

WOMEN OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

A resource to use with *Call of Cthulhu's* Reign of Terror setting



BY KELLY GRANT

CALL of
CTHULHU



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- DEDICATION -

KELLY GRANT (1964 - 2023)

On Saturday January 7th, Australian *Call of Cthulhu* writer Kelly Grant passed away from cancer at the age of 58.

Multi-talented, passionate, cerebral and caring, Kelly still had much to offer creatively, and we will miss her terribly.

Kelly first began writing *Call of Cthulhu* scenarios for Australian RPG conventions in the 1990s, and later was part of a small team writing, producing and coding the popular MMORPG *DragonRealms*. She took a lengthy break from game writing while completing a PhD in Art History (including field work in Pompeii!) and raising a family, but returned to writing for *Call of Cthulhu* in recent years with a flourish.

There are three *Call of Cthulhu* projects Kelly worked on for Chaosium. These will leave a legacy of creativity and inspiration:

Kelly's scenario 'The Singular Serum of Dr Contarini' will feature in the next volume in the Mansions of Madness series; its setting shows off her deep love of and rich knowledge about the city of Venice and its history.

Kelly was also writing 'The Relic': a mini campaign that begins in the trenches of World War One and, with a nod to Foucault's Pendulum, initiates a quest for Templar treasure. Unfortunately, before her illness took hold, Kelly was only able to fully complete the first scenario in this imaginative and erudite campaign which would have led the investigators to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and thence to the Dreamlands. But we will see what is possible with this exceptional though sadly unfinished project.

'A Poisoned Garden' is Kelly's scenario for Love Eterne, a second volume in the works for our *Reign of Terror* French Revolution setting. Recognising that the original *Reign of Terror* did not offer many opportunities for female investigators, Kelly helped rectify that by writing 'Women of the French Revolution' for Love Eterne. We're releasing this part of the book here as tribute to Kelly.

Members of Chaosium's Australian team enjoyed tabletop gaming with Kelly over many years, going all the way back to those early gaming conventions. The great times too many to recount, but some examples in recent years include Andrew playing in her long-running *Horror on the Orient Express* campaign; Allan and I playtesting

the next part of 'The Relic'; Kelly throwing herself wholeheartedly into Mark and James C.'s experimental 40 player Shadow of the Demonlord campaign, and the regular *Pathfinder 2* campaign Susan played in with Kelly, and Kelly's husband and youngest daughter.

Kelly was also a highly talented potter and ceramicist, and taught art and art history at the university level. Her tentacled mugs are a much sought-after specialty for Australian Mythos fans.

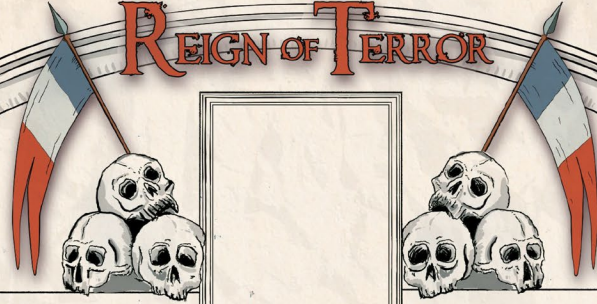
Our heartfelt condolences go to Kelly's husband Martin and their girls Adele and Grace, and their family and friends.

Michael O'Brien
8th January 2023



CALL of CTHULHU

REIGN of TERROR



ATTRIBUTES

NAME _____
 OCCUPATION _____
 AGE _____ PRONOUN _____
 MOVE
 BUILD
 DAMAGE BONUS
 DODGE

HIT POINTS

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 |
| 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

MAGIC POINTS

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 24 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 |
| 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 |
| 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

CHARACTERISTICS

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DEX

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APP

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KNOW

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Max
Sanity

Indefinite
Insanity

1/5 Current Sanity

Starting
Luck

Luck
Points

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| 99 | 98 | 97 |
| 96 | 95 | 94 |
| 93 | 92 | 91 |
| 90 | 89 | 88 |
| 87 | 86 | 85 |
| 84 | 83 | 82 |
| 81 | 80 | 79 |
| 78 | 77 | 76 |
| 75 | 74 | 73 |
| 72 | 71 | 70 |
| 69 | 68 | 67 |
| 66 | 65 | 64 |
| 63 | 62 | 61 |
| 60 | 59 | 58 |
| 57 | 56 | 55 |
| 54 | 53 | 52 |
| 51 | 50 | 49 |
| 48 | 47 | 46 |
| 45 | 44 | 43 |
| 42 | 41 | 40 |
| 39 | 38 | 37 |
| 36 | 35 | 34 |
| 33 | 32 | 31 |
| 30 | 29 | 28 |
| 27 | 26 | 25 |
| 24 | 23 | 22 |
| 21 | 20 | 19 |
| 18 | 17 | 16 |
| 15 | 14 | 13 |
| 12 | 11 | 10 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 |

Out of
Luck

- ☐ Accounting (05%)
- ☐ Animal Handling (05%)
- ☐ Anthropology (01%)
- ☐ Appraise (05%)
- ☐ Art / Craft (05%)
- ☐ Artillery (01%)
- ☐ Charm (15%)
- ☐ Climb (20%)
- ☐ Credit Rating (00%)
- ☐ Cthulhu Mythos (00%)
- ☐ Disguise (05%)
- ☐ Dodge (half DEX)
- ☐ Drive (Wagon/Carriage) (20%)
- ☐ Fast Talk (05)
- ☐ Fighting (Brawl) (25%)

- ☐ Firearms (Musket) (20%)
- ☐ Firearms (Pistol) (20%)
- ☐ First Aid (30%)
- ☐ History (05%)
- ☐ Intimidate (15%)
- ☐ Jump (20%)
- ☐ Language (Other) (01%)
- ☐ Language Own (EDU)
- ☐ Law (05%)
- ☐ Library Use (20%)
- ☐ Listen (20%)
- ☐ Locksmith (01%)
- ☐ Medicine (01%)
- ☐ Natural World (20%)
- ☐ Navigate (10%)
- ☐ Occult (05%)
- ☐ Persuade (10%)

- ☐ Pilot Boat (20%)
- ☐ Psychology (10%)
- ☐ Repair (10%)
- ☐ Ride (15%)
- ☐ Science (01%)
- ☐ Sleight of Hand (10%)
- ☐ Spot Hidden (25%)
- ☐ Stealth (20%)
- ☐ Survival (10%)
- ☐ Swim (20%)
- ☐ Throw (20%)
- ☐ Track (10%)

| Weapon | Skill | Damage | # of Attacks | Range | Ammo | Malf. |
|--------|-------|----------|--------------|-------|------|-------|
| BRAWL | | 1D3 + DB | 1 | - | - | - |
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| | | | | | | |

- ☐ Indefinite
Insanity
- ☐ Temporary
Insanity

Sanity
Points

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| 99 | 98 | 97 |
| 96 | 95 | 94 |
| 93 | 92 | 91 |
| 90 | 89 | 88 |
| 87 | 86 | 85 |
| 84 | 83 | 82 |
| 81 | 80 | 79 |
| 78 | 77 | 76 |
| 75 | 74 | 73 |
| 72 | 71 | 70 |
| 69 | 68 | 67 |
| 66 | 65 | 64 |
| 63 | 62 | 61 |
| 60 | 59 | 58 |
| 57 | 56 | 55 |
| 54 | 53 | 52 |
| 51 | 50 | 49 |
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| 24 | 23 | 22 |
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| 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 |

Out of
Sanity



WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER REVOLUTION

Over 80 percent of women in Paris belonged to the *faubourgs* (the neighborhoods). For these women revolution was about the survival of their family. A woman could work all day, employed in back-breaking and unpleasant jobs—such as rag sorter, cinder sifter, and refuse collectors—and not earn enough money for a loaf of bread. Slightly better off were the women employed as maids, seamstress, and hairdressers.

The bourgeoisie (middle class) was comprised of merchants, industrialists, bankers, and trained professionals; however, a woman belonging to this class was, in a practical sense, excluded from participating in it. She had no control over her person or her property, as both were, by law, in the hands of a father, brother, or some other male. During these times, a woman, much like a domestic servant, always had a “master”.

Aristocratic (upper class) women, for the most part, left France during the Revolution, with many moving to reside in surrounding European countries. Those who stayed behind tended to be extremely loyal to the Revolution yet risked being denounced as counter revolutionary and, therefore, executed as Royalists. For a female noble, revolution was about the survival of her privileged class—she didn't have to worry about food, but her every action was watched and reported.

At the beginning of the Revolution, aristocratic and bourgeois women focused on civil-rights issues, such as votes for women, equality in marriage, and the right to initiate a divorce. Of course, working-class women had more practical concerns, and so campaigned for education and jobs, not because they wanted to usurp men's authority, but simply to have the means of living safe from misfortune. The death of a husband or father could plunge a family into poverty as the women of the house struggled to find work. Women from all classes agreed they must be granted greater job opportunities, better education,

political equality, the right to divorce, changes to inheritance laws, and greater freedom to govern their own lives.

In 1792, the National Assembly gave way to some of their demands. Women were granted their majority at the age of 21, while new inheritance laws finally ensured equal rights. Divorce legislation was passed that treated women equally and provided more freedom over their personal lives. During the Revolution, a woman might find herself—for the first time in her life—under no-one's control but her own!

In 1804, all these new-found rights were swept away by the Napoleonic Code, which returned authority over the family to men while depriving women of any individual rights. Married women were severely restricted as they could not buy or sell property, had to live wherever (and in whatever situation) their husband deemed fit, and could not divorce their husband for adultery. A widowed woman was required to place deputy guardianship of her children with a male and, if she married again, the deputy guardian could decide to remove her children from her. French women would not regain the right to work without their husband's permission until 1965.

NEWSPAPERS

Parisians were mad for news pamphlets and there were hundreds of independent news writers (or gossip mongers) publishing daily or weekly gazettes. Reporting and expressing opinions on the highly charged political environment was dangerous for anyone, making a *nom de plume* essential for any female pamphlet writer. Investigating and writing about strange happenings in Paris and its surrounds risks bringing a charge against the investigator for rabble rousing and, “...conspiring against the unity and the indivisibility of the Republic.” Punishable by imprisonment and execution.

INVESTIGATOR OCCUPATIONS

A female investigator in *Call of Cthulhu's Reign of Terror* setting may belong to any level of society and take any occupation while remaining true to the historical milieu. Despite society's expectations and laws, Revolutionary-era women took on roles traditionally filled by men, becoming soldiers, doctors, and even explorers. Following are some brief examples of the occupations available to female investigators along with short biographies of women of 18th century as historic examples and inspiration.

WORKING CLASS

Suggested Investigator Occupations: Hairdresser, Glove maker, Newspaper Writer, Seamstress, Spy, Explorer, Soldier. Women of the working class had limited options for paid work. A better-off, lower-class woman might find work as a laundress or domestic servant but could wait months to be paid or end up being cheated out of her wages. If she was skilled as a seamstress, milliner, glove maker, or hairdresser, a working woman might do very well for herself, brushing shoulders with middle-class and noble women. Some of these professions required years of training, which had to be paid for, requiring the support of her family.

Unlikely to have a high education, a female investigator might be "improving herself" by attending Workers' Clubs where Art/Craft skills can be learned. It is possible she reads and writes (Language), learning from a family member or teaching herself to read the newspapers. Other skills might include Drive Wagon/Carriage or Piloting Boat. Now that women can control their own money, she may run a small business (Accounting, Appraise, Natural World, Repair). A knowledge of Medicine and/or First Aid, used to treat her family's illnesses, would not be uncommon as only the wealthy could afford a doctor. Used to living hand-to-mouth and by her wits, a female investigator is probably quite accomplished in social skills like Charm, Persuade, and Intimidation.

She may find work as a spy, reporting on counter-revolutionary people and events in her *faubourg*. Joseph Fouché, first minister of police, employed thousands of such spies—so did Robespierre—nominally taking other work, the investigator's main income is secretly that of a police or political informant.

Hairdressing became a genuine profession in the 17th century as women's hair styles grew taller. Such styling was popularized at the Royal Court by Madame Martin. Unusual for the time, Madame Martin was recognized as an artist in her own right as a hairdresser, as distinct from her husband's occupation as a wig maker. In 1765, when

Legros de Rumigny opened his school for hairdressers in Paris, he taught women as men to cut hair and create his special hair designs. Marie Antoinette's towering hairstyles were fashioned by two male stylists, but female hairdressers styled the hair of other aristocrats, forming part of the 1,200 hairdressers working in Paris before The Terror.

As a hairdresser, an investigator has intimate access to women of the nobility and haute bourgeoisie. She is likely an expert listener (Listen), attentive to small details (Spot Hidden), and perceptive to changes in the mood of her clientele or the mob on the street (Psychology).

During the Revolution, the flamboyant hairstyles and dresses of the nobility were strongly criticized as symptoms of luxury and ostentation. Fashions became sober and hairstyles became more *au naturel*. Hairdressers continued to be essential to the bourgeoisie and nobility, but their association with the upper classes made them suspect. A female investigator working as a hairdresser risks charges of being a Royalist and counter-revolutionary and may be despised for her frivolous occupation by the *sans-culottes*. Marie Antoinette's hairdresser, Léonard, had to flee France when the queen was arrested.

JEANNE BARET

Born into an illiterate and impoverished peasant family, Jeanne Baret somehow learned to read and write. She was a member of Louis Antoine de Bougainville's expedition on the ships *La Boudeuse* and *Étoile* (1766–1769) and became the first woman to circumnavigate the globe. Disguising herself as a man, she enlisted as an assistant to the expedition's naturalist, Philibert Commerçon (her de facto husband), shortly before Bougainville's ships sailed from France. Baret was an expert botanist despite having no formal education.

Despite the (later) discovery and scandal that Baret was a woman working on the expedition, her contribution to its success was not diminished. The high regard in which she was held was made clear in the document granting her a pension:

"Jeanne Barré, by means of a disguise, circumnavigated the globe on one of the vessels commanded by Mr de Bougainville. She devoted herself in particular to assisting Mr de Commerçon, doctor and botanist, and shared with great courage the labours and dangers of this savant. Her behaviour was exemplary and Mr de Bougainville refers to it with all due credit.... His Lordship has been gracious enough to grant to this extraordinary woman a pension of two hundred livres a year to be drawn from the fund for invalid servicemen and this pension shall be payable from 1 January 1785."

WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION

Explorer

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (INTÍ2 or DEXÍ2)
- **Credit Rating:** 5–70
- **Occupation Skills:** Climb, Dodge or Throw, Drive Wagon/Carriage or Pilot (Boat), First Aid, Natural World or Science (any), Navigate, Spot Hidden, one interpersonal skill (Charm, Fast Talk, Intimidate, or Persuade).
- **Social Class:** Lower, Middle, or Upper

Hairdresser

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (INTÍ2 or DEXÍ2)
- **Credit Rating:** 20–40
- **Occupation Skills:** Art/Craft (Hairdresser), Art/Craft (any), Listen, Spot Hidden, Psychology, Science (Chemistry), and two interpersonal skills (Charm, Fast Talk, or Persuade).
- **Social Class:** Lower to Middle

Sans-culotte (commoner)

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (STRÍ2 or DEXÍ2)
- **Credit Rating:** 1–20
- **Occupation Skills:** Art/Craft (any), Climb, Dodge or Throw, Fighting (Brawl), one interpersonal skill (Charm, Fast Talk, Intimidate, or Persuade), Drive Wagon/Carriage, Pilot (Boat), plus one additional skill or area of expertise.
- **Social Class:** Lower (radicals and militants)

Spy

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (APPÍ2 or DEXÍ2)
- **Credit Rating:** 20–40
- **Occupation Skills:** Art/Craft (Acting) or Disguise, Listen, Language (French), two interpersonal skills (Charm, Fast Talk, Intimidate, or Persuade), Psychology, Spot Hidden, Stealth.
- **Social Class:** Lower, Middle, or Upper

BOURGEOISIE

Investigator Occupations: Shop Owner, Salon Hostess, Philosopher, Translator, Artist, Explorer, Courtesan, Midwife/Doctor.

A female investigator drawn from this social class may be modestly or very wealthy and could be expected to have a reasonable level of formal education as Convent schools taught basic literacy and domestic skills. The only expectation for a woman was to marry well and have children, and so improve the social standing of her family. Occasionally she might be permitted to assist in the family business, as long as it didn't interfere with her domestic duties. For example, although lacking formal training, a female investigator whose father is a doctor to the aristocracy might know a great deal



CLAIRE LACOMBE

Claire Lacombe was a working woman of Paris and part of the mob that stormed the Tuileries Palace on August 10, 1792, effectively ending the French monarchy. She was shot through the arm but continued to fight, for which she was awarded a civic crown by the victorious National Guard.

Lacombe founded the Society of Republican Revolutionary Women, a notorious association of the most militant female *sans-culottes*. They enforced The Terror, taking political matters into their own hands. Lacombe was one of the *Enragés*, individual men and women who fired up the working poor, encouraging them to plunder the homes and businesses of the bourgeoisie and to riot for their demands. Society members were notorious for strutting through the streets in gangs, carrying loaded pistols and meting out punishments.

On May 26, 1793, Lacombe nearly beat to death Théroigne de Méricourt, a member of the Girondists (a political faction), while on October 28, 1793, she and her group set out to punish a group of market women for refusing to wear the revolutionary cockade or adhere to the laws that set fixed prices on goods. Warned they were coming, the market women were ready and attacked first with sticks, stones, and rotten fruit. A violent riot through the streets of Paris ensued. The National Convention denounced Lacombe and used the riot as an excuse to ban all women's clubs and societies and refuse women a political voice.

Lacombe was arrested and jailed. She was released in 1795 after which she vanished into obscurity.



about Medicine. A female member of the bourgeoisie may be proficient in more than one language, perhaps translating texts and publishing her work. She might be a valuable assistant to a male scholar but should not expect payment or acknowledgement for her contribution.

During the revolution, a bourgeoisie female investigator may find herself in sole control of her fortune and her person. She can break from the fate her sex and birth intended for her, though perhaps not without suffering ill repute or loss of fortune. The funding of expeditions and explorers may be possible. Expert in their own knowledge of Geography, Botany, and History, female investigators may travel to exotic locations to make their own observations for future publication.

WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION



A petition for women to be allowed to join the militia was unsuccessful, but this didn't stop some women. The lack of able-bodied men was real and urgent, making it possible for a female investigator to cut her hair, bind her breasts, take a male name, and

have an active military roll—at least until discovered. Some women defied convention and openly wore men's clothing, went about Paris armed, and were foremost in the violent confrontations between Royalists and Republicans.

THÉROIGNE DE MÉRICOURT

Théroigne de Méricourt suffered a life of neglect and mistreatment. An unwanted daughter, her hopes of a career as a singer were dashed by a man who professed his love and eloped with her but then abandon her, ruined. She became a Parisian courtesan, kept by an elderly and unpleasant Marquis.

In 1788, Paris was on the verge of revolution. It was an exciting time that seemed to promise a better, more just world for women. Méricourt became passionately involved in politics, affiliating herself with the Girondins. She attended the National Assembly every day, wearing men's clothing—her fiery orations caused her to become a celebrity. The Royalist press heaped all manner of accusations and obscenities at her, portraying her as a shameless libertine, the “patriots’ whore.” Disgusted, Méricourt left Paris for Switzerland but was arrested by the Austrians, who believing

all the bad press written about her, brutally interrogated and held her for a month. She was released when it became clear she had no information on the Revolution to divulge.

On returning to Paris, she was embraced as a hero. Now, Méricourt didn't just talk, she acted, setting up a salon and a club for women, and thereby recruiting an army of female fighters to join her in the storming of the Tuileries on August 10, 1792.

When the Girondists lost power to the Jacobins in 1793, Méricourt was stripped naked and publicly flogged by Claire Lacombe and her *sans-culottes*. They nearly killed her. Suffering from insomnia, migraine, and depression, Méricourt descended into madness and, in October 1794, she was certified insane and placed in an asylum in Faubourg Marceau where she spent 20 years, dying there in 1804.

THE SALONS

The Salons were the women's answer to the men-only clubs that originated prior to the Revolution. These were regularly scheduled meetings in the parlors of well-to-do women and aristocracy (i.e., polite society). Anyone who was anyone would be invited to attend. Thus, the topics discussed, and people attending, were diverse. It was common to attend multiple salons.

A female investigator with a good Credit Rating may host a salon, gathering people to discuss the interesting scientific discoveries and philosophical ideas of the Age of Enlightenment. She can invite others to present and listen to subjects such as philosophy, mysticism, and the occult.

Artist Entrepreneur

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ4
- **Credit Rating:** 20–60
- **Occupation Skills:** Accounting, Art/Craft (any two of Drawing, Painting, Sculpting, Singing, Dancing or other as appropriate), Occult, Persuade, Spot Hidden, two interpersonal skills (Charm, Fast Talk, Intimidate, or Persuade).
- **Social Class:** Lower to Middle

Courtesan

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (APPÍ2 or INTÍ2)
- **Credit Rating:** 20–60
- **Occupation Skills:** Appraise, Art/Craft (Sing or Dance), Charm, Language (other), Listen, Persuade, Psychology, plus one additional skill as an area of expertise.
- **Social Class:** Middle

Midwife

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ4
- **Credit Rating:** 20–50
- **Occupation Skills:** First Aid, Medicine, Language (Latin), Listen, any two interpersonal skills (Charm, Fast Talk, Intimidate, or Persuade), Psychology, Ride.
- **Social Class:** Lower to Middle

Political Activist

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (INTÍ2 or APPÍ2), or EDUÍ4
- **Credit Rating:** 20–50
- **Occupation Skills:** History, Law, Listen, Psychology, two interpersonal skills (Charm, Fast Talk, Intimidate, Persuade), plus two of Fighting (Brawl), Fighting (Sword), Firearms (Pistol).
- **Social Class:** Lower to Middle

MARIE TUSSAUD

Marie Tussaud (Madame Tussaud) was born in France in 1761. She learned the art of wax modeling from a doctor named Philippe Curtius, for whom her mother kept house. Dr. Curtius modeled anatomy in wax and then turned to portrait making, becoming successful with his Paris business—his exhibition of waxworks at the Palais Royal attracted large crowds. Soon after this, he began training Tussaud. From 1780 until the Revolution in 1789, Tussaud created many of her most famous portraits of celebrities, such as those of philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Benjamin Franklin, and Voltaire.

During the Revolution, the waxworks became a very dangerous place, as it was illegal to have busts and figures of people no longer deemed acceptable. Because her clientele included prominent members of the nobility and haute bourgeoisie, Tussaud was perceived as a Royalist sympathizer. During The Terror she was arrested and her head was shaved in preparation for her execution by guillotine. She was given a last-minute reprieve and instead given the task of making death masks of the revolutions famous victims, including Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, Jean-Paul Marat, and Robespierre.

Madame Tussaud survived The Terror, married in 1795, and immigrated to England with her family and her wax collection. The Napoleonic Code of 1804 made it impossible for her return to France—all her property, including her waxworks, would have been deemed the property of her husband. Instead, she toured Britain with her collection for 33 years before establishing her permanent collection in London. She was a successful and independent female entrepreneur.



ANGÉLIQUE DU COUDRAY, DOCTOR, & MIDWIFE

Angélique Du Coudray was born into an eminent French medical family and graduated from the College of Surgery in Paris in 1740. Around this time, a conflict arose between male doctors and female midwives. Wanting to be dominant in all fields of medicine, doctors argued that their modern scientific techniques were better for mothers and infants than the folk medicine practiced by midwives. Thus, schools began to bar women from gaining instruction in midwifery. Du Coudray argued that formal training for midwives was vital to France, understanding that poor women could not afford a doctor's fees.

In 1759, Du Coudray was asked by king Louis XV to teach midwifery in rural areas to reduce infant mortality. Between 1760 and 1783, she traveled across France, sharing her extensive knowledge. She is estimated to have trained 4,000 midwives, and more than 500 male surgeons and physicians. Her training course was six days a week and took two months to complete, for which attendees earned a certificate of competency.

Angélique made a bitter enemy, a doctor by the name of Alphonse Leroy, known for his arrogance and temper. Considering himself expert in the diseases of women and children, he published several books on childbirth, each full of paradoxical and unsafe advice, despite this he was appointed as Chair of Midwifery in Paris. It was his opinion that the best food for babies was meat. He was also a stubborn opponent of vaccination.

In 1793, during The Terror, Alphonse Leroy denounced Angélique du Coudray, calling her an ignorant, unmarried woman who taught using a doll; in fact, the obstetrical manikin designed by Coudray was so detailed and accurate that the Academy of Surgery approved it. An investigation was launched and the certification of midwives abolished—anyone could now claim to be one. As Leroy intended, this destroyed the reputé of trained midwives. Women of the bourgeoisie, who could afford the fees, turned to doctors to deliver their babies, and so the mortality rates for poor women and their babies soared.

Angélique du Coudray was 82 in 1793. After she was denounced, her pension was stopped and she died in poverty in 1794.

ETTA PALM D'AELDERS

In 1791, Etta Palm d'Aelders established *Les Amies de la Verite*, The Society of the Friends of Truth (also known as the *Cercle Social*), a political social club for women. The organization charged expensive dues, which most working-class women were unable to afford, hence most of the club's population consisted of upper-class women.

D'Aelders was not born into wealth and was Dutch, not French. Her husband was safely distant from France in the East Indies. After an introduction by a lover into the French Court, d'Aelders became a courtesan for the upper classes. Her recruitment by the French Secret Service was at least in part because she had so many lovers at the French court, although rather than a spy, she might be better thought of as an agent of influence. D'Aelders was also spying on the French political situation for The Hague, and the combined incomes she received set her up financially. She consequently gave herself the title of Baroness and opened a large house in Paris.

Her salon was a place for political people to meet—Jean-Paul Marat was an attendee—and she became involved in revolutionary politics and was especially prominent in feminist circles. She promoted the feminist ideals of the Marquise de Condorcet, Olympe de Gouges, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

After finding the political climate in Paris too difficult, she returned to The Hague but was arrested by the Dutch. After her release her health deteriorated and she died shortly thereafter.

NOBLEWOMEN

Investigator Occupations: Explorer, Noble, Spy.

Aristocratic investigators know people and are owed favors; however, such investigators are always in great peril of arrest. The most staunchly Republican aristocrat risks being condemned as counter revolutionary for the simplest actions; for example, giving bread to the poor could be deemed an inherently critical political act. A female aristocrat's access to wealth and status is through male members of her family, and she may be in a position where her property and assets have been seized and male members of the family have fled, are in hiding, or dead. Her effective Credit Rating could be less than that of a well-connected investigator of the working class.

A noblewoman is likely to be highly educated, as this adds to her family's prestige. Aristocrats do not, of course, have jobs, although some may find adventure as explorers and the like. Rather, her knowledge of the Natural World, Science, or something else is a hobby. She is likely to read and speak more than one language. In the absence of her father, she skillfully holds together the fragile welfare of her estate and its workers with good sense and skill (Law, Accounting, Psychology, and so on), but maintains she's "just a woman, doing the best she can." Despite her outward self-deprecation, an aristocratic investigator is resourceful, cunning, manipulative, and political (Charm, Persuade, Intimidate). She curries favor with political groups and attends Salons while walking a tightrope. If she sticks her neck out, she may find her head chopped off.

Noble (Aristocrat)

- **Occupation Skill Points:** EDUÍ2 + (APPÍ2 or INTÍ2)
- **Credit Rating:** 5–70
- **Occupation Skills:** Art/Craft (any appropriate), History, Language (Latin), Language (other European), Ride, Charm, Persuade, plus an additional language or skill as an area of expertise.
- **Social Class:** Upper



CHARLOTTE CORDAY

Charlotte Corday was a member of a minor aristocratic family who admired the speeches of the Girondist groups. She aligned herself with their thinking and regarded them as a moderate movement that would ultimately save France.

Jean-Paul Marat was a member of the radical Jacobin faction that had a leading role during The Terror. As a journalist, he exerted power and influence through his newspaper, *L'Ami du peuple* (*The Friend of the People*). Marat believed that the only way the revolution would survive invasion and civil war was through terrorizing and executing those who opposed it. He revolted Charlotte Corday—she held Marat responsible the September Massacres, and believed he was a threat to Republic as his actions would lead to an all-out civil war. Only his death would end violence throughout the nation.

On July 9, 1793, Corday took a room at the Hôtel de Providence and bought a kitchen knife with a six-inch blade. In the evening, Marat admitted her to his home, believing her story that she had come to inform on a Girondist plot. At the time, he conducted most of his affairs from a bathtub because of a skin condition. Corday pulled out the knife and plunged it into his chest, killing him with one thrust.

At her trial, Corday described Marat as a monster and explained, "I have killed one man to save a hundred thousand." On July 17, 1793, four days after Marat was killed, Corday was guillotined.

THE SEPTEMBER MASSACRES, 1792

Motivated by fear that Royalist armies would attack Paris and free the inmates of the city's prisons to join them, the women of the *faubourgs* participated alongside the men in the September massacres. Jean-Paul Marat, member of the *Comite de surveillance*, called for the action, which took place over a one-week period in September 1792. Mobs descended on the prisons and massacred most of the prison population—more than 1,000 men, women, and children killed.