davis is one of the most prolific and best-known authors and journalists on Gothic Earth. In his journalistic endeavors, Davis strives for dramatic prose and colorful imagery. His first job as a reporter was with the *Philadelphia Recorder*, although he later worked for a number of other Philadelphia and New York newspapers. In 1890, he became the managing editor of *Harper's Weekly*, a job which he enjoyed because it allowed him to travel around the world in search of good stories and to continue his interests in fiction writing. His first book, an anthology entitled *Gallegher and Other Stories* was published in 1891. This was quickly followed by a series of stories about a newsboy-detective compiled in *Van Bibber and Others* (1892). Davis has earned himself a loyal following, and the world looks forward to his next effort with great anticipation.

Dewar, Sir James (b. 1842): A native of Scotland, Dewar graduated from the University of Edinburgh and currently serves as a professor both at Cambridge and the Royal Institute of London, posts he has held since the mid-1870's. In 1891, he discovered a method for producing liquid oxygen in large quantities and, the following year, created the double-walled vacuum bottle or Dewar flask. In 1898, he became the first man to liquefy hydrogen.

Dix, Dorothy (b. 1870): Dorothy Dix is the pen name of Elizabeth Meriwether, a native of Woodstock, Tennessee. Although she has not yet attained the fame of Nellie Bly, she shows great promise as a journalist, and one can only assume that she has a bright future ahead of her. In 1896, she began her writing career with a column of advice to the loverlorn entitled "Dorothy Dix Talks" in the *New Orleans Picayune*. She has expressed an interest in crime

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reporting, but has yet to undertake such endeavors.

Doyle, Arthur Conan (b. 1859): Doyle is best known for his work in bringing to light the cases of England's most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. A talented author and a skilled physician, he is a close friend of both Holmes and the detective's companion, Dr. John Watson. Indeed, it is with the latter that he collaborates on the publication of Holmes's adventures. He is also a great friend of the famous Professor Challenger. On more than one occasion, he has stated his intention to pen an account of one of the professor's expeditions.

Doyle's first account of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, *A Study in Scarlet*, appeared in the 1887 issue of *Beeton's Christmas Annual*. At that time, Doyle was still devoting the majority of his time to the practice of medicine. After 1890, he began writing full time.

Doyle also enjoys writing historical novels. Indeed, he considers these works to be far more important than the stories of Holmes's adventures. To date, his best known efforts in this field are *Micah Clarke* (1889) and *The White Company* (1890).

Dvorak, Antonin (b. 1841): Dvorak is quite possibly the most admired composer on Gothic Earth. Many say that he is the finest composer of symphonic and chamber music in the 19th century.

Dvorak's talent was apparent from an early age. He traveled to Prague at the age of 16 in order to study the organ and composition. Already an accomplished violinist, he supported himself by teaching music. His fame grew following his composition of *Hymnus* in 1873, which enjoyed great popularity. With praise from his peers, including Johannes Brahms and Franz Liszt, it was not long before Dvorak was a household name. For a time, Dvorak remained in Germany, becoming a good friend of Brahms. In 1884, however, he began composing and conducting music in England. In 1892, he moved to the United States and became director of the New York National Conservatory.



Eastman, George (b. 1854): Perhaps the greatest promoter of photography, Eastman was born in Waterville, New York. His interest in photography led to the creation of photographic plates and, in 1884, flexible film. In 1888, he began to manufacture box cameras as a mass production items intended for amateur photographers. He continues to develop

new equipment and to pioneer new techniques in the field of photography. In addition, Eastman is noted for his charitable contributions, particularly to educational institutions, and such revolutionary corporate innovations as an employee profit-sharing program.

Edison, Thomas Alva (b. 1847): There can be little debate that Thomas Edison is the most prolific inventor of the 19th century. Although he received only three months of formal education, he was tutored by his mother and became an avid reader. At the age of 12, he took a job selling newspapers and candy on the Grand Trunk Railroad to provide funds for books and laboratory supplies. During this time he first learned telegraphy and, at the age of 15, he became manager of a telegraph office. His first inventions, the automatic telegraph receiver and transmitter, were a direct result of this employment.

At the age of 21, Edison created the stock ticker. With the \$40,000 that this earned him, Edison established a shop in Newark, New Jersey where he continued his work. Shortly afterward, he relocated to Menlo Park, N.J. and gave up the manufacturing side of his business to pursue research full time. In 1878, he began work on the electric light bulb, which culminated a year later in the creation of a 220-volt lamp employing carbonized cotton filaments that glowed for 40 hours.

In 1882, he installed the first large-scale central power station on New York City's Pearl Street. These steam-driven generators created 900 horsepower and provided sufficient electrical current to light 7,200 lamps. In 1892, his Edison Electric Light Company (founded in 1878) merged with several other firms to form the General Electric Company, one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the United States.

Despite his fame for his discoveries in the field of electricity, the phonograph (patented in 1877) is the discovery of which he is most proud. There is no doubt that the close of the 19th century will see Edison in possession of several hundred patents for a wide range of devices.

Forbidden Lore: Thomas Edison

In addition to being one of the most gifted inventors of the 19th century, Thomas Edison is also a highly placed member of the Brotherhood of Alchamæ. He has spent a great deal of time constructing equipment for the use of the agents of that qabal. If any man on Gothic Earth understands the tenuous links between technology and magic, it is Thomas Alva Edison.

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Freud, Sigmund (b. 1856): Recent techniques in the study of mental illness and the workings of the human mind promise great advances. There is perhaps no name more demanding of recognition in these blossoming fields than that of Sigmund Freud. Born in Freiberg, Moravia, Freud moved to Vienna at a young age and he resides there to this day.

Freud's parents encouraged their obviously gifted son and taught him the values of analytical thought and skepticism. By the age of 8, Freud was well versed in the works of Shakespeare and the classics which formed the foundation of European literature. Opting to pursue a career in medicine, Freud was guided by such noted figures as Ernst von Brucke and Theodor Meynert. Among his earliest works were investigations of infantile cerebral paralysis and aphasia.

In 1886, Freud married Martha Bernays and, in order to support his wife, turned away from research in order to pursue a more traditional medical practice. His interest in neurology was sparked by

Josef Breuer's use of hypnosis and a friendship with Jean Martin Charcot. In 1895, he and Breuer published *Studies in Hysteria*, a book that is generally regarded as the foundation of a new field known as psychoanalysis. Freud's belief that sexuality played a great role in many psychological disorders distanced him from Breuer eventually, but the former was by then so well established as to be able to continue on his own.

In 1896, Freud's father died. This, in conjunction with Breuer's disassociation, proved a traumatic experience for the young man. Enlisting the aid of his close friend Wilhelm Fliess, Freud began to pursue an extensive program of self analysis at this time. Eventually, Freud regained his confidence and became even more adamant than before about the path his researches must take.

At the time of this writing, the brilliant Dr. Freud is beginning research into the field of dreams and their meanings. He promises a major publication on the subject in the near future, one that many believe will be as important a work as his *Studies in Hysteria*.

Frick, Henry Clay (b. 1849): Born in West Overton, Pennsylvania, Frick became a millionaire as the head of a company that supplied coke to the mills of the rapidly expanding steel empire of



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Andrew Carnegie. His relationship with Carnegie led the magnate to make Frick the chairman of his steel company in 1889. In 1892, while attempting to break a strike that had halted production in the mills, Frick was stabbed and shot by Alexander Berkman, an anarchist bent on destroying Carnegie. Frick recovered, and continues in the employ of Mr. Carnegie to this day. As a philanthropist, Frick is second only to Carnegie in his gifts to the charities, schools, and institutions of the Pittsburgh area.



Gauguin, Paul (b. 1848): Since the beginning of his career in the 1870's, Gauguin has proven himself to be one of the most remarkable postimpressionist painters in the world. His work is marked by colors and compositions that will no doubt influence painters for decades to come.

Born in France, Gauguin spent four years of his childhood in Peru. This experience had a profound effect upon him, influencing him throughout his life. In 1865, he joined the merchant navy and made several long sea voyages, all of which further broadened his character. Although interested in painting since childhood, Gauguin did not express a serious interest in the medium prior to his meeting of Camille Pissarro in 1875. This, combined with the financial crash of 1882, which left him unemployed, prodded the artist to look at his work as something more than a hobby.

Prior to the middle of the 1880's, Gauguin's work brought him neither financial nor critical success. Abandoning his wife and family, the artist returned to France (he had moved to Copenhagen in 1884), accompanied only by his son Clovis. This marked an important period in his career, for he began to work with ceramics and sculpture as well as paint. In 1888, he painted *Vision After The Sermon*, a work that defined him as an artist of great perception.

After spending a few months in the company of Vincent Van Gogh in 1888, Gauguin continued to develop his style, which he called synthetism because it combined elements of mystery and suggestiveness not unlike those found in symbolic literature.

In 1891, Gauguin left France for Tahiti, where he began to paint the great beauty of that tropical land. His works there reflected the cycle of birth, life, and death. Although he returned to France from 1893 to 1895, he found himself drawn back to Tahiti, where

he resides to this day. After completing what he considered his last testament, *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*, the artist attempted to take his own life in 1898.

Gilbert, William Schwenk (b. 1836): Best known for his partnership with Arthur Sullivan, William Gilbert ranks among Gothic Earth's most talented writers and composers. His operettas are noted for their satirical wit, clever plots, comical characters, and entertaining music. The first Gilbert and Sullivan musical, *Thespis* (1871), was not very successful; neither was their 1875 production of *Trial by Jury*, although this unusual operetta did attract the attention of certain critics. Finally, in 1877, they released *The Sorcerer*, their first publicly acclaimed work.

With the release of *HMS Pinafore* in 1878 and *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1879, the pair became famous throughout Europe and the United States. During the 1880's, Gilbert and Sullivan produced numerous plays and delighted audiences throughout the western world. By 1890, the pair had produced *Patience* (1881), *Iolanthe* (1882), *Princess Ida* (1884), *Mikado* (1885), *Ruddigore* (1887), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (1888), and *The Gondoliers* (1889).

Following a quarrel between the famous pair in 1890, they ceased working together until 1893. After their reunion, however, their works lacked the charm and originality they once had. Because of this, their *Utopia Limited* (1893) and *The Grand Duke* (1896) were not well received.

Gorky, Maksim (b. 1868): One of Russia's up-and-coming writers and political activists, Maksim Gorky is the pseudonym of Aleksei Maksimovich. Gorky was born to an impoverished middle-class family in Nizhni-Novgorod. His father died when he was five and he was then sent to live with his maternal grandmother. Shortly after, at the age of eight, Gorky was sent to work. This began a difficult period in his life which ended with him becoming a vagabond and undertaking a life that included many odd jobs and numerous adventures. During this time, he met the rebellious, freedom-loving tramps who would inspire his later works. Indeed, the stories he wrote about these times, including *Makar Chudra* in 1892 and *Chelkash* in 1895, ended his time as a transient.

As the 19th century draws to a close, Gorky has begun to reject the antisocial nihilism of the hobo, although he remains strongly drawn to the independence that they represent. It is unclear what the future holds for Gorky, but it seems certain that he will be a literary force to be reckoned with well into the 20th century.

Grace, William Russell (b. 1832): A native of Ireland, Grace ran away from home at a young age and took to the sea. Eventually, he made his way to

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Peru and opened a shipping company with his brother.

In 1865, this growing firm became W. R. Grace & Company. While his company prospered, Grace was elected mayor of New York City in 1880 and again in 1884, becoming the first Roman Catholic to hold the office. By the middle of the 1890's, W. R. Grace & Company had come to dominate shipping between the United States and Latin America. Efforts on behalf of the government of Peru allowed the company to acquire huge mineral, land, and rail concessions there, further adding to Grace's wealth.



Hale, George Ellery (b. 1868): A skilled astronomer, Hale is noted for his observations of the sun, including the discovery of the magnetic fields of sunspots, and his invention of the spectroheliograph. He convinced millionaire Charles T. Yerkes to finance an observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, which opened in 1897.

Forbidden Lore: George Hale

Many might think that Hale's motivation for having the Yerkes Observatory built is a noble attempt to drive forward the science of astronomy. In actuality, Hale has arranged for a secret laboratory to be built beneath the majestic observatory. Exactly why he did this or what macabre research might be undertaken there is anybody's guess.

Hardy, Thomas (b. 1840): A native of Upper Bockhampton, Dorset, Hardy is one of the most widely read novelists in the western world. His father was a skilled craftsman and a master mason, and his mother was an intellectual woman with a great love for literature that she passed on to her son. Although he had no formal education after the age of 16, Hardy's love of the Latin classics and the English Bible both eventually played an important role in his writing.

In 1862, Hardy traveled to London and became familiar with the concepts put forward by Charles Darwin in his recently published *Origin of the Species*. This brought about a crisis of faith for the young man, which eventually led to his loss of orthodox religious beliefs. He also discovered the

poetry of Robert Browning and Algernon Charles Swinburne at this time, trying his own hand unsuccessfully at that style of writing for a time. Upon his return to Bockhampton in 1867, he began to write fiction.

Critics generally agree that his works are uneven in quality. His first published work was *Desperate Remedies* (1871), which most describe as melodramatic. His subsequent social comedies, like *The Hand of Ethelberta* (1876), or attempts at class consciousness, such as *Laodicean* (1881), were generally seen as inconsequential and trite. When he writes of the rural settings in which he was raised and employs a more classical form, as in *Far from the Maddening Crowd* (1874), his writing is passionate and tragic.

Hardy's best work centers on the mythical countryside of Wessex and the timeless Egdon Heath, which plays a role in all his major writings. Perhaps the best example of this is *The Return of the Native*, published in 1879, which tells the tragic story of Eustacia Vye. His later works build upon the techniques he established in these works, resulting in such classics as *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891), and *Jude the Obscure* (1895). The examinations of sexuality and marriage that he presented in the latter two works caused a great outcry throughout Europe and the United States. Indeed, as the century closes, this response has made Hardy forewear the novel and return to the writing of poetry. Whether he will be successful in this new venture, only time will tell.

Harker, Jonathan (b. 1870): Harker was born and educated in London. Although not an outstanding student, he proved hardworking and determined; he received his degree and was promptly accepted as an apprentice for Edgeway & Waterson (the well-known shipping firm) as a solicitor's clerk. Shortly thereafter, he was offered a position in the offices of Peter Hawkins in Exeter. Hawkins saw the drive in Harker's personality and encouraged him to take his Solicitor's examination as soon as possible. In 1889, he did so; upon learning of his success, Harker was promoted to a junior partner in the firm.

Soon afterward, Harker undertook a routine business trip to Transylvania. While on the continent, he was stricken with a violent brain fever and spent many months in a sanatorium before recovering and returning to England.

Upon his homecoming, Harker learned of the death of Peter Hawkins. He discovered that the whole of their business was now his and that Mr. Hawkins had left him a considerable sum of money. Harker continued to pursue his business and legal interests, and has amassed considerable

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wealth and quite a reputation for himself.

His wife, Mina, is active in the campaign for Women's Suffrage in Great Britain. She often helps with her husband's business, having a keen mind for figures as well as being an excellent typist. The couple has one son, Quincy, who was born in 1890.

Forbidden Lore: Jonathan Harker

Harker's adventures in Transylvania are a matter of public record, thanks to the pen of Bram Stoker. Of course, most people believe that this account is fictional, but many adventurers know better. Even those individuals are generally not aware, however, that Harker and his bride were recruited by Abraham Van Helsing after their dreadful ordeal. Like Van Helsing, they are now important members of Die Wächtern, always keeping their eyes and ears open for any clue that might lead them into battle against the foul minions of the Red Death.

Hearst, William Randolph (b. 1863): As the publisher of several newspapers across the United States, Hearst is undoubtedly one of the most powerful men in America. His father, a mining magnate and U.S. senator, purchased the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1880. After William Hearst was expelled from Harvard, he became the editor of his father's paper. By hiring a skilled staff and employing the sensationalist techniques that were to become known as "yellow journalism," he soon challenged the long established *San Francisco Chronicle* for readership. By 1893, the *Examiner* surpassed the *Chronicle's* readership to become the most widely read newspaper in San Francisco.

In 1895, Hearst moved to New York City and purchased the *Morning Journal*. A bitter competition between the *Journal* and Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* quickly followed. It was during this feud that Hearst's style of opinionated, melodramatic reporting came to be called "yellow journalism." In order to keep up with Hearst, Pulitzer began to emulate his rival. The pinnacle of the battle between Hearst and Pulitzer came in their coverage of the Spanish-American War. (It was even said that Hearst was responsible for starting the war in order to manufacture headlines.) During coverage of the war, Hearst continued with his trademark style of reporting, while Pulitzer began to back away from it and return to a more even-handed journalistic approach.

Hearst continues to build a chain of newspapers with the express goal of creating a journalistic empire. He is an advocate of progressive political

changes such as the popular election of senators, a graduated income tax, and the power of unions. Hearst's friends and enemies alike recognize that he is rapidly becoming a political juggernaut whose power will undoubtedly continue well into the 20th century and, perhaps, for generations to come.

Forbidden Lore: William Hearst

Although his newspaper empire is built upon sensationalist journalism, Hearst himself is not a believer in the occult. Indeed, he has put forth a \$100,000 reward for anyone who can furnish him with proof of a supernatural phenomenon. His standards are quite stringent, and to date, no one has managed to collect the reward.

Holmes, Mycroft (b. 1865): Older brother of London's famous consulting detective, Mycroft Holmes is a fixture at the prestigious Diogenese Club. Like his more famous brother, Mycroft is possessed of a flawless memory and an almost inhuman analytical ability. On more than one occasion, the younger Holmes has remarked that Mycroft is his intellectual superior. Even if that is true, however, Mycroft Holmes is not possessed of the drive that his brother exhibits. As such, he has no desire to seek out the mysteries that allow his brother to earn his living.

Holmes's intelligence has won him a position of some importance in the government, although the details of this employ are a matter of great secrecy.

Holmes, Sherlock (b. 1867): Amid the ranks of Gothic Earth's criminals, there is no name more feared or respected than that of Mr. Sherlock Holmes. It is said that there is no greater detective in the world.

Holmes has studied at a number of prestigious schools, but has never completed any formal education program or received a degree of any sort. He is a masterful chemist, a talented criminologist, and possesses a good grasp of the physical and social sciences. These skills, combined with his brilliant analytical mind and almost perfect memory, enable him to solve virtually any mystery put before him.

Despite his abrupt and often caustic manner, Holmes has forged strong friendships with Dr. John Watson and the noted writer Arthur Conan Doyle. During his investigations, he frequently relies upon the former for medical advice. Doyle and Watson have collaborated in the chronicling of Holmes's adventures, beginning in 1887 with *A Study in Scarlet*. Other notable exploits in the life of the detective can be found in *The Adventures of*

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Sherlock Holmes (1891) and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (1893).

The last of these volumes carries an account of Holmes's death near the falls of Reichenbach (1892) at the hands of his archnemesis, Professor Moriarty. Some consolation can be taken from the fact that Holmes appears to have brought an end to the life of that great villain at the same time.

Several years later, however, in 1897, it was revealed that Holmes did not actually die at Reichenbach. Rather, he allowed the world to believe he was dead so that he might more easily continue his investigations into what remained of Moriarty's criminal network. Only when his work was complete did he reveal to the world that he was alive.

Houdini, Harry (b. 1874): Originally named Ehrich Weiss, Houdini adopted his current stage name in honor of the french stage magician Robert-Houdin. Although he claims to have been born in Appleton, Wisconsin, much evidence exists to support the belief that he hails from Budapest.

Houdini began his career as a professional magician in 1891 and is currently building a great reputation for himself. His greatest talent appears to be as an escape artist, and it is for this that he will most probably be remembered.

Forbidden Lore: Harry Houdini

Although his stage name is not yet the household word that he hopes it will become, Harry Houdini is already one of the world's most talented escape artists and stage magicians. With the wealth of information that he has acquired about the occult and the supernatural, it is difficult to believe that some people refuse to accept that Houdini is a master of the mystical arts. While he still has much to learn, it seems certain that Houdini will eventually become one of Gothic Earth's most powerful mystics. One can only hope that he will manage to avoid the crushing grasp of the Red Death as his powers grow.

Humperdinck, Engelbert (b. 1854): This noted German composer has won many awards and has received much critical acclaim. He is best known for his recent opera, *Hänsel and Gretel* (1893). As a young man, he studied under such noted musicians as Ferdinand Hiller, Joseph Rheinberger, and Franz Lachner before traveling throughout Europe from 1879 to 1881. He has worked with Richard Wagner and, in addition to his skill at composition, has shown himself to be a talented journalist through his musical reviews in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Humperdinck's

work is often based on fairy tales and shows the great influence that Wagner has had in his art.



Irving, Sir Henry (b. 1838): Born John Henry Brodribb, Henry Irving has been one of the best-loved actors and directors on Gothic Earth almost since the day he first appeared on stage in 1856. Originally from Somerset, he was educated for a career in business and spent some time as a London clerk before beginning to tour with a small theater group. In 1871, he played the role of Mathian in Lewis's *The Bells* at London's Lyceum Theatre, earning critical acclaim and renown. In 1878, he took over the management of the Lyceum and ushered in a new age for London theater. Among his most respected performances were *Hamlet* (1874), *Shylock* (1878), *Twelfth Night* (1884), Tennyson's *The Cup* (1881) and *Becket* (1893), and *Cymbeline* (1896). He was knighted in 1895, becoming the first actor so honored.

In addition to his acting and directing success, Irving contributed many innovations to theatrical art, including the increased use of stage lighting and the darkening of the theater during performances.

Oddly, Irving's performance in the lead role of *Macbeth* in 1889 was not well received, and he seems to be having difficulty recovering from that outing. Perhaps his career will soon draw to a close. Even if that is the case, he can certainly look back on a productive and brilliant career.



James, Henry (b. 1843): Henry James grew up in a wealthy family with four siblings and a generally nurturing environment. His parents traveled throughout Europe and North America, seldom settling in one place for very long. In this way, young Henry was exposed to many cultures and had a chance to study numerous languages. When the American Civil War erupted, James was excused from service due to a back injury. As he watched his country battle itself, he became a detached observer of the world's political and social environment. At the age of 21, he published his first two works, both anonymously. These were followed by numerous reviews and short pieces of

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fiction, all of which were eagerly accepted by the magazines of the day. Eventually, he published his first two books in 1875 and 1876.

With the success of those works, James traveled to Paris where he would live for many years. During this time, he published *The American* (1877) and became good friends with authors like Guy de Maupassant and Emile Zola. In 1876, he moved to London, which he called "the great grey Babylon" and met Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, and many other noted English authors. His early years in London saw the publication of *Daisy Miller* (1878) and the beginning of his masterpiece, *Portrait of a Lady* (1881). Since that time, James has published numerous short stories and a trio of novels. While these have been generally well received, his efforts to write popular drama have not gone as well.

Despite this, James's future as a writer seems bright. Even if he never becomes a successful playwright, his pen will no doubt continue to produce gripping short stories and thought-provoking novels, all of which are certain to make him one of the brightest stars in the literary heavens.

Jameson, Sir Leander Starr (b. 1853): Jameson immigrated to South Africa from his native England in 1878. He soon became a close friend of Cecil Rhodes and, in 1891, was appointed the Colonial Administrator of Mashonaland. In December of 1895, he led a raid in the Transvaal area of South Africa in an attempt to link up with the Uitlanders. Jameson's entire force was captured and Cecil Rhodes, then Prime Minister of the Cape Colony, was forced to resign because of his part in the action. There can be little doubt that this aborted raid was one of the major causes of the Boer War, which began in 1899 and shows no sign of coming to a quick end.

For his part, Jameson will meet the coming of the 20th century from his prison cell, but seems certain to have all the friends and contacts he needs to return to a position of power in South Africa as soon as he is released.

Forbidden Lore: Starr Jameson

Attempts by many groups to infiltrate the ranks of Jameson's administration in South Africa have all failed. At first, it seemed that Jameson was simply blessed with an outstanding security force. Recently, however, new information has come to light. It seems that Jameson has forged an unholy alliance with some terrible creature that feeds upon the brains of still-living men and women. In exchange for a steady source of food, the creature uses its great psychic powers to aid Jameson in his political endeavors.

Jekyll, Dr. Henry (b. 1857): Amid the medical circles of London, no man is more beloved than Henry Jekyll. In addition to his reputation as a physician and chemist, his hours of volunteer work with the poor and suffering have won him the respect of his peers and patients alike.

Recently, Dr. Jekyll has been devoting a great deal of time and attention to his experiments in chemistry. He has been very secretive about the nature of this work, however, and the medical community can only speculate about its nature.



Kipling, Rudyard (b. 1865): There can be little doubt that Kipling's most recognized works have been for children. His recent *The Jungle Book* (1894) and *The Second Jungle Book* (1895) have delighted readers around the world. To classify him strictly as an author of juvenile fiction, however, is to do this learned and talented man a great disservice.

Kipling was born in Bombay and was educated in England. Much of this unhappy period in his life was described in the short story *Baa, Baa, Blacksheep* (1888). Upon his return to India in 1882, he found work as a journalist, but made his way back to England in 1889. Here, he quickly fell in with the rest of literary society and published the semiautobiographical *The Light that Failed* in 1890.

Kipling's other writings continue to reflect both his own life and the culture of India. The middle of the 1890's found him visiting the United States, a voyage that spawned his 1897 work *Captains Courageous*. In addition to short stories and novels, he has proven himself to be a skilled journalist and poet, as demonstrated by *Barrack-Room Ballads* (1892) and *The Seven Seas* (1896).

Kitchener, Herbert Kitchener, 1st Earl (b. 1850): As the Commander-in-Chief of Britain's Egyptian army, Kitchener has proven himself to be both a skilled soldier and a clever diplomat. First commissioned by the Royal Engineers in 1871, he was attached to the Egyptian army in 1883 and became its Commander-in-Chief nine years later.

His efforts against the Mahdists in the Sudan, and especially his victory at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898, won him the respect of allies and enemies alike. His peaceful resolution of the Fashoda Incident that same year may well have averted an all-out war between England and France. With the outbreak of the South African (Boer) War, Kitchener was

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assigned as Chief of Staff to Frederick Sleigh Roberts. There is almost certainly no finer military man in the world today.

Kruger, Paul (b. 1825): Kruger has been President of South Africa's Boer Republic since 1883, but this is only the latest of many posts held by this tough, resourceful man. As a child in the Cape Colony, Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger and his family moved north with the Great Treks (1835, 1840) and helped to settle the Transvaal region. Kruger grew into a severe Calvinist.

He became Commandant-General of the Transvaal in 1863. In 1877, when Britain annexed the region, Kruger accepted a post in the new government, only to be released from service within a year. Following the region's brief battle for independence (1880-81), Kruger became president of the republic.

In recent years, the discovery of gold in the Transvaal area has led to a number of changes in the political structure of that state. Perhaps the most important of these is an influx of European immigrants seeking work in the mines. Dubbing them Uitlanders (foreigners), he has refused to grant them any political rights. It was this which resulted in Starr Jameson's unofficial raid in 1895. Although these intruders, who were members of the British military, were halted and captured, their actions

enraged Kruger. This, more than any other action, resulted in the 1899 invasion of Natal and the Cape Colony that signaled the start of the Boer War.



Leo XIII, Pope (b. 1810): Born Gioacchino Vincenzo Pecci, Leo XIII became the leader of the Catholic Church in 1878. He grew up in Carpineto, Italy without knowing what, but after his ordination (1837), this changed. As a member of the church's administrative service, he was appointed governor of Benevento (1838), governor of Perugia (1841), and nuncio to Brussels (1843). As a result of these duties and the numerous diplomatic missions that he undertook throughout Europe, he became aware of the lower class and the suffering that such people often endured. Since his election as pope in 1878, Leo XIII has proven himself to be possessed of both a keen mind and a compassionate heart.

Among the first actions undertaken by Leo XIII was the reversal of many of the conservative policies established by his predecessor, Pius IX. This resulted



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in the restoration of good relations between the vatican and Germany with the ending of the Kulturkampf stalema, and improved ties with Great Britain, Russia, and Japan. In 1898, he further expanded the influence of the church by establishing an apostolic delegation to Washington, D.C.

His attempts to ease tensions with France and Italy were not as successful. Italy refused to restore papal sovereignty over Rome, something the church desperately desired. He was also unable to persuade church leaders in France to support the Third Republic, a failure that has resulted in a great increase in anti-Catholic sentiments of both the French government and citizenry.

The most important aspects of Leo XIII's pontificate have involved his efforts regarding social issues. On May 15, 1891, he issued his encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed the condition of workers in an increasingly industrialized world. It established guidelines for church policy and emphasized the duties of both employers and workers. Among the most important elements of the encyclical were support for collective bargaining, fair wages, and the respect of private property.

Leo's belief in education for the masses led him to open the Vatican archives to all scholars. Further, he made great strides in reconciling the traditional elements of the church with the rapidly expanding elements of scientific progress. By embracing modern research and technological advancements, he has done much to bring the church out of the Middle Ages and into the 19th century.

Although his health is failing and his time on this world may be short, Leo XIII will certainly be remembered as a man of compassion and intelligence. His influence on the policies of the Catholic Church and its relationship with the rest of the world will be felt for decades to come.

Forbidden Lore: Pope Leo XIII

Throughout the ages, mankind's religions have served as forces for great good or, when corrupted, juggernauts of evil. While no evidence exists to support the belief that Leo XIII has ever had a direct encounter with the forces of darkness, it is worth noting that he is a very close friend of Abraham Van Helsing.

Lowell, Percival (b. 1855): One of the foremost astronomers on Gothic Earth, Lowell is best known for his study of the Martian canals and his belief that life exists on that distant world. In addition to his interest in astronomy, Lowell is a skilled businessman,

diplomat, author, and student of the Orient. In 1894, he founded Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.



Mach, Ernst (b. 1838): As both a philosopher and a scientist, Ernst Mach's work has played a major role in the reconfiguring of research techniques and the acceptance of past beliefs. Mach is best known for his assertion which he calls "a realistic positivistic philosophy that is based upon the actual physiology of sensations." He is an expert in many fields and has published masterful works involving studies of heat and mechanics as well as comparisons of physics and metaphysics. In 1887, he conducted a series of airflow experiments that resulted in his discovery of the speed of sound.

Mach is considered by his peers to be both brilliant and stubborn. He is adamant in his refusal to accept any statement without some manner of empirical verification. He has even gone so far as to challenge Newton's model of absolute space and time. Mach dismisses the idea of "ether," which some of his contemporaries see as an elemental aspect of physics. As both a thinker and skeptic, Ernst Mach is without equal.

Machen, Arthur (b. 1863): Machen, an author of Welsh descent, is an up-and-coming writer who has chosen to focus his attention on the occult and supernatural. His 1894 novel, *The Great God Pan*, caused quite a stir when it was published.

Marconi, Guglielmo (b. 1874): As a young man, Marconi became greatly interested in the rapidly evolving study of electricity. When he learned of Heinrich Hertz's experiments with electromagnetic waves, Marconi became convinced that it must be possible to use them for the transmission of information. He envisioned a type of telegraph that used no wires.

Marconi began his research in 1894 by repeating a number of Hertz's experiments. He made modifications and employed improved equipment that led to his discovery of wireless telegraphy. He offered his new invention to the Italian government, but they had no interest in it. In 1896, he patented the new device in London and found financial backing to continue his research. By 1897, Marconi had formed his Wireless Telegraph Company and continued to improve upon his invention. While many express doubt that this invention will ever have any practical application, others insist that future generations will depend upon wireless telegraphy.

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McKinley, William (b. 1843): First elected to congress in 1876, William McKinley has proven to be one of the most influential politicians in American history. His swift resolution of the Spanish-American War enabled him to elevate the sagging prestige of the presidency and showed the world that the United States intended to be a global power.

A native of Ohio, McKinley was the youngest of seven children. After briefly attending Allegheny College, he enlisted in the 23rd Ohio Volunteers and served in the Civil War. He saw combat at Antietam and in the Shenandoah Valley, and eventually left the service with the brevet rank of Major. In 1867, he was admitted to the bar and opened a law office in Canton, Ohio. Two years later, he became a prosecuting attorney.

McKinley married Ida Saxton in January of 1871. The couple had two children, both of whom died tragically at very young ages (in 1873 and 1875). The trauma of this loss was so great as to ruin Ida's health, making her an invalid. A devoted husband, McKinley cared for her faithfully until she recovered. The patience and compassion that this experience engendered in him has proven to be a great asset in his political career.

From his first election to Congress in 1876, McKinley has been a fixture in Washington. During his time as a member of the House of Representatives, McKinley fought for protective legislation and high tariffs. Such controls, McKinley argued, would protect U.S. jobs and help all sectors of the American economy. Throughout his career, McKinley has been able to maintain the backing of labor and gain the support of wage earners. His philosophy in matters of international trade are evident in the McKinley Tariff of 1890, which the Representative lobbied for while serving as chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Although he lost his seat in the House in the Democratic sweep of 1890, McKinley would not leave politics. During his absence from Washington, he served as governor of Ohio and used his political skills to campaign for other Republican candidates.

In 1896, McKinley easily won the nomination as the Republican candidate for the office of President. With Cleveland businessman Mark Hanna running his campaign, McKinley fought a masterful battle against the Democratic contender, William Jennings Bryan. Much of the election centered on McKinley's support for the gold standard and Bryan's free-silver platform. McKinley's history of economic protectionism and high tariffs, combined with his campaign focus on social harmony and economic reconstruction, were well received by a country that was only starting to recover from the economic chaos that marked the middle of the decade.

McKinley's close friendship with Hanna was and is a subject of much debate across the country. While the President scoffs at suggestions that he is nothing more than Hanna's puppet, speculation to the contrary is widespread among McKinley's political enemies.

Once he was inaugurated president, McKinley found himself facing more than just the domestic issues that had won him his office. From the day he was elected, McKinley was forced to confront the issue of Spanish military efforts in Cuba. The increasingly brutal oppression of Cuban nationals by Spain was seen as barbaric and cruel by most Americans. Political pressure calling for an independent Cuba failed, and the President referred the matter to Congress. Following the destruction of the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor, the United States declared itself to be at war with Spain on April 25, 1898.

The war, which is detailed elsewhere in this book, was brief and one-sided. When it was over, however, the United States had proven itself to be a world power. For McKinley, this meant the resolution of many decisions regarding the fate of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Islands, all of which had been ceded to the United States as a result of the war. At the same time, however, McKinley continued to face the issue of Hawaiian independence.

While no one can claim to know the future, it seems certain that McKinley's presidency will go down in history as a turning point for the United States. With the 20th century looming before him, America's 25th president must lead his nation, which is just over a century old, against European and Asian powers that have existed for over a thousand years.

Forbidden Lore: William McKinley

Long before he became President of the United States, McKinley was an influential member of Congress. During his early years in Washington, he became privy to some very unusual army reports. These documents, which detailed encounters with an unknown supernatural presence in the Arizona Territory, prompted him to lobby for a special government agency charged with the investigation of supernatural phenomena. It is unknown whether McKinley ever managed to organize this group, although he stopped campaigning for it very suddenly in 1881.

Mesmer, Professor Anna (b. 1865): There can be no doubt that Professor Mesmer is the world's greatest authority on the powers of the mind. While many have accused her of falsifying test results, no

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one has ever proven her to be dishonest.

Mesmer was born in Austria, where she has lived nearly her entire life. In 1887, she graduated from Vienna's prestigious Langmann University of Physiology and Psychology, taking top honors in her class. Shortly afterward, she moved to Switzerland, purchased a large estate some 20 miles south of Berne, and opened a private research center. In the years since, the Franz Mesmer Institute for the Study of Psychic Phenomenon has shocked the scientific world with claims of amazing discoveries and mysterious occurrences. Mesmer has been denounced as a fraud by the majority of the scientific community.

In 1890, Mesmer closed the Mesmer Institute and vanished from the public eye. Recently, reports have come from both South America and the Far East that she is on the verge of a great discovery and will soon present the world with overwhelming proof of her past claims.

Forbidden Lore: Anna Mesmer

Since vanishing from the public eye, Anna Mesmer has been studying the ancient mysticism of the Hindu people. Those who have spoken with her report that she has harnessed tremendous mental powers through her studies. Whether she intends to use these powers for good or evil remains to be seen, but it is worth noting that she is very bitter about her treatment by the scientific community.

Monet, Claude Oscar (b. 1840): Regarded by many as the father of impressionism, Monet's special talent is recording the transient elements of a scene. He considers the capture of lighting and atmosphere to be central to his artwork.

As a boy, Monet was fascinated by the constantly changing world around him. From his home on the northern coast of France, he saw the interactions of sky and sea, the seasonal variations of the landscape, and the effects of winter and summer on the people of his native Le Havre.

In 1855, Monet moved to Paris and attended the Academie Suisse, where he met Camille Pissaro. Although his studies were interrupted by military service, he eventually enrolled in the studio of Charles Gleyre, where he became friends with Pierre Renoir, Frederic Bazille, and Alfred Sisley. His work with Renoir brought him to the attention of the art world, and he began to emerge as a leading figure in outdoor impressionism. Throughout the second half of the 1870's, Monet worked almost exclusively with subjects that were oddly lighted,

such as a sparkling river, or on painting a single subject from numerous angles.

Despite his growing recognition as an artist, Monet endured poverty until the 1880's. With the onset of that decade, however, his paintings began to draw higher prices and his standard of living rose correspondingly. By 1890, the artist had built a fine home for himself in Giverny.

Over the last few years, he has returned to his practice of painting a single subject from various angles. Many of his most recent works have also focused on the lily pond that he built beside his home. Monet's fascination with light and transience is matched only by the public's fascination with his work.

Murray, Sir John (b. 1841): Born in Cobourg, Ontario, Sir John has had a major influence on the study of marine geology. In many circles, he is credited with creating a new branch of science generally referred to as oceanography. The basis of this new science is the 52-volume treatise he compiled while sailing the world's oceans aboard H.M.S. *Challenger*.

Murray's career effectively began in 1872 when he came to the attention of C. Wyville Thomson, scientific director of the British Naval Expedition aboard the *Challenger*. For the next three and a half years, he served as Thomson's assistant, devoting most of his attention to sea bottom sediments. Following Thomson's death in 1882, Murray continued on with this work alone. Although financial difficulties placed the project in jeopardy several times, the last of his 52 reports was published in 1895.

The conclusion of this work has not slackened Murray's interest in the oceans. As he is possessed of an almost inexhaustible wealth, it seems certain that it will be only a matter of time before he undertakes his next expedition.



Nansen, Fridtjof (b. 1861): Of the many explorers hoping to win the race to the North Pole, few are better known or more respected than Norwegian-born Fridtjof Nansen. His reputation is well deserved, as he undertook his first expedition to the Arctic while still a student at Christiania University (1882). He later sought to prove that the interior of Greenland was ice-covered, something he accomplished by skiing across the peninsula from east to west in 1888.

Nansen also theorized that a major ocean current

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flowed under the ice cap from Siberia. In order to prove this, he constructed the *Fram*, a vessel designed to survive a long period frozen in ice. In September of 1893, he intentionally imbedded the *Fram* in the ice pack, where it began to drift. Nansen then left the ship behind and went on to lead an expedition (using skis, kayaks, and dog sleds) to reach the North Pole. The expedition failed, however, and Nansen's team returned to Norway. Within a month of his arrival, the *Fram* also reached Norway, proving the existence of Nansen's Siberian current.

As the 19th century draws to a close and the race for the North Pole continues, one cannot help but imagine that Fridtjof Nansen will be among the most ardent contenders.

Forbidden Lore: Fridtjof Nansen

In 1893, Nansen sailed his custom built ship *Fram* into the polar ice cap and deliberately allowed it to freeze there. Some months later, he left the ship behind and struck out for the North Pole. While he failed to reach the pole, there are those who say that he found . . . something else. Nansen refuses to comment on these suggestions, but it is curious that he doesn't deny them outright.



Olds, Ransom Eli (b. 1864): Born in Geneva, Ohio, Ransom Olds has been fascinated by machines and engines his entire life. In recent years, he has begun to turn his attention toward the invention of a self-propelled carriage or automobile.

In 1886, Olds began experimenting with steam powered carriages in his father's garage. Developments of this technology resulted in a four-wheeled steam car that he sold to a manufacturer in India in 1893. Three years later, in 1896, he built a gasoline powered vehicle. This led to the opening of the Olds Motor Works in Detroit, Michigan in 1899. Olds has promised to place an affordable machine powered carriage on the market shortly, and predicts great success for his firm.



Peary, Robert Edwin (b. 1856): Robert Peary is, without a doubt, the greatest of America's Arctic explorers. Prior to receiving a commission as a civil engineer for the United States Navy, he worked as a surveyor and draftsman for the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Upon reading published accounts of expeditions to Greenland, however, the young man became fascinated with what he considered to be mankind's most majestic frontier. In 1886, he and Matthew Henson led a sledge expedition deep into the interior of Greenland. He followed this in 1891 and 1892 by exploring and mapping the northern coasts of that frozen realm.

In 1893, he undertook his third and most daring voyage. It was his hope to travel all the way to the North Pole. Fate decreed otherwise, however, and Peary was forced to temporarily abandon his quest.

As both the decade and the century draw to a close, the world waits to hear the results of Peary's fourth trek. In 1898, he again set out to reach the pole. Will he become the first man to traverse the ice pack and stand atop the world? Only time will tell.

Pissaro, Camille (b. 1830): Born on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Camille Pissaro currently resides in France. He is a talented painter, having helped to define the impressionist style. Pissaro's work is marked by his fondness for calm, rural scenes and his short, patchy brush strokes. He places more emphasis on form than do most other impressionist painters.

It is interesting to note that Pissaro may well be remembered more for those he influenced than for his work. Among the artists who list Pissaro as a mentor are Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, and the recently deceased Vincent Van Gogh.

Proust, Marcel (b. 1871): Considered by many to be morbid and painfully self-centered, Marcel Proust is possessed of a keen mind and a unique literary style. With the refinement that time will no doubt bring to his pen, it seems likely that he will prove himself to be a writer of some consequence in the decades to come.

Proust was the son of a Roman Catholic father and a Jewish mother. While the diversity that this provided served to broaden his outlook on the world, it alienated him from other children. His own extremely sensitive nature only made matters worse, and these factors, combined with his generally poor health, served to make him reclusive.

These difficulties only sharpened his mind,

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however, and he went on to master both law and political science in addition to furthering his beloved study of literature. Proust used his keen wit and sophisticated tastes to mingle with the elite of Paris, seeing around him a world of people who would soon find their way into his writing.

In 1896, Proust published *Les Plaisirs et Les Jours*, a collection of short stories, poems, and vignettes. Within the pages of this often cutting work, he examined the snobbish elements of Paris's aristocracy with various themes.

Shortly after this, however, the young man alienated himself from his contemporaries by announcing his support of Captain Dreyfus in the much publicized Dreyfus Affair (detailed elsewhere in this book). Proust found himself a victim of the anti-semitic sentiments that marked France's upper class. It is a tribute to his strength of character that he dares to express his true beliefs even though they place him at great personal risk. How this pride and determination will affect his future career remains to be seen.

Pulitzer, Joseph (b. 1847): Although born in Mako, Hungary, Joseph Pulitzer has established himself as one of the most important Americans of our time. Along with William Randolph Hearst, Pulitzer has defined the future of journalism in the United States.

After receiving a classical education in Budapest, Pulitzer emigrated to the United States at the age of 17. He became a U.S. citizen by serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war ended, he traveled to St. Louis and took a position with the *Westliche Post*, a German-language newspaper. His talent and hard work won him great popularity, and he was elected to the state legislature in 1869. His political interests reached beyond the borders of Missouri, causing him to become active first in the Liberal Republican movement, and later in the Democratic party.

In 1878, Pulitzer saw a bright future for the newspaper industry and bought the *St. Louis Dispatch* and the evening *Post*. Merging the two papers, he founded the *Post-Dispatch*. His aggressive news coverage and fiery editorials, augmented by a sensationalist writing style, boosted circulation. By 1883, Pulitzer's success with the *Post-Dispatch* had established him as one of the nation's leading journalists.

In 1883, Pulitzer purchased the *New York World* and used the same techniques with it that he had pioneered in Missouri. In addition, he added coverage of sports, women's fashions, and a collection of comics and cartoons. Pulitzer's success with the *World* brought him into fierce competition with William Randolph Hearst, publisher of the *New York Journal*. Their battle for circulation culminated in their sensationalist coverage of the Spanish-

American War and resulted in the coining of the term "yellow journalism."

As the last months of the decade loom, Pulitzer's health has begun to fail. None can argue the fact that he has made himself a legend in the world of journalism, however. Even if he were to die today, his name would be remembered for centuries to come.



Ramsay, Sir William (b. 1852): At the dawn of the 1890's, William Ramsay was not an especially well-known chemist. As the close of the century nears, however, he has earned himself a place in the annals of science for his discovery of inert gases. The road to his discovery began in 1894 when Ramsay learned that nitrogen created through chemical reactions was always lighter than nitrogen extracted from the atmosphere. After a few months of research, Ramsay discovered that atmospheric nitrogen was tainted with another gas, which he named argon. Additional research resulted in the discovery of terrestrial helium, an element which had been thought to exist only on the sun.

In 1895, Ramsay began working with Morris W. Travers as he continued his search for other inert gases. This partnership resulted in the discoveries of neon, xenon, and krypton.

Ramsay and Travers continue their work in this field and claim to be on the verge of isolating additional elements. Considering their past successes, there is no reason to doubt their promises.

Roentgen, Wilhelm Conrad (b. 1845): Like so many men and women whose names will be forever enshrined in Gothic Earth's history books, Roentgen's path to fame began almost accidentally in 1895. Already one of Germany's better known physicists, Roentgen observed that he could cause barium platinocyanide crystals to glow whenever he activated a cathode ray tube. Further investigation showed that this effect could not be blocked by anything short of a thick metal sheet. Roentgen deduced that this was the result of a previously unknown form of radiation which he dubbed X-rays. Roentgen continues to work with his X-rays, and only the future will reveal what fantastic uses this newly discovered form of radiation might have.

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Forbidden Lore: Wilhelm Roentgen

In addition to harnessing the beneficial power of the x-ray, Roentgen has examined countless other types of radiation. Not long ago, he undertook a series of experiments at the behest of the German government. Working to specifications supplied to him by a man whose name he never learned, Roentgen designed and built a very compact device that projected a powerful stream of electrical energy. One night, his laboratory was broken into and the device was stolen. Roentgen reported the theft to the military, but they informed him that they knew nothing of the device or of any government effort to construct an electrical projector. Roentgen received no compensation for his labors or stolen equipment save an unsolved mystery that he still ponders.

Roosevelt, Theodore (b. 1858): Roosevelt was born to a wealthy family in New York City. Because he was not a healthy child, his father drove him to strengthen his asthmatic body, adhere to a stern Christian moral code, and explore the limits of his intellect. His determination and courage led him to graduate from Harvard in 1880.

Shortly after his graduation, Roosevelt married Alice H. Lee, a young Massachusetts girl. In 1884, both his wife and his mother were fated to die within hours of each other, leaving him emotionally devastated. Some three years later, the young man married a woman named Edith Kermit Carow, but he never stopped feeling the loss of his first bride.

The 1880's saw Roosevelt drawn in two directions. He had discovered an interest in politics, gaining a reputation as an independent-minded Republican. At the same time, however, he began to explore his considerable talents as a writer.

On the political front, Roosevelt served three terms in the New York Assembly (1882-1884). During this time, he fought for civil service reforms, supported issues important to the working man, and worked to reform the New York City government. Although he often went against the Republican party line in these matters, he did support James G. Blaine in his bid to defeat Grover Cleveland for the presidency in 1884.

Following his political efforts in New York, Roosevelt moved to the Dakota Territory and lived as a rancher for two years. He found himself drawn back to the political arena, however, and returned to New York in 1886. He failed in a bid to become mayor of New York, finishing last in a

three-way race.

Roosevelt's writing efforts were easily as inspired as his political endeavors during this time. His interests ran to biographical and historical works, including a biography of Thomas Hart Benton (1886), *Gouverneur Morris* (1888), and the first two volumes of an outstanding series entitled *Winning of the West*. His interest in the latter subject was so great that he added two additional books to the collection in 1896.

The next decade saw Roosevelt's political career take precedence as he fought for reform and justice on every front. In 1889, President Benjamin Harrison appointed him a civil service commissioner. During his tenure in this post, he managed to reduce the influence of political connections and increase the importance of merit and skill in the workplace. In 1895, he resigned this post and became president of New York City's Board of Police Commissioners. Here, he proved himself an important part of William L. Strong's reform-minded administration.

Two years later, he returned to Washington and became Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President McKinley. A devout nationalist and expansionist, he saw that Spain's handling of the Cuban revolution would almost certainly draw the United States into a war with that European power. Because of this, he spent most of his time working to ready the military for the coming conflict. When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, his efforts paid off.

For his part, Roosevelt organized the Rough Riders and led them into battle in Cuba. He saw considerable action there, proving himself in skirmishes time and time again. He returned to the United States with the rank of Colonel and found that the bravery of his regiment was honored by the nation.

Returning to politics, Roosevelt parlayed his sudden fame into the Governorship of New York. Here, he was careful to avoid making enemies of the conservative factions of his party while managing to work for the reforms he desired. His efforts so impressed Thomas "Boss" Platt, the influential head of the New York State Republican party, that Platt and his political machine have recently begun to position Roosevelt as a potential presidential or vice-presidential candidate in the upcoming 1900 elections. Considering the current sentiments of the nation, it seems likely that Platt's efforts will succeed and Roosevelt will find himself returning to Washington before long.

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Shaw, George Bernard (b. 1856): As a playwright, essayist, and novelist, George Bernard Shaw has proven himself to be a man of remarkable ability. He combines his keen insight, sharp wit, and often pessimistic outlook to produce works that examine the world's culture and the character of its citizens.

Shaw's childhood was marked by the unusual circumstances of his birth. Although he claims to be the son of his mother's husband, others assert that his true father was Vandeleur Lee, his mother's music teacher.

In 1876, Shaw moved to London with his mother. He depended upon her to support him while he began his writing career. Over the next few years he wrote several novels, among them *The Irrational Knot* (1879), *Love among the Artists* (1881), *Cashel Byron's Profession* (1882), and *An Unsocial Socialist* (1884). All of these appeared in London's various socialist periodicals. None of these works, however, were especially well received.

The next phase of Shaw's career began with his first play, *Widowers' Houses*, which he began in 1885. Although this piece was not to be performed until several years later (1892), Shaw followed it with *The Philanderer* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* in 1893, and *Arms and the Man*, *Candida*, and *You Never Can Tell* in 1896. These six works were published under the title *Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant* in 1898.

As the decade comes to a close, Shaw's work remains barely recognized. Still, much in his work promises future greatness, and it may be that this young man will soon write himself a place in the history of English literature.

Sousa, John Philip (b. 1854): With the popularity of marches in the United States at an all-time high, John Philip Sousa has won fans throughout the nation. His 1896 effort, "Stars and Stripes Forever," promises to be an American standard.

Sousa's love of marches can be traced to his enlistment as an apprentice to the United States Marine Band at the age of 13. When he turned 18, Sousa left the Marines and played violin in a number of orchestras. During this time, he gained valuable experience as a conductor. In 1880, he returned to the Marine Band as its conductor and took up the composer's pen.



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His first publicly acclaimed effort was "The Gladiator" in 1886. He later composed his "Washington Post March," which swept the nation and resulted in a new ballroom dance craze known as the two-step. In 1892, Sousa left the Marine Band again to form his own musical company which promptly began touring the United States.

As the end of the decade draws near, Sousa's band is far and away the most popular musical troupe in the country. He has already announced plans to tour Europe in 1900, and it seems certain that his energetic music will soon become a global phenomenon.

Stoker, Bram (b. 1847): The third of seven children, Bram Stoker was born in Dublin, Ireland. An unidentified illness threatened to kill him before he reached adulthood, and although he survived, he was bedridden until the age of seven.

Upon defeating his illness, he proved himself a gifted athlete. As a student at Trinity College, he proved to be a fine soccer player and ran the marathon. He graduated with a degree in mathematics and, although he longed to write, embarked upon a civil service career. Stoker's first book, a very dry work entitled *Duties of Clerks of Petty Sessions in Ireland*, was written at this time, although it would not be published until 1879.

During his time in civil service, Stoker continued to write. His early works included *The Crystal Cup* (1872) and *The Chain of Destiny* (1875). His reviews and essays appeared in several newspapers, although he was seldom paid for these articles.

In 1878, Stoker was offered a job at the Lyceum Theatre in London by his friend Henry Irving. Stoker accepted the position, eager to see London and work with Irving, whom he had admired during their time together at Trinity College. While working at the Lyceum, Stoker wrote *Under the Sunset* (1882) and his first novel, *The Snake's Pass* (1890).

Forbidden Lore: Bram Stoker

Since he published his account of Jonathan Harker and Abraham Van Helsing's battle against the dreaded Count Dracula, Stoker has become something of a nexus for supernatural reports. It seems that anyone in London who has ever had an encounter with the occult wants to tell Stoker about it. Although this is something of a bother to him, Stoker recognizes that it allows him to play an important role in mankind's battle against evil. Whenever he hears an account that seems credible, Stoker passes on his information to Harker and, through him, to Die Wächtern.

Strauss, Richard (b. 1864): Among Germany's musicians, few are as gifted and show as much promise as young Richard Strauss. Of course, one might expect little else from the son of Franz Strauss, one of the greatest horn players in European history.

Strauss displayed his great talent at an early age, mastering the piano before his 5th birthday. At the age of 6, he was composing his own music. By the age of 11, he was experimenting with innovative musical techniques. His debut as a conductor, in 1884, was made without the benefit of a rehearsal, and led to his appointment as Hans von Bulow's assistant with the Meiningen Court Orchestra. After only a month in this position, von Bulow placed the group wholly under Strauss's direction.

In 1886, Strauss moved on to become a third conductor at the Munich Opera and an assistant at the 1889 and 1891 Bayreuth Festivals. As the second conductor at Weimar, Strauss thrilled the music world with the performance of *Don Juan* in 1888. His operatic debut came in 1894 with his Wagnerian *Guntram*. That autumn, he became Court Conductor of the Munich Opera.

At the same time, he married soprano Pauline de Ahna. His wife urged him to continue composing, and he responded by writing *Till Eulenspiegel* (1895), *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1896), *Don Quixote* (1897), and *A Hero's Life* (1898).

Already a legend in Germany, Strauss's fame has spread worldwide. Both as a conductor and a composer, he will certainly leave his mark on the future of opera and orchestral music.

Sullivan, Arthur Seymore (b. 1842): A skilled composer, Arthur Sullivan was a student at the London Royal Academy. Although he is best known for his collaborative efforts with William Gilbert, Sullivan has proven himself a prolific artist in his own right. Among his best known early works were *Cox and Box* and *The Contrabandista* in 1867, both written with F. C. Burnand. (For details on his later work, consult the entry for William Gilbert.)

Sullivan was knighted in 1883 and always felt pressured to turn his talents to more serious works. During a dispute with Gilbert that lasted from 1890 to 1893, he produced the grand opera *Ivanhoe* (1891) in an attempt to satisfy these demands.

Sunday, William Ashley (b. 1862): As an outfielder for the Chicago White Stockings (1883-87), the Pittsburgh Alleghenies (1888-90), and Philadelphia Athletics (1890), Billy Sunday appeared in exactly 500 games and managed a career batting average of .248. Throughout this time, he was known as The Evangelist, a nickname that proved more than appropriate when he left baseball to become a minister in the Presbyterian

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Church. He has become one of the best known revivalists in the country, using high-pressure techniques and flamboyant acrobatics to attract followers for his faith.



Tesla, Nikola (b. 1856): Nikola Tesla was born in Smiljan, Austria-Hungary, in 1856. He studied engineering in Graz and received his degree from the University of Prague. He eventually left his native land, moving first to France and then, in 1884, to the United States.

Nikola Tesla became fascinated with electricity at a young age. While still a student, he designed an alternating current induction motor that did not rely upon on a commutator. Tesla's device employed a series of coils arranged so that they produced a rapidly rotating magnetic field when energized with alternating current.

Tesla patented this device in 1888, presenting it to the world just as other pioneers of electricity were beginning to recognize the need for such a device. He promptly sold the gadget to George Westinghouse, who began making commercial use of it.

In the study of high-voltage electricity, Tesla is almost without peer. He has created numerous devices that have revolutionized modern engineering. Among these are the Tesla coil, a highly efficient system of arc lighting, a method of wireless transmission of high amperage electrical energy, and a high-potential magnifying transmitter.

Forbidden Lore: Nikola Tesla

As a young boy, Tesla discovered a large, metal-bound chest in a long neglected chamber beneath his family estate. Hoping to find some forgotten treasure, he fetched some of his father's tools and broke into the mysterious box. Forcing open the rusted hinges, he found neither gold nor jewels within. Instead, his gaze fell upon sheafs of paper and half a dozen tattered, leather-bound books. The largest book bore the golden letters *Laboratory Journal* and the name Victor Frankenstein. As he opened the musty book and started to read, Tesla had no idea that his life would be changed forever.

Tolstoi, Count Leo (b. 1828): Tolstoi was born at Yasnaya Polyana near Moscow and, at the age of 9,

became an orphan. From that time forward, he was raised by aunts and uncles, although he remained at Yasnaya Polyana. He was educated at the University of Kazan and settled in Moscow shortly after he left school in 1847.

Half a decade later, Tolstoi joined the army and fought in the Caucasus. He saw combat in the defense of Sevastopol; his *Childhood* (1852), *Youth* (1857), and *Sevastopol Sketches* (1855–56) quickly established him as a literary power. In these early works, one can already see the brutally realistic depiction of life and warfare that would mark his later writing.

In 1856, Tolstoi left the military. He traveled throughout Europe, but eventually returned to the estate where he had been born. There, he established a school for peasant children that incorporated education techniques and advances years ahead of their time.

Tolstoi was married in 1862, and the following year published *The Cossacks*. Throughout this period and in the years that followed, Tolstoi's writing showed a great degree of dissatisfaction with himself as well as his frustration in the lack of meaning in his life. Both of these factors culminate in his *Confession* (1879) and *Memoirs of a Madman* (1884).

The crafting of these pieces allowed Tolstoi to forge a personal doctrine that called for the renunciation of wealth, a solid program of physical work, and the refusal to accept traditional social responsibilities such as military service and other governmental requirements. Tolstoi's philosophy found much support among the generally dissatisfied Russian people. Indeed, his estate at Yasnaya Polyana became a place of pilgrimage, and Tolstoi was revered throughout Russia. Tolstoi's wife did not share his views, however, and their marriage suffered terribly as the writer's fame and following grew.

The first of Tolstoi's greatest masterpieces, *War and Peace*, was written between 1865 and 1869. This landmark work follows the lives of three characters against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars. While many critics objected to the book's lack of plot, rambling historical reflections, and extensive discussion of the author's own philosophy, Tolstoi felt that these aspects only served to define the book as art.

From 1875 to 1877, Tolstoi wrote *Anna Karenina*, his other great triumph. In the story of Anna, who abandons wealth and status to be with her lover, Tolstoi weaves an intricate tapestry of plots and contrasts. Although it differs greatly from *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina* also serves to paint a sweeping picture of Russian life and the anguish in the author's soul.

Of late, Tolstoi has renounced the practice of writing fiction. He has focused his efforts on the

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refinement of his own philosophy through such works as *What is Art?* (1897), in which he renounced much of his earlier work. Other books from the latter third of his life, such as *The Death of Ivan Ilych* (1895) and *Master and Man* (1886) focus heavily on death and the depravity of life. His other recent works, *The Devil* (1889), *The Kreutzer Sonata* (1890), *Father Sergius* (1898), and *Resurrection* (1899), have shown a return to his earlier style, and explore the myriad conflicts and continual emotional turmoil of their author.

Toscanini, Arturo (b. 1867): The later years of the 19th century have blessed Gothic Earth with an abundance of artists, musicians, and writers. Even when compared to the most talented of these, however, Italy's Arturo Toscanini still seems destined for greatness.

Toscanini graduated with honors from the conservatory in Parma and promptly secured a position as a cellist with an opera company bound for a tour of South America. While in Rio, the conductor of the company walked out and Toscanini stepped in to lead Verdi's *Aida* without the aid of a score. This incident is just one example of the ability he has demonstrated not only in musical talent, but also in overcoming his nearly crippling nearsightedness with an almost photographic memory.

Upon his return to Italy, Toscanini led his orchestra through the premieres of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* in 1892 and Puccini's *La Boheme* in 1896. As the decade ends, he finds himself in a comfortable position as chief conductor at La Scala, Milan. What other remarkable talents this young man will display in the next century are, of course, unknown.

Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri Marie Raymond de (b. 1864): Recognized as one of the leaders of the postimpressionist movement, Toulouse-Lautrec has laid the groundwork for what many are calling art nouveau. His work is sometimes bitter, but always clever in its depiction of Paris's gaudy nightlife as well as its more sinister elements.

Much of Toulouse-Lautrec's interest in mankind's less respectable elements can be traced to the isolation he felt as a child. Although he was born to a wealthy family, his health was bad and his legs, injured in his childhood, were stunted and frail. Growing up a cripple resulted in his fascination with art, one of the few fields open to him after his injuries.

He began to study art in the early 1880's, working first with Leon Bonnat in 1882, then with Fernand Cormon in 1883. His studies brought him into contact with such great artists as Vincent van Gogh, and made him a master of the impressionist style. Later in the decade, he found himself strongly influenced by the work of Japanese artists and the

style of Edgar Degas.

As the 1890's opened, Toulouse-Lautrec became a fixture in the nightclubs and dance halls of Montmartre. Here, amid a sordid world of prostitutes, gamblers, and alcoholics, he found new subjects for his work. His attempts to capture their passions and the garish atmosphere of these haunts is clearly seen in *At the Moulin Rouge* (1892) and *La Goulue at the Moulin Rouge* (1892). His unique work quickly found its way onto posters advertising the area's night spots. A careful examination of the linear, uncluttered style employed in these works show very clearly the influence of Japanese art.

In recent years, Toulouse-Lautrec's excessive drinking has greatly impacted his always-fragile health. As the decade draws to a close, he is seldom seen in public, and now works mostly from memory, without attempting to seek out models. It seems likely that this great artist, whose life has been a mixture of both success and suffering, is nearing his end.

Twain, Mark (b. 1835): Probably no better-known pseudonym exists on Gothic Earth than that of Mark Twain, the appellation used by Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Noted for his keen satire, charming wit, and down-home approach to storytelling, Twain has become a favorite not only in the United States, but throughout the world.

Born in Florida, Missouri, Twain was raised on the banks of the Mississippi River in Hannibal. He began writing in 1847, shortly after the death of his father. He worked as a printer's apprentice for a short time, but later joined the staff of the *Hannibal Journal*, which his brother Orion owned. During this time, he refined his own skills while being exposed to the frontier humor of writers such as George W. Harris. From 1853 to 1857, Twain traveled throughout the Northeastern United States working as both a printer and a correspondent to his brother's newspaper.

In 1857, Twain visited New Orleans and learned to pilot a steamboat. He enjoyed this work immensely and remained a pilot until the outbreak of the Civil War shut down all traffic on the Mississippi. It was this work that served as the background for his *Old Times on the Mississippi* (1875) and the expanded *Life on the Mississippi* (1883).

In 1861, Orion Clemens was appointed Territorial Secretary, and Twain traveled with his brother to Carson City, Nevada. He tried his hand at gold and silver mining but was unsuccessful, so he returned to writing as a correspondent for the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise*.

Prior to 1863, Samuel Clemens had written under a number of pseudonyms, most often signing his work simply as "Josh." In that year, however, he adopted the name Mark Twain, borrowed from the

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steamboat leadsman's call that indicated that the water ahead was two fathoms deep, and thus safe for the passage of the vessel.

By 1864, Twain made his way to San Francisco. Known as the "Wild Humorist of the Pacific Slope," he began to achieve national recognition with "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." Following a brief junket to Hawaii in 1866, Twain began his career as a lecturer.

In 1869, Twain published *The Innocents Abroad*, a compilation of the articles he had written for the *San Francisco Alta California*. These stories were originally written a year earlier when Twain toured the Mediterranean region and the Holy Land. This work was so well received that it brought him to public attention in Europe as well as in the United States.

Twain married Olivia Langdon in 1870. After serving as editor and part owner of the *Buffalo Express*, he took up residence in Hartford, Connecticut in 1871. This marked his last efforts as a journalist, for Twain had now decided to devote himself wholly to fiction and serious literature. His work from this time included *Roughing It* (1872), *The Gilded Age* (1873), *Sketches, New and Old* (1875), and his classic *Tom Sawyer* (1875).

In 1878 he left the United States for a tour of Europe. This voyage inspired him to write *A Tramp Abroad* (1880) and his first historical novel, *The Prince and the Pauper* (1882). The rest of the decade saw the publication of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

After completing *The American Claimant*, Twain found himself mired in a complex series of financial problems. These prompted him to move to Europe in 1891; in doing so, he deprived the citizens of the young United States of the one author most people identified with. Twain's money problems intensified following the failure of the Paige typesetting machine, which he had invested in heavily. In the end, he was forced to declare bankruptcy.

The stress in Twain's life is reflected in his work of this period, which is generally considered to be of a lesser quality than his earlier efforts. These pieces include *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1894), *Tom Sawyer Abroad* (1894), *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* (1896), and *Tom Sawyer, Detective* (1896).

In an attempt to recover from his dire financial condition, Twain embarked upon a global lecture tour in 1895. He recounted his travels in *Following the Equator* (1897). Between the success of his writing and the public support of his tour, Twain's finances improved quickly.

The year 1896 brought about the death of his

daughter, however, and this event soured his success. The devastating effect this had on Twain is obvious in the pessimistic tones of *The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg*. Whether Twain will ever recover from the sorrow of his tragic loss is impossible to say, but it seems that the 20th century will see only a shadowy reflection of the man who was once America's greatest humorist.

Forbidden Lore: Mark Twain

Probably no one in the United States is more deserving of the title renaissance man than Mark Twain. During his time as a reporter and world traveler, Twain has seen more than a few unnatural occurrences. During his wanderings in the Holy Land, he came upon an ancient dagger. At first, he thought it no more than a curiosity. When several attempts were made on his life, however, he knew that he had come upon something extremely valuable. Twain has hidden the artifact away and, although he has devoted many hours to discovering its nature, he still has no idea what it is.



Van Helsing, Prof. Abraham (b. 1837): Little is known about the early life of Abraham Van Helsing. Whether he has intentionally hidden these details or this secrecy is merely the result of his naturally quiet nature cannot be said for certain. From the moment Van Helsing entered the University of Amsterdam at the age of 15, however, he somehow made it clear that he would not be an ordinary man.

Van Helsing has been described as the most educated man on the planet. If this is an exaggeration, it is only a slight one. He has accumulated doctorates in the fields of medicine, literature, philosophy, history, and theology, and possesses lesser degrees in half a dozen other fields. His knowledge of metaphysics is second to none, and his deductive ability has been compared to that of London's Sherlock Holmes.

Van Helsing has been described as having an absolutely open mind, willing to believe any claim if sufficient proof can be put forth to support it. In a less gifted man, this might be a weakness, but in Van Helsing, it is perhaps his greatest strength.

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Forbidden Lore: Abraham Van Helsing

Although he is well known to the citizens of Gothic Earth as a man of science and a benefactor of humanity, few people are aware that Abraham Van Helsing is the head of Die Wächtern. From his family estate in Amsterdam, he casts his eagle's eye across the whole of the world and, like a protective father, stands ready to defend his beloved children.

Verne, Jules (b. 1828): Born in Nantes, Verne studied law in Paris but decided against a life in the courts. Instead, he became a writer, beginning his career with the very popular *Five Weeks in a Balloon* (1863). He followed this success with *A Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1864), *From the Earth to the Moon* (1865), *Around the Moon* (1870), *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1870), and *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1873).

Verne's books are all the more exciting for their realistic tone and the details that the author imparts through his knowledge of a variety of fields. His familiarity with geology, for example, plays a major role in *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*.

As a devoted historian, Verne has written a number of books about important events of the past. Perhaps the most famous of these is his account of the Civil War in the United States: *North Against South* (1887).

Along with England's H. G. Wells, Verne is considered the founder of a new literary genre known as science fiction. The fact that Verne and Wells have no great love for each other has prevented the two of them from collaborating on any projects to date. One can only assume, however, that such an endeavor would be stunning in scope and content.



Washington, Booker Taliaferro (b. 1856): Following the American Civil War, which finally brought an end to slavery in the United States, Booker T. Washington rose to prominence as a black leader and spokesman for education. Despised by the bigoted and narrow-minded factions of American culture, he has become a hero to those who support equality and civil rights.

As a child, Washington was forced to work in coal mines and managed to attend school only three months a year. Despite these disadvantages, he managed to graduate from the Hampton Institute in 1875. In 1881, he was appointed the first president of

Tuskegee University, an Alabama trade school for blacks. Tuskegee was founded with a single teacher, 50 pupils, and state funding of only \$2,000 per year. Washington's masterful administration of the university brought the school to unimagined heights. Tuskegee now looks ahead to the 20th century with 1,500 students receiving training in 37 different industries.

Washington's philosophy on matters of civil rights has brought him into conflict with other black leaders, especially W. E. B. Du Bois. It is his belief that blacks must educate themselves and build up their economic strength in the United States before they can fully overcome the horrible injustices of the past. He believes that any man, black or white, is only as good as his education and moral integrity. When he publicly explained his views and beliefs at the Atlanta Exposition of 1895, he gained the support of many powerful members of white society. Now, before the close of the decade, Washington finds himself advising presidents and being consulted by many philanthropists seeking to use their wealth for the betterment of blacks in the United States.

Wells, Herbert George (b. 1866): Following in the footsteps of France's Jules Verne, England's H. G. Wells has defined a new genre in literature. Known as science fiction, it combines elements of adventure stories, speculation about future scientific developments, and liberal doses of social allegory. In addition, Wells has shown himself to be a man of exceptional perception in matters of social importance, theology, and political science.

Wells was born in Bromley, Kent. His family was neither wealthy nor poor, and little is unusual about his early life. At the age of 14 he left school, but later received a scholarship to the Normal School of Science where he studied under Thomas Henry Huxley. He graduated in 1890 with a degree in biology.

During the next decade, he published *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and *The Time Machine* in 1896, and *The Invisible Man* in 1897. The horrific events detailed in these books, which were based on little-publicized true stories, soured Wells on such works. His future projects, he assures the world, will be wholly fictional in nature.

Forbidden Lore: H. G. Wells

Wells began his career as a writer of fiction that was based upon the more fantastic events that reached his attention. It is believed by some that he keeps a small museum of trophies to remind him of these things. If this is true, then Wells may even have the formula for a potion that will render men invisible, the laboratory notes of the infamous Dr. Moreau, or perhaps even the plans for a working time machine.

WHO'S WHO ON GOTHIC EARTH

Wilde, Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills (b. 1854):

A master of aphorism blessed with a cunning wit, Ireland's Oscar Wilde has lived a life full of drama, passion, and scandal.

Born in Dublin, Wilde was destined from birth to follow in the footsteps of his parents, both of whom were writers. Clearly a gifted child, he took an early interest in poetry and classical literature. He attended Trinity College in Dublin from 1871 to 1874, where he was awarded the Berkeley Gold Medal for Greek. From 1874 to 1878, he studied at Magdalen College in Oxford and received the highly respected Newdigate Prize for his poem "Ravenna."

Although Wilde's poetry received some literary attention during the early 1880's, his flamboyant character had already made him a public figure. Indeed, he was so well known by that time that many believed Gilbert and Sullivan's satirical light opera *Patience* (1881) was based on Wilde and his unusual lifestyle.

By the end of the decade, Wilde had graduated from poetry to essays. His *The Truth of Masks*, *The Decay of Lying*, and *The Portrait of Mr. W. H.* clearly show an evolution in his literary powers. He expanded his horizons even further with the publication in 1890 of his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The next year saw him return to social commentary and essays with *The Critic as an Artist* and *The Soul of Man under Socialism*. Later in the 1890's Wilde became a playwright, demonstrating his great talents with *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), and *Salome* (1893). The last of these works was written in French and translated into his native English in 1894. In 1896, it was produced in Paris, having been banned from the English stage.

Oscar Wilde has raised the character of the aristocratic dandy to new heights. He has modeled his philosophy after those of Baudelaire and Barbey d'Aureville. Pithy phrases such as clothes make the man, beauty is truth, and manners before morals describe his lifestyle.

Wilde's hedonistic existence suffered a great blow when the Marquess of Queensberry made public the writer's debauchery and sensualist ways. Wilde sued for libel, but lost when the highly publicized case came to court. Following the resolution of that case, the government prosecuted him for what it termed "indecent acts," and he was sentenced to two years of hard labor. During his time in prison, he wrote his *Ballad of Reading Gaol*, which was published upon his release in 1898.

William II, Emperor of Germany (b. 1859): William II ascended to the throne in 1888, following the brief reign of his aged and dying father, Frederick III. From

the moment he came to power, William made it clear that he was going to break from the liberal traditions of his parents and model his reign after that of his grandfather, William I. Although he is, by all accounts, an intelligent man, William II is noted for his inability to concentrate and his restless nature. He despises England and has always been antagonistic in his dealings with Queen Victoria, despite the fact that she is his maternal grandmother.

Early in his reign, William clashed with his Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, over the matter of social welfare measures. Although the two generally agreed on a course of action, William sought to use the matter as a political tool against a rising Social Democratic party in Germany. In 1890, his dispute with Bismarck resulted in the latter's dismissal. William used this change in government to expand his own power.

After Bismarck's departure, unrest among landowners and complaints from industrialists caused his advisers to recommend reforms in the monarchy. William refused to hear of such things, however, being a firm believer in his own absolute power. While others wanted a government more responsive to the needs of the people, William refused to agree to any reform that might turn even a fraction of his power over to a parliament.

William's foreign policy has been no more comforting than his domestic one. His reign has been marked by increasingly warlike speeches filled with strident nationalism and calls for German colonial expansion. His approval of Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz's request for the construction of a large battle fleet has alarmed all of Europe. His attitude toward England led him to support the Boers in South Africa. In 1896, an encouraging telegram that he sent to South African President Paul Kruger was made public, further enraging Victoria's England. Another failure in foreign relations was borne from his treatment of Bismarck. When he dismissed his Chancellor, he abandoned the close ties that Bismarck had formed with Russia. Matters grew even worse when William's tactless behavior and nationalist rhetoric offended his cousin, Emperor Nicholas II.

Forbidden Lore: William II

William is a bitter and harsh man. He despises his neighbors and looks forward to a time when Germany will dominate first Europe, then the world. In his hunger for power, William embraces the occult and its dark forces. His agents have searched the world in the hope of uncovering secrets that he can use to make his dreams of German supremacy a reality.

WHO'S WHO ON GOTHIC EARTH



Yeats, William Butler (b. 1865): Born in Dublin, Yeats grew up with a deep love of Irish history and folklore. As an adult, he channelled this love into a growing revival of Ireland's literary heritage.

The most concrete example of his effort can be found in the Irish Literary Theatre. Organized with the help of Lady Gregory and Edward Martyn, the theatre opened in 1898 with a performance of *The Countess Cathleen*.

Much of Yeats's writing was influenced by his unrequited love for the beautiful Maud Gonne, an Irish nationalist leader. His fascination with her began in 1889 and prompted him to write *The Wanderings of Oisín* and the poignantly erotic *The Wind Among the Reeds*.

In addition to his nationalist sentiments and his love for Maud Gonne, Yeats has shown a great interest in the occult. In 1887 he founded the Dublin Hermetic Society and joined London's dark and mysterious Society of the Crimson Dawn.

Young, Denton True (b. ????): Cy (short for cyclone) Young made his major league debut on August 8, 1891. Pitching for the Cleveland Spiders, he threw a three-hitter and struck out the famous Cap Anson twice. Since then, Cy Young has proven himself to be one of the best pitchers in baseball. Even Young's pitching wasn't able to lift his team out of last place in 1899, however, when the Spiders managed a dreadful 20 wins and 134 losses. Despite being trapped on a bad team, Young averaged 27 wins and a 3.05 ERA for the decade. Fans in Cleveland can rest assured that baseball hasn't heard the last of Cy Young.



Zola, Emile (b. 1840): With the possible exception of Mark Twain, no writer in the world is more tied to his native land than France's Emile Zola. As the world's greatest proponent of Naturalism, his novels have shocked Gothic Earth with their stark, often graphic portraits of working-class life.

Zola began his career as a writer in the 1860's. With the publication of *Thérèse Raquin* in 1867, his work began to find public and literary acceptance.

After the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, he began working on *The Rougon-Macquart*, a series of novels that would eventually total 20 volumes. In this series, Zola depicts what he terms "the natural and social history of a family in the Second Empire." Each of these novels focuses on a member of the Rougon-Macquart family and examines a different profession, trade, or social class. For example, *The Belly of Paris* (1873) paints a vivid picture of Paris's central markets, and *The Grog Shop* (1877) examines the frightening effect of alcoholism on France's working class. Other books in the series include *Nana* (1880), a lurid study of vice and prostitution that caused a scandal when it was published, *Germinal* (1885), a study of the harsh working conditions and bitter lives of miners, and *The Crash* (1892), which tells of France's defeat by Germany in 1870.

Zola often puts forth the belief that an author must employ the scientific method when practicing his craft. As he explains it, a writer must take characters with distinctive personalities, place them in contrasting situations, and then observe the results as if he were conducting an experiment in a laboratory. To that end, Zola's work has a marked documentary-style that, in the eyes of some critics, weakens his characters. Whether or not that is the case, Zola's writing more than makes up for this deficiency with its vivid imagery and dramatic tension. Zola has published several volumes defining his literary philosophy, foremost of which are *The Experimental Novel* (1880), *The Naturalist Novelists* (1881), and *Naturalism in the Theater* (1881).

Time and time again, Zola has proven himself to be more than just a literary figure publicizing political and social ideas that often place him in conflict with the French government. Perhaps the best example of this was his open letter, *J'accuse* (1898), which won a new trial for the imprisoned French army officer, Alfred Dreyfus. After the publication of *J'accuse*, Zola was charged with libel by the French government and forced to flee to England to avoid a jail sentence. One year later, after the close of the Dreyfus Affair, he returned to France as a popular hero for his opposition to the government.

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE



his chapter will examine nine of those most mysterious of groups, the qabals.

Born like phoenixes from the ashes of the first such order, the Defiance, modern qabals shroud themselves in mystery and deception. They guard their secrets as jealously as a mother watches over her newborn child. Even those who count themselves as members of such societies seldom know more than a few of their fellow conspirators.

While all such orders have much in common, centuries of secrecy and distrust have made each group unique. The

information contained in this chapter is not something that the average player character could learn. Even an adept qabalist, who benefits from the magical secrets passed down through the ages by the members of these orders, is unlikely to know more about his group than necessary to for his role.

Common Ground

By their very nature, the many qabals of Gothic Earth all have some elements in common.

Before we examine the individual orders, let's pause for an overview of their similarities.

The Threat of Death

The most important of these generalities are the lengths that a qabal will go to in order to keep its secrets. None of these groups, whether working for good or evil, is above killing anyone who knows too much or who has betrayed their trust.

The difference between a good qabal, like La Lumière, and an evil one, such as The Six-Fingered Hand, is that the former will generally dispose of enemies as quickly and mercifully as possible. The latter is likely to revel in the death of an adversary and might commonly use torture as a means of execution.

Even in this case, however, the line can blur. There is nothing more important to a qabal than the secrets it guards. These are considered by far the most valuable properties of the order. If a lawful good group like Die Wächtern feels that an enemy knows things important to its existence, torture or other unpleasant forms of coercion, as distasteful as they are, might be employed.

Legacy

Each of these orders has a long history attached to

it. Even recently founded groups, such as La Lumière, can trace their ancestry back through earlier organizations and, almost without exception, back to The Defiance itself.

Over the centuries, however, many of the qabals have been corrupted. Some have turned away from the original goal of the Defiance—the destruction of the Red Death—and instead have become obsessed with personal power. Others have even embraced the evil of the Red Death itself.

While this derivation is almost universal, it is not absolute. Scattered instances exist of groups that developed independently of the Defiance's legacy. Two examples of such groups are the Crimson Dawn, which is the newest of the qabals described in this section, and The Lost Empire, which is actually the oldest known qabal.

Structure

Recognizing the great need for secrecy in their work, all qabals take steps to protect the identities of their members. The most obvious evidence of this is the cellular way in which almost all of these mysterious orders structure themselves.

A typical qabal is formed of countless cells, often given code names of some sort. Each cell is composed of five to ten members. All the people in one cell usually know each other and recognize the leadership of a single individual.

The leaders of these cells, in turn, also form the membership of other cells. Again, such groups will contain five to ten people, all of whom are the leaders of their own cells. The members of this group will recognize a single leader who is also a member of another cell composed of persons like himself. The advantage of this structure is that no individual can betray the entire organization if he is captured and interrogated.

This system is not perfect, of course. The leader of a cell could betray all the members in his own group as well as his higher level peers. Still, such an occurrence is rare, and the threat of a major security breach is usually minor.

The precise nature of a cell structure varies from qabal to qabal, but all of these secret societies employ some variation on this theme in order to protect the group as a whole and the members as individuals.

At no time are people so sedulously careful to keep their trifling appointments, attend to their ordinary occupations, and thus put a commonplace aspect on life, as when conscious of some secret that if suspected would make them look monstrous in the general eye.

Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Marble Faun (1860)

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Recognition

Because of the cellular structure of the qabals, any member will know only a few of his compatriots. While this has advantages, it also has drawbacks. One of the most important of these is that members have difficulty spotting potential allies or identifying themselves to other members. In order to make that process easier, all qabals have a special symbol or item that its members carry at all times. In addition, secret phrases and code words are commonly established for specific meetings. The details of each qabal's method of recognition will be discussed in the entries that follow.

Dedication

Every qabal, regardless of whether it works for good or evil, is composed of highly motivated individuals. In every case, all members of the organization feel that they are doing what is best for the human race. Of course, an outside observer may disagree, but those within a qabal tend to see themselves as heroes who are working hard to bring about a future that is best for everyone.

In some cases, this belief may seem impossible to justify. After all, the members of the chaotic evil Hand believe that the Red Death is an outgrowth of human society and culture. Only by eliminating the latter (i.e., destroying the human race) can the former be eliminated. This philosophy certainly has its disadvantages.

Most people who are aware of the Hand see its members as dangerous lunatics and psychotics, for obvious reasons. It is difficult to argue with their ultimate goal of eliminating the Red Death and the evil that it stands for, but it can be hard to justify the extreme solution that they propose.

Suspicion

The various qabals of Gothic Earth have lived under codes of strict secrecy for so long that they have become extremely paranoid. The very fact that a qabal exists may be its most closely guarded secret. This is especially true in the case of a group like The Lost Empire, which has successfully hidden itself away in the heart of the African jungles for thirty centuries. It is possible that even the Red Death itself is unaware of the existence of those dedicated folk.

Because of this paranoia, encounters between two qabals are seldom resolved peacefully. Both sides are likely to believe that anything learned about their group by another order will be exploited in the future. Because of this, security breaches are always plugged quickly, and suspected traitors are silenced as soon as they are found. In every case, a qabal will err on the side of caution in matters of security.

A Partial List of Known Qabals

Qabal Name (general alignment)

Alliance of Kahn Shi'air, The (NE)
Alliance, The (NG)
Army of Set the Undying, The (LE)
Betrothed, The (CG)
Black Flame, The (CE)
Brotherhood of Alchamæ, The (LN)
Brotherhood of the Azure Robes, The (LN)
Circle of Five, The (CE)
Circle of Seven, The (LE)
Circle of Thirteen, The (LE)
Circle, The (NG)
Community of Thoth, The (LN)
Defiance, The (LG)
Divine Madness, The (CN)
Eleusinian Consortium, The (CG)
Enlightenment, The (CG)
Eye, The (NE)
Fearsome Army of Madrid, The (NE)
Fellowship of the Crimson Dawn, The (NE)
Followers of the One, The (CN)
Followers of the Way, The (N)
Fraternity of the Tattered Scroll, The (CN)
Hermetic Order of Mæjik, The (NE)
Hermetic Order of the Radiant Crescent, The (CN)
Interiad, The (N)
Just and Mighty Order of Kahl, The (CE)
Keepers of the Left, The (LN)
Knights of Mars the Terrible, The (CN)
Lost Kingdom, The (NG)
Nation of Nine, The (N)
Order of the Crimson Chalice, The (LG)
Order of the Endless Night, The (CE)
Phoenix, The (CG)
Pilgrims of Radiant Dawn, The (LG)
Pride, The (LG)
PRIME (LE)
Sisterhood, The (CG)
Six-Fingered Hand, The (CE)
Society of Keepers, The (LG)
Stone, The (NG)
Students of the Reborn Truth, The (N)
Seven, The (?)
Sword That Has Been Drawn, The (LG)
Those Who Have Seen (LN)
Transected Circle, The (LE)
Undying Flame, The (LN)
Unseen Hand, The (LN)
Vistani, The (CN)
Watchers, The (LG)
White Legion, The (LE)
World Spiritual League, The (N)
Zemlak's Children (NE)

Note One: Not all of these orders are currently active. Indeed, many are believed to be defunct as of this writing.

Note Two: The names of many of these groups have been translated into English for inclusion on this list. For example, The Watchers is properly known as Die Wächtern, and The Enlightened as La Lumière.

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La Lumière

Ā Chaotic Good Qabal

Organized in France over a century ago, La Lumière is a group dedicated to the belief that learning and culture are mankind's best hopes for a bright future. They see the human mind as the greatest resource in man's unending search for freedom and world peace.

Because of its efforts to spread fear and ignorance among the human race, the Red Death occasionally finds its children battling the forces of La Lumière.

Although the actual name of this order is La Lumière, it is best known by its English appellations: The Enlightened or The Enlightenment.

Symbol

The symbol of La Lumière is a white candle set in a silver holder. All members of the group carry this device at all times. For many, this symbol may be in the form of a ring, pendant, or other type of jewelry. Others might opt to have the symbol of the order fashioned as a tattoo which they can reveal when identifying themselves to other members.

Membership

The members of La Lumière seek to support those who wish to expand the frontiers of the arts, sciences, and other areas of learning. To the leaders of this order, there can be no future in which human compassion and artistic expression do not share equally with scientific advances and progress.

While La Lumière counts among its number a great many of the world's best known artists and scientists, the requirements for membership are quite strict. Those who would be considered for membership must be of the highest intelligence and have a deep belief in the rights of the individual over the laws of society. Further, the members of this order must be persons of culture and refinement.

There are those who would call this group anarchistic, for members place individual freedom of expression and the pursuit of science above all other things. They respect no national borders and see all the world's people as belonging to a single, great community. World unity, they insist, will bring about the dawn of a new age in which the sufferings of mankind will be ended.

The members of La Lumière are generally opposed to the use of violence in the attainment of the group's goals. Of course, some situations demand that they abandon this ethical code, but they never resort to force without due consideration of alternatives.



History

The roots of La Lumière can be traced back to the early 1700's and an inspired Frenchman named Andre Lescot. Although only a minor official in the government of the time, he was able to subtly redirect funds and sponsor the programs that would eventually transform the ancestral palace of the nobility known as the Louvre into the greatest museum on the face of Gothic Earth.

He also made certain that his vision of the future would be passed on to future generations through the creation of a qabal whose headquarters was to be in a concealed complex built beneath the Place Du Carrousel at the heart of that great museum.

Evidence exists to indicate that other members of Lescot's parents had been involved in a qabal with a similar purpose. Their mysterious deaths in 1719 and the apparent disappearance of that group indicates that Lescot may have pursued his goal as a memorial to his parents.

A cultivated man, wise to know and bold to perform, is the end to which nature works.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
The Conduct of Life (1860)

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Die Wächtern

A Lawful Good Qabal

Die Wächtern, a group whose name translates into English as The Watchers or The Watchmen, is an old and well-established qabal. Currently headquartered in Amsterdam, this organization has dedicated itself to the elimination of the Red Death's minions wherever it finds them. Of all the secret societies that have grown from the ruins of The Defiance, none have proven a dauntless spirit better than Die Wächtern.

Symbol

The vigilance of Die Wächtern is symbolized by a monocle with a rim of silver suspended from a fine, silver chain. As with most qabals, the leadership of Die Wächtern demands that all members carry such an item at all times.

Membership

While the original members of this group were required to be knights, Die Wächtern's modern standards are far less severe. Applicants are required to be individuals of "exceptional character" and must swear a holy oath to support the qabal and its goals.

Although the group acts globally, the vast majority of Die Wächtern's members are recruited in Europe and the United States. Additionally, the order relies very heavily on Judeo-Christian dogma for its codes of conduct. With this in mind, it should be no surprise that most of Die Wächtern's members are deeply religious people who see their work as a holy labor.

History

Originally founded near Leipzig during the First Crusade (c. A.D. 1100), Die Wächtern was begun by a small group of knights who had just returned from the Holy Land.

During their time in the middle east, these warriors apparently stumbled upon the remains of an underground complex that had served as a cache of knowledge and supplies for a handful of men and women fleeing from the destruction of the great Library at Alexandria. Their find brought them into contact with the minions of the Red Death and nearly cost them their lives. When they returned home to Europe, they swore holy vows to dedicate their lives to the destruction of the Red Death's minions.

For nearly 500 years after its inception, Die Wächtern was headquartered in a secret location somewhere south of Leipzig. During that time, the members of the order were required to be "knights of exceptional character who might swear to almighty



God that they would henceforth devote their lives to this most holy of wars."

In the early 1600's, however, an unknown catastrophe befell the order and it was all but destroyed. All of the order's records, a vast arcane library with files dating back to the original Defiance itself, were lost. The battle against the Red Death has had few setbacks as terrible as this one.

A handful of the surviving members made their way to Amsterdam and reestablished the order. They took great care to cover their tracks and managed to escape whatever struck down the original order.

In the centuries that have passed since those dark days, the members of Die Wächtern have once again assembled a wealth of knowledge about the occult and the actions of the Red Death's creatures. Thanks to the speed of modern communications (i.e., the telegraph), agents of this qabal have relatively quick access to information that might be of vital importance when confronting the evils of the world.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

John Philpot Curran
from a speech given July 10, 1790

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The Lost Kingdom

A Neutral Good Qabal

While some scholars of forbidden lore argue that the Lost Kingdom is the oldest of all qabals, predating even the Defiance by several centuries, others insist that the group no longer exists. Indeed, some say that it was never founded at all and that it exists only in the minds of wishful thinkers. Those who argue for its existence have only the vaguest of reports to support their theories. Still, these accounts tell the story of a most remarkable group.

Symbol

As one might expect, the symbol of the Lost Kingdom is the life-giving ankh that was heavily revered by the ancient Egyptians. Every individual who lives in the secluded valley that is home to the Lost Kingdom wears such a symbol at all times as a sign of devotion to the gods of Egypt. When the Lost Kingdom sends its agents out into the world, these golden pendants are used to identify members to their associates.

Members

Like the Vistani, the members of the Lost Kingdom are a race unto themselves. Their maintenance of an isolated gene pool for the last few millennia has resulted in them retaining features and traits that were long ago lost to the rest of Egyptian culture.

Unlike the gypsies of eastern Europe, however, the Lost Kingdom does allow outsiders to join its ranks, although this is certainly a rare occurrence. One example was the Scottish explorer David Livingstone. Many people have speculated that he spent considerable time within the Lost Kingdom while exploring Africa. Although he never admitted to this, even when asked on his death bed, it seems certain that he had contact with the Lost Kingdom while exploring the Dark Continent.

Many secrets of magic have been preserved and expanded upon by the citizens of The Lost Kingdom. While they will not dabble in the art of necromancy, they are the masters of all other schools. Because of various protective and concealing spells that were woven over their city before the Red Death's arrival, wizardry and mysticism still may be practiced safely there. Fully aware of the peril that normally comes with the practice of the arcane arts, however, they seldom employ these powers outside of their valley.

History

The Lost Kingdom is said to have been formed by Sadett (pronounced SAH-det), a disciple of the ancient Egyptian wizard Imhotep. When she saw the



direction that her master's researches were heading—researches that would eventually call into existence the Red Death and corrupt the world forever—she fled Egypt with a devoted band of adepts and mystics.

Sadett and her followers traveled to the heart of the African jungle and founded a new nation there. By hiding their city in an almost inaccessible valley, it was their intent to live apart from the rest of the human race. For roughly 4,000 years, they have done so, even keeping the existence of their civilization secret. In order to remain informed about mankind's progress and the spread of Imhotep's corruption, the Lost Kingdom frequently sends agents into the outside world.

Not a gift of cow, nor a gift of land, nor yet a gift of food, is so important as the gift of safety, which is declared to be the great gift among all gifts in this world.

Franklin Edgerton
Panchatantra (c. 5th Century)

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE

The Brotherhood of Alchemæ A Lawful Neutral Qabal

Perhaps the most unusual of the known qabals, The Brotherhood of Alchemæ embraces the purity of science above all other things. Members deny the value of culture, the arts, human emotion, the concept of mercy, or anything else that "serves to cloud the mind and fog the process of reason."

The Brotherhood frequently encounters agents of the Red Death while investigating reports of unusual phenomena. Attempts by this qabal to master the art (or science, as they see it) of magic have brought clashes with the forces of both light and darkness.

Symbol

The mark of The Brotherhood is the mortar and pestle that has long been associated with both the pursuit of science and the quasi-arcane art of alchemy. Members of the qabal are not required to carry such items with them, but an image or icon of such a device is always used to identify a member as a Brother.

Members

The Brotherhood recruits members based on their past scientific endeavors. Only after a person has made an important discovery of some sort will he be contacted and investigated for suitability. Obviously, these requirements for membership lead to an order composed of highly intelligent men and women.

The devotion that members show toward their research, as well as science in general, tends to distance them from the rest of the human race. The codes of the Brotherhood take a dim view of compassion, mercy, and the like. These elements of human personality are assumed to make an individual weak. Devout adherents of the code do everything in their power to cleanse themselves of such character flaws.

History

Like The Circle, an almost defunct qabal based in New England, the Brotherhood of Alchemæ is believed to be descended from the Stone. When that order, which is believed to have been founded by the ancient wizard Merlin, was destroyed near the start of the First Crusade, many of its members formed new qabals and attempted to carry on their work.

The first known appearance of the Brotherhood in its current state is recorded in the early 1200's in Persia. Records of the time indicate the existence of a mysterious group that sought to understand the nature of light and to harness the mystical properties that it was believed to possess. The great advances



made in these fields at that time and in that region of the world are probably due largely to the actions of this qabal.

In the centuries since, many of mankind's greatest scientific achievements can be traced directly to the efforts of this group. It is believed, for example, that Alessandro Volta, who invented the battery, was a member of the Brotherhood. Other important followers of the Code of Alchemæ are believed to include Joseph Priestley, John Dalton, Henry Frankenstein, and Dmitri Mendeleev.

For the last century or so, The Brotherhood of Alchemæ has been headquartered in London. Although it was originally based somewhere in Arabia, the society relocated in the 18th century. The exact reason for this change is unknown.

Science herself consults her heart when she lays it down that the infinite ascertainment of fact and correction of false belief are the supreme goods for man.

William James
The Will to Believe (1869)

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE

The Nation of Nine A True Neutral Qabal

The Nation of Nine is a loose affiliation of many smaller groups, each arguably a qabal in its own right. This group seeks to preserve the natural world and halt the expansion of a technological civilization. They often conflict with the minions of the Red Death, for the creatures that call it master are perhaps some of the greatest affronts to nature that they are ever likely to find.

Symbol

Each of the nine groups that make up the Nation has its own symbol. The Children of the Raven (composed almost wholly of Native Americans) use the eagle feather to identify members. Not all members recognize the symbols of other groups in the Nation; depending on an individual's rank and length of service, he may recognize only his own symbol or even all the symbols of the other groups.

Contact between the various sects is rare, except at the highest levels. When lesser agents must identify themselves to members of another order, they do so with the symbol of the target group rather than their own symbol.

Membership

The majority of people who belong to one of the nine qabals that make up the Nation are not of European descent. As mentioned earlier, one of the sects comprising this group is predominantly Native American. Another, known as The Pride, is based somewhere on the west coast of Africa and is made up almost exclusively of that continent's indigenous people. At least two other groups are known to exist in the Orient, while the island of Madagascar and the jungles of India are thought to have member groups as well.

The most valuable members of the Nation are the many shamans who make up the leadership of each qabal. An emphasis is placed on mystics in these orders, though adepts are not uncommon.

History

Despite its name, there is no reason to believe that the Nation of the Nine is not composed of ten, twelve, or even more groups. Because of the loose nature of this alliance, change is the rule rather than the exception.

The earliest appearance of a group that is believed to be a part of this qabal is traced to the year 1589. At that time, bizarre stories began spreading among the European slave traders who were raiding the people of Africa's west coast. Reports began circulating that a number of African tribes were



being aided by white men who armed them and helped them to resist the slavers. Word spread that an organization known as Libertad (Liberty) had vowed to see the slave trade halted and the people of Africa protected from European contamination. Their failure is one of history's most tragic defeats.

Despite their differences, the various groups that have united to form the Nation of Nine have many things in common. Foremost among these is a belief that European-style civilization is poisonous to the human spirit. Only by embracing nature, they say, can mankind be free of the evils that have spread throughout the world.

Members of these orders who recognize the existence of the Red Death see it not as an invader from another realm, but rather as a by-product of civilization. Had mankind's progress as a technological animal been halted after the arrival of the Red Death, the world would have been spared the centuries of suffering that it has endured since.

We do not inherit the earth,
We borrow it from our children.

Traditional Wisdom

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE

The Vistani

A Chaotic Neutral Qabal

Although not a qabal in the strictest sense of the word, these mysterious gypsies can certainly be thought of as a secret society. The Vistani seem to have prophetic abilities and similar supernatural talents but do not appear to attract the attention of the Red Death when they employ them. Exactly how they circumvent that most terrible of evils is a mystery to even the most knowledgeable metaphysicians.

Symbol

Unlike traditional qabals, the Vistani employ no overt manner of identification. They seem to have the innate ability to recognize their own kind at a glance. Imposters, therefore, are instantly detected and driven out or destroyed.

This is not to say that the Vistani never employ special symbols or banners, only that they do not depend upon such mundane things to establish the credibility of another. The Vistani of Gothic Earth are divided into no fewer than two dozen tribes, each of which has some symbology that is important to them.

For example, the largest Vistani tribe, which lives in the great horseshoe of the Carpathian Alps, travels and camps under the banner of the Raven's Eye. They insist that this helps the women of the tribe to capture the keen sight of those dark birds and use it for their own ends.

Members

Although the Vistani sometimes employ agents recruited from the outside world, these people are not considered the equals of the gypsies in any way. They are simply hirelings who are assigned a specific task and paid for their services. No one ever becomes a Vistana; they are a race to themselves.

As mentioned, the gypsies of Gothic Earth seem to be blessed with prophetic abilities unhampered by the taint of the Red Death. The majority of these powers, however, are found among the women of the race. Indeed, it is said that no Vistani girl is without some form of supernatural prescience, and that no Vistani woman is not a mistress of prophecy. While this seems to be an exaggeration, it is closer to the truth than most people would like to believe.

History

The outside world knows almost nothing about the origins of the Vistani or their place in the universe. Much of what is known can scarcely be counted as more than speculation and rumor. Some of the most reliable information about these people was obtained



by Jonathan Harker, a member of Die Wächtern, during his prolonged encounter with that most vile of creatures, Dracula.

When Harker managed his escape from the vampire's castle, he was aided in reaching the outside world via the Raven's Eye. Much of what transpired at that time was lost to his memory due to the horrors he had suffered. Later, he recalled the details of his escape through a hypnotic trance induced by the famed Abraham Van Helsing.

Harker apparently spent nearly a week in the company of the Vistani. During that time, he concluded that they were hindering some of the Count's efforts while aiding others. He deduced that they had an agenda all their own and felt little fear of the dreadful creature with whom they were dealing.

Whatever this plan of the Vistani might be, they pursue it for their own reasons. Whether it promises good or evil for the world in general, none can say.

He that would know what shall be
must first consider what hath been.

Thomas Fuller, M.D.
Gnomologia (1732)

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE

The Fellowship of the Crimson Dawn

A Neutral Evil Qabal

Founded in 1887, the Fellowship of the Crimson Dawn is perhaps the youngest qabal on Gothic Earth. The earliest members formed the group to discover whether or not magic actually existed and, if it did, to what ends it might be employed.

These individuals devoted much effort to the research of ancient philosophies and the practice of arcane rituals. Almost by accident, they found that the world was indeed blessed (or cursed) with a magical aura that they could manipulate. What they didn't realize until much later was the price for their meddling in things they didn't fully understand.

Symbol

The Fellowship of the Crimson Dawn employs a thirteen-pointed starburst as the symbol of their order. All members carry such an item, usually in the form of a ring or amulet, at all times.

Membership

The original members of the Fellowship numbered nine. Since that time, the order has grown to include some fifty to sixty persons. Counted among these are many authors, philosophers, and artisans.

For many, including the original nine, membership in the Crimson Dawn began as a lark. The idea of trying one's hand at magic had a certain appeal, especially when they seemed certain that nothing would ever come of it.

Had any of the original nine realized that the spells they would be working were not only effective, but also certain to draw the attention of the greatest of all evils, the group never would have been born. Having begun in ignorance of the peril that faced them, the members of the Crimson Dawn were quickly corrupted and claimed by the Red Death.

One of the greatest dangers in dealing with the Fellowship is its leadership. While the wisdom of those nine persons can certainly be doubted, their intelligence is beyond scrutiny. In addition, they are without exception men and women of power and prestige.

Of course, it is possible that the original nine are dead. Those who control the group today may be doppelgangers or other creatures. Whatever the case, the members of the Crimson Dawn are now little more than puppets of the greatest of evils.

History

The Fellowship of the Crimson Dawn was founded in 1887 with the stated purpose of determining whether magic was real. For those familiar with the eternal



war against the Red Death, such a question is not only foolish, but dangerous.

In less than three years, the original nine members of the fellowship had become obsessed with their research into the arcane. They sought out the darkest knowledge and desired to manipulate forces and powers far beyond their control. Thinking themselves the most wise and clever men and women on Gothic Earth, they quickly proved themselves to be the most foolish and blind.

By the year 1890, the Fellowship of the Crimson Dawn was a society of the doomed. Infused with magic and evil, they became tools of a power they didn't understand. Their fascination with the arcane has made them easy converts to the sinister service of the Red Death, and it is doubtful that any force on Gothic Earth can redeem them.

Without knowledge, life is no more than the shadow of death.

Molière
The Would-be Gentleman (1670)

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE

The White Legion A Lawful Evil Qabal

The White Legion is a group that believes in the superiority of European civilization. All the problems of the modern world, they claim, are based upon the contamination of western culture by the "lesser nations of man."

It is easy to mistakenly assume that the White Legion favors the elimination of so-called "lesser races." This is actually untrue. The official goals of the group are isolationist, not genocidal. This does not mean, however, that individual cells and members do not have more extreme viewpoints.

The White Legion often comes into contact with the minions of the Red Death while attempting to stamp out "cultural contamination." While they sometimes battle evil creatures, their motivations and methods make them no better than the evils they destroy.

Symbol

Meetings of the White Legion occur only in seclusion. At such times, all attendees wear hooded white robes. Beneath these, their faces are painted to resemble skulls. Each wears a hangman's noose around his neck. As might be expected, a skull within a noose is the sign of this order.

Members

The White Legion is composed of bitter people who seek to blame the failings of the world on persons other than themselves. They deny any shortcomings in their own lives, continually finding villains, real or imagined, behind every mishap. Scholars have accurately characterized the White Legion as one of the world's most xenophobic orders.

History

The White Legion began during the days of the Black Death (1348, to be precise). It grew out of an earlier order known as The European Society. The exact goals and traditions of that order are lost, but the group is believed to have been an important player in the Crusades. It is almost certain that the libraries of this qabal have information that would clear up much of the mystery surrounding their lineage, but they are obviously unwilling to share it.

Following the formation of The White Legion in London, the group gained support throughout much of Europe. In the wake of the Black Death's arrival from the east, their belief that European Man should isolate himself from the world was well received.

The coming of the Renaissance brought the expansion of the group almost to a halt, but did nothing to diminish its existing membership. The idea of a global culture from which all might benefit



was repugnant to the White Legion, but their efforts to halt the Renaissance were poorly organized and too short-sighted to have a lasting impact.

Membership in the order declined at the start of the 16th century. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the White Legion was largely ineffectual, especially since it opposed the otherwise popular notions of importing slaves from Africa and the establishment of colonies in the New World. These objections had nothing to do with the idea of helping the African or Native American peoples; the White Legion's only interest was the protection of European culture from outside influences.

The 19th century has seen a marked increase in the membership of the White Legion. The leadership of the group seems better skilled than ever before, and the individuals who compose it are as dedicated to their cause as ever.

My strength is as the strength of ten,
Because my heart is pure.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Sir Galahad (1842)

HEIRS OF DEFIANCE

The Six-Fingered Hand

A Chaotic Evil Qabal

Perhaps the most terrible of all the secret societies on Gothic Earth is the ancient order of the Six-Fingered Hand. Like many qabals, it traces its ancestry back to The Defiance. Undeniably evil, the Six-Fingered Hand acknowledges the same goal that inspired The Defiance: the ultimate destruction of the Red Death. Although it is difficult to find fault with this goal, the means by which they attempt to accomplish it is another matter.

Members of the Six-Fingered Hand believe absolutely that the Red Death is an integral part of Gothic Earth. The only way to be rid of the former, they insist, is to destroy the latter.

Symbol

The sign of this sinister qabal is an open hand with the fingers slightly spread. What makes this glyph disturbing, however, is that every finger has an extra joint, and that the hand has two thumbs, one on each side of the palm. Occasionally, an image of Gothic Earth is placed in the palm of the hand as if it were about to be gripped. It is unknown whether such a hand belongs to a real creature, or whether it is simply a bizarre image.

Members of this qabal are routinely scarred with a diagonal slash across the palm of the left hand. When identifying themselves, members hold their left hand up and open to display this mark of loyalty.

Members

The followers of the Hand are a dangerous group. They seem to be evenly divided between crazed geniuses and brutal thugs, with a few mad adepts tossed in for good measure.

No one who seeks out the Hand and attempts to join is ever accepted as a member. Such individuals are tortured for information about how they located the qabal, then killed to plug a potential leak.

Instead, if the leaders of the Hand spot a potential member, they seek him out and attempt to recruit him. Those who refuse are eliminated to prevent a possible threat to security.

History

The Six-Fingered Hand can trace its origins back to the collapse of the Defiance. A great deal of reliable evidence exists to prove that a half-dozen of the Defiance's most conservative members fled across the Mediterranean Sea to Rome, where the group has been based since.

Whether the actions of this qabal have helped or hindered the efforts of the Red Death is difficult to say. Certainly, the members of the Hand have brought about much suffering, but they have also



swept whole breeds of supernatural horrors out of existence.

Perhaps the most infamous action of the group occurred in 1883. Reports had come to the order of a portal that had opened to some mysterious netherworld. Agents were sent to investigate and take whatever action they might deem appropriate. These agents decided that they might be able to force a collapse of the portal and trigger the annihilation of Gothic Earth. They succeeded in the former, but failed in the latter. Even in failure, however, the agents of the Hand wrought great destruction. The effects of the explosion they triggered not only destroyed the island of Krakatoa, but affected the global ecology for years afterward.

The Stars are setting
and the Caravan,
Starts for the Dawn of Nothing
—Oh, make haste!

Omar Khayyám
Rubáiyát (11th - 12th Century)

Miss Josephine's Costume Emporium

18

90

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"The clever, the unusual,
the latest in fanciful dress."

Royal Opera House

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18

91

The Royal Opera Company is pleased to begin its spring season, featuring a tribute to the memory of Richard Wagner.

"Why, just look at Eleanor! I see she's finally had the sense to shop at Adeline's!"



Adeline's Apparel

18

92

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If it's not from Adeline's, it's not in style.





Flaehraty's Bi-cycle Shop

1893

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Flaehraty's, Chicago's
most favored
Bi-cycle Shop.

Wayne Hoffmann, Honest Apothecary

The purest chemicals —
The most trustworthy compounds.

**BARRY'S
TRICOPHEROUS**

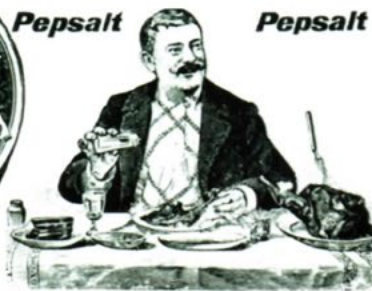


FOR THE HAIR.



Pepsalt

Pepsalt



Indigestion Has No Terrors For Him
That salt-shaker is filled with Pepsalt.
It cures and prevents indigestion.



For
HEALTH
Strength
&
VITALITY



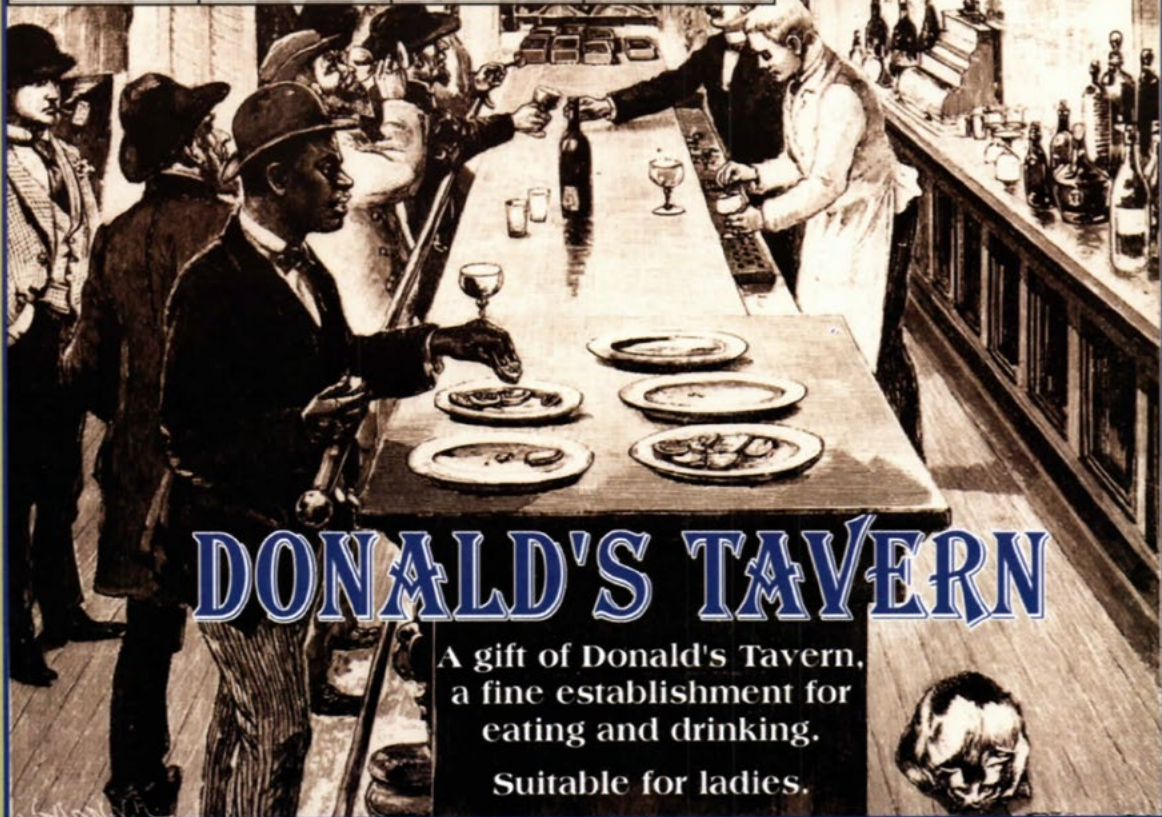
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Friendly, reliable advice is yours on the corner of Franklin and Main

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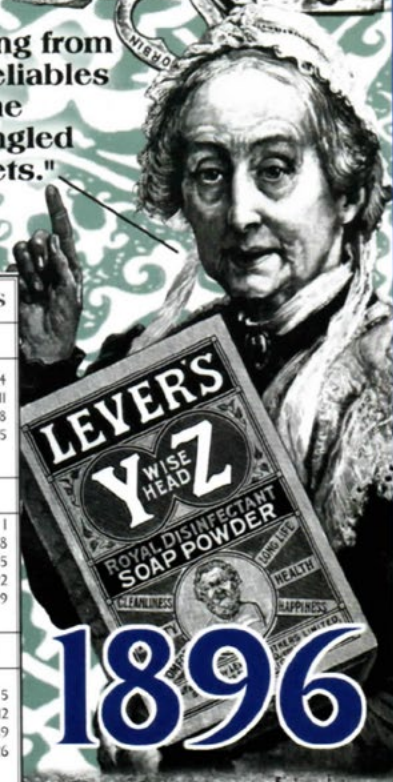
DONALD'S TAVERN

A gift of Donald's Tavern,
a fine establishment for
eating and drinking.
Suitable for ladies.

Ackermann Hardware

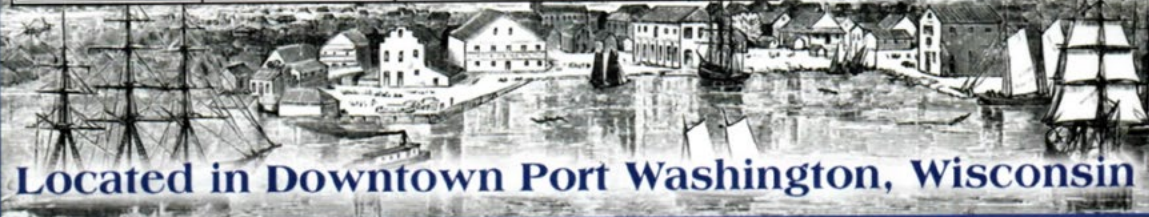


"Everything from the old reliables to the newfangled gadgets."



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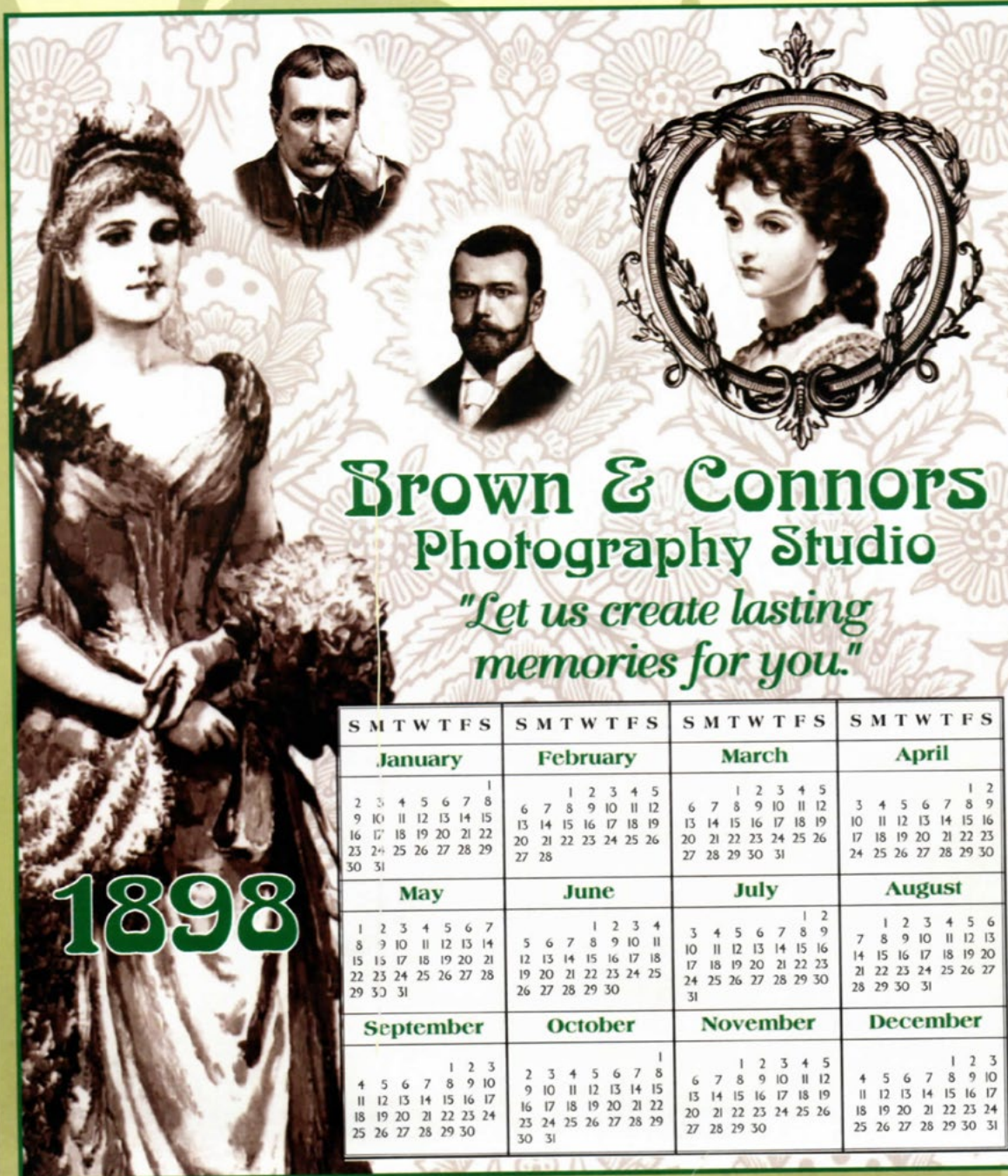


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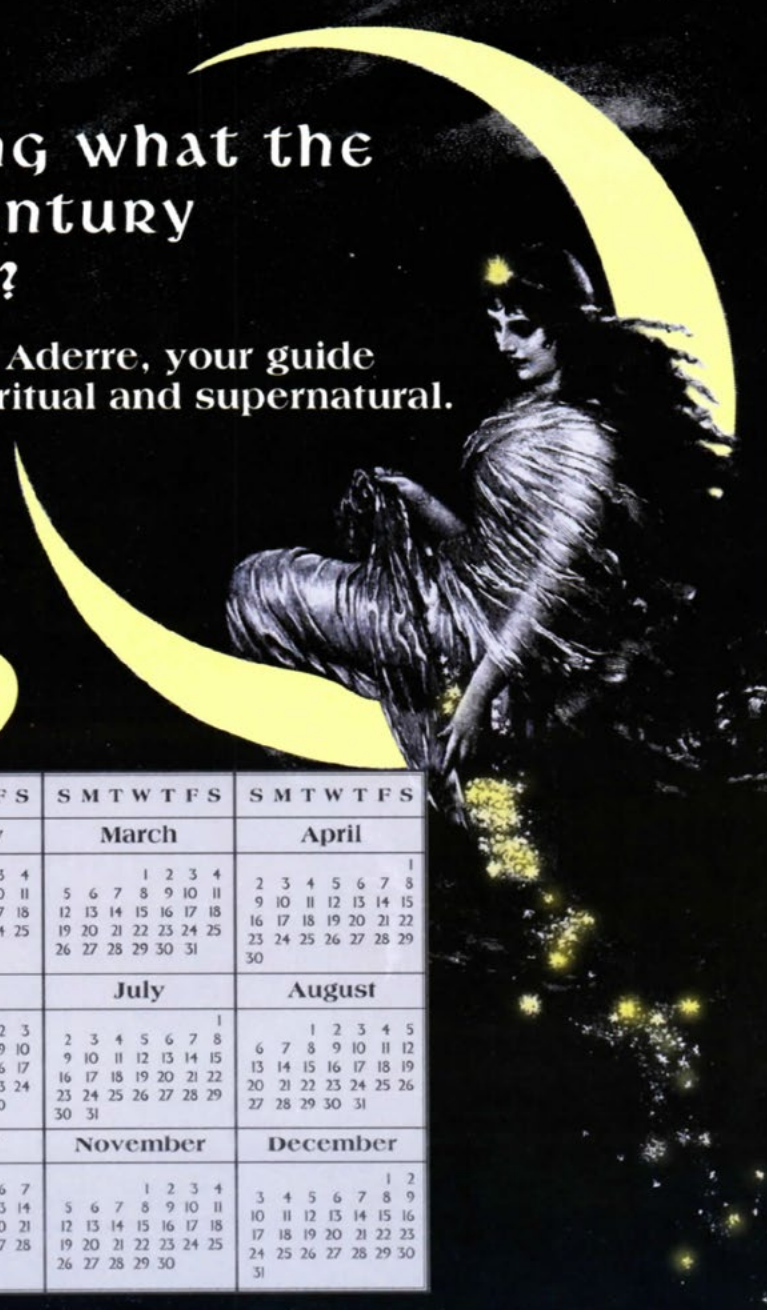
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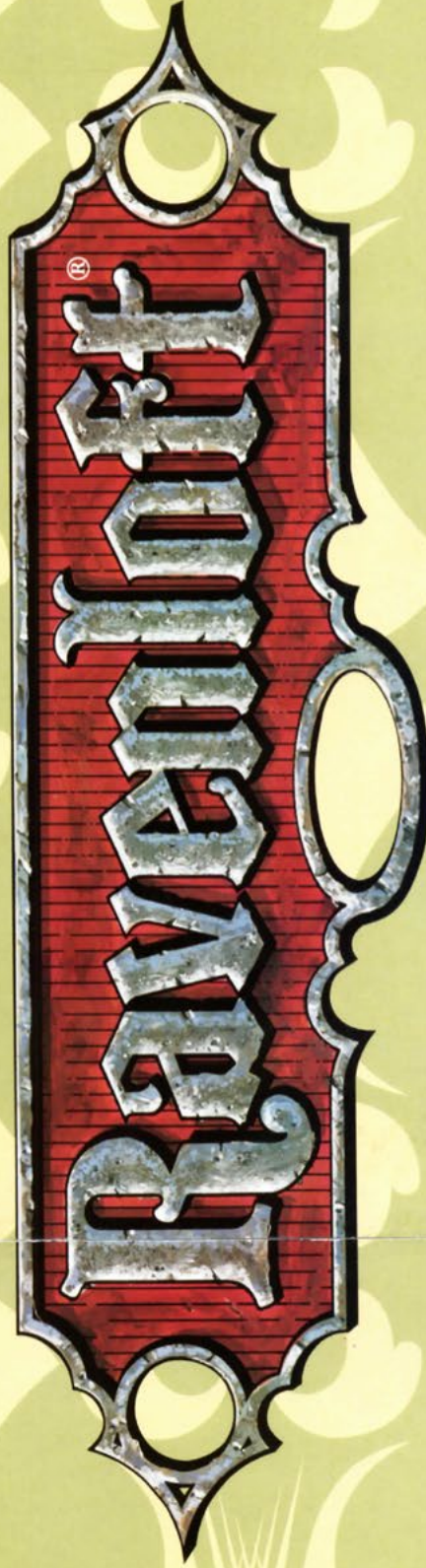
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The  **Gothic Earth
Gazetteer**



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Suggested Creatures for Masque of the Red Death Campaigns

Note: This table does not include common creatures like bats, rats, or spiders; only exceptional creatures have been listed. Creatures from the MONSTROUS COMPENDIUM RAVENLOFT appendix have not been listed as most of these are deemed acceptable. Creatures in italics may not be suitable for all campaigns; DMs should use their own judgment.

Monstrous Manual

Argos
Baatezu
Banshee
Broken One
Brownie
Crawling Claw
Crypt Thing
Deepspawn
Doppelganger
Feyr
Gargoyle
Ghost
Ghoul
Golem, Any
Hag
Haunt
Heucuva
Homonculous
Imp
Invisible Stalker
Jackalwere
Leprechaun
Lich
Living Wall
Lycanthrope, Any
Mist, Crimson Death
Mist, Vampiric
Morkoth
Mummy
Mummy, Greater
Naga, Spirit or Dark
Nightmare
Phantom
Poltergeist
Rakshasa
Revenant
Shadow
Skeleton, Any
Skeleton, Giant
Skeleton, Warrior
Spectre
Tanar'ri
Vampire, Any
Wight
Will o'wisp
Wolfwere
Wraith
Yeti
Yugoloth, Any
Zombie, Any

Monstrous Compendium Annual Volume One

Baneguard
Blazing Bones
Carrionette
Crypt Servant
Dread
Flameskull
Gibbering Moulder
Golem, Any
Helmed Horror
Lich, Psionic
Lycanthrope, Any
Naga, Bone
Plant, Vampire Moss
Shadeling
Spectral Wizard
Tree, Dark
Tree, Death's Head
Tuyewera
Undead Lake Monster
Wolf, Any
Wraith, Shimmering

Monstrous Compendium Mystara Appendix

Agarat
Baldandar
Bhut
Brain Collector
Crone of Chaos
Darkhood
Ghostly Horde
Golem, Any (except Drolem)
Gray Philosopher
Imp, Any
Lycanthrope, Any
Manikin
Nightshade, Any
Plasm
Sacrol
Spectral Death
Spectral Hound
Spirit, All
Statue, Living, All
Topi
Vampire, Velya
Wyrd
Zombie, Lightning

Monstrous Compendium Dark Sun Appendix

Dhaot
Golem, All
Kaisharga
Krag
Kragling
Meorty
Raaig
Racked Spirit
Stalking Horror
Undead
Wraith, Athasian
Zombie, Thinking

Monstrous Compendium Planescape Appendix

Baatezu, Any
Imp, Any
Night Hag
Nightmare
Shadow Fiend
Tanar'ri, Any
Yugoloth, Any

Monstrous Compendium Planescape Appendix II

Ghostlight
Simpathetic
Tanar'ri, Any
Yugoloth, Canoloth

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The Gothic Earth Gazetteer

a Masque  of the Red Death accessory

by William W. Connors

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