

Talossan Prime Ministers

Seneschais del Regipäts Talossan

(ARCHIVIST'S NOTE: This history, from its beginning to the von Buchholtz era, was written by King Robert I. It has been edited, but the reader should be aware that writer's bias may be detected.)

Note by Glüic da Dhi (MinSTUFF, march 2017: It is unclear who wrote the above note, the edits and the descriptions for von Buchholtz and later PMs)

In April, 1985, voters in the Kingdom of Talossa elected their first real democratic government and adopted a working constitution, now known as the First Organic Law. To head the government of the fledgling democracy, the King chose, with the consent of the Cosâ (elected lower house of parliament), Ian von Metairia (later knighted and created a count, and later elevated to duke) as the country's first democratically confirmed Prime Minister, or *Seneschal*.

Since 1985, a series of men and women, representing twelve different political parties, have led our country's national government in its highest administrative office. This web page is a presentation of each of them, together with their outstanding achievements in Talossa. For a simple list of each Seneschal, see the [List of all Talossan Seneschais](#).

(1) Ián von Metáiriâ

3 May – 5 June 1985

(Talossan Nationalist Party, in coalition with PC)



Ián Metáiriâ (later knighted) was born near Talossa in 1963 and formally joined Talossa in early 1983, after being informally associated with it since the country's secession in 1979. Metáiriâ was a student at Riverside University High School (now in Talossa's Mussolini Province and known in the RT as "Mussolini High"). It was there that Metáiriâ met Robert Ben Madison, better known as King Robert I, the founder of Talossa.

Metáiriâ has consistently been one of Talossa's most active and devoted citizens. If King Robert served as a pillar of the nation, Metáiriâ most certainly would be the other pillar.

Metáiriâ served briefly as an "appointed" Prime Minister during 1983, when King Robert made some attempts to diversify the Talossan government by appointing individuals other than himself to run the government. But constant clashes between the conservative Metáiriâ and his liberal foes (chiefly Danihél Lauriéir and Bob Murphy) led to internal turmoil that sank every attempt at forming these early, appointed governments.

When the King reformed Talossa's constitution and established Talossa as a genuine democracy in 1985, Metáiriâ's Talossan Nationalist Party was one of the leading contenders for power. Although the King's Progressive Conservative Party ("PC") won a majority in the Cosâ, it entered into a coalition with Metáiriâ's smaller TNP. This was the first of several governments in which the PC did not front its own Prime Minister, but rather worked through its minor allies in the Cosâ.

While in office, Metáiriâ oversaw the adoption of the quasi-democratic 1985 Organic Law, which served as the country's constitution for some three years and provided a firm foundation for future democratic reforms.

Personality clashes and political infighting involving Metáiriâ, the King, and the Left eventually prompted Metáiriâ's resignation on 5 June 1985, but he remained a central figure in the country's political life.

(2) Florence Yarney

5 June- 26 December 1985

(Progressive Conservative Party)



Florence Yarney was a part of Talossa almost from the beginning; she was Ben Madison's English teacher in 1979, when Talossa was founded—largely, as she later put it, “because [I was] too boring of a teacher.”

A native of New Jersey, Yarney (ca. 1950-) taught English at Mussolini High School until her retirement in 1998. She has maintained her friendship with the King since the 1970s, but lost her Talossan citizenship in the mid-1990s due to lack of participation. Yarney joined Talossa as a full citizen in 1984 and, despite her early support for the left-wing agenda of rival politician Danihél Lauriéir, endorsed the Progressive Conservative Party in the country's first election in April, 1985. Following the resignation of Prime Minister Metáiriâ, Yarney was sworn in as PM on 5 June 1985.

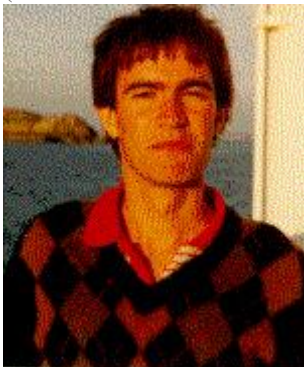
Yarney served largely as a symbolic caretaker Prime Minister, while the day-to-day management of the Government was in the hands of the King and his aides. It was the King's desire to find a more active PM, and Yarney was technically replaced on 1 October 1985. In reality, she continued to function as “Acting” PM until 26 December 1985 when her successor, Frédéric Maugey, was sworn in.

Prime Minister Florence Yarney's interesting legacy is that she was not only the first female Prime Minister of Talossa, but the first woman head of government anywhere in North America.

(3) Frédéric Maugey

26 December 1985-26 September 1986

(Front United for the Nation, in coalition with the PC)



Frédéric Maugey came to Talossa in 1981 when he was a foreign exchange student staying in the home of Ben Madison. Born near Parisca. 1967, Maugey formed the left-wing *Front uni pour la nation* or “Front United for the Nation” (FUN) party upon his entry into active RT politics in the fall of 1985.

Maugey (pronounced “mo-ZHEE”) is perhaps best known for his part in the two Royal Expeditions to Cézembre, an island off the coast of St Malo, in Brittany. The first was in August, 1982, when the King of Talossa formally annexed the island (it is now Talossa's only overseas province). The second was in July of 1996, when Prime Minister Maugey and the King again visited the island and surveyed the damage wrought by a French invasion and partition the previous year.

Maugey was ousted as Prime Minister by King Robert I on 26 September 1986 after Maugey unexpectedly endorsed the plans of Danihél Lauriéir to abolish the Monarchy and establish a republic. This was the last time the King intervened in the political process in this fashion. Maugey became an inactive supporter of various left-wing causes but drifted out of Talossan politics; he has been politically active again since 1999.

(4) Weston J. Erni

26 September 1986-28 March 1987

(*La Mhà Nheagrâ*, in coalition with the PC)



One of Talossa's longest-participating citizens, Wes Erni was born on 7 June 1961 and joined the country in the summer of 1985.

In 1985 Erni formed the small, right-wing *La Mhà Nheagrâ* ("Black Hand"; MN) party, with the avowed goal of annexing Shorewood and Whitefish Bay, two Milwaukee suburbs north of Talossa, which the MN referred to as the "Northern Territories." Erni's interest in military affairs and wargaming won him the position of Defence Minister in several PC governments.

The hard-line Defence Minister Erni was generally supportive of the Monarchy and of King Robert I, and it was no surprise that Erni was chosen as Prime Minister after the ouster of his predecessor, Frédéric Maugey, who had joined the left-wing republican movement in September, 1986.

Erni led the resulting PC-MN coalition government to an overwhelming victory in the October, 1986 General Election. Together the two parties won 60% of the vote, with the PC itself winning an absolute majority.

Unfortunately for Erni, he had the misfortune of getting wrapped up in King Robert's plans to abdicate the Throne in favour of Robert Dobberpuhl, a virtually unknown teaching assistant from the national university, who took over the Monarchy as King Robert II after a January, 1987 referendum. Public opinion swung against the new King, and against the PC-MN coalition for putting him in power.

In the General Election of March, 1987, the ruling coalition was comprehensively defeated by a resurgent left-wing movement, and Wes Erni became the first Talossan Prime Minister to lose his office due to the vote of the people. Erni would return as Prime Minister, but not for another three and a half years.

(5) Danihél R. Lauriéir

28 March – 15 August 1987

(*People United for No King*)



Danihél Lauriéir, born near Talossa on 20 August 1964, is one of Talossa's most colourful characters. One of the first non-Ben citizens (he joined the country in June of 1981), Lauriéir served for years in the semi-official rôle of "gadfly" to the King, constantly challenging and questioning various positions taken by the King—including whether Talossa should exist in the first place—and serving as a rallying-point for Talossa's squashy and dissociable opposition.

Lauriéir had been elected Prime Minister in September of 1981, in Talossa's first abortive experiment with democracy. But nothing had come of this; Lauriéir was fired a month later for "attempting to return Talossa to the United States ." Indeed, the "destruction of Talossa " was part of Lauriéir's agenda for years, at least on paper. He remained a marginal figure, his Democratic Dandipratic Party rarely receiving more than 10% of the vote.

By the spring of 1987, Talossan voters had turned against the ruling Progressive Conservatives and their hand-picked sovereign, King Robert II. Lauriéir, who had formed a "republican" movement the previous year, teamed up with former Prime Minister Frédéric Maugey to form *PUNK*: People United for No King, which vowed to "dump Dobberpuhl the dummy king." The new party swept the election of March, 1987, and Lauriéir was sworn in as Prime Minister on 28 March. Since the formal powers of the Monarch had already been stripped away, this left Lauriéir in complete command of the nation, backed as he was by some 58% of the Cosâ.

His first official act was to "legislatively decapitate" King Robert II, who promptly went mad and fled the country, never to be seen again. A "Provisional Peculiar Republic" was proclaimed.

Despite constant feuding between Lauriéir and Opposition Leader Ben Madison, the peaceful transfer of power proved that Talossa was now a genuine democracy, in the hands of its people. Lauriéir's government laid the foundation for the future conduct of the government when it inaugurated the "Vote by Post" system of parliamentary business, creating the predecessor of the modern Clark and the monthly routine of government affairs which continues to dominate the nation today.

But in one of the mood-swings for which he was already famous, Lauriéir suddenly proclaimed that the whole anti-monarchy scheme had been a mistake, and stunned everybody by asking the former King Robert I (Ben Madison) to return to the Throne! To that end, he dissolved his own government and endorsed the Progressive Conservatives, which went on to oust him from power at the next election in a landslide vote.

(6) Sandee Prachel

15 August 1987 – 7 February 1988
(Progressive Conservative Party)



Sandee Prachel, born in Princeton, Wisconsin, on 29 January 1965, was an unusual choice for Prime Minister. Coming from the far left wing of the Progressive Conservative Party, she was essentially the candidate of a resurgent PC trying to win every last vote in the country. And they almost did; the PC captured 62.5% of the total vote in the August, 1987 General Election which brought the PC and Prachel back to power.

Prachel proved to be a relatively ineffectual Prime Minister, largely due to the fact that her government was the first to operate under the new “Clark” system of government in which the votes and feelings of every individual member of the Cosâ had to be taken into account.

The other long-standing legacy of the Prachel government was the restoration of the Monarchy. Florence Yarney, the former Prime Minister, agreed to assume the Throne as “King” Florence I. She served as a transitional monarch, and Robert I was finally restored in early 1988, ending what Prachel’s successor dubbed “the year of the royal turmoil.”

After nearly losing the Vote of Confidence in November, 1988—the first PM to be tested by that parliamentary tactic—Prachel asked “King” Florence I for an early dissolution of the Cosâ. She was not invited by the PC to try for a second term, and thereafter became an important swing-voter, endorsing the PC or the Left at different times.

(7) Robert J. Murphy

7 February – 21 September 1988

(Bob Fights Ticket)



Born on 20 August 1963, Bob Murphy was an inveterate critic of the King’s who had joined Talossa in 1981 as one of the country’s first non-Ben citizens. Thanks to the vagaries of coalition politics, the Progressive Conservatives emerged with the largest share of votes but unable (or unwilling) to form a centre-right coalition after the February, 1988 General Election.

And so, Bob Murphy, head of Danihél Lauriér’s “Bob Fights Ticket” (BFT) party, was asked to form a coalition government with the PC in which the country’s two most bitterly opposed forces—the ex-King Robert I and the Lorentzian Left—would be locked in mortal combat for months.

The Murphy Government was paralyzed almost from the beginning by constant feuding between the two parties. Eventually the PC pulled out of the coalition, but in a first-rate virtuoso performance, Murphy managed to rally a

host of minor parties to keep him in power, shutting the PC out into the Opposition for only the second time in history.

In spite of the feuding, Murphy's government had two major accomplishments. First, it secured the return to the Throne of King Robert I, and it restored some of the powers of the Monarch when it presided over the drafting of the 1988 *Constituziun*, a thoroughly democratic constitution which replaced the 1985 Organic Law and proved so enduring that it continued as Talossa's basic law for nine years.

In keeping with a left-wing Talossan tradition, Murphy and his supporters refused to contest the September 1988 General Election, and the PC was returned to power.

(8) Thomas J. Buffone

21 September 1988 – 22 July 1989

(Progressive Conservative Party)



Tom Buffone, born 26 April 1962, has been one of the country's most successful and enduring political figures, but remains an enigma in many ways. He served four terms as Prime Minister—for two different political parties at opposite ends of the spectrum—and for about a year as a Justice of the Uppermost Cort.

At the end of the September, 1988 General Election, it was not at all clear whom the PC would choose as Prime Minister. But Danihél Lauriér that month sued the government to prevent the PC from taking all the seats it had won in the election—Lauriér arguing that some voters had torn up their ballots as a kind of “protest vote,” and that these “protest votes” should be “represented” in the new Cosâ by empty seats! Tom Buffone, a relatively new citizen of left-wing leanings but who had voted PC in the election, was chosen to sit temporarily on the Uppermost Cort to help adjudicate the case.

Buffone ruled with the majority of the Cort and threw out Lauriér's lawsuit, clearing the way for the PC to take all its seats and form a government. King Robert, impressed by Buffone's legal reasoning, asked Buffone to become Prime Minister.

Tom Buffone's government was focused on Talossa's social life. Buffone led the drive to organize Talossan get-togethers, including an annual summertime party called “TalossaFest” as well as the “Living Cosâ,” an opportunity for Members of the Cosâ to get together and debate bills instead of just voting on them on paper through the Clark. His plans were wildly successful, and the PC (narrowly) won re-election over a resurgent but splintered left-wing opposition in the spring of 1989.

Buffone resigned unexpectedly in July of 1989 after Ián Metéiriâ's newspaper, *Talossan National News*, ran what it called an “exposè” of Buffone's “illegal drug use.” The resulting Metáiriâ-Buffone feud would continue for years as a subset of Talossan politics.

(9) Jack Schneider

22 July – 30 December 1989

(Päts Vräts)

Following the abrupt resignation of Prime Minister Tom Buffone on 22 July 1989, Deputy PM Jack Schneider was sworn in at the Living Cosâ held that day on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Schneider, born on 20 February 1962, was one of the most controversial figures ever to hold public office in the Kingdom of Talossa. A self-proclaimed Marxist, he was noted for taking extreme and offensive positions on

irrelevant issues, like calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie or supporting the murder by lawn-mower of helpless rabbits. But Schneider also had tremendous political ability, and was determined to stake out his own political base, independent of the King. To that end, he named Ián A. Metáiriá as Defence Minister in his new cabinet, bringing Metáiriá out of the political wilderness for the first time since 1985 and helping him regain his ground as a legitimate political figure rather than as an opposition caricature.

In his mixture of social *faux pas* and political acumen, Schneider has often been compared to Richard Nixon. He was a pioneer in using direct mail for Talossan campaigns, allowing him to reach voters independently of the PC/TNP-dominated press.

Schneider frequently clashed with the more traditionalist Madison/Bufone wing of the PC (which had temporarily changed its name to *Päts Vräts*, or “Real Country”), most notably over Schneider’s Marxist-inspired scheme to set up a Cestoûr Council, which would have allowed the 40,000 non-voting Milwaukeeans a say in how Talossa (population: 25) was governed. This and other issues prompted a huge blow-up between Schneider and the rest of the party; despite Metáiriá’s support, Schneider felt he had no choice but to resign on 30 December 1989, at the country’s 10th Anniversary Party.

(10) Tom Buffone

30 December 1989-9 March 1990

(Päts Vräts)



With some reluctance, Deputy Prime Minister Tom Buffone agreed to come back as Prime Minister following the collapse of Jack Schneider’s government. However, to poison the well, Schneider had announced that he was dissolving the Cosâ as he resigned, so Buffone’s only duty was to preside over the resulting General Election.

Buffone did little in his term as a caretaker Prime Minister. Instead, he left most of the government in the hands of King Robert I and his aides. Buffone did no active campaigning, instead relying on the King to motivate voters to support the wounded Päts Vräts.

Buffone had every expectation of victory, but a last-minute surge of campaigning from the Opposition meant that Buffone’s government was defeated in the General Election of February, 1990. Buffone dropped out of Talossan politics, only to re-emerge two years later, allied with the forces that had defeated him in 1990.

(11) Danihél R. Lauriéir

9 – 16 March 1990

(Peculiar Way)



The left-wing Peculiar Way scored a landslide victory over the reeling Tories in the February, 1990 General Election, its mandate from the voters being to end the personal and political infighting that seemed to have taken over Talossan politics and scarred the country's political elite.

Lauriéir had single-handedly run one of the most successful election campaigns in the country's history, using the telephone to reach a number of supporters to get them to vote—or in some cases to get them to change their vote—over the phone in the presence of Secretary of State Ián Metáiriâ, the vote counter, who was assisting him in an effort to lessen what everyone expected to be another Päts Vräts majority. The legality of all this was questionable, but after Lauriéir's Peculiar Way party won a majority on its own, Prime Minister Tom Buffone graciously relinquished the reigns of power.

What happened next was totally unexpected. Lauriéir decided that the country needed a cooling-off period from politics, and so he delivered one Speech to the Nation as Prime Minister, and, after a week days in office, he resigned!

(12) J. Harrison (Harry) Wozniak

16 March – 27 September 1990
(Peculiar Way)



Harry Wozniak (ca. 1964-) took over as Prime Minister following the inexplicable resignation of Danihél Lauriéir, and proceeded to do absolutely nothing following his swearing-in by the King at a Florencia Province bar.

In an odd way, Wozniak was the perfect Prime Minister for his time. Talossans' social lives were rapidly diverging from Talossa, and there was a general wane of public interest in the country. Participation plummeted. However, Ián Metáiriâ and Ben Madison had had a political reconciliation of sorts, and their two parties combined to vote Wozniak out of office on the May, 1990 Vote of Confidence. Wozniak became the first Prime Minister ever to lose his office as the result of losing a Vote of Confidence.

Wozniak disappeared into an apathetic haze after that, and his party, the Peculiar Way, continued the left-wing tradition of refusing to run for re-election.

(13) Weston J. Erni

27 September 1990 – 20 April 1991
(Progressive Conservative Party)



The Progressive Conservatives came roaring back to office (under their old name) in the July, 1990 General Election, in which Wes Erni, formerly associated with Metáiriâ's TNP, was co-opted by the PC in a deal which culminated in Erni's own return to the vaunted office of Prime Minister of Talossa. Erni's second term, however, was marked by a catastrophic drop-off in public involvement in Talossa, and Erni did little to stop the bleeding.

As a sign of how dead the country had become, Erni was elected in July, but was not sworn in until the end of September!

The second Erni Government is best known for declaring victory in the war against Iraq , and for Erni's controversial Prime Dictate naming Cuban pop singer Gloria Estefan as Talossa's "national entertainer." But its longest-lasting achievement was the successful December, 1990 "National Destiny Referendum," in which an overwhelming majority of voters pledged not to allow Talossa to spiral further into the abyss, but rather to keep the country going.

(14) Ián A. Metáiriâ

20 April 1991 – 24 July 1992
(Progressive Conservative Party)



In a remarkable turn of events, former TNP leader Ián A. Metáiriâ – heretofore one of the PC's harshest critics–dissolved the TNP at the end of 1990 and by the spring of 1991 had joined forces with Ben Madison and Wes Erni in the ruling Progressive Conservative Party. He was the PC's candidate for PM in the April, 1991 election — against Tom Buffone, who this time stood for the anti-PC left — and Metáiriâ won with a convincing majority.

Metáiriâ's political revival, spurred to a large degree by his shift to more moderate-to-conservative politics, set off a chain of social and political revivals and realignments across the country, which Metáiriâ dubbed his "Re-Energization" plan for Talossa. Voter turnout mushroomed, and a highly successful Living Cosâ was held again.

The country's politics were transformed as well. Metáiriâ's right wing agenda (famously caricatured as the "Big Huge Birds") was replaced by a more palatable centre-right philosophy, which was more or less compatible not only with Erni but with King Robert I, who had become increasingly conservative during the same period. From that moment on, the Metáiriâ-Madison "axis" became a dominant force in Talossan politics and led to an almost unbroken string of PC majority governments for the next decade.

As a reward for his almost single-handedly saving Talossa from oblivion, Metáiriâ was awarded the *Për la Naziun*, the country's highest civilian decoration.

Metáiriâ narrowly won re-election in January of 1992 but was defeated in his bid for an unprecedented third term in July of that same year.

(15) Thomas J. Buffone

24 July 1992 – 16 January 1993

(Un-Named Party)



Ián Metáiriâ's rise to power in the PC marked a pronounced rightward shift for the governing party, from lefties like Yarney, Prachel and Maugey to righties like Metáiriâ and Erni. This drift was something former PC leader Tom Buffone could not support. Buffone teamed up with former rival Danihél Lauriéir and reorganized the floundering left, losing to the PC in 1991 and early 1992, but beating the PC decisively in a rematch at the July, 1992 General Election.

Buffone's fourth non-consecutive stint as Prime Minister in 1992-1993 was considerably less successful than his "glory years" in 1988-1989. The Un-Named Party (UP) had won office on the strength of a manifestly less-than-honest campaign (masterminded by Lauriéir) in which the ruling PC had been accused of discouraging ordinary Talossans from getting involved in their government. In fact, the only reason a General Election had been called in the summer of 1992 was that Prime Minister Metáiriâ had lost his majority in the Cosâ by giving away Cosâ seats to potential (and later actual) opponents—in an effort to get as many Talossans active in government as possible.

The resulting bad blood between the PC and the UP led to "gridlock" in the Cosâ, as Buffone's majority voted down any bills from the PC, even ones the UP had earlier expressed support for. Metáiriâ resigned as Secretary of State when Buffone refused to endorse laws concerning public expenditure on the Clark, and — in the wackiest crisis to hit Talossa in years — Vuode Province proclaimed a kind of "philosophical secession" from the Kingdom to protest against Buffone's perceived lack of patriotic fervour.

The Prime Minister prevailed over each and every crisis; it was an inspiring burst of leadership from the "Buffone of old." He led his party in an unprecedented bid for re-election; amazingly it was the first time a left-wing government had ever *tried* to get itself re-elected. But bickering over strategy between Buffone and his campaign manager, Danihél Lauriéir, allowed the PC to sneak back up the middle and capture vital support from swing-voters early in the campaign. By the end of the campaign Buffone and Lauriéir had become politically estranged (and barely on speaking terms). The Un-Named Party had all but collapsed, and the PC was back in power.

(16) Sir Ián A. Metáiriâ

16 January 1993 – 26 March 1994

(Progressive Conservative Party)



Thanks to a highly controversial coalition bargain with the newly-formed ‘Minor’ity Party, led by new citizen Nicholas Kovac, the Progressive Conservatives returned to power on 16 January 1993 in what appeared, at first, to be a narrow coalition against a strong Un-Named Party opposition, with Kovac’s small centrist party holding the balance of power.

However, most of the UP members refused to take their Cosâ seats, being consumed instead by internal party bickering. The UP’s antics allowed Prime Minister Metáiriâ to completely dominate the Cosâ with his Progressive Conservative shock troops, and Kovac eventually withdrew from the coalition in disgust.

Metáiriâ ruled almost without opposition for more than a year, an experience which in the final analysis seemed rather boring. Metáiriâ decided that the country needed to be opened up to fresh faces and new leadership, and he chose Gary Schwichtenberg as his eventual successor as Prime Minister.

Metáiriâ himself won re-election by a huge margin in the October, 1993 General Election. The margin was so overwhelming—89% of the popular vote!—that it caused another major realignment in Talossan politics. The traditional left-wing parties, such as they were, totally collapsed. Never again would Buffone and Lauriéir mount a credible challenge to the “Big Blue Machine” that stood astride Talossan politics like a colossus—the Progressive Conservative Party.

(17) Gary E. Schwichtenberg

26 March 1994 – 27 March 1995
(Progressive Conservative Party)



When Sir Ián Metáiriâ retired as Prime Minister on 26 March 1994 in a haze of flattery, Deputy Prime Minister Gary E. Schwichtenberg was sworn in to fill his enormous shoes.

Born on 14 July 1950, Gary Schwichtenberg is a long-time native of Wisconsin. With a wife and son, he is one of several “middle-aged professionals” which Talossa has attracted over the years. He had joined Talossa thanks to his connexions with Ben Madison; the two share a common interest in conservative Latter Day Saint religion. Generally supportive of the PC until he broke with the party in 1998, Schwichtenberg has functioned as an important swing voter.

Most of Schwichtenberg’s tenure as Prime Minister was occupied in prolonged feuds with “Davron,” the duo of Dave Kuenn and Ron Rosalez, two right-wing citizens obsessed with political cheating. Responding to a variety

of trickery and chicanery from Davron, Schwichtenberg's government enacted important campaign reform legislation.

Schwichtenberg gradually lost interest in running the country, and was escorted out of office by the PC "establishment" who chose a new rising star, John McGarry, to lead the country in the General Election of February, 1995.

(18) John F. McGarry

27 March – 15 September 1995

(Progressive Conservative Party)



The "irreverent Irishman," John McGarry, was born in Pennsylvania on 7 May 1966 and is the father of two children, both of whom are "Dandelions" or native-born Talossans. He currently works as a speech therapist in Dover, Delaware.

In the waning days of the Schwichtenberg government, McGarry campaigned hard to become the PC's candidate for Prime Minister, sending out leaflets advertising himself as the party's inspiring new leader for the future.

The PC leadership eagerly endorsed McGarry's call for a PC revival, and enthusiastically fronted him as their candidate in the February, 1995 General Election. The party won an overwhelming majority of the vote—but to everyone's surprise, McGarry was nowhere to be found!

Increasingly busy in his professional life, McGarry proved to be a comparatively ineffectual leader. Not sworn in until 27 March 1995, McGarry had barely taken office before PC leaders Metáiriâ and Madison began to search elsewhere for a replacement. When such a replacement was found, in the person of new citizen Geoffrey D. Toumayan, the Cosâ obligingly voted "no" on the Vote of Confidence—for only the second time in RT history—and brought McGarry's short-lived government to an end in July of 1995.

In spite of the embarrassment, McGarry was strongly supportive of the Progressive Conservative Party in later years.

(19) Geoffrey D. Toumayan

15 September 1995 – 6 March 1997

(Progressive Conservative Party)



The undignified ouster of John McGarry opened the door for new citizen Geoff Toumayan (pronounced "too Mayan") to take the country's highest office. The PC's official candidate in

the August, 1995 General Election, Toumayan is the son of mixed Jewish and Palestinian parentage and was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1956.

Toumayan was the first post-Metáiriá PC Prime Minister to “get it right.” Toumayan proved to be one of the savviest and most politically-skilled leaders in Talossan history, and was a master at building bridges and co-opting potential rivals.

He is best known as the Prime Minister who took the revolutionary step of putting Talossa on the Internet, but his extraordinarily long-lived and eventful government was also responsible for starting work on what became the 1997 Organic Law, a new constitution which replaced the clunky old 1988 *Constituziun* (which had been amended more than a hundred times since becoming the law of the land).

Toumayan won three consecutive national elections, all by convincing margins. He was almost universally respected as a statesman, as well as someone who operated more on principle than for political gain.

Toumayan stepped down as PM when he accepted an invitation to join the Uppermost Cort in the spring of 1997. His decision to accept the appointment is largely regarded as a mistake which changed the history of Talossa. He left the country’s government in untested hands, and frequently clashed with the King and the Secretary of State during his brief tenure on the Cort, from which he resigned in the summer of 1997. Toumayan retired from public life, eventually returning to the Cosâ in 2004.

(20) Alberto Manassero

6 March – 22 April 1997

(Progressive Conservative Party)



When Geoff Toumayan announced that he was leaving the office of Prime Minister to join the Uppermost Cort, this set off a Byzantine battle for power within the Progressive Conservative Party. A host of candidates emerged, including Sir Ián Metáiriá (who had temporarily recovered his political will to power), Ryan Hughes, Dale Morris and Alberto Manassero. After some unspeakably complicated collisions and collusions, a deal was struck within the Progressive Conservative Party which allowed Alberto Manassero to emerge as Prime Minister on 6 March 1997.

Manassero, born on 25 May 1970, was a parliamentary aide in Italy at the time of his appointment as Talossa’s twentieth Prime Minister. His support for Italy’s “National Alliance,” best described as an “ex-Fascist” party, was relatively non-controversial in permissive Talossa.

Manassero accomplished little in his brief (almost symbolic) term as Prime Minister. He is best known for standing up for free speech rights against a draconian “libel suit” pursued by Secretary of State Evan Gallagher against the press, although Manassero never sided completely with the suit’s intended target, Stotanneu publisher Ben Madison.

Manassero was not only the first Talossan Prime Minister to be born in the decade of the 1970s, he was also, most famously, the country’s first “Cybercit” Prime Minister, one of the first in a massive series of new immigrants attracted by Prime Minister Geoff Toumayan’s placing access to the Kingdom of Talossa on the Internet.

As promised under the convoluted deal which brought him to power, Manassero “retired” from office on 22 April 1997 and was succeeded by his Deputy PM, Dale Morris.

(21) Dale W. Morris

22 April 1997-19 January 1998
(Progressive Conservative Party)



Dale Morris was born on 18 August 1980, and was the youngest Prime Minister in the history of the nation—as well as the first born in the decade of the 1980s, and the first Prime Minister actually born after the Kingdom of Talossa was formed in 1979!

Morris is a native of Cedar Park, Texas, where he was studying at university. A Talossan since 1997, Morris was a strident supporter of the Progressive Conservative Party, and was rewarded for his loyalty by being part of the complex political deal which brought his predecessor, Alberto Manassero, to power in early 1997. Under the arrangement, Morris became *Distáin* (Deputy PM) with the understanding that Manassero would retire at some point, making Morris PM.

As Prime Minister during Talossa's most rapid population expansion ever, Dale Morris was confronted with extraordinary and unprecedented national crises, including attacks from rival micronations in the "Great Bug Nations War of 1997"; a crisis involving the shutdown of the country's online discussion group by a disgruntled political opponent; the suspicious establishment of an unauthorized "Talossa" domain name without the government's prior knowledge; and even the secession of a tiny anti-Talossan hate-group that continued to harass and intimidate Talossans during the remainder of Morris' administration.

With the strong backing of his party, and the electorate, Morris survived them all. His greatest legacy was his involvement in the completion of the 1997 Organic Law, the country's fourth constitution since 1979, which was approved (nearly unanimously) in a public referendum held in the summer of 1997.

The young, untested Dale Morris proved to be an unexpectedly competent leader for the country's government. Unfortunately, constant "real world" distractions conspired to minimize his effectiveness and eventually led Morris to offer his resignation in early 1998.

(22) Dan Wardlow

19 January – 13 March 1998
(Progressive Conservative Party, later Peace and Freedom Party)

Talossans of all stripes had extremely high hopes for Dan Wardlow as he was sworn in as the country's highest elective official on 19 January 1998. These unrealistic hopes were to be dashed to pieces in a series of scandals almost without precedent in the young country's history.

Wardlow was born on 11 February 1951. When he joined the Kingdom of Talossa in 1997 he seemed like the model citizen, showering the country with lavish gifts and technical assistance. But many regarded this middle-aged professor from California as hot-tempered, authoritarian, secretive, and insecure, routinely charging members of his cabinet with disloyalty and tolerating no dissent or diversity of opinions within his government.

Soon after taking office, Wardlow opened secret "peace talks" with the ex-Talossan traitors, talks which later expanded with the King's blessing. Unfortunately, his heart was set on an agreement – any agreement – and the splitters exploited Wardlow's minimal negotiating skills and his growing paranoia about interference from the

King. The resulting “peace treaty” was predictably vague and platitudinous, but Wardlow denounced the King as a “Stalinist” for suggesting a couple of fair and balanced alterations which would have made the treaty binding on both parties. In spite of mediation efforts headed by Sir Ián Metáiriâ, Wardlow refused to allow any criticism; he broke from the PC and founded the “Peace and Freedom Party of Talossa,” in an effort to rally Opposition voters—and a couple of dissident PC members—behind his own personal leadership. Tellingly, the party’s name—and much of its programme—had been drafted by one of the traitors themselves.

With the PC now in Opposition for the first time since 1993, Wardlow proved incapable of organizing an effective government. Talossans grew ever more mystified by Wardlow’s erratic conduct and mad monologues. Finally, before the election could even begin on 15 March 1998, Wardlow renounced his citizenship, to the disbelief and consternation of his friends and foes alike. He was last seen hurling insults at Talossans from abroad—perhaps the strangest man ever to hold the office of Prime Minister of Talossa.

(–) Charles Sauls

13 March – 29 March 1998

(Peace and Freedom Party)

Nobody was more shocked to see Charles O. Sauls become Prime Minister of Talossa than Sauls himself. Indeed, a debate rages on as to whether or not Sauls actually *was* Prime Minister, since he refused to be sworn in! (For this reason, Sauls is not numbered in this list.)

Born on 26 May 1978, Sauls—a young college student from the West Coast—was left holding the bag as Deputy Prime Minister when Dan Wardlow skulked out of Talossa in March of 1998. Sauls’ own loyalty to Talossa was minimal; he had already openly declared himself a “dual citizen” of Talossa and the ex-Talossan traitors’ clique, whose members threatened to cut off their ‘friendships’ with him if he didn’t quit Talossa altogether. Sauls accomplished absolutely nothing as Prime Minister except to rebuild the reputation of his rivals in the Progressive Conservative Party.

In the middle of the March/April 1998 General Election, Sauls too announced that he would renounce his citizenship as soon as the election was over. Using an obscure clause in the Organic Law, the Progressive Conservatives—who were still the majority party in the Cosâ, despite the defection of Wardlow and his backers—engineered the “appointment” of their PM candidate, Chris Gruber, on 29 March 1998, bringing to an abrupt end the short and pointless saga of the Peace and Freedom Party of Talossa and ending the government of Charles Sauls.

(23) Christopher C. Gruber

29 March 1998-18 May 1999

(Progressive Conservative Party)



During the crisis in the PFP Government in the spring of 1998, Chris Gruber stepped forth as the candidate of the battered Progressive Conservative Party. In a feat of constitutional legerdemain, he was effectively sworn into office before the end of the ongoing election, thus restoring a functional government in Abbavilla for the first time in almost a month.

Chris Gruber was born on 12 March 1974 and at the time of his inauguration was working as a disk jockey in Florida. His elevation as PM was ratified by voters, who gave the PC a whopping 16 out of the 20 seats in the Cosâ. Voter turnout reached a record high, and the Tories won fully 40% more voters than they had ever won before in a national election. Gruber was re-elected, with a smaller majority, in December of 1998.

Gruber's outspoken support for controversial immigrant Matt Dabrowski resulted in the defection of former PM Gary Schwichtenberg to the Opposition. Gruber's effectiveness was further limited by the Progressive Conservative's loss of its majority in the Senâts (the legislature's upper house).

Gruber's government began to fall apart when he got Talossa involved with a bickering consortium of self-proclaimed "micronations". Torn between the majority PC position – which was to have nothing whatsoever to do with any of what the King called "plagiaristic micro-nerds" – and the position of some in the Opposition, which was to have Talossa engage in phony UN-style games with these groups, Gruber ended up issuing a Prime Dictate cutting off all bilateral ties with "micronations" but preserving the country's membership in the increasingly fractious fake-UN group. Neither side liked this solution; the King vetoed the PD on the grounds that it clashed with legislation already on that month's Clark. The PC swung behind a ZPT party compromise bill, and cut off all official ties with "micronations."

The flap over the PD proved to be Gruber's swan song and accelerated his intention to resign after more than a year in office. Gruber's resignation was delayed by a lawsuit relating to some appointments which he had put off for months. Over the next few years, Gruber became increasingly angry, and he later renounced his citizenship.

(24) Michael J. Pope

18 May 1999 – 25 June 2002

(Progressive Conservative Party)



By 1999, it seemed inconceivable that anyone but the PC party could govern Talossa. Talossan politics had become PC party politics. Like Mexico's "Institutional Revolutionary Party," the PC had co-opted or intimidated all its rivals into submission. The party's drift was exemplified by Gruber's successor, Michael Pope.

When the Prime Ministerial torch was passed to Michael Pope, the Talossan Government and the Progressive Conservative Party hoped that the torch was in good hands. Pope had been "groomed" for months as Chris Gruber's eventual successor, and proved himself a figure uniquely skilled in maintaining good relations with members of the Government and the Opposition alike. His negotiating abilities solidified his personal support, and he served as PM longer than any other individual in RT history, further consolidating the PC's status as the "parti unique" as well as the party's own belief that Talossa was its personal fiefdom.

Michael Pope became a Talossan citizen in May of 1998, a year before settling into the office of PM. Of military background and a software engineer for the U.S. Government (and with the.gov in his e-mail address to prove it), Pope joined the Progressive Conservative Party as soon as he was naturalized.

Pope was a master at disarming the opposition and building consensus, and the most active Prime Minister the country had seen in years, making regular Speeches to the Nation via the country's discussion group, Wittenberg and maintaining almost daily contact with his cabinet and the upper echelons of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Pope led the PC to majority victories in five straight elections between August of 1999 and April of 2002, but the party during this time was becoming increasingly out of touch with Talossan voters, many of whom were now voting PC out of a sense of personal loyalty rather than out of any enthusiasm for its programme. Ironically, while relying on the King's support (and that of his family and friends), Pope made a point of conveying an image to voters of a Progressive Conservative Party which was not synonymous with the King, through a number of symbolic but unpopular acts like opposition to the US war in Serbia (which he opposed because Bill Clinton led it), and his appointment of outspoken royal critic Johan Anglemark, who later renounced his citizenship. His policy of building bridges to the Opposition while taking the party's own core supporters for granted, was highly successful in the short term, but disastrous in the long term.

A watershed in Talossan history occurred when Secretary of State Daviu Fochtéir (leader of the RCT party) resigned in April of 2002, to be replaced by Marti-Pair Furxhéir. Furxhéir was a PC member who had enthusiastically but illegally established his own "Talossa" web domain even before becoming a citizen. This move meant that every single lever of power in Talossa was now concentrated in the hands of the PC: the Cosâ, Senate, Uppermost Cort, King, and Secretary of State. Opposition parties wilted; the one-party state was a reality.

Pope left office in June of 2002 to organize the National Archives; two years later, as a core member of the PC, he renounced his citizenship, and left Talossa.

(25) Gödafrieu R. Válcadác'h

25 June 2002 – 11 November 2003

(Progressive Conservative Party)



When PM Michael Pope resigned, he left the leadership of the one-party state to his hand-picked successor, Gödafrieu R. Válcadác'h of Maricopa Province. Victorious in yet another election (the party's fourteenth straight majority government since October of 1993) few would have dared predicted that the party would lose its majority within a year and that core PC members, convinced they were the only "true" Talossans and furious at the voters, would renounce their citizenships.

Gödafrieu Válcadác'h was an enigma in many ways, a genuinely likeable character who proved himself to be easily manipulated. Válcadác'h had made his political reputation in the spring of 2002 when he defended Secretary of State Marti-Pair Furxhéir against charges made by the increasingly angry Chris Gruber. Sworn in on Talossan soil (the first PM to be so sworn in since Geoff Toumayan), Válcadác'h was a bundle of energy, running an online paper, constantly interacting with his fellow citizens on Wittenberg, and phoning Talossans world-wide just to keep in touch.

But Válcadác'h bought into the PC's self-indulgent mythology about being "the party of the nation," which, on the strength of those fourteen straight majority wins, felt it had a right to continue unopposed for ever. In the fall of 2002, the PC party began to break up over its own internal disagreements, symbolized largely by its members' bickering over American political issues that were basically irrelevant in Talossa. Pope, Metáiriâ, and Válcadác'h, the leaders of the party, had philosophical and political differences with many Talossans.

Many PC members and supporters had long since become discouraged by the party's conservative drift, but in the era of the one-party state, they felt powerless to go anywhere else. The showdown arose when moderate PC members tried but failed to convince the party to liberalize immigration laws, feeling Talossa had become stagnant under PC rule (the population had been declining consistently since the year 2000). Sir Ián Metáiriâ repeated Wes Erni's 1989 warning that the party had again become a "pot-pie blob," existing only to shut the Opposition out of power, but with no agenda of its own.

In December, 2002, the PC finally broke up. Chris Gruber and Tomás Gariçéir left to form the left-wing *Grey Congress*, while Ben Madison and Wes Erni left to recreate Erni's *La Mhà Nheagrâ* (MN). Válcadác'h skillfully led the PC party to a plurality win in the January, 2003 election. But with only 31% of the vote, he was forced to organize the first coalition government in Talossa since 1993.

Used to having its own way on every issue, the PC did not function well as a coalition partner. In terms of legislation, the MN was in the driver's seat, winning Opposition support to pass wide-ranging reform legislation, especially the "EM200" proposal that restored the country's 200-seat proportional representation Cosâ and made the system more friendly to the kinds of small political parties the PC had been at marginalizing over the years.

In the October 2003 election, the PC continued to decline in popularity. Winning only 49 seats out of 200, the party again had to rely on the support of the MN (which was four seats short of an outright majority itself) and Gruber's Grey Congress. Válcadác'h continued to run the country as if the PC had a personal mandate from the voters, rarely informing his coalition partners of official decisions. Due to "burnout" and some unspecified "life changes," Válcadác'h stunned the nation on 19 October 2003 by announcing his intention to resign; a decision that set off a political firestorm known as the "Halloween Crisis".

Válcadác'h asked the MN, with its 97 seats, to name a new Prime Minister, but then proceeded to reject every candidate the party offered. Finally Válcadác'h announced that Chris Gruber would succeed him. The MN retreated into the Opposition, until Gruber announced his decision (even though Válcadác'h was still PM) to annul the elections and hold new ones, to try and cut down the MN. Válcadác'h stood back while Gruber took control of the agenda, denouncing the MN. Válcadác'h was out of office when the Black Hand and ZPT parties agreed to form their own majority government on 11 November 2003.

(26) Mximo Carbonèl

11 November 2003-2 December 2003
(Black Hand)



The PC, with only 25% of the vote, still behaved as if it were Talossa's indispensable majority party. Psychologically, it had not come to grips with the fact that the one-party state was over. The announcement that Chris Gruber would take over as Prime Minister, regardless of the feelings of a majority in the Cosâ, was a direct challenge to parliamentary democracy and an attempt to formalize PC minority rule.

Remarkably, the MN, with 97 seats, was still willing to sit in the Opposition; but Gruber was becoming increasingly angry, denouncing the Opposition as "mongrels" that were out to "destroy Talossa." Under normal circumstances, Gruber would have been laughed off the stage; but the PC now saw him as a vital ally against the MN, and turned a blind eye to his rantings.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Black Hand and ZPT parties conferred with each other to discuss the crisis. Since those two parties controlled a majority (104 seats) in the Cosâ, the King simply chose to end the bickering by asking the MN's Mximo Carbonèl to form a majority government, restoring majority rule and preventing Gruber from taking office as PM. Carbonèl was sworn in as Talossa's twenty-seventh Prime Minister by telephone on 11 November 2003. So ended the one-party state that the PC party had so carefully erected since 1998.

Mximo Carbonèl, a native of Montreal, Québec, is a figure of controversy in Talossa. Despite an exemplary record of public service to the nation as a Member of the Cosâ, Senator, Opposition Leader, and leader of the RCT party, Carbonèl had a reputation as an anarchist and an inveterate opponent of United States foreign policy. This made him anathema to the Progressive Conservative Party, which sought to marginalize him. His sudden elevation to the office of Prime Minister threw the PC into panic.

Carbonèl proved himself to be a strikingly moderate leader for Talossa. Working like a gentleman with all sides, he opened his MN-ZPT cabinet up to participation from other parties or individual that wanted to get things done in Talossa. But he had little time to set an agenda or form a workable government. While he ignored the vicious personal attacks coming from Opposition Leader Michael Pope, he could not ignore the stupendously illegal and constitutionally ruinous decision, on 22 November, when Secretary of State Martì-Pàir Furxhéir, a hard-core PC supporter, unilaterally and illegally stripped ZPT leader Gary Cone of his Cosâ seats and handed them to the PC, thus depriving the MN-ZPT government of its majority. The PC announced that Carbonèl was out and that Gödafrieu Válcadác'h was Prime Minister again.

This was the beginning of the end for the PC. When King Robert and Cort Justice Sir Ián Metáiriâ met to resolve the crisis, Mximo Carbonèl agreed to step down so that Válcadác'h could indeed return, on an interim basis, before power would ultimately be handed over to **Quedéir Castighâ**, a less controversial MN official. Carbonèl resigned on 2 December 2003 and retired from politics.

(27) Gary L. Cone

2 December 2003 – 2 December 2003
(Els Zefençadéirs del Päts Talossán)

Gary Cone served as Prime Minister for four days. According to PM Válcadác'h, who succeeded him, "things were like Rome of the 3rd century at that time".

(28) Gödafrieu R. Válcadác'h

2 December 2003 – 1 January 2004
(Progressive Conservative Party)

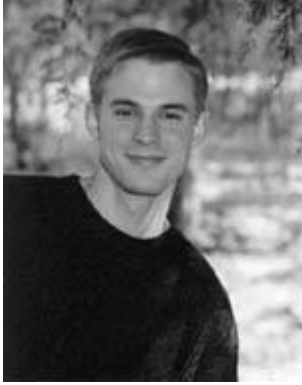


Gödafrieu R. Válcadác'h returned to office as a caretaker Prime Minister upon the resignation of Mximo Carbonèl. The MN and PC attempted to function as a coalition government, while grooming Quedéir Castighâ to take over the job in the new year. Válcadác'h's footnote government passed nearly without incident, but he lost his reputation when he went out of his way to defend Chris Gruber at the end of the year in one of the most outrageous episodes in RT history.

King Robert's Throne Speech on 26 December reiterated that Mximo Carbonèl was a better choice for PM than Gruber. Gruber reacted angrily, publicly berating and threatening the King. Tempers were high. Válcadác'h ended his political career by stepping down as Prime Minister on 1 January 2004. Six months later he quit Talossa after the PC went down to a third straight defeat in national elections.

(29) Quedéir Castighâ

1 January – 17 June 2004
(La Mhà Nheagrâ)



Talossa's twenty-ninth Prime Minister took office in a moment of crisis, but there were high hopes surrounding his elevation to leadership. A music major with citizenship in Florencia, Quedêr Castiglhâ was the first Talossan PM to use his Talossan-language name. Vowing to "serve our nationette as best I can," he was the one MN member who was acceptable to leaders of his increasingly isolated PC coalition partners.

The moderately conservative Castiglhâ had been an early supporter of the MN from its foundation in 2002, serving as a Member of the Cosâ since the January 2003 elections. Castiglhâ owed his appointment as Prime Minister to the insistence of the PC, which believed that he was the only member of the MN that they could manipulate. They were wrong.

Castiglhâ spent his entire term of office walking a tightrope between the ever angrier PC party, and the ever angrier King Robert I, who poked and prodded him to take action against them. "I don't want to give them any excuse to pull the plug," Castiglhâ repeatedly told the King, as he gave the PC the benefit of every doubt.

The Prime Minister called general elections, to end on 14 June 2004. Afraid that the MN might win an outright majority and push the PC into Opposition again, PC Secretary of State Marti-Pair Furxhéir fired Ben Madison as Deputy Secretary of State and charged the MN with an elaborate plot to steal the election through "fraud". Voters responded, inspiringly, by shouldering the additional burdens Furxhéir forced upon them, and using radical election rules to cast their own unimpeachably legitimate votes against the PC. By the end of May, it was clear that the PC was headed for defeat, and Quedêr Castiglhâ's La Mhâ Nheagrâ (Black Hand) party was headed for a huge majority.

On 1 June 2004, the core membership of the PC, which controlled Talossa's online web presence, renounced their citizenship and unilaterally cut off access to Wittenberg to anyone who would not join with them. The effect of this "revolution" was minimal but disruptive. Over 75% of the population stayed loyal to the Organic Law and to Castiglhâ's lawfully constituted government. Prime Minister Castiglhâ led the nation in partnership with Regent Mark Hamilton during this most difficult moment in its history, as the King was in Europe when the PC launched its coup. (Hearing of the PC's impeccable timing, former PM Frédéric Maugey said they had behaved "like a real African dictatorship.")

"Regardless of their grievances," Castiglhâ declared, "they have acted illegally in their attempt to recreate Talossa in their own image. They have deserted you by taking what is yours, and claiming it is still yours only if you join with them. They have ignored you by leaving you out of their plans," he told the Talossan people. "The best and only way to resolve personal issues is to exert self-control. The best and only way to resolve legal issues is by using the instrument that we ourselves have created: the Organic Law. To achieve results by any other means cheapens the experience of being Talossan."

Castiglhâ's party won a large majority when votes were counted on 14 June 2004, winning 122 of the 200 seats in the Cosâ. Most of the remaining seats were vacant, the PC having quit Talossa. However, personally burned out by the whole experience, PM Castiglhâ chose to leave office three days later, and Regent Marcus Cantaloûr asked Gary Cone to form the next government. After some hesitation, Castiglhâ, a patriotic public servant searching for ways to make Talossa fun again, founded the New Vacillation Party and returned to the Cosâ.

(30) Gary L. Cone

17 June 2004-15 February 2005

(Independent)



The resignation of Quedéir Castighâ and the elevation to power of Gary L. Cone capped one of the most storied biographies in Talossan history.

Gary Cone was present at the very birth of the Kingdom of Talossa, on 26 December 1979. A life-long friend of King Robert I, Cone originally formed his own rival micronation, the Glib Room Empire, which feuded with Talossa during those early years. But Cone himself joined Talossa in 1997 and became a leading figure in the Opposition, eventually joining with the ZPT party. A figure of almost mythic proportions, Cone was the ideal choice for Prime Minister at a time when Talossa needed to reconnect with its East Side Milwaukee heritage in the face of internet-related crises.

“I am under no illusions about how difficult this time will be,” Cone told the nation in his first speech on 19 July, in the wake of the PC’s mass-exodus. “My concern is to get the Kingdom back together. I regret that my inexperience will cause this process to go slower than it ought to, but I promise you all, it will be done. We will survive, we will flourish, we will prevail.” Talossans responded brilliantly; within weeks, the country had a new web domain, Wittenberg had been re-established, and life was more or less back to normal.

Although Cone took office with the enthusiastic blessing of the MN party, he was not a party member. Indeed, he was the first genuinely “independent” Prime Minister in Talossa’s long history. At the 2004 TalossaFest, Cone presided over a historic Living Cosâ, held the weekend of 22 August 2004.

(31) R. Marcus Cantaloûr

15 February 2005-20 August 2005
(La Mhà Nheagrâ)

R. Marcus Cantaloûr took over the Prime Minister post from Gary Cone and served during the 34th Cosa. A dispute arose over the growth of the nation and the opposition party after the immigration law was liberalized. This dispute escalated until the King himself abdicated and renounced his citizenship. The Prime Minister followed suit, leaving the nation without leadership.

Xhorxh Asmoûr was Distáin when Prime Minister Marcus Cantaloûr resigned, so by law he served as Prime Minister until a new Prime Minister was named by the Regency, as explained below.

(32) Sir Fritz von Buchholtz

20 August 2005 – 14 July 2006
(Conservative Loyalist Party)



King Robert I abdicated on August 14, 2005, leaving neither a Regent nor a will. The law says “With respect to the succession, abdication of the Crown shall have the same consequence as death.” So legally, King Robert I was dead and intestate, his adopted successor Louis was King, and the Uppermost Cort became the Council of Regency. Since the King also was serving as Secretary of State, that office was empty as soon as his renunciation of citizenship was effective on August 15. Unfortunately, no Deputy Secretary of State had been named.

Prime Minister Cantaloûr renounced his own citizenship effective August 16, without naming a successor to the office of Secretary of State.

At this point, with an election approaching, the government was in crisis. Neither member of the Cort could be reached — indeed, one of the Justices renounced his citizenship effective August 21, leaving Marc Moisan as the only member of the Council of Regency or the Uppermost Cort available to do anything. It was suggested, as per Organic Law, that the Ziu should meet immediately to appoint a Regent (probably in a special session of some sort); but the Council of Regency vetoed that idea, preferring to await the upcoming elections, rather than having the decision given to a Ziu that was just finishing its term of office and about to be dissolved. (In fact, the Cosâ had to be dissolved by the end of August.)

But an election could not take place without a Secretary of State, and the law is crystal clear that the Seneschal appoints the Secretary of State. So there was no way to have elections without a Prime Minister.

At this point, Talossa had an “acting King” — the Council of Regency — and had an acting Prime Minister in Xhorxh Asmoûr, the Distâin. After some number of days spent locating him, Moisan finally reached Asmoûr on the phone, and told him either to act as Prime Minister (and appoint a Secretary of State) or else the Council of Regency would appoint a new interim Prime Minister, who would do so. Xhorxh didn’t act, so on August 20, Moisan appointed Fritz von Buchholtz as interim Prime Minister. Von Buchholtz then appointed a Secretary of State, and Talossa once more had the most important posts filled, legally, and could carry on the basic functions of government, like reporting on the just-finished August Clark, and preparing for the election.

After the election of the 35th Cosa delivered to von Buchholtz’s Conservative Loyalist Party a majority of the elected seats, the Council of Regency named von Buchholtz to succeed himself.

(33) Sir Samuhel Tecladeir

14 July 2006 – 17 April 2007

(Conservative Loyalist Party)



Samuhel Tecladeir was elected Prime Minister with the elections to the 36th Cosa, replacing the retiring Sir Fritz von Buchholtz. Prime Minister Tecladeir administered the government of Talossa with a steady hand, its constitution and society intact, its democracy restored and reinvigorated, and its arms open to welcome new citizens from all over the world to this strange and wonderful community.

During Prime Minister Tecladeir's administration, King Louis I's abdication was voted by the Ziu (acting, per law, as the ward of the minor King, in response to the request of the biological mother of the King, who was not in favour of former King Robert I's having named her son as his successor on the throne). The throne being vacant without an heir, and no members of the Rouergue house being citizens of the Kingdom, the nation was thrown into a crisis. According to Organic Law, the nation prepared to elect a King in a referendum.

In this crisis, the leadership of the CLP promoted exploration of alternatives to an immediate restoration of a King to the throne, including modifying the Organic Law to make the throne pass not by blood but instead only by election at fixed intervals. This stance proved to be a minority position, and one that alienated many CLP voters, who found themselves aligned with the opposition party at the next election.

Tecladeir's term of office is also noted for the marked increase in immigration, including new citizens from around the globe. Unfortunately, a letter of understanding and agreement hammered out by Tecladeir with some former citizens of the Kingdom failed to stop vicious *ad hominem* attacks on current citizens by some of those former citizens. These nasty and unwarranted attacks resulted in resignations from the Tecladeir cabinet.

(34) Ma la Mha

17 April 2007 – 23 October 2008

(The Restore and Uphold the Monarchy Party [37th Cosa], The Revitalize Under the Monarch Party [38th Cosa])



Ma la Mha (Baron Tepistà) is lord of the Barony of Hooligan, located in the extreme northeast corner of Florencia Province. The historic landmark "Hooligans," located in the Barony, is notable in the annals of our nation; it was there that Prime Minister J. Harrison Wozniak was sworn into office.

In the crisis following the abdication of King Louis, Baron Tepistà's party, the RUMP, took a strong stand for the preservation of the hereditary monarchy. This position attracted so many voters that at the election of the 37th Cosa, the RUMP failed for the first time to take a minority.

The 37th Cosa was dominated by debate over necessary changes to the Organic Law to accommodate the new royal house and set the succession law. In the end, the RUMP-led initiative to preserve Talossa's hereditary monarchy won out. Other significant projects of the la Mha government included the fulfillment of the terms of an agreement signed by Prime Minister Tecladeir to create an Association of Talossan Language Organisations, a renewed focus on Talosianisation of the Cestours and on the nation's culture, the declaration of a basis for the nation's currency, and activation of the Royal Bank & Post to create coinage and postage for the realm.

The Baron's leadership as Prime Minister proved so ineffective that the RUMP once again failed to take a minority in the election to the 38th Cosa. Given the results of that election, his party once more punished the Baron by instructing the King to reappoint him to the Prime Ministership.

(35) Ieremiac'h Ventrutx

23 October 2008 – 20 July 2009

(The Remove Useless Ministers Party)



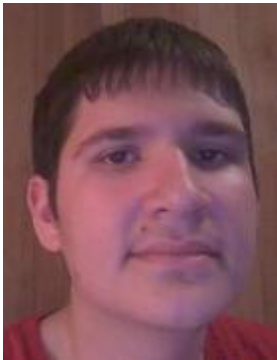
Jeremiac'h Ventrutx was appointed Prime Minister by King John, having served the previous administration as Minister of Stuff. S:reu Ventrutx had spent two years away from the Kingdom and had his citizenship immediately and enthusiastically returned by the Uppermost Cort upon receiving his petition.

S:reu Ventrutx's administration was beset by cabinet resignations and by the end of his term, even S:reu Ventrutx himself had left the party that appointed him, to re-form the Zefençadeirs del Päts Talossan (ZPT) political party. In the ensuing election, the growth of the Progressive Party was apparent, but the RUMP managed to hold on to a slim majority.

(36) Iustì Canun

20 July 2009 – 21 April 2010

(The Really Unpopular Majority Party)



Iustì Canun was appointed Prime Minister by King John on the recommendation of the RUMP after a narrow majority was won by that party in the elections for the 40th Cosa. The RUMP campaigned on a platform promising magical unicorns, jetpacks, and frickin' sharks with frickin' lasers on their frickin' heads, but the nation knew that despite such frivolity, the business of the Kingdom was to be tended seriously. Well, they were wrong. But it was good times anyway.

S:r Canun is an ardent proponent and user of the Talossan language, and also took the Senate seat for Maricopa in the elections that brought him the Seneschalsqab.

(37) Alexander Davis

21 April 2010 – 18 January 2011

(Raßemblamaintsch Unusual dels Misfätsilor Pareßeis)



Alexander Davis was appointed Prime Minister by King John on the recommendation of the RUMP after a narrow majority was won by that party in the elections for the 41st Cosa. S:r Davis began his career in Talossan politics in organizing his province of Maritiimi-Maxhestic, then moved on to serve multiple terms as Distain, as well as in both the Cosa and the Senate.

During S:r Davis's term of office, the Kingdom saw the first issuance of postage stamps, and expanded the communication of the government with the populace through electronic media, by instituting a government blog.

(38) Litz Cjantscheir

18 January 2011 – 21 July 2012

(Restent Uçind ár Moets Previösen [42d Cosa]; Restent Ultramaßind els Muiteux Progreßius [43d Cosa])



Litz Cjantscheir was appointed Prime Minister by King John on the recommendation of the RUMP after that party prevailed in the elections for the 42nd Cosa. Before taking office, S:da Cjantscheir entered into the Chancellorship of the Royal Talossan Bar, and served with distinction in the 41st Cosa. The major goals set for Seneschal Cjantscheir's administration are judicial reform and an increase in ministerial activity.

Dame Cjantscheir founded the Independent Party prior to the 45th Cosa General Election. Dame Litz Cjantscheir remains the Chancellor of the Royal Talossan Bar and serves as the party leader of the Independent party in the 45th Cosa.

(39) Ma la Mha

21 July 2012 – 12 December 2012

(Rexhalistaes Unificheschti per el Monarc'h es els Popuis)



Ma la Mha (Baron Tepistà) is lord of the Barony of Hooligan, located in the extreme northeast corner of Florencia Province. The historic landmark "Hooligans," located in the Barony, is notable in the annals of our nation; it was there that Prime Minister J. Harrison Wozniak was sworn into office.

Count Hooligan returned to office to begin the 44th Cosa, his party pledging to complete the talossa.com redesign and purchase "the Shinies". Hooligan became overbusy with non-Talossan life-events and reluctantly resigned his office in favour of his Distain on 12 December 2012.

(40) Çesli da Chilseu

12 December 2012 – present

(Rexhalistaes Unificheschti per el Monarc'h es els Popuis)



Çesli da Chilseu was serving as Distain during the 44th Cosa when the resignation of Count Hooligan elevated her to the Seneschalsqab.