

Cemiess

A curious system, thought to have lost its outer planets many millennia ago due to a close encounter with another star system. The lack of gas giants in the system delayed any major settlement until 3055, despite the inner planet, Maxwell Rock being quite mineral rich (named after the ancient explorer Pol Maxwell, now widely known from the popular dream sequence "Maxwell Returns").

The early miners found the cost of bringing in their own fuel outweighed the potential gain. It seems hard to believe now, with the Core so thoroughly populated, that a known 'mineral rich' would be left alone for so long, but in those days planets were plentiful and people thinly spread. The Core then was much like the Outer Rim today. It was also before the invention of the shield generator, so scooping fuel from a star was out of the question.

The Empire began terraforming Cemiess 2 in 3080, partly to satisfy the enormous demand for outdoor space by its exploding population, and partly as a political snub to the Federation. The Federation had previously claimed the world, but the decision to start the terraforming process was still tied up in bureaucracy - the Federal Senate had already postponed the scheme three times in order to keep within budget on the New Worlds project. This was largely due to Governor Santorini of Tau Ceti (nicknamed 'Proxmire' by the press from some obscure historical reference) whose cost cutting exercises are now seen as having been very destructive to Federal progress in the long term. Nevertheless his tax cutting policies were popular at the time, and he is still the longest serving governor there - 76 years up to his assassination in 3098. Emerald was first settled by Imperial colonists in 3101, shortly followed by a heavily armed group from the Federation led by Admiral O'Brien. He personally supervised the building of a major fortification in only three days (seen in the gungho propaganda film "O'Brien's War"), but all there died a week later from a mysterious plague. Both sides fought intermittently over Emerald for the next thirty years ending when Imperial Clone Troops were sent in, and the Imperial XV Fleet were stationed there. A diplomatic solution was finally found in 3136 in the Emerald Treaty, which narrowly avoided an assault by an enormous Federal task force, and brought about the uneasy peace we have today. It is also why Cemiess is the only Imperial system in which slavery is illegal. This was to satisfy Federal demands, but there is reputed to be a thriving black market in them.

Enaness

The colonist of this system established a rigorous communist hierarchy on the only oxygen atmosphere planet of the system. The regime has prospered and the body politic dominate the other worlds' starports. The population of the worlds are booming and increasing in prosperity. All mining and industrial interests are state owned and largely automated. Slavery is strictly forbidden and freedom is assured to anyone arriving in the territory regardless of race. Religious ceremonies of any form are illegal and commitments made in such circumstances are regarded as void under Enaness law. All inhabitants of the system have a birthright guaranteed by the state, which is a single journey ticket to either Earth or Capitol, no other property is acknowledged. Political indoctrination begins early on in childhood, but anyone declaring a desire to leave is free to do so. There is no return permitted, however. Immigration to the worlds is strictly controlled and all goods are turned over to the state on arrival. Traders and visitors sometimes find the attitude of the inhabitants to material goods disconcerting.

The academy of Rymhananman is justly famous for its theoretical physics and chemistry departments. It also boasts the foundation established by Wyksymdra Baranha to explore and exploit Enaness 4. Wyksymdra is famous for his conjecture that the fourth planet of Enaness was the homeworld of a civilised alien race, who later terraformed Charles Colony when they rendered their own world uninhabitable by excessive pollution. The evidence for this theory is hotly disputed by many eminent archeologists, but they are at a loss to explain the peculiar mineral deposits of Enaness 4 and the absence of ancient fossils on Enaness 5. The abrupt appearance of life 'sprung full grown in all its glory' suggests, to Baranha, tentative evidence of the works of an ancient spacefaring civilisation.

If this theory is correct, there is no doubt that the alien species, and all tangible artifacts have disappeared during the intervening millenia. Part of the work of the foundation is to analyse the native species of other alien worlds and see if there are any anomalous similarities across worlds. The task is monumental and no conclusive results are expected for at least a century. The foundation is supported by voluntary contributions from a number of trusts and charities. For information about donations, consult your local library database.

The Missing – Missing Systems and Odd Details from Elite: Frontiers

Extila (possibly HR 7221 or Wheemete)

The farmers of Carter's World are justly proud of their reputation for producing some of the richest harvests of the Empire. Food exported from the World find their way to Achenar, Facece and even Earth, where the ground tree is a favourite delicacy amongst the high society and luxury catering industry. The cross bred grain varieties of Carter's World are reputed to make the finest bread in the known worlds and the Revised Catholic Mission of Aymia insist that all their holy wafers be made with pure Carter wheat.

The populace of Carter's World are a racially mixed group, with several waves of settlers with different backgrounds landing and making a fresh start under the harsh light of Extila. The planet has an 'open door' policy for immigration and the relatively simple and disorganised feudal ruling system suits an agricultural life style. Despite the variety of racial backgrounds, the inhabitants of Carter's World have a very uniform appearance to offworlders. The harsh sunlight and the high gravity have bred a distinctive bulky dark-skinned race with a marked disdain for any kind of pretension.

The indigenous life forms of Carter's World are tolerated, but not pampered, a local hexapod is used as draught animal by most farmers, but with typical Carter bluntness it is called beast and has no more formal name. The local fauna compete fairly evenly with imported Achenar and Earth stock, but the native plant life is not compatible with human digestive tracts and so imported varieties are fanned. A few verrix can be found hauling loads for the most prosperous farm communities. The imported verrix are highly prized and more than one local war has broken out over disputes about land use with the animals. These wars are highly localized affairs and tradition forbids the use of military or heavy weapons. Disputes are usually bet neighboring villages and rarely escalate further.

Visitors to Carter's World are made welcome and the local hospitality is freely extended to one and all. Most visitors find the 2.8 standard gravities a bit daunting, but booster shots can temporarily overcome this. Unless a traveller has grown up in high gravity environments, strenuous exercise should be avoided. There are organised tourist visits of all the famous planetary features of Carter's World and tourists are advised to keep with the registered tours.

Liaququ

The water world of New California is famous for the wide range of medicines which the abundant ocean life provide. The World is devoid of advanced life forms, with no natural vertebrate forms. Evolution appears to have pursued a similar route as on Earth, with plants and simple life developing in the oceans, but the most advanced species are equivalent to the terrestrial echinoderms. Despite the unsophisticated anatomy of the animals, the ocean teems with life and it yields an abundant harvest for the farming communities which now inhabit the world.

The life forms of New California may lack sophistication, but a huge variety of developments have occurred in the benign environment of the hot ocean. On Earth, some of the most potent poisons known to mankind are found in the jellyfish, and this is true of Liaququ's planet as well. Early settlers fell easy prey to the local creammis floaters and flying drevis froms with their potent nerve toxins. Even nowadays, the fish farmers have to beware of the swarming migration patterns of whip slimes.

The deadly venom of many of the species of New California have spawned a thriving pharmaceutical trade. The factory and laboratory ships of major interstellar drug companies keep track of the ocean currents and harvest a rich variety of natural drugs and medications. They also serve to notify the resident fisheries of unexpected concentrations of dangerous fauna.

Many varieties of aquatic life from Earth and other worlds have been introduced to the oceans of New California. Local environmental lobbies have made no progress at limiting the import of foreign life forms. In many cases the introductions have been unsuccessful and several ambitious commercial farming ventures have come to nothing. The dolphins and killer whales of Earth, and the barabous and inqoqo of Ceminess have done particularly well, but are not commercially exploited due to their recognised intelligence levels. The most successful commercial fish crop is the stinger of Facece which is the local staple food and a valuable export.

The largest predator on New California is a species of eleven limbed starfish known as Godzilla, a historical reference of uncertain origin. The naturalist and environmental lobbyist M'harma Dennet has captured on film the remarkable fight between a godzilla and a sperm whale following the battle in an aircraft and finally diving into the ocean to catch the final moments as the godzilla dispatched the giant mammal. The film has won several awards, including the prestigious DIGMA bronze star.

Quphieth

An independent world in which feudal land barons are propped up with `aid' from the Empire, to avoid this world and its interesting biology being consumed by the Federation.

The Quphieth system was first visited by Augustus Brenquith, a rich eccentric from Old Earth who spent the latter half of his life exploring and opening up new stellar systems. He was one of the great early explorers, and left Earth in a highly modified Griffon class freighter. His ship was extensively altered, to enable it to make very long jumps (for the time) and most of the cargo space was converted to life support and message capsules. He left Earth just after the third algae war and vowed never to return. His aim was to explore the surrounding stellar systems and provide a legacy of inhabitable planets for the people of Earth.

For a period of 35 years, message capsules from Brenquith returned to the Sol system, bearing news of new worlds or hazardous planets which he had encountered. Each new arrival spurred a wave of colonists out from the home planet to the new World. His descriptions of the planets he visited were often poetically tinged, and after so long without human company became rather unreliable, but were always great media sensations.

His initial description of Quphieth centred mainly on the rich and diverse life of the main continent, and he wrongly concluded from his initial aerial survey that there was no large animal life present, only a rich variety of plants and insects. The world is now famous for the peculiar biology which has produced the most successful non-standard (i.e neither plant, animal nor fungoid) life form so far encountered. All the creatures of Quphieth combine features which lead to classification as plant and animal, according to Earth standards and they continue to surprise and amaze scientific surveys to this day.

The system is now most famous for the so called `whispering palms', which produce sounds and mimic the cries of local flying creatures. These plants form huge forests and the din created when the planimals echo the sounds of a violent thunder storm have to be heard to be believed. Visitors to the system are restricted, and export of the local species has been strictly controlled ever since the Doleviera incident. It is unusual for permission to be granted for individual trips to any of the islands, where scientists are still attempting to catalogue the local life forms.