

Dec 93

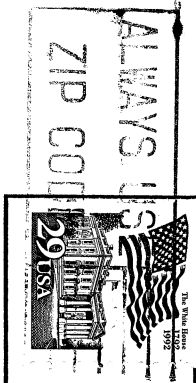
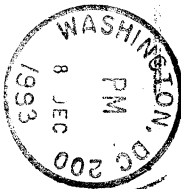
DREKKAR

newsletter of the
BARONY OF STORVIK



DECEMBER A.S. XXVIII

Craig Greenbaum
7806 Cole Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912



STELLA FULLMER
MOOT POINTS EXCHANGE
15 SPARTIN ST
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23462

TIME VALUE MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY



BARON AND BARONESS
Master Igor and Mistress Fevronia
Ed and Kathy Sobansky
5017 Acron Dr.
Temple Hills, MD 20748
(301) 449-3004

Baronial Officers

Seneschal

Lord Stefan of Cambion
Steve Kiefert
9704 Beachwood Dr.
Lanham, MD 20706
(301) 577-9390 [work]
(301) 731-0673 [home]

Minister of Arts & Sciences

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David Mallinak
8559 Greenbelt Rd. Apt 103
Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 552-5429

Rapier Marshal (acting)

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Gregory Glewwe
18034 Cottage Garden Dr. #301
Germantown, MD 20874
(301) 540-8538

Chaperaine

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Liz Jones
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P.O. Box 338
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(301) 794-6632

Gold Key

Thane MacEoghainn
Amy Heritage
14511 Clover Hill Ter.
Bowie, MD 20717
(301) 805-5047

Marshal

Malcolm MacMalcolm
Neil MacLay
4306 Sleaford Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 656-6050

Chronicle

Corun MacAnndra
Craig Greenbaum
7806 Cole Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 445-5442

Minister of the Lists

Deirdre O'Siodhachain
Terry Sheehan
4301 29th St.
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
(301) 779-7985 (before 10pm)

Iron Key

Karl von Quirnbach
Richard Moore
11601 Ash Rd.
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 937-3079

Baronial Deputies

Deputy Seneschal: Talya Paleogina (Michelle Ringo), 3914 Denfeld Ave., Kensington, MD 20895; (301) 933-7429

Deputy for Demos: Malcolm MacMalcolm (see Marshal above)

Deputy Marshals: Bjorn Bjorklund (Richard Bjorklund), 8828 Maple Ave., Bowie, MD 20715; (301) 262-5142
Bors (Christopher A. Faber), 3914 Denfeld Ave., Kensington, MD 20895; (301) 933-7429

Deputy Rapier Marshal: Gregoire de Conteville (Gregory Glewwe), 18034 Cottage Garden Dr. #301, Germantown, MD 20874; (301) 540-8538

Deputy Arts & Sciences: Alyson of Islay (Kathleen Norvell), 8619 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 589-4735

Deputy Lists: Elisabeth Beaufort (Nadine Colbert), 2801 Ashmont Terr., Silver Spring, MD 20906; (301) 598-7424

unto the noble and holiday-beset folk of Storvik,
from Igor and Fevronia, Baron and Baroness,
Greetings!

We hope that this missive finds you all in the best of health, with your crops gathered in barns and your homes warmly stoked 'gainst the wintry blasts that now do come upon us.

With the coming of the new year, we must take some thought for the smooth functioning of our organization, and draw your attention to the need for some new officers in various positions. Our Baronial Exchequer's term of office is drawing to a close, and Lady Marie de la Terre is seeking a replacement. Also Mistress Dierdre O'Siodhchain has expressed a wish to relinquish the job of Minister of Lists. Both jobs are extremely important to the life of our group, and we urge Barony members to come forward and volunteer. The qualities needed for both jobs are common sense and a modicum of organizational ability - virtues found in abundance in our population. Fear not that you must do the work alone - training, assistance, and moral support will be gladly provided! Now is the time for all, especially our newer members, to get involved in the running of our Barony!

DIVERSION AND JOLLIFICATION DEPARTMENT: Remember that Jan 1st is our Yule Revel and Masked Ball! There will be a repeat of the hugely successful mask-making session on Dec 21st at the Baronial At-Home. (Actually we can do masks on the 7th too!) The Baroness will be handing out prizes for the best masks at the Revel.

We wish all of you the very best of holiday seasons! Wassail!

In love and service,



ФЕВРОНИЯ

This is the **DREKKAR**, published by and for the members of the Barony of Storvik in the Society for Creative Anachronisms, Inc. (SCA). The **DREKKAR** is not a corporate publication of the SCA, and does not delineate SCA policies. Any opinions expressed herein are entirely those of the authors. Except where otherwise stated, items published in the *Drekkar* may be reprinted without special permission in newsletters and other publications of branches of the SCA. Reprints must present the text as originally presented, in its entirety, with proper credit to author and source. Authors not wishing to allow reprints of their articles may so indicate at the time of submission.

minutes of the november BARONY meeting

Officers reports: Seneschal: Attended Unevent and went to many meetings. New membership cards will be given upon receipt of the new waiver. **EVERYONE MUST SIGN THE NEW WAIVER TO GET YOUR NEW CARD IMMEDIATELY.** Get list of all authorized fighters and list of all scrolls not yet given for awards made. A&S: Has form for autocrats to fill out for the site database. Dance classes are being held now on the second and fourth Monday of the month. See announcement in this issue. Herald: Nothing to report. Lists: Deirdre wants a successor to take over the office. Exchequer: Drekkar has \$132 and the Barony has \$924. Tenure is up soon. See letter in this issue. Marshall: Needs a deputy to replace Bors who will be Marshall for the Incipient Shire in Montgomery County. Malcolm is helping run the practice in Ponte Alto. New waivers must be signed and the new cards shown at future practices. Archer Marshal: Many folks have shown up at practices. Now have four foot target which allows shooting from sixty yards out. Galen will soon become a NAA qualified instructor. He also wants to run an archery event and wants to form an archer's guild. He will be talking with Lochmere soon. Rapier Marshal: Gregoire is acting in Manfred's stead since Manfred has moved to Highland Foorde. May start fencing practice in the spring at 3pm after archery practice at that site. Chronicler: Received \$49 in new subscriptions and resubs. **NEED MORE STUFF FROM THE BARONY, ART, ARTICLES, ETC! NOW! AT ONCE! IMMEDIATELY! GET WITH IT FOLKS!** (this has been a subtle hint from your Chronicler) Demos: Still needs a successor. Demo at GWU went very well. Thanks to those who ran it. Gold Key: Not present. Iron Key: Needs successor. Loaner closet is too much of a burden on him. Will suggest that Ponte Alto take it over as a joint venture between us and them. Chatelaine: Not present.

Old Business: Wrattingham Lynn now has a new Seneschal, Lann Lerben O'Cambion. See specs on the back cover. The proposed shire in Montgomery County was made Incipient at the Tournament of Roses event. There is still some question as to its name.

New Business: None, but there were six Laurels present at this meeting.

Events: November: Dun Carraig investiture. Janet Arnold. Unevent. Mask making workshop at the At Home. December: There will be another mask making workshop at the At Home on the 21st. Barony meeting to be held at Corun's. January: Yule Revel. Lillian will be in charge of decorating the hall and wants to make a painted tapestry. The Barony allocated \$30 toward this effort. She will bring a sample to the At Home. Performer's Revel on the 29th. Barony meeting at Lann Lerben's. February: Possible restart of Northern Symposium. Mass mailing of Drekkar planned to all residents of the Barony. March: Herald's and Scribe's Symposium on hold. Jaelle to propose hosting Coronation. She is putting ins a bid if she finds a site. St. Patrick's Bloodbath in Ponte Alto. April: Tentative month for English Speaking Union demo. Possible month for University

up here. Sylvan Glen event on the 16th. May: Baron's Champion's Tourney. Trying to get site near Patuxent River Park in Croom MD. Overboard Feast planned for this event. June: Feast of St. Barnabus on the 11th at the Franciscan Monastery. Possible Archery event the 18th or 25th. July: Novice Tourney. Still needs autocrat. Possibly on the 9th. August: Post Pennsic Revel. September: Nothing planned yet. October: Feast of Prester John possibly on the 8th.

Directions to the December meeting: From the Beltway take 193 East (inside the Beltway). Go three traffic lights to Carroll and turn right. On your left is a closed gas station, followed by a Seven Eleven. On your right is the Adventist Health Food and Bookstore, followed by the Takoma Academy. After cresting the top of the hill, turn left onto Wildwood. The next street is Anne, turn right. Cross one (and only one) speed hump, and turn left onto Cole Ave. The house is at 7806 Cole, near the top of the hill on the right. For more information, call 445-5442, before 10pm.

Directions to the January meeting: From the Beltway take Route 50 East to the Martin Luther King Highway. Go left at the light onto M.L.K. Hwy. Turn right at Whitfield Chapel Road (the next light). Go to 91st Place and turn right. Go to the end of the road. 9112 91st Place. For more information, call Lann Lerben at 301-459-7209.

Attendees: Malcolm MacMalcolm, Karl von Quirnbach, Marie de la Terre, Corun, Lillian de l'Aleyzanne, Alyson, Deirdre O'Siodhachain, Lann O'Cambion, Galen Woodwalker, Stephen of Cambion, Fevronia Murometsa.



TO ALL GENTLES OF STORVIK, FROM MARIE DE LA TERRE, EXCHEQUER OF STORVIK, GREETINGS.

My time of service to the Barony is soon to expire. While I have had fun & wish to continue, my mundane employment does not allow me enough time to keep the position for another tenure. Therefore, if you are interested in numbers, have a finger to punch a calculator, and can attend Barony meetings, I am looking for a replacement for the position of Exchequer of Storvik. If interested, please let me know.

In your service,
Marie

the revel of saint Lucy

On December 18th, the Barony of Ponte Alto invites all to attend a dance and dessert revel in honor of Saint Lucy. The evening will be filled with merriment. There will be of course dancing and plenty of desserts. There will also be an Arts and Sciences exhibition and raffle (we accept goods and/or services to be raffled off). For the more festive at heart, there will be a tree trimming contest. Materials will be provided and the winner will get the tree. There will be, for a mere pittance, some non-dessert food at the revel for those needing something else. Please note, the site is DRY, but we will be providing beverages. The site opens at 5pm and closes at 11pm.

The cost is 5 dollars without a dessert, or 3 dollars with a dessert for six or more if you preregister. At the door, the cost increases to 6\$ without a dessert, or 4\$ with one. Children 6-18 are \$2, those under 6 are guests of the Barony. Please make checks payable to The Barony of Ponte Alto, SCA Inc.

If you have any questions, contact the autocrat, Lady Elise Dominique Clairmont (Erci Stern) 6014 Rock Cliff Lane, Alexandria VA, 22310, (703)971-5351 or estern@marge.hq.af.mil

DIRECTIONS: Take your best route to I-495 to Braddock Road. Take Braddock east to Backlick Rd. Turn right on Backlick. St. Mark's Lutheran Church is about 1 mile down on the right. Follow signs to parking.

MASQUED BALL

18 Dec 93

To the lords and ladies of Atlantia, the Barony of Caer Mear sends the warmest of greetings. Now that winter is upon us, it is time once again to throw off winter's drudgery and brighten the spirit by joining us at your annual Masqued Ball. So, bring forth your finest dress and come join in the revelry.

This year we are going to start things early so we will have more time for dancing and merriment. The site will open at 12 noon. The feast will be at 4:30 pm with a short Baronial Court following. Before the feast, there will be a dance session for those of you who want to refine your dance skills. As always, the ball would not be complete without a masque competition. We will also hold a brewing competition to allow the brewers the opportunity to impress the populace. Also there will be a special prize for the best table setting.

Lord Stephen Edain of Caer Mear will tempt and please the palates of all with a sumptuous feast. Special dietary needs, please contact the Autocrat. Musicians and merchants are welcome.

FEES: on-board, before 12/12, \$8. \$9 after that and at door. Off-board, before 12/12, \$3, after and at door, \$4. Smalls 6-12 half price. Smalls 5 and under, guests of the Barony. Parents shall pay for no more than 2 children of their own. Make checks to

The Barony of Caer Mear, SCA Inc.

CO-AUTOCRATS: (send reservations to) Bronwyn McFinley, (Barbara Wells, 4711 Brimley Pl. Richmond VA, 23234.) Any questions, please contact Lady Morwenna of Caer Mear (Kristen Oibert) at (804) 275-2789. NO PHONE RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED. The only reservation is a paid reservation.

THE SITE: Midlothian American Legion Post 186, at 918 Otterdale Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113. The site is WET!

DIRECTIONS: FROM the North: take I-95 south to Richmond, to the Powhite Parkway (route 76). Go all the way to the end. At the end of the Powhite Parkway, go straight through the light. You're on Otterdale Road. Go 2 1/2 miles to site on right. NOTE: the Powhite Parkway is a toll road. Have spare change ready.

MASTER IGOR AND MISTRESS FEVRONIA, BARON AND BARONESS STORVIK call upon all gentles to celebrate the seasons on January 1st at the rustic Adelphi Mill. Their Excellencies also remind the Barony that this is the time when Baronial taxes are due.

Their Excellencies have declared that this year a masked ball is to be held for the Yule Revel, and that the theme shall be Winter. Gentles are encouraged to attend as their favourite Winter object. A grand procession of the masked participants shall open the court of Their Excellencies.

Gentles are reminded that the Yule Revel is by tradition a dessert revel, and all are encouraged to bring their favourite dessert to be sampled by the populace. The site opens at 7:00 pm and closes promptly at 11:00 pm.

All musicians and dancers are gladly welcome on this festive occasion. The Mill has two large rooms for our use: the upper hall with excellent hardwood floors will be used for dancing, and the lower hall for other revelry. It is hoped that musicians will grace both halls with their skills. The Mill is discreetly wet, beer and wine not in their original containers are permitted on site.

Those planning to attend the Storvik Yule Revel are reminded that the Autocrat must be contacted for childcare. It is essential that we have an accurate count of the number of children so an adequate number of attendees can be on hand to watch and care for them. Childcare will be in the lower hall. Contact even if you are not sure of coming.

The Autocrat calls on all gentles who have not worked on an event before to offer their services to help. There are many small and interesting jobs that need to be done at every event

FEES: Preregistration \$5.00, cost at the door with dessert \$4.00, otherwise \$6.00. Childcare will be \$5.00 per child. Please make checks payable to Barony of Storvik/SCA, Inc. Advance registration can be sent to the Autocrat at: David Mallinak, 8559 Greenbelt Road, Apt. 104, Greenbelt, MD 20770. The Autocrat can be reached by farspeaker at (301) 552-5429.

Directions: Take your best route to the Capitol Beltway/495, exit #225. At the end of the ramp, turn Left onto US Rte, 1 South. Follow Rte 1 for approximately 1.3 miles. Take the Rte 193, University Blvd exit, and keep to the right hand lane, and take the ramp for Rte 193 West. Follow University Blvd until you come to the traffic light at Rte 212, Riggs Rd. Turn Right and follow Riggs Rd. After a bit, Riggs will turn into Powder Mill Rd. Continue to follow Powder Mill, the Adelphi Mill is on the Left.



THE TORCH OR CANDLE BRANSLE

One of the traditions of the Storvik Yule Revel is that the last dance of the evening is the Torch or Candle Bransle. This name is derived from the candle that one or the other dancers carries and exchanges with a partner of choice. The Torch Bransle is done with a sliding double step. This step is done both to the side and as an advancing step.

The forward sliding double (FD) is done starting with both the left foot (FDL) and the right foot (FDR) using four beats. To do a FDL;

- Beat 1 - slide forward on the left foot.
- Beat 2 - slide forward on the right foot
- Beat 3 - slide forward on the left foot.
- Beat 4 - slide forward on the right foot and make a very low kick forward.

A FDR is the same, but you would start on the right foot.

The side sliding double (SD) is done starting with both the left foot (SDL) and the right foot (SDR) using four beats. To do the SDL;

- Beat 1 - slide left, transfer weight to the left foot and give a low kick forward with the right foot.
- Beat 2 - slide right, transfer weight to the right foot and give a low kick forward with the left foot.
- Beat 3 - slide left, transfer weight to the left foot and give a low kick forward with the right foot.
- Beat 4 - slide right, transfer weight to the right foot and give a low kick forward with the left foot ending with both feet together.

A SDR is the same, but you would start on the right foot.

The Torch Bransle, as practiced in Storvik at the Yule Revel, starts with the Ladies and Gentlemen holding unlit candles and standing independantly in a rough circle around the dance floor. At this point, only a single Gentleman has a lighted candle. This Gentleman performs the following steps;

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| FDL, FDR, FDL
FDR | The Gentleman is free to travel around the dance floor.
The Gentleman arrives in front of a Lady of his choice who has an unlit candle and they will become partners for the rest of this set of the dance. |
| SDL, SDR, SDL, SDR | These steps are performed by the Gentleman in front of his chosen partner. |
| FDL, FDR, FDL, FDR | Partners dance these steps together side by side around the dance floor. |
| SDL, SDR, SDL
SDR | Partners dance these steps together face to face.
During this final step, the Gentleman lights the Lady's candle.
After the step is complete, this couple separates and dances around the room until they come to new partners, and another set of the dance begins again. |

Based on a description found in the East Kingdom Dance Manual.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

FIGHTING PRACTICE: Every Sunday afternoon at the Pimmit Library, Falls Church, VA. Contact Sir Strykar, (703) 241-1682 or Lord Malcolm, (301) 656-6050 for heavy weapons; contact Niall McKennet at (703) 560-8825 for rapier.

FIGHTING PRACTICE: Stierbach holds a combined fighter and combat archery practice at 2 pm every Sunday in Cloverdale Park, Dale City, VA. Contact Lord Eric von Kleinfeld, (703) 222-9843.

FIGHTING PRACTICE: Lochmere holds fighter practice at FSK Auditorium at St. John's. Contact Earnwynn, (410) 263-0658, or Sir Christian, (410) 987-0904.

FIGHTING PRACTICE: Dun Carraig holds fighting practice at 1 pm at the home of Master Philip and Mistress Kiri. Call (410) 535-2152

ARCHERY PRACTICE: Ponte Alto holds archery practice at 11 am at the home of Char Cook. Contact Archer Marshall Hrodbeorth at 703-960-6707 for directions and details.

ARCHERY PRACTICE: Storvik holds archery practice at 2 pm on the campus of the University of MD. Contact Archer Marshal Galen Woodwalker at 301-794-6632 for directions.

STORVIK BARONY MEETING: 2nd Sunday of the month at 7 pm.

WRATTINGHAM CANTON MEETING: 3rd Sunday of the month at 7 pm. Call Celeste, (301) 552-8784 for location and directions.

PONTE ALTO BARONY MEETING: Last Sunday of the month at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Falls Church, VA. Contact Lady Winifred, (703) 533-8224.

MONDAY

ARTS NIGHT: Woodworking and needle arts at the home of Sir Stanford and Mistress Elien in Laurel, MD, from 8-10 pm. For more information and directions, call (301) 725-5371.

DANCE: Ponte Alto holds beginner dance practices at George Mason University, Robinson A, Room 205, from 7-9 pm. Contact Lady Aislynn, (703) 204-2661.

Storvik holds a dance practice the second and third Mondays of the month at the Langley Park Community Center from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Contact Countess Alyson of Islay for more information.

SCRIBAL WORKSHOP: 2nd and 4th Mondays in Ponte Alto. Contact Mistress Maeve, (703) 979-0851.

TUESDAY

STORVIK BARONIAL AT HOME: Baron Igor and Baroness Fevronia are at home the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7:30-10 pm, the 4th Tuesday being a music night at the request of the Baroness. Newcomers are encouraged to attend. Directions: Take the Beltway and exit onto Branch Ave (Rt 5) toward Waldorf. At Allentown Rd (Rt 337), turn right. Go to Brinkley Rd, and turn right. About 1/4 mile down and on the left is White Oak. Turn left here. Go to Acorn and turn right. The street ends at their house, which is on the left at 5017 Acorn. For more information, call (301) 449-3004.

FIGHTING PRACTICE: Evenings at the Pimmit Library. Contact Sir Strykar, (703) 241-1682.
FIGHTING PRACTICE: Lochmere holds practice at 7 pm at Arundel High School (south side of Rt 175, west of Rt 3). Contact Lord Harold, (410) 760-9534.

HALL AND OATS: Autocrats and Cooks Guild in Ponte Alto. Contact Baroness Ilaria, (703) 533-8224. (continued on page 8)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

DECEMBER A.S. XXVIII

		1 Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society Music Night Fighting Practice	2 Fighting practice, (heavy and rapier) On Divers Arts Lunchtime Collegium	3	4 Atlantian University Middle Eastern Dance	5 Fighting practice Archery Practice
6 Arts Night Ponte Alto Dance night	7 Storvik Baronial At Home Fighting practice Hall and Oats	8 Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society Music Night Fighting Practice	9 Fighting practice, (heavy and rapier) On Divers Arts	10 Sumposiun Oikomenikon South	11 Middle Eastern Dance	12 Fighting practice Archery Practice Storvik Barony Meeting
13 Arts Night Ponte Alto Dance night Scribal Workshop Storvik Dance Night	14 Fighting practice Hall and Oats	15 Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society Music Night Fighting Practice	16 Fighting practice, (heavy and rapier) On Divers Arts	17	18 Revel of St. Lucy Caer Mear Masqued Ball Middle Eastern Dance	19 Fighter practice Archery Practice Wrattingham Canton meeting
20 Arts Night Ponte Alto Dance night	21 Storvik Baronial At Home Fighting practice Hall and Oats	22 Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society Music Night Fighting Practice	23 Fighting practice, (heavy and rapier) On Divers Arts	24 Rapier Nosh Night Bardic Circle	25 Middle Eastern Dance	26 Fighter practice Archery Practice Ponte Alto Barony meeting
27 Arts Night Ponte Alto Dance night Scribal Workshop Storvik Dance Night	28 Storvik Baronial At Home/Music Night Fighting practice Hall and Oats	29 Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society Music Night Fighting Practice	30 Fighting practice, (heavy and rapier) On Divers Arts	31	UPCOMING EVENTS January 1 - Yule Revel, Storvik January 8 - Kingdom Twelfth Night, Attilium January 29 - Bardic Revel, Storvik February 12 - Bright Hills Baronial Investiture February 19 - Baronial Birthday, Ponte Alto February 26 - Almost Fat Tuesday, Bright Hills	

LOCAL ACTIVITIES continued

WEDNESDAY

LADIES' SEWING CIRCLE AND TERRORIST SOCIETY assembles on Wednesdays for fittings, fashions, fraternizing and fun at the home of Baroness Teleri in Falls Church, VA, from 7:30-11 pm. Meetings are not restricted to ladies only. Contact Teleri, (703) 560-8825.

MUSIC: Lochmere music group meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm. Contact Lady Daella, (410) 766-1928.

MUSIC: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at the home of Master James of Rutland in Highland Foorde, (301) 834-6515.

FIGTHING PRACTICE: Ponte Alto hosts fighter practice at George Mason University in the Physical Ed. Center in the auxiliary gym. Contact Sir Grethferth at 703-204-2661 for further details.

THURSDAY

FIGHTING PRACTICE: The Barony of Storvik hosts fighter practice for heavy and rapier in the all purpose room of Highland Elementary School in Wheaton, MD, every Thursday from 7-9:30 pm. No black soled shoes allowed. Directions: From the Beltway, take Georgia Ave north to Randolph Rd and turn left. Take the second left onto Livingston and continue until Livingston ends in a T at Medway. Turn left here, the school will be on the right.

ON DIVERS ARTS: Arts and Sciences consultation at the home of Lady Elspeth. Directions: From the Beltway, take Rt 50 (John Hanson Hwy) east toward Annapolis. Take the 2nd exit (Rt 197) Toward Bowie. At the light at the end of the exit, turn left onto 197 going north. At the second light, turn right onto Kenhill. Kenhill dead ends at Belair. Turn left onto Belair, and take the first right onto Spangler. The house is on the right at 2817 Spangler. Call (301) 464-3640 for more information.

LUNCHTIME COLLEGIUM: Meet for lunch in Ponte Alto at Shakey's Pizza in Tysons Corners. First Thursday of the month. Time approximately 11:45 or so.

FRIDAY

SUMPOSION OIKOMENIKON: Lady Tehair MacDiarmada invites all newcomers (and any interested "old-timers") to an informal discussion of various aspects of life in the Society on the 2nd Friday of the month south of the river. See the announcement elsewhere in the Drekkar for further information.

RAPIER NOSH NIGHT: Last Friday of the month is an evening of discussion on rapier combat at the home of the Queen's Rapier Champion, Lord Gregoire. Please come in garb. See announcement elsewhere in the Drekkar for further information.

BARDIC CIRCLE: 4th Friday of the month at the home of Michael the Ecclectic in Sterling. Call 703-430-4792 for directions.

SATURDAY

MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE classes will be taught by Jaka at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax. Classes start at 2:15 pm. Please contact Jaka at (703) 242-9725 for more information.

YULE REVEL AND MUSICIANS NEEDED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

On New Year's Day there will be in Storvik a Yule Revel of desserts and dancing. For dancing, there must needs be **MUSICRE**!

Thus a call for all **MUSICIANS** who will be in Storvik upon that Day the First of the New Year to highe them to the YULE REVEL, there to play sprightly the measures, THAT THE REVELERS MIGHT DANCE TO LIVE MUSICKE.

Musicians are expected to bring their own instrument(s). Instruments must be "acoustic", and you should be willing to make them blend in a group. Harp, dulcimer, recorder, flute, guitar, cello, shawm, krummhorn, drum, whatever -- welcome! What counts is that we meld ourselves into an Early Dance Band.

If you have a music stand, please bring it. It is best if you can read music (G/treble or F/bass clef), but if you can't, you should still be able to join in somehow. Please talk to Felicia if you are interested in playing, even if you are unsure about your skill level, or your instrument, or whatever.

In order to form a cohesive "pick-up" group of (probably) very mixed skill levels and (possibly) surprising instrumentation, Felicia **NEEDS TO KNOW** what musicians will commit to playing at the Yule Revel.

If you would play this gig, please fetch your farspeaker and speake ASAP to Felicia Eberling at 301-587-3711 (at home before 10 pm) or at 202-219-5131 or -5377 at her workbench. If she is not there, please leave number(s) where you can be reached. If you would know more of the Yule Revel itself, speake to Stephan of Red Dragon Bridge (David Mallinak) at 301-552-5429.



DANCE * DANCE * DANCE

Dance classes are now being held in the Barony of Storvik the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the Langley Park Community Center, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The first hour consists of simpler dances like bransles and pavaues, suitable for beginners, or as a warm up for experienced dancers. The second hour, hopefully, will be devoted to more advanced dances, like basse and balli dances. Dancers of all skill levels are welcome, as are musicians (this will afford good practice for both the dancers and the musicians, giving each the opportunity to work in a real dance setting).

Directions: From the Beltway, take the New Hampshire Ave South/Takoma Park exit. Follow New Hampshire down the hill past Piney Branch. The second light after Piney Branch is Merrimac. Turn left here. Go to 15th Ave and turn left. The Community Center is on the corner of 15th and Merrimac. The entrance is on the right. There is lots of parking. For more information, call Countess Alyson at 301-589-4735.



WANDA BE! WANDA BE! WANDA BE! ~ ~ ~ A MUSICIAN!

WELL THEN DO BE! ~ ~ ~ A MUSICIAN!

If you have an instrument and no place to play it, try Felicia's Roof. Felicia offers her roof and selections from two cabinets full of sheet music, once a month to any gentles who wish to meet with her to make Early musicke.

Felicia would like to form a "core group" of instrumentalists to play dance music at SCA events, also just to play Early Music in general. She has lots of three-, four-, and five-part early music and nobody to play it with. To play on Felicia's Roof, you need to be willing to read music notation, to play in pre-1650 styles, and to come regularly to the monthly sessions.

If you cannot read music but want to participate on Felicia's Roof, she can give you individual instruction in reading music notation. She can also help you buy an instrument, if needed.

If you are interested, contact:

Felicia Eberling
1001 Spring Street, Apt. 924
301-587-3711 (at home before 10 pm)
Silver Spring, MD 20910
202-219-5131 or -5377 at her workbench

MEDIEVAL CUSTOMS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

by Countess Alyson of Islay

In the Middle Ages, the Christmas season was celebrated in many ways, some unfamiliar to us, some familiar. People celebrated Twelfth Night or Epiphany (January 6th) rather than Christmas. On Epiphany, the Magi appeared before the infant Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This day was so important because it was the day that news of the Savior's birth became known to the far reaches of the earth, as represented by the three kings who traveled great distances to see the Christ child.

This span of days, known to us as the "Twelve Days of Christmas," was spent in feasting and revelry, beginning with the ceremony of the Yule log, through the sometimes ribald processions and buffoonery, culminating in the festivities of Twelfth Night.

"Come, bring with a noise/My merrie, merrie boyes/ the Christmas log to the firing."

Old English song

On Christmas Eve, the Yule log was brought home and placed in the kitchen or main hearth amidst much singing. It was lighted with a fagot saved from the previous year (to the house from burning down) and kept burning for 12 hours (for good luck). The log was not to be bought, but to be gotten from the land. The Yule log had to ignite the first time it was lit.

"Yule" or "Jul" was the term used by the ancient Goths and Saxons for the festival of the winter solstice, which occurred around the same date as Christmas came to be celebrated. A variation of the Yule log in parts of England was the "ashton fagot," a huge fagot of sticks or branches of ash securely bound together with ash bands that was burned on Christmas Eve in lieu of the Yule log.

*"Kindle the Christmas brand, and then
Till sunneset let it burn;
Which quencht, then lay it up again
Till Christmas next return."*

The Christmas tree was a much later innovation, although Wolfram von Eschenbach, the famous minstrel, sings of the custom of welcoming guests with branches ornamented with candles. Legend has it that St. Boniface dedicated a fir tree to the Holy Child to counter the sacred oak of Odin. During the Middle Ages, in the Paradise Plays, the Garden of Eden was represented by one evergreen with an apple tied to it. Before 1600 in Germany, it was customary to ring the tree with candles because the Paradise play was enacted within such a circle.

The medieval Church equated Christ with the "Light of the World." At Christmastime, candles were placed around the house and in the windows, with the smoke rising to heaven. It was only natural, given the traditions of candles and trees, that the two should eventually be combined.

The custom of dressing a tree to symbolize the wonder and joy of Christmas began in the late 16th or early 17th century in Germany after the Reformation. An account of the first recorded Christmas tree occurs in an anonymous travel book written in 1604. It says, "At Christmas they set up fir trees in the parlors at Strasbourg and hang thereon roses cut of many-colored paper, apples, wafers, goldfoil, sweets, etc."

Medieval plays have already been mentioned. Miracle and mystery plays flourished in the Middle Ages and served to instruct the illiterate by presenting stories from the Bible in the form of dramas and burlesques. Several days before the play, heralds would go through the town announcing them and describing them scene by scene.

Perhaps the most famous of these plays is the "Second Shepherd's Play" from the mid-15th century. It consists of two parts, the first of which is comic. A shepherd, Mak, steals a sheep to eat while his companions sleep. He and his wife dress it as a baby and put it in the cradle to escape detection. The other shepherds arrive at the cottage looking for the sheep, but are taken in by the deception. They leave, then realize that they have not given the "new baby" presents. They return to the cottage, ask to give the new baby a sixpence and a kiss. When they pull back the coverlet, they recognize the stolen sheep. Mak and his wife try to convince the others that the baby has been switched by an elf for a changeling. The shepherds punish Mak by tossing him in a blanket. Then they go back to sleep.

The second, serious part of the play begins with the shepherds being reawakened by an angel who directs them to Bethlehem to see another newborn baby. The play ends as Mary tells them of God's power and Christ's birth. They depart, singing.

The play was performed on a wagon some thirty feet long. At one end probably stood Mak's house, while the fields with the shepherds was in the middle. At the opposite end was the stable or crèche representing Bethlehem.

In Spain, Christmas plays (or "offices") were called *autos de nacimiento*, or acts of the nativity. They flourished in the 15th and 16th centuries, and were more solemn than their English counterparts. The *autos* were frequently used to convert "los indios" in the New World.

The following items were left at the October 9th event The Play's The Thing. If you left them or recognize them as belonging to someone you know, please contact Corun MacAnndra at (301) 445-5442 (no calls after 10pm please).

- 1 white wrist ruff
- 1 orange, round tupperware container
- 1 pie wedge shaped spatula
- 1 plastic coffee cup

Room for rent. Contact Stefan of Cambion (Steve Kiefert) at 301-731-0673 or 301-577-9390 for details.

NEWCOMERS
to the area and to the SCA are cordially invited to the
SUMPOSION OF KOMENIKON
(or as the Greeks say, y'all come to the Party!)

Currently there is a Sumposion being held in Ponte Alto the second Friday of the month. Contact Lady Tahair MacDiarmada (Sue Metzler) at (703) 960-6707 for further information. Here is a chance to meet people and get your bearings, in a smaller and more personal stting than a big event. Wear casual clothes (garb NOT required), ask and answer questions, bring your current project, or just hang out.

December 10th Symposia will be at Duchess Ysabeau's house: 7875 Wintercress Lane, Springfield, VA, 22152, 703-644-5767 There are no pets here.

Directions: From the Beltway, take the exit for I-95 South (toward Richmond). Take the first exit, VA Route 644 (Old Keene Mill Rd.), west toward Springfield. Go to the 4th traffic light and turn left onto Hunter Village Dr. Take the 4th right onto Wintercress Lane. 7875 is the last block of houses, toward the center, brick front, grey trim, and a double bay window. Park anywhere -- parking is not assigned, but it is limited, so you may have to backtrack to the circle.

The next Sumposion is scheduled for January 14. Watch this space for further announcements.

THE SUBSCRIBER'S LIST

DREKKAR, the newsletter of the Barony of Storvik. Subscriptions to *Drekkar* are \$7.00 per year (12 issues), and are available or renewable by sending a check, payable to "Barony of Storvik/SCA, Inc.," to the Chronicler (see Officer's Listings inside the front cover). Please include your mundane and SCA names, and your mailing address and phone number.

Il Tempo, the newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto, is available for \$5.00 per year. male checks payable to "The Barony of Ponte Alto/SCA, Inc." and mail or give to Becky King, 7135 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043.

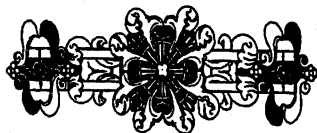
Dredgings, the newsletter of the Barony of Lochmere, is available for \$8.00 per year.

The Inside Line, the connection for Duello in Atlantia. A newsletter published on a bi-monthly basis, a monthly calendar of activities throughout the kingdom, and notices on special events such as Queen's Rapier Champion. Subscriptions are \$6/per year, payable to Greg Glewwe at The Inside Line, c/o Greg Glewwe, 19528 Crystal Rock Dr. # 14, Germantown, MD 20874. Call Gregoire at (301) 540-8538 for more information.

The CUSP is a newsletter for the "Borderlands" of the East Kingdom and the Kingdom of Atlantia, carrying event announcements and information for the following groups: The Baronies of Bhakail, Lochmere, and Storvik, the Shires of Bright Hills, Dun Carraig, Highland Foorde, Stierbach, Inglenook, Black Rose, Dawnfield, Montevale, Silver Rylle, and the Bailwick of Iveyenrust. The CUSP is available from Lord Cahan Kyle (William Kyle) RD #1, Box 426, Blairs Mills, PA 17213. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year.

The Blue Feather, is a newsletter for the members of Clan Blue Feather, and is to be a forum for publication to period sources, poetry and other items related to gay/lesbian/bisexual studies or individuals in the time period covered by the SCA. The Blue Feather is available from Tristan Alexander, at 103-J N. Rock Glen Rd., Baltimore, MD 21229, for \$9.00 per year.

The Chanter and Stick, is a newsletter of the Atlantian Piping and Drumming Guild. It offers informative articles on beginning bagpipes, equipment reviews, and a source list for related accoutrements. It is available from Niall Duncan MacFarlane (Neal Towley) Rt 3 Box 467, Boone, NC 28607.



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