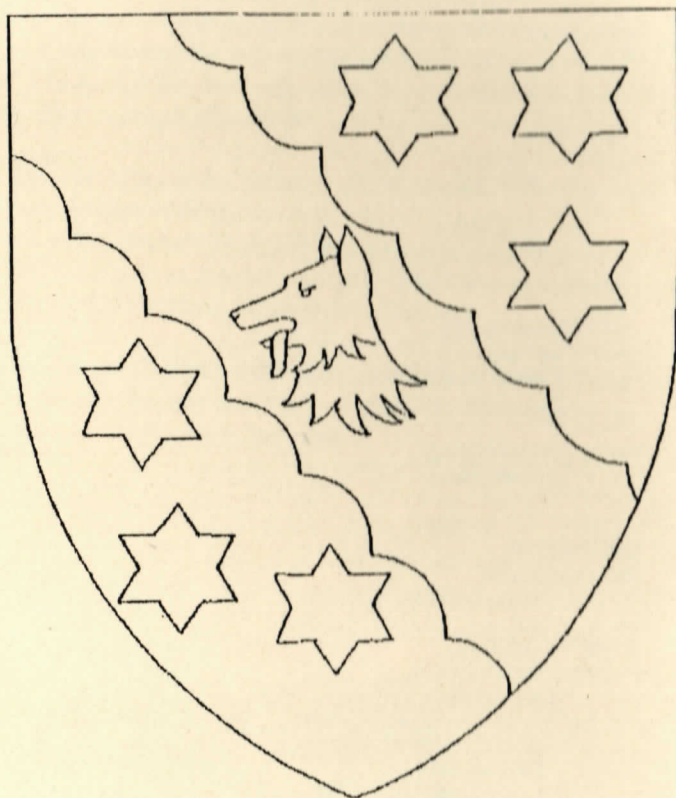


Per bend Azure and Vert on a bend engrailed Argent between 6 mullets of 6 points Or, a fox's head erased Gules.

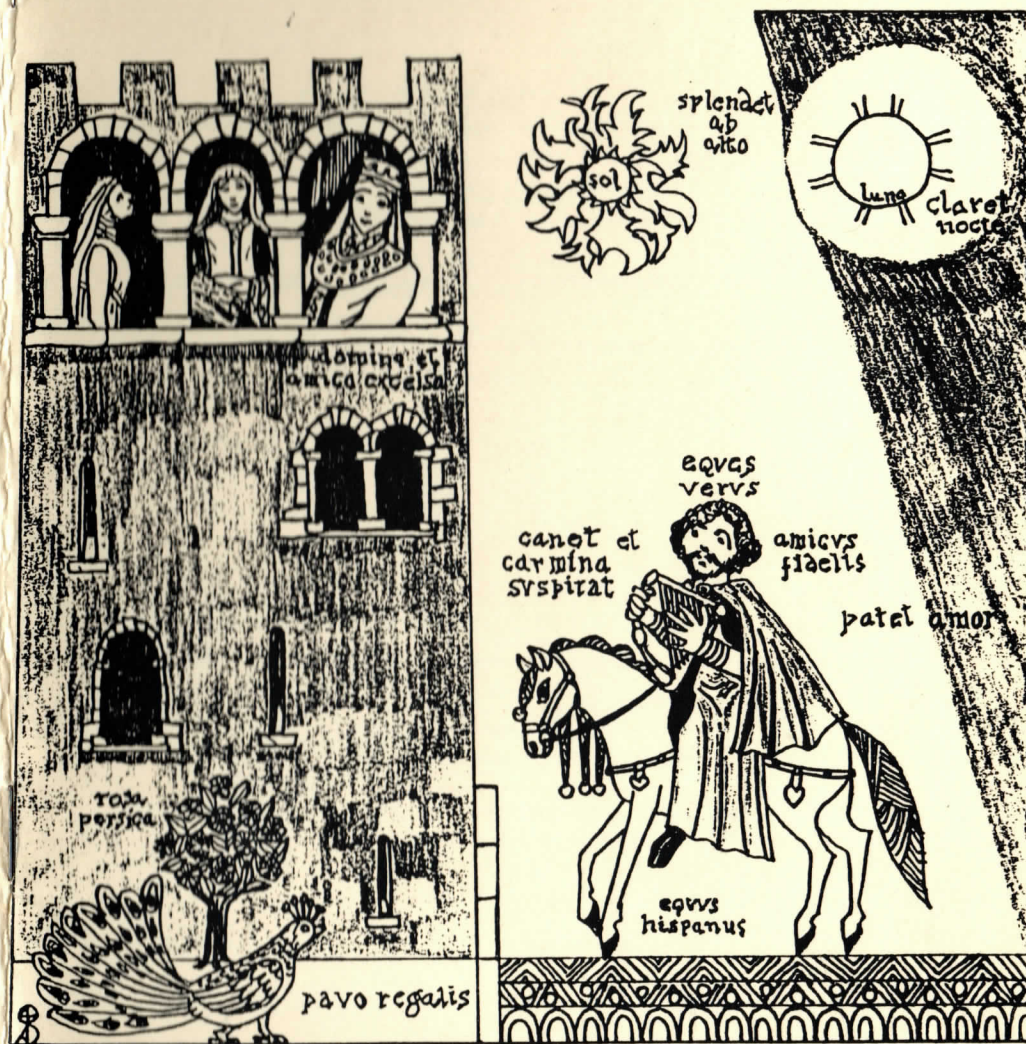


Have you seen this device?

If you can correctly identify this device, be the first to contact the Vativian Caltrop, Her Excellency Brialen, to claim booty from the New World.

DRAGONFLYRE

FEBRUARY AS XXXI



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♥ Have your vassals call my vassals. We'll do feast.

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tromba marina
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FROM THE BARONAGE

Unto the Populace of the Barony of Vatavia come greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen, Baron and Baroness of these fair lands.

Although snow now blankets the lands, Spring will be with us in only a few weeks. With Spring comes Spring Cleaning! The Baronial property is in some serious need of refurbishing. This is going to be a huge project, but we fortunately have a cunning plan of attack.

First, The Ordering--The Baronial property will be looked at, piece by piece, and sorted into five stacks: 1. Stuff we use, we need, and we want to keep. 2. Stuff that would be useful if we fixed it. 3. Stuff that would be better used by some division of the Barony--for instance, the Bucket o' Wooden Spoons was allocated to our Ministry of Children for making puppets. 4. Stuff that is of no use to the Barony, but might be useful to someone. 5. Stuff that is of no use to anyone, and really should be given a decent burial.

Lady Christine Joye Stewart, our Minister of Property, will be in charge of The Ordering. The Ordering will take place February 15th at Minisa Park.

Second, The Cleansing--The Stuff for Other Parts of The Barony will be reallocated--this might involve simply making the group aware of the presence of The Stuff so that it will be used. Fifty-six wooden spoons do no one any good if they simply sit in a shed year after year!

The Stuff Useful to Someone Else will be auctioned off. This will take place at a local event, such as Champions or Birthday Bash. It has been our experience that a festive atmosphere is most conducive to auctions.

The Really Useless Stuff will be pitched, burned, or given away (if we can find anyone to take it).

Third, The Renewal--The Broken Stuff will be fixed, polished, painted, or refurbished by a devoted Can-Do Crew. Much has already been identified for fixing, and we'll do a lot of this during The Ordering.

Fourth, The Rebirth--Remember the Neat Stuff Committee from oh, so many years ago? We're going to have another one. This is going to be a committee of people who want to make flashy stuff so the Barony can "show off" a bit. We're going to identify what the Barony needs or wants and figure

out how to make it. This might include banners, regalia for Champions, tabards for fighters, badges for officers--whatever the NSC can imagine.

Now the question that we're sure is running through everyone's mind--How can I help?

1. **If you have Baronial property in your possession, give it to Lady Christine.** Please take a few minutes to check through your house and make sure you aren't devoting your space to some property you've forgotten you have. If you can't transport it, tell her, and she'll make arrangements. In some cases, all you will have to do is write what you have on a piece of paper and give it to her--for instance, the dancers don't have to turn in the boom box for inventory, and the Champions don't have to bring all their regalia for inventory (unless it's in need of repair).

2. **Volunteer for The Ordering.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come. We need both strong backs and sharp minds--this is going to be large project, and many decisions will have to be made. One person's trash is another's treasure--we don't want to mis-classify a "treasure in disguise"!

3. **Support your Auction.** This auction is an "everybody wins" situation--the Swap Meet taught us that. The buyer gets a new treasure, the Barony (which is all of us) gets funds to make new and better stuff. We would also like to include other stuff at this auction--perhaps you have a few things in your closet which you would like to donate for sale. Maybe you're willing to make a new dubis to auction off. Who knows? Be creative!

4. **Make new what once was old.** We'll need people willing to devote February 15th and maybe a Saturday or two repairing stuff. A volunteer to head this committee is being sought, too.

5. **Be a member of the Neat Stuff Committee.** Since the Baronial Estates become a crossroads of activity on Tuesday nights anyway, the NSC will be a Tuesday night thing. Enthusiasm will be required; skill or talent will not. We don't care if you have no applicable skills whatsoever. These completely informal frenzies of activity will begin the first Tuesday after The Ordering--February 18th, starting around 7:00.

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN

FROM THE CALTROP

Greetings to the populace of Vatavia this frigid winter eve from Baroness Brialen. I would like to introduce myself as your new (well, sort of) Caltrop Herald, and introduce my trusty staff.

First, for all of you newer types, let me introduce the office. In the SCA heralds can and will: help you to find a name and device, design it, register it, keep you abreast of the news, call you to court, introduce the major players at court, introduce the players on the list and let you know who won or lost, keep the records, answer correspondence, educate the populace about heraldry and act as ambassador when needed. Let me introduce some of the people who fill those positions in this Barony.

Caltrop is the registered name of the "chief" herald in this Barony, and I am the one who holds the position at the time. I can't do this without lots of help, and lucky for me, our Barony has many people who give their time. Drum roll please:

1. Her Ladyship Annys de Vernun of Kettering holds up much of the administrative duties for the herald's office. She maintains files, processes heraldic submissions for the Barony, consults with good gentles on names and devices, and comments as the Hawk herald for Calontir and Laurel. Her Hawk staff is in a somewhat fluid state and consists of Her Ladyship Marie Chantal Delaire, Lady Mesia Montana de Saint Germaine of West Umbria, Lady Lora Ann the Silent, Lord Vladimir von Bruenn, Lord Leonhard von Lowensturm, Lady Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon, Lady Eliane Marie Nazaire d'Avignon, Lady Alex of Briarwood, and Kenric atte Oak. These good gentles research names and devices, and Lord Kenric maintains the computer version of the Ordinary and Armorial (the listing of names and devices registered in the Knowne World). Her Ladyship is this Barony's (and Calontir's, not to mention Society's) right hand.

2. Her Ladyship Marie is Vatavia's heraldic artist, and we are lucky indeed to have her. She consults on armory and will help you design your arms (warning--she will only design arms that have been researched and approved). She is this Barony's heraldic left hand. She has numerous other heraldic activities and no one wants to try and get along without her.

3. Lady Eleanor has agreed to help with field and camp heraldry. She has taught me everything I know about field heraldry (that's not to say I know much, but she taught me everything) and is willing to teach anyone else who is interested. (Yes, that's a blatant plug for help.)

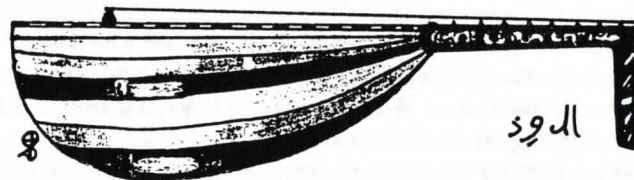
4. Penny, who is beginning a long and, I am sure, illustrious career

in heraldry, and who agreed to help and assist me at court. Thanks, Penny!
5. Vacant - this could be you! Step right up and introduce yourself.

I will be attempting to follow in a long line of wonderful Vatavian court heralds, and I will be doing field heraldry wherever possible. If you have any questions, just ask and I will try to find the answer for you.

In service to Vatavia,

Brialen



DRAÇONFLYRE CREDITS

Her Excellency Rhianwen.....Ink Primate
HL Marie Chantal Delaire...Officers' Minutes
Her Excellency Rhianwen.....Courier
Milady Toda Galindez.....All Non-Border Art



FROM THE CHATELAIN

Warm greetings to the populace of Vatavia from Takahara Otoshi, Vativian Chatelain, or Castellan, or Hopsitaller, or, oh never mind. I hope this letter finds everyone warm in spite of these bitter winds blowing through our lands.

Many huzzahs to everyone who brought donations for the Kansas Food Bank at our last Populace Meeting. The donations were welcomed and much appreciated. It is pleasing to know that we have such a caring populace in the Barony that is willing to give to those less fortunate than ourselves.

As Chatelain, I wish to remind everyone that they are welcome to attend the fighter practices. At almost every fighter practice held this past year, either at Watson Park or at Central Riverside park, some modern gentle has approached to watch our fighters during practice. I am taking this opportunity to extend the invitation (again) to everyone who wishes to contribute to the good of the Barony, to close the gaps between us all. Which brings me to my next point. When I first came to Vatavia from Westumbria, it took some adjusting to get used to the size and population of this group. The smaller shires have the advantage of close ties to all who participates in their group, and everyone has faith that they can rely on everyone else in one fashion or another. The very existence of the smaller groups depend on those close ties. Please forgive me if I am sounding critical. This merely a reminder that everyone in the SCA should consider themselves part of one big extended family, and we here in Vatavia must keep in mind that we have one of the largest Baronies in Kingdom, and we cannot allow our resources to go untapped. The resource I am speaking of is the camaraderie between us all and the support we can offer each other. Don't assume that someone is going to be at fighter practice, C&I, costuming, populace, or any other gathering, and then wonder why they didn't show up. Keep in touch with one another, and not just with people within your tight circle of friends. Spread out, get to know someone else that you have seen several times at Populace or some other event, but haven't really spoken to. Let them know that they are welcome to go eat with us after Populace, for everyone is welcome to attend

that gathering also. Let us come together and realize our full potential.

I will now get off my soap box and thank all those who had the tenacity to make it through this entire letter. Stay warm, and bring a new gentle to next month's Populace!

In service to Vatavia, Calontir, and the Dream,

Otoshi 高
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FROM THE CHRONICLER

Unto the populace of Vatavia come greetings from your Chronicler, Odindisa the Grim. I hope that everyone is enjoying the Dragonflyre. I am now requesting that Officers turn their letters into me at the Officer's Meeting if they want to have their two bezants' worth in the newsletter. The deadline for general submissions has firmed up to be the Friday before populace meeting. If you have suggestions or questions regarding what you see within these pages, please let me know.

In Service to the Dream,

Odindisa the Grim

FROM THE DEPUTY KNIGHT MARSHALL

Unto the brave warriors and good gentles of Vatavia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Deputy to Fergus, Knight Marshall of Vatavia.

It would suffice to say that this winter weather have diminished our

weekly fighter practices. It completely knocked out the joint Fighter Practice that was to take place in Golden Sea. The fighter practice on January 5th was moderately successful, in spite of the cold. However, it should be noted that Magnus, Kelly, Penelope, and myself were the only ones who showed up, so we adjourned to the nearest coffee shop and brainstormed over warm cups of extraordinary java.

Nonetheless, I again cry out to the entire populace in an effort to locate an appropriate indoor fighter site that would shelter us for the remaining winter months. We do have at least two or so months of nasty weather ahead of us, and we need practice to maintain or skills and strength not only as individual fighters but a strong and formidable fighting force.

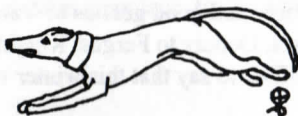
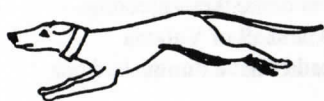
If you don't feel like braving the cold, at least take the time to maintain your armor. This is also the perfect time to make those improvements you say will be made every time you leave the field after a tourney or war!

Speaking of maintaining/improving your armor, it is not too early to begin thinking about upcoming events/demos. The Kansas Newman Renfair is right around the corner, as is our upcoming Mongols event (in spite of the unfortunate change of dates). Weekly fighter practices not only improve our fighting skills, they also give us wonderful opportunities to train our newer fighters. In addition, the good weather brings people to the parks, which means spectators to our practices. That translates into demo/recruiting possibilities. New people interested in fighting means an increase in our levies! So keep that in mind when you look at (or smell) the armor bag sitting in the corner where you last left it weeks ago! At the very least, come out to a fighter practice to maintain the friendships with those you fight with, or make some new ones with the new people joining us.

In service to Vatavia, Calontir, and the Dream,

OTOSHI

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FROM THE PROPERTY MISTRESS

Greetings! Minisa Park has been selected for the site of the Baronial Workday in the month of February. Much of the Baronial equipment is in need of repair. These repairs are crucial in maintaining our best appearance for the spring events (Mongols, Renfair, and Crown). Again, I would like to plug to BUSH post-revel auction where we will be auctioning off the excess items in Baronial stores as well as all Lost and Found items never claimed! (Editor's note: As of press time Her Excellency had presented the plan to hold this auction at the Champions' Event.) All proceeds will go to start a fund to feed Their Majesties at Vatavia-sponsored events as part of our hospitality to them. Some of these items are chairs, rattan swords, sups, plates, a shield, clothing, and much more! Finally, if you have in your possession any property belonging to the barony, please make a list of it and get it to me as soon as possible so that I have an accurate record of the location of all the Baronial property. Thank you so much for all of your support.

In service,

Christine Joye Stewart



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 COSTUME SEMINAR (FORGOTTEN SEA)
2 FIGHTER PRACTICE - 1:00 ARCHERY - 2:00	3 OFFICERS' MEETING 7:00	4 ARMORING 7:00	5	6	7	8 QUEEN'S PRIZE TOURNEY (ASTON TOR)
9 FIGHTER PRACTICE - 1:00 ARCHERY - 2:00	10	11 ARMORING - 7:00 C&I - 7:00 COSTUMING - 7:00	12	13	14 DRAGONFLYRE DEADLINE	15 BARONIAL WORK DAY 9:00-4:00
16 FIGHTER PRACTICE - 1:00 ARCHERY - 2:00	17	18 ARMORING 7:00	19 POPULACE MEETING 7:00	20	21	22
23 FIGHTER PRACTICE - 1:00 ARCHERY - 2:00	24	25 ARMORING 7:00	26	27	28	

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter is the time of our discontent and with that comes the need to armor! Armoring is every Tuesday night, 7:00 pm (ish) at the shed behind Gabe and Rhianwen's house. Contact Ossen (Mike) at 946-9565.

The deadline for the March Dragonflyre is February 14. Please call submit to your chronicler.

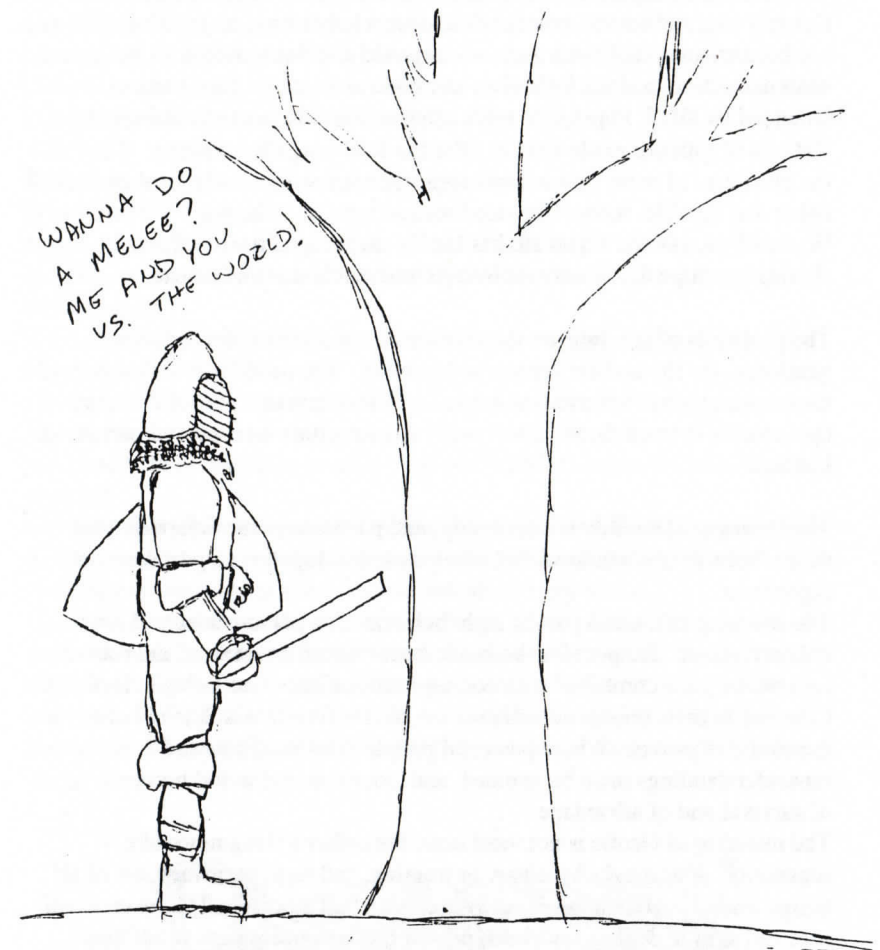
The first Baronial Work Day will be February 15th, from 9am to 4pm. The site is the Minisa Park Building. There will be a free lunch please (sign up in advance) provided by Lady Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon. Work we will be doing:

- Touch up/repaint all tentpoles.
- Fix all wooden benches.
- Waterproof all canvas.
- Weld list poles as needed.
- Finish tent pole finials.
- Fix archery equipment.
- Clean signs.
- Reassemble and fix kiosk.
- Make new inserts for kiosk.
- Replace director chair seats.
- Repair indoor list ropes.
- Fix scutumns.



COOB'S EYE VIEW

by Takahara Otoshi



DE REBUS COMITATIBUS

(Part the First)

By Godric of Klaxenburg, sometimes known as Pepin

Good Gentles all, a lively debate has been conducted on the ethereal fields of Calontir over the correct manner of kissing a lady's hand in greeting. Sliming has been excoriated, brutes and cads exposed and threatened with sharp and swift correction, and the lack of a clear code of gracious good manners lamented by all. I, Pepin, a humble pilgrim now come into the barony of Vatavia of Calontir made bold to offer the following observations. They are the gleanings of many years wandering and witnessing courts great and small, noble and ignoble, across Christendom and beyond. The good Barbarossa of Westumbria, known to you all, has kindly encouraged me to offer them to you, sharing my hope that it may encourage true gentleness and courtesy.

The protocols of greeting are the essence of civility, chivalry, courtesy, gentleness (in the archaic sense), and nobility. The modern abandonment of these concepts has left us less civilized and less human. The SCA has an opportunity to teach these values again and so restore an essential part of our heritage.

The meaning of Civility is citizenship, and particularly the behaviors and duties towards one's fellows that allow us to live together in peace and fullest enjoyment.

The meaning of Chivalry is the right behavior of a person entrusted with military power. Respect for the weak, honor for all honorable, and reverence for authority are combined with courage and self-sacrifice into graciousness. Courtesy is in its origins courtliness, i.e., that behavior which is necessary in the courts of power. Where powerful people meet, conflicts and misunderstandings must be avoided, and 'courteous behavior' becomes an art of survival and of advantage.

The meaning of Gentle is not meekness, but rather a thing more like sensitivity. It bespeaks breeding, or training, and an acute awareness of all things, and in particular an acute awareness of all others, and the exercise of care and skill in dealing with each person that no impropriety or offense occurs.

Nobility is a visible excellence, virtue so complete as to be useful as the

example, and worthy of emulation without question. Great courts achieved, and today achieve their luster because the ruler demands and inspires proper courtesy, putting everyone at ease, and allowing thereby the greatest possible intercourse, both in official business and personal affairs. Persons of gentility (per this definition) are promoted, the rude and unmannerly rebuked, and the unlearned or unschooled taught and mentored.

All this is established and ordered through the protocols of greeting. The manner in which two persons meet always defines and describes their relationship. This was carefully elaborated in past centuries, yet we stumble today because we are unconscious of its importance. It is well observed that animals are better schooled at greeting than are moderns.

Some universal principles will, I hope, bear declaration.

The first, that the living soul before you is always deserving of your full and respectful attention. Eternal reasons aside, to deny this denies your own value and humanity.

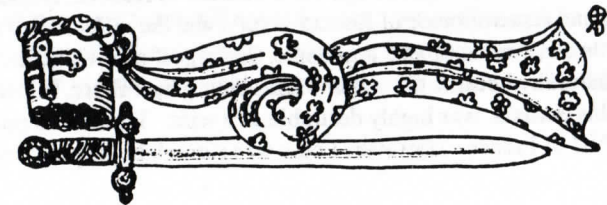
The second, that in fair company no unwelcome conduct should be proffered or permitted.

The third, that pleasantness is the gift you give to peace.

The fourth, that superiors have a right of courtesy, inferiors are your opportunity to display true gentility, and peers and strangers are best dealt with in civility.

The fifth, that while local custom varies and should be followed as much as is not inconsistent with principles, courtesy and gentleness are skills admired in all company, and can turn any offense and almost any blade.

The sixth, that in the matter of meeting of men and women, the fair sex in all civilized lands has been accorded the higher honor for reasons too numerous to tell here. Today we live in a brutish age, where the barest of these reasons must be held forth, that there are men who will if allowed take advantage of their strength to overpower civility and trespass where they are not welcome.



ELEANOR AND THE COURTS OF LOVE

By Friar Thomas Bacon

One of the unique aspects of the Middle Ages is the concept of courtly love. And the last thing one would expect to arise in such an age. It seems almost ludicrous to expect to see hard-bitten warriors to go out and perform pointless ridiculous tasks for nothing more than the hope of some faint acknowledgment from a lady who was otherwise committed to another man. Yet that was the ideal of courtly love. Reality, of course, was much different. Nevertheless, courtly love became the touchstone for what was noble for the last half of the Middle Ages. This essay explores how this came to be.

Eleanor of Aquitaine is the central figure in the rise of courtly love. She did not invent it, but she was brought up in it. Her grandfather was one of the early troubadours who first gave voice to the sentiments that were to become courtly love. Nor were the great authors of works of courtly love members of her court. Their patroness was Marie de France, Eleanor's daughter. Her contribution was having the prestige that attracted young knights and nobles to her court where they could be imbued with the ideals of courtly love. In much the same way Louis XIV set the pattern for kingship in the baroque period.

To see how remarkable this achievement is requires knowledge of the place of women at this time. Women were little more than property having no legal standing. A woman might own property, but all legal dealings about that property had to be done through her husband or male guardian. In the eyes of the church, sex was condoned only for procreation, and otherwise women had no redeeming value, being seen as the source of mortal sin. Romantic love was a foreign concept. The one bright spot was that a woman was in charge of the daily routines of the household, only because the men had no interest in such things.

Courtly love arose in southern France for a number of reasons, including benign climate, remembrance of Roman luxury, and the influence of the studied culture in Arabic Spain. Aquitaine, the largest and wealthiest holding in Europe naturally became the center of this emerging culture. Eleanor, as heiress to this domain, was highly desirable as a wife. The first to marry her was Louis VII of France. However, Louis was a monk by disposition, and

Paris and all of northern France was more attuned to the older warrior culture. No one was happy. So when Geoffrey of Anjou offered to have his son Henry marry Eleanor, everyone was agreeable. Eleanor got rid of the depressing and "primitive" north, Henry got the lands of Aquitaine, and the king's supporters got rid of a woman who did not know her place and was a constant scandal.

To end the civil war in England between King Stephen and Empress Matilda, it was agreed that Henry, who was Matilda's son, would succeed Stephen. As the effects of the civil war wore off, the Norman aristocracy was anxious to establish their place in the scheme of things. Till now, their power rested on their skill of arms, first as Viking raiders in Normandy, then in William's conquest of England. To do this, they appropriated the old legends of King Arthur and refashioned him into a Norman knight. Into the mix Eleanor added concepts of courtly love giving more contrast to the older heroic figure of Charlemagne. This is the reason that all of the great romances of courtly love center on figures of Arthur's court.

The height of Eleanor's influence came after her break with Henry over becoming too serious with a mistress. Setting up court in her lands of Poitou as a rival for Henry's, she set about making her mark. Henry had given her control of Aquitaine to get her out of the way without actually losing the lands. The young nobility came to this court for various reasons: boredom, curiosity, and social advancement.

The last reason is the result of the laws of inheritance. These laws dictated that many would receive little or no inheritance. One of the great appeals of the First Crusade was the promise of land. Thus for many, the only way to secure one's fortune was to marry it. And there were plenty of heiresses in Eleanor's court, attracted to it by the relative freedom from men.

It was this relative strength that allowed the ladies to initiate the various games of courtly love. They were aided by the willingness of the young men to "tweak" the old order which dispossessed them. Yet the women had to be subtle, for in the end they were not mistresses of their own fortune. The final bargains of marriage were still made by men. Nevertheless, when these men left court it was after learning new lessons on how to behave. And when they came to power in their own right, they modeled their courts after Eleanor's.

Eleanor's court in Poitou came to an end in 1174 with the failure of her sons' revolt against Henry. It operated for only a little over five years. Henry had her imprisoned lest she continue to conspire against him. Though she lived past Henry, she spent the last years of her life helping Richard run the Angevin empire. The baton had been passed to her daughter Marie, in whose court a chaplain was writing what was to be the standard handbook for courtly love.

Bibliography:

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New American Library, 1962.

Sidney Painter. French Chivalry.
Cornell University Press, 1940.



OFFICERS' MEETING

January 6, 1997

16 officers/deputies/champions/advocates attended.

The meeting began with a lengthy discussion on upcoming events. Recent changes on the scheduling of the Kingdom's Crown and Coronation will require the rescheduling of two events, Mongols Rule and our Crown Tournament bid. Several possible alternative dates were suggested. Site availability needs to be checked before anything is finalized. Kansas Newman has not contacted us yet in regards to the Renaissance Faire in April. Our planning has already begun. Preparation is starting for some areas already.

Kingdom-level heraldic activity has resumed. Currently, 20 name and device proposals are in process for Vataivians at Kingdom level. The Chronicler reported that the office now has access to fax capabilities.

Replacing certain regalia and making new items was brought up for discussion. The work day for the refurbishing and repairing Baronial property is tentatively scheduled for February 15th pending conformation of the location. The Property Mistress has requested that lists of the location of Baronial items not in the shed be sent to her. Information on the location of several archery equipment was requested.

There are four demonstration requests presently. One for May has been approved; the others are still being arranged. Some requests have been forwarded to us through other organizations. The desire to establish certain lines of communication between these other groups was brought up.

Bardic is finalizing plans and a location for monthly meetings. Dance is still on hiatus. A change of location for the January calligraphy and illumination interest group meeting was announced. The Minister of Arts and Sciences is encouraging people to enter, attend, and support the Queen's Prize event.

Details on the formation of the Merchant Marine interest group were presented. Thorough guidelines and requirements were outlined. There are some questions about the requirements that are being looked into. The officers were asked for input and responses to this proposed plan.

Fighter practice and archery practice continue at the scheduled times. The war

party trip to Salina was planned for January 12th--if the weather cooperated. Possible crash space two hours from the War Maneuvers site was offered. Contact Christine Joye Stewart for information. Acquisition of archery nets was approved. The Archer Marshall announced that there would be a swap meet at Archery Plus, February 8th and 9th.

It was reported that the office of the Minister of Children has been transferred and made a deputy position of the Seneschal's office. The possibility of having some type of special activity at each populace meeting was proposed. The extracurricular mall and swap meet were activities that people would like to see repeated possible scheduling for these was discussed.

Reserving city buildings is difficult at this time. The officers were advised to make such arrangements as much in advance as possible. Some places are booked for up to a year in advance at this point.

The meeting adjourned.



BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bam ap Gruffydd Joan Steurer	269-3853
SENESCHAL Tristan Rory de Jorz Rick Haddaway	686-6893
CHATELAIN Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspay	267-3456
ARCHER MARSHALL Michael van Burgen Michael Hornbaker	721-1955
CALTROP Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikings Debbie Taylor	524-0917
CHRONICLER Odindisa the Grim Marguerite Reed	269-1574
KNIGHT MARSHALL Fergus Mic Rhuadhri Ghlas Bob McMillan	681-0268
DEPUTY KNIGHT MARSHALL Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspay	267-3456
MOA/MOS Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
PROPERTY MISTRESS Christine Joye Stewart Jerri Barr	943-1879
TREASURER Alcyoneus du Battenhelm Park McKellog	682-4468