

## The Diary of Augustus Castaigne 1855-1857

A slim leather bound book with yellowing paper, the diary shows signs of water damage but is, for the most part, legible. Beginning on April 12, 1855, the journal identifies the author as one Augustus Castaigne of Natchez, Mississippi, a southern gentleman, member of the [Knights of the Golden Circle](#), and self-described adventurer. The first few passages consist of Augustus detailing his early life as a scion of a slave holding plantation family, his passionate belief in the “Southern Cause” and “Southern Rights,” in Manifest Destiny, and his own destiny to be an integral part for the furtherance of all three. The description is immensely self aggrandizing, but what concrete facts that can be gleaned from it are that his family was in massive debt to creditors, his first and only marriage ended with the death of his wife Camilla of Yellow Fever in 1844, and that in 1855 he has traveled to San Francisco with his 12 year old daughter Cassandra to meet with the filibuster [William Walker](#) with the intention of joining his private military [invasion of Nicaragua](#).

The entries from May 3, 1855 to April of 1857 detail the travel of himself and roughly 60 other mercenaries to Nicaragua, the subsequent battles, the establishment of Walker’s Republic of Nicaragua, and finally the losing war with the Central American Alliance. Augustus spares no effort in vividly describing his role in the battles and the subsequent administration, much of which to anyone with a **History** or **Military Science (Land)** of **40%** will find highly unlikely. However, the reader will also note an increasing sort of mania in Augustus’s writing, as well as his notably lurid descriptions of battlefield violence.

The diary takes a notable turn after the fall of San Juan del Sur on April 17, 1857 to Central American troops. Castaigne elects to flee into the jungle with his daughter. The entries from this point onwards get increasingly fantastical, and a reader with **Medicine** of **60%** or a **Psychotherapy** of **40%** can conclude he is rapidly entering delirium, likely from malaria induced fever. He eventually describes finding an ancient temple complex, with several pages dedicated to his sketches of the temple as well as the strange glyphs he finds hammered onto “plates of a alloy forgotten to men of this darkling era.” Any skill rating of Archaeology, Anthropology, or History above base will note all of these are reminiscent of the ancient Maya, but an **Archeaology** of **40**, **Anthropology** of **60**, or a **History** of **70** will recognize substantial divergences from the norm of Mayan architecture and that the glyphs match no know form of Mayan writing. An **Occult** of **70** will instead recognize these glyphs to be similar to that of Muvian High-Naacal as described in the much derided Otto Dostmann’s *Remnants of Lost Empires*. Agents who have read [Rites of the Ancient Maya Revealed \(aka the Turner Codex\)](#) by Maplethorpe Turner will provide the same information about the glyphs, as well as confirming the temple to be consistent with his descriptions of the worship of Kaiwan, “The Invisible One”, “The Unspeakable”, “Lord of the Great Sign”, and “Whisperer of Truth”.

Augustus’s final entries are dominated by him decrying the folly of the Founding Fathers in abandoning monarchy, saying that the “Golden Empire of America is a throne upon which a king anointed by the Lord of the Great Sign must sit.” He then meticulously details his ambitious plan for conquering Nicaragua from his redoubt, and then from there the entire continent, upon which

with his daughter he will “found the purest dynasty the earth has ever seen, one that shall produce history as others produce plays.”

Agents reading this diary in full with a **Military Science** of **60%** and sufficiently enough King in Yellow corruption as decided by the keeper will see the utter brilliance of Augustus’s strategy as well as be able to deduce how to get to his “temple redoubt”, in fact modern conditions regarding the trade of narcotics make it even more feasible, all that it would need to start are a handful of armed men and the right leader...

**Uses:**

The PC (or more likely at this point, NPC) trying to enact this plan gets a +20% to all military related rolls (artillery, navigate land, military science, etc.) while operating out of the temple redoubt. GMs can either choose to use this as a scenario hook (someone who read the diary operating as a KiY Colonel Kurtz in the jungles of Central America, or as a poignant conclusion to a King in Yellow focused campaign (like Impossible Landscapes).

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**By Augusts Castaigne**

In English, study time: 2 weeks. Artillery +2%, Firearms +1%, Military Science (Land) +3%, Occult +4%, Survival 1%, Unnatural +3%, Muvian Hieretical Naacal +1%, Corruption +1; SAN loss 1D4+1

If an Agent hits their breaking point reading this diary, or if they have sufficient corruption as dictated by the keeper, they gain the Disorder: Grand Delusions, making them obsessed with the plan as outlined by Augustus, and will gain the trait **Blackest Charisma**, granting them a Charisma of 19 when convincing others of their plan. This will allow them to build a small army of fanatical followers out of dissolute American mercs and *narcotrafficos*.