

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

GRIFFINTAYLE



"Don't forget the tent pegs."

Griffintayle is published by and for the Barony of Politarchopolis. 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/politarchopolis>

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY	2 IKAC ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	3	4 ♥ ♠	5 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	6 ♠	7	8 May Crown Tourney
	9 May Crown Tourney	10	11 ♥ ♠	12 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	13 ♠	14	15 ♠
	16 ♠ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	17	18 ♥ ♠	19 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	20 ♠	21	22 Flametree Ball, Wollongong
	23 ♠ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	24	25 ♥ ♠	26 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	27 ♠ ♠	28	29 Tudor Feast, Melbourne
JUNE	30 ♠ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	31	1 ♥ ♠	2 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	3 ♠	4	5
	6 ♠ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	7	8 ♥ ♠	9 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	10 ♠	11 Cold War, Sydney	12 ♠ Fluffy Duck Tavern Cold War, Sydney
	13 Cold War, Sydney ♠ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	14	15 ♥ ♠	16 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	17 ♠	18	19
	20 Le Crapaud Tourney ♠ ✨	21	22 ♥ ♠	23 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	24 ♠ ♠	25	26
	27 ♠ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	28	29 ♥ ♠	30 ♣ ♠ ✦ ✧ ✨	1 ♠	2	3 Midwinter Coronation, Brisbane

See overleaf for legend

Other Upcoming Events:

3rd-4th July – Midwinter Coronation, River Haven (Brisbane)
8th-12th July – InterCollege War, College of St Monica (Melbourne)
10th July – St Vitas Dance Weekend
31st July – Siege Feast and Tourney

31st July – Inaugural Ulrich von Liechtenstein Heraldic Pas de Arms
Tournament, Stormhold (Melbourne)
31st July – 1st August – Great Northen War (Chuwar, Qld)
14th August – College Pub Feast
20th – 22nd August – Benevolence Crusade (Albury-Wodonga)

Politar chopolis Regnum

SCA Politar chopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email politar chopolis@sca.org.au
 To subscribe to the Politar chopolis email list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>

Please see elsewhere on the website for Regnum details*Regular Meetings*

- ☉ **Baronial Meetings:** the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Check with the Seneschal for location.
- ❖ **Baronial heavy fighter practice:**
 - Sunday: from 2:00 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 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
- 🏹 **Twilight Twang Archery Practice:** 5.45pm to dusk, weather permitting. Location and costs as above.
- 🎨 **Arts and Sciences:** Sundays - after fighter practice, same location. Wednesday - between 12:30 and 3:00pm at the Mummery. Contact the Seneschal for location details and to confirm the session is on.
- 🏰 **Guild Sunday** – every 3rd Sunday of the month. Details vary – contact A&S Minister for details.

- 🪡 **Stitch and Bitch:** Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Contact the A&S Minister for location details
- 🎭 **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 2nd 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&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 last Monday of the month for general and event notices, Officers Reports by the Thursday evening of the Baronial Meeting. This is the May edition for 2004.

Upcoming Events

May Crown XXXIX

When: May 8th – 9th

Where: Tournay Fields: Edison Park Woden
(Saturday & Sunday)
Feast Hall: Hughes Community Hall (Saturday Night)

The King has tasted of war (at Rowany Festival) and would take battle to the oppressors rather than wait in his halls for them to seek him out. Before he can leave these fair lands, however, the court advisers have insisted that an heir be named lest the worst befall. To this end, a call has been sent across the kingdom for all champions who feel themselves worthy to present themselves to their sovereigns before another month has passed. They should have a sturdy weapon in their strong arm and a gracious consort who will help them administer to the lands and people on the other. They are bid to gather in the Barony of Politarchopolis, not far from the earlier site of battle, to enter a contest of arms

Rates:

Until End Festival (12 April 04) Members \$30.00/Non-Members \$35.00
12-30 April 04 Members \$35.00/Non-Members \$40.00
At Door (from 1 May) Members \$45.00/Non-Members \$50.00
Day Rate (no feast) Members \$8.00/Non-Members \$10.00

More information and booking forms can be found at:
www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis/MayCrown/

Fluffy Duck Tavern

When: 13th June

Where: Haig Park Scout Hall, O'Connor

Oyez, oyez, oi yous! A new establishment has opened near the training grounds of the Baronial Guard. With the Baron away along with the troops to protect our treatise allies, come and celebrate in their spirit at the Fluffy Duck Tavern. Wander in after Warrior Training and sample the talents of our Barony's Brewers and good wholesome food. Stay a while and pit our wits and your purse against others in the Tavern or just sit in the corner and enjoy the entertainment.

Two competitions will be run during the course of the evening. The Best Brew and Best Entertainment. Best Brew of course, deals with whatever brews the brewers bring, which does not have to be alcoholic. Best Entertainment is for any games people bring/invent and general bardic or jester type entertainment. The deciding of the 'best' lies with the public of the Tavern.

Request for all the Brewers and Gamers in the Barony to come along and bring their best.

There will be a soup kitchen included in the price – ingredients list available for the wary.

Doors open 6pm. Kitchen 6.30pm. Event closes 10.30pm.
Costs: Members \$10, non-members \$12. Bookings welcome but not essential.

Stewards:

Könusch von Elte (Tamara Howard)
email: tami.h@emailme.com

Darby de Askote (Alinta Brown)
email: alinta@hotmail.com

St Vitas' Dance Weekend

When: 10-11 July

Where: Bungendore Memorial Hall, Molonglo Street south of Malbon Street, Bungendore.

St Vitas' dances off to Bungendore (30 min by car from Canberra, 2 trains daily from Sydney or Canberra) but it's not just country dancing! Come for two days of all kinds of dance and dance related classes, plus music, food, fun, friends and more dancing! There's even an A&S competition, for a Beverage suitable for a Ball.

TEACHERS WANTED! Contact Joanna (see below).

Starts 10am Saturday (Feast & Ball at 6pm) and 10am Sunday, all at Bungendore Memorial Hall, Molonglo Street south of Malbon Street, Bungendore.

Crash space is available at the hall Friday and Saturday nights. For other local accommodation see <http://www.bungendore.org.au/>. Flying Wayfarers may contact Caterina (see below) about lifts from Canberra.

Lunches, *very* basic breakfasts and a distinctly non-basic Feast and Ball on the Saturday night.

Full Weekend: \$31 Members & College Memb./\$33 Non-Memb./\$37 Not Booked.

One day plus F&B: \$21/\$23/\$27. F&B only: \$11/\$13/\$17. **Bookings by 7 July.**

Steward: Joanna of the Beechwoods [Joanna Keenan]
murray&joanna@acslink.net.au

Deputy Steward: Caterina della Pieri [Beth Schoenburg]
schoenb@webone.com.au. Please enquire of her regarding bookings, family discounts, short stay rates and special dietary requirements. Cheques payable to SCA Politarchopolis.

Breaking the Siege Feast

When: 31th July

Where: Haig Park Hall.

Come and enjoy a day of fighting, flinging and feasting.

Winter is upon us and now is the time to break the siege. Fighters are to hone their skills at a tournament. The siege engineers are to develop machines of destruction, and the cook is to prepare what food is left for a victory feast.

Have fun sieging the day!

Tournament lists open at 11:00, close at Midday, start 12:15pm

Table top competition begins at 3:30pm

Hall opens 5:30pm first remove 6:30pm

Cost: \$15 members \$18 non-members

NUMBERS LIMITED TO 50, NO BOOKING NO FEAST!!

Bookings to Rodri (Rob Howard) rob.h@emailme.com.au

Table top siege competition guide lines from Baron Edmund Ale-conner or via Polit home page. *If you plan on entering the table top competition please read the guide lines carefully.*

Events Elsewhere

Flametree Ball

Who: College of St Malachy (University of Wollongong)
When: Saturday 22nd of May
Where: Bulli Masonic Hall 282 Princes Highway Bulli NSW 2516

The College of St Malachy proudly presents the Flame Tree Ball. This will be a day and evening of dances performed throughout the centuries, with socialising between lords and ladies from many lands.

The ball will feature dancing, games, a beadwork competition, scary or unusual foods and a generous supper.

A dance practice will also be held during the afternoon, but dances will not be taught at the ball. For any additional information, including details of the beadwork competition, please visit the Flametree Ball web page below, or contact the steward.

Dance classes start at 1.00 pm and continue until around 5.00pm. The Ball commences at 6.30 pm and will end at 11.00pm

To get there:

Public transport: Three minutes from Bulli Railway Station (West to Highway then South)

Car: Fifteen minutes north of Wollongong (parking on site)

Cost: \$8 for members (College or SCA members) and \$10 for non members. Any cheques are to be made payable to the UOW Medieval Society.

Steward: Brian de St Malachy (Brian Pinch)

Bookings: To the steward via email to fantome@ozemail.com.au. Bookings are not required but are appreciated by the 14th May. Notice by this date is also required for any special requirements (including dietary).

Beadwork competition: New piece involving beadwork e.g. costume, jewellery, belts, etc based upon actual medieval piece or in medieval style. Documentation is requested.

For any changes and for the most up to date details visit the web site
http://www.sca.org.au/st_malachy/calendar/flametree.html

Tudor Feast

Who: Krae Glas (South East Melbourne)
When: 29th May
Where: The Kelvin Club, Melbourne Place, Melbourne CBD

Krae Glas invites you to a "Tudor Feast" to be held on May 29th. The venue is "The Kelvin Club", Melbourne Place (off Russell St) in the CBD. This is a private business persons' club which already has a wonderful Tudor-esk feel to it. Mistress Elspeth and the cooks of Krae Glas will be recreating one of Henry VIII's wedding feasts, and as we all know, there were a few to choose from.

The Kelvin Club is licensed premises, so you cannot bring your own alcohol, however club prices are lower than public bar prices, and for the wine/spirits connoisseur there is a fantastic selection at very reasonable prices, '67 armagnac anyone?

The dining room will be set up with 11 or so large round tables so there will be no banging of elbows or clambering over chairs to get to or from your seat. You will have s-p-a-c-e to spread out, I promise you. Candles are allowed, there will be silver candelabra on each table, the dance floor will be available as well for those so inclined.

Also for those of you who are not keen on courts - this is a Shire event, so unless we get a visit from their Majesties, there will be no court to interrupt your revellery.

Steward is Karel of the Three Isles (Karl Madsen)

To book, please send an e-mail to kmadsen@bigpond.net.au with "TUDOR FEAST Booking". Bookings are essential as they have to present the club with a full list of who is attending, are capped at 66 and bookings must close on May 16th.

Cheques to SCA Krae Glas

Cost: \$25.00 members, \$35.00 non-members, \$50.00 families

Doors open at 7pm (okay they will be locked but if you press the buzzer AND your name is on his list, the club manager will let you in.)

Event closes at 11:30pm, the downstairs bar will continue to midnight or so.

Old War Two

Who: Rowany (Sydney)

When: 11th to 14th June

Where: Tara Girl Guides, Silverdale (most recent 'Old Festival Site')

"The brigands of the north raid us once again, Forth warriors of the south, defend our lands from these villainous raiders."

It will be the same sort of format as last year. Lots of drinking lots of food and lots of fighting. Dancing for the fleet of foot, with on site A & S competitions as well.

Site opens at 4pm. The event will end around midday on the 14th of June. This is a long weekend (the false queen's birthday).

The event is \$60 per head with bunks at \$10 per bunk. For this you get a soup kitchen, 2 feasts, 3 breakfast and 2 lunches, a lot of fighting and a huge amount of fun (Ask last years attendees and the infamous bowl of goon).

Bookings to be made to Berenger of Nancy (Brendan Gill)
brendan_of_menai@yahoo.com.au

Midwinter Coronation

Who: River Haven (Brisbane)

When: 3rd-4th July

Where: Sat: St Edwards Function Centre, Chatswood Road
Daisy Hill, QLD, 1pm - 11pm

Sun: Artesanos Hall, Wesley Street, Lutwyche, QLD,
9.30am - 4.30pm

Come along and join River Haven for a Winter Frolic to celebrate the Coronation of the 5th King and Queen of Lochac. Saturday - games, archery, dance, children's activities and witness the Coronation. Sunday - Queen's 'Snowflake Tourney' and markets.

Prices: Up to 4th June \$35/\$40 M/NM,

Up to 18th June \$40/\$45 M/NM

Day Rate \$16/\$19 M/NM

Feast Only \$26/\$31 M/NM

Children 6-13 ½ price, 5 & under free.

Family rate on application to Steward

Event capped at 200.

All bookings with payment are required by 18th June. NO AT DOOR BOOKINGS.

ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE PAID FOR.

Cheques/Money Orders payable to SCA River Haven Inc. Stewards Caelia the Fair and Beatrice Malatesta. (Michelle McDonald and Kellianne Kane) alshell@bigpond.com

BOOKINGS with payment please to: Sibella da

Montefeltro (Allison Brown)

hobbit_hall@optusnet.com.au

Officers Reports

Baron and Baroness

Greetings unto the populace of Politarchopolis.

Well, Rowany Festival has been and gone, but I am sure that we are not the only people still finding dust in out of the way places. However, for those who have not yet heard, the Barony definitely made it's mark this year with Politarchopolis winning the Heraldic Melee, Siege Tourney, and a number of our archers taking an indecent number of the top positions in the IKAC. Congratulations also to our two newest Laurels, Mistress Oonagh and Master Sexi.

This month the Barony is hosting May Crown, which I am sure will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to display our fine winter fashions.

It has been noticed, by Us and others, that there is a distinct lack of advance publicity for events within the Barony. It is advisable to announce and publicise your event as soon as possible, for example in this fine publication that you are reading now.

If you have read our previous reports you may have noticed a slight change with this report

Yours in Service,

Leta Von Goslar

Baroness

Edmund Ale-conner

Baron

Seneschal

Hi all

Congratulations to everyone from the Barony who achieved so much at Festival this year. It was heartening to see the high activity level of Politarchopolans.

May Crown is just around the corner - probably over by the time many of you read this missive. Good luck to all Politarchopolans in the Crown list. Thanks to Selivia and her team for taking the Crown event on.

The Baronial event schedule is looking healthy. Thanks to the work of Lady Morag Freyser we now have the monthly Guild Sunday happening on the third Sunday of the month, with a schedule for the rest of the year. The monthly Baronial bash also makes a return, on the same weekend as the Guild Sunday. As the Guild event kicks off at 4pm the Tourneys will be scheduled for 2pm and also at Haigh Park. The first of these will be **La Crapaud** on June 20.

The Barony has also agreed to purchase the combat blunt mould from Master Ulfgar. This will be finalised by around the time you read this and blunts will be available shortly after that.

Don't forget to send recommendations to Their majesties.

Cheers

Stephen

Marshal

Greetings to you all good gentles,

For the month of April there were two events held, Festival (of course) and war training. There were only two minor injuries at a Sunday training one of which was due to armour failure (please accept my apologies your Excellency) so please check your armour and perform necessary repairs before you fight.

War Training – Saturday 24th April

A war training session was held at Symonston and with luck we may be able to use this venue again. If any fighters are interested in attending this could they please make themselves known. The more of us that attend the more fun we can have. There were 6 participants and 1 spectator/ trainee and no injuries reported. The activities inspired enquiries from some of the spectators so maybe we will have a few newbies turning up due to this. My thanks to you all and I hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Authorisation Cards

At present I have no outstanding forms to forward on or cards to receive on behalf of the fighting populace so my thanks to you all for coming to me for your authorisations/renewals/upgrades.

Held Events

Festival – Easter long weekend

Lots of fighting, lots of fun, lots of dust and I didn't manage to hurt myself. Whohoo!!

Upcoming Events

Le Crapaud Chivalric Tourney - 20th June

Autocrat : ?

Host : Viscount Sir Cornelius von Becke
Details to be supplied.

May Crown – XXXIX

Host : Barony of Politarchopolis
Where : Tourney Fields, Eddison Park, Launceston Street, Phillip.
When : Saturday and Sunday (8th and 9th)

Crown Tourney Saturday 8th May

Lists & Armour Inspections 10.00 am till 12.00 pm
Tourney 1.00 till 3.00 pm

Rose Tourney Sunday 9th May

Lists & Armour Inspections 10.00 till 11.00 am
Tourney starts 11.00 am.

YiS
Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse

Rapier Marshal

Festival was hugely successful from the rapier perspective, with 28 fighters taking part in the largest of the tourneys. Politarchopolis fighters took part in almost every event and by the end of the weekend there were indications of interest from 2-3 citizens in learning the art.

The Baroness' Rapier Champion, Boris the Black, successfully played his Prize on the Sunday morning and now carries the rank of Journeyman in the Guild of Defence. Generally a good time was had by all and there were many comments, both from fencers and non-combatants about the generally high quality of fencing this year.

Rubber band guns were successfully experimented with during the mêlée on the final day and appear set to make their way into the Lochac rapier armoury, although Don François believes he will have to recruit more musketeers and pikemen for the Gore Street Ward.

A Rapier Tourney will be held during May Crown, with lists opening at 10am on Sunday 9th of May at Eddison Park. For further information or to advise of your intention to take part, contact myself or Basil Faulke.

No injuries were reported during April.

Owain Cantor ap Hugh

Captain of Archers

We have started trialling a ranking system for Archers shooting IKAC's.

The April IKAC was won by Lord Hugh in the Marksman category 100 to 149 with a personal best of 183 and by Lorcan in the Period division with a score of 100.

I also note that the top five scores at the Festival IKAC were Politarchopolis Archers with Lord Sigmund Spellman the overall winner.

I attended the Archers meeting at Festival at which we discussed blunts, shafts, armour rules, hand cannon, what sort of Kingdom Combat Competition we might like to run as we are effectively excluded from the IKCAC. We also spoke about the position of Lochac Captain of Archers as Lord Karius of Lochford is stepping down.

War Training on 24th of April at Symonston – The day was particularly cold and windy. We had 6 participants, 5 lights and one heavy, and one spectator/trainee. There were no injuries. I did renewal of authorisation for 2 of the fighters at the end of training. Tom Allen, the property owner, came by to see what it was we did as did some of the pony club, who would be interested in borrowing some costumes or people for one of their displays.

Constables Report

Only Two events this month neither of which were being run directly by the Barony.

The first event being Rowany Festival. The constables at large from Polit that assisted Armedeus & Lorelein, as both Gatekeepers and Roving Constables did a fabulous job so thank you to all who helped.

Second Event was the College of St Aldheim's Pub Feast. Indemnities were not required for this event, (at the instruction of the Baroness Leta). I am waiting to hear from the College in regards to the numbers that attended.

YiS
Könusch von Eltz.

Webwright

Once more not a lot has actually happened on the web site this month. Behind the scenes I am developing an online Calendar for the site, have been investigating the practicalities of online payment systems for the possibility of using such a system should we be successful in obtaining the blunt mould, and have been a very interested observer in what is being planned for some of the Kingdom level systems.

I am eagerly awaiting an influx of photos that I am sure that the many Politarchopolans took while at festival.

YiS
Rodri.

Chronicler

Thanks to all who provided tall tales and true for the Festival Special Edition of Griffintayle, as well those who posed for or provided photos. I am aiming to have this finished by mid-May. Three copies will be printed and bound – one for the Barony, one for Their Majesties and one for the Kingdom Historian. An electronic copy will be posted on the website, so keep checking for it!

Sadly, although I have loved my time as Chronicler, Drake and I are leaving Politarchopolis for new fields in August, and thus I must find a replacement. It's not as difficult as you might think, and I am happy to keep supplying articles and give advice, fonts, fillers and programs to set you up.

Lastly, a reminder for all those who are running, or are planning to run an event – we seem to have forgotten the notification process. For events to be official, they must be published in Pegasus. Cut off dates is **2 months before the month of publication**. That means, if you want your event published in the July edition of Pegasus, you need to get your event notice in by the 1st of June. Don't forget - you

will need to get the Seneschal to sign the event form before you send it in.

You should also send details of the event to Griffintayle. Although you can simply photocopy the Pegasus form, I would prefer details to be emailed to me. Rodri & I will be working on an electronic form to do this on the website and will keep you posted. Ideally, you want your event in for 2 editions before the month of the event, and submissions to Griffintayle need to be received by the evening of the Baronial Meeting.

Iechyd da,
Blodeuwedd y Gath

News of the Realm

Baron Corin of Rowany is looking for photos of the Artillery tournament or of ballista's during the wars. Please scan and email as JPEGs to gerardtops@yahoo.com.au. Preferably keeping file size under 100K

From the Kingdom A&S Officer: "As part of the Office of Arts and sciences, we are setting up a Kingdom of Lochac Virtual Collegium and are hoping to supply notes from Festival Collegium, as well as Guild Day, Scribes Symposium and Collegia from Lochac's Eastern Isles.

I humbly request those teachers from Festival, who are willing to allow their notes and pics from their classes to be published on the A&S Website, to contact me. I will require written permission from each teacher to put the notes on the site. I will also require attachment of said notes and pics. Please contact me first, so formats can be discussed.

Master Drake is my Collegium Deputy.

I would dearly love to have as many notes as possible for the site.

Lady Katerina da Brescia, Lochac Arts & Sciences Minister"

There is a new Yahoo list dedicated to discussing theatrical performance, production and the like. The address is: lochactors@yahoogroups.com If you are interested in acting, producing, directing scriptwriting, or any part of theatrical production and would like to be able to discuss it with like minded people, please feel free to join.

Cockatrice! It's Arts, it's Sciences, it's got more pages and fewer ads (zero) than T.I.! If you would like to be a part of this kingdom-wide publication, why not write us an article, poem, song or letter. Draw us a picture or send in your documentation (preferably with photos) from your last A & S comp entry. Works over two A4 pages long (in 11 point typeface) will receive a free copy of Cockatrice. Deadline: MAY 23. Send articles to cockatrice@sca.org.au The next Cockatrice comes out at Midwinter Coronation. For more information about Cockatrice, visit us on the web <http://www.sca.org.au/cockatrice>

Finn of Stowe is looking for gentles with experience, or interested in making instruments. She has found

some woodworking magazines with details of how to make, amongst others, a 7 course lute, a 3 course lute (which is a very small & different version of the more familiar looking lute), a hammered dulcimer, and a Saxon lyre. If you are interested in talking with her, please contact the Chronicler for her details.

The Lochac Cooks' Guild has a new administrator, Arglwyddes Rhiannahn uerch Rhianfellt uerch Rhydderch Rhayader. If you have any paperwork for rise in ranking or just want to contact her, her contact details are: P.O. Box 8093 Toowoomba M.C. QLD 4352, Email: rhaeader@bigpond.com or cooks@sca.org.au

As you may be aware, it was announced that email submissions would be trialled for certain Kingdom A&S Comps, in an effort to make the comps accessible to all artisans throughout our large expanses of Lochac. This is the first time we will be trialling this method. Those not affected by distances are encouraged to post or send your comp entries with someone attending the event! As May Crown is being held in Politarchopolis, this shouldn't affect you, but anyone wanting to enter competitions at November Crown, which will be in New Zealand, should contact Lady Katarina de Brescia, the Kingdom A&S Minister, or Mistress Sybille, the Baronial A&S Minister, for details on how to submit entries in this way.

From the Provost of Scribes "Greetings, gentle cousins. After four very rewarding years as Provost of the College of scribes, I will be passing on the Office around mid-year. The Provost's role is to coordinate and administrate the functioning of the Royal College and Confraternity of Scribes and Illuminators. (The Provost of the College is a Lesser Officer of State.) The position is not onerous, but does require someone who is organised, and has good communication and delegation skills. Understanding of the workings of the College is essential. If you are interested in taking up the Office, I am happy to provide a statement of the Provost's duties to assist in the application, or answer any questions about the job and what it entails.

Applications may be made in writing to myself, and should detail administrative experience (within the SCA/College or mundane), proposals/aims for your tenure as Provost, and any other supporting information. Closing date is 1st June 2004.

Benedicite, Giles de Roet, Provost"

Ideas about the proposed event levy were discussed at the Seneschals Meeting at Festival. The proposal settled on was that \$1 per head per event would be charged. This was to be to a maximum of \$750 per Barony and \$300 per Shire or Canton. The precise logistics were left to be worked out by each group.

News From Politarchopolis

Help is needed for May Crown. If you can provide any assistance in terms of constabling (waivers), gatekeeping (entry) or clean up, please contact the Stewards. Alternatively, please feel free to come up and offer assistance during the event.

For those of you hungry during the event, Black Legion will be holding a sausage sizzle at May Crown on the Saturday (and quite possibly the Sunday as well). Sausage in a bun with sauce and onion (if you wish it) at a very reasonable price

At May Crown on Sunday 9th starting at 10am with Lists will be a Fencing Tourney in Edison Park. Please advise if you are to going to attend please let me know so they have a knowledge of numbers.

Scriptoria is on again on the 15th May from 1 - 4.30pm at Giovanni's Magpie Hacienda (details in Regnum). We have postponed it a week from our usual second Saturday of the month so we can all attend May Crown. Please bring your work to show, the exemplar you are working on (or have finished) and a plate of afternoon tea. For further details contact the local Warden of the College of Scribes, Morag at Raven's Nest. We're also going to talk about what the Wardenry will do for our Baronial A&S meeting this year. Members of the Peynters & Limners are invited, as well as any interested in Calligraphy or Illumination. There will be some introductory kits for sale. Want to know more? for scribes www.sca.org.au/scribers for drawing and painting <http://www.sca.org.au/peyntlimners/>

Guild Sunday this month, Sunday 16 May at 4pm at Haig Park Scout Hall, is hosted by the Worshipful Company of Broiders and is on Elizabethan Sweet Bags. This will be an information sharing session leading up to the Lochac Midwinter A&S Competition in July. Amelot de Akeney will be bringing along pictures, weblinks and other information on making Elizabethan Sweet Bags. Please come along and bring any pictures, examples that you may have to share with others. Contact Amelot de Akeney by email amelot@hotmail.com

There have been issues with the parking at Haig Park. If the Carpark is full, please use the road. Remember to be courteous – there have been problems with double parking blocking people in.

The Gentry List of Politarchopolis is now available on line, also the Roll of Arms in Order of Precedence. Go to <http://flurf.net/herald/gentry.xb>

As he has accepted a more senior role in the College of Heraldry, our Baronial Herald, Karl Faustus von Aachen has to step down and is now looking for a successor. Anyone interested in the role should contact him directly.

Webpages of the Month

The new Lochac Roll of Arms:

<http://www.sca.org.au/herald/LRoA/index.htm>

The links in the navigation bars lead you to thumbnail pages. Click on the thumbnails or the name to display an individual page.

This is an amazing resource and has been fabulously well done.

The British Library has made available ten items from its unique interactive display system "Turning the Pages" on the web at www.bl.uk

Recipe of the Month

Seu Soup (Lamb Jam)

Original Recipe:

It treats deficiency chill of the primordial storehouse, chill pain of the abdomen, and aching pain along the spinal column.

Mutton (two legs, the head, and a set of hooves), tsaoko cardamoms (four), cinnamon (three liang), sprouting ginger (half a chin), kasni (big as two chickpeas) Boil ingredients into a soup using one telir of water. Pour into a stone top cooking pot. Add a chin of pomegranate fruits, two liang of black pepper, and a little salt. The pomegranate fruits should be baked using one cup of vegetable oil and a lump of asafoetida the size of a garden pea. Roast [i.e., cook dry ingredients] until a fine yellow in color, slightly black. Remove debris and oil in the soup. Strain clean. Use the smoke produced from roasting chia-hsiang [operculum of Turbo cornutus and related spp], Chinese spikenard [Nardostachys chinensis], kasni, and butter to fumigate a jar. Seal up and store [the Seu Soup] as desired.

Taken from "Yin-shan Cheng-yao" ("Proper and Essential Things for the Emperor's Food and Drink") by Hu Szu-Hui, 1330 Mongolian text. Translation by Paul D. Buell and Eugene N. Anderson in "A Soup For the Qan."

Drake's Redaction:

- 1 Leg of Lamb, 1.5-2Kg in size
- 5 litres of lightly salted water.
- 2 Cups of Pomegranate Molasses
- 2 Brown Cardamom (or Cangus if you can find it)
- 2 tsp of Coarse Black Pepper
- 1 tsp Compound Asafoetida (half if you have resin)
- 6 Cinnamon Sticks, Whole
- 2 tsp of Spikenard (Nardostachys Jatamansi) made into a tea with a cup of boiling water (omit if you don't have any)
- 1 tub of Ghee

Boil Leg of Lamb in lightly salted water for about 3 hours until the meat is falling off the bone and you can flake the meat with light pressure from a fork. Reserve the lamb stock.

Flake the lamb and add to a pot. Add the pomegranate molasses and spices. Simmer for another hour, adding small amounts of stock as you go to avoid boiling completely dry. The meat should slowly turn a rich mahogany colour. Just before the end of the 2 hours, turn down the heat and stop adding stock until the mixture turns dry. Check regularly to ensure it doesn't burn...

Meanwhile, have several paté pots in the oven heated to 160-180degC.

Take out the spices. Pack the meat into pots and pour an inch layer of melted ghee over the meat. Put in the fridge to rapidly cool. Cover pots with glad wrap. Should keep

upto a month in the fridge as long as the ghee layer is undamaged.

Assumptions:

- Used an oven to sterilize pots rather than fumigation.
- Added pomegranate molasses/syrup as it was what I had, and people have had more success (better flavour) with the recipe using molasses rather than real pomegranates.

The Development of the Torsion Powered Siege Engine. Part I

By Baron Edmund Ale-conner

Over the 2000 years of their development the siege machine saw great leaps in technology from the use of the *gastraphete* (belly bow in use around 400bc) to the eventual use of gun powder (used for the first time by Europeans in the 14th century). During this time the use of siege weapons changed the way cities and strongholds were attacked and defended.

The Historian Diodorus states that siege machines, as we know them, were developed by Greek engineers in the employ of the tyrant Dionysius I of Syracuse. In seeking to develop superior firepower to devastate and demoralise his Carthaginians enemies, the *gastraphete* began to become bigger and better. Dionysius paid high wages to Syracuse bow craftsmen to build vast numbers of standard weapons of the day and also to experiment with new designs. The craftsmen developed bows that become almost impossible to be drawn by hand, so they had to be winched back and held in place by mechanisms that mimicked the archer's hand. You could well imagine the surprise of the Carthaginians who were not aware of this development and thought themselves safe and out of range of Dionysius' archers!

The introduction of the winch on the *gastraphete* had overcome the problem that still affects present day archers, the physical strength of the archer limits the hitting power of the bow. One *gastraphete* was said to have a bow span of 2 1/2 metres and that it fired two bolts 1 1/2 meters in length. Interestingly the term *gastraphete* was kept even though the bow was no longer loaded by the archer who placed his belly over the hand handle and pushed with his weight to force the slider back and engage the trigger.

On seeing a large *gastraphete* in use the Spartan king Agesilaus was heard to say, "By Hercules! A man's courage in battle is no use any more!"

Possibly around 340bc a remarkable breakthrough occurred, the father of Alexander the Great, Philip II of Macedon is accredited to be the inventor of the torsion or spring powered machine. By placing separate arms in two vertical springs of pre-stretched sinew-rope, mounted in a strong hardwood frame (green wood was used rather than seasoned wood as it has better resistance to the forces applied, trust me when I say that there is a LOT of force in a bunch of rope that has been twisted!), and adding a toothed ratchet system to pull back the slider, the ballista or catapult was invented.

Next issue I shall try to explain the difference between the term catapult and ballista, which history and Hollywood have changed and twisted to the point that the names and machines have lost their true meaning.

Period Games

By Lady Blodeuwedd y Gath

Court Baton

Requirements: a strong stick or staff.

Two players. This is a test of strength. Players sit facing each other, legs bent and pushing against each other by the soles of their feet. They grasp the staff, and try to lift the other off the ground by rolling back. Once a player has left the ground, he or she loses.

Buck Buck.

Two people may play. One is the buck, and goes down on all fours. The other sits astride, as though riding a horse. The rider holds up a number of fingers, say, three. He or she then says "Buck, buck, how many fingers do I hold up?" The buck guesses. If he or she gets it wrong, the rider says "[Two] you say, and [three] there be/ Buck, buck, how many horns do I hold up?" and holds up a number of fingers (usually different, but to be tricky may be the same) and the buck guesses again, this going on until the buck gets it right. When the buck gets it right, the rider says "[Four] you say and [four] there be./Buck, buck, rise up." The two then swap places. This was played in Roman times, where the call from the rider was "Bucca, bucca, quot sunt hic?"

Variations: When the buck guesses wrong, they are struck the same number as the difference between the guess and the correct number.

Loggats

Requirements: six to eight wooden pins, one a little larger than the rest, and a short wooden stick or baton.

Two to four people may play. The pins are set up in a row, one in front of the other, in front of the larger pin. Players stand a distance away (which varies depending on the skill of the player) and try to knock down all the pins with the baton, the object being to knock them all down with as few throws as possible. Each player continues throwing until all the pins are knocked down; the one doing so with the fewest throws wins. In cases of ties, the tied players step back ten paces and throw another round. This was a favourite game at fairs, where the traditional prize to the winner was a cake of gingerbread. The pins were originally the shank (leg) bones of sheep.

Period Games (continued)

Hippas

Four people may play. Two players 'piggy-back' the other two players on their shoulders. The object is for the knights or riders to try and knock the other knight off, whilst the horses try to push each other off balance.

Cross and Pile

Requirements: a coin.

Toss the coin and catch it without looking at which way it has fallen, then guess which side has landed face up (medieval English coins had a cross on one side, hence *cross* and *pile*) Keep tabs as to how many guesses are right, up to an agreed number of tosses.

Hoodman's Blind, Blind Man's Buff

Requirements: a blindfold.

Five or more people may play. One player is blindfolded, this is the Blind Man.

Variations: 1) The other players form a moving ring around the Blind Man. When the Blind Man claps, the ring stops, and whoever the Blind Man points to enters the ring to be chased by the Blind Man until caught. Other players may call out and make various noises to distract the Blind Man. When the person has been caught, the Blind Man then tries to guess who it is. If the Blind Man is correct, the person caught becomes the new Blind Man, otherwise, the game is repeated until the Blind Man guesses correctly.

2) The Blind Man is spun around three times, and must then try to catch another player. The others may taunt the Blind Man by pulling, pinching and hitting him or her. Once the Blind Man has caught someone, he or she must try to identify by feel who has been caught. The Blind Man has only one guess. If they are correct, the person identified becomes the Blind Man and if it is incorrect, the player caught is set free and the game begins again.

A player who has been twice caught, whether they became the Blind Man or not, is said to be 'brunt' (burned) and is set free at once on the third and subsequent times they are caught.

Chance Bones ('Dice')

Requirements: three or four knuckle bones.

Any smallish number of people may play. This is the original form of dice (when Caesar said "alea jacta est" - "the die is cast" he was not talking about cubic dice, but knuckle bones used this way.) The knuckle bone has four sides. The side that is the hardest to land face up is Venus, worth seven (a flat side that looks like a somewhat warped figure 8, or a woman's figure). Opposite this is Canis, worth six (S-shaped). The other two sides are Chius (smooth, with two 'pillars' and an even dip between them) and Senio (seems to have a 'twist' in it), worth three and four respectively. Three or four bones are cast - the total number is the main. The player must then call higher or lower, and roll again. Let's say, using three bones, the result was Chius, Chius and Senio, giving 10. The player would probably call higher. If the result is the same score or lower, the player loses. If he or she rolls higher, the player must then call stay, and pass the bones on, or roll again to try and get a score between the two previous scores. This is really a gambling game, with each player betting on the 'higher or lower' (the thrower's money being equalled by the other players) and again on the 'between' throw.