

Tales from the Mist

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May 2012 Issue

Shire of Wintermist,
Kingdom of Caid

From the Chronicler

Greetings to the populace of Wintermist, Happy New Year! You will notice a new feature this month: the "Dear Officer" articles. This feature is one in which I send questions to the officers that pertain to their jobs and they send me their answers back. I currently have a list of questions, but I am still asking for help from all of you. So, please send me your questions even if you know the answer, maybe the question is one you wish you could have asked when you were new or maybe its a question you still don't know the answer to, or are confused about. I will pass it on to the appropriate officer and you will see it answered in the upcoming editions of the newsletter.

Meanwhile, we'll see you folks at our 3.5 Baronies Event!
For the Dream,
~A'isha al-Raqqasa

Herald's Report By Manus leDragonier

The month of May marks the start of the Society New Year. Why, you may ask, does this occur now? Because a long time ago (forty seven years) in a galaxy far, far away (the Bay Area, Berkeley Ca.) a group of like minded people got together to have a May Day Party with a chivalry theme. They had so much fun they decided to do it again and again. By now the parties had outgrown the use of back yards and it was decided to go to the city parks department to request the use of an area in a park. While at the counter making the request the clerk told them that only clubs could register for an area so what was the club name and what did it do? Then and there was born the Society for Creative Anachronism... or so the legend goes.

So if you look at your cover of the Crown Prints you will see a series of Roman numerals XLVII which represent the year of the society (47). These numbers will be preceded by the letters A and S which stand for Anno (year) Sociatatis (Society, of the). People will hear the herald say something like "on this the fifth day of May, Anno Sociatatis XLVII, 2012 of the common era" when reading the script for an award at court. You could make a case for this year's Three and a Half Baronies Tournament as a New Years' Event.

Heraldic Submissions back from the Laurel Queen of Arms:

- Name and device, Name pending and device registered to Solvig of Wintermist; Or a frog vert and on a chief sable a Thor's hammer Or. The name Solvig haleggr Johansdottir was pended for sixty days for more review. [gold field with a green frog and a black top with a gold hammer]
- Badge, for Colette Olivier, (Fieldless) in saltire an arrow inverted sable and a stalk of wheat Or overall a bunch of grapes proper. [no background or any background, an "x" made of a black arrow pointing down and a stalk of wheat gold topped by a bunch of grapes].
- Name: Bako Miklos

Heraldic Trivia: did you know that with a simple letter to the Caidan College of Heraldry you can make a "heraldic will" that will allow the use of your arms by your designated successor? This can also be used to release your arms upon your death or to allow other arms to conflict with yours. Something you might wish to consider.

Heraldic Request: One of my goals is to complete a Roll of Arms for the Shire of Wintermist. I would appreciate everyone to check to see if we have a black and white as well as color copy of your device on file. If you received your device from another kingdom or group but are residing here we would like to include you. Your help is appreciated but participation is voluntary.



Wintermist Calendar

- May 4-6: 3.5 Baronies Friendship Tournament/Event
- May 9: Business Meeting— Tony's Pizza on Mt. Vernon Ave 7:00 pm
- May 10: Newcomer's meeting at Collette's home 6pm
- May 12: Brewer Fellowship Meets 1pm?
- May 15: Fellowship of the String 6:30pm at Bolo's House
- May 24: Bardic Practice at Brendan's house
- May 19: Metal and Woodworking fellowship 10am
- Sundays at **10 am** Fighter Practice at Patriot's Park

Caid Calendar

- May 12: Altavia Anniversary
- May 19: Anniversary Tourney, Darach
- May 24-28: Potrero War, Calafia
- June 2: Coronation, al-Sahid
- June 3: Queen's Champion, al-Sahid
- June 9: Carreg Wen Anniversary
- June 9: Tanwayour Anniversary, Calafia

Meet your Neighbor

Hi my name is Galen deLeon. I am a good Saxon lad with a Christian upbringing. My village is fairly large, alongside a stream where we catch fish and use it's flow for irrigation. I hunt and set traps near home, and sell furs when I have enough to make the journey worth while. I also do a fair amount of blacksmithing. I have a small garden for vegetables and herbs that, for the life of me, I cannot keep out the deer. I have a fair education, I can read, write and cipher. The year is 1060 and we watch the borders as there is conflict and rumors of war.

My persona lets me be me. There is not much difference between us. I joined the SCA in 1990 when my landlady said "I am going camping with about 200 of my friends this weekend, would you like to go?" When she explained who and what, I was interested. That was Darkwell 1990 and I've had no regrets.

My favorite part of the SCA? Wow. That's a hard one. I like the feeling of comrades in arms and the sense of family, even from total strangers who then become family. As far as A&S goes I like metal working with wood working a very close second. I enjoy teaching sand casting since it is a period method and few are still casting this way. I have been protégé to Dame Selene for three years while teaching and volunteering. Maybe someday my efforts will be deemed worthy of recognition by the Order Of the Pelican.

In Service to the Dream,
Galen deLeon



Dear Lyst Mistress:

Dear Lyst Mistress: What are the different types of tournaments? I've heard of Round Robin, but there are others too?

A: This is my take on the various ways to run a tournament. However, there are some one rules which will be coming out this year in a new List Handbook.

- Round Robin: Everyone gets to fight everyone else at least one time. If it is a very small field, the fighters may decide to fight each other twice or have each fight be a best two out of three to be considered a win. This decision has to be made before the tourney commences. After all fighters have faced each other, the fighters with the most wins are then put into a final match. (if you have enough for 4 top fighters you can have a semi-final match as well). Although less common, you may also simply have the person with the most wins declared the champion and if there is a tie for first place in this manner, then there would be a tie-breaker round. It would be decided by the participants whether they wanted to have only one fight, winner takes all, or best 2 out of 3, or even best 3 out of 5. This would have to be decided before the tie-breaker round started.
- Double Elimination: The fighter continues to fight until he/she has been beaten two times, then they are eliminated. A caveat to this would be on occasion losses are forgiven in the semi-final or final rounds and the tourney becomes single elimination.
- Triple Elimination: As above, but the fighter is eliminated after losing 3 times.
- There are variations on the above. In the Double/Triple Eliminations sometimes a "free life" is offered to the fighter if they complete a pre-set task, i.e. bring an A&S entry, complete a bardic presentation, etc. Ties are treated the same way as the Round Robin tie-breaker, although all participants go into the tie-breaker with a clean slate showing no losses.

When there are an odd number of fighters signed up for a tourney it is usual to ask one of the heavy fighters, who is not participating, to even the numbers and become the 'bye' fighter. A "bye" fighter is not mandatory to have in a tourney if the numbers are uneven. However, they should be used if at all possible as this insures that no fighters gets an unfair rest or advantage during the tourney. It must be decided before the tourney if the "bye" fighter is "destructive" or "non-destructive". If the "bye" fighter is destructive (the rarer of the two) then the fighter loses a life if he loses to the "bye" fighter. If the "bye" fighter is non-destructive then his opponent receives an automatic win regardless of the outcome.

Tolls and Trolls From the Journal of Michael of Wintermist

Aprilis Anno Domini 1232

The Great Khan in Cathay has forbidden tolls on the Silk Road except where there is great difficulty in keeping the road open. Many lesser Khans have come up with ways to relieve travelers of their money and goods. The lands we were entering was notorious for its taxes and tolls, but there was little we could do to avoid this place, because going around would add many weeks to our journey and was fraught with hardship and danger. The border of these lands was a mighty river that was crossed by a ferry. The ferry man charged the typical 2 coppers for a cart whether it was pulled by man or beast, and 1 copper for individual beasts and men. He warned us that we would be charged the same when we landed on the other side of the river by the Khan's official to enter the country. Once we had paid for the river crossing, and the entrance fee to the Khan's official, we proceeded down the Silk Road towards the capital city and its markets hoping to recoup some of our costs. We had only gone a score of miles when we came to a fork in the road, the smooth road we were on was blocked by a gate and guarded by another official of the Khan, the other road was a rough trail over grown and strewn with large rocks. The official explained that the road that they were guarding was a toll road and that the other road was free to anyone to travel. We sent a scout to check out the free road. He came back reporting that the road was nearly impassable, and would take us many hours to travel, and that it rejoined barely half a mile down the smooth toll road. So we paid the toll and proceed on. Of course after a few miles we came to another fork in the road guarded by a toll gate where we again paid, this went on for the rest of our journey, our purse was getting low when we finally reached the capital city.

The capital city was surrounded by high stone walls, and there was a toll to enter the city gates so that we could rent a space in the Khan's market to sell our goods and replenish our purse. We had many customers who came and looked at our goods but few buyers, and those that did buy drove hard and desperate bargains. Of course as is normal we paid taxes on our sales but those taxes left very little profit.

An official came to request our presence at the Khan's palace. The palace was a huge building setting on top of a small mountain surrounded by a high stone wall made of marble with a large entrance gate made of iron and gilded with gold. A series of steps and landings led up to the grand entrance of the palace, the steps were made of marble, and the landings were each a garden more spectacular than the last, guarded by guards in armor each more elaborate than the last. The doors of the entrance were 15 cubits tall and made of iron covered in gold and precious stones. The hallway beyond the doors had floors of lapis and jade, the walls were covered in cloths of gold and tapestries of the highest quality, the throne room was a huge room done like the hall but even elaborate, at one end there was a three legged throne made of gold and covered in precious stones. Over the throne was a huge carved fresco of a bridge carved of the finest jade depicting trade between peoples. The throne room was filled with people dressed in fine silks who all turned and bowed when trumpets blared announcing the entrance of the Khan. The Khan was a huge man standing a cubit taller than the tallest man in the room and weighing at least 500 pounds. He was wearing the finest silk robes with golden embroidery, a crown sat on his shaved head causing his ears, which were large and pointed, to stick out, his buck teeth stuck out over his lips. As he sat down on the throne I hid my smile, he reminded me of the troll sitting under his bridge from the stories my grandmother had told me when I was a lad, I would not have been surprised if he demanded a toll from us for viewing his magnificence.

Dear Herald:

Dear Herald: What are the benefits of registering my name and device?

A: The benefits of registering your name and device are twofold. First you get to pick a name that you want for yourself and the same is true for your device also. Device is the proper term for your armorial display commonly called a "coat of arms". Your device becomes your arms when you have been awarded arms or a higher award by the King. It is common for the first award given to a member of the SCA to be the Award of Arms and it is written into the award that the individual should then consult a herald to produce suitable arms. And one cannot have arms unless there is a name for said arms to be registered to. Once you have a registered name and device it is possible for award scrolls to be made for you that will show your name and a picture of your arms as well as describing the award and the date it was issued. But you may register an alternate name and device to represent a different "character" you may wish to be in the society. An example might be Lord Odo deKern an 11th century Norman who has an alternate persona as Lord Kalid ibn Fawaq a 14th century Arab.

Wintermist Officers



Seneschal: THL Kali Raqs Xahar email: seneschal@sca-wintermist.org
Deputies: THL Tahira Al-Fahida and Lord Gwyon Pengrych



Arts & Science: Lord Da'ud ibn Ma'bad email: arts@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy A & S: Lord Bolo Longcaster & Lady Collette Olivier le Fournier



Chatelaine: Lady Collette Olivier le Fournier
Deputies: Estrith Rasmusdatter & Piroška Miklosne



Chirurgeon: Vacant



Chronicler: Lady A'isha al-Raqqasa email: chronicler@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: THL Katherine of Homechurch



Constable: Bjorn Inn Vikverski



Exchequer: Lord Wihstan Cravenor email: exchequer@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: Mari Inghean Cuan



Herald: Master Manus le Dragonier email: herald@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: a Flourish of Heralds



List Mistress: THL Katherine of Homechurch email: lysts@sca-wintermist.org



Marshal: THL Ketill Olafsson email: marshal@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: Lord Johnathon Sawyer



Webwright: Lord Miklos Bako



Current Champion of
Wintermist and Protector of
the Flock



Sir Helgi Hrafnfaedhir

Photo by Isha

Articles should be submitted to the chronicler, either in person or by e-mail (chronicler@sca-wintermist.org), and non-officer related articles should be accompanied by a media release form to allow permission to publish in Tales from the Mist.

"Tales from the Mist" is created using MS Publisher templates. This month's template is called "Arcs".

This is the May 2012, issue of Tales from the Mist, a publication of the Wintermist Shire of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). Tales From the Mist is available from Jennifer Stilwill, 6901 Cranbrook Ave., Bakersfield Ca 93308. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2012 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.