Special Archaeological Service of the Society for the Investigation of Mystic Phenomenon

By Michael O'Brien

Name/Type	Pluck	FV	SV	Spd.	Cost	Talents	Basic Equipment
Frank Bressler	3+	+3	+3	+1	54	Leadership +2, Fearless, Inspirational	Mauser C96 (Carbine), Hunting Knife, Magneto- Static Waistcoat
Nancy Bressler	4+	0	+3	0	24 (plus Mystic Points)	Marksman. Up to 15 points of Mystic Powers	Military Rifle, Magneto- static Waistcoat
Harold Carver	3+	+1	+4	+1	36	Marksman	Military Rifle, Magneto- static Waistcoat
Eva Karrick	4+	0	+1	0	24 (plus Mystic Points)	Up to 22 points of Mystic Powers	Arc Pistol, Magneto-static Waistcoat, Arc Lamp (see below)
Tobias Turnbull	4+	+2	+2	0	34	Leadership +1, Tough, Engineer	Automatic Rifle (see below), Brigandine
Sophie Soreau	5+	0	+2	+2	16	Medic	Heavy Pistol (see below), Lined Coat
Aeronaut (Crew of the <i>Amaunet</i>)	5+	+2	+1	0	12		Lined Coat, Pistol, Knife

Arc Lamp A *Carbide Lamp* that also adds +2 Armor to a *Magneto-static Waistcoat*. Determine final cost of Armor and add +3 points.

Automatic Rifle SV Bonus +3; Range 24"; 2 Hands Required; Pluck Modifier -2; uses the same special rules as a *Machine Gun*. 13 Points.

Amulet of Isis Part of the *Regalia of Ra*. Applies a Pluck Penalty of -2 to anyone attempting to resist a Mystical Power used by the wearer. 15 points.

Heavy Pistol Large-caliber Pistol with the same statistics as a regular Pistol, but with a Pluck Penalty of -1. 4 points.

OPTIONS

Any Aeronaut may add Tough (+5 points).

Any Aeronaut may substitute for his Pistol: a Shotgun or Carbine (+2 points), a Flare Pistol (+3 points), or an Arc Pistol (+5 points).

Any Company member may purchase an Arc Generator (+20 points).

Frank Bressler may substitute an Arc Rifle for his Mauser C96 (+4 points).

Either Nancy Bressler or Eva Karrick may carry the *Amulet of Isis* (+15 points).

Transcript of the meeting of the Society for the Investigation of Mystic Phenomena

Charlottenburg Palace, Berlin. 21 May, 1895. Speech of Dr. Frank Bressler.

I would like to thank the Society for allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight. We were just passing through, and thought we'd "drop" in. [laughter] The name is Bressler. Frank Bressler. Born in 1865 in Rockford, Illinois. I know what you're thinking---"This guy is so young!" But let me tell you, it's not the years; it's the mileage. [laughter] Anyway, I graduated North Central College, Masters at Yale, Doctorate at University of Berlin. First-ever US citizen to get a PhD in Egyptology. The good people at the University of Chicago have seen fit to make me a full-fledged Professor of Egyptology and Oriental History, first such chair in what's left of the United States. It sounds impressive because, well, it is impressive. I can't help it: I'm good. And humble. [laughter]

Archaeology isn't what it used to be. There was always danger, but now it's far worse. The most valuable tool I pack nowadays isn't the pick or shovel; it's my Mauser. [nervous laughter] This rise of spiritualism and mystic power throughout the world---it sounds damn crazy. But it's real. It's happening. But nothing shocks me anymore---I'm a scientist. [laughter]

The mission of the Special Archaeological Service is to locate and, well, quarantine certain items of mystical power before the bad guys get their lousy mystic hands on them. I have a great team, and yes, they're all young: this work is both dangerous and strenuous, and requires skills that you can't learn in a classroom.

Let me tell you about the S.A.S. The ladies aren't here tonight; they're, ah, recuperating from an encounter with one of those items I was telling you about. First, Eva. I met Dr. Eva Karrick in Berlin; we studied under Günther Kosse. She's a first-class mind and a superb intuitive thinker, with PhD's in Anthropology and this new field of Mysticism and Mythology. Her mystic sensibilities led directly to our latest discovery just a few days ago, and folks, it's a big one.

Then there's Nancy Hart. A former student of mine at U of C, and a natural talent for reading and deciphering ancient texts. You name it: cuneiform, hieroglyphics, the various Chinese scripts, Mayan glyphs---she has the most amazing talent to translate and analyze I have ever seen. Her work is so important to us that I did the best thing I could think of to keep her on board: I married her in Cairo last month. She's now Nancy Hart Bressler, and I am a lucky man. [applause] And don't mess with her, fellas: she's a crack shot with that Winchester '92 of hers. [laughter] Almost as good with a rifle as this young man here in the front row.

That would be Harry----Harold Carver. He hates it when I call him Harry. [laughter] He's actually the baby of our little family. At the tender age of seventeen he cut his archaeological teeth with Newberry at Beni Hasan, then signed on with Lothar Burkhard at Amarna, Akhenaton's old stomping grounds. I can't tell you how valuable Harold has been to us with his storehouse of knowledge about our old Pharaonic friend. [nervous laughter] Young Mr. Carver ---what are you now, Harry? 22?---can certainly take care of himself, although how he hits anything with that damn Lee-Metford, I'll never figure out. [laughter] But seriously, this young man is going to make a name for himself some day. Who knows, maybe he'll be the one to discover the tomb of Akhenaton's son.

Our support staff is headed by Dr. Tobias Turnbull, that hard-headed Scotsman who just happens to be an engineering genius. His pride and joy, of course is the Amaunet. She's an aeronef, an airship, and don't ask me how the damn thing works. [laughter] Yes, I'm a scientist, but the way this sweet hunk of steel works seems more like magic than

science to me. [laughter] Tobias keeps her flying---somehow---and makes the logistics of travelling anywhere a piece of cake. It also lets us make a hasty exit when things go sour, as they do more and more these days. If you get a chance, ask him about his new invention: a multi-barreled rifle that fires like one of those machine guns, but is small enough for just one man to handle. He'll get a chance to use it for keeps all too soon.

Come to think of it, I'll bet Sophie could handle it as well. That would be Sophie Soreau, our medical expert. In addition to her medical training, Sophie has a PhD in Forensic Anthropology from the Karolinska Institutet, which comes in handy as well. Sophie could have been a world-class sprinter with that speed of hers, but we're glad she's here keeping us all healthy. She is a little on the eccentric side, but il y a plus de gens farfelus ajourd'hui qu'hier, n'est-ce pa? [laughter] {translation from the French: there are more eccentric people today than yesterday, aren't there?}

As to that discovery I've alluded to. The Society worked overtime to get us in the vicinity, but it was Eva that got us to the right spot. Just an empty tomb of a minor Priestess of Isis; robbers cleaned it out millennia ago. But Dr. Karrick told us where to look. I tell my students that in archaeology "X" never marks the spot, but in this case it pretty much did. Right behind a large representation of Isis herself, concealed behind the plaster wall, was a plain wooden box. When we opened it a wave of power so strong that you could almost see it swept over us. Harold and I were unaffected, but Eva and Nancy collapsed; merely fainted, as it turned out. [murmuring] It's alright---they're fine now. Inside the box was a solid gold amulet of Isis, an Isis Knot. And judging by the effect it had on the women, we believe that it is **the** Amulet of Isis, from the Regalia of Ra. [commotion, excited comments] We're taking it back to Chicago to run some tests, but there's little doubt of its identity.

We would love to answer questions, but we really must be off. It's important that we return to Chicago as soon as possible. Thank you again for your hospitality. [applause, commotion]

End of Transcript.

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The two men walked briskly out of the packed hall and headed for the exit.

"How are the girls, Harold?" said Bressler.

"They're fine now," said Carver. "But that surge of power---it changed them. Sophie says they have power now: mystic power."

"Not much we can do about that. Maybe in the long term it will help us all." He paused. "Sophie's sure that Nancy's alright?"

"Yes, yes, she's positive that they are in quite good health." Carver grabbed Bressler by the arm. They stopped.
"I'm still not sure if speaking here was a good idea, Frank," he said.

"Did you notice the Egyptian chap in the back row, Harold?" Bressler replied. "I was told he was Dr. Husain, Cairo University. But there's no Dr. Husain in Cairo."

"Bloody hell! Abdul Amir, do you think? What is he doing in Berlin?"

"Spying, it would seem. Trying to find out where these damned precious mystic artifacts are."

"And you just told him where he can find the bleeding Amulet of Isis!?! Are you mad? What were you thinking?!?" He took a deep breath, then sighed. "Right. Is there a plan this time, Frankie? Or are you just making it up as you go? Again?"

"The *Amaunet* will get us back to Chicago long before Abdul gets word to his boss. And the Pharaoh wants that Amulet pretty badly." Bressler smiled. "So when he gets to Chicago, we'll have a little welcoming party waiting for him. If we have to take him on, better to do it on our own turf."

Carver returned the smile. "I think I'm beginning to see. 'Will you step into my parlor,' said the spider to the fly?"

""Tis the prettiest little parlor that ever did you spy.'"

"Well, Frank, old chap, what are we waiting for?"

They turned and hustled out the door.



The **Amaunet** (Ironclad Miniatures)



Lead Adventure Prof. Withchheimer



Brigade Games 28mm Adventurers – Lost Wo Erin the Archaeologist Hunters



Lost World Explorers --Hunters and Explorers



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