

DRAGONFLYRE

NOVEMBER AS XXXII



GWRHYR
AND EIDDEL
SEARCH FOR
MABON
SON OF MODRON

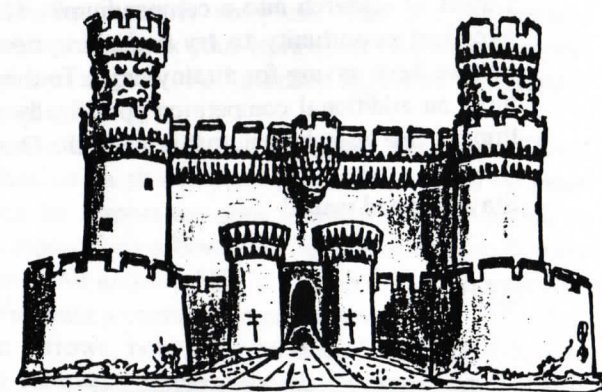
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FROM THE BARONAGE

Unto the Populace of Vatavia come greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen, Baron and Baroness by the Grace of Their Majesties Calontir!

Champions will be upon us soon. It is not too late to choose to enter! The current Champions will be able to tell you exactly what is involved in entering.

Congratulations are due to our new officers. Eleanor will be stepping into the Seneschalate, and Aobhainn will be our new Minister of Arts and Sciences. We have full confidence in these two ladies to both carry on the torches passed on to them by their predecessors and to carve out their own niche with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Our thanks to Tristan and Eleanor, who are stepping down from these offices. They have done commendable work.

As winter approaches, our minds now turn to hearth and home. Although the next camping and tourney season will not be upon us for many months, now is perhaps the best time to turn toward preparing. Have you been wistfully thinking of making a tent? Have you wanted to learn glass bead-making, but haven't had the impetus to do so? Have you ever thought of compiling your tidbits of research into a compendium? The cold months are an excellent opportunity to try something new or to do something you've been saving for a rainy day! To this end, Champions will have an additional competition specifically for never-before-tried things. See elsewhere in this issue of the Dragonflyre for details.

Stay safe and warm!

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN



FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings:

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Vatavian Seneschal for the past year and a half. The time has come for me to make way for another. My replacement will be named at the October Populace Meeting. I hope this gentle will have as much fun as I have had.

I remain, now a mere member of the populace,

Tristan Rory de Jorz

P.S. All of my deputies and deputies of this office are hereby fired! Consult the new Seneschal for openings and/or re-employment.

FROM THE ARCHER MARSHALL

The summer shooting is nearly complete. Fall and the coming winter is the best time to check your equipment. Replace or repair your bowstrings and arrows. Fall practice is needed to maintain efficiency. Do not ignore it.

The focus this fall will be on thrown weapons. Those desiring an authorization should contact me. There will be more than one practice for thrown weapons to make it easier for all to attend. Several repaired crossbows will be returned to the Barony in the near future. All archery MIT's will need an authorization. Perhaps other will want a crossbow authorization.

Autumn Arrows, held the weekend of October 4-5, was highlighted by a competition among the champions of the Calontir baronies, shires, and cantons. Four clay pigeon targets at 20 yards scored 1 point each. Two at 30 yards scored 2 points, and one at 40 yards scored 4 points. Seventeen participants pored off and eliminated each other by scoring more points or getting points first if they otherwise tied. If there were no hits, then a sudden death

round was used. Lief of Crescent Moon won by 1-2 seconds in the sudden death round against Vatavia's own Ruaidridh de Graham.

Many of the populace have acquired bow authorizations in the last years or so, but have not attended any practices or any events where they participated in archery. By the new system, if you do not attend at least one practice or participate in at least one archery event per year, your authorization can be rendered invalid. For these people, practice does continue plus there is the event at Emporia, the incipient shire of Fearn-Ar, the weekend of October 25, where archery will definitely be held or as weather permits.

In service,

Michael van Bergen

FROM THE CALTROP CLERK

Unto the citizens of Vavavia doth Her Ladyship Annys de Vernun of Kettering, Caltrop Clerk, send greetings this Feast of Saint Bruno, AS XXXII. Please accept the following report.

Vatavian citizens currently have 7 name and/or armory proposals in process, 2 new names, 2 new devices, 1 new badge, 1 device resubmission, and 1 change of name. These proposals and their current status are as follows:

Cerridwen Eurgledde ferch Owain: New device, to Kingdom 9/30/97.

Christine Joye Stewart: Device resubmission, to Laurel 9/97.

Duncan MacCracken: New device, to Laurel 6/97.

Lora Ann the Silent: New badge, to Kingdom 2/20/97.

Orabella Grainne O Briain: New name, to Kingdom 9/30/97.

Ruaidridh de Graham: New name, to Kingdom 9/30/97.

Thomas Foxliche of Grenwode: Change of name, to Laurel 9/97.

If you have any comments or questions about these

proposals, please feel free to contact me at 755-1917 between 7pm and 10pm.

I hope this missive finds all in Good Heart and Good Health. I remain in service to Vavavia,

Annys



FROM THE CASTELLAN/DEPUTY
KNIGHT'S MARSHALL

(Editor's note: The gentle who fills these positions was temporarily overcome with contemplation of the Thanksgiving holiday, and therefore submitted no letter. We look forward to the return of his usual exuberance.)

FROM THE CHRONICLER

Unto my fellow Vavavians:

I wish to reiterate to all officers, new and seasoned, that letters from the officers intended for publication are due in to me at the monthly Officers' Meeting. Compliance with this deadline is appreciated. Failure to comply usually means either no letter or one I make up. Hey, they don't call me the Mistress of Propaganda for nothing....

In service to the Dragonflyre,

οοιιοιηδ the Σημ

FROM THE PROPERTY MISTRESS

Greetings:

I really need all of the embroidered Dragonflies for waterbearing bottle covers as soon as possible! Please call me at 943-1879 so I may retrieve them ASAP.

In Service,

Christine Joye Stewart



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Now that fall is upon us, fighter practice has moved to Central Riverside Park, Sundays, at 1:00pm.

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

Anyone interested in becoming a fighter marshal should contact His Lordship Fergus at 681-0268 or Lord Otoshi at 267-3456. Anyone wishing to become an archer marshal should contact Lord Michael van Bergen at 265-5804. Applications are being taken for the position of Baronial Archer Marshal.

Archery practice continues at 3:00pm, at 5500 N. Maize. Contact Ld. Michael van Bergen at 265-5804 for details.

Bardic returns to its regular site, namely Cerridwen Eurgledde ferch Owain's house, and will be held the last Monday in October. Please call Lord Jovan at 682-7346 for more information.

European dance is held each Wednesday night at St. James Episcopal Church. Please call Lady Eliane for more information.

Middle Eastern Dance has been postponed until November. Please call Her Ladyship Kerare at 265-9825 for more information.

Middle Eastern drumming class will be held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 7:00pm, at His Lordship Tristan's house. Call 265-9825 for details.

Costuming/Fiber Arts occurs on the third Monday of each month. Call Ly. Aobhainn at 683-7425 if you have questions.

Leatherworking will be held concurrent with Fiber Arts in the lower level of the building. Please contact Ruaidridh de Graham for details.

Calligraphy and Illumination continues at Wheat Shocker Apartments on WSU campus. Class goes from 7:30 to 9:00-ish, the first Thursday of each month. Any questions, please contact Corrigan MacKenzie at 263-1536.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Kestrel Page, please call Lady Christine at 943-1879 to discuss a good time to schedule classes or get more information.

DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

Her Excellency Rhianwen.....Ink Primate

HL Marie Chantal Delaire.....Officers' Minutes & Heraldic Art

Milady Toda Galindez.....Non-border Art, Courier

INTRODUCING

The Baroness' Challenge

Ready to try something new? Enter the Baroness' Challenge at Champions! This is a competition of first attempts, designed to encourage folks to try their hands at arts or sciences which they haven't tried before.

Requirements for entry:

1. You may enter any art or science. You may enter as many different objects as you like.
2. Your entry must be your first attempt in that particular field.
3. Include documentation as you would at any Kingdom A&S competition. (See the Minister of Arts and Sciences for this information if you need it.)
4. Include a brief discussion of your success in this project. This should be a paragraph or lists of What Worked Well and What I Will Do Differently Next Time.

Judging: Judging will be done by Rhianwen and a band of merry daredevil judges. Judging will be based on a variety of categories, including (but not limited to) Ambition, Creativity, Appropriateness of Materials, Documentation, and How Much You Learned from Doing This. (Please note that actual skill is not required. Unmitigated disasters will be cheerfully accepted.)

Prizes: We have prizes! Prizes will be awarded in at least two categories.

Best Overall First Attempt: The winner of this category will be the person who scores the highest according to the criteria.

Best Sport: The ability to experience an artistic catastrophe and learn from it, rather than giving into despair, is something for which Rhianwen has deep respect. The valiant person who displays the best sportsmanship will be selected to receive this prize.

Random Prizes: Rhianwen may well come up with other prize categories between now and the Court at Champions.

MORE VATAVIAN AWARDS

There are two levels of awards in the arts and sciences. The primary level is the Achievement in the Arts and the Achievement in the Sciences.

Whether the recipient is awarded an AiA or an AiS depends on the field for which he or she is receiving the award. Some fields are designated as arts, and others as sciences. The difference between the two is sometimes a bit blurry, but arts are generally fields which involve more creativity and freedom of form, and sciences are generally fields which require more precision and technical expertise. Sometimes, however, designation as an art or science appears to be based more on tradition than anything else. Some people jokingly use the rule of thumb, "If you drop it on your foot and it hurts, it's a science!"

Nevertheless, the Achievement in the Arts or Achievement in the Sciences is given for just that — notable achievement in a field. It is usually conveyed for consistently high-quality work over a period of time. However, it may also be conveyed for a single instance of particularly outstanding work on a single project.

The AiA and AiS may be awarded multiple times. Additional awards may be for efforts in a different art or science or for continued work in the same field as the first.

The Radiant Lioness is the Barony's highest arts and sciences award. This award was named for our founding Baroness, Mammara, whose heraldic device is a gynosphinx. The Radiant Lioness is conveyed for long-term and excellent achievement in the arts and sciences. As the Order is a polling order, Their Excellencies consult with the other members of the Radiant Lioness for advice as to whom to elevate.

Next month: Combat

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1997

November

1997

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

Who ARE The Welsh?

by Friar Thomas Bacon

It is often said that history is written by the victors. While this is a bit overstated, it is in large part true. One case in point is the Welsh. The word 'welsh' derives from the Saxon word 'wealh' which means foreign. Only the North American natives were so grievously mislabeled. What ever the label, the Welsh are a people with a strong identity, which is amazing considering that there has been a Welsh nation for only short periods of history. It is only a common Celtic heritage and geography that bind the Welsh together, which was their strength and their weakness.

The best known parts of Welsh history is their struggles against English domination, or more precisely, Norman and Plantagenet domination. This ended ironically when one of their own, Henry Tudor, gained the English throne. What this essay will explore however, are the events which set the stage for this heroic conflict.

The shorthand description of the origins of the Welsh is that they are the Celtic remnant of the original population of Britain pushed into the hills by later invasions. While broadly correct, this formulation hides a number of subtle facts. The first of which is that the Celts were not the original inhabitants of the island, but were themselves invaders arriving around 400BC. The details of this invasion are hazy as there are no written records, and the archaeological evidence is muddled by the long term trading that occurred beforehand. Whether it was a quick military invasion, or slow assimilation, by 55BC when Julius Caesar invaded, he found there a Celtic culture.

The lands that would become Wales came under Roman occupation, and life there was typical of the rest of Roman Britain. Being on the fringe of Roman influence, these lands were the first to be abandoned beyond the last of the Roman legions departed in 410. While the main invasions that were to afflict Britain were from the Saxons and the Angles, the first invaders to reach Wales were the Irish. To counter the Irish, members of another Celtic tribe, the Gododdin, from around what would be the Edinburgh area, were imported. The leader of this group would found a dynasty that would rule the area of northern Wales known as Gwynedd. In southwestern Wales, the Irish remained, forming the

region known as Dyfed. Further to the east, where Roman influence remained strongest, the local inhabitant consolidated into the minor kingdom of Gwent. The rest of Wales eventually became Powys. What has gone unnoticed that these and other smaller dynasties managed to survive to almost the eleventh century. The same topography that made Wales so hard for later conquerers also made it difficult for any of the local rulers to overcome their neighbors. Not that they didn't try. Over the next five centuries a number of kings though conquest and marriage would unite Wales, only for it to collapse upon their death. These failures would lead to English and later Norman domination.

There are two names that are remembered in Welsh literature from this period of formation: Taliesin and Arthur. Taliesin, bard and poet, much of his reputation rests on a few lines in the Welsh annuals. The works ascribed to him were not written down until several centuries later and bearing the marks of much reworking.

In one of history's little ironies, much of what we know of Arthur comes from Welsh sources, though much of his exploits occurred in the English Midlands. In addition he was more of a Roman than a Celt. In another irony, Arthur, whose fame rested on his successful resistance to the Saxon invaders, became the touchstone hero of another set of invaders: the Normans. The Romance of Arthur formed a part of the Norman effort to seal their hold on Britain.

The career of Arthur points out another aspect of Welsh culture. While their reputation rests on their legendary resistance to outsiders, they represented the last bastion of Roman culture. Roman names on tombstones could be found for over a century after the Romans had left. Roman organization and law formed the model of Welsh government.

Christianity, brought in by the Roman troops, never disappeared from Wales, and so did not need to be re-Christianized, unlike Saxon England. Celtic monasticism first formed in Wales before it moved to Ireland where it blossomed. The Welsh church became so rooted and so conservative that was the last of the Celtic churches to come back under the control of Rome.

So the story of the Welsh is more than that of a people pushed to the ends of the earth. It is a story taking foreign ideas and putting a Celtic twist to them. It is a story of inter-tribal warfare. It is a story of surviving without ever winning. It is a story that extends beyond King Arthur and longbows.

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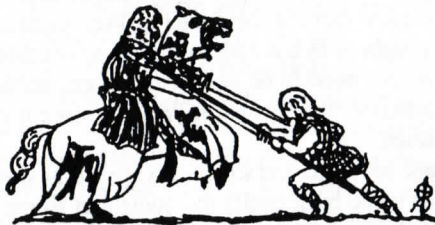
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WELSH PRONUNCIATION FOR THE BOLD

Dafydd ap Owain ap Cadell Ap Rhys

As much as certain folks would like you to believe that Welsh is an unpronounceable travesty, I would like to show you that it's not. A little time and practice and you'll be saying to your friends, "Oh yeah, we just got back from vacation, it was really nice. We stayed in

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwymdrobwlilllantysiliogogoch! "

There are a few simple things you need to know - and one hard one!

D=d like "dad" f=v like "voice" dd =th like "these," not "thistle" ff =f like "far." C is always hard, like "car", and not like "cider," unfortunately. W is a vowel, but is pronounced the same as we do at the beginning of a word. The sound for w is "oo" - so "went" is like "oo+ent", and "cwl" is "cool."

Si "s" is sometimes pronounced "sh" when followed by a vowel. W is pronounced "ee", like "feet." Y is pronounced like a short u (like "muffin") unless it's in the last syllable of a long word - then it's pronounced like the short I in "muffin".(if there were a word "myffyn" it would be pronounced "muffin")

J, k, q, sh, v, x, z don't exist--I think the Irish stole them.

Diphthongs (ae, oe, eu, and such) are fairly easy. Sound out each part (like on Sesame Street) and run them together just as we did with "went" above.

Now the hard part - double L. Say "el". Notice how your tongue ends up in the front of the roof of your mouth? Leave it there, and hiss through the sides of your cheeks as if you were trying to p*ss off your cat, Sylvester. It kinda sounds like a "sh", but not really.

You'll expel a lot of air practicing, and if you don't spit on people accidentally, you're not doing it right.

Some examples with attempted pronunciation:

Places

Caerfyrddin (cah-yer-VUR-thin)

Ynys Mon (UN-iss MOAN)

Aberystwyth (ah-bur-UST-with)

Trearddur (tray-AR-theer)

Pontypridd (pon-TUP-reeth)

Rhuddlan (REETH-lan)

Llanelli it's get TWO double-L's - get this and you're set to go.

Names

Dafydd (DAH-vith) David

Tangwystyl (Tan-GWIS-tull)

Rhys (RISS)

Gwylm (Gwill-um) William

Sian (SHAN) Jane

Sion (SHAWN) John

Siwsan (see-YOU-san) Susan

That wasn't so hard, was it? Now, I've given a few phrases below to help you enhance your persona. Try to use them in conversation at events and so forth.

Phrases

Sut Mae (shoo - my) Hello

Bore da! (Bo-reh Dah) Good Morning!

Prynhawn da! (PRIN-hound Dah) Good Afternoon!

Noswaith dda! (NOS-why- thah) Good evening!

Hwyl! (HOYLE) Bye!

Nos da! (NOS Dah) Good Night!

Esgusodwch fi (ess-gee-SO-duke vee) Excuse me

Os gwelwch yn dda (OS GWELL-ook UN THAH) Please

Diolch yn fawr (DEE-olk UN VOW-er) Thanks a lot.

Croeso (KROY-so) You're welcome.

Mae'n dda gyda fi gwrdd a chi (MINE THAH GUH-dah VEE GOORTH ah KEE) Nice ta Meecha!

So, that's eleven phrases to making a Welsh persona more real. Here's how it works: (The names and stuff have been changed as this is a family show.)

"Hey Dafydd! Come here!"

"What's up?"

"This is Angus, an old friend I wanted you to meet."

"Oh! Mae'n dda `da fi gwrth a chi, Angus -- It is good to meet you."

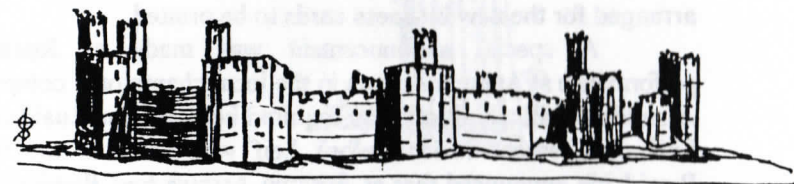
"Uh, nice to meet you, too. What was that you said?"

"I said 'It is good with me to meet you'. I'm Welsh, you see, and that is how we say it in my homeland."

"Cool! Could you say it again for me?"

Very simple, yet it adds so darned much to filling out a persona. Practice it. Try it. I hope you'll see what I mean.

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OFFICERS' MEETING October 6, 1997

15 members attended: 15 officers/deputies/champions/interest group advocates

Several upcoming activities were discussed. The champions are working on the plans for their event to see what site facilities will be needed before a location is finalized. The needs for upcoming demos were covered. Several proposals for local activities and/or events were presented. The possibility of a cooking symposium was discussed at length.

The Chronicler has delivered a number of the Dragonflyres for last month. However, she only received a few addresses and still has some to deliver. Two names and one device proposal from Vatavia were sent on to Kingdom level in September. There are currently seven local items in process. One name and one device have been sent on to the Laurel level.

Bardic for this month will move back to Cerridwen's house at 3531 S. Walnut. Fighter practice is now at Central Riverside Park on Sundays at 1pm. The requirements for an indoor fighter practice site were covered--8 foot ceilings, few or no windows, and a floor surface on which damage will not be an issue. No suitable place has been found. Any help would be appreciated. Archery practice will continue at Maize on Sundays as long as the weather is suitable. Then practice will shift to missile weapons for the winter. One additional site in Wichita is being arranged for those activities. Also, crossbow shooting is being revived.

The Property Mistress clarified the storage location of some of the property and asked about maintenance on the fire extinguishers. Any needing recharging are to be seen to. It was arranged for the new business cards to be printed.

A special announcement was made of Ruaidridh's performance at Autumn Arrows in the local champions' competition. A sudden death shoot off was required between our Ruaidridh and Leif of Crescent Moon before Leif was declared the winner. Ruaidridh announced that at Autumn Arrows four flaming arrows

were shot into the lake in tribute and memory of William Blackfox.

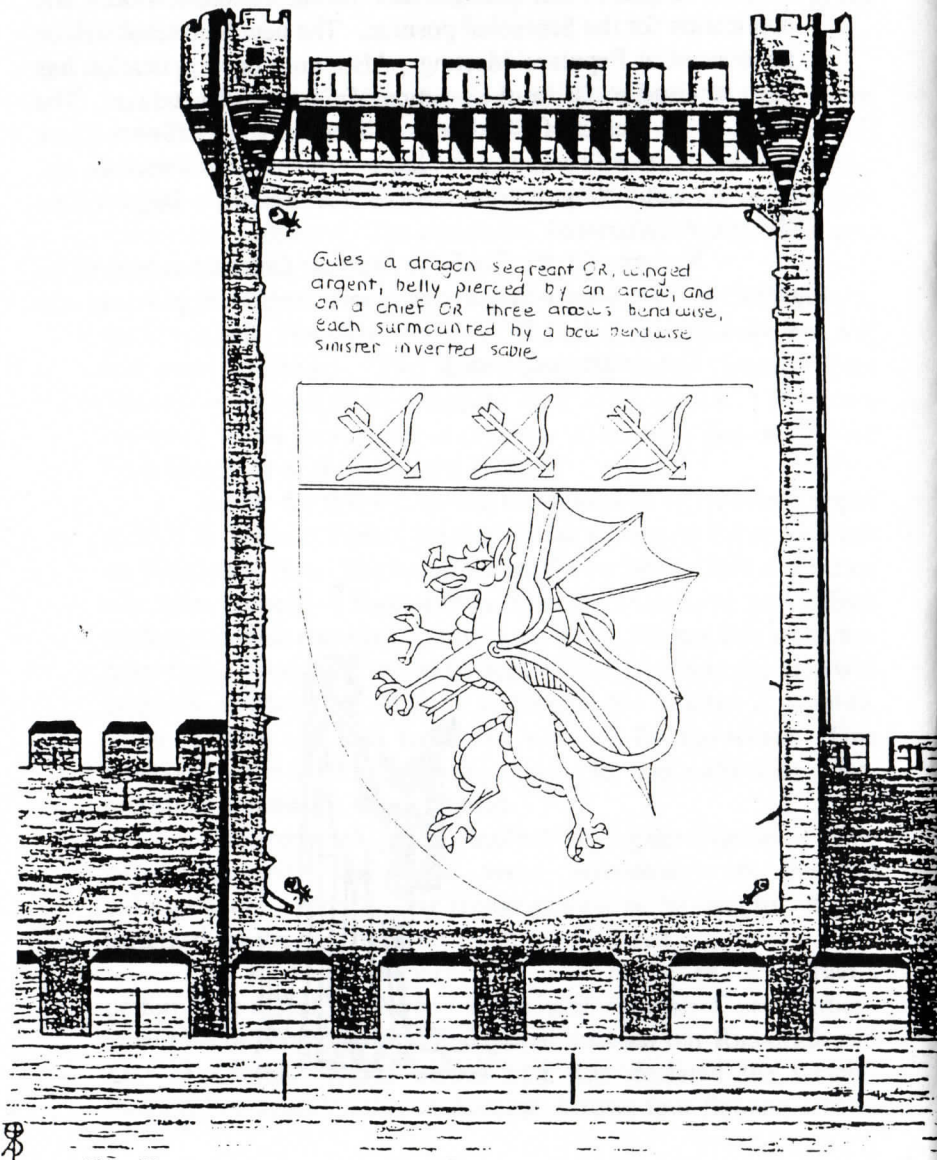
Several warrants for officers expire in December. There will be several officer changes as a result. There has been one application for the Seneschal position. The new Seneschal will be announced at Populace Meeting. Also, only one application has been received so far for the position of Castellán/Chatelaine. The position of Minister of Children is still vacant. The office requires that the person only acts as a facilitator arranging for activities, not actually conducting those activities themselves. Other office changes were covered.

Surveys for the RenFaire Steering Committee need to be returned. The sooner they are returned, the sooner planning can start.

The meeting adjourned.



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.



Gules a dragon segreant OR, winged argent, belly pierced by an arrow, and on a chief OR three arrows bendwise, each surmounted by a bow bendwise sinister inverted sable.

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
CHATELAIN
Takahara Otoshi
Tracey Gillaspay

265-9825

267-3456

ARCHER MARSHALL

Michael Van Bergen
Michael Hombaker

265-5804

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