



Volume 36

# The Drekkar

Newsletter  
of the Barony of Storvik  
in the Kingdom of Atlantia,  
branch of the SCA, Inc.

December, A.S. L (2015)



Issue 12

**'Hark!' the herald angel smirks  
'We've got awesome new research.  
Look inside, I think you'll find that  
We have things you'll want to look at.'**



*Annunciation of Christ's birth to the shepherds, from The Hague, KB, 76 F 27 fol. 61V, a 15<sup>th</sup> century Book of Hours. See that wheeled house on the left? Read about it inside!*

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*Our cover art is 500 years old and no longer under copyright. Manuscript images in the "Shepherd's Huts" article are similarly out of copyright.*

## Upcoming Events

December 5: [Unevent](#) (Petersburg, VA)

Rejoice, Storvik, and be glad that our yearly Atlanian business meeting is in Caer Mear, just south of Richmond. Garb not required.

December 12: [Caer Mear Yule](#) (Richmond, VA)

Free event with a strict 100 person attendance limit. Pre-reg now!

January 2: [Interbaronial 12<sup>th</sup> Night](#) (Hampton, VA)

An Ottoman Turkish-themed celebration a bit closer to home than Kingdom 12<sup>th</sup> Night.

January 8-10: [Atlantian 12<sup>th</sup> Night](#) (Pickens, SC)

If you can make the drive, this promises to be splendid. Their Majesties host a weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> century opulence. There will be arts, sciences, performances, fighting, and dinner theater!

## Baronial Activities

Locations to regular baronial activities on the last page.

### **MONDAY NIGHT PRACTICE CANCELED December 21 and 28.**

**Business Meeting: December 20, 2015,** 7pm at the Canterbury Riding Condominium clubhouse, Laurel, MD.

**Newcomer's Night:** December 20, 3-7pm, at the Canterbury Riding Condominium clubhouse, Laurel, MD. We will bake bread!

**Fight, Rapier Practice:** December 7, 14, 7-9pm

**Dance Practice:** December 7, 14, 8-10pm.

**Archery Practice:** Some Sundays (see Yahoo Group messages for details) (11:00am)

**Scribal Night:** December 1, 15 (6-10pm).

**Early Northern European Adhocracy:** December 8, 7-9pm. We'll be planning our projects for next year.

### **OYEZ! OYEZ!**

*Baronial News Highlights*

**Need Pics?:** Meisterin Johanna is going to the Met Museum in NYC. If there is an artifact there you would like a photograph of, let her know at [moas<at>storvik.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:moas@storvik.atlantia.sca.org).

**Historic Martial Arts:** Six weeks of capoferro classes, starting soon at Monday practice. Contact [Lady Ilaria](#), the Knight Marshal, for details.

**Gold Key Needs You!:** The Minister of Arts and Sciences wants to hold garb-making events. Contact [Meisterin Johanna](#) to volunteer to host.

## Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting, November 15, 2015

Attending: Johanna, Badouin, Morton, Devin, Teleri, Emma, Rayhana

Meeting opens 7:13 pm.

### Officer's Reports

Seneschal: Rayhana: Needs to get warrant renewed. Needs to email form to baronage to get signed. Quarterly in.

Exchequer: Morton: \$7794.45, 2 outstanding checks, one to write off from 2014. Checks to Teleri and to Canterbury Riding Association still uncashed. Teleri promises to deposit hers. Lochmere owes us about \$1100. Their Exchequer said they would mail it, but we never got it. Has tried to get back in touch to see if it was sent or not. Will get it by end of month. St Andrews check cleared, so we are good for rest of quarter.

Baron has receipts for lock which is on the shed. Got grease to weather proof it, the remaining grease is in the shed. Money was Emma's personal money, will give receipts to Emma so she can get reimbursed. Never got receipt for Dayshade used for shower, may donate. Johanna recommends getting the credit card statement to document the purchase.

The baron has a quote for \$600 chairs from Vels (\$600 per chair) based on Black -something- chair (chronicler did not catch name of artifact, but the baron had images of the original piece). Vels wants half up front for materials. As Vels has a good reputation, the baron is okay with that. The chair will break down for transport. Chair will be brought to a War (Pennsic or Lillies) for delivery so there is no shipping cost. Badouin proposes that once we get the check from Lochmere that we commission the chairs with a \$600 deposit. No carving - we will get locals to decorate - his Grace could carve, Wyn could paint (or other volunteer). Egil's min quote was \$800 each. Someone asked what weight limit and seat size are. Badouin thinks it will be very large and sturdy. Johanna asks about finish - oil, polyurethane? Badouin thinks get it paint-ready, finish it ourselves. Johanna asks if the carved animal heads on the original piece will be done as drekkars. Badouin replies that Vels is probably just doing round knobs, but we can paint them as drekkars. Johanna asks that as soon as dimensions are worked out, let people know so they can start to develop designs. Morton asks if we can auction off the design of the side panels as a fund raiser? People win the right to design it. But what if it's ugly? Johanna suggests auctioning off the right to put their names in runes on the side: A gift from Yadda Yadda. We will incorporate arms of the prior baronage on it somewhere. Johanna asks if we can get a sketch so we can see it, not the chair it's based on. But yes, we want it.

Morton moves that we reimburse Emma for lock. All aye to reimburse Emma for lock.

Morton asks if he should post or publish the quarterly report. No, this is not required, just the yearly summary in the Drekkar. He may post quarterlies anyway if he wants.

MOAS: Nalbinding is a big hit at SENEA. Did bread-baking today. People have not told her of anything else going on this month. Emma having a garland-making class in December. She is taking a personal field trip to the Met in December, will take more pictures. She is taking requests, let her know if there is anything you want photographed. Patterns in Time exhibition leaves in January 10. Interested in hearing if anyone is doing anything A&S related.

Baronage: (reported on chairs during Exchequer's report)

Chronicler: Drekkar is out. Going to Unevent. Need to check warrant. Quarterly in. Pictures and articles wanted.

Herald: Needs a warrant, will take class at Unevent. Seneschal will print out warrant and bring to next meeting or at Holiday Faire.

Chatelaine: Next newcomer's Thursday at Emma's house. 1 person at last one.

### **New Business**

Next business mtg Dec 20. Could move it forward to the 13th. Will keep the 20th as officers will all be here. Teleri needs another check for the CR. All aye. Use the time for newcomers? Yes! Maybe newcomers would even stay for barony meeting. Will do bread again next month. Bring A&S, will do bread. Potluck.

January meeting MLK Jr weekend. Do the 10th? Yes, will be 12th Night-y. Get dancers, musicians. Yule Revel! With garb!

Hanna - asks Badouin if he can get her the silk banners from August, she can look at getting them hemmed.

### **Events**

Performer's Revel: March 26 is Easter weekend. Mistress Fevronia and Master Igor want to reschedule for March 19. There is agreement.

Battle on the Bay 2016: Graciela has a Marshal in Charge.

Storvik Song and Dance: Tibbie recommended the Moose Lodge in College Park be investigated as a venue. Teleri will follow up.

Novice Tourney: we have the contract for KoC. Autocrat (one of the West boys) should get it and sign it. \$1000 fee, Cash and snack bar. 8am-8pm. Morton moves we approve a \$500 deposit, all aye. Last year was \$1500, this year \$1000 plus whatever they make from the snack and booze bars.

Meeting closed shortly after 8pm

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### **Overheard and Unattributed**

*Said at the baronial business meeting. We won't say by whom.*

I did that one time. One time!

Mine wasn't chair-related.

## **Chronicle of Storvik**

### The Monday Practice at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

I arrived on Storvik's shores in A.S. 34 (1999 CE) and the Monday night practice was already an institution. I've heard some off-handed comments that suggest as late as A.S. 32, the practice was elsewhere, but our relationship with St. Andrew's, the practice site, has been long. If it were a person, it would be eligible for a learner's permit, and would be allowed to vote within the next year or two.

Back In The Day, the Monday practice was "fighter practice," and indeed heavy weapons fighting was the primary activity. Socialization was a secondary, but important, purpose. More recently (but still for several years at this point), dancing (to live music) and fencing have become weekly features.

"The Can" is a part of Monday practice. A large #10 coffee can, The Can accepts contributions from those attending practice to help pay for the site. Renting the St. Andrew's hall is Storvik's largest annual expense, and donations help us afford it. Recognition goes to the dancers and musicians as being the most regular and generous donors, as of this writing... although the largest single donation came from an anonymous fighter. That gentle paid for an entire year's rental!

The cost of the site has increased quite a bit since we began using it. The church added air conditioning and other improvements which increased its value as a venue, and that's been reflected in the price. We talk frequently at the business meetings about looking for another site, but St. Andrew's has been a backbone of our barony for going on twenty years. The site is attractive, Metro-accessible, has a good kitchen, and we have a good working relationship with the church. We're not eager to go elsewhere, but the cost is substantial.

St. Andrew's has hosted Storvik events as well, being the traditional site of Yule Revel and Post-Pennsic Revel, neither of which is held regularly at this time. Last year, it hosted the first Storvik Song and Dance.

Another thing to know about St. Andrew's is that the lovely little park-like area on the side of the church, with the plantings and the benches, is not a garden. It's a columbarium, a place where ashes of the dead have been interred, and we are asked to treat it respectfully.

– Lady Teleri the Well-Prepared

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## Shepherd's Huts in the SCA Period

Research on "Pennsic Houses" or "Vardos"

By Lady Isabella Mea Caterina D'Angelo



This is my vardo/trailer for SCA camping events. Specifically, Pennsic. The door is open in the picture because I was running in and out while I was painting Spikes (the seahorses) on the side. After all, everyone needs to know it's a proper Atlantian home, right?

But how proper is it? Well, when I started doing research, most SCAdians seem to think that these Pennsic homes go into the creative part of the Society for Creative Anachronism. All I could find were mentions of covered wagons going back well into period but nothing on the wooden huts. That was, until I realized it was a *terminology* issue. Vardos - those beautiful 19th and early 20th century wooden wagons - weren't necessarily period, but shepherd's huts are.

Anytime I did a search on tiny homes -which my trailer most resembles in a modern context- I would come across British and Australian articles about shepherd's huts. Having not heard the term before, I decided to dig more deeply into what those were and came across *Shepherds' Huts and Living Vans* by David Morris. Inside the book is a quote by Leonard Mascall from 1596:

*in some place the Shepheard hath his cabbin going upon a wheel for to move here and there at his pleasure*

A cabin on wheels? That sounds like my Pennsic house. 1596 is just inside the SCA pre-17th C guidelines, but it works. In the book, I also saw a couple of illuminations from the 15th century depicting shepherd huts. Curious, I looked for more and found quite a few now that I knew what to look for. Thank goodness for shepherds being a popular subject in the Renaissance!

In [MS. Rawl. liturg. f. 13.](#) there is a depiction of the Annunciation of the Shepherds. There are three individuals, a man wearing a blue tunic, reclines, a lad in a red dress spinning, and a man in a red tunic pointing up. Behind the lady's lovely late 15<sup>th</sup> century hood, is a house on wheels. The house has a door to the front and the wheels are clearly depicted on the sides. Still, it's only one image. David Morris' book had a couple of shepherd's huts. Was there even more?



Figure 1: Ms. Rawl. liturg. f.13, 36v

In the Trivulizo Manuscript, Book of Hours, by Simon Marmion in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, I found another depiction of the Annunciation of the Shepherds. Here, there are two men, looking up at an angel in red with a third man far in the background. Between the man in the lower left hand corner and the man far in the background is another house on wheels. These are clearly five spoke wheels and the house is shown to have windows – one high one in the back and one on the side visible to us.



Figure 2: Trivulizo MS.

In an early 16<sup>th</sup> C Book of Hours believed to have been owned by Claude de Guise, there is a small image of a woman sheering a sheep with another shepherd behind her. In the left hand side of the image, there is another house on wheels with a door at the front. There is also a small window above the door. This is shown in Figure 3, below; you may view the entire image [here](#).



*Figure 3: de Guise Book of Hours*

Not all shepherd's huts were house shaped, however. In a Book of Hours from 1465 (The Hague, KB, 76 G 14, fol. 49r), there is a small rounded shepherd's hut on two spoked wheels. You may view this image [here](#); a crop of the hut is seen in Figure 4.



*Figure 4: Small hut-shaped wheeled house*

In all, I have thus far found well over 24 images from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries depicting a shepherd's hut. This includes one image of a stained glass window in France –where a great deal of the images seem to come from- that shows a shepherd's hut behind the shepherds of the Nativity. Shepherd's huts were in use until the age of the automobile. If you would like to see some of the images I have collected, please look up [my Pinterest board](#) "Shepherd's Huts in the SCA Time Period" under my username Isabelladangelo.



# Lady Alicia's Cookery Booke: Hot Chocolate

By Lady Alicia of Cambion

Greetings! It was been a busy autumnal season here at the Manor and I have been enjoying the dulcet sounds of the workers singing in the fields, of the kettles bubbling in the kitchen and of deadlines whooshing by (but I promise I will have a wonderful missive about apple butter for you...next year). Right now, I have a brief respite before the holiday season launches into its full twelve days of festivity, so I wanted to leave this year with one more yummy foodstuff for your Yuletide: Hot Chocolate!

Hot Chocolate is a very late period food. The secret was held by Spain for years until it finally leaked out beyond its borders. This recipe is based off one written down in 1631 by Antonio Colmenero of Ledesma, and was translated into English by James Wadsworth in 1652. While the recipe is slightly out of period, it was a record of the in-period process of creating chocolate.

In his 1568 memoir about Cortes's exploration of Mexico, Bernal Diaz del Castillo notes one of the earliest instances of the consumption of chocolate: "Motecusuma ate very little. Every now and then was handed to him a golden pitcher filled with a kind of liquor made from the cacao, which is of a very exciting nature."<sup>1</sup> The explorers noted that the cacao beans were used as currency as well in producing the chocolate beverage.

Cortes supposedly was the first to bring cacao beans to Europe as well as the Aztec technique of making *xocolatl* or chocolate. It is believed the Spanish took the bitter drink made by the Aztecs and added sugar to it to make it more palatable to their taste, more like the sweet drink that would be more familiar today.

Wadsworth's translation is as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>The Memoirs of the Conquistador Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Vol 1 (of 2), by Bernal Diaz del Castillo.  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/32474/32474-8.txt>

*The Receipt of him who wrote at Marchena, is this: Of Cacaos, 700; of white Sugar, one pound and a halfe; Cinnamon, 2. ounces; of long red pepper, 14. of Cloves, halfe an ounce: Three Cods of the Logwood or Campeche tree; or in steade of that, the weight of 2. Reals, or a shilling of Anniseeds; as much of Agiote, as will give the colour, which is about the quantity of a Hasell-nut. Some put in Almons, kernells of Nuts, and Orenge-flower-water.*

If you aren't able to source 700 Cacao beans cocoa nibs are an adequate substitute and can be found at more specialized Whole Food merchants or the like. Aniseeds are also probably easier to find than logwood or campeche. Agiote is also known as Annato and can be found in speciality shops or the ethnic food sections of larger vendors. You can also substitute red food coloring or skip it entirely.

Wadsworth continues:

*The Cacao, and the other Ingredients must be beaten in a Morter of Stone, or ground upon a broad stone, which the Indians call Metate, and is onely 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 black; and if they be over-dried, they will be bitter, and lose their vertue. The Cinamon, and the long red Pepper are to be first beaten, with the Annis-seed; and then beate the Cacao, which you must beate by a little and little, till it be all powdred; and sometimes 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 stirre together with a spoone; 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 warme it, that the unctuous part doe not dry away. And you must also take care, to put in the Achiote in the beating; that it may the better take the colour. You must Searse all the Ingredients, but onely 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, & incorporated (which you shall know by the shortness of it) then with a spoone take up some of the Paste, which will be almost liquid; and so either make it into Tablets; or put it into Boxes; and when it is cold it will be hard. To make the Tablets you must put a spoonfull of the Paste upon a piece of paper, the Indians put it upon the leaf of a Planten-tree; where, being put into the shade, it growes hard; and then bowing the paper, the Tablet falls off, by reason of the fatnesse of the paste. But if you put it into any thing of earth, or wood, it sticks fast, and will not come off, but with scraping, or breaking.<sup>2</sup>

If you do not have a handy mortar and pestle (or a *metate*), a spice grinder will do. The cocoa nibs will also work in a spice grinder in small batches, but I found a food processor to be more effective for large batches. After toasting the spices, add the cocoa paste to the warm pan and mix. Add the sugar and mix over low heat until sugar is incorporated. You can add your annato or coloring now, if you like.

At this point, you can pour the chocolate into molds or even just drop small dabs onto parchment paper and make candies “as the Spanish ladies do” but for hot chocolate, use a small loaf pan and cool until solid.

To make the hot chocolate, Wadsworth says:

*Set a Pot of Conduit Water over the fire untill it boiles, then to every person that is to drink, put an ounce of Chocolate, with as much Sugar into another Pot; wherein you must poure a pint of the said boiling Water, and therein mingle the Chocolate and the Sugar, with the instrument called El Molinillo, untill it be thoroughly incorporated: which done, poure in as many halfe pints of the said Water as there be ounces of Chocolate.*<sup>3</sup>

As the high ratio of cocoa nibs to sugar retains some of the bitterness of the original, additional

<sup>2</sup>CHOCOLATE: OR, An Indian Drinke. Written Originally in Spanish, by Antonio Colmenero of Ledesma, Doctor in Physicke, and faithfully rendred in the English, By Capt. James Wadsworth.  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/21271/21271-h/21271-h.htm>

<sup>3</sup>Colmenero

sugar is added. Boil water, dissolve the chocolate and sugar in the boiling water and use a whisk to froth the mixture (if you don't happen to have *El Molinillo*. Taste, add additional water if you prefer and serve it forth.

### **Chocolate: or an Indian Drink**

8 oz Cocoa Nibs  
2.75 oz Sugar  
1-1/2 Dried Red Peppers  
½ t Cinnamon  
Pinch Cloves  
Pinch Anniseed  
Pinch Achiote/Annato or small drop Red Food Coloring (optional)  
Additional Sugar, as needed

Grind the cinnamon, peppers, cloves and anniseed and toast in a skillet until fragrant. Grind the cocoa nibs until they are a smooth, thick paste (there may still be some grittiness to the texture). Put in the warm pan with the spices, add sugar and cook over very low heat until sugar is dissolved, taking care not to burn the mix. Grind the annato and add (or food coloring) if desired and combine until color changes slightly. Pour into small loaf pan and let cool.

To make hot chocolate, take one pint of boiling water, one ounce of the chocolate paste and one ounce of sugar (or less, to your taste) and mix with a *molinillo* or kitchen whisk until sugar dissolves and the mix is frothy. Dilute with up to one cup additional boiling water, if needed.

Enjoy! Go forth and cook good food!

Do you have a cookery question you'd like to have answered? Email Lady Alicia at [ofnoimp@yahoo.com](mailto:ofnoimp@yahoo.com). Best wishes from the Manor for a wonderful holiday season! See you in the new year, assuming I recover from the mead, er, festivities!

**Baronial Regnum**  
Baron and Baroness of Storvik  
Baron Badouin MacKenzie & Baroness Griele van den Burgh

baron<at>storvik.atlantia.sca.org, baroness<at>storvik.atlantia.sca.org

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***Archery Marshal***

Vacant

***Chancellor Minor***

Vacant

***Youth Combat Marshal***

Vacant

***Minister of Minors***

Vacant

**Baronial Champions**

***Archery***

Cameron deGrey

***Arts & Sciences***

Vacant

***Bardic***

Teleri the Well-Prepared

***Court Painter***

Richard Wyn

***Heavy Weapons***

Carlyle Jamesson

***Rapier***

Ffernffael

***Youth***

Wulfgar of Skye

**Baronial Appointees**

***Warlord***

Lord Griffin Wharvager

**Business meetings** are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 7pm at the Canterbury Riding Clubhouse in Laurel, MD. Take your best route I-95 exit 35A, MD-216 East. Keep right off the exit, take the ramp for Stephens Road. First right onto N Laurel Rd. then first left into Canterbury Riding. Immediate left again, follow the road around until you see the tennis court/pool/clubhouse on your right. Park anywhere.

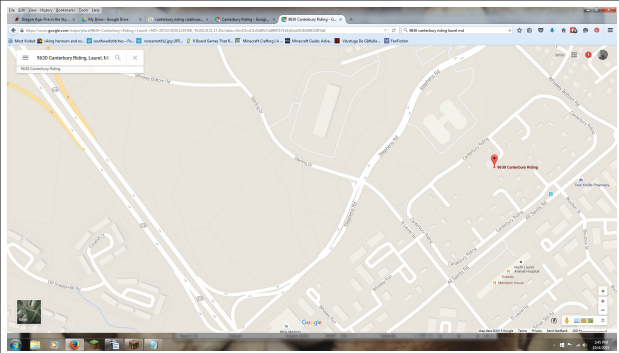
**Fight practice** (heavy and rapier) and **dance practice** are held each Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4512 College Ave., College Park, MD 20740, at the corner of College Ave and Princeton Ave. off of Route 1, south of Paint Branch Pkwy. 7 blocks from the College Park/U of MD Metro on the Green Line.

**Archery practice** on Sunday 11:00am at Adelphi archery range, 2800 University Blvd E, Adelphi, MD 20783; equipment-making at Lord Cameron's during inclement weather.

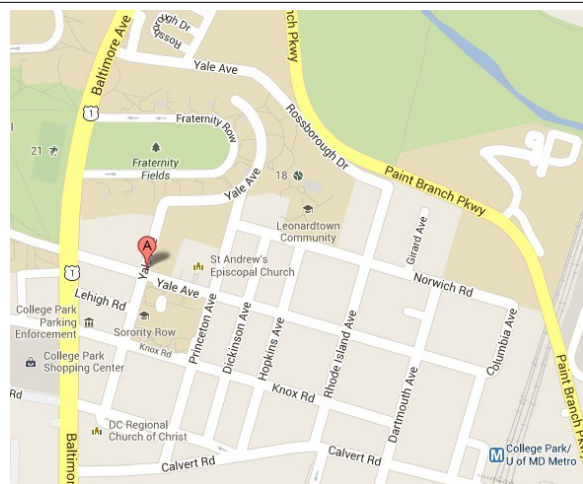
**Newcomer's Night** in Silver Spring: 7981 Eastern Ave, Silver Spring MD 20910.

**Early Northern European Adhocracy:** 9426 Canterbury Riding, Laurel, MD. Free unassigned parking. One cat.

**Scriptorium:** 9565 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD 20744, can pickup from Huntington Metro with prior arrangements. On-street free parking. Two cats.



Canterbury Riding Clubhouse, Laurel, MD (click for Google Map)



4512 College Ave., College Park, MD 20740

**Important Notice:**

This is the Drekkar, a publication of the Barony of Storvik of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Drekkar is available from Jamie Lennon at [chronicler@storvik.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:chronicler@storvik.atlantia.sca.org). Subscriptions are free as all publications are available electronically. This newsletter is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

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