

## In the World

Venkestran barbarians have launched a concerted invasion effort into Aeria. Incidences of warbands sacking townships and villages have been reported all along the Venkess-Acrian border. Skirmishers and scouts have been detected farther north. In a shocking departure from previous violent incursions by the Venkess, which typically consisted of wanton raiding and theft, the warbands appear to be claiming the territory for themselves. An official proclamation of war by Queen Lira is expected shortly. Meanwhile, the 107th Vespidae Grenadiers, Perched Hornet Dragoons, 49th Lirian Infantry and others have been deployed to repulse the Venkestran invaders and maintain the integrity of the Lirian Empire.

Legislation mandating the licensing of alchemists and restricting the availability of dangerous alchemical supplies has been drafted under guidance of the Lirian Minister of Public Safety. The proposed law will be introduced to the Parliament at its next session, where it is expected to pass without opposition.

A grand exhibition of photography at the Lirian Royal Museum for the Arts has recently concluded. According to official statements, the show was a great success, having been well attended by the public and graced by the Queen's presence on more than one occasion. The highlight of the show was the photographic works of Lady Edith Caldwell of Pemberly, a noblewoman accomplished in both the arts and sciences. Several of her photographs drew particular attention, namely those depicting Lady Panacea Gordon's participation in the Aniyonema Festival of the Flame. The subsequent scandal has become a common topic in the parlors of the Lirian capital, an unforeseen consequence of the technological advance of photography.

In accordance with Lirian mortuary law and by the request of the nearest kin, Malaki Tapprio has been declared legally dead by a civil court. The well-published adventurer and ethnologist disappeared over a year ago under mysterious circumstances and no trace of his whereabouts or remains have since come to light.

| Exchange Rates            |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| All prices in Queen's Oz. |       |
| Alder (LA)                | 0.248 |
| Emir (JE)                 | 1.372 |
| Emperor (XE)              | 0.010 |
| Kaiser (DK)               | 0.068 |

## In Iron City

An alarming increase in the presence of Luen has been reported in the immediate area surrounding Iron City. Citizens are advised to exercise caution.

The Iron Guard continues to keep a close watch on the central mine, where unusual amounts of seismic activity and noise have been reported near the mine for the past several months. For reasons of public safety, those without permission or escort from the Lirian military are forbidden from entering the mine.

Tensions between Aniyonema and Lirian diplomats continue to escalate, as the Aniyonema assert that their tribesmen are being killed by "Lirian headhunters." No substantive evidence of any such activity has been presented. The absurdity of the claim is all the more suspect given the Aniyonema's history of internecine violence. The Foreign Affairs Office has dispatched an expert diplomat to Iron City to help negotiate the crisis.

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children are above average.

The rogue Jhandahari commander Cpt. Rashid Mahret is still at large, though many of the men under his command have been captured and sent to Jhandahar for trial on charges of treason.

A Jhandahari diplomatic envoy will be arriving in Iron City shortly, primarily as a gesture of conciliation in reaction to the malfeasance of the rogue commander Rashid.

Khenti diplomats also arrive in Iron City this week as part of a goodwill tour of the Lirian territories, one aspect of the "diplomatic surge" being conducted abroad by the Khenti government.

Investigation continues into the nature of a new threat to the security of Iron City residents; the appearance of the so-called "mannequins" began only in recent months. The marauders have no discernable origin or agenda. All attempts to communicate have failed.

At the prompting of the Lirian Foreign Office, Parliament has passed legislation for the establishment of an Office of Ogwehoweh Affairs. Representatives will be appointed to liaise with each Ogwe clan on matters of trade, migration and so forth.

Iron City will soon witness the first application of Lirian judicial law when Minister of Legal Affairs Sir Blake Tristan Haverhill brings charges of conspiracy, mischief, and criminal intent against Elizabeth Black in the coming week.

After several months of dedicated repair effort, the galvanic generator at the Cog & Sprocket is now operational.

## **Brief Remarks on the Appearance of a Curious Phenomenon**

By Pomefroy Chesterton  
Haversprings, PhD  
Professor of Ethnology

Recently, there has been much discussion around the appearance of "cargo cults" in the primitive lands of Talus. For those who are not familiar with the term, a cargo cult is a religious movement found in tribal societies which appear after brief and misunderstood interactions with technologically advanced cultures. After such interactions, the primitives will mimic the actions performed by the advanced culture in hopes that their actions will produce magical results.

For example, one cargo culture deep within the heart of the Koheczi homeland witnessed Lirian hunters tracking and killing prey using binoculars and rifles. Years later, the tribe was found using rifle-shaped pieces of wood and binoculars made from hollow bones while hunting. This tribe even went as far as to light the ends of their "rifles" on fire to emulate muzzle-flash. Needless to say, their misunderstanding of the science behind black powder and blunderbusses resulted in the inability of the Koheczi to reproduce the Lirian's hunting successes.

I hope to continue writing on this topic as I receive further reports. I am currently investigating a reported cargo cult on the Balihu islands. Tribesmen were seen at a distance to be wearing goggles made of coconut shells. There have also been attacks on explorers in remote parts of Venkess by barbarians wearing crude top hats and throwing rocks as if they were grenades. I have no doubt that, as technologically advanced cultures push deeper into the primitive territories, we will see consistent outcroppings of peoples who believe such technology to be impossible magicks. What we choose to do with these misinformed, backwards cultures is still debatable.

## The Modest Savage

By "Kilau" Ala'Hakaloo,  
Of Balihu Origin

In the Balihu islands, there are annual dance competitions held to promote peace among neighboring tribes as well as establish a tribal hierarchy through dance supremacy. Every tribe that participates brings a rare treat from their island ranging from paste made of the powdered cocoa nuts, spirit puffs, strawberries, pineapple, and a condensed sweet cream of milk. The host tribe provides as many bananas as can be harvested. As the contests take place, the non-dancers of the tribes prepare the ingredients for the post-dance dance party.

Once the competition is done, a series of large fires are built and each of the tribes' members creates their own dessert meal known as a "raiding canoe" as follows:

First, slit the banana in half, lengthwise, leaving the peel on. Next, fill the "canoe" with any number of the ingredients that have been prepared, such as those mentioned above. Wrap the whole in palm leaves and place over hot embers for 10 minutes. When the canoe is removed from the fire, open and consume! Dancing to follow!

As usual I, Kilau, will be providing a limited number of these treats on the coming Saturday night.

## Flights of Fashion

By Lady Josiah Marigold,  
Founding Member of the  
Ladies' Auxiliary for the  
Advancement of Culture in  
Iron City

The writer has recently been greatly pleased by recent observations of new and thrilling styles of habiliment in all levels of Iron City society. It inspires great confidence in the benign and civilising power of the Lirian nation to see young ladies sporting fine accoutrements. It is impossible to under-

estimate the urbane influence of an apropos set of petticoats or the correct pair of perfectly-fitted gloves. Despite the tragic lack of truly top-quality milliners and haberdashery shops in this distant outpost, female citizens have displayed admirable adaptation. Of especial note is the recent display of faultless taste in hats and toppers from Iron City ladies. The novelty of native avian species has made an extremely becoming addition to the already charmingly varied repertoire of distinguished silhouettes in our colony. Exotic plumage from any of the plethora of readily available aboriginal fowl add an air of distinction and style to any tête. Surely all females of the best class will soon be

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following the example of the more dress-conscious among us and adopting this fine style as their own.

## Open Letter to the Iron City Community

By Mr. Rufus Grousefield,  
President for Life of the  
Iron City Ornithological  
Appreciation Society

Friends, as you may already be aware, I am this outpost's foremost semi-amateur ornithologist. I admit some passing desire for that ephemeral fame that one may come by via publication in such an unimpeachable work as the Lirian Ornithological Journal. And I had harboured hope that this new land with its previously unknown and quite undocumented bird life would provide my humble self a fleeting chance at that stripe of celebrity. I could introduce the world to Iron City's indigenous avian

treasures; the magenta-breasted temperate parakeet, the crested sneaker-warbler, and the elusive miniature flamingo. But I have noticed a disturbing trend in recent weeks of which we all must take notice.

Populations of these birds, and others, indeed the very heart of winged fauna in our lands, have drastically declined for no readily apparent reason! Scientific tests of all manner; water-purity measurements, anabolic examinations of remaining specimens, even well-camouflaged infiltration of these animals' habitats has yet to yield any clear cause for this rapid decimation of so many fowl. In light of this shocking and altogether unhealthy development, I call upon you, my friends and fellow citizens of Iron City to help me, and our feathered friends. We must not let these precious creatures vanish unnoticed!

The Iron City Post Intelligencer is pleased to present a series of abstracts from the leading scientific journals of Liria's finest academic institutions. This edition's entry comes from the work of the Royal Medical Academy of Liria:

## Partial Revivification of the Human Frame

Traditionally, cessation of respiration and cardiac arrest have been the hallmarks of death. While many scientists have attempted to overcome these problems using a general application of the common lightning bolt, all to date have failed. Here we show a novel approach to

reanimating dead tissue using the specific application of electric current directly to the heart of the deceased subject. Male sub-

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jects were acquired immediately after death: any bodies exhibiting the onset of pallor mortis were considered unfit for use. The thoracic cavities of suitable subjects were opened ventrally, and the heart exposed. Small metal plates were placed on either side of the heart: one attached to the right atrium and the other to the left ventricle. A 1000-volt surge was then applied. Current was stopped after the successful completion of one cardiac cycle. After the persistence of heartbeat for more than 1 minute, reanimation was considered successful. 30% (3 out of 10) of subjects were successful returned to life after medically defined death. Two of these subjects have continued normal cardiac function one year after, the third was legally required to return to a state of cardiac arrest immediately following the procedure. We have here demonstrated the possibility of reviving subjects who exhibit the symptoms of medically defined death. Future studies will focus on increasing the percentage of subjects experiencing successful recovery of cardiac function. We also intend to investigate the use of this technique on women and children.

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