

# *The Crimson Letter*

The Official Newsletter of the Shire of Crimson River ♦ November 2009 ♦ AS XLIV



*Heavy Combat at the Black Rose Tournament*

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# Kingdom Calendar

## November 2009

- 7 Christmas in Sherwood, Loch Cairn
- 7 Legends, Sol Haven Crawfordville, GA
- 14 Fighter's Collegium, Barony of Iron Mountain Royal, AL
- 21 Castle Wars, Southdowns Macon, GA

## December 2009

- 3 Magna Faire, Barony of Iron Mountain Blountsville, AL

## January 2010

- 9 12<sup>th</sup> Night Collegium, Bryn Madoc
- 9 Glaedenfeld 12<sup>th</sup> Night, Glaedenfeld
- 16 Menhir, Rising Stone
- 16 Collegium Event, Talmere
- 23 Diverse Pleasures VII, Canton Des Forges
- 23 Jour d'Amour V, Drakenmere
- 30 Winter Collegium, An Dun Theine
- 30 Baronial Brawl, Osprey

## February 2010

- 6 Midwinter A&S, Southdowns
  - 13 Event, Phoenix Glade
  - 20 Golden Lily, Beau Fort
  - 20 Black Griffin, Thor's Mountain
  - 27 Convivium Collegialis, Glynn Rhe
  - 27 Meridian Maneuvers, Ravenwood
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*"An army of deer led by a lion is more to be feared than an army of lions led by a deer."*

-Philip II, King of Macedonia



*The Shire of Crimson River*  
*Shire Officers*



*Seneschal*

THLady Celeste Alienor Courtenay  
de Montmorency

*Knight Marshall*

Sir Mordan Persenchenev

*Arts and Sciences*

Lord Edward MacTavish  
Lady Ginevra Brembati (Deputy)

*Herald*

Niccolo Talenti

*Exchequer*

THLady Andriet di'Pisan

*Chronicler*

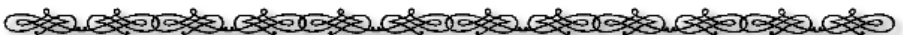
Lord Legio of Orkney

*Rapier Marshall*

Fauna McKay

*Web Minister*

Takeda Sakura





*The Shire of Crimson River*  
*Shire Meetings*



*Populace Meetings*

First Thursday of the Month @ 7pm, Northwest High School Band Room, 800 Lafayette Road, Clarksville, TN 37042

*Arts and Sciences*

Second Thursday of the Month @ 7pm, Doc and Vicki's House, 439 Fabian Place, Clarksville, TN 37043

*Dance Practice*

Third Thursday of the Month @ 7pm, Northwest High School Band Room, 800 Lafayette Road, Clarksville, TN 37042

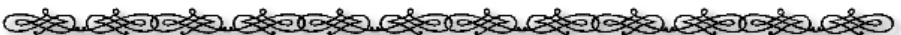
*Newcomer's Meeting*

Third Monday of the Month @ 7pm, Books-A-Million, 125 South Hampton Drive, Clarksville, TN 37040

*Armor Making*

Every Tuesday Night @ 6pm, Sir Mordan's House, 18 Bunker Hill Road, Clarksville, TN 37042

*Join us as we live the dream!*



## *From the Seneschal's Quill*



*Greetings unto the populace!*

*I just want to take a moment to thank you all for the hard work you did this year. We had two successful events! As we prepare for these events again next year, I want to encourage everyone to keep participating and to keep working together. We've had a lot of new things started this year and I hope that we can keep going strong. If you have an idea for a class or something that you would like to see done, please don't keep it under wraps! Let me know about it!*

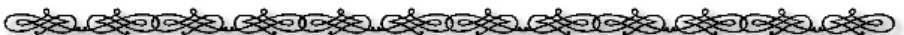
*I would like us to do some demos. I think that there is a lack of knowledge in this community about what the SCA is and what can be learned through our organization. I believe that if we go out there and let people know that we exist, we will keep growing.*

*I hope that everyone is thinking about going to some of the upcoming events! There are a few events coming up in January that are just daytrip events that I believe you will all enjoy. Gladenfeld 12th night looks as if it is going to be a lot of fun. There are also more arts and sciences events and a few fighter's collegiums coming up. Check your Popular Chivalry and make plans to go!*

*Above all... Have Fun!*

*Living the Dream...*

*THL Celeste Alienor Courtenay de Montmorency*





# *The Chronicle's Corner*

Hail and well met!

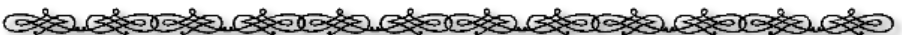
This issue of The Crimson Letter marks my debut as the new Chronicler and Editor. To mark the occasion, The Crimson Letter has been given a new look that I'm hoping will appeal to the populace. We've added our first regular feature, "Munchkin's Menagerie" by Aelina, a mini activity page with something of interest for kids as well as adults. We're also including a centerfold photo page with recent pictures highlighting the activities of our populace. Baron Modar Neznanich of modaruniversity.org has been so kind as to allow us to republish one of my favorite articles "On the Giving of Favors and Tokens".

If there is anything that I like better than writing about the SCA, then it would be READING about the SCA. If you have an article, idea, photographs or original artwork, let me know. Submissions may be sent to [orkneyfng@hotmail.com](mailto:orkneyfng@hotmail.com) or via snail mail to 903 Woodard Street, Clarksville, TN 37040. Got an idea that you want to talk about? Call me directly at 931-494-4679.

I hope you enjoy The NEW Crimson Letter and I'm already looking forward to our next issue!

Strength and Honor...

*Lord Legio of Orkney*





# *On the Giving of Favors & Tokens*

Historically favors were given not just as a symbol of love but also as a display of friendship or allegiance or as an emblem of duties performed and services rendered.

These could range from a simple bit of cloth from a loved one to a "patch" from one's patron worn on your clothes. From a charge to be added to one's banner to a ring given from the great Lord or King. And a lot of other objects as well, including cast metal badges and charges that were attached to belts, armour and other items. One of the most notable favors during the Middle Ages is that of a glove.

Now some people will divide this practice up into the giving of a favor and the giving of a token. To those who differentiate such, a Favor is a gift you give to the keeper of your heart to display upon their person, while a Token is a gift one gives to a person who has your respect, to display upon their person. In reality, it is the same thing...it is merely the perception one puts on it. In both cases, you are granting your honor to be carried by another.

Related to the giving of favors and tokens is the historical practice known as largesse. The period definition of largesse is the virtue of generosity. Within the SCA, most people think of largesse as gifts given by the Crown, but past accounts show the giving of gifts between gentles was widespread through all social ranks. These displays of generosity were most notable among those striving to exhibit knightly or chivalric virtues. Typical examples of largesse in period included spices, bottles of beverages, cloth and trim, or books.

There is also the tradition of patronage. This is where someone decides to support or aid another by supplying them with items they may need to perform their craft or skill, which the recipient might not be able to provide for himself. In period, a patron's gift was usually something practical like arms, armor, or horses for warriors, or craft supplies for artisans. Many

would consider such patronage to be the equivalent of corporate sponsorship today.

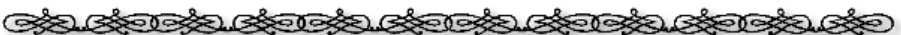
Within the SCA various individuals and households have made “Presentations of Recognition” to other gentles. This may be to assist financially when someone is “strapped for cash” (such as buying materials for an artisan so they could continue plying their craft or paying for a SCA membership so an individual could retain their post as an officer). It may be simply done as an “attaboy” to encourage a gentle to continue on the pathway in which they show promise. Or it may be used to raise awareness of exemplary behavior.

So as you can see, the giving of favors, tokens, gifts, etc. can be indicative of the giver's respect and esteem rather than of romantic interest. In these cases, the relationship between the givers and the recipients may be no more than that of friends. Additionally, because they are granted as signs of friendship, the gender of the givers and recipients should be of little or no importance.

Well-known use of favors included pinning a sleeve from the bestower onto the shoulder of the recipient's garment. There was also the wearing of a badge on one's sleeve, belt or clothes to show allegiance. Additionally tying a scarf or other narrow band of fabric on the arm or belt was noted. It is from this last practice that one of the most common displays of favors in the SCA originated with.

While there is no definitive example of the use of heraldry as belt favors, it is a small leap from period references noting the wearing of a liege-lord's badge to the use of heraldry on favors. This use of heraldry makes for ease of identifiability when declaring association with another. Heraldry also adds to the pageantry, fosters the atmosphere we are striving for and enhances the visual experience for those involved.

*compiled by Baron Modar Neznanich  
used courtesy of <http://www.modaruniversity.org>*





# Munchkin's Menagerie

by Aelina 



This marvelous creature is called a yale. It was said to have been as big as a hippo, have the tail of an elephant, and tusks like a boar. The yale's horns were long and moved independently of one another. People thought that it was either black or orange but feel free to color it any way you want.

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