

Summer 2512

WAND

Our Hot

Summer
Issue

Stopping
Global
CHAOS

Make your Wards
More Secure

Kislevite
Familiars

Notes from
MAGE
EXPO
2512

Behind closed
Doors
with Dr. Segall



WAND:

The Semi-Annual Journal of Wizardry and Spellcasting

Featured articles:

Notes from Mage Expo 2512

The 99th gathering featured sense-effecting glamours

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A magical tradition from Kislev

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear WAND,

Although apprentices is a topic which is talked about in passing often in WAND, I've yet to see any articles focusing on the subject. Are there any plans for an article which would give tips on how to get an apprentice, what the usual arrangements are, and how to ensure that one's apprentice and one's familiar get along?

-Baffled in Brandenburg

Baffled,

Come by our offices and pick up a Winter 2510 back issue! Articles concentrated on the care and feeding of apprentices, minions, and self-aware constructs.

-WAND

To the WAND Staff,

I'd like to applaud's WAND's forthrightness in their article "Peasants with Pitchforks." I'm sick to death of those namby-pamby white-ropes, always going on about how transmuting superstitious louts into toads only makes things worse, and why can't we all just learn to get along. If mundanes are going to get all uppity and accuse us of dark magicks, why, I say we let them see what dark magicks really are!

-Cranky in Carroburg

Cranky,

While we appreciate your praise for Dr. von Esslingen's article, the WAND editorial staff prides itself on its friendly relationship with our civilian neighbors and the government. We cannot and do not endorse any of the more extreme measures suggested by Dr. von Esslingen. Please see our coming Winter 2512 issue on togetherness seminars and fellowship meetings.

-WAND

NOTES FROM MAGE EXPO 2512

By Maxwell Morganstern

On Sigmarzeit 23-30 2512, the Association of Imperial Mages held its 99th annual convention in the small city of Ubersreik. Though Ubersreik only has 3500 residents, more than thirty of those persons work for or in the Empire College of Illusionists, situated just two miles north of the city center.

A person appearing to be Professor Bertolt Hessen, one of the three deans of the Empire College, spoke to Wand.

"We were excited to have these illustrious guests this week," said the person who seemed to be Professor Hessen. "Heironymous Blitzen's talk [Pseudo Consciousness in Magical Constructs] was the highlight for me. It was real genius to combine spells designed to facilitate telepathic and empathic communication with conditional routines and animation spells; this just may be the future of high magic."

Wellentag was mostly filled with arrivals, announcements, unpacking, and renewing acquaintances. The Expo did not really begin until Aubentag, when Johannes Kleuger (various magics were used to independently verify that it was in fact Johannes Kleuger) gave a keynote address entitled "Form Before Substance: Illusion at the Heart of Magic." This controversial talk was on many persons' minds, and came up in various breakout sessions — "When Familiars Attack," "What to Do After it Eats Through the Cauldron," "Overcoming Intolerance," and "Magic as Self-Expression."

Markttag naturally centered around the opening of the vendor stalls, and the first part of the auction. Chairman Nestor Schnaubringer of the Townsville Hobby Shoppe brought a charming collection of candies and cakes. The book trade was heavier than we've seen in years—especially hot this year were copies of Middenheim Arch-Wizard Albrecht's new book "Cruel Tricks for Dear Friends." We were sorry that neither

Albrecht nor his deputy Janna could attend this year, because of the conflict with the Middenheim Festival.

Bakertag and Bezahltag were dominated by displays of new robes and accessories. Sorcerer Jansen Hager stole the show on Bezahltag, with the debut of his new line of unisex reversible all-weather robes. The fabric is flame retardant, and easy to keep clean. Most exciting are the colors—pinks and purples are in this year.

The breakout sessions dominated Konistag; covering such subjects as “The Middenheim Scroll Tax,” “Smoke Rings: The Magical Powers of Tobacco,” “Pseudo Consciousness in Magical Constructs,” “Treesongs—The Strength in a Dorky Name,” “Now You See Me Now You Don’t,” “Warding and Securing Magically Locked Doors,” and “How to Dispose of Warpstone.”

On Angestag we had a wonderful plenary session / wine and cheese party. Professor Danielle Rogers entertained with a song and dance.

By Festag it was time to go home. We’ll meet again in 2513 at the City of Wurtbad, as the guests of the College of Earth.

BREAKTHROUGH IN WARDING AND SECURING MAGICALLY LOCKED DOORS

By Matthew Zeilehand

I had the pleasure of attending a session on magical warding led by Professor Kreg Segall of the University of Nuln.

For the past 15 years, I have been the director of magical wardings and security for the City of Bogenhafen. And in those fifteen years, I have never seen or heard an innovation as fresh and well designed as that proposed by Kreg Segall at the 99th annual convention of Imperial Mages.

Two free-standing doors had been set up in the middle of the room, for demonstration purposes.

Kreg began his talk by casting a traditional warding spell on one of the doors. As the talk had been widely anticipated, and described as non-technical in the brochure, there were two non-mages present at the talk. Dr. Segall challenged these two to open the door—which they managed to do within two minutes.

Kreg then cast a new warding spell—with a difference that seemed at first irrelevant to the untrained eye. After about 10 minutes the laypersons still had been unable to open the door; and Dr. Segall explained the nature of the spell.

The answer is quite simple, it turns out. Kreg added

no new elements to the warding spell, but only removed one element. Kreg’s thesis—borne out in trials with various laypeople in his lab—was that the traditional act of placing a riddle on the door in fact compromised the security on it.

“You see,” Kreg explained, “when there is no riddle on the door, the person who wishes to get through is given no clue as to what the secret word is—or even any proof that any secret word exists. But when there is a riddle, the great majority of words—and all nonsense words—can be discarded by the thief as possible secret words.”

When challenged that many thieves are innately slow-witted, and the riddle may slow them up more than a minor warding, Kreg went on to describe the second part of his innovative research, in which he found a new and more effective use for riddles.

According to Professor Segall’s research, the addition of a riddle **WHOSE ANSWER BEARS NO RELATION TO THE PASSWORD** can slow up potential thieves even more.

Kreg suggested that a psychological component may account for this. Dr. Segall’s thesis is that the criminal mind is compelled to try and answer riddles even when solving those riddles will not make the door open any easier. He suggested, though, that if use of magical doors whose riddles are unrelated to their secret words were universal, this psychological effect may be abated—though I didn’t quite follow his argument here.

So get those masons and carpenters to come around and remove or falsify those riddles! Those of you who used moon-script will have to take more extreme measures to change the riddles over your doors.

GLOBAL CHAOS ON INCREASE?

By Keira Bernan (dictated to WAND editor Joanna Riiven)

Alright, here I am. Ninety-seven years old. And I’m not a Dwarf OR a cobbler. I’m a human sorceress. And in my 97 years (90 since I began my apprenticeship) I have never before seen such clear evidence of Chaos reaching into the very heart of our cities.

First, have you noticed that over the past ten years more and more things are misplaced than ever before? When I was 47, I always knew where my reading lenses were. But now—despite an extra half century of practice—they are never where I put them down last. This means that in some times and places, Chaos has become potent enough to effect even the most basic physical

laws.

Where was I? I was going somewhere with that point... Um. Well... That itself is another point—our own histories are being tampered with. Whereas at one time if a person embarked on a task he or she could be certain that it would be the same task by the time that he or she was done—but now moments of our own history are disappearing leaving us all victims of occasional limbo in which we are uncertain why we have just walked into the pantry.

When I first began to record and document the daily increases in Chaos 10 years ago, it was suggested that I may be subject to a curse by a rival wizard. My first reaction—well, my second reaction, after turning my then-colleague Heironymous Blitzzen into a newt—was to poll other mages. Fortunately, the 65th anniversary alumni gathering was taking place at my Alma-Mater (Einzelheit College). Speaking to my classmates—persons whom I had no contact with for decades, so could be assumed free of any curses that had been cast upon me—several of them revealed that they had encountered the same phenomena.

We began a long-term study, just concluded this year, into the source of Chaos. We have found these attacks to be unrelated to Morrslieb's phases, and unrelated to the seasons. However, it has been noted that the phenomenon increase in the vicinity of younger persons. By way of example, my great granddaughter visited just a month ago, and during the three days she was in my house more and more of my things were out of place. Old boxes from the attic began to appear in living room with no explanation—fortunately my granddaughter seemed to enjoy going through these boxes and returning them to the attic.

Our conclusion: youth is the problem. Younger people are causing a dramatic increase in Chaos. We are still working to determine what younger people share in common which is not shared by older generations. Some theories include: the preponderance of baptisms into the Cult of Sigmar in the past thirty years, while baptisms into other faiths have dwindled; the spread of brandy from the Reikland among the young—a product quite inferior to Bretonian brandy; the professional leagues of Snotball (as opposed to the old village games played when I was a young woman).

Be vigilant. If you have had success in defeating Chaos in the young, please advise [through this magazine; WAND c/o the University of Nuln], and... Oh, I forgot the other thing.

KARMAN GROMADNYJ

By Travis Viennois

Last year I had the opportunity to travel to Kislev. Unfortunately, I took the opportunity. Cold and miserable, certainly. But at least there was one saving grace; I caught myself one of the local specially deformed creatures—a karman gromadnyj (pronounced “KAR-man GRO-man-ij”).

The karman gromadnyj vary widely in size, appearance and traits, yet can still breed. Despite the huge variance between individuals, they do not exhibit secondary characteristics (such as violence without tactical consideration) associated with Chaos infestation. These creatures seem to be NATURALLY variable in the wild.

These creatures—vicious in the wild and very intelligent—began appearing with alarming frequency recently (twenty years ago, these creatures were wholly unknown, but now they are more common than Kislev bears). For several years, Kislevite nobles hunted them to prevent them from stealing crops or killing peasant workers. But in the past few years, the Bolgasgrad Mages Council found and revealed to mages throughout Kislev that the karman gromadnyj can be tamed—even trained—if caught when young.

Keepers (as persons who catch and domesticate karman gromadnyj are called) pride themselves in the variety and uniqueness of their bestiaries. Some keep as many as seven or eight karman gromadnyj.

I caught my own karman gromadnyj—named Chip—on an expedition with famed Keeper Leonard Diminzsi. Chip stands on four legs and is about two feet from tip of nose to end of tail. His fur is soft, but his teeth are sharp and he generates some sort of acidic goo which he spits at his prey—and at us. Leonard helped me set up the trap—a hole in the ground disguised by sticks and leaves. Leonard also demonstrated that a wild karman gromadnyj will not generally attack if you offer it food; Chip accepted a pellet made from eggs and ground meat, which Leonard suggested works very well with most karman gromadnyj during training.

So far, I have gotten Chip to follow me around on command. And he will stop on command. I don't know whether I will be able to teach Chip any more complex tasks—Leonard suggested that a karman gromadnyj of Chip's makeup might be good at following scents or digging.

I look forward to learning more from Chip over the years.