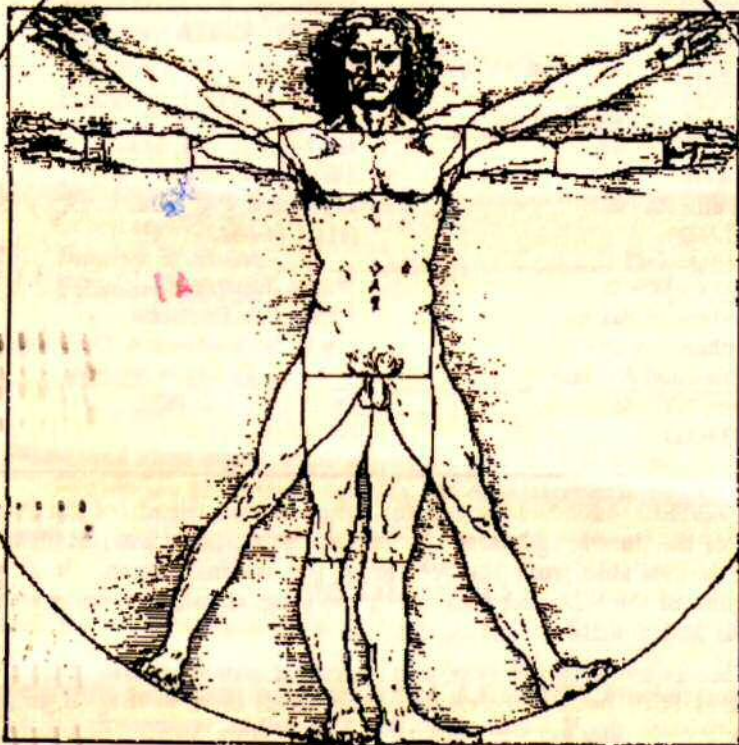


Portrait of an Autocrat by Leonardo DaVinci



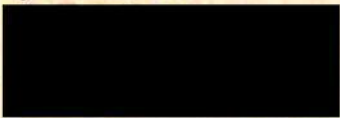
Or, "It helps if you can be two people at once..."




Western Regional Officers

**SENESCHAL:**

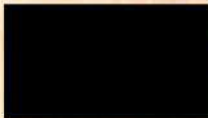
Syr Andreas Hak

**SYCAMORE HERALD:**

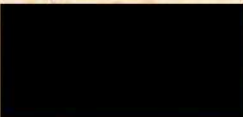
Lord Friedrich Tomasson

**MARSHAL:**

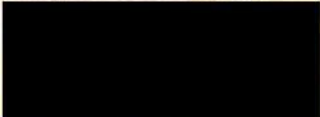
Lord Bear the Wallsbane

**EXCHEQUER:**


Lady Mebh

**ARTS & SCIENCES:**

Lady Estrid Svensdottir

**CHRONICLER:**


Lady Ellisif Flakkingskvinne

**LIST OFFICE:**

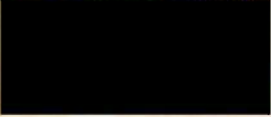
Mistress Cassadoria Finealla

**CHIRURGEON:**

Mistress Rannveigr

**MARSHAL OF FENCE:**

Lord Roderic of Basing

**ÆSTEL ÆDITORS:**

Bertram & Eromene



This is ÆSTEL, published by and for members and friends of the Western Region of the East Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. ÆSTEL is available from the Æditor at the address above. It is *not* a publication of the SCA and does *not* in any way, shape, or form presume to delineate SCA policies.

Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year, and include 12 issues. Please make checks payable to SCA, Inc. – Western Region and mail them to the Æditor at the address above. Any gentles wishing to submit copy for ÆSTEL are warmly encouraged to do so. If you can provide your input in MacWrite or Microsoft Word for the Mac format on a 3.5" diskette it will save us time and retyping. Copyright for all material in ÆSTEL is retained by contributors. ↑

❖ Regional Calendar ❖

JANUARY

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 30 | Midwinter Follies | Sterlynge Vayle |
| | February ÆSTEL | Binghamton, NY |
| 30 | UWEKAT X | Thescorre |
| | February ÆSTEL | Rochester, NY |

FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | ÆSTEL Deadline | Mail |
| 13 | Valentine's Day Revel | Stormsport |
| | February ÆSTEL | Erie, PA |
| 13 | An Evening with the Borgias | Coppertree |
| | February ÆSTEL | Rome, NY |
| 20 | Schola | Cour d'Or |
| | February ÆSTEL | Pittsburgh, PA |

MARCH

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1 | ÆSTEL Deadline | Mail |
| 5 | Tavern VI | Northern Outpost |
| | February ÆSTEL | Potsdam, NY |
| 5 | Seven Deadly Sins IV: A Feast in Valhalla | Delftwood |
| | February ÆSTEL | Syracuse, NY |
| 5 | Festival of Lus-nam-mial | Gaidhealach Dorchadh |
| | February ÆSTEL | Morgantown, WV |
| 12 | Ice Dragon | Rhydderich Hael |
| | February ÆSTEL | Erie, PA |
| 26 | Barony Birthday | Debatable Lands |
| | February ÆSTEL | Pittsburgh, PA |

APRIL

- | | | |
|---|--|------|
| 1 | ÆSTEL Deadline | Mail |
| | There are no events yet planned for April. | |

Please send event flyers to the Æditors so that we can include accurate information about your event in the Announcements Section.

Special Note:

There is a reasonable chance that the people of the Western Region will be polled on the question of whether or not they wish to become a principality some time near the end of A.S. XXII. Please remember, only official members of the SCA will be polled. If you need to renew, the Registry must receive your membership fee before the end of January for your name to be included on an April polling list.



Editorially Speaking



What fun! We have started to receive anonymous letters (we know they're anonymous because they're signed that way). We think we know who is responsible, and we are both entertained and amused. So that others can share our sentiments, we have printed the first two on pages 7 and 16. You, too, are welcome to tell us what you think, especially if you write it down.

Spring is around the corner, which means Ice Dragon. See the full announcement starting on page 8. Read about other activities in the region for February and March starting on page 3, and plan your weekends in advance.↑

- *Mistress Eromene Aspasia*

About the Cover

This month's cover is by Leonardo DaVinci (1452-1519), and is a reproduction of his famous anatomical study of man. Do we need to say more? (We found this image as an example on a program which cleans up scanned images for the Macintosh.)



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Coming Events



St. Valentine's Day, Stormsport

February 13

Ladies and Lords alike will be able to bring a member of the opposite sex up on charges of violating the Rules of Courtly Love. Since our magistrate is somewhat addlebrained, we have decided to settle all charges through trial by combat. So Champions, polish your armor and sharpen your blades, there's honor and chivalry to defend (the grubby no-good defendants might want to do this also, since they gotta fight too). The trial by combat will be followed by some small melees to satisfy any blood lust left in the fighters. The site opens at 10 am. At some point during the day, there will be an open forum for a discussion of Principality. The lists close at noon with no exceptions. Due to mundane restrictions, no minors will be able to enter the lists. The tourney will start at 12:30 sharp, and will be followed by a simple feast at 6:00, during which we will be entertained by the justly-feared Stormsport Cacophonic Consort. We plan to give a prize for the best table setting, so drag out your good stuff. Gentles should be aware that displaying banners is definitely encouraged. After the feast, there shall be dancing.

The cost is \$7.50, or \$2.50 off board, if received before January 14. Send reservations payable to SCA, Inc. - Stormsport and requests for crash space to Barak Elandris Bear, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For additional questions, contact the autocrat, Illiam Uaine, [REDACTED]

The site is the 10th Street Methodist Church in Erie. The hall is limited to 80 on board, and is **BONE DRY**. Directions:

From the North and East: Take I-90 West to the Parade Street exit. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp. This road turns into Parade Street as you approach Erie. **Stay on Parade Street until you get to 10th Street. Turn right. Continue on 10th a block and a half. The church will be on your left. Park between the signs only, and enter the church through the back doors.

From the South and West: Take I-79 North to the 26th Street/Rt. US 20 East exit. Take 26th Street until you reach Parade, then turn left. Follow the directions above from **.

Welcome to the Italian Renaissance, a time and place where many of Shakespeare's characters lived and plotted. Join them and other assorted gentles at a party hosted by the (in)famous Lucretia Borgia - if you dare. Interact with others involved in intrigue; try to meet your goals while staying alive to dance, feast and have a good time. The site will open at noon, with the live role-playing game to commence in the afternoon. Non-game participants are welcome, as are merchants. The feast will be in the Italian Renaissance style - no poison, we promise - and the site, St. Anne's Church in Whitesboro, NY, is damp.

Cost is \$8 before February 6 or \$9 thereafter or at the door, with a \$1 discount with proof of membership. People who want characters must reserve by February 6 (the limit is 50), and ask for the character they want. Send checks payable to SCA, Inc. Coppertree to the autocrat, Lady Katherine Stanhope, [REDACTED]

Currently scheduled classes include musketry & artillery, shi-nai, armor, Roman legions, Arthurian Britain, Zen and the art of the list, poetry, gold leaf, storytelling, madrigals, ballads, headdresses, tailoring, period recipe conversion, dancing, embroidery, instrument making, Giotto (art), flirting and cursing. The first class begins at 11 am. Lunch will be served, and a midday break in classes will allow students to tour the Nationality Rooms (they are justly famed and beautiful - GO!). The feast will also be the site for contests in Best Excuse for Coming to Class Unprepared (oral), Most Outrageous Instructor Credentials and Most Implausible Course Title and Description (both written). Dancing and singing will follow the feast.

Cost is \$8 before February 1, \$9 before February 15 and \$10 thereafter, or \$4, \$4.50 and \$5 for off board. Enclose an SASE with reservations for a FREE PARKING permit. Send reservations, crash space requests and checks payable to SCA, Inc. BMDL to Lady Althea die fast Unschuldige, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Address inquiries about classes to Lady Seabhac Na Scail, [REDACTED]

The day site is the Cathedral of Learning of the University of Pittsburgh, Bigelow side/third floor, which is **BONE DRY**. The feast site, William McKinley Citizen's Center in Verona, is **WET**. Directions to the day site:

Take your best route to 376. **From the West:** Take the Forbes Avenue exit and follow Forbes to Boquet Street (Rax on corner). Turn right, then take first left. Park in Forbes Quad Garage and look for a 30 story Gothic skyscraper (there's only one). **From the East:** Take the Bates Street exit until Bates ends, then turn left onto Boquet. Turn right at the second stop sign (look for mirrored building on right). Park as above. Directions to the feast site will be available at the day site.

Tavern VI: A Night in Xanadu, Northern Outpost **March 5**

The Pleasure Dome is falling from lack of repair and too many parties. Yes; you've seen Italian taverns and French taverns and English, Irish and Scottish taverns - but a Mongolian tavern? Yes! The odd crew that brought you the Original Tavern Night brings you A Night in Xanadu! The day will feature a fencing tourney, a simultaneous boffer/ rattan tourney, and a chess tourney. The evening will feature our role-playing tavern, and a typical Northern Outpost feast with an Eastern Flavor. The sites have not yet been confirmed.

Cost is \$8 until February 13, \$9 until March 4 and \$10 at the door, or \$4 off board (under 12 half price). All prices are reduced \$1 with proof of membership. Send checks payable to SCA, Inc. - Northern Outpost to either autocrat, Lady Caitrin Gordon,

[REDACTED] 3676 or Fiona MacNiall, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] before 10:30 pm.

A Feast in Valhalla, Delftwood **March 5**

The Barony of Delftwood invites you to its traditional Seven Deadly Sins event. The theme for this year's event is the Viking paradise of Valhalla, where warriors fought all day and feasted all night, and in keeping with this theme we will be holding workshops in Viking Poetry and Viking Dance, and demonstrations of the game Tablut. There will be competitions in Tablut and Viking Poetry, and there will also be fighting. A sideboard will be available through the afternoon to all, and there will be a feast.

The cost is \$8 in advance, or \$9 at the door, and \$3 off board. Send reservations payable to SCA, Inc. - Delftwood and requests for crash space to Cyneric and Sybil, c/o Jim and Karen Lienhart, 704-14 Ivy Ridge Road, Syracuse, NY 13210 (315) 422-3392. For additional questions, contact the autocrat, Ignatius Duvidivitch, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The sites are the United Church of Fayetteville, 310 East Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY for the feast, troll and arts events and the Mott Road School, 7173 Mott Road, Fayetteville, NY for the fighting. Both sites are **BONE DRY**. Directions will be printed next issue.

Festival of Lus-nam-mial, Gaidhealach Dorchadh March 5

The Incipient Shire of Gaidhealach Dorchadh under the sponsorship of the BMDL announces its First Annual Festival of Lus-nam-mial. The festival will include a rattan tourney, archery, backgammon and nine man morris. Please note that cats, ferrets and rat terriers are not permitted on site due to the nature of the festival.

The cost is \$8 in advance, or \$10 at the door and \$3 off board. Send reservations payable to SCA, Inc. - Misty Highlands and requests for crash space to Cainder of Loch Suili, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The site is the Granville Town Hall in Morgantown/ Westover. Directions will be printed next issue.

Festival of the Ice Dragon, Rhydderich Hael March 12

The Twelfth Annual Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon will feature single-elimination rattan and fencing tournaments, the Grand Pentathlon of the Arts and Sciences, and the Royal Court of Their Majesties Morghun and Rowan. We will again be using the heraldic display system, therefore, we request that all fighters and fencers send a blazon or drawing of their passed device when making reservations.

The Barony of the Rhydderich Hael is pleased to announce that our new Baron will be invested at this event. We will be featuring a feast by Rowena Morna Caithnes. The total number of people attending will be limited to 600, and **TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED**. No one will be allowed in the hall without reservations. Gentles without tickets will not be admitted.

The on board cost is \$10, with a \$1 discount for proof of membership. There is a limit of 200 on board, so please reserve early. Off board is \$3 and outboard is \$2. Children 3-12 are half price, under 3 are free. Please send checks payable to SCA, Inc. - Rhydderich Hael and requests for crash space to Lady Rose Marian of Edgewater, [REDACTED]

before midnight. Address all other questions to the autocrats, Lady Cori, c/o Clare Jackson, 20 Tremont, Buffalo, NY 14213 (716) 886-1514 OR Lord Morien ap Rhys of Caerdyf, [REDACTED]

The site is St. Gerard's Lyceum, 2535 Baily Avenue, Buffalo, NY. The site is damp. Wine and mead are OK; beer must be bought from the church. Directions will be printed next issue.

Letters

This is the second letter we received. Postmarked Rochester about a week after the first letter, it too had no return address.

Undated, AS XXII

Unto the Most Noble Aeditor of the Aestel:

We wish to express our support for the Western Region Principality. At this time we would like to set forth our reasons for so doing.

1. We feel that unity is desperately needed in these troubles times, when war looms over the horizon and armageddon is at our door.
2. Immorality in the East Realm is running rampant, and we must protect and isolate our children from this insidious corruption.
3. God has spoken to us, and has said that unless we get 300 pro-principality votes by Pennsic, He will call the Western Region Seneschal Home.

And so, brothers and sisters, we must join our hands and hearts to support this Holy Crusade to Save the Western Region and the Cause of Righteousness. Amen

The Coalition for Medieval Morality



Ice Dragon Pentathlon



Rules for the Pentathlon of the Arts and Sciences

1. NO KITS!
2. Entry by proxy is allowed. Please note the entry as such on your registration form.
3. Items must be virgin, having never been entered in any competition before except that previously used patterns, recipes, etc. may be entered as long as the actual entry is new.
4. No more than 2 items per person per sub-category.
5. In order for a prize to be awarded in a sub-category, it must have at least 3 entries. Pentathlon autocrats reserve the right to combine or divide categories as they see fit.
6. There will be a 25¢ entry fee for each item entered up to 8 items, payable at the time of registration. Over 8 items, there is a flat fee of \$2.00.
7. Historical documentation should be thorough. Entrants will not be allowed to speak to the judges except at the judges' request. If you have something you want them to know, include it in your documentation.
8. We will be using 3" by 5" cards this year. They should have category name, entry name, and a brief description with bibliography. We suggest that you provide more thorough documentation (photocopies from sources, etc.) as well. Your documentation may take whatever form you wish, but do not put your name on it, or on the 3" by 5" cards. Cards will be available at the site.
9. To be eligible for the over-all Pentathlon Prize, at least 5 of the major (numbered) categories must be entered. Each person's highest score from within major categories will be taken. These scores (or the top 5 if more than 5 major categories are entered) will be averaged together. The person having the highest total will be the overall winner of the Ice Dragon Pent.
10. Pentathlon registration begins at 9:30 am and closes at 11:00 am. NO EXCEPTIONS.
11. In order to reduce waiting on the part of the judges and entrants alike, there will be a judging schedule and we will be sticking to it. Have your entry available in the Pent Room on time or it will not be judged. We will not track you down.
12. All "accessories" must be placed on tables for judging - we will not judge items being worn.

13. Performing arts must be performed. Solo performance - under 10 minutes; Group performance - under 20 minutes. See also Rule 11.
14. Items may be cross entered in more than 1 category, where appropriate. Please note so on your registration form, and fill out an index card for each category it is entered in. Indicate on the extra cards where the item has been placed so the judges can find it, and put those cards on the appropriate tables. If the judges cannot find your entry, it will not be judged.
15. Group entries should be noted as such on the registration form. Anyone who is in a group entry and is entered in the overall Pent must register for that category separately from the group, indicating that they are part of a group (and which group) if they want to receive these points toward their overall score.
16. In order to allow for more thorough and intelligent judging, copies of all entries in the "written words and music" categories must be received by the Pent autocrats on or before February 21, 1988. They will be on display the day of the event and will be returned to the writers then. We will not accept entries for these categories on the day of the event.

Our judging criteria and point system will be as follows:

Documentation (0-5)

Workmanship (0-4)

Authenticity (0-5)

Complexity (0-3)

Creativity (0-5)

Aesthetics (0-3)

Total (0-25)



Categories for the Pentathlon of the Arts and Sciences



1. NEEDLEWORK

- a. Embroidery - counted thread
- b. Embroidery - other
- c. Beadwork
- d. Lace and Tatting
- e. Knitting and Crocheting - Non-lace
- f. Spinning and Weaving
- g. Dying

2. SEWING

- a. Costume - Pre 1400 Male
- b. Costume - Pre 1400 Female
- c. Costume- Post 1400 Male
- d. Costume - Post 1400 Female
- e. Costume - Under age 10
- f. Accessories
- g. Banners

3. GRAPHICS

- a. Calligraphy
- b. Illumination
- c. Painting and Drawing
- d. Print-making

4. PERFORMING ARTS

- a. Dance
- b. Drama, Puppetry, Story-telling
- c. Juggling
- d. Instrumental Music
- e. Vocal Music

5. WRITTEN WORD AND MUSIC

- a. Poetry
- b. Plays, Novels, and Short Stories
- c. Songwriting, Musical Composition and Arrangement
- d. Research Papers and Essays

6. ARMOR

- a. Metal
- b. Leather
- c. Chainmail

7. METALWORK

- a. Jewelry
- b. Weaponry
- c. Other

8. LEATHERWORK

- a. Any

9. WOODWORK

- a. Any

10. COOKERY

- a. Main Dish
- b. Side Dish
- c. Bread
- d. Sweet
- e. Sotelties

11. BREWING

- a. Mead, Beer, and Ale
- b. Other Alcoholic/
Fermented
- c. Non-Alcoholic

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Ceramics, Bone, Horn, and Glass
- b. Instrument Construction
- c. Herbology
- d. Toys and Games
- e. Anything Not Covered Above

Anyone willing to help judge, or to donate prizes for any of the above categories, please contact the Pent autocrats, Lady Cigfran o Caer Gwalch and Lord Dagonell of Emerald Lake, [REDACTED]

Stuffy lord at a feast:

"Server, server, what's this fly doing in my soup?"

Overworked Server:

"Appears to be a French gailliard, milord..."

Principality Meeting Notes

Phooey! The Principality meeting at Western Regional 12th Night happened. It was a question and answer session. There's no new news. People talked. People listened. If you want to know what happened, ask somebody who went. Your editor is tired of trying to please *all* of the people *all* of the time and wants to second the motion set forth in Svidrir's letter on page 12, "*Dare to have fun!*" ↑

Lady Wins Coronet List

Meanwhile, over in the Principality of Drachenwald, people were doing just that. Their Majesties and Their Serene Highnesses conducted a coronet tourney at about the same time (give or take six or eight time zones) that we were having our Principality meeting. Seventy people attended the tourney which was held at Castle Frankenstein (yes, *that* Frankenstein) near Munich in the Barony of Knight's Crossing. There were gentles there from groups in Great Britain, Sweden, and Spain, as well as Germany.

The weather was great for fighting – in the mid-40°'s and overcast with a light wind. At 10 o'clock the tourney commenced with addresses to the participants by TRM and TSH. Eleven combatants, nine lords and two ladies, took the field and fought well and honorably for over two hours in a standard double elimination. His Majesty Morguhn and Duke Sir Merowald of the Middle and Trimaris marshalled throughout the day.

When it came to the finals Lady Gwenillian (*your æditor has without a doubt spelled it incorrectly) came up the winners side and defeated Vicount Sir Raim in two bouts straight, using sword and shield for both. Her inspiration was Lord Stephen (see * above) and they were invested as Tanista by Right of Arms and Tanist upon the field. Later in the day they were made Princess by Right of Arms and Prince of Drachenwald by Morguhn and Rowan.

Lady Gwenillian received her Tygers' Combatant just a few weeks earlier. I am told she hails from the Barony of Mountain Freehold in the mundane state of Vermont. This marks the first time a lady has ever won a standard coronet or crown tournament. (Vicountess Sir Maythen of Elfhaven won a competition called the five-fold list in the Principality of the Mists many years ago.) Let us raise a toast to a this valiant lady and her victory! ↑



A Letter of Comment on Principality



As seems to be the custom, I offer an introduction, and some thoughts on the issue of a Principality where the Western Region now lounges. I am Svidrir, son of Einarr and Baron in their Oriental Majesties' court. Although I have been in the Middle Kingdom for two and a half years, I lived almost nine years in the Rhydderich Hael and may have one or two awards, but nothing to put me in the "big fish" class. In general, I am very happy that the Region may become a Principality and has this opportunity for fun and creativity. Here follow my comments.

To those who worry that the Region is the wrong shape/size, I almost agree. You can trim the most distant groups and not significantly reduce the size of the Principality. Or they may vote against the Principality anyway and make the point moot. Either way, you will have four new events, the majority of which will not be held at the far reaches. And I do not understand the logic of an argument which says you can be part of a Kingdom much larger than the Western Region, and have to travel to the east coast for many Kingdom events, but it is too much trouble to travel to BMDL or Coppertree once in a while to visit neighbors.

Will you be inundated with laws and bureaucrats? Come on. Principality officers will have to answer to Kingdom-level superiors, as Regionals do. Jurisdictions and territories will be about the same, or less if one or two groups do not join. What will Principality laws be if not echoes of Kingdom laws, which would be harmless, plus traditions and customs of the region and its various groups, as decided by representatives at Curia, which would be creative. As in SCA... Small fish will be at home, and only those who let themselves get into such a fine mesh (sorry) will have to sit or sleep through anything as inherently evil as representative government.

Oppressive taxes will not be levied; no orders will be given for the burning of temples or the destruction of villages. There will be no Czar, only pretend Princesses and Princes with no armies to back up bad decisions.

The Principality can be so much more than four Royalty per year plus awards and laws. It can be an opportunity for innovation! An Order of the Mini-Maunche given at a boring court following The Same Old Coronet Lists is not very innovative, but if someone is honored for authenticity, or research, or humor, and your royalty are chosen by melee combat, or fencing, or a pentathlon of sorts, suddenly the Society has much more variety. And less sexism.

Shires will get to host Principality events, at which Kingdom royalty may show up. Local folk without Patents of Arms will have opportunities to herald Principality courts and lists, present subtleties to Their Serene Highnesses, join the Principality Guard, or dedicate poetry to a Highness. When was the last time someone wrote a sonnet for a regional officer? When an original dance is presented after the first Investiture, how many will say "We could be at some other event?"

I hope you go with Inland Shores, a gryphon segreant, a parliament with some real powers, and a completely groundless claim that the Outlands is subject to your royalty. Dare to have fun.▲

— Svidrir Einarrsson

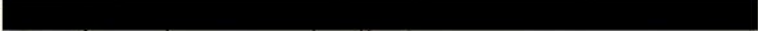
Important Notice

Unto the People of the Known World does Lady Cori, Seneschale of the Barony of the Rhydderich Hael send her greetings.

I am very sorry and upset to have to be writing this letter. Our Barony hosed an event on the 19th of December, at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church. Sometime during the event the cover for the baptismal font was stolen. It has little monetary value, on the other hand, five generations of parishoners have been baptized in it. It is of great emotional value to the church.

This was basically a senseless and distructive action and we sincerely hope the person of persons who did it have reconsidered their actions. We would like it returned. No questions will be asked.

The font cover is very heavy - 12 or 13 pounds. It is made of dark wood, probably walnut. The top is octagonal in shape and the bottom where it fits into the font is circular. There is some wrought iron decoration on the top radiating out from the center. It has a large ring of dark brass. It is 31 inches across.

Anyone with any information regarding the missing cover should contact: 

Our group has been on good terms with this church, holding events at least once a year in their hall for the past eight years. Now, as a result of a few minutes of stupidity on the part of one or two people, the reputation of our group and of the Society as a whole are tarnished. Hopefully, whoever did this will have the courage to correct the situation.

In service to the Society,

— Lady Cori



Une Petite Chanson de Principauté



by Brontwyn Jourdemaine

(Sung to the tune of "The Sergeants Wedding")

Local peerage wants it, that is nothing new.
Kingdom peerage wants it, so they'll push it through.
Now, come on you peasants, let us hear your voice.
Tell us what you think of it, but remember you've no choice!

*CHORUS: So it's cheer for the Principality
Everybody scream!
Twice the politics for twice the fun
And it's all in the service of the dream!*

We want your opinion, just so it is yes.
Negative opinions cause us great distress.
The whole thing is a given, there's no use to cry.
Just be sure your pet peer gets a big slice of the pie!

CHORUS

We never see the Royalty here in BMDL.
When we go principality things will all be swell.
We may not see the royalty, but oh my friend don't wince.
Every year or so, we just might see a Prince!

CHORUS

We have a newsletter where folks speak their mind.
Pro and con opinions, in it you will find.
Editors will run the negatives uncut.
But look down at the bottom, and you'll see their rebut!

CHORUS

Big fish in the big pond think the pond's too large.
They'll hand the smaller fish a chunk, put some of them in charge.
We all know the big fish, skate and pike and cod.
And we know what we'll get. We will all get scrod!

CHORUS



A Brief History of the Rhydderich Hael



Not quite so long ago as Thescorre, yet still lost in the mists of Society antiquity, a tall blonde lady wandered into the Shire of Ashantal. Upon seeing the warriors there engaged in battle, she knew that she, too, had found what had been missing in her life, and resolved to bring it back to her home along the great Lake Erie. Thus did Morgan Elandris found the Shire of the Rhydderich Hael at the State University of New York at Fredonia back in a.s. XI (1976). Master Frederick of Holland (now a duke in the West) was living in Buffalo at the time and was of great assistance to Morgan in this effort.

Over its first few years, the Hael struggled to build its membership - Fredonia is a small college town 60 miles south of Buffalo, NY, and not a great breeding ground for something as unusual (read "weird") as the SCA. The city of Buffalo originally belonged to the Shire of Eastmere, but that group was dissolved in a.s. XII (1977). With no group in the city, the Hael began to attract Buffalonians, and as the Fredonia students graduated, many migrated to Buffalo. In this fashion, the central focus of the Hael eventually shifted to Buffalo. The founding of the Canton of Beau Fleuve by Count Frederick (aka "Uncle Flieg") sped the process along.

In a.s. XIII (1979), just three months after Thescorre attained Baronial status, the Hael did also, choosing Morgan Elandris as its founding Baroness. Mostly due to Baroness Morgan and House Elandris, especially the "Carthaginians," Hasdrubal, Mago and Hannibal (who later changed his name to James O'Neil), the Hael acquired quite a reputation in the martial arena. Unfairly, it also acquired an aura of heavy dourness. It's too bad that those who thought Morgan Elandris intimidating never saw her martyrdom to sainthood, where she was stoned to death with Milky Way bars! Nor did they see the "serious" O'Neil and Mago "jousting" with spears from their vehicles, or Hasdrubal "rowing" his car home from Pennsic.... Anyway, along with the reputation, the Hael acquired a lot of fighting peers; seven lords who have lived here are now Knights, two have sat upon the throne of the East, and the Tygers Combatants are too numerous to list.

As all things do, the Hael's involvement in combat waned back to more normal levels, especially with the departure of Morgan Elandris for Atlantia after her marriage in a.s. XVIII (1983). Wulfgar of Northumbria and Etta von Felsenstrand were chosen Baron and Baroness in her place, and the Arts began to flourish. In short order the Hael had a

calligraphers' and a cooks' guild, while music and dance practices increased in popularity. Fencing became a popular pastime, and the Hael now has a Baronial Duellist in addition to its rattan Champion, Baronial Bard, and Baronial Archer. Our biggest event, the Ice Dragon Festival, grew to amazing (and alarming) proportions, with 600 gentlemen attending its eleventh incarnation.

Wulfgar and Etta had their first son shortly after Pennsic XIV in a.s. XX (1985), and so resigned their posts as Baron and Baroness at Ice Dragon X. For nearly two years, Master James O'Neil served most ably as our Vicar. Through two wearying rounds of Baronial elections he led us, but at last his retirement is nigh. At the Masked Ball on December 19, a.s. XXII (1987), the Rhydderich Hael elected Bedawyr of Avaricum as its new Baron. When he is invested at Ice Dragon XII, a new round of Hael history will begin. We hope you will all be there to share it with us!↑

- Arianna of Wyndrope

✿ Letters ✿

This is the first of the anonymous letters we received. Postmarked Pittsburgh on the Monday after Regional Twelfth Night, it had no return address.

Undated, AS XXII

Unto the Æditor of the Æstel:

We wish to protest these blatant ætempts by unsævory elements to organize a Western Region Principality in order to serve their ænarchistic political ænds.

We know ths is really an ævil plot spawned by Florentines who carry large arquebuses in their viola da gamba cases. These brutes ænd their ævil ællies, the Guild-of-Women-who-Take-Off-Men's-Clothing-with-Their-Teeth, will undermine the innocence of our children, plunder our women, and ræpe our cattle (or something like that).

Therefore, we do not æpprove of this æggregation of ævarice, ænarchy, ænd æggression, and cast our votes ægainst this æction.

- Ænonyous

The Western Region

Shire of Northern Outpost (Potsdam, NY)	Phelan MacDermott
Shire of Coppertree (Rome & Utica, NY)	Eleanor of Waldren
Canton of Orion's Gate (Jefferson Co., NY)	Cartholo
Shire of Sterlynge Vayle (Binghamton, NY)	Michelaccio il Matto
Barony of Delftwood (Syracuse, NY)	Owen of Harfleur
Dominion of Myrkfaelinn (Ithaca, NY)	Robert of Ferness
Barony of Thescorre (Rochester, NY)	Gwendolyn of Basing
Barony of the Rhydderich Hael (Niagara Frontier, NY)	Cori Ghora
Canton of Beau Fleuve (Buffalo, NY)	Thorgrim Ulfson
Shire of Stormsport (Erie, PA)	Alexander Caithnes of Wyk
Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands (SW PA)	Marian Greenleaf
College of Cour d'Or (Pgh. Colleges/Univs.)	Seabhac na Scail
Balliwick of Broken Bridges (N. Pgh. Suburbs)	Eromene Aspasia
Shire of Nemoralis Noctua (Greensburg, PA)	Morgan of Caer Graeme
Shire of St. Swithin's Bog (Johnstown, PA)	Morghod Strongarm
Shire of Dachkehle (Wheeling, WV)	Ormhflaith ni Darragh
Incip. Shr. of Gaidhealach Dorchadh (Morgantown, WV)	Kristin Amber
Shire of Riversmeet (Kanawha, Putnam Co., WV)	Stephen Red Cloak

*This list is unofficial. For the official listing, please consult Pikestaff.
 Please send corrections to the Kingdom and Regional Seneschals.*