
The Chanticleer

The Monthly Newsletter of the Barony Beyond the Mountain

www.bbm.eastkingdom.org

March, 2020

Anno Societatis 54

“Beware the ides of March.”
~The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Act I, Scene ii

Happy new year! How’s that, you say? The name for the month of March comes from Martius, which was the first month of the Roman calendar, not the third. And when Roman law was revived in the middle ages, while January 1st was selected in many places to begin the year, it was not universal. March – the first month of spring, with the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, was the focus of many new year’s celebrations. Venice began their new year on March 1, as did Russia until the end of the 15th century. Great Britain – including her colonies - used March 25 as the beginning of the year until they adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, and to this day, the United Kingdom’s fiscal calendar begins on April 6 – the equivalent to March 25 in the Julian calendar.

From *“Life in a Medieval City”* by Frances and Joseph Gies:

“A traveller setting out from Venice on March 1, 1245, the first day of the Venetian year; finding himself in 1244 when he reached Florence; and after a short stay going on to Pisa, where he would enter the year 1246. Continuing westward, he would return to 1245 when he entered Provence, and upon arriving in France before Easter (April 16) he would be once more in 1244.”

And you thought daylight savings time was confusing.



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Baronial Champions

Heavy Weapons Champion:
Baron Angus Gove McKinnon

Fencing Champion:
Lady Agnes de Leon

Archery Champion:
Vacant

Thrown Weapons Champion:
Lord Gwilym of Flint

Artifacts of a Life IV

February brought us the fourth Artifacts of a Life event. At the event there were four contestants in the Typical category, entering three or four objects; and one in the Elite category entering... we shall say that there were considerably more than five.

In the Typical category, Tasha Medvedeva showed us the fiber tools of a 10th century Norse woman's trade with the most amazing documentation abstract ever, that detailed her husband Vigolfr's poor choices.

Ameline qui Dosnoie displayed the belongings of a 16th century Venetian courtesan, which astonishingly she had fabricated since Yule, including learning new techniques.

Jan Janowicz Bogdanski presented a game board and pieces for two games which he had researched, built, turned, and painted himself.

Brendan Firebow exhibited mid-16th century English artifacts, including an ingenious set of period style glasses suitable for modern needs.

In the Elite category, Bartholomew Sharpe astonished us with the tools and output of a tailor's shop.

At the end of the day, the judges made the difficult decisions to award the prizes to Pan Jan in the Typical category, and Lord Bartholomew in the Elite category. Master Jehan and Mistress Elizabeth explained that they had not awarded the Elite prize on the grounds that there was only one entry, but rather because Bartholomew's entry had embodied everything that they had hoped for when the event was created, bringing a persona to life via the arts and sciences.

In court, Their Excellencies Mark and Gwenllian awarded their Baronage Choice award to Ameline qui Dosnoie.

Also in court, Baron Dorian of Lewes stepped down as the Baronial Archery Champion and returned the regalia, as he will be unable to attend the event to choose his successor and does not wish to have abrogated his duties by missing a Baronial event.

As the last item of business, Mistress Aelfgiva spoke to the crowd regarding the future of the event, saying that if Artifacts of a Life is to be continued, they are the people who need to make it happen – by talking about it, by encouraging people to enter, by encouraging people to attend, by entering and attending themselves.

Congratulations to the winners, and to all the entrants for their work.



Baronial Meeting

The date and location for the March Baronial meeting is March 22, from 12:00 to 3:00 at the Finnish American Heritage Society at 76 North Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT. Lunch will be potluck.

Ongoing Practices

Most Baronial practices are currently on hiatus due to winter. Please see the listings below for more information, and check the calendar and activities page on the Baronial website for up to the moment information: <https://bbm.eastkingdom.org/baronial-activities/>

Archery Practice

Burlington, CT

Archery practice is currently weather dependent. Please contact Dorian in advance to ascertain the state of the range. Archery Practice is every Tuesday night until we can't see or it's too cold. Cancelled in the case of inclement weather, though we may still do repair work if enough people show up. Loaner gear is available upon request. Come out and join us! Practice is currently located at 17 Bittersweet Ln, Burlington, CT, use the side door next to the garage. You may contact Dorian at bob.schlain@gmail.com with any questions about the Burlington archery practice. Please see the calendar listing on the website for precise times, as they are subject to change dependent upon weather, school activities, illness, etc.



Heavy Fighting Practice

Norwich, CT

Our armored fighting practice is currently closed for the season, but should reopen in May. It occurs Saturdays at the Leffingwell House Museum at 348 Washington Street, Norwich, CT. Please see the calendar listing on the website for the dates and times. There is also a Facebook discussion page for armored combat in the Barony.

Thrown Weapons Practice

Ellington, CT

Thrown weapons practice is currently closed for the season.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to throw an axe, knife or spear? Come to the BBM Thrown Weapons practice. We'll teach you. We will also give you the chance to throw Royal Rounds, which is our way to compare throwers using a standard system of scoring. Please wear closed toe shoes. Thrown weapons practice is held every Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30pm until dark at 7 Jacobs Hill Road, Ellington, CT. We ask that you only participate one evening a week in order to preserve the targets as much as possible. In the event of cancellation, there will be a post on the Baronial Facebook page. You may contact Matteo for more information at matthewsoucy@gmail.com, 774-545-5733 or Matt Soucy on Facebook. There is also a Facebook discussion page for thrown weapons activities in the Barony.

Other Practices in the Area

Other groups in the local area hold indoor practices that are currently open. Please see the bottom of the activities page on the Baronial website: <https://bbm.eastkingdom.org/baronial-activities/>

Help Wanted

YULE CEREMONIES COORDINATOR

Good people Beyond the Mountain – let’s talk about Yule for next year.

I have coordinated the Yule Ceremonies for over ten years now – many of them with the able assistance of Baroness Gwennlian. Last year was the last year I will be running them. I will continue to provide the ring subtlety, but I need to hand the presentations off to someone else. Twelve years is long enough.

Therefore, if people would like the Yule presentations to continue, someone needs to step up. If they do, I will be more than willing to walk them through this coming year, or they can jump in cold if they prefer. It is their choice.

It is also possible that I am the only person left who loves them, and that their time has passed. That will make me sad, but is also okay.

Either way, I will not be in charge of them next year. Whether that is because someone else has taken over, or because they are not being done – time will tell.

I intend to put all the information I have onto the baronial website at www.bbm.eastkingdom.org for people to peruse. If you are interested in taking this on and taking it into its next evolution, please let me know. You may contact me via either chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.org, or webminister@eastkingdom.org.

~Eloise

ARTIFACTS OF A LIFE EVENT COORDINATOR

If Artifacts of a Live V is to happen in 2022, the Barony will need someone to plan and coordinate the event. That someone could be you!

After eight years and four events, Mistress Elizabeth no longer wishes to be in charge of the event. She is creating a “how to” manual and is willing to advise a

prospective event steward, but has no desire to continue running it.

If the idea of running an arts and sciences event that is unique in the Kingdom appeals to you, come to a Baronial meeting and talk to us about it!

Museum News

(All exhibit descriptions from the museums’ websites)

Current Exhibitions:

Metropolitan Museum of Art

www.metmuseum.org

Relative Values: The Cost of Art in the Northern Renaissance

Through 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. Organized in six sections—raw materials, virtuosity, technological advances, fame, market, and paragone—tapestry, stained and vessel glass, sculpture, paintings, precious metal-work, and enamels are juxtaposed with pricing data from sixteenth-century documents. What did a tapestry cost in the sixteenth century? Goldsmiths’ work? Stained glass? How did variables like raw materials, work hours, levels of expertise and artistry, geography, and rarity, affect this? Did production cost necessarily align with perceived market valuation in inventoried collections? Who assigned these values? By exploring different sixteenth-century yardsticks of gauging worth, by probing extrinsic versus intrinsic value, and by presenting works of different media and function side-by-side, the exhibition captures a sense of the splendor and excitement of this era.

The Pierpont Morgan Library

www.themorgan.org

The Book of Ruth: Medieval to Modern

February 14 through June 14, 2020

Famine and flight, emigration and immigration, foreignness: these are some of the societal issues touched upon by the anonymous author of the Bible's Book of Ruth, whose titular character was a great-grandmother of King David and, in the Christian tradition, an ancestor of Jesus Christ. This exhibition celebrates the 2018 gift by Joanna S. Rose of the Joanna S. Rose Illuminated Book of Ruth to the Morgan. The accordion-fold vellum manuscript, measuring nine inches tall and an amazing eighteen feet long, was designed and illuminated by New York artist Barbara Wolff, who worked on the project for two years (2015–17). The complete biblical text of the Book of Ruth is written in Hebrew on one side and in English on the other, the work of calligrapher Izzy Pludwinski. The Hebrew side features twenty colored illustrations and a continuous landscape, with accents and lettering in silver, gold, and platinum; the English side has forty images executed in black ink.

The Rose Book of Ruth is presented in conversation with twelve manuscripts, drawn from the Morgan's holdings, that unfold the Christian traditions for illustrating the story of Ruth during the Middle Ages. Through the juxtaposition of the modern manuscript with these ancient works, which date from the twelfth to the fifteenth century and include three leaves from the Morgan's famed Crusader Bible, the exhibition brings into focus the techniques of medieval illumination that inspired Wolff, as well as her inventive approach to iconography.

The Beineke Library

www.beinecke.library.yale.edu

Subscribed: The Manuscript in Britain, 1500-1800

January 18, 2020 – April 19, 2020

“Subscribed: The Manuscript in Britain, 1500-1800” consists of three individual exhibits:

- *Paper-businesses: Manuscript and Power in Early Modern England* by Kathryn James, curator of Early Modern Books and Manuscripts and the Osborn Collection
- *Pastime With Good Company: Writing and Leisure in Early Modern England* by Eve Houghton, graduate student in the Department of English, Yale University
- *The Critics' Gallery: The Manuscript as Critical Object* by Ray Clemens, Johanna Drucker, Diane Ducharme, Anastasia Eccles, Marta Figlerowicz, Susan Howe, Kathryn James, David Scott Kastan, Nancy Kuhl, Larry Manley, Lucy Mulrone, Cathy Nicholson, John Durham Peters, Sara Powell, Joe Roach, Peter Stallybrass, Emily Thornbury, Michael Warner

Upcoming Exhibitions:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

www.metmuseum.org

Art at the Tudor Courts

October 6, 2020 – January 10, 2021

England under the Tudors was a thriving and sophisticated home for the arts. Against the backdrop of England's shifting political relationship with mainland Europe, Tudor artistic patronage legitimized and glorified a series of tumultuous reigns, from Henry VII's seizure of the throne in 1485 to the death of his granddaughter Elizabeth I in 1603.

The Tudor courts were truly cosmopolitan, on par with any continental rivals, and boasted the work of Florentine sculptors, German painters, Flemish weavers, and the best European armorers, goldsmiths, and printers. At the same time, they nurtured local talent and gave rise, by the end of the century, to a distinctly English style. While the extreme politics and personalities of the Tudor dynasty continue to grip the popular imagination, *Art at the Tudor Courts* will introduce new audiences to its astonishing legacy in the visual arts.

The Gosford Wellhead: An Ancient Roman Masterpiece

June 1, 2020–February 14, 2021

An ancient Roman marble wellhead (puteal) of the second century A.D. is the focus of an exhibition—along with some two dozen works, primarily from The Met collection—that will explore a wide range of topics, including virtuoso Roman sculpture; the Roman adaptation of Greek art and mythology; Greek and Latin literature; early excavations of Rome and its port; the restoration of antiquities in the late eighteenth century; the Grand Tour and the British collecting of antiquities in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; and the rediscovery of a masterpiece that was lost to scholars for centuries. Excavated in the Roman port of Ostia in 1797, the wellhead entered a private collection in the nineteenth century and was recently acquired by The Met. The acquisition is part of The Met's 2020 Collections Initiative in celebration of the Museum's 150th anniversary.

Boston Museum of Fine Art

www.mfa.org

Strong Women in Renaissance Italy
(working title)

October 28, 2020 – February 21, 2021

This exhibition explores female power and agency in Renaissance Italy, bringing

together approximately 50 works of art—mostly from the MFA's own collection but including several key loans—that illustrate women's roles in various aspects of society, from the domestic and civic spheres to religious and devotional practice. While women did not have overt political and financial standing, their influence was more widespread than is generally recognized today. They were artists, patrons, writers and active members of the workforce—particularly in convents, where they participated in textile and manuscript production, education, medicine and botany. The exhibition highlights individual women such as Sofonisba Anguissola, who became a court painter to King Phillip II of Spain and the creator of more self-portraits than any other Italian Renaissance artist, male or female; and Isabella d'Este, the greatest female patron of the time. Representations of women in biblical and mythological contexts are explored as well, including images of the biblical heroine Judith, the saint Mary Magdalene and the sorceress Medea. Grouped in thematic sections, the objects on view include sculpture, paintings, maiolica vessels and plates, prints, manuscripts, printed books and textiles.

Boston Museum of Science

www.mos.org

King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh

June 13, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness King Tut's stunning treasures before they return to Egypt forever! Museum of Science members will receive a 20% discount on tickets, available before sales open to the general public.

Nearly 100 years after the discovery that captivated the world, KING TUT: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh — the largest collection of Tutankhamun's treasures ever to travel out of Egypt — will open at The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza in Boston for a

limited engagement beginning Saturday, June 13.

The Museum of Science is the official museum partner for this immersive exhibition, which features treasures that were last in Boston in 1963, along with many new pieces that are on their first journey out of the country. Through over 150 original artifacts, KING TUT: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh explores the meaning of the items in the royal tomb and the dual storyline of its discovery against all odds. The pharaohs who succeeded King Tut nearly managed to erase him from history. Had British archaeologist Howard Carter not persisted in his quest nearly 100 years ago, the boy king's legacy and treasures could have been forever lost to the sands of Egypt.

Nine galleries incorporate digital content, contextual material, and audio and custom soundscapes, allowing you to follow King Tut's passage into everlasting life, discovering how his funerary objects were used on the perilous journey.

Amherst Early Music Festival

www.amherstearlymusic.org

Connecticut College

July 5-12, 12-19, 2020

The Amherst Early Music Festival is a workshop offering the largest program of classes for early music enthusiasts, from amateur to professional, in the US. But it is more than a workshop. The Festival Concert Series presents 8 highly-acclaimed evening concerts, including a fully-staged Baroque Opera, which are open to the public and free for participants. There are also Salon concerts in the late evenings and several other performances of vocal music, instrumental music, and dance on the weekends. The Music and Instrument Exhibition hosts instrument makers, music shops, experimental projects, and more over the middle weekend. Lectures, English Country Dances, madrigal singing, and other events provide a wealth of choices for participants and outside guests.

Classes are on a wide range of Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Traditional music topics. You can take an easy ride, just for the fun of it, or you can improve your playing, singing, or dancing; expand your knowledge; and enjoy being part of the friendly and stimulating Festival community.

University of Connecticut

New museum dedicated to Spartan history is set to open in the US

From Greek City Times

www.greekcitytimes.com/2020/02/18

A new museum dedicated to Spartan history and culture is set to open its doors at the University of Connecticut in the United States.

A meeting between Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni and UConn Professor Ilias Tomazos took place this week and Tomazos, who heads the UConn Greek studies department and the "Paideia" Center for Hellenic Studies, presented the Greek Minister with museum plans. He also updated her on the progress made towards the completion of the project, which is located on the campus near the open-air Greek theater, the Orthodox chapel, library, cultural and educational center.

The Spartan Museum at UConn will feature exhibits focusing on Greek culture from prehistoric times through to the Byzantine era. Shows will explore the history and contributions of the Spartans and the greater Laconian Region through a collection of artworks. A commissioned statue of Leonidas and a sculpture depicting the Battle of Thermopylae will also be erected. A large part of the project has been made possible through donations and volunteer efforts.

Archaeology News

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

2,000-Year-Old Date Seeds Sprout in Israel

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL—According to a report in *The Guardian*, six of the 32 ancient date seeds planted by Sarah Sallon of the Hadassah Medical Organization and her colleagues have germinated. Some of the seeds, which were all recovered from archaeological sites in the Judean desert, germinated within weeks of being planted. Others took nearly six months to sprout. Genetic analysis revealed that two of the plants are female and the other four are male. The oldest of the new plants date back to the first and fourth centuries B.C., while the youngest date to between the first and second centuries A.D. Sallon said the older seeds are genetically closer to present-day date varieties grown in the Arabian Gulf. The two female plants, she said, resemble modern Iraqi varieties, and may be linked to plants brought back to Judea by Jews exiled in Babylon in the late sixth century B.C. Three plants linked to date varieties found today in Morocco may have been imported from North Africa by the Romans, she added

1,200-Year-Old Glass Gaming Piece Discovered in England

DURHAM, ENGLAND—*The Guardian* reports that a small piece of worked glass dated to the eighth or ninth century A.D. has been discovered on the island of Lindisfarne, the home of an early monastery and site of the first major Viking raid on Britain in A.D. 793. The pebble-sized object of swirled blue and white glass, topped with five white glass droplets, is thought to be a gaming piece from the Viking board game *hnefatafl*, or “king’s table.” The artifact was found as part of an ongoing excavation led by DigVentures and Durham University. The dig’s lead archaeologist, David Petts of Durham University, thinks the piece might have been dropped by a Norse raider, or may have

belonged to a wealthy local person who may have been influenced by Norse customs even before the attack. “The sheer quality of this piece suggests this isn’t any old gaming set,” Petts said. “Someone on the island is living an elite lifestyle.”

Pictish Hillfort Unearthed in Central Scotland

DUNKELD, SCOTLAND—*The BBC* reports that a team of archaeologists and volunteers in central Scotland has excavated the site of a hilltop fort thought to have been inhabited by Pictish elites between the seventh and ninth centuries A.D. The researchers uncovered pottery imported from Europe, Anglo-Saxon glass beads, and pieces of Roman glass that had been recycled into gaming pieces, in addition to spindle whorls for spinning thread, crucibles and molds for working metal, and whetstones for sharpening cutting tools. “There must have been a lot of iron and other metal working going on here making the site an important center for production—not just the home of a small group of people making items for their own use,” explained Cathy MacIver of AOC Archaeology.

Early Roman Military Base Discovered in England

AYLESHAM, ENGLAND—*Kent Online* reports that contract archaeologists have unearthed two ancient skeletons and traces of a Roman settlement at a building site on high ground overlooking Canterbury and the Roman ports of Richborough and Dover in southeast England. The human remains, which are being examined at the University of Kent, are thought to date to the Bronze or Iron Age. Paul Wilkinson of Swale and Thames Archaeology said artifacts from the site indicate the Romans also lived there and used the site as a military supply depot in the years immediately following the invasion of Britain. “Not all of them would have been fighting men but specialists in a range of support roles,” Wilkinson said of the Romans who lived at the site. The soldiers and support

staff probably concentrated on building infrastructure, he explained. Three kilns for firing pottery made from local clay, pottery imported from what is now Germany, and glass items imported from what is now France have also been found.

Walls of Fifteenth-Century Bones Found at Belgian Church

GHENT, BELGIUM—*Live Science* reports that nine walls made of human bones were discovered on the grounds of Saint Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium, by contract archaeologists who were investigating the site ahead of construction work. Most of the bones in the structures are adult leg bones and skulls dated to the second half of the fifteenth century. Bones from other body parts, and children's bones, were probably considered too small and fragile to be included in the walls. Archaeologist Janiek de Gryse said the structures were likely built when the churchyard was cleared to make room for new burials in the first half of the sixteenth century, and again around 1784, when historical documents indicate the cemetery stopped accepting new burials. The bones will be moved to the University of Ghent, where they will be inventoried and studied, de Gryse added.

Photographs Reveal Warrior Image on Scotland's Tulloch Stone

ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND—According to a statement released by the University of Aberdeen, researchers led by archaeologist Gordon Noble of the University of Aberdeen and Mark Hall of Perth Museum have created 3-D images of the Tulloch Stone, a six-foot-tall Pictish monolith discovered during road construction in 2017. The photographs reveal that the male figure carved into the stone is wearing a helmet and necklace. A line around his left ankle could indicate footwear or leggings. He is also shown carrying a distinctive type of spear known to have been used between the third and sixth centuries. Noble said the details of this image, when compared to similar carvings found on other

Pictish stones, suggest that the images represent a generic sacred image of a warrior, rather than specific individuals. Hall suggests that such images, when placed at strategic locations or in elite cemeteries, may have conveyed warrior ideology. A war-oriented society may have been better able to resist the rule of the Roman Empire, Noble added.

Medieval Plague Pit Discovered in Rural England

LINCOLNSHIRE, ENGLAND—*The Guardian* reports that a mass grave dating to the fourteenth century has been uncovered at the remote site of a medieval priory and hospital in eastern England by researchers led by Hugh Willmott of the University of Sheffield. Sample DNA tests of the remains of the four dozen men, women, and children indicate they were killed by the illness known as the Black Death. Such burials are usually found in population centers such as London, Willmott explained, while it had been previously thought that plague victims living in rural areas were buried in local parish churchyards. "But actually what this suggests is that this was a rural community that couldn't cope, and when the Black Death arrived, the normal system for doing things broke down." The dead had all been placed in the pit within days of each other, wrapped in shrouds and carefully laid side by side, Willmott added. "Even though it is the height of a terrible disaster, they are taking as much care as they can with the dead," he said.

Possible Shrine Dedicated to Romulus Found in Roman Forum

ROME, ITALY—According to an ANSA report, Alfonsina Russo, director of the Colosseum Archaeological Park, announced that a space that may have been dedicated to Romulus, the legendary founder of Rome, has been unearthed in the Roman Forum, under the entrance to the Curia, where Roman senators met to vote. The space consists of a hypogeum, or underground temple, a 4.5-foot-long sarcophagus dated to the sixth century B.C, and what may be an altar. The

site is also situated near the Lapis Niger, a shrine thought to predate the Roman Forum. The ancient Roman historian Varro recorded that Romans believed an altar had been placed on the spot near the Lapis Niger where Romulus was buried, Russo explained

Disregarded Manuscript Proves Major Find

*From "The Telegraph," 02/16/2020
www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/16/disregarded-manuscript-proves-major-find*

It is a 16th-century manuscript with beautiful illustrations that had been overlooked for years in Manchester University's library, obscured by a catalogue description that was unlikely to arouse any interest: "German MS.2".

Next month, it will be exhibited for the first time in more than 450 years as a major discovery linked to the workshop of the great 16th-century German master Lucas Cranach the Elder and his son Lucas Cranach the Younger.

The manuscript is an armorial reference book filled with more than 1,800 coats-of-arms of princes and noblemen of the Holy Roman Empire.



The Chanticleer is always looking for articles, art, and photography! If you would like to contribute, please contact Mistress Eloise at chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.org. We would love to showcase your work.

Photographs courtesy of Kristina Schlain

Manuscript art courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Page 2: Book of Hours, 1530-35, Simon Bening, Netherlandish, Ghent

Page 3: The Belles Heures of Jean de France, duc de Berry, 1405-1408/09, the Limbourg Brothers, Franco-Netherlandish

Page 5: March and April from The Peasants' Feast or the Twelve Months, 1546, Sebald Beham, German

Page 13: Book of Hours, 1530-35, Simon Bening, Netherlandish, Ghent



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