The "SMS" Automoton

 This curious device has haunted the catacombs beneath the

 Lyceaum for as long as anyone can remember. It's appearance seems to

 alter over time, as it slowly changes inexorably in hue, material, and

 detail. In all cases, it seems to be humaniod, but certainly not of

 any particular sort. Also, it's appearance remains visibly

 inorganic, despite it's continously changing appearance, providing a constant

 source of puzzlement to those who visit it. It seems to be willing to

 carry on brief conversations with those who might address it, thus the

 first chronicles of it's meanderings were put to record. It's unusual

 name is often attributed to mis-pronunciation, but no one can be sure.

 The automoton seems to come and go at will, with barely any

 sort of predictability, and has effortlessly defied any attempts to

 constrain it's wanderings. It's near-constant movement has hampered

 even the most determined efforts to study this most amazing machine

 for any considerable length of time. Worse, the machine seems

 completely unimpeded by walls, floors, or any sort of barrier at all.

 Sometimes the SMS cannot be found for weeks, even months at a time...

 While all of this is rather interesting, it is startling to

 note that the automaton has composed various musical pieces, each

 focusing on various aspects of a few of Talislanta's varied cultures.

 Persons whom have heard it's works related to their culture swear

 they've heard them before, but are unable to pinpoint the source -

 even with powerful magical assistance. Many of the works concern

 cultures which the machine has had no known contact with whatsoever,

 yet each seems to "fit" the culture perfectly, so much so that a

 native would swear they know the music as though they'd heard it many

 times..!

 More puzzling still, is the SMS's penchent for prophetic

 speeches, of which an astounding number have been proven reliable! The

 very concept of a "psychic" automaton still causes heated debates

 among the most astute minds in Talislanta. While a few of it's

 announcements have taken considerable time and effort to verify, many

 often "come true" in the public domain for all to see. The Lyceaum

 faculty have yet to determine why the machine insists on announcing

 new arrivals to all present, but as many mysteries surround this

 creation, few are surprised.

 To date, the Seven Kingdoms has declared the SMS automaton a

 "National Wonder and Treasure", and kept as close a watch as possible

 on it as possible. Thieves and vandals beware...