

A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 6/7/2020

From the Baron and Baroness

We hope that you have all been well and we hope to be able to see you all soon. On that note, we would like to discuss the recently released missive from the Crown and Curia regarding resuming non-martial activities within the Midrealm, and specifically how we will move forward as a Barony.

First, we are working closely with the seneschalate to be sure that we are following state, county, city, and site guidelines so we meet safely. We wish to highlight that Kingdom has decreed that there will be no martial activities at this time. To use a modern term, this is a "soft opening". Finally, we would encourage you to review the video missive and printed materials released by Kingdom and Curia independently.

We wish to reiterate that these plans do not mean we are going to abandon the new ways of interacting virtually, just that we are exploring our options so we can unobtrusively integrate the two and continue to be inclusive for all levels of participation and comfort. If you have any questions or suggestions on the subject, we welcome your input. Please reach out to us in email or on Facebook Messenger.

These are tense times and we want to remind everyone that one of the hallmarks of the SCA is courtesy, please keep this in mind as we communicate online so that if we have differences we can have the opportunity to work them out face-to-face.



News & Events

Baronial News -

- A virtual baronial court will be held June 13 in place of NOWM. You can still submit Baronial award recommendations! Go here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/award-recommendation/>
- The SCA Census is taking place June 7-21. Information will be up soon.
- Please welcome the Lady Æthelwynn Skerra Dimma as Social Media Coordinator and the Lord Tryggr Gillason as Iron Key.
- The post of Minister of Youth is open and applications are being accepted through June 19. Apply here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/>

Kingdom News -

- MidRealm COVID-19 Update from Their Majesties - <https://youtu.be/bePkKwfgAyg>
- Note that all official Middle Kingdom activities are still suspended until July 1.

Fun Videos -

- An Tir #GlowUp Volume 2 (some drool-worthy garb here for sure!) - <https://youtu.be/IOTWEpIXjuo>
- Known World Equestrians dance off - <https://www.facebook.com/ArabellaDaSiena/vid-eos/10216445917493102/UzpfSTEyNTQwMzE2Mzc6Vks6MTAxNTgyMzk3MDIwNzYxODE/>
- Let Your Hair Down - <https://youtu.be/6pJ19FabEI8>

News from SCA Corporate -

- **The census is here until June 21!** Leave plenty of time! <https://scacensus2020a.questionpro.com/>
- As of July 1, 2020, SCA will no longer be able to leave expired memberships open as if they were current memberships. <https://www.sca.org/news/update-on-sca-membership-status-effective-july-1-2020/>
- From the SCA Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - SCA Core Values - <https://www.sca.org/news/from-the-sca-office-of-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>
- If you would like to gift a membership for a specific individual, please download and follow these instructions: <https://www.sca.org/news/gifting-an-sca-membership/>

From the Minister of Arts & Sciences -



- **Two NEW challenges for June:** Cooks and the A&S Challenge:
June Cooks Challenge: Cooking Over Fire: Try cooking something NEW over a wood or charcoal fire.
June A&S Challenge: Heraldry in Any Medium: A heraldic display.
- Calum is hosting Virtual Armorer's Guild meetings every Thursday via Zoom - **please use the updated link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487>; or contact Calum@wowway.com
- Next Tuesday, Miriana will host a virtual Needleworker's guild. Come to practice your thread-craft, fabric-craft, or Japanese.
- Info for virtual guild meetings can be found as events on the Baronial FB page or on the Baronial website's calendar.
- Next Monday, at 7 pm Master Milesent Vibert will be presenting a virtual "Calligraphy and Illumination Demo" for the Willoughby library. We're planning to stream the video to the Cleftlands FB page and the library's, if we can figure out how by then.
- Don't forget, the RUM classes are ongoing, and there are many, many other classes and events being made available virtually, from all over our kingdom, and the Knowne World. Connect with friends and strangers over a shared interest!

Virtual Classes for the Week of June 7 through June 14 - <https://www.facebook.com/royaluniversityofthemidrealm/>

- June 7 7pm EST - MidRealm College of Heraldry: Intro to Names - <https://www.facebook.com/events/246530590108885/>
- June 8 7pm EST - Rethinking Court: Set up and Acoustics - <https://www.facebook.com/events/3059374344118959/>
- June 9 7pm EST - How to Make Pants: Thorsbjerg Trousers and Hedeby (Rus) Pants - <https://www.facebook.com/events/877178446095284/>
- June 10 7pm EST - Text to Tale - <https://www.facebook.com/events/252016012552517/>
- June 11 8:15pm EST - Lyric Writing - <https://www.facebook.com/events/531320827537251/>
- June 13 3:15pm EST - Medieval Laundry Day - <https://www.facebook.com/events/250074196258871/>
- June 14 7pm EST - MidRealm College of Heraldry: Introduction to Armorial Design - <https://www.facebook.com/events/369260427366357/>

Random Period Object from the Cleveland Museum of Art



Lidded Bowl with Iguana - Costa Rica, 7th-12th century

Ceramic, slip

The makers of this vessel left no written records, but in the 16th century, Costa Rican mythology linked iguanas to the sky and those who ruled. The lizard could be basking in the sun, and looks aggressive with teeth bared. Fine ceramics like this were buried in the graves of the high-status dead, some of them certainly leaders of the several groups that competed in the area.

Tips for the Combat & Ranged Arts

Armored: Duke Eik's Polearm Video #13

<https://youtu.be/M4sodzhP9VU>

Tipping a Sword:

<https://youtu.be/BwT0FoLV4SU>

Archery: How to Shoot an English Longbow

https://youtu.be/EvKJcxa8x_g

Easy-to-Make Moving Target for Your Own Backyard:

<https://youtu.be/b-9z10Xgfyo>

Fencing: Introduction to Buckler Part 1:

<https://youtu.be/zxCsoAFM-NO0>

Introduction to Buckler Part 2:

<https://youtu.be/hxgVcCbEO0M>

Call for Content

Send in your favorite NOWM memories!!! Give us something to be happy about.

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 - Lady Dulcia Wylde (mka Ann Wisnieski) (she/her)

Where did you start in the SCA?

Cleftlands after a Baycrafters demo. I wandered around the building lost until I saw Calum in garb and followed him.

What are your 2 main SCA activities?

Garb and leather.

What SCA activity would you like to try, but haven't yet?

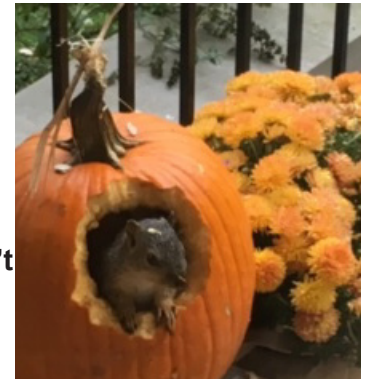
Metalworking

What is your favorite period-based movie or TV show?

"The Princess Bride"

5.) What is your favorite food?

Cheese



From the Knights' Marshal

Reminder that with the Midrealm's change to not requiring membership, all fighters have to submit an individual waiver in order for their authorizations and martial status to be valid. Look yourself up in the Midrealm Authorization Database (<https://marshaldb.midrealm.org/authorization.html>) and it gives your waiver status in the upper right hand corner. To send in the waiver, you can get the form at <https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/adltwaiv.pdf>. It gets sent to the clerk of the roster (rosterclerk@midrealm.org).



Crafting in Quarantine - Printing on Fabric: Block Method, Stencil Method, and Free Hand

By Lady Dulcia Wylde

Tools for block printing:

- Potato
- Wood
- Lino block
- Foamy block
- Carving tools
- Copy paper
- Tracing paper
- Markers

Tools for stenciling:

- Stencil plastic
- Exacto blade
- Cutting surface
- Tape

Tools for free hand

- Lots of brushes

To start you will need a medium to choose for your block. You can use something as simple as a potato, or get yourself a nice cut of maple and also learn how to wood carve. The softer the medium, the more squishy your design will be. While a potato is serviceable enough you will end up with squishy edges and eventually mashed potato.

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Printing on Fabric - continued

If you choose wood, it will be sturdy and have wonderful crisp lines; however, wood carving is not always easy and it may take a couple of tries before you get the hang of it. I liked to start with lino or gum eraser blocks which you can get online. They are easy to carve and will get you several stamps before you need to clean the surface. You can also buy period stamps online or have them made for you - there are several options now available.

If you are carving a block, take your image and put it on some tracing paper. Then use the copy paper to transfer the image to the item you are going to carve. Take that all off and outline the image in marker so you can actually see what you are doing.

Before you begin choose a design, let's say your heraldry, let's take a look at this design - how would you carve this image?



I would make the squirrels and acorn the raised image on the wood and carve a line showing the delineation between the white and blue fields. Now of course this may depend on what I'm putting it on. If it's white fabric then only the field behind the squirrels and the acorn would be carved out then the blue paint would be applied. If it's blue fabric the opposite would be true. You need to plan out how you want the items to look and how they will come out in one color, two colors and so on. If you have multiple colors you many have to create multiple stamps to get the full effect.

Once you have a stamp, you're ready to go! There are a lot of paint choices. The best I've found is Rustoleum - they are long lasting and very durable. Any paint you put on clothing is eventually going to chip and crack even with fabric medium. Luckily a lot of garb is not worn or washed daily so these painting objects can last longer than normal wear and tear. I've found online sources that recommend acrylic house paint, and I have personally found that after painting my house the clothes I wore still have that paint on them, so I agree. Fabric medium or special fabric paints are worth looking into, I just don't think they last any longer than normal acrylic paint.

To prepare your surface, get a flat, sturdy table. If you don't want paint all over put down newspapers or craft paper. If you are using a folding table make sure to print on the edges because the slope in the middle does screw up the paint lines if you're not careful. After you've done some printing make sure to pick up the cloth from the paper and let it air out a little underneath or you'll get paper stuck to the backside.

To paint using the stamp, I highly recommend sampling first. This will allow the stamp to season a little as well. Get something to roll the paint out on. I use paper plates. Use a brayer and roll out the paint making sure the mix the color a little. Once the brayer is loaded, roll the paint onto the stamp. Make sure all the surfaces are covered but don't put it on so thick it covers the details of the stamp. Flip the stamp over and put it on the fabric. Smack the heck out of it on the back side or use a rubber mallet, which is why the table must be sturdy. See how the imprint comes out. If it's too light, add more paint. If it's too gooey, add less paint. If it looks perfect remember what you did and repeat. Sometimes you may need to cushion under the fabric to get it to take the print better. There's a lot of guess work and trial and error.

There are other ways to apply the paint to the block. You can also use the cloth paint applicators for walls from your local hardware store. Or you can get a bunch of wool felt and add your paint to that like a giant ink pad.

There are other ways to put an image on cloth. You can also try stenciling. Get or make a stencil of your design and tape it to the cloth. Get a sponge and dip it into the paint, then sponge away at the stencil. Lift the stencil and there you go - the image has been transferred. I found stenciling is easier for multi color items and paint control, but it is slower than block printing. The other issue with stenciling is that layout can be tricky and you have to watch your lines so you don't accidentally make a large blank section.

The other way is to free hand or marble the cloth you will be using. Marbling will have to wait for another article, but free hand is easy enough. Get a brush, get some paint, and start painting your hearts desire on the cloth you have in front of you. I find this method harder to do if you want the same design over and over but to each their own.

Why is a Bard?

By Ollamh Brendan O Corraidhe, OL

In my previous note, I looked at the question, “what is a bard?” Here, I’d like to address, “WHY is a bard?” What is the purpose or function of bards in the SCA?

Certainly, there are a lot of performers who do period music, stories, and poetry either as part of their repertoire or as a primary focus. This helps create a medieval atmosphere (that “time travel” thing I talked about earlier), and of course it helps fulfill our educational mission. Plus, it’s just cool to know that you’re performing a piece as it might have been done a thousand years ago, just like it’s cool to wear and use authentic kit.

Bards help make these make-believe places in which we live come to life. The songs of Calontir, Northshield, and Ealdormere helped their residents develop collective identities distinct from the Midrealm. I love Donalbane’s songs of Brendoken, because they make it a real place.

But there’s more to it than that. In period, poets, singers, and storytellers preserved the history of their people. Likewise, SCA bards recount the tales of remarkable people and events, spreading word-fame and renown even when they have departed from our presence. Andrew Seldomrest and Fatty Lumpkin. Sir Angus Ulrich. Thorbjorn Greysides. Queen Aislinn. Jafar. Bards preserve their memories.

And sometimes, when necessary, SCA bards call out egregiously poor behavior, as our period predecessors did. “The Man Who Wouldn’t Die”, “My Awards Go Jingle Jangle Jingle”, “Ban the Fencers”... Satire may be the “nuclear option” of the bard, but it is sometimes called for.

Finally, the bardic arts give people a chance to stretch their personal boundaries in a way that the other arts don’t. If I try my hand at spinning, or calligraphy, or whatever, and I’m not very good (and few people are right out of the gate), it’s likely that no one will know. So think about the sheer bravery it takes to get up in front of an audience (even a friendly one) for the first time. Or the hundredth. I’ve read that most people fear death less than they fear public speaking.

Bards entertain, educate, create, and sometimes admonish. But most of all, we encourage.

This Week in History

June 8 1376 - Edward, the Black Prince, son of Edward III of England, dies of dysentery.

June 9 68 - Nero commits suicide, ending the Julio-Claudian dynasty and starting the “Year of the Four Emperors.”

June 10 671 - Emperor Tenji of Japan introduces a water clock called Rokoku.

June 11 1572 - Ben Jonson, English poet, playwright, and critic, is born.

June 12 910 - Battle of Augsburg: Hungarians defeat an East Frankish army with their famous feigned retreat tactic.

June 13 1381 - The English Peasants’ Revolt comes to a head when rebels set fire to the Savoy Palace.

June 14 1285 - Forces led by Prince Trần Quang Khải of Vietnam destroy most of an invading Mongol naval fleet.

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Upcoming Events

- Please note that all official Middle Kingdom events, practices, meetings, and gatherings are cancelled through June 30, 2020.
- Tuesday, June 9 - Virtual Needle Workers' Guild - <https://www.facebook.com/events/829027847503448/>
- Thursday, June 11 - Virtual Armorers' Guild Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84704344487>
- Saturday, June 13 - Virtual Baronial Court - Information to be posted to Facebook.

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