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Captain of the Baronial Levy: Lord Dietric von Hessen, dvonhessen@hotmail.com

Captain of the Baronial Guard: Lord Nicola Buscelli

Captain of the Baronial Missileers: Lord Tiama Cormac an Faldubh, lrdcormac@charter.net

Captain of the Baronial Cavalry: Sir Randal Sinclair Hawkins
A&S Champion: Lady Etaoin of Sutherland, claybaby2@aol.com



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Baronial Regnum

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Greetings unto the fair populace of Nottinghill Coill!

First of all, there will be NO practice this weekend. Their Excellencies will be travelling up to our neighbors in Hawkwood in support of their one year anniversary as a barony and are encouraging as many Nottinghill Coill residents as can make the journey to join them. Congratulations to our neighbors of Hawkwood on their first anniversary! Baronial practice will resume next month, July 16th.

A wonderful time was had by all, I believe, who attended last month's Feast of St. Catherine. I wish to say thank you to Their Excellencies for bestowing my lord and I the Barons Award of Excellence. It is my honor to serve this wonderful Barony in any way that I can. And congratulations also go to our Baronial Chirurgeon, The Honorable Lady Morweena Trevehan for her induction into the Order of the Gordian Knot!

I am pleased to note we have submissions from two of our cantons on happenings in their areas. Thank you so much!

As always, I am in service to The Dream.

Etaoin Cambell

Summer greetings,

Thank you to those that attended KnotWorks on June 11th. The banners are beautiful and we look forward to displaying them for the kingdom. For more information, please check out the website at <http://schc.sc.edu/william/knotworks/>.

Once again we would like to ask that if your canton is even contemplating an event that you let us know the tentative date as soon as possible. We plan our schedule months in advance.

Yours in service,
William and Julian
Baron and Baroness

June 17-19: Midsummer Twilight Tourney, Leasburg, NC
Sept 3: Coronation, Location TBA
Sept 23-25: Celtic Cattle Raids, Apex, NC
Oct 7-9: Kingdom Crusades (Tentative)
Oct 21-23: Nottinghill Coill Baronial Birthday, Aiken, SC
Nov 4-6: Fall Crown Tournament, SC

The Chirurgeon's Corner

Summer is icumen in. Lhude sing cuccu!

And let us loudly sing the praises of pleasant weather that makes our camping at events (in cabins or in pavilions) all the more enjoyable. So how else can we foster enjoyable (and safe) camping experiences within the SCA? Here are some suggestions that apply both to those day-tripping in a pavilion near the list field and to those staying overnight.

Before you leave, check the weather report. Pack appropriately. When you arrive at the site, watch the skies for pending changes. In inclement weather, find shelter until the worst of it passes. Stay dry: wet clothes contribute to heat loss (hypothermia can be a concern even in the summer). And keep your sleeping bags and important gear dry at all times.

Arrive as early as you can. Plan your trip to arrive at the event site with enough daylight to check over the entire site and to set up camp. Hunting in the dark for misplaced pavilion stakes likely will make you resort to some very creative Middle English at the top of your lungs, a fact not likely to endear you to those camped nearby.

Avoid areas of natural hazards. Check the contour of the land and look for potential trouble due to rain. Areas that could flood or become extremely muddy can pose a problem. Inspect the site thoroughly. Look for a level site with enough room to spread out all of your gear. A site that has trees or shrubs on the side of prevailing winds will help block strong, unexpected gusts.

Check for other potential hazards. Check the site thoroughly for glass, sharp objects, branches, large ant beds, poison ivy, bees, and hazardous terrain.

Erect your pavilion in a safe spot. Make sure your tent is made of a flame-retardant fabric, and set it up far enough away from the fire pits. Keep insects out of your pavilion by closing the entrance quickly when entering or leaving.

Build fires in a safe area. If the event site allows them, your open fires and fuel-burning appliances must be far enough from the pavilion to prevent ignition from sparks, flames, and heat. Never use a flame or any other heating device for illumination in a tent. Use a flashlight or other battery-powered light instead.

Make sure your fires (personal or bardic) are always tended. Be sure you have an area for a fire that cannot spread laterally or vertically. A grill, stone surface, or ample area of cleared earth is ideal. Keep a bucket of water or sand immediately at hand for extinguishing uncontrolled flareups or dousing clothing that may have caught fire. When putting the fire out, drown it with water, making sure all embers, coals and sticks are wet. Embers buried deep within the pile have a tendency to reignite later.

Dispose of trash properly. Improperly disposed trash is both an environmental/health hazard and it attracts animals (the 4-legged kind.) This can pose a danger to you and to those who use the site in the future.

Beware when encountering wildlife. Keep your campsite clean, and do not leave food, garbage, coolers, or cooking equipment and utensils out in the open. Animals are potentially dangerous and unpredictable - never feed or approach them. Use a flashlight if you're roaming about at night: many animals feed at night and the use of a flashlight may warn them away.

Watch out for bugs. Hornets, bees, wasps, and yellow jackets are a problem at many event sites. Avoid attracting stinging insects by wearing light-colored clothing and avoiding perfumes or colognes. Should such an insect approach, do not wave wildly and swat blindly. Instead use a gentle pushing or brushing motion to deter them.

Beware of poisonous plants. Familiarize yourself (and your children!) with any dangerous plants that are common to the area. If you come into contact with a poisonous plant, immediately rinse the affected area with water and apply a soothing lotion such as calamine to the affected area. Practice good hygiene. Make sure you wash your hands, particularly after using the toilet and before handling food, to prevent everyone in your group from becoming ill.

When you return home, clean everything well and properly. This will help keep you enjoying SCA events for many months to come.

Yours in service to the continued good health of The Dream,
Morwenna Trevehan

A Short History on Codes and Ciphers Part III

Roger Bacon, an English monk of the 13th century, was the only writer during the middle ages to actually describe cryptography instead of just using it. In his work *Secret Works of Art and the Nullity of Magic*, Bacon wrote: "A man is crazy who writes a secret in any other way than one which will conceal it from the vulgar". He goes on to write about seven consciously ambiguous methods including using consonants only, letters from exotic alphabets, invented characters, shorthand, figurate expressions, and "magic figures and spells". Why a monk would suggest using magic figures and spells to protect writings is anyone's guess.

Born in the mid-14th century, Geoffrey Chaucer is most famous for his *Canterbury Tales*. This English customs official and amateur astronomer also dabbled in cryptography. In the companion piece to his *Treatise on the Astrolabe*, called *The Equatorie of the Planetis*, he wrote six short passages in a cipher. One of the table's states: "This table servith for to entre in to the table of equacion of the none on either side". The encipherments basically tell you to use these formulas and the answer will be correct. In modern terms, never mind how a combustion engine works, put the key in the ignition, turn it and the car will start.

Began in 1392 and completed in 1412, the *Subh al-a'sha*, was a fourteen volume encyclopedic survey of all important branches of knowledge set forth for the secretary class. This body of work, composed by the Egyptian Shihab al-Din abu 'l-Abbas Ahmad ben Ali ben Ahmad Abd Allah al-Qalqashandi, included two sections on cryptography called: "Concerning the concealment of secret messages within letters" and "On the technical procedures used in correspondence by the secretaries in eastern and western lands and in the Egyptian territories, ranging over the whole period from the appearance of Islam up to our own time". His work not only included cryptography, but also the making and use of invisible inks.

From the relatively simple monoalphabetic systems used there came the idea that if one cipher alphabet was good, more would be better. The first to publish a system of

polyalphabetic substitution was Leon Battista Alberti. Alberti, was one of the few people who could contend with da Vinci as a universal man of the Renaissance. In an essay (written in 1466 or 1467), in which he put in print the west's first system of solving ciphers, he included a section on ways to prevent ciphers from being solved. He included the usual methods of encipherment and capped it off with a system of his own devising, the cipher disk. For the older readers you may remember this as the Captain Midnight decoder ring. For those of the middle ageish, the *Little Orphan Annie* from the movie "A Christmas Story". Unlike the modern cipher disks, which are composed of only letters, his also included numbers. From the use of these numbers, he created the first enciphered code. With these achievements Alberti aided the West in finally surpassing the East in cryptography sophistication.

In 1518, another man of the cloth (an Abbot no less) who was often claimed to have ties with the occult, Johannes Trithemius wrote the first printed books on cryptography. He used a version of the cipher disk, but instead of using two wheels and turning them to achieve the cipher, you could write the ciphers in columns and reach the same degree of secrecy. To achieve the columns needed one would write out the normal alphabet being used. The below this line, write the alphabet again, this time shifting the alphabet one to the left. So the second line would start with B and end with A, the third would start with C and end with B, etc. until all of the letters started the alphabet once.

A Milanese physician and mathematician Girolamo Cardano, had apparently decided his life's goal was to be remembered, for good or ill. During his lifetime, he published 131 books and left behind manuscripts totaling 111. Cardano let nothing escape his writings which included: mathematics, astronomy, astrology, physics, chess, the immortality of the soul, consolation, marvelous cures, dialectics, death, Nero, gems and colors, the zeal of Socrates, poisons, air, water, nourishment, dreams, urine, teeth, music, morals, wisdom and gambling. He was a pioneer in several fields, in gambling, he included his investigation of probability, he discussed teaching the blind to read and write by touch. His writing was fun and his illustrations were bizarre, two things which held the public's attention (which reminds me... WAKE UP!). He also pioneered the autokey which did not receive it's own book but in 1550 was published in the book *De Subtilitate*, in this cipher, you use your plaintext (remember that word?) as your cipher text. The second type of cipher is the grille method. In the grille method, several holes the height of the lines are cut into stiff material (metal, parchment, or modernly cardboard). The grille is placed on your writing material and the secret message is written in the spaces provided by the device. Remove the grille and write an innocent message including the hidden message in the text. As proof of the way time changes ideals, during the Middle Ages, Cardano's grille method was preferred over the autokey. Whereas

now, the autokey is a more acceptable form of cipher. As an interesting side note, the infamous Cardinal Richelieu was very fond of the grille method. So much so, that Richelieu was mistakenly given credit for inventing it.

Giovan Battista Belaso (I hope those interested in Italian or Middle-Eastern personas are taking notes on names...) envisioned the use of a passkey to encipher writings. In his booklet *La cifra del. Sig. Giovan Battista Belaso* (written 1553) he explained that using a simple phrase over and over, written above the plaintext, you use the combination of letters with a series of columns of alphabets to create the resulting ciphered message. The two correspondents would both have the passkey memorized, so it would not fall into the hands of those who should mind their own business.

Giovanni Battista Porta seems the most humorous of the great writers of the times. At the age of 28 in 1563, he published the book *De Furtivis Literarum Notis*. This book, noted for its charm and ability to instruct is the most rounded of books on the subject at the time. It included ancient ciphers, modern (at the time) ciphers, cryptanalysis, and a list of linguistic personalities of several languages to aid in deciphering letters from foreign lands or diplomats.

Traicte de Chiffres written by Blaise de Vigenere in 1585, printed in 1586 and was reprinted the next year was 600 pages of odd topics. It included the first European representation of Japanese ideograms, ran amuck through alchemy, licit and illicit magic, recipes for making gold (I'm ordering this recipe), among other topics. It is remarkable for its variety of ciphers: concealing a message in a picture of stars, using lines of poetry for passkeys, as well as the date of the dispatch. He used the Cardano method, but also improved upon it by using a priming key. One letter known to each of the correspondents would refer to a passkey. For instance, the letter A (which would be the first letter on the page) could be known to refer to the first line of the poem "My Heart Is Captive to Gray, Laughing Eyes". Vigenere, also devised a second autokey in which after the priming key is given, the cipher text itself serves as the key. There would be no remembering the key involved, since it is given in plain sight.

Thus concludes the significant strides this science has taken in history, well, at least as far as the period we cover in the SCA. I thank you for your patience, in both waiting for the final piece and in reading it. If anyone is interested in learning more on this subject or of the people involved, please feel free to contact me. My contact information will be included below. I hope you have enjoyed yourself reading this, as I have in writing it.

Sincerely,

Lucien de La Rochelle

Lucien de La Rochelle, of 16th century France, is an apprentice Navigator on board the La Dauphin, a French naval Scientific/Exploratory vessel Captained by Giovanni Verrazano of Italy. He enjoys riddles, puns, music, fencing: current fashion and making certain that his King isn't double-crossed by said Italian Captain.

Jim Looper is a happy-go-lucky husband and father who works as an electrical/electronics technician for Advanced Technology Services. His hobbies include playing with his son, keeping himself out of trouble with his wife, riddles, puns, crosswords, cryptograms, woodworking and metalworking.

Bibliography:

Kahn, David: *The Codebreakers*, Machmillan, 1968

National Security Agency, www.nsa.org

Burton, R. J. PhD: *University of South Carolina History Department*, interview
Jameson, Anthony: *The Secret Writings*, Hyperion, 1989

Contact:

Lucien de La Rochelle

jimlooper@greenwood.net

News from the Canton of St. Georges:

Congratulations go to Lady Alexandra Scott de Northumberland and Lord Jamys Hamlin for having their devices registered with Laurel!

News from the Canton of Ritterwald:

Fighter Practice the second Sunday of every month Start time 2:00 PM
Location Torsgard

The Practice will include Heavy Weapons, Rapier and Thrown Weapons, in addition to Archery. All fighters are welcome. A workshop will be held for all those not interested in any of the practices. A pot luck meal is planned at mid-afternoon.

Please call Lord Tor or Lady Katiana to see what kinds of foods need to be brought. (803-266-2162)

Meetings last Sunday of month , meetings rotate as far as place for further information contact Lord Einikr or Lady Nikolina at 803-793-3598.

We would like to see anyone who is interested come to our meetings and fighter practices, all are welcome.

Cavalry Practice, IN GARB!

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Repeat: This event repeats on the third Sunday of every month.

Location:

\$5.00 per person for location rental

Practice will include archery, heavy weapons, rapier and thrown weapons, should those fighters wish to attend. There will be a workshop for all those not either riding or fighting, where we will work on things for the Cavalry. There will be a pot luck luncheon between 12 noon and 1:30 pm. Please call Baroness Beatrice who will organize the foods to be shared.

Happenings Around the Barony

These are just some of the activities happening around the Barony on a regular basis. If you are interested in any of these activities, contact the Canton seneschal, whose information is listed earlier with the Baronial Regnum.

Business Meetings

1st Tuesday Falcon Cree, Symmes Branch Library, Greenville, SC

2nd Tuesday St. Georges, Central Branch Library, Central, SC

3rd Wednesday Cyddlain Downs, Shoneys on Busch River Rd. Columbia, SC

4th Sunday Canton of Ritterwald, rotating location, please contact canton seneschal as listed with Baronial Regenum

Martial Activities

NO BARONIAL PRACTICE THIS MONTH! Baronial practice will resume Sunday, July 16th.

Every Sun. Fighter Practice, 2-5 pm, Cleveland Park, Greenville, SC

Every Tuesday Fighter Practice, 6:00 Rapier, 6:30 Heavy, Riverfront Park Columbia, SC

Every Tuesday Fighter Practice at Clemson Park, 7:00-8:30pm.

Archery Practice

Falcon Cree: Contact Tiarna Cormac an Faoldubh archery@falconcree.org for more info

Ritterwald: 2nd Sunday of each and every month, Torsguard, in Williston, SC. There will be a pot luck supper. Contact Lord Torr Olafsson at (803) 266-2162, or at torsguard@yahoo.com.

Cavalry Practice:

Ritterwald: 3rd Sunday of each and every month, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, with pot luck luncheon break. All fighter disciplines are welcome as well, and there will be workshop projects for anyone else. Fee \$5.00 per person. Contact Baroness Beatrice von Staufen at (803) 593-6512, or at baronessbeatrice@hotmail.com.

Other Activities

2nd Tuesday Calligraphy Night, 7pm Lady Muirgheal and Lord Cormac's Home, Greenville, SC

4th Sunday, Dance Practice, Church of the Cross Episcopal. Contact Baroness Julian for directions. Columbia, SC

2nd Thursday A&S Night, 7pm, changing locations contact Falcon Cree's seneschal, Greenville, SC