

# DRAGONFLYRE



J. L. Taylor

9/95

The Dragonflyer c/o  
Deborah Taylor  
1137 Gaddley  
Wichita, KS 67216

The September cover is by Sarah Linn  
The Dragonflyre logo from Her Her Ladyship Ladyship  
Marie

My thanks to Lord Dirik and Lady Marena as usual.

Copyright (c) 1994 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be reprinted without special permission in newsletters and other publications of branches of the SCA, Inc., subject to the following conditions:

- ❖ The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.
- ❖ The author's name and an original publication credit must be printed with the text.
- ❖ You must send a letter to the editor of this newsletter, stating which articles you have used and in which publication the material has been reprinted.

This is the Dragonflyer, a publication of the Barony of Vavavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Dragonflyer is available from Deborah Taylor at 1137 Gidley, Wichita, KS 67216. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

## CALENDAR

Fighter Practice is on Sundays in North Linwood Park beginning at 10:00 a.m. (check with the Knight Marshall about this, since it's now fall)

For Archery Practice contact Lord LittleJohn

For Dance Practice contact Lady Alex of Briarwood

CORONATION of GILLIGAN and ADELITH Sept. 30,

Officers meeting is Oct. 2 at Brialen's church

Populace meeting is Oct. 18, Don't miss it!

Board Meeting in Three Rivers, Oct.21

Middle Eastern Dance Classes

We are experiencing a shortage of students. If you are interested, please call me. We are considering a different day for class.

*Ly. Kerarc*

I will be reviewing and inventorying all Baronial property through the month of August. If you currently have Baronial property to store or property to be inventoried contact me. 686-6893

*H.L. Tristan Rory de Jorz*

Dragonflyer Announcement

Bardic Practices will be the Monday before and the Monday after Populace at 7 p.m. at Kasamira's tower. This month's practices are:

Sept. 18th - 7 p.m. at North Linwood

Sept. 25th - 7 p.m. at Kasamira's Tower

Greetings from the Property Master.



Unto the Populace of Vatavia come these greetings warm and fair from Gabriel and Rhianwen, by the Grace of Their Majesties, Baron and Baroness of these lands!

Thanks are in order to the many who worked so hard at Valor. It takes a highly dedicated people to bring together an event of such magnitude; we had 500 people on site, and we have the singular distinction of having hosted the largest tournament in the history of Calontir. People of both our Kingdom and the Outlands were very complimentary about the event. We salute all those who put forth such effort to make Valor the success it was.

Vivat Vatavia, Vivat Westumbria, Vivat Thusedfeld!

As the leaves of autumn turn from green to gold, we also turn our attention toward winter. Vavavia will be hosting Mongols Rule on January 19th. The site will be the same as Valor, Camp Hiawatha, and we expect a good turnout for this event as well, especially in the light of our recent success. Eirik, slave to Batu, and Fergus (or possibly Kaidu) will autocrat this event, and Kerare will feastocrat. If you are traveling to events between now and then, we ask that you pick up a few Mongols Rule fliers to distribute to your friends. Also, volunteer early, volunteer often!

Once again, as winter rolls in, we begin our search for an indoor fighting site. Anyone with information or suggestions are asked to make them to the Knight's Marshal.

In Service to Barony and Kingdom,

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN

OFFICERS' MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

15 members attended: 13 officers/deputies/champions, 2 members of the populace

A letter from Batu for the Falcon Khan was read.

The officers reported on the activities in their areas. The Treasurer was working on the final financial details from Valor. A brief report was requested for publication. Further budget allocations for the year will be apportioned. The Chronicler had some items for this month's publication. Material is always welcome. The new Chatelaine, Odindisa, was introduced. She reported that planning for several demos in September and October were in process. The Herald reported that two items had been sent onto the Saker (submissions) herald. The consultation table at Valor was busy most of the time. The Historian had nothing to report. ("I'm still recovering from Valor.")

The MOA and MOS reported few arts and sciences activities. Both need to hear from the artisans in order to acknowledge the work being done on their quarterly reports. It was reported that the Valor arts and sciences competition fielded an impressive display of items. The bardic champion will be holding bardic sessions the Mondays before and after populace at 7pm. The 18th's will be at Linwood Park. Her bardic dinner last month had 11 participants. Bardic occurred at Valor both Saturday and Sunday at both the bardic campfire and the tavern.

Archery practice continues to be at Archery Plus on Sundays at noon. Individuals need to contact Little John about their authorizations. Approximately 30 archers are about to be dropped from the authorizations. You must have shot at a practice or Kingdom event within the last year. Official and non-SCA practice conditions were discussed and clarified.

Fighter practice continues at Linwood Park on Sundays.

It was reported for the Property Master that new poles are needed for the new pavilion. Both sets of poles for the shade flies are currently being used. Cost estimates are to be obtained. An inventory of the lost and found currently in the property shed is to be published.

Valor this year set a new attendance record, 500. Also, it was THE LARGEST tourney in Calontir history. The Outlands Royalty and populace want to return to visit. The site owners were impressed with our care and treatment of the property.

The plans for the upcoming Mongol event for January 20th were discussed in general. Details are still being finalized.

The Seneschal is looking for a deputy seneschal. Contact Eckerich if you are interested.

The meeting adjourned.



I had an opportunity to attend the 4th Perfectly Period Party. I encourage everyone to beg, bribe, coerce or in any other way possible attain an invitation. In the first two parties my role was that of a cook and to provide some help in the selection of the menu. In this instance I was invited as a guest.

I walked into a small hall and had a servant take my personal implements for eating to the table and set them there for me. This certainly wasn't a feast in the usual SCA tradition. Two mute females and a sergeant of the Scotsman who occupied the keep served. The foods were many and varied and most certainly different from those of The City.

I found myself doing things that could only be regarded as strange. As a Roman (Byzantine for those of you who do not understand the continuity of the Great Roman Empire), I was concerned about poisoning and found the disregard of the other diners to me mystifying. I was served foul butter and expected to consume that ungent. I can go on and on - but what I received, in addition to the challenging and thought-provoking conversation, was a better perspective on the difficulties that my persona should have had at any such occasion. Traveling with retainers; having one's own food prepared by personal servants; drinking only liquids one could be sure of and then after someone else drink; not eating a fatten goose for fear that animal blood was one the things which had been used to fatten the goose (blood and blood products being specifically proscribed by the Orthodox Church), these are not things which a modern individual thinks of. For me, I found that this was an unbelievable opportunity to practice aspects of my persona that are seldom practices. In all of this I found I simply could not escape some of my modern characteristics - I actually said please and thank you to servants!

Ala, Brialen, Sean, and Gawayne have done yoman's work and deserve the complements and thanks of the entire Barony - remember to do so next time you see them. Others have helped, but these have been the main players.

As I understand it Sean will be responsible for the next PPP, with HL Annys assisting. Vatavia is the only place in the Known World that I am aware is providing this kind of opportunity. Get involved. You can learn to prepare medieval foods and/or serve in a medieval fashion and/or dine with persons representing one thousand years of history. This is an opportunity UNMATCHED ANYWHERE!

Written this 14th day of the month of August, 7503 and signed by my own hand

*Efentes Demetrios Mithophoros*

To all of our special friends who have become family through the society, please accept our apologies for not having your mundane names and addresses and accept our invitation for you to attend our celebration.

*You have shared in our lives as  
Friends and Family.*

*Now we invite you to share in  
our celebration.*

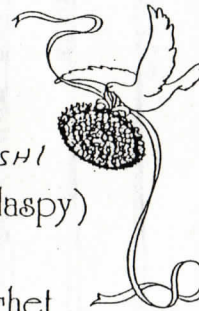
TAKAHARA OTOSHI  
&  
Tracey Dean Gillaspay

Penny Sue Blanchet

*Request the honor of your presence at our Reception*

*on Saturday, the twenty-third day of September,  
nineteen hundred and ninety-five  
at seven o'clock in the evening at:*

*Coosie's House  
Rt 1 Box 267A  
11838 SW 107th  
Rose Hill, ME 07133*



**DIRECTIONS:**

**FROM THE EAST/AUGUSTA:**

West on 54 to Santa Fe Lake Road  
(Suddith Automotive and beauty salon on South (left) corner)  
South (left) to 63rd / 170th  
(from 54 to 63rd is 7 miles)  
West (right) on 63rd / 170th (less than 1 mile) to house.

Brown Doublewide on right side of road  
Hanes on Mailbox: Lenings and White

**From Wichita:**

East on 54 to Santa Fe Lake Road  
(5 miles from Andover)  
(Suddith Automotive and beauty salon on South (right) corner)  
South (right) to 63rd / 170th  
(from 54 to 63rd is 7 miles)  
West (right) on 63rd / 170th (less than 1 mile) to house.

There will also be SIGNS and BALLOONS to mark the way.

To the Good Gentles of Vatavia and Three Rivers comes these words of greeting from Lady Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those individuals who aided with the field heraldry at the Valor Tourney. This was the largest tournament in Calontir history. Their Ladyships Thyri and Liriel, premiere Calontir field heralds, traveled from Three Rivers and contributed greatly to the success of the day. Master Gerald of Ipsley, Gold Falcon Herald, was very genrous in conducting the Torchlight Tournament. Lords Alexander and Modric and Lady Alyx of Briarwood took their first field heraldry class the day before and immediately put their new found knowledge and training to use. Perhaps this spirit of "jumping in with both feet" and of helpfulness is why they were recognized with AoAs later that evening. And finally, Baroness Brialen, who saved wear and tear on the field heralds by running out the cards to them so they would not be hoofing all over the field all day.

Thank you all so much,

EFR



THE BARONY OF VATAVIA  
BARONIAL AWARDS RECOMMENDATION FORM

Date of recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

SCA name of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended for (award) \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Seneschal/Champion recommends \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Baron approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Baroness approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

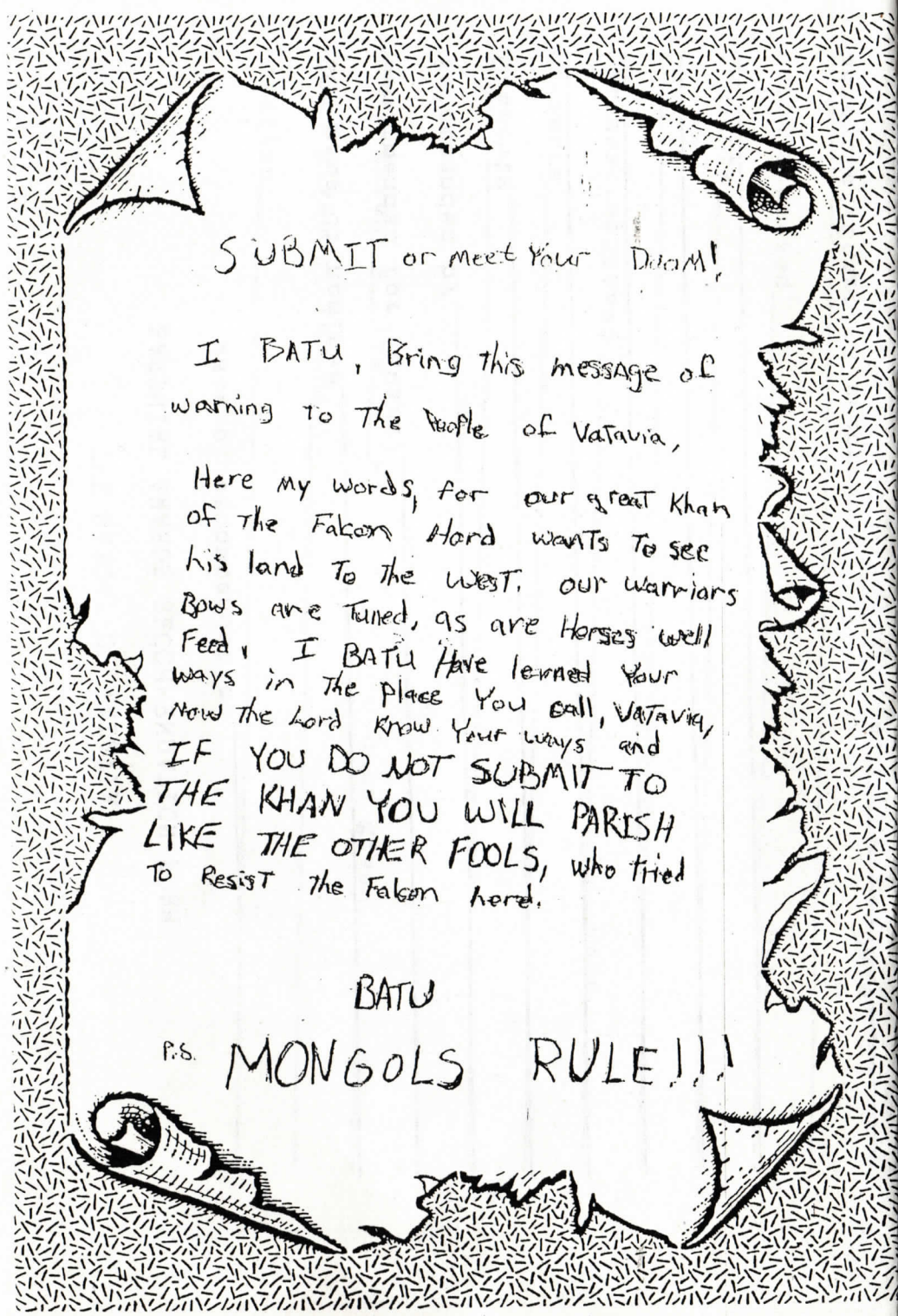
\_\_\_\_\_

Award given \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Date given \_\_\_\_\_

Award given at (event) \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_





SUBMIT or meet Your Doom!

I BATU, Bring this message of warning to The People of Vataria,

Here my words, for our great Khan of the Fabom Herd wants to see his land to the west. our warriors Bows are Tuned, as are Horses well Feed, I BATU Have learned Your ways in the place You call, Vataria, Now the Lord Know Your ways and IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT TO THE KHAN YOU WILL PARISH LIKE THE OTHER FOOLS, who tried To Resist the Fabom Herd.

BATU

P.S. MONGOLS RULE!!!

### The Life of a Parish Priest

The following is based on a class I was asked to give at Valor this year. Before I get into the life of the parish priest, I will first tell who he was, starting with who he was not. The Catholic clergy break into two groups: the regular and the secular. The regular clergy concerned themselves with the Opus Dei, or Work of God. Most simply stated the Opus Dei is about knowing and understanding the will of God.

The regular clergy are in turn broken into the cloistered and the mendicants. The cloistered are your classical monks and nuns. Their basic theme is that the best way to focus on the distractions and temptations. They were to leave the monastery only for special business and only for as long as it took to do that business. Thus in the regular course of business you would rarely see a monk. The mendicants are basically your friars. They took the opposite view from the monks and sees the Opus Dei in the world around them, and it is their particular mission to bring that wonder of God to the people, especially the emerging urban areas. This is why Thomas Bacon is a friar not a monk.

The mission of the secular clergy is to administer to the spiritual needs of the people. They include everyone who is not a member of an established religious order. The parish priest is the front line worker of this endeavor.

The parish is the basic unit of the church organization consisting of a church with it's priest and the laity that went to that church. Especially in the early Middle Ages the parish boundaries had no correlation with political or economical features. The church for a village could be elsewhere, or a village could be split between two parishes. And, of course, a town could have several, depending on it's size.

The reason for this is that many churches started as chapels for various lords or monasteries. It was only over the centuries through population shifts and rebuilding programs that parish and village coalesced,

Another effect of these origins is that the head of the founding family or monastery had the right to appoint the priest, and more importantly, thus controlled the income of the church. And this was much abused.

The position of parish priest is called a benefice. An ambitious and well connected aristocrat who had taken holy orders, could build up a sizable income by acquiring a number of these benefices. A vicar would be appointed to carry out the actual duties of the benefice with some small portion of the income. The end result is that the typical parish priest was an ordinary peasant who could barely stumble through Mass.

So we have worked our way to the parish priest and his condition. Now, remember this is an overly broad generalization, and not be too quick to condemn all priests as incompetent. And for many, what they lacked in training,



they made up in devotion. Nor was the upper clergy ignorant, nor complaisant of the situation. Periodically there would be a bishop who would investigate the qualifications of the priests under him, and find many wanting. But he usually had to leave them in place for lack of suitable replacements. The truly educated could find better would be calls to eliminate the plurality of benefices, to no avail.

This also brought up the question of whether a sacrament given by an ignorant priest is valid. Again the practical consideration of no replacements, lead to the doctrine that the sacraments transcended the priest, and so were always valid. The other great clerical scandal was the married priest. Clerical celibacy dates to the early church. But for most priests human nature was strong, the religious calling weak, surrounded by friends and family, and usually isolated from other clergy, and so the inevitable happened. An actual marriage was rare, concubinage being the usual state. Nor was any pains usually taken to hide the arrangement. And again all the ranting of the reformers was ignored for lack of better alternatives.

It would take the upheavals of the Protestant Reformation before the Church successfully attacked the problem of the quality of it's priest. But the counter-reformation lies in a different period.

The daily life of the parish priest differed little from his peasant flock. His morning would open with a singing of Low Mass, then he would go out to tend the fields that provided his subsistence. On holidays he would sing High Mass. Sermons were rare and most often given by visiting clergy, such as friar. And, of course, the occasional sacrament such as marriage, baptism, and extreme unction.

The other major expectation of a parish priest was for him to teach. At a minimum he needed to teach the responses at Mass and the basic lessons and doctrine of the Church. If he was able, he would also teach reading and writing to a select few. The brighter ones might be able to go on to the bishop's school, and maybe, even to the university to a career in the Church or royal chancellery. One or two might stay on to help the priest in his duties, and perhaps succeed him as vicar.

The life of a parish priest was not an easy one, with many expectations, and little resources and training to carry them out. And while theoretically answerable only to the local bishop, in practice he had to be salacious to the local lord, and maintain the good will of his congregation. The wonder is not how many who could not live up to these demands, but how many who did.

*Friar Thomas Bacon*

## MEDIEVAL MUSIC CORNER

This is an excerpt from a letter by Mistress Baroness Lyriel from Forgotten Sea, printed with her permission.

This is a tape she recommended to me as a nice example to listen to.

Medieval Music by the Jaye Consort on reconstructed medieval instruments (such as cornemuse, hurdy gurdy, shawns and rebecs). Most pieces are from the 12th and 13th centuries. You will notice 'Estampie' listed several times, this was a very popular dance and there were many different versions of it.

The pieces were played pretty much the way they would have been in period except with a little more percussion, and according to one source I read somewhere, more on key and in time together. Supposedly period musicians could be quite individualists and were not always on key or playing exactly the same piece if they played together. Paper being rare and expensive until late in period much music was passed by memorization, like Bardic material, so there was bound to be some variations.

Unto the Populace of Vatavia from Lady Ala and Baroness Brialen,  
Valor/Outlands Interkingdom  
Autocrats.

We want thank the populace for their help and contributions at the recent event. Your efforts made this event one of the best attended Valors in history. We had 500 people on site (applause - applause). Our teamwork proved successful for this kingdom event. We truly thank everyone for their help.

ala            Brialen



Though I certainly was not in charge of the tavern, I was present at Chez Weiland enough to observe with great gratitude the dedication of several Vatavian gentles. I would like to extend hearty thanks to all the servers who gave of their time: Ly. Alexandra nic Alleyn, Ld. Corey, David Caoimhe, Lassarina, Elizabet, Ly. Lelia, Isabeau (aka Yasmin!); If I have forgotten any Vatavians, I apologize. Thanks you so much for your help.

Still recovering,

*Odindisa the Grim*

Greetings from your M.O.S.

We are nearing yet another end of quarter, and the office (like me) must send in their reports. My report is about you! Let ne know what you have done and/or are working on. Have you entered any competitions, helped with displays, demos, taught a class, or attended a class? Do you belong to a guild? Let me know. We have a wide range of interest and studies. This gives me ideas for classes.

In Service,

*Ly. Kerare*

• *The An Tir College of Heralds* •

**THE UNICORN:** This monster was the symbol of *intemperance*, because if he could resist laying his head in the laps of young maidens, hunters could never catch him.



All symbolism cited primarily from the Florentine *Fior di Virtù* (Flowers of Virtue) of 1491. Unicorn illustration from the *Fior di Virtù*, other illustrations from Guillim's *A Display of Heraldrie* 2nd ed. 1632.

<b>BARON</b> Gabriel ap Morgan	Boy Duke
<b>BARONESS</b> Rhianwen	269-3853
<b>SENESCHAL</b> Eckerich Rothvalken von Stromberg	684-1953
<b>CALTROP</b> Leonhard Von Lowenstrum	686-7966
<b>TREASURER</b> Maeve Kelley De Navarre	636-5606
<b>CHRONICLER</b> Brialen	524-0917
<b>KNIGHT MARSHAL</b> Niall Mac a Ghobhainn	262-8141
<b>MINISTER OF ARTS</b> Muirenn Dubh Minister of Children Ann Bromere	687-5850 267-7639
<b>MINISTER OF SCIENCES</b> Kerare de Joreses	686-6893
<b>ARCHER MARSHAL</b> Little John	687-5850
<b>SERF LINE</b>	Bog Serf 263-7373