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Greetings to all this windy March! I hope this latest issue of The Quill finds our noble populace in good health and good spirits.

My thanks to all who braved the windy, albeit beautiful, weather for our first Baronial fighter practice last month. It was wonderful to see so many of our Barony's fighters in addition to fighters from Hawkwood attend. My apologies to those who came to shoot archery. There was a minor miscommunication but this issue will be resolved and we will have an archery-friendly site for our next practice. There will not be a Baronial practice this month as the 3rd Sunday of March is March 20, a day when most of us will be returning from Gulf Wars.

Thanks to all who have submitted articles for The Quill and who are continuing to do so. You're making your Chronicler's job much easier in addition to showcasing the wealth of knowledge with the Barony.

Last but not least, submission deadline for articles, letters, etc. for The Quill is the 10th of each month.

In Service to our Barony,
Etaoin Campbell

Heartfelt greetings unto all within Nottinghill Coill,

It is our greatest hope that spring falls gently but quickly upon all of us. For those of you who joined us at Carnivale – thank you. It was a beautiful day and a joy to see such an incredible display from the talented artisans throughout these lands. We encourage all of you to continue your forays into the arts and sciences to show the rest of the kingdom our wondrous talents.

We had an impressive number of newcomers to these lands at Carnivale and it was a pleasure to see the excitement in their eyes as the day progressed. For those of you who contributed to their presence and aided them throughout the day – thank you. We encourage all to take a newcomer under your wing and show them what it can be – it will be a wonderful experience for both.

The March winds doth blow and we shall have . . . well, maybe not snow here in the lands of Nottingham! Coill, but definitely some very changeable, often wet weather. So what's a SCAdian to do?

First, dress in layers that can be added or removed as temperatures and wind conditions change. Natural fibers are best for insulating you comfortably while warding off dampness, either from the inside (perspiration-induced) or from the outside. Ideally, have a complete change of clothes on hand, protected from wet weather. At the least, keep a spare dry pair of shoes and hose / socks with you, wrapped in a plastic bag. Few things can make a body feel miserable faster than cold wet feet. And don't forget a covering for your head (something more substantial than a circlet or coronet.) Most of a body's heat is lost through the head and neck.

Second, make sure your sleeping area is protected. At least have a waterproof barrier between you and your mattress. Better yet, keep the mattress off the ground and use a cot. Cold damp ground is very effective at inducing hypothermia. A good rule of thumb is to have 2 to 3 times the insulation below you as you have over you. If you're cold and shivering hard, or your feet are numb - see the chirurgeron immediately!

Next, protect your food supply. Damp food (that isn't supposed to be) can make you ill even before it looks or smells 'funny'. Keep perishables in closed containers (coolers, zip-locking bags, etc.), and throw the food out if it does get wet. Are you willing to bet your health for the sake of saving a dollar's worth of bread or meat?

When you erect your sleeping pavilion, set it up among the shorter trees in the area, and stake it down well. What if the weather gets ugly, and rain is accompanied by lightning? Stay out of broad open spaces (e.g. list fields) and away from isolated tall trees (or tall knights waving long swords in the air.) Being inside a vehicle places you inside a metallic "cage", and the current of a lightning strike tends to go through that frame rather than through you. It is NOT the rubber tires that protect you!

After a wet event, wash and dry your belongings thoroughly (bedding and pavilion equipment too) to avoid starting your own fungus farm.

March weather may dampen many spirits, but the warm winds of April are right around the corner.

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

The first baronial fighter practice was held February 19th and drew quite a crowd. Thank you to Etaoin, Jason, and the rest of the Newberry crowd for putting together a day of fighting, camaraderie, and, of course, food. We even drew fighters from Hawkwood and expect to do the same in April. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet in addition to honing skills. Go Nottingham!! Play, Fight, Kill!

The next baronial practice will be held on April 17th and will include a Baronial meeting. We encourage all to attend. For those not martially inclined, we would like to include A&S discussions, classes, etc during practice. More information will be posted in the coming weeks.

As you read this missive, we are likely on our way to Gulf Wars or have just returned. We and many others in this barony have heard the cry of our Rightful King and travel to do war shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies as they struggle against their foe. We are comforted to know that our lands remain well-defended and in good hands as we travel far. For those of you remaining behind, please lend us your good thoughts as your well wishes shall buoy our spirits so that we may overcome these vile heathens and return to our faire lands none the worse for wear.

Yours in service,

William and Julian
Baron and Baroness

March 5 – KASF, Bremen, NC

March 15-20 – Gulf War

April 2 – Coronation, MD

April 16 – Round Con Demo, Columbia, SC (tentative) or ToC, NC

April 30 – Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday, Cordesville, SC

May 20-22 – Feast of St. Catherine, Falcon Cree

The Chirurgeron's Corner

Greetings and good health to all from the Baronial Chirurgeron.

Greetings from the Baronial Exchequer!

As of the end of February, the Baronial General fund had \$4213.80, the Scribal fund had \$354.05, and the Regalia fund had \$140.39. There were no expenses or income in January or February. The first three pages of the Doomsday Financial Report for the Barony were published in the February issue of the Quill. The entire report is in the yahoo groups Files area in the Finance folder. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Since it has been a while since I have given a report at a Baronial meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to give an update on activities in the Exchequer's office over the past year. As you know, our Finance Committee consists of three members - the Seneschal, the Exchequer, and one other officer. Last spring, Lady Muirgheal stepped down as our Baronial Chatelaine, leaving a vacancy on the Finance Committee. Lady Morwenna kindly stepped up as the third member of the Finance Committee. We had another change when Duchess Simone stepped down as Seneschal and Lady Victoria took her place. So, the current Finance Committee is Lady Victoria, Mistress Ealdthryth, and Lady Morwenna.

Last spring there were some changes in Society and Kingdom Policy that necessitated changes in the Baronial Financial policy. Mistress Benefse, the Kingdom Exchequer, is currently reviewing the proposed changes. We will need to vote on the changes at a Baronial meeting at Baronial Birthday. I have some ideas for other changes that I will send out to the populace for commentary as soon as I get my thoughts together. Any member of the barony is welcome to suggest changes to the Financial Policy. The Policy is available in the Files area of the yahoo group in the Finance folder.

One of the tasks of the Finance Committee is to approve event budgets. We are currently in the process of revising the budget for Baronial Birthday this fall. I will post the budget to the yahoo groups Files area in the Finance folder as soon as it is finalized.

And, finally, I am seeking a deputy who is interested in training to take over the position of Baronial Exchequer. You can find the duties of a group exchequer in the Policies of the Kingdom Exchequer. This and other information about the office of the Exchequer can be found at:

<http://exchequer.atlantia.sca.org/>

In Service,
Mistress Ealdthryth of Humberstone
Baronial Exchequer

The Canton of Ritterwald extends greetings to one and all.

We shall be putting hosting a demo on the first Saturday of April (April 2) during the Dogwood Festival from 9 AM to 6 PM. It is our hope that this will increase our number and bring good attention to our humble and hard working Canton, the Barony, the Kingdom, and to the whole of the SCA. We know this is during Coronation, but we hope that you good folk reading this missive and are not attending Coronation, might enjoy a good day out showing the public what the SCA is all about. So if you are a heavy fighter (and/or Marshall), enjoy some of our A&S activities, etc., now is a good time to show off!

Lady Nikolina and I shall open our house to any guest who may wish to stay over and will be having a wrap-up gathering afterward. We only ask that those that come bring what they want to eat and drink. The grills will be standing at the ready.

If you require more information, please contact Lady Nikolina or myself. Our contact information is: 4423 Carolina Hwy., Denmark SC 29042, and phone: 803-793-3598.

Any assistance would be most appreciated. We will be printing out informational brochures to hand out.

Place: Denmark South Carolina
Date: Saturday, April 2nd
Time: 9 AM to 6 PM
Event: Denmark Dogwood Festival (SCA Demo)

In service to the dream I am,

LORD EIRIKR INN DANSKI
ACTING SENESCHAL CANTON OF RITTERWALD
BARONY OF NOTTINGHILL COIL
KINGDOM OF ATLANTIA

A Short History on Codes and Ciphers Part II

Julius Caesar (100B.C. -44B.C.), a brilliant military tactician, realized the value of keeping your enemies in the dark (too bad he later fell victim to secret plots...). He developed a cipher that bears his name even today: the Caesar Cipher. In this simplistic cipher, you merely shift the common letters of the alphabet a few places to the right or left. For instance, in this Caesar Cipher with a shift of three:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C

A becomes D, B becomes E, and so on. While this cipher is extremely simplistic by today's standards, back in a time when few could read, it would suffice. He often used transliteration (writing messages in foreign languages) and other forms of ciphers as well.

According to a chronicler of the time, in the first 500 years following Christ, the Persian government used a script called 'shah-dabirya'. The various kings of the Persians used it to communicate amongst themselves exclusively. The kings took measures to prevent commoners from learning it "for fear that one who was not a king should discover the secrets of the kings". The Persian kings were the first to use a form of cryptography to send and receive messages with rulers of other nations. This cipher was known as 'raz-sahriya' "and the number of its consonants and vowels is forty, and each of the consonants and vowels has a known form, and there is no trace in it of the Nabataean language."

While it is famous for other contents, the Kama Sutra of Vatsayana lists cryptography as 44th and 45th of the 64 arts (yoga's) that men and women should know and practice. While there is no exact date on this work, it has been dated between the 4th century B.C. and the 5th century A.D. and Vatsayana states that he compiled the arts contained within from earlier writings.

Part 44:

"The art of understanding writing in cipher, and the art of writing words in a peculiar way." (Your typical cipher.)

Part 45:

"The art of speaking by changing the forms of words. It is of various kinds. Some speak by changing the beginning and end of words, others by adding unnecessary letters between every syllable of a word, and so on." (Ippay atinlay anyone?)

Written during the 3rd century A.D., the Leiden papyrus lends a lot of weight to the growing myth that ciphers are evil and of the occult. This manuscript of "magic" was written in both Greek and a very late form of demotic (a very simplified form of hieroglyphics). It also uses ciphers to conceal critical sections of recipes. The plaintext is mostly in Greek, as is most of the ciphertext. In an example given by Kahn, the section telling how to give a man an incurable skin disease, the papyrus uses secret signs to encipher the words for "skin-disease" and the names of the lizards used in the preparation of the mixture. Amusingly, there is a section that tells the formula to make a woman desire a man (not only does it not work, it takes a week to get the smell out of the house).

An extremely odd sort of cryptogram was found at the Coptic monastery of St. Jeremias in Saqqara, Egypt. Sometime before it was abandoned during the 6th century A.D., a resident scratched on a wall an enciphered message in a monoalphabetic (using only one alphabet) substitution. When deciphered this message reads: "In the name of God before all things, I, Victor, the humble poor man - remember me." Through the use of the cipher, Victor has gotten his wish.

Sometime during the 800's A.D. an Irishman by the name of Dubthach, while staying at the castle of the king of Wales created a cryptogram as some type of malicious IQ test for visiting Irishmen. It is not know what form of humiliation he had suffered back home to cause him to want to revenge himself against his (former?) compatriots, but Dubthach was confident that "no Irish scholar, much less British" would be able to decipher it. Too bad for him that four bright lads of Eire: Caunchobrach, Fergus, Domminnach, and Suadbar, not only managed to decipher the cryptogram, they sent the answer back home to their teacher telling him "give this information to such of our simple and unsophisticated Irish brethren as may think of sailing across the British sea, lest perchance otherwise they might be made to blush in the presence of Mermin, the glorious king of the Britons, not being able to understand that inscription".

Abu 'Abd al-Rahman al-Khalil ibn Ahmad ibn 'Amr ibn Tamam al Farahidi al-Zadi al Yahmadi (718 A.D.-791 A.D.) wrote one of the most famous of the lost books of cryptography known as "Kitab al-mu'amma" ("Book of Secret Language"). Oddly enough, this philologist held no interest in cryptography until he received from the Byzantine emperor a cryptogram in Greek. When ask how he solved it, he replied "I said (to myself), the letter must begin 'In the name of God' or

something of that sort. So I worked out its first letters on that basis, and it came right for me.”

Again linking magic to ciphering, Abu Bakr Ahmad ben ‘Ali ben Wahshiyya an-Nabati (855 A.D.) included in his book “Kitab shauq al-mustaham fi ma’ rifat rumuz al-aqlam” (“Book of the Frenzied Devotee’s Desire to Learn About the Riddles of Ancient Scripts”), several traditional cipher alphabets used in magic. It included the top magic alphabet of its time, the “dawoudi”, meaning “Davidian”, named for the king of Israel. It was created by adding tails to, or dropping parts of letters of the Hebrew cursive script.

Qhaw zh vwduw zlwk Urijhu Edfrq. (Use the above Caesar Cipher to learn what is next.)

Lucien de La Rochell, of 16th century France, is an apprentice Navigator on board the La Dauphin, a French naval Scientific/Exploratory vessel Captained by Giovanni Verrazzano 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.

The Roman Academy: The Original SCA?

--- Master John le Burguillun

“A group of people who celebrate the better parts of bygone eras, dress in strange clothes, call each other by out-of-date names, and study ancient knowledge and practices.” This is how some people would describe the SCA. In reality, there were organizations similar to the SCA back in the Middle Ages. One of these was the Roman Academy.

It came across the Roman Academy while researching the life of the author Platina, who was the head librarian of the Vatican. By the 15th century, ancient Rome had been nearly forgotten, with its knowledge lost and its buildings in ruins. Julio Pomponio Leto was an expert on Roman law and history who taught at the Studium Urbis and gave popular tours of the lost glories of ancient Rome for his students (a

student’s notes from Leto’s tour of the Baths of Diocletian are in the Vatican museum).

Leto founded the Roman Academy (also known as the Accademia Pomponiana) in 1464 as a group of Italian intellectuals interested in reviving classical ideals and celebrating ancient Rome. As a semi-secret group, there is no surviving membership list, and it isn’t clear how someone joined or even where they met (the catacombs have been suggested since many known members’ signatures have been found as graffiti on the walls).

From the beginning, they were considered eccentric, if not bizarre (not unlike the SCA!). They sometimes dressed in togas. They followed the old Roman calendar and celebrated its holidays, especially the founding of Rome on April 21st. They went on archeological field trips, collected Latin inscriptions, and put on Roman plays.

They also gave each other classical nicknames to be used within the Academy. Some were in honor of real ancients, such as Aristoxenus Gallicus (a musician) and Lucretius (an Epicurean). Others were more personal, such as Bibulus (“drinker”) and Caecus (“weak-eyed”). Platina was known as Calvus (“bald”), both a personal dig and an acknowledgement of his expertise on Plato. Leto was called the Pontifex Maximus (“Supreme Pontiff”), a title that was to later cause him trouble.

Like SCA members, each had their own areas of interest and expertise. Also like some SCA members, they were capable of snobbery. In a letter, Platina agreed to a request to enroll Gottifredus of Nuremberg in the Academy, because he found him un-German enough to join them.

In addition to dressing and acting suspicious and their open admiration for the classics, it was alleged that members of the Academy engaged in un-Christian activities such as conducting pagan rites and worshipping pagan gods. Because they were suspected of opposing Christian ideals and endorsing materialism, the Catholic Encyclopedia still considers Leto and the Roman Academy to have been “enemies of the Church.”

Things came to a head in the spring of 1468 when rumors began circulating that the Roman Academy was plotting to assassinate the Pope and replace him with Pomponius Leto. Paul II had their members arrested and some, including Platina, were tortured. They remained imprisoned for about a year. The reason for their release depends on whom you read. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the members begged the Pope for mercy and swore to renounce their conduct. On the

other hand, historians indicate that they vigorously challenged the charges; when the case dried up due to a lack of evidence, the Pope was forced to release them. The papal records of the case have been lost (and Platina was later the head librarian!) so the truth may be somewhere between these versions. Either way, Leto was warned never to mention the name of the Academy again, even as a joke.

After Paul II's death, the Second Roman Academy was founded in 1478 and officially sanctioned by Pope Sixtus IV as a literary society. It remained in existence until the sack of Rome in 1527. It was established under the patronage of St. Victor to avoid suspicion of profanity. However, Lanciani believes this was a ruse allowing them to continue their activities from the original Academy, since St. Victor's Day was the same as the Founding of Rome (April 21st).

Platina got his revenge on Paul II when he was commissioned by Sixtus IV to compile a history of the lives of the Popes to be used for the Sistene Chapel. His description of Paul II was pretty vicious, playing up his greed and love of costly entertainment and finery.

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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 Regnum

Martial Activities

- Sunday, April 17, Baronial Fighter Practice, place TBA, contact Etaioin Campell at lyndasty@gmail.com for details.
- 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

Workshops have been slated for any who choose to attend, at Torsguard, concurrent with the planned Archery Practice on the 2nd Sunday of each and every month, beginning on February 12. It is our hope that all Canton members will join us, whether to Arch or to enjoy our fellowship and learning sessions. A potluck luncheon is planned and your participation is encouraged. We are scheduling workshops on the matters of Device Design and Creation, Canton Banners, Sewing a Cotehardie, etc. Should you have particular subject you would like for us to offer, please contact the Canton Minister of Arts and Sciences, Desideria Liberati di Norcia (Patricia della Piana) at (803) 266-5828; patdellapiana@yahoo.com.