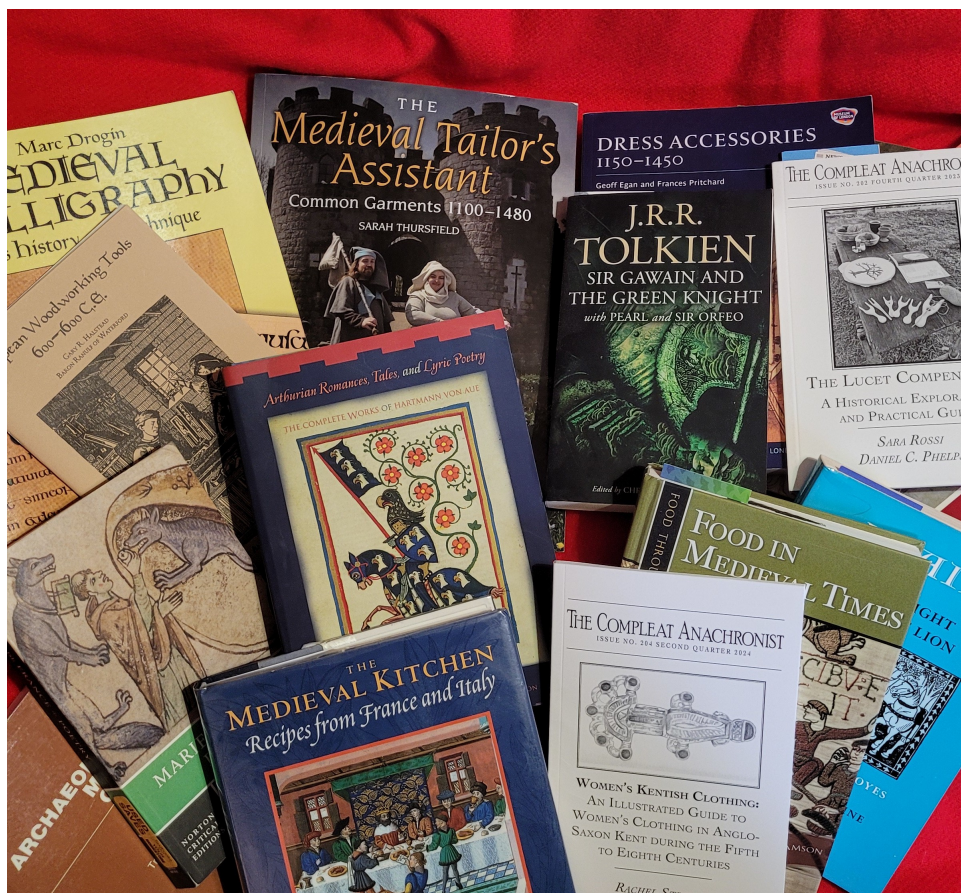


A vertical decorative border featuring a repeating pattern of stylized, interlocking knotwork in gold and red, set against a background of green and blue with white dots. The design is framed by a thin gold line.

Being the official newsletter of
the Shire of Calanais Nuadh in the Kingdom of Calontir,
a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

- Shire Holiday Party December 21st
- Upcoming Calanais Nuadh Meetings
- Business Meeting Report
- Call for Submissions: Reviews
- Largesse & You
- Recipe: an English Sweet Pudding
- Online and Nearby SCA Events
- And More!



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please direct inquiries to our Seneschal (see above)

Knights Marshal: His Lordship James Inn Danski,
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Minister of Arts & Science: Position Open

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Website: <https://www.shireofcalanaisnuadh.org/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ShireOfCalanaisNuadh/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShireCalanaisNuadh/>

submissions:

The Dancing Moon is published monthly. Submissions are due on the Second Monday of each month for publication on the Last Monday of that month. Please submit your items to the Shire Chronicler by email or post, or in writing at a Calanais Nuadh meeting.

Submissions may be edited, delayed, or declined by the Chronicler.

Signed release forms may be required for publication.

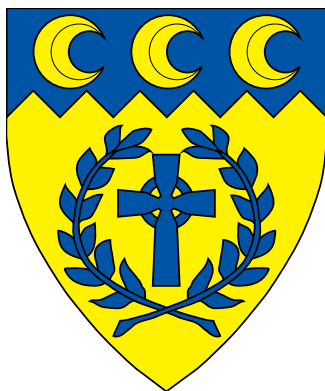
This is the December 2024 issue of The Dancing Moon, a publication of the Shire of Calanais Nuadh in the Kingdom of Calontir, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organization.

The Dancing Moon is available from Hildegard the Clever, mka Laura Gilkey, by email: CalanaisNuadhChronicler@gmail.com, or by post: 12249 Hwy KK, Crocker, MO 65452.

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december 2024

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this month's cover

This pile of books would like to remind you of our annual Shire Holiday Party this month, including our annual Holiday Book Exchange!

If you would like to participate, please bring one SCA-relevant book, giftwrapped. New or pre-loved books are good. My own pile in this picture includes lots of non-fiction and period literature, but don't forget historical fiction, art books, and other possibilities!

calanais nuadh

upcoming meetings

For the latest on upcoming meetings, join us on Facebook: see inside front cover.

The Shire of Calanais Nuadh meets on most Monday evenings at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in the Fellowship Hall, 367 Old Route 66 in St. Robert, Missouri.

Meeting begins at 6:30 pm. Garb is optional.

December 2nd: Holiday Break; no meeting

December 9th: Business Meeting, no potluck

December 16th: Project Night

Saturday, December 21st: **Shire Holiday Party**

Hosted by Margery of Penrith at:

15640 Hargrove Rd, St. Robert.

Doors open at 1 pm. Please bring a potluck dish (modern food gratefully accepted) and a giftwrapped book (used OK).

Garb encouraged but optional.

December 23rd & December 30th:

Holiday Break; no meetings

archery practice

Our Archery Practices are held some Sunday afternoons at the Beaver Creek Conservation Area on US-63 in Rolla, Missouri. There is a driveway across from the VFW Post which leads to the archery range.

Practices currently start at their autumn and winter time of 2:30 pm.

If you plan to attend archery practice, please contact our Seneshal, Catin of Edington, by Saturday evening. Also let Catin know if you will need the Shire's loaner equipment.

fighter practice

For information on Fighter Practices, contact our Knights Marshal, James Inn Dansk.

FROM THE CHRONICLER, WITH CALL FOR REVIEWS

Greetings from your shire chronicler!

Winter is here at last, and the campaigning season for big outdoor events like wars is done for another year. Of course (and you've probably heard this more than once), your Chronicler isn't much into wars or camping or summer weather. Not long ago I was rather exercised about this and convinced that someone needed to organize a nice indoor air-conditioned Arts & Science or Royal University event smack in the middle of summer to help welcome a wider array of people. I still think that would be nice, mind, but I've calmed down since then. As Winter comes on, the warriors' season might have wound down, but *my* season is just starting: this month brings Kris Kinder Market and next month an exciting Clothiers' Seminar, plus Spring RUSH classes and Queen's Prize Arts & Science on the horizon.

We might have to be patient through whatever our own "off season" is, but there's something here for everyone.

My submission request for this month is: Reviews! Do you have any favorite books, films, websites, or products that you'd like to share about? Any SCA-relevant items on your holiday wishlist that you can let us know how they turn out? I would welcome your reviews!

Some ideas:

- Book Reviews: historical fiction, non-fiction, instructional, period literature in translation, etc.
- SCA publications: Handbooks, issues of The Compleat Anachronist or Tournaments Illuminated
- Movies and documentaries
- Websites and podcasts
- Historical reproduction products
- Modern products useful for SCA life (e.g. camping gear, sewing machines, etc.)

As always, I will need permission from the creators to print anything you submit (unless it's in the public domain).

Yours in Service until next month!

november business meeting REPORT

On November 11th, we held our monthly business meeting, where a few officers and regulars were joined by some newcomers to our Shire, who hopefully felt welcome even during "the boring part!"

Exchequer Margery reported that the last checks from Autumn Arrows have now cleared, and co-Event Steward Catin has gotten the last of the archery prizes to the winners, so Autumn Arrows is all wrapped up for another year. Thanks again to everyone who helped!

This was also our first business meeting since Fall Crown Tournament. Congratulations to Calontir's new Prince and Princess, Master Orren Tokesson and Honorable Lady Lyra of the Spinning Winds (whom Margery says is an excellent nalbinder)! We can now watch for chances to serve on their retinue, help prepare award scrolls for their reign, fill largesse requests they might have, etc.

And we continued planning for our Royal University event next March. We're only getting started and there's a lot to do, so please join us at our meetings in the months ahead!

Complete meeting minutes are available in the Files of our Facebook group or by request from the Chronicler.



Largesse received from Their Royal Majesties Robert Magnus and Magge Magnus by the Shire of Calanais Nuadh at Autumn Arrows XXXII.

largesse & you

By Lady Hildegard the Clever

The season of giving is upon us, and even amid the holiday gifts, now is a good time to start thinking ahead to another traditional giving occasion for our Shire: our presentation of a tithe and largesse to the Kingdom. Chieftains at the Barony of Three Rivers in February marks the anniversary of our Shire's founding, and we honor the occasion with these contributions each year.

The tithe is a monetary donation from the Shire to the Kingdom, drawn from the proceeds of our Autumn Arrows event (which did quite well this year).

Largesse, on the other hand, invites more of a personal touch from each of our members. Their Royal Majesties' household maintains a cache of gifts which the Crown can give to their loyal subjects. Indeed, conspicuous generosity was part of the image of a good sovereign in period! Our own Shire recently received such gifts as thanks for hosting Autumn Arrows (see image on page 4, lower right). These gifts in turn are contributed by loyal subjects throughout the Kingdom, including our Shire.

What might you give toward Their Majesties' largesse? The possibilities are endless! Ask yourself: what talents can you offer? What would you enjoy giving? What would you be happy to receive? What would be useful to a range of SCA folk with a variety of personae, interests, genders, etc.?

Some ideas:

- Garb, accessories, trims
- Scroll covers (these are stiff, fabric-covered folders to help honorees get their award scrolls home safely)
- Medallions for Orders of Honor (e.g. Torse, Fyrd, Silver Hammer, etc.)
- Cords and chains for said medallions
- Project kits, tools, and supplies (e.g. fabric, yarn, needles, knives, quills, etc.; this editor was grateful to receive a scribal kit with paints and brushes)
- Drinking vessels and other feast gear

- Non-perishable treats, period spices, etc. (make certain all food or fragrance items include a complete ingredients list!)
- Beeswax; we can all use beeswax
- Cold-weather gear: blankets, hats, gloves, etc. (I've heard stories of Their Majesties handing these out to grateful fighters at cold-weather wars)
- Hot-weather gear: fans, neck coolers, water bottle covers, etc.
- Martial items like archery gloves and arm guards, throwing knives, rattan, etc.
- Toys, period games with instructions
- Notebooks, thank-you cards, parchment or parchment-like paper, etc.
- Bags, boxes, and pouches
- Towels and handkerchiefs
- First-Aid kits and other emergency-ready items

And this is only a sample!

(continued, page 6)



A sample of Largesse donated by the Shire of Calanais Nuadh at Chieftains 2024.

LARGESSE & YOU (continued)

The Royal House will sometimes post their particular requests on the Kingdom of Calontir Facebook group (private group; request to join):

www.facebook.com/groups/Calontir/

The Kingdom website also offers information on Royal whims:

www.calontir.org/their-majesties/

www.calontir.org/their-highnesses/ – Watch

this page; their Highnesses will most likely be the ones receiving our contributions but have not yet had time to publish their preferences.

And there is a Facebook group dedicated to SCA largesse projects and ideas:

www.facebook.com/groups/scalargesse

You're welcome to join us on our Project Nights with your largesse ideas and works in progress. February will be here before we know it, so if you intend to give handmade items, now is a good time to start!

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

Recipe of the month: an english sweet pudding

From a 15th-century manuscript
of "Ancient Cookery"

For those of us raised on the English-language literature of the Christmas season, English Christmas Puddings are famous. The traditional bond between the holiday and the dish is more recent than one might think, but English sweet puddings themselves have deep roots. This one still seems pretty readable:

A Flaune of Almayne.

*First take raysins of Coraunce, or elles other
fressh reysins, and gode ripe peres, or elles
gode appuls, and pyke oute the cokes of hom,
and pare hom, and grinde hom, and the
reysins in a clene mortar, and do then to hom
a lytel swete creme of mylk, and streyne hom*

*thurgh a clene streynour, and take x [10]
egges, or as many mo as wol suffice, and
bete hom wel togedur, bothe the quyte and
the yolke, and draw hit thurgh a streynour,
and grate faire quyte bred, and do therto a
gode quantitie, and more swete crem, and do
therto, and do al this togedur; and take
saffron, and powder of ginger, and canel
[cinnamon], and do therto, and a lytel salt,
and a quantitie of faire swete buttur, and
make a faire coffyn [pastry crust, esp. one
not meant to be eaten], or two, or as many
as needes, and bake hom a lytel in an oven,
and do this bature in hom, and let bake hom
as thow woldes bake flaunes, or crustades,
and when thay byn baken ynogh, strawe
upon hom powder of canel, and of quyte
sugur. And this is a gode maner of Crustade.*

Found via Cariadoc's Miscellany, which has [a modern redaction](#) and rates the recipe as "good."

around the kingdom and the known world

Events nearby with our neighbors in the Kingdom of Calontir and marvellous means of connecting with SCA fellows near and far:

online classes & events

Known World Newcomers Symposium

November 30th - December 1st

This all-online event via Zoom continues into December with classes for SCAdians new and old. Wide range of topics from "SCA 101" and beginner hacks to Martial topics, Arts & Science, Heraldry, "Chatelaine 101," and Diversity & Equity. More information and required free registration at <https://kwns.calontir.org/>.

(continued, page 7)

around the kingdom... (continued)

**How to Enter an
Arts & Science Competition**
Thursday, December 19th, 7 pm

Taught by Astrid Birnudottir. This class is geared toward preparing local groups and individuals for entering kingdom level Arts & Science competitions as well as encouraging judge participation. The lecture will focus on those interested in hosting a mock judging event for their local group but everyone interested in Arts & Science is encouraged to attend. Hosted by Calontir's Royal University of Scir Hafoc (RUSH). For more information, see Calontir's Virtual Arts & Sciences calendar:
calontir.org/arts-sciences/virtual-classes/

Sunday Night with the Scribes

Sundays, Zoom opens at 6 pm, class at 7 pm

Spend the evening with Scribal Arts folk from around the Known World. Open to anyone interested or involved in scribal arts in the SCA. For connection information and class schedule, visit the website at scribal.art.

WITHIN A FAIR DAY'S RIDE

Winter Court: A Long Winter's Nap

December 7th, St. Louis, MO

Join the Barony of Three Rivers for their annual live and silent auction, unique feast, Baronial and Kingdom Courts, Rattan and Steel tournaments, Arts & Science competitions and classes.

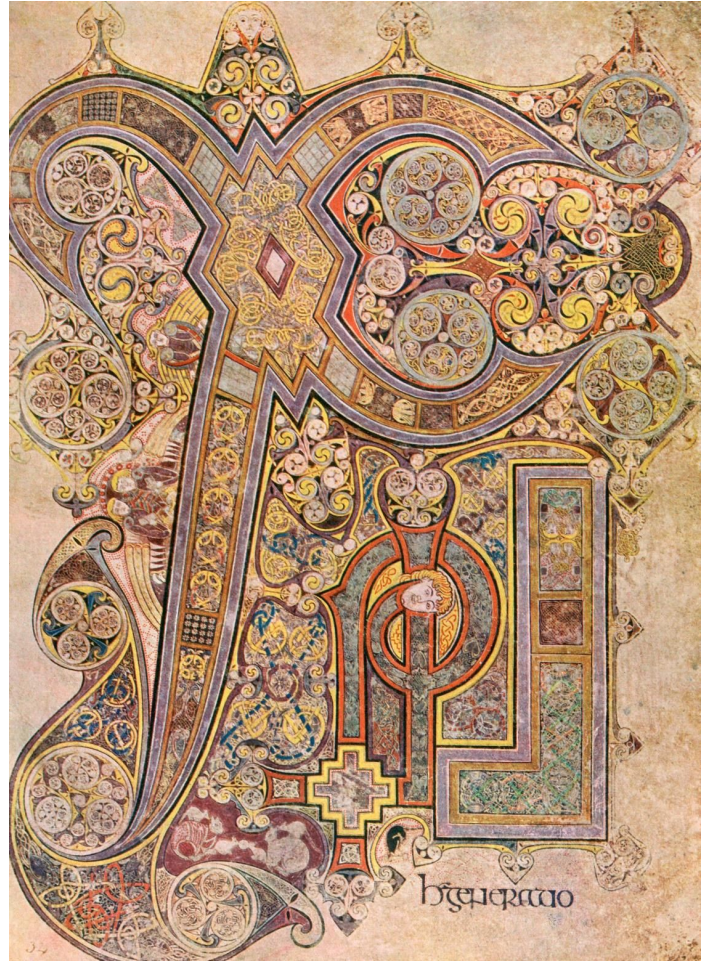
Kris Kinder Market

December 14th, Kansas City, MO

Join Barony of Forgotten Sea for their annual winter holiday merchant market.

**For more on events, visit the Calontir
Kingdom Calendar: calontir.org/events.**

this moon brought to
you by the letter...



Here's a two-for-one gift for the Christmas season: the lavishly decorated full-page Chi-Rho monogram from the Book of Kells.

The monogram combines the Greek letters chi (χ) and rho (ρ) as an abbreviation for "Christ," forming a Christian symbol that dates back to the Roman emperor Constantine in the 300s CE.

The Book of Kells, created in Ireland or Scotland c. 800 CE, is probably the most famous illuminated manuscript in the world, a masterwork of Insular (i.e. British Isles) illumination and calligraphy. The graceful geometry and intricate interlaces of pages like this inspire "Celtic" aesthetics to this day.

'til the next moon,
hildegarð, chronicler

CREDITS AND RIGHTS

The Dancing Moon, December 2024

Edited by: Hildegard the Clever

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English Sweet Pudding recipe: From A collection of ordinances and regulations for the government of the royal household, made in divers reigns: from King Edward III to King William and Queen Mary, also Receipts in Ancient Cookery, printed for the Society of Antiquaries by John Nichols (1790); recipe p. 452; provenance p. 424.
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