

HANDBOOK HOUSE KURITA

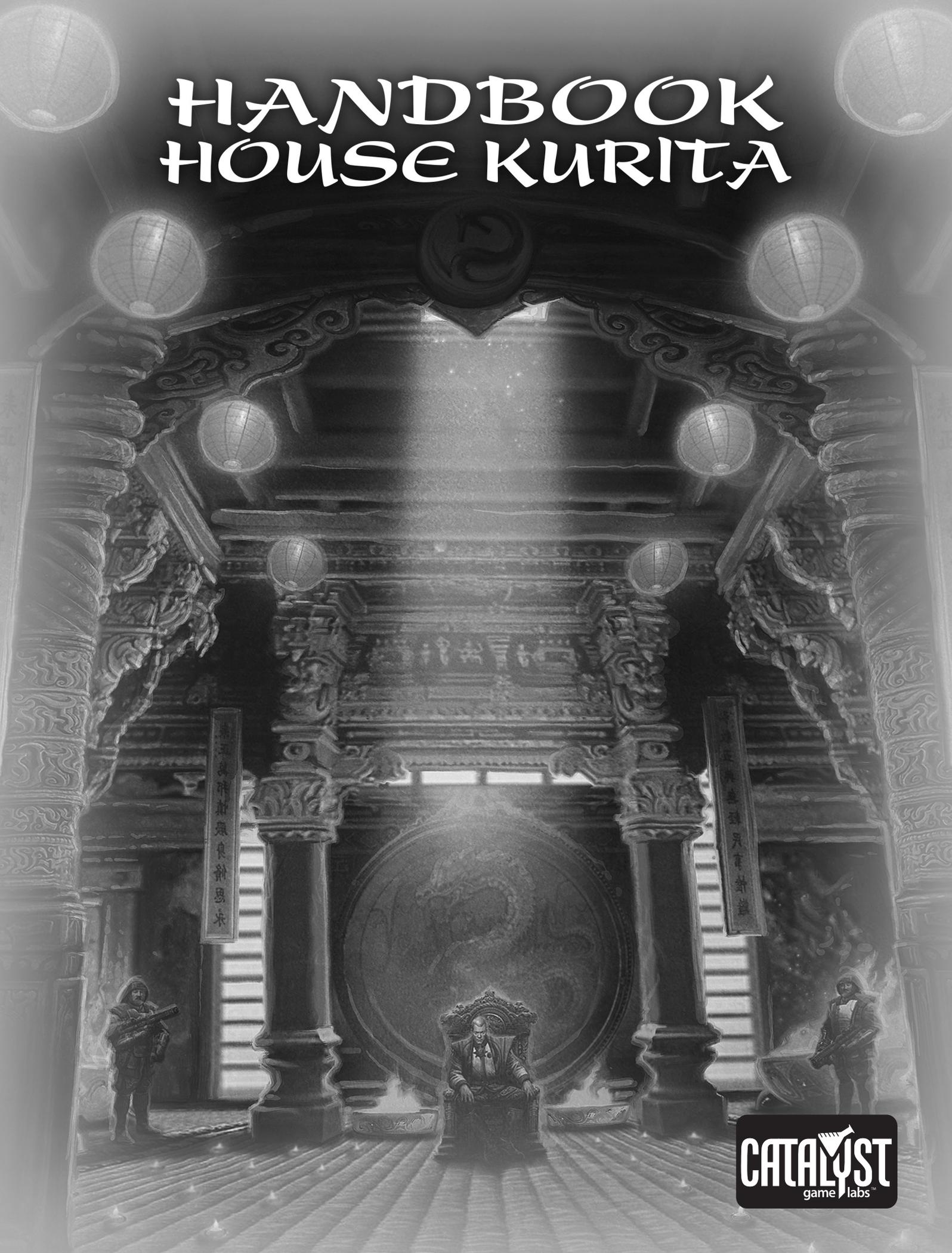


TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOR THE GLORY OF THE DRAGON	5	TOURING THE REALM	76
INTRODUCTION	12	How to Read This Atlas	77
HISTORY OF THE NATION	13	Pesht Military District (The Dragon's Spine)	78
Father of the Dragon	14	Benjamin Military District (The Dragon's Heart)	83
Foundation of Hate	14	The Galedon Military District (The Dragon's Soul)	88
Alliance of Galedon	15	Dieron Military District (The Dragon's Spirit)	93
Dynasty Rising	16	PILLAR OF IVORY (CULTURE AND PHILOSOPHY)	98
Macedonian Politics	17	The Sanctum Arcanum	99
The Rise of the Dragon	17	Religion and Philosophy	101
Expansion of the Dragon's Coil	19	The Doctrines of Shiro	101
Dragon Rampant	19	The Dictum Honorium	102
The Dragon Grows	21	Origin of the Code	102
Seeds of Discontent	22	The Art of Vendetta	104
Winds of Change	23	Vendetta Across Class Lines	104
The Age of Dishonor	25	Vendettas Within a Class	104
Blood Poisoning	26	Vendetta Lines Outside the Combine	105
Grace Under Siriwan	27	The Mysticism of Five	107
Driving Towards War	30	Belief Systems of the Five Classes	107
Reunification Through Violence	30	Nobility	107
Reign of Leonard Kurita	32	Warrior	108
Peace, Progression, and Power	33	Middle Class	109
Luthien and the Dragon's Rebirth	35	Workers	109
<i>Bushido</i> and the BattleMech	36	Unproductives	109
Beginning of the League's End	37	Minority Religions	109
First Succession War	39	Judaism	110
Unforgiving Blood	41	Islam	110
Suns Ascending, Dragon Falling	42	PILLAR OF GOLD (GOVERNMENT)	112
War's Dark End of Days	44	Sociopolitical Structure	113
The Second Succession War	45	The Coordinator	113
Peace of Unity Within	45	The Nobility	114
Yoguchi's War	48	Court Ritual	114
The Hesperan Gambit	49	Privileges	116
The Marathon Offensive	51	Kuritan Nobility	117
Shadow Play	52	Governmental Structure	120
The Retribution Strikes	54	Ministries	120
Regrets of Past Sins	56	War	121
The New Century	56	Interior	121
Border Cleansing	56	Treasury	121
Enter Hugai	58	Justice	121
Sunburst on Xhosa	58	Court	122
Traitor to the Star	58	Internal Security Force	123
The Steiner Conundrum	60	Order of the Five Pillars	124
Dragonfall	60	Government Districts	125
Dragon Afire	60	Benjamin Governmental District	125
New Dawn for the Dragon	61	Dieron Governmental District	125
Death of the Draconian Tyrant	62	Galedon Governmental District	125
Mustering the Dragon's Might	62	Pesht Governmental District	126
Halstead Station	63	Interstellar Relations	127
Status Quo Ante	63	Strengths and Weaknesses	127
The Fourth Succession War	65	PILLAR OF TEAK (SOCIETY AND CULTURE)	128
Son of the Dragon	65	Daily Life and Culture	129
A Free Rasalhague	67	The People of the Dragon	129
Innovation and the Davion War Machine	69	Codes of Conduct	129
The Clan Invasion	69	Structure of Society	129
Death of the Elder	70	Militarism	130
Fall of the Jaguar	72	Xenophobia	130
Sinister Conflict	73	Education	131
Brings to All Darkness Rising	75	Universities and Other Higher Learning Institutions	132
Ever the Dragon Triumphs	75	Arts	133
		Social Problems	135

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PILLAR OF STEEL (THE DCMS)	136	Order of the Dragon	153
Structure of the DCMS	137	Proserpina Bar	153
The Samurai Code	137	Silver Claw	153
Ministry of the Expansion of the Glories of the Draconis Combine	139	Watcher of the Dragon's Eye	153
Department of Indoctrination	139	PILLAR OF JADE (ECONOMICS)	154
Bureau of Substitution	140	Economic Structure	155
Assembly of the Grand Inquisitor	140	All Roads Lead to the Military	156
Procurement Department	140	Conservation and Waste	156
Draconis Combine Port Authority	140	The Corporate Structure	157
Bureau of Administration	140	Important Direct Service (Military) Corporations	157
Combine Military Coordination Office	140	Important Indirect Service (Civilian) Corporations	163
Draconis Combine Mustered Soldiery	141	Trade	167
Draconis Combine Admiralty	141	Intra-Combine Trade	167
Professional Soldiery Liaison	141	Interstellar Trade	167
Physicians of the Dragon	141	Strengths and Weaknesses	168
Combine Support and Engineering	141	RULES ANNEX	169
Draconis High Command	142	Creatures	170
Internal Security Force	142	Dragon Dove	170
DCMS Chain of Command	142	Kaosu/Chi no Hebi	170
Gunji-no-Kanrei	142	Oushi-uma	171
Military Districts	142	Pachirisu	171
Prefectures	143	Pesht Tawagoto Saru	172
District Commands	143	Snapping Dragon	172
Floating Commands	144	Tarazed Viper	173
Unit Types	145	Togura Dragon	173
Regulars	145	Personal Equipment	175
Floating Commands	145	Galileo ScanScope	175
Planetary Militia	145	Tanadi Network Enforcement Pad (NEP)	175
Mercenary Units	145	Space Dock Repair Suit	175
Major Training Centers	145	Compound Yumi	176
Aerospace and Interstellar Institute	146	Nissan 8G-12Shooter's Special	176
An Ting University	146	People's ProtectionH-T Spec-7a	177
Dieron District Gymnasium	146	Wakazashi O-12 ShotStun	177
Dover Institute for Higher Learning	146	Cost of Living in the Draconis Combine	178
Galedon Military Academy	147	The Black Market	181
Hachiman Technical Institute	147	Roleplaying In The Draconis Combine	181
Internal Security College	147	Combine Values:Our Lives for the Dragon	181
Minoru Kurita University	147	Regional Views	183
Pagoda for Luthien Officers	148	Crossing Borders	184
Sun Tzu School of Combat	148	Draconis Combine Border Crossing Roll Results Table	185
Sun Zhang Mechwarrior Academy	148	Draconis Combine Reaction Table	187
University of Proserpina	148	Draconis Combine Adventure Hooks	188
Wisdom of the Dragon	149	The Red Tape Mountain	188
Kensai Kami	149	Court Warfare	188
Osaka Fields Proving Grounds	149	Shadowy Underground	188
Uniforms and Insignia	150	Eyes Are Everywhere	188
Uniforms	150	Corporate Competition	189
Rank Insignia	151	Attacked!	189
Medals and Decorations	152	BattleTech Rules	189
Bushido Blade	152	New Unit Types	189
The Fledgling	152	Heavy Riot Infantry	189
Foundation of Galedon	152	Dragonstar Passenger Transport	190
Glory of the Fallen Samurai	153	Hoshiryokou	191
Guardian of the Lair	153	Gaajian System Patrol Boat	192
Honor of Wakizashi	153	Obuzaabaa Tactical Vehicle & Sasayaku Control Transport	194
Honor Tree	153	Gossamer Surveillance Drone	195
Katana Cluster	153	Wakamiya Salvage Destroyer	195
Kensai Kami Wreath	153	INDEX	196
Knight of New Samarkand Ribbon	153	RECORD SHEETS	198

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Special Thanks

Finally. You have in your hands the long-awaited finale of the House Handbook series - and we certainly saved the best for last. Over nine years in the making (the first draft outline was done in 2006), this Handbook is as much a work of art as it is a testimony to patience and determination.

Ben would like to thank Randall and Catalyst for giving him the trust to add color and tone to the most intriguing BattleTech faction. He also thanks his wife Rianne, who labored to learn the entire Kurita genealogy for the sake of her husband's sanity (and continued forgetfulness). And a special thanks is given to "Neko_Bijin," who not only loaned the author his only copy of the original House Kurita sourcebook, but also a few additional materials for cultural research. And to all the Davion and Steiner fans out there: now you can finally know your enemy. *Kondoragon no chikarani goubukusuru kanou sei ga ari masu.*

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INTRODUCTION

Honored Dragon:

Herein lies the efforts of half a decade's work by your devoted servant. Pursuant to your Directive 82-1, my assistant Jose Maestas and I have worked tirelessly to craft this comprehensive and unabashed view of the Kuritan realm.

In part, we strive to provide the Court an updated look at our history, culture, and perspectives. This work also provides a view into the Dragon's inner workings: how we work, live, fight, breathe, and survive. While such information is already an integral part of any Draconian citizen's educational upbringing, this tome is meant to bring provide a full accounting of the realm to the Imperial Court. From this document, the Dragon can choose what to share with the current signatories of the Second Star League, in order to deal fairly with us.

Throughout this process, we have stretched our resources to academies and other institutions outside the Dragon's influence. Glaring errors and outright fabrications have been discovered; we have done what we can to address and correct such inconsistencies. Most egregious is the blatant plagiarism by ComStar in their own internal diplomatic volumes; they have stolen, misattributed, edited, and even outright lied in using publications and materials that were readily available to them in every nation of the Sphere. We have, as best we could, included the original documents and attributions in the various appendices located throughout this work.

As defined by your directive, I have provided a critical eye where necessary, to best show areas where the Dragon continues to build its strength. I have also put into place the proper titles and ranks as introduced by Coordinator Theodore during his time as *gunji-no-kanrei*. Only in reference works originating outside of the Combine or in transcripts have the old ranks remained in place.

My deepest hope is that this comprehensive work pleases the Dragon.

—Megumi Kaneda II, Chief Historian Emeritus and Archivist, Luthien University

ADDENDUM: I would be remiss if I did not mention the honorable efforts of my father, Megumi Kaneda. Much of the information found within this work is a direct result of his tireless efforts in chronicling the illustrious heritage of the Kuritas from Shiro through Takashi. In his ninety years of service with the Imperial Court, he has singlehandedly maintained the most complete historical archive of your beloved family. I am humbled to dedicate this work to his memory, as he passed from the Dragon's service on 27 November 3066.

ADDENDUM II: On 10 August 3067, the honorable Megumi Kaneda was posthumously awarded a Dieron teak Honor Tree, which has been placed in the Kaneda gardens outside Imperial City. The Dragon is honored by the dedication of its citizenry.

— Coordinator Theodore Kurita

