

Chapter 3

Hermetic Law and Politics

Since magi are independent by nature they have little need for organization and politics. The Order of Hermes, therefore, is very loosely organized. It serves as the only guarantee against anarchy and is only supported so far as it does prevent anarchy.

Because of this loose structure, there are relatively few rules governing the lives of magi. In many cases transgressions of these rules may be overlooked, or more likely, never discovered. In order to provide a minimum amount of structure, however, there are certain concerns that bring magi together to settle their differences. These concerns are usually dealt with at formal tribunals of magi and are discussed within the framework of a system of rules and laws which are universally known as the Code of Hermes

The main thing to remember when considering Hermetic law is that the rules governing the Order are mainly established through tradition and precedent, that is, by the past rulings of tribunals. The Code of Hermes, though a vital document to the Order, is not by any stretch of the imagination complete. It is the highest law of the Order, but it describes only the bare minimum of laws. All other laws are simply traditions or precedents based on the Code, and do not carry the same authority as the strictures of the original Code.



The Code of Hermes

All Hermetic magi have sworn to follow the Code. All other Hermetic laws, traditions, prohibitions, rules, and decrees derive all their power either from the Code or from voluntary obedience. Any breach of the Code is punishable by death. Though death is not often used as a punishment, it is always the punishment threatened if a magus should not agree to the terms of a lesser punishment. Simple as it may be, the Code of Hermes has turned a dozen competitive magi into an Order that has survived and prospered for over four hundred years.

A copy of the Code is found in every covenant, even those with minimal libraries, and it is usually revered as a document of great value. Many covenants read it aloud before every council meeting to remind themselves of why and how they are gathered together. An apprentice must be able to recite the Code from memory in order to become a magus.

Because the Code is so terse and free of detail, the Order has developed a Peripheral Code to explain, expand, and embellish it. The Peripheral Code is a collection of rulings and precedents created by tribunals since the first speaking of the Code, and its interpretation is debated much more frequently than is the interpretation of the Code itself.





The Peripheral Code

Over the years, the magi of the Order have interpreted the Code in various ways, producing a large body of writing on how various disputes have been settled. These writings are used as precedents for settling later disputes. Magi, however, do not swear to uphold the Peripheral Code as they do the Code of Hermes.

The Code does include a provision that all magi must abide by rulings made at tribunal. Since most additions made to the Peripheral Code are based on the rulings of the grand tribunal, technically these rulings are as binding as the Code itself. In practice, the Peripheral Code is open to debate and

varying interpretation. Further, when a local tribunal makes a ruling, it only applies to those magi within the tribunal's jurisdiction until brought before the grand tribunal. Thus, some tribunals have made their own idiosyncratic rulings on various subjects and have taken it upon themselves to enforce them. Though this is frowned upon by the quaesitores, it is not prevented.

The Peripheral Code covers such details as familiars, apprentices, the formation of covenants, appropriate punishment for personal offenses, and so on. Over the years, the quaesitores have added many different interpretations to the Peripheral Code. Because the quaesitores are often adversarial, other magi generally only obey quaesitores when their rulings are backed by the Peripheral Code. Therefore, much of the quaesitores' power depends on maintaining a large record of precedents in the Peripheral Code.

The Code of Hermes

"I, Bonisagus, hereby swear my everlasting loyalty to the Order of Hermes and its members.

"I will not deprive nor attempt to deprive any member of the Order of his magical power. I will not slay nor attempt to slay any member of the Order, except in justly executed and formally declared Wizards' War. I hereby understand that Wizards' War is an open conflict between two magi who may slay each other without breaking this oath, and that should I be slain in a Wizards' War, no retribution shall fall on he who slays me.

"I will abide by the decisions made by fair vote at tribunal. I will have one vote at tribunal, and I will use it prudently. I will respect as equal the votes of all others at tribunal.

"I will not endanger the Order through my actions. Nor will I interfere with the affairs of mundanes and thereby bring ruin on my sodales. I will not deal with devils, lest I imperil my soul and the souls of my sodales as well. I will not molest the faeries, lest their vengeance catch my sodales also.

"I will not use magic to sry upon members of the Order of Hermes, nor shall I use it to peer into their affairs.

"I will train apprentices who will swear to this Code, and should any of them turn against the Order and my sodales, I shall be the first to strike them down and bring them to justice. No apprentice of mine shall be called a magus until he first swears to uphold this Code.

At this point, followers of Bonisagus recite: "I shall further the knowledge of the Order and share with its members all that I find in my search for wisdom and power." *Others recite:* "I concede to Bonisagus the right to take my apprentice if he should find my apprentice valuable to him in his studies."

"I request that should I break this Oath, I be cast out of the Order. If I am cast out of the Order, I ask my sodales to find me and slay me, that my life should not continue in degradation and infamy.

"The enemies of the Order are my enemies. The friends of the Order are my friends. The allies of the Order are my allies. Let us work together as one and grow hale and strong.

"This oath I hereby swear on the third day of Pisces, in the nine hundred and fiftieth year of Aries. Woe to they who try to tempt me to break this Oath, and woe to me if I succumb to the temptation."

Crime and Punishment

The execution of justice in the Order of Hermes reflects its loose organization. While justice is a serious matter, magi have so far proven too individualistic to agree on a formal system of courts. In the place of such a system, tribunals handle the execution of justice, with guilt and sentences determined by vote, guided by the Code of Hermes and the Peripheral Code. While punishments vary widely, all carry the implicit threat of the ultimate punishment, death, if the magus should defy the decision.

When the punishment of summary execution is called for, the task is usually assigned to an archmage who is willing to perform it

and who is sometimes assisted by other magi. They are given the belongings of the executed magus as compensation. If the magus to be executed is an archmage, then different arrangements are made, for usually only a full Wizards' March can provide the desired results.

High Crimes and the Wizards' March

The high crimes of the Order are those described in the Code: those that endanger the Order itself. Slaying a magus, destroying a magus' magical ability, dealing with demons, and raising the wrath of mortals or supernatural beings against the Order are all considered high crimes. Those who commit high crimes are subject to the one punishment pre-





scribed by the Code, death. The sentence of death, in the case of High Crimes, is always carried out through a Wizards' March.

A Wizards' March is an official declaration that a magus has been cast out of the Order. As an outcast, the wizard is a threat to the others in the Order, and it is the obligation of all magi to hunt down and slay the outcast. Those who fail to fulfill the obligation are generally not punished, but most magi are eager to pursue the wrong-doer because the outcast's magical belongings go to any who partake in executing Hermetic justice. By tradition, as stated in the Code, the outcast's parents is especially bound to find and slay the criminal.

While magi often prefer to settle their own grievances, they occasionally inform those beyond the Order of Hermes that a given magus has been cast out. Most magi have made some enemies among mortals, and these enemies are often quite pleased to know that slaying the outcast would not bring retaliation from the rest of the Order.

Low Crimes

Any crimes that do not directly break the Code of Hermes are low crimes. For example, a magus does not break his oath to uphold the Code if he destroys another magus's familiar, laboratory, and library in the pursuit of some of that magus's secrets. He does, however, risk retaliation. These crimes and their punishments are defined by precedents the Peripheral Code. The principle that guides justice for low crimes is "an eye for an eye." The system of dealing with low crimes has changed over the years, and varies from area to area.

Where the Order is least organized, nearly anything goes. Weaker magi and lesser covenants often fall prey to the greed of those who are more powerful. As long as the Order does not feel threatened by this conflict, the rule of might prevails. Where the Order is more organized, such as where a powerful and just covenant holds sway, systems of proxy

retaliation have developed. Under this system, powerful magi are willing to step in and retaliate in place of weaker magi who have been wronged. Still, political influence plays a huge role in deciding whose acts of aggression are punished and whose are not. In areas where the Order is most powerful, most kinds of violent conflict do not occur, for no one dares step beyond the bounds of accepted behavior.

Suppose, for example, that a magus has conducted a raid on a weak covenant and looted its magical stores. As long as the aggressor did not slay any magi, these acts would not violate the Code of Hermes. In an area where justice is dependent on individual action, the magi of the raided covenant would be expected to execute any punishments they deem appropriate without assistance from any authorities. If they were weak enough to fall prey to a lone magus while on their home ground, they would not likely have the power to retaliate in full. In an area where justice is a public matter, the injured covenant could petition larger covenants at a tribunal and ask that retaliation be executed by proxy. More powerful magi would then be likely to punish the offender in the service of justice.

The Peripheral Code lists various transgressions and discusses their relative severity. In general, rulings affect the things that a magus values, in order of decreasing importance: the Gift, life, one's familiar, one's apprentice, one's laboratory and other magical property, one's privacy, and one's time. Note that exceptional versions of some things might not fit into this order, so that a well-trained and loyal apprentice could be judged equal to a mediocre familiar.

Punishments for low crimes fall into two categories: retaliation and reparation. Retaliation is damaging the aggressor in amount equivalent to the damage done by the aggressor. For example, a magus who kills the familiar of another magus could be punished by the loss of his own familiar. If lacking a familiar, the magus might be punished by loss of his apprentice plus his laboratory. Reparation is forcing the aggressor to make

up for the aggression. For example, it is common for a covenant that is retaliating as a proxy for a weaker covenant to force the aggressor to surrender some of its magical tomes. The aggressor is punished by loss of valuable books, the victim is satisfied to see the aggressor punished, and the proxy covenant benefits by the addition to its store of knowledge. Often, some of the books also go on to the original victims.

Certámen and Personal Disputes

Certámen is a form of magical duel which was developed by Tremere, and which provides a (usually) non-lethal way to resolve disputes between two magi. Certámen has been officially adopted by the grand tribunal as a means of dispute resolution (see page 25). There are several rules of conduct involved in certámen. These processes and mechanics are described on pages 78-79 of ArM4. In general, any dispute may be resolved using certámen, however, because the result is considered binding, those rights of magi that are considered inalienable may not be compromised by the results of a certámen duel.

Wizards' War

Those who designed the Code of Hermes recognized that magi would often have personal feuds, the resolution of which could not be satisfied by conduct allowed by the Code. The Wizards' War is the one method of settling personal disputes explicitly mentioned in the Code of Hermes. It allows one magus to attack and slay another magus within a rigidly defined time frame, after having given the other magus notice, without fearing retribution from others in the Order. The resolution of a Wizards' War is described on page 234 of ArM4.

Tribunals

Tribunals are always exciting affairs, consisting of infighting, casual professional conversation, debate on important issues, reclusive magi coming out of their forests and caves, decisions of great import, and usually, a ritual of initiation for apprentices who are ready to become magi. The time of a tribunal is both dreaded and anticipated.

A tribunal was initially a term reserved only for what is now called the grand tribunal. Now, however, it refers to any one of thirteen different officially recognized and regularly held council meetings of the Order. Official tribunal meetings are held once every seven years in each of these thirteen areas. Generally, each tribunal holds its tribunal meeting in the same year as the others. (The word tribunal also refers to the specific geographical areas over which these council meetings hold sway. A magus talking about the Stonehenge Tribunal, for example, could either be referring to the geographical area of England and Wales or to one of the official council meetings held by the magi of that area. Let the context be your clue as to which is which.)



Wizards' Councils

A tribunal is one type of wizards' council, but there are others. A wizards' council is, quite simply, any gathering of magi who have come together to make a decision. Within a covenant, councils are regular occurrences, but sometimes councils are called with representatives from various covenants.

Legal decisions may be made by any wizards' council. Technically, even a single magus could make a legal decision, but in practice, decisions made by larger groups of magi representing more covenants carry more weight. Thus, the rulings of a covenant council outweigh the decisions made by a single member of that covenant, the rulings of an *ad*



hoc collection of magi from several covenants outweigh the decisions made by members of only one covenant, the rulings of an official tribunal meeting outweigh the decisions made by *ad hoc* gatherings, and the rules of the grand tribunal outweigh all others.

A decision is assumed to be valid until it is investigated and reviewed by a greater council. For example, if a council of three magi declares a Wizards' March against another magus and then slays him, this action

will surely be noticed by other magi in the area. The other magi, probably in conjunction with the proceeding of a tribunal meeting, may investigate the cause for the March. If the cause was valid, no punishment will be given; the tribunal has simply ratified the actions of the smaller group. Should the reasons be found flawed, however, the tribunal might target the original three for Wizards' Marches. Following this logic, a faulty decision made by a hundred magi is still faulty,

and if it can be proven faulty by a greater council, the decision will be reversed.

In many cases, irreversible sanctions have already been carried out when decisions of lower councils are reversed. The victim of an improperly called Wizards' March, for example, is dead no matter the final outcome. Reversal of such decisions usually calls for punishments in accord with the "eye for an eye" precept of Hermetic law. For example, those who executed an improper Wizards' March will themselves be Marched, and so on.

Tribunal Customs

The Peripheral Code defines a tribunal as a gathering of at least twelve magi representing at least four covenants from the area of its jurisdiction, with a quaesitor in good standing presiding over the votes. All magi who dwell within and all covenants established within the tribunal region are considered members of that tribunal and no other. All decisions made by a tribunal are binding on all magi from covenants within the tribunal's jurisdiction.

Tribunals are generally held every seven years, though magi may call special tribunals to deal with specific, pressing issues. The first tribunal of the Order was held in the 906th year of Aries (A.D. 767). The other tribunals meet every seven years using the year of the first meeting as their starting point. In the thirteenth century, local tribunals will be held in the following years (A.D.): 1200, 1207, 1214, 1221, 1227, 1235, 1242, 1249, 1256, 1263, 1270, 1277, 1284, 1291, and 1298. The tribunals which would normally be held in 1228 are displaced one year earlier than normal to prepare for the grand tribunal that meets in 1228. Additional tribunals will be held in 1260 and 1293 to prepare for the grand tribunals held in the following years. All relevant covenants are notified of the specifics of each tribunal meeting (when it will take place, where it will take place, and so on) at least six months ahead of time.

Tribunals usually take place at the covenant of the praeco (see below), the leader of the tribunal.

When the tribunal convenes, during the day, the magi at the tribunal gather informally to discuss issues (often over lavish meals prepared by the host covenant) in preparation for the coming evening. At dusk, the tribunal officially convenes at the discretion of the praeco. The first task is to determine what shall be discussed at the tribunal. Any magus from the region may suggest any topic, although those of little interest to the praeco may be given little attention. Magi also announce at this time whether they have apprentices to be initiated as magi. Once all the topics and rituals of initiation have been announced, the praeco determines in what order they will be treated. If the praeco wants an apprentice to be able to vote, he may initiate that apprentice first. If not, the praeco can withhold the ritual until all voting is over.

As each issue is considered, the assembled magi talk, debate, pose questions to each other, and sometimes engage in certámen to settle disputes immediately. The meeting continues until all of the issues have been addressed or until dawn, whichever comes first. If there are more votes to be taken, the magi remain through the day, resting, relaxing, and preparing for the coming night of discussion. The time spent away from the council table is usually full of informal discussions and debates, and a variety of "shop talk" as the magi finally get the chance to interact socially with those of their own kind.

This cycles continues until, eventually, the magi run out of things to discuss and vote on. At that point, some magi usually remain for a while to meet formally or informally with other magi, although they can no longer depend on the hospitality of the praeco's covenant. Others simply return home with reports of the tribunal's decisions.

Some magi come to tribunals for specific issues which they wish to discuss. Others want to maintain the power of their covenants. Many come simply to meet other magi, see old friends, and talk about magic. If





relatively young player characters come from a Spring or Winter covenant, they might come to the tribunal to represent their covenant. If they are junior members of a Summer or Fall covenant, though, it is unlikely that the leaders would allow them to represent the covenant, in which case the player characters might come along simply to learn about the area and to run errands and such for the older magi.

The Praeco

The praeco is the oldest magus of the tribunal, and functions as its leader. Since praeconis are the oldest magi in their tribunals, they have often passed through Twilight several times and may be near Final Twilight. Most are idiosyncratic and some are crazy, but the Order has yet to invent another way to choose a praeco. At a tribunal meeting, a praeco may not vote, but he has three important rights: to silence any magi at a tribunal, to remove any magi from the discussion area, and to eject any magi from the tribunal entirely.

The praeco can silence any magus except the ruling quaesitor at any time and for any length of time. A silenced magus may vote, but may not speak. Sometimes a praeco declares that only one magus from each covenant may speak and each represented covenant must choose its speaker.

The praeco can also remove magi other than the ruling quaesitor from the discussion area. Those who are removed cannot vote, although they can leave their sigils with anyone remaining in the discussion area. These people may be called back when the praeco wishes.

The praeco's ultimate power lies in his ability to eject anyone, except the ruling quaesitor, from the tribunal. Ejected magi may leave their sigils with others, but they cannot participate in the tribunal and they may not be called back. The magi generally stay nearby, however, for the final vote called by the quaesitor (described below).

Through use of these powers, a praeco can prevent discussion of certain topics or let only magi of one opinion speak on a given topic. They can even draw the tribunal to a close at any time by silencing all the magi present for the remainder of the tribunal. Though the silenced magi could vote, no one could call for a vote in the first place, so the tribunal effectively ends.

At any time, except after being silenced or ejected, a magus can call for a vote of procedure. For a vote of procedure, all magi removed from the meeting room can return (unless removed from the tribunal altogether), each magus who is present gets one vote, and all may speak. They can then vote to overrule any action taken by the praeco, such as silencing a certain magus. The praeco may not vote or use any powers during a vote of procedure. Two-thirds of the magi present must vote to overrule the praeco, or the order stands. Remember that a silenced magus may not call for a vote of procedure.

Another check on the praeco's power comes at the end of the tribunal, when the quaesitor calls in those magi who have been removed or ejected and asks them and the others present if they wish to hold the tribunal again, this time with the next oldest magus present acting as praeco. No one can be silenced during the ensuing discussion. If at least three-fourths of the magi present vote in favor of holding the tribunal again, the praeco becomes just another participant, while the next oldest magus present presides as praeco. Such a vote is very rare. An old Hermetic adage has it that one should sooner try to contradict a law of magic than to contradict a praeco.

Voting

Voting is done through the use of sigils. Each magus has one as a symbol of his membership in the Order, and those magi who cannot attend the tribunal may give theirs to magi who do attend. The magi who carry others' sigils can vote with them, serving as prox-

ies for the other magi. Magi can even give the sigils they carry to other magi, who can then vote with them. The only restriction is that the last magus to vote with the sigil must be the one to return it to its owner and give an accounting of how it was used, so magi generally only use sigils from magi who live at their own covenants. Giving one's sigil to another magus is an act of trust and is usually only done for a member of one's own house or covenant. In any case, a magus may demand the return of his sigil at any time.

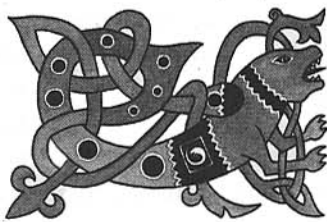
All votes at tribunal that apply beyond the meeting itself are made according to the number of sigils voted by the delegates. All votes that determine actions within the tribunal meeting, such as whether to overrule the actions of the praeco, are decided by one vote for each magus actually attending the tribunal.

The Ruling Quaesitor

Quaesitores never vote in tribunal proceedings (though they may let other magi use their sigils). Instead, they oversee the tribunal to make sure the Code of Hermes and the Peripheral Code are followed. If more than one quaesitor is present, the senior quaesitor presides and makes all rulings, while the others serve as consultants with no direct power.

If the magi have a legal dispute, they turn to the quaesitor, who rules on the legality of a given action or vote. The quaesitor may also interrupt the proceedings if he thinks the assembled magi are violating the Code or Peripheral Code.

The quaesitor's sole power is to declare the entire tribunal invalid. To be official, a tribunal must be overseen by a quaesitor, and if the quaesitor refuses to accept the tribunal, none of its decisions are legally binding.



Topics of Debate

The following concerns are those most likely to be addressed at tribunals:

Individual Conflicts: Magi often have conflicts that must be handled at the tribunal. Sometimes one magus will accuse another of breaking the Peripheral Code or even the Code of Hermes and will demand some kind of punishment for the offender. Tribunals often turn into trials when these matters come up.

Conflicts over Land and Resources: Magi have been known to fight over lands that provide raw vis or other magical resources. Some lands are open, freely used, and exploited by any who happen by. Others are recognized as the sole property of certain covenants or individual magi.

Agreements: Magi often come to agreements on specific issues so they can work together, or just to prevent hostility. A friend of the faeries, for instance, might ask that the lands of a certain faerie lord be recognized as friendly to the Order so no one will raid the place.

Joint Efforts: Sometimes a threat arises which requires the combined efforts of different magi and different covenants. In such cases, the magi may agree to share their resources somehow in an attempt to face the menace.

Covenant Dedication: Once in a great while, a covenant may find itself focused on a single objective. If the covenant vows to pursue the goal, and if the tribunal rules the goal is worthy and the magi are sincere in their pursuit of it, the tribunal can dedicate the covenant to that objective. The dedicated covenant usually gains some financial or magical support, as well as access to any tomes which pertain to their goal. Specialists often join the covenant to help it in its task. Dedication is considered permanent unless the objective is completed. A covenant might never reach its goal, in which case it continues pursuing it in perpetuity. Some goals, by their nature, are not truly attainable.





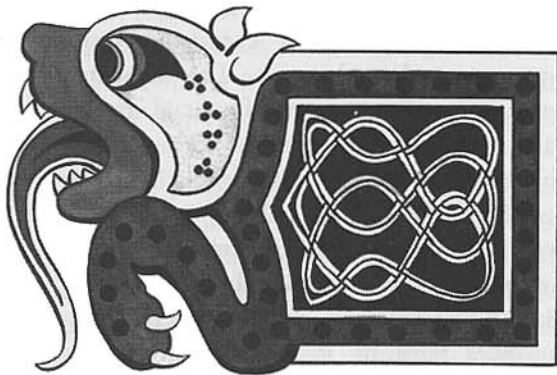
A notable example of covenant dedication took place in A.D. 1199 in Hibernia. After repeated confrontations with the minions of Hell, the covenant Ashenrise was almost completely destroyed by demons. The surviving members took a vow to protect Hibernia from demons and learn all it could about Hell and its minions. Since other covenants had trouble with demons as well, the tribunal dedicated the covenant. Now Ashenrise faces the goal of gaining the power and knowledge to fight devils wherever they may appear on the island.

Representatives for the Grand Tribunal: If the tribunal precedes a grand tribunal, the representatives for the grand tribunal are chosen.

To Send an Issue to the Grand Tribunal: The magi of a tribunal may vote not to decide on a certain issue, but rather to send a representative to the next grand tribunal where it can be decided by more knowledgeable or powerful magi. Since each representative can only bring up one issue to the grand tribunal, such a move is rare, and the issue must be very important.

The Grand Tribunal

The grand tribunal meets every thirty-three years at Durenmar, the Domus Magnus of House Bonisagus and the political center of the Order, which is located in the Black



Forest of the Holy Roman Empire. Its decisions have power over the entire Order and they are all entered into the Peripheral Code. In the thirteenth century, the grand tribunal will be held in A.D. 1228, 1261, and 1294. The details of scheduling are determined by House Guernicus in consultation with the previous grand tribunal.

Each of the thirteen tribunals of the Order selects three representatives for the grand tribunal. In the tribunal meeting the year before the grand tribunal, each representative declares how many sigils he has been promised if he is named as a representative. The three who have the most sigils then attend the grand tribunal in the following year. They carry all the sigils of those who will entrust their sigils to them, an average of about twenty each.

The grand tribunal is much like a normal tribunal, but the following special rules apply:

- The primus of House Bonisagus acts as praeco.
- The primus of House Guernicus presides as the ruling quaesitor.
- Each magus may suggest only one topic for discussion and voting. The magi take turns suggesting topics, in order of the one who carries the fewest sigils to the one who carries the most. The representatives may announce rituals of initiation, which are then performed at the grand tribunal, but this is extremely rare because the magi represented no doubt want more important topics covered.
- The primi of all the houses attend. They may vote with their own sigils even if they are not representatives of their tribunals. Often they have their own private council meetings, during which they discuss matters of importance to the relations between the houses. Matters that can be satisfactorily arranged in these meetings are not brought before the entire grand tribunal. Increasingly over the years, this council of primi has more and more power; however, the grand tribunal still holds the ultimate authority.

Excerpts from the Peripheral Code

The following are representative excerpts from the Peripheral Code. These excerpts have two functions. First, they provide actual examples of the implementation of Hermetic law for use in your saga. Second, they indicate the flavor of past rulings to enable you to generalize rulings where specifics deviate from what's been covered here.

Note that rulings are generally entered on the dates of grand tribunals. However, the first years of the Order were filled with many tribunals as the magi tried to build a firm base of law and tradition. Rulings not otherwise specified are from the grand tribunal of the given year. Using the Hermetic tradition, dates are given using the astrological calendar, the year of Aries (Annus Arietis, or A.A.).

A.A. 906 (A.D. 767)

Rules for Wizard's War

No Wizards' War shall be declared unless one magus notifies the other on the night of the full moon. On the rise of the next full moon, the Wizards' War shall commence, and it shall end at the rise of the next full moon thereafter. Those who continue in the conflict after this time shall be considered rogue, and shall have a Wizard's March declared against them at the next tribunal.

A.A. 912 (A.D. 773)

Extension of Code to House Bonisagus

The provisions of the Code of Hermes that refer to Bonisagus the Founder shall apply equally to all members of his house.

A.A. 912 (A.D. 773)

Tribunal Procedures

The provisions in the Code of Hermes referring to the tribunal apply equally to any other tribunal that has power over the magus and that is presided over by a quaesitor. A tribunal must include twelve or more magi from no less than four

covenants. (As the Order grew, one tribunal was no longer able to effectively govern all of the magi.)

A.A. 938 (A.D. 799)

Rules for Certámen

Certámen is to be respected as a means of settling disputes decisively. In certámen, the challenger must first choose and state the technique to be used, and the defender must then choose the form. Any magus refusing to engage in certámen or refusing to abide by the results thereof is betraying the spirit of the Code and is to be punished. Those who refuse to accept certámen challenges, therefore, or refuse to abide by the decision of a certámen may suffer more violent coercion by the offended magus and shall be punished by their tribunals. No magus who wins may challenge the losing magus to certámen a second time over the same matter; the loser must abide by the decision or challenge again. Magi may use raw vis to aid them even in ritual certámen.

A.A. 956 (A.D. 817)

Creation of House Ex Miscellanea

The Ordo Miscellanea joins the Order of Hermes as House Ex Miscellanea. The tribunals of Hibernia, Loch Leglean, and Stonehenge are created as part of the merger. (See *Lion of the North* for details.)

A.A. 971 (A.D. 832)

Rules for Certámen

No certámen shall force a magus to give up his rights, nor force a magus to break the Code of Hermes nor the Peripheral Code. The rights protected from certámen include the rights of a praeco leading a tribunal, the rights of a primus ruling a house, and the rights of a quaesitor protecting the Order.

A.A. 971 (A.D. 832)

Apprentice Law

If a master is providing an apprentice with less than three months' worth of training per year, any other magus may take the apprentice as his own, with the apprentice's permission.





A.A. 1004 (A.D. 865)
Court Wizards Barred

Magus Hercilion, who has lately assumed a position of court wizard with a baron, is hereby reprimanded and ordered to leave said position before the rise of the next full moon. This grand tribunal has found that such a position endangers the Order because other mundane rulers will soon want their own court wizards, and they may become angry at those who refuse such roles. Hercilion will also certainly find himself involved in the baron's wars. Should the baron win his wars, his enemies will blame the Order for their defeat. Should the baron lose, he will blame the Order. The Code clearly prohibits activity that endangers the Order in this way. Furthermore, it is a disgrace to see a magus serve a mundane — it is beneath the dignity of a true Hermetic magus. If Hercilion removes himself from the baron's service

before the next full moon, he shall receive no punishment other than the shame he surely must feel at having been a servant of a mortal. Henceforth, no magus shall ever serve a mundane as a servant or hireling.

A.A. 1037 (A.D. 898)
Quaesitor Credentials for Officiating

No quaesitor shall hold power to officiate at a tribunal unless he bears a document declaring, by name, that he is a quaesitor in good standing and is known to at least one magus in the tribunal. This document must be sealed and dated by the primus of House Guernicus, and said document shall be invalid if it is more than seven years old.

A.A. 1070 (A.D. 931)
Rules for Wizard War

Magus Hernis of House Tylalus, filius of Dorn, was cast from the Order for having declared three Wizard Wars within the space of fourteen months. On careful investigation, the tribunal at Durenmar



found that his causes did not warrant Wizard Wars. The voting sodales agreed that if Hernis had cooperated with the tribunal, he would have been punished but not cast out. His stubborn refusal to cooperate, to heed earlier warnings, or to admit his errors forced the voting members to cast him out. He was subsequently executed by Fax Ignis of House Flambeau. Such abuse of the traditions of the Order shall not again be tolerated.

**A.A. 1136 (A.D. 997) Val-Negra
Sanctum Law**

It was determined at the tribunal at Val-Negra that Magus Pisitulus of Flambeau used poor but excusable judgment in slaying Magus Forcus of Tytalus, who was approaching Pisitulus' sanctum with apparent but not obvious intent to threaten Pisitulus' laboratory and apprentice. Pisitulus was punished by the loss of his familiar.

**A.A. 1136 (A.D. 997)
Sanctum Law**

The sanctum of each magus shall be marked with a circle inscribed within a square, with straight lines connecting the square's opposite corners. This marking shall be in plain view so that those entering the sanctum know that it is indeed a sanctum. A symbol representing the identity of the sanctum's owner shall accompany the sign.

**A.A. 1202 (A.D. 1063)
Dealings with Devils**

The Primus of House Jerbiton moved that all demons and their servants be declared enemies of the Order in perpetuity. The tribunal determined that this resolution might start a war between the Order and demons, and passed an amended resolution instead. The key passage decrees that "The Servants of Satan, who so often make themselves enemies of our Order of Hermes, may never be friends of the Order."

A.A. 1207 (A.D. 1068)

Tribunal-wide Pacts

The treaty of the Roman Tribunal is approved by magi of the tribunal, and is entered into the Peripheral Code of the Order. The Treaty is not binding outside of the Roman Tribunal. (For more information, see *The Tribunals of Hermes: Rome*, page 38.)

**A.A. 1211 (A.D. 1072) Val-Negra
Jurisdiction of Covenants**

The Val-Negra Tribunal (then covering Iberia) rules that the Barcelona Covenant has jurisdiction over the city of Barcelona. The covenant has promised to maintain the peace between magus and mortal, and to serve the Order's interests in the city. (See *The Tribunals of Hermes: Iberia* for details.)

**A.A. 1222 (A.D. 1093) Rhine
Apprentice Law**

A tribunal of quaesitores charged Magus Borov of House Jerbiton with training his apprentice at the court of her mundane family. The magus became embroiled in the court's politics, and aided the Margrave (the lord) in his mundane wars. The wrath of the Margrave's enemies was thereby brought upon the Order. Furthermore, the apprentice chose to side with one of the mundane factions, rather than serve the interests of the Order. Borov was charged to bring the apprentice into the Order, or risk being cast out. The case upheld the precedent that no magus may become a servant to any mundane.

A.A. 1235 (A.D. 1096)

Tribunal Jurisdiction

The grand tribunal redrew the boundaries of the regional tribunals to relocate Val-Negra within the Provençal Tribunal. (See *The Tribunals of Hermes: Iberia*, page 40.)

A.A. 1258 (A.D. 1119) Iberia

Interfering with Mundanes

The special tribunal called in Iberia ruled that those magi of House Flambeau who had caused the death of their Moslem sodales at Saragossa should return all loot gained to the covenants of the victims.





Following the tribunal, the quaesitores issued a decree that no magi of the Order shall aid a mundane power "overtly or with any sort of magic that can be detected by mortals."

A.A. 1290 (A.D. 1151) Normandy
Apprentice Law

Magus Agnis Nestophilis was brought before the tribunal, charged with torturing and murdering three apprentices in the space of five years. The tribunal noted that the apprentices were his own, to do with as he pleased, and pronounced him innocent of any crime.

A.A. 1290 (A.D. 1151) Rhine
Molesting the Fay

Through repeatedly plundering the faerie sites of the Black Forest, the vis-hungry magi of Durenmar covenant sorely angered the fay. Thus, large tracts of forest became perilous or impassable to magi. Durenmar was ordered to pay ten pawns of vis in compensation to every other covenant in the tribunal. Furthermore, Durenmar was ordered to refrain from taking any vis from faerie sites until 14 years had passed, unless the covenant could first negotiate a peace with the fay.

A.A. 1297 (A.D. 1158) Hibernia
Sanctum Law

Magus Caesus of House Tytalus was found to have no less than nine buildings around the tribunal which he claimed as his sanctum. The presiding quaesitor noted that each magus is supposed to have only one, and the tribunal ordered Caesus to disband eight of his current sancta.

A.A. 1297 (A.D. 1158) Thebes
Apprentice Law

A maga of House Merinita was murdered, and her apprentice claimed by two magi, both colleagues at her covenant. Neither wished to challenge the other to certámen, as is usual, and the matter came before the tribunal. One magus, Nykolis of House Jerbiton, was the deceased maga's closest friend and they had cooperated in their research, but the apprentice was awarded

to the other, Mondrasine, as she was also of House Merinita.

A.A. 1304 (A.D. 1165) Greater Alps
Sanctum Law

Maga Snadstrich of House Ex Miscellanea, member of no covenant, was alleged to have moved her sanctum seven times within one year. The tribunal ruled that a magus cannot establish a new sanctum more than once per season.

A.A. 1304 (A.D. 1165) Hibernia
Apprentice Law

While traveling with his apprentice, a magus of Vigil Covenant passed into Final Twilight. Magus Caerfloron recovered the other's fallen body and sent it to Vigil, but retained the apprentice as his own. Vigil brought the matter to tribunal, asking that the child be returned to their covenant. The tribunal ruled that neither Vigil nor Caerfloron had clear claim to the boy. Therefore, one magus of Vigil would have to challenge Caerfloron to certámen, the victor taking the apprentice.

A.A. 1304 (A.D. 1165) Normandy
Tribunal Jurisdiction

Magus Stephios of House Tytalus, of Burnham Covenant in the Stonehenge Tribunal, came before the tribunal. As the tribunals of Stonehenge are invariably iniquorate or declared illegal by the quaesitores, he sought a ruling concerning a dispute with another covenant. The tribunal confirmed that it was unable to make decisions for another tribunal, whatever its shortcomings.

A.A. 1304 (A.D. 1165) Provence
Endangering the Order

Magus Calonogi of House Ex Miscellanea was brought before the tribunal. She believed that her Gift was a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, and that magi were therefore divine. Moreover, she had taken to preaching this doctrine around the tribunal. Her accusers charged that she had blasphemed against God and endangered the Order. The tribunal noted that it was not an ecclesiastical court and was not concerned with blasphemy, but agreed that

her preaching might bring down the wrath of Christian mundanes upon the Order, and thus was in violation of the Code. Calonogi was warned to desist from her preaching, or face expulsion from the Order. She refused and was exiled from the tribunal for seven years.

A.A. 1311 (A.D. 1172) Iberia

Apprentice Law

For his gauntlet, the apprentice Vermbar of House Flambeau (now Magus Trentus) was abandoned in Barcelona lacking clothes, provisions, and money, and was told to get to Sicily within a month. In securing provisions, the apprentice slew several mundanes, scorched a number of guardsmen, and burned two ships in the harbor. Mindful of the customs of the Order regarding the accountability of apprentices, the presiding quaesitor recommended that Vermbar be held responsible for willfully interfering with mundanes and be treated accordingly. The tribunal ruled that an apprentice's gauntlet is a special situation, when a magus cannot be required to guide an apprentice's actions, but when the apprentice is not yet a member of the Order and thus not bound to obey the Code. The tribunal therefore neither punished Vermbar nor his parents.

A.A. 1311 (A.D. 1172) Normandy

Enemies of the Order

The persecution of magi by the duke of Brittany led the tribunal to declare him an enemy of the Order. A tribunal of quaesitores was immediately called, which decreed that any magus acting against the duke could still be called to account for interfering with mundanes.

A.A. 1311 (A.D. 1172) Normandy

Rights of House Mercere

A Redcap who had visited Fudarus Covenant alleged that her bag of messages was removed from her as she slept, and that all of the notes were read. The quaesitores could not ascertain which magi of Fudarus were responsible, and so the tribunal stripped the covenant of its rights to a cer-

tain magical site, and granted these rights to the magi of House Mercere.

A.A. 1311 (A.D. 1172) Normandy

Covenant Rules

Magus Anton Roettar of House Tylalus complained to the tribunal that the Council of Fudarus — his home covenant — had demanded that he perform 12 seasons of work for the covenant without respite or recompense. Roettar felt this to be unfair. Fudarus argued that their charter stated that the council could decide how much work a member must do for the covenant, without restriction. The presiding quaesitor examined the charter and confirmed this. The tribunal ruled that the Council of Fudarus had broken neither the Code nor its own charter.

A.A. 1311 (A.D. 1172) Rhine

Sanctum Law

Maga Tandaline came to the tribunal and charged that a fellow magus at Durenmar, Quintus Vergilius, had denied her access to her own sanctum by erecting magical walls to obstruct the entrance. The tribunal ruled that keeping the maga from her sanctum clearly hampered her capacity for magical study and creation. The tribunal ordered Quintus Vergilius to suffer the loss of his familiar as a penalty, and to pay Tandaline two pawns of vis for each season she had been obstructed.

A.A. 1311 (A.D. 1172) Roman

Dealings with Devils

Three years before, Magus Kaldorias of House Jerbiton had banished a demon which had been terrorizing a certain village. His accusers argued that the demon might now harbor a grudge against the Order, and that its kin might see the Order as their enemy. Kaldorias argued that the Order should be the enemy of all demons (which the tribunal refused to accept or deny), that demons already sought to undermine the Order (which the tribunal accepted), and that his actions proved to the mundanes that not all magic serves the Devil. The tribunal accepted that Kaldorias had broken the Code by making





an enemy of a demon, but imposed no punishment upon him.

A.A. 1318 (A.D. 1179) Levant

Interfering with Mundanes

Magus Henry Le Barre of House Jerbiton had traveled from Provence with the crusade of Philip of Flanders, and had fought the Moors with his magic. He was summoned before the Levant Tribunal and charged with interfering with mundanes by drawing the animosity of the Moors. Le Barre argued that he served in the crusade as a noble, not as a magus, and fought only to save his soul as any crusader does. The tribunal ruled that to remain true to the Order and to the Code, he would need to fight without the use of magic and in disguise if he were to go on crusade. For having already aided the crusade magically, Le Barre was fined 20 pawns of vis on penalty of expulsion.

A.A. 1318 (A.D. 1179) Normandy

Scrying on Fellow Magi

Magus Damon Le Mont was accused by other members of his own covenant, Ad Vis Per Veritas, of magically listening to their conversations with servants and grogs. Damon argued that his spells only allowed him to hear what the mundanes were saying, not what the magi said, and so did not constitute scrying on his sodales. The tribunal ruled that the spells did give Damon an insight into his fellows' affairs, and ordered that he pay three pawns of vis to each magus he had indirectly scryed upon.

A.A. 1318-1333 (A.D. 1179-1194)

Normandy

Tribunal Rules

In A.A. 1318, several magi of Fudarus Covenant accused another maga of a low crime. A mundane militia kidnapped the accused as she was traveling to the tribunal, and thus she could not defend herself. When the accused failed to arrive, she was found guilty in her absence and bound to grant one season's work to the quaesitores. In A.A. 1325, she appealed the ruling, offering adequate proof that she was

innocent of any crime. The maga was pronounced innocent. In A.A. 1333, a quaesitor reported to the tribunal that the mundanes who had kidnapped the maga 15 years before had ties with Fudarus. All present agreed that House Tylalus had caused a great deal of confusion through their obscure machinations, and Fudarus was fined 24 pawns of vis for misleading and mocking the tribunal.

A.A. 1318 (A.D. 1179) Provence

Endangering the Order

Maga Ladkyis of House Tremere had been observed by certain mundanes "ranting and throwing her arms about." The mundanes asked if she was possessed, and her embarrassed fellow, Magus Asidnael of House Jerbiton, replied that she was sometimes possessed by a spirit, as epileptics are, but that it caused no harm. Ladkyis alleged that this reply endangered her, as it could have led to her being dragged before an exorcist or worse, and thus broke the Code. The tribunal noted that Asidnael had endangered her with his answer, but that the answer was not malicious. The tribunal also noted that Ladkyis had also been imprudent in casting spells so blatantly, and had thus endangered herself and the Order. Both magi, having thus endangered their sodales, were each fined one pawn of vis.

A.A. 1318 (A.D. 1179) Provence

Apprentice Law

During a visit to Bentalone, the young apprentice of Grimgroth, of Mistridge Covenant, maliciously or accidentally set fire to a stable, maiming a magical horse. Bentalone demanded that Grimgroth supply the raw vis required to heal the animal. Grimgroth argued that Bentalone had been careless. The tribunal ruled that Grimgroth was fully accountable for his apprentice's actions and should supply the vis, regardless of Bentalone's negligence.

A.A. 1325 (A.D. 1186) Hibernia

Tribunal Rules

A maga Ex Miscellanea submitted a written request to the tribunal that she be per-

mitted to have a translator present during the meeting, since she spoke no Latin. The tribunal ruled that it was her own fault that she spoke no Latin, advised her to learn, and further ruled that no mundane should be present at a tribunal of magi as a translator or in any other capacity.

A.A. 1325 (A.D. 1186) Iberia
Interfering with Mundanes

Magus Trentus of House Flambeau was brought before the tribunal and charged with personally killing no fewer than 100 mundanes in several raids and battles. The tribunal noted that although his use of magic had been blatant, and on occasion spectacular, Trentus had never left a survivor who might identify him as a magus of the Order of Hermes. The tribunal acquitted him of these charges.

A.A. 1325 (A.D. 1186) Provence
Scrying on Fellow Magi

The magi of Windgraven and Mistridge Covenants came before the tribunal, each accusing the other of scrying. The magi of Windgraven had captured two grogs from Mistridge, who had been loitering outside Windgraven, observing who came and went, and following those magi who left the covenant. Mistridge had captured a spy from Windgraven who had sought to enter their tower while invisible. The tribunal ruled that Mistridge had not broken the Code, since their grogs had no magical aid in their task, and suggested that in the future Windgraven might simply kill such spies. However, as the mundane found by Mistridge had been aided by magic, the tribunal ruled that Windgraven had broken the Code, and should pay 20 pawns of vis to Mistridge in compensation.

A.A. 1325 (A.D. 1186) Provence
Interfering with Mundanes

Magus Hammas of Windgraven was charged with interfering with mundanes by ordering the kidnapping of several pilgrims. He did not present himself before the tribunal, and his absence was taken as an admission of guilt. The tribunal ruled

that he should lose his familiar as punishment.

A.A. 1325 (A.D. 1186) Rhine
Dealings with Devils

Magus Antonio Manecis had summoned a demon, whose minions were threatening Manecis' covenant. The magus then conducted negotiations with the creature, eventually securing the covenant's safety for as long as the magi did not interfere in the demon's plots against mundanes. Manecis argued that he had acted solely to protect his covenant, and thus the Order. The tribunal observed that the magus had nonetheless breached the code twice by summoning a demon and then dealing with it. The tribunal declared a Wizards' March, although the magus' intentions were worthy.

A.A. 1328 (A.D. 1189) Loch Leglean
Tribunal-wide Pacts

The magi of the Tribunal of Loch Leglean affirmed the Pact of Crun Clach, which binds the magi of Loch Leglean to a pact of non-aggression and forbids magi from dabbling in politics.

A.A. 1330 (A.D. 1191) Provence
Covenant Rules

Bellaquin Covenant makes annual payments of money and surplus vis to its members. When in A.A. 1313 Magus Quaestus of House Criamon vanished from the covenant, Bellaquin assumed he was not claiming or could not claim these rights. In A.A. 1330 he reappeared and demanded 17 years' personal allowance of money and vis. Bellaquin refused to pay unclaimed vis in arrears, and Jerines of House Guernicus was called in to settle the dispute. Jerines examined Bellaquin's charter and ruled that as Quaestus had never formally left nor been expelled from the covenant, he could rightfully claim the total amount of vis and money that any other member had received over the preceding 17 years.

Note: The tribunals that would normally have been held in A.A. 1332 (A.D. 1193) were delayed one year so that they could be used to





prepare for the grand tribunal of A.A. 1334 (A.D. 1195).

**A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Greater Alps
Molesting the Fay**

Certain valued grogs and covenfolk of the Covenant of Valnastium had been captured by a faerie lord, who intended to use them as playing-pieces in some sort of great game. The magi went forth to rescue their servants, killing many faeries and earning the clear hatred of the faerie lord. On Valnastium's behalf, Magus Andru explained that all magi have a right to protect their property, including servants, and that in rescuing their servants they acted

purely in self defense. If the faerie lord was angered that they had acted to protect their property, then they could not be blamed. The tribunal narrowly accepted this argument.

**A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Iberia
Covenant Rules**

A disgruntled magus left Barcelona Covenant in a fury, taking with him 50 marks in gold from the treasury. The tribunal noted that while the Code does not explicitly forbid thefts of mundane property, a covenant or magus relies upon mundane goods to function. Therefore, by depriving his sodales of their mundane



resources, the offending magus had indirectly hampered their ability to study and perform magic. He was therefore ordered to pay Barcelona double the amount taken within seven years.

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Iberia

Sanctum Law

Magus Trentus was charged with slaying a fellow magus outside Trentus' sanctum. Trentus argued that the other was approaching his sanctum with the intent to steal certain magical artifacts. In accordance with precedent, Trentus was found guilty of breaking the Code, but was only punished with the loss of his familiar.

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Loch Leglean

Enemies of the Order

Following a feud between certain magi and the Priory of Torphichen of the Knights Hospitaller, the tribunal declared the Hospitallers to be enemies of the Order, and thus forbade magi across the Order from cooperating with them in any way. (See the related grand tribunal ruling in A.A. 1334 below.)

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194), Normandy

Apprentice Law

Magus Damon Le Mont recounted that his apprentice, now Magus Aramin, had maliciously destroyed several mundane artifacts and in a temper fruitlessly expended six pawns of raw vis. Now that Aramin was a full magus, Damon demanded that the younger reimburse him six pawns of vis. The tribunal ruled that, as according to custom, a magus may not be held responsible for actions committed as an apprentice, and that Damon was thus responsible for his own misfortune.

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Normandy

Interfering with Mundanes

Magus William Fireheart of House Flambeau and the Stonehenge Tribunal stood accused of killing three knights by use of magic. The nobility of Normandy had been enraged and several covenants had difficulty maintaining good relations with mundanes. William Fireheart was found guilty of interfering with mundanes

and thus endangering his sodales. He was ordered to pay 60 pawns of vis within seven years, or else be cast out from the Order.

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Normandy

Property Rights of Magi

Magus William Fireheart of House Flambeau was brought before the tribunal and charged with attacking the apprentice of another magus, destroying several pieces of laboratory equipment that the apprentice carried. Fireheart claimed he was unaware that the girl was an apprentice, and that the damage was done incidentally as she was fighting alongside a mundane whom Fireheart sought to kill. The tribunal ruled that whatever his intent, Fireheart had reduced another magus' magical ability by killing the apprentice and destroying rare equipment. However, since Fireheart had not acted maliciously the tribunal fined him three pawns of vis.

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Provence

Interfering with Mundanes

Bentalone Covenant was charged with aiding one mundane lord against another. Bentalone argued that as one noble served their interests and the other opposed them, they should be permitted to back one against the other. The tribunal decided that Bentalone could aid its noble allies only so long as its magics were subtle. Should its intervention become obvious, the opposing noble might see the Order as his enemy.

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Provence

Rights of House Mercere

The magi of Bellaquin Covenant were accused of using force and guile to prevent a Redcap from taking news of the tribunal to the new Covenant of Lariander. The tribunal refused to condemn or punish Bellaquin. (See the grand tribunal ruling of A.A. 1334.)

A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Provence

Apprentice Law

In A.A. 1327, Magus Teslil found a young girl with the Gift. Already having an apprentice, he sold her to Magus Gentric.





Both were magi of House Jerbiton, but belonged to different covenants. Gentric died in A.A. 1331, and Alarmon of House Tytalus, a sodalis of Gentric, took the apprentice. Teslil claimed that he should be granted the girl, as his previous apprentice had since become a full magus. The tribunal ruled that Teslil had forsaken all claim to the girl, and further noted its disapproval of the practice of buying and selling apprentices.

**A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Rhine
Interfering with Mundanes**

Maga Marguerite of House Flambeau was charged with endangering the Order through her attack on a baron and his household. Marguerite explained that the attack was in reprisal for the baron's murder of a Redcap. The tribunal accepted that mundanes must be prevented from interfering with Redcaps, and acquitted the maga. The tribunal noted that beginning a cycle of revenge-based attacks was unlikely to improve matters with mundanes.

**A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Rhine
Tribunal Rules**

Magus Taedetus of House Bonisagus had been summoned to the tribunal to be charged with stealing vis from another covenant's magical sites. He did not arrive, but sent word that he was unavoidably detained by a potent, unstable magic which threatened his covenant if left uncontrolled. The tribunal agreed that the case was not urgent, and could be postponed to the next tribunal. The tribunal also ruled that if Taedetus could not provide proof of his predicament he would be fined an extra ten pawns of vis.

**A.A. 1333 (A.D. 1194) Rhine and
Greater Alps
Tribunal Jurisdiction**

Syrestis of House Bjornaer, during a visit to several covenants of the Greater Alps Tribunal, walked in the shapes of several animals, and in these shapes killed livestock and game on farms and in hunting reserves. Since he was a guest at other

covenants during this time, his behavior clearly damaged relations between those covenants and their mundane neighbors. Syrestis was brought before the Rhine Tribunal of A.A. 1333, while the case was heard at the same time before the Greater Alps Tribunal. In the former he was fined three pawns of vis, and in the latter, ten. He appealed to the quaesitores, refusing to pay both fines, and arguing that he should pay the fine imposed by his home tribunal. A quaesitor ruled that he must abide by the decision of Greater Alps, but owed nothing in the Rhine Tribunal since his crimes could better be judged in the tribunal where they were committed.

**A.A. 1334 (A.D. 1195)
Enemies of the Order**

The grand tribunal ruled that Loch Leglean Tribunal's declaration, in A.A. 1333, that the Hospitallers were enemies of the Order was too broad and overreaching. The declaration was amended such that only those Hospitallers from Torphichen Priory need be held as enemies by other magi.

**A.A. 1334 (A.D. 1195)
Rights of House Mercere**

The grand tribunal ruled that the Provençal Tribunal had overlooked evidence in rendering judgment on Bellaquin Covenant, and that in light of all of the facts, they were guilty of interfering with the duties of the Redcap. Bellaquin was ordered to pay 70 pawns of vis to House Mercere.

**A.A. 1334 (A.D. 1195)
Tribunal Rules**

Avarret, Primus of House Bonisagus, proposed that tribunals only conduct their meetings in Latin, and not in local mundane languages. The grand tribunal criticized Loch Leglean Tribunal for often conducting its business in Gaelic, but refused to coerce tribunals into using Latin only. (Note that members of House Guernicus must use Latin to conduct official business.)

A.A. 1339 (A.D. 1200) Thebes**Sanctum Law**

The tribunal noted that an itinerant magus, Aesceliops of House Jerbiton, claimed as his sanctum any room in which he currently resided. Thus, covenant guest rooms, ships' cabins, and taverns all briefly became his sanctum, often for less than a single day. The tribunal ruled that no magus may establish a sanctum within a covenant of which he is not a member unless that covenant first gives permission. The tribunal also ruled that a sanctum might be established for any period of time, however brief, so long as it is the true residence of the magus.

A.A. 1339 (A.D. 1200) Rhine**Covenant Rules**

The Covenant of Fengheld informed the tribunal that one of their number, Odorpes of House Bjornaer, had failed to collect vis for the covenant as she had agreed. The maga had accepted responsibility for the gathering of six pawns of vis per season from a site owned by the covenant, but had recently given only 18 pawns per year. Odorpes claimed that by spending most of her time as a bear, she had hibernated through winters and could not gather vis. The tribunal ruled that she had abandoned her responsibilities by choosing to spend each winter as a bear, and should procure and present to Fengheld the vis which she owed them within seven years.

A.A. 1346 (A.D. 1207) Iberia**Dealings with Devils**

The Iberian Tribunal cast out the magi of Jaferiya Covenant for diabolism. Magus Rasmus of House Flambeau and his fellows are hunted throughout Iberia over the next several decades. (For the full story, see *The Tribunals of Hermes: Iberia.*)

A.A. 1346 (A.D. 1207) Normandy**Interfering with Mundanes, Tribunal Rules**

Maga Pugnatis had been found guilty of interfering with mundanes by the tribunal in A.A. 1339. She had been ordered to create certain enchanted artifacts which might permit the magi of the tribunal to

hide more easily from mundanes. However, by A.A. 1346 none of these items had been presented to the quaesitores and the maga failed to present herself to the tribunal. The tribunal expelled her from the Order.

A.A. 1353 (A.D. 1214) Loch Leglean**Apprentice Law**

Erdras Tan-Gwyllt of House Flambeau was cast from the Order after setting her apprentice a gauntlet in which several of her mundane enemies were conveniently murdered. The apprentice, now Magus Curwen, was absolved of all blame but his master was not. The tribunal noted that magi should be held responsible for their apprentices' excesses, even during gauntlets.

A.A. 1353 (A.D. 1214) Iberia**Tribunal-wide Pacts**

The tribunal in Iberia affirmed a pact of mutual protection between the covenants of the tribunal.

