



Tales from The Mist

A Monthly Publication of the Happenings from the Shire of Wintermist

FROM THE SENESCHAL

Well, hello fellow Wintermistians!

Welcome to the new Tales from the Mist. I would like to take a second to thank Lady Colette for stepping up as our new Chronicler. Not only will we have hard copies available, but the normal .PDF file on Facebook as well as

*Gules, a laurel wreath Or, on a chief an accessible newsletter on our Website.
invested argent three snowflakes gules*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Collegium Caidis: May 16-17

Barony of Lyondemere

Potrero War: May 21-25

Barony of Calafia

St. Corrigan's Day: May 30

Barony of Dreiburgen

It has been awhile since we've had a newsletter so I want to remind everyone that this is a volunteer organization. We have what we have, not only as a Shire but as the SCA as a whole because people have stepped up and volunteered. We can't do this without you! It is so easy to forget this simple fact.

That being said, we have plenty of opportunities for service. Not only do we need help with events such as Coronation coming up in June, but various officer positions need Deputies.

Serving as a Deputy is a good way to learn a position, i.e. Seneschal, Chatelaine, A&S, and then serve, it also opens doors to meeting new people in our Society.

So if you're interested in helping out, contact me or see me after our Council meeting.

Yours In Service to The Kingdom of Caid,
Lord Edward Blossville de Monreale

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A&S OFFICER REPORT

Thank you for everyone who brought something to last month's meeting. The theme for April was "Persona". Photos of each entry are on the next page!

The entries were a Tine box by Anita Burnevik, a crocheted elephant by Jennifer Stillwill, and a Painted Ukrainian Egg by Jody Hollier. The winner was Anita for her gorgeous Tine box. Congratulations to the winner and everyone who submitted.

This month's winners for the "largess" category, will be announced next month in the newsletter.

I am excited to see what everyone comes up with for the "Heraldry" category in June.

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A Reusable Recipe: Hypocras' Many Faces

BY: LADY COLETTE OLIVIER LA FOURNIERE

Starting in December, I had been looking for recipes for medieval drinks. It's Yule and 12th night time, and I like to provide my table mates with something nostalgic and Christmassy. Finally having happened upon a Hypocras document from the Tudor houses.

Round #1 I decided to give it a go. It was a standard recipe, based on augmenting an entire bottle of wine, ready the next day, and only got better with age.

After preparing the batch, I was left with a substantial amount of deeply wine soaked spices that was so fragrant and beautifully dyed, I felt awful discarding it.

As I peered into the pot and thought on it, a sudden stroke of memory pounded in my head. "Aqua Mulsum". I remembered it from a class at Collegium and realized I knew what I could do with all of these leftovers.

Round #2 Aqua Mulsum is a syrup made from sugar, water, and discarded Hypocras spices, simply simmered for an hour until it becomes thick. This aromatic syrup is bottled after it cools and makes a fantastic, non alcoholic alternative to hypocras.

Now what? I had several bottles of hypocras made, several matching bottles of aqua mulsum and the spices were finally spent, but I felt like there was truly something more I could do. To Pinterest I ventured to find my third and final installment of hypocras products.

Round #3 Hypocrass jelly candies. Exciting! I found them by searching for "What to do with mulled wine." They are the perfect texture, rolled in sugar giving them a jewel like quality. The recipe is below.

Hypocrass Jellies

1 cup Hypocrass
 ½ cup Powdered Pectin
 ¾ tsp Baking Soda
 1 cup of sugar
 1 cup Light Corn syrup

Coating:

¼ tsp sugar

- Line a 9x5-in. loaf pan with foil; coat foil with cooking spray.
- Add wine to saucepan; stir in pectin and baking soda. Heat over medium-high heat.
- Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, combine sugar and corn syrup; bring to a full rolling boil over high heat, stirring constantly. Stir in wine mixture. Continue to boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; skim off foam, if necessary. Immediately pour into prepared pan. Let stand until set, about 5 hours or overnight.
- For coating, sprinkle 2 tablespoons sugar over a 14x12-in. sheet of parchment paper. Invert candy onto sugar. With a knife dipped in warm water, cut candy into 1-in. squares; coat with remaining sugar.
- Transfer candies to a wire rack. Let stand, uncovered, at room temperature overnight. Store in airtight containers up to 1 week. **Yield:** 1-3/4 pounds (about 3 dozen).

I found that searching for more to do with one item is not only gratifying, but a healthy practice. I may have been working with a simple wine recipe, but I have applied it to other aspects of cooking and crafting. Now finding 2 or 3 applications for one product is my goal. It's saved me a ton of money and created a habit that I will pass on to my kids. Enjoy the jellies, and happy recycling.



Current Champion of
 Wintermist and Protector
 of the Flock

COUNT JOSEPH OF SIL-
 VEROAK



Photo Courtesy of
 The Caid Reporter

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE HISTORY OF THE NAME WINTERMIST

By Manus le Dragonier, Shire Elder*

After the December Shire Officers meeting standing outside Cocos' in the fog because you can't schmooze in a warm dry place like normal people the talk turned to Coronation and getting prepared for it. Some of the points brought up were the need for a charter? This confused me as we have a charter with our establishment as a shire but I guess some people want to sign as founding members of the barony which overrides the founding as a group. Well not a big deal in the cosmos and hardly worth arguing about. We prepare a petition to be handed to Their Majesties saying that we as a group feel that we are ready to take the step to baronial status as signed on the dotted line. The Royals say okee dookie and bring on the sacrificial offering as the new pointy hats!

The next points brought up were dealing with logistics of the barony. It was suggested that the candidate pairs should now be preparing to assume power by assembling their courts- guards, lords and ladies in waiting and stewards; so they can hit the ground running when the day arrives for them to assume control. Other factors included the need for coronets and official ceremonial chairs for the new peers. And those just hit the tip of that iceberg!

Then came the comment that led to this article- "and one of the things I want to see is changing the name of the group"! My surprised response was why change the name from Wintermist? The answer was "because I am tired of explaining why we are called that and I want something with more meaning. Lots of people feel that way." Now I admit that this is not a direct quote nor am I naming who made the statement but that was the gist of it. Again I was surprised as this was the first time that I had heard any comment about the name of our group in years and the first to have it changed.

Since we were standing in the swirling reason for the group name I found the comment somewhat ironic. Now we have been in a drought for almost eight years and the growth of the city has lessened the tule fog that comes from wet agricultural areas but what does that have to do with changing the name of the group? I asked if any of the others there assembled knew of the other names that had once been suggested for the shire and the answer was no. So I gave those which brought forth a round of laughter but here is the full history of the naming of our shire.

Back in the mists of time (the mid 1980's) a shire was formed in the Bakersfield area before the Kingdom of Caid sprang forth into the known world. The name for this shire was Darkwell. So if you are old enough and remember the Darkwell Wars in Tehachapi, the first of those came the year Wintermist was formed. Our neighbors in Dreiburgen from the Canton of DunOr wanted a war over the "Kings Lands" and the *loser* got to keep us (ha ha). The Shire of Darkwell had gone inactive in 1985-86. Several of us from the fencing club at CSUB had attended an event in a local park where we were told by the five ladies present (there were two gentlemen also) that Darkwell was an "arts shire not a fighting shire" but we could join them if we wished- we didn't come back.

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CONTINUED: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In 1988 some new blood joined the fencing club with ties to the SCA from "downtown Caid". That was Donn Ferguson, Dan Ferguson and Shawn Fowler. They were friends with another new arrival Howard Marcus. You may know them as Master Donn, son Fergus, Brendan Morgansbane, Morgan Triggvisson (whom Dan was the bane of) and Achmed al-Shaban. Our founding seneschal (Donn), marshal (Achmed) and I became the herald. Mutual friends made up the rest of our founders. Our first event attended was in Nordwache at a Treasure Chest War held at Squaws Leap. By this time there was no official group active in Bakersfield or Kern County in the valley. We became the new face of the SCA here when we sent in our membership forms and then petitioned the Crown to be installed as an active group. The process was "streamlined" as we reactivated the prior existing group and as we had nine people who were getting armored up and swinging sticks (no lady fighters at that time but wives and girlfriends were members too) we were viewed by the kingdom as a decided improvement.

And then the Darkwell War arrived on our doorstep and all thoughts of keeping the original name went away with the joke. We were a new group and wanted a fresh start. So crowded in the living room of Donn and Dan's apartment on North LaurelGlen we started to come up with a new name for the shire. The first effort that I took to the College of Heraldry was the name Dun Caledonia and that was rejected for several reasons which I won't go into here. Master Donn made the next suggestion which was much in line with his dry sense of humor- Wooster Shire. This too was rejected (thank you Master Bruce!!) Our third try was Wintermist and was a play on the Tule fog that filled the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley with great regularity back then. And Wintermist was born.

Now that we had a name we needed a device too. Our first registered device was: Gules, issuant from a cloud argent two cubit arms holding in chief a laurel wreath Or. In laymen terms we had a red field with a cloud/fog with two arms sticking out holding a laurel wreath. A joke based on our name but as with a lot of heraldry a *pain* to draw and use. Face it a cloud or fogbank does not stir the martial heart or strike fear in your enemies! Red and white are great heraldic colors and we wore great looking tabards as a fighting unit. (There is a great story on how King Guy "counseled" Master Donn; then our seneschal and a member of our fighting unit about loyalty for three hours one night at a Treasure Chest War but that is for another time.) For a time we just used red and white war shields but that is kinda boring. Then Khalid drew a borealis (blowing wind) on the white and it looked sharp coming off half the shield and we tried to register that as the shire device but it was a pretty picture but not heraldry.

I had progressed in my knowledge of heraldry and now knew that we wanted something simple and pretty so we would like it and use it. The simplest I could get was a plain field- red and the addition of a laurel wreath (we voted for gold over silver). The populace wanted to keep the same set of colors red and white so we made the chief white but we still needed something. The tie in came from our name Wintermist- well a Wintermist could be a flurry of snow and snow is made of snowflakes. White snowflakes were too common to get passed (and not too long after we got ours they were outlawed). But there were no red snowflakes registered and a red snowflake on a white field made a great badge. We put three red snowflakes on the white chief and the populace liked the design and we sent it in to the College of Heraldry and it was passed as our shire device.

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CONTINUED WHAT'S IN A NAME?

So there you have it. The background on how we got our name and device. There is a great deal of history and tradition involved here. So before you say you are tired of explaining why we have a name perhaps you should **know the reason for it**. Part of the SCA is to be willing to change and adapt. But change for the sake of change because you did not bother to learn the reason for something is regrettable. Wintermist has a long, honored and cherished history. And if that is not good enough for you perhaps you should try to improve it rather than dismiss it and start over.

I find the "title" of elder counselor or elder member rather patronizing. So unless you intend to worship me like some deity out of a Lovecraft novel I intend to be just a member of our group- Shire, Barony or Province

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW CHRONICLER LADY COLETTE OLIVIER LA FOURNIERE

GREETINGS WINTERMIST!

As your new Chronicler. I wish to express my enthusiasm in working with the populous. Gathering your thoughts and ideas and putting them on paper for us to read is a fantastic hobby and my pleasure. I sincerely hope that everyone in our Shire can contribute to the newsletter to make it an interesting read. Without your input, I am simply offering up blank sheets of paper.

So thank you again, for all your efforts.

Yours in Service,

Lady Colette Olivier la Fourniere

ARTS AND SCIENCES MONTHLY ENTRIES



Left: Painted Ukrainian Egg by Jody Hollier



Right: A crocheted elephant by Jennifer Stillwill

Left: Tine Box by Anita Burnevik



WINTERMIST OFFICERS



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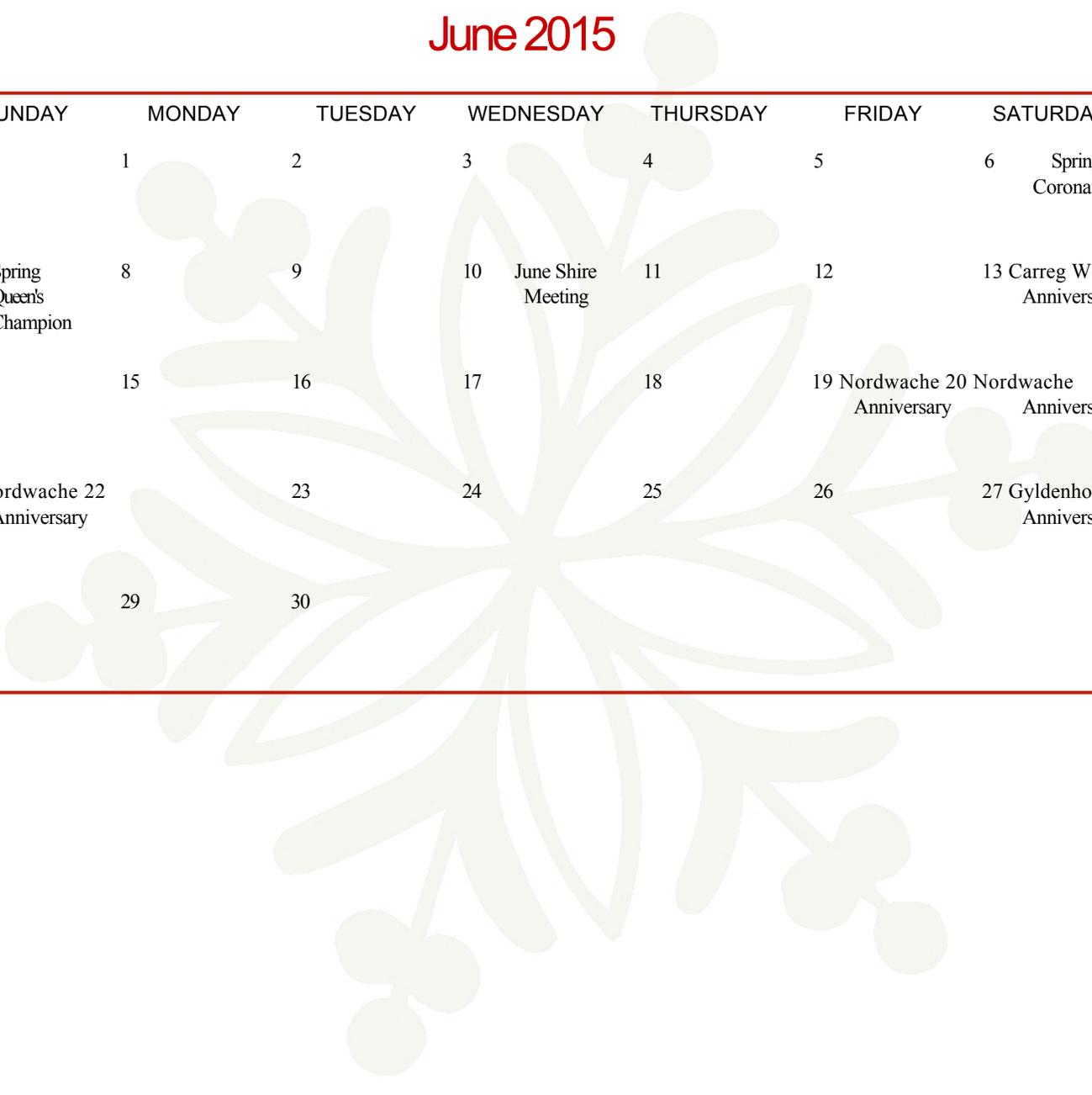


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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Spring Coronation
7 Spring Queen's Champion	8	9	10 June Shire Meeting	11	12	13 Carreg Wen Anniversary
14	15	16	17	18	19 Nordwache Anniversary	20 Nordwache Anniversary
21 Nordwache Anniversary	22	23	24	25	26	27 Gyldenholt Anniversary
28	29	30				