



The Y E O M A N

Newsletter of The Barony of Bright Hills
December 2017 • Volume 31, Issue 12



The Story Behind the Cover Image

The artwork on the front is by Anne Stokes and represents the Holly King. In Celtic mythology the Oak King and the Holly King were twins, pitted against each other in a never-ending fight for supremacy. Oak Trees, sacred to Celts, lose their leaves, while the English Christmas holly trees are evergreen. As cold weather approaches, the Celts marveled at how the holly trees, hidden during the rest of the year stood out in winter. The Holly King wins out for a short period of time as the Oak King stands naked. But by winter solstice the tide turns and the Oak King begins his rise but won't reach his final zenith until midsummer. For Romans holly was used to honor Saturn and was made into wreaths during the Saturnalia festival near the time of winter solstice.

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A Note from Your Chronicler

December is filled with lots of holidays — Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule, Winter Solstice, St. Nicholas Day, just to mention a few. So in this edition of the Yeoman we will look at Yule and the traditions that have been brought from medieval times into the present.

As your Chronicler I am honored to have been nominated for a Black Fox award and to be recognized for my efforts in design and layout. I will continue to bring my best efforts to you each month. I encourage you to send me art, recipes, and articles for next years Yeoman. I can do it all by myself, *but* I would rather let each of you have the opportunity to shine.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Blessed Yule, Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year.

Yours in Service, Story and Song,
Lady Scholastica Joycors
Chronicler of Bright Hills

"This Christmas mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a letter. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Apologize. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love, and then speak it again." Howard W. Hunter

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This is the December 2017, issue of *The Yeoman*, the official newsletter of the Kingdom of Atlantia. Atlantia is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and *The Yeoman* is published as a service to the SCA's membership. Subscriptions are available only to members. This newsletter is available online at <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/home/talon> for current Sustaining and International members. Memberships are available from the Member Services Office, SCA, Inc., P.O. Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036- 0789. All changes of address or questions about subscriptions should be sent to the Corporate Office.

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THE BARONRY OF BRIGHT HILLS

Greetings to the Fair Populace of Bright Hills



With the Thanksgiving holiday passed and the upcoming holiday season approaching, we find ourselves looking back over the past year at all the fun and fellowship we have shared with our SCA family. We are honored to be called Bright Hills, and give thanks to all the support you have given us this past year.

With December being one of the quieter months when it comes to events, we wish all to enjoy the holidays and cherish the moments spent with family and friends. We would also challenge our wonderful populace to take notice, stop and visit with those of our chosen extended family that might need uplifting and support this holiday season.

Though event travel will be minimal this month, we will be starting the upcoming year off with a bang. Starting with our Baronial 12 night Friday January 5th, followed the next week with Kingdom 12th night, then Lochmere's Midwinter's Feast on the last Saturday of January. We look forward to seeing many of you during our travels in the month of January. Until then we wish you all a warm and wonderful holiday season.

Yours in Service and Friendship,
Kossack and Rebecca von Zweckel
Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills

Minutes of the Bright Hills Board Meeting

November 17, 2017 - 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Erin Scimeca, Rebecca & Kenneth Kepple, Jay and Amy Nardone, Katherine Hawkings, Hunter Fowler, Claudia Bosworth, Richard Muti, Debbie Eccles, MyLinda Butterworth, Robert & Barb Kriner, Karen Whitlock, Larry Jones, Becky Rittenhouse, Michelle England, Karen Seter, Nancy & Randy Feltman and Diedre O'Barton.

Report from the Baronage:

The baron and baroness will be attending unEvent. The barony will be having it's annual 12th Night event on January 5, 2018. Seamus was made a Pelican at crown.

Officer Reports:

Seneschal: Lady Ailis inghean uì Bhriain — Will provide an update on coronets next month

Chronicler: Lady Scholastica Joycors — Yeoman went out on time. The Yeoman was nominated for a Known World Black Fox Award for design. I will attend unEvent.

Exchequer: Lady Clara — No report.

Webminister: Lord Janyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire — Nothing to report this month.

Heralds Report: Master Richard Wyn — There was some field Heraldry from Baroness Wynne, Diedre and Wyn. Baroness Wynne also was asked to herald Holiday Faire at the last minute.

A&S Report: Lord Alexander de Burdegala —

Chatelain Report: Lady Rebekkah Samuel — Ben: new to SCA, learned about us from classmate at Towson U. Attended Crown Tourney. He is interested in heavy weapons fighting, especially with a great sword. He was able to speak with some of the Crown fighters.

Knights Marshall: Lord Randver Askmadr— No report.

Minister of the List: Lord Alexander Fowler — No activity to report.

Steward: Master Chirhart Blackstar— No report.

Youth Minister: Lady Katarzyna Witkowska—

Guild Reports:

Armors – No report.

Bardic Circle — No report.

Brewers – No report

Cheese Mongers: Master Chirhart— No report.

Clothiers – No report.

Cooks Guild: Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri — The Bright Hills Cooks Guild met on Sunday, 12 November 2017 at the White Marsh Panera. With Pennsic Open House over, Trial by Fire put away until next year and Harvest Wars finished the only pertinent thing to discuss was Bright Hills Baronial Birthday, next February 2018.

Our own Lord Alexander is acting as Autocrat and the Guild was asked to provide the feast. We recently discovered that our event will be a Royal progress. With that in mind, it was decided that a feast of 80 people is be possibility and recipes will be adjusted as needed.

Please forgive my poor brain, but your guild mistress did write down notes on what was discussed but the paper has up and disappeared along with the recipe for the dessert Alexander planned, Butter-Quince cake.

The following dishes were discussed...I hope I remember them all...

Venison from Brienna with three sauces. Whole venison roast. High Table

Sausages of different meat. Sauces- mustard, pepper, juniper berry
Mashed parsnips- piped into a shape and scorched with a torch.
Cabbage Pickled veggies Brussels sprouts Sausages
Farsed /scappi chicken Peasants bread Plain and herbed butter
Butter-quince cake

If anyone in attendance remembers more, please contact me.

Our last bit of business was Pennsic Open House. Their Excellencies mentioned to me that since this is their last Pennsic as Coronets, they would like a large get-together held elsewhere on site. House Blackstar will have a well-deserved rest next year, but the guild will not. I hope as many of us as can will either attend Pennsic and help in food prep or donate something that can be transported.

EXTRA! Lord Raven caught up with me at Holiday Faire yesterday and reported that he can take over the duties of Head Cook for Birthday next year.

Herb Group – Faolan Mac Raghnaill— No report.

PAGE : Lady Yseulte — No report.

St. Matthias – No report.

Scriptorium: Lady Aemilia Rosa — Wrote up the information for the scribal competition to be held at Birthday and submitted to our MOAS.

TAG — Mistress Brienna Llewellyn — No report

Woodworkers – No report.

Old Business:

Lord Alexander provided a prototype flyer for Birthday. The Archers will be doing fundraiser lunch. The Baron and Baroness will be taking care of liasion duties for the royals. Heavy fighting will occur if the weather cooperates along with thrown weapons and rapier. A bardic Champion will be chosen at birthday. Still don't know if a Friday night set-up is possible. Baroness Wyn wants to have a silent auction but unsure what the money will be used for.

Throws still need to be ordered. Kriner beleives that the cost is \$500 each, but Allis will check that out at Holiday Faire.

New Business:

Baroness Katarzyna wants to submit a bid for Kingdom A&S. She brought a preliminary budget for a Kingdom A&S bid for the Carroll County Agriculture Center. A quick decision must be made so we can submit to Kingdom before they select a southern site.

The Carroll County Agriculture Center is under a new site manager. We have discussed the lack of heat the last time. She conveyed that this was a recurring problem with the previous site manager and has been rectified. We have addressed parking. There is no other event on that day until 7:00 p.m. We are now allowed to section off and restrict our parking area. Again, this was a recurring complaint from renters.

There is no food budget. Lunch would be open to sponsorship by a Baronial group (the license is \$25). A bake sale could also be held (the license is \$15).

She is meeting with the site manager on November 17 to discuss the contract, etc. I will have a report at the Board Meeting that night. A motion to put in the bid was passed.

There will be 13 people attending unEvent.

Baronial 12th Night will be held on January 5, 2017.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Next meeting: December 15, 2017

Any additions or corrections to these minutes should be sent to Lady Scholastica at totallystories@gmail.com

Atlantian Calendar of Events

December 2017

2	Unevent	Dun Carriag	Waldorf, MD
8-10	Yule Toy Tourney XII	Nottingham Coill	Pickens SC
9	Yule on the Bridge	Ponte Alto	Reston, VA
9	In a Phoenix Eye: Change of Seasons	Sacred Stone	Winston-Salem, NC

January 2018

7	Inter-Baronial 12th Night	Tir-y-Don	Yorktown, Va
13	Kingdom Twelfth Night (R)	Atlantia	Virginia Beach, VA
20	Feast of Fools	Roxbury Mill	Rockville, MD
27	Midwinter's Feast	Lochmere	Severna Park, MD
27	Ice Castles	Black Diamond	Salem, VA

February 2018

2-4	Tourney of Manannan Mac Lir XXXVII	Tear-Seas Shore	Ridgeville, SC
3	Winter University	Raven's Cove	Kenansville, NC
3	Candlemass XXX (R)	Middle	
10	Bright Hills Baronial Birthday (R)	Bright Hills	Manchester, MD
10	Fasnacht des Stein	Middlegate	Winston-Salem, NC
17	Tournament of Love and Beauty (R)	Ponte Alto	Leesburg, VA
17	So You Think You Can Cook	Moorhaven	Myrtle Beach, SC
23-25	Tournament of Ymir 43 (R)	Windmasters Hill	Ellerbe, NC

March 2018

3	Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival (R)	Atlantia	
10-18	Gulf Wars XXVII (R)	Gleann Abhann	
10	St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath	Ponte Alto	Vienna, VA
23-25	Night on the Town: Night on the Rhine	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD
31	Defending the Gate XVII (R)		



UPCOMING EVENTS

UnEvent

December 2, 2017 • Barony of Dun Carraig

This is for officers of Atlantia and her baronies. Not mandatory but highly recommended.

Yule on the Bridge

December 9, 2017 • Barony of Ponte Alto

Hearken all to the signs that another year is drawing to a close. The winds blow colder. Wee beasties and goblins roam the streets. Pumpkins abound: in doorways, on windowsills, in muffins, and even in cups of coffee! The trees change into their autumnal best. Soon it will be time for their long winter's nap, though, and it will be time for Yule!

Yuletide is a magical time of year. Friends gather closely by the fire with warm cups and warmer hearts. Merriment and festivity are the order of the day, and goodwill toward all is shared and celebrated.

The Barony of Ponte Alto invites you and yours to come and join us for a cozy, jovial event we are calling Yule on the Bridge. Come dressed in your holiday finery for a day of games, music, dancing, and merrymaking. The familiar site (Sykes Hall at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds) will be transformed into a festive, cheery wonderland that will capture the spirit of the season. Feel free to bring your own Yule-themed decorations and set up your table or seating area to really get into the mood.

Website: <http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/events/Yule.php>

Atlantian 12th Night - Palio de Atlantia

January 12- 14, 2018 • Kingdom of Atlantia

Join us at the estate of Abigail il cigno, known as the Founder's Inn, contained within the boundaries of the Barony of Marinus, for a grand festival to be known as the Palio de Atlantia (Atlantian 12th Night) to be held on the 13th day of January, 2017.

The Palio is a festival held to this day in Italy. Visitors would come from all over to attend. To keep the spirit of this, we are anchoring the event "in Italy" although we are not anchoring the time period.

See the web site for more details on entering a horse, the Procession, and other details.

Website: <http://www.twelfthnight.atlantia.sca.org/>

Midwinter's Feast

January 27, 2018 • Barony of Lochmere

Greeting and salutations to all, and a well new year. We invite you to celebrate with Lochmere in our observance of Diwali, the festival of lights. As Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair, we thought it would be a great way to start this new year. Diwali is celebrated over five days, the name of festive days as well as the rituals of Diwali vary significantly among Hindus, based on the region of India. In many parts of India, the festivities start with Dhanteras, followed by Naraka Chaturdasi on second day, Deepavali on the third day, Diwali Padvā dedicated to wife's husband relationship on the fourth day, and festivities end with Bhaj Dooj dedicated to sister's brother bond on the fifth day. The festival begins usually eighteen days after Dussehra. It is one of the happy holidays where people dress in new clothes, buy gifts for family and close friends, and they hear tales of ancient battles where good triumphs over evil. The event will crescendo to an Indian feast prepared by Mistress Lisette LaRoux.

Website: <http://lochmere.atlantia.sca.org/midwinters>

Bright Hills Baronial Birthday

February 10, 2018 • Barony of Bright Hills

Theme: These are the Book of Hours of our lives. Come and join us as we celebrate the 24rd Anniversary of the Barony of Bright Hills! The day will include numerous activities to keep your mind off the chill of Winter while enjoying a warm Hall filled with friends and fun.

website: http://www.atlantia.sca.org/137-events/170-event-info?event_id=e0933fd8

Tournament of Love and Beauty

February 17, 2018 • Barony of Ponte Alto

website: http://www.atlantia.sca.org/137-events/170-event-info?event_id=d67a10bf

Lore from the Larder



illumination from The Luttrell Psalter

Sachets - Herbs as Aromatics

Herbs are not relegated to cooking alone they are also used to create medicine and sachets among other things. A sachet is a way to use aromatic herbs as a scentsational fashion accessory, drawer or house air freshener. In short a sachet is defined as a small soft bag or satchel stuffed with aromatic blends of herbs, flowers, or other goodies. Believe it or not, there's a rich history behind the use of herbal sachets.

History of Sachets

During the Chinese Warring States period a scented sachet was an ornament worn on the body and used to absorb sweat, repel insects and ward off evils. In the Han Dynasty both boys and girls wore sachets and in the Tang Dynasty and Song Dynasty scented bags gradually became preferred only by women. A scented sachet became a love token in the Qing Dynasty.

In medieval Europe the sachet was known as a "plague-bag". These were generally worn around the neck, or dangled from the waist. It was believed that they provided protection against parasites and miasmata. These "sachets" contained sweet powders, aromatic calamus, benzoin, storax, galingale, cloves, and other fragrances from a herb or flower garden.

Queen Isabel of Spain had a specific sachet recipe which was used to scent her elaborate brocaded dresses that she wore at Court. Isabel's recipe was much more than a casual fragrance to make her dresses smell sweet and pretty. It is said that this recipe is closer in nature to a magical prescription, a concoction if you will, carefully and intentionally designed according to ancient folk meaning and symbolism, even invoking the influence of the stars. The recipe itself consisted of Coriander, Gum Benzoin, Calamus, Orris, and Red Rose Petals.

During Europe's medieval period, sachets were hand-stitched and held herbs and spices such as cloves, marigolds, rose petals, and other fragrant plants. These weren't just used as air fresheners, though - people often carried them when they went about town, or wore them on a cord around the neck, because they were believed to stave off illnesses, including the plague.

Some "dream pillow" types of scented sachets (i.e. "hop pillows") are made with sleep inducing ingredients like hops, chamomile, valerian, skullcap, and lavender



that help promote sleep. These scented sachets of aromatic herbs are also referred to as "herb pillows" or "sleep pillows" and are designed to overcome sleeplessness.

Ram's 1606 booklet *Little Dodoen* gave a sachet formula to take to bed to help one sleep:

Take dry rose leaves keep them in a glass which will keep them sweet and then take powder of mints, powder of cloves in a grosse powder. Put the same to the Rose leaves then put all these together in a bag and take that to bed with you and it will cause you to sleep, and it is good to smell unto at other times.[31]

Certain herbs used in these type sachet "sleep pillows", like hops, are said to have a soporific and a slight narcotic effect. These herb filled sachets are even called "dreamtime pillows". There are formulas using rosemary seeds to fill sachets and these are to be hung in a bedroom to promote sleep. The traditional method to treat insomnia with herb filled sachets of hops or lavender is to place them in, under or near your sleeping pillow. The "dream pillow" or "sleep pillow" sachet concept has been used for decades to help overcome sleeplessness. One type of "sleep pillow" sachet recipe by herb and flower author Penny Black calls for violets, rose petals, rosemary, tonka bean, vanilla bean, and a drop of lemon oil.

Other scented sachets are made from the winter savory, lavender, rosemary, tops of hyssop, chippings of cassia ligna, cedar, and sassafras. This type is not only used to make garments sweet smelling but keep away destructive insects and worms. Sachets with dried moth-repellent herbs like wormwood, southernwood, costmary, lavender, pennyroyal, lemon verbena rosemary, rue, sage and tansy are called "moth bags."

MAKE YOUR OWN YULE SACHETS

During the Yule season, the scents of the holidays tend to stand out. Whether you associate winter with the pine of your grandmother's Christmas tree, the fresh cinnamon of a pot of wassail, or the light aromatic notes of an orange pomander, scents bring out the best of the holiday season. Why not bring those sensations indoors, and enjoy the fragrances of winter?

Sachets are easy to make, and you can either use them as ornaments on your holiday tree, or give them away as gifts. Here are two different blends that you might try:

Blend #1: Bay, Cloves, Juniper berries, Orange peel, grated, Orris root Peppermint, Pine, Rosemary, and Cinnamon sticks

Blend #2: Juniper berries, Cinnamon, Allspice, Ginger, Caraway, Nutmeg, Rosemary, Lemon peel, Orange peel, Clove, Bay Leaves, and Orris Root

Mix the herbs together in a bowl, or with your mortar and pestle. Blend varying proportions of each until you've got the scent you want. (Here's a hint: start small!)

Use a spoon to place the blended herbs into the center of a square of fabric. Pull the corners up and tie with the ribbon or place in a prepared bag.

References:

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<https://www.thoughtco.com/make-an-herbal-sachet-for-yule-2562949>

Ram, *Little Dodoen*, 1606

<http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Sachet>



You don't need to believe in **Yule**, the Scandinavian fertility god, to enjoy the tradition of Yuletide carols and greetings.

You don't need to be a

Wiccan to enjoy the tradition of wreaths or decking the halls with holly.



You don't need to be a

Druid to enjoy the tradition of hoping for a kiss under the mistletoe.

You don't need to believe in the god

Saturn to enjoy the tradition of decorating a Saturnalia tree in your home.



You don't need to believe in

Thor, Odin, or St. Nicholas to enjoy the tradition of a visitor bringing gifts at night.

You don't need to believe in

Sleipnir, Odin's flying 8-legged horse, to enjoy the tradition of listening for the sound of hooves on your roof top.



You don't need to believe in

Mithras to enjoy the tradition of celebrating the sun's rebirth on December 25th.



And you don't need to believe in

Jesus Christ to enjoy the tradition of renaming this ancient holiday to Christ's Mass.



All you need to enjoy these winter festivities is to be merry.

Merry Christmas

from www.Truth-Saves.com

Mistletoe Lore

Mistletoe has been the subject of many legends and traditions for hundreds of years. Ancient Druids considered mistletoe sacred because it grew without roots in the ground and assumed that it must have been planted by the gods. Mistletoe was thought to ban evil spirits and bring good luck and great blessings. It is said that when warriors met beneath mistletoe, they had to lay down their weapons and call a truce for a full day. Even Shakespeare in Titus Andronicus II called it 'baleful mistletoe'. So how did it get to be known as the kissing plant?

MISTLETOE AND THE DRUIDS

The ancient Druids believed mistletoe to be an indicator of great sacredness. The winter solstice, called 'Alban Arthan' by the Druids, was according to Bardic Tradition, the time when the Chief Druid would cut the sacred mistletoe from the Oak. The mistletoe is cut using a golden sickle on the sixth night of the new moon after the winter solstice. A cloth held below the tree by other members of the order to catch the sprigs of mistletoe as they fell, as it was believed that it would have profaned the mistletoe to fall upon the ground. He would then divide the branches into many sprigs and distributed them to the people, who hung them over doorways as protection against thunder, lightning and other evils.

The Druids are thought to have believed that the berries of the mistletoe represented the sperm of the Gods. When pressed, a semen like substance issues from the white berries. Mistletoe was considered a magical aphrodisiac. Girls standing under a sprig of mistletoe were asking for a bit more than a kiss, it seems.

It is interesting to note that mistletoe was excluded from church decorations, probably due to its connection with the Druids and its pagan and magical associations. This ancient ban on mistletoe is still widely observed even today.

MISTLETOE AND NORSE MYTHOLOGY

It all began with Frigga who was the Goddess of Love and Beauty and her son, Balder, was the God of the Summer Sun. Once, Balder dreamt of his death. He was obviously worried and told his mother about the strange dream. Frigga was worried not only for the life of her son but also for the life on Earth because she knew that without Balder, all life on Earth would come to an end. Thus, she did her utmost to avoid such a mishap by going everywhere and appealing to every being in air, water, fire and earth, to promise her that they would never harm her son. She was promised the safety of her son by every animal and plant under and above the Earth.

However, Loki, the God of Evil, who was an enemy of Balder and always had evil designs in his mind, was aware that there was one plant that Frigga had overlooked. It grew on apple and oak trees and was known as Mistletoe. Thus, Loki made an arrow and placed a sprig of this plant at its tip. He then beguiled Hoder, the blind brother of Balder and the God of Winter, and made him shoot this arrow at Balder. Balder immediately died and everybody was worried as the Earth turned cold and life became dreary. For the next three days, every creature tried to bring Balder back to life but he was revived only by Frigga and with the help of mistletoe. Her tears on the plant became pearly white berries and she blessed it such that anyone who stands under the mistletoe would never be harmed and would be entitled to a kiss as a token of love.

KISSING-BOUGH (which was popular before the introduction of Xmas Trees).

A garland of greenery, shaped like a double hooped May-garland or crown, was hung from the middle of the ceiling in the main room. It was adorned with candles, red apples rosettes of colored paper and a bunch of mistletoe suspended from the center. The bough itself is called 'the mistletoe'. The candles were ceremoniously lit on Christmas Eve and then every evening throughout the 12 days of Xmas.

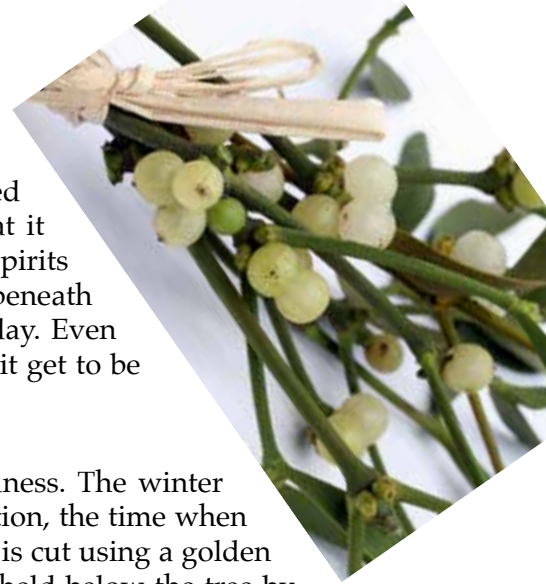
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Yule

Meaning



Yule is a time of the greatest darkness and is the shortest day of the year. Earlier peoples noticed such phenomena and supplicated the forces of nature to lengthen the days and shorten the nights. Wiccans sometimes celebrate Yule just before dawn, then watch the Sun rise as a fitting finale to their efforts

After the Norse brought Yule into prominence it nearly replaced Samhain as the date of the New Year, and many modern Celtic covens still honor Yule this way. The Nordic-influenced Celts celebrated Yule with many of the trappings we associate with modern Christmas observances; decorated evergreen trees, wreaths, holly, mistletoe, feasting, and dancing.

They also believed that on this night the Holly King, as the God of the waning year, would battle the Oak King, the God of the waxing year, and lose. Often Yule coven rituals have members reenact this fight."

"The Goddess gives birth to a son, the God, at Yule. This is in no way an adaptation of Christianity. The Winter Solstice has long been viewed as a time of divine births.

Mithras was said to have been born at this time. The Christians simply adopted it for their use in 273 CE (current era)."

"This is the time of death and rebirth of the Sun God. The days are shortest, the Sun is at its lowest point. The Full Moon after Yule is considered to be the most powerful of the whole year. This ritual is a light festival, with as many candles as possible on or near the altar in welcome of the Sun Child."

Odin the First Father Christmas?

Lady Scholastica Joycors

In the beginning long before Christianity spread throughout the world, Pagan rituals and customs were prevalent throughout the lands and there was another whose arrival was long awaited by the inhabitants of northern Germany and Scandinavia – Odin the Wanderer or Wodan, the father of all the gods. Also known as the warrior god, the legends that became part of our Santa tradition were mostly of the benevolent kind. It was Odin who traveled the skies by night on his sled with his eight-legged horse Sleipner bringing gifts of bread for those in need. We know this because someone actually transcribed oral tradition into 13th century texts, making these stories as old as dirt.

Viking lore says that the northern Germans and Scandinavians celebrated Yule, a pagan religious festival heralding the arrival of the winter solstice from mid-December to early January. During this time, many believed that Odin, disguised in a long blue-hooded cloak, would travel to earth on his eight legged steed Sleipnir, to observe homesteaders gathered around the campfires to see how content the people were and for those in need of food, he left his gifts of bread and disappeared.

According to lore the children of these lands would anticipate the arrival of gift-bearing Odin and would fill their boots with straw, carrots or sugar and place them near the fireplace so that Sleipnir could come down to eat during his midnight rides. Odin would then reward these kind children by replacing the food with gifts and candy treats inside the boots (sounds a bit like leaving cookies and milk for Santa and carrots for the reindeer).

By now, you can see that many of those traditions transcended time albeit with slight changes: the eight-legged horse became eight tiny reindeer; the boots by the fireplaces would eventually become stockings “hung by the chimney with care;” and the food and candy, well those became toys from the chief toymakers of the land – Santa and his elves!

Although Odin and Santa share many characteristics in that they both are older men with white beards and donning cloaks, there is one striking difference between the two – Odin is missing his left eye. According to legend, Odin ventured to Mimir’s Well, near Jötunheim, the land of the giants, as not Odin himself, but as Vegtam the Wanderer. To gain knowledge of the past, present and future, Odin had to drink from the Well of Wisdom but he had to pay a price. For this knowledge he had to sacrifice his left eye and today, it lies at the bottom of this Well of Wisdom as a symbol of the price he paid for the wisdom he possesses.

When Christianity went into full swing, Odin evolved into Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus and today, the children await the arrival of Sinterklaas or Santa Claus or both. According to legend, Odin, the father of all the gods, portrayed one of twelve characters each month of the year. In December, he became Jul and the season of his arrival was known as Jultid or Yuletide. So my question still remains is Odin the original Father Christmas? The evidence says yes whether you want to believe it or not.

References:

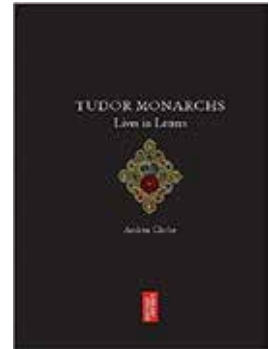
<http://www.examiner.com/article/christmas-traditions-europe-odin-and-the-celebration-of-yule>
<http://www.ibtimes.com/santa-claus-pagan-origins-5-influences-behind-father-christmas-1736863>
<http://irminfolk.com/is-santa-clause-odin/>



New Medieval Books

Tudor Monarchs: Lives in Letters • by Andrea Clark

This book contains transcriptions and translations, images and discussions of dozens of original documents. These include letters from Wolsey to Cromwell, a letter jointly written by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn to Wolsey, and the draft of Elizabeth I's Tilbury speech ('I have the heart and stomach of a king ...'). For everyone who is interested in the Tudors, this beautifully written book is a wonderful way to get to know the people behind the portraits. It is an indispensable guide to some of the most significant surviving documents from the Tudor period,

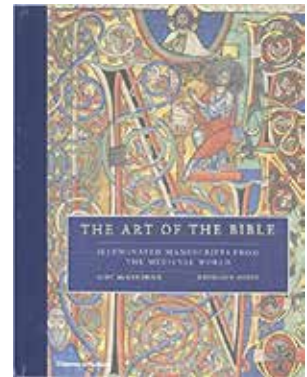


The British Library

ISBN: 978-0712357746

The Art of the Bible: Illuminated Manuscripts from the Medieval World • By Scott McKendrick and Kathleen Doyle

This gorgeously illustrated book explores 1,000 years of history. It examines the diverse ways in which scribes and artists from Iraq to Northumbria to Ethiopia have presented sacred texts. Each page is breath-taking. This book is also available in French, German, Dutch and Italian. A beautiful and informative exploration of the illuminated manuscripts of the Bible over a millennium and across the globe, shedding new light on some of the most significant, yet rarely seen, paintings of the Middle Ages



Thames & Hudson

ISBN: 978-0500239476

Harry Potter - A History of Magic: The Book of the Exhibition by Library British

Harry Potter: A History of Magic is the official book of the exhibition, a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration between Bloomsbury, J.K. Rowling and the brilliant curators of the British Library. It promises to take readers on a fascinating journey through the subjects studied at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry - from Alchemy and Potions classes through to Herbology and Care of Magical Creatures. Each chapter showcases a treasure trove of artefacts from the British Library and other collections around the world, beside exclusive manuscripts, sketches and illustrations from the Harry Potter archive. Readers will be able to pore over ancient spell books, amazing illuminated scrolls that reveal the secret of the Elixir of Life, vials of dragon's blood, mandrake roots, painted centaurs and a genuine witch's broomstick, in a book that shows J.K. Rowling's magical inventions alongside their cultural and historical forebears.



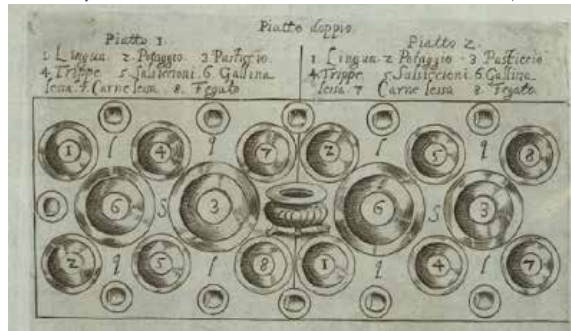
Bloomsbury

ISBN 978-1408890769

Past Knowledge

Tips from books of yore

How to Prepare A Humble Feast, 1638



Mattia Giegher, *Li tre trattati* (1629)

"Now for a more humble feast, or an ordinary proportion which any good man may keepe in his family for the entertainment of his true and worthy friends... it is good then for him that intends to feast, to set downe the full number of his dishes... and of these sixtene is a good proportion for one course unto one messe, as thus for example: First, a shield of Brawne with mustard: Secondly, a boyl'd Capon: Thirdly, a boyl'd piece of Beefe: Fourthly, a chine of Beefe roasted: Fifthly, a Neats-tongue roasted: Sixthly, a Pig roasted: Seventhly, chewets bak'd: Eighthly, a Goose roasted: Ninthly, a Swan roasted: Tenthly, a Turkie roasted: the eleventh, a haunch of Venison roasted: The twelfth, a Pasty of Venison: The thirteenth, a Kid with a pudding in the belly: The fourteenth, an Olive Pie: The fifteenth, a couple of Capons: The sixteenth, a Custard or Dowsets. Now to these full dishes may be added in Sallets, Fricases, Quelquechoses, and devised paste, as many dishes more, which make the full service no lesse then two and thirty dishes, which is as much as can conveniently stand on one Table... and after this manner you may proportion both your second and third course..."

Gervase Markham, *A Way to Get Wealth*

How to Talk About Your Children, c. 1558



Paolo Veronese, *Giuseppe da Porto with his Son Adriano* (1551-2)

"Those who are constantly talking about their children, their wives or their nursemaids, are equally at fault. 'Yesterday my boy made me laugh so much. Listen to this... You have never seen a more lovable son than my Momo...' No-one has so little to do that he has the time to answer or even to listen to such nonsense and so it irritates everyone."

Giovanni della Casa, *Galateo* (1558)

from the collections of <http://askthepast.blogspot.com> by Elizabeth Archibald

Barony of the Bright Hills

Practices and Meetings Site Directions

Heavy & Light Weapons Fighter Practices and A&S classes are held most Friday nights from

7:30 PM-10 PM

Business Meetings are held from 7 PM-8 PM the last Friday of the month (Please See Calendar)

Location: Christ the King Episcopal Church, 1930 Brookdale Rd., Baltimore, MD 21244

Although we use these facilities, the SCA is not endorsed by the Church.

Directions: Exit the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) at Exit 17 (Security Blvd Exit). Take the exit west toward Rolling Road, not the exit east toward Woodlawn. Travel west along Security Boulevard about one-half mile, through traffic-lights at Belmont Avenue, Lord Baltimore Drive, and Rolling Road. Continue west for another block, until you reach Brookdale Road. The Episcopal Church of Christ the King is on your left. Make a left turn onto Brookdale, and then turn right into the Church parking lot.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Baltimore County Schools announce they are closed or closing early, there will be no practice that night. You can usually hear the school closing lists on virtually any local radio station broadcast throughout the morning.

Sunday Afternoon Archery Practice

Lord Dagfinnr Jarnauga, 443-857-5178

Every Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (See Calendar)

Location: Baltimore Bowmen Site

Go to www.baltimorebowmen.com for directions. If the gate is closed, check to make sure it is not locked. If it is not locked, open it and drive down the hill to the butts. If the gate is locked, park your car and walk down the hill to the butts. NOTE: PRACTICE WILL NOT BE HELD WHEN THERE ARE WEEKEND-LONG EVENTS AND WHEN THERE ARE EVENTS AT THE BOWMEN SITE.

Guild Gatherings

Bardic Circle/PAGE

(Sundays 4-8pm; Contact Lady Nina for exact dates or check calendar)

6414 Loch Raven Blvd. Baltimore MD 21239

ninadances@gmail.com

Woodworkers' Guild (Check Calendar)

Lord Luke of Bright Hills' house. 1020 Register Avenue, Towson, MD 21239, (410) 377-6828.

Directions: Take Baltimore Beltway 695 toward Towson. We live near the northern apex of the beltway. Take exit 29 from 695. Take Loch Raven Blvd. south, past Taylor Ave. intersection, go through two lights after Taylor, look for quick right onto Register Avenue just over peak of a hill. (If you miss Register Ave. don't despair: at next light make a right onto Loch Hill Rd., then left at stop sign onto Register Ave. If you've gone too far on Loch Raven, you will reach Northern Parkway – a huge intersection.) Our house is at 1020 Register – white house with porch on right with SCA-type banner hanging from a signpost on front lawn - large driveway. Park on the south side of Register Avenue if there is no room in driveway.

Brewer's Guild

Lady Livia di Samuele, 7927 Mandan Road Apt 104 Greenbelt, MD 20770; 301-807-5476

Abramsonsm@yahoo.com

Contact with questions or to request special brewing days.

Clothier's Guild

Lady Faye de Trees, 1402 Hillside Dr., Bel Air, MD 21015; 352-281-8216, feataure@gmail.com.

The clothiers currently do one class per month on a specific project at Friday night fighter practice followed by a sewing session on Sunday afternoon to finish the projects. The location of the Sunday sessions varies. (Check calendar)

Textile Arts Guild

Mistress Brienna Llewellyn Lindsey, 3009 Ebbtide Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040, [410.598.3422](tel:410.598.3422), ladybrienna@gmail.com.

TAG meets the first Sunday of every month. Check calendar for location and times

Armory

Baron Heinrich, 3114 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158; 443-789-8109, lands_heinie@yahoo.com
Weekends by appointment.

Cook's Guild

Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri ap Hwytell, jay_wynne@hotmail.com

Meets second Sunday of the month. Check calendar for location and time.

Gold Key

To Access Gold Key garb, Contact Lady Wanda Ostojowna, wlkinnie@comcast.net

Bright Hills Email List

To subscribe to the Bright Hills mailing list, please go to: <http://www.yahogroups.com/subscribe/brighthills>

Electronic Connection

Bright Hills Website

The Baronial website, <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/> contains a listing of current officers, regularly scheduled meetings, events and other items of interest. If you have an item for the website, please send it to the Webminister,

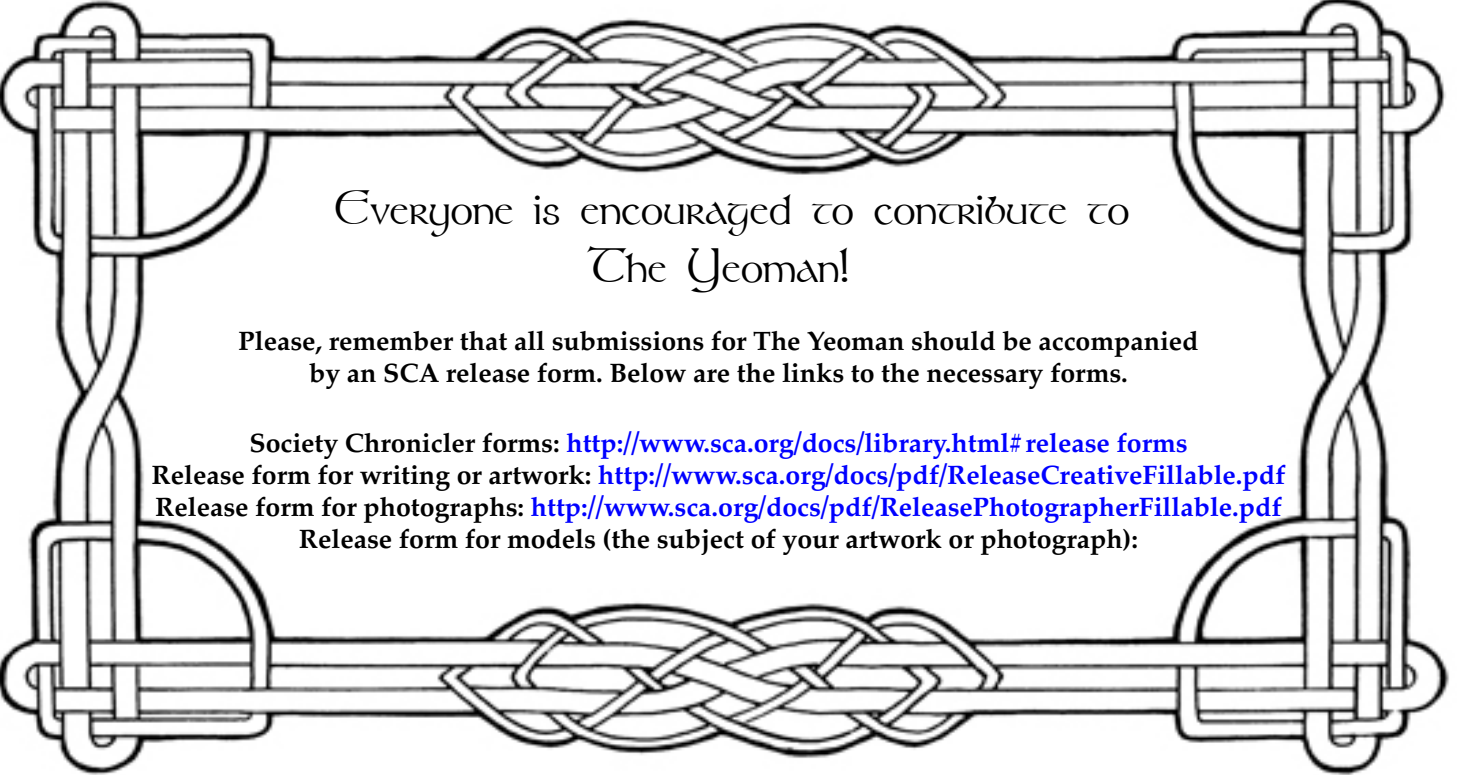
THL Janyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire at janynfletcher@comcast.net

Bright Hills FaceBook Page

The new baronial Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brighthills/>. Further information can be obtained from the administrators Lady Reyne Telarius at robynbecker@comcast.net, THL Janyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire at janynfletcher@comcast.net or Lady Aemilia Rosa at aemiliarosa@comcast.net

The Yeoman On-Line

<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/yeoman/yeoman.html>



Everyone is encouraged to contribute to
The Yeoman!

Please, remember that all submissions for The Yeoman should be accompanied by an SCA release form. Below are the links to the necessary forms.

Society Chronicler forms: [http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release forms](http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release%20forms)
Release form for writing or artwork: <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseCreativeFillable.pdf>
Release form for photographs: <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleasePhotographerFillable.pdf>
Release form for models (the subject of your artwork or photograph):

Officers and Deputies of the Barony of Bright Hills



















Please try not to call after 9 PM










Baron & Baroness
Kollack & Rebecca von Zweckel
Kenneth & Becky Kepple
443.254.1206



baron@brighthills.atlantia.sca.org or baroness@brighthills.atlantia.sca.org

<p>Seneschal Lady Ailis inghean ui Bhriain <i>Erin O'Brien Scimeca</i> 443-857-2849 ailisingheanuibhriain@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Seneschal</p> 	<p>Webminister THL Janyin Fletcher of Lancastreschire <i>Jay Nardone</i> 443-508-4456 janyinfletcher@comcast.net</p> 
<p>Baronial Clerk Signet & Deputy Webminister Lady Aemilia Rosa <i>Amy Nardone</i> 443-508-4456 aemiliarosa@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Herald Master Richard Wyn <i>Richard Muti</i> 443-615-1025 RickWyn@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Deputy Herald Lady Deirdre O'Bardon <i>Debbie Eccles</i> 410-356-0028 deirdre_obardon@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Exchequer Lady Clara <i>Michelle England</i> 443-799-1913 kuscheltier13@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Exchequer Lady Wanda Ostojowna <i>Wanda Kinnie</i> 443-398-5100, wandaostojowna@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Deputy Exchequer Lord Cairell mac Cormaic <i>Howard Carl Jacobson</i> 443-416-8356, cairellmaccormaic@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Steward/Deputy Exchequer Master Chirhart Blackstar <i>Truman Barnes</i> 410-239-8794 chirhart_1@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Chatelaine Lady Rebekkah Samuel <i>Victoria Wank</i> 443-846-2001 vwank35@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Deputy Chatelaine Baroness Barbara Giumaria diRoberto <i>Barbara Kriner</i> 443-244-0432 bjokriner@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Chatelaine Lord Wrad of Ce <i>Wade Whitlock</i> 410-272-8407 wadewhitlock@hotmail.com</p> 	<p>Youth Minister Baroness Katarzyna Witkowska <i>Katherine Hawkins</i> 443-813-1436 k_hawk_us@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Youth Minister Bridget of Bright Hills <i>Wilda Hawkins</i></p> 
<p>Chronicler Lady Scholastica Joycors <i>MyLinda Butterworth</i> 443-817-2129 totallystories@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Minister of Lists Lord Alexander Fowler <i>Hunter Fowler</i> 410.313.8626 hunterfsc@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Minister of Lists Lady Livia di Samuele <i>Sherrill M. Abramson</i> 301-807-5476 Abramsonsm@yahoo.com</p> 

Knights Marshall Lord Randver Askmadr <i>Randy Feltman</i> 410-877-1735 randver_askmadr@verizon.net 	Deputy Heavy Marshal Baron Heinrich Kreiner <i>Robert Stephen Kriner</i> lands_heinie@yahoo.com 443-789-8109 	Thrown Weapons Deputy Marshal Lady Beatrice Shirwod <i>Annelise Bauer</i> 843-312-5971 spindlebird@gmail.com 
Rapier Deputy Marshal Lord Stephen Bridewell <i>Stephen Cavano</i> 410.235.3590 stephenbridewell@yahoo.com 	Archery Deputy Marshal Lord Dagfinnr Jarnauga <i>Fred Scimeca</i> 443-857-5178 fortshmex1180@yahoo.com 	
Minister of Arts & Sciences Lord Alexander de Burdegala <i>Larry Jones</i> Appolodelsol@gmail.com 	Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences Lady Reyne Telarius <i>Robyn Becker</i> 443-995-0461 reynetelarius@comcast.net 	

Current Baronial Champions:

Archery: Lord Janyyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire

Arts and Sciences: Lady Freydis Sjona

Bardic: Lord Faolan Mac Raghnaill

Baronial Warlord: Lord Randvar Askmodr

Brewer: Aeilean Mac Raibert

Equestrian: Mor Inghean Ui Dochartaigh

Heavy Weapons: Lord Grimkel

Rapier: Lord Conrad Muni

Children's Archery- vacant

