# TALISMANORAK

Edition No2 December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 by Katie B.

Special Christmas edition includes a free gift for all readers as well as puzzles, conundrums and activities to keep you occupied over the festive period.

## Free Gift - Paint your Talisman Highlander miniature just like the experts.

(Note - if your free tin of tartan paint is not attached to the front cover of your copy of the Talismanorak please speak to your local newsagent)

## Box serial numbers

Well after the last bodice busting article about the serial numbers found on box lids, we were inundated with a letter from a Mrs Trellis in Staines who said that it was important to have serial number information on boxes as how was she to know whether the box contained Cornflakes or Golden Nuggets. Thank you, Mrs Trellis.

(We question the validity of this letter as we were led to believe there is no such place as Staines. It's just a mark on the map- Ed)

There seems to be very little variety on box numbers when it comes to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Though our regular reader Bluesky mentioned 01026<sub>2</sub> this is the Australian version. Interesting that the Australian number is sequential to the British 01027<sub>4</sub> Expansion number but the English base game version isn't. Weird!

However, the fun really starts (fun? -Ed) when we look at R4th and things just go potty. Our expert on the spot reporter Jon New when digging in the archives found that the cataclysmic change in numbers on the back of the boxes appears to have been around about the time of the Reaper small box expansion. See the different examples below.

One would assume the last of the three is a late example as you are no longer invited to visit FFG at their web site. Something I have only seen on my Harbinger small box at the end of the licence. (Source from FFG website quote – "Beginning February 28th, 2017, Fantasy Flight Games will no longer offer for sale any games in conjunction with Games Workshop, including *Talisman* and all games taking place in the *Warhammer Fantasy* and *Warhammer 40,000* universes.")

However, the design of the back of the boxes seems to change over time with various new information panels appearing. This is a slight departure from the fascinating subject of box serial numbers and will be looked at in a future edition of the Talismanorak.

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But hang on just when you thought this topic could not become more knicker wettingly exciting we have yet to mention shrink wrap box numbers. "Shrink wrap box number" I hear you cry. Yes, shrink wrap box numbers.

Shown below is the sticky label that was on my base game shrink wrap (I'm sure I'm not the only person to keep such things) and the printed bar code label of the back of the box. This is a whole new can of whupass worms which I won't be able to open until I get my new tin opener for Christmas.

















Have you ever wondered what the cards looked like when, back in the 80's you had torn off the shrink wrap, removed the lid and viewed the magical wonders of the contents of the Talisman world for the first time. Well now you can again. Courtesy of the Talismanorak archives here's how they would have looked.

First up in glorious monochrome Talismanoscope 1<sup>st</sup> edition











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## Talisman 3rd Edition in WarhammerQuest

News about artwork similarities with 3<sup>rd</sup> edition and WarhammerQuest cards can be found on Talisman Island here

https://www.talismanisland.com/features/shared-artwork/warhammer-quest-artwork/

It seems that 3<sup>rd</sup> edition box art was used for two of the Deathblow magazines. Deathblow Magazine was a publication EXCLUSIVELY dedicated to Warhammer Quest! It contained new scenarios and adventures (GM and/or non-GM versions), new Warriors, new Settlements, and new Rules!







Geoff Taylor's complete piece of artwork found on the Dungeon of Doom box can be found on the inside cover of the Adventure book.



There also sems to be crossovers with the miniatures in the photography that adorns the box and rule booklets





### Christmas fashion tips for the Talismanista around town

Show your support for your favourite journal with this chic and stylish apparel by Storm River clothing. Guaranteed blizzard repellent, blood stain resistant, valley of fire proof and can be converted into a sail for that make shift raft. Wearers also get an automatic saving throw of a 6 when worn at parties and social gatherings.



Well that's all folks for another edition of the Talismanorak. To all our readers I hope you all have a lovely festive Christmas and God Bless and happy adventuring in to the New Year.

