



# The Moonstone

Winter 2024

AS LVIII

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Photo by Maxton Gunn



*Dear Malagentia.*

**As I mentioned** at the start of our January Province meeting, I was particularly taken with how Malagentia closed out 2023 – and began 2024.

Through December, we held weekly fencer and fighter practices, hosted scribal, craft, dance and game nights, had members explore the woods in a garbed hike and ‘invade’ Two Lights State Park for a full day of rapier combat and cut & thrust swordplay. January started with a flavorful bang, as our Cooks’ Guild and Foresters’ Guild collaborated on an amazing Winter Solstice Potluck.



Photo by Mat Wyck

At pretty much all of these events, we had folks who have been involved in the SCA for decades, and some who have been with us less than a year. We’ve had folks who have been gone for a bit, and who have returned (like me).

***Above all, we had welcomeness and community.***

Let’s keep that rolling through 2024 and beyond. Let Malagentia be the place that is open to all, that is the home folks need. It starts with each of you – be open, be honest, be genuine. We always want more people to play with – and that’s how we should roll. If we see barriers, we work together to remove them. We recognize the importance of our traditions and stories, but we’re also open to new ideas, new ways of doing things. 2024 is going to be a big year for us: Otzi’s Paradise, Test Kitchen, Spring’s Inspirations, GNE, Harvest Moon, Huginn & Muninn – I’ve heard rumors of a dance/gaming event, too.

As Seneschal in the coming year, a top priority will be the modernization of our Provincial bylaws and helping me will be my three deputies – Collette D’Avignon, Aurelia Colleoni a’Buccafurno and Amée le Mort. We’ll be looking for help on that project, and others, too.

As always, I am humbled and gratified to be serving this wonderful community. If you have questions, concerns, thoughts or anything else to share, please feel free to reach out via Facebook, Discord or at [seneschal@malagentia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:seneschal@malagentia.eastkingdom.org).

YIS,

*Wyck*



**Dear Malagentia,**

I am delighted to bring you the first Moonstone issue of 2024. And what better time for a newsletter than after A Market Day at Birka, held in the Barony of Stonemarche just a few short weeks ago? Though the event itself was hosted by a different group, Malagentia turned out in droves to volunteer, fight, marshal, herald, dance, game and most of all, be recognised for all the amazing work that we do. I've done my best to include the names of all those who were recognised in Court, but my sincere apologies if there was anyone I missed. You all make it hard to keep up.

Closer to home, we have an introduction to our recently elected officers, news from our active guilds, upcoming local events and more. Thank you to all those who submitted content and, as always, if you would like to contribute an article, photo or idea for something you'd like to see in future issues, please feel free to reach out to me via [chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org).

Thank you to everyone for making my job both easy and a delight.

In service to community,

Aesa



Just waiting for someone to come hold an event...

Photo by Mat Wyck

## Officers

### **Seneschal:**

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# Get to Know Your Officers!

**As you may know**, the Province held our bi-annual officer elections last December, and as of January first, in addition to those individuals continuing on for another term, we have some new faces in familiar roles. Here's a little bit of info about each of our officers, both new and returning:



**Seneschal:** Mat Wyck has been Malagentia's Seneschal for the past three years, and is very much looking forward to his next two years in the role. He started in the SCA in 1990 in Endewearde, then strayed for a few decades before returning to the wonderful wackiness in 2016.

Wyck's primary interest in the SCA is rapier combat; he is a member of the Order of the Golden Rapier. He helped found the local chapter of the Foresters' Guild and was Malagentia's first Keeper of the Forest Court. He and co-conspirator Col. Woolfe also founded two newly popular Malagentia events – Otzi's Paradise and the Malagentia Test Kitchen. Wyck has recently started providing the narrative for scrolls, as well.

A member of House Fulton, Wyck enjoys building community for all and loves working with all folks, new and old, to help them find their SCA groove.



**Chatelaine:** My name is Collette d'Avignon (she/her), and I am your local New Member Coordinator! My job is to find out your interests, put you in touch with people that can help you explore this game that we play, and get you information about practices, meetups and local events. I have been a member of the SCA since 2017, and always appreciated the warm welcome and inclusion I felt from my New Member Coordinators (and friends!).

With that, my goal has been to help grow this office to be inclusive and welcoming to all, giving everyone who comes to Malagentia the same welcome I got not so long ago. Since starting, I've been practicing painting, garb construction,

embroidery, dancing, singing, instrument playing, fencing, and whatever else I have time for!



**Chronicler:** Aesa Ormstunga found their way to the land of Bad People some many years ago and despite wandering around other places for a while, they never really left. Since starting in the SCA, they've enjoyed exploring heavy armoured fighting, rapier and cut & thrust, cooking for both feasts and dayboards, metal-work, enameling, archery and being a general nuisance. In previous years, they've held the office of Rapier Marshal and Provincial Herald, and are now looking forward to helping to build community and share news of the Province through The Moonstone.



**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** I am Lady Octavia Valeria, your newly appointed Arts and Sciences Minister. Having immersed myself in the SCA for about 5 years, my passion for the arts ignited early in my journey. Illumination was my initial discovery, paving the way for a myriad of other hobbies.

As a proud member of The Keepers of Athena's Thimble, an embroidery guild, and an apprentice to Duchess Honig, I find joy in the diverse artistic pursuits within our community. What captivates me most about the SCA is our collective gathering to elevate and celebrate each other's achievements. Together, we foster growth and inspire one another to become better individuals. I am thrilled to contribute by teaching and creating opportunities for us to come together, fostering art in all its forms.



**Exchequer:** (Shyvan Floyd) I've been playing since GNE 2004. I've got a terrible case of helium hand (wanting to help at all times). I started becoming more involved in roughly 2008 and initially started playing heavily in Stonemarche where I did many event setups, tear downs, deputy event stewarding, deputy gate stewarding (including many times for Birka) and even cooked a few feasts.

I came back to play in Malagentia in Jan. 2019 where I walked out of my first Province Meeting

running gate for GNEW, and was soon talked into becoming Chronicler in January 2020 until December 2021, and then took over as Exchequer in January 2022 and have just been elected for my second term. I'm always happy to help where I can, and one of my most favorite things is helping to make the magic happen for my friends and watching newcomers discover that magic.



**Knight Marshal:** Micah of Brighton Manor is thrilled to be returning for another season term as the Province's Knight Marshal. An avid heavy armored fighter, he was inducted into the Order of the Chivalry at the Crown Tournament of Mohammad and Corotica in autumn of 2022. In addition to running the Province's weekly armored practices, Micah has been instrumental in organizing combat activities at Great Northeastern War. He's always happy to talk about armored combat in the SCA and would love to see new and interested people show up to practice.



**Rapier Marshal:** Aurelia Colleoni a'Buccafurno has been in the SCA since January 2016, when she attended Birka on a whim, not knowing what it was. She then went to her first fencing practice and was hooked. When she's not on the fencing field, Aurelia is a scribe of the East, embroiderer, seamstress, and doer of way too many things. Aurelia moved to Malagentia in July and is looking forward to helping grow and develop the already strong fencing community here as the new Fencing Officer.



**Archery Marshal:** Hi! I'm Aloysius (AL-oh-ISH-us) Sartore (SAR-tor). I go by he/him and occasionally "Hey!" I've been playing in the SCA for more than 10 years now. I dabbled a bit and eventually found that I enjoy archery, especially the crossbow. I even built one with the great assistance of Master Godric from up in Endeweard. I earned my archery marshal warrant, thanks to many marshals who like to teach, started off by our local Ravensbridge Archery Captain Magnus Surtsson. The archery community is friendly and welcoming,

and when the need presented itself for a local Archery Captain for the Province, I decided I had to add to the friendly and welcoming, and build on it. I marshal practices, some of our events, and I work quite extensively with Pennsic archery leaders to make archery happen there as well. I have a few other hats, which you can find on my EK wiki page, and I look forward to seeing you on the field soon! Even if you're just there to watch - you never know, you might see something spectacular.



**Minister of the Lists:** (Frances Hastings) Fencing was what brought me to the SCA. I experience so much joy fencing in pick-ups and tournaments, and I absolutely love seeing that joy on everyone's face when they remove their masks and helmets after a fun bout. After being a part of it for a year and a half, I'm excited to be able to be more involved in this aspect of our society. Beyond fencing, I have been active in the Cooks' Guild and the Foresters' Guild, where I can explore historical dishes, ingredients, and methods of preparation in-home or over an open flame among the trees.

**Quartermaster:** As the official Keeper of the Stuff in our fair Province, Reynard Heyler has all the excellent qualities needed in a Quartermaster—he can pick things up, put them down and has a very large trailer. When he's not making an entire GNE's worth of stuff fit in the back of a truck, Reynard can be found most often on the heavy list field.

The **Herald, Web Minister** and **Thrown Weapons Marshal** could not be reached for comment, however they are all similarly remarkable people and worthy of note.

**If you're interested in learning more about any of these Offices and the responsibilities therein, please reach out via the contact info found in the Officer Section of this newsletter or the Province website. If you'd like to go even a step further, becoming a Deputy Officer is a great way to get involved and learn more about the inner workings of the SCA!**



# Winter Solstice(ish) Potluck

Written by Lydia Webb



Photo by Lydia Webbe

**The Cook's Guild** of Malagentia met up in Litchfield on January 6th to celebrate winter feasts and the return of the sun. Originally this event was scheduled for mid - December, much closer to the Solstice, but life intervened and sent one of the hosts halfway

around the world. So we postponed until after the bulk of the winter holidays were over and folks could return from travel.

Lydia and Ulfrik hosted a garbed potluck and we had over 20 attendees show up, most of whom brought wonderful food to share! We had started a few fires outside, but most folks did not make it out back to cook over that hearth.

Cooks from all over Malagentia brought dishes like pease pottage, shortbread, fruit cake, sauerbraten, Roman burgers, and homemade goat cheese. We had lots of good conversations and departed with full bellies—and leftovers! It was everything we set out to be—a celebration that we do not do famine!

In the next several months, our Cook's Guild will be sharing recipes regularly and working to update the cooking section of the website. Our next official meeting is planned for a maple syrup/sugar session down in Gorham mid March, but there may be a pop up event before then. Watch for an announcement on our Discord and Facebook groups!

In the meantime, here is the recipe for one of the wonderful dishes that was shared: courtesy of the incomparable Camille des Jardins.

## Camille's Split Pea with Ham Soup!

Ingredients:

- Hambone with a generous quantity of meat
- Dry Split peas, 2lb
- Celery
- Carrots
- Onion
- Parsley
- Summer Savory
- Water, 1gal+1pt

Directions:

- In a large stockpot, cover hambone with water, approx. 3qt to 1gal. Bring to a low boil and immediately turn heat down to simmer for 4-6 hours (I leave it bubbling away overnight). Cover pot. Watch evaporation, there will be some but not a significant amount as long as the heat is low enough to maintain simmer but not boil.
- After stock has simmered enough (it will be a lovely rose-gold color, hopefully), remove from heat. Remove bones (the meat should fall right off). Skim the floating fat bits and remove any overly fatty or unpalatable chunks of meat as desired. Use a potato masher or fork to further shred the meat if necessary. Return to medium heat.
- Rinse and clean 1-2lb of dry split peas (1lb per approx. 1/2 gal water seems to make soup rather than spackle), add to pot. Stir regularly.
- Cut up onion, carrots, celery, any other veggies (fennel bulb sometimes is tasty) into small chunks and add to the pot. Measure them with your heart (I used 2 small onions, 6 medium/large carrots and 1 1/2 hearts of celery for ~1 gal water and 2lbs peas).
- Add summer savory and parsley (about 2-3tbsp for quantity in this recipe)
- Add remainder of gallon of water plus up to 2 cups for desired consistency/pot capacity.
- Cook until peas have lost any resemblance to split peas and your pot is filled with green bubbling goo.
- Soup will thicken as it sits. Add water as desired to thin per serving. Freezes well (thank goodness).

# VIVANT!

**At this past Market Day at Birka**, held in the Barony of Stonemarche on the 27th day of January in year 58 of the Society, Their Majesties held a Court (or two, or three) in which to recognise the great many accomplishments of their populace. As is right and proper, the populace of Malagentia was seen at these Courts to be well celebrated in across a variety of fields and disciplines, with those who received accolades recorded as follows (note—these are grouped for ease of listing and do not appear in order of precedence):



Photo by Collette

Sakurai Tatsuko, for showing notable skill and enthusiasm on the fencing fields, was inducted into the **Order of the Silver Rapier** and presented with a scroll by Collette d'Avignon, translated by Elizabeth Valladolid.

No fewer than four of Malagentia's own were called up to be recognised for their skills in Arts & Sciences:

Aster Crane was recognised for their focus in the arts, most notably woodcarving, and welcomed into the **Order of Gilder**, reserved for those youth who embody the spirit of the East Kingdom through Arts & Sciences. They received a promissory bead to be replaced by the Order token at some future time.

Faelynn of Malagentia, for her skill in working fabric and garb, was called to join the **Order of the Silver Brooch** and also **awarded arms** as noted in a scroll by Collette d'Avignon.

Dunlaith ingean Donnchada was likewise recognised for her diverse skills with fibre, tablet and thread, her induction into the **Order of the Silver Brooch** accompanied by a scroll by Eamon Grey.

Finally, Amee la Mort was publicly lauded for her work with garb, as well as her teaching thereof,

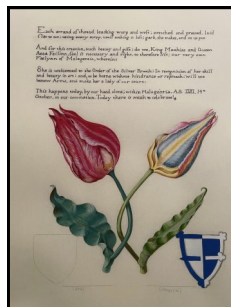


Photo by Collette

and joined her companions in the **Order of the Silver Brooch**, and was presented with a scroll done by Anna Mickel von Salm and Maxton Gunn.

For his tireless work and willingness to step up and help make this Province go, Noah Wick was inducted into the **Order of the Silver Wheel** and **awarded arms**. His

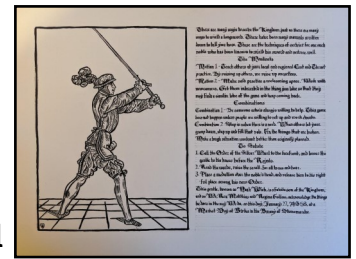


Photo by Aurelia

induction was accompanied by a scroll created by Aurelia Colleoni a'Buccafurno.

Upon his return to the East Kingdom and for his past and continued contributions, Trian O Bruadair was likewise inducted into the **Order of the Silver Wheel** and presented with a scroll by Keziah Planchet.



Photo by Q

**Leesen—LEESEN!** You may have heard of the many good works done by our own Sus Goblin Laurel Christiana Crane, and having heard the same, Their Majesties decided

she should be included in Their **Order of the Silver Crescent**. Said inclusion was accompanied by a scroll illuminated by Quentus Quintillius Mortis, calligraphed by Anna Mickel von Salm, with words by Mat Wyck.

Finally, Brenden Crane was called into Their Majesties' Court, having previously been tasked for the duration of the day to sit in contemplation of the question presented to him that morning: for his brilliant and unceasing efforts to record, archive and memorialise this Dream which we all share, would he join those who would call him peer in the **Order of the Pelican**?

And before the Tyger Thrones and all those gathered to witness, he gave his answer: yes.

# The Elevation of Brenden Crane

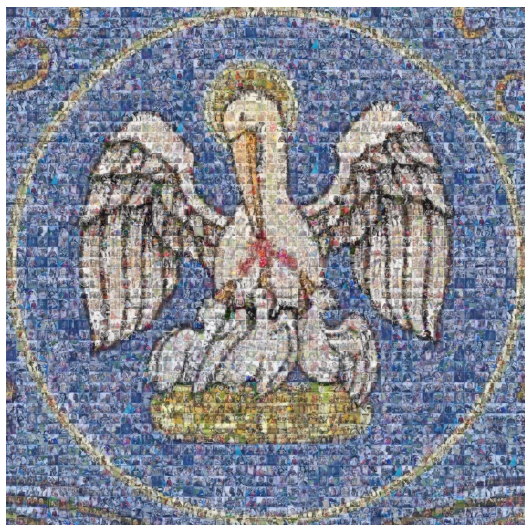


Image created by Gaius Claudius Valerianus

**When you're both** well-known and well-loved, it's rather expected that people all over the Kingdom (and beyond) are willing to pull out all the stops to celebrate important moments in your life. So it should come as no surprise that people turned out in droves to help ensure that Brenden's elevation was a day to remember.

If you don't already know Brenden, I can only recommend it. Many of you have seen him lurking around behind Court, crouched down low and aiming his lens between the crowd to frame the perfect image, or racing from one place to the next, camera in hand. Many more have likely seen the results of his labours, the albums upon albums of photos found on social media after events, allowing us to re-live favourite moments and share in those we might have missed.

But if you get the chance to talk with him, it's easy to see his caring and generosity extend beyond just his willingness to take pictures. Whether at your first event or your fiftieth, he'll welcome you with the same broad smile and with equal kindness and enthusiasm. If you share his interest in photography, he'll happily have you along on his journey to learn more.

Given who he is as a person, it makes sense that Brenden's true gift lies in his ability to capture that perfect moment of emotion in the people

around him, be it joy or solemnity, tears or laughter or love—his goal to show the world the best and most genuine side of us. And the East responded by celebrating all the best in him.

It takes a host of people volunteering time and effort to make an Elevation happen. To list them in no particular order\*:

- Vigil food provided by Octavia Valeria.
- Cap of Maintenance naalbound by Sulicena Vassura.
- Coat sewn, trimmed and embroidered by the Ladies of Thanet.
- Photo bag medallion and Pelican photo mosaic created by Gaius Claudius Valerianus.
- Scroll by...well. There's a story to the scroll, but I don't have space for it in this newsletter. Camille des Jardins has recorded the whole wild account of it at:  
<https://gcoombs77.wordpress.com/2024/01/29/epic-scribal-project-brenden-cranes-pelican>

But it should be noted that the creation of his scroll was the combined work of no fewer than *thirty three* scribes of the East and Known World. Trust me, I read them all out in Court (related pro-tip: if you are ever voice heralding for a friend who happens to be a crier, do not make eye contact mid-ceremony, unless you're made of sterner stuff than I am).



Photo by Wolfhunte Photography

Congratulations to a hard worker, an amazing photographer and a wonderful friend. This was an elevation truly well deserved.

\*The above information is recorded to the best of my ability from imperfect recollection. My most sincere apologies if I inadvertently left anyone out.



# Upcoming Events:

Now that January is behind us, it's time to look forward at what's coming up in the next few months, because this Province never stops.

•**Otzi's Paradise:** an unofficial Foresters' gathering taking place on Bradbury Mountain State Park in Pownal, on Saturday, February 10th. This will be an outdoor event, so dress warmly. (If you do not have sufficient period garb for the weather, please do come in mundanes. We would like to have you present, warm and safe.)

•**Bonus Martial Practice:** Extra heavy armoured, rapier and C&T practice on Friday, February 23rd, to try out a new space and let them get to know us. Held at the First Baptist Church in Portland, there will be ample parking and no entry fee.

•**Spring's Inspirations:** Malagentia's own little A&S event. Scheduled for April 13th at the First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham, please join us for a day of classes and discussion, along with a dayboard provided by Lydia Webbe, head of the Malagentian Cooks' Guild. More information coming soon, including how to sign up to teach a class.

•**Malagentia Test Kitchen:** Food! Fire! The return of Gaius Fieri! Come hang out at Bradbury State Park on April 27th and learn more about outdoor cooking over an open flame, then stay for the Third Annual Northern Chef Competition. No formal schedule, and please bring your own gear and ingredients. Camping available Friday and Saturday. <https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=4246>

•**Heavy armour and fencing practices** continue to be held inside at the USM Sullivan Gym on Tuesdays, from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. Entry fee is \$7 for non-students, to be paid directly to the gym.

•**Dance, Scribal and Craft nights** continue to be held on their respective evenings. Please visit the website at [malagentia.eastkingdom.org](http://malagentia.eastkingdom.org) for more information.

**Hope to see you soon!**

## February - March

**Feb. 1** - Province Meeting  
(Virtual) 7pm - 8pm

**Feb. 7** - Craft Night  
(Gorham) 7pm - 9pm

**Feb. 8** - Dance Practice  
(Gorham) 7pm - 9pm

**Feb. 10** - Otzi's Paradise

**Feb. 15** - Scribal Class  
(Gorham) 7pm - 9pm

**Feb. 17** - The Tourney  
O'Love (Endewearde)

**Feb. 23** - Bonus martial  
practice (Portland)  
6pm - 8:30pm

**Feb. 29** - Game Night  
(Standish) 7pm - 9pm

**March 6** - Craft Night  
(Gorham) 7pm - 9pm

**March 7** - Province Meeting  
(Virtual) 7pm - 8pm

**March 14** - Dance Practice  
(Gorham) 7pm - 9pm

**March 21** - Scribal Class  
(Gorham) 7pm - 9pm

**March 28** - Game Night  
(Standish) 7pm - 9pm

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