

The Dragonflyre

A. S. XXIX
Sept



BARONY OF VATAVLA
c/o Lynn's Kodakway
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Wichita, KS 67208

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5/1990

The DRAGONFLYRE is a monthly newsletter for the subscribers within the Barony of Vatavila, and others by subscriptions for \$11.00 for 1 year. Submissions: Art, articles, poetry, letters, etc. are gladly accepted, but subject to approval by the local Barony to curtail any rebuffs or indignant replies, which could threaten the peace of the Barony or seem in bad taste. Submissions should be on white paper, blank ink for art, letters or articles need not be typed, but if so should be able to fit within a 3 by 8 1/2 of 8 1/2 by 11 page.

Table of Contents

pg	
2	From the Luchistnik
	From the Chronicler
3	Ren Fest
4	The Lord and his Precious Lady
5	Commedia Del'arte
6-7	Seventh Century Coptic Egypt
7	Doobis Quest
8	SCA: The Basics
10	The Battle
12	Announcements
13	Calendar
14	Baronial Officers

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FROM THE LUCHISTNIK

Well folks, yes I am still alive and living in Votavia. After having numerous overly close encounters with the entire insect population of Kansas I said to myself, "Self, archery will have to survive without me." But never fear, I am still here!

Persons really and truly interested in archery please feel free to contact me. I am interested in the possibility of locating an indoor archery site. Let it be known that it may require monetary support on a consistent basis. We can be self supporting. A couple of dollars can't hurt anyone if you are sincere about your sport.

You can contact me at 262-1194. I also plan to have a meeting of all of the archer guard and above real soon. Where would you care to have your meeting? Again, let me know. This will be announced in the October issue and will take place that month.

In service, Gwendolynn

From The Chronicler

Greetings,

Once again it's time for another Dragonflyer. With fall right around the corner we can once again look forward to cooler weather. Being that our hurried pace will soon slow down I hope to see a lot more from all of you. I seem to be relying a lot on our ole' faithfuls for my work. Or as it now seems, other than my faithful staff, very little is being heard. So can I assume that we are all near death and not pursuing any artistic endeavors. My aren't we a boring lot.

I know that many of us are quite busy with Vultur. Hope to see everyone pitching in out there, so we can all have a wonderful time. As always I know it will be a great success.

Please you newcomers to our ranks feel free to submit your artwork, your persona, recipes, poetry or whatever you may have learned of different lands and places of the Known World. Let us hear of your travels to far away lands and distant Kingdoms.

In service, Gwendolynn

Ren-fest

WHAT: Kansas City Renaissance Festival
WHERR: Bonner Springs, KS
WHEN: Weekends, Sept 2nd - October 15th
WHO: Sponsored by the Barony of Forgotten Sea
WHY: Benefit for Calontir (1/2 proceeds go to Kingdom!)
and FOR THE FUN OF IT!!

As in years past, the Barony of Forgotten Sea is coordinating SCA participation in the Kansas City Renaissance Festival. Good gentles from across the Kingdom and beyond are most welcome and encouraged to come and spend a weekend with us.

FREE ON-SITE CAMPING: period pavillions strongly encouraged. Special areas & rules for non-period tents will be enforced.

WE NERD: ARCHERS
FIGHTERS
HRRALDS
PERFORMING ARTISTS
PEOPLE SKILLED IN CRAFTS OF ALL KINDS

As an added attraction this year, each weekend will feature specific types of arts and sciences, as listed below:

- Sept 2-4 All Arts & Sciences (Valor Tourney Weekend)
- Sept 9-10 Metal Arts & Sciences - Plate/Scale Armour, Weapons, Blacksmithy, Chainmail, Jewelry, Other Metalwork
- Sept 16-17 Leather and Wood Arts & Sciences - Leather Armour, Leather Vessels, Leather Apparel, Fur Pelt Projects, Wood Construction, Wood Carving, Bow & Arrow making, Other Wood or Leather Utensils
- Sept 23-24 All Arts & Sciences (Coronation Weekend)
- Sept 30-Oct 1 Paper Arts & Sciences - Calligraphy, Illumination, Paper Making, Book Binding, Making Paints or Inks, Painting
- Oct 7-8 Performing Arts & Sciences - Dance, Drama, Music (Vocal or Instrumental), Instrument Making, Bardic Tales, Music Composition
- Oct 14-15 Fiber Arts & Sciences - Spinning, Weaving, Dyeing, Costume Design, Costume Construction, Costume Accessories, Embroidery, Other Needlework

Of course, artisans will also be welcome to demonstrate crafts other than those featured each weekend.

Each person attending the Festival is required to work four hours (1/2 of each day). YOU MUST CALL THE SCHEDULER REGARDING WORK SHIFTS AND CAMPING ARRANGEMENTS. Any other questions should be directed to the Autocrat. We hope to see you there!

Lady Rachel of Colchester, Autocrat (816) 765-9464
Lady Aileen Brigit O'Kelley, Scheduler (816) 763-5123
NO CALLS AFTER 10:30 PM OR ON WEEKENDS (WE'LL BE AT THE SITE!)

The Lord and His Precious Lady


The mighty sword of the Gods has been calling to you. There is to be a war to come on the day of the Dragon. Your homeland has fallen and your true love captured. You go unwavering to her rescue only to fall in battle. As your life's blood drains from you, a hopelessness comes to your heart. Your love keeps you going forward into the very depth of Hell itself. Near fatal wounds befall you as your heart aches for her. You are adrift now, to the home of your ancestors as your body awaits death. With each breath your life ebbs away. Still you hang on. Often you reach out for your lady in fitful sleep.

She reaches out to you from her very soul to place love in your heart and will into your body. An angel touches you now. In a bright light she stands. She touches your wounds and cradles your lifeless body in her arms. Your eyes meet and warmth returns to your limbs and strength of will to your soul.

You both smile and the light grows brighter from your love. Peace and calm befall you and put you in a restful sleep.

Your beautiful angel turns to leave, never to return to you arms again. She had given you all she had, her life for yours. As she turned tears overcame her. Grief unlike no other befall her beautiful soul and the Gods felt compassion for the depth of your love. She falls to the ground and in an instant there is a glow of the almighty that of the glow of life. She finally awakes to the voice of her beloved stirring and goes to his bedside. The very miracles of blessed love and goodness united the Lord and his Lady for the rest of eternity. The war is finally won, but the final confrontation is yet to come. When all peace will return once more to the land and my Lord will serve as King.

By Gwendolynn Morna O'Shaughnessey



Commedia Del'arte

If anybody would enjoy a real challenge, I believe I have just the thing. Sit back for a minute and consider this: while in persona assuming another persona. A chance like this comes along only once in a great while. What I am talking about is a form of art called Commedia dell'arte. In its original form the players had only a plot to work from and had to improvise all of their lines. I don't think that we can be so bold, just yet. The group that is slowly forming will not be completely improvisational, but being that this art form is comical I am sure that some improvised surprises might fit in nicely.

I refer to this as a challenge because the traveling actors who played these personas were on stage playing a character as portrayed by there persona. Its a challenge just talking about it.


So why am I talking to you? We need people to play some more of the characters which might have appeared on a Commedia dell'arte stage. Ladies were often employed to play the part of what is known as a "tart". This "tart" persona may have to play parts ranging from that of a little girl to a seductive young lady.

Other personas for ladies may include old ladies or servants. These personas are very important to the balance of the plays because of the variety they can add. We are experiencing a shortage of lady participants at the moment.

The choices for men are quite varied. Here are a few to consider: a scared military man, a dumb know it all, servants, and someone to be in charge of the group.

If you are in the least bit curious about what we have just discussed, please contact Ed Demetrius at 777-0770.

by Zanni



Seventh Century Coptic Egypt

The name Copt is an Arabic corruption of the Greek word "Aigyptios", or in the Roman "Egyptios". The Arabs assimilated this into their tongue in the form "Kipt", and then later, after they conquered Egypt in 641 "El Qobt". This, then, is the word that later developed into "Copt". This term referred to the people of the Nile Valley who were descended from the ancient Egyptian peasantry. Therefore, Copts were an Egyptian, *Hamitic people with Hamitic speech, in contrast to the Romans and Greeks co-inhabiting the land. Hamitic refers to the characteristics of a group of chiefly northern African peoples that are mostly Muslims, being greatly different in appearance but mainly caucasoid.

The Coptic story begins in 600 where we find them under Byzantine rule. Damianus is Emperor, and the law is such that Copts are little better than slaves. The Greeks are the rich land owners, the tax collectors, occupying all of the high official positions. The Copts were not allowed the status of Roman citizenship or even that of Greek. They had been continually persecuted for centuries by the Romans also, but the Greeks mainly.

Then Heraklius becomes emperor in 610, who reigns over Egypt until 619 when it is invaded by Sassanian Persians. Marching down the Jemantine coast, through Pelusium, taking Babylon and Alexandria. After a few months siege, they reach Nubia, invading monasteries and churches along the way, killing the inhabiting monks. The Persians brought peace to the Copts, who were much better treated by them than previously experienced under Constantinople rule.

It was short lived, for in 629, Heraklius managed to live out the Persians, once again restoring Byzantine law.

Then in 639, the Arabian general Amr ibn el 'As received authority from the second Caliph of Islam, Umar (634-644) to invade Egypt (Caliph: The spiritual and temporal ruler of Muslims). So in 640 Amr began with the same tried and true

route: taking Palestine first, then Gaza, Pelusium, gaining victory over the Byzantines in Helipolis. He achieved his victory in 641 when Babylon capitulated after a six month siege. He then founded the Arab capital of Al Tustat. Then onward to Alexandria, forcing the Byzantine garrison to sail for Constantinople.

It first things went well for the Copts; they were at long last governed by their own people. As time passed they came to see that while taxation was not as heavy, they had merely replaced one burden for another: the religious minded rulers of the Byzantine Empire for that of the Arab. However, they welcomed the Arabs believing that any rule other than Byzantine would be more tolerable by far.

Except for a Byzantine army recapturing and holding Alexandria for a year, the Byzantine rule of the Nile Valley and its people came to an end after 700 years.

"Cairo: 5500 Years", Desmond Stewart (1960) pp 38, 39
"Egypt: A Country Study", Foreign Area Studies, The American Union (July 1982); pp 12, 13 "Coptic Art and Archeology", Alexander Badawy (1978) pp 8, 7 "Coptic Art", Klaus Wessel (1965) pp 75, 76 *Webster's 7th Collegiate Dictionary (1969) pp 367

By Seana MacLeod

Doobis Quest

The Quest for the Doobis will occur for the first time on Monday morning (9/4/89) at Valor. We hope that the gentles of V'Tavia will not allow this priceless relic to leave our beloved lands without a fierce challenge.

Those persons working the Quest, please gather at the Tavern for a brief meeting NO LATER THAN 8:30am (modern time) Monday morning. This meeting will cover assignments and

responsibilities. Fighters come in armor; non-fighters in full garb. Armor inspection will occur at the tavern. You will go to your assigned locations immediately after this meeting for last minute set up before the Quest teams start.

Fighters are: Aelsric, Ala, Bjorn and Magnus O'Carr.
Non-fighters are: Friar Thomas, Gwendolyn, Kasamira, Odinisa, Rhys, Searlaith and Stephen of Firefall.

Thanks to all of you for your help.

Lawrence Tailfer, the Leech
Gawayne ap Tristum
Demetrius il Condottierro

SCA: The Basics

A set of introductory courses for comparatively new members is being offered in the Barony. On Wednesday, September 13th, there will be an opportunity to make your own T-Tunic. This is an opportunity to come with your own fabric (cotton or cotton blends are recommended) and thread or to purchase the material and thread at the class (at cost) and leave with a T-Tunic. These T-Tunics will be very simple and without decoration, but decoration can be done later and in the meantime - YOU WILL HAVE GARB.

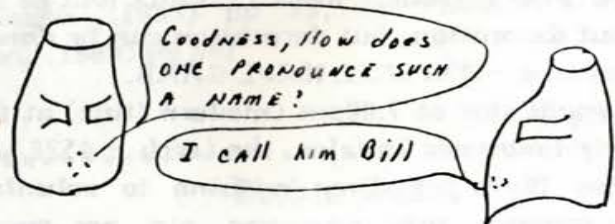
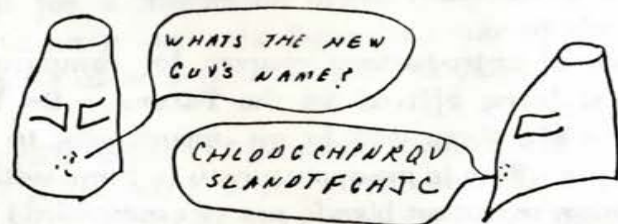
The class will start at 7:00pm (modern time) at the home of His Lordship Lawrence Tailfer, the Leech - 4526 W 12th, just west of Zoo Blvd. Persons wishing to volunteer sewing machines, scissors, tape measures, etc. are encouraged to bring them before 7:00 so they can be set up and ready.

Those persons who have sewing skills and having had little opportunity to share those skills with others are encouraged to come out to help. It is time that some of the newer members give the longer-term members a rest from doing all the teaching. It is also a chance to meet and make the newest members welcome, to answer questions on a one-to-one basis and help integrate the newest members into the society.

The only thing that will be occurring at this first meeting is sewing and a sampling of a period (non-alcoholic) drink. This is not a general SCA party. It is a class in which you will either learn or teach (or more likely both).

On September 27th an introduction to Bardic (yes, group singing can be fun) and Medieval Dance will be offered, with more specific information available later. October 11th will offer an opportunity to learn to make your own leather belt.

If you cannot (or do not wish to) attend the first class, but would be interested in other classes, please call Demetrius (777-0770) and leave your name, PHONE NUMBER and short message with the mechanical scribe.



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Art Credits:

All Borders: Idy. Marie Chantal
Calendar: Gwendolynn
pg 9-11 Cartoon: Demetrius
Cover: Gwendolynn O'Shaughnessey
pg 11 Lady: Idy. Marie Chantal

The Battle

I have heard tales of great battles between great warriors, but the other night I was witness to the one battle which I will never forget.

That night began just as any other night would have. The peaceful starlight sky held absolutely no indication of what it would be the stage for just moments later. The battle began with the combatants rolling onto to field. At first they seemed harmless, but then the conflict began!

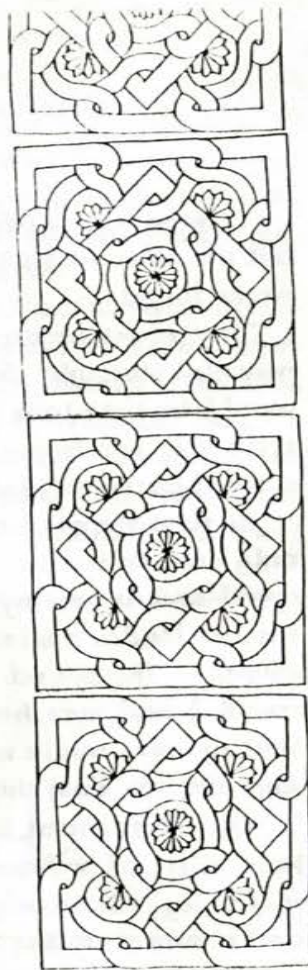
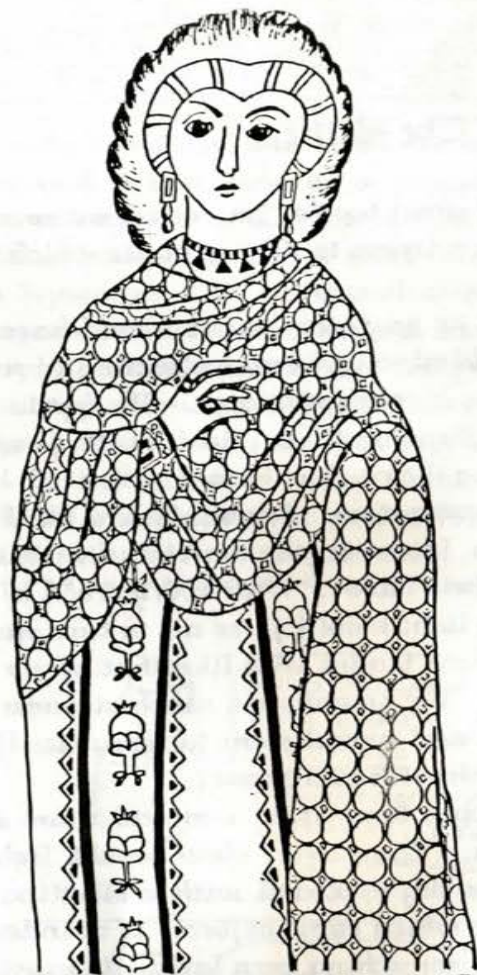
At first the pace was quite slow. I could hear a blow occur only once in while. Soon, however, the warriors increased the speed and intensity of their blows. With every crash of their mighty blades a blinding light would force me to turn my eyes away. The sound of their blades was like that of no other metal I had ever heard. The sound was much stronger than that of man made metal and would seem to repeat itself over and over shaking the Earth with every roar.

They continued this pace long after a mortal man would have died of exhaustion. Blow after blow would light the night sky. Suddenly, the sky exploded with a blinding light and a sound unlike those which came before. It sounded like something was wounded, something very large. It must have been caused by the blow that decided the out come of the battle because soon after all the noise stopped.

The only evidence of the battle was somewhat of a mess left in the sky. The wind quickly cleaned up all the triumphant warrior had left behind.

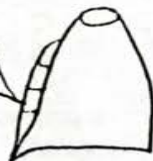
Once again the night was peaceful.

From the notes of a quiet observer



I WONDER IF IT WAS
WISE TO EAT SO MUCH
PIZZA BEFORE FIGHTING

NOT WITH A CLOSED
HELM, IT WASN'T



Announcements

Chainmail coiffs custom designed starting at \$50.00 and up.
Call for more information contact Ld. Tristin at (316)683-4965

Bardic-2nd and 4th Thursdays at Frederics Freehold; 1527 S.
Emporia 7:00-? 264-7472

General Information for the SCA-Barony of Vtavia call
685-7373

Theater at Carols Clubhoue on September 18, Monday evening
at 7:30. 4141 S. Seneca. For info call Carol at 524-0919.

Dance practice at Edgemoor Park 7:30, September 13th and
27th. Contact Ceithlenn for more information 685-1182. If
you don't show up, dance WILL be canceled.

Dragonflyre meeting September 21st at 7:00. Deadline for all
submissions is the 21st. NO EXCEPTIONS. For more
information contact Gwendolynn 262-1194

UKAE shoot at Kendals on September 28th. Come as early as
possible. Contact Ld. Stephen at 733-1936 or Gwendolynn at
262-1194.

Those persons wishing to throw axes, knives or other
projectiles please contact Thorgrim at 524-2987

SCA: The Basics on September 27th at 7:00. The place is 4526
W. 12th. For more information contact Ld. Demitrius at
777-0770.

Baron-Tedrick von Wolfschatten
 (Ted Hager).....529-2281
 Baroness-Aideen the Audacious
 (Jane Hager).....529-2281

.....
 Seneschal-Ldy Ceithlenn Nic Ruaidhri
 (Amy Billington).....685-1182
 Pursuivant-Countess Elizabeth Du Rossignol
 (Lisa Mohr).....522-7670
 Treasurer-Corwin McCailein
 (Robert McQuillen).....683-5463
 MOA-Ldy. Phillipa Lloyd de Tarifa
 (Patricia Gardener).....942-1045
 MOS-Aubrey Kendall of Rosewood
 (Ken Snyder).....775-5075
 Knight Marshall-Ldy Hrafnhildr o Llandyssol, Ldy.
 Raven
 (Lisa Day).....262-2974
 Archer Marshal-Ld. Steven Egan O'Bannon
 (Steven Burris).....733-1936
 Chronicler-Gwendolynn Morna O'Shaughnessey
 (Lynne Haddaway).....262-1194
 Luchistnik-Gwendolynn Morna O'Shaughnessey
 (Lynne Haddaway).....262-1194
 Champion-Sir Earl Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel
 (David Cooper).....685-3152
 Historian-Ld. Friar Thomas Bacon
 (David Moreno).....685-1182
 List Mistress-Ldy. Ceithlenn Nic Ruidhri
 (Amy Billington).....685-1182
 MOC-Countess Hywella Frech Ferch Wyddel
 (Lisa Cooper).....685-3152
 Castellan-Ld. Aelfric Frithariksson
 (Allen Leddon).....267-5913

Sept.

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRID.	SAT.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Talor 10	Talor 11	Smithing Archery 12	Officers Meeting 13	Talor 14	Talor 15	Talor 16
Fighter P 17	Cosuming 18	Smithing Archery 19	Dance 20	Bardic 21	22	23
Fighter P 24	Knights Carols 25	Smithing Archery 26	Populace S.C.A. Basic 27	Dragonfly Bardic 28	29	30
Fighter P Cosuming			Dance	IRAC		