



barony
of the

Cleftlands *Internebbles*

A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 10/23/2022

News of the Realm

The Midrealm Has Heirs

Fall 2022 Crown Tourney was held on October 15, a blustery, chill day, to find the Heirs to the Dragon Throne. After much thrilling combat, the finals came down to Sir Wigthegn the Younger (a frequent face at Cleftlands practices and events) and Baron Louis LeCoffrier (KSCA). In the end, Baron Louis emerged victorious. Huzzah to the Heirs: His Highness Louis le Coffrier and Her Highness Sadb [roughly pronounced "Sive" like "five"] ingen Donnchada.

Their Highnesses are also the sitting Baron and Baroness of the Roaring Wastes (the Detroit area of Michigan). Watch their [page](#) for more information about them!



News of the Barony

- Bids are being sought for 2023 events, including Regular Event! We are hoping to have it in fall of 2023, so there's plenty of time to plan. Contact seneschal@cleftlands.org.
- October 26 will be the Cleftlands Masquerade Revel! Come with a mask to show off (either wearing it or displaying), and a dish to share. If you choose to accept the challenge, the Cooks' Challenge is to make a "disguised" food. There will also be spooky bardic performances, so practice your ghost stories and songs.
- Applications for Cleftlands Seneschal (term beginning Jan 1, 2023) will be accepted until October 31. See the news page for the job description and link to apply: <http://www.cleftlands.org/news/> Send questions to seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Congratulations to Cleftlanders at Red Dragon: Forester Gwyneth Cole won the archery tournament and Sir Sirius won the bear pit tournament.

News of the Kingdom

- Maestra Mirabai is the new Kingdom Rapier Marshal.
- There will be a Tournament of the Arts at Pentemere 12th Night January 7, 2023. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3fYyOCi>
- Her Royal Majesty AnneMarie has issued a challenge in the form of a quest, to be completed before she steps down from the Dragon Throne. If you're up for some personal growth see the details here: <https://trm.dag-annemarie.com/the-queens-quest/>
- Their Royal Majesties have an updated website with information about their reign: <https://trm.dag-annemarie.com/>
- The Kingdom Earl Marshal will be holding a series of 4 round tables: one for armored combat, one for fencing, one for archery and thrown weapons, and one for the other martial areas and general topics. At each session the Deputy Kingdom Marshal for that area and the Clerk of the Roster will join to answer questions, to get feedback, etc. Here are the dates:
 - Rapier - Monday, October 24 7:30 pm EST: <https://bit.ly/3MvzFXx>
 - Archery and Thrown Weapons - Tuesday, October 25 - 7:30pm EST <https://bit.ly/3fWukfK>
 - Armored Combat - Wednesday, October 26 - 7:30pm EST: <https://bit.ly/3MgWApn>
 - General - Wednesday, November 2 - 7:30pm EST: <https://bit.ly/3CnHCJy>

Masquerade! A History of Masked Balls

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Paper faces on parade - you have probably seen a masquerade featured in "Phantom of the Opera" or "Labyrinth," where attendees wear masks and gorgeous clothing and/or costumes and dance the night away.

The popularity of such events grew during the 15th century during Carnival, a Catholic season of revelry and excess that occurs in February or March before Lent. Carnival was a medieval creation that only first appeared around 1200. Celebrations became increasingly elaborate, and people wore masks and costumes as part of various traditions. Some of those traditions were role reversals or temporary social equality, such as being "king for a day."

Special events were held during this time to take advantage of the festive spirit, such as weddings or other events marked by the nobility. These began to include masks and costumes, but were not open to the general populace. The Ducal Court of Burgundy during the 1400s was especially known for sumptuous parties.

One infamous masquerade ball occurred in 1393, to celebrate the wedding of one of Queen Isabeau's ladies in waiting. In France at the time, when a widow remarried it was apparently an occasion for mischief, including disguises. In this case, Charles VI of France himself and five other nobles were sewn into costumes of wild men and performed a dance. The costumes were soaked in resin in order to attach flax all over their body, giving the appearance of a shaggy coat of fur. Knowing they were highly flammable, all lit torches were banned from the hall. Unfortunately, a drunken late entry brought torches, and a spark fell on one of the dancers. Four of the men, not Charles, burned alive. While it was intended to be known as "Bal des Sauvages" (Ball of the Wild Men, for the costumes), it is now more commonly known as "Ball des Ardents" (Ball of the Burning Men).

The most raucous parades and balls were held in Italy. One famous event is still celebrated today: The Carnival of Venice. The tradition says that it began as a celebration of the victory of the Venetian Republic over Aquila in 1162, although that only became official during the Renaissance. At this time masquerade balls spilled from private events into the public celebrations already going on, so masks became increasingly universal for all participants, not just those participating in the specific roles.

While the Republic of Venice eventually fell, and masquerades faded there, the Italians' masked influence continued elsewhere. In 18th century England, a Count (John James Heidegger from Zurich), had costumes brought from Venice to public dances. Masquerades became a fad there, known for mystery and "unescorted women."

The rest of Europe and even America held masquerades, although moralists protested. One other notorious masked event happened in 1771. Gustav III of Sweden had seized power from parliament in a coup d'etat, gaining him many enemies. When he threw a masquerade ball, a disgruntled nobleman was able to sneak in wearing a mask, and got close enough to the king to assassinate him. While such events were exceedingly rare, they have added to the mystique that still surrounds masquerades today.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masquerade_ball

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/masquerade-ball-history>



Illumination of the Bal des Ardents, from the Dutch "Chroniques".

This Week in History

- Oct. 23 1295 - France and Scotland sign a treaty forming the "Auld Alliance" against England.
- Oct. 24 1260 - Former slave and eventually Sultan of Egypt [Saif ad-Din Qutuz](#) is assassinated.
- Oct. 25 1400 - Geoffrey Chaucer, English writer and poet, dies. His body becomes the first writer in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey.
- Oct. 26 1377 - The first king of Bosnia, Tvrtko I, is crowned.
- Oct. 27 1275 - Founding of the city of Amsterdam, according to tradition.
- Oct. 28 1420 - Beijing is designated as the capital of the Ming Dynasty upon completion of the Forbidden City.
- Oct. 29 1618 - Sir Walter Raleigh, British adventurer, is executed for treason for violating a peace treaty with Spain.

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Meistara Thorhalla Carlsdottir af Broberg (mka Terry Broberg she/her)

1.) Tell us how your SCA journey led back to the Cleftlands.

My SCA journey began in October of 1984. In 1985, I was among the founding members of the Shire of Shadowed Stars (Fort Wayne, IN). I roamed the Constellation Region for many years. On May 7, 2021, my husband The Honorable Lord Thorkel inn berserker Gormsson died from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (C.T.E.) and early onset Alzheimer's. After struggling with depression for months, my children, Lord Egil Thokelsson and Lady Thorkatla Thorkelsdottir, counseled me to return home to my hometown of Cleveland. My first contact with the Cleftlands were the wonderful good people who came for 2 days to unload my possessions into a storage locker on a snowy January weekend. How could I not be both proud and honored to be a Cleftlander after that example? I have big shoes to fill!



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

I love to teach classes and geek out with other early period textile folks. If it's textiles, you have my attention.

3.) You are both a Laurel and a Pelican - what work did you do that led to those recognitions?

I was Laureled in music performance, music research and Norse costuming back in 1995. I used to perform with my Laurel, Master John ap Wynne. Those were wonderful times! I sang frequently with other House ap Wynne apprentices, too. I don't perform SCA culture music because I had been told many times that my voice sounds too trained for that genre. But, I have big musical plans afoot once I get moved.

I was Pelicaned for my work as Kingdom MOAS, for editing the Kingdom A & S Faire criteria, for being Constellation MOAS and Constellation Seneschal. Putting my hat in the ring for an officer position to serve the Barony is not out of the question down the road.

4.) What makes Cleftlands different from other groups you've been a part of?

The warm and generous nature of her people. The beautiful way that the martial arts and the gentle arts exist side by side. The inclusiveness. The opportunity to take good quality classes. And, I bet we are the only Barony in the SCA with a Crochet Corner. *big grin* [Editor's note: Meistara Thorhalla hosts the Crochet Corner at many of the weekly Baronial meetings!]

5.) What is your favorite piece of garb that you have worn?

An Italian Renaissance gown designed for me by Lady Arlindis von Metton. It had beaded lions on the fabric and was over the top enough to satisfy my little Leo heart.

A History of Death Masks

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

In your studies you may have come upon images of death masks, casts made of the face of a corpse after their death. Those we might be familiar with were usually made of wax or plaster. The main purpose was practical, not spooky - they were used by artists to make art featuring the visage of the deceased. These included sculpting the figures on tombs or memorial portraits. You can sometimes tell when art has been made using a death mask as a reference because the face is slightly distorted, weighed down by the weight of the plaster used in casting.

The term "funerary mask" can be used for masks created to cover the face of the deceased and usually had a spiritual or ritualistic purpose. This could be different from the more practical purpose of the death mask, which was to preserve the likeness, although the terms can be used for the same thing.



In medieval France and England, the wax casts themselves would have been used as the head on a complete figure, to create an effigy for royal funerals. These figures would be dressed in the clothes of the deceased and put on display for the mourning period. The visage of [Henry VII](#) is known as an excellent example. *Continued on page 5.*

September - October 2022 Cleftlands Events

- Tuesday, October 25, 7:30pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Wed. October 26, 7:00-10pm - **Baronial Revel - Dessert Revel & Masquerade** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. October 27, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Sun., Oct 30 1:00pm - **N. Oaken Regional Archery Practice** - 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro, OH 44241.; <https://www.facebook.com/events/2987845138182503>
- Wed. November 2, 7:00-10pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. November 2, 7:30pm - [Class: Rus Temple Rings at Baronial Meeting](#) - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. November 3, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. November 9, 7:30pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. November 10, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. November 16, 7:30pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. November 16, 7:30pm - [Class: Recovery in the SCA at Baronial Meeting](#) - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. November 17, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. November 23, 7:30pm - **THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO Baronial Meeting**
- Wed. November 30, 7:30pm - **Baronial Rapier Tournament & Dessert Revel** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. December 1, 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.

News of the Society

- Board of Directors member Dale Fong-Frederick has stepped down from Director Seat D: <https://www.sca.org/news/resignation-director-seat-d/>
- Plans for Gulf Wars in 2023 are going ahead, as the camp where it is held was purchased by people who have worked with the event in the past and signed a 5-year contract to continue to hold Gulf Wars.

Bust of Niccolo Machiavelli made from his death mask.



Upcoming Midrealm Events

Nov 5 - All Soul's Come Home to the Manor; Free event. Roselle, IL.

Nov 5 - Hammer & Annville; Potluck lunch, feast, cooking contest, London, KY.

<https://sites.google.com/oken-shield.org/oakenshield/hammer-annville>

Nov 5 - Fall Harvest; Heavy, rapier, craftspersons' green, feast. Kent City, MI.

<https://rimsholt.midrealm.org/fall-harvest/>

Nov 11-13 - Golden Dream - Barony of North Woods' 50th Anniversary; Prize tournaments, subtleties cooking challenge. Brighton, MI.

<https://msquaredsquared.com/baron/NorthWoods50.html>

Nov 12 - Winter Royal University of the Midrealm; Classes and more classes. Fairborn, OH.

<https://wingedhills.midrealm.org/event-royal-university-of-the-midrealm-fall-2022/>

Nov 12 - Bardic Madness; Bardic classes, competition, and evening bardic circle. Lake Villa, IL.

<https://sites.google.com/site/bardicmadnessmid/>

Nov 19 - Grand Day of Tournaments; Armored and rapier tournaments. Monroe, MI.

<https://www.cynnabar.org/grand-tourney/>

December 3 - Christmas Tourney 50; Tournaments, classes, dancing, feast, gaming, court. Elizabethtown, KY.

<https://christmastourney.weebly.com/>

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Occulate Being Mask, 835 BCE to 185 CE. Paracas, south coast of Peru.

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/2003.39>

Size: About 9.3" x 9" x 5.25"

Ceramic with resin-based paint.

The use of this mask is unknown. However, it is believed to depict a supernatural being that may have been associated with a fertility cult. The stuck-out tongue (bottom center) and snakes represent power. The meaning of the smaller figure on the top and the protruding nose are not yet known.

Due to the shape of the eye holes, going back into the mask in a way that would have dug into a live wearer's face, it is thought that this would not have been worn by a living person. Although perhaps it was a funerary mask of some kind.

Death Masks - continued

Roman elites would have their casts done when they were alive, and the resulting masks displayed after their death. Sometimes an actor would even wear the mask as part of the funeral procession.

However, Europeans were certainly not the only ones to use masks in association with death. The ancient Egyptians placed a sculpted mask over the mummified face of the deceased. It was an important part of the death ritual, and was believed to strengthen the spirit and guard against evil. You might recognize Tutankhamen's funerary mask, which was made of gold and gems.

Graves found at the ancient Greek site of Mycenae from about 1600 BCE contained five gold masks on the skeletons. The most famous of these, the Mask of Agamemnon, was so-named by the amateur German archaeologist that found it, even though it pre-dates the Trojan War by hundreds of years. Gold masks were also placed on dead kings in Cambodia and Thailand (Siam).

Funerary masks have been found throughout South America. Incan mummies of royalty have been found with golden funerary masks, but lower class mummies also wore masks, though theirs were of clay or wood.

The skull masks of the Aztecs were elaborate creations featuring mosaics made from semi-precious stones. These were meant to be hung, or even worn, not buried.

The Khitan tribe, who ruled northern China in the late 900s, had a fascinating and unique tradition of burying high-ranking people with a metal ask and other metal body attire.

Other masks have been found at grave sites which may be funerary in nature, but we just don't know it yet!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_mask

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/death-mask>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/mask-face-covering/Funerary-and-commemorative-uses>

<https://philamuseum.org/collection/object/322022>

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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- *Photos of Their Highnesses and Meistara Thorhalla are used courtesy of Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*
 - *Photo of the illumination "Dance of the Wodewoses" is used courtesy of the British Library's collection. <https://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/record.asp?MSID=7232>*
 - *Image of Machiavelli's bust Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=426139>*
 - *Photo of Tutankhamun's death mask is courtesy of Ronald Unger and used under terms of the GNU Free Documentation License.*

The image of the Occulate Being Mask 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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