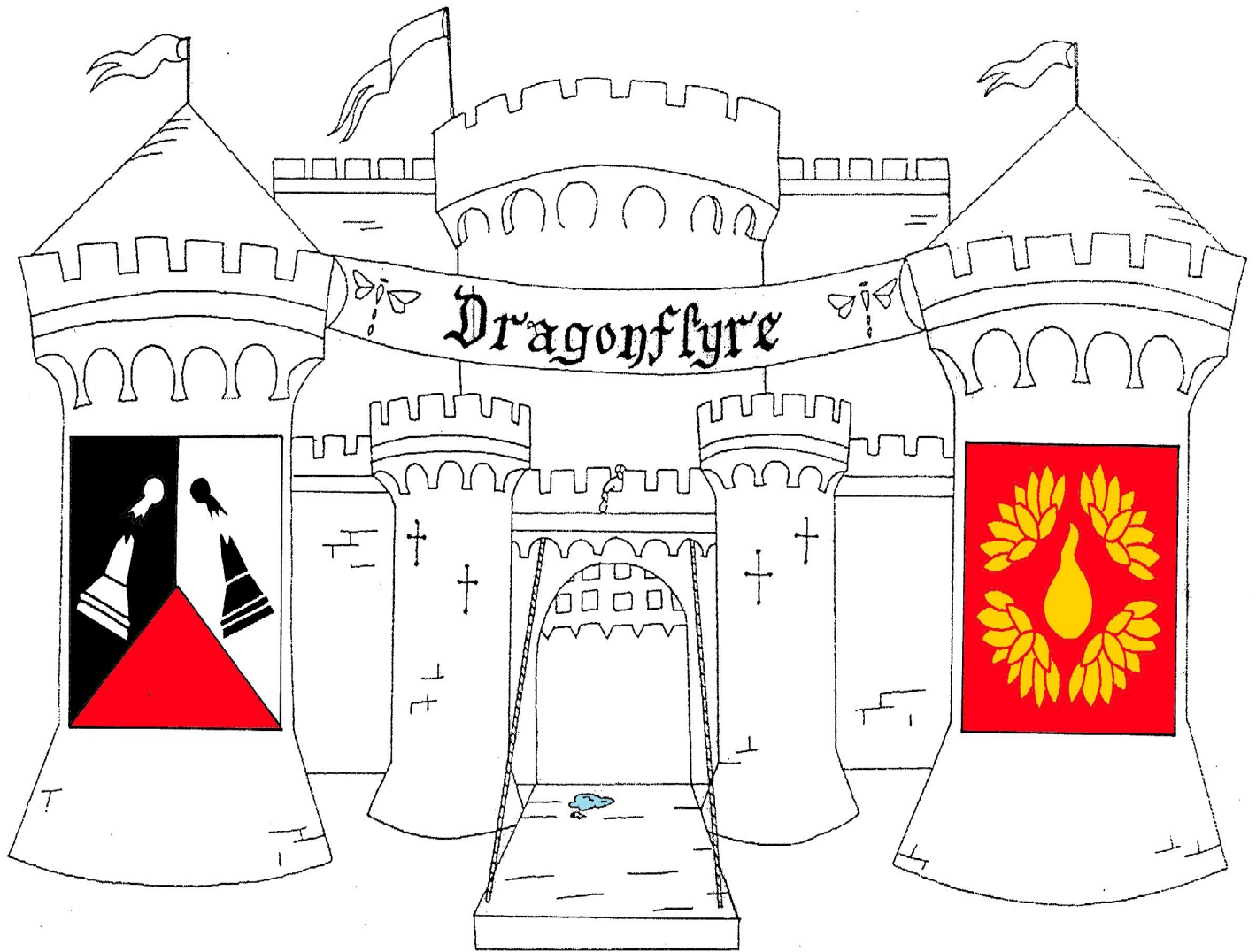




the
Dragonflyre

NEWSLETTER FOR THE BARONY OF VATAVIA



First Quarter 2016
AS: L
www.baronyofvatavia.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Baronage & Officers Credits.....	Page 1
Letters.....	Pages 2-7
Officers Meeting Minutes.....	Page 8-9
TRM's TRH's Email.....	Page 10
Kingdom Events/Baronial Gatherings.....	Page 10
SCA Websites.....	Page 10
The Friar's Corner.....	Page 11
Calendar.....	Pages 12-14

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BARONIAL CHAMPIONS

Borec (Fighting): M'lord Kyogin

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Lucisnik (Archery): Lady Maria Arosa de Santa Olaka

Zpevak (Bardic): His Lordship Kagemoto

Estradni Umelec (Arts & Sciences): Lady Gwenne
Margareta Melinnith

Vlajkonos (Banner Bearer): Sir Wulfric Tyrell

Gardista (Sergeant at Arms): Sir Wulfric Tyrell

This is the First Quarter 2016 issue of The Dragonflyre, a publication of the Barony of Vatavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc). The Dragonflyre is available from Sherri Moreno, 207 N. Oliver, Wichita, KS 67208. This is not a corporate publication of the SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2016, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles and artwork from this publication, please contact the chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

FROM THE BARONAGE

UNTO THE POPULACE OF THE LANDS
THAT BURN,

GREETINGS!



We want to take the opportunity to share with you our thoughts on the role of Baron and Baroness, to help you understand our vision for fulfilling this role, and some of our goals for the next few years. We would like to preface this with the following disclaimer – our thoughts presented below are a matter of our opinion. Others who have done this job, as well as those of you who have observed others in this position, will likely have different ideas and opinions.

We hope you will have the confidence to readily approach us to discuss your own thoughts and ideas, and to let us know if we are falling short of our duties in some way.

I. *“And to ever remember that the lands I hold are not mine to rule, but only to administer as the Crown wishes.”*

This is the foundation, the hinge, for which our actions as Baronage depends. The lands of Vatavia are owned by the Crown. We have been chosen to be Their Majesties’ representative, to have the privilege to speak with the Crown’s voice, to pass on Their word and edict. Our position, duties, and ceremonial role derives directly from Them.

It means we are in fealty to Them and hold Their lands for them as a fief. When They ask us to “jump,” we will do just that. Given the opportunity, we will do our best to advise about which manner of jump would be best for the Barony. Whenever possible, we will do our best to consult you, the Populace, beforehand when this happens.

II. (a) *“The first link from the people of the Barony to the Crown and Kingdom.”*

As Baronage, we are tasked to advocate on behalf of our populace and act as the first link from the people of the Barony to the Crown and Kingdom. We also are aware that Vatavia is but one thread of many that makes up this grand Kingdom. It is important to foster good relations with our kinsmen across the whole Kingdom. To fulfill this obligation, we intend to travel to at least one event a month when able and we encourage the populace to travel as they are able.

II. (b) *“Award Recommendations”*

We believe that if someone is seen doing something consistently and well, especially in a way that inspires and encourages others, they deserve to be recognized. One of the greatest and noblest things we can do for our friends in the SCA is also one of the simplest. Please share with the Crown and us all the cool things that they have done so that all may know and celebrate in their accomplishments. We always and ever have the duty to enhance the renown of our Barony and Kingdom. We need to take the opportunity to do so.

If you see someone deserving of an award, search out a Baronial or Kingdom award appropriate to their efforts and achievements, and submit an award recommendation on their behalf. (Remember you donot have to be a member of an order to recommend someone for admittance into it.) If you cannot find an appropriate award, please inform us anyway!

<http://op.calontir.org/award.php>

http://www.baronyofvatavia.org/award_rec.php

If you submit a Kingdom award recommendation, we would appreciate it if you let us know. It is our duty to help advocate on your behalf. Please, please, please help us help you and our friends.

III. *“To loyally administer the lands entrusted to [us].”*

This is a specific mandate concerning leadership. The Barony already has an established office core. Each officer has a specific set of duties and responsibilities. The Seneschal is their leader, and is responsible for the daily administration of the Barony and has the last word on matters of mundane policy and management. The Baronage leads and the Seneschal administrates. Please direct questions that fall under the purview of an office to the appropriate officer.

Here's where our role in all this comes in:

- to be prepared for meetings and to keep in touch with what is happening in the Barony.
- to work with the officers to become part of team that moves efficiently in the same direction. With the combined leadership of the Baronage and the officers, there is little the barony can't accomplish.
- to work with the baronial officers as circumstances dictate, and shall keep these officers informed as necessary for the efficient performance of their duties and effective liaison within the barony. (From Corpora)
- to set the tone for positive and respectful discourse among all members of the populace.
- to encourage sound practices, including long-range planning, inclusiveness, openness to new ideas, communication, accountability and proper budgeting.
- we owe our officers our loyalty; it is our job to defend them and their actions to the Crown or Prince and Princess or their Kingdom superior if necessary.

IV. *“Mindful that the harmony of Vatavia springs from my own words and deeds, that I serve my Barony best by serving the needs of all her people.”*

We may not always agree with you, but we will always strive to work with you and treat you with the respect you deserve. This will be challenging for us, as we are only human after all. We will have bad days, days where we are tired, irritated, distracted and we will want to snap at someone instead of treating them as they deserve. Regardless, the above statement sets the standard we should – must! – follow. We ask all others to do the same.

Everyone in the barony is worthy of respect. Everyone.

If a problem does arise, we ask you to refer to Calontir's Formal Complaint and Reconciliation procedures (Article XIV in Kingdom Law). Another very useful resource is the SCA Corpora's Appendix A covering disputes and their resolution. Both provide sound advice for how to resolve a problem yourself in its early phases.

V. *“Our Hopes and Goals for Vatavia”*

By “we,” we mean what do all of us hope to achieve in our future? We believe everyone can agree on two fundamental goals: becoming a strong Barony that (1) does things together and (2) has fun while doing it. Because if we are not having fun, why are we doing all this?

We are certain that we will all have different ideas for how about to achieve those goals. There is always room for a different approach to achieving the things we want.. Here are a few of our long-term goals, which are the basis for some of the things you might see us doing or saying:

- to actively work on recruitment and retention of new members, to foster an environment that is not only welcoming and fun, but engaging as well. Everyone's effort will be needed in order for this to be successful.
- to take the opportunity to personally reach out to members we haven't seen for a while, to personally invite them out and see if we can't entice them to return to being more active.
- to help everyone to pursue the many interests and activities that take place in the Barony; to encourage the populace to branch out and try new interests and activities as well. We want to encourage more classes and teaching, the more hands on the better!
- to hold a public, local gathering once a quarter. These events are a great impetus to bring everyone together. We are wanting to ensure as many activities are available as possible at these gatherings. We will encourage competitions, so that members of the populace can each individually see how far they have advanced and to practice and learn their chosen pursuits. Of particular interest is using these as opportunities to teach and learn how to write documentation, to better understand the judging criteria for Arts and Sciences competitions.

We're ready to get to work with all of you. If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you!

In ever faithful service,

Baron Uldin of Ravenscroft and Baroness Sung Sai-êrh

baron@baronyofvatavia.org

baroness@baronyofvatavia.org

Sources and Additional Reading

Baron Hrolf Herjolfssen OP and Mistress Madelaine de Bourgogne OL, OP. "A Guide for Barons and Baronesses." Landed Baronages. Kingdom of Lochac, 2003. Web. 1 Apr. 2016.

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Baron Modar Neznanich and Baroness Briana Etain MacKorkhill. "The Role of a Baronage." Modar University. Web. 01 Apr.2016.

<http://www.modaruniversity.org/Role.htm>

Our Letter of Intent for Baronage

Our Investiture Oath

<https://sites.google.com/site/uldin4sung/>

FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings unto the Populace of Vatavia,

As the Spring/Summer eventing season gets into full swing things are starting to look busy out in Kingdom and locally in our Barony. We herald in a new Baronage and a new Prince and Princess this Spring and I expect everyone is busy preparing their gear and garb for events happening near and far.

At the top of our list locally is Phallus Fractus and Ren Faire weekend. I hope to see many people out there April 23rd & 24th. After the events we will be packing the Baronial gear that we use and taking it to the new storage unit that we are renting for the time being.

We are working on something special with our Wednesday meeting spot (MakeICT) that I can't announce now but good things are coming very soon that I think everyone will be thrilled with!

There is a lot of things going on out there and I want everyone to have a great time!

-William Douglas
Seneschal, Barony of Vatavia

FROM THE CALTROP PURSUIVANT

Good gentles all,

The weather is warming and the ups and downs of the first part of the year are now fading into memory. We will have a fairly sizable list of events coming up, including the back-to-back Lilies/50 Year Celebration. Whichever you choose to attend (or if you can do both, all the better), be sure to let the Caltrop office know of any Heraldic displays you put up. We love to hear of fellow Vatavians displaying their devices, banners, pennants, anything to make our encampments a bit more stylish.

We are always on the lookout for people interested in learning the Heraldic arts. If you want to know why a coat of arms with blue-on-black is a bad idea, or if you'd like to learn the intricacies of Court or Field Heraldry, come and

talk to myself or any of the Caltrop staff at our Arts & Sciences nights.

At this time, I am also looking for a new Primary Deputy Caltrop; due to the events of Life, my previous Deputy has been unable to attend our gatherings, and I do occasionally need a reserve herald so that my voice can recover. Experience is not essential, just a willingness to learn. Our events wouldn't be quite the same without our Shouty People to deliver the news or call fighters to the field.

In service,
HL Johann Steinarsson
Caltrop Pursuivant

FROM THE CHATELAINE

Unto the Most Magnificent Barony of all... do I, the most humble Lady Deirdre de Warenne, send warmest and fuzziest greetings...

Into this New Era we stroll, with a new Baron and Baroness, Sir Uldin and Mistress Sung, and big Dreams trailing along. Spring brings new promises and new opportunities and new friend and family, with SCA events galore. There are exciting classes on the horizon, with Lady Maria and her awesome silk banner making classes, new events, such as Lady Lucia's Phallus Fractus event, a wonderful charity event in SCA style! Ren Faire is the same weekend, and we will be there Saturday to man the pop booths, and Sunday for a glorious fighter practice and artisans working their beautiful crafts.

The SCA is celebrating 50 years of Pure Genuine Awesomeness with 50th Year in Indianapolis in June - I do hope many people can make it, since this is the one and only time the SCA will turn 50! 50 Years of tournaments, and Crowns, and Art & Sciences, and Heraldry and Bardic, and society history!

Remember to ask permission before you toss a newcomer into your back seat to go to an event with you! That is just good manners!

In Service to the Dream,
Lady Deirdre de Warenne, Chatelaine to the Barony of Vatavia

FROM THE KNIGHT MARSHAL

Unto the populous of Vatavia,
Comes Greetings from your Knight Marshal,

Spring has sprung and fighter practice has returned to O.J. Watson Park. Where at Watson Park? Go to the east side of the park, then go north, all the way to the to the end of the road. **Boom!** There we are right by the horse barn. What time do you ask? I am on Sundays. If there is going to be a cancellation, it will be posted on the barony's Facebook page and the Dragonflyre Online.

I would like to invite all SCA people to come out to fighter practice, even if you don't fight. Feel welcome to come out to fighter practice. Come out and watch us beat on each other. If you fight, bring your armor and fight. It doesn't matter— Cut and Thrust or Heavy. So Come one, come all, let's make a party of it!

In Service to the Fighting Falcons,
Lord Magnus O'Carr (Torin)

FROM THE ARCHER MARSHAL

Good Gentles,
We are having Archery Practice at OJ Watson park starting at 10am every Sunday, barring weather or other unforeseen problems. We will be mixing things up once everyone has blown the rust off their skills. But for the next couple of weeks we will be just doing target shooting. More will follow though.

In Service,
Sigurd, Archer Marshal

FROM THE EXCHEQUER

Greetings Vatavia,

We had a great first quarter, with the Coronation event. We ended the 1st quarter with \$12,045.83

If you are interested in what is entailed in the exchequer position, please feel free to email me rbotkin2@cox.net and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Ld Robert the Scott
Exchequer, Barony of Vatavia

FROM THE ARTS AND SCIENCES MINISTERS

Unto the Most Gracious Populace of Vatavia and environs, do we, Lady Maria Arosa de Santa Olalla and Lord Niall Mac a'Ghobhainn bring these Greetings:

At Their Excellencies' pleasure, we are happy to serve as the new co-ministers of Arts and Sciences. Their Excellencies have made Arts and Sciences a special emphasis of their reign, and we look forward to supporting and encouraging the arts and sciences in the Barony and Kingdom.

By way of introduction, Lady Maria is a highly skilled artisan, with interests in garb making, weaving and fiber arts, button making, leather working, armoring, banner making and illumination. Lord Niall's interests include research, persona development, ethnohistory and music, in particular period percussion. He has a particular expertise in Scottish and Gaelic history, language and culture.

We have designated the second Wednesday of the month for arts & sciences classes, discussions, demonstrations and seminars. As we build a schedule, we ask the good folk of the Barony for their thoughts and ideas: What classes would you like to teach? What classes do you want presented? Is there a previous class that you would like repeated? We welcome all suggestions and requests.

As co-ministers, we believe very strongly that everyone in the SCA is an artist and scientist at one time or another. Please do not be shy in telling us of your creative and research pursuits, and do not hesitate to approach us with your needs and wants for that particular project you've always wanted to do. We are here to support, assist and encourage everyone in the arts and sciences.

With that in mind, are there any activities or interests that have gone by the wayside which the Populace wishes to see revived? Are there any new interest groups looking for direction, to get up and running? Again, please let us know. (And on a side note, Lord Niall would like to hear from anyone who plays a musical instrument.)

The coming months bring many opportunities in the arts and sciences. Chief among these are Kingdom Arts and Sciences in Grimfells April 9-10, the Lilies War June 11-19, and SCA 50th Year Celebration June 18-26. Please see the Kingdom Calendar for event details.

Here in Vatavia, we have two arts and sciences competitions scheduled for the Phallus Fractus charity event on April 23. Details can be found at sites.google.com/site/phallusfractus/arts-and-sciences, and good gentles can contact Lady Maria for further information. A class will be offered on "Latina lingua vulgari," and we call for any volunteers who can teach a class on Roman topics, medical and disease topics, or the phallus in history.

Forgive this long missive, but we are just getting started! We look forward to even more events and opportunities in the Barony and Kingdom in coming months, and to supporting and encouraging all the artisans and scientists of Vatavia.

Yours in service,
Lady Maria & Lord Niall
Arts and Sciences Ministers, Vatavia

FROM THE DEMO COORDINATOR

To the members and friends of the Barony of Vatavia greetings,

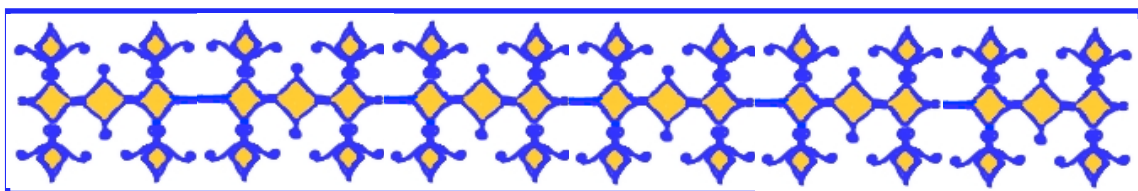
With the coming of Spring we once again come together outdoors to practice, compete, celebrate and socialize. Exploration Place has come to value what we add to their guests experiences and have requested that we not be totally absent from their activities. Once again we have been asked to come monthly to show our martial activities practice and do special theme presentations every other month as well. As I write this things are still being finalized. Some things have already been decided.

We will be at Exploration Place May 1, 2016 for fighter practice and a presentation on Arms, Armor, and Archery. With Lilies there is no presentation in June. July 24th we will return for fighter practice and another special theme presentation. The subject has not been finalized for that date.

No definite date has been set for August fighter practice. The next practice and presentation would be in September or October, depending on when the Fall Ren Festival is scheduled. Exploration Place has special events every weekend in November. Therefore practice will resume for the indoor practices in December.

I will disseminate the information on the rest of the schedule once it is finalized. It will be published by Exploration Place as well as part of their June-December booklet.

YIS,
Marie Chantal Delaire



OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

OFFICERS' MEETING | February 3, 2016

Make ICT 1500 East Douglas, Wichita KS 67214

22 were in attendance: 14 Baronage/baronage elect/officers/deputies; 8 members of the populace

The next Exploration Place special presentation will be on March 13th during Spring Break and will be on games. Due to some procedural requirements the investiture for our new Baronage has been rescheduled to February 27th at Chieftains in Three Rivers (St. Louis).

The Chronicler plans to include photographs in future *Dragonflyre* issues. She will be distributing model release paperwork to individuals in order to publish their photos. A couple of Vatavians' heraldic proposals will be finalized and sent off for consideration in the near future. Members are encouraged to help newcomers travel to events.

The Exchequer is still resolving the end of year paperwork and the 'electronic' form paperwork. He reported that the balance currently is a little over \$10,000. It was stressed that the finance committee must approve any actions involving Baronial property, including disposal, recycling, or sale. Fighter practice will continue at Exploration Place until sometime in March. There is no exact date finalized at this time. Fighter practice has been cancelled for February 7th. Archery will now be at Diamond Archery's new location at 96th and Greenwich. The Gwentarian Challenge will be held February 28th at that site.

Crown 2017 bids were due at this month's Officers' meeting. There was one being finalized that evening. Bids for Valor 2016 will be due by the March Officers' meeting. It was asked that any event stewards consider HL IngibiOrg's request to include Bardic Bedlam as part of the Valor event.

The Arts and Sciences officer needs to step down immediately due to some real world demands. Any interested individuals need to send letters of intent to Their Excellencies and the Seneschal. The Baronage also needs Their officers to provide their name and the date that their warrant expires. All information will be forwarded to the incoming Baronage.

The meeting adjourned.

OFFICERS' MEETING | March 2, 2016

Make ICT 1500 East Douglas, Wichita, KS

20 were in attendance: 13 Baronage/officers; 1 event steward; 6 members of the populace

The Chatelaine announced she has arranged on March 5th for a get together of members in Newton, Kansas and invited anyone else who would like to attend. March 13th is the Exploration Place presentation on Games. A local Spring Equinox barbecue potluck event is scheduled April 2nd at OJ Watson Park in Wichita beginning at 9 am. Classes were mentioned. Meetings of all the Baronial orders will be held. It is planned to 'continue' the event, traveling to Theobald April 3rd for their demo.

Members are encouraged to attend the Kingdom Arts and Sciences April 9th in Grimfells which is approximately four hours away. The Vatavian Kingdom event, Phallus Fractus, will be held at Camp Hawk in Newton April 23rd. The website is up providing the schedule, menu, arts and sciences competition details, and martial activities. Some members will be attending the local Renaissance Festival that same day to fulfill obligations there. All event attendees are encouraged to come together Sunday April 24th at the Festival.

Contact information has been updated on the Vatavian website. The next *Dragonflyre* will be published in April. The deadline is April 1st for officer letters. There are four Vatavian items on the current internal letter issued February 29th.

The Exchequer updated the officers on the status of his reports. Next he will be getting things ready for Phallus Fractus. The inventory of the Baronial property has been completed. A date to move the property will be scheduled as soon as the facility paperwork is done; and, a date can be determined.

Fighter practice will return to OJ Watson Park March 20th starting at 11am, weather permitting. All members are encouraged to attend the practice: fighters, archers, artisans, dancers. Archery practice will return there on the same date of March 20th. The Gwentarian Challenge will be conducted at that time.

A bid for Crown 2017 will be turned in when the cover page is delivered by the event stewards. A bid is being worked on for our Valor event this coming fall. Others interested in presenting bids were told to use the event form available.

The new Baronage, Their Excellencies Uldin and Sung, announced that the new Arts and Sciences Minister would be Niall mac a'Ghobhainn and Maria Arosa de Santa Olaka.

Prior to the meeting They had distributed the officer's oath to serve the Barony to each officer. They wanted the officers to know ahead of time what They would be asking.

Their Excellencies also plan to have populace meetings be a time to do things and socialize; not to duplicate the Officers' meeting. They also stressed turning in award recommendations, both Kingdom and Baronial, especially with the upcoming Kingdom events nearby. Forms for both are available online.

The meeting adjourned.

OFFICERS' MEETING | April 4, 2016

Make ICT 1500 East Douglas Wichita, Kansas

25 were in attendance: Baronage/ officers/deputies; 2 event/demo stewards; 10 members of the populace

April 23rd is both Vatavia's Kingdom event, Phallus Fractus and the Spring Great Plains Renaissance Festival Details are finalized for the Kingdom event. The fest menu was presented. A partial list of auction items was read. Tavern food donations are requested. Some members will work the pop booth at the Festival Saturday. Sunday the 24th the usual full SCA Dell demo presentation will be done. Requests for Baronial property needed at the Festival need to be sent to Seneschal William and Property Master Öttarr. A date for Vatavia's Champions' event is being selected. A clean up day for the Valor site will be scheduled later this summer. Vatavia's bid for Crown 2017 has been accepted.

The Exploration Place schedule for June through December is being arranged. There will be fighter practice and a presentation on Arms, Armor and Archery May 1st. Another practice and presentation will be July 24th. April 16th nine members will be representing the Barony at the McConnell Family Festival of Fun. Members already with base access are also welcome.

The Arts and Sciences Ministers are compiling a schedule for classes monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at Make ICT. Other Wednesdays will be open for other activities. They requested all local mini events incorporate arts and sciences with classes or competitions as part of the activities. Members are also asked to keep the Ministers informed about the projects they are working on. Recommendations, comments and requests for classes are encouraged. The April Dragonflyre is being compiled for publication. The Chronicler thanked Friar Thomas for the first article in a new series and Marie for artwork. She will accept officers' letters through this evening. The Baronial

website will be updated with the current Vatavia Order of Precedence. A few entries needed additional information before they are added.

Six Vatavia heraldic items are currently in process: 4 at Laurel and 2 at Kingdom with the Saker Herald. The Chatelaine is making plans for local get togethers for reasons other than food. She asked members to help newer members attend away events.

The Exchequer reported a balance of \$12,045.83. That is \$2,000 more than at the same time last year, attributable to hosting Coronation here in January. The new signature card will be at the bank soon for officers' to finalize. The traveling Valor Equestrian Sword has been located and will be returned to local storage, finalizing the current inventory. The finance committee will need to consider a new publishing company to replace our previous one which is no longer in business. Brochures and business card publishing will be needed within the year.

The Agreement to Collaborate with Make ICT has been signed. Vatavia is to do two classes, open to Make ICT with no fees required. Our monthly BUSH class schedule will exceed that expectation, besides fulfilling our educational goals.

Fighter practice is Sunday beginning at 11 am at the outdoor site OJ Watson Park. Archery practice is at the same location, also on Sundays, beginning at 10 am. Practice is open to everyone to attend. It was requested that members clean up the area after practice is over.

Kingdom award recommendations are needed by April 8th to provide Their Majesties need time to consider and decide on the recommendations and have scrolls prepared and signed. The Kingdom is still seeking bids for the Calon Con meeting this July 16th. The Kingdom Seneschal's message was read giving site requirements. Her Excellency Sung asked for preferences for Vatavia attending Lilies to help with gate shifts. The sooner commitments are made the greater the number of choices that will be available to select from.

The Caltrop's deputy position, Spike, is currently open. There can be more than one deputy in this position.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

THEIR MAJESTIES CALONTIR

King Matsu & Queen Elena | Falcon-Crown@calontir.org

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES

Prince Logan & Princess Ylva | Falcon-Heirs@calontir.org

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

April 2: Bellewode Heraldic Scribal and Dance Symposium | College of Bellewode (Kirkville, MO)

April 2: Spring Spears | Calanais Nuadh (Rolla, MO)

April 9: Kingdom A&S | Grimfells (Bentonville, AR)

April 16: Unslung Heroes | Aston Tor (E Jackson County, MO)

April 23: Phallus Fractus: A Fundraiser for Male Cancers | Vatavia (Wichita, KS)

April 30: Melon Wars | Flint Hill (Mason City, IA)

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May 7: War College | Amlesmore Moor (Hallsville, MO)

May 14: Hunt the Hares | Deodar (Cedar Rapids, IA)

May 14: St George & The Dragon | Oakheart (Springfield, MO)

May 21: Melees & Mayhem | Crescent Moon (Topeka, KS)

May 28: Tournament of Horse and Falcons | Forgotten Sea (Kansas City, MO)

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June 11-19: Lilies War | Calontir (Smithville Lake, MO)

June 18-26: SCA 50th Year Anniversary Celebration | Danville, IN

.....

July 2: Masters of the Duel | Lonely Tower (Omaha, NE)

July 9: Summer Coronation | Coeur d'Ennui (Des Moines, IA)

July 16: CalonCon | TBD

July 30: Feast of Eagles | Cum an Iolar (South Johnson County, KS)

BARONIAL GATHERINGS

Populace Meeting Third Wednesday, 7-9 PM VFW Post 112, 1560 South Topeka Street, Wichita, KS 67211

Fighter Practice (Armored Combat and Calon Steel) Sundays, 11-2 PM O.J. Watson Park, 3022 S McLean Boulevard, Wichita, KS 67217 | For more information, contact: Lord Magnus (AKA Torin) knightmarshal@baronyofvatavia.org | 316-640-7836

Archery Practice Sundays, 10-2 PM | O.J. Watson Park, 3022 S McLean Boulevard, Wichita, KS 67217 | For more information, contact: m'lord Sigurd | archermarshal@baronyofvatavia.org

Officers Meeting & Finance Meeting First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM. Open to the populace. Make ICT - Wichita's Makerspace, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214

Arts and Sciences Gathering 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-9 PM at Make ICT - Wichita's Makerspace, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214

Arts and Sciences Classes

April 13: Quick-Start Guide to Research & Documentation (Lord Niall)

May 11: Book Binding (Lord Seann Aonghus)

July 13: Tananata: the Japanese Star Festival (Lady Yukiko)

September 14: Naalbinding (Lady Isobel MacDonald {Iszy})

SCA WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.sca.org | www.calontir.org |
www.baronyofvatavia.org

TO GET A COPY OF THE KNOWN WORLD HANDBOOK

Contact His Lordship Friar Thomas at 316-685-1182

The Friar's Corner by his lordship Thomas Bacon

This may be the first of series articles I intend to write. Unlike my previous efforts of long ago will not be factual recitations on various topics, but more rumination on themes of the medieval world and the SCA. History is more than just facts but extends to attitudes and assumptions. And it is these latter themes I wish to address.

An aspect not generally realized was that the medieval man considered everything connected. Not just to things here on earth but to the heavens. The prayer "on earth, as it is in heaven" was meant literally. This is why astrology was considered a science that was avidly pursued. This connectivity was often referred to as the Great Chain of Being; each link was a reflection of the link below and above it.

This extended to one's social standing. You were born into your social standing, and to an extent, your occupation. To change that was considered an unnatural act. The romances of the period are filled with stories of a noble born person by some evil act is casted among the lower classes. He may even be ignorant of his true status. Yet by the end of the story his true nature asserts itself and he is restored to his proper position.

This connectivity leads to a communal mindset. It is not that the individual was unimportant, but the interest of the individual was secondary to that of the community. A person's identity and worth was set in the context of the community. Social life was communal. This is what made the punishments of outcast and excommunication so powerful. A remnant of this thinking is echoed among the religious fundamentalists who see a moral decline of society in the behavior of individuals whose acts they disagree with.

Religion is another expression of this connectivity. The divine was as much a part of the world as the air and earth. Its symbols could be seen everywhere, and every event could be interpreted as a portent for some larger happening. The divine rules were as key to understanding the world as the laws of physics are today. The prayers and rituals were the engineering of the divine.

They also had a different sense of time. Time was not linear, it was circular. Things moved in cycles. So they had no sense of progress. Things are now what they always have been. If anything, things had been corrupted and degraded. The Golden Age lay in the past, and hope was tied to recovering that past glory.

Being tied to the cycle of the seasons led to slower paced life where things were completed in their own time. This attitude was played for comical effect in the movie "The Agony and the Ecstasy" with Pope Julius continually asking "When will you make an end?" and Michelangelo always answering "When I am finished!" The phrase "time is money" would have no meaning to them.

We are children of the industrial age. We expect things to be of standard size, interchangeable, polished and shiny. But that is not how things were produced during the Middle Ages. There were no standard sizes. Granted things from a given workshop would be very similar, due to using common gages and jigs. But they were not interchangeable, and certainly not with items made at a different workshop. Things were not polished and shiny, not because they did not have the tools, techniques and skills to do so, but because it took much effort and did not add to the functionality of the item. So such efforts were reserved for the presentation pieces that came at great cost.

Our sense of how things were made is influenced by surviving articles. But our sampling is a skewed. What survives is often dependant on the article's aesthetic, sentimental, or symbolic nature by those who could afford to set aside such items. Meaning the nobility and the rich merchant class, and such items were often luxuries. The everyday items, when used-up or broken, were simply tossed away or recycled.

It would be like a future historian touring the preserved ruins of Hearst Castle at San Simeon, William Hearst's palace of the 1920's, and noting that the bathroom fixtures were gold-plated and concluding that all bathroom fixtures of the time were gold plated. Just because the gold-plated fixture is documentable is inadequate proof that all fixtures were gold-plated. Likewise the everyday items of the Middle Ages only generally resemble the shiny artifacts we are left with today.

It is the break from this medieval mindset that marks the Renaissance. The name is a bit of a misnomer as it literally means rebirth. The concept behind the name was that the intellectuals to the time thought they were recreating the glory of the ancient culture as the Greek and Roman literature became more widely available. But they were creating something new. Man, not God, became the center of intellectual thought, and thus the individual and not the community became the focus of society. The here and now became the focus and the study of nature as nature begins to occur. This opens up to innovation and a sense of progress. Leading to the modern world.

Much of the Middle Ages is not understandable unless you know how the people of the time thought, which was different then how we think today. Their understanding of how the world was put together and worked informed their thinking on morality and behavior. On how things should be organized and done. Or how they should react to the world. I have only briefly touched on the many complexities of the medieval mind. And as in many short summaries, the generalizations are overly broad and skip over many subtle differences and exceptions. This is but a jumping off point for exploring this critical aspect of the Middle Ages.

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	4	5	6 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave.	7	8	9
10 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	11	12	13 A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214	14	15	16
17 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	18	19	20 Populace Meeting 7-9 PM VFW Post 112, 1560 S. Topeka Street	21	22	23
24 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	25	26	27 A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214	28	29	30

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave.</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214</p>	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>Populace Meeting 7-9 PM VFW Post 112, 1560 S. Topeka Street</p>	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214</p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean</p>	30	31				

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave.	2	3	4
5 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	6	7	8 A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214	9	10	11
12 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	13	14	15 Populace Meeting 7-9 PM VFW Post 112, 1560 S. Topeka Street	16	17	18
19 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	20	21	22 A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214	23	24	25
26 Fighter Practice 11-2pm Archery Practice 10-2pm Watson Park 3022 S. McLean Blvd.	27	28	29 A&S Gathering 7-9 PM Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214	30		