

'The Legend of Hyboria'

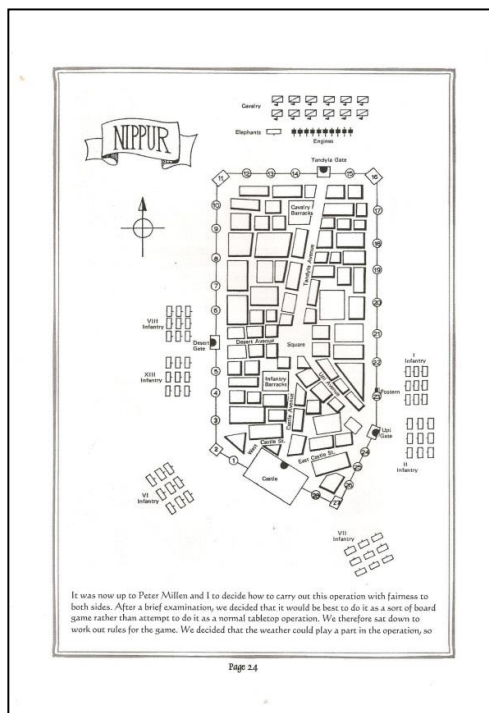
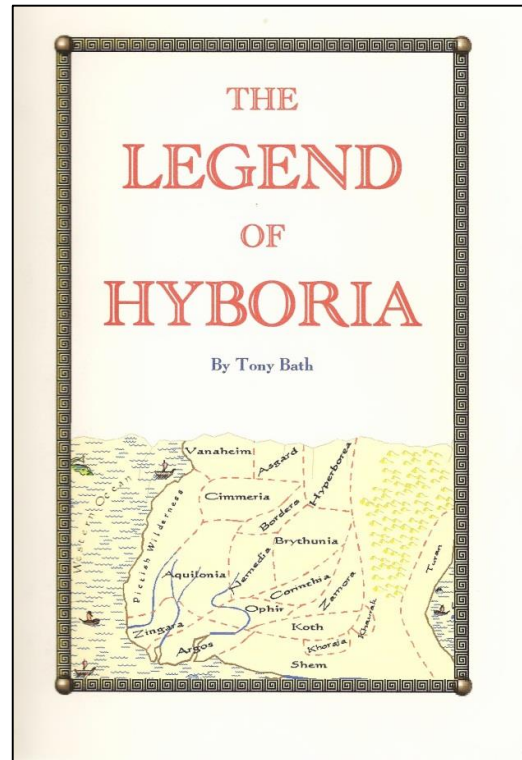
By Tony Bath

Reviewed by Jonathan Aird

Hyboria -- the world of Conan -- was also the name of Tony Bath's long-running ancients campaign. It was a fantasy realm that was designed to allow him to use all of his available ancients and medieval armies. Starting as a game for Tony and his wargaming friends, it was widened considerably when its existence was shared with the membership of The Society of Ancients (which, of course, was founded by one T. Bath, who was also the first editor of *Slingshot*, the society's newsletter!). Originally a way to fill a few pages and discuss various aspects of campaigning, Hyboria went on to grow in stature as several members of the SoA became players in the game and new characters were required to fulfil the ever more complicated political side of the game.

Legendary status was conferred on the campaign by two accolades -- it became the core of Bath's book "Wargame Campaigns," published by the Wargames Research Group, and it also became a regular column in *Battle for Wargamers* (and later *Military Modelling* when *Battle* was merged with that title) -- two pages of news and battle reports appearing for several years. It became the iconic definition of a campaign; it was the game to aspire to emulating.

This spiral-bound booklet gathers together all the material on Hyboria that appeared in *Slingshot*, and it's an absorbing read, helped in no small part by Tony Bath's easy writing style. It includes articles on the attraction of setting ancient campaigns in a shared fantasy world, gives a potted history of the Hyboria campaign and then offers some details on particularly interesting campaign years, battles and sieges.



Legends of Hyboria is no longer available from the SoA, but it turns up every now and again on Ebay and such places. The material in this booklet also forms part of the book "Tony Bath's Ancients" in John Curry's history of wargaming reprints series (reviewed elsewhere on the LW Blog), although, naturally, line drawings and maps are much smaller in that book. It is a nice thing to have, and really the only thing left to wish for is a compendium of both this and all the material from *Battle* -- then the true history of Hyboria could be told!

A Society of Ancients Publication