

the dancing moon

JANUARY 2025

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:

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- Business Meeting Report
- Margery of Penrith's Elevation
- Call for Submissions: Martial Basics
- Public Domain Class of 2025
- Recipe: Cleansing Gold & Silver
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- And More!



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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.

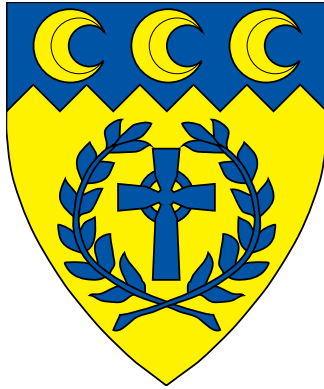
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Credits and Rights

THIS MONTH'S COVER

A group picture of our Shire members (not all members present), taken at our 2024 summer picnic hosted by Alan & Margery. Photographed by Wolf Zahnle.

And now we set out into a new year together!

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.

Meeting begins at 6:30 pm. Garb is optional.

January 6th: Project Night

January 13th: Business Meeting & Potluck

January 20th: Project Night

January 27th: Class Night

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.

Practices currently start at their autumn and winter time of 2:30 pm.

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.

FAREWELL, ðAVIÐ

David, a budding fighter who recently joined our Shire, finds life calling him to other places. He is moving on but hopes to see us at events from time to time.

Godspeed to you, David! May we meet again!

FROM THE CHRONICLER, WITH CALL FOR MARTIAL BASICS

Greetings from your shire chronicler!

A new year is upon us, and while I'm not a great believer in New Years Resolutions, it does make a good moment to take stock of where you are and what you want to achieve.

So, what are your SCA goals for this year?

As a Shire, we've set ourselves goals of hosting Studium Generale for our kingdom's Royal University in late March, as well as our annual Autumn Arrows event.

Personally, I have a particular Arts & Science project I hope to finish in time for our Shire's Arts & Science championship this summer.

What projects would you like to complete this year? What skills would you like to polish?

My submission request for this month is: Martial Basics! Archery and combat are a key part of the SCA and often the aspect of what we do that newcomers find most exciting. However, your Chronicler is more of a Service and Arts & Science person, so I can use help even with the most basic (and perhaps seemingly obvious) things.

Some ideas:

- Can you explain the different branches of martial activity (heavy vs. stile combat, general archery vs. longbow vs. crossbow, what thrown weapons can you throw, what is combat archery, etc.)?
- What equipment does someone need to get started in a given martial pursuit? What are some selection tips for beginner equipment? Tips on making equipment?
- What authorizations do they need and how can they get them?
- What safety rules do they need to be aware of (e.g. the significance of lines and marshals' calls at archery ranges)?
- Do they need to register or sign in specially at events and practices? What should they expect as to how these are organized, how bouts are scheduled, etc.?

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!

DECEMBER BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

On December 9th, we held our monthly business meeting. A few highlights:

Chieftains, our usual occasion to present our annual tithe and largesse contribution, is not being held this year as the Barony of Three Rivers is hosting Winter Coronation instead. We are looking into alternatives.

We're also looking into options so that we can open our meeting location more consistently and not have to cancel when certain members can't attend.

And Studium Generale, our late-March RUSH event, will be here before we know it! We're considering lunch options, so any interested inn stewards, please contact us soon!

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

A LAUREL FOR MARGERY

This month, our own Margery of Penrith will be elevated to the Order of the Laurel, our Society's highest honor in Arts & Science. The elevation will take place in Their Majesties' court at Clothiers' Seminar, January 25th in Independence, Missouri.

Those interested in serving as guards should contact James Inn Danski; Margery is giving her guards the option to bear tools other than weapons. Those interested in helping with the vigil table should contact Janos Katona; Margery advises that there should be no fish or other aquatic food, but she would like to see some dark bread; finger-food is preferable, as usual for a vigil table. Catin is looking into organizing a carpool for the event.

Congratulations to Margery! May your work continue to be recognized, and may it serve as an example for us all!

public domain class of 2025

By Lady Hildegard the Clever

A new year is dawning, and among the many milestones it brings, it ushers a new tide of books, images, recordings, and other media into the public domain, meaning that their use and sharing is no longer restricted by copyright.

Under current US law, all works published in the US over 95 years before the current year are in the public domain (there are situations where copyrights may have expired sooner, but this is a simple play-it-safe rule of thumb). As such, as of January 1st of 2025, all works published before January 1st of 1930 are now free for anyone to share, make copies of, or draw on in their own creative works (although claiming to have created something you didn't is still not okay).

I confess, copyright and the public domain has been a hobbyhorse issue for me since long before I joined our Shire, but my SCA activities make it relevant in a new way. After all, the end of the SCA period in 1600 CE is well before the cutoff date, with plenty of time for translations and studies to be published – although it took a long time for good English-language translations of many non-European works to come about, so there are some frustrating gaps.

As another note of caution, in any kind of research (and researching history is core to what we do) it's perilous to rely too much on such aged sources, as new evidence and new thinking have often changed our best understandings since they were written. (For a case study of how historical understandings can shift like this, check out Dr. Bret Devereaux on the history-of-the-history about [the Fall\[?\] of Rome](#).)

But freely shareable material has good uses even so!

For Chroniclers like myself, it offers a rich trove of sources to reprint. Seriously, look at the “credits and rights” on my back covers and take a drink every time you see “Public Domain in the USA.” Public domain images also enliven many of our event flyers and such.

Public domain works are also useful in a variety of creative projects. They can provide images to incorporate into illuminations and carvings, texts to practice calligraphy and other scribal skills, subjects for song, and more.

Plus, simply having versions of period art and literature that are free for anyone to experience is a precious gift!

Sifting through everything published in 1929 for the best SCA-relevant material is a task too large for my hands, but I offer a few examples of the gifts this year brings us:

The Mabinogion: A New Translation **vol. II, T. P. Ellis and John Lloyd.** **Clarendon Press, 1929.**

From the earliest collection of Welsh prose stories, dating back as far as the 11th century. This volume contains characteristically Welsh versions of Arthurian legend with valuable notes about the source manuscripts. See Archive.org: archive.org/details/mabinogionnewtra00ootpel

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight **translated by Theodore Howard Banks** **F. S. Crofts & Company, 1929**

Staying with Arthurian legend, this especially famous tale is a masterpiece of the 14th century English alliterative verse revival, and this translation aims to keep that alliterative verse form. Look for it on Google Books:

[google.com/books/edition/Sir_Gawain_and_the_Green_Knight/CAIEAAAAYAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/edition/Sir_Gawain_and_the_Green_Knight/CAIEAAAAYAAJ)

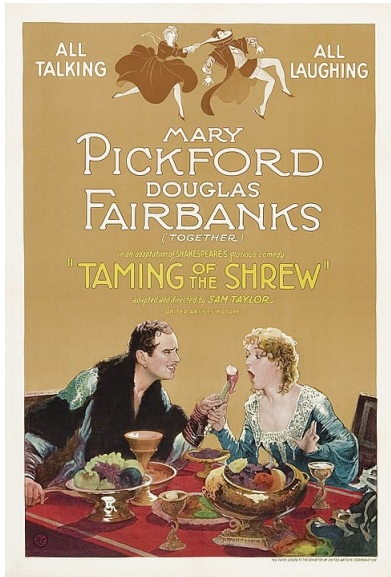
Revelations of St. Birgitta **edited by William Patterson Cumming** **Oxford University Press, 1929**

A rare gem of Swedish medieval literature and women's religious influence, this book transcribes a 15th century Middle English manuscript drawn from an original 14th century Latin work. While not translated into modern English, it is fairly readable.

See Archive.org's Open Library:

openlibrary.org/works/OL9261645W

(continued, page 6)



The Taming of the Shrew
1929 film

Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks star in the first “talkie” film adaptation of Shakespeare, based on his perennially controversial play of the same name from c. 1590.

Mediaeval Cheshire
by H. J. Hewitt, Chetham Society, 1929

Aged scholarship, but a deep dive into a specific place and time – Cheshire, England from 1272 to 1377 CE – exploring its geography, economy, and more, potentially useful for anyone considering a persona from that region.

openlibrary.org/works/OL4530822W

Beginnings of Vijayanagara History
by H. Heras, Indian Historical Research Institute, 1929

Finally, the English-speaking world didn't totally ignore the world beyond Europe until 1930 (okay, they conquered parts of it, which wasn't very neighborly). Aged scholarship again, but this book explores the history of the Vijayanagara Empire which ruled much of southern India from 1336 to 1646 CE.

openlibrary.org/works/OL15312317W

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:
cleansing gold
& silver

From An Essay Upon Various Arts by Theophilus, translated by R. Hendrie

“Recipe” doesn't always have to mean food! One can find useful listings of ingredients and processes for all manner of things, and indeed modern cookbooks often include not only dishes but “household hints.”

Here's a household hint from a period source – if your “household” is a richly ornamented medieval church and you're a monk skilled in the arts of metalworking. It comes from An Essay Upon Various Arts (also called On Divers Arts) written by a monk known as Theophilus Presbyter sometime around 1100 AD, probably in German-speaking Europe.

Of Cleansing Gold and Silver: *If gold and silver, thinned into leaves and fixed anywhere by nails, has become blackened through age, take black charcoal and grind it very small and sift it through a cloth, and taking a linen or woollen cloth wetted with water, place it upon these coals, and raising it you will rub it carefully over all the gold or silver, until you take away all the blackness, and thus you will wash it with water, and will dry it in the sun, or by the fire, or with a cloth; then take white chalk, and scrape it very finely into a vessel, and thus you will rub it dry with a linen cloth upon the gold or silver until it take its original lustre. Vases are cleaned in the same manner.*

(Hendrie pg. 341.)

Theophilus is a fascinating source of information about medieval European painting, glass, and metalwork. (But don't make fleshtone paint like he tells you to: “Take poison [lead white], burn part of it, then grind the burnt and unburnt poison together with *different* poison [cinnabar]...” Not his exact words but pretty much the recipe. See Hendrie pg. 3.)

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

University of Atlantia Registration

January 3rd

Registration opens for the Kingdom of Atlantia's online university session February 1st & 2nd. More information: university.atlantia.sca.org.

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.

WITHIN A FAIR DAY'S RIDE

12th Night

January 4th, Carthage, MO

The Shire of Crystal Mynes' free annual Yule celebration with potluck, white elephant gift exchange, armored combat, and Arts & Science competition.

Oakheart Scribal Workshop

January 11th, Springfield, MO

Our neighbors in the Shire of Oakheart invite you to try your hand at calligraphy and illumination like a true medieval scribe. Potluck meal. Ages 14+, room limited to 50 people, donations appreciated. More information: facebook.com/ShireofOakHeart/events.

Clothiers' Seminar

January 25th, Independence, MO

The Shire of Cúm An Iolair hosts an annual day of classes focused on garb and textiles, plus "Walk Through History" fashion show. Court to include Margery's elevation; see page 4.

For more on events, visit the Calontir Kingdom Calendar: calontir.org/events.

THIS MOON BROUGHT TO
YOU BY THE LETTER...

한

In honor of Lunar New Year, which falls on January 29th this year and is celebrated in Korea as well as in China and other cultures, this is the compound letter "han" in Hangul, the alphabet of the Korean language. Hangul is written by combining sound elements into syllable blocks; in this case, ㅎ (h) + ㅏ (a) + ㄴ (n) makes "han."

For centuries Korean was written with Chinese characters, but in the 1400s CE King Sejong the Great of the Joseon dynasty designed Hangul as a writing system more suited to the language and to the goal of widening literacy. The switch didn't happen all at once; Sejong's great great grandson even banned Hangul to clamp down on criticism of his own rule (Yeonsangun; maybe we can talk about that guy someday but for now let's just say nobody calls *him* "the Great"). Still, Hangul entered popular use as Sejong had wished and eventually took its place as the main writing system for Korean.

For a fictionalized look at King Sejong's reign, the 2019 film "Forbidden Dream" is available on several legitimate streaming sites.

'TIL THE NEXT MOON,
HILDEGARÐ, CHRONICLER

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