

THE forum

The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 1, 2000

Our Fifth Regular Event: There was much to love

A divine feast, fighting, fencing, classes, games, flirting, shopping- this year's January event had it all.

Congratulations are due Darius al-Wajid for his stellar job autocrating his first event, and of course to everyone who helped out, from the organizers to those who picked up a broom or a server's cloth when the need was announced. We did not want for volunteers, and we did not want for fun.

The dreary weather of earlier in the week broke to provide our guests a clear drive in to the Slovenian National Home on Saint Claire Avenue- a wonderful site with much to offer. We had use of two large halls, two classrooms, a stage, a fine feast kitchen and a large counter for the food to be laid out on prior to serving.

Although the morning activities were lightly attended, by noon they were in full swing, and the lunch kitchen sold out

almost as quickly as it had opened. A full course of classes were lined up by Lady Celeste. The Middle Eastern dance class in particular was well attended, as well as Milesent's class on the history of women fighting in the middle ages.

The children's activities were kept up throughout the

day by Lady Christiana, with a posted schedule for all to see, and name tags for the children in the shape of our event tokens. The tokens themselves were another fine creation of Lady Sarra Bosard, and reflected the beauty of the event perfectly.

A game of courtly love was held, in

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Archers Ready!

As the first in a series of articles exploring the many guilds of the barony, Christiana offers this look at the Archers.

The Archers Guild's practices are scheduled for Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

We welcome beginners through advanced archers...and we run contests every so often. Yes, Virginia, we will get you started!

Right now, we are running the kingdom-wide Winter Shoot. This contest runs almost every week and consists of 8 rounds; the first 2 rounds are at-your-leisure (static) shoot 6 arrows at the 40 cm target. Then things heat up! The next 2 rounds are 30 second speed shoots at the same targets - as many arrows as you can get off in that time! All following rounds consist only of 6 arrows. The next two are wand shoot, also known as a slot shoot, where the target changes to a 4" by 3' target.... 5 points if you get the target 0, if not. The final two rounds are at the bull's eye target... a wicked 4" circle inside of an 8 1/2" circle. Don't worry... when most of us hit it (few and far between), it's usually a matter of sheer luck!

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All for Love, Continued:

which contestants could choose quests at four shrines to love. Although the game suffered early on from a lack of proper signage, several people did participate and our own Vashti the Gypsy came out in the lead, having attacked the quests with a thirst for victory, and also having convinced others to join her in her quests, bringing the true spirit of the game to life.

Court was held before feast, and many deserving gentles were honored. Darius, Christiana, Timothy and others received awards of arms. Lady Celeste and Sorchia received purple frets. The Goat Clan was given the award of the Sapphire Light. One very special award was the Dragon's Treasure, given to young Maddoch Rowen for his courtliness, no doubt learned from his diligent parents Lord Nial and Lady Myfanwy. There were many other awards given out, a total of fifteen, and I apologize for not remembering them. A full court list will be posted in the next Forum.

Even with fifteen pieces of business, three fealty oaths, and a special recognition for the scribes and our own sign herald Gaffer, court was over within a half an hour and feast served as quickly afterward as humanly possible. The servers dashed to organize in time as the populace found their seats. We ended up seating two extra tables at a feast that was more than sold out.

And while we're talking about feast, words cannot describe the variety, the color, the imaginative presentation and most importantly the fantastic taste of Francesca di Simonetti and Angharad ferch Tangwystal's feast. My favorites were the saffron broth, spinach and chick peas, the roasted mushrooms and onions, the... well, it was all good. Shrimp, pork, lamb and chicken were served with an array of delightful sauces, all lovingly arranged before serving. It became a wonder that the feast only cost ten dollars. In addition to the head cooks, a special thanks is owed their helpers, and the valiant gentles who assisted in cleaning up the

kitchen. Eldred, Dryw, and Hely were spotted in the kitchen, as well as many others. Hoobah! Our stewards and their helpers are truly the practitioners of miracles.

The crowning glory of the feast was the desert table, set out by Master Aiden, with sugar paste almonds and walnuts, apricots soaked in rose water, and all manner of treats. The desert spread had a crowning glory of its own: a garden of courtly love crafted of mint and sugar, with a bed of roses and a mighty tree decorated with gold hearts.

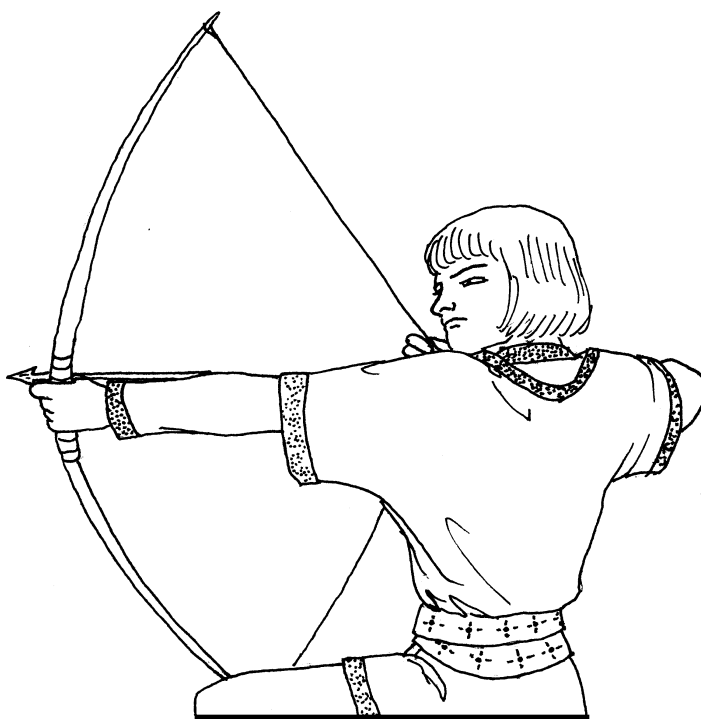
After feast, the dining tables were cleared away and although feet dragged from the long day, as soon as the familiar strains of Cliffton Court were heard, a line of dancers formed and soon we were dancing without the benefit of calling. Many fine and favorite dances were done that night, entertaining those who chose to stay until the site finally closed.

Archery, Continued

Let's face it... archery can be just a plain old good time! Don't forget... Pennsic is a mere 8 months away... and on February 13th, we will be updating our charter, copies of which will be available at the next couple of meetings. Want to have fun? Come arch with us!

by Christiana

(Editors note: Edward Brackenbery has issued a challenge to all archers. If you can beat him at a shoot, he will present you with a special prize.)



Dramatis Personae:

Karl von Koln

In an organization as loose and diverse as ours, it can be difficult to meet every one, much less know them. This column will attempt to help newcomers and old timers alike in learning more about their fellow Cleftlanders. Each month we will interview someone knew, until the barony runs out of people or the Forum runs out of staff.

Ask our Minister of the Arts and Sciences what he's working on, on his eyes flame with his passion for recreating just about anything! I recently met with Lord Karl von Koln, with his gracious permission, to interview him for these pages. What I found was a gentle alive with a zest for his position.

Lord Karl stepped into the Minister's post after its former occupant, Cornelius the Sage, retired. He was an ideal candidate, for he flooded his predecessor with a plethora of ideas and projects. Even now, his ideas arrive in a flurry...he answered almost all of my questions before I could ask them.

There are two things he'd like to occur over the next 6 months in our Barony. The first would be to create an A & S page on our website, hopefully in partnership with Marie (our editor and web page designer). He'd like to see a section where we could post the projects we are proposing and/or currently working on, awards that we've received for them, and receive feedback. The second one is that he'd love to see more projects that are not normally done. "They [the people who lived in the middle ages] were a lot smarter than we give them credit for today." He stated, citing such examples as spectacles, which occurred as early as the 12th century, mini buildings and ships exemplifying the structures of

Medieval times (that could be entered in A & S competitions), and Barber surgeon's syringes and other medical implements.

So, then if he's proposing all these ideas for us to accomplish, what, then is he working on? He's starting on a miniature version of a Tudor home, made



out of the same material that was used in that time period. He's also building a clock tower, complete with a working clock, and big enough to house himself and his merchanting goods at Pennsic. And then, well, don't be surprised if a full scale version of Da Vinci's tank rolls up over the hill bearing down at the east kingdom army at Pennsic, with Lord Karl von Koln at the helm!

By Christiana

A Challenge!

A public challenge has been issued to the Cleftlands! Do you feel up to meeting it? Some have said we won't enter many pieces in the regional Arts and Sciences Fair. See Lord Karl for instructions on entering. You need not attend the fair to send pieces in and represent the Barony.

Distillations of Ether

The Cleftlands Web site survived its transistion into the year 2000 without so much as a glitch, although it's scheduled down time was sadly lengthened by operator down time. (I fell asleep.) Suprisingly, we had over fifty hits on January 1st, perhaps from a nervous Cleftlands checking in to make sure it was still there? Our traffic was huge all month leading up to the January event, garnering 100 hits on some days, but Sunday showed the hype to be over, no one visisted the Cleftlands web site that day. (Perhpas they were all asleep? I know I was!)

Did you know the Order of Precidence is online? As is the Midrealm Calendar and an online award nomination form, all on www.midrealm.org. Our kingdom has one of the best and most useful websites around. You may never open your Pale again. Check it out!

The Baronial mailing list has been gaining popularity. To join, send an email to cleftlands-request@reasie.cwru.edu with the word "subscribe" (no quotes) in it. You will then be able to recieve postings as well as contribute to the mailing list by sending email to cleftlands@reasie.cwru.edu.

Calendar

2-13-2000 Archery
Guild meeting. 1:30
Lucus Archery. They will
be revising the guild
charter after the regular
meeting.

2-16-2000 Weekly
Baronial Meeting, Shore
Center

2-19-2000 Oaken
Regional A&S Faire in
the Marche of Tirnewydd
(Gambier, OH)

2-20-2000 Archers
regular meeting.

2-23-2000 Desert
Revel and deadline for
the March issue of the
Forum.

Under New Management

This is the first issue of *the Forum* under a new chronicler. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Celeste for all her hard work producing the Forum in years past, and for teaching me the ropes. There are a few new policies this year. First, in an effort to get the Forum out on a monthly basis, every dessert revel will be the deadline for next month's newsletter.

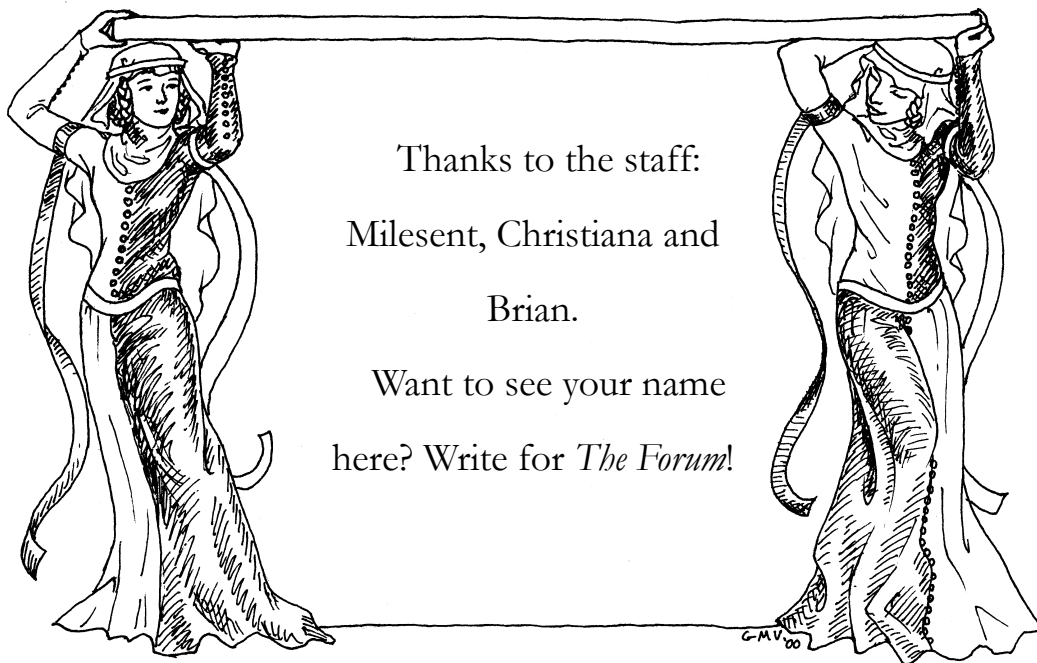
How can we manage to fill a newsletter every month? We'll be running feature articles and columns on the barony itself. Profiles of our members, guild reports, projects, memories: the newsletter is our chance to shine, to share what we are doing with each other. So if you have a project you've been working on, write about it! If your guild did something, write about that. If you have a "no, really, there I was" story, we'd love to hear that too! Just get it in to the Chronicler or her appointed deputy by the last meeting of the month. You can also email your articles or artwork to mlv4@po.cwru.edu. (Send text in .txt format, graphics as .jpg, preferably.)

And speaking of email, if anyone would like to receive the Forum electronically in PDF format, send me a message stating so. It is my goal to have *The Forum* available every month both through email and on the Cleftlands Website.

There was a question raised about the title of our newsletter. It's been *The Forum* for a long time. Should we stick with tradition, or change it to something new? The staff is open to suggestions. If nothing else, we can have an article highlighting the most creative suggestions. (I'm partial to "Cleft notes" myself.)

Thank you all for your contributions, I look forward to serving you as your Chronicler.

-Lyonnete Vibert



Thanks to the staff:
Milesent, Christiana and
Brian.

Want to see your name
here? Write for *The Forum*!