

# THE WHISPERER

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- Since 1919

## AMERICAN EMBASSY DEMAND ACTION

Yesterday an American Private Investigator presented herself at the Police station in Haltwhistle. Mrs Eldwina Vine holds a licence from the American Embassy asking Her Majesty's Constabulary to offer assistance Mrs Vine has insisted that Mr Carnegie Bryce, his wife and daughters have yet to return to America and worried relatives have retained Mrs Vines services to investigate. Mrs Vine apparently holds some celebrity in New York city for solving mysteries and insists on visiting Braithwaite hall. Sergeant Thompson declined to comment at this time

## RUSSIAN DUCHESS MURDERED?

### POLICE STUMPED!

Russian Socialite, Duchess Katrina of St Petersburg, has been found dead in the Royal Suite of The Savoy Hotel, London, in what has been described as suspicious circumstances. Police were called to The Savoy at midday on Tuesday last when her body, along with other members of her entourage, were discovered by hotel staff. The Savoy and the police have provided little information, but unnamed sources within the hotel, and at New Scotland Yard, report that the rooms of the suite were in disarray and all the bodies showed signs of physical violence. The hotel is of course staffed 24 hours a day and the Royal Suite has a 24 hour butler service and so it is unclear how the assailant managed to enter and leave undetected.

Duchess Katrina has lived in exile in Paris since the murder of the Russian Czar by Bolsheviks in 1917. She began her visit to London in the Summer and had become a mainstay at some of the most fashionable society functions of the Capital ever since. According to an itinerary released by her private secretary on her arrival in England, she had been due to stay with the Duke of Gloucester in his seat near the Forest of Dean over the coming Christmas holiday and take part in the Duke's Boxing Day hunt meet.

When asked for comment a spokesman at the Soviet Embassy denied that the Russian Government was aware the Duchess was staying in the Capital, an odd response given that it is well known that Soviet spies keep a very close watch on all Russian excels. In the Duchesses instance, in particular, the Soviet ambassador in Paris has long complained to the French Government that the Duchess is a criminal who looted treasures, which they claim rightfully belongs to the Russian people, when she and her family fled St Petersburg.

## LADY WITHERSNATCH'S WARNING TO OUR YOUTH

Lady Maureen Withersnatch, wife to Jerome Withersnatch M.P. (Con.), speaking at a meeting of The Society for Faith and The Family in Brighton on Thursday used the opportunity to issue a strident monition regarding the current fashion for 'scavenger hunts' amongst the beau monde. In a heartfelt plea she reminded her rapt audience of the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of her daughter, Miss. Chariot Withersnatch, just shy of a year previous. Readers may recall the reports following this tragic incident in the Whisperer. Miss. Withersnatch and several friends were participating in a weekend party that culminated in a wild drive in pursuit of a 'papertrail' across the countryside lying to the south of London. Miss. Withersnatch was travelling with Mr. Harrington Willis-Tonk on the Dorking High Road when he appears to have lost control of his motor car and plummeted into a sharp ravine. Mr. Willis-Tonk was killed in the impact and Miss. Withersnatch presumably thrown from the vehicle and into the River Mole which was swollen with flood waters at this time. Her body was never recovered.ve search. Lady Withersnatch bravely recounted the tragic events in her selfless desire that it may serve as a warning to the impetuous youth to consider the possible terrible results that can follow periods of care-free folly.



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## DINGESTOW PRIEST MURDERED

*IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF A MONMOUTH CRIMEWAVE?*

Dingestow residents were shocked on Wednesday when the body of local priest Father Hughes was discovered in his home. Father Hughes had presided over St Dingat's in the village of Dingestow since 1904, and was well known throughout the area for his stirring sermons.

He was last seen at the Sunday evening service. Parishioners first became concerned on Monday when Father Hughes failed to make any of his scheduled appointments. Local resident Mrs Mayfair called at his residence Monday teatime to enquire, but was greeted at the door by Father Hughes who insisted that he was unwell and likely contagious and that he could admit no one. Similar answers were received on Tuesday, and as he did not keep a housekeeper no further details of his condition were available. Mrs Mayfair described him as "nervous" and "preoccupied."

On Wednesday, hearing no response from Father Hughes the local constabulary entered the property and discovered his body in the pantry. Preliminary reports state that he had suffered a number of shallow cuts across his body, and had rope marks around his wrists and ankles.

Police are seeking information regarding any suspicious characters seen in or around Dingestow over the last week. It is currently unknown if this incident is related to the disappearance of local milkman Reginald Mansell and postman Terrence Pickford neither of whom has not been seen for two months at time of press.

## EXPEDITION IN EGYPT LATEST; DR FELTZ AND HIS TEAM MISSING!

New cables from our correspondent in Alexandria report that Dr Feltz and his archaeological team have disappeared. Dr Feltz was leading a dig at the remains of an ancient temple located some twelve miles east of Luxor, Egypt, in what had been an ill-fortuned venture from the start.

The expedition to uncover the temple site, believed to be dedicated to the ancient Egyptian Nile God Sobek, began in March this year following all manner of ill luck and misfortune. From the outset, the venture was nearly abandoned before it began following a fire at Dr Feltz offices. Following this, the ship transporting much of the expeditions equipment sunk in the Mediterranean Sea, with reports that the cause was an explosion on board. This delayed Dr Feltz for a month while the lost equipment was replaced and a new ship chartered.

Further loss of equipment, along with the deaths of three labourers, then occurred when their caravan was caught in a sandstorm. Dr Feltz and his team had travelled ahead by boat on the Nile, but did not escape misfortune themselves when the expeditions medical doctor was killed by a crocodile while they camped on the Nile shore awaiting the arrival of the caravan transporting the equipment. On arrival at the site, some weeks behind schedule, the problems did not stop there as several labourers were reported missing over the coming weeks. The remaining workers then threatened to abandon the site as rumours spread amongst them that the missing men had been dragged from their beds by evil spirits that haunted the site.

Once work resumed more disaster befell the expedition when Professor Julian Matheson, the head field archaeologist, along with some half a dozen labourers, fell some twenty feet down a hidden shaft. This incident resulted in two deaths, and Professor Matheson himself suffered a fractured spine and has just recently returned to England into the care of his family.

The last reports from Dr Feltz came as they investigated the shaft which, much as expected, led into underground chambers forming part of the temple. Great excitement had followed, although Dr Feltz was very tight lipped as to the details of any discoveries. Shortly after, funds had been hastily secured by the British Museum to send several noted Egyptologists to the site, including Professor Entwhistle, the head of ancient antiquities. The Governor in Alexandria had also prepared to dispatch a large police patrol to the site to bolster security as soon as the representatives from the British Museum arrived.

When attempts were made to signal Dr Feltz of these arrangements no response was received. Finally, it was decided that a police contingent should set off by boat unannounced and make contact with Dr Feltz and his team. Just under two weeks later a messenger returned with the news that they had located the dig site, but there was no sign of Dr Feltz or any of his team. Our correspondent informs us that all the equipment, shelters and even clothing and personal belongings of the expedition members remains on site, as though everyone had just stepped out for a short while, but the encroachment of the desert sand and condition of perishable items suggest that the camp has stood empty for some weeks. Foul play is suspected as there are many outlaw bands that hide out in the desert and are known to kidnap Europeans. A brigade of infantry is now to be dispatched to bolster the police presence and attempt to locate the missing persons and bring to justice the brigands responsible.

At the time of publishing, our correspondent has secured permission to accompany Professor Entwhistle, who has now been appointed acting head of the expedition, and his colleagues, as they visit the location in the coming weeks.



## ANCIENT EVIL DEFEATED! AGAIN!

Professor Maximillian Power announced in a news conference today how him and his team had defeated another ancient evil, this time in the wilds of deepest Kent. The ever lucky, or unlucky depending on your viewpoint, team stumbled across what could only be described as a 'zombie vampire', according to Professor Power. Our Whisperer reporter probed to ask what the difference was between a zombie vampire and a normal vampire to which Mr Powers stated 'A zombie one is even more animated than normal' confusingly. The beast was prowling the moors looking for victims and playful sheep and claimed a number of poor souls before being destroyed in an act of death-defying bravery by the professor's team. When asked where the rest of his team were now Professor Powers called the conference to a close and left in a hurry before more questions could be asked.

**Let's face it - you could get hit by a BUS tomorrow**



**go on - HAVE A FAG!**

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## PROMINENT SCIENTIST DR VICTOR SLIPHER DISCOVERS A NINTH PLANET!

The presence of a ninth planet in the retinue of the sun was announced today by Dr. V. M. Slipher of the Caenarvon Observatory, who heads a group of eminent astronomers whose groupings in the Milky Way with telescopes and cameras located the new-found sphere. Way out beyond Neptune, tagging bashfully behind its brothers, the new planet's exact whereabouts, size and age are still unknown and it has not even a name at stage. Its presence was mathematically predicted recently by the late Dr. Percival Lowell, noted scientist, who founded the observatory, partly for the very purpose of identifying it. Other astronomers, notably Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of Lick Observatory, verified Dr. Lowell's calculations.

## WEATHER

The weather for Great Britain over the next month will be mostly foggy and grey. Those with low sanity are recommended to stay in bed.

## SCIENCE CORNER:

In the last two Summers frequent reports have come from Cornwall of silvery clouds shining brightly in the middle of the night, effects described as quite different from the lingering glow of twilight. In England it has at times been easy to read a newspaper at midnight by their light. Thus a long-standing scientific mystery crops up again. "Noctilucent," or "night-luminous," clouds have been a subject of intermittent discussion among meteorologists and astrophysicists since 1885. Occasional observations of the phenomenon date back even further, for the appearance of clouds shining in the midnight sky aroused popular interest in France in the middle of the seventeenth century. Noctilucent clouds bear a general resemblance to the cirrus, the highest of the ordinary cloud types, consisting of ice needles floating at heights above the earth ranging from five miles in high latitudes to seven miles in the tropics. If, however, they shine by reflected sunlight late at night, they must be many miles above the cirrus level. In the 1880s several measurements of their height, made by Jesse and Stolze by means of simultaneous photographs taken at two widely separated places, indicated that these nocturnal clouds were at an altitude of about fifty miles.



## The Diary of Francis Chorlton-Bingley

*Our Correspondent "about town" gives his commentary on the week's goings-on. Rest assured, if our man wasn't there, then it was not worth going to!*

Those who know me will be aware that, old fool I may be, but I am no stick in the mud and always open to trying something new. It was with this in mind that I accepted an invitation to an exclusive a preview performance by a Peking Opera troupe that is touring Europe. Apparently, it was quite the big deal for the tour to happen at all, as there was some resistance from their home country to the idea of taking this near sacred art form to us barbarians in Europe! Well, it was all very colourful, and certainly noisy, but I haven't the foggiest what it was all about, I must say. I think I will stick to the European sort in future.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to renew my acquaintance with Russian socialite, Duchess Katrina of St Petersburg, who regular readers of my column will recall was visiting our great city and making quite a stir in London's fashionable circles. On this occasion, it was at a dinner gathering of my old friend, Lady Constance, who keeps a (cont.)

(cont.) residence in Belgravia Square. There I sat just two places from the Duchess and was delighted to find her to be as charming and witty a conversationalist as with our first meeting. She informed me during the second course that she was looking forward to visiting the Duke of Gloucester over the Christmas holiday and joining in at the Boxing Day hunt – it seems that in her native Russia only the Gentlemen ride out, but then again over there it was to hunt bears and wolves, and so quite a different thing from our foxes! The Duchess enquired if I knew the Duke, which I of course do, and whether she would be seeing me there. I had to inform her that, regretfully, I decline invitations that take me out to the countryside – as you will know, dear reader, I am not one for the rustic lifestyle. (NB This item was submitted before the tragic news of Duchesses Katrina's death - The Editor).

On the subject of rural locales', my old pal Lord Richardson, he of the Bexley Lane incident (See Issue 42), informs me that he is of a mind to purchase a new property near some place called Haltwhistle, which, when I later consulted a map, seems far too close to the Jocks for my liking. It seems that that the property has just recently come on the market and will be up for auction in the Spring. Feigning interest – but not too much mind, God forbid that he should invite me up to stay the weekend – I asked how the property was positioned, and he informed me that he hasn't the foggiest and has yet to visit it for a viewing. But, he cheerily announced one evening over port and cigars in our club, The Tabor in James Square, this was not a problem as for some odd reason anyone wishing to bid has (cont.)

(cont.) to stay the weekend first, so he hopes to reconnoitre the property then. The best he could say was that he is reliable informed that it should go "for a song", as it has a reputation for things going bump in the night – what rot! I wish him well on his venture, anything that makes him happy I suppose.

I've had a very interesting invitation for next week – don't want to say much for now other than that the host has asked for discretion from all the guests. I, of course, assured her of my best intentions. So, I'll shall fill you all in on "the dirt" in my next column 'eh! Until then, reader, toodle-pip!

Just one question, Mom...

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### AQUARIUS:

Romance is in the air. Or it might be a bit too much Fabreze. Either way put your lucky pants on.

### PISCES:

Like Kenny Loggins you are halfway to the danger zone. Unlike Kenny Loggins you decide to avoid having an 80s mullet and instead face danger with a smart haircut and your head held high. It's a good choice.

### ARIES:

With Mars ascending you should try to step forward and achieve your goal. You will only complete your goal if it's to eat the world's biggest hotdog though. Follow your dreams.

### TAURUS:

With Jupiter Ascending you decide it's a really rubbish film. I mean, space roller skates? Seriously?

### GEMINI:

A pair of twins say hello which will freak you out a bit. You should be cautious and not take them up on their offer of a ride. They have no car.

### CANCER:

A spectre figure will visit you in the middle of the night and mention something about three ghosts and you mending your ways and that. Ignore it, and continue to live your frugal life. Brass is for rubbing, not spending.

### LEO:

You will find Piers Morgan down the bottom of a well and you will face a choice. Not to save him or not but more to flood the well with more water or quick hardening cement. Go with your heart.

### VIRGO:

You're still reading this nonsense? I'm not even paying that much attention to what I'm writing if I'm honest. I'm more thinking what I'm having for Tea tonight.

### LIBRA:

Arm wrestle a stranger. You might break a wrist but you might make a friend as well.

### SCORPIO:

You will find love at the bottom of a shot glass. Don't hang around until the next day for you will face a horror indeed.

### SAGITTARIUS:

You will raise a petition to bring back Party 8 beer kegs, cans that not just added to a party but more owned it outright and invites people who you've never met before who end up making a strange stain on the carpet. You will be on course for victory.

### CAPRICORN:

You're screwed no matter what you do.

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**Time Management seminar.** 3 Old Broad Street. Starts around 6 or 7ish.

**Can you help?** Missing Male. Albert Cruikshank. Aged 32. 5'9". Medium Build. Brown hair. Wearing dark grey suit, plain blue tie, black Oxfords. Last seen in Kingston Upon Thames. Call Surbiton 242.

**Lady seeks position.** Bad with children, good with guns. Contact F. Able-Smith.

**Wanted:** Someone to go back in time with me. You will get paid after we get back. Bring your own weapons.

**Missing.** Lucy Warren. Last seen Esher area, Friday last. Aged 22. 5' 6". Shoulder length brown hair. Crème Blouse. Dark Green Skirt. Please contact New Malden Police with any information.

**ANNOUCEMENTS**

**Forces of Evil** will be making a concentrated effort against those who dare to defy the will of the dark gods. This is your only warning so don't go bleating about it when the dark ones fall from the sky and you act all 'aghost' and all. Come and join us, it's nice on the evil side of things.

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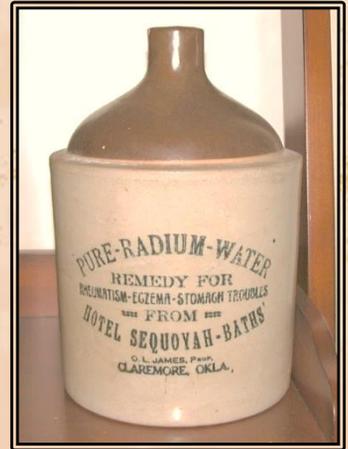
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