A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 2/26/2023

A Cleftlands Spring - Four Events in Four Months

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Cleftlands has always been a Barony of achievers. Case-inpoint: if you haven't heard, from March through June Cleftlands will be hosting four events. Learn more about them in this article - and since these events are going to need a lot of help, **the "help wanted" section on page 5** lists where you could lend a hand. Without further ado, the events are:

- North Oaken Arts & Sciences Faire Saturday, March 25 at our regular meeting site.
- Cleftlands Standard bearers Saturday, April 15 at our regular meeting site.
- Kingdom A&S Faire and Crown Tourney Saturday May 27 and Sunday May 28 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.
- North Oaken War Maneuvers (NOWM) Saturday June 10 at the Ukrainian American Youth Association Resort in Wellington, OH.

North Oaken A&S Faire - Although Kingdom has changed the way they do A&S faires and tournaments so that regional faires are no longer part of the official progression to the Kingdom faire, that doesn't mean that we can't still have



Some of the Cleftlands Standard Bearers process with Baron Crispin and Baroness Gianna at Pennsic.

them! Sir Crispin, as the new Regional A&S Minister, decided to do just that. This event will be a place where entrants from the North Oaken region can display their work and get feedback on it in the form of the Middle Kingdom Arts & Sciences Rubrics and Rules. This is great practice for anyone who might one day want to participate at the Kingdom level. While regional winners will be determined for the event, the results do not carry over in any way to the Kingdom faire. You can register ahead of time as an entrant or a judge - or both!

Don't want to be judged? That's okay, you can simply display your work in the display-only area, or even work on your projects as part of the Craftspersons Green.

This event is close to home, as it will be held at our regular meeting site: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143. Site opens at 9 and the fee is \$13 with lunch included. Learn more on the website: https://events.cleftlands.org/noras/

<u>Cleftlands Standard bearers</u> - At this event, the Champions of the Barony are selected, so it is usually a local affair. Champions are chosen by Their Excellencies, and a Champion can be named in any field. The usual Champions are: rapier, heavy, archery, and A&S. However, this could change as Their Excellencies wish. Champions are often not selected by prowess alone, as many things go into representing the Barony. Once selected, the Champions bear the Baronial regalia and may process with Their Excellencies into court, represent them at Pennsic or at events, and other duties as declared.

Lord Tarmach is the Event Steward and will be providing more details. Wouldn't you know it, this event will also held at our regular meeting site: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143. Site opens at 9 and the fee is \$13 with lunch included. There will be a feast for an additional cost. Get more details as they become available: https://events.cleftlands.org/standard-bearers/

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Cleftlands Job Openings: Chatelaine and Gold Key

In addition to the Minister of Youth position that has been advertised for some time, Cleftlands is seeking a new Chatelaine and Gold Key. Read the job descriptions below. You can apply for any open officer positions in the Cleftlands here: http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/

Chatelaine: The Chatelain (or Chatelaine) is the officer responsible for the recruitment and retention of new members to the Society. This position is required for the Barony. They work closely with the Demonstration Coordinator in helping with public relations, the Gold Key for loaner clothing, and Iron Key for loaner armor.

The Chatelaine is often the first person that newcomers will interact with. Be prepared, engaged, and ready to share excitement and passion of the SCA to encourage involvement! Other duties and qualifications:

- Actively engages and answers questions via email, in the Facebook group, and at in-person gatherings (meetings, demos, and events).
- Assists with demos and supports the Demo Coordinator.
- Reports to the Kingdom Chatelaine and files regular officer reports.
- Stays up-to-date with Society and Kingdom Chatelaine Handbooks, policies, and practices.
- Helpful, but not required, to have a wide and varied knowledge of the SCA and the various activities, as well as the Kingdom and Barony. But it's also a great way to learn the info by finding out where to refer people!
- Must be a paid member of the SCA

Gold Key: The Minister of the Gold Key oversees the storage, use, and maintenance of loaner garb and accessories which belong to the Barony. This position is technically a deputy of the Exchequer for financial reporting, and works closely with the Chatelaine to welcome and assist people who want to try wearing garb. This is almost always at local events, not at other meetings, so the officer in this position should try to be at those events, or designate someone else to take their place. The Gold Key materials are currently being stored at our weekly meeting site, so storage space is not required.

Qualifications:

- Applicants should be paid members of the SCA.
- Comfortable interacting with others
- Access to internet in order to correspond about loaning garb
- Ability to attend local events and bring loaner garb with them

News of the Society

- A new member portal is now available at <u>SCA.org</u> this is where you would go to renew your membership etc. See the announcement here: https://www.sca.org/news/member-portal-now-available/
- The January 2023 President's report is now available: https://www.sca.org/news/january-2023-presidents-re- port-now-available/
- The Society has appointed a new Chatelaine: Baroness Jeanne-Marie la Verriere, OL: https://www.sca.org/ news/people-on-the-move-society-chatelaine-appointed/
- The SCA Marketplace and Kingdom newsletters are also back online: https://www.sca.org/news/market- place-and-newsletters-online/
- Pre-registration for Pennsic opened January 8. It's never too early to plan for next Pennsic. News and registration link here: https://www.cooperslake.com/prereg/account/index.php

- News of the Kingdom

 For rapier fighters, the grappling experiment is temporarily suspended, pending re-approval from the Society.
- Kyrios Kallinikos Gavras will be the next Rouge Scarpe Herald.
- Oda Umi-Dono will be the Deputy Kingdom Earl Marshal for Youth Rapier.

Cleftlands Events - continued

<u>Kingdom A&S Faire and Crown Tournament</u> - While the autumn Crown Tournament is a single day, in the spring the event is expanded to two days to add the Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire. This event is held on Memorial Day weekend, with the faire on Saturday and the tournament on Sunday.

The Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire is a rubric-based competition for artisans to demonstrate their projects. Entrants do not have to have any special qualifications to put forward an entry, but should know that they will be judged! The project entered should be completed and thorough documentation should be provided. This is a similar format to the regional faire on March 25. The rubric can be found here: https://library.midrealm.org/kmoas/asfair/. Keep an eye out for more details, as the entrants will be asked to sign up ahead of time so judges can be assigned. Judges are also always needed!

On the following day, the Crown Tournament is held, and there are generally no other activities on this day. The winner of the heavy fighting tournament is crowned that very evening as the Heir to the Kingdom and they and their consort will step up to the throne in September. The current Prince and Princess, Prince Louis and Princess Sadb, will determine the rules of the tournament and approve entrants. How do you enter? Currently, anyone who enters must be an authorized heavy fighter and have a consort of some kind. Their Highnesses have said that anyone with a Patent of Arms, whether as a combatant or consort, may apply to Their Majesties (the current Prince and Princess) to participate. Those who do not hold a Patent can be invited to participate by Their Majesties, if a Peer recommends them.

Their Highnesses have determined further rules for the tournament itself - see the full details on Facebook or in the March issue of The Pale. All bouts prior to quarterfinals will be a single pass. Quarterfinals and semifinals will be best 2 of 3, and finals will be best 3 of 5.

Advanced registration is \$20 (\$15 for members), \$25 (\$20 for members) at the gate. There will be lunch available both days at and a feast on Sunday for a cost of \$18 (under 18 are \$9). You will be able to register via PayPal when that is set up. Keep up to date on the website here: https://events.cleftlands.org/crown/

Northern Oaken War Maneuvers - Affectionately known as NOWM, this year marks the 25th occurrence of this well-loved Cleftlands event. NOWM was started in 1997 by The Honorable Lord Edward FitzRanulf. In the past, the event was an entire weekend, Friday-Sunday, with camping. Unfortunately increased costs mean that it is currently being held as a single-day event, as it was last year. For a history of NOWM, pictures of this event from years past, and fond memories, see the <u>June 2020 issue of Internebbles</u>.

The event has something for everyone - melee for heavy and rapier fighters, an archery and thrown weapons range, merchants, classes, and lots of lovely shade. It is a dog-friendly event, and despite the rustic site, there is a shower-house with flush toilets too. The famous Kuliba Pierogi Hut will be providing lunch - don't miss the pierogies!! Usually the day ends in a Royal Court, which makes it an excellent event to target for award recommendations. Go here to recommend people for awards: https://midrealm.org/award-recommendations/

Not sure what awards people have? Cleftlands has a wonderful wiki for the populace that lists known awards and other details about Baronial members. Keep in mind that some awards, like Purple Frets, can be given multiple times! The Cleftlands populace wiki is here: http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Populace

See the details as they become available on the event website: https://events.cleftlands.org/nowm/ The registration cost is \$20 for adults (under 18 are free).

Other News of the Barony

- Help will be needed to repaint the Barony's road sign sandwich boards. This will occur on a Sunday in March or April as weather permits keep an eye out for the date.
- The Ohio Scottish Games will once again host a Cleftlands demo on June 24. See Lady Shahzada for details or email demo@cleftlands.org

Am I Blue? Woad, "Japanese Indigo" and Lapis Lazuli

Article 1 Of the Strange Natural Histories and Origins of Stuff We Love in the SCA

by The Honorable Lady Juliane Bechaumpe

Winter blues. Singing the blues. Blue blood. Blue has traveled side by side with the human race since the beginning. In the ancient and medieval world this color was imbued with magical and healing properties, sometimes with good reason, as we will see. It is also a highly elusive color seldom found on its own in nature. Fairly complex processes are frequently employed. For as Sir Isaac Newton discovered, color is a matter of light refraction. For example, if you were to grind up a blue jay's feather, you would end up with gray feather dust.

Three of the best known in the world of dyers, artists and scribes are woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), Japanese Indigo (*Persicaria tinctoria*, Dyer's Knotweed) and Iapis Iazuli. In period, a signifier of the Blessed Virgin was a robe of blue, and the color was much sought after by scribes and artists. Pliny the Elder reported the custom of female Britons covering their bodies with indigo blue for religious ceremonies. Julius Caesar reported that the Celtic populations used woad to generate a fearsome appearance. It was the preferred color of the Samurai of ancient Japan. Once again, the source was not only aesthetic, it was also utilized for medicinal properties. Lapis Iazuli since ancient times was prized not only for its color, but for its perceived properties in medicine and alchemy.

Woad, *Isatis tinctoria*, a member of the mustard family, may have been the first plant cultivated for its pigment. Native to the region once known as Assyria (Iran, Kuwait, Syria Turkey), it grows in Northern Europe, Britain, North Africa and parts of both North and South America. This species was introduced in Europe in late Prehistory based on textile remains from the Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages. *As a sidebar, the alleged practice of the Northern British tribes of tattooing with woad has come into question recently. Like other members of the mustards, woad is highly corrosive when in contact with the skin. Injecting it under the skin in the tattoo process would result in blistering and heavy scar tissue.*

Getting back to the difficulty of achieving "true blue," extracting woad's pigment was hardly a back-room activity in the Middle Ages. The color was lost if the leaves were simply dried. Instead, when harvested, the fresh leaves were ground into pulp, then spread in a specially constructed shed. A black crust would form after a week or two. Once this occurred, the product was formed into balls, ground and left to ferment. Once this process was complete the remaining pigment would be formed into bales and sold. Factories dedicated to this process have been excavated in Germany. Literally hundreds of acres were planted with woad in period. Cultivation may have been the only simple stage of this process. Like its relative garlic mustard, woad spreads easily by seed. Today many states list it as invasive. Would-be dye gardeners should be aware of this and take precautions.

Persicaria tinctoria or Dyer's Knotweed is also known as *Indigo Naturalis* in the field of Chinese medicine, *Qing Dai*. A member of the buckwheat family, it was utilized to relieve a variety of skin and respiratory ailments. In the Japanese Heian era (794-1185 AD) it was a color of the upper classes and samurai. The latter wore Dyer's Knotweed-dyed tunics underneath their armor. Like the Picts, this may have had both decorative and practical intentions. In addition to its traditional uses in Qing Dai, Japanese Knotweed also has insecticidal properties. *As a side note, this plant has flame-retardant properties and thus was favored by firefighters. It also naturally repels dirt.*

In the Edo period (1600-1868 AD), sumptuary laws were tightened. Only the aristocracy could wear expensive fabrics of silk with vibrant colors or intricate patterns. The common people were confined to cottons, linens, and wools. Colors were restricted to blues, grays, and browns. As a result, the dyeing industry in Japan exploded, and objects dyed with Dyer's Knotweed were found throughout Japan.

Like woad, Dyer's Knotweed must undergo a fermentation process as it moves from plant to pigment. The leaves are ground to pulp, fermented and ultimately made into blocks. It is then reconstituted in the vat for use. This is a delicate process involving time, temperature, and an exact pH balance. In addition, time must be allotted for the oxidation process between applications.

The invention of aniline dyes that were immediately usable revolutionized the trade in the 19th century. Aniline dyes were discovered by chemist William Perkin (1838-1907). It must be noted that at the time Perkin was searching for a way to synthesize quinine to treat malaria.

There is yet another source of the color we know as "indigo" that deserves mention, the plants from the "*Indigofera*" family, native to Southeast Asia and Africa.

Continued next page.

HELP WANTED - Assistance Needed for Events

Standard Bearer's -

- · Lunch help making soup
- Feast servers
- People able to move tables, chairs, and other objects.

If interested in helping in any way, please contact Lord Tarmach rsmandel@wowway.com

North Oaken A&S Faire -

Judges - sign up here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceUxw5qTcJDhXQ3L_ugqBDLPFDEJM-MyPfN8CIRSdFJDkIe6Q/viewform

If interested in helping but you don't see a job listed, contact Sir Crispin sircrispindlr@gmail.com

Crown Tourney and Kingdom A&S Faire

- Shire reeve (organizing clean-up and labor type jobs)
- Thrown weapons marshal in charge
- Youth combat marshal in charge
- Youth activities coordinator
- Lunch counter

If interested in helping, contact Lady Katherin reese.angela@gmail.com

Northern Oaken War Maneuvers

Deputy Event Steward

If interested in helping but you don't see a job listed, contact Lord Meinhard nowm@cleftlands.org

Am I Blue? - continued

These plants were central to local culture and trade. The violent history of what came next when colonialism entered the scene merits separate treatment but should not go unremarked here.

Moving from vegetable to mineral, in his "Book of the Arts" written around 1400, Cennino Cennini calls the stone lapis lazuli "a noble color, beautiful, the most perfect of colors."

And indeed, it is. Lapis lazuli is a metamorphic rock considered a semi-precious stone. It can only be found in mines located in the northeast corner of Afghanistan. Archaeological evidence indicates that excavation for the stone in the mines of Sari-Sang occurred as far back as the 7th millennium B.C. Lapis lazuli beads have been found in burial sites dating back to the Neolithic period. In addition to its decorative uses, early Greek medical texts cite it as a treatment for eye infections and skin ulcers.

Lapis lazuli was also a highly prized color for ink, dye, and paints. To extract the pigment, ultramarine, the rock is first ground to powder. Hearkening back to how elusive this color was to extract from plants, a fine hand was needed to create the powder. A too fine grinding would result in gray dust (remember the blue jay's feather?).

By the end of the Middle Ages, both the stone and the ultramarine pigment were one of the most precious commodities in the world of painters, scribes, and jewelers. Only the most skilled were qualified to use it. In the Renaissance art world, it was most frequently used (sparingly) as a highlight. The exception was the artist Vermeer, who ran his family into bankruptcy with his lavish use of it in such works as "The Girl With The Pearl Earring."

Ultramarine is also the marker that changed archaeologists' perception of who the scribes were in the Middle Ages. During the excavation of a burned monastery outside of Dalheim, Germany, the skeleton of a middle-aged woman was found. Subsequent X-rays revealed ultramarine lodged in her tooth plaque. The final conclusion was that she was a skilled scribe and the particles lodged during repeated licking of her brush. It is strong evidence that monks were not the only scribes valued for their expertise.

As we know, blue is a matter of perception and light refraction. This has no doubt contributed to its mystique. It is of constant fascination to our species and liable to remain so. As a dyer, scribe, artist, or observer, when you reach for these plants, or hold a lapis lazuli stone, that you are also handling human history. That is a good reminder next time you feel "blue."

Upcoming Midrealm Events

March 4 - Winter War Maneuvers IX; Baronial Championship, Pedagogy Championship, heavy & rapier combat. Lunch & feast. Marion, OH

https://pferdestadt.midrealm.org/ winter-war-maneuvers-23/

March 4 - Midlands Village Green; Craftsperson's Green event. Springfield, IL

https://midrealm.org/events/midlands-village-green-2/

March 25 - Better War Through Archery; Archery. Danville, IN. \$20.

https://midrealm.org/events/better-war-through-archery/

March 25 - North Oaken Regional A&S Faire; A&S. Euclid, OH. \$13

https://events.cleftlands.org/ noras/

April 1 - Day of Play 6; Venetian Carnaval. Fighting, fencing, darts, gaming - mask and costume no garb. Hinsdale, IL \$15.

https://rokkehealden.mid-realm.org/

April 1 - Tournament of Defense (Pentamere); Rapier. Bloomfield Hills, MI. \$15.

https://midrealm.org/events/tournament-of-defense-pentamere/

April 15 - Terpsichore at the Tower XXVI; Dance classes, dance, revelry. Saline, MI. \$15.

https://www.cynnabar.org/terpsichore

April 15 - Pentamere Missile Weapons College; Archery, combat archery, thrown weapons. Rockford, MI. \$15.

https://sites.google.com/view/pentameremwc

February-March 2023 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. March 1 7:00-9:45pm Weekly Baronial Meeting St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. March 1 7:30pm Class: Crochet with Meistara Thorhalla At Baronial meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. March 2 7:00pm **Armorers' Guild Meeting -** Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR
- Wed. March 8 7:00-9:45pm Weekly Baronial Meeting St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. March 8 7:30pm Class: Basic Cheese-Making At Baronial meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. March 9 7:00pm **Armorers' Guild Meeting -** Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR
- Tues., March 14, 7:30pm Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxY-R0d5Zz09
- Wed. March 15 7:00-9:45pm Weekly Baronial Meeting St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. March 15 7:30pm Class: Garb in the SCA At Baronial meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. March 16 7:00pm Armorers' Guild Meeting Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR
- Wed. March 22 7:00-9:45pm Weekly Baronial Meeting St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. March 22 7:30pm Class: Overview of European beaded Jewelry in SCA Period - At Baronial meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. March 23 7:00pm Armorers' Guild Meeting Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR

Society Disclaimer: Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Purba; Sino-Tibetan; Early 1400s.

https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1989.362

Size: About 10.5" x 2.5"; Various metal alloys, gold, silver.

More a ritual tool than a weapon, purbas (or phurba), were three-sided implements used in Buddhism, Bön, and Indian Vedic traditions. Interpretations of use vary. Some say that it was used in rituals that would "transform" unpleasant substances into pleasant ones in order to rid practitioners of their distaste for them. Others say the phurba consumed negative emotions like greed and ignorance. Yet a third usage may be to ground the user to the earth during ceremonies.

This purba depicts three heads of the enlightened Vajrakila, who transforms wickeness to compassion. Each of the faces is made from a different metal. The detail in the knots, crocodile heads, and snakes indicate that this purba was made in the imperial workshop of the Chinese Ming emperor.

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baronessa Aurelia Rosetti; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Mistress Angharad ferch Tangwystl; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: The Honorable Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine/Gold Key: chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Niall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister Arts & Sciences: Dame Elizabethe Alles; moas@cleftlands.org
- Social Media Officer: Lord Hrafnkell inn Raudi Eykelsson; social@cleftlands.org
- Knight's Marshal: Baroness Constanza de Mendoza; knightsmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Rapier Marshal: Lord Reinhardt mit dem Bart; rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org
- Archery Marshal: Forester Cadfan of the Autumn Wood; archery@cleftlands.org
- Web Minister: Baroness Gianna Vettori; webminister@cleftlands.org
- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; chronicler@cleftlands.org
- Demo Coordinator: Lady Shahzada al-Zahra; demo@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

Last Week in History

- Feb. 19 1473 Happy birthday to Nicolaus Copernicus, Polish mathematician and astronomer.
- Feb. 20 1472 Norway gives Scotland the Shetland and Orkney islands instead of paying a dowry for Margaret of Denmark to marry King James III of Scotland.
- Feb. 21 1245 The first recorded Bishop of Finland, Thomas, resigns after confessing to torture and forgery.
- Feb. 22 1371 The Stuart dynasty of Scotland begins when Robert II became king on this day.
- Feb. 23 628 Khosrow II, the last Sasanian, or New-Persian Empire, shah of Iran, is overthrown by his own son.
- Feb. 24 1607 One of the first recognized operas, L'Orfeo, premieres in Mantua.
- Feb 25 1547 Vittoria Colona, poet, intellectual, and muse to Michelangelo, dies.

News for the Newsletter

Did you miss an issue of Internebbles? Want to go back and see some of the awesome content we have? A copy of every issue of Internebbles (and more Baronial newsletters) is available in the Publications wiki on the website. Visit here: http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Publications

If you have an idea for content for the newsletter, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com. Thank you and stay well!

Pennsic procession photo is courtesy of Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.

The images of the Purba is courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art. As of January 23, 2019, the Cleveland Museum of Art is an Open Access institution, using the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) designation for high-resolution images and data related to its collection. This means the public now has the ability to share, collaborate, remix, and reuse images of many as 30,000 public-domain artworks from the CMA's world-renowned collection—all without asking permission. In addition, portions of collections information (metadata) for more than 61,000 artworks, both in the public domain and those works with copyright or other restrictions, are now available.

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