There are those to whom knowledge is a shield, and those to whom it is a weapon. Netter view is balanced, but one is less unwise.

We have learn this time and again, when we brought drought to the Nile, when we sacked Rome, and burned London to the ground. When we looked at the relics of the precursors, we saw the heights civilization can attain. When we looked at their ruins, we marked the danger of that height. Behold, Lore-Master, for the balance has tipped yet again. Our ancient order calls upon us to act, and thy services are

With the advent of paganism, we have seen the wills of collectives purge the freedoms of those who choose heresy. But with the advent of the Metal Age cometh untold power, weldable in the hands of a few. This will not do, for our way of life. We chose our profession in defiance of the greed of the monarchy. We will not live for the sake of taxes to fatten the nobles pockets. We choose to live the only life available to those who would be truly free. We are like thieves. The foibles of man have eradicated many of our brethren. Despite this not being our war, the awakened vigilance has lifted the shadows from our forms, and made us naked and vulnerable. We have identified the source of this corruption, but before we act, we must be sure.

Lore-Master, as keeper of archives, It is your task to seek the true nature of this tragedy. You shall lurk unseen, amongst the townsfolk, lawkeepers, even amongst the enemy, and you shall know your enemies well. Use any means necessary, for your ends are just. Be ever diligent. For your enemies are a multitude, and sin never sleeps.

Make haste, however, steady your judgment. Presume nothing. The essence of balance is detachment. Our burden is not for the dependent of spirtt. Fail us not, in this most sacred of tasks. For necessary though it may be, the need to restore the balance, greater still is the role of a Lore-Master. The knowledge of those who came before could neither be disseminated or destroyed. Its power would be a dangerous tool in the wrong hands, but would also insure against future cataclysm. It all times we choose to maintain it with writings preserved in extant locations. History is written by the observer. Propaganda is written by the victor. Thine eyes art the those through which we shall be judged by our descendants. May the fates watch over you through this endeavour.



AN DE BURGEMEESTER VAN AMSTERDAM CE OF THE MAYOR OF AMSTERDAM)

DOOR DE ORDE VAN DE KERK Y THE ORDER OF THE CHURCH)

summoned.

ATE CLOSURE AND CONFISCATION GREBBERSZ'S TEXTILE FACTORY

IE CRIME OF CONTACT WITH GIOVANNI ICA, PERSONA EXCOMMUNICATA, AND MENTATION OF THE TURBINE DEVICE, A E ON THE DEVIL'S LIST, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE THAT GIJSBERT JACOB GREBBERSZ'S TEXTILE HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN AND THE PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY THE CHURCH.

ORM OF ACTIVITY INSIDE THE PROPERTY FORTH WILL BE DEEMED AS AN ACT OF AG-ON AGAINST THE LORD AND THE CHURCH. DERS WILL BE IMPRISONED. THE PROPERTY E AUCTIONED OFF AFTER 5 REVOLUTIONS OF THE SUN.

TED: DEAD OR A

NAME: Alfieri Nigma

AUTION: This man has sold ! wer and wealth. His deceptive Testimony of Erik van Gruijse, Fruit Vendor at Enge Kerk-

thes was concerned with the los of his usiness.

t goir on with I was . busin of sells fruits when there sa hu commoti near Nieuwms t. I heard people elling hat the tods wer eing cap red. I did not bo er to look Bu they wer soon bong rounded up all ow De We erb entire se Buurt. That was when the rioting started. Someone killed one of the captured whores. And soon there was no place safe. People were to shut down my shop and I don't think that I can open it again. Not anytime soon. No

way. I don't want to be caught and killed by someone. The Church might think that the whores and the whoremasters are immoral, but my business continues because of them. Due to them, I am able to feed my family the bread they want. I wish this had not happened.

Testimony of Lira Selejsse, Fille de joie Witness was highly agitated throughout her testimony. Several of her words were incoherent.

I just can't believe that God would like so much death. I just can't believe it. So many lives. My friend was also sobs I was taking a patron to the room when I saw several other workers being thrown into a cage. I did not think of interfering. I moved on. But I never made it to the room. People rushed into the street. Holding pitchforks and sticks and stones and Oh Lord sobs My patron left me and ran away and suddenly sobs Suddenly someone grabbed her And stuck a msobs Stuck a pitchfork msobs A pitchfork right through her heart. Sobs My friend, she died There were people all around. Some of them killing. Some being killed. Several whoremasters were tied up and stoned to death. It was so painful to watch. Every dying face would remain in my memory. I cannot forget this day. I sobs

Testimony of Samuel van Savkartje, Farmer Witness seemed very eager to go join in the killings. Kept twirling his pitchfork throughout the testimony.

Finally something is being done to get rid of the filthy creatures. Cardinal Alexi III was very correct in recogniz ing these bawds for what they truly were, spawn of the devil. It was only a matter of time. No one would tolerate such immoral activities or participate in them if they were not related to the devil. Today's killings were only the start. We cleared Nieuwmarkt area and Enge Kerksteeg and its alleys. The entire area of De Wallen remains. So does Singelgebied and Ruysdaelkade. And Soon the Rosse Buurt would be cleared of all this filth. And we would be blessed in Heaven. I just hope some of them are left for me to kill after I am done with this stupid thing here. I would be sorely disappointed if I do not get to work towards the glory of God. And I would know to blame for that.

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Inteview

Five years since, brutal attacks, by such people as are called vamp by some, were reported in nine districts north of the Amstel, seven south. Cornelis de Graeff on behalf of The Courante talks to Dr. Ed gis Grosham, a Professor of Biological Sciences at the Universiteit Amsterdam, who is claimed by most as an expert in matters concerni - but not exclusive to - vampires. His account on vampires told here may not be depended upon as a fact, but given literally as it happen

C: What would you term to be the identifying qualities of a vampire? E: The identification of vampires is a matter of prime interest and much debate has been made on the issue by the wise. Lore has it that the prominence of incisors, an unusual skill in avoiding the sunlig and the sign of panic - at the sight, smell or both - of garlic may defining traits in those who are abominated by the Church as vampir - or servants of the Satan. Definitive proof, however, is not given by the aforementioned traits, and they may not be singularly used to declare an individual as being a vampire. Being a danger as they may a study can be made and tests exist - tests, that the University here is equipped to perform - which may be used as conclusive evidence.

C: Does that mean that you would suggest our readers to not follow th

E: No, absolutely not. The policy of the Church advocates caution, as do I. But it is not the will of God that innocent peasants suspected of being vampires be mindlessly persecuted. Clever and shrewed though be the mind of the Satan, science still attempts to bring him out of hiding. It appears to me that vampires may be identifiable. Any action should be taken after the person in question is positively identified

C: If not Vampires, who else could be the cause of such strange incidents

E: It need not be a case of "Who?" Not insignificant is the possibility that the outbreak witnessed is no more than a disease, not very unlike the Italian Plague of 1630. Traits - several, but not all - exhibited by those that are accused as being vampires are explained by a less known and sufficiently rare condition called Porphyria. Among others, would manifest. Necrosis of the skin - are how the disease pain - acute in all but a few cases, seizures and sensitivity to light would manifest. Necrosis of the skin and gums might occur, in which they develop a reddish hue. Teeth - in a few reported cases - exhibit fluorescence under black light. Victims develop sulfur intolerance, rampant vampirism in the lands. I Intermittent consumption through the mouth - of blood, sometimes human

- is advised by certain medical practitioners. Although there is only one reported case that tells of any positive effect of blood on this 5'10" high white male, average by prising that alternate conclusions are contrived at by people, inclined,

C: As you said yourself, this particular disease is extremely rare. We have seen a lot of activity from the Vampires recently, and quite a lot of innocent people have been harmed. Moreover, over the past few weeks, the Church has successfully identified with proof and rid us of at least 30 of these unholy creatures. Isn't it more likely that the Church is n avoiding capture for the pas E: The proof that has been given by the Church, by exhuming does a

Daily Horoscopes

The wisdom of the Lord is written in the heavens for all to see. It is our duty to decipher their meanings so that we are not deluded by the Evil One's temptations. The most revered and skilled Priest Clairede Macks has interpreted the signs for your day.

Aries - The Star of Fortune smiles brightly upon you today. Arise and commence the good Lord's work.

Aquarius - There is danger in your near future. A ritual cleansing shall help keep the evil spirits at bay.

Pisces - Good prospects lie ahead but are marred by arrogance. Banish evil thoughts and place your faith in the Lord.

Libra - The Moon hinders your spiritual progress. Avoid silver ornaments. Do not venture out before dawn.

Gemini - The kind Lord has blessed you with a glorious day. All your affairs are in order and Mars is unlikely to make disruptions.

Cancer - Begin any new venture with caution. Decisions taken today shall have a long and lasting impact on your life and well being.

Taurus - Rejoice! Today is a day of great spiritual enlightenment. A close friend shall prove himself trustworthy and competent.

Sagittarius - You will find yourself involved in matters of immense magnitude. You shall find inner peace by discarding emotions and blending into His subtle harmony.

Leo - The Devil's minions are lurking near. Beware his charms and disguises. His evil hand shall not touch the righteous!

Capricorn - Passions run abound with the impatience of youth. A wish long craved shall be granted, but it comes with a price.

Scorpio - A period of intense trials is ahead of you. Saturn showers obstacles in your path to wisdom. Sacramental rites by an ordained priest shall alleviate the burden.

Virgo - Egoistic tendencies flare under the sign of Uranus. Happiness shall be yours, but it shall not last. Truth long hidden from you, shall reveal itself today.

Ask and Ye Shalt Receive

What does the church think of the royal decree giving more freedom to the Jewish and Moslem traders?

The royals have shown arrogance and total blindness to their land yet again. Already the land is on the lookout for a man who sold the devils evils in the form of medicine. There seems to be an evil influence in this city and I fear that it has been slowly spreading and sadly has spread to a few quarters of the royal household. An evil presence in the palace does not hold good for us and through the spread of more evil and tainted goods through these traders I fear that the devil is trying to influence us. We must avoid all the traders who preach in the ways of the false god and devil. Helping spread the words of the devil is akin to selling ones soul to the devil himself. We must not be fooled by the devil and we must hold true to our faith. We must buy goods from only the hard working devoted Christian man for he is one who is free from sin and in only his goods we will not be tainted by the devil.

How is it that none of the teeth of the supposed vampires found were pointed?

This question shows the mindset of a supposed man of science. It is this very belief and questioning ideology that has brought about this evil presence. A vampire is mainly a possession of ones body by the devil. The physical phenomenon and change seen only manifests when the devil is present in the body. The death of a living body that has been possessed results in the driving out of a soul thereby removing the characteristics of the possession. What this means and says is that the body parts found after a haunting will always seem normal. What these so called men of science try to do is twist the facts and plant the seed of doubt in the minds of men, thereby reducing their faith. They are doing the work of the devil. Such people will not be left unpunished and I fear that the wrath of God may very well fall upon such men soon unless they repent and change such questioning ways.

Courante uyt Italien, Duytslandt, &c.

Wt Amstelledammen den, 6 Augustus 1632

Minutes before dawn, the Diocesan Bishop of Zuiderkerk did sent scouts to arrest Eduvigis Grosham, a lecturer of biological sciences from the University de Amstelledamm. Earlier this week, the Courante hath reported an exclusive interview of Eduvigis. The arrest, ordered by Cardinal Alexi III, followeth a public reprimand of the practices and teachings of Eduvigis, the youngest occupant of the Carl van Dahl Honorary Chairship at the University. It be speculated that Eduvigis could have ordered the digging up of some graves near Damark. Courante had reported the finding of headless skulls on the banks of Amstel on I4 Juni. What business a Professor might have with human skulls is not yet known. But rumors are aloft that it might, in fact, be the work of the Satan, acting through Eduvigis.

Our reporter was told that the scouts found Eduvigis at his private residence in Zuiderkerk. On seeing his warrant, Eduvigis was dismayed but conceded quickly. He was allowed to exchange a few words with his wife, Walda auf Deutshceland, who is also an immigrant to the Amstelledamm. The Bishop was unavailable for an interview. More information concerning his arrest is expected at the trial on the day of the Sabbath.

Wt Amstelledammen den, 7 Augustus 1632

Echoing public opinion, deputy inquisitor Paul van Dyk ordered the guillotine of Eduvigis Grosham who was arrested by the Church this week. A public announcement was made followed by a report. Eduvigis did not show any signs of struggle. The trial was held at the Old Church of Zuiderkerk. Our reporter writes, on the proceedings of the trial:

"At five minutes and nine hours on the morning of Augustus the 7th, Eduvigis Grosham was produced for trial at the Old Church in Zuiderkerk. Deputy inquisitor Paul van Dyk charged Eduvigis with (a) the posession of human skulls, seven in number, at his private residence, which were discovered to be from de Grave oft Damark; (b) the writing of 'Ziekten en symptomen die leiden tot een vampier-achtige eigenschappen in de mens', an article that expresses the idea that certain humans bear vampire-like features, published by the Univeristy of Amstelledamm without the Church's approval; and (c) the posession of toxic chemicals at his laboratory in the Univeristy of Amstelledamm, traces of which were found on the aforementioned skulls."

Of those who attended the trial, there were few students from the University itself. It appears that Eduvigis was not very popular in his neighborhood either. One of his neighbors, who accompanied Walda, the Professor's wife, later told our reporter that Eduvigis was a highly eccentric man, even for a Professor. "Why, he would never return home before sunset, that man! And that's odd - very odd," he said. "Folks used to say he wanders off at midnight, wearing nought but his old robe for the cold. All the signs of the Satan there is, in that man! I don't want no vampires scaring my children off, no, I don't." Courante also caught up with van Dyk, who seemed to have a strong prejudice against "these immigrants". He said, "They come here and they bring the Satan with them. Amstel is holy no more - acause of folks like these".

The guillotine of Eduvigis Grosham shall happen on the Dam Square tomorrow. Cardinal Alexi III told the Courante that proceedings from the trial and the ceremony will go to the Church's Trust.

Wt Amstelledammen den, 8 Augustus 1632

Amidst public cheer and amusement, Eduvigis Grosham was guillotined by the Church in Dam Square today. His wife, Walda was not present to witness it.

Original report first published in De Kerkelijke Registers can Amsterdam.

On July 12, 1632, The Office of the Public Medical Examiner concluded its examination of the Municipal Graveyard near the outskirts of the city. The published results of the study include the names of seven confirmed vampires roaming the streets. Recent reports of strange noises and flashing lights at midnight in and around this graveyard were taken seriously by the authorities and the examination requested in order to verify the veracity of the events. The team found several empty graves, seemingly dug from within. Joseph Gordon, Royal Surgeon, heading the investigation team made the following statement.

"Our team found the graveyard to be filled with empty graves. The graves were certainly dug from the inside causing us to believe that the corpses have been reanimated. The names of all the dead found absconding from their final resting place have been duly noted. We have circulated a list with those names. A description of those individuals will be made available to the public as soon as available so that they can better ensure their own protection. The team also exhumed the body of the recently deceased Driovane Umgata to verify our doubts. The body was found to be unrotting itself, and there was the presence of fresh blood. The team ensured that the corpse did not rise again to add to the growing terror in the mortal lands. A stake was driven though its heart and it was burnt after the creature's wails had died out. Perhaps, the soil of the graveyard has been corrupted by the evil of the vampires."

Driovane Umgata, it should be noted, died under highly mysterious circumstances. There were suspicions of vampire involvement and the death was recorded as the result of an unforeseen accident. As a precautionary action, all the bodies buried within the Municipal Graveyard are to be exhumed and burned with a stake through the heart. The public is advised not to perform any more burials within those grounds until it is consecrated by the Priests.

The recent investigation is the 70th such case within the past 3 months which have seen the number of vampires running amok within the walls of the city rise to 316. The following seven names were the latest addition to the list: Ruja Svegreda, Esthel Urukberen, Kanja Raschmundsdottir, Edgar van der Doyt, Crishtopher Stevens, Shalmud Crostinje, Friedmmar Orjmugstyar

The citizens of Amsterdam are warned to keep their eyes open for any sort of suspicious activities. Take all precautions adviced by the Church for dealing with vampires.



BEWARE THE DARK KNIGHT OF DOOM

Simon Gregory The Mayor of Amsterdam

His Holiness Bishop Cobblepot

Herr Gregory,

The Church wishes to extend their great sympathy for the troubles facing the people with the growing menace of hell spawn vampires. The Regliegeren, who should have taken the essential steps to prevent the populace from coming to any sort of harm, have failed to do so in so far. It is quite unfortunate that the shepherd's flock had to take matters into their hands in order to send the satanic beings back to the graves they dug their way out of. The Cardinal commends the brave actions of the denizens of Amsterdam in dealing promptly with this menace.

Of grave concern is the almost converse reaction of the Regliegeren which is involved in an attempt to prove the insalubrious creatures to be blameless, upon your orders, we have reason to believe. Your requests for deeper Regliegeren probing are not deemed to be in the best interests. Also causing troubles for every God fearing soul residing within the walls of the city is the interview of the charlatan proclaiming the unholy vampires as the victims. An interview that was able to see the daylight, once again, upon the force of your request. Considering the gifts that have been bestowed upon your person by the Church, it would be better if such requests cease at once.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Consider ceasing your requests immediately. Side not yourself with the minions of the devil. For all the glory and power you possess at your command would not take long to slip away at one word from the Church. Your power is of no concern in the face of the Lord. Our Father in Heaven will not look too kindly upon the sympathizers of evil.

Work towards helping your people overcome their plight. May the Lord's blessing shine bright upon your wife and daughter. May they lead long and healthu lives.

Bishop Cobblepot

Greetings Hammerite.

I trust thou hast received thy payment for the last task. We are but one step closer to our have discussed.

May the lord watchover y goals, there still remain many things to be do Thy next task involves the aristocrat Alfieri. The next task involves the aristocrat Alfieri. It is but a standard affair. You must infiltrate Alfieri's residence and place certain articles. Alfieri's residence and place certain articles in his home. However, a most meddlesome mayor hath ordered a police probing of the location.

The Church intends to stall the matters as much as possible, intends to stall the matters as much as possible, but thou must show caution. Methais shall visit you soon to deliver the articles and discuss payment. Should you succeed, we intend to go after the Mayor next, depending on his response. Position false witnesses around his household, just

in case.

Goodspeed.

Greetings, Hammerite. His holiness is glad to hear that everything has proceeded as planned. It seems that you have done well in clouding the minds of the locals. All talk on the streets seems to revolve around the vampires. I hear the tombstones are carved and ready. Methias shall soon visit the quarry to inspect them. Make sure to carve the right names on them as instructed. These individuals chose to hide from the eyes of the law, and therefore from God himself. If we are satisfied, then you shall proceed with the plan. The Church expects perfection in the setting up of the location, and will not take kindly to failure. And be wary, you are not to be discovered at any co completion of your tasks, you rewarded with gold, as well

Investigative Report

Amsterdam City Police

Date: 15 Augustus, the year of our lord 1632 Location: Chateau Blume, Manor of Aristocrat Afrieri Nigma, Prinsengracht, Amsterdam Case: Vmpyre046

The investigation carried out in the abandoned house of Alfieri has brought to the fore new evidence regarding the true nature of its occupant. The heavily curtained mansion with its complete lack of mirrors or any other sort of reflective apparatus appears to add weight to the Church's claims of Alfieri being a vampire. The investigation team also chanced upon a silver file with fine dust, most probably from the teeth, trapped in it. Presumably, the instrument was used by Alfieri to file off his sharp canines in order to better blend into the crowd. Further scrutiny is necessary prior to reaching any conclusive decision regarding the dust.

The investigative team came across the sickening stench of blood. The stench was found to be emanating from the basement where several animals had met their doom behind a locked door. The cause of their death was definitely the draining of their blood in entirety through puncture wounds near the neck. Sevral vials of blood were discovered n the cold-room. There were also light of struggle throughout the louse, principally in the bedroom. The headboard of the bed was wholly lovered in scratches and there was newly dried blood on the sheets. This was perhaps the site of at least one, if not several, virgin murders and blood drinking orgies. The servants must be considered to be a part of the vampire group terrorizing the city and efforts must be taken to constantly keep them in sight in order to get to their master.

The Regliegeren failed to secure the site of investigation in its entirety prior to its being disturbed. A small number of Priests of the Most Holy Order of the Sacred Cloth of Light, sent out by His Holiness Cardinal Alexi III himself, were constantly moving around within the mansion sprinkling Holy Water on all the surfaces and laying out protective ards all over the place. Also noiced was an unusually high amount f footprints within the premises. Evidence suggests a break-in at the basement level. Questions arise over the nature of Alfieri's departure. It is possible that Alfieri was aided by several people in his escape. All gathered evidence, once screened by the Bishop present at the scene, has been delivered to the Quarter-Master for safe keeping.

Royal Surgeon Joseph Gordan

Superintendant Dekard Cain

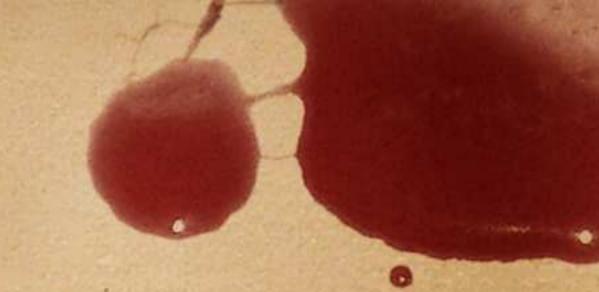
His Holiness Bishop Cobblepot

Historical Archive VC943574

The Sentencing of Cardinal Alexi III

High Priest of the Church of Amsterdam, of the Neather

Lore-Master: Garrett Raynor



31 Augustus, 1632.

Let it be known, that on this day, a captured tyrant, who is known to have caused great grief to our brethren, was put to trial, and the balance in all things, was restored,... for a while.

The surface above rained madly with noise. We could hear the muffled chaos deep within our place of judgment, beneath the fair city. All of the coven were present.

Several evidenciary artifacts, crutial to the prosecution, were arrayed upon a wooden tableau. I should know, for I collected them. Everyone of them, contained a memory. Of peril, guilt, and justice. My entire month lay before me, visually immortalised in things and words.

The Cardinal faced down with exhaustion, his spirit broken as his body lay bound to a chair. Elders Marcus, Victor and Amelia sat high upon the altar, prepared to read out his sins, before pronouncing the judgment. "Face us!", commanded Elder Amelia. The Cardinal obeyed, fearing the whips of the death-dealers who stood beside him. There was fear in his eyes, as his gaze finally fell upon his accusers for the first, and the last time.

Rose Elder Amelia, and she spake unto us all, and I wrote:

"Cardinal Alexi III. You have have played part, in a most terrible and dishonest campaign, one that has lead to the loss of many, most dear to us. It is customary in our coven, whenever possible, to let a man know the reasons for his death. Ergo, I speak now, for you to heed.

Ever since you came to power, you have awoken a vampirical hysteria among the masses. You sought to weaponise this new fear as a tool to garner public support, and unquestioning loyalty to your will. You sought to use it as a means to silence any person or movement that seemed to threaten the Church's position of power. You hired mercenaries to plant false evidence, provide constructed witness accounts, and spread vile rumours, just so to seed decent and distrust for the people you wish to be rid of. In this most covert of wars, many fine brothers and sisters have lost their lives. Upon a most tedious examination of all the evidences placed against you, this council by finds you guilty, and sentences you to death by bleeding.

As is also customery in our culture, we also grant a dying man, whenever possible, one last wish. Ask of us anything you might want, besides a pardon, and you shall receive."

We could all see the thoughts the good priest betrayed, as he inhaled a most precious breath, and looked around, as if to survey the surroundings, our appearances, the form of our clothing, the art in our walls, and utensils. He seemed to wonder, who was it, that had just condemned the highest authority of any law in this land, to death? Were we neo-liberal philosophers? A cultist sect of Devil worshippers? Perhaps men and women of science, paving the way for renaissance and reason. Or mere bandits, who were refused a ransom for his life, and are now entertaining themselves with a mockery of justice. At last, with a heavy heart, he asked, "Who.... art thee?"

And thus answered Elder Amelia: "We, are what you pretended to fear all along, Cardinal. We are what some would call, an abomination. We are the immortal bend. We, are the Vespertillo!"

As the proud word of our name echoed through these secret halls, all of us were inclined to smirk a smile, and reveal our fangs. The Deathdealers made bare the cardinal's neck, dig into it softly, and drank until he screamed no more.

Let it be known, that on this night, the ancient corruption was again contained. To do more would have upset the balance, but we knew to remain ever vigilant lest it resurface. Neither the Hammers nor the pagans could be trusted not to meddle.

Lore-Master Garette Raynor Vespertillo Coven