

AESTEL

*Western
Region
Newsletter*

MARCH, A.S. XXII

Volume 1, Number 5

Number of people you need to be to fight, help judge, and
prepare entries for the pentathlon at Ice Dragon...






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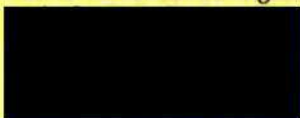
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Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year, and include 12 issues. Please make checks payable to SCA, Inc. - *Western Region* and mail them to the Æditor at the address above. Any gentles wishing to submit copy for ÆSTEL are warmly encouraged to do so. If you 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 ❖

MARCH

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------|
| 5 | Tavern VI | Northern Outpost |
| | March ÆSTEL | Potsdam, NY |
| 5 | Seven Deadly Sins IV: A Feast in Valhalla | Delftwood |
| | March ÆSTEL | Syracuse, NY |
| 5 | Festival of Lus-nam-mial | Gaidhealach Dorchadh |
| | March ÆSTEL | Morgantown, WV |
| 12 | Ice Dragon | Rhydderich Hael |
| | March ÆSTEL | Erie, PA |
| 15 | ÆSTEL Deadline | Mail |
| 26 | Barony Birthday | Debatable Lands |
| | March ÆSTEL | Pittsburgh, PA |

APRIL

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 15 | ÆSTEL Deadline | Mail |
| | To the best of our knowledge, there are no events planned for April in the Western Region. Stay home and write us an article. | |

MAY

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6-8 | New Year on the Frontier | Riversmeet |
| | April ÆSTEL | Putnam/Kanawha Cos., WV |
| 14 | A Quest | Nemoralis Noctua |
| | April ÆSTEL | Greensburg, PA |
| 15 | ÆSTEL Deadline | Mail |

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

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Coming Events



Tavern VI: A Night in Xanadu, Northern Outpost

March 5

The Pleasure Dome is falling from lack of repair and too many parties. The crew that brought you the Original Tavern Night brings you A Night in Xanadu! The day will feature fencing and boffer tourneys, and chess and backgammon tourneys. The evening will feature our role-playing tavern, and a typical Northern Outpost feast with an Eastern Flavor.

Cost is \$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,

or Fiona MacNiall,

The site is the First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam Center. This site is BONE DRY. Directions:

From the South: Take Rt. 11 into Potsdam, turn right at the second light onto Market St. Go left at the second light onto Elm. At the second light you will see the brown sandstone church. Turn left onto Lawrence and park behind the church.

From the North: Take Rt. 11 or 11B into Potsdam and watch for the church from the road. Park behind the church and off Lawrence Avenue.

From the East: Take Rt. 55 into Potsdam, past Potsdam College until you reach a T intersection (third light). Turn right; at the next light turn left onto Lawrence and park behind the church.

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

requests for crash space to Cyneric and Sybil, [REDACTED]

For additional questions, contact the autocrat, Ignatius Duvidivitch,
[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: Take your best route to I-481, then take 481 to Exit 3-E for NY route 5 East. **To the United Church:** Take route 5 into the village of Fayetteville (bear left at the Y intersection that gives you the choice of Fayetteville or Manlius, go straight past the Fayetteville Mall, then go up the hill into the older section of town - all of this is on route 5). The United Church will be a red brick building on the right, next door to the Episcopal Church. Parking and entrance are in the rear.

To the Mott Road School: Follow as above, but take right hand fork at the Y intersection (Manlius). Go about 1 mile and turn left onto Mott Road, and the school is on the left. To reach the school from the church, backtrack west on route 5 to the Fayetteville Mall (on the right). Turn left onto Mott Road and go south about 4 blocks to a T intersection. Turn right (still Mott), go another quarter of a mile and the school is on the right.

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. - Mistv Highlands and requests for crash space to Cainer of Loch Suili [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The site is the Granville Town Hall in Morgantown/Westover. **Directions :** Take your best route to I-79. Follow 79 to exit 152 for Westover; turn towards Westover/Morgantown. Take the first left onto Dents Run Blvd. Follow Dents Run to the Granville Town Hall (about 1 mile) on the right.

The Twelfth Annual Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon will feature single-elimination rattan and fencing tourneys, 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 devices 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]

[REDACTED] Address all other questions to the autocrats, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lord Morien ap Rhys of Caerdyf, [REDACTED]

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

From the south and east: Take your best route to I-90 (the NY State Thruway) toward Buffalo, NY. Take exit 51-W, Rt. 33 West, to Suffolk Ave. At the bottom of the ramp, go left onto Suffolk. Go the the 5th traffic light, where Suffolk ends, and turn right onto East Delavan Ave. Go right one small block to Ericson St. and turn right, just past the Drinking Establishment. Please be sure to lock your vehicle when you park it. SCA signs will be posted.

From the north and west: Take I-190 north from the Peace Bridge or south from Grand Island and exit onto Rt. 198 East. Follow 198 to Rt. 33 East (Airport). Take the Bailey Ave. (Rt. 62) exit and go right at the first stoplight. Follow Bailey Ave. south to East Delavan Ave. and turn left. The site is immediately on your left. Turn left onto Ericson St. and

into the church parking lot. Please be sure to lock your vehicle when you park it. SCA signs will be posted.

Barony Birthday, BMDL

March 26

'Tis again March, and time to celebrate our Barony's founding. We shall be holding both rattan and fencing tourneys to choose our Baron's and Baroness' champions, as well as concurrent tourneys for visitors. NOTE: The site does not permit minors in the rattan lists. Lists will open at 10:00; fencing begins at 11:00 and rattan at 12:00. An Arts & Sciences competition will be judged on workmanship, authenticity, complexity and æsthetic appeal. Display entries that have won other competitions. A backgammon tourney and a quest round out the day. The Baroness' Bard competition will also be held during the afternoon. Entrants must notify the Baroness in advance and compete in two entertainment forms. Finalists will entertain at dinner. The feast will be prepared by Lady Catherine Douglas for 6:30.

The on board cost is \$8 until March 1; \$9 until March 21; \$10 at the door; and \$3 off-board any time. Please send checks payable to SCA, Inc. - BMDL, questions and requests for crash space to Lady Amaryllis Coleman, [REDACTED]

The site is the William McKinley Citizens' Center, 7th Street and Center Avenue, Verona, PA. The site is wet. Directions:

From the Parkway (I-376/Route 22/30), take exit 13 (Churchill). Follow route 130 North to Allegheny River Blvd. Turn right at this T intersection (marked by gas station and produce/nursery). At the second light, turn right onto Center Ave. The site is at Center and Seventh Street.

From the Turnpike, take exit 5 (Allegheny Valley). Bear right from the exit (to Pittsburgh; Old Freeport Road). Go through 3 lights. At the fourth light, turn left and go over the Hulton Bridge. Cross the railroad tracks and make an immediate right onto Allegheny River Blvd. Go through Oakmont (no lights). At the first light, make a left up Center Ave. The site is at Center and Seventh Street.



The History of the Ice Dragon Festival



In March, the Barony of the Rhydderich Hael will host the Twelfth Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon. It has become one of the most popular events in the East Kingdom, rivaling the Pennsic Wars of ten years ago in size. How did this mega-event begin?

As those who read my history of the Hael in the February *Æstel* know, Morgan Elandris was the founding Seneschale of our group. Never one to think small, she conceived of Ice Dragon as the new shire's first event and demo. She wanted to get the college and community in Fredonia familiar with the SCA, not to mention impressing the East Coast Scadians. Since the Hael had about 6 people at the time, most of whom were even newer than Morgan, she needed a good deal of help from out of area. It came from everywhere imaginable.

Master Frederick of Holland, who lived in Buffalo, swept the Round Robin 4-man "tourney." Lorimer MacAltin, then Seneschal of the Shire of Thescore, was there, as was his Chronicler and predecessor in the seneschalate, Alric Bowbreaker. The Shire of Eastmere sent a number of representatives, especially Brian ui Niall with his chainmail display. The head of the Fredonia State English Department, who was our campus advisor, produced some poetry readings and the college dance troop as entertainment. Morgan contacted local merchants of relevant wares, including a man who built dulcimers. The Buffalo Evening News was there and did a color Sunday section article on the event. There was no Pentathlon and no feast, but it was a marvel for one determined lady who had NEVER autocratted an event before!

Ice Dragon I was held on March 4th of a.s. XI, six months before I joined the Society, but I was interested enough to be in attendance as one of a throng of mundanes. I can still proudly point to a blobby figure in the newspaper photo and say that was me, standing there with my mundane coat in my hands and my mouth open in amazement much of the time. As entertainment, it was highly successful. As a recruiting demo, it was somewhat less so. When I came back to school the following September as a full-fledged Scadian, there were only about 8 active people in the Hael. But Morgan decided to make Ice Dragon a tradition, so we did it again.

The second Ice Dragon Festival featured our first visit by Royalty. Frederick of Holland had won the Eastern Crown Tourney held only a

month after Ice Dragon I, and reigned over Ice Dragon II with his lady Nicorlynn. The first Pentathlon was held, and a potluck buffet feast was also part of the event. About 20 or 30 Scadians attended, from as far away as BMDL, Cleftlands and Eoforwic (now the Barony of Septentria). This time the SCA provided all the entertainment, including musicians, dancing, the tourney and a real bagpiper (for whom we had to receive special dispensation, since one of Nicorlynn's whims was that "the bagpipe, being a weapon of war, is not to be played indoors"). It was still held in the Campus Center of the SUNY College at Fredonia.

Successive Ice Dragons have gradually become more popular. Ice Dragon IV, with 200 people, was the first time the Eastern and Middle Royalty both attended. The Kingdoms realized it was a convenient place and time for Pennsic War Meetings, and the two Princes have traditionally met there almost every year. That was also the first year someone was knighted at Ice Dragon — and as the Hael's first home-grown member of the Chivalry, Hasdrubal received a lot of stamping and shouting with his Accolade.

Ice Dragon V was when the move from Fredonia to Buffalo happened, and the event ceased to be a demo (though local television stations have occasionally come by). Ice Dragons from about VII onward averaged 300-400 people in attendance, until Ice Dragon XI, when a larger hall allowed us to pass the 600 mark. It also broke records for the Tourney, with 112 fighters, and for the Pentathlon, with 256 entries. In March we will have another Ice Dragon first, a Baronial Investiture.

You might be interested to know the fates of the attendees at Ice Dragon I mentioned above. Master Frederick and his lady Nicorlynn moved to the West Kingdom a few years later, where Flieg won another Crown. In addition to attaining Ducal status, he served as the West Kingdom Vesper Herald and received a Pelican for his service to the Society. Alric Bowbreaker's credentials have been listed on these pages; most notable are his Pelican, Knighthood, and stints as East Kingdom Chronicler and Seneschal. Lorimer MacAltin moved to the Middle Kingdom not long after Ice Dragon II, and served as Seneschal and later Baron of the Barony of the Flaming Gryphon, and was knighted at Pennsic X. Morgan Elandris became Baroness of the Rhydderich Hael, and Kingdom Warlord, before moving to Atlantia and becoming semi-inactive.

The Hael is very pleased and proud to be responsible for such a tradition as Ice Dragon, but it is a lot of work and very wearing on our people.

There has been much discussion in the past couple of years of ways to make Ice Dragon both more manageable and less intense. Making it a two-day event, moving it to the summer and making it a camping event, running the tourney and pent on separate days, or having it become a regional event which rotates among groups have all been suggested. At the moment, we have chosen to continue running it as in the past, with the great help of neighboring groups throughout the region. But this may change in the future, especially if the region becomes a principality. If you have suggestions, please let the Hael's Seneschale, Lady Cori, know — but not until AFTER this Ice Dragon is over, please!↑

- Arianna of Wynthrope



A Word to the Wise



Have you ever wondered where the titles and honorifics we use come from? Duke, count, earl, viscount, baron, master, king, prince, etc.? This article is an introduction to the meaning of some of the most common SCA titles.

To start at the top, the word *duke* traces its ancestry back to the Latin ducere, "to lead." A *duke* is, therefore, a leader. The corresponding title of *duchess* is simply the feminine of the French version, duc, borrowed into Old English.

The title of *count* is also from Latin, although by a more circuitous route. The original word comites, meaning "companion," moved into French as comte, and meant a courtier (literally a companion of the court). When comte was borrowed into Middle English, the "m" changed into an "n" and the "e" became silent. As time passed, the spelling changed to reflect the then-current pronunciation, which is how we get *count*. *Earl*, on the other hand, is entirely English. It began as eorl, meaning "warrior" or "nobleman" in Old English. (It is not related to *churl*, from ceorl, another Old English word entirely.)

The *viscount* gets his title from Latin again, where it was a compound of vice and comites (remember this word from *count*, above?). This vice (originally two syllables, vee-keh) means "almost," as in vice president or viceroy, and not depravity. The repetition of the "k" sounds in vice-comites was dropped, and the spelling in French changed to vis-

count, from which English borrowed the title for a noble between the rank of earl and baron (or an "almost count").

A *baron* was originally a free man of rank and standing (related to the word baro, or free man) in feudal Germany and France. The medieval sense of the word survives in usages such as "oil baron" and "cattle baron," or a wealthy and influential man. This is similar to a *court baron*, whose rank is not derived from a territorial basis. In later times the title of *baron* was used of men who held lands in return for military service in time of war. We recall this meaning annually in August, in addition to the barons' year-round responsibility of caring for the people living in their lands.

Above all of these, of course, are the *king* and *queen*, *prince* and *princess*. The word *king* is from the Anglo-Saxon cyning, or the head of a tribe (cyn). The "k" comes from confusion with the Anglo-Saxon word kuning (now cunning), a trait that probably helped most early kings win their crowns. As women through the ages have taken status from their husbands, *queen* is from the Anglo-Saxon word cwen, or wife. As wife of the leader, she was not doubt referred to as "THE wife," and thus *queen* gained its royal meaning.

Prince is from a straightforward Latin word, princeps, or first. The title of *princess*, like *countess*, *viscountess*, and *baroness* is simply the English feminine form.

Now that we know how they got their names, what do we call them? A king may be *sire*, or my *liege*; and a knight is *sir*. Did you know that *sir* and *sire* were once the same word? The original Latin word for "elder" was senior. This came to English via the French word sieur, and sire (same pronunciation, different spelling) was used to show respect to an older man. However, the medieval usage deteriorated, and just as a bus driver may say "Pop" to an elderly man today, *sire* was used for any older person. It was only in court that the meaning of great respect remained. This is why a king is still referred to as *sire*. *Sire* became shortened to *sir* when used of anyone other than the king. This sense of *sir* is contained in the title given to a knight, both mediievally and in the SCA. Since in the middle ages the word was spelled just the way it was said, it is only happenstance that the separate spellings of *SIR* and *SIRE* have come down to us.

The story behind more words, such as *liege* and other forms of address, will have to wait until the next time I need to fill out an issue of *Æstel*.↑

— Eromene Aspasia



Principality Commentary



I've been interested to read all the commentary, pro and con, about a possible principality in the Western Region. On the whole, I endorse the idea, while agreeing that some problems may inevitably arise with its inception. However, I do not agree with those who condemn the project outright based on the physical size and shape of the region, and thus I was happy to see in the February issue Svidrir Einarsson's letter. Its amazing common sense and good-humored appeal should be a model for us all.

I speak from the very eastern border of the Western Region, the Shire of Coppertree. This is among the areas which have been nominated as potentially disposable in order to prune that lumbering monstrosity, the Ur-Region, into some sort of sweetly manageable shape. Can Nature, then, be tamed by Reason into the best of all possible principalities? I think not. The attachment of Coppertree, Orion's Gate, and Northern Outpost to the Western Region, rather than resulting from an arbitrary whim which can easily be dismissed, arises from long-standing political, social, and geographical ties.

Coppertree was, of course, an offshoot of the Barony of Delftwood, and still reflects its heritage in the shire arms. Orion's Gate was founded by Sir Carthalo and Lady Maurya of the Rhydderich Hael; with their departure, it quite possibly will be subsumed under the aegis of both Coppertree and Northern Outpost. The latter is largely a college-based group in a rather isolated geographical area, cut off by distance and natural boundaries, such as the Adirondack Mountains. Its members do not usually travel to events, and if they do, their easiest path lies down Route 81 towards Delftwood. The major roads of New York are, in fact, greatly responsible for the shape of our area; SCA groups cluster along Route 81 (the aforementioned plus Sterlynge Vayle and Myrkfaelinn) or the NYS Thruway (the Hael, Thescore, and Coppertree). Delftwood lies at the intersection of the two. Geographically, this is perfectly understandable and follows in the historical traditions of New York and the Erie Canal. As a result, most of our members travel not only to events in these areas, but also to parties, fighting and fencing practices, and demos, as we did last summer in Delftwood.



A Heretic's Trial



by John Ogden

"Now here we stand. With torch in hand
the masses outside rant.
With rope or stake, thy life they'll take.
God's sake! Say thou'lt recant!"

"I'm accused, my faith abused,
falsely of heresy.
This life I've found, my mind unbound,
means more than Heav'n to me."

"I'll not recant and mindless chant
to please an idiot priest.
I'll burn in Hell before I'll sell
my soul for my release."

"Thou shalt burn soon, before full moon
illuminates the night.
In chemise and chain, clear sky or rain,
thou'lt die on pyre alight."

They dragged him off, the rabble scoff,
his resolve gains naught.
He never screams, but only dreams.
Dreams free sleepers from aught.

The wood is stacked, the judge is wracked
with debates on immortality.
Why must we lose, howe'er we choose
between intellect and morality?

About the Cover

This month's cover is a lot of reproductions of a woodcut by Albrecht Durer. (We found this image as an example on a program which cleans up scanned images for the Macintosh.) If there are any artists out there who would like to contribute *original* covers for the Æstel, we would be happy to receive them. Covers need to be on 3.25" Macintosh disks in any paint or draw program format - we're not picky.

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 Thescore (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.*