

The Seagate Times

31st March 1994

The Journal By Adventurers For Adventurers

Issue 7

Peace Talks Collapse in Turmoil

The adventuress Isil Eth, sometime of the Seagate Guild, recently held a ball in eastern Aladar. An area she took some four months ago after enlisting the aid of alien mercenaries. The land near the Aladar - Aquilan border is now in an unsteady peace. By sheer weight of numbers, her entourage has forced diverse loyalists to disband and in some cases flee. Few people apparently live there now, for fear of her touch, and while food is plentiful, it is thought to be as alien as her soldiers.

Ball goers arrived by portal, as travel is still dangerous in the area. Isil Eth had spared little in attempting to impress. Few admit to knowing of her before these events. Pomposity seems to surround her like a cape. The festivities were overpowering and tasteless and given the state of the land, bringing in 200 cooks to feed the guests seems excessive.

At the opening, peace was toasted with a Briyn d'Claer '62. But the problem to peace is the nobles who do not wish to acknowledge each other. They strutted around eating their fill, oblivious to the world and each other. Making peace in the future look as rare as the wine that was used to toast it.

The Duke of Aladar does not accept King Ulric, the son of Duke Frederick of Aquila as the heir of King Sigismund and as soon as Sigismund returns, he will swear fealty. Until then, all Dukes are equal. However the Regent has said that the war was showing that some dukes are more equal than others. The Regent of course wishes stability and peace but Peace requires, a wide power base to ensure all barons accede to the needs of the masses. The Regent was willing to recognise the Duke of Aladar as an autonomous Duke. The only exception would be in declaring war.

On a positive note the Duke of Aladar might recognise that the kingdom still exists. If he acknowledges the Kingdom, but not the King, then Regent will be his equal.

Where the elves fit is unsure. Some wish the Kingdom to return. Some speak of diabolic forces moving into the baronies. It is unsure what is meant by that. While others within the elven court wish humans to stay split and weakened by warfare.

That the parties are speaking is encouraging. But their obvious spite is unsettling. It is rather perturbing to learn that the century's largest war is over what name nobles call each other. The talks dissolved with the food. The revellers promised to consider each others views. The next ball should be grand. I just wonder which will run out first, the food or the speeches.

Guild Taxes drop to 10%

The Duke of Seagate is pleased to announce that the rate of taxation will be dropped to 10% from the 1st Apr 1994. He thanks the populous of Seagate for their assistance in this matter and with the formation of the new Ducal Guard would like to assure them of their continued safety.

A Ducal spokesman was unable to comment on whether the tax rate would remain at this rate because of the uncertain political climate in the Baronies.

GET OFF TO A GOOD START.
Free Equipment for
new members.
Contact Newhaven
Ambassador



Amba Mine re-opened. Permanent Death of Gareth

The Miners Guild would like to thank the band of Adventures that solved several mysterious deaths in the iron mines and allowed the re-opening of the mines near the village of Amba.

The mines closed six months ago after the mysterious deaths of several miners. The party of adventures hired by the miners Guild also found that three villages had died in similar circumstances. In *the process*, Gareth, a member of the Guild was killed and eaten by the fierce Rock Troll responsible for the closure of the mines. Several of the other members of the party were considered lucky to survive the ordeal.

**Feeling Lucky
You will with a Rank 15
Greater Enchantment from
Logan**

**Don't Leave Home
Without It!**



Founder of NewHaven

New Settlers in Seagate

On the 2nd of March, four ships with a cargo of passengers, arrived in Seagate. The three hundred new settlers spent the first few days in the care of the Duke of Cazala.

Captain Gregory of the Cazala Foot Regiment said that the new settlers would be escorted to their new permanent home to the west of Seagate.

High Guard return from training exercise.

The Cazala High Guard has returned to Slippery Rock after two months of training exercises with the Free Baronies to the north of Cazala. The exercises were said to be extremely successful with the High Guard also engaging local bandits in the area.

Whale Strikes Bridge

One and a half months ago a large whale materialised over the bridge and crashed through scaffolding, destroying a new portion of the bridge.

Chaos resulted as workers and peasants scattered in all directions, running for their lives. Rumours of an invasion of Seagate quickly circulated throughout the city. They were just as quickly quashed by the Town Guard who arrived on the scene. Guild security were asked to assist the local militia in investigating the still-moving creature. Their studies revealed that the creature was quite dead, and very animated.

Its sudden appearance was due to being banished from off-plane. The investigations were called to a halt when the creature began swimming down-river, and it was last seen swimming out to sea. This raises the following questions; how the whale was transported off-plane, and

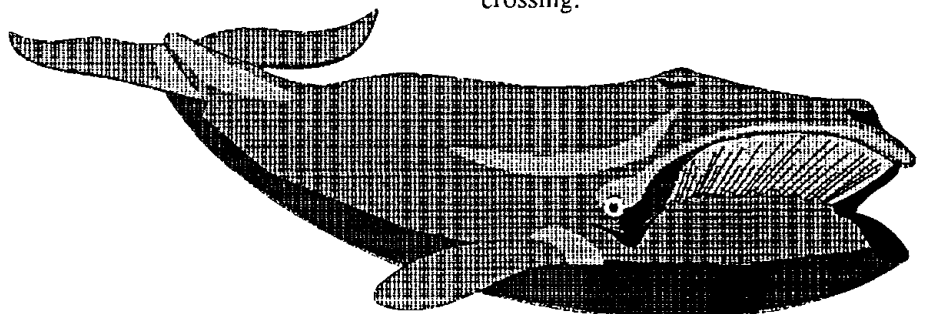
who was responsible for the animation and banishment. Guild security assure us that it was not any current members of the Guild, but request to speak with parties that were off-plane during that period of time.

The uproar by labourers resulted in many men walking off the site. There was no progress for three weeks while new workers were found and a new contract was struck with the Masons Guild. The resulting explosion in costs has led to talk of another hike in taxes.

After pressing the Masons on a completion time they assured us that its finishing would be imminent. However workers on the bridge were more pessimistic with their estimate of seven months to completion.

However one wonders if this bridge will ever be completed.

On a lighter note Josaphine Chapple, responsible for ceremonies on the day of the bridge opening, assured us that her plans are almost finalised and will be ready well in advance for the first historic crossing.



New Face on Combined Church.

The new Bishop of Aquila has recently given a rousing sermon preaching moderation. The Bishop spoke of the need to respect other religions within the Kingdom. He said "Many of our staunchest allies do not worship our God(s)". The capacity congregation comprised mainly of Church Knights and their pages is thought to have gone into an outraged frenzy.

The oratory became fiercer as the Bishop attacked deviations from orthodox theology within the Michealine and Urealite Churches. He warned Abbots to support his calls for greater contributions from the members of the Faith. Many of these calls seem reasonable, such as an increase in the contribution of seed grain which will ensure the famines do not last long.

The Bishop's call for everyone to gift one sword was met with silence. He said "The swords symbolise the misery of the last months and will be beaten into implements for feeding the people.. This will show hope was not lost and the future is assured".

Land was required for the additional

planting needed to feed everyone. New land would be brought into production. The baronies need not fear loss of producing land. The church would nurture the parcelled gifts to the succour of all.

The Bishop believes a new world order is about to emerge, which will need a strong church to lead it. The Knights would be the arms of the church, the Clergy would be the legs, and the Bishops are the head leading the Church in the right direction.

Towards this end, novitiates would need to pass stricter ordeals. Ordeals that test their theology and compassion. Current clergy were ordered to look within. To note dissension and discern the truths.

The oratory was exceptional. As a correspondent I could not attend, but gained insight from the Bishop's secretary. Few of the attendees wished to comment afterwards, but those that did were impressed with the Bishop's view of the peaceful world and said they would support him.

Looking at the stem veterans as they left the cathedral, I think I will too.

Cursed High Mana Area

A Cursed high mana area has been discovered Sixty Miles to the Northwest of Drakenberg in the Southern end of the Drakenberg Mountains. Guild members are warned to treat the area with extreme caution as the area is under a magical effect that will destroy magical and invested items and reduce the Magical Aptitude of all people entering the area.

**The Magic
Round-About
Traders in Magic
Items and
Artifacts**

**Contact Morgan
Laffette at Guild
Lodgings**

DUKE & DUCHESS KILLED

CONFLAGRATION AT DUCAL COURT. PALACE PILLAGED

REFORMATION BRUITED IN CIUDAD PLASTORO.

KING CARLOS INTERVENES TO QUELL ANARCHY.

PLASTORO SUNDERED. HILDAGO CONSPIRACY SUPPRESSED.

Since the mysterious Disappearance of the Hildagan riding beasts in January, and the ensuing violent Engagements in the vast grasslands of Plas Toro, Discord has been visited upon the capital city, Ciudad Plas Toro, Paragon of the Far South. After several weeks of multitudinous, unrelated, belligerent, encounters between Orthodoxicists and Metadoxicists in that Wealthy trading-port, the tumescent canker was violently pierced in a flow of diseased humours on the night of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

The Ducal Palace was set ablaze; the summer night & inebriated condition of the sleeping courtiers conspiring to augment the calamitous conflagration, an horrendously unforeseen disaster which claimed the lives of Duke & Duchess and much of their Court.

The fire and subsequent tropical storms made identification of all the remains difficult, but the Duke's ashes were clearly distinguished and given a vice-regal burial.

This infamous employment of such a well-known barbarian murder method clearly suggests the involvement of Almvivan anarchists and is believed to relate to the assassinations of the Destiny Ambassador to Mittlemark Haptstadt and Komissioner Gobbles (the former defacto Prime Minister of the Graf of Midheim).

King Carlos I of Destiny has personally visited Plas Toro and installed military rule as a temporary expediency. It is believed that His Holy Majesty is considering dividing the Duchy into three Counties. Governor Tollsworth was unavailable for comment.

Guild Party Causes Diplomatic Upset

A Guildparty involved in a diplomatic mission to the Orc nation of Klanz Nadrak east of the Debourgnac lands caused themselves problems by ignoring local customs over the last three months

The incident happened after the party had retired from a formal ball where they had been the honoured guests of the Dreadlord. During the night the party was disturbed by the sound of fighting in Vapour's room. It is important to note at this point that Vapour, a tall human air mage, considers himself a 'ladies man', and had been making advances to various barmaids and suchlike that we had met on our travels though the human lands to the south of Klanz Nadrak. Half the party woke up and, after a short delay, managed to break down the door into the room. Vapour quickly exited the room, closely followed by a female orc. We separated the two of them, and Vapour explained that the orc had apparently sneaked into his room, and started attacking him for no reason. The orc retorted that Vapour belonged to her, as he fought back when she hit him, and therefore is keen on her, this was followed by questions regarding

how long will it take for his family to arrive for the wedding and what date would suit him? We tried to point out the obvious difference between the local mating customs and those of Vapour, to no apparent effect. The ore guards that had showed up by that time were rather hesitant to say anything, and were generally very differential to the female orc. When the Dreadlord arrived, we discovered that Vapour's assailant was his first daughter. Fortunately for Vapour the Dreadlord wouldn't let his daughter keep Vapour. Maybe he has other plans for her.

The upshot of this is: if you are a male (especially orc or human) in the above area, and you are attacked in bed by a female orc, it is vital that you do not fight back - unless of course you wish to marry her, in which case lay on in!

Hobbit Village Moves to Carzala

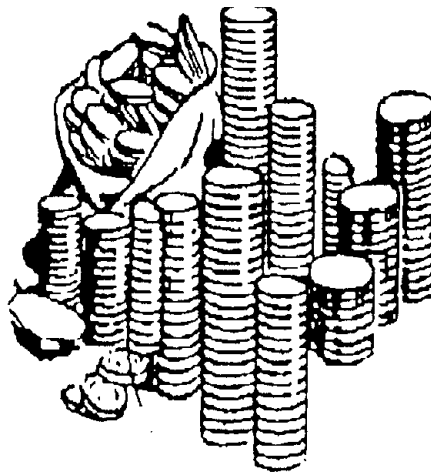
The hobbit village of Sunnynook has recently relocated to a valley a couple of days south of the Cazalan village of Crystal Springs. The villagers are negotiating with our Duke to extend his protection to them. These skilled artisans may well be adding a new style to our textiles and ceramics.



A NEW COUNT IN EREWHON

With the unnatural disappearance of Count Darian of Erewhon in early February, Baron Nargut of Helfax has been appointed Regent of County Erewhon until such time as the disposition of Count Darian may be determined.

Duke Branden of Brandenburg is looking into the affair. Dark forces summoned by Aquillan devil worshippers are suspected.



FREE FRESH CREAM BUNS!

Please inform all guild hobbits seeing or viewing any active volcanos to report immediately to Guild Security, to receive a free cream bun.

GUILD SECURITY.
It's our job to be fear.

BOOM IN EARNINGS

The guild would like to congratulate a certain guild party for contributing a six figure sum in tax to the guild coffers for a reported three hours work. The Guild treasurer, speaking from his new plush office, asked us to congratulate the lads and said this is what all guild members should aspire to. Unfortunately, he could not reveal how the money was to be spent at this time. "Xool the Magnificent told us he had lost his fourth party and needed a hand, so we stormed our fourth castle." said one of the adventurers on his return.

Letters To The Editor

Sir,
I write to show my heartfelt thanks to the party for rescuing myself and five comrades bodies from a permanent resting place. I must also thank Xool the Magnificent, being the only party member that I managed to banish before we were all put to the sword. For against great odds he did return and rescue our mortal souls. And to Murthac I will not rest until you again walk this earth, I shall not fail you again.
Yours in faith,
Adam

Sir
While I would not normally communicate with publication such as yours, it seems to be the best way to publicly thank the brave lads who stormed the castles of the Fourth Reich to save my party from an awkward predicament. It is noble souls like these who give the Seagate Adventurers Guild its grand reputation for heroism. If any of the people involved happen to find themselves in Volari, they should feel free to stop by the palace, and be assured of a warm welcome.

Princess Madeleine Carliese Volari.

Work Wanted

Bodyguards are required for escort. Medium level guild members required. Fee payable by 50% split of the treasure take.

Notices to Guild Members

MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE

The Sorceress in Silver wishes to express her thanks to Thorn, Braegon, Logan, Eric, Saydar, Tempest, and Saracen for a job well done.

Hobbits say Thank you

The following message was received at the Guild last week.

"The council of Sunnynook would like to thank the Adventurer's Guild for the care taken of the child Ahsgar Atholsson during the passage."

Hay yu
whi dnt y writ dat trsh in a language I cin red.

Unsined

Sir
I would like to state that I was nowhere near Seagate or its ghastly bridge at the time of the appearance of the whale. And if I catch those responsible for spreading those malicious rumour I'll teach them a lesson.

Mr G. CandleFoot - Summoner (Retired)

To the nice editor of the Seagate Times,

I am a Air Mage I'm told. I was on adventure a month and a half ago, and I was thinking that things on the adventure were bad when I found I was about three miles underground fighting a hord of what the others tell me were Insect warriors. I was blind at the time, Gar was dead. Starflower is a mage of the mind. The type that everyone minds. Anyway I was thinking that things don't get worse but they did. I was suffucating for ten minutes I think, I think, and now the world doesn't seem normal. I am looking for a rank ten healer, to fix my mind. I don't like the blue people any more.

- Lath.

LOST AND FOUND

A number of items of items have been returned to the Guild by Brass, a merchant of Calder. He informs us that he was contracted to deliver these goods by "The Dagger", who assured him that we would be able to locate their owners. Enclosed also was a note indicating that this was an act of good faith by "The Dagger", showing that they are willing to acquit the enmity that was forming between our respective guilds.

Should you suspect that any of these items may belong to you, contact Expediter John Smith at the Guild offices.

The Silkenish Web

Hi, Silken's away on some sordid seduction just now, she asked me to fill in. I don't know why she asked me, probably because I was the only one who bumped into her while she was seducing the Duchess of Carzala just outside of town. "Braegon, would you mind stopping those guards for me ... and take care of my column ..." (in your dreams! - Silken)

I've got to tell everyone about this great new pub near the southern gates, their beer is to die for. I bumped into Eric down there (eating with a fork!?), probably trying to impress his date - though what he sees in hairy women who like to hang from the rafters by their tails beats the heck out of me.

That reminds me to mention Thorn. After sleeping with a tribe of Hobgoblins, she proclaimed undying love for her entire party, then flew off into the sun wrapped in Saydar's delighted embrace. Are all elves as fickle in love?

I've got a letter her... Dear Silken, (I'll read it anyway) We are having a turbulent time in our marital bliss, the problem is that I can't stand the sight of my partner. Anon.

Well the answer to that is simple, you shouldn't have married an orcish water mage. Illusionists. they have less sense than some air mages.

That's all for now, Braegon's tip of the month: Don't get involved with basiliskes, the relationship will only end on the rocks.

What do you think... yeah you're right it is a bit corny, I think I'll change it... what do you mean I don't get to edit the column, come back here...

Dear me, lucky I got the Crystal of Vision tuned in and got to read this during a lull in the action here (No! Telary, leave that duck alone!) Sorry to have to leave you in Braegon's sweaty palms for a while but never fear. the Silken One shall return! (Oooh Silverfoam, stop it, I like it!)

Obituaries

The following is the self-written obituary and last words we have received post-humously from Gar the Fire Mage.

Gar- The Fire Mage

Hello all you vermin, friends and the elf. Thank you for a wonderful two years in which I made a amazing amount of money, drank an awful lot of booze, avoided marriage and the wife, and partied like mad.

Vahalla is wonderful and I am having a... shove off I'm trying to write here. Sorry. All these damn Vikings think they own the place. Some advice for you puny mortals

Phaeton, Romo, Valium and Haan - Loosen up a little.

Kryann - Change your religion and get a divorce.

Dramus - Keep it up with the chatting up of ghosts.

Dalran/Murthak - See you sometime guys.

Br. Rowan - She's not bad.

Eidilon - Stay off the dark path.

Grendle - Drop dead you moron and don't come here.

Anyway got to go, we're challenging some pussies from Olympus to something called Bloodbowl. Hey Starflower no hard feelings. Just don't go out in Thunderstorms.

Live fast die wide everyone!

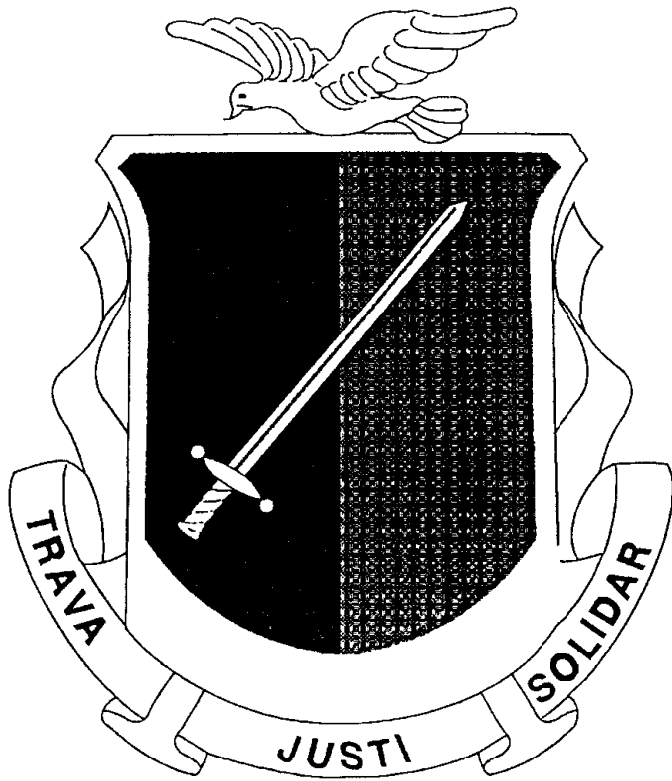
Gar

Garieth - The Celestial Warrior

As party leader I should say a few words about Garieth. What can I say? It would be nice to say "I knew Garieth long and he enriched my life." Unfortunately I only knew Garieth six days and he made my life poorer. He was killed by a Rock Troll, after our previous party leader had failed to set a watch. He was fast runner, which hindered us as we tried to stop him being charmed away to his doom by a water sprite and because of this unfortunate incident I became party leader of this most difficult party which included two orcs, an air mage, and a bear. He also owed me 1000sp when he died. So I came to wish from the bottom of my heart that Garieth had not died.

Let us all mourn the passing of a fellow guild member.





Recruits are required by the Aquilan and Aladarian Armies for the continuation of the war. Excellent Pay and Land are offered for both Short and Long term contracts.

Guild Lodgings

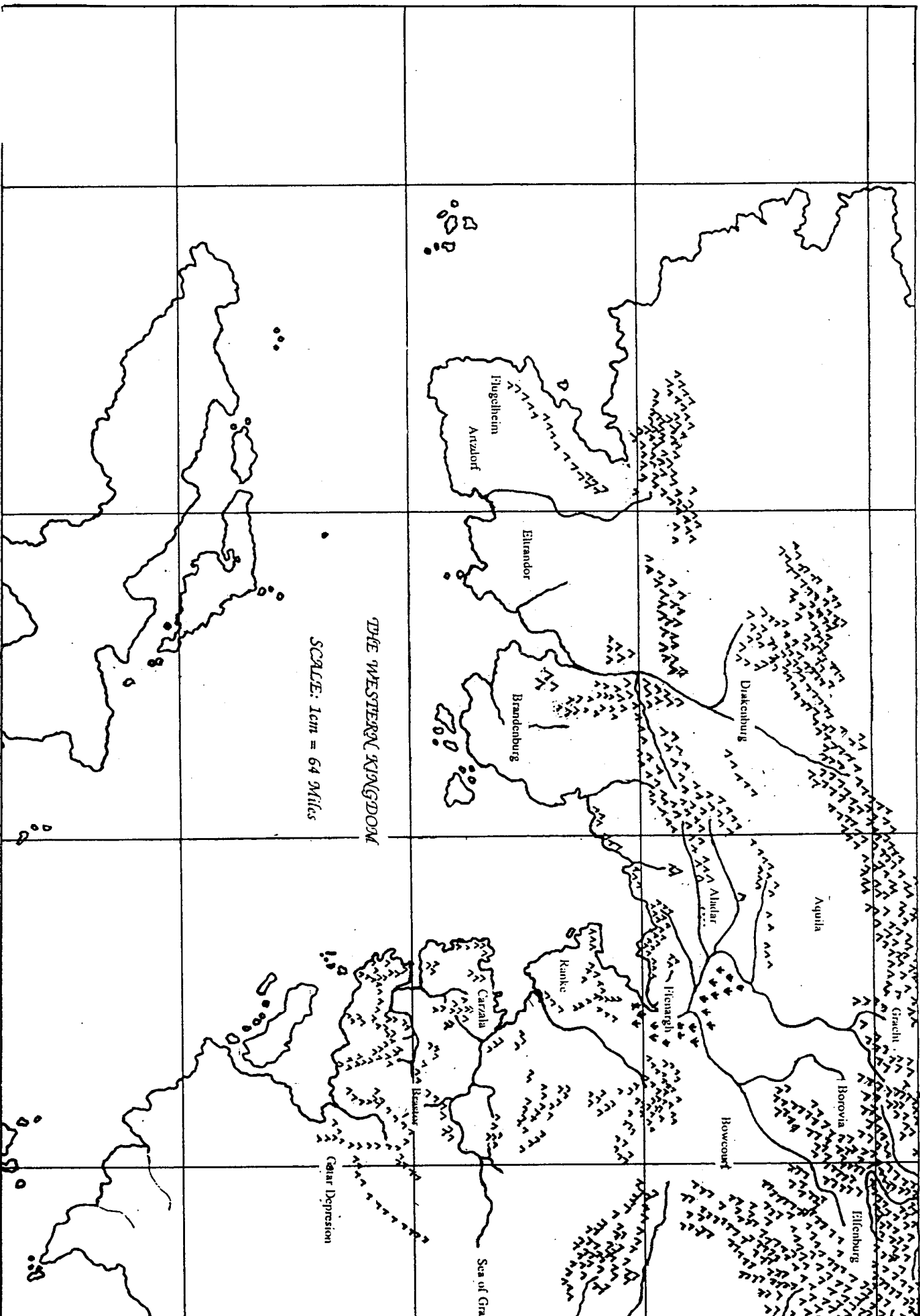
The following characters may be contacted at the Guild Lodgings by phoning the player of the character at the number below.

Character	Player	Phone
Bleyze	Craig	630 7537
Engalton	Jono	302 0477
Silken	Fiona	849 5343
Logan	Neil	828 5819
Newhaven Rep	Andrew	366 6139
Morgan	Mike	520 3101
Castellan Borderers	Alistair	302 0477
John Smith	John	302 0477

The Editor of The Seagate Times Bleyze
Chief Reporter Engalton

Contributions can be mailed (on disk preferably) to:
Craig Harper, 8a Eldon Rd, Balmoral
or
Jono Bean
C/o Circle Games, PO Box 105-320,
Auckland. Phone 3020 477

Opinions Expressed in this document are not
necessarily the opinions of The Seagate Times or
Management



THE WESTERN KINGDOM
SCALE: 1cm = 64 miles

Flugelheim
Artzlorf

Elrandor

Brandenburg

Drackenburg

Aquila

Graecht

Horovia

Ellenburg

Kanku

Henarigh

Alndar

Carzala

Ratar Depression

Sea of Grass

Howcount