

1 The Noble Houses of Brythynia

There is a schism among the ruling houses of this, the greatest of the empires of man. The noble houses may, superficially, be split into two factions the Royalists and the Reformers. These factions have been engaged in an ongoing political struggle for power for centuries.

The Royalists:

- House Nerval: The ruling house of the empire. They have a strong mercantile base and are fairly popular with the people.
- House Lastell: Puritans from the south.
- House Vizeare: an old house from the west, rumoured to be involved in terrible depravities.
- House Thau: Horse lords from the far west. Regarded by many as uncivilized. They spend all their time hunting Orcs.
- House Fulcade: Coastal traders from the south east.
- House Masselan: Rule a Cheruskian barbarian nation, vassal to Brythynia.

The Reformists:

- House Castellan: The house formerly in charge of the defense of Laibstadt.
- House Avenel: Rulers of Averoigne. They have absorbed much of their civilization from the Aquillonians and feel culturally superior to other nations in the empire.
- House Gehrig: Former ruling house. Only a few remnants members of the family remain.
- The Hibernian Princes: Five satellite kingdoms that hate Brythynia only slightly less than they hate each other.
 - Rowan: King of Laighin,
 - Leith: King of Pict-hibernica,
 - Strager: King of Galliand,
 - Morn: King of Prydain,
 - Dral: King of Aesirlund,

1.1 Nerval

Origin: Brythynia

Sigil: Crown over crossed mace and sword.

Capital: Laibstadt

Other Cities: Anguille

Words: Facta non verba: Deeds not words.



The Nerval family are the current ruling family of Brythynia, its satellite kingdoms Averoigne, Hibernia, Thule, Southern Cheruskia and lesser tributaries. Originally a merchant family they orchestrated the uprising against Frederick Gehrig I during the War of the Silver Flame. Once the war was over and all known cultists had been executed or had fled they managed to retain control of the empire despite their humble backgrounds.

Notable people:

Seifrid Nerval I, the Emperor Eighty years old and has reigned reasonably justly over the past 32 years.

Theodric Nerval Heir to the throne. Large, muscular, brash and a famous fighter. Has spent many years fighting orcs with the Thules. Very popular with the Thules.

Vincenius Nerval Nephew to the king. Merchant. Allegedly the richest man in the city.

Volker Nerval Brother of the king. Died fighting with the Castellans against the rebellion.

1.2 Castellan

Origin: Brythynia

Sigil: Black castle tower

Capital: Mulhldorf

Words: Quis custodiet ipsos custodes
Who watches the watchmen?

1.3 Vizeare



The Castellans fought for the ruling emperor in the War of the Silver Flame. They lost and subsequently their power has waned. The Castellans were originally from the border principalities (300 years ago or more). They own land near the Fafnir Tusk mountain ranges. Their family motto was forced upon them by the Emperor, Seifreid Nerval, after the rebellion.

Notable people:

Lodewig Castellan Current head of the Castellan family. An obese young idiot (his father, Meffrid, has died recently leaving him in charge).

Gotwin Castellan The power behind the Castellan noble family. Uncle to Lodewig.

1.3 Vizeare

Origin: Brythynian

Sigil: Serpent rampant

Capital: Arkham

Other Cities: Yronberg

Words: Nulli secundus: Second to none



A powerful house from the south east.

Notable people:

Gotterlieb Vizeare, Marquess of Arkham

Oldest living noble family head. Resides in Arkham. Bed-ridden with age

Hannus Vizear, Duke of Yronberg Younger half-brother of Gotterlieb.

1.4 Thau

Origin: Thule

Sigil: Phoenix

Capital: Vronsk

Other Cities: Grekl, Gnampff, Nogrod

Words: Omnia mors aequat

Death makes all things equal



Warriors, merchants and horse-lords from the east.

Notable people:

Zygmunt Thau, King of Thule Head of the family. Fighting against the Orcs in the east.

Grzegorz Thau, Duke of Gnampff

Ambassador to Brythynia.

1.5 Lastell

Origin: Averoigne

Sigil: Seahorse

Capital: Quimper

Other Cities: Montcastre, Aginor

Words: Virtuti paret robur

Strength follows virtue



1.6 Avenel

Lastell are a very old noble house. Their power base is in the south of the empire. They are renowned for their devotion to Caiphon. The Lastell's trace their heritage to the Aquillonian invaders of the land millennia ago.

Notable people:

Tigraine Lastell Head of the house Lastell. She is an old widower who lives in Quimper.

Melched Lastell, High Priest of Caiphon
Duke of Aginor. Heir to the Averoignian throne.

Othbaal Lastell, Earl of MontCastre
Ambassador to Brythynia. Cousin to Melched.

1.6 Avenel

Origin: Brythynia

Sigil: Gryphon

Capital: Midheim

Other Cities: Weindorf

Words: Sic vis pacem, para bellum
Those who wish for peace should
prepare for war



A powerful house that controls rich lands to the north of Laibstadt.

Notable people:

Elijah Avenel, Malleus Orcorum Duke of Midheim. A veteran of many wars against the Orcs, enjoying retirement at the family estate outside of Laibstadt.

Hans Avenel, Sheriff of Avenel Acting head of the Avenel house.

1.7 Fulcade

Origin: Brythinian/Averoigne/Hibernian

Sigil: Caravel

Capital: Perignon

Words: Pacta sunt servanda
Agreements are to be kept



Notable people:

Achille Fulcade, King of Perignon

1.8 Masselan

Origin: Southern Cheruskia

Sigil: Snow Leopard

Capital: Grelheim

Words: Nullo adversante: Unopposed



House Masselan hails from southern Cheruskia. Cheruskians are a race of extremely warlike, blonde or red-headed barbarians that speak their own language. It is said by the Cheruskians, that there are only three worthy ways to die: fighting the dark elves (which they call Svartálfar), fighting the orcs, or fighting the cold (having killed all the orcs and svartálfín). The terrain is rugged. Their population is not large. There is little farm land in the north and where it be, is as poor as the nights are long. They have voluntarily joined the Brythynian empire in exchange for an annual stipend

1.9 Rowan

to aid in fighting their enemies (iron, gold, silver timber, and salt) and gained far more independence than most of the other subjugate kingdoms by doing so. The Masselans seem to be astute political players but as yet lack any real power base.

Notable people:

Gunnar Masselan, Jarl of Suid-Cheruskia

Jørg Masselan, Prince of Suid-Cheruskia

Gunnar's eldest son.

Hibernia

Hibernia is composed of five different kingdoms and seven different races. To the south, in Galland, large proportions of the population are of Averoignian descent. To the West you have the, self-styled, true-hibernians of Laighin. There are small population centers of Halflings and Dwarves scattered throughout the region. In the north the fierce pict-hibernics fight constantly against the dark elves. To the south lies Prydain fading remnant of the Aquilonnian occupation. While to the east lies the small kingdom of Aesirlund, the southernmost and westernmost of Cheruskian settlements. The only thing these peoples have in common is that they all hate Brythynia slightly less than they hate each other.

The people of coastal Hibernia are perpetually being raided by dark elf slavers and buccaneers. Nargoth casts a shadow over the land.

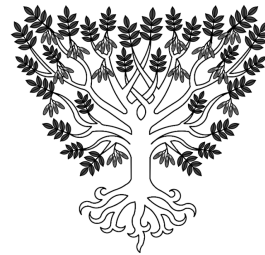
1.9 Rowan

Origin: Laighin, Eastern Hibernia

Sigil: Rowan Tree

Capital: World's End

Words: Semper vigilans
Always vigilant



Notable people:

Ceallagh Rowan, King of Laighin

1.10 Leith

Origin: Pict-Hibernica, Northern Hibernia

Sigil: Boar's Head

Capital: Heatherhal

Words: Vulneratis non victus
Victory or death



Notable people:

Naomhán Leith, King of Pict-Hibernica

1.11 Strager

Origin: Galland, South Western Hibernia

Sigil: Anchor

Capital: Neuport

Words: Tenete: Hold fast



1.12 Morn

Notable people:

Conant Strager, King of Galliand

1.12 Morn

Origin: Prydain, Southern Hibernia

Sigil: Eagle's Head

Capital: Cathal

Words: Ibi ius, per deos
Our Right by the gods



Notable people:

Henri Morn, King of Prydain

1.13 Draal

Origin: Aesirlund, Western Hibernia

Sigil: Hydra

Capital: Gerebug

Words: Invicta: Indomitable



Notable people:

Gerolt Draal, King of Aesirlund