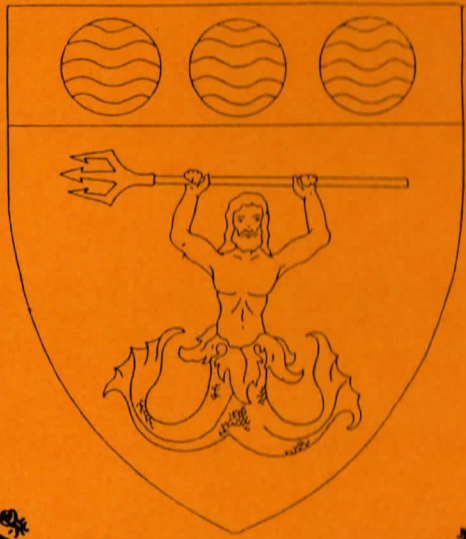


Have you seen this device? If you can correctly identify this device, be the first to contact the Vataavian Caltrop, Her Excellency Brialen, to claim booty from the New World.

Or, a two-tailed merman maintaining above his head a trident fesswise. Sable, on a chief gules the fountains.



DRAGONFLYRE

MARCH A.S. XXXI



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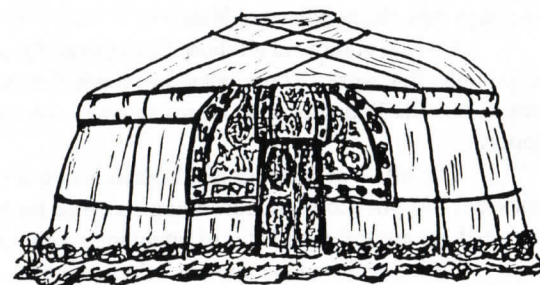
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The falling leaf whispers something to living men.

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FROM THE BARONAGE

Unto the Barony of Vatavia come these winter greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen.

Winter still has an unfair grip upon our land and the fields remain barren and unplanted. But still there is reason to rejoice even in this season, as it provides time indoors in the warmth of our hearths and company of our friends and loved ones.

We are using this time as wisely as we may, and hope all of you are doing the same. Our armor and weapons need work, tents need repairing, and by the time this missive reaches you, the Baronial Property should be renewed for the next several years (hopefully). We thank all in advance for their help in this undertaking, especially Lady Christine for arranging it.

Mongols Rule II has been moved in space and time as most of you know. Please pay heed to the flier within these pages for the current status. Both sets of Calontir Royalty are coming, so please don't be shy about volunteering when asked by the autocrats.

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN



FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings unto the populace of Vatavia.

I would commend all those that entered Queen's Prize Tourney. Keep up the fine work. Those who have journeyed west to support the army at Estrella War should be returning soon. Thank you for your support.

The office of Minister of Children is now a deputy office to the Seneschal. Applications are now being accepted for MOC. If you are interested, please submit a letter of intent to myself and to the Baronage.

Spring will soon be upon us. Prepare now! Mongols, on March

8, and Renfaire are just around the corner. Check your gear, complete your projects, and have fun.

In service,

Tristan Rory de Jorj

FROM THE CHATELAIN

Unto the gentle populace of Vatavia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Chatelain.

Harken, Populace, hear me well! We have several opportunities over the next several weeks to meet the request of several gentles who have asked for demonstrations. Her Ladyship Marie Chantal has given me a list of upcoming possibilities, each with different needs that only a varied populace such as ours can meet. If you think you would like to participate in these short demos, please. Please, PLEASE contact myself or Her Ladyship. Please don't assume that other people will be "taking care of it." If you have never participated in a demo, now is the perfect time. You don't have to do every one, just one would be fine. This is a wonderful chance to give a bit of yourself to the activity from which we have gained so much.

Also, I am growing bored with the silence I am experiencing from not having new people to talk to. March will be the first outdoor Populace Meeting of the new year, so let us attempt to have several new people there, or several older members whom we haven't seen in some time. Free Admission into the March Populace to anyone who brings a new person! A cookie to anyone who brings two new people! (Of course, admission is always free, but pretend you'll save a bunch anyway.

In service to Vatavia, Calontir, and the Dream,

高
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FROM THE CHRONICLER

Unto the populace of Vatavia come greetings from your Chronicler, Odindisa the Grim.

I give thanks to all the officers who turned in their letters at the Officers' Meeting. Thanks also to those gentles who gave me articles for this month's issue. I still have not given up on the 'Who's Who in Vatavia' articles--if you think the story of your persona would make an interesting tale, sharpen up your quill nibs and write it down!

In Service to the Dream,

Odindisa the Grim

FROM THE DEPUTY KNIGHT MARSHALL

Unto the gentle populace of Vatavia and the mighty warriors who defend them, come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Deputy to Fergus, Knight Marshall of Vatavia.

People of Vatavia, be proud of the warriors who hail from Vatavia! I am proud to call myself Vatavian after the showing we offered at the recent War Maneuvers in Mag Mor on January 20th. There were several Vatavians there ready to answer Calontir's call to battle in the lands of Atenveld. Congratulations to Ossen, who received his spear authorization. (I have it from a good source that he defeated a Fyrdman during a very spirited authorization round, fighting with a manly vigor!) Also, congratulations to Fionbharr (Kelly) who received her Sword and Shield authorization during the February 2nd fighter practice.

This year's Estrella War should prove to be very interesting, and we await anxiously to hear our returning warrior's tales of battle and honor.

As spring approaches, so does the modern populace for whom we may fight during our Sunday practices at Central Riverside Park. Fighter practice will continue to be there on Sundays at 1:00 until April, when we

move back to Watson Park. When we fight in the parks, people love to watch us. Let us give them something to see! Please come out of the fighter practices to show support for your barony. Show people that we enjoy activities other than the art of war. Fighters, come and join in the revelry that is fostered among us, even if you don't wish to fight that day. We may need additional marshals or constables. You will also be able to offer your wisdom to a less experienced person who is trying to learn.

Join me on the field, or come support those who fight for Barony and Kingdom!

In service to Calontir, Society, and the Dream,

高
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FROM THE MOA/MOS

Is this exciting, or what?

Oops, sorry, I guess I should explain myself. I'm writing this letter to you, the populace, after having come back from Queen's Prize Tourney. It was thrilling! Seven Vatavians participated, all for the first time. Boy, were folks impressed by the quality of Vatavia's artisans. Keep it up and out there for the whole kingdom to see.

BUSII will be March 29th at Minisa. A flyer is located elsewhere in this exciting edition of the premiere baronial newsletter. It will be a fantastic combination of in-house and out-of-town instructors. Come! Support our efforts to serve your needs and desires!

Also in March will be a fabulous populace highlighting our wondrous interest groups. This will be a great opportunity to visit with the different interest area leaders. Also at that populace, a master A&S calendar will be released. This should help us schedule our A&S activities.

Ever in service,

Eleanor

from the PROPERTY MISTRESS

Greetings to the populace from your Property Mistress!

As of the writing of this letter we have not yet had the Baronial workday, but I would like to go ahead and thank all the good gentles who helped me plan, sort, work, etc. to get it going and off the ground. My thanks to all those who came and toiled over the work, and a special thanks to Lady Eleanor who provided a wonderful lunch. A day like this really helps us to look our best for all of the upcoming events Vatia will be hosting. Don't wander too far away, for I'm sure we will be having another workday in the future for any unfinished projects! Once again, my thanks to all!

Yours in service,

Christine Joye Stewart



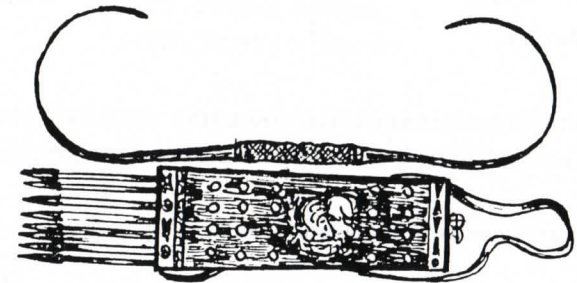
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the autocrats of Mongols Rule II, we would like to encourage everyone to come to Mongols--and volunteer for troll, feast service, set up & breakdown, and other assorted jobs that crop up. If you do attend, please pick up trash and bottles--keep the site clean. Thanks for your support.

Elsbeth & Aamir

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

Costuming and fiber arts are meeting the 1st Monday of each month at Aragon Apartments, at 8909 E. Harry. Sewers of all skills--or none--are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Lady Aoibhinn at 683-7425.

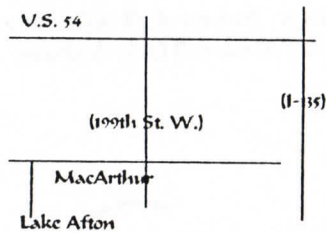


DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

Her Excellency Rhianwen.....Ink Pimate
HL Marie Chantal Delaire.....Officers' Minutes & Heraldic Art
Milady Toda Galindez.....Non-border Art

The Barony of Vatia presents
 Mongols Rules II
 The Return of the Falcoln Horde
 The Sacking of Krackow
 Lake Afton, Goddard, Kansas
 March 7 at 6pm to March 9 at 2pm, 1997

Fighting: warlord tourney and open field battles
 Archery: as weather permits
 A&S: best eastern thang, best hat, coolest footwear
 Feast: 3 removes of Russian and Mongolian dishes
 MOC activities will be planned
 Site fee: \$6.00 for nonmembers \$5.00 for members, half price for children under 12, under 6 are free
 Feast will cost \$5.00
 There is plenty of room for crash space and camping.
 Contact feast steward for allergies and special diets.
 Make checks payable to SCA, Inc. Barony of Vatia



Take V.S.54 west 10-15 miles to 199th St. and turn South. Go 3-5 miles to MacArthur and turn West. Go another 3-5 miles to 2nd entrance to Lake Afton and follow the signs to troll.

Event Stewards: ELSPETH
 ANNA LENHART
 2728 S. MAGNOLIA
 WICHITA. KS 67217
 316-262-3676

AAMIR
 CARLOS CARRILLO
 1706 S. ST.FRANCIS
 WICHITA. KS 67218
 316-267-4514

Feast Steward: KERARE
 CAROLYN HADDAWAY
 4230 BOSTON
 WICHITA. KS 67218
 316-686-6893

Crash Space: RHIANWEN
 316 269-2853



The Barony of Vatia presents

B. U.S.H.

(The Baronial University of Societal Humanities)

Come and join us as we present another exciting BUSH! We will be having both in and out of barony instructors.

SITE: Minisa Park (Hey, is there anywhere else?)

DATE: March 29, 1997 (Yes, that's Easter Saturday. Is there any other time?)

SITE OPENS: 9:00a.m.

SITE CLOSES: 7:30p.m.

CLASSES OFFERED: Tentatively includes enameling, cooking, fighting, calligraphy, illumination, costuming, First Aid/CPR, and more!

FOOD: Potluck feast. Food breakdown in next month's flyer.

COURT: At Their Excellencies' pleasure

Map, schedule, details in next month's Dragonflyre



March

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery practice - 2:00	3 Officers' Meeting 7:00	4 Armoring 7:00	5	6	7	8 Mongols Rule II (Vatavia)
9 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery practice - 2:00	10	11 Armoring 7:00	12	13	14 Deadline for April Dragon flyre	15
16 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery practice - 2:00	17	18 C&I - 7:00 Armoring - 7:00	19 Populace Meeting 7:00	20	21	22
23 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery practice - 2:00	24	25 Armoring 7:00	26	27	28	29 BUSH (Vatavia)
30 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery practice - 2:00	31					

DE REBUS COMITATIBUS

(Part the Second)

by Godric of Klaxenburg

In many cultures, touching between gentles of the opposite sex who were not kin was strictly forbidden and occasion for offense or shame. In others, the kiss of peace was given under the permission of the woman's lord, be it father, husband, or prince. In some cultures, a wife, ward, daughter, or servant could be given to an honored guest for a night or for the length of the visit--hospitality indeed. In western cultures from at least the time of Eleanor of Aquitaine until the great shattering of a century ago, a lady's hand was hers to give or withhold. Kissing it was also hers to allow or refuse, although some localities and cultures allowed it pro forma.

In all cases, the activities of hand holding or kissing were negotiated through the careful dance of body language and eye contact. On meeting, eye contact is the minimum courtesy due a fellow human being. With a proper understanding of the roles involved in greeting, and with practice, this can be sustained by even the shyest person. It is always revealing in greater or lesser degrees, and must not in itself be abused to the point of discourtesy. Intimacy is a privilege, which must be specifically granted, which is earned by courtesy, and which may be withheld by anyone.

(Nota Bene: In some cultures, and commonly in Europe until barely a century ago, gentlewomen did not sustain eye contact with men, and in particular with strangers in public; it was considered too revealing and so unseemly or immodest. A lady would lower her eyes, perhaps permitting the stranger a brief look at first greeting. Of course, this was universally an opportunity for coquetry, as the first blush, as it were, of the "flight so he'll pursue me." A lady who was bold enough to look a newly acquainted gentleman "full in the face" was declaring she was "frank" or frankly interested. This was a high compliment to the gentleman, and vastly encouraging--that is, unless the look was of scorn or anger. But that is another subject.)

The gentleman offered his hand only if the occasion was such that he might lend assistance, in the same way he might, or ought, offer his arm if

they were to walk together. On meeting, if he wished, he might make his hand available, but not in such a way that she accept or by refusal seem to give offense. Never put a lady, or anyone else, in a position that requires them to choose between complying or giving offense. A person who does do is not courteous, unaware of the other's rights, and certainly deserves to be offended openly. (*Editor's Note: Ladies, use all your powers of discernment and compassion to ascertain whether or not the gentle in question offends from purpose or from ignorance. No sadder thing occurs when two friends fall out because no one granted the benefit of the doubt.*) If the lady wishes, she may then (seeing his hand available) make an offer of her hand. The gentleman is then bound to be on his most respectful behavior. He has been allowed to contact this lady personally, and she is in control. If he wishes, or if custom requires, he can broach the subject of kissing her hand, by accompanying some appropriate compliment with a slight lifting of her hand. Any demur on her part should warn him to immediately cease the attempt if not relinquish his prize, unless an established relationship and her indulgence permits him.

On first meeting, physical contact with the lips is not appropriate, and the "air kiss" is correct. Physical kissing may be permitted by the lady if the gentleman is read as so inclined, although he will be considered forward, and must read the lady's response very correctly to not be counted cad. This is not to forbid the romantic and touching tribute of a kiss on first sight, but only to emphasize this is performed only at peril. Again, local custom may differ. Later meetings may be more friendly if the lady and the gentleman are in accord. The essence of this is total respect for the other's feelings and careful observation of body signals. Of course, an easy, respectful grace goes far to put the other at ease and win favor.

All these things can be taught and learned, and the SCA is the perfect forum for the school of gentility. When we refer to each other as gentles, this is what is meant.

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HAWKING

(Part the first)

by Cerridwyn o'r Eurgledde ferch
Oain ap fychan o'r Glyndy frdwy



One highly specialized and aristocratic form of hunting in Medieval times was that of "hawking" or "falconry." The two terms were used as synonyms for one another although hawks and falcons are two very different birds of prey.

Not everyone was able to participate in this costly sport, however. The birds themselves were a substantial investment and their care and feeding, to say nothing of the lengthy and specialized training that they received, could be very expensive. For example, in the 1270's, Edward I had a chamber built at Charing Cross Castle for his falconers. This chamber backed onto an enclosed garden in which was built a bath for the king's birds. An aqueduct carried water to the bath so that it would be fresh as it issued from the four brass leopard-headed spouts. The birds resided in cages, were fed doves raised in the dovecote on the site, and were brought in for the raptors to practice on. This was not a modest operation and our Lord King Edward was devoted to falconry.

Nearly two centuries later, aristocrat John Paston revealed his passion for hawking by writing to his brother, "I axe no more goods of you for all the servyse that I shall do you whyll the world standyth, but a gosshawke."

It was common to have fixed or swiveling perches for the hunting birds to rest upon and these were placed wherever the bird's owner might wish, even in private rooms. The birds were attached to their perches by leather or silk strings called jesses, tied at one end to the foot of the bird, and the other to a ring on the perch called a terret. A person could put the terret around a finger when carrying the bird, an activity that required a heavy leather glove. The glove was worn on the left hand. To keep the resting birds calm, it was usual to cover their heads with hoods which prevented the bird from seeing its surroundings. Hoods could be

decorated with embroidery or heraldic colors, and jesses could have jewels attached or bells which could be tuned for a musical effect. The opportunity to spend lavishly on the sport of falconry was seemingly limited only by the monies available. If a person found a hawk, they were obliged to turn it over to the sheriff of the county who then made a proclamation of the find so that the owner could recover the valuable bird. An unclaimed bird might be kept by the sheriff or the finder, as they made agreement, provided the owner was of an appropriate social rank.

Owners could become very attached to their birds, as Nicholas de Litlington, Abbot of Westminster, must have been, when in 1368, he bought a waxen image of a falcon to offer at the church alter for the benefit of a sick falcon.

A hawker wearing a large and handsome leather glove, upon which a bird was perched or "on the creep" was a striking and noble sight indeed. hunting on the creep was one way to use the birds. Raptors were also trained to remain in place while the hunter flushed the game, at which moment, the hunter would command the bird to attack. Birds could be trained to catch prey such as hares on the ground, or other birds in the air. The later was the most dramatic and popular form of hawking. The larger the prey and the larger the raptor used, the more spectacular the falconry. Whether on foot or from horseback, hawking was a delightful and ever-popular diversion.

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Reeves, Campton. Pleasures and Pastimes in Medieval England.
Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd. London, 1995.

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MONGOL AFTERMATH

by Friar Thomas Bacon

When the Mongols exploded upon the world, they created an empire that stretched from Eastern Europe to the Pacific and essentially everything in between except Southern India. But, like virtually every empire built by conquest under a single leader, it soon fell apart after the death of that leader. The following is a brief description of what happened to the various lands that were conquered as the empire fell apart.

The first cracks in the empire arose from the typical barbarian custom of dividing the family patrimony among the surviving sons. While the authority of the great khan would still be recognized for some thirty years after Genghis' death, this partition created subcenters of power around which the empire would break up. The partitions were roughly European Russia, Persia, China, and the central homeland. Within a century only the last would remain under Mongol control.

The Khanates in Persia and China suffered similar fates. In both cases the Mongol leadership was seduced by the native cultures. This led to an intermingling with the natives and the submergence of the Mongol identity. In China, the Mongol dynasty was overthrown by the Ming dynasty in 1360. In Persia, the Mongol leadership simply gradually degenerated until the last khan died in 1349, to be succeeded by a number of local chieftains.

The khanate in European Russia, better known as the Golden Horde, suffered a slightly different fate. While they did absorb a certain amount of local culture, they did not get absorbed by it. Neither were they actively interested in actively ruling it. Instead, they allowed various local entities an amount of autonomy in exchange for tribute. They would occasionally stage a raid when they felt they weren't getting their due, but otherwise left them alone. In 1316, the prince of Moscow married one of the daughters of the khan, thereby elevating this minor city-state to the position of first among equals. This was the start of the modern Russian state. This laissez-faire method of governing gradually weakened the Mongol hold. When outside forces hammered the Mongols, particularly

Timurlane around 1400, this allowed the Russians to break free.

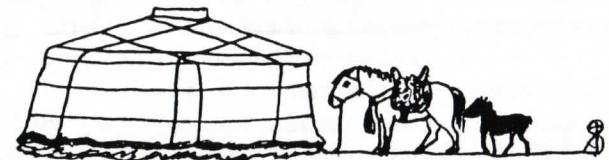
The saddest fate was reserved for the central homeland. With few resources of its own, as the peripheral lands spun off, prosperity disappeared. Without a central idea or leader to rally around, they began to fight amongst themselves. A century and a half after Genghis' death, there were no remnants of its accomplishments in Mongolia.

The Mongols did have some lasting effects on the greater world. The Mongol Empire led to the reopening of the transcontinental trade route known as the Silk Road. This route would remain open until the fall on Constantinople in 1452. The closing of the Silk Road was the impetus of the European Age of Exploration. The second lasting effect was the propagation of Mongol skills and ideas as the Mongols shifted craftsmen and bureaucrats around to strengthen their empire.

An interesting 'might have been' would have been the joining of the Mongols and the Crusaders against the Arabs. At this point, the Crusaders had been all but pushed out of the Holy Land. The Mongols were interested, but their insistence on being in charge doomed this would-be alliance.

The effects of the Mongols are still with us today. The insistence of the Russians of their right to control the lands around their borders, the "near abroad," their paranoia of outsiders, can be traced to those experiences so many centuries ago.

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GOOB'S EYE VIEW

By Takahara Otoshi



THE PELL STRIKES BACK

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OFFICER'S MEETING

February 3, 1997

15 members attended: 14 officers/deputies/champions/autocrats; 1 member of the populace.

Event plans were covered first. Final preparations are being done for the Mongols Rule event at Lake Afton. Information and invitations have been sent to Their Majesties and Highnesses and all the local branches. Permission for archery is still being worked out with the park authorities.

Other future events are just beginning to be planned. Crown is scheduled for June 28th and awaiting confirmation. The proposed BUSII, Baronial University for Societal Humanities, will be rescheduled due to the calendar changes required for the two local Kingdom events. Local plans for the Kansas Newman Renaissance Faire continue for the various activities. There was some discussion about the possibilities for archery this year. A bid was presented and accepted for Valor '97. Some details of the proposal were discussed and alternatives suggested.

Two demonstrations for February 28th and March 12th were approved and tentative approval given for two others. The Chatelain requested that information about interested individuals be forwarded to him so that he could better help these potential members. He also wanted to continue to encourage nonfighters to come to the fighter practices to share their interests.

The Herald's office requested some supplies. The status of Vataavian armory was discussed. There will be an open meeting of the Hawk staff - national commenting group - at the Baronial property work day. A consultation table will be set up and available at the Mongols event. The Caltrop Pursuivant, Brialen, presented an idea for a heraldic project to better acquaint the populace with the local armory.

About half of the Arts and Sciences surveys have been returned. It was requested that those still in possession of surveys get them to Lady Eleanor so she can better address the group's needs and interests.

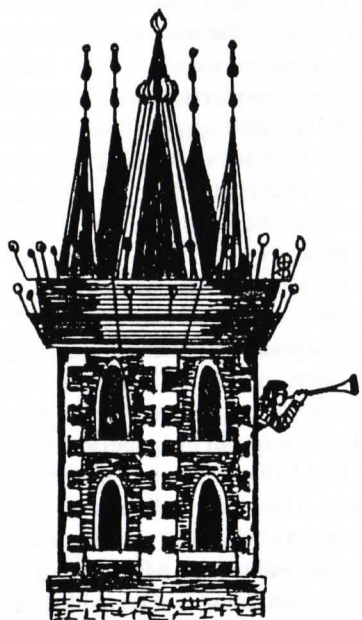
Bardic will meet at Milady Cerridwyn's home Monday, February 24th. A map to her house will be published.

There are 31 fighters currently, though not all are active. Until April, fighting will continue to be at Central Riverside Park. There was some discussion about the advantages of moving back to Watson Park when it opens.

Archery practice continues at Archery Plus on Sundays. As weather permits, outdoor practice is being held. The possibility of obtaining park permission to hold weekly practices at some park location will be investigated.

The Seneschal reminded officers and their deputies to file a copy of their quarterly reports with him. The March Populace Meeting will be at the group's past outdoor site, North Linwood Park.

The meeting adjourned.



BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Barn ap Gruffydd Joan Steurer	269-3853
SENECHAL Tristan Rory de Jorz Rick Haddaway	686-6893
CHATELAIN Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspay	267-3456
ARCHER MARSHALL Michael van Burgen Michael Hombaker	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
HISTORIAN Friar Thomas Bacon David Moreno	685-1182
MOA/MOS Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
PROPERTY MISTRESS Christine Joye Stewart Jerri Barr	943-1879
TREASURER Aleyoneus du Battenhelm Park McKellop	682-4468