

# the dancing moon

AUGUST 2024

Being the official newsletter of  
the Shire of Calanais Nuadh in the Kingdom of Calontir,  
a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

## in this issue:

- Annual Shire Picnic August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Upcoming Calanais Nuadh Meetings
- Autumn Arrows Planning
- Call for Submissions: Research Tips
- Book-Hunting for Research
- Recipe: Faux Haggis
- Online and Nearby SCA Events
- And More!



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## calanais nuadh online:

**Website:** <https://www.shireofcalanaisnuadh.org/>

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/ShireOfCalanaisNuadh/>

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShireCalanaisNuadh/>

## submissions:

The Dancing Moon is published monthly. Submissions are due on the Second Monday of each month for publication on the Last Monday of that month. Please submit your items to the Shire Chronicler by email or post, or in writing at a Calanais Nuadh meeting.

Submissions may be edited, delayed, or declined by the Chronicler.

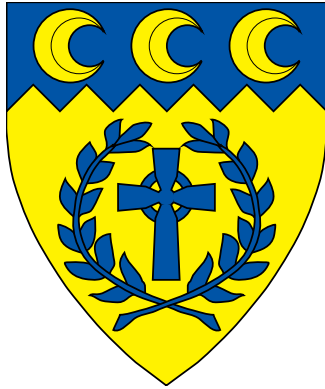
Signed release forms may be required for publication.

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The Dancing Moon is available from Hildegard the Clever, mka Laura Gilkey, by email: [CalanaisNuadhChronicler@gmail.com](mailto:CalanaisNuadhChronicler@gmail.com), or by post: 12249 Hwy KK, Crocker, MO 65452.

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## THIS MONTH'S COVER

Shire members James and Disa, along with fellow Calontiris, enjoy the evening at this year's Lilies War fireworks display.

For more on what we did at Lilies, see Catin's After-Action Report in the July Dancing Moon.

And the season for outdoor events isn't over! This month's Kingdom events are a bit far from our Shire, but you can check out the calendar at [calontir.org/events](http://calontir.org/events).

## calanais nuadh UPCOMING MEETINGS

*For the latest on upcoming meetings, join us on Facebook: see inside front cover.*

The Shire of Calanais Nuadh meets on most Monday evenings at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in the Fellowship Hall, 367 Old Route 66 in St. Robert, Missouri.

Doors open around 6:30 pm; meeting begins at 7 pm. Garb optional.

August 5<sup>th</sup>: Project Night

August 12<sup>th</sup>: Business Meeting & Potluck  
(modern food gratefully accepted)

August 19<sup>th</sup>: Project Night

August 26<sup>th</sup>: **Annual Shire Picnic**

Hosted by Margery of Penrith at:  
15640 Hargrove Rd, St. Robert.

Do not arrive before 3 pm.

Doors open at 4 pm; potluck meal at 5 pm.

Archery Championship at 6 pm, with Arts & Sciences Championship vote tally afterward.

Garb is encouraged!

See [shireofcalanaisnuadh.org/picnic/](http://shireofcalanaisnuadh.org/picnic/)

## ARCHERY PRACTICE

Our Archery Practices are held some Sunday afternoons at the Beaver Creek Conservation Area on US-63 in Rolla, Missouri. There is a driveway across from the VFW Post which leads to the archery range.

If you plan to attend archery practice, please contact our Seneshal, Catin of Edington, by Saturday evening. Also let Catin know if you will need the Shire's loaner equipment.

## FIGHTER PRACTICE

For information on Fighter Practices, contact our Knights Marshal, James Inn Danski.

## FROM THE CHRONICLER, WITH CALL FOR RESEARCH TIPS

Greetings from your shire chronicler!

You may notice a different look to this month's Dancing Moon; I changed the heading typeface due to technical issues. There was some problem with PDF font embedding, and I'd found a workaround, but it made the file sizes unreasonably huge and I'd rather spend that bandwidth on pictures. The new font seems to be doing fine; I hope you like it, and I hope I can offer a consistent look from now on.

This month is also my first time writing the feature article. Many thanks to Catin for the last two months' features! I hope you enjoy my tips for tracking down that certain book you just have to have for your period research. Of course, you probably have your own tricks for gathering information, so...

**My submission request for this month is: Research tips!** Research is a major part of our mission in the SCA, and a major part of the fun for many of us. So what are your favorite tips and tricks?

Some ideas:

- How do *you* track down that essential but out-of-print book?
- How do you figure out which book to track down?
- What do you do if that book is in a foreign language? (Paging Margery...)
- How do you judge a book's reliability?
- How do you sift useful information out of web searches?
- How do you find and use other resources, like images and artifacts?
- Who might you interview for information, and how might you go about it?

As always, I will need permission from the creators to print anything you submit (unless it's in the public domain).

Yours in Service until next month!

## July business meeting report

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, we gathered for our monthly business meeting. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we ended up meeting under an outdoor pavilion in the rain, but we forged ahead undaunted! Some highlights:

As Exchequer, Margery reported no changes prior to the meeting, with our balance remaining at \$2749.89. She confirmed that we have a financial committee consisting of herself, Catin, James, and John.

As webminister, Margery is still investigating new systems for our website's infrastructure to make it more user-friendly to update, and she plans to test Wordpress in particular. She is also investigating issues with newsletter downloads through the website.

James as Knights Marshal has not held any practices lately but continues to work with our fighters and at events around the kingdom.

Hildegard, as Chronicler, now has a sign-up sheet for those who would like to receive The Dancing Moon by email or postal mail. Please contact Hildegard if you would like to be on the list; see inside front cover.

Catin, reporting for Thomas as Archery Marshal, asks that anyone planning to attend archery practice reply on our Facebook group or contact her by Saturday evening (the day before the practice), and to also notify her in advance if they need to use our loaner equipment.

We planned our upcoming meetings through the end of August, including our annual Shire Picnic. We will not meet on Labor Day.

Planning for Autumn Arrows is mostly on track. Catin and Hildegard have submitted the event flyer, and Catin is handling the insurance; Margery provided her with a \$75 check for this.

**However, we are still in need of a feast steward.** The feast is the one part of Autumn Arrows where we don't yet have our ducks in a row, so please volunteer if you can or spread the word to anyone who might be interested!

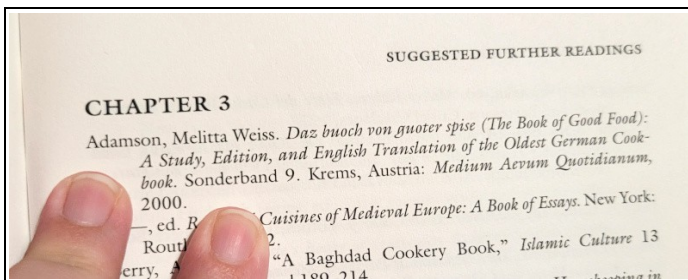
*Complete meeting minutes are available in the Files of our Facebook group or by request from the Chronicler.*

# book-hunting FOR SQUIRRELS AND RABBIT-HOLE DWELLERS

By Hildegard the Clever

Research is key to what we do here in the SCA, and it leads many of us toward a pair of proverbial creatures often observed in the Known World: the squirrel, always finding a new nut of information to run after; and the rabbit, always digging its hole deeper and deeper to find how far it can go into its chosen topic.

Once either or both of these animals have entered your life, before you know it you might find yourself desperate to consult some obscure academic tome about changing patterns of land use – or, in my case, a particular translation and study of the oldest known German cookbook.



So it begins. From the bibliography of the “Cuisines by Region” chapter in *Food in Medieval Times* by Melitta Weiss Adamson (2004).

But perhaps a look around the usual places – Amazon, eBay – turns up no available copies. I find AbeBooks.com to be a good place to look for the more obscure titles, but sometimes they also come up short.

What's a squirrel or a rabbit to do?

## open library

My first stop is [OpenLibrary.org](https://openlibrary.org).

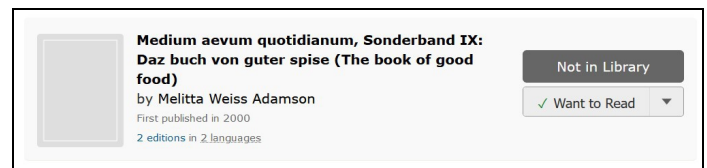
A project of The Internet Archive, Open Library works roughly like a lending library with digital teleportation magic. They maintain a vast collection of physical books, make digital

facsimiles of each one, then allow one online user at a time to access the facsimile, for free.

They're more likely to have books that are somewhat older (like ten years old or more), and their coverage is imperfect but full of treasures. For example they have some (though not all) of the “Medieval Finds from Excavations in London” volumes, such as the one pictured here, [The Medieval Household](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL11501150A):



But as for my coveted cookbook, alas:



“Not in Library.”

## WORLDCAT

Next stop: [search.WorldCat.org](https://search.worldcat.org).

WorldCat provides one-stop access to library catalogs from around the world, including not only public libraries but university libraries and those at institutions like museums. Editions aren't always sorted well here, so it may take some digging, but chances are that some institution somewhere cares about the same rabbit-hole you do and will have your book.

And sure enough...



I found the cookbook! In Chicago!

(continued, page 6)

## book-hunting (continued)

Many libraries, including ones at universities, offer a “friends of the library” or “guest borrower” option which allows you to check out books in their collection for an annual fee.

So, is it time for a road trip? Not so fast!

## inter-library loan

Once you've found a book in a library, you may not have to go there yourself if you can find a nearby library that offers true Inter-Library Loan (often abbreviated ILL).

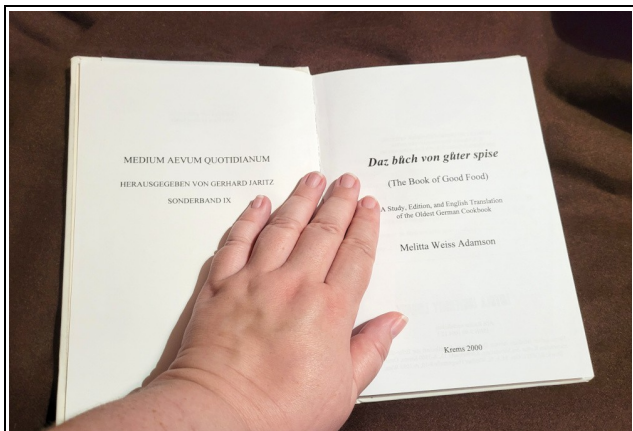
Unfortunately, this can be tricky to find.

Many libraries in our area only offer such loans from within the Evergreen regional alliance of libraries; this is a wonderful resource but may not provide the depth that a niche rabbit-hole demands. They may still refer to this as “inter-library loan,” and it's often unclear just what a library offers in this vein unless you ask the librarians directly.

Meanwhile, university libraries offer broader inter-library loan to their students, faculty, and staff, but I have yet to find one that offers it with the guest borrower options mentioned above.

But we are in luck! As of this writing, the Rolla Public Library, in the lands of our very Shire, does indeed offer true Inter-Library Loan, and they allow non-residents of Rolla library cards with full privileges for a very reasonable annual fee. Inter-Library Loan will in some cases require an additional fee for the transport of the book, but again, it is very reasonable.

And here it is! Success at last!



So, am I avidly devouring the book and adapting fourteenth century German cuisine?

Well, sometimes the greatest thrill is in the chase itself. Still, I would do it all again – and I probably will. After all, I have that lead on regional warp-weighted loom types...

*Do you have your own tips for chasing that certain book (legally)? For discovering which book to chase?*

*Research tips and similar articles are most welcome as submissions to The Dancing Moon! See our letter from the Chronicler, page 4.*

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: FAUX HAGGIS

Devised by His Lordship Thomas Fleischacker,  
inscribed by Her Ladyship Catin of Edington

This recipe was developed through research of haggis by Thomas Fleischacker and used at Autumn Arrows XVII.

4 lbs ground pork  
4 T salt  
4 lbs ground beef or venison  
2 T black pepper  
1 lg onion chopped fine  
1 T ground ginger  
1 lb whole oats, cooked  
½ T ground cloves  
Natural sausage casings  
½ T ground nutmeg

Mix all ingredients together and stuff into casings. Twist at 4 inch intervals to make links. Cut links apart and cook in water until done, approximately 45 minutes. Makes about 10 lbs.

*Many thanks to Thomas and Catin for sharing! If you bring this to a potluck, I will be happy to try it!*

# around the kingdom and the known world

Events nearby with our neighbors in the Kingdom of Calontir, and marvellous means of connecting with SCA fellows near and far:

## online classes & events

### **Documentation for Kingdom Arts & Sciences** Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm

Taught by Her Ladyship Ysabel de la Oya. Kingdom Arts & Sciences is coming Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Is documentation the thing that is keeping you from entering? Want to enter but not quite sure what you are getting yourself into? This is the class for you. We will talk about what to expect at Kingdom Arts & Sciences and how to create documentation for your entries. Hosted by Calontir's Royal University of Scir Hafoc (RUSH). For more information, see Calontir's Virtual Arts & Sciences calendar:

[calontir.org/arts-sciences/virtual-classes/](https://calontir.org/arts-sciences/virtual-classes/)

### **Sunday Night with the Scribes**

Sundays, Zoom opens at 6 pm, class at 7 pm

Spend the evening with Scribal Arts folk from around the Known World. Open to anyone interested or involved in scribal arts in the SCA. For connection information and class schedule, visit the website at [scribal.art](https://scribal.art).

## WITHIN A FAIR DAY'S RIDE

Nothing nearby this month, but watch next month for King's Companie of Archers and Kingdom Arts & Sciences!

Also, you may consider paying a visit to our nearest neighboring Shires:

Shire of Oakheart (Springfield, MO):

[sites.google.com/calontir.org/oakheart](https://sites.google.com/calontir.org/oakheart)

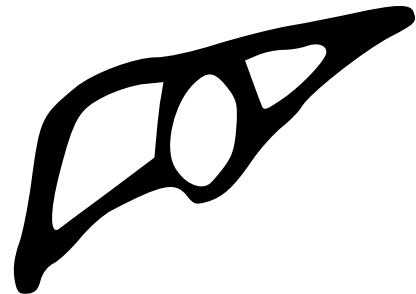
Shire of Wyvern Cliffe (Jefferson City, MO):

[wyverncliffe.com](https://wyverncliffe.com)

**For more on events, visit the Calontir Kingdom Calendar: [calontir.org/events](https://calontir.org/events).**

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THIS MOON BROUGHT TO  
YOU BY THE LETTER...



This is the letter “eye” (not to be confused with the letter “i”) from the Oracle Bone Script of the Shang civilization, the ancestor of the modern Chinese and Japanese character 目.

The Shang (second millennium BCE; the “a” in their name sounds like “ah,” by the way) are the earliest Chinese dynasty we have solid archaeological evidence for, especially the oracle bones which bear the earliest known form of Chinese writing. Shang royalty relied on a divination method where bones – cow shoulder-blades and turtle chestplates in particular – were heated, causing cracks which would then be interpreted and the results inscribed right on the bones.

(And if you're shaking your head thinking “only in China,” we can talk sometime about the Romans and bull livers.)

'TIL THE NEXT MOON,  
HILDEGARD, CHRONICLER

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The Dancing Moon, August 2024

Edited by: Hildegard the Clever

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