

# The Dancing Moon

December 2016

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<http://www.castlesandmanorhouses.com/pics/cooking.jpg>

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<ivantets@bgumail.bgu.ac.il>

## Minutes of the December Meeting

### Officer Reports

**Arts and Sciences:** No Report.

**Fighter Marshal:** Practice in Lebanon was a success.

**Cut and Thrust:** Waiting for volunteers for a practice.

**Herald:** No Report.

**Archery:** Been no practices for a while, and none scheduled for the rest of the year. See Newsletter for weather restrictions. There is a rumour that Lillies will add Period cross-bow, therefore I am looking for goose feathers. January 8 there will be an Archery and Arts and Sciences Meet at Alan's. More info to follow.

**Exchequer:** \$3,853.34 on hand.

Owe: tithe [to be determined] and web site.

Have paid: \$100 deposit to St Robert Community Center for Spring Spears [March 31- April 2]. Will need to pay remainder of \$450 total bill before the date. This is both new policy and a greater fee.

**Web Minister:** Deputy [Dulci] will take over as of January 1.

**Chronicler:** This is my last report, Dulci will be re-taking over also as of January 1.

### Old Business

**Christmas Party** Pot Luck and Book Exchange will be at this location next week. Doors are open for early access if desired. Salad has already been volunteered.

Reminder: **Chieftains** is in late February.

~ Tithe amount has usually been half of the Autumn Arrows Auction.

~ Lord Paul has volunteered to provide a number of medallions.

~ Please be thinking of what we can do as largess.

**Spring Spears date has been confirmed** on the Kingdom Calendar.

### New Business

As per notice via the Internet, "**Mongolian Wrestling**" has been called for.

Room currently being used as our **meeting room has been confirmed** for the first half of 2017.

Alan will be attending a **B3R meeting in January** to take advantage of the Cut and Thrust Practice.

Anyone wishing to ride-along is welcome.

General questions and responses on the manner of seeking and acquiring **officers** as well as issuing of Warrants.

**RUSH** will presently require forms to be used at future events at which classes are taught.

## Shire Officers

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seneschal</b>  <b>Lady Catin of Edington</b>  glueckc@yahoo.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Archery Marshal</b>  <b>HL Thomas Fleischacker</b>  glueckc@yahoo.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Knight Marshal</b>  <b>HL Paul Adler</b>  Vince Zahnle  11413 Upton Rd; Plato, MO 65552.  417-967-1034  vince.zahnle@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minister of Arts &amp; Sciences</b>  <b>Baron Jon Tristram</b>  John May,  417-458-1046  jontristram@yahoo.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exchequer</b>  <b>Lady Disa of Calanais Nuadh.</b>  Denise Howard  disadenise@yahoo.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chronicler</b>  <b>Lady Ascellina Bethell</b>  Sharon Ponzer  shrnphZr@yahoo.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chatelaine</b>  <b>OPEN!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">This space  Under Construction</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Herald</b>  <b>Crespin de Laon</b>  Christopher Cureton  <a href="mailto:cscureton@gmail.com">cscureton@gmail.com</a>  573 -201 -8060 [Cell#]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Web Minister</b>  <b>Margery of Penrith</b>  Calls or texts at 573-201-9938  <a href="mailto:margeryofpenrith@gmail.com">margeryofpenrith@gmail.com</a></p>

## **If You Can Read This.....**

--Mistress Nicolaa de Bracton of Leicester

Have you ever wondered whether your persona could read and write? If you have, have you ever wondered how common literacy was in the Middle Ages, or how medieval people defined "literacy"? If these questions are of interest at all to you, read on...

It is commonly assumed that in the early Middle Ages, knowledge of Latin was confined to clerics, and even then, to only the most educated among them. In *The Carolingians and the Written Word* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), Rosamund McKitterick contests this view, contending that knowledge of Latin was far more widespread than previously thought in the Carolingian age (approx. 750-950 AD).

First, she argues that the language spoken in the part of Francia west of the Rhine was, for all intents and purposes, Latin, rather than Old French as was previously thought. Thus, when a person living in this era encountered a page written in Latin, he or she read it as his or her native language, even though pronunciations clearly had changed since the classical age. One can compare it with the position of English in many Caribbean countries today: though as written, it looks just like "regular" English; when spoken, it sounds very different.

Since Latin, in a sense, was still the "vernacular" of the western part of Francia, there was no need to learn it as a "second" language, though scholars from Anglo-Saxon England who had had to learn it this way were often appalled by the bad Latin of the Carolingians. Thus, there is evidence that a far wider segment of the population was literate at least in practical terms. Court officials and counts often possessed a wide collection of books, including law books, which they were clearly expected to use. Upper-class men and women who are clearly not clerics are known to have written works in Latin; and of course, there was the famous school for sons of noblemen sponsored by Charlemagne himself. The Carolingians, following in the footsteps of the Merovingians, also put a great deal of weight on written legal documents as proof of transactions, though oral modes continued to exist alongside them. The Carolingian period also is remarkable for the developments in cataloging and organization of libraries.

McKitterick thus concludes that the Carolingians were in some sense a "literate society", in that they valued and made use of the written word; though she does acknowledge that her study has concentrated mostly on the upper ranks. It nonetheless adds another nail in the coffin of that outdated term of "Dark Ages".

Turning to a slightly later period, there is M. T. Clanchy's *From Memory to Written Record: England 1066-1307* (Blackwell, 1993). Clanchy's subject is the spread of literacy and literate culture in England in the centuries following the Conquest, specifically in relation to the proliferation of written documents. The evolution of charters, from Domesday Book to the explosion in records-keeping in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century is traced, along the corresponding spread in literacy which made this possible. Also discussed are the mechanics of literacy-- who kept records, how they were trained, and what materials (parchment, ink, wax, etc.) they used. Also discussed are the invention of recordkeeping methods, such as indexing, and the growth of libraries.

The book's second section is invaluable when attempting to gain an understanding of the way medieval people perceived writing and written culture. Included is a discussion on the meanings of "literate" and "illiterate" in the medieval context (the meanings today are considerably different), as well as a discussion on the evolution of writing from pure artwork to something which can have a purely practical use in some circumstances, and the corresponding spread of literacy which makes this possible.

Finally, the growing acceptance of a piece of writing over a memory as evidence of a transaction is detailed, along with conventions of dating, signing, and sealing which become necessary to guard against forgery. Readers may want to compare English society, where Latin never held the sway it did in France and Italy, with the Carolingian society described by McKitterick.

Reading this book should give you a good idea of what any given person from the time period covered would have known of writing and language. I also recommend the book to scribes for its in-depth treatment of the construction, meaning, and use of medieval documents.

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This article originated in Stefan's Florilegium.

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Group List	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calanaisnuadh/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calanaisnuadh/</a>
FaceBook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/shireofcalanaisnuadh">https://www.facebook.com/shireofcalanaisnuadh</a>

## Class of possible interest ...

The Stitch Niche, a Craft store in Rolla, is offering the following classes [among others] during this winter season ...

Spinning I – Learn beginning spinning techniques to make your own yarn. Tues and Thurs, Feb 7 – 23, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, \$45, supplies not included.

Spinning II – Continue developing your yarn spinning skills and learn basic color management. Tues and Thurs, Jan 10 – 26, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, \$45, supplies not included.

Now, why “II” is taught first ... don’t ask the messenger ...

For more information or to sign-up:

The Stitch Niche  
634 S Bishop Ave  
Rolla, Mo 65401  
573 – 458 - 6995

Right next to Imo’s

[RollaFiberArts@gmail.com](mailto:RollaFiberArts@gmail.com)

Arts – Crafts – Classes - Community

[NOTE - originally written for Storm Tidings, the newsletter of the Shire of Adamastor (Cape Town) in the Kingdom of Drakenwald]

## The War of the Roses

by Jan van Seist

As the mundane history lessons that many of us received in our youth concentrated excessively on the mundane, many of the nobles of our fair shire (HUZZAH!), have been left with a confused picture of mediaeval history. In order to add to the confusion, I have provided for your pleasure a brief synopsis of one of the less rational events in mediaeval history: the War of the Roses.

In the mid-15th century, the English regent, John, duke of Bedford, brought the hundred years war to a successful conclusion by allowing the French to take France (thus introducing some badly needed common sense into 15th century political geography). This freed the English to fight the only foe truly worthy of their steel - the English. This in turn left the rest of Europe free to renaissance to their hearts content.

Following John's regency a new king, Henry VI, was crowned (HUZZAH!). A thoroughly nice, peace loving and honourable man, Henry VI was obviously unfit to rule. Moreover, as his opponents pointed out, any member of the Plantagenet family who wasn't a bastard was undoubtedly illegitimate. Therefore, on the advice of Neville, earl of Warwick, Henry's cousin, Richard, duke of York, declared himself king (HUZZAH!) on the grounds that either his grandfather or his great grandfather was the third son of Edward III. King Henry VI disagreed on the grounds that he was King Henry VI. War seemed inevitable.

The nobility were delighted at the prospect of the first decent war for months. They promptly picked sides and proceeded to rape, pillage and plunder in all directions. Those that supported Richard took the white rose as their badge and those that supported Henry took the red rose. Most of them forgot to consult either Richard or Henry.

Why were roses chosen as the symbols of the two factions? Consider the rose: pricks for the most part but dressed in beautiful clothes and adorned with exotic scents. Consider the English nobility...

The situation deteriorated rapidly. Henry abdicated in favour of Richard to avert war. Henry's wife, Margaret of Anjou, declared war to avert Richard. Henry de-abdicated and re-armed to avert both of them. Various battles were fought in various places. Henry & Margaret generally lost but Richard was the first to die. Therefore, Richard's supporters crowned his son, Edward, King Edward IV (HUZZAH!).



Then on the advice of Neville, earl of Warwick, Henry had another go. His fortunes improved and he was re-crowned Henry VI (HUZZAH!). Neville then re-joined Edward's side. Edward overthrew Henry and was, yet again, Edward IV (HUZZAH!). The two kings and various lesser royals chased each other around the countryside for a bit and some of the nobility got into the act. The duke of Beaufort volunteered to be king if anyone wanted him and Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, toured the country looking smug and pointing out that HIS grandfather had warned King Richard II YEARS AGO that this would happen but NO ONE had listened...

Eventually, even Neville grew tired of the chaos and Edward IV was confirmed as king (HUZZAH or else!) as he had killed or imprisoned all his rivals, heirs and successors, except for his two young sons and his brothers Clarence, duke of George and Richard, duke of Gloucester. After Edward IV was crowned for the last time, he executed Clarence and then promptly died, rapidly followed by the two young princes, one of whom survived just long enough to be King Edward V (HUZZAH! \*oops\*). Richard, the only surviving Plantagenet, was crowned King Richard III by default (HUZZAH?).

This brought the war of the roses to an end and everyone lived happily ever after. Well, for a few years at any rate until, on the advice of Neville, earl of Warwick, Henry Tudor...

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This article originated in Stefan's Florilegium.

## Shameless Plug

As stated in the minutes, of this and past months, several of our officers, beloved as they are, are at or nearing the expiration of their warrants and seek Deputies to train for their offices ...

If you have any interest in learning the intricacies of and taking responsibility of this herd of cats ... we seek successors for the following positions:

**Geneschal    Fighter Marshal    Minister of Arts and Sciences    Exchequer**

For further information on the duties and requirements of these or any of our officer's positions, please contact that officer. Their information can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter.

## Shire Announcements

This is my last missive to you ... the next will be a far, far better Newsletter than I could hope to accomplish for your enjoyment ...

But the ride has been sweet ... and the pleasures many ... Adios and not good-bye ...

## December 2016

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
11 NO Archery Practice Fighter Practice	12 6:45 PM Meeting & Project Night St Robert Mun Building	13	14	15	16	17
18 NO Archery Practice Fighter Practice	19 6:45 PM Christmas Party Pot Luck & Book Exchange St Robert Mun Building	20	21	22	23	24
25 NO Archery Practice Fighter Practice Merry Christmas	26 NO Meeting	27	28	29	30	31

## January 2017

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1 Happy New Year	2 NO Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 Twelfth Night Lonely Tower
8 NO Archery/Fighter Practice – but a Doings/Alan & Margery	9 6:45 PM Business Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner St Robert Mun Building	10	11	12	13	14 Winter Coronation Forgotten Sea
15 NO Archery Practice Fighter Practice	16 6:45 PM Meeting & Project Night St Robert Mun Building	17	18	19	20	21
22 NO Archery Practice Fighter Practice	23 6:45 PM Class Night: ChainMaille Jewelry St Robert Mun Building	24	25	26	27	28
29 NO Archery Practice Fighter Practice	30 6:45 PM Meeting & Swap Night St Robert Mun Building	31				

## December 2016

- 11 NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 12 6:45 PM Meeting & Project Night, St Robert Mun Building
- 18 NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 19 6:45 PM Christmas Party, Pot Luck & Book Exchange. St Robert Mun Bldg
- 25 Merry Christmas. NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 26 NO Meeting

## January 2017

- 1 Happy New Year. NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 2 NO Meeting
- 7 Twelfth Night, Lonely Tower, Omaha, NE  
Cross of Calontir Meeting, Order of the Pelican Meeting
- 8 NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 2PM Archery/Arts and Sciences Meet at Alan's. More info to follow.
- 9 6:45 PM Business Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner, St Robert Mun Building
- 14 Winter Coronation, Forgotten Sea, Kansas City, MO  
Meetings: Baronages, Laurel, Pelican, Chivalry, Witan
- 15 NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 16 6:45 PM Meeting & Project Night, St Robert Mun Building
- 22 NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 23 6:45 PM Class Night: ChainMaille Jewelry. St Robert Mun Building
- 29 NO Archery Practice, Fighter Practice
- 30 6:45 PM Meeting & Swap Night, St Robert Mun Building

**Driving Directions:**

**Archery Practice:** Beaver Creek Conservation Area: No Crossbows. No Archery if temperature is below [32° F] or above [95° F]. Temperature is based on Weather Cannel Reports. If forecast is in these extremes, a decision will be made in a timely fashion to allow for driving. If rain is forecasted follow rules for temperatures. From Rolla, take Highway 63 south for several miles. The range gate will be on your left, immediately across the highway from the VFW post. Drive through the gate to the top of the hill, park and take the line!

**Fighter Practice:** Will be held in conjunction with Archery Practice. Unless contrary information is promulgated via Facebook and/or Yahoo Group.

**Shire Meetings:**

**Driving directions:** If you are traveling south on Missouri Ave. after coming into St. Robert on Exit 161, turn left at the first stoplight onto Eastlawn Ave. (look for the Arby's). After passing Paul's Furniture and the Dollar Store, take the first right to turn into the gigantic parking lot of the Municipal Center.

**Room Directions:** Our new meeting space is Room H of the St. Robert Municipal Center (aka City Hall). When you enter the building from the main doors, walk down the central atrium toward the police station. Take the first hallway on your right, immediately after the VA office, and follow it to the end. This is the same room that is used for driver license testing during the week.

This is the December 2016 issue of the Dancing Moon, a publication of the Shire of Calanais Nuadh of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Dancing Moon is available from Sharon Ponzer, 202 Belmont Dr., Rolla, MO 65401. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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