VIADUCT

December 2004 VIADUCT is not a publication of the SCA, and does not delineate SCA Polices V.504 No.8

St. Andrew's a Success! Happy Holidays!



Please Note: The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month, at Connetquot Library, Bohemia, 7:30 PM.

This is the Viaduct, a publication of the Barony of An Dubhaigeainn of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc). The Viaduct is available from Jeffrey Bennett, 401 Larkfield Rd., East Northport, NY 11731 Cynyr@earthlink.net. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA Inc. policies.

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Due to a change in Kingdom Policy, hard copy subscription will be made available free of charge at Business meetings. If you wish to get you hard copy in the mail, please submit stamps to the chronicler, mark your name and address on the book. If you wish to receive this publication electronically, send me an email stating such.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Baronial Business Meetings: All Officers are requested to attend

1st Thursday of each month – *General meetings* - Connetquot Library, Bohemia, 7:30 PM

Canton/Incipient Canton Business Meetings:

Sandmork: 2nd Friday of each Month – Riverhead Free Library at 7:30PM. Contact Nicodemus for more information *Hawk's Reach:* 2nd Wednesday of each month - East Northport Library Café @7:30PM

Guild/Workshops/Combative

Calligraphy Workshop – Suspended until further notice.

Thrown Weapon Practice-1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Contact Lord Magnus (Paul Holms) at 631-472-4241

Fiber Arts Workshop -1st Tuesday of every month at Lady Gisele de le Flambeau's (Betty Saum) see directions below **Fighter Practice** – Please contact the Knight Marshal, Lord Peter Bog, Phone: (516) 885-5552 <u>peterbog1@yahoo.com</u>, for details. Fighter practice is periodically changing location to Thorolf's residence. Directions follow: **To Thorolf's:**

From the LIE, take Exit 68 South (Wm Floyd Pkwy). At the 2ad light (landmarks 7-11 and a gas station) make a left turn onto Moriches-Middle Island Rd. At the 2nd block (Freestate Drive) turn right. The house is #417. Please park at the south end, under the power lines.

Not regularly Scheduled Practices and Workshops

Archery Practice - "Tuesday Night Traditionals", at American Outdoor Sports, Rte 110 in Farmingdale (2040 Broadhollow Rd). This is a mundane indoor archery range, run by mundane officers (anyone may attend). Fees are \$18 for an annual pass plus \$6 per session (*no limit on hours per session*) with pass, or \$10 per session without the pass. BYOB - Bring Your Own Bow. Shop phone: (631) 241-1832 Other mundane indoor sites: Smith Point Archery Lanes, 215 East Main St., Patchogue. (*Hourly rates apply) (631) 289-3399 (Open after 2pm on weekdays)

MEETING DIRECTIONS

Sachem Public Library in Holbrook: From the west: LIE to exit 61. Go across Patchogue-Holbrook Rd. and stay on the service road. *At the first light past Patchogue-Holbrook make a left. This is Holbrook Road. The Library is about a 1/2mile down on the left, across from an elementary school. Go in and ask for the Boardroom. From the East: Take the LIE to exit 61. At the light for Patchogue-Holbrook Road make a left and go over the LIE. At the end of the bridge make a left onto the service road, follow from * above.

Connetquot Public Library in Bohemia From the West: Take Sunrise Highway (Rte 27) to Exit 47, Go to Ocean Avenue and make Left. From the East: Take Sunrise highway to Exit 49 (Lakeland Avenue). Go to Ocean Avenue and make a right. The Library in on the Left

Riverhead Free Library: The library is located at 330 Court Street, Riverhead. From the West: Take your best route to the Long Island Expressway east bound to Exit 72. Stay to your right following the signs to Route 25 east to Riverhead. Route 25 will become West Main Street. The Library will be visible from West Main Street. Turn left onto Osborn Avenue after you pass the library on West Main Street. Library parking can be found on your left before the railroad tracks. From the East: Take your best route to either Route 25 from the North Fork into Riverhead. This will become East Main Street and then West Main Street after you pass Peconic Ave. Turn right onto Osborn Avenue. Library parking will be on your left before the railroad tracks. OR Take your best route to Route 24 from the South Fork to the traffic circle in Riverhead. Take your first right out of the traffic circle onto Peconic Avenue. Turn left at the traffic light onto West Main Street. Turn right onto Osborn Ave. Library parking will be on your sparking will be on your left before the railroad tracks. By the LIRR: The Riverhead Train Station is a short walk to the library. As you exit the train turn right heading west on Railroad Street. Cross Osborn Ave. and turn left heading south on Osborn Ave. The library will be on your right.

824 Middle Road, Riverhead: Take the Long Island Expressway (Interstate 495) east to exit 73. Merge onto CR 58 heading east. Turn left onto Harrison Ave. At the "T" intersection, turn right onto Middle Road. #824 will be on your left (north side of the road).

East Northport Library – 185 Larkfield Road, just North of Pulaski Road on the East side of the street. Parking is available behind the Library, turn onto Kew Avenue and make your first right onto University Place. We will meet in the Café.

Canton of Sandmork A&S Meetings - Contact Canton Mistress of Arts & Sciences Eachna dalta Aonghus (Gwen Morse) (631) 399-7355 or Acting Canton Seneschal Nicodemus (Stephen Hataier) <u>thumpa@charter.net</u>, for details on locations and directions.

Fiber Arts Workshop – Contact Betty Saum for additional information. Phone (631) 757-1876 e-mail: <u>Gisellef@optonline.net</u> <u>Directions to my house</u>: - Jericho Tpke (Rt 25) to Larkfield Road north to the end; take right fork (Vernon Valley Rd); first right onto Crest Dr; first right to Catalpa DR - 5th house on the right - number (20) on mailbox. Limited parking - carpool if possible.

Coronet's Gazette

A joyous greetings unto all the populace this most festive of seasons!

With this busy holiday season upon us, we would like to take this time to thank the autocrat & cooks of St. Andrews. Good food, good company, and good spirits made for a most enjoyable German-themed event. As many know there were various martial competitions, as well, most notably the Baronial Heavy Weapons Championship. Lord Vladimir of Bathory is our new Heavy Weapons

Champion. Lord John the Bear took the prize for the other heavy weapons tournament and Lord Targai won the fencing tourney. Our congratulations go out to the winners and to all those who showed their provess on the list fields that day.

During Court, it was our pleasure to award the Drake's Spur for the very first time. This new Baronial award, given for excellence & dedication in the martial arts, was given to Master Ateno, Lady Lassar, Lord Nicodemus, Lord Peter Bog, and House Three Skulls, as a whole, in recognition of their dedication, such that they were able to field a sizable force of fighters, archers, and fencers to the cause of the East Kingdom, along with the Barony. All have displayed exemplary dedication to the martial arts. Vivats to the first recipients of the Drake's Spur!

It was also our pleasure that day to welcome our latest Award of Arms recipient, Lady Elizabeth of An Dubhaigeainn. Lord Sandor of House Three Skulls' Award of Arms scroll was read aloud to the assembled populace that all might hear of his recognition. He was missed that day and our thoughts go out to him. Last, but not least, Lady Oriana of Grey Fog's Award of Arms scroll was delivered to her from scribal limbo.

Silver Feathers were awarded during our Court. Baron Richard of Lough Ree received one for his service to us and the Barony as the outgoing Baronial Heavy Weapons Champion. Baron Richard and Lady Marion of York were given a Baronessa's Favor as thanks for their part in fighting for the Barony at this past Pennsic. Lady Sorcha of the Stones also received a Silver Feather for her work as Chronicler, before Lord Cynyr Longtoes took the position.

Lord Alexander MacLachlan was confirmed as the new Baronial Chatelaine.

We want to thank Lord Cynyr and Arabella for organizing and hosting the commons this month in Hawk's Reach.

We look to Twelfth Night Bell Ringers, and then Birka, on the January 8th, January 15th, and January 29th, respectively. Make sure to get your reservations in early for both. We hope to see many of the Barony there. We hope, in the meantime, that the populace, both near and far, and their families enjoy a safe and peaceful holiday season with the ones they love.

Jean Xavier and Gianetta

December

12/4 Hawk's Reach Commons, Smithtown, NY12/11 Bhakail Yule Revel, Bhakail (Philadelphia, PA)12/17-19 EK Brewers Collegium, Ostgardr (Peekskill, NY)

January

1/8 EK 12th Night, Dragonship Haven (Bridgeport, CT)
1/29 Market Day at Birka, Stonemarche (Manchester, NH)
1/27 K&Q Rapier Champions (Quebec)

February

2/4-5 Fields of Gold Silver Rylle (Lebanon Co., PA)2/19 Central Region EKU Quintavia (Worcester Co., MA)2/26 Winter War VIII Northern Outpost (Potsdam, NY)

Fighter Practice Schedule

Please contact the Knight Marshal, Lord Peter Bog, Phone: (516) 885-5552 peterbog1@yahoo.com, for details. **Fencing Practice Schedule** Please contact Lord Alexander MacLachlan Phone: (631) 419-0771 <u>alecmcscot@aol.com</u> for information.

Three Skulls has graciously invited the Barony to attend their Archery practices

"We wanted to open our practice to the populace of the barony, as it is much closer for many than AOS is. We meet every Monday at 7:30 at Warren's Archery on Rt. 25 in Selden. The Range fee is \$10.00. We have some loaner equipment, and the range has bows and arrows available for rental. Crossbows are allowed at this range."

Please contact Kerry Skadl at volatilefiona@hotmail.com for more information.

Baronial Minutes

This is an overview of the topics of the meetings. The complete minutes are available at the Baronial meetings; see the Historian for details.

Minutes will return next month

Chronicler's notes

Greetings! I apologize about the lateness of the newsletter. Time and tide as they say. Photos of the latest events next issue! C.

Finster, his Broadside

(not his backside!!)



Lord Brewster

Now to other matters. I would like to introduce my dear cousin to you... Lord Brewster Isenbjornsen. He is a fine and diligent fellow who I entrust all my financial and diplomatic matters to. He recently has been advising me about tea etiquette in Cathay, and has come across this interesting tidbit or shall I say dim sum.

Thank you so much Cousin dear. Now as you know Chevrohall has a quite diverse library which I am fortunate enough to be in charge of and in one of those tomes I discovered this which I hope (dearly hope) helped you refrain from committing any faux pas or diplomatic incidents (of which you are so fond of creating) but I digress.

Once upon a time in far away Cathay, during the Qing Dynasty, there was the custom of the teahouse in which the common folk would gather to eat dimsum (tasty little treats which dot the heart with pleasure) and discuss events of the realm. Now the Emperor of that realm decided that it would be good to get the common man's opinion of things the best way would be to disguise himself as a waiter in the local teahouse. His court officials gasped and said that they would have to go with him to keep him safe. The Emperor thought about this and saw the wisdom of their suggestion and agreed that they could come...but they must not treat him other than a humble waiter.

This they agreed to but were distressed at not being able to acknowledge their Emperor...the kow tow (a prostrate bow) was right out so they did the following: they tapped three of their fingers on the table after the Emperor poured their tea. The center finger was a bowed head and the two flanking fingers represented the arms laid on the ground in the form of the kowtow. To this very day you can see this gesture in teahouses to express gratitude to the waiter for pouring the tea.

I have also discovered the following verse about tea. This verse truly concerns me perhaps tea is dangerous...I mean from how far south of underneath the arms... could this cause distressing behavior or consequences or oh dear oh my... what ever....must warn Finster, yes, yes, must warn him... oh dear oh dear.

Oh perhaps I must alert others...yes yes yes that would do ... then the could help him out...yes that will do...here is the verse. It was written in the Sung Dynasty by Lu Tung.

The first bowl - how soothing to the throat!

The second bowl - all feeling of loneliness vanishes;

The third bowl - I start searching my soul to find five thousand volumes of ancient tomes;

The fourth bowl - a slight perspiration which washes away all unhappy things;

The fifth bowl - my bones and m uscles all cleansed

The sixth bowl - I establish communication with the immortal spirit;

The seventh bowl - this must not be taken'

Already a cool etheral breeze

Emanates from underneath my arms.

I hope this serves as some useful advice in Chinese dimsum house ettiqutte.

YIS Sir Brewster

Or: "Why Doesn't Anyone I Know Ever Get an Award?" Submitted by Baroness Mistress Suzanne Neüber de Londres.

After assisting Duchess Isabella and Duke Andreas during their two rounds, I was exposed to the process of the receiving Letters of Recommendation, as well as how they are processed. When a friend from a neighboring kingdom mentioned the below article, I asked to see it. I found it extremely useful, give my experience. This article was written by Duchess Dorinda Courtinay of the Kingdom of Aethelmerc, with permission to alter for East Kingdom Awards and references. My additional comments are in italics.

Introduction

One of the greatest joys of the Crown is the opportunity to give awards to the deserving populace, but it is not always to determine who deserves in any given reign. No two people can know everyone in a Kingdom, and this is why the Royalty needs the help of the people to advise them on the good work of their subjects. The best way to do this is via a letter of recommendation.

Who Should Write?

There are often misconceptions that only Peers can write letters of recommendation, or that a person should not write a recommendation for an award that they do not have. Neither of these is true. While it may be true that those with higher level awards may have special insight into the criteria and requirements for an award, the knowledge and insight of even the newest member of the Society is welcomed by the Royalty. Anyone who feels strongly that they know someone who is worthy of recognition should write. And write often!

When Should We Write?

The sooner the better! One of the biggest mistakes that people make is to write (or worse yet telephone) the Royalty the week before their local event and try to get awards for local folks. This is a disservice to everyone involved. The Royalty does not have proper time to determine if They wish to give the award. If They make a rush decision to give the award, the poor scribe has only days to get a scroll prepared. There may not be time to get a medallion or other items ready. If the Royalty decides to give the award at a later event, those people close to the recipient may not be present to see the award. If the Royalty decides not to give the award at all, then the person who recommended the potential recipient will be angry, and the potential recipient may not get the recognition they deserve.

A good letter of recommendation for AOA's and Orders of Merit (Troubadour, Terpsichore, Queens Order of Courtesy, Kings Order of Excellence, Court Baron/Baroness) will be delivered to the Royalty no later than eight weeks before the date of the event where the award is to be given. Six weeks is sometimes acceptable. Letters of recommendation for Peerages and orders of High Merit (Silver Crescent, Maunche, Tygers Combatant, Sagittarian and Golden Rapier) should be delivered almost as soon as the Heirs are victorious in Crown Tourney. This is necessary because the Royalty need to poll these Orders before making a final decision to give an award. This may require several weeks as they wait for the Orders to meet and discuss the candidate that was recommended. *It would be beneficial to check Kingdom web page for descriptions and criteria for each award.*

To Whom Should We Write?

When in doubt, write to everyone! Early in a reign, letters may be sent to King and Queen. After Crown Tournament, the Heirs should also receive a copy of all letters. At some point and time in a reign, the King and Queen may request that all further letters be sent to Their Heirs.

How do I write a letter and how should it be delivered? Recommendations should not be verbal! Some Royalty welcome recommendations via e-mail, but you should make

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sure that individual couples have agreed to this. Some Royalty is not comfortable with e-mail, and may not be able to keep track of your letter. Others may prefer it. A regular old paper letter, sent by the US postal service, is the most reliable method. Many people try to hand a letter to Royalty at an event, but this is risky. How many other things will they need to deal with at the event? Mail it to Their house!

What Should the Letter Include? To be complete, a letter of recommendation should contain the following information: SCA name of the potential recipient (PR for short) Modern name of the PR Home group of the PR Award for which you are recommending the PR Detailed explanation of why they deserve the award - may include past awards, offices held, competitions won, work done and more A list of events you believe they will be attending Your name

One other tip is to include different recommendations for different people on separate pages. If the Royalty keeps different folders for different awards, They might have trouble sorting your letter if there are too many people on each page. *Do not bury the award you are recommending a person for in the details of the description.*

Why Was the Award Not Given?

Sometimes, despite all your best efforts, a person will not receive the award you recommended. Why is that? There can be several reasons.

1. Some Royalty requires that more than one letter is received. It can not hurt to encourage your friends to join in a letter writing campaign to get someone an award. Individual letters are better than petitions, but a petition is better than no letter.

2. Your letter may have arrived too late for Their reign or not at all. (Although the Postal Service does not loose nearly as much mail as it gets blamed for losing!)

3. Your friend may just not be ready for the award yet. This is a tough one to accept, because we see all the work that our loved ones have done and we want them recognized. However, there are many criteria for receiving an award and they must all be met.

Conclusion

Don't give up! Without your input, the Royalty will be unable to recognize those individuals who have given of themselves for the good of the Society. They will look forward to hearing from you.

Sample Letters

Poor Example

To Morguhn and Meirwen, King and Queen of AEthelmearc,

I would like to recommend my brother Charles Norris for a fighting award. He is an excellent fighter and should be recognized.

Thank you,

Mary

Notes: We don't know whom this letter is from. What is her full name? How can we contact her with questions? Does she have any credentials? The letter should contain the potential recipients SCA and modern names. Which is this? The letter does not clearly state which award level is appropriate for the recipient. There are no details around why the person should receive an award. Is the fact that he is her brother the only reason for the letter? At this point, it is a bit late to write the King and Queen – Their decisions are almost certainly already made.

Better Example

To Morguhn and Meirwen, King and Queen of AEthelmearc, Cygnus and Dorinda, Heir and Heiress and Sir James Ahearn, does Lady Mary of London, Earl Marshal for your Shire of Endless Valleys send fond greetings. I would like to recommend my brother, Lord Charles the Bloodthirsty (m.k.a. Charles Norris) for induction into the Order of the Gage. Charles has been an active heavy weapons fighter for the last six years, and his skills have increased significantly during that time. He is currently squired to Sir Robin of the Hood. He recently made it the quarterfinals of your Crown Tourney, and he won two local tournaments - one here in Endless Valleys and one in your Barony of Ashland – this past month. I feel his fighting skill is on par with those who have been previously inducted into the Gage, and I ask that you consider him.

Charles is also our local Minister of Arts and Sciences, and a fine brewer and woodworker. He is active in our local group, and he never fails to work at a local event. Last, but definitely not least, he is courteous and kind, and he brings honor to everything he touches.

Charles will almost certainly be attending all of the upcoming War Practices, the Turnip event in Endless Valleys and the annual Anvil Festival in the Canton of Worpshire.

If you are in need of any additional info, please feel free to contact me at: Mary of London c/o Mary Smith 123 East 1st Street Metropolis, NY 11111 (176) 555-5555 E-mail: mary@juno.com Yours in service, Mary

