
GAZETTEER OF THE UNITED COMMONWEALTH

DESCRIBING THE CONDITION OF THE REALM
UPON THE SURFACE OF VICTORIÆ IN THE YEAR

271 AV

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VICTORIÆ

The planet Victoriæ, or Procyon Ac, is the only planet orbiting around the primary star of the Procyon system and the home of the Colonial Powers since the loss of the planet Earth. Victoriæ rotates about its axis every 26.2 hours to create a Victoriæn day, and revolves around Procyon A in 408.5 of those days; a Victoriæn year is the equivalent of 455.95 days on Earth. Like its parent star, the planet Victoriæ is relatively young at 1.6 billion \oplus years.

Victoriæ's axis of rotation is tilted by an angle of 19°, producing shorter seasons and less variations than existed on Earth. Temperatures in the inhabited region between the 54th and 70th parallel north average mid-to-high twenties (centigrade) all year around, with higher average daily temperatures than the equator past the 64th parallel north. About 95.649% is land, with a single ocean dominating the northern pole of the planet.

The atmosphere of Victoriæ is presently unbreathable to the human inhabitants. It is chiefly composed of carbon dioxide (57%) and molecular nitrogen (26%) with the remainder composed of other trace elements and man-made compounds that have been produced as part of the terraforming effort.

The majority of the planet is a barren and arid environment that is hostile to life without unnatural assistance. The Colonial Powers however have been successful in seeding much of the planet with tough lichens that have been designed to survive in the harsh climate, coating rocks with crusts of green and orange growths and the ground with cauliflower-like clusters.

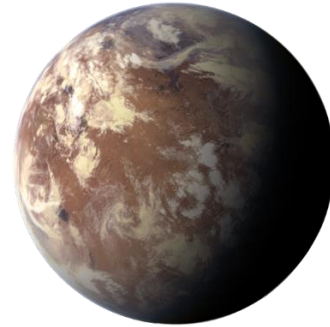
PROCYON A AND B

The star around which Victoriæ orbits, Procyon A, is a binary star in the Canis Minor constellation. It is an F-type star which burns white and is seven times more luminous than the Sun. It has twice the radius of the Sun but appears smaller in the sky because of its distance from Victoriæ.

Procyon B is a white dwarf companion to Procyon A. With a radius of 8584 km, the star is slightly larger than Earth. The barycentre of the system is far closer to Procyon A than B, and the distance between the two stars changes between 8.9 to 21.0 AU as it transits through its 33.54 year (40.98 \oplus years). On average the distance between Procyon A and B is 15.0 AU (which places it closest to Uranus's orbit around the Sun). It is two-thousand times less luminous than the Sun and fourteen-thousand times less than Procyon A.

Victoriæ

AMEROPACIFICO:	FÚJÍNÍYǺ
ASEAN:	DAI-DÌQIÚ
EŬROPA UNIO:	NEUROPA
BHARAT-RAAJ:	MOKSHA



THIRD PLANET ORBITING PROCYON A

Rotation period	26.214 h (1 Vd) (1.0917 \oplus d)
Orbital period	408.512 Vd (455.95 \oplus d)
Eccentricity	0.0276
Orbital distance	2.7805 AU
Axial tilt	19.0451°
Surface gravity	0.92 g (9.022118 m/s)
Surface pressure	0.486 atm (49.243 kpa)
Composition by volume	57.43% CO ₂ 26.37% N ₂ 03.35% SF ₆ 03.12% NH ₃ 02.32% O ₂ 02.31% CH ₄ 01.91% AR 01.06% CO

UNITED COMMONWEALTH

The United Commonwealth is a Colonial Power occupying the land between the longitudes' of 111° and 152°. It is mostly comprised of two large peninsulas (English: *peninsulæ*) that extend into the Great Polar Ocean. The total claimed area of the Commonwealth is 17 Mm² making it the largest of the Colonial Powers by area. It is bordered by Ameropacifico to the west and the Asean Republic to the east.

The United Commonwealth is a unitary state under an elective constitutional monarchy. The current monarch is King Colmund II. The Instrument of Government is the primary constitutional document which lays out the responsibilities of the monarch, means of succession and other aspects of governance. The United Commonwealth's capital and largest colony is Vouchsafe, with a population of 1.71 million people it contains 53.21% of the Commonwealth's total population. Other major colonies include Verity, Montgomery, Eastation, Southland Fleetstone, and Glenmora.

The United Commonwealth was created from four constituent countries: the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand (English: *New Sealand*), and Canada. The Act of Union was signed in 2069 in the Old World Calendar (466.8 BV). During the Evacuation from the Old World, the United Commonwealth built the HMSS Endeavour for the journey to the New World.

The United Commonwealth moved away from a command economy faster than most of the other Colonial Powers and enjoys some of the highest levels of private ownership of capital goods on the New World. Many of the early state-owned enterprises were reformed as Chartered Companies, or Great Houses, the owners of which hold significant political and economic influence.

The official ideology of the United Commonwealth is the Victory Effort which promotes the concepts of monarchism, autarchy, and colonialism. It is administrated by the Office of the Overseer-General, and propagated to the population by the Commonwealth Communion.

United Commonwealth



STATE FLAG

Anthems:

"Long live the King"
"The Commonwealth Forever"

Capital and largest colony	Vouchsafe 60°78'N 127°17'E
Demonym	Anglic
Government	Elective constitutional monarchy
Area	17.06 Mm ²
Population	3,241,866
Currency	Royal Dollar Sterling (RDS, \$)
Date format	dd-mm-xxx AV (After Victory)



STATE EMBLEM



MAP OF THE
UNITED COMMONWEALTH
SHOWING THE BELONGINGS ON VICTORIÆ OF
THE ANGLIC REALM



VOUCHSAFE



WEST DOMINION



CENTRAL TERRITORIES



SOUTHLAND



**HONOUR
OUR KING**

**EXALT
OUR REALM**

It be our duty t'ake every opening to beget more land, and we should keep this one belief steadily fore our eyes that more land simply means more of the Anglic Realm; more of the best, the most human, most honourable race that the World hath born.
-Exalt Cecil J. Rhodes

Let us remember reverently that the Commonwealth looms fore the whole world as masters. That our watchwords be Responsibility, Duty, Sympathy and Self-sacrifice, and that an outstanding duty rests on yourself t'keep true by the traditions and by the mission of our race.
-Albert H. G. Grey



GLENMORA



MONTGOMRY



QUEEN RHONA'S LAND



COLMUND II

POLITICS

The United Commonwealth is an authoritarian constitutional monarchy. The monarch is the head of state and the head of government. The constitution is defined by the Instrument of Government, which vests the monarch with executive, legislative, and judicial prerogative over the realm; all officials of the government then are acting in the name of the monarch. However, the monarch is compelled to govern “by and with the advice of” the Commonwealth Executive Counsel which is the largest and most prominent advisory council to the monarch.



King-Commander
Colmund II



Premier
Jacyen Harcourt

There are no mechanisms for elections of political parties. In the absence of a traditional legislature, politics in the United Commonwealth takes place via consultations between the Royal Household and a minority of the population who comprise various bodies such-as the Commonwealth Executive Counsel, the New Star Chamber, the Orders of the Garter, the Order of the Thistle, and various technical Syndicates.

GOVERNMENT

The collection of entities which constitute the monarchy are collectively referred to as “the Crown” and is comprised of the corporation-sole of the King-Commander, the Crown Estate which holds all capital assets, and the Royal Household which comprises the executive government. Through the instrument of Royal Prerogative, the monarch is able to issue Royal Decrees which are the basis of all legislation in the United Commonwealth.

The reigning royal house of the United Commonwealth is the House of Melbourne, the continuation of the House of Windsor which was renamed during the Endeavour Voyage for the former effective capital of the United Commonwealth on Earth. The position of King/Queen is held for life or until abdication. The role transitioned from linear succession to an elective role during the Endeavour Voyage. Upon the Demise of the Crown, the Accession Council determines the Heir-Apparent from the list of self-volunteered Heir-Aspirants, who must have a relationship coefficient of 25% to the reigning monarch.

The executive and administrative functions of government are conducted by Officers of the Household, whom exercise the Royal Prerogative in the name of the monarch. The Officers are issued under letters patent, which determines the responsibilities and duties of their Offices. Each Officer will have numerous Lieutenant-Officers and Ministries beneath them for overseeing specific functions. Appointments of individuals to the Royal Household are made at the sole discretion of the monarch. The Monarch will consult with members of the Royal Household by convening a meeting of the Order of the New Star Chamber, of which all Officers are members. The Chamber functions as the cabinet of the United Commonwealth and typically meet at Marlborough Palace several times a month.

The Commonwealth Executive Counsel is the largest advisory body to the monarch and functions as a de-facto legislative body. It has no fixed number of members but all are appointed by the monarch. The Counsel is headed by a Lord President. The Counsel does not have the power to pass laws but may draft them and petition them to the monarch. Counsel sessions are used to debate drafts of Royal Decrees. The members of the Counsel represent a variety of parties and interests in the United Commonwealth including: members of the Royal Household, Commonwealth Defence Force officers, the heads of Chartered Companies, senior members of technical Syndicates, amongst others.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The United Commonwealth is divided into Lieutenancy's which are vested with the responsibility for administration and providing public services at a regional level. The system emerged out of necessity due to the large physical distances between Vouchsafe and other colonies, and insufficient national infrastructure during the early colonial period. Lieutenancy's then are responsible for the providing of education, healthcare and social services, and life-support, transportation and communications infrastructure.

There is no concrete structure for local government, as many Lieutenancy's were created under letters patent, the conditions of which were largely negotiated between the monarch and the subject. Because most colonies outside of Vouchsafe were created by private interests, the local government is often controlled by powerful Chartered Companies. The flexible nature of the letters patent and the conditions there-in were intended to promote colonisation efforts by promising wealthy and powerful Households the capacity to establish and develop their own personal fiefdoms.

Each Lieutenancy is headed by a Lord-Lieutenant appointed by the monarch to act as their representative and authorise actions in their name; besides this function however, they are largely a figurehead. Most Lieutenancy's are further divided into Sub-Lieutenancy's as they expand which then have appointed Lieutenant's to provide the same role.

Tax is collected at the local level and paid to the Lieutenancy, to pay for the upkeep of public services, and taxation policy is determined by the Lieutenancy's government within the specifications of Commonwealth law. Lieutenancy's must maintain a net surplus income, the amount of which is divided between the owners of the letters patent which establishes the Lieutenancy. Failure to maintain the surplus, and requiring borrowing from the Crown Estate, can lead to the rescinding of the letters patent and the dissolution of the Lieutenancy. The affected colonies would then be reconstituted under new parties and even different Lieutenancies.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The United Commonwealth is a member of the G8, the primary intercolonial organisation and forum, along with associated intercolonial organisations such-as Nuclear Weapon Clear, the Olympiæde, the Organisation for Planetary Defence etc. The United Commonwealth has relatively close economic links to Ameropacifico and their Royal Families have warm and frequent relations. Relations with the other Colonial Powers are typically quite cold though. This is partly the result of the Commonwealth's deliberate isolation from many international affairs and foreign influence; the Commonwealth's history, especially the era of the British Empire (English: *the First Commonwealth*), is featured negatively in the national epics of many of the Colonial Powers such-as Europa Unio and the Bharat Raaj.

LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The United Commonwealth operates two parallel law enforcement and judicial systems. Crimes against "Crown, Commonwealth and Subjects" are policed by various regional or specialist constabularies and prosecuted by the Crown Justiciary. Crimes against "Morality, Honour and Heritage" are policed by the Invigilators and prosecuted by the various Committees of the Commonwealth Communion. The High Court of the Justiciary is the suprreme criminal court for conventional crimes prosecuted by the Crown. The High Moral Arbitration Committee is the same for the Commonwealth Communion. The legal systems have three possible verdicts: "guilty", "not guilty" and "not proven", where the final two result in acquittal.

Criminals prosecuted by the Crown are typically sentenced to corporal punished and/or a duration of indentured servitude at the penal colonies in Queen Rhona's Land on Cape Yonder, and death by hanging. The Commonwealth Communion prosecutions typically result in financial arbitration and prohibition. Rather than indentured servitude, the Communion operates Sanatoriums where it is able

to detain people convicted of crimes. It is common that when producing cultural works, the producers will consult lawyers from the Communion during the conceptual stage to gain their assent before significant work has been done.

MILITARY

The armed forces of the United Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Defence Force, consists of three branches: Royal Army, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Aërospace Force. The forces are managed by the Ministry of Defence which is a component of the Office of the Lord-Protector. The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force is the monarch. The Defence Force is responsible for the physical defence of the United Commonwealth's territory in the event of war, guarding the borders, and patrolling the vast tracks of uninhabited land for incursion by other Colonial Powers.

The Royal Army are the ground forces of the CDF, composed of both infantry and armoured units. Infantry forces are primarily trained to fight in pressured urban environments due to the fact that the distances and atmosphere makes possibility prolonged engagements outside highly unlikely. Armoured units favour speed over armour and are typically armed with missiles.

The Royal Navy comprised the fleets of the United Commonwealth and, liked the navies of other Colonial Powers, is designed primarily as an offensive instrument. The fleet is structured around large drone-carrying Battle-Carriers, with support ships for defending against – and launching – guided missiles. The Sovereign of the Seas is the flagship of the Royal Navy, an enormous multirole Battle-Carrier.

The Royal Aërospace Force is generally regarded as the most “practical” of the branches of the service due to the fact that it also serves as the Commonwealth's space agency. The “substrato” aspect of the Force does not operate any manned aircraft besides those used for transportation and relies on airwings of interceptor and bomber drones. The Force has remote and largely autonomous drone bases across the Commonwealth, in-particular using light-weight solar powered craft armed with large sensor arrays to patrol the vast stretches of coastline and the Commonwealth's borders with Ameropacifico and the Asean Republic.

ECONOMY

OVERVIEW

The United Commonwealth is a relatively liberal market economy, having transitioned away from the authoritarian Colonial Command Economy model quicker than other Colonial Powers. The Royal Treasury, headed by the Premier, is responsible for determining economic policy within the United Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Mint is the country's central bank and is responsible for issuing the Royal Commonwealth Dollar, a representative currency backed by the Mint's vast stockpiles of strategic metals and minerals. The economy of the United Commonwealth is dominated by the extraction and manufacturing sector, and related industries. It is illegal for any entity other than the Crown Estate to possess foreign currency. All transactions with other Colonial Powers is performed through the International Mineral Market, where domestic and foreign currencies can be converted into raw materials as a means of exchange.

The aristocracy, the Honoured Houses and Chartered Companies, control the majority of the United Commonwealth's economy. The Office of the Lord Steward is responsible for monitoring and keeping track of privately owned assets in the Commonwealth and, when sufficient case is made, the concerned parties must incorporate their assets into a single portfolio under the terms of letters patent. Though involuntary on the part of the owners, it is often desirable and Chartered status usually grants exclusive privileges to the Company, confers Honours upon the holders of the letters patent, and grants memberships to the Commonwealth Executive Council. The Chartered Companies control much of

the privately owned industry and infrastructure in the Commonwealth and exert considerable influence both politically and economically. The Chartered Companies are conventionally dynastic in nature and the Honours conferred then are effectively hereditary. The terms Chartered Company and Honoured House are effectively synonymous, particularly as all such companies are named for the House of their owner. The two most powerful Houses, by significant margin, are the House of Greatorex, and the House of Harcourt.

The hydrocarbon industry is a significant part of the manufacturing sector expands yearly. The planet *Victoriæ* is largely devoid of significant reserves of hydrocarbons due to having been entirely devoid of life prior to colonisation. Hydrocarbons, essential for the military aerospace, electronics, and other industries which require the use of fuel or polymer materials. Huge installations and facilities for the creation of hydrocarbons from biological matter are present across the Commonwealth. The most well-known of such facilities is the Vouchsafe Loch Algæ Mill (formerly Loch Melbourne) and colloquially known as “the Stench”. In 54 AV, the mouth of the inlet was dammed and the entire body of water converted into an algae pond for producing hydrocarbons.

Surveying remains profitable, and highly romanticised, pursuit in the Commonwealth. Much of the Commonwealth’s expansion and economy is devoted to the extraction and refinement of mineral resources and vast tracks of the Commonwealth’s millions of square kilometres remain unexplored and unvisited. Fortune seekers typically band together to buy vehicles and equipment required and rove the Commonwealth’s inlands and the Southern Peripheries in search for deposits of valuable metals that they can sell the claims on to large Companies for extraction.

The Commonwealth’s reserves of natural resources are presently unknown, and new veins and deposits are being located ever year through the efforts of private surveyors. The basic requirements of metals are all available within their borders including: iron, nickel, copper, aluminium, and zinc. Additionally, some of the primary mineral exports to the other Colonial Powers include silver and lithium.

The Commonwealth grows much of its food in large controlled internal farms, which are both built on land and on large floating facilities on the ocean. The environment of the planet is harsh for many species of plants, and the agricultural industry was already fully established by the time the Commonwealth had the means to mass-produce genetically modified plants than can survive under the harsh light of the Victory Star, and exterior orchards and farms are becoming increasingly common. Many of the farms are supported by the Land Project Force, a large force of young people and the otherwise unemployed, paid subsistence wages by the Crown, to work in tending farms and orchards. Most people in the Commonwealth have worked for the Land Project Force in some capacity, typically as mandatory service as teenagers.

ENERGY

The Commonwealth primarily relies on a mixture of solar power (English: *starwork*), and nuclear power (English: *atomwork*). Solar power stations were the mainstay of power generation in the Commonwealth for decades and ensuring the capacity to manufacture new panels was one of the first growth industries. Several micro nuclear reactors and sufficient fuel had been brought from the Old World and were used during the periods of night when the Commonwealth went into *Blackout* and limited power consumption. The first nuclear power station was the Rutherford Atomwork Station, a heavy water fission reactor, was built in 89 AV near Vouchsafe. The Queen Mægan Fusing-Atomwork Station in 221 AV is one of only four nuclear fusion power stations on the New World and replaced the aging power infrastructure around Vouchsafe, allowing for decades of planned expansion.

TRANSPORT

The inhospitable atmosphere and geography of the United Commonwealth rendered ship across the Great Polar Ocean the most effective way to move large amounts cargo and people for the majority of its history; the most populous colonies are all coastal and thousands of kilometres from Vouchsafe. On Cape Dominion, this was the case for over two centuries until the massive and controversial expansion of the Vouchsafe-to-Central Territories railway was expanded through the mountainous regions to Verity and West Dominion, the Commonwealth's most populous area outside of capital.

Many thousands of kilometres of new track and stations were created, connecting the industrial zones of the two Lieutenancies and allowing passengers to cross make the trip from Century Station in Vouchsafe to Greatorex Grand Central in Verity in less than a day. With future plans to lay more track to the Southern Peripheries, it is likely that a greater percentage of freight cargo on Cape Dominion will be transported by rail rather than sea. Ocean travel remains the primary means of crossing the Endeavour Sound to the Queen Rhona's Land penal colonies and the major inland colony of Montgomery on Cape Yonder, and remote colony on Glenmora Island. The Commonwealth maintains the largest fleet of ships between Colonial Powers, many of which were more easily able to build railway networks more easily and not rely on ocean channel for internal trade.

Æroships maintain a role in the Commonwealth for high-speed deliveries to colonies across the Endeavour Sound and luxury travel to other locations. Whilst all Colonial Powers make use of balloons for telecommunications purposes, the poorly developed overland infrastructure of the Commonwealth created a market for the creation of enormous æroships for commercial purposes. Æroships remain an expensive option for both freight and passengers, both due to their more limited hauling capacity and the costs associated with mitigating risks from the storage of massive amounts of flammable hydrogen. Freight æroships remain competitive by operating on a 26 hour basis, pausing only at ærodromes to exchange the cargo pallets that comprise the bay of the fuselage. Conventional æroplanes are used exclusively by the Royal Æerospace Force, the cost and scarcity of hydrocarbon-based fuel rendering them commercially inviable.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications in the Commonwealth rely primarily on a network of balloon satellites to allow for colonial connectivity. The large airships are filled with hydrogen and powered by on-board solar panels. The satellites are able to maintain a relatively geosynchronous orbit at altitudes between 8 to 15km above the surface. Balloon satellites are preferred for their longevity and the ease of which they can be launched and replaced rather than the relatively much more expensive process of launching traditional satellites into orbit; in-particular since the overwhelming majority of the Commonwealth's internet traffic is internal.

Computers and the internet are highly controlled by the government. There is only one commercial operating system, CrownOS, and the Crown Estate maintains the country's internet system the Commonwealth Network (CNET). Commonwealth computers are unable to interface with those of other Colonial Nations. The Commonwealth's internet is significantly smaller than that which existed on the Old World and is primarily used for businesses and services. Social media services are heavily controlled and personnel messaging and email services are controlled through the Crown owned website *Connexion*.

MAJOR HOUSEHOLDS

The majority of the Commonwealth's private economy is controlled by several powerful companies whom operate Chartered Corporations that hold all of their assets and capital. They are primarily invested in industries of resource extraction, manufacturing, and infrastructure. The following is a list of the most powerful households, the head of whom holds the title of Lord-Magnate in the Order of the Commonwealth Star.

HOUSE OF HARCOURT

The House of Harcourt is the other of the Commonwealth's preeminent aristocratic families. Its first members on the surface were Winston and Baronita Harcourt. The present head of the House, by virtue as Governor of the Court of Directors of the Honourable Harcourt Holding Company, is Lilibet Bryanna Harcourt. The seat of the Harcourt's is Seahaven House, an opulent platform and miniature settlement built on a shoal off the coast of Vouchsafe.

The House of Harcourt owns an overwhelming majority stake and operates Harcourt Heavy Industries, one of the Commonwealth's largest shipbuilders (both civilian and military), manufactures of large industrial machinery and has acquired related interests in shipping logistics and construction services. The Harcourt Heavy Industries primary factory in southern Vouchsafe has been described as the "Workshop of the Commonwealth" and has some of the largest by volume and advanced additive manufacturing machines in the Commonwealth.

The House of Harcourt emerged with the founding of the Commonwealth's second colony of Verity on the far extreme of Cape Dominion, which would rely primarily on the ocean for connexion to Vouchsafe. Brishan Harcourt II and his team of engineers presented the best design of vessel for the initial colonisation team to the Crown. The Harcourt's emerged then as the first naval engineering enterprise in the Commonwealth. After investing in enormous additive manufacture machinery for the construction of vessel components, the Harcourt's used those machines for other customers when ships were not being built.

Despite their diversification into other industries, the Harcourt's maintain their link to their naval-orientation heritage. Harcourt's are notable yachters and racers, and generations of Harcourt's have served in the Royal Navy or captain their own ships. Seahaven House, a miniature settlement unto itself besides being just the primary address of the Harcourt elite, was built as a testament of the Harcourt's mastery of naval engineering and is a popular over-night destination for the middle and upper classes looking to patronage its entertainment establishments. It has even served as the venue for notable diplomatic ventures between the Commonwealth and other colonial powers for its impressive and opulent design.

House of Harcourt



ARMS OF HARCOURT

Current Head

Lilibet Harcourt

Founders

Brishan and Isobel Harcourt



HER LORDSHIP, LILIBET BRYANNA HARCOURT, KC, KCH, LM, COE, ETC.

HOUSE OF GREATOREX

The House of Greatorex is the Commonwealth's preeminent aristocratic families. Its first member on the surface was Verity Greatorex, whom also holds the distinction of being the first subject of the Commonwealth ever on the surface as the leader of the Advent Lander mission. Uniquely, this means that the House has enjoy fame and privilege since even before the colonisation. The present head of the House, by virtue as Governor of the Court of Directors of the Honourable Greatorex Company, is Henry Alexander Greatorex. The seat of the Greatorex's is Verity House on the outskirts of the city of Verity.

The House of Greatorex has a highly diverse portfolio of assets but are primarily invested in mineral extraction and refinement. The House owns enormous tracts of the city of Verity in West Dominion and controls both the overall Lieutenancy and the majority of the residential and downtown sub-Lieutenancies. It is in West Dominion that the majority of the Greatorex's assets and interests are located as they operate the territory as a personal fiefdom. Outside of West Dominion, the Greatorex's have used their position in the mineral extraction industry to emerge as a manufacturer of mining equipment including life-support systems, mining equipment and explosives.

The House of Greatorex was already exalted from the inception of the colony on Victoriæ. Verity Greatorex stepped from the Advent Lander onto the surface only 57 hours after the Endeavour entered a stable orbit around the planet and hoisted the Royal Union Flag. Though not the only member of the Advent lander crew, she was the most famous and was handpicked by King Norman II personally as his vassal not only for her ability, but her intellect and beauty as it was known then that her words and visage would vaunted for the remainder of the civilisations history. Whilst she was still alive, the Commonwealth's second city was named in her honour. Her son, Norman Greatorex, was appointed the Lord-Lieutenant of West Dominion and through shroud investment as the Crown's grip on the Commonwealth loosened, became the majority controller of the Verity colony and its silver mines.

The Greatorex's now control much of Verity, now a sprawling and economically diverse colony beyond its initial creation to mine silver. The Greatorex's were the largest investors' expansion of the rail network to connect Vouchsafe and Verity, greatly reducing the demand for their rival Harcourt's merchant-marine empire. Since the completion of the railway, the port in Verity has increasingly replaced Vouchsafe as the location of imports from other colonial powers, particularly Ameropacifica of which Verity is closer too than Vouchsafe itself. The Greatorex's have considerable financial contacts in Ameropacifica and frequently host events for visiting businessmen staying in Verity's Foreign and Diplomatic Concession. Verity also maintains its own industrial sector which, whilst not owned by the Greatorex's produces considerable revenue through taxes paid directly to the Lieutenancy which the Greatorex's own.

House of Greatorex



ARMS OF GREATOREX

Current Head Henry Greatorex

Founders Verity Greatorex



HIS LORDSHIP, HENRY ALEXANDER GREATOREX, KC, KCH, LM, COE, ETC.

HOUSE OF PURCILAS

The House of Purcilas is an eminent aristocratic family in the Commonwealth. Its first members on the surface were Thomas and Susan Purcilas. The present head of the House, by virtue as Governor of the Court of Directors of the Honourable Purcilas Company, is Geoffrey Purcilas. The seat of the Purcilas's is World's View Manor, a mansion estate built onto the slopes of the mountains on the outskirts of Montgomery.

The House of Purcilas owns a majority of the colony of Montgomery on Cape Yonder and runs both the Lieutenancy and many of the Sub-Lieutenancies. The Purcilas's primary investments are in mineral extraction and refinement on Cape Yonder as-well as a growing segment of electronics industry. Additionally, they generate revenue from the operation of the Lieutenancies that they control.

The House of Purcilas is a later entrant into halls of the Commonwealth's aristocracy. Rather than benefiting from the shrewdness of their initial or first-generation ancestors, the Purcilas family owes its wealth and power to the actions of James Purcilas. James sunk his wealth into the purchasing of surveyor equipment and passage to the barely explored Cape Yonder. Travelling with a small crew, they uniquely landed deep inland via an inlet, thousands of km away from any Commonwealth station. Their gamble paid off after the discovered of a lithium deposit close to the inlet. James returned to Vouchsafe, the sole owner of the lithium claim after the only other significant investor in the venture died in an accident on the expedition. The discovery of domestic lithium, and the bravery of the expedition, made them heroes in the Commonwealth. James Purcilas returned with considerable investment from the Crown Estate, and founded the colony of Montgomery after the second member of the Advent Lander crew.

Montgomery is the largest colony on Cape Yonder, with a population in the hundreds of thousands, though much of its wealth came initially from extraction and refining of lithium, its remote position cultivated economic investment from a variety of sources to ensure the colonies self-sustainability; the colony went from an outpost to a thriving settlement in mere years with a diverse local economy covering all sectors. Montgomery's great rate of expansion still continues, as the lithium and other mines expand to meet the demands of massive growth that have occurred in both the Commonwealth and the other Colonial Powers. Montgomery has its own Foreign Concession region and entertains numerous visitors from across the New World. The success story of James Purcilas inspired a whole generation of daring surveyors to venture forth into the vast unexplored regions of the Commonwealth to create a success story of their own.

House of Purcilas



ARMS OF PURCILAS

Current Head

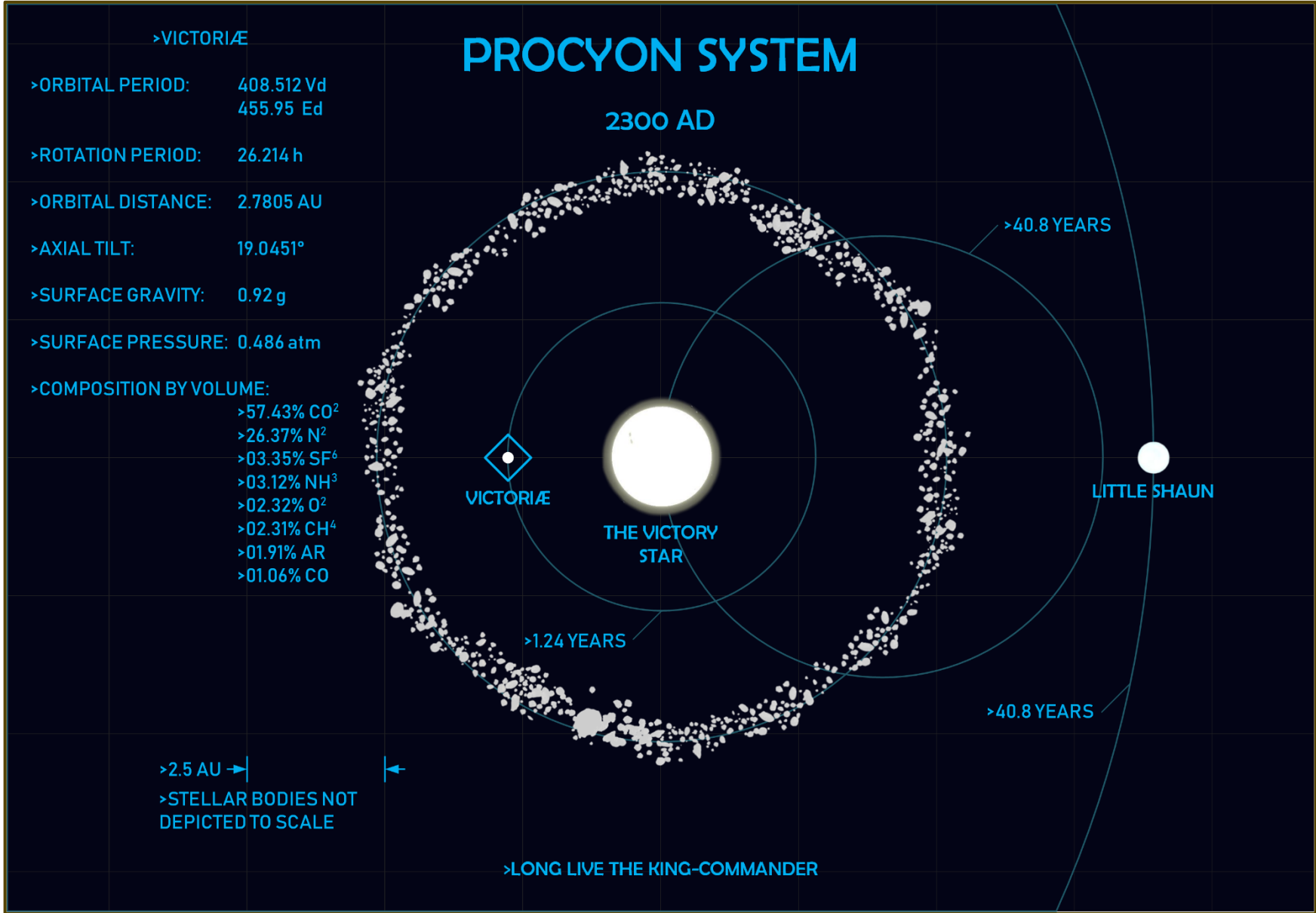
Geoffrey Purcilas

Founders

Thomas and Susan Purcilas



*HIS LORDSHIP, GEOFFREY PURCILAS, KC,
KCH, LM, COE, ETC.*



VOUCHSAFE

Vouchsafe is the capital and largest of the United Commonwealth's colonies on Victoriae. It rests on the coast of the Endeavour Sound roughly mid-way down the length of the eastern coast of Cape Dominion. Vouchsafe was built as the first permanent settlement on the surface of the planet, roughly 100km south-east of the original Avent Landing site.

The ward of Vanguard is the ancient-heart of the city, being the site of the initial station and settlement built into the steep and craggy base of Vanguard Hill which overlooks the colony. The colony is the political and economic metropole of the entire Commonwealth, the colony back to which all other routes lead too, and it is a popular notion (particularly by residents of Vouchsafe) that the other colonies are merely extensions of it.

The population of the city accounts for 53.21% of the Commonwealth's entire population and all of the major institutions in the nation are headquartered there. Inner Vouchsafe consists of six primary wards: Vanguard, Venture, Vainglory, Valiant, Valorous, and Verdant. Major landmarks include Melbourne Palace, New Marble Arch, Vanguard Station, Century Station, King's Landing Royal Gardens, and the Endeavour Centre.

HISTORY

The site that first became Vouchsafe was first scouted by Harold Aldbourne whom, on the 32-09-2 AV contacted the Endeavour with the message "I can vouchsafe t'you Endeavour that this site hath all we want for." King Norman II, taken with the name, decided that it would make for a fitting and organically reached name for the first settlement, opposing suggestions such as New Melbourne and Normanstown that were suggested by other members of the Command Staff. The colony was formally proclaimed on 26-06-03 AV when Vanguard Station was carved into the large steep hill of the same name.

ADMINISTRATION

Vouchsafe is governed as a Lieutenancy, which has control over numerous Wards which comprise most of the city. Certain regions of the city are governed as Sub-Lieutenancies under a variety of terms and conditions determined by letters patent from the Crown. The Lieutenancy itself is governed by the Crown as a property of the Crown Estate, and the Lord-Lieutenant of Vouchsafe is a powerful member of the Royal Household. The Metropole Constabulary is the police force for the Vouchsafe colony.

DISTRICTS

Vouchsafe is divided into Wards beneath the Lieutenancy. Many of these Wards were named after the original Stations that had spawned them before the expansion of overland and underground structures connected them to the sprawl. Vanguard was built as the initial settlement and is now the centre of the Commonwealth's government as the located of Melbourne Palace and offices of many Royal Household offices; the rest of the Ward is largely occupied by gardens and orchards, and monuments and landmarks. Vanguard Station itself has become a hybrid of museum piece and ceremonial location. Many ceremonial functions such-as the Coronation ceremony of new monarchs are performed in the ancient hall at Vanguard Station.

Vouchsafe



ARMS OF VOUCHSAFE

Anthems:

Region	King Norman's Land
Population	1,724,997

Venture Station was built as the first port and industrial area and remains the primary dockyard in Vouchsafe, location of the Vouchsafe Loch Algæ Mill, Century Station and other industrial enterprises. Vainglory Station was built as a water purification and oxygen plant on the coast of a large bay, these were eventually transferred to Venture Ward and Vainglory emerged as the colony's upper-class downtown, entertainment, residential, and business district. Valiant Station was built as a large solar farm and Valorous for large-scale manufacture outside of the underground colony and both eventually grew to become a mixture of low-to-mid class residential and industrial zones. The Harcourt Heavy Industries factory and shipyard is located close to the coast in Valorous Ward. Verdant Ward was built to produce food in large greenhouses using the natural light of Procyon A. These initial greenhouses and their plants were gradually located as the colony expanded. Today Verdant Ward is a middle-class residential and commercial district of square buildings built around green central courtyards.



View of Melbourne Palace from Vainglory Ward, with the High Imperial Temple of Cecil Rhodes on the right and Dauntless Hill and Victoria Point in the background.

ARCHITECTURE

Vouchsafe contains numerous and prominent examples of all of the styles of building utilised in the Commonwealth. Vanguard Station, with high vaulted rooms and corridors of smoothed stone in the natural beige tones, and highly decorated exterior façade that had been modelled on the Old World Westminster Abbey were the pinnacle of colonial style architecture. Melbourne Palace, a fortress of glistening white stone, ornamental façades and the rotunda dome (the highest structure in the Commonwealth) consecrated the High Imperial style of architecture, styled on the heart of London, and mirror by many Crown buildings and others will similar pretentions. Outside of the controlled regions near the Palace and Gardens, there is more variety in styles.

The collection of styles collectively referred to as *brassy* originated as the economy of the Commonwealth had matured from the early days of the command economy, when the drab uniforms and hewn natural stone were replaced with bright pastel colours and garish patterns of flowers, intricate curling emblems and clashing colours. It is primarily an interior style, born in the large

underground concourses that were built as part of the Vouchsafe Underground. Surface structures in this style tend to be minimalist.

Numerous visionaries have pioneered their own styles since including Old Anglic, where walled communities attempt to create microcosms of village life as they fancied it had been lived on the Old World.

The enormous Estates of the wealthy and powerful Households stand as testaments to one style of another, often combining aspects of some or all of the styles at once depending on the pretensions of the patron. Many built for themselves large mansion houses in homage to the grand estates of the Old World, with large ornamental gardens maintained at considerable expense. Hedge mazes had become a fad for a while until the death of Lord-Proctor Anthony Malster who suffocated when his oxygen supply expired after getting lost in his own grand maze.

TRANSPORT

AVIATION

Vouchsafe is the hub for aviation in the Commonwealth through the Vouchsafe Ærodrome. The ærodrome is a sprawling complex built roughly 70km south of Vouchsafe and connected by dedicated railways for passengers and cargo. Five terminals extend in a star pattern from the central hub, each with the capacity to allow five æroships to dock safely outside of projected explosion radius in the event of hydrogen combustion. The ærodrome maintains its own enormous electrolysis stations to generate hydrogen reserves to refill arriving airships.

RAIL

Rail travel is the primary means to travel around Vouchsafe for distances outside of walking or assisted walking distance. The Vouchsafe Metropole Railway has both underground and overland components which intersect; the underground tunnels are not pressurised with a breathable atmosphere and open at tunnel entrances to the natural atmosphere. The network connects much of the city via above ground lines which duck underground to dock into stations as intersections when two lines cross. Century Station is the terminus for all rail travel in Vouchsafe and for much of Cape Dominion itself not including freight which is diverted into a sorting yard in southern Vouchsafe.

MOTORWAY

The motorways are the other primary means of navigating Vouchsafe next to the Metro. Typically built in pairs with many places for stepping off, the motorway is a high-speed conveyor belt that effectively greatly increases the effective walking speed of the people using it. They are commonly installed along long passageways or as tunnels between two surface structures to reduce congestion in the Underground.

DEMOGRAPHICS

A census of the United Commonwealth is maintained continuously, with new births and deaths being logged into an integrated system which keeps track of the total population. The present population of the Commonwealth is 3,241,866. Population growth in the Commonwealth is encouraged by policy, particularly during the first two centuries after colonisation as an aspect of the Great Game. Even today, it is common for most families to have three or four children. There are only 516 original surnames in the Commonwealth.

The population growth of the Commonwealth has been exponential, past the point where economic development has been sufficient to meet growth. Abortion is illegal and the government provides means in-which unwanted pregnancies can be raised by the state at one of several Creches. The Office of the Overseer-General operates a surrogate pregnancy programme, in-which the child is agreed to

be adopted by the state before conception and in-return for payment. Though initially a popular programme during the early colonisation period, the payment for surrogates has declined massively and the programme is due to be phased out. The total fertility rate in the United Commonwealth is currently 3.24 children per woman.

ETHNICITY

The subjects of the United Commonwealth are uniformly Caucasian and identify as “Anglic”, a portmanteau of Anglo-Celtic. The only means of attaining subject status is to be born as the child of two subjects. There is no policy to allow for permanent residency in the Commonwealth. Marriages between a subject and a non-subject are not recognised and not attainable within the Commonwealth itself. Free-travel by foreigners is highly restricted in the majority of the Commonwealth and is typically done under required escort unless the foreigner has a diplomatic visa. Freedoms such as that of movement or the right to own property is limited to segregated districts called “Foreign and Diplomatic Concessions” (FDCs). FDCs are established around specialised industrial ports which exclusively handle in intercolonial imports and exports with adjoining districts accommodation and entertainment of foreign visitors.



Anglic people tend to have brown hair though blonde is more common than it was on the Old World.

LANGUAGE

The de-facto language of the United Commonwealth is English, a dialect of British English with significant changes to pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. The changes in language began with the development of a fusional accent between the crew of the HMS Endeavour. Orthographic changes began with proper nouns. The first name to be Anglised was that of Canadian Marc Garneau, the first recognised Anglic national in space in 1984, who is now known only as Mark Gardener. Overtime, more and more of the vocabulary was Anglised by replacing Romance language derived words with Germanic ones. Finally spelling and vocabulary were officially codified, bringing the dialect and the spelling of English into line.

Anglic has a 27 letter alphabet, having reintroduced the æ. Common diction determined the path that the language would take, and those organic changes were codified. Universal features of Anglic include glottalisation of the letter t and dropping the h from the beginning of letters. To a speaker of 21st century English, Anglic may be spoken too quickly to be properly understood, with contractions in speech and words inserted instinctively by a native speaker. Notable words that have been reintroduced is the term *hath* and *hathn't* as a replacement for has/have and use of *be* in-place of conjugations such-as am/are.

FAITH

The Commonwealth is atheist state, a widespread nationalistic belief is prominent through-out the population. It does not have a proper name and is colloquially referred to as “Anglic Destiny”, “the Victory Effort”, or simply as the “Faith”. The primary tenants of the doctrine are inherently bound into the beliefs of the Commonwealth Communion which was largely responsible for its creation. The Faith emerged during the Endeavour Voyage as a mythologising and contextualising of history, particularly that of the United Kingdom and the British Empire.

Notable individuals are sanctified as “Exalts” and from the words and deeds of such people, contemporary subjects in the United Commonwealth are supposed to be motivated. Many Communion denominations specifically focus on the aspects of a single Exalt in a quasi-cultic practice. The most prominent of all the Exalts’ is Cecil Rhodes, the late Victorian imperialist and mining magnate,

whose early writing the “Confession of Faith” says “making the Anglo-Saxon race but one Empire” and “let us form the same kind of society a Church for the extension of the British Empire”. The document is regarded as the seminal text of the Communion and most people in the Commonwealth can quote the Anglic translation, in part or in full, from memory. Rhodes statement “To think of these stars that you see overhead at night, these vast worlds which we can never reach. I would annex the planets if I could; I often think of that,” is regarded as almost prophetic.

The most influential myth of the Faith is that of the Dark Enlightenment. The Dark Enlightenment contextualises the dissolution of the British Empire as the result of cultural pollution from Europe which served to sever the bonds of “natural kinship” between the United Kingdom and its colonies, resulting in their increased political separation and fall into the spheres of influence of other power. The liberal and progressive movements that emerged after the Second World War and into the 21st century are, when combined with democracy, blamed for a century of ineffectual governance and a decadent, myopic, and self-destructive culture. A great majority of media covering a span of over 100 years is censored and unavailable for public consumption. It is largely from this myth that the authoritarian, monarchical, and socially-repressive society of the United Commonwealth is born, in which the concept of democracy is demonised and “moral aberration” is a prosecutable offence.

CULTURE

ARTEFACTS

Old World artefacts are a highly prized commodity for any family. Anything manufactured on the Old World constitutes an artefact and many are considered understandably priceless. Everything manufactured on the Old World is considered Crown property by virtue of it having been brought to the Old World on-board the Endeavour. Possession of them is common, with many paintings, sculptures and other works of Old World art awarded to individuals and families by the Crown for services rendered; many have even fallen into legitimate private ownership in this manner, though the Crown has the power to repossess them at any time. It is typical for the prestige of many households to be determined by the amount of Old World art that they possess.

During the Evacuation process from the Old World, the galleries and museums of all of the Commonwealth were carefully plundered. Paintings, as some of the lightest and easiest to store artefacts, are some of the most common. Many during this period were also traded to the other Colonial Powers in-return for access to resources and materials, a strategy which the United Commonwealth still utilises to this day – making elaborate gestures of granting foreign artefacts (mostly from the collection of the old British Museum) to the descendants of their Old World progenitors. Many large museums exist for these artefacts that remain available for public consumption, most famously the Endeavour Centre in downtown Vouchsafe.

NAMES

Surnames (English: *House*) play an important role in Commonwealth society, as they do in some capacity in almost all of the Colonial Powers. From the crew of the Endeavour at the time of colonisation, there were 516 surnames between the original 2241 members whom made landfall. With a contemporary population of 3,241,866, the original names account for 95.6% of the Commonwealth’s population. Additional surnames have been added into the Commonwealth roster through the actions of the Overseer-General’s Creche programme, which gave every child born to it a new surname.

Each House in the Commonwealth has an average of 6000 members across the Commonwealth, each tracing their lineage back to a single pair of individuals from the Endeavour Voyage. Most House’s contain members in all economic classes, save for many of the enormously powerful Houses like

Greatorex. Many House's maintain familial organisations focused around a variety of activities including hobbies, sports, and entertainment. The head of a House is (if not determined by social, economic or political influence) is colloquially considered to be either the direct lineage from the original pair by order of primogeniture or else whomever possesses the original overalls worn by their ancestors; transferring ownership of these original artefacts, usually an economic transaction, is considered to be a passing of the mantle from one lineage to another within a House.

CUISINE

The United Commonwealth is known for their simple, if hearty, culinary tastes, with emphasis on carbohydrates from bread and potatoes supplemented with protein stews. The majority of milk in the Commonwealth comes from macadamia nuts. Fruits and nuts from the Australian continent are particularly common additions to meals, since they are able to thrive better in Victoria's environment and can be grown in economically viable orchards on the surface outside of controlled zones; this has led to macadamia nuts, finger limes, Davidson's plums, and quandongs (English: *Red Peaches*) becoming commonly available snacks and flavourings. Algæmite remains a staple or condiment for most meals is stored in great quantities as a resource food by the Crown. It served as the primary diet during the Endeavour Voyage as an effectively contained system, produced from waste nitrogen. Varieties of flavours of the substance are available for using as pseudo-jams, spreads, and dips and much of the plumbing infrastructure in the older colonies still routes back to plants where algæmite can be produced in bulk. Like all the Colonial Powers, the Commonwealth is a vegetarian state – since there are no animals.



200g jar of Algæmite, the Commonwealth's more popular condiment.

SPORT

Sport within the Commonwealth is largely an amateur activity as determined by law. The rampant fervour found by the supporters of sports on the Old World is considered to have been a form of transferred nationalism, and the amount of money is considered simply immoral. As with many forms of culture, strict controls are placed on investment into sport activities to both maintain a fair competition and to prevent the creation of an immoral industry. The economic unviability of creating the enormous stadiums that existed on the Old World has done much towards this as-well as a ban on any form of advertising.

All kinds of sports are enjoyed and played in the Commonwealth, more-so than most of the Colonial Powers. Since many of the Old World's most popular sports originated in the United Kingdom, it is a matter of cultural and national pride that such feats be returned to the New World by the United Commonwealth. Initial sports played were limited by the constraints on space that existed and the earliest recognised competitive sports events were in chess, snooker, badminton, and general athletics. Overtime games of football, rugby, indoor cricket, tennis, and archery were introduced as larger spaces became available. Sports teams are typically organised around Houses, with members of a team all belonging to a specific House though there is no restriction on how many teams a House can have.

MEDIA

As with sports, the media landscape of the Commonwealth operates under highly strict conditions issued by the Crown. During the Endeavour Voyage and much of the early Commonwealth, amateur dramatics comprised the majority of new media created; the Endeavour Style of theatre in-which all actors perform in plain overalls with minimal props remains popular. Old World media that has been deemed appropriate by the committees of the Commonwealth Communion still accounts for a significant of the media consumption in the Commonwealth along with televised dramatic productions.

It was the Crown that provided the initial funding for new movies and television programmes, with strict controls on actor salary and advertisement pricing. In the contemporary Commonwealth, many actors are the patrons of wealthy Houses.

SYMBOLS

The United Commonwealth has two official flags, that of the monarch and of the nation itself. The monarch flies the Union Jack of the United Kingdom as their personal standard. The flag of the United Commonwealth itself is a Canadian pale with a central blue rectangle containing the stars of the Canis Minor constellation, as seen from Earth, where Procyon is represented by the golden Commonwealth Star.

Similarly, the Commonwealth has two accepted national anthems, Long Live the King/Queen for the monarch and The Commonwealth Forever for the nation, which poetically details the exodus and arrival on the New World.

There are three figures used as national personifications, collectively referred to as the “Anglic Trident” each of which represents an era of the Anglic Realm. Britannia represents the Anglic Realm as they existed before colonialism and formation of the British Empire. The figure has had much of the Roman influence removed her to represent a celtic warrior, carrying an oval shield and wearing a dress of blue with spiralling patterns of green. Her face is wrinkled and her auburn hair streak with grey. Her daughter Sealandia represents the British Empire, known as the First Commonwealth, as a blonde woman in a flowing red gown carrying a telescope.

Victoria, daughter of Sealandia, represents the New World and the future of the Commonwealth, a beautiful red-haired woman in a billowing white dress carrying a golden orb. It is common knowledge that her face was modelled on that of Verity Greatorex.

The Commonwealth frequently employs two collections of floral emblems. The rose, thistle and shamrock interwoven are used for the Anglic Realm and the symbols of their combined ethnicities whilst the rose, maple leaf, golden wattle and silver fern are used for the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand respectively.

The Commonwealth Forever

In days of yore, from Earth before,
We, the pioneers came
And planted firm our Commonwealth's flags
On Victoriae's fair domain.
Here may they wave and boast our pride
That joined in love together,
Fern, wattle, maple leaf and rose,
The Commonwealth forever!

Chorus:

The Commonwealth, our nation dear,
The Commonwealth forever!
Long live our King and his Subjects
The Commonwealth forever!

Thro' endless night from lands afar,
Our brave forebears side by side,
For Vic-tor-y and the Anglic Realm;
Bravely toiled and nobly died.
Their sacrifice and valour bright,
Their names dedded forever!
Long live our King and his Subjects
The Commonwealth forever!

(Chorus)

To thee we brought our Realm, our dreams,
Vehemence strong, loyalty unbound,
Reminds us all that our Union,
Mandates exalt and renown!
The stars above that brightly shine,
We shall not fear them ever!
Long live our King and his Subjects
The Commonwealth forever!

(Chorus)

Our new Dominion now extends
From oceantide to the frontline.
May patriot love unite us and
A new commonwealth be found!
So swell your song both loud and long,
Till stars and planets quiver!
Long live our King and his Subjects
The Commonwealth forever!

(Chorus)