

A Brief History of Ipsen and the College of Lore

The College of Lore at Ipsen began as a unified effort to collect and analyze knowledge from throughout the Known World. Dozens of scholars built the school and its library intending to keep it separate from the politics of the realm. However, the lure of magic and its power brought ruin to the school throughout the centuries.

A new cohort rebuilt the school and library in the year 100 of the fourth age, believing it to be an auspicious year. They worked to conceal its location magically. Passersby saw only ruins. Others saw an impassable cliff face. Still others saw a thick bog. Inconsistent visions and rumors alerted the different powers-that-be to investigate. Thus, the bard was born. Originally tasked with misleading and misdirecting whole kingdoms away from the school, the first bards had great powers of persuasion reinforced by a variety of potent spells to keep themselves safe.

When others grew suspicious, a conservatory was built next to the library and an official school established to teach others with musical or magical inclinations. The School of Illusions and Abjuration were included to better protect its students. The village of Ipsen formed around the school grounds. It consisted of subsistence farmers and skilled laborers—scribes, forgers, and engineers—that garnered great notoriety.

Eventually, the village had to capitulate to its kingdom's rule or be destroyed. The schism of year 304.4A divided the school. One side wanted to continue their studies, committed to not letting their power be corrupted or purchased. The other side wanted to fight or be destroyed to protect itself. Both sides reconciled to have its library collection relocated and their originals burned before the kingdom to demonstrate acquiescence. And defiance. The objecting cohort left Ipsen with its library to locations unknown.