



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 20, October, 2001

## All Hail the New Heirs to The Midrealm!

The Cleftlands rejoice as this fall's Crown Tournament results in the first royalty in our barony since Emmelyne and Emrys were crowned in 1986. Newly-knighted Valharic showed a confident visage before the tournament, proudly naming Dame Alys as his consort, but many were startled at the glorious win. Lord Darius was at the event, attending his first crown, which resulted in his house brother's victory and a possible autocrating job for Darius! Katherine del Val interviewed Darius about his experiences for *The Forum*.

Katherine: I know you were excited to go to your first crown tourney - did it meet/exceed your expectations?

Darius: I have been an SCA member for more than 6 years and I felt that it exceeded my expectations. I have been to many events, including running a Coronation, throughout my SCA career, but crown tourney was an experience that I will never forget. There were many people there from all over the kingdom all striving for one thing: to win the crown for their consort.

Katherine: Was there anything in particular that stood out as interesting for you?

Darius: The pageantry of the event was my favorite part. I liked that each contestant and their consort presented

themselves to the King and the Queen. I also liked the camaraderie and fun that the fighters had on the lists and all the wonderful garb that I saw. Of course being a kingdom level event the best garb always comes out. One of those fun times was when Vincent was presenting Valharic and Alys Katheryn. It was like watching *A Knights Tale*. Cause you know he can embellish.

Katherine: By the way - can you tell me anything more about when Val presented Alys?

You said he could embellish.... what sorts of things did he say? Did he bow, or kneel when he was supposed to "Honor those who inspire you this day"?

Darius: Actually it was Vincent who was the one who could embellish. You'll have to get details from him on what he said because I don't remember. It was very entertaining, though.

There was a point just before the

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## Feeling Confident About the Vote of Confidence?

*By Milesent Vibert*

When word first circulated about the changes to kingdom law that made a vote of confidence for landed barons and baronesses a requirement, a lot of eyes turned toward the Cleftlands. There are only two original landed Barons in the Middle Kingdom, Baron Moonwulf of Rivenstar and our Baron Laurelen. Rivenstar was made a barony before Cleftlands and so Moonwulf actually predates Laurelen, but only by a few months. (Ithriliel was not made Baroness until two years later, may of 1980) The Barony of Rivenstar has already undergone their vote of confidence, and to everyone's relief Moonwulf and his barony both passed the ordeal uneventfully.

As our turn at the vote of confidence draws near, many cleftlanders are concerned or confused by the process. Strong opinions abound. Some like this added structure for voicing their opinions, others find it an unwelcome intrusion of kingdom law into baronial business. A few panicked individuals wondered if the laws were not written specifically with the Cleftlands in mind, rest assured this was not the case. Before this there existed

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## Our Officers

**Seneschal:** Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch)  
3735 Marvin Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44109

**Pursuivant:** Lord Pietro Nicolo 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:** Sgt. Conrad Schwartzwolf (Marty Bradac)  
3835 W. 40th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44109

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

**Minister of Arts and Sciences:** Lord Karl Wilhelm von Koln (Don Minch)  
17545 Madison Ave. #101  
Lakewood, OH 44107

**Chroniclers:** Ladies Lyonnete et Milesent Vibert (Marie & Grace Vibbert)  
445 Richmond Park W., #328B  
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

**Chatelaine:** Lady Alex  
2616 E 124th st.  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
blkrose@aol.com

## Crown Continued

finals that the finalists introduced their opponent's consort to TRM before the fight. All knelt before the crown and each consort was presented a bouquet of flowers, then were seated next to their majesties, who sat directly next to the list field. I thought this was odd, that the contestants presented each other's consort.

Katerine: Was there a lot of personal regalia there? Banners and such? Anything particularly cool?

Darius: Every fighter and Consort had their personal coat of arms present when they presented themselves. Actually, two things stuck out for me. One was that a group - I have no idea where they were from - had an oak stand with each personal symbol of the contestants of that group. They had also brought this beautiful wood carved chair. (Phil should have a picture.)

Katerine: You took Phil along, right? Was he as excited as you were?

Darius: I think he was more nervous than I was. He was going to the event knowing nobody but me. He did enjoy himself as much as I did.

Katerine: Were there any displays of chivalry or particularly touching displays from the individuals fighting, or their consorts?

Darius: There were many touches of chivalry I felt. All the contestants were asked to bow before the one who inspires you, and all gave a bow before their consort. Many knelt before their consort. I thought this was very touching, that all their efforts were for their consort. They were going to win that crown for them.

Katerine: Of course, the fact that the current king and the victor in the tournament are both friends and house brothers to you must make this a particularly interesting event.

Darius: I just felt that it was a unique situation. I was going to that event: One, to see Ragnvaldr and Arabella at their best. Two, to have a good time being my first crown tourney. Three, to see what a crown tourney would look like so that one day I could run one for Cleftlands.

I actually had three household brothers fighting in crown. I would have had another but mundane problems got in the way of that couple. It was bound to happen, that as active as my household is, someone from Darkyard would be sitting the throne and someone from Darkyard would win their crown tourney. It was a very proud moment for everyone in Darkyard. We all know that it will be a lot of work with two consecutive terms but we are all willing to chip in some way to support our household brother or anyone who sits on the throne.

Aldemoureis Ventzke attended crown as well. Dame Alys Katharine had asked her to accompany her and sit with her at the tournament. Alda reports that Alys was bubbling over with excitement and elated to be fought for, and that her joy only increased at Valhalric's victory. Said Alda, "It was worth it all just to see her so happy. That energetic mood lasted all the way home." More than just wining the tournament, Valhalric can certainly be said to have been victorious in bringing honor and joy to his lady.

Alda also reported that the gymnasium where the tournament was held was decorated with white streamers and columns. A very Romanesque feel for the Darkyard king turned out to be fortuitously appropriate for the new heir as well. There was even a working fountain set up in the hall, adding a regal air to the environs.



## Vote Continued

no structured method of asking an unwanted baron or baroness to step down. The Crown always had the prerogative to personally ask a landed baron or baroness to step down, but it is perhaps understandable why They would wish to have the power of a populace vote behind Their decision.

Simply put, the vote of confidence means that baronies must on a periodic basis of at least once every 5 years (we can do it more frequently if we wish) have a polling of society members to see if they are confident in their baron and/or baroness. Do you personally think that your baron and baroness are doing their job well enough to continue doing so? The final decision is up to the Crown. It is possible that They would decide in opposition of the majority vote, though this is unlikely.

Every card carrying member of the Society for Creative Anachronism in Cuyahoga County will get a polling ballot that asks this question. Space will also be included for personal comments and opinions. Reportedly the Crown is particularly interested in

your comments so please feel free to include them.

Some members of the populace have expressed concern over who would get to see these ballots and read their opinions. Only the curia regis, kingdom seneschal and the King and Queen will be reading the comments. Note that none of our baronial officers will see the ballots. There is no need to worry about persecution for your opinion, your name will only be on your ballot if you voluntarily sign it.

The official boarders of the Barony of the Cleftlands are those of Cuyahoga County, though several of our most active people live outside of this boarder. What should you do if you don't live in Cuyahoga County? If you want your voice to be heard, simply write a letter to the Crown, curia or kingdom seneschal. Your vote will not be counted in the polling, but your opinion does matter and will be weighed accordingly. Lord Nial has addresses, they are also available in *The Pale* and on line at [www.midrealm.org](http://www.midrealm.org).

If you have recently moved to Cuyahoga County, make sure to send a change of address notification to SCA Corporate as soon as possible.

If you would like to become a member of the Society or renew a lapsed membership so that you may take part in the vote, Lord Nial has membership forms available. A membership form is also included in the kingdom newsletter so anyone who receives *The Pale* will have one. But get your forms in soon, the kingdom hopes to have completed the polling by February. The kingdom will get the address list from SCA Corporate 60 days before the polls are sent out. Lord Nial as our seneschal will receive his ballot first, tentatively in December. He will bring his ballot to meeting so we can all see what we should be getting in the mail soon. If you do not receive your ballot within a month of Lord Nial's, see him. The kingdom will not start counting votes until 67% of the ballots have been returned.

Hopefully the vote of confidence process will be as painless and routine for the Cleftlands as it was for Rivenstar. The staff of the Forum will do our best to keep you informed of developments, look forward to an interview with His Grace in an upcoming issue.



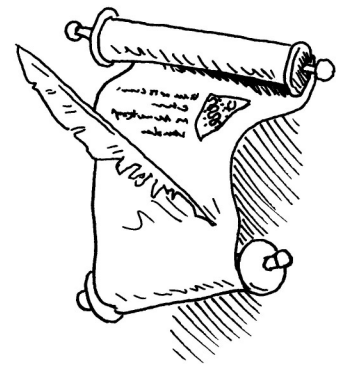
# New Baronial Charter to be Written

Changes in Middle Kingdom law require that all baronies now have a written charter outlining, amongst other things, how frequently a vote of confidence will occur and the duties and limitations of the office of Baron. Obviously, this will not be an overnight task in such a large and complex barony as ours.

To help create the charter a committee of nine is being selected. Members of the committee shall come from all segments of the Cleftlands populace, a knight, a laurel, our seneschal and his deputy, His Grace, members who have been here for ages and some new people. As soon as the committee and alternates have been finalized, their names will be published in this Forum. All members of the populace should feel free to approach members of the committee to express their opinions and concerns.

Lord Nial expressed that he hopes the charter will be fairly hands off concerning guilds and households, except of course for mentioning that they exist. This should make the task at least that much simpler and set guild masters and mistress's minds at ease. Also Nial voiced his opinion that the vote of confidence happen as infrequently as kingdom law allows for the simple reason that we as a barony must pay for the polling. Anyone who has specific suggestions for the charter, Lord Nial requests you submit your ideas in writing. A piece of paper can be much more reliable than human memory and will ensure that your opinion is properly considered by the committee. Lord Nial will be bringing paper and writing materials with him to meetings during for such use, and also will be happy to receive your opinions via email at [nialofbork@hotmail.com](mailto:nialofbork@hotmail.com).

Once a rough draft charter has been agreed upon by the committee, it will be presented to the populace. All cleftlanders will have a chance to read the charter, comment and vote. This process will be repeated as often as necessary ensure that the maximum percentage of the barony is pleased with the final draft of the charter.



## Notes and Happenings

We have this event coming up in January - no, really! See Ephraim for details, or to volunteer. Rumor has it that Their Highnesses will be attending!

Angharad and Francesca are doing the feast for this January Event, and say they have something "completely different" this time. See them for details, or to volunteer.

CWRU Medieval Society has secured the promise that anyone wishing to park at Carlton Commons for their meetings may do so. There is a gate on the parking lot now, and a call box. Simply

call the posted number for security and state that you are parking "for the Medieval Society" and you will be let in. No more worries about parking tickets!

The Archery Guild is shooting for rankings! See Darius, That chick, or one of the marshalls for details. Shooting for ranking will take place at Sunday practices at Lucas Archery.

The Scribe's Guild is offering a class on begining scribing at Baronial meeting next week!

Domesdays are due soon! See Nial

if you aren't sure whether you owe a report or not. Chances are, you do.

See Darius if you are interested in Scouting. See him soon, he's going to be busy!

Milesent and Lyonnete are proud to report that Vietnam is ripe for SCA take over! We saw children battling in the streets with sticks and many 'medieval' gates and architecture features.





# Chronicler's Corner - Web Directory is a Reality! Cleftlands to produce Literary Review

Your webmistress is keeping a living directory on her computer, and will be bringing her much abused and battered printed version to meetings, have you moved recently? Gotten a new email address or new award? Let her know! The directory database is set up so that at any time Milesent can print off a complete and accurate baronial directory, help her make sure this is a truthful statement!

The new Cleftlands website is almost complete and looking fabulous. It includes a searchable directory of members (No addresses, mundane names or email addresses will be published unless you specifically request to have them posted). This directory would be much more beautiful with your coat of arms by your name. If you have a registered device, consider giving the webministry a picture of it. We prefer .jpg or .gif format, though old fashioned crayon drawings will also be accepted. See Milesent or Brian for details.

Milesent is also collecting bits of baronial history, if you have ever served in a baronial office or received the Award of the Winged Trine she'd love to talk to you.

Do you write poetry? Fiction? The staff of the *Forum* will be collecting a *Cleftlands Literary Review* of work from members of the barony. Here's your chance to show off! Black and white artwork is also welcome, and we are looking for volunteers to help with editing as well.

Submissions should be on Medieval topics or in a period style. For example,

sonnets, sagas, chansons are acceptable styles. Historical events, SCA culture and fiction set in medieval times are acceptable topics. We hope this will provide all the members of the barony a chance to showcase their talents and entertain their fellows. All submissions will be read, but some may be omitted due to space constraints or inappropriate content. If we get many submissions, a length restriction will have to be imposed. Authors will be given a chance to edit their pieces down to fit if necessary.

The deadline for submissions to the literary review is February Desert Revel, 2-27-02. We hope to have the issue printed and ready for distribution at Standard Bearer's in May. Submissions may be emailed to [mlv4@po.cwru.edu](mailto:mlv4@po.cwru.edu) or handed to Lyonnete or Milesent at regular meeting. Hard copy is fine, along with electronic submissions. Please no hand-written submissions unless they are very neatly printed. If the Literary Review is a success, we might pick it up as a yearly publication. See Lyonnete (Marie Vibbert) for details.

As always, the *Forum* is looking for articles. Projects, research, event reports and local news items are all appropriate. We'd especially like to encourage new members to write for the newsletter. You don't have to know it all to write about it! Articles must be turned in to Lyonnete or Milesent by the second meeting of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.



## Guild Officers

**Archery** -Darius abd  
al-Wajiid

**Armorer's** -Timothy  
Woodhall

**Brewer's and Vinter's**  
-Nial the Wanderer of  
Bork

**Children's** -Marsaili  
ingen Domnaill

**Cooks** -Ealdred

**Dance** -Milesent Vibert  
and Kathryn verch Rhys

**Glassworker's**  
-Alexandra la Noire and  
Seadna O'Bainainn

**Needleworker's**  
-Madelaine Bouvier

**Scribes** -Guenhwyvar  
MacEwen

# Calendar for November

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## As Usual:

**Regular Meetings** on Wednesday Nights at the Shore Center

There will not be a meeting Wednesday, November 21st due to Thanksgiving.

**Archery Guild** Sundays at 1pm at Lucas Archery

**Armorer's Guild** Thursday nights at Valorian's house

**Dance Guild** Second Monday at Euclid Public Library

**Fencing Practice** Sunday nights at Wulfgar's Dojo

**CWRUMS Meeting** Tuesday nights at 7pm at Carlton Commons.

## Local Happenings:

**11-4-01** Scribe's Guild Meeting.

**11-7-01** The Scribe's Guild will be sponsoring a class on begining as a scribe at this day's baronial meeting.

**11-14-01** Submission deadline for November *Forum*.

**11-28-01** Desert Revel, publication of November *Forum*. The Children's Guild will be sponsoring a class on making clay beads at this meeting.

**11-30-01** Gwyntarian Dance Night

## Selected Events:

**11-2-01 through 11-4-01** Crystal Ball - [Bellville Ill.]

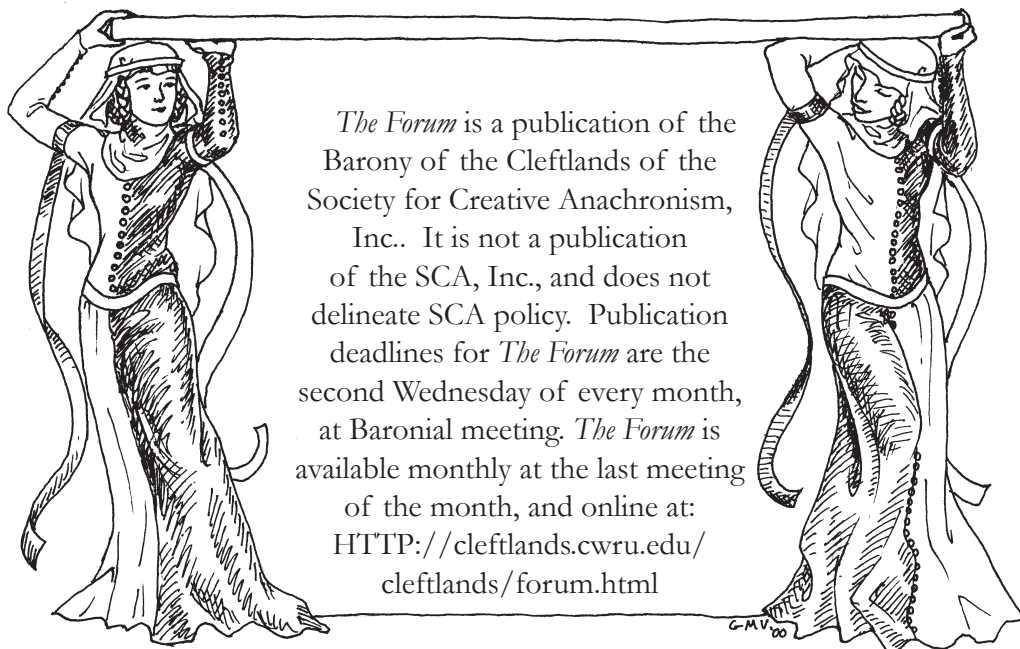
**11-3-01** Royal University of the Midrealm - Flaming Gryphon {Dayton, OH}

**11-10-01** Red Dragon - Tirnewydd [Columbus, OH]

**11-17-01** Flaming Gryphon Baronial Championship - Hawkes Keye

**11-17-01** Dancer's Revolt [Warren, 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/cleftlands/forum.html](http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/cleftlands/forum.html)