



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 11/8/2020

News of the Realm

SCA News -

- A recording of the Society BoD Meeting from October 25 2020 is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/board-of-directors-october-meeting-video-available/>
- The October 2020 President's report is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/october-2020-presidents-report/>
- Drachenwald issued a dance challenge! This time to a specific song. <https://youtu.be/eLnWG5Snkc8>
- The Board of Directors is looking for nominees. Learn more: <https://www.sca.org/news/the-sca-needs-you/>

Kingdom News

- Their Majesties have put a Court on the calendar for Saturday, November 21 at 3pm. Watch Facebook for details.

Baronial News

- Regular Event is on! A bid was submitted and approved, but the event date has been moved from the proposed February 20, to October 23, 2021. Lady Jaqueline de la Deiciere and THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe will be the event stewards - big thanks to them!
- Their Excellencies will be hosting a Baronial court for Yule. Submit award recommendations! We may not be meeting in person, but that doesn't mean that past deeds or current offline efforts can't be rewarded. Submit your recommendation here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/award-recommendation/>
- The Cleveland Makerfaire went virtual this year, and many Cleftlanders answered Lord Carl's call to submit videos that showcase what the SCA is all about. Thanks to all those who participated, filmed, edited, and helped out with this project! Go see the fruits of their labor here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5KPjVfyiSWDfM-kCmmdm5Hm44xnt16gj&fbclid=IwAR1YmPBPKGb8sC_o4fbqxXjX-79hNf3n1IX7w36WPkNkXTVvPVdprwkiq_E
- There is also a photo library for the demo here: https://makeprojects.com/project/medieval-life---society-for-creative-anachronism?fbclid=IwAR0bx0CAOUYxRfS-GPRbuLE9kwww9BygpgJg1Ap_y9bREh-DRo45X1Qyk-cs
- Have you started shopping for the holidays? Don't forget that the Cleftlands shop is still open for stocking stuffers and other Cleftland-y gifts: <https://cleftlands.myshopify.com>

November Holidays in Period Around the World

By Lady Claricia de la Mere

Every month holds a reason for celebrating, and that was especially true in period, all over the world. Here are a few holidays that have been celebrated since before 1600, and are still held today:

St. Martin's Day/Martinmas – This Catholic holiday is celebrated on November 11 each year. It is a Catholic holiday, recognized across Europe, with origins in France. Saint Martin of Tours was a Roman soldier who was later baptized and became a French bishop. This holiday was also known as Martinstag, Old Halloween and Old Halloween Eve, and was the preferred time for butchering livestock, as well as the hiring of farm laborers for a new season.



Continued on page 2.

Engraving of St. Martin, 15th Ce. German

November Holidays - continued

Diwali – This Hindu festival originated in India and is celebrated during the month of Kartika (mid-October to mid-November). Known as the “festival of lights”, it lasts five days and symbolizes the spiritual victory of good and light over darkness and ignorance. People decorate their homes and work spaces with oil lamps and candles and perform ceremonies to worship Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity and wealth. It was mentioned as far back as the 9th century, and is likely a combination of different harvest festivals and traditions.

Loy Krathong – Celebrated first in Thailand, and now in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, China, Cambodia, and more, Loy Krathong is held during the full moon of the 12th month in the Thai lunar calendar. This usually lines up with November. It is a tradition to float decorated baskets filled with offerings on the river and thank the Goddess of Water. It possibly originated from Angkor in the Khmer Empire, where a 12th century temple shows engraved scenes of Loy Krathong. Many popular stories depict women floating on the rafts, and there are now beauty contests as part of the festivities.

That Luang – The That Luang is the most important religious monument in Laos. Built in 1566, the Lao believe that the edifice contains a relic of Buddha. People from all over the country come for three days of religious ceremonies followed by a week of festivities that last all through the night. It begins with people coming to make offerings to the monks in order to be reborn into a better life.

Shichi-Go-San – Also known as the “Seven-Five-Three” festival. It is a traditional Japanese rite of passage for girls of three and seven and boys of five. It celebrates their survival from of the dangerous early years of life. The ages are odd numbers, which is from East Asian numerology that says that such numbers are lucky. It began in the Heian period (794-1185), and over time additional traditions were added. After this festival, children who had reached the proper age could grow out their hair. Boys could wear hakama, and girls at seven could tie their kimono with obi. Now, many people make a point to take photos of their children on this day, often in traditional garb.

Mawlid “Birth of the Prophet” – An Islamic holiday celebrated in the third month of the Islamic calendar, it celebrates the birth of the prophet Muhammad. The tradition goes back to the early days of Islam when animals were sacrificed and a great feast was eaten. It was a small and personal observation at first, but developed into a larger festival with poetry, sermons, and sweets. The Ottomans made it an official holiday in 1588 and called it “Mevlid Kandil”. Modernly, there is usually a carnival feeling to the holiday, when homes and mosques are decorated and charity and food are given out. There are still performances in honor of Muhammad.

Read more:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Martin%27s_Day

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali#History>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loi_Krathong#History

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/That_Luang_Festival

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shichi-Go-San>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mawlid#History>

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Spoon with Detachable Pick - Venice, Italy, circa 1500

Enameled shell and coral, gilt silver mounts

This exquisite piece is made of so many precious materials it's hard to believe it was ever used to touch food. Polished shell forms the bowl and carved coral is the handle. The end of the handle features a dragon's head, which is pulled out of the handle to reveal a detachable pick. Including a toothpick in the design certainly seems to indicate a practical use.

Get a closer look: <https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1987.144>

For the Combat & Ranged Arts

Armored: How to Dress a Knight

<https://youtu.be/xlqFefmsiyU>

Duke Eik's LitW Ryu Sword & Shield Kata #25

<https://youtu.be/CVjSH1-Bc0c>

Duke Eik's LitW Ryu Sword & Shield Kata #26: Single Timing:

<https://youtu.be/JU8YTVbRQn8>

Duke Eik's LitW Ryu Sword & Shield Kata #27: Stop Attack to Leg:

<https://youtu.be/d1Qan-sSio4>

Duke Eik's Fundamental Longsword 101: Grip, Guard, Block, Cut:

<https://youtu.be/1JjYV0byMw>

Duke Eik's Discusses Nomind or Mushin Training:

<https://youtu.be/px5C1YeH3iM>

Archers: How to Make Arrows:

https://youtu.be/E_gvNWf7-2w

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: Exchequer - Lord Robert atte Northclyfe (mka Bob Swiger) (he/him)

1.) What was your first SCA event? When?

My first event was a small event in the Akron/Canton area that isn't held anymore. That was around 2004. I also remember NOWM and Regular Event as events I attended when I first joined the Barony.

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

I am the Barony's exchequer, and I help with gate, parking, and signage at events.

3.) What is your favorite part of Pennsic?

Volunteering at the gate, and driving a DART cart for Disability Services.

4.) What is one thing you like about Cleftlands?

I enjoy the excellent feasts that our Cooks' Guild is known for.

5.) What is your favorite SCA-period movie?

It's a tie between "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and "The Adventures of Robin Hood" with Errol Flynn.



Virtual Classes for November 8 through November 22:

***NOTE:** There are 3 slots open for the December term. If you want to teach a class, learn more at: rum.midrealm.org.

- Sunday November 8 7pm EST - The Roman Soldier's Diet by Arria Marina: <https://zoom.us/j/92431507943?pwd=NzJwcWZ2SWWhLWEYzZ2xmUT-JwOTThQUT09>
- Monday November 9 7pm EST - Poppin' Tags: Finding SCA jewelry at thrift shops and yard sales by Elizabethe Alles: <https://zoom.us/j/98177431741?pwd=NE1PbStTUnBNNzZwTUcrUjRFTVU2dz09>
- Tuesday November 10 7pm EST - Bodhran Rhythms: Left Hand Techniques by Liadan Liathan: <https://zoom.us/j/94156509930?pwd=OV00eTJON2IN-WnhCT0gzRWdtV21LQT09>
- Wednesday November 11 7pm EST - Introduction to the New MoAS reporting System by KMoAS Sarai: <https://zoom.us/j/97834027165?pwd=T-0VzaCtmekhtTXBnNDBkWjkyQi9uQT09>
- Sunday November 15 7pm EST - Ustad Week 1: Sword Edge Shaping by Andreas Blacwode: <https://www.facebook.com/ortega.hobson/videos/10221417259131346>
- Monday November 16 7pm EST - Ustad Week 2: 6 ft Period Spears 1 & 2 by Andreas Blacwode: <https://www.facebook.com/ortega.hobson/videos/10221741963328748>
- Tuesday November 17 7pm EST - Ustad Week 3: Inexpensive Lightweight Wooden Shields by Andreas Blacwode: <https://www.facebook.com/ortega.hobson/videos/10221488592154627>
- Wednesday November 18 7pm EST - Ustad Week 4: Leather Wrapped Handle Techniques by Andreas Blacwode: <https://www.facebook.com/ortega.hobson/videos/10221733247430856>
- Sunday November 22 7pm EST - Sor Ustad Q & A: <https://zoom.us/j/99182195136?pwd=alp4MXV0dnZTZUR3VkNIR2J6dlZGQT09>

Medieval Archeology News

By *THL Jolicica atte Northclyffe*

Researchers are continuously discovering more about our favorite historical periods. Here are some developments from the world of medieval archeology:

Vikings in Istanbul Researchers may have found evidence of Viking encampments near Istanbul, formerly the Byzantine capital of Constantinople, Heritage Daily reports. The most significant find was a necklace depicting a snake representing Jörmangandr (also known as the Midgard Serpent) that will bring about the first signs of Ragnarök. Archaeologists also found a cross made from ambergris, a substance formed from a secretion of the bile duct in the intestines of the sperm whale.

Excavations were centered on the ancient city of Bathonea (previously called Rhegion) on the European shore of the Sea of Marmara near Istanbul. Vikings first came to the Byzantine Empire as merchants, and later were included in an Imperial guard formed by Emperor Basil II in AD 988, consisting of Varangians from the state of Kievan Rus. The Varangian Guard was an elite unit that served as personal bodyguards for emperors of the Byzantine/Eastern Roman Empire. Vikings periodically lived in Istanbul between the eighth and the 11th centuries.
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/08/the-varangian-guard-when-vikings-served-the-eastern-roman-empire/134653>

Early Medieval Art: Remains of a Christian chalice from the 5th or 6th century have been uncovered at Vindolanda, a Roman-era fort along Hadrian's Wall in northern England. The object, broken into 14 fragmentary remains, is a rare example of early medieval artwork. Each fragment was covered in lightly etched Christian symbols.
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/medieval-christian-hadrians-wall/>

Third Crusade Battlefield: An important battlefield from the Third Crusade - the spot where Richard I "the Lionheart, King of England, defeated a Muslim army - has been located in Israel, reports Live Science. Among the artifacts discovered in a metal-detector survey of the site were iron horse harness fittings, a horseshoe nail, and two arrowheads. One of the arrowheads was disc-shaped and designed to wound horses so they would rear up and throw off their riders. Although King Richard's Christian forces won the Battle of Arsuf, they ultimately lost the Third Crusade to the Muslims.
<https://www.livescience.com/third-crusade-battlefield-found.html>

Incan Ritual: For the first time, archaeologists have found an intact underwater offering left in Lake Titicaca in the Andes about 500 years ago by the Inca people. Researchers think that the remains of other important Incan rituals may also be underwater, waiting to be discovered, according to Live Science. Spanish records from the 16th century include mentions of the Incan practice of placing offerings in water in the 16th century. The offering discovered at Lake Titicaca is a stone box containing a small gold bracelet and a shell carving of an alpaca or llama.
<https://www.livescience.com/incas-underwater-offering.html>

Tudor treasures: Elizabethan textiles and other rare artifacts dating from the 15th to 20th centuries have been discovered underneath a floor in a Tudor house in Norfolk, England. The building is owned by the National Trust, Medievalist.net reports. Other items found include rare 15th-century illuminated manuscript, fragments of late 16th century books and a cigarette package from World War II. The discovery was made during restoration work on Oxburgh Hall, a moated manor house, which included lifting floorboards in the attic rooms to repair floor joists.
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/archaeologists-tudor-house/>

This Week in History

November 8 1520 - Danish forces invade Sweden and execute around 100 people, called the Stockholm Bloodbath.
November 9 1535 - Birth of [Gyeongjong of Goryeo](#), Korean king who avoided politics and cavorted with commoners.
November 10 1444 - King Władysław III of Poland is defeated and killed by the Turks under Sultan Murad II.
November 11 1028 - Constantine VIII dies, after reigning as Byzantine emperor (or co-emperor) for 66 years.
November 12 1028 - Zoe, future Byzantine empress, takes the throne as consort to Romanos III Argyros.
November 13 1002 - St. Brice's Day Massacre: King Aethelred II orders the deaths of all Danes in England.
November 14 1522 - Anne of France, known for her power as regent for her brother Charles VIII for 8 years, dies.
November 15 1532 - Francisco Pizarro meets with the leader of the Inca Empire for the first time.

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, November 10 7:30 pm EST Virtual Needleworkers' Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Thursday, November 12 8pm EST Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/327411918397483/>
- Thursday, November 19 8pm EST Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://www.facebook.com/events/327411918397483/>

Photo credit of Lord Robert credited to Viscountess Elashava bas Riva.

Engraving of St. Martin on page 1 and the Italian spoon on page 3 are from 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.

*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 November 8, 2020 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 © 2020 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.*