

r.i.m.a

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRONATIONAL ANTIQUITIES



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BY APPOINTMENT TO
HRM THE KING OF GOTZBORG
PROMOTERS OF THE DOCUMENTATION
OF MICRONATIONAL HISTORY
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRO-ANTIQUITIES

Talking Points...

- Merger anyone? Five nations chuck sovereignty in the can to try to grasp life.
- Intermicronational economics set to be reborn? IMEX talks open at MNN.

Micronational News Media: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Earlier this year, the 2005 FNORD Awards committee met and handed out several honours to both micronationalists and various organizations. One of the organizations to be recognized was Microblog, an endeavour started by prominent Cyberian Jack Santucci.

This organization became the basis for the biggest revolution in micronational news media since the creation of the Intermicronational Federation of News Agencies collective and the Micronational News Network back in 2001/2002. With the MFP Atteran Star being the first modern micronational news

blog in this sector of the hobby way back in 2003, news blogging was hardly a new phenomenon. However it was Microblog which popularized this revolutionary reporting system (revolutionary in that it was far easier to report news stories through a blog than having to write a HTML file and upload it to the web).

The use of blogs for reporting micronational news did not gain its foothold in the creation of Microblog, but

instead did so when the Micronational News Network (MNN) abandoned its forum-based reporting system in favour of becoming a really simple syndication (RSS) feed. This move basically replaced the Network's reporting capability with the role of becoming a hub for all active micronational news blogs to get their article headlines listed in one place.

It was at this point when the explosion in micronational news services took place. Getting listed on the MNN feed was a far easier way to advertise your nation's current affairs than posting notices of new articles being published or having to maintain those pesky group email lists (which the Intermicronational Federation of

News Agencies made easier years ago through its members having access to a large email list of subscribers).

Now, through the ease of publishing provided by blogs and the ability to get messages across to a wider audience via RSS, established, and newly formed, micronations opened new blogs as their official national news services adapted to the latest revolution in the business.

See "Mega-Blog" Page 3



The Micronational News Network's RSS Feed page. Photo: RIMA

Bored? Don't want to tackle that pile of paper work? Why not funnel your creative energy into an article each month?

For more details on how to write for the RIMA JOURNAL, see page 4.

Intermicronational Economics on Rebound?

The failure of the PHP MicroXchange project in January 2004 caused a long lull in the holy grail of micronational economic simulations - the creation of an intermicronational economy via exchange rates. Over the past year, unsuccessful attempts have been made to code a new exchange program, and all attempts have ended in failure.

Now, the micronationalist commonly

known as WarVoid has proposed a reversion to the most successful system ever used for intermicronational economics. That system is the manually calculated and set exchange rate method developed by former micronationalist dStryker back in 2000.

See "IMEX" Page 2

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IMEX to Mirror Stryker's ICEO

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The primary goal of what would become the Intermicronational Economic Exchange (IMEX) will be to synchronize the economic simulations of each of its participant nations. Furthermore, to stimulate those economics, it would maintain an exchange rate for each national currency through a formula calculated weekly by the IMEX staff.

Two major hurdles remain for the IMEX plan. One being the ability to effectively bridge different economic simulations (those based on real, or Internet-based, products and those based on fictitious resources). However, compared to the second hurdle, the first is merely a drop in the bucket. The second issue that must be overcome is the exchange formula system.

Under the old Intermicronational Currency Exchange Organization (ICEO), when it was not run by dStryker, member nations had to fill in a complicated formula calculation sheet on a regular basis. If the same formulas are to be used by IMEX, the organization will have to make the process much more user friendly as the current laws of micronationalism

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dictate that it will never achieve the level of staffing required to do all the work without having to directly involve the national representatives in daily operations.

August Charles, the King of Gotzburg, seems supportive of the proposal but would like to see it expanded further. One idea raised by Charles would be to develop standardized forms used by all member nations. A possible form would be for import and export permits, adding a sense of macronational economics to micronationalism, in that the trade of specific products between nations could be regulated by IMEX.

Some participants in the discussion have raised the idea of involving macronational currency in the micronational economic system, a proposal assured to get a poor response given similar suggestions of the past.

In comparison to the MicroXchange, one major downfall of the IMEX system would be the time required to approve transactions. Though this would be minor when contrasted against a regularly working system.

See "RAMIC" Page 5

New Era Set to Begin in Interland's History

The micronation of Interland seems ready to give independence another shot as its sole remaining citizen, Daniel Dreesbach, voted to formally secede the Atteran Imperial Region, annexed almost three years ago.

With the terms of secession between the governments of both Interland and Attera nearing finalization, many who have noticed the situation are wondering why Interland is risking sovereignty, instead of remaining in the secure hands of the Atteran Empire. The entire situation is a direct result of the February 2005 dictatorial actions by Atteran Emperor Mik'el

Tzion which results in that month's mass exodus of Atteran citizens.

Content to continue his personal participation in Attera, Dreesbach was not so readily willing to permit Interland, by all intensive purposes his baby, to be subject to the immensely ugly side of the Atteran Emperor exposed by the constitutional crisis in February.

Better to risk what is almost a guaranteed death as a sovereign nation than to be subject to the not always-so-lawful actions of the Emperor it seems, at least in the mind of Dreesbach. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

From the Archives: New Federation to be Formed A new group of nations tackle an old concept, a concept that was proven bad in Tymaria.

(FEDERATED STATES)

Report by: Scott Noseworthy, December 12/2002 (MFP)

A Tymarian-type federation, known as the Federated States, which will consist of one federal government controlling many former nations, has been created by Philip Locke, Eddie Guimont (Kuralyov) and a few others. The new federation will include the nations of Erozia, the Babkhan dependency of Slobovia, Pakauranga and Actia. It is clear from the member nations, that the federation is being created solely to bring more prominence to them, or is it? According to Troy Thompson, who will be the President of the new micronation, the member nations are joining the Federation States because, "there is strength in numbers."

Common defence is a big part of the constitution according to Thompson. He further states that the nations have "little to lose" in joining the new federation. Each state will also be permitted to maintain a militia; hence the large numbers of defence forums at the Federated States Ezboard. In wartime, each state would contribute one to two regiments to the national army.

As for the other major players in the new nation, Guimont will hold many of the jobs of the nation, including Vice-President, Governor of Actia, a nation he is creating solely for the purpose of joining the Federated States, much like the time he created Microna solely to overthrow it and make it into Baracão, and finally, he'll be the Chief of Staff of the Army. Locke will not be joining the nation until it is formed.

According to Thompson, the nation will be about "half decentralized," thus ensuring that too much decentralization, as seen in Tymaria, doesn't leave the federal government inactive, and that too much centralization doesn't paralyze the state governments. As for the political system, there will initially be just one political party, the Popular Democratic Party (PDP), which, like most parties with "Democratic" in their names, will have a communist component, a socialist component, and finally, rounding out the party to create an even more left wing socialist-communist type organization, is a group of Social Democrats. Ω RIMA JOURNAL

Originally published in the Micronational Free Press Edition 43

“Mega-Blog” Could Advance Micronational News

Continued from page 1

The sector embraced a revolutionary design and took a large step forward in expanding, and popularizing, the business of reporting the news.

Over a year into the revolution there have been close to eighty (80) micronational news blogs registered with the MNN feed, with roughly half of them having published at least one article in the last thirty-five days. But don't let that number fool you. The actual amount of news blogs which publish regularly, that is daily or weekly, barely compares with the pre-revolution number of manual, HTML coded publications.

The popularization of micronational news through the use of blogs makes it such that anyone can report the news – all it takes is two minutes to fill out the Blogger registration form to have your very own personal news publication online. As such it has served to fragment the resources of the micronational news community by creating an excessively large number of one man publications as was the case before the advent of the Micronational News Network. In fact, this fragmentation is perhaps far worse than prior to the introduction of blogs or the MNN itself.

The creation of the MNN forum based article submission system was the biggest advance in micronational news reporting in the last three years in that it brought together reporters from all parts of the micronational hobby. It did this because those reporters were unwilling or unable to undertake the difficult task of updating HTML publications and were more than happy to instead publish articles via the forum system, in essence, pooling their collective skills into one news service. This caused the MNN to become the most content-diversified news service ever to be active in micronationalism, with articles from many different nations and on many different subjects, all by a diverse staff.

The ease associated with creating and maintaining news blogs gave those reporters the chance to neglect the ideal of the mega-news service for

their own personal news service endeavours. This is where micronational news media took two steps back.

Of the approximately eighty news blogs in service, only one has been able to bring together the talents of a group of reporters effectively – that being the Cyberian Broadcasting Corporation. This is not to say that other blogs do not possess large staffs. Publications like the Gotzborg Eagle, or the Atteran Chronicle World, all have large staffs, but the publications are still kept alive by 95% of the workload being done by one person. In the meantime, there are dozens of one-man operations which are run by persons who have either horrible comprehension of the English language or a poor understanding of journalism. Both of these issues were monitored and corrected under the MNN forum submission system, making it a highly effective form of reporting accurate news stories.

Plainly put, the micronational news blog system would be a far more efficient reporting system if there were fewer news services, similar in scope to the Associated Press or Reuters. Through the “mega-blog” concept, micronational news articles could again be monitored in bulk via an editorial staff while the sector's journalistic talent could be focused through one news service reaching all parts of the hobby's sphere.

While personal news blogs wouldn't be discouraged, the “mega-blog” would have mass appeal while ensuring that journalistic standards for integrity, good-reporting practices, and proper English are all maintained. Such a service would be able to advance micronational news far more effectively than a hundred one-man operations as is quickly becoming the case. Perhaps most importantly of all, it would be a consistently stable base for the news sector despite the comings and goings of staff members.

It is always wonderful to fully embrace revolutionary technology in any field, so long as those who are to be advancing it keep the accomplishments and lessons of the past in mind. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

“The creation of the MNN forum based article submission system was the biggest advance in micronational news reporting in the last three years...”

History Brief: The Gotzborg-Attera Joint University Project

The origins of the intermicronational university idea are unclear, though the first major attempt at such an organization was headed by the Republic of Aerlig in 2003. In late 2005, the idea was once again raised as the Kingdom of Gotzborg began considerations to develop its own national university.

With collaboration on the Gotzborg university project coming from that nation's close ally, the Atteran Empire, which had already established a national university, then Minister of Health and Education for Gotzborg, David Roest, raised the possibility of creating an exchange program between both his nation's future university and Attera's University of Munich.

On 04 Feb 2005, Attera's Minister of State, Charles Beard, contacted the Gotzborg Foreign Office with a proposal to allocate control of the University of Munich, which had been inactive for some time, to the King-

dom of Gotzborg's Ministry of Health and Education. Though inactive and having never really gotten out of the planning stage into actual operation, the resources possessed by the University of Munich, in terms of research and program development, were very attractive to Gotzborg, whose sovereign, King August Charles, immediately directed his government to pursue the offer of Attera.

Alas the University of Munich, which would have become jointly controlled by a board representing the two micronations involved, was affected by greater events. The Exodus of Atteran Nobles, which occurred in late February, and the ensuing and continuing state of lawlessness in the Atteran nation, effectively shelved the idea. Gotzborg's government announced, on 07 Mar 2005, that it would pursue a nationalized university, effectively shutting out Attera's involvement and ending the rebirth of the intermicronational university idea. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

This Month in History

May 2002: Mass secessions from the United Republic of Tymaria by its states of the Free Republic, Interland, and Tapfer are thwarted by the Tymarian government.

Editor's Column: **Editor: Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G** On the Grand Commonwealth

Near the end of April of this year, the Anglophone sector experienced its first major merger of micronations since the Tymarian union in the autumn of 2001. This merger, known as the Grand Commonwealth, saw five micronations toss their sovereign foreign and defence capabilities down the drain in favour of collective administration.

The five nations involved, Alteria, Aerlig, Babkha, Lemuria, and Treesia, have all had a suspect year in terms of activity and optimism for the future. Well, to be honest, Babkha and Aerlig have had such years. Lemuria and Treesia have been dead all year, or longer and their participation in this merger can be chalked up to each's one remaining citizen not wanting to realize the fate of the micronation.

In fact, Lemuria and Treesia are reminiscent of Interland when it joined the Atteran Empire back in 2002. The reasons for Interland joining were to provide a secure environment in which its history and name would be protected. One hopes that this was the intent of each of Lemuria's and

Your Turn

The RIMA Journal, while seeking to explain the events that occurred during the Exodus of Nobles (see RIMA Papers 01/05: Lawlessness and Post Exodus Attera) after the Atteran Commonwealth issue is accurate as far as chronological timelines are concerned, but is biased in the fact that there was no mention as to how there were violations and misinterpretations to several Atteran Organic Laws, specifically when Mr. Sinclair, along with fellow dissenting nobles chose to attempt to circumvent the Atteran Crown.

What would make this paper non-biased would be to examine the full cause of the problem and take responsibility for the actions of Mr. Sinclair and the other nobles who chose to actively stand against the Atteran Crown's firm decision on the Atteran Commonwealth issue. The actions taken by all, Emperor included were not tasteful, but in no way did the Emperor break the law, as according to the Crimson Constitution, is completely free to exercise the power (by any means necessary) that has been given to him by the nobles and the legislature that not only agreed to the contents of the Crimson Constitution, but all laws that protect the Emperor's right to retain active ownership of the entire Atteran Empire, it's associated states and territories.

- Mik'el Tzion, *Emperor of the Atterans* (excerpt of comment posted at the *Atteran National Forums*, 28 Apr 2005) Link: <http://p081.ezboard.com/ftheforumoftherasinatefrm56.showMessage?topicID=686.topic>

Editor's Response:

The Emperor is correct in that the paper was biased as its intended focus was to examine his actions in the Exodus which occurred in February 2005. This is due to the Emperor being, without contest, the primary antagonist against Attera's current Imperial Law. Despite his assertions,

Treesia's remaining active citizen for joining the Grand Commonwealth as there is no hope for either nation.

The only other logical reason for joining the two nations to the Commonwealth would be to try to make the organization look more legitimate. As it stands in reality, the Commonwealth is nothing more than an inflated Babkhan régime with a hint of Aerligness. The Grand Babkhan Commonwealth anyone? Perhaps not in name, merely in practice.

To be fair, Alteria is simply looking for a way to get popular by participating in this merger. By all accounts, that micronation has barely registered on the radar screens for the better part of the last four years, though its sole apparently active citizen, Chasj, has periodically tried to revive that failed experiment.

People of the Anglophone Sector, I present to you the Grand Commonwealth. A communion of five micronations of diverse backgrounds: one micronation well into the grave, two failures, one with more bouts of inactivity in its history than a chronically unemployed person, and one which will eventually dominate and take over the Commonwealth. Can you guess which of the five fit each description?

A Treesia B Lemuria, Alteria C Aerlig D Babkha

Comments? Email them to [REDACTED]

the Emperor of the Atterans is not above the Fourth Crimson Constitution and that same constitution does not give the Emperor the power to exercise his rule with complete freedom. Nor does "Shum-Shir" permit the Emperor to ignore Atteran Imperial Law, or arbitrarily consider his convenient interpretations of it as lawful and legitimate. The Emperor operates in the primitive mode of the Atteran state, where the rule of law rested with the sovereign. He has failed to adjust to the modern Atteran state, where the rule of law rests with the Derg and the Atteran Imperial Law of written and legitimate record.

The Emperor directly violated the Crimson Constitution through piecemeal use of its clauses, namely ignoring the regulating clauses that proved inconvenient to his dictatorial agenda against the people of the Atteran Empire, with respect to the issue of the Atteran Commonwealth's future, in February 2005. Furthermore, the Emperor violated a key part of the Crimson Constitution by declaring the Yezawd Derg, Attera's national parliament, to be a direct democracy body, when the constitution firmly states that it is an elected body. National emergency or not, if the Emperor didn't dissolve the lawful Derg due to it not being his lap-dog on the Commonwealth issue, he could have given it the chance to amend the constitution to realize his desires for direct democracy.

The Crimson Constitution does give the Emperor a lot of lee-way in ruling the Atteran nation. That is how it was designed by both the Emperor and myself. I did write in checks on the power of the Emperor's office with respect to the Derg and the Constitution (such as the fact that the Emperor cannot amend the constitution, only the Derg can). Regardless of the constitution's use in the February incident by all sides, the Emperor's abuse of his constitutional powers (including some he does not possess) and his intimidation tactics against Attera's population to get his own way on the Commonwealth issue remains inexcusable.



RIMA Bulletins

Current Issues

- RIMA's Standing Committee on Membership meets this month to lay out formal procedures for the granting of membership in the Institute as well as for retaining membership annually.
- The development of "Amerada: The Story of a Nation", Anniversary Edition, for publication by RIMA continues with expected release of this comprehensive publication slated for August 2005.

Call for Papers

The Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities is inviting interested micronationalists to submit historical papers to be considered for publication as a part of the RIMA Papers series.

Submitted papers will receive review by RIMA's qualified and experienced editorial review staff and the submitter will be granted RIMA membership upon approval of his/her paper.

To submit your papers, or for further information, contact RIMA's president at [REDACTED]

Want to Write for the RIMA JOURNAL?

RIMA is currently looking for interested persons who wish to write articles for the monthly publication of the RIMA JOURNAL. This publication is published at the beginning of each month, with a submission deadline for article in the third week of each month (submitters will be notified of the deadline each month).

As a submitter, you can write articles on current or historical events. Typical minimum length for articles is a mere 150 words with the subject of the article being the choice of the submitter (subjects will require approval). Furthermore, if you hold a bank account in Gotzborg, RIMA will issue you financial reimbursement in Thalers for each of your articles that is published.

If you're willing to take fifteen minutes a month to make your contribution to the documentation of micronational history and affairs, contact us to apply.

An Opportunity for RAMIC?

Continued from Page 2

One suggestion is to make IMEX a market-driven exchange organization, which leads to further problems. As mentioned by Darius Rugahi, there is an inherent lack of competition in micronational economics.

Most intermicronational trade is driven by a certain service being found only in one nation. That nation tends to have a monopoly one that sector of the economy due to limited interest amongst micronationalists to get involved in time-occupying endeavours in return for fake money (mostly evident in those microna-

tionalists who no longer live with their parents).

Another prime point mentioned by Rugahi is that there is traditionally an excess of money in micronational economies, making the need to acquire more through competition an unimportant point. Simply put, it's too hard to go bankrupt so the challenges of economics need not apply.

The development of the IMEX proposal could very well be a prime opportunity for the Raspur Intermicronational Community (RAMIC) which has been struggling for activity since formally convening last year (though its development dates back

to 2003).

The RAMIC Charter involves a section dealing with intermicronational economics between its member nations and if the intermicronational organization can find some way to wiggle into the administration of the project, it would receive a major boost in both activity and legitimacy.

However, the issue would have to be dealt with the economic commission of RAMIC, which has yet to convene or receive actual authorization from the body's Council to begin its intended purpose.

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Notable Quote

Well, I am happy that there is an opposition member in the Legislature; it makes me look like less of a dictator, and more of the kind of guy I really am. - *Amerada President Earl Washburn, 28 Jan 2002 to the Micronational Free Press*



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Talking Points...

- Grand Commonwealth and Atteran relationship takes a turn for the worse—traditional Atteran-Babkhan dance anyone?
- Ryan Caruso (aka WarVoid) finds new micronation. Micronational historians no longer able to keep track of how many RyanNations the latest makes.

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2005

SECRET PLOTS

Lying for a living. Putting your people... Be...
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 Fighting wars... the dirty side of micronational government.

The RIMA Journal explores some of the many covert and clandestine plots in micronational history.

It's Summer and Things are Heating Up! Oh that's Hot Hot Hot! (or Cold?)

Summertime has traditionally been a low point in activity in micronationalism. After all, the anti-socials in the hobby have difficulty resisting the outdoor warmth and the need to climb that lovely birch tree and attract undue attention, while the socials are employed, deciding not to take the summer off of school, or out frolicking in the fields with their friends or companions of the opposite sex. All in all, generally micronationalism is horribly boring during the summer as there's no one around! But alas, with recent tensions developing between the Grand Commonwealth and Attera, with the latter just having formed a considerable alliance to oppose the Commonwealth, there are hopes of an active summer in the hobby. Mind you the socials will still be doing better things, but the anti-socials will now have a reason to sit in front of their computer other than playing games or looking at adult-rated anime on the Internet (when not in that tree mind you).

See "Intermicronational" Page 2

Aerlig Set for Election Amid Constitutional Convention

The Republic of Aerlig is one of the few micronations which adhere to a policy of short legislative sittings. Having adopted parliamentary elections at a frequency of once every six months for the past three years, Aerlig is now gearing up for its twelfth parliamentary election. Unlike the elections that have occurred in this micronation, this month's election represents both a beginning and an end.

As seven candidates prepare for fight for five seats in parliament, one of the highest candidate registrations in Aerlish history, the election in which they fight will be the final under Aerlig's current constitution and the first under since joining the Grand Commonwealth.

See "Aerlig" Page 7

Bored? Don't want to tackle that pile of paper work? Why not funnel your creative energy into an article each month?

For more details on how to write for the RIMA JOURNAL, see page 7.

Board Restorations May Take a Week or More

The Apollo Inquisitor | 01 Jun 2005

Some micronational Ezboards may take a week to restore, following a devastating malicious attack on the Ezboard network yesterday.

The attack resulted in a significant loss of current and backup data, creating severe problems for most of the Ezboard communities, some with only recent posts missing, while others have all posts missing.

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Intermicronational Affairs Increase in Complexity

Attera dumps Babkha after finding Babkha fooling around with four other nations; Babkha glad that it isn't the father of Cranda, mother Attera not entitled to child support rules RAMIC Court of Justice. Attera's secret lover, Cyberia, found Grieving without purpose; disfiguring Hickey on its neck.

Continued from Front Page

The polarization of the intermicronational scene by the recent creation of the Grand Commonwealth, followed by the founding of the SPEAR alliance, is a return to 2001 and 2002 when suspicions and paranoia were abound in the Anglophone Sector. Of course today's polarization hasn't changed in scope at all since the year 2000. The intermicronational community is still being used today by Attera and Babkha to benefit them in their personal cold war, though that war had a brief hiatus from 2003 to 2004 (so long as Ras Noseworthy was Attera as a general rule of thumb as he was the only Atteran Babkha respected, and probably the only Atteran who really wanted to solve the cold war in the long term).

The abrupt creation of the Grand Commonwealth, perhaps the best kept secret of the year in the Anglophone Sector, took Attera by surprise. In true Atteran fashion, Emperor Tzion took quick advantage of the underlying suspicions surrounding the Commonwealth's creation in order to boost activity at home and bring an actual purpose to the desperate Atteran nation. He used the creation of the Commonwealth as an excuse to restart the old cold war with Babkha in order to make things more interesting. This eventually led to the creation of the SPEAR alliance, which is militarily dominated by Antica, though politically dominated by Attera (much like how the Commonwealth is politically dominated by Babkha).

The creation of SPEAR in itself was a major catalyst for a second breath of life in Shireroth in the latter week of May 2005 as that nation's Minister of the Exterior, Iain de Vembria, is a considerable contributor to the creation of the Grand Commonwealth. Vembria is now being targeted as a traitor by certain rogue elements of Shireroth for his support of Babkha and recent attempts to have Attera censured over Atteran Prime Minister Johanns fonn Klossos recent remarks in Karnali (which weren't polite by any measure). Mind you, the entire explosion of incivility in Shireroth is directly the cause of Mr. Klossos, given that he made a rookie mistake in making Attera look like it was announcing a fantasy alliance with involved Shireroth (he announced the treaty without having any of the other involved nations confirm its existence).

A three year veteran of the hobby making rookie mistakes aside, it seems that the conundrum in Shireroth is deepening as apparently Scott Siskind, who was the Shireroth citizen involved in the SPEAR alliance development may not have had any governmental authority. All in all, the SPEAR alliance currently consists of only Antica and Attera, an alliance which is nothing new, as the other supposed three members have yet to ratify the treaty. The fate of the treaty in Shireroth continues to look dismal as it is not representative of what that nation's citizens want in terms of foreign affairs. Mind you, if Shireroth does sign onto the SPEAR alliance, it would be a considerable move as Shireroth conducts espionage against Attera on a regular basis (despite best efforts in Attera to

curb the problem), and Attera hasn't been very kind to Shireroth in the espionage ring either.

The stabilizing force in the intermicronational scene, the Group of Three (G3) nations, which was formed in late 2004 as a result of Attera-Babkha-Cyberia cooperation against elements in Morovia attempting to usurp Morovian King Vincent III, is no longer effective causing major concern in Cyberia. That nation, which is going through one of its traditional internal mudslinging matches between Alan Grieve and Peter Hickey, is effectively out of the picture intermicronationally, causing great concern as it chairs the G3 and holds the presidency of the Raspur Intermicronational Community (RAMIC) - two organizations which bring Attera and Babkha together, and could serve a major part in maintaining community security in these newly uncertain times of intermicronational security.

What this all leaves for the summer months is a major strained relationship between the SPEAR alliance nations and the Grand Commonwealth. Keep in mind however that the current situation may not last long depending on who actually joins SPEAR. While the community is well aware of the power of the Grand Commonwealth, the SPEAR alliance only holds military power right now (because of Antica), and little to no political legitimacy (something which Attera has been unable to convey intermicronationally to the major micronations since its national crisis in February of this year). Until the intermicronational community fully knows the political composition of SPEAR, the Grand Commonwealth will easily dominate the community's affairs. Naturally the New Bergl alliance nations of Antica and Attera won't lay down their swords if SPEAR fails to become a considerable power (for which it requires Shireroth, which has political credibility). In fact, the failure of SPEAR to gain the support of Shireroth could make things even more unstable as Attera will still be attempting to climb the slope to being the equal of the Grand Commonwealth. Atteran inferiority at this time is a major security concern for the community, especially since Atteran Emperor Tzion will do whatever is necessary to claw his nation's way into a powerful position.

A general word of advice to the Grand Commonwealth is still prudent for the summer months. Attera is a very weak nation right now, but the key characteristic about Tzion is that he is an effective leader in that he can bring the masses to his cause and control them. He was able to control Politika in 2002/2003 and that nation single-handedly brought several major nations down to earth with their electronic warfare tactics against Shireroth and Baracão. Attera's power rests solely with its influence on others to do its bidding, not with its internal military capabilities; right now, Attera has controlling influence over Antica, by far the military might in the Anglophone Sector right now, through the Crimson Order.

Whatever happens, be prepared for the most interesting summer in micronationalism since...well, recent memory. Competitions affecting community security are usually sick Christmas gifts, not juicy summer steaks. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

**Comments on what you've read in the
RIMA Journal?**

Email us at [REDACTED]

SECRET PLOTS

the dirty side of micronational government.

The sheer number of plots that exist in micronationalism is perhaps the only factor that micronations have been able to successfully mimic with respect to the macro-world. Many of the plots come to light in bad situations, such as the TYSOG Incident, which impacted the Tymarian government more than any other spy scandal in micronational Internet history. Others are shrugged off, and some are never known about until the governments or persons involved finally release relevant information, sometimes years after the plot. Here are just some of those plots that have occurred in the Anglophone Sector—*Liam Sinclair*

A Coup in Baracão to Irritate the Babkhans?

Contained in the Atteran National Archives are dozens of transcripts of Atteran government discussions, most of which are off limits to the general public. One such transcript covers a meeting of Rases Noseworthy, Makonnen, Harmagedon, and Anderson, which occurred on 14 Oct 2002. In this discussion, the transcript of which spans nearly twelve pages, the four most influential nobles in the Atteran micronation discussed plans to create a coup in the Republic of Baracão, a micronation soon to be allied with the Kingdom of Babkha, the historic enemy of Attera.

The basis of this proposed covert operation was that with upcoming elections in Baracão, there existed a prime opportunity to bring that nation into the sphere of influence of the Atteran Federation, away from Babkhan manipulation. With Ras Noseworthy being in command of the Baracão military's International Brigade (much like the French Foreign Legion system), and with Attera's main operative in Baracão, Robert Silby, beginning to fail in his mission to destabilize the government, it was vital that moves be taken to secure the Atteran goal. Given Noseworthy's loose relationship with the International Brigade, the command position being allocated solely due to his standing in Pacary, Baracão's allied microna-

Friendly Espionage: Attera and Shireroth

When many think of competing micronations which are always attempting to discover the inner workings of each other, Attera and Babkha come to mind. In reality, the most active espionage competition in micronationalism since 2003 has been between the Atteran Empire and the Imperial Republic of Shireroth.

The unique relationship between these two nations, which are officially at peace and friendly, creates an atmosphere of friendly espionage between the two. That is, neither is spying on the other for malicious reasons (such as to undermine the other's government). The Atteran Empire first became aware of Shireroth penetration into its secure forums when Shireroth's Intelligence Officer, Scott

tion, he expressed reservation at using the International Brigade to attempt a coup. With Atteran operative Sirithil nos Feanor having failed in his attempt to destroy the Pacary-Baracão alliance earlier in the month (though Pacary had recently joined Baracão after folding), Baracão was still a fairly strong opponent to take on. Luckily for Attera, Chairman Dafydd was losing his grasp on power in Baracão, mainly thanks to a fateful partnership between Silby and a Baracãoan named Edward Guimont, the latter who was attempting to grab power, but was as unfriendly towards Attera as his predecessor.

Despite the opportunity facing Attera, the operation was never carried out as Dafydd won support in the chairman elections and the coup plan developed by Guimont was exposed. All was not lost for Attera however; the secondary fall-back plan was initiated when Dafydd regained the support of his nation. This plan was the direct action which created the famed Republic of Politika, the only micronation in the Anglophone Sector which can rightly hold the title of terrorist state for its electronic warfare against other micronations in late 2002 and early 2003 (under the guise of Anarchy 21). **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

Siskind, told the Atteran government in 2003 that he had access to its private forum. The Atteran authorities secretly revoked the citizenship of Atteran noble Fax Nemesis, who was a dual citizen with Shireroth, on the basis that he was the leak. However, the banning of Nemesis did not shore up Shireroth's access - Shireroth still has access to Attera's secure forums to this day, likely through a high ranking and highly respected Atteran noble.

As for Attera's espionage against Shireroth, the most recent being attempted in January of this year, none of the missions have ever been successful. Shireroth 1, Attera 0, mainly thanks to the sneaky Mr. Siskind and Attera's lack of personnel resources. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

Striking Plots

TYSOG Anyone?

An incident rather forgot

In late 2001, it was discovered that the Kingdom of Babkha was actively attempting to influence proceedings in the former-Kingdom, now Republic, of Morovia

Given the strong suspicion surrounding the motives of Babkha at the time, the government of the United Republic of Tymaria, authorized its military to begin an infiltration of Morovia with the aims of restoring its former monarch to the throne to curb Babkhan influence. This was just one of the many steps taken by Tymaria against Babkha in the all-but-rotten relationship between the two in late 2001 and early 2002

The operation was considered immoral by several Tymarian military officers and was eventually exposed by Edward Conway, the Tymarian military operative spying on Babkha. The exposure led to charges of treason against Conway and his gang in the Tymarian military, as well as calls for impeachment against government officials who authorized and planned the operations, leading to the most turbulent time in Tymaria's short history

It wasn't until almost two years later that Babkha revealed its official involvement in Morovia as being existent to irritate Edward Guimont (Kuralyov), who was largely considered (by the Tymarian government) to be the prime Tymarian target of Babkhan aggression in 2001. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

The Cromien Offer

In bed with Babkha's enemy

On January 7, 2003, Babkhan Conrad Cromien approached Emperor Mik'el Tzion of Attera with an offer that would cause shockwaves throughout the Atteran leadership

Cromien, a member of the 'Cabal' (an organization led by famed communist micronationalist Yuri V Andropov, aka Sean Walker), informed Tzion that Yuri had "fallen of out Babkha and Baracão", two nations allied against the Atteran Empire. Being a loyal Yuriist, Cromien approached Attera with an offer to utilize his administrative powers over the forums of both Babkha and Baracão however Tzion directed. The goal of Cromien in making this offer was to "allow for a definite shift in power from the bi-polar [scenario]" in the Anglophone sector (read: the Babkha-Baracão and Attera-Politika-Puritanism camps)

The offer coincided with fears in Attera that staunch anti-Atteran Baharm Gul Khuradmin, a high ranking Babkhan government minister, was on the verge of becoming the next Shah. The fear that Babkha's moderate government, which had prevailed since the fall of its first Shah, was in jeopardy meant that Attera had to be prepared to utilize Cromien's offer against Babkha. Especially given a top-level order in Attera which stated that if Kuradmin became Shah, Attera was to immediately go to a war footing. In the end, nothing came of the offer, simply because Tahemsab, a moderate Babkhan, became Shah, and Tzion went off to war in Iraq. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

Historical Reflection: *The Creation and Controversy of the Atteran Empire*



There was a recent attempt at the University of Gotzborg to offer a course in modern Atteran history. This attempt was unsuccessful due to low interest on the part of students to take the class. As a result, the course's architect, Liam Sinclair, offered the completed lecture material in the course to the Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities. The RIMA JOURNAL will be featuring edited versions of those lectures in our upcoming issues. This month Sinclair discusses the formation of the Solomonic Empire of Attera, which occurred on 01 Dec 2002.

The basis of the creation of the Solomonic Empire was that, in the minds of some Atterans, absolute monarchy would be the best way to help the nation recover from the pains incurred following the TYSOG incident of late 2001/early 2002 as well as the ill effects of the Total Isolation Act, an Act which effectively cut Attera off from the outside world.

It was largely the work of former Prime Minister Ras Oscar Anderson that brought about the Third Crimson Constitution. The Third Crimson Constitution declared Ras Diga Makonnen IV (now known as Mik'el Tzion) to be the hereditary absolute ruler of Attera (replacing the constitutional monarchy headed by his daughter, Jihan), and the Constitution also practically removed all the rights of the legislature and Prime Minister as being the major decision makers of government – though the Prime Minister continued to yield a lot of power due to tradition.

We must remember the significance of the declaration of an absolute ruler over Attera who had the power to overturn the will of the Yezawd Derg (Parliament) without having to provide explanation and who could dismiss and appoint the Prime Minister of the nation as he saw fit. Attera was built on a system meant to provide fair and equal representation between its constituent regions, with the Grand Executive Council consisting of one member per Imperial Region. The Council was the decision making body (i.e. the defacto ruling body of Attera in place of Empress Jihan I who was not of the age of majority during her reign), of the Atteran State for the better part of 3 years, since the nation came online in 1999. All of a sudden, in the space of four weeks, the Grand Executive Council and its members who were appointed with the promise of being given serious power in the decision making of the nation, now had their rights under threat by a decision by Ras Makonnen and Ras Anderson to move Attera towards an absolute monarchy.

The Grand Executive Council, at this time, consisted of four members – Ras Dabe Harmagedon I, Ras Scott Noseworthy, L'eul Ras Daniel Dreesbach, and finally, Ras Oscar Anderson. Naturally Ras Anderson was for the constitution, and Ras Dreesbach supported the constitution once he was informed that his royal grip over Interland was secure. Of the remaining two members, Ras Noseworthy, now in line to become the first Prime Minister of the Atteran "Empire" due to his close relationship with Ras Makonnen, supported the measure after being convinced that his talents would be of value to the Empire in that role. Ras Harmagedon was the sole member of the Council to vote against the adoption of the Third Crimson Constitution citing that his rights were being violated and that Attera was being turned into a dictatorship. In a conversation between Noseworthy and Harmagedon, Noseworthy agreed that Attera was indeed being turned into a dictatorship, but also stated that it was best to work through the new system to change the system of government to a better balance, something that Noseworthy's government would do over the course of its 19 month reign, eventually culminating in the form of the Fourth Crimson Constitution.

Let's take a minute to focus on Harmagedon's opposition to the adoption of the Third Crimson Constitution. On 26 Nov 2002 the Ras made an address to the Atteran public to voice his concerns with the new plan. The address started out with the famous line "I despise Anderson, he fell in love with someone and left a dictatorship," a reference to Ras Oscar

Anderson who was the main proponent of making Ras Makonnen the absolute ruler of Attera. Harmagedon felt that he had been "walked over" by everyone in the Attera nation and that Ras Makonnen had "[forgotten] his promises" that all three Imperial Rases would be equal rulers in the Atteran State.

Harmagedon went on to criticize the entire legislative structure of Attera, which permitted any citizen to write bills, the faults of which became very evident during the early months of the Ninth Imperial Government when the GEC was swamped with one-line bills and multi-line ones which were just as poorly written (this would lead Prime Minister Noseworthy to create a guide for writing effective legislation, a guide which to this day seems to still be largely ignored). Ras Dabe mocked the legislative process further by saying that he should let his "little sister come write something, I'm sure it will pass as well."

Makonnen's response was equally critical of Ras Dabe, citing that the GEC had become an ineffective legislative body since Ras Dabe and Ras Charles had both failed to introduce new legislation on their own accord, thus forcing the process to be opened up to all citizens. He also accused Ras Dabe, and once again Ras Charles, of not putting "quality time" into their jobs for quite some time leading up to the development of the Third Crimson Constitution. Makonnen's famous statement "Our Grand Executive Council must be one that has active citizens that can get the job done, not Imperial Rases who decide that Attera isn't worth a simple 30 minutes out of their busy schedules," formed the basis for a new age Grand Executive Council which saw the introduction of lower ranked nobles onto the legislative body over the course of the Third Crimson Constitution in order to reward those who were active and had a lively vision for legislation in Attera.

But what of the issue of Makonnen becoming the absolute ruler of Attera? Makonnen stated that this plan was necessary to place him, as the most active Imperial Ras (and at many points in time, the only active one), at a high enough authority point to ensure that Attera could face challenges coming to it in the future with strong leadership, instead of hoping that regularly inactive Imperial Rases would be able to be recalled on short notice to deal with important issues. Makonnen disputed the "dictatorship" tag in his rebuke of Ras Dabe as he pointed out that he intended to use very little of his powers under the Third Crimson Constitution, instead allowing his prime minister to run the show for the most part. Makonnen also dismissed the claim that Ras Dabe had been promised any guarantee of power upon his immigration to Attera.

With the Grand Executive Council passing the Third Crimson Constitution Bill on 07 Nov 2002, a coronation date for the Atteran Emperor Mik'el Tzion I was set for 01 Dec of that year. It was on that day that the Ninth Imperial Government under Noseworthy came to power, and that period of Attera's history is without doubt the most important in the nation's modern history.

Continued next page

...the Grand Executive Council and its members...now had their rights under threat...

'REFLECTIONS' continued

With Tzion coming to power, and the dictator view fresh in the public mind, the Emperor promised to let the government and the prime minister run the majority of the state affairs with minimal interference from himself. As the Emperor would soon discover that he would be deployed to Iraq for the better part of the next year, he appointed Prime Minister Noseworthy as the Crown Regent and left the affairs of the state to him.

Needless to say, when the Emperor returned, the Third Constitution had received serious amendments and the Emperor's right to veto the Grand Executive Council revoked. The Emperor had, by all rights, become less powerful in the nation as Noseworthy had promised to Harmagedon. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

Editor's Note: Despite recent events in Attera's history which showed the more dictator-like side of Mik'el Tzion, it is prudent to note that such incidents are rare in the course of his reign. While Tzion holds vast powers, more than may be comfortable to many of Attera's citizens, he generally does use them sparingly, leaving the day-to-day administration of the nation to the Prime Minister. In recent months, since the February 2005 national crisis in Attera, the Emperor has been forced to utilize more absolute traits of his powers than normal due to the Yezand Derg, the parliament, no longer being confident that it can do its duties without the type of interference shown by the Crown in February [the Crown dissolved the Derg when it tried to legislate the dissolution of the Commonwealth].

This Month in Micronational History

JUNE 2003:

- 1) Historic rivals Attera and Babkha issue their first joint statement pledging cooperation towards resolving their three year long conflict.
- 2) The Republic of Politika seizes control of the Apollo Skyline, the popular Siskind news service of the day. *The Micronational Free Press rumored to have ordered several bottles of champagne to celebrate the occasion.* - Editor

JUNE 2004: Anti-Cyberia micronationalist Emperor Jacobus issues 'letters of marque' calling for attacks against Cyberia, Attera, Babkha, and other Scheheradze Convention Council members. *Those nations heard to say "will this guy ever get a life?"* - Editor (being very kind to Jacobus)

RIMA Bulletins

- Membership in the Institute has grown to five persons, with Mr. Koen Nevens being the latest to join the pursuit to contribute towards the documentation and discussion of micronational history.
- Member admission guidelines are now in effect at the Royal Institute. For more information on membership, email [REDACTED]

From the Micronational Free Press Archives

This month I chose an article dealing with the Republic of Amerada and its problematic levels of activity in the government. What catches the eye in this article, in my opinion, is the unique aspect of Amerada which was the norm for much of its history while Washburn was President - the opposition generally had far more active people than the actual government (which, more times than naught, had only President Washburn active). It's amazing how, being outnumbered almost 4 to 1 at times, Washburn was able to hold onto power and rule with an iron hand until the Amerada opposition outdid Washburn's camp in vote-rigging to oust him in December 2002.

President discusses plans for Amerada

MFP | Republic of Amerada | August 17, 2002

Tonight in a chat with Editor in Chief, Scott Noseworthy, Amerada President Earl Washburn discussed his plans for the nation this fall. The main focus of his plans were various elections and rekindling the interest in the nation which has been lost in many of the citizens.

This Monday, August 19, 2002, President Washburn will close the Amerada Legislature for a period of two weeks. This will be in preparation for the upcoming by-election to fill the newly created legislative seat in Electoral District 11. Parties will have to announce their candidate within the coming weeks as the by-election will take place starting on August 24, 2002 (12:00 PM EST) until August 31, 2002 (12:00 PM EST). Parties will have until midnight (EST) on the 23rd of August to announce their candidates.

The upcoming election is just one of three major elections that will be held in Amerada by the end of this year. In October, the election for Prime Minister of Amerada will take place, with likely contenders, incumbent Derek McCullough and deputy-Prime Minister, Matt McIvor going face to face for the job as leader of the government. With less of a chance in the polls will be Chris Donle who has voiced his intent to run for the PM job. An election debate will be held on October 01, 2002 for the Prime Ministerial candidates at the Amerada website chat. The election season will be capped off with the first Presidential elections since the creation of Amerada in 2001 taking place. These elections will decide if President Washburn, the only unelected President in Amerada history, will remain in that position.

The lack of interest that has become indicative in many citizens of Amerada regarding federal affairs is a major problem that the President must combat. However, despite the inefficiency of the federal government due to this activity, the President hopes that by adding a new portfolio to Cabinet, a ministry of colonial affairs, some more activity will be made. Unfortunately, there is no member of the government, except for Mr. Washburn, who actually does something regularly in their departments.

A more plausible way to fight this governmental inactivity is an "Amerada Club". The vast majority of Ameradians attend the same high school as President Washburn in Ottawa, Canada. The President hopes that, by creating this "club", he will re-ignite the interest in the members of government. Another minor change in the school meetings of the Amerada government which take place throughout the school year will be a new name for those meetings, possibly known as the "President's Privy Council".

The President will round out the year with just one more new piece of legislation that will create a twelfth seat in the Amerada legislature. He said that, "I don't feel the need to make anymore legislation." As the year rounds out in Amerada, we can expect mass elections, followed by calm legislative proceedings and many days of nothing to do in the federal scene of the nation.

The Editor's Column

Editor: Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G

Recreational Warfare: Ludicrous, whatever way you justify it!

I had a co-worker once who was a rather wise woman. Her famous saying in the office was "What's it all about?" (in reference to the wonderful world of civil service work—repetitive, though well paid!). It seems that regularly in micronationalism this question is asked, not just by those who wish to know more before beginning participation in the hobby but more and more by those who are veterans of this unusual past-time.

This past month saw a discussion at Micronations.net regarding the legitimacy of recreational warfare as part of the micronation hobby. There is perhaps no other single issue in micronationalism more divisive than that of the concept of warfare in the online Internet micronational community. Many micronations and micronationalists fervently state that there is no such thing as micronational warfare; others agree that micronational warfare does not exist in the macronational sense but that it is an important and real part of the hobby, just as it is between states macronationally. There are even some micronations and micronationalists that take both sides of the argument—stating that the concept of micronational warfare is illegitimate, yet a very real issue affecting the community.

Is micronational warfare a legitimate concept? The answer, in the real sense of the definition, is that micronational warfare is not legitimate in nature. Nobody dies in micronational wars, in essence making the concept of micronational warfare a very juvenile mockery of the real deal. For this simple reason, it is always prudent for micronationalists to develop the habit of biting their tongues when about to say "warfare" in the micronational sense; "conflict" would be a more practical classification.

Yet, despite its illegitimacy, micronational 'conflict' is a very real issue which affects the community. It would be nonsense to deny its existence as an issue. Micronational conflict, in the Internet sense, exists on the basis of using electronic measures to defeat, or seriously cripple, a rival micronation. This method of conflict involves the utilization of viruses, Trojans, and other malicious scripts. One of the more popular measures used in micronational conflict is spamming. And why not? Everyone loves to have their emails used at dozens of Internet pornographic email sites (or if there's really an atmosphere of lovin' between the parties, it'll be hundreds of emailer signups). Spamming is juvenile and easily defended against, but it offers

perhaps the most efficient and respectable way to conduct conflict between micronational parties.

Recreational warfare, on the other hand, cannot even be classified as legitimate conflict between two parties, let alone as a form of warfare. Glossy it up with whatever terminology you want, recreational warfare is the worse mockery of the concept of warfare and conflict in the human sense; it's also a painfully insulting concept to those who have served in wars and conflicts to protect the very participants in micronationalism (in the macronational world of course). Only recreational warring micronations would actually think of warfare in the macronational sense as they see fictitious soldiers as somehow being the real deal...well okay, that's a pretty broad stereotype, so let me narrow it more so. Only immature, armchair generals, who have no sense of social interaction macronationally and have delusions of grandeur would think that way...at least until they get out of their puberty years (well, we have to hope that'll be the case). Not the choice words, but I think that accurately conveys a fair interpretation of the more infatuated participants in recreational warfare.

Don't get me wrong now, there are some decent people who participate in recreational warfare. They use the basis that "oh it's a great method by which to make the fictitious Micronational Cartography Society world map more realistic." Don't hold such odd-ball thinking against them; they'll learn the error of their ways eventually and finally grow past the fictitious maps and warfare that plague micronationalism. In the mean time, if you want to have a better experience in fictitious wars, I suggest you go play a video game—you'll have far better competition than what the community can offer right now in that area.

The recreational warfare infestation is now solely to blame on the twisted imaginations of a few micronationalists. The overall community must take some part of the blame for fuelling such a stupid method of entertainment. After all, with measures such as the Scheheradze Convention on Micronational Warfare, the community has severely limited the ability for proper conflict to occur between micronations. Furthermore very few participants in the micronational hobby are actually training in the art of hacking and malicious acts via the Internet. I won't complain about the latter as the less hackers there are, the fewer headaches we must all suffer through.

It's been more than three years since any decent micronational conflict, either via electronic measures or through covert operations that go awry. Perhaps what the community needs is for the current Grand Commonwealth/Atterra spat, over some unimportant one man successor state to San Martin, to balloon into an actual micro-

national conflict. At least then, by witnessing the destruction that can be caused by such conflicts, the many new micronationalists who have yet to see such conflict will gain a greater respect and appreciation and recreational warfare will go back into the pit where it belongs.

Letters to the Editor

[In response to your column on the Grand Commonwealth, May 2005]:

Well - tossing sovereign and defence capabilities down the drain? LOL hardly :p - more like pooling sovereignties such that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. --- - Treesia dead for a year - where have you been? oh studying or drinking :p - Treesia is essentially a library with sports teams and plotting and achieving world domination :) - --- yes to Treesia's intents and persuading Lemuria to get involved - although for Treesia it was also a case of getting the deleted Apollo foundation lands back on the map and having a final go at building a viable empire, this time consisting of living nations, and partly based on much earlier but rejected ideas ---- an inflated Babkhan regime? not a chance - the number of legal delegates gives equality amongst all members (and the ease with which a member can leave means everyone has to be kept happy the whole time - quite a challenge), and on the basis of the number of different nationals, we have 4 Babkhans, 4 Treesians, 4 Aerlish, 2 Alterians, 1 Lemurian - hardly a Babkhan regime ---- I have no idea why Chas liked the GC idea and wanted Alteria to join, but it has three reasonably active citizens, although it works on a slower time-scale generally that most other nations. --- You need to reanalyze the make-up. :)

Sir Iain de Vembria

Chairman, Sovereign Order of Treesia and Secretariat, Grand Commonwealth

The context in which the dominance of Babkha was made was overall populations of the micronations involved in the Grand Commonwealth. In this context, Babkha's large population dominates all others and thus it is clear that in the end, due to population distributions, Babkha will always hold an advantage in the sway of politics within the Commonwealth.—The Editor

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Want to Write for the RIMA JOURNAL?

RIMA is currently looking for interested persons who wish to write articles for the monthly publication of the RIMA JOURNAL. This publication is published at the beginning of each month, with a submission deadline for article in the third week of each month (submitters will be notified of the deadline each month).

As a submitter, you can write articles on current or historical events. Typical minimum length for articles is a mere 150 words with the subject of the article being the choice of the submitter (subjects will require approval). Furthermore, if you hold a bank account in Gotzborg, RIMA will issue you financial reimbursement in Thalers for each of your articles that is published.

If you're willing to take fifteen minutes a month to make your contribution to the documentation of micronational history and affairs, contact us to apply.

Call for Papers

The Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities is inviting interested micronationalists to submit historical papers to be considered for publication as a part of the RIMA Papers series.

Submitted papers will receive review by RIMA's qualified and experienced editorial review staff and the submitter will be granted RIMA membership upon approval of his/her paper.

To submit your papers, or for further information, contact RIMA's president at [REDACTED]

"Restorations" continued from front page

Rob Labatt, Ezboard CEO, said: "We are taking the fastest route to restore data, but it may take up to 48 hours to get data back to approximately 9,000 boards. A more manual method requiring upwards of seven to ten days is required to restore data to the other boards that lost data. Regrettably we may not be able to restore data to all boards that lost data."

Ezboard staff have requested that requests for board restorals and notices of individual board problems are not submitted as all boards will be restored (where possible).

All Ezboard users are advised to regularly check '[All the News You Need to Know](#)' for updates regarding the latest situation.

They are also advised not to post new messages on affected boards as there is a risk that they may be overwritten during the restoration process.

Quotable Quote

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Disputes with other nations; if any:

Ongoing dispute with Attera for reasons forgotten by most.

- Babkhan Foreign Vizier Abbas Namvari to Atteran Prime Minister Ras Noseworthy, conveying the latest official update in his ministry's documentation, and reflecting upon the lack of knowledge in both governments as to why Attera and Babkha hate each other, 14 Mar 2003.

AERLIG continued from front page

All but one of the candidates running in the election belong to a political party with four candidates associating with the Expansionist Party, the political party of Aerlig Protector (head of state), Lachlan Powers. Another Expansionist government, which has been the norm in Aerlig for the recent past, is expected to be the result when polls close on June 09.

Another first is being made in Aerlig with respect to elections this month as well. Auelriect, which recently passed its local constitution, is holding the first election for a governor of an Aerlish state. The competition is between Lachlan Powers, who was the founder of the state, and upstart micronationalist Carson Smith. There is no word on when the results for that election will be released. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**

A Proper Death for Morovia

In May 2005, longtime monarch of the Kingdom of Morovia, Vincent III, abdicated the throne citing his inability to dedicate the time required of him in Morovia. Prominent Morovian, Adam Graham, ascended the throne with the popular support of the nation to become Morovia's second monarch.

Suffering from a chronic shortage of activity since well before the TYSOG Incident of 2001, Morovia was to be given new life by the change of head of state. Unfortunately, as things always tend to go in Morovia, this hope was dashed when the active citizens began to be drawn away by other commitments. By 10 May, only two elected officials remained in Morovia, the People's Representative (the equivalent of a Prime Minister), Michael Fors, and longtime Morovian iron man Bill Bekkenhuis. Much like was witnessed in Attera just months prior, the Morovian community soon came to the realization that their constitution was too large to be supported by the active population.

King Adam took measures to dissolve the constitution so that a new, reinvigorated Morovia could be created. Now, over three weeks since this announcement, it seems that the hopes for a renewed Morovia have gone the traditional route in that nation. Morovia, without any activity since the 10 May address by King Adam, has finally died a proper death, with no plans in sight to see an incident similar to TYSOG aimed to force it back to a uninteresting, unwanted life. **Ω RIMA JOURNAL**



BY APPOINTMENT TO
 HRM THE KING OF GOTZBORG
 PROMOTERS OF THE DOCUMENTATION
 OF MICRONATIONAL HISTORY
 ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRO-ANTIQUITIES

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RIMA JOURNAL

Talking Points...

- Bill Dusch continues to whine about not getting his way; threatens Anthelia for not obeying his every command. Bill last seen not understanding the phrase "Shut Up Bill".
- Ezboard restore as comprehensive as expected; several micronations left with no posts, others with most of their history over the past year non-recoverable.
- War of the Worlds really is a good movie, provided you like big shiny beams of light, vehicles burning (in place of cows), and not knowing why the aliens are attacking. I told you not to give them fruit cake again last Christmas, but you never listen do you?

this month's
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Micromedia

the development of micronational news

Gotzborg's Luck Runs Out in Ezboard Restore Process

It's been nearly a month since the hacker attack on the Ezboard network left over 9,000 discussion boards devastated. In what seems to have been a bad stroke of luck, the majority of micronational boards seemed to fall into the pile of those affected the worse; leaving micronationalists to only hope that the restore process could reverse the misfortune.

Unfortunately, with the hacker having been smart enough to delete the backups of the affected boards, Ezboard Inc. was unable to restore the vast number of

micronational boards. The forums lucky enough to have some data restored still have very large gaps in archives and many multi-post threads contain a record of only the first post made in that thread (regardless of the date on which the post was made).

In general, all posts made between April 2005 and the 31 May 2005 hacker attack has been unrecoverable by the six step process undertaken by Ezboard Inc.

Continued on Page 2

Davis Resigns Citizenships to Pursue Advisory Role

One of the most respected and influential micronationalists of the Anglophone Sector, Robert Davis, has announced his resignation from all roles and the rescinding of all of his citizenships following his latest hospitalization. The hospitalization was a result of his long battle with cancer, which claimed his leg in May 2005. On 16 Jun, Davis returned to micronations following his release from hospital with the grim announcement that due to the physical strain he

is experiencing. Perhaps the biggest sense of loss was in Gotzborg, where Davis had served as the head of the Royal Government (Chancellor) and had become a close confidant of both the King and several other Gotzgers. Replacing him as Chancellor in Gotzborg is Sir Christopher Harris-Till, the former Foreign Minister of the Royal Government.

See 'UAI' page 3

Bored? Don't want to tackle that pile of paper work? Why not funnel your creative energy into an article each month?

For more details on how to write for the RIMA JOURNAL, see page 6.

RIMA Diversifies Journal Format

The Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities has unveiled the new format for its popular history-oriented publication, the RIMA Journal. The Journal is now composed of three primary bureaus, based in the micronational cities of Lonenberg (head office, Gotzborg, Anthelia), Adelwin (covering Aerlig and the Grand Commonwealth), and Kernsopolis (covering Cyberia and Attera). The bureaus will provide current affairs news coverage in the first three pages of the Journal as opposed to the former one page allocation for news coverage. The Journal's historical reflections will now follow a set theme in each issue, a system partially implemented in last month's issue with the Secret Plots theme having been explored. Lastly, the Journal will attempt to provide more coverage of micronational arts and culture. Ω

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Obscure Communist Micronation Declares War

The Neo Soviet Union, a communist micronation, has declared its intent to wage electronic warfare against 'imperialism'. To underline the oblivious understanding of the intermicronational community that the Neo Soviet Union possesses, they have declared war against the 'imperialist' micronations of Cranda, Natopia, and the Grand Commonwealth, which, despite a stretch of the mind in considering the latter two micronations, hardly qualify as imperialist.

According to the Chairman of the Neo Soviet Union, Olag Rozhdestvenskiy, his micronation will complete the elimination of these 'imperialist micronations' which the Comintern (a defunct group of communist micronations) failed to achieve. The three target micronations are part of a group of defined enemies of the Neo Soviet Union which include Rio Grande, Anthelia (which is somehow considered a micronation controlled by the Bourgeois class), Arzania, Attera and Treisenberg.

The definitions under which these micronations fall tend to be your typical Communist propaganda definitions against the working class, with the individual micronations falling into three different categories, neither of which are actually representative of each's real community structure. Needless to say, the Neo Soviet Union has failed to even do basic homework on its 'enemies' as though micronations tend to be classified as enemies simply based on the personal opinion of the chairman, and not reality. If there is any micronation today to which the classification of 'bug nation' applies, the Neo Soviet Union would be a prime candidate.

Ironically, the declaration by the Neo Soviet Union may prove to be a uniting factor between the Grand Commonwealth and SPEAR Alliance micronations. While the SPEAR Alliance solely exists to act as a balance to the Commonwealth, it may be required to cooperate militarily with the Commonwealth to render the Neo Soviet Union destroyed in the event of any actual conflict. Such conflict would see the Neo Soviet Union completely destroyed as it would be taking on the vast majority of the Anglophone Sector micronational community.

As it stands at this point in time, the threats are being largely ignored or taken with a grain of salt, though some micronations, such as Gotzborg, are intending to hold serious discussions regarding the threat. Ω

'Gotzborg's Luck' continued from Front

For micronations that created national forums on the Ezboard network between those dates, the data loss is complete and irreversible. The national forums of the Royal Kingdom of Gotzborg fall into that group of micronations and following the end of the restore process, only a couple of threads had survived the carnage. Gotzborg was effectively wiped from the face of the Earth in the attack.

Yet Gotzborg has rebounded considerably during the last week of June as the Royal Cabinet finally resumes activities and the process of digging through government minister records to restore lost national information begins. Gotzborg is lucky that its top ministers keep meticulous records of their portfolios, thus allowing records of treaties and policy discussions to be restored. Sadly, the data that is recoverable from members of the government barely scratches the surface in comparison to what was lost.

The Home Office released a briefing paper on the incident to the Royal Cabinet with three recommendations to prevent such mas-

Awards Bestowed by HRM

His Royal Majesty, August Charles II, King of Gotzborg lifted spirits in Gotzborg on 18 Jun by issuing several awards to its citizenry for actions for both the government and nation, as well as personal friendship to His Royal Majesty. The recipients of those awards are:

Order of Loyalty

Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G.; HH Prince Steven, Archduke of Pendronia; HG Nicholas, Duke of Stathearn

Cross for Loyal Service

HH Prince Steven, Archduke of Pendronia; HG Nicholas, Duke of Stathearn; Sir David Roest, K.S.G.; Sir Christopher Harris-Till, K.E.

Caroline Cross

HH Prince Steven, Archduke of Pendronia

Distinguished Government Service

Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G

Royal Order of Merit, Cross 4th Class

HH Prince Steven, Archduke of Pendronia; HG Nicholas, Duke of Stathearn; Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G.; Sir David Roest, K.S.G.; Sir Christopher Harris-Till, K.E.

His Royal Majesty also presented Sir Liam Sinclair and Mr. Benjamin Gray with the Police Service Medal on 06 Jul to honour those individuals for their work with the Royal Police.

Congratulations to all those receiving awards. For more information about each award, visit Gotzborg's national website at www.gotzborg.com Ω

sive data loss in the future. The key recommendation was to utilize web sites more often for storing public records of importance, such as laws and treaties. The Public Records Office of Gotzborg, which was hosted on the discussion board, was completely wiped out and no one made it a point to keep copies of its contents offline. The paper also suggests that members of the Royal Cabinet be made to make regular offline copies of discussion board content pertaining to each's ministry or agency.

With Gotzborg's national archive/library system still in its infancy at the time of the attack and with no dedicated projects underway to document its history, the better part of this micronation's first year in existence has been forever lost.

If there is one thing that can be learned from the pain experienced by Gotzborg, it's that written histories, stored at websites and on hard drives, are priceless in securing a micronation's history. Storing all your eggs in one basket is never wise and it is a lesson that micronationalists will not be indifferent to, at least for the near future. Ω



UAI Advocates Founded by Davis Gray Resigns as DVMS Culture

With his governmental duties in various micronations and his obligations to those micronations no longer existent, Davis has become one of the few participants remaining in the hobby who can now pursue a completely unbiased role in dispute resolution.

To facilitate this new role, Davis, through the assistance of his wife, Angel, and several close friends, has founded UAI Advocates, which will offer both consulting services and mediation to its clients. Micronations and micronational organizations alike can sign the contract agreement to retain UAI as an official legal representative. Based in the micronation of Stormark, UAI has several clients to date, including the Kingdom of Babkha and the Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities.

According to Davis, this new role he is pursuing micronationally will be the “perfect balance to participation in micronationalism and [in] taking care of my health.” Ω

Benjamin Gray, the Deputy Vice-Minister of State (Culture) has resigned from his position in Gotzborg’s Home Office in order to pursue a role more tailored to his motivations in that micronation. Gray has expressed interest in working for the War Office, citing that he only took up the culture portfolio as he saw it as a “relatively non-partisan position” which would provide a stable platform on which to build his role in Gotzborg.

The 11 Jul resignation hits the Home Office hard as Mr. Gray was the last remaining active minister, other than Home Minister Sir Liam Sinclair, who did not have dual responsibilities in the Royal Government (the two other active ministers are involved heavily with the Office of the Royal Chancellor and the Foreign Office).

Mr. Gray is also embarking on a new micronation-building project which will be military in design, with even the legislators having to pass a qualifications test to hold office. Ω

Anthelia Spearheads Continental Conference; Brings Resident Input to Micras Map

The newest addition to the viable micronational community, the Republic of Anthelia, has launched a conference bringing together all micronations located on its local continent of the Micronational Cartography Society world map project. The aim of the conference is to promote closer relations between those micronations as well as to define the geographical features of the continent and to provide names for those features.

The conference has achieved a common name for the continent, which will now be known as Novasolum, despite strong opposition from Bill Dusch, who insisted that the continent be named Tapfer or Elpidos in honour of his micronation which resided on the continent many years ago. The conference delegates decided that Dusch’s suggestion, and later threat, for the continent’s name did not reflect any of the interests of the constituent nations. Dusch’s claims were rebuked on the authority of the Micronational Cartography Society, which allows micronations currently

on the map project to define the geographical features within their borders. As Tapfer and Elpidos are no longer on the world map project, there was no obligation for the conference delegates to listen to Dusch, and any inclination to do so was lost when Dusch threatened to try to claim intellectual ownership over the continent (legally the intellectual rights now belong to the Micronational Cartography Society).

The conference has also been spending considerable time attempting to come up with an economic treaty between the Novasolum micronations. The Alexandrian delegation proposed the creation of a common currency, similar in scope to the macronational Euro; however, that proposal was rejected by the Anthelian delegation on the grounds that it would be leaning towards giving up its sovereignty by participating in a common currency. The Gotzborg delegation suggested that the main goal for all micronations right now is to get each individual economy working. Ω

London Bombing Spurs Racism Wanted: Gotzborg Eagle Editor

The bombings of Central London this month have impacted micronationalism as one micronation, Ovistania, has declared that the practice of Islam within its borders is now illegal. The Empress of Ovistania, Alexandra Lauverman (popularly known as one of the ‘nut-cases’ of the Anglophone Sector), was quoted to have said that Islam is “A conflicting faith which ultimately leads to conflict and hurt,” and that Islam “will not be allowed to encroach on our lives and destroy us .”

The declaration immediately brought widespread condemnation from other micronations and micronationalists alike. In response to the Empress, the Kingdom of Babkha made a decree against transsexuals (of which Mr. Lauverman is one). Anthelia strongly rebuked Ovistania, albeit indirectly, by stating that it will deny diplomatic status to any micronation which does not endeavour to respect human rights. Ω

‘Resignation’ seems to be the buzz word of this issue with this being the third article on that issue. The editor of the Gotzborg Eagle, Ernest Wilde, has announced his resignation due to a lack of time to dedicate to the news publication. The move is a result of his increased focus on his law/commerce degree pursuits.

The resignation leaves the Eagle without any active staff members, which is nothing new for the largely inactive news service (in over a year, barely three dozen articles have been published). A ministerial review of Mr. Wilde’s role was due this month. Ω

Visit the new official website for Gotzborg’s Home Office: your gateway to the nation’s largest ministry:
<http://www.geocities.com/gotzborghomeoffice>





Minister Lays Out Extensive Agenda

The newly appointed Cyberian Minister of the Interior, Ryan Caruso (aka WarVoid) has released an extensive agenda covering twelve major tasks of his ministry. Among his announced plans are the creation of a website for the ministry, the improvement of provinces under federal government control, and the formulation of an introductory guide for new citizens to Cyberia.

The Minister has also shown an interest in expanding the fictional aspects of Cyberia through the creation of a state cartography agency, the CGMA, and through two agencies dedicated to the maintenance of the environment and promoting clean energy sources, notably hydroelectric. A national railway system will also be produced to add to the cartographic efforts.

The most interesting undertaking in the fictional Cyberia will be the Minister's intent to create a microculture within Cyberia based on a native tribe. The Mala'anje Nation tribe, which will be modeled after Native North American tribes, will be developed alongside ancient Cyberian cultures in a heritage project of the Ministry.

Cyberian President Jack Santucci had nothing but praise for the Minister's plans, calling the proposal to create an introductory guide for new citizens "the best yet."Ω

Attera Adopts New Constitution

It may have been an award winning constitution, but many Atteran legal experts tend to agree that the Fourth Crimson Constitution was too complicated for a micronation of Attera's stature and that its flaws were dangerous. With the Ezboard Crash having terribly affected Attera's national forums, Emperor Tzion ordered a move to a php-based forum and a new beginning to the Atteran nation.

Literally starting from scratch, Attera is beginning given a new face and, if all goes well, a more cohesive and far less confusing nobility structure (in the past, a general could order around a government minister, even if the minister had a higher nobility rank). As part of this rejuvenation of the Atteran nation, the Fourth Constitution has been revoked, with a Fifth Constitution coming into force by decree of the Emperor.

The Fifth Constitution, based on the Cranda constitution, is far less complicated than its predecessor, and is the third constitution in Attera since its departure from the United Republic of Tymarica in 2002.

Given historical trends, which favour Attera not following its constitution except in high-emotion charged disputes, it is largely expected that the Fifth Constitution will be ignored and for the traditional Atteran method of ruling, as confusing as it may be at times, to continue unabated. Ω

The RIMA Journal is looking for a correspondent to file a story each month on issues affecting Attera/Cyberia. If you are interested, email [REDACTED]

New Aerlish Prime Minister Elected

The Twelfth Aerlish Parliament has elected a new prime minister to form the government. Peter Krembs, the sole parliamentarian vying for the position after June elections failed to give either political party a majority, was sworn in by Protector Lachlan Powers following Krembs receiving the support of three parliamentarians. As prime minister, Krembs has dual duties in running the cabinet while at the same time acting as the speaker in Parliament.

Krembs has yet to finalize the composition of his cabinet, having decided to retain the portfolio of Internal Affairs and Attorney General for himself until further notice. He has made an appointment to the Aerlish Defense Force, having received approval from Protector Powers to appoint Dugobert Wurmser as the military's Chief of the General Staff.

His immediate undertaking after being newly elected was to introduce to Parliament the new constitution of Aerlig which has been under development for some time. The new constitution received unanimous parliamentary approval on 21 Jun and will now face a final hurdle of receiving the support of Aerlish citizenry. The actual date when it will come into force is the decision of the Protector, who has yet to release details on when the national referendum will be held.

A less popular move in parliament by the new prime minister was to table a motion to move the Aerlish Parliament operations from the micronation's national forums to a designated Yahoo Group. The motion received a chilly response from all three fellow parliamentarians currently in the chamber (Parliamentarian Carson Smith is on a leave of absence since prior to the June election) and is not likely to be adopted.

Krembs legislative agenda for the current sitting of parliament is unclear, though many expect that the major task facing the Twelfth Parliament will be adjusting the nation's laws to reflect Aerlig's membership in the Grand Commonwealth. Ω

Grand Commonwealth Appears Lost

Blame it on the summer season, exams, or the regularly scheduled bout of boredom that inflicts micronationalists. The Grand Commonwealth is active through its constituent micronations (Babkha is starting to recover quite well following the Ezboard crash of 31 May), yet at the federal level it has seemingly hit a period of stagnation.

The Grand Commonwealth forums are reminiscent of a micronational off-topic forum, with people joking and poking fun at this and that, while the government functions of the intermicronational structure, which encompass defence and foreign affairs of its member nations, go largely ignored.

Like the SPEAR Alliance, the League of Micronations, and all other intermicronational organizations, the Grand Commonwealth seems to be stuck searching for a real purpose. Ω

Micronational History

Column by Editor Sir Liam Sinclair, K.S.G.

What is history? It's not a trick question, nor is it a likely answer to a Jeopardy statement. I'm not trying to twist your arm; my intent is simply to ask you what you think history is. The majority of you will answer with the statement that history is nothing more than the things we have done, the people we were, the places we have been. The few who have studied history in university will answer that it's all of the above and more; it is learning from those things, those people, and those places in our past so that we understand ourselves better. It is interpreting our past through writing and documenting to teach future generations of the trials and tribulations of humanity, and our joys and sorrows.

Macronationally, the preservation of history is an important part of the community psyche. It is a duty that falls on the few more often than the many given the intensity of the research aspect of being an historian, not to mention the poor salaries. Macronationally, historians are spurred on to do their jobs through two key compulsions. First they enjoy being an historian, and secondly, where possible, they can get paid enough to live a decently comfortable life. It is the latter reason why micronational historians are mainly few and far between; this being a problem that is beyond repair in a hobby that is existent 'for fun'.

Micronationally, every-so-often, some micronationalists will come along who willingly invest their personal time into documenting the history of the community. Let's be clear on one account: keeping copies of important documents and maintaining archives of discussion forum threads does not constitute a contribution to history. By doing those things, a micronationalist is merely acting as a secretary to history by putting all of the material in one big pile for the historians to sort through. It's an important job, yet it doesn't really provide much assistance to recording the history of our hobby.

What is the best way to maximize our severely limited resources to ensure the maintenance of our legacy? A popular myth among micronationalists is that throwing everything into an archival forum is a way to maintain history. The recent Ezboard network crash, and the chunk of micronational archives lost with it, proves otherwise. Archives do not last forever: paper whittles away to nothing eventually, regardless of preserving technology available, and digital data, while seemingly indestructible, eventually degrades, whether due to the hardware factor, or due to corruption in the file code.

That is not the only problem associated with culling information and documents into forum archives. Indeed there is a far more devastating problem which stems from this practice – discontinuities. Documents and discussions today in forum archives are in no specific order. It is nearly impossible for the micronational historian to go into an archive and find all records related to one single issue given that those records may be strewn across several archive forums depending on the date on which they were archived, and the location from which they originated.

I'll confess that I too was once an archivist, though I was always a historian first given my university training. It was my terrible experience in navigating archival forums throughout several micronations which drove me to create the Atteran National Archives – a website-based archive which some semblance of organization. It seemed to be the best way for me to simplify my endeavours to communicate Atteran history at the time as it provided a neatly organized reference pool.

Realistically, while such an effort on the part of all micronational governments would make archiving more historian-friendly, it would be a waste of resources. No one expects micronational governments to direct their lackeys (in the friendly public servant sense of the word) to spend their personal time going through years of threads and picking out the important parts and posting that material to a highly organized website. Especially not for the less than half a dozen micronationalists who show actual interest in writing the history of our hobby.

For micronational history to be communicated to the future, the resources that are spent archiving material are better directed to writing about the material destined for the archive. If each micronationalist took just one thread (concerning an issue of consequence) every now and then from an archive at a micronation of their choice and wrote briefly about that incident, everyone would win. The community as it stands today expects new micronationalists, who are eager to learn about the history of the hobby, to go through massive archives of forum threads; the vast majority of which are historically unimportant records.

We'd all serve our hobby better if we took some of our personal time, even if that meant lying low in our constituent micronations for a few days, or a couple of weeks, and wrote down our memories of events in our history, and if those events were before our time, our interpretations of the material spread across the archives. In essence, it would bring together, in some cases, dozens of forum threads in an archive into one document which accurately portrays history.

It's impossible to save everything in an archive forever, which is why the profession of history exists. It's the writings of historians which catalogue the events of the past, and the effects thereof, that are saved forever; and those writings are saved forever because they do what archives cannot – bring together documents and discussions of the past into something comprehensible and provide an understanding of the past to those who were not there. If there's one thing that you, as a micronationalist, should do this summer while you have some time to spare, it's to write even a paragraph about our collective, or your personal, history in this hobby and share it with the community.Ω

<p>RIMA Journal Monthly Statistics *total number of downloads per issue as of 21 Jun 2005</p> <p><i>May 2005 Issue: 175</i> <i>June 2005 Issue: 157</i></p>
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<p>Questions, Comments or Suggestions?</p> <p>Contact the RIMA Journal via email at</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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And a happy Independence Day to the vast majority of micronationalists in the Anglophone Sector; that's right, our lovable American friends. :) - The Editor

Letters to the Editor

“Babkha and Baracão were willing to stage a forum deletion, give Attera false sense of victory”

I had my moments. Wish Yuri and Zhukov were around still, and Julien Starr. Our Cabal was great. Used each others admin to control a good portion of the sector. Yuri would have a plan for Babkha or Baracão, I'd help him. I'd have a plan for Interland or Attera, they'd be there. Bobby wasn't a bad guy either, just didn't trust him, always scanning my computer. Archetype was great too, helped him out with the Sirithil problem with the unknowing help of the Atterans. Solved a lot of problems for Baracão and Babkha. Missed most of Tymaria though, was out helping Yuri gain control of the Soviets on the USSR board at the time. Did manage to get admin to the Tymarian forums once though. login and password were given to me, never used it.

Then there was Varja, which was basically a bet. Yuri wanted to get back at Thomas Hubert so we made a bet as to who could get Varja admin status first. turned the entire board into a Yuriist temple. Then there were the weapons

dealings, those were always fun. never used those either, just traded them for info. also the fake ones. setting up "hidden forums" or inviting people into chats knowing they'd run back to their keepers with false info.

[Ras Noseworthy] didn't know the other side of the Babkha/Baracão story. Playing both sides against each other. Babkha knew that plot very well. In fact both Babkha and Baracão were willing to stage a forum deletion, give Attera false sense of victory. Give the image of loyalty to be included in future plots and get into Attera's inner circle of info. Had chat logs of Diga and I working out the details. Now THAT would have been a great skyline article. Lost interest in the hobby though. These underhanded things don't happen anymore. All the great intriguers left the hobby. No one to play that great game.

Conrad Cromien, responding to the June 2005 “Secret Plots” article entitled ‘The Cromien Offer’

RIMA Briefs

Call for Papers:

The Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities is inviting interested micronationalists to submit historical papers to be considered for publication as a part of the RIMA Papers series. Submitted papers will receive review by RIMA’s qualified and experienced editorial review staff and the submitter will be granted RIMA membership upon approval of his/her paper. To submit your papers, or for further information, contact RIMA’s president at [REDACTED]

- The Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities has officially named its chief consulting and legal retainer firm. UAI Advocates, founded by RIMA member Robert Davis, will receive all consulting work required by the Institute.

Want to write for the RIMA Journal?

RIMA is currently looking for interested persons who wish to write articles for the monthly publication of the RIMA JOURNAL. This publication is published at the beginning of each month, with a submission deadline for article in the third week of each month (submitters will be notified of the deadline each month).

As a submitter, you can write articles on current or historical events. Typical minimum length for articles is a mere 150 words with the subject of the article being the choice of the submitter (subjects will require approval). Furthermore, if you hold a bank account in Gotzborg, RIMA will issue you financial reimbursement in Thalers for each of your articles that is published.

If you're willing to take fifteen minutes a month to make your contribution to the documentation of micronational history and affairs, contact us to apply.

Email: [REDACTED]

Editor’s Review

This month I'd like to share with you my thoughts regarding a recent publication of Johanns fonn Klosso. Mr. Klosso released a compilation of the famous Scott Siskind Lectures from 2003 on 08 Jul 2005.

The publication is very well organized and created with a strong forward from Mr. Klosso. He outlines the importance of the Siskind Lectures, which to this day remain authoritative in many of the areas they cover, especially Tymaria and the old Apollo Sector. On a side note to Mr. Klosso - I have actually written more historical articles (news and otherwise) under the title of Scott Noseworthy than Liam Sinclair to date. The inclusion of footnotes to shore up loose ends in the historical opinions presented by Siskind is a major benefit to the reader; it also ties the historical events and persons into the mainstream.

The only sticking point is the font used in the publication. The reader is bombarded by difficult reading as ‘s’ is represented as ‘Ɔ’, to name just one of a few such spelling mysteries. If you aren’t use to the font, it is very hard to interpret.

Overall, the edited version by Klosso is recommended reading for anyone interested in Anglophone Sector history. Ω

Micromedia

the development of micronational news

Feature Interview: Sir Iain de Vembria and the Micronational News Network

The RIMA Journal presents an interview with Sir Iain de Vembria, creator of the Micronational News Network, Micronations.net, and Inscriptvs Media Group. M. de Vembria is one of the most respected members of the Anglophone micronational community and has been a major player behind the scenes in many projects, from the FNORD Awards to the creation of the Grand Commonwealth.

RIMA Journal: How did you first become involved in the area of micronational news reporting?

IdV: Having set up the MNN Ezboard in January 2002, which included a news forum for posting news stories, I started that section off with six stories, and carried in from there.

RIMA Journal: The Micronational News Network, or more commonly Micronations.net, has become the hub of the Anglophone Sector. What was your inspiration for creating this service?

IdV: There were two main inspirations - the lack of a successful central micronational news service and no comprehensive collection of micronational links other than a few directories listing micronations.

So one aim was to create a links page linking to various micronational resources (other than actual micronations), which was inspired by similar attempts by Micronations Today in its final incarnation in 2000/1, and also by Pacifica's MN Center. Both of those relied on people to submit links to a central database - I on the other hand spent some time scouring the internet for suitable links.

The other inspiration started life as considering taking over Micronations Today from Thomas Leys after he decided to close it. However he proved to be uncontactable and in the year that followed its demise, the only other central forum (Micro-nations.org), which never seemed to attract the community that lived around the Ezboard-based micronations to quite the same extent as Micronations Today did, tried its own news service, but that only lasted a few months.

And thus, during the latter half of 2001, the ideal opportunity existed for creating a simple forum-based site, with a definitive page of links, a forum-based news service to which people could sign up to contribute, an unrestricted general notice-board forum, a feedback forum and a general chat forum.

RIMA Journal: The Network's forum-based news submission system was really the first easy method for collaboration between journalists in micronations. What was your intent when you came up with this sys-

tem and what are your thoughts as to its legacy and success?

IdV: The original intent was to demonstrate that a collaborative news service could actually work, following the failure of the earlier attempt by Micro-nations.org to create a database-operated one (presumably due to lack of interest), and that would be easy to operate. As an attempt to win over people from the Ezboard-based micronations, the most straightforward and reliable solution was to set up a moderated forum, that was easy to find, easy to use, and where it was easy to see who was contributing, in the hope that others people would be encouraged to sign up and join them. And it worked for almost two-and-a-half years, until the advent of the newsblogs.

RIMA Journal: The recent popularization of blogs as a method for reporting micronational news has opened up an easy avenue for all who wish to report the news. What are your thoughts on this system and what concerns do you have, if any, regarding it?

IdV: When a few people first started using blogs more than a year ago, it really happened without anyone noticing too much. It wasn't until Jack Santucci of Cyberia started promoting their use as an easier means of publishing news than using static pages that more people got interested. However, at the time there was no means of displaying the feeds from the blogs in anything other than private news-readers. And it was that inspired the challenge to find a suitable aggregator script to allow all the headlines to be displayed chronologically on a public page. The first service used was called Feedsweep, a hosted aggregator that allowed a maximum number of feeds, and which later was found to have an unreliable host. Once the aggregator was seen to be working, everyone wanted to publish their own news, which, given the difficulty in persuading people to write for the old MNN forum-based news service, was quite an achievement.

It also allowed me to retire from writing regular news articles at long last, as the gradual decline in activity was making finding interesting stories harder, and of course it allowed MNN to become a true news network by successfully bringing together scores of different sources for the first time in the English micronational community.

Continued next page

Notable Dates in Micronational News

03 Sep 2000

Inspired by regular news publications, such as Attera's Red Shield (founded 26 Mar), Scott Siskind founds the Apollo Fireball. The Fireball will become the most widely read news source of the Anglophone Sector, publishing over 100 issues, before folding in early 2002.

04 Jul 2002

The Micronational News Network begins operation. Not only does the Network bring together reporters from most major Anglophone Sector news services, it also becomes the most popular hub for daily intermicronational interaction in the Sector.

06 Jan 2003

Robert Silby founds Radio Politika (later Talk Eureka), the first substantial and regular radio newscast in the Anglophone Sector. Radio Politika would produce 15 radiocasts during its short life in 2003.

11 Feb 2003

The Micronational Free Press Network, founded by micronationalist Scott Noseworthy (later known as Liam Sinclair), becomes the first mainstream Anglophone Sector news service to use the news blog format.

03 May 2004

Jack Santucci founds Microblog, popularizing the news blog format in the Anglophone Sector and making traditional webpage news publications all but obsolete in the news community.

This Month in Micronational History

Jul 2004: The long story of the micronation of New Macadam finally ends with that micronation being formally annexed by the Most Serene Empire of Ascalon.

Also in July 2004, polls in Attera open to replace Ras Scott Noseworthy as that micronation's longest-serving and, according to some, its most widely-respected, prime minister.

Jul 2002: The Intermicronational Military Exposition is created by Atterans Ras Yeh and Ras Diga Makonnen IV. The Exposition will be the precursor to the Scheheradze Convention on Micronational Warfare.

Also in Jul 2002, Tony Au is elected Prime Executive of the United Republic of Tymaria. He will be the last Prime Executive of that micronation, dissolving it in September of that year.

Jul 1979: The micronation of Attera (currently the Solomonic Empire of Attera) is founded by a group of Army brats in Belgium, among which is Diga Makonnen (Mik'el T'zion). It is the oldest micronation in the Sector.

Feature Interview' continued

IdV: And it makes it very easy for people to publish news as they don't need their own website - just a hosted blogging service that publishes feeds. For a period that did affect the quality of the some of the news that was published, but a slightly controversial accreditation scheme and the passing of the novelty of the new system seems to have generally sorted that issue out, as well as the continued overall decline in activity over the years.

RIMA Journal: What do you think was the biggest hurdle, to-date, for the micronational news sector? And in the future?

IdV: The hurdle has always been to encourage people to be self-publicists and to find a self-sustaining way to properly publicise news. A low-maintenance and easy-to-use aggregator seemed to have been the catalyst that was required, as people seem generally reluctant to volunteer write for other publications, but more than happy to go it alone if they are guaranteed exposure. Although overall activity is declining in the English micronational sector, the news will still be there for as long as people want to publicise their micronations.

RIMA Journal: What advice would you have to a person who is looking to start a news publication in micronations?

IdV: My advice would be to make sure that you are prepared to write regular news for longer than a month, given the number of blogs that are no longer published, and that you can find enough things to write about on your own. Otherwise, it is still a good idea to consider writing for an existing publication, as it helps spread the burden, and it's always good to collaborate with other people. After all, that's what micronations are all about.

RIMA Journal: You've been participating in micronationalism for almost five years (perhaps longer?). It must be asked: What micronational news publications over the years have caught your eye as the most important and influential?

IdV: Yes, it's coming up to five years soon, although it now just over five years since I actually discovered micronations. As I originally become involved with the old Apollo-sector micronations, I have to say that my primary source of news was the old Apollo Skyline, and its subsequent incarnations as the Apollo Furball and Furball. In fact, when the original owners no longer wanted to run it, I volunteered to take it over, and later merged it with Lachlan Power's Inquisitor to become the Apollo Inquisitor, which we still publish occasionally via MNN, but not as frequently as it used to be, as the news can now come in from so many other sources via the MNN aggregator.

Continued on Page 9

'Feature Interview' continued from page 8

IdV: The Skyline and its successors certainly provided a very popular and regular dose of news and wit, and was much anticipated also as it covered a number of nations, whereas most other publications that could be found at the time seemed to concentrate more on the nations that published them. An honourable mention must also go to Ignés Fatui, which was more of an opinion and news journal published by Peter Ravn Rasmussen of Corvinia for a couple of years or so around 2000, and of course the sheer scope of the German micronational news system, which was another inspiration behind the MNN aggregator.

RIMA Journal: Lastly, what's next for Micronations.net and the Micronational News Network and Sir Iain de Vembria in the micronational news business?

IdV: Well, we were able to improve on the limitations and unreliability of the original system, when Sander Dieleman kindly volunteered to create and host a custom-made aggregator based on the Magpie RSS engine, and after his site later went down, Jouker Sandler found and hosted another Magpie-based aggregator with some interesting new features, and in the near future we hope to be able to combine the best features of the two to create the perfect news aggregator.

After that, the news will probably have been developed as far as it needs to go for us. We will probably need to make the administration of the system open to more people, with regards to maintaining and hosting the aggregator, and something similar might also be done with the website, following successful trials with creating blog-based websites elsewhere. Ω

The News Media Giant of the Anglophone Sector: Attera

Micronational news publications tend to be associated with the editors moreso than the micronations of origin. If you mention the name Scott Siskind to any of the more senior micronationalists, they'll immediately think of the Apollo Fireball and the Apollo Skyline. If you mention Scott Noseworthy, the Micronational Free Press and Atteran Chronicle World come to mind. But if you mention Attera, no one thinks of the major contribution that that micronation has made to the development of micronational news. The very first Atteran news publication online was the Red Shield; it was a publication which inspired Mr. Siskind, who inspired Mr. Noseworthy. No other Anglophone micronation has contributed more news publications to the sector: the Red Shield; the Red Shield II; the Intermicronational Times; the Atteran Star; the Atteran Chronicle World; the Solomonian Times; and the Commonwealth Times. All of these publications, save for two, provided comprehensive and enlightening news to their readers for months (the exceptions being the Intermicronational Times and Commonwealth Times which were flops). The following Atterans deserve citation for giving so much to the development of micronational news over the years as the editors of the aforementioned publications:

David Valdivia (the founder of both Red Shield publications); Diga Makonnen IV; Scott Noseworthy; Marie Lopez; Juan I; Paul P. Wyland; Nicki Stuart; and Erhu Makonnen. Ω

From the Archives

This month I selected an article which marked the first time I decided to put actual half-decent effort into profiling a newly founded micronation. In these times of mergers (the Grand Commonwealth and Natopia namely), it is always interesting to reflect on similar efforts in the past, even if this particular effort was between largely one-man micronations. - the Editor

NEW FEDERATION TO BE FORMED: A new group of nations tackle an old concept; a concept proven bad in Tymaria
12 Dec 2002 | Micronational Free Press

A Tymarian-type federation, known as the Federated States, which will consist of one federal government controlling many former nations, has been created by Philip Locke, Eddie Guimont (Kuralyov) and a few others. The new federation will include the nations of Erozia, the Babkhan dependency of Slobovia, Pakauranga and Actia. It is clear from the member nations, that the federation is being created solely to bring more prominence to them, or is it? According to Troy Thompson, who will be the President of the new micronation, the member nations are joining the Federation States because, "there is strength in numbers."

Common defence is a big part of the constitution according to Thompson. He further states that the nations have "little to lose" in joining the new federation. Each state will also be permitted to maintain a militia; hence the large numbers of defence forums at the Federated States Ezboard. In wartime, each state would contribute one to two regiments to the national army.

As for the other major players in the new nation, Guimont will hold many of the jobs of the nation, including Vice-President, Governor of Actia, a nation he is creating solely for the purpose of joining the Federated States, much like the time he created Microna solely to overthrow it and make it into Baracão, and finally, he'll be the Chief of Staff of the Army. Locke will not be joining the nation until it is formed.

According to Thompson, the nation will be about "half decentralized," thus ensuring that too much decentralization, as seen in Tymaria, doesn't leave the federal government inactive, and that too much centralization doesn't paralyze the state governments. As for the political system, there will initially be just one political party, the Popular Democratic Party (PDP), which, like most parties with "Democratic" in their names, will have a communist component, a socialist component, and finally, rounding out the party to create an even more left wing socialist-communist type organization, is a group of Social Democrats. Ω

The Basics of Micronational Culture

The RIMA Journal had the privilege of sitting down with micronationalist Johanns fonn Klossso to discuss the topic of micronational culture. Mr. Klossso is an expert in micronational culture, having developed cultural attributes for micronations ranging from Cranda to Trian.

RIMA Journal: In your opinion, how important is the maintenance of a culture to the success of a micronation?

Klossso: Culture is very important in modern micronationalism for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it gives the nation that adopts it a unique flavor, which is good for attracting attention. The idea basically develops out of the early 'simulation' period where most countries were just like Cyberia; all politics. That's not a bad thing per se, as you can always find someone who wants to be part of a sort of generic republic or monarchy, but when that's the majority of what's available it tends to stagnate things. This is not to say that the trend in some micronations of simply copying a real world nation will make it interesting, however, unless its an unusual one. A good example of an overused real world nation is the various nations who adopt 'German' culture because they like Rammstein or are obsessed with World War II, and then do nothing else unique. I like to think Cranda doesn't fall into this category because of my attention to the other Germanic nations (Anglo-Saxon England, the Netherlands, Scandinavian Countries) and the development of a unique politic system within it. Another overused one is probably Athens. [It is better for] nations to derive inspiration from [what would be] the lesser used ones, i.e. Ethiopia (Attera), Persia (Babkha), and various as of yet unclaimed nations like Egypt. In general I find that monarchies and other nations with some sort of 'absolute' ruler are more conducive to culture.

RIMA Journal: What would you consider to be the most important parts in the process of developing a culture?

Klossso: The most important part of the process is getting at least one person willing to put in the time to build and developing the nation's 'culture.' And by build I don't mean generically snatch words of Gaelic or German for forum titles. Someone needs to be interested in creating legends and mythology (fictional history included) for the nation, which can then influence the future course of the nation. For example, my current name, Johanns V, was chosen by me when Cranda became a monarchy because in Cranda's fictional history the King who united Cranda was named Johanns. There's a similar example of a Babkhan taking his name from a bit of fictional history; I think it was Rakesh or Abbas. Another aspect is that the culture needs to compliment the seriousness of the nation, i.e. elves and gravships with a sort of unserious nation (which Menelmacar began as) and complex religious ceremonies and political structures with a more serious nation.

That last statement brings up another point I'd like to make: govern-

ment is a huge part of culture, as are things like the economy. I'd consider a large amount of Cranda's pre-ezplague [the 31 May crash of Ezboard's network] renaissance to be done in the legal arena, with the development of a legal code based off Germanic (Visigoth, to be exact) sources, the introduction of a new Crandish currency, even the Golden Bull [constitution]. The legislative process is a great way to get more than just one person involved in the development and creation of culture, as opposed to establishing a "Ministry of Culture" where only the minister and nation's leader will ever really participate.

RIMA Journal: A number of cultural development plans fail due to the inexperience of the directors or the over-complication of the process. For the newbie to micronational culture development, what key advice would you offer?

Klossso: Start simple: government is a great way to begin to develop culture. And don't necessarily choose a "theme" until you have a better idea [of] what you're interested in. Bad ideas for cultural themes include Fascist Italy (as I've learned from experience) and "democracy" (which fails as a cultural theme for rather obvious reasons; if micronationalists wanted to participate in a remake of the USA or Canada they wouldn't be here to begin with). Avoid something overly complicated in creating a government: Cranda's Golden Bull is designed so that it can function without any difficulty despite the lack of manpower most new (or re-founded) micronations experience. One example of a terrible idea for government for a new nation is a theocracy. It sounds very original and interesting, but it inevitably falls flat on its feet due to the huge amounts of positions it requires, especially if you're attempting a polytheistic theocracy (just ask Mediterranean).

Another issue is, that newbies often come in and try and reinvent the wheel. Korhal and the numerous other nations like it create something almost entirely unoriginal, which no one wants to be a part of. Ultimately culture depends on getting people in a nation and getting the nation to run. Many newbies also make the mistake of making their nation all 'culture' (a second problem with theocracy) and overdeveloping the ideas before their release to the public. The public finds nothing it can do in the system it doesn't know very well, and doesn't join. Too much culture is just as bad as none because it alienates the people who might be interested in joining.

Ultimately, experience is only as important in developing culture as the wisdom of the people developing it. It can be something as simple as a general attitude (Antica) mixed with an interesting government. The best advice I, or anybody, can give to a newbie is this: stay simple initially, let other people feel they can help develop it, and be willing to give up on your pet project and join another nation similar in some respect to yours if you can't keep your nation afloat. Most importantly of all, don't let every idea that enters your head come out in the form of a new nation. The only person who can get away with that without everyone thinking he's a joke is Ryan Caruso, and that's because he participates actively and well in several nations and holds influence there.

Hopefully others will find this useful.

RIMA Journal: Mr. Klossso, thank you for your time in answering these questions, we appreciate it.

Klossso: Pleasure's all mine. Thanks for asking me. Ω

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 11 July 2005.


**The Gotzburg Eagle Book
 Competition Top Choices**
 As of 12 Jun 2005

- Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
(Douglas Adams)
- The Prince
(Nicolo Machiavelli)
- Lord of the Rings
(J.R.R. Tolkien)



BY APPOINTMENT TO
 HRM THE KING OF GOTZBORG
 PROMOTERS OF THE DOCUMENTATION
 OF MICRONATIONAL HISTORY
 ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRO-ANTIQUITIES

Volume 1, Issue 4
 August 2005

Lonenberg | Adelwin | Kernsopolis

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRO-ANTIQUITIES

RIMA JOURNAL

Talking Points...

- Danny Wallace, some British guy who isn't known outside of Britain (maybe Europe...who really cares), gets a TV show in the BBC in which he runs his own country. American audience shocked to learn that the BBC isn't just the name of an Austin Power's song.
- Micronational oil traders fear regime change in Shireroth; prices for MCS oil futures skyrocket; Erik Metzler returns and claims all MCS oil as his intellectual property forcing panicking oil traders to found rival world map with "ten gazillion barrels of oil". Fictional resources suck.

this month's
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Amerada

politics and
 partisanship

Gotzborg Begins Major Economic Development Program

After having its attempts to start an economic simulation thwarted by the Ezboard Crash of 31 May, Gotzborg has seen its Home Office ministers and staff working vigorously over the latter weeks of July and the first weeks of August to bring that simulation back online.

One major difference between the earlier program and the revitalized program is that Gotzborg is now utilizing the popular PHP MicroXchange 2 (MX2)

intermicronational banking system instead of its own, intermicronationally isolated, PHP Bank program. The changeover will allow the Gotzborg economy to interact with more than a dozen intermicronational economies (at most – at the least whichever economies the Royal Government wishes to interact with); however, the Home Office says that any intermicronational transactions involving Gotzborg will not occur until September of this year at the earliest.

See "economic development" page 2

RIMA Journal Article Inspires Calls for Reform

An article concerning the apparent lack of direction of the Grand Commonwealth featured in the July 2005 issue of the RIMA Journal has inspired that organization's foreign affairs advisor, Rakesh Ackbar, to release his "Ackbar Plan."

The plan, which was the result of what Ackbar described as credible assertions in the news articles, is aimed at implementing executive and legislative re-

form throughout the Grand Commonwealth's governing structure as well as creating a feeling amongst the citizens of member nations to help them "feel [that] they have something to contribute [to the Commonwealth's future]".

See "Reforms" Page 4

Bored? Don't want to tackle that pile of paper work? Why not funnel your creative energy into an article each month?

For more details on how to write for the RIMA JOURNAL, see page 6.

RIMA Journal & The Alternative Join Forces

The RIMA Journal has reached an agreement with The Alternative Press which will see the latter publish regular news from the Republic of Anthelia in monthly issues of the Journal. The agreement was reached after discussions between Journal Editor Sir Liam Sinclair, and Alternative editor Koen Nevens (both members of the Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities), in which both agreed that it is best to combine as many resources as possible into one news publication. Mr. Nevens will author the "Alternative Views" column for the RIMA Journal, which will mark the current extent of the Alternative Press endeavours.

See 'Alternative Views' page 3

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Treisenberg Coup d'État Provokes Strong Reaction

Prince Franz Joseph of the Principality of Treisenberg announced on 05 Aug that a coup d'état had been staged against his leadership of that micronation by the Christian Democrat faction (led by Alexandra Lauverman, aka the Empress of Ovistania). Having been banned from the national forums, Prince Joseph launched an intermicronational appeal asking for advice on how to rectify the situation.

The request for assistance did not go unanswered with the Viking Empire of Stormark immediately dispatching military forces to Treisenberg as a show of force against the conspirators. John Darcy of Anthelia condemned the use of military forces, citing that such forces do not actually exist (Stormark dispatched aircraft carriers according to their government, as well as an amphibious group), and that the only way to help Treisenberg would be to get Prince Joseph access to the national forums.

In Gotzborg, reaction to the coup was just as strong, especially given the bitter history between that micronation's

government (and most of its population) and Ms. Lauverman. His Royal Majesty August Charles II issued a diplomatic note to the conspirators on behalf of the citizens and government of Gotzborg requesting the immediate return of control of Treisenberg and its government to rightful authorities. Militarily, with Gotzborg also being a rec-warring micronation (i.e. it participates in war games), two infantry regiments and a regiment of cavalry were ordered to limited mobilization status though no person in the Royal Government would confirm if the mobilization was in response to Stormark's military commitment (both micronations are very close diplomatic friends) and the Lauverman threat.

The coup was a short affair, lasting less than twenty-four hours, as Prince Joseph reported that he had hacked into the national forums and utilized a weapon which caused mass data loss. It is hoped that the lost information will be easily restored, though no update on that issue has yet been issued.Ω

King's Birthday Honours List 2005

King August Charles II of Gotzborg celebrated his birthday on 19 Jul 2005 and to mark the occasion, His Royal Majesty issued awards to more than a dozen foreign dignitaries, as well as to a large number of Gotzgers.

The highest award issued to a foreign dignitary, the Royal Order of Merit, Cross 2nd Class (Officers) w/ Sword & Crown, was given to the closest friend of August Charles, the Viking Emperor of Stormark, Harold Thorstein. Babkha's Shah, Ardashir Khan, received the next highest award issued to a foreign dignitary. Notable was the award issued to Atteran Emperor Mik'el Tzion, who was among half a

dozen sovereigns appointed to the position of Knight of the Most Honourable Order of the Eagle. Rumours in the Gotzborg suggest that the (relatively) insignificant placement in the Honours list serves to reflect the neglect Attera has shown towards Gotzborg since the end of the Noseworthy government a year ago this month.

Despite both Attera and Gotzborg being very close treaty allies, Emperor Tzion has not made it a point to visit Gotzborg in almost a year (though August Charles II has made some visits to the Solomonian Empire) and the Klosso government has largely ignored the former close relationship which began when Attera was the first micronation to approach Gotzborg and offer its friendship. Ω

Economic Development continued from Front Page

Recently appointed Economic Affairs Deputy Vice-Minister Sir Benjamin Gray, who took over the job shortly after leaving the Culture portfolio, has released a green paper on cultivating cash flow and ensuring economic health within the Royal Kingdom. One major recommendation in the paper was the established of "money sinks" which would be luxury items sold by the government to bring Thalers (Gotzborg's currency) back into the Treasury, thus helping to defeat, along with other measures, the biggest threat to micronational economic simulations – outgoing funds being far in excess of incoming funds to the national treasury.

Home Office Minister Sir Liam Sinclair has sternly stated that the Royal Government will begin to introduce fees for various government services on the grounds that taxation, which is traditionally the mainstay of a micronational government's income in any economic simulation, is unable to redirect enough currency back into the treasury on its own to ensure economic stability.

The proposed inclusion of a sales tax was met with a somewhat chilly reception by the Minister, who said that "trying to charge a sales tax on the exchange of products and services over MX2 is very hard to do, which means that any such sales tax may be charged annually on commercial accounts."

"There is a lot of work to be done with the Gotzborg economic simulation. Having worked on similar projects in half a dozen micronations over my four years in the hobby, I can say that moving too fast and not considering all options carefully can endanger the project. Where we are at in Gotzborg now is promising and while we are taking our time to get everything right, we are still moving at a pace which will encourage economic growth and the longevity of the simulation," Sinclair said.

The Home Office tentatively intends to release initial currency grants to Gotzborg citizens who have accounts at the Royal Bank of Commerce (via MX2) on Friday, August 12, with the first salaries being paid out on the last day of this month. Ω



The Novasolan movement: its success and its meaning

Efforts to tighten the bonds between micronations are often welcomed with scepticism and criticism. Critical voices often raise concerns over state sovereignty and awakening imperialism. One might recall the heavy – and by times harsh – debates which were brought about by the foundation of the Grand Commonwealth, considered an imperialistic project. In another example, dating from July 11th, the Lavalonian Supreme Court struck down the VUAS Treaty. This international agreement intended to form a very close union between Natopia, Lavalon, Faronia and New Germany, but *de facto* seemed to mean an integration of other micronations into Natopia. On the other side, feelings of scepticism seem to flow from the many failed projects intermicronationalism has known. These feelings were best put to words by a notorious micronationalist [Editor's note: referring to Mr. Bill Dusch; same reference throughout article] a few weeks ago: "*like most projects in micronations, it never will get finished. Few projects hardly get finished, especially conferences - they become failures*".

A project which has seemed to arise little scepticism and criticism, has been the continental conference organised by Anthelia. That continental conference mainly had two objectives: (a) to have all nations of a certain continent agree upon a treaty on non-aggression, judicial cooperation, free movement of citizens and human rights; (b) to have all nations of a certain continent agree upon geographical and climatological standards, especially names of regions, seas, rivers, etc. The outcome of the conference is noteworthy. The first objective has been fully achieved: the *Novasolum Treaty regarding safety and liberty within an area of freedom, security and justice* was signed by five micronations, namely Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg, Natopia and Rio Grande. Already three of those nations (Anthelia, Gotzborg, Natopia) ratified the treaty and thus, the agreement entered into force on July 20th 2005. The second objective is not yet fulfilled, but the involved micronations did agree to name their continent *Novasolum*, which explains why the afore mentioned treaty has been entitled the Novasolum Treaty. It can also be said that the Anthelian project has instigated a real *Novasolan movement*. Gotzborg and Anthelia have taken the first steps in closer police cooperation, a transport convention is being held in Anthelia upon initiative of the King of Gotzborg; a convention in which Rio Grande and Natopia have already shown interest. Rio Grande even offered to organise conventions on other subject matters on their territory.

One might wonder why the Anthelian continental conference did result in less criticism and scepticism than other intermicronational efforts. I believe there are several reasons.

First of all, the project launched by Anthelia was clearly of interest to little micronations. Nations not present on Novasolum did not and had no reason to interfere in the proceedings. Except for the incidents caused by a notorious micronationalist on the issue of cultural heritage, the conference was not really troubled by sceptic or critical voices from outside.

Secondly, it was a policy of the Anthelian minister of foreign affairs to maintain a low profile for the conference. No formal announcements concerning the conference were initially planned or made. Invitations to the participating nations were mostly sent by private message. "No publicity, good politics" was indeed the motto and the truth in these words can without a doubt be demonstrated. Until an announcement of president John Darcy of Anthelia the conference had almost gone unnoticed. From good source we know that the Anthelian minister of foreign affairs, Koen Nevens, was not pleased with the public announcement made by his President, because he feared unnecessary interference. And indeed, the presidential message lead to troublemaking by a notorious micronationalist, who until that time had remained in the dark as to the existence, or at least the venue of the conference.

Thirdly, the project of the conference was in its nature not very much alike to raise criticism and scepticism. Traditional matters were put on the table, such as non-aggression and police/judicial cooperation. It was certainly not the attempt to create a supranational or international organisation. It was immediately made clear by the government of Anthelia that the conference would lead to a multilateral treaty at most. The intent to merge nations was never open for discussion. Hence, all invited nations were immediately interested in participating and ultimately they did tighten their bonds. In my opinion some potentially very meaningful and valuable provisions were adopted.

With regard to aggression for instance, the Novasolum Treaty provides that the signatory micronations shall inform and consult one another in order to ensure that their influence is exerted as effectively as possible by means of concerted and convergent action and that they may, for this purpose, adopt common positions to which the national policies shall be conformed. One can see a very first step towards a common foreign policy, acceptable to all signatory micronations. It might be a small step, but concerns as raised by the first article of the (too) ambitious VUAS-Treaty, which ceded foreign affairs to one micronation, were definitely avoided.

Continued Page 10



Ackbar, Cutterham at Odds on Reforms

Continued from Front Page

On the issue of executive reform, Ackbar points to the lopsidedness of the two most important positions in the Commonwealth – the Shahan-Ri (head of state) and the Taoiseach (head of government). Under the reforms, the Shahan-Ri would have to approve all legislation governing the Commonwealth and serve as the final arbiter (judge) and head of the combined militaries. The Taoiseach would continue as present, with the exception that a council of ministers would be formed through which he would govern. These reforms would, in the words of Ackbar, mean that the Commonwealth's executive is no longer just the Taoiseach, but “instead a collaborative effort between the Shahan-Ri, Taoiseach and the Council of Ministers,” echoing the general executive format found in most constituent micronations of the organization.

The legislative form centers on a controversial issue – replacing the current unicameral legislature with a bicameral body consisting of a senate (committee of nations) and a national assembly. The Committee of Nations will be headed by the Shahan-Ri and sit one representative per Commonwealth micronation and would serve to highly scrutinize all legislation passed by its lesser cousin. The committee would be the successor of the current Majlis i-Dharma and as such would have sole powers over amending the constitution, accepting new micronations into the organization, and carrying out judicial functions. The National Assembly would be given the power to overrule the Committee of Nations via a supermajority vote and, headed by the Taoiseach, will ensure that the interests of both the Commonwealth and the member states are upheld (the Committee is concerned solely with the interests of the Commonwealth in contrast).

A bicameral legislative system is highly controversial in micronationalism given that most such systems quickly

Satrap Reforms Challenged

Reforms announced to the Babkhan provinces, or Satraps, by Babkhan Shah Ardashir Khan are being challenged by Rakesh Ackbar in a petition to the Justices of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Ackbar is arguing that the reforms are illegal on the basis that the borders of the Satraps are determined, under the constitution, by the parliament and not by a decree of the Shah. An injunction petition from Ackbar was denied by William Bagram, the chairman of the tribunal, and a hearing on the matter is ongoing. Ω

The RIMA Journal is looking for a correspondent to file a story each month on issues affecting Attera/Cyberia. If you are interested, email adelwin@kernsopolis.com

become inoperable due to the lack of manpower and the usual diversions affecting micronationalists. The inability for a mainstream micronation based on the Internet to maintain constant activity in both houses of a bicameral system often leads to backlogs in legislation and inaction. Reaction to the Ackbar Plan has been varied with his peers in the Commonwealth leaning in favour of the legislative reforms, yet remaining reserved at the executive reforms. Rashid Arsalani, more commonly known as Ric Lyon, showed concern that the Shahan-Ri would be made into a political figure by being involved in the legislative process, a characteristic not originally meant for the position.

The most vocal opponent of the plan is Thomas Cutterham who, in response to the plan, released his own reform agenda citing “I do not pin my hopes for the future of the Commonwealth on [Ackbar's] reforms.” Cutterham does not believe that additional bureaucracy is required to make the Commonwealth a more effective body. In his agenda, Cutterham addresses the legislative issue by recommending the continued use of the unicameral Majlis i-Dharma with the role of the Taoiseach being separated from the legislature to permit the legislature to serve as a balance to the executive. He also believes that it is best that the legislature serve as the final arbiter of the law.

With respect to the cabinet, Cutterham's faith in the United States of America governing system becomes apparent, as his proposal involves having the advisors to the Taoiseach approved by the legislature. Viziers would be appointed to serve in various capacities under each advisor, with a cabinet being formed to approve any government legislation bound for the Majlis i-Dharma. The military would, like in the Ackbar Plan, be relegated to the direct control of the Shahan-Ri, conforming to the majority of micronations (and macronations alike) where the head of state is the commander-in-chief of all military forces in a respective state. Ω

Cyberia Celebrates 8th Anniversary

The Virtual Commonwealth of Cyberia, reputed to be the oldest Internet-based micronation of the Anglophone Sector, celebrated its eighth anniversary on 19 July 2005.

In his speech to the nation, President Jack Santucci praised two current Cyberians for their contributions in the “thankless” roles. Those Cyberians are David Catchpole, who has served for three years as the law recorder of the National Assembly, and Adam Graham who abstains from political life (which is by far the main reason any person joins Cyberia) so that elections can be carried out by a neutral party every three months.

Cyberia celebrates the first major anniversary in July month as the Atteran Empire prepares to celebrate its twenty-sixth year on 31 Jul, perhaps its last as a viable micronation on the world stage. Ω

Some Characteristics of a Vibrant, and Successful, Micronation

There is a false, or perhaps popular, idea in micronationalism that a vibrant and successful micronation is one which has lots of activity, namely in numbers of posts per day or website hits. In the rare occasion that I get to visit some of the younger micronations these days, I am always amazed to see how naïve their members are: “we are a major micronation because we have thirty posts per day!”

Of course, such thinking is further from reality than the participants of the Fifth World micronations (those micronations who think they have macronational sovereignty). The number of daily posts or visits to a micronation’s website has nothing to do with determining if that micronation is vibrant and successful. There are many things which determine the success of a micronation, three of which I will mention this month.

First, and by far the most important, is the details of the activity of the micronation. If a micronation has thirty posts per day, it is vital to consider where those posts are coming from if the micronation is to receive a pleasant label. The major problem in many micronations, young and old, today is that activity is centralized around one person. If that person goes on a leave of absence or suddenly falls off of the face of the Earth, the micronation, despite having other leaders and some dedicated participants, begins to falter.


An excellent example is the Solomonian Empire of Attera over the past two years: in 2003, I became Prime Minister of that micronation just as the majority of its active population was leaving for the war in Iraq or becoming too busy macro-nationally to maintain activity. The result was that I was forced to take on roughly 99% of the government work in order to keep the nation operational, as per my promise to its Emperor, Mik’el Tzion. Getting into the habit of running the government myself, when the time came to adjust to a new population influx, the combination of my habit as well as my severely reduced time for micronations last summer meant that everything I developed in Attera was contingent on me remaining active there. When I left in February, the entire Atteran national infrastructure fell completely apart and anarchy took hold. Then, when it came time for that micronation to move on, the person who was doing the same thing as I was before I became prime minister, Mik’el Tzion, ended up back in his old habit and went away on deployment workup this summer leaving his Prime Minister, Johanns fonn Klosso, with no constitutional mandate (the new Atteran constitution does not give the prime minister a mandate as the third and fourth constitutions during my reign as Prime Minister). Simply put, for the better part of the past three

years, Attera has not been a vibrant or successful micronation because all its eggs were always in one basket.

Also important is to have a dedicated ‘civil service’; by which I mean that your population should not all sit in the legislature. A micronation needs a number of participants equal to that of its legislators (at the very least) to carry out the laws passed by the legislators. For example, look at Cyberia: practically all of its active participants sit in the legislature, or work directly in the legislative process (speaker and gazette maintainers). It has no population available to dedicate to implementing the laws passed by its National Assembly and thus a lot of decent ideas never see the light of day. Cyberia is pretty well nothing more than the debating club of the Anglophone Sector – it is not a vibrant or successful micronation; it is simply just an eight year old debating club that has survived only on the bickering between its participants.

The in-depth discussion of issues affecting the national direction of a micronation is also very important in deciding its successfulness. A successful micronation will have a decent portion of its active population actively engaged in giving its government their views on an issue vital to the population. In many micronations today there are dedicated discussions on such issues; however, more often than not, the quality of the contributions by the micronationalists holding citizen in the micronations is less than pleasing (with many not saying a word as they’re too disinterested or lazy to read up on the issue). If the population cannot provide quality feedback to its government on important issues, the micronation can never achieve any mark of greatness. Mind you, governments need not listen to anything the population says in such discussions, but holding them alone brings together all sorts of views which may prove to benefit the micronation in the future – or at the very least convince the population the government values their input and allow it to remain in power a bit longer.

The final characteristic of a vibrant and successful micronation I wish to mention is that it has an active literary culture. By that I mean that there is a regularly published news service in the micronation, as well as participants publishing works of history, fiction, or non-fiction. The success of a micronation intermicronationally is often measured by how much information and attention it can grab and the best way to do this is through the use of media. The greater the literary collection of a micronation, the more attention it can attract, and the more material it has to lure interested parties (i.e. potential citizens) to join. Ω

<p>RIMA Journal Monthly Statistics *total number of downloads per issue as of 23 Jul 2005 <i>May 2005 Issue: 180</i> <i>June 2005 Issue: 157</i> <i>July 2005 Issue: 342</i></p>	<p>Questions, Comments or Suggestions?</p> <p>Contact the RIMA Journal via email at</p> <p></p>	<p><i>Editor’s Note:</i> It’s time to move back to university next month, so expect the September RIMA Journal to be behind schedule, perhaps to the latter weeks of the month, instead of being out by the 15th of the month. That schedule may continue all semester for the final issues of this year depending on my commitments.</p>
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Letters to the Editor

Re: "London Bombing Spurs Racism", July 2005 Issue

Where has the notion that the Kingdom of Babkha has made a decree against transsexuals come from? I'm sure we celebrate diversity as whole heartedly as anyone else. Believe me, if we were to ban transsexuals, and bracket them alongside the Elfinshi and Tudeh as undesirables unworthy of the breath of life, the decree would carry the Imperial signature for all the world to see. As there is no decree carrying the signature of the Osman Shahanshah, it follows that we have not banned transsexuals from the Kingdom. Instead we extend our peace to them and grant them our tolerance, just as we tolerate so many other things.

On the possibility that the misperception of there being a ban on transsexuals in Babkha may have arisen from the Jumah Kutba given by al Baqir, in his capacity as Mufti of Kamalshahr. Any statement that the Mufti of Kamalshahr has made has been made as the Mufti of Kamalshahr and

not as an accredited representative of the government of the Kingdom of Babkha or His Imperial Majesty. I will defend his right to make whatever statements please him inside Babkha but I will remind all concerned that the statements of citizens in their non-official capacities do not carry weight as official pronouncements and do not represent official policy.

Needless to say the Kingdom of Babkha will expect and require a formal apology from the RIMA Journal regarding its inaccurate journalism. Indeed, knowing the persons and the institutions involved we are surprised at such an elementary mistake which is more redolent of the bad old days of the Apollo Skyline.

- Ardashir Khan, Shah of Babkha

Apologies for the error regarding Babkha, I'm not sure how I managed to misinterpret the situation. I'll endeavour to make sure that this rare mistake remains just that. - The Editor

General Comments

Very good as always. Your seriousness never ceases to amaze me, and some of the articles, especially the one about what micronational history is, were very well done.

- Micronationalist Scott Siskind

I particularly like the unexpected publicity for my not-so-secret micronational project.

- Benjamin Gray, re: "Gray Resigns" July 2005

Re: "Anthelia Spearheads Continental Conference", July 2005

This issue doesn't show why the situation broke down in the conference, which was because of Darcy's insulting suggestion of the Tapferites having "mass hallucinations" in order to induce fantasy/fiction (even though the definition of fictional history in micronations is history that did not actually happen on the internet but was made up, which includes anything simulationist).

- Micronationalist Bill Dusch

I thought the RIMA article dealt fairly with the events as they occurred, without bogging down the article by dragging up all the arguments. It is also worth noting that the map project is not finished, but with many other things going on in Anthelia right now it has been pushed into the background for a while.

- President John Darcy, Republic of Anthelia

Re: "Grand Commonwealth Appears Lost", July 2005 Issue

One minor correction about the Grand Commonwealth - it has not lost its way. In between consuming vast quantities of ice creams, there has been quite a bit of business revolving around fine-tuning the government structure, conducting foreign relations and holding the occasional 'military exercise'.

- Sir Iain de Vembria, co-founder of the Commonwealth

Want to write for the RIMA Journal?

RIMA is currently looking for interested persons who wish to write articles for the monthly publication of the RIMA JOURNAL. This publication is published at the beginning of each month, with a submission deadline for article in the third week of each month (submitters will be notified of the deadline each month).

As a submitter, you can write articles on current or historical events. Typical minimum length for articles is a mere 150 words with the subject of the article being the choice of the submitter (subjects will require approval). Furthermore, if you hold a bank account in Gotzborg, RIMA will issue you financial reimbursement in Thalers for each of your articles that is published.

If you're willing to take fifteen minutes a month to make your contribution to the documentation of micronational history and affairs, contact us to apply.

Email: 

RIMA Briefs

- RIMA has released a tender for the construction of a website for the institution. Details of the tender can be obtained by contacting the President, Liam Sinclair. Bids are due by 15 August 2005.
- RIMA adopted a motion by member Iain de Vembria to change the name of the Royal Institute of Micro-Antiquities to the "Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities" effect 01 Sep 2005.



Reflections on Amerada

The following is an excerpt from the forthcoming RIMA publication “Amerada” which will combine past work by Mr. Liam Sinclair on Amerada history with a lot of new material. The publication is in development and is set to be released later this year.

Amerada was an enigma of sorts, bringing together the conflicts which arise when a micronation focuses too much on simulation while, at the same time, trying to operate using real micronationalists as the primary lifeblood of the endeavour.

There were many times when this enigma caused conflict between the two camps of Amerada society – the Democratic Liberal Party of Amerada camp (supporters of Earl Washburn) and the Republican Conservative Alliance of Amerada camp (those who didn’t like how Washburn was running the country, basically). These conflicts were very intense political arguments and, in many cases, resulted in personal attacks through Amerada media against the leadership of each side and even criminal charges in the Amerada Supreme Court.

Amerada’s political scene was reminiscent of the United States of Amerada during a presidential election period, or, if you’d like to mirror another micronation, daily life in the Virtual Commonwealth of Cyberia. Naturally there is a major difference between Amerada and Cyberia political fights – Amerada’s had an origin in an important issue of the day and grew nasty in many cases, whereas Cyberia’s political fights star out as personal attacks and have no real contribution to society.

Contrary to popular belief, there was never any hatred between the major political players in Amerada – myself, Earl Washburn and Nicholas Bridgewater – while we certainly disagreed to titanic proportions on many issues and sometimes got personal, it was all politics. That separation of politics and personal relationships in micronations is very hard to achieve and was quite a feat for a population that consisted largely of people in their mid-teens (not exactly the most mature time of a person’s life). Though I recall many times when Earl was convinced that I had a hatred of him constantly after some of the political spats we had over federal-colonial relations in the nation!

By August 2003 my interest in Amerada was dropping off as the nation was unable to recover from the massive blow to its activity just months earlier. That blow was when the government, which at the time consisted of the opponents of Washburn (who was defeated as President in December 2002), attempted to take control of Amerada’s national

forums for security reasons. Washburn refused to give up his control over those forums and as a result, the government created new forums and directed the population to use the new instead of the old under Washburn’s control. Unfortunately Washburn was able to convince the majority of the active population that Amerada had folded, when in fact it had not, causing only a small handful of the population to remain in the nation. It was the final political blow to the nation, proving the ever-true saying in micronationalism that political parties, in the end, will be the demise of a micronation.

It was that August when I decided to leave Amerada and give up my official membership in that nation, almost two years after I initially joined the Amerada experience in October 2001. At that time, I was becoming more active in another micronational project, the Imperial Federation of Atteran States (commonly called Attera), and decided to devote my full time to that nation. Amerada had, until that point, been the longest micronational membership which I had held; and, to this day, remains the most interesting aspect of my micronational participation.

Many have approached me and laughed at my documentation of Amerada history, generally due to the common micronational feeling that Amerada was a “bug-nation” (a micronation of no consequence or interest). These people obviously never bothered to become involved in the Amerada enigma and can never appreciate the complexity and interest of that nation. I have thoroughly enjoyed writing this publication, four times over, and it is my sincere hope that it relays to the reader that interest Amerada so vibrantly emitted for over two years.

Amerada is a micronation that has taken the path so commonly followed by other such endeavours. The only difference between Amerada and many other micronations that no longer exist is that it was colourfully alive and exciting - far from a “bug nation”. To those who were members of that endeavour, the Ameradians, I salute you for creating two years of interesting and accomplished debate, despite the descents into political hostility.

Liam Sinclair

Gotzborg Home Office Notice: Citizens of Gotzborg and other interested parties are asked to take note that the Gotzborg economic simulation has started as of 12 Aug 2005. Those citizens who do not register an account with the Royal Bank of Commerce will not be entitled to receive salary. <http://www.geocities.com/gotzborghomeoffice>

This Month in Micronational History

Aug 2001: Scott Siskind's first news publication, the *Apollo Fireball*, celebrates its one-hundredth news issue. The *Fireball* first published on 08 Sep 2000.

Aug 2002: Amerada President Earl Washburn surprises his micronation by appointing Scott Noseworthy as his new Vice-President following the resignation of VP Jonathan Weatherhead. Noseworthy is a staunch Washburn opponent politically and the first member of an opposition party to be appointed to cabinet.

Also in August 2002, Robert Belci (later Johanns fonn Kloss) makes remarks at Micronations.org that will eventually lead to the Attera-Cranda Crisis later that month.

Aug 2004: Attera and Babkha sign the Argaath Perez Accords after more than a year of negotiations, ending three years of conflict and animosity between the two micronations.

August 2003 seems to be a black hole for news records. - the Editor

Partisan Media in Amerada

The media is a powerful tool for any micronation to attract attention, or for political players within a micronation to distribute their opinions on current events. In the majority of micronations on the Internet, both today and during the days of yesteryears, there is generally only one active news source and it is fairly non-partisan (this being the case because most micronations no longer have the capability to run several active news sources).

Amerada had the distinction of being the only micronation in the Anglophone Sector which had large amounts of regularly updated press – at one time there were close to half a dozen active news services within the Republic. These news services were very partisan in nature, with all being run by members of the dominant Democratic Liberal Party of Amerada (DLPA - the government of Amerada from 2001 to the end of 2002) or the members of the opposition movement attempting to gain greater power in the Republic.

The news publications were extremely partisan in scope, with it being no surprise that opposition news services harshly criticized the DLPA members and DLPA news services attacking the opposition members. In fact, the services were aligned in to very partisan camps – the Amerada Associated Press (founded by the opposition supporting news services) and the Amerada Reuters (founded by the DLPA supporting services in response to the Associate Press). While not favoured in news services, the partisanship shown in Amerada news was indicative of the lively and intense political climate which was the key characteristic of the micronation for most of its existence.

If you ever wish to see the partisanship evident in Amerada news, all you need to do is read the early issues of the Micronational Free Press (the first dozen issues or so when it was known as the Los-Antréal Times-Journal, based in the Amerada colony of Tebec, and the primary Amerada opposition news service). And be sure to read the Washiawa Post-Citizen archives on the Internet which was the primary DLPA news service. Ω

Amerada's Simulated Population

It is common in many micronations that exist on the Internet for a simulated population to exist as a convenient method for the micronation to resemble the traits associated with the macronational world. After all, basing national characteristics on the real population alone presents a major block to the primary goal of micronationalists – to participate in clones of macronations when the micronationalist himself is unable to participate in the running of a macronation. With a simulated population, the real populace of the micronation can create national statistics, especially in the area of economics, religion, and so on.

One micronation which was an early pioneer in the utilization of simulated population was the Republic of Amerada. This micronation used a simple system to mimic population growth and other national characteristics by having each visit to the national website represent one new simulated citizen of the Republic. The system, devised by Amerada co-founder Earl Washburn, allowed the creation of laws that served to simulate a macronation, such as traffic laws and social support programs, as the population grew and changed. The actual breakdown of the simulated population throughout the dependencies of Amerada as well as the individual characteristics associated with the population, were all determined through sometimes complex methods all devised by Washburn.

Yet for Amerada's leadership in using simulated population figures to achieve a very detail-intensive mimicking of macronational concepts, the system soon caused problems for the nation indirectly. Washburn was always proud of his simulated population system, so much to the point that he became obsessed with making it work and having Amerada modeled around the simulated population's characteristics. This obsession came to the point where Washburn put greater emphasis on "pleasing" his simulated population than pleasing the actual real flesh-and-blood citizens of Amerada.

The greatest involvement of the simulated population in Amerada was in the electoral system in which easily manipulated Internet polls were used to mimic that population being the actual voters in federal, and local, elections. With a real population of approximately two dozen persons, Amerada's elections would see hundreds of votes in order to simulate macronational elections. Eventually the opposition movement to Washburn became irritated at such sloppy methods of conducting national elections that the issue became the biggest affecting the Republic in 2002.

Amidst calls for electoral reform from prominent opposition leaders Nicholas Bridgewater and Scott Noseworthy, Washburn defiantly responded that the simulated population was Amerada, and that it took precedence over the needs of the flesh-and-blood citizens (the comment was made in a personal conversation between Washburn and Noseworthy). With Washburn's defeat in the 2002 presidential election, that election marks the last time Internet polls were used in the electoral system to mimic the simulated population. Under the Bridgewater regime, the simulated population took a backseat and Amerada refocused on the needs of its real participants, with elections then being conducted via systems to ensure one vote per person only.

Such a great and innovative simulated population development system was destroyed because its creator put it ahead of the needs of the real population of the micronation – a lesson to be remembered by all micronations using simulated populations. Ω

From the Archives

This month I've decided to stick to the overall theme of the issue - Amerada - by choosing an article dealing with governmental reform. One of the common themes of Amerada's opposition parties was reform to give them more of a say in the governing of the micronation; something which Earl Washburn was not highly in favour of as he was more comfortable with no one being able to challenge his power. While the three month term for the president, as proposed by Yuri Andropov, is a little ridiculous, it underscored the need to change the length of the presidential term (which was a period of four years at this time as Washburn wished to imitate macronational politics in Canada and the United States where governments serve four years terms - or five at most in Canada). - The Editor

Major Changes Proposed for the Amerada Legislature
 Micronational Free Press | Republic of Amerada | July 26, 2002

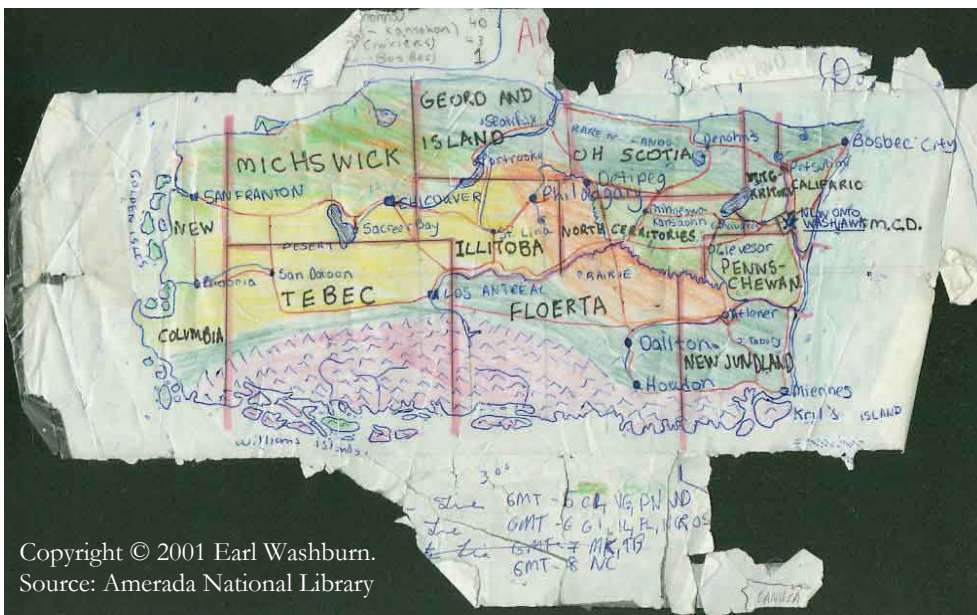
This week, a new bill was tabled for debate in the Amerada Legislature. This bill is one of the few remaining that was proposed by Yuri Andropov during his short federally active life in Amerada (Andropov is now the governor of the colony of Floerta). The bill proposed will limit the presidential term to three months, as well as the conduction of elections on the Amerada Ezboard, the latter of which would mean an end to the use of internet polls to simulate the votes of the "simulated" citizens of Amerada.

The debate has presented the Legislature with a rare direct democracy vote on how the bill should be amended. While no one wants the clause limiting the presidential term removed, there seems to be a general consensus, with a couple of exceptions, that the term should be more than just three months. The third clause, which is the one concerning a new voting procedure for Amerada elections, has been staunchly opposed by President Washburn, and he is the only person to have voted for its removal from the bill. The President is a firm believer in the simulated citizens of Amerada plan, after all, it was his creation. The President stated in response to the proposal, "No, Amerada is a nation of simulation. Therefore, it would be undemocratic to let only our 'active' [i.e. real] citizens vote."

Ironically, if only the "active" citizens of Amerada were to vote, a vast percentage of the Amerada Government and Legislature would not be permitted to vote as they are doing as much for the nation as a simulated citizen - nothing! A possible reorganization of the government to reduce its size and thus make a more feasible, active, government of Amerada was recently, candidly, discussed by Noseworthy and Washburn, but no official comments on the idea have been released by the government to date.

Nicholas Bridgewater, the only legislator from the opposition parties in Amerada, favoured the third clause to be rewritten to facilitate email ballots instead of the Ezboard ballot method, though he is not opposed to the Ezboard ballot method either. He hasn't voted on how the bill should be reorganized at this time however. Mr. Bridgewater also believes that a four month Presidential term is more reasonable and that more frequent, fair, elections would make Amerada more popular.Ω

History Through Images: The First Map of the Republic of Amerada



This is a digital copy of the first ever map of the Republic of Amerada, designed by Earl Washburn, who was, during his participation, easily the most skilled cartographer of the Anglophone Sector (given that it was his passion - all his maps for Amerada were originally hand drawn and highly detailed featuring topographical information as well as continental divides, etc). The map shows the completed Republic of Amerada, though the official digital map only showed each of the colonies when they were founded. The original map, as you can see, survived major damage after Washburn's pet dog mistook it for food. Ω

Copyright © 2001 Earl Washburn.
 Source: Amerada National Library

“...heraldry plays one of the most important components within micronationalism...”

The heraldry of the Royal Kingdom of Gotzborg is perhaps the most popular and interesting characteristics defining that micronation. With virtually all citizens having been issued personalized crests, it stands as the only micronation to have such a widespread collection of heraldic work. All of the splendid talent of heraldry in Gotzborg lies in one persons hands: King August Charles II. The RIMA Journal had the opportunity to ask His Royal Majesty some candid questions on the topic and art of heraldry.

RIMA Journal: What importance do you think heraldry serves in micronationalism?

August Charles: I think that heraldry plays one of the most important components within micronationalism. As humans we are naturally drawn to those places or things which display unique and attractive qualities. The [micronation's] theme may play a part, but it is enhanced and 'sold', if-you-will, to the prospective citizen based upon the heraldry which that nation displays. While no comprehensive study (that I am aware of) has been done on the reasons why people join micronations in the first place, personally a majority of the feedback I have received was, in part, due to the heraldic content and overall graphic content of the nation. Overall the importance of heraldry in micronationalism serves to provide a tapestry which enhances a nations theme, style, attractiveness and mood. This in turn creates its perceived importance and value within the micronational world.

RIMA Journal: When you see a poorly designed national crest or, for that matter, even a flag or other armorial, does that affect your first opinion of that micronation?

August Charles: Actually I am not displeased in any way. I look first from the viewpoint on someone who was once in the same boat. It has taken me a long time to hone my own skills and abilities. I admire anyone's ability to make an attempt. And although there are some horridly bad things out there, I have seen worse and thankfully they have passed from the scene. When I see a poorly designed crest, flag or armorial, I do find it sometimes sets preconceived notions about the maturity, seriousness or value to a nation, but like with anything, what you see on the outside does not necessarily mean the inside is the same.



RIMA Journal: Where would you suggest I go to find resources on heraldry?

August Charles: With heraldry you are going to have to go to the old fashioned paper book. There are many good heraldry books out there which you can most likely find in bargain bins, used book stores or the regular big box stores which sell them. Among the best ones to get are The Wordsworth Complete Guide to Heraldry, Oxford Guide to Heraldry, and Heraldry by Peter Gwyn-Jones are just a few. [These are] to explain the reasoning and rationale behind who, what, where when and why of heraldry. Once you can gain some basic understandings and appreciations, there are other books more picture intensive which are good to use to glean ideas and see actual applications of heraldic law. Ω

ShireWiki Launched
 The Imperial Republic of Shireroth has launched that micronation's 'personalized' encyclopaedia. ShireWiki provides a comprehensive directory of information regarding Shireroth history and current events and is a recommended read for all history enthusiasts or people who just like to know everything. MicroWiki, the micronational encyclopaedia which crashed earlier this year, will be integrated on the Shireroth national website as well. <http://www.shireroth.org>

Alternative Views continued from page 3

The Novasolum Treaty also provides for the right of citizens of the signatory micronations to move freely within and between the territory of those signatory parties and to remain on those territories. This is probably not an uncommon provision, if it were not that this provision also entails a directly applicable non-discrimination clause. This clause has already had an impact on Anthelian law. When the Anthelian minister of economy and finance wanted to impose an extra requirement for foreigners to get a banking license, the Anthelian minister of foreign affairs argued that such requirement would be discriminatory vis à vis Novasolans which are not of Anthelian citizenship. Finally, the requirement was not inserted in the Anthelian Banking Act. And another example can be cited. The Anthelian Income Support Bill, currently being discussed by the Anthelian citizens, provides that a person is eligible to receive payment if, for one, he is a citizen of the Republic of Anthelia, a recognised refugee in Anthelia, or a citizen of a nation party to the Novasolum Treaty. A Gotzer residing in Anthelia could just as easy get income support as an Anthelian. Thus, in time the Novasolum Treaty might strike down many discriminations based upon nationality only.

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Finally, the adoption of a common human rights declaration is also of importance. To our knowledge little human rights declarations made by several sovereign micronations, exist. The Novasolum human rights declaration certainly backbones national human rights provisions, but may also lead to the inclusion of new rights into the national legal order of the signatory micronations. The right to equitable working conditions for example, is not included in the Anthelian Constitution, but is a part of the Novasolum Treaty. Hence, the Novasolum Treaty means more protection for persons residing in a Novasolan micronation.

A.J. | 22 July 2005

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RIMA Journal

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRONATIONAL ANTIQUITIES

December 2005

Volume 2 Issue 1

new look!

In this Issue



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Out with the Old, In with the New

Every year there is some theme which can be used to describe the events dominating the micronational community. This year, the micronational community experience can be summed up aptly with the everyday phrase “out with the old, in with the new.”

This year saw the end of many micronations; however, unlike previous years, 2005 was a year of renewal in micronationalism, with many of the big and powerful established micronations finally showing that they’ve reached the end of their creative existence. Two of the most powerful micronations of the last five years were suddenly hit with inactivity and lack of direction

as the year newly arrived, and were unable to recover, not for lack of trying.

Ironically, both of the aforementioned micronations constituted the Sector’s longest and most dangerous rivalry. With both of their micronations failing, the governments of Babkha and Attera, which had negotiated a tenuous peace after a year of negotiations in 2004, decided to renew their rivalry in an attempt to spur activity. Unfortunately, both governments failed to realize that the last time the rivalry had benefited either was back in 2001 during the days of Tymaria.

See Editor’s Column, page 6

M.C.S Rival Proposed

Former Anthelian President John Darcy has tabled a proposal at Micronations.net to form the “Micronational Fantasy Mapping Association”. The proposal is in response to recent changes in Micronational Cartography Society terms of service preventing members from participating in other map projects. Ω

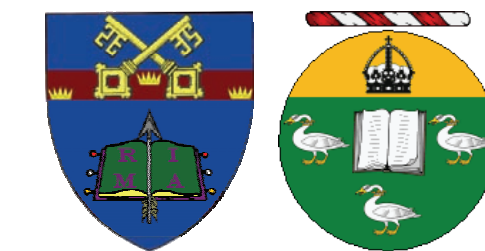
Wiki Evolution?

Micronations.net is currently working to implement a Wiki-based website format in the New Year. The new format will allow for easier updates of the popular micronational hub as well as expanded content. The Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities Robert Davis Library will also be hosted on the new Micronations.net site. Ω

RIMA Granted New Armorial

The Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities has been granted two new armorials which now adorn the historical society’s head office and library. The armorial which is used for the entire Institute was designed as the first commercial armorial by Gotzborg’s Royal Herald, David Roest, under the authority of RIMA’s patron, King August Charles II. The second armorial will grace the Robert Davis Library, the Institute’s in-house library of historical information, and was designed by Mr. Davis as a gift to the Institute.

Both armorials have been designed to reflect the academic nature of the Institute as well as its commitment to furthering the historical field in the micronational Anglophone Sector. The armorial granted by the Royal Herald also reflects the Institute’s royal warrant, granted by King



[LEFT TO RIGHT] The new armorials for the Robert Davis Library and the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities. (RIMA)

August Charles upon its foundation in early 2005.

RIMA founder Liam Sinclair was appreciative of the two armorials, citing that both will greatly assist in the administrative development of the Institute and its public image. Ω

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New Banking Service

Sir David Roest of Gotzborg has opened a new private banking service that will provide savings accounts and loans to the general public.

Royal Bison Savings and Loans will operate out of Gotzborg and is the first private banking company to operate in the Anglophone Sector since the failure of Austi Scot's First Micronational Bank earlier this year. A website is forthcoming. Ω

Cranda Disbands

The Kingdom of Cranda, which traces its roots back to 2002, has been officially disbanded following a dismal year in terms of activity from its citizenry.

The Kingdom, which had seceded its sovereignty to the Viking Empire of Stormark just months ago, was disbanded following a vote of its citizens. Its lands on the Micronational Cartography Society's world map will be divided among several micronations, including Gotzborg, Stormark, and Alexandra. Ω

Controversial Citizen

Early December saw a very controversial citizenship application sent to Gotzborg's Ministry of Immigration and Human Resources.

Former citizen Alexandra Lauverman, who has had a very colourful history in that Gotzborg, applied for citizenship on 08 Dec. Following a long and heated debate by the Royal Cabinet, she was granted provisional citizenship. Ω

Gotzborg Legislature Given Breath of Life

The Chamber of Deputies, Gotzborg's federal unicameral legislature, has been brought back to life after a long hiatus with its activity reaching record levels in recent weeks. The source of the new-found focus on the legislature, which has played a minimal part in Gotzborg's administration since that micronation was founded, is a recent immigrant to Gotzborg from Hanover.

Almost immediately upon receiving his provisional citizenship in early December, former Hanoverian noble George Frederick Guelph quickly went to work to bring the Chamber back to relevance through tabling several bills for debate. To date, he has written and tabled four bills for discussion in the Chamber, which is a forum for all Gotzborg citizens. These bills include a constitutional amendment, regulation of banking entities, reform of the legal system, and a peerages bill. Long-time Gotzborg citizen David Roest, who has recently returned to activity in the micronation, has also tabled a bill dealing with the regulation of coat of arms.

The Coat of Arms Bill is designed to prevent the use of illegal arms within the Royal Kingdom of Gotzborg. Citizens of Gotzborg, as well as entities based in that micronation, would not be allowed to display a coat of arms that has not received confirmation from His Royal Majesty, the King, without being subject to punishment by the Home Office. The bill is widely expected

to pass, with all votes cast to date (16 Dec) being in favour. The bill may soon be given its first challenge upon passage as the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities utilizes an armorial for its Robert Davis Library which has not received the confirmation of His Royal Majesty or the Royal Herald of Gotzborg.

Another bill expected to pass unanimously is the Banking Regulatory Bill, which evolved out of a request by a private citizen to open a private entity to provide banking services to the public in competition with the Royal Bank of Commerce, Gotzborg's central bank. The bill recognizes the supremacy of the Royal Bank; however it would also allow both domestic and foreign shareholders participate in the banking sector through the granting of loans, acceptance of deposits, and trade of both Thalers and foreign currency through Gotzborg.

The proposed constitutional amendment aims to correct an article of Gotzborg's constitution which limits the membership of the Chamber to just five persons. Instead, the Chamber will become open to all citizens through the amendment, bringing the constitution in-line with current practices. The Law Reform Bill, which would regulate the legal profession, is expected to fail by a narrow margin, and the Peerages Bill was eventually withdrawn by Mr. Guelph due to its unpopular nature. Ω

Recovering from the Attack: Gotzborg in 2005

During its second year in existence as an online micronation, the Royal Kingdom of Gotzborg was faced with perilous times, like many other Ezboard-based micronations, following the hacking attack against Ezboard Inc. on 31 May 2005. That attack left thousands of discussion boards deleted, or with their archives wiped clean. Despite efforts by the Ezboard Inc. staff, large amounts of archival information at the affected discussion boards was irrecoverable, though some boards were lucky enough to have some of their database saved. Gotzborg's board was one of the unlucky ones, with all information having been lost even after the conclusion of Ezboard Inc.'s retrieval efforts.

While its historical archives were all lost, leaving a micronation lacking the first year of its online existence, the hacking attack showed the deter-

mination of the Gotzborg citizenry to come together and rebuild their micronation. And rebuild they have, with record activity in the Chamber of Deputies more recently, and solid government activity since the attack producing one of the leading micronational economic simulations currently in operation and solidifying Gotzborg's place intermicronationally through initiatives such as Novasolum.

Heading into 2006, Gotzborg is stronger than ever, with many veteran and highly-skilled micronationalists having joined that micronation in early 2005 and the months following the attack. Gotzborg's national theme for 2005 was "a year of opportunity" – a theme it adhered to despite a very painful May and June. To many, 2006 will be Gotzborg's year intermicronationally. Ω

The Attera-Cranda Incident Revisited

Editor's Note: It's been over three years since Attera and Cranda found themselves facing off in one of the tensest diplomatic disputes in the history of both of those micronations. In 2005, new details regarding the incident were released to the public via testimony by as Noseworthy (Liam Sinclair) at Micronations.net following his resignation of Atteran citizenship as well as by Johanns fonn Klosso (Robert Belci) in his micronational memoirs. There have also been a couple of interviews done by myself with Belci and Makonnen via the Atteran National Archives, however these will be integrated in a future update of the essay due to my current time constraints. The essay that follows was originally written by myself in 2003 and, for all intensive purposes, can be considered the official and authoritative history of the Attera-Cranda Incident to date.

It was May 2002 when Attera re-emerged on the intermicronational stage after a brief isolation following its secession from Tymaria earlier that year. What had been termed the "total isolation" was over and Attera began its journey to work towards a progressive peace in the micronational sector and to clear its name as a micronational bully after the famed TYSOG affair. This mission for Attera was peacefully moving along with the commencement of the Scheheradze Convention, designed to limit micronational war, in the summer of 2002 and only minor skirmishes among younger micronations.

Alas, the peace was not to be maintained for Attera as it found itself at the center of several verbal attacks amongst the members of Micro-Nations.org, an organization led by the micronation of Corvinia which is one of the oldest enemies of Attera. Just four months into a new era of peace, in August 2002, the gloves came off, but not against Corvinia or any of the usual suspects who were defamed Attera and its highest ranking member, Imperial Ras Diga Makonnen IV. Instead, the brunt of Atteran anger focused itself on, as it was then known, the Corporate Fascist State of Cranda, a very young micronation with a very inexperienced leader, Robert Belci, who made a major mistake. That mistake was to claim that Attera was "up to its old ways," a perception based on the combination of the testimony of various enemies of Attera at Micro-Nations.org and the lack of any research by Belci into the Atteran side of the argument. Needless to say, the entire conversation at Micro-Nations.org, along with Belci's poorly researched statement, led to an angry rebuttal by Ras Makonnen, directed to Belci, Peter Rasmussen and his deputy, Sologn.

In his address to the Micro-Nations.org community, posted at the forum by Ras Noseworthy since Ras Makonnen made a pledge to never post anything first hand at that forum, Makonnen listed various reasons why Attera was upset with the situation. Among the claims was that Attera was a community of paples, mainly derived from the fact that Ras Makonnen and Ras Markle worked together and used the same computer for protection from spamming and viruses targeted at their personal computers. Another major claim by the Corvinians was that Attera was largely a dictatorship ruled by Ras Makonnen. While Ras Makonnen was certainly the most powerful of the Imperial Rases in Attera at the time, his decisions still required the agreement of two other Imperial Rases, both of whom didn't always agree with Makonnen. Makonnen's anger became evident when his address to the forum degraded into insults such calling Belci "Burpsi," referring to Sologn (a moniker) as sounding "too much like an Oscar Myer Meat Product" (bologna being the product), and one of the more amusing

insults, directed at the Queens of Torhavn, stating that the Ras "still [enjoyed] that picture of [the Queens] with President Baugh. [The Ras] had to [set] his screen to extra-extra wide to fit [the Queens] in." Such insults showed the gravity of the situation and the extent to which Attera and its enemies were at odds. But I digress as examining the sources of those relationships is for another discussion.

Belci, being a newcomer to micronationalism, was obviously biting off more than he could chew by supporting the Corvinian camp – the Ras' insults prove just how much hatred Belci was drawing his way. At 10h24 Crandan time on 31 August 2002, Ras Makonnen posted an ultimatum to the Crandan government in which it was stated that "if inaccurate statements based on the opinions of the ignorant are made, then, [Attera] has no other recourse but to bring Cranda to her needs...to illustrate what happens to those who curry favour with others at [Attera's] expense." The ultimatum labeled the Crandish government as criminals and was basically a document to tell Cranda that it would be attacked just to prove Belci's claim that Attera was up to its old tricks again, unless an apology was issued. That apology never came in time.

At 20h00 Atteran Standard Time, Attera's famed Crimson Order began a denial of service attack against the Crandish discussion forums, knocking them offline for the better part of 24 hours. At first, Belci believed that the forums being offline was a result of the host, Ezboard Inc., performing maintenance. After a conversation with micronational Robert Silby, Belci was swayed to believe that the Crimson Order was indeed behind the attack on Cranda. As a result, he quickly apologized to Ras Makonnen and Attera via a discussion hosted by the Republic of Baracão.

Immediately following the Crandan forums coming back online, the Crandan government decreed that Attera did not exist and added any and all Atteran terms to the list of censored terms on their discussion forums. Several Atterans found the move by the Crandish government to be laughable and continued to work towards creating a peaceful relationship following the war. There were, of course, opportunists in micronationalism who tried to take advantage of the situation by using false monikers. Two new identities appeared at Cranda known as *Saviour of Attera* and *Ras Deb*, the latter being a reference towards Attera's Defence Minister, Ras Yeh. Neither of the identities were actual Atterans, but that did not stop them from claiming to be.

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Ras Deh, on 6 September 2002, claimed that he would end the terror attacks if Cranda gave Attera “60% of Crandish territory” and made Attera “overlords of Cranda.” The Cranda government knew that Ras Deh was not Atteran and did not take him seriously – how could anyone considering that there had been no further Atteran attacks on Cranda since the one and only on 31 August? The extent to which some micronationalists would go to encourage conflict between two nations is simply stunning.

Of course, there were nations who wanted an all out war between Attera and Cranda. The Republic of Baracão was one of those nations. In a statement on the situation in the Pacarian-Baracãoan Joint Defence Forum, at Baracão, then foreign minister Robert Silby stated that “if [Menelmacar were to support Cranda, Baracão would] get to see two main sources of imperialist evil in the world slug it out in a costly war leaving our alliance as the sole remaining Superpower.”

The Menelmacar reference was to a Menelmacari, Philip Locke, himself an enemy of Attera, tabling a bill in that nation’s legislature to condemn Attera. This would be the only official action taken by any nation to move towards condemning Attera mainly since no other nation wanted to piss off Attera now that they “apparently have a super weapon capable of blocking out access to whatever forum they choose,” as the Skyline put it. The Menelmacari bill failed based largely on that concern. Menelmacar did move to have denial of service weapons restricted by the Scheheradze Convention on Micronational Warfare in the summer 2002 conference, and the measure was adopted by all parties, Attera included. Its effect on the Scheheradze Convention is perhaps the longest lasting effect of the incident.

One question remains though, and that is why did Attera attack Cranda and not the source of the entire mess, Corvinia? Attera did threaten to attack Corvinia for its comments, and pledged to keep its macronational lawyers bogged down in paperwork for several decades if Corvinia were to use that recourse to deal with the Atteran attack. Unfortunately, that would also mean that Attera’s lawyers would be bogged down for just as long. Since Cranda was a new micronation with an inexperienced leader, who was so young as to not have any macronational legal resources (in theory), logic would dictate that setting an example by attacking Cranda would result in the least amount of aftershock regarding Atteran resources. Whether that is what the leadership of Attera were thinking at the time is disputable. This author himself does not know the true intent of attacking Cranda, nor is there any documentation accessible stating that intent. Just over two months later, the entire situation finally was closed to history as Attera and Cranda opened treaty relations in October.

While, in retrospect, many may see Attera as a bully in this situation, the incident with Cranda did prove several key points. Among them were that Attera was serious about not taking any defamation from the micronational world and that denial of

service weapons did work. The latter meant that the micronational world had to work to restrict the use of such weapons, and by coincidence, there was a conference on limiting micronational warfare in progress to have the issue addressed. The Attera-Cranda incident was the last intermicronational conflict between two nations which resulted in armed conflict and is perhaps, at least in this author’s eyes, testament to the effectiveness of the Scheheradze Convention on Micronational Warfare, which was formed through the September conflicts of 2002.

After Thoughts – 2005

The Attera-Cranda incident was revisited almost three years later in February 2005 as one of the major Atteran players in the dispute, Ras Noseworthy, resigned his Atteran citizenship and revealed new details about the Atteran attack to the intermicronational world. It was revealed that the Atteran attack was never the source of the Crandan forums going offline – indeed there was never any attack. Using its famous reputation and some good timing, Attera was able to convince the intermicronational world that it had been responsible for what was nothing more than an Ezboard server offline for maintenance.

This “smoke and mirror” tactic would never have been effective in forcing Cranda to bend to the Atteran will if it had not been for Attera’s hard-line reputation and the electronic warfare actions of its Crimson Order in 2001 against Marinidad. Combined with a very inexperienced and scared micronational leadership in Cranda, Attera succeeded in forcing away a possible Corvinian sympathizer with minimal force.

In his 2005 memoirs, Robert Belci, now known as Johanns fonn Klosso, revealed that future Atteran ally Robert Silby, who founded the Republic of Politika as an offshoot of his “Politics of the People” Ezboard political discussion forum, provided Cranda with an outdated version of the Pacarian Ezbomb – a forum spamming java weapon. Silby provided this weapon, for use against Attera in a future Crandan vengeance attack, out of sympathy for Belci; though Belci’s planned vengeance against Attera did not materialize, mainly because, as in the words of Belci himself, “I started to hate Babkha more.”

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university of munich series

The Economic History of Attera

Editor's Note: The University of Munich Series presents various lectures and historical articles which I prepared for the University of Munich project in the Solomonic Empire of Attera during 2003 and 2004. This material is previously unpublished and covers a few topics of interest regarding Atteran history. Unfortunately time constraints at that time prevented me from producing more than three complete lectures on modern Atteran history (then considered to cover the Solomonic Empire Era to 2004). The RIMA Journal has already brought you one of these lectures, the Creation and Controversy of the Solomonic Empire, in our last four-month publication period. The RIMA Journal now presents the second lecture of the University of Munich Series, covering the Economic History of Attera.

Lecturer: Liam Sinclair (ex.-Ras Noseworthy) | 02 Dec 2004

During the days of the IRQM, Attera's economic model was based on services that could actually be rendered to individuals participating in micronationalism. Mind you, when I refer to currency and payments in this lecture I'm talking about those two things in the micronational currency sense, not the macronational currency. When Attera joined Tymaria, the entire economic model came crashing down as it was now the jurisdiction of the Tymarian government which really never fully developed a new economic model. Moving forward four months from that event, we now have the Atteran Federation and it was not until October 2002 that an economic model was reintroduced in Attera by the Government.

The model introduced in October 2002 however was not based primarily on internet services and products. Instead it was primarily based around a fictional resource map belonging to the Micronational Cartography Society (MCS), the creators and maintainers of the Micras world map, of which Attera was a member at that time. This economic model was perhaps the most complicated one ever used in Attera as it had to be regulated more than an internet product based system.

What made the 'resource map' economic model such a cumbersome system to operate? Well let me answer that question by describing the system of operation used. On the MCS Resource Map, Attera's territory, at that time the second largest one on the map, encompassed at least a dozen unique 'resources', ranging from uranium, to fish, to shipbuilding and weapons, and of course the ever important oil which makes the world go around (in the macronational sense naturally). Simply put, the goal of this economic model was to allow Attera's economic to mimic the macronational resource based economy without actually having to go out and buy real resources. The amount of each resource that would be available for purchase on the market each week would be regulated by the government. For example, some of the production rates of selected products found within Atteran territory in October 2002 can be seen in the table below.

Furthermore, resources from other micronations on the MCS World Map could be imported, though no other nation developed a system similar to Attera's economic model at this time. This was not a barrier to trade however as foreign governments were more than willing to accept the high-valued Silver Atterbruuk in return for giving up fictitious resources. One such trade involved importing copper from New Macadam; another brought Politikan iron to Attera.

When it came to building an item that encompasses many different resources, companies involved in the production would have to post a list of what materials would be required to construct a product. For example, Atteran Defence Systems Ltd. built warships for the government (it won a tender to "construct" a frigate and a destroyer). While the company's original document on what resources would be needed in construction and how much of each was required has been lost, some of the basic resources that would have to be acquired for construction were iron, high tech manufacturing, copper, oil and, of course, weaponry.

Weekly Production Rates per Resource

Source: Atteran National Archives

Resource	Production Amount
Uranium	0.5 oz.
Cattle	200 lbs
Oil	50 bbls.
Horses	1 every two weeks
Weapons (small arms)	1 weapon per week
Weapons (large arms)	1 weapon per month
Shipbuliding (Yachts)	1 yacht per three months
Doc Ref. #: 026.19.11.2004.11.pdf	

Companies would also be able to purchase resources not only from the government production pool, but also from each other via the Products Listing Board. Generally the seller of a product would post how much was being offered and buyers would bid or purchase the materials outright. Let me better explain this concept using an example. Let's say Attera Mining (not a real company that ever existed in Atteran history) had in its inventory 1500 units of iron. The buyer, Attera Shipping (once again a fictitious company) wanted 900 units. Attera Mining declared on the Product Listing Board that it was selling its 1500 units of iron in batches of 100 units. The first batch would be sold to Attera Shipping for X amount of Atterbruuks, and then the second would be sold at an increased price (due to the amount in stock falling while demand continued to be strong). Finally the third batch would be sold for a higher price than the previous batch, and so on until all desired stock was acquired by the buyer.

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The system did mimic the supply and demand aspect of macro-national economics in an effective way, however such a practice largely depended on regulators making sure that companies played by the “increasing price per batch” practice. This aspect of the system lasted actively for only a couple of months before the traditional inactivity which has plagued micronational economic systems for years came and caused the government to miss production updates for whatever reason. The model lasted officially in law until June 2003 and saw six businesses operate under it officially (i.e. registered businesses with the Ministry).

The model, while primarily based on the resource map, still incorporated internet products, though these were offered at a lesser frequency and mainly revolved around website management for government sites (i.e. maintenance contracts) or for advertising a company’s services or government programs in the micronational media. While the production side of the economic system ground to a halt by January 2003, the banking aspect remained constantly active. While there was no business really being done, several citizens continued to utilize their accounts with the Atteran Imperial Bank and the Bank continued to pay out salaries to Atteran citizens, thus keeping the basis of the economy secure while everyone waited for that one event to restart the system.

That event would be largely political in nature. On 12 March 2003, amid growing frustrations with how the Micronational Cartography Society was being operated, Attera, Babkha, and a host of other nations removed their nations from the world map project. Practically overnight Attera’s economic model was made ineffectual – what was the nation to do to keep the pride of its internal programs afloat?

The answer was to move Attera back to the internet product economic model and the Noseworthy government proceeded on that course to develop the Economic Regulation Act 2003 which continues to govern the economic system to this day. It wouldn’t be until 01 Jun 2003 when the Act would come into force (approximately a month after it was introduced in the Derg). On this date, all of the companies registered with the Imperial Ministry of Economics (IMECON) under the previous economic model had their registrations revoked and were forced to reapply for licenses. First the company would have to gain an operating license, and then it would have to gain product licenses, which were limited to two product licenses per company by the Regulations Act. Basically, Company A could sell two products in Attera, but not just any product. The products a company wished to sell first had to be approved by IMECON to ensure that they met the requirements of the Regulations Act which banned any simulated product from the Atteran economic model. That is, if a company wanted to sell airplanes, they’d never get a license. Product areas that would be approved were things such as media, financial services, web development, and consulting services, to name the more common ones. Any product or service that could be provided in the

real sense over the internet medium would get approved for sale in the Atteran Empire.

Why did the government choose to go with this system? There were really two reasons behind that decision. The first was that the alternative to the MCS world map, the Alternate Realities Project started by the nations which left the MCS map, came to a stop within a month of its commencement, meaning that Attera’s resource based economic model couldn’t be switched to the new map project as originally hoped. Second, the Prime Minister, Ras Noseworthy, decided that in order to promote national development and the evolution of the Atteran State in terms of providing effective services to its citizenry did not lay in building fictitious products. How would a make believe nuclear weapon or a make believe automobile benefit anyone in the Atteran Empire or the Empire itself? It was fine and dandy that the previous simulation added a sense of macronationalism to the Atteran state, but the Noseworthy government preferred to keep the Empire in the real world and in the real world the resource simulation was a laughable endeavour of no practical purpose to Attera’s future. Real products, like graphic development, web development, consulting services, all offered a practical benefit to the development of Attera. A fancy graphic advertised the Empire or some aspect of it or the government’s policies. A web site provided an outlet for the government and Atterans to communicate to the entire world and attract new citizens. Consulting services created reports on various areas of government policies allowing the government to better consider what programs to embark on for the future. Obviously the “real product” system is the one of choice for a micronation that wishes to experience practical and beneficial development, as opposed to using a resource simulation as a sad prop to keep activity going (as was the original purpose of the economic model used in Attera before the Regulations Act changed that).

To date, over half a dozen companies have at some point been registered with IMECON under the Regulations Act with roughly four to five still officially operating. The new economic system, like its predecessor, came to a halt rather quickly, though banking services continued to be maintained.

On the banking services issue, in 2003 the Imperial Ministry of Economics, impressed with the operation of the PHP MicroX-change system (an intermicronational currency exchange and banking system developed by Sander Dieleman) opted to leave behind the spreadsheet format of the Atteran Imperial Bank and conduct banking services via that system. It began to move the Atteran Imperial Bank to the system when the PHP MicroXchange crashed for the final time. Ironically, it was the Atteran Imperial Bank which indirectly caused the most efficient intermicronational economic system to date to come to an abrupt end.

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The system's coding only allowed for 127 bank accounts to operate on it and the second account of the Atteran Imperial Bank that was registered was number 128. While testing the system, the Minister of Economics at the time, Ras Noseworthy, discovered that transactions were not being recorded correctly and contacted Mr. Dieleman. It was quickly discovered that the system had exceeded its capacity and that the problem could not be easily fixed (and thus it never would be fixed though today the PHPMX2 project is underway to create an even better system). Luckily the Atteran Imperial Bank had not completed its move to the system and the spreadsheet records were still intact. The Bank continues to operate via the system first introduced in October 2002 today.

I want to end today's lecture with some brief comments regarding the fascination with micronational economic systems in terms of the micronationalist. Micronational currency is not real nor does it have any macronational value. Yet we see during the periods of economic activity throughout micronations that micronationalists are willing to offer their services, some of which require a lot of time and hard work, in return for a currency which can offer them no compensation. It must be observed that the sense of a small community and the dedication of its members, notably those who are in micronationalism for the long haul and take a serious view towards its overall development, is rather an amazing occurrence. There are not many places in this world where complete strangers, many of whom will never know the face of the person on the other end of the internet connection, are willing to offer their expertise in programming, consulting, and other areas, in return for nothing. The people who do this are truly the dedicated micronationalists who are more than willing to offer their knowledge in order to advance the entire community in a positive direction and make internet micronationalism ever more operable.

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This Month in History

December 2004: In Attera, a vote of confidence in Emperor T'zion (Makonnen) begins, with the result being in favour of his continued rule. Also in Attera, Atteran noble, Imperial Ras Charles Beard, starts the Atteran South Asia Assistance Fund to raise funds for those affected by the South Asia Tsunami. The effort would raise over \$400 USD from the micronational community.

December 2002: The Solomonic Empire of Attera succeeds the Atteran Federation with Diga Makonnen IV proclaimed as Emperor.

Long-time Amerada President Earl Washburn, criticized as a dictator by many citizens, loses the first presidential election in that micronation's history, having been out-rigged in the insecure internet polls used for Amerada elections to that date. The election would be the last in which the easily rigged system would be used, following reforms by President Nicholas Bridgewater.

From the Archives

This month I've chosen an article from the September 2003 monthly issue of the Atteran Chronicle. The article is entitled "2003 Scheheradze Convention Approaches" and discusses the upcoming goals of the Scheheradze Convention Council, an intermicronational organization which was created by Attera to regulate micronational war (and eventually to eliminate it). Strangely, unlike most IMOs, the Council was very successful and there hasn't been a major electronic war in the sector since its formation in 2002. Of course, now it's just a YAMO - Yet Another Micronational Organization. So goes the life of an effective micronational IGO....

The 2003 meeting of the Scheheradze Convention Council (SCC) is fast approaching as the Ministry of Defence (Attera), which is hosting the event, has decided to hold the meeting in early September when more micronationalists are back from their summer vacation. The Convention, formed last year in Attera, has now been ratified by five micronations, with Slobovia being the latest as they ratified the Convention on July 29 of this year. The other members of the Council are Attera (currently the Chair), Baracão, Babkha, and Politika.

The Convention is designed to limit micronational war by enforcing upon member nations certain restrictions on how they can go about war between each other, which is always a possibility with the polarization of the Council (ex. Baracão and Politika). However, the Convention still contains room for improvement and this is why every year the Council, as well as any other interested micronation, meets to discuss and adopt amendments to the Convention.

This year, the SCC members have tabled some interesting points of discussion for the upcoming meeting. Amending the Convention to remove any reference to a world map project is one item that Attera will present to the Convention according to the Prime Minister's Office since members of the Convention reside on several different projects and thus a virtual world map should mean nothing to the enforcement of the Convention itself.

Furthermore, Attera also plans to discuss penalties for member nations who use third parties to circumvent the convention. This item was echoed by Slobovia which showed it's new blood to the Convention with several proposals. Among them were ways to prevent member nations from attacking non-member nations, and limitations on what forums can be attacked (for example, legislative forums would be forbidden as a target if a SCC member was forced to attack another nation). The definition of military targets is also a major concern at the convention for Baracão who have been the target of several attacks in the past year. Babkha wishes to discuss the prohibition of denial of service attacks, a method of attack used by Attera against Cranda in September 2002.

Attera's Minister of Defence, HIH Dabe Harmagedon I, hopes that the meeting will "produce positive results in further limiting and defining micronational war and hopefully one day eradicating war all together." Ω

Editor's Column: Out with the Old, In with the New

Editor: Sir Liam Sinclair, K.B., K.S.G.
Continued from Front Page

The Kingdom of Babkha established back in 2000 and considered one of the most powerful and influential micronations, to have ever operated in the Anglophone Sector, saw its end grow out of three successive of national legislative elections. Each of these elections produced a complete and utter failure in that each Majlis sitting maintained activity for only a couple of weeks. Despite several attempts by its Shah and long-time citizen, Ardashir Khan, to reinvigorate the Babkhan micronation, through bringing in a new constitution and encouraging the development of new ideas, the Babkhan citizenry were unable to return to activity. Indeed, the major blow that killed Babkha was the lack of creativity left in that micronation after five years. An "ideas" forum created late in November produced two threads by mid-December, one of which was about the lack of use of the forum, and the other an idea that involved changing the idea forum's aesthetics. The Babkhan age had effectively ended with the advent and conclusion of 2005, especially as it seceded its foreign affairs, its primary activity driver in 2004, to the Grand Commonwealth.

Across the pond, so to speak, is Babkha's biggest rival, the Solomonic Empire of Attera. At the end of 2004, Attera's future was looking bright from a large influx of active immigrants during the summer of that year, though things began to look uncertain in early 2005 as prominent Atterans announced that macronational commitments would reduce their availability (namely myself, as Ras Noseworthy, and perennial Atteran Diga Makonnen, a.k.a. Emperor Mik'el Tzion). By the end of February, the Noseworthy-Makonnen tensions had escalated to insurmountable heights as the Atteran Commonwealth situation blew out of control and Noseworthy effectively terminated his Atteran citizenship following personal attacks by the Emperor, with several other Atteran following suit. With the Emperor working up to deploy for a second time to Iraq with the United States military in late 2005, the Atteran micronation was left without direction. The decree of a new constitution following the Exodus of Atteran Nobles which did not legitimize the still-existent position of Prime Minister tied the hands of Johanns fonn Klosso and Attera descended into obscurity. Move ahead to September and an effort on the part of the three remaining active Atterans, Charles Beard, Klosso, and Benjamin Gray, to save their dying micronation was made. The Labour Day overthrow of Emperor Tzion marked an opportunity for Attera to recover, though by December it had become evident that this too had failed to save the micronation. The sputtering out of the Atteran micronation over the past two years had finally passed critical levels this year.

To its credit, and despite running into some legitimacy concerns during 2005, the Imperial Republic of Shireroth was able to

maintain its position as one of the most powerful micronations. But with both Attera and Babkha no longer micronations of interest or viability, there was a gap left at the top of the Sector's power list, leaving Shireroth all alone for a short time.

Luckily, some of the upstart micronations from 2004 moved in to fill the void and provide the Sector with some new viable micronations that will, at the very least, delay the next purge of powerful micronations for several more years. One of those micronations, founded in 2004, was the Kingdom of Gotzborg. The Kingdom, under the leadership of its creator August Charles II, was able to attract many new immigrants in 2005, including the former Ras Noseworthy, and has become a leader in developing the Sector's economic simulation and an important player in Novasolum, one of the Micronational Cartography Society continents where its constituents are making leaps and bounds in regional MCS intergovernmental relations for the first time.

A more surprising micronation which has moved to the top of the list in the Sector is one which, just two years ago, this editor was criticizing as being nothing more than a one-man micronation. The Empire of Alexandria has greatly evolved during 2005, becoming a far more credible micronation (with many citizens as opposed to one) and it is also playing a major part in Novasolum. Unfortunately, near the end of 2005, Alexandria's activity has slumped so it is to be seen as to whether the micronation will maintain its high ranking in the community next year.

And finally, while they're no where near the top of the pack in the Anglophone Sector, the Loveley micronation and its many, many, offshoots hit the Sector like a ton of bricks in 2005. The British Broadcasting Corporation television show which produced Loveley, which is just barely a legitimate micronation of consequence right now, was a major advertisement for micronations. Through the Treaty of the BBC, several Anglophone Sector micronations were able to get mentioned on the television show, as was our hub, Micronations.net. Unfortunately those attracted to our sector by Loveley have yet to demonstrate their ability to become important participants in our hobby, though they have provided some action through inappropriate actions over the latter part of 2005.

This editor is not willing to make any predictions for 2006, even if the decline of powerful micronations is relatively easy to foresee. Will there be a changing of the guard once again in the Sector? Hopefully not as one every four-five years is more than enough so as to not threaten the collective stability of the community.

Though anything is possible as we all know, but let's not relish on that question right now. It's the Christmas season so pour yourself a glass of egg-nog, sit back next to the Tree and have yourself a Merry Christmas. From myself, and on behalf of the membership of the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities, I wish you all a safe holiday and a prosperous New Year. Ω

Letters to the Editor

Re: August 2005 Issue

Re: Editor's Column "Some Characteristics of a Vibrant, and Successful Micronation"

One measure of micronational success that you didn't include that I have found very, very indicative is patriotism. I don't mean just flag-waving "We're the greatest!" type of patriotism, but a serious identification with one's self as a member of the country. Thus, a country that has many active citizens who are all part of three or four other nations on the side and are willing to leave as soon as the going gets rough is less successful (and less likely to get anywhere) than a country whose citizens are really committed to that particular nation rather than to being in whatever the trendiest micronation happens to be at the moment. If a micronation can encourage that kind of patriotism among its citizens, it is successful and will be found successful by other measures soon enough; if it can't, it may be temporarily active but isn't likely to stand the test of time.

-- *Scott Alexander, Imperial Republic of Shireroth*

Ω

This issue was pretty unfair to Cyberia. There were also factual errors.

1. It is a lie that all our active participants sit in the National Assembly. Use of the word "practically" means this isn't a lie - just bad journalism. No more than 1/3 of our population can sit in the NA at a given time. There is only one Speaker. The Gazette of Cyberia is maintained by the Speaker and President. By way of illustration, Michael Fors does not sit in the Assembly, but he serves actively in the Ministry of Defense and diplomatic corps.

2. If we were the "debating club of the Anglophone Sector," we would be debating more than our own domestic laws. You will not find in Cyberia discussions on the existential nature of a micronation, for instance.

3. Cyberia does not survive on the bickering among participants. It falters on it. Our star moments were those with the least bickering, and as a direct result, the most energy invested in what you call "implementing the laws." We admittedly spent much of the last few months bickering. A break in the bickering and the end of the summer inactivity spell have allowed us to redirect energies.

4. Growth unrelated to the bickering, even in the midst of bickering, still happens. See Minister Caruso's recent work in the Interior Ministry.

5. On a related note, Cyberia invested numerous work-hours in developing the RAMIC architecture. More than anything else, it's the absence of other signatory nations that has kept RAMIC from taking full shape.

6. Debate and bickering can look the same but are quite distinct. Too many micronations have rubber-stamp legislatures. Too many micronations subsist on monarchical patronage appointments of cabinet ministers who merely redesign the same old websites and rework the same old Photoshop files. Too many micronations have kings and foreign ministers eager to negotiate treaties, but their legislatures do worse than drag in ratifying them. Too many micronations have neither debate nor bickering. They are empty shells devoid of discourse - which is 100 percent of this hobby.

Not the fairest or most intellectually honest treatment. A good thing [the RIMA Journal] is called a "journal" because that's what it resembles: a personal journal of thoughts worth further research and consideration.

I will concede that Cyberia is prone to fairly bitter debate. But that is not our only characteristic, nor is it absent from other micronations, nor does occasional bitterness preclude growth.

-- *President Jack Santucci, Virtual Commonwealth of Cyberia*

Ω

Advice? That's kind of far-fetched to actually give a list of what would make a micronation successful. The success of a micronation is contributed of multiple factors, and to truly analyze it, you would need to be completely out of the hobby - pretty much be a psychologist to study the nature of those who are in micronations.

-- *Bill Dusch, Imperial Republic of Shireroth*

Ω

New Publishing Period, New Look!

The RIMA Journal has resumed publication for its Volume 2 publication period, which extends from December 2005 to March 2006 (4 new monthly issues). We have also created a new look for the publication and comments are welcome at the email address below.

Reader Feedback Poll, August 2005

Upon releasing our August 2005 issue at Micronations.net, we asked for the general public to tell us their thoughts on the quality of the RIMA Journal's contents and presentation. The results were very pleasing, with no participant believing that the Journal needed improvement or was an "awful" publication. Of the respondents, the breakdown in numbers were as follows:

Excellent publication 6 / 66.7%
Satisfactory 3 / 33.3%

Questions? Comments? Submission? To contact the RIMA Journal, email:



RIMA Essay Contest

Winning Entry by David Roest

The first annual Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities essay contest was hailed as a success by RIMA President Liam Sinclair following the conclusion of the contest. In all, five micronationalists submitted essays on their historical involvement in micronationalism on a wide-range of topics, from the formation of relationships, to historical memoirs of Menelmacar, to what they've learned from micronationalism.

Of course, there could only be one winner of the contest, and the panel of four judges, Liam Sinclair, Iain de Vembria, August Charles, and Ardashir Khan, gave that honour to the essay submitted by David Roest (to the side of this article). Some of the judging reviews of Roest's essay included:

"Subtly and accurately defines the joys and hardships of micronationalism, from making good friends, to the difficulties of micronation-building and the "transient" nature of the hobby's participants." – Liam Sinclair

"As a skim through Mr. Roest's micronational career it is concise and gives an insight into his abiding impression of the hobby and contains an analysis of what it is that constitutes loyalty towards a non-territorial state or community." – Ardashir Khan

"An overall experience with similar parallels to my own, with a conclusion of great relevance to the wider world." – Iain de Vembria

The remaining four submitters were Robert Davis (2nd place), Koen Nevens (3rd place), Johanns fonn Klossso, and Nathan Shepard. All essays and judging commentaries will be presented in a forthcoming publication of the Institute in 2006. Ω

My micronational experience is like many of those in this community. Civic participation is something that I feel very strongly about on a macronational level, but it is often difficult for one voice to be heard among the throngs. Seeing that there was an open avenue for nation-building only a keystroke away, I jumped in with everything that I had. Initially, my desire was to work diligently and silently without being in the spotlight, but the first nation I joined consisted of a lazy monarch and me. It was at that time that I chose to become the reluctant head of my own new nation. Still having little experience in micronationalism, I was unsure of what to do. Having made the requisite website with all of the pertinent information, I set about finding citizens. Slowly and steadily, the nation grew. The growth was not always easy—good friends were made and good friends moved on, projects were started and died out. The transient nature of micronationalism became very apparent to me in that first year. It is amazing what contacts were made but did not last. Thankfully, there were always new folks willing to jump in and try something that was foreign to them.

Eventually, the time commitment became too much for me to handle. After a great deal of thinking, I had to make the decision to step down from my throne and hand off the crown to an able successor. This I did gladly, though not without a bit of controversy over my heir. After this transition, my micronational experience entered a new phase. I had a chance to see the fruits of my labor from the other side of the spectrum. As a private citizen, I could see the Kingdom in the hands of an able ruler. Even this, though, would soon end. The national population was slowly dwindling and there came to be only a handful of dedicated citizens. Though my involvement in the nation had declined by that time, it was still a wonder to behold the peaceful transfer of power from my successor to another sovereign monarch.

At the start, this was a very bittersweet time for me. The nation that I had loved so much was no longer a sovereign entity. The culture that I had worked so hard to develop with so many women and men was now absorbed into that of another nation. It seemed that my country was no more. But then, I discovered something wonderful about micronationalists and micronationalism. There is no way to destroy these nations. One cannot use bombs and guns to destroy the cultures that we build. I can still proudly consider myself a Pendronian and a Gotzborger. As micronationalists, we are not bound to a specific place in the world. We are not bound to land that can be taken away. Instead, we are bound to people. We have chosen to unite ourselves with people—with all of their imperfections and quirks—for the purpose of building something bigger than ourselves. It would seem that this is something amazing. This is something from which nations around the world can learn.

Ω

History Through Images: New Atteran Fiefdom Flags

Following the Exodus of Atteran Nobles in February 2005, a major restructuring of the Atteran micronation occurred with a greater emphasis placed on the use and development of its historic fiefdoms. These fiefdoms had largely been subdued from the Atteran Federation to the first two years of the Solomonian Empire, with only the four kingdoms (imperial regions) recognized under the Atteran constitution. By 26 Jun 2005, there were new (and some old) flags created and assigned to each fiefdom. With the deletion of the Fifth Crimson Constitution forums following the Labour Day overthrow of Tzion, the online record of these flags was lost. Ω



(Top to Bottom, Left to Right) Kingdoms: Attera Proper, Argaal, Makonna, Interland; Principalities: Sa'an, Dahlakhia, Baut-Chii Sedera, New Vega Baja, Kreutzberg, Artach and Europolis

RIMA Journal

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF MICRONATIONAL ANTIQUITIES

January 2006

Volume 2 Issue 2

happy new year!

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Abrupt Removal Causes Controversy

(Kingdom of Babkha) The Kingdom of Babkha has had its political stage rocked by a recent decision of Shah Ardashir Khan to sack the micronation's delegates to the Grand Commonwealth's federal legislature, the Majlis-i-Dharma.

The Vizier of Empire and Commonwealth Affairs, Iain de Vembria announced the sacking of delegates Darius Rugahi and Rakesh Ackbar, the latter considered one of the most politically out-spoken Babkhans in that micronation's history, abruptly on 11 January.

With just one month left to go in the current session of the Dharma, the decision centers on the inactivity of Mr. Ackbar, according to Khan. Ackbar disputes the claim of inactivity, citing his participation in most debates of the Dharma "before [his] sudden removal." Ackbar claims that the removal is largely based on the Babkhan Crown wanting to have a defacto position on the delegation; this, he believes, goes against the original purpose of the Dharma, which was meant to be representative of the peoples of the Grand Commonwealth, not of any particular member micronation's government or monarchy.

See "Ackbar Removed" Page 2

New History Book

Respected micronational historian Scott Alexander released his latest history book this past Norton Day (Jan 08).

The book, entitled *Microscope*, conveys the history of simulationist micronations in the Anglophone Sector with various special inserts, including analyses by Alexander. Ω

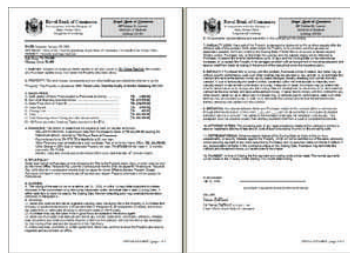
AQ Ends Operations

The Anthelia Quarterly has ended publication operations, its creator and editor Koen Nevens has confirmed. The news magazine was Anthelia's only domestic news service and was a close partner with the RIMA Journal. The RIMA Journal was endorsed by Anthelia's government as its preferred news service in the absence of the AQ. Ω

Real Estate Program Launched

The Gotzborg Home Office has released its long-awaited real estate program, created by Steven DeBlood, that has finally answered the question of how the Royal Government was going to raise income for the treasury.

While Gotzborg's shipbuilding industry has flourished, there were no products in place for the average citizen to purchase; mind you, if raising a fleet of warships was your niche, your life was set! The real estate program has provided a very enticing product for Gotzborg citizens who have been waiting to spend their hard-earned Thalers. Equally, the program also further develops Gotzborg's geography, as duchy holders are finally able to build their manors that will come to symbolize the micronation's landscape.



A sample mortgage contract, which by pure unadulterated coincidence is for 2001 Forest Lane, Coprieta, a stunning mansion that is "home" to this editor.

The mortgage system associated with buying a dwelling in Gotzborg is a long-winded, thirty-year process that will, in all likelihood, outlive the micronation itself. While this lengthy period is arguably unrealistic for an Internet microna-

(Continued on page 6)

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“We are better than that”

Several “young” micronations have formed a non-aligned movement.

The nations, which include Natopia, Riponia, and Antica, released a longwinded, and very righteous, statement which essentially states that they vow to rebel against the old ways and attitudes and take their just place as leaders of the community.

Micras, your youngsters just hit puberty. Ω

Atteran Instability

The Atteran micronation experienced a new bout of instability on 3 January as deposed Emperor Mik'el Tzion seized power once again through a coup.

The seizure has resulted in the three remaining active citizens of Attera, who also were the co-regents (Benjamin Gray, Johanns fonn Kloss, and Charles Beard) to resign their citizenships. Beard was a long-time Atteran, having twice been Prime Minister in its early history as an online micronation. Ω

Cabinet Nixes Treaty

Following the latest coup in the Solomonian Empire of Attera, the Royal Cabinet of Gotzborg convened to discuss the future of that micronation's relationship with Attera.

Citing over a year and a half of neglect in the relationship on the part of Attera, despite attempts by Gotzborg to return the very close friendship to prosperity, the Cabinet revoked the most favoured status of Attera. Ω

Ackbar Removal Raises Questions

Continued from Front Page

The circumstances surrounding the removal of Rugahi are less clear, with indications from high levels of the Babkhan government that the removal of Rugahi was overzealous on the part of the Vizier of Empire and Commonwealth Affairs. Former Babkhan Shah, and current head of state of the Grand Commonwealth, Tahmesab, agreed with criticism from several Babkhans that there should have been some forewarning of the change in delegation.

Ackbar has introduced legislation in the local Babkhan legislature to regulate the election of delegates to the Grand Commonwealth. The bill, if passed, would prevent the Babkhan government from arbitrarily removing candidates, and in the event of a vacancy require that a by-election fill the position. The Babkhan Grand Vizier, Ghazi al Baqir, voiced opposition to the election of both delegates, citing that the Kingdom is a “symbiotic relationship between the Crown and the people,” and therefore the Crown should be guaranteed a position on the delegation to the Commonwealth.

Despite the ongoing discussions surrounding Ackbar's legislation, an election has been called under existing Babkhan electoral law to choose the second delegate to serve with Khan on the Majlis-i-Dharma. Five candidates announced their intention, including former high-ranking Atteran Benjamin Gray, who applied for political asylum following the counter-coup of Diga Makonnen earlier in the month.

Questions do remain as to the fate of Khan as a delegate for Babkha, as he has announced his intention to run for the position of Taoiseach of the Grand Commonwealth in February, its head of government. Should he win that contest, which is currently against sole opponent Ackbar, Khan would be required to resign his position as a delegate to the Dharma. With this being a well-known requirement of the Taoiseach position, there is suspicion over the true motives of the Babkhan government in removing Ackbar – was it really for the rights of the Crown, or simply a politically motivated attack against an outspoken opponent of Khan's political policies? Ω

Aerlig to Throw in the Towel

As has been the recent trend with the more senior micronations of the Anglophone simulationist sector, the Republic of Aerlig is preparing to call it quits as an active micronation. Aerlig, founded in 2001 by former micronationalist Mike Phyle, was the first micronation in the sector to popularize the use of non-Ezboard forums (i.e. php forums) as well as micronational football through the English Intermicronational Football Association. It also encouraged the development of academics intermicronationally through various university projects.

While thriving initially in 2001 and into 2002, Aerlig has since become a largely inactive micronation suffering from citizen disinterest, except for the occasional nostalgic interest shown every few months. The primary cause of its downfall was the micronation's original website going offline, causing massive disruptions in the micronation for an extended period. In 2005, Aerlig was a founding member of the Grand Commonwealth - an endeavour by its constituent micronations, all of which were arguably past their prime, to attempt to regain some much needed activity and direction.

On 28 January 2006, veteran micronationalist, and long-time Aerlig citizen, Iain de Vembria tabled a motion in the Statesmen House, the national legislature, to have Aerlig go the way of Treesia. That way being the micronation would effectively become a museum with a governing council providing security over its intellectual property and archives.

De Vembria, a key architect in Treesia's similar fate, has suggested that Aerlig and Treesia combine to form the Sovereign Order of Treesia and Aerlig, with the new union being hosted on new website and forums that would effectively maintain each's national archives. Both micronations currently have membership in the Grand Commonwealth and thus the question of what to do with their voting rights in the Majlis-i-Dharma remains. It can be confidently stated that they would remain in the Grand Commonwealth despite their official museum statuses (Treesia has been in museum mode for its entire membership in the Commonwealth). Aerlig's Protector, Lachlan Powers, has supported the proposal, though it has yet to be finalized. Ω



RIMA's Random Micronational Secrets of Google Series Presents:

Kryous

Article by Liam Sinclair

In September 2001, a little known micronation formed a relationship with one of the mainstream micronations of the day in the Anglophone Sector – Interland. Albeit, this relationship did not last long as just a month later Interland seceded its sovereignty to the United Republic of Tymaria.

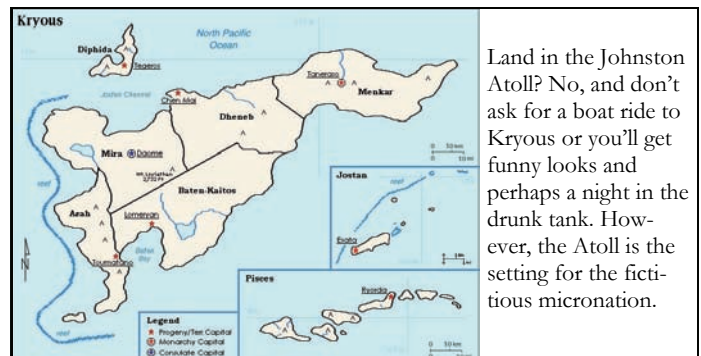
Not to be confused with the Warcraft clan of the same name, the micronation of Kryous was actively engaged from early 2001 to February 2003, when its website received its final update. What drew the attention of this author was that this micronation had faded away into a blissful existence, despite having made contact with the Anglophone Sector and being well developed internally by its architect, Marik Tegeros.

On the main page of the website [<http://kryousisland.tripod.com/>] there is a map of the micronation that initially leads one to believe that it is a secessionist movement. This perception is due to the island micronation being located in the North Pacific Ocean. On closer inspection, we see that the micronation really does not exist and that its location in the North Pacific Ocean was merely a way to lend a sense of realism to it, a common practice in the early 21st century for simulationist micronations.

The main attraction of this micronation was its fictional history, which tells the story of the island of “Jostan,” which is located “almost [one thousand] miles” from the closest inhabited islands of the Pacific Ocean. The indigenous Jostan people originated from Southeast Asia in 1500 B.C. and lived in isolation until a visit by the Spanish in 1657 A.D. In 1697, a terrible volcanic eruption forced the Jostans to flee to a new island, Kryous, which was discovered following a 15-year voyage. The literature continues with an interesting synopsis of the fictional development of the micronation up to the 1800s, culminating with a founding of the micronation in 1801.

The fictional history is based in part on natural disasters, from volcanic eruptions to several terrible years for typhoons. These disasters, namely the Typhoons, are tied in very well with the “present-day” structure of the micronation through a government organization known as the “Kryous Typhoon Center.” The service tracked two typhoons during its operation (with the final update being in 2004, unlike the rest of the website), and animated-gif records are provided for each storm’s movement, as well as a detailed intensity scale. The micronation’s weather bureau also utilized Internet real-time weather condition records from macronational cities substituted for the micronation’s major habitations, much like the Republic of Amerada did.

The structure of the government of Kryous was defined with fifteen “divisions” (ministries or departments), and many-times



Land in the Johnston Atoll? No, and don’t ask for a boat ride to Kryous or you’ll get funny looks and perhaps a night in the drunk tank. However, the Atoll is the setting for the fictitious micronation.

more bureaus. The Statistics Bureau clearly shows the simulation-focused nature of the micronation, with a population in the millions and a very-detailed construction of the micronation’s geography. Several statistics are noted as “in progress”, such as the length of highways in the micronation, which indicate that similar numbers were not the result of arbitrary thought on the part of the creator. The micronation also lays a territorial claim to the Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, on which the island group was located.

The micronation was divided into “progenies,” equivalent to provinces, though a quick view of the government job openings, as well as the lack of development of the “tour a progeny” initiative on the site, indicate that there wasn’t much of a population to man the viceroy positions by September 2002. In all likelihood, this lack of a population was perhaps the downfall of Kryous.

It is not a stretch of the mind to imagine the scenario: Mr. Tegeros, after years of hard work in developing the micronation, finally throws in the towel after a lukewarm response by the micronational sector. The lack of evidence of new foreign relations being formed after 2001 (a year which saw Kryous establish relations with heavyweights such as Reunion and Pasargada), further suggests that he did not possess enough spare time to actively advertise the micronation. That assumption can be further supported by the ease with which Kryous passed from the knowledge of Interlandics (based on my personal experience as a member of that micronation in 2001).

These assumptions regarding the fall and decline of Kryous may not be totally accurate, mind you, but it’s the best I can formulate as there is no records of daily community discussions for the micronation. Was it a micronation that suffered the fate of being nothing more than a one-man show? If you can answer that question from experience with Kryous, or you can provide more information on this forgotten micronation, then email the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities. **Ω**

Feedback? Email us at [\[REDACTED\]](mailto:feedback@rimajournal.com)

Lavalon Considers Land Options

by Max Basil and John Sager

Note: For those of you using Acrobat 6.0 or above (and perhaps even 5.0), to view a hyperlink associated with a part of the article, simply click on it and it will open in your browser. And certain people dare to say PDFs are inferior to blogs in this regard! - the Editor

The Independent Republic of [Lavalon](#) has been looking into acquiring land through many different methods.

The original idea for land was spearheaded about six months ago by former President Vasroixie (*editor's note – read Mr. Basil*). During his term in office, extensive research was conducted on the possibility of claiming a portion of the land in West Sahara. According to his research, there are slivers of land in the Western Sahara that are not claimed by any major powers. Vasroixie also attempted to gain international support, but his hopes for an inter-micronational movement to claim Western Sahara never materialized. Now, because of security concerns over the West Saharan (Wahari) separatist movement and possible al-Qaeda operations, Lavalon has ended its idea of promotion of West Sahara as a viable land claim for Lavalon.

The next administration, led by Premier John Sager, also tried to move forward to claim land. He proposed legislation in the Land Act dated Dec 13, 2005: "To reach the goal of sovereign territory, Lavalon shall release publicly their claim to uninhabited islands with the hopes of their claims being recognized by fellow micro nations, fellow macro nations, and the United Nations." The Land Act primarily was aimed towards claiming unoccupied and remote islands claimed by macro national powers. Some suggested islands to claim included Ducie and Henderson Islands (UK) near the Pitcairn Islands, Jarvis Island (US) located between the Cook Islands and Hawaii and only visited once a year, unclaimed Elephant Island in Antarctica, and Atlasov Island (Russia).

This legislation sparked much debate on the subject and renewed interest in acquiring land. However, during this debate, many issues were realized and the Land Act failed to pass through the General Assembly. The most obvious point was made by Chancellor Henzelli: "We can't lay claim on a piece of land currently claimed by a macronational power." Minister of Culture Zac Azillin expressed fear over challenging the great powers, and others shared his perspective as well. Ultimately it was realized that even if we were to claim the land, acquiring an island, many of which feature unique environments, was to be unsuccessful, dangerous, and a waste of time.

However, it was suggested to make a claim just for fun. Legislation was therefore drawn up to establish a recreational land claim. The Land Recreation Act was intended to move forward towards acquiring land by developing a plan on how to choose land, how to acquire it, and how to effectively use the land. With no risks involved, The Land Recreation Act was passed by the General Assembly as an exercise in applying Lavalonian language, culture, and political institutions to a real place in the

macronational word. This would be a purely fictional claim, and the location of the fictional claim has yet to be determined. The Ministry of Culture was given the power to find a suitable place to claim.

While no land has yet to be claimed recreationally, the Ministry of Culture has used its authority to study many different and alternative methods of acquiring land. Max Basil has led the new Land movement. He authored the Pre-Emptive Land Act which stated: All land or man-made ocean-based platforms on the planet Earth that shall not have already been claimed by any other nation shall, on January 28, 2006, be considered hereby claimed for the Independent Democratic Republic of Lavalon. While this act was withdrawn because it was a "vast and far-reaching claim," the idea of claiming man-made platforms has been further researched.

This idea is based on the premise of turning abandoned oil rigs into fish farms. In the next 10-15 years, thousands of oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico will be unused. The plan, which is in the early stages of development, is to somehow acquire one of the many oil rigs for Lavalon. Lavalon would then build a habitat for fish. The climate is perfect for fish and there are possibilities of great revenue.

The problem is, however, that this is all possible. Even if an oil rig can be claimed and occupied by Lavalonians, a daunting task in the first place, there are no guarantees. There would be up to three years of work to acquire the permits necessary for a fish farm. And there is no way to guarantee profit. The technology exists, but this would require putting a great idea into practice. The legal, not to mention the fiscal, costs of developing a fish farm are incredible. Besides, it would only take one more Katrina to wipe out all our hard work.

Nevertheless, Max Basil has worked out a plan for the acquiring oil rigs and has presented it to the Executive Cabinet. He has also used satellite images to locate oil rigs over 60 miles from the US political border. The next step is to go to an oil rig and begin negotiations with the drilling company who owns it. All in all, the plan ends as a profitable venture with enough money to move on to an even greater step in Lavalon's quest for physical sovereignty.

The next step would be the purchase of an island. While there are obvious reasons that the purchase of an island does not by any international standards mean sovereignty, this would be a step forward and as it would actually be the physical acquisition of land to be governed by the people of Lavalon. Some targeted

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Special Presentation

2005 : Through the Heads of State

It's the first New Year for which the RIMA Journal has been in existence to observe. We have decided to try something new as a way to look back at the events of 2005, within the borders of individual micronations, by inviting the Heads of State of the various micronations in the Anglophone Sector to provide some first hand accounts. Each of the following entries summarize briefly the major events for each micronation in the eyes of its leader. Be warned that these are personal accounts of events, so if you don't agree with one of the interpretations presented for an event, feel free to write into us; but don't blame the RIMA Journal as the views presented are not necessarily indicative of the Journal or the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities.

Union of Woodstanic Republics *In the words of: Shadow Blade Prime*

"Since Woodstania was only formed in August 2005, there isn't much history in terms of international flavour...I have made many new friends here and [I have] tried to engage in many debates across the micronational boards. The highlight of my short micronational year is the founding of the [Confederacy of Independent States] which [has] bonded together the so-called "Loveley Spin-offs and Breakaways" into one coalition to defend each other from the beast called Loveley.

Woodstania now encompasses many people and other micronations. [It has] united a few of these under the Woodstanic banner despite growing rivalries from Loveley and non-Confederacy Loveley Spin-offs. Although not a powerful nation of Micras, in the eyes of the Loveley Spin-offs, we are a true superpower." Ω

Middle Korea *In the words of: St. Fenix*

"This was my first year of full-blown micronationalism and leadership [and] it went surprisingly well. I got Middle Korea's name out to the Micronational World as I began to fully explore it. Meanwhile, I gained a domain for [its] site. I found a skin for [the site] and established lasting conversations on [its] forums. It has been a wondrous beginning and hopefully [it] won't end in 06', but instead will continue into the future. I am glad to have met most of the people I have met and live with few regrets. Middle Korea is coming into its own and I'm glad about that." Ω

Feedback? Email us at rima@gotzborg.com

The Sovereign Natopian Empire

In the words of Nathan Shepard

"Natopia intervened in the territorial expansion of the Grand Commonwealth by annexing by treaty the Principality of Sullifree. This led to the Kingdom of Lovely breaking its treaty with Natopia and threatening to attack to defend the Kingdom of Babkha based on a misunderstanding of intentions." Ω

The Zatriarchate of Matbaa

In the words of Mehmet

"The amount of alliances and help we got from other Micronations during our first month of independence." Ω

Duchy of Paradisia

In the words of William Tomsett

"Abolishing our stupid "Dukedom" title and becoming the only active Duchy Micronation. We also celebrated our 33rd anniversary. Another high point was the opening of our first bank." Ω

Federal Republic of Cyberia

In the words of Emperor Jacobus:

"Shedding our Imperialist past. Just getting going again without an invasion is an achievement." Ω

The Grand Commonwealth *In the words of: Tahmesab Shah*

"The formation of the Grand Commonwealth saw the coming together of five respected and long-standing micronations. Unlike Tymaria this has been working well and a true sign of this is the inclusion of Karnali later in the year. The Grand Commonwealth is today undoubtedly the major player in Micras and is expected to grow further." Ω

Grand Duchy of Lac Glacei *In the words of Ryan Caruso*

"Lac Glacei, at one time merely forming a part of a joke, has grown, from its first and albeit cage-rattling beginnings, to a fully-fledged micronation of some repute. After experiencing the initial burst of culture during the 2003 uprising which led to the first restoration, Lac Glacei experienced a lull until the fourth quarter of 2005 when renewed negotiations restored the duchal government and established independence for the country. Since that time, Lac Glacei has gone on to annex a good majority of Cranda, combat Atterans and Flying Os-mans, establish a functioning chivalric order, and begun to develop a unique and in-depth culture. While certainly not a superpower, Lac Glacei has established a name for itself and has lasted two years. A testament to the viability of the small micronation." Ω

Continued on Page 6

*Continued from Page 5***United Counties of Riponia** *In the words of Mr. Iehova*

“2005 was the year of the re-birth of Riponia. The nation that had once solely existed in a bedroom in the North of England was launched into the wider micronational community and caused a stir from the moment it's name was first uttered.

Since those fateful first few days in mid-July, Riponia has been blessed with a seemingly un-stoppable momentum and growth, and things look even rosier for the future.

All of us at Riponia wish our fellow micronationalists a prosperous and successful coming year.” Ω

Imperial Republic of Shireroth*In the words of Fax Celestis*

“The past year has been a year of innovation, including two separate successful advertising campaigns, a revolutionary internal structuring, the creation of the Micronational Astronomy Society, deliberation on a post-based economy, and a move from Ezboard to phpBoard. We have also fine-tuned our government, seated power in the hands of new citizens, sponsored the MicroWiki, attempted to make the Micras Sectors' existence known in Wikipedia, and worked to better the Micras Sector as a whole.” Ω

Soviet Republic of Novaya Zemlya *In the words of Vladimir Alexi*

Cultural: The February Renaissance, when Zemlyan art came to its peak, with all comrades submitting in some form or another, their own creations, as well as Zemlya hosting a rather successful intermicronational competition.

Political: The transition to Communism and subsequent retreat, a time when all comrades took stock of Zemlya's good points and bad points and pushed to support the structure that worked. Zemlya's death after the Ezboard disaster and subsequent rebirth - gaining independence from the Grand Commonwealth in a bloodless Revolution.

Journalistic: Gazeta (newspaper publication), State Journal (weblog) and RFZ (radio broadcast) being run simultaneously by our dedicated comrades, and getting the FNORD for Excellence in the Field of Journalism.” Ω

Barbarica*In the words of William Bardos Conan*

“High points in 2005.- Victory over Picuda's secessionists, union with Siluria, William Bardos resigns the throne, and Alvaro I is elected king democratically by himself. 2005 was a real strange year for barbarians.” Ω

The Kingdom of Vallicoria*In the words of King Cameron I*

“The year 2005 was important as it marked the founding of the Kingdom. We're a relatively new micronation, and as of now do not have a completely formal structure, but we're working on it. We hope to prosper in 2006.” Ω

Republic of Anthelia*In the words of Koen Nevens*

“In the very first year of existence of this micronation several crucial steps were taken. Legally speaking the adoption of a Constitution on 4 may 2005 was important. For the community in its entirety the creation of a website (www.anthelia.net) and the setting up of php forums, which allowed the moving away from yahoo groups, was equally important for the development of the micronation. Politically speaking the importance of the Nevens Communiqué should be pointed out. That statement, made on 10/11 April 2005, sparked a revival without which the former steps would not have been achieved. Finally, on the intermicronational scene, the leading role played by Anthelia in the Novasolum movement, which has already led to the signing of the Novasolum and the Novapol Treaty is also worth mentioning.” Ω

(Continued from page 1)

tion to conduct a program, it brings a sense of macronational realism to the real estate program, with mortgages combining everything from sales and utility taxes to legal fees associated with closing the contract.

The program has also spawned a secondary industry as DeBlood has opened up a construction firm to build custom dwellings for those who are not interested in vacant properties available. King August Charles has also opened up a lumber production company to provide the building materials, and Liam Sinclair, a student of civil engineering macronationally, has created an engineering firm to develop municipal and transportation infrastructure within Gotzborg. Ω

From the Archives

For those who frequent the Micro-Net forums setup late last year, you might have noticed the re-emergence of Toaka after relative intermicronational silence for the last couple of years. This month's archive article was in the concerns upheaval in the well-established online micronation. It remains the micronation with the best website to this day, even though that site changes every few months - a habit which has left the Toaka website all but bare in terms of content since the late 1990s. - Editor

KATO FACES TURMOIL, UNCERTAINTY

Jan 05/2003 - Micronational Free Press

KATO, a nation famous for its excellent websites, and its neutrality, is facing a crisis – one which will decide the fate of the nation.

An official within KATO said that the nation has become factionalized and that negotiations between the factions to resolve the situation have so far proved useless. The official went on to say that because of the infighting, the government has collapsed. Two of the major issues are the role of the Monarchy and currency. Many of the factions see the monarchy as not being interested in the nation. The common ground between the factions is unacceptable to many of them, as [it] would send KATO to the grave.

In order to save the nation, some citizens are planning a radical restructuring that would make KATO into a republic, getting rid of the Emperor. Some have suggested that KATO, which is mainly a community of people in British Columbia, become a more online nation and attempt to find new blood. Becoming a more online nation would also allow the many citizens who are not in the British Columbia area to participate more in KATO affairs. However, many of the nobles are reserved to the idea of an online government and legislative system that is common to micronations in this sector. Ω

This Month in History

January 2005: Emperor Jacobus, long known for his threats to Cyberian national security, is convicted of aiding a foreign government in attempting to overthrow the Atteran Imperial Government. He is banned from Attera for 90 days following a plea bargain agreement between Crown Counsel Ras Noseworthy and Public Defender Ras Beard.

Also in January 2005, Robert Davis received the Odium Award for Overall Achievement, becoming the only micronationalist to receive the sector's most prestigious award after less than a year of participation.

January 2002: The United Republic of Tymaria and Republic of Amerada bring resolution to a land dispute over Interland and that Tymarian state's participation in the Micro Monde world map project. Fallout of the incident includes Tymarian officials making the Micronational Cartography Society world map the exclusive fictional map on which Tymaria operates.

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islands were found for sale. The most notable include a small [island](#) off the coast of Japan (\$300,000) and [another](#) off the coast of Chile (\$195,000).

Ultimately, the final stages of the plan were deemed unrealistic. Even if Lavalon was able to pay hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to buy a natural island that is already within some other nation or nations' borders, and can successfully secede the island from the other nation or nations, it is still doubtful that a natural island will be fully under Lavalonian sovereignty.

In conclusion, the claiming of abandoned oilrigs is the most realistic method to gain land according to the Ministry of Culture. Building a platform for Lavalon would be too expensive, as would acquiring real land. More research will be made on the subject in the coming months when Max Basil will be visiting the Gulf Coast. Currently, he plans a visit to the US Coast Guard and a deep sea fishing excursion in order to evaluate the situation in person. The government has yet to officially accept the Ministry of Culture's proposal, as the Executive Cabinet is still discussing the issue, however many possibilities have been exhausted and some sort of man-made platform has emerged as the most viable option. Regardless, Lavalon has been looking into all possible methods of land claim objectively and will always stay true to the notion that there ARE possibilities for Lavalonian sovereignty. Ω

For further information:

[Microsanity Episode 1: Lavalonian Land Claims](#)
[Turning Oil Rigs into Fish Farms](#)

Institute News

The Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities has contracted Olive Branch Services, controlled by micronationalist Carson Smith, to perform public consultations on methods to improve the distribution of the RIMA Journal as well as to profile our general audience. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2006.

RIMA and Micronations.net are currently testing a new website presentation program. It is hoped that the new interface will allow for both organizations to communicate better with their audiences, as well as provide easy access to resources such as RIMA's Robert Davis Library, which holds publications concerning micronational history.

WANTED

The Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities is currently looking for persons who are willing to contribute a regular or irregular article to the RIMA Journal for its monthly issues. Articles can be on any subject, provided they're within the realm of reason, as we're trying to expand our coverage.

Editor's Column -- *There is such thing as being excessive in micronationalism*

Ask any micronationalist why they first joined the hobby, or movement – whichever purpose suits you – and the general answer will be that they wanted to participate in nation building. More concisely, each and every one of us who participate in this hobby do so as we want to change our macronation but are either too young, too shy, or otherwise preoccupied, to join the macronational establishment and try to implement those changes.

So, we join a hobby where we can be our own kings and queens, or contribute to an established micronation where the population is so small that there's less chance of our more questionable ideas being rejected as foolish. It is simple human nature – to get our way – at the basis of our micronational participation, whether we realize it at a conscious level or not. There is a time to realize, however, that the pursuit of that fundamental purpose of our being becomes dangerous, and we have seen repeatedly the consequences of the lack of such realization throughout the world.

One way which is dangerous, in the micronational realm, is when an overzealous (among other traits) micronationalist attempts to impose his/her view on others with micronational law that conflicts with the law of reality. Whether your micronation exists on the Internet, or you claim your backyard in Texas as a sovereign nation, the fact of the matter is that your micronation and its laws are superseded by those of the macronation in which you reside.

This ignorance of macronational law's supremacy is found largely in the secessionist micronational movement, moreso than on the hobby side of things. A good example of dangerous ideas can be seen in Ascalon just last month where the legislature of that micronation, which exists mainly in an offline community sense, attempted to impose restrictions on abortion. To attempt to remove what has become a fundamental human right of a woman in the Western world, a right protected by United States law (as Ascalon operates in that macronation), simply because the woman decides to participate in what is – in reality - nothing more than a “club” is outrageous and excessive.

Thankfully, the Ascalonian government was defeated on the measure, but for almost a dozen legislators in that micronation to think that they can impose restrictions on what are macronational legal rights of an individual is what smacks micronationalism in the face. Moreover, unfortunately, that was not the only extent of Ascalon's falling out with the realities of the limitations of micronationalism – they even tried to legislate against anti-social behaviour.

Wow. I guess we should all be happy that such neo-conservatives join micronationalism because the real world has no time for their beliefs. Never lose track of reality or your place in the world. Ω



Freddy Warren's Alternative Views

Freddy Warren, also known as Koen Nevens, is a macronational legal expert and current president of Anthelia. He is a member of the Royal Institute of Micronational Antiquities and writer of the Alternative Views column featured in the RIMA Journal.

Are territorial shifts on the continent of Novasolum a threat to or a positive turn-out for the so called “Novasolan movement”?

The foreign relations amongst Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg and Natopia definitely deserve more publicity. Between 13 and 24 December, those micronations signed a second noteworthy international agreement, named the Novapol Convention. That convention is not yet another treaty of mutual recognition and friendship. On the contrary, the agreement is particularly ambitious as it sets up a continental criminal intelligence organisation (Novapol). It will be the organisation's prime task to create and maintain a database with information on criminal investigations and criminal offences conducted and/or committed in one of the Novasolan micronations. The Novapol Convention is actually an execution of the first international agreement that the aforementioned micronations signed and ratified, namely the Novasolum Treaty. That agreement did indeed provide that the signatory nations would strive for closer cooperation in policing and judicial matters.

In the wider micronational community the “Novasolan movement”, as some already call it, receives little attention. For instance, in one of the latest works on intermicronational politics and history – we are referring to *Microscope*, written by Scott Alexander – no mention is made of the prodigious developments amongst the Novasolan micronations. The reason is clear: political analysts and historians tend to focus on diplomatic disputes and other kinds of turmoil, while the Novasolan movement is inhales and exhales a desire for peace, cooperation and friendship. In that sense it contrasts with the relations which the micronations situated on the neighbouring continent of Cibolenland had during and shortly after the collapse of the micronation of San Martin.

This article is not only intended to applaud the achievements of the Novasolan micronations. A closer look should also be taken

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at some recent territorial developments on the continent of Novasolum and what the impact those events might have on the future of Novasolan cooperation.

The Treaty of Loredo: Rio Grande annexed

On 2 November, a treaty was signed between the Empire of Alexandria and the Confederate States of Rio Grande, which stipulated the annexation of the latter by the Empire. Rio Grande was party to the Novasolum Treaty and was of all Novasolan micronations probably the one struggling the most with the inactivity of its citizens. President Benavides made several statements soliciting the citizens of the Rio Grande to give shape to their nation, but without real success. It can therefore not be considered a surprise that the existence of Rio Grande, as a sovereign micronation, ended.

The consequences (in a negative sense) of this political event have been limited, not to say inexistent, for the 'Novasolan movement'. While it is true that the number of participatory micronations decreased, it was a very sensible move from the Rio Grandan President to seek annexation by Alexandria. Since that micronation was also party to the Novasolum Treaty, continuity – both in a legal and in a political sense – was preserved. As expressed by Anthelian Executive Councillor Nevens: *“Regarding the annexation of Rio Grande, I see no real problem. Whether Alexandria honours the established treaty obligation of Rio Grande or not, Alexandria itself is bound by the Novasolum Treaty and since the Alexandrian territory is now expanded, the territorial scope of application of the treaty vis à vis Alexandria is also expanded. In other words, the Rio Grande territory is still covered.”*

Territorial claims by Gotzborg and Anthelia: the “unclaimed expanse” issue

It was in the aftermath of the Treaty of Loredo that President Darcy of Anthelia suggested to Alexandria and Gotzborg to *“put in a joint submission to the MCS to divide up vacant land [on the Novasolan continent] amongst the three of our micronations”*. The territory to be claimed was *“an expanse of unclaimed land surrounded by Alexandria, Gotzborg, Anthelia and Rio Grandé”*. John Darcy argued that the already existing Novasolan micronations *“cannot be sure that a new micronation laying claim to that land would respect our earlier agreements”*. While Alexandria was in favour of that proposal, King August Charles II of Gotzborg seemed more reluctant.

It can therefore be considered a surprise that, on 29 November 2005, Gotzborg claimed half of the unclaimed land as described above. John Darcy immediately expressed concern on behalf of Anthelia. He wondered *“from a regional diplomacy point of view”* whether *“this expansion should not have been discussed in our [Novasolan] Conference in Alexandria?”* and said not to be expecting a pre-emptive move by any one of the Novasolan micronations. The Gotzborg government replied, *“The early drive was*

more because of the eventual and at the time impending request for land by another nation which since chose to claim land on another continent”. Seemingly, Gotzborg had acted in a spirit of preserving the continent to micronations who stand behind the movement in favour of close cooperation. Gotzborg nonetheless admitted that the claim was also driven by the need of resources for the country's industrial capacity. One could argue that such reasoning barely meets the standards of a cooperative diplomatic policy.

While – at first – Anthelia seemed to be satisfied with the answers provided by the Gotzborg government, a few days later the Republic claimed the other part of the expanse and in one area (around Mount Dracon) even contested the Gotzborg claim. However, this caused no diplomatic incident. The MCS, after receiving the Kingdom's approval, granted the contested land to Anthelia.

It can be said that the “issues” caused by these claims and which could have started a disintegration of the Novasolan movement, were defused at the right time in the right manner, not by declaring war but conducting fashionable diplomacy. Clearly, the bond which had already been formed between Gotzborg and Anthelia in the past, appeared more than resilient enough to keep the Novasolan spirit afloat.

The non-involvement of Lavalon

The non-involvement of the Republic of Lavalon has always been a shadow over the success of Novasolan cooperation. During the negotiation of the Novasolum Treaty Lavalon was not involved, as Natopia was representing that micronation in accordance with the VUAS Treaty. Yet, when the Lavalonian Supreme Court declared that treaty unconstitutional and Lavalon's relationship with Natopia cooled down, none of the other Novasolan micronations undertook the initiative to involve Lavalon in the negotiations. Actually, it can be doubted whether Lavalon would have accepted the invitation at that time. On 4 November 2005, Carson Smith did say on behalf of Lavalon that that micronation *“would be interested in a treaty with Anthelia and possibly also in the Novasolum group”*, but added to it that *“at present we have some interior reorganization going on and all foreign relations are put on hold”*.

About a month later, Lavalon was invited to participate in a conference amongst the Novasolan micronations, held in Geneva, Alexandria. Still, Lavalon's involvement could be described as ‘observatory’. When Anthelia suggested that Lavalon should sign the Novasolum Treaty, [the Lavalonian government conveyed a short message] that it would not sign that treaty. No reason was given. Although none of the other Novasolan micronations reacted to this announcement, it is clear that Lavalon's decision did form a painful incident. Could the closer cooperation amongst Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg and Natopia still be called Novasolan if one of the micronations on the continent refused to participate? Of course one could argue that Talamthom and Treesia also have land on that continent and

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that those micronations aren't involved either. Still, the small islands occupied by those two micronations can or could hardly be compared to the vast landmass occupied by Lavalon.

It must have come as a relief to Alexandria, Anthelia, Gotzborg and Natopia when John Sager, the Lavalonian prime minister, announced in the beginning of 2006 that his micronation ceded back its land to the MCS, with the exception of the province of Klaasiya. That province was handed over to Natopia, a transition that turned out in favour of the Novasolan movement, just as Rio Grande's annexation by Alexandria. The words of Natopia's King in *Anthelia Quarterly* no.2 now seem prophetic. On the question: "Do you think Lavalon should be invited to join the Novasolum Treaty?" he replied: "I am not sure of Lavalon's official stance on the MCS. When the claim was lodged several Lavalonians did not want to be on the MCS map. With that sort of attitude toward the one thing that binds the Novasolan nations together, that is geographic location, I am not sure they would be a wise addition to the Novasolum Treaty."

An empty space on the continent: Paulovia claims territory on Novasolum

With Lavalon being slated from the map, the question remained which new micronation would claim the vacated land. We have already explained that most Novasolan micronations find it important that new micronations who settle on the continent are willing to adhere to the movement and would subsequently sign both the Novasolum Treaty and the Novapol Convention. One of the Novasolan micronations could of course have lodged a new claim at the MCS for the remaining territory or those nations could again have considered a joint claim. Given the recent expansions of all those micronations such claims could however not be backed by serious motives, such as an increase in the number of citizens.

Finally, [the Principality of Paulovia] claimed the former Lavalonian territory in its entirety. That micronation has been able to create a good image for itself in the intermicronational community. Not only does the Paulovian website look great, the manner in which Paulovia conducts diplomacy has been much appreciated too by most micronations. As for the position of the Novasolan micronations vis à vis Paulovia: Gotzborg and Natopia have already signed a treaty of mutual recognition with the Principality, while Anthelia has unilaterally recognized the micronation's sovereign existence.

Supporters of the Novasolan movement therefore hope that Paulovia's claim will be granted and that the Principality will indeed sign the Novasolum Treaty and the Novapol Convention. All signs indicate that Paulovia would constitute an added value to one of the more inspiring intermicronational movements since the turmoil on Cibolenland. Ω

FJ Warren

Editor's Note: The ~30 footnotes didn't want to make the jump to Publisher.

Questions? Comments? Submission? To contact the RIMA Journal, email:



Micronational Militaries and Conflict

Part 1 of a 4 part series

I wrote a paper in late 2002 on this subject and in place of finishing it to look like a formal paper, I will instead release the important parts of it to over the next four issues of the RIMA Journal. - Liam Sinclair

Being a small peaceable community, why do micronations, or more accurately, their governments, feel the need to have militaries, and to engage in conflict with each other? Furthermore, how exactly do these militaries conduct "warfare"? Warfare on a micronational level is nothing like what it is macronationally; however, the reasons why governments go to war macronationally tend to be seen on the micronational scene as well.

Micronational War – Does it exist?

The simple definition of war is a *state of hostility or fighting between nations*. However, when we think of war, we think of tanks, planes, and ships, all engaged in a terrible and bloody battle. No such battles take place micronationally (Internet wise), so can we really say that there is such a thing as micronational war?

A good reference as to what real soldiers think about the concept of micronational war comes from the Atteran Empire. Many Atterans are members of the United States Army and have been engaged in conflict many times over the years. To them, micronational war is ridiculous, understandable since they have experienced the real thing. They're quite right to think that way about micronational warfare, mainly since micronational warfare has no physical casualties, so fighting, in the common sense interpretation of the word, isn't really occurring.

We must also consider that macronationally governments are the sole organizations in a state which have the legal right to use force, including going to war (though internationally war is frowned upon and called illegal sometimes). Micronationally, governments do not have that right at all since we are outranked by macronational laws. Quite frankly, if micronation A attacked micronation B with something like low-level hacking, there would be no warfare happening in essence, only a federal crime in most macronations. The authority to go to war just simply does not exist at a micronational level, so any warfare is really nothing more than a conflict which uses spamming or hacking – the latter if you want to find yourself in a macronational court, and the former if you want to get your ISP to cut you off!

So, what is micronational conflict? I define it as a hostile nature between micronations which may escalate into spamming, or macronationally illegal tactics, in order to create a favourable outcome to an argument. Most often, sadly, these conflicts are started for the most immature of reasons or because egos are being attacked. The micronation of first strike generally fits the immature, egotistic, description (at least the leadership of the nation does). Ω

Next Month: Why do Micronational Gov'ts resort to military conflict?