

Dragonflyre



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

Wm Blackox
march 96

CALENDAR

Calligraphy and Illuminations: Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you are interested call Aislinn at 269-0999, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Fighter practice: To be announced

Archers - do you wish to try your bow against the winter challenge? Call Michael von Berger for details.

For the use of the Armory, call Baron Gabriel @ 269-3853. Tuesdays encouraged!

Dance is at St. John's Episcopal Church (3rd & Topeka on Wednesday at 7:30.

Desperate Plea, 2nd Notice: Eleanor loaned out/left her red, spiral-bound notebook at January populace. She desperately needs it back. Please call her at 685-8510 if you found it. Thank you.

Greetings to the populace from your chronicler, Brialen.

Because we are expecting a visit from Their Royal Majesties, I thought I would reprint excerpts from the coronation flyer for all the people who couldn't attend.

I am also printing a tale from Extrella, written by Master Baron Pavel. It is quite entertaining, and if you would like to hear more about Estrella, please ask Their Excellencies, Gabriel and Rhianwen; Vlad, Alex, or Fergus. I'm sure they have tales of their own.

Brialen

The cover is done by Master Baron Blackfox

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SENESCHAL'S NOTES

Notes from the seneschals' meeting at CalonCon.

1. The new waiver policy from Corporate: To enter an event site, everyone must have a blue membership card which signifies a waiver is on file at Corporate, or they must sign a waiver containing the approved waiver language. Adults may sign a roster waiver. Minors waivers may not be in roster format, they must sign a new, individual waiver at EVERY event.. If you are in garb, have on armor, or pick up a bow; you must sign a waiver. The only exceptions are business meetings, demos, guild meetings, dance practices, or planning sessions. If there is combat at a demo, you must have a waiver. The waivers will be sent to Corporate every 30 days.

2. Bash-a-Knight: Vatavia's BAK guidelines have gone all the way to Society level, been reviewed, and approved. If we follow the guidelines WE have established, our insurance coverage is in effect.

3. Non Member service charge has been rescinded by the Board.

4. Courtesy to the Crown: The Crown feels we have all been quite lax with this and need to be reminded that it is a big part of the game for most of us. Please extend this courtesy to everyone who wears a brass hat, they have earned those hats through service to Calontir, and are Their Majesties' representatives.

5. New Membership Forms: Please use the new membership form in the March Mews. All the other copies are obsolete.

In Service to Vatavia,

Eckerich

OFFICERS' MEETING March 11, 1996

20 members attended : 14 officers/deputies/champions ; 6 members of the populace

At Calon Con this year officers were informed of several changes occurring within the organization. The non-member surcharge will expire April 1st of this year. All those members under 18 years of age MUST have a separate, filled out waiver for each event, especially those which have marshallate activities. This includes fighter practice and archery practice. It does NOT include dance, guild meetings- unless they are marshall activities, business meetings, and populace. Waivers will be required at Ren Faire. The Seneschal also reported that copies of other officers' reports are now required as part of his reporting.

The Treasurer reported on change of policy on the signatories. The formation of a finance committee is recommended. Thanks to the hard work of the populace Vatavia is one of the most fiscally sound Baronies. The Property master is recommended to be a deputy of the Treasurer. The Property Master needs to know the location of Baronial property not stored in the shed.

The MOA/S reported that the criteria is being rewritten for arts and sciences, and for the tri-level competitions. The Herald has 6 items for registration from the populace at the Kingdom level. The Kingdom Order of Precedence (awards listing) is out. There are errors, misspellings, and incorrect information. Please check with him to see that your information is correct. At Calon Con court procedures and etiquette were discussed and encouraged.

The Knights' Marshall has several new fighters participating besides the regular people. Practice is Sunday noon at south Linwood Park during acceptable weather. This location will probably change when softball season starts. Archery practice continues indoors at Archery Plus Sundays at noon. Ld. Michael would appreciate hearing from anyone planning to practice.

Mongols Rule is this coming weekend, March 23-24. Finalized plans were presented. Volunteers are still needed in some areas. See Ld. Eirik/Batu. Also Mongols need to bring pillows. Her Royal Majesty Salamandra's birthday will be during Mongols. Her Excellency Rhianwen would like to hear ideas and suggestions on celebrating this.

An invitation from Ld. Moderic inviting Vatavians to Westumbria's demo at the Central Kansas Spring Expo, March 30-31 was read.

BUSH will be held April 6 at Minisa Park Building from 10am. to 6pm. More information is available from Ly. Eleanor.

Ren Faire activities and plans were discussed. Besides the traditional activities like Bash-a-Knight and Living History there are some new ones being prepared. See Her Excellency Brialen or one of Her deputies to help.

Spring Champions will be held this year in conjunction with Westumbria's Bear Fest at Wilson Lake on May 5th. Each champion should be contacted about any requirements for their competition.

The rotation schedule for Crown Tourney has been revised to include the new Barony of Mag Mor. Spring 1997 is the rotation date for Vatavia. A pre-bid request was given by a member of the populace at the close of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Words from Their Majesties

The Crown and Calontir Culture

Here in Calontir, we share a very different mentality toward the Crown than in other realms. In Calontir, we pride ourselves with being a family - a kind of tribal environment - where we are all equals, but the Crown is more equal than others. This seems to be a carryover from our Midwest upbringing.

In other lands there are splits, where the nobles and barons hold great power over the crown with their mighty households and fealties. These splits make factionalism and aid in political infighting. We are fortunate. We have managed to maintain our 'whole' culture, and not allow this to happen. Calontir has always stood together as a realm. Again, we could attribute this to our upbringing.

In time however, we have become lax on certain issues of protocol. This may be attributed to a nonchalant attitude of some predominate people, but we may also attribute it to the attitude of the crown. The perception of being too familiar with the crown spreads, and then the crown loses reverence. This may have happened partially in trying to keep the crown from becoming 'unapproachable' or 'stuffy', but the crown does demand courtesy and respect to keep the dream alive. How would it be if a crown had to carry their own regalia through a crowded room, and then had to sidestep people who either didn't recognize them, or paid them no mind? When the crown entered a room, or meeting, no one paid reverence. These things are happening **TODAY!** When we go to Pennsic, Estrella, or other foreign events, and people see how we 'respect' our crown, what do they think? What would you think?

Calontir does not want to swing 180 degrees around and become protocol heavy. We should respect the privileges we have. Read through kingdom law, and see what the rights and duties of the crown and populace are. Should you approach the crown bearing live steel if you are not in fealty? Do you respect the crown's presence? Do you know of some of the traditions regarding feasts? Take some time to talk to the older members of Calontir. They will be happy to relate the stories of old.

If you have never spoke with the crown, please come up and introduce yourself. While the crown may seem busy and inapproachable, they will always take time to speak with the people of Calontir.

The Continuing Saga of Chrystofer Kensor . . .

Upon hearing of troubles in her homeland, Duchess Brayden prepared herself to journey East to Persia to defend her birthright. Her Lord, Earl Chrystofer, made haste with her to aid this noble Lady in her cause. After two years of hardships and loss, Her Grace remained to help her people and rebuild her fortune. His Excellency traveled in the direction he thought to be home, only to find from a traveling caravan that he was headed towards Russia. His Excellency, low on food and supplies, took up with the Byzantine caravan heading toward Kiev, acting as champion to the wealthy Salamandra. After completing her business, the Mistress Salamandra agreed to return to His Excellency's's Homeland to sit beside him on the Falcon Throne.

HRM Chrystofer is an 11th Century Saxon Noble who was born in Wessex. His father was killed at the battle of Senlac Hill. At the age of 17 he left his home to search for his brother, who had journeyed north in defense of the Northern borders. Chrystofer has spent the past 12 years wandering the Saxon countryside and defending what is left of Saxon England.

Chrystofer Kensor joined the Society in April, A.S. XIX in the Canton of Etoiles d'Lune (now the Shire of Crescent Moon). He has served as a local officer in both Crescent Moon and Carlsby, and as Earl Marshal. He has served Calontir as champions to both Thorvald and Brayden, and as Dean of the War College.

HRM Salamandra is an 11th Century Byzantine noble who inherited her family merchanting business. To be successful in Constantinople, one must occasionally dip into the local politics. This sometimes results in the need to be able to travel great distances at the drop of a hat. In the latter part of the 11th century, she found it necessary to leave Byzantium to travel North-ward to pursue her trade, and hope that there would soon be a change in emperors.

Salamandra the Whitesmith joined the Society in September of A.S. XVII, in the Shire of Mag Mor. She is a member of the Order of the Laurel, Thegn to Chrystofer the First, and has held several local offices in Crescent Moon.

Greetings from your Arts and Sciences officer.

I think this passage from the Arts and Sciences newsletter, written by Mistress Sine ni Shranachain, Calontir Minister of Arts and Sciences might be of interest to everyone.

With many thoughts continuing towards competitions, some familiar questions rear their heads: namely, what is an art or science? And, competitions are not for Grant or Patent level artisans. As to the first item, thankfully the lines are sufficiently blurred! I have always resented being forced to classify a skill by another's measure. As an artisan, I can find arguments to place a skill as an art or science. However, a good guideline might be that a science is the study of functions and usability, whereas an art is a creative expression in a given media.

As to the second question, ANYONE can enter a competition. The populace would be shocked if the Chivalry was barred from Crown List or the Huscarls were told they were not to lead groups in battle. Why has it become accepted that Laurels, Lilies, and Hammers should avoid competition? How else can models of healthy competitive material be given?

I believe the negative press has resulted from the misconception that in a competition, the entry is evaluated against other entries. This is a fallacy! Our criteria are designed such that each entry is evaluated against the criteria. Spread the news!

Well, enough of the preaching - but truthfully, share this information!! That is the only way the word will spread!

The following items are submitted for consideration, and possible inclusion into the criteria:

Why did you enter this competition? Was it to get recognition? Show-off your work? Encourage yourself to stretch your limits? To gain feedback from others?

Name three ways in which this is a period piece.

Name three ways in which this is not a period piece.

What did you learn from this attempt?

What would you do differently next time?

Please grade your own success level. Very Successful, Somewhat Successful,

This next item is related directly to the criteria as they exist today: Instead of the categories of creative and authenticity which by their current definitions are mutually exclusive, use the following:

For authenticity, substitute: Success of design and or execution within known boundaries and techniques.

For creativity, substitute: Success at period aesthetics. Did the entry capture the look, feel or flavor of the period to which it is attributed?

Have all judging be blind, no names anywhere on the entries. This will reduce the possibility of inadvertent preference or harshness on the part of the judges.

Another Period Party

Though it was the dead of winter, the evening had but a slight chill as I threaded my way south. It was just after Vespers and there was a feast awaiting me at my destination. A glimpse of a pretty maid showed that I had found the place. After securing my mule, I entered the hall.

In the entryway I was greeted by two fine ladies and shown to the feast hall. Once there I was directed to the center of the head table. Was I to play the host for this repast? It was a most unusual position for me, accustomed as I was to the lower end of tables.

Preceding me into the hall was a Scottish lord, his wife and young daughter. Hard on my heels was a Northcumbrian bard who was seated to my left. Soon after an English lady settled in at my right, followed by the rest of the guests: two English lords and their ladies.

The feast was a magnificent creation consisting of removes of chicken, ham and fish. Such were the quantities that all complained of suffering the punishment of the sin of gluttony. Though I did take an additional serving of the cherry and short bread dessert, may the Lord have mercy for my weakness. Lent is upon us and the remembrances of such pleasures must last those long forty days.

Surprisingly enough the Scot and English lords were quite civil towards each other. In deed the clash of wits was more between the lords and their ladies. One lord had apparently had such a discussion early with his lady and had lost, for his right arm was swathed with bandages. I fear that the lords for all their strutting, were going to suffer a cold and empty night. Married to the church as I am, I am spared such indignities.

The Scottish lord did threaten to unleash a new weapon. It seems that his daughter can make a noise that could rattle the walls of Jericho. Such an unseemly use for an intelligent young lady who knows her letters. But what can you expect about a people who already use cat torture as a battle tactic?

Throughout the evening musicians and singers could be heard, but the minstrel's gallery was well concealed. Only one musician showed her face, and then to sing but a single ballad. It seems that the providers of the feast were a shy lot.

As there is a time for beginnings there is a time for endings. And for this feast the time between was all too short. The first to leave was the Scottish lord, as his wife had penance to do in the form of caring for the sick and injured from Martins to Prime. The rest of us lingered a bit longer, not quite ready to break the spell of the evening. But farewells could not be put off forever, and each of us walked out in the cooling night to make our separate ways home.

Luckily, the same does not have to apply to Vatavia. I am a relative newcomer to this Barony, and still young to the Society. However, Vatavia has existed since before Calontir was a Kingdom. From one vantage, Vatavia has strength in its' leaders who have a passion for the Dream, and the Barony is a strong and established group. From another, Vatavia is growing old and is finding the absence of youth to have a tiring effect. One of the points of discussion lately has been that all things are cyclical in nature and a period of growth is expected after Vatavia's recent lull. Ren Fest will hopefully bring in interested gentles who may have watched from a distance. Mongols Rule should prove exciting for those who have worked very hard to see it to fruition. But what of those people who are newcomers standing on the outside looking in, wondering exactly what drives those of us who have lived the Dream? Let us not forget, we were all on the outside once. Think back to your first camping event, with torches being the only light source and the rhythm of the drums only sweetened the mead that was foreign to your tongue. Remember those timeless moments that reward us for our work to keep the Dream alive? Do not assume that the stranger standing by herself at Populace was invited by a friend who will be there to answer her questions. Do not presume the young man watching at fighter practice is a fighter in training waiting to suit up in borrowed armor. You will never know unless you speak with them, and they will never feel the hospitality of Calontir unless that hospitality is offered. Please, do not misunderstand my words to be a reprimand or criticism. We are all brought together by our love for the Middle Ages, regardless of the disciplines we enjoy. We must find others who have that same interest in history, in learning, in recreating something that is not yet lost, and welcome these gentles with open arms. We must encourage them to seek disciplines that have sparked their curiosity, but didn't know who to talk to or where to turn.

For those who feel I am on a soap box, I apologize. The feelings that I have expressed here have apparently been floating around for some time, but just haven't been addressed on a public scale. The SCA is only a hobby, and should not consume our lives. However, if we do not share our friendship and experience with others who can carry on, we will most certainly wake one day to find that the Dream, like a fire with no fuel, has died. For those of you have worked to keep the Dream alive, I thank you. It is now time to teach others, and let them support the SCA by participating in responsibility, to let them feel the joy of knowing they have done their part. Do this, so those of you who have carried the burdens can enjoy the fruits of your labors. VIVAT VATAVIA!!

In Service,

OTOSHI

Calontir archery was represented at Estrella by Stephen O'Bannon and myself, Micheael von Bergen. Despite an unusual method of running the R.W.A. championship, out of the 22 qualifiers, we ended 15th & 6th respectively. A serious challenge was also made during a few novelty shots. However, since no reports were given to the event autocrat, no report can be made here. We both were useful on Saturday as line marschals in practice and in the war point, which was appreciated by the Outlands marschal in charge of the day.

Unto the Gentle Populace and Noble Warriors of Vatavia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Deputy to the Knight's Marshall of Vatavia

Fighters! Now is the time to put some serious effort into polishing your best armor and tune our fighting skills, for there are several important events in the future. First, we all know of the upcoming *Mongols Rule!* event on March 22-24. There are indications that many people are travelling from far off lands to participate, so it is very important that Vatavia give a strong showing of our fighters, be they Mongol or non-Barbarian (just kidding).

Second, (speaking of barbarians) the Red Bear of Westumbria has invited all who wish to attend a demo at the Great Bend Expo. This will be a camping event held at the Barton County Fairgrounds the weekend of March 30. All fighters are encouraged to attend, for there will be out-of-Barony fighters on which we may train, or be trained by, whichever the case may be. Period encampments are encouraged, but not required. Each year, approx. 5,000 people attend the Expo from all over the Southwest, so it is also important for a well-rounded picture of the SCA be presented. Arts and Sciences displays, Bardic skills, Dancing, Heraldry, are also very important. So even if you don't participate in combat, this demo should prove to be a very enjoyable time!

Third, (speaking of Demos) Ren Fair at Kansas Newman is the last weekend in April, and is quite possibly our heaviest local recruiting tool. It is Vatavia's most visible public demo, so both our appearance and our demeanor should be at its best. Also, the warriors need to remember that this is a **DEMONSTRATION TO THE PUBLIC**, not Crown Tourney. The highest respect of and for Chivalric behavior is to be expected, as is should be at all times. Fighter practice prior to Ren Fair will probably be a refresher course on Demo style combat. This is essential to give both the spectators and the participants the maximum amount of fun!

Finally, (speaking of Chivalry, Combat, and fun) the Vativian Champions' event will be held at BearFest III at Minooka Park, Lake Wilson, the weekend of May 3-5. Apparently, the Baroness is up to her usual shenanigans, (see the event flyer in the April issue of the *Mews* or Westumbria's *Runes of the Bear Claw*.) If this Bearfest is comparable to the previous ones, everyone, not just fighters, should experience unbearable fun! So let us support our outlying Shire and continue to foster the good tidings that have bonded the Dragonfly and the Bear. I understand that Bearfest III is still two months away, but with it being a camping event, I want all fighters who wish to participate to have adequate time to prepare for the event (i.e. travel arrangements, requirements of the Baronial Champion, etc. etc)

In service to Calontir, the Society, and the Dream,

OTOSHI

NOT QUITE THE FLAGONDRYER

Robin and Marian—Howlfree—(1975—Sean Connery, Richard Harris, Audrey Hepburn, Robert Shaw, Nicol Williamson) Simply the best historical movie around. The story picks up long after most Robin Hood movies leave off. Set in 1193, Robin Hood and Little John are accompanying Richard Lionheart on Crusade. The king dies of an infected arrow wound, and the two bandit-heroes return to England, there to take up with Maid Marian, the Merry Men, and the Sheriff of Nottingham. The work that Time has wrought is well depicted. Maid Marian is the abbess of a nunnery, the Merry Men are long in the tooth, and the Sheriff is a calm, considerate fellow.

The costumes are fine—although one knight's armor is a little, shall we say, scaly. (Stick jocks will appreciate the use of a morning star in one of the battle scenes.) Simple, unpretentious tunics, along with one nice reminder that no-one in the Middle Ages did anything in their BVD's. Nothing is romanticized, although the grimness is leavened by a very gentle, Monty Pythonesque humor. One of the best things about this movie is the subtle inclusion of genuinely Medieval attitudes. When asked why he participated with Richard Lionheart in the wickedness that was the 3rd Crusade, Robin gives the stark answer: "Because he was my king." This movie should be required viewing for everybody. (Maybe we could hire out the CAC theater for an evening?)

The Lion In Winter—One or Two Howlers—(1968—Timothy Dalton, Katherine Hepburn, Anthony Hopkins, Peter O'Toole) An interesting picture of one of the most energetic families in the Middle Ages, the Plantagenets, this was obviously meant to be a commentary on the late 20th century family, complete with the 'outing' of a family member. It's Christmastime in the 12th century, and Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard Lionheart, and Prince John are assembled for the festivities along with the rest of their household. What a mess, as you can imagine.

Unfortunately, most everyone ends up prating about love, trying to disguise it as feuds over who inherits. "Mummy always liked you best," gets old after a while. The garb is serviceable, for the most part, except on King Henry's leman (and Prince John's betrothed—it's good to be the king) where, pandering to modern conventions, there's a little too much fitting and a little too much lacing. This is a minor annoyance for the treat of watching some of our best actors play the crowned heads of Europe, kicking barnyard fowl out of their way as they promenaded toward the feast hall.

Braveheart—An Occasional Howler—(1995—Mel Gibson) The current darling. I may be one of the two women on the planet who lacks the Mel-gene, so my critical faculties remained intact for this film. This is a well-made movie, with good writing and sympathetic characters. Everyone does a nice job with what they are given, and the story of William Wallace, the thirteenth-century Scottish hero, is translated to the screen to the best of Hollywood's ability.

What this means is: do not go see this movie for the history. Please remember that nationalism was not a Medieval concern. *Droit de seigneur* was neither widely practiced nor was it necessarily seen as an oppression. The wife of the Heir Apparent would never sully herself with the touch of so foul a peasant rebel. Instead, go see this movie for the absolutely heart-stopping battle scenes—you are there! Absolute adrenaline overload! Feel the surge of fear and excitement as you, a poorly armoured and poorly armed freeman, face a thundering mass of knights! As few other movies have done, Braveheart reminds the student of history just why cavalry was the thing for hundreds of years. Sitting in a nice cushy theater, for just a few moments, I was terrified. Go for those few moments.

Ivanhoe—Howlfree—(1983—Anthony Andrews, Olivia Hussey, Sam Neill, John Rhys-Davies) It doesn't help any that this made-for TV adaptation of an Elizabeth Taylor movie was inspired by a book written in the early part of the nineteenth century. (We have Sir Walter Scott to thank for crystallizing Robin Hood's association with King Richard in the minds of the masses.) Here, the Saxons and Normans are still going at it, over a hundred years since the Conquest. The Ivanhoe of the title is a virtuous (and prejudiced) Saxon who manages not to take part in almost all of the action, since he was wounded early on in a melee by a wicked Knight Templar (Sam Neill, looking spiffy in a surcote) and lies about in a sweat for at least half of the feature. Typically, the Norman Bad Guys are the more interesting of the characters; they get to ride around the English countryside, fight and defeat almost everyone at (anachronistic) tournaments, take people captive, and generally behave just like all the other nobles of the time period. But, these are the Bad Guys, don't forget.

If you can overlook the Victorian storytelling, rent this tape for an afternoon of playing What Century? with the garb. The blonde Saxon ladies wear 14th-century cotehardies, the Bad Knights wear 12th-century surcoats with 16th-century Italian tournament helms, and the Normans at dinner wear something you might see on 15th-century burghers. And of course, in true 19th-century style, the threatened heroine, in time of her greatest peril, is wearing something that suspiciously looks like a white nightie. Amusing fluff.

Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves—Howlerama—extravaganza-cadathon—(1991—Kevin Costner, Morgan Freeman, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Christian Slater) What can one say? When I first saw this movie, I got all excited at the opening credits: lovely score and lots of close-ups of the Bayeux Tapestry. Little did I realize that they must have lifted these credits from another movie—that's the only explanation I can give for the low level of the rest of this flick. (And before I continue, let's get one thing straight—Kevin Costner's lack of an English accent, while providing another film a funny bit of dialogue, is the least objectionable thing. Robin Hood wouldn't have had an English accent anyway. His contemporaries would have been speaking French or would have sounded somewhat like Tim Conway's Mr. Tudball on the Carol Burnett Show.)

For me, the touchstone of a period movie is to feel as if I've peeked through a time machine—through a window—through a crystal ball—at some person, some place in the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, that never happened during this movie. Am I supposed to believe the Sheriff was part of a white-hooded ring of evil doers? No more than I believe Robin Hood's Dear Old Dad had a household of one (1) retainer. Am I supposed to buy that none of these good, Crusade-going Christians aren't going to take a whack at that wicked Mahounder Hakim? No more than I buy the Sheriff's ability to move a whole army of blue-smeared Celts (with Marty McFly's DeLorean, obviously: Celts didn't exist in the 12th century) into Sherwood without any of these woods-crafty bandits noticing.

Aw, you're spoiling it all! someone is sure to yell. No, I'm not. The people who made this piece of celluloid are. Kevin Costner should stick to baseball.

Ladyhawke—Excused From Howlers—(1985—Matthew Broderick, Rutger Hauer, Leo McKern, Michelle Pfeiffer) Yes, I know this is a fantasy. But it meets the criteria I have for period movies, as stated in the previous review. Watching this tightly-constructed movie about two lovers cursed to wander the earth in beast form is a little like opening a manuscript of one of the troubador songs, Marie de France's *Lai du Bisclavret*, maybe. Michelle Pfeiffer has never looked more beautiful (or better nourished), and Rutger Hauer is the picture of a noble fighting man on the edge of desparation. No-one felt the need to pump things up with ridiculous armor a la Excalibur, slinky clothes, or overdone special effects. Instead the filmmakers rely on the enchanting story, the engaging actors, and the lovely Italian countryside to work their magic.

Rent this movie to see the true warhorses of the Middle Ages: the Friesian and the Andalusian. To the modern eye, these animals may look a little too satiny to be charging about on the battlefield, but the Great Horse was a product of the era of full plate. (That could take a whole separate article) One other selling point: this is also the movie most suitable for kids on this list, and might get them in the Middle Ages interested on their own.

Ondinisa the Grim

From Lord Modric Deodatus come greetings to area seneschals, contact persons and other interested gentles.

If you and members of your shires will be unable to attend Fool's Fair and Ceilidh, I invite you to participate in a demo that Westumbria has been asked to present at the Central Kansas Spring Expo March 30 and 31 in Great Bend. The Expo will be held at the Expo complex which is three miles west of Great Bend on Tenth Street. Last year, 5,000 people attend the Expo and it is expected to be even bigger this year. We are hoping to turn this demo into an unofficial Regional fighter practice and showcase talents of the SCA's artisans. This will likely provide opportunities to attract new members for a variety of groups since people from across central Kansas will attend. If you should join us, please bring information about your group or contact person to distribute. We will be able to camp on site and we hope to have agreeable weather. However, feel welcome to join us for either day. Limited crash space will be available in case you don't want to camp. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me.

Modric Deodatus
mka Don Crouse
3215 24th Street
Great Bend, Kansas 67530
(316) 792-6435

ESTRELLA - ACCORDING TO PAV

This trip, unlike most of my others, I decided to not start off by going to Valen's. Instead he came here. But, I get ahead of myself. Hufta and I were going to Estrella in his parents' large RV. We invited Valens, Ursala, Kian, Conrade, a mundane and Duncan. Only the RV turned out to be broken, so.... Hufta and I thought "we will take Hufta's Jeep and Kian's truck." But, Kian's truck sprang a leak in it's radiator, so.... we would use Hufta's Jeep and my van. This did not sit well with Fionna, so.... I used all my levels of guilt, bank shot them off of Gilligan into Craig and...we had Master Craig's land whale and trailer. Only now we didn't have as much room so I had to tell folks they couldn't come in the order they were invited. The final load was Jufta, Valens, Kian, Ursala, and Myself.

Valens, Ursala, and Kian showed up at WrenHaven late Tuesday night. On Wednesday, after some minor repairs to the trailer, we were ready to launch. On the way out of town we stopped at the local Brew Pub and picked up 1.5 gal. of the local beer for our friends in the Abby. The trip out was a dream. Great company, good speed, and clear roads. A true joy to live through.

We arrived mid-morning on Thursday. Set up our camps in the warn Estrella sun. Met all the Calontiri already there and got into garb. I could tell this was already a good war. We then went to our good friends of the Abby. The beer from Grimfells was well received. Edric of the Abby had been made a court baron just a few weeks before. He did not yet have a cornet. I have had my cornet for almost 10 years. So.... I made a oak box to put it in and presented it to him with all of its juju. Since in the Caidian tradition court baronial cornets are smaller than mine we ok'ed it with the king of Caid. He was very willing for one of his subjects to wear the old cornet of mine. It has a good home and will give Edric many years of good stories to tell.

The next day I didn't fight as I was on a mission from the Crown. I had to get the kingdom some chicken. I went to a local supermarket with a deli. Mistress Arial and I arranged the chicken for 4 o'clock pick up. Back at camp I watched the Army practice. They split up into two groups and ran different tactics. I helped a little by being a marshal and making a few suggestions. The Army was looking pretty good.

At 3:30 I gathered a vehicle, Hufta and Countess Leadren and went off to get the kingdom chicken. Once at the store we found that we had to wait a few more minutes for the last of the chicken to be ready. While we were waiting, Hufta found 2 one liter bottles of Bombay Sapphire. The best Gin in the world. It was less than half the price it was back home in Grimfells...So I declared it a night of Gin-Sake (****, Yoshi was at the war, it was kismet!) We arrived back at camp with 216 pieces of fried chicken and 20 loafs of bread fresh from the oven. Their Majesties held a court and at the end turned the kingdom loose on the food. My best guess is the food lasted 2.5 minutes. It just vanished. Everyone agreed that it was a good thing their Majesties had arranged.

After the chicken it was time to do Gin-Sake. I gathered Yoshi and Jufta together and we made 4 liters of Juniper Juice. The next two hours were a bit of a blur of toasts and stories. Many joined us in the celebration and all seemed to enjoy. Hufta became so Joyious that he was 'momentarily knocked unconscious'. The rest of us wandered about and shared our joy with the world. (Though were reports of Dammiene dragging Yoshi to their tent muttering words of my 'attributes').

The next morning was the first day of the war. After the night before many felt that the day would break painful. But, no my friends, for Gin burns clean! So as Baron Bran played Song of the Shield Wall on his tin whistle at an ungodly hour (was one of the best ways I have been awakened at a war. It was just the right touch Bran.), I rose feeling ready to fight and sing! I left my tent to visit the other waking war gods. Hufta and Yoshi met me with large grins on their faces as they too were feeling great! It was a glorious day for battle.

After mustering at the great throbbing purple erection, we marched to the field. The first 3 battles were to be field battles. We were to anchor the center of the line in every battle. As an old shield grunt from way back I invoked my rights and took the center shield of the wall. (When I announced that I was the center shield I could have sworn I saw some of the old Dragoons get a little misty eyed.) Valens then informed everyone that if I held the center he would be my right flank shield man. With such a start a truly powerful wall was formed. It was the most experienced and high ranking wall I have ever seen. Kurt, Fernando, Gabe, later in the war even Cire. We had the cream of the Calon army on the wall at this war and it showed with our fighting.

The first field battle saw us moving to engage the center of the foe's line. We advanced at my best wattling speed. The units of Caid that were supposed to guard our right flank were caught still in court at the start of the gun so our left flank was sucking wind. We still hit the fore a good blow to our front and I was the vanguard of our line. A little aside, my support was Hufta with a 7.5' glave and a new spear fighter. Before the battle I told the spear fighter that I didn't like my back cold and that he was to stick with me where ever I went. In the press of the battle I felt Hufta's chest against my back as we fought the foe with heart and joy! But Hufta went away after awhile and I was killed from behind. When I found out that my arty man had out lived me I was a little peeved. (I should only die after my arty is gone.) He came up to me and complained that I had gotten to close to the foe for him to be effective. I was a little shocked as he explained that he didn't feel the need to support me when I was in the middle of the foe. Rolf had been listening and came over and fired him. He told him to go to the rear and be reserve. He replaced him with Kian. A good Arty is worth their weight in Bombay Sapphire Gin. We won the battle despite the flank.

The next battle I again was the center of the wall and we moved to meet the foe. This year there was not much of the running and gunning of earlier wars. Most units advance with a very deliberate pace. We

anchored the center of the line again only we were supplying the flank support for the far right unit. I was proud that they never had fear of the flank we were guarding. (I have had too many units leave my flank open to ever let a unit that is depending upon us fear for theirs.) This time we pretty much just ran over the foe and the battle was over very fast.

The third battle was mostly like the second. Only this time we came up against the best of the heavy units of Caid. They gave a good account of themselves. As our two lines were meting at a steady walk, there was much exchange between the two lines of shields. Right before the lines met I shouted the Huscarl Cheer. It stunned all who had not heard it before (including HL Diotrick, young Huscarl. Catch me around a fire after a few and I will sing the cheer for you.) I was knocked down this time and after awhile was uncovered so that I could be in one end of the action. We did not get involved in the baby seal kill at the end. But while we were waiting for the atrocities to end I saw one of the most dishonorable action of this war. Two fighters came through the lines with their weapons held over their heads. We assumed that they were dead and let them through. As they got to the rear, they whipped their weapons down and started to kill from behind. Before the were killed, they stabbed Adelith in the back. This display of honor makes me glad that we do not have the evil that is killing from behind and the attitude it fosters in our fair kingdom. (One of the fighters was happy that he had blackened what little honor he had with this act.)

I did not fight in the broken field so someone else will have to tell of those battles.

That night I helped with Gillium's vigil. It was funny with half the peers being Calon and half being Aten. The Aten peers who had never been at a vigil ceremony before all whispered their parts. I was the first Calon peer to speak. I did the black tabard. (Imagine that.) The vigil went well. The next morning he was knighted on the battle field. Was good.

After the vigil I came back to camp to help entertain at the party. There was snack food and lots of beer (2 kegs + mead and wine.) We sang and told stories till the wee hours. Was a very relaxed and fun party the kingdom did.

Next morning was a little more relaxed than the last. We were once again awakened by Bran's tin whistle. I can't tell you how nice it was.

Today's battles would be 3 bridge battles, a castle and a castle resurrection. I once again took the center scutum in the wall. The talent on the wall was once again very impressive. This might have been the most experienced wall we have ever fielded. At one point there was over 160 years of fighting experience on the wall. Was a pure joy to fight in.

In the first bridge we were the third unit in. The object was to take 60% of the bridge. The two units in front of us were all light

The exciting conclusion next month

BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Struer	269-3853
SENECHAL Eckerich Rothvalken von Stromberg John Platz Chatelaine Odindisa the Grim	684-1953 269-9354
CALTROP Leonhard Von Lowenstrum Jim Purkey	682-1669
TREASURER Maeve Kelley de Navarre Terry Thorndyke	682-4468
CHRONICLER Brialen Ulfs dottir Vikings Debbie Taylor	524-0917
KNIGHT MARSHAL Fergus Rob McMillon	681-0268
MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES Kerare de Joreses Carolyn Haddaway Minister of Children Aislin	686-6893 269-0999
ARCHER MARSHAL Michael von Bergen Michael Hornbaker	721-1955
SERF LINE	264-7373
A&S Champion Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
Bardic Champion Jovan Greyhawk Henry Jennings	682-2346
Fighter Champion Duncan McCrakin Vaughn Weaver	686-4170