

Beyond The Pale

March 2026



Letter From the Editor

Greetings, Midrealm!

This will be my last month as editor of *The Pale*. I have greatly enjoyed bringing you news, photos, history, and hopefully a little fun over the past 2.5 years. I've gotten to interact with so many wonderful people and showcase some amazing talent. My deepest thanks to each and every one of you - without your work, creations, and support, there wouldn't be much to say! I hope you've enjoyed reading about everyone we've been able to feature.

In fact, this supplemental issue is to highlight some of those very Midrealmers. The Queen's Prize Tournament was held in mid-January at the Festival of Maidens. Entrants who did not have a grant level arts award or above were sponsored by a mentor who did. The entrant brought their display and the mentor brought a prize, so that at the end of the day everyone came home a winner!

You'll see these and more inside. Many thanks to the new Consort's Prize Tournament organizer, The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe, for providing all the photos and captions. We hope you'll find something that inspires you. Next year, it could be you earning the Consort's favor!

Now I leave you in the capable hands of The Honorable Lady Norelle Thespiana, who has a lot of fantastic ideas - I can't wait to see them in action!

Thank you all,

Baroness Claricia de la Mere



My entry at the Queen's Prize Tourney in 2025 - I'm ready to get back to research because I'll have so much more free time! That's how it works, right? Photograph by Dame Roana Aldinoch (Roana Williams).



The Pale

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Oda Umi Shōnagon displaying an embroidered Japanese Sashiko panel called "Seasons" at the Queen's Prize Tournament at Festival of Maidens. Photo by THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe (Julie Washington)

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Queen's Prize Tourney: Everyone Wins at Festival of Maidens A&S Event

By THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe

Not many tournaments can boast that everyone who enters is a winner, but that's the unique charm of the Queen's Prize Tourney.

The Queen's Prize Tourney, sponsored by Queen Kemma, took place Jan. 17, 2026 at the Festival of Maidens 51, sponsored by the Shire of Caer Gwyn in Gifford, Illinois.

This non-competitive arts event that created a safe space for 38 artisans to confidently display their A&S projects, many for the first time. There were no points, judges or rubrics, just visitors, mentors and artisans sharing their passion and learning from each other.

The Queen's Prize Tourney was open to artisans who had yet to receive an A&S sponsored by someone with a grant-level or higher arts award, such as a Laurel or Evergreen. Artisans and sponsors could sign up as teams, or ask tourney organizers to match them with someone.

On the big day, the tourney display area was filled with visitors eager to see projects that ran the gamut from Roman toy horses, a water clock and period cheese, to a cloak and hood made from handwoven fabric and a recreation of items found in a Merovingian grave.

The roster of entrants also included three performing artists who presented poetry and song to an appreciative audience.

Queen Kemma spent time with every artisan, listening closely as they described how their project helped them learn and grow in their craft.

Before court, artisans and sponsors gathered for the distribution of prizes. Each sponsor provided a prize and decided who received it. The prizes, on display throughout the day, included an embroidered Elizabethan sweets bag, a Viking bench with storage, a goat skin, glass pen with ink and a set of Viking gambling bones and dice.

During court, Queen Kemma awarded her Queen's Prize to Warder Moira Campbell of Argyll for her original poem "Out in the List". Special mentions went to Lady Philippi for displaying sericulture with tablet weaving finish, and Forester Ellbríg ingen Eoain for displaying her reproduction of the possible techniques to craft the glass chain found in a burial under the Chiesa di Sant' Agostino in Bergamo, Italy.

The tourney organizing team was led by Tourney Coordinator and Midrealm A&S Faire Coordinator Dame Roana Aldinoch, with assistance from Baroness Claricia de la Mere, Valya Kadaseva zhená Kadakova, THL Jolicia atte Northclyfe, and Kingdom MOAS Maitresse Audette la Tricoteuse de Saint Denis.

We hope that everyone involved in the Queen's Tourney had a positive experience and thank Festival of Maidens for hosting us!



Barone Ginna ígulfriðr displaying a 12th century German b্লাiut.

Below: Close-up of embroidery on the b্লাiut.



Baroness Melisende de Westemere displaying an original poem of zajal form, after the type made famous by Ibn Quzmān of Córdoba (1078 - 1160).





Tsukino Kitsuko displaying tsumami kanzashi, hair ornaments made from folded pieces of fabric and rice glue to create flowers or animals.



Gentle Bird the Bard displays the Cantigas de Santa Maria. Bird also performed a cantiga.

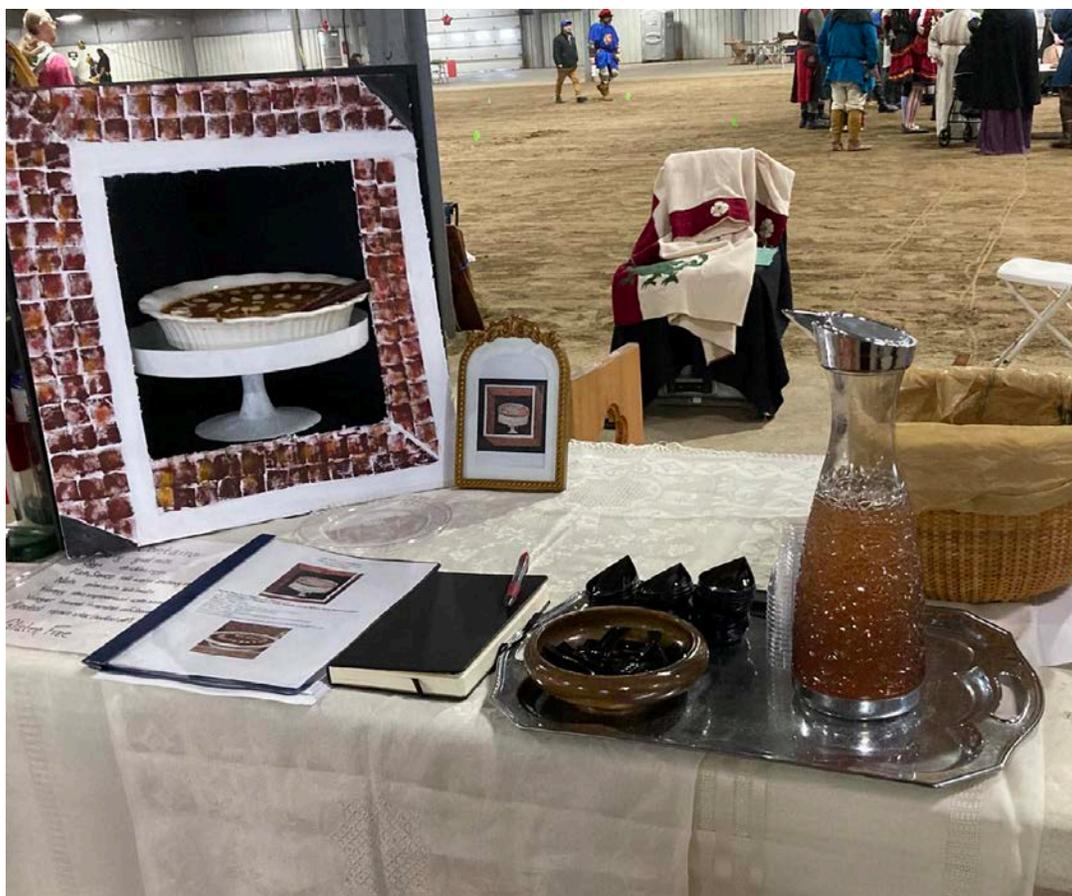


Lady Aldrin inn Gladys displaying woven Finnish leg wraps.



Lord Briant du Ranc shows two examples of a dark lantern, which is a lantern with a movable panel that can hide the light.

Sergeant Dawood al-tayyib al-samari demonstrating medieval wood joinery techniques for box construction/



Countess Ceinwen ferch Elidir O'Denbigh's Roman remove. The display is recreated from an original piece of art.

Lady Edane O'hoisin displaying her ceramic work in the form of an Irish Methers cup.



Lord Vincent O'Cosnachain using modern technology to 3D print Medieval and Renaissance musical instruments. Extra-tall photo for hat.



Kurro Ookami Musashi displaying soy sauce - the most important condiment of Japan.



Lady Jaqueline de la Deicier recreating a Dragonesque Brooch, which is a Roman-Celtic influenced adornment.

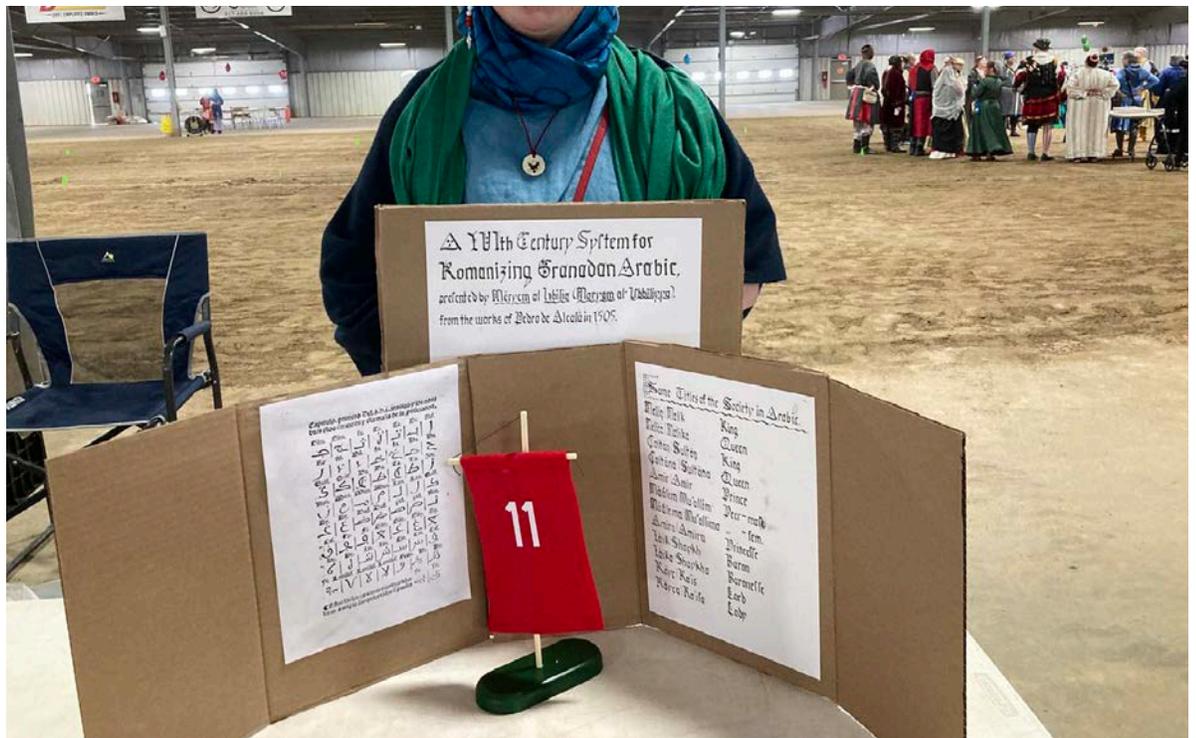


Lady Kateryn Styllingflete displaying "Finding a Good Read During the Wars of the Roses". This research paper covered the types of reading material popular during the Wars of the Roses period in England, approximately 1440-1480. It included excerpts of works for the time period, with longer excerpts in a booklet to flip through at the display.

Lady Katrina of Swordcliff displays homemade cheese from period sources.



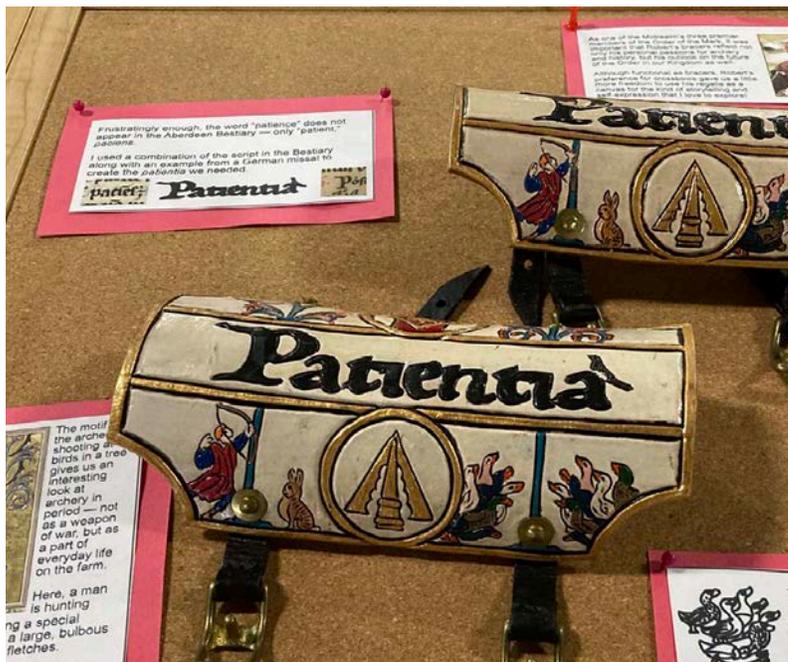
Lady Tualait of Illiton displaying a water clock.



Lady Méryem al Ixbilía displaying research on Arabic naming conventions, pronunciations, and English spelling variations, with examples in calligraphy.

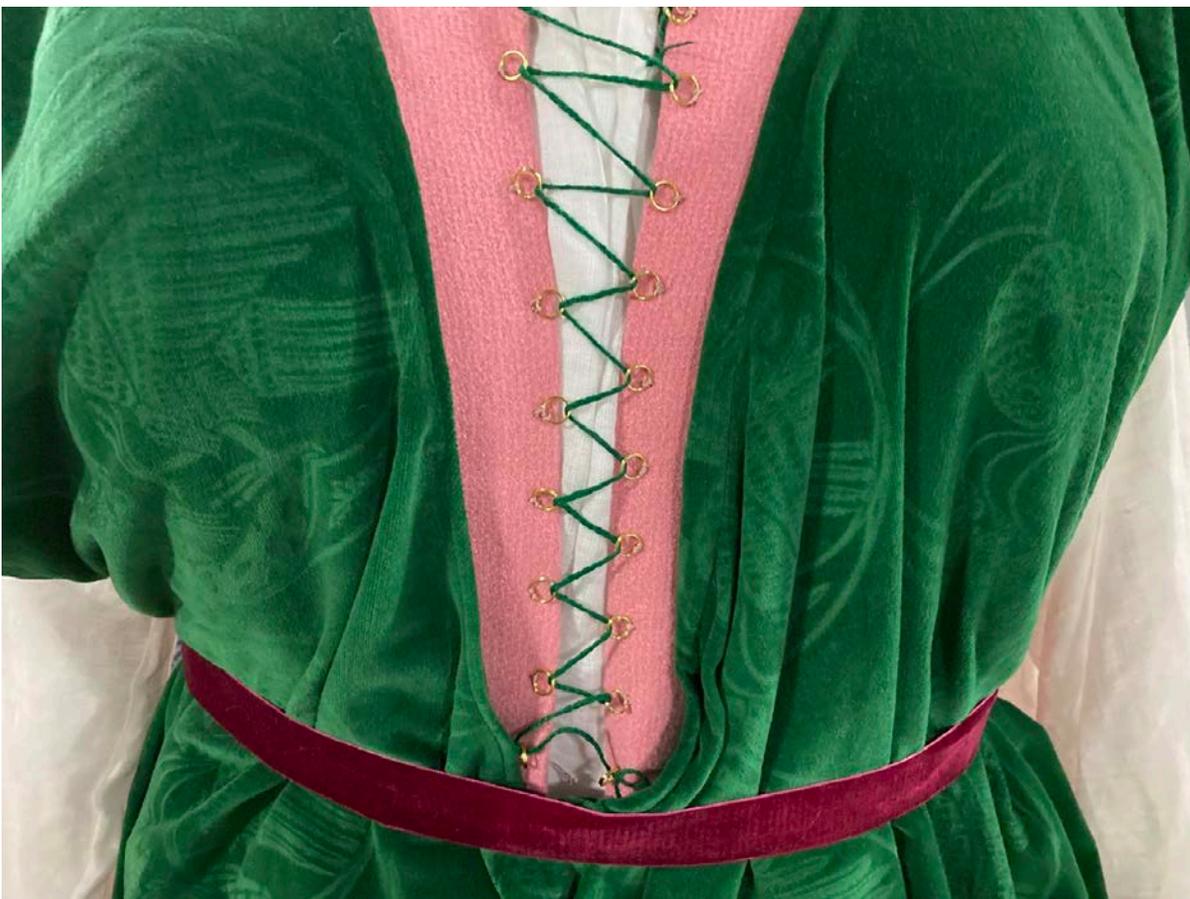


All images on this page are from Lord Magnus Eriksson Whitehair displaying his leatherwork for "Marking The Order: Order: Regalia For Three of the Midrealm's Newest Hunters".



Top: Noble Nebula of Falcon's Quarry with three sample pieces of laces from the 1562 Nüw Modelbuch.

Bottom: 14th-15th century embossed velvet display by Dame Hadley of Beckenham.





Hatun Muruvvet Mutfagin bint Mehmed bey Galata'nin serving samples of 15th century Ottoman sweets and drink. Bottom photo courtesy of Baronesse Claricia de la Mere (Karin Strippel).



Prizes! A small fraction of the prizes provided by the mentors at the Queen's Prize Tournament. The order of prizes given out was drawn at random (bottom photo).



