## We're Archæologists, Not Grave Robbers!

A Terra Incognita Adventure, Egypt, 1908 Copyright ©2001 Grey Ghost Press, Inc.

### **About Terra Incognita:**

Terra Incognita is the new Victorian/Pulp roleplaying game from Grey Ghost Press, Inc. It follows the exploits of the National Archæological, Geographic, and Submarine Society, an organization of explorers and adventurers. The NAGS society's public face is that of a stodgy society of would-be and have-been adventurers based in London, England. Behind the scenes, NAGS operatives from nearly every continent and culture travel to the four corners of the world, uncovering ancient mysteries and secrets. The Society studies and examines the ancient artifacts and knowledge so uncovered. If they deem the world is not yet ready for the secrets that had so long lain hidden, they cover them back up again.

For more information about *Terra Incognita*, including pregenerated player characters that may be used with this adventure, please visit http://www.nagssociety.com.

### What's Fudge?

Fudge is a role-playing game for any genre, setting, or campaign. It's designed to be modified for each Game Master's needs and preferences. Terra Incognita uses a customized version of Fudge. You can get the full Fudge rules free on-line, at http://www.fudgerpg.com. Or buy the Fudge Expanded Edition from your Favorite Local Game Store!

### Backstory for "We're Archaeologists!"

Twenty years ago, in 1888, a group of Nags discovered, excavated, and explored an ancient Egyptian tomb in the Western branch of the Valley of the Kings. What they found within the tomb was astonishing — a hitherto-unknown papyrus the decipherers nicknamed "The Book of Life." Similar to the Egyptian Book of the Dead (or, more properly, "The Chapters of Coming Forth Into the Day"), this papyrus detailed spells and rituals involving the Egyptian gods and death. But rather than being a guidebook with which the spirit could enter the afterlife, the "Book of Life" presented secret rituals and incantations apparently designed to bring the magician everlasting life in this world.

Cartouches on the sarcophagus identified its occupant as Setna, scribe and son of Rameses the Great. According to ancient Egyptian tales, Setna was a renowned magician who discovered the Book of Thoth, a source of great magical power.

Upon opening the sarcophagus, the archæologists found it empty, except for the papyrus. Partial decipherment of the Book of Life revealed that it was penned by Setna himself, and it appeared that the only copy was buried in the sarcophagus, although what became of its author remained unclear.

Deeming the world unready for the secret to immortality, the Nags team created a catalog of the contents of Setna's tomb, surveyed the corridors and chambers to create an accurate floorplan, then set about re-burying the secrets within. They covered the entrance again, and did the same for the ancient grave robbers' tunnel they'd found, leaving the area looking as much like a natural and unexplored part of the Valley of the Kings as it had before their excavation.

The Cairo campus of the NAGS Society has been keeping a careful eye on the excavations in the Valley of the Kings, thanks in part to a Nag who is also a member of the Antiquities Service, a government council that oversees archæology along the Nile. Recently, they were quite alarmed to learn that some European archaeologists had discovered Setna's tomb and were in the process of excavating its entrance. Even more alarming, this excavation was being done in as much secrecy as possible, and in the heat of the off-season (most excavations being done in the Winter season, October — March). Could it be that the Nags are not the only ones to know of the existence of the Book of Life?

The NAGS Society has quickly assembled a team for an "extraction" mission. Their instructions are to enter the tomb — before the rival archaeologists break through the entrance, if at all possible — and retrieve the Book of Life from the sarcophagus within. Failing that, they are to destroy the Book of Life rather than allow it to fall into the wrong hands.

### Setting the Era:

At the turn of the century, Egypt is occupied by the British (and has been since 1882). Recent wars include the Spanish-American War (1898), The Boer War in Africa (1899-1902), and the Russo-Japanese War over Manchuria and Korea (1904-5).

The NAGS society has been especially interested in the following recent events:

1902: Aswan Dam in Egypt finished. Ancient monuments and temples now flooded at least some of each year include Abu Simbel and Philae. Dam heightened in construction beginning in 1907.

1905: Albert Einstein proposes special theory of relativity; Ernest Rutherford theorizes radioactive dating.

1906: Finland first European country to institute women's suffrage.

In 1908, Theodore Roosevelt is in the final year of his first full

term as President. The first Model T rolls off Ford's production line. The US Army purchases its first warplane, a Wright Brothers' biplane. The University of Cairo opens its doors.

And in Thebes, at Wadi Biban el-Moluk (the "Valley of the Kings"), archæology reaches a fevered pitch, with the following discoveries within the past decade:

February 1898: Tomb of Thutmosis III (KV<sub>34</sub>) discovered by Victor Loret (the first royal tomb to be positively identified).

March 1898: Tomb of Amenhotep II (KV35) discovered by Victor Loret.

March 1899: Tombs of Maiherperi (KV<sub>3</sub>6) and Thutmosis I (KV<sub>3</sub>8) discovered by Victor Loret.

1900 (date and discoverer unknown): locals receive permission from Howard Carter, then Inspector General of the Monuments for Upper Egypt, to excavate the Tomb of Thutmosis II (KV42).

January 1902: Tomb of Thutmosis IV (KV43) discovered by Howard Carter (funded by Theodore Davis).

1903/1904: Howard Carter examines the tomb of Thutmosis I and Hatshepsut (KV20), originally discovered more than a century previously.

February 1905: Tomb of Yuya and Tjuya (KV 46) discovered by James Quibell, funded by Theodore Davis.

December 1905: Tomb of Siptah (KV47) discovered by Edward R. Ayrton.

In the 1907 season Edward Ayton discovered KV. 55, a small single-chamber tomb, with goods related to Akhenaten and his family. All names and titles had been erased from canopic jars, cartouches on the coffin had been hacked out, the gilded face ripped off the mummy. Davis believed he had found the tomb of Queen Tiye (the body in the coffin was actually that of a young man) and published as such.

January 1908: tomb rich in jewelry (occupant unknown; KV56) discovered by Edward R. Ayrton (funded by Theodore Davis). Excavators abandoned work in this area within little more than a meter of the entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb. (Howard Carter will find this most famous tomb in 1922.)

February 1908: Tomb of Horemheb (KV57) discovered by Edward R. Ayrton.

August 1908: Nags enter Tomb of Setna (no official designation) to retrieve the Book of Life.

## Setting: NAGS world, Valley of the Kings, Egypt, 1908

#### The Tomb

Plot: The PCs are sent to retrieve the Book of Life from an ancient Egyptian tomb. This tomb had first been discovered and explored by NAGS ops in 1888, and had been re-covered by them at the time. (It had been an exceptional tomb for the Valley of the KingsLike that of Tutankhamun, it escaped the grave robbers due to being hidden — but unlike Tutankhamun's tomb, it had been deliberately hidden.)

While notes had been taken on its contents, the tomb had been mostly undisturbed by the NAGS ops. Only later, did a Bookworm going through the notes make the connection between the hieroglyphs copied in drawings in the notebook and the legend of the "Book of Life." At that time, it was decided that it was best to let it remain where it was, safely hidden under desert sand.

Recently, however, some archæologists (not NAGS members) have rediscovered the tomb and begun excavating it. They've been keeping their excavation quiet, as they wish to keep the riches within the tomb for themselves, and are planning on smuggling the contents out of Egypt without the authorities discovering this most recent theft. The NAGS operators are sent in to recover the Book of Life before the rival archæologists discover it, and then prevent the archæologists from looting the tomb (either by persuading them not to or by revealing their activities to the authorities).

#### **Traps and Obstacles:**

Falling-block trap at end of main corridor has already been triggered, killing one of the archæologists and trapping the others in the tomb beyond (this happened less than an hour before; they've not yet found a way out). (Alternatively, especially if trying to run a short adventure, have the rival archæologists trigger this trap just as the Nags get to the hidden opening between the ancient grave robbers' tunnel and the main tomb corridor.)

Secret door in side of main corridor, behind painting of Anubis (eyes are hollow, go through to other side; trigger for secret door mechanism is Anubis's belt buckle in the shape of a scarab beetle.

Main corridors: beyond falling block trap is ritual pit/shaft. Beyond that is false tomb, with stairs hidden beneath sarcophagus. Sloping corridor leads from stairs into Six-Pillared Hall, with annexes and stairs down to true burial chamber.

Secret corridor has pit trap in floor — covered with papyrus painted to look like stone. Chamber beyond secret corridor leads

to sloping corridor that's also trapped, with the old "rolling stone" cliche. Pillared room at bottom of corridor can stop the rolling stone; side arch leads to stairs down to "scarab room," with secret door into Six Pillared Room.

The Book of Life is within the sarcophagus in the true burial chamber.

### **Rival Archæologists**

Jasper Watelford, leader of the expedition Age: 32

Perception: Good Reasoning: Fair Resolve: Fair Strength: Good Dexterity: Fair Vigor: Good

Gifts: Attractive

Faults: Greed, Temper

Skills:

Archaeology Good Egyptian History Good Egyptian Heiroglyphs Fair Cartography Fair Area Knowledge: Egypt Fair Research Fair

Firearm (Pistol) Great Unarmed Combat Good Dodge Fair

Diplomacy Fair Lie Fair Impress Fair Bargain Mediocre

Qaseem al' Tarif Age: 24

Perception: Fair Reasoning: Good Resolve: Fair Strength: Fair Dexterity: Good Vigor: Fair Gifts: Acute Memory, Contacts

Faults: Deprived Upbringing, Addiction (opium)

Skills:

(okay, so obviously this is unfinished! Sorry! I'm sure you can come up with rival archaeologists as necessary.)

#### Miscellaneous Notes

From http://www.polarissite.net/page29.html

Technically speaking, the descriptive phrase "Opener of the Ways" originally belonged to a different deity named Upuat, whose name literally means "Opener of the Ways". Upuat was very similar to Anubis, except that Anubis was depicted as black or dark-skinned, and Upuat was portrayed as grey or lightskinned. Some scholars speculate that Upuat's tutelary animal was related to the Wolf (as opposed to the Jackal), since the Greeks called his cult center "Lycopolis". There is not much mythology concerning Upuat, though it is known that the Egyptians placed him at the helm of the sun-god Re's boat of Millions of Years, serving as the guide or lookout. Hence his title "Opener of the Ways.". In time, however, the "Opener" designation was transferred to Anubis in his function as guide of the Dead as the two gods became more closely associated in the popular mind. There are even several Middle Kingdom-period Egyptian hymns extant that address Anubis as the "Opener of the Ways".

Anubis: INPW Anubis, Yinepu, Anpu

#### From <a href="http://osiris.colorado.edu/LAB/GODS/anubis.html">http://osiris.colorado.edu/LAB/GODS/anubis.html</a>:

Egyptian god of the dead, represented as a black jackal or dog, or as a man with the head of a dog or jackal. His parents were usually given as Re in combination with either Nephthys or Isis. After the early period of the Old Kingdom, he was superseded by Osiris as god of the dead, being relegated to a supporting role as a god of the funeral cult and of the care of the dead. The black colour represented the colour of human corpses after they had undergone the embalming process. In the Book of the Dead, he was depicted as presiding over the weighing of the heart of the deceased in the Hall of the Two Truths. In his role as psychopomp he was referred to as the "conductor of souls". The Greeks later identified him with their god Hermes, resulting in the composite deity Hermanubis. His principal sanctuary was at the necropolis in Memphis and in other cities. Anubis was

also known as Khenty- Imentiu - "chief of the westerners" - a reference to the Egyptian belief that the realm of the dead lay to the west in association with the setting sun, and to their custom of building cemeteries on the west bank of the Nile.

(Anubis is a god who is older than Osiris, although Egyptian myth sometimes pegged him as a \*son\* of Osiris.)

From: http://anubis.science.unitn.it/author/anubis.html The Speech of Anpu:

(From the Papyrus of Nu and the Papyrus of Nebseni)

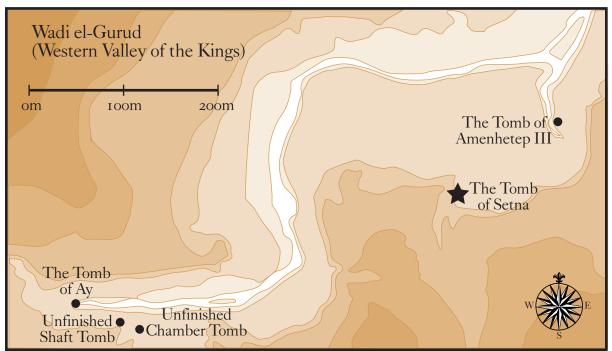
Anubis the dweller in the mummy chamber, Governor of the Divine House, layeth his hands upon the lord of life, the scribe, the draughtsman of Ptah, Nebseni, the lord of fealty, begotten of the scribe and mason Thena, born of the lady of the house Mut-rest, whose word is truth, and devoting himself to him as his guardian, saith:-

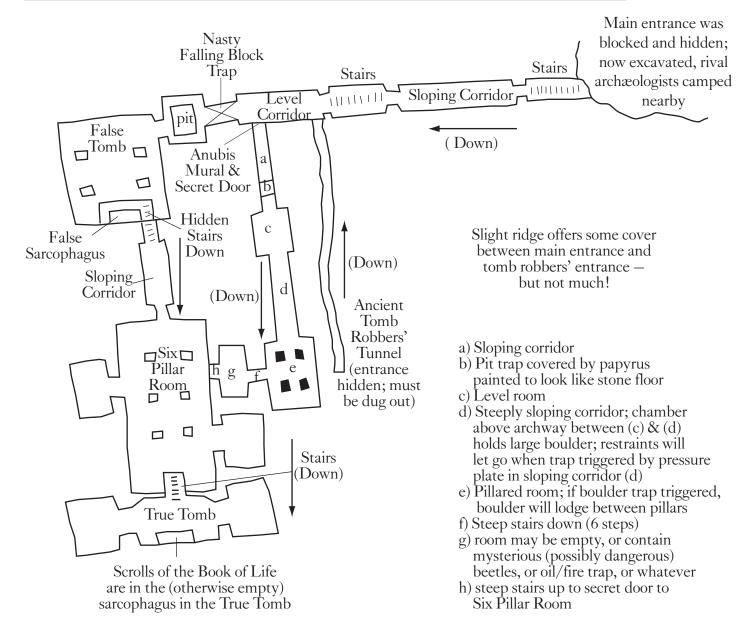
Homage to thee, thou happy one, lord! Thou seest the Utchat. Ptah-Seker hath bound thee up. Anpu hath exalted thee. Shu hath raised thee up, O Beautiful Face, thou governor of eternity. Thou hast thine eye, O scribe Nebseni, lord of fealty, and it is beautiful. Thy right eye is like the Sektet Boat, thy left eye is like the Atet Boat. Thine eyebrows are fair to see in the presence of the Company of the Gods. Thy brow is under the protection of Anpu, and thy head and face, O beautiful one, are before the holy Hawk. Thy fingers have been stablished by thy scribe's craft in the presence of the Lord of Khemenu, Thoth, who hath bestowed upon thee the knowledge of the speech of the holy books. Thy beard is beautiful in the sight of Ptah-Seker, and thou, O scribe Nebseni, thou lord of fealty, art beautiful before the Great Company of the Gods. The Great God looketh upon thee, and he leadeth thee along the path of happiness. Sepulchral meals are bestowed upon thee, and he overthroweth for thee thine enemies, setting them under thy feet in the presence of the Great Company of the Gods who dwell in the House of the Great Aged One which is in Anu.

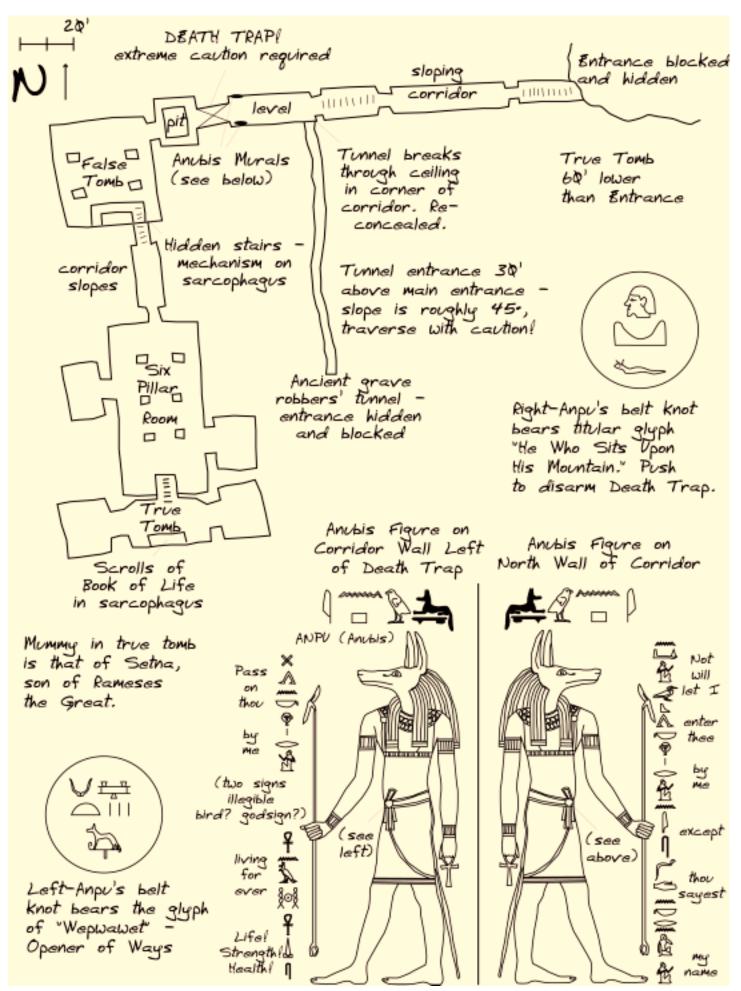
for a long game make up lots of quotes for hieroglyphic writings on the walls – from the Book of the Dead in the "public" tomb areas (main corridors, false tomb) and from the Book of Life in the "secret" tomb areas (secret corridor and rooms, true tomb). Lots of Ancient Languages rolls that way!

For a short game, have the secret areas bare of any inscriptions.

### Game Master's Map







Character Name	Yamini Morrison	Player Name		
Character Descri	ption and Notes			
stories of ancient	times, and accompanied	eamstress and a British military physician. S her father on various archaeological expedit onal Archaeological Geographic and Subma	tions. She loves the desert.	•
Superb	EP -3 8 -24 +12 01			
	at Poor.	1-2 3-4 5  Scratch Hurt (-1) Very H	ounds 5-6 7-8  Hurt(-2) Incapacitated	9+  Near Death
Attributes		Gifts/Supernormal Powers	Skills	
Strength Dexterity Vigor Resolve Reasoning Perception	Mediocre Fair Good Fair Good Good	Absolute Direction  Animal Empathy	Survival (desert) Climbing Traps Animal Handling Stealth Animal Training Area Knowledge (Cairo) Ancient Egyptian Religions & Myth First Aid Tracking	Good Mediocre Fair Good Fair Mediocre Fair Fair Fair Fair Mediocre
t	quipment	Faults	Surveillance	Mediocre
Survival kit Telescope Axe Climbing Equipm Lamp Dagger Doctor's bag Notebook from p expedition into to	revious NAGS	Idealist  Combat Paralysis (Note: Yamini has not yet been in a combat situation, so is not aware of this fault.)		

uson Player Name		
on that did not resolve to his favor, and he	now believes the Amazon	s are conspiring to
	Nounde	
1-2 3-4	5-6 7-8	9+
Gifts/Supernormal Powers Skills		
Alertness  Combat Reflexes	Blowgun Pistol Quick Draw Dodge Unarmed Combat Camouflage Stealth Forgery Escape Art Lockpick Ventriloquism Surveillance	Good Good Fair Fair Good Good Fair Good Good Fair Good Good Fair
Faults  Enemy (Amazons)  Temper	Acrobatics Survival (desert) Tracking Animal Handling (horse)	Fair Fair Fair Mediocre
	1-2 3-4 Scratch Hurt (-1) Ver Note: The GM may add of Gifts/Supernormal Powers  Alertness Combat Reflexes  Enemy (Amazons)	wounds  1-2 3-4 5-6 7-8  Scratch Hurt (-1) Very Hurt(-2) Incapacitate  Note: The GM may add or subtract wound boxes as dest  Gifts/Supernormal Powers  Alertness  Blowgun Pistol Quick Draw Dodge Unarmed Combat Camouflage Stealth Forgery Escape Art Lockpick Ventriloquism Surveillance Acrobatics Survival (desert) Tracking Enemy (Amazons)  Wounds  7-8  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Faults  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Faults  Faults  Faults  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Faults  Faults  Faults  Faults  Faults  Wounds 7-8  Faults  Faults

Character Name <u>Emily Worthington</u>	Player Name	Player Name		
Character Description and Notes				
uncle, the Earl of Hartwell. She has since a a rivalry with her cousin, Richard (the wor her personal trunk as a "joke." Emily has be failings of his son and primary heir), the E	nen he parents were killed at while on expedit accompanied her uncle on his yearly visits to m!). She developed a phobia of snakes upon become an accomplished Egyptologist in her arl left his personal wealth to Emily upon his is attempt to contest the will, and has vowed	Egypt. From childhood, she has developed discovering a cobra Richard had placed in own right. Recognizing this (and also the s death, while the title and ancestral lands		
Fudge Trait Values	Age: 26			
EP         Superb       .+3       .8         Great       .+2       .4         Good       .+1       .2         Fair       .0       .1         Mediocre      1       .1				
Poor	Wo	unds		
EP = Raising skills with EPs.		6-6 7-8 9+		
Most skills begin at Poor.				
Attributes default to Fair.	Scratch Hurt (-1) Very F	Hurt(-2) Incapacitated Near Death		
Fudge Points: EPs:		ubtract wound boxes as desired.		
Attributes	Gifts/Supernormal Powers Skills			
Strength Fair Dexterity Fair Vigor Fair Resolve Fair Reasoning Good Perception Good	Privileged Upbringing Attractive Absolute Direction	Archæology Great History/Religion/Myth Good Ancient Egyptian Good Area Knowledge Good (Egypt and its neighbors) Cartography Fair Familiarity Fair (Arabic culture) Arabic Fair Research Fair Survival (desert) Fair Riding Fair Climbing		
Equipment	Faults	Acrobatics Mediocre		
Money Camping kit pistol, ammo, knife, cleaning kit Maps, research books, notebooks, pens, pencils, ink Clothing (range from working outfits to social attire) Survival kit Utility belt (matchs, candles, canteen) Camera, developing kit tea blend & tea set	Curious  Enemy (cousin Richard)  Phobia (snakes, especially cobras)	Cryptography Fair Photography Fair Stealth Mediocre Demolitions Fair		

Character Name <u>Aldous Armstrong</u>	Player Name		
Character Description and Notes			
Aldous is a typical well-rounded but no	t-necessarily-"stable" NAGS gadgeteer.		
Age: 43			
Fudge Trait Values			
Superb       .+3       .8         Great       .+2       .4         Good       .+1       .2         Fair       .0       .1         Mediocre      1       .1			
Poor	1-2 3-4	Vounds 5-6 7-8	0.1
EP = Raising skills with EPs.  Most skills begin at Poor.  Attributes default to Fair.	1-2 5-4	J-0 /-6	9+
Fudge Points: EPs:		y Hurt(-2) Incapacitated r subtract wound boxes as desir	
Attributes	Gifts/Supernormal Powers	Skill	
Strength Fair Dexterity Good Vigor Fair Resolve Fair Reasoning Good Perception Fair	Ambidexterity Pain tolerance	Gadgeteer Mechanic Lab Stealth Lockpicking Disguise Demolitions Traps Camouflage Archery Dodge Thrown Weapon	Great Good Fair Good Good Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair
Equipment	Faults		
1-handed crossbow (+3, medium range) Lockpicking set Miner's lamp/helmet	Absent-minded Blunt and thoughtless		
NAGTech items:			
BaT Gadgeteer's toolkit Traveling Tea Tray X-Ray Camera Obscura			

Character Nam	e <u>Nathaniel Patterson</u>	Harbringer	_ Player Name				
Character Desc	ription and Notes						
Nathaniel knew	s born to a rather well off the then what he wanted to dking, studying, and chasing	o: discover the sec	rets of Egyptian t	ombs and a	ncient cı	urses. He prepar	
Age: 20							
Fud	ge Trait Values						
Great Good Fair Mediocre	EP .+3 8 .+24 .+12 .0111						
	2			Wound	de		
Terrible3		1-2	3-4	5-6		7-8	9+
Fudge Points:	EPs:	Scratch	Hurt (-1)  Note: The GM ma	Very Hun ay add or subtr	` ,	Incapacitated and boxes as desired	Near Death
	Attributes	Gifts/St	upernormal Powe	rs		Skills	
Strength Dexterity Vigor Resolve Reasoning Perception	Fair Fair Fair Good Good	Absolute Directi		T C R T C E P S A T	Persuade urvival ( Architect Thrown V Oodge	aphy  gy story Religion/Myth underground) ure	Good Good Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair Fair
	Equipment		Faults		raps pelunkir	าต	Fair Fair
shovel, telescop	compass, lantern, rope, e, candles, pocket watch, ving knives, spelunking	Curious Obsession (spirit prove it!)	s are real and he'		1	0	

Character Name <u>Harrison Kole</u>	Player Name		
Character Description and Notes			
Age: 31			
Fudge Trait Values         EP         Superb       .+3       .8         Great       .+2       .4         Good       .+1       .2         Fair       .0       .1         Mediocre      1       .1			
Poor2		ounds 5-6 7-8	9+
Attributes default to Fair.  Fudge Points: EPs:		Hurt(-2) Incapacitated	
Attributes	Gifts/Supernormal Powers	subtract wound boxes as desire <b>Skills</b>	
Strength Fair Dexterity Good Vigor Fair Resolve Fair Reasoning Good Perception Fair	Privileged Upbringing  Charisma	Dissemble Persuade Etiquette Interrogate Bargain Discern Diplomacy Flirt Revolver Cane Sword Quick Draw	Good Good Good Fair Fair Fair Fair Great Good Fair
Equipment	Faults		
Medium Revolver Cane Sword Portable Accomodations (spartan) Formal Attire Adventurous Attire Pocket Watch	Overconfidence  Nobless Oblige		

Character Name	Player Name	_ Player Name		
Character Description and Notes				
Fudge Trait Values  EP Superb .+3 .8 Great .+2 .4 Good .+1 .2 Fair .0 .1				
Mediocre        1         Poor        1         Terrible        3       1         EP = Raising skills with EPs.       1       1         Most skills begin at Poor.       2       1         Attributes default to Fair.       4       1         Fudge Points:       EPs:       4	Woun   1-2   3-4   5-6	7-8 9+  Trt(-2) Incapacitated Near Death		
Attributes	Note: The GM may add or subt	Skills		
Strength Dexterity Vigor Resolve Reasoning Perception				
Equipment	Faults			