



Baronial News Online During Quarantine Times - 4/19/2020

The Art and Etiquette of Handwashing in Period

By THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe

All of us are washing our hands more frequently these days to guard against spreading COVID-19. Our modern lifestyle means we can use hot and cold running water, scented soap, and fluffy towels.

How was handwashing done in period? There is a common misconception that people in period were filthy and never washed. Actually, there are many literary references and works of art depicting people washing their hands and taking baths as part of their daily lives.

People in period knew that keeping their hands and faces clean was important, according to an article on Medievalist.net. Health manuals from the period note that it was important keep the body clean. Public bathhouses were very popular throughout medieval Europe, but they were also controversial because they allowed men and women to see each other naked, the Medievalist.net wrote. "Hast thou washed thyself in the bath with thy wife and other women and seen them nude, and they thee? If thou hast, thou shouldst fast for three days on bread and water," chided a 13th-century writer.

It took a lot of work to lug bathwater from a nearby well or river, then heat it, so baths were a luxury, according to the Ancient History Encyclopedia. Commoners would just pour cold water over themselves and call it a bath. Wealthy lords usually traveled with their own padded bathtub, or wooden half-barrel, for comfort and convenience.

Meals in period began and ended with handwashing in both wealthy households and monasteries, according to a Cleveland Museum of Art article on the art of handwashing in period. It was considered good manners – and practical -- to wash the hands before and after eating because silverware wasn't in common use.

Manuscripts from the 1400s depict guests washing and drying their hands just prior to sitting down at banquet tables. Guests would wash their hands away from the table, while nobles washed at the table.

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SCA News & Events

Cleftlanders Recognized at Royal Court April 18 2020 - Congratulations to all!

Sir Thorin Eiksjald - Dragon's Heart

Sir Thorin & all previous Midrealm Generals given a Royal augmentation of arms.

Duke EikBrandr Solgyafi and all previous Armored Chiefs of Staff given a Royal augmentation of arms.

Another Midrealm court to be held Saturday April 25 - details TBD.

A few viral videos this week:

Gleann Abhann's version of the #GlowUpChallenge SCA style: <https://youtu.be/3pZviHdwYOY>

Midrealm's finest are "Stayin' Alive" dancing in armor - not sharable via link, but reach out if you haven't seen it! Other kingdoms have sworn they will answer in kind, so keep an eye out for more music videos.

Canceled Events Past April

All East Kingdom events have been cancelled through June 30.

Arts & Sciences - A Cooks' Challenge!

April (Virtual) Cooks Challenge:

In honor of what will CLEARLY be the last snow of the season, this month's signature ingredient is that ever-popular medieval spring favorite: greens!

Please make a dish, medieval or not, that features some type of greens: herbs, spinach, kale, horseradish sprouts, whatever. Don't feel the need to limit yourself to actual fresh greens: if what you have available is frozen spinach, feel free.

To participate, by April's Revel (from home) on April 29th, please create your dish. Then share pictures and info about the dish as a reply to the Cook's Challenge post on the Baronial FB page. If you don't have an FB account: email it to me (moas@cleftlands.org) and I'll add it for you.

Your info should include: what did you cook, why did you choose it, what ingredients did you use, how did you cook it, and, since we can't all taste the dishes, what did you (or anyone in your household) think of it. Would you do it again? Would you change anything?

East Kingdom Classes: <https://moas.eastkingdom.org/list-of-online-webinars/>. They've links to their own classes, and others from the SCA Virtual A&S FB group, as well as An Tir, Atlantia, and Artmesian classes.

A&S Faires: If you have entered a project in ANY regional Faire this year, ALL entries can be automatically moved to Kingdom! Entries must be moved or registered for Kingdom no later than April 25, 2020. Please use the directions to move your entry: <https://midrealm.org/2020/03/17/2020-midrealm-kingdom-as-faire-tutorial/>. To withdraw an entry, you will need to contact your Regionall: North Oaken – Master Milesent Vibert, northoakenmoas@midrealm.org.

Documentation can be viewed remotely BEFORE Kingdom as an optional service. If you want help and feedback on your docs, please just reach out via email to your Regional.

Classes from our very own Mistress Aurelia:

Drawing a Teapot on Toned Paper - Red Pencil and White Charcoal: https://youtu.be/hhtkHrc0_Hw
Intro to Oil Painting - Getting Started & Supplies : <https://youtu.be/0VfqWEkW4jA>



Virtual Classes for the Week of April 19 Through April 26

- April 19 5pm EST - Accessibility in the SCA (2 hours) - Zoom
- April 20 7pm EST - Building Teamwork: SCA Volunteers - Zoom
- April 21 7pm EST - Autocrafting and Disability Services - Zoom
- April 22 7pm EST - Intro to Basic Pottery
- April 23 7pm EST - Digital Research for SCAdians Trapped Indoors - Live format TBD
- April 24 7pm EST - Autocrafting 101 - Zoom
- April 25 3pm EST - Putting Together Set Lists Like a Rock Star - Zoom (1.5 hours)
- April 25 7pm EST - Inclusivity for Event Stewards
- April 26 1pm EST - Making a 16th Century Apple Tart: Lecture and Demo - Zoom (1.5 hours)



Report from Regular Event - we did not get to hear how the event did so here is the breakdown:

- 341 Paying Adults
- 21 Children
- 7 Comped

Gate brought in \$5327.00, not counting the non member fee, but including 30.00 for prereg lunches.

Speaking of lunches: With my selling \$75.25 worth of pop & cookies at the meetings (which includes my buying the last drinks so I could close the books), the lunch tavern had a profit of \$8.00. The breakfast Tavern had a profit of \$229.37

In service to the Barony, Robert atte Northclyfe AoA, A.P.F.

Call for Content

There are STILL a lot of things going on, and we want to make sure there's a central place to get information from 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 - Baroness Edition

Meet Gianna Vettori (mka Nicole Davaris)

How did you get involved in the SCA?

I was initially exposed to the SCA when I lived in the Barony of Atenveldt (Phoenix, AZ) in the mid 1990's. The group met in the evenings, but I worked a second shift so it was difficult to go to their meetings. The first event I attended was the Estrella War XXI and I still have my large copper site token.



For my "second life" I became actually INVOLVED with the Barony of Cleftlands in the fall of 2008. My first event in the Midrealm was Harvest Days. I became involved in one of the many revivals of the Cleftlands Dance Guild and was hooked!

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

I have been active locally and in the kingdom doing website development or troubleshooting; it's something I enjoy and a service I enjoy providing behind the scenes. Otherwise, I enjoy crafting - scribal stuff, sewing, and dancing.

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

I would like to try my hand as a siege engineer. I have always wanted my own ballista!

What's your favorite part of Pennsic?

The most relaxing part of Pennsic is walking around the lake late at night and just enjoying the ambiance of activity at a distance. The views over the water are spectacular, fires and torches in the distance. It can be exceptionally immersive an experience.

During the day, it's a toss up. Walking in the marketplace seeing the hustle and bustle of activity (things which in this COVID19 day are frightening to think about!). Likewise, the stunning scenes of the field battles, watching the armies charge at each other and thinking about how it would have looked as an observer of a medieval battle scenario.

What foods do you really dislike?

Mushrooms and anything with nutmeg in it.

Random Object from the Cleveland Museum of Art



Portable Altar of Countess Gertrude, c. 1045, Germany, Lower Saxony (?).

Gold, cloisonne enamel, porphyry, gems, pearls niello, wood core.

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1931.462>

Crafting in Quarantine - Amezaiku (Japanese Sugar Sculpting)

By Lady Ragna stórráða Úlfisdóttir

*Amezaiku,
Pulled from a heated portable pot,
Then shaped into a candy bird.
-from the Haifu Yanagidaru*

Drawn like taffy from a pot, then blown or pulled into form, amezaiku has been fascinating the Japanese public ever since its first introduction in the Heian period. Sugar was imported from China during the earlier Nara period along with the traditions of the sugar people, folk artists, and craftspeople. Due to sugar's scarcity, early examples of amezaiku were typically used as offerings at temples. One of the earliest recorded offerings made of the blown sugar works was after the erection of the To-ji Temple.

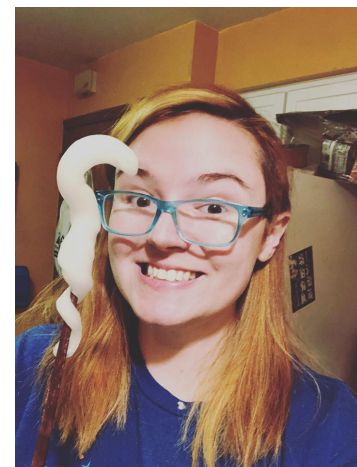
These first works were simple, blown sugar spheres and birds. The artisan would remove a portion of heated sugar mixture (mizuame) from a pot, then roll it into a ball and attached to a wooden reed. They then blew into the reed in a similar fashion to how molten glass was shaped, using their hands and simple metal shears called wa-basami.

It wasn't until the Edo period that Amezaiku began to take on the shape of its more modern day counterpart. This was due in large part to a change in the availability of its primary ingredient. When sugar became more available, the art itself was given the opportunity to expand and artisans turned into street performers.

The art of Amezaiku is still practiced to this day in Japan, though the work is far more intricate than those of the past. For my first A&S project, I thought to take on this candy art form! I made my own mizuame with some research into early recipes for mizuame. (My recipe is from the 1800's, due to the difficulty of locating source work that is translated). The mizuame, once made, goes into a heated pot and it warms on low for a long time until it starts to come together. Once it has thickened up (which you learn by playing with it), you have less than five minutes to create a sculpture. With molten sugar. Pictured is my first sugar piece, a sugar snake. That's what it is and I'm sticking to it.



Polychrome woodblock print;
ink and color on paper by Kubo
Shunman in the Edo period



This Week in History

April 20 121 - Marcus Aurelius is born.

April 21 753 - Traditional date of the founding of Rome.

April 22 1509 - Henry VIII becomes King of England upon the death of his father.

April 23 1348 - First English order of Knighthood is founded.

April 24 1558 - Mary, Queen of Scotland, marries the French dauphin, Francis.

April 25 1590 - Sultan of Morocco captures Timbuktu. (Also the birthday of Louis IX, Edward II, and Oliver Cromwell)

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.

Google: Virtual trips: <https://tinyurl.com/vq8y35k>

The site says "Over 30 Virtual Field Trips." (It was a bit slow to load for me.) Trips include the Louvre, Great Wall of China, Polar Bears, a Canadian farm, a number of animal cams, Yellowstone, several zoos, and the U.S. Space and Rocket Museum. Some sites are easier to navigate than others.

SCA coloring book online: <https://tinyurl.com/ryma3s3>

Drawings of the arms of each kingdom, dates of establishment, and heraldic descriptions.

Additional SCA coloring books by same person: <https://tinyurl.com/r8qggs5>

An Tir-centric; includes arms of each king and queen as well as each branch. Coloring books for two of the branches plus the arms of the baronage. but great for teaching heraldry, etc.

Coloring book of all the populace badges of the kingdoms: <https://tinyurl.com/ttfqrez>

Maps: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/maps-to-get-lost-in>

Links in the article take you to a variety of artistic maps. "Roam and while away some time with these gloriously detailed maps picked by cartographic collectors, curators, and scholars."

Twelve museums offering virtual tours in the these cities: London, Seoul, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, New York City, Los Angeles, Florence, Sao Paulo, and Mexico City. Many links to explore. <https://tinyurl.com/teke99v>

Kids' activities: <https://tinyurl.com/yxx3qshj>

Much to look at and choose from. Site says, "Here's the entire list of education companies offering free subscriptions due to school closings." Choose age/grade level up through calculus! At the bottom of the page are lists of companies to choose from. Most (all?) ask you to sign-up but they seem to be free.

The Art and Etiquette of Handwashing in Period (continued)

Handwashing also gave the wealthy a chance to display household goods, including basins, ewers, and jugs made of costly materials, the Cleveland Museum of Art said. Vessels holding scented water for handwashing would sit outside the feast hall so that guests could wash before entering and after the feast. Hollow vessels called aquamaniles were commonly used for handwashing between the 12th to 15th century. Many extant examples are small sculptures shaped like animals.

These etiquette rules from the 13th-century *Les Countenance De Table* prove that showing up to the dinner table with dirty hands was just as rude in the Middle Ages as it is today:

"...and let your fingers be clean, and your fingernails well-groomed.
Once a morsel has been touched, let it not be returned to the plate.
Do not touch your ears or nose with your bare hands.
Do not clean your teeth with a sharp iron while eating.
It is ordered by regulation that you should not put a dish to your mouth.
He who wishes to drink must first finish what is in his mouth.
And let his lips be wiped first. Once the table is cleared, wash your hands, and have a drink."

References:

https://www.ancient.eu/Medieval_Hygiene/

<https://medium.com/cma-thinker/the-art-of-handwashing-515bf9ea5343>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2013/04/did-people-in-the-middle-ages-take-baths/>

A Pennsic Update from the Mayor

G'Day Everyone,

The past month has seen significant change in the COVID-19 threat and risk overlay for Pennsic 49. The cancellation of major events throughout the modern world such as, The Olympic Games (July 2020) in Japan, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (July/Aug 2020) in Scotland and Major Events Across the USA, plus the restriction of travel both Nationally and Internationally, have indicated to me that this world wide pandemic is having an ongoing longer effect on the planning and running of Pennsic 49 in July/August 2020 than could have been foreseen. In addition, last week has seen the cancellation of May War Practice and the closure of all schools in PA for the rest of the school year.

Cognisant of these changes I have asked Viscount Edward to liaise with the Coopers Lake Management and identify a final notification date for the continuance of Pennsic 49 in 2020. This is not to be viewed as a postponement of the event; it simply allows me to have a "timeline" for decision making and allows me to further consider the impact of events on my recommendations to the Pennsic Seneschals Group (PSG).

It is therefore incumbent upon me to plan for as many possible outcomes as I can foresee. To that end I have requested that the PSG have a Virtual meeting, on a mutually suitable date between 20-25 April 2020. At that meeting discussions will be held regarding several impacting factors for Pennsic 49 in 2020.

My primary concern will be to ensure the safety of the Pennsic War Attendee's, the Coopers Lake Community and Staff as well as the impact on businesses in and around Coopers Lake Campground area.

We need to also consider the recovery period for businesses in the local area that would normally supply Pennsic with part of our infrastructure for the event to run safely and effectively. This includes but is not limited to everything from the contracted EMS Service to Tents and Golf carts.

I have been in discussions with James Brezel from the Coopers Lake Management Group over the past weeks to ascertain their position as no matter which way we go, it will have a great financial impact on their business. I cannot comment on things that Coopers Lake Campground supplies from Porta-John's to Coopers Casual Staff and the Pennsic Store, I will leave that to James and the Coopers Lake Management to evaluate as they know that side well and what effects COVID-19 has had on the supply chain to them.

All the above needs to be considered and discussed before any final decision/s are made. That decision does not include the overarching authority by Local, County, State or Federal agencies that would override any decision made by either ourselves or Coopers Lake Management and which is beyond our control.

I am looking at allot and taking into account all options and considerations not only for the people who attend Pennsic every year, but also for the Coopers Management and Staff. In addition, we need to consider the impact and opinions of the local people and businesses, in and around Pennsic. I especially need to look at if the local businesses can still supply or are in a position to supply the attendees to Pennsic 49. On top of this we need to consider the impact on the local community of 8-10,000 turning up from all over the USA and internationally and what the health effect that may have both physically and reputation wise to the SCA, Pennsic and the Coopers Lake Camp Ground.

Add to that the constant changing figures in the USA, shutdown of state borders, local, county, state and federal changes in the movement of people and last but not least the projected recovery time, even if this bottoms out by the end of June. This is a juggling game where we cannot afford to drop a ball. So, I am being measured, careful, factual and logical in our approach.

Be assured, we are all working towards the best possible solution. It is my desire to have a final decision advertised no later than 15 May 2020. This will allow people to change plans if necessary and/or prepare for a Pennsic that might be very different to that we have attended before.

As you are all no doubt aware by now... I like to Plan for the Known and Prepare for the Unknown. I have a fantastic staff and great support from the PSG and Coopers Lake Management.

I will keep you all advised on the outcome of our discussions and planning.

In Service to you all
Gregory
Mayor Pennsic 49