

# the **Doongstone**

WINTER • A.S. XLIX, Issue 1



*All the news of Malagentia that is suitable for repeating in mixed company*





#### SENESCHAL

Col. Christian Woolfe, OP  
seneschal@malagentia.org

#### CHATELAINE

Lady Odelina of St. Albans  
heatheracreighton@gmail.com



#### CHRONICLER

Lady Christiana Crane  
christianacrane@ymail.com



#### MINISTER OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Doña Camille DesJardins  
artsandsciences@malagentia.org



#### HERALD

Lady Muirenn Ban  
herald@malagentia.org



#### WEB MINISTER

Lord John "Izzo" Fowler  
malagentia@gmail.com



#### EXCHEQUER

Lady Tiernan Shepherd  
exchequer@malagentia.org



#### KNIGHT MARSHAL

Lord Richard Crowe  
knightmarshal@malagentia.com

#### MINISTER OF FENCE

Baroness Mylisant Grey, OP  
fencing@malagentia.org

#### ARCHERY CAPTAIN

Lord Deormund Wulfscyld  
rpdominic@yahoo.com

#### THROWN WEAPONS MARSHAL

Lord Boden Henebry  
bodenhenebry@gmail.com

#### MINISTER OF THE LISTS

Lady Wynefryd Bredhers  
MOL@malagentia.org



#### QUARTERMASTER

Lord Samuel Peter DeBump  
samhain@dcr.net



#### CHANCELLOR MINOR

Lady Thalia of Malagentia  
minor@malagentia.org



# Dispatch from the Chronicler

Last year when I stepped into the position of Chronicler, I was uncertain if my crazy vision for the newsletter would pan out. Was there really a place for them anymore or were they on the road to extinction?

I couldn't be more pleased that my hypothesis was right. The newsletter is not a relic of the past, but a useful and valuable tool for our present and future. From all the words of encouragement and from the articles and photos that keep coming in, I see that you agree with me.

Between all the photographers and artists to writers, poets, and interviewees, we make a good team. The Moonstone has a strong pulse, so now it's time to kick it up a notch.

This year, I'm really digging into my bag of Chronicler tricks to bring you a better looking and more useful newsletter than ever before. My initial vision was to create a real two-page magazine-y feel, but in talking with many of you, I've learned that the way I think I'm presenting information is not necessarily the way it's being seen. Some of you like the magazine-style reader format on your desktop screen. Others prefer to read single-page PDFs on a tablet or phone. Still others like going old-school and printing it out. My new goal is to design a look that works for everyone in whatever format is most convenient to you, and at



the same time, to give you a newsletter that not only gets you excited to play the game, but also to want to contribute your voice to our history.

Your chance starts now. The theme for the Spring issue of The Moonstone is "Diversions". Have a medieval game you like to play? An interesting melee or shooting variation that's a fun novelty? A project that kids will enjoy? I'm looking for any entertaining aside that adds a fresh twist to our game. Want to write but need inspiration?

Let me know! I got a million ideas and one of them may be the thing that speaks to you. Deadline is April 5.



In service,  
**Christiana**

**On The Cover:** Lysa Foxwood of House Blue Ribbon enjoys the fellowship of her clan sisters and all those she has the privilege to call friend. She can be found gifting blue ribbon tokens to brave fighters off to battle. When she is not boosting the morale of our warriors, Lysa enjoys experimenting in the kitchen with period recipes, or doing battle of her own with fabric, thread and a needle. Recently she has taken an interest in archery and the art of scroll work.

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## PUBLISHING POLICY

*The Moonstone* is published four times a year in January, April, August, October; *The Moonstone* is currently available only as a free, online PDF publication and can be downloaded and viewed on the Malagentia website at <http://malagentia.eastkingdom.org/main/category/newsletter/>

*The Moonstone* is supplemented by the much shorter newsletter, *MoonLite*, which is published seven times a year as a record of the events of the Province of Malagentia. There are no July publications in Malagentia.



# from the pen of the Seneschal

Happy New Year to All!

I'm not sure about you, but I've felt as though 2014 came and went in a flash. Even with its perceived brevity it still came laden with its own set of wondrous discoveries, moments of joy, and its fair share of sadness.

We have seen our Province grow with individuals committed to making this dream a brilliant reality. Individuals have been recognized for their dedication and craft. We have seen and felt the absence of good friends.

I've been taking some time to review our past newsletters *The Moonstone* and *MoonLite*. Each of these offer a perspective I think we would all find valuable. This Province is rich in history through both prosperity and strife. The faces, names, and stories of those who have come before us come out of these pages. They offer wisdom without asking anything more than our brief attention.

Upon reflection I see that at times our identity can be a difficult thing to reason

with. This has been an issue since the earliest days and it is the same with many other groups as well as with the Society as a whole. What this group means to one may not be what it means to another (and this is often the case). We have to

be sure that in our efforts that we remember this, respect this, and nurture the positives even when negatives can often come hand in hand with them.

We have the joy and honor of each other's company through all of these events. We have the privilege of this time and this life.

No matter what Household, Guild, or Riding you are in, we are proud. We are Malagentia. I'm proud to be a part of it all.

Be kind to yourselves and each other this year.

It is my honor to serve,



Christian



## WAR IS COMING!

Great Northeastern War 29 will be on us soon and we need your help to make it a success. Volunteers are needed to load the truck, set up and break down, run Gate, teach classes and so much more! If you would like to help, please contact the Autocrat Tiernan Shepard at [autocrat.gnewar@gmail.com](mailto:autocrat.gnewar@gmail.com)



# This Month in Malagentia

## Province Notes

**From the Seneschal:** An Officers Meeting is in the works with an agenda to be published soon. If you are still without a deputy, please get one. During meetings, if you would like to make a non-SCA announcement, please do so after all the SCA announcements have been made and please make it clear that it is for a non-SCA activity. Also, so that everyone can hear during the meetings and because sometimes our time is tight, please keep the side conversations until the meeting is done. Officers, if you are unable to attend, please let Master Christian or Mistress Honig know in advance so we can cancel and people don't make an unnecessary drive. The word of the month is obstreperous. It means loud and difficult to control.

**From the Chatelaine:** All is quiet on the demo front at this time. There have been four new folks show up to practice on Tuesdays and they are all students. If you see them, please help them feel welcome.

**From the Chronicler:** The Spring Moonstone looms ever closer! The subject is "Diversions". The deadline is April 5. We need cover art and articles. What things do you enjoy doing during the "down moments" at an event? Have another topic you'd like to cover? We'll take that too! No article too big or too small! Assignments and lengths given upon request!

**From the Arts & Sciences Minister:** There were music practices over the Christmas holidays and they are still going on as announced. Dance practice is the second Thursday of the month at the big white church in Gorham. The sewing gathering had nine attendees with more sewing circles planned as interest presents itself. The Bards of Malagentia put on a delightful mummers play at Winter Feast and are working on their next project. Contact Lord Frederick if you have interest in joining the fun. A choral group organized by Lady Solveig also performed at Winter Feast. If you'd like to be involved with future singing performances please let her know. Scribal events are being run by Lord Alexandre on an as-announced basis. Keep an eye out on Facebook and Yahoo for future workshops.

**From the Herald:** No new names or devices have passed for anyone in

Malagentia. If you are in need of a name and device, please contact lady Muirenn for assistance.

**From the Web Minister:** We have a fully operational website. In January, Facebook saw 219 posts and the yahoo group saw 36 messages. Facebook had 2 new members join and Yahoo stayed static.

**From the Exchequer:** We have money! With some big events on the horizon, folks should still be conservative with their spending. Also, if you can think of any good fundraiser for the province, we'd like to hear about them.

**From the Knight Marshall:** Practice is Tuesdays from 6 to 9 at the Sullivan Gym on the USM campus. Admission to the gym is \$5 (cash only) and you will need your ID. Practice will move back outside once the weather cooperates.

**From the Minister of Fence:** Practice is Tuesdays from 6 to 9 at the Sullivan Gym on the USM campus. Admission to the gym is \$5 (cash only) and you will need your ID. Practice will move back outside once the weather cooperates.

**From the Archery Marshall:** Counting the days until Spring.

**From the Mistress of the Lists:** We have lists! Lady Wynefryd will not be at practice normally, so if you need a MoL, please let her know in advance and she can show up. Also, if you're submitting list paperwork, please have it go through her so that she can keep track of it through its various hoops.

**From the Quartermaster:** The building of the pavilion crates has begun and will hopefully be done by GNEW. All of the feast gear has finally been engraved so it is easier to keep track of.

**From the Chancellor Minor:** The youth are in hiding but there are plans in the works for some youth oriented workshops leading up to perhaps an event later on the year. If you are interested in being part of this conversation, please contact Lady Thalia.

## In Other Business

There was not a quorum for the February meeting, so there was no meeting. Subsequently, there will be no February MoonLite. As your Chronicler has been

## Malagentian Mayhem

- **Lucien de Wynter** became a companion of the Order of the Golden Rapiere at Birka.
- **Alexandre St. Pierre, Ro Honig von Summerfeldt, Carolyn de laPointe, and Camille des Jardins** were each awarded the Queen's Honor of Distinction for their work on the East Kingdom Calendar.
- **Rafael de Ayala de Santiago** was made a Companion of the Order of the Silver Rapiere.
- **Christine Violet** received her AoA at Birka.
- **Simon Peter Squirrel** received his AoA at Birka
- Former Malagentian **Lucie Lovegood** was inducted into the Order of the Silver Crescent at Birka.
- **Richard Crowe** came in 12th in the Birka Heavy List Tournament.

delinquent in her duties – or maybe she was just out playing in the snow – this late Winter Moonstone will have to do.

There is a Arts and Sciences Symposium in Giggleswick on March 21 at the Elliot Church.

The Heavy List and Fencing University has been canceled due to excessive conflicts with other major events.

Ravensbridge has the Hugin and Munin event – their first – coming in May.

GNEW will be on us before we know it. Lady Tiernan is looking for volunteers to help set up on Wednesday. If you are interested, please let her or Lady Wynefryd know. Many hands make light work!



# Reporting In

## The Annual Updates From Our Officers



### From The Herald

Beannachtaí a chairde. Hail and well met gentle folk. My name is Muirenn. I

was recently elected to the office of herald for our fair Province. I am a relative newcomer to the Society but with each new connection my love of the game deepens! Should you have a need in registering a device or a name

please feel free to email me at [muirennban@gmail.com](mailto:muirennban@gmail.com) or hunt me down at the monthly province meeting and I shall do my best to assist you! I am in regular contact with Lord Conall an Doire, Blue Talbot Herald, as he continues to mentor me while I serve the Province.

In mise le meas,

**Muirenn**



### From The Quartermaster

Greetings from your Quartermaster. We still have stuff, and it

still gets used. By the time you are reading this, we will have just had Winter Feast, and will have used some of the servingware that was bought last year. The

crates for storing the tents are finally underway, so help with setup or cleanup at GNE to check out the finished crates.

The projects for 2015 is to add shelving to storage, and to color code tent parts so that it is easy to identify what goes to each tent.

**Speedbump**



### From The Minister of Arts and Sciences

It was a very good year for the Arts & Sciences

in Malagentia! In addition to the regular practices and rehearsals, we had workshops and other get-togethers and displays of all the wonderful things we have created. The Riding of Giggleswick held a successful Arts event in the Spring, and one is already scheduled for this coming Spring. There were three new members added to the Order of the Laurel; Mistress Honig, Mistress Mickel, and Master

Maxton. Lady Rose earned her spot as Provincial A&S Champion with some amazing cookies. The bardic group took off with great enthusiasm, built a puppet theater and puppets, and held several performances at GNEW to the delight of young and old alike. We found a new space for dance practice which will serve us well in the coming year, and the Dissonatas instrumental groups appears to be gaining a bit of momentum. Looking forward to another great year!

**Camille**



### From The Web Minister

Hello, friends!

This year was a bit rough on the web site.

There was a kingdom server upgrade that affected all sites, but ours had some peculiarities that made our outage extra long. The East Kingdom Web Ministry devoted a good deal of extra time to our problems and eventually things were straightened out.

While the site has been up our members have been good about adding posts and events (which include practices, meetings, etc.). If you would like to be able to make posts or add events please get in touch with me.

There have been some other changes in kingdom policy that should ensure that the Kingdom Web Ministry can handle the site if Malagentia is ever without an official web minister. All local group sites must now be hosted on the Kingdom web server, and Wordpress sites (such as ours) must now have an admin account for the Kingdom Web Minister. We were already on the East Kingdom server, and they now have an admin account to our sites. There is also a new helpdesk system for the Kingdom Web Ministry that should help them keep support requests moving along.

Your new Deputy Web Minister is Conall An Doire.

Elsewhere on the Web, Malagentia can be found at Facebook and Yahoo Groups. The Yahoo site has email integration and is our official means of communication. If you have a practice or meeting that you want recognized as an SCA event (giving you, among other things, any insurance coverage that SCA happenings receive) it must be announced by an agreed-upon method, and for us that is Yahoo Groups or [malagentia.eastkingdom.org](http://malagentia.eastkingdom.org). Publication in the newsletter also meets that requirement. The Facebook group has a larger membership and is more active. It is a great place to echo official announcements.

Do you have ideas about how to make the website better? Please let me know!

**Malagentia's website:** <http://malagentia.org>

**Yahoo group:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/malagentia>

**Facebook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/216925495108464/>

(or search for "Malagentia" in Facebook)

**Malagentia Web Minister email:** [malagentia@gmail.com](mailto:malagentia@gmail.com)

**3220**



### From The Mistress of the Lists

Happy New Year to the Province! 2014 saw a

great many fighters and fencers on Malagentia's fields! I hope that 2015 will bring many more to our battles. If your authorization has lapsed, is soon due for renewal, or you feel you are finally ready to take up arms against our aggressors, please see myself and/or a marshal and we will ensure you are fit for battle! If you have questions regarding proof of your battle-worthiness,

do not hesitate to contact me at [mol@malagentia.org](mailto:mol@malagentia.org) or find me at events or near the practice field in summer. I humbly request that all provincial authorizations be submitted through me, so that I can ensure that all our fighters and fencers receive their proof in a timely manner. Also be aware that The Great Northeastern War is your last chance for authorizations if you'd like to fight in the Pennsic War to our South. I am always, your humble servant,

**Soddynefrud**



## From The Chatelaine

I am retiring from the Chatelaine role at the end of the year and my goal is to leave having made the improvements I set out to do. Last year saw a serious weeding of Gold Key, repairing what we have and removing those things that were inappropriate or not salvageable. This year, I hope to build our Gold Key back up.

Demos are a great recruitment tool and the best way to help bring in new people is to come share your enthusiasm! While demos are a great way to show off fighting, I would love to put on more demos that showcase some of the other things we do so well. Dancing, singing, or just being there to talk to new people are great ways to put our best foot forward. If you would like to help out at the next demo or showcase your SCA passion, please let me know.

If you have an idea for a demo, the best way to set it up is to contact me well in advance. Six to eight weeks is a good amount of time, though more is always appreciated. We can talk about your idea and the opportunity and figure out the

best way to put it on and what exactly we'll need. All martial activities require a Marshal, so if you would like a demo with fighting, I need time to arrange it.

As for my retirement, this year saw a lot of changes in my personal life. I went from an unemployed college student to a married woman and working full time. I have loved my time serving my Province and have learned a lot about myself, the SCA, and the people in our great community. However, I feel as I begin the next chapter of my life I would like to find different ways in which to donate my time. The lovely Ascelinne de Chambord, who has done the job of Chatelaine in the Barony of the Bridge has agreed to step up as my successor and will be looking for a deputy. A successful Chatelaine has to be good with people. If you find yourself talking to strangers in the fabric store about your amazing hobby, then you might be Chatelaine material. If you love what you do and love telling people about what you do, then consider joining the ranks of the Chatelaine.

**Odelina**



## From The Chancelor Minor

Hey all!  
My newest youth deputy, Collette, had

this great idea about putting in a bid for Winter Feast and having it centered around children and families.

Throughout the year, we would host workshops and round tables with kids of all ages about recipes, food, event organizing, and the like all with the ultimate goal of having them play a large part in the running of Winter Feast.

This gives them a chance to not only get together in a fun setting, but also to learn about areas in which they might have a particular interest and to give them experience in running

events (with a lot of adult guidance). This will give them a chance to do more than just show up at an event as they will be responsible for making sure everything happens smoothly for attendees.

A dialog has been started to work out details and pitfalls and we would love to hear your ideas. There are plans in the works for a March food making workshop for kids and we're hoping to do something once a month for the rest of the year. If you have an interest in running a workshop or have ideas, please let me know.

**Thalia**



## From The Captain of the Archers

The snow flies like arrows, and the wind is as keen as any broadhead. At times it's hard to believe that spring will come. Still, the longest nights are already behind us. February will soon yield to March, and March to April. And then....

But what to do while you're waiting? This is the perfect time to overhaul your equipment. Check arrows closely for damage. Break and discard any cracked arrows, but save the points, nocks and fletching. Cut the shafts short for convenience. Heads can usually be removed by heating. (I use the kitchen stove after Larissa has retired for the night. A few seconds in the microwave will soften glue enough to remove nocks without melting the plastic. Do NOT put metal in the microwave!)

Carefully strip fletching from broken shafts with a utility knife or single-edged razor blade. Refletching is best done with a special clamp called a fletching jig, but you can manage without one if you are careful. Fletching usually runs straight or at a slight angle (called helical). Be sure your replacement lies the same way as the feather you removed. (Left- and right-wing feathers are different. Avoid using feathers from different sets of arrows unless they match!)

Whiskers on strings are not a good thing! Check your bowstring for signs of wear. Rub in a nice coat of wax. It might be a good idea to order a new one while you are thinking about it. Come spring, break in the new one and save your used string for backup. Nothing spoils an event like failing inspection and not being able to find a replacement on site!

Archery uses muscles in ways that few other activities do. Most of us lose strength

and accuracy during the off-season. There are a few places in the area where you can shoot indoors all winter: Lakeside Archery in Cumberland is one. Failing that, Google 'Archery Exercises'. A few minutes a day, every other day, and your April scores could look like it's October already!

By the time the snow melts, my SUV will be loaded and ready to assist anywhere in Malagentia. I am particularly anxious to help set up ranges in outlying parts of the Province. No aspiring archer should have to drive more than 30 minutes to practice! If you have an acre or two, I will help lay out a range. I have all the targets and loaner equipment needed. Name the time and place. I will come to you!

Or come to me. I have a small teaching range at my home in Falmouth. If I am in, it's open for Royal Rounds, IKACs, or coaching. I have loaner gear, plus bows and arrows for sale at my cost.

This year we will continue upgrading our targets. The round targets will be replaced on a three-year rotation. All of the old rectangular targets using foam insulation will be gone by GNEW, and the new metal frames will have wood facings to avoid breaking arrows. If things go according to plan, Messy the Moat Monster may be joined by another novelty target....Meanwhile, we always need more marshals. You don't need to be a Master Bowman to be one! If you are interested, please contact me. I will get you trained and warranted.

As ever, I am here to serve you. Tell me what you need, and I will do everything I can to make it happen. The best way to reach me is email: [rpdominic@yahoo.com](mailto:rpdominic@yahoo.com)

**Deormund**





# Being an Ambassador

## *How To Serve New Members Of The Society*

by Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy, KSCA, OP

No matter what time period or culture you pick in the SCA, we all have one thing in common— we were all once newcomers. No matter if your first experience was wonderful or chaotic, something about the SCA encouraged you to stay and participate.

Historically, SCAdians do not have a very good reputation at retaining new members. A group will focus on demos or other recruitment activities but once a new person is in the door, the enthusiasm diminishes and a newcomer is left to their own devices (no heraldry pun intended). I have actually sat in recruitment discussions where people say “If we can bring in 5-10 and we only keep a few, that’s ok.” That is not Ok! If people find the SCA and decide that medieval reenactment is not for them, that’s one thing, but if people find the SCA, don’t feel welcome, and leave—that’s not ok. Most likely they will leave with negative feels and bad news always travels fast. So, a group who is actively recruiting new people should have a service plan for how these newcomers will be supported.

Developing a set of newcomer classes is the best way to inform the new members and provide them tools that will assist in their SCA assimilation. Our Society uses many terms and procedures that may

***A group who is actively recruiting new people should have a service plan for how these newcomers will be supported.***

not be obvious to the outside world. Going to an event is automatic for some of us, but it can be confusing to someone who is new, as well as: how to feast, what clothes to wear, when to use the right greeting, etc. These issues can make or break a newcomer’s event.

We all want to belong and feel a part of something. Those members who are in households get the support they need. Your group needs to provide that level of support to those new members who haven’t found their niche or develop an interest level. Forming a newcomer group is a wonderful way to begin a retention plan. Calling the newcomer to make sure they have a ride, know about an event, or even help with directions is a valuable service to people. Inviting someone to sit under your pavilion, share space at the feast table or even asking them about their interests can make a newcomer feel good about their experience.

I have referred to current members as “SCA Ambassadors”. How we treat our new people affects the future of our Society. I, for one, would like to attend our 100 year anniversary celebration. Let us all focus on bringing new people into the fold in a informative and supportive way.



*Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy has been in the SCA since 1989. In addition to SCA combat, he does woodworking, armor construction, leather craft, and illumination.*





# Remaining Her Faithful Servant

*Elegant Prose, Fancy Letters,  
and Pumping up the Dream*

by Nicol mac Donnachaidh

Courtly love, literary tropes dealing with idealized love among the aristocracy, can be found throughout medieval literature. The stories follow noblemen who make grand overtures for the hand of the fair maiden they seek, and there are several themes in our game which can be influenced by them.

The romantic concepts that are embodied by chivalry, artisanship, and the nature of what we are trying to create by way of

“The Dream”, doesn’t only translate into actual love-based relationships. In fact, lots of the literature that had courtly love as core to the narrative was understood to be allegorical – generally either societal or religious. As a vehicle to add immersion into the idealized concept of the medieval period that the SCA portrays, this source material can be very effective. Don’t think that you need to be an exceptionally skilled wordsmith to make this work either. Like all arts, writing this way can  
*(Faithful Servant continues page 9)*



*(Faithful Servant continued from page 8)*  
be done right by being aware of historical precedents, the right tools, practicing and refining.

### The Ideal

As unrelated as it may seem, Courtly Love became a way to teach younger lords how to interact with those above them in station. By propelling their desired counterparts into higher strata, young men were taking what could be unfettered emotions (QED, the tales of The Wife of Bath) and focusing them towards learning how to navigate the social ladder. Gentles who addressed ladies in this manner were seeking to be thought of highly enough to serve them, not be brought into equal standing. They were, in some way, “flawed” by this malignity (represented early by Ovid, in the concept of love-sickness) and thus can only be cured by being found worthy by the lady they sought.

It’s also important to note that the concept of marriage based on love was still somewhat foreign for most of the medieval period.

Marriages were alliances between houses, kingdoms, or noble families. With roots in a staunchly male-centric society, these courtly romances served as a female-centric counterbalance. For men to

desire a woman was for them to go against the societal norms that governed their actions. Affairs of the heart were far too serious to be combined with politics, and several Non-European cultures considered them gifts from divine forces.

Whether or not these relationships influenced the literature emerging at the time or vice-versa is still up for some debate, but there are several shared characteristics in both the continental “Romanz” style literature and Troubadour poetry. It is documentable back to 11th Century Aquitaine and Provence, and the emergence of *gai saber*, itself an attempt to offer a new take on traditional Christian values regarding society. The philosophy was supported by rich, female nobles and by the 13th Century began to appear in documentary evidence from courts throughout the continent. The French court equivalent, “Fin Amour”, took on a character of its own outside of literature.

Once it was embraced by the aristocracy, a deeply rooted sense of gamesmanship among lovers emerged. The SCA has co-opted several rituals associated with courtly love, the most common being favors gifted to fighters from consorts, cohorts,

figureheads, and nobility. These symbols can be seen in site tokens, household favors, tournament favors, artisanal exchanges, and the list goes on.

While our definition has expanded the use of such tokens, their purpose historically was to reward a caller found worthy by the lady pursued; they were gifting them with an extension of themselves.

All manner of gifts were extended to them, and though nothing was ever asked for in return, this was a way for the domina to show her favorite servus that he was on the right track. Secrecy was strictly adhered to, save for only the most trusted confidantes, as these relationships were frequently adulterous. Thus, while the lady may be lavishly courted, her responses were subtle in return.

### References

Understanding the origins of the courtly love ideal is important to craft your approach. Ultimately, having access to specific examples of the language and character of this ideal will be your best tool to learn how the language should flow. Luckily, there are scores of resources available from a variety of different angles, time periods and locations. This list should certainly not be considered comprehensive, even within the scope of Continental Europe. These quotes all play on several standard tropes: supernatural intervention, elevation of the object of desire, and weakness or failings on the part of pursuer.

Theocritus is a Greek poet from the 3rd Century BC, and is credited with a series of bucolic and mimetic poems, epics and lyric poetry. There are questions as to the authenticity of some of the works which have been credited to him, but there is still ample material regardless.

*“One half of my life, I am  
conscious, has flown/ The residue  
lives on your image alone.  
Fair she is, as other damsels:  
but for what the simplest swain/  
Claims from the demurest maiden,  
I must sue and sue in vain.  
Yesterday I watched her pass me,  
and from down-dropt eyelids peep  
At the face she dared not gaze  
on--every moment blushing  
more--  
And my love took hold upon me as  
it never took before.”*

Some of the most romantic poetry ever penned can be found in the Song of Songs, the Canticles of King Solomon. While considered scriptural since the 2nd Century, these writings do not discuss covenant or  
*(Faithful Servant continues page 10)*

***The SCA has co-opted several rituals associated with courtly love, the most common being favors gifted to fighters from consorts, cohorts, figureheads, and nobility.***



Left: Court of Love in Provence in the Fourteenth Century. (Manuscript of the National Library of Paris)

*(Faithful Servant continued from page 9)*

wisdom like you would find in the other books of the Old Testament. They deal with physical love, and although scholars consider them allegorical, as a reference to God's love for Israel, the language can certainly be treated literally as describing a holy coupling between man and woman. They are considered the birth of the concept of the Holy Garden, which has been used as allusion to an object of sexual desire.

*"We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine.*

*Like a lily among thorns is my darling among women.  
You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have  
stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes"*

Marie de France is a poet from 12th Century France and England who was associated with the court of Henry II. Notably, the last poem attributed to her, "Eliduc", tells the story of a Bretonese knight and his lover. It contains many of the tropes discussed above – the secrecy, the trusted emissary of messages between lovers, and objects meant to signify his love.

*"But the maiden, from whom he came, was willing to take him as her knight! If such was her will, might any pluck him from her hand?*

*There is no Emperor, under Heaven, if he were tendered your tenderness, but would go the more lightly for your grace*

*The two lovers spoke no further; each was well assured of what was in the other's heart."*

*I have set my heart on a maiden, and she, on me. If, now, we part, there is no help that one, or both, of us, must die. Yet go I must."*

Walther von der Vogelweide, 12th Century German, was a minnesinger who eventually settled in the court of Dukes Frederick I and Leopold VI. He has numerous lyric poems attributed to him,

and was well known for his idealized poetic forms. While his works, and the works of contemporary Wolfram von Eschenbach, are largely available, they are rarely available in translation, appearing almost exclusively in Middle High German.

*"He who has a good woman's love is ashamed of every ill deed*

*Under the linden/on the heath/where we two had our bed/  
you still can see/  
lovely both/broken flowers and grass."*

Finally, Petrarch is easily one of the most well-known Italian medieval poets. His influence over 14th Century art and literature is immense, and among his satires, moral biographies, and religious works is "Il Canzoniere", a collection of 366 poems dedicated to a woman identified as Laura both by name and in epigrams throughout the work.

*"It was on that day when the sun's ray/ was darkened in pity for its Maker, /that I was captured, and did not defend myself, /because your lovely eyes had bound me, Lady.*

*She, who is the sun among those ladies, /shining the rays of her lovely eyes on me.*

*The nightingale that laments and weeps /all night long, sweetly, in the shadows, /fills the heart with thoughts of love.*

*Bitter tears pour down my face /with an anguished storm of sighing, /when my eyes chance to turn on you /through whom alone I am lost from the world."*

Have fun!



*Nicol mac Donnachaidh, from Ravensbridge, broke down and joined the SCA in February after the promises of cordials and homebrews from friends and enemies alike grew too numerous to ignore. He enjoys winning new gear from regional tourneys, and proudly wears his House Smüig training whistle.*





# So You Think You Want to Build a Wardo

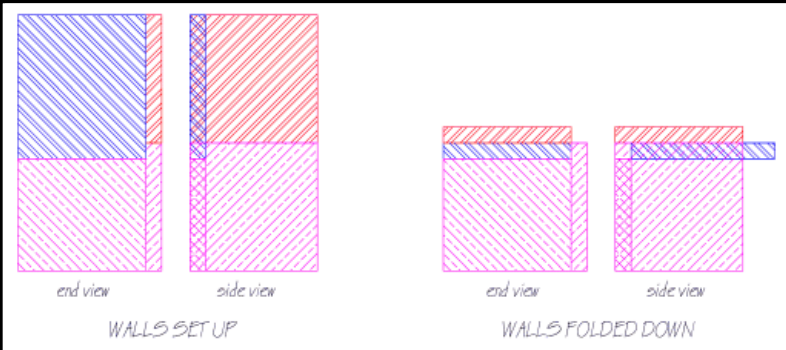
*Or “How Not To Make  
The Same Mistakes I Made”*

by Lord Samuel Peter deBump  
Photos by Lord Brenden Crane

Every person who builds a camper trailer will have different goals. Some will want a home that they will use at a major war like Pennsic, while others will want something they can take to every camping event they go to. Some people spend a lot of time hanging out inside their tent and want the inside to have room and be a showpiece, while others hang out in their camp's common area and use their tent only for sleeping. Because of this, there is often no one best way to do something. Something that worked well for one person may or may not be the right

thing for you. My hope is that after reading this you will have an idea of what to think about when making your own travel trailer, and hopefully learn from some of my mistakes. If you see a camper trailer that you like, try and talk to the builder. Something that seems really cool may have been a major pain in the ass that they would never do again, while something you barely notice might actually be a major improvement they added later.

In trying to keep this article to a reasonable length, I am going to leave out what I learned about welding my own trailer frame since I think few people are likely to go that route. If you think you  
*(Vardo continues page 12)*



**Page 11:** Speedbump and Wynefryd outside their Vardo. **This Page Top To Bottom:** The double doors on a traditional vardo eliminate roof overhang problems. A horseshoe for good luck. Drafting of the folding walls in both the up and down positions. By utilizing every bit of space, out of the way storage can be made for seldom used, but important items - just make sure you measure properly. Portable solar panels provide power for modern conveniences like interior lights and a small vent fan.

(Vardo continued from page 11)

might want to do that, feel free to talk to me. I have a number of things I would change about that part of the build.

I wanted a trailer that I could tow to many events, so I needed to keep it light enough to be pulled by my Subaru Forester. I would have loved an Italian Villa or a Hungarian Cottage, but the planning for those was just too heavy. So I realized that I had to have a canvas top, which led me to the bow-top Gypsy wagon. One of my friends has a trailer that is stored at Pennsic, and for her a shepherd's cottage, which looks like a shed on wheels <sup>1</sup> is a better choice. She had to borrow a friend's truck to get it to Pennsic, but now that it is there, Cooper's staff moves it for her. The peaked solid roof is great for keeping out rodents and shedding snow. But it would be very expensive to tow regularly because of how heavy and non-aerodynamic it is. My trailer with its flat top and tarp could have rodents chew through the tarp, and water and snow buildup on the tarp is definitely a concern.

### Draw Out Your Plans

Once you have an idea of what you want, draw it out, preferably in a scale drafting. Pictures are the best way to communicate to your friends helping you what you want. It also allows you to find problems in your plans through drawing. Drawing things in both open and closed positions will help you spot if things interfere with each other before you find out when it is too late to change it. I wish I had drawn my door open because then I would have noticed that the door would open into the overhang of the roof.

It ends up that actual Vardos noticed this same problem because the upper part of the dutch door is two shutters instead of a single shutter. And definitely draft a folding trailer in both positions. If you want to be careful, you can even draft each stage of the setup / pack down to see if any single step will have problems. When I was trying to have a solid roof, I realized that folding both the side and end walls at the same height causes them to want to be in the same space. The more information that you include in pictures the less likely you will have problems. The folding walls drafting shows how you need to fold the walls at different heights, like Tiernan did on her Roman Wagon, to keep the first from fouling the second.

The more detail you show, the more likely you will avoid problems. The drafting does not include the hinges, which when mortised will have the knuckle sticking up. The hinge will foul the first wall that folds. I didn't think to draft the 2x4 braces that keep my tarp from sagging when towing, and I was lucky that the shelves I built were not 1/4 inch taller or they would have interfered.

### Understand Your Towing Capacity

Most vehicles have some towing capacity, which is rated in how heavy the trailer can be. It takes no account into how much aerodynamic drag the trailer creates. So if you have a trailer that is wider and/or taller than your tow vehicle, and near maximum weight, you could run into problems anyway. Be sure to dig around the towing capacity numbers for your vehicle. It ends up that a Subaru Forester can pull 2000 lbs, but can only brake 1000 lbs. So a trailer that is over 1000 lbs needs its own brakes. If you know a mechanic, you might ask about the weak point in the design of your vehicle. My brother suggested I add a transmission cooler to since Subarus sometimes have transmission issues. Your vehicle manual may also suggest other changes like changing your tire pressure.

### All Trailer Frames Are Not The Same

All trailer frames are not interchangeable. Besides the size of the trailer, trailers are going to be rated for different weights. There are standard classes which relate to how much weight a

(Vardo continues page 13)



*(Vardo continued from page 12)*

hitch is designed to handle. A class I is 2000 lbs and will use a minimum of a 1-7/8" ball. A class II is 3500 lbs and will use a 2" ball. Because of these classes, you will find that trailers are often designed for the different towing capacity of a vehicle. So you will find a frame that is designed for 2000 lbs or slightly under, but rarely will you find one rated for just a little over because that would require the next class of hitch.

There are 3 things that affect the capacity of a trailer: the axle, the coupler and the frame. Whatever is the weakest part is going to create the maximum capacity for the trailer. The reason I mention this was that I was thinking about buying a utility trailer and cutting off the raised sides to use as a base. I didn't do it when I realized that the sides are structural and doing so would severely weaken the frame.

Having a strong frame is perhaps more important for a camper than a normal trailer. The rating is great for determining if a trailer is safe for the towing portion, but a camper gets loaded in two configurations. When set up you will be adding the weight of people inside the trailer which may exceed the rated weight. I have had to set up with the corners on jacks and one tire lifted 6 inches off the ground. Even though a frame could be strong enough to take this, if it is not stiff enough, it can flex, causing the door to bind. At some point I am going to have to get under my frame and weld in reinforcements for this reason. Until then, I have an extra stabilizer under the door.

Some trailers have brakes. These are either hydraulic or electric, but what is the most important is how they know to operate. Some get an electric signal from the car, and depending on how strong, it varies how much it brakes. These require adding a brake controller to the tow vehicle if you want the brakes to work. They will have at least 5 pins on the electrical connector. The other style is a sliding coupler for the hitch. This notices if the trailer is overtaking the tow vehicle, and brakes accordingly. This type of brake needs to have something that senses if the trailer is in reverse, otherwise the brakes will be locked up every time you need to back up the trailer.

### **Stabilizer Jacks**

Stabilizer jacks are little folding feet or stands on the corners of the trailer that keep the trailer from rocking while you are moving about inside. You may also be able to use the jack on the hitch for a front stabilizer. There are also some that look more like a jack stand that you place on the ground and then tighten up to the frame. The jack stand style ones are great on firm, level ground. They leave something to be desired on the muddy, sloping ground of the Pennsic Swamp. I upgraded to bolt-on scissor jacks, because the jack stands will hold the position of the trailer, but they don't have the leverage to lift the trailer if it is out of level. I also was afraid of the jack stand slipping in the mud and dropping the corner of the trailer, especially when I had the wheel off the ground. Since the scissor jacks are bolted on, I am not as concerned about them slipping. Having the leverage to lift the trailer can also give the leverage necessary to twist your frame if you don't pay attention during setup.

### **Legally Towing Your Trailer**

I was a little amazed about how little you have to do to prove your trailer is street-worthy. Technically in the state of Maine, any trailer with a bed is a camper trailer. Camper Trailers are more expensive to register and require a state marshal to come and install a VIN for the trailer. (This gets mounted to metal, so

leave something visible in your towing configuration.) Request the VIN well in advance. The year I built my trailer it took 3 weeks, but estimated from 2 to 4. If you make this officially a camping trailer, then you cannot get tags until you have the VIN. But other than taking photos and measurements, and asking the weight capacity, there did not seem to be any other inspection. So as near as I can tell, make sure that your axle is rated for the weight you specify, and follow the Federal Trailer Lighting Requirements <sup>2</sup>. Had I found this before I welded the frame, I would have tried to make the trailer under 80 inches wide, instead of 81 inches.

### **Maximize Your Space**

A camping trailer is a lot like an RV or a boat in that you want to maximize your space. Any empty space could be a storage cubby. Lift the bed a little so that you can store bins under it, but don't lift it so high that you have problems getting into it. Since the back of the bed can be hard to access, a hatch on the outside will let you access the back of the storage without moving everything in front of it. This space may not be great for things you use regularly inside the trailer, but is a great space for armor, kitchen supplies, or common area gear. It would also make a great place to store the I-hope-I-don't-need-this item like the spare tire, but then you need to make the hatch big enough to fit the tire through it.

Custom storage spaces can be great to avoid wasted space, but you should only do this for items that you are unlikely to upgrade or replace. Otherwise the replacement item might not fit.

So a mirror box, or other period item might be well suited for a well sized storage space, but a cook stove or a fire extinguisher might be a different size when you need to replace it.

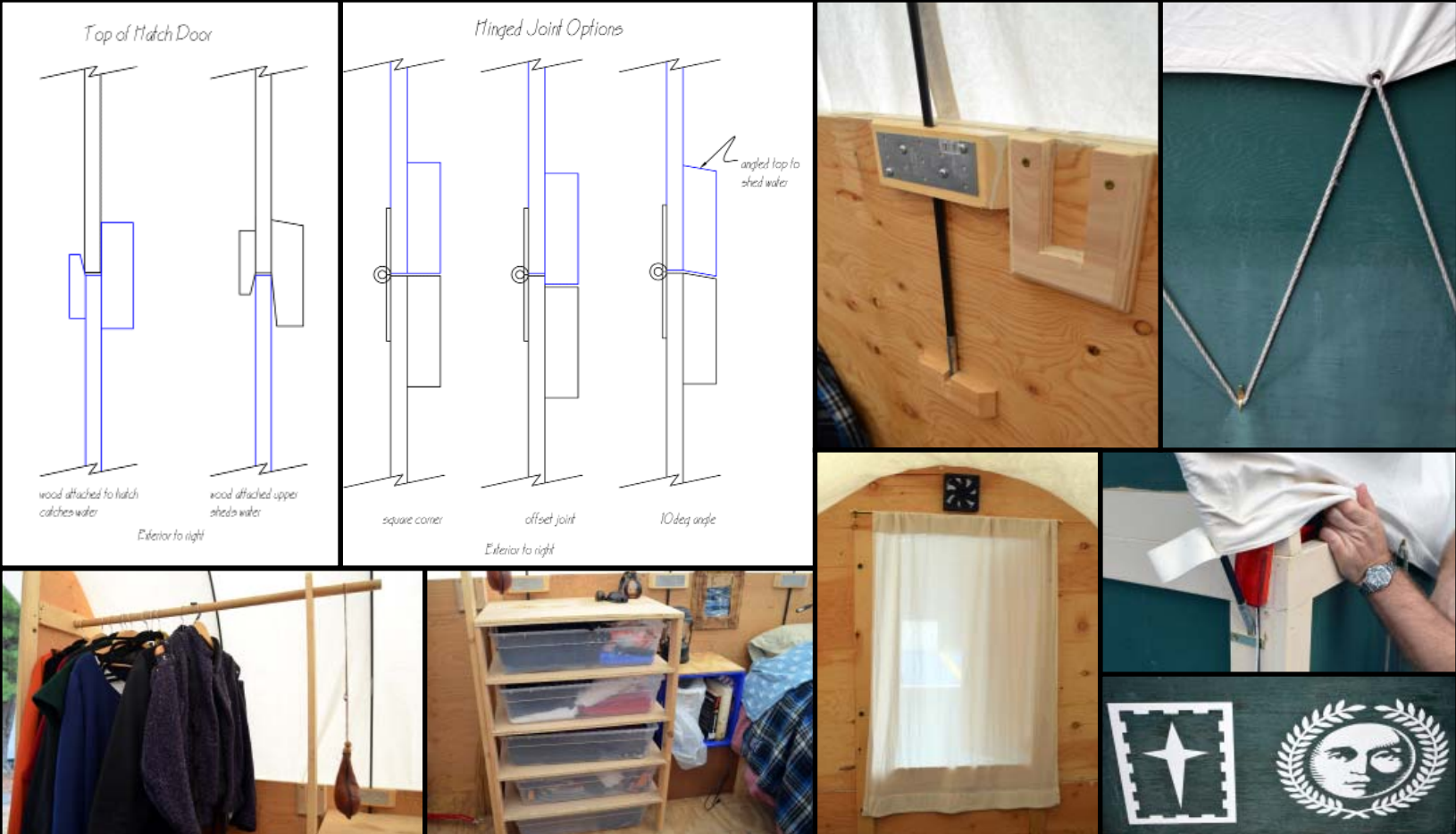
Items that can do double duty are also useful. I have a single step to get into my trailer, which is pretty much a reinforced empty box. A vardo I saw at Pennsic made this a small chest. I realize that this is the perfect solution for the where to store the tools and parts needed for setup, or a great location for stuff that your campmates borrow all the time. An even better dual use thing is if you can have parts that you need in your travel position to also function as something when you are camping. All of my stick lumber that is used when setup to reinforce the folding parts gets laid under the tarp when traveling to help support the tarp from loading up with water. The rope I use for securing my bins during travel doubles as my clothesline during the event. Maybe I can figure out a second use for the 2x4's that hold up my tarp during travel.

Another way that items can do double duty is that the cabinets in the trailer can help to brace and stiffen the walls. The cabinets don't even need backs, because the walls can be the back.

What to do about the trailer hitch.

When you are set up for camping, one of the things that give away the modern world is the trailer hitch (and the rubber tires, but I am more forgiving of those). The removable hitch on my Vardo is not practical on most trailers. The two solutions I see the most are to put the hitch on the opposite side of the door so that it is not so obvious or to make a porch that goes over the hitch. Both have their advantages, but it depends on how you are going to use the trailer. Having the door on the hitch side forces you to either face away from the common area, or to drive through the common area if you need to set up late or leave early. Having the door on the rear of the trailer will make you need to be able to drive to the

*(Vardo continues page 14)*



**L to R:** CAD draftings of the hatch door and options for the hinged joints. A series of sockets along both sides supports the fiberglass poles that give shape to the canopy. A rope goes from cleats and grommets to keep the canvas in place. Clever storage options make the vardo practical

and homey. The window in the back has wood shutters and gauze curtains for privacy while a small fan helps keep the air circulating. Supports for the eves that help keep out weather and provide a bit of shade over the stoop. Decorative work, marking where this vardo is from.

*(Vardo continued from page 13)*

perimeter of your camp site, which can be a problem if you set up on a tree line, or next to a ravine.

The other problem with the trailer hitch is that it likes to take out people's shins in the middle of the night. Putting something around the hitch that is closer to eye height can both hide it and protect people who think they are taking a shortcut to the porta-castles in the middle of the night. I have seen horse cutouts used, but you could also have a table that goes over the top, or use some solar lights to keep it visible in the dark.

### Water Is Not Your Friend

The biggest problem with a wooden structure is it rots. Water can wick into cracks and cause the boards to rot out. Paint is your first line of defense, but smart building can help. I really wanted to make a fancy little hatch where it disappears and is not noticeable except for the lock. Making it swing out meant exterior hinges, and swinging in meant I lost storage space. So I built a little cup that went around the fixed panel and I thought I was good – until our first good rain and I noticed that the rain was inside the storage area. I had mistakenly made the hatch catch water and funnel it inside the vardo. Had I made the cup on the upper section and facing down, this would not have been a problem.

I also noticed that in a really driving rain that the joint in the folding part of my walls can let in water. Was I to do it again, I would angle the joint maybe 10 degrees so that the water would have to go uphill to get in. I also would put a 10 degree angle on the tops of any horizontal boards so that water would not pool (I think someone figured this out years ago since home builders do this on window sills). If you don't have a table saw, you could also offset your joint which will allow water to pool, but not get

inside the trailer.

Canvas and water are also not always friends. If you buy a premade tarp, be aware that the seams usually run the long direction to minimize the number of seams. And the fabric is overlapped and stitched, which makes the seam shed water in one direction and catch water in the other. On my tarp the seams were in the same direction, so when I put the canvas over the vardo, one side would shed water, and one would catch. Hamilton Marine does sell a spray on product that will help with the waterproofing on canvas. My second canvas top I sewed myself and made sure that the seams ran vertical instead of horizontally. I also took Master Maxton Gunn's advice from his tent making instructions and used heavy cotton thread so the cotton will swell when wet and seal the stitch holes.

The other way that water and canvas are not friends is that a tarp that gets wet and then bakes in a hot sun will shrink. I am not sure how much my first tarp shrank, but I preshrunk the second one and that one shrank from 12 ft to 10 ft 6, or over 12%. I was not using tent canvas, so that may be preshrunk, but if not, you may want to plan for it to shrink a little.

I hope that you are inspired to make your own camper trailer someday, and I hopefully you won't repeat mistakes I made.



1. <http://isabelladangelo.blogspot.com/2014/07/the-pennsic-house-is-period.html>

2. <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/rules/standards/conspicuity/trlrpstr.html>

**Lord Samuel Peter DeBump** (fondly called Speedbump) is an excellent cook, a maker of wondrous things and the Quartermaster of Malagentia.





# Winter Feast

**January 10, 2015** — A delightful Winter Feast was held at the UU church on Allen Ave in Portland. Autocrat Elgiva Wilhelm did a splendid job decorating the hall and arranging for entertainment and fine dining. A two remove feast with hors d'oeuvres and dessert courses at either end was prepared by Lord Gruffydd and his crew of Nero, Eoin, Bacon, Honig, Aesa, Alys, Speedbump, and co-conspirator Admiranda. In addition to the delicious food, there was plenty of entertainment to be had.

The Malagentian Players performed an adaptation of St. George

and the Seven Champions of Christendom. Marhalt, Solveig, Holley, Christine, Muirenn and Gregor were joined in their performance by Sir Ivan and Jerry, the Lord of Mistrule.

Those in attendance were also treated to music from the Malagentian Choir, organized by Lady Solveig, and the recorders and guitar of Dissonatas.

The evening was topped off with dancing, and a silent auction to benefit the Riding of Giggleswick.



**Top:** The many folks at Winter Feast. **Bottom, L to R:** This stunning blur is Lady Elgiva Wilhelm, Winter Feast autocrat. The silent auction table. The Malagentian Choir entertains the room with lovely songs. Aiden lends youthful hands with the serving crew. Lady Admiranda finally takes a moment of rest from the kitchen. Speedbump and Bacon clear out some of the dishes between courses. Kyle dons a servers tabard to help feed the hungry guests.





**Top:** The musical stylings of Dissonatas. **Smaller photos to the left, top to bottom:** Chef Griff and Lord Eoin looking poised between removes. Lord Brenden and Mistress Anastasia explain the economics of goat-buying to Abby. Very Serious Duels are fought during the Mummers Play. Lady Constanca and Lady Ellice enjoy the performances. Lord Marhalt and Lady Solveig prepare for battle.

**Large photos to right:** Dancing in the hall. Performers in the hilarious adaptation of St. George and the Seven Champions of Christendom reworked for Malagentia and including the Baronies of Endeweard and Stonemarche, and the Ridings of Giggleswich and Ravensbridge.







## GIGGLESWICK PRACTICES & EVENTS

### Martial Activities

The Giggleswick **Rapier and Heavy List Practice** are now held one Friday per month from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Eliot Baptist Church. In the event of weather or other extenuating circumstance, fighter practice cancellations are announced on the Giggleswick Facebook and Yahoo groups.

**Archery** - The ranges of Giggleswick are closed for the season. Announcements will be made in the spring about reopening dates and times.

### Arts & Sciences

There are currently no recurring A&S events, but check the Facebook page and the Yahoo group for impromptu gatherings and don't miss out on the upcoming Giggleswick Garden of Arts and Sciences on March 21.

## GIGGLESWICK OFFICERS

**Don Lucien de Wyntere**  
Seneschal

jonathan.sholes@yahoo.com

**Rafael de Ayala de Santiago**  
Chatelaine

forbesito@hotmail.com

**Lord Stefan of Silverforge**  
Knight Marshal

stephen@schaefferarts.com

**Pani Astryda Borowska**  
Minister of Arts & Sciences  
astrida@schaefferarts.com

**Beatrice Buontalenti da Firenze**  
Exchequer  
elizabethmforbes@gmail.com

**Cuan hua Ocain**  
Herald, Web Minister

# News from the Riding of Giggleswick

## From the Seneschal

Greetings to our neighbors to the north,

I hope this missive finds you warm and in good company. The new year brings with it some fantastic tidings!

The recent Market Day at Birka heralded an announcement from the Kingdom that we are now a full status Riding! We look forward to the road ahead and growth within our little Riding also the wisdom and guidance of our fair Province. Thank you for your support.

As if this news was not exciting enough, Their Majesties saw fit to honor some of our citizens. Congratulations to our Chatelaine, Lord Rafael de Ayala de Santiago on his induction into the Order of the Silver Rapier!

Then Their Majesties harkened me to Their presence and honored me with membership within Their Order of the Golden Rapier!

This month has truly seen some great things for the Riding I am truly excited at the year ahead.

That being said, as we sled through the downhill part of winter we look forward to the busy spring ahead. Giggleswick will be holding its Giggleswick Garden of Arts and Sciences March 21st. Please come and join us as we celebrate the arts with a large offering of classes spanning the breadth and width of A&S.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead and remain, as always, yours in service.

**Don Lucien**

## GIGGLESWICK Garden of Arts and Sciences

The first day of spring brings with it the anticipation of warmth, growth and renewal. Come and stretch your creative wings at the very first Giggleswick Garden of Arts and Sciences! Bring an instrument and perform, cook food to share, display your latest clothing, all types of creative arts are welcome. Fiber, food, painting, illumination, performing arts, music, astronomy, if it is an art or a science we want you to bring it to display and perform! There will be classes on all varieties of the arts, as well as performances and displays for all ages. A delicious dayboard will be included for all.

Because this is a completely dry site, if you would like to do a display or demonstrate brewing, you may bring ingredients and information, but you cannot bring any actual alcohol onto the premises.

\$15 or \$10 with proof of membership.  
\$5 for children 5 to 17 (regardless of membership).

**Saturday, March 21, 2015**  
**at the Eliot Baptist Church**



# the Incipient Kiding of Ravensbridge

Don't miss a single issue of Ravensbridge's quarterly newsletter *The Corvus* - available on the Ravensbridge Facebook page now!

## OFFICERS

**Baron Syr Kyppyn Kirkcaldy**  
Seneschal

**Lord Antony Martin of Sheffield**  
Herald

**Drottin Broddr Tryggsson**  
Knight Marshal

**Lord Christoff of Swampkeype**  
Minister of Arts & Sciences

**Lady Rose Copper-Steel**  
Chatelain

**Lord Edward Midnight**  
Exchequer

**Duchess Sabine de Rouen**  
Chronicler

## News from Ravensbridge

Fighter Practice space has been arranged in Readfield by Dece, who must be present in order to use the space. It is only available on weekends so the proposed time Sundays 11-3. There may also be a barn in Turner available to arrange a regional practice.

The Hugin and Munnin Event is taking shape. **Antony Martin of Sheffield**, as Autocrat, has secured Monmouth Fish and Game for our first event! Potential dates were discussed and May 16 was selected to avoid conflict with other SCA events. Archery, Thrown Weapons and Heavy List will have plenty of room. Rapier will be included if a Marshall can be located and if there is enough interest.

Member Entry Fee will be \$10 per person. A dayboard is included with the entry fee.

Feast Steward is **Sabine de Rouen** who will be rounding up volunteers for kitchen crew. Clean up crew will be separate group of volunteers. Feast Reservations made to Autocrat and feast is \$5 prepaid.

Heavy List marshal **Kyppyn** has proposed a Silver Hammer tourney – a Hammer shaped arena plus a Tavern Brawl with kids invited to throw duct-tape made weapons/objects at fighters. There is also talk of a Double Elimination Tourney.

There will also be an A&S competition – Norse vs. Knowne World. It will feature functional objects only, ie carved eating knife, blacksmith work for cooking or tools. No purely decorative items will be allowed.

Prize donations are being sought. Please contact Antony if you have something we can give. The Silent Auction also needs donations.

Children's Activities: We need someone to apply to be an SCA Youth Leader ASAP due to the time needed for the background check. Only SCA done background checks apply; teacher credentials, etc are not accepted.

Future demo opportunities are the Balloon Festival in Lewiston and the Whatever Family Festival in Augusta.

## News from Beyond the Borders



### From the Barony of Endeweard:

**Cody of Endeweard** was inducted into the Order of the Tyger Cub.

**Baron Ane' du Vey** came in eighth in the Birka Heavy List and **Lord Oleksander Brazhnyk** came in ninth in the Rapier list.

The **Tournament of Love** was a snowy success and will be followed by **Celebration of King Richard III a Feast and Ball**.

The **East Kingdom University** is April 11 at the United Technologies Center in Bangor, ME.



### From the Canton of Wyndriche:

Wyndriche has seen quite a few new fighters eager to learn more about heavy list. Fighters who want to get in an extra practice and help out the new folks should check the Wyndriche Facebook and Yahoo groups for practice times and locations.



### From the Canton of Basingestoches:

**Lijsbet van Catwii**'s name and device and **Thomas de Marr**'s name have both passed.

An **archery range** is being cleared in Ellsworth. People interested in lending a hand to this project should contact Thomas. Check the Basingestoches Facebook page for regular event schedules.



### From the Shire of Hadchester:

**Thomas de Winterwade** was made a Companion of the Order of the Silver Crescent at Birka. **Alexander Clarke** was given the Kings Order of Excellence by Edward III.



### From the Barony of Stonemarche:

Another highly successful, if somewhat snowy, Market Day at Birka was had on January 24. **Baron Sir Matthew Moravaeous Abdenmork** came in second in the Birka Heavy List.



## Requiem for Summer

So sleeps the Province, so sleeps the dream  
The leaves have finished their fall  
So stowed are tents, so froze the streams  
Heavenly snows, a terrestrial caul  
So smolder the ashes, sewn are the seams  
Carefully mending our tunics and shawls  
So slumber the bears, so deep the bream  
Quiet have grown the wild's wrawls

The revels grow quiet with the passing of fall  
The cold is deep settled, the sun a fleme  
Who winks for a moment, barely but seen

To friends near and far, a toast to you all!  
Next summer holds promises we all will redeem,  
But so sleeps the Province, so sleeps the dream

— Nicol mac Donnachaidh

## Did You Know...

### *Toasts and Precedence*

Toasts are a common occurrence at feasts, but did you know there is a traditional and formal procedure to offering them here in the East?

There are six toasts to be offered at every feast: to the King and Queen, to the Prince and Princess, to the Baron and Baroness (if the feast is served in a Barony), to the Chief Cook and the Kitchen Staff, to the Autocrat and Event Staff, and finally to Absent Friends.

Now, before you jump up to offer one of these toasts, it is also tradition that they are offered by peers based on the Order of Precedence. Toasting order is usually arranged by the Herald and if a peer should decline making the toast, the Herald offers it to the next peer in line.

While these six toasts should be given in order, they should not all be made at the same time. Feasts are a time for conversation, cheer, and of course, dining so these things shouldn't be interrupted by a string of toasts all in a row. Toasts to the King and Queen and the Prince and Princess are usually offered at the beginning of the feast. Toasts to the Chef and kitchen staff should come as the second remove is served – after everyone has tasted the fare – and the toast for the Autocrat and Event staff come after that. The toast to absent friends should come at the end of the meal, but before the last dishes are served.

For more on SCA toasts, visit <https://macnaceardadh.wordpress.com/2013/07/04/to-toast-the-crown/>

## When Heralds get bored

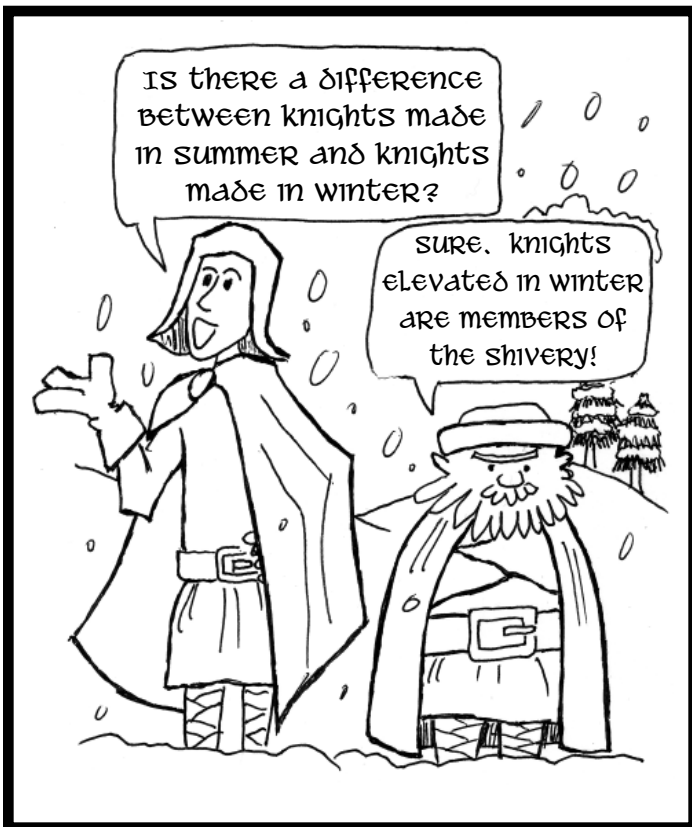
BY BODEN HENEBRV



Sable, a boar savy wavy gules and argent  
MMMMM.....BACON

## cart talk

by CHRISTIANA CRANE



# Province Activities

## PROVINCE

### BUSINESS MEETING

First Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm at Doughboy's Deli, Westbrook.

Meeting starts at 7 but many folks gather early to visit and chat. Come join the fun!

### FIGHTER PRACTICE

Every Tuesday from 6-9 pm at the USM Sullivan Gym, Portland. Gym Fee: \$5

Fencing and fighting in conjunction with the USM Blade Society. There is a gym fee of \$5 (cash only) and you must show a photo ID. Children under 18 are not allowed in the gym. Practice is inside the gym until the long days of late spring return.

## MUSIC PRACTICE

Wednesdays as announced on the Malagentia Yahoo Group.

An evening of practicing medieval music for dance and entertainment. Please contact Mistress Mickel for times and locations.

## DANCE PRACTICE

Second Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm at the First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham.

No prior experience necessary. Bring comfy footwear and water.

## ARCHERY PRACTICE

Usually Saturdays & Sundays, weather permitting, as announced on website and Yahoo. Locations vary across the Province.

## BARDIC BRUNCH

Third Sunday of the month from 11 am- 2 pm at the Big House on Brighton.

Please check the Malagentia Bardic Group on Facebook for details. Some food and drink will be provided, please bring something to share. Contact Lord Frederick Van Der Veer for more info.

## FIBER MEETUPS

Once a month on Saturday or Sunday, as announced on Yahoo and Facebook.

Contact Caiollwynn of Brynmyr or Ascelinne de Chambord for more information of future meet-ups. Spinners, weavers and fiber enthusiasts of all skill levels welcome. Occasional outings planned.

## SCRIBAL WORKSHOPS

Dates, times and locations vary.

Currently being organized by Lord Alexandre St. Pierre. Contact him for details on the next meetup.

## YOUTH PRACTICE

As announced, usually the third Sunday of the month while the weather is still warm from 10 am- 2 pm at Hill Top Farm in Standish.

Loaner gear available. Adults welcome to come play too. Contact Q or Thalia for details.



# Upcoming Events



ENDEWEARDE

### Celebration of King Richard III: A Feast and Ball

March 14, 2015  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor  
120 Park St  
Bangor, ME 04401  
11am-10pm

Come join the Barony of Endewealde as we celebrate the re-interment of King Richard's remains with a feast and a ball.



GIGGLESWICK

### Giggleswick's Garden of Arts and Sciences

March 21, 2015  
Eliot Baptist Church  
912 Dow Hwy  
Eliot, ME 03903  
9am-6pm

Come and stretch your creative wings at the very first of Giggleswick's Garden of Arts and Sciences! See the East Kingdom website for details about this site.



HADCHESTER

### Caristia III

March 28, 2015  
Rockland  
Congregational Church  
180 Limerock Street  
Rockland, ME 04841  
12pm-9pm

The Shire of Hadchester invites you to join us in celebrating a historical Roman holiday celebrating love and family and the welcoming of friends.



CAROLINGIA

### Carolingian Baronial Investiture

April 4, 2015  
Boylston Schul-Verein  
(The German Club)  
8 County Street  
Walpole, MA 02081

Please join the Barony of Carolingia as we invest our new Baron and Baroness, Colin Ursell and Nicolette Bonhomme. A full day of martial & non-martial activities are planned.



ENDEWEARDE

### East Kingdom University

April 11, 2015  
United Technologies Center (UTC)  
200 Hogan Road  
Bangor, ME 04401  
8am-3:30pm

This EKU is an all encompassing university with a full list of classes ranging from Arts & Sciences to Marshall Activities to Service. See the East Kingdom website for details about this site.