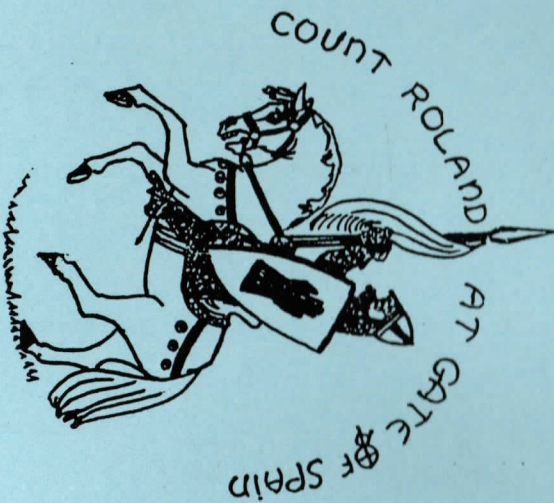


DRAGONFLYRE



MAY ASXXXII

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



Copyright (c) 1998 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 Vavavia 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.

Non-flyer/non-heraldic artwork copyright
Suzanne Gross Reed © 1998 Used with permission.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From Their Majesties.....	2
From the Baronage.....	3
Officers' Letters.....	5
General Announcements.....	9
Madame Manners.....	11
Kingdom Calendar.....	13
Calendar.....	14
Who's Who.....	16
How to Survive RenFair.....	19
From the Whale's Road.....	22
The Other Crusades.....	23
Officers' Minutes.....	27



FROM Valens AND Susannah KING AND Queen OF Calontir

Greetings Unto the Populace of Vatavia

After many years of noble service to the Kingdom of Calontir and the Barony of Vatavia, Baron Gabriel and Baroness Rhianwen have asked that we select someone new to hold the Baronial Coronets. While we regret the loss of such loyal and able servants, yet We understand that every subject of the Kingdom has a right to a well earned rest from the responsibilities of the baronage. To the purpose of finding suitable replacement for them We would ask that any member of the populace of Vatavia who would like to be considered for this office should make themselves known to Us and the populace of the Barony. We request letters which should contain general background information and your reasons for wanting to assume this responsibility. All letters should be in Our hands no later than May 15th, (e-mail will be acceptable).

A list of all candidates will be published in the May 20th issue of the Dragonflyre. All members of the populace are encouraged to express their opinions regarding the candidates to Us either in writing or personal contact between now and June 21st, (again, e-mail is acceptable). All opinions expressed will be held in strict confidence and all material will be destroyed once the new baronage has been selected. We plan to hold interviews with the candidates at Lilies War and announce Our decision no later than the Tournament of Falcons. Their Excellencies have expressed a willingness to hold the coronets until the Tournament of Valor so it will be there that the new baronage will be invested.

Valens 7 Susannah
King and Queen of Calontir

FROM THE BARONAGE

Unto the good Populace of Vatavia come warm greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen, Baron and Baroness of these lands by the good grace of Their Majesties Valens and Susannah.

It is with heavy hearts that we write these words, for the time we knew would someday be upon us has come. Rhianwen has accepted a generous offer for study at a university in foreign lands and will be leaving her home. We long ago swore an oath that we would put Vatavia's needs before our own wishes, and after much consideration, we have asked Their Majesties' permission to begin the search for our heirs. Their Majesties Valens and Susannah have agreed to select a new Baron and Baroness of Vatavia during Their reign.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Dragonflyre, you will find a missive from Their Majesties requesting letters of application. Before you apply for the position, please think heavily on your decision. Being Baron or Baroness is a job with great responsibilities. Everything you do or say (whether or not you are acting in your capacity as Baron/ess), from the moment you are invested to the moment you step aside, reflects not only on you, but also on the Barony and the Kingdom. It is a challenge, and it is a joy. You must always think of the people of the Barony first, and of your own projects and aspirations second.

That being said, we will happily discuss what the duties and responsibilities of the Baronage entail with all applicants and potential applicants. Please feel free to contact us if you are considering making application.

The changeover of a Baronage is always hard on a Barony. Invariably, campaigning and politicking and ill feelings occur. Baronies often lose a member or two during a changeover. We ask (read that, beg) that all potential applicants keep campaigning to a minimum. It really serves no purpose, as the perceptions of the Populace will be based on long-term service, not last-minute flash. Remember, if someone speaks ill of another, even in secrecy, the words spoken reflect more upon the nature of the speaker than they do the victim of those words. Please work to make this to be a smooth and friendly transition.

To this end, we will not reveal under any circumstances to any member of the Populace what our perceptions of the various candidates are. Anyone who implies to you that they have our endorsement is starting or perpetuating a false rumor. Once all of the candidates are known, we will of course do our duty as citizens of Vatavia and make our perceptions known to Their Majesties only. Further, after consultation with the Chronicler, we have decided to permit no letters involving campaigning to be published in the Dragonflyre.

After the field of candidates is known, Their Majesties will request letters of support from the Populace. This will be your opportunity to make your voice heard. Whereas Their decision will be based on a number of factors and this should in no way be perceived as voting, it is vitally important that you let Them know how you as a citizen of the Barony feel.

After the deadline for the letters of support, Their Majesties will interview the candidates, and then let Their decision be known. Our replacements will have a short internship, and we anticipate the happy day of their investiture at Valor (along with Rhianwen's going-away party!).

Until that day, we will remain as active and involved in the running and representation of the Barony as we always have been. Our door remains open, as ever, for your suggestions, ideas, and concerns.

In service

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN



from the seneschale

Greetings to Their Excellencies and the good populace of Vatavia! I pray this missive finds all who read it well and happy as we enter the warm season of spring. With the coming of spring comes many opportunities, not only in the barony, but in Calontir as well.

RenFair is rapidly approaching. HL Tristan and his team have done a great job coordinating the Dell. This promises to be one of the best years yet! Please continue to offer support to him and the coordinators. This is a demo, working with the public of the Wichita area. Take a few moments to ensure that your gear and garb look their best and is appropriate for the eyes of the modern world.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our cooking symposium scheduled for May 2. I want to thank HE Brialen and HL Annys for their willingness to serve as autocrats for this event. Your spirit of service is an integral part of what makes Vatavia such a special group of people.

For those of you who are looking for an opportunity to autocrat, the Barony's "Birthday Bash" will be celebrated this summer. If you would like to autocrat this event, a written bid needs to be in Their Excellencies' and my hands no later than May officer's meeting. Usure what should be in a bid? Please see Their Excellencies or me.

The kingdom calendar has several upcoming events that are very close to us. On May 2, there is a Mongol Wedding in Spinning Winds (Manhattan, KS). Melees & Mayhem will be on May 16 in Crescent Moon (Topeka, KS). Please go out and support the groups around us. Also rapidly approaching is Lilies. There will be many chances for Vatavia to make our presence known, not only on the archery and battle fields, but in the arts and sciences as well. Another avenue is service. Lilies is asking that each group take a turn at running troll. HE Brialen has graciously agreed to coordinate for Vatavia. Please let her know if you can volunteer to work at troll when it is the barony's turn.

Ever in service,

Eleanor

FROM THE ARCHER MARSHAL

Greetings to all,

The season for archery is at hand. We have moved practice to weeknights due to weekend events. Archery practice will be thursdays 6pm to dusk. There will be no practice on the first Thursday due to Calligraphy and Illumination. I would like to apologize to those who went to practice to find no one to assist you. I hope by moving practice to the weeknight schedule this problem will be avoided in the future.

Archery Event Reports:

We are still one of the largest groups in the Midrealm Winter Challenge. We are the largest group from Calontir. The end date for this is April 30th. Everyone who entered a score and participated can be proud! I would like to thank those who supported archery at Die Bruderskrieg. The top five archers were: 1-Leif of Crescent Moon 2-Michael van Bergen 3-Raymond the Red 4-Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel 5-Carontoc of Darkdale. I think we were the first group to have archery this year, and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. I also had the pleasure of shooting at BF's Baronial anniversary. In case you missed it, there was an archery skeet thrower and a golf course. There were three archers called to court and awarded baronial coins for the competition. 1-Leif of Crescent Moon 2-Ruaidridh de Graham 3-Michael van Bergen. IKAC season is coming soon--let's show the Knowne World what Vatavia can do!

In Service,

XXXXXXXXXX

FROM THE CHRONICLER

Good gentles of Vatavia:

She's baa--aack! Having returned from obtaining a new appreciation of medieval women, I am resuming my duties as your friendly chronicler. Let me use this space by thanking Toda Galindez, Marie de Chantal, Friar Thomas, Cerridwyn of the Many Names, Conchobar, and Their Excellencies, Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel and Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd. Without their regular contributions and assistance, the Dragonflyre would not be nearly so enjoyable.

Speaking of submissions, you will have noticed that more Who's Who articles are showing up. I really love to see these coming in from the populace. If you have done a bit of research on your persona, and feel a creative urge or two, take the time to write up the story of your persona and send it to me! It's not hard to do, and if you are restraining yourself because you aren't sure of how to attack it, give me a call or drop me a line at redsilk@hyperchat.com. I do encourage submissions by e-mail.

In Service to Motherhood,

XXXXXXXXXX the Drum

FROM THE FIGHTER MARSHAL

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

I wish to start out by offering a note of thanks to Cerridwyn for her volunteering to come out to fighter practice. Her assistance with spectators who stop to watch is greatly appreciated. Several fighting events are coming up in May and June. May 2nd will see a Mongol Wedding in Spinning Winds, which is only a couple of hours away. This sounds like an event that should be attended by all who can go, simply because it is also a genuine wedding! May 9th is Vertigo is Lost Moor, which

is usually strictly an archery event. There is also a wonderful fighting event in Calanais Nuadh that same weekend. Several tournaments are planned for that day, including a three-man melee tourney. For those needing a closer-to-home event, Golden Sea is holding a mini-event. They kindly postponed their event to avoid conflicting with our RenFair. Let us show our gratitude by supporting them! May 6th hosts Melees & Ma6yhem in Crescent Moon, also an easy drive. I offer a personal challenge to all those who can, to attend one of these events.

June 6th is the tentative date for the Baronial Champions' event. If you have any questions about the duties of Baronial Fighter Champion, please contact me. The Baronial Fighter Champion must be able to represent the barony on a kingdom as well as local level.

Everyone is encouraged to attend fighter practice, even if you don't wish to fight. Bring out your Arts & Sciences projects to show off to interested gentles, or attend just to strengthen the fellowship within the Barony. I also encourage everyone to attend archery practice whenever possible. I have been told that loaner equipment will be available to those who wish to shoot, but don't have their own equipment.

In Service to Vatavia, Calontir, and the Dream,

Otoski

FROM THE MINISTER OF CHILDREN

Good gentles,

I need help! Anyone interested in assisting me with the little ones, *please, please, please* call me at 788-8826, or e-mail me at allen@fn.net.

Orabella



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Website stuff: If you're on-line, please visit the Vatavian website at <http://www.feist.com/~rhianwen>. Rhianwen is seeking additional pictures and articles and content and stuff for the website. If you have a homepage which you would like to link to this page, please contact Rhianwen. Also, please send to her any comments or corrections.

Newcomers: Orabella--wearing her census hat--needs your name and phone number, and the names of your children. Anyone who has changed their address, I need this from you too. Please contact her at 788-8826, or e-mail her at allen@fn.net.

Archery practice is at 5500 N. Maize Road on Thursdays (except the first Thursday of the month), 6pm until dusk. Please contact Ld. Roderick at 788-8826 with your questions.

Armoring and sword & pell practice are held at His Excellency Gabriel's house. Call Gabe or Rhianwen at 269-3853 for details.

Bardic is held the last Monday of the month. For more information, call Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

Calligraphy and Illumination has moved to Godric's house abode, meeting the first Thursday of the month at 7:30. Call Corrigan McKenzie for the address or other information at 945-1536.

Costuming/Fiber Arts occurs on the third Monday of each month at the Aragon Apartments Clubhouse. The Costuming/Fiber Arts interest group now has several books and a sewing machine available for loan to members of the Barony. Call Ly. Sibeal at 265-4643 if you have questions.

European dance practice has moved! Please call Lady Eliane at 265-2507 for more information.

Fighter practice has moved to Watson Park, but remains on Sundays from 1:00 on. It has resumed on Wednesdays from 6pm(ish) until dusk at N. Linwood Park. Everyone is welcome and is encouraged to bring your Arts & Sciences projects to work on and share with others.

Anyone interested in any information concerning the SCA or in becoming a member of the SCA, please contact Cerridwyn at 524-0478.



MADAME MANNERS

Dear Madame Manners:

I've noticed that there is often some kind of weird time discrepancy when I've gone to SCA events. Some activities start later or earlier than they're advertised, or are just wiped off the schedule. Is this caused by a lack of interest in the activity, or is this an attempt at Medieval Time-Telling?

The Punctual Persian

Dear Punctual Persian,

You might at some point have heard someone joking about scheduling and saying that SCA time is at least a half-hour later than regular time. Although the people running the event try to make the activities adhere to the schedule, it doesn't always happen that way.

The SCA is run completely by volunteers. Some of these volunteers are better at scheduling and estimating time than others. The volunteers are also running events in places which are less familiar to them than their homes or their usual place of business. And sometimes things take them by surprise or simply go awry and eat up more time than expected. For instance, an important ingredient for the feast may be left at home. The Crown may decide to have a Court just before the tournament. There may be a power outage or equipment failure. A key member of the staff may suddenly take ill. Half the staff may suddenly be called into meetings. Be assured that the autocrats are doing their best with the resources they have, but please be understanding if the plans seem to change mid-stream.

Occasionally, the problem is that it's difficult to get a group of SCA people all moving in a single direction at once. For example, if armor inspection is scheduled for 9:00 to 9:30 and the

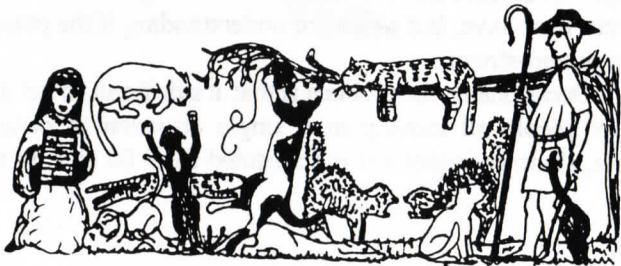
tournament is scheduled to start at 10:00, it is likely that most of the fighters will be ready to be inspected by 9:30. It would be unfair of the marshals to stop inspecting just because the schedule says they should. Since many inspections are still going on, the tournament is as a consequence delayed until the fighters are ready. Getting a large group of SCA people to all do the same thing at once has been compared to trying to herd cats!

To be overly strict with the schedule would be rude to the guests at the event -- they have driven hundreds of miles and paid a site fee to participate in the event, and as hosts, the people running the event have an obligation to be flexible in order to accommodate as many guests as possible.

And for some, this phenomenon of SCA time *is* akin to medieval time-telling. Many people go to events to participate in a more relaxed, playful environment than the workaday world, and they ignore the exact time. Try this fun experiment . . . go to an event, and ask five people what time it is. One may give you the correct answer. The other answers you are likely to receive are "Day time," "Fight-time," "Springtime," and "I really don't know."

Time has always been a dilemma in the SCA. The best thing to do is to try to adhere to the schedule yourself, use understanding when things get delayed, and offer to help if you notice an opportunity.

Copyright The Dragonflyre©1997. Used with permission.



KINGDOM CALENDAR

MAY

02-03	A Mongol Wedding Thrill on the Hill	Spinning Winds, Manattan KS Herald's Hill, Forest City IA
09-10	Spring Event Vertigo Highland Spring Fling	Coeur d'Ennu, Des Moines IA Lost Moor, St. Joseph MO Calanais Nuadh, Rollo MO
16-17	Melees & Mayhem	Crescent Moon, Topeka KS
23-24	Feast of St. George	Oakheart, Springfield MO
30-31	Tournamnet at the Rivers	Three Rivers, St. Louis MO

JUNE

12-21	Lillies War	Smithville Lake MO
13	Crown Tournament at Lilies	"

JULY


18-19	Thunder Wars	March of Lochmorrow Middle Kingdom
25-26	Tournament of the Falcons	Houndsford, Wyandotte Cty MO

AUGUST

01-02	Feast of the Eagles	Cum An Iolar, Johnson Cty KS
08-16	Pennsic	Debatable Lands Cooper's Lake PA
29-30	Zee Tournament	Lonely Tower, Omaha NE



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Fighter Practice - 1:00	4	5 Armoring/ Sword & Shield - 6:30	6 Officers' Meeting - 7:00	7 Calligraphy & Illumination - 7:30	8	9
10 Fighter Practice - 1:00	11	12 Armoring/ Sword & Shield - 6:30	13 Fighter Practice - 6:00	14 Archery Practice - 6:00	15	16
17 Fighter Practice - 1:00	18 Costuming/ Fiber Arts - 7:00	19 Armoring/ Sword & Shield - 6:30	20 Populace Meeting - 7:00	21 Archery Practice - 6:00	22	23
24 Fighter Practice - 1:00	25 Bardic - 7:00	26 Armoring/ Sword & Shield - 6:30	27 Fighter Practice - 6:00	28 Archery Practice - 6:00	29	30
31 Fighter Practice - 1:00						

1998

WHO'S WHO IN VATAVIA: CERRIOWEN O'R EURGLEDDO EFERCH OWAIN AP FYCHAN O'R GLYNDYFRDWY

I still remember my happy childhood at Glyndyfrdwy, our estate in Southern Wales. Born in 1394, I was the youngest of five children. At age five, I remember sitting on the lap of my grandfather, Gruffudd Fychan, running along the stairways, carousing in games of hide and seek as well as tag in the turrets and then out on the ramparts, playing shuttlecock, and learning archery. Our tutor would eventually round us up and it was off to our studies! Our father, Owain, was not a man of literacy. He was a man of war and politics, but he insisted all of his children know their letters and sums.

We also learned music and heard all the news from traveling troubadours who would come to entertain. I also enjoyed the poetry of Iolo Goch, Lewys Glyn Cothi, and Guto'r Glyn.

In 1400, however, life began to change. Many men came to meet with my father. My uncle Tudur came to stay with us for many days at a time. I asked what was amiss, but I was told to mind my own affairs and think naught of it. Two years later, my sister was married to Edmund Mortimer. He was a good match for he had decided earlier to side with my father instead of the English King, Henry IV and the marriage sealed his bargain with my father. My sister was truly worried about the events occurring around us, but when I inquired, she would laugh and tell me not to worry myself over trifles.

I did know that my father, brothers, and many of our kinsmen were fighting the English and raiding the fortresses that they held. I now understood the danger and gravity of our situation. My father, Owain Glyn Dwr, had begun a full revolt of Wales against England.

As time went by, the battles became more frequent and devastating to the people and land. We traveled to Harlech in 1404 and after having been there for three months, I was, at age ten,

betrothed to Lord Severin Glenesk Lindsey, Earl of Crawford. This match would ensure the aid of the Scots needed to thwart Henry.

Lord Severin was pleasing and kind and was only fourteen summers older than I. We were wed in the chapel at Harlech on June 21, 1406. In 1408 we journeyed from Scotland, where we had been living to Harlech. I had found out that I was with child and longed to be with my family until the birth of the babe. We had to travel fast and hard. We had many men with us and for that I was thankful, because the English were here in large numbers to fight for their king. The revolution had been in full force since 1402 and the Welsh lands that I loved were becoming a wasteland. Many were homeless and hungry and I cried for the children.

My father and our family had lost much, including Glyndyfrdwy. Many of the English-held fortresses and towns were also devastated, which enraged King Henry. More English troops were sent. It seemed to never end.

Early on the morning of July 24, 1409, the English laid siege to Harlech. My old and trusted maid, Banhadlwedd, grabbed me and we were hidden in a small, barely noticeable alcove, which was draped with a blue curtain. As I secretly watched in horror, the great hall was filled with English and Welsh alike, fighting furiously. I stepped back instinctively as an ax whirled by. Peering through the small slit in the curtain once more, I experienced the tragedy of seeing my husband cut down from behind by a cowardly Englishman. My uncle Tudur and my sister's husband Edmund died that day as well, My brother, Gruffudd, my mother, and two sisters were captured. I learned later that Eurdeym was taken to the Tower of London and there spent the rest of his short life. I never learned what happened to my mother and my sisters.

Banhadlwedd and I waited until nightfall and then made our escape. We journeyed a long distance and it took many days to reach our destination. From Llangollen Mountain to Bryneglwys, where we stayed with kinsmen for a few days; then on to Maesyrychen mountain to Pentredwr. There I was taken in by kinsmen and my daughter Sebina was born on a cold January day in 1410.

One year later, my brother Meredudd sent news with a

trusted servant that he and my father were safe and well hidden for now. I was handed a carefully wrapped object, which I discovered was the family sword I called Eurgledde, a golden heirloom that had been handed down for many generations. The instructions from my father was to always keep it safe until he could retrieve it. He also wanted me to leave our country as it was much too dangerous and would be for a long time to come. My father knew that King Henry would never give up his search for him and he never did. But Henry never did find my father.

I left Wales soon after and many days later arrived in a safe barony called Vatavia. Sebina and I are grateful for the refuge given and also for the friendliness we have received. We are also very pleased to find many of our countrymen here as well!

May the Dream always be.

Copyright Deborah Billings©1998. Used with permission.



HOW TO SURVIVE RENFAIR

In a couple of days, the Barony will be putting on its biggest demo of the year, RenFair. Although there has been much philosophical discussion as to why we do this demo, one thing is clear; this is our opportunity to present the SCA, the Barony, and the Middle Ages to the community. A demo is for the public, unlike an event, which is for ourselves. As such, doing a demo is very different from attending an event.

The most important thing to remember when doing a demo is that whatever you say or do reflects on the SCA. This is a huge responsibility; you're essentially representing 60,000 of your closest friends! We want to make a good impression. Following are a few suggestions which will help you do just that.

- Be helpful. If someone asks a question, do your best to answer it accurately. If you don't know the answer, try to identify someone who can. It's okay to say you don't know; no one is expected to be an expert on everything! Avoid being overly helpful, though — most people want a brief answer and then they want to move along, rather than be engaged in an extensive conversation.
- Be friendly. The people of Wichita have come to RenFair to have a day of pleasant fun. If you feel grouchy or tired or you need to point out a problem, please go to the staging area. It's difficult to be "on stage" for 16 hours at a time, and it's okay (recommended, even) to take a break!
- Emphasize historical study through re-creation. This is our purpose and our group identity. Because so much fantasy literature draws from the mythology of the Middle Ages, we are sometimes confused with a fantasy group. We want to promote our purpose.

- Be “period”. RenFair is a late-period demo, so please wear late-period garb. Hide modern things as much as possible — toss a piece of fabric over your cooler, put your soda in a tankard, cover your lawn chair. . . . Also, please smoke only in the staging area.
- Remember your audience. Most people have little knowledge of the Middle Ages and no knowledge whatsoever of the SCA. Further, we are being hosted by a Catholic campus, and the community tends to be somewhat conservative. Some hints given to us by the Corporate level for presenting the SCA at demos to this sort of audience include
 - Use the term “Middle Ages” instead of “medieval”. Believe it or not, some people think we’re saying “mid-evil”. We don’t want to appear even a little evil!
 - Be religiously neutral. Our historical dress occasionally looks like religious clothing to those unfamiliar with the Middle Ages and the SCA. The SCA is religiously neutral by policy, and it is made up of people of all backgrounds. Further, we must respect our hosts.
 - Don’t wear exclusively dark colors. Wearing a few lighter colors makes you appear more approachable.
 - Refer to the group as “the SCA” or “the group” rather than “the Society.” For some, the phrase “The Society” calls up images of secrecy and closed doors, and we’d far prefer that folks feel welcome to join us!
- Respect our hosts. Kansas Newman College has set forth rules for RenFair. Some of these are for everyone’s safety, some of them are financially-motivated. However, as guests, we’re obligated to obey every one of these rules so

that we will be invited back next year. Even if their regulations don’t make sense to you, please make sure you’re familiar with the rules and follow them.

- Be safe. All sorts of people come to RenFair, and you must safeguard your valuables. Please consider locking your belongings in your car, leave them with someone on site, or place them in an occupied tent. Also, keep a close eye on your children. If you see something suspicious, tell someone.

Copyright Joan Steurer©1998. Used with permission.



DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

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

FROM THE WHALE'S ROAD



Conchobar

First off I'd like to say that it's cool how The Royal Court of Calontir doesn't stop for fire drills. It was an interesting scene at Queen's Prize Tournament when the fire alarm was either pulled or malfunctioned.

For the most part the event was quite enjoyable. Seeing the many entries, which proved how skilled many of our citizens are in the arts, was a wonderful experience. You could also tell how much some of the people love the arts by the sad look in their faces when a woman dropped the beautiful harp that she'd spent many hours making. Thankfully it wasn't too badly damaged. Another entry that was pleasing to the eye was a beautiful stained glass dragon made by Cerridwen. Many people wanted to purchase it (most wanted to pay of their mortgages first. I think it was fear that they couldn't afford it). Some other entries were of the fermented nature. I didn't get to try any, but the bottle I saw coming back from the sampling area, was empty. That, to me, is a sure indication that it was good. Then there were the performing artists. There were many bards who sang and played wonderfully--one whose singing was quite remarkable. I don't know her name, but the dancers know who I'm talking about when I say it was the girl in the white dress. It was then, of course, our turn to perform. It was a very exciting experience since it was only the second time I'd performed. It was, however, my first time performing for my peers in the SCA. It was an exciting experience. Over all, I enjoyed the event, even though HE Rhianwen didn't have her sweatshop open.

Conchobar

Copyright Warren Thomas©1998. Used with permission

THE OTHER CRUSADES

Friar Thomas Bacon

When people talk about the Crusades, they usually are referring to the military campaigns in the Middle East. While these were certainly the largest and most prestigious, there were plenty of others during the period. This essay explores these other crusades.

Technically, any endeavor which promises special benefits is a crusade. Legally, only those authorized by the Pope could be so called. And while the initial crusades were called so because of the situation in the Holy Land, by the end of the period it was but one weapon the Pope employed against his enemies. This is one of the reasons that the Crusades gradually lost their impact.

Of these other Crusades, only three had lasting historical significance. The first was the Spanish Reconquista. While this military action began before the idea of a Crusade arose, it was later incorporated into the general movement. The second was the Albigensian Crusade in southern France. While the main objective of this crusade was to crush the heretical Cathars, it also crushed the Provençal culture. The third was the Baltic Crusade, which was to create Prussia, which in its turn would have much influence on Germany and Poland.

The Reconquista was a series of military campaigns spread over seven and a half centuries. There was no overarching strategy, though the general pattern was to hang onto land when the Muslims were strong and to seize land when they were weak. In a sense, the Reconquista was merely the continuation of the war that started when the Muslims first invaded the Spanish peninsula in 711.

The first crusade of the Reconquista was proclaimed in 1096 by Pope Urban II. Over the next centuries, crusades were regularly proclaimed. The most important were the crusades of 1212 by Innocent III and 1482. The first stopped the last major offensive of the Muslims, and with the collapse of the Almohad Empire a few years later, they were never again a serious threat. It was only because of the internal bickering among the Christian kings

that the Muslims held on as long as they did. It was only after Ferdinand and Isabella united Christian Spain that the last crusade destroyed the remaining Muslim presence.

Like the crusades to the Near East, the Reconquista generated its own set of crusading orders. While the Templars and the Hospitallers had a presence in Spain, the Orders of Calatrava and Santiago had the leading roles. However, unlike the Holy Lands, these orders did not form the bulk of the fighting force. The army, for the most part, was the standard feudal force. The crucial part the orders played was manning the outlying posts guarding critical routes that were otherwise too dangerous to live and work.

On the other side of the continent, a similar effort was being made. The Baltic Crusades had a more peaceful beginning. They began as ordinary mission efforts to the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. The natives were not at all interested in converting and reacted with hostility. To support the effort, Popes Celestine III and Innocent III authorized crusades.

Not much was accomplished until the arrival of the Teutonic Knights. This order was founded and ordinarily operated in the Holy Land. Overshadowed by the Templars and the Hospitallers, they looked elsewhere for their destiny. Their chance came when they were invited to pacify Prussia, which separated the Christian colonies in what is now Estonia and Latvia from the rest of Christendom. The Teutonic Knights took to it with a vengeance, and the natives quickly learned to fear them. To support themselves, they offered generous terms to German settlers. Though the lands they conquered normally became part of the German Empire, they functioned as an independent state. Their end came with the defeat of the last pagans in the area, removing their *raison d'être*. Soon afterwards, most of their lands were taken by Poland.

The Albigensian Crusade was a different matter. The enemy this time was the heretical group known as the Cathars. They were also known as the Albigensians for their center, the City of Albi. The Cathars were a reaction to what they saw as the corruption of the Church by wealth and power, and attempted to

return to the purer days of the early Church. In doing so, however, they picked up some doctrines the Church had already dropped, and thus became heretical. The Church initially responded with missionary efforts that failed miserably. With the murder of a papal legate in 1208, Pope Innocent III had the excuse he needed to call a crusade against the Cathars.

To the medieval mind, the heretic who has thereby fallen from grace was worse than the pagan who is merely ignorant. Thus the Albigensian was particularly vicious. Yet strangely enough, the bulk of the opposition was done by those who professed orthodoxy. The reason behind this is that during this time, southern France formed a separate culture with a separate language, operating mostly independently of the King of France--much like Quebec in modern Canada. They greatly resented the imposition of the king.

The end result was the complete destruction of the political structure of southern France. Much of the land came into the hands of the royal family. It also extinguished the Provençal culture, which had given birth to the troubadours and courtly love. What the crusade did not accomplish was the suppression of the Cathars. That had to be done by the Inquisition.

Besides these, there were many other crusades called during the Middle Ages. Many were used by the Pope against his secular enemies in Italy. There were also a number of crusades that arose spontaneously among the peasant class, that were never sanctioned by the Pope, nor got out of Europe. There were a set of crusades against the Hussites in Bohemia on the model of the Albigensian Crusades that were less successful.

It is not possible to point to the last crusade. Towards the end of the sixteenth century, the crusades, gradually became indistinguishable from the rather ordinary military campaigns of the emerging nations-states. To a large extent the fact that the enemy was Muslim; or after the Reformation, Protestant; was incidental. When the Ottoman Empire quit expanding, the impetus for crusades dies. Many of the crusading orders survived, but only as honor or charitable organizations.

Bibliography

The Albigensian Crusades, Joseph R. Strayer, The University of Michigan Press, 1992

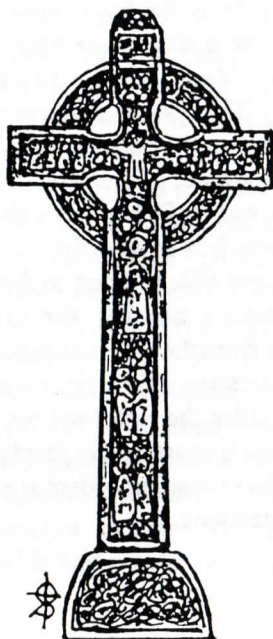
The Atlas of the Crusades, Jonathan Riley-Smith, Fact on File, 1991

Chronicles of the Crusades, Elizabeth Hallam, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1989

Medieval Warfare, H. W. Koch, Crescent Books, 1983

The Monks of War, Desmond Seward, Penguin Books, 1995

Copyright David Moreno©1998. Used with permission.



OFFICERS' MEETING

April 1, 1998

22 members attended: 14 officers/deputies/champions/autocrats; 8 populace members

BUSH, Baronial University of Societal Humanities, will be held April 11th at Pawnee Prairie Park starting at 9pm. Bids will be accepted for the Birthday Bash through the May 6th Officers' Meeting. The Champions are still working on a site for the Champions' event. A demonstration request from Beaumont, KS for the same date will be looked into as a possible location. The possibility of changing the date of the June Populace meeting due to Lilies was proposed.

The Society will be located by the Library this year for the Kansas Newman Renaissance Faire. The need for tables and tablecloths was covered. These will have to be obtained. Other supplies and materials were discussed. Security issues were addressed. Posters were available for the members to put up to help advertise the Faire.

The Chatelaine has had several new member inquiries. Members are asked to help these new people meet others and learn about the Society. The information booth at RenFaire will be publicizing the May 3rd Newcomers' Meeting to be held at Prairie Pawnee Park. Copies of the Known World Handbook will be available at both events.

A member employee of channel 55 had a request from the management. The station would like the Baronage to consider doing a live, call-in TV show prior to RenFair. This will be scheduled after consulting with the Baronage. A demo request has been made by a Colwich school for sometime in May.

There is approximately \$3000 in the Treasury. This will go up after RenFaire. A request to use surplus costuming funds to obtain resource books was approved.

Bardic will be held the Monday after RenFaire at Cerridwen's. Costuming continues to be held the 3rd Monday of the month. Also costuming now has its own sewing machine. A basis costuming seminar prior to Lilies is being planned. Dancing needs

to find a new indoor site for practice. Tapes for the Forgotten Sea project were requested.

A display has been set up at the Wichita Public Library for the month of April. An interest group mall will be done for one of the Populace meetings this summer. Arts & Sciences try-it nights are being planned.

The MOC proposed a special event for Vatavia's young adults. There are several other projects connected with this. The MOC would like a deputy to assist with the young children so that she can devote her time to the young adults project.

Fighter project is at O.J. Watson Park at 1pm. On May 3rd this practice will be held at Pawnee Prairie Park in association with the Newcomers' Meeting. Practice will be also held during the week on Wednesday evenings at 6pm at North Linwood Park. The need for marshals was mentioned. There are three fully warranted marshals currently; four other individuals are interested in being warranted. Other members are welcome and encouraged to attend practices. Archery practice has changed to Thursday nights at 6pm, except for the first Thursday that is Calligraphy & Illumination. Sundays will still be open IKAC and special shoots. The Winter Challenge ends this month.

The Seneschal reminded members to prepare for the demo and camping season. Check garb, armor, and other gear for needed fitting, repairs, and cleaning. Ly. Eleanor also thanked those who had been traveling and encouraged others to do so. Golden Sea has rescheduled their event to May 9th to prevent conflicting with RenFaire demo. Members are encouraged to attend this event in support of a group that has been so helpful to us.

Two special thank you notes were requested for the Archer Marshal's and dance troop's use. The meeting to work on the newcomers' packets was rescheduled.

The meeting adjourned.

BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Steurer	269-3853
SENESCHALE Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
ARCHER MARSHALL Ruadrigh de Graham Allen Graham	788-8826
CALTROP Brialen Ulfisdottir Vikings Debbie Taylor	524-0917
CHATELAINE Cerridwen o'r Eurgledde ferch Owain ap Glyndyfrdwy Deborah Billings	524-0478
CHRONICLER Odindisa the Grim Marguerite Reed	269-1574
KNIGHT MARSHALL Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspay	267-3456
HISTORIAN Friar Thomas Bacon David Moreno	685-1182
MOA/MOS Aobhainn na Kildare Kim Shephard	683-7425
MINISTER OF CHILDREN Orabella Grace O'Brien Patti Allen	788-8826
PROPERTY MISTRESS Christine Joye Stewart Jerri Barr	943-1879
TREASURER Alcyoneus du Battenhelm Park McKellog	682-4468