

Fox Tales

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO ENGRAVE

February 1994

A.S. XXVIII

Major Changes In The Near Future

SCA, Inc. Board of Directors Vote to Implement New Policies

Editor's Note: The following article is based primarily upon an incredible number of messages posted on computer bulletin board services. The sheer volume of text alone regarding this issue would seem to validate its content; however, to date, I have no information directly from a Board member or any other "official" source. Two sources used appear to contain "first-person" accounts of the actual meeting. In an attempt to maintain objectivity and prevent disinformation, I have compared several different accounts and used those points which agree with each other. When reading this piece, keep this in mind. Any additional information will be published here when available. - Ld. James

On January 22, 1994, the SCA's Board of Directors met to vote on a number of actions, many having a direct impact on the Society as a whole.

Of these actions, the SCA's Finance Committee (speaking through Victoria Tisdale) recommended that membership fees be increased as follows:

Associate Membership	\$20 (\$8 inc.)
Sustaining Membership	\$35 (\$10 inc.)

Additionally, a recommendation was made for membership to be required for participation in "all activities." Both actions were passed by the Board, with implementation to be discussed at a later point. Members in attendance to the meeting asked for explanations for these actions; the Board provided none, but did state that the implementation would

come within a year's time. The Board of Directors made it clear that there were specific reasons for these policy changes, but did not go into detail about them. The vote on this issue was 4 to 2 in favor. Favoring the action were: Tim Moran, Victoria Tisdale, A.J. Riviezzo, and L. Jane Richards. Voting against the requirement were: Randall Tatro and Karen Hatten (Countess Ellawin of Eaglewood, of Meridies). The vote needs to be implemented by a change of the Society's by-laws before it can go into effect; such a change requires a unanimous vote as the by-laws now stand.

The next item discussed was that there will no longer be copies of the Board's minutes issued to subscribing members. Instead, narratives of what happens at the Board meetings will be published in either a pamphlet mailed to all members or in Tournaments Illuminated. Actual Board minutes will be available only to those with a legal reason to see them.

The Society Seneschal brought up another issue - that of required numbers of members for the forming of SCA chapters, particularly shires and baronies. This topic was remanded to later discussion.

As of printing date, these are the only firmly established facts regarding this situation. Before any action is taken on your part, please consider that this is an incredibly emotional issue for many in the Society. Until more information is available, including firsthand data directly from the Board, the best thing we can do is wait and request information from the Board.

FROM THE CHRONICLER

Greetings, good gentles!

As you noticed from the front page, there are possibly some serious changes in the wind for the SCA, Inc. As of this point, there are few firm facts regarding these changes; as more information comes available, rest assured that I'll get it to you as soon as possible. Whatever feelings you have about the situation right now, use common sense. An informed person can make good decisions and information is what we need. I encourage you to write to the various Board members for that extra information.

Tim Moran 1172 Nottingham
Grosse Point Park, MI 48230

Victoria Tisdale 1865 Moreno Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

A.J. Riviezzo 2323 South Troy, #210-D
Aurora, CO 80014

L. Jane Richards South 7th Street West
Missoula, MT 59801-2021

Randall Tatro 164 Everest Rd.
Milton, VT 05468

Karen Hatten 559 Groaning Rock Rd.
Commerce, GA 30529

As I said before, regardless of what you want to do about the Board's actions, please use common sense. Gramercy,

J.

BEST BETS

- 2/5 Collegium Sionnach, Vulpine Reach (Chattanooga, TN - 7 mi.). \$12 *Spring Collegium featuring "hands-on" classes including metal-working, archery, and others. Covered trencher feast - bring a dish for 8-10 people. Bedspace limited to 40, reserve early!*
- 2/26 Black Gryphon Collegium, Thor's Mt. (Fall Creek Falls State Park Group Lodge - 60 mi.). \$18 til 1/15, \$20 thereafter. *Collegium featuring classes in the performing arts: music, dance, bardic arts, and RUM classes.*

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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 5 *LOCAL EVENT - Collegium Sionnach*
7 Business Meeting, post-mortem on Collegium
12 **EVENT - Buccaneer's Ball IX (Seleone)**
Local Archery Practice
14 ***** ST. VALENTINE'S DAY *****
Class: Courtly Love (Lady Rabbette)/Fox Tales Deadline
19 **EVENT - Menhir Collegium (Rising Stone)**
EVENT - Collegium Cabrium (Beau Fort/Bryn Madoc)
Local Archery Practice
21 Class: Dance (depending on our meeting place)
26 **EVENT - Black Gryphon Collegium (Thor's Mt.)**
EVENT - Feast of St. Bogdacious (Axemoor)
28 Class: Heraldic Display (Laird Cailen)

MARCH

- 5 **EVENT - Gatalop (Osprey)**
EVENT - Boar Hunt (Nant y Derwyddon)
Local Archery Practice
7 Business Meeting, Fox Tales Distribution
12 **EVENT - Barontal Tax Revolt (Owl's Nest)**
14 Local Meeting, Fox Tales Deadline
19 **EVENT - Gulf Wars III (Dragouns Weal)**

Fighter practice is held on Sunday afternoons in Warner Park at 2 p.m. (weather permitting); chapter meetings are at Stacy's Buffet at Lee Highway and East Brainerd Road (until further notice) on Mondays at 7 p.m. Archery practices are held at Choo Choo Archery Lanes on Bonny Oaks Drive at 12 noon (as scheduled).

REGNUM

- Seneschal Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger
Rachel Lightfoot (706) 965-7947
- Knight Marshall Lord Forddwydd Meredydd, Esq.
Craig Rethwilm (615) 624-3458
- Herald Laird Cailen mich Alasdair A'Sinchclair
Jason Tryon (615) 624-2040
- Arts & Sciences Lee Comyn
Lee Cummings (615) 855-0303
- Hospitaller Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera
Diane Walker (615) 875-5417
- Reeve Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge
Leslie Dulin (615) 886-6256
- Historian Lady Madelena de Luna
Joy Day (615) 891-9410
- Chronicler Lord James Toxophilus
Jim Long (615) 894-6487
- Lore Keeper, Meridian College of Bards
Lady Egelina Rabbette
Rabbit Kadrich (615) 877-6299

"Pseudoscience" Essay

Author's Note: I have no idea if the Romans ever crossed Salisbury Plain, and I'm aware that the Celts had chariots too but, as in Medieval times, changing the facts to fit the story makes for such fun that I just went and did it anyway! I also intended no poke at any religion; the story just sort of fell together this way. - Lady Madelina

Why It Always Rains When You Wash Your Wagon

In the days of old, long, long ago, before the first apostles came to our lands, there reigned a queen with no king, and she was called Queen Boudicca. Now in those days, our fathers were savage and worshipped strange gods and called not upon the name of Our Lord. But Queen Boudicca, being heathen, was yet a good queen and ruled her people with justice and with a pure heart, and the people loved her.

And it came to pass that the Roman legions crossed the English Channel, bringing with them their wooden chariots, to make war upon Queen Boudicca and her people, upon the plain at Salisbury. And upon the eve before the battle the Roman soldiers prepared their chariots for war, polishing the brass charges that were upon the faces of the chariots, that they shone like fire. And when Queen Boudicca saw the throng which was gathered against her, and the bolts of fire which shone from the faces of the chariots, fear entered into her bosom, and she cried out to the idols which she worshipped, both she and her people, and said, "Oh great Bran, bring down a rain upon this plain, in great torrents cause it to fall, that the earth may become soft, and these swift shining wagons be stayed in the mire, that this terrible enemy might dismount and fight like men. For with the sword shall we be victorious, but in their wagons they shall run us down like hounds."

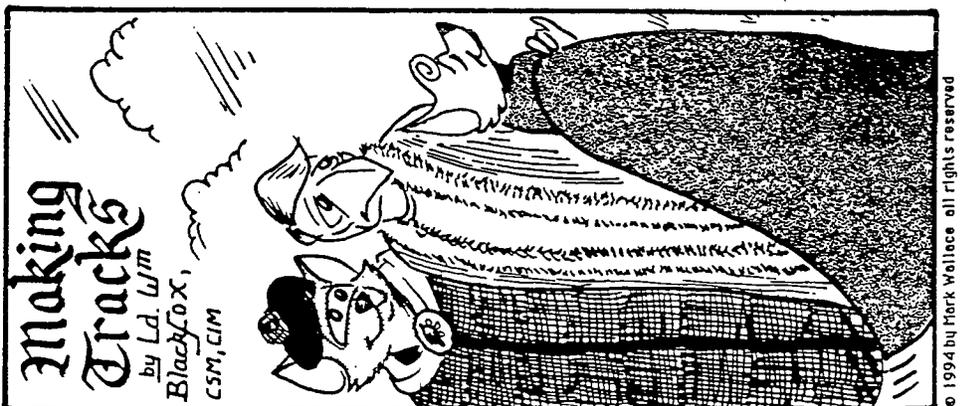
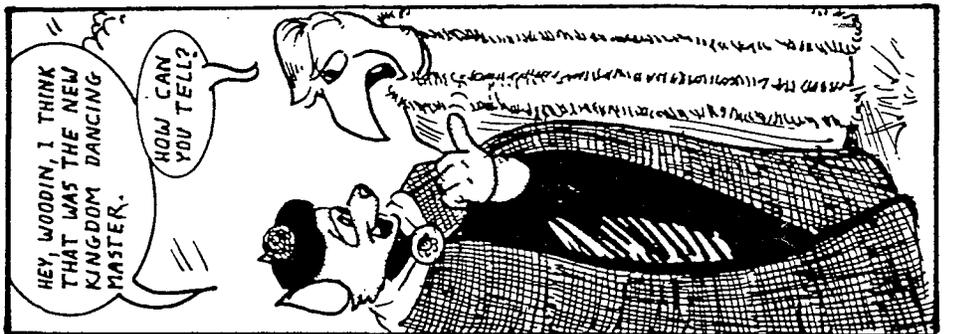
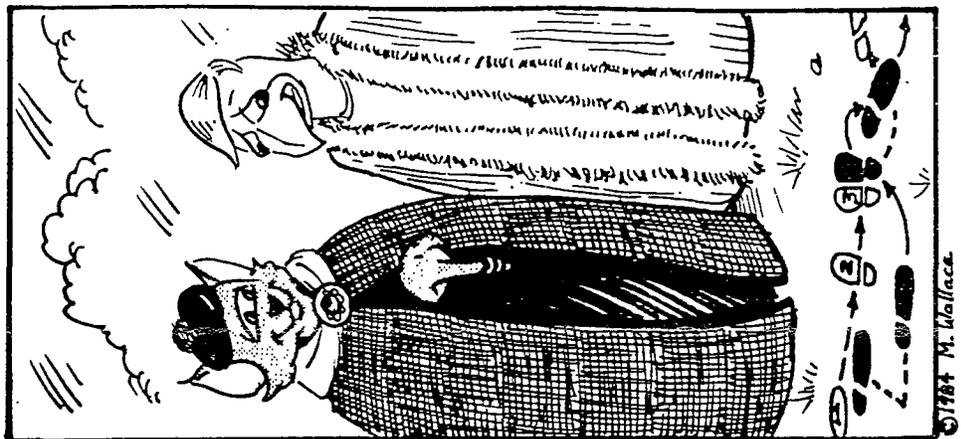
And the Lord looked down upon Queen Boudicca, and seeing that justice and wisdom fell from her mouth all the day long, and that she had a pure heart, He honored the integrity of her heart, and took pity upon our heathen fathers, and He sent forth the rains upon Salisbury Plain. All night long, the rains

did fall as in the day of Noe, and upon the morn the Roman legion mounted their chariots, but woe unto the children of Mars! For the chariot wheels held fast in the mire, and the people of Queen Boudicca slew the Roman soldiers as sheep led to the slaughter.

And those days passed away, and the apostles brought The Word unto our fathers, and they were baptized, and began to call upon the name of The Lord.

It came to pass that a certain king called Henry reigned upon the throne of England. And King Henry said, "Many are the evils of Mother Church, and many the sins of Her sons. I will make unto me a new church, and will establish myself as its Pope." And this King Henry took much land and good which had been granted to the service of God, and these he took for himself, to increase his riches. And God was angered. And

Oh, NO! It's those pesky Winter Reruns again! A Warthaven Classic



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"Essay" continued.

in His wrath, God spoke to King Henry, saying, "Hear me O King Henry. Thou art a man and I thy God. Thou has robbed my servants and made thyself to sit in Saint Peter's throne. And for this shall I mete out a punishment upon thee, and upon thy people. In the days of old, I harkened unto the cry of thy fathers in their hour of need, and sent the rains to stay the chariots of the Roman legion. But from this day forward, no more shall the rains be thy friend, nor to thy people a blessing; but each time a man washeth his wagon to make it clean for travel or battle, then shall I send the rains as a curse. And each time the rains fall and make thy road a river of mire, thou shalt remember the honor of thy fathers, and of good Queen Boudicca, and shalt thou also remember thy offense against Holy Church."

And so it is that each time an Englishman washes his wagon the dark clouds gather in the sky and the rain falls upon the earth, and the king's highway becomes a river of mire.

- *Lady Madelena de Luna*

Lady Julia of the Flowers Wins Art Contests

One of Vulpine Reach's long-time members, Lady Julia of the Flowers (wife of The Honorable Lord Richard Fenwick), distinguished herself this month with her considerable skills in art.

On January 15, Lady Julia entered the art contest at the annual Chattanooga Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention (Chattacon) and received second place in the Pro Fantasy classification.

Then, at the Meridian Mid-Winter Arts and Sciences Competition one week later, Lady Julia took first place in the "painting and drawing" class with icons done in egg tempera on wood panels. Additionally, the populace at the event chose her work as the best

overall in the competition, the "Best in show."

When asked her reaction at the results of the contests, she replied, "I'm happy, happy, happy! I was hoping to win something."

Congratulations, Lady Julia. Well done!

Collegium Update

Greetings, gentles all. As of today (1/15) we have only a couple of reservations for the collegium, and have a few "holes" in the class schedule that remain to be filled. I am confident that we will have a full class schedule.

Upon consulting with the Reeve (Mistress Lijsbeth), I found that the reservation situation is normal for events like ours. However, it would be less than wise for anybody planning to stay on-site NOT to pre-register! Remember, we have only 40 beds and 50 places at the feast. Also, just in case you were not aware by now, Mistress Lijsbeth offered the use of Collegium Sionnach to the Kingdom Exchequer for holding a "pre-Domesday" gathering for the various chapter Reeves. This would be more or less a consulting session between the Kingdom and the individual chapters to iron out financial questions.

So far, the event planning has gone very smoothly despite the loss of our meeting room at UTC. Much of the planning has been done by phone or mail, but it cannot remain that way. As soon as we establish a more regular meeting area (hopefully prior to the event!) I will be continuing to bring the event signup poster to our gatherings. Please think of what you can and will do to help our event!

Reports from the ersatz feastcrat (we still don't have a committed person on this one...) and the breakfast crat indicate that

both are on course and will have only the problems that were anticipated. Look for some really grand sweet rolls for breakfast!

Considering the number of folks that may show up at the event (last minute additions from the "reevality") I once more ask that you preregister at your earliest chance.

If you have any remarks, questions, suggestions, or comments, please bring them up to me!

- *Lord James Toxophilus*

Vulpine Reach Celebrates 12th Night

On the afternoon of January 8, the Shire attempted to hold its annual 12th Night Celebration. I say attempted, because the party was delayed due to the Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department's failure to open the Spangler Farm gates at the time reserved!

Two hours and a number of telephone calls later, the gates were opened and the celebration began. First on the agenda was the covered-dish feast.

The food ran the gamut from honey ham, shepherd's pie, and salad to octopus!

Once the dishes and leftovers had been cleared away, the real fun began: the traditional Vulpine Reach "chinese" gift exchange. The "prize" gifts this year were a set of wrought table ware, a beautiful small chest, a pair of tankards, and several less spectacular, but no-less grand gifts. There was a little more stealing this year with all the good gifts available; this was also a fantastic introduction for our newcomers!

Even with the late start, cold weather, and somewhat grumpy beginning, the Vulpine Reach 12th Night was as good as ever!

Black Gryphon Collegium

The Barony of Thor's Mountain presents the annual Black Gryphon Collegium, February 25-27, 1994, at the Fall Creek Falls State Park, near Pikeville, Tennessee. The site is discretely dry, NO original containers, please. No smoking will be allowed in the buildings (we have a lovely veranda for that). No pets are allowed.

This year, the focus will be on the Performing Arts. There will be classes on music, dance, and bardic arts, as well as the standard University of Meridies classes and classes for children. We will have a class on Stewarding a Brewing and Vintning Competition, in addition to classes already announced. This Collegium is accredited with the University of Meridies. For those gentles not registered with the University and wishing to receive credit for classes, there will be an additional one time \$2 fee for registration. The Thor's Mountain Library will also be open for research.

Event cost is \$18 until January 15, \$20 thereafter. A \$2 discount is given with proof of membership. Children under 12 are 1/2 price; day trip fee is \$8. Please make checks to: The Barony of Thor's Mountain/SCA. Send reservations to: Chris Morris, 7309 Ashford Glen Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918.

Autocrat: THL Marthe Elsbeth of Oak Hill, mka Martha Knowles, 213 Connors Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (615 483-1824 before 10 pm Eastern).

Head Cook: Lady Ceridwen, mka Mary Bales, 712 Barclay, Knoxville, TN 37920 (615 573-2476).

Directions: From Knoxville and points east: I-40 to exit 329 (US-70). West on US-70 to Crossville and US-127. Take 127 south to Pikeville. Turn west on TN-30 just north of Pikeville. Continue on TN-30 to the park entrance.

From Nashville and points west: I-40 east to exit 288 (TN-111). South on TN-111 to Spencer, then east on TN-30 to the park.

From Chattanooga and points south: Take best route to Chattanooga. Follow I-24 to US-27 exit (Downtown/Red Bank). Go over river to the US-127 exit (Signal Mountain). Take US-127 north to just north of Dunlap at TN-8. Turn left onto TN-8 to TN-111. Follow TN-111 north toward Spencer and follow signs to the park.

General note: Once in the park, look for SCA signs directing you to the Large Group Camp.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the February issue:

Peg and Ross at the Inner Circle

Mistress Lijsbeth Tijsz van Brugge

Baron William Blackfox

Lady Madelina de Luna

Lady Julia of the Flowers

The Barony of Thor's Mountain

Malcolm M'ch Alasdair A'Sunclain

Fox Tales was kind of sparse this week due in part to our own Collegium (since I am autocrattin) and in part to our lack of a permanent meeting place. Also, there was a drop in the number of submissions for this month. Folks, this is hard to do all by yourself! It's a lot easier when gentles help me by writing submissions! C'mon, let's see some submissions!

FOX TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIRE OF VULPINE REACH

C/O JIM LONG
1305 LA BREA ROAD
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37421



THE LEGENDARY PROTECTORS OF
SHERWOOD FOREST... ROBIN HOOD &
LITTLE JOHN.