

Dragonflyre



CREATED GERMAN KNIGHT WALTHER VON RÜNGEN, SHATTERING A LANCE, THIRTEENTH CENTURY ADVERSARY;
FROM COEX MANESSE, C. 1300, UNIVERSITÄT'S BIBLIOTHEK HEIDELBERG
Rhanna XXIII

May A.S. XXV

Barony of Malavia
c/o Lynne Baziz
9600 E. 17th, Street S. W3
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Mary Day
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The Dragonflyre is a monthly newsletter for the subscribers within the Barony of Vavavia, and others by subscription for \$11.00 for 1 year. Submissions: Art, articles, poetry, letters etc. are gladly accepted but subject to approval by the local Baronne to curtail any rebuttals or things that seem in bad taste. Submissions should be on white paper, black ink for art. Letters or articles need not be typed, but it would be greatly appreciated.

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From the Caltrap

Unto Their Excellencies Baron Gawayne ap Tristram and Baroness Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikingr, the Lords, Ladies and Good Gentles of Vatavia, doth Lady Annys de Vernun of Kettering, Caltrap Pursuivant for Vatavia, send Greetings.

The following are on the February Calontir Letter of Intent sent to Laurel, King of Arms:

Demetrius il Condottierro - Change of Device: "Argent, a triangle voided, issuant to dexter from its apex, a pennon Sable."

Lora Anne the Silent - Badge: "Per chevron inverted vert and Or."

Llewellyn the Archer - Device: "Per chevron azure and vert, a chevron fracted between two mullets of eight points and a tower Or."

Magnus O'Carra - Name and Device: "Argent, on a pale azure between two dragons combattant sable, a sword Or impaling a skull argent."

Robert de Spenser of Wessex - Name and Device: "Purple, three dejs voided interlaced in bend sinister argent."

Simon de Vernun of Wellingborough - Device: "Per bend sinister sable and argent, two scarpes and a falcon close to sinister counterchanged."

Our congratulations to these Good Gentles! Your submissions



have passed Kingdom!

I remain, in service to Valavia, Calontir and the Dream,
Annys de Vernon of Kettering.

From the Chateleyn

Actually, this is from the Chateleyn's ghost writer. However, he has carefully told me what he would like said this letter. April was a busy month between RUSH, the war with Trilvia, and Kansas-Newman Renaissance Faire. All these events proved to be great successes. Also, there was the Stanley Elementary Middle Ages Faire which we participated in as well. It was super. I truly appreciate the efforts of all the Good

Gentles who gave up part of their evening to participate in this.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to participate in all of these events as I have been sent to school in Chicago by my company for a period of nine weeks. So starting the weekend of the war, the office of the Chateleyn will be residing with my deputy, Lord Sean.

I have been charged by our Seneschal to collect the names, addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, and parents of all of the smalls in the Barony. These names will be sent to the Kingdom Mistress of Children for her records. So, if I haven't talked with you already, please contact me (or Sean or Kerare) with this information. Feel free also to leave it on the answering machine at my home as well.

Sean and I have just completed a press packet that, if you were at the Kansas-Newman Faire, you probably saw. This hopefully can be used as a source of definitions and descriptions to try to head off some of the misstatements that creep into articles on the SCA.

As usual, the office of the Gold Key is hungry for loaner stuff. Please, if you have stuff that you no longer want that is usable for loaner stuff, donate it to the Gold Key. If you have plain cloth that is usable for making loaner garb, I'll be glad to accept that, too. Remember, that this stuff becomes the property of the Barony. At this time, Gold Key only has three(3) garments in its possession. With a group that is promising to grow as fast as ours, this may not be nearly enough to meet the potential demand.

In Service to the Dream,
Lord Galen MacDonald



From your new Chronicler

While there is a good chance and space, I would like to introduce myself. I am Lady Eleanor of Rhiwallon. I have resided in the Barony for a little over a year and was truly excited when the position of Deputy Chronicler was opened up. I (strangely enough) tend to enjoy tasks like the "Dragonflyre" and am looking forward to my tenure as your Chronicler.

See how the word "your" is underlined in that last sentence? There's a reason for that! The "Dragonflyre" and all other aspects of the SCA are nothing without the support of the populace. With a group as strong and talented as Valavia, there is no reason why a solid newsletter with lots of different kinds of information that will meet everyone's needs at some point cannot be put out each month. Now is the time to write that article or draw that picture that has been flating in the back of your mind!

Until June,
Eleanor

The Byzantine Cookbook By Demetrius

Metz Pye

This recipe was developed based upon a desire for a medieval meat pie without a sweet fruit component. For those desiring the rather extensive documentation, please contact Demetrius.

Ingredients for filling

1/2 cup strong beef broth
If you use bullion cubes,
omit the salt)
1 onion, chopped & cooked
1/2 tsp mace
1/2 tsp cubeb
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp salt
pinch-1/8 tsp saffron

1 & 1/2 lb. meat (I use 1/2 lb.
each beef (round or chuck), pork
and chicken (or turkey)-use lean
meat or increase amount and drain
1 lime or lemon (juice only)
1 tbs verjuice (from unripe 1/8
grapes) 1/2
1 tbs parsley
2 large eggs
1/4 tsp pepper

Ingredients for crust

(The recipe for the crust is from Mistress Gwyneth Espiclar,
which she adapted from Robert May's *The Accomplish'd Cook*
(1688))

2 cups flour 1 tsp salt 3/4 cup cold butter 1 egg yolk

Ingredients for gilding

1 egg yolk dash of saffron splash of water
(alternative coloring procedures discussed below)

To make the filling brown all the meat and pour off the fat. Saute onion until limp. Combine all ingredients except egg and simmer over low heat to allow flavors blend. Add eggs and heat for a few minutes more. Flavors are better blended and develop a bit more if you refrigerate filling overnight before putting to the pie. Variations in taste are possible by altering the fruit selected (substituting lemon or orange for the lime). Additionally, a more subtle variation is possible by using grains of paradise instead of pepper, increasing the amount slightly (I prefer this latter variation).

To make the crust:

"Blend the flour, salt and butter together until the lumps are no bigger than pea-sized and preferably a bit smaller. Put the egg yolk in a measuring cup and add enough cold water to make about 1/2 cup. Add to the flour/butter mixture and mix until you can make a nice ball of it. It will seem pretty dry at first, but will eventually come together. Try to work it as little as possible-- the less you handle it the more tender it will be. To make it easier to roll out chill it. Makes a generous amount for two crusts."

In a glass pie plate, place the uncooked bottom crust. Prick crust and "weigh down" with dry beans. Cook at 375 for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Gently pat the filling into

place. Add the top crust and seal, cutting holes for the steam to escape. Cook at 375 for approximately 15-20 minutes. Remove from the oven and brush on the egg, saffron, water mixture. Return to the oven and continue cooking for 30-40 minutes more. Allow it to sit briefly before cutting and serving. Variations in crust coloring can be accomplished by using sandalwood (reddish), blueberry juice (gives a "berry" flavor if you try for a dark blue) or crushed parsley in water (I can't get a smooth color, but it is green/green speckled and does add a slight parsley taste). Food coloring, while not period, provides a more even color and no additional taste.

The visual effect is more dramatic with the holes cut in the top pie crust form a picture and that picture is embellished by the selective use of colors (e.g., the Calton Cross in purple, with a border of gold).





The Quests of the Kingdom

Friar Thomas Bacon

One of the prime objectives of the Society is to research the days of yore. This need not be limited to the dim yesteryears of the Middle Ages, but can also include the recent past of the Society. Nor does research within our own organization confine itself to such formal tracts such as Vatavia History Part 1 (out of print), Part 2 (undergoing editing), or Part 3 (currently being assembled). The following (hopefully the first of several such articles) is written in this spirit.

One of the more venerable traditions in Vatavia is the marriage quest. This tradition started the winter of A.S. XVI when Cire El-Akrab (Earl Sir Edward Cire Greymore) asked Humpk d'Bohun (Duke Sir William V'atavia) for the hand of Elizabeth de Rosingol, as she was a member of Humpk's household, and he claimed her as a daughter. At the time, Humpk was reigning as Prince of Calontir. Vatavia and Forgotten Sea were building up for a war. It is not known if the concept of the quest had been arranged beforehand, but with a twinkle in his eye, Humpk announced that before he could give his approval, Cire must prove his worth and was made Vicar of Vatavia. Later at the Coronet Journey to select Humpk's successor, Cire again asked for permission to marry Elizabeth, only to be given the additional tasks of coming up with a bride's price and a roc's tooth. The former demand led to the famous exchange of:

Cire: "Will you take a check?"

Humpk: "I am a Czech!" (Humpk being a Bohemian, a part of latterday Czechoslovakia.) In the court at the war between Vatavia and Forgotten Sea in which Cire led the victorious Vatavia army, Cire presented his efforts to

Humpk. Since a roc, being a bird, uses its gizzard in lieu of teeth, Cire presented a stone from a roc's gizzard, which happened to be composed of gold, thus also satisfying the money requirement. Humpk then casually threw it over his shoulder, just missing Mammara's foot, and pronounced that he would have to ponder the matter a little longer. Cire nearly wilted at the thought of what new diabolical task Humpk had in store for him. But the following morning, Humpk gave his permission for Cire to wed Elizabeth. They married that fall at the Valor Tourney.

While succeeding quests were never quite so epic in their execution, they were notable in other ways: Baron Sir Tedrick's having to perform five quests the summer of his marriage to Aideen, the embarrassment of the quest giver and quester when Friar Thomas simultaneously married two ladies, and Lord Tristan's avoidance of a marriage quest for a year and half.

To the best of my recollection and scanty records, the following is a list of quests that have been given out over the years:

1. Sir Edward Greymore: To prove his leadership skill, pay a bride's price, and locate a roc's tooth.
2. Sir Robert of the Woodlands: ?
3. Conn Drytguma: ?
4. Sir Gabriel ap Morgan: The last tree from the great Sahara Desert.
5. Leofric de Thorburgh: A rattan bullet
6. Baron Sir Tedrick von Wolfschetten: The love song of a palm tree and a shrubbery.
7. Lawrence the Leech: To find a rock python.
8. Fr. Thomas Bacon: To draw the Vatavia family tree.
9. Lord Aelfric Fritharikkson: Find the last surviving Greek speaking frog from the Biblical plague of Egypt.



THE CELTIC RESISTANCE TO ROME
by Bride (Katrina Whitley)
Shire of the Eagle, Meridies

To understand the actions of Boudica, a Celtic heroine who some consider violent and barbaric, an examination must be made of the environment that fostered her. First century Britain was composed of many tribes, each loyal to a King/Warrior leader. Though Julius Caesar had initially invaded Britain more than fifty years before the birth of Christ, after the reception of the official "submission" of the leaders of various Celtic tribes, the peoples of Britain enjoyed a "client relationship" with Rome. In return for their allegiance to Caesar, various tribes profited from increase of commerce, official Roman recognition, and aid from Rome when warring with neighboring tribes. For a little more than 100 years, Rome ignored the Barbaric island and was all but forgotten by the peoples of Britain.

Then, in A.D. 43, the Emperor Claudius, driven at least in part by personal ambition, invaded Britain again. This was the genesis of a 400 year occupation by Rome. according to a victory arch erected in triumphant honor of the Emperor, eleven Celtic tribes surrendered to him. Historians generally believe that a tribe known as the Iceni was one of these eleven.

The Iceni inhabited a powerful Celtic kingdom which encompassed what is now Norfolk and parts of Suffolk. The natural terrain separated the Iceni from most other tribes and promoted a sense of independence. Born into Celtic royalty, Boudica (also called Boadicea) was the wife of King Prasutagus, leader of the Iceni tribe. As a direct result of tribal law and worship of goddesses in the religions of their past, Celtic women were traditionally afforded more power and respect than their Roman counterparts. It, therefore was probably assumed by King Prasutagus that there would be no problem in naming Boudica as his successor upon death.

He died in A.D. 59 or 60, leaving no male heirs, but two daughters for whom his wife would rule until they came of age. His state was IMMENSE in its wealth, and in hopes of placating Rome, Prasutagus split his wealth between the Emperor and his daughters. Rome, however, was not satisfied with this arrangement.

The senior financial administrator for the provinces of Britain immediately seized all the personal wealth of Prasutagus, as well as emptying the treasure coffers of his kingdom. Boudica, the new Iceni queen and leader was flogged. Her two young daughters were raped; a symbolic ritual act that proclaimed the subjugation of the Iceni to the Romans.

Though these actions alone were probably abhorrent enough to incite the Iceni to riot, the fact that many more tribes joined in the revolt indicates there were more general issues at stake. The Romans had been occupying the Island for more than seventeen years. Land had been parcelled out, treasures had been plundered, and gifts of money to leading British rulers were suddenly termed loans with full payment demanded.

The tribes of the Trinovantes became an immediate ally of the Iceni. Their lands had been seized by the Romans to create a colonia, or retirement village for veteran soldiers. Called Camulodunum, the Colonia was a major center of Roman civilization in Britain. It

boasted a huge temple in honor of the Emperor Claudius, a temple built by Trinovantes' labor and money. Recent archeological finds show that the conditions under which the Trinovantes' lived and worked in Camulodunum (their ancient lands by birthright) were deplorable; basically slave labor camps. It's no wonder that they were some of the first to aid Boudica in her resistance.

Meanwhile across Britain and many miles to the north, other Roman atrocities were being implemented. On the small island of Anglesey was a sanctuary for Druids and rebels to the Roman occupation. A great portion of the Roman legions were dispatched to seek out resistors and destroy them.

The bloodbath that ensued included not only the rebel resistance, but, on direct orders from Suetonius Paulinus (Governor of Britain), masses of Druid priestesses were destroyed. Not content with the effort to eradicate the human element of Celtic religion, Suetonius ordered the leveling of the ancient and sacred groves of Anglesey so that "barbarous superstitions" would no longer be practiced.

Coincidentally(perhaps?), at the very time that most of the Roman forces were all the way across Britain, Boudica and her tribal forces decided to strike Camulodunum. After a rousing speech punctuated by thrusts of a spear raised over her head, Boudica led her people into the colonia. Numbering over 120,000, Boudica's forces took the defenseless town in a matter of days. Igniting legionaries held out as long as they could with their antique armour and weapons, but to no avail.

Following the slaying of the Romans and their families, the Celts attacked the headstones in cemeteries, hacking away the faces of military leaders. (Interestingly, in 1907, a bronze head of Emperor Claudius was discovered by a young boy who had gone swimming in a river in Suffolk. It is believed to have adorned a statue of the Emperor within the temple. Ragged edges around the neck are evidence of its having been brutally hacked away from its body.) Finally satisfied with their efforts, the Celts headed towards Londinium (London).

Word finally reached Suetonius in Anglesey of the fall of Camulodunum. Riding with all haste, the Roman legions reached Londinium shortly before the Celtic forces. It is assumed that the Celts were delayed by a successful ambush of a Roman contingent sent to stop them, as well as the temptation to plunder the wealth of the Romans along the way. At any rate, Suetonius and his men reached Londinium before the Celts, took one look at the unfortified city, and decided to press onwards. This left the inhabitants of the city (mostly merchants and businessmen) at the mercy of Boudica and her forces. Suetonius knew he was outnumbered and needed time to develop a strategy to deal with the bloodthirsty rebels. As a noted Roman historian put it "[Suetonius] decided to save the whole situation by the sacrifice of a single city."

And sacrificed it was. Inhabitants were decapitated and their heads flung in the river. Homes were sacked, possessions destroyed; no one was spared. The Roman historian, Dio, gives the following graphic account (for those of you with more tender sensibilities, please proceed to the next paragraph):

"Those who were taken captive by the Britons were subjected to

every known outrage... The worst and most bestial atrocity committed by their captors was the following. They hung naked the noblest and most distinguished women and then cut off their breasts and sewed them to their mouths, in order to make the victims appear to be eating them: afterwards they impaled the women on sharp skewers run lengthwise through the entire body."

The savagery of the Celt's actions is perhaps misunderstood. Naturally, there is some recognizable justice in their treatment of leading Roman women (an eye for an eye, etc.). But, more recently a consensus among the historians have agreed that these cruelties were perhaps ritualistic and symbolic in nature. There is evidence of religious celebration in the midst of the savagery: dancing in groves, sacrifices on the altar, banquets.

Before leaving Londinium, the Celts burned everything. the intensity of the heat has been estimated to be in excess of 1000 °C. This can be compared to the similar conditions in Hamburg, Germany during the fire bombings in 1943. Of course, Boudica and her followers were not aided by 20th century explosives. Attesting to the incredible intensity of the heat is what is known as the "red layer". Under modern day streets in London, approximately thirteen feet below the asphalt, runs a layer 16" high of burned debris from Boudica's attack. the earth was permanently scorched red.

The Celts' numbers were now swelling, being joined by others who were perhaps, previously, too tentative to take a stand against Rome. The force then moved on to a third town, Verulamium. the town was inhabited by Britons friendly to Roman occupation, and they were warned well in advance to flee. The town was plundered and sacked but the Briton's delay in seeking out Suetonius and crushing Rome's major military forces allowed the time needed for Roman reinforcements to arrive. Once they did, Suetonius carefully chose a site for confrontation.

Though the actual site of the battle has been researched and argued about for many years, no one knows exactly where the fighting took place. What is known, however, is that Suetonius carefully chose an open area, non-conducive to ambush, with woods at his back. This meant that the Roman forces need only be concerned with fighting directly to the front.

In traditional Celtic style, complete with wagons of family members to cheer them on, the Celts prepared to engage in not only serious combat, but a favorite pastime as well, the camp followers lined their wagons up behind their brethren, at the back of the fighting field.

The Celts charged first, while the Romans held their ground. At the given order, however, the Romans marched into the Britons, firmly and decisively, inexorable pushing them back. Further and further back; until their were helplessly pinned in between Rome's mighty legionaries and the wagons which held their women and children. Eighty thousand Britons are estimated to have lost their lives that day, including women, children, and even the animals which were all caught in the trap.

It is generally assumed that Queen Boudica was not killed in battle, but took her own life shortly thereafter. It's easy to imagine that she administered the poison to her daughters as well.

The story of Boudica is certainly tragic from the Celtic side. It is also something of an inspiration; inspiration from the courage of a widow-queen, who when pushed beyond her limit, was capable of raising, directing, and unleashing a terrifying force of focused resentment, bitterness, and racial pride. An imperial Roman governor fresh from a victorious campaign, does not back down from just any band of indigenous rabble.

Possibly the greatest loss was the slaughter of the non-combatant witnesses. Imagine the oral legends, and even documentations, that might have resulted had even five-thousand of these eye-witnesses escaped; gone home to tell their tales of battle and death, when tribes united to strike the long-reaching arm of Caesar, and left it bloody.

Source
Fraser, Antonia. 1990. *The Warrior Queens: The Legends and the Lives of the Women Who Have Led Their Nations in* Vintage Books, New York, NY.





In Memory OF
 Marty Thorne
 SCA Name: Vlad Henrikson
 Survied by his lady Barbara Vaughn
 Son: Ilef Erik Thorne
 Stepson: Daniel Vaughn

Marty was 33 years old and died of an aneurism on Wednesday March 3rd, 1991. He was an archer and a beloved member of House Hammerstorm. He was also a member of the Vazavian Archer Guard and a member of the Zeman Stray. A memorial has been set up in his name please contact Barbara for any further information. May Marty find peace and happiness in Valhalla.



May Calendar

- May 1 - Autocrat bids for Valor are due.
- May 2 - Officer's Mtg. -- Briallen's church, 7:00
- May 9 - Bardic - Aelfric's, 8:00
- May 15 - Populace - North Linwood, 7:00
- May 18 - Crown Tourney - Check "Mews" for details
- May 25 - Baronial Thing - Minisa Park, 9:30 - 5:30
- Saturdays - Archery - Kansas-Newman, 12:00-2:00
- TBA Needleworker's - contact Ly. Ceithlinn



Baronial Officers List

Baron-Gawayne ap Tristram (Wayne Taylor)	-----524-0917
Baroness-Briallen ferch Vikingr (Debbie Taylor)	-----524-0917
Seneschal-Lawrence Taillefer the Leech (Larry Bumgardner)	-----942-1045
Pursuivant-Annya De Vernum of Kettering (Marie Watson)	-----755-1917
Treasurer-Lelia ni Lochtna O'Cathail (Lana Smith)	-----838-2858
Minister of Art-Searlaith nis Villiam O'Ceallaigh (Devery Corteville)	-----887-3241
Minister of Sciences-Torgrim of Hammerstorm (Richard Cathey)	-----887-6471
Knights Marshall-Rinaldo il Bianco (Del Lindely)	-----884-0782
Archer Marshall-Stephan Egan O'Bannon (Steven Burris)	-----733-1936
Chronicler-Gwendolynn Morna O'Shaughnessey (Lynne Batiz)	-----788-4698
Luchistnik-Balroc of Hammerstorm (Steven Stuhleatz)	-----529-4834
Champion-Thorgrim of Hammerstorm (Richard Cathey)	-----887-6471
Historian-Friar Thomas Bacon (David Moreno)	-----685-1182
Minister of Children-Hywela Frech Ferch Vyddel (Lisa Cooper)	-----685-3152
Bardic Champion-Aelfric Fritharicsson (Allen Leddon)	-----267-5913
Arts & Sciences Champion-Demetris il Condottierro (Henry Marks)	-----777-0770
Chatelain- Galen MacDonald (Mark Donaldson)	-----264-4530