

ARDANRUNES

This is the March 2009 issue of the Ardanrunes, a publication of the Shire of Ardanroe of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). Ardanrunes is an electronic newsletter only, available on the Shire of Ardanroe website. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright 2009 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. All clipart in this issue is from Microsoft Word. The photograph of chives is from the Wikipedia Commons. Photographs from Genghis Khan 1220 and Candlemas were taken by Barun Rory ua Riada. Photos for the Viking horse article were taken by THL Melisant of Exmoor. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month for the issue coming out the 1st of the next month.

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Calendar of Events

March 14-22	Gulf Wars XVIII
April 4	Baronial Investiture – Axemoor
April 11	Spring Coronation - (EASTER) - Seleone
April 18	Athenaeum II: Art Wars – Tor an Riogh
April 25	Beltaine – Grey Niche
April 25	Forest Maiden V – Blackmoor Keep
May 2	Candlelight Camp – Small Gray Bear
May 16	Spring Crown List – Wyrmegeist
May 30	Cracked Anvil – Smythkepe
June 6	Live Weapons Championship – Small Gray Bear
June 13	Star Mangled Spanner - Hammerhold

ARDANROE OFFICERS

Seneschal: The Honorable Lady Dana the Quarrier
Knight Marshal: Lord Johannes von Greiffenburg
Herald: Maistir Rory ua Riada
Exchequer: Mistress Sarah MacGregor
Minister of Arts & Sciences: Lady Melisant of Exmoor
Chronicler: Barun Rory ua Riada
Chirurgeon: VACANT

Minister of Children: VACANT
Web Minister: Lorccán na Túaithe
Provost of RUGA: Lady Amata Quentin Motzhart
Quartermaster: Mistress Sarah MacGregor
Chatelaine: Lord Michael atte Harp
Historian: Lord Ebrahim al-Jabal
Constable: The Honorable Lord Olaf Lutherson

HARKEN YE!

Below is a tentative schedule of Shire activities for the month of March:

March 7 – Fighter Practice – TBA (Saturday)
March 11 – Populace Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)
March 14 – Fighter Practice – TBA (Saturday)
March 25 – A&S Workshop – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)
March 28 – Fighter Practice – TBA (Saturday)

NOTE: Please see the Shire website and Ardanroe Yahooogroup for updates.

THE VIKING HORSE: THE NORWEGIAN FJORD



Unchanged since the Ice Age, the Norwegian Fjord is considered to be one of the world's oldest and purest breeds. They are recognizable in rune stone carvings found in Norway. Many of these carvings depict fights between stallions and show the mane trimmed in the crescent shape still used today.

Fjords are small, usually standing between 13 and 14.2 hands (a hand is 4 inches) although some up to 15 hands high have been bred in the United States. My mare, Brynja, is 15 hands. They are strong and sturdy with a lot of stamina and have no problem carrying a large man. They perform well as saddle horses and also make great harness horses. They are also excellent pack horses and are still used in their native Norway as plow horses on mountainous farms, and to pull sleighs in the winter. They were also used to pull boats up the fjords. Some fjords here in the U.S. are used in jumping and reining. I have seen a photograph of one performing a perfect sliding stop! They are well suited to cold weather and grow a thick, double-layered winter coat.

Fjords are always dun in color (usually a tawny yellow). They have a white or cream colored mane and tail with a black stripe that starts in the forelock, runs through the mane, down the back, and all the way through the tail. The mane is characteristically trimmed in a crescent shape, then the cream or white hairs are trimmed an inch or two shorter than the black hairs to show off this stripe. The Vikings also trimmed their Fjords' manes in this fashion. The horses have black markings on their legs and many have zebra like stripes on their knees and hocks. A few fjords come in a silver dun color. This color is a silvery-grey body color with the same markings as the yellow dun. Fjords have short but extremely sturdy legs and a short cresty neck. The head is primitive in appearance, but quite beautiful. The ears are small and pony like. Fjords also have very low withers (the hump at the base of the neck) compared to other horse breeds.

Fjording horses are said to be easy to train and are fond of people. We refer to ours as our "big yellow dog". Whenever we are working outside, she always comes over to see what we are doing. We have to be careful not to leave tools unattended or she will carry them off! She is also very good with small children. Fjords do not frighten as easily as Thoroughbreds and Arabian horses. I consider mine to be bomb proof. She has been quite close to a professional fireworks display and civil war cannons being fired. They have a good temperament and a willingness to work, although they can be stubborn.

The Vikings didn't use the Fjord in battle, but they were used to transport those warriors who were lucky enough to own them to the battlefield. They were also used as pack and cart horses. Fjords were brought in longboats to the Icelandic settlements and to Scotland's Western Isles and its influence can be seen in the Scottish Highland pony and in the Icelandic Horse.

By Sveni the Horsegelder

aka Melisant of Exmoor

Sources:

The Ultimate Horse Book, by Elwyn Hartley Edwards. 1991 Dorling Kindersley, Inc. 232 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016.

Which Horse For Me?, by Jasper Nissen. Translated by U. Erich Friese, director of Animal Facilities, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. 1985 T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

Eyewitness Handbooks: Horses, by Elwyn Hartley Edwards. 1993 Dorling Kindersley, Inc. 232 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016.

Just About Horses magazine. Volume 22, Number 03, May/June 1995. The Norwegian Fjord, by Stephanie Macejko.



Brynja with Olaf, Eric, and Melisant



Olaf astride Brynja



TOWN FAIRE

Fighter practice at Shire Blackwood was a great success on Saturday, February 7th. In all, five Ardanroe fighters made the trip: myself, Helmut, Lorccan, Harp, and Max. Add that to the five there from other shires (Sir Gethin, Wilhelm, Titus, Skippy, and Matt), and we had ourselves a bruising good time (literally). Thanks for all those that made a good showing for us and thanks to Shire Blackwood for hosting. – Johannes

The Shire's A&S Workshop was held on Wednesday, February 25 at Dark Horse Farms, the homestead of Olaf and Melisant. This month's project was shield making and a supply list was provided in advance. Dinner was held starting at six o'clock with grilling of burgers and side dishes brought by those attending.



FORTNIGHT

The Shire Populace Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at the Aulds Branch Library in Bossier City. The meeting started at 7:05 and ended at 7:45 p.m. Dana, as Seneschal, ran the meeting. Sixteen adults (Dana, Sarah, Avalina, Ebrahim, James, Lorccán, Helmut, Eibhlín, Amata, Rory, Melisant, Avice, Hesperis, 'Beth', 'Tish', and 'Kat') attended the meeting.

Dana welcomed everyone and noted the Kingdom calendar of events.

Officer reports were then given.

Lorccán as Web minister has updated the website with information about the Regional War Practice the Shire is hosting and put the February issue of the *Ardanrunes* on the Chronicler's page.

Melisant as Minister of Arts and Sciences stated that the January A&S Night on t-tunics was a great success. The February A&S Night (Wednesday the 25th) will be at her home for shield-making. Refreshments will be served. The Shire voted to provide funding for food for this evening A&S hands-on construction gathering. She has also submitted her report.

Rory as Herald reported that Hesperis' name was registered in November. Eibhlín's name was submitted in January. Hesperis' device resubmission was just returned today for redrawing (enlarge the border). Hopefully Johannes' and Lorccán's device resubmissions will go out at the end of February on an Gleann Abhann LoI.

Rory as Chronicler reported that the February issue of *Ardanrunes* was on the Shire website. The compressed photo option reduced the size of the file considerably and Lorccán was able to receive that via email, so we'll be compressing photos from now on. Rory has received an article from Melisant on *The Viking Horse* and permission to publish from at the meeting, and encouraged others to submit articles and poems and such.

Amata as Provost reported on all of the classes taught at Winter Wonders, distributed Black Books for students, gave updates on RUGA and its logo contest, and plans to attend RUGA/A&S Faire in the fall.

Ebrahim as Historian is working on event reports.

Sarah as Exchequer reported the Financial Doomsday Report for 2008 is done, all receipts for Winter Wonders have been received, the Finance Committee has approved funds for food at the Regional War Practice Ardanroe is hosting on the 21st and food for the A&S shield-making dinner evening. Discussion has moved from getting a shed to getting a new trailer, which will be under New Business.

The Constable, Knight Marshal, and Chatelaine were not present.

Under New Business, Dana made the call for bids for autocrating and feasting Winter Wonders XXIV in 2010, and announced that all Kingdom events in the fall needed bids. It is believed that the Shire of Blackwood is putting in a bid to host the Live Weapons Championship with equestrian activities at Lake Bistineau State Park.

The Shire Trailer Project was now discussed. There has been some information on the Shire's list. We are looking for a new trailer that would be 10–12 feet long and 6–7 feet tall to put in shelving and store everything in tubbies, etc. The tongue weight is important. Several members are looking at prices, sales, models, etc. It would be stored at Olaf and Melisant's as their place is closest to the campsites we use.

A shameless plug was made for Art Wars by Avice. The meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting Sarah gave a ten minute class on "What to Bring to an Event" including two handouts distributed to those attending.



THE ARDANROE HERBARIUM

(THL Rovena of Bri Leith, Column Editor)



Clump of Chives (from the Wikipedia Commons)

CHIVES

Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) are one of the smallest species of the onion family. The reason they are referred to in the plural is because they grow in clumps and it would be hard to use just one chive. Chives come in variations of height, flower color and flavor (Chinese or garlic, Blue Spear, Alba, Curly Mauve, Marsha and Snowcap).

The chive is an herbaceous perennial plant. The leaves are hollow tubular while the flowers are pale purple to pink in color and star-shaped. They flower from April to May in the southern end of its range zones and in June in the northern end. They mature in the summer.

Chives have been grown in Europe since the Middle Ages, although there is evidence of their use dating back to 5000 years ago.

If you are allergic to onions, you may be allergic to chives as well.

As chives are usually served in small amounts and never as the main dish, the only negative effects are usually digestive problems. The benefits of chives are that they are rich in vitamins A and C, and contain trace amounts of sulfur and iron. The Romans used chives to relieve the pain from sunburn or a sore throat. They also believed that eating chives could increase blood pressure and would act as a diuretic.

Culinary uses are most commonly as condiment for fish, potatoes, egg dishes, and soups. Chives are one of the "fines herbes" medieval cuisines, which also include tarragon, chervil and/or parsley. The violet flowers of the chives are edible.

It can be used in gardens to control pests because of its sulfur compounds. They look great as a fill-in in flower beds and borders. Here they can do multiple duties: look pretty, allow you to grow the quantity you need for personal use, protect your other plants against insects, and attract bees to pollinate its neighbors. Their oil has antibacterial properties.

Among other uses for chives include the use of their flowers in dry, ornamental bouquets and Romanian Gypsies have used chives in fortune telling.

References:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chives>

Borlongan, Josie. *Chives (Allium schoenoprasum)*. Seattle, Washington: Garden Guides; Hillclimb Media, c1997-2009. <http://www.gardenguides.com/plants/info/herbs/chives.asp>

Davis, Jeanine M. *Chives*. Rev. 5/97. Published by North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-124.html>



LESSONS IN HERALDRY

During September, Mistress Sarah placed the rough draft of the *Ardanroe Event Manual* in the Files section of the Ardanroe yahoo group list. The last page of the draft is for the Herald. This month we conclude our discussion on heralds at tournaments with the duties of the Minister of the List.

In some Kingdoms the office of Minister of the List falls under the Marshall. Gleann Abhann follows the structure set up by its parent Kingdom, Meridies, with the Minister of the List falling under the office of the Herald. The Emerald Herald is the Kingdom Herald in charge of the list tree at tournaments, predominately Crown Lists. However, special tourneys such as the Tournament of Champions would also fall under the prevue of this office. The Emerald Herald not only runs and oversees the list tree for Crown List but educates the populace in the running of lists, the pros and cons of list trees based on the type of tournament and number of participants. All of the other heralds in the tournament work under the direction of the Minister of the List. This includes the procession herald, field herald, runner, and shield tree operations.

At the local level the Minister of the List is usually not a local herald, but instead a gentle (often a lady) that volunteers to work this position and has had training in list trees or learned through experience. The Minister of the List works with the Marshall of the tournament. All participants in a tourney, once authorized and approved by the Marshall, must see the List Minister. Participants give the List Minister their name, titles, pronunciation guides, and blazons of their arms. For some tourneys the names and arms of the participants' consorts are also gathered. This information is placed on cards representing each participant in the tournament. If there is a procession at the beginning of the tourney, these cards are used by the procession herald and then quickly returned to the List Minister.

Based on the number of participants in a tourney, a list tree is created. Sixteen is a perfect number as it does not require any Bye fights. Bye fights are those in which a participant fights a Bye fighter rather than another participant competing in the tourney. In almost all cases the participant advances to the next round. It is rare that Bye fights are declared 'destructive' and can result as a loss and possible elimination from the tournament of the participant, if the Bye fighter is victorious in the match.

The Minister of the List arranges the participant cards in groups of two to represent each match in a round. The cards are given to the field herald to announce in sets of three. Often a runner will be the go-between for the List Minister and the field herald passing a new set to the field herald and a finished set to the List Minister. The List Minister records the wins and loses on the cards and on the list tree, thereby determining which participant will face each other in the next round. The List Minister tries to ensure that the list tree is fair, byes are equally dispersed among the participants, and participants do not face each other repeatedly.

The order and sets of the matches in the first round are not necessarily determined by the List Minister. Gleann Abhann has created a tradition for its Crown List in which the group of participants is divided in half, one half having those of greater precedence and one half having those of lower precedence. Those in the lower precedence half may then challenge those in the greater precedence half to determine the matches starting with the fighter with the lowest precedence. In other tournaments the first round's matches may be determined by random draw, by order of precedence, or another method devised by the sponsor or creator of the tournament working with the Marshall and List Minister.

This has been a very brief overview of the duties of the Minister of the List.

Maistir Rory



CARRIAGE CHATTER

Genghis Khan, 1220, January 30-February 1, Shire of Blackwood

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The Shire of Blackwood held ‘Mongol Appreciation Day’ on January 31st during the last weekend of the month as part of Genghis Khan, 1220 in honor of ‘the one appointed by heaven to rule all nations’. The event was held at Group Camp 2 of Lake Bistineau State Park near Doyline, Louisiana.

THL Celestine Albrit was the autocrat and Lady Sara de la Petra was the feastcrat. Feast would be a cuisine from the lands the Khan laid waste to in his passing. Breakfast was by Sir Robert Gethin Albrit and lunch by Lady Dinara. THL Wilhelm von Drachenburg was in charge of the tourney while Lady Rebecka MacGillivray oversaw the children’s activities. THL Nonnie Wlfraven and Lady Rebecka were the royal (wranglers) liaisons, and Magnus the hall steward.

The site opened at five o’clock Friday evening. Each attendee received a Chinese food box with two chopsticks and as a token a black annulet on a ribbon or cord. Schedules and feast menus were distributed on single sheets of paper located on the front and back. A list of the cabins and assignments was also present. Within the cabins some beds had “reserved” signs for requested upper or lower bunks.

Traveler’s fare was Celestine’s Critter Chili. She used six different animals in her chili. The first person to guess all six would win a prize – beer! The answer was cow, pig, turkey, deer, lamb, and gator. Mongol movie night would conclude the Friday night activities with John Wayne as Genghis Khan in *The Conqueror*. Popcorn prepared in the kitchen along with bowls of pistachio nuts and other edibles were consumed by the varying shifts of movie watchers.

In addition to these themed activities, the Order of the Diamond Chalice would hold a Silent Service Auction from Friday night to Saturday afternoon to raise money for the Gulf Wars Royal Reception/Party Fund for the Crown to spend on expenses that could not be spent using SCA account funds. Maistir Rory ua Riada coordinated the auction of 26 Services offered by 20 members of the Order.

Her Majesty arrived between ten and eleven o’clock and *The Conqueror* had a ‘movie break’ so that those watching the movie could assist in guiding Her Majesty’s carriage to her cabin.

Rory had also brought the foreign film *Mongol*, which was drooled upon by Motan and Sa’ad (mainly Motan). *Mongol* was shown after *The Conqueror*. Movie night ended just after two o’clock in the morning, shortly after the arrival of Their Highnesses.

Breakfast by Sir Gethin had included pancakes, biscuits, scrambled eggs, coffee cakes, hot water for instant grits and oatmeal and tea and hot cocoa, and coffee. As of early morning there were not many arts and sciences entries – just one severed head by Baroness Barbara (who knew she had it in her!), a baculun (a period Mongolian fighting stick that could be used for walking and as a club and was studded with metal) made by Sir Sa’ad in woodworking, and a pair of boots by Motan.

Children’s activities were held inside the hall at a table across from the arts and sciences entries. Magnus gave a class on chainmail making, which all of the children enjoyed, each connecting rings to make little items.

Also between nine and ten o’clock Lord Fergus Khan held a class on the Mongol Horse inside the hall. A class on silk painting was held at one of the picnic tables outside starting at ten o’clock by Mistress Sarah MacGregor and Lord James in le Breres. They had applied the resist to the silk Friday night to outline the charges and separate the areas of the banner. The banner being made as part of the class was for Sir Gethin. Lady Amata, Avalina, Master Stephan, and Gwenllian participated in the class, applying the various dyes to the silk Saturday morning.

The tournament of the day was held in the open field to the left of the bathhouse. THLady Nonnie was the minister of the list. THLord Wilhelm and Sir Gethin were the marshals. Jam Recaredez was the field herald. The Queen’s throne and Their Highness’ thrones were set up under a pavilion in front of the field. There was more

entourage than tourney entrants. The total entourage for the Crown and Heirs numbered fourteen while nine people entered the tournament. Due to the small number each match best two out of three. The tournament was also double-elimination. The entrants in the tournament were Lord Paul the Small, Sir Sa'ad, THL Olaf Lutherson, Baron Dafydd ap y Kinith, THL Maximilian, Lord Motan, Lady Rachael, Alfred, Lord Quintus. Olaf and Maximilian alternated as the bye fighters. Prince Loric ensured that the defeated opponent in each match died properly (i.e. fell to the ground), as the Prince would race from his throne across the field knocking any defeated fighter who had not fall on his or her own to the ground with his mighty staff. Lady Rachael was perhaps the newest authorized fighter as she had just turned eighteen the previous weekend. She had experience on the field from time as a youth combatant. Now that she was an adult, she had also just become Sir Loric Sylvestris (His Highness) newest squire.

The finals were between old Rome and new Rome as represented by Quintus (old Rome) and Maximilian (new Rome – aka Holy Roman Empire). Maximilian won the first; Quintus the second; and Maximilian the third. Maximilian was declared winner of the tournament.

The tournament ended just at the proper time, just after twelve noon when lunch was ready. Lunch was to have been jambalaya but instead was a hearty beef stew with crackers and bread and tea and water. Lady Dinara had not been able to attend the event, so had sent the ingredients up with Motan. The lunch was a fund raiser of a mere two dollars per person.

The arts and sciences entries had increased. There were now two brewing entries of mead by Marie Kalder and Maximilian von Braun; three costume entries of boots by Motan, a heraldic surcote by Maximilian, and tablet woven leg wraps by Nonnie; one armoring entry of a sword basket hilt by Robert Blackwell the Smith (who also had a small merchant table of armor wares by the list field); one jewelry entry of a bracelet by Briana de Ravenna; one woodworking entry of the baculum by Sa'ad; and one Severed Head entry that closely resembled Sir Sa'ad's head by Baroness Barbara. The heraldic surcote by Maximilian was made for Robert Jimmerson, a former Ardanroe member now living in Atenveldt. It was styled as a 12th century heraldic surcote with the Barony of the Twin Moons' armory upon it, Robert now residing in the Barony in Atenveldt. Judging was completed around noon.

The afternoon was filled with activities inside and outside. Chess, backgammon, and Nine-Man Morris tournaments were run by Nick inside. The Mongol training archery shoot was run by Lord Fergus Khan outside across the road from the tourney field. The Mongol archery was wild to watch. Entrants took their bows and sat on hay bales on a trailer pulled by a truck which drove around the large open field past two archery targets formed of hay bales and black cloth or paper targets. Two ladies also rode on bales of hay as the retrievers, jumping off after each shoot to retrieve the arrows. The entrants rode around the targets at three speeds to represent three speeds upon a horse – a canter, a trot, a gallop. Perhaps fifteen or twenty people took part in this just because of how fun it was. And it was definitely fun to watch.

At four o'clock the hall was cleared and set for court. The Silent Service Auction also ended at four o'clock. The results of the auction were posted on the tripod and funds collected from the winners.

Court was held at five-thirty inside the hall. Lord Ian O'Donnell blew the horn and Mistress Sarah, as court herald, announced Her Majesty and the Heirs. Their Highness' wore Mongolian garb for court much to the oohs and ahhs of the populace. Their garb for court was made by Mistress Daphne of Colchester.

His Highness also announced that the Shire of Wyrmegeist had received the bid to host Crown List at Kings Arrow Ranch. Her Majesty asked the court herald to ask that all gentles attending their first event or court to please come forth. Her Majesty gave the three new people a token of a crown on a cord.

Marie Kalder was summoned. She announced that she was preparing the Coronation feast for Their Royal Highnesses and that it would be a hunter's feast. As such she was looking for deer, hog, etc. "Bring me your meat and I will cook it", was her quote.

Her Majesty had a grab bag for all of the children present to come forth and place their hand in and pull out one item. At least six children came forth to select mystery gifts from the grab bag. No one lost their hands – darn!

Gwenllian verch Rhys from the Barony of Axemoor was then summoned. She received an Award of Arms.

Nonnie Wlfraven was then summoned and escorted from the kitchen by her husband. For her work with the Auxiliary Army, cheese sandwiches and bacon, Shire work, and so much more, she received the Order of the Onyx Chalice. The scroll was real vellum done by Baroness Alda.

Baroness Barbara was called forth and announced the results of the guessing game. The theme of the game had been Genghis Khan and the number of tiny pieces of plant stems had represented the cities conquered. The number was 134. Dana the Quarrier had guessed this number but had already left the site. So the next person closest without going over was Chelsea Bailey at 130, but she was no longer on site. Rebecka MacGillivray had the next closest number without going over and won the prize – a choice between M&Ms or almonds. Rebecka chose the M&Ms.

“Present yourself and your chocolates to Her Majesty, Rebecka MacGillivray,” announced the court herald, Mistress Sarah, her Peer. “I would like to introduce you to the concept called taxes,” said the Queen. Rebecka was allowed to keep her newly won M&Ms, but for the twelve years of children’s activities and other services, she received the Order of the Onyx Chalice. The scroll had been painted last night by Baroness Barbara.

THL Charles Pierre du Bourbon then stepped forward and said, “As Chancellor I have business.” Charles much admired the fuzzy hat worn by Rebecka. Her Majesty also liked it. Her Majesty allowed Charles to have the hat and he quickly snapped it off of Rebecka’s head. Her Majesty said she had something else for Rebecka to wear and presented her with a metal circlet and a Grant of Arms.

Isun, Motan’s wife, was then summoned and escorted forth by Motan. She wore Indian garb and knelt too soon and had a hard time moving up to the pillows. Isun was recognized for her work with the children and the Shire of Vogelburg with an Award of Arms.

Hannah, Wilhelm and Nonnie’s daughter, was then summoned. She was escorted by Olaf and for her service received the Order of the Lamb.

The Order of the Diamond Chalice was then summoned. Ariadne de Ravenna, Barbara Sterling, Charles Pierre de Bourbon, Dafydd ap y Kinith, Medb ingen ui Mael Anfaid, Morgana of the Mist, Rory ua Riada, Sarah MacGregor, and Tegan verch Dwgan came forth, Rory carrying the tripod. Rory announced the results of the Silent Service Auction. Of the 26 services offered for bid by 20 members 19 were bid upon and \$516 raised at Genghis Khan 1220, being more than that raised by the Silver Lamp. Her Majesty explained what the funds were for; being the Royal Reception and things you could not use SCA account funds for. The seven services not bid upon at this event would be made available at Candlemas as a follow-up conclusion to the Silent Service Auction. Money had been collected from all but two of the auction winners prior to court.

“But the Order is lacking”, spoke the Queen, and the Order members agreed, needing some help to carry this heavy tripod that listed the results of the auction. Medb, Tegan, and Charles were sent out to find and bring forth one to fill the gap. They found Wilhelm von Drachenburg standing by the curtained entrance to the kitchen and escorted him forth. Wilhelm for his service at so many inter-kingdom wars, service to his Shire, efforts as this year’s Gulf Wars autocrat was inducted into the Order of the Diamond Chalice. The many hugs from the Order members commenced.

Caitlyn, Lorccán’s daughter, was then summoned and escorted forth by Lorccán. For her service at events, especially the Sunday’s at the end of the events, she received the Order of the Lamb.

James in le Breres was then summoned and announced that the Shire of Ardanroe would host on February 21st a War Fighter Practice being organized by Sir Ashikaga Hiromoto. More details would be posted on the Gleann Abhann lists.

Roscooper Agerison received an Award of Arms for his service to the Shire of Blackwood and all of the work he had done assisting Wilhelm with this coming Gulf Wars. Beaux who was also known as Nick and by a Japanese name only he currently could pronounce received the Order of the Lamb for service to the Shire of Blackwood.

The autocrat, THL Celestine, was then summoned. She thanked everyone for coming and said that we were “hard pressed to find better weather today”. The weather had been perfect this weekend. She announced the winners of the day’s activities and presented each with a scroll. These were:

Matthew (Lancaster) of Durham – Nine Man Morris

Gershon the Hermit – Chess

Motan and his Lady – Best Dressed Couple

Sir Sa’ad – Woodworking

Robert Blackwell – Armoring

Marie Kalder – Brewing

Briana de Ravenna – Jewelry (Ariadne’s daughter)

Sir Sa’ad – Mongol Archery Training Shoot

Lady Barbara Sterling – Best Severed Head

Along with the scroll a pike made by Matheus atte Forge was presented to Barbara to mount the head on.

Motan – Costume

Motan – High Point A&S Winner

As the High Point Overall A&S Winner Motan received a pewter plate.

Maximilian von Braun – Tournament Winner

Celestine announced that there were two more legs of the Mongolian triathlon, horseracing and wrestling, which would be held after feast. Sara de la Petra had a great feast prepared and after court the hall would be quickly

set up for feast. Please heed the words from the hall steward, Magnus, after court. Between 75 and 80 people had come to the event. There being no further business court was closed. It was a little past a quarter past six.

Her Majesty was joined at the high table by Their Royal Highnesses, Prince Loric and Princess Diana, Hermione, who was one of her entourage, and THLady Rebecka MacGillivray and her husband, Lord Matheus atte Forge. The first remove was bacon wrapped dates (a required dish for this event – Blackwood has had them at every feast for the last five years), chicken skewers (essentially chicken satay), pita with curry spread and hummus, and fresh fruit. As Sir Gethin was working in the kitchen, Sir Sa’ad gave the toast to the Crown, toasting the Queen and at the reminder of Baroness Barbara, adding the King, and Maistir Rory gave the toast to the Heirs.

The second remove was venison with lentils and rice and carmelized onions and homemade bread and fat fat fat (which is the name of the onion butter that Beatrix makes). The third remove was Mongolian styled braised beef over cabbage, buuz (essentially potstickers), and apple radish salad. The fourth remove was fig cake with cream, apple cake, chocolate tarts, and almond brittle which were served buffet style at the end of the feast. During feast Lady Melisande of Loch Bais sang.

At the conclusion of feast court was reopened and the feastcrat was summoned. Her Majesty praised Sara de la Petra for the feast and presented her with the Order of the Onyx Chalice, the scroll painted by Baron Nigel Friday night. The rest of the kitchen crew was thanked and court was closed.

The evening’s festivities concluded with wrestling on a large square cloth outside followed by horseracing inside the hall. The horseracing was a blast. Teams of two members were formed and skateboards were used. Two teams would race at a time with one member riding on the skateboard and the other pushing it all the way down the hall where they would switch positions and the rider would now push the pusher on the skateboard all the way back. There were fixed lanes for the race formed by folding chairs. Mistress Sarah sat in the center of the race track and announced penalties to the scorers for chairs hit, cheating, etc. The horseracing was also restricted to those over the age of 21 because before each race the Shire of Blackwood’s wheel of misfortune was spun now as the Wheel of Drinking to determine what and how much one team member had to drink. This was also affected by the penalties. Cheating in the horserace was actually favored, as it was considered true Mongolian philosophy to outwit your opponent.

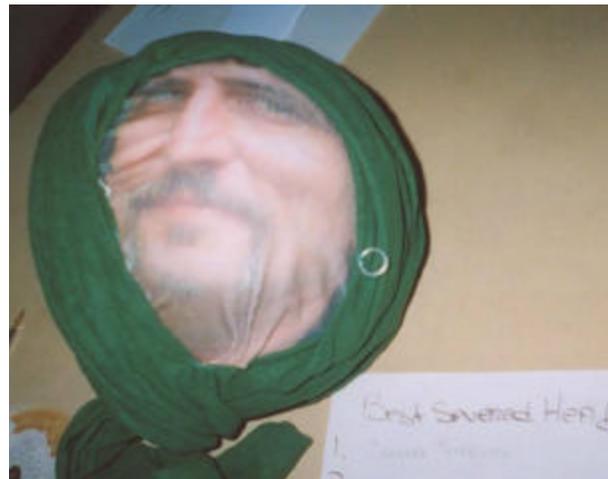
The Royal Revenge was the winning team composed of Her Majesty and THL Charles and ably assisted by Prince Loric. There was then a race between the two to determine the one person who would be the winner of the horseracing. The Queen won this with the assistance of just about everyone in the hall.

At the conclusion of the horseracing competition the scrolls for wrestling, horseracing, and Mongolian Triathlon winner were given out. I missed who won the wrestling but Queen Mary Grace was declared winner of the Horse Racing and Sir Sa’ad the overall winner of the Mongolian Triathlon for competing in multiple activities of the triathlon.

The morning came all too soon. Sir Gethin again made pancakes, biscuits, and coffee, with coffee cake and other foods laid out for all to break their fast. People cleaned cabins, loaded carriages, and departed for home, the site closing at ten o’clock. It had truly been a very fun and relaxing event.



Charles, Alina, Sara, Beatrix at work in the kitchen.



Baroness Barbara’s entry – the Sa’ad severed head



Sa'ad's baculuns



Sarah and James' silk painting class with Avalina, Amata, and Stephan



Avice and Melisant at the tourney



Queen Mary-Grace talks about the Diamond Chalice fundraiser

Winter War Practice/30th Anniversary, February 6-8, Barony of Seleone

While no one from the Shire of Ardanroe attended this event, reports were received from the knight marshal and autocrat of the event from which the following summary was compiled.

The first qualifying tourney for the Tournament of Champions II was held during the Winter War Practice and Seleone's 30th Anniversary hosted by the Barony of Seleone the first weekend of February. Eighteen fighters competed in the tournament. The final round was between Sir William FitzHugh de Cambria (called Camric) and Sir Caillin MacLeod. Both advanced to the Tournament of Champions with Sir William the winner of the day's qualifying tournament. The knight marshal of the event was THL Mika'il al-Rashid. Lady Taddea da Trieste was the autocrat. Baroness Dredda, Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences, assisted with the A&S competition, which had three entries, and taught a class on Documentation and Research. THL John of Widcombe, General for the GA Army, worked with the fighters on battle tactics. As part of the 30 year celebration Lady Allesandra Fiore of Osprey made a delicious and beautiful cake. The Chatelaines of Gleann Abhann hosted a lunch fundraiser, the money to be used to make newbie tokens. During the court of HRM Havordh attended by TRH Loric and Diana and Baron

Morgan the other winners of the day's activities were recognized. These were Tomas (rapier tourney), Marcel Orilion (A&S), Gwenellian (Royal Round shoot) and Deborah of Haleshaven (Birthday Shoot). The children winners of the food fight were Ophelia and Megan.

Candlemas: A Heian New Year Celebration, February 14, Barony of Grey Niche

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The Barony of Grey Niche traditionally has Candlemas as a one-day arts and sciences event with little to no actual martial activities. Each year the theme for Candlemas varies based on the autocrat organizing the event. This year the theme was Japanese, looking at the Heian period in Japanese history as submitted by the autocrat, Sugihara Naome. The feastcrat for the event was Baron Serafino Benitini. Reservations were coordinated by THL Cormac the Bald. The site was the Singleton Community Center, a dry site, in Bartlett, Tennessee, a suburb of Memphis.

The site opened at eight o'clock on Saturday, February 14th. Mistress Alysia Gabrielle de Fougères was the acting autocrat for the day as Sugihara was restricted to bed suffering from pneumonia. The activities of the day were held predominately in three rooms of the Community Center. Two rooms were large classrooms. These were split in half with invisible lines so that two classes could be offered in each room at the same time. One room contained Classrooms 1 and 2. The other room contained Classrooms 3 and 4. The two rooms were across the hall from each other diagonally.

The third room used in the Community Center was the great hall or auditorium. A stage filled one end of this room with doors connecting it to the hallway that ran the length of the community center with doors to restrooms, classrooms, building entrances, etc. The other end of the auditorium had doors to a kitchen, exits, and smaller rooms for storage or prep-work for the theater.

The stage was the fifth classroom for classes at the event. The troll or reservation table was set up next to the doors connecting to the hallway. Tables for the arts and sciences entries were along the wall opposite from the troll table. The registration table for the arts and sciences entries was at the end of the room near the doors to the smaller rooms. Grafyn Kenna was in charge of the arts and sciences competition and registered all of the entries. She was assisted by Mistress Brigit Olesdottir, who also sat at the table, and Baroness Dredda, Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.

Classes began at nine o'clock in all five classrooms. There were four hours of one-hour classes from nine to one o'clock with one class being two hours in length and another having the potential of being two hours in length.

The first set of five classes had started by the time I arrived on-site. 'Hands On Japanese Bookbinding' by Mistress Arielle and 'Japanese Theatre' by Mistress Vashti were in Classrooms 1 and 2. 'Japanese Kites' by Mistress Anyeta and 'Gyotaku – Japanese Fish Printing' by Master Kojin were in Classrooms 3 and 4. 'Hands On Knitting' by Duchess Linnet was on the stage.

After signing-in at the troll table, the continuation of the Silent Service Auction by the Order of the Diamond Chalice was set up near the entrance to the kitchen. THL Cormac provided one of the site's folding tables, Viscountess Miriel brought the service bid forms, and Baroness Dredda provided tape to attach the papers and sign. Where the first Silent Service Auction had twenty-six services, this one had just seven. The auction was scheduled to run from ten o'clock to two o'clock ending immediately after feast.

At nine-thirty registration of entries in the arts and sciences competitions closed and a brief judges meeting was held. Judging of the static entries would take up the rest of the morning. Entries in Costume Review would be judged at ten-thirty and Performance Arts entries at eleven o'clock.

The class size limit for Duchess Linnet's "Hands On" Knitting was eight. Class attendees were encouraged to bring needles and yarn but some materials would be provided. Her Grace would also be available during the rest of the day, when not teaching her other class, to assist anyone from the class or help anyone who could not attend the class get started in knitting.

Mistress Arielle taught the stab method of Japanese book binding. Several people watched while she and three class attendees each made their own book.

Mistress Vashti's 'Japanese Theatre' class became a two hour class. She had one attendee, Lady Lewen de Wakefield, when I observed, but reported having a few more earlier. Her class was a lecture on the history and forms of theatre and included books, copies of plays and poetry, masks and fans.

As both Laurels' classes took over an hour, Mistress Jane Beaumont's "Dip Pen Calligraphy" class, which was to be in Classroom 1 of the room, began late but ultimately turned it into a room with three classes occurring at once. The calligraphy class' size limit was ten and a handout was available to take home for only one dollar.

Mistress Jane had between four and six students in her class. The other ten o'clock class that would have been held in Classroom 2 of the room, "The History and Art of Kumihimo" was canceled.

Mistress Anyeta's 'Japanese Kites' was a big hit for the older children and perhaps some adults as well. She had a wonderful handout about the history, appearance, and types of kites in Japan including a glossary and list of websites of interest. I was happy to be able to pick up a copy of her handout.

Master Kojin's 'Japanese fish printing' was also a big hit for the adults. I had seen this class taught year's ago by his wife, Mistress Margery of Crosgate. Both were here today having made the journey from the Barony of Iron Mountain and brought both of their teenage daughters, who took many of the more craft-like classes. For this class you did not a real fish. Instead a wooden or rubber fish was used as a stamp with the ink rolled on it and then pressed on paper. There were about ten or fifteen sheets drying when the class ended.

Mistress Anna Nikki, a nickname for her longer Russian name, followed Mistress Anyeta's kite class with a "Documentation Roadshow". She used a cute handout, *Documentation for Gummy Candy* by Lord Joe Smith of Somewhereshire, to teach how to critically evaluate documentation and recognize the good from the bad so that you would create good documentation for your entries in the future.

Lady Amelia van Hemessen followed Master Kojin with a two hour class on "Ikebana". Ikebana is Japanese flower arrangement. Amelia presented the history and several styles, after which those attending made arrangements. A five dollar fee was charge to cover the costs of the flowers, containers, moss, pebbles, rocks, and other supplies. Between eight and ten Ikebana arrangements were made. These were then taken to the auditorium to display on the end of the stage and later on the tables, both high table and those eaten at by all us regular folks. I was very pleased with my small arrangement and after the event gave it to my Mom, with whom I was staying over the weekend.

Meanwhile on the stage Duchess Linnet followed her knitting class with one on coil baskets. There was a class size limit of eight and a two dollar fee for materials.

At eleven o'clock Duchess Ilissa the Nightwatcher followed Mistress Anna Nikki's class with the 'Japanese Art of Unpersuasion for the Gentle Sex'. This was basically a self-defense class for ladies. A few gentlemen attended to assist with the demonstrations and practices. It gave a completely different atmosphere to the room for those of us meditatively contemplating layouts, plants, and stones for the floral arrangements.

Across the hall in Classroom 1 Duke Kane had a packed table of twelve or fifteen gentlemen warriors for "Battle Tactics". Classroom 2 in the same room was to be Lady Ashikaga Nanban Shimofuri's class on 'how to make a pair of Period Hakama to fit nanban/gaijin'; however, she had not arrived as of eleven o'clock. Mistress Alysia acted as the substitute teacher and used one of my classmates from Ikebana who had finished his arrangement and was dressed in full Japanese garb as a model. The three to five people attending the class took notes on constructing the pattern from Mistress Alysia's on-the-body explanations.

Lady Katinka White Hair followed Duchess Linnet on the stage at eleven o'clock with a class on making "basket liners" as an "SCA Life" category craft.

Shimofuri arrived just before twelve with her daughter and travel companion, a rapier fighter she 'stole' from another Kingdom. As the Order of the Laurels were holding a meeting at Candlemas at noon and did not want it to be a public meeting, which, originally located on the stage would make it, they took over the room that contained Classrooms 1 and 2, moving the noon class in Classroom 1 to the stage, there being nothing scheduled at noon for Classroom 2.

Baron Uliam McUliam's class "Understanding Musashi: A Guide to Reading *The Book of 5 Rings*" was held on the stage instead of in Classroom 1 due to the swap with the Laurels for their meeting. Lady Zhara um Nikko followed the Ikebana class with "East Asian Condiments". Her class consisted of a lot of food items which the participants were able to sample along with notes and handouts. While her class was in Classroom 4, Classroom 3 of the same room was open as 'Traditional Origami' covering the history of origami, was canceled. Instead, with that side of the room available, Shimofuri gave her version of the "Period Hakama" class. One couple had brought fabric and a hakama was fitted to him, the fabric arranged and cut and pinned with stick pins so that it could be sewn once the husband and wife returned home.

I had not brought fabric so had started a fitting to record measurements. Unfortunately during this time THL Cormac discovered he needed every table the site had for set up for feast. Thus I departed to close the Silent Service Auction early, roughly around twelve-thirty, taking everything down so that the table could be used in the feast table set up. This was the second time Shimofuri's class had been held and I had missed out. Perhaps the third time will be the charm.

The Silent Service Auction at Candlemas raised twenty-five dollars for the Royal Reception with five of the seven services bid upon by THL Ravenswar Brackae, incoming Kingdom Seneschal, each at five dollars. The funds collected from today's auction were given to His Majesty just before feast. This gave a grand total of \$561

raised by the Order of the Diamond Chalice, \$516 at Genghis Khan 1220, \$20 raised shortly thereafter with a bid for Baroness Barbara's service, and \$25 raised at Candlemas.

By twelve-thirty all of the arts and sciences entries should have been picked up. However, two tables still have projects on them until the end of the day. Also at this time the request was made that everything be picked up from the two rooms down the hall that had been used for classes. That way only the auditorium and kitchen would need to be cleared at the end of the day. Shimofuri's trio had at this time finished the pinning of the fabric for the Period Hakama and had gone to the kitchen to assist with the serving of feast. At her direction I picked up all of her class materials and extra clothing in Classroom 3 and put it next to my things inside the auditorium.

Feast was limited to 100. The high table was set up in front of the stage. His Royal Majesty Havordh and Their Excellencies Dagan and Mahsheed were joined by Lady Zhara, Dr. Matsushita, and others. There were four rows of tables the length of the auditorium for everyone else to be seated at. The room was decorated with red banners hung from the ceiling crossing the width of the auditorium, the ends of the banners hanging down the walls and bearing Japanese characters upon them. A mobile of assorted origami creatures from turtles to various birds hung down from the center point of the room. Bamboo candleholders in sets of two, one tall and one short, each wrapped with greenery and bearing inside a fake candle (the battery operated type) were set at all of the tables. Each place setting at the tables had an origami box containing packaged goodies along with wrapped chopsticks on the table and mochi on a brown paper napkin.

The feast was delicious. I joined THL Gwyneth and assorted members of House Telemark, the Barony of Small Gray Bear, and the Barony of Grey Niche, and summarily was joined by the Master Kojin, Mistress Margery, one of their daughters, Mistress Arielle, Lady Amelia, and Baron Dulinn.

Children served water and hot tea, the ice machine being broken so there was no ice. The first remove was miso soup with tofu. This was formed from dashi soup stock, tofu, miso paste, green onion, and shitake mushrooms. Served separately from the soup was oshitashi spinach, which were effectively spinach balls. The second remove was pork teriyaki with shiso rice and tsukemono. The third remove was chicken yakitori (grilled chicken) with shiso rice. Mochi on the napkins were one dessert and anko (a sweet red bean pudding) on crackers was served as the other dessert.

Toasts were made to the Crown, the Baron and Baroness, and the Heirs. At the conclusion of feast the feaster was summoned and he and his staff were applauded. The hall was then quickly cleared of all tables and the chairs were rearranged to face one corner of the auditorium near the stage where the guest speaker would be.

Sachiko Matsushita, Ph.D., is the Japan Outreach Coordinator at the University of Memphis. She has a long history of study and scholarship in Japanese cultural history and came to present and discuss *The Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu. This 54 chapter work of literature gives a detailed look into the court life and culture of the Heian-era of Japan. It was also being celebrated by the Japanese in 2009 on its 1000 years of existence, having been written in 1009.

Dr. Matsushita gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the work, the characters used for writing the work, both Chinese and Japanese, the style, and the themes. While she had originally over an hour to give her presentation, Dr. Matsushita was still going strong at four o'clock and had not yet gotten to the tale itself. Due to the fact that everyone had to be off site by five o'clock, her presentation had to be cut short and she concluded with the themes found in the work leaving the audience to look at one of the three English translations from 1922-1933, 1976, and 2001 for the actual story.

The room was quickly rearranged for court with the resetting of the chairs and positions of the three thrones. King Havordh said that due to the press for time the business of Their Excellencies would be held first. His Excellency asked if Her Excellency would be his Valentine with the presentation of a handmade valentine.

Mistress Alysia as acting autocrat was summoned. She thanked everyone for coming, announced that photos had been taken for the bed-ridden autocrat, and that 151 people were here today. Grafyn (Countess) Kenna was summoned to give the results of the arts and sciences competitions. There had been two competitions, a Regional A&S Faire of completed and not quite finished projects and a Japanese theme A&S competition. THL Gwyneth Caerr was the winner of the Regional A&S Faire with her knitted mitten, having finished one mitten but not the second. Lady Rihannon(?) from Meridies was the winner of the Japanese theme A&S competition with a beautiful silk fan entry.

Mistress Nerak was summoned and asked that Sir Kane Redfeather and Sir John the Bastard known as Bearkiller come forth. Sir Kane went to find Sir John. While waiting, Aisha and Nadia, a couple, were called forth and received tokens of thanks and small valentine candy boxes from Their Excellencies for their service to the Barony. When Sir Kane returned with Sir John, Mistress Nerak presented both with white belts which had been worn by her husband, Sir Starhelm Warlock, who passed away this summer. "These should be worn by a knight," she said tearfully, "and I have no use for them." The two knights took the belts solemnly.

Cameron, a young fifteen year old boy, was then summoned and entered from the hall, kneeling before His Majesty who motioned for him to move to the boy's right. Cameron knelt before Baroness Mahsheed who motioned for him to move again. With him kneeling before Baron Dagan, His Excellency presented Cameron with the Order of the Azure Estoile for his service as a youth. Sir Rey Ribeauumont then came forth and asked that he might speak having business with the lad. At this time Sir Rey took Cameron as a squire. Following cheers and applause of the populace, the Baronial court was closed.

Kev was then summoned before His Majesty. This turned out to be Mikive Sufut, who would soon become Lord Mikive Sufut with the receipt of an Award of Arms. Sir Rashid ibn Hilal was then summoned. His Majesty spoke of those who wished the knight to be recognized for his work and thusly called for the Order of the Silver Lamp. Sir Rashid was inducted into the Order; however the scroll was very hard to read both by the court herald and by His Majesty. Mistress Jane was chastised for a difficult scroll. His Majesty also noted that the Silver Lamp had been busy and noticing other people and, oh, that person is your Excellency! And so Baron Dagan came to kneel before His Majesty and joined the Order of the Silver Lamp, though a reading of the scroll was not attempted again. A plug was made for Art Wars by the Order and they were sent off to give hugs.

Lady Zhara um Nikko, was then summoned. His Majesty mentioned all of the Middle Eastern things that she did but that today she wore Japanese garb. For her service she received the Onyx Chalice.

Any newcomers or their first event attendees were then called forth and received tokens from His Majesty. Then any children were called forth and received small boxes of valentine candy or other goodies. Sir John and Sir Kane tried desperately to get any child to go back and get two boxes of candy for them as well.

At this time Their Excellencies realized they had one more piece of business and their court was reopened. Sir John was summoned. He announced that he had been Seneschal of the Barony for two years and had pledged to only be Seneschal for two years. He thanked everyone in the group and kingdom and at this time gave the key to the Baronial post office box to Dame Brenna, the new Seneschal of Grey Niche. The Baronial court was then closed.

Viscountess Brenna then had business. She had lost a piece of her leather belt, a rectangular piece that fallen off, and asked that if anyone found it to let her know. There being no further business court was closed.

With the event coming to an end, Shimofuri and I decided at this time to not hold the formal belting ceremony, having attempted at Crown List (she could not attend) and Christmas Revel (we lost out time-wise at court). I presented her with a small teddy bear to take to events, a yellow leather belt to wear with her non-Japanese garb, and one of the yellow clothe Watch bands bearing my badge made by Sarah MacGregor for the Watch to wear at my vigil, which she could wear with any of her garb. I also presented her with print outs of sources for her to obtain on interlibrary loan to research a Portuguese name, as that was her actual persona.

Mistress Ceridwen received her permanent Laurel Peerage scroll at this event, made by Sir Leto Darkhorse, which included her device, hopefully to be registered shortly as it is at the Laurel Queen of Arms. Visiting Laurels from Meridies included Master Kojin the Wanderer, Mistress Margery of Crosgate, and Mistress Nerak la Tisserande that I recognized. There may have been others.

Attendance being 151 in number was fabulous for a one-day event. The majority of those present came from the Barony of Grey Niche but there were a large number from Smythkepe and Small Gray Bear, plus others from Lagerdamm, Toran Riogh, Guardian Forest, Hammerhold, Iron Ox, Northover, Troll Fen, and Ardanroe. And then there were many from the Kingdom of Meridies having come from Iron Mountain and Gladdenfeld and perhaps other groups as well. This event had been a lot of fun and very educational about Japanese arts and culture.



Mistress Arielle's Japanese bookbinding class



Mistress Arielle and Mistress Margery



Mistress Vashti's Japanese Theater class



Mistress Jane's calligraphy class



Lady Amelia van Hemessen's Ikebana class with completed pieces modeled



Duchess Ilissa's self defense class



How to Make a Period Hakama – Alysia and Shimofuri



Lady Zhara's East Asian Condiments class



Feast set up at the Japanese table



Table arrangements before feast set up



Preparing the high table for feast



The Tale of Genji

Western Regional War Practice, February 21, Shire of Ardanroe

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The Shire of Ardanroe hosted a Western Regional War Practice on Saturday, February 21st for the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann in preparation of Gulf Wars XVIII. Lady Ashikaga Kimiko and THL James in le Breres set this up. Sir Ashikaga Hiromoto, Sir Robert Gethin Albrit, Baron Grimbaldus Bacon, and THL Maximilian von Braun taught battle tactics including shield walls. Lord Johannes von Grieffenburg, knight marshal, and THL Dana the Quarrier, seneschal, oversaw the day's activities. Many members of the Shire provided dishes or supplies for hot meals during the day including soup and bacon and grilled cheese sandwiches. About fourteen heavy weapons fighters, two to four light weapons fighters, and another fourteen to sixteen non-fighters attended, coming from Blackwood, Iron Ox, Vogelburg, Loch Bais, and Troll Fen. The Shire hosted the event at Mike Woods Park in Bossier City, renting the enclosed pavilion for the day. This proved beneficial due to the weather which was cold and turned wet with rain falling and mud forming much of the morning and early afternoon. The pavilion was large enough for all non-combatants and a full melee practice. The practice ended early, originally to be held from ten o'clock to six o'clock, with the last people to leave the site at three forty-five.

Fighter Collegium, February 27-March 1, Shire of Lagerdamm

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The following comes from notes received from THL Katryne MacIntosh the Strange, Lord Liam Devlin, Ship's Master, Briar Rose, Lady Ceara of Smythkepe, Baroness Barbara Sterling, and the Shire of Lagerdamm's website.

Gleann Abhann's Fighters Collegium and War Practice were held the last weekend of February at Camp Formosa in Clinton, Arkansas by the Shire of Lagerdamm. THL Karis Apa Mehlan Er Kapas and THL Arianna were the co-autocrats. Lady Sara de la Petra was the head chef. This became the "snow event". Lord Liam recalls that the snow began as early as eleven o'clock Saturday morning with the wind gusting out of the North-by-Northeast at 15-20 miles an hour. The snow continued to fall off and on well beyond midnight. Mongolian hats suddenly sprung forth upon many gentlefolk's heads as did cloaks and the obtaining of hot brews, soups, and beverages. The site token was an interlinked series of chainmail links, red hued in color upon a black cord of twine that formed the shape of the letter "V". The Gleann Abhann Trading Cards for this Kingdom event were of Mistress Alysia Gabrielle de Fougères, one of the Peer Series, and the Shire of Ardanroe, one of the Group Series.

Despite the snow the collegium classes took place. The early morning began with stretching with Sir Aengus. This was followed by five classes at ten o'clock followed by a practicum; going out and practicing. These classes were center grip shields for beginners, glaives, fighting vs. 2 long sword, sword & buckler, and wankle shields. Seven classes were offered at eleven o'clock again followed by a practicum. These were movement and shots for interfering with opponents' vision, heater shield techniques, power generation, melee, pell work, odd-angled shots, and beginner's field armor. After lunch five classes were held followed by a practicum, which was then followed by melee practice and open fighting. These were Caillin's method for rawhide edging on wooden shield, how to be a spearman's best friend in melee, new fighters training, active strapped shield defense, and breaking a shield wall.

Light weapons classes were also held in preparation for Gulf Wars. These included stretching and footwork for rapier, conservation of movement and energy, 'you fight like a girl', commands and structure, and watch and listen.

In addition to the fighting collegium, the Order of the Silver Lamp met, children's activities were held, there was an all-day fiber gathering meet and greet, and during lunch was a panel discussion hosted by Baroness Brianna of Small Gray Bear entitled 'Would you like to be the baron?' The Queen's Yeoman tourney was also held.

During court Cassandra D'Oest, Tristan Williamson and Adalbert de Macorix received Awards of Arms, Jocelin de Rouen and Ravenswar Brachae received Grants of Arms, and Hrothgar Fiscabana and Karis Apa Mehlan Er Kapas were inducted into the Order of the Silver Lamp. THL Dante di Pirro won the Queen's Yeoman's tourney and the right to represent Gleann Abhann in the 2nd Annual Greater Exhibition Tourney on the Field at Gulf Wars. Several event announcements were made for the summer including the Barony of Small Gray Bear chosen to host the Kingdom's Live Weapons Championship. Master Erik of Telemark stepped down as Kingdom Seneschal, turning the office over to THL Ravenswar Brachae. Master Erik received an Augmentation of Arms from the Crown of Gleann Abhann to go along with the one he previously received from the Kingdom of Trimaris.

A kneeling bench made by Lord Dante of Smythkepe was presented as a gift from House Itineris to the Shire of Lagerdamm. It had been made upon suggestion from THL Karis and others of the need for those kneeling before the thrones of TRM and TRH of the aged and no longer spry amongst our populace to be able to do so in accordance with honor, but be able to do so in comfort. The device resembles a simple prayer box, narrow of 8-10 inches deep, and under a meter wide for one person to kneel upon, and stands just shy of 36 inches high, with an inch thick wooden bar to rest ones hands upon when rising running across the lower front and a cushion and coverlet with the Kingdom's arms upon it. Right after it was gifted THL Karis used it when she was inducted into the Order of the Silver Lamp. THL Karis volunteered to have the kneeling bench carried to any event where Lagerdamm and the Crown should coincide, thus keeping the royal carriage free of this burden.

And finally during court Countess Kenna gave a bracelet made of ten pieces of amber of equal size and carat back to Lord Liam Devlin in a rather touching moment. Liam had pledged the bracelet to Kenna when she was once Heiress of Gleann Abhann prior to his 4th Crusade to the Holy Lands, that in the event of his untimely demise she was to sunder it and give a piece to ten worthy Bards of Gleann Abhann as she came upon them. Fortunately Liam returned fit and hale from his last Crusade and as such Countess Kenna returned the bracelet to him.



RUGA REGALIA CONTEST

Announcing the RUGA Regalia Contest!

It is time for RUGA to take the next step. RUGA needs its own logo/regalia. This is your chance to make your mark on Gleann Abhann history. Your creation could live in infamy.

Guidelines for entries:

The design must be submitted in a 4 inch by 4 inch square. It can be any shape just as long as it will fit in that square.

All submissions become the property of the Royal University of Gleann Abhann.

Include the following information with the design:

- suggested medium that the design might be made of
- a written description/rationale of the design (not in heraldic terms)
- color suggestion, if any
- your contact information

A person / group can submit more than one entry.

The entries will be judged by the Kingdom A&S Officer, the RUGA Chancellor and any RUGA provosts that do not enter the competition.

Deadline for submission is April 12, 2009.

Entries are to be submitted to the Chancellor:

- At an event,
- Via Email: (See Regnum of The Ambassador)
- Snail Mail: (See Regnum of The Ambassador)

The Winning entry will be announced in May.