



Aurora Borealis

Lighting up the Northern Shores Region

Fourth Quarter 2007

Volume 2 Issue 4

A Medieval Christmas Tradition – Bean Cake

From the Gode Cookery Website

Medieval Christmas celebrations usually spanned more than one day on the calendar. Since the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) commemorated the visit of the Wise Men or Magi (kings) to the Christ child, it became universally customary to prepare a cake in the shape of a royal crown for this celebration. Originally in antique times a mere wreath to symbolize power and victory, the crown had come as well to symbolize purity and consecration. As a food, the many versions of the 'King's Cake' testify to the broad popularity of this cake at this time in the ecclesiastical calendar. Certain traditions, involving the hiding of small articles in this cake, grew with its use: if a person eating it found a pea or bean in his piece, he was declared the 'king' or ruler over the Epiphany festivities; finding a ring presaged marriage in the coming year for the finder; finding a coin, wealth.

Source: <http://www.godecookery.com/how2cook/howto06.htm#beanking>

Upcoming Events in the Northern Shores

October 20
Baronial Investiture Anniversary
TBD (Ruantallan)
Nova Scotia

November 10
Fall Harvest
Barony of Dragon Dormant
Montreal, QC

December 15
Herne the Hunter
Canton of Seashire (Ruantallan)
Halifax, NS

November 3
Sven the Gardner
Canton of Seashire (Ruantallan)
Middle Sackville, NS

November 24
Feast of Saint Clement
Canton of Distant Shore
(Ruantallan)
Stewiacke, NS

IN THIS ISSUE:

Christmas Bean Cake	1
Upcoming Events	1
Courtesy	2
Officers of the NSR	2
NSRTF	3
Vesey's Bulb Fundraiser	4
Feast Gear Tips	3
NSR Championships	4
NSR A&S Championships	5

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Courtesy – How'd they do that

Lady Teagera (Tigger)

We play in a world where many people are praised for their courtesy. Though when asked to explain what actions make them so courteous, the response most often provided is that it is “simply their nature”, and how they “always do things”.

The dictionary says “Courtesy: a courteous or respectful or considerate act”. So it comes down to our actions towards others that define what Courtesy really is. Actions that provide us with the ability to make someone feel like Royalty or like a peasant regardless of the station they hold within the SCA.

Recall the last time you were not happy with how you were treated by another. Was it, even in part, due to a lack of their courtesy? Was it due to a lack of your own courtesy? Even if your answer was no to both questions, could the situation have been improved if you extended more courtesy?

Be it within the SCA or in the mundane world a little courtesy goes a long way. So, as no one is perfect, here are a few things you could keep in mind when practicing courtesy.

- Hold open a door;
- Offer someone a place to sit;
- When asked for assistance, help them if you are able, or even offer to help before you are asked;
- If approaching someone already in a conversation, wait until acknowledged before approaching the final few steps and apologize for interrupting;
- Acknowledge representatives of the crown;
- Always say thank you;
- Above all, treat others, as you wish to be treated.

The possibilities are endless so come up with a few of your own! You will be amazed at how good you feel when exercising a few acts of courtesy, and just imagine how good you make the other person feel too.

P.S. There is also no shame in accepting help. Too often I hear “No, I can do it on my own” when it is obvious the person is struggling. If someone offers assistance, accept it. We already know you can do it on your own, but a little help will make it much easier.

Officers of the NSR:

Seneschal

Master Aetheric Lindberende

Exchequer

Mistress Freya Manslayer Karlsdottir

Earl Marshal

H.E. Master Conrad Connor MacAllyn

Badger Herald

Mestress Lyanna Kernough

A&S Minister

H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys

Minister of Lists

Signore Cosmano Piero Michelotto de Roma

Accessibility Porter

Lord Dugald the Sheepstealer

Minister of Children

Gebiedster Mergriet van Wijenhorst

Youth Marshall

Baron Hensojin

Waiver Secretary

Mistress Elizabeth “Bess” Darnley

Web Minister

Baroness Zaneta “Gavlinne” Angiolieri

Deputy Commander of Seige Forces

Lord Guthfrith Yrlingson

Deputy Commander of Archery

Lady Elise ferch Morgan ap Owen

Deputy Commander of Combat Archery

Lord Aethelwulf Stealcere

Deputy Commander of Thrown Weapons

Master Ludwig von Eisburg

Deputy Commander of Horse

Lord Cailean mac Eachduinn

Deputy Commander of Fence

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus and

Master Gruffyd the Innocent

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Sir Gareth Grey de Wilton

Baron Pellandres dit Le Frère

The Northern Shores Royal Travel Fund (NSRTF)

H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys and Baroness Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

Who we are?

The Northern Shores Royal Travel Fund is a fundraising venture founded by Mistress Gwenhwyfar and Baroness Gavlinne. It began in the fall of 2003 as the pair began making plans for the first Crown Tournament event to be held in their home Barony of Ruantallan. The success of their efforts proved that the Northern Shores Region supported the endeavour, and would continue to benefit from a coordinated project whose funds were specifically ear-marked for EK Royal travel expenses. And so, since its inception in the fall of 2003, Gavlinne and Gwenhwyfar have continued to organize fundraising campaigns to help build up the funds of the NSRTF for when they would be needed. In August 2007 Gwen and Gavlinne welcomed three new like-minded individuals to the NSRTF to form an official board of directors who are tasked with the planning, organization, and officiating of the NSRTF.

Since 2001, the NSRTF has helped bring four sets of Royalty to our shores for events, and will continue working toward their objective, which is: To raise funds, through various fundraising campaigns, the profits of which will be used to assist with the travel expenses of East Kingdom Royalty to the Northern Shores Region. The NSRTF will strive to ensure that the total amount of funds raised in specific areas of the Northern Shores are, in turn, used to bring the EK Royalty to events in those specific areas.

Disbursement of Funds

The founders and board of the NSRTF would like to emphasize the responsibility of autocrats in the Northern Shores Region to **check in** with NSRTF representatives if they believe that funds from the travel fund will be needed. This common courtesy will make reimbursement a much more efficient process. Therefore, if you plan on running an RP in the Northern Shores Region, contact us and make inquiries. Fund disbursement is **not** automatic. The decision to grant funds for Royal travel from the NSRTF rest solely with the board of the NSRTF, and are decided based on current funds available, the area requesting funds and the amount of fundraising they have done in their area, and whether the funds have been already assigned to Royal travel for another event.

In all instances, receipts for reimbursement will be required, and are best co-ordinated with the travelers directly, to ensure there is no miscommunication about what may or may not be covered as a legitimate travel expense.

Future Plans

As previously stated, our objective is to ensure that funds raised in specific areas are used for Royal travel to those specific areas. To date, the Barony of Ruantallan has contributed the most effort to the NSRTF and have thus, benefited the most from it. However, we would like to see participation grow in other areas, so the fund can be used as it was intended...regionally! Groups interested in fundraising to bring Royals to their cantons, shires, or baronies, should contact us, we would love to help! We would like to have representatives from different areas to help spearhead and/or participate in organized fundraising activities. You will be amazed how two or three fundraisers over the course of a year or two will add up, allowing you to see the benefits of your work!

Anyone planning a fundraiser for the Northern Shores Royal Travel Fund should contact us before they begin their undertaking. The board can help you ensure a successful fundraiser with ideas and support as needed. In addition, any fundraiser you do in the name of the NSRTF reflects on the fund, and the board is ultimately responsible for its financial accountability. We appreciate everyone's willingness to contribute and/or operate a fundraiser for the NSRTF, but simply wish to ensure the credibility of our efforts – yours and ours!

For more information about the NSRTF, or for information on how to contact us, please visit the website at <http://nsrtf.sccspirit.com>. We welcome your questions and comments, so please don't hesitate contact us at any time!

Please note that the Northern Shores Royal Travel Fund is NOT a sanctioned SCA fundraiser, but is a private endeavour founded by Baroness Gavlinne and Mistress Gwenhwyfar and officiated by their Board. The NSRTF is a not-for-profit project, and all funds raised are used for EK Royal travel expenses to the Northern Shores Region.

NSRTF Fundraiser

Baroness Zaneta "Gavlinne" Angiolieri

The NSRTF has launched a new fundraiser, open to everyone in the Northern Shores Region:

Vesey's Fall Bulb Fundraiser

Information and the ability to place an order online have been made available on the NSRTF website at:

<http://nsrtf.sccspirit.com/veseys2007.htm>

Please note that payment will be required before the order can be placed. Contact Baroness Gavlinne at gavlinne@moonsandstars.com to discuss payment options and methods of payment.

So prepare for a beautiful Spring now, and support a great Northern Shores Regional project with Vesey's Fall Bulbs!

Feast Gear Tips

Baroness Zaneta "Gavlinne" Angiolieri

How many times have you come to the end of feast and decided that the wash basin line was just too long to wait in? How many times have you carried your dirty feast gear home in a grocery store bag? How many times have you washed your dishes in the bathroom sink at an event? Or in a wash basin that had already seen a few too many dirty dishes?

If you answered yes to any of these, then please consider this tip: add cleansing wipes, such as Lysol disinfecting wipes or Baby Wipes, and a clean tea towel to your feast chest. The cleansing wipes are great for wiping off your soiled dishware, and because they come in a "pull-out-one-for-use" container you can use as many or as few as you need. AND, they stay moist for months, meaning you can just keep the container in your feast gear box until they run out, and then it's time to replace the container. The tea towel then allows you to wipe your cleaned dishes dry, without fear of creating a mess inside your feast chest, and you can wash everything thoroughly when you get home, or even the next day!

No more waiting in line to wash dishes, you can clean up as soon as you're done feasting right at your own table!

And if you REALLY want to spruce up your feast chest, consider adding a small tupperware container or two. Great for bringing home your favorite feast leftovers! It's better to see extras go home with happy feasters than in the garbage! Happy Feasting!

NSR Regional Championships

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

Northern Shores Rattan Championship
(for Fall 2007)

Northern Shores Arts & Sciences Championship
(for Spring 2008)

Northern Shores Rapier Championships
(2008)

Northern Shores Archery Championships
(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 groups considering a bid for a Kingdom level event, please advise the populace of the region, so that we, as the Northern Shores Region, can work together to avoid potential event conflicts. The region has a yahoo mailing group called "northprinc" to help facilitate communications across our vast region.

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 January 1, 2008.

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

Contributions should be sent to:

H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys
(gwen@moonsandstars.com)

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.

Northern Shores A&S Championships

Lady Magdalena Van der Haa, Current A&S Champion

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Competition Rules:

Pre-registering for the A&S Championship is strongly encouraged. Any questions regarding these rules or the Championship should be addressed to Lady Magdalena Van der Haa, current champion or to the current A&S minister H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys . Please contact me at cadieuxmc@hotmail.com or H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys at moas.nshores@eastkingdom.org

- Candidates must enter a minimum of 3 items in 3 different categories into the competition to be considered for the title of regional A&S Champion. In order to limit judging time, please do not enter more than 3 items. Score will be based on the total of all the participant's entries. There is no winner in each category entered, only one winner based on overall score.
- Entries that have been presented or won in a previous edition of the regional A&S championship will not be accepted.
- All items entered must be accompanied by at least two pages of written documentation, including a bibliography. Please supply a summary of your documentation if you exceed five written pages of documentation.
- Research papers are accepted, however they must be submitted at least one month in advance.
- Group entries may be submitted for exhibition purposes but will not count towards the Championship.
- Items may be entered by proxy but there must be someone with your entries who can answer at least basic questions. If there is no one from your area attending please contact me.
- Specific rules for the day of the event (set-up times, registration) will be posted later.

Judging & Judging Criteria

Candidates are strongly encouraged to be present during judging in order to answer questions and receive feedback, however it is not mandatory.

Maximum points for items will be awarded as follows:

Authenticity (10 points) - looks at appropriateness of what they are entering and do they make a good case for it using primary sources. Materials used can affect this score although the effect can be lessened by comments in the documentation that indicate what materials they would have used in period and the reason why you didn't use them. (For example, "X" substance was used for this in period but it's highly toxic or "Y" material is illegal to own or to sell now-a-days, so I used "Z" components instead)

Documentation (10 points) - the written information that tells when and where the item/design/ inspiration came from, your period sources, your process for creating the item (how), where you might have differed from period construction or materials and why (things like "I substituted X ingredient for the highly poisonous one they used in period"). It's nice to add what you like best about an item and what you might do differently next time. You should try to keep it to 2 pages or so (if more than there should be a paragraph/page summary of the information). Because of the very limited time that we have for judging at the event, it would be appreciated that each documentation paper presented doesn't exceed 5 pages.

Complexity (10 points) - looks at how complicated or intricate the project is, especially in relation to the experience level of the artisan.

Workmanship (10 points) - looks at the quality of the work putting your item together.

Creativity & diversity (10 points) - can vary somewhat in meaning - some look at whether something is an original creation based on documentation from several sources, some look for whether creativity was used to fill gaps in knowledge. Entries do not have to be reproductions but they have to be documented. It also looks at the diversity of all 3 entries. For example, three items of the same genre will score low points, three completely different items will score the maximum points. For instance, three scrolls in the same style would score 0 to 3, three sewn items from different periods

would score 4 or 6, two pieces of steel armour and another metalwork item would score 7 or 8, three fabric items encompassing weaving, dying and embroidery would score 7 or 8 and so on.

The scale is 50 points. Judges are also asked to include comments about each piece that they judge. Judges should address their interpretation of the criteria and both positive comments and constructive criticisms on how the entrant met those standards.

Judging for Research Papers is similar to that of regular entries but with the following slant:

Creativity - how creative is the research project, how creative was the choice of topic, did they just copy everything ever written about "x" subject or do they explore how it was used and where as well.

Authenticity - appropriateness of what they are trying to document (is it really something they would have done in the middle ages or if it's something really questionable do they make a good case for it using primary sources).

Documentation is more along the lines of evaluating their information sources and looking for primary and secondary sources rather than tertiary or later sources. Also takes into account the number of sources used.

Note ; Depending on the subject, a paper could be anywhere from 5 to 50 pages. But for such a small competition, it is suggested that the paper wouldn't be of any more than 15 pages to help the judges in their tasks.

Remember the real goal of a competition is to share your work/knowledge and give/get feedback as well as exchange resources, techniques, and such with other artisans.

Categories:

I. Written categories: (must be submitted at least 30 days prior to competition)

Poetry
Prose/Playwriting
Research

II. Needle Arts:

Costume accessories
Costuming: pre 1200
Costuming: 1201-1300
Costuming: 1301-1400
Costuming: 1401-1500
Free-form embroidery
Counted thread work
Miscellaneous needle work (must be pre-approved prior to entering this category)

III. Technological Sciences:

Armour: cloth/leather/horn
Armour: mail/plate
Ironwork/tool making
Musical Instrument making
Scientific Instruments
Weapon making
Woodworking: construction
Wood, Horn and Bone carving
Miscellaneous crafts (must be pre-approved prior to entering this category)

IV. Studio Crafts:

Calligraphy
Ceramics/pottery
Drawing
Decorative metalwork
Pewter casting
Glasswork
Illumination
Lapidary
Leatherwork
Painting
Sculpture
Bookbinding
Miscellaneous crafts (must be pre-approved prior to entering this category)

V. Domestic Arts and Sciences:

Wine/ Mead/ Beer/ ale/ lager
Cooking
Dyeing
Knot work
knitting
Spinning
Weaving
Basket making
Miscellaneous crafts (must be pre-approved prior to entering this category)