

In the World

By decree of the Trade Sovereignty Act all formal commerce conducted within or originating from territory or demesne of the Lirian Empire must be transacted in Queen's Ounces.

Famed ethnologist Malaki Tapprio still missing, presumed dead. Search parties have found no trace of the renowned scholar-adventurer, who disappeared under mysterious circumstances months ago.

Lirian Trade Commission recently contracted two additional legions of Dolvanni mercenaries to vanguard trade expeditions during the busy summer and fall seasons.

The Institute of Process Arcanum's Etheric Engineering Department continues to make great strides in harnessing extra-dimensional energies. Among the latest advances is a functioning "etheric battery" prototype capable of mechanically storing such energies for extended periods of time.

Aniyonema diplomats have registered complaints with the Lirian embassy, voicing increasing concern over the unexplained disappearances of Aniyonema tribesmen. Representatives from the Lirian Foreign Office dismissed the complaints as "hysterics."

Scholars from the Lirian Zoological College's Center for Anomalous Zoology recently published several

papers detailing the dissection of a fehir specimen. Among the astonishing discoveries is the fact that an adult fehir possesses multiple heart organs. The Center continues to offer its exorbitant bounty for the capture of a live specimen for study.

Lirian Minister of Public Safety expressed concern over the recent spate of deadly explosions occurring from home laboratory accidents. He vowed to spearhead a new law to institute licensing of alchemists and stricter regulation of alchemical substances. Support for the initiative was echoed by several prominent lawmakers.

Na'ren air pirates overtook the Lasai merchant airship *Dauntless*, which surrendered without resistance. Its cargo of trade goods was stolen, but no casualties reported. Commander of the pirate flotilla alleged to have been the infamous Commodore Matthews.

Queen Lira's 23rd birthday was celebrated across the Empire this past month. Dignitaries from the provinces of Argel, Krieg, Acria and Yoban presented Her Majesty with gifts during a formal ceremony in the capital.

Khenti Minister of Undeath recently announced a reduction in undeath labor, but did not specify a reason. Prices of copper, cinabar, galvaeite, and other precious minerals rose in anticipation of reduced production in the coming months.

A series of high-profile thefts have occurred in the Lirian capital. Investigators have reason to believe the crimes are the work of infamous stage actor and master of disguise Archibald Warner. Valuable artifacts have been reported stolen from the Lirian Royal Museum and others.

In Iron City

In honor of Iron City's newfound status as a protectorate of the Empire, this New Year's holiday will be celebrated with Lirian traditional festivities, including the running of the time-honored Pancake Race. To celebrate the diversity of the Empire, an Acrian-style eating competition will also be held. Entry fees and prizes for activities are to be announced the day of celebration. All residents of Iron City are invited to participate.

Mechanical abomination dubbed the "Ghost of Iron City" ceases to maraud roads in and out of the township, having been destroyed through the combined efforts of intrepid townsfolk and the Iron Guard under Cpt. Leshar.

Local Aniyonema tribesmen gather in Iron City to celebrate The Festival of the Flame with a ceremony hosted by the Aninoquisi. The grand celebration commemorates the satisfaction of blood debts and signals a brief respite from the quotidian savagery of the perpetually warring tribes.

Reports of luen attacks continue unabated. Efforts of the Argelan Inquisition under Exemplar Matthias Dumedd to quash the threat prove ineffective.

Citizens are advised to exercise extreme caution when venturing into the mine. There have been several eyewitness reports of strange creatures therein; the beasts seem averse to light, and have been observed to attack the source of any illumination. Additionally, medical experts have determined the air found in the mines to be hazardous and recommend limiting exposure without specialized protective equipment.

Classifieds

FINANCIERS NEEDED
Esteemed scholar Rockefeller Worthington of Liria proposes an exploratory expedition to the Sea of Glass in Jhandahar. Qualified private investors may direct inquiries by post or arrange for an audience in Iron City.


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BOUNTY OFFERED
In reprisal for the unlawful execution of a Lasai citizen, Lt. Melinda Cervazzi of the Lasai Merchant Corps wishes to announce a substantial bounty to be awarded for the disposal of rogue Jhandihari militants and bandit cohorts at the following rates: **8 Qoz.** per Jhandihari militant, **3 Qoz.** per bandit. Black ribbon and bead string trophies taken from the bodies must be presented as evidence in order to collect the reward. An additional bounty of **20 Qoz.** is offered for the proven death of rogue commander Rashid Mahret.

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Iron City Chronicle

By Cyrus Dren,
A Lirian Citizen

1st entry: Upon our arrival in Iron City we met up with a number of known and reputable people. I was surprised that these men and women would travel so far themselves rather than send their agents. This speaks to the promise of this place. It is clear it will soon grow to be a large and prosperous city. The town seems to have suffered under Jhandihari rule, as many buildings appear damaged or burnt. The local public house has a galvanic generator, but it is out of repair and there are precious few in the city. Security is a concern, as one must be on guard for theft and trespass. However, the townsfolk get along very well and band together when necessary. The transfer of authority from the Jhandihari administration to the new Lirian government was peaceable. Guilds are starting to form and the military has begun to delegate responsibilities. I am eager to observe how events develop in the coming months.

2nd entry: Having been gone for nearly a month, I was eager to return to the City. Rumours of Luen activity have been circulating in my absence. On my arrival I confirmed Luen attacks, but the town guard has done well in preventing them from disrupting the settlement. There have also been further rumours regarding the mine. Explosions have been witnessed and creatures have begun to make their way from the mine. Cmdr Wells and Cpt Leshner ordered the extermination of these creatures. Townsfolk were rallied for this mission and were successful in putting the mine creatures to death. The toxic air of the mine was of concern, but proper precautions were taken and few townsfolk have spoken of any lasting effects. For their bravery, those who participated were rewarded from the military's coffers. However, being of such noble and inquisitive nature, I believe

that they would have done it for free. Subsequently, those rumours have died down. Later that night the Ghost of Iron City attacked. The town joined together and dispatched it. It is a strange creature, being an amalgam of wrought metal and flesh. Some conjecture that it had once been human, but there is no way to confirm this chilling notion. Iron City remains a dangerous place, but holds even more promise than before. I strongly advise those seeking to travel here to take every precaution in doing so.

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A.P. Corvinus, Chief Editor

Basic Lirian Etiquette

By Blair Shizzar,

Officer of the Peace Corps

The foundation of etiquette begins with sensitivity to the perceptions of others and the intention not to offend. Even in Iron City, it is important to maintain the custom of etiquette. In doing so, we elevate ourselves and serve as an example to others. Below are several fundamental practices which I urge the residents of Iron City to continue, or adopt.

◆ One should remove gloves before shaking hands. This does not apply to women's indoor gloves.

◆ Men are expected to remove hats when indoors, especially in churches, private homes and public institutions. Both sexes should refrain from wearing coats, boots and other outer garments inside a home, as this is also frowned upon. One should never sit down to a meal without first removing one's hat and outerwear. Certain religious garments are exempt from this consideration.

◆ Many in Talus are proud of their heritage. Nonetheless, it is best to avoid characterizing others according to their cultural identity. Similarly, one ought to make inquiries regarding identity delicately.

◆ Avoid unfamiliar hand gestures, as many are impolite. Some gestures have different meanings in different cultures, even within Liria. For example, the thumb-to-index finger "OK" sign is an obscene gesture in the Lirian province of Krieg.

◆ One ought not to discuss one's personal wealth or success in business, nor inquire others of the same. This is especially true of one's work colleagues, who may be contractually obligated to confidentiality. Even when one's earnings are public knowledge, such as in the case of government employees, it is nonetheless an inappropriate topic of discussion.

◆ One should always address another by their proper title and surname until given permission to use the first name. "Mister" for male citizens. "Sir" or "Lord" men of aristocratic or noble lineage. "Miss" for unmarried women and "Missus" for married women. "Lady" for women of quality. When addressing military or police officers it is important to use their rank as a form of address. Use of the first name indicates a certain level of familiarity and is not to be taken lightly. These considerations do not apply to children under the age of 14 or individuals below your social standing, such as servants.

◆ Pointing at people with the index finger is mildly impolite. Pointing with the entire hand is more commonly accepted.

◆ Good manners dictate that, given a shortage of sitting places, one surrender their seat to the elderly, the crippled and the frail. Men are expected to surrender their seat to women regardless of other factors.

◆ When visiting someone's home, one should always bring a token, such as sweets, a small toy if the host has a child, a beverage to be shared, a book, or flowers. This custom holds true whether answering an invitation or visiting unannounced. Note the latter case is almost certainly rude unless the host has expressly permitted such

visits, or in the case of emergency.

◆ Some behaviors formerly prohibited as superstitions remain in our culture as simply poor manners, such as opening an umbrella indoors or shaking hands across a threshold.

The Modest Savage

By "Kilau" Ala'Hakaloo,
Of Balihu Origin

When I first arrived in Iron City, I found everything quite strange. It seemed to me that the people had strict customs and manners, the food was neither spicy nor filled with fruit, and the drinks lacked flavor. I have arranged with a scribe and Mr. Corvinus to produce a column relating Balihu traditions in the hopes of brightening this world of iron and smoke with island culture. My first entry will be a foray into the rare beverages of kings unique to our islands.

In Balihu, we call this beverage "Bana'nans Da'kiri" which can be translated as "Smashed Brains of our Enemies." I will be making this drink to share with the people of Iron City, and invite everyone to sample a delicious taste of Balihu at the tavern the first night I am back in town.

Ingredients:

2 small fresh Bananas,
peeled and sliced
1/2 Lime, squeezed
1 fistful of Sugar
10 chunks of Pineapple
1 big block of Ice (very rare
in Balihu Islands)
1 heavy Rock
1 water-tight Bag

Instructions:

Take the bananas, lime, sugar, and pineapple and put them in the bag. Crush them all together into a fine mush. Now, add the ice, seal the bag, and mash it with the rock like you were crushing the skulls of your foes. When the ice has been smashed into very small chunks, pour and enjoy! Traditionally, it is served in the hollowed out half of a coconut.

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