

DRAGONFLYRE



AUGUST AS XXXIII

Copyright (c) 1997 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.
For information on reprinting articles and artwork from this publication,
please contact the editor, who will assist you in contacting the original
creator of this piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

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.

All non-border/non-heraldic artwork (except for this month's Pennsic
Mosquito) copyright Suzanne Reed © 1997. Used with permission.

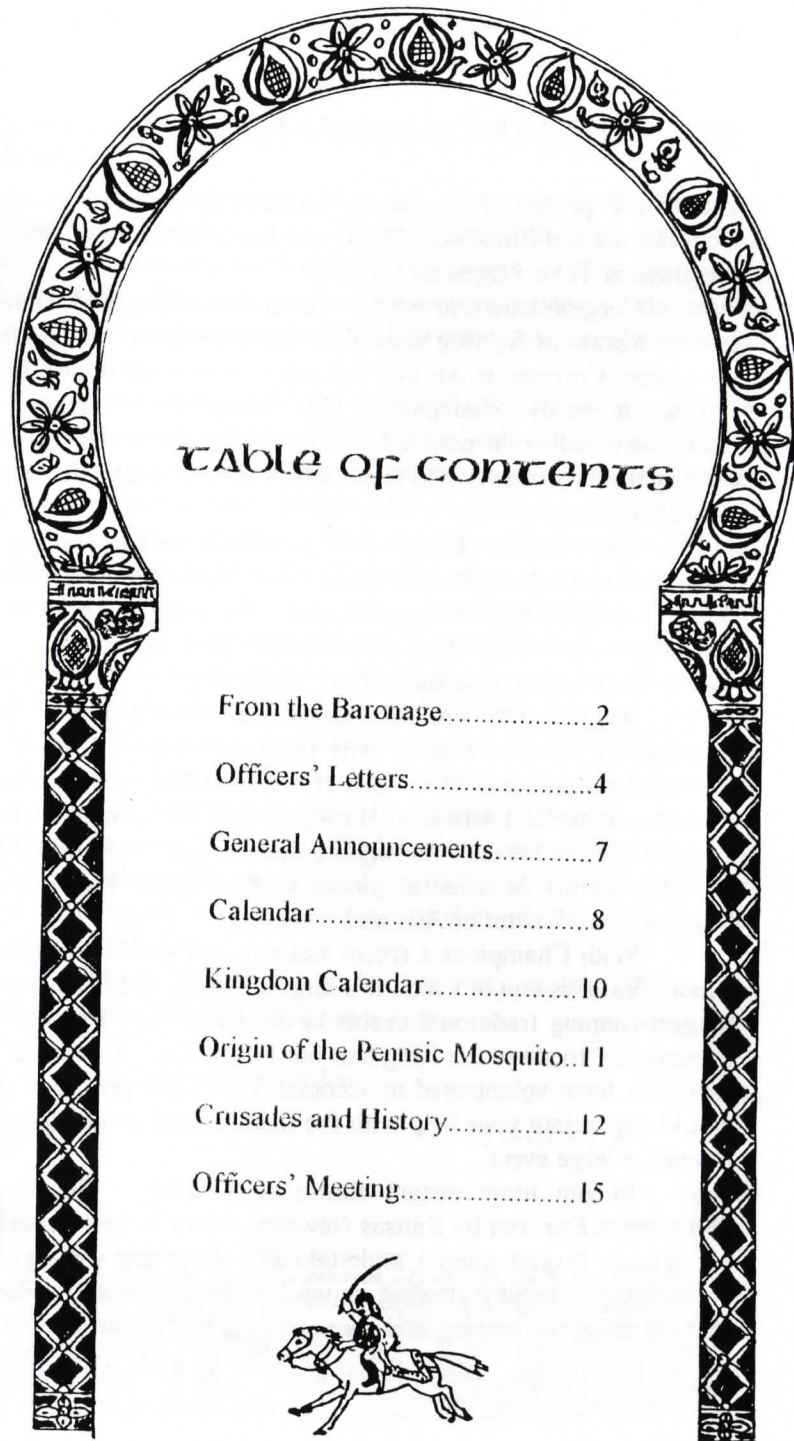


table of contents

From the Baronage.....	2
Officers' Letters.....	4
General Announcements.....	7
Calendar.....	8
Kingdom Calendar.....	10
Origin of the Pennsic Mosquito..	11
Crusades and History.....	12
Officers' Meeting.....	15



FROM THE BARONAGE

Unto the Populace of the Barony of Vatavia come fair greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen, Baron and Baroness of these lands by the grace of Their Majesties Calontir!

Congratulations to our new Champions of Vatavia! Duncan is once again our fighting champion, Roderick is our new archery champion, Corrigan is our arts and sciences champion, and Jovan returns as bardic champion. Our thanks to everyone who participated—all of the entrants competed with honor and skill, and once again the diversity and talent which may be found in Vatavia shone brightly.

Our thanks to Elspeth and Cerridwyn for autocrating the event and to all the folks who helped out. Special thanks are also due to Leonardo for manning the grill. The event felt a lot like a family picnic, which was a wonderful way to find our new champions and celebrate the Barony's birthday.

By the time you receive this missive, you will have experienced the first Stealth Arts night. Corrigan, leading the Calligraphy and Illumination Consortium, cheerfully volunteered to lead a hands-on C&I Adventure during tonight's meeting. We have a couple of other Stealth Arts Nights prepared, but if you would like to share an art or science, please contact either Rhianwen or Eleanor, our Minister of Arts and Sciences.

With Champions a recent memory, our minds now turn to Valor. Valor is one of Calontir's largest events, and is among the longest-running traditional events in the Kingdom. Valor is our opportunity to show the Kingdom our hospitality. Leonhard and Odindisa have volunteered to autocrat Valor this year, and they would appreciate your help with the many duties associated with running a large event.

In the more distant future is RenFair. The annual Renaissance Fair, run by Kansas Newman, is our largest demo and one of our largest annual undertakings. Baroness Brialen has volunteered to head a steering committee for RenFair in order to provide advance planning and continuity for each year's demo. If

you are interested in participating on this committee, please see Brialen for details.

There are quite a few new faces among the Populace. Please take a moment to welcome our new folk. New folk, please feel free to ask questions and try new things--SCA people love to help! Also, please volunteer to lend a hand; nothing we do requires any special prerequisites, and the best way to get involved is to get involved!

On a random note, we've noticed a few people are under the impression that you have to be a national member of the SCA, Inc. in order to participate in various meetings, enter competitions, get awards, register a name and coat of arms, fight, etc. This is not the case. The only activities which require national membership are holding an office or entering Crown Tournament as a competitor or consort.

On the other hand, national membership has many benefits. With a Sustaining Membership, you receive the Kingdom's newsletter and a quarterly magazine dedicated to the arts, sciences, and SCA life on the Society level. You also receive discounts on site fees at many events, and the amount of paperwork you must complete at Troll is reduced. In Vatavia, you also receive the recognition of a Citizenship Cord, which is presented in Baronal Court, to show that you support the SCA at the Society level. If you have recently become a national member, please mention this to our Herald, Brialen.

Thank you all for another successful month. The months ahead will be both busy and rewarding.

In service to Barony and Kingdom,

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN



FROM THE CASTELLAN

Unto the Populace come greetings from Otoshi, Castellan of Vatavia.

At Crown and Champions/Birthday Bash, we had the pleasure of seeing many new gentles attend their first event. Not only did these gentles play and have fun, many of them also worked, providing many hours of assistance. Their graciousness and good attitude is inspiring. Thanks to all of you newcomers--and thanks to all of you more seasoned Vataivians who helped smooth their way into our Barony.

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

Otoshi



FROM THE CHRONICLER

Hail, Vataivians:

During the months I have been chronicler of this Barony, a few special gentles have had the courage to submit articles to the Dragonflyre. I am eternally grateful to them. Yet I know there are other members of the populace who are equally knowledgeable. But why haven't I seen work from them? This is a puzzle I cannot solve. Who can help me explain this?

Eagerly awaiting the answer to my query.

Omnia the Sum

FROM THE PROPERTY MISTRESS

Good Gentles:

A thank you to Jovan Greyhawk and Katherine Stewart for helping to paint the new baronial "SCA This Way" signs for Crown. This helps to make our Barony look great. I also wish to thank all the numerous people who helped transport property to and from Crown. I appreciate it very, very much.

If you have personal tools in the Armory, please get them labeled as soon as possible so we know what belongs to the Barony. Thank you.

Yours in service,

Christine Joye Stewart

NOT FROM THE MOC

When a group in the Society does not have a Ministry of Children, they often request a kind gentle to facilitate/coordinate children's activities at group events. The Facilitator's role is to find willing gentles to volunteer to hold one activity at a single event. Each event should have two or three activities each run by a different person, but coordinated by the Facilitator. This lowers the stress level of the person in charge of children's activities and allows for more members of the populace to enjoy working with the children. The position does not take much time and is a real joy. If you are interested in being a Facilitator for children's activities, please see the Seneschal or myself.

In service,

Christine Joye Stewart

FROM THE CURRENT AUTOCRAT

Salutations from the Autocrat and Co-autocrat of Valor:

As everyone should know by now, Vatavia is throwing our biggest party of the year over Labor Day weekend. We expect everyone to enjoy themselves thoroughly. We would take it amiss if you didn't. For those of you whose idea of a good time at an event is to assist--why, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to enjoy yourselves in that capacity as well! There is plenty of room to help out at these areas.

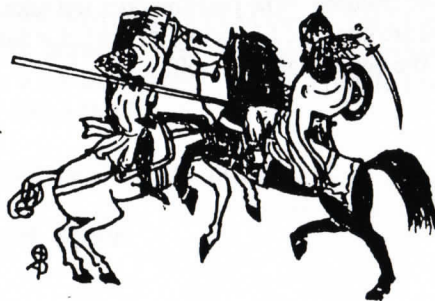
Troll (Ld. Corrigan)
Kitchen (Ly. Kerare)
Tavern (Ly. Eleanor)
Children's Activities (To be Announced, but check with Ly. Christine)
Set Up/Tear Down (Ld. Leonhard/Ly. Odindisa)

Please see these gentles if you wish to volunteer. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

In service to Vatavia.

Leonhard von Konventurm

ᏁᏁᏁᏁᏁ the 5ᏁᏁ



General Announcements

Fighter practice is held Sundays at 1:00pm, at the west side of Watson Park. Everyone, fighters and non-fighters alike, are encouraged, to attend.

Sword & Shield/Pell practice is still being held at His Excellency Gabriel's house., as is armoring. Call 269-3854 for details.

Archery practice continues at 3:00pm, at 5500 N. Maize. Contact Ld. Michael van Burgen at 721-1955 for details.

Middle eastern Dance is held on the 2nd at 4th Thursday of the month. Please call Ly. Kerare at 265-9825 for more information.

Costuming will be held July 21 at the WSU library. We'll be discussing making the library user-friendly. Call Ly. Aobhainn at 683-7425 if you have questions.

As of Augus, Calligraphy and Illumination will change meeting dates to the first Thursday of each month. The time is 7:30; the place is the Kincaid Park Clunhouse. Any questions, please contact Corrigan MacKenzie at 263-1536.

The telephone number of the democrat, our very own Marie Chantal, has changed to 788-6165.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>August 1997</h1>					1	2
3 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery - 3:00	4 Officers' Meeting - 7:00	5 Pell Practice - 6:30 Armoring - 7:00	6 Dance Practice - 7:00	7 Calligraphy & Illumination - 7:30	8	9
10 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery - 3:00	11	12 Pell Practice - 6:30 Armoring 7:00	13 Dance Practice - 7:00	14 Middle Eastern Dance 7:00	15	16
17 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery - 3:00	18 Costuming - 7:00	19 Pell Practice - 6:30 Armoring - 7:00	20 Populace Meeting - 7:00	21	22	23
24 Fighter Practice - 1:00 Archery - 3:00	25	26 Pell Practice - 6:30 Armoring - 7:00	27 Dance Practice - 7:00	28 Middle Eastern Dance - 7:00	29 Valor	30 Valor
31 Valor						

KINGDOM CALENDAR

JULY

- 5 - 6 Go 4th Regional Fighter Practice Crescent Moon, Topeka, KS
11 - 13 Drunken Mammoth Riverhold, Jefferson County, MO
12 - 13 St. Swithun's Shadowdale, Iowa City, IA
19 - 20 Thunder Wars:
Edmund Strikes Back March of Lochmorrow, Augusta, IL
War Games Spinning Winds, Manhattan, KS
26 - 27 Tournament of the Falcons Forgotten Sea, Kansas City, MO

AUGUST

- 2 - 3 Feast of the Eagles Cum An Iolar, S. Johnson County, KS
9 - 10 Vita Caroll Mag Mor, Lincoln, NE
9 - 17 Pennsic Debatable Lands
30 - 31 Tournament of Valor Vatavia, Wichita, KS
For the Ladies of the Rose Axed Root, Ames, IA

SEPTEMBER

- 13 - 14 Reserved for Coronation
20 - 21 Lindisfarne III Forgotten Sea, Kansas City, MO
25th Anniversary for Miklos Mag Mor, Lincoln, NE
27 - 28 Event Deadar, Cedar Rapids, IA

OCTOBER

- 4 - 5 Autumn Arrows Calanais Nuadh, Rolla, MO
11 - 12 RUSH Herald's Hill, Mason City, IA
18 - 19 Fall Event Cum An Iolair, S. Johnson Cty, KS
Harvest Faire VI La Grande Tente, Cedar Rapids, IA

NOVEMBER

- 22 - 23 Toys for Tots Wyvern Cliffe, Jefferson City, MO

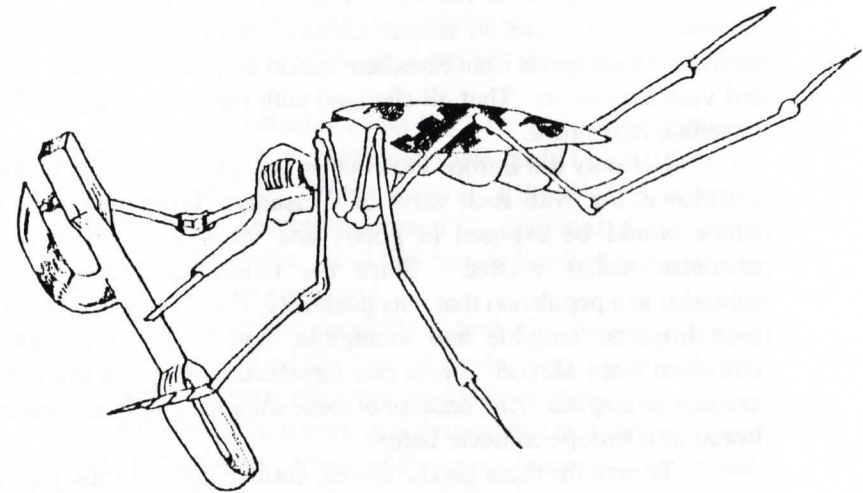


ORIGIN OF THE PENNSIC MOSQUITO

Marie Chantal Delaire

Long ago and far away in the Debatable Lands called Pennsic, two great armies met in dispute by strength of arms and valorous deeds to prove to each other their just claim. Amid this great struggle came a relentless foe of allegiance to neither side with its own dark purpose. Small of stature but great in numbers and as relentless as the great hordes of the Far East, they took advantage of these valiant armies and feasted on their blood till the Kingdoms were forced to concede the field and leave to woods to the victor, the dreaded Pennsic Mosquito. Long after returning to his own land, one soldier found that an illumination of the foe had been caught by cunning magics. The enemy now had a face.

Copyright Mary Day ©1997. Used by permission.



Copyright Mary Day ©1997. Used by permission.

CRUSADES AND HISTORY

Friar Thomas Bacon

When most people think of the Crusades, what usually come to mind are the military campaigns, sieges and battles that pockmark this section of history. They think of the religious fever that inspired and sustained this effort. And they think of it as a doomed enterprise that achieved little save add to the general ill-will to this fractious planet. Yet while the Crusades achieved their intended goals but for a short time, it was the secondary effects that changed all of history. It is these effects that will be explored in this essay.

Now I will confine my scope to the Crusades in the Middle east, which are the ones most people think of when the topic comes up. Other Crusades of the time period include those of the Baltic region, the Spanish peninsula, and Southern France. Perhaps in another essay I will talk of them.

The single biggest effect the crusades had is that it connected Europe with the rest of the world. Until the First Crusade, Europe was an insular culture, concerned mostly with survival. While goods from elsewhere would seep in, they were rare and very expensive. That all changed with the blossoming of the crusading movement.

Not only did Europe look out on the rest of the world with confidence, but with each wave of Crusaders, large numbers of people would be exposed to goods and ideas they would not otherwise realize existed. Since the Crusading States were embedded in a population that was passively, if not actively hostile, these imports, tangible and intangible, had to be continually reinforced from abroad. From this logistical train came the first commercial empires. And because of these empires, goods and ideas flowed into Europe as never before.

To pay for these goods: spices, cottons, silks, exotic fruits came metals from Germany and textiles from Flanders, made from English wool. From this trade, and the industries that it inspired

arose the middle class that would overthrow the old feudal order.

Ideas also flowed over the trade routes. Much has been made of the introduction of classical Greek texts during these times. Actually, many of these texts were already available in Europe, but had been so encrusted by previous commentaries as to obscure their meaning. What came from the Muslims were cleaner copies and sharply differing commentary, which sparked new discussion of these old philosophies.

Among the new ideas that did flood in were new concept of fortification and siege weaponry, mathematics, and chemistry. What was exceptional in this was the ease and quickness these innovations were incorporated. Not only in the narrow fields from which they originated, but through all arenas of western thought, if only metaphorically. This represents one of the unique aspects of western civilization. In all other cultures, technological works written centuries ago can still be considered relevant today. In western society, if it is ten years old, it is obsolete.

One of the great historical questions is why, of all the great world cultures, it is the Europeans that came to dominate the world. The Chinese are far older, the Muslims were far more widespread. The answers have ranged from the individualism of Christianity to the willingness to adapt to changes. I believe it was an addiction to spices.

The fall of Constantinople in 1452 cut off the importation of spices from the Far East. Actually, they still could be had, the price just went through the roof. Of the cultures of the world at the time, only Europe had an insatiable demand for stuff that could not be acquired within its borders. And that supply line had just been cut and could not easily be reinstated.

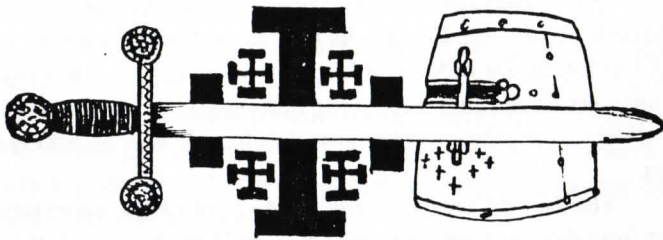
This set off a major scramble to find other means to satisfy the demand. Thus started the Age of Exploration. And with this new world web of commerce came world domination.

The rise of trade, towns, and the middle class did not occur because of the Crusades. Much of European history of the Middle Ages would roughly remain the same if they had not existed. But had they not occurred, much of the great Mediterranean trade would

not have arisen, and so the fall of Constantinople would not have had nearly the effect it did. There would have been no great impetus to scour the oceans for another route to the far east, and so there would have been no Age of Exploration and all that flowered from it.

While the Crusader dream of a Christian Jerusalem lasted less than a century, and it would be over seven hundred years before another Christian would stride down her streets as ruler, the Crusaders did set up the conditions that would lead to a greater destiny.

Copyright David Moreno © 1997. Used by permission.



OFFICER'S MEETING July 7, 1997

17 members attended: 14 officers/deputies/champions/autocrats; 3 members of the populace

Final plans and feast arrangements for the Champions/Birthday Bash event were covered. Some specifics on the site set-up and accommodations needed to be resolved. The Valor autocrats and the deputies continue on plans for that event. More specifics and some necessary changes were brought up. The final figures on Crown Tournament were not yet available at the time of the meeting. There was a consensus that the feast was a great success.

The possibility of hosting the winter RUSH session--Royal University of Shir Hafoc--in Vativia was proposed. This will be checked into and a bid written. A certificate from the Sedgewick county Zoo recognizing the volunteer work of the Society this year for the Night of the Living Zoo was presented. Any suggestions for expanding the organization's involvement need to be considered and started now.

Two Vativian items of heraldry have been registered; another was sent on to Laurel in June for consideration. There should be action taken on several Vativian items by late summer--early fall. A class on "what to expect in the new Court system" is planned to be presented at the Champions event.

The Property Mistress reported on the acquisition of signs, most of which have been painted and are in the shed. Access to the property shed for those who need it has been made easier.

Elsbeth, the Arts & Sciences champion, presented a proposed medallion design for the A&S champion. The various other Baronial armory was discussed at this time. The Minister of Arts and Sciences asked for information for the quarterly report on those arts and sciences activities and projects by individuals and groups. Wish lists from the various interest groups need to be turned in, in writing to the Baronage/Seneschal. It was requested that the MOA/S be given copies as well.

Archery practice continues on Maize on Sundays. A picnic

was held last week. For those authorized archery of the group. Fighter practice is on Sundays at Watson Park. However, the Sunday after Champions, a regional fighter practice at the event site is planned.

Officers were reminded that quarterly reports are due to their superiors at Kingdom with a copy to the Seneschal and a courtesy copy to the baronage. A question about the July populace meeting was presented. This would only be four days after the Champions event. The structure and content of that meeting were discussed. The position of Minister of Children is still open. It was proposed to make this more of a facilitator type of position.

The meeting adjourned.



BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Steurer	269-3853
SENECHAL Tristan Rory de Jorz Rick Haddaway CHATELAIN Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspay	265-9825 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 DEPUTY KNIGHT MARSHALL Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspay	681-0268 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 Alcyoneus du Battenhelm Park McKellop	682-4468