

Scorpion Tales

April Shire Meeting

The next Shire meeting will be Tuesday evening 6:30 P.M. April 13 at Pasco's Pizza Parlor, 17348 Main Street, Hesperia.

Events

Combined Fighter Practice/ Activity Event: Noon, Sunday, March 21st at Lime Street Park in Hesperia. Please bring any SCA projects, studies or activities (drumming, dancing, etc.) to share. Barbecuing and/or potluck is very welcome but optional.

Gallavalley Fighter Practice is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in Hemet. June-Sept.: starts at 9am. Oct. to May: starts at 10am.

Dreiburgen Fighter Practice is held on the first Tuesday of the month. 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM, YMCA of the East Valley, 7793 Central Ave, Highland, CA.

Shire A&S Meetings: May 5 and May 19. We will share details of time, location and topic in the April *Scorpion Tales*.

March Officer's Reports

Seneschal – Davi d'Orleans: I need copies of any officer reports sent to Kingdom. Marshal, Exchequer



and Webwright reports have been submitted. I need completed agreement to serve and copies of membership cards from science officer and constable. I need list officer report for 2009 Anniversary and Highland War (simple list of tournament entrants and winners would be fine). I need children's minister report 2009 Anniversary and Highland War (a list of activities and number of participants would be fine).

Chatelaine – Jane de Sealynn: Not present, notified via email that she had school responsibilities, nothing to report per email.

Constable – vacant: Fritz has offered to serve and was given agreement to serve

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to complete and return with copy of membership card.

Web Wright – Valdis: Not present, notified per email. No changes from last month's report, which is printed in its entirety in this newsletter. (It's important.)

Marshal – Christian de Guerre: Not present, out of town per email, nothing to report, looking forward to March 21, fighter practice at Lime Street Park, will provide a period pavilion for the activity event.

Lists – Christmas Caryl: Not present, had to work late, nothing to report per Wystan.

Chirurgeon – Teka Turmanov: Not present, No report.

Herald - Magdalyn Tinker: Not present, no report.

Children's Minister – Marina Flores de Luna: Not present due to school schedule, which will continue till June. Confirmed per Fritz that she will stepping-down as Children's minister at Shire Anniversary.

Chronicler – Caitlin Christiana Wintour: Not present. Reported, Please submit articles for Scorpion Tales per email and Scorpion Tales will be out towards the middle of the month.

Exchequer – Wystan Albright: Account Balance: last month 12,730.22, this month \$11,909.59. Has submitted quarterly reports and doomsday report to Kingdom.

Youth Combat – Fritz der Gefolgsman: Confirmed that Teka will be taking over Youth Combat however he was not sure if this has occurred or not yet. (Teka, please provide a copy of the kingdom agreement to serve and return to Seneschal for the Shire's records.).

Arts & Science – Anlang Dalesdotter: Not present. Per email, she "bought and have received a Scorpion "Fimo clay" mold. It is small enough for use on awards and jewelry items. We will have to try it out at an A & S meeting sometime soon I hope. Are there any members who want to try for the 17th of March or should I delay next A & S until later in the spring?"

Presentations – Magdalene Murray: Presentation of "Cat Masks" to Her Majesty was made by Blasé at Festival of the Rose. "The Queen was ecstatic when she saw the cat mask (her device has two cats facing each other) and when we presented her with a second mask for her double (every Queen needs to be at two places at once) she quickly handed it to her twin, who was thrilled. Very good choices! I have not seen her that happy receiving a gift." No other presentations were required for February. (Mons Draconis Anniversary was cancelled) Presentations for Starkhafn Anniversary will be made.

Old Business

Shire Demo

Jess Ranch: No update, last comment was that the senior's club is receptive if the Shire wishes to pursue.

Barnes & Noble: No update, Please keep an eye on upcoming book events. *George Elementary:* Offered demo to Principal, No response. Have resent email to school secretary. *VVC Performing Arts:* Davi to check on college event calendar to see if there are other events that the Shire can add a demo to.

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Shire Anniversary

Per Wystan, Christmas has obtained the Shire champion prizes (budget of \$250 was approved last meeting). Wystan past around a scorpion mold that could be used for the children's "Scorpion Egg Hunt". Shire will provide food at event for staff. Selection (from one a single location) to be determined at event. No site favor will be required as there is no site fee. Updated CP Announcement has been sent to Kingdom which states update of no site fee (again). Magdi needs to submit blurb on "garage sale" to Shire seneschal to be put on seneschal's discussion group forum for notification to populace.

Highland War

Christian will set-up ACEPS this month. Facilities Use Request has been submitted to City of Victorville., awaiting acceptance. This will probably be the last year that our straw bales will last. If discarded, Anastasiia recommends that the bales be donated to a Hesperia wildlife refuge organization she knows of; Blase concurs. Plywood walls as used for battles in the An Tir-West War discussed. Any structures used for events would probably have to be approved by the Kingdom Chirurgeon. Davi to construct prototype for approval. Davi sent email to George Elementary requesting use of schoolyard for battles as last year. Awaiting response. Fritz brought up that he would like signs for the event. The Equestrian Community is very interested in having equestrian activities at the war. Davi to contact Kingdom Equestrian Officer. A different location for Dog Coursing needs to be considered. Anastasiia has been selected as deputy to Christian for classes. Our A & S Officer needs to be included in the loop for class information. Ragnar will be in charge of Battle scenarios. James of the Lake and Ishmael needs to be contacted to see if they will organize and run the archery event.

Fall 2010 Coronation and Queens Champion Tournament

Everyone is encouraged to investigate sites for the event and report at the next meeting(s). Davi has contacted George elementary (again) and is waiting for response. First Christian Church (also next to Schmidt Park) has been contacted and proposal email sent. Response is pending. Calvary Chapel (on Oakwood) does not rent their facilities. Church of the Valley has been contacted, awaiting response. Fair grounds are still a last resort option. Having the Coronation, feast and tournament at SCLA is the most preferred location and will be pursued as first choice. Providing overnight camping at the park would be a great idea. Dancing was discussed with Robynne the Grey. She is receptive to helping once it is confirmed that we can do it.

Confirmed from last meeting that all business meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Medieval Beverages for a Hot Day

by Mistress Euriol of Lothian, O.P.

Chronicler's note: The below excerpts are reprinted with permission from Stefan's Florilegium.

Many people wonder what sort of drinks was common to the folk in the Middle Ages. There are a number of sources, which provide recipes for beers, wines and meads. These beverages of course were the most common for people to have to drink. Brewed drinks provided a beverage that was typically free from pollution and easy to make in large quantities. The alcohol levels in these brews were low, but high enough to act as a preservative. Grapes were not the only fruit to be made into brews, just about all juices were. Again, this was a way of preserving the fruit juice. Apple juice became cider, pear juice became perry, and so forth.

But what sort of non-alcoholic drinks were available during the Middle Ages? How did the people cool their drinks on a hot day? Hopefully, I'll be able to answer both these questions in an interesting and tasty way.

Water

The Middle Ages is not well known for its sanitary treatment of water supplies. It was typical for one town or village on a river to pollute it, with little or no concern for those who may live down river. This is likely due to the basic lack of knowledge of what bacteria or other contaminants were. But the people knew enough that water from such sources was not good for their health.

In *The Art of Cookery in the Middle Ages*, Terence Scully writes "As a mealtime beverage, water did not play as important role on the medieval dinner table as it does today. The same disadvantages

militated against the use of water on the table as in the kitchen: only spring-water could be trusted to be free of pollution, and that only with a number of carefully weighed provisos: the discharge from the spring must have a good flow, it must come directly from the ground or a rock, it must be cold, and so forth."

Thus spring water, or water that had been treated was the water that people would drink, except those who did not have the means to have a liquid any other way. To further this, in *Food and Drink in Britain (From the Stone Age to the 19th Century)*, C. Anne Wilson writes, "Of the non-alcoholic beverages the commonest were milk, buttermilk, whey and water. Bede quotes an example of royal initiative in the matter of water provision which took place about the year 628. King Edwin of Northumbria, having noticed clear water springs near the highway in a number of places, had posts erected beside them from which bronze drinking cups were hung. And the people held him in such awe and love that none dared lay hands on them except for their intended purpose." Ann Hagen further supports this in *Anglo-Saxon Food and Drink, Production and Distribution* by stating "That springs were evidently well-regarded, is evinced by the number of times that a spring suddenly welled-up on the sites where martyrs were slain. King Alfred added to his translation of Boethius on the Golden Age, 'they drank the water of the clear springs!'"

Non-Alcoholic Beverages

As noted above, some of the non-alcoholic drinks include milk, buttermilk and whey. Adding to that list seasonal fruit juices, you had a

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Excerpts from the Webwright's Report

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vast variety of beverages available for consumption. However, a good portion of the milk taken for consumption, or fruit juices made its way into being preserved in such forms as cheese and brewed drinks. Fruit juices were also made into syrups, diluted with cold water, it makes a very refreshing drink. There is still a remaining question, how were beverages cooled on hot days?

Ice and Snow

The answer to the question of how did people in the Middle Ages cooled their drinks seems blatantly obvious. They used ice and snow. But how did they have ice on a hot day, let alone snow? How did they prevent it from melting?

In *New Preservation Techniques*, Giorgio Pedrocchio writes "The use of snow and ice as natural preserving agents goes back to ancient times. The homes of the rich contained wine cellars and deeper underground spaces where ice and foodstuffs could be kept. Each town or village had one or more icehouses – buried structures in which the ice collected during the winter was stored for later use to preserve meat, fish, and vegetables."

In Europe today, exist well known natural icehouses, ice caves. Notable ice caves are found in Slovakia, Macedonia and Austria. In a cave formed by a volcanic eruption, conditions can be perfect for water to seep through the ground and freeze in the cave. A temperature trap keeps cold air, below freezing, down in the cave; the same science that is used in modern store freezers.

The use of ice or snow in drinks wasn't limited to water. It was used to cool any beverage that a person might want cold. In *Liberation of the Gourmet*, Jean-Louis Flandrin writes "For instance, some physicians

argued in favor of the practice of drinking iced wine, which the French took from the Italians and the Spanish in the sixteenth century." He goes on to write, "Laurent Joubert, writing in 1580, did not fully accept this new aristocratic custom. Although he was willing to tolerate cooling wine during the summer by immersing bottles in well water ... he refused to countenance the use of ice or snow for the same purpose."

Resources

David, Elizabeth, Edited by Jill Norman, Harvest of the Cold Months, The Social History of Ice and Ices, Viking, 1994

Flandrin, Jean-Louis and Montanari, Massimo, A Culinary History of Food, Penguin Books, 1999

Wilson, C. Anne, Food and Drink in Britain (From the Stone Age to the 19th Century), Academy Chicago Publishers, 1973

Scully, Terence, The Art of Cookery in the Middle Ages, The Boydell Press, 1995

Hagen Ann, Anglo-Saxon Food and Drink, Production and Distribution, Anglo Saxon Books, 1999

Friedman, David and Cook, Betty, A Miscellany (9th edition),

http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Medieval/miscellany_pdf/Miscellany.htm

Gill, N. S., Keeping Cool, <http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/baths/a/KeepingCool.htm>

“In a Cloak”

In honor of Ireland and St. Patrick's Day, a translation of a medieval poem originally written in Irish Gaelic. This is a love poem dedicated to a lady named Mór.

O In a cloak, that bright breast of yours--
it should not be the blackthorn brooch;
for you it is, sweet redmouthed Mór,
the one brooch of gold in Éire.

In your cloak, the proper equipment is
only a brooch of noble white bronze
or a wondrous brooch made of gold,
sweetworded redmouthed Mór.

Oh, soft hair the color of amber,
oh, furrow in the dapplegold cloak,
oh, resolute arch which may never betray a man,
a brooch of blackthorn is not fitting.

You should sow, my heart's nut,
in [your] many-yellowed checked cloak
(her red cheeks a hard-run prize)
only a hard-to-make brooch by Goibhniu.*

Crimson cheek that harrows me,
without a gold pin -- only this hour of mine
for the length of an hour, oh pure hand --
for the green cloak of your soul.

**Goibhniu was one of the smiths of the Tuatha Dé Danaan. To have a brooch from his hands is to have a brooch made by the gods.*

Seneschal's Corner

Dear Shire,

Thank you all for coming to the business meetings when you are able and communicating via our Yahoo Group emails. Your input is very valuable and I am amazed on all the great ideas and points brought up. We have some big events on our plate coming this way. Your continued support of the Shire gives me confidence that we can serve them all in a grand style.

Please take note and thank three of the Shire's own that will be teaching classes at the upcoming Collegium. Mistress Caitlin will be sharing the art of dramatic bard, Ladyship Blase is disclosing poulet culinary secrets and Lady Magdi will be instructing the rhythmic intricacies of period drumming. The Collegium is free this year and close by so I hope to see you all there.

I am really looking forward to a little warmer weather so we can get together at our first activity/fighter practice event on March 21, at Lime Street Park. This will be a great kick-off for the year. I hope to see those of you that have been hiding over the winter. I am hopeful that we can hook some new anachronists. It has been awhile since we were all able to come together without an agenda and just have fun. Eating is good too!

Congratulations to Conrad Breakring and Eleanor di Michelozzo Gianfigliazi, our new Prince and Princess. I have appointed Blase to be the Shire's liaison to

the Prince and Princess. Thank you Blasé.

Please note a few important updates: Their Royal Majesties AND Royal Highnesses will be attending our Shire Anniversary. A Princesses Tea will be held for the Ladies of the Rose. All of this is expected to boost our event attendance. I just know all of the Shire will meet this new challenge. The Caidian Archery Open Tournament will not be held at our Anniversary.

Please bear with me as I try to be inspi-



rational:

Looking back on my first days in SCA, I think of what first interested and drew me to this club. As a boy I loved to read of medieval history and dream of grand tournaments, colorful costumes, and epic adventures. I jumped on the opportunity to actual bring these dreams to reality within the comfort of a club where my interests were not considered weird or geeky. The first days of SCA events were filled with awe and wonder.

As with all clubs, there is always work to be done and it may seem that we are only meeting to discuss working on the club. I caution, Please don't lose sight of the dream that brings us together! Sometimes all it takes is a little change or extra effort to make it all new again.

This last crown tourney felt like my first tournament again. All the pageantry and participating at a new level helped me appreciate SCA all over. Making new garb and wishing it to be period has made me look again at clothing history. Learning new things, like how to operate a sewing machine, made our hobby challenging again. I feel a new appreciation for the costumes everyone is wearing. It was because of Sir Valrik and Lady Virginia's fine new garb and authentic appearance that I challenged him (being the Kings Champion had nothing to do with it). The preparation for an event was a priority again and the anticipation and excitement kept me awake again at night. Making new friends within a bardic household let me see with new eyes, the epic view of the tournament once again. The knights' challenge sparked my imagination for medieval flowery language, which I forgot immediately when I faced Their Majesties. I really felt

that I was transported back the 14th century. This is how it should be at every event. I think if we appreciate the pageantry of each event and the effort others are making we can fall in love with SCA all over again.

I highly recommend participating in SCA with a new passion. Let us participate in the dream as if it is a brand new one each time. Please continue in our pursuit of our medieval education and share with one another. I look forward to seeing you all at our Anniversary like it is the very first one.

Your Old Servant,

Davi



Quote of the Month

“Heaven white with
angels' wings, Earth
and the white-waved
sea.”

— Anonymous



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