

# The Blade



Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey

**January 2011**

## Missive from the Crown

Greetings,

Happy New Year to all!! With the holiday season behind us, Our thoughts turn to Crown War which will be held in less than 2 weeks. We wish both candidates well and best of luck. You will find information on voting and the Crown War event inside this missive.

*Gaelen*

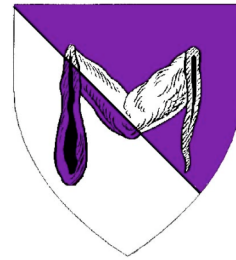
And

*Anne*

Rex



Regina



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### Calendar of Events

#### January

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Zodiac Tourney (Solaris)  
Marquis Sir Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Crown War and 12<sup>th</sup> Night Feast (Solaris)  
Her Royal Majesty Anne
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday Night Fight (Solaris)  
Marquis Sir Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi

#### February

- 12<sup>th</sup> – Zodiac Tourney (Solaris)  
Marquis Sir Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi

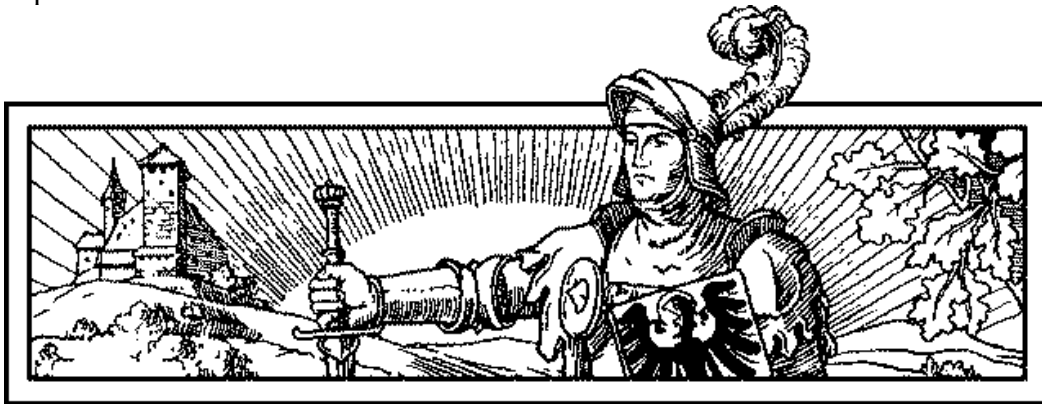
## Events

### *January 8<sup>th</sup> - Zodiac Tournery*

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

There will be the start of the Zodiac Tournery Jan. 8th at Kiwanis Park. Site will be open at 10am and going til approximately 1 or 2pm. This tournament will only feature combat so you can save your arts for Crown War. Only water will be provided. It will be located at the " new normal site" which is on the same side of the road as the playground. Please bring your combat spirit. Site fee will be \$2.

- Marquis Sir Marcillius



### *January 15<sup>th</sup> - Crown War and 12<sup>th</sup> Night Feast*

We would like to invite all to attend the Crown War event and feast being held January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The daytime location will be Kiwanis Park, Tempe, Ramada 8 (new Solaris fighter practice area). The site will open at 10:00 A.M., with steel combat to begin promptly at 10:45 A.M. Rapier and Shinai combat will follow. As per the Crown War Document all forms will be fought regardless of number of fighters. An arts tournament will run concurrent to the combat. There will also be an opportunity to cast your vote if you have not done so previously.

The Crown War feast will be held at Dame Mynwyn's keep (see her for directions). The feast site will open at 6:00 P.M. During the feast we will hold the Bard of Galandor competition and the coronation of Our new prince. Please bring appropriate feast gear, warm garb, and a merry attitude as we celebrate the ascension of a new royal. Any questions please contact me at [anneofbrackley@hotmail.com](mailto:anneofbrackley@hotmail.com).

Queen Anne

## Extras

### *Solaris Edge*

Hello All,

I hope everyone's holidays went well. I, for one, am looking forward to this New Year. Unfortunately this last month's the tourney was cancelled due to good English weather. We have many exciting events planned for this next month. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Seraphem  
Marcillius



### *Medieval Minute*

Henry Howard became Earl of Surrey in 1524 upon the death of his grandfather, while his father became Duke of Norfolk. Reared at Windsor with Henry VIII's illegitimate son, he was a poet and strong military mind. He fought with his father against the Pilgrimage of Grace rebellion, earning distinction.

Together with his friend Sir Thomas Wyatt they became known as the Fathers of the English Sonnet for being the first to write in the sonnet form that Shakespeare later made famous. He was also the first English poet to publish blank verse in his translations on some of the works of Virgil's Aeneid.

Descended from Kings on both sides of his family, Henry VIII's paranoia eventually led him to believe that Henry Howard wished to usurp the crown from his son Edward. Both he and his father were thrown into prison for treason. Henry Howard was sentenced to death on 13 January 1547 and executed on the 19<sup>th</sup>. His father only escaped the same fate because his execution was set for 29<sup>th</sup>, the day after Henry happened to die.

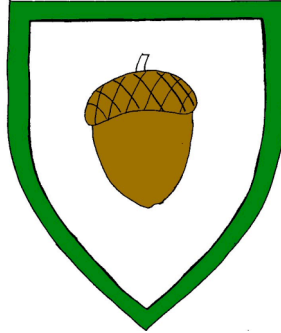
A poet and soldier, Henry Howard is buried in the tomb of St Michael the Archangel, Framlingham.

And that's your Medieval Minute.

Chronicler

## *Heraldry Corner*

It's time for another device to increase your heraldry knowledge. This month's device belongs to Lochinvar MacAuley.



The blazon is within a bordure (*border*) vert (*green*), argent (*silver*), an acorn proper (*the way it looks naturally*) in fess (*centered*).

Chronicler



## *The Walls Have Ears*

- I don't take my balls into fighting.
- I just don't want to have to get him back up again.
- I'm telling her you're good with both hands.
- I like looking at different pieces of wood.
- Rabbit's a vibrator!?
- Where did my head go?  
Someplace fun, I hope.

## Articles

### *The Knights Hospitaller and the Sieges of Rhodes*

The Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, also of Rhodes, also of Malta (more commonly known as the Knights Hospitaller, the Knights of St. John or the Knights of Malta) have a documented history stretching back to 1099. This Order is remarkable for its longevity and still exists today with diplomatic relations with over 50 countries. It was one of three primary military orders in the Crusades along with the Knights Templar and the Teutonic Knights. The Military Orders were an unusual product of the medieval age. Unlike other religious Orders, they were not pacifists and practiced a unique combination of military and religious functions. Following the

teaching of Augustus of Hippo (who promoted the concept of a “just war”) and Bernard of Clairvaux (who introduced the concept of a new knighthood of warrior/monks), they believed in malicide, the killing of evil, in whatever form they found it. They were not answerable to any secular authority. They were the Milites Christi (Warriors/Soldiers of Christ) and became one of the first multinational organizations in the medieval world. As a result, they were loved, feared and frequently hated by those who could not exercise any authority over them nor bend them to their will.



### **The Beginnings of the Knights Hospitallers**

The Hospitallers began as a healing Order with the establishment of a Hospital in Jerusalem before 1080. The Hospital was dedicated to the care of pilgrims traveling to and from the Holy Land and was founded by Italian merchants. The early members of this community were a lay fraternity. The Hospitallers were really founded by Pierre Gerald, a man of remarkable energy, who organized them into a healing Order which spread throughout Europe and was formally recognized by Pope Paschal II in 1113. The Hospitallers were unique in that they dedicated themselves to both service in a religious life and active involvement in the secular world. Following the first Crusade (1095-1099), the Order began to militarize and recruit from former soldiers and Crusaders. Their distinct black and red cyclas with a white cross began to populate the roads of the Europe and the Middle East. Together with the Knights Templar, the Hospitallers recognized the need to protect pilgrims and to fight to defend the Latin Kingdoms in the Holy Land. By the time of the Second Crusade (1145-1149), the Knights Hospitaller owned a variety of fortifications in the Kingdom of Armenia, the County of Edessa, the

Principality of Antioch, the County of Tripoli, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Shortly before the Third Crusade (1189-1192), the Hospitallers had grown into one of Outremer's premier fighting forces rivaled only by the Knights Templar. It was a rivalry which grew intense and bloody over the years as these two military orders struggled to maintain their primacy as military forces and to influence the politics of Outremer (a term literally translated into "land beyond the sea" which was used to describe the Latin Kingdoms in the holy land). By 1258, the Templars and the Hospitallers were largely able to settle their disputes and focus on their war against the Saracens. Unfortunately, the politics of Outremer had imploded the Kingdoms of Outremer and destroyed any semblance of stability. There was little the Military Orders could do to stop its continued decline.

### **A Search for Meaning**

After the fall of the last outposts of Outremer in 1293, the military orders that had fought and died to defend the Latin kingdoms were scattered to the four winds. By 1300, the Hospitallers and the Templars were searching for reasons to justify their existence in light of the criticisms for being unable to "save" Outremer. On October 13, 1307, King Philip IV of France issued an order to arrest all Templars on charges, among other things, of heresy. If the charges were proven, the Templar properties in France would go to Phillip who was both morally and financially bankrupt. King Phillip enjoyed living well beyond his means and was in desperate need of both coin and property. The Templars were arrested, interrogated and tortured. The trial of the Templars in France didn't seek to discover the truth but to prove the charges of heresy. Many Templars were burned at the stake. Pope Clement V was a weak man who bent to King Phillip's wishes and ultimately disbanded the Templars in 1312. In an ironic turn of fate, Pope Clement then gave the properties of the Templars to the Knights Hospitaller thus denying King Phillip of the prizes he was willing to murder for. King Phillip was not amused. Foulques de Villaret, the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller, was not a fool and could clearly read the writing on the wall. The Hospitallers had to find a reason for their existence or suffer the fate of the Templars.

They found one and took to it with a vengeance. The Hospitallers ditched their dusty armor and war horses and began to sail the Mediterranean Sea with galleys, galleases, and war ships. They healed pilgrims, protected Christian merchant ships, raided Islamic shipping and fought pirates throughout the eastern Mediterranean. They were called "devils" by their adversaries and "heroes" by their supporters. There was one thing that both sides could agree upon. The Hospitallers were brave, relentless, and became one of the finest sea forces of their day. The sight of a ship bearing their distinctive Maltese cross was enough to give pause to any ship's captain and the sight of a fully armed Hospitaller war galley generated fear among their enemies.

## **The Island of Rhodes**

Rhodes is located only 11 miles southwest of modern day Turkey. It is almost fifty miles long and 24 miles wide. It is the most easterly island in the Aegean Sea. With an ideal climate for crops and a steady water source from its underground streams and reservoirs, the island has been fought over by the Persians, ancient Greeks, Romans and Byzantines. It is located by some of the richest merchant shipping lanes of the Mediterranean. Rhodes was a watching post and a knife in the side of the Mamelukes and later, the Ottoman Empire. By 1310, the island had become the headquarters of the Knights of St. John who used it as a naval base of operations. It was Europe's best hope for a possible launching point for another crusade against the mainland. It was also the home of one of the finest hospitals in the Mediterranean. In addition to being a military and naval force, the Hospitallers never forgot their original purpose as a healing order.

### **The First Siege of Rhodes (1480)**

The Hospitallers repelled invasions of Rhodes in 1440, 1444, and 1448. They were one of the few Christian powers in the eastern Mediterranean that refused to pay tribute to the Ottoman Empire, the dominant Islamic Empire of their day. The Ottomans had originally been employed as a mercenary force by the Byzantines in Greece in 1354. They stayed and began to capture more and more of the surrounding territories including those owned by Islamic and Christian nations alike. They then turned westward and began to pick off one Balkan kingdom after another until they became one of the dominant forces in the Balkan area.

Mehmet II ("the Conqueror"), was one of the most successful and distinguished of the Ottoman Sultans. He was born on March 30, 1432 and began his rule as Sultan on February 18, 1451. He reigned as the head of the Ottoman Empire for over thirty years and had an extensive knowledge of science, philosophy, and the arts. He spoke over six languages including Arabic, Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Persian. He was a brilliant military commander and wanted to emulate Alexander the Great. In order to do so, he needed to rid the Mediterranean of this crusading order which prevented his empire's western expansion into the Mediterranean.

Mehmet II believed that Rhodes was hopelessly inadequate as a military base. In the winter of 1479-1480, he appointed Mesic Palacolgus Pasha as the Vizier for an expedition to conquer Rhodes. As Vizier, Mesic Pasha commanded a fleet of over 100 ships carrying an army of over 70,000 troops. The Ottomans brought with them siege artillery and cannon including three bronze cannons capable of firing balls which were almost seven feet in circumference. Mehmet II was sadly mistaken in his belief that this would be an easy siege.

The Hospitallers were led by their Grand Master Pierre d'Aubusson, a Frenchman who had been fighting the Ottomans for over 25 years. He was 57 at the time of the siege and had personally supervised the construction of the defenses on Rhodes. The Hospitallers had prepared for a siege and gathered two years' worth of food and supplies.

D'Aubusson was a man of humor and intelligence and a natural leader equally at home with Kings and common soldiers. He had 600 Knights at his disposal as well as 1,500 to 2,000 mercenaries and local militia to defend the island. D'Aubusson had even a greater asset than the will and courage of his men. He had some of the most incredible fortifications ever created in the medieval ages. Rhodes had two harbors. The outer harbor, which was the commercial area, was formed by a long curving neck of land reaching out into the sea. The inner harbor was reserved for the Order's galleys and guarded by the Fort of St. Nicholas. The fort had walls which were over twenty-four feet thick. The outer harbor was guarded by two towers, the Tower of St. Michael and the Tower of Angels. Between these towers stretched a huge chain which protected both the inner and outer harbor and prevented unwanted ships from sailing in. The city of Rhodes was built in a semi-circle around these harbors and was protected by a double wall which ran almost two and ½ miles. These walls contained thirteen towers. Behind the walls were ditches, earthworks and additional fortifications. In addition to city's defenses, there were also three coastal castles. The Hospitallers were ready for a fight.

The siege began in May of 1480. The Ottoman focused their efforts on the seaward side of the fortifications. They pounded the walls with cannon balls day and night. D'Aubusson organized shelters in the cellars of the city and personally led forces who worked day and night to repair the walls. On May 28, 1480, he sent a letter requesting help from all of the Hospitallers throughout Europe which threatened to never to forgive nor forget if aid was not immediately forthcoming. The letter was sent by fast galley and made its way into the Mediterranean under the cover of darkness. A Sicilian carrack made its way into the harbor a week later with additional troops and supplies.

By early June of 1480, the Ottomans attempted a landing in the harbor but quickly discovered that both the harbor bed and the nearby strip of land had been seeded with ship's nails and stakes. The guns from the fortifications together with fire ships sent by the Hospitallers destroyed the Ottoman attack. The landing parties were met with a reception of arrows and cross-bow bolts, balls from arquebuses and Greek fire. D'Aubusson's helmet was knocked off of his head by a stray cannonball. He simply joked about the possibility of promotion among his fellow knights to Grand Master if he were to continue to stand still and then continued to fight against the Ottoman onslaught. The Ottomans' attempts to seize the harbor continued throughout the month of June and each time they were pushed back into the sea. In addition to attacking the harbor, Ottoman artillery continued to pound at the south-eastern portion of the walls near the Italian Tower which was located away from the Harbor. In a display of incredible courage, D'Aubusson took to sleeping on these walls when he was not helping to rebuild them in order to maintain morale of his men. His example inspired his men who conducted night raids far behind the walls of the city on the Ottoman artillery positions.

By the end of July of 1480, the walls around the Italian Tower had crumbled. On July 27, 1480, Mesic Pasha ordered his army into the breach. The Bashi Bazouks (literally "the head bangers") were among the first wave and were quickly followed by the elite shock troops of the Empire, the Janissaries. D'Aubusson, dressed in full plate armor, personally led the defense. The Ottomans were forced to crowd themselves into a narrow

corridor of the ruined masonry where their numbers meant little and the advantage was with the defenders. During the course of the attack, D'Aubusson was wounded several times including an arrow through one of his thighs and a spear through his chest which collapsed a lung. The Knights Hospitaller rallied and not only repulsed the Ottomans from their position but then pursued their foes back to the Ottoman camp at the foot of Mt. St. Stephen where they took the Sultan's standard. The Ottomans lost almost 9,000 men and suffered casualties, according to some estimates, of upwards of an additional 30,000. The loss of his master's standard broke Mesic Pasha's spirit and he decided that he could not take the city or the Island. He withdrew the army and sailed for home. What the Ottomans did not know is that their artillery had almost destroyed the fortifications of Rhodes and that another two or three weeks of the siege would have likely broken the back of the Order.

The Hospitallers' victory led to wild rejoicing throughout the capitals of Europe who had seen far too few victories against the forces of Mehmet the Conqueror. It also gave the Knights Hospitaller a new prominence among the European nations. Mehmet swore to return to Rhodes to finish the job started by his forces. He would never get the chance and passed away in the night on May 3, 1481. During his lifetime, he personally participated in eighteen campaigns with a string of unparalleled victories which had solidified the Ottoman Empire. At the end of his life, the Empire thrived upon trade as far north as Poland and as far east as India and Muscovy.

D'Aubusson eventually recovered from his wounds and sought to rebuild the city and its fortifications. It would be another forty years before the Ottomans returned to Rhodes. A new Sultan would command the siege in person. He had no hesitation about bringing the full power of his Empire with him. His name reflected both his prowess in battle as well as his talents as a statesman and ruler. He was called Suleiman the Magnificent.

### **The Fall of Rhodes (1521)**

Suleiman the Magnificent decided to erase the stain of dishonor suffered by Mehmet. He began his reign with two goals. The first was the taking of Belgrade, the gateway to Hungary, and the second was the eradication of Rhodes as a base of operations for the Knights Hospitaller. He brought with him almost three times the troops which had been sent by Mehmet (just over 200,000 men). He brought over 103 galleys and 300 other vessels to the siege. He brought sappers who were trained in the digging and placing of explosive mines under the walls. He brought cannon, double guns, pot guns, and a wide range of projectile weapons capable of smashing the walls of virtually any fortress. He brought with him an overwhelming force for a small island and he personally led the attack. Having studied Mehmet's loss at Rhodes, Suleiman decided to attack the land based side of the fortifications rather than the seaward side. He made it clear to everyone that there would be no retreat. There would be no walking away from the siege once it had begun. There would only be victory or death for the Ottomans and the Knights Hospitaller knew it.

Phillippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam commanded the Knights Hospitaller. His family had a long history of participation in the Crusades and had fought in the last ditch defense of the City of Acre in 1293. He sent urgent pleas for help and reinforcements to the Princes and Kings of Europe upon his election as Grand Master. The European response was a deafening wall of silence. They were too preoccupied with their own wars to pay attention to a small eastern island in the Mediterranean Sea.

From June 24, 1522 to August of 1522, the fortress of Rhodes held against everything that was thrown at it. The mining and countermining of the walls never did not cease nor did the bombardment by the Ottoman cannon. By September 24, 1522, the Ottomans breached the first of the landward walls. Wave after wave of Ottoman infantry were repulsed by the defenders with heavy losses on both sides. By early October of 1522, more walls were breached by artillery and the battlefield turned into mud as the winter weather set in on the Island. The Hospitallers ran out of power and provisions and there were few men or women left who were not wounded. By the beginning of December of 1522, the Hospitaller's resources were finally exhausted. Suleiman had made it known that he wanted the Island even if he had to sacrifice his entire army to obtain it. On December 18, 1522, Villiers de l'Isle Adam formally surrendered Rhodes to Suleiman the Magnificent. In his generosity, Suleiman granted the remaining defenders both their lives and their dignity. On New Year's Day in 1523, Villiers de l'Isle Adam and the Hospitallers were allowed to march out of the city bearing their standards and boarded their great ships to leave the island which had been their home for over 213 years. Suleiman was reported to say that "it saddens me to have to oblige this brave old man to leave his home". Suleiman returned to Istanbul in triumph and the Ottoman Empire claimed the eastern Mediterranean as its own as it continued its westward advance. The Hospitallers wandered in search of a new base of operations and finally found a small island home off of the coast of Italy. The island was called Malta and, in less than forty years, one of the greatest battles between the Hospitallers and the Ottoman Empire would take place there but that is another story for another time.

Lord Sir Paul de Marseilles

**Sources:** Helen Nicolson, **The Knights Hospitaller** (Boydell and Brewer, 2006); Desmond Seward, **The Monks of War** (Penguin Books, 1995); Ernie Bradford, **The Knights of the Order** (Dorset Press, 1972); John Julius Norwich, **The Middle Sea** (vintage, 2006); John Freely, **The Grand Turk, Sultan Mehmet II** (Overlook Press, 2009); Roger Crowley, **Empires of the Sea: The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Contest for the Center of the World** (Random House, 2008); and Norman Housely, **The Later Crusades** (Oxford, 2001).

# Hierarchy of Galador



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



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



**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 – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendal – [herald@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:herald@ecs-galandor.org)

Minister of Arts and Sciences – Lady Squire Josceline Marie Tourneau – [ans@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:ans@ecs-galandor.org)

Minister of Combat – Sir Adon von Hesser – [marshal@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:marshal@ecs-galandor.org)

Minister of Rolls – HRM Gaelen O’Flaherty – [rolls@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:rolls@ecs-galandor.org)

Sovereign of Arms – Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven – [fleur@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:fleur@ecs-galandor.org)

Royal Exchequer – Lady Dame Lark Evintorianalaxisabalandi – [exchequer@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:exchequer@ecs-galandor.org)

Royal Hospitler – Lord Sir Kheldar – [hospitler@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:hospitler@ecs-galandor.org)

Royal Chronicler – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd – [blade@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:blade@ecs-galandor.org)

Kingdom Web Minister – open – [webminister@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:webminister@ecs-galandor.org)

Kingdom Secretary – Baron Sir Gerrit Kendel – [secretary@ecs-galandor.org](mailto:secretary@ecs-galandor.org)

Kingdom Regalia – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

## **Current Listing of Galandorian Royalty**

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Principality of Northwatch – TH Sir Robert Sanguin and Dame Mina Lavigne  
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Marquissette of Solaris – TE Sir Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi and Seraphem  
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Province of Stahldrache – Graf Sir Adon von Hesser  
[siradonvonhesser@yahoo.com](mailto:siradonvonhesser@yahoo.com)

## **ECS Websites**

Imperial Website:	<a href="http://www.ecs-imperial.org">www.ecs-imperial.org</a>
Kingdom of Galandor:	<a href="http://www.ecs-galandor.org">www.ecs-galandor.org</a>
Kingdom of Vega:	<a href="http://www.ecs-vega.com">www.ecs-vega.com</a>