

The Sahûl Chronicle

Turn 8

1486–1490 SA

May the peace between Cappargarnia and Duedhyn last a thousand years.

(Prince Dallyn of Duedhyn)

Death to the Tarotists!

(the Raven Prophet Barugh)

EVEN NOW IT'S DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE just how long this Turn has taken. I deeply apologise, and as a token to your patience, Turn 9 will be free. Since the last Turn I've endured a kitchen flood, the hospitalization of my son Tristan, and no less than six out-of-state trips for work. God willing, the coming year will be a little less *interesting*. Once again, I thank you for your patience and dedication.

There is continuing confusion about trade and movement in the Byrrin River. The *Lower Byrrin* runs from the Western Gulf of Iphil to the city of Adndar. The *Upper Byrrin* runs from Adndar to Sardarthion. So, for example, if your only outlet to the sea is on Lake Sardath, you *cannot* trade by sea with someone whose only outlet to the sea is the Western Gulf of Iphil, no matter how much you may want to. Truly.

The Rules Supplements are now in effect. Accordingly, all Primacies that possess Universities now find themselves proud owners of a Theological College as well.

NEXT TURN DUE: FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2009.

FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY &C.

COMPANY OF THE BLACK CLAW—3sc 25hi 20mc
Captain: Tirabinis Arantes (L995w) YG age 68
Location: Tichiir, Iantier Province
Min. Bid: 65gp/Turn

WHITE LOTUS COMPANY—10hi 25mi 2li
Captain: Mistress Exata (L993i) IL age 44
Location: Atch'tik, Artier Province
Min. Bid: 120gp/Turn / HIRED

DAREIN'S DESTROYERS—3hc 35mi 20li 19mc
Captain: Darein Gorthes (LA84w) TR age 36
Location: Tapori, Biralis Province
Min. Bid: 100gp/Turn / HIRED

RED DRAGON COMPANY—10cv 15pk 30mi
Captain: Tarrid the Fiercer (LA69s) UR age 45
Location: Somewhere in Ingazi
Min. Bid: 30gp/Turn / HIRED

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

IMPERIAL BANK OF EINANDHU
Location: Einandhu
Available to borrow: 470 GP
(No single borrower may borrow more than 700 GP)

Investors may purchase shares in the Imperial Free City of Einandhu for 200 GP each, all profits to be divided by shares. Rule 10.5.2 investment income accrues normally. The four chief shareholders, together with the Tiger King of Arms, form the board of directors (indicated * below).

Shares:

House Gwariva of Ingazi 2*
House Pangku of Araxes 3*
House Sakkath of Zarkhandu 2*
Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heralds... 3*
Guilds Council of Adndar 4*
Printers Guild of Zadres 1

Loans: Cappargarnia (600/t10), Duedhyn (600/t10)

BANK OF ITAXIK

Location: Itaxik
Available to borrow: 1157.6 GP

Loans: None outstanding

Western Sahul

THE KIT'IXI COAST

COUNTY OF TOKATL (13 I/TA)

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

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

DP: None

Tinikatua built up Tokatl's strapping navy and sent her ships hither and thither. Mostly they went hither, but there were a few that made it to thither. Naval quality improved.

DUCHY OF TANEKI (13 I/YG)

Her Grace, Toktoka III, the Mistress of Aketl, Duchess of Taneki, Baroness Ketatl.

Trade: Averon, Chi'tixi, Itaxik, Kachar, Pexiki, Sakkar, Tokatl, Yax'te

DP: None

Taneki woke up and got to work. Both Suntzah and Koten were colonized. There was very little resistance, though reports of secret Xinite convocations in distant villages continue to surface.

In the capital of Aketl, some 160 stone golems participated in the annual Victory Parade in 1490, much to the delight of the children. Reports of mass shamblings in the south were probably exaggerated. Infantry quality improved.

THE CHURCH MILITANT (13 I/IL)

Her Holiness Aketika IX, Iluvarian Matriarch of the Weŝ, Archemandrite of Tikata.

Trade: Araxes, Averon, ThaceD, Tokatl

DP: None

The Church Bureaucratic's paralysis was deepened with the death in rapid succession of the ancient Aketika VII in 1488, followed by the merely venerable Aketika VIII the next year.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (23 SI/IL)

Her Gracious Majesty, Jera III, Lady of Clan Drax, Countess of Darida, Lord Admiral of the Green, Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon.

Tiketua III of Tishrak, Margrave of the North.

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

DP: None

The wildly popular (and charming and wise and regal) Grand Duchess Jera had some terrible luck. Despite her best efforts (and piles of cash) none of her realm's investments seem to have paid off. Then, in 1487, Duke-Consort Larret Crookbeak choked on a fish bone during a state dinner and expired on the spot. The devastated Grand Duchess took to wearing white mourning clothes, and she has thus far shown no inclination to remove them. Even her constant companion the Deva Sirrix has been moping about. In the late Duke Consort's memory, two priories were built and a naval academy was established in Delin, Torculis.

By 1488 the remaining buildings around the mysterious marble arch in Kongros had been leveled. The Grand Duchess roused from her mourning bed and, in consultation with her advisors, began the process of activating the ancient magical gate. When the day finally arrived, the gleaming white¹ marble edifice was ceremoniously powered up, and the empty air of the great archway suddenly crackled with glowing bands of blue lightning. A single volunteer, the luckless Baron of Goorin², armed with an Imperial banner and some trail mix, stepped through. He was never heard of again. His younger brother, the new Baron of Goorin, seems like a stout fellow.

A small military expedition into the wastes of Dorozhand encountered no inhabitants, though the troops there report the uneasy feeling of being constantly watched. Of the 3,500 infantry that set out across the hash and forboding terrain, a scant

1 This *is* Averon after all; they polished that sucker until it practically glowed at night.

2 Yes, *that* Baron of Goorin. His 8,000 advisors hung around Kongros and drank. A lot.

2,000 archers survived to reach the expedition's goal of the eerie ruins of Golthoth the Damned.

PANTUN: A TALE OF THE DESERT

Three hooded Saurians rode through the high desert of Pantun. Everywhere they went, they were shunned. From oasis to oasis they rode. At each they found nomads with their goats and sheep and horses. And always, the nomads packed up their belongings and left the moment the three strangers arrived. On one occasion, a stray lamb wandered up to the strangers. When its owner recovered it, he carried it out into the desert, slit its throat, and abandoned it there to bleed out into the sands.

One night, the strangers were caught in a vicious sandstorm. During the height of the storm, they stumbled into the oasis of Thârn. They arrived to find a small nomadic encampment, consisting of a single family of perhaps twenty and their animals. The three strangers sought refuge with them and in loud voices appealed for hospitality. The law of the steppe required compliance.

The three shared the tent of Kenar, the elderly patriarch of the family. He sent his wives to shelter with their children, and he alone shared a meal of flatbread and dates with the strangers. After the strangers profusely thanked the old Saurian, no one spoke for hours. Finally one of the strangers asked, "why did you take us in when so many have shunned us?"

Kenar shrugged. "I am old, and I would likely die before the next solstice in any event. The curse frightens me no more."

"Curse?"

"The curse of Iluvar. We shall speak of it no more in the presence of the deva."

And with that, one of the three strangers began to stand, but his companion stopped him with a touch on his arm.

The third stranger addressed the old Saurian, "I am no Iluvarian. Your people profess Urda, and yet I see no shrine, no holy writ, not even the smallest statue or icon in your tent."

The old Saurian snorted. "Urda would not have us after the curse. No god will. Go back to your cities and your riches and your *gods*. Go back and tell them. For centuries we were forsaken. After all this time, there is nothing we want of you but to leave us alone and in peace."

After that, no one spoke again. In the morning, the storm having passed, the three hooded strangers rode out into the desert. Behind them, Kenar set fire to his tent and entered it to die.

COUNTY OF PEXIKI (19 I/YG)

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

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Taneki

DP: None.

Countess Ixix IV roused herself to action. She arranged a series of broad investments, though she did little to curb the growing unemployment endemic in her realm.

ELECTORAL PRINCIPALITY OF ITAXIK (29 I/UR)

Lady Tis'chak Yautlatoaya, Regent of Itaxik.

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

DP: Nechyetti (F), Iteamik (A), Onnok (T), Tekkulti (A), Tona (F)

Itaxik mended fences. Five thousand crowns were sent to the proprietor of the Smiling Stoat Inn in Chilyohan. He immediately opened two more inns and began franchising. Similar diplomatic efforts were pursued in the Ormic Hills, where the secretive Saurian monastic brotherhood that rules there were plied with gold. The Itaxik program of sending heavily armed diplomatic legations through the Miçtian River valley continued apace. In Onnok, Itaxik diplomats ran into a very large Sakkar delegation led by Baroness Neallatalah herself. The two competing legations were very polite with each other (and the Baroness herself was extremely charming), but in the end the Onnok allowed themselves to be persuaded by the Itaxik envoy, Lady Notekua.

The Corps of Engineers having had a lot of deadwood cleared out, a road was built from Yautiua

in Notekua into Tauane. Itaxik began rebuilding efforts in the long ruined city of Koatetel in Chilyohan. It is now a port town with some very impressive architecture. The Countess of Pehuatoka reportedly threw a fit.

During diplomatic efforts in Nechyetti, Lady Nabari was on more than one occasion discovered wandering the empty streets of ruined Kwiayutal, speaking with long-dead figures that no one else could see. On each occasion, her attention was returned to the real world with some difficulty. She did, however, reveal the location of a long-lost library there.

Work continued on building glass houses. They hardly ever shatter during the winter nowadays.

COUNTY OF KACHAR (15 I/UR)

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

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

DP: None.

Tauatl's garrison rebelled from Kachar, and all traffic in or out of the region has effectively ceased. Kachar's government seems to be in the middle of a crisis of confidence.

BARONY OF SAKKAR (11 IS/IL)

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

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Taneki, Yax'te

DP: Popuks (T)

The frugal and pious Sakkar expanded! A long line of colonists and monks were sent to Kwes-ta, which is now (3122I) and features a new priory and the reconstructed port town of Akki.

A state visit by the Baroness to Onnok was interrupted by the Itaxik envoy, Lady Notekua. A diplomatic envoy to Pehuatoka was going rather well, until the Countess of Pehuatoka realized that she was being asked to pay tribute to Sakkar, rather than the other way around. At that point, the Sakkar envoy was escorted out of the palace. And the Pehuatokans were *not* very polite about it, either.

The Sakkari noted the presence of other foreign diplomats in the region, but apparently they weren't particularly successful, either.

ICEMARK OF YAX'TE (15 S/IL)

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

Trade: Itaxik, Kachar, Sakkar, Taneki

DP: None

The Icemark expanded the cities of Yoltet and Firreltet, strengthening the growing burgher and merchant classes. Despite investments in sorcery, military, and government, nothing improved appreciably.

Thacia & Aret

THE HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (35 I/YG)

Her Most Puissant Maješty, Antaxi v, the Pleasant, Mistress of Tirrix & the Great Hive, Duchess of Chax and Tix'itikata, Countess Itax, Electoral Queen of Chi'tixi, &c., &c.

Her Excellency, Tannix IV, Lady Ch'tort, Countess of Cærrat, Vice-regent of Western Chi'tixi.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Averno, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: Tórikkah (T), Kirakata (T), Fessun (T), Tikkah (T)

The fearsome Chi'tixi continued their by now traditional regimen of investment. Infantry again improved, to the best on the continent, and the government expanded. Many thought it was about time. Two priories were built, significantly increasing the percentage of Chi'tixi Prefectures containing a religious site.

Antaxi IV died of spleen failure in 1489. She was quickly followed in death by Countess Tannix of Cærrat. Both successions were smooth, much to the relief of the Chi'tixi.

Meanwhile, the navy continued their blockade duties in the Cappargarnian war.

DUCHY OF THACE (19 S/UR)

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

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Averno, Chi'tixi, CM, Ingazi, Hyrágec, ID, Kicitchat, ThaceE, Tigers, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: Twein (F), Nottesan (A)

The elderly Duke Biard continued to focus on internal development, principally public works. He also ordered the improvement of the military academy at Ourane, and he oversaw the expansion of the towns of Beregem and Herründ into cities. A new town, called Khînd, rose in the steppes of Senetar.

Lord Garrik of Nottesan grew a spine and put down an Iluvarian uprising through blood and steel. Only once his power was unquestioned did he pledge fealty to the Duke of Thace. He is known as Garrik the Bloody, and he is deeply unpopular.

ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (28 S/UR)

His Most Excellent Maješty, Ebalondrir IV, the Mighty, Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Marshal of Thacia, Governor of Thacia Maior & Minor, Electoral Count Palatine in Thace.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Averno, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, Tigers, Urdraháhn

DP: None

Ebalondrir Lax was afflicted by troubling opium dreams in early 1486 from which he would wake up screaming and bathed in sweat. For several weeks, this continued. Finally, one of his servants ventured to ask him upon waking what it was that tormented him so. He grew increasingly vehement and increasingly lucid as he answered. And his reply changed everything.

"I see blood. Rivers of blood. Blood of the future, blood of the past. Blood of Saurian and Wenemet, seeping into the dry sands. But I see a black

Thacian stallion standing on the battlefield, proud and strong, but uncertain amid the chaos of war billowing around it."

The servant sent for someone to interpret his master's dream, and the Church soon sent a young Nöenian sister named Pardille who was reputed to be good at this sort of thing. In Ebalondrir's presence, the servant recounted his master's words for the priestess.

After a moment of thought, she carefully folded her hands behind her back, closed her eyes, and said, "the chaos and wars of the past are as nothing compared to the sorrow awaiting Thacia if you continue walking the path you now tread. Only a strong Electoral Thace can survive what comes." And then she fainted.

Count Ebalondrir was a changed Saurian after that. He put aside his parties, his wenches, and his drink, and he set in motion ambitious plans for the development and security of his realm. First, since it is named after the honored animal of Electoral Thace, he ordered the expansion of Horse Priory in Esamocia into an Abby. Then the building programme really started.

Massive public works projects were undertaken throughout the realm. The cities of Andröe, Viersma, Atalar, and Eiden all expanded, and the new port town of Gormoth rose in Davica. In Carcë, the traditional Tiger capital of Assarnes was rebuilt (again) into a town to handle the influx of pilgrims and delegates attending the *Council of Tiogar*.

Massive investments across the board resulted in improvements in cavalry, naval, and air tactics, the expansion of the government, and a breakthrough in sorcery.

The Count himself embarked alone on a pilgrimage to Horse Abbey. The body of Captain-General Brakus was relocated to a site near the holy abbey, and the fortress of *Brakus' Rešt* was built above his tomb, so that this great hero may forever guard Thacia.

The Count then continued on to Carcë to participate in the Council and in diplomatic overtures with the Sar...

THE COUNCIL OF CARCĒ (1490)

The Western Urdans Convene and Klatch

Under the chair of Reverend Mother Berthilde, leader of the Nöenian Order, Urdan priestesses, nuns, monks, and holy warriors from all over western Sahûl met in the Tiger holy abbey of Tíogar in 1490. Also present were Ebalondrir IV, Electoral Count Palatine in Thace, and Sar Tahník, Master of the Tiger Horseclans. The Grand Duke of Araxes was represented by his eldest daughter, the 28-year old Sister Thierre, a Nöenian.

The primary order of business was a long series of theological disputations between the orthodox³ and the Tigers of Urda. As the discussions progressed, it became clear that once the political and social issues were set aside, there was precious little separating the two sides. The talks went so brilliantly, in fact, that near the end of the third session, the elderly Abbess of Tíogar suddenly stood and pronounced herself satisfied. There was confusion amongst the orthodox as she strode toward Reverend Mother Berthilde. Warriors fumbled for their weapons in fear of what this might mean, but the old Abbess fell to her knees before the Reverend Mother and in a loud, clear voice swore her submission to the Church Universal and Triumphant.

There was utter silence in the great hall.

Then, one by one, those sitting on the Tiger side of the hall imitated her example, until only a handful of holdouts remained. After the session was adjourned for the day, the holdouts fled and vanished into the desert.

In addition to the religious discussions, some high-powered political talks were taking place after the sessions. Chief among these were the “permanent peace” talks between the Count and the Sar. Rumours of a possible submission of the Sar to Thace ramped up when his niece Gorthis was married to Count Ebalondrir in a magnificent ceremony presided over by Reverend Mother Berthilde herself. The two newlyweds found themselves with

³ Primarily the members of the Nöenian Order, though there were also several fascinating interventions made by the brilliant leader of the Melkonian Order.

child only months later. The boy was named Branis, and when he was declared heir by the Goshtikka Clan mothers, there was little complaint. The precedent of patrilineal succession having been broken, it seemed there was no putting the dragon back into the cave.

In the end, the merger talks stalled, but the Sar astounded all by proposing that, should the Thacians return CarcĒ to Tiger control, he would promise a hundred years of peace between their realms.

As the fifth and final session of the Council was ending, word came that the remaining heretics had formed a new organization, “The True Tigers”, deep in the steppe and had called for a “further purification” of “true Urdanism” by the sword. They control no regions, so it’s unclear just how serious a threat they might be.

THE TIGERS OF URDA (4 S/UR)

Sar Tahník the Wise, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce.

Trade: Araxes, ThaceD, ThaceE

DP: Zimrandrim (F), Noca (F), Hoonisbe (A)

Sar Tahník attended the Council of CarcĒ and proposed a treaty to Electoral Thace. On the home front, the little town of Gortahnes in Piv-rassa grew into a little city. The Nöenian Order continued their works throughout the Tiger lands. All Tiger regions converted to orthodox Urdanism, even Drazjun. There is even talk of regularizing the Tigers’ political situation in the Empire, something that Sar Tahník now appears eager to do.

GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (26 W/UR)

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

Sir Ronnel Rannes, Lord Protector of the Realm.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averno,

Chi’tixi, CM, Einandhu, Golmath,

Hyrádec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki,

ThaceD, ThaceE, Tigers, Tokatl,

Urdraháhn

DP: None

Grand Duke Tramandes triumphantly returned to his capital in 1488, after twenty years away at war. He quickly made up for lost time with his wife and family. He finally met his son and heir, a midshipman in the Naval Academy. Father and son could not be more different. Tramandes the elder was the larger-than-life old warrior with a deep laughing voice, a twinkle in his eyes, and a long, ragged scar of white fur across the left side of his muzzle. It crossed just in front of and very near to the eye and culminated in a notch in his left ear. The elder Tramandes was a Wenemet's Wenemet and a soldier-duke. Tramandes the younger, by contrast, was slight and wiry, with keen, penetrating eyes and an almost mathematical mind. He rarely spoke, but when he did so, no one failed to listen. While the father radiated a jolly martial prowess, the son exuded serene competence. Both inspired an almost fanatical loyalty in their followers.

The Grand Duke witnessed the graduation of his son and heir from the Naval Academy the next year. The young prince immediately set out on his naval service as a lieutenant aboard *HGS Mermaid*.

The Grand Duke's three daughters had all followed radically different paths. The eldest was a priestess of the Nöenian Order. One of the twins was a popular lady of the court, while the other was a promising junior officer in the army.

Meanwhile, the economic situation in the realm is dire, unemployment is endemic, and the government is in chaos. All were relieved that their Grand Duke had at last returned. Perhaps he'll persuade Parliament to *do* something.

COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (18 I/YG)

Her Excellency, Xant'ki IX, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kommolek, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: None

The increasingly elderly Countess Xant'ki continued fighting the war against Cappargar-

nia. Results were not all that she had hoped for, to be charitable. Many, many of Kicitchat's leadership corps died, some of them two steps down the chain of command. At home, sorcerous learning advanced. Yagnarist missionaries overran both Thichat and Krittix. A majority of Thichatians accepted the new faith, while only a third of those in Krittix did so.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (22 W/YG)

His Gracious Majesty, Adhanggar Dranthes III, Count of Odol, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

DP: Óninin (F)

Grand Duke Challik had his fill of continental war and, perhaps more importantly, of unreliable allies. To let out some frustration, he led 25,000 infantry into the mountains of Tik'kitixi. There he faced unexpectedly tough resistance from the local Tarotist hive-queen and her 3,000 heavy foot and handful of hive forts. By 1489, the region had been reduced at last to obedience, uniting all of Atuburrk Island under the House of Adhanggar once again.

Sadly, Grand Duke Challik did not long enjoy his achievement. He had suffered a stomach wound in the campaign, and it festered. He died in extreme pain in the summer of 1490. The succession was remarkably smooth, as Count Dranthes was both popular and ruthless⁴. Back in Inh Odol, the Adhanggar Clan mothers chose the albino Rahnes as heir, not for any martial talent, but rather for his administrative skills, which are considerable.

In late 1490, a tiny air flotilla of five battered, ragged Atuburrk vessels landed in Punchega on the Wild Coast. The commander and crews were immediately sequestered.

⁴ Really the ideal combination in a Yagnarist ruler.

Central Sahul

THE HEART OF EMPIRE

THE CRUSADE OF THE SIX KNIVES (1479–1490)

(also the War of the Cappargarnian Chastisement)
Adndar, Chi'tixi, Kicitchat, and Kommolek (acting on behalf of the Emperor) vs Cappargarnia;

Raven Crusaders vs apparently everybody

1486: Electoral Princess Tiribissi Enya's programme for Cappargarnia was to pursue peace on all fronts. Cappargarnia and Duedhyn concluded terms, resulting in the *Treaty of Pareis, 1486*. As part of the agreement, the Cappargarnian naval vessels blockading Pareis were to strike their colours, and the military forces in Baylow were to lay down their arms and be escorted northward to Dusios, where their arms and armour were to be returned.

Although the governments of Duedhyn and Cappargarnia both apparently acted in good faith, things started to go wrong almost immediately. The Cappargarnians surrendered the city of Baylow to the crusaders and stacked up their arms, as planned. As the army of the Prophet Barugh was escorting them northward, however, the Prophet himself declared them to be his prisoners and their weapons and armour forfeit.

The Fields of Tythyen

Peace with the hated Tarotists was absolutely the last thing on the mind of the Prophet Barugh. Indeed, the first item on the agenda simply read "slaughter". This was clearly not going to work out with the peace-loving Prince of Duedhyn in charge of the Holy War. How can you even have a Holy War if you've made peace?

The Prophet preached war, and war it must be. He gathered his most trusted lieutenants together, including Sir Spennenn Wynn, and consulted and preached. Finally, on the 5th of September, the Raven Crusaders officially renounced any allegiance to the Duedhyn crown. And then the slaughter began. The crusaders set upon the unarmed and

unarmoured Cappargarnian prisoners with sword and axe. A handful escaped to tell the tale, but thousands of Cappargarnians were killed in cold blood on the fields of Tythyen and their corpses left for the vultures.

Tythyen became the crusaders' homeland. The Urdan Cathedral of Logosenn remained unmolested by the Prophet, though he did order the Abbess there to surrender the building and its lands to him forthwith. She did not comply.

The region of Avalow, however, joined immediately. The Raven fortress there, its garrison, and even its knights joined the new Crusader State.

The Assault of Inyib and the Unbinding of Beherit

In the summer of 1486, the Kicitchat assault on Cappargarnian Inyib began. There was a moment of confusion when the garrison hoisted an Imperial banner atop the highest tower, but Countess Xant'ki herself gave the order to proceed. No less than three fire bolts exploded against the ramparts, and they came tumbling down in great heaps of shards and dust. Although the population put up a spirited defense, they were no match for 130,000 soldiers and one demon. Of course, more than half of the assaulting forces were cavalry, and had there actually been any walls left, it might have been painful for them. After the city was taken, a horde of zombies shambled up.

It was at this point that the Demon Beherit suddenly discovered that the mystical chains binding him to the will of General Drommedar had been sundered. The General was the first casualty. The Demon exploded into rage as the reality of his former servitude suddenly became apparent to him. From the very center of the Kicitchat army, he began to kill.

Panic set in amongst the Kicitchat almost immediately, and anyone who thought they might be able to get away made a run for it. The Countess and her two remaining Generals attempted to rally their forces. In particular, General Chitter attempted to smother the Demon in zombies. She was hop-

ing to buy enough time for the others to mount a credible defense. It worked. Sort of.

The zombies were utterly destroyed, and the Countess was able to field a considerable force against the Demon, including even forty airships. Beherit swatted at them and roared as he began to feel the effects of his hundreds of pike wounds.

By the time it was all over and the Demon had at last been defeated, the Kicitchat army was decimated, and two of their finest Generals lay dead.

The Byrrin River Naval Campaign

The Chi'tixi naval forces in the Upper Byrrin withdrew to reinforce their blockade of the Lower Byrrin. There, they ran into Trang's Fleet of merry mercenaries, commanded by the brilliant Neris Caranthes. They were under retainer to Cappargarnia to "keep the Byrrin open and sink any who would interfere with Cappargarnian trade." Battle was joined. The vast Chi'tixi armada outnumbered the mercenaries almost three to one, but the Chi'tixi were hampered by two factors: mediocre leadership and mediocre seamanship. Commodore Neris outfought them at every turn. On the first day, the Chi'tixi transports were wiped out and with them one of their two leaders. On subsequent days, however, the numbers proved decisive. Trang's mighty fleet was slowly ground to flinders. The final mercenary caravels were destroyed by fireships.

At Pareis, meanwhile, though given the order to surrender his forces, Sir Sevas Psu dragged his feet. Rumours even swirled around the fleet that perhaps Sevas would raise a flag of rebellion and try to take Cappargarnia himself. Finally, after months of dithering, he ordered the fleet in. As they were docking in Pareis, however, word reached them about the betrayal of the Raven Crusaders on the fields of Tythyen. Without a moment's hesitation, the fleet headed back to sea, although under exactly whose orders was difficult to determine.

In Tewynn and Tythyen, Duedhyni workers combed the battlefields and carefully buried their honoured dead.

1487: As part of Atuburrk's disengagement from the war, Admiral Jannes withdrew his forces from Cappargarnia City, leaving a garrison consisting of a handful of battle-hardened marines and some very imposing stone golems. Months later, a Cappargarnian army arrived to take back their capital. Expecting hordes of zombie defenders, the brilliant General Anabrin Darronley brought with him Pope Carberic, prepared to de-animate the shambling throng. Although there were no zombies, the spell did do quite a number on the golems. Anabrin retook the city with negligible loss to his 30,000-man force.⁵

A Kicitchat effort to invade Erediar and to reinforce Cappargarnia city was thwarted when the Captain commanding the force suddenly fell down in her soup at lunch one day and drowned.

Kicitchat was more successful in Karadeg, however, where a mere 6,000 pike, the Demon Nahg, and some Kommolek "advisors" wiped out the garrison with a firebolt and conquered the region.

Reports of a mysterious *femme fatale* stirring up trouble in Cappargarnia's southern regions of Tanji and Mælor resulted in a series of misadventures between the crack Cappargarnian intelligence service and operatives of a previously unknown agency. At least one enemy agent was reportedly captured and then escaped.

Raven Crusaders annexed Bufalein.

1488: Adndar entered the war against Cappargarnia in a big way. Tiribissi Lanharnes himself led combined air and ground assault against Tapori. His 175 airships and 35,000 infantry quickly forced the prefecture to pay tribute to Adndar.

A third Kicitchat Captain took command of the Southern Expeditionary Force in Krittix. For no good reason, her spleen promptly exploded, killing her instantly. The army remained immobile.

5 Some say that the General actually entered the region with two different sets of orders. The other (sealed) set reportedly provided direction in the event of a credible defensive force in the city.

Battle of Cape Neventyr (The Solstice Catastrophe)

In Lake Sardath, the Cappargarnian navy under Sir Sevas Psu met a sizable Kommolek fleet, stuffed to the gills with troops and commanded by no less a person than Baron Terthynn of Fell Kommolek himself. The fleets closed rapidly, and on the 15th of Quintillis they met in battle.

On the one side: 285 crack Cappargarnian warships under the relatively average politico, Sir Sevas Psu. On the other side: 75 caravels, 125 warships, and 125 transports commanded by the military genius that was Baron Terthynn, and that whirlwind of death that was the Demon Jigray. The Demon caused an initial spate of Cappargarnian casualties, though superior Cappargarnian seamanship held the line and fought back hard. By the end of the first exchange, the Cappargarnian and Kommolek losses were roughly even at 80 ships each. Fortunately for Kommolek, their losses were mostly in their transports. Sensing victory, the Baron counter-attacked. It was a tactically sound decision, but it failed to take into account the strange luck of the Cappargarnians, and the decidedly bad fortune afflicting Kommolek. It was as if Yagnar himself had withdrawn his favour from Kommolek.

Within moments of the second clash of the opposing navies, the Baron was slain in combat. Panic rippled through the Kommolek ships. Still, Lord Rahnnet of Uthek (and his Demonic friend) kept the Kommolek attack going until he himself was slain. The Demon simply detonated, taking several dozen warships with him, and the attack utterly collapsed. The superiority of the Cappargarnian ships and crews quickly became apparent; the Kommolek navy was obliterated. A handful of caravels escaped to nearby ports, but most were sunk or forced to strike their colours. So many vessels stuck that there were not nearly enough prize crews to man them, and most were allowed to simply sink beneath the icy waters of Lake Sardath.

1489: In part to avenge their losses, Kommolek attacked again. A Kommolek leader with a 14,000-bug Kicitchat army crossed the river from Kritrix

to Plormel. They ran into a rather large mercenary force and some well-supported field fortifications and did not long survive.

With great fanfare, the Green Fleet under the eighty year-old Vice-Admiral Lord Níder of Epis-ma arrived in Zadres, along with a fair number of Averese auxiliaries. It is said the total fleet exceeded 375 vessels, including caravels, warships, and transports. Lord Níder, though trained as a wizard in his long-ago youth, proved a more or less competent commander. At least none of the ships collided.

1490: Kommolek did *much* better in their amphibious invasion of Ebmadh. Two fire bolts cleared away all resistance, and 9,000 Malebolge cavalry landed without trouble, claiming the region. They noted the presence of a wandering Urdan preacher there who was gathering large crowds around him.

The White Lotus Company, under the flag of Cappargarnia, crossed the Byrrin into Atch'tik and reduced the Kicitchat hive forts there at considerable cost. Karc'at was assaulted with less loss, and the region and city now belong to Cappargarnia. Given their success, the White Lotus was flooded with new recruits, not all of them Iluvarian.

In the far west, Cappargarnian ally Sandrim Hesiod of Ebmadh conquered Kicitchat Nertik. While he was doing this, Adndar was wiping out the fortifications of Nolvonn and forcing tribute from the region, effectively cutting off Cappargarnia's steppe prefectures from the rest of the Republic. The cut-off prefectures remain loyal... for the moment.

Tiribissi Lanharnes of Adndar led his assault force from Taporí into Gurvan, where again they compelled tribute from a Cappargarnian region. The gates of Udhibar were unexpectedly flung open for the invaders, and they rested from their labours in the local inns, where drinks were half-price and only barely watered down. Behind them, however, Darein's Destroyers retook Taporí for Cappargarnia. It was a surprise even to them.

Meanwhile, in the south, Adndar was itself invaded. The Raven Crusaders, led by the Prophet

Barugh⁶, conquered Dramûl, reclaiming that prefecture, lost by Duedhyn eight years earlier. Other Crusader armies headed northwards, conquering Adément and slaughtering all who resisted.

Sir Spennenn Wynn's Raven Crusaders continued to push onwards in the west, annexing Dusios.

In the middle of one dark, foggy night, three fire bolts shot out of the river and smashed into the walls of Cappargarnian Croubal. Huge sections of the walls were pulverized, and one section serenely slid into the river.

ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (24M/TA)

Her Sublime Majesty, Tiribissi Enya, Electoral Princess of Cappargarnia.

His Great Holiness, Carberic VI, the Obscure, Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Golluz.

Trade: None.

DP: Dancing as fast as they can...

Tiribissi Enya announced with great fanfare the peace with Duedhyn (*Treaty of Pareis, 1486*). She stated that with the previous chastisement of Cappargarnia and the death of Steene Dronex, Cappargarnia would now assume all hostilities to be at an end. After all, she reasoned, the Emperor had not pronounced sentence against *her*. She stated her intention to reclaim the Cappargarnian capital and account all other territories lost to be just punishment for Steene's idiocy.

Sadly, this turned out not to be the case.

As the attacks began, she ordered the Imperial banner raised over all of Cappargarnia's lands and cities, making it clear that she did so as an Elector and vassal of the Emperor. This did not appear to slow down her attackers for one minute.

So she ordered counter-attacks. This was helped considerably by Cappargarnia's lock on all mercenary hires in the valley. Even so, there were only a few bright spots in the litany of conquests.

Following sacrifices to the Lords of the Tarot, Cappargarnia experienced a breakthrough in their

siege technology. Infantry, siege, and naval quality improved.

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF ADNDAR (23 M/TA)

His Excellency Tiribissi Lanharnes, Guildmaster of the Innkeepers, Chancellor of the Guilds Council, and Hereditary Burgrave of Adndar.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kitchat, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: Failed!

Tiribissi Lanharnes, perhaps answering the call of his emperor, or perhaps simply sensing the sort of opportunity that comes along once in a lifetime, moved his armies into the lands ruled by his cousin, Tiribissi Enya of Cappargarnia. Results, as they say, were mixed.

The town of Montoya in Carlon grew into a real city. Siege and sorcery improved. Following some impressive sacrifices to the Hidden Lords, Adndar's leaders experienced a tactical breakthrough.

With crusaders on the way, they may need it.

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF EINANDHU (4 M/UR)

Sir Graxes Aratan, Tiger King of Arms.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Elphárec, Golmath, ID, IOC, Kitchat, Kommolek, Tiryowglas

DP: That's what they do!

The Tiger King of Arms continued to be asked *Tdubia* that he thought the heralds not entirely competent to answer. Nevertheless, out of a sense of duty, he did give opinions on any number of topics. As it turned out, these opinions angered the Emperor, who accused the heralds of partisanship and then demanded proof of their rights and their ownership of Einandhu.

Dutifully, the Tiger King of Arms informed the Emperor where he might find original copies of the *Heraldry Decree of 832* and the *Imperial Charter of Einandhu (1128)* in the Imperial Archive in Sardarthion. Then, the Tiger King of Arms declared

⁶ Before being, er, slaughtered, the local garrison sent word that the Prophet appeared to have a magical banner at the head of his forces.

a new policy of refusing to answer questions not directly involving matters of heraldry, the post, or the *Code*.

A number of Imperial engineers arrived to expand the city, but found that it was already at its maximum size (and had been for a century or more). After filing some impressively voluminous reports on the city⁷, they went back to Sardarthion.

THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE (12 M/UR)

His August & Imperial Majesty, Onin Zho, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyáglion, Electoral King of Zarkhandu, Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.

Her High Majesty, Princess Chass'ika II, Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Elector of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the Wešt, Chancellor of the Empire.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Elphárec, Kicitchat, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, IOC, Kommolek, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: None

IIP: 22

For appointments, please see Gazette.

Emperor Onin Zho continued his far-reaching reforms. Auditors were sent to the Provinces of Artier, Dranchol, Kanapad, Yann, Kastier, Nauatidran, and even Sardior with instructions to investigate and streamline the bloated and inefficient civil service. The examination system for the Imperial Civil Service has proved both popular and efficient, a rare thing indeed! The Civil Service is becoming a professional administration, something it has not been in living memory.

The Emperor announced a new program for the city: *The Walking Sages of Sardarthion*. Said Onin Zho, “education provides us with the learning of sword, plow, and prayer. In honor of that truth

⁷ They were quite conscious of the need to justify both their paychecks and their travel expenses.

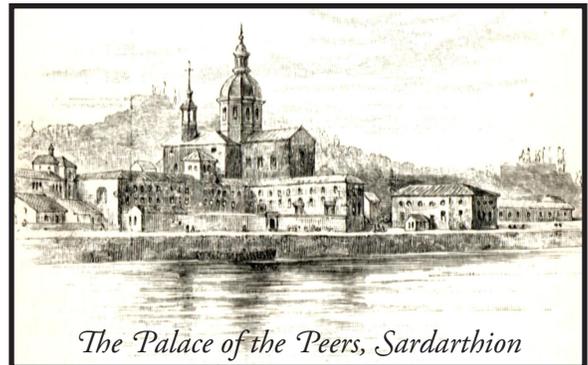
we have hired a wide variety of sages to publicly instruct at regular and irregular intervals all those who have the time for a one hour class. Every subject will be represented and certificates of ability will be issued to those who choose to sit for basic skill tests. These sages will award Imperial Scholarships to the inquisitive and able. These scholarships will move promising youths and adults towards areas where they might best realize their potential in service to their families and thus to the Empire.”

The Imperial Prince himself reportedly attended some of these lectures incognito.

The Emperor spent a fortune investing in public works in the capital. The city was refurbished with fountains, plazas, even a fairground. Many older public buildings were remodeled, and at least one tenement was refurbished into an Imperial warehouse, while the residents moved into brand new housing nearby.

The Urdans began the heavy work of restoring their holy places in the city. Money, equipment, and workers from all over Sahûl have come to take part in this holy work, expected to take generations.

Near the river, in a field lately given over to the grazing of sheep, a magnificent new palace was completed in 1487. The site had been purchased by the Count-Palatine of Ingazi from an ancient but poor local family. The labour force and the stone and wood was imported at great effort and cost from Ingazi itself. The intricate carving over the lintel was inscribed *The Palace of the Peers of the Empire of Sahûl*. That same year, the Count Palatine declared the formation of a *House of Peers* to



The Palace of the Peers, Sardarthion

advise the Emperor and to meet at the palace he had built for them in Sardarthion. Right now, only the Ingazi representative has taken his seat.

Rumours and tall tales float throughout the capital that the Emperor has taken several incognito sojourns throughout the city to meet his people in their neighbourhoods and (apparently) their pubs.

The Imperial Geographical Society's work in the Imperial Preserve of Wanangi continues.

RAVEN CRUSADERS (2 S/RA)

Barugh, High Prophet of the Sacred Raven.

Trade: Nope.

DP: None.

The Prophet threw off the shackles of lukewarm Duedhyn, and led his jihadis to victory! He swore to sweep the Byrrin clean of all who would not bow to the Raven.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (10 S/RA)

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

Trade: Adndar, Kommolek

DP: Decaspë (T)

Prince Dallyn made his peace with Cappargarnia. Unfortunately, his many thousands of holy troops did not. With their loss to the Prophet's new crusader state, much of the religious fervour that characterized Duedhyn in the recent past has evaporated. Even so, four Raven priories were built, and Telynn in Tiogyon was expanded into an abbey. Tewynn (no relation) was converted to the Raven sect.

It's no secret that many of the Order's knights desire to be on crusade. It was only through sheer force of will on the part of the ancient Grandmaster that a substantial rift was prevented and obedience maintained. Even so, the Raven fortress of Skrifys in Avalow defected to the Prophet.

The Prince and his Princess hatched three children, a boy born in 1486, and two girls born in 1487 and 1489. Fireworks marked the occasions.

An increasingly irritated Reverend Mother Ixti'ati was given the runaround by various Duedhyn officials, confused by what exactly it was that she wanted. The exasperated Ixti'ati finally pitched a tent and camped out in front of the palace.

To the Prince's delight, the government finally expanded.

BARONY OF FELL KOMMOLEK (20 W&S/YG)

Baron Goesek Annavas II of Kommolek, Lord Treskaw, Burgrave of Fair Belsûnd.

Trade: Aradéc, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Kicitchat,

Hyrágec, ID, Zarkhandu

DP: None.

With the death of Baron Terthynn of Fell Kommolek in the *Solstice Catastrophe of 1488*, his son Annavas assumed the throne. The new Baron's brother Andel has completely vanished. The Lord of Utek was also immolated in the *Catastrophe*. Heirless, he had willed his lands to the Baron.

The Barony's priests lamented that the favour of Yagnar appears to have been withdrawn.

COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (23 S&W/IL)

His Excellency, Count Sarrik II, Baron Kwilkyn, Count of Tiryowglas, Defender of the Faith.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Einandhu, Elphárec,

Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, IOC,

Murali

DP: None.

Tiryowglas built four new port towns: Lavrek in Skathow, Hanafdreth in Shingeit, Garavon in Annedor, and Fordhavon in Antedon on a spur of the Old South Road.

Count Sarrik finally heard from his long-lost daughter Diwi. She apparently apprenticed herself to a printer in Zadres in 1481. She recently became a Master Printer herself, and she thought it appropriate to recontact her family.

The Count's eldest son, Lord Kerens, was recalled to Bronnow to marry and start a family of his own. In both he was successful, and the wedding was perhaps the largest celebration in the history of the County. When their first child, a son, was born

in 1487, gifts of silver coin were distributed to all families who had children that year. There was a bit of a baby boomlet as many tried to get in under the wire.

Command of the Army of the Antean was turned over to the up-and-coming Wenemet Captain Sir Kyger Dalleth.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (22 IL)

His All Holiness, Pope Pious VIII, Pontiff of Sistrameides, Archemandrite of Ilúhir.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Einandhu, Elphárec,

Hyrárec, ID, Ingazi, Tiryowglas

DP: None.

Dld Pope Sanguine XIV returned to Sistrameides to much acclaim in 1489, and then more or less promptly dropped dead. The Canons of Ilúhir gathered in Solemn Chapter and chose a university Theologian who took the name Pious. To start the professor's pontificate off well, both the University of Sistrameides and the Church's Diplomatic Academy were expanded.

Missionaries and monks flooded Mawali, greatly strengthening the Iluvarian faith of the people. A priory was even built there, which the new Pope named in honour of Saint Malu the Hirsute, a third century eremite and theologian.

MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (30 W/IL)

His Grace, Eparreb Tashnes III, Count of Angûron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Einandhu, Hyrárec,

Ingazi, ID, IOC, Tiryowglas

DP: None.

Duke Caranthes the Pious died in 1487 at the relatively young age of 62 after a long illness. The new Duke is an energetic go-getter. He quickly spent down the enormous treasury amassed by his father, investing much of it in new public works and sorcery. He even expanded the Air Academy.

St. Aldstadht's Priory in Kalipara became an abbey, even as the nearby town of Port Wrase grew into a city. Port Helican was established as a town in Neri.

The great wizard Orthos of Epadh, meanwhile, celebrated his 75th birthday. He's feisty and still going strong, though he leans a bit more heavily on his staff than he was wont of old.

Baron Ilkurr Valdiss, the Toymaker of Mungg, expanded his repertoire from automata to golems, creating a passel of stone warriors for his amusement. He is reportedly still working on a chess-playing automaton in his spare time.

KINGDOM OF HYRÁREC (23 W/UR)

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

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi,

Elphárec, Golmath, Ingazi, ID, IOC,

Kicitchat, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

DP: Failed.

Queen Sardira took it easy. The ancient port city of Balmór expanded.

The elderly Lord Whirripi Mendathes of Endani died in 1490 at age 79. He was succeeded by his nephew. Despite a visit from the Queen herself, the Whirripi chose to remain allied rather than swearing full fealty.

Infantry quality improved.

The Gawan Peninsula

THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (26 W/UR)

His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Laharnes v, the Farsighted, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Count Palatine of Ingazi.

Trade: Adndar, Aradéc, Araxes, Chi'tixi,

Golmath, Hyrárec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat,

Murali, Murrugapa, ThaceE, Tiryowglas,

Urdraháhn, (z)Arkhandu

DP: None.⁸

Count Laharnes spent considerable time and treasure tracking down the terrorists responsi-

⁸ Wait. That *can't* be right. On checking further it turns out it is. That's just *crazy*.

ble for the attack on Saint Mirren. Their search has led them very far afield, with still no end in sight.

Ingazi's northern airfleet under the command of Air Marshal Lord Gwariva Trememeres patrolled *quite* aggressively. Several flocks of birds have suffered their mighty wrath. Flights of dragons have been reported by credible witnesses throughout Ingazi, in both the northern and southern sections.

The towns of Thurrpa and Mindo expanded into cities, and naval and sorcery quality improved. To celebrate the last, the Sorcery Academy was expanded as well. There was a lot of volcanic activity in Thunkini.

Tired of "all the pussy-footing around", on the centennial of the *Golden Edict*, Ingazi announced the *Treaty of Ingazi* (see page 147), and invited all Peers to become signatories. Long preparations in Sardarthion paid off with the construction of a palace for the Peers to meet. Right now, the only one there apart from the staff is the Ingazi envoy, ex-Count Palatine Gwariva Razhim, now in his seventies, nearly blind, and half-mad. It's an auspicious start.

Ingazi also announced that the Count Palatine would be creating a Monarchical Order of Knights Companion to honour those who have given extraordinary service to the Empire. They're still working out the details, but they're accepting applications.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (49.3 UR)

Her All-Holiness Jerröe IX, the Cry of the Owl, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kitchat, Murali, ThaceD, ThaceE, Zarkhandu

DP: None

In 1488, the Holy Office of the Inquisition found themselves flummoxed. Their prisoner, the junior cleric whom many suspected of being the mastermind behind the Saint Mirren disaster, had simply vanished from his cell. Gone. Nowhere to be found. The cell remained locked, and the bars

on the one window undamaged. Reverend Mother Tareina of the Holy Office declined comment.

In the far-off West, the Church hosted the Council of Carcë and welcomed the vast majority of the Tiger heretics back into full communion.

Despite across-the-board investments, only airship and naval quality improved. Pupini erupted several times to no one's great surprise.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF GOLMATH (46 w/TA)

His Gracious Majesty, Walarri Sardhan III, the Glorious, Baron of Madran and Kamadhi, Count of Agdora, Imperial Governor of Kaparis, and Elector & Grand Duke of Golmath.

His Great Holiness, Mordican II, Hierarch of the Fellowship of Connate Tarotists and Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Serri.

His Excellency, the Volpel Zhogian the Fearless, Baron Volpel & Count of Runazar.

Margrave Volpel Tregarion of Ebalon.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Murali, Sidith (2), ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Udraháhn, Zarkhandu

DP: Kurldayi (A)

Grand Duke Sardhan the Glorious did not rest on his laurels. Huge public works projects continued throughout his realms. Golmath's sorcerers made a transformative leap in their understanding of the nature of magic.

The Grand Duke ordered the rebuilding of the town of Parrkulu, attempting to emulate the architecture they tore down in 1484. While there is a definite resemblance, the Golmathi engineers and architects were unable to duplicate the delicacy and precision of the soaring towers and fragile flying buttresses of the former ruin. Meanwhile, in Kulkupa, the army plundered the abandoned city of Pudyagapa to no good cause.

The final game of the 1490 All-East Rugby Championship was again between those deadly rivals, the Thunarr *Thunder* and the Callam *Kilted Maniacs*. Once again, Thunarr was victorious (6–3)

and a joyful riot ensued. In Runazar, the cry for a concerted effort to topple the *Thunder* from their pedestal has been taken up by the fan community.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (39 w/IL)

His Royal Maješty, Sansollen Dirharn I, Baron of Wanumarra, Electoral King of Aradéc, Imperial Governor of Arador.

Trade: Adndar, Araxes, Atuburrk, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kitchat, Kommolek, Murali, Murrugapa, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdráhahn

DP: Ingapyi (F)

Aradéc's capital of Darnuldeis grew, and with it an almost unimaginable expansion in the area's public works. The government, already the largest in Sahûl, expanded further. The Royal Road, running the spine of the Eastern Gawan Peninsula, was extended into Palamingka.

The navy was modestly enlarged, to the great delight of the Admiralty. Infantry and sorcery quality improved.

The Crown Prince's wedding in 1490 was completely overshadowed by the fireworks of the summoning of the Deva Buimnea.

The Imperial Geographic Society researchers continued their work on Wanangi. Some of the baboons are now wearing pants! Where will the madness end?

BARONY OF MURRUGAPA (1 w/IL)

Baron arYarwain Didrel of Murrugapa.

Trade: Aradéc, Ingazi, Murali

DP: None.

Baron Dirdel invited the greatest poets of eastern Sahûl to come to his court for a great poetry festival and contest in 1495. He intends to award the winning poet a goose quill of purest gold.

COUNTY OF MURALI (13 w/TA)

His Excellency, Kilyara Torthes I, Baron of Karrka, Count of Murali, Lord Admiral of the Red.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath, Ingazi, Murrugapa, Sidith (2), Tiryowglas, Urdráhahn, Zarkhandu

DP: Thika (F)

Murali expanded their Naval Academy and built up their defenses. Assorted public works projects were built. Due sacrifice was tendered to the Lords of the Balance, and shortly thereafter, the a more efficient way of making paper (from trees!) was developed, greatly increasing government record-keeping.

Vice-Admiral of the Red Narynn Yustomon celebrated his 70th birthday by ratcheting up his piracy patrols. The pirates seem to be quite disbanded.

IATHEDEK: THE PROTECTORATE OF FRIBÆLD

Peace prevailed throughout the lands of Iathedek. At least, if it didn't nobody knew about it. Trade continued bustling along the Antean River.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ZARKHANDU (40 s/YG)

His Maješty, Sakkath Sharret Radohl the Very Young Yet, Prince-Regent of Zarkhandu, Lord Admiral of the Blue.

Vahl, Margrave Draconis, Commander of the Horse Guards.

Trade: Golmath, Ingazi, Kommolek, Murali, Sidith (2), Urdráhahn

DP: Derridon (T), Zodan (F), Marn (T), Bohem (T)

Zarkhandu was remarkably quiet. Hallek, which had the misfortune of finding itself outside of the Draconic March, was converted to Yagnarism.

The Church Universal and Triumphant (with some help from Ingazi) continued to lobby the nearby Urdan Prefectures to join Zarkhandu's Draconic March. Urdan missionaries were also prevalent throughout the March.

And because it's simply too good to pass up:

A Traditional Rending Day Carol

*Good King Onin Zho looked out
On the feast of Rending
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moons that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man screamed his last
Becoming winter fu-el*

*“Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know’st it, telling
Yonder peasant, on the blaze?
Where and what his dwelling?”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence
Underneath the mountain
Right against the Yarni fence
By the Jackals’ mountain.”*

*“Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I will on him dine
When we bear him thither.”
Page and Onin Zho they went
Forth they went together
Through the rude man’s wild lament
And the bitter weather*

*“Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I must worship stronger.”
“Mark my prayers, my good page
bask thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.”*

*In his master’s steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was from the very God
Which Yagnar had ‘sented
Therefore, Yagnarišts, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will carve the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing !*

(thanks to Theo Moriarty)

STRANGE TIDINGS FROM THE SOUTH...

Tales are told by travelers and wandering yak herders that roundabouts 1486 to '88, a fleet on the Yann River disgorged “vast numbers” of soldiers to plunder the ruins of Perdóndaris, Yozis, Umbárdûnis, and Véhi, effectively destroying all remnants of the once vast civilization of the Yann. Unconfirmed reports of the later despoilation of ruins further south have also been received.

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Imperial Gazette

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



APPOINTMENTS

To Lord Admiral of the Blue: Prince-Regent Sakkath Sharret Radohl of Zarkhandu.

To Governor of Artier, Dranchoal, Kanapad, Kastier, Nauatidran, Sardior, Yann: *by exam.*

OPEN OFFICES

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

Governors as indicated.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

Province	Governor	Province	Governor
Agador	bureaucrat	Kembul	vacant
Anabreis	bureaucrat	Kiermon	vacant
Aradaun	bureaucrat	Kinsidan	vacant
Arador	Aradéc	Kordier	vacant
Ardebon	vacant	Kumarand	bureaucrat
Artier	bureaucrat	Lambris	bureaucrat
Balashan	vacant	Larloc	bureaucrat
Belegaridor	bureaucrat	Mondahan	vacant
Biralis	vacant	Muralis	bureaucrat
Chos	Itaxik	Narchoal	bureaucrat
Dorthacia	bureaucrat	Nauatidran	vacant
Dranchoal	bureaucrat	Orinos	bureaucrat
Dranmul	Averon	Sachon	bureaucrat
Drazhan	vacant	Sardior	bureaucrat
Endior	bureaucrat	Sistramidor	bureaucrat
Iantier	bureaucrat	Tepalis	bureaucrat
Iasedior	bureaucrat	ThaciaMaior	ThaceE
Kaidu	bureaucrat	ThaciaMinor	ThaceE
Kanapad	bureaucrat	Thebia	bureaucrat
Kanmul	bureaucrat	Tramelis	bureaucrat
Kaparis	Golmath	Withidan	bureaucrat
Kassaria	bureaucrat	Yann	vacant
Kastier	bureaucrat		

The Ingazi Declaration of 1487

A TREATY CREATING A HOUSE OF PEERS TO ADVISE THE EMPEROR

WHEREAS, the *Golden Edict of 1387* establishes, in Chapter V, that the Prince Electors may be summoned by the Emperor to furnish him counsel, and

WHEREAS, the other Peers of the Empire wish to avail the Emperor of their advice and opinions, and

WHEREAS, the same *Golden Edict of 1387* encourages, in Chapter VII, “those confederations and leagues which princes, cities and others are known to have formed among themselves for the sake of the general peace of the provinces and lands,” and

WHEREAS, we are committed to the peace and reform of the empire,

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE COUNT PALATINE OF INGAZI, DO PROPOSE TO OUR NOBLE COUSINS:

Chapter I. Purpose of the House of Peers

The House of Peers, consisting of representatives of the Peers of the Empire and specifically excluding the Prince Electors, shall meet at times and places to be determined by them for the purpose of rendering to the emperor their advice, counsel, and opinions.

Neither anything in this document, nor any act of the House of Peers, shall infringe Chapter VII of the *Golden Edict of 1387*.

Chapter II. Identity of the Peers of the Empire

The Peers of the empire, for the purposes of this treaty, shall consist of the rulers of those realms who agree with the principles and goals of this treaty and who have therefore signed it.

Invited to sign this treaty are: the kingdom of Hyrágec; the principality of Duedhyn; the grand duchy of Araxes; the duchies of Elphárec, Taneki, Thace; the county palatine of Ingazi; the counties of Kachar, Kicitchat, Murali, Pexiki, Runazar, Tokatl, Tiryowglas; the baronies of Kommolek, Murrugapa, Sakkar; the Icemark of Yax'te; and others as may be determined by the Peers.

Each ruler of the aforementioned shall, upon their acceptance of this treaty, receive one vote.

Chapter III. Speaker and other Officers of the House of Peers

The House of Peers shall elect a presiding officer, their *Speaker*, to serve for life. This vote shall be by simple majority (fifty percent plus one). Until such a time as there are at least ten signatories to this treaty, the office of Speaker shall be vested in the Count Palatine of Ingazi or any person to whom he may delegate the office.

The Speaker may propose other officers, to include a Secretary and a Sergeant at Arms, to serve at the pleasure of the House.

Chapter IV. Procedures

Any declaration of advice to the emperor or amendment of this treaty requires a two-thirds majority of those voting. Votes shall be open for a specific number of days announced in advance and set at the pleasure of the Speaker.

Laharnes V
Count Palatine Gwariva Laharnes V (Ingazi)



Imperial Strength Index

<i>#</i>	<i>Realm</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Forum Name</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>ISI</i>
<i>The Great Powers</i>					
1	Zarkhandu / Emperor..	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood	tmoriarty@gmail.com	1,499.6
2	Golmath	Paul Flinton.....	Free Beer	cruentidei@gmail.com	1,251.7
3	Aradéc	Charles Hurst.....	Xanthi.....	charlesh@teleport.com	1,200.1
4	Averon	Kevin Lawrence.....	Averon Inc.....	privatej67@yahoo.com	1,078.6
5	Chi'tixi	Steve Cagg.....	Priest King	ragnarstation@hotmail.com	1,070.8
<i>Major Powers</i>					
6	Araxes.....	Christopher Hord... chordam7	chordam7	chordam7@yahoo.com.....	1,039.1
7	Thace, Ele&tor	Nuno da Silva.....	Nuno.....	ndasilva23@hotmail.com	968.1
8	Church U&T.....	Anne Porter	Amphigori.....	crabbycupcakes@gmail.com.....	877.2
9	Itaxik	Michael Warner.....	Galen	me1451@comcast.net	853.1
10	Atuburrk.....	Adam Sherman.....	Gonnagal	mad.angus@yahoo.com	827.7
11	Duedhyn	Alex James	Clan Dhanos of Duedyn..	ClanDhanos@yahoo.com	750.2
12	Cappargarnia.....	open for a player			728.3
13	Ingazi.....	Harry Jago.....	jago	jagoh@yahoo.com	723.8
<i>Minor Powers</i>					
14	Elphárec.....	Josh Buchanan.....	joshb	joshinstl@yahoo.com	694.0
15	Pexiki.....	John Schmid.....	Magus	magus@spellcaster.org.....	693.4
16	Taneki	Ed Allen	Malathion	tgroove@earthlink.net	689.1
17	Thace, Duchy	Jake Roberts	Jake	jacob.roberts1@gmail.com	620.1
18	Adndar	Steven Lloyd.....	Blackheart.....	slloyd13@gmail.com	612.6
19	Hyrágec	Frank Thein.....	Frank	fthein@gmx.de.....	606.3
20	Tiryowglas.....	Mike Johnson.....	Minister of Defense.....	printermanmj@aol.com.....	597.9
21	Kicitchat.....	James Hazeltine.....	Von Malvalken.....	jhazeltine@pleiadesmm.com	587.5
22	Kommolek.....	Cortlandt Winters..	Cortah	cwinters@notebookmargins.com ..	532.0
23	Murali	Corey Snow	Cyclometh.....	cyclometh@gmail.com.....	455.9
24	Church Militant	open for a player			404.5
<i>Miscellaneous Rabble</i>					
25	Tokatl	Shelley Woodberry		desrik@comcast.net.....	377.9
26	IOC	Jason Pearl.....	redoubtable1.....		368.1
27	Kachar	open for a player			363.8
28	Yax'te	Tyler Baumgartner .	rawhidekid	tylerbaumgartner@gmail.com.....	310.4
29	Sakkar	Nelson Merritt.....	hemmy	hemmymerritt@yahoo.com.....	285.7
30	Tigers.....	open for a player			264.6
31	Raven Crusaders.....	open for a cheerfully homicidal maniac.....			153.4
32	Murrugapa.....	seriously?			60.8

