

THE STERNFELD STAR

BARONY OF STERNFELD

MAY 2010, A.S. XLV

THE STERNFELD STAR
LISS CAPELLO, CHRONICLER
(ODILE DE BRIENNE)
1208 HOOVER LANE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46260-2830



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Officer Reports!

Webminister Candidate Introductions

The Sordid Tale of the Deposing of the Dread Imposter Dag and
The Coronation of Their Royal Majesties, Radagaisus and Ceinwen

Middle Kingdom Awards – Arts and Sciences

A New Household Within the Barony

Next Business Meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2010

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Everyone welcome—No experience necessary!

☞ CALENDAR ☞

--Local and selected events only--

Consult **The Pale** or www.midrealm.org for complete event listings.

May 2010

4, 11, 18, 25 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**

- 1-2 Spring Coronation {Barony of the Flame} [Crestwood, KY]
7-9 Baron Wars XIII {Marche of the Marshes} [Perrysburg, OH]
14-16 Chaos Caravan {Shire of Greyhope} [Michigan City, IN]
Mayfaire XIII {Shire of Cuil Choluim} [North Vernon, IN]
15 Saltatoris' Swingin' Soiree {Canton of Ealdnorwuda} [Dimondale, MI]
This Land Is Our Land {Shire of Shadowed Stars} [Fort Wayne, IN]
20 Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm
21-23 Constellation Academy of Defense {Shire of Mynydd Seren} [Spencer, IN]
Death and Taxes {Canton of DunTraigh} [Holland, MI]
22 Squire's Tourney {Canton of Ealdnorwuda} [Lansing, MI]
29-30 Middle Kingdom Crown Tournament / Kingdom A & S Faire {Barony of Fenix} [Fort Mitchell, KY]

June 2010

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**

- 4-6 Iron Weasel Triathlon {Shire of Eastwatch} [Burton, OH]
Tyger Hunt {Riding of Hawkland Moor} [Lake Orion, MI]
5 An Elizabethan Faire {Marche of Tirnewydd} [Columbus, OH]
South Oaken Regional War Practice {Barony of Fenix} [Crittenden, KY]
11-13 Border Skirmish VII {Shire of Ravenslake / Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr}
Northern Oaken War Maneuvers {Barony of the Cleftlands} [Wellington, OH]
11-20 Lilies War XXIV {Kingdom of Calontir} [Smithville, Out of Kingdom]
12 Butts and Bales {Shire of Dragon's Vale} [Ligonier, IN]
15 Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm
18-20 Baronial Border War XXVII {Canton of Rimsholt} [Ionia, MI]
Ragnarok Rampage {Barony of Carraig Ban} [Big Rock, IL]
The Third Bardic Roundhouse {Barony of Cleftlands} [Chardon, OH]
19 Baronial Birthday, Krannert Family Center
Midrealm Army Rapier Command Symposium {Midrealm Army} [Muncie, IN]
25-27 Border Raids {Barony of the Flame} [Elizabethtown, KY]
Crystal Chamfron {Barony of Shattered Crystal} [Wood River, IL]
Melee at Roswell 11 {Marche of Alderford} [Roswell, OH]
26 Hafla for Me, Halfla for You {The Barony of White Waters} [Elkhart, IN]

July 2010

6, 13, 20, 27 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**

- 2-4 Middle Kingdom Equestrian {Barony of Rivenstar} [Lafayette, IN]
9-11 Siege of Talonval XI {Shire of Talonval} [Leslie, MI]
10 Feast of St. Ethyl {Shire of Swordcliff} [Taylorville, IL]
Brawl at Crooked Dragon XIII {Shire of Falcon's Quarry} [Wellington, OH]
15 Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm
16-18 Push for Pennsic {The Marche of Havenholde} [Oregonia, OH]
23-25 A Simple Day in the Country {Barony of Sternfeld} [Edinburgh, IN]
30-15 Pennsic War 39 {Barony of the Debatable Lands} [Slippery Rock, PA]

☞ WHERE TO FIND US ☞

- ❖ **FIGHTER PRACTICE** - Every Tuesday, 6:30-9 pm. **Krannert Family Center, 605 S. High School Road.** Contact Seneschal Lady Katrina (Katrina Pogue), katrinasternfeld@gmail.com.
- ❖ **BUSINESS MEETING** - Third Thursdays, 6:45-9 pm. **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2601 E. Thompson Road.** Contact Seneschal Lady Katrina (Katrina Pogue), katrinasternfeld@gmail.com.
- ❖ **DEAD LANGUAGES CLUB** - Second Wednesdays, 7-9 pm. Master John and Mistress Leanore's house, 1626 Marlborough Lane. Contact Master John & Mistress Leanore (John & Ellie Wright), 317-872-7216, elliepel@aol.com.
- ❖ **OPEN HOUSE/READING NIGHTS** - Every Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Master John and Mistress Leanore's house, 1626 Marlborough Lane. Contact Master John and Mistress Leanore (John and Ellie Wright), 317-872-7216, elliepel@aol.com.
- ❖ **DANCE PRACTICE** - First and third Mondays, 6:30-9 pm. **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2601 E. Thompson Road.** Contact Lady Brigide Rose von Metten, wulfarose@yahoo.com.
- ❖ **COOKS' GROUP** - First and third Sundays, 4-6 pm. Abot Johann's house, 3901 Marrison Place. Contact Abot Johann (Marcus Loidolt), mjloidolt@yahoo.com.
- ❖ **ARTS & SCIENCE NIGHT** - Last Thursday evenings, at **Victory Memorial United Methodist Church, 1932 Woodlawn Avenue.** Contact Abot Johann (Marcus Loidolt), mjloidolt@yahoo.com.
- ❖ **ARCHERY PRACTICE** - Every Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm. **4375 Sellers St.** Contact Lord Bran (Kelly Burgess), kburgess1@comcast.net.
- ❖ **MONTHLY BARDIC CIRCLES AND RANDOM POST-REVELS** - scheduled sporadically but enthusiastically. Contact Lady Floriana (Daisy Roberts Blair), 317-280-1930, or Lady Lucia (Kathi Coutinho), 317-293-0983.
- ❖ **GILDED COSTUMERS** - First Thursdays (& occasional weekends), 7-9 pm. Various locations. Contact THL Odette (Paula Ryan), 317-996-4630, odettedamboise@gmail.com.

Barony of Sternfeld: www.midrealm.org/sternfeld

Middle Kingdom: www.midrealm.org

Society for Creative Anachronism: www.sca.org

Sternfeld Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sternfeld/>

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BARONAGE AND OFFICERS

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FROM THE BARON AND BARONESS



Greetings everyone,

We wish to apologize for not being around as much as we would like; our mundane life has been very demanding lately, especially work.

We had a great time at archery practice last Sunday. It really was a lot of fun. Even though my shoulder injury won't let me draw a bow, I can handle a crossbow. It was good.

We have a new king. If you weren't there, it was one of the better pieces of theater I've seen in the SCA, period.

Hope to see you all soon,

BARON TORQUIL AND BARONESS MOIRA



FROM THE CLERK OF THE ROSTER

Just wanted to say "thank you" to everyone who updated information for the Roster in April. The next official update will be done in July, but if your contact info or awards change in the interim, I will happily take updates at any time. I do my best to note Kingdom-level awards when they are published in the *Pale*, and of courts that I attend in person, but I have been known to miss things from time to time.

Thank you!

LADY ODILE DE BRIENNE

FROM THE RAPIER MARSHAL



Things have been going well on the Rapier field! We continue to have a strong showing each week from Rivenstar and the throwdown each month is being well attended. There has also been a recent increase in the number of new fighters. It's meant that we are a little short of loaner gear and have to learn to share but it's great to see so many people interested! We will continue to work on training the new fighters and making sure Sternfeld is well represented. Speaking of which I have been in contact with the regional commanders on their plans for war. They have passed on to me word of what they would like to see the Sternfeld fighters preparing for so that everyone is ready for Pennsic. Any rapier fighters who plan on being at Pennsic should let me know your plans so I can make sure to include you in our training. Those who won't be attending Pennsic need to make sure that everyone else is practicing so that we'll all be in top shape by the time we face the East.

LORD BJORN ARNALDSSON

FROM THE ARTS AND SCIENCES MINISTER



Unto the talented artisans and people of the fair Barony of Sternfeld come Spring greetings from Abot Johann von Metten, Minister of Arts and Sciences. Kristos Voskrese!!

I was very proud to see the fantastic turn out of five of our Baronial artisans at Constellation Regional A&S faire held in the Barony of Rivenstar on the 17th of April! Lady Waldetrudis von Metten, Lady Odile de Brienne, Lady Colette the Seamstress, Thorfinn, and Majestra Audrey of Canterbury all presented wonderful entries! Audrey, Waldetrudis and Odile all took first place in their entries, while Colette took second, and Thorfinn, who entered for the VERY FIRST TIME, entered only for comment and got some high marks as well!!! HOOBAH!!! Master Llew and myself are hoping ALL of these gentles will be able to bring, or at least SEND their entries to Kingdom A&S Faire the day before this Spring Crown Tourney!!

I am quite pleased to see that two more gentles have become infected with 'chicken fever' !! and have started their own chicken flocks!! Lady Odile is

THE COOKS' GROUP

The Cooks' Group and Ars Rustica Group will be meeting from 4 – 6 pm at Abot Meister Johann von Metten's house (3901 Marrison Place, Indianapolis) on Sunday, May 2 and Sunday, May 16. The topic on the 2nd will be early greens and salads, while on the 16th it will be soft cheeses, butters, and other dairy products.

DANCE PRACTICE

Dance Practice will meet twice this month from 6:30 – 9 pm at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (2601 E. Thompson Road): Monday, May 3, and Monday, May 17. Everyone is welcome to join. There are no specific dances planned for these dates.

YOUTH COMBAT

If your child is interested in participating in Youth Combat, please speak to Baroness Moira. She will be happy to arrange some regular practices so that the youth of the Barony can enjoy the arts martial as well as the grown-ups!

PREGNANCY WATCH

Pregnancy watch: 3!

FROM THE ARTS AND SCIENCES MINISTER



Master Llew's bid for fall Crown Tournament has been accepted! Sternfeld will be hosting this Kingdom-level event on October 30, in lieu of Grand Pageant, with the help of the surrounding groups. Planning is underway now, so please contact Master Llew to find out how you can help.



The date of 2011's Better War Through Archery has been pinned down for February 19, but we are still in need of volunteers to autocrat it. If you think you might be interested, please speak to Katrina or the Baronage, and/or attend Business Meeting this month.



Remember, now is the time to be submitting award nominations for the summer season. The King and Queen need at least 4 weeks of time to finalize Their court lists and get them to the scribes, in order to have beautiful custom scrolls for the awards, so if you wait until the last minutes before an upcoming court, you may well be too late! The submission process at <http://www.midrealm.org/op/recommend/> is easier than ever. Let's send in lots of nominations, especially for Simple Day in July! Also, Their Excellencies would love award submissions for Baronial awards, especially for Baronial Birthday in June. For those, just send an email to the Baron and/or Baroness.



Lady Ysabel has undertaken to organize the Baronial creation of some gifts of largesse for Her Majesty to take to Pennsic War this year. She is looking for artisans to volunteer their time and talent to help put together suitable tokens and gifts, both in large quantities (19 identical items of various kinds, for gifts for the Queen's Tea) and small (Kingdom-specific items to exchange as a gift basket with another Kingdom). If you think you might be able to help in some capacity, please let her know!



The first Tuesday of every month at Fighter Practice is also Garb Night. Everyone is encouraged to wear their garb while they are socializing.



Costumer's Group is meeting Thursday, May 6, from 7 – 9 pm at the Panera Bread at Willow Lake West (2902 W 86th St # 220, Indianapolis: on 86th Street just east of Michigan Road. This is in the strip mall with Trader Joe's grocery store.) The topic will be 16th c. Tudor clothing.

raising a flock of mixed old French Breeds (*editor's note: strictly speaking, only one old French hen has survived: the others are a mix of nationalities*) and Lady Ysabel is raising some Spanish??

Baroness Gwendolyn has a nice array of Ebdem Goslings as well as Brahma and Sicilian Buttercups and other breeds of chickens.

My flock of Shetland sheep has had some increases, 2 ram lambs, named Roast and Chops, and a nice ewe lamb who is currently going by April, but could go to Curry!! LOL!!

Dame Megan and Mistress Leanore are in full swing with Spring planting and flowers galore! Many of the Barony's members are active gardeners and it is a real joy to hear the pride and pleasure they have in various projects!

We have had a strong handful of dancers from Afonlyn join us for several practices at St. Tim's now, it is always good to have more folks join us!

If you know of any group of folks doing arts on the sly, pass that information on so we can all appreciate the many talents of this group!!

In service to the Arts and Sciences, I remain...

ABOT JOHANN VON METTEN, OL

FROM THE CHRONICLER



Last month I promised to keep you all informed on whether the May flowers were arriving as expected, and I am pleased to note that summer seems set to arrive right on schedule.

In April I published the current hard-copy collection of back-issue *Sternfeld Stars*, and requested that any who have issues which are missing consider donating them to the Baronial Archive. I'm delighted to report that several individuals have stepped forward to offer issues, sometimes by the dozens. I have not yet had a chance to sort through and organize these issues, but I think it's safe to say that the archive has effectively doubled since my last writing.

Yours in service,

LADY ODILE DE BRIENNE

FROM THE EXCHEQUER



Greetings unto All Good Gentles:

It is quite an honor to be elected Exchequer of this Great Barony of Sternfeld. I entreat you to join me in thanking Lady Austorga de Clermont for her service as Exchequer, and for providing assistance to make the transition a smooth one.

I begin my service by filing the first quarter financials with the Regional Exchequer, and per the request of Kingdom and Regional, completing some other items that needed attention. I fully anticipate supplying monthly financial reports at business meetings, beginning with reporting for the month of April.

I look forward to serving you,
LADY ERSEBET SZUBOTA OF HUNGARY

FROM THE PROPERTY MASTER

Greetings,

I hope all of you are energized by this nice weather and ready to put your shoulder to the broom!

I would like to schedule Spring Cleaning at Leandra's for the 15th or 16th (Sat or Sun). This would be up to how many people sign up to come help. Mostly it is sweeping out the garage, trimming back weeds and branches and wiping down the tubs and such. If you can donate 2 hours from 2-4pm, please let me know which day, and depending on which day I can get the most volunteers, that's the day it will be. I will post to the Sternfeld group when I can finalize the day.

Please send me an email if you can help! Remember, many hands make light work!

In Service,
LADY TALIA WYNTERSCALE

CIBITS

Second polling for Baronial Webminister will be held at this month's Business Meeting. Lord Antonio and lord Eadric have both thrown their hats in the ring, so the final decision will be made on May 20.

At Their Majesties Radagaisus and Ceinwen's decree, the Rapier community shall henceforth be styled the Royal Midrealm Navy for the duration of their reign, with accompanying letters of marque issued for their enjoyment. Not sure what this means for you? Speak to your Rapier commander!

Congratulations are in order to Forester Demetrious the Undecided and Lady Magdalena on the birth of their daughter, Annaliese Larrain, on April 9, 2010, at 7:59 in the morning. Semper Fertale!

Baronial Birthday has been scheduled for June 19, and will go hand in hand with our Krannert demo this year. Master Johann is heading this up, so please contact him to ask how you can help out. More details as they become available!

Lady Ciara Eirikswif is organizing a series of demos for the Greenwood Public Library in June and July. The main demo will be on July 10, an afternoon of fighting (armored and rapier), arts and sciences, etc, with walking-distance access to some of the best ice cream around. There will also be two discussion sessions needing one or two persons each: on June 10 (on armor and combat in the middle ages) and on July 15 (on 'a day in the life of a knight'), both at 6 pm. The Barony earns \$300 for this set of demos, so please check your calendars and see if you can help out!

Simple Day is coming up on July 23-25 (look, it's on the calendar at the front of the *Star!* That's how close it is now!). Please, please, please, see Baroness Moira or Lady Ersebet if you are interested in volunteering.

people who have various interests and who participate in many activities, including fencing, heavy fighting, garb making, leather making, historical research, and several other activities. The one thing that binds us together, though, is our love of the bow. All of us love to shoot, but some members also have become skilled in the arts of arrow making, bow making, and string making, as well as serving the household, the barony, and the Middle Kingdom.

Some interesting facts about *House The Happy Few*:

- ❖ The household name comes from William Shakespeare's *Henry V* during the speech that King Henry delivered on St. Crispin's Day before the Battle of Agincourt.
- ❖ The household currently has 11 active members ages 16 and older.
- ❖ There are 4 "honorary" members. The youngest is 14 months old.
- ❖ The household is currently made up of members with English, Irish, Latvian, Scottish, and Viking personas from early medieval to late renaissance periods.
- ❖ We love to shoot at cute stuffed animals and Styrofoam heads as well as traditional targets.
- ❖ The current Midrealm Archery XO is a member of the household!
- ❖ One of our members belongs to the Order of the Greenwood Company, and some of us want to be just like him when we grow up!
- ❖ We like to have fun!

House The Happy Few gathers together every Wednesday night and on occasional Sunday afternoons for archery practice, and we welcome all who want to shoot with us! Feel free to contact Forester Bran vo Lough Derg (kburgess1@comcast.net) or Eadric of Grenfeld (eadric.of.grenfeld@gmail.com) with questions about locations and times.

On behalf of *House The Happy Few*,
EADRIC OF GRENFELD

FROM THE MINISTER OF YOUTH



Who ordered the summer weather early? Thank you!

We still can use another helper for Simple Day at Children's Point.

Information for Simple Day 2010

Children's Point will be open at 10am and close at 3pm.

Gold Coin and Ring Scavenger Hunt / Sternfeld Good Samaritans: We're also doing a Scavenger hunt version of the game started last year. Upholding the spirit of our young Scadians showing their best by being Good Samaritans; if you see a child who has especially been a good helper, please pass on the coin you received at Troll to that deserving child. Also collect rings from merchants locations, please take only one. Final count at 3pm. Acknowledgement and award at Court.

Waterfight at lunch break.

Bring your water guns and toys. Sponges and water supplied.

If fighters would like to join us to be a target for a needed cool down, please come by Children's Point. The Hold call is "Dragon". (Depending on weather)

Fun crafts, games and coloring planned throughout the day.

While Children's Point is available for our youngest Scadians, please remember that parents need to be present for ages under 4, within eye/earsight over age 4 and all children must be courteous and will be returned to parents if too disruptive or inconsiderate of our other friends at Children's Point.

I hope you have fun and make great memories for this year's Simple Day.

I'm starting planning for Crown Tournament, ideas are appreciated as well as paper or fun craft supplies, I'm hoping to have the kids make crowns, shields and possibly little castles (need random sized boxes, tape and egg cartons).

LADY EMME FOSTER OF WHICKAM

expressly required that the person teach their knowledge to others as well. Bearers of this award are placed in precedence equal to those who bear the Greenwood Company, Bronze Ring, White Lance, and Gold Mace. They are higher in precedence than those who have received a simple Grant of Arms, and lower in precedence than those who have received the Dragon's Heart. They are properly addressed as 'the Honorable Lord or Lady,' as are all others of Grant-level status, and do not have any distinctive title for themselves, as do the Warders or Foresters. The badge that they may wear is shown above: the left half is purple, while the right half is gold.

The Laurel is the most prestigious Arts and Sciences award that can be given in the Middle Kingdom (or, indeed, anywhere in the Known World). It conveys a peerage, which is the highest honor anyone can hope to achieve, short of becoming King or Queen or receiving the honors that are given to those who have held those titles in the past. Peerage is a singular honor and responsibility, and whole articles can be (and have been) written to ponder its significance. So as to keep the scope of this article manageable, I will say merely that those who hold Peerages are those that the Royalty turn to first for counsel, for aid, and to provide an example to those of lesser station of how to behave rightly.



The Laurel, in specific, is one of the three peerages, and is awarded to those who "have attained the standard of excellence in skill and/or knowledge equal to that of his or her prospective peers in some area of the Arts or Sciences. The candidate must have applied this skill and/or knowledge for the instruction of members and service to the kingdom to an extent above and beyond that normally expected of members of the Society (*SCA Corpora VIII-A4-b*)." Those who are admitted into this order are expected to be a shining example of chivalry, to support and uphold the laws of the Society and of their Kingdom, to enrich the kingdom by sharing and teaching their skills and knowledge, and to advise the Crown, especially in the arena of prospective new members to their Order. While Laurels are not required to swear fealty to their King and Queen, many choose to. They are equals in precedence to those in the Chivalry and the Pelicanate, higher in precedence than Territorial Barons and Baronesses, but lower than Viscounts and Viscountesses.

Because of the prestigious nature of this award, it is the culmination of a lifetime of work and service to the arts and the Kingdom. It is common for those who become Laurels to, in time, take students to teach and guide in

really elaborate designs. I tend to stick to clean, simple pages with consistent formatting, look, and feel. I am much better at the technical aspects (making a site work, and do cool things) than I am at making them really pretty. I don't think my sites are ugly, by any means, but they aren't artistic masterpieces, either.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the Barony in this capacity.

Respectfully,
LORD ANTONIO BELLINI

Greetings unto the populace of Sternfeld. I am Eadric of Grenfeld, an 11th Century Saxon, and I am a candidate for the office of Web Minister. I have been a member of the SCA and Sternfeld since January 2009. I am active in the Barony's archery group, and I am training to be an archery marshal. I have learned to build my own arrows, which I entered in the novice A&S competition at Simple Day last summer. In addition to archery, I am interested in medieval and renaissance history.

In the mundane world, I am known as Cleve Johnson. I left a 20-year banking career to teach general education courses at Harrison College (f.k.a. Indiana Business College), where I primarily instruct students in writing, oral presentation skills, and strategies for success, and I occasionally teach an introductory psychology course. I have also written and published a fantasy novella, which started as a short story in a creative writing class and was further developed into a creative writing thesis for my master's degree in English. I tend to be "right brain" dominant, which means I am creative. One way that I express my creativity is through maintaining a personal website, which has been online since 1999. The website previously focused on my hobby of writing Star Trek™ fan fiction, which is still on the site; however, I changed my home page to reflect my SCA and archery interests.

I am interested in the Web Minister position for several reasons. First, as mentioned before, I am a creative person with some personal web design experience. I think that I can take this experience and use it to add to Sternfeld's online presence. Second, I have some ideas about how to maintain the existing website that might appeal to the populace and visitors. Some of these ideas include updating the information frequently, removing dead links and adding new links that will provide more resources that appeal to the populace's various interests, and featuring occasional news

and articles by members of the barony. In addition, I would like to see the return of the *Sternfeld Star* to the website for those who are unable to attend activities where it is made available each month. The final and most important reason that I am applying for this position is that it will allow me to serve the barony as a whole. I love archery, and I committed to serve the archery group, but I also want to expand my level of service to all of Sternfeld.

I have spoken with Lord Antonio Bellini, who also seeks the position of Web Minister, and we think that we could make a good team since he works professionally as an Information Technology specialist. He has the technical knowledge needed, where I have the creative knowledge. Should Lord Antonio be chosen as Web Minister, I would gladly be willing to serve as his deputy.

Yours in service,
EADRIC
OF
GRENFIELD



MIDDLE KINGDOM AWARDS - ARTS AND SCIENCES

There are quite a few awards in the Middle Kingdom which are given for excellence in the Arts and Sciences.

The Willow and the Silver Oak are the first Arts and Sciences awards. They are the only two of this type that are differentiated based on whether the area of proficiency in question is considered an art or a science: Willows are given “to individuals who, in the sight of the Consort, have shown proficiency, but not yet mastery, in one or more of the peaceful arts (*MK Law XVII-502*),” while Silver Oaks are given “to individuals who, in the sight of the Consort, have shown proficiency, but not yet mastery, in one or more of the Sciences or in research (*MK Law XVII- 602*).” What is considered a science vs. an art is a topic of much discussion, and is not specifically outlined in Kingdom Law. The Silver Oak and the Willow are both Award-of-Arms-level awards, so if someone who has not yet received an Award of Arms is given either of these awards, they are considered armigerous. Bearers of either of these two awards are equivalent to each other in precedence, and are higher in precedence than those who bear a Purple Fret, King’s Chalice, or Doe’s Grace, but lower in precedence than those who bear a Grant of Arms. Those who bear the Willow may wear the willow-tree badge above, upon which the tree is golden while the background is purple. Those who bear the Silver Oak may wear the oak-tree badge above, upon which the tree is silver, with golden acorns, and the background is purple. They are addressed as Lord or Lady.



There is a Grant-of-Arms-level Arts & Sciences award as well, known as the Evergreen. This award is given to “individuals who, in the sight of the Crown, have both taught and shown excellence in one or more of the Arts, Sciences or in research (*MK Law XVII-2502*).” This award does not draw a distinction between arts and sciences, but as it is a more prestigious award, the work necessary to be worth of it is considerably higher. Not only must one be excellent in an art or science (or more than one of these), but it is

‘AnneMarie! Annemarie!’” they claimed, approaching the Thrones. “We brought him here thinking perhaps he was some special prisoner to whom the release ought not apply.”

AnneMarie was astounded, and proffered unto Their Majesties a key she had claimed from the body of the fallen Tyrant, noting that in the course of all their reign, she had never seen him take it from his person. The key did fit the lock, and the mask was painstakingly removed, only to reveal that the prisoner was none other than the good King Dag IV, captured these long months ago and held secretly, while the imposter-King sat his throne and oppressed his people. AnneMarie, teary-eyed with joy at this miraculous revelation, was granted leave to depart the Court, and the remainder of the Court was held with much astonishment and wonder at the events that had transpired.



DRACO
INVICTUS!



THE GRIM TALE OF HOW GOOD KING
RADAGAIUS ASCENDED TO THE THRONE
OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM,
OR,
I HEAR THAT'S WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS
TO TYRANTS...

So there we were, the faithful if beleaguered populace of the Middle Kingdom: Peers, nobility, and common man brought together to hear the high May Day court of His Majesty, the Dread King Dag, and AnneMarie, his patient, virtuous Queen. Many of you will remember the wrathful temper of His Majesty, how he had been tirelessly searching these many long months for the bandit known as Gray Thorne, and how his patience had been stretched well past the breaking point by the apparent incompetence of the Chivalry in apprehending this villain. Many vicious rumors had plagued their reign as well, and though there was no proving them, there was no disproving them either.

The court began with great pomp and ceremony, Her Majesty ascending to the dais in a radiant gown of purest white, while His Majesty accompanied her clad in the most somber, inky doublet imaginable. His Majesty began at once to address the populace, describing his great sadness at the depths to which the once-glorious Middle Kingdom had sunk since her youth, and his intention to usher in, by the sword if necessary, a new age of might and prestige. His aim, he announced in ringing tones, was to retake the neighboring Kingdom of Ealdormere, and thus begin the restoration of the Midrealm's glory. His intention being to wield Oathbinder himself at the head of the armies, he charged his champion, Sir Angus Gordon of Darkmoon, to relinquish the holy sword and go at once to prepare the Midrealm Army for the attack. This was speedily done!

No sooner had the obedient Knight departed, but an imposing figure clad in a grey cloak, face hooded, appeared at the back of Court. Gasps of shock and fear were heard as the dangerous bandit Gray Thorne challenged His Majesty, striding forward and throwing off his hood to reveal himself as none other than Radagaisus, Crown Prince and heir to the Dragon Throne! His Highness denounced the plan of ruthless conquest, claiming it unworthy of the noble Middle Kingdom and challenging the heavy-handed taxes the King had burdened the Baronies with, yet he stood alone, and

Dag laughingly assured him that he had known his true identity for some time, and only required that he reveal himself thus, a scoundrel, before all the people. The King then called for his court guards to seize the rogue for immediate justice.

At that very moment, a great clamor was heard at the back of Court, and Their Majesties of Ealdormere themselves, the mighty King Quilliam and the fair Queen Dagmar, appeared, with many fearsome warriors, to support the just complaint of Prince Radagaisus against the Dread Lord. His Majesty's guards were affrighted and fled for their lives, but Dag fearlessly summoned the Chivalry to his aid, bidding them dispatch the foreign threat and seize the rogue Prince.

The Chivalry of the Middle Kingdom assembled at the head of the hall, but with many wise looks between them, uncertain of their loyalties in this unexpected crisis, hesitated. In the tense silence, Earl Ullr Vindstygge, 78th King of the Midrealm, spoke unflinchingly:

“This is what it means to be a King: a King is not an all-powerful Sovereign; a King is a man given the duty to govern.”

His Grace, Duke Edmund of Hertford, 53rd Midrealm King, joined, his voice strong and unwavering:

“A King must bear the heaviest burdens and strike the mightiest blows, ever to be foremost in the boldest battle and last in the most desperate retreat.”

A King has no right to the common joys of living, no freedom to indulge his personal interests, tastes, and biases.

He is a sacrifice to the common people, a man who lives to serve by ruling, protecting the Kingdom by disciplining all private inclinations and sentiments, submitting himself to absolute objectivity and justice.

And, in the time of famine or leanness, as must come from time to time in every land, he must wear the finest raiment and laugh the heartiest at the lightest board of any man in all the Kingdom.

He must place his people's needs before all else.”

Together, they recited the many duties of a King, and the Chivalry, recognizing the wisdom of these Royal Peers and that the Dread Lord Dag

had shown himself no true King, but a tyrant among men, turned to a man and stood beside Prince Radagaisus, rightful Heir to the Throne.

Upon seeing this open rebellion, the Dread Lord grew uncommonly wroth, and he railed against the Chivalry and against the populace, his words the frustrated ravings of a man whose carefully-laid plans have tumbled into ashes at his feet.

Through all this, the good Queen AnneMarie stood by, weeping quietly in dismay at the untoward behavior of the King. This display of outright dishonor she could abide no longer, and so, steeling herself with the mettle of her high breeding, she lifted her chin and dispatched the tyrant herself, her dagger finding a home between his shoulder blades.

A great cry went up amongst the populace, and they were shocked and yet gladdened to see the tyranny of the King finally brought to justice. Queen AnneMarie bade her guards to dispose of the ‘rubbish,’ and when the body had been carried out of court, she sweetly and with great humility beseeched the Prince to claim the Throne that was rightfully his.

King Radagaisus was crowned at the hand of Duke Edmund, amid much tumultuous applause. Graciously, the Queen-that-was removed the ancient Crown from her own head, and as the Princess Ceinwen was escorted into the Court amid maidens bearing flowers and the sweetest of minstrels, AnneMarie passed the Crown through the succession of the Midrealm Queens of old, until at length it was received again by the new King, who claimed the priceless treasure of placing it upon his Queen's head.

Great was the celebration, and the hall swelled with joy as Barons, Peers, and common folk alike rushed forward to claim their right to swear their fealty to the noble King and Queen. Queen Ceinwen wisely assigned a company of Templars the duty of holding the hall securely, and King Radagaisus ordered that the Kingdom jails be emptied, that all who suffered under the Tyrant's reign be restored to their rightful occupations and cleared of wrongdoing.

The business of the Court was carried out with merriment and joy, until the moment came when Their Majesties must mete out justice to the widow-Queen-that-was. She knelt before Them with great humility, but before Their judgment could be passed, a pair of Knights appeared tumultuously at the back of court, bringing forth a prisoner with hair thick about his face, his head imprisoned in a leather and iron mask. “He can say only,