

Plague & Pox Submissions

Opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the contributing authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, staff, or Markland, Ltd. The **Plague/Pox** is published for communications to all Markland members and as an official corporate record. A policy of fair access and niceness of demeanor will be upheld by the Editor, staff, and members of the Witan. The **Plague/Pox Staff** determines if and when a submission is published. Due dates are always the last Friday of each month and are for receipt by the Editor. Please send all submissions to:

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The preferred method of submission is electronically: either by e-mail or on an IBM disk, double or high density, 3.5 inch only. We can read most Windows or DOS based file formats. When in doubt, use a simple text format for articles. Alternately, hard copy camera ready art and typewritten or computer generated articles, double spaced are acceptable. And as a last resort, legible hand-written articles will be accepted. The due date for all Pox submissions (event announcements, official notices, etc.) is the last Friday of each month - in this case December 31, 1999.

The **Plague/Pox** is a monthly publication (2 **Plagues/10 Poxes**) for subscribing members of the Markland Medieval Mercenary Militia, Ltd. (a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland), PO Box 715, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0715.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Markland, Ltd., PO Box 715, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0715.

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Markland Webpage URL
<http://www.markland.org>

Markland, Ltd. Membership Information

Markland, Ltd. is recognized by the state of Maryland as a non-profit educational corporation, whose primary goal is the study and reenactment of the Middle Ages.

Annual membership dues are \$15.00 and include a subscription to **The Plague/Pox** (the monthly publications), group liability insurance, and full rights and voting privileges. A joint membership (2 votes, 1 **Plague/Pox**) is \$23. A non-voting child's (under 16) membership is available for \$8 and does not include a copy of **The Plague/Pox**. Personal accident insurance (for official Markland events) can be purchased separately for \$4.50. Contributor's memberships are \$25, and include personal accident insurance.

To join, send a check to the following address (payable to Markland, Ltd.):

Markland, Ltd.
P.O. Box 715
Greenbelt, MD 20768-0715

Your contribution (excluding \$4 group insurance premium) is tax deductible. The additional \$4.50 personal accident insurance premium is not deductible.

Calendar of Events

As of December 1, 1999

(All event information is as reported to the Plague/Pox Staff. Details missing? Incorrect? Let us KNOW!)

A note about event status - Every event is assumed to be official, unless the staff knows otherwise. Questions? Contact the Bocman.

Ongoing Meetings and Fighter Practices

Note: These are the events I could confirm. If your group has a regular meeting or practice, please let me know! *Shakira*

Sun Galacia "ARENA" Fighter Practice
7 PM, Columbia, MD area. Contact Dan for details 410-730-0762. See ad this Pox

Viking Camp monthly meetings/workshops. VA & MD. Contact Thyri for directions and times. 703-359-7081

Mon Caer Edgemere, 7-10 PM. Chesapeake Terrace Elem. School Gym. Call Anna for directions and to verify times. 410-477-1895

Sit and Stitch Nights, Belle Mead, New Jersey. Contact Kass McGann: 908-431-0131

Foil/Epee Fencing Practice every other Monday. Fencing academy of South Jersey starting at 7PM. Cost: \$5 per fencer Contact Cheslov for info and schedule.

Outdoor Fencing Practice, 6 PM - ? Weather permitting, Egg Harbor City, NJ. Room for Frat and Rec if enough interest. Donation for lighting costs requested. Contact Terry Marr at t.marr@worldnet.att.net

Tues UMCP Fyrdmoot, Reckord Armory, College Park Campus. Many different workshops (frat, steel, etc.) and conversation. Contact Justin Briley at (301) 345-5057 or jebriley@wam.umd.edu

Thurs Fencing Practice at Forked River United Methodist Church, Forked River, NJ. For more info contact Terry Marr at: 1.marr@worldnet.att.net

Garb Night - Tricia Whealan's place in Bellmawr, NJ - every 2nd and 4th Thursday. Contact Tricia to confirm and for directions and times - 856-931-7744 or whealan@yahoo.com

Note: All Longship Company Work Parties take place at Oakley Farm in Maryland. Contact LongshipCo@hotmail.com for more information. **Longship Company Voyages** take place from Oakley Farm.

December 18, 1999 - Winter Solstice Feast. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, MD (Same site as the last few years...) Sponsored by the Viking Camp. Activities include dancing and the Traditional Marklandic Yule Ceremony (Great War Ban, reporting of old Yule-tide oaths and swearing of new ones, and the Welcoming of the Return of the Sun). Semi-provided: Soup, Bread, Honey Butter, Desserts and beverages. Tickets: \$10 through Nov 30, \$12 through Dec 17, \$25 at the door, children under 10 half price. Tickets are available from Anna Kueberth, Thyri (Terese Scott) and Lydia.

Directions: Take your best route to the Baltimore Beltway (Rte. 695). Take exit 13 onto Frederick Rd. West (coming from South, go left) Go past Dünkin Donuts. Turn right onto Ingleside Avenue. Church is on the right.

December 18-20, 1999 Demo at Union Station in conjunction with Norwegian Embassy and the Smithsonian. Contact the Longship Company. See article this Pox.

December 31, 1999 - Due Date for January Pox AND February Plague (Subject to change by new editor. Watch this space for details...)

January 29, 2000 - Markland Winter Althyng & Feast. Masonic Temple, Lansdale Pa. (Same location as the Fall Council Meeting and the Feast of Plenty. Meeting to start at 1:00, Feast at 6:00. Cost for feast is \$15.00, \$12.00 if received by January 15. Children ages 7 to 16 are half price, under 6 free. Send checks to: Michael Barone, 1201 Bethlehem Pike #219, North Wales, Pa 19454. Make payable to Michael Barone. See ad this Pox.

Directions: From NJ—take the NJ Turnpike to PA Turnpike and proceed on PA Turnpike to the Fort Washington exit./rt. 309. Exit and take 309 north to rt. 63 West. Take 63W into Lansdale and park in Madison Parking Lot, adjacent to Lansdale train station. Hall entrance is in back.

From Philly and south—take Rte 202N to Rte 63W and follow above directions from 63W.

From Harrisburg and west—Take Pennsylvania Turnpike to the Northeast Extension. Exit NE Extension at Lansdale/Rte 63. Take Rte 63 East through to Lansdale. Park in Madison Parking lot behind Temple. **OR**—Take 309 south through Quakertown and continue south through Line Lexington to Colmar. In Colmar, turn right on Broad Street (YUM-YUM DONUTS on right corner), and follow Broad St. through to Rte 63 (Main Street). Turn right and take 63W into Lansdale and follow from above.

March 12, 2000 - Washington DC St. Patrick's Day Parade. Form up at 12:00 Noon. Contact Barchan at 301-YES-OR-NO or Barchan1@aol.com

March 18-19, 2000 - Military Through the Ages. Timeline event, Jamestown, VA. Contact the Living History Camp of your choice.

April 15-16, 2000 - Marching Through Time. Timeline event, Marietta Mansion. Contact the Living History Camp of your choice.

May 26 - 29, 2000 - Spring War. Glenville, WV. Details TBA. Contact Ty McNeer.

July 15, 2000 - Markland Summer Althyng & Wedding Feast. St. David's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, DE (same site as the last two Summer Althyngs) Sponsored by Marche de la Warre on the bride's side and Bacchus Brigands on the groom's side. Details TBA. Attention all VIKINGS - we've scheduled this a week earlier than we'd originally planned so you could all participate in the Viking Sail 2000!

July 22 - 28, 2000 - Viking Sail 2000. See article in September Pox.

July 28 - August 6, 2000 - Viking Grand Encampment - Newfoundland, Canada. The LSCo will be taking the *Gyrfalcon* and (hopefully) the *Fyrdraca* to the Viking Grand Encampment to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Leif Ericsson discovering North America. Contact Atli at 301-SOW-BOAR, or Anarra at LongshipCo@hotmail.com for more information. There's now only months to prepare! See article in September Pox.

October 9, 2000 - Leif Ericsson Day Celebration at American Swedish Museum in Philadelphia. Details to be announced.

October 2000 - "Refight" of Hastings - on the ORIGINAL battlefield. Details to be announced.

Fall War Report

Fall War was blessed with beautiful weather and good tempers! Even with almost 200 people on site, there were few problems (from an administrative perspective) and even fewer on the field. People played nicely, drank moderately, behaved considerately and had fun. Thank you all for making it possible for the event organizers and the reeves to enjoy ourselves.

Unfortunately, we had a few accidents, mostly from people tripping, slipping and stepping in holes. As far as I know, everyone (with one exception) is healing nicely.

Thank you especially to Bill Coe and Dalriada who made it possible for some under-equipped people to take the field. See y'all in the Spring at Spring War in West (by God!) Virginia!

Credits

The Pox and the Plague are brought to you by the Old One (Editor Emeritus) and the Staff:

Shakira (Editor), Amy Bauer (Asst. Editor), Lydia (Features Editor) Bill Bauer (Computer and all-around support), NannyFodder (Publisher), Gaithersburg Printing (Printing)

Art Credits this Issue: Vairgard (Ad), Galacia (Ad), Broderbund Click Art Infinity (Ad and Cover Art) and Shakira (cover layout, mostly)

Thomas Quinn

The Fall War was great!

Lemme see, the first few fights were in-and-outs of the lower castle. My side started on the inside and I hid behind the door, jumping out at the appropriate moment to clock some super-heavy plate guy in the back with my really cool war hammer. (Hey, I'm the Aeldorman, right?) Tee Hee! Then Chuckles (he really HATES it when I call him that!) and I led the sally to clean up the stragglers and some cowardly spear-puke nailed me from the wall in the back of the head.

You may have ascertained that since I had just sallied OUT of the castle and that this worthy was inside the castle, he was on MY TEAM! He also happened to be one Eric, the FORMER Aeldorman! Coincidence my buttocks, pal.

We had several tedious scenarios (Why can't they put time limits on these things?) a really odd, but fun, zombie scenario, and broke for a very late lunch. Back from lunch the Reeves pretty much ran meatgrinders and the gung-ho crowd worked up a good sweat.

Just as the Reeves called the last fight I bravely announced the resurrection of a fine Markland Tradition, that of "Everybody Kill the Aeldorman!" Anybody who wanted to lined up and I took 'em all on one at a time. I fought Viking style (center grip round shield and short sword) and I did O.K. for an official Elder.

There was the usual rhino-hiding, too many "holds," paper thin plate was proof, etc., etc., etc., yeah, yeah, yeah. I only had two real complaints. First, I actually heard a Reeve say, "He didn't yell "DEAD" when he hit you from behind so, O.K., you're not dead." Where the heck did this come from?

Second, somebody nailed me from behind right at the base of the helmet with a perfectly placed, just-hard-enough blow and I immediately dropped my hammer onto its thong, dropped to my right knee, and as I was placing my shield rim on the ground somebody clocked me on the back of the head, again, and WAY too hard. C'mon dude, give it a rest, will ya? I'm dead and down, all right?

Oh yeah. The Good Christian Warmer and I brought a professional colleague, (No kidding. She's actually going to be a partner in our firm and she runs computer qualification projects at major pharmaceutical companies.) Barbara, to the war. She loved it. She sang around the campfire, took several swigs of Barchan's "Old Gym Sock," and got the hisssies when Tanc and Ara did their Spanish Inquisition number on me.

Yep, great war!

Quinn, The Aeldorman, Ben-Gay Poster Child

P.S. Come to the Althyng on JAN 29. We're going to talk about my Bylaws proposals, membership types / dues, and vote on the Frat rules changes. Anything else. Lemme know.

Bocman's Note

Anna Kueberth

As we begin to settle in for the holidays, I'd like to remind the organizers of Spring events to get your event forms in early, so I can get you your binders, before the rush!

I'd like to take this time to announce that this will be my last year as Bocman, so NOW is the time to ask questions if you are considering the position. I'd

like to add that I am NOT angry with anyone, no one has offended me and I am not leaving Markland. I have just discovered the joys of having 2 houses that require my attention, one of them 6 and 1/2 hours away from the other.

Enjoy your holidays and be safe. See y'all at Althyng.

Shire Reeve's Report

Andrew Mychalus, Drey

Hello again, My report this month has some ups and down: thumbs that is. It has been a trip these last few months learning how things work in theory and in reality from the seat of Shire Reeve. (Now I fully comprehend the blessing Kelly bestowed upon me when I was elected!)

Thumbs Up: To the hard working folks at Caer Edgemere for putting a splendidly organized Fall War at Independence Farm! The event really did seem to run well. I especially want to thank all the people who showed up to reeve! I saw plenty of reeves, and they even had staffs and many had the white surcoat making them easy to see. (And less likely to be wonked by accident as well.)

Thumbs Down: To members of a group I had some words with after the fighting was over on Saturday. I spoke to the folks and gave a verbal reprimand. I'll sum up my comments with the following: unsportsman-like conduct has no place in our rules. Ditto, hitting people on the ground once they are down and escalating force beyond a reasonable amount when the fighter doesn't

acknowledge the hit the first time. I got complaints from many groups from all over the encampment that evening. I was really surprised that some of the fighters complaining were SCA. Of all people you'd think they would notice the hard hitting least. Think about what this implies about how the contact actually escalated. I will sum it up for all of you here.

If somebody is blowing off shots, it is your job to find a reeve and point that individual out, NOT CRANK UP EVEN HARDER to settle the score. When people get knocked down and trampled we are creating a very dangerous environment where serious injury is not only likely but inevitable. This goes for everyone. Now I as I noted at the beginning here that I spoke with the worst offenders. The matter is now considered closed.

Council Minutes – November 6, 1999

Anna Kueberth

Quorum Achieved at 1:45 PM

West Windsor Fair Recap: Cheslov reported that Companions had between \$600 and \$700 in expenses, but will distribute funds from West Windsor Fair to other Markland groups, and "eat" the deficit.

A motion was made to Support any group assisting with an event by reimbursement of expenses. PASSED

Easy Living War will be occurring in the Spring, date TBA

There was discussion of the pros and cons of us working for "Faires" without reimbursement

West Windsor Renaissance Faire will be held on Mother's Day weekend in 2000, May 12, 13, & 14. The Fanders are the contact people and are currently working on a timetable.

Companions of the Cross is now officially incorporated in NJ. They are awaiting determination on their tax exempt status.

Dave Robertson (our current "webmaster") is going to assist transferring the Markland.org URL to Thomas Quinn's responsibility.

A Motion was made to place responsibility for the management of Markland's web page with the Aeldorman or his designee. PASSED

Heather Dotchel was named the new editor of the **Pox** and **Plague**, effective with the January 2000 issue.

Discussion about the condition of Markland's Bylaws and the need to revamp them. Certain additions need to be made in order to bring us in line with the laws in the various states where we have members, the most notable of which is a discipline policy. Quinn recommended forming a bylaws committee to look over the bylaws of other successful organizations and rewrite Markland's bylaws. There were various questions and comments about how Quinn envisioned this "committee" proceeding. Anna voiced concern over discarding the current bylaws outright and rewriting them from scratch, and particularly over the "new" bylaws being voted in as a block, as opposed to article by article.

Motion: to empower/create a bylaws committee to consider rewriting the

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, with said committee to be approved by Winter Althyng and be in force for one year from its inception. FAILED

Motion: Markland consult with and attorney at law, licensed at the bar, to revise the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to meet the standards of the most stringent state in the US. PASSED

Motion: If Markland fails to locate a lawyer who will handle the work pro-bono within 6 months, the council will meet to revisit the issue of funding the bylaws rewrite. (ed. note - no vote result reported, Shakira)

Anna related a phone call she received from someone at the BBC who wanted information about Markland's "Jousting Troupe." The fellow was referred to Barchan, as Markland doesn't have a Jousting Troupe. It seems this gentleman had put the word "Jousting" in his Internet browser and had come up with a "Markland Home Page" which included her phone number. It referred people to David Most's e-mail address for e-mail contact with Markland. Anna pointed out that it was probably an old page that he'd forgotten was up.

Motion: The Aeldorman will contact Mr. Most and ask him to take down the page. If he does not do so in 3 months, contact him again and explain that we will retain legal counsel to require him to do so, approving funds if necessary. PASSED

A large number of syntax changes to clear up ambiguous wording were proposed by the Bocman and approved by the council.

Motion: to strike section III, 2, d. d. Unsafe weapons (even those that appear to have been constructed within building guidelines) can be banned by any reeve. FAILED

Motion: to amend Sections III, 4; IV, 3; and V, 4 to allow the Shire Reeve to override the Head Reeve at an event. FAILED

Motion: to amend Section VII, 5, c to remove the word "thrusting" PASSED

Motion: amend Section XIV, 7, f to include hooks. FAILED

Motion: change Section XIV, 8, c, 2 From: 2) Cutting edge must be obvious; the Reeves' Guild recommends an additional (" of sealed cell with a

strip of contrasting tape running down it.

To: 2) Cutting edge must be obvious; and include an additional (" of sealed cell with a strip of contrasting tape running down it. PASSED

Motion: Change Section XIV, 8, d, 1 & 2

From: 1) Must have) " sealed cell or equivalent on entire blade (including flat).

2) Cutting edge must be obvious; the Reeves' Guild recommends an additional (" strip of sealed cell with a strip of contrasting tape running down it.

To: 1) Must have 1/2" sealed cell or equivalent on entire blade (including flat).

2) Cutting edge must be obvious; and include an additional (" strip of sealed cell with a strip of contrasting tape running down it. PASSED

Motion: to place into the rules a new type of polearm, the quarterstaff. PASSED Quarterstaff:

1) Quarterstaff is a polearm with a head on each end

2) Maximum length is 78".

3) Head must be built up from lightweight, semi-flexible material.

4) Must have at least (" sealed cell or equivalent on entire head (including edge, top, back, and sides).

5) Haft must be covered in at least (" sealed cell or equivalent extending at least 12" below the lowest part of head.

(Note: the page with the Frat information went missing at the Council Meeting. This information is being reported from memory. If anyone has notes and can fill in information that I either missed or remembered incorrectly, please contact me, immediately so I can get a correction into the next Pox.)

Calendar

January 29, 2000—Winter Althyng.
Contact Vairgard

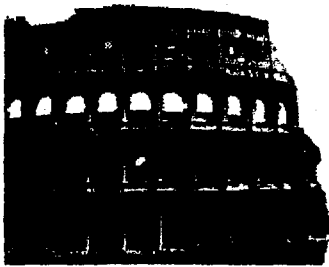
March 18-20, 2000—Military Through the Ages, Jamestown, VA

April 15-16, 2000—Marching Through Time, Marietta Mansion, Bowie, MD.
Contact Drey

Late April or May, 2000—Easy Living War NJ, TBA. Contact Chet & Joan

May 12-14, 2000—West Windsor Renaissance Faire

May 26-29, 2000—Spring War, Glenville, WV. Contact Ty



Galacia presents,

Arena

Parking space is limited, so please call ahead.

Dan, Bill or Jeff will be happy to answer any of your questions. (410) 730-0762

Or call Brian at (410)381-7637

'The whole race... is madly fond of war, high-spirited and quick to battle... and on whatever pretext you stir them up, you will have them ready to face danger, even if they have nothing on their side but their own strength and courage.'

Strabo, IV, 4, 2; 1st century BC

Sundays at 7:00 PM

The Games Gladiators Play

Mor-Grendel, Herald of Galacia

In modern history, better known as about three weeks ago, Galacia locked in a winter practice site. Though it was a bit of a drive to get to, we fell in love with it instantly. As we walked the site, a horse show ring, a sense of euphoria overtook us. The smell of animals and shredded wood, combined with the crisp cold evening air, breathed a sense of urgency for battle into us. A week later, we were fighting in there. After we fought, a friend of the group mentioned that since the site was huge and cost us money, we should open it up to other groups. We debated it, check out the ad.

However, before we could hype it up, it needed a name. We tried for a Celtic name, unfortunately the Celts constantly fought on other peoples land leaving us no history of any sort of ritual fighting ground. Rome, the Celts biggest enemy, not only had such a place but also excelled at competition brutality. Many a captured Celt died in gut wrenching fashion to starved beasts and gladiators inside the Roman Coliseum. Such entertainment was found in arenas all over the Roman Empire.

We are attempting to capture this fervor with Arena. The focus of Arena is up close, fast paced, rigorous combat. We

push ourselves to have two battles a minute, the quick pace forces unit cohesion and application of tactics. Throwing weapons and arrows are not allowed because they we not employed in arena combat and there is open lighting at the site (and beside only #@%\$* use throwing weapons). Also spears are discouraged (yes they had them but they were typically used on savage beasts) as they slow combat. You would be amazed the number of engagement you have when you remove ranged combat (besides you don't get that satisfying whack of closure with a #@%\$* throwing weapon). If you have any questions on rules or directions call us.

Heard, cont...

... that *archaeologists* have announced that they've located (or about to locate) **where Jesus was baptized, evidence of Noah's flood, and the city of Sodom?** Busy, busy, people!

... about Pompeii: **Life in a Roman Town**, at the *Los Angeles County Museum of Art* through January 9th Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 12 to 8, Friday: 12 to 9, Saturday, Sunday: 11 to 8; closed Wednesday. \$7 - adults, \$5 - seniors (62), and students (18+) with ID, \$1 - children/younger students ages 6 to 17, Free - children up to 5 years of age. *The second Tuesday of each month is free. LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Phone (323)857-6000.

... about the *British Museum's* exhibit, **The Light of Nature: Landscape**

Drawings and Watercolours by Van Dyck and his Contemporaries?

This special exhibit brings together 25 of 29 of Van Dyck's known landscape drawings to commemorate the 400th anniversary of his birth. Admission 1 pound, concessions, 50p. British Museum, Rm. 90. Phone 0171-323 8599/8288/8583 or check their website at <http://www.british-museum.ac.uk/exhibitions/index.html>.

... ruins of a **4,000-year-old palace** has been found in *Syria*? Its throne hall is 70x132 feet, with adobe walls. Clay jars, basalt tools, weights and spindles have also been found during excavation.

... about the following exhibits coming next year to the *National Gallery of Art*: **Gerrit Dou**, 17th c. Dutch artist

and a pupil of Rembrandt, at the West Building in April; **Raphael and His Circle: Drawings from Windsor Castle**, coming in May to the East Building; and **Triumph of the Baroque: Architecture in Europe 1600-1750**, coming in late May to the West Building.

... *Los Angeles Times* printed a story on how to cook a stork?

... two interesting exhibits are coming to the *Morgan Library* next year: **From Bruegel to Rubens: Netherlandish and Flemish Drawings in the Morgan Library**. opens February 11, and **Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur** opens May 25. Parking and subway near the library. The Morgan Library, 29 East 36th St, NYC 10016.



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Cook's Corner

Well cousins...time and feast have passed...I hope you all enjoyed yourself! I apologize for the settling fog, AKA the smoke, and the late dinner... Last year's meeting was done early...so I slowed down the foods...so go figure this years meeting ran over!

Anyway I promised you a recipe for Mincemeat, this recipe stores very well and cans even better. I kept this under refrigeration over a year and it was still fine.

Now plum pudding, although rather Victorian, is a great dessert or side. Even though it is a little drawn out, this recipe makes the process a lot shorter because instead of taking the process for pudding from start go you just use the mincemeat and take the recipe to its end. IE: boiling and setting.

1 cup molasses
5 LB ground OR chopped venison or beef
6 large tart apples, peeled, cored and chopped
2 large containers of candied fruit mix
Zest of 1 orange
1 cup orange juice
1 TB lemon juice
1 TB clove
1 TB cinnamon

1 large box of white raisins, seedless
1 large box of raisins, seedless
2 cups whiskey
1 cup brown sugar

Thoroughly cook and brown beef, add remaining ingredients, except the molasses. Cook for 2hrs. Add the molasses and cook an additional 15 mins.

Now as I stated, this recipe refrigerates well and it preserves even better, from experience - in mason jars, sealed over 2

years without any degradation of product. This makes an excellent holiday pie as well as a "base" for plum pudding.

Now with that out of the way, as always I look forward to hearing from you, any suggestions, criticism or ideas please feel free to contact me at kyrin@netcarrier.com. Have a happy holiday season and hope all is well in the new year.

In Our Service Kyrin/John

John Smith, Kyrin

Advertising in the Plague and Pox

- Each Event is limited to a single free half-page ad (or two quarter-page ads), provided it is an official Markland event. Any larger or additional ads will cost the difference between the basic half-page allowance and the total submitted. This applies to ads only, not to articles concerning official events.
- The Editor will determine the difference between an ad and an article.
- Ads for the purpose of making a profit (i.e. commercial ads), or to announce events/services not strictly related to Markland, will be charged a fee. The Editor will make the final decision regarding the application of fees for ads. The editor also reserves the right to accept or reject ads, and to determine the timing of their publication. Rates subject to change with notice to the person placing the ad.
- Four copies of "camera-ready" copy must be submitted, PER issue. Allow .75 inch margins all around. The Plague staff must usually scan or re-set ads to meet publication requirements. Only very clean copy can be accepted. Note: electronic copies are also acceptable. Call for details and acceptable formats.
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Markland Winter Althing and Feast

Sponsored By VAIRGARD

January 29, 2000 -- Masonic Temple in Lansdale, PA

Meeting to start at 1:00PM,
the Feast will start at 6:00PM.
\$15.00 per person,
\$12.00 if paid by January 15
Ages 7 to 16 Half Price,
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Calendar of Events.

Thanks and Ramblings

Patricia M. Dennis, Shakira

Well, this is going to be much shorter than I anticipated. But it just didn't seem worth it to add two more pages just so I could ramble on for a very long time. So, I'll make this short and sweet.

Thank you! To my staff - who if they did nothing else these two years, they kept me sane. And particularly to Lydia, who is also "retiring", for contributing "Heard" all of these years.

To my authors and artists - without you, this publication could not exist. I know you will continue to support me by supporting our new editor.

To the Witan that gave me this job - well, there must be something to thank you for, but I just can't think of it right now. (VBG)

To Heather, our new editor - I know I'm leaving my "baby" in good hands and that's a very good feeling.

And to Markland - not just for your support these last two years as editor, but also for the last 18 years as a member.

Thanks.

I wish everyone peace, prosperity, and good health in the new year.

Need Shoes?

Is your garb missing something? Say, just the right shoes, perhaps? Check out this website and your outfit could be perfect next time!

Footwear of the Middle Ages can be found at: <http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM>

It is a great resource for medieval shoes. There are several good pages for Viking and Anglo-Saxon shoes.

Longship Company Happenings

All Longship Company Work Parties and Voyages are at Oakley Farm.

Sunday December 12, 1999. The Longship Company will hold our **LAST VOYAGE BEFORE THE YEAR 2000!!** Please arrive at 11:30. Please wear Viking Garb if you have it. The occasion will be **FILMED** by Ward TV for their "Leif Ericsson, the man who almost changed history" documentary. The Vikings get to fight Skraelings on the point by Atli's house. Please bring armor, shields and weapons if you have them. **PLEASE** contact Anarra at 410-496-5229 or Atli at 301-ROW-BOAR or e-mail

LongshipCo@hotmail.com if you want to participate in garb or need directions. If you don't have garb, come on anyway, we will need crew for the camera boat (The Fyrdraça).

Saturday December 18, 1999 Noon to 4:00 PM - The Longship Company will hold a **DEMONSTRATION OF VIKING CRAFTS** at Union Station, Washington, DC. If you are interested in participating, please contact Anarra at (410) 496-5229 or LongshipCo@hotmail.com. Viking garb or Longship Company T-Shirts are required.



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Have You Heard...?

Lydia

- ... that Vermeer's masterpiece, **The Art of Painting**, which was missing from the wonderful exhibit a few years ago, is at the *National Gallery of Art*, West Building, until February 6th?
- ... about **The Story of Time** exhibit at *Queen's House*, Greenwich (as in GMT)? Art and science are both represented in artifacts from around the world: books of hours, Navaho sand painting, 10th c. manuscripts, paintings by Dali and others, and photos from the Hubble telescope. Admission fee. Open 10-5 daily. Queen's House, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Greenwich Park, London. For information phone 0181 858 4422, 020 8312 6565 (24-hour info line).
- ... **piggy banks** got their name not from the shape but from the thick orange clay "pygg"?
- ... about **Vive la France! French Treasures from the Middle Ages to Monet** at the *Walters Gallery* through mid-January? Open Friday 10 to 4, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 5, Tuesday-Thursday 10 to 4 (until 8 on the first Thursday of each month). Adults \$5, seniors and ages 18 to 25 \$3, ages 6 to 17 \$1, under 6 free. Free to all on Saturdays from 11 to 1. Parking available. The Walters Gallery of Art, 600 N. Charles St., Baltimore. 410-547-9000.
- ... *Parliament* has decided, by a vote of 121 to 53, to **continue printing laws on vellum**, and not to switch to paper, against Tony Blair's initiative.
- ... about the retrospective **Peter Collingwood: Master Weaver** at the *Textile Museum*? Through January 23rd. The entire range of his personal collection is presented. Open Monday-Saturday, 10-5, Sunday 1-5, closed on federal holidays. The Textile Museum, 2320 S Street, NW, DC. Nearest metro stop: DuPont Circle, off Embassy Row. Phone 202-667-0441, <http://www.textilemuseum.org>
- ... about the Renaissance exhibits at the *National Gallery of Art*? **Drawings of Annibale Carracci** (16th c. draftsman), **Tilman Reimenschneider: Master Sculptor of the Late Middle Ages** are very interesting. National Gallery of Art, West: Open Monday-Saturday 10 to 5, Sunday 11 to 6. Sixth and Constitution NW. 202/737-4215 (TDD: 202/842-6176).
- ... the drawings in the *NGA* exhibit **From Schongauer to Holbein: Master Drawings from Basel and Berlin** are so fragile that they will never be displayed together again? Go! Marvell Wonderful exhibit!
- ... Xian's terracotta warriors are appearing at the wide-ranging *NGA* exhibit, **The Golden Age of Chinese Archaeology** in the I.M. Pei Building? Jade mummies, bronze masks, delicate Neolithic pottery, and a full set of hanging bells (a 25-foot halberd and spear . . .) are among the items on display, all found in the last 30 years. This exhibit will travel to Houston's Museum of Fine Art in February. The National Gallery of Art, East: Open Monday-Saturday 10 to 5, Sunday 11 to 6. Fourth and Constitution NW. 202/737-4215 (TDD: 202/842-6176).
- ... that the *British Museum* is celebrating the Millennium (present and future) with the **Apocalypse and the Shape of Things to Come** by evaluating the Book of Revelations as depicted in art over the centuries? Opens mid-December.
- ... **The Silver Economy of the Viking World** opens at the *British Museum* in April? This is advance warning, start scouting plane ticket rates! Through January you can view **Bukhara and Beyond: Artifacts of Uzbekistan and Photographs by Edgar Knobloch**, with items from the 8th to 19th century, including a jade cup from Samarkand.
- ... **Coinage of the Byzantine Empire** at the *Dumbarton Oaks* continues through January 2? Open Tuesday-Sunday 2 to 5; \$1 donation. Ten acres of formal gardens open noon to 5 daily. One block east of Wisconsin Ave, between R & S Streets in Georgetown, some on-street parking. Dumbarton Oaks, 1703 32nd St., NW., DC 202-339-6400.
- ... about the *excavations on Orkney near Kirkwall* that may be a **pagan Celtic temple**?
- ... that Poussin's masterpiece **Holy Family on the Steps** is on display at the *Cleveland Museum of Art*? A collection of illuminated manuscripts will also be on exhibit.
- ... about the exhibit, **Still-Life Paintings from the Netherlands, 1550-1720** at the *Cleveland Museum of Art*? Open Tuesday through Sunday 10-5, until 9pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Paid parking available. CMA, University Circle, 11150 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106-1797. For information phone 1-888-CMA-0033.
- ... about **Rembrandt to Gainsborough: Masterpieces from England's Dulwich Picture Gallery** at the *Museum of Fine Arts in Houston*? The gallery's 89 most famous works, including 8 works by Rubens, and 3 by Rembrandt. Watteau, Poussin, Tiepolo and Hogarth are also represented. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 to 5, Thursday evening until 9, Sunday 12:15 to 6. General admission: adults \$3, seniors, students with ID, and children 6-18 \$1.50. Under 6, (and Thursdays) free. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet, Houston, TX.
- ... about the thorough treatment **Frontline** gives to the *Apocalypse*?
- ... continuing at the *Freer Gallery of Art*: **The Tea Ceremony in Japan; A Breath of Spring**, a 14th c. Chinese painting with related poems; and **Masterpieces of Chinese Painting**, including calligraphy from the 10th to 18th century. Admission: free, Open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Freer Gallery of Art, Jefferson Drive at 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20560. Smithsonian metro stop, on the Orange and Blue lines.
- ... that **perpetual motion/energy creation machines** are again being touted in Texas? (Not everyone is so gullible thankfully!)
- ... the *British Museum* is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China with **Gilded Dragons: Buried Treasures from China's Golden Ages**, containing pieces never seen outside China, some unearthed in recent decades, primarily from the Tang Dynasty.

- British Museum Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG UK. Telephone 0171-636 1555 Recorded information 0171-580 1788. (The British Museum is surrounded by 4 Underground stations: Holborn, Tottenham Court Road, Russell Square, Goodge Street).
- ... about **The Artist as Collector: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting from the C.C. Wang Family Collection**, at the *Metropolitan Museum of Art* through January 9th? Paintings from the 10th to 14th century predominate. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, NYC, 10028.
- ... about **Northern Drawings of the 15th and 16th c. in the Robert Lehman Collection** at the *Metropolitan Museum of Art* through January 9th? Drawings of Flemish, Dutch, French and British artists. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, NYC, 10028.
- ... about **Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur and Imaging the Word: New Selections of Calligraphy from the Islamic World**, at the *Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery*? Wonderful jewelry, musical instruments, and furniture from the 1922 excavation appear in the former, recent acquisitions in the latter. Ur exhibit closes January 17, Calligraphy one closes May 7. 1050 Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20560, Smithsonian metro stop, on the Orange and Blue lines.
- ... about **Secret Gardens: 'Paisley' Motifs from Kashmir to Europe**, in the *Loring Gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*? Admission \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students, ages 7-17, \$5 during school hours. Monday and Tuesday 10am-4:45pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 am-9:45 PM (Th. and Fr. West Wing only after 5 PM), Saturday and Sunday, 10 am-5:45 PM. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA.
- ... that a **medieval stone castle** is another point of contention between *Kurd and Turk*? The Kurds hope to save this bit of their history, but a series of irrigation dams planned by Turkey may flood the castle.
- ... **The Huntington Library in California** has an intriguing exhibit, **Worlds of Profit and Delight: Popular Reading in Renaissance England**, that is open through next August. Library, West Hall, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108 phone 626-405-2100, <http://www.huntington.org/EventsCal.html> And, for fair warning, The Huntington will host a Chaucer Exhibition next year to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Geoffrey Chaucer's death.
- ... about **"Ancient Chinese Bronzes from the Sze Hong Collection"** at the *Denver Art Museum*? (through February 6, 2000) There is also an exhibit of Ming (medieval) Chinese furniture, paintings and calligraphy on view through the new year. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 to 5, Wednesdays to 9, Sunday noon to 5. Open holidays! General admission adults \$4.50, seniors/students \$2.50, under 5 free. Denver Art Museum, 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204-2788 phone: 303-640-4433. Paid parking and handicapped accessible parking are available.
- ... the *CNN* documentary **AsiaQuest**, a trip recreating Marco Polo's travels for students, declared at the explorer probably did not travel to China (per a poll of its audience)?
- ... the exhibit **Foundry to Finish: In the Studio of Adriaen de Vries**, at the Getty Center through April 2000, examines the lost wax process of bronze casting by the 16th c. Dutch sculptor, and a companion exhibit, **Adriaen de Vries, Imperial Sculptor**, continues through the new year. Two other exhibits: **Juanes to Goya: Spanish Drawings 1560-1825** features rare drawings from Getty's collection, through November 28, and **Art and Science: Joris Hoefnagel and the Representation of Nature in the Renaissance**, through January 16. Open Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 to 7, Thursday and Friday 11 to 9, and Saturday and Sunday 10 to 6. Admission free. Getty Center is near the San Diego and San Monica freeways at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90049 310-440-7300. Parking reservations required, \$5 per car.
- ... that **global climate change** is now being blamed for an **increase of human plague cases** in southwestern United States?
- ... about the *University of Michigan's Museum of Art* exhibit, **"The Orchid Pavilion Gathering: Chinese Painting from the UMMA,"** opening in late January? The 60 pieces presented will span 900 years of painting in China, some are large and fragile scrolls that are rarely seen. Closed on Mondays and major holidays, open 10-5 Tuesday - Saturday, until 9 Thursday, and 12-5 Sunday. 525 South State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Phone (734)764-0395. Donation suggested, \$3. Phone (734)764-0395. Donation suggested, \$3.
- ... that the *Textile Museum* will host **Flowers of Silk and Gold: Four Centuries of Ottoman Embroidery**, between mid-February and July 30th? 2320 S St, NW, DC. 20008. (202)667-0441
- ... about the *Corning Museum of Glass* display, **An Exhibition of Masterpieces from the World's Greatest Glass Collection**, open through July 2000? Claims to chronicle 35 centuries of glassmaking achievements. View the "curator's choice" pieces of glass at <http://www.cmog.org/Exhibitions/curchoic.htm>. Open 9 to 5 daily, until 8 in July and August. The Corning Museum of Glass, One Corning Glass Center, Corning, NY 14830. Phone 607-974-8271.
- ... that the *Frick Collection* has a number of upcoming exhibits: **Velazquez in New York museums**, which commemorates the artist's 400th birthday, opens this month and **From Michelangelo to Picasso: Master Drawings from the Albertina, Vienna**, opens in the Spring. Open 10-6 Tuesdays through Saturday, 1-6 Sundays, closed Mondays and holidays. Admission \$7, less for seniors and students. The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street (between Madison and Fifth), NYC, 10021-4967. For more information call 212-228-0700.

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