



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 3/26/2023

The Tudors in Review

by Dame Elizabeth Alles

As you enter *The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England* [a traveling exhibit currently at the Cleveland Museum of Art], your eyes are almost immediately drawn to a cope, one of a group commissioned by King Henry VII for Westminster Abbey. It is an appropriate beginning, demonstrating the first Tudor monarch's obsession with securing his throne and legacy by rendering Lancastrian roses, white Yorkist roses, and Henry's Beaufort family symbol of a portcullis in velvet cloth of gold brocaded with silver. It sets the stage, as Henry VII's consolidation of royal power did, for the English Renaissance that unfolded during the 16th century.

The exhibit emphasizes how the Tudor monarchs used art to project an image of themselves as powerful royals ordained by God himself to rule. The portraits include the larger-than-life Hans Holbein depiction of Henry VIII posed in all his manly swagger, Edward VI as a toddler prince already draped in the finery of an heir apparent, and Elizabeth I holding a sieve to represent her virginity and sole devotion to her role as Queen.



A richly embroidered chasuble. 1550-1600..



The "rainbow" portrait of Elizabeth I - her left hand holds a rainbow. Zoom in to see eyes and ears embroidered on the overskirt. 1602.

Likewise, objects like the 1563 letters patent from Edward VI to William Paget and the 1578-79 New Year's gift roll of Elizabeth I speak to the Tudors' use of patronage to reinforce their status as rulers. The diverse origins of the artists – German, Flemish, French, and others – merged at the Tudor Court to create a distinctly English Renaissance style. Every object in the exhibit tells its own part of the story, and it would take hours to describe them all. It ends, appropriately, with the famous Rainbow Portrait of Elizabeth I, rife with symbolism and painted very near the end of her reign. Elizabeth I holds a rainbow, a symbol of the relative peace that England enjoyed, and she stands as the bright beautiful sun that makes the rainbow possible.

The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England is in Cleveland 2/26/23-5/14/23, following its debut at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After Cleveland, the exhibit will continue to its 3rd and final stop at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco 6/24/23-9/24/23. The Met and the CMA organized the exhibit in collaboration with the Fine Arts Museum.



Iron box damascened with gold and silver, bearing an image of King David and Bathsheba on the outside, and the device of Robert Dudley inside. 1579.

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Countess Serena Kimbalwyke (mka Sheri Israel)

1.) What group/Kingdom did you start the SCA in?
Cleftlands, Middle Kingdom

2.) What are your two main activities in the SCA?
Rearing silkworms and processing silk from their cocoons.

3.) Recently, you have been championing something called "Crafters' Green" - could you tell us what that is and who can participate?

The Crafters Green is a predefined area at events where any artisan of any skill level may set up a workspace in order for them to work on their period projects. This is NOT your typical A&S display! Artisans will be encouraged to stay with their projects and actively work on them during the event. The idea is for artisans to demonstrate period techniques, discuss their methods, and give informal instruction if asked about their craft. General populace at the event will be invited to visit and spend time watching and learning from the artisans. There are no requirements for documentation, type of project (except where limited by site restrictions such as alcohol, food, or other activities that cannot be accommodated by the site) or length of time. More info can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/Craftpersons-Green-Info>



4.) You are known for your work with silk and silkworms - what's one interesting thing about silkworms or working with silk that people may not know?

In medieval times, people thought that the silk moths chewed their way out of their cocoons. Actually, the moths don't have working mouth parts so they could not chew through anything. They have a gland on the top of their heads that secretes an enzyme that softens and dissolves the glue (called sericin) that holds the cocoon together. Once the sericin has been dissolved the silk moth can push itself out of the cocoon.

5.) What is your favorite Pennsic memory?

When I was Princess, I was fighting in my first Pennsic field battle ever in rapier combat. Nikolai was at resurrection point and he saw me heading towards him, so he waited for me and we went back to the battle together. A hold was called before we made it to the fighting, so we dropped to our knees to take a quick break. In that moment we were all alone. Nikolai looked at me and said "So, how are you doing?" I looked at him and burst into tears, saying "All these years that you've been fighting field battles here and I didn't really get it, but I GET IT NOW! This is amazing!" He replied "Oh honey, don't cry, there's still fighting to do!" The memory is so strong that I'm tearing up just writing this! Draco Invictus!

News of the Barony

- Recommend your friends for awards! With three more events happening in Cleftlands, there are opportunities for both Kingdom and Baronial awards. Not sure what award they have? Check the Cleftlands populace wiki: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Category:Populace>
For Kingdom awards, fill out this form: <https://midrealm.org/award-recommendations/>
For Baronial awards, fill out this form: <http://www.cleftlands.org/award-recommendation/>
- Cleftlands is hosting Spring Crown Tournament and Kingdom A&S Faire May 27 and 28. Assistance is needed: breakfast organizer (and head coffee maker), lunch help, and more. Contact Lady Katherin verch Rhys to help. Find out more details <https://events.cleftlands.org/crown/>
- Standard Bearers' day of Baronial tournaments is on April 15 at meeting site. Find out more: <https://events.cleftlands.org/standard-bearers/>
- Congrats to Cleftlanders! Lady Chaiya Leah bat David received her Award of Arms, Sgt Avangar joined the Red Company and was also named XO for the Unbelted Champions Team at Pennsic, Lord Dafydd Myddleton was awarded a Dragon's Barb, and Forester Cadfan joined the Order of the Silver Oak.
- Northern Oaken War Maneuvers is also being held this year on June 10 (2 weeks after Crown!). Details are still being worked out, but you will be able to find them on the website here: <https://events.cleftlands.org/nowm/>

News of the Barony - continued

- THL Jolicia is looking for help in making site tokens for Crown Tourney. If you have some knowledge of wire work and a few basic tools, you can take kits home to work on. Contact her at chronicler@cleftlands.org to help.
- Cleftlands will once again be holding a demo as part of the Ohio Scottish Games on June 24. Contact Lady Shahzada al-Zahra at demo@cleftlands.org for more details.
- Applications are being accepted for two positions: Minister of Youth and Gold Key. To apply go to the website here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>

News of the Society

- The BoD has appointed a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. Baron Charles de Bourbon, OL (mka Chuck Burk) has taken on the role. <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-officer-appointed/>
- The Society is seeking a Linux System administrator <https://www.sca.org/news/linux-system-administrator-wanted/>
- The Society is currently assessing the anti-drag legislation recently passed in TN (and proposed in several other states) and how it might impact SCA participants. <https://www.sca.org/news/society-impact-asessment-anti-drag-legislation/>
- There is an update from the Board concerning the use of online petitions: <https://www.sca.org/news/use-of-online-petitions-society-seneschal/>
- Did you know you can see all the latest issues of the Kingdom newsletters online? They are available here: <https://sca.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/sca/neonPage.jsp?pagelD=7&>
- Pre-registration and plan for Pennsic. News and registration link here: <https://www.cooperslake.com/prereg/account/index.php>

News of the Kingdom

- Master Dirk Edward of Frisia is the new Kingdom Deputy for Siege Combat
- The Kingdom is searching for a new Event Coordinator. This position obtains bids for Crown Tournaments and Coronations. Send your resume to kingdomevents@midrealm.org by April 7
- The Honorable Company of Embroiderers (embroidery guild of the Middle Kingdom) is undertaking a project to make embroidered favors for Their Majesties to hand out at Pennsic. Anyone can help - you don't have to be a member of the guild. You can find the pattern [here](#)

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Elizabethan Coif; England, Late 1500s.

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1934.206>

Size: About 8.25 x 16.5 inches

Silk, padding, linen, embroidered with gold and silver thread and sequins.

This richly decorated coif would have been worn with a forehead cloth by a wealthy lady in the house or bed when they were being somewhat informal but still receiving guests. It pointed backward, with the loops at the bottom to be used to draw the fabric together to keep the coif in place. It was meant to prevent wrinkles by keeping off the sun or cold air.

While the owner is unknown, the items depicted represented England, with the Tudor rose having prominence. Also featured are carnations, honeysuckle, and acorns. Such symbols of loyalty were popular in the Elizabethan era.

March-April 2023 Cleftlands Events

Upcoming Midrealm Events

April 1 - Day of Play 6; Venetian Carnival. Fighting, fencing, darts, gaming - mask and costume no garb. Hinsdale, IL \$15.

<https://rokkehealden.midrealm.org/>

April 1 - Tournament of Defense (Pentamere); Rapier. Bloomfield Hills, MI. \$15.

<https://northwoods.midrealm.org/activities/canton-and-baronial-events/tournament-of-defense/>

April 15 - Terpsichore at the Tower XXVI; Dance classes, dance, revelry. Saline, MI. \$15.

<https://www.cynnabar.org/terpsichore>

April 15 - Pentamere Missile Weapons College; Archery, combat archery, thrown weapons. Rockford, MI. \$15.

<https://sites.google.com/view/pentameremwc>

April 15 - Cleftlands Standard Bearers; Tournaments for heavy, rapier, archery, A&S. Euclid, OH. \$13 (lunch included).

<https://events.cleftlands.org/standard-bearers/>

April 22 - Road to Pompeii; Armored, rapier, classes, A&S competition, lunch, feast. Wood River, IL. \$12.

<https://roadtopompeii.weebly.com/>

April 22 - Crystal Chamfron: Fool's Day; Equestrian, camping, gambling, fun tournaments. Wood River, IL. \$17.

<https://shatteredcrystal.midrealm.org/chamfron/>

April 20-23 - Blackstone Raid 30 (Aethelmearc); Melee, camping, ranged, A&S, classes, merchants, food. Gandeewille, WV. \$20

<https://blackstoneraid.org/>

- Wed. March 29 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Dessert Revel** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. March 29 7:30pm - **Class: Creating a Registerable Name** at the Baronial Dessert Revel - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. March 30 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Fri. March 31 10:00am-4:00pm - **Garb-a-Thon** - Richmond Heights Library 449 Richmond Rd. Get details on the Facebook event: [Link](#)
- Sun. April 2 **Painting the Barony's Directional Signs** - Sarra's House. Get details in the Facebook event: [Link](#)
- Wed. April 5 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. April 5 7:30pm - **Class: Body Measurements for a Basic Tunic** at the Baronial Meeting - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. April 6 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Sat. April 8 12:00-5:30 pm - **Garb-a-Thon** - Twinsburg Public Library. See details in the Facebook event: [Link](#).
- Wed. April 12 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. April 12 7:30pm - **Class: Bobbin Lace Making** at the Baronial Meeting - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. April 13 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. April 19 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. April 19 7:30pm - **Class: Hand Sewing a Linen Double Bag** at the Baronial Meeting - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. April 20 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. April 26 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Dessert Revel** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. April 27 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>

Society Disclaimer: Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

Newsletter Content

Did you miss an issue? Want to review an old favorite? All copies of the newsletter are stored on the Cleftlands website. Find them here: <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/Publications>

If you have an idea for content, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com.

Thank you and stay well!

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

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- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: The Honorable Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

Last Week in History

- Mar. 19 1279 - The Song dynasty in China ends with a Mongol victory at the Battle of Yamen.
- Mar. 20 1602 - The Dutch East India Company is established.
- Mar. 21 1556 - Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer is executed for treason and heresy by Catholic Queen Mary I due to his leadership of the English Reformation under Henry VIII.
- Mar. 22 1312 - Pope Clement V dissolves the Knights Templar.
- Mar. 23 1430 - Birth of [Margaret of Anjou](#), Queen of England, a major figure for the Lancasters during the War of the Roses who ruled in the stead of her husband, Henry VI, due to his mental illness.
- Mar. 24 809 - Death of Harun al-Rashid, 5th Abbasid caliph who began the "Islamic Golden Age".
- Mar. 25 421 - The city of Venice is founded with the dedication of the San Giacomo di Rialto church.

Photo of Countess Serena is used courtesy of Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.

Photos from the Tudor exhibit are courtesy of Dame Elizabethhe Alles.

The image of the Elizabethan Coif 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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