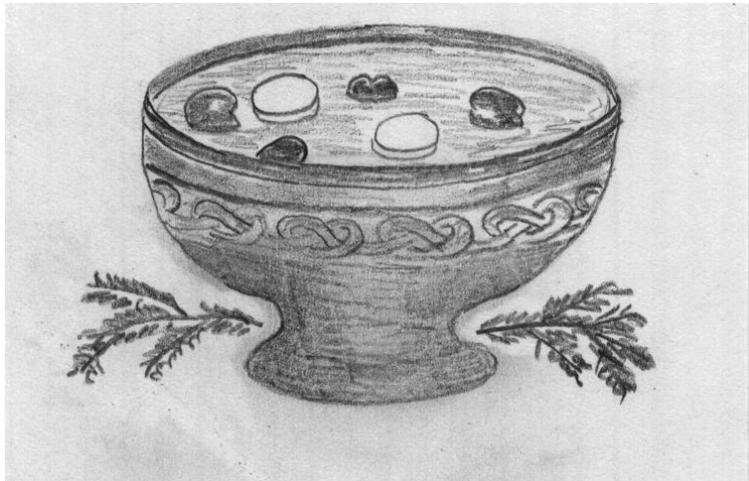


The Newsletter
December as xlii
volume xvii, issue 12

Wishing a Joyous Yule
to the Folk of Falcon's Keep
and Friends throughout
the Known World



Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's
Keep and student members of Falcon's Gate

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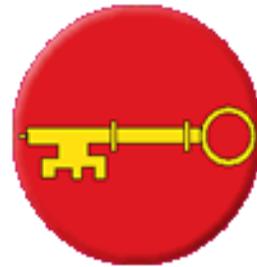
Disclaimer

This is The Mewsletter and it is published on behalf of the Shire of Falcon's Keep and the student members of Falcon's Gate, the central WI chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies. For official publications, contact SCA, Inc., Offices of the Registry, PO Box 36073, Milpitas, CA 95036-0743.

Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

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Greetings from your Seneschal!



Greeting Keepers-

At our last moot we discussed the general responsibilities of the officer's of the Keep. Many of these offices are looking for deputy's and everyone felt it was important that people know what is required if they feel they might be a good fit for the position. I would like to add if you feel that there is some thing not covered in the responsibilities and you have more questions many of the handbooks are listed on the web site for further review.

Seneschal

1. Be the legal representative
2. Report group activities as well as offices activities to those superior
3. Maintain the groups records
4. Keep the group informed
5. Be familiar with the governing laws of the SCA and Northshield
6. See that the group presents a favorable image of the SCA
7. Maintain membership in the SCA

If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.

Venom@charter.net

YIS. Lady Mary, Seneschal of Falcon's Keep

Cover Art:

Wassail Bowl by Mistress Ealasaid nic Phearsoinn

Wassail article and recipes are on page 10.

The Chronicler's Quill

Greetings onto the folk
of the Shire of Falcon's Keep,



At the last moot, we discussed the duties of Shire officers. You will find several officers summaries of the discussions concerning their offices in this issue and hopefully the rest will follow in future issues. We have all agreed that communication is important and all officers should try to maintain communication by posting appropriate information in the Mewsletter and on the web page as well as by either attending moots, sending a deputy or representative or at least sending an officers report to be read at the moot.

Congratulations to lady Emily Ambrose on her new position of Minister of Arts and Sciences. This means I am in need of a deputy chronicler. If it helps you decide whether to volunteer or if you are just curious about what the chronicler does, these are the duties as I see them:

- 1 Get the Mewsletter out complete and on time
- 2 Maintain communication in order to have accurate information to put in the Mewsletter. This often requires active solicitation of necessary content. It also implies attendance and use of a deputy or report for all moots.
- 3 Meet Kingdom requirements for reporting and record keeping (including current SCA membership)

As the end of the year approaches, it is necessary to check all contact information and for you to reaffirm if you are willing to have your information published on paper or electronically. Lady Reina has devised a form and will be distributing it again at the next moot. If you are unable to attend moots, you still need to obtain and complete the form. If you are an officer, event steward or even host a moot at your home, it is of course necessary to publish the information and it creates a major inconvenience if you have not signed the permission in advance.

Yours in service, ealasaid

PS: As always I need contributions in addition to the regular columns, especially persona stories, event reports, and cover art.

Anachronist's Book Reviews

There is defiantly a dearth of new books pertaining to our time period available at my local library this month. I did run across an old favorite author of mine on the Sci-Fi section of the New Book Shelf.

Actually it was two authors. *Ravens of Avalon* written by Dianna Paxton is based on Marion Zimmer Bradley's Avalon series. This is the third Book in the Avalon series that have Paxson listed as co-author. These two authors have kept me entertained for many a year.

As I could not find any thing more on the New Bookshelf I decided to visit the SciFic section and soon found Diana Paxon's *Wodan's Children Series* Consisting of *The wolf and the Raven*, *Dragons of the Rhine* and *Lord of the Horses*. This was my third reading of this series. Some books are worth reading more then once.

Another such book is my 1992 edition of the *Known World Handbook*, which I have kept in a satchel in my car to be taken up at a moments notice. One of the first articals in the handbook is written by Diana Paxson. She has long been known as the host of the first tournament and Marion Zimmer Bradley gave us our name. Many other authors have played with the dream. To all of them may they always hold to the Dream.

Lady Eve of Lynn



Justinian of Cherson, the real story.

Justinian's story begins in 1066 or rather his family's story forever changes on that date. 50 years after the Danish King Knut's conquest of Angle-land (England), the troops of William the Bastard invaded and defeated the rightful King Harold Godwinson at the battle of Hastings. My family was lucky in that my uncle survived the battle (he was a Thegn, serving the King) and that he and the rest were able to flee to Denmark to live with distant relatives of my grandfather. (My grandfather was a descendent of one of Knut's soldiers who had married a local Anglo woman, my grandmother.) He knew that moving to Denmark was a tenuous solution at best, as the country was already flooded with other refugees such as us. He tried to marry off his only daughter, my mother, to a local noble to better secure our position there. The only thing to come out of that alliance was me, unfortunately.

Luck swung in our favor soon enough, for a year after my birth in 1071, the Byzantine emperor Alexius Comnenus lost a critical battle against the Turks at Manzikert. Alexius suddenly found himself in dire need of good fighting men, and so the word was put out to all nations. Now the lands of the Greeks are not unknown to the people of the north. For many years the official bodyguard to the emperor, the Varangians, was made up of Norse adventurers. Some came from as far away as Iceland to serve as either guards or soldiers to the emperor, both well paying and prestigious positions. With nothing to keep us where we were, my family and many others started the long trek through the lands of the Rus south to the city of Constantinople.

Simple words cannot do justice to Miklagard or the "big city" as the Norse call it. She is a triangular-shaped gem nestled between the crossroads and river-ways of Africa, Europe, and Asia. From the coarse pleasures of the Hippodrome, to the majesty of the Imperial palace, to the awe-inspiring Hagia Sophia church, Constantinople lacked for nothing. It was in her maze of streets that I spent my early childhood, absorbing the

Greco-Roman culture and the language. In the hopes that I would blend in better with our new neighbors, my mother re-named me Justinian. It was a popular name, one that I shared with several Emperors. But this idyllic life was not to last, as events slightly north of us unfolded. At the request of Alexius, a group of fellow “Anglo-Danes” serving under Earl Sigurd re-conquered the province of Cherson in 1075. (It is a jut of land, which sticks out into the north part of the Black Sea and is often called the Crimea.) In honor of this action, Earl Sigurd was given leave to administer this province for the Emperor. Upon hearing this, my grandfather announced that we would be moving to this “Nova Anglia” because he felt the city was corrupting our moral values, especially mine. So when I reached the age of six, my family packed up and moved again.

Not surprisingly, I was not keen on moving to a more “rural” environment than the one I was used to. No theaters, no libraries, no public baths, and no horse track for chariot racing. My grandfather was also eager to get me into the “family business”, that is, of serving the Emperor as a fighting man to fill in for my uncles when they were no longer fit to serve. I applied myself and became a competent, if not a skilled fighter. Part of this training meant going back to the big city to work with other soldiers from other lands. This gave me many opportunities to sneak off and indulge in my favorite activity, reading the musty tomes of bygone times. My grandfather tolerated this because I could entertain family and friends with stories of which they were unfamiliar. (Classical Greek myths were a favorite, especially The Golden Fleece and the Odyssey as both involved expeditions with ships.)

And so this brings us to the present time, 1107, a full eight years after the Latin “Crusaders” rolled through to take Jerusalem from the Muslims and generally make a mess of things. The majority of these invaders are Normans, of course, my family’s old enemies. I hope they never take Constantinople, as they will no doubt do to it what they did to the lands of my grandparents. An island I will never get to see.

Responsibilities for the Chatelaine of Falcon's Keep

Recruitment: To be the point of contact for planning public demonstrations and to assist as needed in the implementation of demos. Greeting newcomers at demos and events and answering any questions they might have to the best of the Chatelaine's ability. Following up with leads from other members regarding people interested in joining the group. Maintaining contact with newcomers regarding events and meetings the newcomer may be interested in attending.

Education: Providing basic information about the customs, courtesies, and culture, of the SCA to the newcomer. Directing them to resources and people for questions or skills that the Chatelaine may not have or be able to answer.

Maintaining the group's loaner garb: The Chatelaine is responsible for the storage and security of the loaner garb, as well as its transportation to needed events.

Reporting: Sending in reports to the Kingdom Chatelaine quarterly as well as monthly written or verbal reports to the shire at moots.

As a note I find it important to mention that all members of the group should be unofficial Chatelaines, seeking out newcomers and welcoming them into the SCA. Recruiting and retaining new members is not a one-person job! A group that does not grow stagnates and eventually dies from attrition. Everyone in the group was a newcomer once and needed information and help from someone to get where they are now. Just remember to use tact, sensitivity, and courtesy and don't overload the newcomer with too much information or they will think it's too much work to bother!

Lord Alessandro

A report on the recent Newcomers Moot by Lady Reina:

Tips I learned from the Illumination and Calligraphy session at the Newcomer's Moot, November 11th

To get started all you need is a few basic supplies which can be found for under \$10, or higher depending on your project.

Use acid free, heavyweight paper for best results.

For scroll blanks, a good size of paper to use is 9x12 or 11x14.

Allowing at least a 1 - 1 ½ " border on your paper is a good idea to allow space for framing.

Using period books, such as illuminated bibles, for a reference are a great way to get design ideas.

Design the layout and coloring of your project on a piece of practice paper first.

A #4 pencil is better to use since it tends to be lighter and sharper than your usual #2 pencils.

Gum erasers are much better than the regular pinks, they will lift markings from your paper instead of spreading them around.

Rolling rulers work great for making straight even lines.

A few various sized buttons on a string make great templates for vine curves and are easy to transport.

Watercolors, acrylics, color pencils or markers are all good things to use depending upon your project. Oil paints not so good since they take so long to dry.

Mask-it, a good product to use when you want areas of your illumination to remain white. Just apply, paint and rub off to expose the white areas of your project.

Wassail Bowl

PERIOD: Modern | SOURCE: Contemporary Recipe | CLASS: Not Authentic

DESCRIPTION: A Wassail with fried apples as a garnish

3 Tbs. light corn syrup
 3 Tbs. sugar
 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
 5 apples
 2 qt. apple cider
 1 lemon, sliced thin
 1 stick cinnamon
 4 whole cloves

Heat corn syrup. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Cut apples into round slices, about 1/4 inch thick. Roll slices in hot syrup then in sugar mixture. Bake at 400° F for 15 minutes. Heat cider, lemon, cinnamon, and cloves. Pour into punch bowl and add apples.

A Boke of Gode Cookery- Wassail Bowl © James L. Matterer

Wassail is a hot, spiced punch often associated with winter celebrations of northern Europe, usually those connected with holidays such as Christmas, New Year's and Twelfth Night. Particularly popular in Germanic countries, the term itself is a contraction of the Old English toast *wæs þu hæl*, or "be thou hale!" (i.e., "be in good health"). Alternate expressions predating the term, with approximately the same meaning, include both the Old Norse *ves heill* and Old English *wes hál*.

History O' thee Wassail

While the beverage typically served as "wassail" at modern holiday feasts with a medieval theme most closely resembles mulled cider, historical wassail was completely different, more likely to be mulled beer. Sugar, ale, ginger, nutmeg, and cinnamon would be placed in a bowl, heated, and topped with slices of toast as sops. Hence the first stanza of the traditional carol the Gloucestershire **Wassail dating back to the Middle Ages:**

**Wassail! wassail! all over the town,
 Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown;
 Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree;
 With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.**

At Carhampton, near Minehead, the Apple Wassailing is held on the Old Twelfth Night (17 January). The villagers form a circle around the largest apple tree, hang pieces of toast soaked in cider in the branches for the robins, who represent the 'good spirits' of the tree. A shotgun is fired overhead to scare away evil spirits and the group sing, the following being the last verse:

**Old Apple tree, old apple tree;
 We've come to wassail thee;
 To bear and to bow apples enow;
 Hats full, caps full, three bushel bags full;
 Barn floors full and a little heap under the stairs**

Submitted by Lady Reina

Note that James Matterer, author of *A Booke of Gode Cookery* is also known as Master Huen, a cooking Laurel. Truly period recipes for Wassail are in short supply. Here is a recipe for 17th C Wassail (Lambs Wool) from *The Royal Household 1633*:

Boil 4 pints of ale;- beat 6 eggs the whites and the yolks together; set both to the fire in a pewter pot; add roasted apples, sugar, beaten nutmegs, cloves and ginger; and being well brewed drink it while hot.

Ealasaid

Job Description – Officer: Web Minister and Deputy Web Minister

The Web Minister is an important officer, playing many roles and serving many people. The web site represents the SCA to people both inside and outside of our organization. The Web Minister is a person responsible for maintaining the content of a web site. This title refers to the person who exercises editorial control over the content of the web site, not the person who maintains the underlying computer system on which it resides, while most of the time they may be the same individual.

Requirements and Expectations of Duty

1. Local Web Ministers must be paid members of the SCA, Inc.
2. Maintain contact with Kingdom superiors and read the Northwatch, especially the Web Minister's column, for possible policy changes and updates.
3. Must subscribe to the Northshield Chronicler's e-mail list for discussion of possible Policy changes.
4. Expected to be familiar with and follow the policies in the Society Chronicler's Policies, and Web Minister's Handbook.
5. Work together with the Chronicler for the good of the group. In both positions, it is their duty to disseminate information as quickly, easily and efficiently as possible to the populace.
6. Required to report on time to the Kingdom Web Minister quarterly.
8. Payment of web hosting fees are managed by either the Web Minister or Exchequer. The payer will be reimbursed for web hosting fees either quarterly or biannually.
9. Keeping records of pertinent website information such as email addresses, directories and directions to members homes.
10. Attending a majority of the monthly meetings to give an activity report. The deputy or a proxy may give report in the absence of the Web Minister.
11. Maintaining and updating the website with data received from members or meetings at a minimum of bi-weekly.
12. Encouraging members and populace to use the website and email suggestions regarding error, improvements or comments.
13. The Deputy is responsible for maintaining contact with their supervisor and expected to be actively learning how to maintain the website and learning the various duties of the Web Minister.

Strongly recommended to have the following qualifications:

1. The ability to create and maintain a web site.
2. The ability to create and manipulate graphic images, or have a skilled graphics person available.
3. Access to web hosting for the group's web site, preferably through a service paid for by the group.

CALENDAR

December 2007

- 8 Boar's Head-A Boar's Tale [Caer Antherth-West Bend WI]
- 15 Yule Tide [Border Downs-Sioux Falls SD]

January 2008

- 5 Twelfth Night [Schattentor-Rapid City SD]
- 12 Dutch Treat [Castel Rouge- Winnipeg, MB]
- 19 Twelfth Night [Nordskogen-Bloomington, MN]
- 26 It's only a flesh wound [Jararvellir-Jefferson, WI]

February 2008

- 2 Shattered Oak Celebrates 20 Yrs! [Chippewa Falls, WI]
- 3 Brigid's Fyre [Orlova Dolina-Bemidji, MN]
- 9 Hertzkreig XIV [Svaty' Sebesta-Vermillion SD]
- 16 Lupercalia [Rivenwood Tower-Nicollet, MN]
- 16-17 Une Fete d'Amour [Midewinde-Minot ND]
- 26 Fighter's School [Windhaven, Kimberly, WI]

March 2008

- 9-16 Gulf Wars XVII [Lumberton, MS]
- 21-23 that Moot Thingy VIII {Coill Stormeil-tomah WI}
- 29 A Polish Haire Affaire
- 29 Sunrise [Silfren Mere-Rochester, MN]
- 29 Ides of March 15 [Trewint-Huron SD]

April 2008

- 12 Coronation [site to be determined]

May 2008

- 9-11 Crown Tournament [Caer Antherth Mawr-Wautoma WI]
- 15-18 Quest for Camelot {Schattentor-Nemo SD}
- 22-26 Lusty Day in May [Western Keep-Sisseton SD]
- 23-26 Ages of War Italian Wars [Silfren Mere, Austin MN]
- 30-1 Mermaids [Turn am dem See-Valders WI]

Fighter practices for both Rapier and Armored will be held on Monday night at UWSP in the Quandt Gym balcony and Room 154. See the website for directions.

December Moot

**Saturday December 15, 1 pm
hosted by Lady Margarite,
Lady Anatolia and Auden
held at
8631 S 52nd St, Wisc Rapids**

**Please bring a dish to share. The ingredient for this month is nuts,
but all contributions, whether or not they contain nuts, are welcome.**

Directions:

From points north: Take I-39 South to County B
(Plover Exit) Turn Right.
Turn Left on County F
Turn Right on County W.
County W will turn right. DO NOT TURN. Go straight
onto Townline Road. Turn Left on 48th Steet. Follow
curve to left. Turn right onto 52nd Street.

From points west: Find Nekoosa. Take Hwy 73 East.
At the Hwy 73 Stop Light, GO STRAIGHT. Turn right on
52nd Street.

From points south: Take I-39 to Hwy 73 West. Turn
right on 52nd Steet.

Phone: 715-325-5231

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

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

Officers of Falcon's Keep

Seneschal: Lady Mary of Falcon's Keep (MKA Mary Welker)
 104 Florence St, Wausau, WI
 715-297-1230 venom@charter.net

Deputy Seneschal: Lord Justinian

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn Harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)
 851 East Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470
 715-427-0402 grimr_fairhair@yahoo.com

Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Isabeau of Winter Rose (MKA Alyce Knutson)
 3230 Reber Dr, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 715-421-0953 3230knut@tznet.com

Deputy Exchequer: Maebh de Blancheville

Knights Marshall: Lord Robert the Mase
 mase@charter.net, 715-347-4999

Marshall of Fence: Lord Vincent Palmer (MKA Conan James)
 1215 Parker Ave Apt 10, Mosinee, WI 54455
 715-693-7369 nomed@mtc.net

Marshall of Archery: vacant

Minister of Arts & Sciences:
 Lady Emily Ambrose (MKA Tabitha Degenhardt)
 620 N Ash Ave, Marshfield WI 54449
 emilyambrose@charter.net

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: Oz the Baker

Minister of Youth: vacant

Chronicler:
 Mistress Ealasaid nic Phearsoinn (MKA Elspeth Christianson)
 C3808 Heartland Hills Rd, Stratford, WI 54484
 715-687-4870 ealasaid@fibernetcc.com

Deputy Chronicler: vacant

Chatelaine: Lord Alessandro of Falcon's Keep (MKA Jason Welker)
 104 Florence St, Wausau, WI
 715-297-0718 chaosgeneral@charter.net

Deputy Chatelaines: Lord Gabriel Michalik

Web Minister: Lady Reina Gunnora (MKA Raynee Randall)
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 715-572-3079 reina_gunnora@yahoo.com

Deputy Web Minister: Guinevere Aloisia of Falcon's Keep

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December 2007