

The Sahûl Chronicle

Turn 2

The Emperor is dead. Long live the Emperor!

1456–1460 SA

The use of force is such a poor solution to problems that it is generally employed only by small children and large nations. (Gwariva Laharnes)

Every Turn provides its own share of surprises. Our first Imperial election went very smoothly (something of a relief), with only a token opposition to the winner. It will be interesting to see what the Emperor does with his resulting windfall of IIPs. The conversation on the boards continues to be informative and quite a lot of fun. If you haven't been there lately, I encourage you to check it out.

QUOTE CONTEST: Last Turn's quote was from His Grace, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, in a dispatch from the field of Waterloo (June, 1815). Only three players answered correctly; they now find themselves with an extra HC each. Whosoever guesses the true source of this Turn's quote will likewise receive one heavy cavalry unit. Huzzah!

SIGN UP BONUS: For every paid player you recruit, I will credit your account with two free Turns.

NEXT TURN DUE: MONDAY, 10 MARCH 2008.

FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY

WHITE LOTUS COMPANY—10hi 24mi 22li
Captain: Mistress Chitithi (LA841) IL age 32
Location: Jorun, Drammul Province
Min. Bid: 32gp/Turn

COMPANY OF THE BLACK CLAW—3sc 25hi 15mc
Captain: Tirabinis Arantes (L995W) YG age 38
Location: Nigata, Kordier Province
Min. Bid: 25gp/Turn

RED DRAGON COMPANY—10cv 15pk 30mi
Captain: Tarrid the Fierce (LB66S) UR age 45
Location: Sardarthion
Min. Bid: 30gp/Turn, will not fight Urdans

KNIGHTS OF ST JARRAD—5hc 25mc 8lc HIRED
Captain: Sir Balorri Withini (L976W) TR 42
Location: Cappargarnia, Artier Province

PIRATE ARMADA—2cf 23wf 20tr 8mf HIRED
Commodore: "Wild" Trang (LA94W) YG age 33
Location: Punchedga, Arbedon Province

Lord Adhanggar Drathnes (L76BW) YG age 41
Location: Amoxcali, Tramelis Province
Min. Bid: Make me an offer!
For glory and slaughter!

Western Sahûl

THE KIT'IXI COAST

COUNTY OF TOKATL (10 I/TA)

Her Excellency, Tinikatua IV, Mistress of the Totek Hive, Countess of Tokatl.

Trade: Averon, Chi'tixi, CM, Kachar, Taneki

DP: None

Tinikatua IV, delighted that her large southern neighbour had gone off to kill fellow Yagnarists, continued building infrastructure and investing in her tiny realm's future.

DUCHY OF TANEKI (13 I/YG)

Her Grace, Toktoka II, Mistress of Aketl, Duchess of Taneki, Baroness Ketatl, Imperial Governor of Tramelis.

Trade: Averon, Chi'tixi, Itaxik, Kachar, Pexiki, Tokatl

DP: None

Despite many investments (including two separate investments in the quality of the navy), little improved in the Duchy.

The Taneki Equerries threw themselves into holy war with glee. They poured army after army into Tepeuh and began slaughtering any of the Xinites who would not renounce their heresy.

While the Pexiki in Kisar were almost delicate in their reluctance to genocide, the Taneki positively revelled in it. By 1460, there were over 30,000 Taneki troops in Tepeuh. Although the heretics attempted an uprising, they stood no chance and were quickly crushed. Then, in the summer of that year, the arch-heretic Xin-Sikkath herself arrived in the region at the head of 52,000 holy troops.

The Battle of Kith (1460)

Although greatly outnumbered, the Taneki Equerries displayed nothing but calm resolution. Marshal Chitor took overall command of the force, and she arrayed her infantry near a series of newly-constructed hive forts, keeping the heavy cavalry in reserve. The Xinite force was a core of heavy infantry surrounded by hordes of lighter spearmen. Two great fire bolts shot out from the Xinite lines and exploded among the Taneki infantry, killing perhaps 9,000. The well-led Taneki forces did not break, but simply filled in the gaps in the line.

The Xinites charged dead center and battle was joined. Despite the ferocity and superior numbers of the Xinites, Marshal Chitor's inspired leadership (not to mention battlemagic) won the day. Several of the Xinite leaders were slain, and 37,000 light infantry were mowed down like so much grass. In the end, Xin-Sikkath and some 14,000 of her best troops escaped the slaughter and fled back southwards. The heralds counted about 15,000 Taneki dead. Tepeuh (1011) is now free of heresy.

THE CHURCH MILITANT (13 1/IL)

Her Holiness Aketika VI, Iluvarian Matriarch of the West, Archemandrite of Tikata.

Trade: Averon, Tokatl

DP: None

The Church saved their pennies for a rainy day. And there were a lot of pennies.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (21 51/IL)

His Gracious Majesty, Muldalan II, Lord of Clan Drax, Count of Darida, Imperial Governor of

Dranmul, Lord Admiral of the Green, Electoral Grand Duke of Averon.

Tiketua of Tishrak, Margrave of the North.

Trade: Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, CM, Taneki, Tokatl

DP: Adres (F), Goorin (A)

Grand Duke Muldalan continued his building spree: a road was built from Delin in Torculus through Verdeen to Gannedán in Vendeer. Three new towns were raised. Anliz in Allayda and Tensend in Andren are both ports on Lake Muleen. Bûme is nestled in the mountains of Zinneron near the volcano of Mount Tazhi, which erupted shortly after the town was built. Averese cavalry improved to some of the very best in the world.

A vast Averese airfleet descended in Adres and the baron there quickly swore fealty to the Elector. The armies of T'Cezzk, however, failed to similarly impress the baron of Tueteen.

Princess Jera came of age in 1458. She has proven to have excellent magical aptitudes, as well as an unmatched talent for leadership. She has asked to attend university in the autumn of 1461.

COUNTY OF PEXIKI (16 1/YG)

Her Excellency, Ixix III, Mistress of the Coactoka Hive, Countess of Pexiki, Lady Amoxcali.

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Taneki

DP: None

Determined to wipe the scourge of heresy from Sahuil, Pexiki invaded Xinite Ocuit and offered clemency to any of the inhabitants who would renounce heresy. Few took them up on the offer, and the carnage began. Colonel Nixit's forces were certainly up to the task: in addition to 40,000 infantry supported by 28,000 shambling zombies, a squadron of fifteen airships were available to track the fleeing heretics to their hideouts. As in Kisar, the hilly terrain proved a boon to the enemy, who were able to inflict quite a few zombie casualties. By 1459 there was no enemy left—the population had been utterly exterminated and the priory of Xinitar was reduced to rubble.

It was only at this point that a 36,000-strong Xinite army arrived. Much of it was lightly armoured spearmen. Despite being outnumbered and

outclassed, the crazed Xinites attacked. Although their zombies were fairly well destroyed, the Pexiki drove off the heretics with little trouble. Only a handful of Xinite infantry survived to limp away.

In 1460, a Wenemet mercenary captain named Adhanggar Dranthes arrived in Amoxcali and offered his services to either Pexiki or Taneki in the fight against Xin. Pexiki's government expanded.

THEOCRACY OF XIN (6 I/XN)

Xin-Sikkath, High Priestess of Xincalli, She Who is the Voice and the Arm of the Eternal Eye.

Trade: None

DP: None!

The Xinites attacked! Their foray into Taneki-held Tepeuh was less than optimal. And the less said about Ocut, the better. This second Xinite Crusade is starting out less well than the first.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ITAXIK (23 I/UR)

Her Gracious Majesty, Chass'ika I, Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Electoral Grand Duchess of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West.

Trade: Kachar, Pexiki, Sakkar, Taneki, Yax'te

DP: Michin (F), Tauane (F), Ohoka (AW)

Grand Duchess Chass'ika decided the Renaissance should not be something that happens only to other people. The river port town of Tumani was built in Michin on the eastern frontier, and a road built from there to Yayal, bridging the Xos River in the process. Five priories were constructed throughout the realm, and huge investments made in public works, government, and research. Alas, only naval quality improved. After spilling soup on her enraged host, Lady Notekua hastily fled Ohoka just ahead of an angry mob. She had no better luck in Olya, and much less patience. Her forces pacified the region with little loss, giving Itaxik at last a foothold in the Mictia River Valley.

COUNTY OF KACHAR (9 I/UR)

Her Excellency, Kassa IV, the Shrewd, Mistress of Calpolli, Lady Tchantli, Countess of Kachar, Protector of the Fair Isles.

Trade: Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki, Tokatl, Yax'te

DP: None

Countess Kassa III died in 1457 and was smoothly succeeded by her hive-daughter Kassa IV. The new Kassa has none of the military brilliance or diplomatic skill of her predecessor, but she quickly proved herself a shrewd and capable leader.

BARONY OF SAKKAR (9 IS/IL)

Baroness Neallatalah II of Sakkar, Mistress of Nelhuayotl, Heir of the Prophet, Beloved of the Light of Iluvar.

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Yax'te

DP: None

The frugal and pious Sakkar built two priories to the greater glory of Iluvar and continued to exercise their tough little navy.

ICEMARK OF YAX'TE (11 S/IL)

Margrave Tillein the Silent, Grand Master and Knight-Commander of the Champions of the Renewal.

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Sakkar

DP: None

The Yax'te settled the last of their refugees in the forbidding mountain forests of Zenianthë, bringing that region to (2132)s. The river port towns of Arratet and Gryffindor rose in Otlí and Zenianthë respectively. Two new priories were built for the instruction of the people. The Yax'te were delighted with warm summers and relatively temperate winters.

Thacia and Aret

HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (36 I/YG)

Her Most Puissant Majesty, Xant'ki VIII, the Rapacious, Mistress of Tirrix & the Great Hive, Duchess of Chax and Tix'itikata, Countess Itax, Electoral Queen of Chi'tixi, &c., &c.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averno, Cappargarnia, CotI, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdrahahn

DP: None

The gloriously expanding treasury required the construction of a series of vast bins, where Queen Xant'ki has taken to bathing and swimming in gold and silver coin. Her mania for cash led to the neglect of other matters of state. Unemployment is endemic, and the western reaches have become restive to the point of near anarchy. Banditry is rife, and even traffic on the great royal roads is no longer safe.

DUCHY OF THACE (II S/UR)

His Grace, Biard XIV, Lord Goshtikka-Ourane, Baron of Brennadein, Duke of Thace.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Chi'tixi, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceE

DP: Sponnim (F), Branahim (A)

Herroc expanded and the town of Tharninn was built in Librard just across the Hûrn from Talarû. The government grew to help deal with the new steppe territories that continue to join up.

Duke Willor the wise (and well-loved) died of natural causes in 1458, prompting a vast outcry of grief throughout the duchy. His elephant-rider son ascended the throne as Biard XIV. Almost immediately, changes were noticed as the new duke sought to leave his mark upon Thace. In 1459, a delegation representing Sar Gortahn of the Tigers of Urda visited Ducal Thace, and they were received with all due ceremony at the palace in Ourane. The government has refused to comment on reports the Duke himself has held several closed meetings with the head of the Tigers delegation.

ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (22 S/UR)
His Most Excellent Majesty, Basodir VI, the Bold, Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Imperial Governor of Thacia Minor, Marshal of Thacia, Electoral Count Palatine in Thace.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Golmath, Hyrâgec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, Urdrahâhn

DP: Asremath (F)

The Palatinate under Basodir VI proved itself as forward-thinking as any realm around. The cities of Esenthis and Rhistaun both expanded, and

the towns of Veirsma and Atalar grew into actual cities. The fortress of Inar in Spenna was substantially improved. The bejewelled walls of Snamarthis were improved and expanded to the largest and most comprehensive set of fortifications seen in Sahûl since the time of the first empire. Public works improvements in and around the capital were more than doubled, making Cappargarnia, the former gold standard of civilized urbanity, pale by comparison. Electoral Thace also expanded its military academy and improved skills of its sorcerers.

The suave and debonair Baron Brannis spent some time dining with the witty and charming Baron of Asremath in Veirsma to good effect. The Electorate's army, meanwhile, was engaged in maneuvers in the steppe. Forces commanded by Colonel Jofair and the baron of Forndonim invaded Corund, crushing all resistance, before moving into Esamocia. The Esamocians, expecting an attack from the Tigers for the "misunderstanding" of several years back, were utterly unprepared for an invasion from the north. They did manage to inflict some serious casualties on the 34,000 invaders before being totally overrun.

THE TIGERS OF URDA (I S/TU)

Sar Gortahn, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce.

Trade: We don't trade with infidel or heretics.

DP: Zajë (T), Ensaraneth (F), Beshtria (A), Bellaria (F), Makkalin (F)

Sar Gortahn continued to send his couriers to all corners of the steppe and beyond. High level talks were reportedly held with several heretical realms. Although the Tigers are somewhat uneasy at treating with the infidel, Sar Gortahn has characterized these as "instructions" rather than as "talks".

GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (19 W/UR)

His Grace, Pangku Tramandes the Valiant, Baron Pinyerrel, Grand Duke of All Araxes.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Einandhu (4), Golmath,

Hyrárec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki,
ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Naval and airship quality both improved significantly. The old Grand Duke Kapalless II died in 1456, and his nephew Count Pangku Tramandes of Thangkar dutifully resigned from the tourney circuit and ascended the throne. He quickly promoted supporters from amongst his cadre of tournament knights to positions of high government and justice throughout the land. The young grand duke searches now for a wife, and a noble war with which to test the duchy's strength and courage.

The capital at Pinyerrel expanded, as did Kamu on the Húrn, and some well-received improvements were made to the realm's infrastructure.

COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (15 1/YG)

Her Excellency, T'cha'k IV, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions, Imperial Governor of Artier.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, CotI, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4), Golmath, Hyrárec, Ingazi, Kommolek, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Kicitchat improved the quality of their cavalry and siege, and they invested heavily in public works. They continued to drill their pike.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (14 w/YG)
His Gracious Majesty, Adhanggar Challik III, Count of Odol, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk, Imperial Governor of Ardebon.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Einandhu (4), Golmath, Hyrárec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Grand Duke Challik took time off from his busy schedule of conquest to bulk up the Atuburrk treasury. Despite his open disdain for politics in any form, Challik was reportedly the only candi-

date besides Deric of Aradéc to receive votes in the election of 1458.

Now desperate for funds and a modicum of self-respect and (dare we say it) honour, Adhanggar Dranthes journeyed south.

Central Sahûl

THE HEART OF EMPIRE

ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (16 M/TA)
His Sublime Majesty, Sevas Rand, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, CotI, Duedhyn, Elphárec, Einandhu (4), Golmath, Hyrárec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: Ebmadh (A, see below)

Cappargarnia continued to invest, though only their siege quality improved.

In 1457, the Prince's dissolute and erratic behaviour finally led to trouble, as he vanished from the state palace and was only found the next day in a tavern in the docks district, stone cold dead. The official inquest concluded that he had drank himself to death.

House Anabrin, having no chance at fielding a candidate for Prince due to the bad feelings engendered by the late Prince Caranthes, instead supported House Steene's candidate, a youngster named Dronex. The other Clans, noting that Anabrin and Steene have been trading the Princely honour since 1409, decided that this collusion must stop. The result was a typical Cappargarnian election: supporters of the various noble Clans filled the streets, first in protest and then in riot.

House Tiribissi put forth Admiral Tiribissi Taräe (formerly of the Imperial Blue Fleet) as candidate, but she was subjected to a nasty smear campaign questioning her patriotism as her second cousin is currently serving as Burgrave of Adndar. She withdrew, prompting her supporters to set fire to several shops associated with House Steene, who was thought to have been behind the smears.

The Admiral threw her support behind the only remaining viable non-Steene candidate, the elderly Saurian General, Sevas Rand. The free company of the Knights of St. Jarrad soon appeared in the city with a Steene at their command. Trouble was feared, but command was transferred to Gen. Sevas, charged with the defense of the city, with no trouble or comment. This had the effect of restoring some semblance of order to the city.

The Collegium was seated throughout the long, hot summer of 1457. When they emerged from their seclusion, they announced the election of General Sevas Rand as Prince, the first Saurian to hold the post since the death of his kinsman Sevas Sarrik in 1408. Given his age, most consider him a transitional Prince, and the jockeying for his successor has already begun.

As for Admiral Tiribissi Taräe, she was in Ebmadh, where the Baron's daughter Kieräel had by now fallen in love with a midshipman under the admiral's command, a certain Tiribissi Taric. An alliance was concluded between Cappargarnia and Ebmadh, cemented by a marriage between clans Tiribissi and Sandrim.

CHURCH OF THE ILLIMITABLE (9 TA)
His Great Holiness, Fenric II, the Impenetrable, Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Golluz.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Einandhu (4), Elphárec, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Tiryowglas, ThaceE

DP: None

More and more, Fenric has begun to resemble the living dead, cocooned in an enormous swath of brocade, gold trim, ermine, and bells that could only be described as a hat provided one had an extremely broad definition of the word. His illnesses multiplied beyond reckoning, and his headgear has rendered him immobile. Or perhaps the other way 'round.

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF ADNDAR (14 M/TA)
His Excellency Tiribissi Dranthes, Guildmaster of the Chandlers and Burgrave of Adndar.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4), Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tiryowglas

DP: None

Adndar ran smoothly, raking in the money. Dranthes himself has begun to show some concern about his designated heir, especially since Clan Tiribissi has such a large talent pool from which to draw. Nevertheless, Dranthes Junior is still the heir for now.

THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE

His August & Imperial Majesty, Deric I, Baron of Wanumarra, Electoral King of Aradéc, Sovereign of Sahül, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.

Imperial Influence Points: 32

For trade, see Aradéc. For appointments, see Gazette.

It was snowing when the Emperor summoned me on the morning of my eightieth birthday. It was he who had dismissed me with such contempt fourteen years before, saying that it was time for younger men to serve. Still, I bore him no ill will. Indeed, since he had contracted his final illness, he and I had become companions of a sort, playing chess in the afternoons when he wasn't too tired. It was sad to see his physical decline, which had been quite dramatic. Unlike his father, the Emperor Manandir of blessed memory, Paharnes had always been heavy, but in these last years he had ballooned to something like twenty-five stone. If his gout was agonizing for him, it was a burden too for those who cared for him. The slightest movement of his legs produced howls of pain and anger and frustration.

As I said, I knew the day exactly: it was my eightieth birthday, the ninth of September, 1458. As I waited in the antechamber, I chanced to look up at the brass clock next to the one window in the room, so I knew the time as well: a quarter past

ten in the morning. Through the window I could see snow gently falling from the slate-grey sky onto the already shrouded city.

The door to the Emperor's chamber creaked open. I had expected to see his butler, Charvis, but instead I found myself looking at my successor as Imperial Lord Herald. He scarcely glanced at me as he hurried through the antechamber, all business and haste. I stood as two more figures came through the chamber door, the Lord Chancellor and the Emperor's Saurian physician, Kassik. Their expressions were most grave, and before Doctor Kassik spoke, I already feared his words. "The Emperor is dead."

(From Chapter XII of Remembrances by Master Drevandemes)

Paharnes VII was entombed next to his father Manandir in the Iluvarian chapel of the Mausoleum of Paharnes the Great. The eulogy was given by the emperor's friend and Chancellor, Kwiklyn Kerens. He said, in part, "we mourn the passing of this great leader. Should Prince Sansollen Deric ascend to the Throne, and should He so desireth, I would serve the son as I served the father, so worthy do I feel the son to be. I serve at the Imperial will, or will return home to shell and nest to enjoy my grandchildren. I pray Iluvar will grant the family peace and comfort at this time of loss. Know that an Empire grieves with you. It is important to remember that for the great office he held, he was also a great Wenemet. We mourn the loss of our Emperor and our symbol of unity. You mourn your husband, father, brother and grandfather."

Thirty days after the Emperor's death, the Electoral proxies and representatives descended on the Imperial Palace at dawn. They were met on the palace steps by Count Kwiklyn Kerens III of Tiryowglas, Chancellor of the Empire, flanked by armed guards of the Emerald Watch. In the chill morning air, the Chancellor administered the oath to the envoys and then led them inside to that ancient imperial audience hall known as the Blue Chamber.

Floored in the deep blue Kranthic marble that gave the room its name and lit with the sorcerous lights of nine great hanging lanterns, it stood three stories tall. Delicately cracked blood red columns supported two balconies and a choir loft on their dizzying way to the vaulted ceiling. At one end of the great hall were massive doors, ornately carved from a single Aradécan cedar. At the other end of the hall, facing the ancient doors, was a deceptively simple iron chair flanked by golden lion statues. It was set upon a stone dais cut with three shallow steps, worn round and smooth by millennia of supplicants.

Like many other wonders contained in the ancient palace, the simplicity of the throne was a lie. During Imperial audiences on state occasions, all of the envoys had seen it when the works were set into motion. They had seen the bronze branches with their chirping mechanical birds unfold from the sides of the throne as it rose majestically into the air. They had seen the golden lion statues on either side roll their eyes and roar with opened mouth and quivering tongue. But just now, the magnificent mechanical marvel was as silent and still as its former occupant.

All other furniture had been cleared from the Chamber except for nine roughly-hewn chairs set around a circular table, carved with an intricate design depicting the Nine Sacred Animals. After each envoy had taken their seat, the Chancellor read the *Golden Edict* to the envoys and then set his badge of office in the center of the table. With the Emperor dead, and his electoral duties fulfilled, the Chancellor's term of office had run its course, and after nearly twenty years of service Kwiklyn Kerens could at last go home. He left the Chamber, and soldiers of the Emerald Watch sealed the great door behind him.

After all the build-up, the actual election was anti-climax. Just two hours later, the great doors creaked open, and the envoy from Zarkhandu (traditionally the ceremonial head of the Convocation) intoned the ancient formula: "long live the unanimously elected Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the

Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World, His August and Imperial Majesty, Sansollen Deric of Aradéc!”

In the autumn of 1460, the new Emperor arrived in Sardarthion. In view of the ancient aristocracy of the Imperial capital, the Electoral envoys, the Tiger King of Arms, and representatives from all over the continent*, the Matriarch of Moiraglis placed the crown of Paharnes the Great on the noble head of Sansollen Deric, now the 24th ruler of the Second Empire of Sahûl.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (10 S/RA)

His Highness, Prince Tewas III of Duedhyn, Baron Dhanos, Hereditary Marshal of the Order of the Sacred Raven.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Einandhu (4), Elphárec, IOC, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Tiryowglas,

DP: Kothonan (F), Gwydhen (F)

Prince Dallyn, perhaps feeling his mortality slipping away, ordered the construction of three Raven priories throughout his devout realm. A sorcerous college, named after the Prince, was endowed in Pareis. Sure enough, just a few days shy of his 74th birthday in 1456, Prince Dallyn II passed to the Summer Lands. He was succeeded by his sister’s son Tewas. Prince Tewas II reigned for only three years before he, too, died of natural causes. The new Prince is Tewas’s nephew, also named Tewas. The Dhanos family tree is getting mighty thin, and there’s talk that the law may be amended to provide for patrilineal succession.

BARONY OF FELL KOMMOLEK (17 M/YG)

Baron Goesek Terthynn of Kommolek, Lord Treskaw, Burgrave of Fair Belsûnd.

Trade: Aradéc, Kicitchat, CotI, Elphárec, Hyrárec

DP: None

Baron Annavas died in 1456, and his son, the dashing and talented Lord Terthynn, ascended to the throne with nary a peep from the cowed Yag-

* Including Lord Ottersmic (a university student from Elphárec), and the visiting heir of Ingazi, Lord Gwariva Laharnes.

narist lords. Feeling it might be best to settle down, Terthynn married in 1457. The baroness soon gave birth to twin boys, named Annavas and Andel after their grandfathers.

COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (12 M/IL)

His Excellency, Count Kerens III, Baron Kwilkyn, Count of Tiryowglas, Defender of the Faith.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Cappargarnia, CotI, Duedyn, Einandhu (4), Elphárec, Hyrárec, IOC, Murali

DP: Annedor (F)

With the election of a new Emperor, Count Kerens is no longer Chancellor unless and until he is appointed to the position again. In his last years of regency, Lord Sarrik sent many, many missionaries into Urdan Tamris, converting most of the population to the worship of Iluvar. Two towns were built along the Old South Road: Kerghen in Garwel and the port of Grunnen in Trynnor.

Inspired by his growing brood, Lord Sarrik wrote a treatise on the virtues of marriage and family life that was published in Eidis in 1459. The government declared 1460 “the Year of the Family”, and tax breaks were provided for families, including gifts for new births. The incentives proved... popular.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (21 IL)

His All Holiness, Harmony VII, Pontiff of Sistrameides, Archemandrite of Ilúhir.

Trade: Aradéc, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4), Elphárec, Hyrárec

DP: None

Pope Harmony concluded a concordat with Tiryowglas, and the cathedral of Heyji rose in Garwel near the new town of Kerghen. The Pope continues to plod along at age 78, something of a feat these days.

MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (20 W/IL)

His Grace, Eparreb Caranthes IV, the Pious, Count of Angúron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4), Hyrárec, Ingazi, IOC, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Tiryowglas

DP: Neri (A)

The market town of Stolland rose in Tamar in the shadow of Imarran Cathedral. Sandrapras expanded, and an Iluvarian priory was built in honour of the late Duke Tashnes in Mungg. Iluvarian missionaries in Urdan Kalipara, though well funded, only succeeded in converting about half of the natives.

KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (15 W/UR)

Her Valiant Majesty Irrjir Sardira, the Virgin Queen, Reigning Queen of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Elphárec, Golmath, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Following a stirring speech of thanks by the queen, the great clans and their armies returned to their homes. The glorious reign of Queen Sardira commenced with new public works projects built in every corner of the Kingdom. The queen, in between her various royal duties, attended the Pahasar Military Academy. In a word, Hyrágec was tranquil.

The Gawan Peninsula:
THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (12 W/UR)

His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Razhim IX, the Competent, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Count Palatine of Ingazi.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, Kicitchat, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

DP: Yundra (F), Yali (T), Ardhalca (A), Maltyarri (F), Dara (F), Marnayi (F), Kattri (T)

Razhim's cousin and heir Laharnes, fresh from his studies at the Ingazi Diplomatic Academy, set out for Sardarthion and had many adventures. His small trading fleet of fifteen vessels had a run-in with some pirates just off the eastern coast of Atuburrk. They stopped at Zadres to see the won-

ders of that city (finding Laharnes a wife in the process), before sailing up the Byrrin on a Grand Tour, stopping briefly in Einandhu before ending in Sardarthion, where Lord Laharnes witnessed the coronation of Emperor Deric and personally conveyed his fealty and best wishes on behalf of his cousin, the Count Palatine.

Razhim himself, meanwhile, sent diplomats loaded with large piles of cash in small, easy-to-carry bags throughout the independent Urdan prefectures to the north. Perhaps it was their alarm at Golmath's antics, or perhaps it was the aforementioned piles of cash they spread around like cheap butter on stale bread, but many Urdans flocked to Ingazi's hitherto uninspiring banner. In five short years, the County Palatine nearly doubled in size. Ingazi also announced a new accord with their western neighbours in Hyrágec, fixing their common border and providing for mutual defense.

The whispered word in the corridors of Dinkumbi (and elsewhere to be sure) indicate that these two cousins, cut very much from the same cloth, are a wonder not seen in Ingazi in many centuries: competent rulers.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (25.8 UR)

Her All-Holiness Ardonia XIV, Claw of the Dragon, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceE

DP: None

The First Matriarch called for a measured response to the Golmathi atrocities of past years, placing blame not on Golmath itself, but rather on Captain-General Biswajit "the Butcher of Walu", upon whom she demanded justice. Trade with Golmath was restored.

In other news, the volcano of Pupini was extremely active, and a small Hyrágecan air flotilla arrived in Urdraháhn on a goodwill tour.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF GOLMATH (18 W/TA)
His Gracious Majesty, Walarri Sardhan III, Baron of Madran and Kamadhi, Count of Agdora, Elector and Grand Duke of Golmath.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk,
Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, CotI, Einandhu (4),
Hyrárec, Ingazi, Kititchat, Murali,
Runazar, Sidith (2), ThaceE, Urdraháhn,
Zarkhandu

DP: Yiannis (AW), Marniyi (F)

Golmath built the town of Ipirri on the road in Kukuni, as well as two Tarotist priories. Engineers helped to clear out large sections of Agdora of the Caves of Kai. The effort was frustrated by frequent cave-ins and constant reports of ghosts and other spectral activity. Still, the work proceeds.

Tarotist missionaries swept through the Grand Duchy's Yagnarist tributaries. About half of the populations of Kurdayi and Dalawathi converted, as did a majority of Ardanyi. Similar attempts in Thirri failed utterly. Missionaries from the Church of the Illimitable tramped up and down in Dambiyi (where they were extremely successful) and Minyappa (where they were not).

Pirates mercilessly pillaged Urdan Yukarra, and Captain-General Biswajit and his army, now doubled in size, forced tribute from the region shortly thereafter.

Trouble was also brewing in nearby Kulkupa. Following raids and pillaging of the vilest and most violent sort from the marauding pirate fleet, the people were comforted and supported by a number of wandering Urdan friars and other religious vagabonds. Details are sketchy, but in 1457 the harvest tribute was not paid. Golmathi officials went to investigate, and they reported huge parades of people, miles long, streaming from every village and even the city of Pudyagapa. They were all dressed in penitential robes of sackcloth, their heads covered in ashes, and they were all walking south. The officials were absolutely terrified by the sight, as every man woman and child walked with their head bowed and in utter silence. Even when they took their meals, there was no voice raised in speech. By the next year, the various groups had

coalesced into a single vast pilgrimage, emptying the region. As they trudged through Dalkurnu, they began to chant, a baleful and melancholy song, which they continued during every waking hour until they crossed the border into Gawanyi in late 1460. Later Golmathi investigations proved the prefecture utterly abandoned, and the city of Pudyagapa completely and eerily empty.

The Red Fleet under its comically inept Runazari Vice-Admiral made a state visit to the city of Golmath in 1459. The Vice-Admiral was exceptionally polite, if a bit dim; he had clearly been picked for his charm rather than for any military ability. Some whispered that perhaps he was chosen for the job just to get his special brand of incompetence out of the country. As they were leaving, the vessels attempted the traditional salute of sailors from the yardarms, resulting in the collision of several vessels. Traffic in and out of the port was tied up for days as the hapless commander attempted to extricate his ships. Eventually, they had to scuttle one entirely. It was not the most edifying display of seamanship.

The doddering old Grand Duke died later that year (some say of laughter). His son quickly seized the reigns of power, killed a few skulking nobles (mostly to make a point), and took personal command of the armed forces. He's not nearly so talented a ruler as his father, but he's just as ruthless, if not more so. There were no rebellions.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (31+11 W/IL)
His Majesty, Prince Sansollen Dirharn, Prince-Regent of Aradéc.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia,
Chi'tixi, CotI, Duedhyn, Einandhu (4),
Elphárec, Golmath, Kicitchat, Hyrárec,
Ingazi, IOC, Kommolek, Murali,
Runazar, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn,
Zarkhandu

DP: Kuhlhara (F)

For a month following the death of his father, Prince Deric was known as King Deric II. Thereafter, he became Emperor Deric I. His brilliant (if not entirely personable) son Dirharn, elevated by

the Sansollen Clan mothers to heir, now reigns as Prince-Regent of Aradéc. Dirharn immediately re-stored command of the Armada to his great-aunt, the venerable Admiral Dagamiri, to the roaring drunken approval of thousands of sailors and the nodding approbation of captains and officers everywhere.

The continuing and massive investment programme paid off handsomely; infantry and naval quality improved, and the government expanded. Roads were constructed from Darnuldeis into Dalád and Napamiri, and a modest expansion of the navy was approved. Many public works projects were undertaken in the core prefectures. Iluvarian missionaries went to Kudirri, converting the majority of the population.

COUNTY OF MURALI (7 W/TA)

His Excellency, Kilyara Drathnes II, the Lumberjack, Baron of Karrka, Count of Murali.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Runazar, Sidith (2),

Tiryowglas, Zarkhandu

DP: Parkirri (F), Dinsadon (A)

Murali, ever cautious, slowly expanded to the Antean River. Air and naval forces made their presence felt in Parkirri. The locals were initially put off by the display, but once the Murali started giving airship rides to the local children, Parkirri's baron signed right up. Karrka was expanded, and various modest public works projects undertaken. Drathnes the Lumberjack, now in his late 60s, has so far dismissed any notion of retiring from the tree-felling business.

ꝺ Chihl Zarkhu ꝺ

IN THE SHADOW OF YARNI-ZA

COUNTY OF RUNAZAR (17 W/TA)

His Excellency, the Volpel Anu Zhotek Re, Baron Volpel & Count of Runazar, Lord Admiral of the Red.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Murali, Sidith (2),
Zarkhandu

DP: Nope

The Count sought a vision from the Hidden Lords and sequestered himself from all and sundry, bearing a troubled look. Many of the other leaders also bear a troubled, haunted expression. Two fortresses were raised, Daku in Slith and Rhetan in Zadrok, the better to defend the realm.

Meanwhile, Count Zhotek is eighty-five years old and still going strong.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ZARKHANDU (34 S/YG)
His Great & Terrible Majesty, Onin Zhur, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyáglión, Imperial Governor of Kanapad, Thebia, & Yann, Electoral King of Zarkhandu.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Murali, Runazar, Sidith (2)

DP: Ziman-Dáth (F), Mekellen (T), Taizhir (A),
Ziman-Hen (A)

King Onin Zhur announced their support of the Imperial pretensions of House Sansollen "according to the Conference of Vúhlath".

Slave labour added a new branch to the Old South Road, extending it from Ziman through Cuppar to meet up with the main Zarkhandu road network at Inzana in Meenath. Four priories were constructed, and an agreement was reached with the "Fraternal Order of the Black Monks of Ozahn" (F.O.B.M.O.), whereby their ancient (and most decrepit) fortress of Arsakath was turned over to the King in return for a new meeting hall and a retirement fund.

A Zarkhandu army moved up the Old South Road (keeping a weather eye out for any dragons), finally ending in Hallek, where the local warlord greeted them politely, but asked that they leave just as soon as possible. Yagnarist missionaries in the same region were met with skepticism at best.

Sorcery improved and the government expanded.

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IMPERIAL GAZETTE

Published by the Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heraldry by Appointment to His Imperial Majesty



APPOINTMENTS

To Governor of Dranmul: Electoral Grand Duke Muldulan II of Averon.

To Governor of Kanapad, Thebia, & Yann: Electoral King Onin Zhur of Zarkhandu.

To Governor of Narchoal: *by examination*.

To Governor of Thacia Minor: Electoral Count Palatine Basodir VI of Thace.

OPEN OFFICES

Due to death or incapacitation of the previous office-holders, the following are now vacant:

Governors of Chos, Kastier, Larloc, Sardior, Tepalis.
Lord Admiral of the Blue.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

<i>Province</i>	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Governor</i>
Agador	bureaucrat	Kembul	bureaucrat
Anabreis	bureaucrat	Kiermon	bureaucrat
Aradaun	bureaucrat	Kinsidan	bureaucrat
Arador	bureaucrat	Kordier	bureaucrat
Ardebon	Atuburrk	Kumarand	bureaucrat
Artier	Kicitchat	Lambris	bureaucrat
Balashan	bureaucrat	Larloc	vacant
Belegarid.	bureaucrat	Mondahan	bureaucrat
Biralis	bureaucrat	Muralis	bureaucrat
Chos	vacant	Narchoal	bureaucrat
Dorthacia	bureaucrat	Nauatidran	bureaucrat
Dranchoal	bureaucrat	Orinos	bureaucrat
Dranmul	Averon	Sachon	bureaucrat
Drazhan	bureaucrat	Sardior	vacant
Endior	bureaucrat	Sistramidior	bureaucrat
Iantier	bureaucrat	Tepalis	vacant
Iasedior	bureaucrat	ThaciaMaior	bureaucrat
Kaidu	bureaucrat	ThaciaMinor	ThaceE
Kanapad	Zarkhan.	Thebia	Zarkhan.
Kanmul	bureaucrat	Tramelis	Taneki
Kaparis	bureaucrat	Withidan	bureaucrat
Kassaria	bureaucrat	Yann	Zarkhan.
Kastier	vacant		

In addition, the Emperor is to appoint a Chancellor of the Empire.

IMPERIAL STRENGTH INDEX

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	E-mail	ISI
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The Great Powers

1	Aradéc / Emperor ...	Charles Hurst	Xanthi.....	charlesh@teleport.com	1,131.4
2	Chitixi.....	Steve Cagg	Priest King.....	ragnarstation@hotmail.com.....	978.3
3	Averon	Kevin Lawrence	Averon Inc.....	privatej67@yahoo.com	852.5
4	Zarkhandu.....	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood.....	tmoriarty@gmail.com	689.3
5	Church U&T	Jacqueline Brasfield	Amphigori.....	crabbycupcakes@gmail.com	679.8

Major Powers

6	Thace, Elector	Nuno da Silva	Nuno	ndasilva23@hotmail.com	671.4
7	Itaxik.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	634.0
8	Golmath	Paul Flinton	Free Beer	cruentidei@gmail.com.....	619.7
9	Araxes.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	614.1
10	Cappargarnia.....	David Adams	seattleda	seattleda@yahoo.com	604.0
11	Atuburrk	Ian Andrews.....	Seneschal	in.carcosa@gmail.com	542.1
12	Pexiki	John Schmid	Magus	magus@spellcaster.org.....	518.8
13	Taneki	Ed Allen.....	Malathion	tgroove@earthlink.net.....	516.3
14	Elphárec.....	Josh Buchanan	joshb.....	joshinstl@yahoo.com	508.2

Minor Powers

15	Duedhyn	Alex James.....	Clan Dhanos of Duedyn	ClanDhanos@yahoo.com	495.2
16	Adndar.....	Joel Halfwassen	joelevan	joel@interserv.com.....	488.5
17	Kommolek.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	485.3
18	Kicitchat.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	484.0
19	Runazar.....	Steve Speyer	Rogue Cleric	sespeyer@cox.net	476.0
20	Tiryowglas	Mike Johnson	Minister of Defense	printermanmn@aol.com	472.8
21	Hyrágec	S. Michael Kelley.....	angel_lord	archangelkelley@gmail.com	448.6
22	Thacé, Duchy.....	Jake Roberts	Jake	jakeroberts1@cox.net.....	354.8

Miscellaneous Rabble

23	Ingazi	Harry Jago	jago.....	jagoh@yahoo.com.....	340.8
24	Church Militant	open for a player .....	.....	.....	317.6
25	IOC	open for a player .....	.....	.....	316.7
26	Murali.....	Corey Snow.....	Cyclometh	cyclometh@gmail.com	295.2
27	Tokatl.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	284.1
28	CotI	open for a player .....	.....	.....	277.4
29	Yax'te.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	259.5
30	Kachar.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	256.4
31	Tigers.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	233.4
32	Sakkar.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	231.6
33	Unholy Xin	open for a player .....	.....	.....	180.3



