

# Le Chronique d'Esperance

January 2001, Anno Adrianus 16

Issue Number 2 of 12

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## A Royal Decree

Announcing, starting at the January 2001 event, Our "VIP List". We, the Royal Crowns of Esperance, have decreed that all of Our monthly Crown Events will include a \$1 site fee, which can be paid in advance for the year.

We have decided to offer a discount for those who pay in advance... \$10 for the year and those who pay in advance will be on Our "VIP List".



## From Their Majesties

Greetings from your new Royal Crown,

We hope this new and glorious year will prove to be more wonderful for you and yours that you can imagine. Our goal is to help add to your enjoyment, fun and lots good times to your memories of this New Year.

The past crowns have done spectacular jobs and there is no way we can begin to compete with Their commitment to and involvement with all of Adria and the Kingdom of Esperance. This type of Adria-wide commitment and involvement is something this crown can not obtain or maintain. We may be your Royals, but We are only human. So We will delegate most of Our out-of-the-realm duties to others who We feel have the desire and qualifications to be involved outside Our borders in Our name.

We have decided to focus most of Our energy on Our populace and Our lands, trying out new ideas, polishing the edges of some of Our predecessors' projects and ideas and generally see if We can make Esperance a closer-knit group, focused on fun for all. With the size of Our lands and the number of Our populace this will not be easy, but that is "Our goal" for Our reign. We have committed Ourselves to supporting and visiting the cantons, having more fun wars, demos-collegiums, fairs and events and, of course, the King's pet project "the Royal Champions" and the Queen's project "promoting the Arts."

To help achieve some of these goals We will be trying to address a different area, question, or idea each month in the Kingdom Newsletter. As We have had a few inquiries about how and why We picked our minister, We have decided to address these

questions this month. In making the choices of who would make the best minister for each job, We have looked around, watched who was actively involved in doing things that brought not only themselves pleasure, but pleasure to others in the game. We looked at who had the qualifications to match their desire to do a certain job well and who had fresh ideas they were willing to share and were willing to learn and change and accept new ideas from others. We have tried to talk with every faction, clique, and group to try to get a feel of what the populace's major wants and needs were. We have listened to recommendations from trusted advisors and then we tried to select people from each faction, clique, and group, and choose people that showed a genuine desire to be involved in a chosen area. We want each and every member of Our populace to feel his or her group, no matter how big or small, is a valuable part of the whole. We also feel each and every one of our ministers has something to add to the game and We will give them Our full support and the opportunity to try things their way and We ask Our populace to give them the same support and opportunities.

Next month We will be sharing some of the things that were discussed at the January 6th Kingdom Open House. What goals and decisions, we as a group, decided to work towards.

Your 8th King and Queen of  
Esperance,  
Sir Cromar I  
Dame Willow II

# Esperance Goals Meeting

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By Queen Willow II

For the review of the populace, to keep you informed of what occurred at the Esperance Goals and insight meeting held January 6<sup>th</sup>. And to give you insight into the direction your Kingdom is heading this year. Key words are: busy, war and fun.

Below is a list of goals, ideas, and general needs brought out at this meeting. A list of dates for Weddings, Demos, Wars and other Special Events that have already been put on the calendar for this year will appear in the Calendar of Le Chronique. We, Your Crowns, want to thank everyone who took the time to come and share their thoughts and ideas for the direction we want Esperance to go this year. We are grateful for populace from Loch Lava, the Hedgehogs, Vineland, and Bastone.

We had a really nice time sharing stories from the past and, hopefully, the future, ideas goals, food, and just camaraderie. We, Your Crowns, look forward to all the great plans our populace has taken the time out of their daily lives to plan for Our enjoyment. We discussed many new and ideas and needs, among them were: more support for the cantons, supporting the arts, site fees, a Crossroads Fair Committee, and much more. Please take the time to look these items over, they spell out what this group felt we needed to focus on this year.

1. Site fees: As stated at the December event we will have a \$1 site fee every month at the "Monthly Crown Events" You can pay \$10 now for the year and be on the VIP list.

2. The King's Champions Tourney, there will be a meeting after closing court at today's Crown event with the combatants and the King to go over the rules and procedures for the ongoing tourney.

3. Esperance Membership Cards, with date of expiration, they are being designed by the stewards office.

4. New Member's "packets": folders with: New Members Guide, Manuals,

Steps to Knighthood, Membership Cards, Contact List (King, Queen & Ministers) etc. A reminder, the Hospitaller brings our manuals to each event, ask him for one or more.

Crossroads Fair

5. Last year we did a really great job. Our site it looked superb. I think we knocked their socks off. I once again want to say that TRM Dame Maedb and Sir Coda did a spectacular job of organizing and running our site, especially when they had only a few weeks to get this planned and going.

Ask anyone involved with the planning, setup, and take down, we became a closer knit group, had a great time, and learned a few things new about each other along the way. I look forward to us doing an even better job this year and I yearn to see what improvements will happen next year and the year after. We started off great and last year we set a high standard that we must reach and surpass. I know we can do it again. The sky is the limit on where our ideas will take us in the future.

A Crossroads Fair and Fair Committee, for those who *really want* to be involved in the planning, setup of guidelines and rules, and setup and takedown. We will meet at least once a month.

To sign up to be on the Committee see Dame Willow II. So far we have: Troy Coe, June Bailey, Robert Whitehead, and Loch Lava. Plus Vicki Eldredge and Lara Winchester will be in charge of organizing the new and improved Kitchen dining area.

We will contact Sangreal to see if they want to help again this year and to ask if they want a representative on the committee.

Dame Rosellen's great castle (screen covering) will provide a backdrop as a cover for the backstage. We will also organize what goes back stage. You will not be able to just throw your stuff backstage. We will be working on a

more organized system so the first stuff in will still be accessible to its owners.

If you sign up for a gate pass YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO WORK OR HAVE YOUR PASS REVOKED. A small group abused this "privilege" and the rest of us had to do our jobs and theirs too and that is not fair to anyone. If you want to just come and enjoy the fair and not contribute *buy a ticket*, they are cheap, compared to the big fair.

6. Banners: We will be making large colorful (6' to 8' tall x 12" wide) banners to hang at the contact points for event, demo, fairs, etc. The banners will have the words: Archery, Combat, Arts, and an Esperance or Adrian Empire on them. These banners will be designed in bright colors to attract the attention of the populace. They are intended to show what is happening where and to catch the eyes of onlookers and lure them over to see who and what we are.

7. Your Crown has committed to lend more support to our Cantons. So We are inviting everyone to come out to the Canton events. The event may be smaller, but ask anyone and they will tell you they are great fun and have a different feel.

The Canton of Aquitaine-County of Bastone meets the 1st Saturday of each month at Fairmont Park in the City of Riverside (60 fwy and Market St) They not only offer a small combat list, but have monthly *Arts and Crafts*.

The Canton of Loch Lava meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Come with us on February 24th to the Canton of Loch Lava. We have a few surprises up our Royal sleeves for this Canton's Populace.

8. Wars and Tourney dates. Wars, Weddings, Collegia, Demos, Fairs and Kingdom Coronation dates have been set. Sites on some are still to be determined (if you have any site ideas please let the autocrats know).

# The Poetry Corner

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Contributed by Sir Jamie the Red

*The following poem is the relation of a miracle and how it served the purposes of Christianity. Poems about religious events and religious subjects were common. That such miracles occurred was accepted as a matter of course. Chaucer was born about 1340 and died in 1400.*

## **An Emperor's Daughter Stands Alone**

*By Geoffrey Chaucer*

Have ye nat seyn som tyme a pale face  
Among a press, of hym that hath be lad  
Toward his deeth, where as hym gat no grace?  
And swich a colour in his face hath had,  
Men myghte knowe his face that was bistad,  
Amonges alle the faces in that route;  
So stant Custance, and looketh hire aboute.

O, queenes, lyvyng in prosperitee!  
Duchesses, and ladyes everichone!  
Haveth som routhe on hire adversitee.  
An Emperores doghter stant alone;  
She hath no wight to whom to make hir mone!  
O, blood roial, that stondest in this drede,  
Fer been thy freendes at thy grete nede!

This Alla, kyng, hath swich compassioun,  
As gentil herte is fulfild of pitee,  
That from hise eyen ran the water doun.  
"Now hastily do fecche a book," quod he,  
"And if this knyght wol sweren how that she  
This womman slow, yet wol we us avyse  
Whom that we wole that shall been our justise."

A Briton book written with Evaungiles  
Was fet, and on this book he swore anon  
She gilty was, and in the meene whiles  
An hand hym smoot upon the nekke boon,  
That doun he fil atones as a stoon;  
And bothe hise eyen broste out of his face  
In sighte of every body in that place!

A voys was herd in general audience  
And seyde, "Thou has desclaundred, gilltees,  
The doghter of hooly chirche in heigh presence;  
Thus hastou doon, and yet holde I my pees."  
Of this mervaille agast was al the prees;  
As mazed folk they stoden everichone,  
Fer drede of wreche, save Custance allone.

Greet was the drede, and eek the repentance,  
Of hem that hadden wronge suspecioun  
Upon this sely, innocent Custance;  
And for this miracle, in conclusion,  
And by Custance's mediacioun,  
The Kyng, and many another in that place  
Converted was—thanked be Christes grace!

## **In modern English:**

Have you not, at sometime, seen a pale face  
Among a group, of one who has been led  
Toward his death, wherein he saw no mercy?  
And such a color was in his face that  
Men might know his face as they saw it  
Among all the faces in that crowd,  
So stood Constance, and looked about.

Oh queens, living in prosperity!  
Duchesses and ladies of every station!  
Have some sympathy for her adversity,  
An emperor's daughter stood alone;  
She had no one in whom she could confide!  
Oh, royal blood, that stood in this dread,  
Far away were your friends in your great need!

This Alla, the king, had such compassion,  
And his gentle heart knew such pity,  
That from his eyes, the water ran down.  
"Now quickly fetch a book: he said,  
"And if this knight will swear how she  
Slew this woman, we will decide,  
How we will, what we will do for justice."

A British book, decorated with angels  
Was fetched, and on this book he swore  
That she was guilty, and as he did so  
A hand struck him on the neck bone,  
Such that he fell down like a stone,  
And both his eyes burst out from his face  
In sight of everybody in that place!

A voice was heard by all who were there  
And said, "You have defamed, guiltless,  
The daughter of holy church in high presence,  
This you have done, and yet I hold my peace."  
Of this marvel, in awe stood all the crowd,  
As dazed folk, they stood everyone,  
In dread of punishment, save Constance alone.

Great was the fear and also the repentance,  
Of those who had wrongly suspected  
This honest, innocent Constance:  
And for this miracle, in conclusion,  
And by Constance's mediation,  
The king, and many another in that place  
Was converted—thanks to Christ's grace!

*Editor's Note: While much of Middle English is very like Modern English, there are enough variations in meaning and other "gotchas" to make parts of the poem difficult to understand. This translation is mine and is certainly neither perfect nor particularly poetic. However, it should help you understand what is being said and, hopefully, will increase your enjoyment of the poem.*

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## **Assistance Requested**

*By Lord Connor O'Riordain*

I am submitting the arrows I adapted to the imperial estates, in an effort to get them approved for both target and war use. In order to do so, I need everyone's help. I am asking that anyone who has experienced my arrows, either as a target or as an archer, please e-mail me regarding them. I want honest assessments of their usefulness, their cost, and primarily their safety on the field. My email is [macgyver92@earthlink.net](mailto:macgyver92@earthlink.net). Thank you.

## *Ministers' Reports*

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This month's Minister's Reports are printed below. If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

### ***Minister of Joust and War***

The winners of December's combat tournaments are:

Shinai Michael Andros  
Renn Sir Gwydion Dionne  
Steel Sir Coda

### ***Minister of Physicks***

Starting this month Dame Margaret Rose O'Shay will be Physicker. Fortunately, our Lady Physicker has no injuries or other problems to report to the kingdom.

### ***Sovereign of Arms***

Lord Horatio Merriweather has retired from the position. Sir Coda has agreed to accept the position. He has not had time to generate a report yet, so submit your arms to him and expect a report this coming month.

### ***Chancellor***

Greetings Unto All! Thus far, none of our populace has failed to pay fines, fief-fees, taxes, or had the unmitigated gall to up and die. There are no outstanding arbitrations, mediations or court cases. This is the good news. The bad news is this gives me too much free time! Sooooo- to keep from getting bored, I think I'll conjure up a war or something...

Now for the Announcements:

Estates Meeting! Saturday the 13th day of January, 2001. This will be held Under The Shady Tree at Eisenhower Park.

Agenda Items:

1. Retirement Titles for Sir Coda (Wilhelm) and Dame Maedb.
2. Considerations of all Royal Writs from the past year.

3. New Business.

*Note:* Thus far, no new business items have been submitted to me. Still, I check my post deliveries daily... Also, the meeting's agenda may be modified if I feel the need to add anything more. But for now, Das ist Allen - Volks!

Yours in Service,  
Sir Patrick

### ***Chronicler***

You've got my report in your hands! If you have anything to submit, please submit it by the first Saturday of the month. If you can, e-mail it to me. However, I will accept anything in any format as long as it gets to me in time.

All submissions are subject to editing. I will not change the content without permission, but I will correct spelling, grammar, names, and similar items as I can.

Thank you,  
Sir Jamie the Red

### ***Minister of Archery***

Greetings Populace!

My first attempt at running the crown archery tournament seemed to run fairly well. We had an excellent turnout and were able to make 2 lists!

We had approx. 6 people in the Huntsman's List and I'm sure I'll be seeing this list grow as time goes on.

The winner of the Huntsman's list was Sir Coda.

The Bowman's list saw 22 participants! This is a great increase from the original 5 or 6 we used to see when archery began in Esperance. We had a very competitive tournament as well with most winners decided by 1 or 2 hits.

The winner of the Bowman's list was Sir Jamie the Red, who, by

the way, scored 6 for 6 in 2 of his rounds.

Congratulations to our winners!

In Service,  
Squire Lord Connor O'Riordain  
[MacGyver92@earthlink.net](mailto:MacGyver92@earthlink.net)

### ***Hospitaler***

I have received the Hospitaler's box, the Hospitaler's chest and the lost and found box from the previous Hospitaler. I shall be spending the month going through them and updating and replenishing manuals as needed. I am also working closely with Sir Robert "Jestar" de la Fonteyne on keeping things updated online.

In Service,  
Squire Lord Connor O'Riordain  
[MacGyver92@earthlink.net](mailto:MacGyver92@earthlink.net)

### ***Minister of Arts and Sciences***

Unto Esperance, greetings,

I have little to report as there was only one arts entry in December. I hold out hope that this will not be the case in the future.

I look forward to seeing you all. Make me proud. Keep me out of trouble. Bring lots of entries for the next event.

In Service to Esperance,  
Razi bint Sabra

### ***Minister of Rolls and Lists***

The minister of Rolls and Lists has nothing to report. Delays due to the holidays have prevented her from receiving sire's reports, so nothing has been verified. Sires, get those reports in!

### ***Steward***

The new steward and deputy have been selected and have accepted the positions. They are busy seeing to the smooth

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## Ministers' Reports

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Continued from Page 4

transition of the office from the previous steward.

### List Mistress:

The following are the winners for the tourneys held in the Kingdom of Esperance at the December event. (Yes this is redundant, better that than not being there at all!)

Shinai: Michael Andros  
Ren: Sir Gwydion Dionne  
Steel: Sir Coda  
Bowman: Sir Jamie the Red  
Huntsman: Sir Coda.

In service  
Dame Katherine McGuire

### Warden

Their Royal Majesties, would like to formulate a comprehensive calendar for the Kingdom as soon as possible. This is so that events in Esperance do not conflict with those of other subdivisions.

If you have any plans to start a war, throw a feast, or give an informative collegium please, either inform the Crowns or this office, to

secure a date for your event.

An Estates meeting will be held during the lunch break at the Jan.13th event. Retirement titles for Sir Vilhelm von Seiken Uladrachen (Sir Coda) and Dame Maedb Hawkins Drakonja will be voted upon and other Crown business will be discussed.

In service  
Dame Katherine MacGuire  
Royal Warden of Esperance

## Word Origin

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Submitted by Sir Robert de la Fonteyne

*The Word Origins themselves are from Martha Barnette. Martha Barnette is the author of Ladyfingers & Nun's Tummies: A Lighthearted Look at How Foods Got Their Names. She's also the word maven at <http://www.funwords.com>.*

**CHIMERIC:** (kye-MER-ik, kye-MEER-ik, kih-MER-ic) (adj.) 1. Unreal, imaginary, wildly fanciful, or highly improbable 2. Extremely unrealistic

In Greek myth, the Chimera (pronounced "kye-MEER-uh" or "kih-MEER-uh") was a fire-breathing she-monster, who was part lion, part goat, and part serpent. The name later applied to any imaginary monster made up of similarly disparate parts.

Both "chimeric" and "chimerical" derive from this name, and both can be applied to something similarly improbable or unrealistic, as in "How can you possibly hope to make a profit with such a chimerical plan?"

The chimera and many other chimerical creatures were described frequently and at length in the Bestiaries that were so popular in period. Each creature was assigned moral characteristics. Two interesting "chimerical" monsters include the leopard and the giraffe. The leopard was believed to be a cross between a lion (leo) and a "pard" which was the native European lion (now extinct). The giraffe was called a "camelopard" and was believed to be a cross between a leopard (already a hybrid) and a camel.

## Feast Days

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### January

Jan 9, The Agonium, festival of Janus, the Roman god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings.

Jan 11 and 15, The Carmentalia, festival of Carmenta, the Roman goddess of childbirth.

Jan 16, The Festival of Concordia, the Roman goddess of harmonious relations.

Jan 17, Good Luck Day, the festival of Felicitas, the Roman goddess of good luck.

Jan 21, Celtic New Year, the first day of the month of Luis (Rowan) in the

Celtic Tree Calendar.

### February

Feb 1 and 2, Imbolc, the Celtic festival marking the period of lactation of the ewes. Also the festival of Brigid, the Celtic goddess of healing, fertility, and patroness of smiths.

Feb 12, The Festival of Artemis, the Greek goddess of the hunt (known as Diana to the Romans). The name day of St. Vlas (Blasius) [Russian]

Feb 15, The Lupercalia, the festival of Lupercus, the Roman god of flocks and fertility.

Feb 17, The festival of Fornax, the Roman goddess of bread-making. The Quirinalia, the festival of Quirinus, an earlier Roman god of war.

Feb 13-21, The Parentalis and the Feralia, the festival of the Manes, the Roman spirits of the dead, who inhabit the underworld.

Feb 22, The festival of the goddess Concordia, the patron of good will and favor.

Feb 23, The Terminalia, the festival of Terminus, the Roman god of boundaries and border markers.

## Calendar of Events

January						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6 Kingdom Goals Meeting
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Crown Event Terra Neuve 12 <sup>th</sup> Night Feast
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Loch Lava Event
28	29	30	31			

### Special Events for January

**Kingdom Goals Meeting**, January 6<sup>th</sup>, The Kingdom "Annual Goals Meeting." Of course, by the time you read this, you'll have missed it. Don't worry, we'll let you know what happened in next month's newsletter.

**Crown Event**, January 13<sup>th</sup>, this event will emphasize bardics in the arts. Come out for the usual merriment and maybe some extra.

**Terra Neuve 12<sup>th</sup> Night Feast**, January 13<sup>th</sup>, this is one of our neighbor's best events for the year. If you plan to attend, contact the Terra Neuvian crowns as soon as possible. In fact, it might be too late already!

**Canton of Loch Lava Event** January 27<sup>th</sup>, the canton of Loch Lava' is having their monthly event this day. They are stressing the arts this month, so please bring an entry for the lists. Rumor has it that one of the house sires is making a food entry. Enough so that anyone who attends can sample some for lunch!

February						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Aquitaine Event
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Crown Event
11	12	13	14 St Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Estrella
18 Estrella	19 President's Day Estrella	20	21	22	23	24 Loch Lava Event
25	26	27	28			

### Special Events for February

**Aquitaine Event**, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Come on out for the usual merriment. Countess Rosellen is hosting the event these days, so contact her for more information.

**Crown Event**, February 10<sup>th</sup>, for the tourney, this month's arts emphasis is on fine projects. Remember to bring two projects, one fine and one of any other type. All the usual activities and entertainments will be there of course.

**Canton of Loch Lava' Event**, February 24<sup>th</sup>, the canton of Loch Lava' is having their monthly event this day. The stress is on archery and fine arts. Rumor has it that the Canton Minister of Archery has something special planned.

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**Undated!!!** A Junior High School demo Details are being worked out with the school and updates are available from the Autocrat. Speaking of whom, contact Captain Angus Soth at annabellasoth@yahoo.com.

<i>March</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Crown Event Imperial Estates Mtg
11 Imperial Estates Mtg	12	13 Arts Collegium	14	15	16	17 Wedding St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23 Palm Springs Faire	24 Palm Springs Faire
25 Palm Springs Faire	26	27	28	29	30	31 Loch Lava Event Mission Village Demo

### *Special Events for March*

**Canton of Aquitaine/County of Bastone Event**, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am to 2pm.

**Imperial Estates Meeting**, March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, This meeting is in Henderson Nevada ( a suburb of Las Vegas). Make sure your Estates holders (Marquis, Counts, The Senior Baron, and the Crowns) know your stand on the issues. Of course, the agenda is expected around February 8<sup>th</sup>, so we'll have to wait until then to find out what the issues are.

**Crown Event**, March. 10<sup>th</sup>, the arts emphasis is on crafted projects. Remember to bring two entries if you can, one crafted and one other so we can hold two lists. All of the other festivities will also be there, of course.

**Arts Collegium, Canton of Loch Lava**, March 13<sup>th</sup>, This is a collegium on the arts manual to help encourage, motivate, and support the artisans of Loch Lava.

**Wedding of Baron William de'Mild and Baroness Lyrica Angelique** By invitation.

**Canton of Loch Lava' Event**, March 31<sup>st</sup>, the canton of Loch Lava' is having their monthly event this day. Contact Sire Isabel MacAskill for more information.

**Mission Village Demo**, March 31<sup>st</sup> Collegium/demo, Mission Village Park in Riverside. They were so impressed they have asked us back to show what we make and how we make it. Chain mail, needlework, leatherwork, entertainment, etc. This will be a great demo-collegium and free food too. Contact Countess Rosellen for more information

### *Dates to Remember*

By HRM Willow II

April 14<sup>th</sup> -May 28<sup>th</sup> Crossroads Fair  
Corona-Norco

April 28<sup>th</sup>-June 17<sup>th</sup> Southern Fair  
Devore

May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Banner War Las Vegas

June 9<sup>th</sup> Wedding of: Sir Coda and  
Dame Joley

July 7<sup>th</sup> "Pirate at Sea Treasure Hunt":  
Long Beach hosted by the County of  
Bastone, Canton of Aquataine and  
the Barony of Vineland. Start making  
your Pirate Ships (floatation devices)

now to look for buried treasure.

August: Long Beach Fair, next to the  
Queen Mary in Long Beach

August 18<sup>th</sup> "The Pas d'Arms" may be  
a two day event (depending on the  
site) hosted by the Hedgehogs.

August 18<sup>th</sup> "Queen's Ball" after the  
Pas de'Arms hosted by our lovely  
past Queens of Esperance.

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Imperial War  
(may be at Featherly Park)

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> "Sheep War" hosted by

Lady Lennora and Sir Terrin in the  
Inland Empire

October 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> "Honey War" near  
Big Bear, hosted by House Amber

November 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> "Crown War"  
Featherly Park, hosted by the present  
Crown.

November 4<sup>th</sup>, Canton of Aquataine-  
County of Bastone event near(at) the  
war site.

December 1<sup>st</sup> Coronation and  
Celebration Feast for the 9<sup>th</sup> Crown of  
Esperance.

## Loch Lava Line Notes

By Sire Isabel MacAskill

Fellow residents of Esperance (and Adria) a grand New Year's wish to all of you. May all of your desires be at your fingertips, may your documentation be complete and may your weapon be swift and accurate.

Things have slowed down a bit up here in the desert. The holidays prevented us from having a monthly event of any kind of record. However we did spend the last Sunday of the year planning for the coming one. Between monthly events, Demos and Collegiums, it promises to be a busy year for the Loch Lavians.

Please add these dates to your Calendar;

### January

January 27th: Our monthly event. We are stressing all of the arts in January. We have been lacking in this area in the past few months. Rumor has it that one of the house sires is making a food entry. Enough so that anyone who attends can sample some for lunch!

### February

February 24th: Our monthly event. The kingdom Crowns have been invited to attend. Spotlight on Archery and Fine Arts. Come check our ranges. The Canton Archery Minister has a few "fun" things planned for all participants. So bring your bows and both types of arrows. (Bow is not necessary to participate)

Sometime in February: Our next demo in the community at the Jr. High School. The details are still being sorted out. Captain Angus Soth is the Autocrat of this event. He will be dispersing information as he receives it and is welcoming any suggestions for activities during the demo. He can be contacted at [annabellasoth@yahoo.com](mailto:annabellasoth@yahoo.com).

### March

March 13th: A Collegium on the Arts Manual. This is a weeknight evening occurrence. If anyone is interested in attending and needs directions, contact Sire Isabel MacAskill at [isabelmacaskill@hotmail.com](mailto:isabelmacaskill@hotmail.com).

March 31st: Our monthly event. Combat Tournament and the Arts. Everyone is invited to attend.

On a bright note, interest in our area is beginning to increase. We have one or two additional people showing up at our Sunday fighter practices. So far this has led to one new member with the promise of more to come.

If anyone is interested in attending one of our events or would like to help out with our demos please contact me (Sire Isabel, my email address and phone number are above) and I will provide you with all of the necessary information.

## Archery Rules

By Lord Connor O'Riordain

Greetings Populace,

I just wanted to take a moment and try to explain the direction I'm trying to go with archery for this year.

In my opinion, the archery tournaments were too long and, judging by the number of participants, very unentertaining. There also seemed to be a lack of a challenge when all it took was to hit the target once to advance.

With the new arrows Their Majesties are allowing us to continue to play test this reign, I have been able to devise a structure that will hopefully prove more challenging, fun and quicker than tournaments in the past. At the same time, I believe it will help to improve the number and quality of our archers.

The structure, as I plan to run it, is as follows:

- There will be 2 lists, Bowman's and Huntsman's.
- The Bowman's will stand approx. 20 ft from the target, while the Huntsmen will stand 30 ft from the target.
- The archers will be paired up in a single elimination match, very similar to combat.
- In each match-up the archer will fire 6 arrows at the target. The goal is to hit the target in a valid combat area, meaning, if you would leg, arm, or kill the opponent in combat, it is considered a valid hit.
- If the target flinches in such a way that s/he dodges the arrow, a hit will be awarded to the archer who fired the arrow.
- After the 2 archers have fired their 6 arrows, the archer with the most hits will move on to the next round where they will be paired up again.

Rounds continue until there is only one archer left. In the event of a tie the round will be re-shot under a 30-second time limit until there is a winner.

As you know I tried this during the Dec. event. Although it wasn't a flawless attempt. I think it went rather smoothly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Service,  
Lord Connor O'Riordain  
Squire to Sir Coda  
Royal Minister of Archery

## Cuir Bouilli: Part III

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*Submitted by Sir Jamie the Red*

*Editor's Note: I have removed references to page numbers and images because they did not translate when I downloaded this information from the Internet. This is the first in what promises to be a long series of articles. Please be patient and they will all get printed as space permits.*

### **Leather and the Warrior**

An account of the importance of leather to the fighting man from the time of the ancient Greeks to World War II

*By John W. Waterer  
RDI, FSA, FSIA, FIIC  
President of The Museum of Leathercraft*

*Edited by Lysbeth Merrifield  
The Museum of Leathercraft Northhampton*

*(c) Joyce T. Meade 1981*

*ISBN 0 9504182 18*

### **CUIR BOUILLI (pp 62-76)**

*Continued from the December issue*

Avons adjouste que aucum ne pourra faire bouteilles que le cuir de boeuf ou de vache tant seullement, pour ce que autre cuir n'y est pas propice, eq que ledit cuir soit bon et loyal, et que lesdictes bouteilles voient bouleues de bonne cuir neufue par dedans, et non d'oultre, sur peine de confisques l'ouvrage ...

The all-important words in this version are *par dedans* which make it clear that the 'new wax' was primarily to 'waterproof' the interior of the bottles which were to hold drinking fluids that should not taste of old, stale wax. These two words do not appear in the 1560 version, either by accident or because the main purpose of the wax was then well known. Now, practically all known forms of leather bottles have very small opening (so that stoppers can be fitted) into which it would not be easy to pour molten wax. It seems possible that the word *boulue* indicates that the otherwise completed bottles were immersed in a bath of molten wax in which they were 'rolled' about until sufficient wax had entered the leather and the stitched seams: at the same time the secondary need was also fulfilled, that of waxing the exterior which was a normal part of the 'finishing' process.

In fact the moulding procedure, which goes back to prehistoric times and has never ceased to be used, simply exploits the 'mouldability' of a particular kind of leather, which is amongst its most important attributes. This arises from the nature of the unique micro-fibrillar structure in the form in which it is preserved in any vegetable-tanned leather, but more particularly bovine hide because of its compact structure and normal thickness. The hardness and solidity of cuir bouilli

results from the fact that the microscopic collagen fibrils, instead of being lubricated by various agents to render the leather supple, are compacted by evaporation resulting from slow drying under heat which, if carefully controlled, will determine the degree of solidity.

It is generally accepted by archaeologists that, long before the first primitive clay pot was ever made, water was heated in 'leather' bags by dropping them into it stones heated in the fire. Such 'bags' must have been made of a crude kind of leather because raw skin would soften and dissolve in hot water. A Pot form would result from the fixing of a withy ring around the mouth as a matter of convenience, producing a type that was perpetuated in early clay pots, even to the striations representing the creases formed by folding the leather over the ring, adopted as a decoration. The continued use of a leather pot in this manner would, in time, determine a particular shape and although when in use it might soften to some extent, when laid aside until dry, this shape would eventually set firm and rigid. This would suggest to a keen intelligence that a process could be developed that could be turned to many uses. An early use of the process is represented by the sheath of a Neolithic celt found at Stade near Hamburg (now in the museum at Wiepenkathen, Stade) (plate 59). There also exists a primitive moulded leather cup or bowl, disinterred from London soil nearly a century ago and alleged to be of Neolithic date (on loan to the Museum of Leathercraft from the Cuming Museum, Southwark) (plate 60). Alas, no evidence has survived to support the finder's claim that it was dug up at Smithfield, London, 'in close proximity to Neolithic remains', but there is nothing inherently improbable in this statement. It has obviously been moulded from an initially flat piece of cattle hide, crudely tanned because traces of hair can still be discerned. It is firmly set in shape and has a hole near the base which, no doubt, was the reason why it was discarded. If not a genuine archetype at least it is representative of a very early moulding technique. In 1848, Bateman(14) discovered, at Benty Grange, a silver rim and ornaments, practically all that remained of an Anglo-Saxon moulded leather drinking-cup. From Irish bogs have come cuir bouilli shields from the Iron Age (Plates 29-30) and large bottles (perhaps for grain) of the Early Christian period. The Romans moulded a dome in their leather shield-covers to accommodate the umbo (Plate 23), and also used the process in other ways, for example for heel stiffeners for footwear.

*To be continued*

## **Royal Ministers for Esperance**

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This list was complete and accurate at the time of publication.

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