



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 5: Issue 1, March 2003

## Why we need a Baronial Precedence

By Klaus Von Eisenstein

On one rather boring weekend last year, I decided to take a closer look at the Cleftlands' web site. As a combat archer, I wanted to know just how many other "war archers" were in the Cleftlands so that we could get them all together to practice unit tactics at Sir Will's house. To my surprise, there were only 4 people listed under the "Combat Archery" section on the Guild page. I personally knew at least 3 other authorized Combat Archers that weren't listed. Therefore, I decided to ask our friendly neighborhood Webmistress if she was aware of this situation.

Milesent told me that there were many things that she would love to add to the site, but she just doesn't have the information. (Apparently, many Cleftlanders don't like talking about themselves and their interests to baronial officers. If you think that I am mistaken, try asking our current or former Arts and Science Ministers.) With new members joining the barony on nearly a weekly basis, it is incredibly hard for our officers to keep up. Sometimes, all they have is a name and nothing else to go with it. I told Milesent, the Cleftlands' web site is a potentially valuable resource, and not just for the people of the barony. We discussed many different topics for upgrading the web site, including organizing a picture day so that there were up-to-date photos of everyone who plays with the barony on a regular basis. That's when the topic of a Baronial Order of Precedence came up.

I felt that the web site could be valuable as both an archiving tool for the barony, and as an avenue for the populace to explore and tap into the human resources of the Cleftlands. The Barony of the Cleftlands has an incredible array of individuals, whose personal knowledge and skill in their various arts is matched only by their willingness to share it with others. However, I had to remind Milesent that some members of the SCA are shy (no really) and might feel uncomfortable walking up to someone and asking them for personal

*Continued on page 3*

## Dear Choppy

By Cornelius the Sage

A manic barbarian horde is massing at my border, what can I do to be prepared and still look good?

### -Swordless in Salisbury

I would recommend getting a sword. Nothing looks quite as dashing and yet leaves you prepared to defend your home like a nice length of cold steel. However, choosing the wrong blade can hinder your credibility as a warrior and could make you the laughing stock of the local militia.

Over the course of the period our hobby covers, the sword appeared in many various styles. A sword isn't just a sword. The design of the blade and handle were particular to certain cultures and certain lengths of time. Although detailing every type of blade is beyond the scope of this article, there are some general examples to be aware of.

The most common blade among Europeans of the later dark ages was the broadsword. It manifested as three pounds of iron-laden steel, thirty-plus inches of length, and a very minor crossguard and pommel. The northern areas of England used a variation such as the wide-tipped leaf blade. Southern England also made use of the seax (scramasax), an extremely wide-bodied long knife. Materials forming the sword included steel, bone, wood, leather, and bronze (other metals such as brass were

## What's Inside

Baronial Precedence  
Felonious Monk

Calendar

Dear Choppy  
More...



## Our Officers

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

**Pursuivant:** Lady Anastasia Bathory (Christine Solymossy)  
(Currently moving residence)  
sable@nacs.net

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

**Knight Marshal:** Lt. 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 Edward Brackenburye (Mark Doblekar)  
18871 Abby Ave  
Euclid, OH 44119

**Chronicler:** Mathew de Beaumont (Mathew D Beman)  
4186 Lambert Rd.  
South Euclid, Oh 44121

**Chatelaine:** Lady Alex  
2616 E 124th st.  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
ladyalex@adelphia.net

## Baronial Cont.

information. That's where the Baronial Order of Precedence comes in.

For example, if one were interested in running an event, and wanted to talk to someone well versed in autocratting events, how would one go about doing so? Normally, I would look up "Award of the Purple Fret" and narrow my search from there. Sounds logical, right. However, while "Purple Frets" used to be the standard award presented for running one or more successful events, such is no longer the case. Wouldn't it be great to look up "Purple Fret" under the Baronial Order of Precedence and find out who has received theirs for running events, and who has earned theirs for exceptional service to their barony, kingdom or guild. The same can be said for other topics, such as fighting styles. If one wanted to know who in the barony could teach them how to use a polearm, wouldn't it be easier to look up a person's authorization information on-line and decide from there who they would like to train them, if said person was willing and available.

For the next few months, I took the data that Milesent and Lyonnete had collected and cross-checked it with both our web site and the Midrealm's Order of Precedence. It was around this time, during one of my monthly update sessions with Milesent, that our new Pursuivant Anastasia (Vashti) stepped up and wanted to talk to our Webmistress in private on an important matter. Minutes later, I found out that she also was interested in somehow linking up our web site to the Midrealm's Order of Precedence page. Obviously a case of great minds thinking alike. Later, when our new Chronicler Matthew de Beaumont asked me what articles I might want to write for the Forum this month, I decided it was time to take our project to the masses. Now that you have the back story:

### Prithee, provide thy pedigree !!!

The Pursuivant's, Chronicler's and Webmistress' offices request that all good gentles that regularly play in and with the Barony of the Cleftlands, please submit the following information. (If you do NOT wish some of this information to be included on the public site, please state so. We understand that some people may not want others to know that they got their Award of Arms for washing dishes at an event, as an example. However, we would like the information for our own archiving purposes.)

1. Please list all of the SCA awards that you have received, including Cleftlands baronial awards, along with what the awards were for, where and when you received them, as well as who were king and queen at the time. If you can send a scanned copy of each of your scrolls, the Scribes guild would be most appreciative.

For example:

Klaus Von Eisenstein---Award of Arms---For Doing What no other Personae would do---NOWM 6---Val & Alys

## Baronial Cont.

2. If you are an authorized fighter, please list any and all forms of SCA combat (including fencing, archery, equestrian, scouting, youth combat and marshaling) that you are currently authorized for and participate in.

For example:

Klaus Von Eisenstein---Combat Archery  
---Scouting

3. If you are a member of one or more households, please list your primary household, as well as any other affiliations of note. If you wish, you may list where you can be found at Pennsic (if you wish to be found, that is.)

For example:

Klaus Von Eisenstein---Vlad's Pleasure Pavilion (E-26)  
---Cleftlands' Battle Unit  
---Cleftlands' Brewer's Guild

What could be simpler than that? Well, having us run around asking you for the information **WOULD** be simpler, but we aren't going to do that.

All information can be sent to the following web address including scans: [gmw@po.cwru.edu](mailto:gmw@po.cwru.edu).

## Dear Choppy Cont.

too brittle for use on sword handles and only appeared in decorations of the handle or sheath). Aesthetic embellishment upon these swords was quite varied and was usually precious metals and etched patterns. Precious stones would be embedded when the blade was of particular significance.

Vikings used the basic design of the broadsword and altered the shape of the handle to a slight degree slightly widening the crossguard and adding more robust pommels often decorated in lobe shapes. The vast bulk of viking swords would have been decorated only in the most practical of fashions. Many of their weapons appear to have been unadorned.

Once we step into the Middle Ages, the broadsword follows us, becoming more varied in shape and size. Continuously across its incarnations the pommel becomes heavier and more creatively shaped; into wheels, balls, hedrons, and the distinctly shaped brazil nut. The crossguard is still often straight but quite occasionally curved and has widened considerably from the Dark Age variety. Now in this period the blade begins to take on character of shape as well, and can be quite short and pointed, or long and parallel. A distinction also appears to be made between battle swords and decorative ceremonial weapons. A battle sword is very likely to receive very little decoration usually limited to its own shape. The ceremonial swords were vastly adorned with inlays,





# Calendar

## Local Happenings:

**March 8th** - Needleworkers  
Guild Meeting at Lyonnete's

**March 17th** - Dance Guild  
Meeting at Euclid Public Library

**March 11th** - Archery Guild  
Meeting at ?

**March 11th** - Scribal  
Symposium Meeting at Master  
Aiden's

## Meetings:

Archery practice meets every  
Sunday at Lucus Archery

Armorer's guild meets  
Thursday nights at Ealdred and  
Clairiel's home

Dance Guild meets the third or second Monday  
of each month at the Euclid Public Library

Cook's Guild meets the Sunday before Dessert  
Revel at Ealdred and Clairiel's home

An unofficial drum circle and middle eastern  
dance practice meets on Thursday nights at The Gallery  
Coffee Shop on east 185th street. There is also a  
Middle Eastern Dance Exchange at the Coffee Shop on  
Monday Nights.

## Dear Choppy Cont.

precious metal plating, jewels, and engravings of slogans  
and pictograms.

When shopping for a sword, or planning to make  
your own, make sure to keep your persona's appropriate  
choice in mind and I'd recommend taking a little time  
to do some research being aware that certain swords are  
out of place outside of their culture or period. With  
the expense involved you'll be glad you didn't make an  
impulsive purchase.

If you have a question for Choppy to answer in the  
Forum please feel free to e-mail it to davidk1302@aol.com.

## Selected Events:

**March 1st** Fox and Geese (CWRU, Wade Fireside  
Lounge)

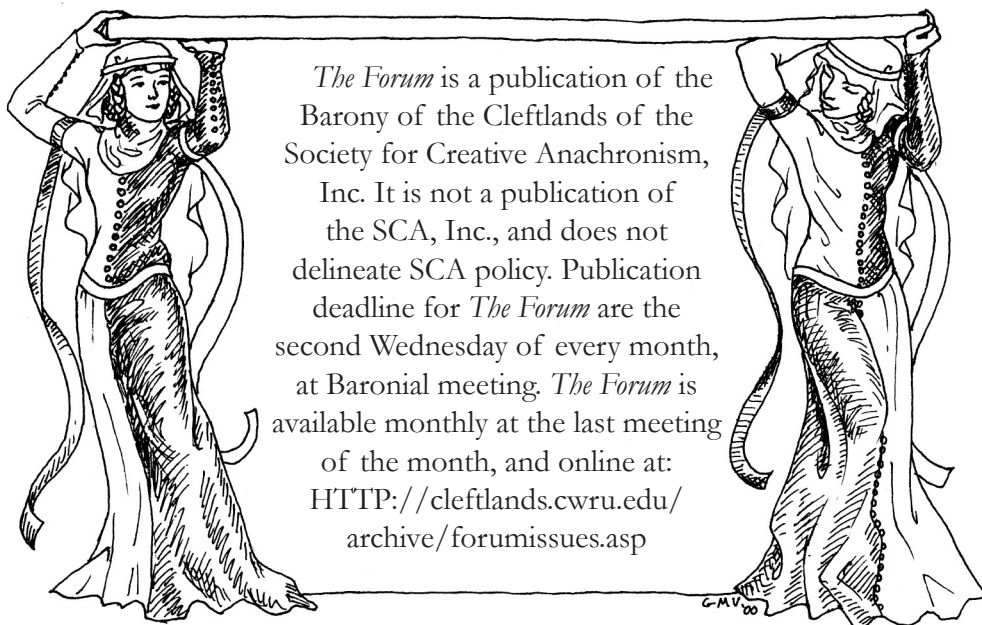
**March 1st** - Winter War Maneuvers in Tirnewydd  
(Delaware, OH)

**March 10th - 16th** Gulf Wars in Meridies  
(Lumberton, MO)

**March 22nd** - Northern Oaken A&S and Military  
School in Three Towers (Tallmadge, OH)

**March 9th** - Ceilidh in College of St. Joan  
(Dayton, OH)

**April 5th** - Grand Tournament of the Unicorn in  
oddly enough Unicorn (Oxford, OH)



*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  
deadline 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/  
archive/forumissues.asp](http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/archive/forumissues.asp)