

*AFTERMATH: This article appeared in the Candor Sun-Herald the day after the mission....*

# CHAOS IN CELESTIARCH THEATRE

## *Anarchist Attack During Re-opening of “King in Yellow”*

### **Ambassador Murakami Fired Upon, but Uninjured**

*Actor claims anarchists were agents of an age-old curse*

By VINNIE THE LIZARD

At intermission during the second performance of “King in Yellow” last night there was a fierce attack on the Celestiarch Theatre by a group of five anarchists who the police have identified as members of the Black Hand cell. The Anarchists barged in, throwing dynamite and shooting indiscriminately; several shots were fired on Shaykin Ambassador Maki Murakami’s box.

It didn’t take long for the theater to suffer major structural damage; one stick of dynamite blew a hole in the wall and sent theatergoers and actors alike scrambling for cover. Under the cover of the dust, one of the anarchists took a shot at Ambassador Murakami’s box, which fire was answered by a shot from one of her bodyguards and also by Lord James Pressive and Edward Claremont III (His Lordship’s cousin, and brother to Lord Frank Parfail). Their lordships are quite talented in a firefight, bringing several of the anarchists down in short order. One wonders why they brought loaded weapons to the theater according to a tearful and shaken Lady Meredith Ilsemer, Lord Pressive expressed a dubious surprise that there was a weapon beneath his chair, discovered at just the right moment. Perhaps the gentlemen were expecting to have to enliven a boring play or perhaps they had already been tipped off about the anarchists’ possible attack.

Your faithful reporter had found a position toward the front of the house, from which he endeavored to create a photographic

record of the happenings. Unfortunately, Claremont tackled both reporter and camera in his zeal to protect them from dynamite in the hands of an unconscious anarchist, shattering the plates (The Sun-Herald is offering a financial reward to anyone who comes up with a lighter and less fragile photographic medium than current technology allows see page 5). An unidentified member of the audience extinguished the fuse, rendering Claremont’s gesture unnecessary, if impressive.

“We must defend Queen and Country from these blackguard anarchists,” Claremont said. He promptly raced for the lobby, where many witnesses saw him join up with Lord Pressive and another unidentified man. According to Lady Ilsemer, they gathered a handsome, semi-conscious gentleman in “an exquisite tux” from the doorway, leapt into a waiting car, and drove off. None of the witnesses were certain what they were pursuing, but many mentioned the astonishing speed of the vehicle.

Neither Lord Pressive nor Claremont were available for comment before press-time.

Constable Smitty has said that the Black Hand has long had it in for Ambassador Murakami, “or any member of government organizations, really.” Certainly anarchists are responsible for a number of recent attacks, including the bomb found in the University library when their latest analytical engine was installed. However, your reporter on the scene questions the constable’s observations in this matter,

as the anarchists seemed rather random in their shooting and flinging about of dynamite either they had another motive or they were easily distracted anarchists indeed, which is not out of the realm of possibility.

The Celestiarch Theater is closed indefinitely, which actor Paul Mason says is directly attributable to the curse of “The Yellow King.” “No theater has ever successfully performed that play to completion,” he said, “and almost every theater or troupe that’s tried has been if not outright destroyed then badly damaged.”

The Sun-Herald also has it on good authority that Celestiarch Theatre owner Marval Vaire is currently in debt to Duke Haversham for a substantial wager placed on the play successfully completing its run. This is in addition to the costly repairs to the theater that now must be performed.

Black Hand Members Eva Tatum, Teresa Riddenhau, Sean Killingsworth, Becky Bond and Peter Horner are currently in police custody.

Whatever the reason for the Anarchist’s attack, our hats are off here in the Sun-Herald’s offices to Lord Jim Pressive, Edward Claremont III (and their unknown but quick-thinking assistant from the floor). Congratulations, gentlemen.

For further details on the Curse of the Yellow King see page 2

If you know the identity of the man on the floor see page 5

*Followed the next day by:*

Dear Sirs:

Let me begin by commending your worthy reporter for his starwort bravery in the face of these uncouth terrorist rabble. His steadfastness in the face of death speaks volumes of his character.

However, I must step forward and correct several inconsistencies in the story he related. Understandable in the heat of the moment, what with loud bombs exploding and gunfire taking place all around him. My dear cousin and I were casually enjoying the evening when the explosions started going off. Neither of us were in any armed, but merely pointing out to the Ambassador’s security contingent, where the ne’er-do-wells were positioned hiding. The only true act of bravery that I, myself, committed was jumping down from my box and using my body to shield the author of the newspaper article from potential harm from the stick of dynamite that lay only feet

from him.

Unfortunately, in the mayhem, the reporter's camera was damaged and the photographic evidence that would support my recollection of the events was destroyed. As my cousin and I left the auditorium we spotted an injured man sitting in the main entry and quickly whisked the man away to get him medical attention.

So you see, Sirs, that there was nothing brave nor derring-do that a more common man placed in our position would not have done.

Sincerely,

*Edward Claremont III*