



The Newsletter

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student members of Falcon's Gate

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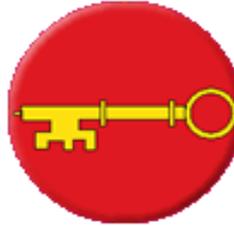
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Greetings from your Seneschal!

Greetings to All!!!



As much as I have truly enjoyed the last two years, there comes a time when change is a welcome necessity. Lady Beatrice of Falcon's Keep will be taking over for me as Seneschal of our wonderful group. I will stay on as her deputy to aid her in all things as she gets accustomed to her new position. It's been an awesome two years!! Thanks to all of you who helped me or the shire in any capacity. Your help is noticed and appreciated!!!

Arianna

COVER STORY

“The Siege of Constantinople.” Painted in 1499. Artist unknown.

The Fall of Constantinople was the capture of the capital of the Byzantine Empire, which occurred after a siege by the Ottoman Empire, under the command of Sultan Mehmed II, against the defending army commanded by Emperor Constantine XI. The siege lasted from Friday, 6 April 1453 until Tuesday, 29 May 1453 (according to the Julian Calendar), when the city was conquered by the Ottomans.

[This event] marked the end of the final remnant of the Roman Empire, an empire which had lasted for nearly 1,500 years; it was also a massive blow to Christendom. After the conquest Mehmed made Constantinople the Ottoman Empire's new capital. Several Greek and non-Greek intellectuals fled the city before and after the siege, migrating particularly to Italy. It is argued that they helped fuel the Renaissance. Some mark the end of the Middle Ages by the fall of the city and empire.

It is widely believed that the city was renamed to "Istanbul" in the aftermath of the conquest. In actuality, Ottomans used the Arabic translation of the city, "Kostantiniyye," as can be seen in numerous Ottoman documents.

Istanbul would become the official name of the city in 1930 by the Turkish Postal Law of 1930 as part of [then President Mustafa Kemal] Atatürk's reforms.

-Wikipedia, "Fall of Constantinople"



The Chronicler's Quill

Saludos hasta el folk de la Comarca
de la Falcon's Keep

Finally, it's summer. Seems we have skipped spring almost entirely. But now the events schedule is in full swing, as well as planning for Poorman's.

You will notice that the minutes from the May Moot cover over two pages— there was quite a bit to discuss. There still is more yet to do. But I am confident that we'll get our stuff together. There is a need for Archery and Thrown Weapons Marshals for the event, so if you happen to know someone who might be willing to fill these positions I would like to know about it— or at least discuss it in June's Moot. I am pleased with the excellent events being suggested so far , and I am sure more are coming.

To put on the Chronicler's hat again.... We have some more new officers to greet. Katharine de Saint Denis and Lady Rawnie de Douglas are Youth minister and deputy respectively. They have stepped up to serve and educate our youngest members, ensuring a new generation of lords and ladies. Also, we now have a new Seneschal: Lady Beatrice of Falcon's Keep. For your humble writer, there was no doubt she would be elected to the office. Arianna has done excellently in her time as Seneschal, and I am certain Beatrice will do equally well. For Lady Beatrice, Katharine, and Rawnie: VIVANT!

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has sent me words or thoughts of encouragement in the last month. On the whole, things are going well. It is great to have more energy to do what I would like to do— and just in time! I will need it as the months go on....

Atentamente en el Servicio,
Pedro de Benavides

Minutes for Moot on May 23, 2011, held at the Four Stools in Wisconsin Rapids.

General Business:

We will be submitting a bid for Crown Tournament for May 2012. Asli has graciously volunteered to Autocrat the event.

Kathryn has accepted the post of Youth Minister and Rawnie has accepted the post of Deputy Youth Minister.

Beatrice was voted in as Seneschal by the officers present, who gave her unanimous consent. She will begin performing her duties as Seneschal at the June Moot. Arianna will remain as Deputy Seneschal for a period of time. Please help us in welcoming in our new officers!

The Auburndale demo went very well. There were letters from the students thanking the participants for coming to their class and teaching them. The Nekoosa demo was also held (after this meeting) and things went very well with it also..

The summer rotation for Monday Fighter Practices is listed on the website: <http://www.falconskeep.org/Calendar.html>.

Be sure to check if there will be a practice, as the weather will be unpredictable. The Fighter Practices at the Four Stools on Sundays will also continue. There will also be a semi-final on July 17 for the Shire Championship.

The shire approved the purchase of a new copier. Pedro will be checking out options and will bring a price list to the next moot.

Yoshi is in need of updated content and photos for the website.

Haire Affaire dates were discussed. We have several choices; it was generally agreed it should be before Gulf Wars, so as not to be too close to the Crown Tournament should the Shire win the bid. The date will be decided soon pending approval from Alessandro and the park department.

Poorman's Pennsic Planning:

Pedro, Arianna, Mary, and Beatrice met with the Lion's Club to discuss arrangements for Poor Man's Pennsic.

Poorman's Pennsic Planning (continued):

Fees for Poor Man's will be: \$15 for members for the full weekend; \$7 for youth members for the full weekend; and \$10 for members for Saturday only. Site tokens will be mandatory in order to participate in any of the martial activities. No camping fees will be collected.

We will be allowed to have on site caterers for the event this year. The Lions Club will allow licensed food vendors to operate on the grounds. There were several suggestions offered, including Jamaican Kitchens; Festival Foods; and China Chef. A Chili Feed will be held, to coincide with a tourney, on Friday night. Members will be bringing their homemade chili.

There will be a silent auction during the event on Saturday. If you are interested in being in charge of this, please contact one of the autocrats.

Merchants will be given the option of being inside or outside. It will be strongly suggested that they bring appropriate items for their chosen location (e.g. fans).

We will still need Archery and Thrown Weapons Marshalls for the event. This most likely will be discussed in more detail at the next moot.

Arianna has agreed to be Herald for Poor Man's as Grimr will be unable to attend.

Ralik has worked out a tentative schedule of events for Poor Man's in regards to Heavy Fighting. Some selected highlights: there will be a torchlight tourney on Friday night. On Saturday, a Shire Championship will take place; there is also a tournament called "The Shire VS. the World" which will take place after the Championship.

There will be a web site for both the SCA members and Public participants of Poor Man's. This is planned to be operational on or near July 1.

Flyers for the event will be made and distributed to members by mid July. Marie and Pedro have committed to setting up and distributing them as early as it will be feasible. We will also have flyers available at WW, geared specifically towards the SCA gentles attending. Discussion was also heard about other forms of media exposure for the event.

Plans for June's Moot:

The loaner garb will be sorted at the next Moot. The surplus will be part of the silent auction at Poor Man's, or may be given to gentles in need of garb.

Also, Justinian will be doing a heraldry class.

The June moot will be held on June 12 at 1:00 at the home of Mary and Alessandro in Rothschild. Please note that this is a date and time change from what was previously reported in the Mewsletter.

Addenda (not discussed in Moot):

Poorman's Pennsic has been created as an event on Facebook. Also, there was a charge of \$50.00 for the event's ad to be included in the July Northwatch. This was approved by Arianna.

Prester John : a medieval myth

The myth of Prester John originated in the mid- 1100's, though its exact origin is still difficult to determine. It apparently was the result of a mix of misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

In its beginning, Prester John was considered to be a Nestorian Christian King to the east of Jerusalem- in the midst of Muslim kingdoms. Crusaders held a hope that he could be called upon to assist them.

Prester John seemed to be based on 3rd century writings of the wanderings of a Christian apostle, Thomas, who traditionally went to India, and writings about Alexander's conquests. Other parts of the story seem like a medieval game of telephone- the details changed each time. An account titled the "Letter of Prester John" surfaced in 1165, about a state visit by Prester John to the Byzantine emperor. Though undoubtedly false, it was taken seriously enough that Pope Alexander III sent a letter addressed to Prester John in 1177. No answer was recorded.

In 1221, a returning crusader brought news that a King David, a grandson of Prester John, was fighting - and conquering- the Saracens in Persia and was moving toward Baghdad. This brought hope of the complete conquest of the Saracens to Christian Europe. As we now know, this "King David" turned out to be none other than Genghis Khan. There were many who sought Prester John in Genghis' empire- and also stimulated contact and trade along the way. No doubt the many Christian travelers that set out to find Prester John were disappointed not to find him. As this reality set in, more "speculation" about Prester John's real kingdom led to a new location.

In 1306, 30 ambassadors from Ethiopia travelled to Europe. The (now) legendary Prester John was somehow linked to them, so by 1329 Ethiopia was considered the location of Prester John's empire. This time, the basis was somewhat more credible: Ethiopia had resisted Islamic advance for hundreds of years, and had some contact with Europe before 1306- and they were Christians.

In many of the maps drawn after 1329, there was a place for Prester John in Africa. It became taken for granted that Prester John was "always" in Africa, not India. Much later, as part of the Portuguese effort of exploration, Portuguese envoys were sent to Ethiopia in 1487 in search of way to India- and to find Prester John. One of them finally reached Ethiopia- but was not allowed to leave. More Portuguese arrived later in 1507. As a result of this meeting, The Queen of Ethiopia requested a coalition against Muslim forces with Portugal and Pope Julius II. By 1520, a report of this exchange was presented to Pope Leo X , entitled "A True Relation of the Lands of Prester John of the Indies" . This gave Europe the first real description of Ethiopia. Unfortunately, it also solidified all Ethiopian rulers' identity henceforth as "Prester John" in European circles.



Prester John : a medieval myth (Continued)

The Ethiopians themselves never used this term to apply to their monarch. In 1441 an Ethiopian monarch attended a council in Florence – and was constantly referred to as Prester John by the Europeans. This was amidst the protestations of his attendants. By 1700, the identification of Ethiopia as the land of Prester John had been disproven and fallen into disuse. However, it remained until 1751, when a historian actually asked a sitting Ethiopian ruler about this epithet. “Czech Franciscan Remedius Prutky asked Emperor Iyasu II about this identification ... Prutky states that the man was ‘.. astonished, and told me that the kings of Abyssinia had never been accustomed to call themselves by this name.’”

Though this personage no longer is relevant in today’s world, there are some who have used the name in literature since. A recent example: A 1966 Marvel comic book introduced a character by the name of Prester John: a 12th century explorer and exiled king brought to the present. After a battle with, among others, Iron Man, he is sent back to the 12th century.

In the end, the story of Prester John was an invented tale, but it could be considered a story of unintended consequences. It helped to revive trade and contact between Western Europe and Asia, however unintentional that may have been.

Source: “Prester John”

Picture: Antique map of Prester John by Ortelius. A map of Prester John's kingdom as Ethiopia, 1573. Latin reads: "A description of the Empire of Prester John or of the Abyssinians".

Both cited sources from Wikipedia.



EVENT CALENDAR

June, 2011

Rose Tournament Friday June 17-19, 2011
Shire of Shattered Oak (Eau Claire WI)

Moorish Tavern: Griffins War

Thursday June 23-26, 2011
Shire of Midewinde (Bottineau ND)

Border Skirmish 2011 Friday June 24-26, 2011
Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr (Kenosha WI)

July, 2011

Known World Dance Symposium Friday July 1-3, 2011
Kingdom of Middle (Bloomington IN)

Thatsa Mare; Thatsa long way to go, but what an Event!
Friday July 1-4, 2011

Shire of Mare Amethystinum (Pass Lake ON)

Warriors and Warlords XVIII Thursday July 7-10, 2011
Barony of Jararvellir (Boscobel WI)

Pennsic 40 Friday July 29 - Sunday August 14, 2011
Kingdom of Æthelmearc (Slippery Rock PA)

August, 2011

Poor Man's Pennsic Friday August 12-14, 2011
Shire of Falcon's Keep (Wisconsin Rapids WI)

St. Radegund's Kingdom Summer A&S Fair Friday August 19-21, 2011
Shire of Rivenwood Tower (Mankato MN)

Regional Fighter Practice and Moot Saturday August 20, 2011
Shire of Inner Sea (Cloquet MN)

BYOM IX Friday August 26-28, 2011
Shire of Vilku Urvas (Deer River MN)

September, 2011

Fighters Camp Friday September 2-4, 2011
Shire of Skerjastrom (Ishpeming MI)

Revel in the Vale Friday September 2-5, 2011
Shire of Schattentor (Bethlehem SD)

A Dark Ages Saga Friday September 2-5, 2011
Barony of Castel Rouge (Gimli MB)

Northshield Fall Coronation Saturday September 10, 2011
Shire of Rokeclif (La Crosse WI)

Bale Wars: Tournament for the Common Man
Friday September 16-18, 2011

Shire of Darkstone (Washburn WI)

Early Period Symposium Saturday September 17, 2011
Barony of Jararvellir (Madison WI)

June Moot
Sunday June 12, 2011
at the home of
Lord Alessandro and Lady Mary
104 Florence St., Rothschild WI

Directions:

Take best route to I 39 N
Take exit 185 (Cedar Creek exit)
Turn right onto old 51 at the bottom
of the ramp.
Follow old 51 approximately 1.5 miles to
Florence St. (There is an old closed
gas station on the corner, if you've
gone to Citgo you've gone one block
too far.)
Take a right onto Florence St.
House is on the left, the second house
on the second block.

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

Facebook Groups:

Shire of Falcon's Keep

Falcon's Gate at UWSP

Falcon's Keep Rapier Fighters

Don't forget to check out our Yahoo group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/falconskeep/>

Officers of Falcon's Keep

Seneschal: Lady Beatrice of Falcon's Keep (MKA Jennifer Beebe)
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Marshall of Fence: Ysabella de Muerte (MKA Elizabeth Rundquist)
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Marshall of Archery: vacant

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