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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
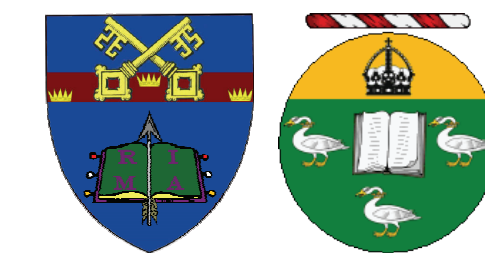
Wiki Evolution?

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 Armorials

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

Full Issue Contents

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 determination 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 my 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 Deh,* 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.

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
Shipbuilding (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 macronational 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 MicroXchange 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 Atteran Federation: A Requirement for Change
September 2006

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 Tzion (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*

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New Publishing Period, New Look!

The RIMA Journal has resumed publication for its Volume 2 publication period, which extends from December 2005 to March 2005 (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@gotzborg.com

RIMA Essay Contest

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 Klosso, and Nathan Shepard. All essays and judging commentaries will be presented in a forthcoming publication of the Institute in 2006. Ω

Winning Entry by David Roest

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 Solomonic 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, Makonnia, Interland; Principalities: Sa'an, Dahlakhia, Baut-Chii Sedera, New Vega Baja, Kreutzberg, Artach and Europolis