

Court of Ravenloft

This is an incomplete and unofficial account of the Court of Ravenloft. It serves as a foundation for a more thorough and detailed review. Unfortunately, the end of the Great War has resulted in the loss of many records and the current state of the land is shrouded in darkness. Despite these circumstances, I have done my best to record the brief transition when Strahd von Zarovich ascended to the position of Lord of Barovia and those affiliated with his court.



*the above marquee designates
this publication is authentic and validated
by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
x Leon Romowicz
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Setting

After the Great War against the Terg invaders, Prince Strahd von Zarovich emerged victorious and declared himself the ruler and lord of Barovia. Although his father had been a king, Strahd chose not to assume the same title out of reverence for his father's memory. Instead, he went by the name of Lord of Barovia, signifying his authority and power over the land.

Castle Ravenloft

After taking control of Barovia in the year 347, Prince Strahd, the Lord of Barovia, decided to rename Castle Barovia as Castle Ravenloft, in honor of his mother, Queen Ravenovia. The castle had suffered damage during the war, prompting Strahd to commission its rebuilding. Artimus, also known as Builder of the Keep, was chosen as the architect and led the reconstruction efforts, including the new Spire of Ravenloft. Lord of Barovia also commissioned Artista DeSlop to be the court's painter, resulting in many of the castle's ornate ceilings and the chapel's new stained-glass windows being the masterpieces of DeSlop's work. To furnish the newly rebuilt castle, Lady Isolde Yunk was appointed as the purveyor of antiques and imports. The renovation of Castle Ravenloft was complete in year 350.

Rabenloft Court's Entertainment and Fair

The Lord of Barovia was a man who appreciated the finer things in life, especially when it came to his dining table. He spared no expense in securing the best foods and wines available. Artank Swilovich, the founder and member of the Barovian Wine Distillers Guild, became a close friend of the court and frequently dined with the Lord of Barovia and other noble guests. Bascal Ofenheiss was appointed as the court's chef and soon became renowned throughout Barovia as Chef Deluxe, famed for creating the most splendid tables of food, complemented by the finest wines the region had to offer.



Pidlowick, the Fool of Dorfniya, served as the court jester, entertaining guests with his music, juggling, magic, and mischief. It was said the Lord of Barovia found Pidlowick's antics amusing at times, but also grew enraged by his impish behavior on occasion.

Court of Rabenloft

King Barov von Zarovich

Y278 - Y346

Queen Rabenovia

King Barov von Zarovich and Queen Rabenovia were frequent guests at Castle Barovia, prior to becoming Castle Rabenloft. Despite never being able to ascend to the throne of Barovia due to his untimely death at the hands of the Terg forces, King Barov's name was forever intertwined with the history of the land, with some believing that he was named after the very valley itself, destined to rule over his namesake. In his place, Prince Strahd emerged victorious against the Terg forces and took over the reins of the kingdom.

Queen Rabenovia was known for her reserved and stoic personality before marrying King Barov, and together they had two sons: Prince Strahd and Prince Sergei, and a daughter Princess Katarina. However, the King also had a son born out of wedlock, Leo "Lion" Dilisnya, whom he loved dearly and appointed as an Earl, much to the chagrin of his wife.

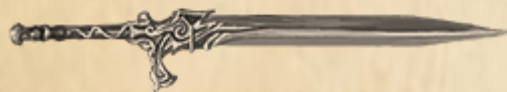
Following the deaths of King Barov and Queen Rabenovia, Lord Strahd commissioned Artimus to construct a special crypt overlooking the valley of Barovia as a tribute to his parents' memory.

Prince Sergei

Y314 - Y347

Prince Sergei was the younger of the two brothers, with a handsome appearance and a silver tongue. Knowing he would never inherit the throne from his elder brother, Prince Strahd, he instead pursued his love of art and music. Unlike his brother, Prince Sergei was not a fighter or a warrior, taking more after his mother, Queen Ravenovia. He lived with his mother and would often visit Castle Ravenloft to spend time with his brother. It was during one of these visits that he met Tatyana, and they fell deeply in love. Prince Sergei made Castle Ravenloft his permanent home to be closer to his love.

Tragically, Prince Sergei's life was cut short. He was ambushed by the Terg assassins and killed on the eve of his wedding to Tatyana. In honor of his beloved brother, Lord Strahd had a special crypt built for Prince Sergei and kept an eternal candle burning as a tribute to his memory. Lord Strahd even learned to play the organ, a skill that Prince Sergei had loved and excelled at, as a tribute to his brother's passion for art and music.



Lady Sasha Ivlskova

Y316 - Y346

Prince Strahd entered into marriage with Lady Sasha Ivlskova in 342, and for a time, she appeared happy. She spent time with the court's artisans, and under her guidance, numerous royal banquets and feasts were held. During one of these events welcoming Queen Ravenovia and Prince Sergei, Lady Sasha invited Tatyana, a beautiful young woman, the niece of the Burgomaster of the Village of Barovia, to attend. Lady Sasha believed Tatyana to be an ideal match for Prince Sergei, who was immediately smitten with her. However, Tatyana's stunning beauty caught the attention of another.

Lady Sasha's death remains shrouded in mystery. She was discovered in the garden with a basket of mushrooms, which she often collected for the court's chef. It was speculated that she must have picked the wrong ones and died after taking a bite of a poisonous mushroom. However, there were those who believed that Lady Sasha was far too astute to make such a fatal mistake and that she had been intentionally poisoned.

Despite the tragic circumstances of her death, Lady Sasha is often forgotten, and Lord Strahd forbade her name to be spoken.



Princess Katarina

Y310 - Y346

Princess Katarina, the daughter of King Barov and Queen Ravenovia, was a woman of great strength and intelligence. She shared a close bond with her older brother, Prince Strahd, and was known for her love of sports such as fencing and games like chess, as well as her passion for studying history. Some believed that if the King had named an heir, it would have been Princess Katarina. However, her royal duties often kept her in the company of the Queen and Ladies in Waiting, which she found tiresome and would often escape from.

Tragically, Princess Katarina was captured by the Terg forces during the war. Despite putting up a valiant fight and even dispatching two of her attackers, including their leader, she was ultimately struck down and her defiled body was hung from a tree at the crossroads as a warning to others. Prince Strahd was devastated by the loss of his beloved sister and never fully recovered from her death.

Lady Tatyana

Y325 - Y347

Lady Tatyana, known as the fairest of all Barovia, was the niece of a minor noble family ruling the Village of Barovia. She served as a Lady in Waiting, and it was during this time that Prince Sergei fell deeply in love with her. They became engaged, bringing happiness to the Castle during the end of the Great War. However, the joy was short-lived as Terg assassins murdered Prince Sergei, leaving Tatyana inconsolable. Overcome with grief and love, Tatyana leaped from the pillar of Ravenloft, joining her beloved Prince in death. The Court of Ravenloft was forever changed by the tragic loss of these two young lovers.

Earl Leo "the Lion" Dilisnya

Y308 - Y347

Earl Leo "The Lion" Dilisnya was not interested in the political and social aspects of court life. Instead, he was a skilled and passionate hunter, a talent that he shared with his father, King Barov von Zarovich. Despite his noble status, Leo's Vistani heritage brought shame upon him in the eyes of many at court. Leo had fallen in love with Lovina Wachter, a wealthy merchant's daughter from Vallaki, and they had planned to wed around the same time as Prince Sergei and Tatyana. However, tragedy struck. Leo disappeared during one of his legendary hunting expeditions. Some believe that he fell prey to werewolves or other dangerous creatures, while others suspect that foul play was involved, for Leo was the greatest hunter in all the land.

Duchess Dilisnya

Y290 - Y346

Duchess Dilisnya was a remarkable woman, known for her intelligence and beauty. Her long black hair flowed down her back, and as a Vistani of the Tser Pools, rising to nobility was a rare feat. Although officially given the title of Duchess because of her leadership role among the Vistani, it was an open secret that she was the King's lover and had borne his bastard son, Leo the Lion. Despite the court's prejudices against her Vistani heritage, she found acceptance among Prince Sergei and Tatyana, who frequently dined with her. However, tragedy struck when she passed away shortly after the King's death. Many believed she was assassinated, as her protection from the King was no longer in place.

Khazan

Y ? - Y351

Khazan was the esteemed court wizard and trusted advisor to Prince Strahd during the Great War. Revered for his vast knowledge of Barovia's history and powerful magical abilities, Khazan played a key role in guiding Prince Strahd to victory. As the war drew to a close, Khazan withdrew to his tower on the lake and became a recluse, shunning the company of others and devoting himself entirely to his studies. Despite his seclusion, Khazan's wisdom and sage counsel was regarded as a valuable asset to the court. He died a mysterious death and was entombed in Ravenloft with great honor.

Prefect Ciril Romulich

Y272 - Y354

Prefect Ciril Romulich was a steadfast servant to both King Barov von Zarovich and Lord Strahd, having faithfully served both rulers throughout his career. He was a respected figure in the court and was entrusted with important duties, such as officiating the weddings of Prince Strahd and Lady Sasha, as well as the ill-fated wedding of Prince Sergei and Lady Tatyana. Ciril Romulich was also responsible for overseeing the entombment of many members of the Ravenloft Court in the crypts, including the late King Barov and Queen Ravenovia.

However, rumors began to circulate that Ciril had committed heresy against the Morninglord and had secretly served a darker master. These accusations were largely based on hearsay and circumstantial evidence, but they nevertheless tarnished his reputation and caused many to question his loyalty to the von Zarovich family. Despite this, Lord Strahd remained steadfast in his support of Ciril and continued to rely on him as a trusted advisor and confidant.

Stefan Gregorovich

Y294 - Y350

Upon the suggestion of King Barov von Zarovich, Stefan Gregorovich became the First Counselor to Ravenloft and often visit Ravenloft and offer his services to Prince Strahd. Some believed that King Barov was concerned about his son's growing obsession with power, and that Stefan could offer sound counsel to keep him in check. However, Stefan's life was cut short when he was found murdered on the Svalich Road, believed to be at the hand of bandits. Despite investigations into his death, the circumstances surrounding Stefan's murder remain a mystery to this day.

Stahbal Indi-Bach

Y307 - Y350

Stahbal and his family were close friends of Prince Strahd. Stahbal was considered Strahd's most trusted friend, to whom he confided about his personal matters. It was believed that Stahbal kept a diary that documented these discussions. He settled in Berez and became friends with the Burgomaster of Berez. Stahbal would often travel to Ravenloft with Stefan Gregorovich.

Stahbal was found murdered on the Svalich Road along with Stefan, believed to have been killed by a group of bandits. Shortly after, his entire family, including his wife, sons, and daughters, were brutally murdered in an attack on their small keep in Berez. Prince Strahd, devastated by the loss of his friend, had Stahbal interred in the Ravenloft Crypts as a tribute to his memory.

In Memorial:

An Accounting of the Court of Ravenloft Crypts

The following is a sacred record of those interned during the Court of Ravenloft. An accounting of those certain crypts under her most sacred Castle.

† Crypt 2 Artista Descope

Court Artist

† Crypt 3 Lady Isolde Bunk

Isolde the Incredible, purveyor of antiques

† Crypt 5 Artank Swilovich

Friend and member of the Barovian Wine Distillers Guild

† Crypt 8 Duchess Dilisnya

With fire in her heart and soul.

† Crypt 9 Bidlwich

Fool of Dorfniya

† Crypt 14 Stahbal Indi-Bach

A truer friend no ruler ever had. Here lies his family in honor.

† Crypt 15 Khazan

Great Wizard who helped more than he knew.

† Crypt 16 Leo the Lion Dilisnya

Not pure blood, but pure heart. The greatest of hunters.

† Crypt 19 Artimus

Architect and Builder of Ravenloft

† Crypt 20 Lady Sasha Ibliskova

Prince Strahd's beloved wife.

† Crypt 25 Stefan Gregorovich

First Counselor to Ravenloft

† Crypt 28 Bascal Ofenheiss

Chef Deluxe of Ravenloft

† Crypt 30 Prefect Ciril Romulich

Prefect and Priest

† Crypt 40 Princess Katarina von Zarovich

The best of us.

† Overlook Vault King Barob von Zarovich

A legend in his own time, undone through deceit.

† Overlook Vault Queen Ravenobia von Zarovich

Beauty, Strength, and Love.