



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 30, September, 2002

War Chariot

by Edward Fitzranulf

Thanks to the Barony of the Cleftlands, the MidRealm definitely won Opening Ceremonies at Pennsic, even if it lost the war. The Barony did this by funding, and building a winged dragon chariot for the Middle Kingdom.

Their Majesties of the Middle rode into opening ceremonies on this chariot, completely upstaging the King and Queen of the East who came in on a puny little chariot made from a pony trap.

The MidRealm Dragon Chariot is six feet long, four and one half feet wide, with a seven feet long draw bar. It was pulled by four brawny gentles.

The dexter side of the chariot is painted with His Majesty's Arms, the sinister side with Her Majesty's. However, the piece de resistance of the chariot is a magnificently carved and painted seven-foot-long dragon draw bar. Created by Cleftlands' own Pietro da San Tybaldo, it flies from the front of the chariot and holds the pull-bars for drawing the chariot. For Opening Ceremonies, the dragon dangled some fuzzy dice, complete with roman numerals, from his muzzle.

The chariot rolls on two wheels that are four feet in diameter, each with eight reinforced spokes. It features a U-shaped axle, to keep the body of the chariot low to the ground for easy boarding and debarking. It breaks down into seven wall panels, a base piece, two axles, two wheels, a draw bar, two push bars and a components box. Easily packing in the MidRealm storage locker, it will be available for the use of future Crowns of the Middle Kingdom.

The creators of the chariot experienced some excitement (perhaps terror would be a better word) when, due to a technical malfunction, the left-side wheel threatening to fall off. However, the collective will power of the builders (and some quick fixes) kept the wheel on long enough for their Majesties of the Middle to make a triumphant entrance into the barn for opening ceremonies. Later, the wheel was repaired, and modifications were made which should ensure that the problem does not reoccur. The Dragon Chariot spent the rest of the war parked at MidRealm Royal Encampment where it was much admired by those passing by.

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An Archery Champion

by Edward Brackenburye

This year our three-time baronial archery champion was invited to shoot on the Kingdom Champions Archery Team. Here he shares some of that memorable experience with us.

The archery champion shoot was a great day for the MidRealm archers, as we won for the first time! In fact, we swept the competition.

It was an exciting and nervous day for this archer, as it was the first time he was appointed to the team. Lord Nigel had a hard choice among his many archers but after thought and guidance he settled the final team of 30.

The shoot was divided into three sections. The first one we faced was the friend or foe. Always a hard one, as points are deducted for hitting your own man. The wind was stiff during this portion and it did affect the arrows. We shot as a team during this portion and encouraged each other on with cheers and well done.

The second portion was the longest and most challenging. It was a series of 8 stations with different shoots set up for each one. All were unknown distances and some were timed with an unknown time as well.

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What's Inside

The Archery Champion's shoot

Love in the Air

A Special Court

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Our Officers

Seneschal: Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch)
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Euclid, OH 44123

Pursuivant: Lady Anastasia Batory (Christine Solymossy)
(Currently moving residence)
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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 Brangwayn Snowden (Terrie Way)
3480 West 118th St.
Cleveland, OH 44111

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lord Edward Brackenburye (Mark Doblekar)
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Chroniclers: Ladies Lyonnete et Milesent Vibert (Marie & Grace Vibbert)
2489 Queenston Rd.
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2616 E 124th st.
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Dear Choppy,

by Cornelius the Sage

Dear Choppy, How should I store my archery equipment over the winter?

Signed, *Shaking in Sherwood*

Dear Sherwood,

In the case of many local archers, despite having archery as a hobby, they may not be able to devote a full year-round focus on shooting. Since archery equipment can be harmed by long periods of inactivity it is crucial that it is stored properly.

The main enemies of your tackle are moisture, extreme dryness, and weight. Both your bow (with its string) and the arrows need the same protection from these environmental factors.

A bow should be wrapped in a cloth bag or other breathable material; This helps to prevent accidental nicks to its surface. It should be kept at all costs away from extreme dampness, like leaky basements or garages in the winter. However, the opposite is equally dangerous, and bows should never be kept close to a heat vent or furnace. It is crucial that the bow is not stressed physically in its stored position. Even standing in a corner can be bad for an older bow. Just it's own weight can make it droop over time and distort the shape of the limbs. If you can spare the space, a horizontal rack on the wall is the best option. Make sure to wax your string before putting it away. You should also keep the string in such a manner as to prevent it from getting kinked, knotted, or cut.

Arrows have very similar responsibilities. The shafts must not be stressed. Nobody wants banana shaped arrows. I've seen that many Clefthanders wisely kept their original boxes that the arrows came in. This is an excellent way to store them. Just be sure not to ruffle the feathers (always wise). If you have a quiver, keeping them in it is fine, but hanging the quiver up is much better than leaning it in a corner. Just as before, extremes of dampness, temperature, or dryness can be very harmful. Always be aware of where your arrows are stored and be sure not to pile or lean other heavy objects on them.

You may have, quivers, gloves, and arm guards. For any leather items, you can apply a light coat of leather preserver or such. Leather is extremely hardy however, and only the worst of environments will be damaging.

With the proper care, your tackle can last you a lifetime of good service. Common sense should always rule. And try to think ahead to what the storage area will be like months from now. Now, be ready come springtime to bend those bows to the service of your Barony!

An Archery Champion Cont'd

There was a shoot at 5 satyrs stealing wine sacks. This was a 5-arrow shoot at unknown distance. Hitting the wineskins was negative points. Another was a boar with a kill zone standing slightly behind a small tree. Only two arrows on this one and the shoot was at an unknown distance. The most challenging shoot was kneeling and shooting through a slot. There were 2 targets of Cyclopes and the eye was the only scoring target! We had two arrows at each of these targets. Other stations consisted of such targets as large helmeted faces with only the skin counting as a point, and timed shoots at musicians and their instruments. This was the most fun part of the day. We went in teams of three archers from each side. It also helped build camaraderie.

The third challenge in the competition was a long range set up. There was one advance scout, two commanders behind, and then the army represented by four soldiers. There was about 15 yards between each of these groups. This was shot as a team and each archer had one arrow per target. Then we moved forward about 15 to 20 yards and shot again, one arrow per target. And once more moved up and repeated the shoot. The fun part was, I still don't know how far the first set of targets was. I can only guess the farthest target was about 130 yards away.

Throughout the day distance was never mentioned and speaking with other members of the team could have cost points. So even now the distances are an unknown.

After about five hours of shooting and contending with the heat and wind, the competition was done and the MidRealm stood victorious.

felonious Monk

By Beaumont



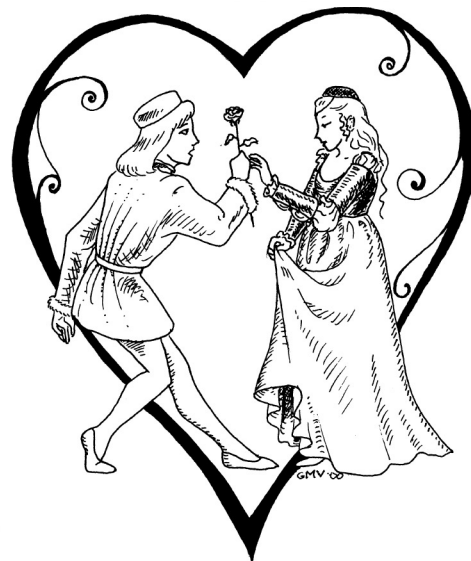
Congratulations!

Hoobah! to Cleftlands happy couples:

Stephan atte Smythe and Dulcia Wylde will be married this Saturday, September 28th.

Jeanie Mac Dougal and Brent will also be tying the knot this fall; their memorable engagement occurred at last year's Pennsic War atop Mount Aislinn.

Last, but far from least, Gunther Arnbach will wed his lady on October 12th.



Calendar

Local Happenings:

October 4th - Demo, details to be announced

October 5th and 6th - Ohio Mart Demo at Stan Hewett Hall

October 21st - Dance Guild Meeting at Euclid Public Library

Meetings:

Archery practice meets every Sunday at Lucus Archery, and Saturdays at Albion Woods

Armorer's guild meets Thursday nights at Ealdred and Clairiel's home

Dance Guild meets the third or second Monday of each month at the Euclid Public Library

Cook's Guild meets the Sunday before Dessert Revel at Ealdred and Clairiel's home

An unofficial drum circle and middle eastern dance practice meets on Thursday nights at The Gallery Coffee Shop on east 185th street. There is also a Middle Eastern Dance Exchange at the Coffee Shop on Monday Nights.

Selected Events:

September 28th - Coronation of Terrach and Fina in the Shire of Rockwall (Janesville, WI)

October 4th - 6th - Pounce! In Red Spears (Findley, OH)

October 5th - Procrastinator's Ball and Brawl in Roaring Wastes (Hazel Park, MI)

October 5th - Northshield Investiture in Windhaven (Appleton, WI)

October 12th - Red Dragon in Tirnewydd (Columbus, OH)

January 25th - The January Event! See Snowden or Maria Vincentte de Castille to volunteer.

Chariot Cont'd

The following gentles of the Barony of the Cleftlands worked, between March and August, on the MidRealm Dragon Chariot:

CHARIOT WORK CREW LIST

Edward FitzRanulf, Timothy Woodhill, Pietro Nicolo da San Tybald, Calum MacDhaibhidh, Angharad ferch Tangwystl, Andrew Bend, Kathryn verch Rhys, Clariel du Vent Argent, Katherine del Val, Bastian Eyecheener, John Murphy, Shlomo Korobinik, and Jehenne de Lur

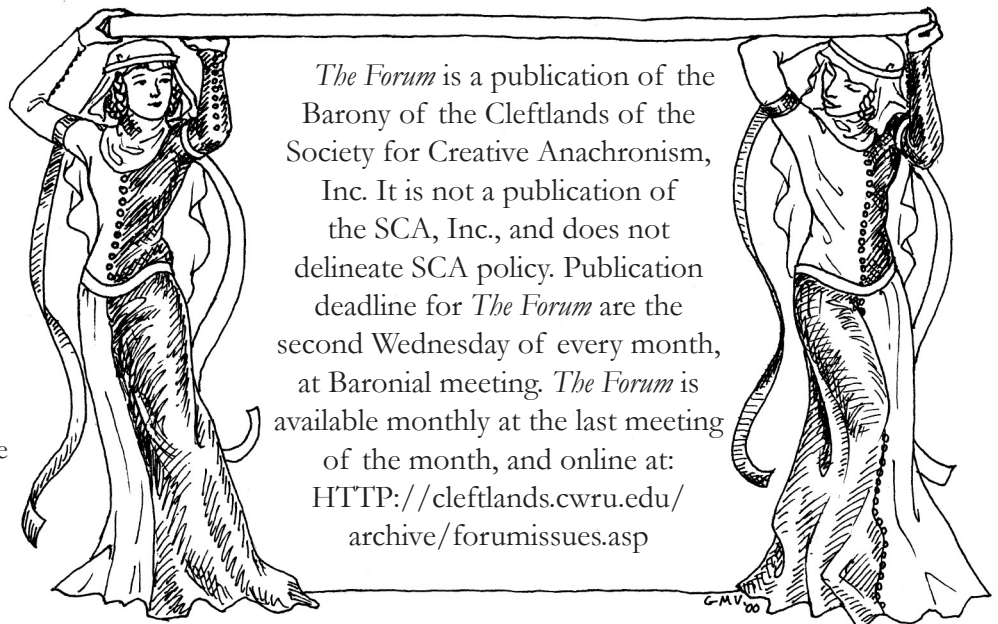
Court Report

Many Cleftlanders were honored at this past Pennsic War including:

The Baronial Fighting Unit - Order of the Dragon's Teeth

Maynard Woven - Award of Arms

Gladius the Alchemist - Order of the Dragon's Heart



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 deadline 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)