



The Gatekeeper

Barony of Winter's Gate

Calendar

Dec. 21 -- Yule

Dec. 21 -- Yule (Earngyld)

Dec. 28 -- St. Stephen's Day Revel (Pavlok Gorod)

Jan. 3-4 -- 12th Night (West)

Jan. 18-19 -- Midwinter Coronet (Oertha/Eskalya)

Feb. 15 -- Heart's Revel

Feb. 25-Mar. 3 -- Estrella War (Atenveldt)

March 15 -- Newcomers' Event

April 16 -- Fool's Revel (Margery)

Mar. 7-9 -- West Coast Culinary Symposium (West)

Mar. 21-23 -- March Crown (West)

May 2-4 -- Beltane (West)

May 24-25 -- Spring Captaincy

June 14 -- Games Day & Hunt (Cemper)

June 20-22 -- June Crown (West)

July 4-7 -- West-An Tir War (West)

July 19-21 -- Midsummer Coronet (Oertha)

July 25-Aug 8 -- Pennsic War (East)
Aug. 2 & 9 -- Tanana Valley Fair Demos
Aug. 30-31 -- Harvest Captaincy
Oct. 18 -- Michaelmass Feast (Margery)
Nov. 15-16 -- St. Boniface Collegium
Dec. 20 -- Yule
June 17-27, 2016 -- 50 Year Celebration (Midrealm, Danville IN)

The baronial event dates listed above, after Jan. 1, are still tentative and subject to change before approval from central Kingdom.

Fight practices have moved indoors. They are Sunday afternoons from 1-4 pm at University Park School on University Avenue. Go in the back entrance by the dumpsters; the gym is directly to the left. All are welcome to attend fighter practices. If you're a noncombatant, you can cheer the fighters on or work on projects. Bring your own chairs if you have them, and a project to work on.

All other activities (A&S activities, guild meetings, scribal sessions, etc.) are subject to change and will be posted to the baronial email list. The above calendar includes events throughout the principality, as well as important kingdom events and wars. Those events without a listed location and in bold are local.

If you're interested in the workings of the barony, come to the monthly business meetings! They are now held at fighter practice. Keep an eye on the elist, or contact the seneschal for the exact date. (If you attend you might win an event fee waiver!)

From the Prince and Princess:

Greetings to Oertha!

We are pleased to announce that, with the help of the Principality Seneschale and the Principality Exchequer, a coronet bid has been selected for Summer Coronet and Investiture 2014.

We have selected the bid submitted by Mistress Tama Katerina Evstokh'eva and Pavlok Gorod. Not only was this bid financially viable, but also qualified for a priority ranking (per the Law of the Principality of Oertha, Article IV, Section 3.3). We will seek verification of this bid from Our Successors in January. It is exciting to hear that this site has many fine features to offer, including outdoor camping, a covered stage, and a large indoor hall.

The other bids received were also quite excellent. We would like to thank these individuals and groups for their work. We and the Seneschale sincerely encourage them to forward these bids for future coronet considerations.

We look forward to learning more in the months to come about the particulars of this event from Mistress Tama and her team.

In Service to Oertha and the West!

Nathan and Lilla, Prince and Princess of Oertha

From the Baron and Baroness:

Tis the Season to be jolly...falalalala-lala-la-la. Whatever your family chooses

to celebrate during the season, Solstice, Kwanza, Hanukah, Yule, Christmas, the arrival of Santa Claus and/or the Krampus, or the Grinch, the main focus is on celebration.

One place that we think demonstrates the true focus of the Season is...youtube. Many people find the Season very retail focused in terms of get, get, get. However, if one were to watch the videos that seem to go around facebook, emails, and shown on cell phones, they mostly demonstrate the small wonders and the unexpected miracle of selfless giving.

We recently watched a video of a small girl who Signed the Christmas songs for her parents who were deaf. the six-year-old did not tell them she was going to do that. And whilst, yes, youtube is full of "Make it So, Make it So," and "Santa, Please Bring Back Firefly," all in all, the videos are full of those that make our hearts warm.

Yule is our Season celebration. We have noted that every year, people bring out small gifts to give, cookies, jams, candied peels and even just Candy Canes. These small items are made from the heart and are shared. They are not just gifts, they are pieces of ourselves that we give to each other. During the medieval times, gift giving was a sign of affluence and royalty, One translation states:

"Beowulf the Dane could boast a name known everywhere. In just such a manner, with generous gifts from his father's hoard, a future king" (lines 18-20). "Beowulf wæs breame blæd / Scyldes eafra Scedelandum in. / Swa sceal geong guma gode gewyrcean" (lines 18-20).

Now, in actuality, we do not have to worry about giving gifts so that when we are having problems with the Krampus or Grendel, we can have backup, but our gift giving in the SCA has precedence. We've redone the medieval ages aright. Each of us, every time we give, we give of ourselves, we give those items that are made by our hands or make us think of people. But our giving doesn't end at Yule.

We constantly hear of someone who unselfishly states, "I can give you a ride," or "here, I have this, you can have it," or "I saw this and thought of you." Every day our SCA family gives and gives unselfishly from the heart.

As we launch into Yule, Bran and I know that each of you take these qualities and bring them into the world. We not only change our SCA family, but we also change those around us, family and strangers, and we influence everyone everywhere we go. We all demonstrate the true qualities and the true meaning of honor, royalty and the Season.

...and maybe, just maybe, Santa will bring back Firefly... Have a Happy Season! May your table be full of laughter.

Yours in Service,

Bran and Cemper, Baron and Baroness

From the Chronicler:

I am always looking for short articles (A&S projects, history, adventures in period cooking, etc.) and stories of people and events to include in the newsletter. Especially stories! We are losing our history of past events, and current events become past

events all too soon. I encourage you to make a contribution to the newsletter from time to time. Send them to me offlist.

Most who receive newsletter are members of the barony and its outlying groups, honorary citizens, members now in exile, and friends of the barony. Others receive this because you are our neighbors, including the territorial barons and baronesses, seneschals and chroniclers (and their kingdom counterparts). If sent to you in error, please let me know.

The Gatekeeper now goes out only electronically. If you do not wish to receive it, please email me at morgana@gci.net and you will be removed. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter as an attachment in the future, please also let me know.

Copy for nonlocal events is usually picked up from other newsletters and elist postings. Unless otherwise noted, local event reports were written by the chronicler and corrections and complaints should be addressed thereto. The chronicler welcomes words from any baronial officers, and guildmasters or mistresses, as well as reports of events and activities, as her mind holds only so many details and memories.

--Morgana yr Oerfa

Upcoming Events:

Yule

Barony of Winter's Gate

December 21

With the long cold winter nights upon us, it is nice to remember the warmth of the year. Come and join Winter's Gate in celebrating the Festival of Lights. A time to look forward to the days of sun and summer and to remember the warmth of family and friends.

Join in our 'chinese auction' gift exchange, potluck dinner and a special session for the children in attendance 16 and younger. Games will happen (from board games to period garbing with 'what's in the mystery boxes'). Due to popular demand there will also be a Head Cooks class taught by Ellisif, the premier baronial Head Cook.

Baroness Cemper's Whim is gingerbread in any mode, with documentation a plus. The Arts and Sciences Whim is Yule ornaments, also with documentation a plus.

The site is the Boy Scout Council lower meeting room at 1400 Gillam Way. From Airport Way turn right (the only you can turn) onto Gillam Way. The Council Building is the third building to the right (just past Mary Siah Pool). The site is open from noon to 9 pm.

Event fee is \$5 for adults (\$5 nonmember surcharge), children 16 and younger free. For more information, please contact the autocrat, Iriniia Myschkenova (Althea Dooley), 799-6002.

St. Stephan's Day

Shire of Pavlok Gorod

December 28

Celebrate the holiday season with feasting and mummings, singing and games, gifts and garb. Activities include a gift swap (\$10 maximum for materials), A&S competition (wrens in any mode), and Autocrat's Whim (teach a dance, sing a song or play music; documentation preferred).

Sit is Springhill Hall at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3077 E. Rezanof Dr., Kodiak, Alaska. Site opens at 10 am and closes at 6 pm. Admission is a period dish to share, with a prize for documentation.

For more information, contact the autocrat Tama Katerina Evstokh'eva (Tamie Fogle), 3251 Katmai Drive, Kodiak 99615, 539-5259, tamfogle@gci.net.

Midwinter Coronet and Investiture

Principality of Oertha (Anchorage)

January 18-19

As the cold winter winds of the Arctic take hold, Their Highnesses Nathan and Lilla, Prince and Princess of Oertha, invite one and all to bear witness to the selection of Their Heirs by right of combat and Their Investiture the following day.

There will be a Roses Tourney for both traditional and rapier fighters after the Acknowledgment of the Heirs.

His Highness' Whim is pieces to protect one in combat, and Her Highness' Whim is white roses in any mode. The A&S competition is for leather goods. The Barony of Eskalya is sponsoring a brewing competition for beers.

Site information: Dimond Center Suite 223 (the old library on the second floor), 800 E. Diamond Blvd, Anchorage. Site is open from 10 am Saturday to 6 pm Sunday. Doors will be locked with security on staff overnight, but valuables should not be left. Lunch will be provided Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Selviergard will host a potluck dinner on Saturday for those who wish to participate. Site is very discreetly wet.

Events fees: adults \$15 (plus \$5 for nonmembers), children 5-15 are \$5, and under 5 are free. Family cap is \$40. Please make checks payable to SCA Inc. - Principality of Oertha.

Driving directions: take the Seward Highway to the Dimond exit. Turn west down Dimond Blvd. Turn left at the Dimond Center Drive. Turn left into the parking lot (by Olive Garden). Best parking for closest access to site is entrance beneath Old Navy sign. Take escalators upstairs, and the site is directly ahead. There is access to an elevator for heavy items.

For visitors, the Dimond Center Hotel is across the parking lot from the site.

For more information, contact the autocrat Anna de Caterina Neri (Georgia Pfile), 242-5606, annahnarie@gmail.com.

Event Reports and Thanks:

Michaelmass Report

Unto the populace and guests!

A hearty thanks to all who were part of making Miohaelmas such a fun event!

Firstly, a much heartfelt "thank you" for the attendance of Saionji Hana Sensei for taking time out of her busy schedule to travel to the far reaches of the North. Her classes on Japanese garb, make-up and hair were very informative and her knowledge

unsurpassed. Sensei Hana continued her contribution to the Barony with a class on silk/fabric painting. We suspect that the Barony will be displaying artistic designs with paint on fabric because of her informative class during the event.

Secondly, a big “Huzzah!” to the autocrats, Lady Elena and Mistress Margery. The decor and atmosphere were wonderful. Both worked exceedingly hard on making the event fun, full of laughter and transporting the Barony to the exotic far reaches of the East. A heart thanks for making sure that tables were lowered to provide the ambiance. The capture of the Great Magician Keruig was also noted and provided much happiness to the Baroness.

Accompanying the thanks to the autocrats, although the Magician Keruig was captured and forced to constantly create hot water, Magician Keruig’s coffee was unsurpassed and kept the Baroness happy and caffeinated, preventing any slaughter (which would have been blamed on invading dragons), and also kept others in good spirits.

Thirdly, a big and full, “Oh my gosh! I am so stuffed, I can’t eat another bite...well, maybe just one wonton, and that mango sticky rice, and that other wonton” to the Head Cook. May her goose never burn and her gravy always thicken. Every feast, Her Excellency Ellisif continues to outdo herself. The efforts she went to hunt, kill and skin the Spam-Beast were not lost upon the Baron and The Baron’s Dish. (Although the extremes to which the Head Cook went in hunting that fearsome Spam Beast horrified and terrified the Baroness.) Every wonton was wonderful, the miso magnificent, the butternut squash beautiful, the salad splendid, the meat was might, and the dessert divine, all served with delicious plum wine.

Fourthly, a kitchen is not a kitchen unless there are people to assist in the preparation, cutting, slicing, chopping and dishwashing. A kitchen cannot be successful without those to help. To all those who were in the kitchen, a personal “Huzzah!” from the Baron and Baroness. Thank you for your devotion! You are the backbone of a great feast!

Fifthly, a heart welcome to the Japanese Club! Your travels across the large distances filled with robbers, bandits and rogues was very much appreciated. We were very excited to have you, and extend an open invitation to the Barony! Accompanying the appreciation is a welcome to any member of St. Boniface who attended. Please make yourselves know, as you are also a great contribution to events.

Sixthly, we appreciate Lady Sapphira for providing access to a wonderful Michaelmas site. The Barony has used this site several because of her efforts. She provided a comforting and homey atmosphere for the event. Also, much thanks for a place for the Baroness to recharge and nap. Although her dogs accused her of a-dog-tury when she returned to her personal Keep, the nap was very much needed and addition of warm furry kitty bodies very homey.

Finally, a big “thank you” to His Excellency Khevron and Lady Merewyn for providing accommodations and entertaining our visiting dignitary Saionji no Hana. Included are all those, Mistress Margery, His Excellency Hallbiorn, Her Excellency Ellisif, who worked together to make Saionji Sensei’s visit a reality. And a thank you to all those from outside the Barony who traveled to participate in the event.

If we have missed anyone, our apologies. Please note that you are in our thoughts and hearts. We were thrilled with the turnout and the number of people who went the extra mile to make the event successful.

--*Braun and Cempestrae*, Baron and Baroness

Head Cook Thanks

My deepest and most heartfelt thanks to the incredible crew who put together Michaelmas Feast. We set a record (at least since I've been around) for sheer number of people working on the food. We had a wonderful time, and every single comment I heard was raving over the deliciousness of the feast. We impressed a Japanese Laurel, even!

We had our challenges - the rice cookers all decided to cook differently, and the mochi was....an adventure. But we persevered, got creative, everything turned out well, and I really hope everyone had a great day.

I, and everyone else in the Barony, greatly appreciate your willingness to spend at least part of your day debating about the best type of pleats to use on wontons (hint - cartridge pleating is probably a bad idea), figuring out how to shape rubbery dough that sticks like pine sap, and squishing rice balls. Seriously, other folk, you should come join in next time!

Special thanks, in no particular order, go to:

Matthias, for his suggestion of the theme and his deft touch with spam musubi,

Revekka, for her skill in sculpting spam roses,

Iriiia, the Mochi Guru and gluten-free wonton expert,

Elena, for salmon-filleting and fruit-selection awesomeness, and willingness to do everything,

Cemper, for more salmon-filleting, shopping, and encouragement,

Aoife, for steaming pork buns,

Becca, for her fish delivery and amazing skill in Car Tetris,

Aine, for cucumber slicing way beyond the call of duty,

James, for squash cutting,

Sheva, for washing what had to have been 7,000 dishes, and being willing to spend the day sequestered in the kitchen,

Greteke, the Mochi Shaper and Wonton Pleater Extraordinaire,

Sarah, for cutting squash into pretty flowers,

Daithi, for the fish, and peeling veggies above and beyond the call of duty,

Hanna, for singlehandedly saving dinner when I realized in horror that the miso was missing,

Rafail, for carrying lots and lots of trays of dishes to diners,

Sybilla, for general willingness to dive in and do whatever needed doing,

Morgana, for making the soup for lunch and bringing to go with it, especially for remembering we needed lunch in the first place,

Sapphira, for the cheese and sausage for lunch, and for suggesting a site with such a nice kitchen in the first place,

Hallbiorn, for listening to increasing incoherent rambles about food, making suggestions, and helping with the shopping,

Saionji no Hana, for her invaluable advice and approval,

And, lastly, to whoever it was who shoved a nice cool glass of water at me a couple times and insisted I drink it.

Anyone else I missed by name, I'm sorry. It got kinda busy and I lost track of who exactly was doing what a few times. Rest assured your contribution was valuable and necessary. There's no way to pull off something this size without loads of help.

Ellisif, now the Official Head Cook of Winter's Gate (with a symbol to prove it)

A Traveler's Comments

My first steps homeward
Not yet taken, I think on
Friendly smiles, cups shared.
Though parted by many miles
I must pass this way again.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the good people of Winter's Gate for their unparalleled hospitality: Their Exalted Excellencies Braun and Cempestrae; Khevron and Merewyn for opening their home to a visitor; Margery and Griffin, likewise as native guides, hosts, pliers of sake and hunters of the elusive aurora; Elena and her event staff; Ellisif and her dedicated feast crew; and all those welcoming smiles on faces too numerous to count.

What a feast! The Emperor himself could not have found fault with the bounty spread before us. Delicately vinegared cucumber, a classic miso soup, salmon in ginger and sake accompanied by onigiri (rice balls) comprised the first tray. The second featured tasty beef simmered with lotus root and garnished with tangy pickled carrot and turnip, nikuman (savory pork buns), elegant sweet butternut squash "flowers" with gyoza "leaves" and rice with black sesame. The final tray was a bounty of fresh fruits and homemade mochi with assorted fillings. Having myself tried -- and burned -- my hand at making mochi from scratch, I can attest that the flavor and consistency were perfection.

Though our brothers and sisters in Oertha are separated from us by great distance and the whims of the airfare kami, the long journey is worth it. If you can, go and visit. You will not be sorry. The country is staggeringly beautiful, even clad in the sombre tones of permafrost autumn, and the people are unforgettable.

I left a piece of my heart on a darkened hillside beneath a rising moon, and in places. I will go back. I must.

Saionji no Hana

Miscellaneous

Award Recommendations

Greetings!

It is the joy and privilege of The Coronets to recognize those among their peoples who merit such recognition. With that in mind and considering Our Progress over the coming months, We would be greatly appreciative if any among you who are so inclined would submit award recommendations to the Coronets' email (see Regnum below). We will be delighted to take your recommendations under advisement.

Thank you one and all.

In Service to Oertha and The West,

Nathan and Lilla, Prince and Princess of Oertha

Submissions Herald

Khevron, the new Wolfhound Herald (principality submissions deputy) would like to help anyone who needs it with their name and device development and submissions. Contact email: khevron@warpmail.net.

Midwinter Coronet A&S Information

To my fellow Artisans of Oertha,

I would happily like to announce that the Arts & Sciences competition for Midwinter Coronet will be Leather Goods. This may be any item made primarily of leather, such as shoes, drinking vessels, pouches, leather boxes/caskets, etc. As always, documentation is highly encouraged.

There will be a table for those interested to display their projects, complete or not.

In addition, a reminder about the Royal Whims. Her Highness would like items decorated with a white rose (White Roses in Any Mode), and His Highness is requesting pieces to protect one in combat (Armor in Any Mode--specifically locally made pieces, with added consideration being given to period designs with documentation). The Whims and Leather Goods could be combined, i.e., a casket decorated with a white rose.

The Barony of Eskalya is sponsoring a Brewing Competition for beers, with bonus points given for documentation. Better get your yeasty minions working.

Yours in Service,

Bránn mac Finnchad, Oertha A&S Minister

Oertha Heralds Roster

Greetings all!

I have received from Mistress Moira, Vesper Principal Herald, a list of all rostered heralds within the Principality of Oertha. If you are not on the list and wish to be, please contact herald@westkingdom.org.

Bjarni Edwardsson i Jorvik, Breock of Whitby, Caitriona inghean ui Chionaodha, Clare Elena de Montfort, Cynehild Cynesigesdohtor, Isabel de la Hay, Lilla æt Sceaphyll, Sorcha Careman, Tancred de Fraser, Annah Narie, Ruaidhri MacDiarmada, Tama Katerina Evstokh'eva, Aislynn Dennard of Dragon's Lair, Cymidia Black Macha, Etain O'Rowarke, Father von Trier, Flanna Dunwalton, Khevron Oktavii Tikhikovich Vorotnikov, Morgana yr Oerfa, Bianca Rose Byrne.

Cynehild Cynesigesdohtor, Stellanordica Herald

Oertha History Guild

The Oertha History Guild is active and we're collecting any details of past events, and ask members to submit a review, recap, thoughts of one event per year, recent or ancient. The Oertha History Guild is active and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/OerthaHistory/.

Photos posted to the West Kingdom History Pages are encouraged. <http://history.westkingdom.org>.

Everyone should check their information on the Who's Who website as well, and you

can add to your SCA resume, including offices (primary or deputy) held and events hosted or cooked for, and other achievements.

--Khevron Oktavii Tikhikovich Vorotnikov

* * * * *

Regnum

Rex and Regina Occidentalis: Marc and Patricia, crown@westkingdom.org.

Crown Prince and Princess: Thorfinn & Violante, heirs@westkingdom.org.

Prince and Princess of Oertha: Nathan and Lilla (Nate Webb & Michelle Webb), HC 60 Box 4013, Haines 99827, 766-2466 home, 441-1917 (Lilla, cell phone), royals@oertha.westkingdom.org.

Winter's Gate

Baron and Baroness: Bran and Cempestra (Boyd Robinson and Alys Johns-Robinson, Box 56642, North Pole 99705, 385-1084 home, boydrobinson@yahoo.com (Braun), tolkienscholar@yahoo.com (Cemper).

Captain of the Militia & Heart of Winter's Gate: Barak the Hunter and Morgana yr Oerfa.

Commander of the Cavaliers & Light of Winter's Gate: Sevastian Agafangilovich Golyitsia and Genevieve Beauvais.

Seneschale: Sapphira the Navigator (Vicki Wyan), 1308 Hampstead Ave., Fairbanks 99701, 374-0212 home, 910-723-6793 cell, vicwyan@hotmail.com.

Estuille Pursuivant/Chronicler/Lists Deputy: Morgana yr Oerfa (Sharron Albert), 1717 Tamarack Street, Fairbanks 99709, 452-2274 home, morgana@gci.net. Chronicler deputy: Greteke inn Little.

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Marshal/Regalia: Griffin Garret (Gary Griffin), 4523 Stanford, Fairbanks 99712, 456-2492, motherchaos@gci.net.

Rapier Marshal/A&S Deputy: Ellisif a Reikiavik (Kaari Parrish), 2477 Sunflower Loop, North Pole 99705, 488-3986 (not before 9 am), kparrish@mosquionet.com.

Constable: Braun Sparhawk (Boyd Robinson), 385-1084, boydrobinson@yahoo.com.

Chatelaine/Gold Key: Elena verch Rhys (Jessica Grahn), jessicaeringrahn@yahoo.com, 687-4012.

Web Minister/Deputy Herald: Khevron Oktavii Tikhikovich Vorotnikov (Don Goertz), 607 Old Steese Hwy, Suite B-353, Fairbanks 99701, khevron@warppmail.net, 347-2632 (cell). Baronial website: www.wintersgate.org.

College of St. Boniface:

Champion and Inspiration: Felix Emmanuel (Daniel Remillard) and Morgana yr Oerfa (452-2274, morgana@gci.net).

Seneschal: Rafail Vlaschlav (Galyn Griffin), 4523 Stanford Drive 99709 (mailing), 687-1295 (10am-midnight), alaskanarcangel@yahoo.com

Exchequer: Aine Barleg of Mynydd Seren (Rebecca Young), 812-322-8458, rebecca.young@alumni.iu.edu. Deputy: Rafail Vtoroi.

Principality of Oertha

Seneschale: Ellisif a Reikiavik (Kaari Parrish), 2477 Sunflower Loop, North Pole 99705, 488-3986 (not before 9 am), kparrish@mosquitonet.com.

Stellanordica Herald: Cynehild Cynesigesdohtor (Claire Knudsen-Latta), 3402 W. 31st Avenue, Anchorage 99517, 575-1983 (cell), clairemargery@gmail.com. Wolfhound Herald (submissions deputy): Khevron Oktavii Tikhikovich Vorotnikov (Don Goertz), khevron@warppmail.net, 347-2632.

Marshal: Sextus Valerius Cruscillus (Josh Sampson), Box 974416, Wasilla 99687, 602-680-0188 (home), crusillius.the.dark@gmail.com.

Archery Marshal: Elisa von Sophey (Lisa Marx), 1245 Mendenhall Peninsula Road, Juneau 99801, 789-2871 home (before 9 pm), shusmarx@yahoo.com.

Rapier Marshal: Étáin O'Rowarke (Crystal Nelson), 2301 N. Beanie St., Wasilla 99654, 357-1434, b3nelsons@gci.net.

Equestrian Marshal/Deputy Seneschale: Clare Elena de Montfort (Kerri Geppert), 22444 Deer Park Dr., Chugiak 99567, 688-4483 (before 10 pm), 301-3393 cell, emster@gci.net.

A&S: Brann mac Finnchada (John Frey), 189 E Nelson Avenue, PMB 135, Wasilla 99654 (mailing), 775-7993 (not the wee hours), beorn_se_bacaire@yahoo.com.

Chronicler: Halfdan "Two Bears" Ozurrson (Travis Abe-Thomas), Box 2254, Palmer 99645, 746-4137 (home), thomassorngrym@yahoo.com.

Constable: Colyne Jak Leslie (Thomas Chivers), chiversii@yahoo.com, 952-4094.

Chatelaine/Gold Key: Anna di Caterina Neri (Georgia Judge), 8050 Pioneer #608, Anchorage, 99504, annahnarie@gmail.com, 242-5606.

Chirurgeon: Sapphira the Navigator (Vicki Wyan), 1308 Hampstead Ave., Fairbanks 99701, 374-0212 home, 910-723-6793 cell, vicwyan@hotmail.com.

Stellanordica Scribe: Viresse de Lighthaven (Kathy Judge), 8050 Pioneer #608, Anchorage 99504, 338-6355, wingedcup3@yahoo.com.

Lists/Regalia: Isabel de la Hay (Corey Chivers), 3928 Resurrection Dr., Anchorage 99504, 952-4094 cell, chiversii@yahoo.com.

Webminister: Fathir von Trier (Bryan Nelson), 2301 N. Beanie St., Wasilla 99654, 357-1434 (before 10 pm), b3nelsons@gci.net.

Barony of Eskalya

Baroness: Elspeth (Jackie Frederick), 510-A Creekside St., Anchorage 99504, 337-9389 home, 240-3759 cell, both before 9 pm, edenwild@acsalaska.net.

Seneschale: Anna di Caterina Neri (Georgia Judge), 8050 Pioneer #608, Anchorage, 99504, annahnarie@gmail.com, 242-5606.

Marshal: Soren j'Alborgh, marshal@eskalya.org. Rapier Marshal: Sebastian Agafangilovich Golyitsia, rapier.marshall@eskalya.org.

Exchequer: Celestria Tatrix (Dawn Quick), 229-8417, c_tatrix@yahoo.com.

Peregrine Pursuivant: Isabel de la Hay (Corey Chivers), 3928 Resurrection Dr., Anchorage 99504, 952-4094 cell, chiversii@yahoo.com.

A&S: Leonia the Mouse (Elizabeth Schuerch), 1324 Nelchina, Anchorage 99501, 727-5676, gr8esama@gmail.com.

Chronicler: Cynehild Cynesigesdohtor (Claire Knudsen-Latta), 3402 W. 31st Avenue, Anchorage 99517, 575-1983 (cell), clairemargery@gmail.com.

Constable: Gavan Woodward (Thomas Bates), thom.bates@gmail.com, 349-1534.

Webminister: Alienor Fitzhenry (Nicole Putnam), 3544 Alamosa Drive, Anchorage 99502, 230-4099, Fishfood43@yahoo.com.

Barony of Selviergard

Baron and Baroness: Fathir and Etain (Bryan & Crystal Nelson), 2301 N. Beanie St., Wasilla 99654, 357-1434 (before 10 pm), b3nelsons@gci.net.

Seneschale: Nemonna Vicana, seneschal@selviergard.westkingdom.org.

Marshal/Constable: Ciaran Ó Cearbhaill (Morgan Cunningham), Box 4081, Palmer 99645, 861-8974 cell, marshal@selviergard.westkingdom.org.

Exchequer: Rolyndda of the Azure Stone (Rolinda Standridge), Box 874416, Wasilla 99687, 892-2252 (noon-midnight), exchequer@selviergard.westkingdom.org.

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And now for something entirely different:

Du'ad Bob Review

Once again, good ol' PBS (the Public Broadcasting Service) has come through! I mean, they almost always put out a quality product, but this time they really outdid themselves. I'd come into a little bit of money, and not having any real necessities which required immediate attention, I went on-line to see what good stuff I could find to buy with it. It didn't take long. (It never does! The trouble with having only a little bit of extra cash is that there are so very many places to spend it. I'm sure that if I were a multi-millionaire, this wouldn't be a problem. Anybody want to give me the money to check out this hypothesis? No? I didn't think so, darn it.) Anyway, in looking around to find someplace to blow these few bucks before they burned a hole completely through my pocket, I found a recent (2009) BBC/PBS production starring one of the 20th Century's greatest Shakespearean actors. Which worked out really well, since the DVD was of one of Shakespeare's plays. So it was a perfect fit. And, of course, I had to buy it. (I did mention that the money was burning a hole in my pocket, didn't I?) And so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Shakespeare's tragedy, **King Lear**.

Starring Ian (Gandalf, Magneto, and *Richard III*) McKellen in the title role, with Frances Barber as Goneril, Monica Dolan as Regan, Romola Garai (who did such a great job in the miniseries *Emma*) as Cordelia, Ben Meyjes as Edgar/Poor Tom, Philip Winchester as Edmund, Sylvester (Dr. Who) McCoy as the Fool, Jonathan Hyde as the Earl of Kent, William Gaunt as the Earl of Gloucester, Guy Williams as the Duke of Cornwall, and Julian Harries as the Duke of Albany, this is the tale of an old man who mistakes what people say for truth, and loses everything. No, really. Old King Lear is determined to step down from the throne in all but name, dividing his kingdom between his three daughters. But before doing so, he asks them which of them loves him best. (For the record, this is never a good idea; no good can ever come from it.) He ends up banishing his youngest daughter, and dividing his kingdom between his eldest two daughters (and their husbands), and they soon set out to strip him of any remaining powers. There are some subplots, too, about a bastard son attempting to usurp the place of the legitimate son, while obtaining the affections of both of the Lear's older daughters. It's one of Shakespeare's tragedies so, of course, nearly everyone dies in the end.

Good points: It's Shakespeare! It's Ian McKellen! It's directed by Trevor Nunn! The Fool. As in many Trevor Nunn productions, the sets are somewhat minimalist, which can sometimes work well.

Bad points. As in many Trevor Nunn productions, the sets are somewhat minimalist, which can sometimes work less well. There's a fair bit of mud and gore. Many of the costumes and the overall setting seemed vaguely Russian (complete with Russian bear dancing), which felt more than a bit out of place with titles like Kent, Gloucester, Cornwall, and Albany being thrown about in the dialogue.

Zero breasts. One and a half gallons of blood. Eight dead bodies. Dowry fu. Dagger fu. Saber fu. Wine fu. Hangman's rope fu. Quarterstaff fu. Poison fu. Poor Tom rolls. (In

the mud.) Gloucester rolls. Edgar rolls. Gratuitous bear dancing. Gratuitous décolletage. Gratuitous eye gouging. Gratuitous attempted suicide. Gratuitous love triangle. Academy Award nominations to Sir Ian McKellen for not missing a step in Lear's descent into madness, and to Sylvester McCoy as the Fool for being the best fool ever in a production of this play. A 73 on the Vomit Meter. Three stars. Da'ud Bob says, "Check it out!"

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