

English Rules

Background

Deutsche Hanse or, in Latin, Hansa Teutonica, are alternative names for the Hanseatic League, an alliance between merchant guilds and (later) between cities originating from lower Germany. Cities that joined the League were called Hansa cities. The League emerged in the middle of the 12th century without being explicitly founded and there was no formal apply for admission until the second half of the 14th century, so it is almost impossible to tell exactly which cities belonged to the league within this period, but altogether almost 200 cities were directly or indirectly involved.

Players attempt to increase their standing as merchants in the Hanseatic League by gaining prestige points. This may be done in different ways: Establishing a network of

Kontors in new Hansa cities may be as promising as improving trading skills.

Players accomplish various activities during their moves. Traders may be inserted on the gameboard, moved, or even displace traders from other players. If they eventually occupy an entire trade route between two cities, a new Kontor may be established. But players may also develop their trading skills instead in particular cities, improving their abilities throughout the course of play. Winner of the game is the player who gains most prestige points.

Materials

1 two-sided Gameboard (front side 4-5 players, back side 2-3 players)

135 Traders (wooden cubes – 27 in each player's colour)

20 Merchants (wooden disks – four in each player's colour)

16 Bonus Marker:
5x Extra Kontor,
2x Swap Kontors
2x three additional Activities,
2x four additional Activities
3x Improve Skill
2x remove three Traders

5 Panels in shape of an escritoire

1 "completed cities" counter (black cube)

1 Pawn for the two player game

4 Cardboard Counter with soldiers to divide the gameboard into provinces in the two player game

1 two-sided Gameboard



5 Panels in shape of an escritoire



4 soldiers



16 Bonus Marker



and the following wooden pieces:

135 Traders (wooden cubes, 27 in each player's colour)

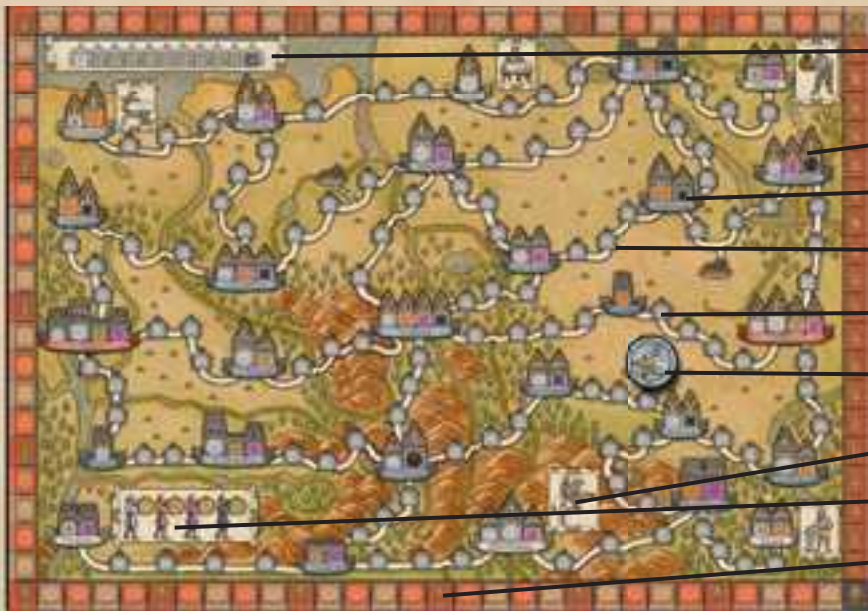
20 Merchants (wooden disks – four in each player's colour)

1 "completed cities" counter (black wooden cube), 1 Pawn for the two player game

The Gameboard

The gameboard shows a somehow arbitrary selection of Hansa cities with up to four Kontors (branch offices, houses with square or round fields in white, orange, pink and black). Trade routes with two to four steps (villages, house symbols) connect these cities. Five cities (Groningen, Stade, Lübeck, Göttingen and Halle) show pictograms of trading skills which may be enhanced if a trading route is established. In one city (Coellen) prestige points may be gained. Tabernas (Latin for "tavern") border the trade routes from Osnabrück to Bremen, from Lüneburg to Perleberg and from Hildesheim to Goslar.

Additionally, the gameboard shows a prestige point track and a list of cities with completed Kontors (i.e., all houses are occupied by a trader or a merchant).



- List of cities with completed Kontors
- Hansa City
- Kontor
- Trading Route
- Free field
- Taberna (with Bonus Marker)
- City with trading skills
- City with prestige points
- prestige point track

Startaufbau

The following three bonus markers are shuffled and placed face up on the three Tabernae: 1 x Remove three Trades / 1 x Swap Kontor / 1x Extra Kontor

The small arrow shall point towards the trade route, making the allocation to that particular route more obvious. The remaining bonus markers are shuffled and placed face down next to the gameboard. Each player chooses one colour and places the appropriate escritorio in front of him. Additionally, he takes all 27 traders (wooden cubes) and four merchants (wooden disks) of that colour. As a rule of thumb, merchants may be utilised instead of traders during gameplay if not stated otherwise, but not vice versa (a trader does not make a merchant). Sometimes the term "resource" will be used if either may be chosen.

The fields of the trading skill tracks on the escritorios are covered with traders and merchants – the square ones with wooden cubes, and the round ones (the Liber Sophiae track) with wooden disks. Only the first (leftmost, shaded pale) field in each track is left free. If a skill improves during gameplay, a cube or disk on the appropriate track is removed (this basically means that players will have more traders and merchants available if they develop their trading skills). The figures on the rightmost uncovered fields of the trading skill tracks indicate the current abilities of that player. I.e., the initial values are one victory point per Kontor, two activities per turn, basic privileges, two moves during one activity, and three new resources.



Each player puts one wooden cube at the "zero" field of the prestige point track, and the "completed cities" marker is placed at the "zero" field of the "completed cities" track.

The start player is randomly determined. He will take five traders and the extant merchant (the other three reside on the Liber Sophiae track on the escritorio) from his remaining stock into his personal supply. Clockwise each following player puts one more trader in his personal supply (i.e., the second player six, the third player seven, etc). During gameplay, traders (and merchants) have to be assigned from stock to the personal supply before being used. Thus, stock and personal supply have to be kept separately all time (players may agree to place the stock above and the personal supply below their escritorios).

Place on the three tabernae:



	Supply	Stock
Startplayer	○ / 5 □	6 □
Player 2	○ / 6 □	5 □
Player 3	○ / 7 □	4 □
Player 4	○ / 8 □	3 □
Player 5	○ / 9 □	2 □

The Escritorios:

The escritorios show pictograms of the five activities players may choose during their turn (at the bottom, see “Sequence of Play” for details), a tin plate (where players may store bonus markers) and five trading skill tracks showing current development level of the appropriate attribute (the less symbols are covered the further developed an attribute is). In detail, the five attributes are:



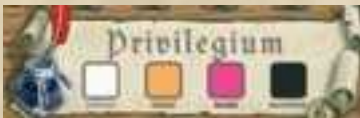
Clavis Urbis (town key)

(1, 2, 2, 3, 4): The player's overall standing in the Hanseatic League. At the end of the game the player's largest network of connected Kontors count the indicated amount of prestige points per Kontor (see “Evaluation of Prestige Points”, item F for details).



Actiones (activities)

(2, 3, 3, 4, 5): The player may perform as many activities in his turn as indicated by the rightmost uncovered pictogram. In the beginning, this will be two activities per turn, but this may grow up to five when the game proceeds. Note that newly acquired activities may be used immediately.



Privilegium

Privilegium primum (Latin for basic privileges, required to establish Kontors in white houses), minus (moderate privileges, orange), maius (higher privileges, pink), and maximus (highest privileges, black) indicates which houses in a city the player may staff to establish a Kontor. See “Establishing a Trade Route” for details.



Liber sophiae (book of lore)

(2, 3, 4, 5) indicates how many traders and merchants the player may move (not insert) on the gameboard within one activity.



Bursa (money bag)

(3, 5, 7, C): Amount of traders (wooden cubes) and merchants (wooden spheres) the player may take from stock into his personal supply as one activity. “C” stands for the Latin word “cuncti”, which means “all” or “entirety” - thus, the player may move all traders and merchants available in his stock into his personal supply. Note that traders and merchants in stock need to be moved into the personal supply before they may be utilised by the player!

Activities:

1. Allocating Traders and Merchants
2. Inserting a Trader or Merchant
3. Displacing a Trader or Merchant
4. Moving Traders and Merchants
5. Establishing a Trade Route

Any activity may be performed more than once per turn

Two activities per turn at the beginning (Actiones)

May increase up to five activities per turn

Sequence of Play:

Players perform their turns in clockwise order. Each player performs as many activities as their current trading skills allow (current figure on “Actiones”) before his turn ends. He may choose from:

1. Allocating Traders and Merchants
2. Inserting a Trader or Merchant
3. Displacing a Trader or Merchant
4. Moving Traders and Merchants
5. Establishing a Trade Route

Activities may be performed in any order and may be repeated as often as the player wants. But any activity has to be completed before the player starts a new one (you cannot “save” bits of an activity for later during your move). Players can perform two activities per turn initially which may increase up to five by developing Actiones (remember that players may use additional activities they gain immediately). Players do not need to perform as many activities as possible.

1. Allocating Traders and Merchants

Move as many Traders and/or Merchants from your stock into your personal supply as indicated by the "Bursa" track on your escritorioire (three, five, seven, or all). Remember that players may only utilise resources in their personal supply. Take less if there aren't sufficient resources in your stock.

2. Inserting a Trader or Merchant

Put one trader or merchant from your personal stock on the gameboard. He may be placed on any free (not occupied by any other trader or merchant) field on any route between two cities (other fields on that trading route may be occupied by own or opposing players resources). Do not place him inside a city (they are for Kontors only).

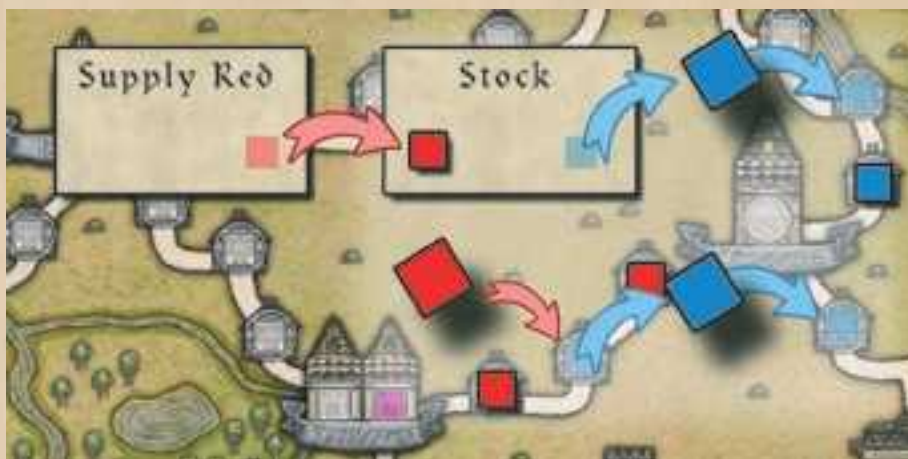
3. Displace a Trader or Merchant

Replace an opposing player's trader or merchant from any field on any route between two cities by someone from your personal supply and pay one additional resource (trader or merchant) as a penalty from your personal supply to your stock. Pay two resources when displacing a merchant (of course you may not displace anyone if you cannot pay).

The opposing player puts the displaced resource plus one additional resource (two if the displaced resource is a merchant) from his stock on any empty field on an adjacent route. "Adjacent" means that there is only one city between the field the resource has been displaced from and the field it is moved to. Note that this counts "per resource" – i.e., one resource may be placed on a route beyond the city terminating one side of the route and the other one on a route beyond the city at the other side. Only if all adjacent fields are occupied a field within a distance of two cities may be chosen, etc. If the player happens to have insufficient resources in stock, he may take resources from his personal supply (if this is still not enough he may take resources which have been placed on fields of trading routes before).

The "displaced player" does not need to insert resources from his stock and/or personal supply if he does not want to. But he may not move the "saved" resources from his stock into his personal supply instead, not even the displaced resource (this has to be placed on the gameboard again).

Note that it is possible to replace a merchant by a trader.



4. Moving a Trader or Merchant

Move your own traders and/or merchants around the gameboard. Move up to as many as indicated by the "Liber Sophiae" track on your escritorioire (two resources at the beginning, but this may advance up to five when you develop that skill). You may not insert traders or merchants from your personal supply and you may not displace other players' resources (but you may swap the positions of one of your traders and one of your merchants if you want to).

Note that you cannot move Kontors between cities or resources into cities.

Put 3, 5, 7 or all resources from your stock into your personal supply

Put one resource on a trade route

Replace one resource of an other player by an own resource

Displacing trader costs one resource

Displacing a merchant costs two resources

Displaced resource plus one (two) resources from stock go to an adjacent route

Rearrange two to five own resources on gameboard (Liber Sophiae)

Establish a new trade route

Constraint: all steps of the trade route are occupied with own resources

- a) prestige points are granted,
- b) you obtain a bonus marker (if available), and
- c) a Kontor, a skill level, or extra prestige points.

Prestige points (PP) for adjacent cities

Take bonus marker if available

5. Establishing a Trade Route

If all fields of a trading route between two cities are occupied by only your traders and/or merchants, you may establish a new trade route (this is an activity, it does not happen automatically). If you decide to do so,

- a) prestige points are granted,
- b) you obtain a bonus marker (if available), and
- c) a Kontor, a skill level, or extra prestige points.

a) Prestige Points: If a Kontor has been established in any of the adjacent cities already, the player controlling the city gets a prestige point ("adjacent" means the cities terminating that particular trading route at either end). Advance the appropriate players markers on the prestige point track. Advance one by two fields if the same player controls both cities. No prestige point is paid for cities without Kontors. The player "controlling" a city is the one having most Kontors in that city. In case of a tie, the one occupying the higher valued house (the one further to the right) controls the city.

If a player reaches or exceeds 20 prestige points, the game ends immediately. See "The Scoring" to learn how to proceed.

Note that prestige points are granted independent from any further activity in this phase (you may just establish a new trade route, prestige points are distributed, and that's it).



b) Bonus Marker: Remember that three bonus markers were allocated to the three trade routes showing Tabernas during game setup. Skip this step if there is no bonus marker allocated to the trade route you just established.

If a bonus marker is allocated to that trading route, take it. Put it face up in front of you and use it in any of your turns. If you need a detailed explanation of the meaning of the marker, have look at "Bonus Markers" at the end of the rules. Using a bonus marker does not count as an activity. Bonus markers may only be used once and have to be turned over after being used. But keep used bonus markers, they count prestige points at the end of the game (see "Evaluation of Prestige Points, section C). Draw a new bonus marker and put it face down on the tin plate on your escritorio without looking at it. If no new bonus marker can be drawn (because there aren't any left), the game ends immediately. See "The Scoring" to learn how to proceed.

Before the next player starts his turn, look at the bonus marker(s) on your tin plate and place them next to any route(s) of your choice (there need not to be a Taberna next to it). Place a new bonus marker for each one you obtained during your move (there have to be three bonus markers on the gameboard before the next player starts his turn). Do not place a new bonus marker immediately after drawing it (this bars you from spending any extra activities bonus marker just received to obtain a newly placed bonus marker). Dedicate it to any trade route you want as long as the following three constraints are fulfilled:

- No bonus marker is dedicated to that trade route yet.
- No trader or merchant is located on that trade route (i.e., all its fields are empty).
- At least one adjacent city has one free Kontor left.

c) Gain a Kontor, a Skill Level, or extra Prestige Points: Usually you may build a new Kontor in any of the two cities that are connected by the trade route you are establishing. But depending on the city, you may promote a trade skill or gain prestige points instead.

II) Kontor

Place one of your traders and/or merchants from the newly-created trade route in the lowest available house in an adjacent city of your choice and put all other resources on that trade route back into your stock (not your personal supply). "Adjacent" means one of the two cities on any end of the trade route. "Lowest" means the leftmost house in that city which is not yet occupied by a trader or merchant.

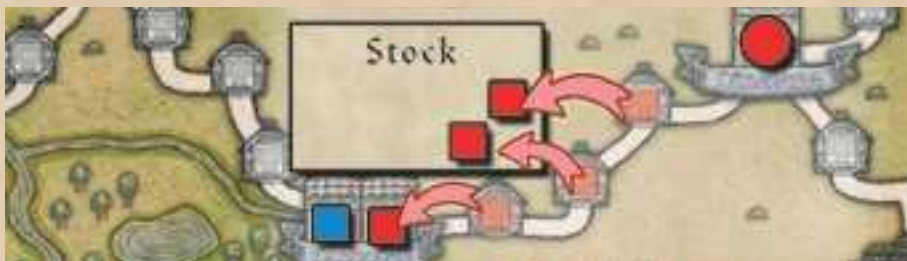
Do not leap out houses. And you have to meet these requirements:

- Houses with square fields demand traders and houses with round fields demand merchants. I.e., if you need a merchant but have only traders on the trade route, you may not found that new Kontor.
- You need to possess an adequate Privilegium. I.e., to occupy an orange house, you need at least "Privilegium minus".
- You need the bonus marker "extra Kontor" if no empty house is available (see "Bonus Markers" for details).

If the house your trader moves to shows a golden coin, you immediately gain one victory point (increase your counter on the prestige point track accordingly). If your trader or merchant moved into the last empty house in that city (all houses are occupied now), increase the "completed city" marker. If the marker reaches ten, the game ends immediately. See "The Scoring" to learn how to proceed.

Note that even if you do not meet the requirements or if all houses in both cities terminating a trading route are busy you still may establish a new trading route – someone will obtain prestige points (see section a), and you may gain a bonus marker (see section b). Establishing a Kontor network between Arnheim and Stendal is rewarded by prestige points. "Kontor network" means that there has to be an uninterrupted chain of connected cities all containing at least one of your traders or merchants. The first player who achieves this goal gets seven prestige points, the second player four, and the third one two prestige points (advance your prestige point counter accordingly). Note that you do not need to control a city (see section a), you only need to have a Kontor there.

If a player reaches or exceeds 20 prestige points, the game ends immediately. See "Evaluation of Prestige Points" to learn how to proceed.



III) Skill Level: If one of the adjacent cities is Groningen, Stade, Lübeck, Göttingen or Halle, you may promote the appropriate skill instead of establishing a Kontor. Put all traders and merchants from the trading route back into your stock and the leftmost trader (Clavis Urbis, Actiones, Liber sophiae, Bursa) or merchant (Liber Sophiae) from your escritoire to your personal supply. The skill you promote depends on the city (Bursa in Lübeck, etc). The value on the vacated field indicates the new skill level (it may actually be the same value than before). The new value may be used immediately – in particular, if Actiones increase you immediately gain an extra activity for the current turn.

III) Prestige Points: Establishing a trade route between Coellen and Warburg, you may staff any empty field on the prestige point tableau next to Coellen with a merchant from the trade route instead of establishing a new Kontor (the other resources from the trade route go back into your stock). But you have to hold the appropriate Privilegium to occupy a field: Like, you need at least Privilegium maius to occupy the pink field and gain nine prestige points at the end of the game.

Not that you will get the indicated prestige points at the end of the game, not now. Thus, they have no influence on the end of game conditions mentioned in section "End of the Game". Note also that different to building Kontors, you may skip fields in this case, they do not have to be occupied in order.

Put one resource from the trade route into an adjacent city

Improve one trade skill instead

Allocate prestige points instead



And of the Game

End of game:

20 or more prestige points

Bonus marker cannot be placed

Ten cities are occupied

Prestige point payout during game only for controlled cities when a new trade route is established, houses with golden coins and network from East to West

Prestige points:

Gained during gameplay
(0-27 PP)

Fully developed Skill
(each 4 PP)

Bonus Markers
1 Bm: 1PP
2 od. 3 Bm: 3 PP
4 od. 5 BM: 6PP
6 od. 7 Bm: 10 PP
8 od. 9 Bm: 15 PP
10 + Bm: 21 PP

Allocation table at Coellen
(7 / 8 / 9 / 11 PP)

Each controlled city
(2PP)

Network



The game may end in three different ways:

- A player accomplishes 20 or more prestige points. The activity that led to this condition is finalised, then the game ends. Note that the activity need not to be executed by the player meeting the condition, this may well be two different players. Note also that the player's activity is finalised, not the player's turn.
- No replacement bonus marker is available (remember that you keep bonus markers even after use, as you get prestige points for them, see below). Note that this happens when you draw a new bonus marker at the end of an "Establishing a Trade Route" activity, not at the end of your turn when you place new bonus markers on the gameboard. Note also that the player's activity is finalised, not the player's turn.
- The "completed city" marker is advanced to the "ten" field. The activity that led to this condition is finalised, then the game ends.
- Remember that during gameplay prestige points are only granted when a trade route is established (gained by the players controlling the neighbouring cities), when a Kontor is established on a house bearing a golden coin and when Arnheim and Stendal are connected by a network. Any additional prestige points are paid out later and do not count for end-of-game condition (especially the prestige points gained in Coellen).

Evaluation of Prestige Points

Prestige points may be evaluated in two different ways, either by summing them up using the prestige point track, or by using a spreadsheet which may be downloaded from our homepage www.argentum-verlag.de.

A)

Of course you keep the prestige points you acquired during gameplay.

B)

Add four prestige points for each skill you developed to the maximum (i.e., there is no trader or merchant left on that particular trading skill track on your escritorio) except "Clavis urbis".

C)

Add prestige points for bonus markers according to the following table:

1 BM - 1 Pt; 2 od. 3 BM - 3 Pt; 4 od. 5 BM - 6 Pt;

6 od. 7 BM. - 10 Pt; 8 od. 9 BM. - 15 Pt; 10 or more BM. - 21 Pt.

D)

Add prestige points as indicated on the prestige point table next to the city Coellen. Your merchant(s) went there during the course of the game, but you haven't received any prestige points for that by now.

E)

Each city is scored: The player controlling it (see 5(a) to learn what "controlling" means) gets two prestige points.

F)

Count the amount of Kontors in the largest network you have on the gameboard. These Kontors belong to cities which are directly connected with each other (i.e., there is a trade route between). Multiply that with the "Clavis urbis" skill on your escritorio and add the result to your prestige points.

Winning the Game:

The player with most prestige points wins the game. In case of a tie, more than one player win the game.

Bonus Marker

There always will be three bonus markers on the gameboard at the beginning of each players turn. If bonus markers are allocated, they will be replaced at the end of the players move. See 5(b) for details. The following bonus markers are available:

Extra Kontor:

You may ignore the restrictions for establishing a new Kontor in a city. Just place one of your traders (or merchants) left of the houses of a city when you establish a new trade route (rather than occupying the leftmost empty house). The only prerequisite is that at least one house in the city is occupied already (no matter by which player).

When the game proceeds, this is a regular Kontor. It only counts less than the leftmost "regular" Kontor when it comes to controlling a Kontor (see 5(a) for details). Additional "Extra Kontor" may be build left of the first "Extra Kontor". Such an extra Kontor may not be chosen when using a "Swap Kontor" bonus marker (see below).

Swap Kontor:

Swap two counters in adjacent houses inside one city. Do not care for the shape of a counter – i.e., you may move a trader from a "square field house" to a "round field house". Also, do not care about your Privilegium – you may move one of your counters on a "pink house" although you only have Privilegium minus.

Extra Activities (+3 / +4):

Depending on the kind of bonus marker you use, you have three or four extra Actiones in your turn.

Improve Skill:

Improve any trading skill by removing the leftmost trader (in case of Liber Sophiae: merchant) on one of the five trading skill tracks on your escritorio. Put it to your personal supply.

Remove three Traders:

Actually, you may remove merchants as well. Just take any three resources from any trading routes of your choice and put them in the appropriate player's personal supply (or players' personal supplies). Do not remove resources from inside cities, only from trade routes.

Replace bonus markers at the end of your turn

Choose route without bonus markers and resources and with one free Kontor left in one of the adjacent cities

Using a bonus marker is not an activity

Use when establishing a new trade route



Swap two resources in adjacent houses



Extra Activities (+3 / +4):



Increase one skill



Remove three resources from the game-board



Rules for the Two Player Game:

Two player game:

Same rules, but

Gameboard divided in provinces, trade routes and four soldiers are borders

Move extra pawn over one or two borders for free before or after your turn

Moving the extra pawn any distance during your turn costs one activity

Inserting a resource, displacing a resource and establishing a trade route require the pawn being present

The gameboard is divided into provinces. Borders are the trade routes and four soldiers which are placed between Osnabrück and Münster; between Münster and Dortmund, between Lüneburg and Bruinswiek and between Bruinswiek and Goslar.

An additional pawn is introduced to the game which moves over the gameboard from province to province. Players may move the pawn over two borders (trade routes or soldiers) before or after their moves (i.e., before the first activity or after the last activity) with no expenses. Players may also move the pawn to any province any time during their move, but then for the price of one activity.

Activities "Inserting a Trader or Merchant", "Displace a Trader or Merchant" and "Establishing a Trade Route" may only be performed when the new pawn is present (i.e., standing next to the trade route, which is a border to that province now). There are no restrictions for activity "Moving Traders and/or Merchants".

Before starting the game, one player will put the pawn in any province he wants. The other player will become start player.



Things which are easily forgotten:

- Establishing a new trade route, all traders and merchants from that route are put back into stock (except the one used for a new Kontor, which goes into a city).
- Players controlling the city on each side of a newly established trade route gain a prestige point each immediately.
- New bonus markers are placed on the gameboard at the end of a players turn.
- If a new Kontor occupies the last empty house in a city, advance the "occupied cities" counter.
- Put the resource in your personal supply if you improve a trade skill.
- If you displace another player's resource, don't forget to pay one (two) resources from your personal supply to your stock. And the other player gets one (two) resources from his stock and puts them on the gameboard.
- Establishing a new trade route costs one activity (it does not happen automatically when you occupy all fields of a trade route).

Wisdom from experienced Merchants:

The game offers plenty of possibilities to gather prestige points. Only after having played the game a few times you will have an impression on how many options there are. The ones who do not want to loose the fascination on finding out by themselves should not continue reading but rather start playing. The others may find the following helpful.

Nothing to say against Actiones being very powerful, but the other skills are very powerful as well when used deliberately. It depends on the course of a game how powerful each skill actually becomes.

If you have plenty of skill in Liber Sophiae you may try to be displaced frequently. You will have many resources on the gameboard without the continuous need to refill your personal supply and having to insert new resources again and again.

You will gain many prestige points at the end of the game succeeding to establish a large network of connected Kontors (although you may suffer from resource shortage when you don't develop your skills too much).

Cleverly utilise your merchants on trade routes to have them by hand when you want to establish Kontors, or on the prestige point tableau at Coellen.

Bonus markers offer two advantages: They allow special activities, and they count prestige points at the end of the game.

Have an eye on the other players activities. If you leave too many opportunities for your opponents you need not to wonder how well their strategy went at the end and how many prestige points they gain. Every strategy is only as powerful as the other players allowed it to become.

The first extension of a skill is always affordable, and you should look forward to have three actiones soon.

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Brabanter Straße 55 50672 Köln

Author: Andreas Steding • Illustration: Dennis Lohausen • Redaktion: Klaus Ottmaier
English Translation: Roman Mathar