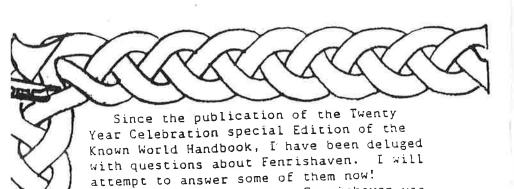
BARONY OF WESJERN SEAS



Traditions

history and ED.



Before explaining what Fenrishaven was, Let me first say that it had (almost) absolutely NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT IS NOW CALLED Western Seas. In 1972, a perephial member of Atenveldt, name unknown, arrived on our fair shores, she immediately began to try to form a group interested in the SCA. She wrote the Seneschal for the Kingdom of the West and let it be known that she was attempting to start a Barony here. This is how the Known World Handbook Map Makers came to know!

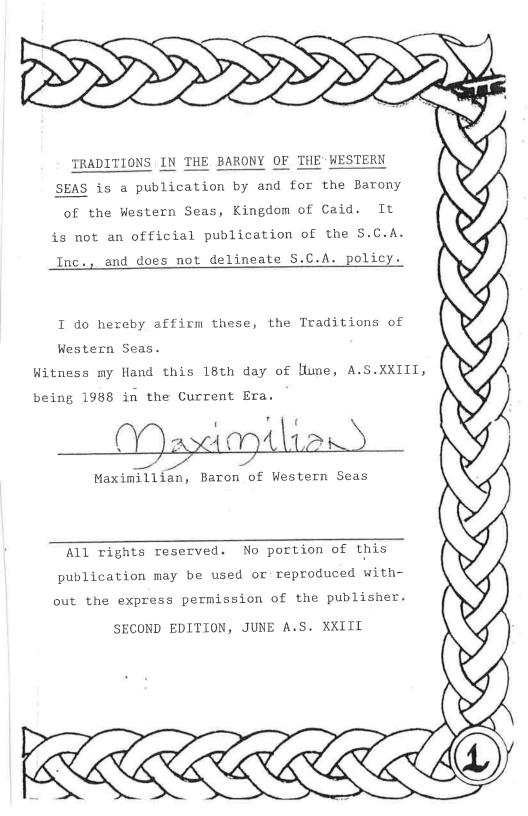
The group really never got off the ground because the member that set about to form the group here had a much greater interest in white witchcraft than in the Society.

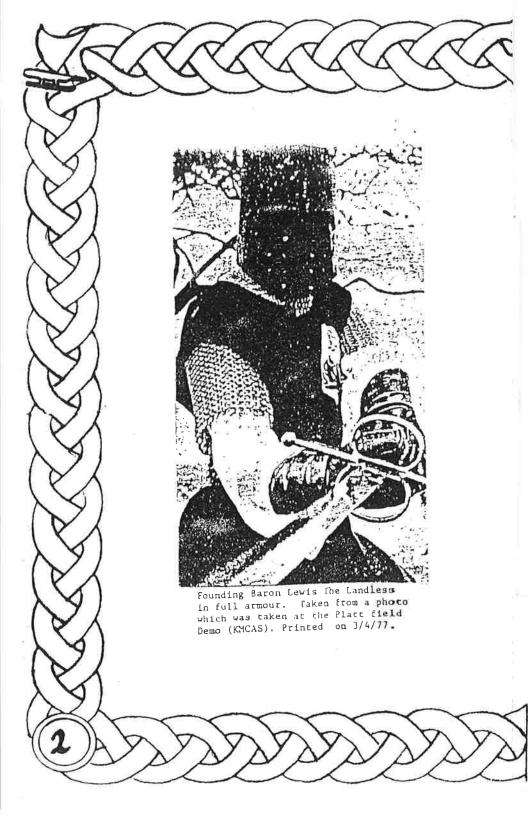
BlackTaylor, who actually attended a few of those early meetings, said...
"They were a flaky group... they discussed more on white witchcraft than on the S.C.A.-in fact She didn't empasize the Society very much."

It was because of this that it took BlackTaylor so long to join the Western

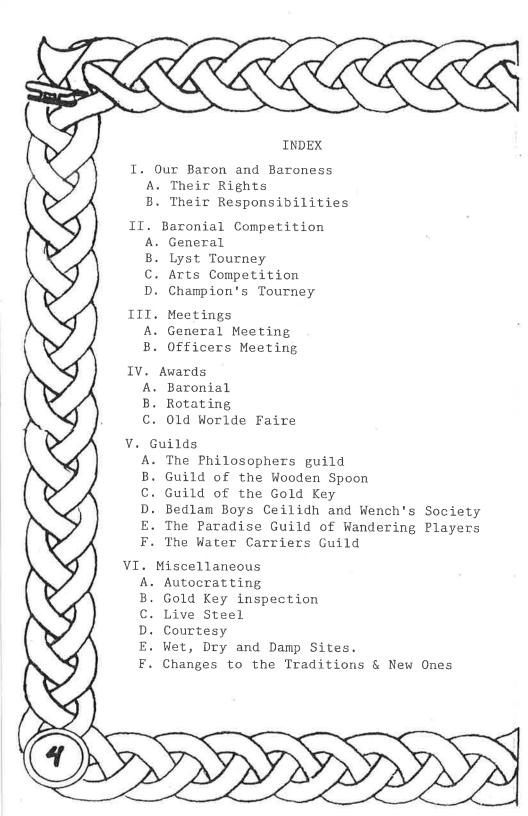
Seas group. It was not until the "Merry Masochists" article was to appear that BlackTaylor saw that the Lady's influence was not in exsistance. Then, and only then, did he join.

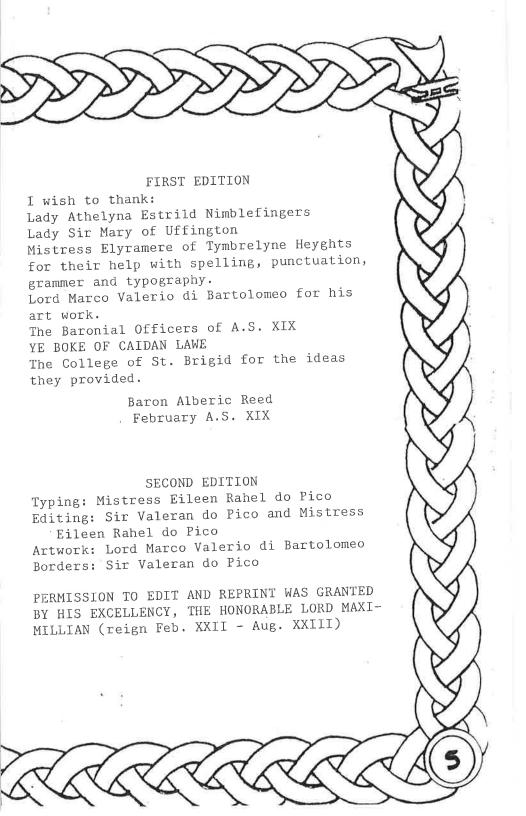
Anyway, to finish - The group did not last for more than a year, afterwhich, it died an apathetic death.

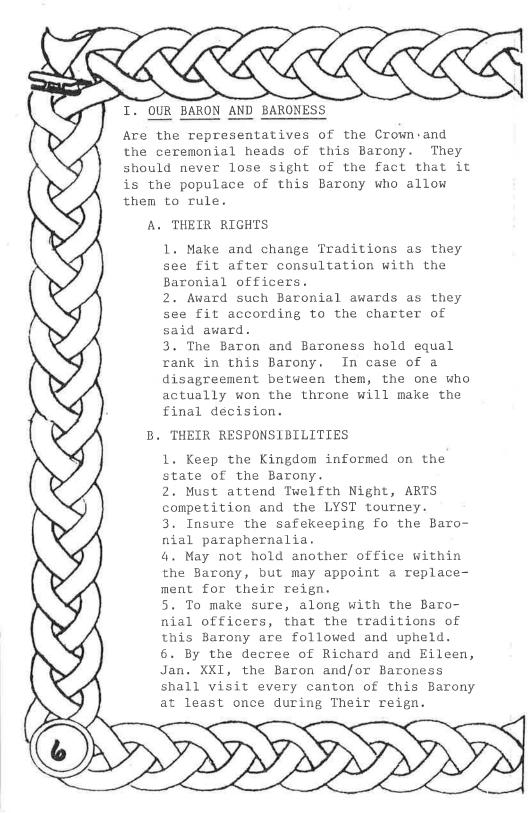


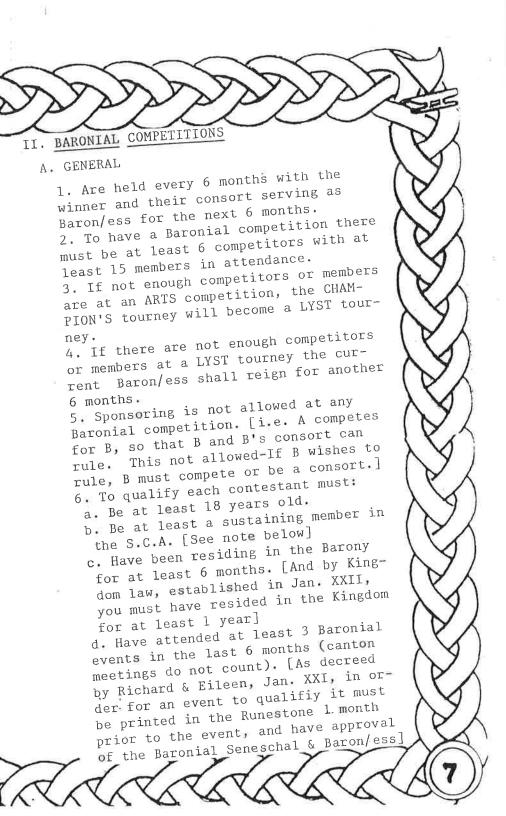


ALOHA and WELCOME to the Barony of the Western Seas. We are a palantine Barony, meaning that we compete for the title of Baron and Baroness. This booklet has been published to aid, and describe what is required of anyone who would claim that title. Further, it is for anyone interested in our Barony. It lists the Baronial awards, guilds, and other miscellaneous traditions we follow. Newcomers to the S.C.A. should contact the Baronial Chatelaine for better introductory material as this booklet is not really designed for them. I hope this helps you to understand our Barony and the people who live in it. Who knows, some day you may be Baron of it. Baron Alberic Reed (Sept. 1 XIX - Feb. 9 XIX) INTRODUCTION TO FIRST EDITION







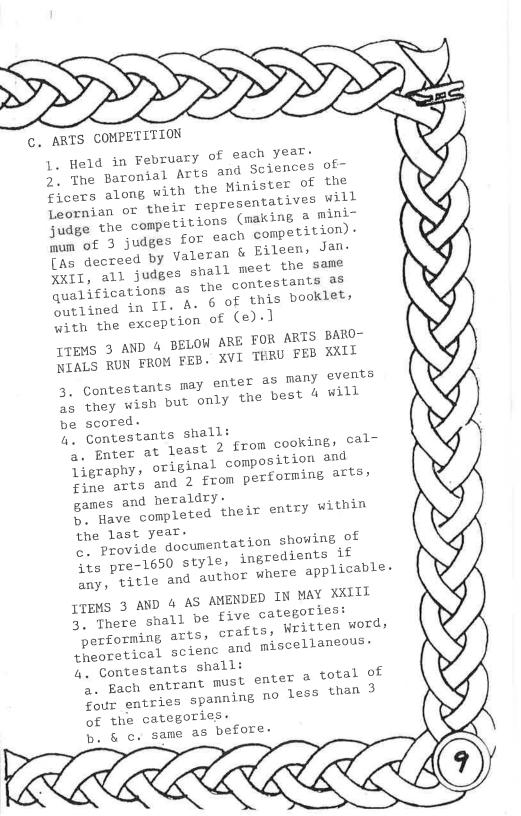


e. Have someone of the opposite sex to serve as your Baron or Baroness who meets (a) through (d) above.

[NOTE: regarding item b. above: in keeping with changes at the Corpora level in April XXII, as long as both the competitor and consort are paid members and one is a sustaining member, thereby giving access to the Crown prints & Tournaments Illuminated, to both, the other can be on a family membership, etc.]

B. LYST TOURNEY

- 1. Held in August of each year.
- 2. Will conform to the rules of the list.
- 3. Will be a double eliminaton tournament where each participant must fight at least one fight with a shield and one without.
- 4. The final round may be a single fight or 2 out of 3, decided by the fighter with the least amount of losses, or between the two fighters.
- 5. A fighter does not have to fight a specific opponet; they may honorably withdraw from the list, or the combatants may, with the Baron/ess approval, settle the contest by other means.
- 6. Fighters are required to:
 - a. Have their own armor with the exception of armor that is easily exchanged, ie. gloves, helm, shield,...
 - b. Pass gold key inspection.
 - c. Have an 8" X 6" plaque with a device, that represents your persona, painted on it for the list board.



D. CHAMPION'S TOURNEY

- 1. Held the day after the ARTS competi-
- 2. Will conform in all other ways with the rules of the LYST tourney.
- 3. The person who takes second place at the LYST tourney or first place at the CHAMPION'S tourney shall become the Baronial champion.
- 4. If there is no CHAMPION'S tourney or LYST tourney the champion remains the same for another 6 months.
- 5. The Baronial Champion:
 - a. Is awarded the rank of lieutenant in the Baroness's Guard.
 - b. Will assume the position of Baron or Baroness with their consort if the current Baron/ess are unable to fulfill their reign.

III. BARONIAL MEETINGS:

- A. GENERAL MEETINGS (COUNCIL MTG.)
 - l. Held the first Friday night of each month.
 - 2. Open to everyone, period dress is appreciaated.
 - 3. To inform the general populace of what is happening in the Barony.

B. OFFICERS MEETINGS

- 1. Held once a month by the seneschal, with the Baron/ess or their representative in attendance.
- 2. Open to everyone [officers are expected to notify the seneschal personally if they can't], period dress is not expected.
- 3. The Baron/ess has the right to pass

or table anything brought up to a vote at the meeting. [This is a monarchy!] 4. At all times courtesy shall be up-Anyone forgetting this will be asked to leave.

IV. AWARDS:

When a person gives of themselves for the benefit of the Barony, we attempt to show our appreciation and acknowledge their efforts by the giving of awards. Herein you will find a description of these awards and purpose for which they are given.

A. BARONIAL:

Includes the awards (and gifts) given and recognized by the Barony for a predetermined purpose. Within this Barony they are the highest honors we can bestow.

1. THE BARONESS'S GUARD

Originally chartered as a guild, it has changed to an award given by the Baroness. The guards' purpose is to protect the Baroness and the Barony, and uphold chivalry in the Barony. members are selected from the unbelted fighters and archers who display the qualities of courtesy, chivalry, and martial prowess upon the field. The award is a garter, green for the fighters and gold for the archers, emblazoned with the device of the Barony and Baroness who gave the award.

2. ORDER OF THE WA'A'S OAR Given by the Baron/ess to a person who has enriched our Barony through their work, dedication, performance and/or service. In short, given to the people

who make this Barony go. Thus the name Wa'a's Oar. Because it takes many oars to move this Barony, you may see many of these awards. That does not diminish the value of the award, it enriches the Barony by having that many people who believe enough in the dream to work for it. To these people we all lowe thanks, because without them this Barony would not be. They wear a medallion bearing: Or; a polynesian war canoe with sail, sable; charged with an oar palewise argent, all within a bordure azure; dependant from a cord vert.

3. THE BARONIAL LABEL

This is a gift given by the Baron/ess in recognition of the past Baron/ess who won the throne by trial of combat, be it arms or arts, provided they did rule for their full reign. The medallion shall be embossed with: Or; a polynesian war canoe with sail, sable; charged with a label, argent; all within a bordure engrailed, azure. The medallion is dependant from a cord vert.

B. ROTATING:

Given to members of the Barony in recognition for their various abilities. The entrants accept the responsibility of insuring the safety of the award while they hold it, and to attend its passing on at the next competition.

1. THE BATTERED HELM

Created when the Barony was part of the West Kingdom to acknowledge a fighter who excells at the art of dying. The helm is passed on at every Baronial

Tourney. The recipient makes his mark on the helm and has the honor of choosing the next winner.

2. THE ARTICULATED SWORD

Pieces of Duke Adrian's sword, which he used to win the throne a second time were donated to the Barony to become the Baronial award for the most ferocious fighter. Given at every Baronial tourney with the last winner choosing the next.

3. THE B.E.A.R.

Stands for Baronial Excellence in Archery Rounds. This medal is given to the winner of the Baronial archery competition held twice a year usually a week before the Baronial Competition.

4. LE HA!!

Given to the winner of the Baronial Fencing tourney. After passing on the award the last winner recieves a sable feather to do with as they please.

C. THE OLDE WORLDE FAIRE

In the past one of our biggest events has in been a demo for the Olde Worlde Faire Inc. This involved the entire Barony and lasted three weekends. The faire brought us both monitary and membership gains. At the faire we put on three fighting demos daily which has caused the creation of two awards.

1. THE DUMBBELL AWARD

A scroll given in honor of the fighter's undying determination, selfless masochism, distinct underabundance of common sense and an overabundance of foolhardiness for fighting in every fighting demo at the Faire.

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2. THE PURPLE LIVER Can be given out at any time but, thankfully has only happened rarely. It is for an injury sustained in battle requiring immediate hospitalization and a cessation of all combat activities at that time. The Award, in the form of a, scroll, also states the injury the fighter sustained.

V. GUILDS:

Defined as an organised group of artisans or craftspersons, they get together to share ideas, work, and techniques. Locally we started in A.S. XII with the Philosophers Guild and today we enjoy the benefits of both chartered and unchartered guilds. main difference being the chartered guilds have been recognized by the Barony and are easier to get information on, while the unchartered guilds are out there, they are just harder to find. I have paraphased the purpose for which these guilds were chartered and listed them here for your information and use.

A. THE PHILOSOPHERS GUILD

Deals with philosophical thoght up to and including the year 1650; covering such trains of thought as the Ideal, Emperical, Conceptual, Metaphysical (with the exception of that which is deemed purely religious), Logical, Scientific and Physical. Accepting as valid any concept that is proven using the conceptual tools of pre-1650. The guild is currently being run by Sir Valeran do Pico.

B. THE GUILD OF THE WOODEN SPOON Shall contain all culinary delights up to

and including the year 1650; and shall cover all matters pertaining to the preparation and service of meals including: foods in period, methods of preparation, cutlery, and table service. Lady Katerina of Enchanted Lakes was the founding Guildmistress. The Honorable Lord Maximillian is the Guildmaster of this Guild effective in A.S. XXIII.

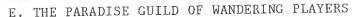
C. THE GUILD OF THE GOLD KEY (CLOTHIERS GUILD)

Is chartered to contain all studies of textiles and clothing design up to and including the year 1650; and shall cover all matters concerned with the construction and distribution of "loaner" costumes at events, as well as act as instructors on design, period materials, and proper etiquette and bearing for that time period. Further they have the responsibility of judging the armor of fighters at Baronial to; urneys and may, after a first warning ban a fighter from the lists if he/she does not follow their previous advice. Chartered by Mistress Elyramere of Tymbrelyne Heyghts, the Guild is now under the care of Lady Athlyna, Baronial Chatelaine.

D. THE BEDLAM BOYS CEILIDH AND WENCH!'S SOCIETY

Contains songs, poetry, and other written works up to and including the year 1650; as well as songs fitting into a "current middle ages" category. Additionally, provide courses concerning songs, poetry, and other written and spoken works. Contact Lady Layla Dusterwinkle of Huntington Woods for more information.

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Contains both European and Asian forms of theatre up to and including the year 1650; covering but not restricted to such areas as plays, puppetry, juggling, and improvisation. Also shall provide courses concerning theatrics and related areas. If you are interested contact the Guildmistress Mistress Eileen Rahel do Pico aka the Candlemaker.

F. THE WATER CARRIERS GUILD

Is organized to provide liquid refreshment (usually water) for the combatants on the field, being careful not to hinder the Knight Marshall or the rules of the Membership is not required to participate. The guild was started by Lady Megan and is now run by Lady Monique.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. AUTOCRATTING

- 1. Obtain an itemized expenditure list from the exchequer or seneschal and an autocrating worksheet from the seneschal at least 2 months prior to the m month of your event.
- 2. Ensure that a before and after event write-up are sent to both the CROWN PRINTS and RUNESTONE on time.
- 3. Attend the officers meeting the month prior to the event and give a progress report.
- 4. Failure to accomplish any of the above may result in either the cancellation of, or finding a new autocrat, for your event.

B. GOLD KEY INSPECTION

- 1. No blatent mundanities (tennis shoes, etc.)
- 2. All hockey type pads, carpet, duct tape*, or other out of period material shall be covered (with cloth, steel plates, leather or dyed) so as to appear authentic.
- 3. Have on their bodies a favor from the one they fight for.
- 4. Have made an attempt to appear as a fighter in period to the best of their ability.
- * Duct tape is allowed on a one time basis to fix a break.

C. LIVE STEEL

- 1. All edged or pointed weapons must have a sheath and the weapon shall be secured to the sheath in such a way so as not to become loose unless deliberately removed. This includes Swords, Knives, Spears, Axes, Epees, Saber,
- 2. Before unsheathing a blade in public, make sure everyone around you knows what you are going to do by saying loudly "CLEAR".
- 3. Never walk around while holding an exposed blade or tip.
- 4. First time offenders will recieve a warning and immediated correction, either by the removal of the weapon or having it secured to the sheath. Second time offenders may be asked to leave.
- 5. Any live steel found, left attended (outside of pavillions) shall be confiscated by the constabulary and a fine shall be paid to reclaim it.

COURTESY 1. As you look around at events you will notice a lot of attractive and unusual objects. It's fine to look, but please get permission before you pick anything 2. We try to avoid blatant mundanities at events. So please cover up or remove from sight items not in period looking containers. 3. Before leaving an event site, take a moment to pick up the area around you. 4. Please, step outside to smoke at indoor events. [By decree of His Excellency Maximillian, at outdoor events

there shall be no smoking in line of sight from the Baronial pavillion or thrones.

5. At court or when the herald is speaking, listen quietly.

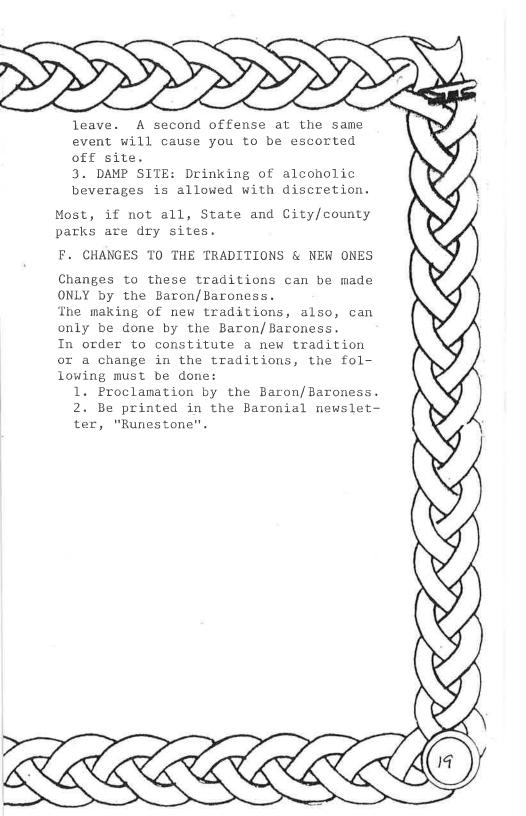
6. While camping a person's tent or pavillion is their home, ask their permission before entering.

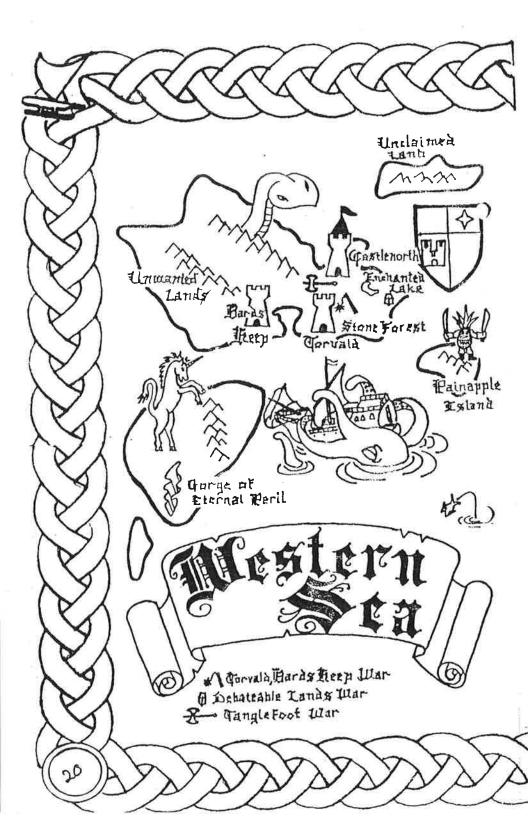
E. WET, DRY AND DAMP SITES.

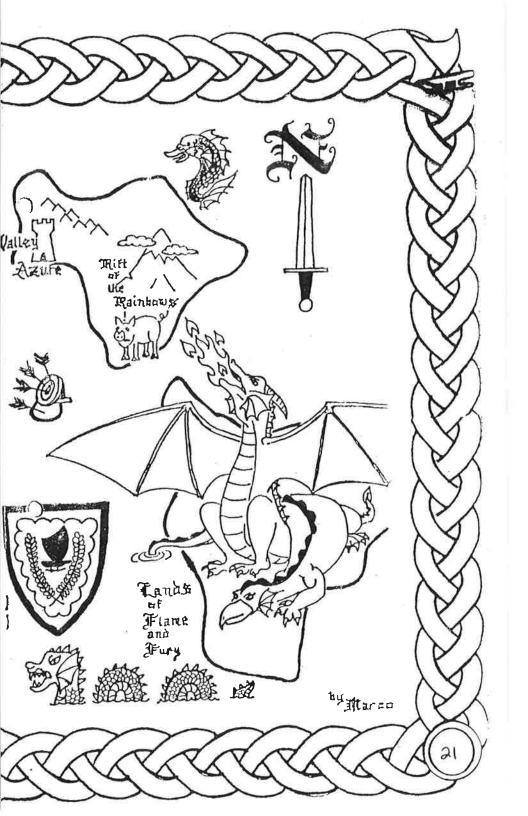
This does not deal with the weather, but does concern the permisability of having alcohol on site at an event. In all cases, when drinking the liquid is to be placed in a period container, i.e. mug, and ALL CONTAINERS AND THEIR CAPS ARE TO LEAVE THE SITE WITH YOU.

1. WET SITE: Alcoholic beverages are allowed.

2. DRY SITE: Alcoholic beverages are not allowed. If you are seen with alcoholic beverages, you can be warned & fined \$1.00 per container (\$6.00 for a six pack). You can also be asked to







THE HISTORY OF THE BARONY OF WESTERN SEAS

So that the traditions and proud heritage of our noble Barony of Western Seas be not lost, we, Sir Valeran do Pico and Sir Richard of CastleNorth do hereby put down in writing our history.

THE WARRIOR:

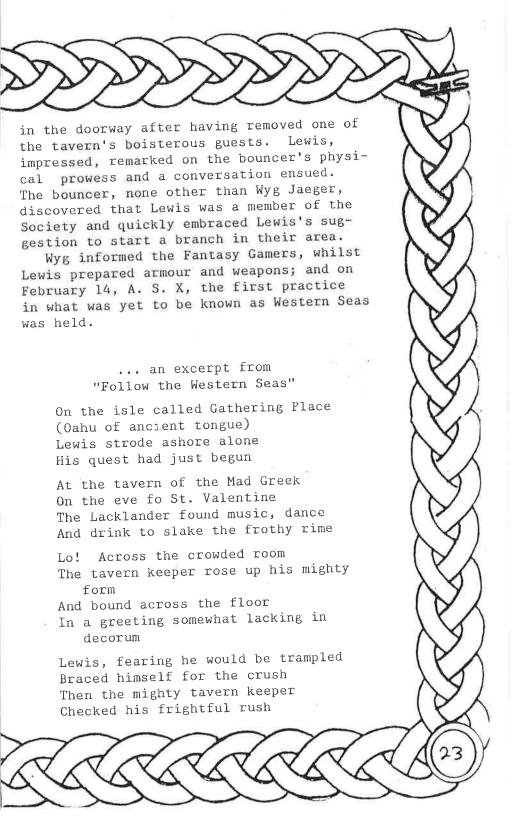
In the year X, A. S., Lewis the Landless, a warrior of the Midrealm was transferred to garrison duty in the barbaric islands in the far western reaches of the (barely) Known World. To this place he brought his wife, Varvara, and established his house.

THE FANTASY GAMERS:

In these western isles were four students who were attending the university. These four: Wyg Jaeger, Hans Lunes Desicanes Garibaldi, Otho von Drachenstern, and Jagdulf Krakenspeise met regularly to entertain themselves with fantasies of being great warriors and scholars. They had heard of the Society for Creative Anachronism, but they had never bestirred themselves to form a group.

THE ENCOUNTER:

One winters' evening in mid-January,
A. S. X, Lewis the Landless was making an
extended critique of the local drinking
establishments. Entering the tavern of the
Mad Greek, he suddenly became aware of a
large person being forcibly propelled in
his direction. Calling upon his remaining
sobriety, he leaped to the side, allowing
the flailing juggernaut to roar out the
door into the night. A moment later, the
establishment's bouncer/barkeep re-appeared



For fearing that his fellow Was just another jerk
He cautiously approached
To where Lewis lurked

Lewis told his tale strange Of his most noble quest And was invited to dine At the tavern keeper's request

For Wyg Jaeger of the Mad Greek Was a warrior by avocation And considered his tavern job But a brief vacation

Lewis told his giant friend Of his strange plan to be Jaeger told of the University Where their dream could come to be

--- Stebbenwulf

THE EARLY YEARS:

With Lewis as Seneschal and Wyg Jaeger as Marshal, practice was held weekly near the University's campus center; and with the dawning of the new year, A. S. XI, Ulf Elkson and Buck of Dagget joined the fledgling shire.

29 August, A. S. XI--The burgeoning shire of Western Seas began to be noticed. The infamous "Merry Masochists" article appeared in the local newspaper, the stigma of which haunted the footsteps of Western Seas for many years. However, the effect of this article was not all bad. The publicity afforded by this article resulted in many new members, some of whom were to become important figures in the growth of Western Seas. Taylor of Loch Abor, Robert Milne

Stebbings (also known as Stebbenwulf), Kurakawa Sei-Tai Sanjuro and Esteban de la Rojo Leon were welcomed into the fold, and each made his contribution to the furthering of the shire's goals.

In October of that same year, the shire held their first public demonstration. The site was, naturally, the campus center of the university. The members of the shire, having no skills to display other than fighting, put on an energetic, if one-sided presentation. The fighters enjoyed themselves immensely as carpet, linoleum, and freon cans ruled the day. As a result of this demonstration, the shire acquired the swords and services of Fernando de Castile, Bruce the Barbarian (of linoleum breastplate fame), Gundar, and Reynald von Nolte.

With practice becoming a regular and well attended event, the shire began planning their next display of prowess. And on the weekend of December 4th and 5th, the shire put on a demonstration for the Christmas Crafts Fair at Thomas Square. Lewis added to his fame that day by battling and driving away a dragon from faraway Cathay. The shire spent a merry Yuletide and retired to spend the winter in comfort and peace.

Sometime in December or January of A.S. XI, an event occurred which we, your chroniclers, feel makes an interesting statement about the state of the group at this time. Wyg Jaeger and Fernando de Castile were fighting each other at a practice. Both warriors were displaying their best skill and chivalry, when Fernando struck a

blow which caused Wyg's sword to fly from his grasp. Wyg, sithout a moment's hesitation or thought, drew back his gauntlet and delivered a thunderous buffet to Fernando's helm, shattering the visor and causing him the loss of two teeth. (Author's Note: This is an interesting insight into the quality of armour and the qualifications of officers in the early days of Western Seas.)

Late in January of A. S. XI, the warriors of Western Seas again mustered to do
battle for the mundane populace. Lewis
brought the shire to a place called Platt
Field which was in the fortress of the
local garrison (KMCAS). They were again
noted in the news bulletins and acquired
another member. Heinreich, a junior officer of the garrison, joined at this time
and was to later make a profound impression on Lewis.

Later in the spring of A. S. XI, Wyg Jaeger departed Western Seas for the far west to found a school where he trained men in the arts of unarmed combat. shire was deprived of its Marshal, and Lewis called a tournament in order to choose a replacement an to celebrate Bel-All the able-bodied warriors mustered at Kamanele Park and when the last 🦠 blow had been struck, Esteban de la Kojo Leon was adjudged the victor. Honors that day also went to Fernando de Castile, who won the Battered Helm, and Hans Lunes Desicanes Garibaldi, who was named Most Chivalrous Fighter. Taylor of Loch Abor had the honor of escorting a lady of Atenveldt. However, this day was not without incident. During the fighting, Sanjuro received a

blow upon his hand from Esteban which forced him to withdraw from the Lysts. Sanjuro felt that the blow had been deliberately intended to injure, and this incident affected their relationship from then on. Also that day, Esteban struck Taylor of Loch Abor after he had fallen to the ground. So, while he won the day, some feel that Esteban's honor was stained. But these were not the only occurences of note that In a bout between Lewis the Landless and Heinreich, Lewis improperly warded a blow and was struck full upon the hand. Fighting was halted and the chirugeon pronounced Lewis' hand broken. In memory of this, Heinreich took the name of Heinreich Brecke von Waffen (Heinreich the Hand-Breaker). An on-site revel was held, and all feasted upon a roast of boar which Taylor had patiently spent the entire day cooking (Quite a boring task). At long last, merriment was replaced by weariment and the warriors, bearing their glory and honor before them, made their way to home and hearth.

In mid-summer, an invitation came to Western Seas to demonstrate their martial skills at a local Renaissance Fair. Lewis, realizing an opportunity for recruiting an ew members, began to polish up the warriors skills and appearances. Two members of a mummers' guild who were also performing at the fair noticed these preparations and were quickly welcomed as Brothers-in-Arms. These two, Daniel the Hunter and Abotar, were so enthused with the concept of the Society that they completed one and a half mail shirts in two weeks prior to the fair. In August, with preparations complete, the

company marched to the fairgrounds and impressed all with their techniques. A great banquet had been prepared, and the warriors of Western Seas had been called upon to guard the Queen. Some of the members of the shire, desiring to entertain Her Majesty, planned a mock assault. They would burst into the banquet and pretend to at-The warriors of Western tack the Queen. Seas who were guarding Her Majesty would then "destroy" the invaders, and thereby gain much applause and prestige. When the appropriate hour had struck, a handful of desperate characters (vaguely resembling several Western Seas men) tumbled into the hall crying "Long live Lazloo Toth! with the Queen!". The bodyguard of the Queen rose up to meet them and a wild melee thrashed its way throughout the hall. ever, when the dust cleared, it was seen that the Queen's bodyguard had been defeated, and that one of the attackers (who strangely resembled Daniel the Hunter) was victor. Fortunately for all concerned, one of the Queen's astute councillors gathered what strength remained in his ancient and withered form and slew the unwary churl with a mighty THUNK of his wooden spoon. And there was much rejoicing (yey). There were also at this banquet several

There were also at this banquet several men who, by virtue of being horsemen, were named Knights of the Fair. None of these men had aught to do with the Society in any form. Taking advantage of their newfound rank, they consumed great quantities of strong drink; and soon they were charging their mounts in and amongst the tentlines, frightening the occupants and bringing down not a few pavillions. The opera-

tors of the fair, assuming the "knights" were part of Western Seas, brought their complaint to Lewis and demanded recompense for damages. Lewis denied any responsibility, but it took many months to settle the affair.

The fair brought to Western Seas several new members. Fergusson MacWombat, Valeran do Pico, Lancelot du Mont, and Kyle of Kenson were impressed with the showing the shire had made, and petitioned Lewis for permission to join. This was a boon that Lewis was more than happy to grant, and they were welcomed wholeheartedty by all.

Soon after the closing of the fair, Esteban de la Rojo Leon and Heinreich Brecke von Waffen, being members of the mundane militia, were transferred to other posts of duty. Gathering their belongings, they sadly bid their comrades farewell and were not seen again for many years. The office of Knight Marshall was again vacant, and Sanjuro, volunteering to take those duties unto himself, was named as replacement.

Two months passed as the shire regained its strength, and October 29, A.S. XII, a Battle-Axe tourney was held at Andrews Amphitheatre. The entrants were required to use the battle-axe exclusively throughout the lists. Valeran do Pico was eliminated when his fingernail was torn off in combat; and for him Lewis created the Order of the Bloody Garter. The Order was to be awarded to those who had "received grievous injuries in a tournament", and Valeran was more than qualified. Kurokawa Sei-Tai Sanjuro was the victor that day with his

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unique battle-axe technique, and Taylor of Loch Abor claimed second honors. Hans Lunes Desicanes Garibaldi challenged Otho von Drachenstern to a great sword duel after Otho had mad several disparaging comments on Hans' fighting style. A lengthy battle ensued; and after a long, weary time, both fighters mustered their last strength and simultaneously struck each other dead. Also upon this day Taylor of Loch Abor, at the request of the College of Heralds, changed his name to Black Taylor of Loch Abor.

But speaking of challenges between Otho and Hans, one in particular has endured as a favorite legend in Western Seas. cause of the challenge has been lost to the ravages of time, but the events occured somewhat as follows. Having some dispute between them, Hans and Otho agreed to duel at the next upcoming practice session. Otho, being the challenged party, reserved the right to the choice of weapons and declared that they would fight with "florentine hamsters at ten paces". Thinking that Otho jested, Hans laughingly agreed. the very next practice, all the fighters armed as usual and Otho reminded Hans of Hans promptly armed himtheir challenge. self in the usual fashion and presented himself upon the field where Otho waited with his hands behind his back. As Hans stood wondering what fashion of combat this was, Otho suddenly produced from behind his back a fine brace of matched war-hamsters. Chittering their war cries, the fell beasts struggled in Otho's grasp, attempting to throw themselves upon Hans. Hans stood stunned, and Otho advanced, crying "Beware!

Come not too near, lest they soil thee with their excrement!". At this Hans fell trembling upon the earth, quaking not with fear, but with an uncontrollable mirth. Otho then advanced upon his incapacitated enemy, and slew him with his dagger. The war-hamsters were then returned to the forests whence they came and some say they still dwell there, attacking unwary travelers.

On the 19th of November, A.S. XII, the shire assembled at Black Taylor's manor to celebrate a belated Samhain. The evening began with a pot-luck banquet, entertainment being provided by Stebbenwulf with his poetry, and by Abotar and Daniel the Hunter with a staged battle. Daniel promptly forgot his part, and got several fingers bruised, much to Sanjuro's glee. Following the banquet, Black Taylor produced a vessel filled with Greek Fire and described a flaming ring on the earth. He then danced through the flames to dispell evil spirits, followed by Lewis, Sanjuro (holding the skirts of his hakama out of the fire), and the rest of the company. Valeran do Pico, however, declined fearing that he was perhaps a bit more flammable Just as the fire was than the others. stamped out, the local mundane constabulary arrived. Having received reports of fighting, loud noises, and rumors of arson, they quickly descended upon Black Taylor's abode. Black Taylor assured them that naught was amiss, and they departed, throwing furtive glances at the apparel of the gathered company. the departure of the constables, the revel roared anew, and merriment continued far

into the night.

Following another Christmas Fair demonstration, the shire held a Winter Tourney for novices on December 10. Baron Mahie MacFerghie, a Knight of the Kingdom of the West, was in attendance, and he brought new fighting techniques to the warriors of Western Seas. Abotar won the tourney and received a new helm as his prize. Daniel the Hunter and Fergusson MacWombat introduced a new member to the group, and Vernon the Nameless took up arms in the shire.

Early in January of A.S. XII, a High Council was held in which many important topics were discussed. Lewis announced that he had filed for Baronial status with the Kingdom of the West, and Stebbenwulf volunteered to produce a baronial newsletter to be named The Runestone. Valeran do Pico petitioned Lewis for the recognition of the Philosoper's Guild, which Lewis granted. Other things discussed were the past Old World Fair, and the state of the shire's fighting skills.

February 18, A.S. XII--

A practice day much like any other. Lewis the Landless approached the battling warriors bearing a missive from His Majesty, Paul Bellatrix. Western Seas had been granted baronial status effective Tuesday, 14 February, A.S. XII. The shire was commanded to appoint a Baron, and Lewis suggested that Western Seas become a Palantine Barony and a Baron should be selected at the upcoming Fools' Tourney. Sanjuro then suggested that Lewis be recognized as Founding Baron and rule Western Seas for six months, when the winner of the Fools' Tourney would take his place. Lewis modestly

tried to decline the honor, but those gathered there would hear none of it, and Lewis humbly acquiesced.

On the morning of April 1, A.S. XII, the incipient Barony of Western Seas mustered at Kamanele Park to choose their first Baron. Also in attendance that day was Sir William the Lucky, Knight of the West Kingdom and Steward of the Imperium. Founding Baron Lewis the Landless opened the day with a few brief remarks, reminding all the fighters of the importance of the day's events and banning all projectile weapons from the Lists. A new fighter, Brandon of Lothloren, was qualified before the Lists opened and Lewis ordered the fighting to begin. There were approximately a dozen fighters entered, and the fighting went smoothly throughout the day. Between the first and second rounds, Sir William held the field against the entire Barony, and defeated all save Black Taylor. Fighting resumed, and soon only four fighters remained. Valeran do Pico and Radnor Guildemar (until this day known as Daniel the Hunter) met in the first combat of the semi-final round, with Radnor emerging the victor. The second combat saw Sanjuro defeat Wolfshal (formerly Fergusson) Mac-Wombat. There was a short break before the final round so that each fighter would have a chance to rest and prepare himself for the final battle. Radnor Guildemar then presented himself upon the field with his sword and heater; and Sanjuro, armed with two swords, took his place on the opposite side of the eric. Both men fought with considerable skill and took no unnecessary risks, so the bout took a considerable amount of time. Finally, Sanjuro struck a leg blow at Radnor which hit him in the ankle. Fighting was halted as the chirugeon attended Radnor's injury. After a time, Radnor took up his arms again and returned to the eric. However, the pain of his wound was so great that he was easily defeated by Sanjuro, and subsequently decided to forfeit the remaining bouts. Sanjuro was declared the victor.

A banquet and revel was held that evening at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. Court was held, in which Sir William the Lucky recognized, in the King's name, Lewis the Landless as Founding Baron and Sanjuro as Tanist. Lewis then swore fealty to the West Kingdom. Sir William presented Lewis with a Grant of Arms, and Black Taylor of Loch Abor with the Leaf of Merit. the Baronial seat, Lewis then recognized the Sanquine Spear (a pages' guild), and the Household of Haleakala (the fighters' guild). He then created the Order of the Battered Helm, presented to Hans Lunes Desicanes Garibaldi for the best death of the day, and the Order of the Articulated Sword, presented to Radnor Guildemar for ferocity above and beyond the call of duty. Lewis appointed the following people to be his Great Officers:

SENESCHAL: Black Taylor of Loch Abor KNIGHT MARSHAL: Kurokawa Sei-Tei Sanjuro HERALD: Radnor Guildemar SCIENCES: Hans Lunes Desicanes Garibaldi ARTS: Otho von Drachenstern CHATELAINE: Robert Milne Stebbings (Steb-

benwulf) LISTS: Lisa Hermans

CONSTABLE: Valeran do Pico

3H

There were 103 people in attendance that evening, but there was food and drink enough for all; and the company enjoyed many diverse entertainments throughout the evening.

THE EXODUS:

In June of A.S. XIII, many of the members of Western Seas planned to journey to the mainland of the West Kingdom in order to attend the Crown Tourney. Leading the expedition was Sanjuro; and the company included Sanjuro's household, Wolfshal MacWombat, Radnor guildemar, Otho von drachenstern, Ohtar Ithildin, Brandon of Lothlorien and Vernon the Nameless.

The company arrived safely and set up their encampment among the multitude gathered there. The evening before the tourney was bitterly cold, at least to the Western Seas people, and the local Mistress of the golden Key lent Vernon a warm cloak which no doubt saved him from a frigid grave. Wolfshal MacWombat and Radnor Guildemar were inducted into the Clan Kidney in an evening ceremony of dubious sobriety.

The next morning was June 24; and Their Majesties Gregory of York and Bevin Fraser of Stirling, held Court to open the day's events. The members of Western Seas presented themselves to the King and Queen; and Her Majesty presented them with special favors so that they might be recognized and given any aid they might require. Ohtar Ithildin brought shame upon the Barony by refusing to kneel in the presence of Their Majesties, and by refusing to answer challenges made to him. The other mem-

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bers of the Barony shunned him, and from then on he has been known as "Ptooey".

All of the Western Seas fighters entered the Lists with the exception of Sanjuro (who chose not to enter) and Vernon (whose armour was disqualified). Radnor fared the best of all the Western Seas men, lasting six out of the nine rounds fought that day. For this exceptional performance by an unbelted fighter, Her Majesty invited him to join Her Guard. Sanjuro was asked to help Marshal that day, and as was the custom in Western Seas at that time, was quick to offer an opinion as to the mortality of the combatants involved in the However, when the matches he officiated. final round between Duke James Greyhelm and Sir William the Lucky was being fought, Sanjuro outdid himself, bringing the ire of everyone upon the Barony. He even went as far as to suggest that Western Seas would not swear fealty to Duke James, the new Prince.

These actions brought the wrath of the King down upon the Barony, and most especially upon Lewis, the Baron. Lewis, in turn, severely chastised Sanjuro for what he had done, and tried to mend relations with the Crown. Sanjuro, feeling that Duke James had not fairly won the Crown, became angry with Lewis for having dealings with a "dishonored" knight. Both men felt their view was correct, and refused to compromise.

With the tourney over, the company prepared to return to Western Seas. Otho, Radnor, Wolfshal, and Brandon liked the Principality of the Mists so much that they elected to remain behind. With these very

active members missing, the attendance at weekly practice declined. Sanjuro and Lancealot became enmeshed in a brawl during a practice, and Lancealot refused to attend any further Society events. Soon after, hans Lunes Desicanes Garibaldi was called away to garrison duty in Drachenwald. Buck of Daggit removed his household to a remote corner of Western Seas, and the mundane responsibilities of Lewis and Vernon prevented them from attending practice. Practices were reduced to once every two weeks; and Sanjuro, desiring more, began to hold his own practices (by invitation only) at his The animosity continued through the summer months as Sanjuro accused Lewis of striking with excessive force during a demonstration.

Late in August, the Barony received an invitation to demonstrate their fighting skills; and on the 20th of that month, they gathered at a local marketplace in the town of Ka-Lee Hee. During a bout in which Sanjuro was fighting, the mundane representative who had invited the Barony opined that Sanjuro was disacknowledging blows. did not admit that it was so, but neither did he deny it. Sanjuro felt that Lewis had insulted his honor, and swore to have no futher dealings with the Barony and to abdicate the Coronet. Taking with him Abotar (now calling himself Yojiro Toranaka), Bruce the Barbarian, and Ohtar Ithildin (Ptooey), Sanjuro formed a group separate from the Society and named it Haleakala after the Fighters Guild of Western Seas.

The sorry state of the Barony was reflected in the poor attendance at September's council meeting and the cessation of the

bi-weekly practices. with only Valeran, Stebbenwulf, Black Taylor and himself present at the council, Lewis became alarmed at the state of the Barony; and took immediate steps to try and halt the decay of the group. He reminded Sanjuro of the oaths he swore when he won the Coronet, and convinced him to return for at least the duration of his reign as Baron. Sanjuro agreed to serve his term, and if the situation showed improvement at that time, he would remain.

The second Baronial tournament of Western Seas was held on September 23, A.S. XIII, at Kamanele Park. There were six fighters entered in the Lists: Valeran do Pico, Buck of Daggit, Bruce the Barbarian, Ohtar Ithildin (Ptooey), Black Taylor of Loch Arbor, and Yojiro Toranaka, but few others were in attendance. Sanjuro took the Coronet from Lewis and Lewis was named Palantine Baron. During the lunch break, a sudden fit took Black Taylor and he stripped down to his loincloth, smeared himself with woad, and ran amok, terrorizing the populace. He knocked over Ohtar Ithildin (Ptooey) and bit Lewis on the an-Ohtar (Ptooey) threw his shield at him, and Black Taylor bit that, too. juro, attempting to restore order, drove the madman from the field and onto a rocky promontory overlooking the Lists, where he sat howling until the madness passed away. Order was restored, and and the fighting resumed. The final round was fought between Yojiro and Buck; and Buck was forced to withdraw after injuring his hand. Yojiro was proclaimed the victor. A page's Lists was also held with the victor, Shigiru (Sanjuro's son), becoming the leader of the Sanguine Spear.

One week later, on September 30, a banquet was held to celebrate Sanjuro's rise to Baron. The event was chronicled by Stebbenwulf, and we here reproduce his words...

"One week later Sanjuro became Baron at the banquet. Taylor became Seneschal. Ohtar and Toranaka were officially invested as Herald and Tanist and Marshall at Arms, respectively. The Baron wishes to thank all who worked and attended. The food was excellent: stuffed (with everything) porkloin, little quails, tender beef, and lightly spiced rice. The chef received a standing ovation. Vernon supplied us with his first batch of quickmead aided by grapefruit juice, it was very delicate and subtle and the cloudiness gave it atmosphere. Vernon promises a purer mead and perhaps an ale-mead come next banquet. Lady Varvara played 'A Time 🥠 for Us' (Romeo and Juliet) on the piano. Steppnwulf read three poems. The blind man's pillow fight was hilarious and Yojiro died valiently in a staged fight with Sanjuro. The Baron was greatly disappointed that more of our members did not attend (did you miss the fun?). Attendance 30; last banquet -- 105."

The state of the Barony at this time was shakey at best. Baronial councils were not

being held, fighter practices had ceased (with the exception of Haleakala's closed practices), the populace had dwindled to a shadow of its former size, apathy ran rampant, and the Barony's two major leaders, Lewis and Sanjuro, were at odds with one another. collapse of the group seemed imminent.

CASTLENORTH--THE NEW ORDER

Early in October of A.S. XIII, Vernon the Nameless (who had been absent for some time due to mundane responsibilities) arrived one bright morning at practice to find it absent. Perplexed, he then contacted Sanjuro the Knight Marshal who informed him that Baronial practices were no longer being held. Sanjuro did suggest, that Vernon contact Valeran, who also lived on the windward side of the island, and arrange their own practices. Vernon did so, and the next day Valeran and Stebbenwulf met at Vernon's manor to determine the feasibility of holding a separate practice. Valeran and Stebbenwulf suggested that they form a new Shire so that they could govern their own affairs without interference. It was decided that they would hold fighting practices on Sunday afternoons at the hour of nones, and that Vernon the Nameless should be Sherrif. Vernon attained his post by a vote of 2-1, with Vernon against. A name was needed for the shire, and with the shire being farther north than any other in the Barony, and its practices held at the local castle, the name of Castle-North was decided upon. Vernon suggested: QUARTERLY, OR AND VERT; IN BEND SINISTER, A MULLET OF FOUR POINTS AND A CASTLE OF TWO

TOWERS, OR as the shire's badge. This was was accepted and Valeran created a banner by the Shire's first practice. In order to honor this occasion (and to finally have a decent name) Vernon the Nameless became Richard of CastleNorth. And in one massive and potent paragraph, CastleNorth was formed.

CastleNorth's first practice was held one week later, and was attended by Valeran, Richard, Stebbenwulf, Lancealot, Kyle of Kenson and Baron Lewis. Lewis announced that he would be leaving Western Seas soon, and expressed his joy in seeing the members of the Barony working together again. An impromptu mace-throwing contest was held; there was no clear winner, but Valeran's mace was a clear loser as it broke under the strain of competition.

On the 19th of November, A.S. XIII, the Barony was asked to put on another demonstration for the Ka-Lee Hee merchants. About 10 fighters attended and Fernando de Castile lost his false teeth when he was struck upon the helm--very realistic. A new member, Gareth of Windward, fought for the first time that day, and was admitted into the Pages' Guild. A spate of flying weapons caused the Knight Marshal to issue an order that all weapons used at public demonstrations would have a lanyard.

Autumn passed into winter, and one grey winter's day Lewis the Landless, Baron of Western Seas, prepared to leave the Barony that had been his home for almost three years. The members of Western Seas gathered at a local inn to say farewell, and on February 3, A.S. XIII, the founder of Western Seas departed, and has never been

seen again.

The remainder of the year passed as the

The remainder of the year passed as the Barony strove to find its direction, and in June, A.S. XIV, Radnor Guildemar returned to Western Seas bearing great news. He had been knighted a month previously and had just won the last Crown tournament. He remained in Western Seas long enough to attend the Barony's third Baronial Tournament held on July 7.

The tourney was held at Dole park in Haleakala territory, and was well attended. Crown Prince Radnor and Crown Princess Shannon-Morgan gave the following awards at Court:

Grant of Arms - Yojiro Toranaka Award of Arms - Robert Stebbings Award of Arms - Valeran do Pico Award of Arms - Richard of CastleNorth

The Shire of CastleNorth presented Baron Yojiro with a rattan Daisho set, and swore fealty to the Barony fo Western Seas. A requirement that all fighters must use a shield for at least one round was put into effect and was to remain in effect for all future Baronial Tournaments.

The fighting was particularly furious that day, and Sanjuro was forced to retire with a shoulder injury. Lancealot du Mont carried the field that day, defeating Ohtar Ithildin (Ptooey) in the final round.

After the winner had been decided, and while the populace was enjoying their noon meal, a hideous bellowing was heard from the Shrine of St. John of the Swirling Waters. The populace turned to see a gruesome apparition striding towards them from the Shrine, waving a monstrous Snickersnee.

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It had two misshapen heads encased in battered helms and a motley collection of rags and old armour covering its wide torso. Its tattered surcoat bore a strange device: Argent, a roasted turkey spitted upon a sword, proper. By strange coincidence, this bore a close resemblance to the Crown Prince's own device: Ermine, an eagle displayed Gules surmounting a sword inverted, or.

Its three spindly legs with their four odiferous feet scissored rapidly as the beast did a war-dance down the steps of the Shrine. The creature marched across teh sward and challenged the Barony's right to be upon its land. The Baron, growing weary of this vain glorious creature, who called itself Guildnor Radnamar, dispatched Gareth of Windward to deal with A savage fight ensued as the creature attempted to crush Gareth by sheer strength and weight, and Gareth attempted to survive by sheer fear and desperation. Finally, Fate took a hand as Gareth managed to severly wound Guildnor. Staggering about, the helpless monster was quickly dispatched by the heroic page.

After the carcass of the monster had been carted away, Lancealot, enthused by his victory that day, challenged Prince Radnor to combat in an attempt to increase his glory even further. Not realizing that this course of action was an act of High Treason, Lancealot even had the gall to defeat the Prince, thereby adding insult to injury. This was to have grave consequences for Lancealot. The tourney saw the first appearance of a new member, Eileen Rahel, whose honor was bravely defended by

Valeran do Pico for some dispute or another.

The long summer days were passed joyously by the populace of Western Seas as they went about their daily lives, fighting, wenching, armouring, wenching, dringking, and wenching; and as July passed into August word came to the Barony of a great Faire to be held on the northern shore of the island. The novel warriors of the Barony were invited to demonstrate their skills for the crowds, and so they journeyed northwards and set up camp upon the Faireground. the Faire was held upon the 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th of August, and the Barony's presence added greatly to the atmosphere of the event. During the days, Western Seas put on fighting demonstrations, escorted various nobles, rescued damsels from abductors and even rid the Faire of a particularly troublesome troll by dumping him into the sea. Ah, but during the evenings the Barony's distinctive style really shone forth. Valeran enjoyed the contents of his mug so much, he fell off his hay bale. Abotar of Isenshire (formerly Yojiro Toranaka) inexplicably found himself underneath an armour-box. Bushes rustled at every turn. The Fairegoers were so impressed by Western Seas that several became members and were wel-lphacomed enthusiastically. In this manner did Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts, Katerina of Enchanted Lake, Blackhawk of Briar Lake, Tetchubah of Greenlake and Randorear Wolfrisen join Western Seas.

After the Faire, the populace returned to their homes. But all was not well. Lancealot, having never felt comfortable with the position of Tanist and his upcom-

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ing elevation to Baron, expressed a desire to abdicate the Coronet. Also, the nobles of the Royal Court were crying treason for Lancealot's victory over Prince Radnor. Therefore, in order to resolve these problems, the following plan was devised and acted upon. Lancealot would be officially "executed" for the crime of High Treason against the King. He would then, naturally, be unable to claim the Coronet, and it was decided that Abotar of Isenshire would retain the Coronet until the next Baronial Tournament. This served to satisfy all parties involved and life in Western Seas resumed its normal breakneck pace.

The next few months passed quietly for the Barony. Western seas did its usual Christmas Fair demonstration, Valeran assumed the office of Herald at Twelfth Night and the populace celebrated the Barony's 4th year on February 16, A.S. XIV.

THE WAR YEARS

(An excerpt from the Runestone)

We would like to extend an invitation to all members who wish to pracite the fine points of sword-manship. If you just want to bash, please don't come. specific techniques are taught for various situations and are repetitive and might be boreing for bashers. We practice at various speeds to improve reaction, speed and eyesight. CASTLENORTH

Welcome all bashers!

With these two philosophies present in

the Barony, it was inevitable that conflict would someday occur. Sanjuro, speaking at February's Council meeting, challenged CastleNorth to a war in order to prove which canton held the best warriors. Valeran, spokesman for CastleNorth, was reluctant to accept the challenge, not wishing to embarress Haleakala upon the field of battle. However, upon consultation with the bloodthirsty warriors of CastleNorth, Valeran accepted and a state of war was declared between the two cantons.

With preparations made, the two armies met in a wooded glen near Haleakala's eastern boundary. It was agreed upon that the war would be decided by the capturing of the opposing arm's banner. Two out of three victories would claim the field.

In the first battle, a castleNorth raiding party met up with the main force of the Haleakala army. Outnumbered, the Castle-Northerners rushed their archer (Jagdulk Krakenspeise) to the fore for support, and succeeded in wounding Sanjuro, the Haleakala commander. Haleakala fell back to defend their baner, as CastleNorth, leaving their wounded as a rear guard, mounted a two-pronged attack that swiftly captured the enemy flag.

Haleakala, stinging from their defeat in the first battle, decided upon a bold strategy. Concealing their banner, they massed their army into one unit and marched to where CastleNorth awaited in prepared positions. CastleNorth co-commanders Richard and Valeran decided to meet the enemy head on, and stopped the Haleakala force at their Shield-wall.

With the war already won, the third bat-

tle was fought as much for enjoyment as for anything else, and CastleNorth, exuberant with victory, brought their banner into combat with them, confident that their skill would keep it from enemy hands. request of Haleakala, the CastleNorth army fought without its archer. The lines of battle had just been set when Black Taylor, spearman of Haleakala, charged Michael of Moria, a CastleNorth levy. This flagrant breach of weapons safety stunned Valeran, the nearest man to Michael, so that he was not able to interfere in time to avoid catastrophe. Michael, too much a novice to realize his peril, calmly awaited Black Taylor's assault. Tragedy was avoided at the last instant as Black Taylor tripped over the vines which covered the ground abundantly, fell face first at Michael's feet, and was promptly hit over the head. It was this incident which gave the war its name: The Battle of Tanglefoot Field. CastleNorth went on to win the last battle, making it a decisive victory for the bashers.

After the war, The Pentecostal Quest of the Four Winds was undertaken by many members of Western Seas. Teams of three were to gather the tokens of the Four Winds which were guarded by ferocious monsters. The team which took the least amount of time to gather the items would be declared the winner. Many teams never completed the arduous task. the winner of the event was the team of Sanjuro, Sanjuro's sword-bearer, and Elyramere. Attracted by the sounds of battle, Ogatai the Mongol approached the Barony and was welcomed as a member.

Haleakala's sound defeat by CastleNorth

had a profound effect on the canton, and it would not be long before Haleakala would cease to exist.

REBELLION

Western Seas' fourth Baronial Tournament was held at Tanglefoot Field in April of A.S. XIV. Among the few entrants that day was Robert the Valiant, son of Sanjuro. Robert was under age, but after all, he was the Knight Marshal's son. His Majesty, Radnor, was in attendance. An amazinly lackluster tourney followed court, and (not surprisingly) Robert the Valiant was declared the victor.

During the fighting, His Majesty happened to notice the Baronial Coronet, laying unattended; and picking it up, he said, "What be this?"

Abotar (the Baron) replied, "That is the Baronial Coronet--I made it myself, you know."

"Well," said Radnor throwing it over his shoulder, "I knew it wasn't important."

Abotar immediately challenged him, and Radnor's twin brother, Sir Bumble di Bee, promptly trounced abotar, leaving him with chainmail scars in his forehead. Radnor then humbly apologized for the insult to the Barony and the dent in the Baron's head.

Soon afterward, Council was held in which Radnor (after consulting with the nobles of the West Kingdom) ruled that Robert the Valiant could not serve as Baron due to his age. However, since Robert had won the right to rule, the following arrangement was agreed upon. Black Taylor of Loch Abor would rule as Baron in Robert's

place. Robert would retain the right to rule for one reign, but only after he had come of age. [Author's Note: Robert the Valiant has since passed the age of majority, but as of this date has not come forward to claim his right.]

Also at this Council, the members of Western Seas presented to His Majesty an ultimatum stating that the Barony of Western Seas was being ignored by the officers of the West Kingdom, and if the situation was not improved by the month of May, A.S. XV, Western seas would ally herself with newly-formed Kingdom of Caid. Radnor agreed to present these terms to the officers of the West, and soon departed, but not before he had presented Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts with an Award of Arms.

The following month was May, and the peasants and common people of Western Seas gathered for a banquet and revel at the Lutheran church (site of the first Baronial revel). There, Black Taylor was officially installed as Baron, Valeran do Lua was named King of the Fools (an excellent choice), and Robert the Recluse, a particularly ragged peasant, became the target for several well thrown "Meadow Muffins", a culinary favorite of the Western Seas peasantry.

The month of June saw CastleNorth autocrating their first event. The CastleNorth Prize Tourney had been in the works for the better part of six months, and the Barony eagerly awaited the long-promised event. Every member of CastleNorth had a hand in the operation of the event, and it became the first examble of "autocrating by committee" in Western Seas. The day's events

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began at Queen Emma's Summer Palace with Baron Black Taylor and Baron-High Court. ess Bliss presided over the tourney and welcomed each fighter and his lady individually as they processed before the throne. CastleNorth also instituted the first Gold Key inspections in which every fighter who entered the list had to be inspected for obvious departures from period-looking gear. With Gold Key and Marshal's inspections over, the populace prepared for the day's competitions. Contests were divided into two categories: Fighting and Arts. competition had a prize offered to the winner, and the winners of the fighting contests were also awarded points. points were tallied for each fighter, and the fighter with the highest total was proclaimed Champion of CastleNorth for the The first Champion of Castlecoming year. North was Gareth of Windward. Richard of CastleNorth had more points but was disqualified on the grounds that he was Castle-North's Sherriff and could not be his own After the fighting, Closing : " Champion. Court was held, and the populace departed to prepare for the evening's festivities. A banquet and revel was held that even-

ing at the Lutheran curch site, and featured CastleNorth's greatest culinary achievement: The Dragon. Compounded of ten pounds of ground cattle and an equal amount of potato paste colored a delicate spring green, the dish was Valeran do Pico's creation and was served flambe, to the amazement and alarm of the gathered revelers. Gareth of Windward, the new Champion of CastleNorth, was called upon to carve this elegant subtlety—and he did. As was to become the custom

at CastleNorth banquets, there was more to eat and drink than anyone (even a Castle-Northerner) could hold, and there was much rejoicing (yay).

On the weekend of July 12, the local mundane populace held a fair celebrating sports and athletic competitions of all Western Seas was invited to participate in the festivities and demonstrate their martial skills. Among the many interested mundanes observing the Western Seas militia was a fellow who could best be described as LARGE. Speaking with a thick Atenveldt accent, the stranger introduced himself as one Swetman O'Beare, late of the Kingdom of the West. He was promptly invited to join in the demonstrations, and borrowing some armour, he did. ran and Swetman faced each other in one of the massive 3-man melees that were fought that day and Valeran, in the throes of battle-lust, smote Swetman mightily in the snoot, causing him to crash gracelessly to the sward. Something about Swetman's too realistic "death" clicked in Valeran's skull and a sudden thought leaped into his little-used brain. Naturally, being a CastleNortherner, Valeran's brain was inescapably attached to his tongue, and his sudden thought echoed from his helm for all to hear: "Ohmigod, he didn't sign a waiver!!" "Much to everyone's relief, Swetman was not injured, and continued to participate throughout the fair. Not long after this, a unique challenge match occurred between Richard of CastleNorth and Dynadin do Pico (who bore a remarkable resemblance to the "executed" Lancealot du Mont). Dynadin took his trusty battle-

axe, and Richard brought out his new weapon, a greatsword. In actuality, it should have been called a great falcion, as it was completely constructed of laminated rattan. Over four feet long and weighing more than 6 pounds, it was a fine example of a BMS (Big Mucking Stick) class weapon. showing his usual deftness in combat, managed tooblock so many blows from this weapon on his gauntlet that he emerged from the fight with two broken fingers. Richard, being the kindly person that he was, transported Dynadin to the local House of Healing, and named his greatsword "Knucklebuster" in Dynadin's honor. As the fair closed, the grateful hosts prepared large amounts of victuals and gave them to all who participated in appreciation for their efforts. The CastleNortherners pain displayed their unsurpassed gustatory skalls as they quickly demolished every edible object in sight.

Having heard no word from the West Kingdom, Baron Black Taylor dispatched Richard and Valeran as emissaries to Caid, instructing them to present Western Seas' petition to join that Kingdom. However, one should not assume that the Barony's ultimatum to the West Kingdom was ignored. King Radnor urged all of his officers to prepare missives for their counterparts in Western Seas, and the officers, having done so, placed the messages in the care of the Seneschal, trusting that he would relay them promptly. They never left. Therefore, on July 19, A.S. XV, in the Barony of Lyondemere, Richard and Valeran did diliver the Barony's petition into the hands of King Martin the Temperate and asked that he take Western Seas into the bosom of Caid. The very next day, His

Majesty held a Grand Council, and decided that Western Seas would become a part of the Kingdom of Caid.

The next month, being August, several of the Western Seas folk decided to visit Richard of CastleNorth (who had been scarce lately) only to find him missing. It later turned out that he had been abducted by wandering gypsies and sold into slavery as a menial clerk in Mainland Caid.

"GATHERING THE POPULACE"

October, A.S. XV, rolled around, crushing a few unwary souls beneath it, and Western Seas again gathered to choose a new Baron. Pitching their pavillions in the wilds of Aiea, the fighters of the Barony sauntered out to examine the eric. It was superb for fighting. Smooth surfaced and covered with soft, green grass its 40 degree slope led gently to a heavenly garden of brambles and thorn bushes, the final resting place of those who would fall in combat. After preparing for the next day's events, the Barony retired for a good night's rest.

That evening's flash flood took everyone by surprise and gathering their sodden selves, they sought santuary in the Shrine of St. John of the Swirling Waters. Black Taylor was rescued from a watery grave as the inflated pig-bladder mattress he was sleeping on mysteriously deflated, and dumped him into the raging flood.

Wet, but undaunted, Western Seas fighters donned their rusty armour and prepared for combat. Swetman threw such a tremendous blow at Sanjuro's breastplate that he removed it entirely, and sent it sailing

gracefully away. For this impressive feat, Baron Black Taylor dubbed him Swetman "Armourbreaker" O'Beare. The victor of that combat, Sanjuro, went on to defeat Valeran for the Coronet. Abotar of Isenshire was awarded Best Death for his unique "Rotary Death", as he rolled out of the eric and down the hill. It required two other fighters to retrieve him lest he be lost to sight. Despite his recent demise, Abotar still found the energy to play knottlikker with a ball of Black Taylor's famous Scottish oatmeal. The oatmeal, naturally, was unharmed, and was stored away for later use. Also upon this day, Black Taylor created the Baronial office of the Wooden Spoon, with Katerina of Enchanted Lakes as its Mistress, and the title of Tanist was dropped. From now on, all future Barons would receive the Coronet as soon as possible after the Baronial Tournament.

Several travellers arrived in Western Seas that winter. Lord Harbert de Guilbert, his wife Lady Clarissa Elena du Perrenaud de Guilbert and their children arrived from the Kingdom of Atlantia and attended Western Seas Twelfth Night. Also arriving from Atlantia were Lord Alan of the Bright Lands, his wife Lady Susan Landsbeorth, their daughter, Lord Dorian Longwind of Neumes and his wife Lady Ilya the Fey of Neumes.

Twelfth Night in Western Seas that year had a Japanese theme and was held in a teahouse near the home of Stebbenwulf. New Baron Sanjuro gave recognition to Yojiro Toranaka for his martial skill and valour and to Lady Elyramere for her skill in costuming.

In the merry springtime, a lone travel-

ler rode into Western Seas. His name was Alberic Reed and he resided with Baron Sanjuro for a short time. Also returning at this time was Richard of CastleNorth, having finally escaped bondage in the Mainland.

CastleNorth's second Prize Tournament was held on June 20, A.S. XVI at Queen Emma's Summer Palace grounds. This year, Abotar of Isenshire was named Champion, and Best Death was given to a new fighter by the name of MacDonald. Another new member, Everard Meade of Highvalley, attended his first event this day. Swetman took the honors for his simple and direct methods in Body Looting, winning as a prize the helmet that he still wears to this day. Author's Note: This is the oldest surviving helm still in use in Western Seas, being built about A.S. X by Otho von Drachenstern.

An on-site revel was held that evening and prizes were given to the victors of the day. The traditional Dragon was served along with great quantities of Blackhawk's Dragon's Brew, a potent spiced beverage. A Stolen Kiss competition was held: There was no clear winner, but there were several losers, most notably Richard of CastleNorth who was vigorously assaulted by the thin and hairy lips of Stebbenwulf, who was trying to sweep the competition with this bold maneuver. Blackhawk of Briar Lake announced that he would be forming a new shire in the central part of the island, to be known as Wet Reaches.

AUGUST, A.S. XVI: Again Western Seas gathered to choose a new Baron. The Barony, having grown fond of camping events, pitched their pavillions at Bellow's Beach park in Shire of CastleNorth. This required the

eviction of about a million centipedes who made their displeasure known throughout the campout. The Fighters needed their greatest skill at that tourney, for the eric was pitched upon soft sand, making footing difficult. Abotar of Isenshire defeated Harbert de Guilbert in the final round, securing the Coronet for himself and his lady, Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts. Kyle of Kenson won the Fencing Several new members attended Competition. this event, among them Brian Eildon of Inverness, Randy the Wanderer, Gorm Red-Axe, Jason of Seanshire, and Elyramere's brother Faulk of Tymberlyne Heyghts. That afternoon the Barony held a Stag hunt and a Boar Hunt in which little game was caught, but many people were bored. Abotar was crowned as Baron that evening and promptly chastised Faulk for accidently slaying the Baronial Cow during the Stag Hunt.

The next day, the Barony held war manuevers in the brambly fields behind the campsite. Valeran and Dynadin each commanded a team of fighters, and squared off to do battle. Dynadin quickly sent his archers around the flanks of Valeran's force, but Valeran, sure that the archers were out of range and poor shots to boot, instructed his soldiers to simply stay covered and face forward. However, a member of the shield-wall, Gorm Red-Axe, panicked and screamed, "Archers on the left! WHEEL LEFT!" The soldiers, used to instantly obeying shouted commands, wheeled left, opening their wall to the archers. Three arrows later, Valeran's force was decimated, and Valeran's final desperation charge was struck down without causing a single casualty. With that glorious (?) victory, the Barony shook the last few centipedes from their bedrolls and returned to their homes.

At the September's Baronial Council meeting, Baroness Elyramere created the Baroness' Guard, in order to recognize the unbelted members of the Barony who had displayed the qualities of Courtesy, Chivalry, and Martial Prowess upon the field; and chose as its original membership: Richard of CastleNorth, Valeran do Pico, Alberic Reed and Harbert de Guilbert. [Editor's Note: Richard, Valeran, and Alberic have since been knighted in Caid, and Harbert has moved on to another kingdom, never to be heard from again.] These members, and all subsequent members of the Guard were given garters as symbols of their rank. Also at this Council it was decided that every other Baronial Tournament would be decided by a competition in the arts rather than by fighting. It was also decreed that there must be a minimum of six entrants in any Baronial Tournament, and that there must be at least fifteen people total in attendance or the event would not be held. The Arts Tournament was to be held in February, with the Baron reigning from February through August, and the Fighting Tournament was to be held in August, with the Baron reigning from August to February. crucial problem concerning the Barony was addressed by Lord Richard in the following:

My Lord Baron,

It has come to my attention that the soiled and smelly warriors of the wet reaches have erected a tottering pile of rocks which they call a castle within striking distance of our borders, obviously intending to use it as a base from which to raid CastleNorth's rich countryside. In the interest of PEACE, and in order to PROTECT ourselves and our homeland from this unwashed menace, we have deemed it necessary to topple their laughable architectual nightmare and give its odiferous defenders the burial they so richly deserve.

Therefore, we invite any feeble attempt at resistance they may muster to meet us upon a field of their choosing on the 31st day of January, A.S. XVI, so that we, the guardians of PEACE and CHIVALRY, may forever defeat the lovers of DESPOTISM and DIRT. In this most righteous cause we ask the unfailing support of all right-thing folk.

And so, I remain in the service of our beautiful Barony,
Lord Richard of CastleNorth

A.A.; O.B.G.

The Barbarians of Western Seas gathered on All Hallow's Eve that year for a tournament and revel. Among these barbarians were some new faces: Megan of the Golden Unicorn, Anton de la Mer (Antonel Revenant), John Broadmouth of Apple Way, and Layla Dusterwinkle of HuntingtonWoods. Valeran do Pico emerged bruised but victorious from the brawl, and Ogatai won the boffer lists. Tetchubah of Greenlake placed only second in the boffer lists, but her revealing costume was given a special award by the men

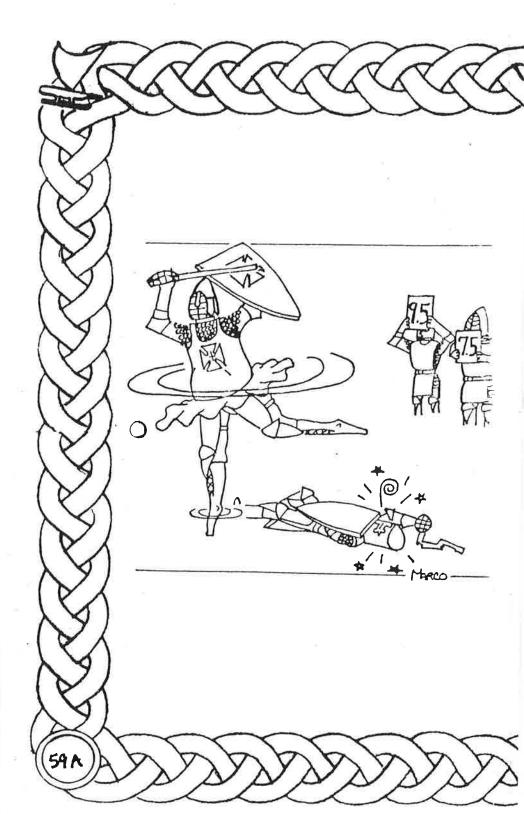
attending.

A revel was held that evening at Katerina's abode. The populace behaved barbariously, as was to be expected, but they kindly left most of the walls standing. CastleNorth fighters learned a new method of fighting without weapons, the Maltese Bransle.

The next evening, the Barony again demonstrated their skill for the mundane populace at a benefit for charity. Of that, the less said, the better. Since Dynadin had been living on the island of Maui on and off for some time, he decided to form a shire there. Valeran, Stebbenwulf, and Eileen travelled to Maui in order to assist in the creation of Valley Azure, and attended Dynadin's first practice in the Rift of the Rainbows.

LONG LIVE THE ARTS

Western Seas' Twelfth Night was held on the 23rd of January at St. Andrews. Abotar held an exceedingly long court in which many gifts were given and received. Lord Harbert and Alberic presented His Excellency with a horse and armour constructed of the finest Florentine card-board. The Baron, well pleased with this gift, announced that Harbert and Alberice would receive a suitable reward later. between CastleNorth and Wet Reaches had been held that day, and since Lord Stebbenwulf was the only survivor (also the only participant), CastleNorth was declared the Wendell the Villein was accused by Lord Harbert of committing allegedly treasonous acts against His Excellency. Not one to be swayed by facts or waste pre-



cious time with a trial, Baron Abotar simply ordered an immediate execution. So, for his alleged acts, the alleged Wendell the alleged Villein, was allegedly executed by the alleged Baronial Executioner, or so it is allegedly said. With the evening business over, the Populace proceeded to enjoy themselves mightily. And they did.

The Old Baron is dead! Long live the New Baron (whoever he is). The cry rang throughout Western Seas. Baron Abotar had finally kicked the bucket (right on sche-Therefore, it was now time to choose a new Baron. The first Baronial Coronet Arts Competition was held on February 13, A. S. XVI at Kamanele Park. trants had to enter a minimum of four of the competitions offered, and points would be given for each. The points would then be tallied and the highest total would be declared victorious. When the tallying was completed, Ilya the Fey of Neumes scored the highest, followed closely by Stebbenwulf. Ilya was invested that day, and took Dorian Longwind of Neumes as her consort. There was some controversy reguarding Ilya's recent arrival in the Barony, and this prompted the Baronial rule which states that all entrants in a Baronial Coronet Tourney or Competition must have resided in Western Seas for at least 6 months prior to the event and to have attended at least 3 events during that time.

This was to insure that each prospective ruler would at least be familiar with the Barony and the Populace. Also joining the Barony at this time was Athelyna Estrild Nimblefingers (and boy, were they).

The next month, a new shire, Bard's Keep, was formed and hosted their first event. The shire formed by Lord Harbert and Lord Alan, took over the territory left behind by the now defunct shire of Wet Reaches. Preparing a site within their own borders, Bard's Keep invited all of the Barony to an Ides of March Tourney, which was handily won by Lord Valeran. Much reveling followed after, and the Populace was well pleased by the hospitality of the new household.

ROYAL VISITORS

On April 1st, A.S. XVI Her Most Royal Majesty, Queen Arianyn arrived in our fair Barony (the first Caidan King or Queen to do so). At the April 2nd Baronial Council meeting, the charters for two new Baronial Guilds, The Paradise Guild of Wandering Players and The Bedlam Boys Ceilidh and Wench's society, were presented and accepted by Her Majesty and Their Excellencies. On April 3, a mad-dog Fool's Tourney was held in Her Majesty's honor at Kamanele Park, which was won by Lord Valeran (what again?). At court, Her Majesty presented the following awards: Order of the Dolphin of Caid to Lord Valeran do Pico and Lady Clarissa Elena Perrenaud de Guilbert, and Awards of Arms to Katerina of Enchanted Lakes and Alberic Reed. She also gave the Barony notice that His Grace, Duke Martin the Temperate and his lady would soon visit Western Seas, and informed Their Excellenthat since Shires were considered seperate from Baronies, CastleNorth and the

other "shires" would be reduced to cantons. This had the reather unpleasant side effect of reducing the Large and Formidable Sherrif of CastleNorth to Ex-Sherrif. Two rather scruffy individuals, Mordock von Rugen and Wilhelm Johannes Reiger, were first noticed skulking about the Barony at this time, and were soon welcomed as new members.

His Grace, Duke Martin the Temperate, arrived in May and Western Seas welcomed him with a mad-dog Maypole Tourney. May 15, A.S. XVII saw His Grace happily crunching the Western Seas fighters one after another at Kamanele Park. When the last Western Seas fighter was too tired to be further damaged, His Grace was declared the victor of the day, and Lord Valeran, by vertue of being the least damaged of those remaining, was named runner-up. That evening, at the revel, Their Graces, Martin and Neptha regaled the Barony with their magic lantern show which told of the History of Caid.

On June13, the canton of CastleNorth again held their annual prize tourney at the usual site. The usual events were held, with the usual results; the usual Dragon was served, in the usual way, with the usual reaction—and Lord Valeran won the tourney, as usual. Attracted by all this "usuality", Lavender Eglantyne and Moshel—off the Argonaut joined the Populace. Mansur al—Su'ban ibn Muddaris was inducted into the Baroness' Guard, making him the first archer therein. And life in Western Seas went on as usual. So there.

Later that month, Western Seas participated in an Olde Worlde Faire held in the glorious mud of CastleNorth. The Barony provided demonstrations in the medieval

Arts and Sciences, and the Faire provided them with wet straw, mud, and about 800 pazoozas in cash, which was promptly pounced upon by the Baronial Exchequer. The Barony also operated a Jail, in which Fairegoers could imprison each other for a fee. caused much merriment, and brought many more pazoozas into the Barony's coffers. Tord Valeran was married at this Faire to Eileen Rahel. This joyous event was witnessed by several members of the Equine trive, who were not impressed. several events which occured at the Faire, the following awards were instituted: Order of the Purple liver, given to those who, during the course of an event, received an injury which required immediate mundane medical treatment, and The Dumbell Award, given to those who fought in every fighting demo (3 per day for 7 days) at the Faire. The first Purple Livers were given to Lord Valeran do Pico for his mangled hand, and Randorear Wolfrisen (Taren) for his pierced eardrum; and the first Dumbell Award went to Grimmar of Nordheim. One of Western Seas newest fighters, Leo Winthrop was graciously provided with a new moniker by none other than Lord Valer-As they fought during one of the demos, one of Valeran's blows accidentally tore Leo's new surcoat. Taking this as a SIGN, Leo then became Leo Winthrop of the Torn Surcoat, a split second before he became Dead Leo Winthrop of the Torn Surcoat. And so he remains. As a result of this Faire, the Barony gained many new members, among them the DiBartolomeo Brothers (Casio Bruno, Claudio Brutus, and Marco Valerio), and Levana Silvertar.

Typist's Note: Also during this Faire another of our Barony received a moniker. At one point when everyone was responding rather slowly to the calls for another demo, Lord Valeran went into "Drill Sergeant" mode (i.e. "Let's get a move on, etc."). One lady upon looking saw Lord Valeran dressed in his brown fur shirt resembling a certain fictional cartoon character and replied: "Oh, Quiet, POOKY!" thus the moniker has remained.

KNIGHT CALL

A rather large stranger appeared at the August Baronial Council claiming to be a knight of the West Kingdom. Valeran, being the nasty, suspicious sort that he was, (and some say, still is), decided to question this individual to prove his claims. As it turned out, he was in truth a knight, Sir Ragnar of the Icy Wastes, and he was in Western Seas to find a new home for his household. Kindly soul that he was, he generously showed Valeran how many ways a sword could hit someone.

Later that month, on the 20th of August, the Baronial Coronet Tournament was held at Ho'omaluhia Park in CastleNorth. The weather, being usual for CastleNorth, was wet, but that didn't stop the fighters from donning their armour and floundering about. The best flounderer of the day was Valeran, and he and his lady, Eileen Rahel, were therefore crowned as the new rulers of Western Seas. Dynadin do Pico placed second, having lost both of his arms in the final round. The Baronial List-Board, was used for the first time at this event, and a lady from Mainland Caid, Mistress Eowynn

Nightsong of Tharsis, attended the event, much to the delight of Lord Alberic Reed. At closing court, Baroness Ilya inducted both Dynadin do Pico and Lord Abotar of Isenshire into Her Guard. Several interested persons, namely Togar the Torch Bearer, Glendora LeSage, Alysson Windsong of Shadowdance, and Archeron of the Misty Vale, having already attended a few events, decided that Society life was for them, and became active members.

The next day was dedicated to melees and war practices. Ogatie the Mongol produced and used the Barony's first combat crossbow, slaying an unwary Black Taylor with a well placed shot. Archeron of the Misty Vale engaged in a deadly showdown with the famed Uason of Seanshire during one war melee. Spotting each other across the field, both archers nocked an arrow, Jason cool and confident, Archeron a good deal less so. Raising their bows, they fired simultaneous-The missiles raced across the sky with deadly intent, but by some odd chance, met point to point in the center of the field and fell to earth. Archeron, amazed by this turn of events, fell to the ground, and Jason calmly plugged him. Another fighter added to his fame (or infamy) that day. The renowned Wilhelm Johannes (Anklebuster) Rieger made a name for himself with his expert use of the Foot-Smash and his thunderous Kill-From-Behind. Unfortunately, this name is unprintable.

The month of September saw the arrival of Sir Ragnar's wife, Lady Sir Mary of Uffington. Consequently, the Barony saw little of either for some time.

The canton of Torvald was formed early

in October, and was located in what used to be the southern reaches of CastleNorth. Togar the Torchbearer and Glendora LeSage were co-Seneschal for the canton, and promptly annoyed the canton of Bard's Keep into a war. We shall elaborate on this later. October again brought the barbarians out in Western Seas, and they gathered at Kamanele Park to fight, dance, and debauch. The event was held on the 30th, and was chronicled by Leila Dusterwinkle and Athlyna Estrild----

The lists opened at 9:00 A.M. and by 11:45 (S.C.A. time!) the DWARF WARS began. "Fully armoured and on your knees!!" was the call. the "short" melee was won by SIR RAGNAR OF THE ICY WASTES--with victors in the dwarves vs. midgets being first the midgets, then the dwarves. At ten paces from the pile of weapons, the fighters prepared to pounce on any weapon obtainable in the WEAPON SCRAMBLE. Biting, kicking, pushing, and other unchivalrous activities being legal, the entrants "went to" with fervor. This caused a problem: The resulting wholesale slaughter resulted in so many doublekills, that it was repeated three times, much to the enjoyment of the populace! Finally, a tired but happy GROND OF SIRON MOUNTAINS (distantly related to Meade) emerged from the settling dust as the victor. LORD VALERAN DO PICO and WILHELM JOHAN-NES RIEGER were our first "odd couple" in the ODD WEAPONS event.

66

When Valeran threw his "war baloney at Wilhelm, leaving himself with only a shield, his opponent polished him off with florentine glaves. OGATIE'S one handed great sword and "war baloney" faced SIR RAGNAR'S short sword with stabbing point next, and two hard fought double kills resulted in a change of systems, Ragnar's mace was no match for Ogatie's shield and spear...our Mongol is becoming a threat! Then, our wet field turned the last match between OGATIE (shield and spear again) and WILHELM (shield and glave) into a mud wrestle, much to the glee of the Wench's Guild! After a five minute break, another voided match, the third bout saw Ogatie forfeiting the match: inscrutable eh, Ogatie? After an ODD WEAPONS MELEE, fought just for the joy of killing, much hopping and boffing ensued in the SOFT LISTS. Hysteria felled many a participant, and in the end it was ATHLYNA ESTRILD NIMBLEFINGERS who emerged victorious. What do four barbarians, assorted "war baloneys", and a length of rope have in common? DAGGER FIGHTS! number of riotous bouts left three finalists, GROND, ALBERIC, and VALE-RAN, who were tied together in the last event. Grond was summarily done in by both his opponents when he tried a flying leap through the triad, whereupon Alberic got his dagger. Alberic then disarmed Valeran, thereon followed an elaborate dance by Valeran to regain his dagger.

After getting two daggers, and loosing both, he was overcome by battle lust, and in a last ditch attempt, fell on Alberic! Before he suffocated however, Alberic won the event by stabbing his opponent (turning him into a "dead weight"?). Some of the planned activities (manticore, barbarian brawl, archer's walkdowns, knife throwing) had to be postponed because of our late start and preparations for the masked ball.

I most gratefully acknowledge the assistance of ATHLYNA ESTRILD NIMBLE-FINGERS, who so kindly substituted for me, as I had to leave early: This report is mostly hers!
LEILA DUSTERWINKLE OF HUNTINGDON WOODS

NOVEMBER 20, A.S. XVII--The new canton of Torvald held their first event, hosting the Peasant's Revel. Stebbenwulf was named King of Fools (he was well suited for the position), and reigned over his boisterous subjects, giving recognition and punishment as his foolish policies decreed. Also in this foolish month, the College of Heralds finnally approved the name "Barony of the Western Seas", giving us exclusive right to that name.

The canton of Bard's Keep hosted the Barony's first White Dragon Sale in December, with the proceeds to go towards the Runestone and other Baronial expenses. Due to poor attendance, it was not a great

success.

Western Seas' first Leornian was held on

January 15, A.S.XVII, and was autocratted by Baroness Eileen. Classes covered most of the basic Society studies, fighting, heraldry, paperwork, etc., and the event was well attended by the Populace. For her work in the setting up of the Leornian, Baroness Eileen was named a Regent of the Collegium Caidis.

On the 22nd of January, Their Excellencies welcomed all to Western Seas' Twelfth Night Celebration which was held at a military hall in Bard's Keep. Kyle of Kenson surprised all when he walked into Court. He had been in the East Kingdom for some time, and decided to visit, to the joy of all. During the evening, a certain Saracen, Mansur al Suban of Torvald, suddenly made off with Lady Ilya the Fey (of Bard's Keep), probably wanting to add to his harem, prompting cries of outrage from the Bard's Keep table. "WAR! WAR!" they cried, demanding recompense for the Saracen's actions. Lord Harbert de Guilbert, Captain of Bard's Keep tiny army, remarked to His Excellency that those who cried loudest for war were those who had never set foot on the battlefield. Being able to find no other solution to their satisfaction, Bard's Keep and Torvald resolved to fight to the last warrior. Keeping this in mind, they immediately set about hiring mercenaries. The canton of CastleNorth, having nothing to do with their argument at all (probably the first time), began taking bids for their servies and eventually settled with one camp or the other, of course making sure that the usual liquid payment would be forthcoming. As for the rest of Twellfth Night, we give you the words of Lavender

Sweetbrier as inscribed in the Runestone:

At the Twelfth Night Feast on January 22, Lord Baron Valeran do Pico , Lady Baroness Eileen Rahel do Pico, and Lord Mansur al' Suban presented the Barony with a throne that has been long in the making. The ample wooden chair is mounted with a carved and painted plaque of the recently approved Baronial Arms. Our mundanely newly-weds, Lady Katerina of Enchanted Lakes and Swetman Armorbreaker O'Beare, presented a crystal tipped scepter. Lord Baron Valeran announced the Awards of Arms now officially conferred upon the Minister of Arts and current Baroness, Lady Eileen Rahel do Pico the Candlemaker; Minister of Sciences, Lord Mansur al' Suban; Minister of Lists, Lady Dusterwinkle of Huntingdon Woods; and Scribe and Exchequer, Lady Tetchubah of Greenlake.

Also presented that day were two Orders of the Harp Argent of Caid, and they were given to Lady Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts for costuming; and Lady Ilya the Fey of Neumes for music.

On January 29th, a tourney was held at the request of Her Majesty, Queen Elasaid, to choose a member for the Queen's Guard. Since Her Majesty was unfamiliar with our fighters, she requested a tourney be held, but with equal weight be given to the winner of fighting and chivalry. The winner in both categories, that day was His Excellency, Valeran, with Black Taylor coming in

second. The chivalrous part of the day was decided by committee, consisting of the marshals and the ladies of the Barony. Her Majesty was notified of the results, and she promptly forwarded a Queen's Guard favor to Valeran, (it arrived just before the Baronial Competition, which was the first event he was able to wear it).

On February 5th there was an Archery & fencing competition as chronicled from this excerpt from the Runestone:

The Baronial Archery and Fencing Championships were held at Kapiolani Park Archery range on February 5th. In target archery, rounds were shot at 20, 30, and 40 yards; then speed rounds at the same distances. Lord Mansur al' Su'uban ibn Mudarris won the event handily with 95 points; Starlin Windsong of Shadow's Dance took second with 49, closely followed by Lady Ilya the Fey of Neumes with 42. A short break was taken to armour up and move to a nearby site for combat archery. With Starlin Windsong and Lord Mansur al' Su'uban the only contenders, it was decided to go for best score of three rounds: with 3 points given for a head hit, 2 for a body hit, 1 for an arm or a leg, and ½ for a kill with a war baloney. Lord Mansur proved his superiority with the baloney by killing Starlin with it in the first round. Starlin shot him in the leg in the second round, and -- like a fool -instead of withdrawing, challenged him with a war baloney and got herself killed again. Lord Mansur also won the third round to take the event.

In fencing, Valeran do Pico went up against Lord Mansur al Su'uban ibn Mudarris and won the event.

The final results of the day's events: LORD MANSUR AL SU'UBAN IBN MUDARRIS is now Baronial Archery Champion, and VALERAN DO PICO is the Baronial Fencing Champion. Congratulations to both!

STARLIN WINDSONG OF SHADOW'S DANCE

A KNIGHTING

In February, Baron valeran succumbed to the dreaded Western Seas 6-month malady and croaked. The Barony, needing a new leader, gathered at Kamanele Park upon the 12th of that month to decide which of their number would be forced (Ahem, entitled) to wear the Coronet. Nine competitors entered, and the top three scores were: Lavender Sweetbrier - 17.0 points, Lady Ilya the Fey of Neumes - 15.5 points, & Glendora leSage - 15 points. Therefore was milady Lavender named Baroness, and she took as her consort Everard Meade of Highvalley.

The Baronial Champion's Tourney followed, which was won by Lord Richard, and he was presented with the new Baronial favor. This consisted of a leather strap (0h, beat me! Beat me!) which was emblazoned with the Baronial Device, and which each recipient would leave his or her unique mark upon and therefore create a record of all those who carried the Barony's favor.

Closing court was held by Baroness Lavender, and a search party had to be sent after Lord Valeran, who was to receive a small award from the King. Nothing much, really: just a white belt and some rusty spurs, but Her Excellency had to give them away—I mean what would she do with them? And thus did Western Seas create its first Knight and fire its first Queen's Guard member. Lord Black Taylor of Loch Abor was inducted into the Queen's Guard in Valeran's place; also Athlyna Estrild Nimblefingers was given an Award of Arms.

As promised earlier, we will now elaborate upon the war which was declared at 12th The armies of Bard's Keep and Torvald (both augmented by CastleNorth mercenaries) met at Kamanele Park on March 19th to do deadly battle. The hostilities began with a lively exchange of insults--Bard's Keep accused torvald of being sheeplovers, and Torvald thanked Bard's Keep for being such wonderful sheep. Score: Torvald 1, Bard's Keep O. Next came the Battle of the Champions which was handily won by Torvald, despite the fact that Lord Swetman killed his only shield partner, Lady Mary. Score: Torvald 2, Bard's Keep 0. The field battles followed, with archers on both sides making it hot for the fighters, and many of them got the shaft (Listen, I don't make these up). Score: Torvald 3, Bard's Bard's Keep was forced to fall back and defend the bridges in a last-ditch effort to repulse the frothing warriors of Torvald. Sir Valeran, missing a particularly savage thrust, lost his polearm. Perhaps feeling that his white belt was proof against harm, he calmly waded into the middle of the melee to retrieve his The warriors of Bard's Keep had weapon.

many weapons, and several of them found their way to Valeran's head. Dismayed by the loss of their comrade, the Torvalders gave way and Ogatai the Mongol strode triumphantly across the bridge to give Bard's Keep their first victory of the day. Torvald 3, Bard's Keep 1. A final field battle mopped up the remainder of Bard's Keep, and the Torvalders brought their glorious victory home to Togar. the Castle-North mercenaries brought their prodigious thirst to Togar, and even their dead drank heartily. Final Score: Torvald 4, Bard's Keep 1. Stay tuned for the post-game show... On the 27th of March, Western Seas was invited to participate in the Scottish Highland Games. The event was held at Punahou School and was well attended. members of the Barony participated in fighting demos and parades, and a few even entered some of the games themselves. Elyramere was heralding that day, and had some difficulty pronouncing Marco diBarto-

lomeo's name. think of it as "Marco the bottle of mayo". She did--unfortunately it also came out that way when she announced him. (And to this day, you can occasionally hear the This not being bad enough, echo "Mayo!"). Marco had yet another run-in with misfor-Marco was fighting Lord Alberic in a supposedly chivalrous melee when Alberic suddenly stared over Marco's left shoulder and cried, "Marco! Behind you!" Marco, fearing perhaps that the Winged Victory of Samothrace was swooping upon him from the rear, turned to defend himself, and Alberic did smite him mightily upon the bean. (Sigh,

Marco, Marco!)

It was suggested that she

MORE ROYALTY COMETH

Her Majesty, Queen Ealasaid arrived in Western Seas in mid-April, and attended the Fool's Tourney and Revel held upon the The mad-dog tourney was held at Dole Field on a particularly hot day. It is not certain who won the event, but Lord Richard was a definite loser, as he was struck unconscious by Lord Black Taylor in Torvald autocratted the a polearm bout. revel that evening, (not an easy task, since the list of Her Majesties allergies was extensive), and held it in the newlycaptured territory won from Bard's Keep. Her Majesty held court and gave the following awards: Order of the Dolphin of Caid to Lady Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts, Award of Arms to Togar the Torchbearer, Glendora le Sage, and Dynadin do Pico. Lord Black Taylor was invited to join the ranks of Her Excellency's Guard, and he did. Lord Alberic Reed succeeded in abducting Her Majesty later that evening, and as the constables were unable to effect Her release, His Majesty, Adrian Buchanon, was forced to ransom Her back with his newly This sword subsequently bebroken sword. came the Barony's Articulated Sword.

In early May, the Barony held a Maypole event with boffer lists at a site which has been forgotten. the infamous "Lavender Revel" was held that evening at the Lutherand Church site. The color of the day was lavender in honor of Her Excellency, and everything at the revel, including the food was lavender. the general consensus was that this was one of the deadest revels. Requiescat in Pace, Amen.

The relative calm of the CastleNorth countryside was once again disturbed by the thunderous reports of boots striking backsides as Sir Valeran gently coaxed Castle-North into holding another Grand Prize The tourney was again held at Tourney. Queen Emma Summer Palace and was well at-Lord Alveric Reed won the day and was crowned Champion of CastleNorth. Taylor's pavillion was destroyed by high winds, and many others were damaged. Fitzwarren of the Middle Kingdom visited Western Seas and fought at the event, much to the delight of the local fighters who were always searching for new opponents. The revel was held at the Lutheran Church, and Lord Alberic was presented with a baldric (donated by Lady Elyramere) as a symbol of his rank. Naturally, the Dragon was served (and when he was done, everyone else ate) and the usual raucous time was had by al1.

The Olde Worlde Faire was again held in the spadeworm infested swamps of Castle-North this year, much to the disgust of Ogatai the Spadeworm Hating Mongol, and the Barony again participated. The usual jail was set up, and it brought mucho pazoozas in the Baronial coffers, and there was enough fighting demos even for the die-hard CastleNortherners. A Viscountess of Atenveldt (whose name no one recalls) visited the Barony and attended the event. Also visiting from Valley Azure were Buck of Daggit and Dynadin do Pico. A newcomer by the name of Daven Echern joined the Barony at this time, obviously attracted by Athelyna's nimble fingers (and boy, were they). Also in attendance for the first time was

Gwidia Arrowcastre of the Lost Cup.
Late in July, A.S. XVIII, a Leornian
was held at Ho'omaluhia Park in Castle—
North. About a dozen people attended,
and classes in Heraldry, Dancing, and the
Proper Behaviour at Court (required for
CastleNortherners) were given. Also at
about this time, Lavender Sweetbrier (visiting Mainland Caid) received an Order of
the Harp Argent from Their Majesties, Jason and Natalya.

Having found a cure for the dreaded 6 month malady, the Barons of Western Seas no longer keeled over twice a year. ever, everyone got used to seeing a new face every 6 months so the Old Baroness was packed away, and the Baronial Tourney was again held at Ho'omaluhia Park on the 14th day of August, A.S.XVIII. The event was saddened by the news of the passing of Togar the Torchbearer, and a vigil was held in his memory in the evening. Their Majesties, King Jason Griffiths of Shadowhyrst and Queen Natalya Gregorovna visited for event and brought with them Akagawa Yoshio and Renata Kestrel of Highwinds. nar of the Icy Wastes won the tourney after a particularly hard-fought series of bouts with Lord Richard. The new Baronial pavillion and Listboard, donated by Valeran and Black Taylor, was seen ofr the first time at this event. Their Majesties gave several awards at Court that day, and we list them here for posterity: Awards of Arms to Grymarr of Nordheim (Everard Meade), Marianna Caterina de Lopez y Muntaner, Swetman O'Beare, and Ogatai the Mongol; Order of the Harp Argent to Katerina of Enchanted Lakes and Tetchubah of Greenlake;

Order of the Dolphin of Caid to Black Taylor of Loch Abor, and an Order of the Pelican to Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts, and a Legion of Courtesy to Daven Echern. The next day, the populace participated in the Quest for the Chess Pieces—there was no winner, they just needed the pieces to play; and His Majesty defeated Lord Akagawa Yoshio in a live chess game, with Western Seas members acting as the pieces (perhaps they lost them again). Since the heat was so hot, everyone decided to go home. Nyah!

Sir Valeran and his wife, Lady Eileen Rahel, attended the Pennsic Wars that year, and returned via Caid to visit with Their Majesties and Lady Eileen recieved an Order of the Dolphin from Their Majesties, Jason and Natalya.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Western Seas' first official Newcomer's event was held on September 17, at the Lutheran Church site, and was the last event ever to be held there. Leave me explain why....Their excellencies, Ragnar and Mary, held court and presented Marco Valerio diBartolomeo with an Award of Arms and the Battered Helm; and also bestowed the Articulated Sword upon Antonel Revenant. Sir Valeran took Lord Marco as his squire (this worked out quite well, as Marco liked to build swords and Valeran loved to break them). A merry feast followed, and His Excellency, enjoying himself a bit over-much, became quite "happy" with drink and proceeded to toss various members of the populace about. Lord Grymmar was tossed into a tree, and Lord Ogatai was hevted bodily over a bush, much to the glee of the Baron,

and the dismay of the Baroness. Not to mention the rest of the populace. It took several strong men to restrain His Excellency (he was rather large you know and kept tossing them aside in his quest for women, and the upshot of the whole affair was that the Church barred the Society from holding any further events there.

Late in October, the Barony joined with the local constabulary in presenting an entertaining demonstration for the public. They created a "Magic Forest", and visitors were treated to a hort version of the Ring of the Niebelung, complete with a very realistic dragon that roared and bellowed smoke. The event was enjoyed by all, and the Barony, being quite impressed with the site (McCoy Pavillion), decided to hold an event there sometime in the future.

On the 29th of October, Western Seas' barbarians again met to cause havoc and merriment at Kamanele Park. There were several fighting events, the most notable of which was the mad-dog lists which were won by Lady Mary of Uffington. The prize for this was a strait-jacket donated by Lord Black Taylor, and Lady Mary promptly gave it to Sir Ragnar (for obvious reasons). Elyramere and Athelyna Estrild won the Best Barbarian Costume event.

With barbarians running amuck in Western Seas, the peasants could not be far behind. Gathering at Lord Abotar's abode on the 26th of November, they did revel mightily, aided by one Lord Arinbjorn Talverri, visiting from Mainland Caid. He was promptly dubbed King of Fools, and fulfilled his duties with as much pomp and sobriety as could be expected from a foolish Viking.

The Barony held a combination revel/White dragon sale on the campus of the university upon the 16th of december. Mordock von Rugen donated a huge keg of beer, and filled everyone's mug for a small fee which was donated to the sale. Lord Richard tried to get his absolutely huge tankard filled for this same small fee, but was informed that his mug would require a triple donation. So he switched to a smaller mug. Also visiting the Barony at this event was Lord Michael Squire and his lady of the Middle Kingdom. Despite Mordock's beer, the event did not raise many pazoozas.

Deciding that Sir Valeran was winning too many tourneys, the Barony decided to hold its first annual Man-at-Arms tourney at kailua Field on the 14th of January A.S. XVIII. The lists were open only to those who were not knights, members of Her Majesty's Guard or Her Excellency's Guard, so that those who had not reached the higher levels of fighting could have an event in which to compete only amongst themselves. The Baroness of Starkhafn and Her lord visited Western Seas at this time and attended the event. Wilhelm Johannes Rieger won the double elimination list and Lord Grymmar of Nordheim won the melee. Later that day, fighting events were opened to the more experienced fighters.

The twelfth night celebration of A.S. XVIII was held on January 28th at McCoy Pavillion. Their excellencies, Ragnar of the Icy Wastes and Mary of Uffington presided over court and presented the following awards: Lord Marco Valerio diBartolomeo was inducted into the Baroness' Guard, Their Excellencies created the Order of the Wa'a

Oar, a Baronial service award, and awarded it to Black Taylor of Loch Abor, Eileen Rahel do Pico, Elyramere of Tymberlyne Heyghts, Katerina of Enchanted Lakes, Lavendyr Eglantyne, Leila Dusterwinkle of Huntingdon Woods, Mansur al Su'uban ibn Mudarris, Marco Valerio DiBartolomeo, Tetchubah of Greenlake, and Valeran do Pico. Also created at this court was the Baronial Label, [given to those who have won the right to serve as Baron, and then serverd for the entire reign], and it was presented to Sir Valeran do Pico, Lady Ilya the Fey of Neumes, Lord Abotar of Isenshire, & Lady Lavendyr Eglantyne. A great feast followed, and the populace made merry far into the night.

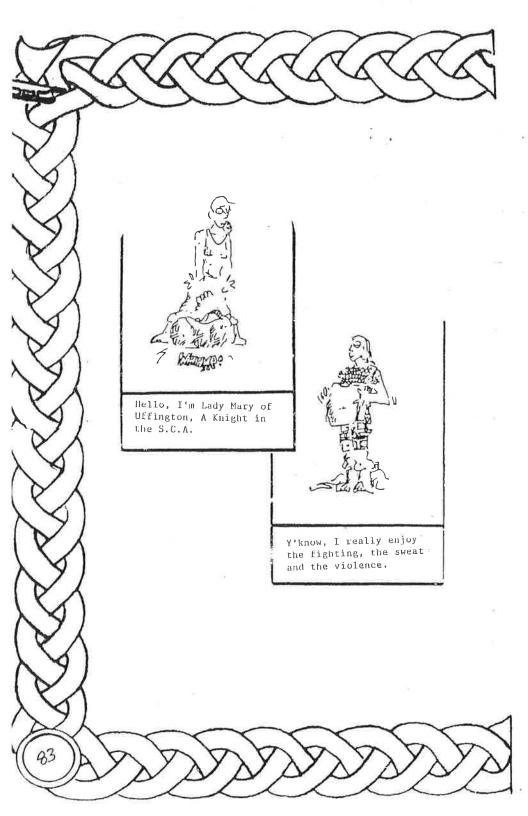
A leornian was held on the 4th of February on the University campus in preparation for the upcoming Arts Baronial, and it was fairly well attended.

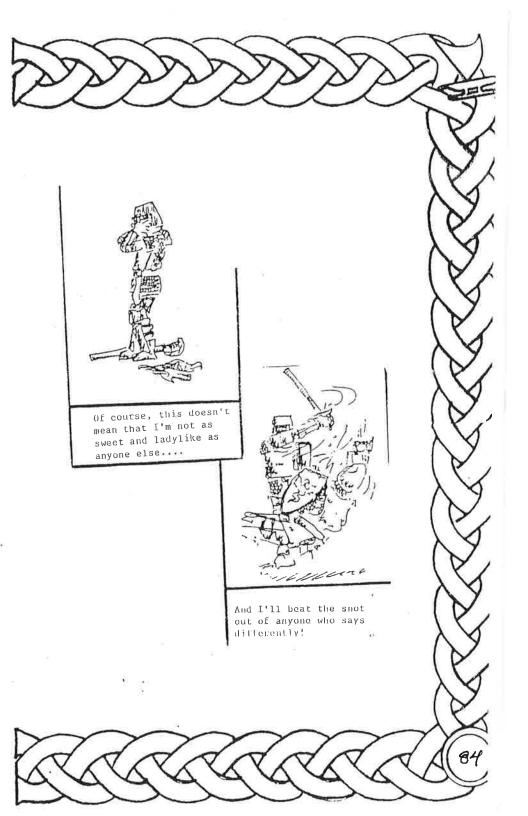
The third Arts Baronial was held on February llth and 12th at Kualoa Beach park. Lady Ilya the Fey of Neumes was the victor, followed by Lady Tetchubah of Greenlake. No fighting occurred on the first day as the populace relaxed and enjoyed themselves with various pursuits. Lord Dynadin enjoyed himself so much that he passed out and slept in Valeran's fire-chariot. Kyle of Kenson showed his great skill in steak-burning by leaving a perfectly good piece of meat on the grill all night--then proceeded to eat it for breakfast, ants and all (What a CastleNortherner!). The next day was devoted to fighting of all sorts, and the lists to choose the Baronial Champion. Valeran emerged victorious defeating Lord Richard in the final round. A pre-wounded

melee followed, in whch Valeran and Richard (masquerading as the blind, one-armed swrdsman) thrashed their way through the rest of the field, and then proceeded to carve each other up, ending with both of them dead on the field. Lord Dynadin won the Battered Helm that day, and Sir Valeran carried away the Articulated Sword. However, all was not sweetness and light there. CastleNorth, with its usual nose for trouble, found itself pledged to yet another war as both Torvald and Bard's Keep decided to join together to capture the small holding of Stebbenwulf who lived on the southern borders of CastleNorth. As usual, Castle-North rushed to defend its territory, and war was declared. More on this later.

WAR... WITH ROYALTY TO FOLLOW?

Since all things are relative in the abyss of time, now is later, and later is whenever, and may the cosmic mushroom bless us all. the war between CastleNorth and the Sweaty Alliance took place at Kahana Bay on the 11th and 12th of March, A.S. XVIII. CastleNorth fielded 18 warriors and the Alliance 7. The Alliances' two great war-chiefs, Sir Ragnar and Lady Mary, could not participate -- the former's helmet being unsafe for archery, and the latter being with child. The battle proceeded swiftly, and the only complaint was that the CastleNortherners did not have enough That was soon solved as enemies to kill. the warriors of both sides, their differences settled, proceeded to sharpen their skills of war with War Maneuvers that lasted the rest of the day. Oh, by the way, Castle-





North won (as usual). They certainly hoped that Stebbenwulf appreciated this, as his holding had led them into innumerable wars.

Their Majesties, Kipp Silverlock and Berengaria of Hythe, and their entourage, Bear of the Golden Oak and his lady, visited Western Seas in early April and attended the Feast of Fools tourney. It was held at an unnamed park in CastleNorth territory on April 14th. Bear of the Golden Oak won the tournament, with Black Taylor of Loch Abor placing second. A revel was held that evening at a church in Bard's Keep. Their Majesties, being well pleased with some of the Barony's members, gave teh following awards: Order of the Dolphin to Leila Dusterwinkle of Huntingdon Woods, Order of the Harp Argent to Harbert de Guilbert and Dorian Longwind of Neumes, Award of Arms to Daven Echern, Juliet de Guilbert, Megan of the Golden Unicorn, Mordock von Rugen and Sven Magnusson, Legion of Courtesy to Alan of the Bright Lands. And as neither the author nor the researcher of this work were in attendance that night, that is all that we can relate about this event.

A VERY MERRY MARY

The merry month of May made Lady Mary quite merry, and the Barony, seeing a merry Mary, became quite merry also. (Say that fast 3 times)... Their Excellencies, deciding to put all this merriness to some use, held an Arts event. It was entitled the First Annual Novice Bards and Crafts Feast, and was dedicated to encouraging the novice craftsman much as the Novice Tourney encouraged new fighters. It was held on May 19, A.S. XIX, at Ho'omaluhia Park and was auto-

crated by Lady Leila Dusterwinkle. First event of the day was mad-dog boffer lists, sponsored by Lord Mansur, and won by Tamuiric Nikar of the Krystal Caves. were no entrants in the Leatherworking competition, but the others were somewhat better attended. The competitions and their victors: 12-man morris won by m'lady Callista Marine; Make-your-own Barding won by merry Lady Mary of Uffington; Period Minature Figure Diorama won by m'lord Eldwin Sterling of Constantine, and the William Tell Competition (consisting of firing 3 arrows at a dummy), won by Lord Black Taylor of Loch Abor with a well placed Baroness' Guard shot. A revel was held that evening at a local school in which several other competitions were decided. The Best Decorated Wine Bottle was won by Lord Alan of the Bright Lands, Best Song with Accompaniment won by Lady Mary and Lady Athelyna, Storytelling was won by Cellidon Honiman'-Toda Baron (Lord Dorian), and the Mnemonic Poem of Period Philosophers (drunken ravings), sponsored by the Philosopher's Guild and won by m'lady Gwidia Arrowcastre. For some yet unknown reason, they decided to make this an annual event, don't ask me why. Also in attendance for the first time was Apryl of the Misty Lake.

In spite of all this merriment, the CastleNorth Grand Prize Tournament was held as usual on June 23rd at Kamanele Park. This year Lord Grymmar of Nordheim emerged as the Grand Champion. This event was practically cloned from the previous one, as was the one before that, so if you've ever been to one Prize Tourney, it was just

like this one. The winners this year were: Lord Richard of CastleNorth - Sword & Shield; Lord Blacktaylor of Loch Abor -Freestyle Lists; Lord Alberic Reed - Great Weapons; Sir Valeran do Pico - Fencing and Axe or Mace and Round Shield; Lord Ogatai the Mongol - Single Weapon; Lord Mansur al Su'uban Ibn Muddaris = Archery walk down; Lord Alberic - Weird Weapons; and Lord Grymmar of Nordheim - Melee. Also m'lady Apryl of the Misty Lake won the best description of a Mythical Beasty. At the revel that evening there were several contests in which the winners were not listed down for prosperity, these were: A pun-off, the best bread, and the best boast to the most host. The revel made a whopping 4 pazoozas profit, much to the satisfaction of the autocrats, and the despair of Mistress Elyramere, who wanted the autocrats to raise the revel fee. They refused to do so, feeling that to raise the fee just for the sake of raising the fee wasn't a good enough reason.

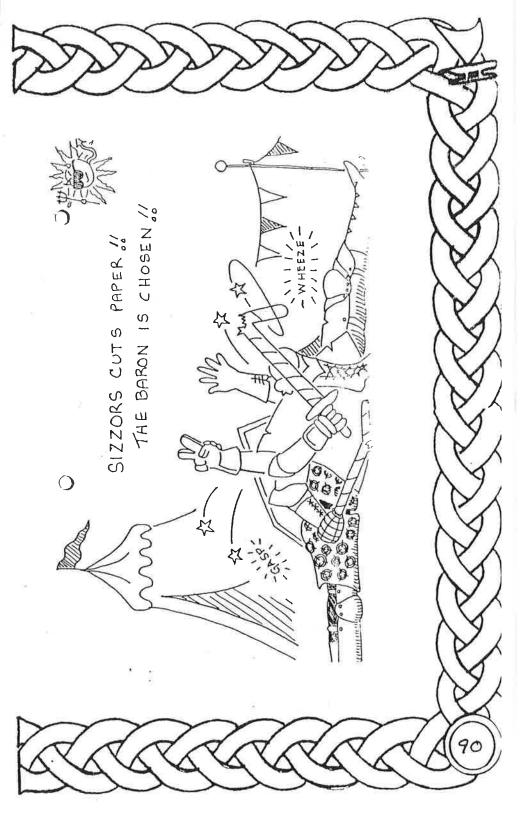
On July 28, A.S. XIX the Leornian was held at the university of Hawaii - Manoa Campus. The classes were as follows; The Battle of Hastings - Sir Valeran; Calligraphy/Illumination - Lady Tetchubah; First Aid for fighters - Lord Black Taylor; Theatre - Lady Eileen; and Dancing - Lord Black Taylor. Making their second appearance at a baronial event were Stephan MacMorro and his lady Jeanne-Marie Laerke. Their first event was the Newcomers event back in September.

The Baronial Coronet Tournament and Campout was held on August 31-September 2 at Ho'omaluhia Park. Lord Alberic Reed

emerged victorious at the end of the day, snatching victory out of the grasp of Sir Valeran with a dazzling display of Jan Ken Po, and elevated Mistress Elyramere to the position of Baroness. Lord Marco won the Best dressed fighter contest, and Lord Dynadin won both Best Death and the Articulated Sword. Ah, but all the excitement happened not upon the day of the tournament. The previous evening saw enough excitement of its own. Reynard de Chinon, made overmarry with the bottle and was carried away to the mundane House of Healing. Lord Daven having called the Healers, then retired to his bed, only to be awakened a short time later with teh news that a lady in camp was about to deliver her child. Forced was he then to leap from his pallet and summon the Healers again. Finally, the camp quieted down for the night. War Maneuvers had been planned for the next day, but the fighters were too tired to go out in the heat, and so fighting was cancelled.

The Newcomer's revel was held on September 22nd at St. Andrew's Cathedral. attendance for the first time was Charles of Shepardswell, late of Calafia, m'lady Genevieve Elise de Chantellouise, m'lady Morwen Dimitri and several other firsttimers. Several contests had been designed for the newcomers, among them Best Attempt at a costume, won by m'lady Genevieve; Best attempt at a heraldic device won by Doyle of the Iron Hills; Best Persona history won by m'lady Apryl. Excellencies, Alberic and Elyramere, presented Lady Mary of uffington with the Order of the Wa'a Oar, and presented all of the officers to the newcomers, explaining the functions of each. A grand feast followed, and much merry-making (Mary-making?) was had by all.

Ack! A waye of barbarity swept the Barony, catching up all who stood in its way. Fighting was rampant, and a beer could not walk down the street without being accosted and brutally drunk. Baron, deciding that this must be averted, gathered all the barbarians at Kamanele Park on the 27th of October, and had them beat on each other for a while. Thus came about the Barbarian Tourney of A.S. The lists that day were fought with XIX. either great weapon or weapon and round shield only, and was won by Richard the Barbaric. The Best Death was won by Lord Grymmar of Nordheim, and it occured in this fashion: Grymmar and Richard met in a bout during the lists, Grymmar armed with a sword and round shield, and Richard with a battle-axe. Grymmar, charged with bloodlust, rushed Richard in an attempt to cleave him asunder. Richard lost his footing and went down under the thundering boots of his opponent, and lay staring up at the grim figure standing over him. Just at that moment, some inkling of reason entered Grymmar's brain, and he began to step back, giving his opponent the chance to rise. Richard, mis-interpreting the move, thought that Grymmar was about to strike, and brought the blade of the axe ripping upward--directly between Grymmar's knees in the world famous Baroness' Guard shot. Grymmar crumpled, all thought of fighting scattered like marbles tossed onto a stone floor. For his supreme loss, he was awarded two covered mugs (in case



he found something he wished to save in them). Also that day there were Weapon Scramble Melees and the infamous Box melee. The barbarian's thirst for slaughter was slaken, and they ceased to be a nuisance to the Barony--for now.

To celebrate the quieting of the barbarious hordes, Baron Alberic proclaimed a revel to be held that evening at the Kailua Lutheran Church. Their Excellencies held court, and being pleased with the contributions of some of the Populace, gave the following awards: to Gwydia Arrowcastre an Award of Arms; to Lady Athelyna Estrild Nimblefingers (not again! yes!! ... and, boy were they) an Order of the Dolphin of Caid; to Lord Marco Valerio diBartolomeo an Order of the Dolphin of Caid, and to Lord Richard of CastleNorth an Order of the Harp Argent. There was much feasting and drinking (especially drinking), and prizes were given to those who had distinguished themselves in the struggle against barbarity. This event also saw the first appearance of m'lady Chandra Melim of Shadowscliff.

Just as the populace finished their thanks-giving for the departure of the Barbarians, a wave of smelly, unwashed peasants flooded the Barony. Baron Alberic decided that the best way to deal with them was to hold a revel and gather them together in one place where they could be "civilized". He chose St. Andrew's Cathedral as the site for this civilizing, and on November 24, A,S, XIX, the peasantry of Western Seas gathered there to make merry (sorry, I won't touch htat one again). Food was provided in the form of turkey —

legs which were quite durable, and cleverly stamped with runes which seemed to spell G-O-O-D-Y-E-A-R, or something to that effect. Speaking of sticking together, two recently civilized peasants, Antonde la Mer and Megan of the Golden unicorn were "wed" in a ceremony of dubious authenticity. The remainder of the evening was spent in various "civilizing" amusements, despite the constant bombardment of turkey legs, and the newly civilized populace departed, well entertained.

On the 19th of Vanuary the warriors of Western Seas gathered at Kailua Field for the second annual Novice Tourney. The same restrictions as the previous year applied, and there were about 8 men-at-arms in the The lists were won by Anton de la lists. Mer, the melee by Claudio Brutus diBartolomeo, the preset wounds melee by Sir Valeran; Best Death, Best excuse for not fighting, and the box melee were won by Sir Ragnar of the Icy Wastes. This event marks the first appearance of Davin, the newly born son of Sir Ragnar and Lady Mary, and the culmination of two knights' work (Sir Valeran's Pun).

Icy blasts of winter blew over Western Seas, the 65 degree nights chilling the populace and causing them to bundle up against the cold. But all was not so grim for Twelfth Night approached and merriment was in the air. Again, St. Andrew's Cathedral was the site chosen and on January 26, A.S. XIX, their Excellencies held Court amid great splendor and ceremony. The Baroness of Lyondemere, Megwiyn of Glendwry, was visiting our Barony, and occupied a seat of honor at the Baron's table, with Lord Lam-

bert de Sur and his daughter Marie d'Acre. Also newly arrived was m'lady Melusine. Kyle of Kenson was given an Award of Arms and Their Excellencies introduced Baroness Megwiyn to the assembled populace. theme was "Heraldic", and most of the contests scheduled for that evening dealt with heraldry or related themes. The Castle-Northerners, plying themselves heavily with drink (in order to stimulate their minds), reated the following device and demonstrated it outside the Hall: 'Per fess sable and vert; three brace CastleNortherners (rare mythical beasties -- check your armorial) in inebriation, grasping in dexter forepaws mugs, supporting a tree, proper.' Despite their efforts, this did not win anything but disapproval of the populace. CastleNortherners, our memory of the rest of the evening is fuzzy, at best.

On January 19, A,S,XIX another leornian was held. There were three classes held: The Battle of Manzekurt - Sven Magnusson; How to make a leather slipper/shoe - Lord Black Taylor; Basic Heraldry - Sir Valeran; as well as a video tape by Duchess Natalya on How to survive your first year of SCA. There was one class cancelled do to lack of attendance by the instructor.

On Februayr 9, A.S. XIX, the populace gathered at Kamanele park to replace the Baron, the old one having become faulty. An Arts competition was held, and after an extremely close battle, Lady Athelyna Estrild's nimble fingers carried the day away from Swetman O'Beare's broken armour. Lady Athelyna named Lord Daven Echern as her consort. At the final court of Alberic and Elyramere, Lady Eileen Rahel do Pico

was accepted into the Legion of Courtesy, and Lady Mary of Uffington recieved the scroll for the Award of Arms she was given nine years previously. After Athelyna and Daven received the Coronet, they presented Lord Alberic with the Baronial Label, and thanked both Lord Alberic and Mistress Elyramere, for their service to the Barony. This was the last event for them, as they soon left for Starkhafn, leaving a Baronial banner, two throne covers, and two kneeling pillows charged with the Baronial device as The Canton of part of the Baron's regalia. Torvald, having a complaint regarding "real estate", brought their cause before Their Excellencies, and finding no satisfaction, declared war on the Canton of CastleNorth.

WHAT? WAR AGAIN?'!

....from "Mordock's Lament"
Aroo! He cried, and then he died,
and fell into a deep hole.
'Cause bees just want to kiss flowers,
AND KILL PEOPLE!!!!

The next chapter in the ongoing hostilities between Castlenorth and Torvald took place at Kualoa Beach park, deep within CastleNorth's borders. Many days of maneuvering brought the armies together in a lightly wooded field near the seacoast, where they prepared to do deadly battle. The morning of the ninth of March saw the Castlenorth army marching along the coast road towards their enemy. A sudden ambush from around a bend of the road was sprung by the warriors of torvald but the Castlenortherners prevailed. CastleNorth 1, Torvald 0. A second assault found the Castle-

Northerners defending the roadway as the enemy attempted to cut their vital supply line to the beer depot. With their beer in danger, the frantic warriors of Castle-North threw back the Torvald men. Castle-North 2, Torvald 0. Knowing that Castle-North was always short of money (look, tou gotta pay for beer), Torvald decided to raid CastleNorth's treasury and leave them penniless. However, the CastleNorth strongbox was well hidden, and would never have been discovered except for one random incident. Lord Ogatai, deciding to use a mace in the upcoming battle, dropped his sword on the field, which just happened to lie directly in a line with the box's hiding-place. Thinking that this was a clue to the whereabouts of the treasure, Lord Mordock followed the pointing sword and discovered CastleNorth's treasure. For this, he was soundly struck about the head and shoulders with a large stick. CastleNorth 3, Torvald 0. With the battle neatly in hand, a final open field battle routed the remainder of the Torvald force, and made the countryside again safe for peace loving beer-swillers. Final Score--CastleNorth 4, Torvald 0.

ODYSSEY

Late in March, the Barony was honored by a visit from His Majesty, Adrian Buchanon, and his lady Callista. Fighting practice was moved to Kamanele park on March 31, in order to be more convenient for His Majesty, who set about determining the readiness of His Warriors. Being well pleased with the prowess of Lord Richard, King Adrian knighted him on the spot.

Sir Richard's mundane responsibilities required him to depart Western Seas at this time in order to seek opportunities in Mainland Caid. It was not known if he would ever return.

The Feast of Fools tournament was held on April 6, A.S. XIX, at Kamanele Park. The day began with a hunt for hidden eggs, with certain eggs being worth extra lives in the upcoming fighting. A mad-dog lists followed, and was won by the maddest dog on the field, Taren Blacksolf (formerly Randorear Wolfrisen). Several melees and other fighting events followed, and everyone had as much fighting as he could stand. A revel was held that evening at the Church of St. George in Bard's keep. His Majesty held curt and gave the following awards: Award of Arms to Genevieve Elise de Chantoloise and Leo Winthrop of the Torn Surcoat; Order of the Pelican to Lord Black Taylor and Sir Valeran; and the Legion of Courtesy to Lady Mary and Sven Magnusson. Also, Her Excellency presented Sven Magnusson (who was due to leave Western Seas shortly) with an Order of the Wa'a Oar. There was much rejoicing as the populace feasted and drank to their hearts' content.

With the coming of A.S. XX, the Barony of Western Seas held an Arts event on May 19, at Kapiolani Archery Range. This event saw the unique Three-legged, Two-headed, Two-armed, Half-blind Boffer lists, The Daggers-on-a-Rope lists, the Stolen Hearts contest, and the Make the Baron Blush conpetition. There was also held an archery competition to determine the next holder of the BEAR award. Lady Gwydia Arrowcastre won the archery, m'lord Llewellyn

won the boffer lists and the daggers-on-arope competition; and Lady Genevieve won
both the Stolen hearts competition (nearly
giving Sir Valeran an arthritis attack) &
the Make the Baron blush contest (see Lord
Daven for the intimate details). This was
the last event for Lord Mansur and his lady
Alysson Windsong of Shadowsdance (Starlin),
and the first event of Lady Jeanne d'Aussay,
wife of Lambert de Sur. A canton feast
featuring a Stone Soup followed, and everyone had a good time.

Sir Richard, having failed miserably in Mainland Caid, returned to his hovel in Western Seas, much irritated. this was just in time for him to relieve his frustrations at the 6th annual CastleNorth Grand Prize Torunament. This was held on the 22nd of Unne, A.S. XX, at Kamanele Park. The events and their victors were as fol-Sword and Shield - Sir Ragnar; Sinlows: gle weapon won by Black Taylor; Axe or Mace and round shield - Dynadin do Pico; The Melee - Sir Ragnar; and the Freestyle -Black Taylor. Final tallying showed the new Grand Champion to be Sir Ragnar, followed by Black Taylor. Sir Richard was injured during the fighting and dropped out of the competition.

An Italian themed revel was held that same evening at St. Andrew's, featuring the Dragon (as usual), a castle cake, and an unusual dish dubbed "The Pasta Peril". This event, in the eyes and small minds of its autocrats (Sirs Richard & Valeran) was a total failure, and they vowed to the abolish the entire event. They do this every year, but were serious this time. After all, two people can't be expected to run a

tourney, fight in it, clean it up, run a feast and revel, eat at it, and clean that up too, all by themselves, right? Eventually, they decided to hold only the tournament and forget the revel. But enough of that...Lord Grymmar of Nordheim was inducted into Her Excellency's Guard that evening, and despite the problems, the event thrashed its way to its conclusion. Sirs Richard and Valeran them proceeded to discuss their problems over several bottles (Read barrels) of beer.

Awakening from serious meditations to St. Mattress, the Barony held yet another Leornian on July 27th, A.S. XX, at UH-Manoa campus. There were 5 classes scheduled but one was cancelled at the last minute. The classes held were: Medieval Sciences - Lord Robert; Effects of Witchcraft on the Mjddle ages - m'lady Apryl; Marshalling - Sirs Richard & Valeran; and Courts - Master Valeran.

The month of August was upon Western Seas, and once again the populace dutifully trudged out to choose a new Baron. They met at Ho'omaluhia Park on the 17th of August, and with the assistance of His Majesty, Jason Griffiths of Shadowhyrst, proceeded to bash each other to bits. largest bet left over was Sir Valeran, and so he was crowned Baron and took his wife, Lady Eileen as his Baroness. His Majesty, Jason, gave the following awards at the final court of Their Excellencies, Athelyna and Daven; Order of the Harp Argent to Lady Eileen and Lady Gwidia; Award of Arms to the brothers Casio and Claudio diBartolomeo, and Marco was excepted into the Legion of Courtesy along with Dynadin do Pico. The next day's events featured a Unicorn hunt which was won by Lady Megan and Anton. Their Excellencies, Valeran and Eileen, presented Athelyna with the Baronial Label, and m'lord Thomas Pending saw his first event.

A Newcomer's revel was held on September 21st at St. Andrews Cathedral. At court, Charles of Sheppardswell was given an Award of Arms, Lord Mordock von Rugen was presented with the Articulated Sword, and Lord Marco "broke in" the new Battered Helm.

Lord Dorian and Lady Ilya, soon to be leaving the Barony, held a Toga revel at the Curch of St. George in Bard's Keep. Togas were the uniform of the day, and the populace ate baclava and played Roman Charades. Sir Valeran won the best limerick contest with his haunting "Sheep"....

There was a young man from Greece
Who had quite a fondness for fleece
He didn't give a dam
So he reached for a lamb

For he always liked a baa-aad piece. For this immortal piece of literature, he was awarded a book of limericks. The populace then proceeded to enjoy themselves mightlily for the rest of the evening.

Despite constant vigilance, the barbarians were again over running Western Seas. This time choosing the Kapiolani Archery range to declare themselves, they ran amok, holding a Barbarian Tourney on October 26, A. S. XX. The fighting was preceded with a slave auction which helped raise pazoozas for Bard's Keep pavilion. After all the slaves were auctioned off, the barbarians grabbed the Auctioneer Black Taylor. and auctioned him off as well. They then pro-

ceeded to hold a mad-dog lists, which were won

by Taren Blackwolf, and several melees in which the carnage was rampant. The weather was rather inclement, but a Troll Ball game was played anyway. Since no one knows how the game is played or even scored, we're not sure who won, but we do know that the troll lost.

In early November, several members of Western Seas travelled to the canton of Valley Azure to help with a public demonstration there. They did fighting demonstrations both at a People's Fair and a local merchant's bazaar. The time spent in Valley Azure was made quite pleasant by the large quantities of "Dragon's Brew" made by Taren Blackwolf. All too soon it was over, and the exhausted bodies were carted back to their respective homes.

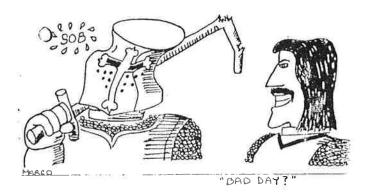
Twelfth Night was held on January 11th at St. Andrew's Cathedral. The Baronial Coronets had finally been finished and were presented to Their Excellencies who then gave the following awards: Lord Robert Milne Stebbings an Order of the Harp Argent and an Order of the Wa'a Oar, to Taren Blackwolf an Award of Arms and an invitation to join Her Excellency's Guard, which he accepted. Also, Sir Richard took Lord Taren as his squire. There was much food and drink, much of it representing the theme of "Canton Pride", and featuring a shared canton cake. Following the revel, many people were found at the abode of lord Taren where a rousing postrevel was in progress, aided by his infamous "Dragon's Brew".

The Third annual Novice Tourney (now called a Man-at-Arms Tourney) was held on the 18th of January at Kailua Field.

in an absolutely wretched spot far from the fire-chariot parking. The lists were won by Lord Charles of Sheppardswell, winning a knife made by Andall MacLlellyn (Vince the Knife-maker). Several of the usual melees were fought, and there was enough fighting even for the CastleNorth-erners. Some of the winners of events held that day were: Lords Mordock and Ogatai for the box melee, Lord Claudio winning the weapon scramble, m'lord Anton de la Mer winning the preset wounds melee and the best death.

The Barony of Western Seas held its 15th Baronial Competition exactly 10 years and I day following its inception in A.S. This also marked the fifth occurrance of an Arts Competition to decide the issue. The fourteenth of February, A.S. XX, saw the populace of Western Seas, now nearly 50 strong, meet at a campsite high in the northern mountains of CastleNorth, at a place called Pupukea. The highlight of the first day was the marriage of Master Black Taylor and Lady Genevieve Elise The nex day, the competide Chantoloise. was extremely close, tion began. but lord Lambert de Sur edged out lady Gwydia Arrowcastre by less than 2 1/2 points to become Western Seas 15th Baron, taking his wife Jeanne d'Aussay as Baroness. A ninja war took place that evening, with blacked robed figures hurling deadly spheres about, and the clashing of swords telling of ambush and sudden death in the brush. The ninjas were gone by the next morning, and the Baron's Champion Tourney was held, won by Lord Taren Blackwolf (what, trying??), followed by War

Maeneuvers. Lord Lambert and Lady Jeannel were invested Baron and Baroness amid much rejoicing. This event also saw the arrival of Shannon Irontree from the East, and Robear du Falcon of Mainland Caid. At this time, the canton of Torvald was dissolved, due to the fact that they did not have an active seneschal.



With these words, do we, Richard and Valeran, Knights of Caid, complete our labors in the Service of our Barony and Kingdom. We hope that these words and rememberances will help to enrich and educate those who will come after, and will provide Western Seas with a permanent record of Her glorious Past. Thus do we set our hand on this Twenty-seventh day of March, Anno Sociotatis XX.