
THE forum

The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 23, January, 2002

The Day We Made Khan-Tact

It was a balmy, spring-like day in the Cleftlands, the winter winds themselves abating for the terrible presence of His Highness and The Great Khan. Although attendance was not what was hoped- many imagined the unseasonable weather would bring hibernating gentles who might not otherwise have attended- the event was, in Autocrat Sir Ephraim's words, "This was yet another example of how well an event can go when so many people give so much of themselves for its success." He also said, "And to Darius and Snowden- tag! You're it!"

An estimated 395 gentles passed through Lord Timothy's gate to an exciting day of fighting, feasting, learning, dancing and of course- punning!

Shlomo ran the Pun Contest, entitled "Hunted Years' War", of which there were both single and melee combats. The winner, Lady Daedez Dalbaurn of The Dark Horde, earned an "Illustrated text on the philosophers Calvin and Hobbs."

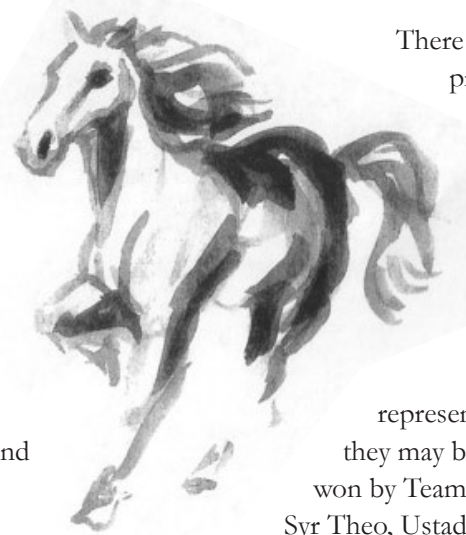
A hall full of merchants challenged the pocketbooks of event-goers. Of note, Lady Sarra Bossard had her debut as a merchant, peddling her fine beaded wares. Lord Pietro also sold some of his humorous artwork. An excellent job once again by merchant coordinator Lady Maria Vincente de Castilla.

Lady Brangwayn Snowden organized

the rapier lists for the day. Many differed scenarios were offered for the thirteen rapier combatants: ship-to-shore, capture the flag, resurrection pairs, single elimination speed, and a 'point' touney where one had to wound but not kill one's opponent. In marshal Li's words, "It was basically a 'fight till you drop' set up. We weren't worried about having winners." Those who won specific scenarios were rewarded with fortune cookies.

There were four classes held throughout the day, Lady Aurore's "The Thrifty Anachronist" class was particularly well attended, as was Jess's games class despite being early in the day, and the English Country dance class taught by Lady Kathryn verch Rhys was so well attended it almost took over the adjoining hall! Lady Milesent also held a small class on Chinese woman's costume of the Yuan dynasty.

Court started promptly at 5:00, though the baron's arrival was delayed due to a 'secret mission.' Which, he reported as court paused to welcome Their Graces, was successfully completed.



There was the presentation of gifts, and prizes for the day's tournaments. The Barrier tournament "fought in honor of our Horde guests, representing a 'great wall' they may be familiar with" was won by Team Draco Invictus:

Syr Theo, Ustad the Dreaded, Ullr, Nigel and Conrad. So great was the prowess of these men that they stood undefeated on the field until voluntarily yielding so that more teams would get to fight each other. This was followed by a pool tournament run on four lists which was won by Ullr – definitely a grand day for him. There was also a Boffer tournament which was won by Ser Nickolas' man at arms, Ely Devore. Ser Nick offers his gratitude to Silverthorn for running the authorizations while he marshaled the Barrier, to Max for taking over duties for Boffer Combat when Nick was too busy with the heavy, and Alex, for once again running the list tables flawlessly. A great day of fighting could not have gone as well without their help.

Lady Guenhwyfar proudly announced the winners of the scribal competition and showed the two beautiful entries by winner Lord Karl

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Our Officers

Seneschal: Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch)
279 East 248 St.
Euclid, OH 44123

Pursuivant: Lord Pietro Nicolò di San Tebaldo (Samuel Pearce)
2577 Exeter Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Exchequer: Duchess Emelyn Carithail (Gayle Nichols)
17211 Lakewood Heights Blvd.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Knight Marshal: Lt. Conrad Schwartzwolf (Marty Bradac)
3835 W. 40th Street
Cleveland, OH 44109

Marshal of Fence: Lady Brangwyn Snowden (Terrie Way)
3480 West 118th St.
Cleveland, OH 44111

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lord Edward Brackenbury (Mark Doblekar)
18871 Abby Ave
Euclid, OH 44119

Chroniclers: Ladies Lyonnete et Milesent Vibert (Marie & Grace Vibbert)
2489 Queenston Rd.
Cleveland Heights, Oh 44118

Chatelaine: Lady Alex
2616 E 124th st.
Cleveland, OH 44120
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von Kohn and runner up Lord Nial. Several members of the barony were honored in court, Claire of the Cleftlands received the Dragon's Treasure for all her service, in particular in kitchens, and her sister Gwen is now Lady Gwendolyn, receiving arms. Brian of Cleftlands, tireless website lackey and chopper of vegetables also received arms. Lyonnete Vibert was entered into the Order of the Willow for her teaching and research of Burgundian costume... and received many jibes for the rest of the evening about which part of Burgundy exactly her Chinese garb came from. Vincent Furnier was made a companion of the Order of the Dragon's Tooth for his prowess upon the lists.

Once the Regency court was finished, a Baronial court was called by Laurelen and Ithrillic at the leave of His Highness. The members of the Baronial Charter committee were called forward and Their Graces entered them into the Order of the Winged Trine, our only Baronial award. A trine is a tri-sected angle, something believed to be impossible to produce in medieval times. The Order is for those who have given flight to the impossible. The committee wrote a Baronial Charter, a task that has taken other groups years and may seem insurmountable, in just four hours, truly an impossible feat. The members of the committee are: Lord Nial, Sir Alaric, Master Aiden, THL Clariel, Sgt. Rutgur, Lord Darius, Lady Lyonnete, and Lord Timothy. With Laurelen himself, ("But I don't count", he quipped) the number reached nine, an auspicious number for impossible journeys. This was the first time a Baronial court has ever been called within a Royal one in Cleftlands. His Grace felt it was important to show not only the Barony, but also the Kingdom, what the charter committee had accomplished. This is also the first time anyone has received the Winged Trine twice, THL Clariel and Master Aiden were already members of this most coveted order.

The feast followed on the heels of court and was a wonder to partake of, as is expected from the stellar team of her Ladyship Angharad and Lady Francesca. His Highness was heard to remark it was one of the best feasts he had ever tasted, but then his fondness for far eastern cuisine is known. The feast was based upon a text entitled "A Soup for the Khan" written by a Yuan Chinese author for his Khan. The dishes included several delicious vegetarian items, succulent chicken and 'boar's head'. Much to the relief of the high table, no actual boar's head was presented, more modernly palatable pork medallions were substituted. Servers were organized by Lady Kathryn and Lady Katerin, and the feast was served quickly and efficiently despite the crowded hall.

Feast was finished with plenty of time for dancing! The combat hall stripped of list ropes and fighting equipment became a serviceable dance hall and yea verily, the dancing continued until site closed, moving for the last few sets to the then-empty Merchant hall so that the clean up crew could finish taking up the temporary floor.

So You Want to Be a Scribe?

Getting Started: Materials

by: Master Aiden Elfædur

So, you want to be a scribe – now you need materials. What should you buy? The first word of advice I can offer is: Don't scrimp on the quality of your materials! You can get by on surprisingly little, but make that the best. It really does matter. You can buy cheap materials, but you will probably just wind up putting a lot of effort into fighting poor materials and tools, rather than into producing artwork. Not only that, better materials will generally last longer! So, what do you need...

Paper: For practice most any paper will do, but something that is not too absorbent is better. For finished work, I strongly recommend a paper called Pergamenata, from Italy. It is only about \$3.50 [as of this printing] for a large sheet that can be cut up to make 4-6 scrolls. It is available by mail order from Paper & Ink Books (see below).

Pens: A good pen is also important. Speedball pens are okay for learning, but will probably become frustrating soon. They are hard to clean, don't hold much ink, and the smaller sizes don't work very well. I recommend Rexal-Mitchell brand nibs. Their italic nibs are good for beginners and have a separate ink reservoir that comes off for easy cleaning. This ink reservoir can also be adjusted to change the flow of ink for different papers. Rexal-Mitchell nibs are also available from Paper and Ink Books as well as stores such as Michael's and Pat Catan's art center, or by mail order. (There may be other stores in your local area.) Most any holder will do, but look for one that fits your hand and is comfortable to hold. Avoid fountain pens. The ink they use is too transparent and is not water proof. It will end up smearing! A couple of hints: 1. Don't



dip the pen in the ink. It tends to get too much ink in the pen and makes for uneven calligraphy. Instead, carefully fill the side of the nib using a dropper. A very small drop is enough. 2. Keep a scrap of the paper you are working on handy to get your pen started with.

Ink: Choose a good, opaque, waterproof, dark black ink. My personal favorite is Pelican #17 Black Drawing Ink. Another good brand is Dr. P.H. Martins. Avoid Higgins India ink. It tends to be too watery and winds up looking gray rather than black. In general don't buy colored inks.

Paint: Once again, don't scrimp on materials. Good paint is not cheap, but cheap paint is not good. A cheap paint will often be harder to use and will affect the appearance and durability of the final product. In general it is best to use a paint called gouache. It is an opaque type of water color that gives the best imitation of the pigments used in period. I recommend Winsor-Newton or Holbein gouache. Expect to pay \$4.00 to \$10.00 per tube. It's worth every penny. To start off you really only need three colors, so the cost is not too bad. To begin I'd recommend, Ultramarine Blue, Flame Red and Permanent White (The Winsor-Newton names for these colors). These three colors could keep you going for years worth of

illuminating; you can add other colors one at a time as you need them.

Gold: For gold paint I recommend Holbein Pearl Gold Gouache. It is the best imitation of medieval shell gold that I have found. It has a sheen rather than a sparkle. It's available from Paper & Ink books for about \$8. If you do choose something else, make sure it's water based. Another quick and easy short cut is the gold pen. I recommend Pilot brand. It has a spectacular shine to it, but takes a while to dry. Make sure to leave enough drying time so that you don't smear it.

Brushes: The beginning and end of this is: buy a good brush at a reputable art store. Only buy fine red sable (preferably Kolinsky sable) watercolor brushes. I highly recommend getting a Winsor-Newton Series 7 brush. Start with a number 0. One of these in 0 will do much finer work than a cheap 0000 brush and can still be used for filling larger areas. Later you will probably want to add a 00 and a 1 to your collection. Expect to pay \$7.00 or \$8.00 for a good brush. A good brush is carefully made with a good number of bristles that will produce a fine point when moistened but still hold a fair amount of paint. A cheap brush is made with fewer bristles and so doesn't hold very much paint. Treat them gently. Wash them immediately after use, and DO NOT let them sit in a jar of water even for a few minutes. Doing that squashes the brush, bends the bristles, and keeps it from coming to a fine point, thus making it difficult to work with.

Miscellany: The usual: a pencil, a soft eraser (white or knead-able), a cork-

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backed or beveled edged ruler. With these few items there is nothing to prevent you from producing spectacular work. Be patient, practice, and the skills will come. Trust me, the few dollars difference between something usable and something good make all the difference in the world to your work.

Paper & Ink Arts
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1-800-736-7772

Article reprinted from the booklet, "The Scribes' Guild... Welcomes You." Please contact author before reproducing article. Thank you.

The Scribe's Guild is led by Lady Guenhwylfar, with Lady Olwen as her deputy. These two ladies are another fine resource for getting started in Scribal Arts.

NOTE: This article is several years old, and so the prices listed are, no doubt, lower than those currently. Check with suppliers for current prices.

A Literary Magazine for Cleftlands

Coming up soon is the deadline for submissions to the Literary Magazine. Short stories, poetry, essays or black-and-white artwork on a medieval or SCA theme are due in to Lyonnette by March desert revel—that's only two months away!

The purpose of this project is to provide members of the barony with an outlet for sharing their creative powers. There will be no prize for best submission or anything like that, and only submissions which are in poor taste or do not fit the 'SCA or Medieval' requirement will not be published. (Works on a modern theme using a medieval style are acceptable, such as the infamous "Rudolph the Red Nosed Raindeer" ballad in Middle English floating about the net. How about an epic on the joys of Cleveland weather? A Petrarchian sonnet on checking your email?)

It is hoped that the magazine will be published in time for our Standard Bearer's competition, at which time it will be provided to the populace. If interest is strong, this may become a yearly publication. However, we have only two submissions as of the writing of this article. (And very fine ones at that.) So, to the rest of you: get cracking!

We're also looking for suggestions as to format for this publication, cover designs, and a title. (My personal current favorite is "Cleft Notes".) Cost-effectiveness is a concern, we don't want to have to charge for copies.

If you have any questions, please see Lyonnette. Submissions may be emailed to mlv4@po.cwru.edu as well.

An Important Note to all Members of the Barony: the Polls for confidence in the Baron and Baroness are in the mail! You should receive yours soon. Polls must be returned by March 19th.

If you reside within the bounds of the Barony and do not receive your Baronial Confidence Poll, you must see Lord Nial and provide him with your most recent Pale for proof of address and membership. Seeing Lord Nial is the only way to receive the poll aside from the initial mailing.

See Nial if you have any questions regarding the Poll.

What to do with that holiday loot: Tent Making

By Klaus von Eisenstein

I know what you're thinking: I have a few hundred dollars and nothing substantial to spend it on. Whatever am I to do? Well the answer is clear. With Pennsic only 7 months away, this is the perfect time to start making a period tent.

That's right. As long as you can sew a straight line on a sewing machine, and have a basic understanding of woodcrafts, you too can construct your own relatively authentic medieval tent. (Last summer, I made an 11'x11' pavilion having previously sewn only one piece of garb.)

There are several upsides to having your own period tent. First and foremost, a canvas tent will be 10 degrees cooler than a mundane tent. This allows you to sleep in an extra hour or two on those hot Pennsic mornings. Also, period tents often get better placement on your land. Who wants to see a row of mundane tents when you could easily hide them behind your row of newly created pavilions?

But why make a period tent when you could just buy one? In one word: price. When buying a tent, usually you only get the canvas roof and walls. You're expected to supply your own poles, stakes and ropes. If you're going to go that far, you might as well go all the way for $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the price. It's also a great way to meet people. (Hey, does anyone want to see the pavilion I made this summer?) You'll be surprised who drops in to see your handiwork.

There are several things you'll need to get ready for entering the tent-making process. First, locate a vendor who sells large canvas remnants. If at all possible, convince others to join you in your folly; you'll get better rates, and you'll have someone to complain to when things aren't going the way you'd planned. Next, design your pavilion. I can't emphasize enough the importance of this step. Poor designs create lots of headaches. There are several great articles on-line on the SCA Arts & Sciences web page. Third, don't be afraid to ask for help. Normally, all you'll get is some advice on what not to do; tent makers are notorious for letting people make their own mistakes.

Don't think that there aren't some downsides to making a tent. First, making a tent takes a long time. I spent 20-40 hours a week for almost two months before I was done. Second, your tent is going to take 2-3 times more room than



your old mundane gear, as well as take 2-3 times as long to set up and break down. Third, tent making is very addictive. Once you've made your first one, you will spend countless hours deciding how to decorate and possibly improve upon it for next year.

Here are a few of the major do's and don'ts I've learned in the tent-making process.

Do's

1. Buy a bit more canvas than you think you'll need: there's always time for side projects.
2. Work with others, if at all possible: extra eyes see things that you might be missing.
3. Buy pre-waterproofed canvas: you shouldn't have to waterproof it again. You can also get fire-proofed material if you want to pay a little extra.

Don'ts

1. Don't redesign after you've started measuring and cutting: it's usually too late by then.
2. Don't think that once it's built, you're done: pavilions take a lot of maintenance.
3. Don't beat yourself up for the little mistakes: generally speaking, people won't even see them unless you point them out.

Know this: tent-making is not for everyone. If you don't have the time or patience for a big project, then forget about making a tent. However, if you like biting off more than you can chew, as well as sticking yourself repeatedly with pins, then welcome to the wonderful world of tent-making.

Calendar

As Usual:

Regular Meetings on Wednesday Nights at the Shore Center

Archery Guild is looking for a new meeting place, as Lucas Archery is closing its doors forever. See Darius or Christina if you know of a range that allows crossbows and year-round shooting.

Armorer's Guild Thursday nights at Ealdred's house.

Dance Guild is currently looking for a new meeting place.

CWRUMS Meeting Tuesday nights at 7pm at Carlton Commons.

Local Happenings:

2-10-02 Archery Guild meeting and annual officer selection.

4-13-02 Coronation of Valharic and Alys - here in Cleftlands!

Selected Events:

2-2-02 Candlemas (Dragonsmark) [Lexington, KY]

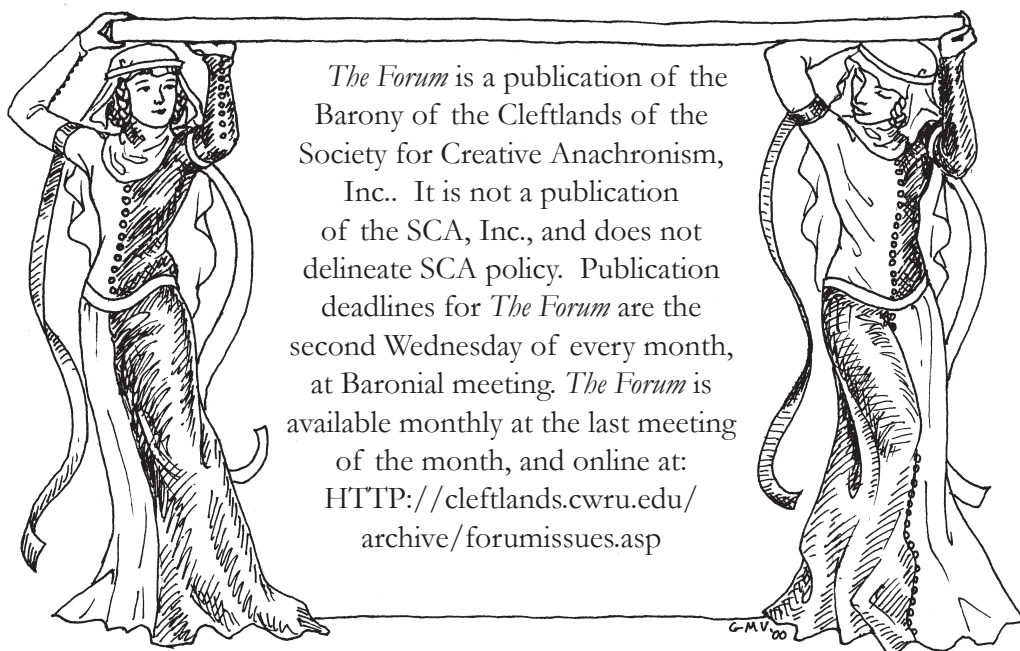
2-9-02 St. Valentine's Day Massacre (Three Hills) [Kalamazoo, MI]

2-16-02 Stone Dog Inn (Grey Gargoyles) [Chicago, IL]

2-22-02 through 2-23-02 Golden Seamstress Competition (Mystig Straits- Roaring Wastes) [Detroit, MI]

2-23-02 Masque of Courtly Love (Alderford) [Canton, OH]

Would you like your guild or household meeting or event posted here? Just get it to the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month!



The Forum is a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.. It is not a publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policy. Publication deadlines for *The Forum* are the second Wednesday of every month, at Baronial meeting. *The Forum* is available monthly at the last meeting of the month, and online at: [HTTP://cleftlands.cwru.edu/archive/forumissues.asp](http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/archive/forumissues.asp)