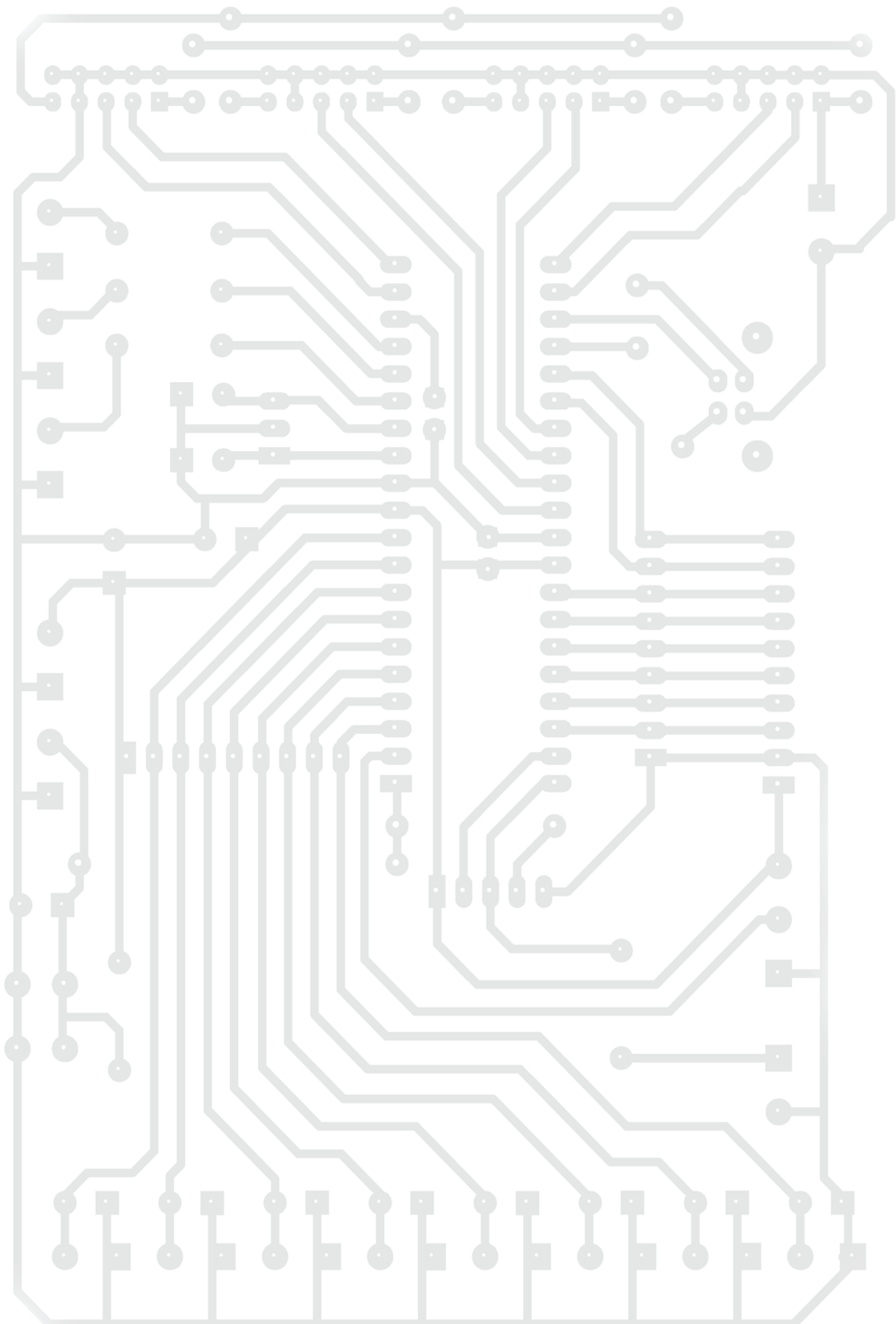


The Scroll of Kings



Camelot
Cosmos



The Scroll of Kings: **A record of the monarchs of the** **Camelot Cosmos**

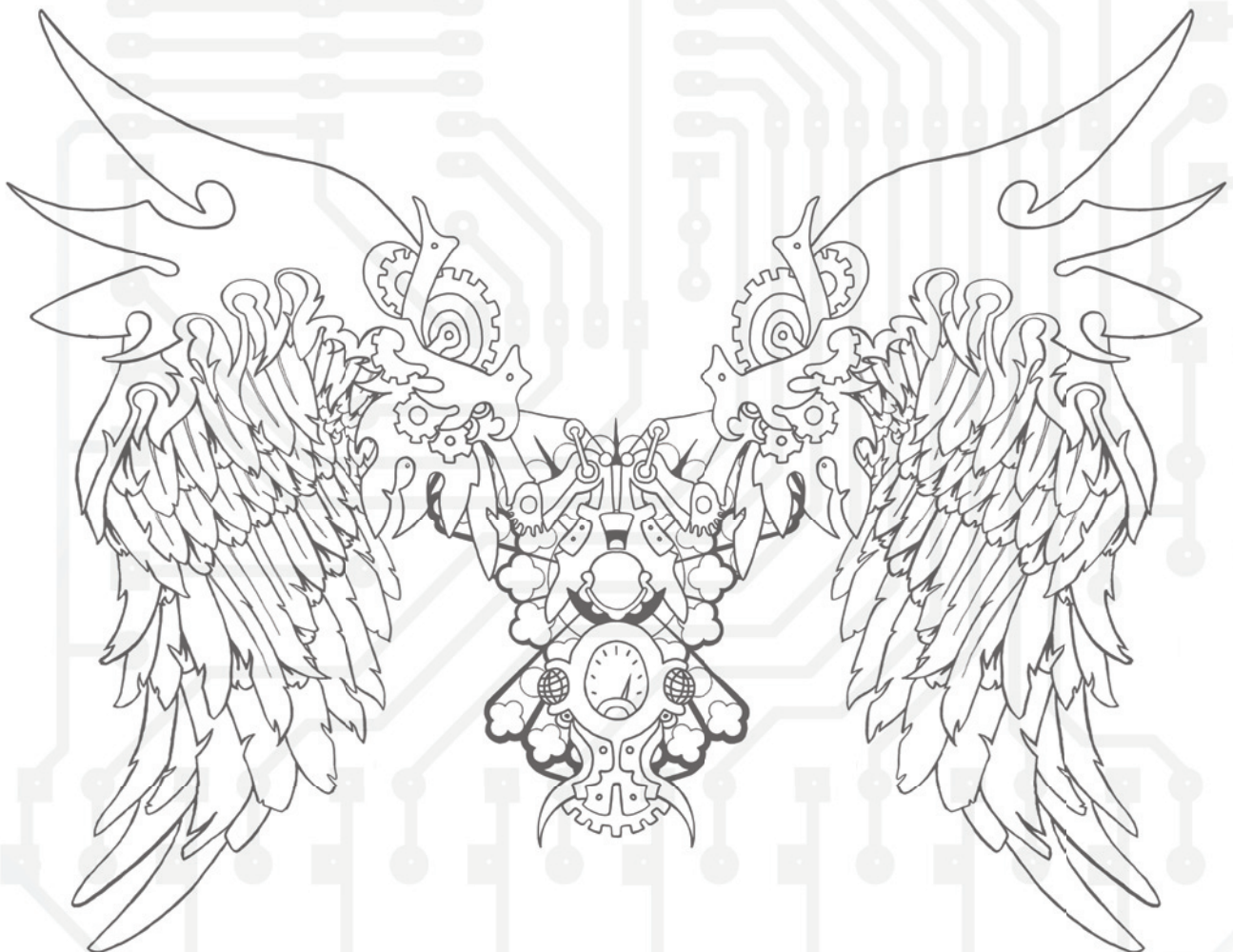
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The Scroll of Kings is an Appendix to Camelot Cosmos. Mechanical content is designated open-source.



Background



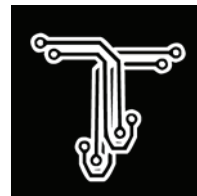
The Scroll of Kings is a treasured document held in the care of the Arch-Bishop of Camelot. It is on public display in the Great Cathedral and is continually guarded by four senior knights of the Pendragon Legion and four monks trained in unarmed combat (these monks report directly to the Arch-Bishop). It is held within an open gold casket heavily decorated with scenes from the life of Gawain the Founder, the first monarch of the Gawainite dynasty. It is a popular attraction for visiting pilgrims and nobles, although a golden screen covering all four sides of the stone plinth on which the casket rests and the guardians standing by it prevent any visitor from actually touching the scroll itself.

The Scroll dates from the last years of the reign of Gawain the Founder and details the deeds and achievements of each of the Gawainite monarchs who have followed. It forms part of the ceremony which takes place when a Gawainite monarch assumes the throne, as the new ruler solemnly signs his name and affixes his seal to the end of the document together with a brief statement of his intentions and aspirations for his period of rule. The scroll is a massive one, the length of a tall man, with many rolls of untouched document waiting for new monarchs, but a popular legend holds that when the scroll runs out, then the Gawainite monarchy will fall. Some cynics suggest that new parchment is secretly added to the end of the document to prevent this occurring.

After this initial signing the monarch does not have access to the scroll again during his reign. This is in order to prevent a monarch lying about his achievements or disguising his flaws. Instead a unique position exists in the hierarchy of the church for an individual known as the King's Remembrancer. The Remembrancer is appointed by the King but can only be dismissed from his post by the Arch-Bishop.

He is paid a regular stipend by the Arch-Bishop and for this reason is usually a clergyman, although the King can appoint a layman if he chooses (doing so is considered a rebuke to the Church). It is the Remembrancer's task to care for the scroll, to undertake any repairs or restoration it requires, and to add a description of the monarch's reign when that monarch dies. He therefore has a great deal of influence over how posterity views a given monarch, as the Scroll's opinion is considered authoritative. He must also keep the Arch-Bishop happy in order to keep receiving his stipend. It is a tricky position that involves much tact and the resistance of subtle and unsubtle forms of pressure, both from monarchs keen to ensure a positive view of their reign and from Arch-Bishop's eager to exploit the Remembrancer's power over the monarch to gain particular concessions or indulgences for the Church. A weak or foolish Remembrancer is in danger of alienating one or both of the two most powerful men in Kingsland. A few such Remembrancers in the past have died in suspicious circumstances.

Timeline



The Scroll of Kings itself does not include a timeline, but one is provided below for the convenience of GMs who wish to know the beginning and end of each individual monarch's reign. The dates are provided in the old First Empire Imperial calendar, but can easily be converted to the calendars currently used in Kingsland and Queensland.

Most of the reigns are surprisingly long. The general populace ascribe this to special protection given to the Gawainite monarchs by Seraphic patrons, particularly Arthur and Gawain. The truth of the matter is often more prosaic, since most Kings have access to life-extending ancient technologies operated by the Brotherhood of Progression (who do not, however, fully understand the machinery they operate).

The lines are considered continuous, despite the two century gap which occurs during the so-called Days of Woe (sometimes also referred to as 'Little Gedd') which saw chaos in the wake of the birth of Queensland and an endless succession of pretenders as the true Gawainite dynasty was forced into hiding. The current boundaries between Kingsland and Queensland have largely stayed the same, with only brief incursions in either direction, since the restoration of the true Gawainite line under Gawain the Glorious in 3700 AD.

3357-3370 AD Gawain I The Founder
3370-3391 AD Gawain II The Builder
3391-3401 AD Gawain III Fork-Beard
3401-3409 AD Gawain IV The Cuckold
3409-3418 AD Gawain V Red Hands
3418-3421 AD Gawain VI The Pious
3421-3435 AD Gawain VII The Fat
3435-3451 AD Gawain VIII Tatter-Cloak
3451-3453 AD Gawain IX The Martyr
3453-3460 AD Gawain X The Sailor King
3460-3477 AD Gawain XI The Castle Builder
3477-3490 AD Gawain XII The Cruel
3490-3500 AD Gawain XIII The Fool
3500-3700 AD The Days of Woe
3700-3750 AD Gawain XIV The Glorious
3750-3797 AD Gawain XV The Mage
3797-3829 AD Gawain XVI The Leper King
3829-3850 AD Gawain XVII Strong-Arm
3850-3863 AD Gawain XVIII The Tall
3863-3890 AD Gawain XIX The Accursed
3890-3935 AD Gawain XX The Dungeoneer
3935-3950 AD Gawain XXI The Stutterer
3950-3984 AD Gawain XXII The Stern
3984-Present (3999 AD) Gawain XXIII The Bold

The Monarchs



Selected quotations from the Scroll of Kings are presented below, together with explanatory notes highlighting any conflicts between the Scroll and true history that might

be of particular interest to GMs. In most cases the citizens of the Camelot Cosmos accept the opinions of the Scroll as absolute truth, although this is certainly not the case in Queensland where a range of Morganite sources offer disparaging or satirical interpretations of Kingsland's most treasured heroes.

Gawain I The Founder

Indomitable 3, Proud 3, Noble 5, True Knight 5

Appearance: "Even as a boy he was taller than any of his childhood friends and as he aged grew ever more manly and noble of aspect. His limbs were firm and straight, his brow clear, his gaze penetrating and the same colour as a bright summer's sky. He shaved his hair short in the military style of the Romish, and never was a sword far from his side. He scorned the trinkets and gold by which lesser men signal their wealth and power, dressing plainly in sober colours and relying solely on his natural charm and proud bearing to proclaim his status."

Gawain's appearance was not as magnificent as the Scroll asserts. A life of unrelenting military campaigning left his body hard and leanly muscular, but marred with a patchwork of scars and old wounds from previous combats. He had pale blue eyes and light brown, almost blonde hair. In the last years of his reign he grew a short, iron-grey beard but had previously been clean-shaven. The Scroll is accurate regarding his clothing, as Gawain I always dressed as a common soldier.

Personality: "He was a man of unceasing energy and keen intellect, although his mind was not turned to scholarly pursuits, but always towards practical skills and knowledge that would be of benefit to the people. He taught himself many of the skills of the peasant classes, so that he could better understand and improve their lives. His greatest gifts were, however, reserved for the battlefield. He was immune to fear, and many times inspired his troops to feats they would have thought impossible to achieve were it not for his example."

Gawain the Founder was thirty when he was crowned, but this was already the culmination of a fifteen year military campaign to unite the various petty kingdoms of Pendragon under his control.

His greatest asset throughout was an instinctive grasp of military tactics and an unusual care for the 'boring details' which many commanders of the time ignored—many accounts of his personal courage exist, but this was not unusual amongst his rivals who would lose face with their troops if they showed cowardice.

Key Events: 3330? Birth of Gawain the Founder, son of Owain Uther, King of Camm's Lock, a petty kingdom of central Pendragon. Many of the noble families already exist, ruling petty kingdoms throughout Pendragon (the Sweetwaters, for example, date the founding of their house to 2979 AD and use a calendar dating from this point, referenced in the timeline for the Hawk's Hollow adventure).

3338 AD Borinas, King of neighbouring Ford's Peak, invades Camm's Lock, killing three of Gawain's brothers.

3341 AD Owain Uther kills Borinas at the Battle of the Red Fork. Uther takes control of Ford's Peak through the puppet ruler, Borinas the Younger.

3343 AD He Casts A Shadow abducts the bride of Chief Feeds the Wolf, leaving Dark Folk lands with a band of followers. This initiates the Dark Folk-Dog Folk split. The Dog Folk tame a herd of wild horses and soon become proficient cavalry raiders.

3345 AD Connor Reed, King of Reedmarsh, tries unsuccessfully to expel the Dog Folk from his lands.

3349 AD The aging Connor Reed appeals to his powerful neighbour, Tristan King of Black Hill, for aid against the Dog Folk. This move alarms Owain Uther as it indicates that Reedmarsh is prepared to become a client kingdom to a major local rival.

3349-3353 AD The Running War takes place after Owain Uther agrees an alliance with He Casts A Shadow. The Dog Folk are given recognised grazing rights in return for teaching riding skills to Camm's Lock and a yearly tribute from their herds. Tristan is slain and Reedmarsh and Black Hill incorporated in Owain Uther's growing Kingdom.

3355 AD Gawain's marriage to Madeline of Westrun brings with it control of Port Westrun, the kingdom's first coastal community.

3356 AD Gawain discovers the legendary sword of Arthur, Excalibur. Possession of the relic greatly increases the prestige of the young Prince.

3357 AD Gawain crowned King of Camm's Lock, Ford's Peak, Black Hill, Reedmarsh, and Port Westrun. He begins planning further conquests, forming a core of swift moving cavalry he calls his 'Legion of Knights' (which becomes the Pendragon Legion).

3358 AD Gawain negotiates an alliance with the ambitious Bishop of Black Hill, the deposed Tristan's younger brother Robert. Robert promises to persuade other Seraphic churches to support Gawain as High King of all Pendragon. Gawain in turn offers land and taxes from his conquests directly to the Church.

3358-3366 AD The Unification Crusade brings all of Pendragon under Gawain the Founder's authority, save for pockets of Stonedwellers in inaccessible and wilderness regions.

3367-3370 AD Gawain's key supporters are given the title of Baron. The principal Baronial families such as the Sweetwaters stem from this period, some of whom claim descent from former Kingdoms who submitted willingly to Gawain's overlordship.

3368-3370 AD A mysterious 'Black Knight' becomes a major bandit leader, drawing to him many of those who lost lands or possessions during Gawain's rise.

3370 AD Bishop Robert claims that the Black Knight is a manifestation of the evil Ascended Mordred. He has a vision locating the creature's lair. Gawain personally investigates, slaying the Black Knight in personal combat and scattering his forces. Gawain himself is however, mortally wounded.

Gawain II The Builder

Pious 4 Clumsy 2 Noble 2

Appearance: “He was a slight man, much smaller in frame than his legendary father. Even as a child he was uninterested in games and physical pursuits. Hunting held no pleasure for him, and he delighted always in the company of scholars and theologians rather than knights or ladies of the court. These interests were reflected in both his build, which was short, and thin, with a stooped posture, and his constitution, which was prone to all manner of maladies, both serious and mild. His finest feature were his eyes, which were of a brilliant, piercing blue, with a gaze capable of intimidating far more sturdy figures than himself. His voice, though somewhat high-pitched and querulous, was also commanding. He was more conscious of his dignity as monarch than his father had been, and dressed in the finest silks, though in muted tones and without ostentatious jewellery.”

Physically, Gawain the Builder was deeply unimpressive. He was five foot four, and a stooped posture lowered his height even from that. His hands were long and clammy, and even as a youth he had a receding hairline, being bald by the age of thirty. His nose was long and bulbous at the end, and he was somewhat pigeon-chested. He was often ill, and his nose sometimes dripped with fluid, whilst he complained incessantly of aches and pains to which no cause could be ascribed.

Personality: “He loved knowledge the way his father loved combat, and would become animated by the discussion of books or theories. He was very widely read, but had his father’s gift of being able to apply his learning in pragmatic ways, increasing the efficiency of both the developing legal code and the tax system during his reign. He was noted for the depth and sincerity of his religious beliefs, and saw himself as a servant of the Church as well as a custodian of a nation. He was a good and holy man, raising so many new churches and spreading word of the Seraphim so widely that he became known as ‘the Builder’.”

Gawain II is unimpressed by martial prowess, physical beauty, or any achievements which are not spiritual or intellectual. He has a photographic memory though and is intelligent enough to acknowledge achievements which benefit his rule or add to the peace and security of his realm. He has a weakness for religious advisors, beginning with Robert of Blackhill but encompassing many other favourites. He marries Eleanor of Sweetwater, and fathers children to continue the dynasty, but seems either asexual or a repressed homosexual, since he has little time or interest for his wife or any other woman. His court is sombre as he dislikes revelry and excess, drinks nothing but water and regards philosophical debate as his only and most decadent self-indulgence. The strong support of the Church cements his rule, but taxes increase to fund his building programme and he is less popular than his father.

Key Events:

3370-3371 AD The Bishop’s Conclave. The first major act of Gawain II’s reign is to host a year-long gathering of all the Bishop’s of Pendragon. The Conclave formalises many aspects of the worship of the Seraphim and acknowledges Robert Blackhill as the first Archbishop (initially of Blackhill, until the discovery of Camelot in 3375). The churches and cults of the various Seraphim retain a great deal of autonomy in daily administration, provided that they adhere to the 36 Principles, a list of key beliefs.

3373 AD The Iconographer’s Tax introduces a 10% tax on all religious images, which is to be given 5% to the King and 5% to the Church. The Sweetwaters object as the pottery industry in their region makes many religious images. The Sweetwaters are pacified by Gawain II marrying Eleanor, Baron Percivale Sweetwater’s third daughter.

3373-3380 AD The King uses the treasury to directly fund a network of Pilgrim Roads between major cathedrals and gives specific tax breaks to those undertaking major pilgrimages. Though intended to encourage religion, many traders and other travellers exploit the system.

This however strengthens links within the realm and encourages an economic boom.

3375 AD The Camelot Gate is discovered near the village of Deepwell. The fortress of Deepwell is soon constructed to protect the route. Between 3375-3377 Camelot is explored by members of the Pendragon Legion.

3377 AD Renovation of Camelot begins, including the building of the Cathedral and Great Hall.

3380 AD Foundation of the Merchant's Guild by Augustus Florin of Hilham, Godfrey Silk of Tavelon and Peridore Sweetwater of Sweetcastle.

3380-3390 AD The Great Census catalogues the whole of Pendragon for tax purposes.

3391 AD The Blacklung Outbreak. Gawain II is among those who succumb to a major outbreak of plague.

Gawain III Fork-Beard

Lecherous 3 Brave 3 Noble 2 Knight 2

Appearance: "Gawain III was a man of middle height, with the same piercing eyes as his father. He was however far more of an athlete, and had a supple, lean physique and enjoyed the hunt as well as falconry and other gentlemanly outdoor pursuits. He had sharp features and a dark complexion, though this was sometimes marred by the evidence of an over-indulgence in strong spirits, which he greatly enjoyed. He sported a forked beard and a neatly pointed moustache, and even in older age his hair remained a glossy black."

Gawain III was quite a handsome man, although his features were somewhat cruel.

He was frequently smiling, but his smile was rather wolfish and described by contemporaries as 'predatory'. His hands were surprisingly delicate, a feature which embarrassed him so that he always wore gloves. He favoured black and red clothing, and would often wear an open shirt or doublet. His love of luxury and celebration was reflected in the fact that his clothes were often rumpled or stained with spilled wine.

Personality: "Gawain III had a changeable and chaotic nature, capable of both great charm and violent rages. He resented his father and his father's favourites and purged them from his court at the first opportunity. He was bored with the theology that had fascinated his father, and supported the Baronial families and the wider nobility more than the Church. He spoke rapidly and with eloquence, but delighted in sarcasm and other low forms of humour. He was genial and amusing, but also grasping and lascivious, and maintained a large number of mistresses and courtesans. He saw no reason not to indulge his desires, although he was also possessed of a quick mind and personal courage."

Gawain III was in constant need of excitement. He had a good mind, but was easily bored or distracted and had little patience for those whose thoughts and pleasures were not as swift and changeable as his own. He used the Great Census conducted in his father's reign to target the richer churches, pressing for the appointment of lowly monks to important positions in return for substantial bribes, and he sold noble titles to wealthy merchants. He had a violent temper, but not a malicious one, and would quickly forgive those who offended him once they had apologised with a suitable gift.

Key Events:

3391-3392 AD The Brother's War. Gawain III seizes control of the treasury following his father's death, but his claim is contested by his younger brother Alderic ('The White Prince') and Robert Blackhill. Concessions to the nobility ensure their military support and Alderic's base in Blackhill is surrounded and the city razed. Robert Blackhill steps down as Archbishop and is replaced by Hugh Kingsley of King's Cliff.

3394 AD Gareth the Wanderer discovers the Gate route to Castlekeep. Dauntless Keep is founded as a monastic training retreat there by Hugh Kingsley, although the Realm as a whole is claimed by the King.

3395 AD Gawain III establishes the first royal hunting lodge in King's Ride Wood. In the same year he establishes the first formal Summer Tourney.

3395-3398 AD Gawain III places puppet abbots in charge of several monasteries before stripping them of revenues. Hugh Kingsley's protests are ignored.

3398 AD The Bishop's War. The Bishop of Sweetcastle claims that Stephen Sweetwater is in fact Alderic, the rightful king. The brief rebellion is crushed after thirty days and Sweetcastle is razed for the first time, but the King halts the appropriation of Church lands.

3399 AD Archbishop Hugh Kingsley takes direct control of the Brothers of the Blade, a militant wing of the church in decline for centuries. Originally formed to protect travellers and pilgrims from the Nephilim, the Archbishop turns the Brothers towards protecting the financial and economic interests of the Church.

3401 AD Death of Gawain III from overconsumption following a drunken 3 day celebration during the summer tourney (thereafter known as the Tourney of Tears).

Gawain IV The Cuckold

Merciful 2 Kind 2 Noble 2 Knight 2

Appearance: "He was a large, broad-shouldered man with a close-cropped copper-red beard and a ruddy complexion. He had the build of a wrestler and was always a strong and active monarch. His face was open and honest, his laugh hearty and frequent, with none of the wickedness of his father. In the early days of the monarchy, or in times that called for a plain soldier king, he might have been a great success."

Gawain IV was not as handsome as his father, but was by no means uncongenial in appearance. Contemporary accounts recall that he had great charm, but one based on qualities very different from those of his father. Where Gawain III was reckless and exciting, Gawain IV was conscientious and amiable. In his own time he was called 'The Farmer' before he was called the 'Cuckold', because he was the first monarch to show great care and attention to the lives of the peasantry. He curtailed the excesses of some of the nobility who had supported his father, and increased the rights of the lowest classes of society. For this he was much loved by those without influence, and considered foolish by those with power. He dressed plainly, to reflect his interests, and his hands were often stained with mud or oil from physical labour or the investigation of First Empire machines, which he also found fascinating.

Personality: "It is a sad fact that the virtues of a man can be as damaging as his vices, particularly if that man is a king. The pre-eminent feature of Gawain IV was his amiability. He could not hate even those who had wronged him, and whilst he acted against injustice wherever he saw it, he preferred to think the best of all men. He hated his father's infidelities and determined to be as loyal a husband as he could be, but chose the wrong woman to be loyal to. He hesitated to punish wrong doers with sufficient vigour, and was overly generous in both friendship and wealth, so that the coffers of the kingdom were depleted and the respect due his authority gradually weakened.

It has been said of him that he was perhaps too good a man to rule, and too kind a man to marry.”

Key Events:

3402 AD Gawain IV marries Isabella of Goldenroot. He shocks the court by inviting several non-noble members of his staff and family retainers to the wedding celebrations.

3403 AD Gawain IV lowers the Crown Tithe paid by all peasants at harvest time and enacts the Right of Address (peasants can appeal directly to Royal Courts rather than referring all complaints to their local lord).

3403-3405 AD The Lords Revolt. Several local lords led by William of Stonecross rebel against Gawain’s tithe changes. The rebellion is spread and supported by the Sweetwaters.

3405 AD The Lords Revolt is crushed with the 2nd razing of Sweetcastle. After an appeal by Isabella the Sweetwaters and the payment of a fine the Sweetwaters are forgiven and reinstated as Barons. William of Stonecross is executed.

3405-3406 AD Isabella conducts an affair with Lawrence Sweetwater. She obtains the position of Chancellor for him.

3406 AD Opening of the first Baronial Rail between Deepwell and Goldenroot, funded by generous grants from the King and embezzlement by Chancellor Sweetwater.

3407-3409 AD The Mason’s War. Isabella’s father Baron Arthur of Goldenroot and Baron Eustace of Tavelon rebel in outrage when Gawain IV elevates the merchant mason Duncan Carver of Port Meadow to the position of Baron.

3409 AD Gawain IV defeats the Barons at the Battle of the Meadow, but pardons them when they recognise the Port Meadow Barony.

3409 AD Gawain IV dies suddenly, poisoned by Isabella, who tries to install her six year old son as Gawain V. The boy becomes known as ‘the False Gawain’ as rumours spread that he is not Gawain IV’s child. After a sermon to this effect denouncing her by the Archbishop of Camelot, Oswald of Redbridge, a mob burns down Deepwell Palace, forcing Isabella to flee through the Gate.

Gawain V Red Hands

Imperial 3 Stubborn 3 Noble 3

Appearance: “He bore a remarkable physical similarity to his cousin, Gawain IV, save that he was shorter and broader, with shoulders and arm so thick with muscle as to be almost deformed. He had sharp cheekbones and many scars of battle about his person, and affected the ancient custom of wearing iron rings for every victory in battle he had gained. He had so many of these that he took to wearing them on a chain about his thick neck.”

Gawain V was a skilled Bowman, and frequent practice at this weapon gave him a very muscular upper body. Some knights disdained his use of the bow, but Gawain V was one of the first kings to realise the effective of the Pendragon longbow, and to honour bowmen as an elite force even if they came from peasant stock. He wore light and simple clothing similar to that worn by huntsmen, and disdained all decorative vanity save for the iron rings of battle.

Personality: “He was a believer in strength and force, and little troubled by considerations of mercy or restraint. He was notable for his lack of obvious vices, as he did not seem swayed by any pleasure or temptation. He was a cold man, capable of great ferocity, but always in a calculated way. He was often heard to remark that his cousin had endangered the crown through his kindness, and that it was not a weakness he shared. While his cousin lived he was the most loyal of his generals, but after his death he was utterly ruthless in asserting his claim and removing all impediments to his rule.”

Gawain V had an indirect claim to the throne as a bastard son of Alderic the White Prince. The chaotic events surrounding the death of Gawain IV, his own father's failed rebellion and the weakness of his claim all combined to make him believe that only the greatest severity and ruthlessness could cement his rule and bring back stability and peace. He was also aware of the threat posed by a potential return of the murderess Isabella, who had taken with her a following of knights and nobles sworn to return her to power. Several actions in his reign testify to his severity, particularly his controversial campaign against the Stonedweller tribes, and he is known to have ordered the massacre of several villages, thus gaining the title Red Hands. At the same time, he offered a harsh but fair justice to the people, and was quick to punish nobles who abused their powers.

Key Events:

3411-3413 AD The Stonedweller Purge. In 3411, barely a year into his reign and after suppressing some minor rebellions from petty lords, Gawain V came down with a mysterious fever which saw him bedridden for three weeks and close to death. Gawain blamed this almost fatal illness on a Dark Folk shaman who happened to be visiting as part of a tribal trade mission, though historians now believe that he was poisoned by an agent of Isabella. In response Gawain V got off his sickbed and, still feverish, led a devastating surprise attack, not only against the Dark Folk but even against Mountain Folk and Dog Folk tribes, driving all into even more inaccessible areas of wilderness and seizing their former lands.

3413 AD Arthur's Grave Discovered. Experiments by monks in charge of the Deepwell Gate discover the route to Arthur's Grave. Archbishop Oswald establishes a strong community of monks on Arthur's Grave before notifying the King, a move which increases Gawain V's increasing paranoia. Early discoveries of First Empire relics quickly establish Arthur's Grave as a place of pilgrimage however, preventing the King from demanding anything but token control of the new Realm.

3415 AD Death of the Little Princes. From the moment of Gawain V's accession to the throne rumours circulated that Isabella left her two youngest sons behind when she fled from Pendragon. The little princes, Richard and Charles, were three year old twins in 3409 AD. Whilst Gawain IV lived they had been entrusted as wards to Gawain V, with the intention that he would raise them as his squires. Gawain V insisted throughout his reign that the boys had been abducted by their rebellious mother, but they were in fact imprisoned. In 3415 AD Archbishop Oswald received confirmation of the boys whereabouts and demanded their release. Gawain Sweetwater, their jailor, panicked and had the boys hurriedly strangled and buried in a secret location. This confirmed Gawain V's reputation for utter ruthlessness.

3416 AD Foundation of The Tomb Robber's Guild. The number of artefacts being discovered in the realm of Arthur's Grave combined with the church's strict control of all official excavations leads enterprising individuals to form the Tomb Robber's Guild. Gawain V ignores opportunities to shut down the new Guild as a message to Archbishop Oswald regarding previous disagreements.

3417 AD Removal of the Court to Camelot. Opposition from the Church and from nobles chafing under his firm rule leads to several assassination attempts on Gawain V, despite the continued loyalty of the majority of the populace. In response to this and his own increasing paranoia Gawain removes the court to the realm of Camelot.

3418 AD Death of Gawain V. The notorious war leader and slaughterer of the Stonedwellers succumbed to wounds sustained in an accident during a sword training exercise. His duelling partner was executed immediately by Gawain VI, leading to suspicion that there may have been something suspicious about Gawain V's death.

Gawain VI The Pious

Apathetic 3 Educated 2 Noble 2

Appearance: “He was one of the tallest monarchs to have held the throne of Pendragon, but was always of a slim build and disdainful of all pursuits which might have added bulk and muscle to his frame. He had a long, narrow face and hooded eyes, whilst his features had an unusual pallor and delicacy, so much so that it was remarked that he looked at times like a marble statue. His clothing was of the richest fabrics and he was never known to carry a weapon of any sort.”

Unlike many of the warrior monarchs who came before him Gawain VI was raised at court and never grew to enjoy the outdoors or traditional kingly pursuits such as hunting and the joust. He had a certain natural grace, but it was always of the languid kind, as he despised exercise in all its forms.

Personality: “He was a man of deep and sincere belief in the power and glory of the Seraphic Church and saw supporting the church and eradicating heresy and sin as his primary duty as a responsible monarch. The nation was blessed with his wise rule and steely determination to see the triumph of good, in stark contrast with the purely selfish dynastic concerns of his predecessor.”

In actuality Gawain VI was a startlingly shallow and dissolute individual, an ineffective monarch concerned primarily with his own pleasure. He considered himself a cultured man and had far more interest in theatre than in the duties of a monarch. His palace was always filled with singers and dancers and he was notorious for sleeping through most of the day, conducting his actual duties only with great repugnance for a few hours each afternoon. He only stirred to action when he felt his reign might be threatened or his power and pleasure could be increased without too much difficulty or effort. The one characteristic he shared with Gawain V was ruthlessness, he would happily order the execution of challengers, rivals or troublemakers.

Wishing to be troubled as little as possible by the performance of his duties, he effectively allowed the Seraphic Church to rule for periods in his stead, which explains both the major crusade of his reign (in which he only took a public part during parades and celebrations) and his inflated reputation in the Scroll of Kings.

Key Events:

3418 AD Foundation of Resting Place Abbey. Rumours of buried First Empire treasures make it difficult for the Church to control the number of pilgrims wishing to visit Arthur's Grave. In response the Church takes advantage of Gawain VI's elevation to demand funds for the completion of a stone abbey as a permanent base in return for recognising the legitimacy of his claim.

3419 AD The Requiscant Crusade. Arch-Bishop William the Fierce wins a disputed election on the death of the previous incumbent Arch-Bishop Baldwin. Some members of the Church in more radical Seraphic branches dispute his right to rule and back the losing candidate Gerard of Hilham. William the Fierce uses the fanatical Blade Brothers, an armed wing of the Church, to destroy these rebels (known as Requiscants).

3419 AD The Blade Brothers Split From the White Lodge. Arch-Bishop William becomes alarmed at the increasing independence and arrogance of the Blade Brothers as they appropriate lands seized from Requiscants rather than turning them over to the Church. He publically shames Reynald, leader of the Blade Brothers, who in turn renounces his allegiance to the Arch-Bishop.

3420 AD The Orderic Crusade. Arch-Bishop William persuades Gawain VI to back a call for a campaign against the Blade Brothers. Reynald is killed and several castles captured but the King's support is fitful at best.

3421 AD Death of Gawain VI. Gawain VI dies of suffocation whilst participating in what is officially described as a banquet but which is rumoured to have been some kind of orgiastic ceremony. Mortimer Goldenroot, a cousin of Gawain VI and his Master of Ceremonies, swiftly moves to assume command. Crucially he obtains the backing of both William the Fierce and Hugh de Tavelon, grandson of Reynald and leader of the remainder of the Blade Brothers. From this point on the Brothers become the Fighters Guild, offering mercenary services and leaving religious matters to the Church.

Gawain VII The Fat

Fat 4 Charming 4 Bard 2

Appearance: “He was always a man of large build, but his girth increased throughout the years of his reign. He had melancholy eyes and a dark beard which he kept neatly trimmed, oiled and scented, and was particularly proud of his long moustaches. He favoured golden robes of many layers, perhaps under the mistaken belief that his bulk would be attributed to his clothing rather than his person.”

Gawain VII was sensitive about his weight, which increased until he was a man of gigantic proportions. Strangely he was not a great eater, and there has even been speculation that he was the victim of some form of minor curse. Despite his bulk he was also quite agile and stealthy, and was known at court as an excellent dancer. He was also a skilled singer with a rich baritone voice.

Personality: “He was a man who was skilled at putting others at ease and at making them sure of his friendship. His laughter was easy, infectious and never forced, although even in the midst of merriment and jest his eyes retained a certain watchful distance. He had a voice which he had trained to suit whatever argument he wished to express, and many remarked on the almost hypnotic persuasiveness and ease of his conversation.”

From the moment he acceded to the throne Gawain VII felt insecure in his position and conscious of the fact that he did not have the military experience or physical presence of many of his predecessors. He was however determined to secure his reign and he used his skills to that end. He was perhaps the best politician ever to sit upon the throne of Kingsland, and he knew how to distribute gifts and punishments in equal measure to retain his authority whilst also earning the love of his subjects. He knew that his bulk was a subject of mirth but never attacked the bards and minstrels who made amusing songs about him, instead responding by funding a magnificent college in which they could be trained. Unfortunately, his desire to win friends led to a great increase in expenditure which whilst ensuring that his reign is remembered with fondness also limited the options available to his successor.

Key Events:

3423 AD The Golden Harvest. The harvest in this year is remembered as one of the most bountiful ever known, as Gawain VII's introduction of the advanced farming techniques of his own region of Goldenroot reap benefits throughout Pendragon.

3424 AD The Palace of Sighs. Gawain VII uses some of the revenue generated by the Golden Harvest to build a private pleasure palace in a hidden location. Only the most trusted nobles are ever invited to this hidden location which soon obtains legendary status for its rumoured opulence and splendour.

3430 AD Foundation of the Bard's College of Hilham. Generous donations from the King and Baron John Hilham allow the creation of a magnificent college for the training of bards and the performance of traditional poems and songs celebrating great events and rulers from Pendragon's history. It is thought that the college is also intended as a counterpoint to the schools of the Seraphic church, breaking the monks monopoly on learning.

3435 AD Death of Gawain VII. Gawain VII dies peacefully in his sleep. Great mourning follows for an extremely popular monarch, although it is soon discovered that the royal treasury is almost completely bare, the result of years of extravagant spending.

Gawain VIII Tatter-Cloak

Reasonable 2 Noble 2 Clerk 2 Lawyer 2

Appearance: “He was a man of average build but short in stature, with a quick, nervous energy about him. He did not like to sit or lounge, and was constantly in motion. He had a long face and narrow lips, and was clean-shaven. He was neither handsome nor ill-favoured, but had something of the appearance of a clerk or man of letters, with ink-stained fingers and always a book within ready reach. He had the habit of reading whilst walking, but never seemed distracted or lacking in alertness.”

Gawain VIII was the eldest son of Gawain VII, and had warned before his father's death of the debt accumulating during his reign. His appearance was facially similar to his father, and some remarked that he looked as his father would have done if deprived of his weight and famed moustaches. He had the same agility and stealth, and was also a very competent swordsman.

Personality: “He was a mild man in all matters save that of finance, which became his obsession. He has gone down in history as a miser whose end was a poetic punishment for the thefts and appropriations of his reign. There is no doubt that he had a keen if narrow intellect, but was bereft of all those finer feelings-largesse, charity, spirituality or the love of martial glory-which are the perquisites of a true King.”

Gawain VIII was above all a conscientious monarch who recognised the terrible state of the finances of his kingdom and the consequences of continued unchecked expenditure.

He strove to protect his people from the result of bad harvests and difficult economic conditions, and read voraciously on all works that might help him to achieve this. He worked tirelessly and without complaint, and gradually rebuilt an economy that had been devoted purely to pleasure. It is little recognised in the scroll of kings or elsewhere how much he did to prevent famine and ruin, as he extended taxes to influential persons and offended the religious through his support of the Dungeoneers.

Key Events:

3435 AD The Black Harvest. Gawain VIII's reign begins with a notoriously poor harvest, in contrast with the Golden harvest at the start of his predecessors reign. Famine strikes Pendragon, but the new King gains some popularity by initiating a harsh regime of thrift in his own household and distributing alms on a series of 'mercy tours'.

3436 AD Foundation of The Dungeoneer's Guild. In an attempt to raise revenue Gawain VIII allows the formation of the Dungeoneer's Guild, provided that all successful recoveries of artefacts and treasures from Lucifer's dungeons are subject to a 20% tax (which still applies today). Protests from the Arch-Bishop of Camelot regarding the removal of relics are ignored.

3439-3450 AD The New Census. Gawain VIII organises an exhaustive census also known as the Book of Tithes. Hundreds of crown agents traverse Pendragon collecting exhaustive information designed to allow Gawain to collect taxes with far greater efficiency.

3445 AD The Empire Sale. Gawain VIII sells hundreds of noble titles. As these nobles lack any real pedigree, he also find a ready market for stored artefacts and First Empire treasures belonging to the crown. Selling these to the founders of new noble houses causes resentment amongst the old nobility but finally repairs the damage done during Gawain VII's profligate reign.

The new nobility, with ties to mercantile houses, also bring a new vitality to the court and an increase in loyalty towards the crown on the part of the growing middle class (who can now aspire to higher status).

3451 AD Death of Gawain VIII. Gawain VIII catches pneumonia and dies in an unheated room of his palace, victim of his policies of thrift, which are not altered during his final illness.

Gawain IX The Martyr

Brave 3 Strong 2 Knight 2

Appearance: “He was a muscular and handsome young man and was from early youth destined to represent a flower of chivalry never reached by his brother or his father before him. He had a broad, clear brow and firm, noble features, with grey eyes of unusual clarity and wavy strawberry blonde hair. He trained with his brother and was known for defeating opponents both larger and older than himself, for he was blessed with the natural ability of a born warrior.”

Gawain IX’s appearance was far less impressive than the scroll of kings asserts. He was in fact of similar build to his obese father, though it is true that he had a more handsome face. His appearance has been idealised subsequent to his death, to reflect the respect felt for his personal sacrifice and his undoubted courage.

Personality: “It is hard to imagine how a man may be more suited to kingship than was Gawain IX. He was deeply concerned with the wellbeing of his subjects, and as compassionate a ruler as has ever sat upon the throne. He had a commanding presence, and yet possessed a becoming modesty and an ease of manner which endeared him to all, both high and low. He was as courageous as a lion, and feared dishonour far more than death.”

As with his appearance, Gawain IX’s personality as described in the scroll of kings describes the huge respect felt for the manner of his death rather than an accurate or objective assessment of his strengths and weaknesses. He was clearly a man of great personal courage, but little evidence remains from his rule to suggest any other outstanding qualities. It seems most likely that he was in fact a rather ordinary young man, surprised both by his brother’s unexpected death and by the disaster that overtook his own rule with the release of the Burning King. He did not have the intellect to discover any means of destroying the dread creature save through his own death, but what cannot be denied is that he had the strength of character to make that sacrifice.

Key Events:

3452 AD Release of The Burning King. Dungeoneers operating under a warrant granted by Gawain VIII accidentally release a powerful Luciferan monster from its dungeon lair in the Greyfang mountains. The creature, a giant with ever-burning flesh and the ability to generate and control fires, quickly overruns the nearest town and builds an undead army from the charred bodies of its slain victims.

3453 AD Great Fire of Dantesham. The Burning King attacks and destroys the city of Dantesham. Over six thousand people die in the course of the destruction, but whilst the Burning King lingers in the ruins an army is assembled to defeat him.

3453 AD Death of the Burning King. The Burning King meets a large force under the command of the new Baron of Dantesham. Whilst the main force distracts his attention a small band of elite knights led personally by King Gawain IX infiltrate his camp and slay the fell beast, though the King himself is mortally wounded in the attack.

3453 AD Death of Gawain IX. After three days lingering on the point of death the badly burned Gawain IX dies. Childless, his last act is to designate his only surviving brother as the new monarch.

Gawain X The Sailor King

Strong 2 Noble 2 Sailor 3

Appearance: “He was of average build save for the broadness of his shoulders and the thickness of his arms, which recalled the strength of his legendary forebears. He wore a beard and braided it in the barbaric northern style, and affected the wearing of hats to conceal an early baldness. His skin was tanned from the outdoors, as he disliked being in enclosed spaces.”

Gawain X was fascinated with sailing and the life of the sea, and determined that he should be physically capable of performing the tasks which might fall to a common sailor. He was therefore physically fit and blessed with a robust constitution.

Personality: “He liked to assume the persona of an amiable man and was therefore always smiling and open in his manner. Many were deceived by this surface appearance and the king encouraged them to speak freely or critically of himself and his plans, asserting that a good monarch needed to hear truth from the mouths of his advisors. Whilst in most matters he was reasonable enough to make good use of such honest counsel, he had a fascination with exploration and would tolerate no criticism of expenses lavished on this end. He filled his court with adventurers and explorers and dreamed of founding cities in distant undiscovered lands. It is said that those who mocked these ambitions were received with his usual amiability, only to mysteriously disappear at a later date.”

Gawain X was the first Pendragon monarch to seriously invest in both exploration and, less obviously, in the foundation of what amounted to a secret police. Although his interest in exploration was genuine, it increasingly served as a means of masking his expenditure on a network of spies and informants designed to root out any threats to the throne and answerable only to his commands. The core of this organisation was formed from the surviving knights who had taken part in the Dalesham battle against the Burned King.

Gawain X was determined not to be surprised by a threat as his brother had been. The secret force was known as the Burned Men. As his reign went on, though, Gawain X grew increasingly paranoid and ever more likely to use this force against imagined enemies rather than real ones. He was essentially a scared man with a ruthless streak in defending himself, but hid this beneath a show of friendliness reminiscent of the charm of Gawain VII.

Key Events:

3455-3458 AD Circumnavigation of Ursa. Between 3455 and 3458 Gawain X sponsored a series of expeditions which culminated in the successful circumnavigation of the continent of Ursa. Carefully managed reports from these expeditions provoked great interest, with investors flocking to follow the king's example and new fashions and literature provoked by the most interesting discoveries.

3459 AD Bluemist Expedition. A major expedition discovered several gold and silver deposits, sparking a rush to exploit these new resources and conflicts with the native Stonedwellers of the region. Towns began to be constructed in what had always been Stonedweller lands.

3459 AD Founding of Hunter's Coast. The wilder reaches of the coast Ursa were tamed with the destruction of several Stonedweller tribes, whilst many leading Pendragon nobles established resorts and hunting lodges in the captured territories.

3460 AD Death of Gawain X. Gawain X is thrown from his horse whilst participating in a hunt and breaks his neck. The accident is not considered to be a suspicious one as the King was known to be a mediocre horseman.

Gawain XI The Castle Builder

Taciturn 2 Racist 2 Imperial 4

Appearance: “He had a sallow complexion and pockmarked skin, but a muscular build and the proud bearing of a stern monarch. His mother was of peasant stock, and he had the crude vigour of the lower orders. He grew his black hair long, and sported a thin, pointed beard. He had an unsettling habit of speaking little and staring fiercely at those he was talking to, but when he did speak his voice was always measured and calm.”

As Gawain X’s illegitimate son, Gawain XI’s maternal parentage is disputed, but there is no doubt that his complexion was closer to that of some Stonedweller tribes than that of the average Kingslander. His potential Stonedweller heritage does not seem to have weakened his rule and his strict policies towards the Stonedwellers soon reassured any nobles that might have doubted him.

Personality: “He was calm and methodical in all he did, and as guarded in private as in public settings, never betraying any emotion that might lessen the dignity of his rule. Men were left guessing at his opinions and motives whilst he learned all that was in their hearts, and he used silence like a weapon to draw forth confessions and confidences from others. His communications, either in person or in writing, were always terse and to the point, although he was also capable of a mordant wit when he wished to entertain.”

Gawain XI was a guarded man. He built castles to defend the realm and silences to defend himself. He left people guessing as to his thoughts and quietly continued to use the secret force established by his father. His judgements were strict and unequivocal and his response to rebellion or dissent was short, swift and brutal. He harboured ambitions to extend Kingsland into far distant realms, and sponsored the first serious troop deployments in the realm of Castlekeep.

In personal luxuries and entertainments his tastes were simple and Spartan, and he encouraged similar moderation in his followers.

Key Events:

3464 AD Running Elk Massacre. An entire Dark Folk tribe, including all the women and children, are slaughtered after a dispute with Kingslander settlers. Gawain XI has the ringleaders publically whipped, but allows settlement on previously Stonedweller land to continue.

3465-3469 AD Ghost Heart Rebellion. The Dark Folk shaman Ghost Heart and the Dog Folk chief Raise the Knife form a unique alliance. Ghost Heart persuades Raise the Knife that they can reunite the Dark Folk and Dog Folk into a single tribe and that together they can force the Kinglanders out of Canus altogether. Outraged by the Running Elk Massacre, many braves join them in a bloody four year rebellion. The rebellion includes the annihilation of an entire Pendragon army under Lord General Jeremiah Goldenroot. Gawain XI personally takes command and institutes a new policy of slash and burn, starving the tribes into surrender. Ghost Heart is captured whilst attempting to negotiate with Kingsland forces and is killed in captivity. Unaware of his death, Raise the Knife leads a doomed raid to rescue Ghost Heart with only a few surviving followers and is also killed.

3469-3473 AD Foundation of the Canus Keeps. A series of keeps are built in Canus to cement Kingsland control over the pacified Stonedwellers.

3473-3477 Foundation of Glory, Pride and Hope Holds on Castlekeep. Fearful of rumours of buried ancient evils in the realm of Castlekeep, Gawain XI orders the construction of massive fortresses. These are based on the model of the Canus Keeps, but much larger. Many of the masons and workers are forced to work on these fortresses, and defeated Stonedwellers form a virtual slave labour force.

3477 AD Death of Gawain XI. Gawain XI is killed by falling masonry whilst inspecting the newly completed Pride Hold. A disgruntled master mason and three Stonedweller accomplices are executed for his murder.

Gawain XII The Cruel

Cruel 4 Racist 4 Imperial 2

Appearance: “He had his father’s dark complexion but the blue eyes of his more distant ancestors. There was a swarthy handsomeness to his features, although his face was somewhat rounded, his hair tousled and prone to ringlets like that of a child. His lips had a full and pouting quality and his build was slight but well-formed.”

Gawain XII was only thirteen when he took the throne. He had suffered from epileptic fits as a child and these were thought to be linked to strenuous exertion and physical stress, so he never mastered the personal combat skills usual to a prince in waiting. Enforced idleness on medical advice tormented him, and he alternated between languid relaxation and sudden bursts of energy.

Personality: “His siblings all died of various natural causes leaving him as his father’s only surviving child. As such his increasingly paranoid father doted on him, seeing in Gawain XII his only hope of a lasting legacy. He was alternately spoiled and suffocated by this overbearing affection, and would seek in all he did both to emulate and surpass his father. He could display great and charming warmth, but had no patience and a terrible temper. In his rages he could commit terrible deeds, and his rage against the Stonedwellers, who he blamed for his father’s death, never ended.”

Gawain XII was a sadist who had Stonedwellers tortured and killed in a variety of disgusting manners, as well as anyone whom he considered a threat to his reign.

He was also an extremely intelligent and gifted man, who even as a child had the strength of will to quickly assume full command of the government (swiftly imprisoning those, including his own mother, who thought to rule as regents).

Key Events:

3478-3488 AD Trade of Shame. Whilst previous monarchs had oppressed the Stonedwellers in a variety of ways, Gawain XII was the first to openly institute slavery against them and to use the armies of Pendragon to capture Stonedwellers as slaves. Many Kingslanders were ashamed of this practice as it was uncomfortably reminiscent of a Nephilim attitude towards humanity in general.

3481 AD First Progressor Embassy. In this year a mysterious delegation of cowed monks arrived offering technical and medical advice. After a private audience Gawain XII grants them honours and a place amongst his council of advisors.

3484 AD Discovery of the Book of Sanguinity. A major relic of the Nephilim is discovered and secreted in the secret vaults of Resting Place Abbey. Word is however somehow leaked of its nature and presence, whilst the book itself seems to exert an unholy influence over those who read it. A cult devoted to Barbatos, author of the book, begins to form.

3486 AD Foundation of the Beggar’s Guild. By this stage of his reign Gawain XII had imprisoned or killed a number of prominent citizens, both noble and non-noble. Many of their families were forced into poverty as others refused to deal with ‘traitors’, rightly fearing that to do so would also endanger them. Some of these outcasts formed a cooperative group to help each other.

3490 AD Death of Gawain XII. Gawain XII plans a major purge of noble families suspected of Stonedweller sympathies (effectively all those who had refused to participate in the Trade of Shame). After they hear of this plot, he is stabbed to death whilst addressing a Star Chamber meeting of leading nobles.

Gawain XIII The Fool

Humble 2 Cautious 2 Sensible 3 Noble 2

Appearance: “He was round-shouldered and pot-bellied, with lank brown hair thinning at the top. It is said that in his youth he was a fine figure, but age and infirmity had already struck by the time he was crowned. He had a limp from an old jousting injury, and it was widely rumoured that his injuries were more personal than he would ever admit. He had grey eyes and a square jaw, but the tremor of his hands testified to his essential weakness of character.”

Gawain XIII was a seventy two year old second cousin of the king who had no part in the plot to kill him. The leading plotters, however, could not agree on which of them should claim the throne. Facing an impasse, they could however all agree on a powerless figurehead. Gawain XIII, previously Sir Tancred Goldenroot, had been imprisoned after repeating an unwise jest against Gawain XII at a dinner party. He had not been executed purely because he was so minor a figure that he had been forgotten about. Physically he was weakened by arthritis and was also plagued by insomnia.

Personality: “He was reluctant to accept the throne, but too powerless to reject it. It is even said that he begged the chief conspirators to find an alternative candidate, as he preferred the simple pleasures of retirement, chiefly gardening, reading, and writing histories of previous monarchs. He had a great store of knowledge, and could discourse with some keenness on a variety of topics, until it was discovered that all his knowledge was theoretical and garnered from books. He would believe a centuries old scholarly tome before he would consult the evidence of his own senses, and was ignorant of everything that could not be expressed in words alone.”

Gawain XIII was first and foremost a scholar, a retired knight who had never enjoyed either combat or politics. He was a peaceable man who was gentle, caring, and possessed of a wry, slightly melancholy sense of humour.

He believed that life was random and absurd, and that all divine beings were either uncaring or cruel. Very slowly and patiently throughout his reign he moved against the original plotters who had enthroned him, manipulating their jealousies and differences whilst pretending to be ignorant of all guile. His one real area of blindness concerned his wife Isabella, whose evil he could not bring himself to acknowledge.

Key Events:

3490-3450 AD Rise of the Barbed Knights. An elite group of the growing Barbatos cult gradually increases in power and influence, recruiting increasing numbers of knights. Gawain XIII allies with these knights to counterbalance the power of the conspirators. In this way he gains some measure of independent power, but at the cost of accepting the presence of Nephilic cult.

3493 AD Second Progressor Embassy. The Progressors renew their contact with the Pendragon monarchy. Gawain XIII asks them to investigate means of ensuring the loyalty of his knights.

3495 AD Marriage of Gawain XIII to Isabella, rumoured to be his half-sister. Isabella is an ambitious spy for the Old Guard, as the original conspirators have come to be called.

3495-3499 AD War of the Hidden Faces. A shadowy conflict for influence between the Barbed Knights, the King, the Old Guard, and even a faction devoted entirely to the Queen takes place, rarely breaking out into open conflict but characterised by corruption, blackmail, and intimidation. During this period Isabella is contacted by Morgan Le Fay.

3500 AD Death of Gawain XIII. Isabella poisons Gawain XIII and fails to secure the throne as she is opposed by the remainder of the Old Guard. Isabella's faction flees through a Door and forms the core of what will become the forces of Queensland. Isabella unites with Morgan Le Fay as the Ascended's mortal Avatar. Her followers re-invade Pendragon, sparking the Days of Woe.

3500-3700 AD The Days of Woe. Years of confusion and strife in which the followers of Morgan Le Fay ravage Pendragon and the royal line in the form of Gawain XIII's third son goes into hiding. Gawain XIII's first two sons are raised by Isabella and are therefore considered Nephilim worshippers, ineligible for the throne. They are sometimes referred to as the Black Princes or the Lost Princes. The knights who support Isabella become the first Black Knights. For two hundred years the royal line is in hiding.

Gawain XIV The Glorious

Fanatical 3 Dignified 2 Stubborn 2 Knight 4

Appearance: "He was a tall, broad-shouldered man with long black hair, clean-shaven, with a large, strong nose and blue eyes which were capable of extremes of warmth and coldness, depending on his mood. He had an effortless air of command, and a boundless confidence and calm that seemed to withstand any vicissitudes of fortune. He spoke clearly and directly, using the language of the common people and the ordinary soldier rather than the honeyed deceptions of a courtier."

Gawain XIV was driven by a sense of absolute destiny. As a child he suffered a fever which left him near death for three days, but whilst in this state had a vision of himself accepting a glowing sword from King Arthur and driving the Nephilim from Kingsland. His appearance reflected this confidence in subtle ways. He had no personal vanity and even sometimes laughed at his physical faults, particularly his large nose, but as considered handsome by everyone who met him.

Personality: "When others despaired, he remained resolute. When others feared, he said that he feared dishonour more than death, when others doubted, he spoke with such quiet assurance that their doubts were soon dispelled. He was resolution and courage personified, and by the strength of his will and his ceaseless effort he reversed two hundred years of chaos in a single lifetime."

Gawain was by nature a compassionate and fair man and a firm believer in the responsibility of rulers to provide justice to all their subjects. He was also however utterly ruthless and dedicated to the task of removing the armies of Morgan le Fay from all of Kingsland. In pursuit of this aim he was prepared to use any tactic. He bribed, he deceived, he used guerrilla warfare, he had traitors and spies executed and even killed enemies under the flag of parley. He can best be understood as a smiling fanatic, utterly convinced of his right and destiny to free Pendragon from the yoke of the Fyrd. Everything else was subordinate to this.

Key Events:

3705 AD Third Progressor Embassy. Whilst he was still building his followers and was a hunted outlaw, Gawain XIV somehow managed to persuade the Brotherhood of Progression to recognise him as the legitimate direct descendent of Gawain XI (a choice which avoided any uncomfortable memories of Gawain the Cruel or Gawain the Fool). Technological assistance provided by the Brotherhood greatly augmented Gawain XIV's forces.

3712 AD Battle of Deepwell. After years of raids and sabotage, the King had finally built up enough followers to launch a major offensive. He fed false information through dozens of double agents and elaborately constructed 'evidence' that the attack would be launched to free the city of Dantesham, when in fact he struck for Deepwell. The feint on Dantesham included the ruthless sacrifice of several hundred hand-picked knights, but the deception was a complete success. Capturing Deepwell allowed the King to block any further reinforcements for the opposing forces. One of the Dantesham knights deliberately sacrificed is Gawain XIV's sixteen year old son Robert.

3712-3715 AD Clarent Quest. A number of knights called the Ashen (as they considered themselves already dead or ash until they had completed their mission) secretly depart through the Deepwell Gate to recover Arthurs Sword of Peace. They successfully do so in 3715 AD, giving a fresh surge of religious belief to the King's quest against the Fyrd. From this point on there are no Kingslanders who dispute Gawain XIV's claim to the throne.

3725 AD Battle of Riversmeet. After a series of minor battles an enormous pitched battle takes place at Riversmeet. Combining cavalry and Brotherhood technology Gawain XIV, although outnumbered four to one, slaughters the Fyrd host, breaking the power of Morgan's armies on Pendragon.

3733 AD Expulsion of the Great Fyrd. By this point the last of the Fyrd have been hunted down and killed or expelled through the Deepwell Gate.

3734-3740 AD Expulsion of the Barbed Knights. Gawain XIV had allied with the Barbed Knights against the Fyrd after a religious dispute between the followers of Barbatos and Morgan. With the Fyrd expelled Gawain immediately turned on his temporary Nephilim allies. He did so first through deception, inviting many Barbed Knights to a great banquet in 3733 AD in which nearly three hundred of them were poisoned, an event since known as the Meal of Thorns. A military campaign followed, and by 3740 AD the last Barbed Knight castle (Malabrand Keep) is razed to the ground.

3750 AD Death of Gawain XIV. After ten years of peace and prosperity, during which time concerted efforts were made to restore population and trade levels to the standards known before the Days of Woe, Gawain XIV passed away peacefully in his sleep. His scholarly thirds son Pellinore assumes the throne as Gawain XV (his elder brothers having predeceased Gawain XIV).

Gawain XV The Mage

Brilliant 4 Noble 4 Mage 4

Appearance: "He had his father's height, but a thin build and a slight stoop of the shoulders. He wore plain black robes of good quality, and had his black hair drawn back and held by a thin silver crown. He had high cheek bones and a clear, broad brow, with the same hawkish nose as his father. Throughout his reign he appeared as a man in his prime, neither aging nor growing infirm, though this was only noted after many years. He had a slow, charming smile, and impeccable and precise manners. He would consider his words carefully before speaking, but showed both great intelligence and erudition in his comments."

Gawain XV's early reign was characterised by enormous popularity, derived mainly from the great relief people felt in the safe transition in rule from father to son after the terrible Days of Woe. This affection, earned largely by his father but continued by his own patient, sensible policies, was however turned to increasing unease as the reign continued without any apparent change in the King's appearance. His use of magic to extend his life became increasingly controversial, even whilst his appearance itself was unremarkable. It is interesting to note that such an intelligent man did not try to deceive his people, when he could have assumed the illusion of aging normally. Why he chose not to do so remains both a psychological and a political mystery.

Personality: "The most notable feature of his personality was his patience. He planned carefully, and he planned not just for the problems and difficulties that might arise in a given year, but for centuries to come. He kept a modest court, but spent far more lavishly on public buildings than on palaces for himself, in particular he was interested in spreading the benefits of education to as wide a proportion of the population as possible. He was conservative in his views, but accepted both criticism and advice with good humour and polite attention."

Gawain XV was above all things a lover of knowledge, and had a firm conviction that it would be knowledge, rather than military power, that would ensure that the Days of Woe never recurred. He took this lesson both from his own interest in intellectual pursuits and from his father's alliance with the Brotherhood of Progression. He was the monarch who maintained the closest allegiance with this group, and their influence did cause resentment among some of the noble families, but this never escalated into open conflict. He followed a deliberate policy of light taxation and peace, although he did not allow the military forces of Pendragon to stagnate, maintaining strong forces at Deepwell and Castlekeep.

As his reign progressed however problems developed. His ambition was much larger than his modest behaviour and apparent lack of vices suggested. He genuinely believed that he could return Kingsland to the heights of glory known in the days of the First Empire. He regretted however that everything he had learned about statesmanship and about technology would be lost with his death. The genuine belief that only he could bring back the First Empire explained his pursuit of life-extending magics. He actually intended to hand over power once this was accomplished, but his longevity and vision was gradually mistaken for a love of power itself and a refusal to obey the usual laws of nature. The Church in particular feared that he would impose an everlasting tyranny, and failed to understand that he was not that kind of threat.

Key Events:

3755 AD Foundation of the Arcane Brotherhood. After years of persecution, Gawain XV legitimises the study of First Empire relics and magic by founding a Guild specifically designed to represent the interests of such scholars. Despite objections from the Arch-Bishop of Camelot, Gawain carefully built public support through the creation of free schools to be administered by the First Empire scholars.

3759 AD Avalon Trade Established. With the assistance of the Arcane Brotherhood and the Brotherhood of Progression a regular trade route from the Deepwell Gate to the realm of Avalon is established. The Arcane Brotherhood enthusiastically begin to explore the First Empire ruins beyond the Avalon dome.

3766 AD Ebbsford Zeppelin Factory Founded. The funding Gawain XV has poured into schooling bears fruit with several technological developments, the most significant of which is the creation of zeppelins. Within a year Barons are clamouring to have the biggest and best zeppelins the factory can produce, and the reduced travel times facilitate greater contact between Pendragon cities.

3781 AD Discovery of the Avalon Scrolls. A major hoard of First Empire documents is discovered on Avalon. Gawain XV seems horrified by the content of some of the documents, which are never released.

3785-3795 AD Pilgrimage of Knowledge. Gawain XV travels through all of Kingsland, spending a year on Avalon followed by visits to Arthur's Grave and even Guinevere (despite knowledge of Guinevere not being public at this stage). He also visits every Pendragon Barony. In each place he visits, he founds schools, hospitals and even museums.

3797 AD Death of Gawain XV. Gawain XV's favoured apprentice and distant relative, Owen of Dantesham, is persuaded by a cabal consisting of leading clergymen and nobles to assassinate Gawain XV. After drowning the King in his bath, he is hurriedly crowned as Gawain XVI.

Gawain XVI The Leper King

Honourable 3 Brave 3 Noble 2 Knight 2

Appearance: “Before his affliction struck he was a youth of surpassing beauty. His hair was the colour of spun gold and his skin was like blushing marble. His limbs were well-proportioned and his form lithe but strong. His eyes were unusually large and his hands were slender with long fingers. After his affliction he wore a golden mask and his voice, once melodious as a singer’s, became hoarse and rasping. He lost several of his fingers and had weeping sores about his person, forcing him to wear bandages beneath his robes. Yet when battle proved necessary, he ignored the great pain wracking his tortured body and insisted on leading his army in person.”

Gawain XVI was one of the most handsome men ever to sit upon the throne of Kingsland. He had an almost Seraphic appearance that was commented upon by many of his contemporaries. It was suggested by some historians that there was a sexual dimension to his relationship with Gawain XV, although there is no evidence other than their close friendship for this assertion (Gawain XV had the habit of bathing in a very large private sauna and was often joined by friends, counsellors and advisors when doing so, which lends greater innocence to the manner of his death). Gawain XVI’s looks were of course ruined by his leprosy, which was severe and at an advanced stage by his death.

Personality: “He shared a love of learning with his friend and predecessor, but thought that any idea of returning to the days of the First Empire was foolish. He was known for his wit and charm before he was struck with leprosy, but became a far more solemn individual when burdened by this disease as well as the duties of rule. It was thought that he would be a handsome puppet when conspirators including his brother selected him as the assassin of and replacement for Gawain XV, but this proved to be a false hope.

He swiftly moved to limit their powers and cultivated the alliance of the troops and the nobles who had not been part of the conspiracy. He also assured both the Brotherhood of Progression and the Arcane Brotherhood of continued patronage. In all these things he showed unexpected wisdom and diplomatic skill, combined with great fortitude in the face of his subsequent illness.”

Gawain XVI was tormented by guilt over his part in Gawain XV’s murder. He had reluctantly accepted that Gawain XV had to die despite their friendship because he had been concerned by the King’s determination to recreate the First Empire. He thought that this could lead to more Days of Woe and that Gawain XV mental health was failing. But he was certain that the usurpation of the throne could only be justified if his rule was more just and honourable than any other reign. Stephen III, Arch-Bishop of Camelot and Gawain XVI’s elder brother, was particularly shocked by this as he had intended to rule through him. Gawain XVI acted against all corruption, however, and showed great skill in creating new alliances that neutralised the conspirators who had placed him in power. He was clearly intelligent, determined, and idealistic. He also became increasingly pious, interpreting his leprosy as a punishment for the murder of Gawain XV. He built his predecessor an enormous tomb and a magnificent cathedral to house it (Blue Dome Cathedral in the realm of Avalon). When a major Fyrd invasion threatened the complete loss of Castlekeep he dragged himself off his sickbed and personally led the fight, although by that stage he was in constant agony.

Key Events:

3799 AD Discovery and Settlement of Tintagel. A Gate route to Tintagel is discovered, and the news of floating islands causes great excitement. Many younger sons of noble houses emigrate to the new Realm in the hope of gaining land, before discovering how little actual land the real consists of. Thieves and outlaws soon follow, forming the beginnings of the Lower Tintagen populace.

3808 AD Permanent Progressor Embassy. Reassured by Gawain XVI's continued patronage, the Progressors agree to make their alliance with the Pendragon monarchy permanent.

3810 AD True Knight Procedure Perfected. As Fyrd reinforcements flood into Castlekeep, the true knight procedure is perfected in order to make up for the disparity in the number of troops that Kingsland can raise against Morgan's now vast armies.

3819 AD King Contracts Leprosy from Tainted Relic. Contact with a Nephilim artefact (thought by many to have been the Black Flag of Mordred) causes Gawain XVI to contract leprosy. He blames his murder of the previous monarch for the appearance of the Nephilim relic.

3820-3823 AD Suppression of the Weeping Witches. A major Nephilim coven based in the city of Kingscliff is uncovered. Having already subverted many of the local peasantry and gentry, the suppression of the cult takes three years of bitter fighting.

3826 AD First Battle of Black Fork. Gawain XVI wins a major victory on Castlekeep, preventing a Fyrd invasion through the Castlekeep gate.

3829 AD Death of Gawain XVI. Gawain XVI finally succumbs to the effects of the leprosy he has suffered from for many years, dying from an infected wound. He nominates his youngest brother as his successor.

Gawain XVII Strong-Arm

Brave 2 Strong 2 Ugly 2 Cruel 2 Bandit 3

Appearance: "He was dark where his brother was fair, barrel-chested rather than slim, possessed of enormous arms and a prodigious strength to match them, coarse where his brother was cultivated, and prone to all manner of crude vices. The only characteristic he shared with Gawain XVII was courage, and in all ways physically and mentally he seemed like his brother's absolute opposite."

Gawain XVII was dark-skinned and had crude, slab-like features, with heavy ridges over his small dark eyes and a broad, flat nose. He was nicknamed The Ape King by his detractors, though his appearance may have seemed worse than it actually was just by comparison with his brother. He wore a chainmail vest at all times, and was rarely to be seen without a hammer or an axe in his hand.

Personality: "He was a lecherous man who did not respect the dignity of others or the courtesy a knight owes to the fairer sex. He used the position he had as king to intimidate ladies of the court into sexual relations with him, and he was not above forcing himself upon servants and peasant girls. His tastes were both vulgar and violent—he liked heavy drinking, bare-knuckle fighting, and animal fights and gladiatorial contests. He had enormous strength, and used it without restraint at the slightest provocation or even just for his amusement".

Gawain XVII was a classic ignorant bully. He resented his brother's intelligence and felt bitter that he had not been given status and power during his rule purely on the basis of their relationship. Oddly, however, he was as religious as his brother was, though his was more the crude superstitious awe of the unthinking peasant. He made a point of building a church every time he committed a truly evil deed, somehow seeming to imagine that this excused his actions. He was greedy and loathsome in nearly all things, but was undoubtedly brave. During the Bastards Revolt he broke a horse's skull with one blow of his fist, and in combat practice he liked to face three or four opponents at once.

Key Events:

3829 AD-3838 AD The Bastards Rebellion. Several claimants came forward in the early years of Gawain XVII's reign, claiming to be the illegitimate sons of Gawain XIV The Mage. Some demanded Baronial titles whilst others put themselves forward as alternative Kings. Gawain XVII spent nine years crushing these claimants one by one, though the brutality with which he did so could itself spark uprisings.

3842 AD The Great Tourney. In a bid to gain popularity Gawain XVII announced the most spectacular and extensive tourney ever held. Despite the brute monarch presiding over the affair, the tourney witnessed some contests which have since become legendary. The Great Tourney of 3842 A is still remembered as one of the best celebrations ever conducted.

3848 AD Second Battle of Black Fork. Once again the forces of Kingsland defeat those of Morgan le Fay, although the battle is much closer this time. Gawain XVII has 150 captured black knights executed by impalement.

3850 AD Death of Gawain XVII. In a drinking celebration to mark the second anniversary of the Second Battle of Black Fork Gawain XVII drinks himself into a coma, dying two days later.

Gawain XVIII The Tall

Kind 2 Tall 5 Noble 2

Appearance: "He towered over other men, but seemed uncomfortable with his height and the attention it generated. His limbs were extraordinarily long, as was his torso, but he slouched or stooped to try to minimise the effect. His face was also long, with lumpen features and a bulbous nose. His strength exceeded even that of his father, but he had little stamina and quickly tired from any manner of exertion. At these times his face took on a grey pallor and beads of sweat dotted his brow."

Gawain XVIII was a seven and a half foot tall giant, but was lanky and awkward in this size.

Even as a baby he was exceptionally ugly, so much so that his father seemed to take an instant dislike to him. Gawain XVII rarely bothered with his son except to abuse and mock him, and this had an effect on the boy's posture and confidence that would follow him into adulthood. Gawain XVIII exhibited all the classic signs of shyness, wearing plain, simple clothing and avoiding direct eye contact.

Personality: "He was a shy and diffident man, despite or perhaps because of the fact that his appearance intimidated others. His voice was deep and authoritative, but he often appeared troubled by self-doubt and would vacillate in his decisions, particularly if anyone expressed unhappiness with his choices. He was slow to anger, and accepted familiarities or even insults with sadness rather than rage. But if he witnessed the mistreatment of the vulnerable, only then would he know true anger, and in preventing such abuses became suddenly as pitiless and brutal as his father had been."

Gawain XVIII was a good man, but not a particularly good monarch. He disliked conflicts of all kinds, and his courtiers and nobles took advantage of this, increasing their power at his expense. Failure or delays in paying taxes were forgiven if plausible explanations were offered, and the coffers of the monarch were therefore soon depleted. Barons became increasingly forceful and independent, and quickly learned that all manner of evils would go unpunished so long as the King never witnessed them personally abusing or mistreating others.

Key Events:

3850-3851 AD The Parliament of Fools. Gawain XVIII called a meeting of hundreds of village and town elders, and was in fact the first monarch to directly consult the common people in this way. He hoped to hear the views of the ordinary people, but bribes and intimidation conducted on a massive scale by the nobility seriously distorted the ideas that were presented to him.

3851 AD The Palace Steps Oath. Enraged by the corruption of the Parliament of Fools, a mob storms Halebridges (one of the King's palaces) and force him to declare a raft of measures granting greater powers to the peasantry.

3853 AD The Slavers Revolt. A group of leading Barons, dubbed the 'slavers' by disgruntled peasants, take harsh measures against peasant leaders and effectively repeal all of the agreements made at Halebridges. Sporadic peasant uprisings are crushed by private Baronial armies, and even parts of the Pendragon Legion are subsumed under the authority of Barons rather than the King.

3853 AD The Golden Harvest. An unusually good harvest gives the King some leeway, and he gains extra public support by waiving all taxes in this year. This combination of factors leaves both the peasantry and the Barons content to see his rule continue, even though he is little respected.

3854 AD The Battle of the Linnorms. News reaches Pendragon of an enormous disaster in the forces of Queen Morgan. Huge serpentine beasts of war known as linnorms being transported to Castlekeep escape their handlers and rain destruction on their own forces.

3855-3863 AD The Eight Years Peace. Gawain XVIII fails to exploit the temporary weakness of the Morganite forces, instead withdrawing troops from Castlekeep. The money thus saved is spent on tourneys and spectacles to keep the peace at home. Much of it is also diverted into the pockets of corrupt advisors.

3863 AD Death of Gawain XVIII. Gawain XVIII is presented with evidence of the behaviour of his leading Barons. Shocked by the scale of their abuses, he suffers a massive heart attack and dies.

Gawain XIX The Accursed

Loyal 2 Muscular 2 Cursed 3 Warrior 2

Appearance: "He was shaven headed with a short black beard and brooding, heavily-lidded eyes. He had a vivid white scar running from the middle of his jaw to below his neck, one gained in personal combat. He was a skilled warrior, but the disasters of his rule, both those of his own making and those over which he had no control but was merely the unfortunate witness, led him to drink, so that his face was often flushed red and his speech slurred."

Gawain XIX was not a handsome man, but he had a certain brutal charm and was certainly more physically well-favoured than his father or grandfather. He returned to an earlier tradition of wearing armour and frequently being equipped for war, but towards the end of his reign had abandoned his military ambitions as well as much of his pride.

Personality: "At the beginning of his reign he was a solemn but decent man determined to emulate the example of his father in his personal affairs but to reverse the political abuses that his father's kindness had permitted. He was a stern man who gave praise but grudgingly, although he offered unwavering loyalty to those who supported him and had the best interests of Kingsland in mind. By the end of his reign his many misfortunes had disordered his mind, and he spent much of each day in a drunken stupor."

In more fortunate times he might have been a very effective ruler. The power of the Barons and the disgruntlement of the peasantry that had festered during his father's reign however severely impacted upon his authority. Combined with a resurgent Morganite threat he found himself unable to muster the resources needed to achieve success, and sank into a deep depression as a result of this.

Key Events:

3863 AD The Rain of Blood. A criminal called Havelock unites the Lower Tintagens into an effective force for the first time. Knights in Lower Tintagel are slaughtered in a series of assassinations known as the Rain of Blood, many of them in their sleep. The division of Upper and Lower Tintagel is firmly set and reports of the excesses of the Tyrant of Tintagel fill popular literature. Throughout his reign Gawain XIX is unable to call on any Tintagen assistance as the remaining loyal knights seek to contain this threat.

3863-3865 AD The Head Tax. Gawain XIX captures and executes nearly three hundred corrupt nobles. He appropriates their lands and revenues and transfers the resources to the Pendragon Legion, hoping to make up for the lack of investment in the Legion during his father's reign. The power of the Barons is reduced but not broken as they are still too strong to challenge directly.

3865 AD The Mordred Quest. Gawain XIX leads an expedition to the realm of Mordred. Some initial success follows, but the expedition has to be halted when news of a major Morganite offensive on Castlekeep arrives. Rumours later circulate that the King is possessed by a foul spirit whilst fighting on Mordred.

3866 AD Fall of Perilous Hold. Perilous Hold falls to the Morganite general Arian Gallowes. The Hold was undermanned and all of the Pendragon troops stationed there are killed or taken as slaves.

3867 AD Fall of Sorrow Hold. A six month siege leads to the capture of Sorrow Hold. Gawain XIX tries to lead a rescue force and shows great personal courage, but the use of a Dragon halts his advance. Gallowes punishes the long resistance of the defenders by having them all crucified.

3867-3870 AD The Beggars War. The Beggars Guild, reinforced by former noble sons impoverished by the Head Tax, begins a campaign of sabotage and theft. They intend to force the King to recognise their leader Odo Flay (known as the 'Baron Below') as a full Baron and to reinstate his titled followers. The campaign is unsuccessful as Odo cannot persuade the true Barons to support him, but it is costly and takes three years to suppress. The Flays are forced into hiding in the Flayfinger Hills, where they remain to this day.

3875 AD The Tattered Tourney. A tourney is held as an attempt to restore morale, but the reduced resources of the King make it an embarrassingly limited affair.

3876-3886 AD The Tintagel Rebellion. Dismayed by the King's inability to support them against the Tyrant, even the knights of Upper Tintagel stop paying their taxes and declare independence. Gawain XIX leads a force against them, but ten years of conflict result in a stalemate and the King concedes defeat.

3887 AD The Bloody Banquet. With his health failing and depressed by unending disaster Gawain XIX decides to purge disloyal elements. He invites many vocal opponents to Halebridges, where those that attend are murdered. Open rebellion breaks out in response.

3888 AD The Fall of Camelot. Baronial forces led by Waldemar the Grey, Baron of Tavelon, capture Camelot and imprison the King. A Council of Barons assumes rule.

3888-3890 AD The Long Parliament. The Barons, fearing a peasant uprising in support of the King, call a parliament. It sits for two years, unable to reach any firm agreements, but there is relative peace during this time and the King remains under arrest.

3890 AD Death of Gawain XIX. Gawain XIX dies in prison. It is claimed that he beats his own brains out against a wall.

Gawain XX The Dungeoneer

Charming 3 Brave 2 Dungeoneer 4

Appearance: “He had a strong jaw and a clear complexion, and his face was lined and weathered but possessed of a rugged charm. His eyes were of a light, penetrating blue and his hair was of medium length and blonde with coppery elements. He had a good build, but his body was criss-crossed with old scars, particularly about his back, such as might be found on the body of a rebellious slave.”

Gawain XX was a popular hero at the time of Gawain XIX's death. He had explored Luciferan dungeons in the Greylong mountains and his appearance reflected his status as an experienced and charismatic warrior. His claim to the throne was extremely remote, although an indirect connection to an illegitimate daughter of Gawain XIV did allow him to cite royal origins. The markings on his back indicated that he might have once been a slave, although he refused to discuss the matter. He spoke with a strong Tintagen accent, and was prone to the archaic speech patterns favoured by Tintagens to this day.

Personality: “His manners were courteous but direct, as were his policies. He left his people to their own devices so long as they obeyed his laws, paid their taxes, and did not trouble or disturb the peace of their neighbours. He would try to persuade before using force, but was a dangerous man if crossed or insulted. He was noted for his easy camaraderie and was well-liked by all who met him, but was also somewhat vain about his own deeds and was eager to gain personal glory separate to that owed to him as a monarch.”

Gawain XX never fully lost the attitude of an adventurer. He practiced his skills and maintained friendships and contacts at all levels of society. He was at ease in the company of peasants and courtiers alike, and judged others more by their actions than their status.

Key Events:

3890 AD The Battle of the Gates. Tintagen adventurer and knight errant Sir Lorimel Blake seizes Deepwell and immediately sends envoys to the Long Parliament and to the major Barons. He also supplies them with significant bribes, and claims the throne. Unable to agree a rival candidate and alarmed by evidence of his popular support, the Barons agree to his investiture as Gawain XX.

3895 AD The Dragon Pact. Gawain XX discovers the location of the lair of one of the two surviving Dragons. He enters alone and agrees a pact of friendship with the fell beast. Barons plotting against him are discouraged from acting on the basis of the power of this ally.

3896 AD The Bluemist Boar. An enormous boar rampages through the Bluemist region. Thought to be an escaped Luciferan experiment and after killing several prominent knights, the boar is hunted down and personally dispatched by the King.

3896-3904 AD The Dalesham Murders. A series of gruesome murders, thought to be linked to a Nephilic cult, occur in Dalesham. The victims are all young noblewomen. In 3904 AD Mortimer Dalesham, a knight and cousin of the Baron, is put on trial and executed for the murders.

3910 AD The Bluemist Quest. Following reports of the sighting of more monsters in the Bluemist region, the King leads an expedition which discovers a gigantic Luciferan dungeon. Artefacts are retrieved which give clues to the location of previously undiscovered Realms.

3914 AD The Kingscliff Caves Quest. The King leads an expedition which thoroughly explores the caves of Kingscliff. Something is found which is hurriedly sent to the monks of Arthur's Grave for further study.

3918 AD The Guinevite Embassy. A mysterious woman with blue skin arrives in Kingscliff. She claims to be a representative of the inhabitants of a new Realm. The king agrees to a private audience.

3919 AD The Guinevite Expedition. Gawain XX travels to Guinevere and engages in a major battle against an unusually intelligent Bathinite Ogre known as The Red Handed King.

3924 AD The Greyfang Expedition. Several new dungeons are discovered and explored in the Greyfang mountains.

3925 AD Battle of the Mountain. A monstrous army erupts from the Greyfang Mountains and destroys the Stonedweller Mountain Folk city of Nin. The Mountain Folk blame Gawain XX's expeditions for disturbing the creatures. Gawain XX destroys the creatures, but at the cost of losing most of the 9th Pendragon Legion.

3928 AD Vortigern's Hoard Discovered. An enormous hoard of First Empire relics is discovered with new details concerning the life of the Luciferan puppet King Vortigern.

3935 AD Death of Gawain XX. Gawain XX is discovered in his bed, having been battered to death. No assailant or explanation is ever provided for his death, though rumours are plentiful.

Gawain XXI The Stutterer

Generous 2 Dextrous 2 Noble 3

Appearance: "He was clean-shaven, with pale skin, fine features and a delicate, thin nose. His hair naturally fell into tousled ringlets, although he kept it at middle length. His hair was of a copper hue, and he was of slim build. He had a duellists speed and grace, but was awkward and reticent in conversation, as he was afflicted with a severe stutter."

Gawain XXI inherited the throne from his father at the age of only nineteen. Portraits of Gawain XXI are primarily from the first two years of his reign, so he usually depicted as a handsome if somewhat weak-chinned youth.

Personality: "He had none of the interest in adventure that his father possessed, but was passionately concerned with the pursuit of leisure and the cultivation of aesthetic and literary interests. He found that his stutter disappeared when reciting words which were not his own and so became an enthusiastic actor and a supporter and patron to a number of bards and playwrights. He neglected the business of government for weeks at a time, but then devoted furious if resentful energy to it when sufficiently pestered by his councillors. He was capable of brilliance when forced to devote himself to his duties, but was always erratic and easily bored."

Gawain XXI had the cunning of a fox and the morals of an alley cat. He was more intelligent than many of his predecessors but he lacked focus and willpower for anything other than art, which alone sustained his interests. He had excellent taste and presided over something of a cultural renaissance, but also allowed the court to become a place of frivolous excess. He maintained several mistresses and scandalised many noble families by debauching and abandoning their daughters, although all were willing victims.

Key Events:

3935 AD The Arch-Bishops Plot. Within nine months of his coronation Gawain XXI had scandalised the faithful to such an extent that the Arch-Bishop of Camelot and several leading Bishops had him held for four days at Gravewatch Cathedral after a secret abduction. His life probably hung in the balance, but by charm and promises he won his freedom.

3936 AD The Great Penitence. Part of the agreement he made with the Arch-Bishop specified that Gawain XXI should conduct a long pilgrimage to show his remorse for his youthful indiscretions. Gawain XXI did so, but in a theatrical and flamboyant manner that asserted his independence and humour as much as it recognised the power of the Church.

3939 AD The Siege of Shingle Beach. To pacify the Church Gawain XXI launched an attack against the branch of the Thieves Guild most closely concerned with the theft of religious artefacts.

3944-48 AD The Golden Theatre. The King funded the creation of an enormous circular theatre with a gold roof in the city of Tavelon. It proved immediately and enormously popular, although both the actors and the audiences are accused of rowdy, riotous and disorderly conduct.

3949 AD The Courtesan Conspiracy. An embarrassing scandal develops when it emerges that several 'actresses' that the King and other leading nobles shared at mistresses were in fact spies in the pay of Morgan le Fay.

3950 AD Death of Gawain XXI. Gawain XXI dies of a fever during an outbreak of pestilential conditions in the town of Riversmeet.

Gawain XXII The Stern

Fanatical 2 Dour 2 Pious 2 Noble 3

Appearance: "He was taller and broader than his brother, but had the same ringlet in his hair until he took to shaving his scalp at the end of his reign. He dressed in sombre but expensive black court suits, and often wore a black broad-brimmed hat with a single white feather. His expression was always meek, and his eyes were often cast down or glancing at a book of prayer, but his voice was sharp and his words possessed either of ringing authority or acidic rebuke. He had thin lips and was clean-shaven with gaunt cheeks, but his hands were soft and almost feminine."

Gawain XXII went from being an overdressed dandy to a buttoned up Puritan with no period of transition between these two extremes. His clothing reflected the equally startling change in his attitudes. His natural appearance was quite similar to that of his predecessor, but lines developed about his eyes and mouth and his cheeks and general build grew ever gaunter.

It is thought that towards the end of his reign he took to wearing a hairshirt underneath his black suit.

Personality: "In his youth he was known as the wildest of his brother's followers, a reckless dandy and wastrel who had great talent and promise as an artist. Yet when his brother succumbed to a fever with which he was also afflicted he had a religious crisis and emerged as an entirely different man. He became an ascetic and a harsh chastiser of what he considered to be the weaknesses of the flesh. He instituted strict rules for the court and for the common man, although it must be admitted that he was as stern towards himself as he was towards all others."

Gawain XXII was during his brother's reign a cavalier figure, dashing, handsome and wild. He was always concocting mad pranks or getting into trouble because of reckless courtships and was addicted to gambling, whoring and painting in equal measure. As monarch he took to different vices-prayer, pride and self-denial became his new excesses. His court was a grim one, although he was never a sadistic or cruel man his high moral standards were difficult for anyone to meet.

Key Events:

3951 AD Golden Theatre Riot. A particularly rowdy performance results in a riot as drunken patrons storm the stage in pursuit of a particularly admired actress. Several deaths result from the chaos which spreads into the surrounding streets. A series of copycat riots occur at other theatres in the following weeks. Gawain XXII removes all royal funding from such establishments.

3952 AD Closure of the Golden Theatre. Following an investigation of the causes of the previous years riots, the King orders the closure of the Golden Theatre.

3954 AD The Black Fork Disaster. Gawain XXII's forces lose a major battle at the Black Fork on Castlekeep. Casualties are estimated at a horrific 22,000 men. In order to save the Realm, the King needs to restore his armies with unusual haste.

3955 AD The Great Levy. Recruiters visit every village and town in Pendragon. With indefatigable energy, Gawain XXII conducts whirlwind tours giving speeches and issuing edicts to ensure the rapid recruitment and training of new Pendragon Legions.

3955-60 AD The Tunnel War. Unusually fierce storms on Castlekeep give the King time to reinforce the Kingsland positions. The scale of the armies facing each other and the terrible weather conditions combine to form a stalemate in which a series of tunnels between the two armies are built as shelters from bombardment and from the elements.

3960 AD Fall of the Chapel of Tears. After five years of deadly stalemate, a major Nephilim base is captured. Evidence of obscene religious practices and sacrifices to Morgan le Fay are discovered, although none present will describe exactly what they witnessed. The King has the Chapel razed to the ground.

3969 AD The Ballad of Nemue. One of the most famous and popular bardic songs is composed, but the King refuse to reward its creator. The author dies penniless three years later.

3970 AD Execution of Lady Winterhaven. Some of the nobility found it very difficult to adapt to the new austerity of Gawain XXII's reign. Lady Winterhaven, as a former lover of both the present and the past King, found it especially galling that she was no longer welcome at court. Foolishly she engaged in correspondence to this effect with several persons, not knowing that one of them was an agent of Morgan le Fay. When copies of her criticisms were distributed to the troops on Castlekeep by enemy forces, the King mistakenly believed that this was the result of deliberate treachery and had her arrested, tried and executed.

3970-3973 AD Winterhaven Revolt. Several nobles related to Lady Winterhaven engage in a rebellion which the King initially tries to suppress through conciliation and dialogue. He refuses however to offer a posthumous pardon to Lady Winterhaven or reverse his strict policies.

3976-3979 AD The Whiterock Plague. A major outbreak of the plague breaks out in the coastal town of Whiterock, and is only suppressed through the effort of a local holy man.

3984 AD Death of Gawain XXII. Gawain XXII dies of natural causes in his sleep.

Gawain XXIII The Bold

Chivalrous 4, Noble 5, Knight 3, Kingslander 2

Appearance: Entries for the King's appearance are only entered in the Scroll at the end of his reign. A description of him is however provided in the core rulebooks for the Camelot Cosmos.

Personality: Entries for the King's personality are only entered in the Scroll at the end of his reign. As above, some discussion of the present King's personality is found in the Camelot Cosmos core rulebooks.

Key Events:

3984 AD Blessing of the Sword. Clarent, sword of peace, is witnessed glowing at Gawain XXIII's coronation. This is considered to be a miracle suggesting an unusually peaceful reign, but the new King is himself disappointed with the event as he has martial ambitions.

3987 AD The Denarius Scandal. It is discovered that the Chancellor has been involved in the corrupt debasement of the currency. The Chancellor is executed and replaced.

3988 AD Reopening of the Golden Theatre. Gawain XXIII rebuilds and reopens the Golden Theatre. He sponsors patriotic plays depicting past military triumphs, rather than the lewd productions of the past.

3990 AD The King's Tourney. The year's Summer Tourney sees the handsome young King winning the joust. The victory, which is fairly earned, confirms him in his military ambitions.

3991 AD Epona's Blessing. Herds throughout Kingsland see a year in which a remarkable number of horses give birth.

3994-3998 AD The Dragon's Tail Campaign. The King launches a significant new assault on the Dar Holds of Castlekeep. Against his wishes he is prevented from personally taking part in the action. The advance halts with little permanent effect, to the King's great frustration.

3999 AD Present Date

