

PROJECT AON

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

This is a brief coverage of the activities of the collaborative volunteer group “The Aon Project” during the calendar year 2007.

Project Aon originally came into being towards the end of 1999. The first full calendar year of activity was from January 1 2000 — December 31 2000. Therefore, the 2007 calendar year was the eighth full year of activity for “The Aon Project”.

During the year, no new *Lone Wolf* books were published and released, though this is partly due to “The Aon Project” working in harmony with the wishes of its originator—Joe Dever—in revising the text of the books already published with a view to correcting and updating the Mongoose editions of the *Lone Wolf* books. However, in January the two books comprising *Combat Heroes 1* were officially released as PDF documents, namely *Black Baron* and *White Warlord*.

Work also progressed in a number of other areas, and these will be discussed in turn.

PDF

The year saw work on many of the PDF files maintained by “The Aon Project”.

During May and June, *The Magnamund Companion* was heavily reviewed and reworked to use the same layout and the same page-size as the original 1986 publication. This involved a page 1 review of the layout, which was finally completed by June, resulting in its re-release.

September saw the initial release of the *Lone Wolf Miniatures* file, an attempt to document the numerous miniatures produced under official license based on the world of Magnamund. To date, we have images of all of the *Games Workshop* and *Mongoose* miniatures, as well as images of the fine-art statuettes produced by *Roger Andrews Studios*.

The forthcoming *Lone Wolf* computer game from *Ksatria Studios* has been a source of much speculation by fans of Joe Dever’s works, and “The Aon Project” released a PDF in September—*Lone Wolf Ksatria*—which documents all reported articles respecting this release.

It was decided in July that the current *Lone Wolf Miscellaneous* was getting too unwieldy due to its size, so the decision was made to fracture it into two more focussed documents:

Lone Wolf Miscellaneous 1—focussing on adverts for Dever-related merchandise;

Lone Wolf Miscellaneous 2—focussing on articles, interviews, reviews, correspondence, etc.

This reworking of the original file was completed by September, and the two files were released simultaneously.

SCANNING

At the start of the year, none of the eight *Lone Wolf New Order* books had been scanned. During 2007, seven volunteers worked to scan seven of these books, leaving only Book 25 to be scanned. This is a tremendous amount of work, and “The Aon Project” would like to thank all of our volunteers who used OCR to acquire the raw text from their books.

PROOFREADING

With so much text acquisition, work has recently begun on proofreading the raw scanned text. With help from the *Lone Wolf* fan-site “Tower of the Sun”, we have already received several offers of help from potential proofreaders, and we hope to increase our workforce in order to complete this to a high standard as soon as possible.

EDITING

With the switch from using CVS to the more user-friendly Subversion (SVN) system, editing the source XML files became much easier. This combined with the wiki **Errata** pages has allowed work to progress more than satisfactorily with regard to fixing/rejecting many hundreds of issues surrounding Books 1-20, *Grey Star Books* 1-4, and *Freeway Warrior Books* 1-4. During the year, several editors spent time combining the list of reported issues for each of the XMLised books, fixing as many as could be fixed. The remaining issues have been “escalated” to

the Project Coordinator, though the reduction in workload has also facilitated his being able to focus on less visible items (such as setting up the SVN system on the web-server).

RE-RELEASES

During the year, “The Aon Project” worked on re-releasing the first five *Lone Wolf* books with all reported issues fixed and fully updated for the visually impaired, with the number puzzle in Book 5: *Shadow on the Sand* requiring a lot of thought.

STATSKEEPER

This year, the original javascript Statskeeper was superseded by a new version written using *Flash*. Although issues are still being ironed out, this is a major step forward and will hopefully replace Statskeeper, which requires a large amount of time and effort to maintain.

SOFTWARE

During 2007, several individuals have come forward to offer their coding services to create software designed to play the Lone Wolf books as published by “The Aon Project”, with automatic bookkeeping. Although still in development, “The Aon Project” looks forward to the completion of these projects with eager anticipation

PROJECTS FOR 2008

We are hoping for the following projects to be completed during 2008:

- OCR for Book 25. This has been assigned and is currently in progress.
- Proofreading for the New Order books. If at all possible, we would like this to be completed by the end of June 2008, though the voluntary nature of “The Aon Project” renders deadlines moot. Work has already begun on this. If anyone with access to any of the *New Order* books would like to volunteer to help in this matter, please **contact** “The Aon Project”.
- XMLise Books 21-28. This is obviously dependent on completing the proof-reading and scanning of Books 21-28.
- Finish revising Books 6–17, and *Grey Star* Books 1–4. This will require extensive checking and testing for each book as it is revised. As pre-release editions of each book become available, they will be linked to from the **Project Aon Forum**.
- Publication of Book 18: *Dawn of the Dragons* and *Freeway Warrior 1: Highway Holocaust*. Due to the improved functionality of the site—a wiki-based system for reporting errors in the books and an SVN-based multi-user repository—huge amounts of editing on each of these books has already taken place, with a combined total of over one thousand issues resolved already.
- Re-establish contact with *Grey Star* writer Ian Page. The old E-mail address we have for Ian is no longer functioning. We would like to contact him to discuss something he mentioned in his original communiqué to us that we did not have the staff to consider at the time.
- Work the *Tabletop Heroes* column written by Joe Dever in the 1980s for *White Dwarf* magazine into a PDF.
- Foreign Language Translations. With Joe Dever’s permission, we will continue to help fans translate the Project Aon editions into foreign languages.
- Source images of the *Alternative Armies* and *Matchlock Miniatures* 25mm miniatures ranges. If anyone can help us with this, please **contact** “The Aon Project”.
- Contact **Trevor Newton**, illustrator of *Voyage of the Moonstone*.
- Source a copy of the second *Lone Wolf Audiobook: The Dark Door Opens*.

Both as a group and as individuals, “The Aon Project” look forward to 2008. To finally complete two whole levels of work—Scanning and Proofreading—will be a real milestone in the history of the project. Couple that with a great deal of editing and more releases, and 2008 promises to be a vintage year. We encourage all *Lone Wolf* fans to join us in volunteering.

For Sommerlund and the Kai!

THE AON PROJECT TEAM
JANUARY 3rd 2008