

The King's Garb



The Hasty Issue!

December ASXXXVI (2001 A.D.)

" We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. "

-Aristotle

Well, this should be an interesting issue. The 'Hasty' Issue. Alternately titled the Issue of the Procrastinating Chronicler. You see, as I am typing this madly, it is 5:45pm. Tomorrow, this issue will be published. I am just starting. And I have company coming over tonight. Yikes!

It is one of those moments of clarity when you see exactly what you should have done, but sadly realize that you did precisely the opposite. Women, wine, and song... ..the ruin of many a man. Anyhow, I had best quit blathering in a rambling editorial and get moving on the rest of the issue.

Your chronicler,
ARMATUS
Armatus



"That is one too many hasty *Garbs* Mr. Chronicler..."

From the Baron and Baroness of Myrgan Wood

Unto the most wonderful populace of Myrgan Wood does your Baron and Baroness, Raoul and Roxanne send greetings and warmest wishes for this holiday season!

We wish to start by offering our tremendous thanks to all those who put effort into hosting Avacal Coronet last month. There have been many, many missives from all over the principality commenting on the work that this Barony put in and the pride that they witnessed. Well done!

Huzzah and congratulations to Viscount Sir Vik Vikingson and Lady Inga the Unfettered, Tanist and Tanista of Avacal. Congratulations also to the recipients of the Silver Griffen, Sir Ivar the Black and Lady Asney Grimolfrsdottir. Such honour and chivalry on the field were a pleasure to witness!

Titles and recognition were given to several members of Myrgan Wood. Artorius and Armatus are our newest Lords as they received Awards of Arms from Their Highnesses. Jambe de Lions and the title of Ladyship were given by Their Majesties to Maiwen and Pandora. Eric Ravenson also became a Lordship with the receipt of a Goutte de Sang from Their Majesties. We would like to thank all those who gave a recommendation to Their Highnesses for a Gilded Griffen for ourselves. We are humbled by your praise.

With the coming of the winter winds and the festive season, we wish everyone safe journeys and warm hearths for their various celebrations!!

We remain ever in service,
Raoul & Roxanne
Baron & Baroness of Myrgan Wood

The cover is some of Duke William's men from the Bayeux Tapestry.

Note that the horses are male...

Veraquilon's Annual Feast of St. Nicholas

Join us once again for the annual Feast of St. Nicholas on December 8th in the canton of Veraquilon. This year's celebration will be full of food, song and dancing. That's right - singing and dancing will be key to our celebration this year. The Cadre and Dante Machavelli will host competitions in voice performance, musical performance and belly dancing. Also being staged will be a number of games and a riddle contest. The cost for this event is \$15, card carrying SCA members \$12 (so don't forget your cards!), and anyone 12yrs. old and under are free. Also this year we will be trying something new in the spirit of the season; we would ask that all patrons bring a donation to the food bank. Any donation will receive a further \$1 discount to the feast fee.

The following items are in need by the food banks:

peanut butter, canned fish or meat (e.g. tuna, ham flakes, corned beef), canned dinners containing meat (e.g. ravioli, chili con carne, beef stew), milk powder, soup, Kraft dinner, dry pasta (spaghetti, macaroni), tomato sauce, cereal, granola bars or other suitable school snacks, juice (both 1-litre cartons and individual size), sugar, coffee, tea, infant formula, baby food jars, diapers, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, dish detergent, toilet paper, dog food, cat food.

The bottom line is "If you wouldn't eat it yourself or feed it to your friends, don't bring it to the Food Bank".

The doors open at 5pm and the feast starts at 6pm.

Reservations are being accepted by the autocrats.
Address: Leefield Community Hall, 7910 - 36th Ave. Edmonton, Ab.

Directions:

From the west:

Traveling on Whitemud Dr. west until you reach the 91st St. turn off. Go south at 91st St. and turn left onto Millwoods Road. Follow this road to 36th Ave. and turn right. You will find the hall 200M up the road to your right.

From the north and east:

Traveling on Hwy. 14 south to the Whitemud Dr. turn off head west on the Whitemud until you reach the 91st St. turn off. Go south at 91st St. and turn left onto Millwoods Road. Follow this road to 36th Ave. and turn right. You will find the hall 200M up the road to your right.

From the south:

travelling on Hwy. 2 north until you reach 34th Ave. turn right and head east until you reach Millwoods Rd, turn left. Travel north to 36th Ave. and turn left again. You will find the hall 200M up the road to your right.

If you have any questions or concern please contact one of the following Autocrats:

Dante Machavelli (780)962-6547 or
duelistacademy@home.com

Gwenhwyfar the Inquisitive (780)469-2458 or
gwenyfar@telusplanet.net

Feastocrat:Coryn of the Woods (780)474-6892 or
corryvz@telusplanet.net

Bar Keep: Keegan DunVegan (780)432-5497 or
bridrake@interbaun.com

The Menu

First Remove

Dried Fruits and Nuts

Breads and Cheese

Whipped Butter and Herb Butter

Second Remove

Onion Soup

Chicken and Vegetable Soup

Third Remove

Stew of Beef

Seasoned Rice

Peas

Fourth Remove

Roast Pork

Apple Sauce

Mushroom Pasties

Fifth Remove

Berry Pudding

Whipped Cream

Wafers

Myrgan Wood's Baronial Awards, Part 2 by Baroness Roxanne

Hello again! This month I will describe the Order of the Blood Red Crocus as that is the most recent award handed out. This award is granted to those individuals who have shown excellence in one or more arts and/or sciences. These artisans take great care to make their projects great works of art. In addition to much talent, the recipients are willing to share their expertise through teaching classes and offering advice and encouragement where ever possible.

Recipients of this award (in no particular order) include (and remember that some records have been lost so please help me to make any corrections necessary):

Mistress Fabienne de l'Acusée
Her Ladyship Eve de Lacy
His Ladyship Heinrich Alois von Speyer
Her Ladyship Maiwen Siobhon
Her Ladyship Pandora Mischiefmaker
The Troubadour du Bois (Mistress Fabienne, Lord Phillipe, HL Pandora, Lady Alycie, Lady Gabrielle, Genoveffa)



King Edward

Web Links

The SCA Corporate Homepage <http://www.sca.org/>
The Kingdom of An Tir's Homepage <http://www.antir.sca.org/>
The Principality of Avacal's Homepage <http://www.avacal.org/>
Myrgan Wood's Homepage <http://www.theringlord.com/mw/>
An Excellent Bayeux Tapestry Site
<http://www.hastings1066.com/>
Another Bayeux Tapestry Site
http://members.tripod.com/~mr_sedivy/med_bay.html
A Battle of Hastings Site – I think by the same guy
<http://www.battle1066.com/>

Christmas in the Middle Ages

It was the fourth century in which Christmas was given an official day by the Church. Pope Julius I officially fixed the date at December 25th. There are quite a few theories on how he happened to pick the date, though none are really recognized as 'the truth.' It seems possible that it was a Christianisation of a pagan holiday, but there are actually quite a few theories. Regardless, that could be an article by itself, so I will continue.

One tradition which seems to have originated from pagans was the burning of the yule log. At what would eventually become Christmas time, the iul or "wheel" of the year, Druids would bless a log and keep it burning for 12 days during the winter solstice. Part of the log was kept for the following year, and then used to light the new yule log. The Vikings used the yule log during their celebration of the solstice, the julfest. To rid themselves of unwanted traits (e.g. ill fortune, poor honour) that they wanted the gods to take from them., they would carve runes representing them on the log and, of course, burn it.

Other customs developed as part of Christian belief. For example, Mince Pies (so called because they contained shredded or minced meat) were baked in oblong casings to represent Jesus' crib, and it was important to add three spices (cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg) for the three gifts given to the Christ child by the Magi. The pies were not very large, and it was thought lucky to eat one mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas (ending with Epiphany, the 6th of January).

As with many any good celebration, Christmas was usually accompanied by a feast. The most popular main course was goose, though other main courses were served. Mince pies baked in casings shaped to resemble Jesus' crib were also popular, as was 'humble pie' for

the less affluent. Humble (or 'umble) pie was made from the "humbles" of a deer -- the heart, liver, brains and other odd bits. In fact it wasn't until the early sixteenth century that the turkey was first brought to Europe from the Americas. Dessert was often the dish of frumenty, a spicy wheat based dessert from which Christmas pudding would later evolve.

The Christmas tree also had its origin in the middle ages, but that is covered in elsewhere in this issue. Other plants we may think of as 'Christmas plants' have their roots (ouch! was that a pun? -ed) in the Middle Ages or before. Some believed that good spirits lived in the branches of holly. As well, Christians believed that holly's berries had originally been white but were turned red by Christ's blood when He was made to wear the crown of thorns. Ivy was not originally allowed by the Church as decoration because of its association with the Roman god Bacchus. Only later in the Middle Ages, it was thought to help recognize witches and protect against plague did it become more popular.

Christmas gained some of its popularity in medieval times due to the many miracle and mystery plays presented by the church. The most popular subjects for these were the Holy Family, particularly the Nativity. As interest in the Nativity grew, so did the interest in Christmas as a holiday.

Carols were also popular in the later middle ages and though the Church at first frowned them on, they eventually relented.

Pantomimes were also popular at Christmas, especially in England. They were casual plays without words usually involving dressing up as a member of the opposite gender and acting out humorous stories.

Officers Wanted

Seneschal

The seneschal is the legal representative of a branch. Seneschals sign all contracts, make sure that things are done pursuant to the restrictions of all modern laws, corpora and kingdom law, work with the chatelaines to handle all public relations, and normally conduct the business meetings/curia. The seneschals coordinate the branch officers and the activities of the barony. Questions/applications can be addressed to either TE Raoul & Roxanne, HL Grim, or HE Gareth.

Chatelaine

The Chatelaine's office is responsible for providing an introduction to the Current Middle Ages to new or prospective members; for advising newcomers of the conventions of the Society, their Kingdom and branch; and for encouraging participation in the group. The chatelaine can provide access to educational information such as handouts, booklets and other materials. In all of these activities, the chatelaine's main charge is to represent the S.C.A. accurately and favourably, and to encourage all members to do likewise. In Myrgan Wood it has also become the duty of the Chatelaine to co-ordinate the requests for demos. It has been decided to separate some of these jobs in an effort to make them more manageable. We have a deputy for co-ordination of school demos (filled by Hamish); a deputy for co-ordination of entertainment demos (open); and a deputy designated to help out new people (open). Questions/applications can be addressed to either TE Raoul & Roxanne, HL Grim, Lady Asney, or Master Michael.

Herald

The Herald is expected to co-ordinate field and court heraldry at events, or arrange for this to be done; assist individuals with heraldic submission; and maintain a record of awards given out by the Barony and/or received by members of the Barony. Question can be addressed/applications to TE Raoul & Roxanne or HL Grim

Armatus' Interesting Fact o' the Month - The Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree originated in Western Germany. At this time people participated in and watched what were called miracle and mystery plays. Their purpose was to teach the common people about various themes in the bible. With few books and a low percentage of literacy, these plays were quite beneficial to the Church.

In the Christmas season, a Paradise play was presented, with Christmas Eve even being known as Adam and Eve's day. This play told the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The main prop was an evergreen tree, covered in apples, which eventually led to Adam and Eve's sin and then banishment from the Garden of Eden. The tree remained in people's minds as after the plays ceased to be performed, people began putting them in their homes.

This 'Paradise tree' had a certain degree of symbolism. The evergreen tree was thought to symbolize immortality, as it stays green all year. The apples on the tree symbolized Adam's sin. Round wafers and cookies (resembling communion wafers) were also added later as decorations. They represented redemption.

The other precursor to the Christmas tree was the Christmas pyramid, also of German origin. Candles were placed on a wooden pyramid structure with shelves called the lightstock or Christmas pyramid. The symbolism for this ornament was Christ being the Light of the World. It was often decorated with paper or cloth roses and a star placed on top.

The modern Christmas tree is just a conglomeration of the two originally separate ornaments. Take the lights, decorations, and star off the pyramid, toss it on an evergreen, and tada, you have a Christmas tree.

The Battle of Hastings 1066 – A (relatively) period account by William of Malmesbury, d. 1143

The courageous leaders mutually prepared for battle, each according to his national custom. The English, as we have heard, passed the night without sleep, in drinking and singing, and in the morning proceeded without delay against the enemy. All on foot, armed with battle-axes, and covering themselves in front by the juncture of their shields, they formed an impenetrable body which would assuredly have secured their safety that day had not the Normans, by a feigned flight, induced them to open their ranks, which till that time, according to their custom, had been closely compacted. King Harold himself, on foot, stood with his brothers near the standard in order that, so long as all shared equal danger, none could think of retreating. This same standard William sent, after his victory, to the pope; it was sumptuously embroidered with gold and precious stones, and represented the figure of a man fighting.

On the other hand, the Normans passed the whole night in confessing their sins, and received the communion of the Lord=s body in the morning. Their infantry, with bows and arrows, formed the vanguard, while their cavalry, divided into wings, was placed in the rear. The duke, with serene countenance, declaring aloud that God would favor his as being the righteous side, called for his arms; and when, through the haste of his attendants, he had put on his hauberk the hind part before, he corrected the mistake with a laugh, saying "The power of my dukedom shall be turned into a kingdom." Then starting the Song of Roland, in order that the warlike example of that hero might stimulate the soldiers, and calling on God for assistance, the battle commenced on both sides, and was fought with great ardor, neither side giving ground during the greater part of the day.

Observing this, William gave a signal to his troops, that, feigning flight, they should withdraw from the field. By means of this device the solid phalanx of the English opened for the purpose of cutting down the fleeing enemy and thus brought upon itself swift destruction; for the Normans, facing about, attacked them, thus disordered, and compelled them to fly. In this manner, deceived by a stratagem, they met an honorable death in avenging their enemy; nor indeed were they at all without their own revenge, for, by frequently making a stand, they slaughtered their pursuers in heaps. Getting possession of an

eminence, they drove back the Normans, who in the heat of pursuit were struggling up the slope, into the valley beneath, where, by hurling their javelins and rolling down stones on them as they stood below, the English easily destroyed them to a man. Besides, by a short passage with which they were acquainted, they avoided a deep ditch and trod underfoot such a multitude of their enemies in that place that the heaps of bodies made the hollow level with the plain. This alternating victory, first of one side and then of the other, continued so long as Harold lived to check the retreat; but when he fell, his brain pierced by an arrow, the flight of the English ceased not until night. In the battle both leaders distinguished themselves by their bravery. Harold, not content with the functions of a general and with exhorting others, eagerly assumed himself the duties of a common soldier. He was constantly striking down the enemy at close quarters, so that no one could approach him with impunity, for straightway both horse and rider would be felled by a single blow. So it was at long range, as I have said, that the enemy=s deadly arrow brought him to his death. One of the Norman soldiers gashed his thigh with a sword, as he lay prostrate; for which shameful and cowardly action he was branded with ignominy by William and expelled from the army.

William, too, was equally ready to encourage his soldiers by his voice and by his presence, and to be the first to rush forward to attack the thickest of the foe. He was everywhere fierce and furious; he lost three choice horses, which were that day killed under him. The dauntless spirit and vigor of the intrepid general, however, still held out. Though often called back by the kind remonstrance of his bodyguard, he still persisted until approaching night crowned him with complete victory. And no doubt the hand of God so protected him that the enemy should draw no blood from his person, though they aimed so many javelins at him.

This was a fatal day to England, and melancholy havoc was wrought in our dear country during the change of its lords. For it had long adopted the manners of the Angles, which had indeed altered with the times; for in the first years of their arrival they were barbarians in their look and manner, warlike in their usages, heathens in their rights. After embracing the faith of Christ, by degrees and, in process of time, in consequence of the peace which they enjoyed, they relegated arms to a secondary place

and gave their whole attention to religion. I am not speaking of the poor, the meanness of whose fortune often restrains them from overstepping the bound of justice; I omit, too, men of ecclesiastical rank, whom sometimes respect for their profession and sometimes the fear of shame suffers not to deviate from the true path; I speak of princes, who from the greatness of their power might have full liberty to indulge in pleasure. Some of these in their own country, and others at Rome, changing their habit, obtained a heavenly kingdom and a saintly intercourse. Many others during their whole lives devoted themselves in outward appearance to worldly affairs, but in order that they might exhaust their treasures on the poor or divide them amongst monasteries.

What shall I say of the multitudes of bishops, hermits, and abbots? Does not the whole island blaze with such numerous relics of its own people that you can scarcely pass a village of any consequence but you hear the name of some new saint? And of how many more has all remembrance perished through the want of records?

Nevertheless, the attention to literature and religion had gradually decreased for several years before the arrival of the Normans. The clergy, contented with a little confused learning, could scarcely stammer out the words of the sacraments; and a person who understood grammar was an object of wonder and astonishment. The monks mocked the rule of their order by fine vestments and the use of every kind of food. The nobility, given up to luxury and wantonness, went not to church in the morning after the manner of Christians, but merely, in a careless manner, heard matins and masses from a hurrying priest in their chambers, amid the blandishments of their wives. The commonalty, left unprotected, became a prey to the most powerful, who amassed fortunes, either by seizing on their property or by selling their persons into foreign countries; although it is characteristic of this people to be more inclined to reveling than to the accumulation of wealth. . .

Drinking in parties was a universal practice, in which occupation they passed entire nights as well as days. They consumed their whole substance in mean and despicable houses, unlike the Normans and French, who live frugally in noble and splendid mansions. The vices attendant on drunkenness, which enervate the human mind, followed; hence it came

about that when they engaged William, with more rashness and precipitate fury than military skill, they doomed themselves and their country to slavery by a single, and that an easy, victory. For nothing is less effective than rashness; and what begins with violence quickly ceases or is repelled.

The English at that time wore short garments, reaching to the mid-knee; they had their hair cropped, their beards shaven, their arms laden with gold bracelets, their skin adorned with tattooed designs. They were accustomed to eat till they became surfeited, and to drink till they were sick. These latter qualities they imparted to their conquerors; as to the rest, they adopted their manners. I would not, however, had these bad propensities ascribed to the English universally; I know that many of the clergy at that day trod the path of sanctity by a blameless life; I know that many of the laity, of all ranks and conditions, in this nation were well-pleasing to God. Be injustice far from this account; the accusation does not involve the whole, indiscriminately; but as in peace the mercy of God often cherishes the bad and the good together, so, equally, does his severity sometimes include them both in captivity.

The Normans---that I may speak of them also---were at that time, and are even now, exceedingly particular in their dress and delicate in their food, but not so to excess. They are a race inured to war, and can hardly live without it; fierce in rushing against the enemy, and, where force fails of success, ready to use stratagem or to corrupt by bribery. As I have said, they live in spacious houses with economy, envy their superiors, wish to excel their equals, and plunder their subjects, though they defend them from others; they are faithful to their lords, though a slight offense alienates them. They weigh treachery by its chance of success, and change their sentiments for money. The most hospitable, however, of all nations, they esteem strangers worthy of equal honor with themselves; they also inter-marry with their vassals. They revived, by their arrival, the rule of religion which had everywhere grown lifeless in England. You might see churches rise in every village, and monasteries in the towns and cities, built after a style unknown before; you might behold the country flourishing with renovated rites; so that each wealthy man accounted that day lost to him which he had neglected to signalize by some munificent action.

November Business Meeting Minutes

Chronicler:

-new Garb is out

Exchequer:

-not present, but account stands at \$5200

Herald:

- Ferghail received an Award of Arms and a Griffen's Claw
- Sir Ivar received a Gilded Griffen
- Lord Rogan and Lady Alayna received Bloods of the Wood

Master of Stables:

-fight practice now in school

Minister of A&S:

- SCA 101 next week by Asney
- request to buy dutch oven and dishes for Barony, approved

Seneschal:

-looking for a replacement

Baron and Baroness

- 2 Chatelaines required
- 2 school demos approach
- garage rental approved, will open Jan 1
- \$500 not enough for new thrones, looking at refurbishing old ones
- \$300 for Raven travel fund approved
- think about autocrating for next year early

Events

December

Yule Feast in Veraquillon - December 1

January

Kingdom Twelfth Night - January 12

Montengarde Twelfth Night - January 19

February

Feast of the Evergreens in Stonewolf - February 2

Investiture - February 23

Regular Events

Monthly Tavern & Business Meeting held first Wednesday of the month in the Unitarian Hall (912 Idylwyld Dr. North) at 7pm.

Fighting Practice is held:

-every Sunday at 2pm near The Ukrainian Poetess on the UofS campus

-every Wednesday at 7pm, at City Park Collegiate



“Charge...”

Myrgan Wood Officers List

Baron and Baroness: Their Excellencies Don Raoul and HL Roxanne Delaroche (mka Duane and Tracy Walker) Ph:651-2599
duane.walker@sk.sympatico.ca

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Master of Stables: Lord Artorius (mka Spence Robinson) Ph:242-9751
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Master of Lights: Position vacant

Herald: Position vacant

Constable: Position vacant

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“Run away....”

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