



THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM AUSTRALIA

The Shire of Bordescros

Militia per studium, per iudicium, per iudicium



GRAPEVINE APRIL

CHRONICLER'S WELCOME



Unto the worthy populace of Bordescros and to all of the friends of the Shire, Greetings.

My humble apologies for the lateness of the Grapevine this month, we have had the dreaded stomach thing and I think my computers may have had it too.

To all of you who went to Festival, we hope you have had a great time and that you did the Crossing proud both on the battle field and in the tavern. We look forward to all the new ideas brought back for A&S. Welcome Home.

I have started a Picasa page for our group to be able to share their photos with each other. You will have to download and install on you computer picasa3 and you can get it by going to <http://picasa.google.com>, once you have install the program it will recognise all your photos in your 'My Pictures' folder. Using this program will make it easier to upload your images to our page; you can make these photos either public or private. Now for the web page, log on and upload your photos.

<https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=lh2>

User name: bordescros@yahoo.com.au

Password: borderwar

I would like to thank everyone who has sent me articles for the Grapevine over the past few months, these articles have been predominately Viking and for those of us interested in Vikings this is fabulous but there are others in our group who are not as keen on the Vikings as the rest of us, so my plea is for articles about other cultures or personal stories about your SCA experience, how you got involved etc.

I do have a new article starting this month and it will be an on going thing for a few months, Ancient Expats. I have been in contact with the author and he has given me permission to use his articles from Facebook.

Yours in service,

Arnora BloodAxe

Assisting William Fitz Symons

CALENDAR

Every Sunday between 3pm & 6pm – A&S

At Lowry's home

9th to 14th – Festival

18th – April Tourney & Feast

Rotaract Park, Urana Rd, Lavington



AT THE MARSHALL'S COMMAND

Fighter practice will be scheduled to take place at Alberloch the last Sunday of each month between 2pm and 5pm. Please look for a Borderlist message from James Douglas to confirm it is on (and venue).

Fighter practice in Albury will be the 2nd Sunday of each month from 2pm until say 6pm (i.e. sunset if that keen!) at Bilson Park. This is located between David and MacAuley Streets, Perry and North Streets central Albury opposite the skate bowl and netball courts.

The Albury and Loch Alba Practice will be for heavy combat training and rapier training if sufficient authorised marshals are available for each discipline.

Remember there is always the opportunity to train at Bordescros monthly bash if time permits.

Yours in service,
James Douglas

First Saturday of the month at Glenfield Community Centre.
Please note, no singing in Loch Alba any more, as Mark is moving to the ACT.

Cheers,
James Douglas

I would like to include articles each month from Loch Alba, this is their Grapevine too and it would be great to have article, photos and recipes from our good friends up north. I would like it to be their own page and we have our first contribution from Crimthann.

Loch Alba

Septimus and myself wayfared down to the crossing, raising the banner of Tuatha de Macha (the people) and the region of Loch Alba and of her Sealord and crew with letters of marque from the Ri of Ulaid we raided our cousins and were quite the success. Champion of Tuatha de Macha Septimus proved his title once more and won the tourney and honour for Macha and her people. I myself came third outright after a three way bout for second place. Lord William Fitzsymon defended the honour of the crossing well and came second. There was a bridge battle between the North and South after our succesful chevauchee we had to fight back to our side of the river to gain safety from pursuit, we won the bridge and bought home our spoils. Victory was celebrated in a most rewarding fashion many a tankard was drunk and many a belt was loosened as we revelled in our hard won fight, bards sang of our prowess so that generations to come shall know of this cattle raid. I hope that peace reigned in the area of the Loch while her warriors were away, we must prepare our defence my Tanist, as surely such a slight upon the honour of the crossing shall not go unchallenged.

An old custom was re-instated and largesse to all who fought so that not a throat should be unquenched after victory was assured and the field won. May Macha strengthen your sword arm my brother and may it never tire.

Vi et armis aut Vincere aut Mori
Your friend and Chief,
Crimthann.

Positions Vacant

Seneschal

The position of Seneschal is to become vacant as of October this year and Lady Lowry would like any interested parties to apply now for the position so she has time to train the applicant to take over from her later in the year. Unfortunately I have no details for this position but please contact Lady Lowry for more information if you are interested in the position, 0417 412 450 tfsawyer@yahoo.com.au .

Herald

The position of Group Herald is Vacant and needs to be fill, this is a very important role within our group but unfortunately I have no details of the role, if you are interested please contact Lady Lowry on 0417 412 450 tfsawyer@yahoo.com.au

A&S

The position of A&S officer is Vacant and needs to be fill, unfortunately I have no details of the role but if you are interested please contact Lady Lowry on 0417 412 450 tfsawyer@yahoo.com.au

Photos





* The following article was sent to us from Lady Rosamunda and due to its size I have decided to split it up into its months and from my first impression it is very informative and those Vikings had more celebrations than we do now, but then again, any excuse to drink and be merry is the Viking Way.



Odin Rune



Freya Rune



Thor Rune

Asatru Calendar

MONTHS

Religiously, Ásatrú Folk use the old, non-Roman names for the months, usually based on either the original names (usually Icelandic or Anglo-Saxon, depending on the tradition), or on the old folk names for the full moon.

Modern/Roman	Folk Names	Anglo-Saxon	Icelandic
<u>July</u>	Snowmoon	Æfter-Giuli	Thorri
<u>August</u>	Horning	Solmonath	Gói
<u>September</u>	Lenting	Hredhmonath	Einmanudhr
<u>October</u>	Seedmoon	Eostre	Gaukmanudhr/Saidtidh
<u>November</u>	Merrymoon	Thrimilemonath	Eggtidh
<u>December</u>	Meadmoon	Ærre-Lithe	Solmanudhr
<u>January</u>	Haymoon	Æfter-Lithe	Heyannir
<u>February</u>	Harvest	Weodmonath	Tvimanudhr
<u>March</u>	Shedding	Haligmonath	Hanstmanudhr
<u>April</u>	Hunting	Winterfyllith	Gormanudhr
<u>May</u>	Fogmoon	Blotmonath	Frermanudhr
<u>June</u>	Yule	Ærre-Giuli	Hrutmanudhr

Ásatrú Folk use the date "R.E."--"runic era"--as opposed to the Western "[AD](#)" or "[CE](#)". Instead, they begin their era in what the West dates 250 [BC/BCE](#)--so that for the year 2008 it is 2258 RE. This date is chosen, as it is thought to be the age of the earliest artefacts with runes carved on them.

Hunting

April 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR JARL HAKON OF NORWAY.

Hakon restored the worship of the Gods after it had been suppressed by Christian kings. Celebrate the ability to honor the Gods and Goddesses without persecution. Haakon Sigurdsson (Haakon the Great), one of the Jarls of Hladhir, a great defender of Heathenism in Norway during the brutal period of forced conversion to Christianity.

April 14 - WINTER NIGHTS.

This date on our calendar is in honor of the Disir, female fertility spirits ruled over by Freya. Our female ancestors are also counted among the Disir, so this is a good time to recall outstanding women in your family line. Do you have photos of them you can look at? The mood of Winter Nights is one of conserving resources against the scarcities of the coming cold season. A libation of ale, milk, or mead is traditionally poured onto the earth as an offering to the disir.

The winter begins, and the [Wild Hunt](#) starts to ride, lead by [Odin](#)

April 30 - WALBURG.

This Teutonic Goddess safeguards the dead heroes who sleep in the burial mound, and harbors deeds yet to bear fruit. Pour a libation to the bold ones awaiting rebirth, and think on how your own acts will live after you.

HARVESTFEST / WINTER NIGHT

Winter nights is held in April. Winter nights marked the final end of harvest and the time when the animals that were not expected to make it through the winter were butchered and smoked or made into sausage. The festival is also called "Elf-Blessing", "Dis-Blessing", or "Frey-Blessing", which tells us that it was especially a time of honouring the ancestral spirits, the spirits of the land, the Vanir, and the powers of fruitfulness, wisdom, and death. It marks the turning of the year from summer to winter, the turning of our awareness from outside to inside. Among the Norse, the ritual was often led by the woman of a family - the ruler of the house and all within. One of the commonest harvest customs of the Germanic people was the hallowing and leaving of the "Last Sheaf" in the field, often for Odin and/or his host of the dead, though the specifics of the custom vary considerably over its wide range. The Wild Hunt begins to ride after Winter nights, and the roads and fields no longer belong to humans, but to ghosts and trolls. The Winter nights feast is also especially seen as a time to celebrate our kinship and friendship with both the living and our earlier forebears. It marks the beginning of the long dark wintertime at which memory becomes more important than foresight, at which old tales are told and great deeds are toasted as we ready ourselves for the spring to come. It is a time to think of accomplishments achieved and those which have yet to be made. Winter nights also marks the beginning of a time of indoor work, thought and craftsmanship.

These festival and feast celebrated the accessibility, veneration, awe, and respect of the dead. This was also a time for contemplation. To the ancient Germanic peoples death was never very far away, and it viewed as a natural and necessary part of life. To die was not as much of a surprise or tragedy it is in modern times and death as not viewed as something "scary" or "evil". Of higher importance to the Germanic people was to live & die with honour and thereby live on in the memory of the tribe and be honoured at this great feast.

Starting on this night, the great divisions between the worlds was somewhat diminished which can allow the forces of chaos to invade the realms of order, the material world conjoining with the world of the dead. At this time began the Wild hunt in which the restless spirits of the dead and those yet to be born walked amongst the living. The dead could return to the places where they had lived and food and entertainment were provided in their honour. In this way the tribes were at one with its past, present and future.

Again, the Christians forcefully subverted the sacred Germanic Heathen calendar to honour Christianity, Winter nights on October 31 became "All Hallows Eve" and November 1st was declared "All Saint's Day".

MAY EVE / WALUBURGIS NIGHT

April 31st - May 1st

Waluburgis Night (*Valborgsmassafton* in Swedish, *Vappu* in Finnish, *Walpurgisnacht* in German) is a holiday celebrated on April 30, in Finland, Sweden and Germany.

It is named after a woman called "Valborg" (alternative spellings are "Walpurgis", "Wealdburg", or "Valderburger") born in 710 somewhere in Dorset / Wessex as a niece of Saint Boniface. Together with her brothers she later travelled to Württemberg, Germany where she became a nun and lived in the convent of Heidenheim, which was founded by her brother Wunibald. Valborg died on February 25, 779 and that day still carries her name in the Catholic calendar. However she wasn't made a saint until May 1 in the same year, and that day carries her name in the Swedish calendar.

Viking fertility celebrations took place around April 30 and due to Valborg being declared a saint at that time of year, her name became associated with the celebrations. Valborg was worshipped in the same way that Vikings had celebrated spring and as they spread through out Europe the two dates became mixed together and created the Valborg celebration.

Waluburgis is one of the main holidays during the year in both Sweden and Finland, alongside of Yule and Midsummer. One of the main traditions is to light large bonfires, and for the younger people to collect greens and branches from the woods at twilight, which were used to adorn the houses of the village. The expected reward for this task to be paid in eggs.

The tradition which is most spread throughout the country is probably singing songs of spring. The strongest and most traditional spring festivities take up most of the day from early morning to late night on April 30.

Historically the Walpurgisnacht is derived from heathen spring customs, where the arrival of spring was celebrated with bonfires at night. With the Christianization of Germany these old customs were condemned as heathen.

No true Germanic Heathen name survives for May Eve; the German Walpurgisnacht is derived from the well-documented Christian St. Walpurga. In order to avoid confusion, and because no better name survives, Many Germanic heathens have replaced 'Walpurga' with the name of the second-century Germanic seeress 'Waluburg'. This festival marks the beginning of summer in Scandinavia. In all the Germanic countries, it is seen as a time when witches are particularly active, a belief memorialized in Goethe's description of the witch-moot on the Brocken (Faust, Act I) and Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain". It is also the Germanic equivalent of Valentine's Day and a night of love: young men are expected to go out into the woods to gather green branches and wildflowers with which they decorate the windows of their beloveds. For both these reasons, Heathens consider Freya to be the ruler of this festival, as she is mistress of both witchcraft and love. The traditional 'Maypole' or 'May Tree' is also a part of the celebration of this feast; in Scandinavia, the 'May Tree' is carried about in processions, a practice which probably goes back to the Vanic fruitfulness-procession of earliest Heathen times. Fires were kindled on grave mounds or other high places on this night; it is traditional

for folk to leap through the flames for luck. A fire kindled by friction (the 'need-fire') might also be used to protect cattle against illness or cure them.

A&S Calendar:

See calendar at the beginning of Grapevine and also in the minutes of the meeting for location.

Shire A&S competitions-

April: Hats & Bonnets - open - all countries 600 - 1600AD

HELP PLEASE

I would like to include some little projects for us to try each month, we have our cooking page but it would be nice to have some little Arts project to work on, if any one has some pattern, project or web page even that might help please email it to me and I will try and add something every month. rfr09803@bigpond.net.au thank you

The following article is written by John Halsted and you can read more of this in the coming months or you can buy his books check out his website. John has an Aussie link in that his father was from Sydney and his mother was English, John comes from England. www.VikingLegend.com



Ancient Expats

Article 1 – Who Came First

by John Halsted

Author: Legend of the Last Vikings

So, who were the first ex-pats?

In today's jet-age society expat living is now an accepted way of life and we are no longer surprised to find people born and raised in other countries and from other continents living amongst us. But has it always been so?

Indeed my own family has lived almost in this manner for most of the last two hundred years. My great grandfather left England in the mid-to-late-1800's and settled in Australia. My grandfather, born and brought up in Australia, went to South Africa to fight in the Anglo-Boer war at the turn of the last century, met a young lady from England, married and stayed raising a family of ten. My father, with the exception of a tour of North Africa, Italy, Germany and Poland in the years 1939 to 1945, remained in South Africa. Having being born and brought up in South Africa I married a New

Zealander and moved to New Zealand where we had our children and now have our home. My mother's side of the family is French Mauritian and my wife's family has Scottish, Irish and Australian ancestry! My immediate family is now currently permanent-temporary residents of England! And so the wheel has turned a full circle.

With the advent of the industrial revolution came the first mass-migration of the modern age. In the main, the USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand were all settled by immigrants from the "old World" of the U.K and Europe. What had been a trickle in the 1600's became a flood by the mid-1800's. Ellis Island in New York being a lasting testament to this. But was this the first mass migration of mankind?

In 722 BCE, the Assyrians, under King Shalmaneser V conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and many Israelites were deported to Khorasan. Since then, and for over 2,700 years, the Persian Jews have lived in the territories of today's Iran.

In 588BC King Nebuchadnezzar defeated the Kingdom of Judah and most other countries in the Levant. Subsequently the Judean nation was exiled to Babylon and out of this exile came the well know stories of Daniel – in the Lion's den, in the fire and his ascent to be the Prime Minister of Babylon, second in power only to Nebuchadnezzar himself. The story of an ex-pat who dun' good.

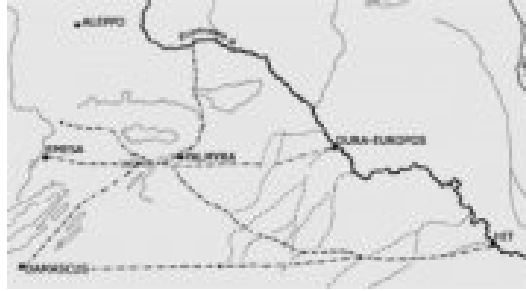
It was another seventy years before the Jews were allowed to return to Israel. But during this time the Jews were not all understanding, obedient and demure. There are stories of troublesome Jews being exiled to remote parts of modern day Iran by Nebuchadnezzar where, against all odds, they established communities and subsequently towns that exist to this day. Once again the ex-pats had an effect on a foreign culture.

In preference to returning to Israel as part of the Jewish restoration, Georgian folklore has unproven stories of Jewish migrations into the region of current day Azerbaijan and Georgia. A not altogether unbelievable migration. When the state of Khazaria was formed in the 500's to 600's AD between the lower Don and Volga rivers, it is believed that it was this heritage that influenced the leaders of Khazaria to select Judaism over Christianity (from the West) and Islam (from the East). Selecting Judaism was also politically astute as it aligned the new nation with neither of the religious powerhouses of the day.

In ancient times it was common practice to conquer nations and take the conquered people into exile with a view to assimilation. As such most of the great ancient empires were cross-pollinated with the customs and cultures of a myriad of peoples. Even though a people were conquered, leaders of time realised the benefit of cross-pollination. The prophet Mohammed also realised this benefit. In his writings he states there are "five peoples of the book" - Moslems, Christians, Jews, Manicheans and Zoroastrians. He also states that all should be respected. Unfortunately this command seems to have been forgotten in the ever polarising views of the Middle East.

To this end, when the Seljuks took control of Baghdad, the Sultan demanded that the team who oversee the redesign and rebuilding of the city should consist equally of Jews and Moslems. While both would bring technical expertise to solve the problems that would be faced, one can only wonder how much extra benefit was gained culturally, through learning tolerance and acceptance of their fellow humans no matter what their creed or what religion they practiced.

While mankind has an insatiable hunger to explore, discover and learn, ex-pats will always be with us. And while there are "foreigners" living in our midst, our perceptions and attitudes will directly, and indirectly, be influenced and in most cases changed for generations to come. I could go on about how the Assyrians, Urartians, the Medes and the Parthians in the centuries before this had similar cross-pollination and assimilation practices. Irrespective of how far back in time we travel, there have always been ex-pats.



The Syrian Desert - across which countless ex-pats have travelled - some voluntarily but most involuntarily

TO BE CONTINUED IN COMING EDITIONS

RECIPES

A recipe from Pennsic 36, 2007, copied straight from the web page.

BAZMA'AWURD - "chicken roll-ups"

Charles Perry wrote:

"This giant canapé was the traditional first course at a banquet in pre-Islamic Iran or Abbasid Baghdad. The name comes from the Persian *bazm*, "banquet," and *awurd*, "bringing". The recipe given here is from the collection of the Caliph al-Ma'mun. It calls for the flesh of citron, a fruit with very little flesh - we know it mostly for its candied peel. Lemon is an obvious substitute."

----- "Cooking with the Caliphs", *Saudi Aramco World*, July/August 2006, Volume 57, Number 4. Originally in *al-Kitab al-Tabikh* by al-Warraq

I did not have the original recipe at the time I made the feast, so I trusted Charles Perry's interpretation. I did alter quantities and proportions of ingredients to suit my taste.

I now have it, in the recently published *Annals of the Caliphs' Kitchens*, translated and annotated by Nawal Nasrallah

Bazmâwurd with citron pulp called al-Ma'muni

Chop cooked chicken and spread it on ruqâq [bread as thin as textiles]. Let there be underneath the chicken some skinned walnuts, citron pulp, mint, tarragon, basil, and salt. Roll up the bread.

MY VERSION:

- 2 lavash (Perry also suggests: Mexican flour tortillas or other fresh thin flatbreads), about 12" diameter
- 2 whole chicken breasts, cooked, boned and chopped/shredded
- 4 tablespoons chopped walnuts
- 3 to 4 lemons, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 2 tablespoon minced fresh tarragon
- 2 tablespoon chopped mint
- 1/4 cup chopped basil

1. Spread both flatbreads separately on work surface.
2. Sprinkle each evenly all over with chicken, walnuts, chopped lemon, tarragon, mint and basil.
3. Roll up carefully but firmly and place on serving plate
4. Cut each roll into 6 slices.