

In A Nutshell

Official Newsletter
of the Incipient Canton
Gleann nam Feòrag Dubh

June, AS XXXIX
Volume 1, No. 6



Enter

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Web Site

Meeting minutes and other Canton information:

<http://www.feoragdubh.eastkingdom.org/index.php>

Newsgroups

Canton discussion list:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dubhfeorag/>

Canton announcements:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dubhfeorag-announce/>

Submissions

Submission guidelines:

<http://www.feoragdubh.eastkingdom.org/Nutshell.php>

Or contact the Chronicler at:

canton_chronicler@yahoo.com

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Canton Officers

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Chatelaine & Gold Key

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mka Ellen Leone
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Home: (610) 356-9176
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Lady Suba al-Hadid Jamilia al-Bhakailia
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Corwin

Deputy Chatelaine

Magdalena

Herald

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William Fitzwater

Web Mistress

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geoffreygryphon@yahoo.com

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Populace Missives

From the Chronicler

Greetings. I hope the sun season is finding everyone enjoying themselves and learning new things. I know I learned my sunscreen lessons last year, and that's helping this year during some sunny weekends!

This issue features a recipe for cooking squirrels from Madame (Madame) Brunissende Dragonette de Brocéliande. (Suitable for a nice dinner for a special someone -- does Damiana have a birthday coming up, by chance?) To this I have added a *Fireside Chatter* interview with Lady Melodie de l'ours blanc, Mistress of Arts and Sciences of the Canton. To all contributing gentles, my thanks!

On June 12th, Lord Geoffrey Gryphon, Madame Brunissende de Brocéliande and I played the prize for the rapier school of the Tadcaster Militia. In period, when a member of a school (such as the London Masters of Defence) advanced in rank, the school would sponsor a "prize fight", wherein the newly advanced gentleman would prove his worth by fighting individuals who challenged him from the crowd. Schools often charged a fee for these engagements, as a money-making scheme.

On this occasion, Don Ian of Tadcaster, Militia Captain, charged would-be combatants a fee of one toy, or a monetary donation, for Toys for Tots. The venture was profitable for the cause, collecting 12 toys and \$91. A big thank you to all who contributed and participated.

A special note: Lady Sabine, Baronial Mistress of Arts and Sciences, is compiling a book of Bhakaili literary works. I'm excited about this project and hope to see some Canton talent there. Consider submitting stories, songs, poems, or prose (inquire about length) to Sabine at arts@bhakail.eastkingdom.org.

Katrine Lyndesay

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Canton Meetings, Practices, and Workshops

Canton Meetings

Canton Business Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. The Canton welcomes members, friends, and visitors of any age to all meetings.

The next Canton meeting will take place at 7:30 pm, Monday, July 5th, 2004, at the home of Lady Eleanora the Tilemaker:

114 Ferguson Avenue
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-9176

Directions:

Take your best route to 476 (the blue route).

Exit at Route 3 and go West on Route 3.

Once you have cleared the 476/Route3 interchange, take the 3rd right turn (the 1st street after the 1st light) and turn right onto Ferguson Avenue. (If you pass a Pathmark, you went the wrong direction on Route 3.)

The house is after the first stop sign, 6th house on the left.

Please bring:

Snacks (veggies and dip, cheese and crackers, fruit, etc.)

Datebook and/or notepad

Garb not required

Canton Practices

Middle Eastern Dance Classes are cancelled this month, but other months are held from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, the third Friday of each month, at the home of Baroness Scheherazade Al-Zahira:

3900 Ford Road, 5G
Philadelphia, PA 19131
(215) 878-7721
allouyna20@aol.com

Directions:

From Rt 95, take your best path to Rt 76W.

Go to City Line Ave, which is a left hand exit.

Go 4 lights and make a left on to Bellmonte, at the Mobile station.

Take the very next left, Ford Rd.

Go 3 blocks, 2 lights, and look for the high rise on the right.

You can park in the parking lot on the right, just before the high rise, going thru the toll gate. There is no toll going in - take a token from the bowl on the way out. Scheherazade is in apartment 5G.

You will need to tell the guard at the security desk you are there to see her.

Please bring:

Sash or coinbelt (loaners available)

Garb not required; loose clothes or dance/exercise clothes recommended

Middle Eastern Drumming Classes are held at 7:30 pm, the second Friday each month, at the home of Lord Bilgisayar Tajir al-Hisoon:

69 East Old Baltimore Pike

Media, PA 19063

(610) 892-3975

Bilgisayar50@yahoo.com

Directions:

Take best passage to Rt. 476 exit 3, the old exit 2.

If traveling north on 476, turn left at the bottom of the ramp, toward Media on East Baltimore Pike.

If traveling south on 476, turn right at the bottom of the ramp, toward Media on East Baltimore Pike.

Once you get past all the lights at Exit 3, travel straight, all the way thru town.

The 4th light, which will be Manchester Ave, is where Dunkin Donuts is.

Do not turn here, instead keep going for another 1.7 miles.

Once out of town, you will go down a long big hill, and up the other side.

You will see a flashing yellow light, turn left at this light.

Go to the T, and turn right.

The house is about 100 yrds futher on the right hand side, just past the yard flag with dog.

Please bring:
Drum (loaners available)
Paper/pen for notes
Garb not required

Fencing Practices will be held locally on Tuesday nights once we can establish an indoor site. For now, Canton fencers are encouraged to visit nearby practices. The Shire of Iron Bog holds practices on some Tuesday nights. For details, visit the Shire Web site at <http://www.ironbog.eastkingdom.org/> (look under Meetings). For practice on Thursday nights, 7:30-10:30 pm, visit the Bhakail Baronial practice in Northeast Philadelphia. Details on the Bhakail practice are available on the Tadcaster Militia Web site at http://www.smidgeonink.com/tadcaster_militia/ (look under Directions).

For more information, contact the Canton Marshal of Fence:
Lord Geoffrey Gryphon
mka Jefferson Stephens
Home: (610) 362-0208
Work: (215) 365-4007, ext. 18 (ask for Jefferson)
geoffreygryphon@yahoo.com

Please bring:
List-legal armor and weaponry (loaner gear may be available -- contact the Canton Marshal of Fence)
Plenty of water to drink
Garb not required

Canton and Other Workshops

Embroidery Guild Workshops take place from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, the fourth Wednesday of each month. Guild members come from all over the region to meet, share ideas and research, and work on group projects.

The location of this meeting varies by month, so contact the Head of the Embroidery Guild for directions and other information:
Baroness Scheherazade Al-Zahira
(215) 878-7721
allouyna20@aol.com

Please bring:

**Sewing/embroidery projects, or other paraphenalia
Garb not required**

Garb Workshops are run by Master Rashid, master of garb and millinery, from 6:30 to 10:00 pm on Wednesdays at the home of Lady Eleanora the Tilemaker (address below). Children of all ages are welcome.

Workshops are scheduled on a weekly basis, so please contact Lady Eleanora at tilemaker65@hotmail.com, or Master Rashid at unclrashid@aol.com, to confirm the date and project. Additional project information is available on the Canton Web site at <http://www.pennib.net/feoragdubh/GarbWorkshops.asp>.

**114 Ferguson Avenue
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-9176**

Directions:

Take your best route to 476 (the blue route).

Exit at Route 3 and go West on Route 3.

Once you have cleared the 476/Route3 interchange, take the 3rd right turn (the 1st street after the 1st light) and turn right onto Ferguson Avenue. (If you pass a Pathmark, you went the wrong direction on Route 3.)

The house is after the first stop sign, 6th house on the left.

Please bring:

Snack/beverage to share

Fabric, trim, fasteners, etc., for that evening's project

Sewing machine (optional)

Paper/pen for notes

Garb not required

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Event Announcements

Something Fishy This Way Comes

**(Lord of the Rivers VII, Rampart Riot VI Tournaments,
Bhakail Baronial Champion III)**

Hosted by the Bailiwick of Iveyinrust

July 10th, 2004

Fort Mifflin

Fort Mifflin Road (no street address)

Philadelphia, PA 19153

Site Opens: 10 am Saturday

Site Closes: 4 pm Saturday

**We have once again obtained historic Fort Mifflin for a fun
and relaxed day.**

**Activities planned are: 2 heavy weapons tournaments (Lord
of the Rivers will be a double elimination heavy weapons
tournament and The Bhakail Baronial Championship will
feature both the selection of the Baronial Champion and the
selection of a Ladies Champion of Bhakail, who will be
chosen by the damsels present.)**

**For our Fencers, we will again have "Rampart Riots". Come
out and have the opportunity to test your skills on actual
ramparts, gates and bridges. Weapons inspection is
scheduled for 11am.**

**As the site is open to the public this will also double as a
demo and we would also like to plan a day of A&S activities
along the theme of "Period Sea Faring". These can include
both displays and lectures.**

**The Fort has requested that we submit a formalized
schedule of activities no later than May 1, 2004. Those
wishing to participate in this area should contact the
Bailiwick's A&S officer, Lady Tiphaine de Montaigne at 215-
382-5472 / tiphdmont@ucwphilly.rr.com. (No calls after
9:00 PM.)**

A hearty luncheon will be available at 1pm. It will consist of cold meats, breads, butters, cheeses and fresh fruits. But "Beware", there are a few additional surprises in store. More than enough to fortify those participating in the day's marshal activities. Any questions or request regarding dayboard, please send to Lady Shannon at shannon@gallowglass.org. (Note, this is Not an off board meal to all. *Please see fee structure below.) As the site has limited facilities our alchemists have been hard at work developing disposable feast gear which will be provided. There are also a number of fast food eateries on Island Ave, a short distance from the site.

Site Rules: Please be aware the site is Bone Dry. Scadians of the four-legged variety are welcome but must be on leashes at all times.

Merchants are most welcome to ply their trade at this event. We have arranged for easy access to the fort inner grounds. There will be no separate merchant's fee. Please contact the autocrat for details.

Cost:

Adults: \$6.00, Children under 12: \$3.00 . (For non-members: Adults: \$9.00, Children under 12: \$6.00)

Feast Information: The luncheon is an additional \$5.00.

Those participating in the lunch must send an advance reservation with a SASE to receive a Fort Pass. (The pass will also serve as your ticket for lunch.) Day-trippers are also encouraged to make advance reservations with a SASE as it helps fort personnel at troll. (Lunches may be sold the day of the event depending on availability.)

The reservation deadline for lunch is July 1, 2004.

Autocrat Information:

Lord Geoffert of the Lone Oake
(Anthony Honebrink)
4424 Osage Ave. Apt #2W.
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-382-5472 (No calls after 9pm)
Geoffert@ucwphilly.rr.com.

Send reservations to:

Baron Lorcan Dracontius
(John St.Dennis)

**2035 Kater Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146.
Baron@bhakail.eastkingdom.org.**

Make Checks Payable to: SCA Inc.-Bailiwick of Iveyinrust

Directions:

From the North or East - Take your best route to I-95 South through Philadelphia and take the exit 13 for Island Ave. It is after the double decker bridge. A short distance after leaving the off ramp there is a sign for Old Fort Mifflin. Make a left onto Fort Mifflin Rd. Go one mile, make a left into Fort compound. Fort signs and SCA signs will both be posted.

From the South - From the south take I-95 North to the exit immediately after Phila. Airport, and stay in the right lane. Airport exit lanes will merge with you, continue to move to the right. Just prior to crossing the Platt Bridge you will see a sign for Island Ave. Take this ramp until you reach the intersection with the Hilton Hotel on your left and make a left. Take Island Ave all the way until it bends to the left and becomes Enterprise Ave. Proceed to first stop sign and make the right turn onto Fort Mifflin Rd. After passing under the runway make the first available left into the fort. Fort signs and SCA signs will both be posted.

From the West or Local - Take your best route to I-76 East for the Phila. International Airport. Take exit 43A, which is a left lane exit. At the first light make a right turn and cross over the George C. Platt Bridge. Get into the left lane and take the Island Ave off ramp from the bridge to Route 291 and Island Ave. West. At the first light make a left onto Island Ave. (Hilton Hotel on your left.) Take Island Ave all the way until it bends to the left and becomes Enterprise Ave. Proceed to first stop sign and make the right turn onto Fort Mifflin Rd. After passing under the runway make the first available left into the fort. Fort signs and SCA signs will both be posted.

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How to Serve Squirrels

From the East Kingdom Cooks Guild, Field Research Division
by Madame Brunissende Dragonette de Brocéliande
of the Bailiwick of Iveyenrust,
Lêretochter bî Juliana von Altenfeld

Many in the Canton have wondered what could be the use of these proud although annoying creatures. Gladly, French cooks in the 14th century had an answer.

Escurieux: Le Ménagier De Paris, circa 1393 in the chapter "Menues choses" (small things):

"Escurieux soient escorchiés, effondrés, reffais comme connins, rostis, ou en pasté: mengiés a la cameline ou a la sausse de hallebrans en pasté."

Translation: Squirrels are skinned, gutted, trussed like rabbits, roasted or put in pastry: eat with cameline sauce or in pastry with wild duck sauce.

The Germans of the 16th Century thought similarly:

From Marx Rumpolt, Ein New Kochbuch, c. 1581
Transliteration and translation © 1999 by M. Grasse
http://clem.mscd.edu/~grasse/GK_game1.htm

"Von einem Eichhorn kanstu nemmen zum Gebraten/ eynmachen/ vnd in ein Pasteten eyngeschlagen/ vnd kalt lassen werden/ so ist es gut vnd wolgeschmack."

Translation: From a squirrel you can take to roast/ prepared /and folded into a pie/ and let get cold/ so it is good and well tasting.

So, now, you know what a period use would be. Cook them, preferably in a pie.

Useful references:

Le ménagier de Paris:

- in French :

<http://gallica.bnf.fr/scripts/ConsultationTout.exe?E=0&O=N083111>

- translated:

<http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Medieval/Cookbooks/Menagier/>

East Kingdom Cooks Guild discussion group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EKCooksGuild/>

And thanks to the Sca-cooks mailing list:

To subscribe or unsubscribe visit

<http://www.ansteorra.org/mailman/listinfo/sca-cooks>

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Fireside Chatter: **A Stitch in Time**

A Chat With Lady Melodie de l'ours blanc

It must be summer. This simple room has become a range of lumpy hills, strewn with triggercloth armor, masks, unfinished laundry and last week's unpacked camping supplies. Joining me amid the piles is Lady Melodie de l'ours blanc, Mistress of Arts and Sciences for the Canton.

Beltaine has passed, but summer is a busy time of the year for most. My thanks for taking time out to join me for a chat. To return to your beginnings... How and when did you first become involved in the Society?

My sister-in-law was involved and the head of my household was a friend. It seemed like something interesting that I could do outside of work and the firehouse.

What was your first event? Tell me your memories and impressions of it.

I believe it was a Baronial Investiture in the Barony of Bright Hills. It was a small indoor event, but it was run rather nicely and had quite a few merchants and lots of people in lovely garb.

Who is your persona? What did she do for her livelihood?

Lady Melodie de l'ours blanc (song of the white bear for those of you that don't speak French) was born in 1532 in Avignon, France. Her mother died in childbirth and her father was killed in battle a few years later. She was sent to Scotland to live with an uncle where she worked as a clothing maker.

What period skills are you learning, practicing, or teaching?

Learning - (everything I possibly can) water-hardened leather, lacis, period dyeing techniques, Middle Eastern dancing.

Practicing - pysanky (Ukrainian Egg decorating), blackwork, counted thread work, pulled work, kumihumo (Japanese cord making), calligraphy, illumination, garb making.

Teaching - Garb making, pysanky.

What period skill would you like to learn, if only you had more time?

Middle Eastern drumming and card weaving.

What is the activity in the SCA that you could least see yourself learning?

I really don't think there is one. I will hopefully be fighting by Pennsic and would love to try the other marshalled activities soon. Ok I guess maybe equestrian activities, only because I don't have a horse, or access to one, but if it were possible I would try.

You're the MOAS (Mistress of Arts and Sciences) of the Canton. What first drew you to this role?

I was very interested in the arts and it seemed to fit my personality best. I love to teach and love to share what I've learned with others.

Tell me about a favorite class you taught or attended.

I attended a Middle Eastern dancing class, taught by Baroness Scheherazade at Beltaine that was really fun. I had never taken Middle Eastern dance before and now I'm intrigued to learn more.

Can you describe some Arts and Sciences projects you're involved in now?

Currently, I am making 13th century court garb for Lord Adolphus and a kimono for a lady of my household. I am also busy with my documentation for the King and Queen's A&S Championships, which I am entering for the first time.

I remember a striking gown you wore to the Baronial Investiture at Pennsic last year. What can you tell me about it?

That gown and my lord's matching coat were the result of some inexpensive fabric from Ebay and some experimental patterns. They actually came out a lot better than I had planned, but did solidify my reasoning for never working with boning.

What do you say to a newcomer who is interested in garb-making, but is daunted by the research, or the cost of ruined fabric from mistakes?

Start simple, with a t-tunic or chemise. These can be made out of any fabric for relatively cheap and if you make mistakes they are easily corrected. Know your limitations; don't start with the 15th century gown with the 3-tiered skirt -- you'll get frustrated and give up. Ask for help when you need it.

You've also done some autocrafting for the Canton and the Barony. What are the highs and lows of that work, and what would be your ideal event to run?

Highs - When you get a good staff and they all work together, and seeing people enjoying the event.

Lows - When there is in-fighting among the staff.

What advice would you give a new autocrat?

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Delegate, delegate, delegate!

What is your personal heraldic device?

Or, a pantheon stanant purpure mullety or and on a chief sable three fleur-de-lis or.

What draws you to this design?

I like all things French, so thus the fleur-de-lis, and the pantheon is just different and not used enough.

What do you enjoy most, or what continually surprises you, about play in the Society?

I enjoy the variety of activites that we offer.

Tell me of a project you're engaged in. What's foremost on your mind that you wish to learn, make, or improve?

I would love to continue to autocrat the Belatine event and help it develop into a bigger event. I would like to see it become the "must-do" event of the season.

If we were to return to the Middle Ages or Renaissance as we are, given your present skills, and if gender were not an issue, what would you pursue as a vocation?

Either a scribe or a brewer. Scribes made such beautiful art and, well, everyone loves a brewer.

Tell me of a recent fun memory...

At a feast, a certain member of Royalty started a food fight with the head of my household.

Who won?

Their majesties of course!