

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

GRIFFINTAYLE



"Virga Non Universi Sum"

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
M A R	29 ♣ + ♠ ♣ & Borderscros War VI Stowe Tavern Feast	1	2 ♥ ♣	3 & ♠ ♣ ✂	4 ♣	5 Triformis Triduum, Melbourne	6 Newcomer's Games day & Feast
	7 Tourney in the Park ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	8	9 ♥ ♣	10 & ♠ ♣ ♣	11 ♣	12	13 ♣
	14 Tourney in the Park (to be confirmed) ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	15 Tourney in the Park (to be confirmed)	16 ♥ ♣	17 & ♠ ♣ ✂	18 ♣	19	20 Festival Site Prep
	21 Festival Site Prep ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	22	23 ♥ ♣	24 & ♠ ♣ ♣	25 ♣ ♣	26	27
	28 ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	29	30 ♥ ♣	31 & ♠ ♣ ✂	1 ♣	2	3
A P R	4 ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	5	6 ♥ ♣	7 & ♠ ♣ ✂	8 Rowany Festival, Yass ♣	9 Rowany Festival, Yass	10 Rowany Festival, Yass
	11 Rowany Festival, Yass	12 Rowany Festival, Yass	13 Rowany Festival, Yass	14 & ♠ ♣ ♣	15 ♣	16	17
	18 ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	19	20 ♥ ♣	21 & ♠ ♣ ✂	22 ♣	23	24
	25 ♣ + ♠ ♣ &	26	27 ♥ ♣	28 & ♠ ♣ ♣	29 ♣ ♣	30	1 B&B's SCA New Year's Party

See overleaf for legend

Other Upcoming Events:

8th - 9th May - May Crown Tourney, Politarchopolis
 22nd May - Flametree Ball, College of St Malachy, Mordenvale (Newcastle)
 3rd - 4th June - Midwinter Coronation, River Haven (Brisbane)
 11th - 14th June - Cold War Two, Rowany (Sydney)

8th - 12th July - InterCollege War, College of St Monica (Melbourne)
 31st July - Inaugural Ulrich von Liechtenstein Heraldic Pas de Arms
 Tournament, Stormhold (Melbourne)

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 Regnum elsewhere on the Politar chopolis Website

Regular Meetings

☼ **Baronial Meetings:** the last Thursday of the month at 8pm. Check with the Seneschal for location

❖ **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 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.

✂ **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 March edition for 2004.

Upcoming Events

Newcomers Games Day & Poisoners Feast

When: 6th March, 2004

Where: St John Hall, Corner of Constitution Avenue and Anzac Park REID ACT

Time: 2.30pm games will start, 6.30pm first course will be served

Come along to an event with a difference. We'll start the afternoon with games such as hobby horse tournaments, jousting and much much more. Then we'll feast on a variety of dishes with English, Italian and Arabic themes. The Poisoners feast will have you poisoning friend, enemy and complete stranger alike, but beware the assassins...

There will be competitions for best death and most ingenious poisoning. Please book and pre-pay for the feast. We have an amount of seats set aside for students and we will have a limited amount of spaces available. I will be at fighter practice on Wednesday and Sunday, Stitch and Bitch on Tuesdays, and College meetings on Thursdays to take bookings and payments or contact me to arrange other options.

Cost: \$15 member/students, \$17.50 non-members
Steward and Bookings to: Alice Balnaves-Knyvett
v-albain@microsoft.com

Tourney in the Park

When: Sunday March 7, as part of the Taste by the Lake mundane event. Lists at 11, tourney starts at noon.

Where: lake end of Reconciliation Plaza, Parkes Place, Parkes

Cost: Nil if doing demo, \$10 adult entry fee to mundane event otherwise

We need: Fighters, rapier combatants, members of the populace for colour and to show off their skills/wares (we plan to have pavilions on site for people work in).

We will be placed at the end of Reconciliation Place(?) that is closest to the lake, overlooking Parkes Place, near the last grove of trees and about 50 m away from a water tap we can access (see the maps below).

Mundane requirements:

To bring vehicles with tents etc on site, the vehicle must arrive by 9.30 am at the latest and be parked in the vendors' car park by 10 am. There is a specific route that must be taken to get to the site, so please advise me if you intend to do this.

Vendor car park passes need to be collected in advance, so please advise me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. Those who are coming later on in the day with armour etc can drive into the vendors' car park and drop off gear via the main gate but will need to park elsewhere.

Those doing the demo will be provided with wrist bands (free entry) but the mundane authorities prefer that the

numbers needed be advised and collected beforehand (wristbands can be given on the day but it is more problematic).



For more details, please contact Oriol (contact details as for the Reeve)

May Crown XXXIX

When: May 8th – 9th, 2004

Where: Tourney 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/

Events Elsewhere

Triformis Triduum

Who: Krae Glas, South Eastern Melbourne

When: March 5th – 8th

Where: Pryor Rd, Drouin, Vic 3818

Being a three day camping event celebrating war, tourney and knowledge, to be held close to the borders of the three Shires of Krae Glas, Arrowsreach and Iseldir.

Cost: Weekend - \$20/\$30 members & newcomers/non-members

Day - \$10/\$15 members & newcomers/non-members

Steward: Lady Aelesia de Trochdene (Louise Stewart)
contact: aelesiadetrachdene@hotmail.com

Site opens: Friday 5pm. Site closes: Monday 4pm. BYO everything, just like Festival (think of it as a three day trial for the real thing!). Subject to fire restrictions, a cooking pit and campfires will be permitted (fire regulations as per festival)

Activities:

Saturday is war day. Lord Sui Zo will be organising an eight hour war, with seige tactics, forays, open field battles and all manner of mayhem

Sunday is collegia day. Streams will include period camping and cooking, pavilion making, maille making, combat collegia, costuming and autocrating.

A market will be open on this day, too, to fulfil your retail therapy needs.

Monday is tourney day. Melees, tourneys and a boffer tournament.

Archery will be conducted all weekend.

Rowany Festival 2004

When: Thursday 8th – Tuesday 13th of April 2004.
Where: Crossroads Medieval Village, Yass.

1) There are some issues with the supply of equipment for hire for this year's Festival that are being sorted out. As soon as agreement has been reached there will be an online booking form attached to the Bookings area of the website: www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival

There will also be an equipment form in the information packs that will be sent out with the receipts.

2) Receipts, Info Packs and Booking Confirmations
The receipts will be posted with the info packs, the packs will be ready to post on Wednesday January 28.

3) The haybales we are purchasing for Festival, (see booking form) are indeed the Straw variety to help those afflicted by the other kind.

4) Volunteering - Please do!!!! There is a form attached to the Booking form and we need your help.

5) Merchants - THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. If you wish to sell ANYTHING at Festival this year you must register. You can do this through either

festivalsteward@sca.org.au or Bliss on narelle.griffin@ato.gov.au If you do not register you will not have a table at Market Day. Thank you to all those who have already done so, your tables are booked.

6) There is a map of the Camping areas on the website. Please check to see if your campsite is listed, if it is not, please contact me.

7) There are still some places for Collegia, but they must all be finalised by February 28th. If you wish to teach one, send an email to donyale@iprimus.com.au, listing the following:

SCA name:

Mundane name:

Phone number:

email:

Class title:

Brief synopsis of class:

Any required materials or cost?

Length of time required:

Preferred day/time:

Absolutely cannot clash with:

A&S 'stream' if appropriate (e.g. textiles, costume, music, etc):

To book for Festival:

Online -

<https://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival/booking/webbooking.php>
(Keith Romanis) Hrothgar aet Gytingbroce
festivalsteward@sca.org.au

Cold 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.

Prices: Up until 18th June \$35M \$40NM

Up until 25th June \$40M/ \$45NM

Children 6-13 Half Price. (Family Price on Application)

Billeting Available, Most diets catered for.

Event capped at 200.

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.

In February we attended our first event as Baron & Baroness, this year's Valentine's Tourneys. The rapier tourney had but four entrants with Don Francois being victorious on the day, and the Baroness' Champion, Boris, performing well - even proving himself victorious over Don Francois in one bout.

The heavy tourney was well attended for such a hot day, with the 'entertaining byes' contributing greatly to our enjoyment, including the many participations of Sir Cornelius, the victor. The method of choosing the next Champion of Politarchopolis was announced, a points method which rewards participation, prowess & the other aspects of our Society (chivalry, courtesy & honour) which we all profess to attempt but sometimes forget.

(Points are accumulatively awarded: 1 point - participating; 2 points - second place, 3 points - first place, 1-3 points being awarded by the Baroness for exceptional acts of courtesy, chivalry, honour, entertainment or which enhance the atmosphere of the event. Any or all of the points accumulated on a day will be forfeited for any behaviour which is contrary to the ideas of our Society - honour, courtesy & chivalry.)

Rowany Festival! Is very soon, but first St Aldhelm hosts the Newcomers Feast & we all showcase our talents for the general public at Tourney in the Park.

Rowany Festival is but 6 weeks away and we would hope that swords are being re-taped, shields repainted, authorisation expiry dates checked, sewing underway & camping preparations started.

Whilst it may seem so far away now, as a relaxation after Rowany Festival and before May Crown, we would like to invite all to gather with us, celebrating the year that has been and welcome in the new year, AS39, on Saturday 1st May 2004.

Yours in Service,
Edmund, Baron Leta, Baroness.

Seneschal

Hi all,
Well another society year is now in full swing. We are well into preparations for Festival, and unlike me I hope you have all booked for Festival. Her Excellency Baroness Leta is organising the Baronial camp site. If you intend to camp there please let her know, so she can ensure the site is large enough. This year the Politarchopolitan camp site is right near the centre of action.

The next Festival site prep is on the weekend of 20 and 21 March, it would be good to see more Politarchopolans than Rowanites there.

Tourney in the Park is on this next weekend, contact Lady Oriel for details. There will be another tournament on the 28th of March, followed in short order by Festival, the college pub feast and May Crown. Please think about what

events you might like to autocrat this year and contact me to discuss dates and potential event budgets. But do it quickly the calendar is filling up very (very) quickly.

PS (because I forgot last month) archery is happening every Sunday and Thursday evening.

Cheers and keep having fun
Stephen

Herald

I'm looking for a couple of deputies willing to eventually take over the job of Baronial Herald. A couple? Well yes, but only because I'm assuming it's going to be hard to find someone interested in voice heraldry AND book heraldry. If I can find someone interested in both, then I'm only looking for one deputy!

I see deputies as coming in two flavours: apprentices are interested in learning the job so they can take over; students are interested in learning the job because they're interested but they're not enthusiastic (or insane) enough to want to do it full-time. So an apprentice is a student with the willingness to write reports and attend meetings, and stick at it for two years or so. Naturally apprentices are rarer than students! Right now I'm seeking apprentices, but students will do, because it may be that students can become apprentices if they realise it's not as hard as they thought.

So: if you're interested in any of the following activities in an SCA context, please contact me. I'll be at the Newcomer's Feast and the Tourney in the Park, so we can talk then:

- making announcements (Oyez! Oyez! and all that)
- officiating at court (Baronial and/or Royal)
- heralding at tourneys (salute the crown! salute your inspiration! etc)
- researching names
- designing devices, aka coats of arms
- conflict-checking
- heraldic administrivia
- writing quarterly reports
- attending SCA baronial meetings

Me, I'm not so hot on at least two of those, so I know how you feel if they're not your cup of tea either. But if you want the job, or would like to learn more about it before you decide, please let me know.

Incidentally, if I get two applicants and one has held an office before and the other hasn't, I'll prefer the one who hasn't. However, in the unlikely event of a contest, it'll be the Baron and Baroness who choose.

Karl Faustus von Aachen

Webwright

While not a whole lot of work appears to have been done to the webpages there have been a number of changes behind the scenes. The Event details, photo galleries and Regnum are now stored and controlled by a MySQL database which will make maintaining these parts of the site a lot easier. I will also be shortly moving the venue maps into the database as well to speed up the loading of the venues page (even with

my broadband feed it takes almost 1 minute to load the page.)

I have only received photos of invest from 3 people so far. If anyone has photos that were taken during that weekend then please pass them on to me, I am especially after any photos of the archery competitions on the Sunday morning.

It is still my intention to re-design the website to make it more user-friendly and am open to any and all comments people have about the current design.

YiS
Lord Rodri

Marshal

Greetings to you all good gentles,
For the month of February there were two events held, a Valentines Tourney for both Heavy and Rapier combatants and a demo for O-Week at the ANU. Both events went well and the only potential injury was to our beloved Baron at the O-Week demo.

My thanks to the Lochac List Mistress and all the fighters who all made it possible for me to get a fast turnaround time on fighter authorisation renewals. If there are more fighters wishing to be renewed please contact me ASAP.

There are two fighting events planned for March at this stage :

Tourney in the Park : Reconciliation Plaza, Parkes Place, Parkes, 7th March 2004

Autocrat : Vicki Whitehorn

MIC : Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse

It is to be a Rose Tourney with Lists and armour inspections open from 11 am till 12 pm when the Tourney starts. More details are available in Griffintayle.

Tourney : Eddison Park, Launceston Street, Phillip, 28th March 2004

Autocrat : TBA

MIC : Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse
Standard single kill, double elimination.

La Crapaud Chivalric Tourney - ?

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

YiS
Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse

Rapier Marshal

A modestly successful Valentine's Tourney was held at Haig Park on 15th of February. Four fighters defied the hot weather to take part:

Don Francois
Basil Faulke
Boris the Black
and myself.

Don Francois was the victor.

Sunday rapier training is back on at Haig Park. Fencing starts at 1.30, however fencers are encouraged to join the dance lessons from 12, to add this most vital skill to their armoury. Training will be focusing on warming up for Festival, including melee training and authorisations.

All fighters are asked to check their authorisations and contact me if they are due for renewal. A reminder that reauthorization is generally not required if fencers have taken part in a combat event within the previous six months.

No injuries were reported during February.

Owain Cantor ap Hugh

Lists WANTED: Lists Officer

After almost 4 ½ years the list Ladies have finally taken the advice of the outgoing Baron of Politarchopolis and will hang up their pens.

The barony is now looking for a replacement(s) for the position of lists officer. If you are interested, please contact the lists officers:

Madeleine Dulac D'Agenais –

alicraig@austarmetro.com.au

Or Selevia de l'Estoile : selevia@optusnet.com.au

They want to hand over NO LATER than JUNE this year.

Chronicler

Last issue I asked for help with the A&S articles for Griffintayle (*Please help! I'll even write the article if you give me the information! Beg! Plead!*) But there is a unique publication in Lochac that needs your support.

“Cockatrice” is one of the very few single-kingdom Arts and Sciences publication in the known world and it is danger of going under. I know many of you have picked up a copy, and it has some great articles, most of very high standard (an article from a recent issue was re-published in a commercial History magazine). It is NOT an official publication, it receives no money from the kingdom and is entirely reliant on subscriptions.

To download a subscription form, go to www.sca.org.au/cockatrice. There will also be a stall at Festival where you can take out a subscription and buy back copies.

Please support this great publication – I've enjoyed every copy I've read. For any more information, you can contact the editor Rainfreda at cockatrice@sca.org.au

Iechyd da,
Blodeuwedd y Gath

News of the Realm

From the Kingdom Children's Officer
“I invite anyone, in the Kingdom of Lochac, who has an interest in running such activities to participate in a discussion group on LochacChildren-subscribe@yahogroups.co.uk
If anyone has queries, please send them to me directly with “Lochac CYADS” in the heading so that you don't get accidentally deleted through spam filters.
Yours in tardy but committed service,
Mistress Nicolette Dufay, OP
Children and Youth Activities Deputy Seneschal

The A&S website has been updated Areas include:

- Officer roster updated
- The 12th night newsletter is up (sorry it took so long. I have been ill since 12th night)
- Guild listings and finalised guild guidelines
- A&S Handbook is on the site (updates will follow).
- The A&S competition gallery was updated after 12th Night for those who have not seen it.

The Tailors, Haberdashers and Mercers Guild Of Lochac wish to announce their forthcoming costuming competitions. Entries are welcome from guild and non-guild members alike. Written documentation to accompany your entry will be highly regarded. To allow sufficient planning and construction time, Tailors Guild competitions will usually be announced 12 months in advance and there will be 4 in a year. However, to launch our competitions, we have two smaller scale competitions for 2004 and are also announcing categories through to the end of 2005.

2004 - Rowany Festival: Keeping warm - a garment or garment-related accessory (e.g.. Stockings, goller, gloves, hood)

2004 - Midwinter: A garment, item or accessory featuring closures (e.g.. Buttons, clasps, fibulae, ties or lachets)

2005 - 12th Night: An outfit costing under \$50 (guidelines on what is included in the cost limit to be drafted shortly)

2005 - Rowany Festival: Girdles and belts

2005 - Midwinter: Headwear

2005 - November Crown: Keeping cool and sunsafe - a garment or garment-related accessory

The Guild encourages all costuming related arts, including accessories. New members are always welcome and the Guild has a website at: <http://www.sca.org.au/tailors>

Lord Ser. Valerius Corinthus (Thanatos) is putting out a call for all those in Lochac who are interested in forming a Moneyers Guild. Their Majesties have suggested an opportune time to present them with any examples of struck coins (or other minting fashions) would be at the Rowany Festival this year. It is thus suggested that if you are seriously interested in beginning the steps to establishing a Lochac Moneyers Guild, please contact Thanatos via email at thanatos@myaccess.com.au about setting up a meeting during Festival to get the ball rolling. He also requests that to help promote to both the Kingdom and Their Majesties the art of Moneying, and also to help in the case of us establishing a Guild, everyone who is capable, interested and willing to bring along perhaps ten to twenty coins bearing Their Majesties' names and/or devices to this years Festival as a presentation.

News From Politarchopolis

Politarchopolis Campsite - Festival 04
It is time for the reminder - Rowany Festival is only 6+ WEEKS away. So, apart from the frantic sewing which always seems to be a required preparation, it is time to think about whether or not you will be camping onsite. If you are intending to camp in the Politarchopolis campsite I need to know some details (number of adults, children, approx tent space required). The area

Politarchopolis has been designated is in the central 'high density' area, near the bottom of the staircase. What this means is that we will be quite close to most of the facilities BUT do not have any overflow area. So, if you think you might be camping at Festival & would like to be part of the Polit campsite - LET ME KNOW NOW.

I have sent emails to all the people that I have listed as camping with Politarchopolis - if you didn't get one of these emails: I don't have any details for you. I will be contacting the Festival Autocrat next week to confirm our minimum space requirements. At the moment I have details for about 20 people.
Yours in Service,
Baroness Leta, Polit Campsite co-ordinator, Festival '04

Scriptoria News.
The Provost has sent us a new set of assignments and a message:

"The Politarchopolis Ward must be complimented on the standard of the work produced to the joy of the recipients, as well as the superb administration and diligence (sic) enthusiasm of its members. You are all a credit to the College and our noble art- well done! I look forward to seeing your next batch of scribe work." Giles de Roet

More Scriptoria News!
"To all scribes, illuminators, drawers, limners, peynters and artisans. I am very pleased to announce that members of the SCA receive a 10% discount at The Art Shop (Braddon and Philip) and Pepe's Paperie in Woden Plaza. This is a discount on items not already on sale or marked "nett". The shops have a huge range of brushes (including sable, imitation sable, da vinci, Art Spectrum, roymac), papers (archival, hot press, smooth, vellum et al), paints (Windsor & Newtown gouache, oils etc), nibs (speedball and william mitchell) and almost anything else. Please show your SCA Membership card at the register before your purchases are rung up. Thanks to Pepe and the Baronial Council for their support to get this benefit."
Morag, Warden

Society New Year's Party.
The Baron and Baroness, Blair and Leta, are hosting an SCA New Year's celebration on May 1st. There will be a BBQ, bring your own stuff. While there will be room available for kidlets, it's been nicely suggested that they be taken home to bed by 8pm . Contact the B&B for more details

There is a new "antiquarian bookseller" in the Curtin Shops. They are reported to have a very good selection with some really old stuff and some more recent. It is a fairly big shop, downstairs and across the courtyard opposite the supermarket. The staff are very friendly and helpful, and say they will also soon have a rare book room.

Uppdate on the Ballista Competition
"For those who plan on entering the table top siege competition please note the following changes. (The date for the feast, tourney and competition will be announced at the next Baronial meeting)
The primary goal of this competition is to promote interest in the area of siege craft. All engines must be of period design. Documentation is not required.

All ammunition will be a standard sized 27mm High bounce ball. If you need test ammunition you can either obtain a ball or two from Edmund or you can buy a bag of them from Clints.

The fully ASSEMBLED engine must be able to fit inside a 1 foot cube box. The engine just needs to fit inside the 12 inch cube. That is to say that at some point in the normal operation of the engine it must fit inside the 12" cube. For example you could build a ballista that is 12 inches long and 16 inches wide when its arms are at rest, so long as when the string is drawn back to the trigger point the arms are now less than 12" across. Or you could build a trebuchet that the arm is 11" long (remember some of the counter weight will normally be in front of the arm) and the axle is 9" off the table, as when the arm is horizontal the engine will fit in the 12" box. HOWEVER, bringing a pile of pieces that fit inside the cube, that are then assembled to build a siege engine that at no time in its' normal operation fits inside the 12" box is NOT allowed. If the engine is powered by torsion, counter weight, the gravity of the moon, three naked nymphs etc than it MUST be equipped with a safety device such as a winch to prevent accidental firing, (of course this is to be finger safe) also the machine must be fitted with a appropriate mechanical trigger that WILL be used for every shot. Ammunition may not be tampered with in anyway prior to shooting and will be provided by Blair.

If at any time during the competition your engine fails mechanically it will be removed from the competition. If there are enough entrants, engines will be divided into the following classes: catapult, ballista, and trebuchet, cannon????

The competition will be judge on the following:

One: range

Two: accuracy (target shoot)

Three: best period appearance.

Four: most buildable for the SCA battlefield

Extra points can be earned by making the appropriate whooshing sounds as the engine fires

Remember the aim of this competition is to promote knowledge of siege craft to the general populace. So please try to make your machine as period as possible while keeping in mind the winner design will be used as a model for a SCA battlefield ready engine! (except for cannons of course.....)

Households are encouraged to enter."

Edmund 'not the autocrat for the event' Ale-conner

Photos from Baronial Investiture are now on the Politarchopolis Website – go to www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis/gallery/thumbnails.php?gallery=8 Rodri is still looking for more photos, so if you have some you are willing to share, please contact him (see Web Minister in the Regnum)

“**C**alling all former fighters, fighters with unused kit and friends of these folk (particularly fighters no longer playing). The Barony of Politarchopolis (or at least the Northern Ward) is looking for kit currently gathering dust in cupboards or sheds for use by new fighters or authorised fighters that do not have kit for one reason or another. It would be great if we can get these fighters onto the field at Festival and bolster the numbers. If you have kit that you are no longer using, please consider either

loaning or donating it to the Northern Ward, so those that wish to participate can do so. All kit, regardless of condition, gratefully accepted.”

Adair MacDermid, Sergeant of the Northern Ward.

“**I** should have put this into the February Griffintayle but I was a bit, well, distracted, by other things.

Invest happened, Edmund and Leta are longer BiTs but BoPs, people got fed and seemed to have a reasonable time. If you have images of the event, please let me know as I'd love to see them (there's that distraction factor again). There was some lost property (see the list at the end of this message). As always, an event of this size could not happen without the efforts of a great many people. Its impossible to thank everyone properly but there are a few who deserve special mention:

- Isobel, Isabella and Alessandro for taking over hall decoration when Oonagh fell ill, in addition to cooking, Baronial household duties and set-up/pull-down.

– Mathilde, Hrolfr and Crispin for ensuring dance happened when Joanna fell ill.

– Baron Stephen, Adair, Crispin and Lorchan for being there from set-up to pull down and doing whatever needed doing.

– Lucretzia, Alexei, Marie, Cynric, Roger and the pre-cookers who did such as great job under challenging conditions.

– all of House Anaticula, but especially Darby, for doing a brilliant job of serving and making sure platters and jugs stayed filled noon till night.

– Joanna and Oonagh for much work before the event but who were unable to be there on the day.

Thanks to everyone who helped in all capacities and to those who came – it would not have happened without you.”

Oriel

“**G**reetings all,

My partner and I are getting married on the 18th of September this year, near the town of Yass.

The event will be medieval in style i.e. costumes, the feast etc. As entertainment for the guests, we would like to enlist the services of any members who may be interested in some demonstration sword fighting and/or a play, live music, something to enhance the mood of the day. We are prepared to pay for this.

We also need help tracking down appropriate cutlery, banners and heraldry, for hire if possible. Also 1 or 2 marquees or pavilions, tables and chairs. We are expecting about 50-70 people.

If anyone can help in any of these areas, please contact me by March 31st. My email address is:

davidl@galaxybooks.com.au

Thanks.”

David Lynton

Webpage of the Month

To help you keep up with the Ale-conners,

<http://www.siege.eastkingdom.org/>

This is the webpage of the East Kingdom Siege Web page.

Recipe of the Month

Gingerbrede

Period Gingerbread

“Take goode honeye & clarefie it on þe fere, & take fayre paynemayn or wastel brede & grate it, & caste it into þe boylenge hony, & stere it well togyder faste with a sklyse þat it bren not to þe vessell. & þanne take it down and put þerin ginger, long pepere & saundres, & tempere it vp with þin handes; & than put hem to a flatt boyste & stawe þeron suger, & pick þerin clowes rounde aboute by þe egge and in þe mydes, yf it plece you.”

From ‘God Kokery’, 14thC English Manuscript

“Take good honey and clarify it over the fire, and take fair white bread or stale bread and grate it, and cast the crumbs into the boiling honey, and stir it well together quickly using a [slice?] so that it doesn’t burn onto the cooking vessel. And then take it from the heat and add ground ginger, long pepper and sandalwood, and mix it in with your hands; then pat out flat on a board and sprinkle sugar over it, then stud with whole cloves around the edge and in a pattern in the middle, if you wish to.”

Taken from “Pleyn Delit – Medieval Cookery for Modern Cooks, Second Edition” by Constance B. Hieatt, Brenda Hosington, Sharon Butler, 1996, University of Toronto Press.

Hieatt *et al*’s redaction:

1/2 cup clear honey

1 loaf of bread (1lb) at least 4 days old, grated or ground into fine crumbs; if bread is too fresh it will not make sufficiently fine crumbs

1 tsp each ginger, cinnamon

1/8 tsp each ground white pepper, cloves

Bring the honey to the boil and skim off any scum.

Keeping the pan over a very low heat, stir in the breadcrumbs and spices. When it is a thick, well blended mass, press firmly into a small layer cake pan (8” is ideal for this quantity) lined with Teflon or parchment paper.

Cover and leave in a cool place several hours or overnight before turning out on a cake platter, sprinkle with sugar.

Cut into small slices to serve.

Hieatt *et al* justified their considerable change of the spices used on the grounds that ground sandalwood was very hard to find and long pepper impossible. Apart from the fact that this is not strictly speaking true - sandalwood can be found in some Asian Grocers (you may need to ask for it) and long pepper can be bought from Herbies in Balmain, Sydney – the spice balance and colour of their substitutions is significantly different from the original. They suggested cinnamon as it appears in other gingerbread recipes, and white pepper as a replacement for long pepper.

The other big problem is that saundres is a red food colouring, so their version ignores the fact that the gingerbread should be a beautiful dark oxblood colour; they have also added ground cloves instead of decorating the gingerbread with whole cloves.

Whilst their version is tasty (and very rich!) and is much easier in terms of finding the ingredients, to my mind, it

loses much of the beauty and visual appeal that was obviously a big factor of the original. For an easy compromise, I would suggest following the recipe above, using fresh ground black pepper instead of white of an equal amount to the ginger, leave out the ground cloves, and add enough red food colouring paste to make the mix a deep, dark red (liquid food colouring affects the texture of the mix). Forget about the cake tin – it isn’t necessary. Turn the mix out onto a smooth, clean wooden board and pat it out to about 2 inches thick (be careful not to burn yourself) and then decorate with whole cloves as per the original. When sprinkling with sugar, bear in mind that this is more like icing sugar than granulated and is intended to absorb the surface stickiness.

My last word – this is VERY rich! Cut it into thin slices when ready to serve and have a jug of hot water to dip the knife into as it will become sticky and hard to cut with.

Lady Blodeuwedd y Gath

Snippets, Tidbits, Odds and Ends

- ◆ In 1450AD, a German Archbishop, Nicholas of Cusa, claimed that stars were suns with their own planets.
- ◆ Christmas (i.e. the mass celebrating the birth of Christ) was not celebrated on December 25th until 440AD
- ◆ In Medieval times, church bells were often consecrated to ward off evil spirits. Because thunderstorms were attributed to the work of demons, the bells would often be rung in an attempt to ward off the storms. As a result, bell ringers were frequently killed by lightning strike.
- ◆ Before the mechanical clock was invented in the 14th Century, the most complex machine was the pipe organ installed in Winchester Cathedral by Bishop Aefleg in 950AD. It had 400 pipes; seventy men were needed to operate the twenty six bellows.
- ◆ Music for Mass was originally based on Gregorian chants. But during the Renaissance, composers introduced popular tunes, such as “Goodbye Lover” and “Kiss Me”, changing the rhythm and overlaying them with so many harmonies and counter melodies that the originals were unrecognisable.
- ◆ The Mongol army of Kublai Khan tried to invade Japan in 1281. A hurricane blew up and destroyed the fleet, and those survivors who made it to the Japanese coast were slaughtered. The Japanese referred to the storm as *kamikaze*, ‘divine wind’.

Taken from “*The Giant Book of Facts and Trivia*” edited by Isaac Asimov, 1979

A Curious Treatise of the Nature and Quality of Chocolate

Written in Spanish by Antonio Colmenero, Doctor of Physicke and Chirurgery

And put into English by Don Diego de Vades-forte

Imprinted at London by J. Oakes, dwelling in Little St Bartholomews, 1640

[the following is from "The Third Point" of the above]

The Receipt is this.

To every 100 *cacaos* you must put two cods of the long red Pepper of which I have spoken before, and are called in the Indian tongue *Chilparlagua*, and in stead of those of the Indies, you may take those of Spaine which are broader and least hot. One handfull of Annis seed *Orejuelas*, which are otherwise called *Vinacaxlidos*: and two of the flowers called *Mechasuehil*, if the Belly be bound. But in stead of this, in Spaine, we put in sixe Roses of *Alexandria* beat to powder: One Cod of *Campeche*, or Logwood: Two Drams of Cinamon,; Almons, and Hasle Nuts, of each one Dozen: Of white sugar, halfe a pound: Of *Achiote*, enough to give it the colour. And if you cannot have those things which come from the Indies, you may make it with the rest.



The way of Compounding.

The *Cacao*, and the other Ingredients must be beaten in a Morter of Stone, ground upon a broad stone, which the Indians call *Metate*, and is only used made for that use: But the first thing that is to be done, is to dry the Ingredients, all except the *Achiote* with care that they may be beaten to powder, keeping them still in stirring that they be not burnt or become blacke, and if they be over-dried they will be bitter and lose the vertue. The Cinamon, and the long red Pepper are to be first beaten, with the Annis seed: and then beate the *Cacaos* which you must beate by a little and little, till it be all powdred; and sometime turne it round in the beating, that it may mixe the better: And every one of these Ingredients, must be beaten by it selfe; and then put all the Ingredients into the Vessell, where the *Cacao* is, which you must stir together with a spoon; and then take out that Paste, and put it into the Morter, under which you must lay a little fire, after the *Confection* is made. But you must be very carefull, not to put more fire, than will warm it, that the unctuous part does not dry away. And you must also take care, to put in the *Achiote* in the bearing: that it may be better take the colour. You muste Seare all the Ingrediets, but only the *Cacao*, and if you take the shell from the *Cacao*, it is the better, and when you shall find it to be well beaten, and incorporated (which you shall know by the shortnesse of it) then with a spoone take up some of the Paste, which will be almost liquid: and so to either make it into Tablets or put it into Boxes and when it is cold it will be hard.