



# The Martyr's Rede a newsletter of Swordcliffshire



January 2009

## January Meeting Minutes

Meeting not officially held - only 2 officers present...  
In attendance: 7 voting adults, 0 offspring

Assorted news:

Ethyl Autocrat is "on the job" and is considering options for contests, classes, and main course.

Seneschal promises to contact Minister of A&S to see what plans are for upcoming A&S meetings. Also will remind Cydeaux to contact Internet registrar about Domain name.

A big buzzah for new faces at this month's meeting: Mark (Jacob) and Emily who have imported themselves from Calontir. Jacob is interested in chainmail construction and the art of the Jester. Emily is here to find out what she might like (besides Jacob). A wedding is in their future plans.

We also welcome back Ld Gunther, who passed thru in the summer and was first seen at Ethyl, returned to us after a brief sojourn up north. Gunther's interests are: Calligraphy, Astronomy and woodworking.

The Chronicler is working on an update to the shire phone list. Please check your listing on the file in Paddy's Pub. If anything needs to be changed to make your listing current, please contact the chronicler at: [garblaurel@comcast.net](mailto:garblaurel@comcast.net)

A date to take a shire group photo is still pending. If everyone plans to attend Festival of Maidens, we might do it there!

Short articles on any topic are still needed for this newsletter. Brainstorm it and send it to Genevieve!

## Upcoming Events:

January 22: Swordcliff A&S mtg.  
January 31: Festival of Maidens  
February 5: Swordcliff Business Meeting  
February 7: White Knights - Dark River  
February 19: Swordcliff A&S mtg.  
March 5: Swordcliff Business Meeting  
March 19: Swordcliff A&S mtg  
July 11: Feast of St. Ethyl the Martyr

## Genevieve's "Grab-Bag": Books of Hours

"A book of Hours too, must be mine,  
Where subtle workmanship will shine,  
Of Gold and Azure, rich and smart,  
Arranged and painted with great art  
Covered with fine brocade of gold,  
And there must be, so as to hold  
The pages closed, two golden clasps."

A satirization of contemporary popularity of Books of Hours, so widespread in period, quoted by John Harthan in "Books of Hours and Their Owners" (London 1977) reminds us how prevalent these small tomes were. Little enough to be kept in a sleeve, and full of pictures of everyday life, tho figured with personages of religious significance, we can now look at Books of Hours not just for Calligraphy and Illumination examples of the period, but many other subjects as well can be referenced from the lavish illustrations. Look behind the Virgin Mary to see period garden layouts, costuming of the times, furnishings and interiors of living spaces. In scenes of shepherds in the fields we get a glimpse of rural life - animal husbandry, agriculture, harvesting, transportation, architecture, sports, and frequently the tools used in all of these aspects of life.

A few Books of Hours worth looking at:

- Grand Heures de John, Duke of Berry
- Book of Hours of Isabella Stuart
- Forster Book of Hours
- Playfair Book of Hours late 15<sup>th</sup> C
- Hastings Hours 1480
- "Golf" Book of Hours 1500
- Hours of Joanna of Castille 1496
- Hours of the Duchess of Bourgogne 1450
- Tres Riche Heures of the Duke of Berry 1416

## Shire Officers:

Seneschale - Guillane de Vaux

Exchequer: Katrina

Heavy Marshal: Tan Po

Pursuivant: Thorgeirr inn Vikverski Karllson

Marshal of Fence: Devin Breighallach

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Orry Guerin de Mt St Michel

Chatelaine: Cydeaux of Brittany

Chronicler: Genevieve de Vaucresson

Web Minister: Genevieve de Vaucresson

Disclaimer: This is the January 2009 issue of the Martyr's Rede, a publication of the Shire of Swordcliff, a branch of the SCA Inc.. Copies are available on our website: [www.swordcliff.org](http://www.swordcliff.org), or from the Chronicler. The Martyr's Rede is not a corporate publication of the SCA Inc., and does not delineate SCA Inc policies. Copyright 2009 Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. For information on reprinting articles from this publication, contact the Chronicler at [chronicler@swordcliff.org](mailto:chronicler@swordcliff.org).