

The Blade



René Descartes

February 2010

Missive from the Crown

Galandorians,

We have had a most interesting month! Contenders to Our throne in the form of Lady Dame Inara and Lord Sir Richard nearly wrested the kingdom from Our grasp. Although, Sir Richard's forces were victorious on the combat field, We held the day with both the popular vote and the artisan vote, allowing us to maintain Our place at the head of this great Kingdom. The respect and courtesy displayed during this time was appreciated. An especially large, thank you, goes out to everyone who put time into working on the Crown War document and to Baron Sir Gerrit for setting a standard for how Crown War should be conducted. It was also nice to have such a pleasant feast presented that evening by m'Lord Cyris O'Shea and to be entertained by the Bard of Galandor competitors, congratulations Marchioness Dame Mynwyn.

We would like to extend a very heart-felt thank you to those members of Stahldrache who most graciously welcomed His Majesty as He attended their Crown War. Your warmth and kindness has touched both of Our hearts. We look forward to being in the territory again soon. It was also wonderful to see several members of the Principality of Northwatch. Hopefully Our two easternmost territories will continue to find ways to share their experiences.

As We write this missive, the Principality of Northwatch is preparing for their Ball. We wish to have been able to attend what appears to be an evening of fun and festivity, but alas other matters keep us closer to home. We hope it is a resounding success.

As of now the calendar is open for anything you wish to autocrat. Please let us know your ideas, events, and dates, so that we can get them into the calendar for all too see and so that we have no scheduling conflicts.

We have planned Mid-reign for February 20th, details further in the Blade. We look forward to seeing you there.

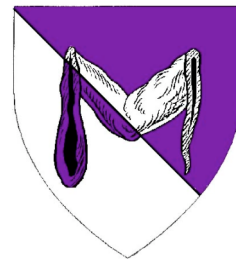
Gaelen

Anne

And

Rex

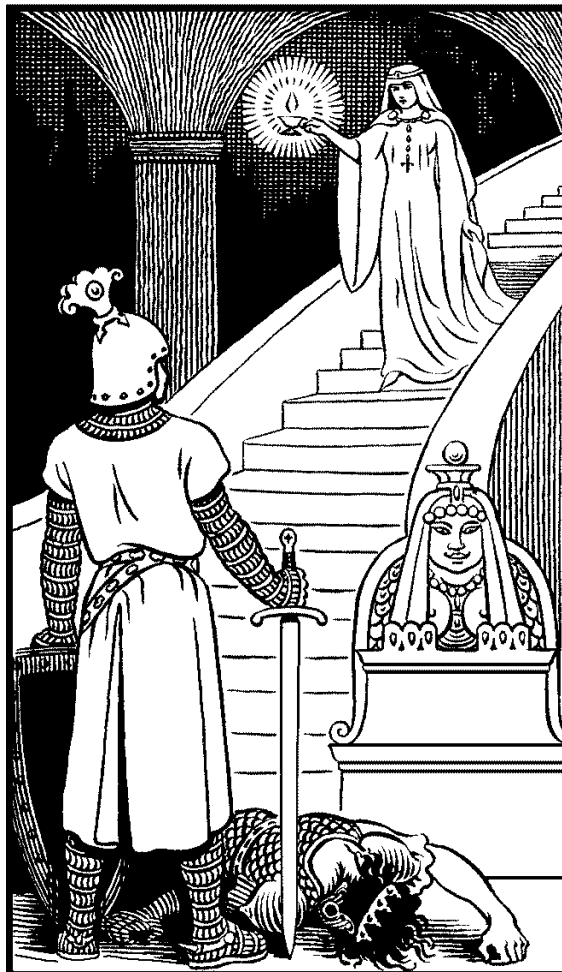
Regina



Calendar of Events

February

- 7th – Arts and Armour Day (Solaris)
Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- 20th – Ministry Peer Circle (Solaris)
Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- 20th – Mid-reign (Solaris)
Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- 24th – Solaris Fight Night (Solaris)
Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven



Events

February 7th - Arts and Armouring Day

Now that the holidays are over, we can settle back into our routine. Towards this end, I'm starting Arts and Armouring Day again. The next one will be February 7th at my keep starting at 1 pm. As usual, bring a project to work on and hang out with your friends.

Marchioness Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

February 20th - Mid-reign

It is my honour to autocrat Mid-reign this year. Come join us on February 20th to pay tribute to the continuation of Their Royal Majesties' reign as Sovereigns of our Great Galandor. Site is at Baron Sir Gerrit's Keep at the Clubhouse. Site opens at 5 pm with court to follow at Their Majesties' leisure and will cost \$12.

Look to the Forum later for a menu. Please contact me with any questions or to volunteer.

Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

Directions from Altiora:

Take the I-10 towards Phoenix. Exit East on US 60. Exit at Baseline and turn right. Turn left onto Hardy, about a mile and a half. Turn an immediate left past the gates into Somerset Village Apts. The Clubhouse is directly in front of you. Park in any un-covered spot.

February 20th - Ministry Peer Circle

I have called a Ministry Peer Circle for just before Mid-reign. The peer circle will start at 3 pm at the Clubhouse. We will be done in time for the feast to start. Please see online for the agenda.

Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

February 24th - Solaris Fight Night

February means Saint Valentine's Day is upon us. And in Solaris, that means it is time once more for the damsel in the tower tourney! For those of you who may be new to the territory, you're in for a treat. For those of you who don't fight, this is your chance to participate in a vital way. We need damsels, and for the female fighters, we need men! (Yes, I'm saying it again.) The tourney will take place about 7:30 pm on February 24 at Kiwanis Park. Site fee will be \$1, to pay for prizes.

In service to the dream,
Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven

Announcements

Banner War Competition

Banner War Competition

Remember Banner War 2009? Remember how spiffy Semag Hall's encampment looked, with all of those cool banners? Remember how Semag Hall won the banner competition? Well, **your** chance for glory is coming!

We have a new war coming, with a new banner competition. Same rules as last year, **except** that I am extending the competition to orders. Just in case you need reminding, this is how it goes:

The rules are simple- each household/order is eligible for competition, as long as they display a house/order banner. I will then count up how many personal banners that house displays, and figure out the percentage of banners per actual members. Remember that the grace period will still be in effect, so anyone who was a member in 2009-2010 will count. These need to be banners large enough to be seen from a distance- not rope pennants. Also, I'm not accepting paper, so don't even think about it. (Have some pride.) Multiples of the same device still count as only one. As many members of the various orders of the Empire are also members of households, their banners can count for both. Any disputes will be resolved by the Queen Fleur of Arms (me).

The prize will be not only bragging rights for the entire year, but also cobbler.

In service to the dream,
Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven
Queen Fleur of Arms

Extras

Recipe of the Month

Lemon Rice with Almonds (serves 6)

2 lemons
4 cups water
2 cups uncooked rice
2 cups dry wine
2 cups peas
1 1/3 cups currants
2/3 cup honey
2 Tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt

Grate the zest from the lemons. Squeeze the lemons, reserving the juice and pulp. Discard the membranes and seeds. In a large saucepan, bring the water, rice, salt, cinnamon, butter and lemon juice, pulp and zest to a boil. Reduce to simmer and until the water has been absorbed, about 15 minutes. Stir once during the simmering process. Add the peas to the rice for the last 7 minutes.

While the rice is cooking, simmer the almonds and currants in the wine for 7 to 8 minutes. When the rice is cooked, remove and fluff with a fork, adding the wined almonds and currants as you stir. Dribble the honey on the service of the dish before serving.

Solaris Edge

First off, I'd like to thank Baron Sir Gerrit and m'Lord Cyris for throwing Crown War and Twelfth Night. I'm always happy to see members of my populace stepping up and helping.

Secondly, I look forward to this month's events. Show up on the 7th for Arts and Armouring Day and come to the always fun Damsel in the Tour tourney on the 24th. Hope to see everyone there.

Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

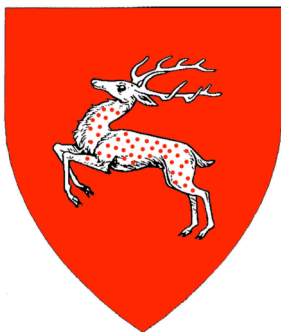
Heraldry Challenge

Congratulations to Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven for winning this month's heraldry challenge. He receives half off all site fees for the month. As a reminder, here's the device.



The device belongs to Caitrin O'Brien. The blazon is *vert (green), an inverted chevron (V-shaped band) argent (silver) in base (on the bottom), a horse rampant (rearing on its hind legs) to sinister (the owner's left) argent (silver) in fess (middle), within a bordure sable (a black border around the entire device)*. This device is actually on a lozenge (the diamond) which, in certain countries, that's how a woman's device would most often have been displayed.

Here's this month's device. Remember, the first one to email me at blade@ecs-galandor.org with the owner of the device and the blazon will receive half off the next month's site fees.



Congratulations and good luck!

Chronicler

A Frenchman? Now what?

René Descartes was a true Renaissance man and natural philosopher. A philosopher, mathematician, physicist and intellectual, he is credited as the Father of Modern philosophy. His most famous statement, “Cogito ergo sum,” (I think, therefore I am) is only one of his many accomplishments.

A key mathematician, he is credited with the invention of analytical geometry. Using his coordinate system, later called the Cartesian coordinate system, allowed for algebraic formulas that described geometric figures—ultimately allowing for calculus. (Yes, he’s the one to blame.)

A man deeply tied in with the Scientific Revolution, René Descartes stopped his thinking on 1 February 1650.

And that’s your Medieval Minute.

The Walls Have Ears

A Year in Review

- That chest totally disappeared ten years ago.
- Your children don’t bother me as much as they used to.
- My husband wouldn’t let me blow up the tent.
- Ah, are you my little one-eyed monster?
- Just please shoot that way so it doesn’t get on my dress.
- I’m happy I can entertain you with my suffering.
It’s what keeps us coming back.
- No, Myn’s not getting any.
- His Majesty needs help pulling something out.
- I can’t see my holes well enough.
- Everyone should be tied up from time to time.
- Apparently Myn hits on me when your not around.
Finally someone who wants to take you away.
- Are you talking about my kids, my kids or the fruits of Gaelen?

Articles

Valentine's Day

Why do we celebrate St. Valentine's Day? Who was he? Where did he come from? How many of us have wondered this every year while we give a loved one a chocolate heart and card? Well, let's take a trip back to Rome.

The name February comes from Februa. Februa are pieces of goatskins dipped in blood, used during the pagan festival of Lupercalia, the festival of fertility and spring. On February 15, young men would run through the streets naked except for these strips of blood drenched hides, slapping women with them. The women were believed to be barren until hit with the Februa. The celebration was also the beginning of purification.

In 494, Pope Gelasius I dedicated this day as the Purification of the Virgin Mary. It is believed that the Christians picked this day as celebration to coincide with the pagan festivals.

But that still doesn't tell us about St. Valentine! I can't remember the last time I was whipped with blood soaked goat, do you? Again, it's February and time for celebration! In Rome, young girls would drop their names in a jar. The boys would then pull a name from the jar, and the girl he chose would be his partner throughout the rest of the celebrations of the day. Sometimes the couple would stay together longer, eventually some would fall in love and marry.

The armies of Rome were getting weak. Men did not want to join the armies anymore. Emperor Claudius II believed this was because they were too busy running off and getting married. The men would rather have their families than a life in the militaries of Rome. Because of this, Emperor Claudius II cancelled all February celebrations. No one was to marry!! This way he could rebuild his armies.

Valentine was a priest in Rome in service to Emperor Claudius II. When he heard of this absurd order, he secretly held marriages behind the Emperors back. (As a side note, it's also said the St. Valentine helped those that were imprisoned and tortured by the Romans.) Anyway, The Emperor found out about Valentine and had him arrested immediately and sentenced to death, BUT not before he was beaten and tortured, and some say that he was pressured to give up his faith in God, which he refused. While in prison, he was visited by a young lady. Some believe that she was the jailor's daughter. They had fallen in love. St. Valentine was beaten and beheaded on February 14, 269. On that night, he wrote to his beloved, thanking her for the time they have spent together. The letter was signed, "From your Valentine." Thus, the first Valentine's card!!

And to all our Knights on Valentine's Day, for those loved and in love, a bit of "Advice on Courtly Love"

Thou shalt avoid avarice like the deadly pestilence and shalt embrace its opposite.
Thou shalt keep thyself chaste for the sake of her whom thou lovest.
Thou shalt not knowingly strive to break up a correct love affair that someone else is engaged in.
Thou shalt not chose for thy love anyone whom a natural sense of shame forbids thee to marry.
Be mindful completely to avoid falsehood.
Thou shalt not have many who know of thy love affair.
Being obedient in all things to the commands of ladies, thou shalt ever strive to ally thyself to the service of Love.
In giving and receiving love's solaces let modesty be ever present.
Thou shalt speak no evil.
Thou shalt not be a revealer of love affairs.
Thou shalt be in all things polite and courteous.
In practicing the solaces of love thou shalt not exceed the desires of thy lover.

Happy Valentine's Day

Lady Squire Elix DeVries

<http://www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/sa...tm#history>
<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/...=history1s>
www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintv06.htm
<http://itsa.ucsf.edu/~snlrc/encyclopaed...rcalia.htm>



COB SPEED
EDMUND BLAIR LEIGHTON

Hierarchy of Galandor



CROWN OF GALANDOR – TRM Gaelen O’Flaharty and Anne of Brackley



Principality of Northwatch – TRH Sir Robert Sanguin and Dame Mina Lavigne
– **Great House of Northwatch** – Lady Squire Elix DeVries



Marquisette of Altiora – HE Jarl Sir Jaster Mereel
- **Stormdragon** – Lord Squire Giovanni Visconte



Marquisette of Solaris – HE Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
- **Semag Hall** – Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven
- **Peregrine** – Lady Squire Josceline Marie Tourneau



Province of Stahldrache – Graf Sir Adon von Hesser

Royal Officers of Galandor

Kingdom Herald – Lady Dame Inara al-Zarqa’ – herald@ecs-galandor.org
Minister of Arts and Sciences – Lord Squire Giovanni Visconti – ans@ecs-galandor.org
Minister of Combat – Lord Sir Richard “Rabbit” Kirk – marshal@ecs-galandor.org
Minister of Rolls – HRM Gaelen O’Flaherty – rolls@ecs-galandor.org
Sovereign of Arms – Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven – fleur@ecs-galandor.org
Royal Exchequer – Marchiză Dame Lark Evintorianalaxisabalandi – exchequer@ecs-galandor.org
Royal Hospitler – Lord Sir Kheldar – hospitler@ecs-galandor.org
Royal Chronicler – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd – blade@ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom Web Minister – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendel – webminister@ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom Secretary – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendel – secretary@ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom Regalia – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
Kingdom Water Bearer – Sabine

Current Listing of Galandorian Royalty

King and Queen of Galandor – TRM Gaelen O’Flaharty and Anne of Brackley
crown@ecs-galandor.org

Principality of Northwatch – TRH Sir Robert Sanguin and Dame Mina Lavigne
sirsanguinius@ecs-galandor.org

Marquiesette of Altiora – HE Jarl Sir Jaster Mereel
Altiora@ecs-galandor.org

Marquiesette of Solaris – HE Marchioness Mynwyn verch Gruffydd
solaris@ecs-galandor.org

Province of Stahldrache – Graf Sir Adon von Hesser
siradonvonhesser@yahoo.com

ECS Websites

Imperial Website:	www.ecs-imperial.org
Kingdom of Galandor:	www.ecs-galandor.org
Kingdom of Vega:	www.ecs-vega.com