



## *A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 4/4/2021*

### News of the Realm

#### SCA News -

- The Board of Directors passed a resolution to lift the suspension of in-person activities as of June 1, 2021. They have released guidelines as to how events could go forward and what restrictions they have. It is important to note that each Kingdom must have their own guidelines for small gatherings, and may also put into effect additional measures in addition to those specified by the Society: <https://www.sca.org/news/resolution-to-lift-suspension-april-2021>
- Question about the reopening can be submitted for the Society Seneschal and President to answer at a Town Hall: <https://www.sca.org/topical-town-hall-request-form/>
- Prior to this announcement, the Mayor of Pennsic announced that planning to hold Pennsic continued, but a final decision on whether the event would be canceled had not yet been made.
- The members.sca.org site has been optimized for mobile devices: <https://www.sca.org/news/members-sca-org-goes-mobile/>
- Insurance ordering instructions have been revised: <https://www.sca.org/news/revised-insurance-ordering-instructions/>

## **The First Bardic War Celebrates The Performing Arts - Q&A**

*By THL Juliane Bechaumpe*

Over this past chaotic year, there has been a profusion of on-line offerings representing many disciplines and Kingdoms in the SCA. One of the most prolific areas has been the performing arts. Talented performers, playwrights, composers, and poets have had a new platform to showcase their work. That collective energy has resulted in The First Bardic War. Scheduled May 15-22nd, this virtual event offers participants an opportunity to test their mettle through War Points that reflect the many aspects of the performing arts. Thus far 18 Kingdoms have declared and appointed War Generals.

I spoke with Co-Autocrats Hilla Stormbringer (Midrealm) and Laila al-sanna al' Andalusyya (East), along with Marketing Coordinator Margo Le Cler (Atlantia) to learn more. All three bring something unique to the planning and implementation of such a large initiative. Hilla joined the SCA in 1987. She is a songwriter, performer extraordinaire, and well-known organizer of both real time and virtual performing arts activities. Laila became a part of the performing arts community of the SCA in 1993. Her main focus is early opera and she is a passionate advocate of the performing arts in the Known World.

Margo Le Cler is a relative newcomer who came to the SCA in 2014. Mundanely she is a librarian and folklorist and carries those skills over to the Known World by working in research, especially, again, in folklore. She calls herself a "facilitator" who loves working behind the scenes with events.

*Continued on page 2.*



# Bardic War - continued

**What is the Bardic War?** Although the performing arts are an important part of the SCA, they lack a primary role in most events. Dance and bardic circles tend to happen after feast. Music is used as part of court, or a background for feast. Theater generally happens only as a pre-court or feast event. Martial arts are traditionally the focus of the day.

The First Bardic War will, in Laila's words, "Take the usual formula and swap it." Performing artists from all disciplines will take the lead to compete for the honor of their Kingdom and Alliance. The outcome will be determined by a series of War Points scheduled throughout the week.

## **What are the War Points and how will the winners of each be determined?**

For each of the 35 points, measurable criteria have been developed to avoid, as Laila puts it, "Comparing apples to oranges," given the wide range of the offerings. As with Pennsic, points are also awarded for gentles teaching classes (all topics welcome), volunteering, or coordinating activities.

Hilla and Margo both emphasized the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the choice of War Points. Some War Points require live performance, and others invite pre-recorded material. In addition to the traditional offerings of the European arts in period, opportunities exist for non-European, newcomers, and youth, as well as a non-English speaking division. There will be an ASL War Point, as well as an audio-only category for those not as comfortable with video technology. For families, groups, or individuals looking for an activity that contributes to the effort, there is an opportunity to do so in the War Point Brawl.

**Will the martial arts have a place in this War?** Given the challenges presented by current Covid restrictions, both Autocrats expressed a commitment to creating martial arts categories that would be safe and appropriate. The solution is an exciting one. Armored and rapier fighters are invited to compete in the "Rapier and Armored Dressage" War Points by submitting videos of their footwork drills, kata or pell work set to music. Equestrians can submit a pre-recorded sequence set to music incorporating the skills used in games and archery. Opportunities exist for archery and thrown weapons. Fighters share their personal experiences through the "Battle Speech or Story" War Point. A pre-recorded Martial Relay is another option. Details can be found on the website.

**Will there be an A&S competition for disciplines outside of the performing arts?** Yes! Submissions must be pre-recorded. And, sadly, the ability to judge culinary submissions virtually is quite limited. The competition counts as a War Point.

**Will there be any non-War Point activities?** An SCA event is not complete without opportunities for fun, fellowship, and some downright silliness. Throughout the week, there will be challenges, jam sessions, and family-friendly activities such as the "Hobby Horse Dressage Competition." There will also be discussion groups and meet-ups on a wide variety of topics.

**How did this event come about, and why?** The event concept emerged from a discussion during an online Bardic Symposium. There was indeed an appetite for the idea. Hilla commented that they did not expect the event to explode the way that it has, but the timing was right. All three staff members attribute the universal interest to the pandemic-driven expansion of online offerings in the performing arts disciplines. Although virtual experience is not for everyone, it has opened many of the SCA arts communities' networks and commitment to mutual support.

To be a poet, playwright, musician, actor, dancer, or storyteller requires time, work and ongoing dedication to a higher goal. In the SCA, these dedicated performers preserve our history, create "Pennisic moments," and make the music that infuses events with magic. The First Bardic War celebrates these gentles, as it provides a new and exciting means for them to serve the Dream.

If you want to learn more about the opportunities available to perform, teach, or volunteer on staff, go to: [www.bardicwar.com](http://www.bardicwar.com)



## For the Combat & Ranged Arts

**Armored:** Duke Eik's Videos:  
D Range "Extended Range Cut" and Leaving Kata:

<https://youtu.be/R50F38a-CU8>

Duke Edmund Training 101:

[https://youtu.be/xQ1n\\_A03LeU](https://youtu.be/xQ1n_A03LeU)

**Sir Wigthehn's Memories:**  
Field Battle at Pennsic 20-ish:

<https://youtu.be/zpOt7cr0TjI>

Midrealm Crown Tournament  
Spring 2000:

<https://youtu.be/oPKFGMULDvY>

## The Known World SCA Virtual Fighter Practice

**Page:** Victory Conditions and  
Ruthless Self Assessment:

<https://www.facebook.com/anhyde/videos/10158044290752525>

Backyard Basics #51 - Meyer's Break-Window #1:

<https://youtu.be/yfUUe72e53c>

**Fencing:** Warder Velvet  
Returns:

<https://www.facebook.com/msrlapin/videos/10222224600737740>

## 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](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com).

Thank you and stay well!

## 5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Countess Alys Katharine, OL, OP (mka Elise Fleming) (she/her)

### 1.) How did you find your way to the SCA?

I first heard (or rather, read) of the SCA in a Time Magazine article around 1972. I intended to write to the magazine to ask where the group was located but I kept procrastinating until the article mysteriously vanished when "someone" cleaned up. I didn't find the SCA in Ohio until Baycrafters' Renaissance Fayre in, I believe, 1986, and again in 1987 when someone gave me the information where the group was meeting. From then on, it was weekly meetings for many years!

### 2.) What are your 2 main activities in the SCA?

My activities seem to have clumped into distinct "eras". The first was writing and organizing. I coordinated the writing of the original pamphlet "Forward Into the Past", and I developed the Midrealm Office of Chatelaine, serving as the first and third officer. That was followed by almost five years of being Society Chatelaine. For Pennsic 24, I served as the class coordinator (pre-computer!), and followed that with serving in the same role for Pennsics 26-30.

The second "era" was A&S, starting with teaching many classes on lucet at Pennsic before lucet became popular. At the same time I started focusing on confections (marzipan, comfits, sugar paste) which overlapped the "organization era". Because of physical limitations, it's become difficult now to actually work with sugar paste.

### 3.) What is something you'd like people to know about being Royalty?

The thing that really sticks with me is how very careful any Peer or member of the Royalty needs to be with anything that person says. Careless "asides" to friends might be heard by others, causing pain or misunderstanding. And, I had never truly appreciated the gift that the Queen can give to others by simply recognizing them as an individual, praising something that the person has done or is wearing, for example. It was only after stepping down that I realized how much a small token from the hand of the Queen could mean to that person.

### 4.) Do you have a favorite event? Why?

Probably Pennsic. It is a total break from modern life and there is no pressure to stop an activity and deal with a household chore! For weekend events, one always goes home in a few hours and has to take care of X or Y! The most enjoyable Pennsic was PW 31 (2002) when Valharic and I were the Midrealm Crown! While not everything was smooth sailing, the whole event was just plain fun!

### 5.) What is your favorite piece of garb that you own?

Today, it is any piece of Renaissance clothing I can fit into! The one I wear most often is a heraldic sideless surcoat because I can put it on by myself. All the other fancy garb requires someone to help me get dressed!

Change can be unexpected. I never expected to have physical limitations that would keep me from Pennsic or attending events. I miss the feasts; I miss heralding court; I miss "dressing up"; I miss visiting with old friends. Thank goodness for internet and Cleftlanders sharing their activities!





# The Royal Bards of Cleftlands

By THL Jolicica atte Northclyfe

Did you know that there are five former Middle Kingdom Bards who call our Barony home? A Kingdom Bard is a performer appointed by the King and Queen to provide entertainment during their reign, and who lends color and pageantry to the current Middle Ages.

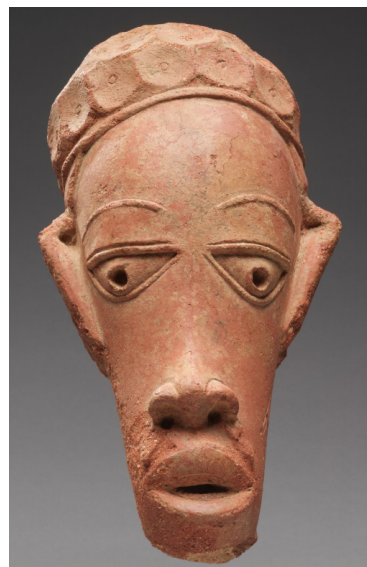
Baronial members who have held that title are:

- Ollav Brendan O Corraidhe (North Oaken Royal Bard), Reign of Their Royal Majesties Seto and Ynes, Winter 2020.
- Sergeant Kari Garanhirrson (Queen's Bard), Reign of Their Royal Majesties Cellach and Vuksin II, Winter 2018.
- Sergeant Kari Garanhirrson (King's Bard), Reign of Their Royal Majesties Cellach and Vuksin, Winter 2014.
- Tanárnö Sofia Tyzes (Queen's Bard), Reign of Their Royal Majesties Cellach and Vukasin, Winter 2014.
- Ollav Brendan O Corraidhe (Queen's Bard), Reign of Their Royal Majesties Savaric and Julianna, Summer 2012.
- Tanárnö Sofia Tyzes (War Bard), Reign of Their Royal Majesties Savaric and Julianna, Summer 2012.
- THL Juliane Bechaumpe and THL Llywelyn Glyndyverdwyl, Reign of Their Royal Majesties EikBrandr and Runa II, Winter 2012.
- Tanárnö Sofia Tyzes, Reign of Their Royal Majesties EikBrandr and Runa I, Summer 2009.

The MidBards website has a full list of Kingdom Bards going back to 1980. Check it out to learn more about the Barony's past Kingdom Bards and others who been chosen for the role.

[http://www.tilted-windmill.com/midbards/kingdom\\_bards.html](http://www.tilted-windmill.com/midbards/kingdom_bards.html)

## Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Head; Guinea Coast, Nigeria, Nok region; 600 BCE - 250 CE

Terracotta, ~15x8" in size - <https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1995.21>

This head was likely once part of a larger figure, which is thought to have been seated, with chin resting on a forearm, and arms resting on knees. Other figures were shown in similar poses. The intention behind the work is unknown - whether it was a portrait, charm against misfortune, decorations for structures, or other. One thought is that they were made to honor ancestors and commune with their spirits.

The figures are almost life size and are both male and female. They are made to show detailed features and jewelry. The statues are hollow and were shaped by hand from clay, then dried and worked to produce their glossy surface.

The Nok Culture appeared in Nigeria around 1500 BC and vanished after about 2,000 years for unknown reasons. Terracotta figures from the Nok were first found in 1928. The village in Nigeria where they were found gave the culture their name.

### This Week in History

- April 4 1147 - First mention of Moscow on historical record (as a meeting place for two princes).
- April 5 1566 - Dutch noblemen denounce the Spanish Inquisition to [Margaret of Parma](#) Governor of the Netherlands.
- April 6 1327 - Petrarch first sees Laura, his famous poetic inspiration, at the church of St. Clare in Avignon.
- April 7 529 - Emperor Justinian I issues the first draft of the Corpus Juris Civilis, a fundamental work of legal theory.
- April 8 1232 - After two decades of war with the Jurchen Jin dynasty, the Mongols lay siege to the Jurchen capital.
- April 9 1483 - Edward IV of England dies suddenly, leaving his son Edward, 1 of 2 "princes in the tower" as heir.
- April 10 837 - Halley's Comet makes its closest approach to Earth.

## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Baron Crispin de la Rouchefoucald; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baroness Gianna Vettori; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: Lord Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine: Lady Shahzada Ishfahani; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Web Minister: Lady Brangwayn Snowden; webminister@cleftlands.org
- Social Media Coordinator: Lady Æthelwynn Skerra Dimma, social@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Njall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Arts & Sciences: Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl; moas@cleftlands.org
- Knight's Marshal: Baroness Constanza de Mendoza; knightsmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Rapier Marshal: Lady Ragna Storrada Ulfsdottir; rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org
- Archery Marshal: Lord Cadfan of the Autumn Wood; archery@cleftlands.org
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; chronicler@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Youth: Lord Rojhon the Wanderer; youthminister@cleftlands.org
- Demonstration Coordinator: Lord Carl of Cleftlands; demo@cleftlands.org
- Gold Key: Lady Fritha Eikbrandrsdottir; goldkey@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

## Upcoming Cleftlands Events

- Monday, April 5 7:30pm EST Virtual Scribes' Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82988129302?pwd=OWN-leWFQYVFGMGFsYUpHMmIRNmFQQT09>
- Thursday, April 8 8pm EST Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487?pwd=UGJrZUxqNW5JQ05jeHBtYWdLQUI4QT09>
- Tuesday, April 13 8pm EST Virtual Needleworkers' Guild - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Thursday, April 15 8pm EST Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487?pwd=UGJrZUxqNW5JQ05jeHBtYWdLQUI4QT09>

*Photos of i Verdi Confusi and the Cleftlands recorder players credited to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*

*Portrait photo of Countess Alys Katharine credited to Countess Alys Katharine.*

*As of January 23, 2019, the Cleveland Museum of Art is an Open Access institution, using the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) designation for high-resolution images and data related to its collection. This means the public now has the ability to share, collaborate, remix, and reuse images of many as 30,000 public-domain artworks from the CMA's world-renowned collection—all without asking permission. In addition, portions of collections information (metadata) for more than 61,000 artworks, both in the public domain and those works with copyright or other restrictions, are now available.*

*This is a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands, part of the Middle Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.. This is the April 4, 2021 issue of Internebbles, a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). Internebbles is edited by and available from Karin Strippel (clariciadlm@gmail.com). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2021 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.*