



The Barony of Unser Hafen

January 2015



Unser Hafen Calendar Link

<http://unserhafen.wix.com/unserhafen#!page3/cee5>

Calligraphy and Illumination Guild

Mondays, 6:30 - 9:00 at Newsom Hall, CSU,

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 at Wellmark, 3601 El Caminito Court, Loveland.

We will focus on learning new scripts, but anything scribal will work! Calligraphy bears no resemblance to handwriting, so even if your handwriting is terrible, come and give it a try!

Contact Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley for details: monroefischer@icloud.com

Craftsman's Guild

First & third Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00. See below for more information.

Contact Lady Rosamonde Carver for details and locations: aands@unserhafen.org

KINGDOM EVENTS

February

2015

7	Kingdom of the Outlands	Winter Feast		Michelle
7	College of Saint Golias	Southern War Practice		Fjallnir
7	Shire of Nahrun Kabirun	Masked Ball		Cecilia
8	Barony of Unser Hafen	Outlands` Cup		Alexander
14	To Be Determined	Kingdom Weekend		Lavan
21	Shire of Villaleon	Corazon de Leon IV		Ildaria
24-2	Kingdom of Atenveldt	Estrella War	K/Q	
28	College of Scola Metallorum	Engineer`s Feast		Christoff

March

2015

7	Barony of Dragonsspine	Candlemas	K/Q	Jeannette
8	Barony of Dragonsspine	Queen`s Prize	K/Q	Thorsteinn
14-15	Shire of Drygestan	Crown Tournament	K/Q/CP/CPs	Somisawhel
15-22	Kingdom of Meridies	Gulf Wars	K/Q	Gavin
28	Barony of the Citadel of the Southern Pass	Southern Pass Faire		Bjornhvitr
28	Barony of Caerthe	Dance Collegium		Elena

April 2015

4	Barony of Dragonsspine	Feast of Fools		Elora
11	Barony of Fontaine dans Sable	Kingdom Arts and Science Collegium		Alamanda
18	Canton of Hawks Hollow	Outlands Heralds and Scribes		Kilian
24-25	Canton of Ravenhyrst	The Golden Thimble		Magdalena

May 2015

2	Barony of al-Barran	Albuquerque Renaissance Faire		Elisee
9-10	Barony of Caerthe	Coronation		TBA

21-25	Canton of Hawks Hollow	Inlandish - Battle of 5 Armies	Yukihana
June 2015			
13-14	Barony of Caer Galen	Enduro	Thomas
18-21	Kingdom of Northshield	Northern Realms War	Bran (Outlands Contact)
19-21	Canton of Ravenhyrst	Ravenhyrst A&S Competition	Fergus
26-28	Shire of Aarquelle	Aarquelle Highlands Rapier Camp	Aegeon/Carmina
26-28	Barony of Unser Hafen	Heros and Legends	Alexander
July 2015			
24-26	Shire of Plattefordham	Here There Be Dragons	Vilmund
August 2015			
September 2015			
2-7	Kingdom of the Outlands	Battlemoor	TBA
3-7	Kingdom of Northshield	Known World Metal & Glass Symposium	Katriona
October 2015			
10	Barony of al-Barran	StagsCon	Adam
November 2015			
1	Barony of Fontaine dans Sable	Fontaine Toy Box	Mariah

2015 Tri Baronial Arts and Sciences Competition

Held in Caer Galen

What an awesome day! Congratulations to:
Lady Rosamonde Carver who is our new



A&S Champion and a new Argent Hart
Brian who is the Unser Hafen Baroness' Choice for his courage to enter his first A&S competition with his gorgeous coyote mittens

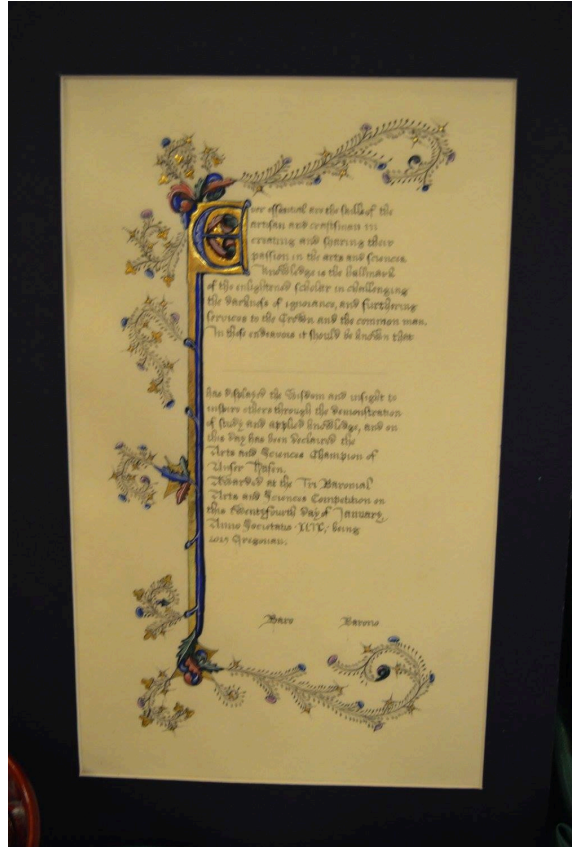
Lady Gwen who received her Award of Arms

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley who won the Visual Arts division, and is a new Builder of the Portcullis

THL Soren Thorvaldsson who received an Argent Hart and our Nobles' Gratitude
Ekkehardt Engelbrecht who received an Argent Hart

Lady Safiyya to whom the SCA version of 'Happy Birthday' was sung







Announcements:

Subscription to the Tossport: if your name needs to be corrected, or you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley at chronicler@unserhafen.org.

Althing: currently indoors, Sundays, 2:00 - 6:00, CSU Fieldhouse. It will include Arts and Sciences activities, music, dancing, and sociazing.

Lecture Series: The Middle Ages as seen in the Modern World

Presentations by
Baroness Agnes de Lanvallei and
Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley
Wellmark, 7:00 - 8:00

February 11th: Medieval Iceland as seen in the 21st Century

Baroness Agnes de Lanvallei

Having visited and enjoyed modern Iceland twice, I looked for what it could teach me about the Middle Ages. This evening at Wellmark I will show slides of Iceland chosen to illustrate points about what life was like in the Middle Ages: the interior of restored long houses; artefacts from museums; famous places including the Althing site, Gunnar's home from Neal's Saga.

March 11th: Medieval to Modern England

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley

A former resident and frequent visitor to England as well as a long-time student of the Elizabethan era, I will talk about life in Elizabethan England based on my experiences in modern England.

April 8: Southern Spain

Baroness Agnes de Lanvallei

May 13: Earlier England? China? What would you like???

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley

Would anyone else like to contribute to this historical series? Please contact Baroness Agnes de Lanvallei, kkeeler1@unl.edu

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The Outland's Cup II

February 8, 2015
2:00 - 6:00

Every Era calls forth a band of Heroes, a unit of fighters who show prowess in the individual arts of combat, as well as their skill as a team. The current Champions, the Warriors of Unser Hafen call forth a challenge to all Heavy units who would strive to hold The Outland's Cup!

When: February 8th

Where: The Glenn Morris Field House at CSU, Fort Collins CO.

Cost: Free

2:00 pm Site opens/ Sign up

2:30 pm Tourneys Begin. They will be simultaneously run. The first, second and third places of each tourney gain points toward their team total.

1st Field- Knights weapon of choice

2nd Field- Theigns weapon of choice

3rd Field- Stag's Bloods weapon of choice

4th Field- All other Fighters weapon of choice

4:00 pm 3 Person Melee Tourney (points for team)

5:00 pm 9 person Melee Tourney (points for team)

6:00 pm Site Closes

Start putting together your team. If you don't have a team, show up and we will put together teams on the spot or find you a team.

Event Steward: Alexander MacAndrew (Darrick Hildman)

dhildman@gmail.com 970-310-7778

Directions: Take your best route on I-25 to the East Prospect Rd. Exit to Fort Collins. Go West for 4 miles to College Ave. Turn Right on College Avenue and go North for .8 miles to Laurel Street. Turn Left and go West on Laurel St. for .1 mile to Mason St. Turn left and go South on Mason Street to the Field House which will be on your left.

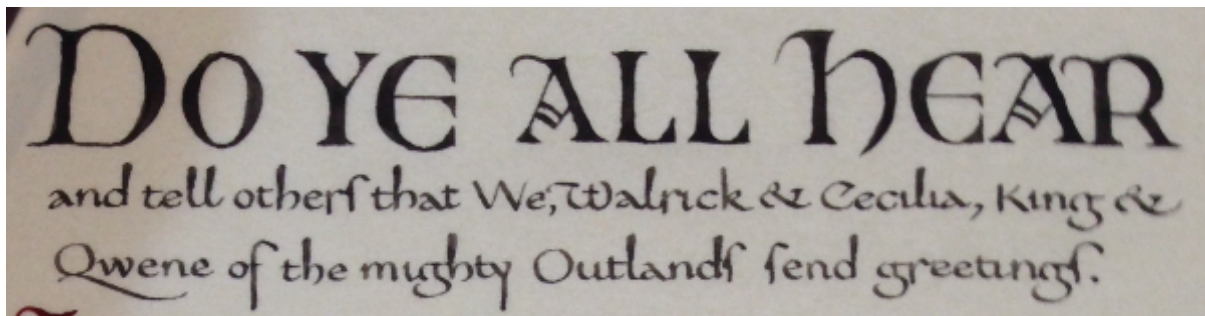
Craftsman's Guild

With the New Year upon us, there are new and exciting opportunities to make some fun stuff. Craftsman's guild is meeting twice a month the first and third Thursdays of every month (so the next meetings are February 5th and 19th, March 5th and 19th, and April 2nd and 16th), 6:30 at Wellmark Keep 3601 El Caminito Drive in Loveland, Colorado. We will be working on simple felting, the night of Feb 5th. All you need to bring is a large flat pan to felt in. All materials are provided for this one. Please bring clothes you aren't afraid to get wet. It really is fun to see loose wool turn into a solid fabric, just with the magic of warm soapy water.

The next three meeting nights will be devoted to soapstone molds and pewter casting.

For those projects we will be selling materials at cost, by weight of pewter used and size of stone used, so if you cast small things it will cost less than large projects. You can learn a simple casting technique and come home with decorative belt mounts, buttons, buckles or a pendant. The mold is yours to use again and again. All tools are provided, just bring your creativity.

For directions or questions please call Rosamonde Carver, AKA Kathy Vinson, at 970-775-7498. Come out and play with us!



Calligraphy

Experienced scribes, come polish your style or learn a new script!

Beginners, come learn the beautiful art of lettering!

All are welcome

Mondays at Rammes Keep

Newsom Hall, CSU

6:30 - 8:30

Tuesdays at Wellmark

3601 El Caminito Court, Loveland

6:00 - 8:00

For more information contact

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley

monroefischer@icloud.com, 970-669-9213

Estrella War XXXI

February 24 - March 2, 2015

Are you going?

<http://estrellawar.org>

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GUILDS, ACTIVITIES, GATHERINGS

Archery Practice: See the Unser Hafen Populace Facebook page for Unser Hafen Archers at: [Unser Hafen Archers](#). Contact Lord Thomas Marston, 970.599.0714

Archery Practice in Bofharrach: Contact His Excellency Tracker, Baro of Unser Hafen, baron@unserhafen.org.

Artisan's Day: A gathering of artisans in the Barony. Coordinated by THL EllaAnne de Kari, ellaanne.dekari@gmail.com

Baronial Business Meetings: Third Friday of every month, Perkins Restaurant at Crossroads, dinner at 6:00, meeting 7:00 – 9:00. Contact seneschal@unserhafen.org. For carpooling from Ft. Collins contact EllaAnne de Kari at ellaanne.dekari@gmail.com. From Loveland contact Anne Morley at chronicler@unserhafen.org.

Baronial Populace Gatherings: Quarterly. Contact seneschal@unserhafen.org.

Bofharrach Officer's Meetings: Last Friday of each month, Perkins Restaurant meeting room, 227 Greeley Mall. Contact Lord Nicolaau Machado, bofharrach_seneschal@unserhafen.org

Boffharach Populace Gathering: First Friday of each month, locattion to be announced each month. Contact Contact Lord Nicolaau Machado, bofharrach_seneschal@unserhafen.org

Blacksmithing & Bowyer's Guild: Contact Master Thorfinn Greybeard, 970.667.1284

Brewer, Vintners & Cordials Guild: Contact Master Thorfinn Greybeard, 970.667.1284

Calligraphy and Illumination Guild: Mondays at Newsom Hall, CSU, Tuesdays at Wellmark in Loveland. Contact Lady Anne Morley, 970.669.9213, monroefischer@icloud.com

Cantores Lupini: Contact Lady Danielle de la Rochelle, mol@unserhafen.org

Chandler's Guild: Contact Lord Liam MacMillan, 970.622.0132, bill.colby@comcast.net

Craftsman's Guild: the first and third Thursdays of the month. Contact Lady Rosamonde Carver, aands@unserhafen.org

Equestrian Practice: Contact Lady Cecelia O'Connor, 970.420.6652

Althing: Fighter Practice and Populace Gathering. 2:00 pm, Sunday afternoons at the Fieldhouse, CSU.

The Worshipful Company of Leathercrafters: Contact Lady Cecelia O'Connor, 970.420.6652



Website



Unser Hafen Yahoo Site



Facebook



His Excellency
Baro Tracker
baron@unserhafen.org

Her Excellency
Barono Meadhbh
Daingen int Slebhe
baroness@unserhafen.org

Court Stewards - Clan MacColla
Court Herald - Sir Felix Sniumi

Largesse Coordinator -
Defender - Sir Felix Sniumi
Protector - Don Tristan Grey
Warden - Master Daffyd of Emmett
Equerry - M'Lady Tracy
Arts & Sciences Champion - Lady Rosamonde Carver
Pencerdd Bard - Lady Danielle de la Rochelle
Baronial Guard - Lord Ekkehardt, Sir Kolgrimm Olafsson, M'Lord Morgan of
 Dragonsspine, Lord Fredrick of Long
Ladies in Waiting - Lady Danielle de la Rochelle, Lady Jennifer

BARONIAL OFFICER LIST

Seneschal:

Lord Gerrit d'Orleans
 (Ethan Hall) 909.568.7155
seneschal@unserhafen.org

Chancellor of the Exchequer:

Lady Elyse
 (Deb Brannock)
exchequer@unserhafen.org

Deputy Exchequer:

Mistress Agnes deLanvallei
 (Kathy Keeler)
exchequer@unserhafen.org

Barbican Pursuivant Herald:

Lady Saffiya bint Faris al-Dani
 (Joshi Solomon Freville)
herald@unserhafen.org

Knight Marshal:

Sir Alexander MacAndres
 (Darrick Hildman)
knightmarshal@unserhafen.org

Marshal of Fence:

Lord James MacPhearson
 aka Haggis

Minister of Arts and Sciences:

Lady Rosamonde Carver
 (Kathryn Vinson)
aands@unserhafen.org

Quartermaster: OPEN
Hospitaller/Chatelaine:

Lord James MacPhearson aka Haggis
 (Nolan Smith)
hospitaller@unserhafen.org

Chronicler:

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley
 (Marjorie Monroe-Fischer)
chronicler@unserhafen.org

Webminister:

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley
 (Marjorie Monroe-Fischer)
uhwebminister@gmail.com

Archivist:

Mistress Theresea die Tanzerin
 (Terry Foppe)
archivist@unserhafen.org

Scribe:

(Nolan Smith)
fence@unserhafen.org

Captain of Archers:
Lord Thomas Marston
(Ronald Whittaker)
archery@unserhafen.org

Lady Perryn Coelbrand
(Robin Lagro)
scribe@unserhafen.org

Chirurgeon: OPEN
chirurgeon@unserhafen.org

Minsier of Lists:
Lady Danielle de la Rochelle
(Nikki Wasinger)
mol@unserhafen.org



CANTON OF BOFHARRACH OFFICER LIST

Bofharrach Seneschal:

Lord Nicolaau Machado
(James Freeville)
bofharrach_seneschal@unserhafen.org

Exchequer:

Baroness Helen Boudain
(Kathy Egan)
bofharrach_exchequer@unserhafen.org

Herald:

Lady Madeleine de Seraucourt
(Erin Miller)
bofharrach_herald@unserhafen.org

Seneschal of Rammes Keep

Lord Giovanni
(Giovannie Velez)
gnvelez@mail.colostate.edu
ramskeep_seneschal@unserhafen.org

Templar Sergeant of the UNC Middle Ages Society
aka Grummbär Halten
Baldwin de la Berne
(Dane Banner Barnes)
barn8810@bears.unco.edu



Cool winter greetings to the Populace Unser Hafen!

We hope this letter finds you all well and warm in the new year!

The winter feasting has been generous and filled with good times. Our thanks to Countess Rosalind and Master Thorfinn for opening up their home to us so that we could all celebrate the Yule. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Our Fighters and fencers have been diligently practicing in preparation for War. His Majesty, Hrothgar, had many compliments for our fighting force at War Practice in December. He hopes to have many of you fighting by his side at Estrella.

Our neighbouring Baronies and Shires have been hosting numerous wonderful holiday events. It has been our pleasure to enjoy their hospitality.

We are pleased to welcome Lady Rosamonde Carver as our new Arts and Sciences Champion!

Thank you to Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley, our outgoing Champion. Also, Soren Thorvaldsson, Ekkehardt Engelbrecht and Rosamonde Carver received the Argent Hart from the Crown, and Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley received the Builder of the Portcullis. Congratulations all! We feel very privileged to witness the enormous growth of Tri Baronial A&S Competition over the last few years. It is a great way to prepare for Queen's Prize and Kingdom A&S.

The Outlands Cup is returning on February 8th. Come show your skill at arms!! At the end of January, we will be heading to The Shire of Plattefordham to celebrate with them at Candlemas. On February 21st, everyone is invited to The Shire of Villaleon for their event, Corazon de Leon. There will be fighting, fencing and archery in addition to what historically has been a great feast. On the first weekend of March, the Barony of Dragonsspine is hosting not only their Candlemas but Queen's Prize as well. We would like to encourage our Tri-Baronial artisans to enter for

Her Majesty's pleasure! Crown Tournament in March will be held in the Shire of Drygestan. We will be present when the Crown greets their new Heirs! And for all the fabulous dancers in Unser Hafen, the Barony of Caerthe invites you to enjoy A World of Dance, Dance Collegium, spear-headed by THL Elena Isabella de Glastonbury.

Further in the future, the Baronies of Unser Hafen, Caerthe, Dragonsspine and Caer Galen will be joining together with our local Shires to participate in the spectacle that will be "Inlandish, the Battle of the Five Armies". To be held over the Memorial Day weekend in Caerthe. More to follow later!

Until then, we remain yours in service,

Tracker and Meadhbh

Baro and Barono of Unser Hafen

Letters from Officers

From the Seneschal:

Happy New Year everyone. Let's have a good year!

Yours is service,

Lord Gerrit d'Orleans
Seneschal of Unser Hafen

From the Exchequer:

Greetings,

2014 was a great year in Unser Hafen. We hosted 3 big events: Tri-Baronial A&S, Coronation and Newcomers. Profits were sufficient to keep our Barony financially stable into 2015. With plans for two big events this year we should do well. Please come and help at Heroes and Legends, and Newcomers to ensure our continuing success.

In service,
Lady Elyes,
Unser Hafen Exchequer

From the Arts and Sciences Minister:

Greetings good Gentles,

These past few months have been busy ones here in Unser Hafen.

We had a Tri Baronial A&S competition on the 24th of January. Some excellent work was shown by Unser Hafen individuals. Congratulations to all who attended and showed their good works! Brian of Unser Hafen was chosen as Baroness' choice for his display of fur mittens (he bravely showed his work for the first time!), and also displayed his leather bottles. Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley, our awesome outgoing champion, was awarded a Builder of the Portcullis (and she also provided a beautiful champion scroll). Lady Rosamonde Carver won A&S Champion, and was awarded an Argent Hart. Soren Thorvaldsson was awarded an Argent Hart and Noble's Gratitude. Ekkehard Engelbrecht was awarded an Argent Hart, and Safiyya bint Faris al-Dani had a viking "Happy Birthday" sung by all in court. Valbjorn Juleson had a display of hand made tools. Also a Big thanks to all the Unser Hafen folks who stepped up to judge! Thank you!

Our Guilds are going strong, and there are tons of opportunities to learn new things.

The Calligraphy Guild headed by Lady Anne Morley meets at Rammes Keep (Newsom Hall, CSU) Mondays from 6:30 – 8:30, and at Wellmark on Tuesdays from 6:00 – 8:00. All are welcome, experienced scribes and beginners. For more information please call Lady Anne Morley (Marjorie Monroe-Fischer) at 970-669-9213.

The Craftsman's guild is finished with leather bottles. We have moved on to felting and then casting pewter in soapstone. Craftsman's guild meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at Wellmark Keep in Loveland at 6:30. If you have questions please call Lady Rosamonde (Kathy Vinson) at 970-775-7498.

With Tri Baronial over, there are new challenges to think about. I would encourage folks to start considering entering for Queens Prize, March 8th in Dragonsspine, its a wonderful opportunity to show your work!

Queen's Prize Tournament is a mentoring and learning opportunity for artisans in the Outlands. The focus of this competition is not scores but that of mentoring and networking. You will NOT be judged, if you request there will be feedback forms available for you to receive feedback however there will not be scores involved. Anyone who has been recognized with an Award of Arms level Arts and Science award or less (in the field of Arts and Sciences only, so even Knights and Pelicans can enter as long as they have not been recognized for their arts any higher than an AoA level arts award) can enter. Each entrant must be sponsored by either a Lady of the Rose or an individual who has been recognized with a Grant of Arms level award in the arts or higher. Each Sponsor

will be expected to bring a gift to give to an entrant that they do not sponsor for every entrant that they do sponsor. So if a person sponsors two entrants then they need to bring two gifts. If you would like to volunteer to help with the event please contact the competition coordinator at Vandringsmann@Gmail.com. Please refer to the Kingdom Arts and Sciences page at: www.kmoas.outlands.org for rules and regulations. Register by emailing the competition coordinator at Vandringsmann@Gmail.com,

Registration will require the following information, Title of Entry, Entrant Name, Entrant Email, Sponsor's Name, Sponsor's Email. Registration of entries will be due on or before March 1st, 2015. Research Papers will have to be electronically submitted to Vandringsman@Gmail.com no later than February 22nd, 2015. Queens prize competition coordinator is Master Thorsinn Vandringsmann. and can be reached at Vandringsmann@Gmail.com or by phone at 719-271-5496 (no calls after 9pm please).

Well that wraps it up. Keep on creating, Unser Hafen!

Lady Rosamonde Carver
Minister of Arts and Sciences for Unser Hafen

From the Marshal of Fence and the Hospitaller:

Alright Ladies and Gents, Lords, Ladies and Various Nefarious

We are in a new year, with new players and new events!

It is spring, so pile up all of your old, unused gear and find it a new home! Please contact myself, Baroness Helene, or Sir Felix, and we can hold swaps, tournaments and gatherings to see that your dusty treasures free your shelves and end in the hands grateful and excited players!

Got an unfinished project, or one that you want to start? We will be holding crafting days this summer at many locations. Grab crafts-persons and set a date! We've created wonders in the SCA, but as often as not we've also created piles of parts that just need a day and some company to complete. Check the newsletters, fighter practices and Facebook pages and come join us to finish something wonderful that will outlive you and make you a legend!

This last year we've seen greater gatherings for crafts and fighting than in the previous five years, and everyone came away with something awesome or the seed of a new idea. Our new players are enthusiastic and I can vouch for that being both contagious and incredibly energizing.

We do amazing things in this Society we have created and nurtured. Fresh eyes and new faces help remind of of that, so reach out, teach, and learn.

I would also like to add to all one significant pointer for all this year and the next: For many the SCA is a much needed escape and even a family. The world of Mundane politics can be a draining, divisive, and sometimes viscous thing many are escaping. We all feel very strongly

about the things we believe, but to keep our groups close please leave these arguments and rants at home. Be ready to remind others in friendly way, and accept the reminder yourself, that what is most important are the bonds we have in common. The rest is just Mundane, and we call it that for a reason.

Yours in conscription,

Haggis of Unser Hafen

From the Captain of the Archers:

To the Populace of Unser Hafen, Bofharrach, and any others who wish to attend:

Greetings!

With the coming of the promise of spring, and hopefully May flowers, it is once again time to see who is interested in archery.

I will start the year with scheduling archery practice on May 2nd, weather permitting, in Eastman Park on the south side of Windsor from 11:00 - 1:00. There is no charge for this site. All you have to do is show up with your equipment (or use loaner gear), snacks and drinks as you see the need. The Barony has some loaner gear which includes two youth bows for those who would like to try the sport. It is a stand up sport, unlike fighting where, if you are like me, you get hit a lot.

Directions: From Windsor take 7th Street south and turn left on Lake Lake Road to the parking area. From Highway 34 go north on County Road 17 (the stop light at the auto dealer plaza) and turn left on Lake Lake Road to the parking area.

In service,
Thomas Marston
Aka Ron Whittaker

From the Webminister:

The website is still a work in progress. I could really use your help with details of events, announcements, etc.. If you see any problems, or have any ideas, please email me at uhwebminister@gmail.com.

Yrs in Service,
Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley

From the Chronicler:

Greetings, revered Populace of Unser Hafen! Here is your quarterly Tossport. I would be especially interested if you have suggestions for articles, or articles of your own and/or photos to include. Please send them to me at chronicler@unserhafen.org.

Yrs in Service,
Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley

From the Seneschal of the Canton of Bofharrach:

Greetings to the Populace of Unser Hafen and to its Canton of Bofharrach!!!

It is a new year and as such we are all looking forward to new events. Bofharrach had a great time hosting Brewer's Feast last year and would love to have it again!!! Unfortunately, the site we had it at last year is no longer available to us and we are in search of a new site to host us. If you know of a place willing to have a bunch of great brewers and enthusiasts enjoy the labor of their brethren please let myself, His Lordship Soren Thorvaldson, or Safiyya Bint Faris Al Dani know.

The site must be wet (obviously) to allow outside alcohol, and be large enough to hold a bunch of Scadians. We have thought about making it camping event so outside event options are welcome as well. Thank you in advance for your help.

Nicolaau Machado
Seneschal of Bofharrach

From the Seneschal of Rammes Keep:

Greetings!

Rammes Keep is a CSU organisation. We do fencing, calligraphy and belly dancing, and are open to other activities. We keep growing, continually adding members and continually seeing new faces. We have put on a small intro event on campus during the fall and hope to put on another next fall to gain more student interest. We would also be interested in having some experienced fencers come by every once in a while to teach us, and for a bit of variety!

Yours in service,

Giovanni
Seneschal of Rammes Keep

From the Templar Sergeant of the UNC Middle Ages Society:

Greetings!

The UNC Middle Ages Society intends soon to transform into an SCA college. For matters of simplicity, we've simply taken to referring to the group as 'Brummbär Halten' with our peers in the SCA. Brummbär Halten is a Germanic term meaning 'The Bear Hold.'

For the spring semester of 2015 Brummbär Halten has renovated a gym space which we intend to use for fighter practices and other activities every Monday night from 7:30 to 10:00. Our exact location is Gunter Gym, room 1840. Please join us!

Yours in service,

Baldwin de la Berne
Templar Sergeant of the UNC Middle Ages Society

Eleanor of Aquitaine

Queen Consort of France and England

Part I

by

Lady Anne Elizabeth Morley
(Marjorie Monroe-Fischer, 26th Great Granddaughter)



Eleanor of Aquitaine ‘surpassed all the queens of the world.’ At the same time it was said that ‘by reason of her excessive beauty, she destroyed or injured nations.’ (Weir, *A Life of Eleanor of Aquitaine*, notes on a photo of the effigy of Eleanor of Aquitaine.) Either way, she made quite a name for herself in the history of Europe.

Eleanor was born c. 1122, probably near Bordeaux, France. Her father was William X, Duke of Aquitaine, making her heir to a vast land. She grew up in luxury amongst royalty. Upon his death Eleanor became, at age 15, the most ‘eligible heiress in Europe.’ (BBC History website) Later that year she married Louis VI’s eldest son, Louis, merging her land and his. Six days later Louis VI died and Eleanor became queen of France.

In 1147 Eleanor joined her husband in the Second Crusade, arriving in Constantinople on October 4th. Reports from period sources allege that while on Crusade she was in an adulterous affair with Raymond of Poitiers, the current ruler of Antioch, and also with the future Turkish Emir, regardless of the fact that he was only thirteen at the time. Many of the stories of Eleanor’s time in the Holy Lands come from writers of future romances. Contemporary biographers suggest that she was simply weary of her relationship with her husband. Louis, she felt, was more of a monk than a husband. The following year, while still in the Holy Land, she told Louis that they could no longer remain together as they were ‘related into the fourth and fifth degrees.’ (John of Salisbury as quoted in Weir, p. 66) Eleanor tried unsuccessfully to divorce Louis, but was refused by the Pope. Back in France after the failed Crusade, Louis grew unhappy with his queen as she had not born him the required male heir, only two daughters.

Meanwhile, over in England Henry I had died, and there was a war going on between Matilda, Henry I’s daughter who was his choice for the English monarchy after her brothers had been drowned in the White Ship disaster (Weir, p. 78), and her cousin Stephen of Blois. The barons, who had sworn to Henry I that they would support Matilda as queen, broke their promise and crowned Stephen instead. Matilda, who had fled to France, was determined to take her inheritance so she raised an army and invaded England in 1139. She arrived in London victorious, but Stephen regained

power, and Matilda was forced to flee back to France. She continued her campaign against Stephen for six years. Matilda's husband, Geoffrey, nicknamed 'Plantaganet' because of the *planta genista* or broom flower that he wore in his hat, conquered Normandy which considerably hurt Stephen's cause in England. The name 'Plantaganet' would be used for the next dynasty of English Kings, from Henry II in 1154 through Richard III in 1485.

In 1148 Matilda stepped down from her claim as Empress in favour of her son Henry. The barons and people of England, sick of civil war, were pleased to support Henry of Anjou, Henry I's grandson, when he arrived from France. Henry was quite formidable in appearance, unusually literate, but had an horrendous temper. When in a rage he was known to roll around on the floor, purple faced and screaming (Ibid, p. 82).

In August of 1151 as Louis VII was figuring out how to get rid of Eleanor Count Geoffrey of Anjou (Matilda's husband) and his son Henry visited Paris. Apparently there was an immediate attraction between the still beautiful, twenty-nine year old Eleanor and the fiery red-headed Henry, eleven years her junior. Both had very strong personalities and very strong sex drives. It has been speculated that they decided to marry, once Eleanor was free, during Henry's visit.

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