

Droyne Worlds and Ancient Sites

For *GURPS: TRAVELLER*

By Carlos

Current year is 1120, and the Third Imperium enjoys a phase of apparent stability under the leadership of Emperor Strephon.

Under his reign, the sciences prosper. Archaeology is one of them. Archeologists are about to solve one of the deepest mysteries ever faced by humanity. Slowly, they are coming to the conclusion that the mythical, almost all-powerful Ancients, who populated this part of the Galaxy hundreds of thousands of years ago, are one with the peaceful, pastoral Droyne, whose worlds are scattered through known space.

But not all is peace and prosperity in the Third Imperium. Worrying news come from Central Diaspora sector, where those very pastoral Droyne seem to be on the verge of waging total war on their neighboring humans.

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*This text is a reference meant to use with *Gurps: Traveller*, the *Traveller* alternate setting where the Rebellion never happened. It details a number of Droyne Worlds and Ancient Sites through Known Space. Special attention is placed on the worlds "Behind the Claw" (in the Deneb Domain) and Central Diaspora sector.*

*The latter deserves comment. In several issues of GDW's *Challenge* magazine, a series of adventures and news entries developed a conflict between Droyne and humans in Diaspora sector, taking place against the framework of the Rebellion. This text takes the position that the reasons for this conflict did not depend on the Rebellion, and uses the GT setting to analyze what would have happened in Central Diaspora without the Rebellion.*

Throughout known space, archeologists have uncovered dozens of worlds showing evidence of having been inhabited by the Ancients before the Final War, sometimes including amazingly advanced artifacts. Such worlds, or the ruins in them, are called "Ancient Sites." Dozens of other worlds show evidence of Droyne cultures posterior to the Final War. Most of these cultures either lost the ability to caste or simply died out. The first ones are now Chirper worlds. The latter were typically resettled by imperial colonists, the Droyne ruins left to the archeologists or simply forgotten.

However, over 20 worlds survived, with their culture intact. Either through early interstellar contact among them or by other means, around year -75,000 all these worlds developed the Coyns ceremonies which allowed them to maintain the caste system. The discovery of the scattered Droyne worlds by imperial Scouts and the fact that the Coyns appear in all of them, implying interstellar travel, are the grounds for the classification of the Droyne as a major race.

All these "original worlds" are alike. All of them are inhabitable without technical aids, implying an oxygen-nitrogen atmosphere without serious taints, a significant hydrographic percentage and a moderate climate. The Droyne cultures on them, although featuring adaptation to local conditions, are also alike. Pastoral cultures, centered around a network of small cities enveloped by large agricultural plains, appear in all of them.

Nowadays, there are far more than 20 Droyne worlds in Imperial space. Over the last millennium, fraternities and oytrips have left their homeworlds in hand-made starships and colonized empty worlds, not because of any exploration drive, but rather obeying mere survival concerns. These new colonies appear in all kinds of worlds, often even shared with non-Droyne settlers.

Droyne Worlds Behind the Claw

Statistical analysis of the frequency of Droyne worlds, Ancient Sites and Chirper worlds, show a decrease with respect to a central point somewhere in the Spinward Marches. Hence, mainstream archaeological theories locate the Droyne Lost Homeworld, "Eskayloyt," in this sector, Deneb, or the Trojan Reaches. In fact, the very name "Eskayloyt" appears independently on the myths and legends of three Droyne worlds in these three sectors: Andor in the Spinward Marches, Zeen in Deneb, and Auitawry in the Trojan Reaches.

The preferences of the Droyne seem to indicate that Eskayloyt should be a world slightly warmer than Terra, orbiting a star in the F2 V to F7 V range. Their flying ability relies on a reasonably high pressure coupled with a weak gravity, which has lead to predict an standard or more probably dense oxygen-nitrogen atmosphere, and a planetary diameter under 5,600 miles (around 9,000 km). Hydrographics could be estimated over 30%, as a requirement for the development of life leading to the Droyne.

Chirper Worlds

Droyne who lose the ability to caste become Chirpers. The typical Chirper world shares many features with Droyne worlds, only at a lower tech level and without even lower levels of organization. Whereas the Droyne may develop complex communication networks and even venture into space as long-run measures to ensure their communities' survival, Chirper have very little concern for anything beyond the immediate needs of survival and a reasonable level of comfort.

This does not mean that the Chirper worlds have remained in barbarism. In many of them, primitive agricultural Empires developed, providing for the needs of the Chirper communities. Simply, when those needs were satisfied, there was no further interest in complex government structures or technical developments. A typical example were the Qiknavra Chirpers in Zdhant, the Zhodani homeworld. (see p. GTA1:11).

These Chirper Empires depend on psionic abilities for their very existence, with Telepathy providing communication, Teleportation substituting for transportation networks, and ESP perception used for prospecting and weather prediction.

In worlds where human servants were used by the Ancients, sometimes both humans and Droyne survived the final war. By the time the humans reached the first steps of civilization, the Droyne had typically become Chirpers. Zdhant is also an example of this. Another striking example is Shiwonee (Massilia 1430), the Geonee homeworld, where the Chirpers play a curious role as pets and "bondmakers" of the Geonee. Every male Geonee must attract and befriend a Chirper as a pet before marrying, and this Chirper becomes the symbol of that marriage. Should the Chirper ever leave his master, the marriage is automatically dissolved.

No known world shows fossil evidence of an evolutionary chain leading to the Droyne. Active excavations are currently in progress on the candidate worlds, notably Andor and Auitawry. Alternative archeological theories have proposed that Eskayloyt was destroyed in the Final War and is now an asteroid belt, or that the Droyne evolved on a different part of the galaxy and then traveled to charted space.

Andor - Red Zone (Spinward Marches 0236)

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 5,438 miles (8,750 km). *Atmosphere:* Dense oxygen-nitrogen, slightly high background radiation. *Surface Water:* 52%. *Climate:* Warm. *Population:* 60,000,000 Droyne. *Government:* Oligarchy (the leader caste in each oytrip). *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 9.

Andor was discovered in 802, at the beginning of the PsionicSuppressions (see p. GT54). Hence, it was almost immediately interdicted by the Scout Service due to the psionic practices involved in the Coyns ceremonies. Nowadays, this interdiction is ensured by a full naval blockade, in principle directed by the Scout Service, but in practice enforced by a large Navy presence. Although occasional visitors are allowed to land in the starport (attracted by the few Droyne handmade starships), leaving the starport area is strictly forbidden.

The interdiction has allowed the local Droyne culture to remain untouched, almost the paradigm of Droyne society: a network of small cities, and huge agricultural plains. Some of these cities, however, are slightly too large for Droyne standards. This is specially true for Kraybeynay, which occupies a central place in the city network. In the last decades, civilian travelers have reported Droyne starships departing from a location close to this city, ignoring the Imperial Navy starships, which in turn ignored the Droyne.

Andor is a primary candidate for the Droyne homeworld, featuring the correct gravity and atmosphere, and a star in the right spectral range. Archaeologists have speculated that the background radiation of the planet could be a remnant of the Final War.

Candory - Red Zone (Spinward Marches 0336)

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 5,248 miles (7,444 km). *Atmosphere:* Dense oxygen-nitrogen, slightly high background radiation. *Surface Water:* 25%. *Climate:* Warm. *Population:* 9,300,000 Droyne. *Government:* Oligarchy (the leader caste in each oytrip). *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 8.

Candory is two parsecs away from Andor, and was discovered and interdicted at the same time. It shares many features with its brother planet, including stellar type and background radiation. However, the relatively low hydrographic percentage disqualifies it as a candidate for the Droyne homeworld. Also, there is no reference to "Eskayloyt" in the myths of Candory, whereas this is a common theme in Andor.

The Droyne population is concentrated around the starport, in the northern continent. The agricultural plains of Candory are much smaller and less successful than those of Andor, due to the much drier climate of Candory.

"I tell you, you are looking at the wrong world..."

Professor Verena Berstin, from the University of Regina, is well-known for her heterodox theories in the archaeological field. The following is part of a conference she gave in Regina (Spinward Marches 1910), 110.1120:

"...and hence, my research proves that everybody is looking at the wrong world. In summary, Andor is considered a primary candidate for Eskayloyt because the very name Eskayloyt appears in its myths, but why should the name of a world appear in the legends of that world? Its inhabitants just call it "the world," "the earth," or the like. No, it's not Andor, and all the archaeological teams there are wasting their time looking for fossil evidence. They will find nothing."

"Next door to Andor is Candory, and no research team is excavating there. Not only because the name Eskayloyt does not appear in its legends, but also because the hydrographic percentage is way too low for life to develop. As if life had to develop there now. We are talking of a geological time period. And my research hints that, a million of years ago, the hydrographic percentage could have been much higher. Besides, we have to face it, the Final War wiped out entire planets. Altering a hydrographic percentage is no big deal."

"Candory. That is the world where we should be sending expeditions, and not Andor or Auitawry. That's my bet for Eskayloyt."

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Worlds in Central Diaspora

The following worlds are important to understand the current developments in Diaspora.

Viedma (1415) - Naval Base

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 1,950 miles (3,134 km).

Atmosphere: None. *Surface Water:* None. *Climate:* Frozen. *Population:* 260,000,000. *Government:* Bureau-cracy. *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 12.

The interdiction of Candory is currently enforced by the same Scout and Navy squadrons and in the same conditions that the interdiction of Andor, under the command of Senior Scout Eneri Laarmishur and Commodore Norbert Wallace. Recently, there has been an increase on the number of Scout personnel assigned to the interdiction area.

Auitawry - Red Zone (Trojan Reaches 3140)

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 5,131 miles (8,250 km). *Atmosphere:* Standard oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 64%. *Climate:* Warm. *Population:* 820,000,000 Droyne. *Government:* Oligarchy (the leader caste in each Oytrip). *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 12.

The astrographic situation of Auitawry is extremely unusual, since it lies directly in the Great Rift. Only two systems are present in the appropriately named Binary subsector of Trojan Reaches sector, Auitawry and Sarage (2938), an Imperial Client State. These two worlds are seven parsecs away from the closer ones, either in the Aslan-dominated part of Trojan Reaches or in the almost empty Reft, where a single world, Garden, is itself eight parsecs away from the New Islands subsector. A third route involves an eight-parsecs gap to non-aligned worlds in Trojan Reaches. Hence, the only way to reach Auitawry is with jump-4 ships equipped with enough fuel to sustain two consecutive jumps.

This fact kept Auitawry isolated until, in 910, an Imperial Scout Deep Mission surveyed both this Droyne world and the companion Sarage, then uninhabited. They found a pastoral Droyne culture that, however, retained knowledge of TL 12 technology. In addition, a large Ancient Site was discovered. One year later, the Imperial Navy interdicted Auitawry and built a Naval base in Sarage. Over the following decades, a scientific Research Station was established in Sarage, chiefly to study the Droyne culture and the Ancient Site in Auitawry. Sarage soon developed a small human population of its own (today in excess of 900,000).

The interdiction is meant to keep unauthorized Imperial or Aslan travelers out of Auitawry, but the minimal Naval forces attached to Sarage would not be able to maintain it if this planet were in a more dense area. The Droyne not only retain the knowledge to build handmade TL12 starships, but wandering fraternities do so occasionally in the local starport, which qualifies as Class V. This starport also hosts an unusual feature, a Droyne Naval base built by the leading oytrips after imperial contact, as a defensive measure.

Auitawry is one of the main candidates for the Droyne homeworld. Some of the most reputed imperial specialists on the Droyne reside permanently on Sarage.

In 1119, an Aslan scout squadron visited Auitawry. Although no official report has been issued by the Imperial Navy, it seems that a naval skirmish involved not only Aslan and Imperial starships, but also Droyne ones.

Zeen (Deneb 1111)

Starport: Class II.

Diameter: 6,408 miles (10,304 km). *Atmosphere:* Thin oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 30%. *Climate:* Normal. *Population:* 3,200,000 (including 1,600,000 Droyne). *Government:* Representative Democracy. *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 6.

Worlds in Central Diaspora (continued)

Affuel (1417) - Naval Base

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 7,990 miles (12,848 km).

Atmosphere: Dense oxygen-nitrogen.

Surface Water: 30%. *Climate:* Warm.

Population: 400,000. *Government:*

Athenian-style demo-cracy. *Control*

Rating: 0. *TL:* 11.

Rocha (1422) - Red Zone

Starport: Class 0.

Diameter: 5,830 miles (9,375 km).

Atmosphere: Exotic (nitrogen). *Surface*

Water: None (but 20% of the surface

covered by ammonia seas). *Climate:*

Cold. *Population:* 1 caretaker from the

Imperial Navy, plus occasional

research teams and an orbiting navy

cruiser. *TL:* 5 (self-maintained, plus a

TL12 sealed base).

St. James (1521)-Research Station

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 5,100 miles (8,200 km).

Atmosphere: Thin oxygen-nitrogen.

Surface Water: 30%. *Climate:* Cold.

Population: 37,000 (plus 5,000 at the

Research Station). *Government:*

Corporation (St. James Mining and

Manufacturing, LIC). *CR:* 0. *TL:* 9.

Cheetah (1522) - Naval Base

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 622 miles (1,000 km).

Atmosphere: None. *Surface Water:*

0%. *Climate:* Frozen. *Population:*

820,000,000. *Government:* Multiple

societies. *Control Rating:* 4. *TL:* 12.

Nilaa (1621) - Naval Base

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 6,406 miles (10,301 km).

Atmosphere: Dense oxygen-nitrogen,

tainted by carbon dioxide. *Surface*

Water: 70%. *Climate:* Normal.

Population: 80,000,000. *Government:*

Oligarchy. *CR:* 2. *TL:* 10.

Waboni (1815) - Owner of Umorphutwyo

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 6,425 miles (10,331 km).

Atmosphere: Standard oxygen-

nitrogen, tainted by pollutants *Surface*

Water: 20%. *Climate:* Cold. *Government,*

Population: Multiple societies.

Average Control Rating: 4. *TL:* 9.

Waboni Concordate: military rule, 40

million, CR 5; Tharan Republic:

democracy, 50 million, CR 3.

Zeen is a dry world, with a thin atmosphere and a relatively low hydrographic percentage. The Droyne population concentrates on a relatively more pleasant region in the southern hemisphere, where the standard Droyne mix of small cities and large agricultural extensions can be found.

The northern hemisphere hosts a human low-tech colony, established in 730 and mainly clustered around the starport.. Technically, this colony governs the whole planet. In practice, the Droyne are left to themselves by the humans.

The starport in the human hemisphere hosts a Scout base. The IISS has established a subsidiary facility in the Droyne territory and deployed a communication satellite to keep contact. However, no personnel outside the Scout Service is allowed in Droyne territory.

The Diaspora Incidents

In 1120, the Sector Admiral of the Imperial Navy at Diaspora issued a short, direct order, to all Imperial Navy forces: "Effective today, 210.1120, all Droyne starships within the Diaspora sector boundaries must return to their home ports or head to the closest naval base and remain grounded there until further notice. Any Droyne starship not grounded before 001.1121 will be impounded by the Imperial Navy. Refusal to comply with this order is to be dealt with all necessary strength."

Travellers from outside Diaspora are shocked to discover this situation. How can possibly the Imperial Navy effectively order a whole race to ground their starships?

The key to the understanding of the current developments lies in central Diaspora, around Alurza subsector (Diaspora G). One of the original Droyne worlds, Layne, displays a severe overpopulation problem, with more than 22,000 millions of Droyne and 10,000 millions of humans sharing a single planet. In the same subsector, another Droyne world, Umorphutwyo, is owned as a colony by the neighboring human world of Waboni (1815), currently shattered after a civil war. Both situations have given rise to incidents confronting humans and Droyne during the last decade, including a raid ordered by the human military governor of Umorphutwyo against Droyne communities in 1119 and an interspecific trade war on Layne.

Close examination of the area reveals an unusually strong presence of the Imperial Navy. The Alurza subsector contains the Naval Depot for the sector (2018) and a large naval base at Princess (2117). A mere three parsecs into neighboring Kushga subsector (Diaspora F) lie two further naval bases, at Viedma (1415) and Affuel (1417). Five parsecs away from Layne into Promise subsector (Diaspora L) lies the naval base at Orsk (2922), a world with a tiny Droyne minority (originated in Layne). Another naval base was established in 1105 in Veejay (2321), a system one parsec away from Layne and owned, in principle, by the latter. Furthermore, at the meeting point of Alurza subsector with subsectors F, J, and K, two naval bases can be found in adjacent systems, at Cheetah (1522) and Nilaa (1621).

In addition to the naval bases, a disproportionately large number of worlds is either controlled by the Navy or closely linked to naval interests. The naval base at Princess is responsible for the administration of the colony worlds of Yossem (2216) and Opheim (2015, interdicted). It is interesting to note that these three worlds astrographically envelope the subsector capital, Kandom (2116). In fact, subsector officials are known for relying heavily on Imperial Navy advisors.

Worlds in Central Diaspora (continued)

Megelina (1819)

Starport: Class II.

Diameter: 3,260 miles (5,242 km).

Atmosphere: None. *Surface Water:* None. *Climate:* Frozen. *Population:* 1,100,000. *Government:* subjugated (mining colony of Arrow Rock). *Control Rating:* 5. *TL:* 9.

Remington (1820)

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 8,370 miles (13,459 km).

Atmosphere: Exotic (nitrogen-carbon dioxide). *Surface Water:* None (but 60% of the surface covered by ammonia seas). *Climate:* Cold. *Population:* 260,000. *Government:* subjugated (colony/orbital shipyard of Arrow Rock). *CR:* 3. *TL:* 12.

Mogumba (1821) - Red Zone

Starport: Class 0.

Diameter: 5,330 miles (8,571 km).

Atmosphere: Standard oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 10%. *Climate:* Cold. *Population:* 25,000. *Government:* Corporation (subsidiary of St. James Mining and Manufacturing, restricted to a limited area). *Control Rating:* 0. *TL:* 6.

Arrow Rock (1919)

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 1,140 miles (1,833 km).

Atmosphere: Trace oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* None. *Climate:* Frozen. *Population:* 6,000,000. *Government:* Representative demo-cracy. *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 12.

Opheim (2015) - Red Zone

Starport: Class 0.

Diameter: 7,015 miles (11,280 km).

Atmosphere: Dense oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 70%. *Climate:* Cold. *Population:* 5,000. *Government:* Subjugated (administered by the Naval Base at Princess). *Control Rating:* 9. *TL:* 6.

Depot (2018) - Naval Depot

Starport: Class III.

Asteroid Belt. *Atmosphere:* None.

Surface Water: None. *Climate:* None. *Population:* 90,000,000. *Government:* Subjugated (administered by the Imperial Navy). *CR:* 3. *TL:* 10.

Arrow Rock (1919), with its two colony worlds Remington (1820) and Megelina (1819), is nothing more than a specialized supplier of ships for the Navy. Similarly, Hewes (2414) and its two colony worlds Raasara (2314) and Trot (2415) are economically tied to naval interests. Both the Baron of Arrow Rock and the Marquis of Hewes are former Imperial Navy Admirals.

All together, it becomes evident that central Diaspora is a "Navy area," one of a dozen throughout the Imperium where the Navy, through economic and political influence, reaches beyond the military sphere to become a player in everyday's affairs. This could be attributed to the presence of the Depot and the history of Diaspora sector itself. It is, however, also interesting to note that a significant part of the Navy's resources is devoted to interdiction procedures. The naval bases of Cheetah and Nilaa are located inside the triangle formed by three close interdicted worlds, a fact most travelers oversee because each of these worlds lies in a different subsector: Mogumba (1821), Rocha (1422), and Shelagyote (1620), an Ancient Site.

The conflict.

Shelagyote was the spark that started the fire. In 1119, Droyne starships from Layne started visiting the world, interdicted by the Navy, for reasons that remain largely unexplained but could be related with their declared desire to build a new colony there. A skirmish between imperial and Droyne craft lead the Navy to strengthen the interdiction, which resulted in the destruction of several Droyne starships in 32.1120. Droyne oytrips at Layne and Umorphutwyo were outraged. Several large oytrips from Layne conducted a reprisal by raiding the naval base at Veejay in 130.1120, which ended in a full-fledged naval battle.

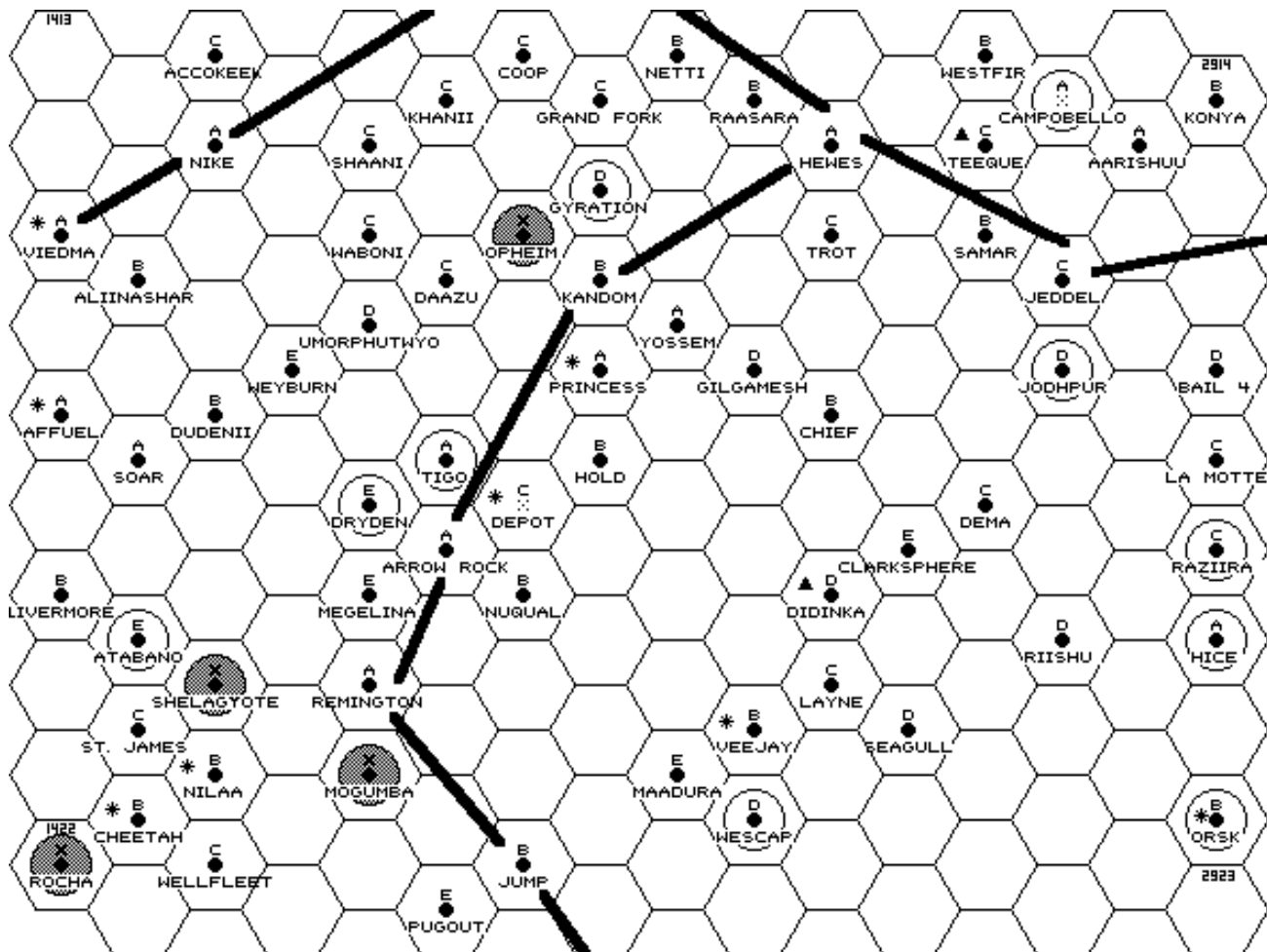
The news arrived in Umorphutwyo short after an armed incursion of the human military into Droyne communities. When both incidents were put together, Droyne warriors teleported into the human sealed colony, which caused a human counter-attack. Unable to fight a race war against the numerically superior Droyne, and terrified by their obvious psionic abilities, the humans asked his government at Waboni for help, which in turn requested assistance from the Imperial Navy. In 150.1120, Imperial Marines launched a strike against the Droyne.

These incidents were followed by skirmishes between Droyne starships, mostly out of Layne, and the Navy. Interspecific violence soon erupted on Layne itself.

In 210.1120, Sector Admiral Saenz-Heredia, faced with an increasing number of incidents which could well evolve into a race war, gave until the end of the year for all Droyne starships in the Sector to return to their home ports, report to a naval base, or be impounded. So far, no Droyne starship has acknowledged the order. Local observers fear that the strong presence of the Navy in the area and the large numbers of Droyne in Layne might add together into a regional war.

The Droyne attacks have been a total surprise to the human population of Diaspora, largely used to the unassuming stance of the usually peaceful beings. What many humans fail to understand is that, so far, only warriors have been involved in the incidents, but many oytrips might be on the edge of declaring Oytritsu'a: total war.

The most important worlds involved in the conflict are Layne, Umorphutwyo (two Droyne worlds), and Shelagyote (home to a minor human race, the Shela).



Central Diaspora circa 1120

The corners of the map are Hexs 1413, 2914, 1422, and 2923 in the sector map.

Worlds in Central Diaspora (continued)

Kandom (2116) - Alurza subsector capital.

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 6,207 miles (9,981 km).

Atmosphere: Thin oxygen-nitrogen.

Surface Water: 50%. *Climate:* Cool.

Population: 8,300,000,000.

Government: Bureaucracy (administered by the Naval Base at Princess). *Control Rating:* 4. *TL:* 12.

Princess (2117) - Naval Base.

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 820 miles (1,319 km).

Atmosphere: Trace oxygen-nitrogen.

Surface Water: None. *Climate:* Very cold.

Population: 20,000 (employed at the Naval base and starport).

Government: None outside the naval base. *Control Rating:* 0. *TL:* 12.

Layne (Diaspora 2420)

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 7,213 miles (11,599 km). *Atmosphere:* Dense oxygen-nitrogen, tainted by pollutants. *Climate:* Normal. *Surface Water:* 63%. *Population:* 32,000,000,000 (all Droyne except 10,000,000,000 humans). *Government:* Impersonal Bureaucracy (1815 Diaspora). *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 10.

Layne is one of the "original" Droyne worlds that developed the Coyns. Being a pleasant world, it has always had the resources to maintain a large population. Hence, in spite of the fact that the Droyne population was already large, the Vilani First Imperium decided to establish a colony in the world.

Both the Droyne and the human populations continued growing even during the Long Night. Social analysts affirm that, faced with a growing human population, many Droyne oytrips individually decided that the best strategy for self-preservation was to grow as well. By year zero, the world had already over 10,000 millions inhabitants. After contact with the Third Imperium, the humans started a quick technological recovery which led to an accelerated industrialization process and provoked an ecological catastrophe. As a consequence, the planet's atmosphere is tainted by smog and chemical pollutants.

Worlds in Central Diaspora (continued)

Yossem (2216)

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 1,120 miles (1,801 km).

Atmosphere: None. *Surface Water:* None. *Climate:* None. *Population:* 42,000. *Government:* Subjugated (administered by the Naval Base at Princess). *Control Rating:* 9. *TL:* 3.

Raasara (2314)

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 5,860 miles (9,423 km).

Atmosphere: Standard oxygen-nitrogen, tainted by carbon dioxide. *Surface Water:* 90%. *Climate:* Normal. *Population:* 8,000,000. *Government:* Subjugated (conquered by Hewes after a civil war in 1,112). *Control Rating:* 4. *TL:* 9.

Hewes (2414)

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 3,432 miles (5,519 km).

Atmosphere: Very thin oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 30%. *Climate:* Cool. *Population:* 1,200,000. *Government:* Representative Democracy. *Control Rating:* 3. *TL:* 12.

Trot (2415)

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 746 miles (1,200 km).

Atmosphere: Trace oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* None. *Climate:* Very Cold. *Population:* 33,000. *Government:* Subjugated (colony of Hewes). *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 11.

Veejay (2321) - Naval base.

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 10,230 miles (16,450 km). *Atmosphere:* Very Dense oxygen-nitrogen (pressure at sea level is too great to support life, but is breathable at higher altitudes). *Surface Water:* 30%. *Climate:* Warm. *Population:* 3,500 (including 2,000 in orbital naval base). *Government:* Subjugated (colony of Layne). *CR:* 2. *TL:* 12.

Orsk (2922) - Amber Zone, Naval Base

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 4,950 miles (7,960 km).

Atmosphere: Very thin oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 50%. *Climate:* Cold. *Population:* 9,300 (including 400 Droyne and 3,000 Naval Base and starport employees). *Government:* Athenian democracy). *CR:* 1. *TL:* 15.

Nevertheless, the population continued growing, forcing the Droyne to resort to a quick and largely undesired technological advancement. Even at its current technological level, saying that Layne has an overpopulation problem would be an understatement. The situation is almost desperate. The incredible size of the population is depleting the local resources and disrupting the planetary economy, heavily indebted with offworld corporations. The human government has evolved into an oppressive bureaucracy which enforces a strict food and dwelling space rationing. Animal life has disappeared, and the oceans have been turned into huge plankton-producing factories.

Several Droyne leaders have come to the conclusion that emigration is the only way to guarantee the survival of their oytrips in the long run. In the last few decades, migration plans have been proposed, only to be discouraged by the subsector government or the Imperial Navy, invoking reasons of interstellar security and economic stability. In 1115, the Droyne petitioned to establish a colony in Shelagyote, an Ancient Site, which was immediately dismissed by the Navy.

The Droyne population of Layne, although nominally under the authority of the human bureaucracy, maintains control of its own resources, which include huge intensive agricultural exploitations and hydroponics plants. When human consumers started boycotting the business belonging to Droyne oytrips, the Droyne responded with a trade war.

The events of 1120 have sparked several violent incidents, although Droyne and human leaders are trying to avoid a large-scale conflict.

Umorphutwyo (Diaspora 1816)

Starport: Class III.

Diameter: 3,670 miles (5,901 km). *Atmosphere:* Trace. *Surface Water:* 0%. *Climate:* Cold. *Population:* 1,600,000 (all Droyne except 120,000 humans). *Government:* Colony of Waboni (1815 Diaspora). *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 9.

Umorphutwyo is an oddity, a world with trace atmosphere and no surface water, apparently unsuitable for life and yet hosting two different communities. The original Droyne population arrived here from the overpopulated Layne (Diaspora 2420) in 350, and built an underground colony which depended on relatively advanced environmental control for its survival.

The colony remained isolated for several centuries, developing an underground net of tunnels and artificial caves. In 920, the neighboring world of Waboni (Diaspora 1815) decided to establish a colony in the system, building a starport and an enclosed city in the surface of the world. The existence of the Droyne colony was discovered long after the work had been started.

The Droyne nominally accepted the human rule over the world, as long as their underground civilization remained untouched. Human companies found an unexpected market in the Droyne population. Coexistence was peaceful for almost two hundred years.

In 1102, a civil war in Waboni divided the world in two rival states, the Waboni Concordate (under a military rule) and the Tharan Republic. Clashes between the Concordate and the Republic have been frequent ever since. The human colony in Umorphutwyo initially declared its allegiance to the Republic, but the Concordate seized control of the world in 1118, imposing harsh control measures over the human population.

Ancient Sites

Roughly 200 Ancient Sites are known in Imperial Space. Most of them are smashed ruins, remnants of the Final War with very little interest except for archeologists. Functioning artifacts have been long retrieved and expropriated by Imperial offices, mainly the Scout Service.

A few of these Sites, though, are renowned for their special features.

Antiquity (Corridor 0816) - Naval Base.

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 2,364 miles (3,801 km).

Atmosphere: Very thin oxygen-nitrogen, tainted by low oxygen content. *Surface Water:* 30%. *Climate:* Cold. *Population:* 20,000. *Government:* Athenian Democracy. *Control Rating:* 0. *TL:* 10.

This is one of the few Ancient Sites which is open to tourists, and maybe the best preserved. Many parts of the site are still intact and operational, although their operation and purpose are probably a puzzle for experts.

Discovered in 385, the Antiquity site was initially interdicted, and only open to tourists in 860. A small human community of scientists and tourist guides has grown in the last centuries. The Ancients Museum displays many mysterious artifacts, a good percentage of which are known to be in working condition. Researchers have been able to uncover the uses of a few of them.

The most striking artifact uncovered at Antiquity was a pseu-dobiological robot Droyne, which has caused much speculation among ar-cheologists, giving the first evidence in favor of the Geonee-sponsored theory that the Droyne were genetically engineered from Chirpers.

An additional unsolved mystery is the exact nature of the impenetrable basic material used in its construction, which has been termed Monadium (see p. GT49). Interestingly enough, this material has not been found in any other known Ancient Site.

Initially, the Droyne community seemed unaffected by this development. However, escaped human dissidents refuged in the Droyne caves, and, in early 1120, the military governor ordered armed incursions to capture them. These attacks damaged the environmental controls of one of the caves, causing the death of several dozens of Droyne. Soon afterwards, news of the incidents at Shelagyote arrived, enraging the Droyne even more. The leading Droyne Oyttrips retaliated, launching an attack against the human community, without making any discrimination between the oppressed population and the military rulers.

The military governor asked the Concordate for help to subjugate the Droyne. Unable to comply due to an ongoing war with the Tharan Republic, the Concordate asked the Navy for help, which prompted a strike against the Droyne by Imperial Marines. The Marines have been temporarily stationed on Umorphutwyo to control the conflict.

Shelagyote - Red Zone (Diaspora 1620)

Starport: Class 0.

Diameter: 5,310 miles (8,538 km). *Atmosphere:* Dense. *Surface Water:* 90%. *Climate:* Normal. *Population:* 6,300,000 (human minor race, Shela). *Government:* Dictatorship. *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 6.

Shelagyote is the homeworld of a minor human race, the Shela, as well as an Ancient Site. The world is interdicted by the Navy, which only grants access to archaeological teams, mostly based at the Research Station in neighboring St. James (1521).

All the Shelagi communities are located in the main continent, while the Ancient site is located in an island 4,000 km away. Hence, the archeological teams seldom interact with the local inhabitants.

The Shela are governed by a charismatic dictator, the Shalfan, designated per life by the previous dictator. They are well aware of the fact that their world is interdicted by an interstellar Imperium. Local steamships navigate the world's vast ocean, but the Imperial Navy has imposed an exclusion zone of 500 km around the Ancient site.

Other Droyne Worlds

The Droyne worlds are scattered throughout known space. The following are merely a few additional examples.

Istuary (Vland 2138)

Starport: Class IV.

Diameter: 5,173 miles (8,318 km). *Atmosphere:* Dense oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 20%. *Climate:* Cool. *Population:* 1,100,000,000 (including 580,000,000 Droyne). *Government:* Dictatorship (military junta). *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 10.

Istuary was the first Droyne world discovered by Vilani explorers, around -9,000. The local Droyne were perceived as a primitive but strange race, neither a threat nor a market. Hence, the First Imperium left the world largely untouched, as did the Rule of Man afterwards. Much later, in the first years of the Third Imperium, a Vilani colony was established.

Ancient Sites (continued)

Strand (Corridor 0916) - Naval Base, Subsector Capital.

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 4,430 miles (7,123 km).

Atmosphere: Thin oxygen-nitrogen, tainted by airborne pollen. *Surface Water:* 50%. *Climate:* Cool. *Population:* 6,000,000. *Government:* Technocracy. *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 10.

The Ancient site of Strand lies only one parsec away from Antiquity, although in a different subsector by mere astrographical convention. The "Site" is actually formed by over 40 different isolated remnants at different locations on the planet, all of them left in ruins in the Final War. Strand is the single planet with more individual separated evidences of Ancients' presence. Some archeologists consider the world a candidate for the Droyne homeworld (orbits an F3 V star and has the appropriate size), but most discard it due to its thin atmosphere.

In 1,120, a discovery made in Strand shocked the archaeological community. An expedition sponsored by the University of Deneb uncovered a pseudobiological robot Human, non-functional but sharing certain features with the robot Droyne previously found at Antiquity.

Leenitakot (Hinterworlds 1432)

Starport: Class 0.

Diameter: 7,210 miles (11,594 km).

Atmosphere: Standard oxygen-nitrogen, tainted by carbon dioxide. *Surface Water:* 96%. *Climate:* Normal. *Population:* 2,600,000 Chirpers, 600,000 Outcasts of the Whispering Sky. *Government:* Dictatorship. *Control Rating:* 6. *TL:* 4.

The mainworld in the Leenitakot system in the Hinterworlds (trailing and outside of the Third Imperium) is a Chirper world, owned by an enigmatic race called "Outcasts of the Whispering Sky," or "Stalkers," which governs a small, subsector-sized interstellar state. Within the limits of the Leenitakot system lies a ringworld apparently built by the Ancients. Imperial and Solomani archaeologists have been negotiating expedition rights for decades, but to date only four have been granted by the Stalkers, two Imperial and two Solomani.

As this colony grew, the Vilani discovered that all the fertile territories were occupied by Droyne agricultural exploitations. After unsuccessful negotiations, the Vilani launched an invasion of Droyne territory in year 320, with the help of mercenary troops from Answerin. This was answered with the Droyne Oyttrysu'a or total war. The fighting went on for almost a decade, after which the Droyne had to retreat and give up large extents of territory. The displaced Oyttrips had to settle in much less fertile areas.

The following centuries were full of incidents between the Vilani conquerors and the original Droyne inhabitants. During the PsionicSuppressions (800-826, see p. GT54), evidence of psionic practices in the Coyns ceremonies was used by the Vilani to call for the help of the Imperial Navy to isolate the Droyne in reserves. Although such a goal was obviously impossible to fulfill with a population of several hundreds of millions, the Droyne were indeed restricted to specific regions, namely the poorest areas of the planet. The local military directed the whole process with the acquiescence of the Imperial Navy and even the support of some Marine units. The boundaries of these "Droyne regions" were enforced by the military, which demanded more and more resources to sustain their growing requirements.

When civilian voices started to dispute the necessity of such measures, the military took over Istuary government. Over the following centuries, despite occasional short-lived democratic reforms, the military established themselves as the ruling class of the world.

In 1110, a terrorist group named "Istuary Free Fighters" started acting against the military rule. The government has accused this group of Psionic practices and has conducted several raids against Droyne communities which allegedly supported the terrorists. The IFF has made public a Decalogue of objectives which includes the end of the Droyne forced isolation. The local military qualifies the IFF of "brainwashed Droyne puppets."

Droyna Four (Massilia 0327)

Starport: Class V.

Diameter: 4,822 miles (7,758 km). *Atmosphere:* Dense oxygen-nitrogen. *Surface Water:* 81%. *Climate:* Warm. *Population:* 332,000,000 (including 164,000,000 Droyne). *Government:* Representative Democracy. *Control Rating:* 2. *TL:* 9.

Before the systematic statistical analysis of Ancient sites and Droyne worlds, Droyna Four was considered a suitable candidate for the Droyne Homeworld. Orbiting an F2 V star, it has the appropriate gravity and atmosphere, and hosts an ancient Droyne culture. However, modern theories place the Droyne homeworld not in Massilia Sector, but in the Spinward Marches.

Droyna Four was the fourth Droyne world discovered by Vilani explorers. They found a TL 6 culture centered around a network of small cities and large agricultural exploitations covering almost all the main continent, Moynadroy. After the Solomani took over Massilia sector, they simply conserved and translated the Vilani name.

In -2,010, a group of Terran colonists settled in the previously uninhabited smaller continent, which they named Little Farmland. Over the following centuries, the human colony grew into a high-tech farming community, but there was very little contact with the Droyne of Moynadroy.

Ancient Sites (continued)

The results of these four expeditions have puzzled the experts. The inner surface of the ringworld has a surface area of 25,000 times that of Terra. It surrounds a star of class M1 V Star at a distance of less than 30 Million km, which would make it inhabitable and even pleasant if it had a standard atmosphere. However, the ringworld is nothing more than a narrow band (less than 100,000 km wide), without soil, atmosphere or any provisions to sustain life. It has been speculated that the ringworld was unfinished when the Final War started.

In 1,119, a Hiver delegation visited the Stalkers and successfully negotiated for a fifth expedition. The expeditionaries are expected to arrive in late 1,120.

Tireen (Knaeleng 1619) (Five identical worlds)

Starport: Class I.

Diameter: 4,320 miles (6,947 km).

Atmosphere: Dense oxygen-nitrogen.

Surface Water: 42%. *Climate:* Warm.

Population: None. *Government:* None.

Control Rating: None. *TL:* None.

The Tireen system, in the Knaeleng sector (Vargr Extents), is the place of one of the most impressive engineering works left by the Ancients, Five planets were brought to equidistant orbital points around the star, to form the only known multiworld rosette in charted space. The planets were also transformed to offer identical environments, presumably similar to that of Eskayloyt.

The system was first charted by the Vargr in -2,530, who found at least one of the worlds still inhabited by Droyne. These Droyne have since died out.

The system is currently disputed over by two middle-sized Vargr interstellar empires, the Alliance of Tju and the Koenotz Empire. Regional governors from the empire of Varroerth have also expressed an interest in settling the system in recent years.

After the fall of the Rule of Man and the collapse of interstellar trade, the humans found themselves in dire straits. Never a self-sufficient community, Little Farmland was unable to adapt to the technological recession. Deprived of spare parts for his farming machinery, the humans had difficulties even to produce at subsistence levels. The imported, carefully looked after Terran cereals started to die out, lacking the appropriate fertilizers.

The details of what happened remain unknown, but, surprisingly, it seems that the Droyne decided to help out the humans, teaching them low-tech agricultural methods based on indigenous vegetables. Over more than a millennium, Droyne Sports and even whole dreskay visited Little Farmland regularly, making sure that the human colony would survive.

It survived, but the human culture changed radically. When Geonee explorers contacted Droyne Four in -120, they found a society heavily influenced by the Droyne ways. Not only were the humans divided in castes and made regular use of psionics, but they also had incorporated more radical practices, like the ritual suicide for "useless" individuals.

With renewed interstellar contact, Little Farmland returned to more "human" ways in a few centuries, specially after incorporation into the Third Imperium in year 118. However, the castes can still be found nowadays as broad job classifications, and suicide for the welfare of the community is still considered honorable.

Psionics was still widespread until the Psionic Suppressions (800-826, see p. GT54). The Psionic Institute of Droyne Four was renowned in the whole Domain of Core, and its suppression had to be enforced by direct intervention of the Imperial Marines. The whole Moynadroy continent was declared a protectorate of the Imperial Navy, and Droyne Four was interdicted for half a century.

In 870, a revolution in Little Farmland removed the oligarchic system based on the remnants of the Leader caste, and the interdiction was lifted shortly thereafter. Little Farmland transformed overnight in a reliable producer of agroproducts for the interstellar market. In 910, the Navy transferred responsibility for the Moynadroy Protectorate to the new democratic government of Little Farmland.

Nowadays, Little Farmland is a rich, TL 9 society with 168 millions of inhabitants and a well-established place in the interstellar society. Its Class V starport specializes in building low-tech but surprisingly reliable cargo transports, and also serves as shipyard for occasional Droyne handmade starships.

Moynadroy hosts a chiefly TL 6 Droyne society, which remains mainly isolated. The human inhabitants of Little Farmland keep memories of the Droyne help that saved their ancestors, and take the existence of the Protectorate of Moynadroy in a literal sense: the Droyne are to be protected. No offworld visitors are allowed in Moynadroy, and offworlders harassing a Droyne traveler in Little Farmland face harsh punishments.