

Seasons

#9 Spring A.S. LVIII (2024)





Greetings from the Seasons Editor

Greetings to All!

This is the ninth issue of the new SEASONS, and we hope you are enjoying the new format and content of this magazine.

We welcome Original Cover and Filler Art; Instructional/Educational Articles; Original Poetry and Songs; Photos of A&S Entries, Tourney Winners, and Vigils; and Information on Future Elevations (all with per-

mission to reprint).

I would also like to welcome a new Deputy in Lord Leopold Guotman. He was a great help on this issue, and I look forward to working with him on future issues!

We hope to continue celebrating, in this magazine, the talents, achievements and merits of our Meridian subjects, and showcasing their creations, and we invite you to join our readership and to be a part of our efforts.

In continuing Service....

Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli
Seasons Editor

Upcoming Events This Season

According to the Kingdom Calendar at the time of this publication, the following Events and Virtual Gatherings will be held (in the stated formats) during the Spring of A.S. LVIII-LVIX (2024):

- ◆ **GULF WARS** (Live) March 9th-17th (Gleann Abhann)
- ◆ **SPRING CORONATION** (Live) April 5th-7th (Depedale)
- ◆ **Fool's War** (Live) April 11th-14th (Tir Briste)
- ◆ **Dreamstone** (Live) April 19th-21st (Bryn Madoc)
- ◆ **Iris Faire** (Live) April 19th-21st (Glaedenfeld)
- ◆ **Crossroads** (Live) April 27yj (Owl's Nest)
- ◆ **Black Axe** (Live) May 3rd-5th (Iron Mountain)
- ◆ **Golden Lily** (Live) May 10th-12th (Beau Fort)
- ◆ **ARTSY CROWN** (Live) May 24th-28th (Forth Castle)

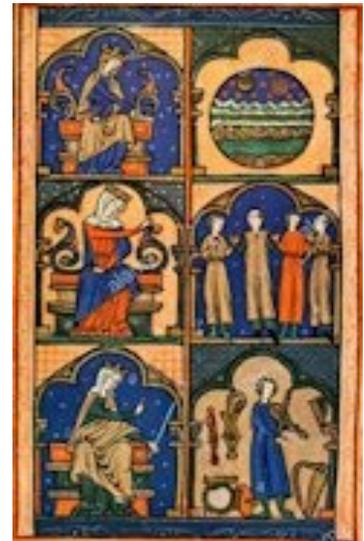
TUESDAY NIGHT SOCIALS continue to be held and hosted by Mistress Ellen de Lacey on ZOOM at 7:00pm CST. These also feature **Classes, Guild Meetings, Pennon Decision Meetings, and Lambent Internal Commenting and Teaching Sessions, and HERALRY AFTER HOURS.**

FRIDAY NIGHT BARDIC continues to be hosted on ZOOM at 9:30pm EST, and they have also posted a rather extensive calendar of Bardic Activities and Classes — to be seen at the Friday Night Bardic group on Facebook.

Hail the Winter Champions

Congratulations to all others who excelled in competition during the recently passed Winter months, whether in

- Heavy Combat
- Light Combat
- Live Weapons & Archery
- Equestrian
- Siege Weaponry
- Arts & Sciences
- Service
- Bardic or Poetic
- or at WAR!!



We also hail Their Majesties Timothy and Ysmay, Coronated on October 15th with the promise of a long and tragedy-free Reign., and Their Highnesses Sebastianos and Morgan who stand ready should anything at all unexpected befall Their Majesties.



Photo Credit: Countess Gwenhwyfar Mwynn



Photo Credit: Baroness Kathryn Spencer

Beloved Populace,

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Tiberius of Meridies has gone to the vet and had a lot of fluid removed from his Lungs. the Prognosis is either that he has cancer or has heart disease. So far all tests show that his heart is in good condition. He has started to loose his appetite and thus weight. So it is likely he is battling cancer and we don't know how much time he has left.

we are not certain how long we will have with Tiberius at this point, though we are pretty certain its not a lot of time, we hope to be wrong on this. However, we wanted to let people know that he will be at MCA this next weekend, He will not be at gulf. And we do not know what his status will be by the time we get to gulf wars.

A lot of this is up in the air and we just don't have an answer, but what we do know is that his behavior has changed dramatically and his health has been negatively effected. We thought people would want to know prior to his health getting even worse.

He is looking forward to MCA, the SCA has been a big part of his life and he loves each and every one of you. He has always seen the kingdom as his pack and he has bleed black and

white his whole life. Having been a royal war hound for several crowns and an animal who loved coursing more than anything in the world.

Thank you for your time, I know he is looking forward to seeing everyone this weekend.

Yours in Service to the Dream,
Morgan II and Sebastianos II
Crown Princess and Prince of the
Kingdom of Meridies.

*[Ti passed boldly over the Rainbow
Bridge at the age of 12 on 03
March, A.S. LVIII]*





Winter Event Highlights

During the Winter of A.S. LVIII the following Meridian Events were hosted and enjoyed:

- Magna Faire** (Live) December 1st-3rd (Iron Mountain)

This event was host at Dalwhinnie Fields in Selma, AL, and was centered around a traditional

and very popular regional Arts & Sciences Faire. Lots of great entries!



- Winter Market** (Live) December 9th (Glaedenfeld)

This one-day event was held at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Pulaski, TN, and unsurprisingly featured SHOPPING (after all, there was a “Market”), an Arts & Sciences Faire (with a Stella Nova Competition), Fighting and Food. This sounded like fun, and apparently was!



- Knights' Strategic Redeployment** (not a retreat)

We have no reports on this event — possibly because it was “Strategic” and maybe even “Sooper Sekret”.

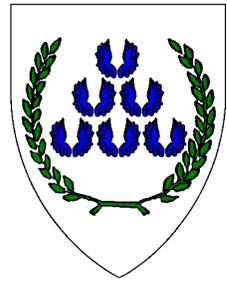
- Twelfth Night: Sovereigns of Misrule**

Hosted by the Barony of Bryn Madoc on January 6th, and was held at St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, Athens, GA, and featured fencing, fighting, thrown weapons, dance, live music, classes, fiber arts, and a scriptorium. There was a **Parade of Hobby Horses** with jousting and contests for youth and adults led by the Sovereigns of Misrule!, and the **Tió de Nadal** (candy-filled log) returned this year, with a scheduled time slot for children during the day and adults after feast. Twelfth Night also featured a sponsored open art competition for **Best Depiction of Rabbits / Hares**, with adult and youth categories (documentation is not required, but simple documentation was welcomed), and a **Dreamers Moot** — a Regional Arts and Sciences Faire! Entries are judged with the same guidelines and caliber of judges as those of the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire. Documentation was required for this, as a regional A&S faire, and the Kingdom A&S office assigned judges and a judging time. Feedback from the judges provided artisans an opportunity to make adjustments and add enhancements to their project and documentation prior to Kingdom A&S.



•Panhandle Skirmishes

Was hosted by the Shires of Arenal and Phoenix Glade at Compass Lake in the Hills, Alford, FL over the weekend of January 12th-14th. Panhandle featured lots and lots of fighting (the flyers didn't have specific details), but also cabins, RV hook-ups, and camping. A Fund-Raiser Lunch was also featured, and an Unofficial Pasta Feast. Based on all reports, a lot of fun was had by all attendants! In addition, at this event Baron Owen Seys was presented with his Writ of Knighthood. Owen was originally squired to Sir Simon MacLeod, but is now (until his imminent elevation) a squire to Duke Kenneth Grey. His elevation is scheduled to take place at Spring Coronation on April 6th. There was also a Coat Drive held at this event that garnered lots of coats for those in need!



•Wing Ding

Was hosted by South Reach on January 13th as a one-day event, and was held at the Pulaski Rec Center in Pulaski, TN. This event featured Classes!, Fighting!, a Rummage Sale!, Activities for Younglings!, Wings for Lunch!, and "Probably other stuff that requires exclamation points"!



•Fighters Collegium/Kingdom War College was held over the weekend of January

26th-28th at Giles County Agri-Park in Pulaski, TN, and was hosted by the Barony of Iron Mountain and the Canton of South Reach. Unfortunately, this event was held too late to make the deadline for this issue, but according to the flyer it was slated to feature "Fighting, fighting, and more fighting! Oh, and a fund-raiser lunch, too!" Lots and lots of fighting, and we gather the fighters were well-pleased.



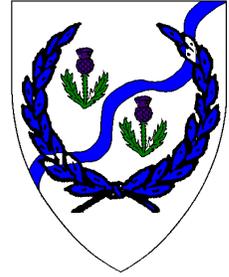
•Midwinter Arts & Sciences (Live) February 3rd (South Downs)

Held at West Georgia College in Carrollton, GA, this event featured (as usual) lots of classes, and socializing. There was no feast, but some spectacular A&S Entries, and at Court Margavati Bai and Lorenzo Petrucci both were inducted into the Order of the Pelican. Congratulations!!



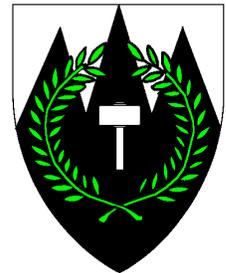
◆**Knights Gambit** (Live) February 9th-11th (Thorngill)

Held at Dalwhinnie Fields in Selma, AL, and is one of the premiere fighting event every year in Meridies. Guests were invited to test their martial skills in the Robert Hightower Unbelted Classic, and then to train one-on-one with Knights of the Realm. The event promised an excellent feast, and camping was included with the site fees. For those not eager to camp, limited bunk space was available, and we understand this event was well-attended and well-run.



◆**Black Gryphon** (Live) February 16th-18th (Thor's Mountain)

This event was held at the Laurel Grove Event Venue in Bristol, TN, and is traditionally an excellent A&S Event. Also offered were a splendid Feast and two Breakfasts, and when we inquired we found that the site did offer some on-site accommodations in the form of classrooms set aside for that purpose (BYOB=Bring Your Own Bed).. Great Event.



◆**Meridian Challenge of Arms** (Live) February 23rd-25th (Osprey)

Hosted at Dalwhinnie Fields in Selma, AL, this event featured a full slate of Rapier activities and Tournaments, and also the elevation to Master of Defense of **Master Ximon Martillo de Cordoba** and to the Pelican of **Master Nikoslav Mikolaevich** ! Well Deserved!



Still On The March Calendar

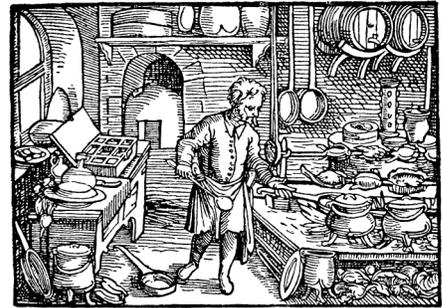
(or held after Deadline)

◆**GULF WARS** (Live) March 19th-17th (Gleann Abhann)

That's it! Gulf Wars, as we all know, dominates the month of March every year!



Spring in the Kitchen: Food for Lent



Spring in period tended to be a lean season at first, with the winter stores having been depleted and the spring crops just beginning to grow. Spring was the lambing and calving season, but not right away, and then, of course, there was Lent.

According to Medievalists.net (The Salvation Diet) “Lent was a major religious observance for medieval Christians – it would begin each spring on Ash Wednesday, roughly six weeks before Easter. Believers were to observe certain fasting rules, abstain from pleasure and vice, and instead focus on prayer and penance. The early Christian church observed Lent over a six-week period or 36 days with fasting except on Sundays”.

We’re sort of “Giving Up” this column (momentarily) “for Lent”, but numerous recipes for Lenten dishes are available on-line, and we invite you to check them out, whether or not you celebrate this season.

Fast and Abstinence

In the Medieval Roman Catholic Church in Europe Lent was a time of Fast and Abstinence. One limited amounts of food, and one abstained from all animal products (except fish.)

The faithful kept a very strict fast all through Lent:

no milk
no butter
no cheese
no cream
no eggs
no meat

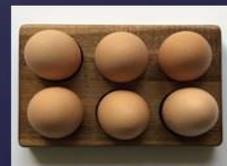


Photo Credit: Wikipedia Commons

Gentle to Gentle: A General Interview

Meridian General Interview Questionnaire

Interview by Lord Leopold Guotman

Sir **Kikuchi Kazumitsu**, You recently became the new general of the Meridian army. The folks at the seasons supplement would like to get to know you a little more and your plans for the leadership of the Meridian army. We have a few questions below to help the populace and more specifically the members of the army get to know their new leader.

How did you get involved with the SCA?

I got involved in the SCA after a coworker at a pizza delivery joint showed me his armor as he got off work to go to practice. I was interested and reached out. Thus began my intro through the Shire of Phoenix glade.

When did you start? What was your 1st event?

I started in the summer of 2016 and my first event was Gatalop that year.

In a similar vein, what is an event you never miss?

I always tried to make Gatalop but sadly work has changed so there isn't an event that I haven't missed one year.

You have a unique kit. What inspired your persona and kit?

I was a martial artist before the SCA. I spent 4 years practice eastern martial arts and figured I could tie those skills into the SCA.

As a knight, which of the chivalric virtues most resonates with you and why?

Aside from prowess I would have to say Franchise. To me this is being known for more than fighting. It can take on many forms. As I told someone at Panhandle. Franchise means I can walk up to anyone field side and ask them about you. When asked they should be able to tell me that they have heard about you and what about you caught their attention.

Moving now to the Meridian army, what big plans do you have for your time at the helm?

The short answer is that I want to craft



Photo Credit: Baroness Arnóra Karlsdóttir

the army into a formidable unit that will be a fully functioning army by itself. No more being seen as a speed bump at a war.

What is the organization structure for the army?

Right now we have myself, my XO, the Sergeant Major, 3 commanders across the whole kingdom and then household/unit leaders.

Who should the grunts (like me) talk to about joining the fight for our glorious kingdom?

Honestly, anyone in the army. They can either direct you to someone with more information or bring you with them to battle.

Gulf Wars is quickly approaching. What advice do you have for fighters attending their first Gulf?

Please drink water, take care of yourself and watch out for injuries. If you need to take a break do it. We are all human. Also and most importantly....Have fun.

Do you have any parting advice for the grunts of the great Meridian army?

I could not do any of this without the armies trust. Thank you all. My biggest thing going forward is this....We are in this together. Have fun and bring honor to the kingdom.



Photo Credit: Lady Melodie de Ryes, Ansteorra



Guilding the Lily?

So what are the Meridian Guilds, and what are those Guilds doing these days?

The Kingdom of Meridies presently has a number of active Guilds, including the: Scribal Guild, Courtesans Guild, Saltare (Dance Guild), Arachne's Web (Lace Guild), Gaming Guild, Iron Bow Guild, Painters Guild, Herbal Guild, Grand Chefs Guild, Minstrels Guild, Coursing Guild (Greyhounds), Equestrian Guild, and Foresters Guild — and possibly others.

Arachne's Web—Lace Guild

<http://facebook.com/groups/434953093257836/>

Coursing Guild

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/236065959926266/>

Courtesans Guild of Meridies

<https://courtesansofmeridies.wordpress.com/>

The Meridian Embroidery Guild

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/414381975319839>

Gaming Guild

https://www.facebook.com/groups/889784304857628/?ref=share_group_link

Grand Chefs of Meridies

<https://grandchefs.meridies.org/>

Herbal Guild of Meridies

<https://sites.google.com/site/scameridianherbalists/>

Ironbow Guild

<https://ironbow.meridies.org/>

Historic Martial Arts Guild

<https://hma.meridies.org/>

Meridian Moneyers

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/MeridianMoneyers/>

Minstrels Guild

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/meridianminstrelsguild>

Painters' Guild of Meridies

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/918601828202930/>

Royal Foresters of Meridies

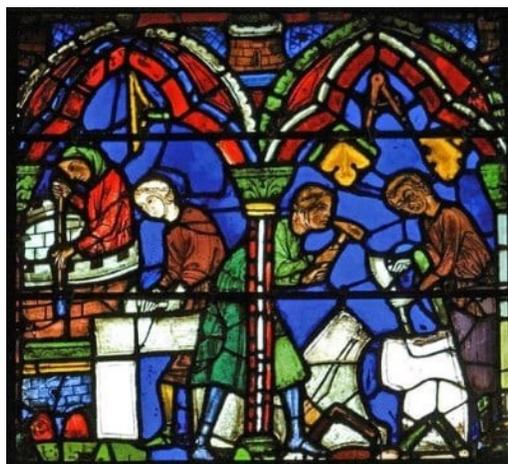
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MeridiesForesters/>

Saltare—Meridian Dance Guild

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/414381975319839>

Scribal Guild of Meridies

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/382341241966024//>



*Tradesmen Window
Chartres Cathedral 13th Century*

The Meridian Herbal Guild has recently been meeting fairly regularly on Tuesday nights in conjunction with the Tuesday Night Socials on Zoom, so if you have an interest in herbs, their cultivation and their uses, you might consider checking in on some of these and meeting some of the other members.

We will gladly mention meeting schedules for other guilds here also, on request!

Siege!!

By THLord Snorri Smedson, Kingdom Siege Marshal

SIEGE. This is written primarily for others who are not familiar with Siege. Well, let's begin with a short story.

Imagine that you are on the battlefield of Gulf Wars. There are over 2,000 fighters on the field, but unfortunately most of them are on the other side. The future appears grey and bleak. The sky before the storm rolls through. In the middle of the slight hill opposing, you see a group of greats. Crowns, as medieval gothic spires. Jewels and silver, creating a rainbow that blinds the eyes. Here lies, literally, the crown jewels of the enemy.

As you cast a jaundiced eye towards your side, you catch upon alone siege engine behind the lines. With a quick movement you approach and ask, "Who leads?" A short lady in white replies with enthusiasm, knowing to whom she speaks.

"It is I My Lord."

"Do you see that group standing by itself on the far slope?"

"Yes"

"Can you hit them?"

With a wary eye, the distance is measured. "Yes, actually any of them."

"When they say lay on, hit as many as you can."

"Yes my Lord."



LAY ON

With the qualities that only come from good practice, they let forth with a bolt every quarter of a minute. As smooth as the proverbial well-oiled machine.

After the first three bolts landed, the enemy quickly became aware that several of their spurs were now lightly grazing upon the damp morning grass. With great

haste, they recalled many of their best from the front lines to protect the crowns still standing. Thusly, a great overhead shield wall was constructed. The problem is that when a person is hit (anywhere) with a bolt, or their shield is hit, they are dead. Instead of protecting crowns and spurs, the foremost of their fighters were now assuming their newly allocated bovine positions.

With the removal of experienced heavies from the front line, the line became sinuous and writhed like a snake evading a deadly enemy. Eventually, our side prevailed. Because we knew how to use ALL of the fingers on a hand, including a prehensile thumb <G>.

The second battle was a bit different. They learned quickly. Before LAY ON, a great amount of gesticulation and yelling occurred. Fingers and fists wildly aiming in the direction of the siege engine on our side.

LAY ON

With a great swoop, 40 of the enemies finest went around the end of the battle line like a bunch of angry hornets. They surged directly towards the siege engine. A quick death awaited all who attended the engine. The remainder of the 40 then struck the back of our lines.

Consider, a Siege Engineer is just another fighter on the field, well sort of. When the enemy sends 40 of their best to knock out 2 individuals; those 2 individuals have made a footprint on the battle field much larger than their shadows. They have forged a steel lance and driven it cleanly through the enemy's leadership. To such an extent that Siege never again will be ignored by that enemy. Such are the fortunes of war.

Indeed, why would a person want to drive his/her way through several hundred of the enemy, when a simple over the top action will have the same effect? Reputations and stories abound from such actions. Throw another log on the fire, and please pass me another horn of mead <G>.

The previous stories are a conglomerate composed of several that I have been told over the years. Yet, in their own fashion they are real. I have forgotten the origins.

What is a Siege Engineer?

First of all anyone, properly trained, can become a Siege Engineer. On certain siege engines, size and strength are not important. If you want to be a part of the battles, but don't really relish the thought of being in the middle of a clock with all 12 of the marked hours acting as an arm swinging a stick at the center (YOU!), then Siege may be in your future.

A Siege Engineer can operate a ballista (giant crossbow), any of the varieties of trebuchet, or even build a replica of a period device.

Your biggest problem may be in how to store and transport the Engine. However, every engine requires 2-3 Engineers, so often there is an engine that cannot enter the battlefield due to lack of crew. Talk with the other Siege Engineers and find out the best place for you to fit on the battlefield.

Some individuals have taken it upon themselves to look at ancient documents and to build a replica of something that was actually in use during ancient times. Others, much prefer being in battle using an engine that is easier to use and care for.



There are places for both on the battlefield.

A short look at the rules.

Siege Engineers are lightly armored (but still within heavy regulations) and expect to be lightly whacked when killed. This usually is the case, but sometimes a heavy will give a killing blow that they would give to another heavy.

All Siege Engines are checked for proper and legal operation before every war.

All Siege Engineers are checked for proper gear and knowledge of their machine before every war.

Siege Engines are killed by touching the engine (NEVER HIT AN ENGINE WITH FORCE) and announcing, "This engine is dead." NOTE that not everyone knows that an engine can be killed. If it is killed, it must be drug back to resurrection point, just like any of our dead. Except this is much more difficult <G>.

Heavies and Marshals, please be aware of the engines around you. There are places that you can stand, and places you can walk near an engine, that will place you in a position that can cause you a lot of pain if the engine is operated. Safety is the primary objective of a Siege Marshal. This effort is helped by your situational awareness when near a Siege Engine.



THIS is why everyone on the battlefield should wear a gorget

AND THIS is why everyone on the battlefield should wear a cup.

Siege in our Kingdom isn't that popular. I certainly would like to see more Siege Engineers out there. The more Engineers we have, the bigger the opportunity to do Siege.

I hope that you have found this informative. If you have questions, please feel free to ask. I can be found at

siege@meridies.org or brigidsforge@yahoo.com



NOTE: The first picture you saw was of the siege engine at Middlealder Denmark. It is touted as the world's largest siege engine. It takes 4 men 20 minutes in a squirrel cage to crank it down into firing position. When we were there, my wife got to fire it. It threw a stone about 2' in diameter way out into the inlet. Then they told my wife that she had to retrieve it. Seeing the horrified look on the wife's face, they laughed and told her, "Just kidding."



Test Your Trivium

Mistress Christiana MacGrain



In a medieval university, the **trivium** was the lower division of the seven liberal arts, and comprised grammar, logic, and rhetoric (input, process and output).

The **quadrivium**, the upper division of the medieval education in the liberal arts, which comprised Arithmetic (number), Geometry (number in space), Music (number in time), and Astronomy (number in space and time). Educationally, the trivium and the quadrivium imparted to the student the seven liberal arts of Classical antiquity. Test your Trivium! What is your Medieval Education IQ?

Grammar

1 Orlando

Q: This term describes an action or a state of being

2 Orlandos

Q: The words 'and', 'or', and 'but' are concepts that show relationships between thoughts and connecting parts of a sentence. What are they called?

Logic

Explain the logical problem or *fallacy* with these statements:

5 Orlandos

Q: The Earth is flat. Everyone believes this to be so, which proves the flatness of the Earth.

10 Orlandos

Q: A comet appears in the sky and coincides with the start of a drought. The appearance of the comet is cited as the cause of the drought.

Rhetoric

Memorization

25 Orlandos

Untitled Rondeau - Anonymous Woman Poet (12th century)

I walk in loneliness through the greenwood
for I have none to go with me.

Since I have lost my friend by not being good
I walk in loneliness through the greenwood.
I'll send him word and make it understood
that I will be good company.

I walk in loneliness through the greenwood
for I have none to go with me.

St. Crispian's Day Speech - From *Henry V* (IV.iii)
Shakespeare

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers,
for he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England, now abed,
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not
here;
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

Geometry

100 Orlandos

Q: Euclid defined this as an infinite number of points next to each other, it can also be drawn straight between two points. What is this basis of geometry called?

200 Orlandos

Q: An object that has length, width and depth has how many dimensions?

Arithmetic

50 Orlandos

Q: Roman numerals were used in Europe throughout the Dark Ages until they were replaced with the Arabic numbering system that we still use today.

What number that did not exist in Roman Numerals was only recognized in the 13th century in Western Europe after exposure to the Arabic numeric system?

75 Orlandos

Q: This sequence is developed by starting with [0,1] and adding each number to

the last to produce the next: $[0 + 1 = 1, 1 + 1 = 2, 1 + 2 = 3, 2 + 3 = 5, 3 + 5 = 8, \text{etc.}]$.

Music

300 Orlandos

Q: Similar in structure to the psaltery and zither, this instrument was originally plucked, but in the 14th century with the introduction of metal strings, was now played struck with hammers

500 Orlandos

Q: A chant with a single melody line is called "plainsong". What term is used when a complimentary line accompanies the melody line? Three or more lines?

Astronomy

750 Orlandos

Q: The church-approved view of the heavens was geo-centric, with what heavenly body at the center?

1000 Orlandos

Q: What 16th century astronomer was accused of heresy and placed under house arrest for life for publishing his theory about a helio-centric (Sun-centered) Solar System?

Final Question

2000 Orlandos

Q: The outer planets make loops every year across the zodiac constellations as the earth passes them. Egyptian Astronomer Ptolemy explained that motion as 'epicycles': planets circling empty centers, which in turn circled the earth. What did Ptolemy call this motion?

Answer Key

Grammar

1 Orlando

A: a Verb

2 Orlandos

A: Conjunctions

Logic

5 Orlandos

A: Appeal to Belief: Arguing that something is

true because the majority of the population believes it to be true

10 Orlandos

A: *Post hoc, ergo propter hoc*- "it happened after, so it was caused by" - confusion of cause and effect.

Rhetoric

25 Orlandos

Memorization: Recite either poem from memory, have someone check you for accuracy

Geometry

100 Orlandos

A: a Line

200 Orlandos

A: 3D

Arithmetic

50 Orlandos

A: 0 (zero)

75 Orlandos

A: Fibonacci, whose real name was Leonardo of Pisa. This thirteenth-century Italian mathematician spent time as a young man with his father in North Africa, where he became acquainted with the Hindu-Arabic numerical system.

Music

300 Orlandos

A: Dulcimer

500 Orlandos

A: Harmony; Polyphony

Astronomy

750 Orlandos

A: The Earth

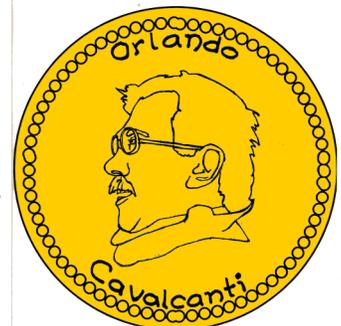
1000 Orlandos

A: Galileo Galilei

Final Question

2000 Orlandos

A: Retrograde



Period Door Knockers

For any artisan interested in trying to reproduce period accessories, the graphics below, used courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Open Access Policy [The MET Open Access Policy: As part of the Met's Open Access policy, you can freely copy, modify and distribute this image, even for commercial purposes], show some interesting period Door Knockers, from 15th and 16th Century Europe.

Most appear to have been fashioned from iron, and animal motifs appear to have been very common.



European 15th-16th
Century



German 15th
Century



Possibly French—Early
16th Century



Spanish 15th-16th
Century



European 15th-16th
Century



European 15th-16th
Century

Renaissance Village Classes (AT GULF WARS)

Monday

- 9-4pm Tudor Beer for Known World Party
Cooking Pavilion
- 10:30-12pm Known World Choir Practice
Music Salon
- 11am-12pm Period Herbal Sources
Apothecary Pavilion
- 12pm-1pm The Four Humors & the Medieval Plate
Apothecary Pavilion
- 1pm-2 Test Your Temperament
Apothecary Pavilion
- 1pm-3 Fingerloop Braiding for Beginners
Last Bastion Hall] [''''''
- 2-4 The Caffeine Addicts Workshop
Apothecary Pavilion

Tuesday

- 9am-12pm Bread Making Demo
Cooking Pavilion
- 9am-5pm Moneying Day Demo
Apothecary Pavilion
- 10:30-12pm Known World Choir Practice
Music Salon
- 1pm-2 16th c Consort Polyphony Instrument
Ensemble - Performing Arts Tent
- 1pm-3pm Herbs as Medicine
Cooking Pavilion
- 3pm-4pm Leavening Agents
Cooking Pavilion
- 4pm-5pm Milling through the Ages
Cooking Pavilion

Wednesday

- 10am-11 Intro to Herbs
Apothecary Pavilion
- 10:30-12pm Known World Choir Practice
Music Salon
- 12pm-1pm Soporifics
Apothecary Pavilion
- 12pm-1pm Women's Self Defense

- Outside of Main Pavilion
- 11am-1pm Intro to Bobbin Lace
Fine Arts Area
- 1pm-3 Fingerloop braiding for Beginners
Last Bastion Hall
- 1pm-2pm Herb & Flower Drying Station
Apothecary Pavilion
- 1-4pm Mead Making
Cooking Pavilion

Thursday

- 9am-10 Late Period Salads
Cooking Pavilion
- 9am-12pm 16th Century Pasta
Cooking Pavilion
- 10am-11am Origins of Herbs
Apothecary Pavilio
- 10:30-12pm Known World Choir Practice
Music Salon
- 11pm-12pm Harvesting Herbs
Apothecary Pavilion
- 12pm-1 Test Your Temperament
Apothecary Pavilion
- 12pm-1pm Intro to Acting for Adults
Performing Arts Pavilion
- 12pm-2pm Eat the Four Humors
Cooking Pavilion
- 1pm-2 Syrian Handwashing Powders
Apothecary Pavilion
- 2pm-4 Fingerloop Braiding Part 2
Last Bastion Hall
- 2pm-3pm Shakespeares Flowers
Apothecary Pavilion
- 2pm-3 Turkish Kahave
Cooking Pavilion
- 2pm-3 Irish Ceilidh Music
- 3-4pm Cacahuatl - Food of the Gods
Cooking Pavilion
- 3-4pm The 9 Herbs of Odin
Apothecary Pavilion

Renaissance Village Classes (AT GULF WARS)

Friday

9am-12pm 16th Century Pastry
Cooking Pavilion

10:30-12pm Known World Choir Practice
Music Salon

11am-12pm Herbs of the Four Humors
Apothecary Pavilion

12pm-1pm Intro to Commedia Dell Arte
Performing Arts Pavilion

12pm-1pm A Walking Identification of Useful Plants
Apothecary Pavilion

1pm-2 Origins of Herbs
Apothecary Pavilion

2pm-3 Harvesting Herbs
Apothecary Pavilion

Also at Gulf Wars (for our Valiant Youth Fighters)

Tournament of Dragons – Monday March 11th – 1-3pm – At the Youth Tournament Field

Second Annual Youth Rose Tournament - Tuesday March 12th

Youth Combat Fort Battle - Wednesday March 13th - 10:00 A.M. - At the Fort - Come fight with the Knights (All Knights will need youth grade weapons)

Shadow Legion's 3v3 Youth Tourney - Wednesday March 13th - 1:00 P.M. - In front of the Shadow Legion Pavilion

First Annual Cookie Tournament - Friday March 15th - 10:00 A.M. - Champion's Field (in front of the Trimar's Kingdom Pavilion) - Open to all Youth and Heavy Fighters willing to tag-team

First Annual Youth Combat Torch Light Tournament - Friday March 15th - 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.- Outside the Fort Area (look for the torches) - Open to all youth Combatants

Ansteorran Jumbo Shrimp Tournament - A Team-based tournament for both Youth and Adult armored Combatants - Place and Time TBA

Youth Combat Authorization is *REQUIRED* for GW32.

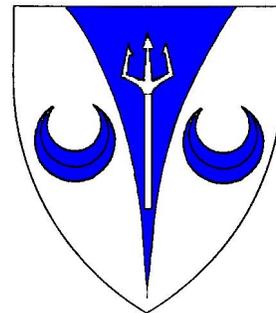
No Authorizations will be performed at the war.

Poetry Corner

This is a story of the birth and the life of the SCA by Sir Colin MacLear. The author is not Meridian, but as the Society New Year approaches the subject is Known World Wide:

Once upon a time, many years ago in a corner of the Mists then known only as Berkeley
A young girl had a notion to bring to life the last tournament
An idea of chivalry and romance made real
And as there was no one to tell her she couldn't
None to scold her for making the attempt.
No one to spread rumors about her secret dark reasons
Or hidden sordid past (and no one to listen to them)
She did. And it was good. And it was found good by a great many people
And so we came to be.
To live and fight, do art, science, service
And many, many other past-times known by our forebears.
We made Kings and Queens, Baronies and Shires, Cantons and Colleges
Each group and each person dedicated, more or less, to creating this beautiful thing
That had started as a young girl's notion.
And time passed on. We gave and received recognitions.
We grew ranks to divide us from ourselves.
We grew numerous. We grew older.
And now there are those who will say what can and cannot be.
Those who will speak sharply to the young and the new
There are those who have grown petty in their power,
Or having none, found the ill wrought power hidden in gossip and rumor
And take that POWER, in this beautiful thing that started as a young girl's notion,
And wield it simply that they may feel more worthy,
And not in true service of this less and less beautiful thing
For with each petty act
Each unkind word
Each hurtful rumor
This beautiful thing, that started as a young girl's notion,
Dies a little.
You.
Each and every one of you who read my words.
And each of your household with whom you may choose to share them.
You are all part of that (still living) beautiful thing
And you are better than that.
And you can be better than you are.

Sir Colin MacLear
Second Bard of the West



And in response:

“And with each kindness that we do, the dream grows stronger and brighter”...Magus von Lubeck



Letters of Recommendation: A Brief Tutorial

If you've ever caught yourself wondering why some friend, or kinsperson, or other impressive individual you know hasn't been called up in Court for a long time, or hasn't been presented with a particular Award or Order you think they well deserve, ask yourself "Have I written a letter to The Crown recommending them?"

If you haven't. here's how.

You can hand-write a letter the old fashioned way, and send it to the Crown, but the Meridies On-Line Recommendation Form can easily be found at <https://forms.meridies.org/view.php?id=13562>

and is simple to fill out and to submit, so please consider using it to call the talents, and services, and efforts of others to the attention of The Crown.

What do you need (ideally) to know?

- 1) Your own SCA Name (meaning the one you have registered, or most commonly go by).
- 2) Your own Mundane Name (hopefully self-explanatory).

- 3) The SCA Name of the recipient (meaning the person you are recommending).
- 4) The Mundane name of the recipient.
- 5) The Recipient's Persona/Culture (for example 13th Century Italian, or 10th Century Norse, or simply Russian).
- 6) The recipient's Heraldry (you can find this information by entering their SCA name, in full (or in part if you are uncertain of the spelling), at https://oanda.sca.org/oanda_np.cgi to call up the registered form of their name, if any, and the blazon for their armory, if any).
- 7) Is the recipient an Adult or a Child?
- 8) The name of the Award you are recommending them to receive (this has a convenient drop-down menu).
- 9) Why you are recommending the person, meaning what have they done, in as much detail as possible, to make you believe they deserve this award.
- 10) The events your candidate may be attending in the near future.

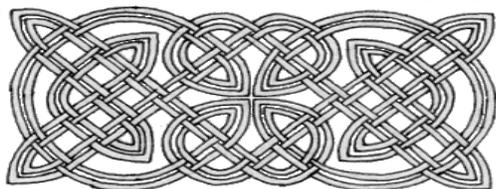
That's basically it — aside from hitting SUBMIT.

If you have questions as to whether or

not your candidate already has an award, you can try searching for them by SCA name in the Kingdom Order of Precedence at <https://op.meridies.org/>. This is not fool-proof, and sometimes a person may be listed under several names, or several spellings of the same name, but it certainly could give you a good idea — and remember that there are some awards that can be awarded/received multiple times, though these are generally given for being chosen (for example) as the Queen's Yeoman or Kingdom Bard, or for providing personal service, as with the Sovereign's Pleasure. With most, it's only once.

If you have questions about the requirements for a particular award, try looking through the Meridian Awards shown at <https://meridies.org/home/recognition/> to see what awards are available, and what the qualifications are. These are pretty clearly spelled out in that source, and therefore should help you to know whether or not a particular award is one your candidate merits.

Remember that everyone likes to know that they are valued and appreciated, and that you can enhance their SCA experience by helping to see that this happens, when it is deserved. Awards are not cookies or merit badges, but they are valued accolades, and their worth as such should not be overlooked.



A Newcomers Note:

It's Spring again, and as the weather warms we finally can cast aside our heavy cloaks and even go Greek, so be sure to take advantage of the nice weather by getting out to events and getting to know as many people as possible!

The SCA is generally a very friendly group, and people love to talk about their Arts & Sciences, their Fighting adventures and their Service experiences. If asked we will often talk your ear off about the things we enjoy, so if you wish to learn something please do ask someone.

It actually works. And Good Eventing!





PEERAGE Elevations in the Winter

Please join with us to congratulate the following nobles who, by virtue of their achievements, were elevated unto the Peerages during the past Season (and three earlier elevations that we missed):



Lorenzo Petrucci—to Pelican (Feb 3rd at Midwinter Arts & Sciences)

Margavati Bai—to Pelican (Feb 3rd at Midwinter Arts & Sciences)

Ximon Martillo de Cordoba—The Master of Defense (February 24th at Meridian Challenge of Arms)

Nikoslav Mikolaevich to Pelican (Feb 24th at MCA)



Planned Future Elevations

Dalla Dyrfinna—to Pelican at Gulf Wars at Grand Court on March 14th)

Barthelemy Illyria—to Pelican (at Gulf Wars)

Loegaire Mac Lochlainn (Loric) - to Pelican (at Gulf Wars)

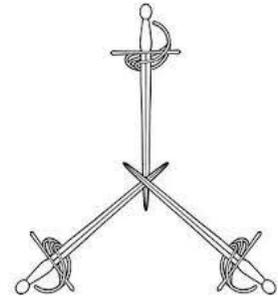
Catina Cooper - to Pelican (at Gulf Wars)

Kurt Bogner—To Pelican (April 6th At Spring Coronation)

Sarah Duckworth— To Pelican (April 6th At Spring Coronation)

Owen Seys (to Knight (April 6th at Spring Coronation)

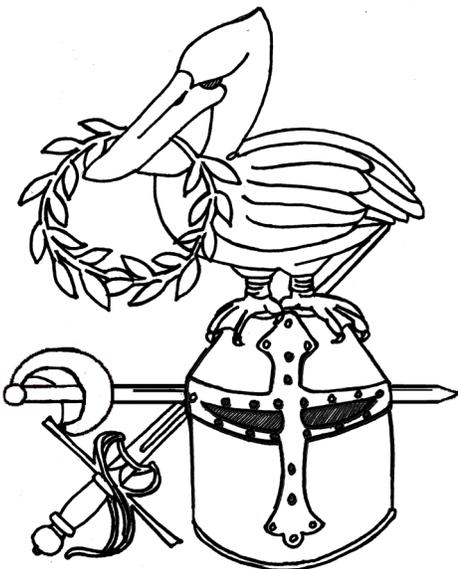
David Duckworth—To Pelican (April 13th At Fool's War)



Additional Announced Writs:

Stefano Roggio—to Master of Defense (Date & Event TBA)

Elijah Cameron of Black Isle—To Master of Defense (Date & Event TBA)



Great effort is made to keep up with all Peerage elevations in our Kingdom, but if we somehow have missed mentioning any Peerage elevations and/or dates in the section above — or if we have missed notifying of any writs issued, and/or any dates set for future elevations — please feel free to notify the Editor at seasons@meridies.org so that these can be mentioned in the Summer Issue, due out at the beginning of June A.S. LVIX.

Spring in the Garden

Information gathered by Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli

Spring is the time of new growth, when perennials sprout and new plants can be started from seeds, cuttings, or transplants. So, what do we need to do to help our gardens thrive?

In spring my rosemary, sage, mint, blueberries, figs, blackberries, marjoram, chives, dill, and fennel all begin growing again, but even though I live in the south I have to replant Basil, Tomatoes, Peppers, and most other vegetables and fruits (like Melons) every spring. In Period these annual plants would mostly have been grown from seeds from the previous year's crops, but these days some fruits and vegetables seem to be engineered to have infertile seeds, and I've had notoriously bad luck with growing anything lately from seeds. As a result, and because I don't have a greenhouse, I tend to buy live plants, just to be sure.

If you plan to plant seeds or to purchase live plants, it might be advantageous to know your agricultural zone before you start digging in your garden, just to make sure that it's the appropriate time for planting. If the ground is still frozen or there's still a threat of frost, you might well be wasting your time otherwise, and none of us want to do that.

Spring is the time to purchase and start any seeds. Different plants have different germination requirements, and while some really do need to be started indoors, others will need to be directly seeded, You'll be better off if you know what seeds need to be planted where, and when — and obviously that's one of my shortcomings.

I've been advised to clean out garden beds to remove and weeds early, before they can go to seed and spread — potentially smothering other, desired plants. Plus (and I haven't always known to do this) this is a good time to remove dead material from plants like hydrangeas, ornamental grasses, woody perennials, and others. This both removes the unattractive dead material and encourages growth. HOWEVER, while it was once common practice to tidy up herb garden beds in the fall, many people now hold off on this simply because various pollinators and beneficial insects use dead leaves and plant materials for winter habitats. Insects like bees, butterflies, and predatory beetles depend upon these materials to overwinter, or as a place for their eggs or pupae, so it's often considered best to wait until temperatures are consistently above 50°F to do your cleanup in order to help support garden helpers such as these.

There's a good chance the soil in your beds became compacted during the Winter, so it's a good idea to till it or turn it over a bit to break it up. Some sources then suggest conducting a soil test to ensure the pH level is right for your plants, but I'll admit that until I did some searching on-line (and found and ordered a meter that checked moisture, light



WOODCUT FROM THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GRETE HERBALL" (1520)

levels and pH) I was not entirely sure how to do this. Supposedly applying any fertilizers and soil additives, compost mix, or whatever, should be done based upon the test results — so I plan to try that this year. Better late than never, right?

Mulch. It seems to be better, as a general rule, to do this in Winter, but if you didn't do that then Spring is also a good time. Mulch helps to hold in moisture and to help in preventing weeds, but when selecting a mulch for your garden, sources tell me to look for ground mulch, because it's better nutrient-wise and will break down, contributing to the soil. Some mulches, like pine straw, do not break down well, and some — like some of the newer decorative ground covers, don't break down at all. For most gardens, adding 2 to 3 inches of finished compost is recommended as a good idea, once you have everything tidied up. This should allow you to get any new annuals off to a good start, and give perennials some essential nutrients for good spring growth. It's essential to know your plants though. Some herbs, especially those from the Mediterranean, like lavender (remember, I said I'd never had much luck with that) and rosemary, don't generally need or enjoy rich soil. Around these types of plants, you may only need to add compost every couple of years, and this year I'm planning to try Lavender again in a less fertile area — just to see if that improves my luck. In any case, compost should be spread on top and gently raked in, being careful not to disturb the roots of perennials, or to cover their crowns with the compost.

I'm told it's preferable to prune some plants before the advent of Spring, especially if you'd prefer to limit a variety's seed dispersal. Pruning also serves a number of other purposes. It can encourage fruiting and flowering, control the size of the plants, and remove any damaged, dead, or diseased material. If a shrub is one that flowers in the Summer, it can benefit from being pruned when it's dormant (like in Winter) since the buds tend to develop mostly on new growth — but, on the other hand, if what you have is a Spring-flowering shrub it's apparently better to wait until Spring since you might otherwise reduce or eliminate their floral display.

Spring is also a good time for dividing any stunted or crowded perennials by digging them up, splitting up the root ball, and replanting separately — or maybe by gifting friends with divided portions.



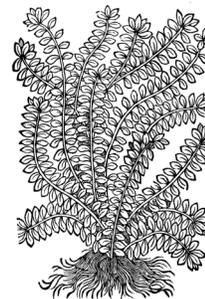
081
Summer savory



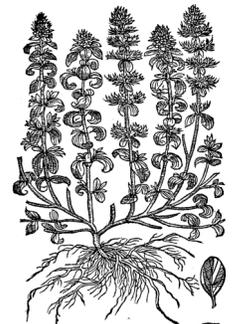
106
English wild marjoram



092
Great chickweed



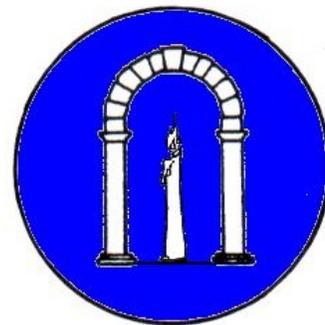
094
River chickweed



080
Great, or broad-leaved thyme

From the Desk of the RMOAS

From Duchess Thorkatla Herjolfsdottir
News from Midwinter Arts and Sciences 2024!



I am delighted to confirm that, after personally having been contacted by Her Majesty Ysmay, the following artists and their entries will represent Meridies at the Gulf Wars A&S Champions:

THL Corwin Giollapadhreag-Perry: A Look Into Period Pear Cider (brewing & vinting)

Sir Emrys of Gwyntarian-A Carved 15th Century Norman Hearth Stool (static)

Baron Erik Martel-Recreation of the Lough Gur shield

Baroness Rhonwyn Alyna Nic an Chrosain-Scribe That! (static)

Captain Rodrigo Luis de Albuquerque-"Ready at all Times in all Places: A Multi-source Analysis of the Use of Sword and Cloak" (research paper)

The alternates are:

THL Eachna of Clonmakate-"Death by Embroidery" (research paper)

Master Mathias Blackett-Shakespearean Monologue in Original Pronunciation (performance)

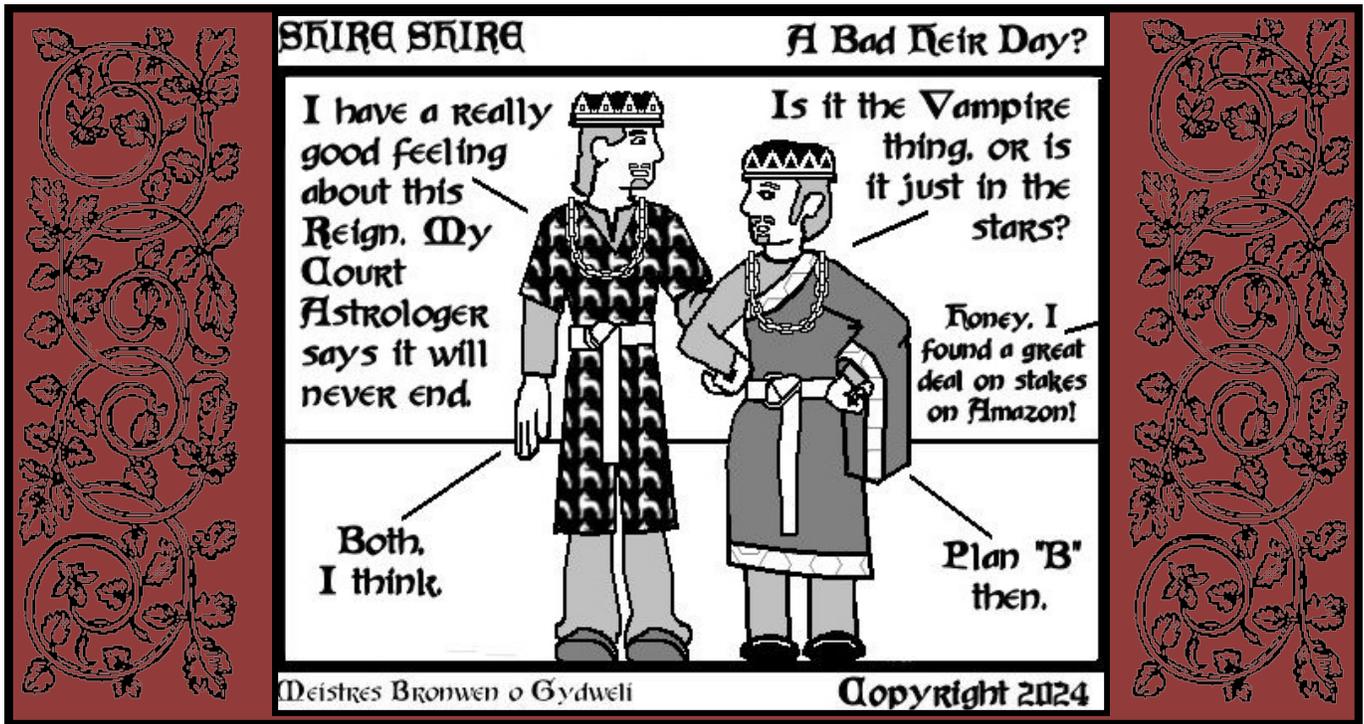


Articles and Cover Art Needed

For all those aspiring, or established, Artists and Authors of Meridies, SEASONS is always on the prowl for Articles and Cover Art, and we would very much like to showcase Original work done by our own talented Meridian Artists rather than using photographs or out-of-Kingdom sources.

If you have period-style, or period-themed, or SCA-themed drawings in your portfolios — or still waiting impatiently to be drawn — please consider submitting them for use as Cover (or Filler) Art for use in this supplement.

An Artist Release Form will be required — the link to which can be found at <https://meridies.org/home/royaltyandofficers/chronicler/>



Acknowledgements and Thanks

Thank you to Baroness Danielle of South Reach for this issue's Cover Art, to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** whose Open Access Policy allowed us freely to reprint images of objects from their Open Access Collection to this periodical, to **Wikipedia Commons**, to **Mistress Christiana MacGrain** for her Quiz "Test Your Trivium?", to **THLord Snorri Smedson** for his Article "Siege", to **Sir Colin MacLear** (West Kingdom) for allowing us to share his verse as the Society New Year approaches, to **Coun- tress Gwenhwyfar Mwynn**, **Baroness Kathryn Spencer**, **Baroness Arnora Karlsdóttir**, and **Lady Melodie de Ryes (Ansteorra)** for their photographic work, to **Sir Kikuchi Kazu- mitsu** for agreeing to be interviewed for "Gentle to Gentle", and to **Duchess Thorkatla Herjoldsdottir** for allowing the reprint of her A&S Letter. The Orlando Coinage was de- signed on impulse by the Editor (Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli) and approved by Duc Orlan- do Cavalcanti.



Special thanks also to the Kingdom Chronicler **Lady Albaruna Ana de Granada** for her patience and her assistance, and to my Deputies **Maestra Dianora Lizabetta di Vittori di Cellini**, and **Lord Leopold Guotman**, and to Honorary Deputies **Mistress Christiana MacGrain** and **Sir Jean-Claude von Alderstaat** for their ongoing assistance and for their contributions to this issue, to wit: "Gentle to Gentle" (Leopold) and "Test Your Trivi- um" (Christiana).

In Gratitude..... **BRONWEN**



Submissions for SEASONS (and we definitely invite them) should be sent directly to the Editor at seasons@meridies.org, and accompanied by any graphics (in .JPG format) and by an appropriate Creative Release Form. These forms can be found on-line at <https://meridies.org/home/resources-and-reports/> under “Chronicler Resources”. The deadline for submissions to the Summer Seasons will be June 1st.

Disclaimer

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- D) Publishers must obtain the expressed written permission of the original author (or artist).*

Articles submitted to SEASONS should be short to moderate length, and deal with topics of interest to the populace. Artwork should, ideally, be at least 300 dpi and deal with period or SCA subject matter, or be presented in a period style. The deadlines for submissions are (Spring) March 1st, (Summer) June 1st, (Autumn) September 1st, and (Winter) December 1st.