

# PREVIOUSLY ON MYTHOS: IMPOSSIBLE.....

## YOUR MISSION

"Good morning, Dr Edgevarnt.

This is **Vladimir Stepanov**, reclusive Russian occultist and suspected head of the **вечный круг** organisation.

Our agents have discovered Stepanov is attempting to purchase the Carcosa Diamond - a supposedly powerful artefact believed to have been lost during the last war.

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**VLADIMIR STEPANOV**

You know Stepanov is the head of the вечный круг (Eternal Circle) organisation, and that he either is, or is pretending to be extremely long lived.

You have discovered he is deeply interested in talking to the dead, Cosmism, and long life. There are rumours he has weird rejuvenating procedures carried out regularly versus some who say he is simply immortal.

He seems to have some kind of KGB backing and is often seen with **two companions** - one of whom is known to be KGB.

In the last ten years his group has been increasingly open in their activities and more influential among certain sections of the Soviet elite.

He has a possible weakness for gambling, is very keen on Tarot cards and also has this obsession with immortality.

Roman Matchabelli is currently drawing him out in Moscow by playing at the same gambling tables and bigging up his own reputation as the grandson of Rasputin - and implying he also knows how to cheat death. This is risky for Roman because if he pushes too far he could lose his whole 'Church of Rasputin' thing he's built up.

**Stepanov might want the diamond because it is some kind of Philosopher's Stone that might enable him to cheat death, he might want it because it has a Russian connection to Catherine the Great, or he might just want it because it's 'powerful'.**

**ВЕЧНЫЙ КРУГ (VETCHNY KRUG)  
= ORDER OF THE CIRCLE REBORN**

"Stepanov... Stepanov. Ah yes... 43 that was or earlier, in the war I first heard of them, but they were old then. Theosophists from the 20s, but fighting the fascists for us, I know they were useful to the cause, wormed their way in at all the levels. But him, well he's the Immortal, hadn't you heard? Hundreds of years old and not looking a day over 40. Cosmists, they are. Or maybe not... was that Fyodorev, He was a great lord you know... or a ruler of his own kingdom, I forget. Or so he says - and my god, they believe him. But you talk to the doctors at the private hospital, to the old women at the spa in Minsk. But it's true, everywhere you go, however far you go back, there he is, somewhere. Pulling strings. And now he holds court in Moscow like a spider in his web"

"He loves Rasputin, you know!" laughs Konstantin, before descending into a long and unpleasant coughing fit. "Your church - my goodness, if he knew there was a direct link to the mad monk still walking around Russia! Didn't die, you see. That's what Stepanov wants. But we all die. We all die.."



**'LYGUSHKA' VASSILISA  
KATRIYEVNA ROSAKOFF**

The Frog - KGB, but born to the Rosakoff matrilineal dynasty of occult practitioners. After training with the KGB in security, you believe she is one of a small number of specialist operatives who are informally known as the Rod beside the sword and shield of Russia... which means she'll be carrying a wand. As far as your sources tell you, her role is mostly keeping an eye on Stepanov and a tight grip on the Soviet purse strings.



**ANTON  
DRAGUNOV**

Ex-political commissar in the Red Army, Anton was a true believer in the communist ideal since childhood, to the point of fanaticism. But now his true loyalty is now to Stepanov himself, maybe even before the Soviet regime. He is reputed to place great emphasis on what goes into his body, disdaining alcohol, narcotics, and even meat. However, reports on his private life suggest he may have a weakness for a pretty face. The file you saw suggested he has some considerable skill in hypnosis and other mind-reading skills.

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## THE CARCOSA DIAMOND

None of you had ever heard of the Carcosa Diamond before. Lady Hazel believes that it is something almost mythical, but could be a single gem that has appeared and disappeared

throughout history - with **owners** including Catherine the Great, Rudolph II, Napoleon and most recently Margot Lambert, with a possible link to Jack Parsons.

There have been suggestions it gets its name from 'Tsar' or 'Carcassone' - but in reality it is still something of an enigma. You know it was 'lost in the war' and Marie-Anne's contact pointed out the British had many things they kept secret, and you know the Nazi's loved occult items. The common thread of owners seems to have been alchemists/geniuses/occultists/big thinkers, who owned it for a while and did great things but possibly things didn't end well for them.

There are no photos or drawings or paintings of it that you have been able to find - even the IDSO gave you nothing. Very occult items though are often quite hard to photograph.

The most recent owner is Margot Lambert, and her **lawyers** are selling the diamond on her behalf.

**You are starting to realise there is probably an endless rabbit hole of research you could do on the story of this gem, but you need to focus on the here and now - you know where it \*will\* be - at the Auction on 12th November.**

## PREVIOUS OWNERS

**Rudolph II** - as part of his collection of crystals curated by **John Dee**.

**Count Orlov**, who purchased it in Amsterdam for a vast sum and gave it to Catherine the Great

**Napoleon** - who stole it from Moscow and may have gifted it to a lover.

**Jack Parsons** - possible owner. Founder of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and enthusiastic Crowley OTO follower. Died in suspicious circumstances in 1952.

**Col Bormann investigated the Parsons link and was firmly told to drop it by NASA and the CIA**

## MARGOT LAMBERT

You have not been able to find out a great deal about Margot, but you know she is currently being held in some kind of sanatorium/asylum and is considered insane. You attempted to contact her by a séance and although this was partially successful it seems her mind is utterly broken.

Marie-Anne was able to pick up some kind of tale of scandal involving an affair, North Africa and Jack Parsons, "\*You know\*, the American!.. Of course she's quite insane now, or that's what I heard! Had to fish her out of the desert and pack her off to the Sanatorium. Although that was a few years back. Who knows anything anymore! Must run, darling Marie-Anne, some man is taking my luggage!"

Her estate is being dealt with by her lawyers, **Ramnaud-Derrains LLP**, in Paris. They have engaged the firm of **Highlander Security** to give extra protection to the diamond during the auction.

## THE IDSO

The IDSO was headed up by Sir Percy Sillitoe, the ex-chief of MI5 who also worked for De Beers. Did you know £10 million worth of gems were being smuggled every year out of South Africa alone. Sandy has it on good authority that the IDSO were looking for the Carcosa Diamond in '52 when they started, but the whole thing was shut down in '57 and if there was a description or photo it's not available any more. The whole meeting was a bit odd and he got the strong feeling the whole IDSO thing was just a front, but who knows what for.



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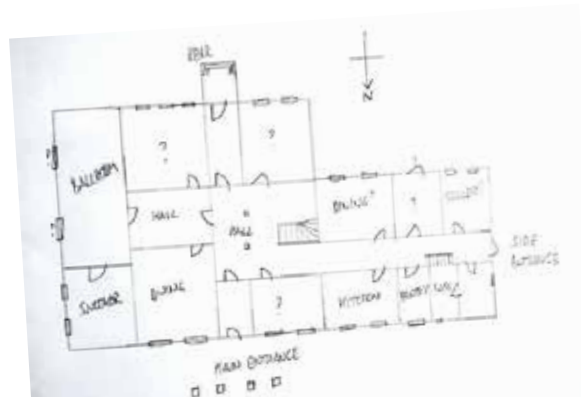
## BUCKLAND HOUSE

After extensive investigations by Devon Trent, you have concluded there is nothing special about Buckland House - it's a big country pile owned by an American family who don't live there and it gets hired out for fairly wild weekend parties.

You do have a thick file now on its history, including Grade II listing documents and references to it having been one of many 'hush-hush' research bases during WW2.

The house is now booked until the night of the **Auction** and a firm called **Highlander Security** appear to be on-site carrying out various works on the building. He was able to sketch their logo from a van.

Devon is confident the house isn't especially secure, but there are competent Highlander staff now guarding the grounds. He managed to scribble a floorplan. Jeremy DeFreitas thinks he may have been there before.



## THE HONOURABLE COMPANY OF THE TRADERS OF BYZANTIUM



## THE AUCTIONEERS

Research by Lady Hazel via a contact at Christie's and Jeremy DeFreitas through his London card dealer connections has confirmed the Auction is one of a series of semi-regular 'floating markets' of high-end occult items. They happen in private houses across Europe and seem to be run by people referred to only as The Auctioneers - although they also seem to be known as the Honourable Company of the Traders of Byzantium. They are very odd, have been around a very long time, and are more like some kind of guild or brotherhood than a commercial company.



## HIGHLANDER SECURITY

Following up on Devon's lead, Chubb Locke dug into Highlander Security. "Highlander? Chubb, mate, they're not worth your time. I had a look at them a couple of years back, was thinking I could talk them into partnering up on a bullion job. Not a chance. Squeaky clean, no dodgy business at all. And all his staff are old army mates, they served together and they all know each other. And they're all bloody Scottish. Tight-knit crew, you know?"

Chubb was able to track the company down to an address in Inverness and by calling them pretending to be involved in the Buckland House job as a lock professional, he managed to get a copy of the security plan they had sent to Rambaud-Derrain.



**Highlander**  
**SECURITY SERVICES**

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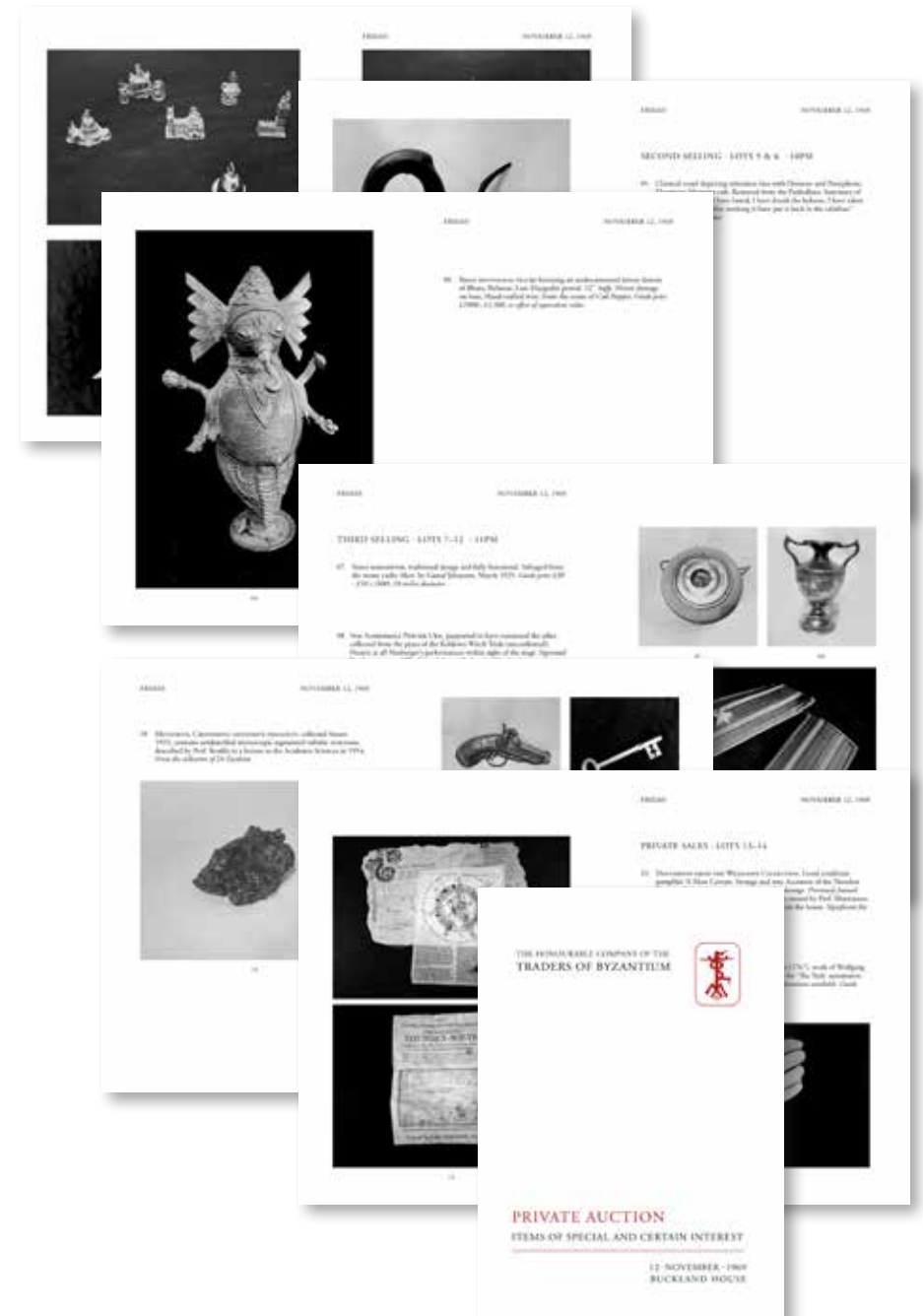
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## THE AUCTION

- Auctions normally include a casino area – sometimes with Tarot or games where 'special' abilities are allowed – a bar and an entertainment act.
- There tends to be a North African/Turkish theme. Auction staff often wear Fez, and refer to each other by obvious fake names.

It seems to be a series of small auctions throughout the night, with the Carcosa Diamond the last lot in what is described as a 'sealed room auction'. This generally means the item will be brought in to the sale room, all the doors will be locked and it can then be authenticated and bid on.

Mr Brock has been offered potential work as an authenticator by **Templar and Passmore**, a small legal firm who are often involved in this sort of purchases.





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## PEOPLE YOU HAVE FOUND OUT WILL BE ATTENDING

- Mr Brock has confirmed two international buyers who will be attending -lady Frankie and Phillipa Burton. He's also certain some-one will be there from the Vatican.
- Lady Hazel spoke to Rambaud-Derrains and has had a catalogue sent to her and also plans to attend openly.
- Jeremy feels sure he would be recognised at the auction as he moves in similar social circles, so would be best to go as himself. He does have the contacts to possible get someone in as a dealer in the casino. He has also heard an A&R guy he vaguely knows from Atlantic Records called Julian Cavendish is going and was waving an invitation around.
- Lady Hazel knows there are often people from the art world, Mr Brock is thinking you could get a film director or similar. There will almost certainly be other people who dabble in the occult - the quality of items being sold is very, very high.
- The materials stolen from Rambaud-Derrain suggest the two security guards will be Jock Watson and a younger guard called 'Frenchie'.

Stepanov will presumably be there, possibly with his two companions. There must be an Auctioneer. You'd be expecting 20 plus guests - it will be exclusive, but well-attended. The occult world always has another secret scene you've never heard of and this seems to be one of those things where 'if you know, you know'.



**PHILLIPA BURTY  
(BUYER, ASIAN ESOTERICA)**

Buyer for a consortium of persons interested in the occult powers of certain artefacts of Asian origin. Graduated from the Sorbonne in Art History minoring in Asian languages. Learned tea ceremony in Kyoto but was thrown out of the country before graduation following an incident which was covered up by the Japanese government and two Yakuza families. The consortium which employs her may be partially Triad-funded, indicating an opposition to any former Yakuza allegiance. She regularly travels between Hong Kong and Peking on buying trips.



**LADY FRANCES 'FRANKIE' JANE BUTLER  
(BUYER)**

Born 21 June 1920, did her B.A. at St Hilda's College, Oxford in 1939, later receiving a M.A. at the same college in 1945. Married Sir William Johnson Butler in 1923, no children. Manages acquisitions for a small and unassuming law firm Templar & Passmore. Buys on behalf of many notable British and American institutions and families, as well as the Shah of Iran, Royal Family of Qatar, Saudis and others.



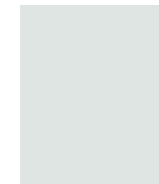
Julian Cavendish  
- A&R man for  
Atlantic records.



Frenchie?



Jock Watson



Vatican representative?

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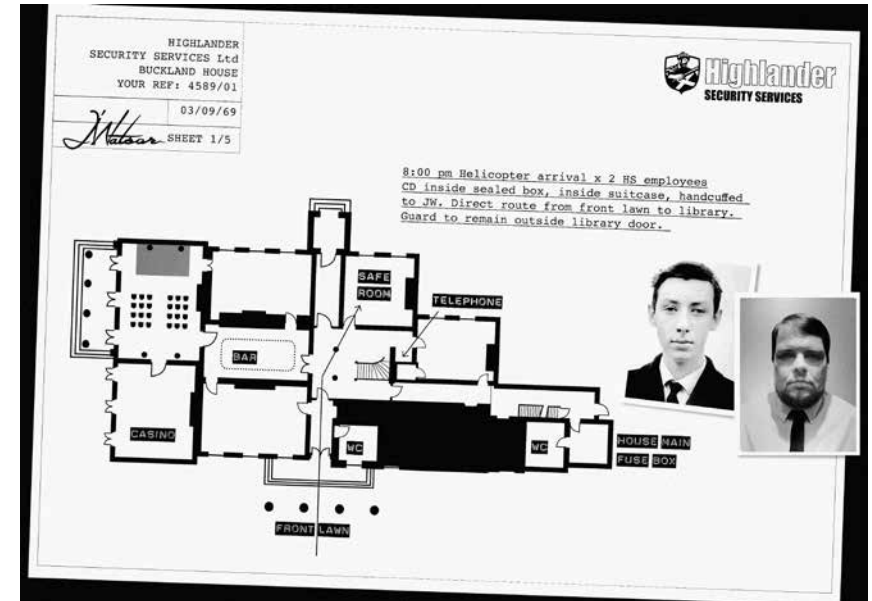
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## THE SECURITY PLAN

Chubb Locke obtained the overall security plan, which was confirmed and expanded on in the documents photographed at Rambaud-Derrain.

In essence:

- Diamond arrives by helicopter in a suitcase handcuffed to Jock Watson of Highland Security.
- It is potentially a box sealed with a PANDORA charm – if so you'd assume it won't open until the midnight auction. No-one on your team can get around this currently.
- It will be taken to the library and placed inside a safe that belongs to The Auctioneers.
- Highlander Security are providing additional physical security for the room itself.
- Buyers may be able to arrange trips into the room to inspect items, and the safe will be accessed by staff to take out items as they are sold at auction.



Highlander SECURITY SERVICES

Unit 4b  
McKinnock Way  
Inverness  
IV1 1BN

OUR REF: 4589/01

FAO M. Michaud  
Rambaud-Derrain LLP  
31 Av. Pierre Ier de Serbie  
75016 Paris  
France

CLIENT: ESTATE OF MARGOT LAMBERT  
REF: CARCOSA DIAMOND

Dear Sir,

Following our most recent telephone conversation, please find below the updated security plans for November 12th. I am happy to confirm payment has been received and all additional contracted works can now begin.

**BUCKLAND HOUSE PROPOSED SECURITY PLAN**

1. ~~HS employees~~ to receive CD in box attuned to yourselves, from your representative at the agreed location, placed in a secure lead-lined briefcase, handcuffed to our man and taken to Buckland House by helicopter. *Client insists Jock carries this personally.*
2. **8:00 pm Helicopter arrival**  
CD to be taken directly to library and placed inside safe (see note about previous assurances from 'The Auctioneers' regarding their safe. Highlander Security takes no responsibility for the safe itself.) *Extra guard in dev agreed - suggest French!*
3. **ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY**  
As per contract agreement the following works to be carried out at Buckland House. (a) Fingerprint recognition device at doorway, (b) patented infra-red tripwire system. Concerns regarding electronic security measures have been noted, and we assure you that even were power to fail to the house, our own equipment and proprietary fuse system would remain operational. Full wiring diagrams have been forwarded to your offices.

3. Cont. (c) heat and noise sensors as standard (motion sensors will be unsuitable due to the agreed tripwire system). (d) 15 minute system reset.

Please convey our best wishes to The Auctioneers and thank them for their understanding of your client's additional needs. I can confirm their representatives will have access to the room as required and our representative will stay on site throughout the auction. Should the winning bidder not have their own security arrangements in place, we will be happy to continue in our role for the standard fee.

If you have any further questions, please contact the office.

Yours sincerely

*J. Watson*  
Mr. J. Watson, MD

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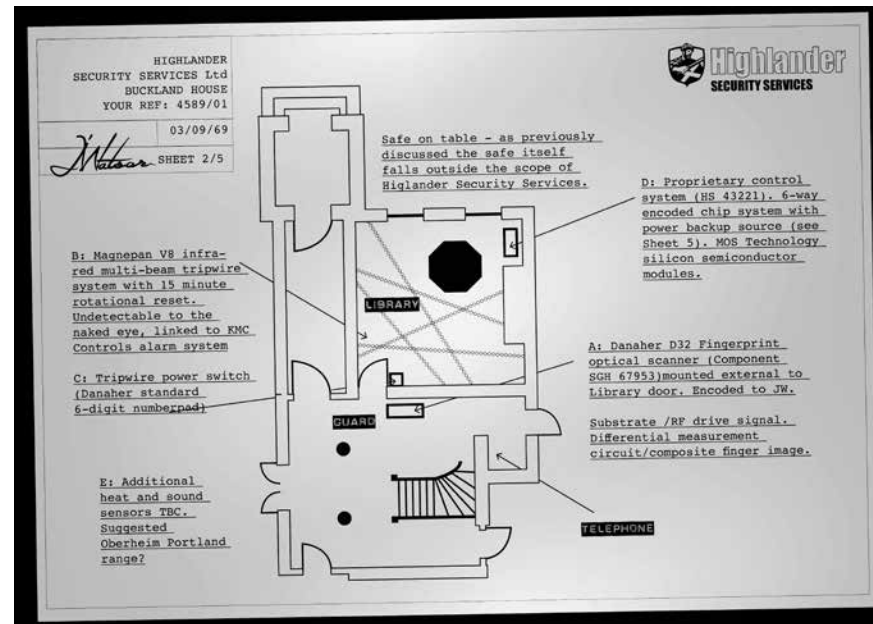
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## THE SECURE ROOM

Highland have fitted the room with an infrared tripwire system, a fingerprint scanner and heat/noise detectors.

Billy the Friar is currently examining detailed specs documents, but his first thoughts are: You have to distract the guard before you do anything.

The fingerprint scanner - might be able to do something clever with it, but it would risk it not working when Jock Watson uses it. In your his they will be better off getting Jock's fingerprint in wax/latex. These fancy scanners are all the rage, but easily fooled with a rubber fingerprint.

The control box for the tripwire system is on the other side of the laser grid. Someone will have to get across/help him across so he can work on it. The grid can be turned off at the door by Jock Watson with a code. But if you don't have the code, Billy thinks he can get control of the grid permanently via the control box.

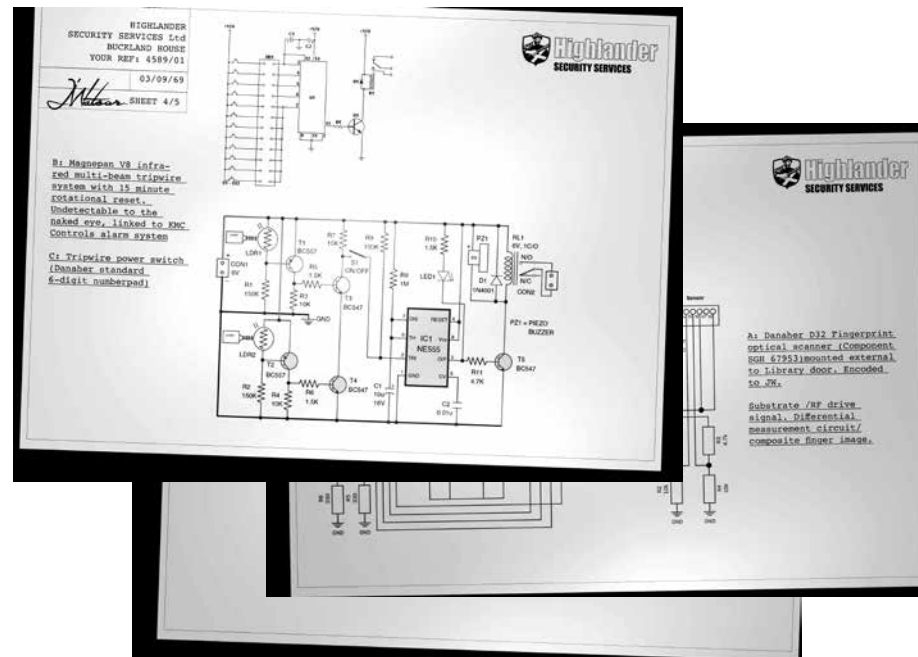
Every 15 mins the lasers all move position and sweep the room. He thinks he can detect that from outside and then you'll know how long you have.

The heat and sound sensors he's not 100% on but you couldn't stay in longer than 10 minutes and you'd need to keep noise to a minimum.

It's been really well done - any attempt by you to just cut or circumvent the alarm isn't going to work - you can make ways to get in and out without triggering it, but you can't turn it off entirely.

It looks like the room has been setup for the best security possible while still allowing for fairly straightforward multiple entries through the evening - i.e. Jock Watson and anyone he escorts can come in.

Presumably because items other than the Carcosa Diamond are in the safe and The Auctioneers and maybe other people will want access to it.





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## THE SAFE

The safe is owned by the Auctioneers, not Highlander.

Chubb Locke has pulled in his contacts and found people who've worked with the Auctioneers in the past.

Apparently they had some absolutely cracking safes - everything from vintage Ratzingers to the most up-to-date titanium models. And all of them double protected - Liminal enchantments on top of the mundane stuff.

He has since been considering he range of safes that could be used and the types of 'additional' security that could be used on them, considering the type of room, the issues of lasers effects on enchantments.

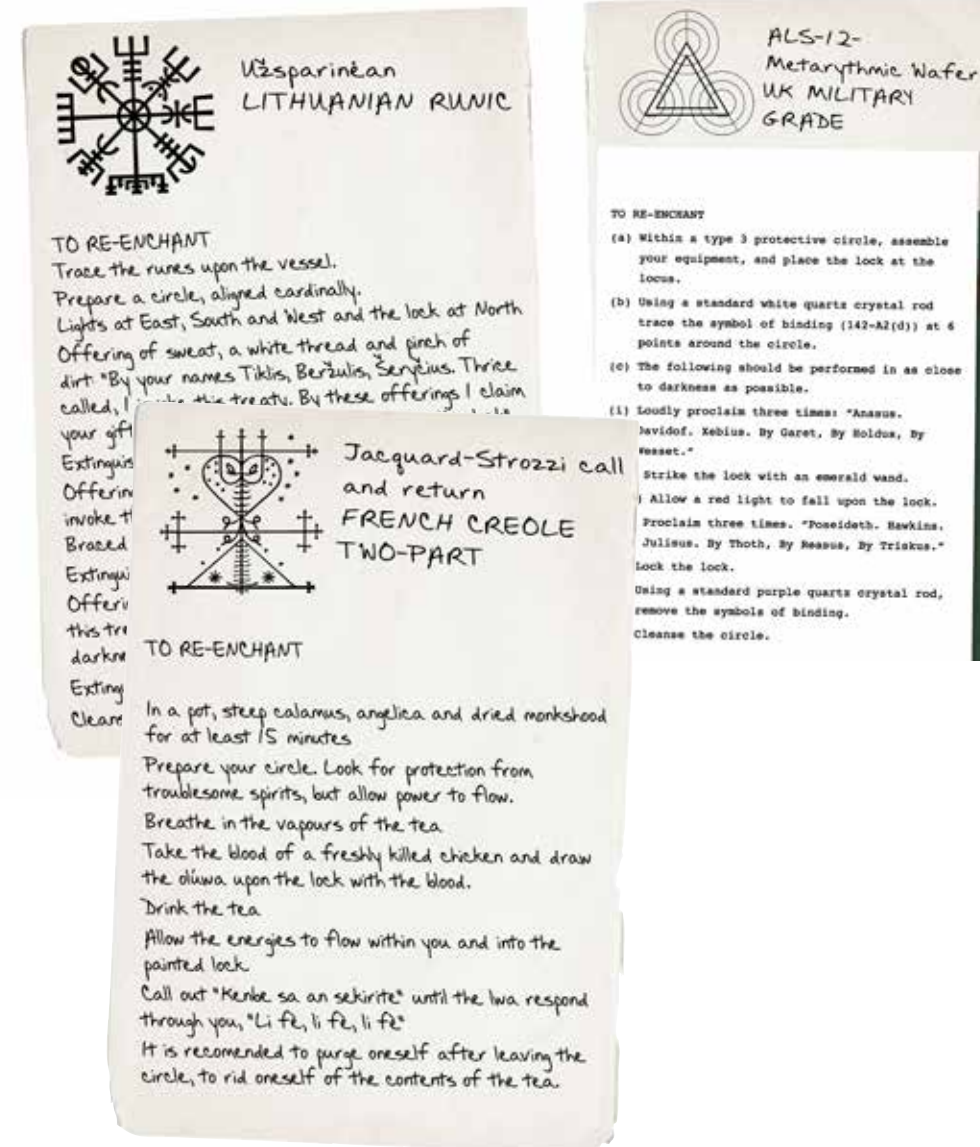
He's narrowed it down to three most likely options. He'll need to know what he's dealing with before he starts, because he'll only have 10 or 15 minutes in the room and cracking the magic will take that long.

All 3 will involved the safe having a sigil on it, so once someone has had eyes on the safe they can tell him which it is.

He doesn't re-enchant things, but he has the spells noted down in case anyone else wants to.

If it's a modern safe with an electronic keypad he can't do much about that without taking some big risks - it would be better if you found out the code another way.

Oh, and it will certainly be lead-lined.





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## DR EDGEVARNT'S REPLICATOR

Sandy has been thinking about making replicas and thinks he can turn his latest piece of research into something that could be useful. Etheric n-dimensional reproduction has been a bit of a hobby horse of his for a while - using the ability of the ether to 'spin up' and arrange particles, or possibly simply electro-statically charging a modern polymer... hmmm, yes, it's all very intriguing - one could possibly build or maybe 'sculpt'... yes, sculpt a replica of another object. Still got to have the object though and a way to measure it - scan it. Hmmm, Dr Kaur would be the woman to talk to about that.

He will continue working on his Etheric Replicator as much as his rehearsal schedule for the local production of Camelot allows...

But he must warn you his replicator is bulky, sometimes very noisy, will need to be wired into the mains (with some power modulation, not just plugged in), be connected to the cold water supply for cooling, and might need a connection to the telephone system.

It is also extremely expensive to replicate things and he's not at what you would call 100% reliability yet.

Dr Edgevarnt is now planning to talk to Dr Kaur about scanners and the technical detail of whether she can build something portable enough to take into the safe room at Buckland House to scan this diamond if they have to. If she can, he can work on an interface to connect her scanner to his replicator. The whole issue of whether they can replicate the aura of an object is going to take considerably more cups of tea.

She definitely can't scan through a lead-lined safe, but she might be able to scan through the box containing the diamond, even if the Pandora charm won't let them open it.

