

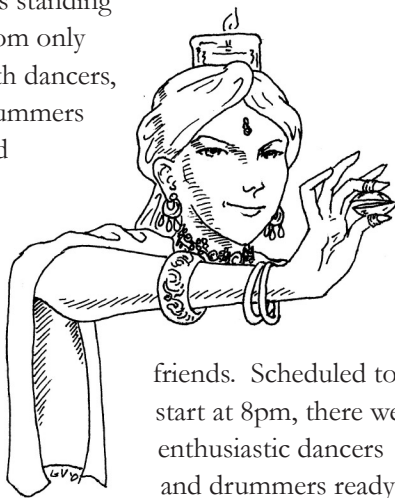


The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 24, February, 2002

A Coffeehouse Hafla

By Milesent Vibert

Middle eastern dancers from throughout the greater Cleveland area and some from as far away as Akron gathered recently at a Euclid coffee shop not far from our regular meeting site. Troupe Hareem Sha'reem, which boasts a high Cleftlands contingent in its membership, hosted the gathering. The small Gallery Coffee Shop on east 185th street was standing room only with dancers, drummers and



friends. Scheduled to start at 8pm, there were enthusiastic dancers and drummers ready at 7:30. Hareem

Sha'reem provided a sumptuous repast of hummus, fresh fruit, desserts and tabbouleh and drinking water at no charge. Coffee and tea were provided by the coffee house for a suggested donation.

Our own Lady Celeste spoke for her troupe, welcoming all the visitors and

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In Observance of Saint Valentine's

By Peredur

On the 14th of February, if we lived in the Middle Ages, we probably would have just celebrated the Feast Day of St. Valentine. According to the Catholic Church, there are as many as 11 saints bearing the name of Valentine, but only one of them has his feast day on the 14th.

During the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France. He was martyred on February 14th in the year 270 by Claudius II, also known as the Goth.

Legend says that when Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriages for young men. Valentine, in direct defiance of Claudius, started to perform marriages in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, he was imprisoned and later bludgeoned to death with clubs. During his stay in prison, he fell in love with a young girl, the jailor's daughter, to whom he sent the first Valentine--a love letter signed "Your Valentine".

Pope Julius I built the church of St. Valentine near Ponte Mole in his memory. The greatest part of his relics is now in the church of St. Praxedes. So Valentine did seem to exist.

But as was the custom of the Catholic Church back then, Canonic Myths were often created alongside pagan holidays to gain followers and popularity. The church blatantly admits this when it comes to the celebration of the Feast of St. Valentine. It was their own way of putting up bigger, better billboards than those folks across the street. And even before that, there were revolutions in the transition from Early to Late Pagan Festivals as cultural takeovers would

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NOTE: There was an error on the Baronial Poll forms; the return date was intended to be February 19th, not March 19th. Your vote will be counted if returned by March 19th, but please send it in ASAP for the convenience of the tabulating officer. As soon as 60% of the polls are returned, they will begin counting.

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)
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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)
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Cleveland, OH 44111

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lord Edward Brackenbury (Mark Doblekar)
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Hafla, Cont.

reassuring a few nervous dancers in the wings that it was an open floor, everyone was welcome to dance. And dance they did, styles varied from modern cabaret, to tribal and encompassed several cultures including Turkish, Egyptian and Indian. Four or five other dance troupes were present, as well as newcomers and independent dancers. A good time was had by all, Guenhwyfar and Antarcus lent their drumming talents as did Lady myfanwy ferch Rhonwen, drumming for her first time. The dancing did not stop until nearly an hour after the hafla was scheduled to end!

Troupe Hareem Sha'reem received a lot of positive feedback from the event. "We had many, many requests as to when the next one is," commented Lady Celeste "Next time we hope even more drummers will turn out." The troupe is tentatively planning the next hafla to be in April. Watch the Forum for updates!



Valentine's, Cont.

occur. Especially *big* takeovers like the Roman Empire.

This makes the history of Valentine's Day very difficult to track down. But Cupid's presence and his resemblance to Eros, the Greek God of Love and son of Aphrodite (Goddess of Beauty) gives us a clear direction of where to go.

Celebrations on the 15th of February can be traced as far back as the Roman "festival of sexual license" called the Lupercalia. A group of male Pagan priests, called Luperci, would conduct the festival annually on this day, in the Lupercal cave on the Palantine Hill in Rome. There, it was believed Romulus (founder of Rome and son of Mars) and Remus (his twin brother) had been abandoned as babies and raised by a she-wolf. Two young naked priests, assisted by the Vestal Virgins, would sacrifice a wolf and a goat. Blood from the animals was spread onto the foreheads of the two priests and wiped off with some wool dipped in milk. The priests then clothed themselves with loincloths made from the skin of the wolf and then ran through the city, scourging all the women with "februa", strips of skin taken from the goat. The Romans believed that this flogging would purify them, ensure fertility and easy childbirth.

Feasts and parties were later celebrated throughout the city. This day immediately follows the feast day of Juno Februata, Goddess of the Fever (fever of love, that is) for whom the month of February was named. She was also the goddess of women and marriage. On her festival day, all the single women in the village would write their name on a small piece of paper called a billet. All the billets were then put into a box and passed around to all the single men, who'd pull one out. Whoever's name they got

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Exchequers Annual Report

Last year saw many events in the Cleftlands, and very high fund-raising activity. We faced confusion over our weekly rent, a wonderful flurry of guild activity, and a coronation. Somehow, we came out on top, with an overall increase of \$2,961.50 in our Baronial net worth. These figures are courtesy of Duchess Emelyn's report to the kingdom.

For the first time since this chronicler started recording these figures, our income from Direct Contributions (which includes our weekly tithe) exceeded our non-event-related site and occupancy charges. This may be due to all the confusion we had with The Shore Center this year, or the increased attendance the Barony has been enjoying. (The chronicler would like to think it's because everyone paid their tithe! So just assume it is and give each other a big Hoobah!)

Our event-related income also exceeded our event expenditures, allowing us to donate generously outside and inside the kingdom, and still come out on top.

Cash On Hand

Cash on hand in non-interest-bearing accounts at the start of the year- 4,200.24

at the end- 7,161.74

Change in Net Worth 2961.50

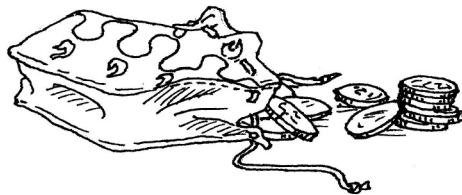
Income

Income from Direct Contributions (Tithe) 5,626.75

Event-related income 16,598.97

Regular Event (1-20-01) 3,317.72

Standard Bearer's (4-28-01) 1,323



Northern Oaken War Maneuvers
(6-8-01) 4,734

Coronation (9-22-01) 7,246.25

Total Gross Income 22,225.72

Expenses

Bad Debts 86

Bank Service Charges 26.66

Equipment Rental & Maintenance
1,330.54

Food 4,708.88

1,400 - admin

1,897.38 - events

1,411.50 - fund raising

General supplies 840.12

241.51 - admin

5,98.61 - events

Occupancy and Site Charges 8,964.96

5,025 - event related

Shipping & Postage 54.40 - all event-related

Printing & Publications 51.19 - all event-related

Other expenses 322.67 - all event related.

Sub Total: 16,385.42

Donations to Other 501c3 Nonprofit Organizations 1856.00 (Red Cross Auction)

Money moved to another SCA account

150 to Falcon's Quarry (Profit share from NOWM)

772.80 to Royal Travel Fund

100 to The Pale

Total Expenses: 19,264.22

Net Income: 2,961.50

At the Movies with Fitz

by Edward FitzRanulf

Looking for that perfect rental to idle away the cold March nights? Forget about asking Ebert, our own movie buffs rate their favorites.

Most Cleftlanders seem to be inveterate movie fans, at least about movies which in some fashion touch on the Society or its interests, broadly defined; and with the recent release of the Lord of the Rings interest in the filmmakers' art is intense. So, as a public service, an impartial panel of experts, (that would be Edward, Pietro and whoever else happened to wander by at Muldoon's that night) have prepared a list of those films which are of the greatest interest to members of the society, broken down by category.

The three films which best define the ethos of the Society:

(This is a fancy way of saying that these movies show the SCA period as we would like to think it was)

"Monty Python and the Holy Grail," with the Monty Python gang.

"Excalibur," directed by John Boorman, with Nigel Terry, Helen Mirren, Cheri Lunghi and Nicol Williamson.

"The Princess Bride," based on the novel by William Goldman, with Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Peter Falk and Billy Crystal.

The three best SCA period

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A challenge!

Her Highness, Dame Alys, has requested that period dance be a part of the entertainment at her coronation feast. Normally, this would entail a small group of individuals performing some intricate set piece, but wouldn't it be cool if instead of the expected, we had the entire barony (or, at least, thirty or so of us) stand up and perform a simple dance together?

The Dance Guild challenges you, noble citizen of the barony, to learn one dance this month well enough to perform it without calling. The guild will be teaching at every baronial meeting up until the event. Approach any of the guild members for more details.

Dance de Cleves

Steps in brief, don't be intimidated, this is for helping you remember the dance after you learn it:

Couples in a line, as many as will.

Reverance, step left, then right.

Forward 2 singles, 3 doubles and 2 singles.

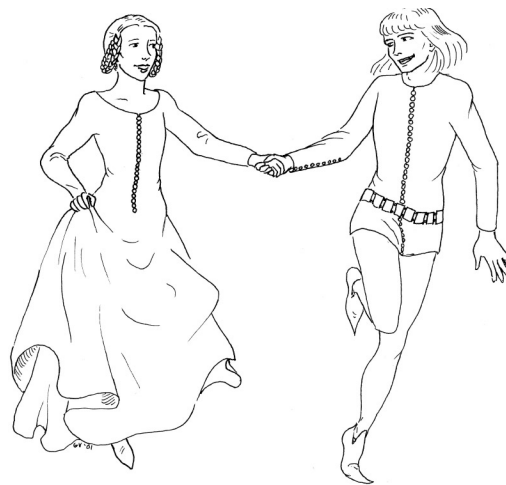
Backward 1 double

Lords go forward 2 singles and back again 1 double while the ladies turn in place with 2 singles and 1 double.

Reverse that, Ladies going forward and back while Lords turn in place.

Reverance, step left, then right.

Forward 2 singles and 1 double, use 1 double to turn



around to face the way you came, go that way 1 double.

Reverse that, Turn to face forward once more and do 1 double.

Lords go forward 2 singles and back 1 double while the Ladies turn in place (same as above)

Reverse that, Ladies going forward and back while lords turn in place.

Forward 2 singles, 2 doubles and 1 single. Face your partner, conge.

Valentine's, Concluded

would be their wife for the next twelve months.

The Catholic Church was, of course, opposed to this particular custom and came up with the festival of St. Valentine. They tried various ways of changing it at first. One method was to replace the women's names with those of saints. The participants were expected to emulate the life of the saint whose name was on the billet. Suffice it to say, nobody liked it very much. Sometime around the fourteenth century they reverted back to the use of girl's names, and in the 16th Century they tried it again, and failed. This is probably when they would've written the story of St. Valentine.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be regularly celebrated by

around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection and handwritten notes. With improvements in printing technology, ready-made cards would later replace handwritten notes. And then cheaper postage rates would contribute to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentines. Americans wouldn't begin exchanging hand-made Valentines until early 1700s and then Esther A. Howland would start to sell the first American mass-produced Valentines in the 1840s.

According to the American Greeting Card Association:

Valentine's Day is the second largest card-sending holiday of the year with an estimated one billion of them sent out

each year (Christmas is number one, at an estimated 2.6 billion).

Women purchase approximately 85% of all Valentines.

And in addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is also celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

So in the end, no matter how you look at it, isn't it all about love?

The information in this article was courtesy of the Catholic Church, Biography, The History Channel and Religious Tolerance Online.

Start Something!

Peredur



Movies, Cont.

films:

(These are films which show the SCA Period as it really was.)

“The Name of the Rose,” based on the novel by Umberto Eco, with Sean Connery and Christian Slater, and a great cast.

“The 13th Warrior,” based on the novel Eaters of the Dead by Michael Crichton, with Antonio Banderas, “Elizabeth” with Cate Blanchett.

The second three best SCA Period films:

(These are almost as good as the best three.)

“The Three Musketeers” and “The Four Musketeers,” the 1973-1974 versions, based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas written by George MacDonald Fraser, with Michael York, Oliver Reed, Richard Chamberlain, Faye Dunaway, and Charlton Heston.,

“Flesh & Blood,” with Rutger Hauer and Jennifer Jason-Leigh.

Older good SCA period films:

(It was pointed out that our lists are weighted towards newer films. While that is probably because they do a better job of placing period films in their proper historical settings, here are three great older period films.)

“The Warlord,” with Charlton Heston, Richard Boone and Rosemary Forsythe. (Note: Charlton Heston actually wears a Norman bowl-cut in this film.)

“The Vikings,” with Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh.

“El Cid,” with Charlton Heston and Sophia Loren.

The best three testosterone rush films:

(These are films that leave you with the urge to go out and kill.)

“Braveheart,” with Mel Gibson.

“Gladiator,” with Russel Crowe.

“Conan the Barbarian,” with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Standal Bergman.

The three best movie versions of Shakespeare’s plays.

“Henry V,” the play by William Shakespeare, directed by Kenneth Branagh, with Kenneth Branagh, Derek Jacobi, and a superb cast.

“Much Ado about Nothing,” the play by William Shakespeare, directed by Kenneth Branagh, with Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, and a superb cast.

“Mel Gibson’s Hamlet,” with Mel Gibson. (It’s hard to choose a “Hamlet,” but this one seems to be the most popular, besides we couldn’t give all three to Branagh..)

The best three romantic period films:

(These are vaguely period films that leave you feeling warm and fuzzy inside.)

“Ladyhawke,” with Rutger Hauer, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Matthew Broderick.

“Robin and Marian,” with Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn.

“Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves,” with Kevin Costner, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Morgan Freeman, and Alan Rickman.

The best three plays, set in period, and filmed

“The Lion in Winter,” by James Goldman with Peter O’Toole and Katherine Hepburn.

“Becket,” by Jean Anouilh, with Peter O’Toole and Richard Burton.

“A Man for All Seasons,” by Robert Bolt, with Paul Scofield as Sir Thomas Moore and Robert Shaw as Henry VIII.

The best three historical films not set in the SCA period.

(These are historical films not set in the SCA period but still of interest to SCA folk.)

“The Duelist,” with Keith Carradine, directed by Ridley Scott.

“Rob Roy,” with Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange.

“Dangerous Liaisons,” with Glenn Close, Michelle Pfeiffer, and John Malkovich.

I hope that this list of films will help members of the Barony of the Cleftlands spend their spare time profitably. As an aside, I would be interested in receiving nominations for the three worst SCA period films.

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 meeting at the Euclid Public Library on Thursday, April 4th.

CWRUMS Meeting Tuesday nights at 7pm at Carlton Commons.

Local Happenings:

3-27-02 Bead Making class at desert revel, taught by Lady Seadna.

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

4-27-02 Cooking receipts and /or a Sausage making class. Ealdred and Angharad

Selected Events:

3-9 Beware the Ides of March {Iron Oak (Northwoods)} [Morrice, MI]

Ceilidh XV {College of St. Joan} [Dayton, OH]

3-11 through 17 Gulf Wars {Meridies} [Lumberton, MS]

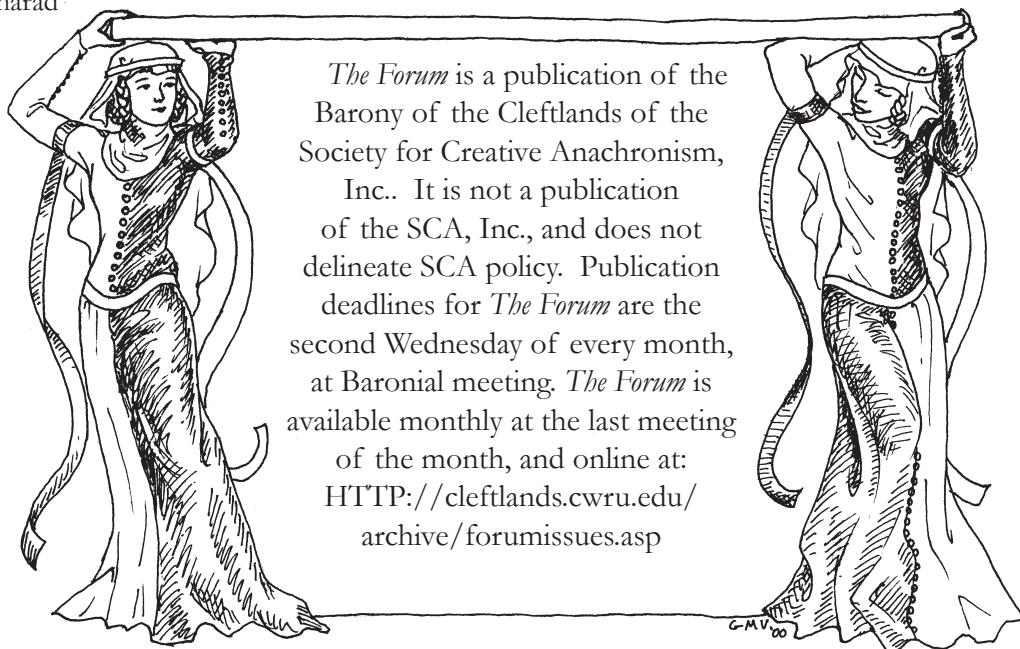
3-16 Terpsichore at the Tower {Cynnabar} [Ypsilanti, MI]

3-23 Clancy Day {Starleaf Gate} [Windsor, ONT]

Oaken Regional A&S {Fenix} [Cincinnati, OH]

3-30 Road to the Isle [not 4/28] {Mistig Waetru} [Baraga, MI]

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)