

# DRAGONFLYRE

APRIL A.S. XXXI

The Dragonflyre  
c/o Marguerite Reed  
1027 S. Lulu  
Wichita, KS 67211





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## FROM THE BARONAGE

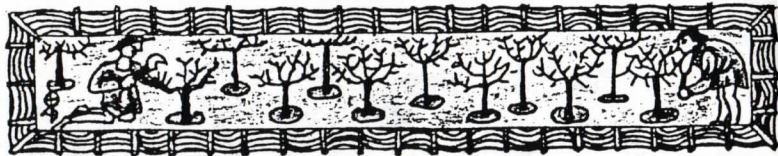
Unto the populace of Vatavia come greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen, by the grace of Their Majesties Baronage of these fair lands...  
...and getting fairer all the time. Whew! We are happily greeting the good weather coming our way, opening the doors to let the fresh air breeze through our hearth and home--and cringing at the spring cleaning to come. This will be but a brief missive this month:

Thank you to all who helped out at Mongols Rule. The event went off virtually without a hitch, despite weather problems and unexplained power outages. The crown was very impressed with the way our people worked and played together. Congratulations to those who received awards in court, especially Batu, who received a Silver Hammer for his servant Erik. Another GOA to hit up for next year's Queens Prize Tourney!

Please remember that Coronation is in Lonely Tower the first weekend of next month, and Princess Bronwen has been a good friend to this land. Also upcoming--RenFaire! We're at a month-and-a-half and counting to the biggest demo we do all year, so rustle up your good stuff and polish it up! (Er, that doesn't apply to silk, remember...never mind.) As for BUSH, I'll refer to the Autocrat for info on that one.

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN



## FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings--I hope this message find you in good spirits and preparing for the Spring rush of events.

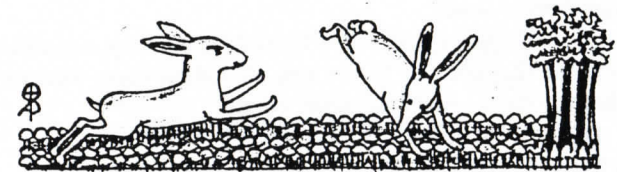
I would like to thank all gentles who helped at Mongols Rule. Despite blackouts, wind, and threats of rain, much fun was had by all. Hats off to Elspeth and Aamir--Good job to Kerare and Susan and the whole kitchen staff--outstanding! The feast was great. Also congratulations to our many award recipients. Well deserved all!

On another matter: the office of MOC is currently vacant. As a large percentage of our population are smalls, this office is very important. If you would like to know more or are interested in applying for the office, contact me or the Baronage.

Bush will be in about ten days; and quickly approaching is the Kansas Newman RenFaire. Contact the coordinator, Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon, if you wish to assist. The year ahead looks to be busy and a lot of fun. Hope to see you there.

In service,

*Tristan Rory de Jorz*



## FROM THE CHATELAIN

Unto the gentle populace of Vatavia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Chatelain and Deputy Knight's Marshal of Vatavia:

It has been brought to my attention that my officers' letters in the Dragonflyre tend to be a bit "wordy" (yes, that's a quote). So, in an effort to reduce the space taken up by my letters, I am condensing the



submissions from the Chatelain and the Deputy Knight Marshal to one letter.

From the Chatelain: Bring new people, make them feel welcome. Bring old people, make them feel new again.

From the Deputy Knight Marshal: Huzzahs to the Vatvians who fought at Mongols II. Get everyone to fighter practice. Improve your fighting skills and kick butt with a manly vigor. *(Editor's note: Of course, it's all right to deliver head shots with ladylike aplomb, too.)*

In service,

Otoshi  
大  
止  
平  
X

### FROM THE CHRONICLER

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

I'll take a page out of Otoshi's manuscript and emulate him: Read the Dragonflyre. Pass it around. Let me know what you like and what you don't. And remember, submit!

In Service to the Dream,

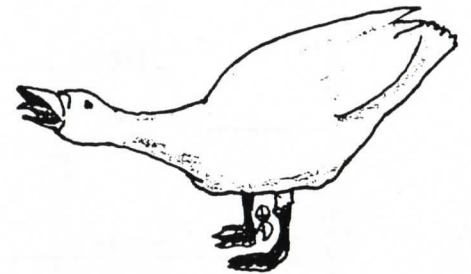
Odindisa the Grim



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Costuming and fiber arts are meeting the 3rd 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.

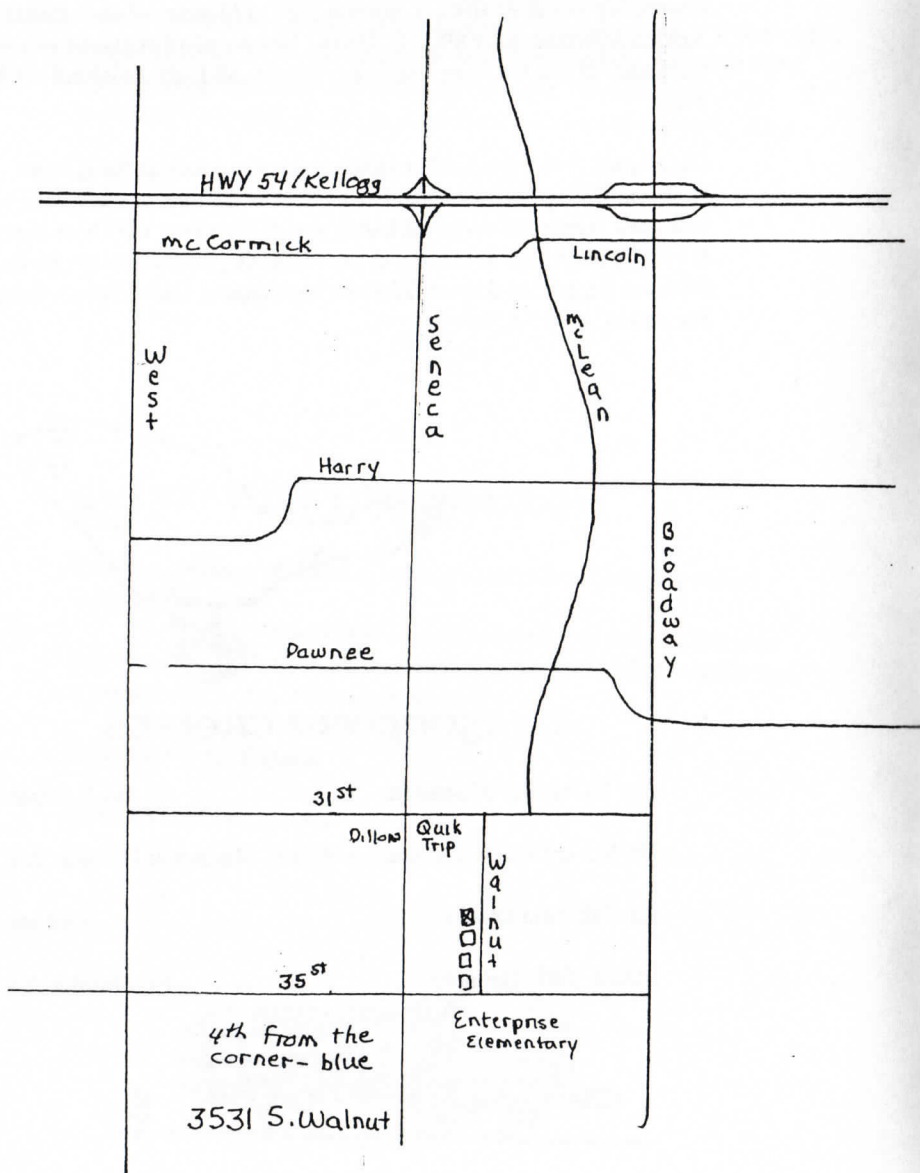
Once again, Vatavians will be making an appearance at the Kansas Newman College Renaissance Faire. This is the time to wear your very best garb, fight your very best battle, and display your very best manners. If you are interested in helping shine a light on just how enjoyable the SCA can be, please contact the demo coordinator, Lady Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon, at 685-8510



### DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

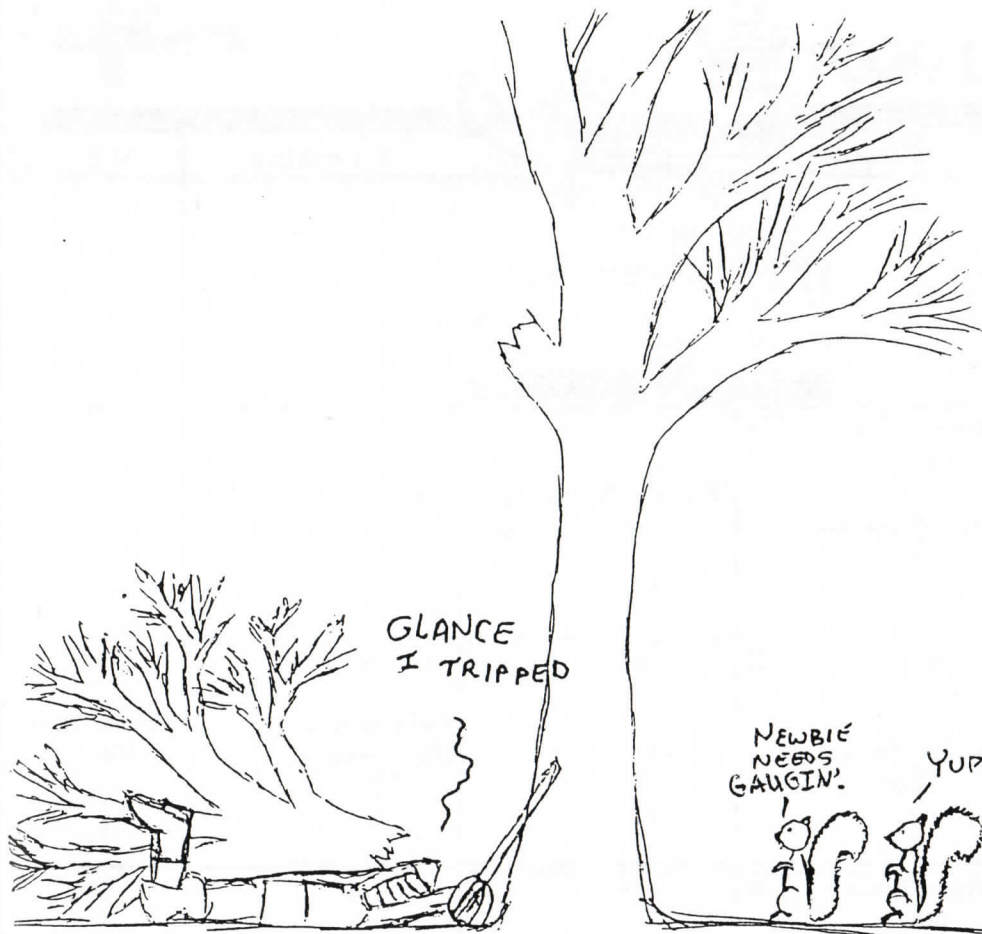
- Her Excellency Rhianwen.....Ink Primate
- HL Marie Chantal Delaire.....Officers' Minutes & Heraldic Art
- Ld. Takahara Otoshi.....Courier
- Milady Toda Galindez.....Non-border Art

Thanks to the machinations of our Bardic Champion, Ld. Leonhard, and the generosity of the most gracious Cerridwyn of the many consonants, Bardic now has a regular site and time to meet. The last Monday of the months has been set aside for these convivial meetings at Cerridwyn's home. May this map speed you on your way!



# 500b's eye view

by Takahara Otoshi

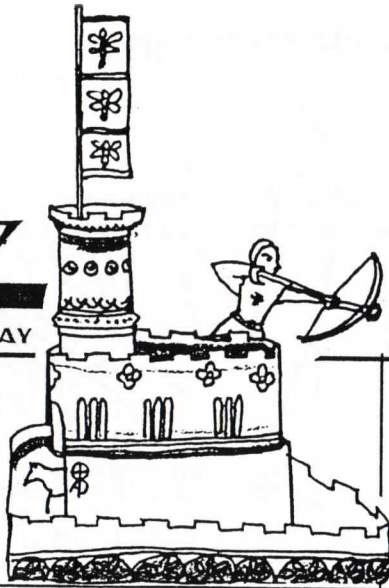


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1997

# April

1997



SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5
Fighter Practice 1:00 Archery Practice 2:00	6 Officer's Meeting 7:00	7 8 Armoring - 7:00	9 10	11 Deadline for May Dragonflyre	12
Fighter Practice 1:00 Archery Practice 2:00	13 14	15 Armoring - 7:00 Calligraphy & Illumination 7:00	16 Populace Meeting 7:00	17 18	19
Fighter Practice 1:00 Archery Practice 2:00	20 Costuming - 7:00	21 22 Armoring - 7:00	23 24	25 RenFaire	26 RenFaire
RenFaire	27 Bardic - 7:00	28 29 Armoring - 7:00	30		



## HAWKING

(Part the second)

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

A body of literature on falconry was developed just as with hunting, and a culminating contribution to the literature on falconry is known commonly as the "Boke of St. Albans." This compilation of information on hawking, hunting, heraldry, and other matters is attributed on more challengeable authority to one Dame Juliana Barnes (or Barnes) and was printed at St. Albans in 1486. In the section on falconry, information is to be found on different types of birds, their training, their illnesses and the cures thereof, their feeding, maintenance, and their use in hunting. At the end of this section, there is an appended list arranged hierarchically of different social ranks and the trained hunting birds appropriate to an avian hierarchy. It commences with Emperor, a rank which did not exist in England, whose appropriate birds are an Eagle, a Bawtere (probably a vulture) and a Melowne (probably a kite).

The King's birds are the gyrfalcon and her tercel (the male of any kind of hawk is a tercel). The powerful gyrfalcon was especially admired if it were white. The birds of the Prince are the "fawcon gentill" and "tercel gentill," that is, the peregrine falcon and her male counterpart. The adjective "gentill" conveyed the notion of superior innate quality and excellence as a hunter. To the Duke was assigned the falcon of the rock, the peregrine falcon by another name, and for an Earl, a "fawken peregryne" was also appropriate. A Baron was to have a bastard or a seeming subspecies of the peregrine. And so on and on....

A knight, a sacret. A squire, a lanare. A lady, a merlin. A young man, a hobby.

The list continues in descent though four more ranks.

For the yeoman, a goshawk. For a poor man, a goshawk's tercel. For a priest, a sparrowhawk. And for the holywater clerk, a musket or a male sparrowhawk.

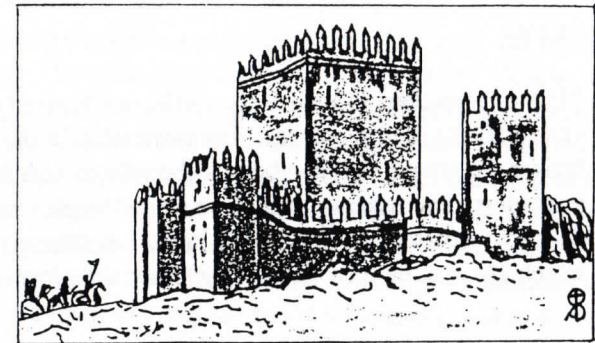
The sparrowhawk calls to mind the fact that clerks were prohibited by Canon law from engaging in military activity, and because of the weaponry used and the methods employed in falconry, the prohibition was extended to hunting and hawking. It is clear, however, that the prohibition was not rigorously respected. It might be suggested that in courtly culture, the qualities and customs of the avian hierarchy and of the aristocratic human hierarchy sometimes merged in thought and literature, as with a peregrine falcon, a courageous hunter, evoking the image of a valiant chivalric warrior. Against the splendor of raptors and falconry might be set the more humble sport of fowling, which involved the catching of birds with snares and traps of one sort or another. Fowling and ferrety fell at the lower end of falconry and hunting.

And so, good Gentils, may your raptors be well and your hawking be good!

Bibliography:

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

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## SPRING AGRICULTURE

by Friar Thomas Bacon

Spring is the time of renewal, of birth, of awaking from long sleep. Of all human activities, farming is by necessity the most attuned to the turning of the seasons. Until the recent century, most earned their living by farming, and so regulated their lives by the seasons. To a farmer, spring is a time to go back to work.

Yoked to the seasons, the rhythms of farming have changed little over the ages. A medieval farmer plucked from his 12th century village and deposited on a modern farm would be awed by the machinery used, the size of the farm, the yields achieved. Yet he would quickly recognize the activities taking place and their whys and wherefores. And despite the language difference of the centuries, the two farmers would have no difficulty communicating.

The first undertaking would be the spring plowing. Depending on time and place, the fields would be partitioned into two or three areas. One of these would be plowed, but nothing planted. It would lie fallow, to rest and recover its fertility. In the two field system, if there was not to a winter crop, the second field would be plowed, and sown with the spring crop. In the three field system, one field would carry the winter crop and the other would be planted with the spring crop. Each year, each field would change its role.

Plowing was done in long strips as the medieval plow team was very difficult to turn around. The ownership of the fields was broken up among the members of the village with the shares interspersed across the field. As a result the plowing left a distinctive pattern on the ground known as ridge-and-furrow, which still can be seen today. The plow and plow team, some

mixture of horses and oxen, tended to be communally owned. The type of plow used depended on the soil. The key innovation of the Middle Ages was the mouldboard which turned over the soil. This allowed the plowing of the clayey soil that was prevalent in Northern Europe.

Spring crops included wheat, barley, and oats. Other grains that might be planted were rye and millet. (Grains were collectively known as corn. What we now call corn, more properly maize, is a New World plant.) These grains were meant mostly for animal fodder and brewing. The grains to be eaten were the winter crop. After the fodder was sown, by hand casting, the field was harrowed. The purpose of this was to cover the seed to reduce its loss to birds. One of the tasks of the children was to chase off birds until this was accomplished.

Another purpose of plowing was the spreading of manure that had been collected over the winter on the fields. This not only included droppings from the standard farm animals, but also human waste and bird droppings from the dovecotes that populated the landscape. Also spread on the fields was marl. Marl is a calciferous substance that reduces the acid content of the soil and much improves the ability of plants to absorb nutrients. The medieval farmer did not know this, merely knew that the application of this substance improved his yields.

The spring work was not finished when the seed was in the ground. The winter's ravages had to be undone. Fences of wattles had to be built, ditches cleared, and creek banks and hedges repaired. These all had to be done on the lord's lands before the peasant could attend to his own needs. After the work in the fields was completed, there was still the garden. Gardens of leeks, peas, onions, and herbs were to provide the variety in a peasant's otherwise bland diet. This routine would vary depending on what could be grown in the area. In the wine-producing regions, spring meant time to prune and restack the vines. In the pastoral regions,



it meant time to shear the sheep of their winter coats.

It was not all work for the peasant in springtime. There were the usual holidays, including the most important of all: Easter. There were the leftover pagan rituals, such as May Day. And there was the simple basic joy of just having survived another winter--the cycle of life continued.

#### Bibliography:

Agriculture in the Middle Ages, ed. Del Sweeney, University of Pennsylvania, 1995

Life in a Medieval Village, Frances & Joseph Gies, HarperPerennial, 1990.

A Medieval Book of Seasons, Marie Collins & Virginia Davis, Harper Collins, 1992.

Rural Economy and Country Life in the Medieval West, Georges Duby, University of South Carolina, 1968.

Trades and Crafts in Medieval Manuscripts, Patricia Basing, New Amsterdam, 1990.

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## OFFICERS' MEETING

March 3, 1997

13 attended: officers/deputies/champions

The Mongols Rule autocrats presented the final financial figures and the final preparations and plans for the event. The site handout was approved. Specific needs, feast, supplies, cleaning, sign placement, set up, crash space, and logistics were all covered. The park notification that archery has been approved for the event has been received. The need for volunteers in certain areas was brought up and discussed.

The RenFaire planning continues. Information on the Botanica Shakespeare's Birthday party was requested. It will be obtained this week.

There are several Vativian items in process at the Kingdom level. Two more have gone on to the Laurel level. The waterbearers now have covers for the water bottles, which HL Annys sewed in time to be used for the Mongols Rule event. Help is requested from the embroiderers to mark the covers with the Vativian dragonfly.

The Chatelain noted the interest and inquiries from the public during the Sunday fighter practices. He suggested some type of follow-up activities for those inquiries. Details on several upcoming demos were given. Those interested in the Scouts Camporee Saturday, April 19, contact Otoshi. Approval was given to follow up a demonstration request from WSU, which had had some procedural complications. Formal recognition as a campus group is still being worked on.

The arts and sciences questionnaires are being compiled. Bardic held its first monthly meeting. The attendance was good. Dance continues to be on hiatus since an indoor site has not been obtained.

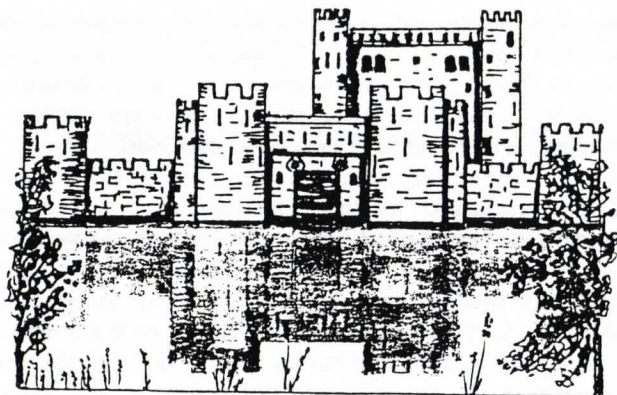
The archery nets have been obtained and the frames for them made and tested for their use. They will be used at the Mongols Rule event. Archery has several marshals in training at this time. Fighter practice was well attended this last week. Otoshi sent his thanks to those who helped talk with interested spectators at the park. The war party to Golden Sea, postponed earlier due to weather, will occur March 15th, weather cooperating.

The first Baronial work day went very well; the second succumbed to inclement weather. One more work session needs to be scheduled to finish the remaining projects. Those projects left to do were discussed.



The Seneschal requested that people remember that Populace Meeting will be at North Linwood Park, starting with the March meeting. Outstanding checks were brought up. Those individuals involved will be contacted so as to get the finances up to date.

The meeting adjourned.



BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bryn 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 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 Rob McMillen	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 Jeri Barr	943-1879
TREASURER Alcyoneus du Battenhelm Park McKellop	682-4468