



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 11/20/2022

Cleftlands News

Cleftlands Celebrates Spooky Season with a Masquerade

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

The annual (sort of) Baronial Halloween revel was held on October 26, celebrated with costumes, treats, and stories. With the theme being "masquerade" many attendees disguised themselves or displayed their favorite masks and the food was in disguise as well. Several dishes arrived pretending to be something else, but they were eaten just the same (mostly).

Spooky stories, songs, and recitations sent a tingle up the spines of the audience. For those who prefer cozy to creepy, kittens were the star of the show.



Above: iVerdi Confusi performs a tale of a dark summoning gone wrong. Or right?

Left: Pumpkin "puke" is really a period Spanish rice flour pudding (with a little food coloring).



Top and bottom: Who are those disguised guests?



News of the Barony

- Congratulations to Mistress Angharad, who will be the new Cleftlands seneschal starting January 1. Learn more about Mistress Angharad on page 4!
- There will be two open officer positions as of January 1: Minister of Arts & Sciences and Minister of Youth. Many thanks to Mistress Angharad for her work as MoAS, and to Lord Rohjon for his 2.5 years of service to the Barony's youth during a very difficult time. Learn more about these jobs on page 5. The application for both is here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>
- There is no meeting on November 23 - happy Thanksgiving!
- The Cleftlands Rapier Tournament returns! Test your mettle on November 30 and/or bring a dish to share and snack while you cheer on the combatants.
- And the Cleftlands Yule Revel is not far behind! Join us on December 14 at the usual time and place - get more details on page 4.
- Bids are being sought for 2023 events, including Regular Event! Interested? Contact seneschal@cleftlands.org.

Easy Winter Projects to Improve Your SCA Presence

In the winter the number of SCA events dwindles and it's time to hibernate. But you can also use some of that down time to make sure you're ready to be represented in the Society, whether that's by finally registering a name, choosing a device, or making a banner that you can display that represents you. What follows are some helpful basics to get you going.

Registering Your Name and Device 101

by Lady Ragna stórráða Úlfisdóttir

There are so many things to do when you first begin to get involved in the SCA; be it a martial activity, calligraphy, cooking, dancing, or one of many other choices, that your name and heraldry might not always be at the top of the list. That doesn't mean you don't get to it eventually though!

In the SCA, your registered name is typically a representation of your persona, or the person you want to be within the society in the period and place you prefer. That means that the names you'll run into are as wide and varied as the cultures that are represented in the period. They have some things in common, namely - a given (personal) name and a byname, at least at the base. (Though not always in that order!)

Coming up with your name can seem like a bit of a troublesome prospect, but it's not really all that difficult. There are almost always heralds around who are often enthusiastic about opportunities to talk about these things, and there are a lot of good references at <http://heraldry.sca.org/names.html> that cover many of the name sources that the SCA College of Arms has collected over the years. Sometimes it's fun just to browse through and see if something strikes your fancy!

The most important part of choosing a name, that you may not consider at first, is how you like it. Try it out, even before you register it - have your friends call you by it. Will they be able to pronounce it? And will you be able to live with it for however long if they can't? Make sure you like it and it's something you enjoy answering to!

Once you've talked to a herald, gotten the parts together, made sure no one else has it, and decided you love it - then it's time to register it! Often times your herald friend will do the paperwork for you, to make sure it's correct, but don't worry if they don't since it's pretty simple to do. You can fill out the form and simply send it off, along with the \$8 submission fee to the current Escutcheon Herald listed at <https://midrealm.org/herald/escutcheon/>.

You'll notice we talked about registering a name first and that's for good reason! The SCA College of Arms is unable to register a device without a registered name. You can register them together, but if for some reason your name can't be registered then the device gets returned until the name is fixed.

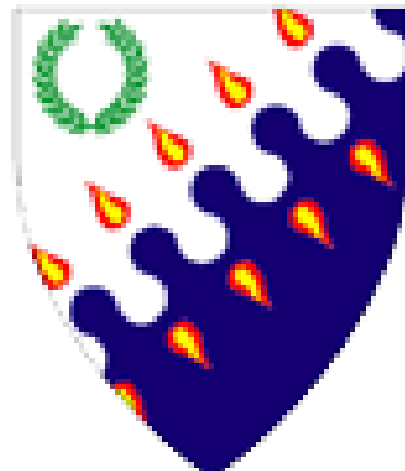
What is a device you might ask? It's your shield! The thing you carry into battle, that enemies and allies alike can use to identify you across the field. This is one of the reasons when you start to think about them, you'll want them to be unique, but also simple. The goal is identification after all!

Typically, it's a good idea to come up with what is most important to have, like a favorite color or symbol, and then work from there. If you've never seen period armorials and want to find a good place for some inspiration - then check out <http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/periodrolls.html>. This site has an excellent selection of period armorial rolls and they've already gone through the trouble of sorting them for you!

You may have also been put off at one point or another because someone mentioned the many, many rules heralds have for devices, but we have a link for that too! This article covers a lot of the basic rules and is written for submitters to be able to review before they get started.

Once you've got some ideas, you should find that herald from before (or maybe a friend of theirs since not all heralds do names and devices) and go over what you want to do. They can double-check your work to make sure you didn't miss something, and they can give it a first look to make sure it won't conflict with something that already exists. Once that's settled and you're happy with your design, with your new herald friend's thumbs up, you can fill out the form and simply send it off, along with the \$8 submission fee to the current Escutcheon Herald listed at the link above.

If any conflicts or issues arise, you will be notified and can resubmit. Once everything passes, congratulations! You now can be identified within the SCA by name and by banner.



Pictured is the device of the Barony of the Cleftlands.

Making an Applique Banner

by *THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe*

If you attended the recent Fall Crown Tournament, you probably noticed many lovely silk banners proudly flying. There are gentles in our barony who can instruct you in how to make silk banners; sadly, I am not one of them. I don't have adequate space for working with dripping paint, or laying a silk banner flat for days to dry. However, I have made several banners using appliqued fabric. I feel this is an easier method, and you don't need any artistic talent.

I won't have room in this brief article to give step-by-step instructions; this will be an overview, and will assume that you have basic sewing supplies and skills. If you'd like to know more, feel free to contact me directly.

Let's say you'd like to make a banner of your device. Gather the appropriate fabric colors for your heraldry (including the background on your device as well as the symbols or other elements), plus iron-on interfacing [available at most craft stores with a sewing section, or online] and enough background fabric to make two panels measuring two-foot by three-foot. The background fabric is what will make up the banner itself and provide the backdrop for your design. It is usually a neutral color such as cream or tan.

Use newspaper to draw and cut out a shield-shaped pattern. When you lay the shield on the background fabric, it should be about 2.5 inches smaller than the background. The short sides should be the width (top and bottom).

Take a picture of your device to a photocopier that can enlarge. Enlarge the picture so that the elements will look proportional on your shield. Cut out the design elements of the device from the paper, and use the pieces as patterns to cut the elements out of the fabric of the appropriate color. For Lord Robert's banner, I had to cut out the book and the scales from different fabric. I attached iron-on interfacing to my fabric elements to give them a bit of stiffness. You might need to add embroidery stitching, or bits of fabric, to give the design elements details.

Using your paper shield pattern, cut out fabric from the color of your device's background so that it matches the shape and dimensions of the shield. In the photo of Lord Robert's banner, you can see the shield is where the green and blue-and-white checked portion of the banner goes.

Place all the design elements in the proper positions on the shield, then attach them with a zig-zag stitch around the edges. You may want to hand-baste [quick-stitch] down the design elements first, so they stay in place. When the shield is finished, attach it to one of the two background using a zig-zag stitch.

Now prepare four fabric loops, about 2.5 by 5 inches. For each loop, cut two pieces of fabric and sew right sides together on the two long sides and one short side. Turn the loops inside out so the "good" side of the fabric is showing. Fold the loops in half. Position them evenly on the background (they will need to be pinned so that the loops are lying on top of the fabric), with the closed side of the loops pointing toward the banner's bottom. Sew the loops on to the second background panel that is still blank.

Pin the two background panels together, right sides together. The loops should be sandwiched between the two panels. Sew the two panels together by stitching around the edges, leaving a 3-inch gap with no stitching. Use the gap to turn the banner right side out. Close the gap with hand stitches.

And there you have it — a lovely banner of your device!



*The banner of THL Robert's device
made by THL Jolicia.*

Call for Content

If you have an idea for content for the newsletter, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com. Thank you and stay well!

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Know Your Officer: Seneschal (Jan 1 2023): Mistress Angharad ferch Tangwystl (mka Elizabeth Estep she/her/hers)

This is a re-run of an interview from June 2020, but as Mistress Angharad prepares to step up into her new role, it might be a good time to revisit!

1.) What is the first SCA event you remember?

My junior year, a high school friend invited me to meet up with a friend of hers attending this “medieval thing.” I pulled together a very primitive outfit the night before. Her dad dropped us off at Church of the Holy Oil Can in the morning. We had just enough money for site and feast, so we didn’t even have lunch, but we did have a great time wandering around and watching everything. Her friend never made it. We wound up feasting on rabbits (and other things, but the rabbits were memorable) with a couple of tiny pen knives she happened to have off Styrofoam plates. Then I went away to college. Several years after I returned to Cleftlands I discovered that a) that event was probably the coronation of Alen and Genevieve in October 1983, b) there is no Order of the Penguin, and c) don’t roast your rabbits lying on their backs unless you actually want them to look like that. Memory may have failed in the details, but clearly that day left a mark.

2.) Apart from your office, what are your 2 main SCA activities?

Period cookery, reading about period cookery, planning feasts, and trying to find something interesting for the Cook’s Guild to work on. This, I suspect, is not a surprise. Also, for years, dancing. There’s been much less in the last (mumblety) years, but I’d love to change that.

3.) What are you most proud of having done in the SCA?

Starting the Cook’s Challenges. I’ve been really impressed to see the things people have come up with, and I’m proud to have started that up.

4.) What SCA activity would you like to try?

I’m learning calligraphy. I’ve done three scrolls in 2020 that were actually awarded (one Baronial and two Kingdom) but I’d really like to be better. I’d also like to get involved in organizing the A&S Faire and other Kingdom A&S Activities. The Faire has improved immensely since I first joined. Between that and the ToA, the Craftspersons Display, and the like, the Kingdom now really has good ways for people to share their work and connect to others in their areas of interest. I’m really impressed by what the RUM team is doing during this shutdown.

5.) What’s your favorite period food (or top 3)?

- Douce Ame as made by Master Aiden, preferably over rice.
- Nearly any dariole, crustarde, or milk pie. (I adore all custards.)
- Whatever I’m currently reading about but haven’t made yet.



Cleftlands Yule Revel - December 14

The Cleftlands Yule Revel is not an event to be missed! This year the revel will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at our weekly meeting site (140 Richmond Road, Euclid) from 7-9:45 pm. Dress in your festive garb, bring a treat to share, and take part in one of the many activities that will be going on:

- “Everything and a Cookie” Exchange - Like a cookie exchange, but with anything you’d like to gift! Each “item” should have an equivalent value of a dozen cookies, and for each one you bring, you can choose one to bring home in return. So say you bring 6 pairs of beeswax candles, you would bring home 6 dozen cookies.
- A Hanukkah display from Lord Tarmach. Hanukkah begins just 4 days after the revel, so come learn more about the holiday. There will be a handout and jelly donuts. Why jelly donuts? Stop by and find out!
- Dancing
- Caroling, organized by Lady Jocelin
- Baronial Holiday Tree decorating - bring your favorite site tokens to bedeck the Cleftlands tree

November - December 2022 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. November 23 - No Meeting
- Wed. November 30, 7:00-10pm - **Rapier Tournament and 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>
- Wed. December 7, 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143. **Classes: Bobbin Lace Making** Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/514684600226670/>
- Thurs. December 8, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Tues., December 13, 7:30pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Wed. December 14, 7:00-10:00pm - **Baronial Revel - Yule (bring a dessert to share, a Maybe Not a Cookie gift exchange, dancing, caroling, and more)** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. December 15, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. December 21 - No Meeting
- Wed. December 28 - No Meeting

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.

Cleftlands Officer Openings - Minister of Arts & Sciences; Minister of Youth

As of January 1, Mistress Angharad is changing out her position as Minister of Arts & Sciences for the Seneschal office, and Lord Rojhon will be ending his tenure as Minister of Youth. You can apply for both positions here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/> Applications for MoAS will remain open until December 15, and applications for Minister of Youth will remain open until the position is filled. Learn more about each office below, or ask the current office holder or seneschal your questions.

Minister of Arts & Sciences - The Minister of Arts and Sciences is responsible for fostering arts and sciences within the Barony. They organize classes for weekly meetings, and potentially other activities such as challenges or contests with the goal of promoting and encouraging participation in the arts and sciences. The MoAS often attends Baronial meetings to help organize classes. As our Society becomes increasingly comfortable in this virtual age, the MoAS will also create virtual events, update calendars, and use social media and email to promote activities. This position will file reports on projects, research, and classes that members of the community have taken or taught. Qualifications include:

- Paid member of the SCA (required)
- A passion for learning and appreciation of the arts
- A creative mindset for developing activities is helpful
- Ability to attend local meetings as needed
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Good grasp of social media usage (specifically Facebook for creating events and promoting activities)

The Minister of Youth assists with organizing activities for the younger members of the Barony. This might include activities at weekly meetings and/or local events. Filing of regular reports on youth activities is one of the duties of the office. This position requires a background check, which can be completed after applying. Qualifications:

- Must be a legal adult of 18 or older
- Paid membership in the SCA is required
- Must pass a background check
- Enthusiastic about entertaining and educating youth
- Creative mindset for coming up with activities is helpful
- Comfortable working with youth and parents
- Ability to attend local activities where youth activities are organized

Upcoming Midrealm Events

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

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

December 10 - Yule Feast; All-day feast, armored and rapier, classes. Toledo, OH.

<https://hrodgeirsfjordr.midrealm.org/yule-feast-2022/>

December 10 - Hawkland Moor's Wassail; Potluck, dancing, caroling. Rochester, OH.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/845416823494101>

January 7 - Twelfth Night in the Middle Marches; Gaming, classes, snowball tournament. Delaware, OH.

<https://middlemarches.midrealm.org/events/twelfth-night/>

January 7 - Pentamere 12th Night; Tournament of Arts, classes, feast. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

<https://pentamere12thnight.weebly.com/>

January 21 - Masque of Courtly Love; Tournament of Arts, classes, feast. Canton, OH.

January 28 - Festival of Maidens; Classes, heavy and rapier, bardic. Urbana, IL.

<https://caergwyn.midrealm.org/festival-of-maidens-48/>

February 5 - Candlemas XXXIII; Heavy and rapier tournaments, BoD roundtable. Shelbyville, KY.

<https://dragonsmark.midrealm.org/candlemas/>

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Ganesha. South India, Chola dynasty (10th-13th century).

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1970.62>

Size: About 20 x 10 x 7 in.

Bronze

In the Hindu religion, Ganesha is a god of wealth and abundance. Though there are many stories about how he gained elephant attributes, the most common involves him being decapitated by his father, Shiva. His mother was able to revive him, but only if she used the head of the first creature she saw - which happened to be an elephant.

Ganesha is representative of opposites in balance. His greatest strength is wisdom, but he has a weakness for sweets. He is shown here carrying a modak, which is a dumpling made from a rice flour shell with a coconut filling.

News of the Kingdom

- Applications are open for Midrealm Dragon Herald (the principal herald of the Kingdom) until November 30. Send your letter of intent and your list of qualifications to herald@midrealm.org
- Her Majesty AnneMarie will be hosting a virtual crafters' green on Wednesdays throughout Her reign. See more details and get the Zoom info here: <https://trm.dag-annemarie.com/crafting-with-the-queen-remote>
- There will be a Tournament of the Arts at Pentemere 12th Night January 7, 2023. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3fYyOCi>

News of the Society

- Position open: SCA Corporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. Learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/applications-open-sca-corporate-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-officer/>
- Duchess Adrielle Kerrec has stepped into the role of Director to Seat D for the remainder of the term (October 2024): <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-director-seat-d/>
- The October 2022 SCA President's report is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/october-2022-presidents-report-available/>
- The current online registration system is being phased out, and will no longer be active as of December 1 2022. A replacement is expected in early 2023. For events held after December 1 for which there may be registrations, work is being done to ensure they are properly recorded. PayPal may be used as an alternative, if available. <https://www.sca.org/news/transition-of-sca-inc-registration-systems/>

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baronessa Aurelia Rosetti; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: The Honorable Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine/Gold Key: Lady Jaqueline la Deiciere; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Njall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister Arts & Sciences: Mistress Angharad ferch Tangwystl; 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 Cadfan of the Autumn Wood; archery@cleftlands.org
- Web Minister: Baroness Gianna Vettori; webminister@cleftlands.org
- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; chronicler@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Youth: Lord Rojhon the Wanderer; youthminister@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

This Week in History

Nov. 20 1407 - The Dukes of Burgundy & Orleans agree to a truce - but it's a ruse. Burgundy kills Orleans 3 days later.

Nov. 21 1009 - Lý Công Uẩn becomes emperor of Đại Cồ Việt (Vietnam), beginning the Lý dynasty, which flourished for 216 years.

Nov. 22 1532 - Birth of [Anne of Denmark](#), known for her herbal knowledge & promoting farming development in Saxony.

Nov. 23 534 BCE - The first recorded instance of an actor, **Thespis** of Icaria, performing as a character on stage.

Nov. 24 1221 - Mongols complete their conquest of central Asia when Genghis Khan defeats the Khwarazmians.

Nov. 25 1177 - Battle of Montgisard, which is fictionally shown in "Kingdom of Heaven," is won by 16-yr-old Baldwin IV.

Nov. 26 1161 - Battle of Caishi, an important naval engagement between the Jin and the Song on the Yangzi river in China, begins. The next day the Song achieve victory - in part due to their use of gunpowder weapons.

- *Photos from the Cleftlands Halloween revel 2022 are credited to Lady Claricia de la Mere.*
- *Photo of THL Robert's heraldic banner credited to The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe.*
- *Photo of Mistress Angharad is used with the grace of Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*

The image of the bronze Ganesha 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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