



## *A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 2/21/2021*

### News of the Realm

#### SCA News -

- The January 2021 President's report is now available: <https://www.sca.org/news/january-2021-presidents-report-now-available/>
- The SCA needs you! The Society is looking for a Corporate Communications Officer. Learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/call-for-applicants-corporate-communications-officer/>

#### Kingdom News

- Please note that no official in-person gatherings, including small gatherings of 10 people and under, are permitted at this time. The restriction is in place until June 1, 2021 (or until updated).

#### Baronial News

- Reminder: Cleftlands is not planning to run the Northern Oaken War Maneuvers event this year.

## A Regular Event That Isn't

*By Baron Ephraim ben Shlomo and THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe*

**The origins of the first Regular Event on January 28, 1995:** [Baron] Ephraim here, on the subject of Regular Event. Before we started doing Regular Event, we'd done excellent large events (like Coronations). But it had been a few years, and we were mostly doing specialty A&S events, and local events like Standard Bearer's. I was a heavy-weapons fighter bemoaning to myself the absence of January events that included tournaments. Lots of peaceful events nearby, but no combat.

So I thought, let's put on the event ourselves. I wanted a "regular" event, which at the time I thought of as a heavy tourney (fencing was still young in the Kingdom), a feast, and dancing after. So I volunteered to be Autocrat (what we called the person in charge of the event at the time), and wondered whether I'd be scrambling all day. [Duke] Lauren told me he didn't see any reason I wouldn't be able to participate, and he was right.

My big lesson from the day was that the best approach as an Event Steward is to assemble a team of good people and then stay the heck out of the way - the only problems I recall arose from my micromanaging where I should have let smart people do what they were good at. A lesson well learned, I hope.

We'd planned for 250 people, and were snug at the roughly 350 that showed up despite daytime temperature in the teens, and had a very successful event. And through the greater vision and more expert execution of many leaders since then, the Regular Event has grown to something truly exemplary. Seems all we needed was to claim a time on the calendar (which no one else was clamoring for at the time) for Cleftlanders with good ideas to establish a tradition that makes me proud to be a part of a Barony with such energy, creativity, and diversity of ideas.

**From one of our current Regular Event Stewards, THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe:** Over the past 10 years, Regular Event has grown from a mostly local affair to a major date on the Middle Kingdom calendar. The event regularly hosts the reigning Majesties and/or Highnesses, along with various peerage meetings and A&S displays. Often it is one of the first big events on the yearly calendar that has armored combat, so heavy and rapier fighters are eager to get back on the lists.

*Continued on page 2.*

## A Regular Event That Isn't - continued

Thanks to the Barony's hard working and talented members, the event has gained a reputation for being well-managed and offering a wide variety of martial, A&S, youth, bardic, and other activities. Everyone from a newcomer at their first event to a seasoned fighter can find a full day of excitement.

Regular Event feasts are legendary, thanks to our amazing Cooks' Guild. Our feasts are usually sell-out affairs with multiple courses and surprising temptations for the head table. There are always lots of leftovers to take home to enjoy the next day.

Work on a large event like Regular Event starts months earlier with the presentation of a bid to the Baronial officers, and selection of the main department heads. Cleftlands is lucky to have so many members who bring years of experience to these jobs, but we like to tap a few new people who want to learn the ropes. Think about volunteering for this year's event!

There are meetings and site walk-throughs during the months leading up to the event. Plans change as late word arrives of another Royal or peer meeting that we will be hosting, or last-minute changes at the site mean we will have less space than anticipated. The day's schedule is posted on the event website, the site flier is proof-read and printed, and site tokens are created.

The actual event starts the night before, when the event committee and helpers begin setting up the site. We do as much as we can then, so chairs and tables are set up, the cooks' supplies are carried in, the lists and royalty rooms are made ready, and room signs are put up. Bathrooms are checked for cleanliness. We find out where to get more TP and garbage bags.

Event day starts in the pre-dawn hours, when the parking attendant sets up signs designating spaces for Royalty and the head cooks before anyone else arrives. The road signs that help out-of-towners find the site are set at strategic intersections. The people in charge of Gate set up their tables with cash boxes and tokens.

We only have about two hours to scurry around putting final touches on things before the public starts to arrive. Merchants arrive early and need to be directed to their area. The coffee urn is heated up. With about 15 minutes to go until doors open, anyone not yet in garb is gently reminded that it's time to change.

Once the event starts, there is actually very little for the autocrats to do except answer questions and make sure all the departments are running smoothly. After Gate closes, the money is counted and attendance tallied up. The day goes by fast until the final room flips for court and feast. Then it's time to break everything down, pack up, and return the rooms to their previous condition. That means lugging heavy tables and chairs, sweeping floors, cleaning the kitchen, and more. Cleftlanders are proud of our reputation for always leaving a site cleaner than we found it.

The event stewards are the last to leave the site, usually close to midnight, exhausted but happy that the Barony can boast of another successful Regular Event.

## Regular Event Themes ([http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Regular\\_Event](http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Regular_Event))

|      |                          |      |                             |      |                         |
|------|--------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1995 | No Really                | 2005 | Brendoken Skirmishes        | 2015 | Roman Saturnalia        |
| 1996 | Yes Really               | 2006 | A Day of Chivalry & Romance | 2016 | Dancing with the Tsars  |
| 1997 | Of Course                | 2007 | Pesky Peasants              | 2017 | Love vs. Death          |
| 1998 | Yeah Verily              | 2008 | Crusade and TOC             | 2018 | 40th Anniversary        |
| 1999 | Marco Polo               | 2009 | Bridges of Venice           | 2019 | Let it Snow             |
| 2000 | All for Love             | 2010 | Festival of Fools           | 2020 | A Perfect Pairing       |
| 2001 | A New World              | 2011 | [None recorded]             | 2021 | Quest for Regular Event |
| 2002 | First Khan-Tact          | 2012 | The 14th Warrior            |      |                         |
| 2003 | Mid-Winter Hunt          | 2013 | Gloriana's Frost Faire      |      |                         |
| 2004 | The Feast of St. Clariel | 2014 | A Feast at Candlemastide    |      |                         |



# Regular Event Memories - Beginnings



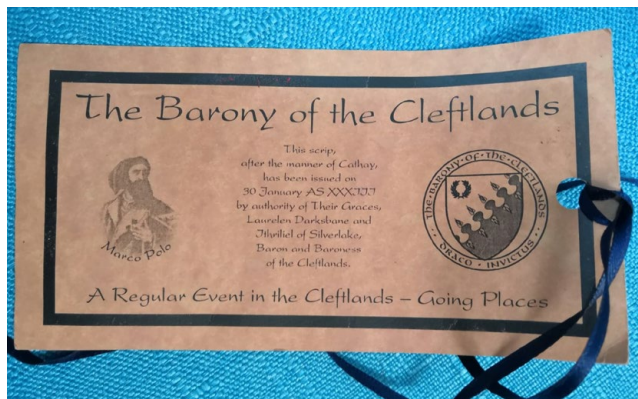
Site token from the first Regular Event in 1995: No Really.



Site token from Regular Event 1997: Of Course.



Site token from Regular Event 2005: Brendoken Skirmishes.



Site token from Regular Event 1999: Marco Polo.

Last year [2020] there was a group of students that wanted a tour. As I lead them through the event, everyone I approached took a few minutes to talk about their current or past positions in the SCA to the group.

*~Lord Robert atte Northclyfe*



Twin sisters Baroness Milesent Vibert and THL Lyonnete Vibert at Regular Event 2015.

I had my authorization as a heavy fighter at a January event. That was pretty special. [Duke] Laurelen lent me his shield when he saw I was having some trouble with my own. (I'd done a rather poor job strapping it.) And... his shield was heavy! He used a steel shield. True fact. Nothing was denting that bad boy. When I let a guy hold it for a second he said, "What is this, the door off a tank?"

*~THL Lyonnete Vibert*



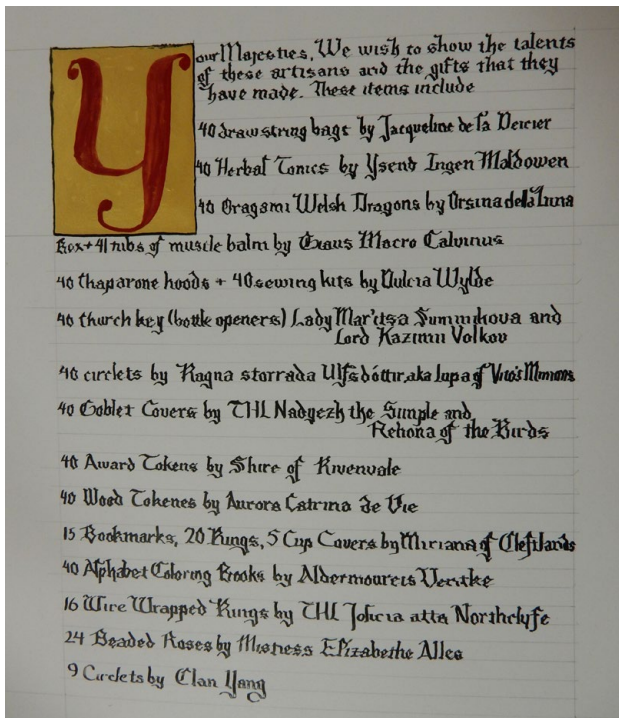
Gate at Regular Event 2020.



Sir Farpegn and Count Nikolai encourage the SCAdians of tomorrow at Regular Event 2019.



## Regular Event Memories - The Arts



List of those who rose to the largesse challenge and made 40 items at Regular Event 2018: 40th Anniversary.



40 Goblet Covers by Lady Nadyezhda the Simple. Regular Event 2018: 40th Anniversary.



i Verdi Confusi at Regular Event 2019.

Regular Event in 2019 was also our 10th anniversary performing at this event and within the Barony. And, like today, we had to brave a snowstorm! The performance was of a short one-act in the style of 16th century commedia dell'arte titled "A Lovely Cure" and featured Forester James Barkley, Lady Marie of Tirnewydd, Lady Alienor de Saint Remi, Lord Steve of Tirnewydd and myself; with off-stage assistance from Lord Aaron of Cleftlands and Katz Kaplan.  
~THL Niccolò Bartolazzi

Recorder trio at Regular Event 2015.



Cleftlands Choir at Regular Event 2015.



An Icon of St. Clariel, from a reliquary that was paraded through Regular Event 2004: The Feast of St. Clariel.

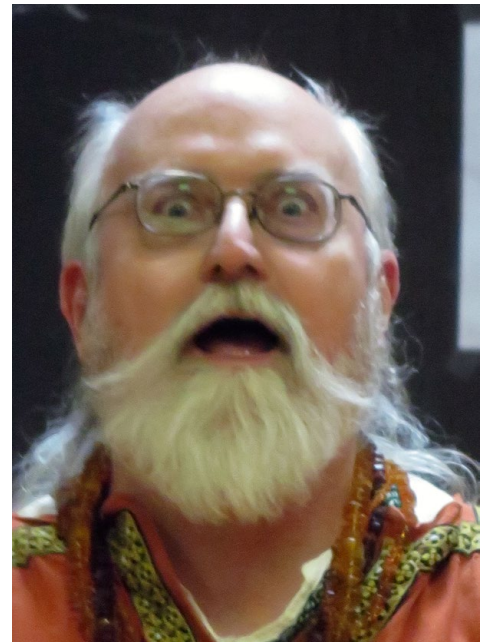


## Regular Event Memories - Courts & Elevations



Baroness Constanza de Mendoza is elevated to the Order of the Laurel at Regular Event 2015.

"Well, there was that whole getting-put-on-vigil thing..."  
~Ollamh Brendan O Corraidhe



This is Ollamh Brendan O Corraidhe when he was put on vigil for the Order of the Laurel at Regular Event 2020.



Sir Silverthorn at the Court of King Ákos and Queen Bella - Regular Event 2019.



Elevation of Sir Sirius to the Order of Chivalry by King Seto. At Regular Event 2020



Lord Tarmach is awarded a Purple Fret by King Cellach and Queen Vukasin.



Elevation of Master Victorious "Vici" Suspectus and Master Vitus "Vito" Aurelius to the Order of the Pelican at Regular Event 2020.



## Regular Event Memories - Feasts & Other Shenanigans



A sugar sculpture served to King Cadogan and Queen AnnMarie at Regular Event 2015.



A Royal Photo Bomb by King Ákos to Lady Orsina. At Regular Event 2019.



Baron Syr Calum and Baroness Angharad at Regular Event 2020.



Lady Shahzada prepares to launch sock "snowballs" at Regular Event 2019.



Feast was so long we took a nap!  
~THL Sarra Bossard

My first introduction to the SCA was going to the Regular event on Jan 27, 2007. I had heard of the SCA from someone who worked at Joann's and looked up the website. I saw there was an event in Cleveland and read up enough that I pre-registered for the event and feast. I made my husband a T-tunic and wore an Italian Renn dress I had purchased on a whim in the past. We showed up pretty early to attend the 9:00 am cheese making class and from there, I was hooked. Who knew how easy it was to make delicious cheese! A big surprise was running into Molly, who was my big-sister in medical school, but in the SCA was Countess Noelle. The feast was amazing! After that, I got much more involved in the Cleftlands and the SCA.

~Lady Clara d'Este



Servers in special hats for the feast at Regular Event 2015.

# The Founding of the Cleftlands Cooks' Guild - A Reading from the Annals of the Cleftlands Kitchen (Regular Event 2018: 40th Anniversary)

*By Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl*

Lo, in the ancient of days, before the sun burned hot in space, legends roamed an earth barren of even dirt, for dirt had not yet been invented. In those days, there was called to be, in the March of the Cleftlands, an Event. Many were invited, from all over the Known world, to attend this event, and many of them came. In preparation for the Event, the populace of the Cleftlands, as yet new to the practices of hospitality, searched their minds as to how to make these many guests welcome. For them they planned tourney, and dances and other entertainments, and they planned a Feast.

In the absence of dirt, and all those things that accompany dirt, such as well-equipped home kitchens, chest freezers, and the like, the populace chose to ask the great and noble feast man, Pickle Bill of the Lake, to provide provender for this feast. And when Pickle Bill asked of them "For how many?" they were wracked with confusion, for pre-registration was a science as yet unknown to them. When he asked again, "For how many?" they considered greatly the events they had attended elsewhere, and their own feelings, then reached beneath their waistbands, and provided to him "The First Number."

On the day of the event, there was great enjoyment. Person after person arrived and greeted the Gate Guard of the Event with the request "Site and feast, please." And the Gate Guard was delighted to greet them, to take their funds, and grant them entry. The halls of the Cleftlands swelled with the multitudes of the guests. But danger loomed, for as yet the Gate Guard did not know the great truth of "The First Number."

Then the time came to be when the multitudes, replete with activities and tourney and other recreations, came to the Feast Hall to rest and recover themselves at the groaning side board. And as the cooks looked upon the multitudes, their eyes widened, and they took to counting heads, and mouths, and stomachs, whereupon was discovered "The Second Number."

These cooks then compared the First Number to the Second Number. And then they looked at the salmon, and peas, and the other foods provided by Pickle Bill of the Lake. And then there was groaning indeed, not from the sideboard, but from the kitchen, as they discovered that the Second Number was, by far, the greater Number.

They divided the fish, and the peas, and the other provender among the guests, and invited them to eat. But these loaves and fishes did not increase themselves to satisfy the guests of the Cleftlands, and many among the guests that day left the Cleftlands saying "Great event, but could we stop at McDonald's on the way home?"

The heads of the populace hung low with shame until a few among them took council, then came to swear a mighty oath: "With the Dragon as our witness, they shall never go hungry again!" And when this great vow was heard, the River Cuyahoga itself burst into flame to provide them cooking fires, and the mighty stacks of the mills of Mordor's Steelyard obscured the sun with smoke to make them knives and pots.

That day was born the Guild of Cleftlands Cooks, and those mighty cooks said "We shall learn and teach so that we may feed our own and our guests until they groan with repletion and beg for mercy!" Down the ages of the Cleftlands, the Cleftlands Cooks' Guild, in all its forms and guises, have continued to teach the great lessons of the Guild: saying "Many hands make for light work." And also they share the mysteries and secrets of the Guild, which shall remain forever unknown to those who do not enter the kitchens of the Cleftlands, such as why one would nym an ayren, and what is squirrel.

Today's feast is a remembrance of the past of the Guild, a journey from the early days of simpler stews, through the saffron rice of a later age, and into our more current history. We hope you enjoy it, and that you will leave groaning.



## More Memories from Regular Event



A melee on artificial turf at Regular Event 2019.

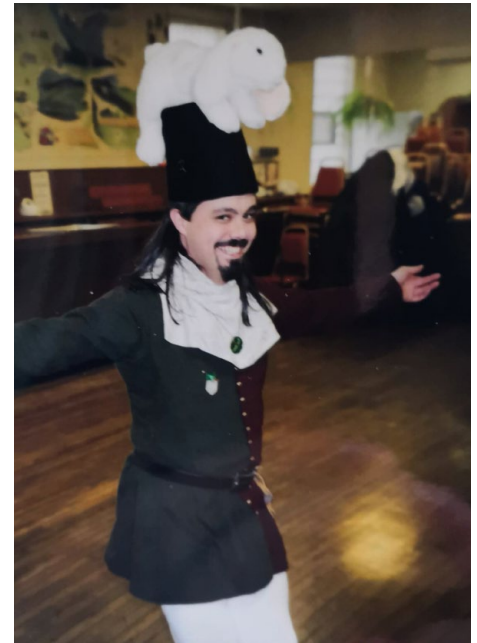


Snowball sock fight at Regular Event 2019.



Caption this picture - Regular Event 2020.

A Regular Event "All for Love" [2000] was my first event that I worked as the Event Coordinator. It was one of the most fulfilling times I had in my life. So many things going on at once and what amazed me the most was the people of Cleftlands. They stepped up and put on a wonderful event that was enjoyed by all. I learned so much about Event Coordinating and I credit Cleftlands for teaching me the skills that look so good on my resume.  
~Lord Darius abd al-Wajiid



THL Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo at a Regular Event held at the Slovenian Hall (2005?).



Magic Carpet at Regular Event 2019.

### Virtual Classes for February 21 through March 7:

- Sunday February 21 7pm EST - 14th-15th Ce Arming Garments for Authenticity with Duke Sir Laurelen: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1176120449469843>
- Monday February 22 8pm EST - Train Like You Mean It: Part 1 with Count William of Fairhaven: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3791746454197764>
- Tuesday February 23 8pm EST - Train Like You Mean it: Part 2 with Count William of Fairhaven: <https://www.facebook.com/events/409094356832081>
- Wednesday February 24 7pm EST - Principles & Techniques of the Drop Step with Baron Louis, KSCA: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4802767466464480>



## For the Combat & Ranged Arts

**Armored:** Duke Eik's Videos:  
9 Foot Spear 4 - Fundamental Blocks:

<https://youtu.be/BQCr7WuzdyY>

9 Foot Spear 5 - Thrust Fundamentals:

<https://youtu.be/ec-6UoLoYvc>

9 Ft Spear 6 - Target Chg Voids:

<https://youtu.be/gjwXR77eSow>

**RUM Videos:** Sir Ustad's Leather-Wrapped Handle Techniques:

<https://www.facebook.com/ortega.hobson/videos/102217332474308>

Equestrian Games in the SCA:

<https://youtu.be/Qp6DwpO3378>

Fighting in the French Style:

<https://youtu.be/qDsOPeNli3M>

Aggression for the Compassionate:

[https://youtu.be/0rnnW\\_awimY](https://youtu.be/0rnnW_awimY)

How to Stay Sharp While Staying at Home:

<https://youtu.be/8g7a3LEkBOc>

## 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!

## Featuring Cleftlanders - Simply SCAdian with Mistress Tyzes Sofia "Zsof"

If you like learning about things that everyday people in the SCA are doing, try the new Zoom cast from Mistress Zsof and Lucas Abernathy! "Simply SCAdian: No Title Required" will feature talented persons from all over the Known World. Read all about it with the description from their Facebook Page:

*Simply SCAdian: No Title Required is a new bi-weekly "Zoom"-cast dedicated to talking with the talented individuals that populate the Known World in the Society for Creative Anachronism. Many lack the official recognition to have their voices heard and so we at Simply SCAdian want to provide those wonderful and knowledgeable members with a forum for sharing their wealth of experience with the world at large. Join Zsof and Lucas for interviews and performances by SCA members who may not have heard of but should. And whether you aspire to being a Peer or are quite content with your current level of involvement your voice deserves to be heard. Simply put....We Are All SCAdian.*

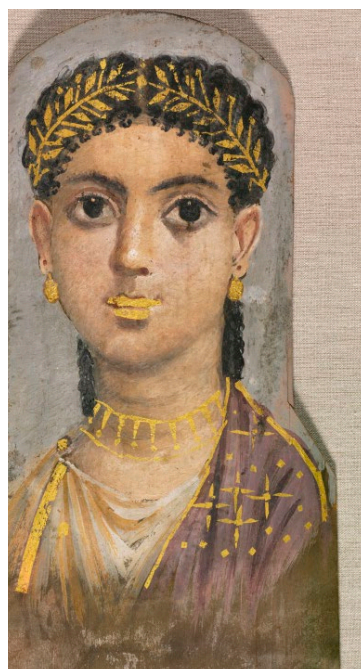


No one they talk to will have a Peerage or have been Baron/Baroness (etc.). The series started by featuring Cleftlands' own Sergeant Kari Garanhirson, and you can view that video here: [https://youtu.be/BCTitJOk\\_Is](https://youtu.be/BCTitJOk_Is)

On February 4, they hosted Damiana de Granada (<https://www.facebook.com/100694535364349/videos/255967546043138>) and on February 18 the guest was Oswyn of Baðon (<https://www.facebook.com/sofiazsof.tyzes/videos/3583083268427056>)

Follow them on Facebook to see what awesome things people in the SCA are doing: <https://www.facebook.com/Simply-SCAdian-No-Title-Required-100694535364349>

## Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Funerary Portrait of a Young Girl, Egypt, 25-37 AD

Encaustic (pigment mixed with wax) on wood - <https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1971.137>

Panels like this one were made to cover the head of the mummified figure that they represent. Everything was depicted in detail, from the skin tone and facial features, to the hair style and jewelry. This painting was dated in part due to the hairstyle shown, which was popular during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (14-37 AD).

This figure adds gilding to the lips and on the jewelry, showing that the person was transformed into an akh - a being of light, or blessed spirit.

Sometimes paintings were done directly onto the linen shrouds, many of which did not survive the passage of time.



# Archeology News: Historic Smells, Lithuanian Lake Skeletons, a Turkey Feather Blanket, and a 15th Century Text Rediscovered

By THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe

New facts about the ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance worlds are continually being discovered. Here is a selection of the latest developments from the world of medieval archeology:

**How the Past Smelled:** Historians, scientists, perfumers, and museums across Europe are collaborating on a project that aims to capture everyday odors in Europe between the 16th and early 20th centuries. The three-year project is called “Odeuropa.”

Researchers want to find or recreate all the old scents of Europe — dry tobacco, medicinal herbs, smelly canals, tanneries, forges, and more. They will first build artificial intelligence trained to scan historical documents in seven languages for descriptions of odors and images of objects that have odors. This information will be used to create an online encyclopedia of smells from Europe’s past.

Source: <https://www.livescience.com/scents-old-europe-history.html>

**Skeleton Found in Lake Bottom:** More than 500 years ago, a medieval soldier’s dead body lay hidden beneath sand and silt at the bottom of a Lithuanian lake. Now, the submerged skeleton has been discovered during an underwater inspection of a bridge in eastern Lithuania’s Lake Asveja.

Researchers believe the person was male, died in the 16th century, and was in the military due to weapons and other items found near the body. The cause of death is unknown.

Source: <https://www.livescience.com/medieval-soldier-lake-lithuania.html>

**Turkey Feather Blanket Analyzed:** Researchers from Washington State University have analyzed a turkey feather blanket thought to have been crafted by 13th century Ancestral Pueblo people living in the American Southwest.

The blanket, measuring about 42 inches long and 39 inches wide, was created by wrapping about 11,500 downy feathers around nearly 200 yards of yucca fiber cord. Craftspersons would have needed feathers from as many as 10 turkeys to produce a blanket of this size. The feathers were probably collected from domesticated turkeys when they molted.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352409X20303953?via%3Dihub>

**Lost Text Rediscovered:** Rochester Institute of Technology students used an imaging system they developed as freshmen to uncover lost writing on 15th-century manuscript leaves.

Ultraviolet-fluorescence imaging revealed that a manuscript leaf was actually a palimpsest, or a manuscript on parchment containing multiple layers of writing. French cursive writing appeared when the manuscript was scanned with the ultraviolet-fluorescence imaging technique. In the 15th century, parchment was regularly scraped or erased so it could be reused. While the erased text is invisible to the naked eye, it can be detected using other parts of the light spectrum.

Source: <https://scitechdaily.com/students-discover-hidden-15th-century-text-on-medieval-manuscripts/>

## This Week in History

- February 21 1437 - During a failed coup attempt, James I of Scotland is trapped in a sewer and assassinated.
- February 22 705 - The only female Empress of China, [Wu Zetian](#), abdicates the throne.
- February 23 1455 - Assumed publication date of the Gutenberg Bible, the 1st western book printed with movable type.
- February 24 1582 - Pope Gregory XIII announces the Gregorian calendar.
- February 25 1336 - Attacked by the Teutonic knights, 4,000 people in the Pilėnai hill fort in Lithuania commit suicide.
- February 26 1564 - Happy birthday to Christopher Marlowe, English playwright, etc., born upon this day.
- February 27 907 - The Liao dynasty of northern China is founded when Abaoji becomes Emperor Taizu.
- February 28 1525 - Cuauhtémoc, king of the Aztecs, is executed by order of Hernán Cortés.



## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Baron Crispin de la Rouchefoucald; baron@cleftlands.org
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- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: Lord Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
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- Knight's Marshal: Baroness Constanza de Mendoza; knightsmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Rapier Marshal: Lady Ragna Storrada Ulfsdottir; rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org
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- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; chronicler@cleftlands.org
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- Demonstration Coordinator: Lord Carl of Cleftlands; demo@cleftlands.org
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- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

## Upcoming Cleftlands Events

- Tuesday, February 23 7:30pm EST Virtual Needleworkers' Guild Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/467437020940538>
- Thursday, February 25 8pm EST Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/327411918397483/>
- Thursday, February 18 8pm EST Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/327411918397483/>

Many thanks to the photographers who provided pictures for our Regular Event special! They include: Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari, Baroness Aldermoureis Ventzke, THL Sarra Bossard, THL Niccolò Bartolazzi, and Lady Claricia de la Mere.

*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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