



# Roesone





**Blacktower castle  
ground level**

LAZZ 85 South Tower



# the domain of roesone

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**W**elcome to Roesone, the Black Barony. Carved from a lawless frontier only 80 years ago, Roesone is one of the youngest states in Anuire. As ruler, you'll find that Roesone is surrounded by uncertain allies and dangerous enemies. Plots and intrigues creep through the halls of your very court, and shadowed powers are moving against you. It'll take strength, guile, and determination to keep your crown on your head, and your head on your shoulders.

## what you need to play

This accessory is designed for use with the BIRTHRIGHT™ campaign setting. You or your Dungeon Master should have the BIRTHRIGHT boxed set. You will also find the *Player's Handbook* and the *DUNGEON MASTER® Guide* to be very useful. However, much of the material in this book can be used in any campaign setting to add color and detail to a small kingdom.

## how to use this domain sourcebook

It is assumed that if you have purchased this product, you are planning to play a regent character whose domain is Roesone, in the southern coastlands of Anuire. This book explores your realm in detail, providing you with information about the people, towns, and sites of interest.

You should feel free to ignore or alter any material that you don't think is appropriate for your character's domain. For example, if you have already created the rest of your character's family, or don't want him to have any living relatives, you should feel free to disregard the information that appears under **House Roesone** later in this book.

Once you've read through this sourcebook, pass it to your Dungeon Master and tell him what you want to keep or change about your kingdom. If you're going to greatly strengthen Roesone or upset the campaign's balance of power, your DM has the right to say no. This is also a good way for your DM to see what's important to your character and to set up adventures for your PC.

Even if you choose not to play a regent, there are still many opportunities for player characters in Roesone. Nobles, servants in service to the baron and soldiers all make interesting characters. Sometimes it's good *not* to be the king, but to be one of the people who keeps the kingdom running!

**Note:** The lieutenants described in the domain sourcebook have stats that reflect the regent they served according to the *Ruins of Empire* book in the campaign setting. Adjust their levels to suit your regent PC's level, following the lieutenant guidelines in the *Rulebook*.

# the seneschal's report

A fair day to you, my lord baron! I am the Lord Seneschal, Gaered Biersen, and as tradition dictates, it is my privilege to report to you the state of the barony, the people, and the enterprises of the crown. It was your predecessor's custom to receive the seneschal's report on the final day of each year, but I have taken the liberty of preparing this briefing on the occasion of your coronation.

Roesone stands strong this day, my lord, and your subjects are satisfied with your rule. Your father has delivered to you a land wealthier and stronger than his father delivered to him.

Lands which once had fallen wild are now farmed by your subjects, and prosperous towns have grown where empty woodlands once stood. In the three generations since Daen Roesone forged this land from lawless brigands and rebellious lordlings, Roesone has grown into a power recognized by all Anuire.

Your domain stretches nearly 140 miles from the waters of the Straits of Aerele to our northern border with Ghoere, and stands more than one hundred miles broad from the dark Spiderfell to the border of Aerenwe. Only a century ago these were empty lands claimed by Diemed and Aerenwe, but your grandfather's sword-arm, charisma, and sheer determination made a kingdom where none had stood before.

## the people

Your subjects, my lord baron, are a strong-willed lot. I urge you to govern them with care; Roesoneans are stubborn, and they'll see through you if you prove to be weak or dishonest.

Remember, only a generation

or two

ago these people were bandits or freesteaders who called no man lord. Unlike the people of the neighboring lands, they've not yet learned to bend the knee to royalty. They see you as merely human, not much better or worse than themselves, and you'd be wise to win their respect before you demand their obedience.

Your father used to say that he didn't have subjects; he had in-laws who weren't sure that the treasure of their hearts—this land of Roesone—was truly in good hands under his rule. They weren't afraid to speak

their mind to him, and didn't spare him a harsh word when they thought he needed one. But when the people saw that he loved the land just as they did, they came to love him too.

Remember, my lord: Roesoneans are free and outspoken. They've come from all corners of Anuire to live as they wish, and they stand with unbowed heads in front of any lord or lady. Your father also used to say that he thought that one Roesonean was worth two or three Diems or Ghoerans, and must confess that I feel the same way.

## the nobles

While the common people are willing to give you a chance to prove yourself, my lord baron, I fear that your nobles may not. You don't need to be reminded that your grandfather seized Daen Roesone's throne under questionable circumstances, and there are those who believe that they've a better claim to the throne than you. As you well know, Lord Sedrie Bellamie, the Count of Bellam, opposed your father's rule at every turn. And I have heard it said that he seeks an alliance with Ghoere.

Worse yet, many more nobles are descended from the cutthroats and vagrants who fought by Daen Roesone's side, villains from all over Cerilia. Their children and grandchildren still rest on the laurels their forefathers won, living off the fat of the land and solving problems with the edge of a sword. I

don't believe that any of them are actually plotting rebellion, my lord baron, but they're spoiled brawlers who need to be taken firmly

# an overview of roesone

Sample file

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in hand. With your father's passing, they may believe that the time is right to show you that they need not follow your orders, and the crown rests on your head only by their sufferance. You may have to prove otherwise early in your reign.

## foreign affairs

The Archpriest Suris Enlien of Medoere sends her most heartfelt condolences on the passing of your father, my lord baron, and offers the guidance of a certain Patriarch Tosiere in your time of grief. The patriarch and his retinue are quartered in the *Crown and Lion*, the finest inn of Proudglave, waiting for your response. Undoubtedly, the patriarch has more on his mind than words of comfort. Medoere has been a very useful ally for several years now, standing as they do between you and Diemed.

Rogr Aglondier, Count of Ilien, sends his condolences as well, and congratulates you on your coronation. He hopes that you will honor the friendship he shared with your father. I have always thought that Ilien needed our protection to flourish, my lord; perhaps this is a good time to seek a more formal agreement with the count concerning his status as a free city under our protection.

Liliene Swordwraith, Queen of Aerenwe, sends her greetings, and conveys her wish that you honor the peace your father enjoyed with her realm. She earnestly hopes that you will act to guard the Erebannien from any more logging or settling, especially in the province of Abbatuor. The Aerenweans have generally given up hope of bringing your eastern lands back under their rule; I suspect that Liliene's desire for continued peace is stronger than her desire to see the Erebannien remain unspoiled.

The baron Gavin Tael of Ghoere sends his greetings, and speaks highly of your father's rule. He also suggests that he would be willing to formally recognize your claim to all the lands of Roesone, in return for your acknowledgement of his claim to the Iron Throne of Anuire. Of course, he offers you nothing you don't already have, but Ghoere's friendship would be a great deterrent to Dieman aggression. Baron Ghoere notes that the province of Bellam was once under his family's rule (an exaggeration at best), and hints that it might fall back under his control if you don't cement your friendship with Ghoere. This is probably nothing more than arrogant gloating, although Ghoere's aggressive tendencies are well known to southern Anuire.

We have heard nothing from the Spider. The creature is silent, as always. Some of your bolder subjects are saying that the awnshegh must be dead, for it hasn't been seen in many years. I would not subscribe to this rumor myself. The monster has lived in the Spiderfell since the rise of Anuire, and I see no reason for it to conveniently perish now. The people of Ghoried report that goblins and gnolls are raiding from the woods in greater numbers, and request that you strengthen the garrison there.

## the state of the barony

It took your father's entire reign to bring it about, but as you take the throne you'll find that there are baronial magistrates and constables in each province under your rule, and every noble within Roesone's borders has sworn fealty to House Roesone. You are the recognized lord of this land, and no one contests your rule. Do not take this for granted, my lord baron; in your grandfather's day, his lay extended as far as the reach of his mercenaries' swords.

The great castle of Blacktower is finally complete. The new walls and great gatehouse begun by your father were completed just this last summer, and several visiting officers from neighboring lands have been most impressed with the fortification. Your court is comfortably settled in Proudglave, the capital. The treasury enjoys some small surplus this year, and your personal fortunes and lands are considerable. The exact list of your properties and income is enclosed; you'll note that your family owns a great deal of land which you could sell or lease if you found yourself in financial straits.

This concludes my report, my lord baron. You will find the royal cartographer's map of the realm attached, a floorplan of the expanded castle Blacktower, and a genealogy of the House Roesone. The rest of this document contains useful information on the history of the realm, the places and people of your domain, and individuals of note or fame you should be acquainted with.

As the seneschal, I oversee the administration of law and taxation throughout your domain. Please let me know if I or any of my agents can be of any further service to you.