

The Sahûl Chronicle

Turn 16

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1526–1530 SA

The most certain way of insuring victory is to march briskly and in good order against the enemy, always endeavoring to gain ground.

—Prince Endarra

Lit yer plans be mirk an' as impenetrable as nicht, an' when ye move, faa loch a thunderbolt.

—Prince Kaidarian



BEST IS NEEDED, after this, the most taxing Turn yet. I have a number of projects that will keep me busy, even in my current unemployed state. The most pressing, of course, is finding work, which I'm rediscovering can be a full-time job in itself. You have no idea how much I'm looking forward to the Order Entry Tool being developed by Messers. Winters et. al. At some point, they're going to come to the realization that there's a lot of data entry for Oratoa that has to be done as well... So, without much further ado, I give you the mayhem that is Turn 16.

CURRENT 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 and a 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—With maps updated to Turn 10 and some other supplementary material, including an index of all regions. Available in paperback (\$22.00).

Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 1: Errata and Additions—This supplement contains the corrected Movement system, information on plagues, famines, and corruption, and new rules for heirs and religious Orders. Available as a free download or in paperback (\$10.00).

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).

COMING SOON:

Cruenti Dei Rules Supplement 3: the Age of Discovery—This supplement expands the basic rules for NSR 10 and beyond. Included are rules for new combat and non-combat Units, new Megaliths, Intelligence Agencies, exploration, Mana Crystals, Holy Weapons, and an introduction to world-falling. I hope to have *the Age of Discovery* available for purchase about the time the Turn is due.

If your Realm has already achieved NSR 10, you should have received from me a text document called NSR10TEMP.TXT. If you have not received this document, please let me know, and I'll send it to you.

NEXT TURN DUE: FRIDAY 01 OCTOBER 2010.

Western Sahûl

THE KIT'IXI COAST

COUNTY OF TOKATL (14 I/TA)

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

Trade: Averon, Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD

DP: None.

Tountess Tinikatua and her little realm luxuriated in splendid decadence. Many half-finished projects remained so, as Tokatl simply piled up its fashion industry wealth.

DUCHY OF TANEKI (24 I/YG)

Her Grace, Torakka II, Lady Talkeltik of Akeltl, Baroness Ketatl, Duchess of Taneki.

Trade: Atuburrk, Averon, Chi'tixi, Itaxik, Pexiki, Sakkar, ThaceD, Tokatl, Yarni-Za, Yax'te

DP: Huitepec (F), Ormacar (A)

Taneki built a port in Itta on the River Tepic and the port town of Jirhatz in the mountains of Ur'nar. At the University of Xintec, the Duchess endowed something called the *Physicians' Thorax, Gaſter, and Petiole College*.

A great army of the dead shambled north across the Tza'kir Mountains from Koten to Sak'uich.

The Duchess announced the formation of a permanent capital in Akeltl. To honour this great occasion, her grace is seeking "the Finest Architect in All of Sahûl" to design a Grand Palace for her in Akeltl. Reportedly, the Emperor himself has consented to be a judge in this open competition.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF AVERON (39 SI/IL)

Her Gracious Majeſty, Jera IV, the Wise, Lady Drax, Countess of Darida, Electoral Grand Duchess of Averon, Protector of the Faith.

Tiketua VII of Tishrak, the Puny, Margrave of the North.

Trade: Araxes, Chi'tixi, Itaxik, Taneki, ThaceD, Tokatl, Urdrahahn

DP: Yax'te (see "Averese Icemark of Yax'te", below)

Grand Duchess Jera of Averon continued steering the Electorate on a new path, advised by a certain elderly cleric named Brother Bohr who was constantly at her elbow¹. Tithes continued to pour eastward to Sistrameides, while all political activity was bent towards the surprised Yax'te. The port town of Thalia was built in Clivvis, and a nearby priory was dedicated.

Mount Tazhi in Zinneron erupted twice, much to the terror of the local tipsy cattle.

Grand Duchess Jera's husband, Baron Challik of Goorin, died in 1529, leaving his lands to the couple's eldest daughter and heir, the Duchess Jushana.

The Averese government, already impressively large, expanded again.

THE CHURCH MILITANT

The uneasy peace between the Restorationists and the Integrationists in Averon was carefully nurtured by Archemandrite Sardula V in the context of ongoing conversations with the Pontifical Legate, Brother Huygens. While allowing integration to continue moving forward (albeit slowly), she also requested that the Grand Duchess provide funds to complete the Archemandal palace and asked that the administration of the Cathedral of Sahn'akl be returned to her.

The Holy Synod is reportedly working on a large project involving the Western liturgy, but so far details have not leaked out.

COUNTY OF PEXIKI (29 I/YG)

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

Trade: Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki

DP: None.

The winters weather continued to warm up, and Pexiki flourished. In fact, the treasury piled up to enormous levels, and the storehouses overflowed with riches.

¹ At least until he died in 1527.

ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF ITAXIK (50 I/UR)

Her High Majesty, Queen Yautlatoaya II, Mistress of the Tis'chak, Countess of Takkikik, Elector of Itaxik, Golden Beetle of the West.

Her Excellency, Cipa'otonatha V, Baroness Aueuetl, Countess of Pehuatoka, Guardian of Mi'ctia.

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

Trade: Averon, Carcë, Pexiki, Sakkar, Taneki, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yax'te

DP: None.

Despite the break in the weather, Itaxik spent much time and many resources preparing for the next deep freeze. Investment continued in the Ice College and in new farming techniques. Imperial funds were distributed to Sakkar and Yax'te, and donations of money, men, and materials from Averon were funneled south as well.

Appalled by the indifference to the requests for fasting and prayer, the Queen ordered the construction of six new priories throughout the realm.

The brand new Countess Kassa VII of Kachar² set sail with a mighty fleet. By 1530, she was reported in the Gulf of Iphil.

Itaxik continued to invest in their military, breakthroughs being reported in siege and air tactics. Captain-General Yix finally finished her epic book, *The Art of War*. It is quite a weighty tome—almost an encyclopædia of Sahûl's battles. An abridged version is being prepared for publication.

Research continued at Tikopai amidst the ubiquitous sandstorms, and bonuses were paid to the troops to help prevent desertion. In a carefully controlled experiment in 1527, Lady Nartl looked into the empty eyes of the megalithic statue of Tikopai. She screamed. She continued screaming for several hours. She was taken away to her tent (securely tied), but still she screamed. Deep in the cold desert night, her screaming turned gradually to sobbing, and then to raving—something

² They've really been burning through the Kassas lately. So many, in fact, that the *Chronicle* hasn't quite been keeping up.

about another son and shells—none of it made sense. About six hours after the start of the experiment, it suddenly ended in silence, as Lady Nartl died mid-word.

With no clear commander, panic spread through the entire expedition. Within just a few weeks the breakdown in discipline amongst the Iteamikese was complete. Soldiers fled the hardship post in droves. By the end of the year, the site of Tikopai had been abandoned to the desert sands. Shortly thereafter, the Hobith nomads slipped into their traditional independence.

BARONY OF SAKKAR (17 IS/IL)

Baroness Nenepillah III of Sakkar, the Dim, Mistress of Nelhuayotl, Heir of the Prophet, Beloved of the Light of Iluvar.

Dame Tarik Tiketua, Grandmistress of the Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar, Warriors of the Ice.

Trade: Araxes, Carcë, Itaxik, Pexiki, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yax'te

DP: Tosiuikka (F), Popuks (F)

Dll through Sakkar, voices were raised in songs of thanksgiving for the remarkable improvement in the weather. The whole “howling winds whipping drifting snows across the plains” thing was confined to the five months of winter where it belonged.

The government, newly expanded, began putting itself back together, even as the Sakkari people were reweaving the fabric of their society. Part of that reweaving seems to be reports of small numbers of shadow knights throughout the realm.

The Military Order of the Sword of Iluvar built the fortress of Kwen'chitix in Roder to serve as the new headquarters of the Order. Just to keep themselves in shape, the Order sent forces to occupy the forests of Finnedor. They found themselves walking into a mess. While the entire population of Finnedor consists of a handful of Urdan nomads and foresters, the region is also home to the fiercely Ravenist port town of Samia. As much as they dislike outsiders, these two factions absolutely *despise* each other. The foresters were able to field some 500 levies in

defense of their independence, but this was nothing compared to the 35,000 fielded by the Order.³ Needless to say, the region was quickly occupied. The Ravenists of Samia sent about 1,000 archers to the walls, but by now the Order was having none of it. The assault of Samia was mercifully brief, and the town now flies the flag of the Baroness.

Banners flying high, Lady Lynnel and her ten thousand Tiryowgli lancers finished their long, arduous trek, the majority arriving in Sakkari Ersma in the summer of 1528. Along the way, they occupied the forests of Sarthes, a place bereft of habitation except for the Raven priory of Dohajydh. The Raven monks greeted the lancers with suspicion, but when they built permanent barracks to house several thousand, the Prior flew into an absolute rage. It was only over his strong objection that Sakkar claimed the region. The remaining 7,500 lancers arrived in Sakkar acclaimed as heroes.

Baroness Nenepillah II died in 1527. She was succeeded by Nenepillah III. She's not half the ruler her predecessor was, and some are wondering how she got as far as she did.

The town of Teltet grew in Tlapan.

AVERESE ICEMARK OF YAX'TE (18 S/IL)

Margrave Cleon II, the Devout, Grand Master and Knight-Commander of the Champions of the Renewal.

Trade: Carcë, Itaxik, Sakkar, Taneki

DP: None.

Yax'te's weather continued to improve. In 1529 and 1539, Margrave Cleon entertained several diplomats and envoys, including a Pontifical Legate named Brother Tesla, and the crusty but personable Vice Admiral Lord Lorth of Episma from Electoral Averon.

As it turned out, Averon was willing to invest vast sums of money and resources into the Icemark's development, if it would only become a dependency of Averon. As a show of good faith, the Averese built a stunning greenhouse in Yoltet. When this

³ In fact, the number of knights and soldiers in the Order's military forces in the region easily exceeded the rest of the population.

(and several bottles of Averese port) failed to convince Cleon, the real money was put on the table. It was, roughly, about as much as the Icemark had produced in the previous quarter century.

Cleon said yes.

Yax'te's Urdan holdings of Chidrül, Narmona, Penkni, and Tat'ia all immediately renounced their tribute.

Elsewhere, the Restorationist clergy of the Icemark protested against what they saw as "integration with the Averon Integrationists". Just how upset they actually are remains to be seen.

NOTE: *Since the Icemark is not within trading distance of Averon proper, trade must be calculated separately.*

Thacia and Aret

THE HIGH PLAINS & NORTHERN COAST

ELECTORAL QUEENDOM OF THE GREAT HIVE OF CHI'TIXI TIRRIX KI (41 I/YG)

Her Most Puissant Maješty, Taxitiki II, the Illuſtrious, Mištreſs of Tirrix & the Great Hive, Black Claw Baroness of Tichiir, Duchesſ of Chax and Tix'itikata, Counteſs Itax, Elector & Lich-Queen of Chi'tixi, &c., &c.

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

Lady Tchatix Tixit, Grandmiſtreſs of the Military Order of Gidaxa.

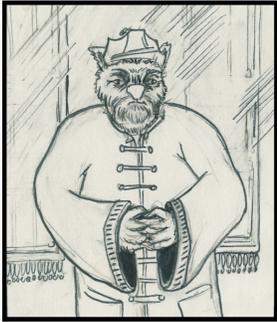
Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Averon, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za, Zarkhandu

DP: Ha!

Chi'tixi embraced sport in a major way, building a great coliseum in their capital⁴ and creating their own rugby league. The Chi'tixi soon invented their own version of football, which uses a *round* ball. They call this new

⁴ The construction was carried out entirely using Tarotist slave labour. Though the stadium has yet to receive an official name, the locals have nicknamed it the "Ossuary" for the large number of bones that ended up in the mortar.

sport “soccer” in their language, and it has proven just as popular as rugby.



The Black Claw Sage Baron Tirabinis Tirrit died after a brief illness in 1527 at the advanced age of 73. The Barony of Tichiir reverted to the crown⁵, and a fierce Equerry named Tixit was chosen to lead the Military Order of Gidaxa.

Queen Taxitiki focused much of her energy on her Byrrin prefecture of Taporí. There she built the port town of Tirritix in honour of the late Black Claw Sage, as well as a charming little priory called *Scythe of Yagnar*, which was immediately given over to a Prior from the Veiled Masters. Her primary interest, however, was to eradicate Tarotism there. The army undertook a project to enslave any inhabitants of the region who professed that vile religion. This precipitated a peasant rebellion in 1529, which was suppressed with ferocious brutality, prompting protests even from the normally indifferent merchant class of Cappargarnia.

The Kommolek flying fortress *Cleansing Storm* arrived in Ri’kat in 1530 and settled over Chorix’, casting a long dark shadow over the city.

The Urdan Countess Kassa of Kachar sailed her mighty fleet of 345 ships eastward along the Chitix Coast, reaching the Gulf of Iphil in 1530.

Memoirs of the Black Claw Sage went into its nineteenth printing. Siege quality improved, and the Queendom’s sorcerers made a long-anticipated breakthrough.

DUCHY OF THACE (32 S/UR)

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

Trade: Araxes, Averno, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi’tixi, Ingazi, Hyrágec, ID, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: None.

⁵ It is now referred to as the “Black Claw Barony”.

Duke Brannis’ engineers continued his building programme, extending the road from Khínd in Senetar to the newly expanded city of Sybok in Nottesan. A large greenhouse was installed in the capital, though the weather continues to be pleasant. The winters, while not mild by any stretch, have been confined to the traditional three months of the year. Tarnet Priory in Sandir expanded into an Abbey.

Mount Gwinnim in the Gribaun desert, long dormant, erupted three times between 1526 and 1529.

The number of strange deaths reported in the Ourane docks district tapered off and finally ended in 1528. The local constabulary have no explanation, but they’re happy to take the credit.

Sorcery improved and the government expanded.

ELECTORAL COUNTY-PALATINE OF THACE (29 S/UR)
His Most Excellent Maješty, Brannis VI, the Gallant, Lord Goshtikka-Snamarthis, Overlord of Carcë, Electoral Count Palatine in Thace.

Margrave Thosh the Wicked of the Severed Steppe, Sar of Nemidor.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Averno, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi’tixi, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: Bleak Carridok (A)

Electoral Thace set about consolidating their hold on the steppe. Urdan missionaries flooded the former Tiger lands with some success. Majorities in Deiradjur and Marakoë embraced orthodoxy. In Mordír and Nemekeith the missionaries were even more successful, with no Tiger holdouts to be found anywhere. The effort in Zaculo, however, was botched from the beginning. So obnoxious were the missionaries there that the region nearly rebelled.

The March of the Severed Steppe was spiffed up with the construction of their capital of Kalidar in Nemidor. Elsewhere, the town of Sarefett in Memisen expanded into a city.

Foreign gifts to Goshtikka Gardens leveled off as the weather continued to improve, though the

Count Palatine himself remained a committed patron. The first decent bottles of Mennendar Icewine came to market in 1527.

Despite truly prodigious expenditures throughout the County Palatine's military and government, only infantry quality improved in the slightest. A Medical College was endowed at Snamarthis University.

The Count's oldest son, Biard, continued his studies in Urdraháhn. Ebalondrir, the second son, has proven to be a lackluster student, uninterested in anything and unpopular with both his tutors and fellow students. The third son, Merryn, on the other hand is immensely popular in the court, despite his young age⁶. He is a brilliant student, far ahead of his older brother Ebalondrir. His tutors are amazed at his intellect and discernment.

The three youngest children are all growing up proper Thacian ladies. This apparently involves lots of tea parties, much to the good-natured exasperation of their dear Papa.

At the request of Prince Merryn II, the Count Palatine sent his military forces into Duedhyn to aid in what he called "a just war".

LORDSHIP OF CARCĚ (8 s/UR)

Sar Grotan Tahník II, the Dragon, Third Lord CarcĚ, Master of the Horseclans, Scourge of Urda the Fierce, Defender of the Steppe.

Trade: Araxes, Itaxik, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn, Yax'te

DP: None.

The weather continued to improve. To celebrate, Sar Tahník supervised the expansion of Gortahnes and the instillation of many new public works projects. The Great Steppe Road was extended into Makkalin. Heeding the summons of his lord, Sar Tahník personally led his own vassals into Thacian Memisen. Many children came of age, greatly increasing CarcĚ's available manpower.

The stepperiders learned how to build boats.

⁶ Lord Merryn came of age in 1530.

THE ASCENT TO RANARÁDU

In the autumn of 1527, Lady Eratha arrived at last in the village of Dhûl in the lonely scrubland of Harza Prefecture. She could see the great red rock of Ranarádu, looming over the horizon as it loomed in her dreams. She was dressed in the garb of the high desert: voluminous, loose-fitting robes that concealed every part of her body. She entered the old inn, removed her veil and called for a drink.

"You're late," said a raspy voice at her elbow. It was a dark red Malebolge sorceress who held drinks in three hands.

"I beg your pardon?"

A nearby Saurian with a noble bearing and a scimitar hanging from his belt took a long pull of his drink and slammed his empty mug on the table. "She's right. I have been waiting here for over a year, as has she. The Reverend Mother" – he pointed to a burkha in the corner – "was here when *we* arrived. Some others came late, but none as late as you."

"I... I'm sorry," Eratha stammered. "It's a long way from Hyrágec."

The Saurian with the scimitar grunted. "Then you should have started sooner."

The burkha in the corner raised a paw. "It is enough, Sar Tannis. We are all here now. Let us begin for the holy mountain in the morning."



The six walked across the desert to Ranarádu before dawn. Four were Saurian: Sar Tannis of CarcĚ, Sar Thorvok of Duzjun⁷, the Sorceress Salthia of Thace, and the Baroness of Tlani⁸. Two were Wenemet: Lady Eratha of Hyrágec and Reverend Mother Margot.

The Malebolge Sorceress Tanchi was sent by the Queen of Itaxik should any of the chosen not arrive. Had Lady Eratha been just three months later, Tanchi would have been making this voyage in her

⁷ In Electoral Thace.

⁸ In Itaxik.

place. Instead, she was watching the horses back in the village.

Together, the six approached the towering rock—more of a plateau or a rounded mesa than a mere rock. It glowed orange red in the sunrise, a deep and brilliant hue, so bright it was almost painful to look at. It was late morning by the time the six arrived. The autumn weather was warm, but not unpleasant. Together they arrived at the small stone hermitage at the base of the ascent.

Outside sat a hunched and hooded Saurian on a stone. Her eyes were a milky grey. Though she was blind, she stared at the pilgrims and cocked her head slightly.

“You are expected,” she croaked in a gravelly voice. “Though I expected you this time last year.”

Lady Eratha sighed heavily.

Reverend Mother Margot replied, “what is your name, old woman?”

“I am Sister Nara, the 295th Keeper of Ranarádu from the first, who was appointed by the Emperor Belesar XXII of blessed memory. Go and climb,” she motioned to them, “go and climb! The noonday sun will be unbearable on the heights as it is, but the sooner started the sooner finished.”

The six climbed on in silence.

The pilgrims arrived at the top of the rock astonished by the beauty of the desert vista spread out before them in the fierce light. The colours of the desert were rich with golds and reds, and the pilgrims spent some time simply looking out over the vast, stark beauty of the place. Soon, they took their lunch, and just afterwards the visions began. Shadowy Saurian figures moved in and around them. They were insubstantial, like vapours, and one would occasionally walk *through* one of the pilgrims, as though they weren't there. Their dress was archaic, and their manners were formal. Though they spoke amongst themselves, no sound did they make. Gradually, shadowy buildings and streets could be made out, and a small formal garden there on the top of the rock of Ranarádu, and a tower, almost like a lighthouse, stretching upwards to the sky. The pilgrims gasped and walked about, try-

ing to take it all in. Several tried to speak with the shadows, or gain their attention, but to no avail.

This continued for hours, through the afternoon and into the evening. As night fell, the visions faded, to be replaced by a sky of stars so bright that the pilgrims cast shadows on the rock.

Slowly, the pilgrims made their way down the holy mountain and into what they knew would become for them in time less and less the real world.

GRAND DUCHY OF ARAXES (29 W/UR)

His Grace, Pangku Kapalless III, Baron Pinyerrel, Grand Duke of All Araxes.

Trade: Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averon, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kumara, Sakkar, Taneki, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: None.



Lord Protector Kapalless announced that Araxes would come to the aid of their ally, Prince Merryn II of Duedhyn to help solve his domestic issues. Shortly thereafter, the Lord Protector learned of the death of his father, the Grand Duke and Imperial Chancellor Tramandes II. He therefore summoned Parliament and announced to them his accession as Grand Duke Kapalless III. The House Pangku Clan Mothers assembled and chose a young grandson of Countess Ranierre⁹ as heir. The young Tramandes is a recent graduate of the Intelligence School, and he was invested as Count of Thangkar in early 1527¹⁰. Unlike the new Grand Duke, the heir already has a reputation as a fine administrator.

The Araxes Commodities Exchange opened in Pinyerrel in 1530, and it's already doing tremendous business.

Mount Gor's eruptions have become an annual event. The town of Kamukapi in Gorice was cov-

⁹ Her Excellency Captain-General Thiuli Ranierre, Countess of Kayew, was Lady Protector of Araxes from 1506 to 1513. She was unable to attend her grandson's investiture as she is currently leading the Araxean efforts in Oratoa.

¹⁰ Although his grandmother and father bear the name of House Thiuli, as heir Count Tramandes now becomes a member of House Pangku.

ered in a thin layer of ash for much of the time, and many families have fled the region.

In 1530, Ingazi's Lord Torrin arrived in Tythyen atop the Dragon Temeyre and leading an airfleet of some 125 vessels.

ELECTORAL GRAND DUCHY OF ATUBURRK (54W/YG)
His Majesty, Adhanggar Rahnes, Count of Erran, Prince-Regent of Atuburrk, Lord Admiral of the Green.

Her Mandibleness, Cir'ik VIII, Lady Tchac'at, Countess of the Kicitchat Hive and Associated Dominions.

Ebarrew Dolmathes the Dashing, Lord Lieutenant of Lynnarvor and Burgrave of Fair Belsúnd.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Golmath-Parndarra, Golmath-Zhogian, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Kumara, Taneki, ThaceE, Tokatl, Urdraháhn, Yarni-Za, Zadres (3), Zarkhandu

DP: None.

Count Rahnes, in consultation with his older brother the Emperor, combined the various former Kommolek lands under Atuburrk's control into a single dependency dubbed, for the moment, *the Lieutenancy of Lynnarvor*. To no one's surprise, the dashing and popular Lord Dolmathes was appointed first Lord Lieutenant of Lynnarvor. He and his lovely bride, the Lady Ebrell, returned to their capital of Fair Belsúnd in 1527. Despite their advanced age, they had with them three young children in tow. They were greeted with great celebration; the festivities lasted for months. Even the Kembran priesthood seem to have taken a shine to the new ruling family. Sardarthion Press took advantage of the occasion to republish all of the Lord Dolmathes adventure novels.

Count Rahnes fell madly in love with a young lady of the court during the oppressively warm summer of 1526. He and the young Lady Abmewarr Olledea were married the next year.

In the late autumn of 1526, strange news came from the city of Karc'at in Kicitchat. It seems that

somebody claiming to be *Yagnar* had taken over the city as winter quarters for five hundred desert horsemen. The local authorities were unsure what to do, so they dispatched a request for assistance to the Countess in Xant'ki. She and her 65,000 soldiers arrived in the spring of 1527 to find that the invaders had already left by way of the County Road northward to Tchac'at. A panicked Countess force-marched her army northwards in pursuit.

When her army arrived in Tchac'at, the Countess discovered that the leader of the horsemen had commandeered several ordinary merchant ships and had already set sail.

All religious sites in Kicitchat, including the Cathedrals of Daik, Texikata, and Yag'tchor, were turned over to the Masters of Yarni-Za.

Central Sahûl

THE HEART OF EMPIRE

ELECTORAL REPUBLIC OF CAPPARGARNIA (63M/TA)
His Sublime Majesty, Deirn Caranthes II, Electoral Prince of Cappargarnia.

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

His Excellency Tiribissi Lanbarnes II, Guildmaster of the Innkeepers, Hereditary Burgrave of Adndar, Chancellor of the Guilds Council of the Imperial Free City of Adndar.

Sir Steene Caranthes, Grand Marshal of the Holy Blood Legion of Swords, Consul-General of the Tempest March.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath-Parndarra, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Kumara, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: None.

Prince Anabrin Darronley has astonishingly unlucky. The Prince continued his urbanization policy with vigour. No less than five new towns were raised¹¹, two towns expanded into cities¹², and three cities expanded¹³. In several cases, army veterans were settled into housing tracts especially set aside for them by a new government programme. Additionally, vast amounts of new public works went in throughout the Republic and its dependencies, giving its citizens one of the highest standards of living in the world.

About half of the Blue Fleet left Zadres in 1526 under the vice-admiralty of Artarik Lord Steene. There is no word as to their destination or fate.

Later that year, the Prince issued the *Byrrin River Decree* which seemed to stake Cappargarnia's claim to the entire Byrrin River, including the air-space overhead. The Republic intended to levy a tariff on all river traffic—quite a lucrative thought, considering that a large percentage of the Empire's trade travels the river. The outcry was immediate.

Several realms announced that such a tariff was in effect river piracy, while legal scholars considered whether it was in fact an act of war. A number of ambassadors filed appeals with the Emperor, who (citing the *Sardarthion Convention of 1515*) pointed out that no tariff could be collected on an Imperial waterway and that anybody who paid it was an idiot.

Nevertheless, the Electoral envoys convened in Sardarthion to consider a motion to censure Prince Darronley. Although a vote was taken, no concrete results came of it. The Urdan realms of Araxes, Duedhyn (Merryn), Hyrágec, Ingazi, Itaxik, and both Thaces threatened a trade embargo unless the decree was immediately rescinded.

In the midst of this crisis, Prince Darronley made the smooth transition from “unlucky” to “dead” in 1528 at the age of 68.

¹¹ Halak in Adément, Talheim in Dusios, Arturus in Bæmûl, Faralas in Arzhadior, and the double port town of Kattras in Dramûl at the mouth of the Darriow.

¹² Prosperos in Buffalein and Udhibar in Gurvan.

¹³ Montoya in Carlon, Marangal in Ilani, and Ogiryi in Jarvaël.

The Election of 1528

Although the late Prince Darronley was personally popular, the other members of House Anabrin didn't have much of that popularity rub off onto them. The main candidates seemed to be the wizard Deirn Caranthes and Burgrave Tiribissi Lanharnes of Adndar.

The typical election shenanigans began almost at once, as the various Houses threw their support first behind one candidate and then (when sufficiently bribed) behind the other. Supporters of the various noble Houses periodically filled the streets, an event that usually ended in riot and mayhem.

In the midst of the election fracas, the Senate quietly repealed the *Byrrin River Decree*. Shortly thereafter, news arrived in the City that Thace had rescinded their “aye” vote to censure the Republic. The threatened trade embargo was called off.

The Collegium was seated through the summer and early autumn of 1528. The violence in the city did not subside; if anything it increased as the two factions hardened, and their tempers were stoked by the near constant see-saw of incident and counter-incident.

When the Collegium finally emerged from their seclusion, they announced the election of the wizard Deirn Caranthes. The city erupted into violence as the losers took out their frustration on the winners. The new Prince had to use the army to restore order.

The army had another test when the dragon Sanngrithr ventured out from her haunts in Sondrim to pillage the Republic's prefecture of Jarvaël. The Baron of Ebmadh and his 8,500 horse responded with alacrity, though what exactly they might have hoped to accomplish against a dragon is open to debate. Nevertheless, they arrived in Jarvaël armed and ready for combat. The dragon, sadly, had already flown the coop.

The great Kommolek flying fortress *Cleansing Storm* flew northward directly over the Byrrin River. Its speed was terrific, and by 1529 it was well out to sea. It did not stop to pay any tolls.

Going the opposite direction, an Ingazi dragon and 125 airships simply screamed up the Byrrin.

Perhaps to test the new Prince, in 1529 Electoral Thace sent a fleet of 60 galleons and 95 transports down the Byrrin. The fleet passed unmolested to Adndar, where they dutifully paid the Rivermen's traditional toll and sailed through the canal. Many observers noted the banners of several major Hyrägecan feudal lords aboard the ships, including that of Captain-General Lord Irrjir Grenthe.

The Republic announced its support for Prince Eandarra in Golmath's continuing civil war, despite the fact that his representative voted for censure.

With the sudden, unexpected death of Lord Drathic of Morwenna in the arms of a "dancer" and without legitimate heir, his lands were willed to the Republic (F).

IMPERIAL FREE CITY OF EINANDHU (4 M/UR)

Sir arCanlann Dirbarn, Tiger King of Arms.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Duedhyn, Elphárec, Golmath-Parndarra, ID, IOC, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zarkhandu

DP: It's a living.

Sir arCanlann and the rest of the Heralds kept busy at their many appointed tasks. The mail was delivered, a rather large amount of it from one or the other of the Duedhyn Princes.

THE IMPERIAL DEMENSE (14 M/UR)

His August & Imperial Majesty, Adhanggar Sydath II, Count of Odol, Elector & Grand Duke of Atuburrk, Sovereign of Sahúl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion, Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All the World.

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath-Parndarra, Hyrägec, Ingazi, IOC, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3), Zarkhandu

DP: None.

IIP: 48

For appointments, please see Gazette.

The great Kommolek flying fortress, *Cleansing Storm*, flew northward from Fair Belsünd in 1526, crossing Lake Sardath and casting a long shadow over the Imperial capital itself before continuing north up the Byrrin Valley. It was only the first dark visitor to the city.

Emperor Sydath utterly failed to make an appointment to the office of Lord Admiral of the Green. As the matter also failed to capture the attention of Chancellor Pangku Tramandes (who was quite ill), the office defaulted to the Regent of Atuburrk—the Emperor's own brother.

The Emperor made his pilgrimage to the Shrine of Moroko in 1526, returning to his capital in 1527. Many of his Court accompanied him, but none entered the shrine while the Emperor was present. A certain aura surrounded the Emperor on his pilgrimage; those who came in contact with the great Emperor were impressed, even awed, by his charisma and his calm sense of purpose and destiny. He has quickly become the most popular Emperor amongst the common people since Emperor Manandir.

While the Emperor was away, five hundred desert horsemen magically appeared in the middle of a sheep pasture near the Saurian Quarter of the old city. The Emerald Watch being nowhere in evidence, a constable ambled over to investigate. When he arrived, the constable found the visitors had set up an encampment in the pasture and were roasting several local sheep over open bonfires.

When the constable asked the visitors who they might be, he was approached by a young Saurian. As the Saurian spoke, the constable fell to his knees in trembling awe.

The young man said, "I am Khurdán, and my will is the will of Yagnar. These men are mine. We seek only a few days to rest and replenish our supplies, for we must haste. I am on a mission of divine vengeance, and the mere trappings of a world empire hold for me no interest."

Two days later, they were gone.

Chancellor Pangku Tramandes died while the Emperor was away. His funeral was well-attended

by senior members of the Imperial bureaucracy, who had come to regard him as a father figure.

Upon his return to Sardarthion, the mighty and beloved Emperor Sydath created the leader of the Yani-Putini Alliance as *Lord Yani*.

A distinguished Wenemet in his late sixties arrived in Sardarthion in 1527 and purchased a small apartment. He spends his days playing chess in the park and his evenings playing cards at the Regency Hotel. Although he goes by the name of “Lord Injyi”, many think this melancholy old man is in fact the exiled ex-king Rhazahan of Aradéc.

Thanks to the blustering pronouncements of Prince Anabrin Darronley of Cappargarnia, the Electoral envoys convened in Sardarthion to discuss a motion to censure him. After intense debate, the motion failed on a tie vote of four in favour and four against, with one abstention. The Golmathi vote was cast by the envoy of Prince Endarra. No telling what might have happened had *two* Golmathi envoys turned up...

The Imperial treasury was emptied to help deal with the ice. Funds were sent to Itaxik, Aradéc, El-phárec, and Zarkhandu in the single greatest programme of Imperial largesse in living memory.

An Ingazi dragon and 125 airships screamed up the Byrrin and overflowed the Imperial capital in 1529 on their way to Lake Sardath. They dropped leaflets encouraging the locals to “Support your Emperor” and “Give a Hoot—Don’t Pollute”.

The Lich-Queen of Chi’tixi petitioned Emperor Sydath for the governorship of Kiermon Province.

THE DUEDHYN CRISIS (1506-1530)

Duedhyn (Raven) vs. Duedhyn (Merryn), Araxes, Electoral Thace

1526: The Heralds Keep Busy

The spring of 1526 saw a flurry of letters, pleas, decrees, and threats from both Duedhyn factions against each other, their neighbours, and Aradéc. Prince Meriasek in particular kept the Heralds busy, sending numer-

ous copies of an open letter to the King of Aradéc that was clearly intended for the eyes of those in command of the Aradécian navy, army, and parliament. Aradéc’s response was not quite what Prince Meriasek had hoped.

The Tiryowgli fleet in Pareis, some 130 ships in all, left port and sailed for home.

1527: The Dam Bursts

Fired up with his cousin Prince Meriasek’s “shenanigans”¹⁴, and feeling that he was on firm legal ground, Prince Merryn issued warrants for the arrest of “the bandit Meriasek”. The response was as decisive as it was swift, and that summer the *crisis* definitively became a *war*.

Prince Meriasek, Grandmaster Mordrek, and Captain-General Tithitak rode at the head of the Raven Host, numbering just over 200,000 men¹⁵ and including the dragon Skuld. The military state of Pareis was on the march! They crossed the border into Derrow; the few defending manors and keeps in the region were swept away, and Keresyk Priory captured. The enormous army they set themselves to the task of besieging the city of Trenk. Perhaps anticipating this very move (or perhaps simply wanting to protect his one city) Prince Merryn had the foresight to build enormous defensive walls at Trenk, defended by infantry, siege engineers, and 330 stone golems.

It was not, however, defended by Prince Merryn, who had taken his small cavalry force elsewhere. Instead, Lord Wydhenn of Derrow himself was supervising the defense of his city. They had socked in a great many supplies and were apparently content to out wait the besiegers.

In the west, Kothonan rebelled from Prince Meriasek, though the Raven fortress of Fentenlas remained loyal to the Raven Order.

¹⁴ As indeed had been the Church Universal and Triumphant and the Kingdom of Aradéc before him.

¹⁵ That’s 112,500 knights, 52,000 spirit knights, 22,000 auxiliary cavalry, 4,000 infantry, a siege train of perhaps a thousand, and a partridge in a pear tree.

Meanwhile, both Araxes and Electoral Thace answered Prince Merryn's call for aid and advanced their armies into Prince Meriasek's lands. Prince Merryn himself sent his armies throughout Duedhyn to reclaim his Principality.

In Avalow, a strange summer mist suddenly dissipated to reveal a combined force of 57,000 Araxean infantry and 13,000 Merryn cavalry. Baron Glannyn of Avalow greeted his liberators with open arms, and there was very little resistance anywhere else either, for the Raven Captain-General Hendra had withdrawn his forces several months earlier, leaving only a small garrison.

About half of the Raven refugees were settled in Glasdor (5433)s. Numerous new public works projects eased their plight. In Tawesek, Urdan refugees were settled into the ruins of Dystrewy, which is now a city again.

The Aradécán forces remaining in Pareis, which included twenty ships and several thousand infantry, fled the port under cover of night. Where they are now, none know.

1528: Playing for Keeps

While the forces of Merryn and Araxes mopped up the garrison in Avalow, other Araxean armies were on the march. Count Ottokar of Thûduaxa¹⁶ led 20,000 infantry, much of it Araxes' fearsome pikemen, across the river into Glasdor itself.

The Battle of Pareis (1528)

The Raven defense of Glasdor was a chaotic affair. No overall commander had been left in charge, owing some said to the paranoia of Prince Meriasek's military government. Although the defenders outnumbered the attackers two to one, most of them broke and ran for the safety of the city. Those who faced the invader found themselves outfought, for even the numerous Raven archers were no match for the discipline of Araxean pike supported by swordsmen. Some 4,000 of the Araxean medium infantry

¹⁶ Of the noble and ancient House Puntha.

were killed in the running battle, but of Duedhyn's forces there remained scarcely a handful.

In the process of pacifying Glasdor, the Raven priory of Gwithi accidentally caught fire and burned down.

Count Ottokar immediately put the city to siege, but with no ships to blockade the port, it was more of an exercise showing the flag than a practical military matter. The siege of the Raven fortress of Lyyneyyn, on the other hand, was a much more focused affair.

In the west, Thacian Lord Gollish led 16,000 cataphraçti and 15,000 hussars into Kothonan, where he expected his army to be greeted as liberators. Sadly, it was not to be. Just because the fickle Piran Lord Kothonan had renounced his allegiance with Prince Meriasek didn't mean he suddenly thought of himself as a Thacian. Unexpectedly, battle was joined near the Raven abbey of Sekhran.

The Battle of Sekhran Abbey (1528)

Piran Lord Kothonan was only able to marshal about 6,000 cavalry for his attack on the Thacian force. Fortunately, Duedhyni cavalry is amongst the most fearsome in the world, and Lord Kothonan himself was a decent military commander. This, however, could not do much against overwhelming forces and an enemy commander with a flashy magic sword and scads of battle magic.

The Kothonani cavalry were able to inflict about a thousand casualties before being annihilated. Lord Piran was captured, but the Thacian commander Lord Gollish wasn't so lucky. He fell in the battle, leaving his second-in-command, Sir Korrok to put the Raven castle of Fentenlas to siege. With his all-cavalry force, Sir Korrok didn't hold out much hope for success.

Elsewhere, a spy in Breselek was nearly captured by Raven counter-intelligence, but the culprit managed to slip through their fingers.

Meanwhile, Prince Merryn himself led a small cavalry force across the river into Tiogyon. He

quickly occupied the region and placed the town of Mordeis and the Raven fortress of Tallan under a sort of desultory siege. Telynn Abbey was destroyed and the Raven monks there were scattered.

Raven Captain-General Hendra supervised the settlement of the remaining southern refugees in Lowarthow (4431)s. As in Glasdor, many new public works projects were built. His plan appeared to work, as the new refugees were easily integrated into the population.

1529: Enter the Dragon

In Kothonan, Thacian reinforcements arrived in the form of 29,000 cataphraçti and 11,000 hussars led by the Count Palatine's own brother, the fearsome General Lord Basodir. The army's ensign fluttered from the Holy Staff of Saint Berthilde, and the dragon Róta flew overhead. Lord Basodir did not join the siege of Fentenlas, but instead he took a short meeting with Sir Korrok and then continued riding east.

In Glastenen, two Merryn armies rendezvoused. Prince Merryn's son Count Merryn and Tremaire Lord Pynbrendyr sought parley with the Lords of Glastenen. Though Count Merryn plied them with much gold and Lord Pynbrendyr was very persuasive, in the end the Glastenen nobles remained loyal to Prince Meriasek.

Raven Captain-General Hendra led 9,000 cataphraçti and 8,000 medium horse into Merryn-held Tiogyon, determined to retake the region. Prince Merryn rode against him with but 2,000 knights and a thousand mounted sergeants. They met before the walls of Mordeis.

The Battle of Mordeis (1529)

Prince Merryn rode out in full battle array with the flower of his Duedhyni chivalry against insurmountable odds. With a handful of battle magic, he faced down odds of five to one, put spur to his horse, and led the doomed charge.

While the Raven army took some 2,000 casualties, Prince Merryn's army was overwhelmed and

destroyed. Captain-General Hendra did not leave a single enemy alive; indeed it was days before the mutilated body of Prince Merryn could be positively identified.

In the Motherist baggage train, the Ravens were delighted to discover their missing Primate, Artys the Zealot. In chains, he had nevertheless been treated well. For the last several years, a team of Merryn's servants had taken turns reading the Urdan scriptures to him continuously, night and day. The 65-year old Prelate appeared none the worse for the experience, and he soon supervised the ritual defilement and immolation of Prince Merryn's corpse.

In Derrow, the Raven siege of Trenk continued unabated, though the sheer height of the walls and the large number of defenders made any attack by the small number of Raven catapults almost useless. Raven Grandmaster Mordrek decried the lack of infantry, all left behind in Glasdor and now dead upon Araxean pikes. The fact that there were no Raven ships blockading the port also didn't help, and the defenders kept pelting the besiegers with rotting vegetables, perhaps to goad them into assaulting the walls. It didn't work; the Raven discipline held, though the dragon Skuld for one had to be restrained from initiating an assault.

In Glastenen, Count Merryn assumed his father's crown, proclaiming himself Prince Merryn III of Duedhyn.

1530: Settling into Siegecraft

The new Prince Merryn ordered the attack of the Glastenen garrison. It was easily overcome, and the Raven abbey of Boswynnan burnt to the ground. The Order's fortress of Fowydh was put to siege.

General Lord Basodir of Thace invaded Raven Kyndyr with his 29,000 cataphraçti, 11,000 hussars, and the dragon Róta¹⁷. A quick firebolt de-

¹⁷ With the army's ensign fluttering from the Holy Staff of Saint Berthilde, naturally.

stroyed the garrison and shattered the walls of the Raven castle of Egloslasek almost before anybody knew what was happening.

The joint Araxean/Merryn army advanced into Lowarthow, which they captured without incident. The Raven priory of Anvamm was put to the torch, but the Urdans are much less sanguine about the mighty Raven castle of Nowath Dinas, which is by far the largest Raven fortress they have encountered so far—twice the size of the others, in fact.

In Glasdor, the Araxean siege of the Raven castle of Lynnyeyn came to an end. With the walls reduced to almost nothing and his men starving, the Raven commander surrendered to Count Ottokar of Thûduaxa and received the full honours of war.

At the siege of Trenk in Derrow, the 74-year old Captain-General Tithitak died after catching a nasty chest cold that developed into pneumonia. At the moment of his death, a great wind whooshed through the General's pavilion, ripping the pegs right from the ground and propelling the entire structure several dozen feet into the air. As the canvas pavilion slowly settled back to the ground, the Aradécian shadow knights froze in place, some in mid-step. They have not moved since.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN / RAVENIST (7 S/RA)

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

His Holiness Artysr the Ancient, Prelate of the Raven Orthodox Church.

Trade: Cappargarnia

DP: None.

When pretty much everyone cut trade with him except Cappargarnia and Tiryowglas, Prince Meriasek ordered trade cut with Tiryowglas as well.

The Ravens began construction of *the Courts of Pareis*, which they envisioned as an international tribunal for the Empire. Several cases were brought by Duedhyni prosecutors and defended by Duedhyni assigned counsel before Duedhyni justices. These included:

- *Kingdom of Aradéc and Principality of Duedhyn at Pareis v. Grand Duchy of Araxes*

Result: Grand Duchy of Araxes found *guilty* of taking control of Tewynn Prefecture from the Principality of Duedhyn at Pareis, violating the Aradéc order “Duedhyn O Duedhyn” and Imperial Law.

Remedy: Araxes is to immediately abandon and transfer to *the Principality of Duedhyn at Pareis* the prefectures of Tewynn, Tythyen, and Syghor, leaving these regions and cities contained within without despoiling them or dislodging their populations in any way and to move any of Araxes' troops, armour, weaponry, leadership and any other vestiges of Araxian control out of these prefectures and back into Araxes proper.

- *Kingdom of Aradéc and Principality of Duedhyn at Pareis v. Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu, Church Universal & Triumphant, and Barony of Fell Kommolek (a.k.a. The Grand Conspiracy)*
This case is still in session.

Some small amount of Mana is now flowing in Meriasek's lands.

PRINCIPALITY OF DUEDHYN / MERRYN (4 S/UR)

His Highness, Prince Merryn III of Duedhyn, Lord Goslowes, Baron Dhanos, Defender of the Faith.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, ID, IOC, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: Avalow (A)

With the death of Prince Merryn II in the Battle of Mordeis, his son became Prince Merryn III. The new prince is both a more accomplished field commander and a better administrator than his father. His men love him.

COUNTY OF TIRYOWGLAS (29 SW/IL)

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

Trade: Aradéc, Cappargarnia, Duedhyn, Ebalon, Einandhu, Elphárec, Golmath-Parndarra,

Golmath-Zhogian, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID,
IOC, Murali, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

The weather in Tiryowglas continued to get better and better, and the skies rung out with praise for Iluvar. Vast sacrifices were offered to the Author of Justice, and, because Iluvar helps those who help themselves, megalithic greenhouses were built at Mengeleth and Garwel.

Count Lefans IV died in 1527 at the age of 66. His nephew became Count Truedhek II. The House Kwilkyn clan mothers immediately met and chose the new Count's nephew Sarrik as heir. The young Sarrik is the great-grandson of Count Sarrik II by way of two generations of government officials.

The Count and Countess added two more daughters and (finally) a son to their growing family.

Airship quality improved.

ILUVARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (26 IL)

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

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Elphárec, Hyrágec, ID, Ingazi, Murali, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn

DP: None.

Pope Harmony VIII threw more resources at his many half-completed building projects. This time, a couple of them actually got finished: the towns of Tiryovaël and Pilyirri are now cities.

The Elphárec airfleet, previously stationed in Raënor, moved to Sistrameides.

Legates were sent to the various Iluvarian states to look into the religious life of the people and to hobnob with the various prelates and Emandrites.

Pope Harmony finally decided that the mess across the lake in Duedhyn was getting out of hand; trade relations with the Ravens were severed.

The personable young Duke Tashnes of Elphárec arrived in Sistrameides 1528 to attend University. He intends to graduate in 1533 with a law degree before returning home to take up the reigns of leadership. Tashnes is a popular student, being elected

as Student Body President while still in his second year. His exploits in intramural rugby are already the stuff of legends.

The Church's Mandarins and Magi both reported advances. In fact, many are convinced that their Primacy has entered an entirely new age of magical learning and power.

MOST SANGUINE DUCHY OF ELPHÁREC (34 W/IL)

His Excellency, Count Eparreb Gorran, Regent for... His Grace, Eparreb Tashnes v, the Well-Liked, Count of Angûron and Siddhan, Duke of Elphárec.

Trade: Cappargarnia, Einandhu, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Tiryowglas, Zadres (3)

DP: None.

Despite his somewhat dodgy career to date, Count Gorran proved a dutiful regent and an able administrator. He sent his young charge, the Duke, to the University of Sistrameides in 1528 to get a proper education in the greatest centre of learning in the Iluvarian world.

In the Duke's absence, the Regent proclaimed "a new, shinier Elphárec". The treasury was emptied to build new public works throughout the Duchy. The Regent established a primary school system and other educational facilities in Epadh¹⁸. Elphárec's own university expanded, and the Duchy's sorcerers reported an enormous breakthrough in their studies.

In the city of Ebléc, a "Grand Exposition of all Things Magical and Scientifical" was held in 1530. The Duchy's engineers worked day and night to build the truly massive Ebléc Exposition Centre. The fair brought sorcerers, engineers, natural scientists, and clockmakers from all over eastern Sahûl to Ebléc. The folks with the goggles concession sold out their stock within hours, and white coats are on back-order until at least 1532.

Morcrades Lord Ebléc remained in command of the Duchy's armies and was additionally appointed head of the commission investigating the former Duke's fate¹⁹. No one was actually all that anxious

¹⁸ Insert your own "Regents Exam" joke here.

¹⁹ In 1527 the commission quietly issued a report concluding that Duke Tashnes IV had died in 1522 and was buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the pauper's cemetery of Epadh.

to find out what had become of the old drunkard, and the Dowager Duchess Enebrel herself was most emphatically *not* in mourning.

In fact, she set out from the capital in a litter²⁰ and accompanied by a special armed escort of cavaliers, knights, and auxiliary horseguards. She was determined to solve a much more important mystery than where her drunk husband might have gotten himself killed; she instead travelled to the Munggar Mountains, to reopen the investigation of the lost clock schematics of the late Baron Ilkurr Valdiss, Toymaker of Mungg.

ENEBREL IN MUNGG

Dowager Duchess Enebrel arrived at the quaint mountain city of Manídh during the grey autumn rains in 1527. She was greeted by the great Clockmaker's heir, the handsome but hapless Baron Ilkurr Vitikorr of Mungg. The Baron was easily ten years her junior, and he gave the instant impression of a weneman who had gotten much further on his good name and good looks than he was ever likely to get on his meagre intelligence. He was dressed in the dark green uniform of Mungg's army, complete with shiny brass buttons and a chest full of medals. Enebrel thought she recognized one for perfect attendance.

As he helped her from her litter, the Baron's eyes smouldered like those of a particularly dim chihuahua who thinks its master had forgotten to feed it when in fact it had just wandered into the wrong house.

"Welcome to Mungg, your Grace," he said as the large military band behind him blew rainwater from their horns and began to play a polka. Smartly uniformed Mungg Heavy Infantry paraded past the damp plaza as dozens of brightly painted airships hung lazily in the rainy skies above.

Enebrel was deathly sick of military displays. She stepped lightly from the litter to the slick cobbled plaza. An aide appeared with an umbrella to shield her from the rain. Enebrel's voice was crisp and

clear as she spoke to the Baron on their dash to his city house.

"The cloaked gentleman walking behind us is the Deva Jedral. He and I intend to find out who took the missing plans. If you can help, then help. Otherwise, I'll thank you to keep you and your toy soldiers well clear of us."

"Ah," he replied, brow furrowed in concentration, "I think you're thinking of my uncle. He died back in '17. No toy soldiers since then. We're making do with live ones these days."

"Right then. Just stay out of our way."



In the week Enebrel had been in Manídh, the rains had only gotten worse. As she and Jedral prepared their psychometry, they could hear thunder rolling and echoing across the valley at ever more frequent intervals. The cluttered old workshop was dark, lit only by a few sputtering lamps and the occasional lightning flash outside, and it smelled of dust and machine oil. It had been boarded up after the previous investigation had concluded, and a thick layer of grime coated every surface.

The spell was nearly ready. The crystal hummed and glowed a pale blue in Enebrel's cupped hands. It was the size of a small cantaloupe and clear as quartz. Spiderweb-thin lines of blue lightning played about its surface, glowing brighter as the incantations proceeded and Enebrel channeled the vast, mystic forces of Mana through her own body.

The door burst open, but Enebrel dared not look, dared not lose her concentration for even a moment. That, she knew, could be disaster. Enebrel held the Mana within her, channeling it into her body through her feet and out through her hands, guiding it carefully through the myriad fissures and channels within the crystal matrix. An error might mean the harmless dissipation of the magical energies into the air around her, or it might mean the explosion of the crystal into thousands of razor-sharp fragments.

There could be no distractions.

²⁰ It should be noted that she did actually ride for a considerable portion of each day's travel, just to get her exercise and to make sure her escorts were behaving themselves.

Some part of the back of her brain was faintly aware of soldiers, *clockwork* soldiers, and of her Deva holding them back from her.

And then it was done.

The crystal discharged the Mana, flooding the dark workshop briefly with a warm, blue glow. The spell was complete, and with a clear certainty, Enebrel saw in her mind's eye the last, fatal confrontation of the late Toymaker with his secret patrons and the nephew who had been their agent.

As Enebrel's eyes readjusted to the dim lamp light, she saw the handsome Baron Ilkurr Vitikorr, standing behind a line of perhaps half a dozen Mungg infantry. These soldiers were not Wenemet, however, for where their faces should be were spinning brass clockworks. Her Deva was nowhere to be seen.

"You think you're so smart," the Baron sneered. "You think you're so high and mighty. Well, where's your Deva now, eh? I'll tell you where." He held up his left hand, adorned with a bulky iron ring, set with a single, chunky blue sapphire. "It's the same place your late husband's Deva is. Right here. It can't help you now."

Enebrel looked at the mechanical soldiers. They were unmoving. If she could keep the Baron talking, perhaps a plan would present itself.

"My dear Baron," she purred sweetly, "surely we can come to some sort of arrangement? We needn't resort to violence."

"I'm not stupid, you know", he said in exactly the sort of way that convinced her that he was. "I know you know what you know." He looked briefly puzzled at his own words before continuing. "I know that you know that I killed my uncle. I can't let you leave, now. Still, we could have some fun, you know. Some laughs. You don't have to think of it as a prison. My chalet in the mountains is quite pleasant compared to this..." He sneered as he wiped two fingers along the top of the grimy workbench, "...this *filth*."

"Don't you think somebody might notice when I don't return to Epadh?"

The Baron furrowed his brow. It looked like it hurt. Gradually, his brows unknit. She thought he looked rather sad just then.

"Then I suppose I'll have to say it was an accident. Lots of dangerous things in this workshop." He raised his hand, and the clockwork soldiers all took a step towards Enebrel in unison.

Outside, lightning struck nearby. The thunder was deafening.

Taking advantage of the sudden distraction, Enebrel hurled her spell crystal at the Baron's head. It connected with a solid *thump*. As the Baron flinched, Enebrel leapt past the looming soldiers and tackled him. The clockwork soldiers stood immobile without orders while the Duchess and the Baron wrestled on the filthy floor.

She grabbed for his left hand, trying to reach his ring, as he rolled her off of him. He rolled on top of her, trying to pin her. Out of options, she bit into his shoulder. With a howl, he lost his balance and the two rolled again across the floor. This time, Enebrel managed to get both hands on his ring. Desperately, she twisted and pushed the stone, trying to activate its magical trigger.

A howling blast of wind louder than thunder tore through the workshop, and Enebrel felt herself flying. She slammed into a wall and saw only darkness.



When she opened her eyes, Enebrel saw the warm, familiar face of the Deva Jedral. "Well done, my lady, you released us. You are safe, now."

She sat up. "Where is the Baron?"

"The Baron did not survive the wrath of the Deva Verran, trapped within his ring for a decade."

"And the soldiers?" She looked around the room, and she saw them laying where they fell, knocked down like bowling pins.

"They have not moved."

"See that they don't."



A cousin of the late Baron Ilkurr Vitikorr became Baron Ilkurr Lonchiss of Mungg. Though he had tickets to attend the Grand Exposition in 1530, Baron Lonchiss elected to stay and help Duchess Enebrel clean up his new Barony instead.

KINGDOM OF HYRÁGEC (31 W/UR)

His Valiant Majesty Irrjir Frenthes v, King of Hyrágec, Beloved of Urda.

Trade: Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Elphárec, Golmath-Zhogian, Ingazi, ID, IOC, Kumara, Tiryowglas, ThaceD, ThaceE, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: None.

King Rahnes, delighted with the success of past construction projects, built some more! A new road in Lhan connected the town of Alvitirre with the capital via the Kingsbridge. The Society of Saint Annír was invited to help run the new primary school system, headquartered in Alvitirre near the Cathedral of Injadh. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Prince Frenthes announced the establishment of a merit-based scholarship

Whirripi Challik, Lord of Endani and son-in-law of King Rahnes, died overseas in 1526. His son acceded to his family's ancient seat.

Emperor Sydath II arrived in Endani Prefecture in 1527. Debarking at the port of Perendar, he was greeted by Crown Prince Frenthes, Lord Whirripi Dranthes, and the full might of Hyrágecan chivalry, some 70,000 cavaliers and knights in full array, banners flying. The Prince presented the Emperor a handsomely-bound copy of Grenthe's Commentary on the Code, *The Chivalry of the Common Man*.

After a festive dinner and a solid night's sleep, the Emperor made his pilgrimage to the Shrine of Moroko. The Emperor spent an entire day in complete silence while prostrate at the shrine. Afterwards, he spent some time with the current guardian of the shrine, Master Fon. There was no report of them exchanging poetry.

Prince Frenthes commissioned an historical opera from Mæstro Johannes, a major composer and proud alumni of the Royal Conservatory. Dedicat-

ed to King Rahnes and First Matriarch Kemalla, *Paharnes the Great*²¹ opened to extremely positive reviews in Pahasar in 1529. Particular favourites are the aria "Sardarthion, my Love", the final triumphal march (both of which have entered the chamber repertoire), and the hauntingly beautiful "Mothers and Daughters", which is becoming a favourite of church choirs throughout the East.

King Rahnes the Taciturn died in 1530 at the advanced age of 75. His son, who had been taking over more and more of his father's duties for many years, became King Frenthes V. The House Irrjir Clan Mothers immediately confirmed Frenthes' young son Rahnes as heir.

The Gawan Peninsula

THE FEUDAL NORTHEAST

COUNTY PALATINE OF INGAZI (35 W/UR)

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

Trade: Aradéc, Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Chi'tixi, Ebalon, Golmath-Zhogian, GUT, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, IOC, Kalipara (5), Kumara, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: Kalipara (A)

Count Palatine Trememeres III made a moving farewell speech in Madramityi and then abdicated in favour of his son and heir Trememeres (IV). He mounted his well-worn saddle on the Dragon Alvitir and flew off to sea, never to be seen again. The House Gwariva Clan Mothers, warned in advance, chose the University-trained son of the new Count Palatine as heir. It's just as well; Lord Razhim is a personable fellow, but simply ter-

²¹ The story follows King Paharnes of Hyrágec from his conquest of Sardarthion, through the Reestablishment Wars, and culminates in his coronation as Emperor in the final scene. The theme of Paharnes' religious devotion to Urda runs through the work, including the exploration of the rôle of prophecy and the Church, as exemplified by the characters of Naskeb and Dromóa.

rible at his chosen occupation of alchemy. The Palace has let it be known that the new heir is in the market for a bride.

The new Count Palatine continued concentrating Ingazi's efforts in New Ingazi. A fleet of galleons and transports returned from their colony in 1529 bearing assorted Oratoan natives and treasures.

Back at home, Ingazi constructed many new public works projects. Ingazi's sorcerers made even more improvements.

The locals in Sonnow were surprised to discover five hundred armed Saurian horsemen magically appear on the Deriháhn road in 1526. They wore the garb of desert riders. When the local constabulary arrived, they were already gone.

Ingazi expanded its rugby programme and put together a national team for a friendly against a visiting Zarkhandu team, which—alas!—never arrived.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL & TRIUMPHANT (54.5 UR)
Her All-Holiness Jerröe X, the Leaping Horse, First Matriarch of Urda, Protector of Sahûl.

Trade: Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Averno, Cappargarnia, Carcë, Chi'tixi, Duedhyn, Einandhu, Golmath-Zhogian, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, Ingazi, IOC, Itaxik, Murali, Sakkar, ThaceD, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Zadres (3)

DP: None.

First Matriarch Kemalla continued to pray for Duedhyn, right up until the day of her death in 1528. Even while burial arrangements were still being made, the Mothers of Urdraháhn fetched the Sibyl from her gloomy apartments. When the Sibyl awoke from her ritual trance, the name of the Matriarch of Cannow was on her bloody and foam-flecked lips with the murmured motto "the leaping horse". The new First Matriarch, a Saurian sorceress, was coincidentally in Urdraháhn awaiting an audience with... the First Matriarch. She may have gotten more than she bargained for.

Prince Biard, meanwhile, graduated from Saint Irmengarde's Elementary School with a little help

from a friendly instructor named Mother Tz'vikki, giving the boy first-hand experience of Malebolge ways. The Prince entered college and is expected to graduate in 1532.

The Interview of Atáiri, Son of Kiriáre

In late 1529, an Ingazi treasure fleet docked in Urdraháhn, bearing dispatches and *Human* novices from Oratoa sent to finish their training. One particular dispatches from Reverend Mother Betenoire was marked "Urgent, First Matriarch's Eyes Only" and went up immediately to Jerröe X, who was still learning the ropes. Jerröe had read and seen some strange things in the year since she had become First Matriarch, but this was the first that had actually set her aback.

"Is it true?" she asked no one in particular. Neither her private secretary or the Sister who bore the dispatch made any answer.

The First Matriarch cleared her throat. "Sister... Eldein, is it?"

The young Wenemet Sister nodded.

"Sister, I would like to interview both of these young Humans before they get settled into their schools. The Pakoan Princess, I will see alone in my office first, just as soon as possible. She's very young and I'm sure she's a little overwhelmed. The Prince..." She stared down at the dispatch again. "The Prince, I will see this evening in the Ardonan Hall. Grünenblek?"

"Yes'm?" The old Wenemet looked up from his parchment.

"With all the senior curial officials, please. Tell them to cancel any other appointments."

"Yes'm." Grünenblek had elected to take an early retirement, but was serving out the year. He was beginning to regret not stepping down immediately. This new Matriarch was not to his taste.



The young man was handsome. A Human of about 25 years with brown skin and black hair, though if the light hit it just right a few copper

strands could be seen. That he was heavily muscled was obvious even through the cloak he wore against Urdraháhn's chill autumn. Sister Eldein stood by him, to serve as his translator as needed. He had studied the Gawan language *en route* with his tutors, but he was not yet quite fluent.

The Herald introduced him as "Prince Ataíri, Son of Kiriáire, Son of Kaituéra of the House of Ngeru of the Éiwi of the Kura," his Wenemet tongue tripping over the unfamiliar names.

The First Matriarch welcomed him to Urdraháhn, saying that the city was honoured to have such a noble visitor. The forms having been obeyed, Jerröe stood from her throne and simply asked him, "is it true?"

Suddenly the room burst into a tremendous light, brighter than Jerröe had ever seen. Strange hues of colors began swirling around the room, growing brighter and pulsating from where young Ataíri stood, finally causing the First Matriarch to cover her eyes.

She heard a voice, deep and raspy, say "I am Ataíri, Son of Kiraíre, Prince to the lands of Kuroa and born of the blood of the dragonborn kings. You who teach the word of Urda, look now upon me and know that she walks among us in Oratoa in flesh and bone."

The First Matriarch uncovered her eyes. She, and indeed the entire court, was taken aback. There stood before them what she must have been Ataíri, but what stood there was not Human. The majestic dragon-like beast was long and slender, with muscles chiseled of stone.

Sister Eldein said, "The Kuroan kings are said to be born of dragon blood. They are able to take this form at will. They call it a fire-drake."

Prince Ataíri continued, "Great Mother, you now know only a piece of our history. Ask and I will show you the land of my father and that of Urda from the skies. Share now with your brothers and sisters that Kuroans come in peace from this point forward. We welcome our kin from the south into our lands."

Reverend Mother Jerröe smiled weakly. "You're going to be very popular at University."



One afternoon in the autumn of 1530, the Sybil burst into the First Matriarch's audience chamber unannounced except by her own screams. Blood streamed from the Sybil's eyes and ears, and she screamed "Abomination! Abomination! Abomination!" before collapsing onto the stone floor, dead. Those who had witnessed a similar event fifteen years earlier remarked that these modern screamers just can't hold a torch to Sybils back in the day.

Tarnet Priory in Sandir Prefecture in the Duchy of Thace expanded into an Abbey.

The Cathedral of Saint Annír in Thace was granted to the Society of Saint Annír. The Society expanded their works, particularly in Thace and Hyrágec. The ranks of the Society swelled enormously.

Naval quality improved again. Perhaps all that time spent with the Ingazi navy is rubbing off?

GOLMATHI CIVIL WAR (1523-1530)

Prince Endarra vs. Prince Kaidarian, Aradéc

1526: Moving the Pieces into Place

Prince Kaidarian and King Deric of Aradéc announced the *Treaty of Serri*, which created an Eastern Alliance for defensive purposes. For his part, Prince Endarra recognized the independence of Kumara, Murali, and the Ebalon March. He also offered to put Runazar up for sale to the highest bidder.

Duelling, and to all purposes simultaneous, religious proclamations were issued by the Puritan Prince Endarra and by Hierarch Mordican of the FOCT. The Hierarch solemnly pronounced the excommunication of Prince Endarra, and an interdict on any who follow him. It is said that Endarra laughed when he heard the news, for his followers were far more zealous in their faith than the Pontiff and his Church. The Prince had already ordered

the seizure of all FOCT sites within his territory. The Golmathi Puritans obliged their Prince, and furthermore smashed the statues and whitewashed the religious artwork within all of the priories and abbeys of Endarra's lands. Kawalka Priory in Pakupundhi was occupied by an army commanded by Prince Endarra's son Endarra, who also had to put down a revolt of FOCT-inspired nobles.

The major effect of the Pontiff's pronouncement was that Nydoon and Ebalon both cut trade with Prince Endarra.

A bidding war erupted for the services of the free companies in the west. Both factions offered each company the same amounts, so it was niceties and details that ultimately persuaded the mercenary captains to accept one offer over another. After meeting with an envoy calling herself "Gertrude", Lord Dwinbi Sardes of the Hawkwood Company threw his lot in with Prince Kaidarian. "Spears" Willeford, on the other hand, was persuaded by a high-level envoy to accept Prince Endarra's offer of service.

In Yambai, a small Endarran force convinced the locals to support their cause and then removed FOCT control from Param Priory there. The local lord in Dalgányi also paid tribute Endarra's Golmath. Dalkurnu, by contrast, paid tribute to Prince Kaidarian.

Endarran Colonel Wilgi²² led 24,000 dragoons and 8,500 horsemen into Daryis. Kaidarian's man Wooster was in the area with something like 17,000 footmen, but he refused to give battle, instead retreating behind the daunting walls of Thunarr. Not having any desire to paint the walls of Thunarr red with horse blood, Wilgi was content to occupy the region, remove Kurrubatyini Abbey from FOCT control, and continue moving south. As they were passing, Mount Gartnír erupted, covering the land with darkness.

²² That's "Wilgi", not "wiggly". He really does hate that.

1527: *The Eye of the Storm*

The Golmathi Princes continued positioning their forces, though for what exactly remained to be seen. A handful of regions changed hands: Colonel Wilgi occupied the hills of Marniyi for Endarra²³, and the Hawkwood Company took Kalikadra for Kaidarian. Lord Wooster ventured out of Thunarr to reclaim Daryis for Kaidarian. Just a few months later, however, Colonel Wilgi's army returned and took it back.

News of an immense Aradécan army on the march in the east, however, gave Prince Endarra a bad case of heartburn. The rumour that 230,000 men under King Deric had entered Windra simply *couldn't* be true.

Golmath and Zarkhandu discovered to their chagrin that they had been legally in a state of war since 1515. The Zarkhandu Court privately expressed their admiration for this last gift of the Emperor Sardhan, even while they publicly called for legal injunctions to prevent this sort of thing from happening in the future.

Ambassadors representing Prince Kaidarian and King Tirach Bæn of Zarkhandu quickly negotiated and signed the *Bay of Sunnaday Accord*, ending the state of war between them. Of course, Zarkhandu is still legally at war with all of the other Golmathi factions, but that's a matter for another day.

1528: *Nydoon Declares*

The summer of 1528 saw more nibbling around the edges, as Prince Endarra's men forced tribute from Karirpulyi in the west and occupied Mingka in the north. In both cases, proper Puritan clergy were installed into the region's priory.

Meanwhile, in the forests of Warraki, a very different confrontation was in the offing. The Hawkwood Company, escorted by a Kaidarian agent (code name: "Gertrude"), sought free passage on the Prince's Highway through Nydoon. They were

²³ A 6,000-man garrison switched sides into the bargain.

confronted by none other than the Baroness herself, leading an army of 21,000 men.

Before violence could break out, Lady Gertrude prevailed upon Baroness Dara to parley. Parley they did, deep into the night. They resumed the next afternoon and again talked deep into the wee hours. This pattern continued for a week, not varying even when Lady Gertrude presented the Baroness with a quantity of wagonloads of gold. Three days later, the number of wagonloads doubled. Two days after that, the Lady and the Baroness emerged from their meetings with a deal. The Baroness received half a million gold crowns and the guarantee of her lands. In return, she swore fealty to Prince Kaidarian.

On the southern front, having ascertained that Colonel Wilgi had withdrawn from the region, Lord Wooster and his 21,000-man army retook Daryis and then marched north. This being the fourth time in three years that Daryis has changed hands, many of the locals are fed up with the entire mess and are now advocating independence.

An Endarran fleet put in at the forgotten isle of Nappamiri. The locals were so happy to see somebody—anybody—that they immediately enlisted in Prince Endarra's cause.

Mount Gartnir in Marniyi erupted. Again.

1529: Cry 'Havoc' and let slip the dogs of War



ord Wooster's 17,000 infantry and 4,000 siege engineers arrived in Khurnurrir expecting to liberate the region for Prince Kaidarian. What they found instead was Colonel Wilgi with his 24,000 dragoons and 8,500 horsemen laying in wait. It was the first major battle of the war, but it proved only the overture for the rest of the year.

The Battle of Anshan (1529)

The Endarrans had both mobility and numbers, but perhaps more importantly, they had a sorcerer with them. Battle was joined by means of a lightning bolt that tore through Lord Wooster's lines, killing almost 2,000 men. It didn't get any better

for the Kaidarian forces. The initial cavalry charge went through their tattered lines like a sledge hammer through glass. Although Wooster's men gave their best, they were simply outnumbered and outfought²⁴. Colonel Wilgi's men took 4,000 casualties, but of Wooster's men there remained not one alive.

Old Lord Wooster's body was interred with full military honours, while the majority of his men were buried in a mass grave.

That autumn in Golmath's homeland of Madran, however, vast armies were converging for what promised to be an apocalyptic struggle for mastery of the Principality. Prince Kaidarian and his son, Captain-General Count Zhogian, landed some 24,000 pike and perhaps 8,000 engineers from their fleet, which was soon augmented by an Aradéc Armada of nearly 900 ships, which moved into the mouth of the Kalurrir River to blockade the city.

From the east came the Baron of Windra's 17,000 men, riding vanguard before the great army of King Deric of Aradéc. The host of Aradéc numbered 86,000 men plus an additional 50,000 shadow knights and two Devas. Seventy-five airships scouted for the army, which was heavily weighted with cavaliers and knights, but which also contained a strong contingent of Aradéc's feared pike and longbow. The Allied army leisurely crossed the river at the great bridge.

The Battle of the Gates of Golmath (1529)

Having dealt with the local castles and their fanatical Puritan defenders, the forces of the Eastern Alliance arrived before the gates of the city of Golmath in mid-autumn. A chill was in the air, and the leaves were already on the ground, giving the area the feel of death.

The two Electors, Deric and Kaidarian, agreed to place Kaidarian's young son and heir Captain-General Count Zhogian²⁵ in overall command of the Alliance forces. It was just as well, for just days after his arrival, and in full view of his men, Prince

²⁴ And, truth be told, out-led.

²⁵ Count Zhogian had just turned twenty at this time.

Kaidarian was assassinated by an invisible, knife-wielding fanatic. The morale of the army was shaken to its core, for Prince Kaidarian was loved by his soldiers, who were grief-stricken at his death.

Count Zhogian calmed matters by appearing before the host with King Deric at his side. He gave a stirring oration, much of which was understood by his men, and he finished off by crowning himself Prince of Golmath with his father's crown.

Inside the city, Prince Endarra and his son, Count Endarra of Agdora, saw to the needs of the terrified people while placing the brilliant (if slightly crazed) Colonel Justanni in command of the defenses.

Then the siege began.

The defenders had the benefit of extremely tall walls, 500 stone golems, a passel of infantry and engineers, and 25 or so airships. While King Deric counseled a patient siege, young Prince Zhogian had revenge on his mind. The defenders certainly seemed to have plenty of supplies, and who knew how many more assassins lurked in the countryside? The Alliance forces concentrated their fire on the port district walls near the main gates of the city until, several weeks later, Prince Zhogian imagined he saw a breach. The pike and archers began their assault on the 29th of October, supported by the bombardment of siege engines and twenty guns of the new Aradéc artillery, making their battle debut.

A fierce airship battle over the city, complete with some nasty boarding actions, ended in victory for the Aradéc squadron with only five ships lost.

On the ground, the Alliance forces took moderate casualties. With Aradéc's vaunted chivalry leaving the fighting to the dragoons, infantry, engineers, and artillery, the defenders were able to give a good accounting of themselves. Indeed, Aradéc's Marshal Dethinok fell in the assault, and the Deva Borrit whooshed off into the sky.

Ultimately, the assault prevailed, thanks primarily to the professionalism of the Aradéc soldiers²⁶. The defenders fell back in confusion as the Alliance

²⁶ In siegecraft, the Aradécans made the Golmathi of both factions look like positive amateurs.

army forced the breach and, with the walls falling around them, poured into the city. Casualties were horrendous, and included Count Endarra of Agdora. Still, the ferocious Wenemaiden Colonel Justanni rallied the defenders with her flashing, glowing longsword, which many recognized as the fabled *Sword of Huizacor*. As the fighting continued street to street, the full weight of Endarra's stone golems became apparent, as they were not only the backbone of the defense, they practically *were* the defense at this point.

Aradéc's vaunted chivalry were not terribly useful within the city, but they were much more useful than they had been at the gate.

Prince Endarra's men and golems fought to the end, slowly ground down by the might of Aradéc. When the wreckage of the city was examined, Prince Endarra's body was found, hacked to pieces amidst the rubble of his stone golems. Colonel Justanni had escaped, as had a handful of her guard. Prince Zhogian's banner was raised over the ruins of the citadel on the 5th of November, and he and King Deric II of Aradéc lunched in the ruins of the Electoral Palace.

The butcher's bill ran to nearly 50,000 soldiers, not including the golems. Golmath's walls and great swaths of the city itself were rubble. The University campus was damaged. Much of the government quarter lay in ruins. The one bright light was that Walarri Stadium escaped nearly unscathed.

The fortress of Laksmih surrendered to Prince Zhogian without a fight.

Not yet aware that Prince Endarra was dead, the Endarran fleet landed forces in Kirtirryi, annexing the region in his name. The Hawkwood Company claimed Pakupundhi for Prince Kaidarian, who was of course also dead.

1530: *Down But Not Out*



As word of the assault of Golmath spread, the "Endarran" House Walarri Clan Mothers met in Pagumath to choose a new Prince

and champion. They reluctantly settled on Prince Endarra's second son, the twenty-year old Parndarra. He accepted, though he refused a formal coronation, reportedly remarking "what is a crown but a hat that lets in the rain?" Prince Parndarra II is a hard-core no-compromises iconoclast Puritan who makes his father and grandfather look lax by comparison. He dresses entirely in unadorned black and has fasted so frequently that he's positively gaunt. He despises the fashion of large ruffs, and he keeps his own ruff trimmed quite short. He is also an extremely likeable and charismatic figure who puts a friendly face on his rigid moral and religious code.

Daryis changed hands for a *fifth* time when Colonel Wilgi and his men returned from their adventures in the north. This time they also obtained the surrender of Thunarr and captured a fleet at anchor there. The FOCT authorities were evicted from Kurrubatyini Abbey, and the iconoclastic Puritans smashed all the icons and statues they could find.

The Hawkwood Company casually annexed Khurnurrir for Prince Zhogian on their way to Golmath City.

Willeform's Spears, meanwhile, finally made it to Yukarra, which they annexed for Prince Parndarra. Piroj Priory was cleansed of its FOCT elements. Similarly, a Puritan pro-Parndarra party pummelled Vara and purified its priory.

Meanwhile, back in Runazar²⁷, the Laird of Clan Duich convinced the Laird of Clan Harret²⁸ to support Prince Zhogian because, "Efter aw, he talks yer leid".

Back up north, in Wirni a small Parndarran force took the region and claimed the priory for Puritanism.

Mount Gartnir in Marniyi erupted again.

Colonel Wilgi, having run his cavalry absolutely ragged for five years, reclaimed Khurnurrir in the name of Prince Parndarra.

The Walarri and Volpel Clan Mothers met to choose an heir for the young, unmarried Prince Zhogian. After carefully considering the situation,

²⁷ Remember Runazar? Whatever happened to them?

²⁸ Hereditary rulers of Rhuzan.

from all sides, military and political, they chose his younger brother Sardirian. The hard-drinking Count Sardirian is not as good looking or as smooth-talking as his older brother the Prince, but like him, he's a graduate of the Runazar Military Academy.

NOTE: *The two factions of the Principality of Golmath (Parndarra and Zhogian) and the Golmath Underlands Territories (GUT) are operating under Civil War rules §10.4.4. The GUT remain loyal to Golmath, but they have not declared for either faction. The Ebalon March is susceptible to a good offer²⁹.*

BARONY OF NYDOON

Baroness Dara negotiated a deal with Prince Kaidarian that made her the richest and most eligible Wenemaide in all of Sahul.

What's not to like?

PRINCE PARNDARRA'S PURITANS (9 W/TA)

His Gracious Majesty, Walarri Parndarra II, the Straitlaced, Baron of Madran and Kamadhi, Count of Agdora, Electoral Prince of Golmath.

Trade: Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Einandhu, GUT, ID, Murali, Tiryowglas, Zadres (3)

DP: Dalganyi (T)

DPrince Parndarra holds much of Golmath's core and has utterly repudiated the "weak and corrupt" Pontiff at Serri. The Puritans in Parndarra's service have become so fanatical that many fear they will soon become a particularly joyless Tarotist sect.

PRINCE ZHOGIAN'S KILTED MANIACS™ (15, 25 W/TA)

His Gracious Majesty, Volpel-Walarri Zhogian, Baron Volpel, Count of Runazar, Electoral Prince of Golmath.

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

²⁹ Provided, as always, that it remains playerless.

Baroness Jejodh Dara of Nydoon, the Beautiful and Beguiling.

Trade 15: Aradéc, Atuburrk, Hyrágec, Ingazi, ID, Urdraháhn

Trade 25: Aradéc, Ebalon, Iäthedain, Murali, Tiryowglas

DP: Dalkurnu (T), Nydoon (A, Dep.), Rhuzan (A)

The kilted Runazari Prince Zhogian retook what remained of his capital of Golmath and its government. Even with his lands split in two by Puritan territory, he's feeling pretty confident.

Meanwhile, deep in the south, the Thalari spread like wildfire. The port town of Mingis was built in Formagek on the Bight of Kanapád. The double port town of Dornoch rose in Sinissar at the mouth of the Sarnidak Ice River. Asaiman was colonized (2121)T and Syrháhn was rebuilt as a port town³⁰. Mendileen was colonized (3123)T, and ancient Gormaháhn rose again from its ruins as a double port town. Finally, Thalari colonists settled in Mindath (1112)T and built the river port town of Moffat.

REPUBLIC OF KUMARA (4W/KY)

Baron Abmbur Kašten II of Dambiyi, First Speaker of the Republic, Servitor of the King in Yellow.

Trade: Araxes, Aradéc, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Hyrágec, Ingazi, Zadres (3)

DP: Ssssss.

The Republic built up their meagre defenses, invested in new public works, and improved the quality of their siege works. The ancient Baron Kasten died and was succeeded by his grandson, who became Baron Kasten II.

ALL-EASTERN RUGBY FEDERATION (ARF)

The ARF closed its doors in 1527, leaving various city and prefecture teams to work out *ad hoc* schedules of their own. The movement to competing national teams is gathering support.

³⁰ Though most everybody avoids the strangely ice-free sewers. It's *dangerous* down there!

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ARADÉC (47 W/IL)

His Royal Majesty, Sansollen Deric II, Baron of Wanumarra, Count of Abijar, Electoral King of Aradéc.

Sir Onmon Dagames, Speaker of the Commons.

Trade: Araxes, Atuburrk, Cappargarnia, Ebalon, Einandhu, Golmath-Zhogian, Hyrágec, Iäthedain, ID, IOC, Ingazi, Kumara, Murali, ThaceE, Tiryowglas, Urdraháhn, Zadres (3)

DP: Palpika (F)

RKing Deric frantically tried to put his fraying country back together. He proposed new ideas for the reorganization of the Clanmoot and the integration of an extended Commons into it. He then placed this reorganization under the direction of the elderly Sir Onmon Dagames, the Speaker of the Commons. The noble Houses of the Clanmoot were having none of it, and the Speaker himself was dispatched to Karruni to conduct a (failed) diplomacy. Having guaranteed at least several years, if not decades, of argument, the King went on to address some other, more pressing issues.

King Deric spoke with a Pontifical Legate named Brother Brewster, and suggested he set up a meeting with the Archabbot of Kityara, as the whole religion thing was really more in his line. Sadly, the Archabbot was on sabbatical and could not be located.

An alliance was signed with Prince Kaidarian of Golmath, and the King had to prepare his massive army and navy to come to Kaidarian's aid.

And then there was the matter of the traitor, Captain-General Tithitak.

The most pressing issue, however, continued to be Duedhyn. King Deric finally settled the succession question by endorsing Prince Merryn's claim to the Duedhyni throne. He then washed his hands of the whole mess by repudiating his status as Duedhyn's liege lord. The howls of protest in Pareis were practically audible in Darnuldeis.

Soon after, an "open letter" from Prince Meriasek to King Deric was circulating throughout Aradéc,

especially among the military and members of the Commons. The letter aroused strong feelings in members of Aradéc's army and navy, both for and against Meriasek. Although the Commons continued to support the King, whom they loved, many nobles of the Clanmoot began to question the King's honour in dealing with the Duedhyn situation. Most who opposed the King just grumbled, but there were at least two more serious repercussions. A political party formed in the Clanmoot to oppose the King's foreign policy³¹, and a mutiny broke out in the fleet.

The Darnuldeis Mutiny (1526)

The trouble began when the sailors and some junior officers of several dozen warships overthrew their officers with the intention of diverting the fleet from its destination in Golmath to aid Prince Meriasek in Duedhyn as a matter of honour. The mutineers soon attracted others with less noble motivations, and the fleet, which should have set sail in the spring of 1526, found itself at war with itself.

Admiral Henri's solution was simple: send in the marines. A short, sharp battle took place. The mutineers attempted to defend themselves and their ships, but they were no match for the Royal Marines. When it became obvious that they were doomed, some of the mutineers set fire to their ships and dove into the water, hoping to escape. Very few did. The battle, such as it was, ended quickly with the loss of about ten ships.

Admiral Henri ordered the surviving mutineers to be hanged in accord with naval regulations, and the fleet set sail only a month behind schedule.

As the King, army, navy, and airfleet went to the aid of Prince Kaidarian, the home front was oc-

³¹ They originally called themselves the "Engagers" because they favoured engagement with Duedhyn. With news of the King's Golmath alliance, they were briefly (and derisively) known as "Non-Engagers" because they did not favour the alliance. Eventually, they came to be called "Whags", which supposedly stands for "Wenemet Honor Agreements / Golmath Sucks". They currently count on the support of about 35% of the Clanmoot (depending on the specific issue) and are organizing in the Commons, so far without much luck.

cupied with the extension of the Royal Road into Marrgalayi and the construction of the port town of Phoebe in Wikyi. Much of the treasury was sunk into public works projects and other investments.

COUNTY OF MURALI (18 W/TA)

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

Trade: Aradéc, Ebalon, Golmath-Parndarra, Golmath-Zhogian, Ingazi, IOC, Tiryowglas, Urdrahán, Yani

DP: None.

he ancient Count Drathnes gave Kefádhu their independence. Suddenly, shipments of gold and cut stone arrived at the docks, all bearing labels saying "Caution: lift with legs". Murali used their new-found wealth to expand all of their towns into cities. Then just for fun they built a couple of more towns. The elegant double port town of Tarthis rose near Djembiyi Priory on the hills overlooking the mouth of the Kollalla River in Mandri, just across from the Free City of Sarsis. The forest town of Dugdale rose in Dinsadon.

New public works projects were started in every region of the County, and large investments in the County's future continued undiminished.

Count Drathnes continued to amaze the world simply by surviving, year after year. He looks forward to celebrating his 80th birthday in 1531. Those involved with planning the festivities say they will be "epic".

The old Count entertained a visitor from lands down under.

The navy continued joint patrols with Ingazi on the Antean.

MARCH OF EBALON (7 W/TA)

Margrave Volpel Tregarion III of Ebalon.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath-Zhogian, Ingazi, Murali, Tiryowglas

DP: None.

he old Margrave died of heart failure in 1527 when told that his realm was legally at war with Zarkhandu, and had been since

1515. His middle-aged nephew became Margrave Tregarion II. His brief reign was not to prove a happy one. It started out promisingly, with a Golmathi diplomat gifting him large amounts of cash trying to get him to join Prince Kaidarian's cause, an offer the Margrave refused.

Then, in 1530, a Zarkhandu Royal Army, numbering 27,000 men and 100 lumbering stone golems invaded Yarnith. They smashed the feeble defenders and annexed the region³². Then Iärdan, cut off and lonely, rebelled, leaving Ebalon with a total of four prefectures, not one of which actually bordered any of the others. It was in this sad state that Tregarion II passed on the realm to his successor when he died in the autumn of 1530.

The new Margrave, Tregarion III, is young and energetic. He immediately set about expanding and fortifying his capital of Bratarak in Zadok.

Ebalon noted with amusement the presence of some ineffectual Taneki missionaries in Yuwa³³, Toworrah, and Caros.

DRACONIC BARONY OF IÄTHEDAIN (7 SW/UR)
Baron Darandein Zharharn II of Iäthedain, the Lovable but Gruff, Lord Dragonwood.

Sir Trefusis Pennires, Grandmaster of the Military Order of the Red Dragon.

Trade: Aradéc, Golmath-Zhogian, Ingazi, Urdrahahn, Yarni-Za, Zarkhandu

DP: Kefádhu (T), Treal (A)

Aided by a massive infusion of resources and personnel from the Church, the gruff middle-aged Baron Zharharn continued to build his tiny realm. The town of Arдона rose in the deep forests of Karnamú. A Sorcery Academy was founded in the capital of Iäthedeis, and a greenhouse built there as well. The Baron expanded his small government.

³² Though they were extremely careful to stay well clear of the Tarotist Cathedral of Random, which for many years was the centre of the Runazari Church.

³³ Which they called "Yowa". Their accents were *terrible*.

IATHEDEK: THE PROTECTORATE OF FRIEBÆLD

The great Wyrn Friebæld took a little jaunt through the steppe to stretch her wings, but she soon returned to her normal haunts.

VEILED MASTERS OF YARNI-ZA (23 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, Lord of the Fell.

Trade: Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Iäthedain, Taneki, Zarkhandu

DP: Why should we tell you?

Ystar the Lich cackled as more Yagnarist Cathedrals fell into his hands. To help keep it all reigned in, the Veiled Masters expanded their government.

Nobody has seen Ystar very much in the past few years. Perhaps he's napping.

ELECTORAL KINGDOM OF ZARKHANDU (50 S/DF)

His Dread Majesty, Tirach Bæn, Lord Sakkath, Count of Vúhlath & Mlideen, Duke of Hyáglión, Overlord of the Putini & Yani, Electoral King of Zarkhandu.

His Majesty, Tirach Zhur the Magnificent, Prince Imperial, Grandmaster of the Order of the Second Sons.

Trade: Atuburrk, Chi'tixi, Einandhu, Iäthedain, ID, Yarni-Za

DP: None.

Zarkhandu fell pray to Emperor Sardhan's final joke—a state of legal war between Zarkhandu and Golmath. The Zarkhandu government lost no time in signing a peace with Prince Kaidarian's faction (or whatever they're calling themselves this week), but was much slower to do so with the other Golmathi fragments. The reasons soon became clear, as the King of Zarkhandu's vassal of Yani attacked the Golmathi Underlands Territories and the Royal Zarkhandu Army itself attacked the forlorn March of Ebalon.

In domestic matters, the Emperor's Ice Funding was put to good use in major public works projects in some of the hardest hit areas.

Lady Ennor's lands were integrated into Zarkhandu, as Lady Ennor became the Matriarch of a new Zarkhandine House.

The King was married in 1528 to the Sorceress Tannika of House Hádras. Queen Tannika gave birth to the couple's first child, a son, in 1529.

A bizarre new construction in the Vúhlath countryside has mystified all onlookers. It appears to be an artificial pond or vat of some sort. The good money is on it being another hedge against the ice, but no one knows for sure.

The inhabitants of Zarkhandu's long-established Human ghetto pulled up stakes in 1526 and left. Now where's a body going to get a decent lime-fish?

Panicky reports filtered back to the Zarkhandu high command that the great Wyrn Friebæld had been spotted flying over the river and into Hallek and Agremek, before returning whence she came. She did not bother any of the locals (apart from badly frightening them), and the import of her flight remains unknown.

In the autumn of 1530, a great lightning storm descended upon the city of Zarkhandu, and tremendous bolts of blue and yellow lightning exploded about the towers of the city for several days.

KHURDÁN: THE HIDDEN YEARS

Khurdán summoned Tachg, the third horseman, and all his other officers to tea in the common room of the Red Hawk inn in Vænor. The winter had been harsh, but with the warm spring rains the men expected to ride west.

They sat rapt before Khurdán, who said, "Hear me, for my will is Yagnar's will. We have been given gifts unlooked for, from far and wide. Tonight, we shall use these gifts to... accelerate our timetable."

The next day, neither Khurdán nor his horsemen were anywhere to be found.

The Underlands

DOWN UNDER

SARDHAN'S WAR

Yani vs. GUT

Finding themselves in a state of "legal war", the Yani proposed to make the most of it. Colonel Issa led 60,000 infantry, most of it pike, into the Mines of Thanima with the clear idea of liberating their brother Yaminon from Golmath rule. They were met by a spirited defense, led by Lord Gussie himself. Gussie had about 9,000 dragoons and 6,000 infantry at his disposal, and he meant to hold the mines.

He failed.

Even with under his able leadership, Lord Gussie was unable to hold out for long against odds of four to one. The Yaminon simply smashed through the lines, losing about 8,000 light infantry in the process. The town of Iani fell almost without a thought.

Lord Gussie himself survived the slaughter and is said to be regrouping near Pama-ati.

GOLMATH UNDERLANDS TERRITORIES (5 WY/TA)

Lord Minippygi Gussie, Conqueror of Pama-Ati, Regent of Golmath's Underlands.

Trade: Golmath-Parndarra, Ingazi

DP: None.

Lord Gussie is hoping he can hold on to some territory just long enough to get some help from an undisputed Golmathi Prince. Or anybody, really.

LORDSHIP OF YANI (17 Y/-)

Mani Tunapri, Lord Yani, Master of the Union Guilds of the Federated Towns of Yangina and Putini.

Trade: Murali

DP: Palawa (F)

Yani became an Imperial state when the "Lordship of Yani" was conferred upon Mani Tunapri by the Overlands Emperor. Many protested that monarchy was not the "Yami-

non way”, but they stilled their voices as war came to the Underlands.

Lord Yani sent an ambassador to the surface. Zeno Bindo began the long hike through the stairs to the land of Murali. As he gained elevation, the light became brighter and the air cooler. Soon he donned a drip hat from the mines, to help keep the light from his eyes. After a while it became so cold he needed to wrap himself in a blanket just to stop from shaking. As he reached the surface with the sun on his head and the wind in his fur, he looked out into the land with fierce determination and said, “Holy frakkin’ dung heaps, it’s *bright* and it’s *cold*.” Turning to his companions, he added, “let’s get the job done so we can go home. I think my gorram nose is frozen. . .”

Oratoa

THE NEW WORLD

NEW CAPPARGARNIA (Ø)

Lord Abramín Talik, Interim Prefect of Denbigh.

Trade: None.

DP: None.

In 1526, Cappargarnian warships put 7,000 infantry ashore in Denbigh, where they forced the simpering, pointy-eared natives to pay tribute. Casualties were few.

In the hills of Amlych, much the same procedure was followed in 1530, as elements of the Imperial Blue Fleet disgorged 10,000 Cappargarnian infantry to force tribute from the natives.

A CHAMBER WITH NINE CHAIRS: A TALE

Aeg-Annûn of the Eight sat in a plain wooden chair just to the right of the empty Iron Throne. This gave him the right to speak first, a right which he frequently waved. It also gave him the right to speak last and finally, and this right he guarded with all the zeal of a firedrake guarding her nest. Aeg-Annûn was old, even for an Elf, but he came from a line legendary for their

longevity. It was said that his grandfather Aeg-Anor was born before Humans had landed in the East, though whether that was true not even Aeg-Annûn knew for certain.

In his many decades as First Speaker of the Eight, he had heard many incredible things and witnessed all manner of strange and wondrous sights. This visitor, however, was unique in his experience, and he listened carefully to what he said.

The visitor was a *Saurian*, standing about six feet tall. He was dressed in white, travel-stained robes, flowing and voluminous, and his long hood ended in a tassel the colour of fresh blood. A poisonous snake curled about his neck, occasionally hissing at a passing insect.

The story the Saurian wove for them was fantastic in the extreme, but he spoke in all earnestness and without a trace of guile. Could it be true? Could the hour of their deliverance be at hand? When the visitor had finished his discourse, all eyes turned to the First Speaker. As was his custom, Aeg-Annûn gestured to the Second Speaker, Aeg-Balor, who sat in the chair opposite his. Soon, each of the others in turn questioned the visitor and addressed the Speakers in the other chairs. Finally, Aeg-Annûn stood and addressed the room.

“Aeg Hírrim, we have heard the words of this visitor, the words his Master wishes to convey to us, but words without proofs mean nothing. Words without action are the sound of the howling wind. Let us see his gold. Let us see the might of his allies. Let us see our Exiled King” – at this, all the Speakers bowed briefly – “before we do so much as stir from our seats. I, Aeg-Annûn, have spoken: the matter is finished.”

NEW ATUBURRK (Ø WE/YG)

Lord Kourbiedes, Governor of New Atuburrk.

Methorchir the Scythe, Master of the Kura Riders of Nenalph, Lord of Usk.

Trade: None.

DP: Nelthent (F), Cúil (A)

One hundred twenty five Atuburrki airships sailed into Nelthent, but these were just the heralds of the great flying fortress following them. The display of air prowess gave great weight to the words Lady Richildis spoke to the Elvish chieftains there.

BARONY OF FELL KOMMOLEK (4 WSE/YG)

Baron Goesek Annavas III, the Grim, of Kommolek, Lord Treskaw.

Trade: Gúako, Roátru, Tongi

DP: None.

A crimson fog descended suddenly one summer day in Wrexym, at the mouth of the Nemæn River, just south of the Eldar ruins of Téliŕya. It was accompanied by a stench familiar to those who have sailed in cramped quarters aboard ships on long voyages. The odour lingered for weeks.

Then, quite suddenly, thousands of Saurians and Wenemet, young and old, male and female, began teleporting into the region in groups, each grouping about the size and shape of a goodly ship.

Within hours, 120,000 Kommolek refugees were huddled in the region. About half were ultimately settled in Wrexym (5532)w or the new double port city of Lagat, built at the spot where the refugees first landed.

The others were attached to Subjugator-General Vulpine's army of 14,000 infantry, 5,000 insectoid centaurs, and a demon. They marched east to Merilthú where the native defenders were scattered by a firebolt and chased down for sport by the demon. With the region conquered, Saurian refugees settled the land (4521)s and built a magnificent port city that they named Ueramos.

The Kommolek continued to subsist largely on fish and their own dwindling supplies, supplemented by the local plants deemed safe through experimentation or based on the knowledge of the locals. Many thousands starved. In the spring, they planted crops and orchards from seed corn and fruit brought by the refugees, and as those crops matured, something like subsistence-level farming developed.

VICEROYALTY OF NEW INGAZI (35 WH/UR)

Baron Besar Gorres of Saint Ilana, Lord Trouserdale, Admiral of the Ocean Sea, Viceroy of New Ingazi.

Trade: Kuroa, Pakoa

DP: None.

New Ingazi opened trade! Merchants from Kuroa and Pakoa called at Saint Ilana to trade their goods with those from Sahûl. To further this fragile beginning, New Ingazi built a town in New Dara, which they named Jagofess. Jagofess is port in both the Ninghan Sea and the Sea of Tranquility. Saint Ilana expanded as well, into a great city complete with a Viceregal palace.

The Urdan expansion into the islands continued unabated. The Ingazi Armada landed forces at Motu Ruat and Itrúmu, conquering both of those heretical islands. Their army in New Walu, meanwhile, left that land to a garrison and invaded Thurrik. The region was easily conquered and immediately inundated with missionaries.

In 1527 a small fleet sailed south.



Imperial Gazette

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



His August & Imperial Majesty
Emperor Sudath II

Count of Odol, Elector and Grand Duke of Atuburrk,
Sovereign of Sahûl, Lord of the Nine Hills of Sardarthion,
Holder of the Emerald Throne, and Emperor of All
the World.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF THE EMPIRE

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

APPOINTMENTS

To Governor of Arador: King Sansollen Deric II of Aradéc.

To Governor of Aradaun, Ardebon, Balashan, Dranchaal, Sistramidor: *by exam.*

OPEN OFFICES

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

Chancellor of the Empire, Lord Admiral of the Blue, Governors as indicated.

ENNOBLEMENT

The Provost of Yani and his House are elevated to the dignity of Lord Yani.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

ALL BANK LOANS must be repaid within two Turns at 120% of the original amount of the loan. Those wishing to borrow from the Imperial Bank must contact the Board of Directors in advance.

IMPERIAL BANK OF SAHÛL

Locations: Einandhu, Sardarthion
 Available to borrow: 4,160 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, any 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:

- Imperial Exchequer..... 7*
- Guilds Council of Adndar 6*
- House Pangku of Araxes..... 4*
- House Gwariva of Ingazi 3*
- Ancient and Undaunted Order of Heralds... 3*
- Printers Guild of Zadres 1

Loans: None outstanding

BANK OF ITAXIK

Location: Itaxik
 Available to borrow: 3,781 GP
 Ice Relief Fund..... 145 GP

Loans: None outstanding

FREE COMPANIES & ERRANTRY &C.

WILLEFORN'S SPEARS—14mi 4li

Captain: "Spears" Willeforn (LA53W) TR age 34
 Location: *Yukara Prefecture, Kaparis Province*
 Min. Bid: 20GP / TURN / hired by Pr. Parndarra

HAWKWOOD COMPANY—32mc 18pk 12mi

Captain: Lord Dwinbi Sardes (L974W) TR age 41
 Location: *Golmath City, Madran Pref., Kaparis Prov.*
 Min. Bid: 60GP / TURN / hired by Pr. Zhogian

NOTICES

A Call for Defense (1526)

An open letter to our Liege Lord in Aradéc

WE IN DUEDHYN have made our requests to two separate Aradéc Kings for support and defense against the attacks of those exact forces that King Rhazahan promised twenty five years ago to protect Duedhyn and the government in Pareis from. As you all well know, both King Rhazahan and now King Deric II have refused to uphold their duty. As we all know there are only five years left on the Liege Lord pact between Aradéc and Duedhyn, but it is clear that The Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc is still bound to provide Duedhyn protection for those five last years. As such I now call upon the institutions of Aradéc, the Navy, the Army, the Aradécian Church and even the new Parliament house to uphold the duty to protect that your Kings will not.

As you well know, we in Duedhyn face a series of illegal religious conversions which are documented in the communications we released when we could not get King Deric to answer our private communications. These transgressions against Duedhyn were so serious that, when King Rhazahan said he would not act, Captain-General Tithitak, a Wenemet you all know, knew that it was his duty to stand alone away from his homeland leaders and do what he knew was right. He would do his duty.

Now we in Duedhyn face aggression from the Grand Duchy of Araxes, the type of which will likely be an existential threat to small and battered Duedhyn if it is not confronted. Again an Aradécian King has said he will not come to our defense. In many ways I am saddened to have to ask you what I must, but the truly existential nature of the threat requires me to do so. So I ask you, the various institutions of Aradéc, to stand up and do what you know is right. To, for a short time, stand alone so to speak from your King and fulfill your honor-bound duty. And once your duty is fulfilled return home with glory and honor.

What I ask is this: that the Aradécian Navy gather, boarding as many all horse troops as they can reasonably muster in a short time frame, and sail for Pareis arriving by the end of five years. Bring the proper fees to travel the River Byrrin if these fees are asked for. You should come directly to our port and make anchor here. It is our hope that the Grand Duchy will see the error of their ways and return to a suitable non-aggressive border. If they do not, however, we will be forced to push

them into the sea. We hope it will not come to that but we will be prepared to act if it does.

Once this issue has been properly dealt with I will release you from your duty and bond with honor and you can return home.

Prince Meriasek,
Principality of Duedhyn.
Pareis, Glasdor Prefecture.

Rules Governing Use of the Courts at Pareis (1526)

ALL NATIONS ARE HEREBY EXTENDED the invitation to post a leader at the Courts at Pareis. Posting a national leader at the Courts may give the leader and nation some rights to speak where appropriate and germane during active court cases. The fee for this registration is 50 gold. The Imperial is, of course, exempt from this leader registration fee.

Nations may now also submit cases to be heard by the Courts at Pareis. For nations other than the Principality of Duedhyn and Pareis, a registered leader may bring a court case by submitting his cause of action, evidence and paying a 100 Crown fee. This fee is to pay for the costs of gathering information on the case but also to keep only the most important cases from being submitted and generally keeping out spurious claims. No matter when these cases are submitted, time will be given to collect evidence.

All are invited to participate in this Renaissance endeavor and may True Rule of Law watch over and protect you.

Prince Meriasek,
Principality of Duedhyn.
Pareis, Glasdor Prefecture.

An Address on the Road to the Future (1526)

MY PEOPLE! I, Sansollen Deric the Second, King of Aradéc greet you. Let us seek the future together!

The truth we have sought to avoid has finally come home to roost, and my adopted father has been forced off his throne and away from the people he loved and served. To his great horror, his reign has ended with the very bloodshed he began it by avoiding. I will miss his presence and his council in the days ahead, but it was time for him to go. Before he left he gave me some final words of advice.

“Do not ignore the Aradécian people’s heart as I have in recent years. I talked long of and for the Duedhyn

people, and despite all my desires to the contrary, I have let their poison come home to our people. We cannot let the politics of the throne bring pain to our people. This now is your task, and thankfully the people have let me fulfill my promise to your mother and now the crown is finally upon your head. Rule wisely, restore the people’s faith and find time to listen to everyone under your care.”

I am glad that you, the people of Aradéc, have the same heart as my father, though he was foolish in his last days upon the throne. His reign began seeking peace and he sought that for others as well. You and he have both commissioned me to seek a better path for us all.

First, let us deal with Duedhyn. The lords of Pareis have ignored my father’s wishes, they have disparaged his guidance, and they have not responded appropriately to the late Emperor’s efforts. Their poison has resulted in the deaths of many here in the heart of Aradéc. This is unacceptable!

Now here is my word:

The lords of Pareis have been willfully disobedient. Aradéc stood up to protect the Duedhyni people, fight for them and give them a second chance. But their lords in Pareis have thrown that away. So be it, we wash our hands of them. We have made every effort in trying to fulfill our part of the bargain.

We declare, while still Duedhyn’s Lord, that Merryn is the ruler the legitimate government of the Duedhyni people, and we commission him to restore his people to being one people under one government and fulfill the peaceful religious re-integration that the Church Universal & Triumphant has so wisely continued. Seek the true heir; let the rose bloom once again.

The Duedhyn are no longer the vassals of Aradéc. We will not renew the agreement, and we will no longer offer any protection to them or make any intercessions. Our army will be immediately withdrawn from Pareis under a flag of truce. The Duedhyn are free to chart their own course, to stand on their own feet, and take the full consequences of their actions.

We request that the new Emperor enact the last Emperor’s withheld writ in the matter.

We thank the many Urdan realms throughout Sahul that have withheld the hand of violence and sought peace for their Raven brothers. We commend Merryn to their and the Emperor’s care. He has been a loyal vassal under the most trying of circumstances, and I gladly return his full suzerainty to him now knowing he will have many great and valiant defenders and allies.

Now to Aradéc!

The last forty years have seen great instability wrought upon us by the game of kings. The Emperor is

right; we must stand together in unity. I have read this new tract from Hyrágec, that talks about the chivalry of the common wenemet. The clanmoot remains in session as your lords are concerned with the future of our people. We have long as a people allowed the clan mothers and clanmoot to choose and approve each new king. We have long benefited from great kings that were not the tyrants they could have been. But the events of these last months have made it clear that no king can ignore his people for long without serious repercussions.

I am still a young man, and I have my councilors, but how will I know the will of the people of Aradéc except second hand? No, I feel our people will be best served if the people have an active voice in our combined future. But I do not know how best to do this, though I have some ideas. The Clanmoot and the Commons! The system we have now is what we have had for a very long time. But the lords keeping the clanmoot in session, there may be something there. The clanmoot has representatives from every clan and each has a voice and a vote. And this new body, the Commons—the very people rise up to serve Iluvar and Aradéc! This is something unprecedented in our history—something new and exciting.

But your lords, they are either hereditary or appointed by your clan mothers, and your clan mothers appoint the new clan mothers from those worthy to serve. Where in this does the common wenemet, man or woman, have a voice in their future? There are new ideas in Sahul and in Aradéc, and there are other approaches we can study and perhaps re-use. As your king, I would have us work together for a greater Aradéc. Let the king lead and let the people approve. Let us retain the past wisdoms of clan and noble integrated into the new ways of the future!

So I will continue to rule and tradition will remain in force for a temporary time, but I will actively consult the clanmoot for its opinion and blessing on major decisions of state.

But now I call upon a greater clanmoot, a new kind of clanmoot, that's task is to find the future, or at least set our feet on that path. The clan moot will be comprised of the existing clanmoot, the equitable representatives of the Commons, and the clan mothers that would select a new king. Furthermore every independent regional and city government (where not directly controlled by a noble) shall send a representative. Every guild shall send a representative. The bureaucracy shall select a representative and provide an advisory body to speak as domain experts for our existing government. The university shall send a representative, and shall also begin compiling information relevant to this purpose

and form a council of the wise to advise the greater clanmoot on what is done elsewhere and what new ideas have been written about throughout Sahul. The command structure of our navy, army and sorcerers shall each send a representative. And finally, a lottery will be held in every region and city of all Aradécian adults not of the nobility or a guild or the military, and thus one random wenemet shall be chosen to represent the common people from each region and city.

This body will meet starting in three months to allow representatives to be selected. It will meet for at least an initial month to begin this effort, or longer as it deems necessary. It shall determine an appropriate schedule for meeting and shall continue to do so until such time as a solution is reached and implemented.

I appoint Sir Onmon Dagames, Speaker of the Commons, to lead this task until this new body shall have selected and enacted its own governance. His title is most appropriate to this task, but let him also be known as Protector of the Future. I myself will serve as arbiter if necessary if this body should become locked or becalmed.

The crown will construct a meeting hall for this body and provide a budget for their expenses while meeting. The existing clanmoot serves as their duty as nobles of our realm, but the crown will aid their expenses if it should be proven an undue hardship for some of the lesser houses.

Finally, all of you, my people, the sons and daughters of Aradéc, you have a voice! These representatives are coming here for you, so let your voice be heard. Here begins the road for Aradéc. Let us seek the future together!

King Deric II,
Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc.
Darnuldeis, Pranyi Prefecture.



Treaty of Serri (1526)

Let it be known on this day, the 1st of Primilis, in the Year 1526, that the sovereigns of Kingdom of Aradéc and Principality of Golmath do formally and without reservation enter into a binding agreement, heretofore known as the Eastern Alliance. Also, let it be known that the Eastern Alliance has been formed as a purely defensive alliance of these Eastern Sahul realms. Any unprovoked military action taken against any prefectures of the realms that comprise the Eastern Alliance will be considered as an attack upon all of its members.

King Deric II,

Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc.
Darnuldeis, Pranyi Prefecture.

Prince Kaidarian,

Electoral Principality of Golmath.
Elam, Pirayi Prefecture.

Public Notice to the Bandit Meriasek (1526)

WHEREAS HIS LAWFUL SOVEREIGN the King of Aradéc has decreed “that (Prince) Merryn is the ruler the legitimate government of the Duedhyni people, and we commission him to restore his people to being one people under one government and fulfill the peaceful religious re-integration that the Church Universal & Triumphant has so wisely continued.”

Now, therefore, the bandit Meriasek is hereby ordered to stand down his military forces and immediately surrender himself and all lands he occupies to the lawful authorities appointed by his Prince for this purpose.

Prince Merryn II,

Principality of Duedhyn.
Trenk, Derraw Prefecture.

Proclamation Regarding Lord Tithitak (1526)

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT LORD TITHITAK, once Captain-General of Aradéc, stands accused of treason against the crown of Aradéc. He is ordered to appear before the throne in Darnuldeis to stand trial for this accusation. He is to return to Darnuldeis with his two thousand medium infantry, ten transports and ten warships immediately. He is to let our ambassador in Pareis know if he requires the 8,000 gold imperials necessary to transit the canal of Adndar. This charge is for Lord Tithitak alone, and none of his men so stands accused.

If Lord Tithitak refuses these orders, then his men are ordered to place him under arrest and return home immediately. Any Aradécean soldier under his command that refuses to carry out these orders shall also consider themselves under arrest and to return immediately to stand trial.

Rather than order our brothers to fight one another, if sufficient numbers of Wenemet stand with Tithitak in his rebellion, then we recommend the remaining loyal soldiers travel as best possible peacefully to wait outside the imperial capital from which the crown of Aradéc will arrange transportation home. They may visit within the city as imperial citizens as their commanders give them release, but are not to enter that city as a military unit of Aradéc. We request the crowns of Araxes and Cappargarnia allow our men peaceful passage through their lands. We request the Emperor allow our men to remain outside the capital in a spot of his designation until they can be returned home. Our agents politic and merchantmen are ordered and requested to provide provisions and coinage as necessary to these faithful souls to ease their passage home—the crown will make good any expense with profit if necessary.

We would also request that Prince Merryn and any allies allow any Aradécean soldiers to surrender before or after battle as feasible. We will redeem them as kinsmen redeemers. If Lord Tithitak is captured, we will redeem him as well to stand trial before the crown of Aradéc for his crimes against it.

King Deric II,

Electoral Kingdom of Aradéc.
Darnuldeis, Pranyi Prefecture.

Byrrin River Decree (1526)

THE REPUBLIC DECREES that all persons that wish to travel up and down the Byrrin by sea or air will be levied 50g tax. If you don't pay said tax you will not be allowed to travel the Byrrin. You must also send I request to The Republic offices to gain approval of travel.

Prince Anabrin Darronley,

Electoral Republic of Cappargarnia.
Cappargarnia City, Erediar Prefecture.

Interdict of Endarra (1526)

FAR BE IT FROM US that we should defer to man rather than to the Lords of the Tarot, or that we should fear the countenance of the powerful. On the foregoing

grounds, then, we utterly reject Endarra for his manifest unfitness, and we order his usurpation to be resisted by all. Since Kaidarian is not only himself devoted to the church, but comes from devout ancestors on both sides, therefore we decree that he ought to be accepted and supported as Prince, and ought to be given the crown of Golmath, after the rights of the Fellowship of Connate Tarotists have been secured.

Until such time as the usurper Endarra has been deposed and Prince Kaidarian has been installed on the throne of Golmath, all that follow Endarra are placed under papal interdict.

Pontiff Mordican II,
Fellowship of Connate Tarotists.
Serri Cathedral, Pirayi Prefecture.

Commission of the Royal Primary Academy of Alvitirre (1526)

IN THE BEGINNING DAYS of the Second Empire, the Light of Urda's balance lit the way for our great Kingdom and our dear cousin, King Paharnes the Great. *The Code of Chivalry*, penned by Master Moroko, gave us a guide to not only how we conduct warfare, but as Lord Irrjir Grenthe has so recently pointed out in his commentary, Chivalry should be the light by which we guide our very lives. In all actions, we should seek to be kind, merciful and gracious. We should seek to live in harmony with each other and internationally to be good neighbors, an example to other nations.

Recently, the grace of Urda has bestowed the light of the royal family upon us, our daughter, Sardira. Her very smile, as do the smiles of all the children of myself and Princess Alvitirre, brings joy and hope for the future of our great Kingdom. It is for that future, for the future leadership of our kingdom that we issue this commission of a Royal Primary Academy in the prefecture of Lhan in the town of Alvitirre, named for our royal wife.

For the good of the future of all Hyrágec, the nobility of this land will send their best and brightest to study and gain a solid education. But we must remember, that education is not solely for the Rich and Privileged. To that purpose, we extend our generosity in setting up the *King's Royal Scholarship*. Any Hyrágecan Wenemet may attempt to gain access to this august institution. If they succeed and successfully demonstrate that they have no ability to pay for the education due to their social status, the Kingdom of Hyrágec will gladly pay all expenses associated with this education. Let it be known that the

Kingdom of Hyrágec rewards those of merit and not only those of station and birth. For greatness does not necessarily come from lineage, but as our dear cousin has pointed out, greatness may be found in the lowliest of places.

May our maker, Urda, bless our future with prosperity and wise leadership.

Prince Frenthes,
Kingdom of Hyrágec.
Alvitirre, Lhan Prefecture.

Duedhyn Rebellion Decree (1526)

WHEREAS THE CLAIMS of Lord Dhanos Meriasek to the Principality of Duedhyn have been denied by his lawful sovereign the King of Aradéc, and

Whereas said Lord Meriasek was ordered by his lawful Prince to stand down his military forces and immediately surrender himself and all lands he occupies, and

Whereas said Lord Meriasek has repeatedly shown himself disinclined to obey our lawful order, instead heaping contempt and disdain upon his people and his Prince,

Now, therefore we, Prince Merryn II of Duedhyn, do by this instrument decree:

1. Lord Dhanos Meriasek is a bandit and an outlaw, and we hereby order his arrest on charges of rebellion, blasphemy, ignoring a lawful summons, and high treason.
2. All those who hold military service from Lord Meriasek are hereby dispensed from their oaths, provided they lay down their arms and surrender themselves to the lawful authority of Prince Merryn of Duedhyn or his officers or deputies.
3. All those who have to now served Lord Meriasek, thinking him the Prince of Duedhyn, are granted full and immediate pardon, provided they swear loyalty to their true Prince, Merryn, and his heirs.
4. All those Aradécian soldiers who find themselves under the command of Captain-General Lord Tithiak and who wish to peacefully repatriate to their homeland will be given free passage through our lands and, provided they remain peaceable and obey the laws, they will not be harassed or attacked by our forces in any way.
5. All those who have heard this order but nevertheless persist in their support of the bandit Meriasek shall be guilty of the crime of rebellion and shall be thereby subject to death by hanging.

Furthermore, we request and enjoin our Urdan allies the Queen of Itaxik, the Count Palatine of Thace, the Count Palatine of Ingazi, the King of Hyrágec, and the Grand Duke of Araxes to dispatch such forces to our aid as they deem sufficient for the capture of the bandit Meriasek and the dispersal of his military.

Prince Merryn II,
Principality of Duedhyn.
On march.

Authorization for War (1515, released 1527)

This sealed authorization is deposited with the Tiger King of Arms with the instruction that he keep sealed and confidential until he is requested to reveal it by either the Emperor or the Prince of Golmath.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF GOLMATH has accused the Kingdom of Zarkhandu of betraying an agreement between the two realms. The agreement was that the Principality of Golmath would initiate trade and share the results of a Truesight spell with the Kingdom of Zarkhandu. In exchange, the Kingdom of Zarkhandu would send a sorcerer to aid in the research of the spell being coordinated by Emperor Sardhan. After receiving the benefits of the agreement, the Kingdom of Zarkhandu refused to honor their side of the agreement and instructed their sorcerer to not participate in the research.

I, Emperor Sardhan, Servant of the Empire, find the Kingdom of Zarkhandu guilty of the charge.

As of the 1st of Primilis of 1516, the Principality of Golmath is allowed to engage in a legal war against the Kingdom of Zarkhandu in both a covert and overt nature. The Principality may continue this effort until they have received satisfaction from the Kingdom of Zarkhandu.

Emperor Sardhan,
Servant of the Empire.
Sardarthion.

The Bay of Sunnaday Accord (1527)

THE ELECTORAL KING TIRACH BÆN of Zarkhandu consents to peace, and the Electoral Prince Volpel-Walarri Kaidarian of Golmath considers himself satisfied under the terms of the declaration of war by the Emperor Sardhan. Both parties agree to peace between their realms.

King Tirach Bæn,
Electoral Kingdom of Zarkhandu.
Zarkhandu, Vúhlath Prefecture.

Prince Kaidarian,
Electoral Principality of Golmath.
aboard *EGS Promise*, at Sea.

Retraction of the Byrrin River Decree of 1526 (1527)

IT SEEMS THAT OUR PRINCE got hold of some strong spirits. We of the Republic retract the tax and statement. We would like to thank our trusted allies and the gods of Tarot for the counsel.

Pontiff Fenric V,
Church of the Illimitable.
Golluz, Arétar Prefecture.

Statement of Support for Prince Endarra (1528)

THE REPUBLIC GIVES FULL SUPPORT to Prince Endarra of Golmath. We look to continuing our friendship of ages past and hope to see them through these difficult times.

Prince Deirn Caranthes II,
Electoral Republic of Cappargarnia.
Cappargarnia City, Erediar Prefecture.



Imperial Strength Index

#	Realm	Player	Forum Name	E-mail	ISI
<i>The Great Powers</i>					
1	Atuburrk / Emperor	Adam Sherman	Gonnagle	mad.angus@yahoo.com	3,832.8
2	Aradéc	Charles Hurst	Xanthi	charlesh@teleport.com	1,981.7
3	Cappargarnia	Kyle Kinghorn	Doppleganger	kyle.kinghorn@gmail.com	1,846.1
4	Averon	Kevin Lawrence	Averon Inc	privatej67@yahoo.com	1,731.4
5	Thace, Elector	Gareth Anderson	kolgrim	kolgrim@gmail.com	1,702.0
<i>Major Powers</i>					
6	Zarkhandu	Theo Moriarty	Mandala of Blood	tmoriarty@gmail.com	1,663.4
7	Itaxik	Michael Warner	Galen	me1451@comcast.net	1,573.0
8	Araxes	Christopher Hord	chordam7	chordam7@yahoo.com	1,537.0
9	Chi'tixi	Steve Cagg	Priest King	ragnarstation@hotmail.com	1,493.4
10	Ingazi	Harry Jago	jago	jagoh@yahoo.com	1,404.5
11	Church U&T	Anne Porter	Cupcake	crabbycupcakes@gmail.com	1,336.9
12	Pexiki	John Schmid	Magus	magus@spellcaster.org	1,159.9
13	Elphárec	Lisa Kaattari	Kaattari	kaylee.robinson@rocketmail.com	983.0
14	Golmath/Zhogian	Jon Powell	Golmath	jon.g.powell@gmail.com	939.2
15	Thace, Duchy	Jake Roberts	Jake	jacob.roberts1@gmail.com	934.0
16	Taneki	Don Wynne	meriden	dpatrickwynne@gmail.com	912.1
<i>Regional Powers</i>					
17	Veiled Masters	James Hazeltine	Von Malvalken	jhazeltine@pleiadesmm.com	875.5
18	Hyrágec	Paul Copenhagen	Wombatia	rossclannoble@yahoo.com	861.4
19	Tiryowglas	Mike Johnson	Minister of Defense	printermanmj@aol.com	859.1
20	Murali	<i>open for a player</i>			728.7
21	Yani	Miles Luna	Ryushi	meryushi@yahoo.com	708.5
22	Golmath/Parndarra	<i>open for a player</i>			610.5
23	IOC	Jason Pearl	redoubtable1	redoubtable1@comcast.net	532.3
<i>Minor Powers</i>					
24	Tokatl	Shelley Woodberry	Skipperway	desrik@comcast.net	488.3
25	Sakkar	Nelson Merritt	hemmy	nelson.merritt@wachovia.com	484.3
26	Carcë	<i>open for a player</i>			408.5
27	Duedhyn/Raven	Alex James	Clan Dhanos of Duedyn	ClanDhanos@yahoo.com	395.9
28	Duedhyn/Merryn	Rick Bishop	ouroboros	drbishop99@hotmail.com	391.1
29	Iäthedein	<i>open for a player</i>			164.3
30	GUT	<i>NOT open for a player</i>			163.9
31	Ebalon	<i>open for a player</i>			145.9
32	Kumara	<i>open for a player</i>			129.2



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