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An e23 Sourcebook for GURPS®





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You don't look at each other on the subway.

- Simon Pegg

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# INTRODUCTION

*GURPS Locations: Metro of Madness* explores Samuel Luke Station, a subway stop that can become part of a city transit system. It is the disquieting magnum opus of a maverick artist, filled with vandalized stone angels and coated with cryptic graffiti . . . a place that has accumulated dark urban legends and fills passersby with curiosity and fear. This *GURPS Fourth Edition* supplement covers the layout and history of Samuel Luke Station, the most prominent people connected

with it, and how this station can play a role in a wide variety of campaigns, especially in illuminated and supernatural settings.

About the Authors

Fade Manley lives in Austin, which she has never quite forgiven for being located in Texas. Despite having designed **SPANC** (**Space Pirate Amazon Ninja Catgirls**) and living with four cats at home, she is not at all obsessed with felines, and she has carefully excised all other mentions of cats but one from this manuscript just to prove that point. She is working on a cliched YA fantasy novel when not wasting all her time on roleplaying games online.

After communicating with customers almost exclusively through e-mail for years, she has become entirely resigned to being addressed as "Mr. Manley" and "Dear sir:" in business communication.

Bevan Thomas lives in Victoria, B.C., where he writes, reads, and ponders the infinite. His articles have appeared in several magazines, including *Knights of the Dinner Table, Webcomics World*, and *Pyramid*, and he has contributed to books published by Bastion Press and White Wolf. Many journeys on Vancouver's metro system inspired this supplement, which was shaped by his love of mythology, conspiracies, gothic adventure, and fringe mysticism. He is writing a pretentious, deeply personal novel, and he hopes to get it published.

Bevan wishes to thank Graham Fox, former head of the British Columbia Rhinoceros Party and a true scholar of the bizarre, for all his help and support. He also expresses gratitude to his brothers Alexander, Gwyn, and Ian for their excellent ideas, and Ryan Elias, whose LARPs served as the initial inspiration for this book.

## **About GURPS**

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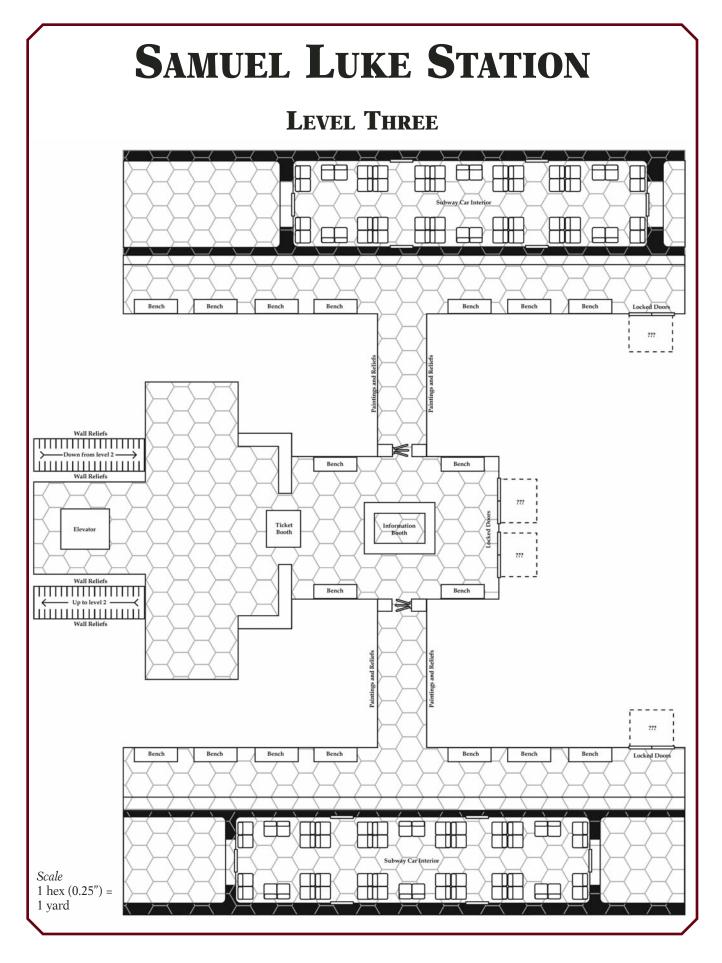
*Errata*. Everyone makes mistakes, including us – but we do our best to fix our errors. Up-to-date errata pages for all *GURPS* releases, including this book, are available on our website – see above.

Rules and statistics in this book are specifically for the *GURPS Basic Set, Fourth Edition.* Page references that begin with B refer to that book, not this one.

Harshly articulate, musical steel shell Of angry worship, hurled religiously Upon your business of humility Into the iron forestries of Hell.

- Allen Tate, "The Subway"

## INTRODUCTION



THE STATION THAT LUKE BUILT

### Variants

McDowell's stats assume that neither Japhet nor Rakkath exist. If, they do, replace Delusion and Phantom Voices with an appropriate Duty, Enemy, and Patron. If Japhet is a real entity, it has imbued McDowell with supernatural power, which could be represented by such advantages as Blessed, Illuminated, True Faith, or even Power Investiture.

## **URBAN EXPLORER**

#### 65 points

You participate in "urban exploration," which means you investigate buildings and other structures that are usually offlimits or hidden from the public. Targets of urban exploration are usually divided into three categories: abandoned sites; buildings in active use; and tunnels, such as steam tunnels, sewers, and transit access corridors. You may specialize in one category, or explore all three with equal enthusiasm.

#### Attributes: ST 10 [0]; DX 11 [20]; IQ 11 [20]; HT 11 [10].

- *Secondary Characteristics:* Damage 1d-2/1d; BL 20 lbs.; HP 10 [0]; Will 11 [0]; Per 13 [10]; FP 12 [3]; Basic Speed 5.50 [0]; Basic Move 5 [0].
- Advantages: 15 points chosen from among Absolute Direction
  [5], Acute Sense [2/level], Contact Group (Urban-explorer community) [Varies], Danger Sense [15], Eidetic Memory
  [5] or Photographic Memory [10], Fearlessness [2/level], Less Sleep [2/level], Luck [15], Night Vision [1/level], Perfect Balance [15], Reputation (Among urban explorers) [Varies], or Single-Minded [5].
- *Disadvantages:* -30 points chosen from among Careful [-1], Curious [-5\*], Imaginative [-1], Impulsiveness [-10\*], Insomniac [-10 or -15], Light Sleeper [-5], Loner [-5\*], Obsession [-5 or -10\*], Overconfidence [-5\*], Shyness [-5 or -10], or Stubbornness [-5].
- Primary Skills: Urban Survival (A) Per+1 [4]-14. Two of Climbing (A) DX+1 [4]-12; Area Knowledge (City) (E) IQ+2 [4]-13; Cartography/TL8, Hidden Lore (any city-related), or Navigation/TL8 (Land), all (A) IQ+1 [4]-12; Geography/TL8 (Regional) (H) IQ [4]-11; Hiking (A) HT+1 [4]-12; or Observation (A) Per+1 [4]-14.
- Secondary Skills: Two of Forced Entry or Jumping, both (E) DX+1 [2]-12; Stealth (A) DX [2]-11; Electronics Operation/TL8 (Security), Fast-Talk, Lockpicking/TL8, Occultism, Photography/TL8, or Research/TL8, all (A) IQ [2]-11; Artist (Graffiti) (H) IQ-1 [2]-10; or Swimming (E) HT+1 [2]-12.
- *Background Skills:* One of Brawling (E) DX [1]-11; Driving/TL8 (any) (A) DX-1 [1]-10; Computer Operation/TL8, Current Affairs/TL8 (any), or First Aid/TL8, all (E) IQ [1]-11; or Running (A) HT-1 [1]-10.

\* Multiplied for self-control number; see p. B120.

## Jordan Spenser

### 144 points

Jordan Spenser is one of the most active urban explorers in the city. He specializes in tunnels, and he has dedicated himself to mapping out the city's entire underground. Spenser is fascinated by Samuel Luke Station and the rumors associated with the it, particularly the idea that someone has concealed a network of tunnels underneath. Thanks to a small inheritance, Jordan gets by with little work, permitting him to focus most of his attention on his explorations. He "marks" various places he has visited with graffiti. He particularly enjoys leaving cryptic messages, such as "The Devil Rides at the Blood Moon." He is responsible for many of the tags in Samuel Luke Station.

Jordan is a frequent commenter on Richard Chan's (pp. 11-12) blog. He knows anyone who spends much time in the station, from the pickpockets to the night custodian. He is willing to make introductions for anyone interested in the station – anyone but figures of authority and law enforcement officers, that is.

At 5'11" and 145 lbs., Jordan is a thin brown-haired man with brown eyes. Spenser, age 25, usually dresses in a long trench coat, wide-brimmed hat, gloves, work clothes, and rubber boots.

We must go beyond textbooks, go out into the bypaths and untrodden depths of the wilderness and travel and explore and tell the world the glories of our journey.

## - John Hope Franklin

## **ST** 10 [0]; **DX** 11 [20]; **IQ** 12 [40]; **HT** 12 [20].

Damage 1d-2/1d; BL 20 lbs.; HP 10 [0]; Will 12 [0]; Per 14 [10]; FP 13 [3].

Basic Speed 5.75 [0]; Basic Move 5 [0]; Dodge 8. 5'11"; 145 lbs.

#### Social Background

*TL:* 8 [0]. *CF:* Western [0]. *Languages:* English (Native) [0].

#### Advantages

Acute Hearing 2 [4]; Contact (Richard Chan; Hobby Skill (Metro)-12; 9 or less; Usually Reliable) [2]; Daredevil [15]; Fear-lessness 3 [6]; Independent Income 5 [5]; Single-Minded [5].

#### Disadvantages

Curious (12) [-5]; Insomniac (Severe) [-15]; Obsession (Discovering what lies below Samuel Luke; 12 or less) [-5]; Stubbornness [-5].

#### Skills

Area Knowledge (The City) (E) IQ+2 [4]-14; Area Knowledge (Neighborhood Around Samuel Luke Station) (E) IQ+3 [8]-15; Artist (Graffiti) (H) IQ-1 [2]-11; Cartography/TL8 (A) IQ+1 [4]-13; Climbing (A) DX+1 [4]-12; Computer Operation/TL8 (E) IQ+1 [2]-13; Driving/TL8 (Automobile) (A) DX-1 [1]-10; First Aid/TL8 (E) IQ [1]-12; Forced Entry (E) DX+1 [2]-12; Geography/TL8 (Regional) (H) IQ [4]-12; Hiking (A) HT [2]-12; Lockpicking/TL8 (A) IQ-1 [1]-11; Navigation/TL8 (Underground) (A) IQ+1 [4]-13; Occultism (A) IQ+1 [4]-13; Research/TL8 (A) IQ+1 [4]-13; Stealth (A) DX+1 [2]-12; Urban Survival (A) Per+1 [4]-15; Writing (A) IQ-1 [1]-11.

## **RAIL SHAMAN**

## 100 points

*Attributes:* ST 9 [-10]; DX 10 [0]; IQ 13 [60]; HT 11 [10].

- *Secondary Characteristics:* Damage 1d-2/1d-1; BL 16 lbs.; HP 10 [2]; Will 13 [0]; Per 13 [0]; FP 13 [6]; Basic Speed 5.25 [0]; Basic Move 5 [0].
- Advantages: Ritual Magery 2 (Pact: Ritualism, -5%) [24]. 30 points chosen from among Ally (familiar) [Varies], Ally Group (other shamans of the same tradition) [Varies], Auto-trance [1], Channeling [10], Language [Varies], Medium [10], Oracle [15], Patron (Spirit Guide) [Varies], Reputation (among mystics) [Varies], Single-Minded [5], Spirit Empathy [10], or Will [5 points/level].
- *Disadvantages:* Disciplines of Faith (Ritualism) [-5]. -35 points chosen from among Bad Temper [-10\*], Curious [-5\*], Delusions [-5, -10, or -15], Duty [Varies], Obsession [-5\* or -10\*], Loner [-5], Phantom Voices [-5, -10, or -15], Secret [-5 to -30], Sense of Duty [-2 to -15], or Wealth (Dead Broke) [-25] or Wealth (Poor) [-15] or Wealth (Struggling) [-5].

- *Primary Skills:* Ritual Magic (Rail Shamanism) (VH) IQ+2 [8]-15†. 22 points in college skills, which will be (VH) IQ+2 [8]-15†, and spells, which will be bought as Hard techniques that default to the associated college skill with +2 for Ritual Magery.
- Secondary Skills: Three of Hidden Lore (Metro), Hidden Lore (Spirit Lore), or Occultism, all (A) IQ [2]-13; Hobby Skill (Metro), Naturalist, Religious Ritual (Rail Shamanism), Symbol Drawing, or Theology (Rail Shamanism), all (H) IQ-1 [2]-12; Herb Lore (VH) IQ-2 [2]-11; Dreaming or Meditation, both (H) Will-1 [2]-12; or Urban Survival (A) Per [2]-13;.
- *Background Skills: Two* of Brawling, Guns (Pistol), or Knife, all (E) DX [1]-10; Staff (A) DX-1 [1]-9; Area Knowledge (any) or Panhandling, both (E) IQ [1]-13; Navigation (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; or Observation (A) Per-1 [1]-12.
  - \* Multiplied for self-control number; see p. B120.
  - † Includes +2 for Ritual Magery.

## **New Spells**

The following new spells would be useful in an urban fantasy campaign centered on Samuel Luke Station or using metro systems regularly.

## Rail Communication

### Regular

Lets a caster who is standing on a rail communicate telepathically with one willing subject located somewhere else along the same rail line (sitting in a station, on a train, etc.). The result is a two-way communication similar to the Telepathy spell (*GURPS Magic*, p. 47), except that the characters' thoughts are not shared, simply the words that they wish to send to the other person. The recipient of the spell may choose to accept or reject the attempt to communicate. If he refuses, the spell ends. The spell also ends if one of the characters is no longer near a rail of the same system.

This a Communication and Empathy spell and Technology (Machine) spell.

Duration: 1 minute. Cost: 4 to cast, 2 to maintain. Time to cast: 5 seconds. Prerequisites: Mind-Sending and Seek Machine/TL (at the metro system's tech level). Prerequisite Count: 6.

### Item

Cap, crown, helmet, or other head-gear. Usable only by mages. *Energy cost to create:* 1,500.

## Rail Teleport (VH)

### Special

This spell allows a caster who is standing on or by a rail to teleport himself to anywhere alongside that particular line. This functions like the Teleport spell (*GURPS Magic*, p. 147) except that the caster is automatically assumed to be familiar with any place along the line, there is no skill penalty no matter how far it is, and the cost is half what it is for a normal Teleport (round up).

This spell belongs to the Gate, Movement, and Technology (Machine) colleges.

Cost: See Teleport, p. 147 of GURPS Magic.

*Prerequisites:* Flight and Seek Machine/TL (at the metro system's tech level).

Prerequisite Count: 4.

#### Item

Staff or wand. Usable only by mages. *Energy cost to create:* 2,000.

Fear has many eyes And can see things underground.

*– Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote* 

## Rail Teleport Other (VH)

Regular; Resisted by Will+1

Same as Teleport Other (p. M147), except that the caster must be beside a rail, and the subject may only be teleported along the rail-line in a manner identical to Rail Teleport.

This spell falls under the Gate, Movement, and Technology (Machine) colleges.

## THE MYSTERIES OF THE TRACKS

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Your destiny's inscribed upon the streets wherein you grew; upon the horse you ride each day . . . Our story's written, Netley, inked in blood long dry, engraved in stone.

– Alan Moore, From Hell

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