
The Chanticleer

Monthly Newsletter of Barony Beyond the Mountain

September, 2019

AS 54

Seeking the Next BBM Chronicler!

After 12 years as your Chronicler, I'll be stepping down at Yule. If you are interested, please let me know, and I will be happy to answer any questions. If you are serious about becoming the next Chronicler, please contact me, the Seneschal and their Excellencies. I will be happy to spend as much time as necessary preparing you for the position.

~ Johanna de Glastingburi

From the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Leonardo Da Vinci's St. Jerome

July 15-October 6, 2019

To commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519), The Met presents the artist's painting *Saint Jerome Praying in the Wilderness* (begun around 1483), a special loan from the Vatican Museums.

The Colmar Treasure: A Medieval Jewish Legacy

July 22, 2019 – January 12, 2020

At the Met Cloisters

A cache of jeweled rings, brooches, and coins—the precious possessions of a Jewish family of medieval Alsace—was hidden in the fourteenth century in the wall of a house in Colmar, France. Discovered in 1863 and on view in an exhibition at The Met Cloisters, the Colmar Treasure revives the memory of a once-thriving Jewish community that was scapegoated and put to death when the Plague struck the region with devastating ferocity in 1348–49.

Continued on Page 9



Baronial Officers:

Baron & Baroness - Baron Mark Red Hand, baron@bbm.eastkingdom.org, and Baroness Gwenllian ferch Llewellyn, baroness@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Seneschal – Lady Sisuile Butler, Seneschal@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Deputy - Mistress Elizabeth Vynehorn, vynehorn@gmail.com, and Lady Leandra deLeon, leandrasuz@aol.com

Chatelaine – Baroness Aurelia di Stellari, chatelaine@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Deputy – Sybill Teller, mpeckham83@gmail.com

Chronicler – Lady Johanna de Glastingburi, chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.com

Deputy – Mistress Eloise of Coulter, krisbenysek@att.net.

Company Captain of Archers – Rumhann MacDuibhsithe an Bhlog Seolta, archercap@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Exchequer – Lady Ciara McRobbie, exchequer@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Deputy - Lord Gwilym of Fflint, willied0296@yahoo.com

Herald – Mistress Camma an Daraich, herald@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Knight Marshall – Lord Angus Gove MacKinnon, knightmarshal@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Marshal of Fence – Vacant

Marshal of Thrown Weapons – Vacant

Mistress of Arts & Science – Becky, moas@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Minister of the List – Cordelia MacDougall, mol@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Web Minister – Lady Sisuile Butler, webminister@bbm.eastkingdom.org

Youth Marshal - Vacant

Combat Arts

NOTE: Practices are subject to change without notice. Please call ahead.

Archery

CT: BBM - Tuesdays – 5:30 p.m. (weather permitting) Burlington, CT - Dorigen & Eloise's at 17 Bittersweet Lane, Burlington, CT. Contact Dorigen at 860-673-2240.

CT: Dragonship Haven: Sundays 12-3 pm (in season, weather permitting) Oxford, CT. DragonshipHaven@yahoo.com

Fencing

Thursdays, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street, Hamden, CT (hosted by Barony of Dragonship Haven). Contact the Fencing Marshal (Christophel) @fence@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org.

Heavy-List Fighting

Wednesdays, 7 pm, Barony of Bergental at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 455 Island Pond Rd., Springfield, MA. Contact Knight Marshall of Barony of Bergental for more information.

Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street, Hamden, CT, hosted by Barony of Dragonship Haven). Contact the marshal at heavy@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org.

Thrown Weapons Practice

1st & 3rd Sunday, 64 Orchard St, Vernon, CT. Contact sisuile@gmail.com for times.

Thursdays (thru October), 7 Jacob's Hill Rd, Ellington, CT, 5:30 p.m. to dark. If there is any chance of cancelation, I will post on the BBM Facebook page. Contact Matthew Soucy (Matteo Genovese) matthewsoucy@gmail.com 774-545-5733.

Baronial Champions:

Archery Champion: Baron Dorigen of Lewes

Fencing Champion: Agnes de Leon

Heavy Weapons Champion: Svafnir Thorvaldson

Thrown Weapons Champion: Lord Gwilym of Fflint

Baronial Meeting:

Monday, September 16, 2019, location to be determined. Check the BBM website for updates: <https://bbm.eastkingdom.org/> or the BBM facebook page.

Arts & Science Middle-Eastern Dance

Sundays, 1-4 p.m., Authur Murray Dance Studio, Glen Lochen Marketplace, 39 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT. Contact Mistress Su'ad (Nancy Barrett) at 860-228-6933 (before 10 p.m.); nancysuad@gmail.com.

Dance

First Tuesday of month – 8:30-10:30 pm - Camelot Co-Housing 46 Sawyer Hill Rd. Berlin, MA (Quintavia)

Sewing

Sewing & Throwing is the 3rd Sunday, bring your string-based projects, hang out, throw sharp objects at wood. 64 Orchard St, Vernon, CT. Contact sisuile@gmail.com for times.

August 2019 BBM Meeting Notes 8/19/2019

Upcoming meetings:

September 16th – Location unknown. Ciara is looking into North Stonington Library, and Larry is looking into Killingly Library. Both will report back to Sisuile.

Officer's Reports

Exchequer - We have a healthy bank account.

- We have checks that have not been cashed. Please cash them!

- There was a meeting of EK exchequers at Pennsic, and there were several policy announcements that will impact BBM:

1) A Google Drive has been established with a folder for each group. All groups must upload the most recent 7 years of quarterly and annual reports as well as NMS and event reports.

2) Any financial decisions made at a meeting must be included in the meeting minutes, and that portion of the minutes must be uploaded to the Google Drive folder as well.

3) If we have dedicated funds (like we do from the former fencing practice), the barony must have a policy which specifies how the money may be spent, and what happens to it if it's not spent within a certain amount of time (all to be determined by the barony).

Chatelaine – No new emails to respond to. She might have a potential new recruit.

Chronicler - Please send articles, stories, links, how-tos, recipes, photos, etc. Johanna will be stepping down at Yule. She will post an announcement that she is looking for a successor.

Arts and Sciences – Not present; no report

Herald – Not present; no report provided.

Web Minister – She is trying to keep things updated, but people must inform her if they want something posted to the Announcements page on the website, or to the Calendar. Please send all requests to the web minister email address.

Lists – Not present; nothing to report at this time.

Knight Marshal – Fight practice continues. There are 2 practices left for the season.

Fencing Marshal – Not present; no report.

Captain of Archers – Archery is happening on Tuesdays in Burlington and the turnout has been good, including multiple new people.

Youth Marshal – VACANT

Thrown Weapons Marshal – Michael - Not present; no report provided.

Baron and Baroness – They are pleased to announce that TRM will come to Yule! Please send recommendations for awards. They are also looking for largesse to give to TRM and Baron of Bergental at Yule (also possibly TRH).

Many well-meaning people have approached TRH about coming to Yule; some concern was expressed by folks that we may have overwhelmed the royals a bit with our enthusiasm. The meeting discussed the pros and cons

about designating someone in the future to officially reach out to the royals when we want to extend an invitation. No decision has been made at this time.

Seneschal – Not present; no report.

Old Business

Yule 2019

No pressing issues needed to be discussed.

Reminder from Larry – We need items and/or services to be auctioned off at the Silent Auction.

Dorian noted that no bids have been received yet for the EK Fencing Champs, which usually take place in the November/December timeframe. We agreed that it would be hard to run both Yule and the fencing champs at the site, unless fencing was held outside. No decision was made with regards to a bid, but we may be approached.

Golden Seamstress (no date)

Not site has been found yet, but multiple people are looking. Her Excellency will be looking at a site in Norwich in the near future. Site requirements: At least 1 large room, and another smaller room (for sleeping contestants), as well as space for changing. A small kitchen is nice but not required. Price range: ideally not more than \$200, as that's what the event generally brings in.

Artifacts of a Life IV – 2/8/2020

- Baron Jehan will once again be an unofficial co-autocrat and will begin work shortly on recruiting judges. Elizabeth is working on thank you gifts for the judges.

- Master Peregrine has agreed to run the tabulation process, which is a big part of the behind the scenes work.

- We would like to give prizes of raw materials – contact Elizabeth with any questions regarding suitability. We have previously discussed a budget of \$50 for prizes, which Elizabeth would like to use towards the cost of the wood chests that Eloise and Dorian usually build. This month's Pikestaff contains the old date for Artifacts (which was in September 2019). Eloise has put out an announcement on FB, letting people know that the correct date is 2/8/2020.

New Business

Thrown Weapons Marshal - Attendees voted in favor of Mateo becoming the barony's TW marshal.

East Hartland Site - Aelfgifu provided an extensive report on the site, which she will also send to the seneschal. Basically, they won't rent to the SCA as a group (renters are not allowed to charge a fee for entry), but will rent to Andrea as an individual for \$40 for the day. So, this means any event is basically a private party hosted by Andrea.

Occupancy: 70.

Restrictions: No weapons, alcohol, or pets. No access by attendees to the surrounding town park area. All cleaning supplies must be brought by the renter.

Andrea is looking at potential dates (9/21, 9/28, or 10/5) to have a small craft day at the site. Look for further announcements.

Possible Sites (identified by Eloise)

1. St. James Episcopal in Glastonbury (Maine Street)
- Occupancy: 240, but that seems too high to Eloise. Handicapped accessible. Kitchen is residential on steroids; no dumpster, only 2 garbage bins. Site rents to nonprofits, but cost currently unknown. Talk to Jody in the office about renting.
2. St. Roberts in Windsor Locks – supposedly has a great commercial kitchen. However, they rent in 4-hr blocks and the contract has an indemnification clause which we would have to get approval for with Corporate.

Food Safety Kitchen Equipment - Severin attended a class at Pennsic on food safety and noted several things which he thinks we should add to the kitchen supplies: 1) thermometers with wire attached to digital monitor; 2) disposable gloves in multiple sizes; 3) long handled teaspoons for tasting. Severin will look into costs and come back with a proposal.

Thrown Weapons Event - Matteo would like to run a decathlon-themed thrown weapons event. He doesn't have a site yet, and would like help finding one. Requirements are: Big field (100' x 100'). Kitchen not required, but bathrooms are needed. Parking: For no more than 50 attendees if event is TW only. He's willing to include other activities, but site requirements may change as a result. As Matteo has never run an event, he's also looking for help/guidance. He's happy to do the work, but doesn't know everything that needs to be considered and/or done.

Communication and Social Media Issues - Andrea brought up several related issues for discussion. I (Elizabeth V.) asked her to write up a summary and that is attached below.

2019-08-19 Proposed by Aelfgifu of the Hazel Thicket (Andrea Leshinskie) as new business at the Barony Beyond the Mountain Baronial Business Meeting

(1) Return the Facebook Group (chat/discussion) that is currently titled "S.C.A. East Kingdom Barony Beyond the Mountain OFFICIAL" back to "UNOFFICIAL."

My Comments:

(a) It was started many years ago as an informal discussion forum, and has postings that are not appropriate for an OFFICIAL outward-facing representation of the Barony. While I am uneasy about censoring those discussions by removing them, however heated they were, I personally would rather see the current Group deleted rather than remain "OFFICIAL" and have that status add gravitas to those posts. The better answer seems to be to change the Group back to UNOFFICIAL.

(b) It is too rambling and random to function well as an OFFICIAL source of information. A Facebook Page would be better suited to this task.

(c) The East Kingdom discussion Group on Facebook is UNOFFICIAL. Why, if that is so, does BBM have to designate our discussion Group as OFFICIAL? Consistency in presentation would be nice. ((Sub-question I did not bring up at the Baronial Meeting because I did not think of it until now, but...if the Facebook discussion Group is "OFFICIAL," does that make its moderators Officers of the Barony? It did not start out that way – Anders created it and made me a Moderator – other moderators were added at my discretion, and not always because they were baronial officers, but because I thought they had level heads. What defines a Moderator now, and how are Moderators for that Group chosen, and what are their responsibilities? Another reason to make it UNOFFICIAL – its control mechanism is not defined nor governed in writing.))

(2) Consider whether or not it would be a good idea for the Barony to create or add the office of Social Media Liaison, either as a sub-office of the Seneschal, or the Webminister, or the Chatelaine, or as a stand-alone office.

My Comments:

(a) Facebook and other social media (but mostly Facebook at this time) are not going to go away, is probably only going to get more important as a contact-point for interested or curious people. It is the first place many people look to find information about things they are interested in. Our Barony should have a solid, "outward-facing," curated portal into our activities on Facebook and possibly on other social media as appropriate. If we don't create our presence, it will be created for us, and much more randomly, by what searchers can find from other individual sources. I believe (and recommend) that we should create and maintain an OFFICIAL Facebook PAGE for the Barony, that would not allow for discussion but would rather be only announcements and links to other informative sites, groups, pages, etc. A Social Media Officer would make keeping track of this sort of thing much simpler and more consistent.

(b) A Social Media Liaison should plan to work very closely with the Web Minister so that the Baronial Web Site and the Facebook Page carry similar information and point to each other.

(c) Social Media Liaison is enough of a job that it should not be done by the Seneschal, or the Web Minister, or the Chatelaine (should not "wear two hats").

(d) Eloise raised the concern that a Social Media Liaison would end up being a full-time ("8 hour a day") job as a Moderator – also that a Facebook Page should not simply be a full duplication of the current Web Page. I personally feel that a Social Media Officer is not necessarily a "moderator" type of position (although the person could be ONE of the Moderators on the discussion Group, or not). I also feel that while a Facebook Page should strongly mirror the Web Page, it does not need to be absolutely identical. It should provide the same basic information, and should point to the Web Page for more detailed information.

(e) All of these things should be discussed and the "Office of Social Media for the Barony" should be defined based not only on how the SCA defines it but also what would be the expected responsibilities for the office at our (baronial) level before the Barony adds it to our list of officers and seeks a candidate to fill it.

(3) Add to Baronial Policy: Baronial Meeting Minutes are to be published at a set (and short) interval after the Meeting.

My Comments:

(a) We should examine the policies of other SCA groups and other non-SCA organizations for best practices for groups that meet monthly to set a reasonable interval to allow the minutes to be typed up and published. (My personal feeling is that they should be published within a week, to allow members of the Barony to review them, discuss them, and make decisions and plans to attend the next / following meeting based upon them – but that may be too short a time. This is why I suggest reviewing the policies of other groups.)

(b) Engagement of the baronial populace and transparency of decision-making is the goal. Many of us have noted (and complained about) the lack of participation of many of the people who live within the baronial boundaries, but don't show up for events or activities. Promptly and regularly published minutes would let people know what's under discussion, even if they can't get to meetings.

(c) It does not matter whether the Seneschal keeps the notes and publishes the Minutes, or if someone is designated as a "secretary / recorder", or if they collaborate, or whatever – as long as the minutes get organized and made public in a reasonable amount of time.

Archaeology News

<http://www.archaeology.org/news/>

8/28/19 - MEDIEVAL FORTIFIED TOWER BASE DISCOVERED IN BULGARIA -

BURGAS, BULGARIA—*The Sofia Globe* reports that the base of a large hexagonal tower measuring about 50 feet long and 40 feet wide with six-foot-thick walls has been uncovered at the site of Rusokastro Fortress in southeastern Bulgaria. Milen Nikolov and Vassil Mutafov of the Burgas Regional Historical Museum suggest that the tower, which was not connected to the fortress walls, dates to the thirteenth century A.D. It may have had several stories and stood about 60 feet tall, Nikolov added, allowing room to store weapons, food, and water. Stairs probably led to a ten-foot-tall, defended tower entrance. "In the event of a siege," he said, "even if the city and the castle are taken over, the last defenders and the local aristocrat with

their family can hold out for a long time until outside aid arrives or supplies finish." To read about another recent find at Rusokastro, go to "Iconic Discovery."

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2019/08/27/archaeology-large-tower-found-at-bulgarias-mediaeval-rusokastro-site/>

8/27/19 - MEDIEVAL COIN HOARD

UNEARTHED IN SCOTLAND - MIDLOTHIAN,

SCOTLAND—*The Edinburgh Evening News* reports that amateur historian and metal detectorist Jarosław Musiałkowski discovered a cache of 200 silver coins at a possible medieval military camp in Scotland's east-central Lowlands. The site is associated with the First War of Scottish Independence and the Battle of Roslin, in which 8,000 Scottish troops, led by John Comyn, killed more than 20,000 invading English soldiers under the command of John Segrave in A.D. 1303. Many of the coins bear an image of the English king Edward I, who ruled from 1272 to 1307, while others are thought to have been minted in Ireland. Archaeologists also recovered pottery and other artifacts from the area where the coins were found. Musiałkowski thinks the coins may have been intended as payment for mercenaries who fought in the battle. Researchers from the National Museum of Scotland are now examining the coins. To read about a coin recovered from the battlefield of a later skirmish in the War of Scottish Independence, go to "Bannockburn Booty."

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/retro/detectorist-uncovers-coin-haul-from-14th-century-roslin-battle-1-4991654>

8/22/19 - IRELAND'S POPULATION

DECLINED BEFORE VIKING ARRIVAL

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND—A new analysis of data collected at Ireland's early medieval archaeological sites suggests the island's population had been in decline for about 200 years before the arrival of the Vikings in the tenth century A.D., according to a report in *The Irish Times*. Researcher Rowan McLaughlin of Queen's University Belfast said the population decline appears to have been a gradual process, likely due to war, famine, plague, or political unrest. Although there were few Viking settlers, he explained, their population expanded, so that traces of Viking heritage are found in the genes of many Irish people today. It had been previously thought that Ireland's native population increased steadily until the Great Famine of the 1840s. For more, go to "The Vikings in Ireland."

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/ireland->

s-population-in-serious-decline-before-vikings-arrival-1.3993346

8/21/19 - ANGLO-SAXON BUILDING UNEARTHED AT ENGLISH CASTLE -

BAMBURGH, ENGLAND—According to a report in *The Northumberland Gazette*, archaeologists excavating Anglo-Saxon remains at Bamburgh Castle on England's northeast coast have unearthed the remains of a large building dating to the mid-seventh to mid-eighth century. Led by archaeologist Graeme Young, the team initially believed they were excavating a series of small buildings, but instead discovered the edges of a single large building adjacent to a large cobble pathway. The structure was found below a layer that contained traces of a forge dating to the ninth century, and it's possible the newly identified structure may have also have been used by Anglo-Saxons for an industrial activity such as metalworking. To read in depth about the excavations at Bamburgh Castle, go to "Stronghold of the Kings of the North."

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/dig-uncovers-evidence-of-8th-century-building-at-bamburgh-castle-490928>

8/20/19 - EARLY STONE CHURCH UNEARTHED IN ENGLAND - LYMINGE,

ENGLAND—According to a *BBC* report, archaeologists excavating within the medieval churchyard at St. Mary and St. Ethelburga Parish Church have revealed a much older Anglo-Saxon building that appears to be one of the earliest stone churches in England. Structural elements, including the presence of a pink mortar made out of lime and crushed Roman brick, as well as a distinctive triple arch, suggest the church builders imported stonemasons from France to oversee construction. Additionally, the team uncovered remnants of a small annex to the north side of the church that fits a description of the tomb of Anglo-Saxon Queen Ethelburga written in the 1090s. Ethelburga, a princess of Kent and queen of Northumbria, is recorded to have founded the church in or around the year 634. Researchers now hope that further analysis of the early church—in conjunction with the site of a sixth- to seventh-century royal estate and feasting hall complex discovered nearby—will help them learn more about how Anglo-Saxon society transformed through the process of Christianization. To read more about Anglo-Saxon England, and excavations in Lyminge in particular, go to "The Kings of Kent." <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-49408955>

8/19/19 - MEROVINGIAN PERIOD SKELETON UNCOVERED IN FRANCE -

CAHORS, FRANCE—A limestone sarcophagus containing the remains of an elderly woman dating to the seventh century has been unearthed in Cahors, in southwestern France, according to a report from *RFI*. The discovery was made as part of excavations carried out ahead of a redevelopment project by the archaeological unit of the Department of Lot, in cooperation with specialists from France's National Institute of Preventive Archaeological Research. The skeleton, which dates to the Merovingian period, bore evidence of osteoarthritis and was buried without grave goods. It was found near St. Bartholomew's church, in an area believed to be within the confines of a monastery that was founded in the seventh century by the Merovingian royal official Didier of Cahors. In addition to the skeleton, researchers have uncovered Merovingian pottery and what appear to be traces of a kitchen. To read about the discovery of several notable burials in southwestern France dating to the eighth century, go to "Islam North of the Pyrenees." <http://en.rfi.fr/france/20190818-7th-century-merovingian-skeleton-found-cahors-sarcophagus-archaeology-excavation>

8/15/19 - ARCHAEOLOGISTS EXPLORE MEDIEVAL CASTLE'S CAVE IN POLAND -

SILESIA, POLAND—*Science in Poland* reports that a range of artifacts and some 200 Neanderthal knives and scrapers were discovered in a cave on the grounds of a ruined castle in northeastern Poland. The cave's vault may have been buttressed in the thirteenth century, when the castle was built, in order to support the weight of the structure above it. Archaeologist Mikołaj Urbanowski of the Foundation Nature and Man said the stone tools are estimated to be about 40,000 years old, and crafted at a time when Neanderthals and modern humans both lived in Europe, but were made with a technique known to have been employed by early human relatives. Other finds from the cave include a furnace that was used to produce bronze in the fifteenth century. The skeleton of a young dog found underneath the furnace may have been placed there as an offering. "The purpose of the offering," Urbanowski said, "whose roots can be traced back to pagan times, was to make the smelting process successful. Metallurgists had a lot of knowledge, but intuition and luck were crucial." He speculates that the furnace may have been hidden in the cave to conceal a coin-counterfeiting operation or some other illegitimate purpose. To read about kinship

among Neolithic people buried together in southern Poland, go to "We Are Family."
<http://scienceinpoland.pap.pl/en/news/news%2C78193%2Csilesia-hundreds-neanderthal-tools-discovered-cave-castle-olsztyn.html>

8/9/19 - NOBLE RESIDENCE DISCOVERED IN BELARUS - USHACHI, BELARUS—According to a report in *Belarus News*, archaeologists from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have unearthed an aristocratic residence in the north of the country that dates to the twelfth century. The estate seems to have belonged to the Polotsk princes, who ruled the Duchy of Polotsk, which comprised most of present-day northern Belarus during the medieval period. At the site, the archaeologists have so far unearthed household architecture, as well as the remains of an oven and a silver ring. National Academy of Sciences archaeologist Marat Klimov notes that this is the first time any Polotsk noble residence has been discovered outside an urban area, and that it could have been occupied by any of the princes, including Vseslav the Sorcerer, an eleventh-century prince who was the most well-known ruler of the Polotsk dynasty. To read about a recent medieval discovery in Russia, go to "Medieval Russian Memo." <https://eng.belta.by/society/view/fragments-of-12th-century-polotsk-princely-residence-unearthed-in-belarus-123220-2019/>

8/9/19 - MEDIEVAL TRASH DUMP UNEARTHED AT ENGLISH CASTLE - BISHOP AUCKLAND, ENGLAND—According to a report in *The Northern Echo*, excavations at Auckland Castle in northeast England have unearthed details about the leisure activities of medieval England's prince bishops of Durham, high-ranking clergymen who also ruled over the territory between the Tyne and Tees rivers. For more than 700 years, the castle served as the bishops' country retreat, where they hunted and hosted guests. Durham University archaeologists have excavated a trash heap in an area that was once the castle's Great Hall, which yielded evidence of sumptuous feasts. They recovered fragments of goblets, a thirteenth- or fourteenth-century French enameled object, and a seventeenth-century carved bone knife handle, as well as remains of meat and fish. In addition, they have uncovered a parlor, latrine, and stairs that led to the top of the structure's substantial curtain wall. Supported by buttresses, the 23-foot-high wall appears to have been demolished by the late seventeenth century, affording a clear view of the castle from a distance. For more on English

archaeology, go to "Letter from England: Building a Road Through History."
<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/17824911-see-latest-discoveries-made-auckland-castle-dig-site/>

8/8/19 - CATAPULT STONE FOUND IN WELSH CASTLE - HAY-ON-WYE, WALES—*BBC News* reports the discovery of a large thirteenth-century catapult stone during renovation work in the east wing of Hay Castle on the border of England and Wales. The 1-foot-wide stone weighs nearly 63 pounds and would have been shot from a wooden catapult known as a trebuchet, a siege engine that was first employed in Britain around 1217. In addition to stones, assailants would also fire burning objects, human bodies and excrement, and dead animals at castle walls. According to the Hay Castle Trust, the stone might date to the Barons' War (1263–1266), one of the documented sieges of the castle that occurred during the 1200s. To read about the recent discovery of a medieval fortification in Wales, go to "The Marks of Time: Medieval Castle."
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49269127>

8/7/19 - VIKING DRINKING HALL UNEARTHED ON SCOTTISH ISLAND - WESTNESS, SCOTLAND—*The Scotsman* reports that archaeologists have unearthed what they believe to be a Viking 'drinking hall' at the nineteenth-century Skail Farmstead on the island of Rousay. Dating to the tenth through twelfth centuries, the stone-walled building appears to be at least 3 m long, and is oriented down a slope toward the sea. Stone benches line each side of the interior, a feature that bolsters the researchers' identification of its function. According to the *Orkneyinga saga*, a historical account of the Orkney Islands, Westness was home to Sigurd, a powerful Norse chieftain who ruled during the twelfth century. "We have recovered a millennium of middens which will allow us an unparalleled opportunity to look at changing dietary traditions, farming and fishing practices from the Norse period up until the 19th century," said excavation co-director Ingrid Mainland of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Thus far, artifacts recovered include pottery, soapstone, a bone spindle whorl, and a fragment of a bone comb. To read about the Vikings' arrival in Anglo-Saxon England, go to "The Viking Great Army."
<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage/ancient-viking-drinking-hall-unearthed-in-orkney-1-4977857>

8/2/19 - ARCHAEOLOGISTS REVEAL COVENTRY'S MEDIEVAL HEART -

COVENTRY, ENGLAND—According to a report in the *Coventry Observer*, archaeologists have been excavating and conducting historic building recordings at Drapers' Hall, an early nineteenth-century building in Coventry's historic center. The structure, which features a neoclassical temple facade and is thought to be the most recently built of a succession of guildhalls at the site stretching back to 1637, has sat empty for nearly 30 years. The surveys, conducted by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), are taking place ahead of plans to turn Drapers' Hall into a music education and performance venue. Previous excavations at the site confirmed that medieval remains lie under the foundation of the current building, when the city's drapers—or cloth merchants—became famous for the production of blue fabric. Artifacts recently discovered at the site include a sixteenth- or seventeenth-century pen made of bird bone, sixteenth-century beads, medieval glass and stone molds, and eighteenth- or nineteenth-century ladle bowls with the heraldic arms of the Drapers Company. To read more about the archaeology of medieval and early modern England, go to "The Many Lives of an English Manor House." <https://coventryobserver.co.uk/news/excavations-at-coventrys-historic-core-drapers-hall-reveal-hidden-treasures/>

8/1/19 - FRENCH MONASTIC BUILDING DISCOVERED IN IRELAND - COUNTY

MEATH, IRELAND—The *Irish Mirror* reports that archaeologists working outside the city of Drogheda have uncovered a medieval site associated with the French Cistercian foundation of De Bello Becco, or Beaubec. The team discovered the foundations of a structure that appears to feature a diagonal, French-style buttress, as well as a kiln, and rare French ceramics dating to the thirteenth century, when the Norman monks are known to have been granted lands in the area. Researchers hope to learn more about the type of agricultural produce the monastery would have exported and imported, and about the involvement of the Cistercians in the region's commercial development through the latter part of the Middle Ages. To read more about the archaeology of medieval Ireland, go to "The Vikings in Ireland." <https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/hugely-significant-finds-rare-french-18807968>

From the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Continued from Page 1

The Decorated Word: Writing and Picturing in Islamic Calligraphy

April 8 – November 3, 2019

This exhibition examines the interplay between writing and picturing in Islamic calligraphy and explores the inherent tension between textual design, decoration, readability, and verbal clarity in some four dozen examples of Islamic calligraphy from The Met collection. These works, created between the ninth century and the present, include works on paper and parchment; ceramics; metalwork and coins; and a carpet.

Relative Values: The Cost of Art in the Northern Renaissance

August 7, 2017 – February 28, 2021.

Bringing together sixty-two masterpieces of sixteenth-century northern European art from The Met collection and one important loan, this exhibition revolves around questions of historical worth, exploring relative value systems in the Renaissance era.

The Last Knight: *The Art, Armor, and Ambition of Maximilian I*

October 7, 2019 – January 5, 2020

This exhibition will feature many works of art on view outside Europe for the first time, including Maximilian's own sumptuous armors that highlight his patronage of the greatest European armorers of his age, as well as related manuscripts, paintings, sculpture, glass, tapestry, and toys, all of which emphasize the emperor's dynastic ambitions and the centrality of chivalry at the imperial court and beyond.

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From the Frick Museum

Bertoldo di Giovanni: The Renaissance of Sculpture in Medici Florence

September 18, 2019 to January 12, 2020

This fall, The Frick Collection will present the first-ever exhibition on the Florentine sculptor Bertoldo di Giovanni (ca. 1440–1491), a renowned student of Donatello, a teacher of Michelangelo, and a great favorite of Lorenzo “il Magnifico” de’ Medici, his principal patron.



.....
Jane Brezzo

146 Prospect Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033
