

THE BARGE

Gareth



JANUARY 28, AS XXII (1988)

Congratulations to the new Baronial Champion
BARON ALI ALKAZAR MUTASIM

CALENDAR

Monday, February 1

Deadline for March MEVS

Archery, 7:00, Arrow Point

Officers meeting, 7:30, Harald and Aleta's

Armorer's Guild, 7:30, County Stargaard

Wednesday, February 3

Dance, 7:30, Negay's

Thursday, February 4

Dance after meeting

Saturday, February 6

Costume Seminar, Forgotten Sea (Kansas City, MO) *

St. Paul, St. Carol-on-the-Moor (Charleston, IL) *

Monday, February 8

Archery, 7:00, Arrow Point

Music group, 7:30, Rafael's

Canton Riverhold

Wednesday, February 10

Dance, 7:30, Negay's

Thursday, February 11
BARGE deadline

Friday, February 12
Estrella War IV, Atenveldt (through Monday) *

Saturday, February 13
Beggars Feast, Jefferson Barracks *

Sunday, February 14
Historians Guild, 7:30, Asgeirr's

Monday, February 15
Archery, 7:00, Arrow Point
Officers meeting, 7:30, Elin Redlock's

Wednesday, February 17
Dance, 7:30, Negay's

Thursday, February 18
BARGE
Dance after meeting

Saturday, February 20
CalonCon/Midwinter Ball, Standing Stones (Columbia, MO) *
Copernican Follies, Carraig Ban (DeKalb, IL) *

Monday, February 22
Archery, 7:00, Arrow Point
Music group, 7:30, Rafael's

Wednesday, February 24
Dance, 7:30, Negay's

Saturday, February 27
Dance Seminar/Ball II, Nordskogen (Minneapolis, MN) *

Monday, February 29
Archery, 7:00, Arrow Point
Officers meeting, 7:30

Tuesday, March 1
Deadline for April MEWS

Wednesday, March 2
Dance, 7:30, Negay's

Thursday, March 3
BARGE deadline
Dance after meeting

Saturday, March 5
Legend of Roland, MoMountain (Grinnell, IA) *
Heraldic Symposium, Swordcliff (Springfield, IL)

Monday, March 7
Archery, 7:00, Arrow Point
Music group, 7:30, Rafael's
Armorer's Guild, 7:30, County Stargard

Wednesday, March 9
Dance, 7:30, Negay's

Thursday, March 10
BARGE

Saturday, March 12
Coronation, Lonely Tower (Omaha, NE) *



INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Costume Seminar Feb. 6 Forgotten Sea (KC, MO)

This is the third annual Costuming Seminar. It is being held in cooperation with the Johnson County Community College Community Services, and has been publicized by the college. There is no feast, no child care, and crash space is by individual arrangement only. The February MEWS lists a contact person for questions.

ST. PAUL Feb. 6 St. Carol-on-the-Hoor
(Charleston, IL)

This year's event focuses on the martyrdom of St. Paul the Simple. There will be a warlord tourney, on-site competitions in embroidery, cartography/architectural design, calligraphy, simple metaphysical problems, St. Paul the Simple's martyrology, and other surprises, seminars in dancing and arrow making, a musicians' conclave, and a feast. More information is in the January PALE.

ESTRELLA WAR IV Feb. 12-15 Phoenix, Arizona

This is really a war between Atenveldt and Caid, but more Calonfir fighters have been joining in each year. It is a camping event that has a water supply that the autocrats do not find palatable for drinking, and limited running water. Other information is in the February MEWS.

Beggars Feast Feb. 13 Jefferson Barracks

Mewt the Beggar has designed this event to benefit the Kingdom Endowment Fund. There will be lots of fun contests followed by a catered feast. For more information, talk to Lev't/ado/Brother Luvet Duquay. Also, please sign up for the crews needed to host this event. It should be fun.

CALONCON/MIDWINTER BALL Feb. 20 Standing Stones (Columbia, MO)

Officers meetings followed by a feast followed by court followed by a royal ball. Non-officers are also welcome to attend the meetings. Their Majesties will also be holding an Althing during the afternoon so that all might share questions and complaints about kingdom law and policy.

This is an event for those interested in astronomy. The birth-days of Galileo Galilei and Nicolaus Copernicus are marked by this celebration. Activities include contests in constellation identification, letter scrabble, an astrological quest, and embroidery, with the winner of the embroidery contest being seated at head table. There will also be lectures on ancient and medieval astronomy, astrology, and astronomical instruments. Details are in the January PALE.

DANCE SEMINAR/BALL II Feb. 27 Nordskogen (Minneapolis, MN)

Not much needs to be added to the title to describe this event; seminar schedule and class contents are published in the January PALE for those who are interested.

LEGEND OF ROLAND Mar. 5 NoMountain (Grinnell, IA)

"An event of epic proportions loosely based upon the 12th century work The Song of Roland." There will be several melees, an open arts and sciences display, contests in 12th century costume and best lais (medieval romance), and a potluck feast. For a list of feast contributions or event costs, please see the February MEWS.

CORONATION Mar. 12 Lonely Tower (Omaha, NE)

The theme for this event will be the age of Jean Froissart (1337 - 1410), English knight and historian. Competitions will be held for helms, fashion head gear (non-helms), masks, fighter's tabard (sewn by the fighter), and best heraldic display. There will also be a tourney for the populace, consisting of eight categories from which each contestant must choose no more than five. You must enter five categories to be eligible for the tourney. The feast will feature Crowned Flesh of Fowl and Beef Coronet in Burgundy Sauce, along with side dishes. The evening will end with a Royal Masked Ball. More information on all of this is in the February MEWS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the demo at the History Museum. It was very well received; 1590 people visited the Magna Carta exhibit on that day, as compared to about 1000 normally. I had a lot of fun, and I hope everyone else did, too. Aleja

Baroness Genevieve won a bottle of wine in Lord Gerald's raffle.

Chuck and Brianna have a new address. It is: Charles and Peggy Phillips, 519B Corsair Dr., Milton, FL 32570.

Duke Sir William and Duchess Mammara have a son, William Mark II.

Baron Tedrick was knighted at Twelfth Night in Lonely Tower, Sir Lars got a Laurel, and Lord Gerald won the brewing contest.

Master Harald won the storytelling contest at Yule Feast, and Zarifa's belly dancing won the feast entertainment contest.

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF PERIOD

The Influence of Johann Gutenberg

Johann Gutenberg is often called the inventor of printing, which is of course not quite true. What he actually did was to develop the first method of utilizing movable type and the printing press in such a way that a large amount and variety of written material could be printed with speed and accuracy. No invention springs full-blown from one person's mind, and certainly printing did not. Seals and signet rings which work on the same principle as block printing had been around and used since ancient times. Block printing had been known in China many centuries before Gutenberg, and, in fact, a printed book dating from 868 has been discovered there. The process was also known in the West before Gutenberg. Block printing makes possible the production of many copies of a given book. However it has a major drawback; since a completely new set of woodcuts or plates must be made for each new book, it was impractical for producing a large variety of books. Therefore Gutenberg's main contribution was the invention of movable type, or was it? Movable type was invented in China sometime in the middle of the 11th century, by a man named Pi Sheng. His original type was made from earthenware, and therefore not very durable; however other Chinese and Koreans made a series of improvements, and well before Gutenberg were using metal type. In fact the Korean rulers were supporting a foundry for the production of printing type in the early 15th century. Despite all of this it would be a mistake to think of Pi Sheng as a particularly influential person. In the first place Europe did not learn of movable type from China, but developed it independently. In the second place, printing by means of movable type never came into general use in China itself until recently, when it was learned from the west. There are four basic components of printing as known in period. 1. Movable type, along with the procedure for setting it and fixing it in position. 2. The printing press itself. 3. A suitable type of ink, and 4. a suitable material, such as paper, on which to print. It was paper which was the only element of the printing process that Gutenberg found ready-made. Gutenberg was the one who developed a metal alloy suitable for type (lead-based), a mold for casting blocks of type precisely and accurately; and oil-based printing ink; and a press suitable for printing.

Gutenberg's overall contributions were far greater than the development of any of the basics, or improvements on each. His influence lies in the fact that he was able to combine all aspects of printing into a system of production. Printing, unlike all prior inventions, is essentially a process of mass productions. A single rifle is in itself a more effective weapon than a single bow with arrow. A single book printed, however, is no different in its effect than a single book handwritten. The advantage of printing therefore is mass production. What Gutenberg developed was not a single gadget or device, or even a series of improvements, but a complete manufacturing process. Gutenberg was born, it is thought, in the year 1400, in the city of Mainz, Germany. His contributions to printing were made in the middle of the century and his best work, the Gutenberg Bible, was printed in Mainz in 1454. Gutenberg's influence is huge; with mass printing of the written word, many more people would be able to read and knowledge would be spread faster,

ideas shared sooner, and education advance. Without Gutenberg, the invention of modern printing may have been delayed for generations, or centuries, and in view of the overwhelming influence that printing has had on both period peoples as well as ourselves, Gutenberg's influence deserves a place as an Influential Person of Period.

Yours in service,
Philippe du Amolia, CoA



Ploughing (the month of March, from a calendar).

From the Dever Middle Ages Coloring Book.

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