

ARDANRUNES

This is the January 2010 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 2010 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. The photograph of spearmint was taken by Maistir Rory ua Riada. All clipart in this issue is from Microsoft Word. 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

January 2	Steppes 12 th Night – Steppes (Ansteorra)
January 16	Winter Wonders XXIV – Ardanroe
January 16	Newbie Collegium – Lagerdamm (1-Day Only)
January 23	Mongol Plague – Blackwood
January 30	Turf Wars: The Baronial Menace-Seleone/Osprey
February 13	Candlemas – Grey Niche (1-Day Only)
February 13	Ansteorra Kingdom A&S – Steppes (Ansteorra)
February 27	Kingdom Fighter Collegium – Blackmoor Keep
March 13-21	Gulf Wars XIX
April 3	Elfsea Defender – Elfsea (Ansteorra)
April 10	Gleann Abhann Spring Coronation – TBA
April 17	Athenaeum III – Tor an Riogh
April 24	Beltaine – Grey Niche

ARDANROE OFFICERS

Seneschal: The Honorable Lady Dana the Quarrier
Knight Marshal: THLord Maximilian von Braun
Herald: Maistir Rory ua Riada
Exchequer: Mistress Sarah MacGregor
Minister of Arts & Sciences: The Hon. Lady Melisant of Exmoor
Chronicler: Barun Rory ua Riada
Chirurgion: VACANT

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

HARKEN YE!

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

January 9 – Fighter Practice and Shire Post-Holiday Party – 1:00 p.m. – Lorccán & Danita's
January 13 – Populace Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)
January 15-17 – Winter Wonders!!!!!!!!!!!!
January 27 – A&S Workshop – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)
January 30 – Fighter Practice – TBA

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



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following Shire offices need Deputies: ALL (Seneschal, Minister of Children, Knight Marshal, Web Minister, Herald, Provost of RUGA, Exchequer, Quartermaster, Minister of Arts & Sciences, Chatelaine, Chronicler, Historian, Chirurgeon).

The following Shire offices are Open and Need Filling: Minister of Children, Chirurgeon



FORTNIGHT

The December Shire Populace Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 9th at the Aulds Branch Library. Dana ran the meeting as Seneschal. The books for Fall Crown List were closed out and staffing assignments were made for Winter Wonders. Skallagrim is organizing the Shire Post-Holiday Party. Tentatively it will be Saturday, January 9th at Lorccán and Danita's starting at 1:00 p.m. with fighter practice, followed by a final preparation meeting for Winter Wonders, a potluck dinner and gift exchanges for adults and children. Skallagrim will fry a turkey provided by George and Suzanne. Contact Skallagrim via email regarding what potluck item you plan to bring.



TOWN FAIRE

Olaf and Melisant hosted tapestry painting day at their country estate, Dark Horse Farms, Saturday afternoon, December 12th starting at one o'clock. Fighter practice, which had also been proposed, was not held due to the rainfall Friday night and all day Saturday. The Wednesday, December 23rd A&S Night was canceled due to the holidays.



ASK SKALLAGRIM

This is a new column from our new Chatelaine. Please send Skallagrim your questions (we know you have them!).

What do I need for an event? It is a simple question, but the answer may not be as simple. Because the society is different for everybody, everyone gets different things from an event and therefore needs different things to participate and get the most from the event. In the examples provided we make certain assumptions that may or may not fit your personal situation. All examples assume if you want to fight you already know what to bring for that. Most can be modified to fit your personal needs/goals by emailing ahead to the autocrat and asking questions. The first step for attending the event is to check the website; it should give information for most of the frequently asked questions.

First, let's talk about the minimum needed to attend an event. This assumes you daytrip and do not intend on eating feast. You will need:

1. Garb- If you don't own any your local group should be able to provide some loaner garb. Ask around, others in your group may have spares to loan. There are very few people who recreate, that don't, after a few years, have extra garb.
2. Feast Gear- The minimum needed would be a plate, mug, and silverware. You can use your mug as a bowl, but this means you can either have a drink or soup, but not both at the same time. It is not fun, but will get you by. My suggestion would be a plate, bowl, mug, and silverware. Check around the local thrift stores and antique shops for cheap silverware, wooden or metal plates. Old steak plates that come with a wooden charger & a metal plate can usually be found at thrift stores. Silverware (Sometimes real silver) can usually be picked up at antique store for less than \$1 a piece, if you don't mind the pieces not matching.
3. Lunch- Check the website for the event. Lunch maybe included as part of the event, a fundraiser lunch maybe offered for a fee, or vendors maybe on hand selling food.
4. Chair- A place to sit and watch the fighting, relax in the shade, etc is always a good thing. A fold up camping chair will work, though not period or period looking. I usually just throw my cloak over it to try and hide it.

Garb is required for every event. Feast gear is needed if there is a lunch served. Lunch might be necessary if it is not provided. So, you show up in the morning, watch some fighting, eat some lunch, attend some classes and leave before feast. For a local event, this is a nice time. What if you want to stay for feast? You already have your feast gear, so you should be set.

What if you want to stay overnight at an event? First, check the website for the event, does it allow camping? Not every site does. If you don't see a site fee for tenting, it may not be offered. Email the reservationist to find out. For the below example we will assume tenting is allowed.

1. Tent- This need not be a period tent. A modern one will work. Keep in mind, that usually period tents get better real estate. Since we are trying to recreate, we try to keep the period tents closer to everything, so they can provide a background and we maintain as much of the illusion as possible.
2. Sleeping bag- even if its summer time, bring a warm sleeping bag. If you don't bring it, you will need it.
3. Trash bags- Having trash bags will help you keep your trash picked up from the start. It also helps us with our goal of leaving a site cleaner than we found it.
4. Toilet paper- You will be a hero if/when the porta-johns run out.
5. Flashlight/Lantern- If you want to walk around at night, you should be safe and do so with a light.
6. Breakfast- Breakfast is usually not served on Sunday. Plan for something, so you have the energy to break camp in a timely fashion.

Keep in mind, this would be a minimum, you can bring a lot more if you want to, and many people do. This will get you through and allow you to have fun, without missing too many creature comforts. Just remember to plan ahead, check out the events website before hand, and if you have questions don't be afraid to ask the autocrat.

Wars are a different creature, longer events, usually in remote locations. We will cover them next month, as they can take all the space we have.

How do I volunteer? Every time I ask someone they say it is taken care of. There is an easy answer to this. I am not talking about just asking in the kitchen, although that is a great start. Show up early to anything going on at an event.

Is there fighting? Well the fighting field has to be set up. Find out when site opens and be there then, I am sure whoever is hosting would be happy to put you to work. If you get there when the fighting is to start, it will be set up already. Is court at 5pm? Poke your head in at 4pm and see if they need help setting up. If not then come back at 430 and ask again. Most people not running an event have down time. The time between classes and feast/court is usually down time. Look at the schedule to find out if you can assist in set for any of the events coming up. Is the port-a-john out of toilet paper? Ask the autocrat if you can fill all of them up, when you get some for the empty one.



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS II - UPDATE

Ten Qualifying Tournaments – 4 Baronies each host, 4 Peerages each sponsor, Group Champions day of ToC II, Open day of ToC II. Below are the confirmed and penciled dates of qualifying tournaments and the current qualifiers.

The Baronies:

Seleone – Winter War Practice/30th Anniversary – February 7: Sir William FitzHugh de Cambria (Tourney winner) and Sir Caillin MacLeoid.

Axemoor – Baronial Investiture – April 4: Sir Brian MacBrand (Tourney winner) and THL Geoffrey de Bradelai (Dulinn).

Grey Niche – Beltaine – April 25: Sir Rey Ribeauumont (Tourney winner) and THL Mikail al-Rashid (Dex).

Small Gray Bear – Barbarian Brawl – July 25: THL Martin von Augsburg (Tourney winner) and Baron Grimbaldus Bacon.

The Peerages:

Royal Consorts of Gleann Abhann (Roses & Diamonds) – MidSummer Knights Dream – August 29: Sir Jon the Tall (Tourney winner).

Pelicans – War of the Pearls – September 12: Sir Michael of the Mace (Tourney winner) [SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!].

Chivalry – Diamond Wars – October 10 (Tourney held Friday, October 9): THL Ali Juniad al Maghrebi (Tourney winner).

Laurels – Swamp Romp – October 17: Duke Havordh Ættarbani (Tourney winner).

Tournament of Champions II – December 5 – to be hosted by the Shire of IronOx

Two tournaments will be held at Tournaments of Champions II prior to the actual Tournament itself:

1. Group Champions Tourney - Lord Strazehk zyn Diomid and Lord Olaf Bristlebeard.
2. Open Tourney/Tourney of Valor - Lord Settimio d'Olivio and Sir James the Holy.

Tournament of Champions II Tourney – Sir Ashikaga Hiromoto (Tourney Winner)





SAINTS DAY CALENDAR

While this year Monday, January 18th is celebrated as a holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., it is also the calendar date for Margaret of Hungary. Born in the thirteenth century, Margaret was a Princess of Hungary, daughter to King Bela IV and Queen Mary Lascaris. Margaret was given to the church in part to avert any national disasters that Hungary was facing at this time. This Princess of Hungary embraced the church and rules of the nunnery, taking on the worst duties, fasting and not sleeping during Lent, and fasting much of the year round. Margaret was considered a beauty and despite her fasting and rigorous lifestyle, maintained her beauty. She was sought as a bride by King Ottokar of Bohemia, whom she continuously refused. She died in 1270 at the age of twenty-eight and almost immediately was requested in petitions to be named a saint due to her humility, which despite being the daughter of a monarch, was greater than any other maiden at the nunnery.

Bentley, James. *A Calendar of Saints: The Lives of the Principal Saints of the Christian Year*. London: Time Warner Books, an imprint of Little, Brown Book Group, 2006.



HERALDIC RESULTS

The following action took place at the October 2009 Laurel Sovereign of Arms' Pelican and Wreath meetings, and appears in the October 2009 LoAR printed November 30, 2009:

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE BEEN RETURNED FOR FURTHER WORK:

GLEANN ABHANN

Eibhilín Núinnseann. Badge. (Fieldless) On a natural tiger sejant contourny Or striped sable a shamrock bendwise sinister vert.

This badge is returned because the shamrock is neither palewise nor bendwise sinister, but halfway between the two. Commenters suggested that drawing it slightly smaller might allow it to fit better in a formal heraldic orientation in the limited space available on the tiger.

The following action took place at the November 2009 Laurel Sovereign of Arms' Pelican and Wreath meetings, and appears in the November 2009 LoAR printed December 22, 2009:

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED:

GLEANN ABHANN

Giric l{o,}gmaðr. Name.

Submitted as *Giric lögmaðr*, the documentation spelled the byname *l{o,}gmaðr*. We have made this correction.

This name combines Gaelic and Norse, which is a step from period practice.



CARRIAGE CHATTER

Tournament of Champions II, December 4-6, Shire of Iron Ox

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The second Tournament of Champions was held at Holmes Country State Park in Durant, Mississippi the first weekend of December. The event was hosted by the Shire of Iron Ox. Master Stephan of Durham was the autocrat and THL Peyton of Iron Ox was the feastcrat. THL Ariadne de Ravenna oversaw reservations. Lady Boinninn inghean Aindriasa was the deputy autocrat.

The site opened on Friday afternoon at five o'clock. It was a winter day with snow fall Thursday in part of northern and southern Gleann Abhann covering woodlands with coats of white and branches with clear encasements of ice. Other areas of Gleann Abhann received flurries in the air that left no trace upon reaching the ground. However, the sudden snowstorm forced some to cancel travel plans and others to add extra cloaks, comforters, and wood or oil for their hearths. The snowstorm did not stop the journeys of Their Royal Majesties, Their Heirs, and Their Excellencies of Grey Niche, Axemoor, and Small Gray Bear to this auspicious occasion.

Armor inspection began the next morning along with the Diamond Chalice Meeting, attended by the Queen and at the last bit by the King (he being occupied upon the field). THL Magdalena de Segovia provided coffee and muffins for the meeting. Ten members of the Diamond Chalice were able to attend in person, many others busy with the hosting of the event or arriving later in the day, and still others who were absent due to other commitments that weekend.

Three tournaments were scheduled for the day. The first was the Group Champions Tournament tentatively to begin at nine o'clock. The tournament by definition was limited to all of the group champions in Gleann Abhann, both those of Shires and of Baronies. It was to be followed by the Open Tournament in which anyone wishing to compete could participate. The winner and runner up of each of these two tournaments were invited to participate in the second annual Tournament of Champions. This would give a total of sixteen participants, a perfect list number, no bye fighters required, if all came. The previously known twelve participants were: Sir William FitzHugh de Cambria, Sir Caillin MacLeod, Sir Brian MacBrand, THL Geoffrey de Bradelai (Dulinn), Sir Rey Ribaumont, THL Mikail al-Rashid (Dex), THL Martin von Augsburg, Baron Grimbaldus Bacon, Sir Jon the Tall, Sir Michael of the Mace, THL Ali Juniad al Maghrebi, and Duke Havordh Ættarbani. As such the second annual Tournament of Champions included in its list of participants the King and Prince of Gleann Abhann.

Lunch was served to the field (ideally), piping hot and refreshing, prepared by THL Magdalena and Baroness Tegan. Baroness Isabella D'Arques, Emerald Herald, was the list minister. Baron Fergus O'Kelly, local Knight Marshal of Iron Ox, oversaw the set up of the list field. Marshals included Viscount Caillin, Earl Brian, and Ingvar.

The advancers from the Group Champions Tourney were Lord Strazehk zyn Diomid and Lord Olaf Bristlebeard. The advancers from the Open Tournament, called the Tournament of Valor, were Lord Settimio d'Olivio and Sir James the Holy.

The second Tournament of Champions started in the afternoon around two o'clock. Either during this tourney or one of those held during the morning, Their Royal Majesties opened court and recognized Baron Grimbaldus Bacon as the Queen's Champion.

As His Majesty and His Highness had won invitations to the Tournament of Champions, they both named alternates to fill their places. Sir Ashikaga Hiromoto took His Majesty's place, His Majesty having won the tournament the Barony of Seleone sponsored at Winter War Practice/30th Anniversary in February. Count Wernherus Rudemann took His Highness' place, His Highness having won the tournament the Royal Consorts sponsored at MidSummer Knights Dream in August. And as Sir Rey was unable to attend the event, Sir Bartholomew Hightower took his place, Sir Rey having won the tourney the Barony of Grey Niche sponsored at Beltaine in April.

Thusly the sixteen competing in the Tournament of Champions II were Sir Ashikaga Hiromoto, Sir Caillin MacLeod, Sir Brian MacBrand, THL Geoffrey de Bradelai (Dulinn), Sir Bartholomew Hightower, THL Mikail al-Rashid (Dex), THL Martin von Augsburg, Baron Grimbaldus Bacon, Count Wernherus Rudemann, Sir Michael of the Mace, THL Ali Juniad al Maghrebi, Duke Havordh Ættarbani, Lord Strazehk zyn Diomid, Lord Olaf Bristlebeard, Lord Settimio d'Olivio, and Sir James the Holy.

The final bout of the Tournament of Champions was between Sir Ashikaga Hiromoto and Sir Caillin MacLeod. Hiromoto successfully defeated Caillin to be named the winner of the Second Tournament of Champions.

The event also marked the debut of the second Gleann Abhann Calendar created by Viscountess Danielle de la Roche. The calendar would also be available at Christmas Revel for sale and of course, through pony express.

Each competitor in the tournaments looked their finest upon the field. As the Champion for the Laurels, Duke Havordh sported an entirely new outfit made by members of the Laurel and their apprentices, which included an embroidered over tunic, under tunic, breeches, leg wraps with fasteners, belt, socks, and a shield. He would later receive a woolen embroidered cloak with penannular brooch at Christmas Revel.

Court was held indoors Saturday evening. During court, Isabella D'Arques was inducted into the Order of the Diamond Chalice, receiving Baroness Morgana's stained glass token and chain. Due to the limited space at the front of the hall, hugs were spread out amongst three groups of the Order's members, which included Baroness Morgana, THL Cormac, Baroness Bethany, Baroness Barbara, Master Charles, Countess Lailiane, Baroness Tegan, Baron Daffyd, Viscountess Danielle, THL Caitriona, THL Ariadne, THL Magdalena, Mistress Sarah, Baroness Anna Genevieve of Ancyra, Master Robert, THL Angus de Gordon, and THL Gellis.

A wondrous and hearty feast followed court, which in turn was followed by a hafla and bardic circle. The site closed Sunday at eleven o'clock. Attendees from the Shire of Ardanroe included Mistress Sarah MacGregor, THL James ens les Breres, THL Avice of York, Lord Symon, and THL Maximilian von Braun. Maximilian fought as the Shire of Ardanroe's Champion in the Group Champions Tourney. Maximilian also fought in the Open (Tourney of Valor) Tourney.

Magna Faire: The Art of Deception, December 4-6, Barony of Iron Mountain

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The first weekend of December was also Magna Faire, the Barony of Iron Mountain's annual winter event and regional arts and sciences faire. It was held at the Woodmen of the World Camp in Royal, Alabama. Lord Bjorn the Hunter was the event steward, Mistress Alianore la Cuisiniere reservations and co-steward, and Lady Magdalena da Parma head cook. The event was attended by Their Royal Majesties of Meridies, Boru V and Deirdre III, and Their Heirs Prince Thomas and Princess Elisinda. The event included the Magna Faire, where entries were judged by all entrants in that category, the Regional Faire, which used the new Kingdom A&S Rules for Regional Faires, the annual Sword and Mistletoe tournament, a rapier tournament, and live weapons. During the Performing Arts portion of the Faire, Queen Deirdre would choose the Poet Laureate and a Dance Champion for their reign. In celebrating the art of deception, set in the city of Florence, where things are rarely as they seem from political intrigue, to the lavish masquerades, a special category "Things are not as they seem" was held at this year's faire. Entries were to be cleverly disguised and hidden items (sort of like SCA Life).

Why mention this event from our mother kingdom? In part there are two reasons. Firstly is the fine menu of the five course feast, each course set with theme. The second is the Laurel elevation that showed the strong bond between the two Kingdoms of Gleann Abhann and Meridies.

The menu for feast was such:

First Course - *Apples and pears, lettuce and whatever is served with vinegar and oil, raw or uncooked.*
Platina. Bread, Salad (Platina), Pasta (Platina), Apples, Dates in the Roman style, Bellaria, Herb butter and Olive oil
 Second Course - *Abstinence for Christmas Eve and feast for Christmas Day.* Fish pie (Scappi), Roast pork loin (Scappi), Roman broccoli (Scappi), Armored turnips (Martino), Bread
 Third Course - Carrots (Platina), Roast chicken (Martino), Torta Bolognese (Martino)
 Fourth Course - *New Year's lentils and sausage for good luck.* Lentils (Toscano), Sausage, Mushrooms (Martino), Mustard, Grapes
 Fifth Course - Poached pears (Martino) with figs, creme fraiche, Treggea, Confetti, Marzipan fruit, Ginger wafers.

During court, Enricx Bongnier was elevated to the Laurel. Enricx, a resident of Iron Mountain, is one of Mistress Dametta of Arundel's apprentices. Mistress Dametta is from Tor an Riogh, a merger of two groups, one being Grifphon's Shadow, which was a Canton to Iron Mountain. Enricx's Peerage scroll was made by Sir Leto Darkhorse. Sir Leto is Mistress Vashti's husband, both from the Barony of Grey Niche. Sir Leto had also done the final Peerage scroll for Alianore and Ceridwen upon their elevations to the Laurel in 2008, both of whom were also apprentices to Mistress Dametta, Alianore elevated in Meridies and Ceridwen in Gleann Abhann.

Mistress Vashti's apprentice, Kojin the Wanderer, former Baron of Iron Mountain, was also elevated to the Laurel in 2008. In fact of the fourteen Laurel elevations in Meridies (that I could find record of) since Gleann Abhann became a Kingdom four of them had ties to this bond of Iron Mountain-Grey Niche-Tor an Riogh. The fourth elevation was Mistress Margery's apprentice Ciarra Darrig in 2007. Mistress Margery, wife of Baron Kojin, is the former Baroness of Iron Mountain. Mistress Dametta was apprenticed to Mistress Margery. Mistress Margery was apprenticed to Mistress Arielle, a former Baroness of Grey Niche, and travel companion of Mistress Vashti. This is just one of those "the Force is strong" moments and a wonderful illustration of the continued collaborative efforts between individuals and groups across Kingdoms.

For those curious about the other ten recent Laurel elevations in Meridies or who was knighted or elevated to the Pelican since Gleann Abhann became its own Kingdom (and perhaps someone could find similar links in those other Peerages), below are the three lists of Peers in Meridies after Gleann Abhann's first Coronation with the date of elevation, name of individual, and local group the new Peer is from.

Laurels

12/05/2009	Enricx Bongnier	Iron Mountain
09/26/2009	Lorenzo Petrucci	South Downs
01/31/2009	Deirdre inghean uí Thighearnáin	Sol Haven
06/07/2008	Kojin the Wayfarer	Iron Mountain
06/07/2008	Ophelia aus Bavaria	South Downs
04/05/2008	Alianore la Cuisiniere	Iron Mountain
04/05/2008	Ginevra Bagnesi da Diaceto	Beau Fort
08/18/2007	Solveig Eiriksdottir	Thor's Mountain
06/02/2007	Ciara Darrig	Okeborne Keep
06/02/2007	Gareth Gwynedd	Thorngill
05/27/2007	Gwineth ferch Arthur	Crimson River
04/14/2007	Rhydderch of Caerleon	South Downs
11/04/2006	Serena da Riva	South Downs
05/06/2006	Maudeleyn Godeliva Taillour	Rising Stone

Pelicans

10/31/2009	Elizabet MacKenzie de Ross	Thor's Mountain
09/12/2009	Gwynna Emrys	Marion Glen
12/06/2008	Simon the Wanderer	Brantestone
08/09/2008	Theodosia Ouranos of Constantinople	An Dun Theine
04/05/2008	Griffin O'Suaird	Glaedenfeld
11/03/2007	Cuhelyn Cam vap Morcant	Beau Fort
09/08/2007	Aislinn Chaomhanach	Sol Haven

08/18/2007	Alexander Ravenscroft	Thor's Mountain
05/26/2007	Basil Rattenbury	Nant-y-Derwyddon
12/02/2006	Kevin Eriol	Thorngill
09/30/2006	Molli Rose Kekilpenny	Sol Haven
09/08/2006	Salih of Aksaray	Brantestone

Chivalry

05/02/2009	Malachi Thorrson	Rising Stone
04/04/2009	Moradan Peresenchenev	Crimson River
03/20/2009	Maddach Macathol	Rising Stone
06/28/2008	Aubec Feldane	Glynn Rhe
06/07/2008	Geoffrey MacDhomhuill	Tir Briste
05/10/2008	Mandin Leon	South Downs
04/12/2008	Conchobhar mac Bruaidin	Sol Haven
02/16/2008	Chinua Qadan	Forth Castle
12/01/2007	Cydrych Wallas	An Dun Theine
08/18/2007	Aidan McKay	South Downs
09/09/2006	Ulrich Von Brandenburg	Glynn Rhe
08/26/2006	Valdimarr de Tameworth	South Downs

Christmas Revel, December 11-13, Barony of Axemoor

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The Barony of Axemoor held their annual event the second weekend of December. The theme was Christmas in the Burgundian Court, a Renaissance Revel celebrating enlightenment and progress. Aofie O'Calleigh was the autocrat. HE Tegan verch Dwgan was the head cook assisted by Lord Patraic. THL Gellir Gunnarsson handled reservations. The event was held at Camp Wilkes in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The site opened at five o'clock Friday afternoon and closed at ten o'clock Sunday morning. Travelers fare was served in the feast hall. Saturday was packed with activities. In the morning following breakfast and armor inspection there was the Newbie tourney, Kingdom Youth Archery competition, Kingdom Youth Live Weapons competition, and the Toys for Tots/William Marshall tournament. Children's activities and the Arts and Sciences competition were held in Hart Hall.

During the fundraiser lunch Father Christmas made a visit to the children. During the afternoon the archery and live weapons fields were open to all, a rapier tourney for adults was held, and Kingdom Youth Combat and Kingdom Youth Rapier tourneys were scheduled. Three classes were offered in the afternoon; introduction to calligraphy, introduction to dance, and basics of SCA scroll making. The Order of the Laurels met and the Proto-Performing Arts Guild scheduled a meeting.

In the evening there would be court in the amphitheatre followed by feast in the feast hall during which the Axemoor Poet Laureate competition would be held. The evening would conclude with entertainment provided by Green Fairy Productions in the amphitheatre.

At court, Their Royal Majesties had Charles and Martha, Baron and Baroness of Axemoor, read the Oath of Fealty to those gentlefolk swearing fealty to the Crown. Master Charles de Bourbon (Baron of Axemoor) took Esperanza de Navarre as an apprentice. Martha Effingham of Stewarts Keep (Baroness of Axemoor) was inducted into the Order of the Silver Lamp. She had constructed an amazing dress entered at Kingdom Arts & Sciences in September which was one of three entries chosen to represent Gleann Abhann in the A&S War Point Competition at Gulf Wars in March 2010. Many others were recognized by the Crown and by Their Excellencies of Axemoor.

A sumptuous three course menu was prepared for feast with desserts to be had afterwards as part of another competition during the after-feast entertainment. The first course was composed of mixed green salad with a vinaigrette dressing, sliced apples, pears and cheese. The second course was Beef Wellington with the mushroom filling served on the side, beef gravy, barley and rice pilaf, green bean savory, oatmeal bread, and assorted butters. The third course would be pork loin stuffed with an apple filling, spiced couscous, candied sweet potatoes, and Bushman's bread.

This was a very, very wet event due to near continuous rainfall over the weekend. However, attendance still stood at around 200 and responses from those returning home were that the event was enjoyable, friends seen, feast wonderful despite the rain.



THE ARDANROE HERBARIUM

(THL Rovena of Bri Leith, Column Editor)



Spearmint (Aug '09) from Rory's herb garden

MINT

Mint is under the planetary influence of Venus. Mint belongs to a botanical genus of plants called *Mentha*. Mint is similar to roses both in its varieties and popularity. It is a prolific plant that crossbreeds easily. The best known of the mints are Peppermint (*Mentha piperata*) and Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*).

Most mints are herbaceous perennials that have similar plant habits and characteristics. Spearmint is said to be a bit narrower in leaf and flower as well as a bit more robust in habit than peppermint. While it is possible to visually distinguish between the various mints, scent is the easiest method. However, the key difference among the various types of mint is in the essential oil contained in all parts of the plant. It is this oil that is responsible for the various wonderful flavors and health benefits. Usually the highest concentration of oil is contained in the foliage and just at the onset of flowering. This is the best time to harvest the leaves as well. Leaves can be used fresh, dried, or frozen.

Mints are notorious spreaders in the garden and especially prefer moist, but light, well-drained soil. Many choose to control mint by confining it with use of root barriers, raised beds, or planting it in containers. Mint tends to require more moisture than most garden herbs.

Peppermint is a sterile hybrid cross between watermint and spearmint. The first known intentional crossbreeding was done in England. It spreads by rooting. It has leaves with serrated edges that are about 1" or 2" long and about twice as long as they are wide, sprouting from stems with a square cross-section. If you manage to see the plants in bloom, spearmint flowers form clusters that are narrower and more pointed than those of peppermint. Peppermint is considered the sweetest. Peppermint owes most of its taste to another substance, menthol, which has a mild anesthetic and cooling effect. This makes it especially useful in medicines.

Peppermint wasn't recognized as a distinct species until late in the seventeenth century, when the great botanist, Ray, published it in the second edition of his *Synopsis stirpium britannicorum*, 1696. It was admitted into the London Pharmacopoeia in 1721, under *M. piperitis sapore*. The two chief varieties of Peppermint are the so-called 'Black' and 'White' mints. There is little physical difference between them except the stems and leaves of the 'Black' mint are tinged purplish-brown but the stems of the 'White' variety are green, and the leaves of the Black are more coarsely serrated than the White. The oil furnished by the Black is more abundant but is inferior in quality. White peppermint has a more delicate scent. The plant itself is more delicate, being easily destroyed by frost or drought; it is principally grown for drying in bundles. Few pests trouble Peppermint, though crickets, grasshoppers and caterpillars may always do some damage. Peppermint ranks first in importance among essential oils. It can be a

colorless, yellowish or greenish liquid. It has a very penetrating odor and a burning, camphorate taste. It thickens and becomes reddish over time. Its mellowness improves if kept for as long as ten to fourteen years.

Spearmint is native to central and southern Europe, where it grows in wet soils. If you manage to see the plants in bloom, spearmint flowers form clusters that are narrower and more pointed than those of peppermint. The two plants have distinct tastes, with spearmint's coming mainly from a compound called carvone, which is relatively light and sweet in flavor. The Spearmint leaves are on short, distinctive stalks, 2" or more in length, and .75" to 1.5" wide, finely toothed. The leaf surfaces smooth on both sides, or if hairy then it is the hairs are barely visible. The stems, 2' to 4' high, are quadrangular and often purplish. The clusters of little red-violet flowers are in the axils of the upper leaves, forming loose, interrupted spikes, which rarely bear seeds. The entire plant has a very characteristic scent, due to the volatile oil present in all its parts.

Pennyroyal is most pungent. It is the smallest of the mints and was the first to be cultivated. Its essential oil is very potent especially against fleas and mosquitoes.

Watermint is a perennial mint common throughout Europe, except for the extreme north. Gerard said that watermint "rejoices the heart of man".

Peppermint oil is the most extensively used of all the volatile oils, both medicinally and commercially. The characteristic anti-spasmodic action of the volatile oil is more marked in this than in any other oil, and greatly adds to its power of relieving pains arising in the alimentary canal. Peppermint oil can also be topically applied to help ease tension headaches, can be consumed to help ease altitude sickness, and can act as a decongestant.

Spearmint oil is of some use in repelling mosquitoes and is often used for its taste rather than for its medical properties, although it can reduce gastric gas. From its stimulating, stomachic and carminative properties, it is mostly used for flatulence, colic, and for other sudden pains and/or cramps in the abdomen. Peppermint is widely used to treat cholera and diarrhea. Oil of Peppermint is used to alleviate nausea and to disguise the taste of unpalatable drugs, as it imparts its aromatic characteristics and taste to whatever it enters.

It is used in cosmetics because of its pleasant scent and its cooling effects. It is popular as a garnish and a flavor in many types of food but most especially candy. No kitchen should be without mint.

Oils of both plants have a long history of medical use going back to Egypt and India 5,000 years ago. Once again Greek mythology gives us the word "mint". Hades, the god of the Underworld, upset his wife, Persephone, by having an affair with Minthe, a nymph. In revenge, Persephone turned Minthe into a sweet herb. Traditionally, mint leaves were placed around the dead at Greek burials as a reminder to Hades. According to Pliny, the Greeks and Romans crowned themselves with Peppermint at their feasts, adorned their tables with its sprays, and that it flavored both their sauces and their wines with its essence. Two species of mint were used by the ancient Greek physicians, but some writers doubt whether either was the modern Peppermint, though there is evidence that *M. piperita* was cultivated by the Egyptians. It is mentioned in the thirteenth century Icelandic Pharmacopoeias. Mint only came into general use in Western Europe medicine about the middle of the eighteenth century, and then was first used in England.

Sanitary engineers use Peppermint oil to test the tightness of pipe joints. It has the faculty of making its escape, and by its pungent odor betraying the presence of leaks. Spearmint oil is of some use in repelling mosquitoes.

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LESSONS IN HERALDRY

The Cover Letter of many of the monthly LoAR will include rulings and clarifications made by the Laurel, Wreath, and Pelican Sovereign/Queen of Arms. The Cover Letter for the May LoAR printed August 29, 2009, is chalk full of rulings and clarifications to rulings. These will probably fill up the rest of this column the last three months of 2009 and the start of 2010.

As noted in the Cover Letter of the May LoAR, the ruling on SCA-Compatible Names went into effect one year following the ruling.

From Pelican: No More SCA-Compatibility

On the May 2008 Cover Letter, we ruled:

Therefore, as of the May 2009 decisions meetings, we declare that no new name elements or name patterns will be ruled SCA-compatible, that all names previously ruled SCA-compatible are no longer SCA-compatible and that in order for them to be registered, documentation meeting the same standards as for non-SCA-compatible names will be required.

This ruling went into effect with this, the May 2009 Pelican meeting.

So what does this mean for those of us living in the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann? First, we need to look at what SCA-compatible means. *The Glossary of Terms as Used By The College of Arms of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.* (Revised: December 23, 2003) defines compatible and SCA-compatible.

Compatible.

In keeping with the normal usages for the period and domain of the Society. Guidelines on compatible names are given in Parts II and III, and guidelines for compatible armory are given in Parts VII and VIII of the Rules for Submissions. *See also* Domain of the Society, Period, SCA-Compatible.

SCA-Compatible.

This term is applied to elements of submissions (whether name or armorial) that, to the best of our knowledge, were not used in period but which have been declared registerable on the basis of their great popularity, such as Rhiannon and compass stars. The use of an SCA-compatible element is a weirdness. *See also* Weirdnesses, Rule of Two.

Part I of the Rules for Submission states the following:

PART I - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Compatibility. - All names and armory shall be compatible with the period and domain of the Society.

The Society for Creative Anachronism studies pre-Seventeenth Century Western Culture. The period of the Society has been defined to extend until 1600 A. D. Its domain includes Europe and areas that had contact with Europe during this period. Usages documented to have occurred regularly prior to that date within that domain shall be automatically considered compatible unless they have been specifically declared incompatible by these rules, Laurel precedent, or a policy statement of the Board of Directors. Usages not so documented may be defined as compatible by these rules, Laurel precedent, or a policy statement of the Board of Directors. In all cases, the burden of proving compatibility shall lie on the individual making the submission or that individuals duly constituted representatives.

So, besides the mention of Rhiannon above, what are SCA-compatible names? The following Precedent was set by Master Da'ud ibn Auda during the second year of his second tenure as Laurel Sovereign of Arms in December 1995:

What Names Are 'SCA-Compatible'?... Having found that my own baronial herald was slightly confused on the subject of 'SCA-compatibility', I thought that it might be helpful to list the status of some of the most common names that have been considered under this rubric. The post-period English name Fiona, which is not to be confused with the period Irish name Fíona (earlier Fíne), has long been considered 'SCA-compatible'. So have the names Cer(r)idwen (Ker(r)idwen), Rhiannon, Bronwen, Branwen, Rowen(a), and Rhonwen, all of which may be found in Welsh myth and legend, but none of which seems to have been in actual use by real people in our period. Guendolen/Gwendolen, a name based on a misreading of a masculine name and attested only in fiction, was declared 'SCA-compatible' in the 8/95 Cover Letter; more modern spellings of the name were disallowed. Brian(n)a, a modern feminization of Brian that follows no known period model, was declared 'SCA-compatible' in the 12/95 Cover Letter.

So what does this mean for us? Basically, we have removed popular names found in the myths and legends and writings of fiction or works written after 1600 which cannot be documented as having been used as a real person's name during the time period the SCA covers. If you like the spelling Fiona, you can still document the spelling to the period Irish name Fíona, but you must know that the pronunciation of the name is not the popular "Fee-own-nah" we have today, but the period pronunciation "fin or fine". If you want to be Rhiannon, you have to do some serious research to prove that someone actually used the name in period besides the Welsh goddess.

Yes, this does mean some names and spellings and pronunciations of names will no longer be registered. But considering the vast amount of actual period names documented, this really is not a great loss.

If you have a particular heraldry question you would like answered in "Lessons in Heraldry", please let me know! I may not know the answer but will try to find an answer that helps.

Maistir Rory

References:

The Glossary of Terms as Used By The College of Arms of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (Revised: December 23, 2003) [Accessed December 22, 2009] <http://heraldry.sca.org/heraldry/coagloss.html>
Compatible. In: *Collected Precedents of the SCA: Name Precedents* compiled by Mari Elspeth nic Bryan (Last Update: 09 May 2007) [Accessed December 22, 2009] <http://heraldry.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/precedents/CompiledNamePrecedents/Compatible.html#General>
Rules for Submissions of the College of Arms of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (March 28, 2004, Updated April 2, 2008) [Accessed December 22, 2009] <http://heraldry.sca.org/heraldry/laurel/rfs.html>



FASTER DECISION TIME FOR SUBMISSIONS

In the November LoAR printed December 22, 2009, the Laurel Queen of Arms has declared a schedule change in the processing of submissions at the College of Arms. "Starting with January 2010 Letters of Intent, the full commentary period will be two months after the month of publication." The reason for this is that since the College of Arms uses OSCAR, an electronic system for submissions and commentary, the extra month needed when everything was sent via postal mail, is no longer needed. So January 2010 LoIs will be decided in April instead of May; LoIs submitted (published) in January, 2 months commentary (February & March) and decision April.



RULES FOR SUBMISSION SURVEY

To those to whom these words come, greetings from Olwynn ni Chinneidigh, Laurel Queen of Arms and Juliana de Luna, Palimpsest Herald.

The Laurel office is starting to review our policies and procedures for submissions. We expect that the eventual outcome will be a complete rewrite of the Rules for Submissions.

To start this process, we're asking the populace and heralds to give us feedback about the heraldic submissions process and how it should work. A survey which asks some basic questions can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GLJZDDZ>

We'd appreciate it if interested people would take time to answer the questions there. Anyone can complete this; we promise to read all answers. We expect the survey to take fifteen to twenty minutes. Additional comments about or ideas for this process can be sent to rules@heraldry.sca.org.

We have several goals for this process:

- to make the Rules for Submissions easier to use for heralds and submitters alike
- to reduce discrepancies between the Rules as written and the rules as applied
- to reflect on the degree of authenticity we want for the registration process and how best to codify rules to evaluate it
- to reconsider the level of difference we should require between names and devices for registration

In all areas, the Society for Creative Anachronism has moved towards progressively better understandings of what people did in our period. Given this, we are not interested in discussing rules changes that would substantially lower our standards for registration of names and armory. But we are interested in exploring ways to make it easier for people register items that are in period style, whether or not they fit the rules as they currently exist. We welcome ideas about how to do that from all sources.

We look forward to hearing from you! The deadline for the survey is January 31; we will continue to accept comments by e-mail until the review of the rules is completed. Please forward this message to other mailing lists, so that as many people as possible can respond.

Juliana and Olwynn