



## *A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 7/19/2020*

### News of the Realm

#### Kingdom News

- Master Cerridwen, Kingdom Seneschal, recently made an announcement that **all Middle Kingdom events will be canceled through August**. The full announcement: <https://midrealm.org/2020/07/15/covid-19-middle-kingdom-update-from-kingdom-seneschal/> We can still meet in small groups according to the guidelines that are available on the Cleftlands website, along with forms needed to do an official guild meeting. No marshaled activities are permitted (armored, rapier, archery, ranged, equestrian, etc.).
- **Harvest Days, scheduled for September, has also been canceled**. See the events still planned here: <https://services.midrealm.org/ords/f?p=514:33:14311549024875:::~&tz=-4:00>
- **Armored combat with rebated steel**: There were changes made to the Society Marshal's Handbook that allow for certain new things, including the rebated steel, plumbata, slings, or atl-atls. The Middle Kingdom is not going to adopt any of the changes at this time. The Earl Marshal determined that how and if we want to implement the changes into our Kingdom will be decided when we can meet again.

#### Baronial News

- **A Baronial virtual meeting** was held Wednesday, July 15. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS2XD672XE>
- **Standard Bearers will not be held this year**. The current champions will serve a longer term.
- **Regular Event**: In hopes we will be able to have it, we will be contacting the event site to reserve a date with them and on the Kingdom calendar. An experienced event steward is needed, please contact Lady Claricia or Their Excellencies if you are interested.
- **Survey results**: About 40 people replied to the survey sent out to poll the populace about virtual Baronial gatherings. The majority were in favor of virtual meetings once a month or as needed, and against online social gatherings. Therefore, virtual baronial meetings will be held on that schedule.
- **Reminder - diversity classes wanted!** Their Excellencies are looking for people to create or share virtual classes in areas such as: women in history; women in European history; diversity of cultures that traveled to Europe; people of color in history; people of color in European history; South American/African/Asian/Native American cultures pre-17th century; LGBTQIA people in history; LGBTQIA people in European history; people with disabilities in history; people with disabilities in European history; or additional topics on diversity. Please contact them with your ideas.
- **Pennsic memories wanted!** We need your help for a special "Cleftlands at Pennsic" special issue of the newsletter and a Pennsic Baronial Court. Please send your favorite photos and memories - also looking for short write-ups around organizing or competing in Pennsic events (such as what it's like to lead the army, organize or participate in the A&S display, etc.). Please send these by July 31.
- **The Cleftlands Shop**: Sergeant Njall has volunteered his time and effort to create a shop carrying Baronial merchandise. Get yours here: <https://cleftlands.myshopify.com/>

#### SCA News -

- Armored Combat with Rebated (Steel) Blades - learn all about it! <https://www.sca.org/news/armored-combat-with-rebated-steel-blades/?fbclid=IwAR0pXQKZhcegPSX0DASrIbT5kxSYJsuI0hYsRFxJ7Lu1S7QVLd-4Cj669mAs>

## From the Minister of Arts & Sciences -



- **The challenge for July will be starting your Pennsic 49 project.** This is the month we always start a project for Pennsic at the last minute, and in honor of that tradition, we ask you to share your projects with us. You don't have to finish them, after all, you've got another year to procrastinate!
- Armorer's is meeting on this Thursday and next. Needleworkers will meet again on the 28th.
- This month is RUM's Officer, Service, and Minister's term. There are still lots of interesting classes to come, posted on the Baronial A&S Calendar.
- There are many inter-Kingdom educational opportunities available right now, both in A&S and the martial arts. Not only are there live online events and classes going on, many of them are being recorded for viewing later. Even the classes you miss may still be within your reach. Consider the Iberian College (posts with links are on the FB group page), or the Online University of Atlantia on 12-Sept, the Tablet Weaver's tea this weekend, Eik-brandr's classes on combat, and more. A good source to find class information is the SCA Virtual Classroom and Artisan Display group on Facebook.
- If you have any interest in teaching or presenting within the Barony, perhaps as a trial run before a class open to the a Known World, please let Baroness Angharad know, and she can help you get it online.

### Virtual Classes for the Week of July 19 through July 31 -

- **Monday July 20 7pm EST - Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/288190532382664/>
- **Tuesday July 21 7pm EST - Peer Dependent Relationships & Communication:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/734659974013242/>
- **Wednesday July 22 7pm EST - Minister of Youth - What is involved?:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/574111296609268/>
- **Sunday July 26 3pm EST - How to Run a Virtual Court:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/562686121085996/>
- **Monday July 27 7pm EST - Building teamwork: SCA Volunteers:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1259603874379125/>
- **Tuesday July 28 7pm EST - Exchequary Basics:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1260912394252635/>
- **Wednesday July 29 7pm EST - Exchequary Reporting and Procedures:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/3697018846982184/>

## From the Knights' Marshal

Reminder that with the Midrealm's change to not requiring membership, all fighters have to submit an individual waiver in order for their authorizations and martial status to be valid. Look yourself up in the Midrealm Authorization Database (<https://marshaldb.midrealm.org/authorization.html>) and it gives your waiver status in the upper right hand corner. To send in the waiver, you can get the form at <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/adlt-waiv.pdf>. It gets sent to the clerk of the roster ([rosterclerk@midrealm.org](mailto:rosterclerk@midrealm.org)).



## For the Combat & Ranged Arts

**Armored:** Duke Eik's Longsword #5 Thumb Cuts

<https://youtu.be/Hhcy45gSKVE>

**Fencers:** Warder Velvet's Basic Reminders (for youth, but we can all go back to basics sometimes):

<https://www.facebook.com/msrlapin/vid-eos/10220236022304522/Uzpf-STEwNDY1NzIzMzE6Vks6M-TAxNTc3NTQyNTIyMDcwMTM/>

Warder Velvet's Challenge (for adults):

<https://www.facebook.com/msrlapin/vid-eos/10220236222389524/>

## 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](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com).

Thank you and stay well!

# 5 Questions for Cleftlanders - The Honorable Lord Niccolò Bartolazzi (mka Jess Rudolph) (he/him)

## 1.) Who got you involved in the SCA?

Mistress Milesent Vibert and THL Lyonnete Vibert. In the late 1990s, Milesent and Lyonnete were trying to drum up interest from students at Case Western Reserve University (where the Cleftlands used to meet). They offered rides from the CWRU campus to the Cleftlands meetings and I took them up on the offer. This soon led to my helping to found the CWRU Medieval Society, an SCA-like student organization.



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

Historical comedic theatre (with a focus on commedia dell'arte) and historic board games (with a focus on chess). For most of my years in the SCA I have been fascinated by medieval games. I've constructed some sets but I must admit although I can teach it, I'm bad at playing chess! Since 2004 I've been immersed in commedia dell'arte and other theatre. I was inspired to form i Verdi Confusi, a very active commedia troupe in the SCA that also performs in Mundania and is the greatest passion project in my life. I try to teach classes in both theatre and gaming as often as I can.

## 3.) Can you give us one favorite memory from an event?

It is very hard to choose. A favorite moment from a Cleftlands event was at Regular Event: Dancing with the Tsars in 2016. Through some organizational confusion, i Verdi Confusi's performance was not listed on the schedule and we were slotted over lunch. We didn't anticipate much of an audience but suddenly after a few of our players busked the halls we had a packed room! This wound up being the same event I received my Evergreen so it was an overall amazing day for me.

## 4.) Who is one person from period history you'd like to have dinner with?

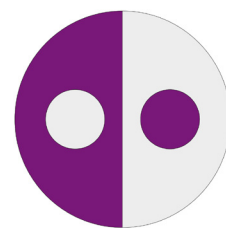
Isabella Andreini, one of the leaders and prima donna amorosa of the 15th Century commedia dell'arte troupe i Gelosi. I would love to discuss her insights and experience from being in early commedia.

## 5.) What is your favorite period-based movie or TV series?

I'm sadly going to disqualify "Gargoyles" because it mostly takes place in modern day (though the flashbacks taught a young me a lot about historic legend, lore, and literature). It's hard to say but for now I'll go with "A Knight's Tale". It is intentionally loose on history and very anachronistic, but I love how it portrays the emotional reactions of people in Period through a lens for modern audiences. What may entertain, amuse, and thrill us today is not the same as for audiences centuries ago - but those emotions are still the same. I try to evoke this with my performing arts: we look for our audiences to have a Period reaction even if not every element of our production is Period.

## From the Minister of Youth -

As the plague continues, boredom becomes more of a problem. So to our young and young at heart, I issue a challenge: Create a toy or game out of ONLY string, paper clips, rocks, paper, a toilet paper tube, and a pen or pencil. Take a photo or video of your toy or game. If you make a game please submit the rules for it with it. I look forward to seeing what you create by August 12!



# Crafting in Quarantine - Pennsic Challenge is for Winners

*By Lady Claricia de la Mere, who has lots of ideas, but little crafting skill*

Yes, Pennsic is canceled. But, like the Browns, there's always next year. Get ready ahead of time by answering Baroness Angharad's July challenge, and start your Pennsic project now! Not sure what to do? Glad you asked...

## **Hark, the Heraldry Could Sing:**

Put your arms on things. Tired of your camp-mates stealing your good knives? Paint or carve your device on the handles. Stencil it on your shield. It can go on your cooler. Banners are inspiring, and your arms deserve to be on one! Try it with silk painting, fabric paint, or sew on your device. If a banner is too large, why not a belt favor for you or your loved one? Also mug covers, table linens, fans, even your garb - make it personalized with your very own heraldry. Create a block so that you can stamp your arms on everywhere! Learn how from Lady Dulcia Wyld: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/images/f/fb/Internebbles-June7-2020.pdf> If you don't have arms, contact our Herald ([herald@cleftlands.org](mailto:herald@cleftlands.org))! Submissions are still being reviewed and approved.

## **If You Like it Then You Should Put Some Trim on It:**

Another Pennsic project might be sprucing up your summer garb. Add some trim to those t-tunics, practice your embroidery on the hem of your chemise, and get a warm-weather court outfit ready to go. Going the 10% extra can make a big difference in looking more authentic. Have you been putting off buying Baronial trim? It can now be purchased online: <https://cleftlands.myshopify.com/> Trim isn't limited to garb, either. You can add edging to your armor, paint a pattern on your arrows, or even tint your tent. One way to do it, and challenge yourself with a new skill, learn to do blackwork embroidery here: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/images/f/f5/Internebbles-May17-2020.pdf>

## **Garb, Garb Everywhere the Garb**

Speaking of garb, if your summer wardrobe is a little thin, start adding to it now. Go Greek or Roman with chitons, get an Indian kit together, or find period options with short sleeves. Even the old t-tunic has a place if you just need something to sit around camp in! If you like your look, make versions in different fabrics that will keep you cooler than the wool or the lined cotehardies you wear the rest of the year. Maybe you just need a few extra pieces, like veils to keep out the sun, a rain cloak, or a hood. Pennsic will come again - be comfortable when it does!

## **Camp Stop This Feeling**

Speaking of your camp, even though you're not going to Pennsic, it's still good to check on your gear. While you're going over your tent for holes and cleaning out spiders, take stock on what you could use to improve your setup. Did you have something you intended to make after last year, but forgot about it? Was it more period-looking lights? A shelving unit for your kitchen area? A new curtain for your tent? Your Pennsic project doesn't have to be period to work for the challenge.

## **Game-on Style**

Sometimes it's too hot to move, so try hiding in the shade with some games. There are card games and board games galore, but why not go medieval? Nine Men's Morris, Fox & Geese, Alquerque, and Tables are all examples. What the heck are those, Claricia? Well, THL Jolicia wrote an article to tell you more and give you sources on where to get more details: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/images/c/c7/Internebbles-Apr26-2020.pdf>

Hopefully this gives you some ideas to meet the challenge and keep your SCA skills going. Good luck - and remember, you only have to start, you've got another year to finish.

## **This Week in History**

July 19 1588 - The Spanish Armada is spotted in the English Channel.

July 20 1592 - During Japan's first invasion of Korea, the Japanese army captures Pyongyang.

July 21 905 - King Berengar I of Italy defeats Frankish forces at Verona; King Louis III is captured and blinded.

July 22 1298 - King Edward I defeats William Wallace and a Scottish army at Falkirk.

July 23 1403 - Thomas Percy is beheaded for his part in the rebellion against King Henry IV of England.

July 24 1148 - Louis VII of France lays siege to Damascus during the Second Crusade.

July 25 1261 - The city of Constantinople is recaptured by Nicaean forces to re-establish the Byzantine Empire.

July 26 1509 - Emperor Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagara Empire (India) ascends to the throne.



## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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## Upcoming Events

- Thursday, July 23 8pm EST - Virtual Armorer's Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487?pwd=UGJrZUxqNW5JQ05jeHBtYWdLQUl4QT09>