



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 11 January, 2001

## A New World Discovered

January 20th was a night for many firsts in the Barony, appropriate for an event that strove to provide a glimpse at the wonderful and exotic flavor of an expanding world.

This was the first time the Regular Event was held the second-to-last, as opposed to the last, weekend in January. Anxiety that the earlier date would hurt attendance was happily elivated. Nearly 300 gentles braved the sharp cold to recreate the discovery of the New World.

They were greeted by a diligent gatekeeper, Shlomo, who had great assistance from Nial. Another innovation at this event was distributed with the site tokens. Beutiful pewter medallions minted by Sir Alaric were accompanied by colored beads for those who elected to eat the feast. All participants in the heavy weapons tournament were given colored baldrics that matched the colors of the beads. To encourage non-combatant interest in the tournament, if the fighter with your

colors won, you and your consort would be seated at the high table for feast, along with the champion and his consort. A unique oportunity for the 'common people' to share in a taste of nobility.

For three members of the barony this was their first tournament, having authorized that day. Zuriel, Bernie, and Lyonnete. At the end, Sir Nicholas was the victor, but could not attend feast.

The feast itself was a remarkable event. Cleftlands prides itself on its authentic and varied feasts, but this was indeed the most exotic this chronicler has ever tasted. All manner of delicacies were presented: pepper-spiced chocolate from the strange New World, savory tamales, and, for equal time for household mascots, both goat and rabbit were served.

During feast the Celeste and Francesca's dance troupe performed a spirited and elegantly choreographed Middle Eastern dance. Other entertainments included a hilarious skit by the

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## So You Wanna Be a Fighter?

Want to fight, but don't know how to start? As a recently authorized new fighter, I can tell you the first step is to approach a fighter. Those big, sweaty guys can be intimidating, no doubt, but they all want only to help you get started. (After all, then they have more people to play with!) Approach a fighter either early in the night, as he is just starting to suit up, or later on, just after meeting before fighting resumes. Don't wait too long! Ask for training too late in the night, and there won't be any time, or your prospective instructors will all be loading up their cars, exhausted.

Be pro-active. Remember, fighters suffer repeated blows to the head- don't expect them to remember you're there and want to learn. If you need loaner armour, go ahead and be a pest- chances are someone has something spare they brought.

Finally, get your own armor together as soon as you can. Having your own protective gear- even if it's only one demi-gauntlet- will free up armor-scrourng time for actual practice.

Hope this helps! -Lyonnete

**What's Inside:**  
**Calendar - Exchequer's Report - 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 Sarra Bossard (Quasar Morris) 46545 Middle Ridge Rd. Amherst, OH 44001

Storyteller's guild, featuring Pietro, Vashti, Timothy, Aurore, Sarra and Shlomo. Shlomo has promised that the skit will be re-presented before the Barony at desert revel, for those who could not hear.

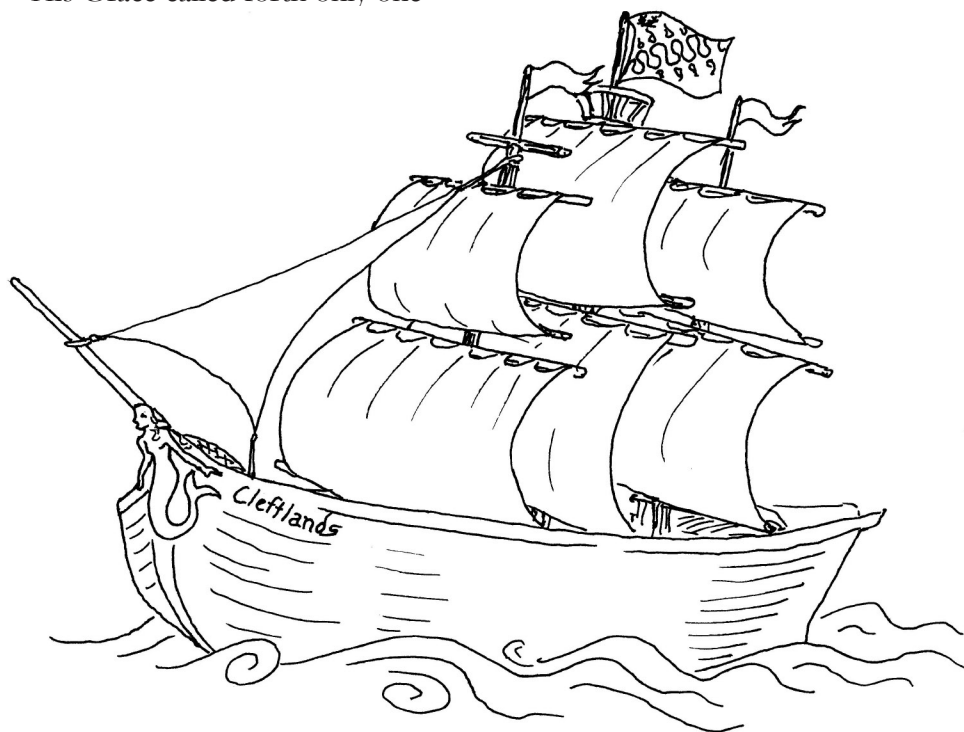
But the greatest entertainment during feast was also the most dramatic: before the desert was brought forth, a Baronial court was called. With all due ceremony, His Grace, resplendant, addressed the assembled gentles on the subject of knighthood and the Middle Kingdom, and then called forth all those knights of the Cleftlands that were present. Sir Theodric and Sir Alaric came forward. "Sirs, have you any squires present?" asked Laurelen. "Aye," said Theodric, and called forth Connor and Conrad. "As a matter of fact, I do not," replied Sir Alaric, but asked to call forth Stephen von Lubek, whom he then squired then and there. Stephan had prepared his own oath for the occasion, in German. Never before has a squiring been so public and ceremonial in our barony. It was a moving and delightful spectacle.

His Grace called forth only one

other piece of business: to toast the cooks and servers of the fine feast we were still, after all, in the midst of enjoying, and the baronial court was closed.

At the end of the feast, it was discovered that the good gentle who had volunteered to scour pots had to leave of a sudden, and Stephan, squire of mere minutes, ran forth to take his place. It has been remarked that such a request for service, made so soon after a chivalric honor has been bestowed, is just shy of entrapment, but the new squire reportedly holds no grudges, and was, besides, assisted by two other fine gentles of his households, Choppy of Nosse Eldesar and Donasian, newly joined member of Sir Alaric's new household.

The feast was cleared away in record time for dancing, and the site cleaned and locked up that night earlier than the autocrat, Lady Sarra, could ever remember. Overall, a truly remarkable event. Hoobah to all who served to make this event a success.



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

*Presented as a handout at the Pandidactum, and with the permission of the author, we will be publishing this study of the Chivalric Oath in serial form. This second article looks at the second line of the oath. The notation numbers are in keeping with the first part of the article. Back issues of The Forum can be found on the Cleftlands Website: [HTTP://Cleftlands.cvrn.edu](http://Cleftlands.cvrn.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.)

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I here swear fealty and do homage to the crown of the Middle Kingdom,  
**to ever<sup>5</sup> be a good<sup>6</sup> knight<sup>7</sup> and true<sup>8</sup>:**

5. Ever. Always. At every moment. Without fail or respite. Every. Moment. Of. Your. Life. If this is the burden (and, yes, the joy) you would take up, then this is not a hindrance to your swearing fealty. If you want to be free to be untrue, or to be something other than good (say, to be just OK), do not take this oath. You are forever on stage, even when in modern clothes in a modern venue (say, a mall, or whilst driving). When you might do something unchivalrous, no matter when, no matter where, if it is noticed, it will reflect badly not just on you, not just on your consort, but on all Knights and all Masters and Mistresses at Arms. To some, your every act will reflect upon all Peers. And to the newcomer, who knows enough of the Society to know that Peers are the most accomplished of our Society, and who may (erroneously) believe that our Order is more equal than the others, your every act reflects upon the entire Society. There should be no occasion for "best behavior", because we are obligated always to exercise best behavior. Always. At every moment. Without fail or respite.

Every.  
Moment.  
Of.  
Your.  
Life.

6. Good: look into your heart and your conscience. Look carefully, intently, privately, and with an absolute commitment to the truth. While what is "good" can be relative under certain circumstances, it is very tempting to equate goodness with expediency. The more convenient it is to be "good", the harder you must examine your conclusions. The more popular the expedient choice is, the more important it is for one person, committed to the truth, to stand up and speak, saying "It would be nice if this were right, but it is not." This

is among the most difficult responsibilities of a Knight. But he who sees the truth and does not speak it lacks a courage more important than that required to stand in the van of the most hopeless battle. There is only one judge, save divinity, that knows when one has not stood up for one's beliefs, and that judge is ruthless in punishment. Your attempts to compensate, with unrelated actions, for your misstep will risk leading you into error, and off the path of Knighthood. If such an error is written in your history, you must forgive yourself, and commit yourself absolutely to avoiding a repetition. But this is not a license for a misstep. It is an imperfect treatment to keep the ghosts of our mistakes at bay. The past is written; it cannot be changed. To fulfill the duty of a Knight, one must learn to live with that past as best one can. As to the future, a commitment to the truth will compel many of your choices, reducing the likelihood of trouble when you look into the glass, or when others look upon you.

7. A good Knight: the qualities listed later in the oath, and earlier, in the charge ("Know that to wear the belt and chain of Knight..." etc.), are our Kingdom's definition of what makes a good Knight. But there is more. There is that image you held in your early days in the Society, when some part of you wished to be a Knight, but dared not breathe your ambition to anyone. These ideals, from the golden days of your 'youth' in the Society, should bear heavily on what it means to be a good knight. You must live up to the ideals you assigned to Knighthood from your most innocent days. (Surely this is more than being a good fighter. We know many good fighters who are not Knights. So it should not be primarily about combat. The willingness to go boldly into battle, on the other hand, is another story, discussed below.) More than that, you must strive to be everyone's ideal

of a good Knight, especially those who are so new to the Society that they don't understand how things work yet. When they encounter you, they will form opinions about all of the Chivalry, and by extension, all of the SCA. An impossible task, of course, to be a model to all of the people all of the time. But to strive for the very highest ideals that can be embodied in the term "Knight" is a worthy endeavor. It is not required that we reach that lofty summit. Indeed, we are mortal, and it is certain we will fail. But we are Knights, and it is our obligation to strive ever toward that perfection which, in our humility, we know is unreachable. If it is not for the Peers of the Realm to undertake the impossible tasks, then how shall we ask for the faith of the populace at large?

8. True: faithful. In a way, this is just another aspect of being "a good Knight", but more than anything else, it might resemble (ahem) being a good dog. ("Fido", after all, means "faithful" or "loyal".) "True" here is about loyalty, not just to people whom you have assured can count on you, but to ideals. While I believe faithfulness is the point of this word's inclusion in the oath, doth it not serve well to think of its other meanings? To be true is to be plumb, as of a house or wall that you have built properly, so that gravity tends to hold it together, not to tear it apart. To be true is to be properly even, as with a wheel, that functions neither well nor safely when it is out of round. And true is, of course, not false. Your veracity, and doing what you've said you'll do, are of the essence of Knighthood. By your prowess, you have demonstrated you are strong enough to get away with not doing what you've said you'd do. By your gentillesse, you have declared that it would never occur to you to do such a thing.

## Calendar

**2-2-2001** Demo at  
Vally Forge HS.

**2-3-2001** Castle Fever-  
Thistle (Wooster, OH)

**2-4-2001** Archery  
Practice- Lucas Archery

**2-7-2001** Regular  
Baronial Meeting

**2-8-2001** Archery Guild  
Meeting- Shore Center

**2-12-2001** Dance Guild  
Meeting- Euclid Public  
Library

**2-14-2001** Regular  
Baronial Meeting- and  
Valentine's Day!

**2-28-2001** Desert  
Revel.

## Exchequer's Report

This report covers Baronial income and expenses over the period from December to January and includes the income and expenses from the Pandidactum. This report is based on the financial report prepared by our Exchequer, Duchess Emelyne.

### Income

Direct Contributions .....2279.68  
Event Related Income..... 12223.29  
**Total Income..... 14502.97**

### Expenses

#### Office Expenses

General Supplies.....72.10  
Site Charges.....3189.96  
Postage & Shipping.....3.20

#### Event Related Expenses

Bad Debts.....12.00  
Equipment Rental .....942.21  
Food .....2838.15  
General Supplies.....665.04  
Occupancy & Site Charges .....9430.00  
Postage & Shipping.....77.04

Printing & Publications .....156.52  
Telephone.....400.99

**Subtotal ..... 17787.21**

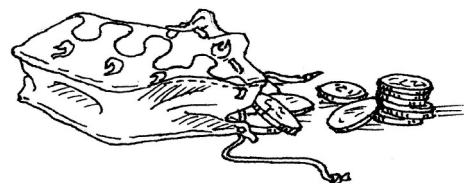
#### Transfers to Other SCA Accounts

Within Kingdom .....150.00  
Outside Kingdom .....220.00

**Total Expenses..... 18157.21**

### Summary

Starting Assets .....7854.48  
Ending Assets.....4200.24  
**Net Income ..... -3654.24**



## Notes

Chardon Schools are looking for people to do hands-on Medieval demonstrations throughout the year. See Darius for details.

Anyone with an opinion regarding having meeting at 8:30 instead of 9:00, please see Lord Nial.

Write an article for The Forum! It's not hard! Everybody's doing it! You don't have to be all that well versed in anything in particular, just see your friendly neighborhood Chronicler for an assignment.



*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 deadlines 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/cleftlands.forum.html](http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/cleftlands.forum.html).

