



## Trail of the Black Dragon

*"The Manchus are finished . . . But I should warn you that in this vacuum which is left a new and much more dangerous Secret Service will eventually spring up. Today it is like a sperm inside the womb. Tomorrow?"*

- - from a report of Sidney Reilly, December 3, 1902

When Sidney Reilly, the "Ace of Spies," wrote those words, he was working for Britain, Russia, and Japan simultaneously. (This may explain why he disappeared shortly thereafter, to surface months later in a remote lamasery in China's Shenxi province. Unless he was really working for Shangri-La all along. But I digress.) They were probably addressed to British Intelligence, and the seedling secret service of which he warned just might have been the famed Black Dragon Society. With the appearance of the second edition of *GURPS Japan*, it's time to look at tying Japan into the conspiratorial, Illuminated mainstream (and conspiratorial, Illuminated gaming). And the best way to do that, mayhap, is to start by following Reilly's lead and the trail of the dragon.

*"With aristocratic backing he founded many patriotic tongs, only one of which was the famous Amur River Society, or Black Dragon. It became the most powerful of his organizations largely because of its awesome sounding name. In the minds of Japanese and Europeans alike, it evoked exotic visions of opium dens and of Chinese mandarins tugging new ecstasies of sadism out of their sparse beards."*

- - David Bergamini, *Japan's Imperial Conspiracy*

The Black Dragon Society, or *Kokuryukai*, played a dubious role in the rise of Japan's sun in the East. Often dismissed as a "Japanese Mafia," just as often hinted at as the true power behind the militarist factions driving Japan to war, its official ideology was a blend of imperialism, Shinto mysticism, and criminal pragmatism. Its name came from the Chinese name for the Amur River between Manchuria and Russia, the Black Dragon River - - and its overt goal was to drive the Russians north of the Black Dragon. After Japan defeated Russia in the 1904 - 1905 Russo - Japanese War, the Black Dragon's activities expanded - - Black Dragon agents gave vital aid to Sun Yat-Sen's revolution in China, plotted with revolutionary Buddhists to seize control of Mongolia, and came within 15 miles of rescuing the Romanovs from Ekaterinburg during the Russian Civil War. By the late 1930s, Black Dragon *ronin* riddled China, and Black Dragon operatives could be found not only all across the Far East but planted from the Caribbean to Morocco. (They'd make fine antagonists - - occultists, gangsters, and spies - - for *GURPS Cliffhangers* PCs in Asian and Pacific Places of Mystery, and a nice nod to Axis equality as a changeup from ubiquitous Gestapo and Thule Society archaeologists.) MacArthur officially dissolved the Black Dragon in 1945, although conspiracy-hunters have turned up their traces everywhere from the Turkish right-wing Gray Wolves (who may have shot Pope John

Paul II) to the apocalyptic Aum Shinri Kyo cult that nerve-gassed the Tokyo subway to defeat "the shadow power" in 1995. (Thus, they make fine villains in a proto-*GURPS Cyberpunk* or Japanophobic *GURPS Illuminati* game, too.)

*"The Japanese secret societies were amazingly ubiquitous and versatile. Their tasks were to gather information, make maps, recruit informants or political allies, smuggle gold or opium, bribe warlords, sabotage railways, assassinate opponents, or foment rebellions in furtherance of various conspiracies . . . In addition to the Black Ocean Society and Kokuryukai, the Black Dragon Society, there were hundreds of clandestine groups - - even thousands if the smaller ones were included. Some of the leaders were men of means, and others financed their activities through gambling, prostitution, protection rackets, strike breaking, blackmail, or small business monopolies such as labor recruiting, entertainment or street vending."*

- - John G. Roberts, *Mitsui: Three Centuries of Japanese Business*

The Black Dragon's founder, the shadowy labor boss Mitsuru Toyama, was a renowned ascetic and mystic - - and a fearsome wrestler and swordsman. He created the Black Dragon in 1901 as a means of drawing attention away from his original sect, the Black Ocean Society or *Genyosha*. Founded in 1881 by the samurai and mine-owner Kotaro Hiraoka, Black Ocean played the Chinese triads against one another; Toyama became Black Ocean's leading figure when he orchestrated the assassination of Queen Min of Korea in 1895. Black Ocean or Black Dragon agents assassinated politicians in Korea, China, and Japan throughout the groups' heyday, and given the Black Dragons' passionate interest in Moslem Central Asia, it's certainly permissible (if technically impossible) to tie them to the dread Society of Assassins via (perhaps) the Illuminated Roshinaya of Afghanistan.

It's during the time of Black Ocean's founding (or, rather, its *overt* founding) that Western and Eastern magic and conspiracy threads mingle. Japan's opening barely 20 years previously led to a flood of curious European and American visitors, interested in the timeless wisdom of the Orient and the timely fad of Theosophy. Astronomer Percival Lowell spent several years in Japan, composing three books on Shintoism and other Japanese religious practices. His views grew darker with each volume, until Lafcadio Hearn described Lowell's final work on the topic, the 1895 *Occult Japan*, as "painfully unsympathetic, Mephistophelean in a way that chills me." Lowell may have stumbled upon evil Black Ocean magic while investigating ghosts, sacred fires, and other phenomena - - or on ties of another kind. A formation of flying disks emerged from the Sea of Japan (the "Black Ocean" to the Japanese) in 1893, buzzing a British naval squadron - - and Lowell fled back to America and began to obsessively study Mars.

*"Coca-Cola presents the hometown of Christ."*

- - sign in Shingo, Japan

It's into this hotbed of weirdness that the mysterious Takeuchi documents emerged in 1935 in Ibaraki Prefecture. Found by Koma Takeuchi, a Shinto priest from a long line of hereditary priesthood, the documents indicated caches where the Ark of the Covenant, the bones of the Emperors and Moses, maps of lost continents, a magic mirror, and a hidden pyramid coated with the mystery metal "Hihirokane" could be found. One key location turned out to be two graves in the tiny town of Shingo, in the Aomori Prefecture on the extreme north end of Honshu - - the graves of Jesus Christ and Mary. Having trained with master gurus there during His childhood, Christ returned to Japan after the crucifixion (of His brother, Isukiri) to farm garlic and write His last will - - the Takeuchi documents. Shingo used to be known as Herai, which

locals will tell you is Japanese for "Hebrew," the graves' custodians have a six-pointed seal resembling the Star of David, and a local chant, *Nanyadoyara*, can be made to fit (with the traditional linguistic fudging) an ancient Hebrew song of devotion. If Christ was Japanese, are the "waterborn" Merovingians actually His Japanese descendants? (While we're on the unlikely Japanese kick, it's apparently an article of faith among many Japanese that Genghis Khan was a disgraced former samurai who changed his name - - another example of Black Dragon manipulation of Asian affairs?)

*"If we could go back 100 years and look in on Japan we should see a reflection of Mu 15,000 years ago."*

- - James Churchward, *The Children of Mu*

Thinking about sacred bloodlines, and Christ, and the Black Dragon society, I can't help but recall David Icke's warnings in *The Biggest Secret* that a dread Black Reptoid lineage has polluted and controlled mankind from ancient times. These evil Saurians were the "divine beings" known to the Sumerians as the Annunaki - - a name perilously close to the "Ainu," the mysterious "hairy" Caucasian race that predates the coming of the Japanese to their islands. (Two points here: Slightly dusty anthropological theory postulates that Ainu families made up most of the noble clans of samurai - - such as that of the founder of the Black Ocean; and Christ's hometown of Shingo is right up near Ainu territory, perhaps explaining His non-Japanese appearance.) Are the Black Dragons actually the human (or *kappa* human-reptoid hybrid) tools of the Black Reptoids lurking in their disk ships beneath the "Devil's Triangle" in the Sea of Japan?

Even now in Japan a sect called Sukyo Mahikari founded by a guru of (reptoid-Ainu?) samurai heritage Yoshikazu Okada (born, like the Black Dragon, in 1901) in 1959 believes that Japan is the last remnant of the Lost Continent of Mu, that Christ lived in Japan, and - - perhaps most significantly - - reveres the "dragon gods" left behind by the fire gods from the sky. Sukyo Mahikari teaches that the Japanese Setsubun Festival, in which householders throw beans in the spring to drive away devils, derives from the Muvians' foolish rejection of the dragon gods, which is why the dragon Sea-King Ryujin sank Mu. In the Too Freakish To Make Up Coincidence Department, the Romans also had a spring festival in which householders threw beans to drive away evil spirits, a festival which concluded by tossing statues into the river, possibly to commemorate an ancient flood - - the festival of Lemuria, which of course is another name for Mu, or at least for a lost continent just as good.

*"The [Yonaguni] structure could be an ancient shrine, possibly celebrating an ancient deity resembling the god Niral-Kannai, who the locals say gave happiness to the people of Okinawa from beyond the sea. This could be evidence of a new culture, as there are no records of a people intelligent enough to have built such a monument 10,000 years ago."*

- - Masaaki Kimura, professor of geology, University of the Ryukyus

Where, then, did the dragon king Ryujin live? In his stone and coral pyramidal palace, Ryu Kyu. And what did divers find off Yonaguni Island in the (ahem) Ryukyu Islands in September of 1996? An underwater, 60-foot high, stone and coral pyramid. And how long ago did the Yonaguni Pyramid sink beneath the black ocean, according to geologists? 10,000 years ago, the date (well, *a* date) of the sinking of Mu. (Maybe that's how prehistoric Japanese Jomon were got to Ecuador a few thousand years back.) Is the Yonaguni Pyramid the Hihirokane cache promised in the Takeguchi documents? Does it hold the dragon king Ryujin, father of the Black

Reptoids, underwater lord of the Black Dragon Society? I can't be the only one having Lovecraftian Deep One flashbacks here. Does the Holy Blood steam and bubble with reptoid DNA passed down from Cthulhu to the Annunaki to Mu to Ainu to samurai clans to the Merovingians, the Assassins, and the yakuza? Dive in and find out.

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