University of Dalreoch

Summary

The **University of Dalreoch** is the oldest educational establishment in Dael Riata, possessing a history that pre-dates the formation of the Kingdom itself. While it is now a sprawling centre for advanced research, it began as a modest institution teaching divinity, philosophy, and literacy as a single, unified course. Located on the banks of the River Reoch just outside the capital city of Dalreoch, it is renowned for its studies in the liberal arts, philosophy, and its cutting-edge (if occasionally volatile) research into alchemy and transmutation.

Modern Specialisation

Over the centuries, the university has evolved into a premier institution for the “dangerous arts.” While the core towers still house the Liberal Arts and Law faculties, the island laboratories have become world-renowned for their work in **fire and transmutation**. These facilities are designed with light roofs and earthworks to mitigate the frequent accidental explosions inherent in alchemical research.

Description

Campus and Architecture

The university is situated on a walled bank upstream from the River Fort. The main campus is dominated by a grand, triple-towered stone building featuring extensive colonnades. Adjacent to this is a long, low stone structure which houses the university library, considered one of the most comprehensive repositories of knowledge in the north.

Because some of the academic practices involving fire and transmutation are notoriously dangerous, the university's laboratories are located on the far side of the island. These labs are constructed as small stone and earth buildings with very light roofs, designed to be easily rebuilt following the frequent accidental explosions that occur during experimentation.

Academics and Research

The university offers a traditional education in the **Liberal Arts and Philosophy**. It is a center for the “less dangerous arts” within the main towers, while the island labs host the foremost experts on **fire and transmutation**.

Recently, the King and the Estates have been negotiating a new Charter to establish a **Chair of Naval Engineering**. This move is intended to formalise the study of ship design, leveraging the kingdom's timber resources and seafaring heritage to improve the royal and merchant fleets.

Governance

The university was founded during the Ruary dynasty, with **Ian Gilruary** (the future 1st Earl of Dalmuir) serving as its first Chancellor before the wars of the 520s. Today, it remains a prestigious stop for the Daelian nobility. Many heirs and high-ranking officials, including the current King and several Earls, were wards or students here.

History

The university's true age is "older than anyone can properly evidence," existing long before the Ranald dynasty or even the earlier Riata kings established central rule. The university has survived centuries of civil war and foreign invasion. In its earliest form, the curriculum was less specialised, focusing primarily on the foundational pillars of divinity and literacy. During the minority of King Alasdair V, the **Earl of Ardmor** (Sean Alpin) ensured the young monarch received a thorough education from the university's faculty.

In the current political climate of 774, the university serves as a neutral ground for the kingdom's savants and philosophers. It is currently a focal point for internal reform, with petitions before the Estates regarding the recognition of new faculty positions and the pardoning of scholars who were previously caught on the wrong side of the Queen's War.

Relationships

Royal Patronage

The institution enjoys significant royal favour. King Alasdair V was educated here under the guidance of the Earl of Ardmor. Currently, the university is seeking a new Charter from the Estates to establish a formal **Chair of Naval Engineering**, with Earsaid Alpin serving as the primary Reader and candidate for the position.

People

- King Alasdair V: A prominent alumnus who received a top-tier education here.
- Ian Gilruary: The 1st Earl of Dalmuir and former Chancellor of the university.
- Earsaid Alpin: The current Reader of Naval Engineering.
- Diarmid Murchadh: The 7th Earl of Uisdean, who matriculated in 753 and holds a Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Philosophy.
- **Earsaid Alpin**: The current Reader of Naval Engineering and leading candidate for the proposed new Chair.
- **Professor Sioltach**: A noted academic and expert on local history and fortifications.

Places

- Dalreoch: The capital city located just downstream from the university.

- King's Keep: The royal seat where many university graduates go on to serve as clerks or advisors.
- Dael Riata: The kingdom served by the university's research and educated elite.
- University of Dalmuir: Founded as an outer college of Dalreoch by Ian Gilruary.

Skyss - Story Background	Characters	Skyss - Places	Pantheons of the World	Other Background

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