A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 25 June 2023

A Crowning Achievement; Forever NOWM

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

How many groups are fortunate enough to host two big, marvelous events just two weeks apart? Cleftlands recently had that honor by presenting the Midrealm's Spring Crown Tournament and A&S Fair on May 27-28, then Northern Oaken War Maneuvers just two weeks later on June 10.

Both events were blessed with gorgeous weather and problem-free days (at least so far as attendees could see). SCAdians came by the hundreds to enjoy combat and camaraderie, amazing displays of skill, shopping, classes, pomp and circumstance, friends around the fire - and delicious food!

The past two newsletters have given an overview of Crown Tourney (April 2023 issue) and Kingdom A&S (May 2023 issue). In short, the Crown Tourney features heavy combatants fighting on behalf of a consort in a tournament to find out who will become the next Rulers of the Midrealm. The A&S tournament allows artisans and researchers to put up their work for judging to get feedback and ideas for where to take their projects next. The highest scorers are recognized.



Their Majesties Louis and Sadb with the new Highnesses Wigthegn and Neassa.

One of the many wonderful pieces of work on display at the Kingdom A&S Fair.

On Saturday the Fair is the star of the day, but there were plenty of other activities for all attendees. There were pick-up fights, rapier scenarios, archery, and classes. Forester Muldonney won both the bow and crossbow divisions of the archery tournament.

At the Fair, participants could show their work in two ways: first, they could enter formally and be judged; or they could display in the hopes of being selected as Their Majesties' A&S champion. If you did not get a chance to see the wonderful work done by our fellow Midrealmers, it was truly inspiring. Everything from carvings, to block prints, to cave cheese, and more, illustrated the wide range of interest and abilities by our Kingdom's artisans. Mistress Zuriel was one of only two people who submitted a divisional entry (which means she put forth three different pieces!).

The day ended with a court (the court list for both events appears on the next page) and people retired either to their fires on-site, or their off-site accommodations. Their Majesties encouraged the populace to join them in rousing songs of the Midrealm - this will happen often so if you want to learn the words to their three featured tunes, you can find the lyrics here: https://trm.midrealm.org/midrealm-anthems/

On Sunday, all eyes were on the Crown Tournament as the main feature of the day. After hours of honorable combat, in which six of our local friends participated, the finals came down to Sir Wigthegn and Sir Criomhthann CuRua. In a best 2 of 3, Sir Wigthegn won three in a row and was crowned the next Prince, with Princess Neassa at his side. For those who may not know, they are both frequent attendees of Cleftlands practices and activities, so although they reside outside the Barony we still claim them as locals.

Continued on page 2.

Cleftlands Spring Events - continued

But the spectacle didn't end there! After another court, and to cap off a splendid day, Master Aiden and his team of cooks, servers, and helpers served up an amazing Venetian feast (to honor our Barone and Baronessa). It was worth waiting the extra hour and a half for! Three courses, each with about five dishes each, were served to the diners. Things you might never have thought to try, like an egg sausage, or fried millet, tickled the taste buds. Along with more familiar fare, such as a sweet wine-custard sauce with strawberries, or orange pork, there were many cries of "I need that recipe!"

Not content to merely have delicious, and beautifully presented, food, Master Aiden also displayed works of edible sculpture. The most impressive was a Venetian tower that was brought up to the



A squire of Cleftlands holds the line at NOWM.

head table so that the bells inside would ring in honor of the Midrealm. Followed by a bit of destruction as Her Highness gleefully broke it apart so all the feasters could try a piece. See a picture of this masterpiece on page 4.

Everyone had such a good time that they decided to come back in two weeks and do it again. NOWM on June 11 also featured beautiful weather and fine traditions. NOWM has been a Cleftlands event for decades - since 1997! For a history see the <u>June 2020 issue of the newsletter</u>. While the format has changed over the years, it is known for is epic field scenarios, where heavy and rapier combatants alike practice scenarios and Pennsic strategy.

In addition, there were classes in the pavilion, music, a Craftsperson's Green, merchants, a court - and of course, pirogies! The Baroness' Bocce tournament made a triumphant return. Another tradition is a bardic competition amongst participants from the North Oaken region. Rav Ezra won last year, and this year passed the NOBLE (North Oaken Bardic Lagniappe of Excellence) cup to Lady Annalena Cecilia Massari.

Clefltanders put on their aprons and work gloves and ran both events in numbers too numerous to list, but the help of everyone who made these events go was deeply appreciated by all who attended. Thus ends Cleftlands-hosted events for 2023 - so far!

Cleftlander Awards at Crown Tourney and A&S Fair

- Edward Brackenburye Order of the Evergreen
- Ragna stórráða Úlfsdóttir Order of the Dragon's Heart AND a Society-level recognition of her work as a herald
- Cyprian of the Faes Award of Arms
- Mór ingen Áeda Award of Arms
- Rav Ezra ha-Yona was named as Their Majesties' War Bard

Cleftlander Awards at NOWM

- Alister won Countess Aibhilin's tournament and became Their Majesties' Archery Champion.
- Forester Gwyneth Cole won the North Oaken Regional Archery Championship.
- Duchess Runa was inducted into the Red Company.
- Genevra of Cleftlands was granted her Award of Arms.
- Genevieve de la Rue was granted her Award of Arms.
- Master Milesent was given a Purple Fret.
- Noble Rivkah MiSpira received an Award of the Purple Fret.

News of the Barony

- Congratulations to Forester Gwyneth Cole, who will step up to become the new Baronial Archery Marshal.
- Also congrats and thanks to Léonne de Fresne who will become the new Gold Key officer.
- June 28 is the Baronial armored tournament (not the Standard Bearer) and dessert revel.
- July 12 will be the annual Baronial marketplace and potluck. Bring a dish to share, and also your items to sell, trade, or give away. Items should be in good condition and in good taste. And don't forget to bring cash!
- There will be no meetings or practices July 26, August 2, August 9, or August 16 for Pennsic break.

Musica Nebulae - The Music of the Midrealm

by THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe

Musica Nebulae, the Barony's instrumental music ensemble, is proof that good things came out of the Plague Years. Here's a brief history to mark our one-year anniversary in April.

Musica Nebulae (MN) grew out of the barony's all-recorder ensemble, called the Northern Oaken Recorder Ensemble. A musical ensemble is generally thought of as a group of three or more musicians who play as a unit (as opposed to solos). They can be vocal or instrumental, all one instrument or different instruments.



Musica Nebulae at NOWM 2023 (Lady Annalena is conducting).

Very large ensembles made up of different instruments are called orchestras.

In period, ensembles made up of various instruments were called "broken consorts." The Northern Oaken Recorder Ensemble made its debut at the first coronation of EikBrandr and Runa in 2009 at St. Stanislas Church. Over the years, the ensemble was heard at Cleftlands events and demos, as well as other SCA events. Our practices were filled with equal parts laughter and music.

Then came the Plague years. When events were permitted again, Cleftlands began planning Dressed to Kill and Baronial Investiture in 2022. The mask mandate made it impossible for recorders to play so I reached out to Baronial members who played strings and percussion, and were unaffected by the mask mandate, to provide music instead of the recorders. But a few weeks prior to the Baronial Investiture, the mask mandate was lifted. This meant the recorders could play with the strings and percussion to make a much larger group. The name Northern Oaken Recorder Ensemble no longer fit, so when it became clear the larger group wanted to continue on past the Investiture, we renamed it Musica Nebulae.

We have some period instruments such as recorder and harp, and modern instruments such as guitar. Most of our music is period, but we also play some SCA-centric tunes like the Cleftlands Battle Song and Banner of Brendoken, as well as other SCA songs that Their Majesties may request.

MN - now about 14 members strong - has played for Kingdom events, learned Norse music for the reign of Arch II and Runa II, and done joint performances with the Brendoken Choir. We performed period Greek music arranged by Lady Annalena Cecilia Massari of Brendoken with the Brendoken Choir at Road to Pompeii.

MN can be heard playing prior to court, and processional songs as Their Majesties, Their Highnesses and the territorial Barons and Baronesses make their way into court. The timing can be tricky because we need to end the song - sometimes in the middle of the tune - when the dignitaries reach the thrones. We play primarily at court, but also at demos. The frequency of our performances depends on how many events are taking place in Northeast Ohio. So far we have not played at non-SCA venues.

Our purpose is to add to the medieval ambiance of SCA events through music. Master Brendan O Corraidhe has said that the SCA performing arts "elevate the spirit to add to the pageantry." A secondary purpose is to encourage instrumental musicians to continue their craft by providing opportunities to play in public with an ensemble. Ensemble playing requires staying on the beat, listening to the other instruments, playing in tune and other skills that are used less when playing alone.

MN is open to anyone who plays a period or non-period instrument, and lives close enough to attend our rehearsals. There are no tryouts, but players need to be beyond the beginner stage. Those who are interested are encouraged to take a look at the music to see if they can play it, or if they need more practice before joining.

Lady Annalena Cecilia Massari is now our co-director in charge of music, while I am the founder and co-director in charge of admin. We are excited for this new chapter in MN's history. We want to continue improving as individual musicians and as an ensemble, and learn more music, especially dance tunes. Our rehearsals remain equal parts laughter and music. [Check out a performance by Musica Nebulae at NOWM: https://youtu.be/ly7FJodrMbQ]

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Master Aiden Elfëadiur, OL, OTW, ODH (mka Steve Otlowski, he/him)

1.) How did you first get involved in the SCA?

My brother gave me "The Hobbit" to read in 3rd Grade. Ever since, I've been fascinated in things medieval. I first ran into the SCA during an OhioMart demo at Stan Hywet Hall in 1979. By then I was already doing calligraphy and had a tunic and sword to wear to this cool fair at a Tudor style mansion. If I remember properly, two of the SCA folk at the demo included Vlad and Clariel! I was, of course, hooked. For years after that, I traveled to meetings courtesy of Duke Syr Laurelen.

2.) What are your two main SCA activities?

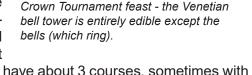
Only two? Oh... OK. I guess I'll say Illumination and Cooking. (and dance, and pigments, and...)

3.) You just completed a fabulous feast at Crown Tourney - how do you go about planning and preparing for a feast?

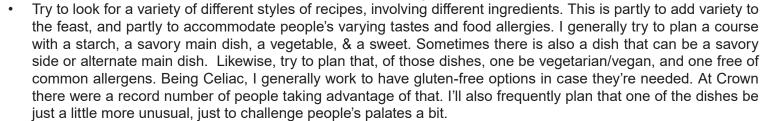
Thank you! I had a lot of help!

- The first step, is to choose a theme, as in time and place. This time, it was 15th century Venetian.
- The next step is to start looking through the appropriate cookbooks. In this case there were at least four to choose from, one Venetian, and 3 more from other regions in Italy at the same time. I try to choose from those recipes and occasionally other resources. Typical Italian feasts of the period alternated cold and hot courses. (This turned out be very handy when feast was delayed by an hour and a half!) A major feast in the Cleftlands tends to have about 3 courses, sometimes with

that it would be possible to serve, so it's time to start whittling them down.



Master Aiden presents a subtlety at



an additional banquet course of sweets on the side. By this point, there are usually 5 times the number of recipes

- Another consideration is the facilities available. How many burners and ovens are there? Is there a griddle? Obviously, you can't have 5 dishes that all require the oven at the same time, so you need to utilize a number of different cooking techniques. A dish or two on the stove-top, something in the oven, maybe something in an electric roaster... How much refrigerator space is there? Can some dishes be made in advance? Do those need to be reheated? That's one of the reasons that pies are popular in Cleftlands feasts. They are generally easier to make in advance and freeze.
- At this point, I'll frequently look at juggling the recipes to make sure that the flavors complement and contrast each other well, without clashing. You don't want a whole course of highly spiced foods, or a whole course bland foods.

4.) What advice do you have for people who are thinking about running their first feast?

The first step would be to talk to a member of the Cook's Guild. They are great resources and can help to get you started. They can point you at cookbooks and give advice. Next, try your hand at a couple of dishes. You can make them for dinner or, even better, bring them to Dessert Revel! It's a great way to get feedback. After that, the best thing would be to help out in a feast kitchen. There's no better way to learn than by getting involved and seeing how it actually works. It also helps to make connections with other cooks. You WILL need help in your kitchen. This makes it easier to get help when you go to cook a feast of your own. At this point you'll probably be ready to give it a try for yourself. Start small. Consider planning a feast for a local event like Standard Bearers. That will give you experience with a smaller scale meal, for a smaller group of people. Give it a try!

5.) What is your favorite dish that you have made for a feast?

Gosh, choose a favorite child? I'd probably have to pick Douce Ame. It's a 14th Century recipe for chicken, half cooked on the grill and then finished in a milk sauce with lots of herbs and a bit of sweetness.



News of the Society

• Digital membership cards are coming! You will be able to access your SCA membership card electronically and install it into Apple Wallet, Google Wallet, etc. so that no connection is needed to access it.

- The SCA Online Registration and Event System (SCORES) is coming this will replace the previous online registration system. https://www.sca.org/news/s-c-o-r-e-s-is-coming/
- The final bit of COVIDSafe Policy has been rescinded it is no longer necessary to put the Society health disclaimer with any invitations for in-person events. https://www.sca.org/news/amendment-covidsafe-policy/
- There will be printed booklets at Pennsic this year! They will be available for an additional fee of \$5 to cover printing costs. Bring cash to Information Point. Limit one per person.
- With profound sadness, the BoD acknowledged the death of His Majesty Hans von Wolfholz of the West Kingdom. https://www.sca.org/news/king-hans-von-wolfholz-west-kingdom/
- The April 2023 President's report is now available: https://www.sca.org/news/april-2023-presidents-report-now-available/
- The 2022 Year End Report is also available: https://www.sca.org/news/2022-year-end-report/
- An inter-Kingdom meetup of Ministers of Arts and Sciences was held at Gulf Wars. They plan to add more
 officer openings to cover more areas of A&S, and also to ahve more Known World events. https://www.sca.org/news/arts-sciences-update-june-2023/
- An update on Youth Activities was posted read more: https://www.sca.org/news/youth-activities-update-june-2023/
- The Society Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Office seeks deputies of Project Implementation and of Learning & Development: https://www.sca.org/news/deputies-wanted-diversity-equity-inclusion-and-belong-ing-office/
- The Society is currently considering delgating the authority to invest funds. Read more: https://www.sca.org/news/draft-proposal-for-commentary-investment-authority-delegation/





Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art

Repository for the Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra and Eleven Volumes of the Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra; Japan, Heian period (794-1185)

https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1969.130

Size: 63" tall

Repository is lacquered wood with ink, color, gold, and metalwork.

The "Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra" is a religious text, put down here on the 11 scrolls that were kept inside. This is one of a pair

made for the purpose. Buddhism was introduced to Japan in the sixth century.

On the back, sacred syllables representing two Buddhas are visible: Shakyamuni and Amida. The Buddha's tribe of origin was the Shakyas, a sub-Himalayan ethnicity and clan from the northeast of what is now India. Therefore, the Shakyamuni depiction of Buddha is a traditional one. The Amida Buddha was a later, Japanese version of Buddha as more "accessible". This version was known as the Buddha of Immesurable Light, or of Limitless Life.

In addition, the painting on the inside of the doors show eight (of sixteen) deities who protect this text. The other eight may be on the other repository.

The "Perfection of Wisdom" is the foundational text of the Mahayana Buddhist school, intended to guide the reader to enlightenment and becoming a Bodhisattva.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

June 30-July 2 - Simple Day - A Simple Quest; Rapier and heavy combat. Ranged. Youth. A&S. Youth. \$25 for the full weekend - includes lunch if you pre-register. Danville, IN https://stermfeld.midrealm.org/simple-day/

July 7-9 - Tyger Hunt 37; Armored and rapier combat, archery, thrown weapons. \$10 Lake Orion, MI https://northwoods.midrealm. org/activities/canton-and-baronial-events/tygerhunt/

July 7-9 - Push for Pennsic; Armored and rapier combat, archery, combat archery thrown weapons, A&S. Dog friendly. Camping. \$15. Troy, OH. https://dubhcailleach.wixsite. com/push-for-pennsic

July 29 - August 6 - Pennsic; Featuring: everything.
Pre-registration is now closed.
Coopers Lake Campground,
Slippery Rock, PA.
https://pennsicwar.org/

August 25-27 - Feathered Fox Inn: Play. Drink. Dance. Beverage Maker's Expo, dance salon, games, tavern post revel. Camping. Pet friendly. \$15. Big Rock, IL. https://foxvale.midrealm.org/feathered-fox-inn/

June-July 2023 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. June 28 7:00-9:45pm Baronial Armored Tournament and Dessert Revel St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. June 29 7:00pm Armorers' Guild Meeting Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR
- Fri June 30 10:00am-4:00pm Garb-a-Thon Parma Snow Library. Get details on the Facebook event: Link
- Sat July 1 10:30am-4:00pm Garb-a-Thon Twinsburg Public Library. Get details on the Facebook event: Link
- Wed. July 5 7:00-9:45pm Baronial Meeting St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. July 6 7:00pm **Armorers' Guild Meeting** Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR
- Fri July 7 10:00am-4:00pm Garb-a-Thon Richmond Heights Branch Library.
 Get details on the Facebook event: Link
- Wed. July 12 7:00-9:45pm Baronial Marketplace & Potluck St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. July 13 7:00pm Armorers' Guild Meeting Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR
- Fri July 14 10:00am-4:00pm Garb-a-Thon Beachwood Branch Library. Get details on the Facebook event: Link
- Sat July 15 10:30am-4:00pm **Garb-a-Thon** Twinsburg Public Library. Get details on the Facebook event: Link
- Wed. July 19 7:00-9:45pm Baronial Meeting St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.

News of the Kingdom

- Sir Wigthegn and Sergeant Neassa, Cleftlands regulars, are the newest Prince and Princess of the Midrealm.
- The Kingdom Chronicler needs deputies for North Oaken, South Oaken, Pentamere, and Constellation. contact chronicler@midrealm.org to learn more
- Midrealm Royal Camp needs help with preparing meals at Pennsic. Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0548AAA72DA3FB6-pennsic2

Newsletter Content

Did you miss an issue? Want to review an old favorite? All copies of the newsletter are stored on the Cleftlands website. Find them here: http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Publications

If you have an idea for content, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com.

Thank you and stay well!

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

This Week in History

- June 25 1258 The Venetians defeat the Genoese fleet at the Battle of Acre (part of the War of Saint Sabas).
- June 26 1295 The white eagle is added to the Polish coat of arms when Przemysł II is crowned king of Poland.
- June 27 1497 Michael An Gof and Thomas Flamank, leaders of the Cornish rebellion protesting Henry VII's taxes to fund a war against Scotland, are executed.
- June 28 548 <u>Theodora</u>, Byzantine Empress alongside Justinian I, dies. A former prostitute, she became one of the emperor's chief advisors.
- June 29 226 Cao Rui becomes emperor of the Kingdom of Wei (China).
- June 30 296 Although rumored to have rejected Christianity during his lifetime, Marcellinus begins his Papacy.
- July 1 1569 Poland and Lithuania join to become the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, also known simply, but accurately, as the Republic of Both Nations.

Photos in this issue (apart from the Cleveland Museum of Art item) are used with gratitude to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.

The image of the Repository for the Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra and Eleven Volumes of the Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra 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 (CCO) 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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