

Aeon Society Case File #521
Follow-up Summary Report

Compiled by
Mr Richard Mainwaring

July 19th, 1924

This report was compiled by Mr Richard Mainwaring, temporary acting secretary of the UK Chapterhouse following the indisposition of the previous secretary, Mr Alistair Phibbs (see sub-heading 6, below). The report concerns itself primarily with the actions of the so-called Hellfire Club, organised and run by the late Lord Robert North, and in particular their activities relating to organised crime and espionage; their 'Satanic' worship; and their involvement with racist violence. The subversion of Mr Phibbs, lately of the London Chapter of the Society, is also touched upon, as the investigating members in the case of the Hellfire Club - Messrs. Hamilton-Hunter and van Oort, and Miss Li Mi, affiliates of the San Francisco Chapter - played a role in the uncovering of his betrayal.

In the compiling of this report I am indebted to the reports given by the three San Francisco affiliates, the assistance of Dr O'Houlihan, Mr Jack Barrett, Mrs Peggy Armitage, Mr Wu Xiao of the Blue Tiger Fighting Tong and Miss Katarina Vladislovna Bulgakova; also the co-operation of Mr Phibbs, Captain Gunther Veil, formerly of the cargo steamer Wehrwolf, Miss Bridget Smith, Miss Alice Meades and Mr Thomas Pike. The latter two, formerly members of Mr William Gilliam's organisation, have now been instrumental in its dismantling (see sub-heading 5 below).

Signed and witness for the Aeon Society

Agatha Mainwaring (Mrs) President, London Chapter

1. The Hellfire Club

The original Hellfire Club was founded in 1746 by Sir Francis Dashwood, a remote ancestor of the North family through the distaff line.

Sir Francis' organisation went under the name the Friars of St Francis of Wycombe - Sir Francis himself - and met either at Medenham Abbey or in a cave complex under Sir Francis' home at West Wycombe House, until recently occupied by the Norths. The society blended Gnostic and Rosicrucian mysticism with pagan imagery and debauched celebration, as was the fashion of the time for bored young aristocrats. In public life Sir Francis was highly respectable, holding many prestigious offices.

Lord Robert North's version of the Hellfire Club appears to have been founded in or around 1907 as a simple drinking society for his cronies, practising a few mock rituals. Its conversion to more sinister purpose appears to coincide with Lord Robert's earliest involvement with organised crime in 1912, and is marked by the initiation of an increasing number of older members. Subscription charges of 5 per year were levied, largely to cover the cost of the huge amounts of alcohol consumed at Club functions and the hiring of large numbers of prostitutes for the Club's orgiastic celebrations.

Lady Fuscina appears to have joined the Club in 1917, after which a number of Lord Robert's female 'acquaintances' were also initiated, although the membership remained overwhelmingly male. From this time onwards, the Club appears to have operated on two levels: Smaller rites were held in the home of Lord Robert and Lady Fuscina. These occasions were depraved and the activities often somewhat illegal, but their scope was limited and their purpose to draw new members into Lady Fuscina's control. Only when she had enough information to control them were members permitted to attend the greater rites at Medenham Abbey, which was purchased and refurbished by Lord Robert under a pseudonym in 1915 for use in his smuggling and slaving operations.

As the Club grew, members were pressured to draw in friends and acquaintances, spreading its influence. Our census of the Club members captured by the Blue Tiger Fighting Tong shows that the Hellfire Club had extended its influence to almost every branch of the British government, as well as several foreign embassies. In addition, the Club employed Mr William Gilliam and his gang as

enforcers to 'punish' those who sought to oppose the Club or to escape its grasp.

2. Espionage and criminal activities

The criminal aspects of the Hellfire Club are mostly tied to Lord Robert North's connections with organised crime. In addition to Mr Gilliam's racketeering and prostitution businesses, Lord Robert has now been associated with gun-running, the import and sale of Indian opium and South American cocaine, and the purchasing of white and Asian slaves from China (c.f. case file #478). His interests are as many and varied as his aliases, but his activities can be tied together by his affectation of employing his pet panther, Tanya, as a bodyguard.

The mastermind behind the blackmailing of the Hellfire Club's more influential members to gain access to state secrets appears to have been Lady Fuscia's, although the decision to sell those secrets to a foreign group was Lord Robert's. Lady Fuscia's interest seems to have lain solely in binding men of power to her, as a means of stealing their power for herself (c.f. Satanic activities). It seems that the secrets were given over to a German group calling itself the National Socialist, or 'Nazi', Party, which may be affiliated with the our old enemies, the Thule Society (c.f. Racist activities and also Aeon Society files #124, #233, #234. #237, #318, and special index file #12). It appears that the final pay-off for the secrets imparted was to have been repatriation to Germany, with a free reign for Lady Fuscia to continue her infernal experiments under a future Nazi government; however unlikely that might seem.

The crew of the Wehrwolf were in the employ of a member of the Nazi Party, but had no personal links to the group. They have been questioned, and the police have learned that they were retained to collect Lady Fuscia and any companions she might name, to be delivered safely to Germany, from whence the captain of the Wehrwolf understood they were to be transferred to Munich.

The murder of Sir Marcus Talbot is one of at least five, and possibly as many as nine such killings which can be linked to the Hellfire Club. The murders were ordered by Lady Fuscia North, and carried out by members of Mr Gilliam's organisation. These murders appear to have been prompted by threats to the secrecy of the Hellfire

Club. An investigation of the snake pit under West Wycombe House suggests that Lord Arthur was not the first to be consigned to his death in that place, and we suspect that this may have been the chosen fate of traitors. Lady Fuscia also certainly ordered the abduction by Mr Gilliam's associates of the Hon. Miss Sara Warbrookes from her home, directly implicating her in the attempted murder of the Hon. Miss Warbrookes' personal maid and bodyguard, Miss Katarina Bulgakova.

The meticulous records kept by Mr Thomas on behalf of Mr Gilliam's organisation have proven a godsend. It seems that Mr Gilliam had an almost pathological belief that good accounting made his dealings respectable, and so we have been able to provide the police with strong cases against a number of London criminal groups, as well as locating several of his overseas contacts. Mr Gilliam acted as agent in Lord Robert's slaving organisation, and this has allowed us to trace a number of missing persons.

Lady Fuscia North, the only survivor of the ruling cabal, and clearly the beating black heart of the Hellfire Club, was brought to trial on charges of racketeering, blackmail, murder, conspiracy to murder, sedition, conspiracy to slavery, spying, treason, conspiracy to pervert public morals, conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, accessory to murder, and witchcraft. She was expected to serve a minimum of seven consecutive life sentences, if she escaped hanging on the several charges of murder. For the time being, however, she has been remanded indefinitely to the custody of Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, having successfully applied a defence of legal insanity.

Under the M'Naughton rule, Lady Fuscia's lawyer has successfully argued that she did not understand the wrongness of her actions, which she believes she performed under the directions of the Devil 'in accordance with the secret auspices of the Divine Plan'. The Society has lobbied for the defence to be overturned on appeal, but this leaves us with only two possible courses. In order to overturn the defence, we must either show that Lady Fuscia knew her actions to be wrong, whatever inner prompting led her to them, or display that the directions given to her were genuine, and not the product of insanity.

In order to overturn a M'Naughton defence, we may therefore be obliged to legally establish the existence of the infernal.

On the matter of Lady Fuscias surviving victims, Lord Arthur Warbrookes' mind was broken by stress and delirium brought on by cobra venom. He is currently in the care of staff at the Willowbrook nursing home, a private asylum. His daughter has been placed in the care of Lady Cynthia Talbot until she reaches her legal majority at 21. Miss Katarina Bulgakova is recovering well, and has expressed an interest in joining the Aeon Society now that her employment with Lord Arthur is ended.

3. Satanic activities

As you know, initial investigations showed that the 'Satanic' rites practised by the Hellfire Club under Lord Robert and Lady Fuscias North were a collection of hokum performances that, while in places horrific and even murderous, were in themselves mere trivial frames for the Club's true business.

Further enquiry has however suggested that these rites were integral to this whole, sorry business. For starters, they appear to have formed the living core of Lady Fuscias corrupt and appalling belief system. Moreover, they acted as a focus for her - not inconsiderable - mesmeric powers. Agents of the London Chapter were twice called upon by the police to aid in the recapture or restraint of Lady Fuscias, after she manipulated her guards into setting her free. Despite initial assumptions, these powers appear to be just as potent when used against a female target as against a male.

4. Lady Fuscias North

To fully understand this affair, it is necessary to attempt an understanding of the mind of Lady Fuscias North; a nasty and sordid business, but a business we have made our own. The following information has been gleaned from a number of sources, but none more revealing - or more horrifying - than Lady Fuscias own personal diaries, found in her baggage in the flotsam of the Wehrwolf. These journals appear to have been painstakingly maintained since the age of five years, and written in an increasingly sophisticated cipher.

Lady Fuscias North was born in St Giles hospital on New Year's day 1900, at approximately 12 am. According to the hospital records her original birth certificate was mistyped, recording her as a son, rather than a daughter. No copy of the original certificate

remains. She was the daughter of Lord Peter North, the 14th Earl of Crieve, and Lady Annette, and the younger sister - by sixteen years - of Sir Robert North. She was baptised at St James' church in Wycombe, and is reported to have squealed in pain at the touch of the baptismal. Later that day, the vicar of St James' was found in the vestry, dead of a heart attack. He was 33 years old, with no medical history of heart problems.

From an early age she appears to have invoked a nameless dread in the servants employed to care for her, with nurses and nannies claiming that she was evil. Former holders of these positions are difficult to contact, three having died within months of their resignation, and two being confined to asylums under permanent sedation. The only former nanny we could contact was the former Miss Suzanne Cartwright, now Sister Mary of the Immaculate Conception, residing at the Convent of St Cecilia in Dorset. Sister Mary informed us that the child was willful and uncontrollable, and held whispered, blasphemous conversations in the night. She also recalls that Lady Fuscina refused to enter a church at any time, howling 'like a mad wolf' when she attempted to force her.

Lady Fuscina's diaries record the last few nannies as 'interfering busybodies', and make reference to her efforts to drive them away. Miss Cartwright is referred to with particular venom. The diaries also speak of her nocturnal conferences, which she maintains were carried out with infernal spirits sent from hell for her entertainment. Lady Fuscina claims to have sent these spirits to exact revenge on her nannies, and the fates which she lays out for them match in precise - if cryptic - detail with those actually met. A particularly cruel and tormenting 'sending' tallies closely with Sister Mary's stated reason for taking holy orders.

These early diaries also hold that the Lady Fuscina was not the daughter of Lady Annette, but rather the offspring of her father 'by a she-jackal in the form of a wanton harlot'. She maintains that she was exchanged at birth for Lady Annette's second son, whom her true mother consumed.

When she was seven, her brother returned from his period of indenture with the French Foreign Legion. Lady Fuscina bonded immediately with her brother, although her diaries insist that Lord Robert was killed in the desert and 'infested by an infernal spirit' to be her loyal familiar.

A note on Lord Robert's history: Always a noted rakehell, at the age of seventeen Lord Robert assaulted and raped the housekeeper's nineteen year old daughter, imposing such a terror on the girl that she remains in an asylum to this day. This was just the culmination of a career of cruelty, during which his mother assiduously defended him from persecution. It was for this final act that his father pressed the boy into the Foreign Legion. Unfortunately, his military service appears to have done him more harm than good, and whether because his time in the Legion made him callous, or from the depredations of an infernal will, on return he was worse than ever.

A year after Lord Robert's return, Lord Peter died of a massive heart attack. Lady Annette accused Lord Robert of murdering his father - an accusation supported by her daughter's diary - but her son had her committed. With sole control of the family fortune, he was free to indulge his whims, and at this point in his life founded the Hellfire Club.

According to the diaries, Lady Fuscia's demons stopped talking to her when she was fifteen. Fearing that she was out of favour, she engaged in a series of experiments, culminating in a string of human sacrifices. She appears to have achieved no success until turning on her brother. Analysis by Aeon Society criminal alienist Dr Caroline Markby has suggested that a subconscious awareness of the falsehood of her elaborately constructed belief system may have been responsible for these feelings of 'unworthiness'.

As to the 'summoning' of the 'demon' on the Wehrwolf, it seems likely that this was - as Mr Hamilton-Hunter has surmised - merely a z-wave construct, given shape by Lady Fuscia's delusions. According to Dr Markby, the act of sacrificing her brother - seemingly the only person in the world whom she cared for - probably allowed her to overcome the mental block that had haunted her from the age of fifteen. Given the extreme nature of the manifestation called up, it is to be sincerely hoped that the block has settled firmly back into place.

5. Racist activities

Minor though they may seem in the shadow of the treasonous and blasphemous actions of the Hellfire Club, the racist activities of Mr William Gilliam's hate mobs can not be ignored. The evidence linking Gilliam to the German National Socialist Party is incontrovertible,

but what is most worrying is the apparent link to the Thule Society. While the Aeon Society has long recognised the danger posed by the Thulians and their associates, their influence has hitherto been limited primarily to the German aristocracy. To see Thulian hate rhetoric used to fire up working class mobs in London is disturbing, to say the least.

Mr Gilliam's activities seem to have been primarily informed by one of the chief Nazi tracts, a work of almost childish gibberish called Mein Kampf. Copies of this book - translations from the original German - were found in the possession of a number of Mr Gilliam's men, and three were found in his own library, along with various other works of propaganda, all blaming the lot of the working man on a mythical conspiracy between any group that does not meet the racial or political ideals of the Thulian movement. Difficult as it is to take such tripe seriously, this National Socialist Party may bear watching.

The Gilliam Gang's activities included violent assaults, arson and burglary with intent to terrorise. Women and children of Jewish, Negro or Asian stock appear to have been treated as favoured targets of this violence, and a number of deaths occurred. The testimony of Mr Pike and Miss Meades has allowed the police to round up almost all of the gang, and without the protection of Mr Gilliam's money or Lord Robert's influence, their organisation's days are numbered.

Involvement with the Nazi movement appears to have been Lord Robert's idea, although with he and Mr Gilliam both dead, it is impossible to say with any certainty. It is possible that Lord Robert was initiated into the Thule Society. Evidence suggests that he was bought out of indenture with the Foreign Legion six months ahead of time, leaving no account of his movements in those months.

Unfortunately, our German assets are limited, having lost a number of good people in clashes with the Thule Society. What little information we have been able to gather suggests that a small movement does exist with the sworn goal of opposing the rise of the Thule Society, but all overtures towards this group have failed. The presence of the Baroness Anna von Scharnhorst in this affair suggests that the group has taken an interest.

The Society records have unconfirmed sightings of the Baroness von Scharnhorst at Nuremburg, Casablanca and Kuala Lumpur, concurrent

with Aeon Society operations against the Thule Society. In all cases, unexpected security holes in the Thulian ranks have been linked to an agent using the Baroness' known methods. Given her attempts to gain possession of the secrets procured by Lady Fuscia, it would be unwise to consider the Baroness a friend however.

6. Mr Alistair Phibbs

A sad footnote to this incident is the treachery of one of our own. Mr Alistair Phibbs has been a valued member of the London Chapter for several years, and a trusted friend besides. While the capture of Lady Fuscia has allowed us to glimpse something of the power that was weighed against his valour and virtue, it can not be denied that his failure was a blow to all of us, and especially of course to Dr O'Houlihan.

Mr Phibbs has however agreed to stand trial for his misdeeds, which I am glad to say amount to no more than his assault on Dr O'Houlihan and Mr van Dort, two cases of wounding, and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The majority of his actions as a peripheral member of the Hellfire Club, while perverse and disgusting, were not actually illegal. Mr Phibbs has offered full confessions to all charges, and intends to offer an unconditional plea of guilty.

Once he has served his sentence, it has been agreed by the board that Mr Phibbs will be accepted as a probationary member of the London Chapter, but he shall have to work very hard to restore our faith in him.

7. New members of the London Chapter

On a happier note, I am pleased to announce that Mr Jack Barrett of Leicester Square, London, has been accepted as a probationary member of the London Chapter as a direct result of this business. It is also my privilege to forward to the Aeon Society journal the announcement of Mr Barrett's engagement to Miss Bridget Smith.

In addition, I have received an application for probationary membership from Miss Katarina Bulgakova, and Mr Wu Xiao and Mrs Peggy Armitage have both been accepted as associate members of the London Chapter.