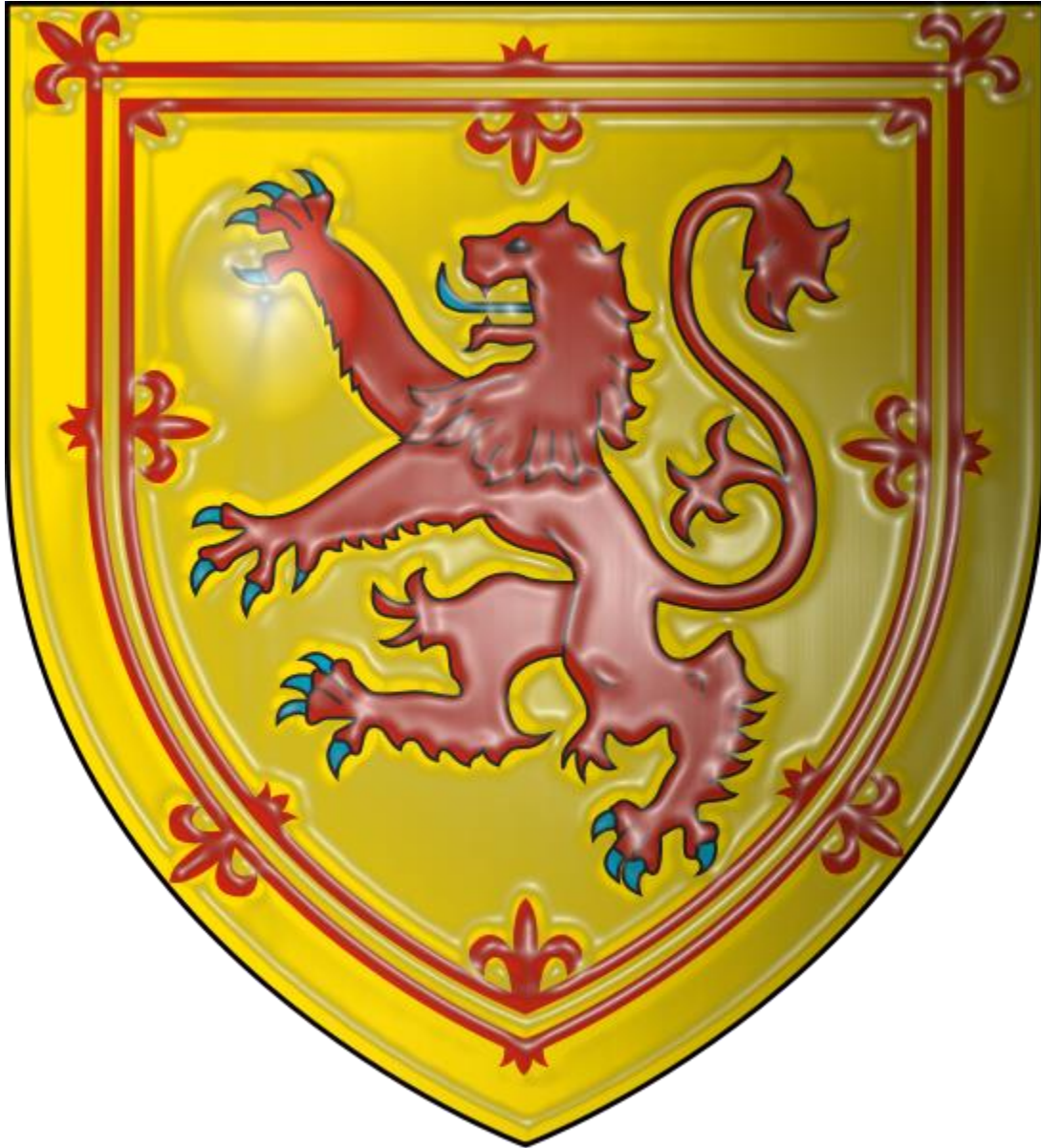


Adventures in Filbar



FT - Antioch - Kingdom of Nirack

Antioch – Kingdom of Nirack

The city of Antioch is the capital of the Kingdom of Nirack and sits on the shores of the Newmack Sea. While originally a small fishing village, the city has grown to a vast slave trading capital. The kingdom is ruled by its namesake The Nirack who rules the kingdom from Antioch. The Nirack is a hereditary title and has been in charge of the area for several centuries. While this kingdom is one of the smaller ones in Akbole, it brings in a great deal of money and has a significant military presence. The standing army consists of both long term professionals and those serving their involuntary two year commitment that every member of the kingdom must serve. The military is composed of both male and female members as the Nirack expects all to defend their country. This includes the Nirack themselves who must serve, albeit in a command post, just like everyone else.

The current Nirack actually served for ten years and has recently gotten out of the military as his father, the previous Nirack died. The Nirack is a very strong and adventurous man and wants to extend the boundaries of the kingdom as did his father. The Nirack also enjoys going outside and visiting his people more so than any of his processors. He also has a keen interest in magic which has caused him to perpetually bother the Great Weezer, the palace mage, so much so that it caused the wizard to move out of the palace.

This Nirack also has a huge love for learning and has actually sat in on some classes at the school and taught a leadership class once which was packed with a multitude of students eager to learn from their monarch. While it is highly recommended that everyone learn to read and write the Nirack is considering making it mandatory that schooling extend to a period of a decade but there is a concern that the treasury would not be able to handle the increased level of cost to the kingdom. An additional tax was considered by the Nirack wants to improve the quality of life to all his citizens.

While Antioch thrives the remainder of the kingdom is quite poor. There is little farmland in the region and has a high nomadic population which makes it difficult in tax. The kingdom also sits on the edge of the Domain of Tesla Contanary, an ancient and wicked Blue Dragon. Tributes are given to Sophicles by all of the surrounding kingdoms so that the old Wyrms doesn't wrought destruction on the general populace. Several kingdoms, including the Kingdom of Nirack, in the past

have attempted to deal with Sophicles with fatal results. The sitting Nirack would like to stop paying the tribute but has not found a successful way of dealing with the dragon without losing a majority of his military and put his domain at risk.

A. The Port Entrance - Raniya Jamil

The area most utilized by foreigners to the Kingdom of Nirack is that of its beautiful seaport. Vizier Raniya Jamil is the man in charge of entry and exit to the walled port city. While a fair man he can be quite firm and does not do well with any of his requests being questioned. When he asks a ship's captain something there had better be an answer. He is in charge of the marines that guard the walls to the port and answers only to the Nirack himself.

B. The Land Entrance - Atallah Atuf

While Vizier Jamil is in charge of the seaport the duty of protecting the only land entrance falls to Vizier Atallah Atuf. Atallah is a HUGE man and rarely wears a shirt. He is a very charismatic man and is never without his jade handled scimitars. He is in charge of the staff that mans both the walls and the Great Lighthouse. If there is a problem at the gate he will know about it almost immediately. Some believe he has supernatural powers while a few know he has an amulet of ESP and knows the guard shifts and monitors situations that way.

C. Slavers Holding Area - Lateefah Faraj

The Kingdom of Nirack and all of Akbole has relied on the backs of slaves to build their country. Slavery is a common aspect of life in this area of the world and the slave trade thrives at Antioch. A recent group of industrious individuals has partnered with slavers across the Newmack Sea and have begun to import people from that region. While Akbole and Aimel don't feel that these slaves are as hardy they are cheaper and don't have the additional hassle of having people come look for them. The head of the slave trade in Antioch is Lateefah Faraj. A plump woman she has a very commanding personality and it is best not to cross her. There has been some discussion on elevating her to the rank of Vizier as well although it is only speculation at this point. She is the richest and most powerful female in the kingdom.

D. Tent Dwellings

This area of town is dirty, smoky, and has a specific odor about it. A multitude of tents from the colorful to the sublime are present here and the area teems with activity of all types. This area has been cordoned off for use by the general populace who enjoy the security the walls offer. Each person has paid a fee to become a resident despite not having a more permanent domicile. Almost every service imaginable can be located in this location.

1. Nirack's Inn - Abd-al-Hamid Yaqub

Like most of the more permanent dwellings this light brown mud building has a sign prominently displayed in three languages one of which is common tongue. The business is the Nirack's Inn named for the ruler of the kingdom. As this building is the first one inside it has prime real estate value and charges accordingly. The accommodations are spotless as the Nirack would have it no other way with his name on the sign. Abd-al-Hamid lives and works here with his wife and seven children.

2. Glistening Protectorate - Gabr Abd-al-Karim

This shop has a full suite of meshed armor hanging from its roof giving the indication that it deals in armor and weapons. Inside the shop is a vast collection of native and foreign items. Gabr enjoys all manner of personal protection and has often purchased items just to show off in his store. He is also an armor smith and can often replicate anything that he sees. He lives with his wife and older son.

3. Gilded Shaft fletcher - Yasmin Safiya

Yasmin Safiya is one of the few "permanent" business owners in Antioch. An avid hunter, Yasmin runs the bow and bolt shop in town and specializes in a variety of missile weapons including a new item she recently discovered called a "boomerang". It came from the jungles to east and she has been attempting to

learn how to utilize it correctly. She is a widower and will not wed again. The only child she had died from a plague when he was two.

4. Tannery - Amani Husni

While the weather conditions at Antioch are normally pleasant the area around this shop is not. Amani Husni and his wife Marta run the local tannery. While their biggest customer is Maryam Jabril <#24> they still cater to all who need leather goods. Maryam handles specialty requests and finer items but the Husni's handle the day to day ware such as saddles, purses, and belts. They handle the stench ridden work well and their two children are learning the business as pre-teens already.

5. Bubbling Concoction - Torickle "Beaker" Permabender

A few years ago a ship carrying a group of Gnome adventurers arrived at Antioch looking for some of their lost colleagues but stayed after finding the city "truly interesting". As a result there are a few Gnomes here who all are running very profitable shops. This location is run by the Alchemist Torickle Permabender. As the native population had trouble with his name, and the others, they denote him as "Beaker". Torickle has setup shop to create a variety of potions and enjoys his work with a wide variety of substances. His shop consists of a long glass tubes containing different colored liquid that bubbles and 'burps'. The children of the city love to come by the shop and stare. He lives alone.

6. Shrine of Eraelax - Alina Nagib

The only state sanctioned religion in the kingdom is to that of Eraelax. While other religions are permitted none are allowed to have a shrine. Alina Nagib is the Mother Superior for the order and works tirelessly with the city's poor and children. She is one of the most easily recognizable figures in town as she has an excellent memory and is able to recall even remote facts of a person. If you are looking for information on Nirack, she is the person to ask. Her order also provides healing services for a fee equal to a person's monetary value.

7. The Chopping Block - Mehmud Shad

While many people in town prepare their own meat, Mehmud still has enough work to keep his business open comfortably. One of his main tasks is to prepare salted meat for those who use the sea as their method of travel. Ships coming into port usually seek out his shop and get their orders in early so they do not have to wait. Mehmud is a widower with three teenage girls. Mehmud always carries his cleaver when the girls are around to 'send a message'.

8. Spices from Afar - Dima Adel

Dima Adel, widower with five children, makes her living as the city's sole spice provider. While spices can be located within the tents of the city, Dima's shop is the only one recognized as a legal purveyor of the lucrative market of the spice trade. Her suppliers come in nearly every day and update her storehouse of the valuable material. A great deal of her salt comes from the mountains to the west where many slaves and criminals are shipped off to. She is one of the wealthiest women in Antioch and it said that she is a "personal friend" of the Nirack.

9. The Clothier - Nizar Saddam

This shop caters to the well-dressed person. Nizar and Solnua Saddam run the Clothier. This upscale shop sells the finest attire possible and import a variety of fabrics from all over the known world. With a staff of 8 orphan girls they tailor to fit all of their customers' needs from scratch. They do not mass produce clothing here and each customer is treated like royalty. The Saddams were never able to have children of their own and that is why they have brought the orphan girls in. Each of their employees is treated more like a member of the family than anything else.

10. Open Air Market – Early morning hours

Every day tents of multiple colors, textures, and banners fly at this location early in the morning. Farmers and traders come from outside the walls to sell their wares at the open market. The city guard patrols the area to make sure everything is kept safe and even the Nirack has been known to stop by and make an appearance. Ziya Imam, the Caravan Master, is always present looking

for potential connections to the business. Any trader lucky enough to be tapped by the caravan always becomes wealthy. When Ziya walks the rows he has everyone's attention.

11. Military Base – Commander Lerin Meridan

The Nirack's standing military and town guard live and work out of this area. Large industrial strength tents provide them shelter and comfort within the city. Old members and high ranking ones have personal quarters within the area. Active guards rigorously patrol the grounds and when uprisings occur in the outer villages this area is nearly vacant. The citizens enjoy the military as they keep the peace within city which, for the size, is not an easy job.

12. Sheik's Inn - Abbas Nail

Abbas Nail, wife Tella, and their four children run the Sheik's Inn. This moderately priced establishment is for the middle class visitors to the city. Whereas Nirack's Inn caters to the upscale visitor and the Sahara caters to sailors, the Sheik's Inn usually houses out of town tradesmen and merchants. It's a clean establishment which offers meals and privacy to its customers. Abbas knows all of the 'deals' which makes him appear cheap but in reality makes him a good businessman. One of his daughters is about to marry the son of the stable owner and the wedding is slated to be a huge social event.

13. Great Lighthouse of Antioch

The one thing everyone knows about Antioch is that it is the place with the giant light. The Great Lighthouse of Antioch is a man-made marvel that impresses every visitor. This tower stands almost 150' into the air and is covered in hammered bronze. Four large globes sit atop this creation and have been imbued with permanent light spells on them. Mirrored louvers sit next to the globes and are adjusted to the lighting conditions. During the day the louvers are upright so the light is projected up and appears to be a small sun pointing the way to Antioch. At night the louvers are tilted down and project the light down the long bronze plates so the entire tower becomes a beacon that can be seen for tens of miles. Through most of the northern province this tower can be

seen and lost travelers can figure out where they are. The tower is cleaned once a week by men and women suspended by ropes.

14. Warehouse

This building and #16 are identical in size and structure and are connected by #15 to form a large "H" from an overhead view. This is one of the warehouses owned and operated by the Caravan Masters and is used to store goods for sale or goods that are in transit. While only members of the caravan trade are allowed entry the general description of the inside is the same. Each of the two buildings is open at one end and has shelves on the other. This allows the warehouse to accommodate both large and small items. The contents change on a daily basis and they are all well-guarded.

15. Caravan Master - Ziya Imam

The building between the two warehouses near the docks is the main office of the Caravan Masters in Antioch. Within this building people can purchase message sending functions and have goods shipped near and far, for a price. Ziya Imam has run the business for decades and he knows it as well as the Caravan Masters in the north. On this continent he is the head of the caravan. He is a frequent visitor to the open air market and is always looking for a new niche to build his wealth. He is a widower and has two sons who operate the caravan trade in other cities.

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17. The Wood Shoppe - Shafiq Abu

In the desert lumber is scarce. Shafiq Abu sees to it that the city has a healthy supply of lumber for building projects be it large or small. Shafiq has travelled the breadth of the south and has found lumber outlets from various sources. He is a large supplier in the slaves, lumber, spice triad and has been quite successful over the years. He obtained the shop and license from his father who started the business. Shafiq has a wife, three sons, and a daughter.

18. Shipbuilder Society

While there is no singular shipbuilding business in town it is more of a collective of craftsmen who create the boats upon demand. This group of men accepts large orders as well as small ones and has a close working relationship with Shafiq <#17 above>. Any time a ship wrecks these men go out to harvest what they can and repurpose any recovered wood they find.

19. Fish Monger - Sherif Farrah

There are two people in charge of fishing in Antioch and Sherif Farrah is one of them. He is in charge of organizing the small fleet that fishes in the harbor. It is up to him to regulate payment and the amount of fish the boats bring in. After a blockade of the sea a few years ago it was decreed that fishing would be regulated within the harbor so that the supply was not eliminated. Sherif was one of the more dedicated men to the cause and was thereby placed in charge of the issue. It helped that he was paid handsomely by the Nirack to keep everyone in line. Sherif has a wife and two sons.

20. Deep Fish Monger - Hanaa Nawra

While Sherif <#19> controls the fishing within the harbor, Hanaa Nawra controls the deep sea fishing trade albeit in name only. When the conservation movement took over Hanaa was appointed to limit the draw of fish brought into port from the open sea. While he and many of his fellow anglers felt this was an absurd law they knew that open questioning of it would bring down the wrath of the Nirack. Over the years Hanaa and his fellow fisherman have devised a plan to continue to fish as they always have but move some of their catch inland to

make twice as much. With the high wall most people are unaware of this move and the fishermen have been paying off the wall guards handsomely. Hanaa has a wife and five daughters. It is only a matter of time before Hanaa and his men are caught and there will be more than a fine to pay.

21. Palace of Nirack

This location is surrounded with a bronze fence and is the home to the Nirack, Sultan of the kingdom and ruler of Antioch. Opulent best describes the white marble exterior of the palace which boasts a water spewing fountain in the front and exotic animals prowling the grounds. Entrance is by invitation only and the fence is always guarded. Very few have been allowed within the walls and the treasure contained within is believed to be of legendary status. The Nirack is a mostly private person, soft spoken but very handsome. On his few jaunts outside the fence he has been known to take women with him presumably for his personal harem. The families of these women are paid handsomely for their 'servitude'. Once the women go into the palace they never come back out. Rumor has it that it is to contain the secrets of the palace or perhaps some other nefarious reason.

22. Treasury - Leyla Sultan

Guards surround this grey stone building around the clock and are even present on the rooftops. This building appears to house an army but in reality it is the kingdom's minting location where money is made and stored. Regular citizens are allowed to store what little wealth they have within the walls but few are allowed to enter. Those seeking to house wealth here turn it over to the window at the front of the building and are given a special token. Any who lose this token lose their wealth. This rule is well published on the side of the building and is in several different languages. Leyla Sultan is in charge of this building and answers to no one save the Nirack himself.

23. Cloven Hoof Stables - Batul Boutros

The only stables within the city belong to Batul Boutros and his four sons. The Cloven Hoof Stables currently has a contract with the military to house their mounts and as such has a limited amount of space to house other mounts. Batul

has asked for permission to expand his business to handle the increased traffic to Antioch but has not come up with the necessary "inducement" to obtain the permit. While close it is hard for him as he can only house a few extra mounts. Among the military's collection are both fine stallions and camels.

24. The Beaten Hide - Maryam Jabril

Maryam is a widower who works closely with Amani Husni <#4> to obtain raw materials for her work. Maryam designs more finery than basic items. While her items are expensive they are built to last and built to be fashionable. Among her highest selling items are her leather corsets and other assorted female wares. Maryam never had any children and runs the shop by herself. She is widely considered eccentric but is pleasant to deal with and her craftsmanship is impeccable.

25. Fruit of the Gods - Dawud Ataullah

While hard spirits are forbidden in Akbole, wine is allowed, respected, and sought after. Dawud Ataullah is the local vintner who must rely on a high level of imported fruits to concoct his wine. While dates and pomegranates are plentiful in this land, grapes are still the preferred fruit selection for the most potent of beverages. Dawud Ataullah has travelled the area throughout the Newmack Sea and has built up a healthy supply of contacts and distributors. Because of this he has had excessive supplies and can withstand a "drought" of supply ships for one month without going out of business. Dawud works on his spirits with his wife Mellata and his three boys. The business is a family affair and a profitable one at that.

26. Grains - Malak Ruba

Malak Ruba and wife Semmia are the city's specialty bakers. While their biggest selling item is bread they prefer to use their skills in designing new pastries and other delicacies for consumption. The two are currently looking to rebound after a very unsuccessful unveiling of a seafood donut which caused everyone who consumed it to become ill. That attempt was a setback but the Rubas are rebounding nicely. They have two young girls.

27. The Library – Headmaster Amirah Saif-al-Din

This large building has two functions. The main use is that of a school for the children of the city and surrounding area. The Nirack believes that only through learning does a society excel. While he is still a ruling monarch he feels that he will be respected by his people if they are well read. For that reason he has poured money into the education of his people. Part of that education is the creation of a massive and elaborate library which is contained below ground under the school. It is well stocked with tomes and scrolls from throughout the area and beyond. It is also filled with a multitude of maps including the entry way which is an inlaid mosaic of the entire Newmack Sea area. Next to the Great Lighthouse, the library is the most known feature of the city and the kingdom.

28. Mason-Engineer Residence - Jalila Haytham

This building has a peculiar angle about it and just appears strange. The situation only gets more bizarre when it is discovered that the occupant of this residence is the head engineer for the kingdom. While the building may appear unstable it is remarkable in that it doesn't move, shake, or shudder in the worst storms. Jalila Haytham, wife Carmelita, and their four children reside in this building and also have access to two below ground levels as well which are largely unknown to the general populace. The first level is his storehouse of plans and personal library.

29. The Flying Carpet - Qadir Karima

The royal weaver is Qadir Karima who makes the finest woven rugs in the land. It is rumored that some of his creations have been used by mages to create the mythical flying carpets. Many of Qadir's works are present in the Nirack's palace. He has many shapes and sizes available however his works are not cheap and he doesn't barter. He does not possess any magical items in the shop. Qadir works in his shop with his wife Tivara and his three daughters.

30. Personal Residence

This residence has three sets of locks on the door and is clearly marked in common to not trespass. If the locals are asked it will be made clear that the

residence belongs to a very powerful adventurer that usually handles special issues for the Nirack. The residence is trapped and further investigation would be ill advised.

31. Maps O 'Plenty - Kessabolt Blitzspinner

The cartographer in town is one of the original Gnome adventurers that came to town. Kessabolt Blitzspinner and his wife Ramshackle are the new proud parents of a baby boy named Gearshifter. The Blitzspinner are always on the lookout for maps of any type and will pay top coin for extensive and well documented maps. They also have a healthy supply of maps for sale from overland to seagoing types.

32. The Great Weezer - Hafsa Sulaiman

This location is guarded by two Nirack guards at any given time and belongs to the "Great Weezer" or palace mage. Hafsa Sulaiman is at the beck and call of the Nirack but prefers having his own location so that he can conduct experiments without being constantly interrupted. When Hafsa lived at the palace the Nirack was constantly bothering him with questions. With this new location Hafsa is aware that the Nirack would have to make a concerted effort to come bother him which is highly unlikely. Hafsa is a loner but does have social ties to the school where he sometimes teaches and looks for potential apprentices. He currently has four but is always looking for those with a penchant and skill to handle the magical arts.

33. The Cut Stone - Maribonk Spinrivet

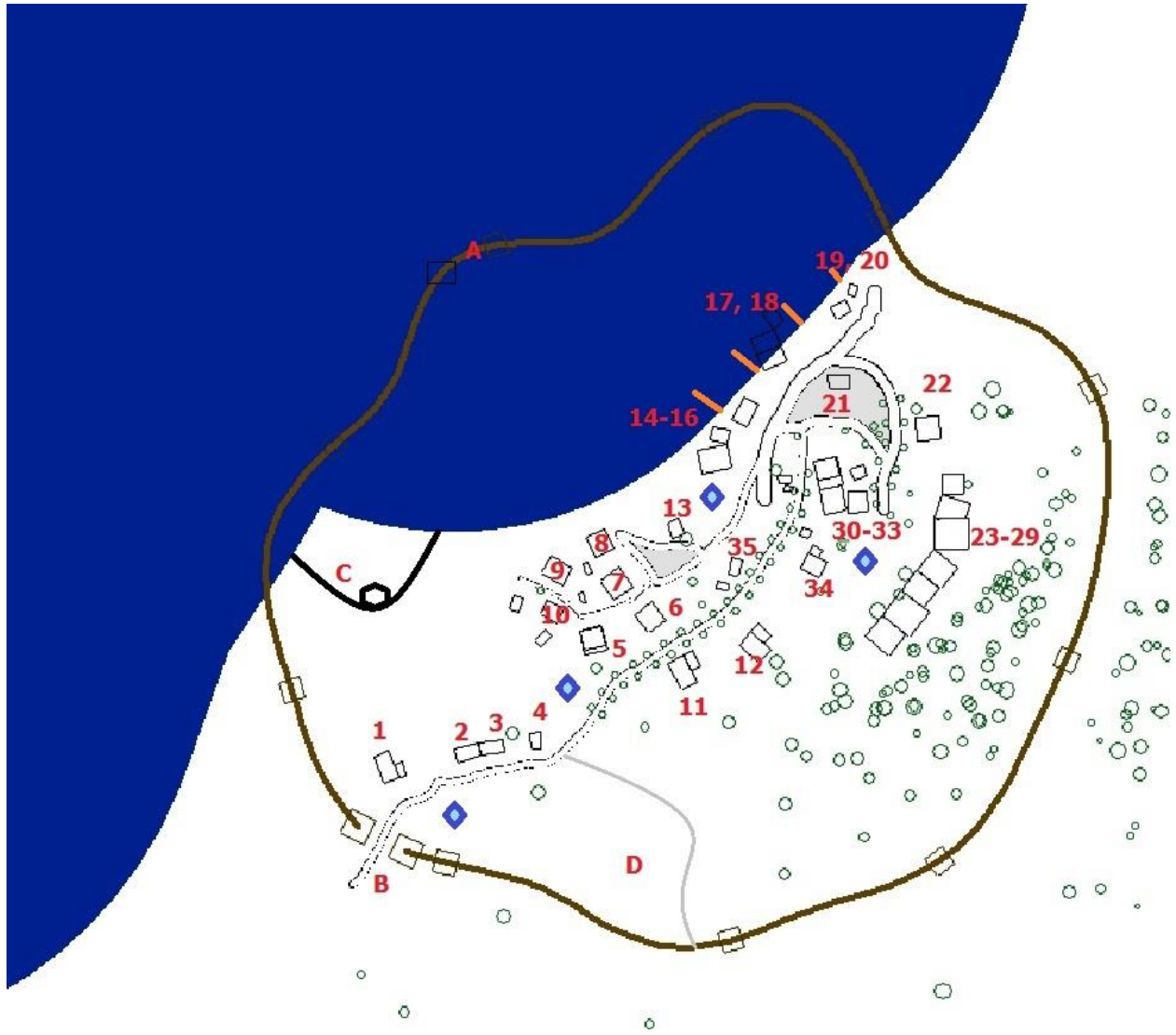
Maribonk Spinrivet is a recent widower as her husband recently passed. She and her beloved were part of the original Gnomish contingent of explorers. The two stayed in town as the Nirack was impressed at their abilities to cut and shape precious stones and metals. The Spinrivets have designed many of the baubles worn by the Nirack and other area nobles. They only did commissioned work and only worked on their schedule much to the annoyance of their benefactors. Maribonk is looking for additional help now that her partner is gone but there are few who lack the work ethic that the Spinrivet's had.

34. Sahara Inn - Sherif Imam

The Sahara Inn is a cheaper less exquisite of the inns in town and caters more towards the mariner visitors to Antioch. Sherif Imam was a mariner himself and after retirement wanted to swap stories with his former colleagues and often gave them a place to stay when they were in town. After two years of putting up his friends he decided to just open a nice inn that sailors could come and relax at with like-minded individuals. While it's not mandatory that residents be sailors there is a monetary inducement for seafarers. The inn is clean and has a bar but the language can be a bit vulgar for some. It is also a favorite location for women of a more open outlook to relationships.

35. The Seven Veils - Mariam Mahdi

While this business is often rebuked by the Nirack and other nobles it does great business. The owner of the Seven Veils is Mariam Mahdi. Formerly a working girl in the brothel, she took over after the previous Madame retired and left the area to travel. Mariam was a favorite of visitors and had a great eye for both business and talent. She was able to bring in both paying customers and new women to work due to her charismatic personality. Currently Mariam is semi-retired although she still has a listing of permanent customers that she caters to. Mariam is a pleasant person who understands that her business is not accepted by everyone. She maintains a low discreet presence and does a great deal of charitable work which allows those who are less thrilled with the business to turn a blind eye as a lot of good comes from the work done by the ladies of the Seven Veils.



Map of Antioch capital of the Kingdom of Nirack



The Great Lighthouse of Antioch <above> Coins of the Realm <below>

