



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 9 October 2023

The New King & Queen of the Middle Kingdom



Huzzah for King Wigthegn the Younger and Queen Neassa O'Cathasaigh, who ascended to the Dragon Throne at Coronation on 23 September. This will be the first Reign for both of them. They have posted Their list of combatants for Crown Tourney to find the Kingdom's next Heirs on 21 October. See the list on page 3.

A Guide to the Pelicans of Cleftlands

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Did you know that, with the recent elevation of Mistress Angharad, Cleftlands now boasts 20 currently active, local Pelicans? That's more than both Laurels (17) and Chivalry (19) (according to our populace directory). What makes a Cleftlands produce such a preponderance of Pelicans? Three local members of the Order answered some questions about their experience.



The badge of the Order of the Pelican - showing a pelican "in her piety."

But first, some of you might be wondering what exactly a Pelican is. The Order of the Pelican was first created in 1972 as one of four bestowed Peerages, which are the highest level of award in the SCA. Pelicans are awarded for service, and join Knights (awarded for participation in heavy combat), Laurels (champions of the arts), and the Order of Defense (the newest Peerage for rapier combat). Generally, a Pelican has shown exemplary (and long term) service to their Kingdom and the SCA as a whole with "Grace, Courtesy, and Chivalric demeanor."

"To me it means that I have been recognized for all the fun things I've done to help make the SCA and the Middle Kingdom keep doing all the awesome things we do," said Mistress Zuriel Nightshade, a sentiment echoed by Baroness Aldermoureis (aka Alda) and Mistress Angharad.

How does one become a Pelican? Some may become a protege of a current Pelican, meaning that they are in a sort of apprenticeship where they can learn how and where they might want to provide service. However, this isn't necessary - none of the three Pelicans in this article were ever proteges, for example. Sometimes the Crown may just see all the work that a person has been doing and choose to bestow upon them the award.

"For many of us," said Mistress Angharad, "the best reward for having done things is having the chance to do more things. Knowing that our work matters, that it helps the populace to continue to engage and enjoy our shared activities, is the reward sought."

For those who may be looking for that more formal path, Mistress Zuriel said, "I believe you should have a good relationship with your Peer before you start a formal relationship. I feel you should have things in common and you are friends. This way you can learn and grow together. There is always something to learn and share that adventure together."

Continued on page 2.

Pelicans in Cleftlands - continued

Some see the Pelican Peerage as more nebulous than the others, which are considered (generally) focused on physical results - a tournament won, a piece of art completed. So, then, what are some ways that Pelicans prove their prowess? There are as many answers to that as there are people in the Order.

"I helped [Countess] Alys Katharine with class scheduling and discovered that this was the coolest Pennsic project ever," said Baroness Alda. "Getting others to get involved in scribal projects and do more than they thought they could."

"I hadn't specifically set out with Pelican as a destination," Mistress Angharad told us. "I do like to be 'behind the scenes' and able to see how things are done, so I tend to stick my nose into various tasks to see what's going on. I find it easier to meet and get to know people when we both have a 'job' to do together: whether it's washing dishes at a feast or working A&S point, so I tend to look for jobs that need done"

Who becomes a Pelican is ultimately decided by the Crown, with feedback provided by polling the members of the Order. Usually, the new member is notified at court that they are getting this honor, and this gives them time to find an event and prepare for their vigil and elevation ceremony. Not everyone does either of those - sometimes a Pelican is made on the spot, as happened to Baroness Alda at Pennsic, or are told that their elevation will be later that same day. For those that do hold a vigil, this is a time where the person to be elevated sits and receives feedback and advice - or just good wishes. These can be very formal, with scheduled time-slots, or informal - although there are usually snacks!

The elevation happens at a court, and again can be a major production with music, banners, gifts tossed by an entourage...or not.

"I wanted (and got) a small, personal, ceremony," said Mistress Zuriel. "I only wanted to have people there that wanted to be. I asked to have it at the Darkyard [a household] tree ceremony. It would be only family by choice, invited friends and those Peers that wanted to attend. I wanted it to be light and fun. For the most part it was. I had a few surprise speakers that spoke for me."

At the elevation, a representative from all the other Peerages speak as to why the person deserves the elevation, and then the new Peer takes their oath. Often, they are awarded a medallion and/or cloak or other item with the symbol of the Order on it. This is the "pelican in her piety" as shown on page 1 - or, a pelican using its own blood to feed its young. This is taken from a medieval myth that a pelican wounded herself for the sake of her chicks. Although not true, it is a good symbol of those who give so much to ensure others prosper.

Also there's a hat. Some members wear a red hat trimmed with "ermine" (which can be any white material with black accents). This is called a cap of maintenance. See the picture of Mistress Angharad above, where her cap has been embroidered with symbols unique to her path.

And then what? Pelicans can now go by the title "Master/Mistress" - or a variation of that based on their persona and preferences (see the list of alternate titles here: <https://heraldry.sca.org/loar/1994/07/titles.html>). They can go to Peerage meetings and speak to the virtues of others, advising the Crown on new members of the Order. Maybe even take a protegee themselves.

"In my case, I continue as I am," said Mistress Angharad. "What I think I need to do is become more a mentor than a worker: finding the people who want to do 'all the things' and giving them the boost so they can."

"We are only people that do things," Mistress Zuriel added. "We are not scary and are happy to help if people need. The important thing I tell others is to not become 'that guy'. Just because you get recognition for doing things, doesn't mean that you can be a jerk. Allow others to help out as well if they ask. Don't be afraid to ask for help yourself if you need it. It's also OK to say 'no'."



Mistress Angharad is invested as a Pelican at Brendokenfest 26 August 2023.

Fall Crown Tournament 2023 Combatants

Amongst the following people are the next King and Queen of the Middle Kingdom. The first person listed in each pair below will be doing the fighting, and the second person listed is their inspiration. There are 32 combatants on this list, which will get whittled down to a list of 16. Per Society law, the final part of the tournament must be a 16-person, double-elimination contest, although the details of the bouts will be determined by the Crown. Then the winner and their consort become Heirs, stepping up to the Dragon Throne in May. Combatants from Cleftlands (or close neighbors) are noted in bold type - see who you'll be cheering for on October 21! Combatants from Cleftlands (or close neighbors) are bolded.

- Viscount Kith von Atzinger fighting for Duchess Arianwen Ferch Morgan
- Count Savaric de Pardieu fighting for Countess Julianna de Pardieu
- **Count Nikolai Grigorevich Petrov fighting for Countess Serena Kimbalwyke**
- Count William of Fairhaven fighting for Countess Isolde de la Ramee
- Sir Osmundus Thorkelsson fighting for Mistress Rosamund Beauvisage
- Sir Gregoire de Lyon fighting for Mistress Giovanna Adimari
- Szanowny Sierzancie Krzysztof cul Bun fighting for Metressa Alzbeta Michalik
- Lord GrimR Skallagrimson fighting for Dame Marie la Fauconniere
- Captain Victor Loc Sant de Dormit fighting for Mistress Keiley O Duchem
- Master Fergus MacPherson fighting for Dame Maggie MacKeith
- **Sir Ivan Shishov fighting for Boiarynia Katalena Ivaniaia zhena Shishova**
- Captain Dyderich Wolfhart fighting for Maitresse Odette d'Amboise
- Count Seto Gesshuko fighting for Astemari Zahra Tesfaye
- **Captain Brice Calquhoun fighting for Mistress Brangwayn Snowden**
- Master Zygmunt Nadratowski fighting for Her Excellency Madeline McRae
- Syr Drust Mac Arilith fighting for Her Excellency Rhiannon of Blaiddwen
- **Sir Crispin dela Rochefoucauld fighting for Baroness Gianna Vettori**
- Rædesmann Andreas Blacwode fighting for Baron Honda Heihachiro
- Honorable Lord Dawood al tayyib al samari fighting for Honorable Lady Arianwen o Wyndham
- Sir Ixtilixochitl de los Indios fighting for Honorable Lady Norelle Thespiana
- **Sergeant Marellus Kilianus fighting for Honorable Lady Seonaid inghean Ghriogair**
- Captain Hjalmr Njalsson fighting for Captain Arnora in Skarpa
- Captain Arnora in Skarpa fighting for Captain Hjalmr Njalsson
- Maestro Adam Comyn fighting for Lady Alainne de Renard
- Sir Kilian Fendrich fighting for Lady Jalida Al Hasanna
- Sir Ustad Hasan al Hajjii fighting for Lady Rowan Hen Enaid
- Sergeant Andreas Renardi fighting for Lady Chrysanthème des Prés
- Sergeant Ehrenfried Schertenleib fighting for Sergeant Quenild of Mercia
- Sergeant Quenild of Mercia fighting for Sergeant Ehrenfried Schertenleib
- **Lord TryggR Gillason fighting for Lady Jaqueline la Deiciere**
- Captain Vigfuss Mjoksiglandi fighting for Lady Ginna Ígulfríðr
- **Lord Edric Eiksson fighting for Iona**

News of the Barony

- Lady Jaqueline is collecting contact information from members of the Barony to update our contact list. Contact her to add your information.
- Congratulations to Forester Gwyneth Cole, who was named Their Majesties' Archery Champion at Coronation.
- Don't forget to register for Dressed to Kill III, held at our regular meeting location on November 11. A day of classes on costuming and armoring, ending with a Royal Court. Get the class schedule and link to register via PayPal here: <https://events.cleftlands.org/symposium/>
- Want to recommend someone for an award to be handed out at Dressed to Kill? Head on over here: <https://mid-realm.org/award-recommendations/>
- Not sure what awards people have? Listings are maintained by our sublime Webminister and team on the populace directory. Check and see - you might be surprised at what people DON'T have: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Cate-gory:Populace>
- October 25 is the Halloween dessert revel.
- November 29 is the Baronial rapier tournament and dessert revel.
- December 20 will be the annual Yule revel.
- Reminder that A&S activities at the weekly meetings will start at 7 or 8:15. A short business meeting will be held in between at about 8-8:15.
- Helpers are needed to sew loaner rapier gear for newcomers. See Lord Reinhardt to help (rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org)
- Fletchings of Spring, the Barony's local archery event, has been rescheduled for May 18, 2024.
- Want to hold an event in 2024? Contact Mistress Angharad about submitting a bid. Bids are being accepted for the usual Cleftlands suspects: Regular Event, NOWM, and Standard Bearers - but additional events are always an option!

News of the Kingdom

- The Kingdom is looking for our next Midrealm Exchequer. If interested, please send a letter of intent, your SCA resume, and your mundane resume either by email to Exchequer@midrealm.org; or via USPS to P.O. Box 198, Bellbrook OH 45305.
- The Kingdom Chronicler is still seeking someone to hold the position of North Oaken Regional Chronicler. Send your letter of interest to Chronicler@midrealm.org.

News of the Society

- The Crown Prince of Ansteorra has been removed as Heir. Her Royal Highness Nicollet intends to reign on her own. Read more: <https://www.sca.org/news/removal-of-crown-prince-of-ansteorra/>
- The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors will be hosted by the Barony of Grey Niche in the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann (Memphis, Tennessee area) on October 21. <http://www.sca.org/news/grey-niche-hosts-the-october-quarterly-board-meeting/> Register for it here: <https://www.sca.org/news/register-to-attend-the-october-2023-quarterly-board-meeting/>
- The Society is looking for a new Laurel Sovereign of Arms. Read more about the position and how to apply (applications due November 30): <https://www.sca.org/news/applications-open-laurel-sovereign-of-arms/>

October-November 2023 Cleftlands Events

- Tues., Oct. 10, 6:30 pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Meeting** - Critical Hit Games; 13433 Cedar Rd, Cleveland Heights OH 44118.
- Wed. Oct. 11 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. Oct. 11 7:00 pm - **Drawing Circle at Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. Oct. 11 8:15 pm - **Class at Baronial Meeting: Making a Snood Part 2** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Oct. 12 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. Oct. 18 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. Oct. 18 8:15 pm - **Class at Baronial Meeting: Retaining for Royalty** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Oct. 19 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Tues., Oct. 24, 7:30 pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Meeting** - Critical Hit Games; 13433 Cedar Rd, Cleveland Heights OH 44118.
- Wed. Oct 25 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Dessert Revel** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Oct. 26 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. Nov. 1 6:30-9:45 pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. Nov. 1 8:15 pm - **Class at Baronial Meeting: What's Brewing?** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. Nov. 2 7:00 pm - **Armorsers' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>

This Week in History

- Oct. 8 1594 - [Ishikawa Gowemon](#), a legendary Japanese folk hero who stole from the rich and gave to the poor, is boiled alive after failing to assassinate warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi.
- Oct. 9 1604 - Johannes Kepler noted that he saw what we now call a supernova on this day. Kepler's Supernova is still the most recent supernova known to have been observed, as of this date.
- Oct. 10 680 - Husayn ibn Ali, grandson of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, is martyred at the Battle of Karbala.
- Oct. 11 1142 - A peace treaty temporarily ends the Jin-Song wars, although hostilities continued until 1234.
- Oct. 12 539 BCE - The Babylonian empire ends when Cyrus the Great of Persia conquers Babylon.
- Oct. 13 1399 - Henry IV is crowned king of England at Westminster Abbey.
- Oct. 14 1322 - The defeat of Edward II of England by Robert the Bruce of Scotland forces the acceptance of Scotland's freeeeeeeoooooooooom.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

Oct 13-15 - Smiths, Bakers and Wrights; Held at a living history museum with furnished blacksmith shop, woodworks, fiber arts, primitive kitchen, and more. \$15. Milford, MI
<https://www.facebook.com/events/993806501623416>

Oct 13-15 - Rendezvous at the Bridge XXXIII; Armored and rapier combat, thrown weapons, classes, A&S contests, treasure hunt. \$12. Lincoln City, IN
<https://shireriviereconstelle.org/rendezvous-at-the-bridge-2/>

Oct 14 - Cooking Symposium; Feast-related classes culminating in a shared meal. \$25. Metamora, IL
<https://illitton.midrealm.org/events/>

Oct 14 - Medieval Threads; A celebration of the fiber arts. Lunch & afternoon tea. \$15. Howell, MI
<https://wealdlake.org/MedievalThreads/medievalThreads.html>

Oct 14 - Meat & Beat Budget Tourney. Puns, armored and rapier combat, ranged. No fee. Warren, OH.
<https://rivenvale.org/events/budget-tourney/>

Oct 21 - Fall Crown Tourney. Crown Tourney. Lunch. \$15. Danville, IN
<https://sternfeld.midrealm.org/activities/midrealm-fall-crown-2023/>

Oct 28 - Artisan's Day. Knowledge! Salons and classes. \$15. Lake Villa, IL
<https://ravenslake.org>

Oct 28 - A Grand Day of Tournaments. Many tournaments. A quest. Youth rapier. Lunch. \$17. Monroe, MI
<https://www.cynnabar.org/grand-tourney/>



Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art

Cat; Egypt, Dynasty 26 or later (664-30 BCE)

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1942.776>

Size: 3 5/8" tall

Bronze with gold earring

This cat was made as a votive offering, which were items made to be left somewhere, like a grave or the foundation of a building, and not retrieved or viewed later.

Cats were sacred to Egyptian goddess Bastet. In addition to cats,

Bastet was the goddess of fire and protector of the home.

This bronze statuette would have been costly, especially so due to the inclusion of the golden earring. Often, prayers would be inscribed at the base, but there is no mention of such in this listing. Also, some animal statuettes were found to contain mummified animal remains - this one does not (that we know of).



Dragon at the Crooked Dragon 30 September. Who's under there?

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baronessa Aurelia Rosetti; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Mistress Angharad ferch Tangwystl; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: The Honorable Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Castellan (Chatelaine): Rav Ezra de Barcelona; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Njall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister Arts & Sciences: Dame Elizabethe Alles; moas@cleftlands.org
- Social Media Officer: Lord Hrafnkell inn Raudi Eykelsson; social@cleftlands.org
- Knight's Marshal: Baroness Constanza de Mendoza; knightsmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Rapier Marshal: Lord Reinhardt mit dem Bart; rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org
- Archery Marshal: Forester Gwyneth Cole; archery@cleftlands.org
- Web Minister: Baroness Gianna Vettori; webminister@cleftlands.org
- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; chronicler@cleftlands.org
- Youth Officer: Lady Chaiya Leah bat Dovid; youth@cleftlands.org
- Demo Coordinator: Lady Shahzada al-Zahra; demo@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org
- Gold Key: Lady Leonne de Fresne; goldkey@cleftlands.org

Newsletter Content

Did you miss an issue? Want to review an old favorite? All copies of the newsletter are stored on the Cleftlands website. Find them here: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Publications>

If you have an idea for content, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com.

Thank you and stay well!

The photos of Their Majesties, Mistress Angharad, and the Crooked Dragon are used with gratitude to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.

The image of the Egyptian cat 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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