

Seekers of the Truth Society

The Seekers of the Truth Society (*Societas Indagatorum Veritatis*) is an umbrella organisation within the cult of Verena. Its main charter is to accumulate, document and preserve all knowledge, particularly that involving sorcery. Much of the Seekers' efforts are accessible to members of the organisation – and a select few individuals outside of it – through the secured archives of any of the vast libraries maintained by the Verenans throughout the known world. The largest of these libraries can be found in Remas, Miragliano, Luccini (which is shared with the cult of Mórr), Magritta, Gisoreux, Marienburg, and Nuln.

Members of the Seekers society carry a silver medallion somewhere on their person or their possession which identify them to their fellows. The medallion has the image of an owl and book with the inscription “Indaga Verita” on its face and an image of two mountains with an inlaid mother of pearl or yellow topaz representing the rising sun on the reverse.

The Seekers must tread carefully in the Empire. Wizardry in Sigmar's Realm has had a difficult history and was so suppressed for well over 1,200 years that its history in the first millennium Empire has been erased in all but the few surviving ancient tomes of the period. The cult of Verena protects these written records from both the Church of Sigmar and the Colour Colleges in Altdorf.

The 2307 I.C. Articles of Imperial Wizardry regulating the licensing of wizards and magister and use of magic in the Empire was appended to (barely) provide the Verenan-sanctioned Seekers of Truth and their subordinate orders with “the rights and privileges to engage in the study and limited use of Sorcerous Magicks.”

Order of Scholars and Historians

The Order of Scholars and Historians (*Ordo Litteratorum et Historicorum*) is the arm of the Seekers of the Truth that concentrates most of its efforts within the hidden archives of the various Libraries of Verena. They are the researchers and keepers of arcane sorcerous lore as well as recovered magical items and artefacts. A number of the members of the Order travel from one Library to another in order to access the respective secret archives to further their specific research.

Some members of the Order are given the task to accompany expeditions or trade missions to remote areas in order to assist with the identification and retrieval of artefacts that may have magical properties. It is the sacred duty of the Order to bring back such items to their local Temple of Verena for further study and safe-keeping. Such efforts may put the Order at odds with the Sorcerous establishment, particularly the Imperial Colour Colleges.

The Chapter Master of the Order of Scholars and Historians is the master archivist within any Temple of Verena. The Chapter Master is responsible for teaching new recruits of the by-laws of the Order and the new member's duties. The Chapter Master also assigns the scholarly missions the members may wish to undertake.

The current Grand Master of the Order is Giovanni Mattera, who is also the Grand Pontiff of the Great Temple and Library in Remas. The Grand Pontiff has held his joint position for the last 23 years.

Order of the New Dawn

The Order of the New Dawn (*Ordo Aurorae Novae*) is a secret order of wizards closely aligned with the Cult of Verena in Nuln. The Order was founded during the suppression of sorcery initiated in 1069 I.C. by the insatiable greed of Emperor Boris the Goldgatherer. Many members have spent time in Tilea when they are forced to escape apprehension by Imperial witch-hunters.

The goal of the Order is to recover lost arcane items and lore – both divine and sorcerous – that disappeared during that particular reign of terror and the succeeding centuries up to the ascension of Magnus to the Imperial throne. These items are stored deep under the huge libraries the cult maintains where members of the Order – some of whom have also been ordained as Verenan priests – study the salvaged artefacts, scrolls and tomes.

In the past, the Order has exchanged information and discoveries with the Sigmarite Ordo Scriptoris (detailed in the Server Goddess' **Monastic Orders in the Old World** (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y41wk2qzzbxyfyp/monastic-orders.pdf?dl=0>) as well as **Gathering Darkness: Grim Pursuits**, the latter of which can be found at this site's Scenario page). Co-operation between the two organisations officially ended when the Ordo Scriptoris was declared heretical by the hierarchy of the Church of Sigmar.

To safeguard their efforts, the Order of the New Dawn runs an effective intelligence network among some of the leading figures in Imperial academia: antiquarians, archivists, collectors, explorers, and historians. Some of these, in turn, have informants who have cultivated contacts within the Colour Colleges, particularly the Gold and Light Colleges.

Discreet individuals with magical ability may be recruited by long-time members of the Order in good standing. The solemn ceremony of admission in the order requires the new recruit to recite oaths of secrecy, which are sealed with the giving of a few drops of blood, in front of a witness. A silver medallion (described above) is then given to the newly sworn member of the Order with the instruction that the badge of membership be kept secret beneath the tunic or in a safe place.

New Dawn members wishing to meet with the Master of the Order of the New Dawn or his chief assistant must request an audience with the archivist of the Verenan Temple in Nuln or Altdorf (the latter location is set to keep watch on the Colour Colleges). The member of the Order requesting the audience is expected to show the medallion to prove his membership and right to meet the Master.

Order of Guardians

The Order of Guardians (*Ordo Custodum*) is both a fighting and investigative force recruited and trained within the Cult of Verena to protect its hidden sorcerous archives from those who wish to take personal possession of certain items from the cult's collection. One of the master archivist's

duties is to identify and recruit those members of the Order of Scholars and Historians who have the aptitude and attitude to protect the cult's secret cache.

When assigned to a Library, Guardians do not have a uniform or anything that defines them as members of the Order other than a medallion made of iron with an image of an owl holding a sword in its talons embossed on one side. In fact, Guardians wear a sword on their hip while dressed in the robes of initiates, which also conceals the mail shirt they wear underneath. Guardians are rarely posted as guards: the master archivist prefers them to wander around the entrance of the restricted archives as well as within, while being vigilant for suspicious behaviour and questioning anyone whose activities within the archives look suspicious.

Guardians may be assigned to the task of protecting the movement of magical artefacts from one Verenan library to another or accompanying a member of the Order of Scholars and Historians on an expedition. In these cases, the Guardian may assume a low profile as a mercenary or soldier rather than as a Templar of Verena so as not to call attention to the true nature of their assignment.

Guardians are also responsible for investigating any theft from the Library of Verena's collections and retrieving stolen items. If the lifted objects are necromantic in nature, the Guardians may call upon assistance from the Mórrian Order of Raven Knights.