



Not the newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 13.5 April 1st, 2001

Cleftlands Declared 17th Kingdom

In a sudden coup this weekend, armed forces from the Barony of the Cleftlands defeated a larger Midrealm contingent to affirm the sovereignty of our barony as a Kingdom. This came as a shock to many considering the battle did not take place at a planned event. "Well sure," stated Sir Theodric, commander of the Cleftlands Forces, "we were up against superior numbers, surprise was our best weapon. You should have seen their faces!" The attack took place at a venue the Cleftlanders were certain they could catch a large contingent of the Midrealm army- a two for one duct tape and rivet sale at DIY.

"Hey, [the coup] wasn't a surprise to me," commented a beaming Calum MacDhaibhidh. "We always were sort of out in our own little world."

Suspicious reports have circulated that the attack was in fact as much a surprise to the Cleftlanders as to the rest of the Midrealm, originating when Duke Dag took the last roll of 'really shiny' duct tape.

"There is no truth to that rumor," Theodric stated unequivocally, "And,

besides, I saw it first."

The overwhelming victory was attributed in part to artillery support. Lord Edward Smackenberry, leading the baronial archers in their onslaught, admitted that this was true. "Everyone has been practicing so hard to beat my scores, we were primed and ready to lend support. I was especially pleased at how few of us shot our own men. James is very sorry about killing Valorian."

While a military secession goes against standard Society practice, Seneschal Nial of Bork stated, "I thought it was about time we brought a little more authenticity into SCA politics. Besides," he added with a hint of pride, "We'll run a kingdom much better on our own. It was annoying running all those subtle conspiracies for iron-fisted dominion."

"I think it's the best thing that could happen to the Barony," stated a former seneschal that wished to remain anonymous. "It's finally something we can all come together on, excluding the rest of the kingdom is the perfect cure

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Shall We Dance?

The Houque Pouque, a late-period brasle.

This unique and lively late brasle developed primarily from the 16th Century realization that brasles were boring. They couldn't compete with the wildly expanding world of Elizabethan dance, which included the Burgundian invention, Disqueau - a tableaux of exotic and difficultly performed pavannes danced primarily to electric violin and synthesized sackbutt. (There are some questions on this strange, singular use of electricity in period, but this discussion is beyond the scope of this article.)

The source material for all we know of this dance is a leaflet entitled "French Danse for Daumeyes" which may have been either an instruction booklet or a joke against the English nobility, who were often called "Daumeyes". However, the dance is very elegant, stately, and perfect for noble recreation.

To start the dance, a circle is formed of as many as will. The first step is to "put yore right foot in" There is some confusion over what this step means, but from illustrations from the time period

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What's Inside:

Ain't Telling. You'll just have to open this up and read it. So there.

Our Officers

Seneschal: Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork of the Bork Bork Bork.
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Pursuivant: Lord Pietro Nicolo Michelangelo Ricardo Boticello Longnameo di Nome Largo di San Tebaldo (Sam P. other information by request)

Exchequer: Duchess Emelyn Carithail (Gayle Nichols) 17211 PayYourTithe Ln. Lakewood, OH
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Knight Marhsal: Sgt. Conrad Schwartzwolf (Marty "Steak" Bradac) 3835 W. Noneofyourbusiness Street Cleveland, OH

Marshal of Fence: Lord Edward FitzRanulf (Jimi Hendrix) 29 Swishypoke Ave. Debatable Hts, PA 15227
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Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lord Karl Wilhelm von Koln (Don Knots)
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Chronicler: Lady Lynnette Vibbert (Lynnette Vibbert) 445 Ducking and Running Drive, Suburb, OH
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Coup, Continued

for cliquishness."

Until such time as a system of crown tournaments can be arranged and coordinated, Duke Syr Laurelen has been named the first King of Cleftlands. His Grace's only comment was, "How am I going to explain this to Ithriliel?" Rumors have already begun to circulate concerning nefarious deeds linked with the strange military upset. One informant claimed to have seen Shlomo, Pietro, and the rest of the Storyteller's Guild sneaking into the Midrealm encampment. A report from Edmund's forces indicates that they shamelessly assaulted the mustering forces with a barrage of puns such that none could retain their sanity. When this allegation was raised, Lady Vashti, speaking on behalf of the storyteller's, said simply, "A good pun is its own re-word."

Other rumors allege that Stefan von Lubeck was seen to cross into enemy lines, and may have been an odiferous weapon on his own. Sadly, there is no denying that Sir Alaric contributed to the psychological defeat of the enemy by singing karaoke songs from the musical *Camelot* over the store's PA system, but he promises to be more chivalrous in the future. "In war, you gotta do what you gotta do."

Somewhat unhappy with the glorious victory of our by-rights sovereign group were the rapier combatants, who felt somewhat excluded by the venue. Not to be deterred, however they have begun staking out fencing suppliers in hopes of proving their superiority over the rest of the kingdom's schlagers. Area sporting goods stores have reported a marked decrease in sales as a result and are petitioning His Grace to intercede. "They ought to take DIY's lead and hold a sale," stated Lord Timothy.

"Look at what the publicity surrounding the battle has done to help them recoup damage costs!"

It seems all the other guilds of the barony got into the act. The brewer's made certain the victory celebration was well-stocked. "How did you know we were going to win?" This reporter asked a representative brewer. "We didn't. But we knew if we lost, we'd need the consolation!"

The glass worker's cut off an avenue of retreat for the Midrealm by hanging out in front of the soldering supplies section of the hardware store. Lady Alex has officially stated that it was not at all a coincidence. Really.

The Cook's guild did their patriotic duty by throwing leftover bread from the past five January events at the Midrealm lines, though this did not have the impact that the launch of year-old goat meat had in scattering the army's forces.

The dance guild mostly sat and waited for the fighting to be over. "These guys will come up with any excuse not to dance!" An exasperated Guild mistress was heard to lament as fighting broke out.

A member of the needle worker's guild was unavailable to comment on their part in the battle, as there was also a two-for-one sale at Joanne Fabrics that weekend.



The fashion police got a little out of hand when they started enlisting marshals.

Book Review: The SCA: Safe Hobby or Dangerous Addiction?

By Mistress Laurel Seamchecker

M. L. Seamchecker's latest offering looks deep into the temptations that might cause your average SCAdian to step over the line and become a SCAddict.

First she asks the reader to identify the early warning signs that their involvement with the SCA is reaching dangerous levels. You might be an SCA addict if:

1. You routinely bow to modern authorities- police, nuns, crossguards, bank tellers, VCR repairmen, etc.

2. You spend more money on fabric than you spent on your kid's orthodontia.

3. You frequently try to convince department stores to settle your bill by right of combat.

4. When people tell you where they're from, you always ask what the local SCA group is. For example. "Hi, I'm your new neighbor. We just moved here from Dallas." "Oh, that's in Ansteoria, isn't it?"

5. You find it impossible to spell the word night without a k. You find yourself correcting corporate calendars and memos that make this 'mistake'.

6. Your instinct on seeing wicker furniture is to wonder how long it would take to steam the bands straight for weapon construction.

7. You can pronounce "MacDhaibhidh" more readily than "MacDavid" because it's spelled like it's pronounced.

8. Museums recognize you on sight and assign you your own personal guard for the duration of your visit.

9. You find it hard to find appropriate modern attire in your closet.

10. You've forgotten what, exactly, IS appropriate modern attire.

She then offers some simple steps toward recovery:

1. Hire someone to follow you around and slap you every time you volunteer for something.

2. Go totally authentic- the effort of walking and/or horseback riding to every event will limit the number you can attend.

3. Watch modern television to get more in touch with non-SCA society. (Warning- this may backfire if overdone, and send the subject running back to the SCA.)

Cleftlands Top Ten: Top Ten Signs the World is Ending

10. Cleveland winter ends ahead of schedule.

9. Pennsic is cancelled on account of rain.

8. Chronicler has too many articles to fit into newsletter for the month. (Okay, this has actually happened- once.)

7. Everyone is out of the Shore Center before 10 pm and nothing is left behind accidentally.

6. Conrad orders a garden salad for dinner after a tournament.

5. Kentucky Fried Chicken (TM) served as main course at Cleftland's Feast.

4. Sir Ephraim voted least polite knight of the year.

3. The dance guild mistress cancels dancing on desert revel so the fighters can have more practice.

2. The fighters refuse to practice on a non-desert-revel-night, considering dance as far more important to them.

1. A Baronial meeting is held at which Nial, Darius and Laurelen are all present, and none of them have anything to say.

Calendar:

4-4-2001 Meeting to plot Iron Fisted Dominion of Kingdom

4-5-2001 Begin Iron Fisted Dominion

4-7-2001 Raid Northshield

4-9-2001 Dance Guild meeting to plot Iron Fisted Dominion over Iron Fisted rulers of Kingdom

4-10-2001 Cooks' Guild meeting to plot dominion over Dance Guild

2-11-2001 All-Guild caucus to plot JOINT iron-fisted dominion

2-14-2001 Dancer's raid on Pentemere

2-21-2001 Raid to disrupt Crown Tournament

2-27-2001 Raid on Gwyntarian with hopes of keeping them for ourselves before they become a part of new barony.

2-28-2001 First Kingdom of the Cleftlands Event.



Notes:

The following changes to Kingdom law have been suggested by the Dance mistress for your consideration:

1. Everyone will dance on pain of death.
2. Those incapable of physically dancing may be excused if and only if they play dance music either on an instrument or electronic device.
3. Dancing in full armor to be required as final deciding round of crown tournament.
4. Young men of the Dance Mistress' choosing to be required to wear hose.
5. Old men of the Dance Mistress' choosing to be required NOT to wear hose.

