

The Blade



Battle of Stamford Bridge

September 2011

Missive from the Crown

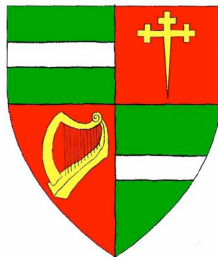
Greetings Galador!

Another warm month has come and gone. It is still rather quiet in the Kingdom, but several great advances are lingering in the summer's air. Stahldrache continues to do what they do best through teaching and education in demonstration after demonstration. Meanwhile, in the Kingdom proper, Solaris continues their monthly happenings as well as preparing the thrones for possible new electors. We shall see where the future of Solaris takes the Kingdom.

I look forward to the cooler months where I trust those of us that are reserving ourselves will finally come around and display what we have been working all summer on whether is was honing those skills or buffing up those art pieces. The Vega Renn Fair is just around the corner. I for one am very excited for this year. The next few months should be very exciting.

Gerrit

Ard Ri



Calendar of Events

September

2nd – 5th – Champions Tourney (Stahldrache)
Lord Sir Adon von Hesser

3rd – A Knight in Sherwood Forest (Vega)
Earl Sir Vladimir Tolos

28th – Solaris Fight Night (Solaris)
HE Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

28th – Solaris Seat Voting (Solaris)
TE Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi and Seraphem

October

7th – 9th – Renn Faire (Vega)
Baron Sir Roland Caprichoso

26th – Solaris Fight Night (Solaris)
HE Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

Events

September 26th – Solaris Fight Night

I will be running the Solaris Fight Night this month. It will be on the 26th at the usual spot starting around 7:30 or whenever people get there. It will be free. There will be steel—if there's enough fighters for that—then shinai or rapier—depending on what the fighters want—and then whichever one we didn't do last. There is no theme for this. Any questions, contact me.

Mynwyn verch Gruffydd

September 2nd - 5th - Champions Tourney

Dear Populace-

Let it be known that on September 2nd through the 5th in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eleven that there will be a tourney to choose yet again the annual Champions of Stahldrache. The site located at haus Vuhselin in Logansport opens at noon on the 2nd and will go till 2pm on the 5th. The camp fee will be \$10, all those just coming for the day and tourneys will be \$5. Opening court will be held at 5pm on the 2nd with a bardic circle at night on the 3rd, and closing court at 6pm on the 4th.

There will be prizes for all tourney winners, most chivalrous, and best death. Shinai and Steel will be best two of three round robin tourneys while Rapier will be a best two of three double elimination. There will also be held as tradition an archery contest. New this year will be a dagger, spear, and axe contests for special prizes.

There will also be an arts tourney with all artistic period forms welcome. Any bardic entries must preregister to the autocrat at least three days before the tourney to allow scheduling of their performance within the tourney timeline. Bottled water will be provided at no additional cost. If there are any questions please contact the autocrat Lord Sir Adon von Hesser at 765-438-7312 or siradonvonhesser@yahoo.com.

In Service of the Dream,
Lord Sir Adon von Hesser
Knight Bannerette of Galandor
Kingdom Combat Minister
LoC of Galandor
Order of the Sovereigns' Gratitude
Vegan Order of the Stealth Sloth



Extras

Solaris Edge

Hello All,

We are nearing the time when it will start cooling off again. I hope to see more of you out at practice this fall. We do have some new faces that may turn into some new members that have been coming out. I am looking forward to getting to know our new friends. We are nearing the Vega war—please do not forget to sign up for the event if you plan on attending. I am looking forward to seeing friends in our neighboring kingdom. Also it is that time to elect new territory leaders. I am looking forward to this next month.

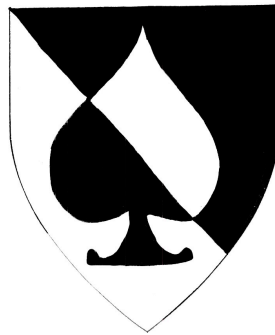
Thank you,

Seraphem
Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi



Heraldry Corner

It's time for another device to increase your heraldry knowledge. This month's device belongs to Robert von Rohr.



Per bend (*upper left to lower right division*) argent (*silver*) and sable (*black*), a spade countercharged (*opposite colors of charge than in field*) in fess (*centered*).

Chronicler

Announcement

Letter of Intent

Dear Populace,

No one put in any letters of intent so I will continue in office as Marquessa for the next year. Then one of you will have to do it!!

Seraphem

Medieval Minute

The year 1066 is famous for the Norman invasion and suppression of England, forever changing the isle. Many don't remember the earlier invasion that happened. King Harald Hardrada of Norway, at the urging of the bitter brother of the English King, invaded northern England, taking the city of York on 20 September.

At the time, King Harold Godwinson, the rightfully elected English King, was in southern England awaiting the Norman invasion of William, Duke of Normandy. He raced northward, gathering as much an army as he could. In an unmatched march he covered the 185 miles from London to York in only 4 days, moving his army more than 40 miles in a day.

Harold arrived in York just in time. Harald Hardrada had demanded more hostages from York and was coming from Riccall where the Vikings had beached their ships. Harold pushed his troops—who must have been exhausted—on to Stamford Bridge there to win a decisive victory, forcing the Norwegians to withdraw. His victory was short lived as very shortly after the battle he received word that William had landed in Hastings.

The Battle of Stamford Bridge was fought on 25 September 1066.

And that's your Medieval Minute.

Chronicler

Articles

Some Common Words and Phrases

It is estimated that there are approximately 2,500 languages in the world and English is one of the most common. It is language, which is extremely flexible and adaptive. Our language evolved from Old English, a language that is different than the tongue we currently speak. As noted by Bill Bryson, the author of “The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got that Way”, there are approximately 4,500 Old English words which are still in usage. The Oxford English Dictionary has almost 650,000 words in it not including technical terms. Old English words and phrases constitute less than 1 percent of the words being used in the English Language today.

The Anglo-Saxons adopted words and phrases from Romans and Greeks (words such as “forum”, “republic”, and “veto”), the Norman French (“justice”, “baron”, “prince”), the Scandinavians (“log”, “trust”, and “skull”), the Dutch (“landscape”, “cookies”, “caboose”) and the Spanish (“rodeo”, “bronco”, and “canyon”). Etymology is the study of the origin of words and phrases. Etymologists estimate that the English language had borrowed words from over 50 languages by the 16th Century. When one considers that the United States became the home of millions of immigrants with different languages, the growth of the English language through words and phrases from other languages is not particularly surprising. This growth doesn’t mean that we can all still understand each other perfectly. Take someone from New England and have them try to speak with someone from England, Scotland, or Wales. The language may be common but the use of the words and phrases are not.

I have provided just a few examples of some of the words and phrases that are in common use today and a short history of their origin. I hope that you enjoy them.

Ancient Origins

“Been Sacked” or “to get the Sack”: In today’s usage, these phrases mean that someone was fired or terminated. Etymologists believe that there are two possible origins for these phrases. Some point to the ancient Romans who, as part of their capital punishment, would simply tie a criminal into a sack and throw them into a river to drown. Other nations and countries subsequently adopted this means of punishment as well. Others trace these phrases to craftsmen during the Medieval Ages who would bring the tools of their trade to work in a sack. The sack would be handed to their employers during the workday. They would “get the sack” at the end of the day which meant that their services were no longer required.

“Not worth His Salt”: We use this phrase to describe an individual who is not very good at what he does for a living. The origin of the phrase calls back to the Romans who partially paid their soldiers with salt, a substance which was extremely valuable. An

individual who was not worth his salt was not worth paying. The English word “salary” actually comes from the Roman word for salt (“sal”).

“Draconian”: A Draconian punishment is one which is out of proportion to the offense which has been committed. The use of this word can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. In 7th Century B.C., the authorities in Athens appointed Draco to draw up a criminal code for punishment. The Code was so severe that almost every offense was punishable by death. It was called the Draconian Code.

“Washing Your Hands of Something”: We use this phrase to describe an individual who no longer wants to be involved in the activity. Most Etymologists trace the origin of this phrase to the New Testament in the Bible. Pontius Pilate washed his hands shortly before turning over Jesus to the crowd who eventually crucified him.

Norse Origins

“Raining Cats and Dogs”: We use this phrase to describe a storm of unusual intensity. The common consensus among Etymologists, although widely debated, is that the phrase harkens back to Old Norse legends. Cats were believed to have the power to conjure storms and dogs were symbols of the wind. The original use of this phrase meant a hard driving rain with howling wind. Other Etymologists point to the use of the phrase to describe a rain so hard that cats and dogs drowned in the water and could be seen floating in the streets or gutters.

“To Egg on”: This phrase means to encourage another to do something risky or dangerous. The phrase actually comes from the Old Norse word “Eggja” which means “to incite” usually with the business end of a sword.

“Berserk”: This term today is used to describe someone who is wildly destructive or frenzied in behavior. The word actually comes from the Old Norse term “Berserkr” which meant “bear shirt” and was used to describe Norse warriors who fought in bearskins and were almost unstoppable in combat.

Medieval Origins

“The Upper Crust”: We use this phrase to describe the elite or wealthy. It actually has origins in the medieval dining custom of passing the bread during dinner first among those of noble or higher social stature. They would tear off the crust of the bread to eat it and the remainder of the bread would then be passed down to those of lower social standing. Those who were wealthy or noble literally had the opportunity to eat the upper crust.

“Red Letter Day”: We think of a red-letter day as one that has meaning or significance. In the middle Ages, religious holidays on calendars would be marked in red letters so that people could remember them. Many would pay attention since most religious holidays were also feast days which provided free food and drink.

“Eating Humble Pie”: This phrase is used to describe someone who is forced to make an apology or is humbled in some way. The origin of this phrase comes from medieval practice of feasting following a hunt. The nobility would enjoy the best parts of the deer or an animal. The remainder would be served to others in a dish frequently called an “umble pie” which was a dish made out of the liver, heart, and guts of the animal. The “eating of umble pie” was an acknowledgment of one’s less than sterling social status.

“Shambles”: Shambles is a term used to describe something that is untidy or chaotic. The word actually comes from the Saxon word “Scamel”, a word used to describe a stall displaying meat. The shambles was the street containing butcher’s shops. At the end of the day, there would be unwanted meat, blood and other related byproducts of the trade spread throughout the street.

“Licking His Chops”: This phrase means someone who is eager with anticipation. The phrase can be traced to the Anglo-Saxons’ “Chops” meaning the mouth or jaw. An individual who was “licking his chops” was actually licking his lips like a wolf or dog in anticipation of a meal.

“High Horse”: We describe someone who is on his high horse as an individual who is aloof or snobbish. Etymologists trace the history of this phrase back to the warhorses which were capable of bearing fully armored Knights and thus tended to be taller and larger than regular horses. Knights who sat upon these horses would literally be above everyone else and capable of looking down upon those who were not Knights.

“The Thinking Cap”: An individual who has put on his or her thinking cap is pondering a problem. This phrase comes from the early legal system in England when a Judge would put on a black cap to show that he had considered all of the evidence and was now thinking about his ruling.

“No Quarter neither Asked nor given”: The modern meaning of this phrase is that there will be no mercy given under any circumstances. The word “quarter” is the Old English word for mercy. In Medieval times, a black flag raised before battle would signify that no mercy was going to be given to prisoners. It would be a fight to the death.

“Burning a Candle at Both Ends”: We use this phrase today to describe someone who is working harder than normal. The origin of this phrase comes from medieval tradesmen who would work deep into the night and would literally burn a candle at both ends to provide additional light to work by.

Renaissance and Beyond

“Bedlam”: We use this word to describe something that is incredibly or insanely busy. One of the first hospitals in London was St. Mary of Bethlehem in 1247. Henry VIII dedicated the hospital to the treatment for the insane. The word Bethlehem was shorted to Bedlam. By the 1700s, this hospital was open to the public for entertainment and educational purposes.

“Skeletons in the Closet”: In modern usage, this phrase is used to describe someone who is hiding some type of secret. The origin of this phrase comes from a time during the early medical profession when it was illegal to dissect corpses for medical research. These laws remained in effect in England until the 1830s and resulted in a “lively” trade among grave robbers. Medical professionals were believed to hide bodies or skeletons in the closets of their offices or teaching facilities.

“Blackmail”: We use this word to describe the extorting of money by use of threat of exposing something or by threats of force. This term actually comes from Scotland in the 1600s. Mail was an old Scottish term for rent or tribute. Tenants would pay their rent in silver or gold which was also known as “Whitmal” or “white mail”. “Black mail” was payment in the form of labor, cattle or was the money paid to smugglers and rival clans to keep them from stealing goods, cattle or even people.

“The Cat got your Tongue”: The modern usage of this phrase is to describe someone who is suddenly silent. The origin of this term comes from the Middle Eastern practice of cutting out the tongue of a blasphemer or liar. The tongue would be fed to cats or other animals who wandered the streets. The cat literally had someone’s tongue.

By Lord Sir Paul de Marseilles

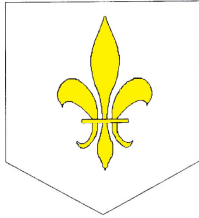
Sources: Bill Bryson, *The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got that Way* (Perennial, 1990); Albert Jack, *Black Sheep and Lame Ducks, the Origins of Even More Phrases We Use Everyday* (Perigee Books, 2005); Harry Oliver, *Flying by the Seat of your Pants, Surprising Origins of Everyday Expressions* (Perigee Books, 2008); David Feldman, *Who Put the Butter in Butterfly* (Barnes and Noble Books, 2005); Martha Barnette, *Dog Days and Dandelions: A Lively Guide to the Animal Meanings Behind Everyday Words* (St. Martin’s Press, 2003).



The Walls Have Ears

- My finger wouldn’t go in the right . . . spot.
- Holy cow! It’s hard as hell!
- The next one will be quick and easy.
- It comes naturally. I don’t have to work at it.
- When do you want me?
Are you sure you want the answer to that?

Hierarchy of Galandor



CROWN OF GALANDOR – HRM Gerrit Kendel



Marquisette of Solaris – TE Marquis Sir Marcellius
Evintorianalaxisabalandi and Marquessa Seraphem
-**Semag Hall** – Lady Dame Lorelei von
Bremerhaven
- **Peregrine** – Lady Squire Josceline Marie
Tourneau



Province of Stahldrache – Noble Estates of Stahldrache
-**House of the Dragon's Blade** – Lord Squire
Christoph Vuhselin

Royal Officers of Galandor

Kingdom Herald – Amadeus O’Dea – herald@ecs-galandor.org

Minister of Arts and Sciences – Lady Dame Lorelei von Bremerhaven – ans@ecs-galandor.org

Minister of Combat – Sir Adon von Hesser – marshal@ecs-galandor.org

Minister of Rolls – open – rolls@ecs-galandor.org

Sovereign of Arms – Squire Ulric Stumere – fleur@ecs-galandor.org

Royal Exchequer – Lady Squire Josceline Marie Tourneau – exchequer@ecs-galandor.org

Royal Hospitler open – hospitler@ecs-galandor.org

Royal Chronicler – Marchioness Dame Mynwyn verch Gruffydd – blade@ecs-galandor.org

Kingdom Web Minister – open – webminister@ecs-galandor.org

Kingdom Secretary—Lord Sir Kheldar– secretary@ecs-galandor.org

Kingdom Regalia – open

Current Listing of Galandorian Royalty

King of Galandor – HRM Gerrit Kendel
crown@ecs-galandor.org

Marquiesette of Solaris – TE Sir Marcillius Evintorianalaxisabalandi and Seraphem
solaris@ecs-galandor.org

Province of Stahldrache – Noble Estates of Stahldrache

ECS Websites

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