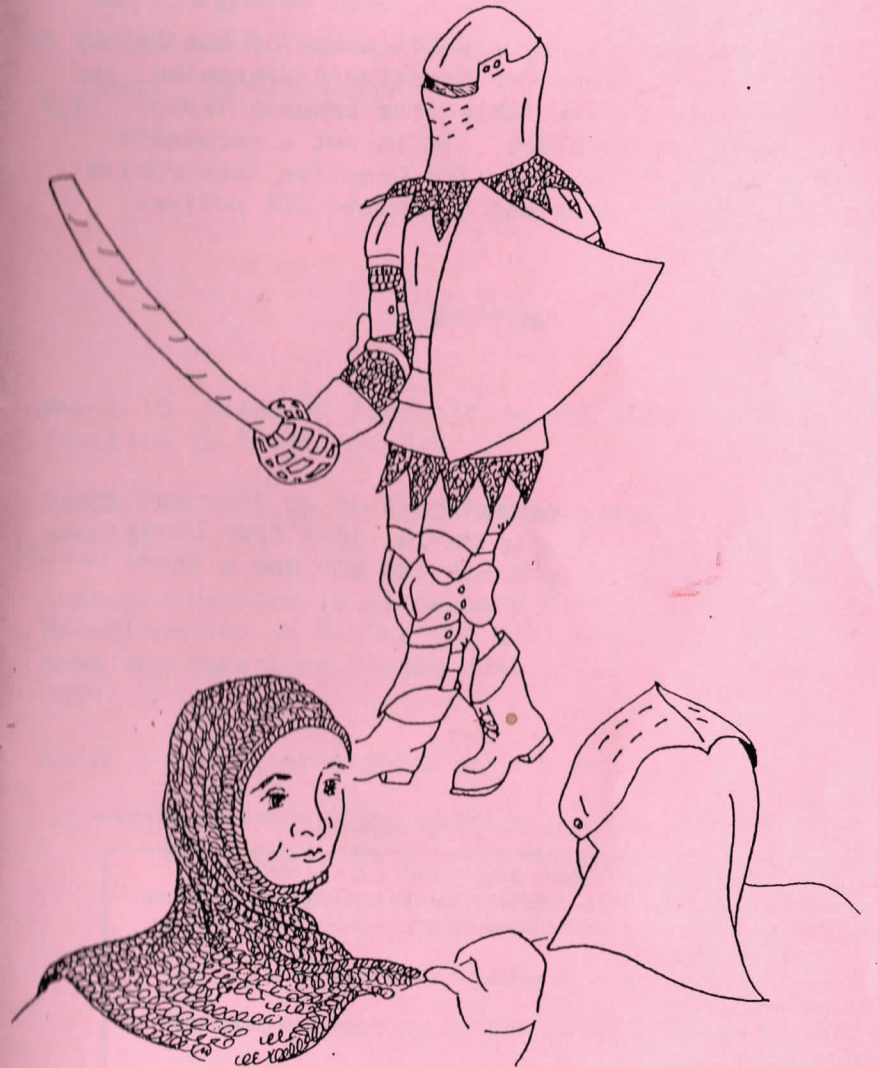


DRAGONFLYRE



"THIS SHOULD BE EASY - HE HAS NO ARMS"

March⁰⁵ (no April)

This is the Dragonflyre, a publication of the Barony of Vatavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Dragonflyre is available from Deborah Taylor, 1137 Gidley, Wichita, KS 67216. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Incorporated, and does not delineate SCA polices.

COVER ART: Her Ladyship Marie

CARTOON: Art - Her Ladyship Marie, idea from Lenny

OTHER ART : Her Ladyship Marie (do you see a theme here?)

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"Oh, 'tis a glorious thing, I ween / To be a regular Royal Queen! /
No half-and-half -affair, I mean, / But a right-down regular Royal
Queen." Sir W.S. Gilbert

CALENDAR

March 18 Baronial Investiture and Regional Fighter Practice in Forgotten Sea

DANCE PRACTICE is on Wednesdays except for populace meeting.

Archery Practice is at Archery Plus on South Seneca. Practices are on Sunday and will begin at noon. If you have any questions please contact Ld. Littlejohn at 682 0394

APRIL 3 - Officer's meeting, 7 p.m. at Brialen's church

*****POPULACE MEETING FOR APRIL *****
IS AT RENFAIRE SITE ON APRIL 26 AT 6 P.M.

"Nothing to excess" Master Gerald of Ipsley



Unto the Populace of Vratavia come warm greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen.

A formal Thank You goes to all who worked at The Baroness Bride, with special thanks to Tristan and Kearae for all of the work they did coordinating, autocratting, and feastocratting. HUZZAH!

A few items of note: First, at March Populace, Rhianwen is presenting a proposal for a change in the Populace meeting schedule. Essentially, we are proposing that a second Populace meeting be held each month which will be devoted to a program or presentation of some aspect of arts, sciences, fighting, or living in the SCA. The entire proposal, including advantages and drawbacks, is being presented to the Populace at large so that we may get a general feeling of support or non-support for the idea. Please take time to read the proposal (if you did not get a copy, see Rhianwen or call her at home), and then give her your feedback. We feel that a monthly "program meeting" would greatly enhance and promote the overall knowledge and skill level of Vratavia as well as provide an opportunity for just plain social bonding, as they have in other SCA groups.

Second, we ask that recommendations for Baronial Awards be made on a Baronial Award Recommendation Form. Since we are now the New and Improved Extremely Well-Organized Gabriel and Rhianwen, we carry plenty of blanks if you don't have your own supply. Using the form ensures that a) We won't lose it, which is something we tend to do if it's on a scrap of paper, b) We will be able to give each recommendation the individual consideration it deserves, and c) The reasons for the individual's worthiness of the award will be properly outlined - to say that we know about everything everyone does would be irresponsible; we would hate to turn down someone because of any lack of knowledge on our part.

Third, communication between the Barony and other groups or individuals is now going to be done on illuminated scroll-type paper. Ideally, we would like to have a few different blanks to choose from, and we will have "painting parties" from time to time. Anyone interested in helping paint blanks, do calligraphy, (or even making a blank!), please contact us.

Fourth, Lilies is coming up. We are in the process of formally recruiting allies to fight with Vratavia, as this year's theme is Baronies vs. Shires. The last time this scenario was run, the Baronies were severely outnumbered. If you know of anyone else who might be recruited (hired, bribed, allied with), please let us know, so that we might send a missive (wage, bribe, gift, or outright begging).

Fifth, if you are a Wichita State University student (full - or part-time, regular campus or extension), a WSU staff or faculty member, or connected with the University in any way, please see Margaret or Rhianwen. They and Her Ladyship Annys have a plan which concerns you.....

Spring Champions and the Renfair are coming up; we hope you're getting as revved up for it as we are!

Finally, but most importantly, the tourney and war season is upon us. We MUST remember the glory and recognition of Vratavia that we were achieving last year at this time (at Falcons, we had five Vratavians fighting, and Calontiti were remarking, "There sure are a lot of Vratavians here"). Our distance from the rest of the Kingdom makes travel to Vratavia somewhat onerous, so our events must be much stronger and more interesting than the average event, and Vratavian's presence at events should be high-profile to let the Kingdom know how active we really are. While you are at an event, please introduce yourself to others as a Vratavian, display the Dragonfly, and mention home a lot. At local events, please do everything in your power to make the visitors' stay in Vratavia pleasant and memorable. Doing the little things, like providing donuts to your crashers or giving up your space in the shade so a visitor might have a more comfortable place to rest, is what makes people remember us as hospitable and chivalrous.

Gabriel Rhianwen

"When the British warrior queen/ Bleeding from the Roman rods/
Sought, with an indignant mien,/ Counsel of her country's gods."
William Cowper in Boadicea

A Journey to Western Lands

My Gentle Cousins,

Many of us recently had the great pleasure of traveling to the nearby lands of Westumbria, an Incipient Shire in the far western Calon Lands. They were holding a festival in celebration of the Great Red Bear, the second such to be held. They were supported by the Shire of Spinning Winds and our own good Barony

During the day, there was fighting, archery, the most organized and entertaining MoC I've seen in ages, and A&S as well as merchants. Their own A&S entries included the restoration of a 400 year old sword and a woodcarving of His Majesty's arms being maintained by two bears. During the evening, a most sumptuous feast was served featuring the fine culinary talents of the group. At the feast, all were most royally entertained by many talented individuals, most from Westumbria. Their skills included song, dance, poetry, and fire-eating!!

At day's end, all I spoke to seem well satisfied with the quality of the event and were preparing to revel into the night. I could not stay for the reveling, having many obligations in my home lands; however, I think one could safely surmise that it was at least equal to the event.

I believe you would have been well pleased with all that occurred at this event. While many the Calon warrior and supporter had been called away to face the perils of war in distant lands, the land of Calontir mightily celebrated the Great Red Bear as only Calontir can -- with honor, enthusiasm, and the incredible organization and pride of the local group, the Incipient Shire of Westumbria.

Done by my hand this 6th day of March by the common reckoning while working on my lands near the Convent of St. Joseph.

Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon

What are the Baronial Awards and What are They Given For?

As answered by Baron Sir Tedrick in the December 1990 Dragonflyre.

Lower Tier Awards

Note: Any member of the populace may recommend another for the following awards by petitioning the Baronage. The baronage will usually try to corroborate before recognizing the individual.

Citizen of Vativa: Azure (Blue) cord. Shows that an individual is a paid member of the SCA. The individual should report paid status to the Seneschal since paid membership is part of that office's monthly report.

Victory in Competition: Gules (red) cord. Recognizes any victory in any competition at a kingdom level event. Leaves on cord show additional victories.

Act of Dedication: Argent (white) cord. Recognizes an effort of accomplishment above what is expected of the populace as a whole.

Achievement in the Arts: Argent and Azure (Blue and White). Recognition of effort and achievement in some art form. Can be for an individual work of art or for effort in a particular field. Can be given repeatedly for work in the same art, but not the same work or piece. Leaves show additional recognition.

Achievement in the Sciences: Gules and Or (Red and Gold). As in Achievement the Arts only for sciences.

Vojack: (aka Baronial Guard): Azure and Or (Blue and Gold). Recognizes chivalrous conduct on the field as well as a significant number of weapon authorizations accomplished -- usually at least four. No additional leaves.

Barony, as well as a certain level of skill with bow or crossbow. No additional leaves.

Efentes Demetrios Miothoforos

Upper Tier Awards

Note: except for the Golden Heart, the Baronage will try to consult with the members of a particular order before recognizing an individual for the following awards. In the case of the Golden Heart, the Baronage will usually confer with the Seneschal.

Golden Heart of Vatavia: Recognition of consist service and effort for the Barony.

Straz (aka Captains of the Baronial Guard): Recognition of impressive chivalry on the field, having most if not all fighter authorizations, and showing marshal leadership within the barony.

Zemen Strav (aka Captains of the Archer Guard): Recognition of a higher consistent skill level, activity in kingdom archery competitions, as well as leadership in the area of archery.

Order of the Radiant Lioness: Recognizes consistent high quality work in a particular fields of the arts and sciences, as well as teaching in these fields. The recipient receives illuminated and calligraphied scroll.

Order of the Vatavia Sword of Valor: Consist of all those who have won the Tournament of Valor. Winner gets a knife and a medallion.

Order of the Star of Vatavia: Recognizes activity outside of the Barony (as well as inside) which brings renown and pride to the Barony. The recipient is usually known around the kingdom -- and maybe the Knowne World -- as someone from Vatavia who's leadership and/or abilities are admired. The recipient might be thought of as the ideal SCA person.

WINE BOTTLES

If anyone in the Barony is producing period style beverages needing wine bottles, please see Demetrios (777 0770). I have half-a-dozen at this writing and will have more as time passes.

COPIES OF CONN'S MUSIC

Duke, Syr Conn has given me a copy of the words to the songs on his recent tape. If anyone is interested in a copy, please call me (Demetrios - 777 0770). I will make a copy for cost (\$0.50).

A number of gentlefolk have indicated they are very interested in the idea of SCA potluck suppers. While I wholeheartedly support such an idea, I personally feel that to go to an SCA event and eat American picnic food or similar clearly non-period food tends to drastically reduce the whole medieval feeling of such an activity. On the other hand, cooking mediievally is no hard. The chronicler is publishing copies of medieval recipes nearly every month (editors note: I will gladly publish when space allows). I can supply you with recipes that are "ready-to-cook" if you can tell me the general sort of thing you like and give me some advance warning.

The tomato, potato, peppers (except the spice, pepper), and chocolate are new world foods. If you wish a period feel to the dishes you bring, these would probably be better left at home.

A number of gentles have indicated that they want to bring food to "potluck" suppers, but don't cook. To solve that problem, you can purchase food which would be very acceptable in medieval times by obtaining something that is roasted over a spit. The simplest of these dishes can probably be found at any grocery store with a deli. It is simply whole roasted chicken. Such a dish could be eaten either hot or cold. If you prefer it hot and can't get it to the site hot, wrap it in aluminum foil, take it to the site and reheat it (low heat) in the oven.

Lamb is often roasted on skewers with or without vegetables. The lamb may be chunks or ground lamb formed into balls or oblongs. Whole stuffed lamb was often eaten (according to one source, a very elegant dish known to have been served in Byzantium). The first two kinds of lamb may be found at delis which feature mideastern food. The latter is unlikely to be found in Calontir.

Cheese was common in medieval times and came in a wide variety of forms. They didn't pasteurize their cheeses so they are different from what we have today. They also tended to make most of their cheeses from milk from goats, sheep, oxen and buffalo (water buffalo). Since cheese tends to be one of those things picked up at the last moment, check with the autocrat to make sure that you aren't the 47th person bringing cheese. Most period cheeses would have been stored in oil, salt water, or in cloth (in a roundish form). The square and rectangular, plastic wrapped cheeses are very obviously modern.

While breads were common to almost every meal, the breads which are usually available in the stores are a far cry from what was eaten medievally. Whole wheat breads are much closer to what was available than the white breads we usually find. Additionally, in most of Europe small round loaves were the norm. In Greece and The Roman (Byzantine) Empire, there were a number of variations on this form, but apparently nothing like our loaf bread. Additions of cheese, spices, herbs, oil, etc., to bread dough were quite common.

There were a number of sausages made in medieval times. Most of these were encased in intestines and often had animal blood as a major ingredient. The spicing was often quite different than what you'll usually find in modern sausages. Some of the German sausages are reasonable approximations of what might have been available in period. Dried meat of fish would have been period, although the soy sauce often used to make jerky is not.

Salads were much more common than you might think looking at medieval recipe books. The most basic salad recipes basically say, go outside and pick anything green, clean it, tear it up and serve it with oil and vinegar. You may want to restrict your choices somewhat. Most kinds of leaf lettuce (not iceberg), chicory, celery, radishes, onions, garlic, chives, carrots and cucumbers would have been eaten in period although we all recognize that the period forms of these vegetables were probably smaller and tougher than the modern equivalents. If you wish to give your salad a more medieval look, one way is to put flowers into the dish BUT CHECK WITH SOMEONE FIRST TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE NOT POISONOUS and make sure they don't have some sort of poison (like weedkiller) on them.

A variety of vegetables were chopped and cooked in beef broth, with spices like cinnamon, mace and ginger. These are very simple dishes that require almost zero cooking skills. Roman recipes for vegetables like carrots, parsnips, turnips included a sweet-sour sauce made from MUST (cooked down grape juice) and vinegar. Ask members of the populace who have tasted Carrots Espicier what they think of such a vegetable treatment.

What about desserts? There were lots of them, although nuts and fresh fruit were often desserts. Modern cakes and cookies are unlike period cakes and cookies, but if you can make one, you can make the other. One of the most common confections in Elizabethan times was the comfit. It is almost any seed or spice (e.g., anise, coriander, fennel) which is dipped in a hot concentrated sugar solution, allowed to dry and dipped again. This process when repeated about 20 to 25 times will produce a small white ball of sugar which has the taste of the seed or spice throughout. It is very time consuming but like a period M&M tends to melt in the mouth not in the hand. Comfits have been referred to as period breath fresheners.

I have a booklet which contains copies of all the recipes for Crown tourney (send \$1.00 plus a self-addressed stamped envelope) for those of you who are interested.

If you have questions, want additional suggestions or need help learning how to make something, you can contact me at 777 0770 or write me [Henry Marks, 211 Frontier, Mulvane, KS 67110]. If you have an interest in learning to feastocrat or serve at feast contact Lady Ala Featherstone [721 7764] or me.

"The laughing Queen that caught the world's great hands." J.H. Hunt in The Nile.

LILIES SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)									
TIME	6/10/95 SATURDAY	6/11/95 SUNDAY	6/12/95 MONDAY	6/13/95 TUESDAY	6/14/95 WEDNESDAY	6/15/95 THURSDAY	6/16/95 FRIDAY	6/17/95 SATURDAY	6/18/95 SUNDAY
11:00					Beach Battle Archery points open	Huscarl challenge	Pas D'Arms	Field battle Woods battle	GET OUT!!!!
12:00	SITE OPENS!!! ARRIVE NO EARLIER -- YOU WILL DIE FROM THE HEAT WAITING IN YOUR CAR.		Give a popsicle to someone on the autocrat's staff				Fyrd Tourney	Lunch Archery points	
1:00									
2:00								Court	
3:00				Shopping	Swimming	Swimming	Shopping		
4:00					Field Battle	Chivalry challenge	4:30 Champions	Field battle	Site closes
5:00		Casual violence	Melees		Boar hunt	Field battel	Pass battle	Bridge battle	
6:00				Field Battle More casual violence	Cliff Battle	Broken Field battle	Ivory Keep	Res Landing Battle	
7:00						3-D Town Battle	3-D Town Battle		
8:00					Halidar & Heather's wedding	Queen's Ball Coeur D'Ennui		Coctail Party	
9:00			Lonely Tower Party		Forgotten Sea Party		V'Tavia Party	Fire Works Torchlight Tourney	

Long ago when I went to my first SCA event I had no idea where it would lead. I went on a whim, looking for something different to do. That fateful day we took a little walk in the woods, and the company I was with shot a king in the tushy while he was sitting in a bushy. From those first moments until now I have been hooked. I wanted to play, learn and party, of course. Oh boy did we ever have a party that night, fortunately for me, I don't remember all of it. (That is whole other tale in itself).

Two days later I bought my first bow. I was determined to be an archer. Like most, at first I had trouble even keeping the arrow on the rest let alone getting it to go where I aimed it. For the next week or so my left arm was bruised from repeated slaps from the string.

This was only the beginning of long hours on the range working on my form. It was here that I was to discover that archery was more than just another sport. The friendships I have made, SCA and other, because of archery have brought about some of the most enjoyable moments in my life.

Archery is as potent as music, it becomes a common language. Archers especially SCA archers are chivalrous. We strive at all times to help out our fellows and above all else to be safe. It is with great joy that I watch a beginning archer pull the bow for the first time. As they struggle to learn the basics and come to love the sport they have chosen.

Some never learn to let the bow shoot. For those others who do, you know exactly what those words mean. It is when you truly become one with the bow. There is nothing quite like the perfect shot, no words can describe it. The arrow becomes an extension of the archer, it lives to be released and allowed to fly, it's flight is the music of the bow. For the Archer, archery is the dream.

LittleJohn

Awards — What it is List

By Ewen MacGhiollipadraigh

Chronicler - Bois D'Arc

The Bow's Song (November 1991)

The first person to receive any award in the Kingdom is the principle of that order. Some Crowns have felt that occasional meetings of an order in a local group strengthens its members and helps to spot others working in that area that can be encouraged and might be suggested for a possible award recommendation. Such meetings would be called by the principle of the order in the local group.

AWARD OF ARMS - Usually the first award received, it is normally given for activity and service in your local group, but it can be given for work in an art or science. This award entitles the bearer to display his/her own arms registered by the Society's College of Heralds. Ranking in the Order of Precedence rests upon the date given.

AoA LEVEL AWARDS -- All orders on this level are of equal rank, seniority resting only upon the date the award was given. The awards of this level convey an Award of Arms unless the recipient holds on already.

FYRD OF CALONTIR reflects skill as fighters or arches. Composed of two equal but separate branches. The fighters, called the Iren-Fyrd should be proficient the use of at least two weapon systems. The archers, called the Boga-Fyrd, displays proficiency in at least one archery system and demonstrate effort to promote archery in the Kingdom. Both should be consistently honorable both on and off the field.

ORDER OF THE CALON SWAN (C.G.C.S.) work in the arts shows promise and growth in their chosen art(s), some knowledge of its history, and who have assisted others in the practice of said art(s).

ORDER OF THE LEATHER Mallet (C.L.M.) conferred for work in the sciences that has shown promise and growth in their chosen craft, some knowledge of its history, and who have assisted others in the practice of said craft(s).

ORDER OF THE TORSE (C.T.) conferred for service above the service normally expected of citizens of the Kingdom.

(continued)

GRANT LEVEL AWARDS -- All grant level awards confer the same rank upon its recipient. Seniority rests only on the date given. All grant level awards convey a Grant of Arms unless its recipient holds one already.

HIRTH OF CALONTIR reflects skill as fighters or archers. It is composed of two equal but separate branches. The fighters, called the **IREN-HIRTH**, are capable of fighting in all weapons systems, demonstrate expertise in at least two, and display unquestionable honor on and off the field. The archers, called the **BOGA-HIRTH**, should be familiar with all archery systems and expert in at least two. The individual must demonstrate a level of service to archery, provide guidance and instruction to other archers, and display unquestionable honor and conduct at all times. Both must have participated in at least one Society war or Interkingdom. An individual may have membership in both branches.

ORDER OF THE CALON LILY (C.C.L.) high level of skill in their chosen art(s), a detailed knowledge of its history, and have assisted others in the learning of said art(s).

ORDER OF THE SILVER HAMMER (C.S.H.) work in the science(s) has shown a high level of skill in their chosen science(s), a detailed knowledge of its history, and have assisted others in the learning of said science(s).

ORDER OF THE CROSS OF CALONTIR (C.C.C.) conferred upon those who have served the Kingdom well and faithfully, far above and beyond the service normally expected of citizens of the Kingdom.

NON-ARMIGEROUS AWARDS - These awards do not confer an Award of Arms upon the recipient if that gentle does not already have one.

Those listed below convey a position in the Order of Precedence:

ORDER OF THE ROSE shall be offered automatically to all Sovereigns Consorts who have served in that capacity in Calontir after their investiture in the County rank.

ORDER OF THE SWORD OF CALONTIR (C.S.C.) conferred for the performance of dramatic deeds concerning the art and science of combat, strategy, tactics, and/or Society warfare, or upon a group whose collective endeavors thus have well served the Crown and Kingdom.

ORDER OF THE QUEEN'S CHALICE (C.Q.C.) conferred upon young people who have served the Kingdom and its people --

Unto Mother Clothilde, Abbess of the convent of St. Deborah, comes Greetings from this most humble servant and poor soldier

The sun has set behind the mountain peaks and a chill has crept into the air. It is nighttime in the desert and we sit around the campfire, battle worn and weary. Knowing how Baroness Brialen relishes news from home about her dear friends, I sent this missive with the first courier riding north. Rejoice for I send the most wondrous of great news. We have won the most glorious of battles, the likes that have not been seen since Agincourt. The battle is over and the once proud Atenvelt army lies lost amongst the carnage left on the battlefield. We are tired yet filled with a sense of awe at what has transpired by our hands. Milady, it was a most grand sight, this army swathed in purple and or, stooping as the hawk toward its prey. Eleanor, our Queen had raised the fyrd and nearly every man jack of the order was present. The King unleashed the hounds of war and we were the hounds devouring all that is set before us. When the fury of battle was stilled, we few were left in possession of the bloody field. Each of us have our story, each different, yet strangely the same. Vlad will carry the arrow wound for the rest of his life, an archer turned fighter brought low by an archer. Such sweet irony! Twenty Calontir fighters make a stand against an Aten force of nearly a hundred and fight so fiercely that the Atens are held at bay until the Outlandish army outflank and swarm over the Aten force from behind in a great green tsunami. Thusly do legends grow. During the the fortification battle breakout, the Baronial champion stops an Aten charge with other a few other polearms, fighting off the Atens until the Queen herself pulls them back into the main battle group. I still can see Throttmar out in front of the shield wall, driving the Atens ever backwards with his spear as we took our bridge and continued to destroy the guards on the other bridges as well. Tristan almost single-handedly destroyed the An tir banner guard and forced the banner bearer to

Cont. Next Month

yield during the Broken field battle. Tristan would this day be inducted into the Fyrd for his service and skill in the arts of war. Fergus rode with the calvary skirmish unit, slashing any Aten force that came near the Calontir Army. Many were the poor souls that felt the bitter bite of Lady Alex's crossbow. Some say that even the

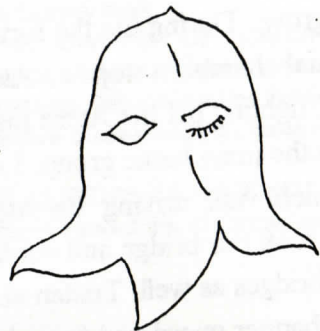
ghost of our late baron was seen roaming the battlefield this day.

It is now grown late as the sun has long since set behind these mountains called Estrella. As we drink and tell our stories around the campfire, friends visit our simple camp. Many are from distant parts of our kingdom. Firstly comes Dietrich from Forgotten Sea, followed by Weyland Halfdan from Thusand Felds. Both join our camp. Happily do we greet our next visitor, a long lost friend, Countess Elisabeth du Rossignol. She had recently been taken hostage by the Seneschal of An Tir and she was there as that kingdoms' guest". We offer to mount a rescue but she assured us that the condition was only temporary, joining us in a cold fyrd beer. We bade her a fair winds and a safe passage home to An Tir. It grows late, Lady Keare calls our little camp to our daily ration. I must report for my shift on guard. May this chronicle find its way to your hand swiftly and safely. I would report more except the rider waits impatiently to be on his way.

Thy most humble of

soldiers from Vatavia

herald's
nightmare
16



hood
winked

CORONATION

Coronations are usually exciting for all who attend. Most of us love the pageantry, others have a personal interest in the people involved, some of us appreciate the continuity when the Crown changes hands. I know people who are proud that they've been at every Coronation since we became a Kingdom. I can't claim that record, but I've been to my share, and I've enjoyed every one. If you have never been, you're missing something special. Here is one reporters story of the Coronation of Valens and Elspeth.

We loaded the wagons with more things than we should need for a one day event. It seems it's always that way. We were off to say a sad goodbye to Their Majesties Eleanor and Eringlen and well met to Valens and Elspeth. We were in right fine moods. The roads were dry and free from waylayers, the tavern along the way had adequate food (that's about all you can say for that little scottish place) and the beds we were heading for were dry, comfortable and inviting. The wagon was full of good conversation and so the journey passed. We reached the end and were met by an entire Inn full of friends (the prices were also right). After more good conversation and good cheer, we retired to our chambers (some of us must use the term loosely) so as to be in attendance in a timely manner on the following day.

We arose, availed ourselves of the wash room, broke fast with our friends and went to the place of the event. It was a cold and gloomy day outside, but warm and cheerful inside. The fighting took place outside, but as you who know fighters can attest, the general air around the fighters is never gloomy (smelly perhaps, but never gloomy). My lord immediately took himself off to the fighting and I to the various conversations abounding in the crowded rooms. We each enjoyed what we do best. As evening drew close, pains of hunger claimed our attention. We gathered up a large group of friends and adjourned to a tavern that served a right fine hunk of beef along with many accompaniments. At last we were satisfied, both with the company and food. We returned to the place of coronation.

It was very crowded, many had made this journey to see the Crown succession. I was able to present Her Majesty with a rose and a thank you for making the previous 6 months an enjoyable time for all. Then she withdrew to prepare for the ceremony. The excitement was high, the finery much impressed us all, many eyes were darting to and fro looking at the fine costumes (I then and there said a silent thank you to the many who had made my garb, and vowed that I would have new made by my own hand before the next coronation). Royal Court began with Their Majesties presenting a few awards, well earned I know, then releasing Their retinue. This was a tearful time for all. It was now time for them to depart the Falcon Thrones. They left and the cheers were loud and heartfelt. Vivat! Then a Lady with a magnificent voice began to sing the lineage of the Thrones of Calontir. As she did this, two maidens began lighting candles. The room was lovely, the singing wonderful. Truly, tingles went up my spine. Then came Valens to claim the Falcon Throne by right of arms, then Elspeth, the lady who inspired him. They were proclaimed by one and all as the rightful heirs to the Throne and a great cheer went up. Felty was sworn by all, and the Court of Their Majesties Valens and Elspeth was ended.

We were all in a celebratory mood, so determined to end the evening with festivities of our own. We were much dismayed to learn that the heavens had played a joke on us by throwing frozen rain at us. And in March to! We carefully maneuvered our ways back to the Inns that gave us shelter, and had a wonderful time. We reveled much to late, and found that morning came a little earlier than we expected. Would we do it again? Of course. See you there in 6 months.

The Roving Reporter

"She moves a goddess, and she looks a queen" Alexander Pope
"Queen and huntress, chaste and fair, / Now the sun is laid to sleep,
/ Seated in thy silver chair, / State in wonted manner keep. /
Hesperus entreats thy light. / Goddess, excellently bright" Ben
Johnson

Queen's Prize Tourney for Those Who Could Not Attend

Vatavians should be proud of the level of skill displayed by the entrants in the Queen's Prize Tourney held on February 11 in the Shire of Spinning Winds, modernly known as Manhattan. Six Vatavians entered the competition, in which there were nearly 140 entries. Entrants in the arts and sciences tourney could not be members of the orders of the Lily, the Silver Hammer or the Laurel. In essence, the event was a sort of "amateur night" for gentles who do arts and sciences.

Ld. Eirik entered leather boots, Ly. Sibeal entered yarn, Ly. Maeve entered phemo beads and embroidery, Baroness Brialen entered a design for a period pop-up tent, Ld. Elwyn entered the bardic category and I entered calligraphy and illumination. I would encourage those people who are interested in learning more about arts and sciences and/or arts and sciences competitions to seek out one of these individuals. They would all be happy to share their own experience.

The event was first held last year by Her Majesty at the time, Iliya, to encourage arts and sciences within Calontir. Her Majesty Eleanor continued the tradition this year. The spirit of the event was to speak with judges who critiqued the entries and offered advice. There was no victor per se, but every entrant walked away a winner.

During the day, members of the populace were free to walk around and admire the arts and sciences entries. Some populace members even left small tokens for some of the entries that they especially admired. Her Majesty left a token for each entrant in the competition, and sponsors of the entrants gave out tokens to the entrants during evening court. Each person who sponsored someone had to be a member of the Lily, the Silver Hammer or the Laurel.

In addition to the arts and sciences competition, there was a fighting tournament and a delicious feast and as always, an entertaining post-revel.

If you were unable to attend the Queen's Prize Tourney this year, I hope I have succeeded in bringing you a glimpse of the event. I look forward to seeing more Vatavians enter next year's competition.

Maggie

MY FIRST EVENT

My first real event was about to start. I had volunteered to help in the kitchen and with pre-cook. I loved pre-cook and couldn't wait to get to the event then it dawned on me I had nothing to wear. One of the Ladies who was married to a gentleman by the name of "Spike" (at least that's what everyone called him) showed me how to fold cloth and make a "T" tunic. So here it was the night before the event. I discovered that wonderful tradition which I still practice, of staying up half the night sewing.

I was at Valor so early the troll wasn't even up. Off to this wonderful kitchen I went. I helped all day and got know a lot of people and had a wonderful time. I was introduced to someone that "knew all about Celtic names". He told me of one name he was able to document that no one wanted. Well after I heard the name I didn't want it either. He was happy to document the exact name I wanted and I was a happy camper. During that event I learned more about the SCA naming practices and I was now impressed when I found out that someone was a Duchess or a Countess. I also wanted garb and lots of it. At least one of each. That evening after dark I walked out of the kitchen to a fire pit with people sitting around singing and drinking and having a good time. No one said "stop singing you are off key". I was hooked and probably always will be. That was my first magic moment. The middle ages were alive and very real.

I know of no other organization that offers so many areas to explore and learn about. Whatever area you want to learn about, there is always someone willing to teach you about it, encourage your efforts to expand. I am very proud and happy to be a member of the SCA and will tell anyone that sit still for one minute!

Lady Sibeal O'h'OGain

"He was a brow gallant, / And he played at the glove; / And the bonny Earl of Murray, / Oh he was the Queens love." Ballad
"This is the heart the Queen leant on." Robert Browning
"I would not be a Queen / For all the world" William Shakespeare
Henry VIII

LIGHTBULBS THE KNOWN WORLD OVER

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- Q: How many Westerners does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Why would you want to do that? It's been just fine for 25 years!
- Q: How many Calontiri does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: One hundred and two, but what a ceremony!
- Q: How many Easterners does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Just one, but they have to take a vote first to decide who.
- Q: How many Meridians does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Just one, but he has to get it drunk first.
- Q: How many Trimarians does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Leave it out, it was only attracting mosquitos anyway.
- Q: How many Caidans does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Nobody knows. They can't figure out what to wear to change one.
- Q: How many AnTir-folk does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Just one, but the new bulb had better be a halogen fog lamp!
- Q: How many Atlantians does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: That depends, which household does it belong to?
- Q: How many Midrealmsers does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: They won't say until they've consulted the Curia Regis...
- Q: How many Ansteorrans does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Was that a rattan lightbulb or a fencing lightbulb?
- Q: How many Atenveldters does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: Why bother, they prefer solar power anyway?
- Q: How many Outlanders does it take to change a lightbulb?
A: If it's less than a 14 hour drive it's not worth changing!
- Q: How many Lochac-folk does it take to screw in a lightbulb?
A: Just one, but it screws in counter-clockwise.
- Q: How many Certhans does it take to screw in a lightbulb?
A: Just one, but it takes them six months to notice it's burned out!

....Thanks to Lady Alexandra, who found this on the 'Net.