

Newsletter of the Barony of Politar chopolis

# GRIFINTAYLE



“Virga Non Universi Sum”

Griffintayle is published by and for the Barony of Politar chopolis. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism and does not delineate SCA policy. Griffintayle is produced by Anwyn Davies, 9a Cooper Place Watson ACT 2602. Griffintayle has an email version available. Secure your postal copy by subscription - \$8.00 per year. Baronial Homepage: <http://www.sca.org.au/politar chopolis>

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
D E C	7 ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	8	9 ♥	10 f B ✦	11	12	13 Yule Ball, Rowany (Sydney) ✍
	14 ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	15 Prices go up for Festival bookings	16 <i>mundane</i> Lord Lyon King of Arms lecture, Sydney ♥	17 f ✦ ✧	18	19	20 Handfasting of Allesandro and Isobel, Crossroads
	21 College Christmas BBQ ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	22	23 ♥	24 Xmas Eve	25 Xmas Day	26 Boxing day	27
	28 ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	29	30 ♥	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Twelfth Night Coronation, Krae Glas (Melbourne)
J A N	4 Twelfth Night Coronation, Krae Glas (Melbourne)	5	6 ♥	7	8	9	10
	11 ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	12	13 ♥	14 f B ✦	15	16	17
	18 Boffer War ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	19	20 ♥	21 f ✦ ✧	22	23	24
	25 ✠ ✚ ✦ ✧ &	26	27 ♥	28 f B ✦	29	30	31 Politar chopolis Divest/Investiture

See overleaf for legend

### Other Upcoming Events:

- 31<sup>st</sup> Jan – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Politar chopolis Baronial Divestiture / Investiture
- 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Feb – Borderscros War VI (Albury-Wodonga)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Tavern Feast, Stowe On the Wowld (Sydney Western Suburbs)
- 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April – Rowany Festival, Crossroads Medieval Village, Yass

# Politarchopolis Regnum

Please see elsewhere on Politarchopolis Website

SCA Politarchopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email [politarchopolis@sca.org.au](mailto:politarchopolis@sca.org.au)  
To subscribe to the Politarchopolis email list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>

## Regular Meetings

- ☼ **Baronial Meetings:** the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.  
THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY.
- ❖ **Baronial heavy fighter practice:**
  - Sunday: from 3:00 pm at Haig Park, O'Connor near scout hall, Fencers and heavies welcome.
  - Wednesday evenings: from 6:30 pm, at Mawson Oval.
- ♣ **Rapier practice:** Sundays, starting with Side Sword at 1.30 pm at Haig Park O'Connor.
- ♣ **Archery practice:** Sundays, 10:00 till 12:00 at Tuggeranong Archery Club, Western end of Soward Way, Tuggeranong. Cost 5 gold to non TAC members Range fees to TAC members
- ♣ **Arts and Sciences:** Sundays after fighter practice, same location.
- ♣ **Baronial Dance Classes:** 2-4 pm Sundays at the Scout Hall, Haig Park, Turner
- ♥ **Cordon Rouge Open Herald Nights:** Tuesdays from 8pm – call Paul on [0407 468 244] for location details
- ♣ **Scriptoria:** Held by the College of Scribes every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Call Jon on 6259 5842 for more details.
- ♣ **College Dance Classes:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 6.30 pm at ANU Copland Building G030.
- ♣ **College A & S:** Every 1st, 3rd and 5th (if applicable) Wednesday of the month, from 6pm at ANU Copland Building G030
- ♣ **Mid week Boffer and A'n'S meeting:** Every Wednesday 3.30 - 5.00pm. Room 3 of the Tuggeranong Community Centre Cowlshaw Street, Greenway. Please check the notice board on entry as meeting may have been moved to a different room - will be under House Anaticula (SCA)

Please check all details are correct and contact the Chronicler to correct any errors. "Griffintayle" is published monthly, editions are printed the weekend following the Baronial Meeting. It is distributed in print and electronic forms. All submissions need to be received by the Chronicler by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for general and event notices, Officers Reports by the Wednesday evening of the Baronial Meeting.

## Upcoming Events

### Handfasting of Allesandro and Isobel

When: Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> of December  
Where: Crossroads, Yass

“The most noble heads of their households, William Anthony and his fair lady Mary Elizabeth of House Crowle and likewise Ronald Allan and his fair lady Margaret Fay, of House Price, to all & singular nobles, gentlefolk & good heralds of the Barony of Politarchopolis unto whom these present letters shall come, greeting.

Let it be known that you and your Household are invited to bear witness to the joining of Kate to Simon in the bonds of matrimony and share in joyful celebration of the coming together of these two fine houses.

The hand fasting ceremony will take place in the afternoon on the Vigil of Midsummer, the 20th day of December in this year 2003 and after the wedding there shall be music, merriment, dancing on the green and a sumptuous summer picnic.”

As you may have already heard, or can gather from the above announcement, we are getting married in medieval style and would like to invite everyone in our Barony to share the celebration. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to us by Sunday 7th December and so we can send you further details.

Simon and Kate  
(Alessandro and Isobel)  
Contact us at [spricel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:spricel@bigpond.net.au) or  
[kcrowle@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kcrowle@bigpond.net.au).

### College Christmas Party

When: Sunday 21st December, 4pm start  
Where: Weston Park moving on to the Wig and Pen

This is a non-garbed event, just bring yourself and anyone else that might be interested.. All are welcome. We're going to spend the afternoon eating, drinking and generally having a ball! Oh, and we will be having the inaugural "St Aldhelm All Rounder" awards and the Seneschale is now taking nominations so if anyone has done anything outstandingly good, bad, silly, funny or just plain fantastic e-mail her now! Just remember this is supposed to be fun.

Bring: BYO booze (we'll have some beer, but not much else)

Please let us know if you are coming so that we can cater for all, and as always if you have any special food requirements please let me know ASAP!

We will be located right up the end of the park, past the railway etc. There will be signs!

Contact Alice Balnaves-Knyvett by email  
[alicebk@tpg.com.au](mailto:alicebk@tpg.com.au)

### Baronial Investiture

When: Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February  
Where: Saturday from 1pm at the St Margaret's

Holy Cross Hall, corner of Antill Street and Philip Avenue, Downer  
Sunday morning 10-noon, Tuggeranong Archery Club, afternoon Haig Park.

Come one, come all Politarchopolans as, with Their Majesties leave, Edmund Ale-conner and Leta von Gosslar step up to assume the care of the Barony from François Henri Guyon and Aelfthrythe of Saxony.

Saturday from 1pm at the St Margaret's / Holy Cross Hall Street and Philip Avenue, Downer), will feature tourneys, games and courts, with feasting and dancing long into the night.

Sunday will feature archery at the Tuggeranong Archery Club from 10 am to noon (additional mundane fees apply to shoot) and more fun and fighting at Haig Park in the afternoon.

For more information e-mail the Steward, Oriel of the Gypsies, at [oriel@webone.com.au](mailto:oriel@webone.com.au). Bookings only accepted with payment and should be made to the Steward, Oriel of the Gypsies (Vicki Whitehorn) – please email her for postal address details.

Any dietary requirements or food allergies should be advised at the time of booking. Please make cheques payable to SCA Politarchopolis.

Until 12th night - members \$15, non-members \$17.  
From 12th night to 25 January - members \$17, non-members \$20.  
From 26 January to at the door - members \$20, non-members \$23.

In service  
Oriel

### Midsummer's Revelry – Boffer War

When: 18th January 2004  
Where: Fadden Pines in FADDEN, off Bugden Ave.

The laird's daughter has gone a walking in the forest, grieving for her betrothed. Screams can be heard from the forest even in the village and the laird calls his warriors to arms. What has happened to their first daughter? What will they find?

The King of the Fey has noted the lady's beauty and decided she will make an excellent addition to his... court. Much revelry of the sword beacons.

A short Tourney will be fought from those who consider themselves worthy for the role of the Fey King. Also on offer this day are; a forest battle, a bridge battle and a fort battle, not necessarily in that order

Equipment needed for this battle is a gambeson, your own boffer, although boffers belonging to Household Anaticula will be available for loan, and if you have a helmet please bring it along. Specs for Boffer construction (in accordance to the fledgling Boffer Handbook) can be acquired by emailing either Darby at - [alinta@hotmail.com](mailto:alinta@hotmail.com) or Rhodri at [rthcs@hotmail.com](mailto:rthcs@hotmail.com)

Inspections at 11 am, War at Noon.  
Price: Free. Although a 5 gold pieces deposit will be charged to those who borrow Household Anaticula boffers. This will not be returned if you break it.

## Events Elsewhere

### Rowany Yule Feast

Who: Rowany (Sydney)  
When: 13th December  
Where: Glengarry Girl Guides Camp, 59-63 Miowera Rd, North Turrumurra

Come and enjoy both Yule and a Midsummer's Night out under the stars in Rowany. We'll have a day and evening of revelling and joy in the season of summer and celebration. Wear your lightest and brightest clothing, even come masked and costumed if you wish, and come and enjoy games, dancing, good food and the company of friends and our King and Queen. You can even plan on spending the night as both camping and cabins are available.

Tourney begins at 2pm (armour inspection and opening of lists at 1pm) 1st remove at 6.30pm no closing time - you can leave whenever you've had enough - dancing, croquet, boules, cricket and food.

Bookings can be made with Meaghan Waters, email to [meaghan.waters@cybersoft.com.au](mailto:meaghan.waters@cybersoft.com.au)

Cost: \$20/\$25 (member/non-member) until November 30<sup>th</sup>  
\$25/\$30 (member/non-member) until December 12<sup>th</sup>  
\$ 40 at the door.

Make cheques payable to SCA Rowany

Stewards: Mistress Gabrielle de la Santa Croce (Spyder Webb) and Mistress Marguerite de Rada y Sylva (Meaghan Waters)

### Twelfth Night Coronation A.S. 38

Who: Krae Glas (Melbourne, SE Suburbs)  
When: 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> January  
Where: Mulgrave Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave VIC (The site is across town from the Melbourne Airport.)

Krae Glas invites you all to come and celebrate the coronation of the fourth King and Queen of Lochac, Ædwarde and Yolande.

Saturday will include all divest and invest courts as well as many delightful entertainments. Sunday will see meetings, a Rapier tourney as well as the Rose tourney.

Full event price includes lunch and feast on Saturday & lunch on Sunday.

Pricing:

Pre Nov 7th: member/non \$27.50/ \$32.50, \*family-member/non \$68.75/ \$81.25  
Pre Dec 7th: member/non \$30/\$35, \*family-member/non \$75/ \$85  
Pre Jan 1st: member/non \$35/\$40, \*family-member/non

\$85/\$100

At the Door: member/non \$40/\$45, \*family-member/non \$100/\$115

Merchant additional Charge\*\* : Pre 1st Jan \$5, at the door \$10

Bookings can be made with payment to (cheques payable to SCA Krae Glas):

Please contact Mistress Nicolette, with any questions or queries via e-mail [AuntieNic@hotmail.com](mailto:AuntieNic@hotmail.com) Please include "12th Night" in subject line (or it will be deleted as junk mail) or phone on 0413 518 151 or (03) 9584-4692

\* Family Price covers 2 adults and between 1 to 4 children under 16

\*\* Merchant price includes indoor area with table if requested on Saturday

### Border War VI

Who: Borderscross (Albury-Wodonga)  
Where: "Noomaneena, Mt Buffalo Rd, Porepunkah  
When: February 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Border War is moving!

With tensions rising in the southern regions of Lochac, the Shire of Bordscros has taken possession of Fort Border-Storm in anticipation of imminent conflict. With both Baronial neighbours investing new Barons and Baroness', the uneasy truce may be broken by a new war hungry ruler intent on invading the fertile expanse of Bordscros!

The call has gone out, join us in the alpine retreat of Noonameena for what could be the last stand!

Accommodations Costs:

Camping: \$8 per night

Dorm Rooms: \$12 per night

PRICE: Members: \$35 (Before the end of November)

Members: \$45 (Before the end of December)

Members: \$55 (Before the end of January)

Non-Members: add \$10

Detailed directions to site will be given upon booking or request.

STEWARD: Lady Cassia de La Rose (Carole Rhodes)

Email: [cazzie@myaccess.com.au](mailto:cazzie@myaccess.com.au)

BOOKINGS: Bookings can be made by emailing the steward or [Bordscros@hotmail.com](mailto:Bordscros@hotmail.com) (please be sure to include 'Border War' in the subject heading) or contacting any of the Shire officers listed in the Kingdom Regnum.

WARNING: EARLY BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL!!!

The dorm accommodation will be allocated upon first in best dressed, if you want a good room, book early! The rooms range from two bed to a room through to eight beds to a room.

Contact [thanatos@myaccess.com.au](mailto:thanatos@myaccess.com.au) or

[cazzie@myaccess.com.au](mailto:cazzie@myaccess.com.au) for any questions regarding the event.

### Tavern Feast

Who: Stowe on the Wowld (Sydney, Western Suburbs)

When: Saturday, 28th February, 2004

Where: The Baronial Pavilion, Pendle Hill Scout Hall, Civic Park (off Civic Ave), Pendle Hill (not far from Pendle Hill Station)

It's coming around again! Stowe on the Wowld invites one and all to their annual Tavern Feast (Huzzah!) The scene is set at a seaside port and townfolk have heard news that raiders are working their way down the coastline and should be arriving on the morrow. With our warband being out of town (defending the Barony from raids), it is impossible that we will be able to fend them off, with dawn seeing the demise of the town. There is one way to escape with your fortune and sanity intact and that is on the Good Ship Rising Sun, only there is only room for one passenger left. So, with your pouch of coins, you make your way to the Archers Arms tavern to win your fortune and your freedom and raise the fee you need to join the ship. You quickly come to realise that people will do anything to escape...

Feast commences at 7.30pm.

Cost: \$15 (members/colleges), \$20 (non-members).  
Special rate of \$10 if this is your very first SCA event and the Steward receives verification from your group Hospitaller or Seneschal  
Make Cheques Payable to: 'SCA Stowe on the Wowld'

The event will be capped at 65 people, and due to this being a previously popular event, bookings are essential and only accepted with payment (Get in early!) Book to: The Steward, Finnabhair an Einigh ui Binnech (Finn), email [funkyfinn@fastmail.fm](mailto:funkyfinn@fastmail.fm)

Let the Steward know if you have any food allergies or specific dietary requirements.

BYO Chair and ways to win your exit.

There will be the traditional A&S comps for best brew (either alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and best entertainment piece

**R**owany Festival 2004  
When: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2004.  
Where: Crossroads Medieval Village, Yass.

Christmas is Coming! And so is Festival. Please book for Lochac's premier event early. For your convenience, the deadline to gain the cheapest price for Festival has been moved back to December 15th. Book Early to Gain Cheap Admittance!

The Equipment Booking Form (which will require a separate cheque/ payment) will be available online and in Pegasus very soon. If you are a new camping group then please get in contact with the Steward: [festivalsteward@sca.org.au](mailto:festivalsteward@sca.org.au) as soon as possible to arrange a site.

This year's Rowany Festival has the potential to be the best ever! This will only occur if the populace of this great Kingdom make every effort to make it so! Please contact the Steward if you have any ideas, plans or offers of assistance.

The great advantage of using the Crossroads Medieval Village Site is the potential for improvement that it contains. Already since Festival 2003: The Guildhall has a roof (and will soon have walls); a Grand Staircase has been built linking the Guildhall with the List Field Space; more grass has grown and many, many, more trees have

been planted. To continue this grand march of progress WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**Site Preps** that are planned until Easter 2004 are as follows:

February 14th and 15th

March 20th-21st

You can check out the Festival 2004

Website: [www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival](http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival)

Donyale is looking for volunteers to run **Collegia** at Festival. To get a class listed:

- \* Send an email, [donyale@iprimus.com.au](mailto:donyale@iprimus.com.au)
- \* You MUST put Festival A&S in the subject line
- \* Include the subject of your talk, a brief description, your full SCA name, mundane name and contact number
- \* Give an indication of preferred times or events you can or cannot clash with.
- \* For best timeslots, get your info in no later than December 19, 2003.
- \* Please mention any special conditions such as cost for materials, specific clothing or BYO materials that need to be included in your listing.

## Officers Reports

### **B**aron & Baroness

To the Barony do Aelfthrythe of Saxony and Francois Henri Guyon, Baroness and Baron send greetings.

The summer months are here, even though the heat of summer seems some way off with the recent rain. It was not so for the Casual War, where the heat seemed determined to reduce all the combatants to dried husks in armour.

Our congratulations and thanks go therefore to Baron Stephen and Lord Edmund who organised and ran the event in such testing conditions. We both greatly enjoyed the event and hope that the many participants enjoyed themselves also. Our thanks also to Lord Robbie for his much enjoyed refreshments at the end of the day.

We hope the Casual War will become a standard event on the Lochac calendar. It was relaxed, enjoyable, well run, and close to town. We ask that people give plenty of support to future Casual Wars.

We take this opportunity to welcome Baron Stephen Aldred as our new Seneschal and to thank Lord Edmund for his great efforts in that position.

Our Penultimate message to our loyal populace sees us contemplating but two more events until we step down. The Boffer War in January at the Fadden Pines will be a good test of the Lochac Youth Combat Rules and promises much in the way of an agreeable event. The Final event is Our Divestiture at the end of January, at which we hope to see our entire Barony.

Until then, we pray you have a safe, relaxing, and pleasant Christmas break. Drive safe, have a happy and relaxing holiday, and we will see you all in the New Year.

Aelfthrythe. Francois.

## Baron-in-Training

Greetings unto all,

The Autocrat team would like to thank those people who came out and participated at Casual War.

David and I would like to thank all those who helped cook, clean, build a fort and bridge, set-up, take down etc. And of course a mammoth thank you to everybody who came along and made casual war what it was.....lots and lots of FUN!!

In service

Edmund Ale-conner

## Seneschal

Greetings all. This is my first report to you as the new Seneschal of Politarchopolis. I'd like to thank Edmund for his work as Seneschal.

I would like you all to start thinking about a number of issues affecting the Barony. Firstly the SCA is a volunteer organisation, no-one is required to do anything, we do it because we want to play a game. What we get out of the SCA has a direct relationship to what we put in. If you see something that needs doing, don't look for someone else, do it yourself. If you think there's not enough feasts being run, or the wrong type of feasts; run one yourself. Likewise with tournaments, A&S sessions ...anything at all. This is your society. There are people in the Barony who can and will help you, all you have to do is ask "Lead and they will follow".

Politarchopolis belongs to you, the people that play the game that is the SCA. The Baron and Baroness and the Baronial officers only exist because you are there to play the game. Each officer is responsible for a particular aspect of the game, but you'll notice there's no Feast Officer, or Ball Officer. If the process of running an event frightens you (or you just don't know where to start) come and see me. I don't bite (well not much anyway and only if you ask nicely) and I am happy to help. Ideally I believe the Barony should hold one garbed event, such as a feast, and a tournament each month.

Finally I will leave you with a quote from something written by Agvar Gyvanaspar (the first seneschal of Politarchopolis) "We like seeing new people coming in because quite frankly we can learn from them. Anyone who comes in new has got their own ideas and can teach us something and we can teach them too." I look forward to working with you over the next two years.

Have a Happy Christmas and see you all back safely in the New Year.

Stephen

## Marshal

Greetings unto the populace,

There is only one injury to report for November that involved a ballista winch and the finger of our Baron to be at Casual War. Thankfully the incident was a minor one with the Chirurgeons returning him to us with a bandaged digit.

For the month of November there were two events held, a Continuing Melee hosted by Daemon and Bran and a Casual War hosted by Edmund Ale Connor and Baron Stephen.

In regards to authorization forms and cards please remember that I am happy to cover the cost of posting the forms off but if you wish to send them yourselves I must have a copy of the authorization form given to me before you post it.

There are no events planned at this stage for December but Baronial Investiture is planned for the end of January and there will be combat related activities held there – more information is available from the Politarchopolis homepage. The following is also to be held in January 2004:

Upcoming Events

Boffer War : Fadden Pines, Fadden, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2004

Autocrat : Rhodri r Gweledydd (Rob Howard)

MIC : TBA

YiS

Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse

## Rapier Marshal

Sunday Rapier training continues at Haig Park (weather and ill health permitting) starting at 1.30pm. His Excellency the Baron is now deputising as Sidesword Marshal following the departure of Don Dameon.

The Gore Street Trayned Band continues to offer standard rapier classes as The Armory on Saturdays from 2.30pm, again weather permitting.

The Casual War Rapier Tourney went ahead on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, despite the warm conditions, but was not well attended with only three fighters participating. Unfortunately the exertions of the previous day proved too much for those fighters who had engaged in war the day before. Many thanks to the Baron and Boris the Black for taking part along with myself, to Diccon Shorthand for serving as RMIC and to the Baroness for gracing us with her presence.

Despite the small numbers, the pirate ship scenario proved to be most challenging and it will be written up for the Kingdom Rapier Marshal and for the Royal Guild of Defence as a worthwhile departure from the standard tourney. Planning is now underway to host a pirate ship melee during Festival.

No injuries were reported for November. Mistress Leta has graciously given her permission for the rapier tourney during the Baronial Divestiture / Investiture to be run as a chivalric tourney to select her new Champion.

Owen Cantor ap Hugh



## Arts and Sciences

Here is a comprehensive list of upcoming A&S competitions:

Twelfth Night Coronation XXXVII: Krae Glas (2004)

Costuming: A ruff

Woodworking: period style chest

Calig/Illum: A page from a Missal

Everyday item: Kitchen item

May Crown XXXIX (2004)

Brewing: "A Drink fit for a King" (alcoholic or non-alcoholic.)

Martial: metal helm with period heraldic accoutrements (torse, mantling, possible crest), to SCA standards.

Textiles: Lace in a period use (can be on handkerchief, garb, accessory)

Art: woodcut (as in printed books)

July Coronation XXXIX

Everyday item/Dress accessory: a Renaissance fan

Painting: A triptych

Performance: A story

Embroidery: an Elizabethan sweet pouch.

As you know Festival is not that far away, and there are a series of competitions being conducted at the Laurel Prize Tourney, Saturday afternoon at festival. House Stonehenge has donated the handsome sum of \$1,000 in prize money for the advancement of Arts and Science in Lochac. This prize will be broken up into 5 categories with a prize to the value of \$200 each. The categories are:

1. Millinery

2. Shoemaking

3. Metalwork - personal accoutrement or small household item

4. Amour Foundation - gambeson, ackerton, etc.

5. Dramatic Performance, pre 1500, max 15 mins long -

The performance can be drawn from any performance style that is documentable prior to 1500 AD. e.g.. liturgical drama, mystery plays, morality plays, miracle plays, early commedia dell'arte etc. It may be taken from existing material, or written recently in the style of pre 16th century drama. It may be an excerpt or a complete piece. Both group or solo performance allowed.

In addition, thanks to the patronage of Master Drake Morgan a sixth competition will be held with a prize to the value of \$100

6. Preserve or Confectionery

Rules of the competition:

1. No Laurel can enter

2. Documentation must be provided with entry.

Documentation must be suitable for publication in Cockatrice and the entrant willing to allow publication.

3. Entry can not have been previously entered in a Kingdom, Principality or Baronial Competition

4. Notification for entry to the Dramatic Performance must be given prior to festival in case the number of entries into this category causes the performances to be scheduled at other times. Please contact the Laurel Principal on [cdaquino@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cdaquino@ozemail.com.au) if you intend to enter.

Cheers,

Syb



## Constable

Greetings.

this will be my last report as Constable; from December Kónusch will be taking over as Baronial Constable. I will be handing over to her details of all upcoming events that I have been contacted about.

November had the Continuing Melee & Casual War, both of which were well attended (Casual War had 40+ attendees.) the only incident was at Casual War when Edmund was being nasty to his ballista which subsequently bit him – no major damage, he just broke a fingernail.

A reminder: from January 2004, site indemnities will need to be signed again for fighter practices.

Signing off for last time as Baronial Constable, Leta von Goslar.



## Chronicler

The end of the year draws close, and this is the final issue for Griffintayle for the year! What happened? Where did the year go?

Thanks to everyone who has helped me since I took over the reins. Without your input and feedback, although I would still be doing this, I wouldn't be enjoying it nearly so much!

Just to warn you all – I will be wayfaring to my native Barony of Innigard over the Christmas – New Year period (stopping off at Twelfth Night Coronation in Krae Glas on the way home) and will not be in Politarchopolis for the first week of January. Because of this, the January edition will be coming out one week later than usual.

Nos Galen! (That's Happy New Year for you non-Welsh types!)

Blodeuwedd y Gath

## News of the Realm



Wayfarers from An Tir! Here follows a message from afar:

“Greeting unto the noble populous of fair Lochac from the far reaches of the kingdom of An Tir, Barony of Acquaterra, Canton of Bear Wood. Lady MariSuzanne de Jardin de Lune is writing to any and all who would engage in a correspondence until the joyous day I can manage to travel to your lands; hopefully in the next 12-24 months. I have been in the SCA since 1980 and managed to make it to many of the Kingdoms. This encouraged me to make as many pilgrimages as I can to the other kingdoms for I have found the people I meet and places I go to be the more greatly enhanced for getting to know the local members. I have many interests that fall within the SCA groups and more that are mundane as well so if you share a desire to know more about us crazy Americans or would share with me your interests please write.

In Service to An Tir,

MariSuzanne de Jardin de Lune

aka Beth Phillips”

The gentle lady's email address is [bsw\\_p@premier1.net](mailto:bsw_p@premier1.net)

## News From Politar chopolis

Lady Katerina da Brescia, Kingdom A&S officer, is attempting to have photographs of all Kingdom A&S competition entries on display on the Lochac website. If you have photos of entries, especially for the following, please let her know:

Trims: Baroness Gwir merch Madoc, Ysabeau la Rochelle, Roskva, Rothnait inghean ui Chaireallain,

Headwear: Mistress Miriam Galbraith, Lucynda

McCarrum, Morag Freyser,

Pouches: Contarina la Bianca, Guy l'bastarde, Baron Bran,

Pie: Master Del

Her email is [kat@iprimus.com.au](mailto:kat@iprimus.com.au)

Just another short word regarding Rowany Festival. As you may be aware the booking form is available for Festival at the official Festival website:

[www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival](http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival) Negotiations are currently underway with Pages Event Hire to arrange equipment hire for Festival. As soon as these negotiations are complete an equipment list will be posted on the website and circulated thru every possible avenue including local newsletters. In addition, thank you to all the people who turned out for the rained out site prep in November.

February and March will see more site preps, if you can make it we would appreciate it as missing the November opportunity has put us slightly behind schedule.

On another note, if anybody wants to merchant at Festival, either full or part-time or just the Saturday market can you please contact me.

Yours in Festivalness,  
Hrothgar.

There will be a meeting of Tailor's Guild members at 12th Night - all people interested in the costuming arts are very welcome to attend. It will be on the Sunday - please email Yvonne for more details and agenda ideas. Her email address is [mlebas@alphalink.com.au](mailto:mlebas@alphalink.com.au)

The Western Michigan University Medieval Institute Publications online bookstore is now open at:

<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/mip/order.htm>

Some items which may be of interest:

- ❖ Vox Feminae: Studies In Medieval Woman's Songs
- ❖ Personal Names Studies Of Medieval Europe: Social Identity And Familial Structures
- ❖ Improvisation In The Arts Of The Middle Ages And Renaissance Illustrations Of The Stage And Acting In England To 1580
- ❖ Studies In Fifteenth-Century Stagecraft
- ❖ The Idea Of Music: An Introduction To Musical Aesthetics In Antiquity And The Middle Ages
- ❖ Insular, Anglo-Saxon, And Early Anglo-Norman Manuscript Art At Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
- ❖ Anglo-Saxon Textual Illustration: Photographs Of Sixteen Manuscripts With Descriptions And Index
- ❖ Studies in Iconography (Journal)

Calling out to all thespians, musicians, acrobats, extroverts and anyone else who feels like being in a show. The collage is producing a performance for a feast in February. It's going to be a street performance style with music, fire, action and what ever other stuff we feel like throwing in. At the moment no definite rehearsal times have been scheduled but they will run through December and January. If you want to get involved in any way (acting, music/drums, helping back stage) please email Claire Buller (director) at [Astarith\\_22@hotmail.com](mailto:Astarith_22@hotmail.com) asap (that includes people who have vocally said they want to) as we want to get an idea of numbers so we can start to script.

More from the College. They will be continuing doing stuff over the holidays. The College Meetings will continue on Wednesday's up until about the 17<sup>th</sup> December and will re-convene around about 15<sup>th</sup> January

A & S: For all of you who are not at work during the day there is an open house every Wednesday afternoon between 12:30 and 3:00pm at the Mummery. Bring some stitching and be prepared to chat. Children are welcome. Contact the seneschal for more details.

Could any members of the populace who are willing to host wayfarers to the Baronial Investiture / Divestiture, please contact Oriel at [oriel@webone.com.au](mailto:oriel@webone.com.au) or on 02 6241 9730.

Please feel free to pass this request onto others who may not receive Griffintayle.

Thursday night College fighter practice has been cancelled for the rest of this year. It will be re-instated next year, but will possibly have a change of time/venue. Watch this space.

The Return of the King  
No, I don't mean Alaric or even Aedward but Aragorn (and the rest of the folk of Middle Earth). The Return of the King fundraiser is now confirmed - details are:  
Where: Greater Union Civic \*  
When: Sunday 28 December  
Time: 12.30 for 1.15 pm screening  
Cost: \$10 per ticket  
For: Crossroads (improving site for Festival)  
Extra: A few special candy bar combos - still negotiating but expect something like: Mega Popcorn & 2 Maxi Drinks for just \$10.00 (normally \$13.20)  
Please feel free to post to work bulletin boards, send to all your friends etc.  
\* We did try Hoyts but they priced themselves out of the market (we would have had to charge \$15 a head to even begin to raise any funds)  
Tickets available from Vicki/Oriel ([oriel@webone.com.au](mailto:oriel@webone.com.au) or call Gypsy's Rest)

Your Barony needs you! Hearing things about an Investiture in Politar chopolis but don't know how to be involved or what it means for you? The details of the



event are elsewhere in Griffintayle but have you considered loaning personal banners to create a better ambience for the event? Learning how to cook a dish for 10 or 100? Helping to make banners, napkins or table runners? Entertaining the populace with a song or a story or a poem or something? Embroidering a napkin for high table? Dressing to impress by featuring Baronial colours (red/white), if you're making new garb? Loaning CDs from which background music can be created? Helping to transform a mundane hall into medieval pageantry? Bringing the hall back to its pristine state when our revelry ends?

All these and more need doing for the Baronial Investiture, so if you can help in any way, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Contact Oriel ([oriel@webone.com.au](mailto:oriel@webone.com.au) or call Gypsy's Rest) to volunteer.

**D**ance Practices will be specialising in the dances chosen for Divest/Invest. They are:

#### Set One

Red and White Almain, Known World Pavane, Known World Galliard, Known World Basse Dance, Known World Tordion, Ballo di Fiore for 2, Mimed Bransles - Washerwoman's, Mimed Bransles - Pease, Mimed Bransles - Clogs, Mimed Bransles - Horses, Mimed Bransles - Hermits, Ruffy Tufty, Petit Vriens

#### Set Two

Leoncello, Gathering Peasecods, Contentezza D'Amore, Tinternell, Cut Branles - (1) Bransle Cassandra, Cut Branles - (2) Bransle Pinagay, Cut Branles - (3) Bransle Charlotte, Cut Branles - (4) Bransle La Guerre, Cut Branles - (5) Bransle Ariden, Godesses, Rostiboli Gioso, Lo Spagnoletto.

**C**ampsite at Festival - Greetings all, I have volunteered to be Polit's campsite coordinator for next Rowany Festival. It is likely that we will have a different campsite to the one that Polit had this year. In order to find out how much space we need, could people who wish to camp in the Polit Campsite at Festival 2004 please respond to my short questionnaire:

Name:

How big is your tent/s (rough idea e.g. 2mx4m):

Are there any other people who will be camping with you? (e.g. children, siblings etc):

Did you camp with Polit last year?:

Thanks, Leta.

## Webpage of the Month

<http://www.florigium.org>

This month's webpage of interest is the world famous Stephen's Florigium. There are several articles on period Yule customs and celebrations.

## Recipe of the Month

### Se Vuoi i Gnocchi (Cheese Gnocchi)

*"If you want some gnocchi, take some fresh cheese and mash it, then take some flour and mix with egg yolks as in making migliacci. Put a pot full of water on the fire and, when it begins to boil, put the mixture on a dish and drop it into the pot with a ladle. And when they are cooked, place them on dishes and sprinkle with plenty of grated cheese."*

Frammento di un libro di cucina del sec. XIV, taken from *"The Medieval Kitchen"*, O. Redon, F. Sabban & S. Servanti, trans. E. Schneider, copyright 1991.1993. University of Chicago Press.

Redon, Sabban and Servanti's redaction:

600g cream cheese

200g flour (1 ½ cups)

6 egg yolks

6-8 tbs freshly grated parmesan cheese.

Mash the cream cheese into a creamy paste; if it is too stiff, force it through a sieve. With your hands, mix in the flour. Add salt to taste and blend in the egg yolks, one by one. Continue kneading to form a smooth mixture neither too firm nor too soft. Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil and lower the heat to a simmer. Put the cheese mixture on a plate, and drop half-teaspoonfuls of the mixture into the simmering water. It is quicker for two people to do this simultaneously.

Cook for a few minutes, until the gnocchi rise to the surface of the water. Drain and turn into a heated serving dish. Sprinkle generously with grated parmesan and serve immediately.

These are absolutely delicious and have become a firm favourite of mine. The flavour is subtly cheesy, and they have a nice, slightly springy, chewy texture. I don't recommend mascarpone as your cream cheese - it is too lightly flavoured to be of any use. The stronger the flavour of the cheese, the better the taste.

At the time that I first starting making this, a regular fellow diner was a mad cheese fan, who's constant review was "Very nice, needs more cheese." As a result, I tried adding varying amounts of parmesan to the mixture, as well as having it to sprinkle over. For the amount you have to use, it doesn't add a great deal to the flavour. Very finely grated mozzarella was more successful, as was Cheddar, but the best was when we mixed in about three tablespoons of very crumbly, very mature "Old Bitey"-style vintage cheese. I crumbled it as much as I could first and then mashed it in with the cream cheese.

The very best was when I made this with Brie (the result of a wine and cheese party where five people brought Brie and no one seemed to eat it.) Scoop out the middle, then finely mince the rind - divine! Expensive, but gorgeous.

I found these gnocchi are best cooked in small batches - enough to just cover the surface of the cooking water. Scoop them out into a bowl and be generous with the boiling water scooped with them. As long as they stay wet, they won't stick and when you have done the whole lot, pour them back into the boiling water for about two to five minutes to get them hot again.

Surprisingly, these are easily done for a feast. Cook them the night before, and toss them in a neutrally flavoured oil (olive oil, though very fitting, overrides their subtle flavour) to stop them sticking. At the feast kitchen, simply put them into boiling water for five minutes, stirring gently but constantly. A little is quite filling, so err on the side of caution with amounts, but don't be surprised to find die hard pasta fans at the kitchen door begging for leftovers.

Redon *et al* recommended these be served with a rich rabbit stew or similar, but I found the subtle flavours were completely drowned out. These worked best with a simple accompaniment of fresh, steamed seasonal vegetables, especially asparagus, green beans or English spinach where the contrast of the strong vegetable flavour went very nicely with the subtle cheese of the gnocchi, without overwhelming them. Although we don't think of this sort of heavy pasta as a good summer dish, I would recommend them for a summer feast, served with vegetables and perhaps some cold, sliced meats and small goods for first remove, with a very light second remove of desserts and "nibbles".

Lady Blodeuwedd y Gath

## TAROK

researched by Modar Neznanich

Tarot Cards have been used to play card games for centuries. The Minor Arcana section of the tarot deck is what modern playing cards are derived from. In the game of Tarok, however, the entire 78-card deck is used. This game is designed for 2, 3 or 4 players.

The object is to score points by taking tricks. (A trick is the cards played in one round of a card game.) The first person to score 1000 (or more) points is the winner.

One player is appointed scorekeeper. Another player is selected as beginning dealer. The dealer shuffles the cards, offers a cut to the player to his right, then following the cut, deals 15 cards (one at a time) to each player. Remaining cards are placed face down in the centre of the playing area, and will be used as a draw pile.

The player to the dealer's left selects a card from his hand of 15 cards and plays it face up in the middle of the playing area (next to the draw pile). The player to this person's left must play a card of the same suit if he has one. For the purposes of this game, the deck is considered to be composed of 5 suits:

1. Wands (staffs, rods, clubs)
2. Pentacles (coins, circles, diamonds)
3. Swords (daggers, spades)
4. Cups (bowls, hearts)
5. Major Arcana

If the player does not have a card of the suit led, he may play any other card, but he has lost the chance to take that trick. The player to his left now plays a card, following suit if possible. This continues until each player has played a card. The player who played the highest card of the suit led wins the trick.

In the Major Arcana the numerical value of the cards is used. The higher the number the higher the card. In the Minor Arcana (the suits of Wands, Pentacles, Swords and Cups) the King is the highest card, followed by Queen, Knight, Page, 10, 9, 8...and so on.

After the trick is won, it is placed aside by the player winning it. Then each player draws a card from the draw pile and adds it to his hand, starting with the person who played the first card.

The person who won the trick leads the next round, and play continues until all cards are exhausted, or until one player has exhausted his hand and no cards remain for him to draw from. (That is to say that if the draw pile is depleted, play continues until someone is out of cards in their hand.) This ends the hand.

Once play has ended for the hand, scores are totalled and recorded.

Scoring is based on cards won in tricks. Any cards left in a player's hand are set aside and not counted in the score.

Scoring is as follows: Major Arcana cards are worth 15 points each. In the Minor Arcana (Wands, Pentacles, Swords and Cups), Kings are worth 25 points, Queens worth 20, Knights and Pages worth 15, and each card 1 to 10 are worth face value.

The person to the left of the last dealer collects the cards, shuffles them, offers a cut to the person on the right, and play continues as previously stated. Continue until one player has at least 1000 points at the end of a hand.

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