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Barony of Batavia

c/o Patricia A. Riemann  
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received 12/30/93

Glad Juli



Mary and Dean  
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12/29/93

The Dragonflyre is a monthly newsletter for the subscribers within the Barony of Batavia, and others by subscriptions for \$11.00 per year. Submissions policy: Art, articles, poetry, letters, etc. are gladly accepted but subject to the approval by the local Baronage and Seneshal to curtail any rebuttals or items which seem in bad taste. Submissions should be on white paper, black ink for art. Letters and articles are greatly appreciated and need not be typed.

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### Art Work Credits

Chronicler: *Diedre ni corc O'Bierne*  
Staff: *Elwyn of Vatavia*  
and  
*Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon*



Stapler Slave: *Yorick Bennet Yovvone*

Special Thanks to: *Joavan Harek Greyhawk for his contribution*



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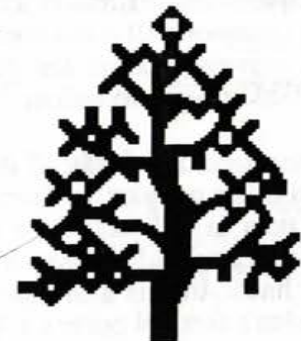
## YULTIDE AMONG THE VIKINGS

By *Joavan Harek  
Greyhawk*

Glad Jul! to all my fellow V'taevjar (that's Vatavians in the Norse tongue). I've been asked by Lady Diedre to tell of some of the Yule tide traditions among the Norse folk. Unfortunately the ancient traditions of my ancestors have proved to be as elusive as Bifrost, the rainbow bridge to Aesgard. For that you can thank men like Snorri Sturlseon. The scopps and bards who wrote down the old Norse legends were pious Christians who wished to preserve their own history, but had no desire to preserve a heathen religion. Even if Norse religious ceremony had survived, I doubt if you should have found much uniformity among the men who went a-viking.

Thus you find Normans learning to speak French, Russians adopting Orthodox Christianity, Danes becoming more English, Russians adopting Orthodox Christianity, Danes becoming more English than the Englishmen and Icelanders establishing the worlds oldest parliament, the Alping. So it is with religious custom. Consider how many Christmas Customs there are in America. Fortunately enough folk customs have come down from the North that scholars can trace back to the Old Religion. The Jultioen takes its name from the Yule Log, a specially prepared log burned on the shortest night of the year to coax the sun into returning to the North land. Fire was important to the Norse Folk, especially in the ancient times, when the secret of making fire was not easily come by. In every home the hearth was the center of religious ceremony where the names of gods and ancestors were invoked.

Not only did the Vikings see fit to invade the homelands of decent Christian folk, but they even had the cheek to adopt local customs as their own.





### *continued-Vikings*

Many people think of Christmas trees as coming from the North. And it is true that, throughout Northern Europe, homes were decorated with greenery to remind folk that winter was half over and spring would be coming soon. 'Deck the halls with boughs of holly' runs the ancient carol. But the ancient Yule tree was never decorated. Its significance lay in the fact that it remained green and alive throughout the cold winter months. The modern Christmas tree comes from Germany, and is their version of the mediaeval Paradise Tree. The glass ornaments (originally nuts and berries) represented the fruits of the Tree of Life (in the Garden of Eden. The candles or lights stood for the angels and saints in heaven. And, of course the star was the Star of Bethlehem. The Paradise Tree is thought to have come from the Medieval mysteries and nativity plays.

Every Christmas Eve, American children await a visit from Santa Claus, the modern St. Nick. But the feast of Saint Nicholas never brought toys; he merely blessed the household and perhaps gave candy to the children. The spirit who comes down your chimney isn't St Nick but Thor himself; like all gods a master of disguise. Thor can be recognized by his silken robes of scarlet and green. He wears a great coat of fur, and his brown is wreathed with holly. His beard isn't white, it's cherry red. And of course he doesn't need a pipe to blow smoke rings out of his nostrils. Thor travels the land in a sleigh pulled by a team of reindeer or, where there's no snow, in wagon hauled by goats. To each house he brings gifts of food and mead. But when he blessed the household, he doesn't throw gold or candy, he rings a bell with his mighty hammer.

Indeed the fold of Scandia have need of Thor's blessing. For Ooinn also wanders abroad this night, riding his eight legged steed, Sleipner. In his presence, all souls are in mortal peril, for Ooinn seeks the ghosts of valiant men to join him in the battle of Ragnarok where Middle-Earth will be consumed in fire and ice. Ooinn is chief of the gods and when the king summons all must yield; his word is law. Only if men an gods fight bravely against the giants will the Alfaour deem us worthy of the Golen Agen to follow.

As I've mentioned before, many of the customs in Scandinavia were borrowed from other peoples, or from the Christians. In Sweden the feast of St. Lucia is celebrated in a unique fashion. The eldest daughter in the household dresses in white silks with a garland of candles in her hair. In this attire she serves breakfast in bed to her parents. St. Luica's festival occurs in mid-December.

### *continued-Vikings*

As a subject of the Danelagh and a player of the puppets, I can't resist mentioning St. George and the Dragon. Everyone knows that George killed the dragon and became patron saint of England. But how many know that the legend of St. George is the subject of a Christmastide mysterie play? In a custom dating back to pagan times, men from each village would go from house to house acting out the story of saints and legendary heros. To insure good luck they disguised themselves. If their efforts were well received they were given gifts of food and drink. The ancient Romans called them Pantomimes or imitators of nature. In France they were called Mummers (from an Old French word meaning masquerade). In England they are known as Morris Dancers. In the play, St. George slays the dragon, but his most important roles is to be killed himself in the Sword Dance, thus symbolizing the death of Winter. He is then brought back to life by the Court Fool; a promise of the return of spring and the resurrection of Our Lord.

SOURCES: Bulfinch's Mythology by Thomas Bulfinch (1796-1867) & The Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs by Francis X Weiser, 1952

#### **Dragonflyre Deadline**

January 6, 1994  
Officers Meeting

#### **January Populace Meeting**

January 17, 1994  
Park Villa  
10th and Bitting  
7:00 P.M.

Lady Sibeal

**Yule Feastocrat** is recruiting for pre-cook, cooking at the event and serving. If interested call 265-4643

Interested in being  
**Deputy Treasurer**  
Contact Eckerich  
684-1953

Want to Compete in the  
**Valor Necklace Competition**

Contact  
Eric at 262-1079

**Archery is moving again--**  
-1:30 p.m. on Saturdays--  
Archery Plus. Call Little John  
for details 682-8503



## From the Caltrop Pursuivant

Greeting unto the Baronage of Vativa and the good populace of these fair and COLD lands. I hope all had a pleasant holiday.

If you have not checked with me regarding your individual listings within the Order of Precedence, please do so before December 6. The new OP will be published with the new census sometime around the modern turn of the year. A lot of work has been done to ensure the accuracy of the OP's contents; however, over time, some individuals omitted were from the OP because they quit the SCA for awhile or moved. For the record, no one is ever omitted from the OP. That individual is still part of our history, and, no matter what, deserves that much. Anyway, everything has been done to make things as fair and as complete as possible.

The Vativian heralds will have an official consultation table at the January event. I hope those of you who have started names and devices will complete and submit them soon. I know HL Marie is looking forward to panel 5☺!! For those of you who have considered a Spanish persona and device, we will have resources available to you. Remember, if you submit in January, make the January Kingdom letter, you could have a device in time for Valor XV.

Many thanks to Lady Annys for taking charge of the consultation table at Champion's when I was unable to do so as originally planned.

There is no news yet from Laurel about any submissions. Please do not become impatient. As you may have heard, Master Bruce had to step down due to mundane job pressures, and Master Da'ud is back for 18 months. Please give these good gentlemen time to exchange information. On the kingdom front, Lady Sibeal's resubmission has been passed on to Laurel. For those of you interested in joining the "What-flag-will-she-conflict-with-this-time-betting-pool", please see me at populace.\*

Finally, Soapbox Time (Your favorite part I'm sure). As far as the Kingdom of Calontir is concerned, there are only three recognized heralds in this Barony - Baron Gawayne as a former Gold Falcon, Lady Annys as Saker Herald, and myself as Caltrop Pursuivant. Now, baronially, I recognize those individuals who are on my staff or are direct deputies to my staff members. Additionally, because Saker Herald is

located in Vativa, she recognizes those individuals who are on her staff. The overlap is almost perfect (I have two additional people.). So for the record, this is who these people are. If you are consulting with someone else locally, please know we don't guarantee the accuracy of the information on any issue whereas both Annys and I are comfortable with the knowledge of our deputies in their given areas.

### Saker staff

Annys - Saker Herald  
Marie - Heraldic Artist  
Leonhard - Marie's deputy  
Catriona - Device Research  
Eleanor - Device Research  
Eliane - Names Research  
Gawayne - Commenting  
Dirik - Commenting

### Caltrop Staff

Eleanor - Caltrop Pursuivant  
Marie - Heraldic Artist  
Leonhard - Marie's Deputy  
Catriona - Device Research  
Eliane - Names Research  
Gawayne - Anything he wants to do  
Dirik - We are working on him  
Alexandria - Field and Court  
Riona - Court  
Annys - Names and Devices

Also, even though he's not officially on staff, if you talked to Niall about Gaelic names, I think you're doing a wise thing. For issues regarding sumptory laws, I ask you speak to Annys, Gawayne, Marie, or myself.

Thanks for your patience regarding the soapbox. Now on to my final item. With the OP finally behind me (Okay, real soon behind me.), I hopefully will begin printing Court Reports in the Dragonflyre beginning with Coronado's Christmas. During the upcoming year, if there are a series of short courts, then they will be combined for an article (Ex: Three populaces in row).

In service to the Dream,

Arglwyddes Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon  
Caltrop Pursuivant

P.S. Lord Eckerich "I'm not a herald, YET" is honorary herald on my staff.

\*No, I'm not really running a betting pool. Talk to Sibeal if you haven't heard the joke.



*Yule of the Conquistadors  
January 15, A.S. 28 (1994)*

*Welcome to the army of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado! We are in Tiguez, our winter quarters as the new ye of 1541 is beginning. We invite you to join us for feasting, fighting, and the search for gold for our King Carlos I & ourselves!*

*We will be organizing 4-5 man parties to face Indians and search for gold, however before each group can pursue either task, a charter must be obtained from His Catholic Majesty's Representative. For a charter to be granted a "Fee" must be paid (bribe) of gold in any form (use your imagination).*

*Our themes for arts and sciences competition are:*

*"Gold" in any medium  
What our army and fearless leader saw  
Anything of 16th Century Spanish*

*Raft Ranch east of Wichita is the site. Site fee is \$3.00; the fee for the feast is \$6.00 We will be feasting on foods we have found here in the New World, as well as some of His Catholic Majesty's Spanish favorites.*

*Available during the day will be an Aztec drink--Chocolatl which will be served hot for cold persons.*

*Persons fearing allergies should contact the feastocrat for menu selections and ingredients.*

*Tentatively our Schedule is as Follows:*

<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Site Opens</i>
<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Teams apply for Charters</i>
<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fighting Authorization</i>
	<i>Arts and Sciences Entries Accepted</i>
<i>12:00 noon</i>	<i>Arts and Sciences Judging</i>
<i>1:30 p.m.</i>	<i>MOC Activities begin</i>
	<i>Fighting in Cibola begins</i>
<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Pick up of Arts and Sciences Entries</i>
<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Court</i>
<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Feast</i>
<i>8:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Site Closes</i>

*We will have children's activities.*

*Autocrat*

*Baron  
Gawayne ap  
Tristram*

*316-524-0917*

*Feastocrat*

*Lady Sibeal  
O'Hogain*

*316-265-4643*

*From the A and S Champion*

Greetings to all. Well, I would like to thank Their Excellencies for permitting me the opportunity to serve as your A&S Champion. I had some serious plans if I won, and I'm glad I'll be able to try them out. My objectives for the office during my six month tenure are:

1. Promote the arts and sciences in Vatavia through promotion of talented individuals such as yourselves. Such promotion will take the form of A) Selection of an individual at each court to sit in the A&S chair. Said individual will have been chosen based on the fact that they are truly gifted artisans, and should be pursuing possession of said chair at the Spring Champion's event, and B) Consistent private and not-so-private haggling of individuals to pursue their given areas and present their arts and sciences at local and Kingdom events, whether for competition or display.

2. Promotion of the arts and sciences through educational opportunities. This shall include a minimum of three classes in the next six months at local events or at pre-arranged sites. Additionally, if you make stuff, but have problems documenting it, talk to me!! If it's not my area, I'll point your nose to the right person. Also, for those who find libraries problematic, my one gift is an ability to tear through a library, and I'd love to show you how.

3. Survive all of this long enough to help autocrat the event to find my successor from dozens of entrants.

The first class will be at Coronado's Christmas. Milady Muirann has been very good to agree to teach how she does all that wonderful stenciling on her garb. What an opportunity!!! I hope many of you will take advantage!! (Of the class, not Muirann).

Let me know what I can do for you as your Champion. I can't meet your artistic and scientific needs without being told what they are.

In service and promotion,

Arglwyddes Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon  
A&S Champion

*Unto the Populace of Vatavia from His Lordship  
Demetrius Conaotiero--Greetings*

*On February 12, 7502 (1994 by Gregorian Reconnig)*

*HRM Ilia is sponsoring a prize tourney on the Decennial of Colontir in MagMor (Lincoln, Ne.) This tourney is in the arts and sciences and excludes persons belonging to the Orders of the Silver Hammer, Calon Lily or Laurel from competition.*

*If you wish to participate, and I strongly encourage you to do so, please contact a member of one of these orders to sponsor you. Your name, your sponsors name and a description of your project must be turned in by January 26th. If you need more information, please contact me.*

*Active members of the above orders in Vatavia are H.L. Marie Chantal, H.L. Thomas Bacon, H.L. Phillipa and H.L. Demetrius.*

*In Service*

*Demetrius*

Interested in becoming a part of the "Instrumental Music Guild" Contact Lady Eleanor at 685-8510

Would you like to help with children's activities? Contact Anne Bromere 267-7639



# Queen's Prize Tourney Entry Form

February 12, 1994  
Calontir Decennial in Mag Mor

Entrant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Modern Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Modern Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sponsors must send in a form for each individual entry in the competition.*

*Forms need to be postmarked no later than January 25, 1994.*

*Facsimile transmissions are acceptable if sent before January 26, 1994.*

*Acknowledgement of receipt of entries will be sent to both sponsor and entrant.*

*Questions can be directed to and forms sent to:*

Katrei  
c/o Marcia Schlemm  
7510 Grand Avenue  
Kansas City, MO 64114-1928  
phone: 816.361.0723  
fax: 913.831.2413

## Prize tourney

Unto the populace of Calontir come greetings from HRM Iliya,

As many of you are already aware, I am sponsoring a prize tourney to be held at the Calontir Decennial celebration in the Shire of Mag Mor on the 12th of February.

I was for quite a time not a very active participant in the arts and sciences. For a number of years, I only dabbled in research and production of medieval objects and ideas, and then only when necessary (read garb). When I found something I was interested in, I had the good luck to live in a shire with a gentle who encouraged me to not only research that which interested me, medieval games, but also to produce boards and playing pieces. In doing so, Master Ulrich gave me the incentive to attack projects that at first seemed too long or complicated to be worth doing. Because of him, I not only researched production techniques such as woodworking and ivory and bone carving, but actually tried them! In addition, another gentle, Lord Brendan mac Ronan, showed me how to make joints, use veneers, and inlay decorative strips in wood. Although I probably would have eventually gotten around to making some games, their help allowed me to do so much faster. I have seen this type of encouragement and "sponsorship" help several other members of society get and stay involved in projects they might otherwise shy away from.

I wished, because of these experiences, to encourage and honor behavior similar to what these two gentles did for me. In addition, as a 'new-made artisan,' I began to get more involved in arts and science activities. One aspect of these is, of course, the 'arts and sciences competition.' I actually like competitions, even though I am not a very competitive person. Like a display, they gave me the opportunity to see up close what people were doing. In addition, they allowed an integral part of the society to get the public recognition I believe it deserves. However, they can be quite intimidating. I hope that this competition will be a low stress introduction to competition and allow us to celebrate the sponsorship which already exists in this fair kingdom.

There are several things about this competition which are different from the average Calontir competition. I have tried to give a complete explanation below of what the rules will be, but if you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

1. Entrants shall not be members of the Orders of the Silver Hammer, the Calontir Lily or the Laurel.



2. All Entrants shall be sponsored by a Silver Hammer, a Calon Lily, or a Laurel. (Sponsors: you may sponsor as many as you wish, but please try not to sponsor so many that you cannot give adequate encouragement or help to all of them.)
3. Entries will be basically judged by kingdom criteria, but the judges will be kind.
4. All work shall be completed by the Entrant. However, the Sponsor is encouraged to teach skills, help direct research efforts, offer advice or encouragement, etc. as needed or requested by the Entrant.
5. The Entrant does not have to do something in a field for which the Sponsor is known. Entries can be in any field. We will find judges.
6. There will be a time set aside for performing arts. Other entries will be on display during the day. (Group performances are allowed as long as there is only one entrant in the group. Please try do something all by yourself, though. It will make it much easier on the judges.)
7. Each Sponsor must bring at least one "prize" or token--preferably made by their own hand--for each entrant they are sponsoring.

Sponsors: The first prize that you give per entrant you sponsor is to be given to an entrant (not sponsored by you) who does not already have one. This will insure that every entrant will get a prize. Please feel free to make more than one prize per entrant if you would like to recognize the work of more than one of the entrants. Extra prizes can be given to whomever you please, even your own entrant.

8. Anybody, whether participating in the competition or not, can bring a token or tokens to give to the entrant(s) of their choice.
9. Entries do not have to be completely finished by the time of the competition. However, if the project is not done, be prepared to explain what still needs to be done.
10. Sponsors will be responsible for preregistering their entrants. I do not care if you tell the entrant to take care of it, but I do not want anyone left out because no one knew who was responsible.

In addition to the sponsor's prizes there will be a populace's favorite and a judges' favorite awards given.

I would ask that entrants and sponsors make all possible efforts to be there the day of the competition. However, if one or the other of you cannot be there, please make arrangements for the entry and/or the prize to get to the competition.

### *Baronial Officers Listing*

<i>Baron Gwayne ap Tristam</i>	
<i>Wayne Taylor</i>	524-0917
<i>Baroness Brialen Ulfsdotter Viking's</i>	
<i>Debbie Taylor</i>	524-0917
<i>Seneschale Ala of Featherstone</i>	
<i>Carol Jared Brown</i>	721-7764
<i>Deputy/Sibeal O'H'ogain</i>	
<i>Lynda Coffman</i>	265-4643
<i>Chatelaine/Aindries ap Daffyd</i>	838-3563
<i>Historian/Friar Thomas Bacon</i>	685-1182
<i>Property Mistress/Sibeal O'H'ogain</i>	265-4643
<i>Regalia Coordinator/Cethlenn nic Rquaidrhl</i>	685-1182
<i>Treasurer Eckerich von Stromberg</i>	684-1953
<i>Caltrap/Eleanor ferch Rhirwqallon</i>	685-8510
<i>Chronicler/Diedre ni corc O'Bierne</i>	686-4090
<i>Knights Marshall/Magnus O'Carr (Torin)</i>	838-5149
<i>Deputy/Ld. Throttmar Thortrimson</i>	263-1079
<i>Minister of Arts/Galen MacDonald</i>	686-6902
<i>Deputies/Alexandria nic Alleylne</i>	682-2455
<i>Minister of Children/Anne Mercier Bromere</i>	267-7639
<i>Minister of Sciences, Erik, son of Asvald</i>	263-1079
<i>Archer Marshall/Thomas Foxmoor</i>	945-1233
<i>Deputy/Little John of Haven</i>	682-8503