

# PC Starting Information

## For

### Jeff's Vampire Game

(by John Taber and Jeff Brickman, Updated: 2/7/2002)

**Summary:** This document attempts to answer some of the questions you folks might have for the first session. There will likely be some specific areas that are not addressed. Please try and be nice. Jeff and I are not historians of sixteenth century Europe. The names and things that we are defining below are only loosely based on reality...if at all. I may pull some data from my Encarta CD but that is about as far as it goes. You can research these topics more if you want but Jeff and I plan to use ONLY this information then expand from here. Something you read in another place may or may not get used in the game. We are bending history to suit the game not the other way around. Don't let this "historical inaccuracy" stuff get you down. Everyone is in the same boat so we will work together to get everything figured out. ☺

Note that specific additional details will be conveyed to select PC. This is especially true for the section dealing with kindred affairs. Watch your private forums for details.

This document is not the easiest to read. I tried to separate everything into logical sections but maybe a timeline for the historical stuff would have been better. Maybe next time... ☺

If there are questions on any part of this document or the upcoming game please ask them. It would be nice to get a majority of this stuff done before the first game. Sorry it took so long to get this document assembled. As you will see after reading the information...there was quite a lot to gather.

See ya at the game,  
John and Jeff

1. History – This is going to be split into two sections. The focus here is on the politics of France in and around the time of the first session.
  - a. The Last Few Years – Here is a brief section of the text regarding the history of Paris from around 75 years ago to approximately the time of the first session. The first session takes place in 1572. See below for details.

### **The Renaissance and Reformation**

By the end of the 15th century France had emerged from the divisions of its feudal past and had become a national monarchy incorporating lands stretching from the Pyrenees to the English Channel. The social structure was still dominated by the landed aristocracy, and land remained the principal form of wealth. In the next half-century, however, domestic peace, growing population, an influx of gold and silver brought to Europe from America by the Spaniards, and the government's public works and military orders stimulated economic growth, which raised wholesale merchants, bankers, and tax collectors to a more important place in society. The nobility, on the other hand, dependent on fixed monetary rents and dues, saw both their economic power and their social position threatened by inflation.

The first three monarchs of the period—Charles VIII, Louis XII (reigned 1498-1515), and Francis I (reigned 1515-1547)—took advantage of the nation's growing strength and internal security to lead armies into Italy to enforce claims to the kingdom of Naples and the duchy of Milan. In the 1520s the Italian wars merged into a larger struggle between France and the Habsburg dynasty of Spain and Austria over conflicting territorial claims, a struggle that continued intermittently for a century and a half. The Italian wars were finally terminated by the Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis (1559), negotiated by Francis I's son, Henry II. France gave up all claims to Italy but acquired three strategically located territories on its eastern frontier—the bishoprics of Metz, Toul, and Verdun.

### **Francis I**

Francis I significantly increased both the power and the prestige of the Crown. He imposed himself as the monarchy's sole Lawmaker and never called the Estates-General. By the Concordat of Bologna (1516), negotiated with Pope Leo X, he won for the French king the power to fill all bishoprics and other benefices with persons of his choice, thus assuring a manageable clergy. In 1539 he banned Latin, the language of the church, from use in judicial acts and required the exclusive use of French. He was a generous and discerning patron of the arts and learning, and the flowering of the French Renaissance owed much to his support. Buildings surviving from his reign still attest to his influence and to the power and wealth of the monarchy.

### **The Wars of Religion**

The latter half of the century was a succession of difficult and agitated decades in France. Rising population, without a compensating rise in productivity, and monetary inflation reduced much of the populace to poverty. The Protestant Reformation, spreading from Germany during the reign of Francis I, had attracted few followers, but in the 1540s and 1550s the French Protestant John Calvin created the doctrine and

the institutions of a distinctively French form of Protestantism, and it won many powerful followers in the nobility and thousands of lower rank. Henry II considered Calvinism a threat to royal authority, and he tried to stamp it out. Under his three sons, who succeeded him, the country was torn by the Wars of Religion, wars in which religious, political, and dynastic conflicts were inextricably mixed. The fanaticism of the religious combatants and the brutality of mercenaries made it a struggle in which pillage, cruelty, and atrocities were normal.

### **The Regime of Catherine de Médicis**

The death of Henry II in 1559 brought to the throne his sickly 15-year-old son Francis II, who succeeded his father for only two years. His successor was his 13-year-old brother, Charles IX. The queen mother, Catherine de Médicis, was the virtual ruler during most of their reigns and she continued to be influential in the reign (1574-1589) of her third son, Henry III. Catherine's first concern was the defense of her sons' royal authority. She repeatedly pressed the religious contenders to compromise on a settlement that would enable both to believe and worship as they pleased, but unfortunately for France she was powerless against their fanaticism. She herself became its tool in sanctioning the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre in Paris in August 1572, when Roman Catholics fell upon assembled Protestant leaders and their followers and murdered about 2,000 of them. (Here is a picture of Catherine.)



- b. Current Events – Here are more details about the last few days that lead up to the first session. Note that the first session occurs approximately a week or so after the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

### **Masacre of Saint Bartholomew's Day**

Mass slaying of Huguenots (Protestants) in Paris, on St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24, 1572. In order to increase the royal power, the queen mother, Catherine de Médicis, attempted to play the French Roman Catholic faction, led by the house of Guise, against the Huguenot faction, led by the house of Condé. Jealous of the growing power of the Huguenot leader Gaspard de Coligny, adviser to her son, King Charles IX, Catherine ordered Coligny's assassination. The plot failed, however, and a number of Huguenot leaders who were gathered in Paris for the wedding of Catherine's daughter to Henry of Navarre, later King Henry IV of France, demanded an investigation. Because an investigation would have implicated his mother, Charles was persuaded by the queen to order the murder of the Huguenot leaders. The number

killed cannot be determined with any accuracy; estimates vary from 2000 to 100,000. Coligny was among the first to fall. The massacre spread from Paris to the provinces, causing new religious wars.<sup>1</sup> (Below is an artist's rendering of the event.)



2. Politics – Here is some very brief information on politics and military power in and around the major countries of Europe. As usual the focus is on France. Here is a great map of the area showing the major areas of control at the time.

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<sup>1</sup>"Saint Bartholomew's Day, Massacre of," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.



France – The current rule in France is the now 24 years old Charles IX. Even though he is the official Monarch of France most know that the queen mother, Catherine de Médicis is the real power behind the throne.

a. Other Countries –

i. England – The current monarch is arguably the most respected queen of all time Elizabeth I. Here is some brief text on her rise.

### **Henry's Heirs**

Under Edward VI, a minor dominated successively by Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, the English church became Protestant. Parliament's Acts of Uniformity enforced the Book of Common Prayer. When Edward died at the age of 16, Northumberland tried but failed to save Protestantism and himself by preventing the succession of the king's half-sister, Mary.

Mary I, the daughter of Catherine of Aragón, restored the Roman Catholic church and married her cousin, Philip II of Spain. Her burning of almost 300 Protestants made the people hate her and Rome, however, and her marriage led to war with France and the loss of Calais. When Bloody Mary, as she was known, died in November 1558, England rejoiced in the accession of her half-sister, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth I, one of England's greatest sovereigns, had her grandfather's frugality and care and her father's imperious manner and his ability to charm and overwhelm. She had a sense of what people wanted and would allow, and she had the judgment to pick able and devoted ministers.

Cooperating with Parliament, she settled the church in 1559 on a moderate course. She neutralized the Scottish threat by helping the Protestant and pro-English faction to win dominance there. She assisted the Protestant rebels in the Spanish Netherlands and encouraged English sailors to raid Spanish ships on the high seas. Her navy

defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588 and prevented the invasion of England. Ireland, increasingly rebellious and vulnerable as a possible point of foreign attack, was finally completely conquered in 1603. Elizabeth presided over England's rise to glory abroad and to prosperity and literary achievement at home, justifiably giving her name to England's golden age.<sup>2</sup>

- ii. Italy – During the sixteenth century most of northern Italy was politically controlled by either the French or Spanish. This dominance would last for over 200 years. The rest of the country is ruled by the religious papacy under Pope Pius V (1566-72) then later by Gregory XII (1572-85).
- iii. Germany – Here is some general information about Germany during this century. Some other details can be found in the section on religion.

**The Age of Religious Strife (1519-1648)** Dramatic changes occurred in Germany and other European societies during the next period, which historians call the early modern era. During this time, Christianity was divided by the Reformation and the Americas were explored. Both had profound effects on politics, economies, and society. Another force for change was the new mass medium of the printing press, which carried diverse ideas, news, and entertainment to large audiences.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, territorial rulers and city councils in Germany expanded their authority, often in conjunction with religious changes stemming from the Reformation. At the same time, capitalism expanded and the population grew, resulting in widespread inflation throughout the period and a greater polarization of wealth within German society. On the other hand, many of the basic structures of medieval life—dynastic politics, predominantly agrarian economies, and low standard of living—remained largely constant throughout the period.<sup>3</sup>

- iv. Serbia – Completely controlled by the Ottoman empire until the death of their greatest ruler Suleiman The Magnificent in 1566. After this point the Ottomans still maintained power but the threat of Russia hampered their power.
- v. Spain – The current ruler is Philip II. He transformed Spain into a world power using shipping to control commerce. Around 1588 he

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<sup>2</sup>"England," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

<sup>3</sup>"Germany, Federal Republic of," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

constructed the Spanish Armada in an attempt to enforce his naval power. Here is some brief text on him.

**Philip II (of Spain)** (1527-98), Habsburg king of Spain (1556-98), who ruled the country at the height of its power and influence and used that power in the service of the Roman Catholic church and the Counter Reformation. During his reign the Philippine Islands (named for him) were conquered and colonies were established in what is now the southern United States.<sup>4</sup>

- vi. Switzerland – The Swiss were in a period of religious reformation. Even now they strive for neutrality but are forced into the fray with the arrival of John Calvin. See the religion section for details.
- vii. Turkey – Here is some data from Encarta on the state of the massive Ottoman empire in the late 1500's. The current sultan is Selem II. In October of 1571 the Turks lost a decisive naval battle at Leptano. This put the Turks into a rebuilding mode in which they currently reside.

Selim I died in 1520 after having spent most of his short reign on matters pertaining to the east. His son and successor Suleiman I (reigned 1520-1566) again turned the attention of the Ottomans to the west. In August 1521 Suleiman, later known as Suleiman the Magnificent, opened the road to Hungary by capturing Belgrade, a Hungarian stronghold. He took the island of Rhodes from the Knights of Saint John in December 1522, which signaled the beginning of Ottoman domination of the eastern Mediterranean. In 1529 Suleiman campaigned to the gates of the Habsburg city of Vienna in the west, and in 1534 took the Iranian city of Tabrîz in the east. When he died in 1566, while on campaign in Hungary, Suleiman had become the preeminent Muslim ruler in the world.

Ottoman fortunes began to decline after the death of Suleiman, but from such a great height that the changes were imperceptible at first. While continuing to pressure the Habsburg dynasty in Central Europe, the Ottomans maintained their naval presence in the Mediterranean by taking Cyprus between 1570 and 1571. They protected their eastern flank against the Safavids and even began to lock horns with a new enemy, emerging Russia.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>"Philip II (of Spain)," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

<sup>5</sup>"Ottoman Empire," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

3. Religion – Religion is a very powerful influence on politics in this period. Many religious reforms are planned and many countries are divided. Note that this strife is hard to role-play so bear with us on this topic. We will attempt to do our best. :-)  
Here is some general religious information on the climate in Europe at the time.

### **Religious Wars**

The struggle between Roman Catholics and Protestants could not be confined to the spiritual arena. During the period 1550-1650, protracted religious wars occasioned widespread death and destruction. These religious struggles were, however, inextricably intertwined with political contests that eventually assumed primary importance. In France, bloody civil strife between Roman Catholics and Huguenots (Protestants) dragged on for 30 years until Henry IV was recognized as king in 1593. Placing secular power above religious loyalty, the Protestant Henry converted to Roman Catholicism, the faith recognized by the majority of his subjects. In the Netherlands, Roman Catholic Spain and the Calvinist Dutch provinces fought a long and brutal war (1567-1609) that ended in victory for the latter. Here, religion was closely identified with national aspiration; the Dutch leader William of Orange, a Roman Catholic and a Lutheran before becoming a Calvinist, summoned his people above all else to national resistance.

In England, too, the religious struggle was part of a more encompassing effort to ensure national independence from Rome. Under Queen Elizabeth I, reasons of state dictated religious policy; as a result, Protestant administrative autonomy and Roman Catholic ritual were skillfully woven into a fabric of compromise that produced the Church of England. With the aid of treacherous storms (the “Protestant Wind”), Elizabethan England turned back the “Invincible Armada” sent against it by Philip II of Spain in 1588, a victory as much national as it was religious.<sup>6</sup>

- a. France – Protestants led by the House of Guise and Catholics led by the House of Valois form the crux of the problems in France at this time. Here is some information from Encarta.

### **Civil War**

The rise in the number of French Protestants excited the alarm and hatred of the French Roman Catholics. The religious hatred was intensified by political rivalry between the house of Valois, then in possession of the French throne, and the house of Guise. Catherine de Médicis, widow of Henry II, who governed in the name of her son, King Charles IX, at times allied herself with the Huguenots for political reasons, but generally sided against them. The Huguenots were persecuted severely in Charles's reign, and they in turn made reprisals upon the Roman Catholics. Finally, open civil war broke out. Between 1562 and 1598 eight bitter wars were fought between French Roman Catholics and Protestants.

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<sup>6</sup>"Europe," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

The Huguenot leaders in the first of the nearly four decades of conflict were Louis I de Bourbon, prince de Condé, and the French admiral Gaspard de Coligny; subsequently they were led by Henry of Navarre, later Henry IV, king of France.

The principal Roman Catholic leaders were Henri I de Lorraine, 3rd duc de Guise; Catherine de Médicis; and King Henry III. Each side from time to time called on foreign help. The Huguenots obtained troops from England, Germany, and Switzerland; the Roman Catholics, from Spain. The treaties that concluded the wars usually granted the Huguenots some measure of tolerance, but the government's subsequent ignoring or outright repudiation of the terms of the treaties led to a renewal of hostilities. The greatest act of treachery of the period took place in 1572. Two years previously, Catherine and Charles IX had signed a treaty with the Huguenots granting them freedom of worship; they had remained on friendly terms with the Huguenots, calling Coligny to court, where he enjoyed great influence. Having lulled the Huguenots into a feeling of security, on August 24, 1572, St. Bartholomew's Day, the queen mother and the king caused thousands of them to be massacred in Paris and elsewhere in France. Coligny was found and killed by the duc de Guise himself.<sup>7</sup>

- b. Other Countries – Here is some brief information on how some of the other major countries in the area were coping with religious upheavals.
  - i. England – Elizabeth I took a vital role in religious policy. She even appointed herself as the supreme religious leader. Here is some text from Encarta.

Under Elizabeth, England again broke with the pope, Catholic services were forbidden, priests were allowed to marry, and relics and decorations were removed from the churches. In attempting to diffuse the religious situation, Elizabeth tried to accommodate Catholic sensibilities in matters she judged less essential. She used Parliament to establish the official doctrine of the new church, which ensured that the voice of Catholic peers would be heard. Under the Act of Supremacy, she assumed the title of Supreme Governor of the Church, rather than the title of Supreme Head, a move to placate critics because Supreme Governor sounded less powerful. She would not allow retaliation against those who had assisted Mary, and she treated with some leniency those who refused to swear an oath to her supremacy.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>"Huguenots," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

<sup>8</sup>"Elizabeth I," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

- c. Germany – Here is some great information about the religious atmosphere in Germany at this time.

### **The Confessional Age**

When Charles abdicated in 1556, his vast empire was divided, with the Spanish and Bourguignon lands going to his son Philip II and the imperial title and German lands going to his brother Ferdinand I. Within the German cities and territories, however, religious tensions continued to mount as governments attempted to establish confessions of faith among their respective populaces, mostly along Lutheran lines. By the 1540s, several newly converted princes had joined the attempt, simultaneously creating new courts and officials to oversee the process. The Protestant Reformation continued to spread.

Meanwhile, a Catholic reform council met for three extended sessions between 1545 and 1563 in the north Italian city of Trent, assessing which teachings and practices required changes and to what degree (*see* Counter Reformation). In general, the council reaffirmed almost all Catholic doctrine on salvation and the sacraments, while also laying a blueprint for extensive clerical and lay reform at the diocesan level. When Catholic bishops turned to the task of implementing reforms and even attempting to win back Protestant converts, one of their greatest assets was a new religious order, the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits. The Jesuits relied heavily on education, setting up schools and universities in Germany and throughout Europe. With the backing of rulers such as the Wittelsbachs of Bavaria, the Habsburgs of Austria, and the archbishops of Salzburg, Bamberg, and Würzburg, the Jesuits helped create a Catholic bloc in the southern part of the empire, which has remained predominantly Catholic to this day. In more mixed or predominantly Protestant areas, though, the Jesuits often escalated religious tensions.

Emperor Ferdinand I was more savvy in politics than Charles had been. For most of his reign, Ferdinand attempted to reconcile the two religious camps within the empire; at the same time, he built up the centralized bureaucracy of his Austrian territories. At his death in 1564, his lands were divided equally among his three sons, and Maximilian II assumed the throne. Both Maximilian II and his successor, Rudolf II, were intensely preoccupied with the Turkish threat. As in other times of increased military spending, the emperors generally deferred to the princes and cities on a variety of issues in exchange for new taxes. Meanwhile, several small and medium-sized Calvinist states that had developed in spite of the Peace of Augsburg formed close political ties with one another.<sup>9</sup>

- d. Switzerland – The Swiss are undergoing a reformation period. They are a protestant stronghold because of the arrival of John Calvin. Here is some Encarta data.

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<sup>9</sup>"Germany, Federal Republic of," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

In 1536 Geneva, where the French theologian John Calvin had just settled, revolted against the duchy of Savoy and refused to acknowledge the authority of its Roman Catholic bishop. Calvin organized his church democratically, incorporating ideas of representative government. From 1541 to 1564 Geneva became the stronghold of the Calvinist brand of Protestantism. Although the cantons preserved their neutrality in the Thirty Years' War of 1618 to 1648, Swiss diplomacy was able to maneuver formal recognition of Switzerland as a completely independent state by the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.<sup>10</sup>

- e. Turkey – The Ottoman Empire is the major seat of the Muslim faith in Europe. Their views differed widely from most known religions and many considered them “heathens”.
4. Commerce – Shipping dominated commerce in the Mediterranean Sea. Vast fleets are maintained by most countries but the Spanish are considered the sea power of the time. A recent defeat of the Turks knock them out of contention for power in the eastern waterways. Here is some great general information on the state of trade during this century.

The development of oceangoing warships and efficient merchant carriers in the 15th and 16th centuries led to a rapid expansion of commerce. As the cost of transporting bulky cargoes over long distances fell, grain was imported on a large scale from the Baltic to the Netherlands and other parts of Europe. New ocean routes between Europe and the East allowed imports from Asia at lower prices and in greater volume than had been possible by overland caravan. The discovery of the Americas created trade in such new commodities as tobacco and logwood.

Spanish exploitation of the rich gold and silver deposits in Mexico and Peru transformed the character of international commerce. Europe finally possessed a commodity—precious metal—for which ample demand existed in the Far East. In return for Asian imports, Europe exchanged silver coin minted in Mexico, Spain, Italy, and Holland. Using technology and skills developed in transoceanic navigation, the Europeans captured the Asian shipping trade. European vessels transported Japanese copper to China and India, Indian cotton textiles to southern Asia, and Persian carpets to India. Trade in certain staple commodities grew with incredible speed. Imports of tobacco into England from Virginia and Maryland, for example, increased more than a thousandfold in the 17th century.

As long-distance trade continued to grow, new forms of commercial organizations appeared. At first, informal associations gave way to legal partnership. In Holland, for example, it was not uncommon after 1500 that shareholders, rather than captains, be

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<sup>10</sup>"Switzerland," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

the proprietors of ships. Shareholding broke down the social barriers among different classes of merchants and enabled individuals to divide their goods among ships destined for different ports. No longer was international trade limited to those who could afford to travel. After the 16th century, the chartered trading company replaced the temporary partnership as the customary way for merchants to organize their affairs. These great companies, created by the state but privately owned and managed, held national monopolies over trade with certain regions.<sup>11</sup>

- a. France – A fairly significant sea power but still in its infancy. Most ships are not meant for war but are designed as simple tools of commerce. France is NOT considered an ocean going power at the time.
  - b. Other Countries – The Spanish dominate the waterways of the age. The Ottoman's, a once great naval power, just suffered a major defeat. Piracy abounds as other nations attempt to garner traffic.
5. Technology – To give everyone an idea of how technology and science stand in the mid to late 1500's here are some items and when they started to be used.
- a. Engineering
    - i. Wire 1410
    - ii. Ore Washer 1512
    - iii. Square Root 1525
    - iv. Diving Bell 1531
    - v. Screwdriver, Nuts, Bolts, Wrenches 1550
  - b. Weapons – I will make up World Of Darkness stats for these if desired.
    - i. Matchlocks 1425
    - ii. Spiral Groove Barrel Rifle 1520
    - iii. Portable Firearm 1525
    - iv. Pistol 1540
    - v. Simple Artillery 1544
    - vi. Flintlocks 1550
  - c. Travel and Commerce
    - i. Barge Crane 1421
    - ii. Sextant 1425
    - iii. Printing Press 1455
    - iv. La Poste Royale 1464
    - v. Printing in France 1470
    - vi. Global Map 1492
    - vii. Great Galley 1515
    - viii. Atlas 1570
  - d. Other
    - i. Dolls 1413

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<sup>11</sup>"Commerce," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

- ii. Playing Cards 1440
- iii. Eyeglasses 1450
- iv. Hourglass 1475
- v. Toothbrush 1498
- vi. Venetian Glass 1530
- vii. Anatomy Book 1543
- viii. Pencil 1565

6. Social – Here is some data on the social climate of the period.
- a. France - Paris is a very social place. It is full of painters, sculptors, and artists of renown. Prominent kind (and kindred) artists are plentiful. The kind artist that exist at this time include Francois Clouet (miniaturist painter) and Germain Pilon (sculptor of Catherine de Medici). The kindred from Paris should refer to the private rooms on the message board for information on the known kindred artist in Paris and Avignon. Here is some data from Encarta on the role Catherine played in the artistic movements of the period.

### **Catherine As Patron Of Arts**

Apart from her political role, Catherine was a patron of the arts. Her interest in architecture was demonstrated in the building of a new wing of the Louvre Museum, in initiating construction of the Tuileries gardens, and in building the château of Monceau. Her personal library, containing numerous rare manuscripts, was renowned in Renaissance France.<sup>12</sup>

The nightlife is also quite prolific as socialites move from place to place discussing the latest trends in politics, fashion, music, and art. The Auberge De Rose is one of the kindred and kind locations that attracts a lot of attention. The Paris folks should refer to Room #3 for details.

- b. Other Countries – Here is some data on other places around Europe.
    - i. England – At the end of the sixteenth century England enters a Renaissance of literature the likes of which will shape history. In this early stages people like Malory, author of *Le morte d'Arthur*, and John Skelton are gaining popularity using the printing press. In the next few decades England will see a boom in creative literature.
    - ii. Italy – Recent times have seen the loss of both Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. The great artist Titian currently produces masterpieces in Venice. The artistic style known as “Mannerism” is at its peak during this period.
7. World Of Darkness – Kindred ties run deep and strong. In this section some of the better known ties will be explained. Remember that in this world there has not been a

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<sup>12</sup>"Catherine de Médicis," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Council of Thorns which means that Camarilla has not been formed. Instead of the Camarilla the various kindred clans simply deal with everyday life without feeling the need to setup rules. This does not mean that every area is ruled by power. In fact the control in various countries around Europe varies. Some countries are controlled with tight regulations by select clans and other countries have no restrictions or controlling faction at all. If a country is not mentioned in this document it is assumed that there is no central kindred power of importance. If you have questions about a specific country that is not covered below please talk with John and Jeff.

- a. France – For the most part France is comprised of a collection of different clans with no single group claiming any type of control. Clans that are known to exist to some degree of prominence include Lasombra, Malkavian, Nosferatu, Toreador, Tremere, and Tzimisce.

- i. Paris –Lasombra, Malkavian, Nosferatu, Toreador, and Tzimisce are present in Paris in varying degree. Note that other kindred exist in Paris these are just the clans that have either a known elder or a strong presence in the area.
  - 1. Lasombra – Always behind the scenes the Lasombra presence is felt in northern Paris. A well-known Lasombra elder in the area is Louis Cosse. The Cosse family runs an elaborate estate near Tours, a province outside of Paris proper.
  - 2. Malkavian – There are several Malkavian in Paris but they tend to be on the private side and have no organized presence in the city.
  - 3. Nosferatu – The Nosferatu clan is strong in Paris. One of their elders, Mrs. Shaunasey, is a part owner of the Auberge de Rose, a local gentleman’s club and fine restaurant. She runs the place with a hulking figure known as Bendix. Although seemingly a strange combination the Nosferatu run “The Rose”, as it is known by the locals, with style and aplomb. The Rose is a kindred gathering spot in Paris as it includes several secret entrances from the sewers and private meeting rooms on the lower floor.
  - 4. Toreador - Paris is a very important city for the Toreador clan. There are several powerful members in the city who hold sway in the royal courts and social scenes. Note that even though the Toreador are strong they do not assert themselves in the kindred political scene to any degree. The current leader of the Toreador in Paris is a writer named Horatio Busey.
  - 5. Tzimisce – In Paris the Tzimisce dominate the shipping market and hold a tight leash on several of the local merchants. The Tzimisce elder in town is a commanding figure known as Prince Lazar.
- ii. Avignon – The main attraction for kindred in Avignon is the Papal Palace and its library. This imposing structure was the seat of power for the popes up until the end of the fourteenth century. Now it contains one of the largest libraries on the continent. The library in

Avignon contains texts on all topics including a special section dealing entirely with kindred affairs. The Tremere run the library and consider Avignon one of their seats of power due to it's close proximity to Vienna. The current curator of the library is Eraldo Taddeo. Here is a fantastic picture of the Papal Palace from Don! Thanks!



1. Tremere – The proximity of Avignon to Vienna and the extensive library at the Papal Palace make Avignon a seat of power for the Tremere clan. Several of their members can be seen at the library during the course of an evening.
  2. Other Clans – Several other clans visit the Papal Palace to use the library. In many ways the library has become not only a center of kindred lore but also a kindred “watering hole”.
- b. Other Countries – This section contains some basic information that can be shared about kindred affairs in some of the other major European countries.
- i. England – The United Kingdoms are ruled by a strong man known simply as Simion The Mighty. Simion claims to be a knight from the middle-ages. He rules the island with an iron grip using a fanatical band of warriors. Several of the other clans function in London but most of them kowtow to Simion at some level.
  - ii. Germany – Most of Germany is controlled by lupine. These creatures who defy the Wyrms seem at ease in the dark forests that cover most of the countryside. When lupine move from Germany to other countries they often do so in small bands which are known to be quite dangerous to kindred. In fact the lupine often cut swaths of death when they travel through Europe. (Rumors exist of a second large group of

lupine who are forming in northern Ireland but these have not been confirmed.)

- iii. Spain – Spain is tightly ruled by the Ventrue clan. They subjugate most other clans and brutally oppose those who do not follow along. The oppression in Spain is so intense that everyone must announce themselves to the current Ventrue clan leader upon entering his “realm”. The head Ventrue is Cipriano Fernando Domingo de Seville. Note that Cipriano has gone so far as to “outlaw” Tremere in areas that he controls.
- iv. Austria – As mentioned above the Tremere are very strong in Vienna. They have defended it’s walls for centuries and many of the eldest in the clan call Austria their home. Although the Tremere are in power in Vienna they are not overly oppressive and simply demand respect. Vienna is the home of several kindred.