

The Dragonflyre

NEWSLETTER FOR THE BARONY OF VATAVIA



Fourth Quarter 2020

A.S. LV

www.baronyofvatavia.org

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BARONIAL CHAMPIONS

Borec (Armored Combat) Lord Erik Tokesson

Obránc (Cut & Thrust) : Lord Øyrikr Raðúlfsson

Lucisnik: (Archery) Master Jóhann Steinarsson

Zevack: (Bardic) Lord Samuel Strangefellow

Estradni Umelec: (Arts & Sciences) HE Wulfric Tyrrell

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Dauntless,

This morning, we learned alongside you, that the SCA will continue to suspend activity until May 31, 2021, using the same guidelines as before for the good of us all. We want to thank the society for the thoughtfulness and care they have shown, for all the participants in our dream.

We, too, would have rather heard of our next gathering.
We, too, would rejoice in the companionship and camaraderie of Calontir.

Instead we ask you now to stand fast, and stay this course.
Not all news is bleak.

In the modern world we hear wonderful news from the fields of medicine and science that give us hope. This decision has given us time to realize those hopes.

Saturnalia is upon us. Hearth and home will be more welcoming as our days grow ever shorter. As you look back on the year and reflect upon these times, We ask you to bear in mind that, while you must feel you have sacrificed greatly of your time, time is the greatest gift that can be given to another. And that all of us have benefited from your gift.

As the shield shares in the reaping of their spear; as the teacher shares in the achievement of their student; as we all share in the joy created by those who serve; Calontir will rejoin in family once again because of the time you have given for these several months. And We can not ever repay such a gift.

For the Greater Glory of Calontir and Her People.

Lucian and Tamar

Seasons Greetings

and warm wishes for a renewed sense of hope to bring joy, bounty and good health in the coming year.

It is a common practice to review the events of the past year in an effort to make resolutions for change. It would be easy in these difficult times to focus on the things that were missing. However, a review of accomplishments is often more productive. This year we have seen the development of new skills in communication, technology, teaching methods, knowledge and access availability, exchange of community and interkingdom anthropology. We have had opportunities never before considered which will inevitably change and expand our SCA game and activity accessibility. We have entered a new time of amazing possibilities in exchange of knowledge, experience and traditions from across the known world.

As we look to the new year and eventual return to our pre pandemic (or regular) activities, let us find ways to incorporate what we have learned. We also want to recognize all of the love, hard work and devotion dedicated to sustaining our dream. We each can find within ourselves that which we can contribute, be it a kind word of encouragement, a helping hand, a hug, or a smile. To build a community is to support one another through this journey. As shield companions, friends and family, let us sing together as we march into the dawning new year, brimming with hope.

In faithful service and love,

Lawrence and Genevieve
Baron & Baroness
Barony of Databia, Kingdom of Calontir

FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings Vatavia!

I hope everyone is doing well and are safe from everything that is going on. As you all know that we are limited on what we can do until 31 May 2021 we are still getting together on zoom every Wednesday around 7 pm. Check the News-blast that their Excellencies put out pretty much every week. I try to update the Calendar as soon as I can after each Blast. You can find the Baronial Calendar at <http://www.baronyofvatavia.org/>

We are still conducting our Officer/Business meeting on zoom the first Wednesday of each month and a Populace meeting/get together on the third Wednesday of each month. Every other Wednesday you can stop by the Zoom meetings for Arts and Science classes. Even though it is not in person get togethers going on but come by and see old friends and hopefully make new ones.

We have the Chronicler position opened and if you are interested in what the position entails or you want to apply, please inquire to my email seneschal@baronyofvatavia.org or with our Officer Mistress Sorcha at chronicler@baronyofvatavia.org.

We miss seeing you all and hope you all are staying safe! If you are needing anything, please message me, or send me an email of your concerns or needs and I will get back to you.

Yours in Service

Robert Steven MacLaren

Aka Robert the Scot

FROM THE CASTELLAN

Good gentles of Vatavia, greetings!

It is with mixed emotions that I pen these words to you. I am honored to be taking up the position of Baronial Castellan, and I thank Lord Øyrikr Raðúlfsson for all the hard work he has done while in office. However, I am saddened that the plague still ravaging our lands prevents our meeting in person for months to come. Yet we must not lose hope in these strange times. Brighter days will eventually be upon us, and when those days do come, I will be so happy to re-greet friends old and new.

If any of our Populace, regardless of how long you have played, has a question about any aspect of this wonderful game called the SCA, please feel free to contact me at chatelaine@baronyofvatavia.org, and if I cannot answer your question, I will lead you to someone who will. Let us all look forward to warmer, safer times, when we can show the public our best side once more.

Ever in service,

Kennari Johann

FROM THE EXCHEQUER

Good day to all.

Here is where the Barony sits on Available monies as of the end of November 2020. We currently have a balance of 16,410.86 in the bank. If there are any questions I can be reached at the Baronial website email exchequer@baronyofvatavia.org.

YIS

Lord Konrad von Roth

FROM THE KNIGHT MARSHAL

Greetings Vatavia!

4th quarter is usually when I look back and reminisce on the year, but I'm done with this year, so I'll focus on what's ahead. In 2021 my hope is when the weather warms up we will be back out at OJ Watson park to start enjoying our strange hobby of hitting our friends with sticks. So to make sure you're prepared when we finally return. Get moving now as much as you can go! Hit a pell, go on a jog, or just embrace it and buy some armor to accommodate your larger size. Just make sure when the green light inevitably comes we are all healthy. Please keep an eye on the website for any announcements about fighter practice.

See you all in 2021.

Stay Healthy,

Lord Brynjólfur 'Brynki' Fálkason

FROM THE ARCHER MARSHAL

Greetings,

As we close out the year, and look forward to the next, I am hoping that we will be able to gather again soon.

Due to weather and COVID, there has been no Archery Practice. My hope is that once we are cleared to have small gatherings, weather permitting, we will be able to start practice again. This is a good time to look over your equipment, making needed repairs and adding to your supplies as needed. Please let me know if you need any special tools to complete repairs and projects. I will reach out to others to see if we can help you out.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have – by email or through facebook messenger.

Yours In Service,

Heidi Anne Draper

FROM THE ARTS AND SCIENCES MINISTER

Greetings Fellow Vatavians,

First, I want to thank everyone for their warm welcomes and well-wishes. You have all made Kevin, Emma, and me feel like part of the family.

Despite the recent disappointing news from the BOD, that in-person activities are cancelled until June, I am optimistic and looking forward to using this next few months to provide useful and informative classes for everyone. The subjects you can look forward to learning about and discussing include how to use social media to keep up interest during social distancing; how to “sell” the SCA to prospective and new members; embroidery, glass beadmaking, and wool spinning. This is what I currently have in the works for the next few months and the tip of the iceberg for subjects that I’d like to share with you. Having said that, I am always looking for new ideas for classes and discussions. If you have a class you are interested in teaching or a subject you would like to learn more about, please send me an email at artsandsciences@baronyofvatavia.org. I am eager to get to know everyone and what y’all are interested in teaching and learning.

YIS

Lady Ália Martialis

FROM THE DEMO COORDINATOR

Greetings of the season to one and all...

Looking forward to some fun in 2021. There are Renaissance Festivals and already a tentative presentation mid-summer being planned.

Until then we can ‘demonstrate’ who we are and what we do in the Society in other ways. We can show our community as we attend and judge the gingerbread building competition. We can share pictures of the results of our studies and skills in the new *Dragonflyre* section. We can reach out through all our Social Media to stay in touch and welcome those newer members there. We can participate in the discussion with the special guest December 30th on using social media platforms for recruitment.

Show the fun. Share the fun. Reach out with the fun. Participate in the fun. Here’s to all the fun coming in 2021.

YIS

Marie Chantal Delaire

FROM THE CHRONICLER

Good Greetings to the Populace of Vatavia,

I announced at the business meeting that **I will be stepping down as chronicler as of the end of this year, 2020, after five years of service.** The job is much easier than in the past because everything is transmitted electronically. To simplify that task even more so, the requirement is one issue per quarter— only four times a year! As an officer, your publications are your quarterly reports and there is no yearly Domesday.

The requirements for the office:

- ◆ Be a paid member of the Society
- ◆ Have a device that will run a publishing application in a PDF form. (I personally use a PC with “Microsoft’s Publisher”)

If you are interested please send a letter of intent to their Excellences and the Seneschal.

Be assured I will be at the next chronicler's service to help them and answer any questions.

It’s been my pleasure and honor to serve,

Mistress Sorcha

FROM THE MINISTER OF YOUTH

Greetings to the youth of Vatavia,

In these dark days of Winter, here’s a bit of amusement to keep the dream of SCA kindled until we can all safely meet again in person.

YIS,

Fujihara Murasaki

SCA Word Search

S N L H I O L M V X A T P G I
 C Q G O T W X I M R A S N C I
 Z R S M N W G T A G H B X W P
 P E U E S J T T D I D Z F Z I
 A H E X P L O R E Y Z C U Q V
 E G X S L I Q Q M V A L N Q B
 Q K Q E K E R S P H L S O T H
 F R I E N D S U D D E X M D K
 Z W L K I E I D S V A N A A H
 I Y J M H G T A Y D R K H P O
 T T F A M I L Y M L N O Q E W
 J M Z Q D D N C Z Y I U K O A
 C O O Y G H H O D X N Q B P X
 H I S T O R Y Y Y R G X L L V
 R V E O F R Q Y P U P O T E A

Learning
History

Explore
Home

Family
People

Friends
Fun

OFFICERS' MEETING MINUTES

OFFICERS' MEETING | October 7, 2020

Meeting held on the Zoom Platform

16 members participated: 12 Baronage/ officers/deputies/ champions; 4 members of the populace

Planning continues for the resumption of events in 2021. Winter War Maneuvers is here February 2, 2021. The Spring Great Plains Renaissance Festival is April 17th-18th. After that is Valor XLI the 28th- 31st of May. Vatavia is responsible for the Coronation bid for January 2022. Bids are to be in to Their Excellencies and Seneschal by November 1, 2020 to meet the January 1, 2021 Kingdom deadline.

Locally the results of the local catapult Olympics were announced: Westumbria was the victor with the distance going to Konrad and family. The next competition will be illumination with a preprint dragonfly being painted during the October ZOOM populace meeting October 21st. The following competition will be iron chef. The weekly Newsblast contains the month's activities and future calendar.

The *Dragonflyre* deadline of September 30th was missed. It will be published this week. Officers need to get their letters in as soon as humanly possible. The Chronicler announced that she would be stepping down the end of this year. The updating of information on the website continues. Office descriptions are being made gender neutral. The name change to Eyfriðr Gold Bearer was registered. Joachim and Ulfr name proposals will be decided this month with notification expected December/January. The new Arts and Sciences Minister, Alia, has a teacher from another Kingdom doing illumination painting class October 14th. She is planning to alternate classes with individuals talking about what they love to do. This was also the first meeting for the Minister of Youth, Murasaki.

The Exchequer reported a balance of \$16, 466. The procedure for returning unused budget was discussed. Some fighter equipment was unavailable. The Exchequer and Seneschal will be getting together to deal with needs for Winter War Maneuvers and determining refund and Pay Pal policy.

People were asked to consider the answer individuals give for getting onto our social media before approving them. The example was given of someone whose response to how did you hear about us and why are you interested was just. 'yes'. This is to avoid spam and other issues. Software to propagate/post messages to all our social media platforms is still being sought.

New Archer Marshal, Heidi, announced that ar-

chery practice includes archery, thrown weapons and pell work now. Practice is alternating between Their Excellencies' in Hutchinson and Alia's and Kevin's in Andover. The schedule is in the Newsblast, Facebook and on the Baronial website. Practice will continue as long as the high for the day is above 52 degrees. Weather permitting practice will be done Sundays during the winter that meet the necessary temperature.

The Knight Marshal announced that the loaner elbow and knee cops had been received and just needed the straps added. Also received were two pairs of gauntlets and right and left ½ gauntlets. Pells for light weapon practice are being done and activities for cut and thrust practice developed. Rattan is being obtained to make spears for the cut and thrust fighting. Authorization for cut and thrust spear is planned for Winter War Maneuvers or whatever the first Kingdom event is.

Her Excellency reminded people of the information found in the weekly Newsblast. The deadline for ordering Vatavian trim from Andrixos is this October 14th. The link is in the Newsblast and on our Facebook site. Their Excellencies noted receiving an application for the position of Chatelaine/Castellan. Others have expressed interest and need to get their letters in.

The Seneschal reviewed the information previously given for the events, new officers and bid deadlines previously covered. He presented the next Olympic challenge details on delivery of materials and instructions for the illumination painting.

The meeting adjourned.

OFFICERS' MEETING | November 4, 2020

Meeting held on the Zoom Platform

14 members participated: 11 Baronage/ officers/deputies/ champions; 3 members of the populace

Plans continue for when we may resume events and gatherings. Winter War Maneuvers is on the Kingdom calendar; and, the flier is being finalized. Valor will be held Memorial weekend. Details are being finalized with the camp, Whispering Winds. After that is the April Renaissance Festival April 17th-18th. Each officer will be responsible for their areas. Some fix-up projects will need to be scheduled. The bid is being worked on for Coronation here in 2022 must be in January 2021. It is Vatavia's turn to host this Kingdom event.

Exploration Place contacted the group to let the SCA and Vatavian fighters know that they have a place at Exploration Place when we are cleared to resume indoor activities. The Medieval Olympics competition for this month will be

crossbows. Kits will be delivered with construction to be done on the 15th and the competition during populace the 18th. Arts and Sciences Zoom meetings are cancelled for November 25th and December 23rd for the holidays.

Two members name proposals were decided in October. Notification should be in December. The deadline for officers' letters for the next *Dragonflyre* is December 15th. Contributions are encouraged and welcomed. The rules for Vatavia's social media forums is being put together. The new Castellan, Master Jóhann would like to hear from our new members and interested individuals. Once meetings can resume he plans to hold a new member round table open to *all* members. The new minister of Youth is Lady Murasaki. The Web Minister is continuing to update the web site and make changes.

The Exchequer reported a balance of \$16,416. It was inquired whether it is possible to have funds in some form of interest bearing account or CD. This will be researched. However as a non-profit organization that may not be feasible. The budget for 2021 will be finalized by December 31st. All officers should have budget requests in by the December officers' meeting.

There are no cut and thrust or heavy weapons practice at this time. It was announced that a channel on YouTube has been made for those interested in cut and thrust. That information will be posted. The Archer Marshal has suspended practice until the counties where practice is held are not in the red for Covid19 cases and also the weather cooperates. It is hoped figure a way to get together over the winter and work on arrows and bows.

The Seneschal is updating our calendar. Please send him dates and other information for posting. It was decided to standardize the deadline for officer letters to the *Dragonflyre*. The 15th of the last month of each quarter will be the deadline.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

OFFICERS' MEETING | Decemeber 2, 2020

Meeting held on the Zoom Platform

13 members participated: 11 Baronage/ officers/deputies; 2 members of the populace

Planning continues for the resumption of in person activities February 1, 2021. To date no change to the suspension order has been made by the Board of Directors or the Kingdom of Calontir. Planning for Winter War Maneuvers here in February continues. In March is Gulf Wars. In May will be Valor XLI which is also being planned.

December 16th is the populace meeting. Judging will be done for the last Medieval Olympic challenge, Gingerbread Houses. Kits will be delivered to teams the first week-

end in December. The next week 'party-in-a-bag' will be delivered to each member who requests one. Planning for demonstration and presentation requests in 2021 is being done. April is the Great Plains Renaissance Festival, one of our biggest demonstrations of the year.

The upcoming Arts and Sciences class is for the gingerbread houses. The last Wednesday of the month will be a discussion on the year's activities and planning for 2021. If there is interest, the Archer Marshall mentioned a class on making crossbows. The Chronicler is starting a new section in the *Dragonflyre*, where photos of Vatavia projects can be published to show to the Knowne World what is being done here.. These photos need to be sent to the Chronicler by the publication deadline, December 15th. Items should be noted as 'Dragonflyre art' in the message line.

The Castellan would appreciate hearing from interested and newer members. He would like to assist in their contacting our group and connecting with those Vatavians with similar interests. The Chronicler will be stepping down after five years in the office. Interested individuals should send application letters to the Baronage, Seneschal and the Chronicler. There is no deadline for applications at this time.

The Exchequer reported a balance of approximately \$16, 413 in the bank. The deadline for budget requests for the 2021 budget is December 16th. There will be a meeting of the finance committee to plan the budget December 17th. With the uncertainty of future in-person activities, budget request should be specific and detailed as to what items are needed, why and the number. It may become necessary to adjust the budget and the requests to meet any changes for the coming year.

Currently there is no heavy weapons fighter practice. Cut and Thrust also has no practice. There are classes being posting for Cut and Thrust on the Calontir website and on the Calon Steel site. In January Vatavia Joachim/ Court will be presenting a class. Archery will continue when weather and Covid numbers permit. Thrown weapons and arrow and bolt repair can be done when it is too cold to shoot.

The Seneschal and Baronage both thanked all those who continue to be involved virtually, who encourage others, who keep people engaged. This is what keeps the Barony going. They acknowledged that they know this is not how members like to participate. They thanked all those leaders who continue to meet and be examples to others. It was also announced that several Barony members were down with the Covid virus. Members were asked to reach out to others to help people stay connected and to find out and help those who might need it at this time.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

THEIR ROYAL MAJESTIES

LUCIAN & TAMAR

Falcon-Crown@calontir.org



UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

•••January•••

All Calontir SCA

in person events

are suspended

•••February•••

All Calontir SCA

in person events

are suspended

•••March•••

All Calontir SCA

in person events

are suspended

BARONIAL GATHERINGS

Populace Meeting Third Wednesday, 7-9 PM

Zoom Meeting (See Current Baronial News Blast)

Fighter Practice (Armored Combat and Calon Steel)

In person practice canceled

For more information, contact:

Lord Brynjólfur Fálkason

knightmarshal@baronyofvatavia.org

Archery Practice

On Hiatus

For more information contact: Heidi Anne Draper

archermarshal@baronyofvatavia.org

Officers Meeting & Finance Meeting

First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM.

Open to the populace.

Zoom Meeting (See Current Baronial News Blast)

Arts and Sciences Gathering 1st, 2nd and 4th
Wednesday, 7-9 PM

Zoom Meeting (See Current Baronial News Blast)

Demos

All Demos suspended until after May 31st, 2021

TO GET A COPY OF THE KNOWN WORLD HANDBOOK

Contact His Lordship Friar Thomas

316-685-1182

Handbooks are \$23.00

Animal Companions

By **HL Friar Thomas Bacon**



During this time of pandemic, one of the ways people have adapted is to adopt a pet. Animal companions are as old as humanity itself. Most of the time these companions have some utilitarian role, such as hunting, vermin control, or carrying loads. But some are valued for the companionship they provide. Today we call them pets.

The word pet comes from the Scots Gaelic word 'peata' meaning tame animal. Its first noted usage in its modern meaning was in 1539. This does not mean that there were no pets prior to 1539, only that there was no concept to separate these companions from the rest of the menagerie that resided in the medieval household.

Medieval pets were largely the province of the upper class. This does not mean that the peasants did not enjoy the companionship of some of their animals, but those animals still had to provide some service to 'earn' their keep. Pets have no such demands and are merely indulged. Pet owners tended to be woman, clerics, and intellectuals. Men tended to favor animals involved in outdoor pursuits, such as horses, dogs, and falcons.

Dogs were the premier animal companion. Dogs were classified not by breed, but by function. The most common, of course, were those used to hunt game and to hunt birds. And then there are the small dogs. In many formal portraits, women would be seen holding or having a dog in their laps. In many illustrations of domestic scenes, there could be seen a small dog lying at someone's feet. Dogs were seen as a paragon of fidelity and loyalty.

Cats had a more mixed reception. While valued as hunters of mice and rats, they were also seen as fickle and lustful. It should be remembered that cats are not fully domesticated and retain an element of wildness. It is this wildness that connects cats to heresy, the Devil, and onto being the witch's familiar. It also be noted that medieval cats were commonly gray and stripped in coloration.

Another common pet were birds. These were separate from the hawks and falcons used for hunting. They were usually doves and songbirds. Parrots were not unknown, the species being the Indian parakeet.

Nearly any animal could be and was turned into a pet. Among these were squirrels, ferrets, and rabbits. A common exotic animal was the monkey. And many more one-off examples can be found.

Today people spend extraordinary amounts of money on their pets. What is extraordinary is the number of people capable of doing so, not the impulse to do so. Bejeweled collars, special cushions, and fancy housing arrangements scattered about in medieval inventories. And while pets might be fed table scraps, they would also be indulged with fine foods. To the point to where the fat pet was a common trope in literature.

Such extravagance did attract criticism. There are plenty of sermons and social commentary against the keeping of pets. There are two main themes to this criticism. The first is that the money spent on pets would be better put to use as charity. The second is that the keeping of pets was distracting the owners from their duties. This last point was mostly directed at monks and nuns.

The keeping of pets fulfills the human need of companionship, and is universal throughout history. A more detailed look of this practice in the Middle Ages can be found in "Medieval Pets" by Kathleen Walker-Meikle.

Datavian Arts & Science Gallery

Margaret MacKenzie

It's a work in progress of course, but it's the blackwork for a single panel coif.



The pattern is based off of the following from the V&A museum:



Physical description:

Original existent piece used to create the design for my coif

A stomacher was an essential accessory in women's fashion in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. It consisted of shaped piece of fabric, usually triangular, which filled in the gap between the fronts of a woman's open gown. Stomachers were often richly embellished to contrast with the fabrics and decoration of the gown.

Catlin Marie Du Monetane

Tapestry work

It will follow the pattern with gold for the crosses and blue and purple for the background.

It will be the front of a bag, with dragonfly straps.



I bought the pattern we used for the presence rug.

I liked it so much!

Community Doctors

By Marie Chantal DeLaire

Historically epidemics-disease affecting many at once- have been common until recently. Many of us can recall school notifications for chicken pox, measles, mumps and head lice. More often in the periods we study they were referred to as plagues because of the widespread occurrence. Records as far back as Antiquity name these: the Antonin Plague of the Roman Empire in 165-180; the Byzantine Plague of Justinian 541-588; the Middle Ages European Black Death 1347-1351.

Specialists to deal with outbreaks are mentioned as early as the 12th Century CE. Referred to today as plague doctors they were known then as community doctors. They were specially hired by cities to deal only with plague victims. They were usually young, just beginning their practices. They were not what today we term general practitioners. They were not even required to be a doctor/ physician or a barber/surgeon, which was considered lower class than the physician. One community doctor was a fruit vendor.

Since much of the job was considered administrative, medical expertise was not a priority. Community doctors collected demographics, recorded deaths, witnessed wills, and in the Renaissance in Florence and Perugia were to perform autopsies. Actual contracts for these community doctors still exist, most in Italy. They were well paid by the standards of the day. One contract has a salary of 30 florins per month wage, the equivalent of 40 g of gold. At the time a university professor was paid 16-17 florins a month, a skilled worker 60 florins a year and a city accountant 84 florins a year.

Such community doctors were to isolate and quarantine themselves. The contract for Giovanni de Ventura with Pavia in 1479 provides insights as to the expectations and requirements for a community doctor. He would receive a salary of 30 florins a month with one month's salary in advance and an additional month's pay on termination, completely furnished free housing, and all necessities for life supplied and paid for by the city. A separate clause in the contract guaranteed payment by the city. If the city economy became such that payment could not be made or necessities for existence provided he was released without penalty. If the city breached the any condition of the contract he could leave without penalty. He would receive a free grant of citizenship conditional on him behaving himself. If he fell ill he would only be paid for the time of effective service. If he died his family and heirs could not make a claim on unearned salary. He was to treat all patients, 2-3 times per day, as necessary and visit all infected places as needed. He could charge no fee for his service but patients or relatives could offer. The city would maintain a barber who was at least adequate and capable to assist him. This was the person who lanced the buboes. There would be a designated, community appointed deputy to accompany him to identify Giovanni as the community doctor but also to insure Giovanni maintained his quarantine and did not socialize.

There were several famous community doctors besides de Ventura: Naill Ó Glacian, Irish who worked in Spain, France and Italy; Steffano Mezzentino, Italian; Ambroise Pare, French. Some advanced recommendations for dealing with epidemic plagues. Girolamo Fracastoro, Italian, 1478-1553 stated the belief that pathogens outside the body on clothing carried contagion and should be destroyed to prevent the spread of disease. Paracelsus, a German-Swiss, the father of toxicology, pioneered treatments using chemical solutions for diseases. He also worked on the prevention and treatment of chemical occupational hazards. Michel de Nostredame- Latin Nostredamus- advised removing plague victim corpses, drinking clean water and rosehip juice (vitamin C), not bleeding patients and getting fresh air.

Nostradamus actually started studying to be a doctor at the University of Avignon when he was 14 until the school closed a year later due to plague. He spent the next years after that traveling, studying herbalism and working as an apothecary. About 1529-1530 he entered the University of Montpellier to get his doctorate. The faculty library still has the document expelling him for having engaged in the forbidden manual trade of apothecary after student procurator Guillaum Rondelet reported Nostradamus. (BIU Montpellier Register S2 folio 87) In 1545 he assisted physician Louis Serre with a plague outbreak in Marseille. At that time Nostradamus 'developed' a rose pill to prevent the plague. After that year he did community doctor work in Salon-de-Provence and Aix-on-Provence.

The image best associated with these specialists is the protective uniform with the 1 ½ foot beak filled with resin aromatics to counteract the miasma- bad air- they thought caused plagues. Honey was often the mixing ingredient. The list of what was used at some point in time and different locations is 50 herbs and resins long: juniper and its berries, ambergris, roses, mint, camphor, cloves, labdanum- a Mediterranean shrub form of rockrose, myrrh, cinnamon, storax- a subtropical Mediterranean tree/shrub. This early attempt at hazmat protection although published in 1630 is not documented as used until 1656 in Naples. Before that in 1560 the Commedia dell'arte character of Il Dottore also called Medico della Peste first appeared as one of the stock players.

Historic records show community doctor specialists hired to deal with specific epidemic outbreaks to insure public health and safety and to deal with controlling the spread of epidemic disease.

Things change; but, some things stay the same.

Giovanni de Ventura contract

<https://community.plu.edu/~315j06/doc/plague-doctor.pdf> and

https://plaguedoctor_masks.com/a-plague-doctor-by-carlo-m-cipolla-excerpt-from-the-book-the-medieval-city-1977/

“Inside the Terrifying but Necessary Job of a Medieval Plague Doctor, Daniel Rennie, 1/23/2020 <https://allthatsinteresting.com/plague-doctors>

“Why Plague Doctors Wore Those Strange Beaked Masks”, Erin Blackmore 3/12/2020

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/reference/european-history/plague-doctors-beaked-masks-coronavirus/>

“Stopping Pandemics”, Richard Conniff, National Geographic August 2020 pg 40-73; especially chapter I pg 40-66.

Pandemic Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with masks and Lysol,

Fa la la la la la la la!

'Tis the season to be mindful, Fa la la la la la la la!

Don we now PPE apparel, Fa la la la la la la la!

Troll the old infection carol, Fa la la la la la la la!

See the hand cleaner before us, Fa la la la la la la la!

Strike the Zoom and join the chorus, Fa la la la la la la la!

Follow me in virtual measure, Fa la la la la la la la!

While I tell of paper treasure, Fa la la la la la la la!

Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la la la la!

Hail the new vaccine advances, Fa la la la la la la la!

Sing we distantly together! Fa la la la la la la la!

Heedless of the mask rejector, Fa la la la la la la la!

January 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Populace Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	28	29	30
31						

February 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Populace Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Populace Gathering 7-9 pm (Zoom online)	18	19	20
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