

House Selter of Bridgehall

Bridges you cross before you come to them, are over rivers that aren't there.

Coat of arms A white bridge with three arches rising from a blue sea, on a silver field

(Argent, per fess wavy and barry azure, a bridge throughout of three spans issuant from the line of division white)

Words *Standing Strong*

Seat Bridgehall

Head Lord Wyman Selter

Region Dragonfly Bay

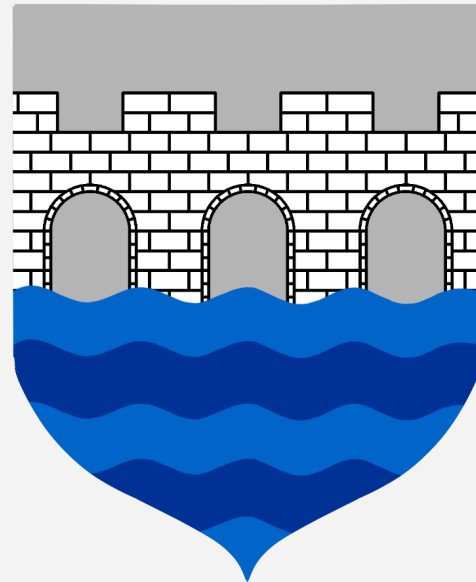
Titles

- ❖ Lord of Bridgehall
- ❖ Keeper of the Gates of the Dragon

Heir Ser Symon Selter

Overlord House Vamería

Founder Alester Selter



Reputation

The House of Selter is old, pious, and faithful, though not without its history of unwavering rigidity.

The Selters are among the oldest and proudest of the houses. They have often preferred trade instead of war, and have also avoided many wars because of their support for the faith of the Seven.

During the Conquest, the Selters allied with the dragonlords. Thus they were able to keep their wealth, lands and privileges. Protected by the might of House Vamería, the lords of Bridgehall turned their eyes to trade and commerce and grew with every generation to become one of the richest and most powerful noble families in Dragonfly Bay. With their keep stationed at a vital location on the mainland, the house was granted to guard the newly constructed viaduct, leading from the new capital to the greater realm. Despite their fealty to the royal family, there is a sense of tension, likely having to do with the Vamerías' own queer customs. Despite this, there have been some unions between them and the ruling house, and even a Selter queen in recent history.

The current ruling lord, Wyman Selter, previously served as master of coin on the late King Vytautys' small council, before being unseated upon the crowning of Queen Vysenys.

Symbolism

Honor, Pride, Dignity, Piety, Stability, and Inflexibility

The House Selter sigil is a white bridge over a silver and blue background, the bridge rising from the wavy blue field evoking House Selter's role as Lords of Bridgehall. In its attitude, Selter is a lofty house, defined by its noble ideals of honor and virtue. The house tells us about honor, idealism, and why it can be a problem to remain arrogant and obstinate to change.

The Selter motto "*Standing Strong*", speaks to their place as masters of the Amethyst Viaduct. The words make us think of holding one's ground and resistance. Selters face obstacles and withstand with courage. This gives us a hint that the Selters are extremely proud people, and their motto subtly betrays that this house is a little arrogant about their virtue. Their unbending attitudes to change and acceptance are reflected in their words of resistance. At times, the Selters' tendency for obstinance can get in their *own* way. So we might read the Selters as representing both good and bad versions of pride. Arrogance and obstinacy won't get you far and can have a detrimental impact on others around you.

The Selter house colors-- silver, blue, and white-- evoke imagery of repose and cleanliness. Blue is associated with consciousness, intellect, and calm tranquility. The color has connotations of loyalty, truth, and piety, the qualities that House Selter aims to often project. White is associated with innocence, faith, purity, and cleanliness, indicating the houses' aspirations of nobility. In fact, blue and white together are the two colors most associated with the Virgin Mary; so its colors link the Selters to virtue, but this righteous image can yield a false piety. In heraldry, silver and white are often interchangeable, so the use of *both* of these colors doubly signifies this desire to appear as virtuous and pure; through their use of these particular colors, the Selters *want* to be associated with the virtues of loyalty, perseverance, and trustworthiness. The color blue, in the form of watery waves, may also remind us of the phrase *blue-blooded*, to be born of noble birth and members of aristocracy, belonging to the highest social class.

The Selter sigil is a bridge, indicative of their keep and duties. Bridgehall guards the way to the Citadel, and the Violet Palace, making them one of the principal bannermen of House Vameria. The bridge as a symbol is inherently symbolic of communication and union, whether it be between heaven and earth or two distinct realms. For this reason it can be seen as the connection between Gods and Man. It may be the passage to reality, or merely a symbol for travel and crossing. Bridges connect one previously isolated place to another and allow people to come together. We mention the concept of *building bridges*

whenever we want to unify places or people that are otherwise separated. For all of these reasons, the image of the stone bridge itself represents progress, connection, permanence, and stability.

However, a stone bridge isn't always infallible, and is susceptible to collapsing either under its own weight or by sudden, powerful forces. While they project themselves to be, the Selters are not entirely invulnerable to the fluctuating tides below them, nor are they entirely guaranteed to remain in control or able to master such an uncontrollable force. House Selter may wish to portray themselves as flawless and unfailing, yet they can easily fall victim to their own inflexibility and unwillingness to bend and accept change; even if it is for the betterment of others. Compared to their sovereign dragonlords, who's very existence epitomizes change and transformation, the Selters push back against change and oftentimes may attempt to prevent it.

We can learn through House Selter that it is perfectly acceptable to admit your error and provide forgiveness to one another, to bridge connections with others different than us, that we should make an effort to maintain our relations rather than sever it over trivial disagreements, and that one cannot always resist against the inevitability of change itself but must learn to adapt with it.

Worship

The Selters faithfully worship the Seven, like many houses of Mazura.

Key Features

Selters are known for their intensely deep blue eyes, and distinct blue agouti coats. Members of House Selter thus far described tend to have flaxen or silver hair.

Heirlooms

A damascus steel longsword named *Honorbound*. It is traditionally passed down from the Lord of Bridgehall to their successor, but there have been instances where the lord lends the blade to a younger sibling for their lifetime, and Honorbound is returned to the lord afterward.

Origins

The family is ancient, existing since the dawn of days when they were petty-kings. It is likely Bridgehall had a different name and sigil before its position as gateway to the Citadel.

Known Members at the end of the third century