

the **M**oonstone



Malagentia's Quarterly Publication



Dear Malagentia,

As I write these words on the first day of Spring, nature puts truth to the calendar date. Crocuses are in bloom, the cries of geese can be heard overhead and every bird in the province is madly trying to impress a mate with colors and song.

In many ways it feels like we all are also awakening from a too-long winter. Many from our province attended and helped at the Aisles of March event to our south; Fencing, Fighting, Dance and Scribal practices are all in full-swing, and the Foresters held a workshop and enjoyed recent wintry weather.

We are, as I have noted at a recent online provincial meeting, shifting from neutral into first, maybe second gear. Best of all, we are doing so with good grace and humor and an understanding that we all may not be where we were a few years ago – physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and more. We are giving ourselves and each other the space to dip our toes back in safely and in our own time.

It is a great thing, and I thank you all for your consideration in this. I promise you, we will follow all state and SCA policies and do everything we can to ensure every event we hold will be as safe as possible for everyone.

We have a new elected officers corps that is fully engaged and working toward our future. Our Webmistress is actively working on a new and improved website. Our Chatelaine is already scoping out PortCon, so we have time to prepare. Our Heavy List community is working on youth loaner gear. Our A&S Minister is doing all she can to support the great work you're all doing. And a great, great many of your friends and peers (small and large 'P' both) are already working hard on GNE 2022.

As you read these words, I have two challenges for you:

1. Continue to take your own good time, and to allow your fellows their own good time, as we all seek to return safely. Please, please, please, exercise due caution, avoid events if you are not feeling well, and do your best to keep yourself and all of us healthy. Stay safe, and make that a priority.

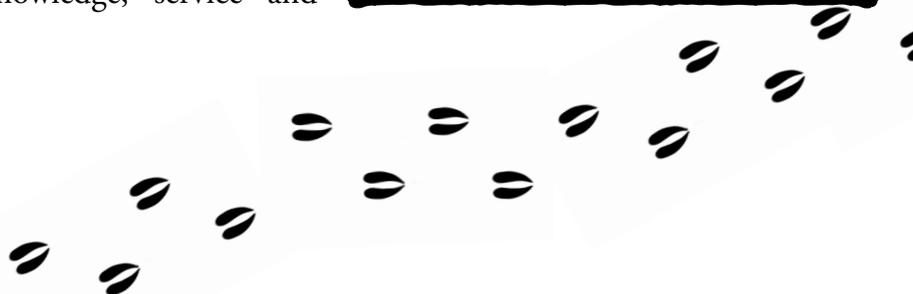
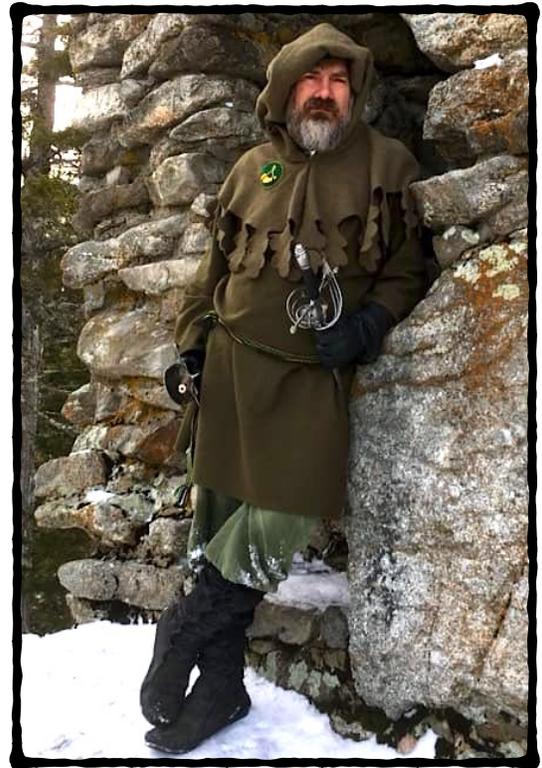
2. I'd ask all of you to think of your place in our community, and consider ways in which you might give back a bit. This might be an article for the Moonstone. It might be stepping up to be a deputy officer. It might be helping with an event, or spending time building gear or creating garb for loan. If you need ideas, ask. Any officer (including me) is happy to talk, there's a lot to do and many hands make light work.

I continue to be inspired, amazed and humbled by the community that is Malagentia. The people that make up this wonderful province are ... frankly, tremendous. Your skills, talents, knowledge, service and willingness to share them all are unparalleled.

From my heart, thank you.

Yours in Service,

Wyck



Ravensbridge ...



...is doing the things!

The plague did not stop our progress.

Awards were received by our group to include

- ◆ Catalina Maria DeLuna - Award of Arms
- ◆ Ulfeidr Artudottir - Silver Wheel
- ◆ Karl Falchner - Order of the Silver Tyger
- ◆ Order of the Golden Mantle
- ◆ Magnus Surtsson - Silver Wheel
- ◆ Aloysuis Sartore- Silver Arrow
- ◆ Margeret Sevesterre - Award of Arms

We have many talented folks looking to share their knowledge. If there is something you want to know more about please reach out to chatelaine@ravensbridge.eastkingdom.org and I will get you in touch with someone who can help.

We will begin looking at as many practices as we can soon please keep an eye on our calendar for those dates and locations.

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Hesychia of Ravensbridge
Chatelaine for Ravensbridge
Northern Region Deputy for Soothsayers Guild

Archery Practices & Locations

Archery practices should be starting soon, and I endeavor to get them posted on the calendar on our fine website. There are at least two locations up in Ravensbridge, however, I don't know of any in the Southern Marches of the Province. So if you have an interest in hosting a practice, and some space and time, please do let me know. The Province has equipment if you do not, so don't let that be an obstacle.

Thank you,
Aloysius,
archery@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

SENESCHAL

Mat Wyck (He/Him/His)
seneschal@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

HERALD

Volmar Sollons (He/Him/His)
herald@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

EXCHEQUER

Shyvan Floyd (She/Her/Hers)
exchequer@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

CHRONICLER

Wynefryd Bredhers (She/Her/Hers)
chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

CHATELAINE

Collette d'Avignon (She/Her/Hers)
chatelaine@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mickel Von Salm (She/Her/Hers)
aands@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

KNIGHT MARSHAL

Micah of Brighton Manor (He/Him/His)
knight@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

MINISTER OF FENCE

Justin Turner (He/Him/His)
fence@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

ARCHERY MARSHAL

Aloysius Sartor (He/Him/His)
archery@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

THROWN WEAPONS MARSHAL

Tomas Thrown (He/Him/His)
thrownweapons@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

MINISTER OF THE LISTS

Ilulia Baebiana (She/Her/Hers)
mol@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

CHANCELLOR MINOR

Marie d'Agincort (She/Her/Hers)
youth@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

WEBMINISTER

Tessa Maria da Siena (She/They)
webminister@malagentia.eastkingdom.org

QUARTERMASTER

Speedbump (He/Him/His)
quartermaster@malagentia.eastkingdom.org



Great Northgate

It's baaaaack ♦ ♦ ♦

It's finally time to have GNE once again! July 14-17 are the magic dates, at the usual location. Weather will be mildly sunny, about 65 - 72F, perfect for a few days with a few hundred of your closest friends. We plan to have all the usual things, and I'm sure there will be a few surprises too. I'm really looking forward to it.

In order to put an event of this size on, we will need your assistance. Perhaps you have an hour or two to check vaccinations and covid tests before gate, or you'd like to help people out and keep an eye on things with the overnight watch. Water bearing for fighters will be different, but we'll still need help getting that done. And as always, setup and teardown after are big jobs that need hands and labor to get done. (And you can get your own tent set up early that way!)

Feel free to send e-mail to gnew@malagentia.eastkingdom.org or find me on facebook messenger if you have questions or suggestions. And keep an eye on <https://malagentia.eastkingdom.org/gnew> for information on what's happening, what's changing a little, and other things you'll want to be aware of.

One important note, gate pre-registration will open in a few weeks. This year we would like everyone to pre-register. Pre-pay is not required to pre-register. We'll have the option to pay via paypal or at the gate, but to make the gate faster and avoid

crowding, we'd like to get your information collected in advance so you'll just have to check in, pay if necessary, and right through.

I'm excited for this event, it's been far too long. Can't wait to see all of you!

-Aloysius Sartore

Event Steward GNE 34

Powered by Speedbump's Chai



Image: Adobe Stock



DID YOU KNOW!?:!

Youth Combat Marshals DO NOT have to be a fighter of ANY kind! If you, or someone you know, have wanted to become a Youth Combat Marshal – for Heavy OR Rapier – but thought you had to be a combatant first, here's your chance!

Contact myself (or your local Chancellor Minor) or Peter J. Miller (the EK Youth Combat Northern Deputy) to start the process in becoming a YC Marshal in Training!

At this time, Youth Combat RAPIER marshals have to be Adult Rapier Marshals first, so it is a two-step process. Do not let this discourage you however! You can STILL be a non-combatant Rapier Marshal! Heavy list Youth Combat Marshals just need to Marshal in Youth, vs both.

AND if you are a current Rapier Marshal and are interested in becoming a YC Rapier Marshal, please let us know! You're already halfway there!

What better way to guarantee you have the best, safest sparring partners in the future, then by training them yourself?

ALSO, at this time we are scouting out locations to use for future Youth Combat practices as we come out of the panini (as our seneschal calls it). If anyone has any leads on a commercial indoor space that would allow us to hold Youth Combat practices, please let me know. A residential address cannot be used unless that residence is also registered as a business.

Thank you all! Have a glorious week!

YIS,

Lady Marie D'Agincourt
Chancellor Minor



Calendar of Events

- April 7 - Province Meeting
- April 9 - Coronation, NY
- April 14 - Dance Practice
- April 21 - Scribal Class
- April 30 - Malagentian Test Kitchen
- May 5 - Province Meeting
- May 7 - Crown Tourney, QC
- May 12 - Dance Practice
- May 19 - Scribal Class
- May 20-22 - Embroidery Schola, RI
- May 27-30 - Panteria, VT
- June 2 - Province Meeting
- July 14-17 - Great Northeastern
- July 29-Aug 14 - Pennsic 49, PA

Visit <https://www.eastkingdom.org/events/> for all Kingdom events

This is the Spring 2022 issue of The Moonstone, a quarterly publication of the Province of Malagentia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Moonstone is available by request at no charge from Kim Ballard, chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2012 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

With the new year arrived the opportunity for the Province members to begin gathering once again. Knowledge shared remotely became projects shared in-person.

The monthly dance practices and scribal workshops returned to the Provincial calendar. Both activities currently meet in Gorham, at the First Parish Congregational Church, and are open to all who are interested regardless of skill level.

In March, Mickel von Salm hosted a virtual artisans' meet & greet. Many who attended discussed their overall life as a SCA artisan and what inspired them to embrace those skills, while some also showed specific works in progress to the group. This gathering will hopefully become a regular occurrence, be it online or in-person.

At Aisles of Marche, Tiffan Fairamay and Gregor von Medelhelm exhibited their recent projects at the kingdom A&S display, while Mairghread Huntley demonstrated various fiber arts at the Dabblers Guild table. Scrolls by Tiffan and by Colette d'Avignon were among the many presented during Court.

Several individuals around the Province continued their work across various disciplines, from fiber arts to woodworking to metalworking to scribal to culinary arts. Upcoming gatherings and events will hopefully see those works brought to light and appreciated by many.

A & S in Malagentia



Winter a Wonderland for Malagentia's Foresters

With a pristine blanket of fresh snow o'er all the land, Malagentia's Foresters and friends did recently take to the woods of Bradbury Mountain State Park to enjoy food, fire and friendship – and to exchange knowledge and skills.

A hearty handful-plus of Malagentians and a friend from Endeweard gathered for a daylong workshop of the Foresters Guild, dubbed "Otzi's Workshop." The first such event, Otzi's Paradise, was held in February 2021, and also included official winter camping. This year's workshop was a day event only, though a few intrepid souls did camp overnight, after the event closed.



"Otzi" was the name given to a 5,000-year-old mummy found in the Alpen glaciers.

The East Kingdom Royal Foresters Guilds is open to all who have an interest in medieval outdoor living and skills – and all workshops, etc., are open to anyone, guild member or not. It is the purpose of foresters to research, recreate, educate and demonstrate historical tools, methods, equipment and techniques for living, camping, traveling and cooking, in the outdoors or in wilderness locations.

For more information on The Forest Court of Malagentia, contact Keeper Mat Wyck at seneschal@malagentia.eastkingdom.org, and check out ekfg.eastkingdom.org for more information on the EK guild.



Foresters toiled mightily to start and keep a fire going in a firepit that was glacial in nature; a massive hunk of ice filled the base, providing a challenge for firemaking. After some decent success, the fire was carefully moved to a second, dry firepit which was placed atop the first.

Those in attendance cooked over the fire, and discussed and displayed on-going projects, including a nifty pair of medieval skis. Underforester Lady Wynefryd did lead others on a walk of the environs, teaching the identification and discernment of various insectoid pests that do threaten the green.

Many tracks were evident in the environs, including deer, coyote and those of small rodentia. Many woodpeckers were heard in the forest, and, at night, the call of several owls.



How To Make Shell Gold

- Collette d'Avignon

MATERIALS:

- Real gold leaf (23k or 24k) – (usually one would use leftover scraps from laying sheets of gold leaf)
- salt
- honey
- mortar & pestle
- clear glass container (small, like a tiny mason jar)
- eye dropper or pipette
- distilled water
- optional: gum arabic



Scraps of gold leaf - Collette d'Avignon photo

PROCESS:

Locate all of your gold scraps and combine them in a small container. I use a small paint cup with a lid (see image) to store the scraps.

Next, combine the gold scraps, salt, honey and water to the mixture. The estimated amounts that I use are thus:

- 1 tbsp gold
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1/2 tsp salt (adding more slowly if needed)
- 1 pipette full of water (adding only 1-2 drops at a time if needed)

I recommend not using the same mortar and pestle that you may use for food.

Salt – your abrasive grinding agent

Honey – glue and binder

Water – thinning agent

Grinding this gold mixture will produce something the texture of gloopy paint, and that's good! Continue grinding until smooth, or until no large pieces of gold are seen.

When you are happy with the consistency of your gold mixture, place the mixture into your storage container (I use a tiny mason jar used for canning) and top with your distilled water. Give the jar a good shake and allow the gold to settle to the bottom. When most of the gold has settled, use your pipette and remove most of the water in the jar, then add more water, shake, and repeat! I typically repeat this process until the water is no longer sticky or salty. I test this by dipping my finger in the water and rubbing my fingers together. If the water feels sticky or smells very sweet, OR if it feels gritty or leaves a salty residue I continue my rinsing cycle. I DO NOT TASTE MY WATER. Though this is likely a period practice, I do not personally practice this to prevent myself from accidentally tasting something I should not... which could easily happen with pigments. However, in this case, the gold leaf will not harm you and it is OK to taste.

When you are satisfied with the cleanliness of your water, use a pipette to remove most of your water and pour the gold mixture into a storage container (like the little paint containers with lids seen above... historically it would be stored in a shell!)

When storing, the gold mixture will dry out, so to rehydrate, mix it with a few drops of water, OR you can store it as a ready-to-use paste by just adding some gum arabic.

The benefit of using true shell gold is that if you use a separate rinse jar, all of the gold that washes off your brush can be used again to create more shell gold!

A bottle containing a message washed upon our shores not long ago.

I felt it prudent to share with the populous...



To all who would read this missive:

Reports have reached our most excellent ears that a shipment of sheep, sent by ship to our Cousins Endeweard, has gone astray. One of the spring storms blew the ship somewhere off the coast of Carolingia, where upon they were beset by pirates.

The crew was already at their wits' end, from dealing with damage from the storm and sheep (apparently transporting a hundred head of sheep by ship is not recommended) - since they could not put up much of a fight, the dastardly pirates left them alive.

Our Cousins Endeweard have been kind enough to extend us grace during this time, since the sheep were payment in exchange for numerous libations, Mead, and mead; rather than seek litigation through their Royal Majesties. We do not wish to prevail upon that kindness for any longer than necessary.

Testimony from the beset upon ship's crew tell us that the pirates spoke with a very distinctive Carolingian accent. Many people also made note of how Their Excellencies Carolingia found themselves in possession of two of Stonemarche's sheep during their Majesties Court during the Aisles of Marche. When confronted, their Excellencies claimed their innocence, that they had been framed!

We would ask the populace of the Kingdom: Who would benefit from framing the Carolingians?

This is not the first time Carolingians have made off with Stonemarche Sheep. They have coveted our livestock and ample parking for well over a generation and Stonemarche will not stand for it. We put aside past grudges during the Plague, but this dishonorable action will not go unmet!

Unless all hundred head of sheep are returned to us, so that we may pay our Noble Cousins Endeweard back, we will have no choice but to take to the field of battle.

All with information deemed relevant, please come forward.

Righteous, Wronged and Awaiting,
Their Excellencies Stonemarche,
Keziah and Deirdre