

Glasgow City Primer

A Netbook by Pythagoras (<http://www.hardpoints.de>)

1 Introduction

Welcome to this guide to Glasgow, second city of the Empire. The industrial workhorse of the United Kingdom, Glasgow is also home to many mysteries and dark secrets for Rippers to explore.

The year of this primer is 1887. While some research has been put into this document, it is not recommended that you use it as the basis for school or university papers. Especially most of the occult history is made up and gaps in my material were filled by my imagination.

2 Climate

Since the city is sheltered by the surrounding Clyde Valley hills, it is fairly humid throughout the year. In

particular, the temperature is often milder than the rest of the Scottish country.

However, many parts of the city are dirty and polluted. The chimneys of the local industry produce dreadful smog and the river Clyde is little more than a sewer.

3 Economics

As the "Second City of the Empire", Glasgow is a prime hub of industrial manufacture. Its products include textiles but also

steel and train engines. The outlying Glasgow Port is a major shipyard.

4 Demographics

The many jobs produced by local industry have attracted many rural Scots as well as Irish immigrants, the latter especially during the Irish Famine in the 40ties. It is interesting to note that both groups are Catholics, increasing the numbers of this denomination dramatically. Currently, resentment against the Catholics is declining from open hostility to subliminal prejudice. However, many natives still feel that the newcomers are morally corrupt and not

true citizens of the city.

Another group to arrive, although in far smaller numbers, consists of Jews fleeing

from Eastern-European pogroms.

5 Quarters

The city of Glasgow can be roughly divided into 7 parts in addition to the suburbs. This section introduces the major quarters and gives some idea about their nature.

Flowing through the city is the river Clyde. Dirty and almost dead, the river is polluted by the many new industrial enterprises that have sprung up near the river in the last 50

"The river [Clyde], at one time proverbial for the purity of its water, has long been not much better than a huge common sewer. This is caused not only by the sewage and chemical refuse of the city, but through many contributory channels and outlets that continue to drain into its upper reaches. The evil is now, however, being remedied."

Andrew Aird, "Glimpses of Old Glasgow"

Climate Table for Glasgow

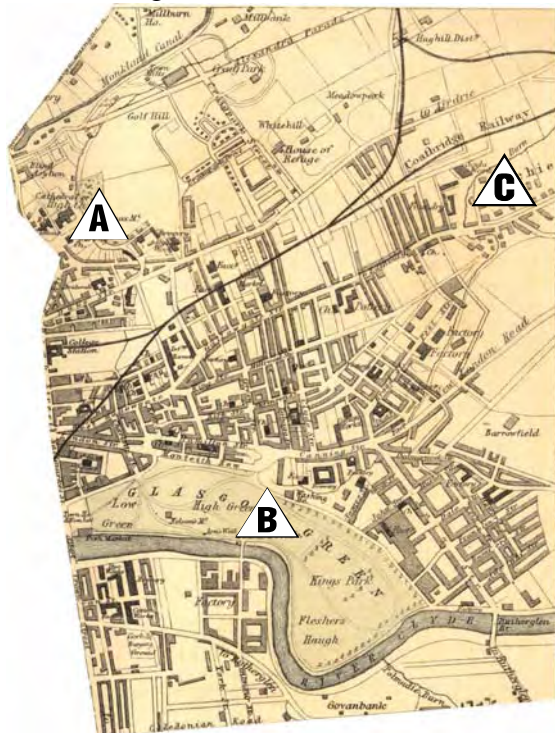
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All values in degrees Celsius.

years or so. Many old people still remember the time when there was salmon swimming in the river and do not stop to complain about the general downhill nature of things.

East Glasgow

The East of Glasgow is home to a lot of industry and the workers needed to keep the machines going. Recently, due to lack of space, richer people have also started to move to the East. A chief enabler of this development was the land owner Mr. John Dennistoun and the work of his architect Bailie Salmon, who erected many villas and buildings of a similar kind in the East.



A - Cathedral and Necropolis

St. Mungo's Cathedral (1) is a gothic church that contains the tomb of the patron saint of Glasgow. Some trivia, interesting to Rippers, surrounds the church. First of all, there are some strange rumours regarding its erection. Folk lore claims that the builders got help from a strange race of dwarves. Also, for some reason, a wandering Vampire agent of the Cabal incited a young man to damage the bell of the Cathedral in 1789. The new cast was protected by powerful miracle magic to defeat further attacks. Finally and most impor-

tantly, the cathedral is rumored to contain the entrance to the maze of the so-called "subterranean way", a vast network of tunnels that connected different places in the city, some of them long demolished.



The Necropolis (2), an impressive graveyard lies on the hill behind the cathedral. It is a Victorian graveyard established in 1835 and filled with impressive monuments, full of angles, bust, and elaborate tombs. Due to its large amount of dead as well as its unstructured nature, which provides a lot of cover, it is a popular meeting point for cultists of all kinds. The secret defenders of mankind know of at least 5 occasions within the last 8 years where necromancers attempted to raise the dead.

The area also contains the Gas Works (3) and the Glasgow Royal Infirmary (4), a large teaching hospital. The hospital is popular with Rippers due to the fact that the local surgeon William Macewen has introduced a policy of sterile clothes at the surgical table.

In High Street (5), the old prison can be found. Made famous by Sir Walter Scot's novel "Rob Roy", it is home to many ghosts of men who have had a long time to regret their crime. Another site of major spectral activity is the nearby former graveyard of Blackfriars' Church, which was removed to build College Station. Be it for that reason or another, the Cabal

seems to be quite interested into High Street.



B - Glasgow Green

Glasgow Green is the oldest park in Glasgow. Originally a swampy area, it was turned into a nice park in the early 19th century. It is often used for demonstrations, currently chiefly by suffragettes.

Large coal deposits were discovered under the Green. In 1858, when the city was looking to offset the cost of purchasing land for parks in other areas of the city, the council approved a plan to mine the Green. However, before the plan could be implemented, it met with large scale public opposition and was dropped, only for it to be resurrected in 1869 and 1888, each time failing to result in any mining.

The park contains the oldest memorial in the UK dedicated to Horatio Nelson (1).

The memorial was struck early-on by lightning but was repaired quickly. Other places of interest are the house of the Humane Society (2), watching the river to help drowning swimmers. Currently under construction is the Templeton Carpet Factory (3). Rumors say that it is fashioned after the Doge's palace in Venice but skeptics dismiss this idea.

"[W]ho has not heard of Camlachie, with its sturdy old radicals and earnest workers? [...] In former days famed for its weaving, it is now as renowned for its iron and other industries. [...] The inhabitants at the present day are more law-abiding than in the days of old, when the Glasgow police dared not cross the [...] Burn while a dispute was being settled.."

Andrew Aird, "Glimpses of Old Glasgow"

London Street (4) is an interesting place. Once, it was home to the important people of Glasgow but it has been in a steady decline. While one of the most-traveled streets, most enterprise situated there is failing.



C- Camlachie

One of the worst parts of Glasgow, this worker's quarter is full of radicals and criminal elements. In the past, the police was actually afraid to go there but nowadays, the situation has become a little better. The Burn, a small stream, defines the border of this dangerous quarter.

The Cabal has a strong foothold in this poverty-stricken district. Without police support, the locals have little chance but to tolerate the presence of werewolf gangs such as the "Lost Lads" and the "Bonnie Helter Skelter". Often, these violent wolf packs act as enforcers for local Cabal grand names. However, more often than not, the brutes battle with local gangs and with each other, making them a low-intensity threat to the outside.



Central Glasgow

This is the heart of the city of Glasgow. It contains many of locations that are so typical of modern urban life, such as banks, post offices, and hotels.

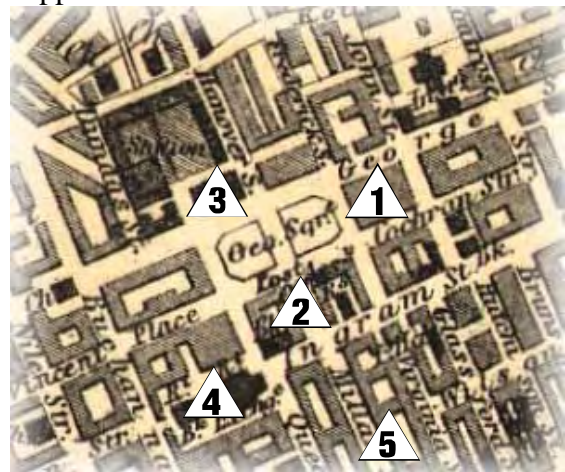


A - George Square

George Square is a central square of upper class town houses, the Glasgow City



Chambers (1) and the newly-built post office (2). Additional attractions are the North British Railway hotel (3) as well as the Bank of Scotland Building (4). Many statues can be found in the square, the most dominant being that of Sir Walter Scott on the central column. The square is sometimes the site of riots and demonstrations. Also nearby is the Stirling Library (5). Due to fact that it was created at its core from the private collection of Mr. Walter Stirling after his death in 1791, it contains many curious books that make a visit by Rippers worthwhile.



B - Clyde Street Area

Clyde Street and Saltmarket Street are inhabited predominately by working class folk. However, the area has been reworked recently in is up to the modern sanitary standards. Trondgate Street on the other hand is clearly on the rise, being home to many newly opened shops.



Clyde Street is home to the St Andrew's Roman Catholic chapel (1), called St Andrew's cathedral from 1889 on. This Catholic church was built in 1821, plagued by sabotage from concerned Protestants.

The area is also home to the Court of Justice which also incorporates the city jail (2). In the square in front of the building, a dog and bird market takes place regularly. The Police headquarter (3) is also nearby in Bell Street.



A recent addition to the area is the St. Enoch Train Station (4), a modern building that includes a hotel and many shops at ground level. The trains exit via a bridge that overshadows Dunlop Street. Its main entrance faces Enoch Square to the West.



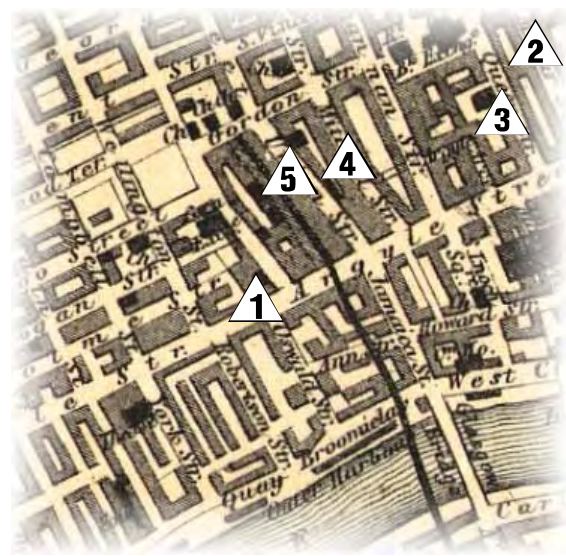
C - Argyle Street

Argyle Street (1) is one of the major thoroughways of Glasgow and home to many businesses and enterprises. Off the political chessboard, this is the area where most decisions are made.

In nearby Miller Street the Mitchell Library (2) can be found, situated in the former Glasgow Water Company building. Queen Street is home to the Royal Exchange and the Royal Bank (3). In the past, Queen Street (then Cow Loan) was home to many crows. These, however, have been

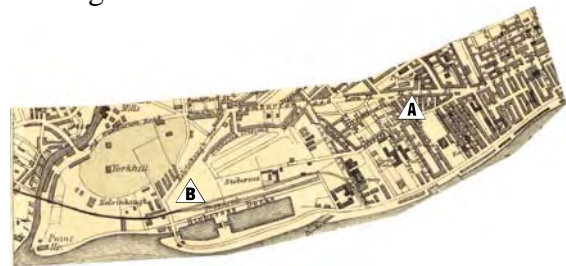
scared away recently by the increased traffic.

The Glasgow Herald is the most important local newspaper. Its printing department (4) is situated in Mitchell Street. The North British Daily Mail, another newspaper, has its offices and printshop in Union Street (5).



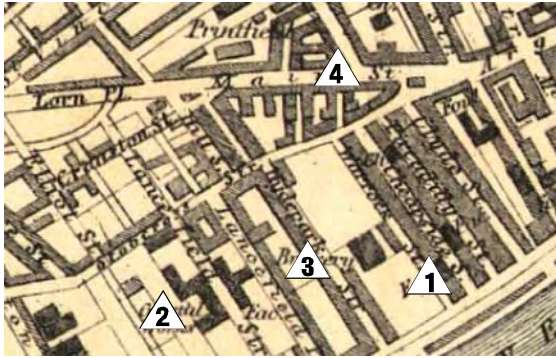
West Glasgow

West Glasgow is dominated by industry and manufacturing. However, it does have a few gems such as Main Street.



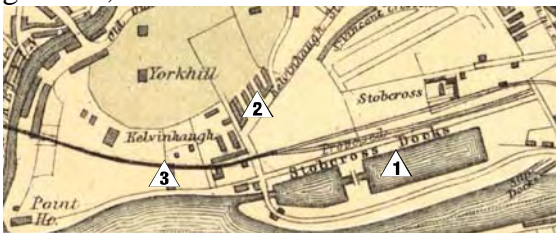
A - Anderston

Formerly a separate town, Anderston was incorporated into Glasgow in 1846. In former times it was known for its cotton industry. While these days are gone, the area has adapted remarkably well and has switched to ironworks (1). There are also factories producing crystal glass (2) and bricks (3). Main Street (4) on the other hand is home to beautiful shops that rival those on Argyle Street in central Glasgow.



B - Craston Hill

This area is dominated by warehouses of all kinds, as well as the Stobcross Docks (1), a major ship construction site. On the lands of Kelvinhaugh (2) are located workshops and various manufacturing businesses; and Yorkhill estate has its busy wharves for landing foreign cattle, with slaughter-house attached (3); also storage, grounds, etc.



North-West Glasgow

North-West Glasgow is home to the villas of the better off. Due to the university, it is also a place of culture and learning.



A - Sauchihall Street

On Sauchihall Street lies the Grand Hotel (1), one of the first addresses in Glasgow. Also found on this street is the Fine Art Institute (2) and the Corporate Gallery (3). The Institute has been lately been plagued by mysterious events and the superstitious begin to talk of a cursed painting.



B - West-End Park

The West-End Park (1) is another recreational site in Glasgow, well loved for its more rural appeal. Currently, the glass palace for the International Exhibit is under construction at the site, marring the tranquil beauty a bit.



Behind the park lies the University (2) having moved out of the city from High Street. This place of higher learning enjoys a good reputation and also has an extensive library.



South Glasgow

South Glasgow is another area dominated by industry. However, efforts are made to make the area livable through hygienic improvements.



A - Laurieston

This district is more residential than industrial. Despite the pompous names of its roads, it is home to the lower classes. Its chief street is Portland (1). The street's inhabitants are somewhat poorer than before, leading to the subdivision of many of its houses.

The area around Oxford Street has seen great improvements over the last decades. The streets in the area have been widened and cleaned up. A brand new police station (2) has been built last year at the corner Oxford Street Nicholson Street. The only stain on this marvel of city development is Bedford Street (3), which is still as dirty and run-down as before.

"[G]uided by the Dean of Guild Court, the buildings in this street and district have been rebuilt in a style that leaves nothing to be desired: a broad street, handsome shops and warehouses, and comfortable dwelling houses, with a central open space containing fountain and clock. The transformation is complete, and great the contrast from what it was in its days of dirt and squalor. I have known the locality from my very earliest years. None of the old landmarks are visible, except a few above the old Pud-dock Row, now known as Bedford Lane."

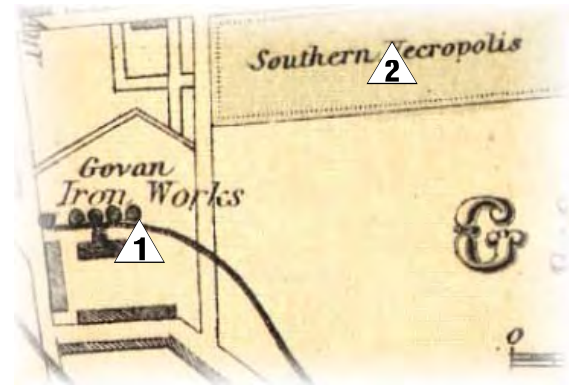
Andrew Aird, "Glimpses of Old Glasgow"



B - Southern Necropolis

This area is actually somewhat busy due to the famous Govan Iron Works (1). The Southern Necropolis (2) itself is a relatively new graveyard, replacing the nearby

Burying Ground to the North, which is now closed.



Northern Glasgow

While it has some industrial areas, Northern Glasgow is dominated by open fields as well as the mansions of the country gentry. It is a

lot quieter than the rest of the city and the locals very well wish to keep it that way.



Gasworks

The Corporation Gasworks (1) are owned by the city. There is also a private supplier but most of the gas, especially the one for lighting the streets, comes from this place. There are plans to set up electrical lighting soon, some say in a few years.

The Glasgow Fever Hospital (2) is a place for the poor. While medical care is not outstanding, it is the only option for some people.



Rural Outskirts

To the North, there are several more rural places of Glasgow. Besides a great distillery (1), there are many houses of the country gentry.

Another place of particular note is the local Rippers Lodge in Hamilton Hill (2). This old mansion has its own graveyard and was overshadowed by a tragic murder, eradicating the whole McGilmond family. The lodge is quite new but run competently by Mr. Hammersmith, a Scottish traditionalist.



6 Places of Interest

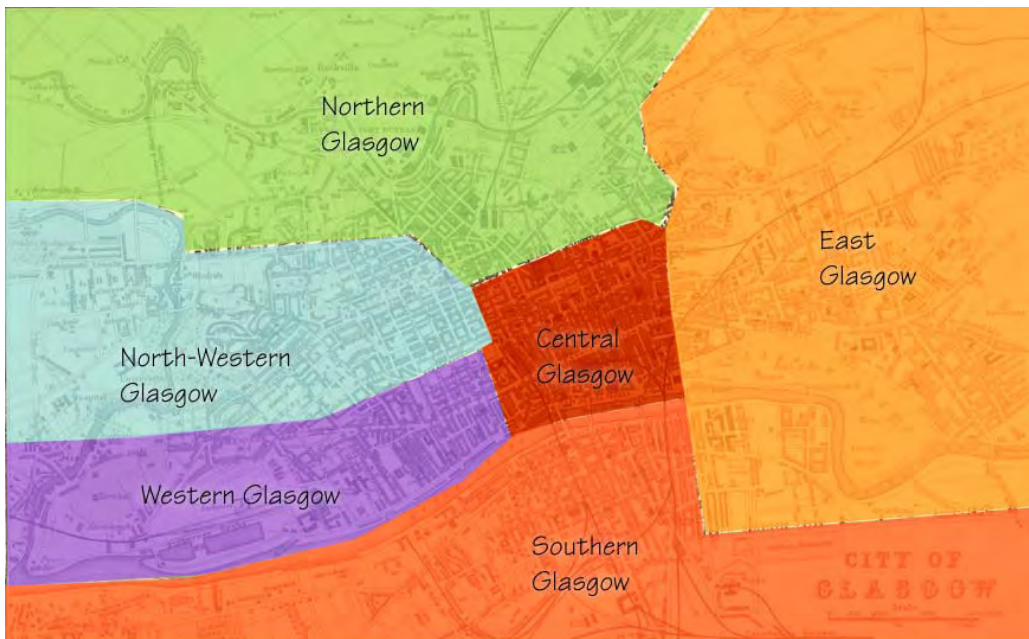
This section gives an overview of places of interest. They are not grouped by location but rather by function.

Graveyards

Formerly, graveyards were disorganized and unhygienic places. After the Burial Ground Act of 1855, new and well-kept burial grounds were introduced.

Graveyards for the rich and the middle class with impressive monuments are:

- ⊙ Necropolis
 - ⊙ Sighthill
 - ⊙ Southern Necropolis
 - ⊙ Eastern Necropolis
 - ⊙ St Mary's Churchyard (Calton, Roman Catholic)
 - ⊙ St Peter's burying ground (Dalbeth, Roman Catholic)
 - ⊙ Burial grounds for the masses can be found at the fringes of the city:
 - ⊙ Craigton
 - ⊙ Cathcart
 - ⊙ Lambhill
 - ⊙ Western Necropolis
 - ⊙ St Kentigern's (north west of the city)
- A related business is the upholstery and



funeral undertaking establishment of Messrs. Wylie & Lochhead on Argyle Street.

Churches

Besides the great Glasgow Cathedral (which technical is not a cathedral any more), there are several other major churches of the other denominations. Needless to say, many small churches are scattered throughout the city.

- ⊙ St. Andrew's Cathedral (Roman Catholic),
- ⊙ St. Mary's Cathedral (Scottish Episcopal) and
- ⊙ St Luke's Cathedral (Greek Orthodox).

Libraries

There are several public libraries in Glasgow that could be of great use for investigators of the occult.

- ⊙ Mitchell Library
- ⊙ Sterling's Library

Entertainment

There are many different forms of entertainment in Glasgow. The city is riddled with pubs of all kinds but the worst dens have been closed. Currently popular among the better off are the so-called "pub palaces", i.e. pubs with ornately carved gantries over the bar, richly embossed mirrors and stained glass windows. The poor often have to be satisfied with illegal drinking dens called "shebeens". It is interesting to not that women are not generally tolerated in pubs, sometimes not even as waitresses.

The heavy drinking of the mid-century has triggered a counter-reaction in the form of the Temperance Movement. Seeing alcohol as a vehicle of moral and mental decline, these dedicated idealists have opened several tea rooms. Unexpectedly, the movement is enjoying great popularity.

Some of the entertainment facilities in Glasgow include:

- ⊙ Citizens' Theatre

- ⊙ Theatre Royal (C M Phipps, 1879 – when an earlier building was destroyed by fire)

- ⊙ Britannica Music Hall

Hotels

While there are many hotels in Glasgow, the best address in the city is the Grand Hotel on Sauchihall Street.

7 Political Movements

Abstainers' Union

The union is one of the most popular organizations in the temperance movement. Convinced that alcohol is the root of evil and degeneration its members educate the masses and set up tea rooms as an alternative to pubs.

The Suffragettes

These women are fighting for their right to vote. Many find this idea ridiculous and some demonstrations have been broken up by force.

8 Personalities

William Macewen is a surgeon at the Royal Infirmary. He is quite innovative, has introduced new standards of hygiene for surgery. He is also doing quite a bit of research with animal bones. He makes a good contact for Rippers due to his excellent medical skills. His interest into the supernatural might be aroused by presenting him with the bones of Cabal creatures.

John Dennistoun is a rich merchant who made a lot of money selling villas in the Eastern part of Glasgow. While unwilling to give money for such "nonsense" as monster hunting, he would be willing to finance expeditions that promise to make him financial gain.

Andrew Watson is a famous football player in Glasgow. What makes him a special celebrity is the fact that he is the first black man in the football league.

9 Cabal Activity

The Cabal is quite active in Glasgow, even though one of its major players – Baron von Arnheim – had to flee the city to avoid a major scandal. Currently, it relies mostly on the various werewolf gangs throughout the poorer quarters as well as on several independent supernatural mercenaries. The current local leader is unknown but rumors speak of an ancient Egyptian king who was brought to Glasgow by misguided minions.

10 Adventure Seeds

As a player, you should not read these to avoid spoiling your fun.

- ⊙ Ambitious animal hybrids indentured to Baron von Arnheim are used in a plot to rob the Bank of Scotland. The PCs get wind of it and have to counteract the robbery. If they fail, their opponents will be much better equipped in the future.
- ⊙ Unknown to all, the coal deposit under the Glasgow Green contains an ancient burial site of a prehistoric snake man priest. If the crypt were to be defiled, the mummy would rise and wreak havoc on Glasgow. When prospectors dig a probing tunnel at Glasgow Green, they disturb the mummy. While the monster kills people to gain strength and the PCs desperately hunt for it, the Cabal tries to recruit this new threat. However, the mummy is unwilling to join forces with the “upstarts” and also leaves dead monsters in its wake.
- ⊙ Radical Suffragettes fall for the promises of a female Vampire.
- ⊙ An evil tree in the Glasgow Green turns citizens into mindless slaves.
- ⊙ An animated statue lurks within the many monuments on George Square.
- ⊙ The Nelson Memorial in the Glasgow Green is really a seal on a gate to hell, at a former Celtic site of demonic rites. At first, it was imperfect resulting in what was later explained as a lightning strike. The PCs can use this gate to go to hell or to Atlantis.

- ⊙ The former prison in High Street is used by the Cabal to harvest souls of sinners for various purposes. The PCs might stumble upon this and prevent the creation of powerful golems etc.
- ⊙ The Cabal makes heavy use of the subterranean way. Blocking its entrances is a good way to reduce Cabal threat.
- ⊙ St. Mungos: In the steeple of Glasgow is a great bell, which is twelve feet one inch in circumference, and has a grave and deep tone. In 1789, it was accidentally cracked by some persons who got admission to the steeple. What happened there? And why is it important that the bell chimes every day? Keeps it at bay a dangerous spirit? If the Cabal found out, they might want to keep the bell from ringing...
- ⊙ Queen Street was formerly home to a necromancer who had a flock of crow familiars. He was slain and his servants spread to all directions. But now, an important piece of knowledge must be recovered and only the crows know it. How can these birds be found and interrogated? Are there still clues left in Queen Street?
- ⊙ In the Fine Arts Institute, the ghost of a painter who is disgusted by modern art haunts the more progressive artists.
- ⊙ Vampires attack the Gasworks to cause the city to fall into darkness. Chaos and looting ensues.

11 Future Developments

1888 International Exhibition in Glasgow.

12 Appendix – Moon Phases and Holidays

Year 1887

January 1887

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Holidays and Observances

1 Jan New Year's Day
8 Apr Good Friday
10 Apr Easter Sunday

29 May Whit Sunday
29 Aug Summer Bank Holiday
31 Oct Halloween

25 Dec Christmas Day
26 Dec Boxing Day
27 Dec Bank Holiday

11 Apr Easter Monday

5 Nov Guy Fawkes Day

Year 1888

January 1888

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August 1888

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September 1888

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October 1888

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29	30	31				

5:☉ 12:☉ 19:☉ 28:☉

November 1888

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

4:☉ 10:☉ 18:☉ 26:☉

December 1888

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

3:☉ 10:☉ 18:☉ 26:☉

Holidays and Observances

1 Jan New Year's Day
30 Mar Good Friday

20 May Whit Sunday
27 Aug Summer Bank Holiday

25 Dec Christmas Day
26 Dec Boxing Day

1 Apr Easter Sunday 31 Oct Halloween
2 Apr Easter Monday 5 Nov Guy Fawkes Day

13 Notes

- © Moon phases generated with <http://www.timeanddate.com>
- © Pictures are taken mostly from <http://www.oldstratforduponavon.com>.
- © Glasgow map taken from <http://www.smilodon.plus.com/mapcd/> (where you can download the full map)