

THE forum

The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 14 April, 2001

Barony back in the black this quarter

With \$4981.48 in gross income this quarter (\$945.14 in direct contributions, mostly tithe and \$3386.33 in event-related income, and \$650 as a returned site deposit) the Cleftlands outpaced its expenses for the first time in over a year.

Our expenses for the quarter totalled \$3432.36, consisting of \$150 in equipment rental and maintenance (office and admin. related), \$1400 in food (event related), \$241.51 in event-related supplies, and \$1640.85 in occupancy and site charges (the Shore Center). This left us with a net income of \$1549.12, and increases the Barony's cash-on-hand to \$5749.37 (up from \$4200.24).

The upswing can be partially explained by the fact that the site expenses for the January event are not reflected on this quarter, whereas the profits from it are.



Who Will Bear the Standard?

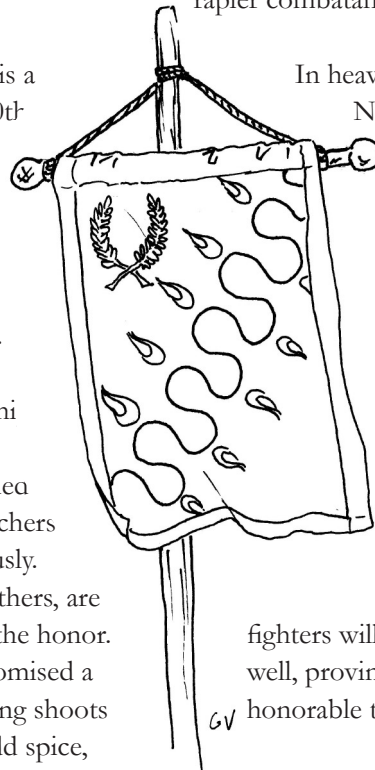
The eyes of Cleftlands turn southward this weekend to Stow, to the rich lands of our neighbors of Gwyntarian, where they have graciously allowed the annual competition for the honor of bearing the Cleftlands Standard to take place.

This year's competition is a special one, marking the 30th anniversary of the Marche of the Cleftlands. In addition, but not overshadowing this, there are as great a gathering of competitors as ever before.

The archery championships is open, Lord Edward Brackenburye having decided not to compete, and the archers have been practicing furiously. Valorian and Ian, among others, are poised to give their all for the honor. Lord Brackenburye has promised a host of difficult and amusing shoots for the competition. To add spice, the archers of Gwyntarian have issued a challenge to the Cleftlands that will be acted out along the regular competition.

The fencers should be thrilling to

watch, aside from the natural grace of the sport, there will be many new faces among the regular combatants. Spectators are interested to see how newly-authorized Stephen Von Lubek does against the more experienced rapier combatants.



In heavy weapons, Lothar di Normandy stands ready to defend his title against stiff competition. The aforementioned Lubek does have an eye on the prize, but will (newly awarded) Lord Geoffry Fauconnet or Lord Edward Brackenburye let him near it? Many of our newest authorized fighters will be out there as well, proving their metal in this honorable test.

The most exciting thing about the list of combatants for this weekend is how many are fighting in at least two of the three competitions, making the race for overall Champion stiffer than it has ever

What's Inside:
Calendar - Officers - Notes - More Chivalry

Our Officers

Seneschal: Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch) 3735 Marvin Ave. Cleveland, OH 44109

Pursuivant: Lord Pietro Nicolo di San Tebaldo (Samuel Pearce) #23 Lexington Square Euclid, OH 44143

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

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

Marshal of Fence: Lord Edward FitzRanulf (Scott Hendrix) 2917 Brevard Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15227

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

Chronicler: Lady Lyonnete Vibert (Marie Vibbert) 445 Richmond Park West, #328-B Richmond Heights, OH 44143

Chatelaine: Lady Alex 46545 Middle Ridge Rd. Amherst, OH 44001

been before.

In honor of the historic significance of this tournament, His Grace has asked each competitor to provide a story from the history of the Clefthlands. Those who have been in the SCA five years or less must tell a story of the first five years of our group. Those that have been in ten years or less the second five years, and so on. Hopefully the old timers and the newcomers will meet in the middle, neither stuck in their personal 'good old days'.

Non-combatants are also invited to share their stories, using the same rules. All participants in the story-telling are asked to let His Grace know they are participating so a general count of how many stories there will be can be made. If there are only a few tales, they will be given during feast. If there are many, they will be spread out throughout the day to prevent our food getting cold before the telling is complete.

Milesent would like to remind everyone that in addition to the official competitions of the day, the title of Prima Dona of the dance guild will be passed on at Standard Bearer's... we've done it once, it's a tradition now. The Honorable Lady Angharad ferch Tangwystl has held the title with grace and panache for a year now... will she step down gracefully? To whom shall the Fabulous Hat pass? Rumor has it that Hawise has been eyeing the primary spot with avarice... a tough competition may be in store and it will certainly be a delight to watch. The dance guild will continue last year's practice of allowing the populace to pick the final dance of the competition.

Also in the vein of new traditions, the populace is invited to pay their yearly taxes at this gathering so close to the SCA new year. (We've done it three years now- it's a tradition!) Why pay \$1

(\$2 for combatants) every week in tithe when you can pay it all in one lump sum? See Pietro for details, he doesn't want to be the only one up there this year.

The Standard Bearer's Tournament is this Saturday, April 28th, 2001 at the National Guard Armory, 4630 Allen Road, Stow OH 44224. To get there from Cleveland & Points North: Take 271 South to Rt 8 South (exit 18), bear right to exit the ramp onto Rt 8. Follow Rt 8 to the Steels Corners Road exit, just inside Stow. The speed limit changes often and should be watched carefully - local police are enthusiastic. Turn left (east) onto Steels Corners Road. The 2nd light is Allen Road, turn left. The armory is just under a mile down the road, on your left - watch for the tank!

Site is wet (please be responsible!), dog-friendly, and handicap accessible. There will be hot showers for our combatants as well!

Site fee is \$8 at the door, \$5 for children aged 4-12, children 3 and under admitted free of charge. The site fee includes a lunch buffet. Feast is an additional \$7, \$4 for children 4-12.

For more information, contact the autocrat:

Kathryn verch Rhys, House Blacksilver (Angela Reese) via email at: kathryn@blacksilver.org or by phone at: 216-486-7554

Be there or be a right parallelogram!

Congratulations to Warder Vincent Fournier, Lord Brice Colquhoun, and Lord Edward FitzRanulf on being invited by Their Majesties to be Midrealm Fencing Champions for this Pennsic War! Hoobah!

The Chivalric Oath of Fealty, with Notes by Ephraim ben Shlomo, KSCA. Part IV

Presented as a handout at the Pandidactium, and with the permission of the author, we will be publishing this study of the Chivalric Oath in serial form. This fourth article looks at the fourth, fifth and sixth lines of the oath. The notation numbers are in keeping with the first parts of the article. Back issues of The Forum can be found on the Clefilands Website: [HTTP:// Clefilands.cvr.u.edu](http://Clefilands.cvr.u.edu)

(Author's Note: The intended audience for this document consists of members of the Order [to spur discussion], my squires, new members sitting their vigils, those who aspire to the Order, and those who wish to know more about what Knighthood is really about. Let no one doubt: these are my opinions, and this commentary is not intended to represent the opinions of any other person or persons.)

I here swear fealty and do homage to the crown of the Middle Kingdom,
to ever be a good knight and true:

Reverent and generous

shield of the weak ,¹¹

obedient to my liege lord ,¹²

foremost in battle ,¹³

11. Especially when they are politically unpopular. For such people find the rules of little comfort to them when they are crushed under the relentless momentum of public opinion. Especially where innuendo or any falsehood has contributed to their unpopularity, it is our duty as Knights to speak out in their defense. If nothing else, we must point out when emotions have run away and taken the crowd along, and remind all to look at facts that can be verified. Rumor is one of the most insidious and blameworthy faults of the culture we have created in the Society. We must not contribute to it.

12 Even if you do not believe your liege lord is worthy of your obedience. Even if you have philosophical differences with your liege lord. Even if your liege lord is a jerk. You took an oath, and this is in it. If you don't want to do this because Lord Yucko may someday be King, then Knighthood is not for you. By your obedience to the King and Queen, you show the steadfastness that is Knighthood. You show the Kingdom that it may count on you, even if it must do so through the offices of one who is not to be emulated.

It could be a matter of great debate to determine where we draw the line in our homage and obedience to our liege lord. Surely, we should come to battle when

summoned, unless compulsion prevents us. Just as surely, we should not commit crime merely because - may it never happen - the Crown might ask us to. (Remember, this is a philosophical point - I know of no example in our history that fits this description, or comes anywhere close.) Somewhere in the middle of these two extremes we find the line we must not cross. Much like our individual ideas about the very point and purpose of Chivalry, the exact location of this line will no doubt be a matter of some varying opinion. It is a convenient reality that most who win the Throne by right of arms are themselves Chivalry, whom we may approach (or even privately reproach, if need be) as a brother or sister, even whilst they wear the Crown. As for those who are not Chivalry, let us continually strive to improve ourselves, so that they will aspire all the more to become members of our Order, and thereby take counsel, even correction from us.

13 On and off the field. Of standing in the gap and holding off the enemy alone, I need say little. We are all prepared to do so, proud of the Kingdom we serve. If that means we are in the melee for seven seconds, so be it. (And remember, someone must guard the baggage wagons. If that is you, show the Known World of what stuff a Midrealm Knight is made, and do so with the same pride in your Kingdom

that would have you fly to the enemy, no matter how they outnumber us.)

There are, of course, other battles, harder battles. The hardest are the battles with yourself. When you face a novice who gets through your defense, the battle may be with your pride. When a friend is wrongly accused, and has become very unpopular, you must stand for the truth, whether it makes you disliked as your friend, or distances you from him.

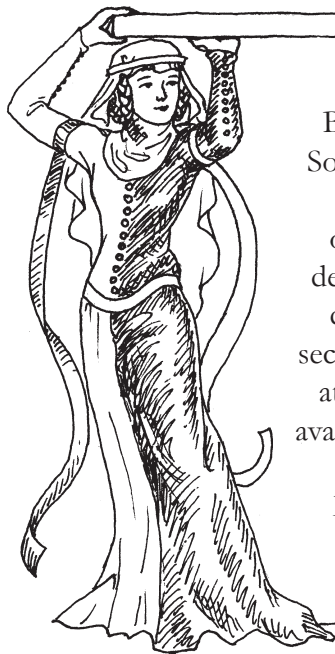
There is no pain of war, no sting of offense, greater than knowing that you have been untrue to your principles. When you know you should take a stand that will be opposed by many, you must satisfy your values over popular opinion. (I trust these are the values that strengthen the station of Knighthood, consistent with your oath and the charge laid upon you.)

You may be faced with a choice between what is popular, and what is right. Is this not the same as choosing between your reputation and your character? (I was asked the difference once. Your reputation is what others think of you. Your character is what you think of yourself.)

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This article concludes in the next issue! Thank you, Sir Ephraim, for FIVE issues of material!
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Calendar for May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Archery Guild 7pm	2 Weekly Baronial Meeting	3 Armorer's Guild	4 Encampment at the Castle- Marche of Three Towers, 4-6	5
6 Archery 1pm Lucas Archery	7 Dance Guild 7pm	8	9 Weekly Baronial Meeting	10 Armorer's Guild	11 Baron Wars- Marche of the Marshes, 11-13	12
13 Archery 1pm Lucas Archery	14 Scribe's Guild 7pm	15	16 Weekly Baronial Meeting	17 Armorer's Guild	18 Aethelmearc War Practice - Aethelmearc, Barony Marche of the debatable Lands, 18-20	19
20 Archery 1pm Lucas Archery	21	22	23 Weekly Baronial Meeting	24 Armorer's Guild	25 Gwyntarian Dance Night	26 Crown Tournament & Kingdom A&S
27 Archery 1pm Lucas Archery	28	29	30 Dessert Revel	31		



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