

# AESTEL

Western  
Region  
Newsletter

JANUARY, A.S. XXII

Volume 1, Number 3

Wishing you a joyous  
holiday season!







# 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:**

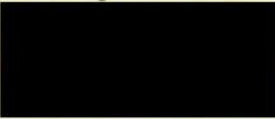
Lady Ellisif Flakkingskvinne

**LIST OFFICE:**


Mistress Cassadoria Finealla

**CHIRURGEON:**


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

- |    |                                      |                 |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2  | ÆSTEL Deadline .....                 | Mail            |
| 9  | Western Regional Twelfth Night ..... | Rhydderich Hael |
|    | January ÆSTEL                        | Buffalo, NY     |
| 16 | Holly Day Inn .....                  | Debatable Lands |
|    | January ÆSTEL                        | Pittsburgh, PA  |
| 30 | Midwinter Follies .....              | Sterlynge Vayle |
|    | January ÆSTEL                        | Binghamton, NY  |
| 30 | UWEKAT X .....                       | Thescore        |
|    | 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 |
| 27 | Seven Deadly Sins V: A Feast in Valhalla ..... | Delftwood      |
|    | February ÆSTEL                                 | Syracuse, NY   |

## MARCH

- |    |                       |                  |
|----|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1  | ÆSTEL Deadline .....  | Mail             |
| ?? | Ice Dragon .....      | Rhydderich Hael  |
|    | February ÆSTEL        | Erie, PA         |
| 26 | Tavern VI .....       | Northern Outpost |
|    | February ÆSTEL        | Potsdam, NY      |
| 26 | Barony Birthday ..... | Debatable Lands  |
|    | February ÆSTEL        | Pittsburgh, PA   |

Please send event flyers to the Editors 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.



# Æditorially Speaking



Happy Holidays, Merry Twelfth Night, and welcome to the third issue of *Æstel*. We hope that the holidays have not delayed this month's mailing overmuch.

This issue continues the principality discussion with the minutes of the December 5th Committee Meeting in BMDL, and a couple of articles commenting on the principality question. But we manage to stray from that theme long enough to present Mathilde des Pyrenees' Cotignac (quince paste) article and Friedrich Tomasson's History of Thescorre. Can we get someone from each of the other groups in the Region to write histories for us? Or other articles - we are looking for both political commentary and informative (or even entertaining!) articles.

Since you asked, (and for all you who wondered and didn't ask), the "æ" sound in *Æstel* is pronounced like the initial "a" in attitude, a long "ah." That makes this the *ah*ditorial, and us (Bertram and Eromene) the *ah*dditors. This concludes the first lesson in Anglo-Saxon.

Remember that the regular deadline is the first day of the month before publication (that is, January 2 for the February issue). We hope to mail the issues by mid-month so that people will have them in their hands by the end of the third week. The short turnaround should help us get accurate information out in a timely manner.

Tell us what you think, or better yet, write for us!↑

— Mistress Eromene Aspasia



## Table of Contents



Western Region Officers	Inside Front Cover
Calendar	1
Æditorial	2
Event Announcements	3
Minutes of the December 5th Principality Committee Meeting	5
Principality Commentaries	8
A Modest Rebuttal to a Western Principality	10
Cotignac	12
About the Cover	14
A Short History of Thescorre	15
Letters	16
Western Region Groups	Inside Back Cover



# Coming Events

Western Regional Twelfth Night, Rhydderich Hael

January 9

The Barony of the Rhydderich Hael will host Western Regional Twelfth Night. The site opens at 11:30 am, and a Western Region Principality Open Forum is scheduled for 12 noon. At 1:30, there will be games and dancing in the Main Hall, and a Sovereign and Consort of Misrule will be chosen by 3:00. A sideboard will be available throughout the afternoon, and the feast, which will be cooked by Lady Deirdre Gwyn Robinson, will be served at 6:00. The site will close at 10pm SHARP!

There will be several contests: A punning contest will be held throughout the day, with the winner to be announced during the feast. Additionally, a pair of Yuletide Dessert Contests will be held. Awards will be given for the Best Tasting Dessert, and for the Best Looking Dessert (MUST be edible!). Also, a boffer tournament may be held, depending upon the whim of the autocrat.

The cost is \$8 onboard through December 25, and \$10 thereafter. A photocopy of your current mailing label or membership card gets you a \$1 discount. Offboard is \$3 at all times, and includes the sideboard and bread and beverage during the feast. Onboard space is limited to 125, and offboard to 50. There will be **no outboard** space for this event. Reservations payable to SCA, Inc. - Rhydderich Hael and crash space requests should be sent to Lady Rose Marian of Edgewater, [REDACTED]

Include an SASE if you want confirmation. Additional information can be had from the autocrat, Richard Tyler of Swiftwater, c/o [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The site is the University Presbyterian Church, 3330 Main Street, across from the University of Buffalo, and is **BONE DRY**. **Directions:** From the **North:** Take your best route to I-190 South. Get on I-290 East and exit at Niagara Falls Blvd., South. The Boulevard ends at Main Street, with the site on your left at that corner. The parking lot entrance is just before the church on your left.

From **all other points:** Take your best route to I-90 (NY State Thruway) toward Buffalo. Get off at Exit 50: I-290 West. The first exit is for NY 5, Main Street. Take the Second Main Street exit (NY 5 West) and follow it to Niagara Falls Boulevard, where the site will be on your right. Turn right onto Niagara Falls Blvd., and then turn right into the parking lot. Note: You will cross US 62, Bailey Avenue, before you get to the site.

Time for late period holiday cheer! Come to an English Tavern feast and Fencing Tourney. We offer to all a variety of post-holiday entertainments and revels. The activities of the day include our usual double elimination fencing tourney and a backgammon tourney, followed as soon as humanly possible by our usual feasting on excellent tavern fare, prepared by Lady Adrianna Ramstar, singing, dancing, and general revelry. The two contests will be for best fencing garb and the most useless Christmas present (either the most useless gift you received or an idea for the most useless present for a specific lord or lady). Both day and evening sites are **DRY**. The tourney site, Thistle Hall gymnasium at Carnegie Mellon University, is will open at 11 am with authorizations preceding the tourney starting time of 1:00. Cost of the event is \$8 until January 10 and \$10 thereafter, off board is \$3 anytime. Send checks payable to SCA, Inc. - BMDL to the autocrat, Briony Rownterra, c/o [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Directions to the day site (Thistle Hall):** Take your best route to I-376 and get off at the Forbes Avenue exit. Follow Forbes east to a right turn at Margaret Morrison Avenue (immediately after the CMU intramural field). Follow the street for one block and turn left before entering a parking lot. The gym is the large building on the left.

**Midwinter's Folly, Sterling Vayle****January 30**

The 5th Annual Midwinter's Folly theme is the Southern France of Provence in the days of Eleanor of Aquitaine and the Troubadores. There will be courts of love; a contest for troubadore song/poem on the theme of honoring an anonymous love; exotic dancing from the lands of the Saracen; dancing; a "Tournament of Love" pillow fight (bring your own); a prize for the best pillow; feast cooked by Baroness Angelica and the Cooks' Guild; and entertainment by the Binghampton Madrigal Singers (others are also welcome). Cost is \$7.50 before January 10, \$10 thereafter or \$4.50 and \$5.50 off board (under 10 half price). Send checks payable to SCA, Inc. Sterlynge Vayle to the autocrats, (Baron Sir Garanhir & Baroness Angelica)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**UWEKAT X, Thescorre****January 30**

The University of the Western East Kingdom at Thescorre (whew!) will host its 10th session on January 30. The classes at UWEKAT are highly recommended! We will put more information in the February *Æstel* if we get any.



# Principality Meeting Notes

On the 5th day of December, A.S. XXII, prior to the East Kingdom University in the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, a meeting of the Principality Planning Committee was held. More than twenty people attended representing most of the groups in the Western Region. Marian Greenleaf, BMDL Seneschale, chaired the meeting and was quite relieved when WR Seneschal Andreas Hak arrived half an hour later, back from his abbreviated honeymoon.

Reports were given by committee members. Group liaison people tried to give a sense of the sentiment in their areas. Bear of the Axe said that Stormsport seems mostly in favor. Magnus said the general feeling from BMDL seemed to be one of inevitability, no one was frantic and no one was all that bent out of shape over the idea. Kristen from Morgantown, WV, said that most in that state seemed strongly in favor. Rhiannon said Coppertree was a small shire, but it was also fairly positive. Gwendolyn from Thescore said a lot of people there were quite new and didn't understand the idea of a Principality all that well. Most older members other than Sir Alric Bowbreaker were positive while the middle guard were moderate.

Committee members responsible for looking into specific issues also spoke. Zahava (Laws) said that Cassadoria is providing him with sets of the laws of other Kingdoms and Principalities. Bertram and Eromene (Newsletter) indicated that ÆSTEL was on schedule and generally well received. Arianna (Heraldry) had drawn up a number of early recommendations for devices. Marian (Names) said that she had a few suggestions and would gladly reference others if people would send them to her. There is some sentiment for calling it "The Holy Roman Principality," since it isn't holy, it's not Roman, and it is not, as yet, a principality. HRM Morghun laments that no one has talked to him much about the issue. He did indicate that Orion's Gate is very positive and that the Northern Region was also thinking more seriously about going principality.

An apology was tendered to groups that did not, as yet, have any liaisons. Hak indicated that any good gentles interested in serving as group liaisons or anti-principality members were welcome to contact him. A general discussion followed. John the Pell said he wants all power far enough away that he can ignore it. Arianna pointed out, in response to Alric's comments about confusion in the Hael over Baronial Elections, that principalities are unlike baronies, in that princes are only around for six months while barons can be forever.

HRH Sedalia indicated that it was imperative that polling on the issue not be long delayed. She also felt that trappings such as names, devices, and laws should not come before the polling. Her Grace Melisande, visiting Kingdom Seneschale for Atlantia, agreed that it was important to poll soon, but that it was also critical that people know just what it is they are voting for! Melisande pointed out from past experience the value of defining the question clearly.

Substantial discussion followed on the appropriate sequence and mechanics for the poll and pre-poll informational packet mailings. Based on this discussion Hak decided on the following preliminary sequence:

*An Informational Mailing to be sent in late January that will inform all official SCA members in the Western Region about the proposed principality. A questionnaire asking for feedback will be enclosed.*

Based on responses to that mailing:

*A Formal Poll will be sent in late March to all official members in the region asking them to vote on the issue.*

An Open Forum for feedback from the populace will be held at Noon on Saturday, January 9th, 1987 in the Rhydderich Hael prior to and at the same site as Western Regional Twelfth Night. Any gentles interested in either finding out what this stuff is about or putting in their own two pence should attend. For the sake of discussion at the Open Forum your æditor sets forth his recommended guidelines for the formal polling:

**PROPOSED:** That the Western Region become a Principality.

**Boundaries:** Current boundaries maintained

**Officers:** Current regional officers to be retained

**Laws:** Initial laws to be modeled on EK Laws

**Heraldry:** Name, Device & Awards to be determined

**Vote:** ☐ In Favor    ☐ Opposed    ☐ No Opinion

Again, a reminder that all gentles who wish to have their vote on the principality question counted should make sure that their official SCA membership is current or renewed. Get your money in to the Registry by Western Regional Twelfth Night at the latest! In conclusion, the members of the committee offer thanks to the folk of the region for their calm and rationality on the issue. Few people are outraged and many are considering alternatives reasonably. It's nicer that way! ↑

– Bertram of Bearington



East is East

and

West is West

At the recent University of the East Kingdom, His Grace Duke Gyrth Oldcastle conducted a seminar on the early history of the Eastrealm. During that discussion he presented the concept of Eastern and Western Rite kingdoms, an interesting and fruitful topic for further exploration.

Western Rite kingdoms are those realms that were originally part of the West Kingdom: the West, Atenveldt, Meridies, Caid, Ansteorra, An Tir, Trimaris, and the Outlands. The Eastern Rite kingdoms are the East, the Middle, Atlantia, and Calontir. Each kingdom is unique and has its own particular customs, but deep down they share fundamental attitudes toward kingship based on the rite from which they sprang.

In the Western Rite realms one often sees or hears the curious phrase, *"The King's Word Is Law!"* Along with this goes, as Duke Gyrth puts it, a tendency to *"bow to furniture."* The Western Rite kingdoms subscribe to a concept of kingship that implies strict obeisance not only to the royal person, but also to the royal *presence*, in the form of the King and Queen's thrones. An invisible zone surrounds the thrones even if the rulers are not present, and Western Rite subjects bow to empty thrones whenever they pass nearby.

The Eastern Rite kingdoms, on the other hand, have traditionally accorded their rulers and their furniture much less deference. In East Coast kingdoms it might be said that the strong influence of anti-monarchists like John Adams and Patrick Henry were sufficient reason for this difference, but Eastern Rite realms prefer a model that sees the king as first among equals – a leader, not a superior. Crowned heads receive all the honor and respect they can earn.

While Eastern Rite realms have always been less authoritative than the Western Rite, the origin of the difference in attitudes about kingship can be traced back to A.S. VI and a king who wouldn't quit. *Rakkurai of Kamakura* won a Crown Tournament and decided he liked being king so much he wouldn't hold a tournament to choose his successor. He stayed the monarch of the East for nearly a year until he was finally forced at swordpoint to hold another Crown. Rakkurai so directly impressed the people of the East with the dangers of overzealous monarchs that from his reign forward the symbolic authority of the Crown was, by law and custom, constrained.▲

– Bertram of Bearnington

# Principality Commentaries

I am writing to comment on the principality issue. I am not strongly on either side at the moment. I feel that one of the basic assumptions is wrong. That assumption is that the current western region would be a good candidate for principality-hood. So, setting aside all fo the other issues about being part of any principality, I'd like to first discuss geography.

My suggestion (which is by no means original): FIRST redraw the region lines in a more appropriate manner. THEN try to decide whether we want any of the new regions to be a principality. It makes no sense to me for Riversmeet and Northern Outpost to be in the same region. I have trouble supporting the idea of "regional unity" when I can drive to two other kingdoms and one other region in a third of the time it takes me to cross my own kingdom. (And I'm not even from West Virginia.)

If we can't redraw the region lines quickly enough for the tastes of the pro-principality folks, let's at least define a couple of alternatives for the principality and vote on that in the polling. If the question on the ballot is "Should the Western Region be a principality" and my options are only yes, no and don't care, I will vote no. If, instead, I have the chance to vote on whether the portion of the region from Riversmeet through the Hael or Thescore (inclusive) should be a principality, I may vote yes. And if the folks in the northern half of the region have a chance to vote on whether their half should go principality (rather than the whole region), I'm sure you'd see a lot more yes votes from them. Who knows, maybe two principalities will come out of this. What's wrong with that?

I understand the motivation for having the entire region be one principality: we're that much closer to being a kingdom. But I think we need to spend more time growing the smaller groups, and starting new small groups between the existing ones, before we try for kingdom. The western region has the requisite number of people, but they're too spread out. A new kingdom should have at least a (geographic) core with people more tightly packed. There should be major groups within a couple of hours of each other, not four hours apart. I think we'll be much better off if we start with a space that is geographically smaller, and try to build up interest within those boundaries. There's a lot to be said for small but well-populated kingdoms.

Someone who has since faded into anonymity in my mind suggested that regions should be based both on geographic factors and where people travel. To the best of my knowledge, no one has attempted to conduct a survey for the latter concern. Perhaps we should start the ball rolling



in this region. Would the officers of each group in the region be willing to survey their populations and report on what fraction of their group is willing to travel to each other group?

Let's try to take this at a reasonable pace. There's no reason to rush into a vote in a few months; we should first try to figure out where the proposed principality is (roughly), as that will affect a lot of the planning and the voting.↑

– Ellisif Flakkingskvinne

---

I don't know enough yet to have an informed opinion about the desirability of going principality. Naturally, if there *is* going to be a principality, I'd like it to be as successful as possible. The last thing we need, whether or not we become a principality is to have people bitter because the *process* was flawed. There seem to be three incipient flaws already.

1. We are being asked to buy a pig in a poke. The plan, as it has been described to us, calls for the principality to consist of those reasonably contiguous groups (provided there are enough of them) in which, in the kingdom seneschale's judgment, the principality has adequate support. But many people's vote will depend on what they imagine the boundaries of the principality to be.

2. Similarly, we are being asked to vote without knowing the rules. If I vote "don't know," it means that I don't know. I'm willing for it to mean that I'll abide by the wishes of the majority — that I think a principality is a good idea if it has enough popular support. It doesn't mean that I am entrusting the seneschale with my proxy, and that I'm willing to wait for the announcement to find out how I voted.

3. The Æstel should be a forum for disseminating information and for airing – and possibly reconciling – the conflicting views about the proposed principality. The first issue of the newsletter was remarkably one-sided in content and presentation. That it presented only one side of the question was an editorial decision which, I hope, will not be repeated. The decision to follow a dissenting article or viewpoint with an editorial rebuttal is actually a more serious abuse of editorial power. The principality will surely be judged in part on the basis of the actions of the people who are pushing for it.

We don't need people complaining that the idea was 'sold' unfairly. We don't need people saying that they would have voted differently had they known what they were voting for – or how their votes were going to be interpreted. We don't need bitterness or divisiveness, and we can act to prevent them now, rather than to heal them later.↑

– Dani Zweig



# A Modest Rebuttal to a Western Principality



Although I have only lived in the Western Region a short time, I have previously lived in both the Northern and Central Regions. I have probably travelled more extensively to events than a number of people in this area (especially those who have only been in the SCA a year or two). I have also paid attention to some of the things that have occurred in the East Kingdom over the past six years, even when not directly affected. Therefore I feel that I can make a legitimate, balanced opinion on the subject of making the Western Region a Principality. I don't believe it is a good idea, and am offering a responsible opposing viewpoint.

There are problems with the Western Region becoming a principality. These problems are both geographic and bureaucratic/political.

As listed in the November as XXII issue of Pikestaff, there are seventeen groups, including all barony cantons, in the Western Region. This list in the Regnum Orientale includes one group that is still incipient. Both the Central and Northern Regions have longer lists (i.e., more total groups each), yet the Western Region stretches from West Virginia to Potsdam, New York (along the Canadian border near Montreal). This is a huge area, not at all geographically cohesive: for example, it would take longer for me to drive to Delftwood from BMDL than it did when I lived in Østgarðr's Canton of Northpass (northern Westchester County, New York), even though I was starting from the Central Region. Nearly all of the Central Region, in fact, as well as parts of the Northern and Western Regions, were within a four-hour radius of Northpass. This is certainly not the case for Western Region groups.

In addition, the Western Region does not appear to have as many stable groups. Several groups have, over the past six years, either dissolved and reformed or else just dissolved. Purneos, Collegium Montium, Ashantal, Scorched Earth and Crimson Shore come immediately to mind, although there may have been others.

Were the proposed principality to take the further step of becoming a separate kingdom, there would be the added problem of slicing through two mundane states in an awkward manner (particularly New York, which currently has groups in all three of the continental US based regions). When this occurred in Maryland with the former Shire of Myrkwoode, the residents were given the option of joining the Kingdom



of Atlantia or else staying in the East Kingdom by keeping their membership current (membership renewal after a lapse would automatically make them Atlantean). While working for a single group, this would be an unrealistic solution for the number of groups involved – on both sides of the supposed border.

The bureaucratic/political problems are varied. BMDL in particular could be further isolated from the rest of the kingdom (contrary to popular opinion, Pennsic is not a BMDL event); many of the small groups seem to receive little attention from the Royalty. While some people could get awards at the Principality level, it would be that much more difficult to attain a Kingdom award or a Peerage – a stepping stone that would not hamper gentles living in the Northern or Central Regions (in the case of Drachenwald, Awards of Arms and Principality awards are given out by their Serene Highnesses). When the last Royal Progress to Drachenwald was made last winter, only a handful of the higher awards were given out by Their Majesties, even though they attended several events in the Principality; this was only the second or third Royal Progress made to Drachenwald in the six years I have been in the SCA. Upon further examination, the various Drachenwald orders and awards rank no higher in the East Kingdom Order of Precedence than do either baronial awards or non-armigerous Kingdom awards.

In addition, there would be another set of major events to schedule local events around (Coronet Tourneys and Investitures, and Principality Twelfth Night), as well as Kingdom events; would there also continue to be the regular rotation of Crown Tourney and Kingdom University into the Western "Principality?" There would also have to be another slate of Great (Lesser?) Officers to be found. It is often difficult enough to find gentles willing to take on the burdens of Kingdom or Regional offices. It seems almost foolhardy to want to try to saddle people with such responsibilities at the Principality level (possibly as time-consuming as at the Kingdom level) and yet to vastly limit the number of gentles interested (or even available or qualified) – remember those seventeen groups previously mentioned. As it is, currently only several Lesser Kingdom Officers — the Captain General of Archers, the Marshal of Fence, and the Historian/Archivist — come from the Western Region.

As a result of these easily seen problems, the Western "Principality" appears to me to be an unwieldy and highly unstable hulk, not the noble, unified presence that Principality Planning Committee seems to envision. When and if the vote comes, I shall certainly vote "NO"; I think many other gentles will do likewise.↑

– Myfanwy ferch Rhiannon

## Cotignac

Cotignac, or orange-flavored quince paste, is a traditional confection in France, where it is one of the thirteen sweets served at the Reveillon, the supper held after midnight mass on Christmas Eve (Sheraton 183). Barbara Wheaton refers to Michel de Nostradamus' work, the Secreti del reverendo Donno Alessio Piemontese (Venice, 1555), and says: "Alexis of Piedmont's widely circulated *Secretes* contains a small but significant collection of confectionary recipes....Some of the preserving recipes are for old favorites—a quince paste called *cotignac*, for example..." (Wheaton 40). Sidney W. Mintz quotes from a 16th-century writer, William Harrison, in Harrison's The Description of England, an account of British social life in Elizabethan times:

*"In such cases also, jellies of all colours, mixed with a variety in the representation of sundry flowers, herbs, trees, forms of beasts, fish, fowl, and fruits, and thereunto marchpane wrought with no small curiosity, tarts of diver hues and sundry denominations, conserves of old fruits, foreign and home bred, suckets, codinacs, marmelades, marchpane, sugarbread, gingerbread, florentines, wild fowls, venison of all sorts, and sundry outlandish confections, altogether sweetened with sugar."* (Mintz 90).

The quince is a relative of the apple. The fruiting quince, *Cydonia oblonga*, is from Europe, known for centuries for its yield of golden fragrant fruit. Available from nursery sources such as Stark Brothers, the quince is self-pollinating and may be grown as for any small apple tree. The flowering quince, *Chaenomeles* (formerly *Cydonia*) or Japanese quince, is more common in this country. It is generally used as a flowering shrub or hedge, of low spreading habit, producing red flowers in the spring which grow directly from the branches. In the fall one sees the gold, irregular or pear-shaped fruits growing right out of the branches as the spring flowers did. The fruits of both, when ripe, are golden and give off a lovely aroma, and come right off in one's hand with only the slightest twist. It pays to search the ground under a quince bush for fallen fruits, as they come loose so readily when ripe.

Since the quince is usually grown as an ornamental shrub, and so few people are aware that the fruits can be edible, please check to see if any toxic chemicals have been applied before gathering and using the fruit.



## Cotignac

Once the quinces are washed, cut them into eighths and cook them in a small amount of water until quite soft (1/2 cup water is enough for two pounds of quinces). Then process them through a food strainer to remove the skins, cores and seeds. Weigh the puree and add an equal measure of sugar. Cook this mixture down slowly, stirring frequently and watching lest it scorch, until it thickens and draws away from the sides of the pan. Please use caution and a long-handled spoon, as the hot mixture spits as high as face-level and can burn.

Season the thickened paste with cinnamon – I used 1/2 teaspoon to two pounds of paste. For French cotignac, grated orange peel and orange juice are also used for flavoring – I used 1/2 teaspoon dried peel and 4 tablespoons juice for each two pounds.

Turn the paste into flat pans, spreading it to a depth of 1/2 inch. Leave it to dry for several days. When it is no longer sticky on the top, turn it so that the bottoms dry. Put it on a rack to dry further if it can hold its shape and not drip down between the wires. If it is not drying in the pans, try baking it the oven over very low heat, but watch it carefully so it does not melt and weld itself to the pan.

When the cotignac is dry and no longer sticky, and will hold its shape, cut it into squares, dust with powdered sugar, and keep it in tins. It will last for months.

---

Other versions of quince paste are made in European countries. The Spanish have their *membrillo*, dried in the sun under a pane of glass. The Italians make *cotognata*, and flavor it with lemon juice and brandy. *Quittenkonfekt*, a German confection, has finely crushed almonds, hazelnuts or pistachios added to it (Sheraton 182).

The quince, like the apple, can be made into a wide variety of products. "It yields a remarkable amount of pectin, which makes it ideal for naturally jelled confections: jelly, jam, fruit leather, candy, conserves, and marmalade – the very word comes from the Portuguese work for quince, *marmelo* " (Schneider 378).↑

– Mathilde des Pyrenees



## Works Cited

- Mintz, Sidney W. Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History. Penguin, 1985.
- Schneider, Elizabeth. Uncommon Fruits and Vegetables: A Commonsense Guide. New York: Harper and Row, 1986.
- Sheraton, Mimi. Visions of Sugarplums. New York: Harper and Row, 1981.
- Wheaton, Barbara Ketchum. Savoring the Past: The French Kitchen and Table from 1300 to 1789. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983.

### About the Cover:

Holiday season getting you down? Too many principality meetings before Twelfth Night? The King and Queen on our cover are not SCAdians, but real chess pieces. We found them in *Celtic and Early Medieval Designs from Britain*, by Eva Wilson, a Dover book. They are on pages 82 and 84, and are labelled "Chessmen from the Isle of Lewis. 12th Century." The originals were carved in bone, and stood about 10 cm. tall. What we do not see from the front is the elaborate decoration around the back and sides of the thrones. The carving on these Chess pieces reflects both Celtic and Norwegian design elements, showing the blending of the two cultures even into the 13th Century.

The Isle of Lewis is part of the Outer Hebrides which lie west and northwest of Scotland. Lewis is the most northwest of the island chain, and is also one of the larger islands. The Hebrides were originally settled by Picts, who were later joined by Celts. Both groups were converted to Christianity in the 6th Century by St. Columba (his saint's day is June 9). In the 8th Century, the Norwegians conquered the islands, which they called the Southern Islands. The Norwegians continued to hold various parts of the Hebrides until the mid-13th Century. From then the islands were ruled by Scottish chieftains, and from the 16th Century to the present they have belonged to the Crown of Scotland.

Chess is of course an ancient game, dating back well before the 12th Century. If you would like to explore the history and variations of chess in the middle ages, see the Fall, 1987 issue of *Tournaments Illuminated* for Da'us Ibn Auda's article on Period Chess, or take a look at Salamallah the Corpulent's book, *Medieval Games*, available from Raymond's Quiet Press.





# A Brief History of Thescorre



Once, many years ago, in a time long since lost in the mists of the past, a young man roamed and wandered the wilds of the East. What he searched for, many wondered and none knew. His vagrant path took him far from his home, into the cold and dismal, barren and barbaric swamps.

Then, as he tripped across a patch of moose-moss, he fell into a hideous and slimy bog. He arose and grinned. Full of the joys of discovery, and spewing forth bog-water, he shouted with glee! For this HAD to be the 50 acres of prime farmland the Large Bearded Man the the Tyger Crown had promised him as payment for fighting in the Clown-Wars!

He looked skyward, and, though temporarily blinded by the light deluge, saw three ravens circling him, probably fantasizing about a free meal. He realized the name he must give his new home: THESCORRE.

So goes the Legend of the Lost Lord, a tale of the founding of the Barony of Thescorre. Also known as the "Shire in the Mire" and "Barony of the Bog," Thescorre came into being when John Reynolds arrived at the University of Rochester in the fall of 1973. It became an official group in February of 1974.

For some years, Thescorre struggled along as a small shire, primarily a college group, featuring some renowned members, such as then Lord Alric Bowbreaker and Ewan the Mad Wanderer, a bard of note and some interestingly warped lyrics.

As time went on, the Crown came to visit; the shire grew, in fits and bounds; and the "Shire of the Mire," the place where the rains fell like nowhere else in the East (or even An Tir, according to legend), became a very popular place. Many knew the Shire by the pages of Fewmet, the local newsletter, ably edited by Lord Alric. Then, in October, as XIII, King Bertrand and Queen Allanda, suffering from an ailment as yet unidentified, created Thescorre a Barony, and Lord Alric became Baron Thescorre.

The years have flown past, it seems. Lord Alric became Master, then Sir, took a wife and retired to raise a family. Lord Saleem ibn Alefan and Lady Sadira bint Wassouf became Baron and Baroness of Thescorre during the reign of King Ronald and Queen Bronwyn. And, so it goes.

Thescorre is still the jewel of the Crown it has always been and, indeed, is healthier and more lively than it has been in many years. The Barony of the Bog continues to hold major events each year: UWEKAT (The University of the Western East Kingdom at Thescorre) each winter and Pax Interruptus each summer. The Barony regularly produces good fighters, fine fencers, and bonny bureaucrats. The Barony Slogs On!▲

– Friedrich Tomasson

(Author's Note: Since I wrote this article, the December edition of *Æstel* was published. In it, Master Alric Bowbreaker expressed the opinion that Thescorre is "finally coming out of a long slump." With all due respect to my friend, Alric is wrong. Thescorre has been out of the "slump" referred to for nigh on two years. The recent successful tourneys and events, the surging power of the martial skills, and the steadily growing raft of awards earned by Thescorreans, to say nothing of our mushrooming population, prove this. Finally, nothing. Thescorre has long since been resurgent and continues its resurgence!)▲

---

## Letters


Delftwood, 30 November as XXII

Master Bertram:

Thank you for forwarding copies of *Æstel* for the Barony. ... While, as you are no doubt aware from my response to your previous leaflet on the issue, I am not very enthusiastic about the idea of a principality, I do think it is important to keep a dialogue open on the subject. Therefore, I would like to get a subscription to *Æstel*, and have enclosed \$3.00 to that end.

I would like to congratulate you on the high quality of your first issue, and also extend the congratulations of most of the Barony. If you and others continue to demonstrate that the ideal of a principality can be the inspiration for such good work, this, more than any other thing, may advance your cause.

Yours, sincerely,  
Owen of Harfleur





# The Western Region

Shire of Northern Outpost (Potsdam, NY) .....	Phelan MacDermott
Incipient Shire of Orion's Gate (Jefferson Co., NY) .....	Cartholo
Shire of Coppertree (Rome & Utica, NY) .....	Eleanor of Waldren
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.) .....	Seabhaic 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
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.*