

The Dragonfly
c/o Chris Moore
3223 S. Mt. Carmel
Wichita, KS 67217

The Barony of Vatavia
Dragonfly



• February AS xxxiii (1999) •

Pub Jarr.

• Baronial Officers •

Baronage

Cherbi & Cherbin
Khulan & Kerare265-9825
Rick & Carolyn Haddaway
 (Please no calls on Fridays-contact the Seneschale if necessary.)

Officers

Seneschale
Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon685-8510
Wendy Donaldsonwinslet@feist.com

Chatelaine
Cerridwyn o'r Eurgledde ferch Owain ap Glyndyfrdwy524-0478
Deborah Billingscerridwyn@terraworld.net

Minister of Children
 Open, please see Seneschale to apply.

Historian
Friar Thomas Bacon685-1182
David Moreno

Caltrap
Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikings524-0917
Debbie Taylordeb_124@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Maeve Kelly de Navarre682-4468
Terry McKellop

Property Mistress
Christine Joye Stewart943-1879
Jerri Barr

Knight Marshal
Takahara Otoshi267-3456
Tracey Gillaspayotoshi@hotmail.com

Knight Marshal Deputy
Ebhan MacRuairi686-2724
Evan White

Archer Marshal
Roderick de Graham788-8826
Allen Graham

Minister of Arts/Minister of Sciences
 Open, please see Seneschale to apply.

Chronicler
Corrigan MacKenzie945-1536
Chris Moore

Electronic Publications
Connor M'Adwry267-3456
Warren Thomasvatavia@geocities.com

Serf-Line264-7373 (264-SERF)

• Table of Contents •

Baronial Officersinside front cover
 Letter from the Baronage2
 Officer's Letters3-4
 Meetings & Announcements5-6
 Gathering of the Clans7
 Queen's Prize Tournament/Regional Fighter Practice8-9
 Ren Fair Surveyinsert
 Calendar10-11
 Wolfstar Tournament12
 Heraldry13-15
 Poem: My Lovely Lady16
 The Coming of Guns17-18
 Officers' Minutes19-20
 Their Majesties' Addressinside back cover
 Barony Web Siteinside back cover
 Creditsinside back cover

This is the **Dragonflyre**, a publication of the **Barony of Vatavia** of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Dragonflyre is available from Chris Moore at 3223 S. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67217, (316) 945-1536.

It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policy.



Copyright©1999 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.

• From the Baronage •

Greetings from Khulan & Kerare.

A new policy is now in effect. If there is a storm warning out, when weather is bad, don't travel. Assume the activity has been cancelled. We would rather see you at a later date, than in the hospital.

Queen's Prize Tournament is at the end of the month. I am sponsoring 9 people. I hope to see many of you out seeing what wonderful work is being done in this kingdom, as well as those I have sponsored.

Khulan will be found over at the Regional Fighters Practice, where there will hopefully be much 'cheerful crushing' occurring.

February 20th is the *Gathering of the Clans*, over in El Dorado. This is within the Barony, and only 25 minutes by the interstate. It is going to be lots of fun, and a wonderful and unique feast is planned.

We now have three offices vacant, and would appreciate applications for these positions.

Khulan
Cherbi

Kerare
Cherbin

Of These Lands That Burn



• From the Knight Marshal •

Greetings to the Gentle Populace of Vatavia come these greetings from Takahara Otoshi, Knight Marshal.

By now, all fighters should be aware that we are hosting a Regional Fighter Practice in conjunction with Queen's Prize Tournament. Everyone who is wishing to help out please contact myself or Ebhan, my deputy.

Speaking of Ebhan, he and Alyx have graciously offered to host a war college meeting at their house on Sundays in lieu of fighter practice when weather prohibits an outside gathering. Contact Ebhan for more details. My personal thanks to them for offering their house for this function. The meetings promise to be enlightening and fun.

Fighter practice (weather permitting) will continue at South Linwood park near the south park building. The entrance is off of Mt. Vernon, just east of Hydraulic. Practices will be on Sundays at 1:00. However, a permanent winter practice site is still being sought.

In service to Vatavia, Calontir, and the Dream,

O+OSHI

高
原
大
歳

• From the Archer Marshal •

Greetings to all. The final IKAC score are in! For the most part Vativians or those who are Legal citizens, make up 99% of the Kingdom scores. We have at least one Vativian in every division of the IKAC. Now for a new (OK, it's been around a while) challenge. It is Mid Realm Winter Challenge time. We already are turning in scores. Last year we were the largest group in this challenge. The question and challenge I put to every one is: "can we do it again?" I would also like to congratulate Master Kaz (don't even think for a second I could spell it out) on being selected Calontir's new Archer General.

Archery Practice will be held the second and fourth Sunday of the month during the winter. It will start 3pm at Archery Plus. Remember, you can only shoot the winter challenge at an official practice or event. I will try to have targets and rules for the challenge on the last practice of each month.

In service,

Roderick de Graham

• From the Chatelaine •

Unto the fair gentles of Vatavia, do I, Lady Cerridwyn, send greetings and the hopes that your winter fires are burning warm and well.

I wish to thank all who contributed food and clothing to give assistance to those in need. The items donated at the December Populace have been taken to the donation sites and they were very much appreciated.

Also, any who know of someone interested or needing further information about the SCA, please give me a call at 524-0478. I would be very happy to talk to them. By the way, my address will remain the same, 3531 S. Walnut.

Y Qwasanaeth,
Lady Cerridwyn

• From the MoA/MoS •

Unto the Darugachi and citizens of Vatavia does Lady Aoibheann Ruadh na Kildare, Minister of Arts & Sciences, send warm greetings on this cold day of January, A.S. -XXXIII-

Queen's Prize Tourney is upon us! If you have entered, take full advantage of this great learning experience. Face-to-face judging is a wonderful opportunity to improve your work. If you don't understand a judge's comment, ask for clarification! If you are attending just to observe, there is still much to be learned from Calontir's fine artisans. And everyone be sure to bring some small tokens to express your appreciation of any entries you particularly like.

I would also like to encourage everyone to enter the A&S competition at our Scottish event. Lord Corrigan or Lady Eliane can give you the details. It's always wonderful when people support their event stewards, their local group, and the Arts & Sciences in the SCA as a whole by entering A&S competitions at local events.

And finally, events in my "other" life prevent me from completing my term as Minister of Arts & Sciences, and the time has come to seek my successor. While this post does not require any particular artistic ability, it does require enthusiasm for the Arts & Sciences. Likewise, the desire and ability to encourage others, and help them find the resources they need are necessary (there are resources to help the MoA/S do this). If you are interested in applying for the position, please submit two copies of a letter of intent, one to myself, and one to our Cherbi & Cherbin. In it, state why you are interested in applying, any experience you've had relevant to the position, any ideas you have for the office, and a statement verifying that you are a paid member of the SCA. The deadline for letters is March populace meeting and cannot be extended. If you have any questions about the office, please seek me out or call me at home, noon-10:30 p.m. I have been honored to serve in this position, and would be pleased to share my enthusiasm with you.

In service,
Aoibheann Ruadh na Kildare

• Announcements & Meetings •

The February Populace Meeting will be on February 17, at the student activity center on the WSU campus, at 7:00 pm. Please reference the map section of your Wichita Southwestern Bell telephone book. Populace meetings will continue here through March. Please call Eleanor at 685-8510 or Khulan and Kerare at 265-9825 if you need information.

Anyone wanting further information about the SCA, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

Officers meeting will be held on February 3, 7:00 p.m., at Dawson United Methodist Church. Please call Eleanor at 685-8510 if you need information.

Winter Archery Practice is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at Archery Plus on South Seneca, from 3 until whenever. Cost is \$6. Questions, contact Lord Roderick at 788-8826.

Fighter Practice continues at South Linwood Park at 1:00 p.m. War College occurs at Ebhan and Alyx's house in the event of foul weather. Armoring continue at the Baronial Pell and Armory on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. (Pell Practice is cancelled for the Winter). Please call Lord Otoshi at 267-3456 or Ebhan at 686-4724 for more info.

The Middle Ages Recreation Society (MARS) meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Wheatshocker Apartments. Please contact Lady Elspeth at 978-2722 for more information.

Dance is being held at the Ramada Inn on East Kellogg in the Basement Reception Rooms from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Sunday Evenings. It will not be held the Sunday after Queen's Prize Tourney. Garb is required, and best behavior is requested. If you don't have garb, we have acquired loaner garb from the Barony which people may use for the evening.

Middle Eastern Dance is on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. (when the banner is flying) at Khulan and Kerare's, 1815 S. Hydraulic. Call Her Excellency at 265-9825 for more information.

The next Ren Fair Steering Committee meeting will be February 23, at Their Excellencies house, 1815 S. Hydraulic, at 7:00 p.m.

On the second Monday of each month there will be a Baronial Archery Class, presented by the Fletcha de Leon household as a service to the Barony. Classes are held at 9400 E. Lincoln, Apt. 613. For information, contact Katya de Leon at 682-1263, or email to boqueron@juno.com.

Bardic is held on the last Monday of each month. In February it will be held on Monday the 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Lady Cerridwyn's home, 3551 S. Walnut. For more information, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

The Welsh Group meets on the 4th Thursday of each Month. In February it will be on Thursday, the 25th, at Lady Cerridwyn's home, 3551 S. Walnut. Please call Lady Cerridwyn for more information at 524-0478.

Calligraphy and Illumination is held at 1422 N. Topeka (one block east of 13th and Broadway), at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Lord Godrick at 267-4152.

Costuming/Fiber Arts is held on the third Monday of each month at 1739 S. Water, 7:00 p.m. The Costuming/Fiber Arts interest group now has several books and a sewing machine available for loan to members of the populace. Call Lady Sibeal at 265-4643 if you have questions.

There will be a new addition to the Vativian web site in the coming month. It is search engine that will search for SCA sites only. If you find any web sites that you think should be added, then send the link to vativia@geocities.com <<mailto:vativia@geocities.com>> or contact Connor at 267-3456.

Surveys will soon be coming out regarding Bush and the Stealth Arts. Keep your eyes and ears open at Queen's Prize Tournament, then put your opinion down on the survey.

Renaissance Fair is April 23-25. A Newcomer's Meeting will be the following weekend on May 1st.

The Heralds have a short message for the populace, about names and arms:
'SUBMIT TO YOUR HERALDS.'

THE BARONY OF VATAVIA HOSTS A

Gathering of the Clans

A SCOTTISH GATHERING full of fun, festivity...and maybe a little feuding, in the Barony of Vativia, on Saturday, February 20.

SITE will be 206 N. Griffith, the 4-H Building in El Dorado, Kansas. (*discreetly wet site*)

TIMES are 9:00 am site opens, 10:00 pm site closes.

FEES are \$5.00, non-members/\$4.00, members (family cap - \$20/16). "Eat Your Way Through Scottish Society" feast is \$5.00. Make checks payable to: Society for Creative Anachronisms, Inc., The Barony of Vativia.



The days activities will include:

fighting will be a series of highland border raids, with fighters in clans.

archery will be a Scottish themed tournament.

ARTS and SCIENCES will be divided into three categories: Best A & S with a Scottish theme; Best Scottish Garb (not a kilt, or the like); Brewing Competition.

bardic will be a story for the children during the day, and a story, song or poem during the feast. Winner by popular acclaim.

highland games will be held in the afternoon and include putting the shot, braemer toss, tossing the sheaf, hammer throw, tug of war, and maybe even a caber toss.

indoor activities throughout the day.

merchants' are welcome and encouraged to come.

crash space contact Baroness Kerare or Lord Corrigan.

all pipers are encouraged to attend!

event steward
Lord Corrigan MacKenzie - (316) 945-1536

co-event steward
Baroness Kerare - (316) 265-9825

feast steward
Lady Cerridwyn - (316) 524-0478

DIRECTIONS To get to El Dorado: North, take HW 77 south or I-136 south, then take HW 96; East, take I-35 south or HW 54 west; South, take HW 54 north; West take HW 254 east or I-35 north. Once in El Dorado: from the north exit, head into El Dorado, where you will meet up with 254 as it goes through town; from the south exit, 254 continues through town (in town, 254 changes to Central). Two blocks past Main St. take a left, to the corner of Central and Griffith. Take a left, and the site will be on the right; the 4-H Building is behind and connected to the Butler County Community Center. Address is: 206 N. Griffith.

The Barony of Vatavia is honored to Present:

Queen's Prize Tourney VI

Saturday, January 30, 1999

Dawson United Methodist Church

2711 South Laura

Wichita, KS 67218

Site Opens at 9:30 a.m. Site closes at 8:00 p.m.

- Entrants, Sponsors, and Judges MUST check in by 10:30 a.m.
- Judges' meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.
- Judging begins at 11:00 a.m.
- The Performing Arts Concert (by performing arts entrants in the tourney) will begin at 1:00 p.m. Other judging will be suspended at the time to allow judges time to take a break. The populace is also invited and encouraged to attend.
- On site Soup Kitchen will be available during the day. A list and map of restaurants in the area will be available at troll.
- The populace is encouraged to bring tokens and prizes for entries they particularly like.
- **Site Fee:** \$5 for members, \$6 for non-members, children 12 and under are free.

Make checks payable to: **SCA, Inc., Barony of Vatavia.**

EVENT STEWARD

(If it has to do with the tourney:
Judging, entering, etc.)

Mistress Alina Meraud Bryte
mka Pat Hoge
1629 Center Point Road NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 362-2725
e-mail: hoga@inav.net

SITE STEWARD

(If it has to do with the location:
Crash space, hotels, etc.)

Lady Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon
mka Wendy Donaldson
625 South Quentin
Wichita, KS 67218
(316) 685-8510
e-mail: winslet@feist.com
(Please cal before 10:00 p.m.)

And just across town from Queen's Prize Tourney:

Regional Fighter Practice

(at the same time and city as Queen's Prize Tourney)

The Barony of Vatavia is pleased to announce we will also be holding a Regional Fighter Practice. Classes, authorizations, and all the fighting you desire!

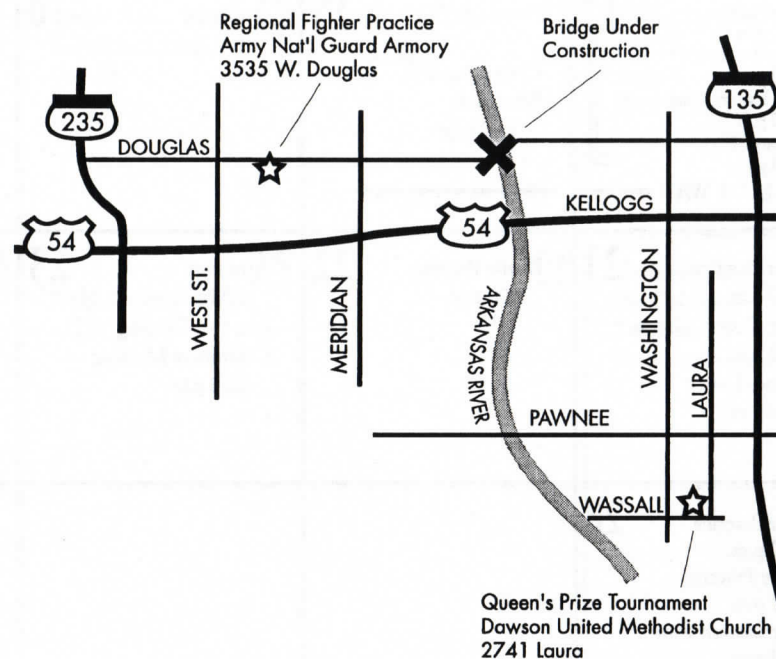
Site Fee: \$2 or FREE with your QPT site token.

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Marshal in Charge: Takahara Otoshi, (316) 267-3456
or otoshi@hotmail.com

Check out the QPT Website:

<http://goin.mission.org/~matchstc/queensprize/index.html>





February – Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	Officers Meeting 7:00 p.m. 3	Calligraphy and Illumination 7:00 p.m. 4	5	Costume Seminar Cum An Iolar S. Johnson County, Kansas 6
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. European Dance 7:00 p.m. 7	8	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 9	ESTRELLA WAR Kingdom of Atenveldt 10	11	12	13 Wine & Gauze Dun Ard Leavenworth, Kansas
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Archery Practice 2:00 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. European Dance 7:00 p.m. ESTRELLA WAR 14	President's Day 15 Costuming and Fiber Arts 7:00 p.m.	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 16	Populace Meeting 7:00 p.m. 17	Middle Ages Recreation Society (MARS) 7:00 p.m. 18	19	Gathering of the Clans Vatavia Wichita, Kansas (site is in El Dorado) 20
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. European Dance 7:00 p.m. 21	Bardic Practice 7:00 p.m. 22	Armoring 6:30 p.m. Ren Fair Steering Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. 23	24	Welsh Group 7:00 p.m. 25	26	Gathering of the Chieftans Three Rivers St. Louis, Missouri 27
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Archery Practice 2:00 p.m. Middle Eastern Dance 5:00 p.m. European Dance 7:00 p.m. 28						

Greetings unto Their Excellencies Khulan and Kerare and the populace of Vatavia. I pray this missive finds all well and prepared for the winter days ahead.

The days of the SCA winter hiatus are a thing of the past. The calendar is full. In a few days time, *RUSH* will be held in the hospitable lands of Crescent Moon (Topeka, KS). Ysengi, Their Excellencies' banner bearer, has invited us all to come and participate in the regular weekly fighter practice in Spinning Winds on Sunday the 24th. He can be reached at 785-776-5196 for directions. This practice begins at 3:00p.m. and will be followed by a potluck dinner we have been invited to attend.

The following week is *Queen's Prize Tournament*. As the hosts, we all should try to contribute some time in an area: troll, the soup kitchen, clean up, etc. Lady Kasimira has graciously offered Stargate for the post-revel. It promises to be a grand time for all!

As some of you may know, I have received copies of grievous missives from our neighbors to the south. The seneschal of the Wastelands states, "So it will be you who hear these my last words. I know not the villain who struck me down. I was blinded by dragonflies just before he attacked me from the rear." Their new seneschal refers to us as "Vatavian sons of a bugs." The gauntlet has been tossed and Vatavia gleefully seizes it and prepares to make our way south to enter into "negotiations" at *Wolfstar* on February 6. Please make ready as this promises to be an excellent warm up for *Estrella*. Also on that day is Costuming Seminar, a time for those skilled in the ways of the needle can explore their craft further. May all find great enjoyment that day as we have two wonderful opportunities to explore the SCA.

The sands of *Estrella* call, and Vatavia has made its presence known. *War Maneuvers* was excellent, the sting of the Dragonfly Horde was felt. The sting will be strong as we gather under the Falcon banner to fight with our kith and kin of the Outlands. Immediately after, before the sand is out of our boots, *Gathering of the Clans* will be held in our beloved homeland. It will be a time to celebrate the Celtic culture as well as recount our favorite war stories from the previous week.

Their Excellencies and I would ask that if the weather is such that weather accident reporting is in effect, the reporters are saying unnecessary travel is discouraged, you aren't comfortable, etc., please consider that activity cancelled.

Their Excellencies, the appropriate officers, and I are accepting applications for Chirurgeon, Minister of Children, and MoA&S. Bids for December 1999 Crown are due at February Officers.

In humble service,

Eleanor

 **Vatavians are encouraged to attend:**

The Last-Second Annual

Wolfstar Tournament

Sponsored by the Shire of the Wastelands

February 5th-7th, 1999

Camp Cimarron, Coyle, OK

Join House Wolfstar for our Last Howl at our traditional site as we celebrate our Fourteenth and Last-Second Annual Household Tournament. Look for lots of melee fighting and revelry as only Wolfstar can provide! There will be the usual Belly Dance competition so bring your drums and your wiggle women! Cabin space will be available by reservation. Arts and Sciences will follow a Norse theme. There will be a bardic competition on either a Wolf or Viking theme.

Site Fees: \$7.00 for 16 and older; \$5.00 kids 12-15; under 12 free. \$25 Family Maximum. *Make checks payable to S.C.A., Inc., Shire of the Wastelands.*

Cabin Reservations: No reservations taken before Jan. 2nd! Contact Baroness Mairin (405)321-1658 (First come, first served).

Autocrats: *Ld. Throvald Egilsson*

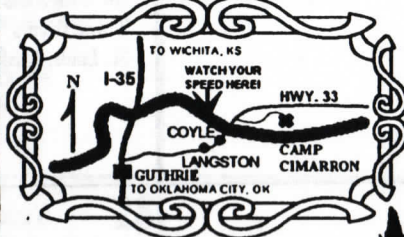
Cody Chezem
9034 E. 40th Pl
Tulsa, OK 74145
(918)622-7739

odin@okom.net

Ld. Johann Gunbjornsson

John May
401 W. Elm Ave.
Enid, OK 73701-3048
(405)237-0949

auntdwen@ionet.net




Baron Sir Olaf will
be running the
Wolfstar Tavern!!

Paid Ad

• Heraldry •

Lord Rhodri ap Hywel

 **Vatavia** has had a long tradition of heraldic excellence within Calontir, the latest example being the selection of Lady Alyx de Vernon of Briarwood as Saker Herald. The primary job of the Saker Herald is to organize heraldic submissions, both name and device, from Calontir and then send them to other heralds within the known world to confirm and register. Because Saker is now in Vatavia, our Cherbi and Cherbin have expressed a hope that Vatavian heraldic submissions will increase. However, despite the traditions of Vatavia, many practical aspects of heraldry within the Society remain obscure.

Registering names and devices can be broken down into two basic parts, doing and waiting. Doing means choosing and researching a name and designing a device. Included in this is filling out the application forms for Society registration. These are the activities that happen at a heraldic consultation table at an event.

Names are, in many ways, the more difficult aspect of registration. Any registered name must have been "common" in our period. Basically, what this means is that there has to be some credible example of the name's usage up to 1600. There are several ways this can be done. Obviously, famous historical figures can provide examples, such as Charles and Pepin from the Frankish Carolingian Dynasty. However, most names aren't based on an obvious personage, and this is where the research comes in. At a heraldic consultation table, there are many large books, each of which is accepted as documentation of period names. These are not the only available sources, however, so if you find a name in a credible history book, these can be used as well. Remember, though, that the books that many heralds have include solely names and all are acceptable for our purposes. Over 90% of acceptable names will be included in the materials that Lady Alyx takes to a consulting table.

Choosing a device is often easier. Most people know what colors they like, they usually have an idea what things they might want shown on their device, and nearly all have seen enough coats of arms to have a general idea of how they are supposed to look. To design a device, one doesn't need to know what azure is, they only need to know they like blue. Pale or bend?

Who cares, do you want a diagonal dividing line or a horizontal? Virtually any item that is period can be added, and virtually any animal, including nearly any monster or fantastic animal can be added. There are a few exceptions, but don't worry about the official, specific details of heraldry. That's the herald's job and if you do choose something that is restricted, they'll tell you.

There are a couple of basic things to keep in mind when designing a device, and both are easy to remember. The whole point of a device, is to identify a person in nearly any situation, including that of a battlefield. Thus, a device needs to be distinctive. So first, try and fill up each individual area. In other words, if you have divided you shield with a bend (a diagonal line) and are putting a dragonfly in each side of the bend, expand the dragonflies as large as you can. If you are putting something in an area several times, display them in such a way to occupy as much space as you can. For example, three dragonflies on a shield should form a downward pointing triangle. For four and five, look at how the pips are arranged on dice and so on. That's the moderately obscure part of designing.

The other part is widely known. Don't put a metal on a metal or a color on a color. There are two metals: gold (or yellow) and silver (or white); and five colors: red, blue, green, black, and purple. Thus, we have basically seven colors, and you might notice that six of the seven are part of an 8 color Crayola box. The other is white. Realize how distinctive these colors are and look at what the metals are compared to the colors. The metals are light, the colors are dark. The metal and color rule is simply a codification of the basic fact that yellow shows up on black and not on white, and red does the opposite.

Although helpful to know, the heraldic details are not your job; they're the herald's. They will tell you what the blazon, the heraldic description of your device, would be. All you need to do is to go to the herald with an idea of what you want. The heralds might make suggestions such as a more period style of arrangement or change of a restricted item, but they have to have something to work with.

Once all of the research and designing is done, and the forms have been completed, the waiting begins. Saker Herald receives the forms and makes sure that all of the important details have been taken care of. Those forms then get passed along to various other heralds at both kingdom and Society level. These other heralds examine the names and devices submitted and

confirm that they are historically accurate, then they determine there is conflict with a device or name someone has already registered.

This process is extensive, exhaustive, tedious, and long. Usually, you can expect a device or name registration to take four to six months, if everything goes well. Unfortunately, if there is a conflict on one or the other, then some changes will have to be made. One portion on the submission form allows for minor changes, within certain restrictions such as language, to be made by the heralds. This can allow the process to continue. Otherwise, the submission will be returned so that you can make whatever changes are necessary. At this point, the procedure begins again, however if you resubmit within a year, you will not have to pay the submittal fee again.

Heraldry, as practiced in the Society, is both a bright colorful art form and a very precise science. These procedures, though cumbersome, allow Society heralds to keep the spirit of heraldry alive.

Copyright 1999 © Rob Howell



• My Lovely Lady •

James Ian Randolph

What Ho! My beautiful Lady,
Comely of form and look.
Would that I might part thy lovely pages
And read thee like a book.

Thy cover is most gracious,
But I seek what is inside.
Those chapters at the center
are where I wouldst abide.

Surely, thy story be glorious,
Thy written words full round.
I would take this special tome
And lay it on the ground.

Then would I browse thy book full well
In that voluptuous park.
Till with the fading light of day
comes on the gentle dark
And at the inmost of thy pages
Will I leave my large bookmark.



Copyright 1998 © Unpublished Work, James H. John

• The Coming of Guns •

His Lordship Friar Thomas Bacon

If asked to name a weapon from the Middle Ages or the Renaissance, the first to come to mind for most people is the sword. And the sword was certainly the premier weapon of the time. If asked for the most influential weapon of this period, you might get answers like the longbow or the pike. It will only with some thought that some will realize that the correct answer is the gun. For with the coming of the gun the structures that formed the Middle Ages literally crumbled.

Even when people remember that guns were part of the period the SCA studies, they usually associated them with the last century. Yet the story of guns begins in the middle of the High Middle Ages. There is uncertain evidence that firearms were first used in Europe by the Mongols in 1241. In 1267 Roger Bacon wrote down the recipe for gunpowder. The first depiction of a cannon is found in a manuscript done in 1326. By the 1340's and increasing number of towns could boast of possessing cannon. By 1400 they were a military necessity.

Necessary, but not necessarily effective. Early cannon were built like barrels, held together by hoops and forge welding, and so were relatively weak. Gunpowder was also of questionable and variable quality. As a result, cannons were often as much a danger to the cannoneers as to the enemy. Ponderous weapons, they were difficult to move, and once setup almost impossible to re-aim. Easy to avoid in the field, they were relegated to siege work.

Throughout the 15th century, these and other defects were dealt with. By the end of the century, while there were refinements still to be made, the basic form and organization of firearms could be seen. Ordinances were promulgated, detailing the specifications of firearms and their provisions. The bow and pole-arm were still the principal infantry weapons, but their days were already numbered.

Like the crossbow before it, the gun had its supporters and detractors, and for much the same reasons. It did not require much training to learn how to use it, or remain proficient with it. It could kill at a distance even though armor. It was still possible to make armor bullet resistant, but by 1600 with the continuous improvement of small arms, such armor was so heavy to be unwearable. Bullet dents can be found on a large number of late period armor. These are usually the result of proof tests and not battle damage. Its

main disadvantage was its slow rate of fire.

Since the early makers of gunpowder came from the ranks of the alchemists, guns became associated with magic. And as it threatened the existing hierarchy, many considered it the work of the devil. The noise, smoke and smell of expended gunpowder added to this notion. And like the crossbow, none of this slowed people down from using it.

While knocking down high castle walls was spectacular, this was not the reason why guns had such a profound impact. It was relatively easy to adapt the walls to take cannon fire. It was in the economics of owning cannon. Acquiring and supporting a siege train of cannon was expansive, and increasingly necessary to take or defend a fortress. By the beginning of the sixteenth century, only kings could afford this expense, and the lesser nobles could not stand up to them. The kings could afford this because they could exploit sources of revenue unavailable to the lower nobility. This freedom from the lower nobility effectively collapsed the feudal order and allowed the rise of the nation-states.

Note I said "allowed" and not "caused". For guns are just part of the tapestry that denotes the end of the Middle Ages. The increase in trade which gave rise to the middle class, the increasing willingness of the intellectuals to look at things in new ways, the inability of the old order to deal with the natural catastrophes of the later Middle Ages all added to the impetus that created the Modern Age. It is to the gun that we owe the speed of this transition. For against the gun the old order had no defense, no way of slowing down the changes it had wrought. Only feudal Japan held out, and only by banning guns all together, and collapsed utterly when those with guns returned to stay.

Bibliography

Arms and Armor in Antiquity and the Middle Ages, Charles Boutell, Combined Books, 1996

English Weapons & Warfare 449-1660, A.V.B. Norman and Don Pottinger, Dorset Press, 1979

Guns, Pistols, Revolvers: Hand-firearms from the 14th to the 19th centuries, Heinrich Muller, St. Martin's Press, 1980

War in the Middle Ages, Philippe Contamine, Blackwell Publishers, 1986

Copyright 1999 © David Moreno

• Officers' Minutes •

January 6, 1999 - 24 members attended: 16 officers/deputies/champions; 5 members of the populace; 3 children

The officers discussed the numerous events and activities on the calendar. January 23rd there is a RUSH session in Crescent Moon (Topeka). Queen's Prize Tournament will be in Vavavia January 30th. There will be heraldic consultations held at this event. A soup kitchen will be provided for QPT and the Regional Fighter Practice being held here the same day. Lord Otoshi asked that fighters be encouraged to attend this practice. Authorizations will be done. There will be a post revel held at Kasamira's Star Gate after these events. Crash space is needed. Contact the autocrats.

A letter referring to Vavavians was published in the *The Gleaner*. This was read. His Excellency discussed Vavavians attending the Wolf Star event February 6th to clarify some misconceptions that the Ansteorrans seem to have about Vavavians. Those not martially inclined were reminded that the Costuming Seminar would be held in Forgotten Sea on February 6th. Gathering of the Clans will be in El Dorado February 20th. Some details were covered. Their Excellencies described the site, which includes showers. Property needs for this event will need to be looked at and planned.

Vavavia's BUSH session is scheduled for April 10th. Part of the classes presented are geared toward Ren Faire. A survey will be distributed this month to the populace and other participating groups and individuals. It is requested that these be returned by February 17th. The next meeting of the Steerage Committee is scheduled for February 23rd. It is open to all interested individuals.

The Champions' event is in the initial planning stages only. A bid for Valor will be decided upon from the several presented; and, the decision announced at this month's populace. Crown Tournament bids must be in by the February officers' meeting. Shakespeare's Birthday at Botanica has a tentative date of April 22nd. Ren Faire meetings with Newman University have not yet started.

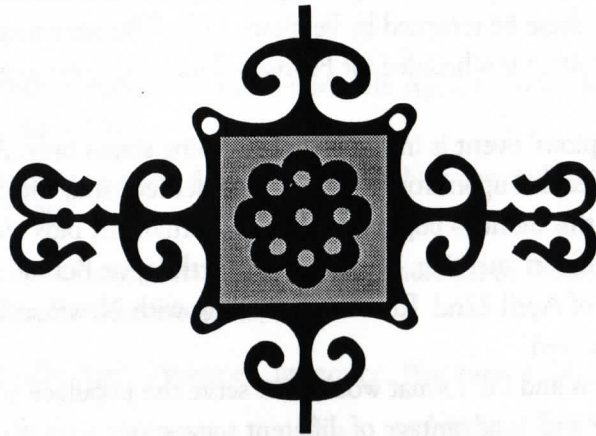
What Census and OP format would best serve the populace was asked. The advantage and disadvantage of different suggestions were discussed. The Chatelaine has been obtaining information on the Society for interested

individuals who live outside Vatavia and outside Calontir. She received a Christmas card and invitation for Vatavia to attend the Beaumont Tower Festival the first weekend in June. Information in the newcomer's packets is being updated. There is a newcomers' meeting scheduled for May 1st. There was a letter in local publications thanking MARS and the SCA Inc. for help with the Bearjoran Project. There are four Vatavian items at Kingdom for consideration. The treasurer reported a balance of \$2058.51. There is a special project request for the costumers to assist in making garb for the photo booth at Ren Faire.

Archery continues to be held at the regular scheduled time. It was noted that Vatavian names are prominent in the Calontir listings for the IKAC and for the different divisions for the CAP. Fighter practice continues as scheduled. A potential site for indoor practice is being looked into. Practice is cancelled for the Sunday after the Regional Fighter Practice. The War College continues to meet at Lord Ebhan's on Sundays when the weather does not allow for practice. See Ebhan for directions and/or information. Also it was announced the Ebhan is now a warranted marshal.

It was announced that the MOA/MOS would be needing to step down due to personal circumstances. Interested individuals should send applications to the Baronage, Seneschal, and Lady Aoibhinn. A new policy decision was announced. If local weather conditions have resulted in advisories for essential travel only or implementation of the city's emergency accident reporting policy, local meetings and activities are cancelled and will be rescheduled.

The meeting adjourned.



• Their Majesties' Calontir •

Luther and Lenore

Ryan Riemenschneider and Kay Morgan
613 9th St., West Des Moines, IA 50265

(515) 222-0533 • lutherhusc@aol.com • (no calls after 10 p.m.)

• Vatavia's Web Site •

[http:// www.hit.net/~lestat](http://www.hit.net/~lestat)

Run by Milord Connor M'Adwry

• Credits •

Chronicler:	Lord Corrigan MacKenzie
Proof-reader:	Milady Vanora Ian Locke/Lady Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon
Officers Minutes:	Her Ladyship Marie Chantal Delaire
Front Cover (art):	Lord Corrigan MacKenzie, 1999 © Chris Moore
Page 7 (art):	Lord Corrigan MacKenzie, 1999 © Chris Moore
Page 13 (article):	Lord Rhodri ap Hywel, 1999 © Rob Howell
Page 15 (art):	Dover Clip Art Books
Page 16 (poem):	Milord James Ian Randolph, 1998 © James H. John
Page 16 (art):	Dover Clip Art Books
Page 17 (article):	His Lordship Friar Thomas Bacon, 1998 © David Moreno
Back inside (art):	Dover Clip Art Books

