

MEWSLETTER: VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 2

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FEBRUARY 2015, AS XLIX



WHO WAS ST. VALENTINE?

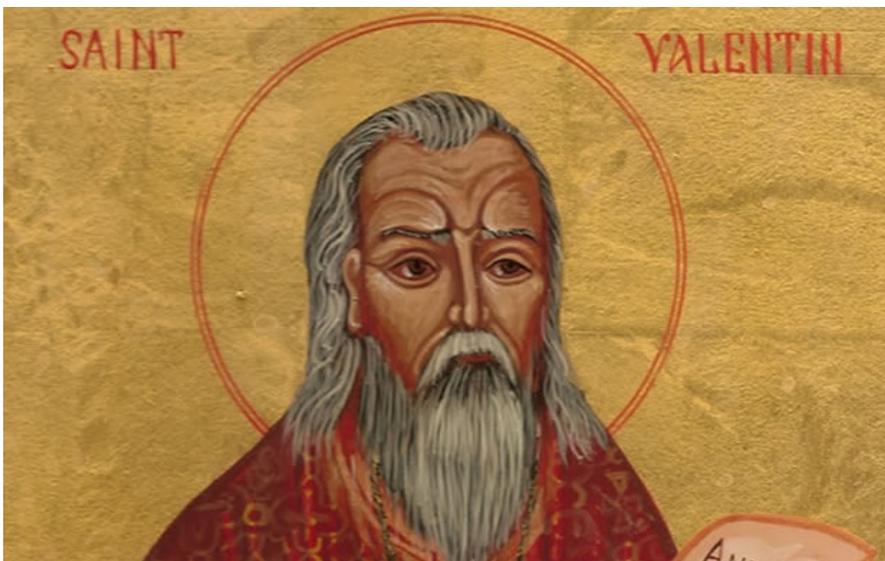
The first St. Valentine recognized by the Roman Catholic Church was a real person who died in 270 AD. By 496 AD Pope Gelasius I stated that only God knew who Valentine really was. St. Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers, epilepsy, protecting people from plague, fainting, and helping travelers. He is also the saint called to watch over engaged couples and happy marriages.

The saint celebrated on Valentine's Day is officially known as St. Valentine of Rome, because there other have been about a dozen men called St. Valentine plus one pope.

Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentine's Day in 1375 AD when he wrote a poem titled "Parliament of Foules". In which he wrote:

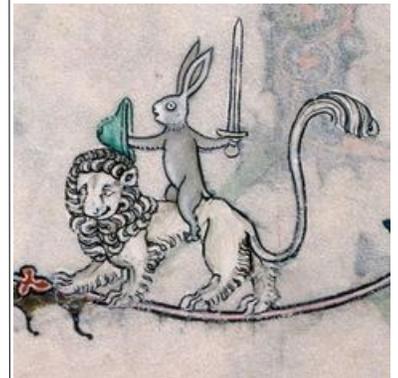
*"For this was on Seynt Valentynes day,
Whan every foul cometh ther to chese his make,
Of every kinde, that men thynke may;
And that so huge a noyse gan they make,
That erthe and see, and tree, and every lake
So ful was, that unnethe was ther space
For me to stonde, so ful was al the place."*

In addition to celebrating Valentin's day on February 14 The Roman Catholic Church also offers November 3 for St. Valentine of Viterbo, January 7 for St. Valentine of Raetitia, and St. Valentina a virgin woman on July 6. The Eastern Orthodox Church officially celebrates St. Valentine twice, once as an elder of the church on July 6 and once as a martyr on July 30.



UPCOMING MOOTS, PRACTICE:

- Next Moot: February 15, Stratford
Pre-cooking Starting at 9:00 AM and
Business Moot starting at 1:00 PM
- Heavy Weapons and Fencing Practice,
Monday 6:30pm, UWSP Room 110
- If you have anything you want to
add, contact Lady Anna at the fol-
lowing: HollyHeise@Gmail.com



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THE CHRONICLER'S QUILT

Dear Shire, I misunderstood Roibeard O'Caonchobhair when he told me about his friend the red tailed hawk. The good gentle is not running a rescue program for injured raptors. This special bird was simply brought to Roibeard because this bird was in a desperate condition. Roibeard is studying falconry.

I am sorry that I confused my schedule and missed our January moot. Yours in service, Lady Anna Meyer



FROM THE SAGE

I have been reviewing different authors who wrote herbal books during the Renaissance. I have a copy of Gerard's Herbal and I compared his work to some of his contemporaries. I examined how Gerard copied some of the woodcuts of other authors to round out his book. While John Gerard is perhaps the most famous herbalist in the English language, a bit a reading shows how much the standard for scholarly writing has changed since the 16th century. In a word, Gerard was a shameless plagiarist. The true history of the Herbal of John Gerard starts with one Robert Priest, a member of the London College of Physicians, was commissioned to translate Rembert Dodoens' collected works *Stirpium Historiae Pemptades Sex* (1583) into English, but he died before the book was published. Gerard was called upon to complete the project. With the death of Priest, however, as Gerard shamelessly professes to the reader, "his translation likewise perished" and he appropriated it as "the first fruits of these myne owne Labours." There are eighteen hundred woodcuts in the Herbal, almost all of them (the woodcut of the potato, which is the first to represent the plant, being an important exception) taken from the *Eicones Plantarum* (1590) of Jacobus Theodorus, which themselves been reproduced from earlier herbalists such as Mattioli, Dodoens, Clusius, and Lobel. But Gerard was not sufficiently knowledgeable to match all the plant descriptions with their proper illustrations. Lobel, who was living in England, was asked to correct the errors and claimed to have discovered over a thousand. But a perturbed Gerard cut short the work, complaining that Lobel did not know enough English, and the Herbal went to press as it was—the final third being less reliable than it could have been. Gerard's major contribution seems to be in re-arranging the order of the entries, and adding some personal commentary to a number of the entries. He also added a number of native American plants, and some from his own garden.

A second edition was published in 1633, enlarged and amended by Thomas Johnson, who dismissed Gerard with the introductory comment that "His chiefe commendation is that he out of a propense goodwill to the publique advancement of this knowledge, endeavoured to performe therein more than he could well accomplish; which was partly through want of sufficient learning."

And yet for all of his short-comings, most people asked to name an herbal will mention Gerard's Herbal. Edmund Gosse makes an astute observation in *Gossip in the Library* (1891) as he remarks on two characteristics of Gerard's writing. Gerard is universally acclaimed for his skilled use of language and for his charming insertion of personal anecdote about the places where various plants can be found.

Perhaps this is the key to Gerard's success. He was among the first herbalist to relate to the reader in a familiar, rather than pedantic voice.

Publishing Disclaimer

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Contact the Chronicler, Lady Anna Meyer (MKA Holly Heise), for further information, HollyHeise@gmail.com This publication will be available on the Falcon’s Keep webpage at www.falconskeep.org. If you require a paper copy, please contact the Chronicler. If you wish to make a contribution to defray mailing costs, please give it to the Exchequer of Falcon’s Keep.

THE TIME OF OUR LIVES: FALCON’S KEEP MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for the moot held on January 16th at the home of Lord Vincent and Amina.

Seneschal: We have site insurance for Haire Affaire ready to go. Evercon group thanked us for attending. The convention and the demo went well.

Chatelaine: The Marathon County Library has contacted us and would like us to do a demo sometime in June or July. Evercon brought in lots of contacts for Falcon’s Keep and Norwealdmere. We had new people attend the moot, as well.

Web Minister: Working on the Haire Affaire site. Hopefully will be updated by later this week.

Herald: Lord Baldwin’s name and device are n process.

The exchequer, the chronicler, and the knight’s marshal were not present and no reports were sent.

Rapier Marshall: Practice starts the first Monday in February at the university.

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Will be stepping down, if you are interested in taking over, please let her know.

THE TIME OF OUR LIVES: (CONTINUED)

New Business: We will be sponsoring AARG. We need to provide a marshal in charge and someone for troll. This will hopefully be held on Memorial Day weekend. Lady Kiku and Quinn volunteered to autocrat this event. There may be non-rapier oriented classes this year. We talked about donating any profit to the Kingdom.

Artisan's Circle (formerly Artsy Fartsy) will be held on June 19th – June 20th at the home of Baron Janvier and Baroness Alexandra. The event will be no cost, but donations would be appreciated to cover some of the cost. Lady Katherine has agreed to autocrat this event.

There will be a regional practice held in the track area of the HEC at the university on May 2nd.

We need to contact the Lion's Club about Poor Man's as soon as possible. We are still looking for a new site. Tentative dates for this event are August 7, 8, & 9. Lord Yoshi has agreed to autocrat.

The walk through of the Haire Affaire site went well. Many comments were made about the size of the space and Mistress Ealasaid is extremely happy with the kitchen. We will be opening the kitchen at 10:00 with the gingerbread class to be held at 11:00.

The dessert course for feast will be a banquet held in the Elizabethan style. We will be going from the feast hall to another location where desserts will be set up.

We have many classes for Haire Affaire, please see the website for details.

Respectfully submitted by Lady Emelye Ambroys



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EVENTS CALENDAR

February, 2015

Fighting in the Shade V Saturday February 7, 2015
Barony of Jararvellir (Madison WI)

Lupercalia 🏰 🏰 🏰 🏰 Saturday February 7, 2015
Shire of Rivenwood Tower (Garden City MN)

St Valentine's Day Massacre 🏰 Saturday February 14, 2015
Kingdom of Middle (Kalamazoo MI)

Hertzkrieg XXI 🏰 🏰 Saturday February 14, 2015
College of Svatý Sebesta (Vermillion SD)

Une Fete D'amour...Now in German! Saturday February 21, 2015
Shire of Midewinde (Minot ND)

Haire Affaire - A March to War 🏰
Saturday February 21, 2015
Shire of Falcon's Keep (Auburndale WI)



A Monk's Life: Scribin' & Imbibin' -
A Scribal and Brewing Symposium
Saturday February 21, 2015 49
Kingdom of Middle (Mount Prospect IL)

Fighter's School 🏰 🏰 🏰 Saturday February 28, 2015
Barony of Windhaven (Fond du Lac WI)



March, 2015
That Moot Thingy XV (15) Friday March 6-8, 2015
Canton of Coille Stoirmeil (Tomah WI)

Gulf Wars XXIV 🏰 🏰 🏰 🏰 Sunday March 15-22, 2015
Kingdom of Gleann Abhann (Lumberton MS)

Bardic Madness XXV 🏰 Friday March 27-29, 2015
Canton of Nordleigh (Hastings MN)

Ides of March Saturday March 28, 2015
Shire of Trewint (Brookings SD)