July 2009

Volume XX, Issue VI

Barony of Dun Carraig

Clyffe Notes

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June Business Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Minna, Molly, Mike, Gwen, Khadir, Jynette, Matt, Adriana, Isolda, Ro, Mathias, Serena, Rapier George, Sam, Celtic George, Lore,

Challenge/Novice:

A slight change in plans have been made: Khadir is needing surgery soon, so Lynette will be stepping forward as the head autocrat for the DC side, and Khadir will take a step back in a supportive role. Dun Carraig has charge of children's activities. Any ideas for Gwen are most welcome. One idea is already in the works: wooden or masonite shields for kids to decorate with heraldry. A "Royal Simon Says" game was also suggested. Coloring is always an option.

It was restated that if you are attempting to contact Khadir via email, please be sure you are using the hollyarcher AT md DOT metrocast DOT net as his other email is not working reliably.

Sweatshops: We had one last Sunday, and another scheduled for this Sunday. 3 banners are in the works now with more to be done during the next sweatshop.

Prizes: A sword has been purchased for the Pas Heavy tournament. A Rapier prize needs to be acquired, and A&S will be handled by Isolda.

We need a meeting before the event to make sure we have our side of things in order. We will try for one of the weekends between now and the event. We need to blitz an email lists

Dun Carraig's Arms

individuals are on with advertisements of the event. We need to identify as many field heralds as we can for the Pas and for the helm display, general announcements and Heralds' Point. An MOL needs to be arranged as neither ours nor Storvik's will be present on Friday night for the Torchlight Tourney.

There are seven reservations at the moment, so send yours in soon. If you get it out before Friday, there's a $1 discount. We will be using our list fence for this event. William the

Letter from Their Excellencies

Unto the Our most endearing Seadogs do your Baron and Baroness send greetings. Challenge was just that…a Challenge. We braved wind, rain, blazing heat and the whims of Fortune. And we ROCKED. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event possible. Due to scheduling challenges, we were faced with running our event with even FEWER people than normal. And to your credit, you all rose to the occasion and proved once again that one Seadog is worth ten gentles from any other Barony. You made something very special for those who had the privilege of sharing your company and you made Us very proud to allowed to serve as your Baronage.

Polling letters should be arriving in your mail boxed within the next few weeks, asking your thoughts on the next Baron and Baroness of Dun Carriag. We would ask that you offer thoughtful commentary to their Highnesses (soon to become their Majesties) about the candidates. Please refrain from the temptation to "poison the well", downplaying one or more candidates in order to bolster a favorite. That is not who We in Dun Carraig are, and I would ask you each to remember that each of these candidates have put themselves on the public chopping block, all to have the opportunity to SERVE. Please respect their desire to work for the betterment of the Barony and keep commentary fair and measured. Please also return your polling letters at your earliest convenience, so that their Highnesses have the information they need to make a decision.

We look at each of you and see how you've grown during the time We've been allowed to serve. We see folks regularly attending events outside the Barony where they learn and share with others in the Kingdom, enriching Atlantia as a whole. We would ask Our populace to not forget Our newer members as you grow and explore all that the Kingdom has to offer. For each of us that started in the SCA, there was someone helping and encouraging us as we took our first tentative steps. One of the phrases often repeated during the elevation of a Peer is this: "We all stand on the shoulders of those who traveled before us, and we reach our hands down to help up those who will travel after." Think back to the person who helped you when you started, and ask yourself if you are living up to their example. It needn't be much: an offer to carpool, pavilion space during an event, a few minutes explaining the "whys?". In this way we repay those who took the time with us.

In service to Our Barony and it's people,

Erwin Bloodax and Mary Isabel

All pictures in this issue of Clyffe Notes are my own. All artwork is taken from Dover Publication books. Articles are courtesy of Stefan's Florilegium.

Seneschal's Report

No Report

MoD's Report

We haven't received any award recommendations for the upcoming event. Please let us know sooner than later if you have any.

Chronicler's Report

I'm caught up, yay! I will be working on this month's issue this week, so those who send me stuff, please get it to me by then. April issue needs editing, but a mistake on my part saved the may issue over the April issue in Publisher, so I'm trying to figure a way to fix the .pdf file.

Herald's Report

Nothing to report.

Quartermaster's Report

Nothing to report.

Minister of Minor's Report

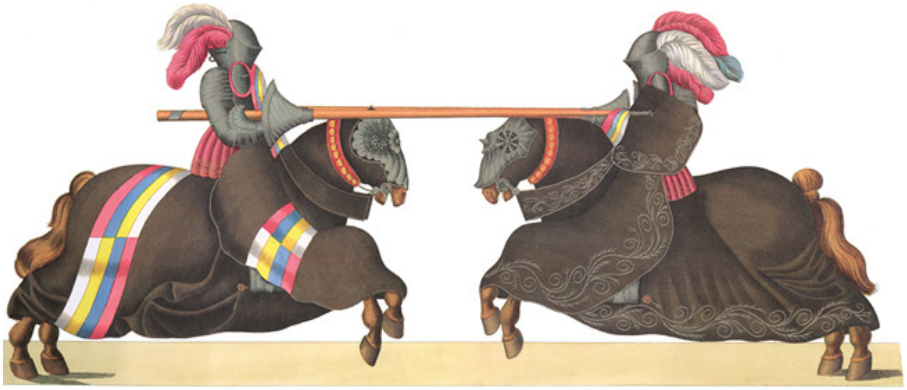
Nothing to report.

Chatelaine's Report

A new gentle will be joining our barony when he moves into town (info came from the Seneschal).

Minister of the Lists' Report

MOL box will be at practice...if you need to re-up your authorization, bring $5 with you.



The Business Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center at 44219 Airport Road, California, MD 20619. For directions go to www.smhec.org.

Webminister's Report

Nothing much to report. Let him know if there are any functions you want on the webpage.

Knight Marshal's Report

Nothing to Report.

Did you find a mistake? Did I misquote someone? Please (kindly) let me know. Email me at Chronicler@duncarraig.net and I'll correct it in the next newsletter.

Minister of Arts and Sciences' Report

Nothing at the moment. The next big event is Challenge/Novice this month.

Exchequer's Report

The new Kingdom Exchequer needs her signature on all of the accounts; therefore a new card will be picked up from the bank, signed by our Seneschal and my Deputy Exchequer Matthew, and then forwarded to Regional and Kingdom for signatures.

I will be setting up a meeting between Kelly (Adriana), George, and myself, to work further on the Financial Policy changes. This will take place after Novice/Challenge.

I will be meeting with the quartermaster to go over inventory for the next quarterly report (not due 'til end of July), and to check on general items with the office. Also to make sure that things are ready to go for Novice/Challenge in a couple of weeks.

I received $5 from Mindy (Minna) that she raised at the Fairie Festival Demo for the Spike Tattoos fundraiser.

I received $5 from Kelly (Adriana) for MoL fees and will get a check written to Kingdom and signed by Matt, then back to Kelly (Adriana) to send to Kingdom.

5x8 Documentation is All It Takes: How to Write Documentation for A&S Entries

By Gunnora Hallakarva

The basics of almost any documentation can and should be possible to do on one of those larger 5x8 index cards.
The harsh reality is that no one will read more than about a paragraph of data anyway except in exceptional situations. Especially at a large event such as Kingdom A&S or LPT, the judges are spread pretty thin and most will
not read at all, much less read a tome of research information.
Many successful artisans will place a clearly marked "DOCUMENTATION SUMMARY" section at the head of a longer piece of documentation. This is an excellent idea. As well, it is a good idea to actually create a 5x8 index card for every entry with the "short form" documentation on it (in addition to the longer explanation), and place it right next to the item, since some folks are lazy and won't open your notebook containing the research.

DOCUMENTATION BASICS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
(1) "What is it (title, basic description)?" i.e., Reproduction of a 13th Century Icelandic Whalebone Ear Spoon

(2) "How were similar items made in period?"
Give the basics of the medieval examples. A sentence or two is all that's needed! i.e., "Earspoons were a common implement for personal hygiene used throughout the Middle Ages, consisting of a small, spoon-shaped tool for scraping the ears. They could be cast in silver, or carved from wood, bone, antler or ivory. Some were very elaborate, including extensive ornamentation on the handle. Some were worn as part of the day to day costume as well."

(3) "How was your item made? How is it like the medieval examples? Where have you deviated from the medieval techniques, and why?" This is the hardest area for most people. It is very important to explain where you made design changes or substituted materials -- these things are acceptable, but you must show that you understand how the real ones are made, and don't allow the judges to think that you are trying to put one over on them

i.e. "I used deer antler for this project since whalebone is obviously not available to the modern Ansteorran. This was soaked in cold water for two days, then boiled for 3 hours before working. I roughed out the shape with a coping saw, then did close shaping whittling with a sharp penknife. Final shaping involved the use of wet sanding, carving with engraving tools and burins (using a Dremel tool for some areas as I don't possess some of the tools that a medieval bone carver would have used), and finally buffing with beeswax to shine the surface."

Sometimes you also need to explain the "why" of an item. For instance, a 13th century hatbox of molded leather designed to hold a reticulated caul headdress, yet decorated with early Celtic designs will appear incongruous, unless the judge reads the documentation to find an explanation: i.e., "Normally hatboxes of this period would have used Gothic design elements similar to those found in church architecture, however, this box was commissioned by Baroness Butshe Wanteditthatway, who requested the specific designs utilized here."

DOCUMENTATION AND HONESTY
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
One thing to always avoid is DO NOT LIE IN YOUR DOCUMENTATION. Chances are very good that *someone* who looks at your entry will know enough about it to know if you are fibbing in your documentation, and you will come out looking bad.

If you used a less than medieval technique or material, THAT'S OK! All the judges want to see is that you know what the original item was, and how it was made -- so for instance, if you used an acrylic white paint instead of making your own (toxic) lead-based pigment, say so - and say why: "Normally a lead-based pigment would have been used to create the white
paint, but since lead is toxic, I elected to use the safer acrylic white."

The same goes for construction. If you used a Dremel tool, a carving expert can see the rotary nature of the cuts. Better to say, "Although medieval craftsmen would have used a bit-and-brace and hand-burins, I have used a Dremel tool for ease in construction." You won't lose points for a well-documented substitution, so long as you explain why. Tell the judges whay you did and why so they know that YOU know. But don't try to lie in your documentation to make your project look better - as often this technique backfires and makes YOU look worse!

A & S (cont'd.)

REFERENCES
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Some events actually will specify a number of references. If so, be sure to actually use at least the minimum number of references required. I do not favor requiring X number of references, however, since different items may need differing amounts of references to document them adequately.

For instance, if you are carving antler or bone, then MacGregor's "Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn" is a pretty much one-stop reference for many items, though as a teriary source it really should be supported by photos or other sources. Sometimes a picture is literally worth a thousand words – for instance, the reticulated caul hatbox entered at Gulf Wars 1997, where the only documentation was a museum postcard with the date and a photo of the item ~ though additional sources on medieval leatherwork would have really added a lot to the documentation.

However, as a rule of thumb, it is best to aim for no less than three good sources. What is a good source? It depends on the field. Usually a primary source is the best possible source, but a primary source is THE ITEM ITSELF ~ for instance one of Queen Elizabeth's dresses is a primary source. Janet Arnold's book, Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd is a secondary source, but a very good secondary source. A book review of Arnold's book is a tertiary source.

Most of us will not have the opportunity to go to the European Museums and see primary sources in person. So instead we rely upon secondary sources ~ a picture of the item, an archaeological report describing the item, or a painting by an artist of the period of the item. If you can, try to have at least one primary source or one or two good secondary sources. If you can't get this type of documentation, then you are down to tertiary sources. For instance, MacGregor's "Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn" book is a tertiary source ~~ he has compiled the information from archaeological reports about the items he describes. When using a tertiary source, try to corroborate the evidence using other sources as well, such as a photo from a museum catalog, or additional secondary and/or tertiary sources that agree with your first source.

The terms primary, secondary and tertiary confuse many people. It's pretty simple to understand. Think of a saint's relic: a primary relic is an actual part of the saint ~ Saint Acutiaria's finger bone. A secondary relic is something that the saint has touched, for example the clothing worn by St. Winifred, or the Pieces of the True Cross. A tertiary relic is something associated with the saint but which has never touched the saint, for instance, a modern painting of the saint that weeps tears of myrrh.

It gets a little more confusing when you talk about academic sources. A period painting of an object is a secondary source for the object, but the painting is a primary source for the techniques of painting. So a source can be primary in one context, and secondary in another.

To summarize the discussion of sources, do the best you can. Get the best sources you can find, and corroborate your sources by finding other sources that also verify the point you are making.

DOCUMENTATION STYLE
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The other thing that scares people about documentation is the Fear of Documentation Style stricken into their hearts while doing research papers in school. Really, putting down a bibliographical reference or a footnote is simple. All should have the same basic elements:

AUTHOR. ARTICLE TITLE. BOOK TITLE. PLACE OF PUBLICATION. PUBLISHING COMPANY. DATE OF PUBLICATION. PAGE ON WHICH THE INFO IS FOUND.

The exact punctuation and presentation of this material doesn't matter, so long as it's all present. The idea is to make it possible for the interested reader to track down your sources and read more about your topic.

Still, it is a good idea to use a Style Guide to make sure that you are getting all the data down that you need, and that you are presenting the documentation consistently. I recommend that you get a style guide (you can buy them cheap as used books from Half Price Books or from College bookstores, and now you can even find the info on the Web) and always use it. Some common style guides are:

* Kate Turabian. "A Manual of Style" (a subset of the Chicago Manual of Style)
* Chicago Manual of Style (used widely by newspapers and book publishers)
* The Modern Language Association (MLA) Manual of Style (used widely in the humanities)
* The American Psychology Association (APA) Style Guide (used widely in the sciences)

Baronial Progress

Key

BnB—Baron and Baroness

B—Baron

Ba—Baroness

Use other Acorn Progress Abbreviations.

The Baronial Calendar displays events at nearby locations. It is not indicative of all Atlantian events. For all scheduled events go to www.atlantia.sca.org.

If you would like to receive Clyffe Notes in printed form, please email me at chronicler [AT]duncarraig.net. Please give me your SCA and Mundane name(s) and your address.

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Heavy and Rapier Practice, Southern CC	2 Archery Practice, Baron Jonathas' house	3	4 Summer Wars: A Call to Arms, July 3-5, Caer Mear, **R**
5	6	7 Business Meeting, SMHEC	8 Heavy and Rapier Practice, Southern CC	9 Archery Practice, Baron Jonathas' house	10	11 Kings Assessments, July 10-12, Black Diamond, **R, H**
12	13	14	15 Heavy and Rapier Practice, Southern CC	16 Archery Practice, Baron Jonathas' house	17	18
19	20	21	22 Heavy and Rapier Practice, Southern CC	23 Archery Practice, Baron Jonathas' house	24 PENNSIC July 24-Aug. 9,	25 Aethelmearc, **R, H**
26	27	28	29 Heavy and Rapier Practice, Southern CC	30	1	2

Overheard in Dun Carraig

Did I get all the way in or was that just a tip?

That was harder than I thought it would be.

It's heavy and awkward...you'll wear yourself out.

I keep telling him he should have a thrusting tip.

Don't use that there!

She's doing two more people tonight.

June Business Meeting (cont'd.)

Younger is loaning his very large tent for the Ladies' Gallery. There are at least 2 fundraising events and a third has been introduced: Blackspear will put up and take down tents for $20 (one way) to raise money for Her Grace, Arielle. We need someone to arrange field set-up. Cerridwen and Phillip will be asked.

Birthday:

Khadir's work schedule has changed, and as a result, he will not be able to autocrat Birthday. Jynette will pick it up if he will take care of getting the site. (Agreed!) When the proper site information is gathered, Serena will call a Financial Committee Meeting.

Demos:

Fairie Fest was a flop. Minna and Sam raised a total of $5 for Dun Carraig.

Marching Through Time was dropped as a possible demo for a difference in missions between the event and our group.

Blessing of the Fleet was missed last year, but it's time to consider it for this year's event. It will be the first weekend in October. We have only participated on the Sunday in the past.

Financial Policy:

A meeting will be scheduled after the Challenge/Novice event.

Charter:

Meeting tabled until July, after the Challenge/Novice event.

Polling:

A third party has stepped up: Mistress Arianna Morgan from Lochmere will run by herself. She will have her letter of intent next month. We now have three viable candidates, and can move forward with the polling.

New Business:

June Business Meeting (cont'd.)

George will be serving as liaison to the Celtic Festival crew. It will be and ad-hoc, not an officer, position. This way we have a direct contact, and communication mistakes are not made. He will write a letter expressing our interest in working the entrance booth.

DC Café Web Press: Lore could not find high-resolution pictures of Dun Carraig stuff, but she has an artistic friend, and now we do have pictures of a seadog, cross botany and our shield. With this online store that costs us nothing, we can order items with our pre-made designs on them: t-shirts, mugs, boxer, etc. A link to this site from our webpage would be a good idea too.

A & S (cont'd.)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

The most valuable additional documentation that you can add would be pictures of the medieval examples that inspired the current work. People will almost always look at pictures.

If you have done additional in-depth documentation, go ahead and write it up and include it. Place at the top of the first page a clearly marked "DOCUMENTATION SUMMARY" section, and keep that to one good-sized paragraph. Follow that then with "ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION" and then continue with the rest of your paper. Everybody will at least glance at the summary info, and those who have a real interest will be more likely to read the whole thing.

Additional supporting materials, such as xerox copies etc. can be added at the back.

If you put together 5 or more pages of documentation, seriously consider converting your long-form documentation into an article for Tournaments Illuminated. One thing we expect of Laurel candidates is that they have proved themselves to be teachers -- and a T.I. article teaches thousands of people across the Known World. If you have a really long piece of research, consider Compleat Anachronist instead.

PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTATION

As has already been mentioned, it is a good idea to place the bare-bones documentation basics on a 5x8 index card and place that right next to your A&S entry.

The written information is best kept together in a ring binder. Some of the best documentation I've seen is placed inside the clear acrylic sleeves, and the sections are separated by tabs for easy reference. A notebook like this can be quite valuable, as you don't have to reinvent the wheel (or your documentation) for every A&S event you enter. Keep all your A&S
Documentation, you can never tell when you might need it again.

Provide a table of contents at the front, and number or label the dividing tabs so that people can find the specific documentation that they want. If you have a whole ringbinder full of many documentation articles, you may want to use a two notebook system, -- a larger notebook in which to store your entire collection of documentation, and a smaller notebook containing only the documentation for the work(s) being displayed at the current event. Otherwise you may need to clearly divide the notebook into sections "Works Being Shown Today" and "Past Documentation."

CONCLUSION

The most important rule of thumb is: don't confuse, bore, or attempt to bamboozle the judges. The KISS principle applies to documentation (Keep It Simple, Stupid) - get the basics explained up front, show what you did and how you did it honestly, and document the information by showing your sources. Documentation isn't really all that hard, and can be quite fun if you approach it with the proper attitude.

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We're on the Web!

Check out www.duncarraig.net

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