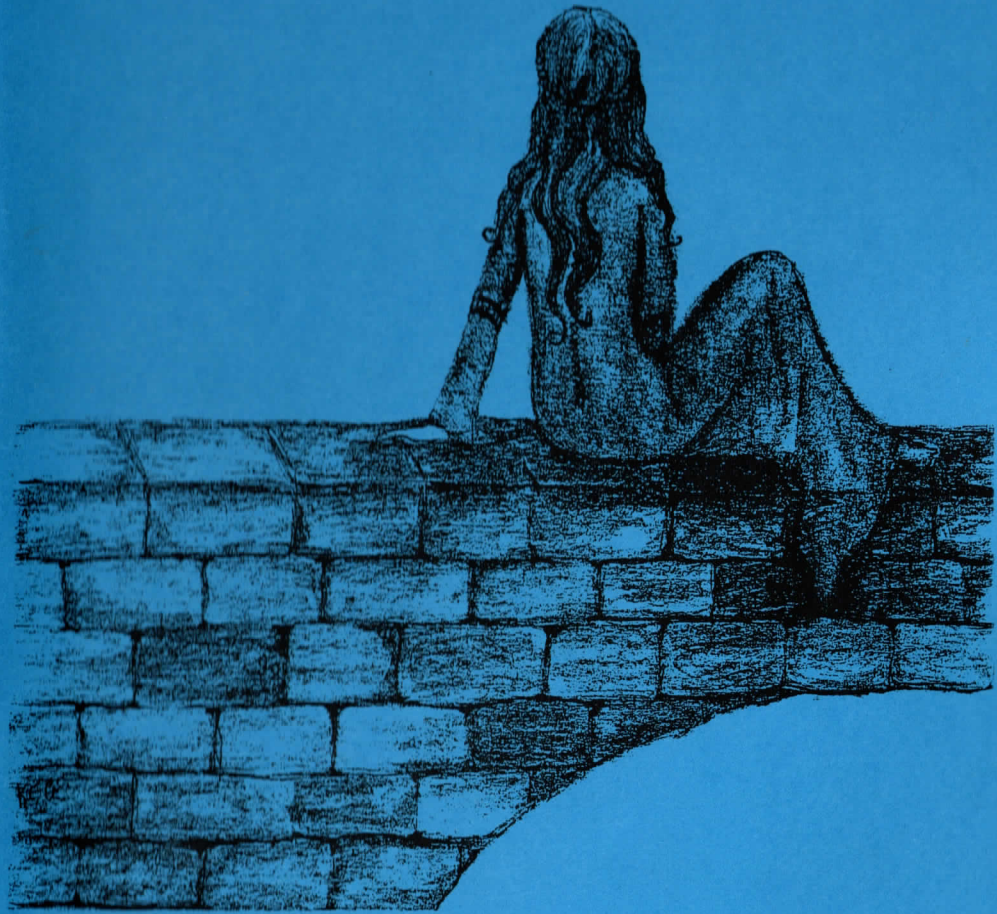


The Barony Of Valasia

Dragonflyre



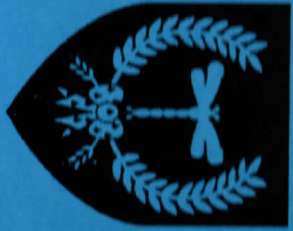
November A.S. / xxxiv / (1999)

The Dragonflyre

c/o Warren Thomas

1622 S. Waco

Wichita, KS 67213



Baronial Officers

Baronage

Cherbi & Cherbin

Khulan & Kerare(316) 265-9825
 Rick & Carolyn Haddaway
 (Please no calls on Fridays - Contact the
 Seneschale if necessary.)

Officers

Seneschale

Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon.....(316) 685-8510
 Wendy Donaldson.....winslet@feist.com

Chatelaine

Cerridwyn Eurgledde ferch Owain ap By-
 chan Glyndyfrdwy..... (316) 524-0478
 Debora Billings ..cerridwyn@terraworld.net

Minister Of Children

Open, please see Seneschale to apply.

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 David Moreno

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Knight Marshal

Ebhan MacRuairidh.....(316) 686-4724
 Evan White.....ebhanmac@hotmail.com

Deputy Knight Marshal

Cilian Neill MacAoidh....(316) 684-4730
 Troy Liput.....troyliput@aol.com

Archer Marshal

Roderick de Graham ..(316) 788-8826
 Allen Graham

Minister of Arts & Sciences

Isabeau d' Andrea.....(316) 773-3956
 Tari O. Stewart.....mharrison@feist.com

Chirurgion

Open, please see Seneschale to apply.

Chronicler

Connor M'Adwry.....(316) 269-1082
 Warren Thomas.....vatavia@geocities.com

Web Minister

Connor M'Adwry.....(316) 269-1082
 Warren Thomas.....vatavia@geocities.com

Champions

Fighter Champion

Alan Smyth of Darkdale
 Dale Belcher

Archer Champion

Corrigan Makenzie
 Chris Moore

Arts & Sciences Champion

Genevieve de Chambray
 Kris Griffith

Bardic Champion

Ilhana Mackenzie
 Melisa Moore

Banner Bearer

Ruaidhri ua Ceallaigh
 Gary Fox


Serf-Line

(recorded information line)
 (316) 264-7373 (264-SERF)

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From The Baronage

Greetings unto the populace of Vatavia. Fall is here, and winter will soon be upon us. Although many feel this is a slow time of the year, we remind you it is not. We have things happening every weekend from now until the first of November.

Champions will be November 20, BUSH will be November 13, and we also have many demos coming up.

Also, we have a shire trying to form in Kingman and will be having a Newcomers 101 demo on November 6. We would like to see many of our populace in attendance to meet, greet, and introduce these good gentles to our society.

We are still accepting applica-

tions for the Chatelaine position and hope have sever applicants. This is a very important office as they are in charge of greeting new prospective members, arranging demos, and publicity, just to name a few.

In closing, we would like to let everyone know that Her Excellency Brialen is sponsoring a banner display at Mongols III on 29 January. Anyone who brings out their banners and poles will receive a portable hole.

Keep warm, have fun, and beware the road bandits around Forgotten Sea, Lonely Tower, and Coeur d'Ennui as tolls and harassment of travelers and caravans have been reported. This matter is under investigation

Khulan
Cherbi



Kerare
Cherbin

From The Knight Marshal

Unto the gentile Populace of Vatavia, cold weather is coming. I am currently looking for cold weather sites for fighter practice. If anyone has any ideas, please give me a call.

Fighter practice will continue to be held in Linwood Park as long as weather will permit. And remember, we've gone back to the 1:00 p.m. time slot on Sundays.

If you have a question as to whether or not fighter practice is

being held on a given weekend, the general rule of thumb is as follows:

- ⇒ If it is under 40° F outside, fighter practice is cancelled.
- ⇒ If it is actively raining or snowing, fighter practice is cancelled.

If you have questions or suggestions, give me a call.

Protecting the dream through
service,

Lord Ebhan MacRuairidh

From The Chronicler

Greetings come from your new chronicler. I am looking forward to serving the needs of this great barony with all I possess. To do this I have set two deadlines. The first deadline is on the first Wednesday of the month and is for officers. I must have *all* officers letters by that date. If they are not received by this date, then I will not print them. The second deadline is for articles and artwork. All articles and art must be received by the second Monday of the month. If they are not received by this date then they may not be printed until

the following month. Setting these deadlines will help me in my pursuit of publishing a quality newsletter. Remember, if you do miss the deadline, be sure to contact me, as there is a chance that I may make an exception. I will accept letters and articles via email and on paper. I will only accept art on paper. I will *not* accept dictated letters or articles.

Also, starting as of now, I am accepting letters for deputy positions. I need a Web Minister and a Deputy Chronicler. One person can do both, but I have decided to have them listed

separately so that those who are unable to do both jobs can still apply. The deadline is set for November Populace. If I don't have your letter by the end of that meeting, you will not be considered. I am being strict about deadlines that I set to make

things fair to everyone. Thank you for your time.

Serving the crown, one flyer at a time,

Lord Connor M'Adwry

From The Chatelaine

Greetings fair gentles of Vatavia. We are very fortunate to have so many demos coming our way. Please lend a helping hand if you can. You are always appreciated! Here are some of the ones coming up:

- ⇒ Night of the Living Zoo, 22 Oct - 24 Oct. Please call Her Ladyship Marie for info.
- ⇒ Shocktoberfest, 16 Oct from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Contact myself for info.
- ⇒ Home for The Holidays at Century II, 29 Oct - 31 Oct. This is a big demo with great media coverage! Please see Her Ladyship Marie for info.
- ⇒ Peabody Christmas Event, 27 Nov. Please see myself for info.

As always, we really want to show who we are and the interesting wonderful things that the SCA does!

As you know, I have had two deputies. Life situations have arisen which does not allow them to continue. If there is anyone who attends fighter practice on a regular basis who is comfortable talking to anyone who is serious or interested, and would be interested as acting as a deputy, please contact me. Sunday is my "family day" and I am unable to attend fighter practice.

Yn Gwasanaeth,

Lady Cerridwyn

Meetings & Announcements

The Populace Meeting is the third Wednesday of each month. November Populace will be on the 17th at 7:00 p.m., at Angel of Hope Church, 1652 N. Salina. Please call Lady Eleanor at 685-8510 or Their Excellencies at 265-9825 for more information.

Anyone wanting further information about the SCA, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478 or email her at Cerridwyn@terraworld.net

Anyone interested in contributing to the Kingdom Arts & Sciences Resource Book, please contact Her Ladyship Genevieve at (316) 663-7745 or genevive@southwind.net

November Officers Meeting will be held on the 1st, 7:00 p.m., at Dawson United Methodist Church. Contact Eleanor at 685-8510 or Their Excellencies at 265-9825 for more information.

Vatavian Dance Practice (also called European Dance) is held on Monday nights at Sims Park from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Whether you are a fighter working on building timing and balance, or just interested in dancing for fun and meeting people, this is the practice for you. We teach many different types of dance and have a lot of fun stepping on toes while we're doing it.

Baronial Fighter Practice is held Sundays in South Linwood Park near the tennis courts at 1:00 p.m. and continues until interest is waning. Contact Lord Ebhan at 686-4724 for more information.

Armoring continues on Tuesdays at Duke Gabriel's house, at 6:30 p.m. Please call Lord Cilian at 684-4730 for more information.

Baronial Archery Practice is Sundays at 5500 N Maize Road, at 3:00 p.m. Contact Lord Michael Van Bergen at 265-5804 for directions or alternate times to shoot. Contact Lord Roderick at 788-8826 for other information.

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. Also, Lady Elspeth is looking for someone to take her place as the head of MARS. To qualify, you must be currently enrolled at WSU.

If you are interested in Middle Eastern Dance, Please call Baroness Kerare at 265-9825, as the time and date are up for change.

Sayidda Jahanara bint Orianna would like to know how many Middle and Far Eastern personas would be interested in starting a guild to research these areas. The idea is to start a formal group in order to encourage people to share their research/resources in this area with others who are interested. She would greatly appreciate all input. Contact Sayidda at Jahanara@MISSOURI.EDU

Want to learn a simple dance to dance at feasts? Want to just step on someone's toes? Come to Courtly Dance Practice, Thursday evenings at Cessna Park, corner of Mt. Vernon and Woodlawn, at 7:00 p.m. For Further information, contact Lady Isabeau at 773-3956.

Bardic is held on the last Monday of each month at Lady Cerridwyn's home, 3551 S. Walnut. For More information, please call Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

There will no longer be Welsh Group due to a lack of interest. It was fun while it lasted.

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. In August, a 4-part series of classes be-

gan, focusing on the basics of calligraphy and illumination. For further info, contact Lord Godric at 267-4152.

Costuming/Fiber Arts in on hold for the summer. If anyone wishes to get information on costuming or related areas, contact Lady Sibeal at 265-4643.

Any interested in learning essential oils or stained glass (copper foil method), please contact Lady Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

Anyone in Newton and the surrounding towns - Lady Deirdre has opened her home as a meeting place. Please call (316) 284-2270 for information.

Lord Janos is organizing a dance band to accompany the Dragonfly Dancers. If you can play a simple melody on a plausibly period Instrument, or can maintain a steady rhythm, then join us. Practices are at 7:00 p.m. Sundays at Janos' home. For more information, please contact Lord Janos at 264-3576 (evenings) or email him at ldjanos@aol.com.

The Heralds have a short message for the populace about names and arms:

'Submit To Your Heralds!'

Constructing a Persona

A persona is the character that you develop to be in the middle ages, the person you are while at events. Choosing a persona is not required but it will add depth to your SCA experience.

A persona includes a name and a history. The history of your persona can be very general or very detailed. It can include your occupation, location country, town or city, social status, age, family history, a life story, etc... If you want to be upper class that is OK, but remember you cannot claim to have a title, like king, duke, knight, squire or something like that. In the SCA those titles are earned. It is also bad to claim you are a person from history, like claiming you are Joan of Arc, or you are Alexander the Great. Its OK to base your self on a person but it's tacky to claim to be that person. If you have any questions ask someone.

Choosing a name is important and the best thing to start with. Baby name books are not the

place to start, look for a book of names in the reference section of the library. Remember librarians are cool people, ask for help if you can't find anything. Good ways to figure out where you come from and who you are: clothing worn in a time period, the armor used in a time period, a time period that is interesting to you, your own family history, a person from history you find interesting or the social structure of a society. There are any number of ways to decide or any combination of the above, originality is a terrible thing to waste.

Don't worry about changing your mind nothing is written in stone. But remember names tend to stick, and sometimes if you don't find one someone else will find one for you. This can be good or bad.

Developing a persona is fun, and a lot of work. It can take years to fully develop your Medieval alter ego.

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November - Calendar Of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Officers Meeting 7:00 p.m. European Dance 7:00 p.m. 1	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 2	3 Deadline for Officers' Letters	4	5	6
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Archery Practice 3:00 p.m. 7	European Dance 7:00 p.m. 8 Deadline for General Articles And Artwork	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 9	10	Courtly Dance 7:00 p.m. Calligraphy and Illumination 7:00 p.m. Beginners' Middle Eastern Dance 7:00 p.m. 11	12	BUSH 13
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Archery Practice 3:00 p.m. 14	European Dance 7:00 p.m. 15	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 16	Populace Meeting 7:00 p.m. 17	Courtly Dance 7:00 p.m. Beginners' Middle Eastern Dance 7:00 p.m. 18	19	Champions 20
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Archery Practice 3:00 p.m. 21	European Dance 7:00 p.m. 22	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 23	24	Middle Ages Recreation Society (MARS) 6:00 p.m. Courtly Dance 7:00 p.m. Beginners' Middle Eastern Dance 7:00 p.m. 25	26	27
Fighter Practice 1:00 p.m. Archery Practice 3:00 p.m. 28	European Dance 7:00 p.m. 29	Armoring 6:30 p.m. 30				

Champions

November 20, 1999

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Main and 30th St., Hutchinson Kansas

Site opens at 9 am and closes at 8 pm. There are several fast food restaurants around for luncheon possibilities. A simple Feast will be served including a Hearty Vegetable Beef Stew, a Vegetarian Soup and Bread with flavored butters. A subtlety competition is being sponsored by Her Excellency Kerare, to be judged during feast. The populace is asked to bring a desert or salad. Site fee is \$3.00 for members, \$4.00 for non-members. No pre-registration is necessary. Checks should be made payable to the SCA Inc. Barony of Vativa. There is plenty of camping space/crash space if needed contact the steward for details. It is a dry site, however a post revel will be held at Genevieve's house, 2806 Malloy.

Fighting – Champions battle will be a Round Robin tourney. There will also be a Double Elimination Prize Tourney and Melees through out the day. Weather permitting we will fight outside, however there are indoor facilities. Fighters will need to wear tennis shoes to fight on the gym floor. Champion and Marshal in charge will be Alan Smyth of Darkdale.

Archery – Championship competition will include both an archery shoot and a thrown weapons tourney. The tournament will be held the week prior to the event at Archery Practice November 14th. Stephen O'Bannon will be the marshal in charge.

Bardic - Champions competition will be held during feast at Their Excellencies pleasure. Bring out your best bardic recitation, musical presentation or dance for this open entry competition. Register your entry at the Arts and Sciences area. We welcome anyone who wishes to perform during feast outside of the competition to please consider this opportunity.

Arts and Science - Championship entries will consist of 2 entries, one must be an art and one a science. Please provide documentation for judging by kingdom criteria. Additionally, we will have a Heraldic Banner/display competition and display area. Bring you're recent A & S projects for a show-and-tell display.

Children's – Championship competition will be an open arts and science entry of the participants choosing. No documentation required, however judging is face to face. There will also be a gaming area with boards and activities through out the day.

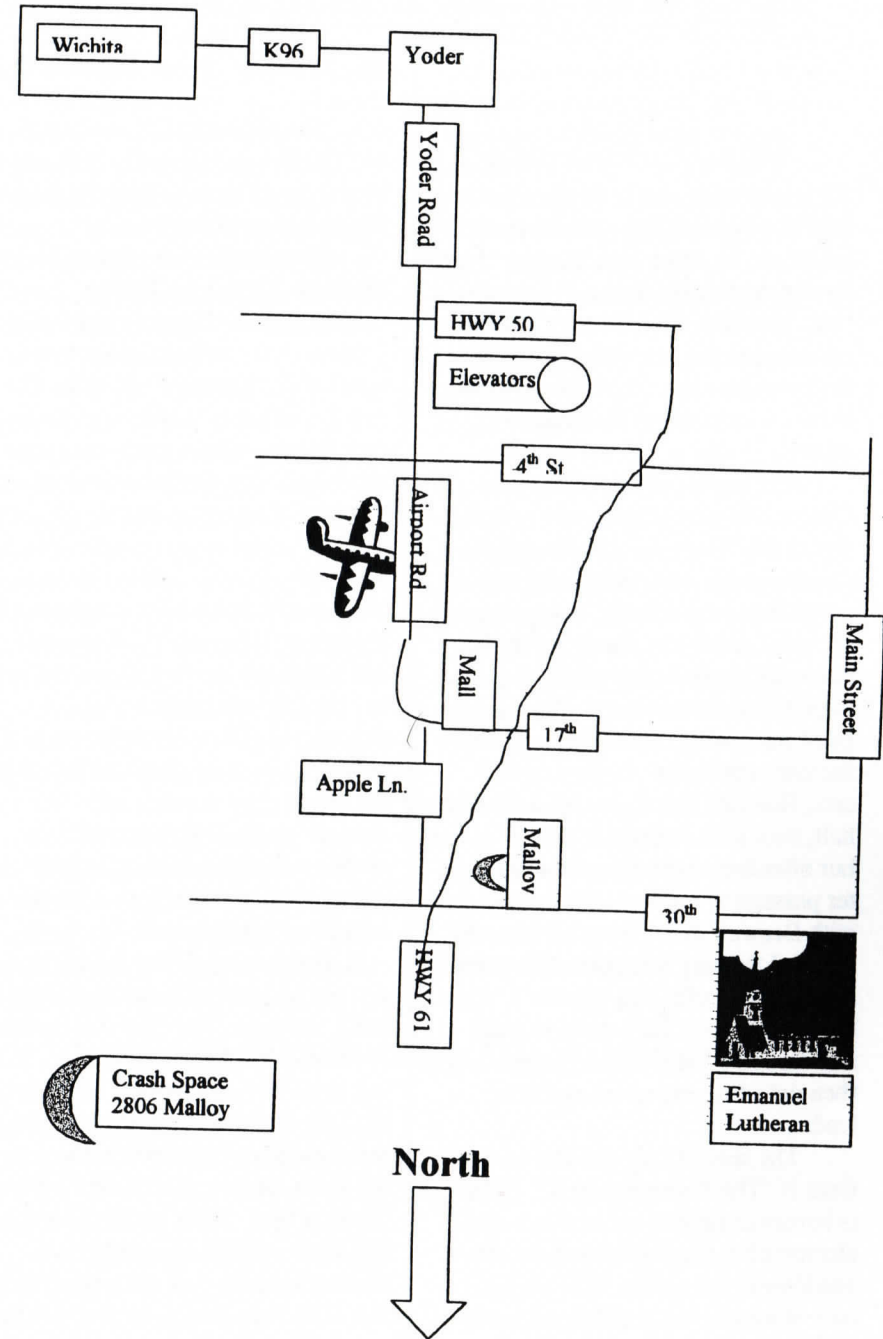
Event Steward

Genevieve de Chambrey
2806 Malloy
Hutchinson, KS
(316) 663-7745
geneviev@southwind.net

Feastcrat

Cai Dubhghlas
612-2632
wbbrown@powwwwer.net

(Please contact Cai with special dietary needs.)



The 13th Warrior: A Review

His Lordship Friar Thomas Baron

When I first started writing these reviews it was to explore the actual history behind the stories portrayed. With "The 13th Warrior" I will have gone far astray from this intention. For "The 13th Warrior" has almost no connection with actual history. So instead I will explore the mythological constructs which make up this movie.

The foundation the Michael Crichton based his story is the Anglo-Saxon tale 'Beowulf'. In 'Beowulf', the opponents have an aura of supernaturalness about them. To produce the same effect, the movie keeps the enemy in the dark and shadows creating terror out of mystery. What is more interesting is that the movie tells the tale backwards. In the original epic, Beowulf first fights Grendal at the hall, then kills Grendal's mother in her lair after first swimming through a water passage to reach it. The epic ends with Beowulf dying from his wounds suffered fighting a dragon. The movie has Buliwyf defending against a "fiery serpent", killing the female shaman and escaping via a water passage, and then defeating the un-named war leader.

The second epic the film borrows from is "The Seven Samurai". What is borrowed here is not so much story elements but the pacing and the ebb and flow of the action. The preliminary skirmish, the building of the defenses, the fending off of a major attack, the raid on the enemy camp to the

final climatic battle follow the pattern of "The Seven Samurai". Both movies even have a funeral sequence as part of the gathering of the heroes.

The actual connection to history is the Arab Ahmad Ibn Fadlan. He existed, and made a diplomatic trip the peoples of the Russian steppes and wrote about it around 922 AD. The trip to and the events in Scandinavia is pure fiction. I have not seen a copy of this travelogue, but have encountered pieces, including the description of the Viking funeral which parallels the action in the movie. While Crichton, in his forward, has a bibliography for this document, it is suspect. It should be noted that the implied dating the poem has the Grendal battle occurring around 515 AD, with the poem itself composed in the eighth century, though the oldest copy is much later. As a side note, for those to stay to watch the credits will discover that the lady whom Ahmad fell in love with was the legendary Scheherazade.

Another mythological aspect that can not be ignored is the number in the band: thirteen. The idea that thirteen is unlucky is Christian in origin, having to do with the number of dinners at the Last Supper. And while Christian missionaries were active in the area in the tenth century, conversion was yet spotty at best. Thus while the Vikings had their own set of superstitions, number thirteen was not among them. Why Crichton settled on that number would be speculation on my part. Beowulf's band numbered fourteen. And

that the last selected had to be an outsider is simply a plot device to get the narrator into the action.

One aspect that anyone associated with fighting will sit-up and notice is the variety of armor the heroes wear. What strikes the knowledgeable is not the mishmash per se, but that that a number of pieces did not appear until much later than the presumed time of the film. Also incongruous is the Roman gladiator helm that one wears in several of the scenes.

A nice touch was the sequence in which Ahmad is forced to learn Old Norse. Most stories tend to overlook such differences, or paper it over with some deus ex machina device. Nevertheless he had to be quite the linguist to so quickly and easily pick up the language with the implied fluency of the rest of the movie. One last language note: the language the Viking and Omar Shief were communicating in was most likely Greek, though my own linguistic skills are inadequate to verify this.

So who were the 'eaters of the dead'? The afterword in the book tries to make the case that they were Neanderthals. While not impossible, there is no compelling plot reason for this to be so. While the 'eaters of

the dead' were certainly portrayed as a stone age people, that does necessarily need them to be Neanderthals. Little is known of the inhabitants of the Scandinavian region prior to the migration of the German tribes around 200 AD. However the Viking raids that started around 800 AD were due to population pressures, making such primitive survivals existing in the tenth century unlikely. As for the cannibalism, while it did occur, whether this was normal or ritual activity, or acts of desperation is unknowable.

Overall the movie was engrossing enough that these many points did not occur till sitting afterwards musing about the movie. While I found it interesting, it is not one that left me as enthusiastic as did others. I wouldn't discourage others from seeing it, I wouldn't put it on the must see list. It just a case, that for me, the magic wasn't there.

Bibliography

Beowulf, ed. Burton Raffel, New American Library, NY, 1963

Eaters of the Dead, Michael Crichton

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Officers' Minutes

September 13, 1999 / 24 members attended; 17 officers/deputies/event stewards; 4 members of the populace; 3 children

The post mortem for the Valor event was held. Many pros were cited in the discussion. Only a few glitches were noted. The final figures were calculated for expenses and income from the event. Officers were asked to discuss with others and consider ways to promote this, and other events, in the future. At that event the Baronage of the Wastelands extended an 'invitation' for Vavavia to attend their event on the third weekend of February.

Numerous inquiries have come from the small communities in the Vavavia geographic area. Several requests for information and possible presentations have been made. Peabody members have requested Vavavia participate in their holiday parade Saturday, November 27th. Lady Cerridwyn is working on organizing that presentation. Interested people should contact her. Other requests are still only very tentative.

The shires of Westumbria and Spinning Winds have requested help with demo that each have planned for this weekend, September 26th. Vavavia has been asked to help with 'Night of the Living Zoo', October 22nd - 24th and 'Home for the Holidays' at Century II, October 29th- 31st. Contact Lady Cerridwyn or Lady Marie if you are interested.

A possible site for the champions' event has been found in the arts and sciences' champion's hometown of Hutchinson. Some officers plan to go check the site. The tentative date for the event is November 6th. Their Majesties have requested Vavavia to host a Mongols event. The Baronage would also like to have a Yule event this year. Bids for either of these events need to be in by October.

Lady Deirdre, who lives in Newton, announced that in the future she would like to host meetings at her home for interested people in Newton and the nearby surrounding towns.

The Chatelaine will be stepping down from her office in December. Applications for the position need to be in by October populace. Printing for new fliers and newcomers packets is needed. Prices from different companies will be obtained and a decision made as to the most economical company. The herald's office has no new proposals in process at this time. This month's Dragonflyre will be done by the deputy Chronicler, Connor.

This Saturday the 26th the Baronial arts and sciences interest meeting will be held. This will be over regalia making. The next month's meeting will be for making banners.

The need for a Baronial property work day was brought up. The Property Mistress thanked those who helped put things back in the shed. Storage containers have been donated by Lord Morcar and Lady Isabeau, for which they were thanked. There was a request from Lady Christine for the loan of the yellow and white tent for an activity at

her church. This had been loaned last year for the same event. It was approved.

Fighter practice will resume its usual 1p.m. schedule beginning this weekend. The location will remain the same, South Linwood Park near the tennis courts and swimming pool. The Archer Marshall is stepping down early due to the demands of his school and work schedules. Applicants will be interviewed at the populace meeting.

Their Excellencies asked for award recommendations be turned in, especially for Valor. The requests for assistance from Westumbria and Spinning Winds were again noted. Deadlines for bids and applications were repeated. They expressed the desire to have a truly Yule event this year.

The meeting adjourned.

Officers' Minutes

October 4, 1999 / 23 members attended; 14 officers/deputies/champions; 5 members of the populace; 4 children / one a champion

Details for the numerous different demonstration requests were covered. The Peabody presentation is November 27th. This is for half a day starting around 2:00 p.m. with set up. The possibility of asking other nearby groups to assist will be checked into. Contact Lady Cerridwyn to volunteer. The group's participation in the Night of the Living Zoo, October 22nd - 24th has been finalized. Home for the Holidays is October 29th - 31st. Plans are in the final stages. The number of volunteers will be limited to the number of passes that are received. The WSU request for our participation in this year's Shocktober Fest will be declined with regrets. It was too short a notice at a very busy time for this group.

Some members requested to use the SCA, Inc. name for their entry for the

gingerbread village. They plan to have their gingerbread castle and keep added to the gingerbread village sponsored by the Assistance League of Wichita. Proceeds from the auction of the village go to several city organizations. This was approved. Champions will be held November 20th at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. Specifics for each championship were covered. There will also be a children's championship and a heraldic banner competition.

RUSH will be held the weekend prior at Westumbria. Several Vavavians will be teaching. The populace is encouraged to support this event and our neighbor group. The deadline for bid proposals for a Yule event and a Mongols event is the October populace meeting.

It was suggested that Vavavia again hold its annual food and clothing drive. It was proposed to have the collection for November and December. A coordinator will be requested at the October meeting. It was also

suggested that the collection could be sent to Society groups in the Carolinas hit by the recent hurricane.

The Chatelaine reported several new member, and to our area member, inquires. There is a request for an SCA 101 presentation for potential members in the Kingman area. A date will be arranged. Lady Deirdre who lives in Newton will be holding meetings for interested individuals in her area in the near future. She also presented several PR ideas. Interviews will be held at populace for applicants for the office of Herald. The Chatelaine interviews will be at the November officers' meeting.

The monthly arts and sciences interest meeting will be at Lady Isabeau's this October 16th. The subject is banner making. The website has changed to the alternate address to alleviate some operating problems. That address is www.Vatavia.hypermart.net

The treasurer reported a balance of \$2750.93. New checks will need to be ordered in the near future.

Fighter practice continues at its scheduled time. The Knight Marshall

has begun looking for an indoor practice site. Any suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. There is a need for loaner armor during practice, especially for more slender individuals.

Vatavians received thanks from Westumbria and Spinning Winds for their assistance with demonstrations those groups had recently. It was announced that Gillian, the former Kingdom Chatelaine, had a 6 pound baby girl. Eleanor Rose who is doing well despite being five weeks early.

It was noted that individuals need to be courteous and quiet during populace meetings and court, especially now that meetings will be held indoors during the winter months. Their Excellencies requested that award recommendations be turned in. It has been several months since a court was held and there is a backlog of business besides business from the several events that have been held recently.

The meeting adjourned.



Their Majesties' Calontir

Joe Angus and Phaedra

Joe and Phaedra Wilson

976 S. Hill Ave. • Fayetteville, AR 72701

(501) 582-1825 • his: jdwilso@comp.uark.edu • hers: pmwilli@comp.uark.edu

Vatavia's Web Site

<http://vatavia.hypermart.net>

Run by Lord Connor M' Adwry

Credits

Chronicler: Lord Connor M' Adwry

Proof-reader and Assistant: Milady Breage of Vatavia

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