



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 4/16/2022

Dressed to Kill II: A 14th Century Day and Cleftlands Investiture

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

This past Saturday, April 9, saw the second event to happen in the Cleftlands since February 2020: the Dressed to Kill II Armorers and Needleworkers Symposium - and Baronial Investiture. It was a day of scholarship and pageantry, with the focus on the clothing and armor of the 14th century. Classes ranged from arming points to by-cockets, indigenous regalia to plate armor, so there was something for all.

A brief morning court was called by Their Majesties where a new law was read - and the Barony's newest Laurel was put on vigil. Baroness - now Good Mistress - Angharad did not know this was coming, as she was the Herald of the Court at the time. Baroness Constanza and Master Aiden knelt to beg the boon, to the shock of Good Mistress Angharad. As court ended, she was whisked off to her vigil, prepared in advance for her by her many friends.

When not attending classes, the populace area was packed with friends reconnecting for the first time in years, artisans practicing their skills on the Craftsperson's Green, and music being made by the Cleftlands ensemble. Crafts on display included bone needles, arrow making, gold-work, and more. Friends came to congratulate the soon-to-be Laurel in her vigil area, complete with snacks that would be the envy at a Royal feast (as is appropriate for a cooking Laurel!).

Before court in the evening, a fashion show displayed the range of garb worn by attendees. While the 14th century was the theme, clothing from all throughout Society period made its way down the runway. Much applause was granted to these brave fashionistas.



Then began court as the Barony welcomed the sixth Baron and Baroness of the Cleftlands - Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo and Aurelia Rosetti. They processed with banners flying, tossing chocolate coins to the crowd. Music played, people cheered, and Dame Ursula Mortimer recited a poem praising the Cleftlands lineage - read it at the end of this issue!

As they relinquished the coronets, Baron Crispin and Baroness Gianna received the thanks of a grateful Crown in the form of a court Barony, as is tradition. Many more awards were given out that night. Congratulations to Cleftlanders Lord Robert atte Northclyfe for his Dragon's Heart, and Lady

Jaquelinne de la Deicier and Lady Claricia de la Mere who received their second Purple Frets.

Then came the elevation of Baroness Angharad to the Laurel. Dame Alys, Baron Ephraim, and Baroness Alda all spoke to her virtues. As she was elevated, she was given a golden wrap with laurel leaves, and a cape embroidered with laurel leaves as well. Each leaf on the cape was handmade by a friend.

The evening closed with many joining in to clean and evacuate the site right on time. Much gratitude to Sir Farpegn Rinksson, Event Steward, and his awesome staff. If you missed the event, you missed a lot!

A Few More Than Five Questions - Get to Know Our New Baron and Baroness

The sixth Baron and Baroness (or, as they prefer Barone and Baronessa) of the Cleftlands sat down and answered a few questions about their SCA experience, preferences, where to get cookies at Pennsic, and a few other things that will be good to know!

Barone Pietro Niccolo da San Tebaldo (a nobleman of the Serene Republic of Venice, ~15th century*); mka Samuel Read Pearce (He/Him/Your Excellency)

*Mostly



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

I was a Tolkien nerd and a friend in high school with similar tastes suggested that I come along to a meeting of this “sort of similar thing” down on CWRU campus. That was 1983-4, IIRC. Things get hazy - that was a different millenium.

2.) What are your two main activities in the SCA?

Rapier combat and a broad range of activities lumped together under “A&S”. Also, now, the Machiavellian exercise of power. :)

3.) What is an activity (or activities) you’d like to try out or get more involved with?

Archery. I have a crossbow on loan with which I’ve shot for war points, and in my “Pending Projects Pile” is a white oak crossbow stock blank. It just needs forming, inlay, finishing, hardware, a prod, binding, a string, bolts and a quiver. So, any day now, right?

4.) What are your favorite foods?

I admit to being partial to mustards and horseradish sauces, generally on roasted meats. I’m an omnivore. Beverage-wise, I like a good mead. I am open to being educated about good spirits. I prefer ales and stouts to IPAs, but I won’t say no to any good brew. Life is too short to drink cheap beer.

6.) What are your least favorite foods, or any food restrictions (allergies, etc.)?

I’m an omnivore with no known allergies. (Knock on wood.) My tolerance for extreme spicy heat is...limited.

7.) Where do you camp at Pennsic?

Newbridge Encampment (the encampment that is NOT Sir Ephraim’s household). We’re on the Serengeti. Stop by - we have cookies.

8.) Do you have a favorite SCA-period movie or TV series?

I think, like most rapier combatants, I’m a sucker for “The Princess Bride”. Also, “A Lion In Winter”.

9.) Tell us about your pets!

We have a fraught political situation at home - our house is partitioned like Cyprus between Dogland (most of the first floor) and Catland (all of the second floor, with a DMZ in one downstairs bathroom.) Caleb the Wonder Dog (a 12-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier, AKA “65-pound lapdog”) lives downstairs. The queens of Catland are a trio of elder kitties which Aurelia brought into our relationship. (I’ll let her tell you more.) We are their interlocutors and go-betweens.

10.) What’s one thing that you’d like the Barony to know about you?

The Cleftlands is my home, and has been - in a very real sense - for a good part of my life. I’ve found friends and loved ones, experienced great joy and shared sorrows within the circle of this world that we have created, and which we create anew each time we gather. I take it pretty seriously. If there’s anything else you’re dying to know, ask me.

Continued on the next page.

Baronessa (Maestra) Aurelia Rosetti (An artist working in Venice/Florence, 15th Century); mka Linda Merchant Pearce (She/Her/Your Excellency)



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

Cleftlands came and did a demo at my elementary school in the mid-1980's, when I was in 5th grade. I promptly went home and asked my parents if I could go attend meetings on the CWRU campus, to which they emphatically said "no". I rediscovered the SCA in college, coming to Cleftlands on breaks and participating with the Proto-Incipient Shire of Deerhaven down in Youngstown during semesters.

2.) What are your two main activities in the SCA?

Arts, Sciences, and apparently now also Baronessing. I specialize in oil painting, but I also pursue several other rabbit-holes, including silversmithing, fiber arts, pottery...

3.) What is an activity (or activities) you'd like to try out or get more involved with?

Not so much try out, but rather go further down the rabbit-hole of my arts and sciences pursuits listed above. I also love to pull people into learning more about these skills, so encouraging A&S activities for others.

4.) What are your favorite foods?

Dark chocolate, sushi, Cleftlands Feasts

6.) What are your least favorite foods, or any food restrictions (allergies, etc.)?

I'm pretty much an omnivore.

7.) Where do you camp at Pennsic?

Newbridge Encampment on the Serengeti

8.) Do you have a favorite SCA-period movie or TV series?

Does "Lord of the Rings" count? Also "Princess Bride".

9.) Tell us about your pets!

We have 1 dog and 3 cats. My husband has elaborated above on the situation at home. The cats are Nala (18), Daisy (16), and Mocha (14), and they are the Princesses in the Tower.

10.) What's one thing that you'd like the Barony to know about you?

I'm a Laurel, so by definition, I'm an A&S geek. If I'm staring off into the middle-distance, I'm not plotting against you, I'm probably just trying to figure out how to get my latest project to work. :D



The Lineage of the Cleftlands Baronage, from most recent on the left, to the first Coronet - Duke Laurelen on the right.

News of the Realms

SCA News -

- While by now this news is already known, the official announcement from the Board that contact tracing is no longer required can be found here: <https://www.sca.org/news/collection-of-contact-tracing-information-no-longer-required/>
- Also, an update to the COVIDSafe policy was announced here (however please note that all restrictions were subsequently lifted in the Middle Kingdom: <https://www.sca.org/news/covidsafe-policy-update-covid-safe-acknowledgement-process/>
- The Board of Directors is looking for new people to join the team. Learn more here: <https://www.sca.org/news/we-want-you-board-nominations-open/>
- Register to attend the April 24 Board meeting: <https://www.sca.org/board-meeting-agendas/>

Kingdom News

- **All Covid restrictions were lifted in the Midrealm as of April 3 (except all activities are required to post the Society disclaimer) - <https://midrealm.org/blog/2022/04/03/midrealm-is-at-tier-1-from-seneschal/>**
- The Midrealm Earl Marshal is looking for a replacement. Applicants can contact Sir Marcus Draconarius with questions, or email them to marshal@midrealm.org.
- If this doesn't sound like the right job for you, but you're still interested in helping the Kingdom, there are MANY more positions available. Find them here: <https://midrealm.org/jobs/?fbclid=IwAR1AIQUIGPKIC8v-513ROga4PnnaLSml-XPFIblzzKS-epXgp5L7bb3XvzO4>
- THL Audette la Tricoteuse de Saint Denis (Denise Garvey Lloyd) will be the next Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.
- An A&S Fair approaches! The Kingdom Arts & Sciences Fair will be held on May 28 at the Crown Tourney event in Xenia, OH. Think you can put together your documentation by then? Want to be a judge? Sign up here: <https://a-and-s-portal.herokuapp.com/>

Baronial News

- Baron Crispin and Baroness Gianna held their last Baronial Court at the meeting on April 6. Three awards were given out, finishing out their business from their tenure: Baron Stephan von Lubeck and Lord Gladius the Alchemist both received the Award of the Argent Cresset, and Lady Claricia de la Mere received the Order of Saint Clariel. Congratulations to all!
- Welcome to our new officers: Lord Hrafnkell has stepped up to be our new Social Media Officer, and Lord Reinhardt will be our new Rapier Marshal starting May 1. Many thanks to those who applied.
- The Demo Coordinator position will be open when Lord Karl steps down on June 29. Apply here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>
- May 21 the Fletchings of Spring event will be held at Punderson State Park. This archery event is stewarded by Lord Tarmach, and will host a Tournament of the Greenwood. Get more details at fletchings.cleftlang.org



Lady Dulcia working it on the catwalk at Dressed to Kill.



A vigil table of snacks fit for a cooking Laurel.



Friends we have not seen in some time made appearances.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

April 21-24 - Blackstone Raid XXIX; Gandeeville, WV (Aethelmearc).

Melees, camping, archery, merchants, and more: <https://blackstoneraid.org/>

April 23 - Grand Tournament of the Dragon; Hamilton, OH.

Tournament of Chivalry, Tournament of Defense, and more: <https://fb.me/e/2P0OWcx3H>

April 30 - The Dragon's Hoard; Georgetown, KY

Tournament of the Arts, tournament, more: <https://dragons-mark.midrealm.org/the-dragons-hoard/>

May 7 - Spring Coronation; Bluffton, IN.

Many activities! <https://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/spring-coronation/>

May 14 - Mugmort Melees XV; Granville, OH.

Focus on heavy melee, includes rapier, ranged, and equestrian. <https://mugmort.midrealm.org/mugmort-melees/mugmort-melees-15/>

Call for Content

We want to make sure there's a central place to get information and see posts that might get buried, or resources that might not be shared.

If you have info to share - an upcoming virtual gathering, activity ideas, or a great website, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com.

Thank you and stay well!

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Doorknocker with Gorgon Head. Mid 1500s, Venice, Italy.

Bronze casting

~10" x 7.75" x ~2.75" - <https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1972.1>

A doorknocker designed to impress, this one was made for a Venetian palace. Snakes coil from the figure's head, indicating the person depicted is likely Medusa, a Gorgon from Greek mythology. It was said that a Gorgon's head could protect from evil.

The choice to depict this figure on the front door was likely made to evoke a guarding function. The goose symbol could be the heraldry for the owners of the house.

Upcoming Cleftlands Events - April

- Tuesday April 19; 7:00pm - **Virtual Bardic Open Mic** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89768898132?pwd=bnQ3Nm5GQit1VVZKTDhFMnhEck5nUT09>
- Wednesday, April 20, 7:00-10pm - **In-Person Cleftlands Meeting** St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wednesday, April 20, 7pm - **Scribal Workshop In-Person at the Cleftlands Meeting**. St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, April 21; 7:00-10:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Tuesday, April 26, 7:30pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxY-R0d5Zz09>
- Thursday, April 28; 7:00-10:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wednesday, May 4, 7:00-10pm - **In-Person Cleftlands Meeting** St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wednesday, May 4, 7pm - **Crochet Corner with Thorhalla - at meeting** St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wednesday, May 4, 7:30pm - **3D Printing: A Beginner's Guide - at meeting** St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thursday, May 5; 7:00-10:00pm - **Armors' 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.

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baronessa Aurelia Rosetti; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: Lord Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine/Gold Key: Lady Jaqueline la Deiciere; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Njall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Arts & Sciences: Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl; moas@cleftlands.org
- Social Media Officer: Lord Hrafnkell inn Raudi Eykelsson
- Knight's Marshal: Baroness Constanza de Mendoza; knightsmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Rapier Marshal: Lady Ragna Storrada Ulfsdottir; rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org
- Archery Marshal: Lord 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
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Youth: Lord Rojhon the Wanderer; youthminister@cleftlands.org
- Demonstration Coordinator: Lord Karl of Cleftlands; demo@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

This Week in History

April 11 1077 - [Anawrahta](#), legendary founder of the Pagan Empire (modern Burma), dies, although accounts on the manner of his death range from assassins to demons. His body was not found.

April 12 1012 - Oldrich deposes and blinds his brother Jaromir to become Duke of Bohemia.

April 13 1570 - Happy birthday to Guy Fawkes, conspirator of the Gunpowder Plot to blow up British Parliament.

April 14 1471 - Yorkists kill the Earl of Warwick at the Battle of Barnet, allowing Edward IV to resume the throne.

April 15 1395 - Timur defeats the Golden Horde at the Battle of the Terek River, then razes their capital city.

April 16 73 - The First Jewish-Roman War ends with the fall of Masada, a Jewish fortress, to the Romans.

April 17 1521 - The trial of Martin Luther begins, though he asks for more time and it is delayed by 1 day.

Photos in this issue credited to Master Sorchia Fraser, Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari, Lady Elizabella Marchant, and Lady Claricia de la Mere.

Doorknocker with Gorgon Head 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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Cleftlands Lineage

by Dame Ursula Mortimer

Hear now the honourable lineage of the Cleftlands!

*In days long past this Barony was founded,
Entrusted by Merowald to nobles twain.
By these two its foundations made well-grounded:
Ithrilie and Laurelen Darksbane.
Decades they served, nor did their stars e'er wane,
But with whole hearts they led the Barony
To high repute in the Society.*

*In giants' footsteps came to follow then
The gentle Madelaine Bouvier and her lord
Ephraim, wielders of the mighty pen,
And brightly shone her needle and his sword.
With hands outreached to all, they made accord
Among our folk and neighbors, so 'twas seen
The river's flame ceased not its burning keen.*

*Next Milesent and Edward took the fief,
He valiant archer, bearer of the boar
And rose, she crownéd with the scholar's wreath
And wit. To Dag and Annemarie they swore
Their faith while argent and azure they bore,
And so it passed this couple studious
Did ever serve in fealty duteous.*

*Then Calum and Constanza did arise.
He with a hand in service ever lifted
Or sword raised to defeat a foeman's wiles,
She of the bright sun's joy and learning gifted,
With courage fierce, in battle six times sifted.
These friends performed their duty with such grace
As e'er should remembered in this place.*

*Gianna next, who dances in her mirth
In lists or ballroom, careful steward she,
And Crispin of both base and noble birth,
But rightful guardian of the barony,
Both bearing sable in their constancy
From all their travels here they did return
Respect of all the populace to earn.*

*Today Aurelia and Pietro stand
To serve in turn upon the Crown's command.*

Offered April 9 A.S. LVI



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