

# The Sahûl Chronicle

Turn 11

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1501–1505 SA

*Who is She that comes forth, fair as a summer breeze, implacable as ice, terrible as an army set in battle array? Only She who is the world. Only She who is our Mother.*

*Anonymous Pamphleteer, Duedhyn*



**LANDS OF OPPORTUNITY:** a new section has been added to the end of the news, *The Underlands*. Several players have had access previously (and those past newsletters have been posted to the web site for your perusal), but since a third realm has now discovered them, they are now public. Going forward, this paradigm will apply to all “new lands”.

The banking crisis appears to be over. Normal trading rules are again in effect.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

*The Chronicle, Volume 1* The compiled Sahûl Chronicle from Turns 0 through 10 inclusive, plus some other nifty bits including a compendium of all Imperial decrees and proclamations since Turn 0 and a handy list of Universities and other important institutes of higher learning throughout Sahûl. Available in both paperback (\$18.00) and hard cover (\$30.00).

*Atlas of Sahûl, Second Edition* Updated maps and some other supplemental material, including an index of all regions. Available in paperback (\$22.00).

*Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 2: the Underlands* This supplement details the Underlands, a series of vast caverns underneath eastern Sahûl, and a new Kindred, the Yaminon, and their peculiar culture. Available as a free download or in paperback (\$10.00).

NEXT TURN DUE: FRIDAY 10 JULY 2009.

## FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY &C.

**DAREIN'S DESTROYERS**—3hc 35mi 2oli 19mc  
Captain: Darein Gorthes (LA84W) TR age 56  
Location: Bufalein, Sardior Province  
Min. Bid: HIRED

**RED DRAGON COMPANY**—10cv 15pk 30mi  
Captain: Trefusis Pennires (L974S) UR age 32  
Location: Urdraháhn  
Min. Bid: HIRED

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**IMPERIAL BANK OF SAHÛL**  
Location: ..... Einandhu  
Available to borrow: ..... 520 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\*  
Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heralds ..... 3\*  
Guilds Council of Adndar ..... 4\*  
Printers Guild of Zadres ..... 1\*

*Loans:* Mr. Blue (550/t12), Mr. White (770/t12)

### BANK OF ITAXIK

Location: ..... Itaxik  
Available to borrow: ..... 1394.1 GP  
*Loans:* Tokatl (480/t12)

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## Western Sahûl

### THE KIT'IXI COAST

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#### COUNTY OF TOKATL (14 I/TA)

*Her Excellency, Tinikatua VI, the Mad, Mistress of the Totek Hive, Countess of Tokatl.*

**Trade:** Averon, CM, Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD

**DP:** None

**D**espite the reputation of the new Countess, Tokatl got down to business. They built two new priories and a grand library in the holy city of Tza'a'aktes. Spurred on by the bold new scholarship emanating from Thace, sorcery and siegecraft both improved. The Tza'a'aktes School for the Wizardly and Sorcerous, buoyed by the increased focus on ancient learning, was endowed as the University of Holy Tza'a'aktes in 1505.

Countess Tinikatua recorded some odd visions in her five-year diary. What they were, none know.

Tokatl's navy improved. The western fleet, long overdue, failed to return.

#### DUCHY OF TANEKI (13 I/YG)

*Her Grace, Toktoka IV, the Mistress of Akelil, Duchess of Taneki, Baroness Ketatl.*

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

**DP:** None

**T**he vast throngs of underemployed cow-tipping youths became less of an amusement and more of a problem. As more and more wealth was concentrated in the burgeoning treasury, poverty spread throughout the Duchy. Peasant rebellions broke out in the south, and some local officials there reported a resurgence of the Xin heresy. The reports went unread as Taneki's self-absorbed government drifted perilously close to revolution.

Mount Tan in Taneki Prefecture erupted.

#### THE CHURCH MILITANT: THE TIKATA CRISIS

**W**hile her holiness Aketika XII confabbed with her peers in Sistrameides, the Church she left behind came apart at the seams. Dame Akit Ketira, the new Grandmistress of the Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar, publicly decried the inertia gripping the Church and called for reform. The bureaucracy sent her a lovely form letter two years later thanking her for her input. They even managed to spell her name incorrectly.

She was infuriated and, unable to find the insulting party so as to challenge her to a proper duel, Dame Ketira instead vowed to put an end to corruption in the Church the only way she knew how: at the point of a sword. A very holy sword.

The rather considerable offensive forces of the Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar marched from their fortress of Ta'chitix in Usutbes and laid siege to Tikata in 1503 in an effort to reform or remove the leadership of the Iluvarian Church in the West. Given that Tikata is a port city, the siege was largely ineffective, and the Order made plans for an assault in the Summer of 1504. With the Matriarch in Sistrameides, Church leadership<sup>1</sup> dithered and fretted until, the attack looming, they at last declared her holiness Archemandrite Aketika XII "temporarily or permanently removed from her office by reason of abandonment" and chose an elderly priestess<sup>2</sup> as the new Matriarch of the West, Sardula III.

There was some hope that the change of regime would mollify the reformers, which now included the wizard Takorr, leader of the *other* principal army controlled by the Church. It was not to be. Dame Ketira ordered the assault to proceed on Saint SIRRix Day, the 5th of Quadrillis, 1504.

With little or no resistance in the offing, the city fell within days. Archemandrite Sardula III could not be found, but rumour has it that she disguised

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<sup>1</sup> Technically, this is the *Holy Synod*, a group of senior clerical advisors appointed by the Archemandrite of Tikata and responsible for choosing his or her successor. They traditionally number fifteen, though there are currently only twelve.

<sup>2</sup> She was, in fact, the senior most member of the Holy Synod, the truly ancient Emandrite of Poonktem. She was the first Saurian chosen since the death of Sardula II in 1410.

herself as a washerwoman and escaped from the city. Dame Ketira declared the office of Matriarch “vacant by reason of cowardice” and ordered the Holy Synod to be rounded up so they could choose a new Archemandrite of Tikata. Unfortunately, the Holy Synod had dispersed before the assault and were unlikely to return any time soon. Since the Reformers could not legally choose a new Matriarch without them, Dame Ketira declared herself in charge until things settled down.

Well, *that* didn’t go over very well *at all*.

Most of the Averese clergy remain loyal to Sardula, and she received the tithes of Averon at the Cathedral of Orret. The more conservative clergy of Sakkar and Yax’tē, on the other hand, are demanding the return of Aketika XII and perhaps the “reform” of the Order of the Sword of Iluvar. Some members of the Holy Synod have also called for Aketika’s return, but other members have rallied around Sardula in Averon. The Prefecture of Sumkah, meanwhile, declared for the absent Aketika in 1505, cutting the Reform faction’s lands neatly in half.

#### THE CHURCH MILITANT—REFORM (3 I/IL)

*Dame Akit Ketira, Grandmistress of the Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar, Protector of the Church Militant and the Holy Synod, Administrator of the Demense of Tikata.*

**Trade:** Averon, ThaceD, Tokatl

**DP:** None.

**T**he Reformers retain control of most of the Primacy’s lands, their armies, treasury, and little else. Efforts to recall the Holy Synod to choose a new Archemandrite have so far proved fruitless.

#### THE CHURCH MILITANT—ORRET (8 I/IL)

*Her Holiness Sardula III, Iluvarian Matriarch of the West, Archemandrite of Tikata.*

**Trade:** Averon, ThaceD, Tokatl

**DP:** None.

**S**ardula fled back to her home cathedral of Orret in Poonktem and rallied the Averese religious sites to her cause. Her support

is fairly soft, and many are waiting to see what the Grand Duchess, and the Pontiff in SiStrameides, have to say about the situation.

#### THE CHURCH MILITANT—TRADITIONALIST (2 I/IL)

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

**Trade:** Averon, ThaceD, Tokatl

**DP:** None.

**R**emaining in SiStrameides with her personal Guard, Aketika is none too pleased with events back home. Loyalty to her remains strong in the southwest and, oddly, in the religious sites in the Church’s Demense lands.

#### ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (25 SI/IL)

*Her Gracious Majesty, Dericā I, Lady Drax, Countess of Darida, Lord Admiral of the Green, Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon.*

*Tiketua IV of Tishrak, Margrave of the North.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Chi’tixi, CM, Itaxik, Taneki, ThaceD, Tokatl, Udrahahn

**DP:** None.

**T**he delightful Grand Duchess Dericā announced that Averon was in Dorozhand to stay in a big way. Portions of the ruins of Golthoth the Damned were rebuilt into a town, and the whole of it was encircled in one of the largest systems of walls and redoubts to be found in Averon. Few people were willing to actually live in this forsaken wasteland, so the settlers of the new Golthoth are some of the more... *colourful* characters to be found. It’s a rough place, and the folks there who aren’t tough don’t last long.

In contrast, the holiday spa village of Sulis in Episma was, under the patronage of the Grand Duchess’s sister, the Duchess Jera, elevated to a quaint little harbour town with lots of charming shops and picturesque markets. Its popularity amongst Averon’s vacationing aristocracy has blossomed.

Averon’s military was advised that any visiting forces of the Duchy of Thace and the Principality of Itaxik were to be considered allies.

The Duchess Jera was married in 1503 to Baron Challik of Goorin. Their first child was born in 1505, a girl named Jushana.

The Grand Duchess is not quite sure what to make of the events transpiring in the Church. In 1505, one of the claimants to the Patriarchal mitre set up shop in the cathedral of Orret in Poonktem.

Airship quality improved and, thanks to the new flowering of education in the classics, sorcery and siegecraft improved as well.

#### COUNTY OF PEXIKI (26 I/YG)

*Her Excellency, Xitar I, Mistress of the Coactoka Hive, Countess of Pexiki, Lady Amoxcali.*

**Trade:** Itaxik, Taneki

**DP:** None.

**E**nergetic Countess Xitar continued her programme of construction. Three towns were raised: Cotocan in Ayya, the river port of Tepec in tributary Kalli, and the river port of Muceltec in tributary Tepetitlan.

Naval and sorcery quality both improved.

#### ELECTORAL PRINCIPALITY OF ITAXIK (48 I/UR)

*Her High Majesty, Princess Yautlatoaya II, Mistress of the Tischak, Countess of Takkikik, Elector of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West.*

*Her Excellency, Cipahtonatha IV, Baroness Aueuetl, Countess of Pehuatoka, Guardian of Miçtia.*

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

**Trade:** Avero, Carcë, Pexiki, Sakkar, Taneki, Tokatl, Urdráhahn, Yax'te

**DP:** Jarrok (T), Pehuatoka (see below)

**W**hile Princess Yautlatoaya visited Akassa, her envoy Lady Notekua<sup>3</sup> continued the interminable negotiations with the Countess of Pehuatoka. The negotiations were going surprisingly well, perhaps aided by the hundreds of chests of gold delivered to the area and invested in numerous public works projects, employing (and enriching) many Pehuatokan locals. In late 1501, things took a decided turn for the worse when a huge commotion erupted

<sup>3</sup> The latest in a long line of Itaxik diplomats from that Prefecture.

in the old port district at the river. Thousands of Saurian troops poured out of one of the abandoned warehouses and took up defensive positions throughout the lower city. They were 20,000 Averoese cavalry led by the Malebolge Captain Zhikkeke late of Dorozhand. She deferred to Lady Notekua and affirmed that they were there at Itaxik's request.

The Countess of Pehuatoka was *furiously* with the Itaxik, accusing them of dark magic and base treachery. Lady Notekua, in turn, accused the Pehuatokans of lying about the existence of a gate in their city, and she demanded to know who had been using it. The Countess for her part denied that she knew anything about a magical gate.

An investigation revealed that the warehouse had been purchased, renovated, and considerably enlarged in 1487 by a merchant combine called "the Shell Corporation" ostensibly for storing goods for the river trade. It had been abandoned just months previously, when the company suddenly pulled up stakes and abandoned the warehouse and its offices in the city.

The Countess of Pehuatoka's mood changed from anger to fear at the news that foreign influences had been using a gate in her own city right under her mandibles for decades. She actually thanked the Itaxiki and Averoese governments for their intervention, something unthinkable just a few years before.

Shortly thereafter, the Countess of Pehuatoka swore fealty to Princess Yautlatoaya of Itaxik, who in turn granted Pehuatoka a dependency consisting of a fair number of regions neither of them own yet.

In the north, an Itaxik army consisting of 27,000 knights and fifty airships sojourned through Averoese Kib and Pantun, where they were shunned, and into Yagnarišt Sirami. They had no orders to attack, and the local nomads had absolutely no desire to commit suicide by attacking *them*.

The entrants in Itaxik's quintennial science and technology fair were not quite so practical as in years past. Possibly the most impressive was the non-magical flying machine designed by a Saurian from Ymoski named Malmes Eilmer. Master Malmes strapped on the bat-like wings and demonstrated his

invention by leaping from the bell tower of Timalla Cathedral. Sadly, Master Malmes did not survive.

The government expanded. Probably a good thing.

#### **BARONY OF SAKKAR (14 IS/IL)**

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

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

**DP:** Iutl (T), Pekka, (T)

**K**uauinochitla in Itatlan Prefecture was proclaimed the new capital of Sakkar. Festive celebrations were held in the nearby Priory of Mercy, as well as throughout the Barony. The Baroness then took a long overdue extended holiday.

Sakkari forces occupied Ersma Prefecture in the shadows of the Great Southern Forest. Likewise, frigid and mountainous Orren was occupied by a very bedraggled expeditionary force.

In the Summer of 1503, a sizeable Sakkari fleet was spotted off the coast of Xinite Auicalo. They put ashore 30,000 Iluvarian troops, spearheaded by marines and a well-placed lightning bolt. The Xinites put up a fearsome resistance, but they were crushed by sheer weight of numbers and by the utter military genius that is General Cinara, Baroness of Tlapan. The region was taken, and conversion by the sword is ongoing.

Requests and letters addressed to the Church Militant went unanswered.

#### **ICEMARK OF YAX'TE (17 S/IL)**

*Margrave Cleon the Solemn, Grand Master and Knight-Commander of the Champions of the Renewal.*

**Trade:** Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki

**DP:** Penkni (T)

**Y**ax'te's colony in Elowen flourished (1121)s, and the town of Sedrutet was built there, nestled amongst the pines and cedars.

Iluvarian missionaries flooded tributary Neghos and Onisba. While the Neghites embraced Iluvarianism, things weren't so easy in Onisba. Only about half the population converted, and considerable civil

disruption was noted throughout the countryside. The region very nearly rebelled.

Margrave Cleon and his wife celebrated the birth of three children, bringing their total to six. The Margrave's immediate family now constitutes the overwhelming majority of House Gorrne.

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## Thacia and Aret

### THE HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

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#### **ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (38 I/YG)**

*Her Most Puissant Majesty, 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:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**Y**agnarist missionaries flooded Chi'tixi's Tarotist Prefectures in the west. It turns out that Tarotism in Chi'tixi wasn't particularly fervent, and most folks already worshiped Card XV under the name "Yagnar" anyway. The people of Chekkah, Girkkah<sup>4</sup>, Kirakata, Tikkah, and Tórikah converted<sup>5</sup>. Tichiir, with its high population and the cosmopolitan city of Astroy, presented special problems however. The typically Chi'tixi solution consisted of... even more missionaries. There was so much money filtering through Tichiir, that even most of the die-hard Tarotist preachers just gave up. A small number of steadfast Tarotists, however, refused to surrender their faith. These "pilgrims" left the country on merchant vessels, eventually ending up in Zadres, the nearest accessible Free City.

<sup>4</sup> Girkkah was the center of the Card XV cultus, and its gleefully violent (but disciplined) warrior culture eagerly accepted the new religious regime.

<sup>5</sup> There are outlying and isolated villages that still practice a degraded form of Tarotism as a cultural remnant, but local officials feel confident that even these will fade in a generation or two.

Pursuant to their treaty of 1472, Chi'tixi granted to the Countess of Cærrat the remaining lands west of the Stroip River valley, excepting only Chekkah, which is much closer to Girkkah's culture than it is to Cærrat's. The Countess of Cærrat protested that the treaty additionally promised her Chekkah, Kirakata, and Kirikat. The Queen replied, "I have altered the deal; pray that I do not alter it further."

The Chi'tixi government closed all their internal waterways to non-merchant vessels unless they were clearly Chi'tixi, Cærrat, or Imperial ships. They backed up their words with heavy naval patrols in the Stroip and Tikka Rivers.

The revival of ancient learning hit Chi'tixi, and their sorcerous skills increased. They also improved their cavalry and airship quality and expanded their government.

A small Averese fleet was observed traveling from the Gulf of Iphil and up the Chittix Coast. They seem to be harmless.

#### DUCHY OF THACE (27 S/UR)

*His Grace, Brannis II, Lord Goshtikka-Ourane, Baron of Brennadein, Marshal of Thacia, Duke of Thace.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Averon, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, CM, Ingazi, Hyrägec, ID, ThaceE, Tokatl, Udraháhn

**DP:** Sandír (F)

**D**ucal Thace remained the centre of a cultural and scientific revolution, so much so that many scholars across Sahûl are calling it the "Thacian Renaissance".

In 1501, Lord Sasobal Yanor, Steward of Thace, turned over power to the new heir, Lord Brannis. He enjoyed his position as Regent for only a few months, before the confusing news arrived by Herald from Sardarthion about Duke Willor.

Not knowing what else to do, Lord Brannis remained Regent for a full year and a day before he reluctantly allowed himself to be crowned Duke. His older brother Lord Willor made a spectacle of himself in the gambling dens of dockside Ourane.

In 1504 a Murali fleet arrived in Ourane, bearing a thousand scribes of the Order of the Scroll and a full

cargo of blank paper. The monks immediately set to work in the seemingly endless task of copying each and every volume.

Thace built two priories, including a memorial shrine called Agröeš in Lahai. The town of Rûnahd rose in Twein. The government expanded.

#### ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (26 S/UR) *Somara the Savvy, Regent for ...*

*His Most Excellent Majesty, Brannis VI, the Young, Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Electoral Count Palatine in Thace.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrägec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Taneki, ThaceD, Udraháhn

**DP:** Corinn (F)

**E**lector Thace made a bid for normalcy. Under the wise leadership of Regent Somara, the Thacians built the town of Gorathis in the Belorn steppe, dedicated Dolphin Abbey in Jaon, and built a new highway from Snamarthis southward into Somath. They constructed new public works throughout the realm, and even expanded the army. The Thacian Renaissance blossomed in the cities and towns of the Electorate: sorcerous learning increased and advances in engineering raised siege quality.

The young Count Palatine, meanwhile, was sent off to school in Udraháhn, under the watchful eye of the First Matriarch. With him went his untrainable (though loyal) Steppe Hound, Mister Piddles, much to the relief of the palace staff. Following a few eventful years of primary school and private tutoring, Brannis enrolled in University in 1503.

Meanwhile, the Count's younger brother Basodir and sister Sardira were raised by their mother Countess Gorthis in Snamarthis. Basodir proved to be a bit of a prodigy, and he is now a cadet at Esenthis Military Academy.

In a cost-saving measure, several Thacian leaders patronised the Inn of the Twelve Tusks in Davica. It was not a popular billet, as the inn is rated *negative* two stars by *Frodor's Thace*. The entire review consists of the word "shudder".

The air academy expanded.

### LORDSHIP OF CARCĚ (5 S/UR)

*Sar Grotan Tremek, Second Lord CarcĚ, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Itaxik, ThaceD, ThaceE

**DP:** None

**S**ar Tremek kept up a friendly correspondence with his cousin Gorthis, whose son is Thace's Count. For a Realm barely out of the Iron Age, the Renaissance came as something of a shock. Sorcery improved, as did infantry tactics, something sorely lacking up to now in the steppe.

### GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (29 W/UR)

*His Grace, Pangku Tramandes II, the Precise, Baron Pinyerrel, Grand Duke of All Araxes.*

**Trade:** Atuburrk, Averno, Cappargarnia, CarcĚ, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**O**n his way back home from the southern steppe territories in 1503, the elderly Grand Duke Tramandes the Valiant died in a snowy mountain pass in upper Inchik. His body was borne back to Pinyerrel, where he was entombed with his predecessors at the abbey church of Saint Nemar. He was beloved by his people, and his son declared a year of mourning before allowing himself a coronation. Shortly thereafter, the late Grand Duke's consort, the Grand Duchess Thierre, died at age 62.

Already a legend is common in the outlying Prefectures that Tramandes the Valiant is not dead, but only sleeping under the mountains that claimed him, and he will return to Araxes and lead them during their time of greatest difficulty. The new town of Thokor, meaning "mourning", was raised in Syghor to his honour.

With the accession of Grand Duke Tramandes II and the flourishing of the arts and sciences of the Thacian Renaissance, a new age dawned in Araxes. The new Grand Duke is a Wenemet of the new thinking, trained in both etiquette and war, and blessed with a

mathematical mind. As a naval captain, he inspired an almost fanatical loyalty in his men, and many of his fellow senior captains attended the coronation and subsequent celebrations in 1504.

Amidst all this, a bizarre border crisis with Duedhyn tested the mettle of the new Grand Duke.

### THE TYTHYEN INCIDENT (1504)

A large Araxes garrison was installed in Tythyen amidst reports of foreign *agents provocateur* fomenting dissent throughout the countryside. In 1504 the region renounced its tribute to Araxes. Almost immediately, Duedhyn espied the now independent prefecture. Lord Wydhenn of Derrow and his several thousand attachés entered Tythyen on a diplomatic mission, similar in scope and intent as their previous foray into Avalow. Lord Wydhenn, being rather gruff and impatient, did not impress the locals so much as start beating them into submission. By this time, Admiral Lord Puntha of Thûduaxa had taken command of the loyal Araxean garrison, and he led it against both the locals and the Duedhyn.

The 26,500 Araxean pike and sword brushed aside the pitchfork-wielding locals and quickly smashed the 4,500 Duedhyn horsemen, sending their remnants scampering back over the border. Araxes retains control of Tythyen as a tributary, and they are now at war with Duedhyn and apparently Duedhyn's new Aradécán overlords as well.

Meanwhile back at the Araxes capital, Tramandes' fifteen year old son Kapalless was proclaimed heir by the House Pangku Clan Mothers in 1505. He is currently a cadet at the Pinyerrel Military Academy, and during spring break he was invested with the heir's traditional title of Count of Thangkar. He has one sibling, his younger sister Thierre, who is something of a hothead.

Thanks to the flowering of the Renaissance, sorcery and naval quality improved. Further investments raised siegecraft, sorcerous learning, and the size of Araxes' government.

## COUNTY OF KICITCHAT (20 I/YG)

*Her Excellency, T'cha'k v, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Udraháhn

**DP:** None

**Q**ountess T'cha'k tied up some loose ends left dangling after the recent war. She even hired the White Lotus Company to aid in the conquest of the remaining Crusader territories. First, she supervised the laying of cornerstones in the new town of Xant'ki in Thichat, then she sent forth her mighty armies!

Into Cauros poured almost 100,000 Kicitchat troops<sup>6</sup>, fire bolts a-blazing. The last Raven army, about 13,000 infantry, put up a tough resistance. Many zombies were transformed into fertilizer, as was the entirety of the Raven army. This, however, was not the end of the campaign in Cauros. Yagnarist missionaries followed the armies, and they did a good job of converting the Saurian population. The army continued their work by enslaving villages that had supported the Ravens, as was anyone still worshipping the Raven. By 1505, the “de-Ravenication” of Cauros was judged a success.

Missionary conversions in Ollon have made that prefecture a Yagnarist stronghold. Naval and sorcery both improved.

### TREMBLE BEFORE THE BLACK LOTUS!

**Q**in a moonless night in 1503, while the White Lotus Company were in Thichat awaiting a rendezvous with additional Kicitchat forces, they were suddenly and treacherously attacked. Mistress Exata and the leadership of the White Lotus were caught completely off guard. Although a defense was hastily organized by her chief lieutenant, a Wenemet named Amilik Sarthes, the 5,000 or so active defenders were slaughtered to a man, many hunted down from airships as they fled the site of the

<sup>6</sup> If you count zombies and camp followers.

“battle”. About 20,000 or so were captured and enslaved by the Kicitchat, and the remaining handful escaped.

While the common prisoners were enslaved, the officers of the White Lotus were slowly impaled on pikes near the site of their defeat. A Demonic Liturgy was held while they died to consecrate their souls to Yagnar and their bodies as zombies in the service of Kicitchat.

Those slain in battle were also raised as zombies. They now make up a special undead cadre in the armies of Kicitchat, known as the *Black Lotus*: the White Lotus of their livery stained black with their own dried blood.

**ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (25 W/YG)**  
*His Gracious Majesty, Adhanggar Dranthes III, Count of Odol, Imperial Governor of Ardebon, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Kommolek, ThaceE, Tokatl, Udraháhn

**DP:** None.

**Q**rand Duke Dranthes did his very best to lay low and keep Atuburrk out of trouble. They rendered repairs and assistance to the stranded Ingazi warships and sent them home.

The double port town of Wodonga was built on the idyllic island of Alghin. The new town was honoured by a visit from the Grand Duke himself.

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## Central Sahûl

### THE HEART OF EMPIRE

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**ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (48M/TA)**  
*His Sublime Majesty, Tiribissi Lanbarnes, Guildmaster of the Innkeepers, Hereditary Burgrave of Adndar, Lord Admiral of the Blue, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia.*

*His Great Holiness, Fenric IV, Pontiff of the Hidden Lords at Golluz.*

*His Excellency Tiribissi Lanbarnes II, Chancellor of the Guilds Council of the Imperial Free City of Adndar.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kitchat, Kommolek, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** Church of the Illimitable (see below)

**C**appargarnia rebuilt city walls throughout the Republic, and they even endowed a new College of Engineering at the University of Cappargarnia, which coincidentally expanded as well. The moat surrounding the city of Adndar was emptied, thoroughly cleaned, and refilled.

Great sacrifices were made to the Lords of the Tarot. Prince Lanbarnes staggered out of the great Cathedral of Arag in 1501 muttering something about baboons. Once he was sober, he travelled with great pomp to the holy city of Golluz.

The war hero (and military genius) General Lord Anabrin Darronley once again commanded the Republic's armies, this time into Dusios and Adément. There was little credible resistance to his overwhelming forces, which included Darcin's Destroyers on extended contract.

Missionaries were sent to some of the less Tarotist parts of the Republic with sketchy results. Although Bufalein was converted in its entirety, Dwelnaz remains fifty percent Raven, and efforts in Envel and Ebmadh were largely failures. Following an influx of Yagnarist missionaries, Nolvonn renounced its Tarotism *and* its tribute to Cappargarnia.

The Prince's son, the Chancellor of the Adndar Guilds, married a Morwennan aristocrat. They already have two children, with another on the way.

Cappargarnia's government expanded *again*.

#### CHURCH OF THE ILLIMITABLE

**H**ope Fenric IV was wine and dine by no less a personage than the Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia. During the course of dinner, the Prince made the Pontiff an offer he couldn't refuse: dependency status within the Republic with previous Senate representation fully restored coupled

with complete religious autonomy and guarantees of self-government in all Church affairs. For Fenric, this seemed the best of all possible arrangements, for by giving up political autonomy he was securing the Church's doctrinal and religious authority.

By their fourth bottle of Ebmadh red, the two had signed *the Covenant of Sublime and Eternal Affiance*.

#### IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF EINANDHU (4 M/UR)

*Sir arCanlann Dirbarn, Tiger King of Arms.*

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

**DP:** It's a living.

**S**ir Graxes Aratan, Tiger King of Arms during possibly the most trying period in the Order, died peacefully in the Summer of 1502. The Laurel Prince of Arms (the chief Herald of Aradéc) became the Order's new leader.

The ancient Lord Nider of Episma, once again Vice-Admiral of the Green, loaded up his forces aboard every available ship, both Averese and Imperial, and prepared to go home. Unfortunately, he died in his sleep in 1501 at the age of 94. He was buried in the city's cemetery with full honours. His grandson Captain Lorth of *HMS Allayda*, meanwhile, found himself promoted to Lord of Episma and acting Vice-Admiral of the Green all in the same day.

A venerable (but raving) Malebolge attending the Heraldic academy announced that she was, in fact, Master Drevandemes! She gave a rousing speech in the Academy Commons in 1504:

*Reports of my death in 1466 were greatly exaggerated! I, Master Drevandemes, Sage of Sardarthion, having better bethought myself of the importance of service in these trying times, have decided to accept the position of Tiger King of Arms offered by the Order in 1446. I suppose that was a while back, but I'm sure the present Tiger King of Arms will be relieved to be well quit of the frustrating position. Additionally, I am pleased to announce the publication of my latest work, a sequel to my best-seller, titled COMMENTARY ON THE COD. In this slim and entertaining volume, I examine the effect of*

*the codpiece on the development of chivalric attitudes. And keep an eye out for my nearly finished treatise: INTERRACIAL INTERCOURSE – BLESSING OR BLASPHEMY?*

**THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE (13 M/UR)**

*His August & Imperial Majesty, Sardhan I, the Old, Baron of Madran and Kamadhi, Count of Agdora, Elector and Grand Duke of Golmath, Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Elphárec, Kicitchat, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, IOC, Kommolek, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None

**IIP:** 28

*For appointments, please see Gazette.*

**E**mperor Sardhan made his pilgrimage to the Shrine of Moroko in 1502 at the age of 79. He is much slower than he used to be, and he suffered a grave illness on his return. His doctors have advised him to slow down. As Sardarthion was submerged into the Renaissance, a new café culture swept the dusty streets of the ancient city. Sorcery improved and the Emerald Watch's infantry regiments benefitted from new tactics. Truly monumental public works construction in Sardarthion are making it a center of civilization and culture.

Continuing the provincial reforms, Sardhan ordered the Auditors to the Provinces of Thacia Maior and Minor. The records were a bit of a mess there, but in the end the provincial government and finances were reformed. In other financial matters, the Imperial Bank of Sahûl opened a branch in Sardarthion, which became the site of the Imperial exchequer.

The *Imperial Reform Steering Committee* continued to meet and make progress, though what, if any-

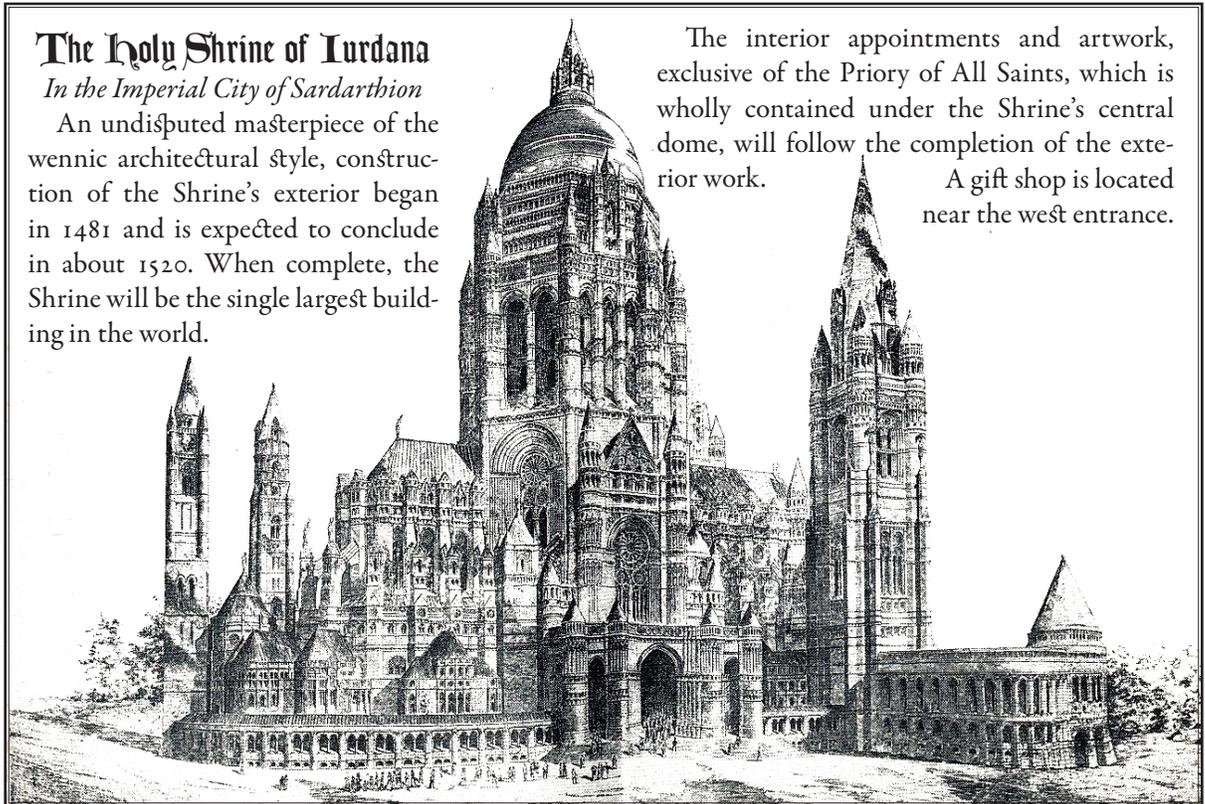
### The Holy Shrine of Iurdana

*In the Imperial City of Sardarthion*

An undisputed masterpiece of the wenic architectural style, construction of the Shrine's exterior began in 1481 and is expected to conclude in about 1520. When complete, the Shrine will be the single largest building in the world.

The interior appointments and artwork, exclusive of the Priory of All Saints, which is wholly contained under the Shrine's central dome, will follow the completion of the exterior work.

A gift shop is located near the west entrance.



thing, will come of their work none can guess. The Emperor himself seems pessimistic, but that might just be orneriness due to age.

In and around Zadres, books printed on paper are becoming popular, as they are much cheaper than parchment books, sturdier than rice paper, and more uniform than papyrus. Of course, the discriminating reader prefers parchment. Or rice paper. Or papyrus.

The Urdans continued work on the Shrine of Iurdana, with workmen crawling all over the site at all hours on all days except holidays. The lower floors of the shrine were completed, including cells for the Shrine's monastics and the Reverend Mother's private apartments.

The increasing numbers of visitors and pilgrims to Iurdana included Imperial Chancellor Duke Willor Agröes of Thace, the shining star of the steppe himself. He arrived wearing his now customary blindfold, and was gently led around the cavernous interior by a tiny, soft-spoken nun who rattled on about the architecture. When at last they arrived at the Priory of All Saints, which is a tiny chapel actually built *inside* the Shrine, under its massive central dome, the Duke removed his blindfold. And he looked around in wonder. He stared for long moments at various points around him, sometimes into empty space. His eyes were wide in amazement, and his mouth hung open.

The little nun was confused, for although the building itself was impressive, not one of the interior appointments—painting, stained-glass, sculpture—were installed yet. Even the one remaining stained-glass window of the original Shrine was in storage awaiting restoration. Other than the bare stone of the soaring architecture, only a few worn patterns of mosaic tile in the floor remained. Even the original high altar was uncovered bare marble, slightly worn at the edges with centuries of rain and snow.

And yet, Willor looked about himself as though he were at Urda's Court itself. As he slowly spun around, taking it all in, his eyes came to rest on the ancient altar stone. He stood stock still.

A look of pain, or perhaps desperation, came to his eyes as he took a single step forward.

"No," he whispered.

He held his arms out to the altar in supplication.

"No! No!" he shouted, running towards it.

"It's empty! No! The tent of the sky, it can't..." and in mid-stride he reached the altar and vanished into the air, his last word hanging, echoing, under that great cavernous dome.

He was never seen again.

#### PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN (11 S/RA)

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

**Trade:** Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Kicitchat, Kommolek

**DP:** Finnedor (F)



Prince Dallyn swore fealty to King Rhazathan IV of Aradéc in 1501, placing his realm under the protection of the Electoral Kingdom. Terms of the treaty were not disclosed. The news seems to have deflated the Orthodox clergy in Duedhyn, who were becoming quite vociferous in their anti-Ravenist sermons. In fact, the prefectures containing Urdan Cathedrals have become increasingly restive as relations between the Raven Order and the Church continued to deteriorate. In Sansoleth, this went as far as actual rebellion. Pamphlets advocating a return to Orthodoxy and a "return to balance" were clandestinely, but widely, circulated. The split is rumoured to have reached into House Dhanos itself, though there are no *openly* Orthodox members, even amongst its attenuated branches.

Meanwhile, a new Raven priory was built in Rinthes, and Boswynnan Priory in Glaſtanen is now an abbey. Recruitment for the Order, flagging since the start of the late Crusade, has picked up noticeably.

In 1504, the Tythyen incident (see *Araxes*) brought the Principality to the brink of war, testing Duedhyn's relationship with their overlord in Aradéc for the first time.

Rumours of foreign agents in the Principality proved all too true; a spy was captured in Avalow trying to rouse up the Orthodox there into renouncing their tribute.

A flotilla of twenty Yax'te airships transited across Duedhyn from Tythyen through Avalow and into Kothonan. Although they were flying the Icemark's colours (and commanded by the Yax'te sorceress Rhi'nitik) the airships themselves were clearly of Cappargarnian design. Children came running to watch the fleet as it sailed by. Yax'te described it as a "good-will visit".

In Pareis, the Company of the Prince's Players performed a play titled *The Ghosts of Illegal Conspiracies Past (?)* to sellout crowds<sup>7</sup>.

For some reason, all of Duedhyn's Iluvarian trade partners cut trade.

In the south there were reports of a dragon (or possibly several dragons) in the Agnid Mountains, particularly in Edhen and Garowdyr.

The scattered, rugged forest people of Finnedor are now all very, very wealthy.

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

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

**Trade:** Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Kicitchat, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Zarkhandu

**DP:** None.

**K**ommolek continued to make up for lost time by engaging in frantic building. A Primary Academy was built in Fair Belsûnd, and all of the children of House Goesek have begun attending<sup>8</sup>. In preparation, perhaps, for the expected graduates of the primary school, the university was expanded and new faculty hired.

<sup>7</sup> In the play, three ghosts named Crappar, Cam, and Kommode appear to the character of the Noble Prince. These ghosts each come shaking their incorporeal chains and moaning about this and that. The Prince confronts Crappar and Cam, and these cowardly ghosts humourously flee in the face of the truth about their obnoxious behaviour, but the third ghost, Kommode, is too stupid to run and instead draws its insubstantial spectral sword. With the crowd egging the actors on, the Noble Prince kills the comically inept Kommode, saving the realm and ensuring peaceful prosperity until the end of time, the skies ringing with praise for the Noble Prince.

<sup>8</sup> Except for Ardeel "the Turnip-brained", a second cousin twice removed of Baron Annavas. He was sent to an isolated castle in Kurfowlek where he spends his days gnawing on furniture and frightening highland sheep.

Baron Annavas spent some time in the ritual summoning of the Demon Dantiar before following his son to the Military Academy at Ueramos in Colledhu, where he spoke at the commencement and then took some continuing education courses.

Yagnarišt missionaries converted most of the remaining holdouts in Taporí.

Namrades erupted three times, showering ash over parts of Nametor and Namdynn.

The 7,500 Zarkhandu infantry commanded by Colonel Turanis Akkethes in Yseldyr laid siege to a block of warehouses in the tiny coastal village of Chundre in 1501. Turanis was determined to starve out those inside, but two years later, the warehouses burned down, killing all within.

Throughout the Barony a new team sport called "shinty" is becoming popular. Played on a field of ice, the object is to use large sticks to slap a ball into a net. Many shinty games degenerate into players simply using large sticks to slap each other.

#### **COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (23 S&W/IL)**

*His Excellency, Count Lefans IV, Baron Kwilkyn, Count of Tiryouglas, Defender of the Faith.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Murali, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**C**ount Sarrik sent his sons Lord Sarrik and Colonel Lord Lefans to Siſtrameides as his delegates to the Convocation. He decreed that the one anointed by Iluvar with wisdom and blessings would be selected Heir. The House Kwilkyn Clan Mothers were not happy about apparently being left out of the loop. Count Sarrik, meanwhile, put out a call to all of Tiryouglas to pray for the Convocation and the Tiryougli delegation, and to pray for Iluvar's anointing of the chosen one to lead Tiryouglas. Oddly enough, this appears to be exactly what happened.

Strange events were reported in Shingeit and then Búkleth in late 1503, apparently perpetrated by a hundred or so fleeing refugees from the warehouse demolition by Zarkhandu forces in nearby Yseldyr.

Local authorities arrested a number of these strangers, mostly for disturbing the peace, or trespassing, or stealing garden vegetables. To a one, when placed under arrest, the strangers committed suicide using poison. Police are mystified.

The elderly Count Sarrik died in 1504, just days short of his 70th birthday. Lord Lefans, accompanied by the Clan Mothers, came back early from the Convocation to take up his duties as Count. Lefans, a career military man and a bachelor, has indicated he will not marry. He encouraged the Clan Mothers to choose one of his nephews as heir. They chose Truedhek, the older of the late Lord Kerens' sons. At age 18, he is a welcome fresh face in an increasingly greying government.

City of Caranes in Bronnow expanded, and sorcery improved.

Count Lefans ordered the navy to the Upper Antean, where they conducted joint patrols with Ingazi fleet based in Deriháhn. In other naval news, an Averese fleet of some 175 vessels, loaded to the gunwales with troops, called at Eidis in Vaël.

#### ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (23 IL)

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

**Trade:** Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**D**ope Pious VIII built copious numbers of public works projects to spruce up the place for company. He also founded the town of Tiryovaël in Nasvaël.

Amidst the monuments of the beautiful and ancient Imperial Free City of Sistrameides, the representatives of Iluvarianism met.

#### FOURTH CONVOCATION OF SISTRAMEIDES

**W**ith Archemandrite of the West Aketika XII and Grand Abbot of Kityara Dorrdeis II at his side, Pope Pious VIII called the Convocation to order in 1501. The Church entire had not met since the Third Convocation of Sis-

trameides, which ended in bitter disagreement in 1378<sup>9</sup>. Clergy from all over the continent were there. Also in attendance were national delegations from all over the continent, though the largest was from Tiryowglas, which in the end included most of the House Kwilkyn Clan Mothers. They mostly sat in the gallery, occasionally exchanged knowing glances, and knitted. The Abbot of the Order of the Scroll attended the opening ceremonies as an observer and special guest of the Pontiff.

After the customary greetings, the Pope welcomed Archemandrite Aketika XII and the Grand Abbot of Kityara, as well as the various national delegations, and thanked them all for traveling so far. Then they got down to business. This being the Church of Iluvar, there was an organized and intensive agenda, with daily breakout sessions featuring hearty ales and long meals in the many public houses of the city.

A late addition to the agenda was a request by Count Sarrik of Tiryowglas that his two surviving sons be interviewed by the assembly, possibly to determine who would make a better heir. The suddenly interested Kwilkyn Clan Mothers in the gallery perked up. Some even put down their knitting.

In came bespectacled Lord Sarrik, a government administrator, and Colonel Lord Lefans of the Tiryowgli Army of the Antean, resplendent in his blue uniform trimmed in gold and fur. Both Saurians were in their mid-forties and at the height of their respective careers. Both were interviewed before the assembly by old Pope Pious, where they replied to the various questions with dignity and tact. The brothers were, in fact, very much alike, with fine strategic minds and modest dispositions.

The interviews concluded, the Pope was at a loss as to what to do next. As the Convocation sat in relative silence for a moment, a dove suddenly flew in through an open window and alighted on the head of Colonel Lord Lefans. The Pope leapt to his feet, crying, "behold the anointed of Iluvar!" The Clan

<sup>9</sup> Ironically, the Third Convocation was called to study the issue of Iluvarian unity. The Second Convocation in 1241 cleared up some dogmatic questions on angels and condemned the Filian Heresy. The First Convocation in 1215 was mostly concerned with the election of Emperor Rhazahan I.

Mothers, faced with the obvious, could do nothing but agree.

News of the *Tikata Crisis* in the west reached the Convocation in 1503. As events unfolded, a month's recess was declared as the uppermost levels of the Church came to grips with the situation.

When the Convocation reconvened, the elderly Malebolge Aketika XII took the podium and gave an impassioned speech, begging the assembly for help in putting to rights the broken Western Church and restoring her to her chair. Pope Pious seems cautious and the delegates are currently undecided.

In the autumn of 1505, the Convocation was adjourned until the Spring of 1506, at which time they will take up the matter of the Western Church.

#### **MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (38 W/IL)**

*His Grace, Eparreb Tashnes IV, the Flamboyant, Count of Angúron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.*

**Trade:** Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Tiryowglas

**DP:** None.

**O**ne day in 1502, Duke Tashnes III didn't come out from underneath his bed. The court physician confirmed that the old Duke was, in fact, stone cold dead. His 23-year old dissolute son, recently given the Deva Verran as a "minder", promised to give up drinking and gambling and women and to settle down as a proper Duke.

Inheriting a full treasury (and endemic unemployment), Duke Tashnes "the flamboyant" spent money as fast as he could. Wagon loads of gold and iron were sent to Siſtrameides, but this was only a fraction of Elphárec's expenditures. Eight towns and cities were expanded<sup>10</sup>, investments in cavalry, naval, air, and sorcery quality proved fruitful, and the government expanded. By the time he was done, the treasury was almost completely empty.

Despite the bevy of beauties parading through the Duke's many parties and dances, he has yet to choose a wife.

<sup>10</sup> Cullasiroc, Ebléc, Inh Eror, Kronoth, Nodder, Port Helican, Port Wrase, and Stolland.

Baron Ilkurr Valdiss, the Toymaker of Mungg, continued to work on his increasingly more obscure automatons in his mountaintop castle.

#### **KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (25 W/UR)**

*His Valiant Majesty Irrjir Rahnes VI, the Taciturn, King of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Elphárec, Golmath, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**K**ing Rahnes the Taciturn expanded Hyrágec's army by recruiting more knights. Reports of walking trees in Elbun Forest are now so common that the local drunks must now claim to see *herds* of them to get anybody to pay any attention.

The Thacian Renaissance came to Hyrágec, improving the realm's sorcery and naval quality improved. Thanks to wise investment, siegecraft improved as well.

The ancient emperor visited the Shrine of Moroko in 1502. He spent some time bantering with the Master of the Shrine, almost the only Wenemet around who's older than him.

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## The Gawan Peninsula

### THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

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#### **COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (29 W/UR)**

*His Most Urdan Excellency, Gwariva Trememeres III, Overlord of Gawan, Captain of the East Riding, Count Palatine of Ingazi.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Hyrágec, ID, IOC, Kicitchat, Kommolek, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, (z)Arkhandu

**DP:** None (but see below)

**I**ngazi continued to patrol the Antean River in conjunction with Tiryowglas. Another fleet set sail from Ingazi, consisting of almost two hundred vessels, led by Gorres Lord Trou-

serdale and his trusty dragon, Gunwere. They sailed north, and they did not return.

New public works projects were put in place throughout Ingazi, and a road built from Dynath into Urdraháhn. Airship quality improved, and Ingazi's Sorcery Academy was enlarged into a proper University. This last was just in time for the advent of the Renaissance. The new learning led to improvements in sorcery and naval technology.

The Ingazi Cup was awarded for the first time in 1505 to Ingazi's Rugby champion. The final between the Mindo *Maulers* and the Deriháhn *Destroyers* was played before sellout crowds in *Cheesemakers Stadium*. The Maulers won, though it was a near thing.

Peace was reestablished with Golmath, though they continued to rebuff Ingazi merchants. For no good reason that anyone could figure out, Yundru allied itself with Ingazi. Some countries have all the luck. Of course, the Way of Yústomon is very popular there, so perhaps the luck isn't *all* good...

#### CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (44.4 UR)

*Her All-Holiness Camleda v, the Transfigured Beetle, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averon,

Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Itaxik, Kitchat, Murali, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Zarkhandu

**DP:** Yep.

**C**amleda was near giddy over the prospect of educating the young Count of Thace. Or at least she was until she got a look at his Steppe Hound, Mister Piddles. The enthusiastic young pup wagged his tail so hard his whole back end shimmied. He jumped up on the Holy Mother with a happy yelp and wasted no time in living up to his name. As the puppy grew up, he became a pet not only of the young Count, but of the whole Matriarchal Court. He was a particular favourite of the Dragon Skögul, who would play fetch with him for hours on end.

Count Brannis spent a year at St. Irmengarde's Elementary School, where he lettered in rugby. He took his daily horse ride every day with the Holy

Mother after school. During these rides, she instilled in him the piety and wisdom to rule as a true Urdan prince. She encouraged a hearty lifestyle of physical exercise, self discipline, arts, sciences, and strength of character.

It was with some sadness that they were separated when Count Brannis enrolled in University in 1503. Their daily rides became weekly rides, and then monthly as Brannis became immersed in his historical and legal studies and captained his house rugby team to victory.

In Urdraháhn, an odd scene played out when the 27,500 soldiers of the Red Dragon Company were ordered to board fifty airships. When Captain Tarrid pointed out that there weren't really enough airships for their horses, never mind the men, the Abbess of Dinkumbi nevertheless ordered it to be so. A great argument was brewing right up until Captain Tarrid had a bit of a heart attack and died. It took the Red Dragons a while to elect their new leader, but when he was sworn in, he asked the Abbess for an additional 175 airships to carry his men. Shortly thereafter, *she* had a bit of a heart attack and died. The entire matter was referred up the chain of command, where it now safely rests.

Thanks to the Thacian Renaissance, sorcery<sup>11</sup> and infantry quality improved. Thanks to investments, siege and airship quality improved and the Church's government expanded yet again.

The disembodied, rotting head of the false prophet Barugh was delivered to Urdraháhn, where it continues to decorate a pike atop the main gate of the city.

**ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF GOLMATH (50 W/TA)**  
*His Majesty, Walarri Pirna the Erudite, Imperial Governor of Agador, Prince-Regent 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 and Count of Runazar.*

<sup>11</sup> In fact, quite a number of breakthroughs were made in the realms of sorcery and philosophy, and the Church might be looking straight down the barrel of a full-fledged scientific revolution.

*Margrave Volpel Tregarion of Ebalon.*

**Trade:** Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**D**Prince Pirna the Erudite upgraded the Golmath military and supervised construction of the Grand Duchy's first Mana battery in Madran near Golmath City.

Once again, Lord Wooster and 42,000 cavalry and infantry entered Ingazi Yiannis. This time, as part of their peace treaty, the mountain folk let them pass. The army marched straight for Bear Mountain Priory, turning aside down a forgotten trail at the last possible instant. The entire army vanished into a cavern from which it did not emerge...

Mendicants dedicated to the *Way of Yustomon* were seen throughout Golmath and Runazar, though the urban fad of the wealthy seeking them out for advice seems to be waning.

#### ALL-EAST RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1505

Strengthened, it is said, by being forced to wear a kilt for a year, the coach of the Pagumath *Pirates* instilled a fine sense of revenge in his team, and when they met the reigning champion Callam *Kilted Maniacs* in the semi-final they were ready for battle. The game was closely fought, and ended with what sports writers, with typical hyperbole, are calling "the upset of the century". Pagumath defeated Clallam 11-10 on the strength of a last-minute field goal by Forward Stremat Penges.

The final was almost anticlimactic, as the *Pirates* beat the resurgent Thunarr *Thunder* 14-5 amid a pelting rain of smallmouth bass.

There is some talk about inviting some Ingazi teams to participate in the 1510 Championships. Of course, another round would have to be added, but the very idea of Urdans and Tarotists meeting in battle on the Rugby pitch is proving irresistible for league officials. Other possibilities include a sort of "world cup" with the All-East champion playing the

Ingazi winner, or an entirely new championship featuring national teams.

#### ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (38 W/IL)

*His Royal Majesty, Sansollen Rhazahan IV, Baron of Wanumarra, Overlord of Duedhym, Imperial Governor of Aradior, Electoral King of Aradéc.*

**Trade:** Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Golmath, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kicitchat, Murali, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

**DP:** Palha (A), Kityara (A), Karruni (F), Milawalpayi (T)

**K**ing Rhazahan, Queen Mayia, and Prince Deric returned in triumph to their capital of Darnuldeis in 1501. Relations between the King and Queen warmed considerably, evidenced by the fact that the Queen gave birth to a son at the age of 43 in 1502. Prince Deric, meanwhile, attended school, where he earned a reputation as something of a prankster.

With the full weight of the Aradécán navy hovering just offshore, Admiral Darnius came ashore on the island of Palha. The island clans here are absolutely loyal to Prince Deric, but they have no love for his step-father the King. Nevertheless, they grudgingly agreed to ally themselves with Aradéc, but the laird of the isle indicated they would swear fealty to none but "young King Deric". The laird of Milawalpayi could not be induced even to go that far.

The King, meanwhile, had accepted the fealty of the Prince of Duedhym under undisclosed terms. This almost immediately involved Aradéc in a war with Urdan Araxes.

Cavalry, siege, and naval quality improved, and the fledgling primary school system was expanded.

#### COUNTY OF MURALI (10 W/TA)

*His Excellency, Kilyara Drathnes I, Baron of Karrka, Count of Murali.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Golmath, Ingazi, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

**DP:** None.

**M**urali continued work on *the Grand Library of Sabûl*, both inside and out. While the building took shape under the skillful hands of the master stonemasons, the Order of the Scroll dispatched a thousand scribes to the Library of Ourane.

Count Torthes the Grizzled died in 1504 at the venerable age of 79, having ruled Murali for 36 years. His heir Drathnes, who had been serving as Vice-Admiral of the Red, returned immediately to Karrka to take up his new duties as Count. The old Count was much beloved—indeed, many could not remember a time before his reign—and the mourning in Murali continues even now.

Murali's naval quality improved.

The *Way of Yustomon* continues to spread throughout Murali and (to a lesser extent) beyond.

#### IATHEDEK: THE PROTECTORATE OF FRIEBÆLD

**P**ease prevailed throughout the lands of Iathedek. Observers have noted a tough brown grass growing in the Wyrmwaste. Trade continued bustling along the Antean River.

#### VEILED MASTERS OF YARNI-ZA (7 YG)

*His Unholy Magnificence, the Lich Ystar, Thirteenth Patriarch of the Priests of Ozahn, Dread Hand of Yagnar, Voice of the Hidden Masters of Yarni-Za, Master of the Fell.*

**Trade:** Aradéc, Zarkhandu

**DP:** No.

**Y**star the Lich, the dread hand of Yagnar, after centuries of ruling the Hidden Masters of Yarni-Za from the shadows of the great stone Cathedral known as the Temple of the Eye, sent message to the Emperor that the time for being hidden was at an end.

Accordingly, their abbey tucked away in the ruins of Agakuk far to the west was expanded into a Cathedral to better serve the interests of the western Yagnarist realms.

**ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ZARKHANDU (45 S/YG)**  
*His Dread Majesty, Tirach Zhur the Magnificent, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyágliion, Prince Imperial, Electoral King of Zarkhandu.*

*Zharat the Suave, Margrave Draconis.*

**Trade:** Ingazi, Kommolek, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za

**DP:** Zyleen (T), Agremek (F), Timaut (F),  
Margh (F), Nombo (F), Marn (A),  
Hyágliion (F)

**T**irach Zhur set his Kingdom along a bright new path. A primary academy was built in an old castle on the Minrao River in Vúhlath, the great wizard Andel becoming the first headmaster of Sturdrang School. He has a reputation as a stern, but kindly, taskmaster<sup>12</sup>. In addition to these duties, Andel supervised the categorization, translation, and dispersal of new texts and learning, centering his efforts at both Sturdrang and the library at Zarkhandu. A Theological college was established at Zonu-Yahn University in Garghas, where some *Human* students were in evidence.

The King sent diplomats and heralds to the far-flung corners of Zarkhandu's lands, both past and present, with spectacular results. He was particularly pleased with Zyleen's tribute of a hundred cases of icewine, though perhaps nothing made him happier than the return of his Duchy of Hyágliion. For in 1502, Tirach Zhur was wed to Lady Leniqua, the daughter of the aging Count of Azinorn, senior most noble of the Duchy. Although theirs was in essence an arranged marriage, when Lady Leniqua rode through the gates of Zarkhandu in armour of silver gilt, on her head in place of a helmet a black velvet hood with a garland of pearls and precious stones, she looked, Tirach Zhur later said, "like a celestial spirit sent by Yagnar himself to be the paragon of all Saurian beauty". She has so far given him three children in three years: Crown-Prince Sharret, Princess Satampra, and Prince Zeiros.

The Human colony in Vúhlath prospered under Tirach Zhur's rule.

<sup>12</sup> The students affectionately call him "old fuzzy", though never to his face.

Strange Yagnarists rites were reported in rural Vúhlath, though none can say what they signify.

The Church Universal & Triumphant paid for the construction of the town of Shannet in Darthal next to the Urdan Cathedral of Wyrwood. Engineers began to lay out a road there as well, but they couldn't work out where it was supposed to go.

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## The Underlands

### DOWN UNDER

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#### PAMA-ATI & FEDERATED GUILDS (5 Y/-)

*The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Pama-Ati and Master of the Federated Guilds, Mani Ganapri.*

**Trade:** Yani.

**DP:** None.

**T**he Federated Guilds Council marshalled their armies against Golmath, but they were caught in a pincers move. In the north, Lord Bertie's 22,500 infantry ground itself to bits against the defending castles in Wuka Luyni. They lost almost half their forces before securing the region. A very large force of sappers withdrew to the city of Tahuati, where a substantial Golmath garrison kept watch while the main army invaded Milaythina. The region fell without any defense whatsoever.

So where was the Pama-Ati army?

#### *Battle for the Kitana Stair (1504)*

It turns out it was in the south, and when Golmath sent a 42,000-man army down the Kitana Stair, they were ready. The Pama-Ati, led by Mani Tunapri himself, mustered 60,000 Yaminon in an effort to defeat the invaders before they could gain a southern foothold. In the ancient stair, they met in battle.

Despite being outnumbered, the Golmath forces poured down the Stair, led by a crazed Wenemaiden wielding a flashing, glowing longsword. In the first wave, Golmath lost 12,000 while the defenders held firm. Both of Mani Tunapri's lieutenants were killed, though otherwise casualties were light.

The second wave of attacks proceeded much the same way as the first, with horrific Overlander casu-

alties. With only 17,000 surviving troops, Golmathi Captains Wooster and Swizzle considered withdrawal until news reached them that amongst the Underlander casualties was the Lord Mayor of Pama-Ati, Mani Tunapri himself. Once again, the crazed Wenemaiden Lady Swizzle took up her magical blade and the Golmathi attacked one final time.

This time, victory was theirs. The leaderless defenders scattered in disarray before them, almost falling over themselves to withdraw. The vast majority of them were simply slaughtered. Although Lady Swizzle was killed by a lucky slingshot, Golmath's casualties were otherwise light as they secured the base of the Kitana Stair.

The combination of defeat and the death of their Master, drove the Pama-Ati Guilds into chaos. Eventually, they were able to choose a new Master, but he's got his work cut out for him.

#### UNION OF YANI (9 Y/-)

*The Right Honourable Provost of Yani and Master of the Union Guilds of the Towns of Yangina, Mani Prupari IV.*

**Trade:** Pama-Ati, Putini

**DP:** None.

**P**rupari spent their resources building up their already formidable army. They have absolutely no desire to suffer the sorts of defeats that Pama-Ati has been enjoying. They also put out feelers to the Murali Overlanders to see if they might wish to open trade.

#### PUTINI ALLIANCE (5 Y/-)

*The Honourable Hereditary Mayor of Putini, Mani Makara.*

**Trade:** Yani

**DP:** None.

**P**utini, suspecting that their neighbours to the north were, perhaps, up to no good, built up their armies as much as they could.

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# Imperial Gazette

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

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Emperor Sardhan

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## APPOINTMENTS

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To Lord Admiral of the Blue: Prince Tiribissi Lanharnes of Cappargarnia.

To Lord Admiral of the Green: Grand Duchess Drax Derica of Averon.

To Marshal of Thacia: Duke Goshtikka-Ourane Brannis of Thace.

To Governor of Anabreis, Aradaun, Artier, Chos, Dorthacia, Dranchoal, Dranmul, Endior, Iantier, Kinsidan, Tepalis, Thacia Maior, Thacia Minor: *by examination*.

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## PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

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

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## OPEN OFFICES

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

Chancellor of the Empire, Lord Admiral of the Red, and Governors as indicated.

# Imperial Strength Index

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	E-mail	ISI
<i>The Great Powers</i>					
1	Golmath* / Emperor.....	Paul Flinton.....	Free Beer.....	cruentidei@gmail.com .....	2,376.1
2	Aradéc* .....	Charles Hurst .....	Xanthi.....	charlesh@teleport.com.....	1,812.2
3	Cappargarnia* .....	Steven Lloyd.....	Blackheart.....	slloyd13@gmail.com .....	1,424.6
4	Araxes .....	Christopher Hord.....	chordam7.....	chordam7@yahoo.com.....	1,274.7
5	Chi'tixi* .....	Steve Cagg .....	Priest King .....	ragnarstation@hotmail.com .....	1,255.4
<i>Major Powers</i>					
6	Averon* .....	Kevin Lawrence.....	Averon Inc.....	privatej67@yahoo.com .....	1,193.8
7	Itaxik* .....	Michael Warner .....	Galen .....	me1451@comcast.net.....	1,175.9
8	Thace, Elektor* .....	Gareth Anderson .....	kolgrim.....	kolgrim@gmail.com .....	1,091.0
9	Ingazi.....	Harry Jago .....	jago.....	jagoh@yahoo.com .....	1,050.4
10	Zarkhandu* .....	Theo Moriarty .....	Mandala of Blood.....	tmoriarty@gmail.com .....	1,006.7
11	Church U&T .....	Anne Porter.....	Cupcake.....	crabbycupcakes@gmail.com .....	1,000.1
12	Atuburk*.....	Adam Sherman.....	Gonnagle.....	mad.angus@yahoo.com .....	953.0
<i>Regional Powers</i>					
13	Taneki.....	Don Wynne.....	meriden .....	dpatrickwynne@gmail.com.....	840.5
14	Pexiki .....	John Schmid.....	Magus.....	magus@spellcaster.org.....	831.8
15	Elphárec.....	Lisa Kaattari.....	Kaattari.....	kaylee.robinson@rocketmail.com...	781.6
16	Duedhyn .....	Alex James .....	Clan Dhanos of Duedyn....	ClanDhanos@yahoo.com .....	770.1
17	Hyrárec.....	Frank Thein.....	Frank.....	fthein@gmx.de.....	733.0
18	Thace, Duchy.....	Jake Roberts .....	Jake .....	jacob.roberts1@gmail.com .....	729.3
19	Kommolek .....	Cortlandt Winters....	Cortah.....	cwinters@notebookmargins.com ....	671.1
20	Tiryowglas .....	Mike Johnson .....	Minister of Defense .....	printermanmj@aol.com.....	663.8
21	Kicitchat.....	James Hazeltine.....	Von Malvalken.....	jhazeltine@pleiadesmm.com.....	575.2
<i>Minor Powers</i>					
22	Veiled Masters.....	Jim Tucker .....	thirteenth.....	.....	484.3
23	Yani.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	429.1
24	IOC .....	Jason Pearl .....	redoubtable1 .....	redoubtable1@comcast.net.....	417.6
25	Tokatl.....	Shelley Woodberry ..	Skipperway.....	desrik@comcast.net .....	404.8
26	Murali .....	Corey Snow .....	Cyclometh.....	cyclometh@gmail.com .....	402.2
27	CM/Reform .....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	344.6
28	Carcë .....	Joe Cirillo .....	Conqueror Worm.....	jcirillo@lcmarketing.net .....	334.2
29	Sakkar .....	Nelson Merritt.....	hemmy .....	nelson.merritt@wachovia.com.....	316.1
30	Yax'te.....	Tyler Baumgartner....	rawhidekid .....	tylerbaumgartner@gmail.com.....	315.2
<i>Miscellaneous Rabble</i>					
31	Putini .....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	243.0
32	Pama-Ati.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	221.8
33	CM/Orret.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	99.1
34	CM/Trads.....	open for a player .....	.....	.....	77.4