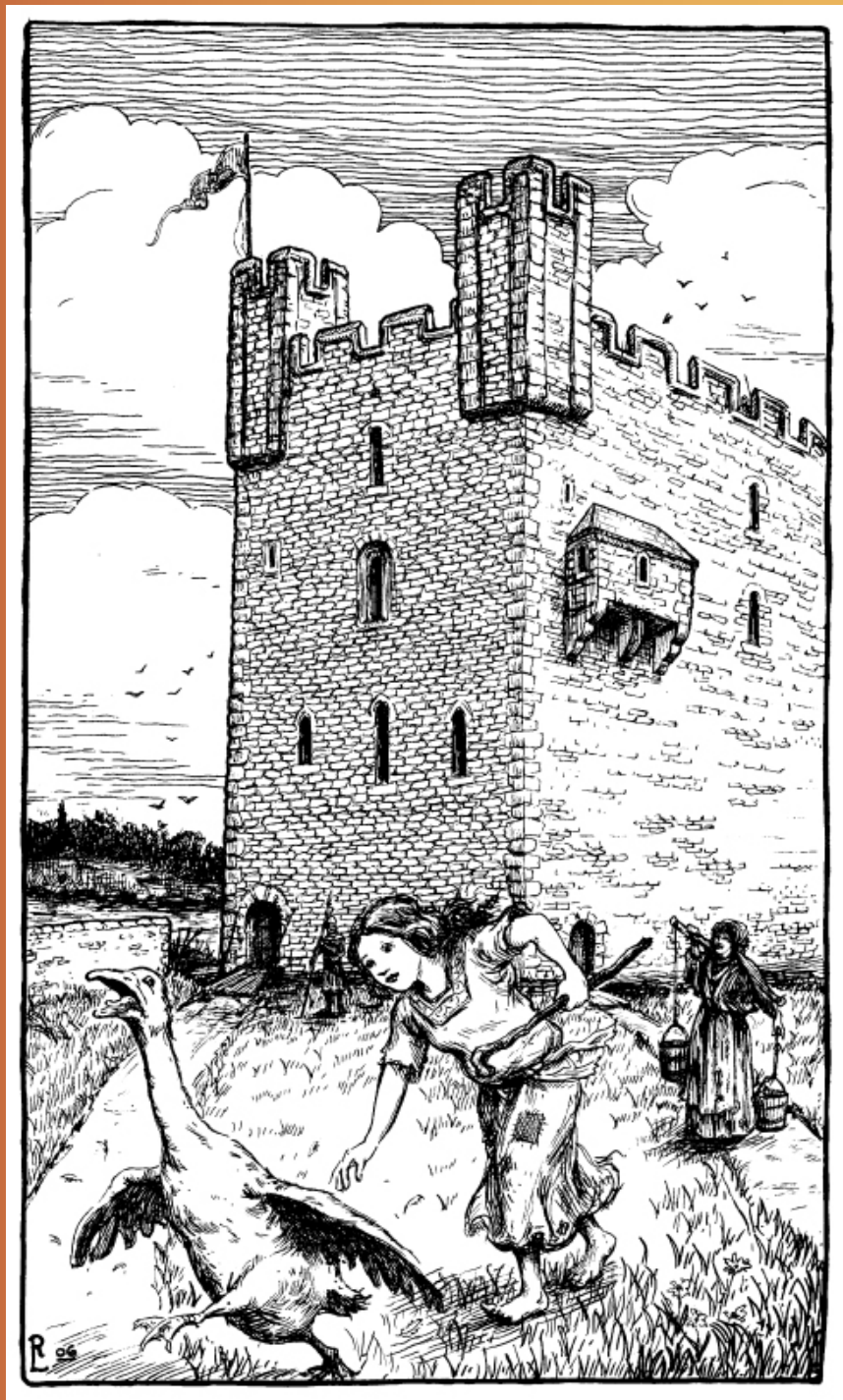


JÉDES



:weaŋ. ꝥoam:

Neil Thompson



DEDICATION

To: John M (Jack) Thompson

Born: 16 July 1923

Died: 1 July 2006

My Dad

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JÉDES

Location: Asólade Hundred,
Óselshire, Kingdom of
Káldôr

Government: Sir Shernâth alrí Mirdârne

Liege: Sir Tróda alrí Dariúnè,
Earl of Bâlim

Population: 300 (approx.)



Standing on the east bank of the River Kald, Jédes Keep is the first major settlement in Káldôr to be seen when moving upriver. The keep is held by the Earl of Bâlim through his childhood friend Constable Shernâth Mirdârne, one of the earl's most trusted advisors. Conscientious and well-organised, Sir Shernâth works extremely hard to ensure Earl Tróda receives his full due.

Jédes is the chief settlement of Asólade Hundred, a renowned centre of horse breeding. Ostler Iriel of Haskew [p17] is the current guildmaster for eastern Hârn. The Jédes Horse Fair is the largest horse-trading event in Káldôr, drawing ostlers from across the kingdom to trade their finest horses.

History

Construction of the keep began in 350, in what was then the Kingdom of Pagostra, and took two years to complete. The original building was little more than a three-storey fortified stone manor house built on low ground just east of where Whittle Brook enters the Kald. All trace of this building is now lost as over the last four centuries the keep has been altered, expanded, and substantially improved.

Fiérth the Usurper used Jédes as a base of operations during the Káldôric Civil War. In 375, he had a moat cut across the two sides of the keep not already protected by water. A primitive drawbridge was also constructed. In 377, after the death of Aidrik II, Fiérth granted the keep to one of his most trusted supporters, Travess of Sirv, a vicious, one-eyed mercenary. Unfortunately, while Travess was an excellent butcher of men, he was an incompetent lord; for the next thirty years, the keep was very poorly maintained.

In 407, within a year of the Restoration, Clan Sirv was evicted from Jédes, and for the next two decades the keep was the official residence of the Sheriff of Óselshire. As the king's representative in former rebel territory, the sheriff spent a considerable sum improving the keep's defences. He had the walls repaired and made thicker and a fourth storey added. He rounded up and executed the few surviving supporters of Fiérth, many of whom had turned to banditry. To impress on the locals that royal justice was established, the bandits' corpses were hung in seven gibbets erected as league markers on the road from Jédes to the village of Nicomen. Since then the road has been known as the Gibbet Trail.

CHRONOLOGY

- 603 Jédes is granted to Clan Dariúnè. Sir Dalman Dariúnè is the first constable.
- 605 Rebuilding of the keep begins.
- 622 Sir Dalman dies. He is replaced by Sir Mordekar Doulzârn.
- 625 The rebuilding is completed.
- 649 Sir Koromyr Doulzârn succeeds his father as constable.
- 675 Sir Koromyr dies. He is replaced by Sir Tesmyr Mazerony.
- 677 Prince Miginath makes his first visit to Jédes.
- 689 Sir Tesmyr, and most of his immediate family are killed in an ambush. Sir Duns Doulzârn is appointed constable.
- 702 On the death of Sir Duns, Sir Shernâth Mirdârne is appointed constable.

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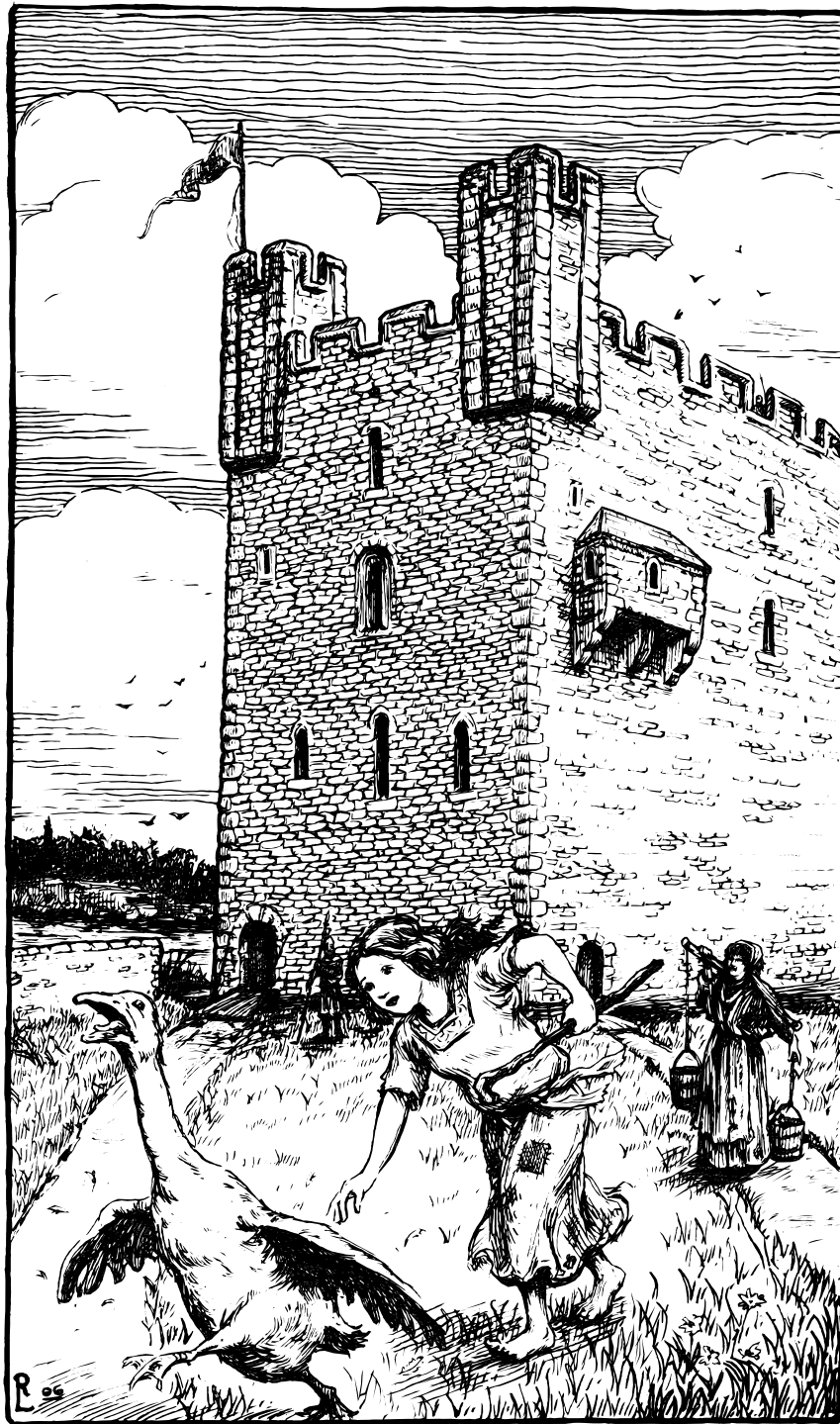
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JÉDES KEEP
(FROM THE CASTLE YARD)

JÉDES GUILDS

Cartographer.....	8
Clothier	Keep (bonded)
Hideworker.....	1
Innkeeper	16
Miller.....	4
Mercantylor	9 [Syndic], 18
Metalsmith	3
Ostler . 29, 43 [Syndic, GuildMaster], Keep (bonded)
Potter.....	19
Weaponcrafter.....	Keep (bonded)
Woodcrafter.....	11

ASÓLADE HUNDRED GUILDS

Charcoaler.....	Déshines, Ôrofal
Clothier	Ándrake (bonded), .. Novélim (bonded), Skáist (bonded), Támorlan (bonded)
Hideworker.....	Bôry [Syndic], Yálen
Innkeeper	Támorlan, Yeáshim
Metalsmith	Asólade, Bélgie [Syndic], Brómelèon, Díthend, Kéldkith, Méminast, Novélim, Skáist, Tâsinald
Miller.....	Asólade [Syndic], Bôry, Brómelèon, Chéwintin, Déshines, Fenéven, Méminast, Mówich, Novélim, Ôrofal, Támorlan, Tâsinald, Yeáshim
Ostler ...	Ándrake, Asólade (bonded), Fenéven (bonded), Méminast (bonded), Novélim, Skáist, Yeáshim (bonded)
Salter.....	Ándrake [Syndic], Brómelèon, Cálsite, Fenéven
Timberwright.....	Mówich, Ôrofal
Woodcrafter.....	Asólade [Syndic], Bélgie, Brómelèon, Cálsite, Chéwintin, Gémheldon, Yálen

ITINERANT MASTERS

Six itinerant masters currently ply their trades across the hundred. The locals refer to these individuals as journeymen masters, though this is incorrect. They often attend the market at Jédes.

They are:

Apothecary.....	Matilda of Faury
Chandler.....	Seld of Tarth
Clothier	Bryna of Kertnay
Locksmith	Lot of Thaly
Perfumer	Elzy of Darll
Weaponcrafter.....	Darik of Sed

See *ASÓLADE HUNDRED* [pp5-6] for more details of these individuals.

Over the following years the Pagáèlin south of the Ósel River became increasingly bold and began raiding southern Káldôr. In 425, in response to these incursions, King Aidrik IV ordered a new keep be built at Hútop, which upon completion five years later became the new seat of the office of sheriff. Jédes meanwhile was granted to Sir Dagrath of Dysarion, along with the title Baron of Asólade. (Sir Dagrath was rumoured to be an illegitimate son of the king.) Jédes remained in the hands of Clan Dysarion for almost 200 years.



When King Iemald died, in 599, Hegran of Dysarion was one of the fifteen claimants to the throne. By 602 “King” Hegran and his few remaining followers were besieged in Jédes by forces under the command of Sir Dalman Dariúnè, the younger brother of the Earl of Bálím. Sir Dalman noticed that the north-east corner of the sixty-foot square keep had been partially undermined by the Kald River. He ordered six miners to head downstream in a boat under cover of darkness. The miners landed and clambered into the undercut, which was barely deep enough to shelter them from the forces on the battlements. Once in place they began working to further undermine the keep.

Twice sorties were sent from the keep to stop the digging, but both times the besieging forces drove them back. For three days the miners dug, while supplies were rowed to them at night. On the second day a fierce storm broke over Jédes, and torrential rain put the miners at risk of flooding, but they worked on, and the following day the storm passed on up the Kald valley.

On the morning of the fourth day, cracks began to appear in the keep. Hegran realised that his position was hopeless and sent a herald to negotiate a surrender. While the talks were underway, however, the river began to rise rapidly. The undercut, now considerably larger and still holding the miners, flooded. All six men were swept away; four of them drowned, Sir Dalman’s men rescued one, and the last miner arrived back at Jédes almost two days later, having washed ashore, battered and barely breathing, at Chéwintin.

The miner’s work, combined with the flood waters, seriously weakened the north-east corner of the tower. As Hegran’s herald continued with the negotiations, the entire rear wall of the keep fell away into the river, bringing down several floors and the roof with it. Many of the keep’s defenders tumbled into the swollen river and drowned. Hegran, however, survived. The siege was ended quickly and spectacularly.

In 603, the civil war was finally over. Haldan the Elder formally stripped the few surviving members of Clan Dysarion of all lands and banished them. He then granted Jédes to “those loyal servants of the House of Elendsa, Clan Dariúnè”. As part of their reward, the Dariúnès were granted royal approval to repair and improve the ruined keep “for the better defence of the realm”—at their own expense. The clan, flush with booty from the war, were pleased with this situation and spent considerable sums of money upgrading the keep. A mason was hired and piles driven into the riverbed. By 625 the keep had taken on its current form, a tall D-shaped tower. In the same year, the wharf was built to service goods regularly passed upriver, mainly to Tashál and Kibân. For the next fifty years Jédes returned to relative obscurity, an out-of-the-way backwater famous only for its annual horse fair. Appointing a constable to manage the estate, Clan Dariúnè visited the keep only occasionally in summer months.

King Miginath is known to be fond of Jédes; he spends more time visiting it (at the earl’s expense) than any other fief except Ólokand. During the years Miginath spent in Chérafir as prince-in-exile, Earl Scina Dariúnè, father of the current earl, took steps to bring about a rapprochement between the prince and his father. Princess Kethele, wife to Earl Scina and sister of King Torastra, was instrumental in arranging meetings between her brother and her nephew. Jédes was chosen as the place of the first meeting between father and son for years, in 679. The meeting went well; King Torastra was apparently much taken with a young noblewoman, one of several members of Clan Kaphin in Miginath’s retinue.

For the next three years the prince made at least one visit per year to Jédes to meet his father. In 682, after the death of Prince Haldan, Torastra allowed Miginath to remain in Káldôr. The frequent royal visits, with retinues in train, were quite a strain on the earl’s hospitality, but he bore it without complaint, working for long-term political ends. The death of Haldan proved the wisdom of this politicking.

After their reconciliation, Miginath and his father continued to use Jédes as a meeting place on many occasions. The king remains fond of “the Keep in the Kald” and visits as often as possible.

Politics

Jédes is a very small market town. It is, however, approximately twice the size of the surrounding manors and provides many guild services not available anywhere else within a day's walk. Sir Shernâth has improved the roads to Kolôrn and Hútop.

The town, and to a great extent Asólade Hundred, is run by the decree of the constable. As Jédes is used to ship much of the ore from the two mines in the hundred, the constable can also exert some influence over the Miner's Guild. Jédes benefits from extra toll revenues from the lead and copper mines, and the guild has a contract with Sir Shernâth to provide guards.

The Pelnala of Brómélèon Abbey takes little interest in secular affairs, while the Bailiff of the Hundred, Sir Arrys Maradýnè [ASÓLADE HUNDRED p72], seems happy to do even less than his predecessor, Sir Boroman Maradýnè. This leaves the constable in effective control.

GOVERNMENT

For many years Earl Tróda Dariúnè has known that he can rely on prompt delivery of his feudal dues from his constable. To try to anticipate any problems, once each month, at Yaelah, the constable holds a feast at the keep, after which he discusses news, problems, and policies with his appointed advisors. These advisors, "the constable's council", are an eclectic group. Sir Shernâth values aptitude and efficiency over birth and right and, to the annoyance of some local nobles, makes his appointments accordingly.

At the beginning of 720, the constable's council consists of:

Lady Helarn Poulty, Bailiff of Jédes Keep. Lady Helarn has lived in Asólade Hundred for all of her 56 years and is known and trusted by almost all of the noble families. She voices the concerns of the local nobility.

Coner of Kleve [9] is the most experienced mercantylar in the hundred and is chairman of the hundred branch of the Mangai. Coner speaks for the guildsmen of the hundred.

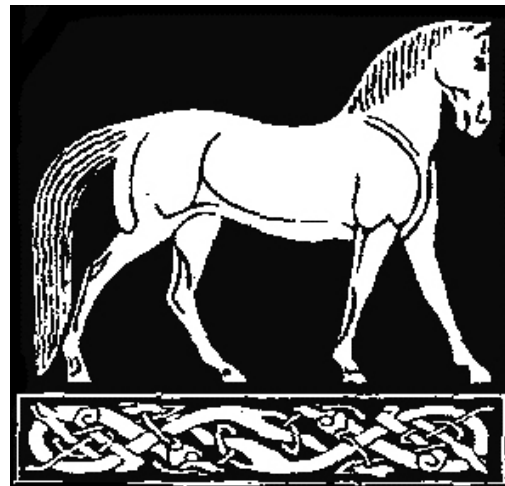
Iriel of Haskew [43] is Guildmaster Ostler of Eastern Hârn. His influence spreads far beyond Asólade. The Ostler's Guild is the most important guild in the hundred; Iriel's place on the council acknowledges this fact.

Hamis of Guinas [30] is the local priest of Peóni. Hamis is a gossip and is not as discrete with his parishioners' secrets as he should be, especially after a few cups of the constable's finest perry.

Anlë of Ornelt [14] is a local fisherwoman and coracle-maker. She ostensibly represents the unguilded freemen. In fact, Anlë is naïvely honest and often asks awkward questions of the others, a trait that the constable appreciates.

Peser of Luren [38] is reeve of Jédes village. An unfree farmer, Peser is an excellent judge of the views of the local peasantry. In addition, his predictions of the year's likely harvest are usually very accurate. Peser's opinions allow Sir Shernâth to judge likely incomes from the surrounding fiefs.

Regardless of their status, the advisory council are expected to make their case, whether or not Sir Shernâth agrees with their viewpoint.



COMMONERS OF TARWYN

Uniquely among royal forests, a number of individuals have grazing rights within the forests of Asólade Hundred. These thirty-seven named individuals are the Commoners of Tarwyn, all of whom are resident within the hundred. Royal foresters do not patrol within Asólade; the commoners carry out this duty, appointing five Agisters of Tarwyn.

For more details on the commoners, their history, organisation, and rights, see ASÓLADE HUNDRED [pp2-3, 56].

RELIGION

As is the case throughout most of Káldôr, temples of Peóni and Laráni in Jédes are tax-exempt, though the only thing in the village resembling a temple is a small Peónian chapel. The main place of Peónian worship for residents of Jédes, and the hundred, is the abbey at Brómélèon. Most locals attend at least one service a month there.

The only representatives of the church of Laráni in Jédes are the keep's chaplain, one of only three matakea in the hundred, and his acolytes.

Worship of Haléa and Ilvîr is discouraged, but not prohibited. There are only two Haléans in Jédes: the metalsmith Alen of Asane and the mercantylor Cyrael of Urnelt. They keep their religion to themselves. The worship of Ilvîr is restricted to a few individuals in some of the more remote villages.

Worship of Ágrik, Môrgath, and Navéh is punishable by death.

SAINT BROMEL'S FAST

The proximity of Brómélèon Abbey, and the shrine to St. Bromel there, is beneficial to Jédes. St. Bromel's Fast, a celebration of the saint's life, takes place on 15 Savôr, drawing devout Peónians from all over Káldôr. Most of these pilgrims travel through Jédes to visit the holy site, often travelling by barge from Tashál, Kibân, and even Ólokand. Although the pilgrims spend little on the journey to Brómélèon, on their return, the fast over, many buy food, perry, and keepsakes.

ECONOMICS

Jédes market is held four times a month, on the 4th, 12th, 20th, and 27th. Most local guildsmen and many serfs bring produce to sell. Coner of Cleve, as chairman of the Mangai, is theoretically in charge of the market. However, his business interests often take him away and he subcontracts the duties to Cyrael of Urnelt [18].

TAXES

Property Tax (Residential).....	6%/annum
Property Tax (Business).....	4%/annum
Hawking Fee	8% value
Bonding Fee	2% value/month
Wharfage	¾d/ft/day

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Jédes, like the surrounding settlements in Asólade, is fertile farmland. Jédes is the only settlement with a wharf. As the majority of linen and good-quality wool are imported by barge, as are all metals other than copper and lead, Jédes market is the focus for almost all trade within the hundred. Local exports of grain (including mustard seeds, flour, and oil), the local tarwyn cheese, and copper and lead from the local mines are all transported to Jédes for export by barge up the Kald.

GUILDS

There are about a dozen guildmasters in Jédes, including the bonded masters. There are some fifty additional masters in the other manors and villages across Asólade Hundred. The local guildsmen have a simple organisation. There is no Mangai Hall in the hundred; instead, the day after the end of each annual Jédes fair, the guildsmen meet in a "grand session" of the Mangai. The first event of the grand session is the election of a representative to the Mangai Council.

The Council of the Mangai of Asólade Hundred consists of seven syndics (or hundred masters—the most senior master in the hundred). Four are automatic appointments and held for life; the remaining three are voted into post by the assembled masters. These elected councillors serve a three-year term, with one post becoming vacant each year. Only syndics can stand for election.

The current four permanent members are: Torbrish of Halam, miller of Asólade; Iriel of Haskew, ostler of Jédes; Gefrin of Garyx, metalsmith of Bélgie; and Terens of Tatib, woodcrafter of Asólade.

The current three elected members are: Coner of Kleve, mercantylor of Jédes; Orsin of Baralis, hideworker of Bôry; and Toram of Agrael, salter of Ándrake. Toram's term ends this year.

At the each grand session, the seven council members elect a chairman from among their number. Coner of Kleve has been chairman since he was first elected to the council five years ago.

JÉDES HORSE FAIR AND TOURNEY

The Jédes Horse Fair and Tourney takes place from 25 to 30 Kelén, during which time the keep is overrun with visitors. For a short time, Jédes is transformed from a quiet backwater into a bustling centre of trade.

THE HORSE FAIR

Jédes is justly famous for its annual horse fair. For centuries horses have grazed on the fertile lands of the Kald River valley, and wild horses still roam in the forests of Asólade. Many are pure Chélني ponies, though there has been some interbreeding with Hodíri and imported breeds. Chélني tribesmen regard Asólade horses as impure.

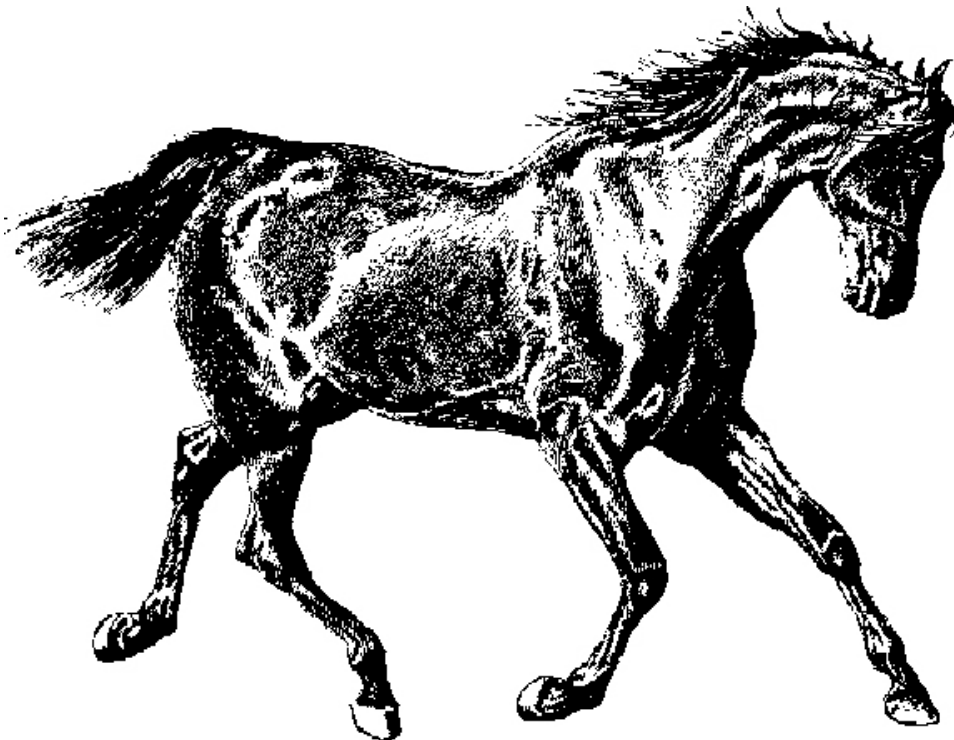
The Jédes Horse Fair is the largest of its kind in Káldôr and attracts top breeders from across the kingdom. Although much horseflesh is traded at the great Tashál fair, the best is found at Jédes, from donkeys and mules to the finest steeds. Everything from palfreys to hackneys, sumpters to warhorses, farm horses to unbroken colts is available at the fair.

Demand outstrips supply; this is the driving force behind the horse trade. An unusually high percentage of Jédes steeds are grey or white, the most sought-after colours among the Káldôr nobility, who are the largest market for Asólade ostlers. In addition, most horses live

short, hard lives; many nobles see horses of lower value as expendable, and bad harvests, war, poor veterinary care, and pestilence also take their toll. Good-quality horseflesh, therefore, can fetch high prices.

Horse dealers congregate at Jédes days before the start of the fair. The fairground fills with fences and pens as horses are herded from across the hundred, and much farther afield, to be put up for auction to the large numbers of nobility or their agents who usually attend. Huge quantities of oats and hay are carted onto the grounds to feed the beasts, and enterprising farmers bring extra grain for sale. Despite the obvious opportunity, horse theft is rare; contingents of armed men and forbidding penalties discourage most would-be thieves.

By law, sales of horses must occur at the fair and must be witnessed. In fact, it is illegal to buy, sell, or trade horses anywhere in Asólade Hundred during the months of Peónu, Kelén, and Nólus, apart from during the fair. Draught horses and other less expensive cart horses, donkeys, and mules are auctioned off first, saving the riding horses and quality warhorses for the last days of the fair. This gives prospective buyers good opportunity to examine and admire the beasts. Gradually the herds are winnowed, leaving only a few poor specimens. The buyer has a thirty-day period of grace after any sale: if at any time during the thirty days the horse shows symptoms of any sickness or displays any untoward



behaviour, the seller must take it back. This can be the cause of many disputes, which in Asólade are decided by the Verderers' Court. This is a lucrative source of income for the verderers.

While horse trading is always the main event, the fair attracts merchants of all sorts. Food and drink in copious quantities are offered for sale. Entertainers, cutpurses, and prostitutes roam the fairground, each engaging visitors in the manner best suited to their occupations, with a mind to filling their own purses. Ostlers display their tack and saddlery, and noble visitors can spend huge sums on riding gear. Local merchants also sell cattle, hides, sausages, dried fish, furs, and the local strong, hard Asólade cheese. Asólade nobles and freemen buy many imported luxury items, such as fine dyed cloth, soaps, perfumes and scented candles.

The horse fair was first held by Sir Dagrath of Dysarion, and many Asólade locals still refer to it as Dagrath's Fair. It has been held annually since 430, with the exception of the years 603 to 605, after the removal of Clan Dysarion. In 679 Earl Scina Dariúnè introduced a tourney to the fair as a backdrop to the initial reconciliatory meeting between Torastra and Miginath. The added attraction of the tournament has since served to draw additional nobles to the fair. Depending upon his health, King Miginath and his court try to time their annual visit to coincide with the fair. During this time, the great hall is full of knights, squires, and their retinues.

THE TOURNEY

The tourney consists of several events over the six days of the fair. It opens at noon on the 25th with an archery contest. This is open only to freemen, which severely restricts the number of entrants, but with thirteen families of yeomen archers within the hundred, competition for the 60d prize is always fierce.

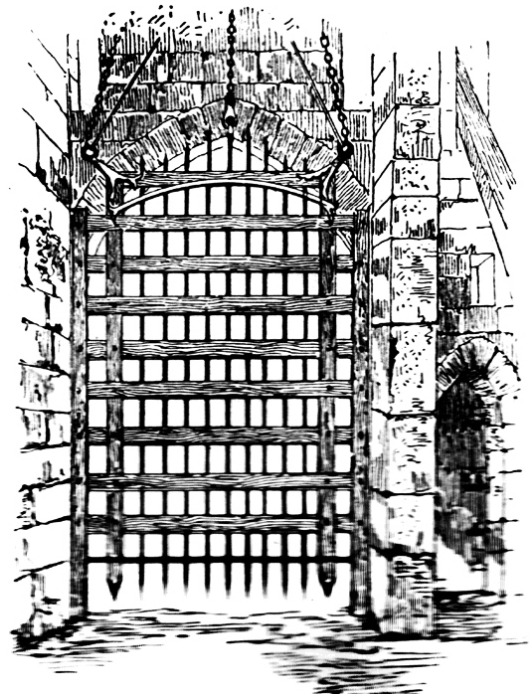
The archery contest is followed by the inter-village tug-of-war, which brings the peasants of the hundred to Jédes in vast numbers. Each village in the hundred, including the monks of Brómélèon, enter one team. The only settlement unrepresented is the leper colony at Poýnter. Last year's final, between the monks and their neighbours, the miners of Ôrofal, was an epic struggle. The miners won.

The joust takes place from the 26th to the 28th. It is a popular contest and is becoming more so, as over the last six years a tradition has been established of awarding the winner a white palfrey bred by Iriel of Haskew. The master ostler, well-known for the quality of his warhorses, breeds riding horses famous for their speed and light colouring. The victor of the joust also has his blazon hung on the west wall of the great hall until the following year's tournament.

The melee takes place on 29 Kelen. Contestants join one of two sides, red or white, by drawing a scarf from a box. Heralds note the names and colour of all participants. Swapping scarves is forbidden.

The last day of the tourney consists of four horse races, which attract a huge amount of gambling. Sir Shernâth believes in the maxim "don't outlaw it, tax it". The year after his appointment, the constable decreed that all gambling must be licensed. He now issues licenses at 10s (120d) per person to any bookmakers. Any unlicensed bookmakers are fined £1 (240d). These gambling licenses make a huge profit for the constable.

Each race starts outside the Fallen Tower Inn and finishes at "Ostler's Well" (the well north of Iriel of Haskew's premises [43]). The first two races cover almost two full circuits of the tourney green, a total distance of 10 furlongs. The third race is three circuits, 15 furlongs, and the fourth is almost four circuits, 20 furlongs. The first race is for nobles only; the others are open to all. The nobility rarely participate in the open races, but many nobles sponsor a rider. Many members of the Jédes light horse squadron, as well as several yeomen and ostlers, take part in the open races. If someone not already a member of the light horse squadron proves to be an exceptional rider, they are likely to be invited to join the squadron.





LOCAL MAP KEY

This key includes all the numbered locations on the Jédes local map.

Establishments which offer goods or services may be rated for quality and prices:

Quality	Ratings	Price	Ratings
Excellent	★★★★	Very High ($\geq 176\%$)	££££££
Very Good	★★★	High (121-175%)	£££££
Average	★★	Average (81-120%)	££££
Poor	★	Low (61-80%)	£££
Very Poor	*	Very Low ($\leq 60\%$)	£

A JÉDES COMMON (TOURNEY FIELD)

This large triangular field is available for use as grazing land by the Commoners of Tarwyn. Local ostlers Brod of Heriel [29] and Iriel of Haskew [43] are both commoners. Iriel is also a verderer, along with his many other duties. The three master ostlers of Jédes maintain the land for the commoners and are allowed to graze horses on the common. Grazing violations are reported to the reeve or the beadle, and violators are heavily fined.

During the horse fair and tourney the common is fairground, market, and tourney field. The central area is given over to the tournament and other events; the horse fair is to the south. As the market place [C] is too small to accommodate the more than sixty stalls set up during the fair, these are placed on the common, to the south-east.

B JÉDES WHARF

This small and simple wharf is almost unregulated. There is no shipwright and no Seaman's Guild, and river traffic is light. The boatman, Uril of Tone [12], is tasked by the constable to keep the wharf in good repair and collect wharfage, from which Uril himself is exempt as payment for these duties. The few other boats using the wharf are charged a flat rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d per foot per day.

C JÉDES MARKET

The regular market, which takes place four times a month, is held in this large open area. The market opens soon after dawn and ends early after noon. Most local guildsmen, other than the ostlers, operate stalls at each market. Other regular stallholders include the fisherwoman Anlë of Ornelt [14], Gefryn of Garyx, the metalsmith from Bélgie, Nyla of Wardle [5], and Cyrael of Ornelt [18].

Guildsmen from across the hundred attend at least one market a month. Some guilds are organised enough to divide the market days between themselves; the hundred's four salters each attend one market each month. On most market days, at least four of the

hundred's six journeymen masters [see ASÓLADE HUNDRED p5] will have stalls. The apothecary, Matilda of Faury, never misses market day. Darik of Sed, the weaponcrafter, only attends the second and fourth markets, if he attends at all. The keep's bonded weaponcrafter, Barda of Cets, has a stall on the first and third market days, where she sells arrows, daggers, and other common weapons.

1 HIDEWORKER ★★ £££

Laldyne of Kariune is in her mid forties, is overweight, and has a heavy jowl. She has never married. While she is highly respected for the quality of her hides and the various leather goods she produces, she has problems with personal cleanliness. Most villagers know, and avoid, her stench and try to do business with her from a distance of several feet. The odour is mostly due to the substances she uses to tan her hides.

Laldyne does not specialise and will turn her hand to tan any hide and manufacture any leather item. Most villagers own a pair of her crafted shoes or boots. Many nobles own carved or burnt leather scabbards she has made.

Laldyne employs two journeymen, one of whom, Hadrik, is her nephew. Hadrik's twin brother, Ferdik, works for their grandfather [2]. Laldyne also employs two apprentices. Her eldest apprentice, 18-year-old Jenar, a hard-drinking young woman, is having an affair with Hadrik.

2 RATTER/ANIMAL TRAINER ★★★ ££

Hectur of Kariune is the uncle of Laldyne [1]. Unkempt, dishevelled, and with a ragged grey beard, Hectur walks with a stick. He is bad-tempered and surly, and terrifies the local children. Hectur owns and breeds Tríerzi terriers, which he sells as ratters. He keeps the best dogs for himself. His 23-year-old grandson Ferdik takes the dogs around the hundred to provide ratting services.

3 METALSMITH ★★ (★★★★) ££££

A tall man in his early thirties, Alen of Asane is unmarried (but see [12]). He employs a journeyman and two apprentices. Alen buys copper direct from the mines and produces good-quality copperware: carved bowls, cups, and so on. Though his copperwork is very good, the local serfs need someone to make and repair ploughs, spades, and other tools. Alen considers himself far too talented for such menial work. In fact, he has little talent at ironcraft and repair work. As such, he is unpopular with the local peasants.

Gefryn of Garyx, master metalsmith of the hundred, is aware of Alen's shortcomings. However, being in nearby Bélgie, rather than censure Alen, Gefryn simply travels to Jédes every market day and picks up the work for himself.

4 MILLER ★★★★★ £££

Nedel of Kerelin is 64 years old and has never married. He employs a journeyman and three apprentices. The youngest apprentice, 15-year-old Joshfar, is huge. He learns little, as the frail, old Nedel uses him as a labourer. The journeyman, Hesse of Mardin, is 25 and hopes to soon inherit the franchise. He is looking for a wife, but the choice of freewomen in Jédes is limited. Meanwhile, he pays regular visits to Tryssa and “Long” Laria [17].

It is well known that when Nedel was apprenticed to the old miller at Asólade, both he and fellow apprentice Torbrish of Halam, who is now the master miller there, fell in love with the same girl, Glynda. As the story goes, Nedel’s heart was broken when Torbrish wooed Glynda, and Nedel never looked at another woman. This part of the tale, however, is untrue. Only the three of them know that it was Torbrish, not Glynda, who Nedel loved.

The mill lies within the castle field, as work on the moat and the mill race were combined when the keep was rebuilt.

5 COOK/LABOURER ★★★★★ £££

Bardon of Wardle is the second son of Grasen [7]. Married with two teenage children, he relies on his father and brother for work. He is often away from home, helping his brother and nephews.



Bardon’s wife, Nyla, is an accomplished cook and baker. She supplements the family’s income by selling meals and pies on market days. Her honey-damson pie is a favourite of the constable.

Although she has no experience of milling, Nyla is a journeyman of the Miller’s Guild, allowing her to sell her baked goods without guild interference. This is an unusual arrangement, but she was nominated for guild membership by her uncle Nedel [4].

6 YEOMAN (MEDIUM FOOT) ★★★★★

Orbil of Arlia is almost six-and-a-half feet tall and has a long, bushy, salt-and-pepper beard. In his late thirties, Orbil is head of his clan, which is the largest in Jédes. His family have been yeomen here for four generations.

As the village beadle, Orbil works closely with the reeve [38]. Between them, the two men manage to solve many disputes without bothering Sir Shernâth. The simple threat of the constable’s involvement is often enough to allow them to negotiate a settlement. Sir Shernâth likes things to run smoothly and he appreciates the men’s work.

7 TEAMSTER ★★★★★ £££

Grasen of Wardle hauls supplies to the mines and brings the metal back to Jédes, where it is stored before being shipped upriver. Now in his sixties and a widower, Grasen runs the business from home. His eldest son, Dythen, and Dythen’s three sons, do the heavy work.

The family own two carts, which were both ox-hauled until last year, when Dythen bought two heavy horses to run one of the carts. Dythen is a good friend of the hunter Tes of Eldin [20], and they are often drink together at the Fallen Tower Inn.

8 CARTOGRAPHER/SCRIBE ★★★★★ £££

As a mercantylor and caravan master, Kanosh of Aphria came to appreciate the value of good, accurate maps. During his many travels throughout southern Hârn, he collected a vast number of maps, some of them costing a fortune. Three years ago, while he was away on business, his house in Tashál burnt to the ground. Kanosh lost his family and most of his wealth in the tragedy. The only thing he had left was his parent’s small home in Jédes. He decided to leave the merchant business and draw maps instead, something he had always done as a pastime.

Kanosh is thin and sallow-faced with a constantly mournful expression. He is a skilled cartographer and his maps are quite accurate, especially those of the Salt Route and its surrounds. However, Kanosh cannot make a living from his new trade, especially in remote Jédes. To scrape by, he also works as a scribe at the keep.

9 MERCHANT ★★ ★£££

A widely travelled merchant, Coner of Kleve desperately tries to harness Jédes's proximity to the Salt Route. He has appealed to the Mangai on several occasions about this matter, but all of his pleas have been futile—until now. Coner has heard rumours that Earl Dariúnè is interested in bridging the Kald at Jédes. He has recently hired the hunter Tes of Eldin [20] to scout a new path to Jédes from the Salt Route. Tes is, of course, happy to take his money.

Coner imports many luxury goods into the hundred. He is a regular visitor to the manor houses and provides fine cloth and wines to most noble households. Coner travels to the market in Tashál each year, leaving the business in the care of his journeyman, Heriber of Hass. Coner also employs two apprentices. He is married with three young children

10 LONGSHOREMAN

Grath of Dant is a large, simple man with a strong back, no knowledge of agriculture, and an obsession with counting things. His main employment comes from Uril of Tone [12], but he is always on hand to help load and unload any boat that docks at the wharf. Often he simply begins working without asking if help is needed. The local fishermen sometimes allow Grath to help unload their catches in return for some fish.

11 WOODCRAFTER ★★ ★£££

The younger brother of the beadle, and one of only eight woodcrafters in the hundred, Hogarth of Arlia is a busy man. His main business is cooper and furniture maker, but he will turn his hand to any commission. Hogarth's eldest son is an apprentice in Tashál; his younger has recently left home to serve under Terens of Tatib at Asólade.

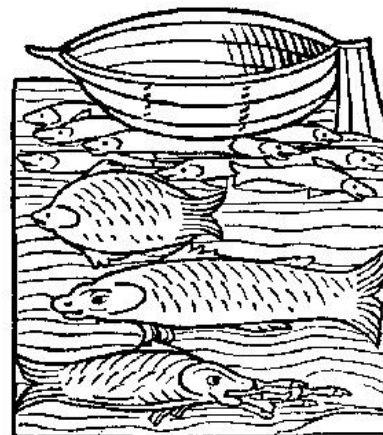
Hogarth currently has one journeyman and an apprentice. The journeyman, Corris of Relt, is an adequate, though unremarkable carpenter from Hútop. He is, however, an enthusiastic experimenter and produces an excellent varnish and two good consistent wood stains.

12 BOATMAN ★★ ★£££

Uril of Tone is a kind and gullible man in his early fifties. Uril owns a talbar and transports copper and lead ingots up the Kald to Tashál and sometimes farther. This dense, heavy cargo means that he can usually make room for other goods that are lightweight but bulky. He and his crew are often away for several days at a time.

Uril's wife, Hana, is over twenty years his junior and a former barmaid at the Garb and Flail tavern in Tashál. They have been married for seven years. Hana hates her

life in rural Jédes and is bored during her husband's long absences. She has begun an affair with the metalsmith [3].



13 FISHERMAN

Clan Arlia have fished the Kald for generations. In his fifties, he can no longer support his wife, two sons, daughter-in-law, and six grandchildren. He is trying to arrange for his younger son, Zarial, to marry Anlë of Ornel [14]. Neither is keen on the match, especially as Zarial hates fishing and the river.

14 FISHERWOMAN

Anlë of Ornel is the daughter of a fisher-girl and a harper. Her father met her mother, Aldyne, while travelling through Jédes. Five years and four children later, however, Aldyne died in childbirth. Anlë's father left his children in the care of her uncle Jan, to seek his fortune. He has not been seen since. In her youth, Anlë dreamt of her father returning to take them to live in a fine townhouse. Now 26, she expects never to see her father again. She is a member of the constable's council.

Anlë is the best coracle-maker and repairer in the hundred. Several serfs in the surrounding villages barter food in return for her work. Anlë, her uncle, and her three brothers range far up and down the Kald when on fishing trips. They know the river intimately, but take them more than half a league from it and they are completely lost.

15 FISHERMAN

Hadrik of Arlia is the younger brother of Zubain [13]. He fishes with his son Neman. His wife, Arila, and two teenage daughters gut, dry, and smoke fish. Arila's elderly mother also lives with them.

Neman has been friends with Anlë since they were young. He is four years younger than Anlë and regards her as an elder sister. He has recently begun to ask her for advice on women, as he is looking for a wife. Anlë would like him to realise that she is female, and available.



Jastrin of Dyrl, Ealfric of Lysten, Hamis of Guinas, “Long” Laria, Hesse of Mardin, Tryssa of Dryt

16 ΙΠΠ: THE FALLEN TOWER ★★££££

Jédes’s only inn gets its name from the fall of the keep about 120 years ago. The sign above the door shows a tower collapsing into a river. Stone reclaimed from the ruined keep was used to build the inn, which was extended twenty-five years ago. The Fallen Tower sees a huge difference in trade over the year; by far the busiest time is during the horse fair.

The innkeeper, Jastrin of Dyrl, is in his mid thirties. He is easy-going and hard-working, with a remarkable memory for names and faces. Jastrin is the guildmaster of Asólade, but as there are only three inns, and no taverns, in the hundred this is not an onerous task.

Jastrin’s wife, Shalya, is ten years his junior. She is friendly and gregarious with long black hair and pale, freckled skin. Shalya and Jastrin have three young children, all of whom work in the kitchen with their mother.

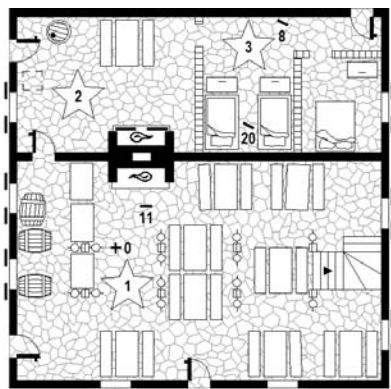
Jastrin employs a journeyman, 22-year-old Halir of Densar, who lusts after Shalya. Halir has mistaken her open friendship for sexual interest. Jastrin’s only other full-time employee is 15-year-old Ealfric of Lysten, son of the innkeeper of Yeáshim. Ealfric is nervous and shy—not the best traits for an innkeeper. The locals take every opportunity to embarrass him.

During the fair Jastrin usually takes on three or four additional members of staff, usually the wives of local freemen. Jastrin always tries to employ mature women rather than young girls.

The guildmaster brews and sells: Haniale, a traditional piney, nut brown ale common across Káldôr; Jastrin’s Dark, a dark mild beer; and Asólade Perry, made to his own recipe from local pears. Jastrin also distils a strong pear liqueur. He buys imported wines and mead at the beginning of the horse fair, and charges premium prices

for them. Whatever remains after the fair is usually heavily discounted, as locals rarely buy “foreign” drinks. Jastrin charges standard prices (¼d per pint) for his ale, beer, and perry. His measures, however, are always short; he can sell nine of his pints from a true gallon. Jastrin himself drinks only sparingly.

Food provided at the inn—locally caught trout and sometimes other fish, local sausages, ham, and bacon—is usually of a reasonable quality. During the horse fair there is always a pig roasting on a spit.



[1] Common Room

The large common room is full and busy on market days, but at other times the inn can be very quiet. Even on market days it is rare for all the bedrooms to be occupied. This all changes during the horse fair and in the days before St. Bromel's Fast, when finding even a patch of floor in common room is difficult.

[2] Kitchen

Like the common room, this can be a busy place on market days. Locals often barter meat for ale, so meat stew of one sort or another is often on the menu on market days. At most other times the kitchen caters only for the staff. Food is plain, but usually plentiful; trout, pottage, bread, and cheese are always available.

[3] Staff Quarters

Jastrin and Shalya sleep in the small private room, which they currently share with their six-month-old baby daughter, Julyen. Halir sleeps in one of the bunks in

the adjacent area, which he shares with Ealfric and his master's two sons: Bodwyn, aged 5, and Aneuryn, aged 2.

17 BROTHEL ★★ ££

Erissa of Dryt arrived in Jédes almost twenty years ago with her friend Ennyfa of Aters. Somehow the two became the owners of this former labourer's cottage, which they ran as a brothel for a number of years, with themselves as the sole employees. Four years ago they were joined by Erissa's daughter, Tryssa (father unknown). Two years ago Ennyfa died suddenly, leaving just mother and daughter until last year's fair, when Laria, who claims to be from Thârda, arrived. Since then, Erissa has effectively retired.

The buxom, brown-haired Tryssa is 19, plain, short, and plump. “Long” Laria is almost six feet tall. She is a skinny and fairly attractive dark blonde in her mid twenties. Business is poor, except for market days and when a miner's wagon arrives.

18 MERCANTYLER ★★ ££££

Cyrael of Urnelt is a striking beauty in her early thirties. She is the eldest daughter of Sendalyn [28]. When she was 16 a Tashálan merchant, Barayn of Hendel, arrived for the horse fair and was taken her beauty. The merchant, a cousin of one of Tashál's aldermen, bought her freedom from Sir Shernâth and took her back to Tashál as his apprentice. Cyrael learned a lot from him, though unfortunately not much about trading. When Barayn was killed in a brawl two years ago, Cyrael returned home to set up her own business. She joined the church of Haléa in Tashál and remains a devout Haléan, though she has enough sense not to broadcast this. Cyrael has no qualms about seducing her business contacts to make up for her otherwise rather limited trading skill.

19 POTTER ★★ ££££

Ullstin of Darion was born and raised in north-west Káldôr. He arrived as a journeyman, married his master's daughter, Clariss, and eventually inherited the franchise. The couple have two young children at home, while their eldest son is an apprentice in Hútop.

Ullstin employs a journeyman and an apprentice. The journeyman, Eadwin of Vaben, is a better salesman than potter. Ullstin often sends him around the hundred with a handcart full of pots for sale.



Clariss is an experienced potter, but is uninterested in basic manufacture. She is fascinated by glazes and glazing techniques. Her husband allows her to experiment with one or two items per firing, and she recently produced a fine glazed cup in a lustrous blue with white and yellow daisies around the rim. Ulstin wisely donated it to the Pelnala at Brómélèon, where it is now used in services. The next firing will contain a dozen similar cups, which Ulstin hopes to sell to pilgrims.

20 HUNTER/TRAPPER ★★★ £££

Tes of Eldin traps small game and assists Johan of Kerem, Sir Shernâth's huntsman. It is widely known that Tes crosses the River Kald to hunt. As the northern bank of the river is in Sémethshire, and also in Kath territory, this is a dangerous but fertile hunting ground. Over the years Tes has built up a good relationship with the some of local Kath, and he is reasonably fluent in their language. Coner of Kleve [9] has paid Tes to scout a road through Kath territory. Tes knows the Kath will not allow a new road, but he intends to take another payment before telling Coner.



21 GONG FARMER

Kymond of Tebesty acts as dung-man for the town. He collects night soil from many of the free households—most of the unfree know the true value of their waste, and retain it for their own use. Kymond also collects manure from the stables and sells it. He does not charge the ostlers for this; if they knew how much he makes from his business, they would probably charge him.

22 LABOURER

The eldest grandson of Hectur [2], Elkar of Kariune is 23 with long, jet black hair. His wife of six months, Merela, almost six years his junior, has hair of identical hue and length. The eldest daughter of Sen the thatcher [44], Merela suspects she is pregnant but has yet to tell her husband.

The energetic Elkar finds work wherever he can. He currently spends much of his time at Bôry, labouring for the masons building the new manor house. Merela sometimes travels to Bôry with her husband, leaving this property empty.

23 LABOURER

Jeris of Nid is the younger brother of Sen the thatcher [44]. He works only when he must, to the annoyance of wife Valeran, who nags him constantly. Jeris gets some work from his brother, but this is more an act of charity as Jeris is a slow and lazy worker. To try to make ends meet Valeran takes on almost any work. If she is not at home sewing or spinning, she will be at the wash rocks on the Whittle Brook washing clothes. Wherever she is, she will be complaining about her husband.

24 LABOURER

Gunart of Barlis and his family are simple, hard-working folk. He and his two sons have strong backs and are always looking for work. For much of the year they are employed in the demesne fields, looking after the constable's crops. They are the first people the reeve [38] looks to when extra labour is required. Gunart has been offered his own land as a half-villein but prefers to retain his freedom.

Gunart's wife, Mala, and her daughters-in-law take in laundry work. They will accept cash payments but prefer payment in kind. However they are paid they insist on also receiving a "good portion" of wood ash, which they use to make a basic detergent.

25 SERVANT

Elarit of Veris and her three daughters work as domestic servants in Jédes Keep. Her husband left her when their third daughter was born, because he thought she would never bear him a son.

26 TUTOR/SCRIBE ★★ ££££

Josith of Aphria is cousin to Kanosh [8]. He taught both of the constable's sons to read and write, and also the basics of mathematics. He does the same for children of many of the guildsmen. He is fluent in Járinese and knows both the Runic and Lakíse alphabets. These skills are little needed in Jédes. Josith spends one day in three acting as a scribe for Sir Shernâth. He used to work two days in three for the constable, but gave half of this work to Kanosh.



27 HALF-VILLEIN

Edras of Dyril is the younger brother of Jastrin [16] and was an apprentice ostler. However, during his apprenticeship he was thrown from a horse and broke both legs. Since then he has been afraid of horses. Once healed he chose the life of an unfree peasant farmer, much to the disappointment of his clan.

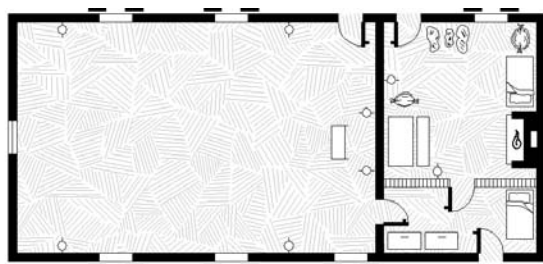
28 VILLEIN

Although in his seventies, Sendalyn is still head of Clan Urnelt. His stead holds almost all of his extended family: his wife, two sons, two daughters-in-law, and seven grandchildren. A third son, Kabir [32], is a half-villein with his own land. His eldest daughter married Kymond the gong farmer [21], who paid for her freedom; she was adopted by her husband's clan. His youngest daughter, Cyrael [18], also had her freedom bought.

29 OSTLER ★★★ ££££

Brod of Heriel does not like to be thought of as “the other ostler in Jédes”, but he finds it difficult to compete with Iriel. Nevertheless, Brod produces fine horses. Ferot of Cets, the bonded ostler at the keep has recently purchased six of his palfreys for the Jédes light horse. While his rival breeds horses that are faster over the furlong, Brod's are faster over the day. One of the Commoners of Tarwyn, he also breeds and sells ponies.

Brod is a tousle-haired, bearded middle-aged man. Surly and taciturn, he is assisted in his work by his wife, who is much more talkative. The remaining residents are his youngest son, Meliren, a journeyman, Harrath of Meim, and two apprentices. His eldest son, Sadrah, is a bonded ostler in the service of Clan Katair in Nedian.



30 CHAPEL: PEÓNĬ

Hamis of Guinas is a pious and devout Peónian. His only vice is his habit of finishing a hard day's work with an ale or two, or three, at the inn. Over the years people have grown accustomed to seeing the reslava at the inn, not the chapel, after sunset. Hamis tells folk that ale is simply “liquid bread”: the ingredients are almost identical; only the proportions and method of preparation are different. And as bread is certainly

Peóni's bounty, so drinking a beer or two must be seen as an act of worship.

The chapel is a simple stone building, whitewashed both inside and out. The inside is decorated with the villager's crude paintings. Hamis lives in the attached cottage. He rarely eats there, preferring to visit one of his flock at meal times.

31 HERDER

Burdil of Meriel is in his late fifties. Running to fat, he wheezes through his iron-grey walrus moustache after any exercise. Fortunately, he has a large family who are all younger and fitter than he is. He is charged with controlling all livestock, other than the constable's geese. These days it is his eldest son, Alarn, and Alarn's children who carry out this duty.

32 HALF-VILLEIN

Kabir of Urnelt's daughter is married to Fortil of Kyngen [35]. As clans Urnelt and Kyngen have been feuding with each other for as long as anyone in Jédes can remember, Kabir has disowned her. Unknown to Kabir, his wife Melandre often visits her daughter and grandchildren.

33 HALF-VILLEIN

The youngest of Sholas's [47] three sons, Terlin of Kyngen is married with two sons, both in their early teens.



34 WOODWARD

Lean and fair-haired with a close-cropped beard, Jorin of Merek is married with four children. An excellent woodsman, he ensures that the constable's woods are well maintained. He is also something of an expert on edible fungi. Jorin's eldest child, 19-year-old daughter Helva, is a stunningly attractive, willowy brunette. Jorin's wife tries to keep a careful eye on her.

JÉDES 16

The bonded ostler at Asólade has recently begun paying court to Helva. Her parents are keen on the match, as he is a wealthy and hard-working freeman, but Helva finds him rather boring.



35 COTTAR

Fortil of Kyngen is the second son of Sholas [47]. He left home when his father didn't agree to his marriage to the daughter of Kabir of Urnelt [32]. Fortil married her anyway. The couple have four children, the eldest just 10. Because of the lack of much support from either clan, the family often go hungry.

36 YEOMAN (LIGHT FOOT)

Mytel of Gwyfid and his brother Roras [42] are Jarin refugees from Lorkin in Orbáal. Having been involved in the Jarin rebellion, they had to flee seventeen years ago. Mytel married into Clan Arlia and retained his free status thanks to the influence of his wife's clan. Mytel has two teenage daughters and an 8-year-old son. He has a good life and has no wish to return to the strife in the north.

37 COTTAR

Goris of Ornelt is the uncle of Tornyn [41]. He is the poorest member of, and unpopular with, his clan. Anlé [14] occasionally takes pity on him and his family and provides them with the odd fresh fish. Goris lives with his wife, their 37-year-old son Haldan and his wife and their two children. Unfortunately, Haldan is an even worse farmer than his father. Haldan spends a lot of time hanging round the docks, looking for labouring work to supplement their meagre income.

38 REEVE

Peser of Luren is in his mid forties, almost six feet tall, and of average build. He is bald but otherwise plain-featured. Unusually for a reeve, he was suggested for the post by Sir Shernâth, who had made many enquiries as to the most skilled farmer in Jédes.

Peser's wife, Tenal, is jolly, plump, and dark-haired. They have two sons, aged 24 and 19, and four daughters, aged 18, 13, 10, and 5. The eldest son married two years ago and now has his own land [48]. Four of the remaining five children live at home. The other, 13-year-old Yma, lives and works in the castle field as the "goose girl".

39 COTTAR

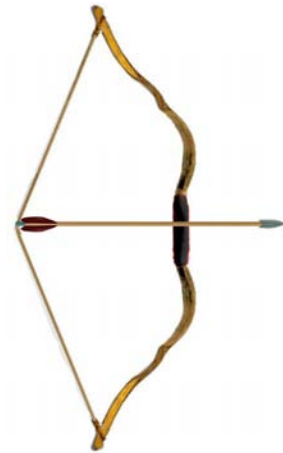
Hurdir of Kerelin is the youngest son of Dabrath [46]. He is an unkempt young peasant in patched, ragged clothes. Aged 24, he has a 3-year-old daughter, Yrigeth. His wife died in childbirth. Hurdir now shares his house with his friend and old drinking companion Odins of Merek. The two young men are the talk of the village. Once regarded as wild young tearaways, they both now are extremely hard-working and dote upon little Yrigeth. While the two men are scruffy, Hurdir's daughter is always clean, well dressed, and well looked after.

40 VILLEIN

Carevic of Merek is a widower. He still runs the farm, but his eldest son and his daughter-in-law now carry out most of the work. The couple have a son, aged 6. Carevic was estranged from his younger son, Odins [39], several years ago, after constant fines for drunken and rowdy behaviour. The two are now slowly moving toward a rapprochement.

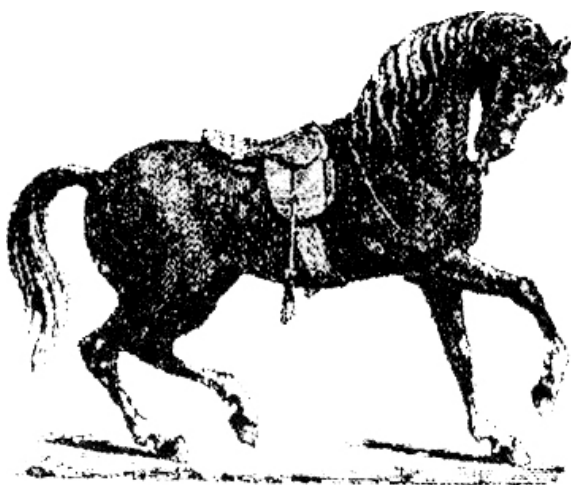
41 YEOMAN (SHORTBOW)

Tornyn of Ornelt, 36, lives with his aging father (also named Tornyn), his wife, and his two children, a boy of 10 and a girl of 5. A good shot with the shortbow, Tornyn is also an excellent fletcher. He will, however, only sell his arrows to Barda, the weaponcrafter at the keep. Barda resells the arrows and provides Tornyn with arrow heads as part of their arrangement. Tornyn's brother, Straken, is Ármólarin (sergeant-at-arms) of the Jédes medium footmen.



42 VILLEIN

Roras of Gwyfid is the younger brother of Myter [36]. He is the quicker-tempered of the two, never having forgotten their fight for a free Jára. Unlike his older brother, who is content with his new life, Roras still talks about returning to Jára to join the Aenghysa. He has occasionally worked as a tracker for Sir Shernâth.



43 OSTLER ★★★★★ £££££

Iriel of Haskew is the guildmaster ostler for all of eastern Hårn. He is tall, quiet, and even tempered. His long hair is greying at the sides. Often away on guild business, Iriel is assisted by his two sons, his daughter, a journeyman, and three apprentices.

Iriel's eldest son, Erdar, is a self-important young man. The apprentices despise him, as Erdar likes to "make sure they know who is in charge" when his father is absent. Unfortunately for them, Iriel is away often.

Jédes's horses, especially those bred by Iriel, are famous throughout Káldôr. It is not unusual for visitors from Chybísa, the Thârdic Republic, and even Kandáy to attend the horse fair in search of a fine warhorse or palfrey. Iriel keeps an astonishingly complex record of the bloodline of his horses in a locked chest in his bedroom. His records now cover over forty years of breeding and use a recording system taught to him by the heralds of Tashál. As a gift of thanks, Iriel provides the Acorn King of Arms a warhorse every five years. Even after forty years, some heralds remain unhappy that their record system is used by a commoner to record the birth and death of mere beasts.

In addition to his many other duties, Iriel is a commoner and verderer of Tarwyn. He uses this office to act as a pony broker for many of the commoners. Although Iriel delegates many of his duties to Erdar, for the past two years all aspects of his duties as commoner and verderer have been carried out by his daughter Hylda. Hylda is tall, flat-chested, and gangling with light brown hair and a long, narrow nose. She is often mistaken for a boy, something which has only recently started to bother her. Now in her late teens, she has been riding since she could walk and loves the forest ponies above all other beasts.

The guildmaster and his family live in a sturdy, well-maintained stone and wood house, which has a tiled roof and glazed windows. The upper, wooden walls are plastered and whitewashed. Iriel's prosperity is obvious.

44 THATCHER ★★★ £££

Sen of Nid is the hundred's only thatcher. Some serfs choose to do their own thatching and most manors are roofed with tiles or, more commonly, lead, but there is still more than enough business in the hundred for him.

45 YEOMAN (LIGHT HORSE)

Jethal of Arlia is the younger brother of the beadle [6]. Although he is shorter than his brother, Jethal still stands over six feet tall. He apprenticed as an ostler and still holds journeyman status in the guild. Jethal loves Jédes. He served his apprenticeship in Sirendel, but could not bear to be away from his home village. On returning home he served in the keep's garrison for ten years. When he married, he was granted land and his current position. He counts himself a lucky man.

46 VILLEIN

Dabrath of Kerelin lives with his frail wife, eldest son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, both of whom are under 10. His younger son, Hurdir [39], was always in trouble as a youth. Dabrath eventually turned him out, unwilling to pay the fines for his rowdiness and brawling. Hurdir settled when he married and sobered when he became a father. Dabrath and Hurdir are now close.

47 HALF-VILLEIN

Sholas of Kyngen has severed all ties with his son Fortil [35]. Fortil's crime was to marry the daughter of "that bastard Kabir" [32]. Sholas's wife died the year that Fortil married, "of a broken heart" according to Sholas. Sholas lives with his eldest son Faran, Faran's wife Maryss, and their daughters.

48 VILLEIN

Medrek of Luren is the eldest son of the reeve [38]. Very much his father's son, Medrek is a skilled farmer and continues to learn from his father. Medrek is married to Aoife, the eldest daughter of Carevic of Merek [40]. The couple have a 4-year-old son, and Aoife is halfway through another pregnancy.

49 BEGGAR

Like his brother Grath [10], Lorin of Dant is a large and simple man. He is, however, much more argumentative than his brother and sometimes simply disagrees with people just to see their reaction. A bully of threatening appearance, Lorin seems to demand money rather than beg for it. Lorin lives with his mother, apparently the only woman he respects.

JÉDES KEEP RESIDENTS



SIR SHERNĀTH ALRÍ MIRDĀRNE,
CONSTABLE OF JÉDES

Sir Shernāth is a clean-shaven man in his mid forties. He stands a couple of inches under six feet in height and is slightly overweight. His once dark hair is now grey at the temples.

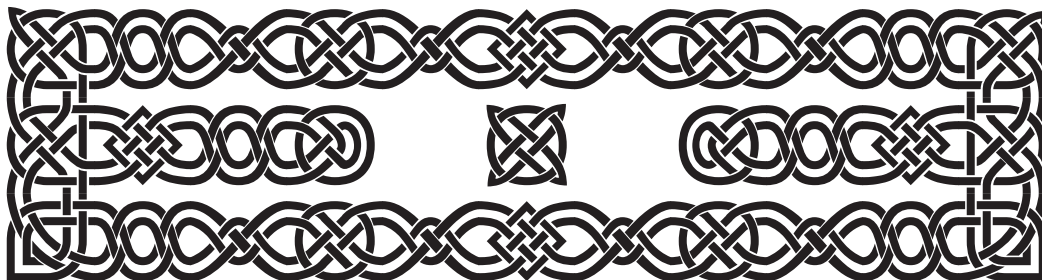
The constable is an old and trusted friend of the Earl Dariúnè. They met in 682, when the young Tróda was fostered at the court of King Torastra at Ólokand and Shernāth's father was a member of the king's guard. The two have been firm friends ever since.

Upon receiving his knighthood, Shernāth became a household retainer in the service of Tróda's father, Earl Scina Dariúnè, at Kibân. Sir Shernāth impressed his new lord and, in 702, was rewarded with the post of constable of Jédes, made vacant by the death of Sir Duns Doulzârn.

Sir Shernāth is a careful, conscientious administrator who, importantly, knows when to delegate. He reputedly shows no favours, but appoints the best man, or woman, to the job. Many local clans would, however, dispute this, as they have seen lucrative posts handed to relatives of the constable and his wife. Nevertheless, incompetence will usually lead to swift dismissal. Sir Shernāth delivers his feudal dues, and often more, on time, keeps the local yeomen well-trained, and has improved the Kolôrn and Hútop roads. Earl Tróda values his friend very highly.

The earl and his constable meet only two or three times a year. The earl confides in his friend and can rely on him to give an honest opinion, regardless of the earl's feelings. While the men never argue, they are often blunt to the point of rudeness. Some of Earl Tróda's vassal's, after witnessing such discussions, assume Sir Shernāth's position is less secure than it actually is.

In addition to managing the earl's lands in Asólade, Sir Shernāth is often given other tasks. He is currently working on an estimate of expected revenues from Kyg, as the earl is concerned about his income from that part of his holdings. Sir Shernāth has been sent copies of the revenues and receipts that the Constable of Kyg sent to Kibân. He suspects that his liege is being swindled, but as yet lacks any proof. He intends to send a small group of trusted investigators to Kyg.





LADY JENYA MIRDÂRNE,
LADY OF THE KEEP

Three years after his arrival in Jêdes, Sir Shernâth married Jenya, only daughter of the Poultry clanhead. Lady Jenya is friendly, caring, and fond of young children, though she has a sharp tongue and occasionally a fiery temper. She is 5'4", more stocky than she was in her youth, and her once vivid red hair is beginning to grey. Nevertheless, the lady of the keep remains fit and active.

Sir Shernâth and Lady Jenya have two sons. The eldest, Jannath, was sent at age 10 to study heraldry in the Enclave of the Holy Oak. Now 16, he is a squire in the household of Earl Trôda. Jannath is besotted with Merela, the 14-year-old daughter of Princess Cheselyne, and when in Tashâl he neglects his duties to be with her. His parents have recently been made aware of this. Lady Jenya regards Merela as a scheming minx, as dangerous as her mother, and worries that Jannath is being led astray. She intends to pay her eldest son a visit.

The second son, Sumael, 13, is a squire at Bôry, the manor of his mother's family. Lady Jenya visits him as often as she can. [See ASÓLADE HUNDRED p22 for the Clan Mirdârne family tree.]



LADY HELARN POULTY,
CHANCELLOR OF THE KEEP

Lady Helarn, 52, is the widow of Jenya's uncle and sister to Sir Garith Kaphin, bailiff of Skáist. Helarn acts as bailiff for the estates and is one of the constable's most trusted advisors. Pragmatic and intelligent, she works closely with Sir Jassyff and Sir Callam checking the revenues received from the estates subinfeudated to Jêdes. She ignores Sir Tamys, and frequently advises her niece to do the same.

Lady Helarn is a distant cousin of Lady Erila Kaphin, the Lord Privy Seal and the king's mistress. The two women were once close but fell out over Lady Erila's son, Tulath, who tried to borrow money from the Asólade branch of the clan. Helarn regards Tulath as weak, vacillating, and incompetent. It was, however, an error of judgement to inform Lady Erila of her opinion.

SIR CALLAM MIRDÂRNE, STEWARD

Sir Callam assists Lady Helarn in assessing the revenue from the surrounding manors. He is the oldest son of the constable's brother, Sir Osric, captain of the Jêdes guard. Callam is a short, frail 25-year-old. Protruding upper teeth and a large beak-like nose interrupt his otherwise plain features. No warrior, he spent his youth being bullied by larger and stronger men. Sir Callam is proving to be a keen and capable administrator, and many of the local knights now wish that they had been a little more friendly toward the man who now assesses their feudal payments.



SIR TAMYS POULTY, CHAMBERLAIN

Sir Tamys is 37 years old and the youngest brother of Lady Jenya. He had few prospects until his sister married and persuaded her husband to employ Tamys as chamberlain. Unfortunately, Tamys is disorganised and inefficient. On several occasions Sir Shernâth has been close to dismissing his chamberlain. Tamys has kept his position only through the protection of his sister and the ability of his wife, Bethan, to cover for her husband's lapses. He is well aware of his shortcomings and is extremely grateful to his sister and beloved wife.

Sir Tamys is 5'7" and has the characteristic Poulty red hair, though it is thinning. He is untidy and forgetful, often muttering under his breath the names or details he must remember. The chamberlain is usually the first noble to meet any visitors. Making a good impression on Sir Tamys can make a huge difference to how visitors are introduced into the constable's presence.



LADY BETHAN POULTY, LADY-IN-WAITING

Lady Bethan, the 33-year-old wife of Sir Tamys, is stocky and round-faced, with plain features and blonde hair. She was born and raised in the village of Yâlen, which is only a thirty minute walk from Jêdes. Her father, Sir Danard, died over the winter and her only brother, Alarn, is making many changes to the fief he has inherited. Lady Bethan disagrees with these changes and relations between the siblings are strained.

Lady Bethan is lady-in-waiting to her sister-in-law, with whom she gets on well. Forthright and practical, with a good head for figures, Bethan is under no illusions about her husband's competence and oversees his every action to correct any errors.

SARALI & WILLEM POULTY

Lady Sarali, 14, and Willem, 8, are the children of Tamys and Bethan. Like her mother, Sarali is lady-in-waiting to Lady Jenya.

Sarali is plump and round-faced, with ginger hair. She is a hopeless, if rather gothic, romantic, who can see star-crossed lovers, tragedy, and unfulfilled desire all around her. She is convinced that there are a number of illicit liaisons taking place within the keep. She is convinced that the herald, Sir Jassyff, is conducting a discrete affair and is trying to discover the object of his affections.

Willem is arrogant and self-important. He talks down to anyone not of noble birth, making him unpopular with the keep's servants and garrison. Willem sometimes fails to recognise important visitors for who they are, which on occasion has gotten him into trouble.



SIR JASSYFF MAZERONY, HERALD

The herald of Jédes is Sir Jassyff of Mazerony, a tall man in his mid thirties and the younger brother of the Lord of Ándrake. He was a famous jousting until seven years ago, when he received a severe blow to the head at the Royal Chélebin Tournament. He appeared to make a full recovery but ever since has been plagued with severe headaches, dizzy spells, and occasional fits. Educated and literate, he became herald to Sir Shernâth five years ago.

Sir Jassyff remains fascinated by arms and armour. In his spare time he is writing a history of the joust in Káldôr, concentrating on the developments in armour and weaponry. He often consults the weaponcrafter Barda of Cets, with whom he has struck up a close platonic friendship. Sergeant Straken, of the Jédes militia, was one of Sir Jassyff's retinue in his jousting days and remains loyal to his old lord.

MATAKEA NARRATH YARQUANE, CHAPLAIN



Narrath, 49, is one of only three Laránian priests in the hundred, the other two being at Fenéven and Novélim manors. Given who he ministers to, Narrath regards himself as the principal of the three priests, but the others do not acknowledge his supremacy.

Matakea Narrath is extremely honest and devout. He is renowned throughout the hundred for his strict adherence to church dogma and complete absence of a sense of humour. Narrath sends regular reports to Cerdan Bantire, the Rekela of Pagostra, but can find little to complain about.

ASHESA

Narrath has two ashesa (acolytes) to assist him. Arbogar Kayn is a cheeky and cheerful 19-year-old with dark hair, pale skin, and a pox-marked, though still attractive, face. He is fit, active, healthy, and hardworking but his cheerfulness and humour grate upon Narrath, so Arbogar is constantly in trouble.

Krayg Smadyn is 21, thick-set, and round-faced. Gruff and unfriendly, Krayg is dismissive of anyone he considers beneath him. He is pompous and almost as humourless as Narrath. Consequently, Narrath forgives his many mistakes, because Krayg has "the right attitude".

LADY ESME MIRDÂRNE, LADY-IN-WAITING

The short, slender, and frail Lady Esme is married to Sir Osric, the captain of the guard. Her husband dotes on her and, even after twenty-six years of marriage, still calls her his precious flower. Another of Jenya's ladies-in-waiting, Esme is a fluttering, vacuous woman, interested in little else but fashion and perfume. The practical Lady Jenya has little time for her. Lady Esme is, however, a formidable gossip who often hears rumours of which even Helarn is unaware. Esme tells her husband everything, and he in turn tells his brother.

SQUIRES

AELSTOR KAPHIN

The senior of Sir Shernâth's two squires, Aelstor is 17 and the youngest son of the bailiff of Skáist. Aelstor has been the constable's squire for five years and can now anticipate most of his lord's needs. He is a keen, efficient aide. Lady Helarn is fond of her nephew and is on the lookout for a post for him once he is knighted.

JÉDES 22

Aelstor is athletic, charming, witty, and good-looking. Unlike many young men his age, he is at ease in the company of women of all ages. At any social gathering he is surrounded by all the eligible young ladies of the hundred; Aelstor is also popular with the servant-girls. As a consequence, most of the local squires dislike him. His closest friend is Eldaen Katair, squire to Sir Jarrak Vaen, Lord of Fenéven.

KARISON DARJÛTÈ

The junior squire, Karison, is the youngest son of the Earl of Bâlim. When Karison arrived at Jédes he was an overweight, sullen, and arrogant 12-year-old. He regarded himself as much more important than the “local riff-raff”. He has since matured considerably, though several of the servants still harbour a dislike for the lad. After a rocky beginning to their relationship, Karison now tolerates Aelstor.

As he approaches his fifteenth birthday, Karison is only a couple of inches under 6' tall and still growing. He has thick, greasy black hair and is now burly rather than fat. Karison is intensely competitive. He and his good friend Sumael Mirdârne keep a running score of their achievements. Karison is undoubtedly the physically stronger and the better horseman. Sumael is more agile, a better archer, and a much faster swimmer. With sword and shield the boys are evenly matched.

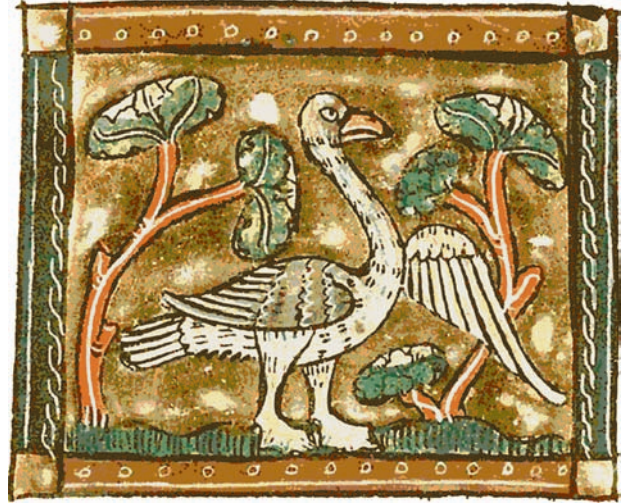
BONDÈD OSTLER

Ferot of Cets is a thin, wiry man of average height with jet black hair. Ferot is in his late twenties. His father was ostler before him, but was killed falling from his horse during last year's race. Ferot had been travelling as a journeyman at the time, but returned to take over the franchise, bringing his wife, Barda, with him.

BONDÈD WEAPONCRAFTER

Barda of Cets is a weaponcrafter of some skill. Soon after her arrival Sir Shernâth dismissed the previous bonded weaponcrafter, Darik of Sed. Darik has been reduced to a wandering journeyman, and harbours a lasting grudge against both Barda and her husband, Ferot. He rarely returns to Jédes, but spreads cruel lies against the couple throughout the region [see ASÓLADE HUNDRED p6].

Barda is an attractive woman with long dark hair. Sergeant Straken describes her as “well proportioned, but not to scale”. She stands eight inches taller than her husband and is much stronger than he. Barda has an explosive temper and is likely to throw things, preferably large and heavy, if provoked. Fortunately, she is fairly inaccurate. She rarely loses her temper with her husband, and even when she does he has a knack for quickly and rationally calming her down.



GOOSE GIRL

Yma of Luren is the 13-year-old daughter of the reeve [p16] and the keep's goose girl. She sleeps in the goose house, a small circular wattle-and-daub building between the stables and the river.

Sir Shernâth has no great love of hunting and dislikes dogs. While many local manors allow dogs to roam free at night, the constable keeps geese. He likes to break his fast each morning with a goose egg or two and is fond of roast goose. He often enquires as to the health of his birds. As a consequence Yma can often be seen in conversation with the constable. This sets her apart from the other village children. Yma is the only unfree resident of Jédes allowed the run of the keep. Neither the guards nor the servants ever stop or question her. If she wishes to speak to the constable, he will make time for her; she is intelligent enough not to interrupt any important discussions, especially between nobles.

All of the geese have had their wings clipped. They are fiercely territorial and are kept in the goose house when important visitors are expected. Yma is tasked with keeping the flock in order and getting them back into the yard each night, a job she has been carrying out successfully for three years. Yma is an excellent swimmer and sometimes swims across the Kald to collect a wayward bird. She used to swim naked, but as she is maturing her father has insisted that she be clothed; she does not always obey. Yma can usually be found in the vicinity of the keep, her willow goose wand in her hands.

MILITARY

The Jédes permanent garrison consists of a squadron of light horse and a decad of medium foot. This unusual arrangement (most keeps are garrisoned by a company of footmen) is due to the prevalence of horsemen in the Hundred. The guard wear distinctive blazoned surcoats. The badge, formerly just the thistle of Clan Dariúnè, was amended ten years ago following the constable's suggestion to the earl to include an unadorned helm. As Sir Shernáth's blazon incorporates three helms, this was correctly taken by most of the locals as a signal that the new constable had the earl's full support.

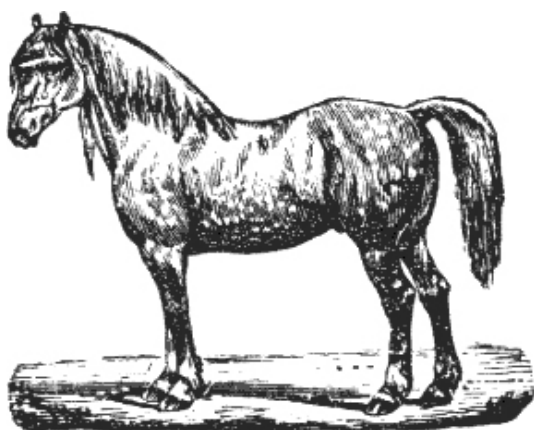


THE TEN-DAY MUSTER

In addition to their normal feudal duties, all yeomen in the manors under Sir Shernáth's control must arrive in Jédes no later than dusk on 21 Kelen. The next three days are spent in drills, before the fair commences on the 25th. The yeomen are free to return home on 1 Nólus.

During this ten-day muster the yeomen are incorporated into the standing forces at Jédes, giving a force of one (full strength) decad of light foot, three decads (twenty-two men) of medium foot, two decads (fourteen men) of archers, and two squadrons (seventeen men) of light horse.

During the ten-day muster five years ago, a band of a dozen outlaws took the opportunity to raid Mówich. The tourney was delayed as some forty men-at-arms and a similar number of knights took part in a manhunt. The outlaws scattered but eight were tracked down. Their remains still hang on the gibbet road from Cálsite to seven leagues west.



HÉTHRIN (CAPTAIN) OSRIC MIRDÂRNE

Héthrin Osric, 43, commands the permanent garrison. More headstrong than his brother, Osric would rather fight than negotiate. He is, however, fiercely loyal to his brother and to the earl. Fed and housed by Clan Dariúnè for over twenty years, Sir Osric appreciates his good fortune.

HÛLHÛRIN (LIEUTENANT) BLYRA POÚLTŲ

Hùlhùrin Blyra is second-in-command and leads the squadron of light horse. She is tall, sturdily built, and plain-featured. Now in her late twenties, Lady Blyra, the daughter of Lady Helarn, joined the Church of Laráni as an ashesa at age 14. By age 16, however, she decided to join the Order of the Lady of Paladins, preferring to ride and fight. Five years ago she left the order to take up her current post. Lady Blyra is reputed to be the finest rider in the hundred. The ten horsemen and women under her command are all freemen, not nobles.

HÛLHÛRIN (LIEUTENANT) STOK MIRDÂRNE

Osric's second son, Sir Stok, was 21 last year. He commands the medium foot. This duty, which many knights regard as menial, has always been taken seriously by both the constable and the captain, who have impressed on Sir Stok its importance. In addition to the medium foot, Sir Stok is responsible for the training and supervision of the yeomen of the hundred who attend the ten-day muster.

Sir Stok is tall and burly, like his father. He spent much of his childhood being bullied as the "little" brother of feeble Callam. He learnt to be a brawler at an early age, and he still defends his brother. Despite their physical differences, the brothers are close; Sir Stok jokes that together they make a perfect knight. He often asks Callam for advice.

THE LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON

The Jédes squadron is split into two mani, each consisting of a non-commissioned officer and four mólak (privates). The members of the squadron, each a skilled and experienced rider, are mainly drawn from the local families of light horse yeomen. The squadron pride themselves on the speed and precision of their riding. They are used as messengers; any one of the riders can reach Kibân in less than two days.

The constable insists on uniform equipment for his troops. The light horse squadron are issued with a quilt cowl, a studded leather halfhelmet, a quilt long-sleeved aketon, leather riding breeches, calf boots, and riding gloves, and a cloth surcoat blazoned with the helm and thistle. They all carry spear, shortsword, and roundshield.

The mani have a fixed roster of duties, which they both swap every five days. One manus patrols the hundred. Their orders are to visit all of the earl's holdings, but they often turn back at Gémheldon without visiting Chéwintin or Kéldkith, as they have never been made welcome there. Hùlhûrin Blyra has only recently become aware of this and intends to make visits to Chéwintin mandatory. The patrol visits Brómèlèon but, like most residents of the hundred, avoids Poýnter. The troop also checks on the two mines; the Miner's Guild has a contract with the constable to provide guards, a duty that the light horse undertake.

THE FIRST MANUS

Mólarin (sergeant) Chastyn of Arwyn is the senior NCO of the squadron. He is 33 years old and now putting on weight. Chastyn joined the squadron after winning two of the horse races in 705. He claims to be from Minârsas.

Slayne of Dalgath is originally from Fenéven, where his eldest brother is a yeoman. He is the same age as Chastyn, with whom he is very close.

Rubart of Karlis, 20, is the son of Oldros, a yeoman in Novélim. His brother is also in the squadron.

Vyra of Dalgath is 22 and one of two female riders. Also from Fenéven she is Slayne's niece.

Eriel of Snew is only 16. Slender, lithe, and light, she won two of last year's races, one by a large margin. She is still adjusting to life in the barracks. Her brother is also in the squadron.

THE SECOND MANUS

Arkálin (lance corporal) Arbogar of Torelin is 45 years old. He is not as fast as he once was, but he is an experienced rider and warrior. Arbogar acts as trainer for the squadron.

Derk of Karlis is the 18-year-old brother of Rubart.

Andásin of Snew is the 24-year-old brother of Eriel.

Nills of Ardin, 25, is from Díthend, where his father is the metalsmith.

Sarrak of Serel, 45, is from Mówich.

THE MEDIUM FOOT DECAD

The decad of footmen are issued with a quilt cowl, a leather long cowl, a plate nasal half-helm, a ring long hauberk with long sleeves, leather knee boots, leather gauntlets, kurbul greaves, and a cloth surcoat blazoned with the helm and thistle. They are armed with spear, falchion, and roundshield. Although it is not official issue, all also carry a dagger.

FIRST MANUS

Ármólarin (sergeant-at-arms) Straken of Ornelt (see *Cellar* for details).

Lillith of Abrall, the only female in the medium foot, is the 23-year-old daughter of a yeoman from Asólade manor.

Abelard of Hestin, a tall and surly 26-year-old, is from Chéwintin.

Dorrian of Lyne, 23, is a jovial, friendly man from Skáist.

Hellard of Calas, a fleet-footed 24-year-old from Cálsite, is always the first to catch a fleeing felon. Tall, slim, and taciturn, Hellard is completely unlike his brother.

SECOND MANUS

Mélbrin (corporal) Janreth of Ardin, 35, is from Díthend. His nephew is in the second manus of the light horse squadron.

Ferdik of Veris, 37, is the tallest of the footmen, standing a few inches over 6 feet. He is the elder brother of Nesten, the master timberwright at Mówich [see *ASÓLADE HUNDRED* p32]. Ferdik had courted Porla before she married Nesten, but she spurned him because of his vicious temper. A big burly bully, Ferdik is nevertheless easily cowed by his sergeant and any noble.

Padrig of Lunn, a tall, black-haired, handsome 26-year-old from Skáist, is a ladies' man.

Marek of Úrsen, a 16-year-old from Yeáshim, is terrified of Ferdik.

Chulin of Saleris is the latest recruit to the decad. He claims to have been a mercenary on the Salt Route, but in fact was an enforcer for Halime of Falesh in Tashál. After killing a militia man in a brawl, Chulin was forced to leave town. Chulin has made friends with Ferdik.

JÉDES KEEP

The tall and imposing Jédes Keep often hosts important visitors. Earl Tróda visits at least once a year to inspect his southern holdings. He often brings a large retinue of knights from his household, looking for quality warhorses. He usually times his visit for the annual horse fair, though in the last few years the pressures of his work as Exchequer Royal have delayed his arrival.

King Miginath also likes to return to Jédes. As the king has aged, these visits have become less frequent, but Sir Shernâth has been sent word that the king intends to visit this year. Sir Shernâth is concerned that the king will be unable to manage the stairs to his usual room. He has sent a long, carefully worded letter to Princess Meliem, the Lord High Chamberlain, in an attempt to ensure that he can accommodate the king's needs.

THE CASTLE FIELD

A four-foot-high stone wall encloses a clearing adjacent to the keep known as the castle field. Although the wall will not stop a determined trespasser, the combination of brambles along the outside, rose bushes along the inside, and fiercely territorial geese running free in the yard make trespassing uncomfortable.

A large L-shaped stone-and-wooden building stands within the castle field, to the east of the keep. For practical reasons, and also because the keep is not large enough to house all the staff, the light horse squadron, the bonded ostler, and the bonded weaponcrafter are quartered here. This building also houses the stables.

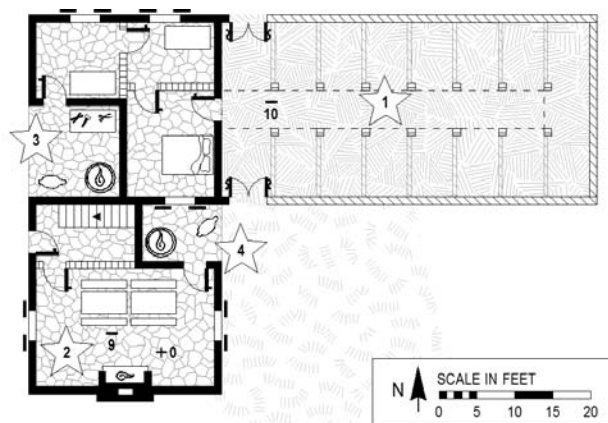
1 THE STABLES

The constable keeps eight palfreys, six heavy warhorses, and ten light warhorses for the light horse squadron. This is more than the fourteen stalls can hold, so the stables are always full and busy. A half-squadron of light horse regularly patrol the hundred, keeping five or six horses away for three days at a time and easing the pressure on the stables. The light horse squadron are responsible for their own mounts, which also reduces Ferot's otherwise heavy workload. The horses are put out to pasture each morning.

The stable lass, brown-haired, 17-year-old Jaythe of Tannis, sleeps in the loft. Aelstor Kaphin often pays her visits at night.

2 Common Room

The light horse squadron breakfast and socialise in this room but eat their main meals in the great hall with the other keep staff. It is sparsely furnished and often



empty. Until last year this room was the chambers of the bonded weaponcrafter. As the current weaponcrafter is the ostler's wife, it is no longer needed for this purpose.

3 WEAPONCRAFTER'S WORKSHOP

4 OSTLER'S WORKSHOP

Ferot and Barda share the three rooms adjacent to the stables.

5 BUTKROOM

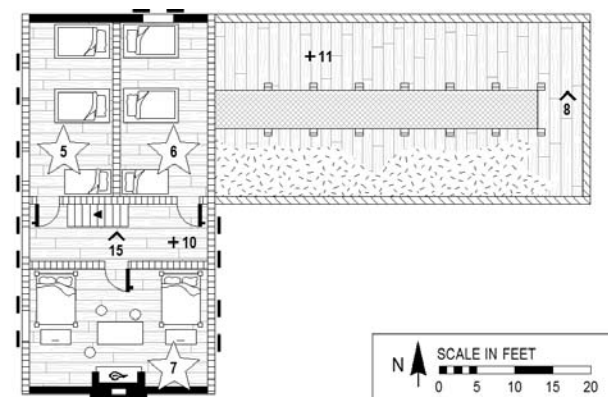
The first manus of the light horse squadron are quartered here. Mólarin Chastyn has the bed by the door.

6 BUTKROOM

The second manus of the light horse squadron are quartered here. Arkálin Arbogar has the bed by the door.

7 GUARD COMMANDER'S QUARTERS

This room is shared by the two noble Hùlhùrin. Recently appointed, Sir Stok is uncomfortable about sharing sleeping quarters with Lady Blyra. She seems unconcerned by the arrangement.



THE KEEP

The keep is a D-shaped tower made from local granite. At its highest point it stands some 100 feet above the river, commanding outstanding views of the surrounding countryside.

When the keep was repaired, between 605 and 625, Clan Dariúnè had the collapsed rear wall rebuilt into a semi-circle. The mason overseeing the reconstruction, Egbert of Noss, convinced the earl that the original keep's rectangular shape had contributed to its collapse once undermined by the river. Egbert had a temporary dam erected, the water pumped out, and the river gravel excavated down to bedrock. The rear wall of the keep now stands on solid rock.

The main entrance is via a drawbridge over a narrow moat, which cuts across a man-made slope leading up to the keep. This entrance is further protected by a set of double doors, a corridor through the wall, and a second iron-bound and barred door. A second, smaller postern door, which only the servants use, is accessed via a narrow removable wooden bridge. From dawn to dusk one guard always patrols between the two doors.

Plans to add a portcullis have been drawn up. The portcullis, and alterations to the postern gate, could be implemented under the written instructions of Earl Dariúnè "at the discretion of the constable, in the event of any future civil unrest".

GROUND FLOOR

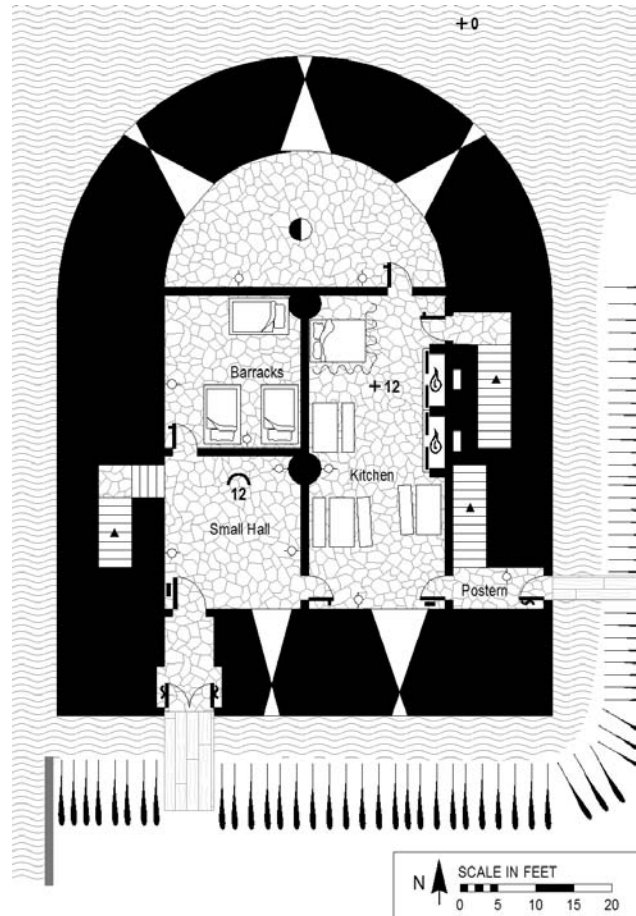
The ground floor of the keep contains the kitchen, larder, barracks, and main entrance chamber, known to residents as "the small hall".

SMALL HALL

At least one guard is always on duty in the small hall, which is used as a waiting area for visitors. Any commoner trying to enter the keep without an appointment will be held here by the guards. If they have a good reason for their visit Sir Shernâth will, eventually, have them escorted upstairs into the main hall.

BARRACKS

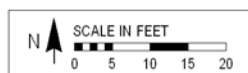
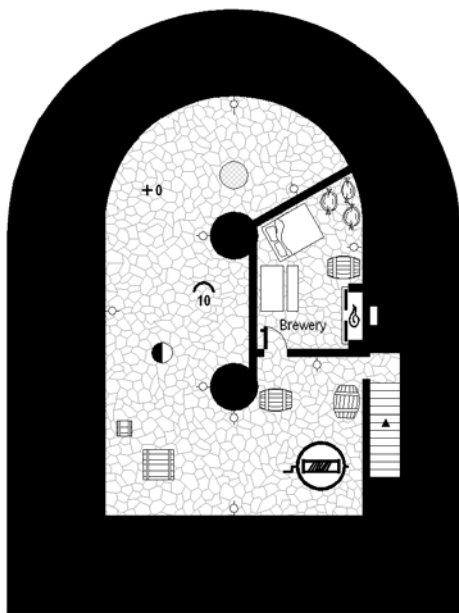
The barracks are sleeping quarters for the two mani of medium footmen.



KITCHEN

The kitchen is a busy place and by far the warmest room in the keep. Warm in winter, it can be unbearable in the summer. The cook, Hedric of Aven, once served in the kitchens of Earl Cûro in Gardîren. He was dismissed because, while a good cook, his menus were too conservative for Earl Cûro. He is thick-set, grey-haired, and in his early forties. His wife, Margryth, is the head kitchen maid and the sister of Sergeant Straken of Ornelt. The couple share a bed in the curtained-off area. There are nine other kitchen maids, all local girls, mostly from Jêdes. Seven of them sleep in the kitchen; the other two, daughters of Elarit of Veris, live in a cottage in the village.

Haeri of Halam is the castle baker. He is tall, dark-haired, and in his mid thirties, with a jutting chin and long straight nose. He is unmarried, and many of the serving girls avoid him. Haeri sleeps in the great hall and is the first at work every morning. He uses the southern oven for his baking.



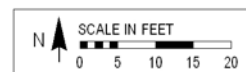
CELLAR

The cellar is the keep's general storeroom. Meat, grain, and other foodstuffs are kept in the large vaulted chamber, which is fairly dry and always cold. Barrels at the bottom of the postern stairs contain ale and imported wine. The keep's only well is also here. A small section of the cellar is walled off and is used as the keep's brewery and buttery.



OUBLIETTE

As part of Egbert's reconstruction work, an oubliette was created beneath the cellar. Cold, dank, and fetid, it has never been cleaned. Prisoners are stripped naked and lowered into the chamber on the end of a rope, unless they struggle, in which case they are simply thrown down twenty feet onto solid bedrock. Prisoners are fed and watered at the discretion of the guards, that is, infrequently. Over the years a few recalcitrant prisoners have been left to die. The presence of decaying human remains only adds to the evil atmosphere in the pit. The constable and his men usually find that a night or two in this pitch dark and forbidding room, where the only exit is through a trapdoor in the centre of the ceiling, brings most minor miscreants to their senses.

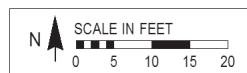
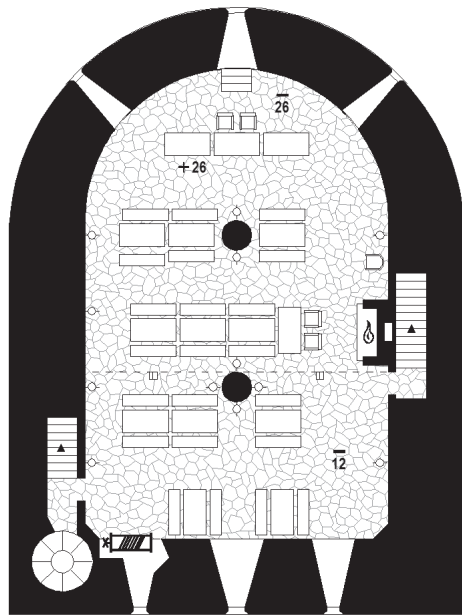


ÁRMÓLARIN (SERGEANT-AT-ARMS) STRAKEN OF ORNELT

The Ármólarin of the keep is Straken of Ornelt, who has been at the keep for five years. He joined the garrison at the same time that his former master, Sir Jassyff, became herald. Within the year Straken had been promoted and had married the keep's alewife and brewer, Karissa, a buxom, earthy woman with a coarse sense of humour.

Straken, the brother of the yeoman Tornyn [41], is clever and capable. Unusually for a common-born career soldier, he is literate, having been taught to read and write by Jassyff. If Straken has a weakness it is his pride in this achievement; he loves to display his skill by reading publicly.

The sergeant and his wife share a bed in the cellar.



THE GREAT HALL

The great hall is huge but simply decorated. Thick red velvet curtains hang alongside the windows. They are closed only in the winter months, to reduce draughts. A huge shield bearing the blazon of Earl Dariúnè, actually a six-foot-high wooden frame with embroidered cloth stretched over it, hangs on the wall high above the fireplace.

The blazons of the local landholding clans—Doulzâr, Ercamber, Erwyne, Mazerony, Orteyan, Poult, and Vaén—hang along the curved northern wall. The arms of the bailiff clans—Halgalen, Kaphin, and Lartyne—hang from the balcony. The wooden shield bearing the arms of Lartyne was freshly painted over the winter, Sir Krisagon having only recently arrived in Chéwintin, and it stands out from the others. Clan Mirdârne's blazon hangs from the central pillar. The sole blazon on the wall opposite the fireplace is that of Sir Laban of Tyart, winner of last year's tourney. All of these blazons are painted onto wooden knight shields.

The great hall is an echoing, empty room. The keep's residents, including the bonded masters and the garrison, eat two meals a day here. For most of the year the ladies eat with the men. Their presence makes for forty or more folk, filling seven or eight tables, a number

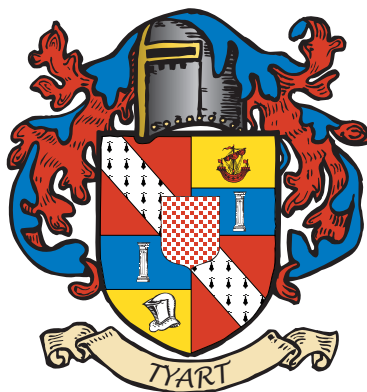
easily accommodated within the hall. During the Horse Fair and Tourney the ladies dine on the gallery.

The head chambermaid, Crala of Aven, the 21-year-old daughter of the cook, sleeps in the great hall along with six other chambermaids, all women from Jédes and the surrounding villages. Two scribes, Torbris and Eldaen of Aphria, and two apprentice clothiers also sleep here. Four other servants, Elarit of Veris and her daughters, live in a cottage in the village.



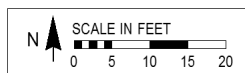
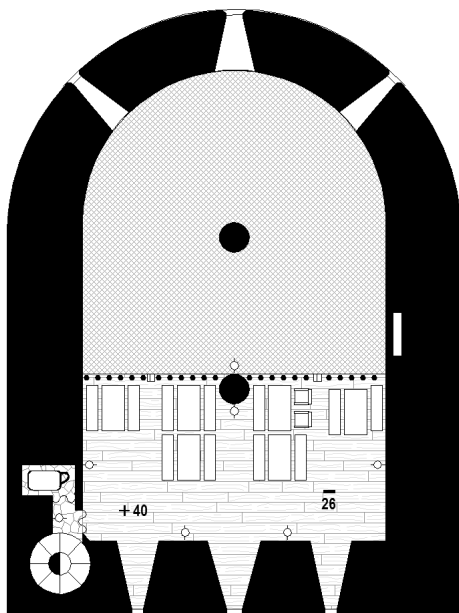
Crala is fastidious about her work. She is usually quiet and reserved, but she pours scorn on the man-at-arms Padrig of Lunn, who is conducting affairs with two of the young chambermaids. The two maids, Brenna of Selis and Yritha of Tannis, vie for his affections. Both giggle and flirt when he approaches. Crala was Padrig's first conquest when he arrived at the keep. She was dumped two years ago for a prettier girl and now hates her former lover with a venom.

The hall is furnished with simple trestle tables and benches, all made from local timber. The tables can be moved to one side to provide accommodation for visitors. As the king always brings a large retinue to Jédes, a great many knights are quartered here during the annual horse fair and tourney.



There are three ornately carved chairs in the room. One chair, carved with Jarin knotwork, is used by Sir Shernâth; a second, carved with hunting scenes, is used by Sir Tamys. The third, which is kept next to the fireplace and covered with an embroidered blanket, is ornately carved with dragons and wyverns and made from Býrian dark hardwood. This chair was a present to King Miginath from Lady Erila Kaphin, and reserved exclusively for his use; Sir Shernâth is its guardian. The constable recently had one of the servant girls, Brenna of Selis, whipped and placed in the oubliette for four

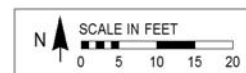
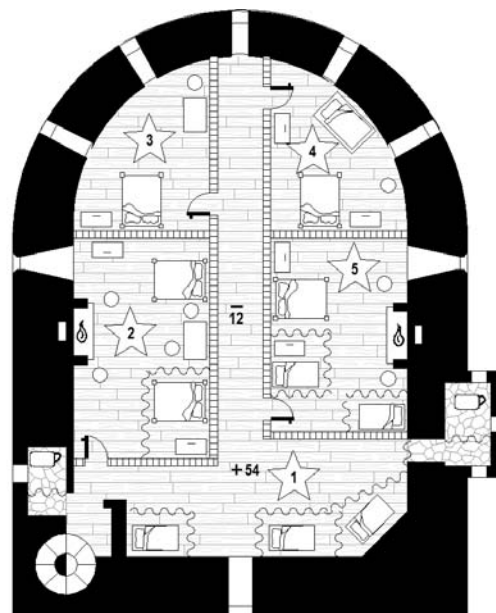
days because she sat in it when she thought that no-one was looking. Brenna still has nightmares about the experience. Most of the keep staff were surprised by the severity of the punishment, as Sir Shernâth is normally more merciful in his dispensation of justice.



LADIES' GALLERY AND SOLAR

It is common for the ladies to eat in the great hall with the men-folk. During the king's visit and at the horse fair, however, protocols are strictly observed. On these occasions the women of the keep and any visiting noble ladies dine in the gallery. There are two carved chairs in the ladies' gallery, one for Lady Jenya and one for Lady Helarn. This annoys Lady Esme.

The ladies' gallery contains three south-facing glazed windows that reach from floor to ceiling, making it the lightest room in the keep. The stone walls are whitewashed to add to the light. The gallery, which is also used as a sewing room and solar, is the favourite room of the bonded clothier, Julian of Padek. A tall, thin, softly spoken, and effeminate man in his mid forties, Julian is a friend and confidante of the noble ladies. He has a fine eye for detail and is an excellent embroiderer. Julian does much of his work in this room, which has led most of the men-at-arms to refer to him as "Lady Julian".



THIRD FLOOR

1 THE UPPER HALL

The upper hall contains three curtained-off areas. These are the sleeping quarters for: the clothier; the huntsman, Johan of Kerem, a short, sturdy young man with a surprisingly high-pitched voice; and the falconer, the tall, weather-beaten, and swarthy Faraq mah Moohd. Faraq, a recent addition to the constable's staff, claims to be from Ázeryàn. His predecessor was dismissed for repeatedly allowing his birds to frighten the geese, an incident that proved to everyone in the keep that Yma the goose girl has more influence over the constable than a mere falconer. The constable keeps three falcons and two kestrels in a small mews on the roof.

The garderobe to the west is the one servants use to empty the chamber pots. The outer wall of the keep is slick with excrement at this location. The garderobe to the east was originally built as a bartizan, to defend the postern gate. It still fulfils that purpose in addition to its other use. The servants know to keep an eye on the bartizan when using the postern door.

2 THE STEWARD AND THE HERALD

Sir Callam and Sir Jassyff share this room. The steward is fastidiously tidy, and the main part of the room is always neat. The herald is less fussy; he refuses to let the servants into his part of the room, the curtained-off corner. Against the south wall, scrolls and parchments are beginning to spill out under the curtain.

JÉDES 30

Sir Callam also uses this room as an office and spends much of his day checking and re-checking accounts. The chest contains papers on the income from local manors. Sir Jassyff is rarely in the room. He prefers to work in the solar, or the great hall if the solar is busy with women's chatter.

3 THE CHANCELLOR

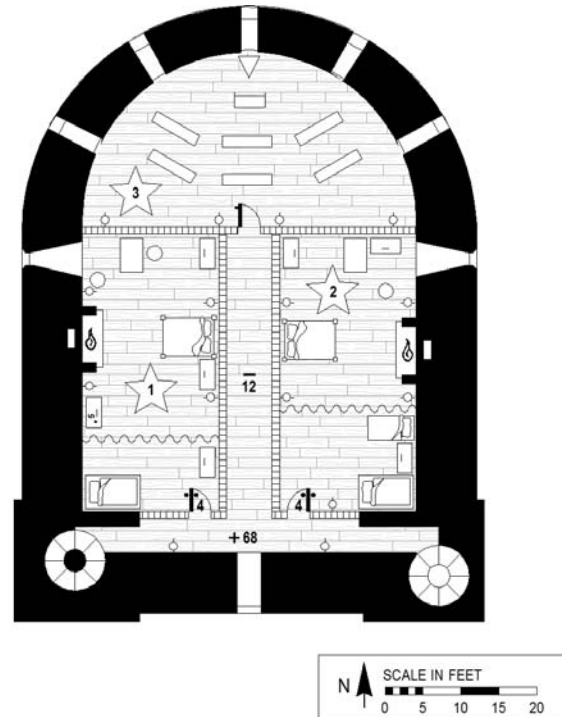
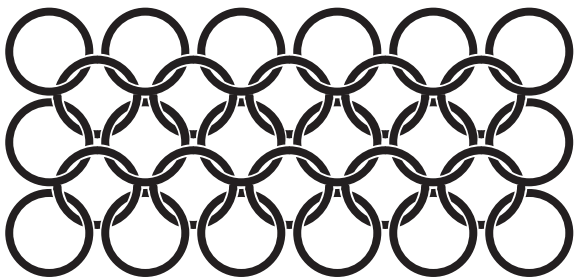
Considering Lady Helarn's reputation as a sour-faced, humourless, and dispassionate old woman, many people would be surprised at the number of mementos of her husband that she keeps in one of the chests in this room. On the wall between the two windows hangs the remains of a broken jousting pole, around which is tied a faded silk ribbon. Lady Helarn found it in her husband's effects after he died, and recognised it as the favour she gave him when they first met at Dagrath's Fair. Other than this one item, the walls are unadorned. Lady Helarn insists that Cralla clean this room, not one of "those giddy young things". The chancellor often works in her room, and by talking with Cralla she can pick up servants' gossip, which she occasionally passes on to Sir Shernâth.

4 THE CHAPLAIN

There is no doubting that this room is occupied by a priest. There are many fine paintings and illuminated manuscripts around the walls. A pair of rude bunks provide accommodation for the two ashesa, while the matakea has a fine bed hung with curtains embroidered with various views of Dolithor.

5 THE CHAMBERLAIN

Sir Tamys and his family share this large room. Sarali sleeps in the bed next to her parents. The chest contains two books of poetry, several items of embroidery, spare clothing, and, hidden at the bottom, an old broken doll. Willem's bed, next to the fire, is always covered in carved soldiers; a wooden sword and shield usually lie on the floor. Lady Bethan tries to keep the room is tidy, but the rest of her family conspires against her.



FOURTH FLOOR

1 THE CONSTABLE

Sir Shernâth and Lady Jenya's room is sparsely furnished. The room is warm, comfortable, and well appointed. The large four-poster bed has a mattress and pillows stuffed with goose down. The bunks near the door are where their sons slept. Though neither boy lives at the keep, Lady Jenya insists that things remain just as they are for "when the boys visit". Sir Shernâth knows better than to disagree with his wife where their sons are concerned.

Sir Shernâth's arms and armour are kept in the chest in the north-east corner; they are taken out, cleaned, and checked once a season. After the last check of his chainmail, Sir Shernâth asked Barda of Cets to add extra girth, dryly telling her that the mail "must have shrunk". Within the keep the constable is armed only with a dagger. When visiting the local fiefs, he usually carries a fine Kúzhān broadsword, a present from Earl Tróda.

The constable keeps copies of every report he has sent to Earl Tróda in a locked chest in this room. Only his wife is aware of this. On occasion, Sir Shernâth has allowed servants to see him opening and emptying the chest, so that everyone in the keep knows that the chest contains "some old papers", and not "valuable treasure". To the earl's enemies, of course, the contents of the chest are valuable treasure indeed.

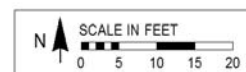
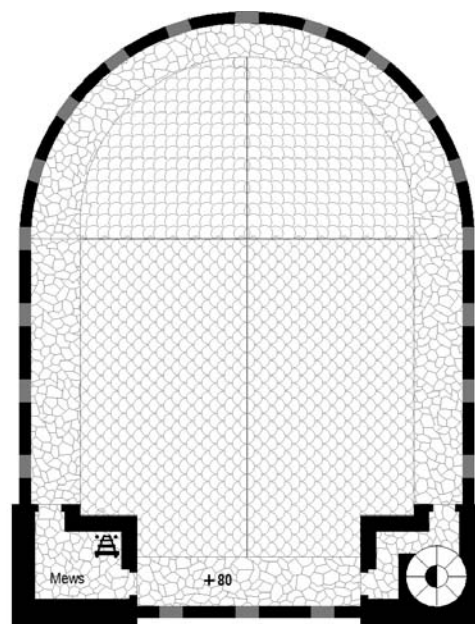
2 THE ROYAL CHAMBER

This well-appointed and lavishly furnished room is used by Earl Tróda or King Miginath on their infrequent visits to Jédes. The royal chamber is cleaned regularly. If an important guest arrives unexpectedly, Sir Shernâth is always ready to host them. Other than the king and the earl, the only other person to have regularly used this room over the years is the late sheriff of Ósel, Prince Merik Elendsa. If, as often happens during the horse fair, both king and earl are present, Sir Shernâth gives up his room, with consequent effects on the other nobles.

3 THE CHAPEL

This small but well-appointed chamber is the only chapel to Laráni in Asólade Hundred. Of the hundred's sixteen manors, only three are not held by Laránians: Brómelèon and Poýnter are church lands held by Peonian Priests and the bailiff of Poynter openly worships Sávè-k'nôr. The lords and ladies of the hundred regularly attend the services at Jédes chapel. The congregation at the monthly mass averages fifty souls, but sometimes there are well over eighty in attendance. In addition to the local noble families several yeomen and many of the keep's garrison regularly attend the services.

Matakea Narrath keeps a careful note of who attends his services. Any noble who misses three in a row will receive a visit from the priest.



ROOF AND TOWERS

At eighty feet above the river, the keep's battlements give a good view of the surrounding countryside. One man-at-arms is stationed on the roof from dawn until dusk.

The towers rise another twenty feet above the keep's roof. The view from the top is spectacular. The "ten pound" tower at Yeáshim is clearly visible, as is most of the farmed part of the hundred. The forests of Sémethshire to the north are a riot of colour in the autumn. The Kald river valley cuts a swathe from north-east to south-west. The Tàmora gap, between the Taniran and the Daynôra hills is visible to the east.

The west tower houses the mews, home to Sir Shernâth's three falcons and two kestrels. Faraq often flies the birds from the tower for exercise. If he is not out on the hunt, he spends much of his day here.

ROUTINE WITHIN THE KEEP

DAILY ROUTINE

The working day begins before dawn, when the baker rises and starts the first bake. Soon after dawn, the rest of the keep wakes. The trestle tables are set out in the main hall and the residents break their fast with bread and small beer, plus butter and fruit in season and, in the winter months, oatmeal porridge.

The household servants then begin cleaning, while the kitchen servants begin preparing the main meal. The noble ladies retire to the solar or take the air. The constable's staff begin their duties. The main meal of the day usually begins before noon. After the meal work continues until a little before dusk, when supper is prepared. Most folk retire soon after dusk.

GUARD DUTIES

The men-at-arms have a strict rotation of duties. The drawbridge is open from dawn until dusk, and a guard patrols between the drawbridge and the postern gate during this time. A guard is always on duty in the small hall, regardless of the time of day. Similarly, there is always a guard on the battlements. When one manus is on duty within the keep, the other is on patrol across the hundred.

MONTHLY ROUTINE

Sir Shernâth holds his vassals' court on the 12th of each month. The court is open to the manor lords and bailiffs holding fealty from Earl Tróda Dariúnè, any freemen in these holdings, and all residents of Jédes.

On the 25th of each month Sir Shernâth holds a feast for his vassals. The lords of Ándrake, Bôry, Fenéven, and Yálen regularly attend, as do the bailiffs of Bélgie, Cálsite, Skáist, and Támorlan. The new bailiff of Chéwintin is yet to attend. The constable also invites the Pelnala of Brómélèon, the hundred bailiff, and the Miner's Guild masters. Only the hundred bailiff attends with any regularity. This feast occurs on the last Soratir of the month. The nobles who attend the feast also attend the Laránian mass, making this the best-attended Soratir each month.

SEASONAL EVENTS

On the fourth day of each season the constable holds a feast for the Council of the Mangai of Asólade Hundred. All seven councillors and their families are invited. While attendance is not compulsory, it is unusual for any of the councillors to miss the feast.

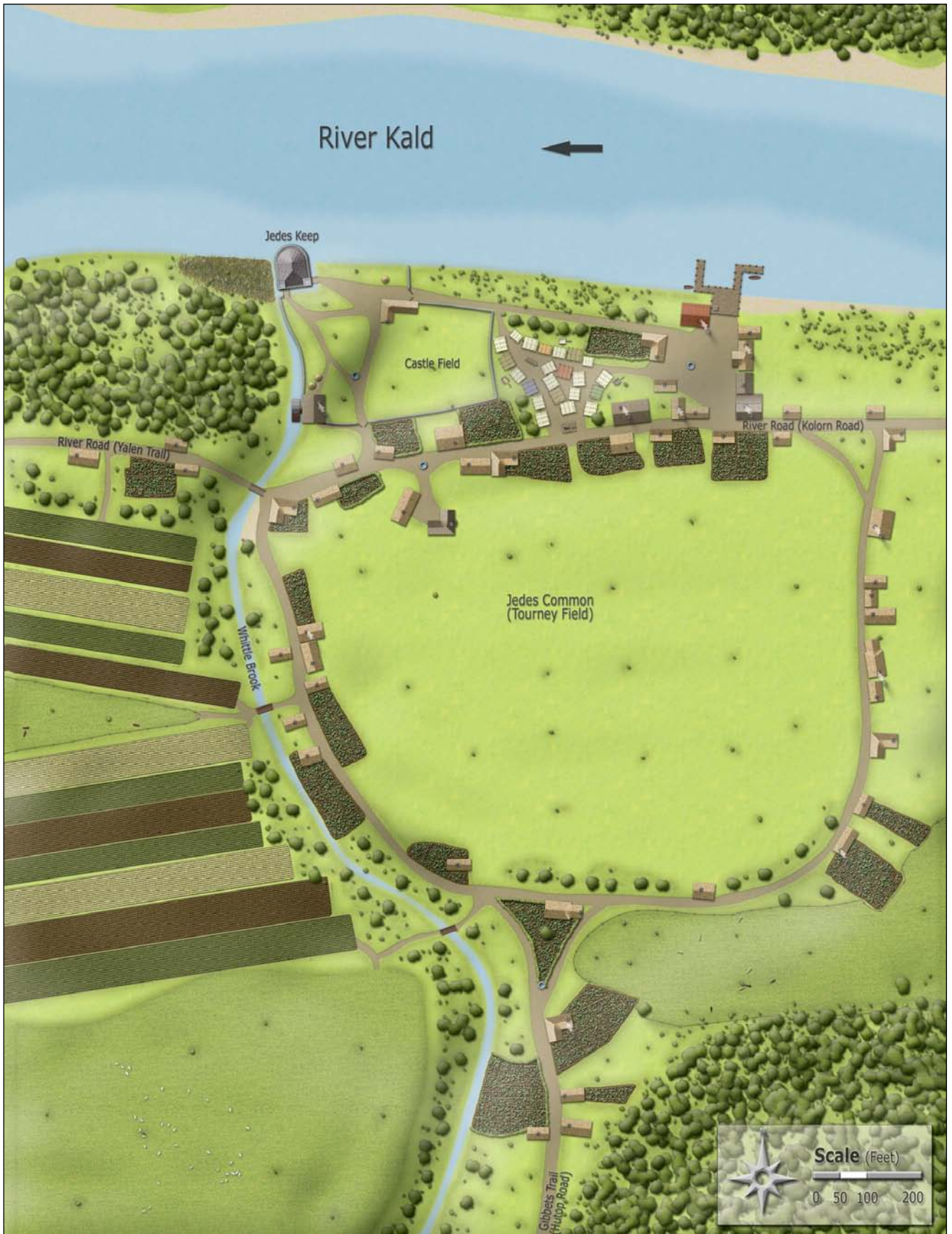
ANNUAL EVENTS

25–30 Kelen: Jédes Horse Fair and Tourney. This is when Jédes is most crowded. Merchants and nobles begin to arrive from 20 Kelen. By the 24th, the Fallen Tower Inn is packed to bursting. The other two inns in Asólade Hundred—the Yeásford Inn at Yeáshim and the Crown Posada at Támorlan [ASÓLADE HUNDRED pp55, 60]—are over two leagues away. Even travelling by horse, this is a considerable distance, an hour's ride and close to two hours' walk. Nevertheless, some lesser nobles choose to stay at these inns rather than camp on the common. However, these inns see most of their trade in the days leading up to the fair.

17 Halánè: Blood-day. This is the traditional day for slaughtering animals before the winter. A feast for all villagers is held on the Castle field, or in the keep if the weather is inclement.

10–15 Savôr: St. Bromel's Fast. Jédes is usually busy five days before the fast and five days after. During the fast days the pilgrims are at Brómélèon, and Jédes is quiet. The market on 20 Savôr is almost as busy as the horse fair, with locals selling keepsakes to returning pilgrims and the usual collection of charlatans and rogues peddling relics and artefacts.





Jêdes

Jêdes is the largest settlement in Asolade Hundred. Consisting of only 49 households, plus the imposing keep, Jêdes lies in the south western edge of Oselshire. This article details all of the households. The 30 page article includes interior plans of the keep and its' outbuildings, the inn, and the local Peonian temple; plus illustrations by Richard Luschek and Juha Makkonen.

Jêdes is remote from the politics of central Kaldor. With the majority of settlements run by a constable for the Earl of Balim, this is one of the Earl's most important holdings. It is also a favourite of King Miginath.

Jêdes is not a rough frontier settlement, but the last remnant of the ancient Kingdom of Taruyn. A land of fertile fields, fat cattle, and sturdy forest ponies, Jêdes and the region is a renowned centre of horse breeding.

