

The Barge

A Letter From Their Excellencies

Greetings Friends and Companions,

We compose these letters, quill in hand, even as We prepare to journey to the south, called by the King and His Queen's war drums. Lest words go unspoken, should We fall in battle, We wish Our words to be heard.

Ever are we in debt and awe of the people of Three Rivers. At the gathering of the Chieftains your hospitality and courtesy were displayed to all of Calontir. Without your hard work we could never have hosted such a wonderful event. Deeds of Valor were done on both fighting fields. Crafts were displayed and stories told. The revelry after was likewise a source of future tales.

To quote a noble Knight, soon the land will green again as seasons keep turning, and thus with warmer weather and longer days, we are looking forward to hosting Their Majesties for Their Crown Tournament. Many of our folk will compete on that day for the opportunity to be Their Heirs. Let us make Them and all our Calon Kin welcome once more in our halls.

Our time runs short; the horn of war blasts more loudly. The time has come to journey to war, to answer Their Majesties' call and visit the lands to the south. Keep well Our fields and homes. Should We fall, we know some amongst you will rise to lead Three Rivers. However, know that We are wise in the ways of war and will return home soon with tales of glory and the word fame of those who traveled with Us.

Ever in Service,

Gwendolyn, Baroness Duncan Ealdorman



Spring's ART's & Sciences Classes

Please look for postings from Eva on Facebook and the B3R email list for upcoming class topics and dates.

What's New In What's Old

by Fiondal Songspinner

Think events and weekly meetings are the only place you can get your Medieval on?! Think again. Below is a list of wonderful events that can scratch that itch in-between events.

Cathedral Concerts

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
4431 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108

The Tallis Scholars: "Music from the Sistine Chapel"

Sunday, March 28th, 8:00pm—\$19-42

<https://cathedralconcerts.org/event/the-tallis-scholars/>

[From their website]

"Over four decades of performance and a catalogue of award-winning recordings for Gimell, Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars have done more than any other group to establish sacred vocal music of the Renaissance as one of the great repertoires of Western classical music."

Choir of New College, Oxford

Sunday, April 14, 7:30pm—\$19-\$42

<https://cathedralconcerts.org/event/choir-of-new-college-oxford/>

[From their website]

"The Choir of New College, Oxford is one of the most celebrated and acclaimed choral groups of the UK. When William of Wykeham founded his 'New' College in 1379, a choral foundation was at its heart, and daily chapel services have been a central part of college life ever since."

Schola Antiqua of Chicago: "Music in Secret"

Friday, April 26, 8:00pm—\$19-\$42

<https://cathedralconcerts.org/event/schola-antiqua-of-chicago/>

Program taken from pre-modern convents and abbeys.

Some highlights: "Ave generosa" Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

"Ave sanctissimae Maria" Anonymous, from *Musica quinque vocum motteta materna lingua vocata*: Venice, 1543. Three Matins responsory plainchants for the feast of the Annunciation from the late thirteenth-century antiphoner

at the Art Institute of Chicago, Mrs. William E. Kelley Collection, MS 1911.142b

Upcoming Events

March 2019

3/23-24, Spring RUSH

3/30-31, Golden Sea Regional
Fighter Practice

April 2019

4/6-7, Spring Spears

4/13-14, Spring Crown Tournament

4/20-21, Fool's War

4/27-28, Melon Wars; Spring War
College

May 2019

5/4-5, Unslung Heros

5/11-12, St. George & The Dragon

5/18-19, Melees & Mayhem; Spring
Arrows

5/23-27, Middle Kingdom 50th Year
Celebration

5/25-26, Valor

For more information about
Kingdom events:

<http://calendar.calontir.org>



TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Cappella Romana

Wednesday, May 8, 7:30pm—\$20

<https://www.touhill.org/events/detail/cappella-romana>

[From the website]

“Here Lingas conducts Venice in the East, a program of medieval Byzantine chant and related Latin works influenced by Byzantine Tradition from Crete and the Ionian Islands, which were ruled by the Venetians after the Latin conquest of Constantinople in 1204, and from Cyprus, a Venetian outpost from 1489 to 1571.”

ART INSTALLATION—ST. LOUIS LAMBERT AIRPORT

Mud to Music Exhibition

Lambert Gallery, C Concourse, through May 19

[From the website]

“Instruments on display are from a wide variety of regions, including Mexico, China and France, and range in date from 100 B.C.E. through the 1980s. The instruments also vary in type and include a clay rattle from western Mexico dating to 200 B.C.E., a 19 th century porcelain horn from China, and a 20 th century clay ocarina, in the shape of an elephant, from Israel.”

TIONÓL

<https://www.tionol.org/about-us>

2019 - APRIL 12, 13, 14

Music performance, workshop, group session, and gatherings.

Stifel Theater

SPAMALOT!

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm

\$35-\$85

Fort de Chartres

While the offerings at this French Colonial style fort are decidedly post-period, a great many of the crafts, demos, and merchants utilize things that hadn't changed substantially from the SCA time period through colonial days. (Besides which, a Rendezvous can be a lot of fun!). For a listing of the many events scheduled, see <http://www.fortdechartres.us/events/>

Missouri History Museum

5700 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

Tuesday 9 April 2019, 7:30 PM - Missouri Historical Museum Auditorium

Professor Alison Futrell, Associate Professor of Roman History with the University Arizona.

“Sex in the Roman Arena” [Joukowsky Lecturer for National AIA].

Wednesday 1 May 2019, 7:30 PM - Missouri Historical Museum Auditorium

Professor Emerita Gale Owen-Crocker from the University of Manchester; formerly Professor of Anglo-Saxon Culture and Director of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies.

“The Significance of the Bayeux Tapestry.”



SING, CALONTIR

by Lady Melanie de la Tour originally for Chieftains, February 23, 2019

Sing, Calontir, of wondrous deeds renowned
In choruses by noble muses shrined.
Now singers, bards, and poets laurel-crowned
Go forth in merriment no more confined.
Oh, sing again, the ancient songs be found,
Familiar lyrics brought again to mind.
Call forth the minstrels, let their songs resound,
And joy and music now be intertwined.
Let none forget the songs of Calontir,
Or let them languish, words and notes unsung.
Neglect not when your bards with voices clear
Tell stories of our battles bravely won.
In songs we praise and heroes lost revere.
Remember, Calontir, and sing as one.

Documentation

FORM: Sonnet; a 14-line poetic form which originated in the Sicilian court of Frederick II in the 1st half of the 13th century 1

RHYME SCHEME: ABABABABCDCDCD, also known as the Occitan Sonnet. The rhyme scheme was used by the Occitan poet, Paolo Lanfranchi in 1285 2.

METER: Iambic pentameter, which became the standard meter for English sonnets in the Renaissance 3.

ACROSTIC: Embedding messages in the first letter of every verse dates back to the Babylonians and was used extensively in classical Latin verse. Medieval vernacular poets who used acrostics include Chretien de Troyes and Dante 4 .

1 "Sonnet," in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, 4th ed., ed. by Stephen Cushman et al, Princeton University Press, 2012., p. 1319.

2 Mascitelli, Cesare. "Il Sonetto Provenzale di Paolo Lanfranchi Tra Raimbaut de Vaqueiras e la Corte D'Aragona," *Carte Romanze*, V.3 (1), 2015, p. 130.

3 "Sonnet," in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, p. 1318.

4 Titcomb, Caldwell. "The Josquin Acrostic Re-Examined," *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, V. 16 (1), 1963, p. 48-9.

Medieval Card Games

by Ragnheiðr Refsdóttir

History of Playing Cards

No one really agrees about the origins of card games. Some speculate that playing cards were developed in China, shortly after the development of pulp-made paper and wood-block printing technology. There is a popular theory that the 9th century Chinese "game of leaves" 1 (yezi ge) was played with cards. However, the "game of leaves" could have been played with pages of a book, or with individual cards printed with instructions instead of

suits.² That early date is unsubstantiated -- unsubstantiated I tell you! -- at least until better evidence may be found. The earliest extant Chinese playing card is dated to ~1400 CE.³



Four Cards From The Topkapi Deck



The Turfan Card

Card playing spread throughout Asia, reaching Europe in the late 14th century. The earliest extant cards and decks already depict the standard four suits of cards, each suit having 10 “pips” or numbered cards, and two to four face or “court” cards. Many early decks have extra cards with pictures of “worthies”, that is, saintly or mythological characters. A near-complete pack 14th century pack of cards -- actually, a compilation of three different packs -- was found in 1939 during the excavation of the Topkapi palace in Istanbul. ⁴

1 Lo, Andrew, “The Game of Leaves: An Inquiry into the Origin of Chinese Playing Cards”, Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Vol. 63, No. 3 (2000): 389-406.

2 Parlett, David, "Chinese Leaf Game", <http://www.parlettgames.uk/histocs/leafgame.html>, October 2018.

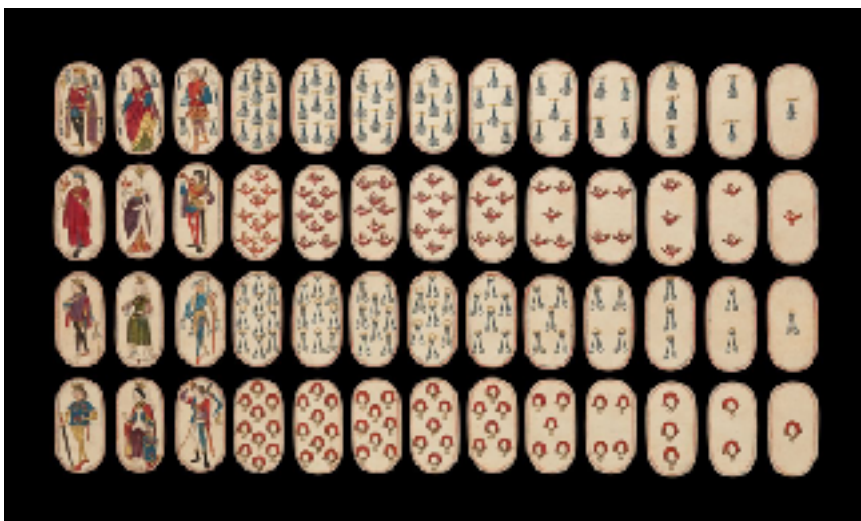
3 Needham, p. 138. Chinese playing card found near Turfan, dated c 1400 AD, during the Ming Dynasty.

Dimensions 9.5 cm by 3.5 cm. In the collection of the Ethnological Museum of Berlin.

4 International Playing Cards Society Journal, 30-3, page 139.

By 1380, playing cards had spread across Europe, as attested by regulations banning gambling with cards, and by account books recording their purchases.⁵ Both standard (52-card) cards and tarot cards were originally used for gambling and other games, not for divination.⁶

The earliest complete deck of playing cards is the Flemish Hunting Deck, or Cloisters Set. Hand-drawn and hand-painted on pasteboard, these cards were almost certainly made in the Southern Netherlands in 1475-1480. Previous owners sold it as an incomplete tarot deck. But it actually is a complete 52-card ordinary playing deck, in mint condition.



Flemish Hunting Deck

The oldest surviving tarot cards are individual cards from decks commissioned by Filippo Maria Visconti, Duke of Milan, and by his successor Francesco Sforza. These beautiful hand-painted and gilded cards are difficult to date precisely. Dates as early as 1417 have been proposed for the oldest Visconti deck.⁸ However, best internal evidence (styles of clothing and coins) points to production of these Visconti-Sforza decks between 1472 and 1463.⁹



“Death” from the Cary-Yale Visconti, deck



“Death” from the Pierpont-Morgan Visconti, deck

5 "Trionfi – Tarot and its history". Trionfi.co, October 2018.

6 Dummett, Michael (1980). The Game of Tarot. Duckworths. p. 1f. ISBN 0 7156 1014 7.

7 Set of Fifty-Two Playing Cards - Object Information". Metropolitan Museum of Art. October, 2018.

8 <http://trionfi.com/0/b/>. October 2018

9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visconti-Sforza_tarot_deck

How To Play The Game Of Tarot

Tarot, also known as Tarocchi, Trionfi, Triumphs, Tarock, and Trumps, is still popular in Europe. Tarot is widely played in Italy, Austria, and France, with many regional variations. It is a fairly simple trick-taking game. The object is to capture the most points. However, only some cards count as points, and scoring can be very complicated indeed. The following is the version I play, based on the simplified scoring described in Mary K. Greer's Tarot Blog.¹⁰

Deal out all the cards to the players. Leftover cards go to the dealer who can choose to discard and replace any from her hand, **except** she cannot discard the Kings or Trumps 0, 1 & 21. Only the dealer may do this!

Play moves counter-clockwise. The player to the right of the dealer leads by placing a pip card on the table. (Pips may also be called numbered, suit, or Minor Arcana cards.) **Each player must follow with a pip card of that suit.**

- If you do not have a card in the suit that was led you **MUST** play a trump -- that is, a picture or Major Arcana card.
- If you are out of both led suit and trumps, play any card (a throwaway).
- Whenever a trump card is played, the highest trump takes the trick. If there is no trump, then the highest card of the led suit wins. But you may play a trump only if you are out of cards in the led suit!
- Here's one of those regional variations that's fun to play: Cups & Coins are aces high and tens low, while Swords & Wands are tens high and aces low.
- The winner of the trick collects the cards and keeps them face down on the table.

- The winner leads for the next trick.
- Once a trump card has been played, you may lead with a trump. But until then, you must lead with a pip.

The Fool is a special card, known as “The Excuse.” If dealt the Fool, you can play it at any time instead of another card, but it can’t win a trick. However, the person who plays the Fool takes it back and keeps it with their tricks won. You usually play the Fool to protect a different card.

The Magician is worth double if it wins the last hand. Hold the Magician as long as you can.

Play continues until all cards in all hands are played.

10 <https://marykgreer.com/2008/10/14/simplified-game-of-tarot/>, October 201

Scoring

The player with the highest score wins the hand, and is the first dealer for the next hand.

To determine your score, wait until play is over. Then sort the cards you won into two stacks, using the Point table below:

- 1) Point Cards and
- 2) 0-Point cards

Points:

5 points: Kings and 21, 1, 0 of Trumps (World, Magician, Fool)

4 points: Queens

3 points: Knights

2 points: Jacks (Pages)

0 points: All others (including all Trump and suit cards except those named above)

First, give yourself a 10 point bonus if the Magician took the last hand.

Then, match one Point Card with two 0-Point Cards in sets of three, so there is only one point card per set of three. Each of these sets has the value of the point card. (Example: Queen of Cups, Seven of Swords, Wheel of Fortune has the value of the Queen of Cups = 4 points.)

Next, match leftover cards into sets as indicated below.

Leftover Cards: After separating into sets of three as described above, match any remaining cards as follows:

3 cards of 0-point value = 1 point (1 or 2 cards = 0 points)

2 or 3 cards in which two of the cards have point value = add point cards minus 1 pt.

3 cards in which three of the cards have point value = value of point cards minus 2 pts.

Yes, this is simplified scoring. Really. You may introduce your own variations to make it even MORE complicated. Have fun!

Upcoming Issues...

The Barge, Gulf Edition

The Barge, Crown Tournament Edition

The Barge, Quart 2 - Summer Issue (June, July, August)

LEGALITIES & THINGS

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