



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 10 December, 2000

Quarterly Report for Fall: Net Income Down

Here follows a brief overview of last quarter's Exchequer's report, covering from June 31st to October 31st of 2000.

Total Gross Income: \$401.20

Total Gross Expenses: \$1038.10

Net Income: -\$636.90

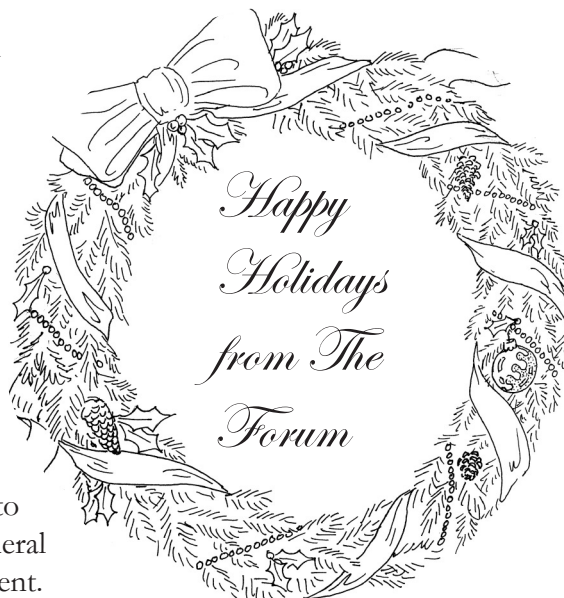
Starting Cash on Hand: \$8986.68

Ending Cash on Hand: \$8349.78

All of the income recorded on this exchequer's report is from tithe at meetings; the income and expenses from the Pandidactium are not reflected on this report.

The largest single expense for the quarter was for Occupancy and Site Charges, \$1000 for four month's rent on our meeting site at \$250 a month. Added to this were \$32.10 worth of general supplies and \$6 of debt payment.

Although the baronial coffers are by no means drained by this net loss, with \$8349.78 left in our non-interest-bearing baronial account, it would be prudent to note that a donation of \$1 from each non-combatant and \$2 from combatants is asked at each baronial meeting to help pay for our meeting site. Those attending their first or second meeting are considered our guests, and thus exempt. These donations at meeting met roughly 40% of our site costs this quarter.



What's Inside:
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January Event Coming Up Fast: A New World

January 20th at the Slovenian National Home we will host our regular event. This year's theme is the new world, featuring late-period costume and all manner of delicacies brought back by intrepid explorers in the West, including Aztec chocolate (served with hot chilli peppers!) turkey, and more.

The gatekeeper is taking reservations. Site fee is \$5, feast \$10, \$12 after January 1st.

There is classroom space available! Contact Lady Sara if you want to teach a class; there will be a room set aside all day for dancing.

The feastocrat wants your turkeys! Please, if your place of work gifts you with a free turkey as a christmas bonus, kindly donate it to the feast; this will save the barony a great deal of money.

As always, there are a hundred places you can volunteer your time, please see the event staff and volunteer to make this event as wonderful as we have come to expect in the Cleftlands.

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) #23 Lexington Square Euclid, OH 44143

Exchequer: Duchess Emelyn Carithail (Gayle Nichols) 17211 Lakewood Heights Blvd. Lakewood, OH 44107

Knight Marhsal: Sgt. Conrad Schwartzwolf (Marty Bradac) 3835 W. 40th Street Cleveland, OH 44109

Marshal of Fence: Lord Edward FitzRanulf (Scott Hendrix) 2917 Brevard Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15227

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

Chronicler: Lady Lyonnete Vibert (Marie Vibbert) 445 Richmond Park West, #328-B Richmond Heights, OH 44143

Chatelaine: Lady Sarra Bossard (Quasar Morris) 46545 Middle Ridge Rd. Amherst, OH 44001

Buying Gifts?

For many of us, this is the season of presents! What better to buy for your SCA friends and loved ones than a book? Here are some of my recommendations.

On Food and Cooking: The Science and Lore of the Kitchen by Harold McGee. New York: Collier Books, 1984. Hailed as "An undisputed classic of great gastronomic writing" on the book jacket, this is a fabulous reference and a delight to read. *On Food and Cooking* traces the origins of some of the most common foods, thier science and development. Literaray references, primary sources, and modern scientific knowledge mix like a fine batter to tell the origins of bread, beer, sugar, and more. What animals were domesticated at what time? How on Earth did they start eating hardened milk and calling it cheese? If these questions fascinate you, so will *On Food and Cooking*.

A Visual History of Costume: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries by Margaret Scott. London: B.T. Batsford Ltd, 1986. 150 illustrations of paintings, statues, and other visual references left behind by the culture of Medieval Europe, and not a one a throw-away. An excellent starting resource for anyone interested in the Cotehardie, Houppelande and Burgundian costuming periods. Also a great gift for your chronicler. :)

Juan de Alcega's Tailors Pattern Book of 1589. New York: Costume and Fashion Press, 1999. Nothing beats primary sources, and Juan de Alcega is about as close as you can come to stepping into an Elizabethan Tailor's study. This resource was heavily used by Janet Arnold in her *Patterns of Fashion*, and is now available as a facsimile with full translation. Make the Elizabethan on your list cry with joy! Over 80 period

patterns with instructions, notes, and translation.

Chivalry by Maurice Keen. London: Yale University Press, 1984. An accademic and eloquent work on the reality of chivalry as a literary and social movement in the middle ages. Read about the origins of knighthood, the medieval ceremonies of dubbing, the effect chivalry had on the church and the crusades, the changing core of this ethical and military system. A wealth of information on a compelling subject.

A History of Private Life vol. II: Revelations of the Medieval World. Georges Duby, Editor. Harvard University Press, 1988. A collection of articles on the most minute and interesting aspects of medieval life: bathing, childbirth, private space, and more. Each individual article is a quick read, and the illustrations are worth the price of the book on their own, showing intimate scenes from throughout our period, but concentrated largely on France and Western Europe from the 12th to 15th Centuries.

The Legend of Good Women: The Liberation of Women in Medieval Cities by Erika Uitz. Moyer Bell, 1994. Originally published in German, this stiring account of Medieval Women's Liberation concentrates on Germany and shows, among other things, that progress is not inevitable, nor does it travel in a straight line. A must-read for the SCA Feminist or anyone wanting to know more about the state of women in medieval Germany. Great illustrations, too.

A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century by Barbara W. Tuchman. New York: Ballantine Books, 1979. This history is presented as a narrative, telling the stories of prominent figures of the time with moving detail. One of the few straight history books isn't dull!

The Chivalric Oath of Fealty, with Notes by Ephraim ben Shlomo, KSCA. Part I

Presented as a handout at the Pandidactium, and with the permission of the author, we will be publishing this study of the Chivalric Oath in serial form, starting with the first line of the oath in this issue.

(Note: The intended audience for this document consists of members of the Order [to spur discussion], my squires, new members sitting their vigils, those who aspire to the Order, and those who wish to know more about what Knighthood is really about. Let no one doubt: these are my opinions, and this commentary is not intended to represent the opinions of any other person or persons.)

I¹ here swear fealty² and do homage³ to the Crown⁴ of the Middle Kingdom,

1. I. Me. Personally. I have taken this as *my* oath. If you would be a Knight, you must take it as *your* oath as well. Not kind of yours, mostly yours, or yours all except for one really hard part. *Yours*. In italics. Accept it as being in your every breath, your every move, even in your sleeping. You must identify it in the garb by which people know you, by those parts of your armor that allow friends to identify you across the field, in that blow or parry that no one else executes in quite the same way. And of course, completely and instantly in the image that looks at you from the glass. And if you think I mean a vessel that contains liquid, then read on, and understand that this is a burden you take up, far more than it is a privilege.

2. Fealty is a relation between liege and liegeman, a reciprocal bond. The Sovereign, as liege, owes duties of support to his liegeman. The Knight owes service to his Lord King and Lady Queen. Surely, this means service in

time of war. If we are to be other than a Society of brute force, we must certainly serve the Crown in peaceful endeavor as well. If practiced in the arts and sciences, we should share that knowledge, just as we would welcome a Master of the Pelican, accomplished in the arts of war, training new fighters or those dependents in his charge.

3. Homage, it must be understood, flows in one direction: from vassal to liege lord. It is an expression of placing yourself at the Crown's disposal and discretion. One of the most difficult challenges for us, as Chivalry, is to decide under what circumstances our chivalry compels us to set aside this unquestioning subjection of ourselves. (For instance, if the Crown directs us –may the day never come- to act in a manner that is plainly immoral.) See the discussion of obedience, below, for more on this subject. As with fealty, homage is not to the *persons* of the King and Queen, but to the *Crown*, the office, as described below. If you find yourself with the awesome responsibility of the Dragon Throne, remember the duties You owe in fealty to those who offer themselves to You in homage, and do not waste these good liegemen and liegewomen.

4. To the Crown, not to the person of the King or Queen. Our fealty and homage is to their office. This said, one who chooses to enter into fealty with the Crown may not choose those times when fealty will be sworn or recognized. When new royalty take up the burden of the Crown, it is not for you to choose whether or not to swear fealty to them. You have sworn your fealty upon your knighting, and it is your duty (and

privilege) publicly to reaffirm this fealty in each reign, save only those in which you do not come before Their Majesties in any court. By deciding that we swear our fealty to the Crown, we established a fealty that transcends the individual personages who sit the Thrones. Thus, in deciding what to do if those we dislike sit the Thrones, we are obligated to set their personalities entirely aside. If we have elected the station of Knighthood, we step forward when called, and swear fealty before all. We owe it to the Crown, we owe it to the populace, and we owe it to each other as Knights. Most of all, we owe it to ourselves, and we may look into the glass and know that we have kept our word. As for Masters and Mistresses at Arms, I am not qualified to speak, for our paths are different. Neither is higher, neither is lower, and they are my brethren. But there are other challenges to be faced by those who chose to remain apart from the certainties and securities of swearing fealty. If you would know whether they should swear fealty in any given situation, you should seek them out. Wisdom lies on the path, and will be best understood by those who tread it.



Calendar

1-3-2001 Weekly
Baronial Meeting.

1-6-2001 Archery Guild
meeting 1pm, Lucas
Archery.

1-7-2001 Dance Guild
Meeting 7pm Euclid
Public Library

1-10-2000 Weekly
Baronial Meeting,
deadline for January
Forum.

1-17-2001 Last meeting
before January event!

1-20-2001 The January
Event

2-2-2001 Demo at Vally
Forge HS.

Notes

Lady Myfanwy is updating the Baronial Directory. If she cannot verify your information is correct, she may have to drop your listing from the directory. Please see her or email her to verify your information. She prefers to receive info via email. myfanwy_r@hotmail.com

Everyone congratulate Snowden on becoming Deputy Martial of Fence. See her with your fencing concerns.

Pandidactum instructors! *The Forum* would love to publish your class notes as articles. 700-word length limit, please.

Who's the cutest couple in Cleftlands? Cast your votes with me, the chronicler, or my assistant and twin sister, Milesent. We'll be doing something with this for the February *Forum*!

Henceforward, the members of House Morwayffon must be referred to as "nice, polite, and well-mannered." See Celeste for details.

Fighters of all flavors, don't forget that after January 1st only the new 'uber' card authorization cards will be accepted. This is your last warning!

Chardon Schools are looking for people to do hands-on Medieval demonstrations throughout the year. See Darius for details.

The January event is coming up fast! See Lady Sarra or Lord Timothy to volunteer to help out. This year's theme is the New World.

Anyone with an opinion regarding having meeting at 8:30 instead of 9:00, please see Lord Nial.

The staff of *the Forum* would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our Baronial newsletter this year:

Aldermoureis Ventzke, Angharad ferch Tangwystl, Brian Crick, Calum MacDhaibhidh, Celeste Aylene Dougherty, Christianna, Edward Brackenburye, Ephriam ben Shlomo, Jeff Hoskinson, Linda J. Rodgers, Marsail ingen Domnaill, Milesent Vibert, Ulrich Rickers, and any others sadly forgotten.

Without your contributions, we wouldn't have a monthly newsletter! Thank you!



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