

# DRAGONFLY

September ASXXXIII





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Baronial Champions:

Fighting: Duncan MacCraken  
Arts & Sciences: Corrigan MacKenzie  
Archery: Roderick  
Bardic: Jovan Greyhawk

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## FROM THE BARONAGE

*Due to the intense concentration of defending home and farthest borders, Their Excellencies have chosen this month to remind everyone that, at times, Silence is Golden.*

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN



## FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings,

I wish those traveling east to Pennsic a safe trip. Valor is now upon us. I would encourage all to attend. This is our chance to attend to shine. Gentles from across the Kingdom will be coming to attend our largest tournament of the year.

On that note: we are currently accepting bids for a Yule event. If you are interested in autocratting this or a future event, please submit bids to the Baronage and to myself.

The weekend after Valor, Westumbria will be holding an event/demo. I would ask that all that can support this try to attend. If you would like more information on this or other events, contact me.

On a final note: I would remind all of our fine artisans that the Calontir A&S Championship and Kingdom-wide Tri-level competition will be held October 18th. Pre-registration deadline is September 13th. For more information, please consult Lady

Eleanor, myself, or the Mews.

In service,

*Tristan Rory de Jorz*

## FROM THE CASTELLAN/DEPUTY KNIGHT MARSHALL

Unto the populace of Vatavia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Castellan and Deputy to Fergus, Knight Marshall of Vatavia.

Once again, the two reports are being given in the condensed version to save the populace from my delusional ramblings.

From the castellan's office: I am attempting to redo the newcomer's packet for any new people. This includes simple (*very* simple) tunic patterns, and any other basic information that is usually included in things like the Knowne World handbook. Please, don't assume that I already have something. I will welcome all submissions. Also, I am attempting to redo the loaner garb. Many huzzahs to the customers who have volunteered to make some spiffy new loaner garb, as most of our other good stuff has found new homes....

From the Deputy Knight Marshall: For those of you whom haven't heard, Sunday fighter practice is now at 6:00ish at Watson Park. We have some new people who are coming along very nicely. We also have Valor coming up, and I would encourage *all* eligible Vataavian fighters to participate in the Valor tourney. (I would just love it if a Vataavian won!)

Plug for Westumbria.: The Red Bear is hosting Bearfest IV in Great Bend the weekend after valor. It's an event doubling



as a demo. It's also a fund-raiser for them so I am personally asking anyone who can attend to please do so. Westumbria needs our support as the largest group near them, so let's do what we can. I'd hate to make them a canton again....

In service,

*Olivia*

## FROM THE CHRONICLER

Hail to all good Vatavians from my scribble-torium:

Unfortunately, the long-awaited column from Lora Anne the Silent will remain long-awaited, until at least another month. Life has gotten very, er, *lifelike* for her. So, all I can say to her is "hang in there, One Girl." All I can say to *you*, O Populace, is "this is your newsletter." If you want something in here, tell me. It'll make it in here eventually. If you want to write something, I couldn't be more delighted. Please keep in mind there are copyright requirements. I am researching those from month to month.

At the risk of sounding like the inestimable editor of Tournaments Illuminated, I could be tempted into discussing my pregnancy and the imminent (if one could consider February imminent) arrival of my heir(ess). I have a hunch that next year may be taken up even more by certain family concerns. So I hazard a guess that perhaps looking for a deputy might be my next big project.

In anticipation,

Odinorð the Sum

## FROM THE MOA/MOS

Hearty greetings to the good populace of Vativia from Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon, Minister of Arts and Sciences. I pray this missive finds all well and protected from the harsh blasts of heath that raze these Falcon Lands.

Valor is quickly coming upon us. Hopefully, many of you have planned to enter A&S. I have multiple copies of the kingdom criteria. Please let me know what areas you are interested in, and I will get that information to you. There is also an opportunity to go help and play with our friends in Westumbria the week after valor. I'd love to see many of you in the Land of the Great Red Bear at that time.

I now understand there's a bit of confusion surrounding what we mean when we say costuming. Costuming night encompasses not just costuming, but the fiber arts as well. Please, if you have any interest in needlework, weaving, costuming, etc., then come out! Lady Aobhainn continues to do an exceptional job coordinating this key area.

I am looking for a Drop Dead Deputy. Interested parties should slip me a note by the end of Valor. Your letter should contain who you are, that you are a paid member of the SCA, why you are interested in the position, and what skills (modern and SCA) that make you a good officer candidate. NOTE: It does *not* take any particular skills in any art or science to do this job; it does *not* require years of SCA experience; it *does* require enthusiasm and a spirit to serve.

In service,

*Eleanor*

## FROM THE TREASURER

Greetings from the Exchequer:

It is my position that all Baronial financial information is available for the inspection of the populace. If anyone is interested in viewing it, they need only make an appointment with me.

As of 8/4/97, our approximate balance was \$6325.15

In service,

*Alcyoneus du Battenhelm*

## FROM THE CURRENT AUTOCRAT

First of all, thanks to those gentles who have already begun volunteering their time and assisting us in the preliminaries for Valor. (You know who you are. You're the ones we've been groveling in front of.)

Valor will be held on the 29th, 30th, and 31st of August, and the 1st of September. While others will be watching pigskin follies or their burgers burn on the barbecue, you can attend the 18th Tournament of Valor with a few hundred of your closest friends. Leap into fall with that feeling of achievement Valor always brings. For a whole weekend, you volunteered to help others and you had a blast doing it. Just to jog the memory, here are the people who are in charge if particular areas:

Troll - Ld. Corrigan MacKenzie

Kitchen - Ly. Kerare

Tavern - Ly. Eleanor

Children's Activities - Ly. Christine

Set Up/Tear Down - Ld. Leonhard/Ly. Odindisa

Please see these gentles if you wish to volunteer. Your assistance will make this a Valor to remember.

In service to Vatavia,

**Leonhard von Kowenturn**

**Odindisa the Sun**



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an electric fan you can part with for the weekend, they are needed at Valor. Please let Ld. Leonhard know (at 682-1669) if you can loan your fan.

Costuming and Fiber Arts continues to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at Aragon Apartments. Please contact Ly. Aobhainn (pronounced "Evan") for details at 683-7425.

Bardic Circle will be held at Ly. Kasamira's house on September 29th. Please call Ld. Jovan Grayhawk for information at 682-2346.

Middle-eastern Dance is held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm. Contact Ly. Kerare at 265-9825 for more information.



1997

# September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Armoring, Pell Practice 6:30	<b>3</b> European Dance 7:00	<b>4</b> Calligraphy & Illumination 7:30	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Archery Practice 3:00 Fighter Practice	<b>8</b> Officers' Meeting 7:00	<b>9</b> Armoring, Pell Practice 6:30	<b>10</b> European Dance 7:00	<b>11</b> Middle-Eastern Dance 7:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Archery Practice 3:00 Fighter Practice	<b>15</b> Costuming & Fiber Arts 7:00	<b>16</b> Armoring, Pell Practice 6:30	<b>17</b> Populace Meeting 7:00	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Archery Practice 3:00 Fighter Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Armoring, Pell Practice 6:30	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Middle-Eastern Dance 7:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Archery Practice 3:00 Fighter Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Armoring, Pell Practice 6:30				

Calligraphy and Illumination will be held at Kincaid Park Apartments Clubhouse, behind the Walmart at Pawnee and Broadway. If you have questions, please call Ld. Corrigan MacKenzie at 263-1536.

Do you want to be on the RenFaire steering committee? If so, please contact Her Excellency Brialen at 524-0917.

If you have finished embroidering the Waterbearer bottle covers, please get them to Ly. Christine at 943-1879.



## DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

Their Excellencies, Rhianwen & Gabriel.....Ink Coronets  
 HL Marie Chantal Delair.....Officers' Minutes & Heraldic Art  
 Milady Toda Galindez.....Courier  
 Milady Toda Galindez.....Non-border Art

## KINGDOM CALENDAR

### AUGUST

29 - 31 Tournament of Valor      Vativia, Wichita KS  
 30 - 31 For the Ladies of the Rose      Axed Root, Ames IA

### SEPTEMBER

6 - 7 Bearfest IV: Bear it In the Park Westumbria, Great Bend KS  
 Armogeddon VII      Borer Downs (Northshield)  
 Hunter's Revel II      Ivory Keep, Hannibal MO  
 13 - 14 Reserved for Coronation  
 20 - 21 Lindisfarne III      Forgotten Sea, Kansas City MO  
 25th Anniversary for Miklos      Mag Mor, Lincoln NE  
 27 - 28 Deodar doe-Cathlon      Deodar, Cedar Rapids IA  
 Blood of Heroes      March of the Grimfells,  
    Fayetteville AR

### OCTOBER

4 - 5 Autumn Arrows      Calanais Nuadh, Rolla MO  
 11 - 12 RUSH      Herald's Hill, Mason City IA  
    A Grand Tournament      Standing Stones, Columbia MO  
 18 - 19 A&S Championship and      Cum An Iolair, S. Johnson Cty. KS  
    Tri-Level Competition  
    Harvest Faire VI      La Grende Tente, Cedar Rapids,  
 IA

### NOVEMBER

1 - 2 Spook-O-Rama      Golden Sea, Salina KS  
 15 - 16 Event      Bois D'Arc, Southeast KS  
 22 - 23 Toys for Tots      Wyvern Cliffe, Jefferson City  
    MO

### DECEMBER

6 - 7      Kris Kinder Forgotten Sea, Kansas City  
 MO



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Friar Thomas Bacon

Wandering the camps at night, a thing that marks an SCA event is the sounds. Most camps are dark shadows studded by the pinpricks of light from candles and lanterns, anonymous in the darkness. But it is the sounds that give them life and individuality. And the sounds with the most pleasing character are those of musical instruments. From the drums of Rolling Thunder to the guitar of Sir Eric Hlodowechssun there exudes a magic that can make an event memorable. What follows is a brief history of some of the more prominent instruments.

The first instrument most people try is the recorder. Simple to learn, yet capable of playing a wide range of tunes, this instrument is ubiquitous at any SCA event. The recorder first appeared in the fourteenth century, though similar instruments have existed since the beginning of history. The term recorder actually covers a family of instruments of various sizes. Praetorius reports around 1600 of eight different sizes ranging over the entire scale. The most often found is the alto recorder. During the period this instrument was commonly called a flute. The instrument we now call the flute existed and was known as a fife or a cross flute. Modern recorders were first constructed in 1919 based on Baroque designs.

The next most familiar instrument is the drum. Of all the variations, the two most common in the SCA are the bodhran and the dumbec, neither of which were common in Europe during the Middle Ages. While something like the dumbec appeared just prior to the 10th century, it disappeared again a couple of hundred years later. The bodhran's existence is more shadowy still as it can easily be confused in appearance with the tabor or tambourine. But it is certainly true that the tightening system seen on current bodhrans was not invented until the late Renaissance. Period drums were tightened with ropes. The most

common drum in the period was the naker, a small kettledrum used in pairs, that was brought back from the Middle East during the Crusades.

Another oft seen instrument in the Current Middle Ages is the guitar. The classical guitar of today is actually from the early 19th century, but a guitar-like instrument could be found throughout the period under a number of different names. The principal difference between these early instruments and the modern guitar is that the predecessors were usually strung with four double strings. The other central difference is the varying proportions of the sounding body. They could also be made with or without frets.

A special relative of the guitar is the lute, which has a rounded back, as opposed to the flat back of the guitar. The lute tended to be restricted to the upper class as it was of lighter construction, which made it more fragile. It thus was also more likely to go out of tune. One satirical remark had it that an eighty-year-old lute player would have spent sixty years tuning his lute.

Draw a bow across one of these guitar-like instruments and you now have a violin. Like the guitar, the violin had a number of incarnations during the period, its final form not occurring until the 18th century. An interesting aspect of the violin is that period illustrations show the violin not only played under the chin, but across the body like a guitar, on the lap, or on the leg like a viola.

Other stringed instruments that can be heard at SCA events are the harp and the dulcimer. The harp is, of course, an ancient instrument and did not change much during the course of the period. There did evolve two variants, principally one with wire strings which tended to be larger and more massive, and one with gut strings.

The dulcimer evolved out of the psaltery around the 15th century, the former being struck; the latter plucked. The dulcimer's popularity lasted for only a little over a century, while the psaltery was mechanized and became the harpsichord, which



begat the piano.

One instrument frequently pictured but rarely heard at SCA events is the trumpet. The medieval trumpet is basically a brass tube with a mouthpiece at one end and a bell horn at the other. The number of notes is limited by its length--the longer it is, the more notes can be played. Thus its use tended to be limited to ceremonial fanfares. In the 15th century artisans learned how to bend these tubes, allowing longer trumpets in a more compact form. However, it was not until the Baroque period that the trumpet came into its own.

I would like to end this essay discussing two instruments that, while almost never heard at SCA events, played an important part of medieval life: bells and the organ. These instruments were usually associated with the church, because they were expensive, large, and difficult to transport (though portable ones did exist). Bells rang out the canonical hours, time for Mass, and warnings. Organs were used to liven up the Mass, and thus were not at first easily accepted by church leaders, though they eventually bowed to the inevitable. What is lesser known is that the organ was basically Roman technology, though it was the Byzantines who made it practical. The Byzantine emperor gave Pepin an air driven organ in 757. From this seed the organ spread throughout Europe.

This short essay does not begin to exhaust the variety of instruments that existed in the Middle Ages. The Renaissance experienced an explosion of instruments. In some of these can be glimpsed our modern instruments; others are now obscure and forgotten. Yet they are all just as important to contributing to the atmosphere of the SCA. And while boomboxes were several centuries in the future, the medieval person was no less surrounded by music than we are today. Such was the importance of music that Castiglione in his influential book "The Book of the Courtier" declared that one had to be able to play an instrument before one could be considered a gentleman. May the night camps be filled with music.

## Bibliography

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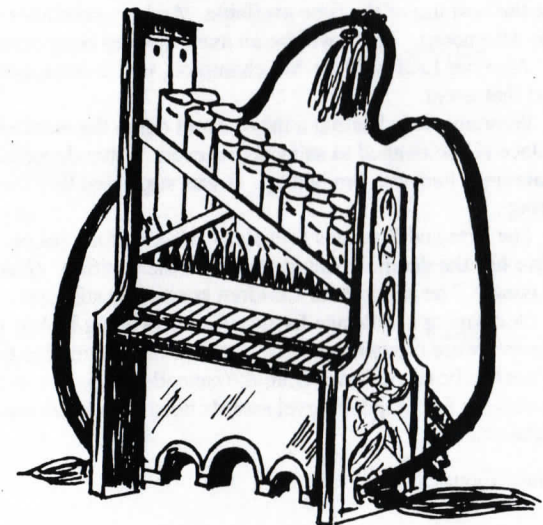
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## OFFICERS' MEETING

August 4, 1997

15 members attended: 12 officers/deputies/champions/autocrats; 3 members of the populace

Valor plans are in the finishing stages. Musicians for the Saturday ball are uncertain. Individuals contacted have been unable to make a firm commitment. A party to make the site tokens is planned. There will also be a class on troll participation and paperwork. Other specific questions about the Valor preparations were asked and answered. It was requested that fans be loaned to help ventilate some of the buildings to be used during Valor.

Various bills and other financial requests were taken care of.

Formation of a RenFair steering committee has been delayed due to the cancellation of the meeting last month because of inclement weather. The beginnings of a survey for that committee are being produced. It was suggested that other demo activities look at doing pre-planning. When projects for Night of the Living Zoo and the River Festival have been proposed in the past, they have not been possible due to deadline constraints.

Calligraphy and Illumination has a new meeting schedule, the first Thursday of the month. The September 29th bardic will be at Kasamira's tower. The costumers have a project for the Barony they would like to do. Leatherwork is needing to find a meeting location. Dance continues to meet at St. James Episcopal Church on Wednesdays, except for the Wednesday of the populace meeting.

It was mentioned that some judging sheets from the last Queen's Prize tourney had not been received. This will be looked into.

Fighter practice is now starting at about 6pm on Sundays at Watson Park. It was recommended to arrive a little earlier to have time to get ready and make the best use of the time available. Archery continues to be in Maize on Sunday afternoons. There will be an axe-throwing competition sponsored at Valor. Also our Luchisnik, archer champion, will answer a challenge from Casimir at that event.

Westumbria is hosting a major event demo the weekend after valor. The populace is encouraged to support this event. Attendance at the Kansas City Renaissance Fair was brought up. It was suggested that the Barony might go as a group.

The Arts and Sciences Minister is looking for a successor. The July Dragonflyer has the details about applying for the position. (*Editor's note: as does this issue*) The Minister of Children position is still open.

Developing a webpage for the Barony is being looked into. Past and pending quests were brought up. Also, gentles were reminded that there is court business to be carried over from the cancelled populace meeting. Award recommendations for Kingdom level awards need to be in as soon as possible to Their Majesties.

The meeting adjourned.

BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Steurer	269-3853
SENESCHAL Tristan Rory de Jorz Rick Haddaway	265-9825
CASTELLAN Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspey	267-3456
ARCHER MARSHALL Michael van Burgen Michael Hombaker	721-1955
CALTROP Brialen Ulfisdottir Vikingr Debbie Taylor	524-0917
CHRONICLER Odindisa the Grim Marguerite Reed	269-1574
KNIGHT MARSHALL Fergus Mic Rhuadhri Glas Rob McMillen DEPUTY KNIGHT MARSHALL Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspey	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