



Baronial News Online During Quarantine Times - 4/26/2020

From the Baron & Baroness -

Unto the Populace and friends of the Barony of the Cleftlands do we, Gianna and Crispin, send these words with hopes for your well-being.

News of the last few weeks have afforded us the opportunity to focus not on our rote preparations for campaign, but instead to envision ways to strengthen our fellowship.

We expressed an interest in having the tenure of the Barony's champions extended until next year and each champion has accepted. If we are able to gather in numbers later in the year, we hope to hold Standard Bearers in the fall. Not as an event focused on individuals competing against one another, but as a gathering of comrades with displays of art, feats of arms, fine dining, and moments of companionship as a Barony and as members of the Midrealm.

We are exploring the option of expanding our virtual presence in the form of weekly meetings and Baronial courts as soon as we are able to work out the logistics.

Crispin and Gianna, Baron and Baroness Cleftlands
Draco Invictus



SCA News & Events

Pennsic - If you have not heard the news, Pennsic 49 has been postponed until next year. You can read the full missive from Sir Gregory of Loch Swan, Mayor, here: <http://www.pennsicwar.org/>

Middle Kingdom Events - This was a week for disappointing news, as the Midrealm canceled all events and meetings in May and June. Read the official announcement from the Kingdom Seneschal: <https://midrealm.org/2020/04/23/from-the-kingdom-seneschal-covid-update-activities-cancelled-through-june-30th/>

Royal Court April 25 2020 - Messages from the Midrealm Baronies: <https://youtu.be/MdUxc2OLwQ8>

State of the Known World with SCA President John Fulton: <https://www.sca.org/news/april-2020-state-of-the-known-world-chat-with-john-fulton-and-gigi-coulson/?fbclid=IwAR2SNTBavWFAbZblSTGivDe9CYf-ccZ2459oDWwqIWntWb3FbsT6sPP52ovc>

SCA Fun Kingdom Videos - Three more Kingdoms have answered the dance-off challenge! The first two are dancing off against each other to "Safety Dance":

Ealdormere: <https://vimeo.com/410450678>

Atenveldt: <https://youtu.be/AffCjFOZoZY>

Aethelmearc does the Time Warp: <https://youtu.be/IVp7MkUALug>

Drachenwald is going on a quest in part 3 of The Search for the Cure: <https://youtu.be/fZJM-fpyRLE>

Additional Canceled Events

Aethelmearc has canceled all events in May

The Road to Rouen (Aethelmearc - June 5-7)

A Simple Day in the Country (July 3-5)

Tyger Hunt 37 (July 10-12)

From the Minister of Arts & Sciences -

May Scroll Challenge:

Even without a court, this lockdown seems to be a great time to learn something that requires physical distancing, especially from 'helpful' cats. A challenge:

For novice scribes, by 27-May, please complete and then share in the FB event:

- a) an illuminated scroll blank in any style you like, or,
- b) a calligraphed Purple Fret scroll set up to add names and reasons later

For experienced scribes, please complete a scroll that is either:

- a) on the theme of 'Masks'
- b) using, as much as possible, entirely period materials, tools, and techniques.

To get started, you can't go wrong with the Midrealm's New Scribes Booklet, and the Scribes Handbook, found at <https://library.midrealm.org/herald/scribes-archive/>. They provide answers right down to "what paper or paint should I use", to "how to lay out a scroll" and a lot more questions you may not have considered. It also includes a couple of scroll templates you can use directly.

Cleftlands has some absolutely amazing local scribes: feel free to reach out to ask for advice. There's a new Cleftlands Scribes Guild Facebook page as well. Some other sites with templates include:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/calebreynolds/albums/72157664447330450>

<https://calligraphyphen.wordpress.com/2009/05/07/calligraphy-design-simple-drawn-and-painted-borders/>

http://home.insightbb.com/~denevell_books/scroll_blank_101.htm

April Cooks' Challenge Reminder!

April's Cooks Challenge, on the theme of 'Greens' ends this upcoming Wednesday. We've already had responses from Cleftlands remote members: including from North Carolina, the Ukraine (seriously), and people actually in the Cleftlands. There's still time to add your own greens dish, to inspire others.



Virtual Classes for the Week of April 26 Through May 3

April 26 7pm EST - Making a Simple Bi-Fold Card Holder - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H-3j43TKjW4gnhtswvXgX5aDX0VHREtCl/view?usp=sharing>

April 27 7pm EST - Trans 101 for the SCA - <https://zoom.us/j/99419448076?pwd=Y1N-0bVhmUU5mYUhcWs1T2NEbW5QQT09>

April 28 7pm EST - Identifying and Addressing Cultural Appropriation - <https://zoom.us/j/93944476715?pwd=VkkzQVA1bkt1eHFESFlsOU1JNGwxZz09>

April 29 7pm EST - The Circle and the Square (Calligraphy) - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1625124684322498/>

April 30 7pm EST - Creating a Japanese Kumihimo Braid - <https://zoom.us/j/91052216530?pwd=cDcrU0pmdU56eVBqSFFYUk9NOW00QT09>

May 1 7pm EST - Inclusivity for Event Stewards - <https://zoom.us/j/94871867751?pwd=eTI0UXhi-YStDZTgwbIBiRXFQTmZJQT09>

Tips for the Combat Arts

Shadow pell work:
<https://youtu.be/YAtgForv9t4>

Stealing techniques:
<https://youtu.be/aOR3SAW-d2aM>

Featuring Tariq:
<https://youtu.be/tGv1TTe8czs>

<https://youtu.be/veNTDyLY-ab0>

Random videos from
NOWMs past:
<https://youtu.be/5B4W-dOLew80>

<https://youtu.be/x-b0t-1hPfw>

<https://youtu.be/Ge-jVC9uqiN8>

<https://youtu.be/68paWjp-knv0>

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!

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Meet the Officers Sir Crispin dela Rochefoucauld, Baron Cleftlands (mka Ken Cockrell)

How did you get involved in the SCA?

About 20 years ago I wanted to take fencing lessons but couldn't afford it. A friend suggested one weekend that we go to a Renaissance Fair in Streetsboro. I saw some people doing a strange medieval-looking form of fencing so started asking questions and attended my first practice a week later.

Aside from your official duties, what are your two main activities in the SCA?

Armored fighting is my biggest passion but I like to shoot archery as well.

Name a SCA activity you've always wanted to try?

Teaching classes. Objectively I know that I could but I never feel that I'm quite ready to do it.

What is your favorite part of Pennsic?

Finally being able to sit down by the fire with friends after a long day of fighting or other activities to having a chance to decompress and on those lucky days may-be listen to someone telling stories.

What foods do you really dislike?

Collard greens, and there's nothing that you can do to make them not taste like collard greens



Crafting in Quarantine - Fox, Geese, Tables, and Alquerque: Period Board Games

By THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe

Board game sessions are helping many of us get through the long days and nights of the coronavirus shut-down. When marathon sessions of Monopoly or Ticket to Ride get old, step back in time to sample some period board games.

One of the most famous sources of information about period games is the Libro de los Juegos ("Book of Games") commissioned by Alfonso X of Castile in the 13th Century, according to the website Ancient Games. The book, decorated with 150 miniatures, contains the earliest known descriptions of chess, dice, backgammon and other games. The only known original Libro de Los Juegos is held in the library of a monastery near Madrid, Spain.

Here are some ideas for your next period game night. If you'd like to try one of these games, search for a vendor online that specializes in historical games. Information came from the websites Masters of Games, History Games, and Wikipedia. Masters of Games has instructions on drawing game boards and rules. You can buy beautifully decorated game boards, or draw your own versions.

Continued on page 4.

Period Board Games - Continued

Nine Men's Morris

Nine Men's Morris, also known as Merrills, Mill, and Merels, is similar to tic-tac-toe and is easy to learn. This game dates back to ancient Rome and is mentioned in Shakespeare.

The objective of Nine Men's Morris is to capture opposing pieces by forming lines of three "men" horizontally or vertically. A player wins by reducing the opponent to two pieces (where they could no longer form mills and thus be unable to win), or by leaving them without a legal move.

A board for playing Nine Men's Morris can be easily made using paper, ruler, pen and small pebbles or something similar.

Fox and Geese

Fox games are a category of board games in which one player is the fox that tries to eat the geese or sheep, and the second player deploys the sheep or geese to trap the fox. There are versions in Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, and other countries. In some versions, the fox tries to stay beyond the reach of the hounds. The game of Fox and Geese dates back to the Middle Ages.

Alquerque

This strategy game dates back to the Egyptians, and is mentioned in Alfonso's Libro de los Juegos. It is a forerunner of draughts, aka American checkers.

Alquerque is played on a special board of 5 x 5 points with lines between them to indicate allowed moves, and 12 black pieces and 12 white pieces.

Tables

Tables games are among the oldest known board games, and many variants are played throughout the world. It is similar to modern backgammon, but is played with seven players around a board with two rows of 12 vertical markings called points.

Each player chooses a color corresponding to a planet and takes a place in its sector. Players roll dice to determine the movement of pieces. The aim of tables is to win all the items of the other players.

RESOURCES

<https://www.ancientgames.org/alfonso-xs-book-games-libro-de-los-juegos/>

<https://www.mastersofgames.com/cat/board/nine-mens-morris.htm>

<https://www.historygames.it/en/medieval-board-games/>

Random Object from the Cleveland Museum of Art



Albarelo with Pseudo-Kufic Letters - Spain, Paterna, 14th century

Tin-glazed earthenware (maiolica)

Jars with this cylindrical shape were often used to store spices and herbs as well as pigments. The script on this jar doesn't help in determining its original contents; the text-like lines are completely decorative.

The Muslim occupation of Spain brought the arts and skills of the Islamic world to Europe and led to the flowering of ceramics throughout the continent. This vessel was made in Paterna, near the Christian port of Valencia. Its design and decoration, featuring a band of pseudo-Kufic (fake Arabic) letters, suggests a strong Muslim influence. The subtle blend of the Islamic and Spanish known as Hispano-Moresque.

Virtual Resources -

By Dame Alys Katharine

To help you and yours pass the time while you are confined to home, here are four internet sites to explore. While some are specifically for children, adults may also enjoy the activities.

Coloring pages from 100+ museums: <https://mymodernmet.com/free-coloring-pages-color-our-collections/>
The site provides links to a number of museums as well as samples of the types of pages you can download and color. Medieval as well as modern pages are available.

Scholastic offers free online courses for kids, families. Article about the program: <https://tinyurl.com/vfeavg9> .

Resources for kids, families, & teachers: <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

Stuck indoors? <https://tinyurl.com/sem2t9>

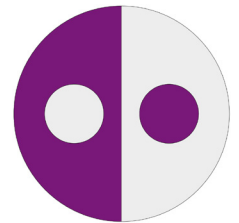
75+ educational and entertaining activities (1st-8th grade). Games, historical movies, activity bingo cards, making food...I can't list them all.

"Feast and Famine in the Middle Ages and Renaissance": <https://tinyurl.com/vs2tnbz>

Nine lectures on The Ohio State University's Feast and Famine in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Topics include meals, foods, markets in France, diets of the English poor, public ceremonies in medieval Italy, and more. See the descriptions of each lecture on the site.

From the Minister of Youth -

The offer to drop off supplies for households with kids still stands! If you do complete SCA activities, Page School time can be reported online. Also, if you need a courier service, Lady Zofia is offering to help with errands on the west side. Please contact her for more information at youthminister@cleftlands.org



This Week in History

April 27 1296 - Edward I of England defeats the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar.

April 28 1442 - Edward IV of England is born.

April 29 1429 - Joan of Arc leads French to victory at Battle of Orleans.

April 30 313 - Licinius unifies the eastern Roman Empire under his rule.

May 1 1486 - Christopher Columbus convinces Queen Isabella to fund his expedition.

May 2 1598 - Henry IV signs Treaty of Vervins to end Spain's interference in France.

May 3 1469 - Niccolo Machiavelli, author of "The Prince" is born.