



The Forum

The Newsletter of the Cleftlands February 1996



A Great Event in Cleftlands - Really!

On January 27th, Anno Societas XXX, the Barony of the Cleftlands provided a memorable event, full of the pomp and pageantry of the Middle Ages. There were many activities during the day to involve and entertain all.

On the field of battle, Antarcus Valentior and Calum MacDhaibhidh ran our first Pas d'Armes tournament. During an afternoon of combat and courtesy, challengers chose their opponents and field of honor from a selection of four: combat at the barriers, combat of counted blows, three-man melees, and normal SCA combat. A board of Lady judges chose three champions of outstanding prowess and chivalry that afternoon; congratulations to Badger Strongmeadow, Angus Moihre, and Seamus MacQuarrie, who were given paste-crown prizes made by Alys Katherine.

Côte Nord sponsored a fencing tournament which was won by Milo Baxtor McDuff of Tyrnewydd. Sarah of the Erie Sea marshalled, with great assistance from Miguel de Servesa, while Kayleen Wakei managed the list table and Cailean Bane MacDougal heralded.

Edward Fitzranulf and Alys Katherine judged a bardic competition during the afternoon, on the theme of the Pennsic L. It was won by Karl von Köln, for his marvelous composition (see page 3). Though other contestants were present, none dared challenge his masterful performance.

Thanks to a well-trained and organized group of heralds, all the scheduled activities were run with great pageantry. Pietro Niccolo d'San Tybaldo managed a large assemblage, including Broom, Cerdic, Karl, Cailean, Francesca, Elspeth, and Delbchaem.

In addition to the scheduled activities, there were many other diversions available. Downstairs were board games and merchants, Amicia and Montgomery ran children's activities, and Angharad provided dancing.

That evening Elizabella Marchant and Sarra Bossard provided a sumptuous midwinter feast of four courses, consisting of meat pies, roast pork with sauces, chicken and rice blanchmange, spiced fruit and vegetables, pottages and soups, cheeses and breads, various drinks, and a delectable dessert buffet. Thanks also to Eibhlin nic Bhocain for managing the servers, and to the servers from Girl Scout Troop 855.

During the feast there was a wide variety of entertainment. Giovanni and gracee provided background music, Karl performed his song again for the assemblage, and several groups performed from the balcony above the feast hall. The local singers sang madrigals, Lovenia and Michael performed sephardic pieces, and the Loud Band played dance tunes.

After feast Prince Edmund and Princess Kateryn gave court in place of their majesties. Many worthy gentles received awards, and the populaces of Cleftlands, Gwyntarion, and Alderford were also rewarded.

For the many gentles who braved the bitter cold to attend our event on January 27th, it was a memorable day worth the effort. Much thanks are owed to Shlomo and Cornelius for autocratting, Pietro for managing the hall, David for managing Troll, Karl for donating site tokens, and the Scribes Guild for making many beautiful scrolls.

Giovanni

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The Fiftieth Annual Pennsic War

I arrived late at night in my trusty air-car,
Called "Dragons that Fly" here at Pennsic they are.
I parked and dismounted my hovering steed
and was met with a hideous sight indeed.
Methinks some scadian scientist thought
That a real troll at trollbooth would mean quite a lot,
So with the aid of some strange DNA,
'Twas a foul-smelling creature that I had to pay.

Left behind is my mundane office so small,
Where my talking computer stares back from the wall,
To experience this and so much more
At the Fiftieth Annual Pennsic War!

I pitched my pavilion and fought that night
With my anti-grav mattress by candlelight.
I woke the next morn and set out with a song.
The line at the nuclear shower was long.
I dressed in garb then off was I bound
For the largest tract of merchanting ground.
I found a merchant who had a sale
On some "dent-proof" helms and titanium mail.

Gone away is my mundane life,
My mundane job and my mundane strife,
To experience this and so much more
At the Fiftieth Annual Pennsic War!

Karl von Köln

I watched a knight make ready his sword,
And utter a choice discouraging word.
'Twas soon duct-taped and ready for fun
And the thrusting tip was set for "stun".
At night the leches run rampant as hell,
And mead and campfires are all that you smell,
Drink nothing that smokes or glows in the dark,
Or burns with flames, or spews out sparks.

I do not miss holographic TV
Or those video pagers that beep at me,
To experience this and so much more
At the Fiftieth Annual Pennsic War!

High court was full of pageantry,
But I am afraid it was lost on me.
And those brats selling papers, they drive me mad.
They and the heralds are getting quite bad.
With voice amplifiers held up to their mouths,
They barked to the north, and they barked to the south,
And they barked to the west, and they barked to the east,
'Till we wanted to kill them and cook them for feast.

The very next morn it was time to leave.
Now I can tell stories no man will believe.
To experience this and so much more
At the Fiftieth Annual Pennsic War!

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Awards: Getting and Giving

In the Society, awards are given to people as a way for the entire group of us to say "thank you" to a person who has helped make the Society more fun for all of us. Many different things could earn a reward: setting up tables at events, sharing good information about costuming, or kind and courteous conduct of any kind. Anyone can earn a reward, whether they've been in the Society for two weeks or two decades.

Awards are presented by the Crown, i.e. the King and Queen. However, the King and Queen cannot know what every single person is doing, so they depend on the rest of us to recommend people for awards. They are looking for recommendations from all of us, not just from people who already have awards. After all, the best person to know that Lady A. is going out of her way for new people is the new people she talked to.

When you recommend someone, you should write a letter directly to the King and Queen. Their addresses are inside the front cover of the Pale. If there are two different addresses, send a letter to each.

In your letter, you should clearly describe who you are recommending, and why: include their full SCA and mundane names (try to spell them correctly), as well as the name of their group.

Say which award you are recommending them for; if you're not sure which one, try listing the awards that they already have. Tell what they've done to earn the award. Be as specific as possible. "He's really helpful." is not nearly as impressive as "He's helped five new fighters put together armor, and holds fighter practices weekly at his house to teach fighting."

Include any information that will help design the scroll, such as persona information, things they like to do, etc. Say which events the crown is attending they are likely to attend in the next few months. Also say you are, including SCA name, group, and any awards you might have.

All of this will help the crown decide if what the person has done is worthy of an award, which award to give, and when to give it. It will also give the scribe some idea of how to design a personalized scroll.

The Crown may not present an award as soon as you think they should. If an entire reign has gone by, try writing another letter to the new King and Queen. You may have to repeat this process a few times before the Crown is ready to give the award

Angharad

Calender

February

- 10 Masque of Courtly Love
Alderford (Canton OH)
- 10 Valentines Day
Three Hills (Kalamazoo MI)
- 17 Fool for Love
Thistle (Wooster OH)
- 17 Event
Red Spears (Toledo OH)
- 24 Ceilidh
St. Joan (Kettering OH)
- 24 Battlefield Diplomacy
Gleann Iarinn (Proctorville OH)
- 24 Feast of the Three Bears
Stormsport (Erie PA)

March

- 2 Pentamer Archers' College
Northwoods (Lansing MI)
- 2 Ealdormere Guild Day
Pont-y-Saeth (Burlington ONT)
- 9 Clancy Day
Starleaf Gate (Windsor ONT)
- 9 Passing of the Ice Dragon
Rhydderich Hael (Batavia NY)
- 16 Royal University Session
Mynydd Seren (Bloomington IN)
- 16 Strictly Ballroom, Period
Sundry Faire (Greenville OH)
- 23 Baron's Birthday
Andelcrag (Iona MI)
- 30 Tournament of Chivalry
Fenix (Owensville OH)

April

- 13 Grand Tournament and A&S Faire
Unicorn (Oxford OH)
- 13 Peasant's Revolt
Northwoods (Lansing MI)
- 13 Scribes Symposium
Tree-Girt-Sea (Chicago IL)
- 20 Standard Bearer's Tourney
Cleftlands (Cleveland OH)
- 27 Rites of Spring
Dearnhealde (Athens OH)
- 27 A&S Faire & Consort Tourney
Pentamere (Battle Creek MI)

May

- 4 Royal University Session
Ealdormere (ONT)
- 11 Coronation
Vanished Woods (Chicago IL)
- 18 Terpsichore at the Tower II
Cynnabar (Ann Arbor MI)
- 25 Lady Mayor's Market Day
Eoforwic (Toronto ONT)
- 25-26 Crown Tournament
Caer Antherth (Milwaukee WI)
- 31-2 Tyger Hunt
Hawkland Moor (Pontiac MI)

Hoobah!

Many gentles received royal recognition for their worthy accomplishments at our last event. Congratualtions to Adalaid, Amicia Druet, Bridget ni Grádaigh, Cecelia Bernadette, Connor MacCormaic, Cornelius the Sage, Emelyn Carithil, Greybar of Eastwatch, Lornia of Midhurst, Pietro Niccolo d'San Tybaldo, and Shlomo Korobeinik.

Playford Corner

Argeers (First edition, 1651)

Meet all, take each other Wo. by both hands, two slips to the left, and two to the right, change places, turne your owne once and a half. Meet again, turne each others Wo. to your places, turne your owne..

Men change places. We. change places, set and turne S. We. change places, men change places, set and turne S..

Leade each others Wo. to the left hand, fall a D. backe and turne your owne. back all meet again, Set and turne S..

Men to to the right hand and back againe, the Wo. going to the left, turne each others We. We. meet and back, men go the S. Hey, and to your places..

Put each others Wo. backe by both hands, slip to the right hand; fall downe on the contrary side, set and turne S. Slip betweene each other to your places, put them backward, and forward by both hands, set and turne S..

One man cast off with the Co. Wo. the other following then they cast off the other way, the other following to your places. Then halfe the S. Hey, turne your owne, fall all a brest to the presence..

Giovanni