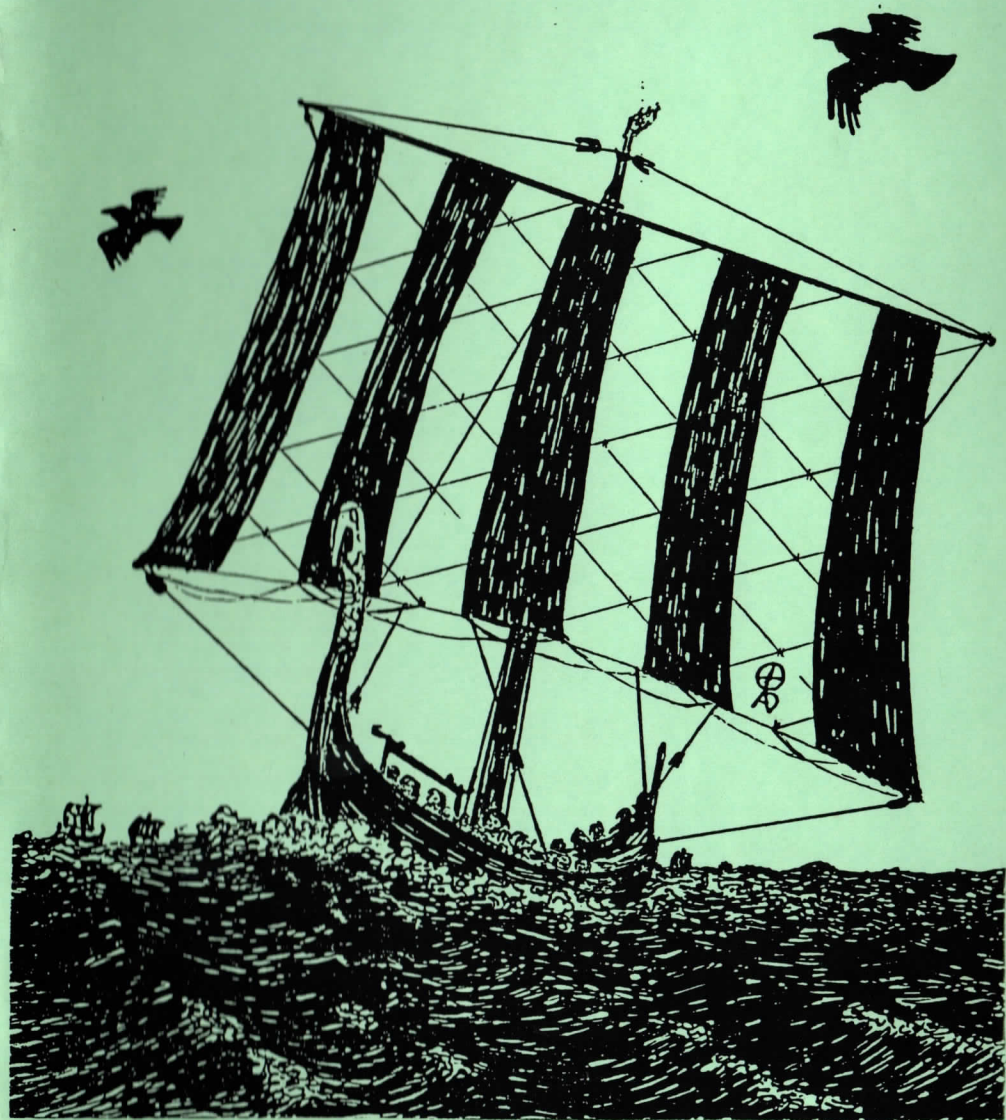


DRAGONFLYRE

DECEMBER AS XXXI



Copyright (c) 1996 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 the newsletter, stating which
articles you have used and in which publication the material has
been reprinted.

This is the Dragonflyre, a publication of the Barony of Vatavia of the
Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Dragonflyre is available from
Marguerite Reed at 1027 S. Lulu, Wichita, KS 67211. It is not a corporate
publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not
delineate SCA policies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| From the Baronage..... | 2 |
| Officers' Letters..... | 3 |
| General Announcements..... | 8 |
| From the Populace..... | 9 |
| The Roving Reporter..... | 10 |
| Flyer (Kris Kinder)..... | 11 |
| Calendar..... | 12 |
| From the Whale's Road..... | 14 |
| Catherming..... | 16 |
| Just What is the Census?..... | 18 |
| Who's Who in Vatavia..... | 20 |
| Officers' Meeting..... | 23 |



FROM THE BARONAGE

Greetings unto the Populace of Vatavia from Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel and Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd.

By the time this missive reaches you, our new Champions will have been found. Please take a moment to congratulate them when next you see them. The Champions' duties are many and varied, but their primary duties are to promote their fields, encourage participation by and render aid to the Populace, and to represent us and our Barony in their fields. They also serve as an interface between the Baronage and the Populace; if for some reason you cannot get hold of us (we try to be accessible, but we're occasionally swamped), you may look to the Champions to help you or to deliver ideas or messages to us. They are not only the Champions of the Baronage; they are also the Champions of the Populace.

Additionally, the Great Officer Carousel has again made a turn. Lady Odindisa has been announced as the new Chronicler, Lord Otoshi is our new Chatelain, Her Excellency Brialen is the new Caltrop, Lady Eleanor is the new Minister of Arts and Sciences, and Lady Christine is the new Property Master. The Minister of Children position is still open; please send letters of application for this position to His Lordship Tristan (Seneschal) and to the Baronage.

On February 8, 1997, Queen's Prize Tourney will be held in Forgotten Sea (Kansas City). Vatavia is currently undergoing an upsurge of arts and sciences activity, and it would please us greatly to show this to the Kingdom by having our artisans make entries. Queen's Prize Tourney has a unique format; it is open only to those artisans who have not yet achieved a GOA-level or above arts and sciences award. Each entrant must also be sponsored by someone who holds membership in the Orders of the Silver Hammer, Colon Lily, or Laurel. It is a very low-stress competition; every entrant receives a prize from one of the sponsors (not their own sponsor), as well as feedback on their entry. Additionally, members of the Populace are also encouraged to bring small tokens to be left for various entrants whom they think have done a particularly good job. More details may be found in The Mews, and Rhianwen has additional entry sheets.

We would like to see the artisans of Vatavia make a strong showing at this competition. Baroness Rhianwen has a Silver Hammer, and is

currently sponsoring two entrants. However, she will be happy to take on the responsibility of more entrants. Please contact her if you're interested in entering. Furthermore, Their Ladyships Marie Chantal and Maeve Kelly de Navarre also hold Calon Lilies, and they may wish to sponsor entrants as well.

In service to Barony and Kingdom,

Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel

Rhianwen ferch Bran
ap Gruffydd

FROM THE SENSECHAL

Greetings--

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the new Baronial Champions -- Vivat! Also special thanks to all that helped out at the Champions event. The site was great and much fun was had by all.

I am accepting applications for deputies (2). For this office, if you are interested, please contact me.

I would encourage all of our fine artisans to submit entries in the Queen's Prize Tourney, February 18. This is an excellent chance to learn more and compare your works at a Kingdom level.

Lastly, we are still accepting applications for Minister of Children. Applicants should contact the Baronage and myself.

Tristan Rory de Jorz

FROM THE KNIGHT MARSHALL

All fighters should contact me before the end of the year to confirm information needed for the Doomsday report. This is especially important if you have changed addresses in the last year or two.

Fergus Mic Ruaidhri Ghlais

FROM THE ARCHER MARSHALL

Now that the summer archery season is over, now is a good time to check your equipment, plan out repairs, and be prepared for replacements and their cost factors. Winter practice is a good time to hone your technique in shooting and is also needed to keep your muscle tone intact.

Michael van Bergen

FROM THE CHATELAIN

Unto the Gentle Populace of Vatia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Chatelain of Vatia.

Odindisa the Grim held the office of Chatelaine of Vatia for some time. The many duties of that office are not well known, so few people know just how much she contributed to the Barony with her hard work and dedication. I served as deputy to the Chatelaine, but she shouldered much of the responsibility herself. Odindisa notified me that she had decided to step down and suggested that I might consider applying for the office. With much moral support from her, I elected to offer my services as Chatelain (or Castellan, or Hospitaller, or, oh never mind.) I was told that it was a tough decision between myself and the other applicant, but since the Property Rat

has some public speaking, uh, deficiencies, I was chosen to take over the office.

The new Chronicler of the Dragonflyre has requested that I write a short letter for the Dragonflyre introducing myself as the new Chatelain, and reflect what I believed the Chatelain's duties entail, and what I hope to accomplish while holding this office. So here goes....

I, Takahara Otoshi, Squire to his Grace, Duke Baron Syr Gabriel, Deputy to the Knight Marshal, His Lordship Fergus, and husband to the beautiful and gentle Lady Penelope Bon Matin, hereby introduce myself to the Populace as the new Chatelain of the Barony of Vatia.

I believe the duties of this office include: Greeting new people and ensuring that they feel welcome inside our circle of friendship, so that they may share in our fun and camaraderie as we research and recreate the best of the Middle Ages. I also act as "Public Relations Official" in the place of the Seneschal (considering that this office is actually a deputy to the Seneschal) when non-SCA people are around and interested in what we do. I explore and employ different methods of recruiting those that share the mutual interests of the SCA, so that all may benefit from the knowledge and experience of a diverse group of people.

My goals that I wish to achieve are simple: To make those who wish to explore these Current Middle Ages feel welcome. I hope to offer a positive impression of the Society for those who are not familiar with who we are and what we do. I hope to let everyone know that it is okay to have fun, and if you are in the SCA and not having fun, you are definitely doing something wrong. I hope that everyone will join me and share my enthusiasm for bringing the best of the Middle Ages into our mundane world.

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

Takahara Otoshi

FROM THE MOA/MOS

Greetings are warmly extended to Their Excellencies Vatavia and the Good Populace of The Lands That Burn. I pray that all who shall read this are well and prosperous as we enter this season of thanksgiving.

First, a hearty "Huzzah!" for Lady Kerare for all of her hard work as MoA&S! This lady is one tough act to follow for she has done great things for the arts and sciences in Vatavia. Her administration boasts the development of several interest groups including costuming and armoring as well as the great growth of the dance group. Thank you Kerare for all you have done for the populace!

This office exists to serve you, the populace of Vatavia. To do that effectively, we (the deputies, interest group heads, and myself) MUST have input from you. Please be sure that you fill out an A&S survey as they are distributed at local events and populace.

The Costume Interest Group Head has expressed a strong desire to step down. If you are interested in the position, please let me know.

Ever in service,

Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon

FROM THE CHRONICLER

Greetings, fellow Vatavians. A few issues ago, there was a conspicuous plea to the Christian God for protection from the Norsemen. This request availed you not--the Norse have arrived. For those of you who don't know me, I am Odindisa, called the Grim--your new acting Chronicler. I am very excited about holding this office, and I hope to provide you with an enjoyable and informative newsletter for as long as the gods permit.

You may be looking in some bewilderment from the stated month on this issue's front cover to the month on your wall calendar. Yes, you are

receiving the December Dragonflyre in November. The reason for this has to do with the calendar of events which you will find in the center of this issue. So that all gentles will be fully apprised of the events beforehand, I'm bumping the issues up so that the Dragonflyre will be a prospective, rather than a retrospective.

Please don't hesitate to see me if you have questions, concerns, or (best of all) submissions. One category of submission that I would especially like to encourage is persona stories, to be published in the "Who's Who of Vatavia" column. I have started things off with my own persona story, previously published in a slightly altered form in the Dragonflyre issue of October ASXXII. (Thor's treads, that takes me back!) The current deadline for the Dragonflyre is the second Sunday of the month. This will ensure that your work will get into that issue and allow enough time for all editing and layout work.

Odindisa the Grim

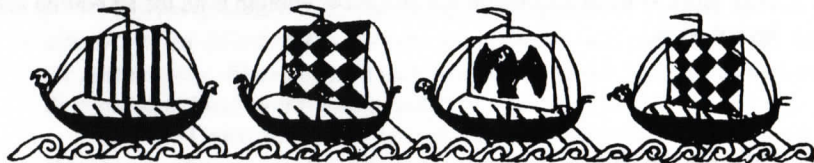


GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mongols II is looming in the not-too-distant future. Please contact Lady Elspeth or Amir regarding crash space and volunteers.

Western European dance practice is on hold indefinitely until further notice.

Please bring non-perishable food items to the December populace. The Baronage is making a donation to the Kansas Food Bank for those less fortunate than we. If you have any questions, please contact Lord Otoshi.



DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

Ld. Ian Brannock..... Ink Monkey

Ld. Takahara Otoshi..... Courier

Milady Toda Galindez... All Non-Border Art

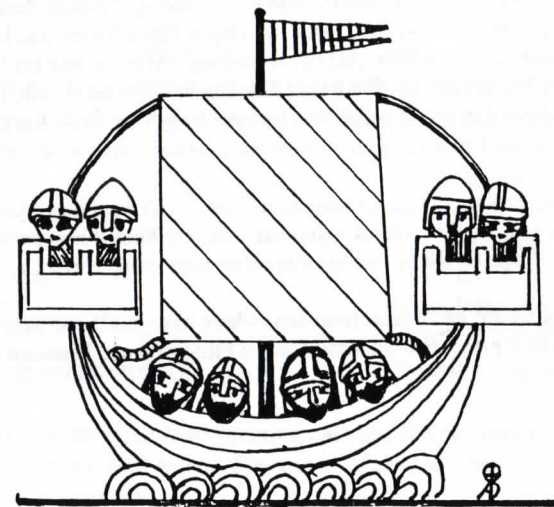
FROM THE POPULACE

Unto the good gentles of Vatavia do I,
HL Annys von Kettering, send greetings.

I wish to express my gratitude to all those citizens of Vatavia who came to my aid and who expressed concern for me as the result of my accident at Baronial Champions. I have often told my lord that the people of Vatavia take very good care of me. Their actions that evening proved it once again.

I thank you all.

Annys



THE ROVING REPORTER

Brrrr! Well, that pretty much sizes up the spectator's point of view of Crown Tournament earlier this month. Our own baronage both entered and fought valiantly. It was a good, clean tourney all around, featuring 17 combatants. I'd love to be able to tell you about the fighting, but writing about it just doesn't do it justice. You really have to see it to believe it.

One of the pleasant surprises of the day was the knighting of Riik of Flatrock. As the chivalry and populace gathered on the field to witness the ceremony, so did the camera-bearing pair of Baron Sir Yoshimitsu and Lord Otoshi. Baroness Rhianwen was heard to quip, "Something interesting goes on and here comes the Japanese with their cameras!" All within earshot roared with laughter.

Another humorous moment occurred when Lord Rob Roy O'Flynn was on the field. He had gone out with two swords. One sword decided to behave very badly and do its own thing. Rob Roy immediately beat it into submission with his remaining weapon.

The running joke of the day was the presence of our favorite large, blue, antennaed superhero "The Tick" (cleverly disguised as Sir Roger de Bayoux). We aren't too sure as to whom he was after (perhaps El Seed felt he could blend in with us) or where Arthur was, but I can truly say it was the only time I have been to a tourney where the crowd yelled the word "Spoon!" before a particular fighter's bouts.

Although one would think feast would feature eating the food, the real entertainment came in playing with our food. His Excellency Three Rivers was kind enough to loan our Eleanor his catapult for part of the evening. After hurling six bread balls at the Kingdom Seneschale, HL Caitlin nic Pharlain of Calanais Nuadh, Eleanor went over and apologized to all the people she hit from Mag Mor, Ivory Keep, and Oak Heart. Guess she won't be getting her missile authorization anytime soon!

For some, the site was the ultimate event site. Yeah, sure they were hauling off the radiators, leaving the building equipped with very limited heat sources, when we arrived. However, the on-site bar more than warmed up chilly Calontirians.

All who attended had a great time (hey, where were you?) and were very pleased to greet our new prince and princess, Cathyn Fitzgerald and Branwen ferch Rhael.

The event for people who were born to shop!



Kris Kinder Market

Barony of Forgotten Sea

December 7, 1996



We're back at the old site!

- Site:** Shawnee Civic Center, 13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 66216
- Site Fee:** \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members; \$1 for children 12 and under
- Schedule:**
- 8:30 a.m. - site opens to merchants
 - 10 a.m. - site opens to populace
 - 11 a.m. - fighting, heraldic consultations, arts & sciences, children's activities begin
 - 5 p.m. - shopping ends
 - Court at Their Majesties' pleasure
 - 10 p.m. - site closes

Fighting Sponsored by the Canton of Houndsford
There will be a Bear Pit tourney held outdoors, weather permitting.

A&S Sponsored by the Incipient Canton of Aston Tor
For those interested in the arts and sciences, there will be a tri-level competition. The theme will be anything appropriate to the yule season.

Banner Competition Sponsored by the Canton of Cum An Aolar
Even if you do not plan to enter the competition, we encourage all populace members to display banners to add to the medieval flavor of the event.

Other Non-Fighter Activities

Heraldic consultations and children's activities will be held during the day. Still not enough? There will also be a boffer sword tourney and page school for smalls.

Merchant Autocrat:
Heather MakKinzie of Wier
Heather Watkins
12908 Pennycross Ln.
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 599-2643
e-mail: ht14gtnc@oz.sunflower.org

Event Autocrat:
Margarette de St. Martin-sur-Mer
Carrie Mabee
6103 E. 147th Terrace
Grandview, MO 64030
(816) 322-8940
e-mail: maggie@tyrell.net

Any guilds or orders wishing to hold meetings at Kris Kinder should contact the event autocrat to schedule rooms and times. The site is "discreetly wet."

Make checks payable to "SCA, Inc., Barony of Forgotten Sea." No pre-registration please.

December 1996

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 1 Fighter Practice 1:00 | 2 Officers' Meeting 7:00 | 3 Armoring 7:00 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Kris Kinder (Forgotten Sea) |
| 8 Fighter Practice 1:00 | 9 | 10 Armoring - 7:00 C&I - 7:00 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Fighter Practice 1:00 | 16 | 17 Armoring 7:00 | 18 Populace Meeting/ Potluck 7:00 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Fighter Practice 1:00 | 23 | 24 Armoring 7:00 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Fighter Practice 1:00 | 30 | 31 Armoring 7:00 | | | | |

FROM THE WHALE'S ROAD....

This sea-faring Viking stayed close to home this month, but did manage to attend the fall Vataavian Champions' event, held at Camp Tawakoni. November 9 was a beautiful fall day, with a typically Vataavian wind blowing, but no such threat of rain as the autocrat had feared.

An unheralded game of Bocce Ball with hedge apples opened the day's competitions. Her Excellency Rhianwen held Opening Court, charging the entrants of the various Champions' events to take seriously their duties. Winter Champions have a more difficult task exhorting the populace to participate than do Summer Champions because of decreased activity. She welcomed everyone, particularly those many non-Vataavians who journeyed from their homes to visit us. She noted gentles from Golden Sea, Spinning Winds, Westumbria, and amazingly, two Ansteorrans.

Authorizations both in Archery and Heavy Weapons were held for some time before the actual lists. The Fighter Champion's Tourney was structured as a Swiss Five Tourney--five rounds, each round fought with a particular weapon. It helped to be a Norseman this day. His Lordship Thjodrik Eiriksson from Golden Sea--always so modest--won the non-Vataavian tourney. In an upset, the head of my former household, Lord Thorgrim Igorsson, won Vataavian Champion. This should make for an interesting six months--I personally hope to see more of House Hammerstorm.

The archers began their clothyard activities with a novelty shoot at 25 yards. Lord Michael van Burgen referred to this shoot as the "good guy/bad guy." He brought from Pennsic the target of a standing enemy threatening a kneeling compatriot. The object is to hit the enemy warrior, and is designed as an accuracy shoot. Another accuracy shoot, a slit shoot, was shot at 20 yards. Each of these accuracy shoots allowed 12 arrows. Accuracy at distance was also tested in a 20-yard and a 30 yard shoot at 24 arrows apiece. One of the visiting Ansteorrans, Carlyle du Troyes from Northkeep, won the non-Vataavian shoot. Raymond the Red won Archer Champion. How I long for a bow of my very own!

The number of entrants in the Arts and Sciences competitions was the largest it's been in four years. The emphasis appeared to be on items of a scriptorial nature. (Notwithstanding the presence of a fine pair of boots.) Lord Otoshi took the Open Sciences competition for his costuming and accessories. Lady Kerare won the Open Arts competition with an illuminated Celtic confection. Lady Elspeth won Arts and Sciences Champion for her paper, illumination, and calligraphy.

Unfortunately, only two gentles entered the competition for Bardic Champion. I was not present when their first two pieces performed, but at least we were entertained by Lord Leonhard and Lady Anne. Lord Leonhard told the popular Norse legend of how Thor (the big lug) lost Mjolnir; and Lady Anne sang a haunting love song. Lord Leonhard won Bardic Champion.

These honors and others--from Acts of Dedication to the Star of Vatavia--were awarded at Baronial Court after a filling potluck feast, feastocrated by Lady Penelope bon Matin. After the dedicated few assisted with clean-up, those who still lacked their fill of camaraderie repaired to Lady Penelope's house for the post-revel.

On a more sober note, Her Ladyship Annys (who had toiled at the Heraldic Consultation table all day) suffered an accident during cleanup. She was rushed to the hospital where it was revealed she had broken her foot. All of us hope she is doing well and will soon be among us.

One more item, before I hoist my sail to catch that bitter northern wind: it is recorded that the autocrat literally did flip out.

See you at the next strandhogg...

Odindisa the Grim

CATHERNING

by HL Thomas Bacon

One of the minor holidays of the Middle Ages is St. Catherine's day. Celebrated on November 25, it has several unusual aspects, including the use of fireworks.

St. Catherine of Alexandria was one of the most popular and well known saints during the Middle Ages. She was supposedly martyred in 310 by the Emperor Maxentius. High-born, some legends have her a queen, and learned she had protested to the emperor about the persecution of the Christians. She refused to recant her faith and marry the emperor, who lusted after her. She debated fifty philosophers on questions of faith, and they were burned when they lost. Imprisoned to starve, she was fed by a dove. Catherine was sentenced to die on a spiked wheel, which became her emblem, but the wheel was shattered by lightning. Her consistency caused the conversation of the empress, her attendants, and two hundred soldiers all who were killed. St. Catherine was finally beheaded, and out of her veins flowed not blood but milk. Her body was then carried by angels to Mt. Sini.

Her body was supposedly found in the early 9th century and a shrine was built at the Orthodoxy monastery of St. Catherine's. This is the first historical record of her existence. It is likely that her story is a fiction by a Greek writer to illustrate the concept of the mystical marriage to Christ. But that is a viewpoint that emerged only long after the end of the Middle Ages.

St. Catherine was the patron saint of lawyers, wheelwrights, rope makers, carpenters, philosophers, and scholars, lace makers, spinners, unmarried women, and women students. It is because of the latter that the St. Catherine feasts, known as Cathernings, tended to be patronized by women.

The central motif at these Cathernings is the wheel, St. Catherine's emblem. The windows would be covered with wheel designs. The feasters would have wheel-shaped jewelry and decorations on their clothes. The food and entertainment would also have wheel elements in them.

Wheel-shaped Cathern Cakes were made with sugar, eggs, and caraway seeds, though could be triangular to represent a broken wheel. Also triangular-shaped were Wiggs, made of currants, glazed orange, and caraway. Centered on the high table would be a

large bowl, filled with cider, above which was a wheel from which was suspended apples. This was the Cathern Bowl. Some time during the course of the festivities everyone was supposed to drink from this bowl. This was to pledge a year of study, learning, and using elegant language, commemorating St. Catherine's victory over the philosophers.

Musicians would sit in a semicircle. Dances were in the round. Servers would walk in serpentine patterns. Acrobats would do their routine in cartwheels. Jugglers using lighted torches would inscribe flaming circles in the air known as Catherine Wheels.

The traditional game was the Cathern Candle Jump. This involved putting a wide candle on the floor. Every guest was to jump over it without knocking it over or putting it out. The catch was that the run to and from the candle could not be in a straight line. Those successful would have good fortune in the coming year.

The finale would be fireworks mounted on spinning wheels, again called Catherine's Wheels. In inclement weather the juggler with his flaming torches would be substituted as the rest of the lights were put out.

Each holiday and festival has its own unique aspects and traditions. This went beyond the major occasions of the year. They all relieved the tedium of day-to-day living and were eagerly looked forward to. Feasts need never be boring.

Bibliography

Dictionary of Christian Lore and Legend, J.C.J. Metford, 1983

Medieval Holidays & Festivals, Madeleine Perner Cosman, 1981

The Penguin Dictionary of Saints, Donald Atwater 1983

JUST WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

by Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon

Lately, I've been asked a lot of questions regarding the census. Hopefully, this will answer some of the questions members of the populace have been asking.

The census is divided into two parts: a phone book, or census proper, and the *Order of Precedence*. The phone book portion contains your SCA name, your legal name, and any titles you have been awarded. If you have minor children, their names will be found listed with your entry. This helps the populace match up families. Frequently, if a child reaches a certain level of autonomy from his/her parents, or is awarded an AoA, then s/he will get his/her own listing.

The Order of Precedence (or *OP* as it is frequently called) is a tad more complicated. It is broken into two parts: "*The Vatavian Order of Precedence*" and "*The Baronial Order of Precedence*." Both are historical documents. Whether or not someone still lives or plays in Vatavia, Calontir, or the Society, that individual's listing forever remains unaltered in the *OP*. As a historical document, it provides us information about our lineage as Vatavians.

The Vatavian Order of Precedence contains a chronological listing by rank (highest to lowest) of Society and Kingdom awards. These are awards that are presented to an individual by the crown. This is where you look to see if someone has a Society or Kingdom level award before you write an award recommendation or to see who has been awarded what level of address (Lord, Lady, Sir, etc.). Please note that this edition featured the addition of a listing of kingdom level awards outside of Calontir. These were placed at the end of the section so that all may know the accomplishments of those who have moved within our borders from foreign lands. Kingdom level awards from another kingdom have no bearing on the *OP*. However, the Society level ones are entered (Chivalry, Pelican, and Laurel.)

The Baronial Order of Precedence is a listing of all the awards given by Their Excellencies Vatavia. It too is a chronological listing by highest to lowest rank. These awards only exist within Vatavia's borders and do not affect your position in any other group or this kingdom's *OP*.

If you have corrections, comments, or questions regarding the phone book portion, please contact Lady Odindisa. Similar items regarding the *OP* should be directed to Lady Eleanor.

(Editor's Note: Beginning with the January Dragonflyre, there will be a specific page set aside for Errata/Addenda regarding the phone list.)



WHO'S WHO IN VATAVIA

Jarnulf and Ulfgrim were brothers, sons of Grim Goltosk and Odindisa Gunnarsdatter who lived in Norway. Farming and viking were Jarnulf's work; Ulfgrim lived with him. Odin had laid his hand over both brothers: Jarnulf was a godi, a priest of the god, but Ulfgrim was a berserker. Instead of a mail shirt, he wore a wolf's skin into battle.

In 852, the brothers and their men sailed to Ireland to join their kinsman, Olaf the White, in the struggle against the Danes. Olaf became king over the Irish vikings and made his capital in Dublin. Jarnulf and Ulfgrim settled near that city and built a prosperous farm. Ulfgrim was younger than his brother and adept at violence on the berserker path. He found a place in the king's bodyguard and never let his sword thirst over-long. The next year, Jarnulf wed with Aisling ni Diarmuid, daughter of a local noble. They began breeding sons as well as cattle. Thorgrim, Ketil, the twins Alsvith and Fionn, and Diarmuid bore Jarnulf's blood and taxed Aisling's strength.

Since his brother's wedding, Ulfgrim found little happiness with women. Upon his first sight of Aisling, cruel Freya had cursed him. At first, he thought to lead his brother's wife into being unfaithful, but she refused all advances, insulting him and his berserker gang when they chanced to be alone.

On a hard evening in October, Ulfgrim came to Jarnulf's farm. His brother was away serving the god, and most of the boys were of an age to be fostered with other families. Aisling was alone. Against her will, she fell to talking with the berserk, about his religion and hers. They baited each other: first playfully, then hurtfully. Then the rage came on Ulfgrim. He seized her, bore her to the ground, and took her. "Where is your White Christ now?" he cried, still enraged, and quit the house for Dublin.

Aisling kept her shame to herself for fear that she, not Ulfgrim, would be blamed. In the summer of the following year, she bore her only daughter, who was named for her grandmother.

Odindisa fretted under the teachings of Aisling and her women. Her brothers, returned from fosterage, found it a game to steal her away from mother and nurse. They led her on romps through the country, teaching her to ride, shoot, and fish. Yet when she asked that they teach her the arts of spear, sword, and axe, they refused.

When Odindisa was ten, Aisling ni Diarmuid died. Jarnulf and the sons raised a stone for her against the priest's wishes. Odindisa ran wild now, for her brothers thought

themselves too old to play with her. Thorgrim had sailed back to Norway, Ketil had gone for a slaver, and the other three worked the land with their father.

She spent the days on her Irish pony, visiting the monks in the holy places, hunting up spae-wives in their squalid huts. Seeing her interest in religious lore, her father began to teach her the way he followed. Yet she would call on the old Irish gods as often as Odin, for her wanderings had taken her to those who had never abandoned Lugh, Brigid, and the Morrigan. In her heart, she longed to be like the Morrigan and the Valkyries, the wild women of war, but that her father, fond as he was, would not allow. She obeyed him.

When Ulfgrim heard of Aisling's pregnancy, he left Dublin and did not come back until after her death. No one knew where he had gone, and he told no one. He bore more scars than when he had left, and one of his eyes was missing. There was no friendship between him and Odindisa: she reminded him too well of Aisling, and though she admired him, she did not like him.

Odindisa had no suitors. The young men whom her father would see her wed did not like her ways; the young men who did like her he forbade her to see. "You must not marry beneath your family," he said, and she obeyed him. She rode over the country, playing at being a Valkyrie and composing staves in her head. She grew to womanhood in this wise.

"Look you," Ulfgrim said to her one night. "You love your father well, yet why do you shun your uncle?"

She shrugged and did not answer him. He had been drinking at table, and now that Jarnulf had gone to rest, had taken a whole jug from one of the thralls.

"I have as much claim on you as he does--we are kin. But you show me no proper respect. You are not the lady your mother was."

"Indeed, that would be a difficult thing. My mother had all the graces befitting a woman."

Diarmuid and Fionn, who were still in the hall, saw the beginnings of an argument and tried to turn the conversation aside. Ulfgrim snarled and said, "Leave us alone, you whelps, whose veins run with whey. We are two of a kind, and puppies should not bother Odin's chosen."

"Odin's chosen!" said Odindisa. "You're deep in your cups, to class niece with uncle."

"You're halfway to Valhalla already. It runs in the blood."

"The god's sons are as dear to the god as I am, if not dearer."

"For certain you're dearer than Jarnulf. When was the last time he hung a man in the grove?"

Odindisa stood. "You will not talk about my father so. He has served well; Odin has never been displeased."

"But Odin is displeased with your father, who has wronged his brother. I am your father." Ulfgrim stood also, grinning. "And it is no wonder that the daughter of a berserk does not act like a proper woman."

"Shut your mouth," said Fionn. "Our mother never strayed."

"No, she never did. I took her for myself and got you on her, Odindisa. You are your mother's image."

The three siblings stood in shock for a moment. "By Ygg the Terrible, she's avenged!" cried Odindisa. She took up an eating knife and lunged at Ulfgrim, who reeled in drink. The knife bit deep and she cut his throat from ear to ear.

Now she was both avenger and kin-slayer. Leave, said her brothers. If you run now, they will not catch you. Do you think Jarnulf will have mercy on you? You slew the god's brother. No were-gild could pay for that.

So she saddled the horse she had grown into and gathered her things together. Before she left, she made her brothers promise a thing. "When Jarnulf dies, see that he is sent to Odin in the manner befitting a man of his rank. Don't let your neighbors shame you into burying him for the Christ. Take my maidservant for his woman in Valhalla, take my other horse for his steed, take my dogs for his hounds. Put my gold and precious things by his side."

The brothers grumbled, but she was leaving them with her dowry and they knew it. She met with her brother Ketil and sailed with him for a year, dressed as a boy-- though the disguise fooled no one and was but a sop to his conscience. Then one day in Dublin port she saw a great smoke rising to the sky, and knew that the brothers had kept their word.

Ireland held no more for her. She sailed one last time with Ketil to Spain, and from there, after much travail, made her way to the Barony of Vatavia.

OFFICERS' MEETING

November 4, 1996

14 members attended: 11 officers/deputies/champions; 3 members of the populace.

Final preparations and contingency plans for the upcoming Champions' event were covered. It was emphasized that boy scouts using the site might come by to watch. Safety, especially at the archery field, and demo manners will be needed. Related issues on champion office tenures, competition participation, and attendance were brought up and discussed. Subject to interest, some championship tenures might be changed to one year.

Bids for future events were given: Spring Crown and a Mongolian event in late winter or early spring. Potential scheduling conflicts and concerns were brought up. Alternative dates will be checked into.

The Chatelain has copies of Good Gentles All available for new members who might wish to get a copy. Contact Otoshi. He proposed two long term recruiting strategies for membership to be considered. Thomas has copies of The Knowne World Handbook available for purchase.

The out-going herald reported that the new Kingdom submissions herald is sorting out the backlog of proposals. Vatavia will be contacted about any needed paperwork.

The new Chronicler suggested possible changes to the Dragonflyre publication and format. The deadline for new items will be two Sundays before the populace meeting for that month.

Middle eastern dance is on hiatus until January '97. Regular dance is also on hiatus until an indoor site is located. The Kingdom Arts and Sciences office is compiling a list of resources and businesses available in the Kingdom. Information for this has been requested.

The November and December populace meetings will be held at the Kawanis park building. November there will be a swap meet; December 18th will be the Baronial Christmas potluck.

The Fighter Marshall would like to locate and arrange a regular, indoor fighter practice site. Help on this would be appreciated. Practice will continue at Central Riverside Park. Some officers commented on the news

broadcast about our fighter activities in the park. Observations about past media experience were made.

As long as the weather permits archery practice at maize on Sundays will continue. The best available time for the practice at the indoor site is being looked into. A possible piece of equipment to replace the numerous hay bales needed for archery was presented for consideration.

Final applications for new officers have been considered and individuals selected. Some will assumed office at the Champions' event. Others will be officially announced later. The position of Minister of Children is still available.

The meeting adjourned.



| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| BARON | |
| Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel | Boy Duke |
| David Cooper | |
| BARONESS | |
| Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd | 269-3853 |
| Joan Steurer | |
| SENESCHAL | |
| Tristan Rory de Jorz | 686-6893 |
| Rick Haddaway | |
| Chatelain | |
| Takahara Otoshi | 267-3456 |
| Tracey Gillaspy | |
| CALTROP | |
| Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikings | 524-0917 |
| Debbie Taylor | |
| TREASURER | |
| Aleyoneus du Battenhelm | 682-4468 |
| Park McKellop | |
| CHRONICLER | |
| Odindisa the Grim | 269-1574 |
| Marguerite Reed | |
| KNIGHT MARSHALL | |
| Fergus Mic Rhuadhri Ghlas | 681-0268 |
| Bob McMillan | |
| Deputy Knight Marshall | |
| Takahara Otoshi | 267-3456 |
| Tracey Gillaspy | |
| ARCHER MARSHALL | |
| Michael van Burgen | 721-1955 |
| Michael Hombaker | |
| A&S Champion | |
| Elsbeth Lillian of York | ??? |
| Anne Lenhard | |
| Bardic Champion | |
| Leonhard von Lowentum | 682-1669 |
| Jim Purkey | |
| Archer Champion | |
| Raymond the Red | (316)663-6684 |
| Robert Hubbard | |
| Fighter Champion | |
| Thorgrim Igorsson | ??? |
| Richard Cathey | |