



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 4/23/2023

Event Season Begins - Regional A&S and Standard Bearers

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Cleftlands has jumped into event season with two of their own (and two more to come!). On March 25th, Cleftlands hosted the first Regional A&S Faire since the pandemic; and shortly after, on April 15th, the first Cleftlands Standard Bearers since 2019 was held.

Under the previous arts & sciences model in the Kingdom, regional faires would be held throughout the Midrealm. Entrants would present their work and documentation to judges who scored them against a rubric and also provided feedback. The top scores could advance to a Kingdom Faire if they so chose, and would have the opportunity to update their documentation or entry based on what they learned that day. The official regional faires were discontinued in the new format. Instead, artisans have opportunities to get feedback at Tournaments of the Arts and via other avenues. The Kingdom Arts & Sciences Faire is currently the official place where artisans can enter and have the experience of a judge and scoring.



Count Nikolai enjoys a game at the A&S Faire



Baron Edward's top-scoring embroidery project from the A&S Faire.

Now, on to the champions! Cleftlands joined together on a perfect spring day to discover who would be the Barony's next Champions of heavy combat, rapier combat, archery, and A&S. The previous office-holders had been bearing the banners since 2019, and were ready to step down.

Tournaments were held in all four areas, but the winners aren't automatically chosen as Champion.

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"We decided to hold this event to give those artisans who didn't know what to expect from the judging and scoring to get some practice in," said Baron Crispin, the new Regional Minister of the Arts and Sciences for North Oaken. "This gives them a chance to get familiar with the format and see if they want to go to Kingdom. Because it's unofficial, the entries don't transfer to Kingdom."

Though this was the first such event, Sir Crispin declared it a success and plans to hold it again next year. As for the scoring, the person with the highest score was Cleftlands' own Baron Edward Brackenburye.



All the combatants who participated in the rapier tournament at Standard Bearers.

Cleftlands Standard Bearers - continued

First, what is a Baronial Champion? Champions wear the Baronial colors and escort Their Excellencies at court and other processions. They may represent the Barony at events or at Pennsic. For example, there is often a Baronial Champions' battle at Pennsic. They may also take on other duties, such as setting challenges for the populace, organizing activities, and more. What they do is determined entirely by Their Excellencies. Champions usually serve for a year, when we are not living in unprecedented times.

Anyone may participate in the tournaments with the intention either to put themselves forward to possibly become a Champion - or not. And anyone, of any rank or experience, can compete to be Champion. At the tournaments, the contender's skill is displayed, but then they are interviewed by Their Excellencies who choose Champions based on their own criteria.

At the event, the populace came out to witness the skill of local fighters, archers, and artisans for a casual day of sun and camaraderie. Their Excellencies then held court to announce their choices:

- For armored combat, Lord Tryggr Gillason. This position has been empty since Sergeant Americk Gilead moved out of the Kingdom.
- For rapier combat, Warder João Afonso Terciopelo de Galicia (whom you may know as Velvet), took the standard from the willing hands of Lady Jaqueline.
- For archery, Master Milesent relieved Lord Dafydd Myddleton.
- Finally, for the arts & sciences, Lord Mikhomaskwa (also known as Lord Rojhon) took up the cape from Baron Stephan Von Lübeck.

It should be noted that Lord Mikhomaskwa's entry was also the feast he planned, cooked, and served that day - a selection of Native dishes representing cultures throughout the Americas.

Congratulations to the all the new Champions! May they serve well - and for much less time!!



The new Champions of Cleftlands!

News of the Barony

- Congratulations to the Barony's new Youth Officer: Lady Chaiya Leah bat David.
- A vote will be held on a new Baronial expenditure: purchasing 2 complete new sets of armor for Iron Key. More details will be forthcoming.
- Five new fencing helmets have been purchased by the Barony and are available in the loaner gear (for use at meeting site only).
- Forester Cadfan will be stepping down as the Barony's Archery Marshal on June 1. The application for this position will be open soon. See him to ask questions about the office.
- Recommend your friends for awards! There are two more events happening in Cleftlands with courts! For Kingdom awards, fill out this form: <https://midrealm.org/award-recommendations/>
- Check the Cleftlands populace wiki to see what awards they have: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Populace>
- See all the events going on in Cleftlands at the new online events portal here: <https://events.cleftlands.org/>
- Cleftlands is hosting Spring Crown Tournament and Kingdom A&S Faire May 27 and 28. Assistance is needed: contact Lady Katherin verch Rhys to help. Find out more details <https://events.cleftlands.org/crown/>
- Northern Oaken War Maneuvers is also being held this year on June 10 (2 weeks after Crown!). You may camp on Saturday night if you make arrangements with the camp site. More: <https://events.cleftlands.org/nowm/>

Crown Tourna-what? In which we provide a crash course on understanding how a Midrealm Crown Tournament works.

by Lady Claricia de la Mere, with assistance from Duchess Runa Æikibrandskona

Cleftlands is hosting the spring Crown Tournament for the Middle Kingdom, and most people understand in general what that means: a heavy combat tournament where the winner and the person they fight for become the next rulers of the Kingdom. What more is there to know? Well, it turns out, plenty! I sat down with Duchess Runa who's been through the process a few times to tell me what it takes to enter, and what it means to win.

First, every Kingdom and Principality is different in how often they hold their tournaments and the specifics as to the tournament. However, wherever you go in the SCA, rulers must be determined by heavy combat tournament. That tournament must finish with a 16-person, double-elimination showdown – but the circumstances around who enters, how the final 16 are determined, and what the bouts look like are less set in stone.

The Middle Kingdom has two Crown Tournaments every year: one over Memorial Day weekend (along with the Kingdom A&S Faire), and one in October. The winner of the May tournament steps up to rule in late September, and the winner of the October tournament steps up at the beginning of May. In the time between, the Heirs learn the ropes and take on additional duties to prepare for ascending to the thrones. Not all Kingdoms do the same thing. Even Kingdoms that have two tournaments a year are often on different schedules. For example Crown Tournaments are in January and August in Atenvelt, in April and October in Drachenwald, etc. The West has three a year!

So, who gets to enter their names into the Crown Tournament list? The short answer is – anyone could, in theory. Prospective combatants submit a letter of intent to the Royalty who will be presiding over the tournament (in the Midrealm those must be received by the coronation of the current Heirs). Per Society law, each competitor must be fighting for a consort (that consort could be a significant other, or it could be another family member or friend), and cannot already be active Royalty. Both members of the pair must be current members of the SCA as of the date of the tournament, they must have access to the Kingdom newsletter, and of course the combatant must be an authorized heavy fighter. The pair sends in their letter, which can be as simple as “we wish to fight in Crown Tournament,” along with their driver's licenses (to show residence and whatnot), and membership cards.

Any Peer, not just the Knights, may put their name in, as long as one of the applicants in the pair is going to fight in the tournament. So, for example, Master Milesent, who is a Laurel, could freely submit a letter of intent along with any authorized heavy fighter. If neither member of the prospective pair are Peers, they can be recommended by a Peer and/or invited by the Crown. In the case of recommendations, when the applicant sends in their letter of intent, they would include letter(s) of recommendation.

The Crown then reviews the applicants and accepts or, in rare cases, denies them entry to the list.

There's also the unofficial aspect of being ready. Being a Royal requires a lot of commitment, and if you enter, you just might win! As soon as the Heirs are determined, the work begins, and doesn't stop for at least a year. Royals meet regularly with the Kingdom officers to discuss important matters, and must make weighty decisions around everything from law changes to settling personal disputes to gathering allies for Pennsic. They attend Peerage meetings and are ultimately responsible for approving a new Peer. They determine the court list for each upcoming Royal court - you may not know that every award given is approved by the Crown! They might then prepare for those courts by learning a bit about each award recipient, planning for elevations, and gathering tokens to give out. And courts could be every week! It is, Duchess Runa summarizes, “like having an additional full-time job.”

While Royals are not required to go to events except the Crown Tournaments and Elevations around their reigns, it is strongly recommended that they attend as many as possible - especially Pennsic, and Gulf Wars is also encouraged. So the ability to travel on weekends is preferable. Thankfully, the costs of travel are largely covered by a travel fund, but there will be incidentals that come from personal funds. And coverage also depends on how flush the fund is, though the Kingdom does its best to raise additional monies.

Other investments might be for garb - it's always nice to look the part! While the Kingdom's expert artisans may be willing to donate their time to make things, usually it's the Royals who personally pay for the materials. It is helpful to have friends you know will step up to help with this.

Get to the fighting parts - continued on the next page.

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Know Your Champions: Warder João Afonso Terciopelo de Galicia, known as Velvet, Cleftlands Rapier Champion (mka Matthew Hooper)

1.) How did you get involved in Cleftlands?

My wife and I moved from Atlanta, GA to Cleveland 15 years ago. We had been very active in the LARP scene down there, and wanted a new place to make friends and meet people. We were immediately floored by the depth of community available at Cleftlands. We've never looked back.

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

I am deeply involved with rapier in the SCA. I also dabble in poetry; I've written that I'm fond of. I like to participate in A&S as an enthusiastic fan and admirer.

3.) Why do you enjoy rapier fighting?

The tactical depth in rapier entralls me. There are period manuals on rapier dating all the way back to the 1320's. All of them have unique approaches to winning a fight. With practice and diligence, all of them work. You can fight just like your persona would have fought, and look amazing in the process.

4.) What advice would you give to someone interested in or just starting rapier fighting?

Come tell me you want to try it. The barrier to entry in rapier is extremely low. You can borrow a sword and start sparring Cleftlanders in a week. It's a game that's simple to play and challenging to master, and it is incredibly fun.

5.) Tell us an interesting historical rapier fact!

One of the first Italian sword manuals was written by Camillo Agrippa in 1553. Agrippa wasn't a soldier or sword master; he was an engineer. He proved, using math, that a thrust from a rapier was the fastest, most efficient way to strike an opponent, and that a lunge was the best way to execute that thrust. It's rare to find something unquestionably true in the martial arts, but the numbers don't lie.



Crown Tournament Insider - continued

That's a lot of organization. To help, any prospect should appoint a Chamberlain to organize scheduling and a Head Retainer, who is in charge of keeping track of all the stuff. It's helpful to decide this ahead of the tournament.

So, on to the fighting. To do well at the tournament, it is of course recommended that the heavy combatant get their practice in, and be skilled at many different forms. The rules for Crown Tournament, apart from what's required by law, are determined by the Crown hosting the tournament. They may set additional entry requirements. For example, They could ask that each member of the prospective pair submit an A&S entry. Usually, They ask that the participating pair looks as historical as possible - no visible modern bits, weapons in good repair, and so on.

The Crown also sets the format of the bouts themselves. If there are more than 16 entrants, then They decide how to whittle down the field. They also decide how the matches will be fought throughout. It could be best 2 out of 3, they could all be fought with sword and shield, or the Crown might forbid the use of certain weapons. It can be different each time, which is why being able to fight with different weapons can be important. The Kingdom Earl Marshal runs the tournament in accordance with the requirements.

When the winner is determined they are immediately asked which regalia they want - so another consideration to enter might be to have room to carry stuff home. The winner might end up with anything from thrones to banners to swords and so on. Did you know that there's a [website](#) that shows the Kingdom regalia? So if someone really wanted to be prepared, they could go there and decide ahead of time what they might want.

Then the fighter is whisked off to a Chivlary meeting, and the Consort is taken to what's been called "Princess's Tea" where they can ask questions of other consorts and get ready for what's ahead. At evening court, the Heirs are officially crowned, and the process starts all over again for the next Crown Tournament.

So, what do you think? Would you want to enter Crown Tournament?

News of the Society

- Membership cards are back! The issues with printing physical SCA membership cards have been resolved and went out beginning April 19. <https://www.sca.org/news/membership-card-update/>
- Bad news - archives of the SCA-Comments list serve were accidentally made available to the public. If you submitted an email to comments@lists.sca.org/SCA-Comments@lists.sca.org between March 2020 and January 2023 you may have been impacted. Learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/accidental-release-of-business-in-confidence-information/>
- The Society is having a fundraiser to go to supporting the DEI office and initiatives. Read more here about how to get your snazzy shirt: <https://www.sca.org/news/our-sca-is-inclusive-fund-raiser/>
- The Society Marshal position is open. Learn more and apply: <https://www.sca.org/news/position-available-marshal-of-the-society/>
- As of May 1, 2023 there will be an increase in the fee for an insurance certificate. Learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/our-sca-is-inclusive-fund-raiser/>

News of the Kingdom

- Want to participate in the Kingdom A&S Faire? Can you help judge (there are never enough)? Sign up here: <https://a-and-s-portal.herokuapp.com/>
- A new group designation has been created: Hamlet. The Hamlet relies on a sponsor group for money and property, so that they do not have to file financial or other paperwork, meaning they are not required to have the corresponding officers. Read all about it [here](#).
- The rapier marshals test has been updated to reflect recent rule revisions. Find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/MidrealmRapierMarshalTest>
- Keep a lookout for a new weapon on the rapier field - there is a test going on for the use of Atlatls.



The final match of the Fall 2022 Crown Tourney - Sir Wigthehn vs. (then) Sir Louis, who became Prince Louis.



Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art

Banner, Spain, 16th century

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1916.1885>

Size: About 43 x 54.5 inches

Red and brown velvet with embroidery and fringe

This banner depicts the royal arms of Spain quartered with the Madonna and Child. The Spanish arms include representations of the regions that made up the country at the time: a castle for Leon, two eagles for Sicily, and a pomegranate for Granada. The yoke and bundle of arrows at the bottom were included with the union of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile.

Fun fact: this banner was hanging in the Cleveland Museum's armor court when it opened in 1916.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

April 29 - Grand Tournament of the Dragon; Tournaments for armored, rapier, A&S, ranged. West Chester, OH. \$20.
<https://dubhcailleach.wix-site.com/grandtournament>

April 29 - The Awakening XXXIV - Annual Armored Easter Egg Hunt; Armored, rapier, thrown, "best rabbit" A&S. McLean, IL. \$12.
<https://sites.google.com/view/awakenings2023?pli=1>

May 6 - Spring Coronation; Pagentry, martial tournaments. Bluffton, IN. \$20
<https://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/coronation-spring-2023/>

May 12-14 - Mugmort Melees XVI; Many melees. Armored, rapier, ranged, equestrian. Granville, OH. \$8.
<https://mugmort.midrealm.org/mugmort-melees/mugmort-melees-16/>

May 13 - May Day; Armored, rapier, archery. Union, KY. \$20
<https://fenix.midrealm.org/baronial-calendar/may-day/>

May 19-21 - Constellation Academy of Defense & Dance Symposium; Rapier tournaments and dance. Spencer, IN. \$10
<https://sites.google.com/view/cadd-2023/homelees-16/>

May 20 - St. Cecilia at the Tower IX; Music. Union, KY. \$Donation + lunch and dinner.
<https://www.cynnabar.org/cecilia>

May 27-28 - Spring Crown Tournament and Kingdom A&S; Crown tournament, A&S competition, armored, rapier, classes. \$20.
<https://events.cleftlands.org/crown>

April-May 2023 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. April 26 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Dessert Revel** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. April 27 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Fri. April 28 10:00am-4:00pm - **Garb-a-Thon** - Parma Snow Library. Get details on the Facebook event: [Link](#)
- Sun. April 30 **Painting the Barony's Directional Signs** - Sarra's House. Get details in the Facebook event: [Link](#)
- Sun. April 30 2-5pm - **North Oaken Regional Target Archery Practice** - 15754 Centerburg Rd, Centerburg, OH 43011. Get details in the Facebook event: [Link](#)
- Wed. May 3 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. May 3 7:30pm - **Class at Baronial Meeting: How to Kumihimo** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. May 4 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. May 10 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. May 10 7:30pm - **Class at Baronial Meeting: SCA 101** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. May 11 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. May 17 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. May 18 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. May 24 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. May 25 7:00pm - **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.

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

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
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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

- April 23 1014 - High King of Ireland Brian Boru defeats a Viking invasion, but is killed at the Battle of Clontarf.
- April 24 1183 BCE - Traditionally given as the day that Troy fell and the Trojan war ended.
- April 25 404 BCE - End of the Peloponnesian War with the Spartan blockade of Athens.
- April 26 1348 - Charles University, the first university in central Europe, is founded by Czech king Karel IV in Prague.
- April 27 1593 - Birth date of [Mumtaz Mahal](#), the empress consort of the Mughal Empire - the Taj Mahal was built for her tomb.
- April 28 1294 - TemürKhan, grandson of Kublai, is elected Khagan of the Mongols.
- April 29 1483 - The main island of the Canary Islands, Gran Canaria, is conquered by the Kingdom of Castile.

Photos from the A&S Faire and Standard Bearers events are used with gratitude to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.

Portrait of Warder Velvet and the Fall 2022 Crown Tourney are used courtesy of Master Phillip the Pilgrim.

The image of the Spanish banner 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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