

Ward Name: **Stronghold District**

Motto: "With the Hunter's strength"



Colours: Red and black trimmed yellow

Device: Per fess Gules a dexter arm holding a sceptre Or in pale; Sable a Centaur proper.

The Centaur in the Stronghold arms represents Zirchev's protection. Originally the Stronghold arms were simply Sable a Centaur proper. The arm holding the sceptre was added after Petros Radu move the center of political power from the Hill to the Stronghold district by deposing Duke Alexandr Marilenev.

Patron: Zirchev
Prior: Anton Radu
Captain:

Overview: Founded on one of the original sites of civilization at Specularum, the Stronghold District dates back to a time when Specularum was divided into smaller, walled communities. The Stronghold District is controlled by the Radu family. *[K:KoA]*

Demographics: Population: c1,300 in 13 blocks
Primarily Traladaran



Blocks marked '6' on map are Radu Territory

Radu Territory: The Radu family owns several blocks of residences and businesses. The clan has its own home here and everyone in the neighbourhood is either employed by the family or bound to it by debt or blood ties. The family patriarch, Anton Radu, may be found in his palatial lair in the eastern end of the district near the gates. *[K:KoA]*

History: At the beginning of Traldar's Dark Age (around 800BC), Vandar tribesmen from the Hin lands reached Marilenev, and settled the site now known as the Stronghold district. The Traldar kings welcomed them to help repopulate the town after its losses created by the threat of a Beastmen invasion. Within three centuries, the fusion of Vandars and Traldars resulted in a new race - the Traladarans.

Over the next several centuries, Marilenev's trading expanded as its commerce reached Minroth, The Five Shires, Darokin, Ylarum, Rockhome, the Gnome Caravan, and Thyatis. The growth of seaborne trade saw the immediate area around Mirror Bay developed to provide berthing and cargo facilities for vessels from overseas.

The failure of the Traladaran League in 612AC left the Duchy of Marilenev deprived of much of its political power. The Radu family (a powerful merchant group) lead the trade guild in ousting Duke Alexandr Marilenev and create an oligarchic republic, the City-State of Marilenev initially controlled from the Stronghold district. The Radus solidified their hold on the merchant guild in the coming centuries. They gained popular among the people through acts of charity, like digging the great irrigation channel during the Great Drought (613AC). In 675AC Illija Radu fortified the Stronghold district and started a political campaign to extend the fortifications to whole town. The construction of the city walls was financed by Marilenev's Town Council in 681AC as the Vampire Wars rage across Traladara. The Radu family remains a powerful faction in present-day Specularum exercising its control of the Merchants' Guild, of the Stronghold district and of other activities.

Monuments & Public Buildings:	3 Fountains 1 Well 1 Garden – contains Bust of Petros Radu
Churches & Temples:	6 Religious buildings: Major building is the Shrine of Zirchev There is a (Primary) School associated with the church, and 4 other appropriate temples or shrines (Church of Traladara)
Inns & Taverns:	One inn is named "The Stronghold" – perhaps built on the ruins of the pre-Thyatian conquest keep?
Buildings:	Merchants' Guildhall (Anton Radu is the Guildmaster) sited here. See article on 'Guilds, Orders and Secret Societies in Karameikos' by Giampaolo Agosta - http://www.pandius.com/karagoss.html The Armourers' Guildhall is also located in this District. Most businesses (shops and workp;aces) are located in the blocks at the north end of this District. The southern end is primarily residential, although Radu territory includes at least one granary and warehouse storage.
Notable	Anton Radu (son of Antonio "The Great" Radu and Dorisimo

Residents: Calihar)
Cartha Radu (older brother)
Zweiss Radu (eldest son, married Rebecca Kaison)
Antonito Radu (youngest son, married Gloria Inexdio)
Theodiscius | Radu (eldest son of Zweiss)
Pieter Radu (youngest son of Zweiss)
Emil Radu (son of Anonito)
[K:KoA]

Law Enforcement & Crime: The Mirror Bay Regiment of the City Guard has 1 Company (3 Squadrons) stationed at the Duke's Road Gate, and another Company (also 3 Squads) stationed at the "inner" gate between the Stronghold District and the central city.
See AllanP's article at the Vauts -
<http://www.pandius.com/speccgrd.html>

Anton Radu is head of the Veiled Society which has its fingers into rackets across the city, and exercises control over the Stronghold District. (see Giampaolo Agosta's article -
<http://www.pandius.com/karagoss.html>

Other Notes: