

The Yeoman



Newsletter of the Barony of Bright Hills
December 2018 • Volume 32, Issue 13

The Story Behind the Cover Image

Important in the celebration of Christmas was the banquet, which necessarily varied in sumptuousness with the resources of the celebrants. The menu varied with soups and stews, birds and fish, breads and puddings, but a common element was the Yule boar, an animal for those who could afford it or a pie shaped like a boar for more humble tables. Churches and houses were decorated with ivy, mistletoe, holly, or anything green, which remained up until the eve of Candlemass. The gift-giving of the season was represented by the New Year Gift, which continued a tradition of Roman origin.

Calendar page for February in British Library MS Additional 24098 'The Golf Book (Sixteenth Century)'.

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Baronial 12th Night!

After consultation with Their Excellencies Kollack and Rebecca and with the Baronial Officers, it has been determined that the Baronial Twelfth Night celebration will take place on Friday, January 4, 2019.

As usual, the celebration will be held at Christ the King Episcopal Church (our fighter practice site). This will run from 7-10 PM

There will be a pot luck meal, so please bring a dish to contribute and to impress us (this is Bright Hills, after all)!!! The Bright Hills Cooks' Guild will provide non-alcoholic drinks, and plates, utensils, napkins, etc.

Garb is suggested, but not required.

The donation box will be available for contributions to the site fund, which helps cover the cost of the hall rental throughout the year.

We hope that you will be able to join us for the evening to celebrate the season and enjoy the company of friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, please contact the organizers of the celebration - Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec or Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri.



A Note from Your Chronicler

What can I say but I hope your holidays may be bright and joyful no matter what holiday you are celebrating. I pray that joy will fill your hearts and that you will be kind and generous to all you meet.

Merry Christmas!
Lady Scholastica Joycors
Chronicler of Bright Hill
Dean-College of Performing Arts
-Pennsic 47-50



Book of Hours of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Credits

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This is the December 2018, 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.

For information on reprinting articles from this publication, please contact the baronial chroniclers, Baronial Chroniclers, Lady Scholastica Joycors, totallystories@gmail.com who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the printed material. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Contributions are due by the 25th of each month.



THE BARONTY OF BRIGHT HILLS

To all of Bright Hills do we Kollack and Rebecca send our greetings and our appreciation



The skies remain in the dark longer and longer as we march towards mid winter. The air has reached a frigid state no longer being content to remain merely crisp. The earth, once laden with the richness of our bounty now lies empty and cold in aspect. Resting beneath the frost and frozen crust it waits, gathering energy. Soon the seasonal tide will change and the earth will bloom and be fertile once again.

In the weeks to come we will celebrate. We will celebrate what has transpired in the passing year. We will celebrate the changes in the year to come. But most important of all, we will be celebrating with each other.

We look forward to seeing you all at Baronial 12th Night and again at Kingdom 12th Night. Dont forget we also meet regularly on Friday evenings to catch up on news and special projects. Please take care and enjoy this joyous season.

Yours in Service and Friendship,

Kollack and Rebecca von Zweckel

Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills

Minutes of the Bright Hills Board Meeting

October 12, 2018 - 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Casey Keener, Kenneth & Becky Kepple, Angela Yau, Jay and Amy Nardone, Mylinda Butterworth, Claudia Bosworth, Rachael Knoblauch, Richard Muti, Robert and Barb Kriner, Karen Whitlock, Hunter Fowler, Wanda Kinnie,, Becky Ritterhouse, Jill Peters, Karen Whitlock, and Randy Feltman.

Report from the Baronage: 12th Night is coming up. Congratulations to our newest Golden Dolphin and upcoming Pelican.

Officer Reports:

Seneschal: Lady Freydis Sjona (Casey Keener) — Letters of intent came out. Polling submitted to Kingdom and we are now waiting for labels. December 8th currently scheduled for turn around. Thanks for those giving me your warrant dates. I am still looking for marshall warrants.

Chronicler: Lady Scholastica Joycors (MyLinda Butterworth) — Last months Yeoman went out on time. I also produced a Special Edition containing the Letters of Intent for the upcoming polling.

Exchequer: Lady Wanda Ostojowna (Wanda Kinnie) — Money we has Precious.

Webminister: Lady Dagný austkona (Rachael Knoblauch). The website is up-to-date with event information to the best of my knowledge

I have begun working with the webpage to set up members-only content that we could potentially use in place of the yahoo groups. This is still in process, and as it is being built I will keep it invisible on the webpage as to not cause confusion. Once the structure is in place and I have tested it, I will share the set-up with the officers and we can vote on whether we would like to transition to a website-based communication format for our groups. I am also looking into setting up email forwarding such that officers can be listed on the website under domain-associated emails rather than personal ones.

Heralds Report: Master Richard Wyn (Richard Muti) — The Heralds this month have been busy helping with consultations and field heralding at events.

A&S Report: Lord Alexander de Burdegala (Larry Jones) — From the Deputy MoAS: Scholastica Joycors received her Golden Dolphin at Fall Crown. Baroness Wyn was given a writ for her Pelican and Baroness Daniella received a combat scribe token at Dun Carriag's Birthday.

Chatelain Report: Baroness Barbara Giumaria diRoberto (Barbara Kriner) — WHAT A MONTH! Oct. 27, Camp Rodney Demo: 760+ scouts and families. Thank you to all the 13 members of Bright Hills, who got up early on a cold, wet Sat. to wrangle folks of all ages, interest levels, and energy; introducing the scouts to the SCA .

We received 3 referrals from Viking Con, from other chatelains, 1 request from our demo, and 2 young adventurers who stumbled into the church.

I spent about \$30 to photocopy bookmarks. After 60 pages of 8 each, I realized they all had the ".net" address, as does the larger postcard handout. I think the Chatelain's office needs to review all our resources and update those we find most useful. We will need to ask for printing costs, in the future. This question, of most useful handout, came up recently on the Chatelain's list and will probably get covered at Unevent. My warrant has been renewed and I am good till 11/2020.

Knights Marshall: Lord Randver Askmadr (Randy Feltman)— No activity this month.



Minister of the List: Lord Alexander Fowler (Hunter Fowler)— Yes my Deputy is working on renewing her warrant. The KMOL added 10 months not the correct 12 months to the previous input error on my warrant. However he marked both Lady Livia and myself as never having taken the MOL 101 class., so that on the on the database it show us as never having taken MOL 101 which makes both of us warrantless

I can not say anything positive about the KMOL and his staff. For last four years I have been trying unsuccessfully to get them to correct their errors

Youth Minister: Lady Katarzyna Witkowska (Katherine Hawkins)— There were no children's activities this month.

Baronial Steward: Master Chirhart Blackstar (Truman Barnes) — Nothing to report this month.

Guild Reports:

Armors – No report.

Bardic Circle — No report.

Brewers – No report

Cheese Mongers: Master Chirhart (Truman Barnes)— No report.

Clothiers – No report.

Cooks Guild: Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri (Jill Peters)— Met last month. Prepared feast for Fall Crown

Herb Group – Faolan Mac Raghnaill — No report.

PAEG : Lady Reyne — No report.

St. Matthias – No report.

Scriptorium: Lady Alexandria Wright (Andrea Scott) — No report.

TAG — Mistress Brienna Llewellyn — No report

Woodworkers – No report.

Old Business:

Harvest Wars original date got bumped at the Denton location we will need to respike for 11-12 October. Royal Archery has moved from April to September and Trial by Fire has been moved from September to June. We have heard nothing new about the Bid for University at this point. A vote to approve the Baronial Social Media policy as currently written by Dagny was approved by a unanimous vote.

A count was made of all those going to Unevent.

New Business:

Baronial 12th Night will be hosted by Baroness Wynne & Mistress Bec on January 4, 2018. A request for reimbursement for decorations of up to \$50 was brought forth. A vote was placed for reimbursements at a higher price of \$100 which was approved by an unanimous vote.

Their Majesties are requesting that we submit Kingdom Level awards for Birthday. The Baron and Baroness would also like awards submitted.

At the conclusion of this meeting there will be a Meet and Greet with the candidates for the next Baron and Baroness.

Next meeting: December 14, 2018 Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Atlantian Calendar of Events

December 2018

1	Unevent (R)	Raven's Cove	Mount Olive, NC
7-9	Yule Toy Tourney XIII	Nottingham Coill	Pickens, SC
8	Highland Foorde Holiday Party	Highland Foorde	Frederick, MD
15	Midwinter Martial Symposium	Courtland, VA	

January 2019

11-13	12th Night: A 1001 Atlantian Nights (R)	Sacred Stone	Virginia Beach, VA
19	Ice Castles (R)	Black Diamond	Salem, VA
25-27	Nottingham Coill's Investiture and Baronial Birthday (R)	Nottingham Coill	Bennettsville, SC
26	The Road to Compostela (Midwinters Revel)	Lochmere	Serversna Park, MD

February 2019

2	Winter University	Caer Mear	Mineral, VA
8-10	Tourney of Manannan mc Lir XXXVIII	Tear-Seas Shore	Ridgeville, SC
9	Bright Hills 25th Baronial Anniversary (R)	Bright Hills	Manchester, MD
16	Ponte Alto Baronial Birthday (R)	Ponte Alto	
16-17	AEdult Swim IV	Aethelmearc	
22-24	Ymir 44 (R)	Windmaster's Hill	Ellerbe, NC

March 2019

2	Kingdom Arts and Science Festival (H)	Atlantia	Mebane, NC
9-17	Gulf Wars (H)	Gleann Abhann	
22-24	Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday	Hidden Mountain	Bennettsville, SC
23	Defending the Gate XVIII (R)	Sudentorre	Spotsylvania, VA
29-31	Academy of St. Clare of Assisi: Keeping you in Stitches!	Abhainn Ciach Ghlais	Millmont, PA
30	Labors of Finn	Tir-y-Don	Newport News, VA

April 2019

5-7	Coronation of Christoph II and Adelhait II (R)	Atlantia	Ellerbe, NC
12-14	Tournament of Elchenburg	Charlesbury Crossing	Boonville, NC
12-14	Night in Navarre	Lochmere	Crownsville, MD
19-21	Day of Cahllenge	Marinus	Clarkesville, VA
19-21	UnBirthday	Raven's Cove	Richlands, NC
19-21	Feast of the Dragon	Saint Georges	Easley, SC
26-28	Mists of Atlantia: Gawain and the Green Knight	Crois Brigitte	Bennettsville, SC
26-30	Revenge of the Stitch VI	Spaggia Levantina	Denton, MD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yule Toy Tourney XVIII

December 07- 09, 2018 • Barony of Nottingham Hill Coill

Ireland. The Emerald Isle. The year is 1002, and Brian Boruma mac Cennetig has become what will be known as the last true Ard-Righ, or High King, of Ireland.

Join us as we celebrate the legendary Brian Boru!

Yule Toy Tourney is the Barony of Nottingham Hill Coill's annual charity event. Admission to the site is 1 new, unwrapped toy, and there is a fee of 1 new, unwrapped toy for every tournament and competition that you wish to enter. All toys are donated to Country Santa, a local charity for children.

In previous years, we have had 800-900 toys. This year's goal is to match the year that we are celebrating - 1002. Let's see if we can bring in 1002 or more toys to help the children of upstate South Carolina!

Website: <https://morgul0.wixsite.com/ytt2018>

Highland Foorde Holiday Party

December 8, 2018 • Barony of Highland Foorde

Highland Foorde Populace and Friends come together to celebrate the holidays. This is a low-key event, pot-luck (bring a dish to share, with a list of ingredients for allergens). We will be selecting A&S, Bardic, and Brewing champions at this event.

Please also bring your favorite beverage to share - the water at the site is not safe to drink. This is a wet site, but please be responsible.

Midwinter Martial Symposium

December 15, 2018 • Kingdom of Atlantia

Join us for an All Discipline Fighter Practice! This place has plenty of space to get your fight on!

Baronial 12th Night

January 4, 2019 • Christ the King Episcopal Church

After consultation with Their Excellencies Kollack and Rebecca and with the Baronial Officers, it has been determined that the Baronial Twelfth Night celebration will take place on Friday, January 4, 2019.

As usual, the celebration will be held at Christ the King Episcopal Church (our fighter practice site). We plan to open the hall at 7:00 PM (if you come early you will be asked to help with set up) and will continue until 10:00 PM.

There will be a pot luck meal, so please bring a dish to contribute and to impress us (this is Bright Hills, after all)!!! The Bright Hills Cooks' Guild will provide non-alcoholic drinks, and plates, utensils, napkins, etc.

Garb is suggested, but not required.

The donation box will be available for contributions to the site fund, which helps cover the cost of the hall rental throughout the year. (Note - if you write a check, it is tax-deductible!)

We hope that you will be able to join us for the evening to celebrate the season and enjoy the company of friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, please contact the organizers of the celebration - Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec (beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com) or Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri. (ay_wynne@hotmail.com)

12th Night: A 1001 Arabian Nights

January 11- 13, 2019 • Barony of Sacred Stone

Who hasn't dreamed of the enchanted time brought to life by the stories of the Arabian Nights? Stories from the Islamic Golden Age, of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, and let's not forget Sinbad the Sailor, and his seven voyages. The tales range from love stories to tragedies, and everything in between: djinns, sorcerers, magicians, and of course, legendary places.

Whether your dreams are filled with history or fantasy, this will be the event for you! Just like our heroine Scheherzade, you are only limited by your own imagination. For those who enjoy the history, research the Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid and Sassanid Empire, for those who prefer a more magical time, peruse the stories of 1001 Nights, and revel in the fantasy and help set the stage for our own Arabian Twelfth Night celebration.

Website: <http://www.12thnight.atlantia.sca.org>

Lore from the Larder



illumination from The Luttrell Psalter

The Christmas Feast

Christmas feast ranged anywhere from the same everyday food in the homes of peasants to elaborate meals to clog your arteries. Here are just a few descriptions that I found which describe the Medieval Christmas Feast.

"The greatest of the feasts celebrated was Christmas. This, of course, covered twelve days, but unlike the modern Christmas the celebrations did not begin until Christmas Day itself. Advent was mostly a time of fasting, & as Advent only ended after mass on Christmas Day, the festivities could not begin before then. The two most celebrated days of Christmas were New Year & the final day of celebration, Twelfth Night...There was...a definite purpose to the Tudor Christmas. At a time when society was very strictly organized, Christmas acted as a kind of pressure-release valve, a time when everything was turned on its head. There were different days when certain sections of society were allowed an unusual degree of freedom. Children, for example, had their day on 6 December, St. Nicholas Day...Christmas, then as now, had a variety of dishes associated with it. The first was the boar's head, which formed the centerpiece of the Christmas Day meal. It was garnished with rosemary & bay & evidently was presented to the diners with some style, as told by the many boar's head carols which still exist...Thomas Tusser in *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry* suggests a number of dishes, that, lower down society, the housewife should provide for her guests at Christmas. He mentions mutton, pork, veal souse (pickled pig's feet & ears), brawn, cheese & apples, although none of these items was connected especially with Christmas; they were all associated with feasting generally. He also talks of serving turkey, but only as a part of a list of other luxurious items that the housewife should provide. It does not seem to be the centerpiece in the way that the boar's head was in grander circles. One important item associated with Twelfth Night was the Twelfth cake. This was a fruitcake into which an object or objects might be baked, These might be a coin, or coins, or a dried bean & pea, The idea was that whoever found the item in their piece of cake became the King of the Bean or Queen of the Pea. They would then become host & hostess for the evening's entertainments... Another tradition associated with Christmas was that of wassailing. This was the remains of old fertility rites, when a toast would be drunk to fruit trees in the hope of making them produce a good crop in the following year. Whatever its origins, it was certainly an opportunity for plenty of drinking...The wassail cup might be of cider, ale, or some spiced ale such as lambswool, a kind of spiced beer which was served warm. Wassailing was a part of Christmas for everyone, from the highest to the lowest."

--Food & Feast in Tudor England, Alison Sim [Sutton Publishing:Phoenix Mill] 1997 (p. 113-115)



"A Christmas-day dinner menu at Ingatestone included: "six boiled & 3 roast pieces of beef, a neck of mutton, a loin & breast of pork, a goose, 4 coneyes [rabbits] & 8 warden pies [pear pies colored with saffron]." For supper "5 joints of mutton, a neck of pork, 2 coneyes, a woodcock & a venison pasty" were served. This was a modest menu..."

--Dining with William Shakespeare, Madge Lorwin [Atheneum:New York] 1076 (p. 157)

n Italy: "The distinction between normal days & feast day can be noted in every kitchen...feast days were observed in different ways & with varying degrees of frequency. For certain religions holidays, the menu was ritualized. Lasagne at Christmas...when Messire Sozzo Bandinelli assembed a brilliant court at Siena to celebrate his son Francesco's accession to knighthood on Christmas Day 1326, the festivities were to last the whole preceding week, with tournaments, exchanges of gifts, & banquets. The record contains the menus of three meat banquets (...with 600 on Christmas Day), & one for a day of abstinence (120 guests on Wednesday, Christmas Eve). Days of penitence did not require forswearing banquets; it was enough to replace meat with fish. Moreover, as in othe literary texts, the chronicler mentions only the dishes reflecting festivity, abundance, & knightly courtesy--in a word, the meat & fish dishes--from among all the foods appearing on the banquet tables. At Siena in that December of 1326, the number of courses, as they appear in the chronicler's simplified version, varied from three to five (on the great day itself). At all the the meat banquets, boiled veal, roast capon, & game meats were served; for the Christmas feast the vast quantity & variety of game are described in detail. Each day's menu is distinguished by a particular dish: ravioli & ambrogino di polli...for the Tuesday, blancmange for Christmas Day; pastelli on the Thursday. The banquets always ended with candied pears served with treggea (sugared almonds), & were always preceded & followed by confetti: sugarcoated whole spices. The meatless Christmas Eve menu was no less gala, with four courses. First, following the confetti, came marinated tench & plates of chickpeas to the table, then roast eels, & finally a compote with treggea, followed by the unvarying candied pears & confetti."

---The Medieval Kitchen: Recipes from France & Italy, Odile Redon et al [Univeristy of Chicago Press:Chicago] 1998 (p. 6-7)



"Food & drink played important roles in Christmas celebrations during the sixteenth & seventeenth centuries. Christmas festivities often ended with a Twelfth Night banquet on the sixth of January, & the Christmas season was the time when the yeomanry & apprentices demanded finer quality bread & ale than they ordinarily received. This tradition, called "wassailing," provided an important opportunity for the gentry to demonstrate their hospitality. As Thomas Tusser counseled his readers, "At Christmas be merye, & thankful withall/& feast thy poore neighbors ye gret with ye small." Religious aspects of keeping Christmas changed during the seventeenth century, although many social customs like wassailing remained intact. Josiah King's book mocks those who would suppress Christmas. The Puritan jury members are all mean, among them Mr. Eat-alone, Mr. Hoord-corne, & Mr. Cold-kitchin, & they are replaced by Mr. Warm-gut, Mr. Neighbour-hood, & Mr. Open-house, who acquit Father Christmas. Brawn, made from force-fed boar meat & served with mustard sauce, is traditionally associated with Christmas in England. The plot of A Christmas messe involves a battle between the forces of King Brawn & King Beef for the place of first setting at the Christmas meal. The cook resolves the debate, & Brawn, assisted by Mustard, is sent in first, followed by Queen Mincepie. This play may well have been performed at a Cambridge college as an after-dinner lesson in debating. December's good cheer for Thomas Tusser's family included brawn pudding along with freshly killed beef, mutton, pork, veal, goose, capon, & turkey. Apples, cheese, & nuts with jolly carols end the "christmas husbandly fare." Tusser's plea for year-round hospitality makes sense in a world where fresh food was available only seasonally & enough to eat depended on a good harvest." SOURCE: Folger Library



"Christmas, then as now, had a variety of dishes associated with it. The first was the boar's head, which formed the centrepiece of the Christmas Day meal. It was garnished with rosemary & bay & evidently was presented to the diners with some style, as told by the many boar's head carols which still exist...Thomas Tusser in Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry suggests a number of dishes, that, lower down society, the housewife should provide for her guests at Christmas. He mentions mutton, pork, veal souse (pickled pig's feet & ears), brawn, cheese & apples, although none of these items was connected especially with Christmas; they were all associated with feasting generally. He also talks of serving turkey, but only as a part of a list of other luxurious items that the housewife should provide. It does not seem to be the centrepiece in the way that the boar's head was in grander circles."

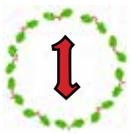
---Food & Feast in Tudor England, Alison Sim [Sutton Publishing:Phoenix Mill] 1997 (p. 113-115)

Seven Medieval Christmas Traditions

Christmas was an important time throughout medieval Europe, and many traditions developed during this period, some of which are still popular. Here are seven things you might see during Christmas in the Middle Ages, which range from cribs in Italy to trolls in Iceland.



Feasting at King Arthur's Court in British Library MS Royal 20 D iv.



THE CHRISTMAS FEAST – It is not surprising that food was a major part of a medieval Christmas. The holiday came during a period after the crops had been harvested and there would be little to do on a farm. If animals were not to be kept over the winter, now would also be a good time for them to be slaughtered for their food. This could leave a bounty of food that would make Christmas the perfect time to hold a feast.

England's King John held a Christmas feast in 1213, and royal administrative records show that he was ordering large amounts of food. One order included 24 hogshead of wine, 200 head of pork, 1,000 hens, 500 lbs of wax, 50 lbs of pepper, 2 lbs of saffron, 100 lbs of almonds, along other spices, napkins and linen. If that was not enough, the King also sent an order to the Sheriff of Canterbury to supply 10,000 salt eels.

Even at a slightly lower level of wealth the Christmas meal was still elaborate. Richard of Swinfield, Bishop of Hereford, invited 41 guests to his Christmas feast in 1289. Over the three meals that were held that day, the guests ate two carcasses and three-quarters of beef, two calves, four does, four pigs, sixty fowls, eight partridges, two geese, along with bread and cheese. No one kept track of how much beer was drunk, but the guests managed to consume 40 gallons of red wine and another four gallons of white.

Feasts were also held among the peasants, and manorial customs sometimes revealed that the local lord would supply the people with special food for Christmas. For example, in the 13th century a shepherd on a manor in Somerset was entitled to a loaf of bread and a dish of meat on Christmas Eve, while his dog would get a loaf on Christmas Day. Another three tenants on the same manor would share two loaves of bread, a mess of beef and of bacon with mustard, one chicken, cheese, fuel for cooking and as much beer as they could drink during the day.



YULE MUMMING FROM SCANDINAVIA. From Christmas Eve until the Twelfth Night, young men in northern parts of Europe would go about in the middle of the night scaring people in the streets or in their farms. They would be wearing frightening masks, and



Mummers from Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Bodley 264.

would be “disguised according to the old fashion of the devil.” During these long, dark nights the young yule mummers would try to scare people by pretending to act like ghosts, trolls or other strange creatures.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, one can read about appearances from the Yule Goat, which would make “children still shake and quiver and are struck by a kind of panic fear.” Here is how one 17th century man described the Yule Goat:

The young man who manipulated the Yule-goat had joined two poles in such a way the the upper end of one of them was provided with an oblong head looking like a goat. The jaws of this could open or close as he wished, and this made a terrible noise. And at the end of the other pole which served as the tail of the Yule-goat he put jingling bells.

The young man was strong. He was covered in fur and he went inside the house and attacked every one of those present, shouting as he did do. He demanded pieces of bread or cake or cheese and when he had received these he thanked those present by moving the tail of the Yule-goat so that the bells jingled, but anyone who did not give him anything he attempted to hit with the pole that constituted the tail of the Yule-goat.

When this pantomime character had thus jumped around and greeted everyone seated around the table with ludicrous gestures, he hurried out jumping as if he was dancing.



THE CHRISTMAS BISHOP. In parts of Western Europe one finds reports of the election of boy bishops, often on December 28th, which marked the feasts of Holy Innocents massacred by King Herod.

In England the practice can be found dating back to the twelfth century, where boys were elected as bishops in churches or schools. The boy might be dressed up in vestments and would celebrate a mock mass that would include preaching a sermon. Afterwards he would go out in a procession, where he would receive gifts of money and food. Even the English kings would participate in the fun – Edward I had one boy bishop say vespers before him in 1299 and his son Edward II awarded another boy bishop ten shillings in 1316.

In mainland Europe the practice was a little different. One account from Denmark describes how someone became the bishop:

Christmas Bishop is the name of a young man who is consecrated bishop in a Christmas game which goes as follows: they place one from their own guild, that is to say the guild of unmarried people, on a chair, blacken his face and put a stick in his mouth with a piece of candle on either end. Then the young men and women run around him in a circle and sign: ‘We consecrate a Christmas Bishop pro nobis’, and when this had been done three times he had been consecrated Christmas Bishop.

Of course, the Christmas Bishop had duties to perform: he “marries as many couples from the guild as he wants while making strange faces and speaking in a feigned voice, and then the married couples must offer something. Those offering something which is not good enough are hit by a bag filled with ashes that the Bishop has kept under his cape.”

The marriages lasted one night – we are left to guess how the happy couples spent their Christmas honeymoon.



DICE-PLAYING AND INTER-VILLAGE FOOTBALL from France. On December 26, 1396, Jehan Werry, a cloth-shearer, was in a tavern in the French town of Senlis when some of the people there convinced him to join in on their dice-game, because “it was still Christmas.” Jehan played the game, but was blatantly cheated by the other players and lost five gold francs. Jehan compounded his mistake by trying to steal money from his cousin in order to recoup his losses.

In ‘Games in their Seasons’ Jean-Michel Mehl notes that in medieval France two activities often happened around Christmas, one of which was dice-playing. Even King Charles VII (1422-1461) was once coaxed “to play dice and to make merry with during the Feast of Christmas.” Although some French church officials tried to ban this game on Christmas Eve, the practice continued and seems to have been widely played.

Dice-playing can also be seen in other parts of Europe. In the Kingdom of Castile laws from the 13th century onwards mention that the royal monopoly on gambling houses was suspended for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Meanwhile, in 1511 England’s King Henry VIII prohibited his servants from playing various games, including dice-playing, but did allow them to play these games during the twelve days of Christmas.

Another popular Christmas past-time in medieval France was the game of soule, which would happen once-a-year between neighbouring villages. Mehl explains “the game has many regional variations but is based on a very simple principle: two opposing teams compete for possession of a large block of wood or a moss-filled leather ball, called the eteuf or pelote. It is propelled by being punched with the fist, kicked, or struck with curved sticks. In the course of these encounters, whose participants can be numbered in scores, all blows are allowed, which explains the large number of injuries or even fatalities involved and the consequent frequency with which this game figures in the letters or pardon.”



PRESEPI in Italy. The tradition of creating a crib (creches) and Nativity scene has sometimes been traced to St. Francis of Assisi, who in 1223 constructed one in a cave in the town of Greccio and held Christmas Eve mass and a nativity pageant there. References to the presepi date to 1272 in

Rome and 1343 in Naples, with the practice spreading to other parts of Europe throughout the later Middle Ages.



Up to the sixteenth-century the presepi would consist of three figures – the baby in the crib and two beasts who kept him warm. These were placed next to the altar where Mass was celebrated. By the end of the Middle Ages the figures of Mary and Joseph were introduced, and gradually the nativity scene became more complex by adding the adoration of the shepherds, making some of the figures moveable and including music.



CHRISTMAS IN A RENAISSANCE COURT. During the reign of Galeazzo Maria Sforza (1466-1476) Christmas was the most important date in the city-state of Milan. Gregory Lubkin detailed how the Duke and the city prepared for the twelve days of Christmas, seven of which were official holidays.

It was so important for the Duke that he sent out orders to all the minor nobles to spend Christmas in Milan unless they were sick, along with courtiers, bureaucrats and foreign ambassadors.



As the Duke’s officials figured out the protocols and proper orders of having all these guests attending the festivities, the Duke himself went on a seasonal hiring spree, doubling the number of chamberlains in his service to 125, and increasing the number of court gentlemen from 24 to 100. Lubkin notes that other preparations included having “temporary kitchens were erected, table silver and other furnishings transferred from Pavia Castle, and necessities like wood, wax, wine, and bread collected in quantity.”

Various feasts and masses were held, including three masses that the Duke heard on Christmas Day in his own chapel. The highlight of the festivities took place on December 24th, at a ceremony known as the Ciocco, which was held in the main hall of the Duke’s palace. “This ceremony was the Milanese equivalent of the Yule Log,” writes Lubkin, “the log itself was garnished with fruits and foliage, among which juniper and laurel were particularly prominent. It was brought in at sunset, put in the fireplace, and set aflame to the jubilation of all. A banquet followed this ancient ritual of fire and renewal, which was repeated on 31 December.”

Having all these officials and ambassadors in one place also allowed some state business to be done, with various diplomatic efforts a fixture over the period. This was also the season for marriages between the Sforza family and other Italian and European courts to be negotiated. However, the Duke himself was often spending his time either taking in various masses or indulging in games of skill or chance. On New Year’ Eve in 1471, during a lavish party the Duke commanded that all his guests to join him in gambling, even offering to lend money to those who could not afford the stakes.

The Christmas of 1476 was held with much lower fanfare, as the Duke decided against hosting large gatherings because plague had recently been detected in Milan. Galeazzo was also worried that his own family was plotting against him, and had sent two of his brothers to France for the season. However, it was not his own family he had to worry about, as three of his own officials decided to strike against their Duke. On December 26th, Galeazzo

went with a small retinue to the Church of Santo Stefano to hear mass, when the three courtiers attacked him with knives and swords, stabbing him fourteen times. Duke Galeazzo Maria Sforza was killed instantly.



Christmas Trolls in Iceland. In medieval Iceland, the Christmas period would fall on the period when daylight would last only 4 to 5 hours, leaving for long and cold nights. It was also a time of danger, when evil creatures would wander the land. Icelandic sagas relate various strange events that happened during the Yule festival. In the Eyrbyggja Saga one farmer invited his neighbours to his Christmas feast, only to have several ghosts arrive, who would shake the mud off their clothes and spray the other guests with it. Those who tried to stop them would fall sick and die.

In Grettir's Saga the danger came from Trolls, as this one story relates:

Yule was approaching. On the eve the shepherd went out with his sheep. The mistress said: "Now I hope that our former experiences will not be repeated."

"Have no fear for that, mistress," he said. "There will be something worth telling of if I come not back."

Then he went out to his sheep. The weather was rather cold and there was a heavy snowstorm. Thorgaut usually returned when it was getting dark, but this time he did not come. The people went to church as usual, but they thought matters looked very much as they did on the last occasion. The bondi wanted them to go out and search for the shepherd, but the churchgoers cried off, and said they were not going to trust themselves into the power of trolls in the night; the bondi would not venture out and there was no search. On Yule day after their meal they went out to look for the shepherd, and first went to Glam's cairn, feeling sure that the shepherd's disappearance must be due to him. On approaching the cairn they saw an awful sight; there was the shepherd, his neck broken, and every bone in his body torn from its place.



John Bauer 1882-1918

By the later Middle Ages the stories and beliefs about Huldufólk (Hidden people) were very common, and elves began to be associated with Christmas – they were said to be able to take over a person's house and hold wild parties with dancing. This folklore remains popular in modern-day Iceland.

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May Your Days Be Merry and Bright and May You Enjoy This Festive Holiday Season!



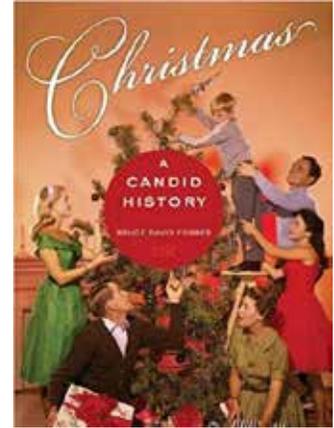
Fresco depicting January at Castello Buonconsiglio, Trento, Italy, c. 1405-1410.

Books of Knowledge

Christmas: A Candid History

by Bruce David Forbes

Written for everyone who loves and is simultaneously driven crazy by the holiday season, *Christmas: A Candid History* provides an enlightening, entertaining perspective on how the annual Yuletide celebration got to be what it is today. In a fascinating, concise tour through history, the book tells the story of Christmas—from its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond, and to its mind-boggling transformation through modern consumerism. Packed with intriguing stories, based on research into myriad sources, full of insights, the book explores the historical origins of traditions including Santa, the reindeer, gift giving, the Christmas tree, Christmas songs and movies, and more. The book also offers some provocative ideas for reclaiming the joy and meaning of this beloved, yet often frustrating, season amid the pressures of our fast-paced consumer culture.

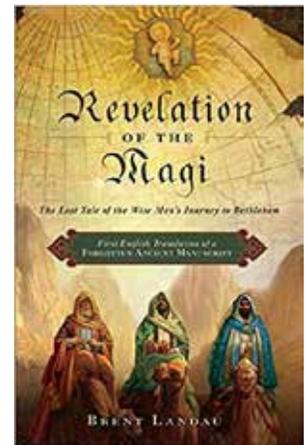


University of California Press
ISBN: 978-0520258020

Revelation of the Magi: The Lost Tale of the Wise Men's Journey to Bethlehem

Brent Landale

The first-ever English translation of an ancient manuscript dating back to the 2nd or 3rd century discovered in the Vatican Library tells the Christmas story from the point of view of the three kings from the East.



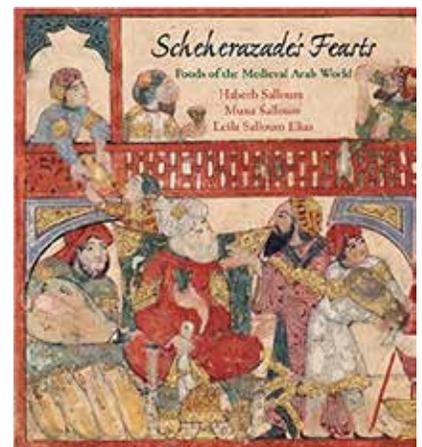
HarperOne
ISBN: 978-0061947032

Scheherazade's Feasts: Foods of the Medieval Arab World

by Habeeb Salloum, Muna Salloum & Lella Salloum Elias

From the seventh to the thirteenth centuries, the influence and power of the medieval Islamic world stretched from the Middle East to the Iberian Peninsula, and this Golden Age gave rise to great innovation in gastronomy no less than in science, philosophy, and literature. The medieval Arab culinary empire was vast and varied: with trade and conquest came riches, abundance, new ingredients, and new ideas.

Drawn from this wealth of medieval Arabic writing, *Scheherazade's Feasts* presents more than a hundred recipes for the foods and beverages of a sophisticated and cosmopolitan empire. The recipes are translated from medieval sources and adapted for the modern cook, with replacements suggested for rare ingredients such as the first buds of the date tree or the fat rendered from the tail of a sheep. With the guidance of prolific cookbook writer Habeeb Salloum and his daughters, historians Leila and Muna, these recipes are easy to follow and deliciously appealing. The dishes are framed with verse inspired by them, culinary tips, and tales of the caliphs and kings whose courts demanded their royal preparation. To contextualize these selections, a richly researched introduction details the foodscape of the medi-



University of Pennsylvania Press
ISBN: 978-0812244779

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

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/PAEG

(Sundays 4-8pm; Contact Lady Reyne Telarius home, 472 Winterberry Dr, Edgewood, MD check for exact dates or check calendar)

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 Lock 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, ladybrienna@gmail.com.

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

Armory

Master 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 Hwyell, jay_wynne@hotmail.com

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

Gold Key

To Access Gold Key garb,
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,

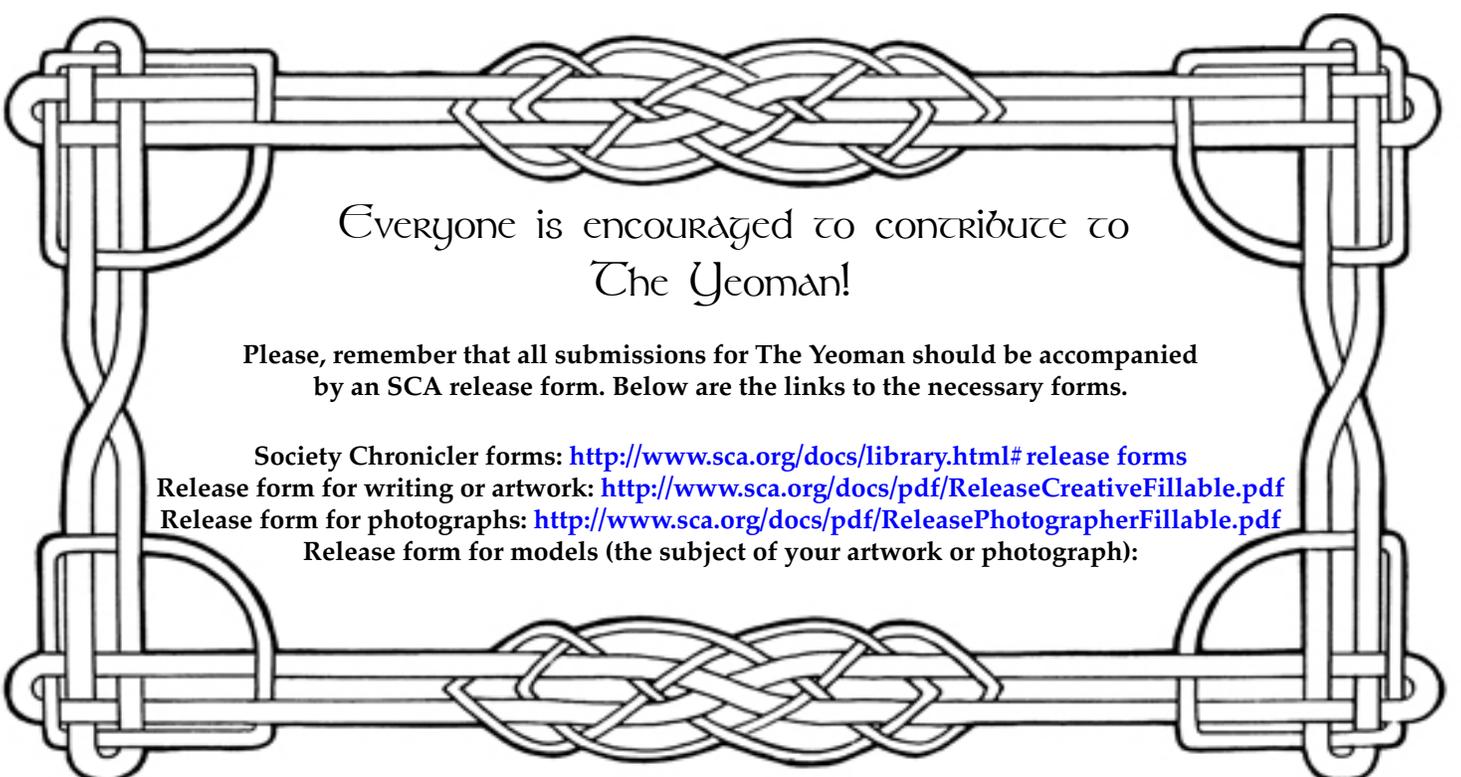
Dagný austkona at rmknoblauch@gmail.com

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, and Dagný austkona at rmknoblauch@gmail.com

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 Freydis sjóna <i>Casey Keener</i> 410-852-0621 frejya2004@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Exchequer Lady Wanda Ostojowna <i>Wanda Kinnie</i> 443-398-5100, wandaostojowna@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Webminister Dagný austkona Rachael Knoblauch 301-481-1949 rmknoblauch@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Seneschal</p> 	<p>Deputy Exchequer Lord Cairell mac Cormaic <i>Howard Carl Jacobson</i> 443-416-8356, cairellmaccormaic@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Webminister</p> 
<p>Chronicler Lady Scholastica Joycors <i>MyLinda Butterworth</i> 443-817-2129 totallystories@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Steward/Deputy Exchequer Master Chirhart Blackstar <i>Truman Barnes</i> 410-239-8794 chirhart_1@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Chatelaine Maestra Barbara Giumaria diRoberto <i>Barbara Kriner</i> 443-244-0432 bjokriner@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Chronicler</p> 	<p>Baronial Clerk Signet Lady Alexandria Wright <i>Andrea Scott</i> 410-952-4808 ladyalexandriawright@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Chatelaine Lord Wrad of Ce <i>Wade Whitlock</i> 410-272-8407 wadewhitlock@hotmail.com</p> 
<p>Herald Master Richard Wyn <i>Richard Muti</i> 443-615-1025 RickWyn@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Youth Minister Baroness Katarzyna Witkowska <i>Katherine Hawkins</i> 443-813-1436 k_hawk_us@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Minister of Arts & Sciences Lord Alexander de Burdegala <i>Larry Jones</i> Appolodelsol@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Herald Lady Deirdre O'Bardon <i>Debbie Eccles</i> 410-356-0028 deirdre_obardon@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Youth Minister Bridget of Bright Hills <i>Wilda Hawkins</i></p> 	<p>Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences Baroness Tatiana Ivanovna of Birchwood Keep <i>Claudia Bosworth</i> 410-437-7090 crbosworth@aol.com</p> 

Minister of Lists Lord Alexander Fowler <i>Hunter Fowler</i> 443-538-2220 hunterfca@yahoo.com 	Knights Marshall Lord Randver Askmadr <i>Randy Feltman</i> 410-877-1735 randver_askmadr@verizon.net 	Archery Deputy Marshal 
Deputy Minister of Lists Lady Livia di Samuele <i>Sherrill M. Abramson</i> 301-807-5476 Abramsonsm@yahoo.com 	Deputy Heavy Marshal Master Heinrich Kreiner <i>Robert Stephen Kriner</i> lands_heinie@yahoo.com 443-789-8109 	Rapier Deputy Marshal Lord Stephen Bridewell <i>Stephen Cavano</i> 410.235.3590 stephenbridewell@yahoo.com 
	Thrown Weapons Deputy Marshal Lady Beatrice Shirwod <i>Annelise Bauer</i> 843-312-5971 spindlebird@gmail.com 	

Current Baronial Champions:

Archery: Master Janyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire
Arts and Sciences: Lady Freydis Sjona
Bardic: Lord Faolan Mac Raghnaill
Baronial Warlord: Lord Randvar Askmodr
Brewer: Lord Michel von Schonsey

Equestrian: Mor Inghean Ui Dochartaigh
Heavy Weapons: Lord Grimkel
Thrown Weapons: Lord Trygvvi
Rapier: Lord Conrad Muni
Children's Archery- Cedric and Moira

