

The Newsletter of the Shire of Rokkehealden



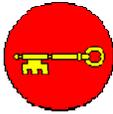
Glyph Notes

March - April 2006

Late Winter, Early Spring
(when everyone goes to Cozumel)

Shire of Rokkehealden

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Disclaimer

Glyph Notes is a publication of the Shire of Rokkehealden of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. A hard copy of the Glyph Notes is available by request from the Chronicler for \$10 per year (six bimonthly issues). Glyph Notes is not a corporate publication of the SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies, except the policies of the Shire of Rokkehealden as reported as Moot business. So There.



Oyez! Oyez!

Regularly Scheduled Shire Events

Social Gathering/Monthly Moots/A&S Nights

The following dates in March through June have been reserved for the shire's social gatherings, A&S nights, and moots - All these dates are on Thursdays except where noted:

March 2

March 22 Moot (Please note this is a WEDNESDAY)

April 6

April 27 Moot

May 3 (Please note this is a WEDNESDAY)

May 25 Moot

June 1

June 29 Moot (Please note this is the FIFTH Thursday)

The room at the library is available for our use from 6:30-8:45 pm. Moots are now beginning at 7:30 pm.

The library is located on Oak Brook Road (31st Street) between York Road and Route 83. Very easy to find!

Oak Brook Library
600 Oak Brook Road
Oak Brook, Illinois
630-990-2222

Fighter Practice

Fox Vale - Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Aurora Community Center
Youth Boffer: First Monday of each month, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Aurora Community Center. Call Acelina at (630) 378-5413 for more information

Grey Fox - Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00 pm, Nedweski Park, Kenosha, WI

Ayreton - sponsored by Grey Gargoyles, Sundays, 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago Campus (near the Museum of Science & Industry).

Arts and Sciences / Calligraphy & Illumination

First and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm, at the Oak Brook Library. See *'Weekly Shire Gatherings/Moots'* above.

Contact Fiona (svalentine_98@yahoo.com) for more information.

Archery

Archery has concluded for the season. Participants will be notified when it resumes in the spring.

Heraldry (Sponsored by the Incipient Shire of Foxvale)

Second and fourth Thursdays at the home of Thorvald Redhair (Ron Sargent), from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Come and learn armorial research as we comment on the Middle Kingdom's Internal Letters of Intent. Contact him at thorvaldr@wowway.com for address and directions.



Arts and Sciences Competition

Akiko Catherine O'Brien

Arts and Sciences Competitions happen at regional and kingdom level each once a year. The next is April 29, 2006: the Midlands Regional A & S. See the Midrealm calendar for details.

Many people don't bother entering for a variety of reasons. A few of those reasons I've heard over and over again. "I'm not good enough to compete with others." "Documentation! I don't know how to do that." "I'm not good at writing." And the list of excuses go on and on. These are very valid excuses. It can feel intimidating but it doesn't have to be.

I honestly have no clue for the perfect format of A & S. All I can say is do your best. Remember, you are competing only with yourself. Don't be afraid or too shy to ask for help, spell-checking or looking at sentence structure. It was once said to me that a good, well-written paper would be one that anyone could read and reproduce the results. I haven't gotten there yet but I'm getting closer. I hope after reading this the many talented members of the shire enter some of their most beautiful projects this year. ☺

Before doing anything go to Middle Kingdom Arts and Sciences Page (<http://www.midrealm.org/moas/criteria/contents.html>) and look up the criteria for participation in your category or field. There's also a youth section. I encourage our young people to enter. Read it. It's usually one to two pages long. There's also other good information there.

This will help guide you when you write up your docs. When I write docs I use this as a guideline to structure my paper. Keep a running list of your sources. When you finally start writing the actual paper it will help having the information right at hand. Trying to remember sources can lead to frustration and leaving out valuable information.

It's not how long your paper is but how complete it is. I've been told that for my area of interest, it should be around two pages of solid work. Now someone else in a different area might have 10 pages. I judged an entry with only ¾ of a page. So complete, concise, and focused is what a paper should be by the end of writing. As you put your paper together, keep in mind the following questions:

- ❖ Who is your audience? If you're using obscure terms, make sure you explain their meaning.
- ❖ Where did you come up with the idea for your project? Where did you get your information? Is it a reliable source? Be very careful of plagiarism - my personal pet peeve.
- ❖ When did you start it and finish it?
- ❖ How did you make your project? Be specific.

- ❖ What materials did you use to achieve your project? Don't be ashamed if you used modern materials to achieve a period effect. Explain why. What did you learn from this project?

Don't assume your judge is an expert in your subject area. If you've done a technique that isn't obvious but important to the piece, state that. Explain it. If you used a modern technique versus a period technique, explain why you choose that technique. You may not get all the points but you will get something. I've entered using modern materials. At the time, it was for safety reasons and from total cluelessness how to do it with period materials. Over time, I've learned how to work with different things and so that reason is now changed. This will happen to you as well, depending on your starting skill level and your desire to go further with your project. It's also nice to look back and see how you've improved from then to now.

Consider shadowing a judge. This can also be helpful as you go through the steps of writing your paper. It also lets you see what it's like through the judges' eyes. And it's a fun thing to try. I've done this and even judged. I've learned a whole new way of looking at work.

There is something called Face to Face Judging. For this you have to be available when the judges are ready to judge. I've done this once and it worked out really well. No guarantees. It's just another potential path to be explored. My understanding is that this is up to the judge.

There is also entering for comment only. You won't receive a score, just comments about your entry. I've never done this but there are those who like it.

Then there's the most popular way, judging and score sheets with a total.

Judging Criteria

There are six categories. The points are 0-30. *(For more details read the judging criteria at <http://www.midrealm.org/moas/criteria/contents.html>)*

1. Documentation(0-4): The judges will be looking to see if your paper flows. Don't pad it with flowery words. Be factual and make sure it's written in a coherent manner. Make sure obvious grammar errors and spelling are checked. If it's written poorly, chances are very high you will receive a low score. This is also

Arts & Sciences Competition, Continued

a good time to talk about where you got your sources. Is it a primary source? Secondary source? And so forth.

Make at least three copies, so more than one judge can see your paper. This is not a requirement, just a nice thing to do. If you used books as one of your sources, I suggest you copy what you used and put it out on the table. You could leave the book but if it's a very small area it can be crowded and that source can be overlooked.

Also, if it's a very, very expensive book: Are you going to be ok if by accident, it gets finger prints or dirt on it? IMHO, it's better to be safe than sorry.

2. Methods and Materials (0-4) In short, "How period is your entry?" If you used modern materials, explain why. Is it for safety reasons? Don't assume. Explain it. If you used a quill or whatever, if possible, display it. If you used modern materials, how did you achieve a period feel and look?

3.Scope (0-6) The judges will rate the ambition of the project. They will look at things like techniques required, the variety of elements combined and so forth.

4. Skill (0-6) This used to be called workmanship. Did you take care when making your project? Does it have smooth lines? Is it clean? Or does it look like your dog chewed it up?

5. Creativity (0-4) This is up to you!!

6. Judges' Observation (0-6) This section is very objective. It's the only part of the scoring where the judge's opinion and personal feelings can come into play. Basically it's the overall effect of the entry. If you don't understand your scores, ask the person who judged it. Don't wait. Many times judges will forget your work in a short time. This is not done on purpose. I have questioned comments and after it was explained it made a world of difference. Don't let feelings stew. If you read a comment

that came across poorly, ask why that person thought that way.

Also, why are you entering? Are you entering to gain some knowledge and improvement about your project? Or you want the highest score? Or just wanted to see what it's like? Whatever your reason, make sure you know what it is and what you hope to get out of this experience. If you get something back that a judge wrote and you just don't understand it, go talk to them. Judges are people too. Be polite and open to all comments both positive and negative. I know first hand the negative part is not easy to hear, be it written or verbal.

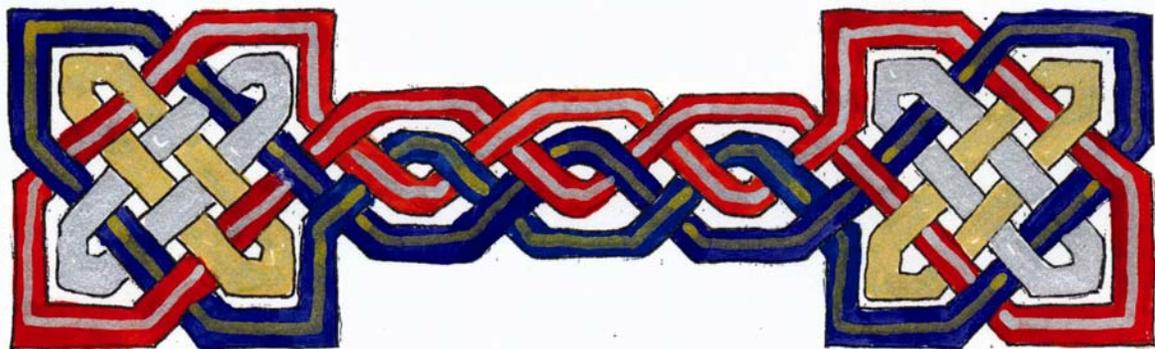
Keep in mind that A & S competitions are meant to be fun and challenging. But these only happen twice a year. I strongly encourage you to enter other venues such as A & S displays. Go to people who know your craft. Take some classes in your craft. Post questions.

If you want more details go to the Midrealm Arts and Sciences Section <http://www.midrealm.org/moas/criteria /contents.html> and read the information posted.

I'm hoping you have a very positive experience. I also hope that if you don't, you find out why. So often, people will stew and be mad, when all it would have taken is a simple question to the judge.

Don't forget about the other A & S venues throughout the year. The shire could even hold a shire-only A & S competition, just to get people's feet wet. A & S should never be intimidating. It should be a fun learning process.

All of the following is my opinion and my opinion only. I welcome future discussion and would be happy to give you more input regarding my experiences with A & S competitions. I hope to see many shire members entering at the upcoming Midlands Regional Arts and Sciences.



Reading the Landscape of Europe

May Theilgaard Watts

Harper & Row: New York, 1971

ISBN: 0060145366 (out-of-print)

Reviewed by AElfreda aet Aethelwealda

May Watts was a teacher, writer, naturalist, and educator. Many readers may be familiar with her *Reading the Landscape of America*, but I wish to call your attention to her lesser-known gem, *Reading the Landscape of Europe*.

This is a fascinating journey. Watts says: "[C]onsider Europe and what a thick, old manuscript it is, magnificently illuminated and embellished, but how full of cross-outs, changes, and blurred erasures." Lively prose enhanced by Watts' own pen and ink illustrations and diagrams serves as a personal tour guide.

Always mindful of the interaction of the various forces shaping the landscape, Watts has a strong geologic underpinning to her stories: "The Rhine must surely be the most-storied river in the world, and some of its stories are true ones. One particular true story, which shaped all the others, is written in the rocks."

Along the journey, words and places from history, novels, and current events take on fuller meaning. The British landscape is especially well served: moor, heath, glen, downs, fens, and hedgerow are described and detailed.

The uses of and changes to the land by humans are noted and explained: "The landscape of which I write is one shaped by man and nature -- in consort." The many uses of plants are described: crops, decorations, and symbols. Watts relates the story of the iris, and how it became the fleur-de-lis of France: "But however you may feel about it in the cool evening, if you follow a footpath along the Seine by morning light and come upon a clump of yellow iris, you will believe the story of Clovis and his toads and the yellow gleam on the Rhine."

A final section is an illustrated key to the trees of Europe, in case you are able to follow Watts' advice: "It would be best of all, reader, for you to go and turn some pages there for yourself."



Upcoming Events

This is an abbreviated list of events. For a complete list, check out www.midrealm.org/calendar

March 2006

- 4 Constellation Regional A&S Faire {White Waters} [Elkhart, IN]
- 11 Fighter School XIII {Windhaven} [Menasha, WI]
- 12-19 Gulf Wars {Gleann Abhann} [Lumberton, MS]
- 18 Better War Through Archery {Sternfeld} [Indianapolis, IN]
- 25 Rites of Spring {Illiton} [Sparland, IL]
- Spring R.U.M. {Brendoken} [Smithville, OH]

April 2006

- 1 This Land Is Our Land And Tournament Of Chivalry {Shadowed Stars} [Fort Wayne, IN]
- 8 Northshield Spring 2006 Coronation {Jararvellir} [Stoughton, WI]
- War Faire {Blackhawk} [Leaf River, IL]
- 15 Three Saints and a Goat {Rivenstar} [Lafayette, IN]

- 22 Basse e Balli: Dancing in Europe from 1400 to 1550 {Mynydd Seren} [Bloomington, IN]
- Coronation {Andelcrag} [Portage, MI]
- 29 Midlands Regional A & S & the Collegium In the Corn Fields II {Lost Bridge (Swordcliff)} [Decatur, IL]

May 2006

- 5-7 Mayfaire {Cuil Choluim} [Edinburgh, IN]
- 6 Armored Egg Hunt {Baile na Scolairi} [Bloomington, IL]
- 13 Herbal Symposium II {Rimsholt} [Jenison, MI]
- 19-21 **[MOVED FROM 7/7/06]** Chaos Caravan {Greyhope} [Michigan City, IN]
- 20 Pentamere Regional A&S {Westmere (Andelcrag)} [Bangor, MI]
- 27-28 Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire and Spring Crown Tournament {Flaming Gryphon} [Troy, OH]

So You Want To Do An Event?#

By Akiko Catherine O'Brien

Recently, I've been asked by several people "What is needed to be an autocrat?" The following is not a complete list. It is just my opinion and is meant to act as a guideline to get you started. If you have questions, please feel free bring them up at the moot.

☞ **Budget and Proposal:** Make an estimated budget and proposal to put before the Shire. The Shire must vote on the event. The proposal should include as much information as you can provide at this point, including the elements that follow.

☞ **Theme/Reason for the event:** Why are you wanting the event?

☞ **When:** Check the calendar and make sure it doesn't conflict with other events.

☞ **Where:** Have a site picked out and make sure the date is available. Is it rain or shine? Will the site accommodate the activities you have planned? Can the site accommodate those with special needs? Is it a dry/wet site? Are you allowed fires? Will you be able to do camping or will this be a one day event? **Note: Under no circumstances are you allowed to sign a contract without the approval of the Seneschal. The contract is a legal and binding document.**

☞ **Parking:** Is there enough? Is it secure?

☞ **Who will be your staff?** List them along with contact information. List briefly their experience as well as your own experience. Don't assume everyone in the group will know who you are.

☞ **Costs and Site Fees:** How many people are you expecting to attend? Will you have a family cap amount? How will you make up the difference between what the site costs and the fees you collect, if there is any? Don't forget to include the insurance waver cost. Can the group afford to take the loss? Will you allow pre-reg at a discounted price? Or will it be only registration at the door?

☞ **Advertising:** How will you get the word out? Include a tentative event flyer with your proposal. Avoid lots of fancy things. Keep it simple for printing costs.

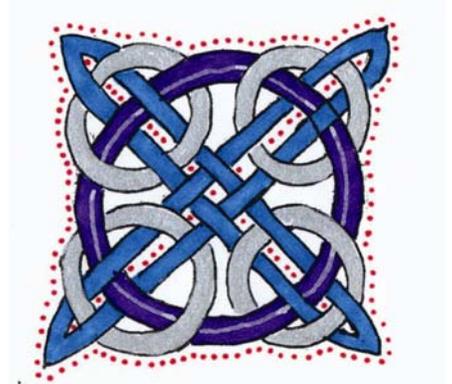
☞ **What activities are you proposing?** Archery? Fighting? Rapier? Boffer? A & S? Classes? Merchants? Feast? What if any activities would you have for very young children? Who will be in charge of said activities? There are specific rules for certain activities. Do you need to budget for any of those activities?

☞ **Troll:** Note: this is handling money and the person manning it must be over 18 years of age.

☞ **Set-up / Clean-up:** Set this up in advance. Otherwise, it sucks being the only one doing it after everyone else has gone home.

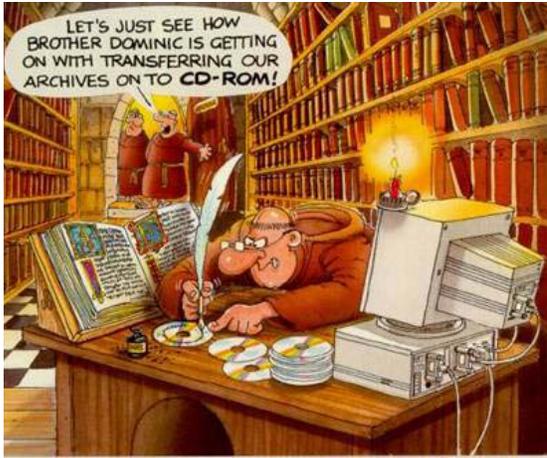
☞ **Miscellaneous:** Do you have bathrooms or need to rent port-a-castles? How much will that cost? If royalty happens to attend, can you accommodate their needs/wants? Does the site allow pets? If so, how will you make sure attendees clean up after their animal(s)?

☞ **At the Event:** Plan to not be able to do anything but autocrat. That's your job and plan the entire day to do that only! No leaving early or partying until the event is done. Hopefully, the event will run smoothly but always plan otherwise. Things happen!!



The Compleat Anachronist Fall 2001 issue "Autocratting 101" (CA0113) has additional ideas and worksheets to help plan your event. It is available through the SCA's Publications Office or online at www.sca.org. - Ed.

MOOT MINUTES



Moot held January 26, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:47 pm. Johannes Machiavelli, seneschal, presiding.

Johannes pointed out that Twelfth Night at Tree-Girt-Sea is this coming Saturday. The traditional Rokkehealden luncheon was discussed, not having been aired at any previous moot. It was decided that Johannes would post an e-mail message after moot tonight to the Yahoo Group regarding the lunch being from 12 – 1 on Saturday and inviting friends of Rokkehealden to join us. Ambr volunteered to call Cedric who is at present not on-line and advise him of same.

Old Business: Capricorn is looking for “color” for a demo during the science-fiction convention the weekend of February 11th.

February 11th is also the Valentine’s Day Massacre in Kalamazoo. Good shopping!!

February 4th is Reenactor Fest in Arlington Heights. Will cover from Pre-Roman times to Modern.

New Business: Master Rory is stepping down as Dragon Herald. His replacement will be Thorvald Redhair of Fox Vale, who will take up the reins at Coronation.

Also regarding Fox Vale – they are looking for a presentation of scribal arts, calligraphy and/or illumination, on Sunday, March 5th, if any of our scribes can attend.

Gwenllian of Tenby, former editor of our noble Glyph Notes, has received the Award of the Purple Fret. Hoobah!!

Ambr advises that she and Ottokar are in discussions regarding an event, possibly in the fall.

Sorcha O’Brannigan is collecting books for Gleann Abhann at Twelfth Night on Saturday. Anyone who brings a book gets a token for a free lunch.

Officer Reports:

MoAS: The Midlands A&S Competition is April 29th in Decatur. Details available in the Glyph Notes and online. More details will be forthcoming as they are received.

The Constellation Regional A&S is March 4th. See Fiona for details.

Akiko adds that this Sunday there will be an A&S display at Grey Gargoyles in conjunction with Regional Fighter Practice. Works in progress are acceptable; no documentation needed.

Exchequer: Present balance is \$3,177.65; \$900 of that belongs to Fox Vale.

Web Minister(s): The web site is almost done; Austin is fine-tuning it. Working on change of officer forms and updating permissions to publish information on the web site. A signed hard copy is required to publish.

Knights Marshall: The status is quo – no fighting taking place at present.

Chatelaine: Two new people at meeting tonight, Meg and Neil. Welcome!

Chronicler: Next Glyph Notes is in process. Articles and artwork would be appreciated.

Meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

Moot held February 23, 2006

Called to order at 7:30 pm. Johannes Machiavelli, seneschal, presiding.

Per Johannes, we are still looking for a permanent fighting and meeting venue. Everyone is encouraged to check locally for a site.

Upcoming events include:

- March 4th – Constellation A&S in White Waters
- March 11th – Fighter School in Green Bay (“behind the Cheddar Curtain” thank you, Akiko!)
- March 18th – Better War through Archery
- March 25th – Rites of Spring in Illiton as well as RUM in Ohio
- April 8th – War Faire in Blackhawk and Northshield Coronation up there somewhere.

Johannes suggests doing something about regalia or other activities. Last year our scribes did about two-hundred scrolls for the kingdom and various baronies. Johannes would like to see that expanded to other crafts as well.

Fiona from Fox Vale asks for event sponsorship again this year. Their event will be Fox Hunt II and be held at the same location. Fiona and Elaine will co-autocrat. Fiona provided preliminary budget and advised that Aaron will



probably bring his forge again. She also expressed Fox Vale's thanks for our support last year.

Fox Vale extended an invitation for us to join them on a trip downtown to the Pompeii exhibit at the Field Museum on March 5th. They also have tentative plans to see the King Tut exhibit this summer.

New Business:

Per Philippa, Chatelaine, West Chicago Public Library has a request for an A&S demo July 29th and possibly a weapons demo one evening in July. Also on April 7th there will be the annual Demo at Bridget's school. We have done this demo for 4 years and always get a great response. We are looking for fighters, scribes, A&S, food, and dancing.

Kellee's kids all authorized in boffer on Saturday, February 18th at the Youth Fighter Symposium in Greyhope. Hoobah!! Fiona of Fox Vale reminds everyone that they have a monthly boffer practice.

Mikhail pointed out that an article in the newspaper (Sun Times? Whichever one has Red Eye) highlighted the newest fitness craze: Stage Fighting. The Current Middle Ages – ahead of our times??

Per Ottokar, the event is still on hold.

Johannes announced that the new Lady Mayor of Ayreton is sponsoring a fighting competition, the winner of which will be Ayreton Champion. There will also be a potluck dinner. This will be held March 26, 2006, from 2 – 6 pm at Ida Noyes Hall at the University of Chicago.

Officer Reports:

Chatelaine: We have the request for the demo on July 29th and one Tuesday evening in July. Also new faces: Christina and Andrew. Welcome!

Chronicler: Current issue is up on the web site, thanks to Akiko and Austin. Next issue is in process and needs articles and artwork.

Web Ministers: Web site is up. We are looking for content, particularly works in progress, articles, and photos. Philippa advises that some of the links on the Chatelaine page are broke and will fix them.

Pursuivant: Heraldry is still happening. Thorvald will be the new Dragon Herald after Coronation; he is still sponsoring Heraldry first and third Wednesday nights.

Archery Marshal: Archery will be starting up again in the beginning of May.

Knights Marshal: Status is still quo. However, additionally, Sir Fern will be teaching basic fighting on Sundays at 2 pm, in conjunction with Grey Gargoyles fighter practices, in Ida Noyes Hall.

The demo at Capricorn was well received. Almost all groups in the area were represented. There is discussion about doing it again next year.

Many members were also at the Reenactor Fest and were very pleased with the shopping opportunities. There is discussion about being more involved next year.

MoAS: Lots of stuff going on and Fiona will forward to the Yahoo Group as it does. Highlights:

- Pennsic Publications looking for black and white artwork for this year's Pennsic book
- We are looking for donations of scribal materials including blanks to bring to Gulf Wars for scribes who were hit hard by Hurricane Katrina.
- Reminder that Pennsic is only 6 months away.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Many thanks to our Contributors this Month!!
Assorted Celtic K-network: from the steady hand of Mikhail
If anyone knows where the Monk Comic came from, please let me know. Can't attribute it, but it was too funny not to use. If I've stepped on anyone's toes, pray forgive me. I promise to credit you in an upcoming issue, as soon as I find out who you are!!

Spectacular Cover Art: Fiona Cavindealbhain
Minor Ivy Doodle by your humble Chronicler