



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 22, December, 2001

## The Day We Make Khan-tact

On Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Bohemian National Hall on Broadway Avenue, the peoples of Western Europe and those of The Great Khan will meet, again, for the first time. What will they make of one another's food, dress, dancing and customs?

Sir Ephraim has lined up an all-star event staff to host this year's Regular Event at the site used for Fall Coronation. We will not have the whole building this time, but just the main floor. Still, even one floor of the Bohemian hall provides ample space for a variety of activities. In addition to heavy weapons and fencing, there will be a scribal competition, children's activities, classes, games, dancing, and, of course, a pun contest. If that wasn't enough to entertain you for a day, Valharic and Alys will be holding court for Their Royal parents, so get your award recommendations in now!

Sara Rex will be making her debut as a deputy autocrat, heading up a staff of veterans and neophytes alike in what is hoped to be a 'learning event' producing a volume on how to host an event when all is done. If you are interested, there are still many positions open for deputies and assistants. See a staff member to volunteer.

Angharad and Francesca will be cooking up a feast fit for a Khan, Maria Vincente de Castilla is organizing merchants and Milesent is organizing

classes. Lord Timothy is gatekeeper, and is already accepting your reservations. (And, no, we don't mean those on the order of "A career and a family? I don't know.")

**Site:** \$5 pre-reg. received by 1/19, \$6 at the door. Children 12 and under ½ price, 3 and under free.

**Feast:** \$10 pre-reg. received by 1/19, \$12 at the door. Checks payable to SCA - Cleftlands. The only reservation is a paid reservation. Merchants must pre-register and fees apply – contact the Merchant Steward.

Site is wet, handicap accessible, and has hot showers!

## A Medieval Holiday

*by Edward FitzRanulf and Jebenne de Lur*

For many, Christmas has a medieval overlay with boar's-head feasts, holly and ivy and wassail being staples of Christmas celebration. However, few of us understand what the significance of Christmas was during the middle ages and how it was celebrated.



Today it is generally accepted that Christ was not born on December 25th. The winter solstice, December 21st/22nd had been the occasion of numerous pagan celebrations, for example the Roman Saturnalia, and Pope Julius, (337-353) decided to preempt these older celebrations. For the medieval world Christmas was not a one-day holiday, it was a season. The traditional "Twelve Days of Christmas" ran from December 25th through January 6th; however, they began the evening before, so December 24th was the First Night, and the evening of January 5th, Twelfth Night.

The twelve days of Christmas were associated with important Christian observances. December

*Continued on page 2*

## Our Officers

**Seneschal:** Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch)  
279 East 248 St.  
Euclid, OH 44123

**Pursuivant:** Lord Pietro Nicolò di San Tebaldo (Samuel Pearce)  
2577 Exeter Rd  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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

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

**Marshal of Fence:** Lady Brangwayn Snowden (Terrie Way)  
3480 West 118th St.  
Cleveland, OH 44111

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

**Chroniclers:** Ladies Lyonnette et Milesent Vibert (Marie & Grace Vibbert)  
445 Richmond Park W., #328B  
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

**Chatelaine:** Lady Alex  
2616 E 124th st.  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
blkrose@aol.com

## Christmas, Con't.

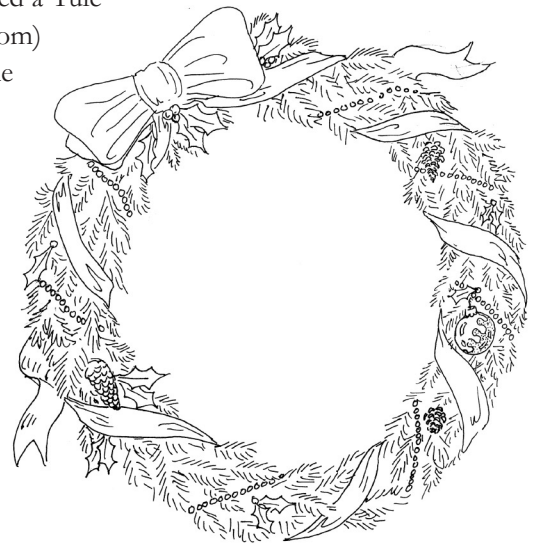
25th, of course, celebrated Christ's birth. December 26th was St. Stephen's Day, December 27th, St. John's Day, December 28th was Holy Innocent's Day, remembering the children whom Herod ordered slaughtered. January 1st was Holy Name Day, the date Christ was circumcised; and the celebration of Christmas culminated with January 6th, Three Kings day, or the Feast of the Epiphany, the day on which the Three Wise Men hailed Christ as the Savior.

But, medieval Christmas was also a secular celebration that retained pagan overtones. Our mental picture, focused as it is on the well-to-do, includes a great hall, decked with holly, ivy and mistletoe. All of these, by the way, were associated with pagan religions. Holly and ivy were eventually adopted by the Church and given Christian meanings. Mistletoe was not accepted, though we still associated it with Christmas.

Into this hall was carried a Yule Log, (another pagan custom) a large log which everyone touched before it was burnt. The Lord of the hall would host several feasts, the last and greatest being on Twelfth Night, guests, perhaps even including the tenants from his manor, would be invited.

Feasting and revelry started around noon and continued for hours. Carolers would come and sing carols with verses and burdens, or refrains, in which everyone would join. These carols were not necessarily religious in character and might be danced to as well as sung. Carols were another pagan custom that was eventually accepted by the church. Wassail was drunk, and a Lord of Misrule might be chosen and placed in charge of the feast and entertainment.

The giving of presents was not as large a part of the medieval Christmas as it has become today; and alas, there were no Christmas trees in the middle ages, except in parts of Germany where Christian missionaries replaced sacrifices to Odin's sacred oak with a fir tree decorated in honor of the "Christ Child." The Christmas tree did not enter the Anglo-American tradition until the Victorian age.



# Exchequer's Report for June to November, 2001

*Coronation results in a profit for barony, but weekly meeting site and charity result in a small net loss for the quarter.*

**Event-related expenses: 6124.18**

Bad Debts 72.00  
Bank Service Charges 20.66  
Refund depreciation 22.00  
Equipment Rental and Maintenance 200.54  
Children's Activities 50.00  
Food 1897.38  
General Supplies 203.49  
Site Charges 3,500  
Postage & Shipping 47.60  
Printing & Publications 12.84  
Site Tokens 97.67

**Event-related income: 7246.25**

**Event total: + 1122.07**

**Income from direct contributions: 799.18**

**Non-event-related Site Charges: 1257.50**

Site Charges not met through direct contributions: 458.32

**Funds Raised from Red Cross Auction: 1856**

**Funds Donated to Red Cross: 1856**

**Funds Donated to Royalty: 772.80**

**Total Gross Income (Auction + Contributions): 9901.43**

**Total Expenses (Including donations): 10010.48**

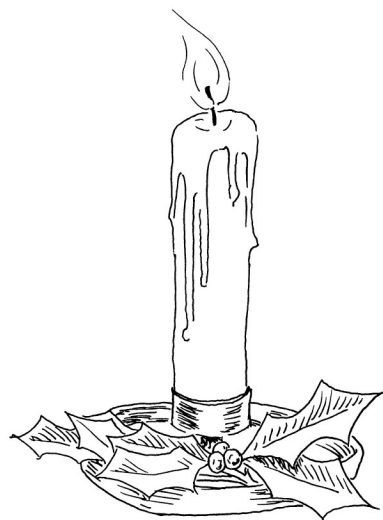
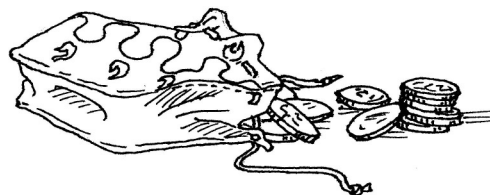
**Net Income: -109.05**

Cash on hand at start of period: 7562.20

Cash on hand at end of period: 7453.15

Net Worth: 7453.15

**Change in Net Worth: -109.05**



A very special thank-you to all the good gentles who contributed to The Forum this year:

Aldermourice, Angharad, Culann, Darius, Edward Fitzranulf, Emelyn, Ephraim, Katerine del Val, Milesent, Regan

We had twelve issues this year, and I couldn't have done it without you!

Sir Ephraim's article, The Chivalric Oath of Fealty with Notes, was nominated for a Black Fox award, and we have been consistantly 'selling out' of issues at desert revel. We've been printing off sixty copies a month, in addition to the seven people who recieve the newsletter electronically. Would you like to get your Forum emailed to you in pdf format? Email me at [mlv4@po.cwru.edu](mailto:mlv4@po.cwru.edu) to be added to the list.

-Lyonnete

# Calendar

---

## As Usual:

**Regular Meetings** on Wednesday Nights at the Shore Center

There will not be a meeting Wednesday, January 2nd due to the New Year's holiday.

**Archery Guild** Sundays at 1pm at Lucas Archery

**Armorer's Guild** Thursday nights at Ealdred's house. There will be no Armorer's guild next week nor the week after, due to the holidays.

**Dance Guild** is currently looking for a new meeting place.

Please check with your guild leaders for exceptions caused by the holidays.

**CWRUMS Meeting** Tuesday nights at 7pm at Carlton Commons.

CWRUMS has shut down for the semester and will resume on January 17 due to Winter Break.

## Local Happenings:

**12-20-01** Cub Scout Demo at Oxford Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, 7 to 8:30 pm.

**1--1-02 Domesdays are due!** Officers get 'em in to your regional superior and to Nial.

**1-26-02 The January Event**

**4-13-02 Coronation of Valharic and Alys** - here in Cleftlands!

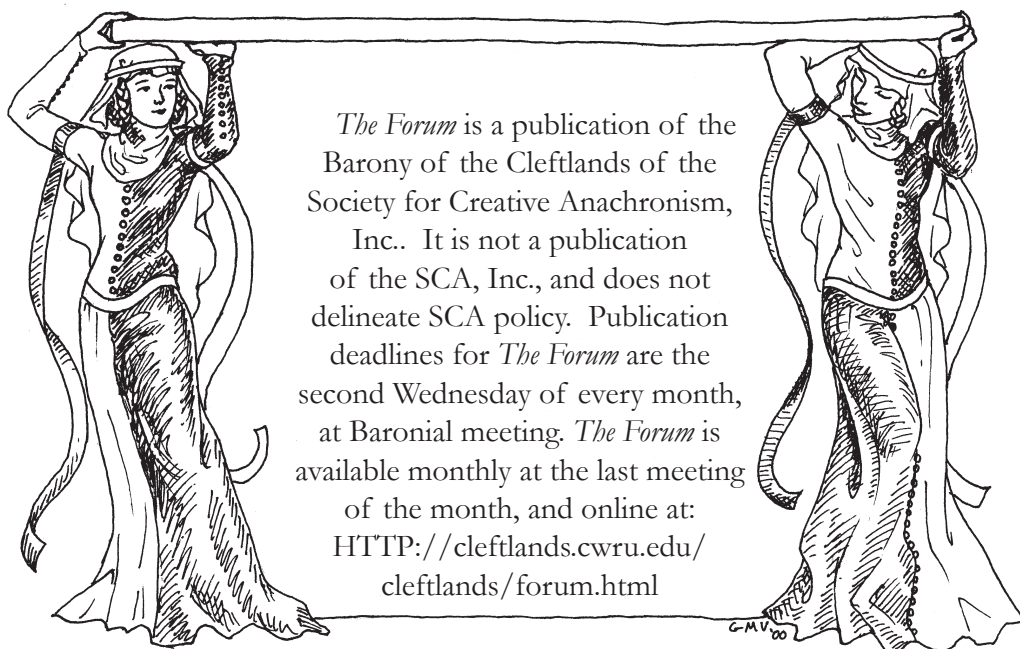
## Selected Events:

**1-5-02** Kingdom 12th Night - Cynnabar [Madison Hts, MI]

**1-12-02** 12th Nights in - Nordskogen, Havenholde, and Shaddowed Stars {Maple Lake, MN, Springfield, OH, and Ft. Wayne, IN}

**1-20-02** Just Another Fight Practice - Red Spears [Toledo, OH]

Would you like your guild or household meeting or event posted here? Just get it to the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month!



*The Forum* is a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.. It is not a publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policy. Publication deadlines for *The Forum* are the second Wednesday of every month, at Baronial meeting. *The Forum* is available monthly at the last meeting of the month, and online at: [HTTP://cleftlands.cwru.edu/cleftlands/forum.html](http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/cleftlands/forum.html)