



Aurora Borealis

Lighting up the Northern Shores Region

First Quarter 2007

Volume 2 Issue 1

Northern Shores A&S Championships

The third annual Northern Shores A&S Championships will be held on January 20th, 2007 at the Fête des Glaces, in the Barony of Havre des Glaces.

Rules for the A&S Championship can be found online at: <http://www.northernshores.ca/events/nsras.htm> and are available in both English and French.

Pre-registering for the A&S Championship is strongly encouraged. To register, or if you have questions, please contact Mistress Isobel Mowbray, current NSR A&S Champion, at 902-423-8793, or by email at georginaisobel@yahoo.ca.

Upcoming Events in the Northern Shores

January 6
12th Night
Barony of Ruantallan
Halifax, NS

February 3
Northern Shores Regional Practice
Le Garnison de Dragonet
St. Jean-sur-Richilieu, QC

May 5
25th Anniversary: Return of the Kelpie
Canton of Seashire (Ruantallan)
Halifax, NS

January 20
Fête des Glaces
Barony of Havres Des Glaces
Quebec City, QC

March 10
Baronial Investiture of IDD
Barony of Dragon Dormant
Montreal, QC

May 18-21
Spring Schola/NSR Warcamp
Shire of Lyndhaven
Woodstock, NB

(Special interest events - Outside of the Northern Shores)

February 13-19
Estrella War XXXIII
Kingdom of Atenveldt

March 27
Northern Lights
Barony of Stonemarche

IN THIS ISSUE:

NSR A&S Championship	1
Upcoming Events	1
Royal Favours	2
Newsletter Contributions	2
Officers of the NSR	3
Christmas Origins	3
The Origins of Valentines	4
St. Roch Patron St. of Dogs	4
The Boars Head Carol	5
The Boars Head Carol	6
Sheetmusic	6

DISCLAIMER:

This is the *Aurora Borealis*, a publication of the Northern Shores Region of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *Aurora Borealis* is available online at northernshores.ca. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA Inc. policies.

Copyright 2006 Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles or artwork from this publication, please contact Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

Royal Favors

Favor designs for Her Highness, Princess Aikaterine, have now been posted on the Royal Website at <http://www.eastkingdom.org/trh>.

Her Highness, is using the initial "A" with a dragonfly as her favor, to be given at the great Pennsic War. In keeping with her desire for a period reign the favors are to be created in a slightly different fashion.

The design is to be centered at the end of a strip of white fabric measuring 4 inches wide by 36 inches long (finished size). There is to be no belt loop, they should be faced with the same fabric. These favors will be looped or tied on, not worn with a belt loop. (That's why they are so long).

The favors can be created and embellished in any means: embroidery, painting, beads etc.

Favors can be submitted in person to Baroness Victoria la Picarde or her Highness at any event. Please ensure that the name (mundane and SCA) and address/local group of the maker(s) is/are included with the favor.

Favors can also be mailed, please see the Royal Website for contact information.

NSR Regional Championships

The following events are in need of an autocrat/event bid:

Northern Shores Archery Championships
(last held 3 years ago)

Northern Shores Rattan Championship
(for 2008)

Northern Shores Rapier Championships
(for 2008)

Northern Shores Arts & Sciences Championship
(for 2008)

*If you are interested in running an event to house any of these championships, please contact the current champion to see if they are interested in helping with the endeavor.

If there are any other groups considering a bid for a Kingdom level event, please let us know so that we, as the Northern Shores Region, can work together to avoid potential event conflicts.

Contribute to the NSR *Aurora Borealis*:

The next edition of the Northern Shores Regional Newsletter, the *Aurora Borealis* is due to be available online by April 1, 2007.

All contributions for the next issue must be received no later than March 1, 2007. No submissions after that date will be accepted for the April issue.

Contributions should be sent to: Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys (gwen@moonsandstars.com)

Northernshores.ca

Lady Zaneta "Gavlinne" Angiolieri

I am happy to announce that efforts are currently underway, and progress has already begun, on the full translation of the Northern Shores website currently located at www.northernshores.ca.

I would like to publicly thank all of the translators who have so graciously donated their time and talents to this endeavour:

Mistress Alisay de Falaise
Lord Lorenzo Della Rocca
Lord Matsudaira Yoshi
Gustav die Sturmere

Baron Godfroy de Falaise
Lady Alix de Minerve
Lady Marion d'Arpeuilles
Mebh De Orkney

DID YOU KNOW...:

That **William I**, also referred to as **William the Conqueror**, was coronated in Westminster Abbey on December 25, 1066.

Now THAT's a Christmas present!

Merry Christmas!

Officers of the NSR:

Seneschal

Master Aetheric Lindberende

Exchequer

Position currently vacant

Earl Marshal

Baron Conrad Connor MacAllyn

Badger Herald

Mestress Lyanna Kernough

Chatelaine

Position currently vacant

A&S Minister

Lady Joane Steward

Minister of Lists

Signore Cosmano Piero Michelotto de Roma

Accessibility Porter

Lord Dugald the Sheepstealer

Chirurgion

Position currently vacant

Minister of Children

Gebiedster Mergriet van Wijenhorst

Youth Marshall

Baron Hensojin

Waiver Secretary

Mistress Elizabeth "Bess" Darnley

Web Minister

Lady Zaneta "Gavlinne" Angiolieri

Deputy Commander of Seige Forces

Lord Guthfrith Yrlingson

Deputy Commander of Archery

Lady Elise ferch Morgan ap Owen

Deputy Commander of Thrown Weapons

Lord Ludwig von Eisburg

Deputy Commander of Horse

Lord Cailean mac Eachduinn

Deputy Commander of Fence

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus and Lord Rufus Fletcher

Newsletter Design and Production

Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

Newsletter Translation Team:

Mistress Alisay de Falaise

Baron Godfroy de Falaise

Lord Lorenzo Della Rocca

Lady Alix de Minerve

Lord Matsudaira Yoshi

Lady Marion d'Arpheuilles

Gustav die Stermere

Mebh De Orkney

Christmas Traditions and their Origin

Written by Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

The Christmas Wreath

We are unsure when the common practice of hanging a welcoming wreath on one's door at Christmas came into being, but many legends surrounding the Christmas wreath exist.

Before the many manifestations of the Christmas wreath introduced plastic, Styrofoam, and evergreen boughs, most wreaths were made of holly. In ancient times Celts believed that holly had magical protective powers and in Roman mythology holly was a sacred symbol of the god Saturn, the sun god.

Holly wreaths were also commonly used in the pagan celebrations of the winter solstice, as a sign of eternal life, because they did not brown or die in winter. Because of their association with magical powers, paganism and multi-theism, the use of holly wreaths to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas was controversial at best. However, decorating the halls with boughs of holly during the Christmas season became a tradition even in Christian homes. Some legends hold that the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head at the time of the crucifixion was actually a wreath of holly with white berries that turned red from Christ's blood.

Sources:

Christmas Lore : Worldwide Christmas Traditions

http://christmaslore.com/what_is_the_story_of_christmas_wreaths_1.html

Origin of Christmas Traditions

By Sarah Lane

http://www.classbrain.com/artholiday/publish/article_52.shtml#WREATH

Christmas Dinner

Now as most of us are just recovering from the large Christmas Goose or Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, the traditional Christmas Dinner used boar (pig).

This tradition dates back to Norse folklore, where boar was served in Valhalla, the mythical hall where Odin received the souls of heroes who had fallen in battle. The Celts kept this tradition alive, making it more popular than beef or mutton for celebrations. It certainly didn't hurt that the Celts were the main suppliers for pork and bacon throughout Europe. In England, hunting the Christmas boar became an annual sport. After proper preparation, the boar's head would be brought into the dining hall, often depicted with an apple in its mouth, and the guests would cheer. The entire household would then sing "The Boar's Head Carol", which is said to be the oldest printed Christmas carol in existence today (1521).

Visit the last page of the newsletter for a copy of "The Boar's Head Carol" sheet music.

Sources:

Christmas Symbols, Folklore and More

<http://www.brownielocks.com/christmassymbols.html>

Please note:

Newsletter editors reserve the right to edit content as required for space and content. We will do our best to present your contributions in full, however, some edits may be required to accommodate for limited space.

The Origins of Valentine's Day

Written by Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

It is believed that the origin of Valentine's Day can be attributed to two men, Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni. While they sometimes have separate identities, *"most scholars believe they are the same person"*(1).

Valentine of Rome was a priest, possibly a bishop, and physician of Rome. After giving aid to imprisoned martyrs, he himself was imprisoned, but it is said he won over his jailer after curing the blindness of the jailers' daughter. Despite that however, he was beaten and beheaded in the year 269 in Rome.

"There are several theories about the origin of Valentine's Day celebrations. Some believe the Romans had a mid-February custom where boys drew girls' names in honor of the sex and fertility goddess, Februata Juno; pastors "baptised" this holiday, like some others, by substituting the names of saints such as Valentine to suppress the practice. Others maintain that the custom of sending Valentines on 14 February stems from the belief that birds begin to pair on that date. By 1477 the English associated lovers with the feast of Valentine because on that day "every bird chooses him a mate." The custom started of men and women writing love letters to their Valentine on this day. Other "romance" traditions have become attached to this feast, including pinning bay leaves to your pillow on Valentine's Eve so that you will see your future mate that night in your dreams."

Sources:

The Catholic Community Forum : Saints

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintv06.htm>

St. Roch Patron Saint of Dogs

Submitted by Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

St. Roch (also known as Rock, Rocco, Rollox, Roque, Rochus) was, by most accounts, born around 1295 in Montpellier, France to a noble family. It is rumoured that he was born with the image of a red cross on his chest. Despite his privileged background, he had a great empathy for the poor and sick, and eventually renounced his nobility and wealth to make a pilgrimage to Rome, where he cared for plague victims.

After performing several miraculous cures, he eventually contracted the disease himself and retreated to a forest so as not to burden anyone with his own suffering. There he was befriended by a dog who brought him food daily, stolen from his masters table, and eventually Roch recovered.

However, when he returned home, his family had died and there was no one who recognized him. Consequently, he was charged with false impersonation and spying and languished in jail for five years, where he and his faithful canine companion cared for other prisoners until Roch's death in 1327 at the age of 32.

Sources:

Saints Preserved

<http://saintspreserved.com/roch/roch.htm>

The Catholic Community Forum : Saints

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintr06.htm>



Prince Gryffith, Princess Aikaterine & the Royal Hounds

Photo courtesy of Lady Megha of Lochleven

THE BOAR'S HEAD CAROL

English Traditional Carol
Queens College Version, Oxford, England
First published 1521 by Wynken de Worde in *Christmasse Carolles*
Source: William Henry Husk, *Songs of the Nativity* (London: John Camden Hotten, 1868)

1. The boar's head in hand bring I,
Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary.
I pray you, my masters, be merry ⁰¹
Quot estis in convivio ⁰²

Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino ⁰³

2. The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the rarest dish in all this land,
Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland
Let us *servire cantico*.⁰⁴

Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino

3. Our steward hath provided this
In honor of the King of Bliss;
Which, on this day to be served is
In Reginensi atrio.⁰⁵

Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino

End Notes

1. Or: And I pray you, my masters, merry be.
2. Translation: As you all feast so heartily.
3. Translation of Chorus:

Lo, behold the head I bring
Giving praise to God we sing

Another translation:

The boar's head I bring,
Giving praises to the Lord.

4. Translation: Let us serve with a song.
5. Translation: In the Queen's hall.

Sources:

The Hymns and Carols of Christmas

http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/boars_head_carol.htm

** Sheet music found on the following page

CHRISTMAS CAROL TUNES.

Carol on bringing in the Boar's head.

Annually sung at Queen's College, Oxford.

SOLO.

The boar's head in hand bear I, Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary, And I

This system of musical notation features a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

pray you, my mas-ters, be mer-ry Quot es - tis in con - vi - vi - o.

This system continues the musical notation from the first system, with the same clefs and time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

CHORUS.

Ca - put A - pri de - fe - ro Reddens lau - des Do - mi - no.

This system of musical notation features a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

