



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 8/28/2022

Cleftlands Pennsic XLIX Special Issue

Regarding Pennsic 49

by Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari

Time is unique at Pennsic. It is measured in distance, as in, We're camped just 10 minutes from the Battlefield! Or it is the moment the privy service trucks rolled past – mine were at about 6:30 a.m. each morning. "About" is also critical – battles and courts always start at about a particular time.

At Pennsic 49, all time was annotated as "plus three years."

The children have Grown, even married. Or brought children of their own. The senior folk have gone grayer, and perhaps a bit slower. Or people were missing altogether, lost to time and the tides.

But we celebrated our time, this time, together. We reconnected. Laughed. Cried. Talked. Hugged. Battled. And laughed some more.

We had rain. And heat. Dust, and allergy-aggravating pollens. Courts and classes and arrows and ice cream.

It was a Complete Pennsic. It was good to be Home.

Pennsic Overview

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

After a three-year "town run" (as many aficionados call the time between Pennsics) and being postponed twice, Pennsic 49 finally began with land grab (where the land agent for each camp arrives on site and determines camp placements and boundaries) on July 29, and ran until campers left site on August 14. Here are some fast facts (and apologies for anything missed - there is so much going on and wonderful things that Cleftlanders are doing):

- Attendees: 7844
- Who won?: Henry Singleman, age 6, of the East Kingdom (or the Eastern Alliance, depending on who's asked). Young Henry had his picture in the "Pennsic Independent" twice and declared he had "won Pennsic". The unconfirmed rumor is that the Kings of the Midrealm and East agreed, and thus it was announced in the Friday issue.
- Midrealm Alliance: Their Majesties Runa and Arch allied with Their Majesties of Aethelmearc Byron & Ariella, Trimaris, Drachenwald, Northshield (heavy), Outlands, and Calontir
- Eastern Alliance: Their Majesties of the East Ryouko'jin & Indrakshi allied with Their Majesties Cuan & Adelhait of Atlantia along with Ansteorra, An Tir, The West, Caid, Avacal, Ealdormere, Artemisia, Atlantia, Lochac, Meridies, Dark Horde, and the Tuchux.
- War Points - Eastern Alliance: 21 at last report
- War Points - Midrealm Alliance: 11 at last report
- War Points - Weather: 1 (the rapier woodlands battle was called off due to bad conditions)
- War Point - Tie: Rapier Pirate Battle
- We had 2 Cleftlanders featured in the "Pennsic Independent": Lady Eleanore van Tyne was in an article that mentioned her book "House of the Wild Fox", available at her pottery stall at Pennsic, Earth and Loom. Lady Jaqueline was featured in a photo in the Tuesday, August 9 issue of the Pennsic Independent



Cleftlands armored muster.

See page 2 for more Pennsic War Points, Cleftlander awards, archery, and A&S reports...

Pennsic Overview - War Points, Awards, Archery, and A&S

- Some of the Midrealm Alliance's War Points:
 - 2 Ranged
 - Allied A&S
 - Belted Champions
- Some of the Eastern Alliance's War Points:
 - Armored: Bridge Battle, Town Battle, Unbelted Champions, Heroic Armored Champions
 - Rapier: Heroic Rapier Champions, Rapier Melee Battle
 - A&S Populace War Point (350 Midrealm teachers vs. 345 for the East, 1420 Eastern attendees vs. 1347)

And Cleftlanders were everywhere! From arts to archery, volunteering to vigils, our compatriots represented the Barony and the Kingdom with great honor. Many of our Baronial fellows were recognized with awards for their contributions. Here is a list in no particular order:

- Ulfr Forkbeard - Order of the Dragon's Heart
- Runa Æikibrandskona - Order of the Dragon's Barb
- EikBrandr Solgyafi - Order of the Dragon's Heart
- Ragna stórráða Úlfsdóttir - Order of the Cavendish Knot
- Zuriel Nightshade - Order of the Red Company
- Jolicia atte Northclyfe - Order of the Evergreen
- Adele Kramer - Order of the Red Company
- Kirkpatrick of Nottinghamshire - Award of Arms
- Brangwayn Snowden - Order of the Pelican
- Oaken Armed Forces (of which Cleftlands is part) - Dragon's Teeth
- Lady Gwennllian Tarianlas was recognized for literally putting out fires.
- All Gentles who taught at Pennsic were presented with wooden medallions created by Sgt. Tariq and Lord Macro and given by the Queen's hand.



Mistress Snowden at her elevation.

Cleftlands archers in particular made an impact on the War. The Midrealm won all three of the populace war point shoots with fewer archers than the East Kingdom. Unfortunately they did not win the champions' point. Did you know...

- Forester Muldonny McVriw was the Lt. General of Target Archery.
- Foresters Muldonny, Gwynneth, and Gladius and Lord Dafydd Myddleton all shot on the Archery Champions' Team.
- Lord Dafydd Myddleton also participated in the Known World Baronial Champions' Shoot.

Pennsic always has a variety of ways to participate in the arts & sciences, and they seem to be different every year. There are hundreds of classes (and yes, many were taught by Cleftlanders), and this year teaching and attending classes counted towards a War Point, so those who participated could contribute to the war effort by learning and doing what they love. The Midrealm came VERY close to winning, so think about participating next year if you didn't get a chance to this year!



THL Jolicia's A&S display.

There was also the Arts & Sciences Champions' War Point, where contestants were selected to show off their skills and then judged. The Midrealm won the Allied War Point with Baron Brun Canutssen's entry. You may not have known that our own Honorable Lady Jolicia was selected as an alternate. She set up her display of recorder music in the time of King Henry VIII and performed a piece for the judges.

Countess Serena also organized a Craftsperson's Green at Pennsic, where artisans sat out and practiced their crafts for a few hours so people could come by at their leisure to admire and ask questions. Duchess Runa, Mistress Zuriel, Forester Gladius, and Lady Orsina (a former Cleftlander) all participated with embroidery, bow-making, and harp music (respectively).

What will Cleftlanders do in Pennsic 50? We have a whole year to dream.

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Master Milesent Vibert (mka Grace Vibbert (she/her))

1. What first got you into the SCA?

My first week of freshman year in college I met a girl in my dorm who would become a fast friend and future roommate; Her SCA name was Tatiana Yuriovna and she kept telling me how cool the SCA was and that I'd love it.... she was right! I think what first got me hooked was dancing, to be honest. A lady from Cleftlands (Angharad!) came down to teach our little college group English Country dancing. It was so much fun! Also as a socially awkward teen it was just really great to feel wanted and accepted.



2. What are your two main activities in the SCA?

Right now? Just two? Scribal arts and playing dress up I suppose. I do love putting together an outfit! I also really love archery.

3. You were the third Baroness of the Cleftlands - what's something you enjoyed about being Baroness?

It was an incredible honor and responsibility; what I enjoyed most was the ability the position gave me to make someone's day. Creating grand moments; when you hand someone a favor and see tears in their eyes... wow. It's humbling and amazing, to be able to create those emotional and meaningful moments. Also the swell of pride in your heart marching to the field with our battle unit, banners flying, pipes sounding! And Baronial Champions; there is something very special about the people who step forward and want to serve their Barony as Champion.

4. You have 3 different augmentations of arms; what's an augmentation of arms & how did you receive yours?

The Augmentation of Arms is a fun award; it carries no precedence so it doesn't convey any rank, however they are special and can be quite personal! Basically the Crown says you can add something to your registered coat of arms. Often what is added has to do with a specific cool thing you did or were a part of. My first, a dragon's fist holding a candle, was from Their Majesties EikBrandr I and Runa I after I served as their A&S Champion. (The candle being a traditional symbol of the arts in the SCA.) The second, a Dragonfly, is a very special augmentation given to me by Their Majesties Nikolai and Serena for my service as Their Royal Chamberlain. The Dragonfly being a personal symbol of them and their household makes it a particular honor. The third is a quill pen which Their Majesties William and Isolde gave to all of the scribes who created award scrolls during their reign. Augmentations can be fit into your arms as you see fit; I generally imagined the dragon's hand coming out of the top of the helm when the arms are displayed in full achievement, and figure I would stick the quill pen in its grasp as well. I haven't decided where to put the dragonfly yet. Maybe inside one of the mascacles on my arms. Hmmm.

5. Tell us about something you've learned by being in the SCA that you applied in real life.

What a great question! Skills do translate; my skills I learned doing illuminated awards made me a better painter for modern work. Fitting and sewing garb gave me the skills to repair and sew modern clothing. I am certainly a bigger threat on the dance floor than I was before! But I think the skill that helped me the most was learning about leadership and that I was capable of being in charge of something; it's helped me in my career, going for a promotion I would've thought out of my league when I was younger.

News of the Society

- An updated marshal's handbook for rattan combat is now available: <https://www.sca.org/news/updated-marshals-handbook-for-rattan-combat-now-available/>
- The archive of Society artifacts is being cataloged and moved to a new location, which is estimated to cost thousands of dollars. If you would like to donate to the cause of preserving SCA history, learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/donations-welcome-moving-the-sca-archive/>
- The July President's report is now available: <https://www.sca.org/news/july-2022-presidents-report-now-available/>
- The Honorable Lord Iain MacArthur has been appointed the new Society Webminister: <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-new-society-webminister/>

A Few Brief Lessons Learned by A Pennsic First-timer

by Rav Ezra ha-Yona

Certain wisdoms reveal themselves only through experience, and many of those wisdoms came crashing into me during my first time off to war. Two weeks of camping and activities certainly has a way of teaching some lessons to a fresh face. In the interest of sating curiosities, providing amusement, and perhaps helping some future first-timer, I offer some of those lessons here.



- Pacing yourself for the full two weeks does not mean what you think it does. You will think “taking it easy” during Peace Week means spending a lot of time out of camp but only for social visits and some merchant reconnaissance. That is not taking it easy. Taking it easy means not leaving camp. Especially when it’s over 85 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Stop moving. Stop. Moving. Nap. And mind your electrolytes.
- Water is step one. Sugar and salt are also needed, that’s step two. You will somehow flounder there.
- Carbs, fats, and proteins. Yes, all of them, yes, three times a day at minimum.
- Everything has an opportunity cost. Have fun with the things you do make it to and forgive yourself for what you couldn’t.
- You will survive only having a few tattered, misshapen, unfinished, partially-sewn pieces of garb. You will however be happier after visiting the garb merchants.
- You will pack many things. In particular, make sure you pack a budget. You’re going to need it.
- You will tell yourself, “I am conscientious about taking my medications regularly and at the appropriate hour.” This will be true in all other places and times. This is Pennsic. It will not be true. Get a pill box and set it in a prominent place.
- The usual disclaimers about bad actors apply, as always – but you will find so, so many good actors, too.
- If you need help, ask. If you can help, do.
- Going down the hill at night will feel like an orphean descent into the underworld. This will not be inaccurate.
- You don’t need to party to have a good time.
- You don’t need alcohol to have a good time.
- You don’t need to have an adventure every night.
- Pennsic is not Pennsic because it is Pennsic. Pennsic is Pennsic because of the people. There are many ways to interpret this. All of them are fair.
- Make sure you know at least one popular SCAdian song. You never know when someone will strike up a chorus of “Savage Daughter”.
- Make note of the day’s highlights. You will thank yourself.
- Look at the sky. It will always evoke an emotion in you. Possibly fear. Possibly awe.
- Heed the words of your elders. They know the best ways to have a good time and not die.
- Modern tents are easy. Canvas tents are comfy. Pick your poison.
- Buy the paper, order some ice, offload your trash. Tip the urchins. That’s their college fund you’re filling.
- The best way to enjoy Pennsic is the way that works for you. It will take you forever to figure that out. Just do your best. You’ve already won by being there.

News of the Kingdom

- Please note that the mask mandate has been removed for SCA activities in the Midrealm. The only remaining Covid restriction in the Kingdom is the required posting of the Society disclaimer at in-person activities and with all invitations to such.
- The Midrealm is participating in the reduced armor experiment for rapier fighters. Contact Lord Reinhardt for more information, and sign up to participate [here](#).
- There will be a Tournament of the Arts at Harvest days on September 10. Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/TOA-Info-and-FAQ>

News of the Barony

- A previous resident of Cleftlands, Charles Delaney, known in the Society as Culann mac Cruimeinn, passed away in an auto accident on August 14. We send our sincere condolences to his friends and family.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

September 1-5 - Mounted War Games XI; Largest Mid-realm equestrian event. Also rapier. Bluffton, IN. More info:

<https://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/mounted-war-games-xi/>

September 3 - Mistress Mary Garrett Memorial Event; Friendship feasting, dancing, a&s, ranged, heavy, rapier. Logan, OH

September 3 - Middle Kingdom Academy of Defense; Rapier, classes on rapier Urbana, IL. Learn more:

<http://placeforstuff.net/events/2022-MKAoD/>

September 9-11 - Baroness Wars VIII; A&S, ranged, heavy, rapier. Taylorville, IL.

<https://swordcliff.midrealm.org/events/baroness-wars-viii/>

September 9-10 - Harvest Days XXXVIII; Tournament of Arts, Tournament of Chivalry, more. Xenia, OH. Learn:

<https://wingedhills.wixsite.com/harvestdays>

September 16-18 - Vikings Come Home XXX; Heavy, ranged, A&S, Youth, Bardic. Moorestown, MI. Learn:

<https://www.vikingscome-home.com/>

September 17 - Pferdestadt Rapier Classic V; Rapier. Caledonia, OH. Learn:

<https://pferdestadt.midrealm.org/pferdestadt-rapier-classic/>

September 24 - Fall Coronation; Pagentry, feast, classes, heavy/rapier/darts. South Elgin, IL. Learn:

<https://ayreton.midrealm.org/coronation-day-schedule/>

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Male Figure; Mali; 1300s-1600s

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1985.199>

Size: About 7.75" tall

Terracotta

This male figure likely represented a god or king of the Inland Niger Delta (West Africa) region's residents at the time. Figures like this were made to be used in rituals and received prayers and offerings.

Though seated, the pose has been interpreted as harmful, bringing death.

Though the maker of this figure is unknown, it was likely a woman of the Djenné-Djenno. Potters in Mali, as in most of Africa, are female. Djenné was an urban center, considered one of the oldest in sub-Saharan Africa, dating from about 250 BC. It shows evidence of advanced trade networks and

complex societal structures. Figures like this one were still made up until the 18th century.

August-September 2022 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. August 31, 7:00-10pm - **Baronial Revel - Ice Cream Social & Summer Sharing** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs., September 1, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. September 7, 7:00-10pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs., September 8, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. September 14, 7:00-10pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. September 15, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>

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.

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. Thank you and stay well!

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
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- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
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- Minister Arts & Sciences: Mistress Angharad ferch Tangwystl; moas@cleftlands.org
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- 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
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Youth: Lord Rojhon the Wanderer; youthminister@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

This Week in History

August 24 79 - Mount Vesuvius erupts and destroys multiple Roman cities, including Pompeii and Herculaneum.
August 25 1330 - Scotland's Sir James Douglas (aka "Good Sir James" in Scotland, or "the Black Douglas" in England) dies in battle, sidetracked en route to take the heart of Robert the Bruce to the Holy Land.
August 26 1346 - The English army defeats French forces twice their number at the Battle of Crecy.
August 27 410 - The Visigoths end the sack of Rome after three days.
August 28 632 - Fatimah, the daughter of the prophet Muhammad, dies - either from a broken heart or an attack.
August 29 708 - Copper coins are minted in Japan for the first time.
August 30 1363 - The 5-week Battle of Lake Poyang begins to determine who will rule after the Yuan dynasty.

- *Photo of the Cleftlands armored muster, Mistress Snowden's elevation, and Lord Ezra courtesy of Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*
- *Photo of THL Jolicia and her A&S display courtesy of Lady Claricia de la Mere.*
- *Photo of Master Milesent courtesy of Master Milesent.*
- *Many thanks to the staff of the Pennsic Independent for their reporting, from which much of the fast facts were drawn.*

The image of the terracotta male figure 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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