

## *Cleftlands Newsletter - 5/31/2020*

### **What is a Bard?**

*By Ollamh Brendan O Corraidhe, OL*

What is a "bard" in the SCA, anyway? Ask any three self-described bards that question and you'll likely get five answers. A bard is an entertainer, a chronicler, perhaps at times a provocateur, whose repertoire may range from documentable period pieces sung in Occitan to hilarious observations of SCA life set to a thoroughly modern tune. I often say that most of the time, the SCA is a kickin' costume party with smart people who have interesting hobbies. But sometimes... it's time travel. Just for a moment, the modern world slips away and you're transported to another time and place.

Bards can help to make that magic happen.

*Continued on page 2.*



## **News & Events**

### **Baronial News -**

- Next meeting: Wednesday, June 1 at 8pm. Link to be posted.
- The Youth Minister position will also soon be available, as Lady Zofia steps down in the near future.
- THL Jolicia is looking for a deputy for her position as Chronicler. Contact her for information.
- A virtual Baronial Court will be held June 13. Please submit Baronial-level award recommendations!
- Don't forget to submit your favorite NOWM memories to [clariciadlm@gmail.com](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com) for our upcoming NOWM special feature!

### **Kingdom News -**

- The Earl Marshal has started hosting a weekly informational meeting open to all marshals. The invite is available from the Midrealm Marshals' Facebook group: Midrealm Marshals Page.
- Changes to Kingdom Youth Policy for notarization on Minor Medical Authorization forms.  
Medical Authorization – notary requirement.  
The applicable state will be where the event that the minor will be attending is located, not where the child resides. The issue of notarization was last reviewed on 05/2020. The determination at that time was as follows:
  - Indiana state law, as well as Canada, requires notarization for a document of this type to be valid.
  - Michigan and Ohio state law requires either two witness OR notarization this type of document to be valid.
  - Illinois state law requires at least one witness or notarization for a document of this type to be valid.The full document was shared on Facebook (it does not appear to be on the Middle Kingdom website yet). Please direct any questions to the Kingdom Minister of Youth at [youth@midrealm.org](mailto:youth@midrealm.org).

### **Fun Videos -**

- An Tir shows their #GlowUp - <https://youtu.be/iLG5aOX8RWs>

### **News from SCA Corporate -**

- SCA memberships that expire through May 31, 2020, will not show as lapsed in the database. If you are receiving hard copies of publications contact [membership@sca.org](mailto:membership@sca.org) to extend the subscription. <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/May-Membership-Status-Update-Letter-5-29-20.pdf>
- Jennifer Krochmal (Duchess Kalisa Aleksandrovna) has been selected as Director-Elect to Seat C. <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-director-elect-seat-c/>
- SCA at home highlights #9 - <https://www.sca.org/news/scaathome-highlights-9>

# From the Minister of Arts & Sciences -

- Five entrants for the May challenge - see the last page of the newsletter for pictures!
- **Two NEW challenges for June:** Cooks and the A&S Challenge:

## June Cooks Challenge: Cooking Over Fire

We were going to have our semi-annual "Cooking over Fire" get-together sometime around now. Instead, we'll do it the physically distancing way. Your challenge is:

*Try cooking something NEW over a wood or charcoal fire.*

Don't make this too easy: If you've never actually cooked over a wood fire, feel free to grill a couple of hot dogs. However, if you grill regularly, try something new to you: roast a whole fish, braise something in a ceramic pot, or try baking a cake. Whatever it is, please share a picture of it on the grill, your recipe, and some notes about what, for you, was new. Did you learn anything from this?

## June A&S Challenge: Heraldry in Any Medium

In honor of the summer tourneys we are missing and the battlefields that will see no banners this year, our June A&S Challenge is:

*A heraldic display.*

Use your choice of medium: whether a painted silk banner, an embroidered favor, or a carved leather pouch. Use your own arms, or those of the barony, or kingdom, or of someone you'd like to gift. Whatever you make, please share a picture, some notes about how you made it, and how you plan to use or display it. If you do not actually have any arms currently registered, I will also accept a completed Device Submission form.

- Calum is hosting Virtual Armorer's Guild meetings every Thursday via Zoom - ***please use the updated link:*** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487>
- Info for virtual guild meetings can be found as events on the Baronial FB page or on the Baronial website's calendar.
- DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 6! No Kingdom A&S Faire, but there will be a A&S Artisans Meet-up. Register to receive or give feedback. Collaboration emails linking the two will be sent out by June 1.
- 12-Sept at Harvest Days there will be a Tournament of the Arts (Chivalry, Defense, and Greenwood Company). More information should be available later.



## Virtual Classes for the Week of May 31 through June 7 - <https://www.facebook.com/royaluniversityofthemidrealm/>

- May 31 3pm EST - Music Production, Recording Equipment & Sound Equipment - <https://www.facebook.com/events/548339052548520/>
- June 1 7pm EST - Monday with Mathildis: Lombardic Capitals - <https://www.facebook.com/events/2931361210265966/>
- June 2 7pm EST - Welsh Mythology - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1903697923100247/>
- June 3 7pm EST - How to Run a MidRealm Court - <https://www.facebook.com/events/2670701863219358/>
- June 4 8:15 pm EST - Smocking: Lecture & Demo on Pleat-Work Embroidery - <https://www.facebook.com/events/2671947806462180/>
- June 5 7pm EST - SCA 101 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/543790526296808/>
- June 6 7pm EST - How to Stitch a Temari - <https://www.facebook.com/events/255284632349238/>
- June 7 2pm EST - Horse Hair Through the Ages - <https://www.facebook.com/events/842921259531089/>
- June 7 7pm EST - MidRealm College of Heraldry: Intro to Names - <https://www.facebook.com/events/246530590108885/>

## Tips for the Combat & Ranged Arts

**Armored:** How to Make a Medieval Kite Shield

<https://youtu.be/CIH4IATQf1A>

How to Make a Medieval Spear Rack:

<https://youtu.be/VSLzJ55dxQE>

Duke Eik's #1 Visualization with Mirror Thoughts for Training:

<https://youtu.be/kt-dn5m23EE>

**Archery:** How to Make a Dark Ages Style Bracer

[https://youtu.be/2mrn\\_64-wok](https://youtu.be/2mrn_64-wok)

## 5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Meet the Officers Baroness Constanza de Mendoza (mka Sunshine Buchler), Knights' Marshal (she/her)

### How did you get involved in the SCA?

My mother got involved (initially, so she could animate broadsword fighting in computer games more realistically). I nagged her until she brought me with her ;-)

### Apart from your offices, what are your 2 main SCA activities?

Socializing! Interspersed with costuming and fighting.

### How did you choose your SCA name?

Constanza de Mendoza is not the first SCA name I had; I wanted a name that was all from one time-and-place and indicated I was nobility but not royalty (since my original name both implied bastardy and mixed Welsh and Irish together). I'd picked a time period and was waffling over location, when I ran into the story of Leonora de Castile (daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella) which appeals to my sense of romance: The king of Portugal came to negotiate a marriage between his (adult) son and Leonora, but was so taken with her that he married her himself. Leonora was apparently not terribly happy about this, however when he died she tried to bury herself with him, so I infer that romance triumphed. Constanza was one of the ladies-in-waiting that was sent with her to Portugal. I chose de Mendoza as a last name because the de Mendoza family were the seneschals of Aragon.

### What's your favorite part of Pennsic?

The people!

### What's one fun fact that people may not know about you?

I started a graduate degree (oh so long ago) focusing on sex in the early modern era (e.g. late medieval through the 1700s).



## Call for Content

Send in your favorite NOWM memories!!! Give us something to be happy about.

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](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com).

Thank you and stay well!

## What is a Bard? - continued

Humans have seemingly always wanted news and entertainment, and there have probably always been people to fill that role. In some times and places they were held in high esteem, a little lower than royalty (e.g., ancient Ireland). At other times they were regarded as a public nuisance (also ancient Ireland...). Things haven't changed much.

Remember, the SCA started as a group of college kids in Berkeley in the late 1960s. That was the height of the Folk Revival, when acoustic guitars and vocal harmonies filled the air. Sitting around a campfire singing songs was a natural as breathing. (And easy online access to reams of research on period music was decades away.)

I've always heard rumors of enmity between the bards and "serious musicians." But I've never seen it myself. In Northern Oaken, bardic events are attended by people with stellar reputations as "serious" scholars (university faculty, not just "SCA-famous" folks). Certainly, if you have a specific area of focus and prefer a more time-and-place-specific title such as troubadour or minstrel, that's perfectly fine. You're a bard if you say you're a bard. Come play with us.

# Book Review: “Elizabeth of York: A Tudor Queen and Her World” by Alison Weir

*By THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe*

So much of history shines a spotlight on battles won or lost, and kings legislating or dying. Until recently, little attention was paid to the women who witnessed the making of history.

One who fits that description is Elizabeth of York. First of all, she is handicapped by the fact that there were about a gazillion Elizabeths during the Wars of the Roses, Tudor, and Elizabethan (see?) time periods. Which one was Elizabeth of York?

As historian and prolific author Alison Weir explains in her compelling “Elizabeth of York: A Tudor Queen and her World” (2013, Ballantine Books), this Queen Elizabeth was the daughter, wife, and mother of kings.

She is the sister of the ill-fated Princes in the Tower, whose possible murder at the hands of Richard III is commemorated in Shakespeare’s play about the hunchback. She’s also the mother of Henry VIII.

Elizabeth of York was the eldest child of King Edward IV and his wife Elizabeth Woodville. After Edward IV’s death in 1483, her uncle King Richard III plotted to marry his niece Elizabeth of York, but instead her hand was pledged to the upstart Henry Tudor. Henry knew he needed to marry Elizabeth of York to unite the warring York and Lancaster families and end the Wars of the Roses.

As Weir points out, Elizabeth of York actually had a better claim to the throne, as her father’s eldest child, than Henry Tudor did when he was crowned Henry VII. But it was unthinkable at that time that a woman could rule England. It would be nearly a century before her namesake, Queen Elizabeth I, would prove she had the stomach of a king.

At the beginning of her book, Weir acknowledges that the historical record for Elizabeth of York is slim. Yet Weir says that she found enough material, and reexamined old assumptions, to paint a full picture of this interesting woman.

Alas, I felt that Weir oversold this promise. While the book draws on the queen’s privy purse expenses and travel records to create an in-depth picture of the court, Elizabeth’s thoughts and personality have disappeared with the passage of time.

Apparently, no letters or personal writings survive to answer the most tantalizing questions surrounding Elizabeth of York. How did she feel about the possibility of marrying her uncle, the man who presumably ordered the deaths of her brothers? Or about taking a back seat to her husband Henry VII, when the throne should have been hers? Did she ever speak to the young man who claimed to be one of the Princes in the Tower and the rightful king?

Weir fills in Elizabeth’s thoughts and emotions with a lot of conjecture, a device commonly used in modern historical biographies that readers of history either accept or can’t abide. Sometimes I could agree with Weir’s conjectures, but other times I felt that the truth could have easily been the opposite of her suppositions and assertions.

However, “Elizabeth of York: A Tudor Queen and her World” is an important read for all Wars of the Roses buffs. Weir’s research is meticulous and complete — she even describes the occasions when Elizabeth’s grave was disturbed after her death in 1503. The book includes marvelous images of stained glass portraits, paintings, sculptures and modern photographs of people and places associated with the royal family.

“Elizabeth of York: A Tudor Queen and her World” makes the persuasive argument that reading biographies of prominent women of this era is required if one wants to truly understand this time period.



## Random Period Object from the Cleveland Museum of Art



Amitabha Triad - Korean, Joseon Dynasty, 14th century

Bronze with traces of gilding

This rare bronze triad from the 1400s shows Amitabha (아미타불 in Korean), the Buddha of the Western Paradise, seated on a lotus pedestal in the center of the piece. On either side are two sacred attendants: Ksitigarbha (지장보살 in Korean) on his left and Avalokitesvara (관음보살 in Korean) on his right. The combination of these three Buddhist deities was particularly popular in the early Joseon period. The small size (16 x 6 1/2 x 21 1/2 in.) suggests that the piece might have been displayed in a personal shrine and not a large worship hall.

### This Week in History

June 1 1215 - Zhongdu (current-day Beijing) is captured by the Mongols under Genghis Khan.

June 2 455 - Rome is sacked when Vandals enter and plunder the city for two weeks.

June 3 1326 - The Treaty of Novgorod creates the border between Russia and Norway.

June 4 1411 - King Charles VI grants a monopoly on Roquefort cheese to the people of Roquefort-sur-Soulzon.

June 5 1257 - Kraków, in Poland, receives city rights.

June 6 913 - Constantine VII, 8 year old illegitimate son of Leo VI, becomes ruler of the Byzantine Empire.

June 7 1329 - Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, dies.

## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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## Upcoming Events

- Please note that all official Middle Kingdom events, practices, meetings, and gatherings are cancelled through June 30, 2020.
- Monday, June 1 - Virtual Scribes' Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/575746513316515/>
- Wednesday, June 3 - Cleftlands Baronial Meeting - Link will be posted in the Facebook group.
- Thursday, June 4 - Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487>

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