



Winter



On the Cover

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From the Chronicler

Happy New Year!

So far, I have heard little from the Altavian's out there. I know you are out there somewhere. Please step forward and show your support of our Fret Knot. Thank You to the ones that have graciously supplied some segments of our Newsletter. We have had a few new people publish and the youth is getting involved. I would like to focus on the article "Great Western War" which is written by one of our Altavian Youth fighters.

Thank You again for everyone's participation.

Lady Fara of Altavia

Upcoming events:

January:

8	Twelfth Night	Barony of Lyondemere, Bellflower, CA
13-17	Winter Weekend	Barony of Calafia, Angeles Oaks, Ca
15	Angels Malee Tourney & Border Skirmish	Baronies of Angels & Altavia, La Crescenta, Ca
22	Gyldenholt Unbelted Tourney	Barony of Gyldenholt, Garden Grove, Ca
29	Poll na Gainmhe Anniversary	Canton of Pollna Gainmhe, Imperial, Ca

February:

5	Filthy Dirty Collegium	Shire of the Isles, Santa Barbara, Ca
5	Calafia Equestrian	Barony of Calafia
11-13	Weekend in Venice	Barony of Western Seas
15-21	Estrlla War	Kingdom of Atenveldt
26	Mons Dranconis Anniversary	Canton of Mons Draconis / Barony of Dreiburgen, Riverside, Ca
26	Baronial Arts & Science	Barony of Western Seas
26	Chivalry Tournament	Barony of Nordwache
27	Robin Hood Archery	Barony of Angels, Van Nuys, Ca

March:

5	Crown Tourney	Barony of Califia
12-13	Pentathlon	Barony of Gyldenholt
13-20	Gulf Wars	Kingdom of Gleann Abhann
18-20	Black oak Lodge	Shire of Darach
19	March to the Sea	Barony of Naevehjem
19	Bard's Keep Champion	Barony of Western Seas
19	St. Isidore Anniversary	Barony of Calafia
25-27	3.5 Baronies Friendship Tourney	Shire of Wintermist, Button Willow , CA
25-27	Starkhafn Anniversary	Barony of Starkhafn
26-27	St. Geronimus Tournament	Barony of Dreiburgen

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The Fret Knot is provided free of charge; and can be downloaded from the *Altavia* Yahoo!© Group website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Altavia/>. Membership in the online *Altavia* group is free and open to the public, though initial posts are moderated.

Submission Guidelines: Just do it! (chronicler@sca-altavia.org.)

 **Court Business** 

**The Honorable Lord Secca of Kent
&
Lady Meliora Deverel**

Altavia's sixth Baron and Baroness

From the Baron and Baroness,

The holidays have come and gone and Altavia Yule was spectacular! We want to truly thank you for all of your support in 2010. We had an amazing year and look forward to 2011!

You may have noticed a new feature on our Altavia web site - a news page! Our wonderful Chronicler, Dame Lynnette, has created this so we can post daily announcements. Please frequent it often and let us know if there is anything you would like us to post!!

We will be attending 12th Night on January 8th and we are excited about our joint "Border Skirmish" event on January 15th with the Barony of Angels. We will combine a competition for Crescenta Valley Park and a Melee so that the fighters can prepare for Estrella War! Unbelted Tournament on January 22nd is also on our progress.

There are a few Baronial projects that we would like to complete in the next month or so - a big, rooftop banner for the Royal Pavilion (much like our Altavian one) so that Their Majesties will have it for Estrella War; a gift for the Inn of the Crimson Spade (to give them at our Anniversary - more details later) and the completion of our new throne bags. We have also taken on the task of making new bags for the Royal thrones. So, please look for sewing night announcements and come and help us (even if you can't sew)!

Artisans of Altavia - Pentathlon is scheduled for March of 2011 so start planning your projects! We were both first time entrants in the last Pentathlon and it was a fabulous experience. Be not afraid! Even if you are brand new at a craft, write up some documentation and enter a project! You will learn lots, get helpful feedback and peruse an entire hall of the most incredible (and inspiring) artwork you will ever see.

We hope your holidays were joyful and filled with good cheer!

YIS,
Baron Secca and Baroness Meliora

BORDER SKIRMISH
Saturday, January 15th, 2011

Site opens at 7:30 am

Crescenta Valley Park, 3901 Dunsmore Ave, La Crescenta, CA 91214.

Altavia and their parents Angels are having a dispute upon the land on which Crecenta Valley Park lies. They have decided to settle this on the field of battle. The Baron and Baroness of Altavia calls upon their fighters, A&S, Shoppers, Youth, and all of Altavia to hold the lines and gain the land.

Notes for Newcomers

New Comers meetings this year are as scheduled below unless issues arise and a notification goes out on the Altavia Yahoo group.

2011-Schedule

Jan 24 -- History, Organization, Maps of the SCA, awards (Some Camping for those going to Estrella)

Feb 28 -- Persona & Personal Heraldry

Mar 28 -- Arts & Sciences

Apr 25 -- Combat Forms and Camping Info

May 23 -- Camping in the SCA

Jun 27 -- History, Organization, Maps of the SCA

Jul 25 -- Persona & Personal Heraldry

Aug 22 -- Arts & Sciences

Sep 26 -- Camping in the SCA

Oct 24 -- Courtly Behavior, making a presentation in Court, Mock Court

Nov 28 -- Combat Forms

December - No meeting, enjoy the holidays!

Hope everyone had a Happy New Year and see you at the park.

~Altavia Chatelaine & Deputy

Tell Altavia about your First Event or first few months.

Write a little note about what your first event was like when you came into the SCA, what event did you go to, who helped you, who was your first contact, what inspired you to join. Please email me these letters to chronicler@sca-altavia.org

FROM THE DESK OF OUR ALTAVIAN OFFICERS

Throwing Weapons:

Greetings, Happy Holidays, and welcome in a New Year! We ended last year with several well run competitions many in new locations.

Highland War found a new spot this year as we moved to a grassy area on the baseball field, which made it a little cooler. We ran some TWIC's and had the first ever fondue fork throw that Paganus won with a high score of 13 points. The next highest was Justin of Altavia with 5 points. We also did a night throw at Highland and had a lot of Royalty come out and watch and throw.

Great Western War was also in a new location across from the battlefield. We held more TWIC's to get some Caid scores in, and I did another fondue fork throw (it was so popular at Highland) this time an 8 year old boy, Oliver, won, by clipping the rats tail. We also had a spear competition, and as in my true competitive self had to make the stuff animals appear more life like when you speared them, so of course they bled! Angus Brude won that competition, but they wouldn't stop until the last animal was drained.

Agincourt was so much fun. We had you starting with 3 small 10" knives in a seated position and you had 5 seconds to turn in your seat and throw at the target of an attacker. Your knife had to stick. If it did the target would... (you guessed it) bleed. For axes, you got three axes to throw at a target of an archer attempting to kidnap the queen you had to axe the archer. The axe had to stick, and when it did the target would... (You guessed it) bleed. Spears were a 2-part competition. First was the straw target where you could hit the piñata, masks, or pumpkin for various points, then you moved onto the clout part of the spears where you throw for distance and points. Altavia's Thrown Weapons Champion for 2011 is Angus Brude.

Practices have been great. We still meet the first and third Sunday's at Woodley Park in Van Nuys from 11:00am to 2:30pm. We have all the weapons, stands, and rounds to loan out for use, so there is no excuse. Just show up in your closed toed shoes for lots of fun. Speaking of lots of fun. We just acquired some new small machetes and they are too much fun to throw. Come out and try them for yourself!

Live, Love, Throw,
~ Lady Cecilia dei Medici



Youth Combat:

Hi Altavia,

We have had some great fun in the past year in our Youth Combat. This year I would like to see our youth fighters out a little more. So come on out every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Also do not forget about January 15th Angels Malee Tourney & Border Skirmish the Baronies of Angels & Altavia are going to be in La Cresenta, California and I am sure that their Majesties will love to see the youth out there for activities.

Please check in on the Sca-Altavia.org site to see if any practices have been canceled before coming out.

Your Youth Marshal,
Lord Uilliam of Altavia

Youth Activities:

Hi Altavia,

It has been quite in the Youth side. Except for those youth fighters. Please let mw know if your youth wants to make something and I can find out how. Do not forget the page school, which is located at <http://youth.sca-caid.org/pageschool.php> . If your youth is interested in completing some fun activities in their book let me know, so I can help.

See you all soon,

Lady Fara of Altavia

Constable

Hello Barony of Altavia!

As your local Constable I need to remind people that the lost and found in my possession will be turned over to the kingdom Constable for raffle/auction at 12th night. If you have lost something at an Altavian event or fighter practice, please contact me off list at constable@altavia-sca.org and describe the item(s) and I will do my best to get it back to you.

I am also in need of a deputy. If you are interested, please contact me.

Thank You!

Viscountess Lorissa du Griffin

Twelfth Night

Gathered By Meala Caimbeul

The Twelfth Night

The twelve-day, mid-winter festival that ended with great public fanfare at Twelfth Night has receded over time to our truncated modern holiday season that (though it seems to start earlier and earlier every year) ends on January 2nd. A few hundred years ago, the winter holiday season lasted well into January, right up until Carnival in some places.

In the fifth century, French and English churches closed the holy season with The Feast of Fools. Temporary Bishops and Archbishops of Fools were encouraged to play-act, revel, and create general mischief. By the 15th century, however, it was banned due to lewd behavior. By the 16th century, new street festival was created and a temporary king for the season was elected. The king was known as Les Prince des Sots, in France; The Lord of Misrule in England; and in Scotland he was called The Abbot of Unreason.

In England, King Henry VIII (1491-1547) introduced the Italian custom of celebrating Twelfth Night with masques. These elaborate costumed events featured the enactment of some simple scenes or tableaux using song, dance, flowery speeches, and fancy scenery. The masques performed at court were short, simple, and sometimes frivolous works designed to raise as much laughter as possible while providing a colorful spectacle. In England the Twelfth Night masque reached its zenith in the early seventeenth century and afterwards began to decline.

The Shakespeare play Twelfth Night, or What You Will was originally written to be performed as a Twelfth Night entertainment.

On a more religious note, Twelfth Night marks the 12th and final night of the Christmas season. It is the eve before the twelfth day of Christmas (January 5th) or the Epiphany celebration, which commemorates the adoration of the Magi before the infant Jesus. As such many catholic cultures make a special King's Cake, or 12th night cake to celebrate the occasion.

After Twelfth Night the Carnival season starts, which lasts through Mardi Gras. In some places such as Venice, the night of January 6 with the first Carnival celebrations is called Twelfth Night.

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- Gulevich, Tanya. Encyclopedia of Christmas and New Year's Celebrations. Omnigraphics: Detroit 2nd edition, 2003 (p. 404-5)

- Martindale, Cyril Charles. "Epiphany." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 5. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1909. 17 Dec. 2010 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05504c.htm>>.
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Twelfth Night Cake

Twelfth Night Cake (aka Rosca de Reyes, Gateau des Rois, King Cake) honors the Three Wise Men who visited the baby Jesus on the 12th day after his birth. The cake is a basic yeast-based brioche filled with dried fruits and nuts. The recipe descends from an ancient practice of serving a cake with a prize or bean inside. Ancient Romans served a similar item for their Saturn celebrations. He who found the bean in his piece of cake was named lord of the evening's entertainments and could command guests to do his bidding. In France the cake was known as gateau des rois; in Germany it is Dreikongskuchen; it is the Black Bun in Scotland; and in Spain it is rosca de reyes."

This authentic Twelfth Night cake recipe was once used commercially by the renowned English confectionery cook, Robert Wells of Scarborough. It is taken from "The Bread and Biscuit Baker's and Sugar-Boiler's Assistant" by Robert Wells, published by Crosby Lockwood and Son, London, in 1890.

1-1/4 lb of flour, 1 lb 2 oz of butter, 1 lb of moist sugar, 4 lb of currants, 1-1/2 lb of mixed peel, 2 nutmegs grated, 1/2 oz ground cinnamon, 10 eggs, 1/2 lb blanched sweet almonds cut in halves, and a wineglassful of brandy.

London Way of mixing Cakes: Weigh down the flour and sugar on a clean smooth table, make a hole in it, and bank it well up; in this hole put your eggs; cream the butter in an earthenware pan; then add to the flour and sugar the eggs and butter; mix all together and beat up well with both hands. You may work it up this way as light as a feather; then add the currants, spices, etc.

Great Western War

By Xavier Albin October 9, 2010



My dad and I woke up a 7:30 a.m. to hit the road. It was too early for a Saturday, but I was excited for the war. At 9, we went to Bakersfield. At 11, we saw my family and my friend at the renaissance reenactment called the Western War. I had so much fun. We didn't act all showy and weird like at a renaissance fair. It was cool, plain, and natural. I spent most of my time at youth combat. We wore armor, had foam swords and shields and we fought like back in medieval times. We did the usual hit-and-die routine, but we also did things that I never knew existed. First we did resurrection battles. Every body was on teams of three. When somebody died, they went to the

resurrection spot. When three people died, they became a team and attacked everybody again. It never ends and it's really fun. After that, we did "warlord" combat. At the beginning, everybody's against each other. When somebody kills you, you become a minion and the person who killed you becomes the warlord. When a minion dies, he dies. But when a warlord dies, the minions are free to become warlords themselves. It's a gamble but its fun. Another battle scenario I did was capturing the flag. The final fight was one called "ogre." It's everybody against one person who was a 6 foot tall man!! He has five lives and everybody has to kill him. I hit him the fourth time and "killed" him. I lost an arm killing him, but it was worth it. I learned a lot about battle, history, and medieval life.



Life as a New Mommy in the SCA

By Lady Caitriona inghean Diarmada

Having a Baby is a life changing experience in General. Adjustments are made to fit this new little person into your life. When the SCA is part of that life, adjustments need to be made just the same. Here are some insights that I have found to be helpful.

Even though I was nervous about taking the baby out, I believe having them out and about is not a bad thing. We started taking little man to fighter practice almost immediately. In addition, while at first I was nervous about it, it has become a blessing. Since week one, he has grown accustomed to the noise and sound of the armor and the sword on shield sound. Now when we take him to practice, he still goes down at his normal bedtime and I don't have to worry about practice waking him up, because he is used to it.

Taking baby out to events has been a production at times. Having a play pen to put him in when he wants to sleep has been so helpful because then he can stretch out and isn't cramped in his stroller. Always make sure to pack extra diapers and food (if he is on the bottle). You can never bring too much of these. In addition, if baby is on formula, I cannot stress enough: get the ready to feed formula. It may cost a little extra, but when he is hungry and you have got your signals crossed with tired, every second counts. Not having to measure, shake, and prep the bottle is a Godsend. Especially at a warsite and people may be trying to sleep.

Have Babysitters in mind- There are times you need a little alone time away from baby at an event. This is okay; you are there to enjoy the event. In addition, if someone offers to take a screaming child from your arms, let them. They most likely know what they are doing. Sometimes I do not realized how stressed I am until someone else calms him and I finally relax.

One thing we always remind ourselves is this is for fun. Now its fun we can have with our family. Yes, we have had to cut back for the time being, but that is okay because we know, the SCA will always be here.

St. Firmin

REMINDER: Fighter Practice Canceled until January 13th 2011

Fighter Practice:

(Practice is held on the Reseda side of the park)

Days: Thursday Nights

Time: 7pm-9pm

Location: 18300 Lemarsh St.

Northridge, CA 91324

Winter break is here for the Incipient College of St. Firmin. For those of you who do not know, around the end of November the members of our group tend to disappear. The reason being is that college courses often catch up to our members at that time and studying for finals begins. Fret not! After our members return from Winter break, you will see more of their smiling faces at practices and meetings. I would like to remind you that our St. Firmin Thursday night fighter practice is postponed until January 13, 2011 due to the holidays. On that note, I would like to wish all of you a happy winter!

Call for Help

Are you interested in knowing more about the
SCA?

Then volunteer, there is always a need for your
help at any event.

For Great Western War Volunteers Sign-up at
gate. This year they are having a Volunteer
Treasure Challenge. Check out the web site
below for more information.

<http://www.caid-gww.org/volunteering.php>



Baronial Officers



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Deputy Seneschal: Lady Iseabail nee Bhatar	
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