

The Battered Blade

November AS XLIII

(2008 CE)



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Letter from the Editor:

YiS,
Ailleagan



November business meeting notes:

Seneschal - THL Dugal introduced himself as the new seneschal of An Dun Theine. As part of raising the profile of the group and continuing the positive growth, he wants to look into Panoply as a spring demo, and possibly have a demo on Monte Sano. He would look into TV coverage of the Monte Sano demo, and Matheus said he would get WLRH coverage. He also needs an inventory list from everyone who has shire "stuff".

A&S - Mistress Bianca turned over her office to Lord Matheus. She also presented a new relic to the seneschal - an An Dun Theine yuck bowl. Matheus said he would like to institute a workshop night, for projects too involved for an hour-long project night; he would also like to get the sewing circle running again.

Reeve - We have money.

Knight's Marshall - Lord Robert was not in attendance, but Dugal passed on the information that they are working on winter fighter practices with Glynn Rhe, to be held on Sunday afternoons.

Rapier Marshall - Not much had been happening in the way of practices.

Herald - Dragonet de Lyon's name had been submitted and was "in process". Lord Conor has applied for the Kingdom Cypher Herald's position, and is seeking a replacement deputy.

WebMistress - It's still there. The domain has been repurchased and renewed.

Chronicler - The newsletter is being revamped. It will still be issued every month, but only quarterly issues will have articles and "content of interest". The other issues will be mostly business meeting notes, schedules, and general notes of importance. This may change if submissions increase.

Lady Nuala submitted her bid for Winter Collegium. The event will be held at the Fayetteville Fairgrounds, and will focus on the Guilds. Because of the site accommodations, the Coursing Guild is already very interested. And because of its proximity to Sir's (six blocks or so), the Costumer's Guild is already planning an afternoon field trip for fabric identification. The building we will use is heated and air conditioned, and able to fit 125 people. The bid was approved.



Shire Schedule for November:

Official fighter practices have been canceled for the winter season. The seneschal and the knight's marshal are working on practices in other locations and with other groups. Stay tuned for developments!

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the main branch of the Huntsville Public Library on Monroe Street. They begin at 7:00 p.m.

November 11 - meeting canceled for Veteran's Day
November 18 - class night
November 25 - bardic

December 2 - business meeting



Announcements:

As of November, Lady Nuala has stepped down as seneschal and stepped up as MoC. THL Dugal has taken over as seneschal, and Lord Matheus has taken over the A&S office from Mistress Bianca. Mistress Bianca has taken over as Historian.

Lord Conor, the shire herald, is seeking a replacement deputy.



Facts, Fun, and Trivia

submitted by Lady Fionnuala inghean ui Domhnall

October in History

- October 15, 1501** English crown prince Arthur marries Catharina of Aragon
- October 18, 1081** Battle at Durazzo/Durres: Normans under Robert Guiscard beat Byzantine
- October 25, 1415** Battle of Agincourt, Welsh longbow defeat armored knight
- October 26, 1492** Lead pencils 1st used
- October 28, 1422** Charles V's son succeeds him as king Charles VII of France
- October 30, 1270** 8th and last crusade is launched
- October 31, 834** 1st All Hallows Eve (Halloween) observed to honor the saints

The Medieval History Quiz

Question 1

There are no precise, incontrovertible dates to define the beginning or end of the Middle Ages. However, many scholars agree that the start of the medieval era is marked by a very significant development that took place in the fifth century. What is that development?

- A** The Black Death
- B** The Fall of Rome
- C** The Renaissance

Riddle: I'm told a certain object grows in the corner, rises and expands, throws up a crust. A proud wife carried of that boneless wonder, the daughter of a king covered that swollen thing with a cloth.

Make a Snack!

Pumpkin seeds

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 8 minutes

Ingredients:

1 cup pumpkin seeds

1 Tbsp olive oil or butter

Optional: Salt, garlic powder, onion powder, seasoned salt, or other seasoning of choice

Preparation:

Rinse pumpkin seeds. Use your fingers to remove all the pulp. Drain pumpkin seeds and discard pulp. Spread out on paper towels on a cookie sheet to dry overnight.

Place butter or olive oil in a microwave-safe, rectangular baking dish. Heat in microwave on high for 30 seconds. Add pumpkin seeds and toss to coat. Spread seeds out evenly in the bottom of the dish.

Microwave on high about 7 to 8 minutes or until seeds are toasted a light golden color. Be sure to stir every 2 minutes as they are cooking. (Microwave temperatures vary, so keep an eye on them and stir often.)

When done, sprinkle with salt, garlic powder, onion powder, seasoned salt, cayenne pepper, or your choice of seasonings. Toss to coat.

Cool pumpkin seeds before eating or storing. Store in an airtight container at room temperature up to 3 months or refrigerate up to 1 year.

If you like your toasted pumpkin seeds extra-salty, soak overnight in a solution of 1/4 cup salt to 2 cups of water. Dry an additional day, then proceed as above.

References to pumpkins date back many centuries. The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word for "large melon" which is "pepon." "Pepon" was nasalized by the French into "pompon." The English changed "pompon" to "Pumpion." Shakespeare referred to the "pumpion" in his *Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Answers: Quiz = B; Riddle = Dough/Bread



People Around the Shire: A Questionnaire

What is your name?

Bianca Allegri da Vicenza

What is your quest?

To explore strange new time periods and cultures, to meet creative people, to go away

from my mundane life from time to time.

What is your favorite color?

Blue, green, and white

When and where, in the SCA framework, would you have lived?

The Venetian terra firma (Vicenza, to be exact), circa 1540

What would you have done if you lived then?

Part of a family of fabric merchants.

What attracted you to this era?

The costumes! Especially Lorenzo Lotto and Agnolo Bronzino

How long have you been in the SCA / when did you join?

I joined in the Shire of Mynydd Seren, Midrealm (Bloomington, Indiana) in 1984. I have been continuously active since then.

How did you find out about the SCA?

At the Camelot Mead Festival, a local renaissance fair. They were dancing, fighting, and performing there. And recruiting.

What aspects of the SCA first attracted you?

The costuming, the dancing and socializing, a lot of creative people.

Have your tastes changed since then?

No, not really. I don't dance much anymore, mainly because my spouse usually isn't there.

What aspects of the SCA interest you now?

The costuming, the socializing, a lot of creative people. The intrigue of continuous learning. And getting away from technology.

What award that you have received means the most to you?

My Laurel, after many years of striving for excellence.

Are you belted to anyone? If so, what is your particular focus? (This can be a favored fighting style or area of service.)

Not anymore. I was apprenticed to Mistress Leonora Simonetta d'Este.

What is your greatest pet peeve in the SCA?

Hmm, this would take some thinking. I suppose there are limitations to any purely volunteer organization, and some people don't get that, especially when their level of activity or interest doesn't match that of those around them. If I have peeves, they are generally limited to specific situations and personalities and are not for public consumption. I prefer to keep my peeves to myself or handle them one-on-one, and often wish others would too.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Doing exactly what I am doing now. Perhaps with Gordon more often (the kids will be older).

Is there anything you would change about your SCA career?

It would have been better to stay in one kingdom continuously, as it is hard to adapt to the very different styles of different kingdoms, and it usually sets back growth toward recognition to zero. But life doesn't work that way.

Has your SCA life/hobby impacted your mundane life in any way?

I met Gordon in the SCA. Does that count?

