



## *A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 11/7/2021*

### **Irregular Event - October 23 2021**

*By Lady Claricia de la Mere*

There have been 27 Regular Events, held every year since 1995 - including 2020 because it was scheduled for February 29, right before the SCA shut down. The first "Regular" Event was held on January 28, 1995. At the time, Cleftlands had done a number of specialty and local events, and felt a lack of a "regular" event in the winter months. Baron Ephraim was the event steward for the very first such event, which was meant to appeal to everyone with combat, arts & sciences, and of course, a feast. You can learn more about the history of Regular Events in the Cleftlands and see some past photos in the [February 21, 2021, issue of Internebbles](#).

We were fortunate to be able to hold one this year as well, thanks to the Event Stewards and staff. The 2021 theme of this year's Regular Event was "It's a Quest!" Event Stewards Lady Jaquelinne la Deiciere and THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe were able to guide everyone through the tumultuous waters of the ongoing pandemic as well as regular organizational challenges to pull off a successful event.

Held at a new venue, about 130 people came to experience a good, old-fashioned, regular event. While the famous Cooks' Guild wasn't able to make one of their storied feasts due to current restrictions, there was still plenty to do for everyone.

The arts and sciences were well-represented with a small but mighty variety of classes. Countess Serena gave a fascinating display on how silk is made (from bugs!), which inspired many of all ages. Master Brendan led bards and bard-curious attendees to try out new pieces, practice old favorites, or just listen and enjoy. Six entrants participated in the A&S challenge on the theme of "an item you would bring on a quest". Lord Tarmach came away the winner.



*Countess Serena stuns with silk.*



*A pair of fencers at the tournament.*

Sir Sirius and Lady Ragna organized a day full of unique, challenging, and (most importantly) fun tournaments. In the heavy combat tournaments, Percival won the novice list, Duke Edmund won at greatsword, Sgt. Meralious won at 6' spear, Sgt. Draenge won the two-headed troll tournament, and Count Nikolai won the ladder of renown. Oh, and there was gambling, for some added interest, which was won by Sir Ivan.

Lord Gunter Arnbach won the rapier novice tournament, the doubles tournament found champions in Dougal MacWillis and Mistress Sarah of the Erie Seas, and Sir Silverthorn showed how it was done in the speed tourney.

It all had to end sometime, and Their Excellencies closed the day with a little pomp at a Baronial court. Lord Robert atte Northclyfe received his Azure Chalice for guiding the Barony's financial course for many years, keeping a close and careful eye on our treasury so that we can keep having these events. Lord Tryggr Gillason received his St. Alfred for his amazing work organizing, storing, and hauling the iron key (loaner weapons and armor). Huzzah!

What will 2022 bring? The next Regular Event Steward could be you! If you're interested in running the next Cleftlands classic, talk to the previous event stewards or the Seneschal for more details.

## A Heartfelt Loss

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Danielle Chronister, known in the Society as Lady Porcia Vera of Vito's Minions. She passed on November 3, after being struck by a vehicle while walking to her job at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Danielle is survived by her husband Ben Chronister, known to the SCA as Furius.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, November 13, from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm at the Chambers Funeral Home (4420 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland 44135). A celebration of life will immediately follow at Brennan's Banquet Center (13000 Triskett Rd., Cleveland 44111).



An RSVP is requested, which can be done through the Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/2D0PqoMPH>

Instead of flowers, please consider making a donation to a GoFundMe account set up in her name (<https://go-fund.me/a943e853>) that will be used to fund an educational scholarship for Danielle's students.

Her obituary with more information is available online: <https://www.chambersfuneral.com/obituary/danielle-renee-chronister>

Danielle was a spot of brightness to all who knew her and will be deeply missed.

## News of the Realm - All the SCA News, All in One Place

### SCA News -

- A new social media handbook is now available: <https://www.sca.org/news/social-media-handbook-now-available/>
- A poll was conducted on the subject of adding additional peerages to the SCA. The complete proposal can be found here: <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/New-Peerage-Proposal-.pdf>
- Shipping to Australia and New Zealand has been suspended due to the USPS currently not delivering there. <https://www.sca.org/news/sca-marketplace-shipping-to-australia-suspended/>
- King Christian Bane of An Tir has been removed. An Tir will be led by Queen Helene d'Anjou until the Heirs are crowned. <https://www.sca.org/news/resolution-to-remove-the-sovereign-of-an-tir/>
- The BoD amended the COVIDSafe policy so that 2 people can check vaccination status at an activity, but they must be assigned to a specific portion of the alphabet and check only those people whose names fall under that portion. <https://www.sca.org/news/board-resolution-amendment-to-covidsafe-policy/>
- Call for applicants for the Society A&S Minister has been extended to December 1. <https://www.sca.org/news/call-for-applicants-extended-society-minister-for-arts-sciences/>
- Call for applications for the Society Chronicler has also been extended to December 1. <https://www.sca.org/news/call-for-applicants-extended-society-chronicler/>
- Commentary is requested for a wording change that combines the verbiage on what offices may not be held by minors: <https://www.sca.org/news/commentary-call-proposed-corporate-policy-change-minors-as-officers/>

### This Week in History

November 7 1492 - The oldest meteorite with a known date of impact hits a wheat field near Ensisheim, France.

November 8 1278 - [Trần Thánh Tông](#), considered one of the greatest emperors of Vietnam, cedes the throne to his son. Together, they repel two Mongol invasions and begin an era of peace and prosperity.

November 9 1277 - Welsh Prince Llywelyn the Last signs a treaty ending the Welsh Wars and self-rule in Wales.

November 10 474 - Emperor Leo II, a boy of 7, dies of dysentery after only 10 months on the throne.

November 11 1215 - At the 4th Council of the Lateran the doctrine of transubstantiation is defined.

November 12 764 - Tibetan troops occupy the capital of the Chinese Tang Dynasty, Chang'an.

November 13 1093 - King Malcolm III of Scotland is ambushed and killed and his son is mortally wounded.

# Join Us for Yule Revel and a “Maybe a Cookie” Exchange on December 15

We are grateful that you've been with us throughout another year of pandemic uncertainty - and lack of gatherings. Our Yule revel is one of the most joyful activities Cleftlands hosts, and we wanted to have one this year as a way to create some additional warmth to take us into 2022 (and hopefully a better time).

THL Jolicia is organizing activities for young and old, so we invite you to join us at the meeting site on December 15. (St. John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Road, Cleveland, OH 4143 from 6:30-10pm.)

While we can't have our usual open potluck spread, there will be plenty of other things to do. Including:

- **“Maybe a Cookie” exchange** - bring a dozen or more of an item (cupcakes, bar of soap, hot cocoa bomb, etc.) and take home a variety! Everyone will put out their assortment, and exchange for one of their own, so that they end up with an equal number of items - all different. Items do not need to be handmade, and it could be cookies :) Please pre-package any food or drink for safety.
- **Dancing is back!** Hosted by Baroness Angharad, in a safe way.
- **More details to come on additional festive activities!**

Please note that all SCA COVIDSafe protocols will be in place (proof of vaccinations/testing, masks, etc.. Thank you so much for your kindness throughout the year!



## Kingdom and Baronial News

### Kingdom News

- The Midrealm has heirs! Congratulations to Their Highnesses Arch and Runa, who became Prince and Princess at Crown Tourney on October 16.
- Reminder that the COVIDSafe policy of requiring a proof of Covid vaccination or negative test result for all attendees 12 and over at all SCA activities went into effect on October 13. Attendees 18 and over will also be asked for an ID. Masks are still required while indoors (and outdoors for those under 12).
- Updates to the Kingdom reopening policies have clarified how we will go forward as Covid spread decreases, and also how food can be served at events. These documents will be included at the end of this newsletter.
  - Please see the new COVIDSafe tiers here: <https://midrealm.org/blog/2021/10/18/mk-tiers-for-mitigation/>
  - The new food policy here: <https://midrealm.org/blog/2021/10/18/middle-kingdom-food-rules-for-pandemic/>
- Kingdom is accepting applications for Kingdom of the Middle Exchequer until 11/30/2021. Send questions or your SCA resume to [exchequer@midrealm.org](mailto:exchequer@midrealm.org)
- Applications are also being accepted for Kingdom Social Media officer. Send inquiries or your SCA resume to [socialmedia@midrealm.org](mailto:socialmedia@midrealm.org)

### Baronial News

- Congratulations to Lady Zofia der Kinder who is the new North Oaken Regional Minister of Youth!
- Meetings will continue every other Wednesday through the end of the year. The remaining meetings will be: November 17, December 1, December 15, and December 29 is tentative. Same Cleftlands time, same Cleftlands channel: St. John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Road, Cleveland, OH 4143 from 6:30-10pm.
- Currently required for ALL SCA activities: masks must be worn indoors, proof of COVID vaccination or negative test result (age 12 and over) plus an ID (age 18 and over), and children under 12 must be masked at all times. For weekend events, pre-registration is required. For all other SCA activities, attendance must be taken (you can sign up ahead of time to save time and breathing room). These are Kingdom and Society rules, so no exceptions can be made.



# How To Pick a Site for An SCA Event

By *THL Jolicica atte Northclyffe*

While the Woodside Center was a lovely venue for Regular Event, it's getting more difficult to find suitable sites for Baronial events. To paraphrase Liam Neeson, we have a very particular set of requirements. This article refers to standard, indoor, pre-COVID-19 events. However, each event has different needs - a Crown Tournament will need something different from an equestrian event.

At Cleftlands we are known for our feasts, so often the most important requirement, and the hardest to meet, is a "community kitchen," or a kitchen that doesn't require a caterer's license. Almost all venues in Cuyahoga County require that groups use a licensed caterer, which our cooks' guild does not currently have. Kitchens need to be large enough for our talented cooks to produce a feast. That means multiple burners and ovens, and lots of counter space.

For any event that includes heavy or rapier combat, we need a gym or other large room for armored combat and rapier. It must have space for lists, plus fighters and all their gear, and observers. The site must also approve how we're using it, as we don't want to damage any flooring. There are some sites that have not been comfortable with our activities, period.

Usually, we can flip the fighting area and use it for evening court, so a separate spot isn't needed for that. But it's still a consideration in terms of making sure there is seating and a good space for the dais.

We may also want to include archery and thrown weapons, which means finding a site with enough lawn space to safely accommodate these activities. The local ordinances and the site itself must all approve archery/thrown weapons as some city ordinances do not allow them within city limits.

We also try to find sites that we don't have to share, as it can be disruptive to our experience to have other activities going on at the same time.

We need a populace area, where gentles can relax, chat, eat, and do crafts. It needs to be far enough away from the fighting that noise is not a problem, and accommodate seating for most of those in attendance. This space is often used for feast seating as well. If it doesn't work for both purposes, you'll need a place to eat feast as well!

There are SCA restrictions on where youth activities can be held. Youth activities need at least one approved person overseeing them, and if they're in a spot that's not visible, like a classroom, there need to be two approved people there at all times. The youth area is often in a hallway or a corner of the populace area so that it's visible.

Smaller rooms are also important for classes and other gatherings. A building with multiple classrooms is great, although we have used pop-ups and even a large coat closet for this purpose. A lounge makes a nice royalty room, which is where the royals hold private meetings. It's also smart to designate rooms for peerage meetings and vigils, since they usually pop up on short notice.

The site itself should be in an area that's fairly easy to access, safe, and with a large, nearby parking lot. Gentles don't want to park on a side street and haul armfuls of stuff several blocks. There's also the consideration of what is nearby - if people might be traveling from out of town we want to have lodging and food available.

Then, there's the cost. As a rule of thumb, we try to spend no more than \$2,000 on site rental.

Ramps, ADA-compliant bathrooms, and elevators are also on the list. The Barony does want its events to be open to everyone, and we try to find sites that accommodate all. However, with the requirements and our budget, it means that we are usually looking at older buildings that may not fully comply with ADA guidelines. When we do site walk-throughs, we check out bathrooms and building access and set aside parking spaces as handicapped.

Recently, we have had requests for a "quiet room," where people who are feeling overwhelmed can rest and regroup. We were happy to do this at Regular Event, and hopefully it can be done moving forward.

Over the years, the success of Regular Event has meant that we have outgrown some sites. Some sites have become unavailable due to going out of business, rising costs, or other factors, while others turned out not to be well-suited to our purposes. We probably will not be able to return to Woodside because it requires a caterer for any food served. If you know a site that you think might work for a future baronial event, please let the seneschal know. I'm also happy to discuss this with anyone who is interested in learning more.

## Upcoming Events

**November 13 - Fall University of the Midrealm (RUM);** New Haven, MI. Learn more:  
<https://fallrum2021.weebly.com/>

**December 4 - Christmas Tourney;** Louisville, KY  
Learn more:  
<https://christmastourney.weebly.com/>

**January 8 - 12th Night;** Ray, MI. Outdoors. Learn more:  
<http://scanorthwoods.org/>

**January 15 - Festival of Maidens 48: Fiera di Sant'Orso;** Urbana, IL. Learn more:  
<https://union.illinois.edu/>

## 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.

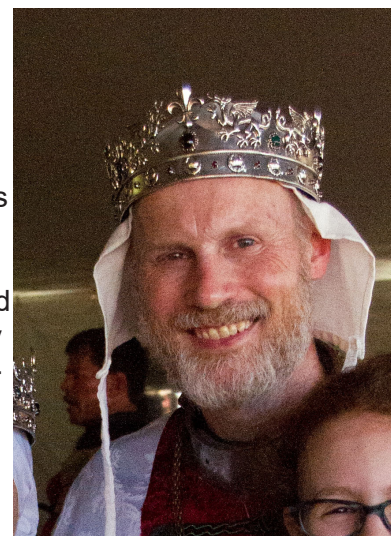
If you have info to share - an upcoming virtual gathering, activity ideas, or a great website, please contact me: [clariciadlm@gmail.com](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com).

Thank you and stay well!

## 5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Count Nikolai Grigorevich Petrov (mka Craig Israel) (he/him)

### 1.) Who brought you into the SCA?

I was a big Dungeons & Dragons player when I was in high school. One of the regulars in my group was older than me, and he went to Ohio State a year before I did. He found the SCA and described it to me as "Just like D&D, but in the real world!" (this was in the late 80s, before LARPing was really a thing, or I would have thought it was a LARP). I quickly learned that it WASN'T at all like D&D, but I still loved it. I put on someone's sweaty armor at the end of my first meeting, got smacked around, and was immediately hooked. My friend (Christian Michael dePole in the SCA) and I ultimately became squire brothers to Duke Comar. Oddly enough, he dropped out of the SCA after college, while I've been actively participating for the past 30+ years.



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

Combat is clearly my first love. I'm a rattan fighter, but I'm also authorized in rapier and cut & thrust. Other than fighting, I dabble in various other things. I've done leatherwork, woodwork, illumination, music, brewing, archery, thrown weapons, equestrian... however, my enthusiasm for these things far outstrips my skill.

### 3.) Tell us something you learned being King of the Middle Kingdom.

The people of the Mid have a nearly inexhaustible willingness to help. During our time on the Throne, we had countless people help us in so many ways: getting [Countess] Serena and I both authorized in rapier, making us garb worthy of the role, helping with projects big and small, creating scrolls, sacrificing time at events to stand guard at the royalty room or retain... it was inspiring to see how hard people worked to help make the SCA and the Middle Kingdom run smoothly.

### 4.) You recently fought in Crown Tournament - how does someone prepare to enter such a daunting field?

Every combatant is different, but I prepared by increasing my training regimen with running to boost my cardio, practicing on the pell every day, and traveling to more fight practices to just have more time in kit. Mentally, I focused on the fundamentals, visualized success, and scouted my opponents so I had a good idea of what I would face throughout the day. Serena is my coach and cornerman for Crowns—she knows how to keep me level-headed throughout the day, relaxed, and focused.

### 5.) What's a fun fact about you that people may not know?

I wasn't at the event in which my AoA was presented at court. It's written in Latin, and to this day I'm not 100% sure what I received my first award for!

## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Baron Crispin de la Rouchefoucauld; baron@cleftlands.org
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- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: Lord Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine: Lady Jaqueline la Deiciere; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Web Minister: Lady Brangwayn Snowden; webminister@cleftlands.org
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- 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 Eikbrandsdottir; goldkey@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

## Upcoming Cleftlands Events

- Tuesday, Nov 9; 7:00pm - Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/604087610794740>
- Thursday, Nov 11; 7:00-10:00pm - Armorers' Guild Meeting (in person) - The Lash Home in Berea (OH). Contact Baron Syr Calum on the Facebook post or at meeting on Wednesday.
- Wednesday, Nov 17 - In-Person Cleftlands Meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143. 6:30pm - 10pm.
- Wednesday Nov 17 7:00pm - Class: SCA 101; at the Baronial meeting.
- Thursday, Nov 18; 7:00-10:00pm - Armorers' Guild Meeting (in person) - The Lash Home in Berea (OH). Contact Baron Syr Calum on the Facebook post or at meeting on Wednesday.
- Wednesday, Dec 1 - In-Person Cleftlands Meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143. 6:30pm - 10pm.
- Wednesday Dec 1 7:00pm - Class: Wire-Wrapped Rings at the Baronial meeting.

*Regular event photos and portrait photos of Lady Porcia and Count Nikolai credited to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*

*Leaf from a Cocharelli Treatise on the Vices: Acedia and Her Court (c. 1330, Italy) is courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art. 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.*

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There are four distinct policies surrounding COVID in the Midrealm.

- 1) Requirement for pre-registration (large events) or contact tracing sheets (local meetings), SCA corpora policy 8/1/21 [Society for Creative Anachronism \(sca.org\)](https://sca.org)
- 2) Requirement for indoor masking, Midrealm policy 4/8/21 [Update from Their Majesties – Masks required Indoors – Midrealm](#)
- 3) COVIDSafe policy, vaccine or negative COVID test 10/13/21. SCA corpora policy [Society for Creative Anachronism \(sca.org\)](https://sca.org)
- 4) Modified feast and lunch policy (10/20/21) [New Middle Kingdom Pandemic Food Rules](#)
- 5)

It is important to recognize that as risks change so should the recommendations. Thus, we are implementing a Tier policy such that as infections decrease we implement or de implement various restrictions. Transmission rates will be taken from: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

Notification of movement of the Kingdom from Tier to Tier will be made by the Seneschal and published through Social Media, the website, the pale or other methods as applicable.

Tier 3 – High or substantial transmission in all or some of the States and Territories covered by the Kingdom

Tier 2 – moderate or low transmission in all of the States and Territories covered by the Kingdom

Tier 1 – low transmission in all of the States and Territories covered by the Kingdom

Tier	Policies in effect
3	Pre-registration and contact tracing, indoor masking, COVIDSafe, tier 3 food policy
2	Pre-registration and contact tracing, COVIDSafe, tier 2 food policy
1	Pre-registration and contact tracing only (unless lifted by corpora)

# Middle Kingdom Food Rules for Pandemic

By jahanara\_alhafeeza

It is expected that all groups hosting events who wish to serve food should follow standard food safety procedures. This includes but is not limited to: keeping food at a safe temperature, hand washing, sanitization of surfaces and equipment, safe storage of foodstuffs, appropriate hand washing and handling food with either gloved hands or appropriate service implements. Food poisoning is nobody's favorite way to spend 24 hours.

## **Effective immediately (Tier 3 food service rules)**

**The intent of these rules is to allow people to gather for food whilst minimising the length of time numbers of people without masks are congregated together in an indoor setting. Please honor the spirit of these rules.**

This policy does not supersede the current requirement to remain masked indoors at all times except whilst eating or drinking. Remain masked whilst moving around, preparing food, collecting food, serving food or waiting for food and talking.

Certain activities, including singing, have been shown to generate an unusually high number of infectious particles. **Therefore, at this time we cannot allow vocal performance in a space with unmasked individuals due to the high risk of transmission.**

Fighters should be self-reliant and have water, or a refillable water bottle. The list may provide water at the discretion of the KEM

No individual is required to eat in a group setting including Baronage and Royalty.

Individuals may provide food for their own purposes at their own risk.

Arrangement of tables for food service. If tables are to be provided, they should be spaced 6ft apart with signs stating: "Please limit occupancy of this table to a single infection pod; sit with your group, not others. You may remove your mask while actively eating or drinking but are expected to put it back on once completed".

- Lunch – serve food in such a manner that minimizes the standing of people in line. Food does not have to be individually wrapped. Prepare and individually dish out items with gloved hands or service ware. Have items readily available for pick up and return to individual day camps/tables.
- Potlucks – Guests should be invited to the potluck table one table at a time and should remain masked whilst selecting food. Serving spoons and/or gloves should be available to those dining.
- Tavern style dinners- Guests should be invited to the tavern one table at a time to pick up food for a single table/feaster and should remain masked whilst collecting food. Serving spoons and/or gloves should be available to feasters. Please note that a tavern style feast is a few dishes at most two courses. This is not an extended 2–3-hour 3+ course feast.

With these changes, we anticipate the return of camaraderie and the sharing of the food and cheer (at your own risk).

## **Effective with Tier 2**

No individual is required to eat in a group setting including Baronage and Royalty.

Return to normal food/feasting rules. No restrictions with regards to tables or service.