

Historical People

Damien Grace (1980-2130?)

Legendary Irish novelist who rose to prominence in the early 21st century, with his epic three part work *Walking the New World*, which dealt with a normal everyday person dealing with the rapid changes and early transhumanist movement. Renowned for its even handed approach to the issues and its wry humor; if not for its technical accuracy or excessive depth. It remained a feature on almost all university reading lists up until the abandonment of Earth and the Crash.



Grace himself also followed the traditional path of an Irish man of letters, excessive consumption of alcohol, nicotine and stronger substances and multiple marriages. He was cryonically suspended by a group of transhumanist friends in 2061, and reanimated in 2098. His first words on reanimation were 'Ah, yer pack of fuckin bastards'. Rejecting the posthumanist trend on the grounds he couldn't understand a single damn concept, he traveled to Phobos where he set himself up in a modest set of quarters and began producing yet more masterworks set in times of change and its effect on the ordinary man until the 2130's when he vanished from history.

His later works have been mostly lost, as they were regarded as outmoded or tainted with Dysonista propaganda by the dominant MTN culture. The few works that remained (such as *Phobos Panorama* and *Caryle on My Desk*, usually collected as *The Phobos Fragments*) remain treasured in Martian culture and are essential in the Infomerchant canon.

Dayavati Thekkeparambil (1998-2038)

Born in New Delhi and raised in an internationalist environment, she became one of India's best military pilots and served with distinction in the Kashmir War. As a sympathizer to the technoliberateur movement she defected to the Chilean space program. Her skills were highly sought after during the first turbulent years of the flight from Earth. She joined the emergent Mars Mission, and in 2034 (after a drawing of lots) she became the first human to step onto Mars. Her words were: "We dreamt it. We did it".

She remained on Mars for the rest of her life, helping set up Chryse City and doing exploration flights across the planet. In 2038 her plane crashed nearby Radau in Arabia Terra and she died. She lies buried within a concrete tomb on bottom of the crater where she crashed, currently Lake Thekkeparambil. Regarded as a sacred person by the Reunifiers of Aresianism and the Arabians, ceremonies to her honour are performed every Landing Day at her lake tomb.

Doushizeh Vlieër ov Ro-Chinju (2237-)

Xanthian nanoist noble.

Doushizeh grew up in the Worldhouse, training to become an engineering advisor. She belonged to the strongly anti-CSRE movement within the technocracy and argued powerfully for a vigorous rejection of their demands. When they landed anyway she began to organize a "civil society resistance" against them and their culture; she was well aware that their memetic trickery could undermine the Project. As the MTN crumbled despite her best efforts she moved to New Chryse, where she and her followers decided to last out the chaos. She networked with other bases, factions and projects in the vicinity to guarantee that the region would not become a battlefield, and secretly did what she could to keep CSRE factions away from the "pure" Xanthe.

As the Stargazer culture began to spread, she embraced it enthusiastically, seeing it as a chance to restore the Project. She used her influence to bring more of the region into the restoration efforts. During the Stargazer era she and her line-marriage / company family Ro-Chinju were the undisputed leaders of the region. But despite her efforts most of the Xanthian technobles did not accept the Elevation project and instead settled for minor mundane projects. She was enraged and even threatened military retribution for not collaborating in an equitable manner. In the end her threats came to nothing, but having lost much prestige she withdrew from the task of convincing the “deluded Xanthians” that their efforts were needed in space.

The destruction of the Stargazers was an immense personal disaster for her, and she lost her edge to a great extent. Brooding over her double failure she protected her family and their interests, but she did not do anything expansive. For over two hundred Earth years she brooded. Meeting Exner ov Vicuna changed her completely. The techno-historian convinced her of his vision and she began to help him implement it. Far more cautious now than in her previous attempts, she succeeded in bringing about the Council of Myriostos and getting the Xanthian nobility interested. She has since then been one of the clearest and most vocal supporters of the Empire throughout its history, acting as Coordinator in the Imperial Council many times.

She is well-known for being racist about CSRE descendants. She was against the inclusion of the InfomERCHANTS in the Empire, suggesting that they would be a “genetic fifth column”.

Ser Exner Rogmorabu ov Vicuna “The Architect of Empire” (2572-2746)

Techno-historian, sociologist and statesman, the founder of the Xanthian Empire.

Exner was born in Vicuna, a small bunker-city near Tuskegee Bay. Of great intellect and curiosity, he travelled widely to study ancient technology, history and how the people of the past had handled their environment. He visited many of the cities of the west and often stayed at the courts of the technobility as a scholar or infomERCHANT. He became convinced that it was possible to rise above the current sorry state of Martian society through a careful bootstrapping process repeating the industrial revolution back on Earth. His and his students’ suggestions for free trade and cooperation went largely ignored by the selfish nobles of the Margaritifer region, but in Xanthe he found allies (especially the influential matriarch Doushizeh Vlieër ov Ro-Chinju). The Exnerist vision began to take hold, and in 2664 the Council of Myriostos gathered to sketch an empire to bring back prosperity. After much negotiation and compromise a constitution was ironed out, and Xanthe was born.

During the next decades Exner worked ceaselessly to organize the imperial administration, writing copious amounts of guides, tutorials, catechisms and treatises on the aims of the empire, the threats that had to be avoided and how his vision of a growing empire bootstrapping higher civilization could be put into practice. His practical political influence declined over time as new imperial officials came into power, but his influence on the function, philosophy and structure of the empire was universal.

When he died in 2746 he was unanimously mourned and buried within the Museum of New Chryse as a sign that he was a part of Martian history fully on par with the first landings. His enormous book collection was donated to the Imperial Library where it forms the Exner Wing. The fact that a man could have achieved so much is taken as a symbol by many Xanthians to treat men more equally.

Admiral Relili Rytne ov Allemi “The Traitor” (2694-2753)

Xanthian admiral and traitor.

Of east Margaritifer family, admiral Rytne rose quickly through the ranks of the Xanthian army after Allemi voluntarily joined the empire after losing the battle of Loz Island. The admiral showed her impeccable integrity and skill in her campaign against the pirates of Soochow and Pylos, as well as several naval battles in Eos.

In 2752 she was given command of the fifth navy to patrol the Margaritifer region. It remains uncertain whether it was lack of challenge, a perceived snub, a secret wish to revenge the conquest of Allemi or just ambition that led her to rebel. While much of the navy and air force was away in the long conquest of Valles Marineris she began to plan her coup. She gathered loyalists around her, made sure the allegiance of her captains were right and secretly contacted revanchists. In Aries 2753 she struck. Loyalist captains were killed, several garrisons and harbors in the Margaritifer region were bombarded and in many places rebels rose up to attack imperials. The main part of her fleet began to move towards New Chryse, while another section moved into Eos to cut off or delay the hastily called back main force.

The First Battle of Hydrates was indecisive; the defending imperial forces were few and unable to hurt much but could prevent her from approaching New Chryse. Meanwhile the Eos battles were going badly and ships and troops leaking through the blockade. In a desperate and ingenious move she called back the Eos fleet, throwing everything she got at the Hydrates fleet. The Second Battle of Hydrates was bloody but would have ended with her victory had not the aerial navy arrived in time. They utterly destroyed the main part of the rebel fleet, and as they tried to escape to the north they were stopped at Kiangsi by loyalist forces and sunk to a man.

After the rebellion the status of the aerial fleet rose tremendously at the expense of the navy. A general purge of potential “peripheralist traitors” occurred, weakening the role of the provincial nobility in central Xanthian government and forcing them into the local guilds. Her defeat on Gemini 8 is celebrated mainly in Xanthe Proper as “traitor sinking day”, where paper boats are launched on rivers, lakes and the sea and burned or sunk.

Remanel Kolonba "The Hairpin", famous wandering musical genius (?-?)

Remanel Kolonba is a mysterious character that seems to have been wandering the world for centuries. He is recognized by a peculiar hairpin he wears. A common guess is that he is an ancient, since he appears to know much about ancient and pre-Martian music and instruments. Others claim that he doesn't exist, and actually is a number of wandering musicians.