

PROJECT AON

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

This is a brief coverage of the activities of the collaborative volunteer group “The Aon Project” during the calendar year 2009.

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 2009 calendar year was the **tenth** full year of activity for “The Aon Project”.

This anniversary year has been marked by a great deal of activity. Five new full releases graced the site this year. February saw the long-awaited release of the nineteenth *Lone Wolf* adventure, *Wolf's Bane*, followed just seven weeks later by the climactic *The Curse of Naar*.

Following the release of these two books, work began in earnest on the New Order series, in which the reader plays a New Order Grand Master rather than Lone Wolf himself. The first of these, *Voyage of the Moonstone*, was published in May to much fanfare. Many fans of Joe Dever's works have never had the opportunity to read any of the New Order books, and to finally see the first of these rare books online was something of a revelation.

When we originally released *Voyage*, it was *sans* the interior illustrations as we had been unable to contact the illustrator, Trevor Newton. Almost exactly as soon as we had released the book, Random House responded to our request to contact Mr Newton, and we received an E-mail from Mrs Newton, informing us of the unfortunate news that Trevor had passed away in 2002. However, she was happy for us to use his work on the site, saying that she remembered “the enjoyment he got from illustrating Mr Dever's book.” Efforts were redoubled, and we managed to re-release the book, complete with illustrations, just a month later.

In August, *The Buccaneers of Shadaki*, a direct sequel to *Voyage*, was published, and fans could finally follow the second half of the epic journey from Holmgard to the magically hidden Isle of Lorn.

September saw the release of the twenty-third

Lone Wolf adventure, *Mydnight's Hero*, one that Joe Dever has singled out in interviews as being one of his favourites, and almost certainly the longest *Lone Wolf* adventure ever written.

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

PDF

In July we released the *Legends Vignettes* document, bringing together all of Brian Williams' interior artwork for the original editions of the *Legends of Lone Wolf* series. These comprise the small illustrations that appeared at the start of each chapter, as well as the black-and-white maps that were found at the front of the books.

Throughout the year, a number of the PDF documents were updated to include new information. The *Lone Wolf Miscellaneous 2* file was updated to include an original article that appeared in the *Books for Keeps* magazine back in 1984 at the start of the *Lone Wolf* series. When we contacted the publishers to ask for their permission to use their work, they not only agreed immediately, but they were also kind enough to provide scans of the original magazine article. Material from other old role-playing magazines were also added.

Also updated was the **Action Charts Pack**, thanks to the efforts of volunteer Daniel Strong. Daniel originally contacted us with a high quality scan of the Kai Action Chart with the text replaced with proper lettering. As it was considered to be of a higher quality than the existing Action Chart we had available on our site, we asked Daniel if he would like to do the same for the other Action Charts (Magnakai, Grand Master, New Order, World of Lone Wolf, and Freeway Warrior) and he kindly agreed. The results are of a considerably higher quality than the previous Action Chart Pack.

EDITING

The wiki **Errata** pages have continued to be a boon to the project, quickly and concisely displaying what issues have been reported and which are still outstanding. These pages helped

track the work of updating all the existing books, as well as proactively making adjustments to the books yet to be released.

RE-RELEASE SCHEDULE

The proposed re-release schedule has been temporarily put on hold while we tackle the remaining *Lone Wolf* books we have yet to publish, namely, *Rune War*, *Trail of the Wolf*, *The Fall of Blood Mountain*, *Vampirium*, and *The Hunger of Sejanos*. Once these books have been released, we intend to re-release at least some of the earlier books to bring them into line with the current changes.

We are also committed to releasing the three remaining *Freeway Warrior* adventures, namely, *Slaughter Mountain Run* (renamed as *Mountain Run* in the U.S.), *The Omega Zone*, and *California Countdown*.

Despite the lack of re-releases, many changes have been made to the source XML files of these books, with hundreds of minor typos and glitches being fixed over the past twelve months.

SOFTWARE

During 2009, the development of specially-written software designed to play the *Lone Wolf* books with automatic bookkeeping gained momentum. *Seventh Sense* now covers the entire Kai series (Books 1–5). A second automated bookkeeping program, *Magnamund Commander*, written in Silverlight, was also released this year, and can be used to play the first seven books, with more to come in the future.

TRANSLATIONS

Work on the content for the two non-English sites being run alongside the English-language

site also continued apace over the past year.

This year saw the first releases for the **Progetto Aon** site: the *Combat Heroes* book *Barone Bianco*, as well as the graphic novel *Il Teschio di Agarash*. Neither of these books have been released in the Italian language before, so much work went into translating the original English text.

On the Spanish **Proyecto Aon** side of things, two complete books were released, *El Desierto de las Sombras* and *La Piedra de la Ciencia* (Books 5 and 6). Much also went on behind-the-scenes: Books 1–4 have been extensively revised, though not yet re-released, while Books 7–9 are also approaching release after much concerted editing work.

PROJECTS FOR 2010

We are hoping for the following projects to be completed during 2010:

- Publication of the remaining five *Lone Wolf* New Order books as a priority.
- Continue to revise the books we have already published (*Lone Wolf* Books 1–23, *Grey Star* Books 1–4, and *Freeway Warrior* Book 1) with a view to re-releasing them with a large number of fixes in the near future.
- Source a copy of the second *Lone Wolf* Audiobook: *The Dark Door Opens*.
- Publish more Spanish translations of the *Lobo Solitario* books, and republish Books 1–6.
- Simultaneously release some books in the much-requested PDF format as well as the traditional online edition (tentative).

Both as a group and as individuals, “The Aon Project” look forward to 2010. In the coming 12 months we hope to release the remaining five New Order books. This will require a lot of work, but this past year has shown it to be possible, now that we have so much groundwork completed already, including swathes of fixes already implemented. We encourage all *Lone Wolf* fans to join us in volunteering.

For Sommerlund and the Kai!

THE AON PROJECT TEAM
JANUARY 1st 2010